



The Parish Magazine

& Community News

St Nicholas' Church, Burton-in-Wirral

August September 2020

LATE SUMMER 2020 EDITION

IN THIS EDITION OF THE PARISH MAGAZINE

St Nicholas' Church Reopens for Services

Memories of Burton School 1940 & 1950

Why There Are No Pubs in Burton

*Growing & Thriving With God
in Our Community*

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*Church Directory -
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*Today I choose:
Calm over chaos,
Serenity over stress,
Peace over perfection,
Grace over grit,
Faith over fear.*

Mary Davis

Lavender - St Nicholas' Churchyard



St Nicholas' Church

The Vicar Writes . . .



The last few months have given us plenty of opportunity to consider 'what is most important in life'.

- ✓ Safety
- ✓ Family
- ✓ Love
- ✓ Food
- ✓ Health
- ✓ Friendship
- ✓ To be heard
- ✓ Courage
- ✓ A job
- ✓ Security
- ✓ Peace

These will all be responses made amongst so many more, depending on who we are and what our context is. When Jesus was asked what was most important in life, he answered:

'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, "you shall love your neighbour as yourself'.

Mark 12:29-31

For Jesus the top of the list is to love God. In May I was sent a beautifully made film called:

'If This Time Has Taught Me Anything'

The film reflected on life in lockdown. It encouraged us to reconnect with love and compassion, and to humbly appreciate the beauty in the world around us as 'life is all about the journey and not the destination'.

The film rejoiced in the wonder of nature and how it has the ability to flourish given the chance and that we should enjoy the here and now. There was so much with which I could agree. But it stopped short, it felt empty, it didn't go far enough, it didn't acknowledge the God of love who created it all, who, in Jesus, came to show us that love and who is our final destination.

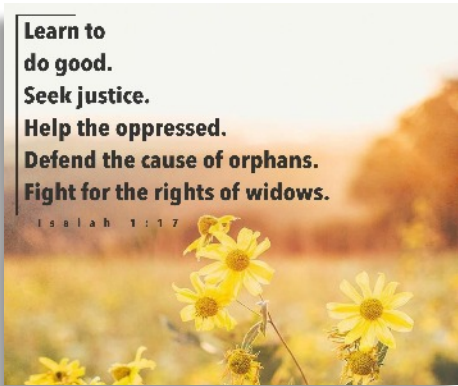
As Christians we have that abiding hope that death is not the end. It can be easy to reflect on lockdown and see all the heroism, sacrifice and love that has been outpoured but do we lift our eyes and see God as the source of that love?

The second part of what Jesus said has also come into sharp focus during lockdown,

*'You shall love your
neighbour as yourself.'*

This is specially poignant since the murder of George Floyd on 25 May.

We know from Scripture that time and time again God calls for justice and for the voice of the oppressed to be heard. If this time has taught me anything, it has taught me that the oppressed are closer than we think, on our doorstep, in our communities, in our factories, just as it is in the Rohingya refugee camps and in the experiences of so many people of colour.



There are voices of so many who need to be heard, however hard it can be sometimes to listen, however much it makes us look carefully at our own response, as we consider 'who is my neighbour?'

I know I can easily feel overwhelmed in knowing how to respond, but we can start where Jesus does, in really seeking to love our neighbour as ourselves, in prayer, in actions, in supporting causes financially and in allowing those who have no voice a chance to speak.

We all like to be heard; if we love our neighbour, we will take time to listen.

Cathy



A Prayer for the Oppressed

We pray for lives lost, families torn apart, lost and lonely, homeless, hungry and afraid.

We pray for factories destroyed in an instant, for machinery shattered and livelihoods ruined.

We pray for rescuers finding survivors alongside bodies, courageous, undaunted yet hopeful.

We pray for recovery in the years to come, for restoration, generosity, healing and closure.

'John Birch'

Back to church and what it will be like . . .

Psalm 122 begins with the words:

***'I rejoiced with those who said to me,
let us go to the house of the Lord***

I know that for many the lifting of restriction which allows us to hold services in church again is news they've been desperate to hear. For others, either through necessity or choice, this is still neither possible nor practical.

One lesson I hope we have learned throughout this pandemic is that worship is not confined to the walls of a church building. We can worship God in our homes, in our gardens, wearing face masks, in silence, in noise, walking the fields or confined to our house. Wherever we are, through His Spirit, God is present when we come before Him in worship at any time of day or night.

For a service to take place in church, understandably there are many necessary guidelines issued by the Government, Church of England and Diocese which we, as the PCC have had to consider carefully. We've had to weigh up the benefits of being back in church with the restrictions that will need to be put in place. We recognised there is a wide range of feelings, hopes and fears within the church congregations and we have sought to make provision that best fits what we can realistically and safely provide.

So this is what we will need to do and these arrangements have been agreed by the PCC.

- We are able to have a short service of morning worship on Sunday mornings at 10.00am from 2 August which will follow closely the service that is being sent out via email.
- Everyone will need to wear a face mask (*please bring your own, but we will have some spares if needed*).
- We are limited to 24 people in church who will all need to be seated in allocated seating at 2 metre distances but families and couples will be able to sit together.
- As we will be limited to a maximum of 24 people sadly, it will be first come, first seated. Anyone arriving once we are at capacity will be asked to come back the following week (*from the responses received from those likely to come, this should not be a problem*).
- We will record the names and contact number of all attending (*the Vicar will keep these records for the purpose of Track and Trace for 21 days only*).
- There will be a 'one way' system in church to ensure a safe flow of movement.
- Rules allow only one bell to be rung for a maximum of 15 minutes before the service.
- The screen will be used during services therefore no books or Bibles will be needed but people are welcome to bring their own.
- At present there can be no singing in church.
- All the pew cushions, children's toys and activities have been removed (*if needed, please bring your own*).
- Regrettably there cannot be any refreshments or even gathering within the church after the service.

The church will also be open for private prayer on Wednesday mornings from 10.00 to 11.00 am.

So whether you are able to come to church on the 2 August or not, my prayer is that our wonderful Almighty God will still be met in worship wherever we are.

Cathy

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE CHURCH BELLS?

Everyone's generous donations enabled the order for overhauling all six bells to be placed with Taylor's of Loughborough at the end of last year, and you may be wondering why there's no ringing happening seven months later.

The delay is not at all the fault of Taylor's, who have been exemplary. As you may well have guessed, we are the victims of the pandemic. Taylor's were very close to completing the reassembly of the bells with refurbished wheels, clappers, bearings, rope guides, etc when the lockdown was imposed, and everything suddenly had to stop. When they were at last allowed to finish works on site, the bells were fully completed and test-rung one at a time by the skilled bell-hanger, within a week.

All is well, but at the moment we aren't allowed to ring them, except effectively just a single bell (and then only at church services). The problem is that the bell ropes are almost all less than a metre from their neighbour around the circle, and it's a small room. Thus the two metre distancing rule means that only two bells could be rung at the same time, which would sound like a fire alarm! Even with one metre spacing (currently forbidden), only four bells could be rung, making a limited un-musical scale of notes with gaps in the scale.

So, we all look forward to the day when the restrictions are able to be totally lifted, and our ancient bells, with their new lease of life, can sound out joyfully

The Bell Hangers Arrive



Refurbished Bell Wheels

A Half Wheel Going Up



Reassembly In Progress in the Bell Tower

AND FROM THE HISTORICAL RECORDS ...

Work associated with the repair and maintenance of the church and its bells is not new. An historical account of the condition of the church by FC Beazley dated 1907 reveals that in 1720 the church was in a very poor state of repair and goes on to describe the six bells.

NOTES ON THE PARISH OF BURTON IN WIRRAL

By F. C. Beazley, F.S.A.

Read 31st October 1907

Ref. 1720

“Some years since the upper part of the Steeple of the Parish Church of Burton was taken down, and the Bells taken out the better to preserve the same; yet by reason of its great Antiquity the said Church is now become so ruinous, that it gives way outwards from one end of ye Church to the other; and the Arch between the Church and Chancel is so rent that the walls will not support itt: the Steeple also is crack'd in several Places from top to bottom, and all the four sides of it so shatter'd that some of the stones are ready to fall out.”²

Ref. 1907

THE BELLS

There is a chime of six bells bearing the following inscriptions:—

PEACE & GOOD NEIGHBOVRHOOD 1724

PROSPERITY TO THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND 1724

PROSPERITY TO THIS PARISH 1724

WM: WILSON & ROBT: JONES CHURCHWARDENS 1724

ABR: RUDHALL CAST VS ALL 1724

RING OUT BLACK SIN

FAIR PEACE RING IN AD 1896

JOHN TAYLOR & CO FOUNDERS LOUGHBOROUGH

Nigel Griffiths, Churchwarden, reports on acts of

Generosity All Round for Wirral Foodbank

As you will know from the circular sent to all readers of this magazine, there was a very generous, and totally unexpected, offer of new hardwood gates to replace the dilapidated ones at the entrance to the churchyard from The Rake, at no cost to the church. The offer came from *Robert Barlow, whose company, Mitech Joinery*, specialises in high quality gates for driveways. The cost if we had bought them would have been £1100 plus VAT, and his only request was that the parish should donate something to a Covid-19 related charity, and to quote his words:

"I don't expect the full amount to be donated, but an amount the Church or community would feel happy at giving".

I emailed him a copy of the parish magazine, which contained a piece about the Wirral Foodbank, noting that the need for it has mushroomed as a result of the pandemic's effects on livelihoods, and received his enthusiastic reply saying *"What an impressive magazine you have in your community! The Food Bank seems perfect."*



The Dilapidated Gates Are Being Replaced

And I think that we would all want to echo his praise for all the work that the editorial team puts into producing this magazine.

The steering committee of the PCC thought that we might perhaps be lucky enough to receive a few hundred pounds in total from those who would normally donate tins and packets of food to the foodbank each month, but cannot whilst the church building is closed.

We couldn't have been more wrong! Robert Barlow's public-spirited generosity sparked similar outpourings of generosity on the part of magazine readers (who are spread much wider than the parish itself). The total has been truly wonderful and will be a great boost to the work of the Wirral Foodbank.

*We raised between us
(including Gift Aid on the
various donations) an
amazing total of*
£3,726.25



Well done – and I would personally add that if you are ever thinking of having new gates, you know where to look on the internet for a very public-spirited company (see next page Ed.).



Wirral Food Bank
Unit 14
Wirral Business Centre
Dock Road
Birkenhead
CH41 1JW

Tel: 0151 638 7090
Email: enquiries@wirralfoodbank.org.uk
www.wirral.foodbank.org.uk
Charity Number 1167967

15 July 2020

Dear Mr Blakeman

On behalf of Wirral Foodbank, I would like to thank St Nicholas Church, Burton, for their recent very generous donation of £3726.25 to us.

Things are currently changing logistically each day as you can imagine. We are still part of the Wirral Food Hub which has been operating throughout the lockdown period, but we are looking towards moving back to our normal operations very soon.

We are therefore very grateful to you for your donation of money which will enable us to restock our warehouses to be able to carry on this most necessary work at what is a very difficult time for many local families.

We want to thank you particularly for your very generous support to us. It is very much appreciated.

If you think it would be appropriate for us to write separately to the supplier of your church gates to thank them, please let us know and we will gladly do so.

Kindest regards

Liz Appleby
Office Manager and Volunteer Co-ordinator

Restoring Dignity, Reviving Hope

Mitech

Mitech Joinery, The Unit, Mount Pleasant, Derby Road,
Denby, Derbyshire DE5 8NN, tel: 01773 570577
robert@mitechjoinery.co.uk



Concave Pathways Ashbourn



Hardwood Concave Pathways



Matlock Pathways with steel

Solid Boarded Serpentine
Wooden Gates

Contemporary and straight top
Driveway Gates

Arts & Crafts Gates

Entry Gates

Pathway Style Gates

Estate Gates



Gates manufactured
out of Accoya are
guaranteed against
Rot for over 40 Years.



WWW.MITECHJOINERY.CO.UK

Mitech Joinery, have been established for over 30 Years

Tales from the Wirral Foodbank

It's mid-July and change continues to be the normal state of affairs at the Wirral Foodbank.

As their employees return to work British Gas have stopped the twice weekly food donations they have made from April to July. It's been close to 2 tonnes (2,000kg) a week. If it's hard to visualize that (and I'm sure it is) 1 tonne might be 800 tins of meatballs, 800 tins of fruit and 800 tins of soup.

Some 7000 Wirral families have been in need of support in recent months

Wirral Council's Emergency Food Hub wound down after supporting more than 7,000 families with almost 60 tonnes of food and the Foodbank returned to standalone operation from the last week in July. As the chair of the trustees pointed out 'return' does not mean 'business as usual' Both the Foodbank and the other frontline agencies need to maintain social distancing and operate a Covid-safe environment.

Consequently there are fewer, busier distribution points than previously, food is pre-bagged at the warehouse, e-vouchers are being used instead of paper, and the advice services that the distribution centres also offered will be in a follow up phone call.

An additional warehouse has been rented to house the picking and bagging operation, yet another volunteer rota has been prepared to cover the new jobs, and the distribution centre leaders are working out how to keep clients and volunteers safe. In short, it's the new normal of almost complete change each month.

Thankfully, food donations have been holding up at the supermarkets and are running about 25% higher than this time last year. Of course, church donations of food have been down as congregations could not meet, but the replacement monetary donations have been very useful (there's a new warehouse workspace to pay rent on).

No one knows how many people the Foodbank will need to serve in the coming months. What is clear is that with the help of St Nicholas' Church and the village communities of Burton and Puddington, Wirral Foodbank will continue to support the most vulnerable in society, providing emergency food for local people in crisis.

VOLUNTEER & DONATE

DONATE MONEY

Big or small, every gift you give helps transform lives.

wirral.foodbank.org.uk



If you like what you see ...

*If you received your copy of the Parish
Magazine & Community News from a friend
or neighbour and would like to be included
on our mailing list for future editions,
please email us at:*

burtonchurchcoms@btinternet.com



Bishop Wilson Church of England Primary

"The joy of the Lord is your strength" Nehemiah 8:10



A MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL

I would like to thank everyone in the village who recently supported Bishop Wilson Church of England Primary School by donating their unwanted items of clothing to be sent for recycling. A total of £178.20 has been raised and donations from local people made a big difference. ***Thank you so much.***

Suzanne Roberts

Head of School

And a pupil also takes time to write ...



As I leave Year 6 and move on to my new school in September, I have been reflecting on my time at Bishop Wilson.

I remember my first day of primary school in Reception Class. I was being shown around the school and I saw some Year One children hard at work. I knew I was only one year below the Year Ones, but I felt it wasn't going to be very easy. The next day, I started working and made friends. I didn't struggle very much at all so after that, school felt amazing and ever since then, I have loved it.

My funniest memory at Bishop Wilson was when we were staying a night away at Barnstondale. Bobby, my best friend, was sleep-talking so my friend Ewan and I climbed onto his bed and woke him up. He looked terrified! After that, we told him that he was sleep-talking and he didn't believe us. We had an amazing time at Barnstondale.

One of my happiest moments at Bishop Wilson was when I received Bishop Wilson's "Most Outstanding Cross-Country Runner of the Season" because I had come first in nearly every single race but one. Another happy memory was when Bishop Wilson School took part in a football tournament and we glided through to the semi-finals. Unfortunately, we were beaten in the final, but I scored the most goals for the team and felt very proud. These opportunities have helped my confidence to grow.

I'm going to miss many things about Bishop Wilson including the staff and my friends. I'm also going to miss being the oldest boy in the school. Having such a beautiful school to go to has been a real treat. The change will feel very scary at first but hopefully I should get used to high school. I'm very excited for the future but I'm definitely going to miss Bishop Wilson and all the kind, friendly people here!

Ben Moffitt

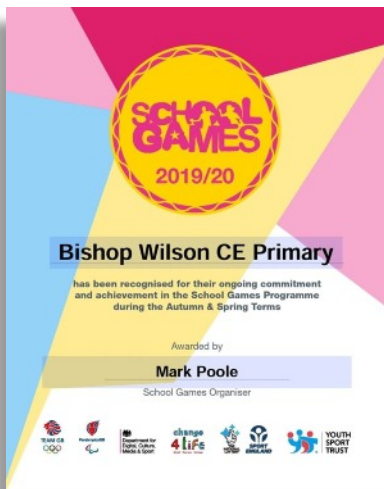


Sporting News

Two proud moments for our school.

Although the School Games Mark may have been paused for this year, Bishop Wilson have been recognised for our commitment to sport and our achievements during the Summer term. To add to our School Games Mark for Autumn and Spring, we now have the School Games Virtual Mark for our fantastic efforts during the last few months. We are so incredibly proud of all our pupils who have been involved in our school sports and can't thank you enough. Thank you also to staff and parents for your fantastic support and effort to help make these events happen.

Bishop Wilson took part in the Cheshire & Warrington Virtual School Games 2020. Students completed various sporting challenges and sent in videos and pictures. Bishop Wilson had the most entries from our three district areas.



Snakes, Snakes

Back in May, Joseph from Owl's class with the help of mum, Clare, made a Corona Snake! They placed a head (a decorated rock) and suggested people of all ages decorate a rock, any design/ colour and add to it. It's now very impressive!

The School has adopted a Reticulated Python from Chester Zoo! As you may be aware, Chester Zoo was unable to open due to the pandemic and has suffered financially as a result. Chester Zoo has done a lot for us and we wanted to give something back and to do something to help. We chose a python as we felt it would get along very well with our fabulous Corona Snake!



Snake Stones

Year 6s

Not long now until our fabulous Year 6s move on to start a new adventure and showcase their talents elsewhere. So, before they do, they got to visit our school bank for one last time and have a socially distanced shopping spree!



Bishop Wilson Church of England Primary

"The joy of the Lord is your strength" Nehemiah 8:10

Bishop Wilson PTA

This year we missed out on our Sports Day and the Summer Fair. The summer fair is one of our key events and in recent years has raised around £1,000. After the recent investment in the activity trail (£5,500) our bank account has just £75 left in it and we are not sure when our next event will be!

The PTA' ambition is always to raise money to continue to support our lovely little school with great experiences and equipment that makes Bishop Wilson School the amazing place it is. Things on the list for the future funds raised are books for all years, a shelter or sail for the top field, picnic benches, another climbing trail and the list goes on – it' ambitious but we did it before we can do it again!

We appreciate that times have been incredibly tough for many during lockdown and for some this will have resulted in some financial challenges but if you would have donated time, prizes, bought raffle tickets on the day or have maybe saved a bit of money from staying home during lockdown then please can you help by [clicking here](#) to donate and help us raise some much needed funds?

We should be hugely grateful, and you would be helping us get one step closer to beginning to tick off the wish list above!

Next year, we hope to be back in the flesh, bigger and better and even happier than normal to see you! How this experience has made us appreciate the little things.

The PTA sends everyone its thanks and love for any donations you are able to make! Every penny counts!



Travel to the Moon Challenge

In May, we began our Bishop Wilson



Travel to the Moon Challenge. Families and Staff exercising and travelling to the Moon together – walking, bike-riding, running, bunny-hopping, the list is endless. The goal is 384,400 km. We are adding all of our kilometres together each week and by 10 July we had travelled 9,770 km.

Memories of Burton Church of England Endowed School

Now Bishop Wilson School

Circa 1940 & 1950

John Roe

The old school in Burton dates from 1724 and is situated above Neston Road, and was approached up wide steps from Bank House layby. The new Bishop Wilson School in Puddington Lane was opened on 6 May 1963.

In September 1946, at the age of five I started school, and began in the infants' class situated behind the main school room, and in a Victorian addition to the school building. Here Miss Humphreys was teacher. She was the eldest daughter of Canon Humphreys of Shotwick and travelled to school on her bicycle across the fields via Puddington, and when snow stopped Hill's school bus from running, she herded the 'Puddy kids' through to school.

We learned to count using small seashells kept in small tobacco boxes, one for each child, and writing was taught using chalk and a slate, which we rubbed clean using pieces of woollen cloth which had been knitted by older pupils. By my second year I was allowed to write with a pencil and paper on Fridays (paper still being in short supply).



Burton School on Neston Road

Written work was judged by Miss Humphreys and awarded a stick-on silver star when of good standard. At the end of term, the pupil with the most stars was given a silver sixpence [two and a half pence - this would buy a block of Cadbury's milk chocolate, if it was available and you had a sweet coupon]. Every afternoon if the class had been good Miss Humphreys would read us stories for the whole of the last lesson. We enjoyed this and on Fridays the first afternoon lesson was toy time, the only time in the week that this was allowed. There was a red wooden train and also a cart of coloured bricks. The girls were allowed to bring a doll on that day.

School dinners were brought in containers from Neston and were eaten in the infants' classroom where folding tables and forms were put up so that Mrs Edie Kemp and Mrs Edie Totty could serve the meals. This meant that we infants had a longer playtime than the seniors and, whilst we were in the playground, Mrs Patrick from Mudhouse Lane supervised us.

Miss Davies, a short wide lady, was very quick to box the ears of anyone who misbehaved. She frequently changed lodgings around the village. On Saturdays she took the bus to Chester where she enjoyed a couple of pints before catching the last bus home at 9.00pm. I know this because she lodged next door to us for some time.

I didn't enjoy my time in her class as she had very old-fashioned methods of teaching. Fortunately, she left, and Mrs Olive Jones replaced her at short notice. This was as a result of Miss Phone (Headmistress) retiring and the school governors changing the school to primary education only, with all the older pupils being transferred to Ness Holt School.

A new headmaster, Mr Kempton, was appointed, and he recruited Mrs Jones, who was persuaded to start work earlier than she had planned on the understanding that her son Michael would start school under age in the infants' class. He was allowed to sit on his mother's knee whilst she was teaching.

They lived in Neston and he used to sit behind his mother as she cycled to and from school. Lessons with Mrs Jones were so different after the draconian way Miss Davies had taught us. We learnt quickly and easily in all subjects as she used her more modern skills.

Finally, I moved up to Mr Kempton's class in the front part of the school room. His desk was on the left-hand side of the door and the room also had a blackboard and a piano. The double desks were more modern and had sliding brass covers over the ink wells. I became 'ink monitor' and went to school earlier each morning to fill the ink wells with ink made from powder and water.

Mr Kempton was ex RAF and had modern methods of teaching which he used to bring out the individual talents of each pupil.

Mr Kempton asked the Trustees to buy a radio for our use, this was granted, and an electrician came during lesson time to install a power point as there were none in the building.

A Pye valve set costing £30 (*£1,000 at today's value Ed.*) was provided, and we enjoyed listening to BBC lessons for schools. They included history stories, nature study, and geography. We enjoyed these programmes and had about a quarter of an hour listening time, plus discussion and questions after each programme. Learning continued to be enjoyable.

On Friday afternoon, for all except infants, the last lessons were either a game of rounders played in the Burton Wood above the school or, in winter, football for the boys. We would be walked through the woods and the Rake to the Gladstone village playing field, whilst girls continued to play rounders with Mrs Jones.



Top left: Miss Humphreys, Mrs Olive Jones, Top right: Mr & Mrs Kempton
School yard by Bank House wall, circa 1955

Photograph courtesy of John See

I received a good all-round schooling thanks to three dedicated teachers, and at the age of eleven in 1952, moved on for my secondary education firstly in Neston for a year, and then on to Chester City Grammar School.

WHY ARE THERE NO PUBS IN BURTON?

It's a fact that Burton Village has no pub, but this was not always the case, as *Jenny Schwarz* tells us..

Barn End dating from 1450, probably one of the most photographed cottages in Burton with its thatched roof and red door, is a former ale-house. Stanley House was the Stanley Arms, owned by innkeeper and farmer James Bradshaw at the time of the 1851 census.

Rake House known as the Royal Oak was owned by brewer and farmer Ann Medicott.



Pickerton Cottage is thought to be the site of the pub called the Earth Stopper. It has a hole to the side of the front door through which jugs of ale were passed outside licensing hours. There are two other cottages with holes from the cellars for ale to be handed up to customers.

A great deal of ale was brewed in Burton. The Manor Court enforced standards concerning the quality, measure and price, and if standards were not reached, the alehouse keepers could be fined.

*Barn End
A Former
Ale House*



In 1607, 15 alehouse keepers were fined. The office of ale-tester was not necessarily a popular one as it entailed prying into neighbours' affairs and was resented.

The early Stuart kings tried to reduce the number of alehouses and to control the rest. This led to premises being licensed. The village landlords had a policy of eliminating alehouses from the village by the second half of the 19th century. In a quote from the Chester Chronicle at that time:

It is whispered that thirsty souls club together and obtain on Saturday nights good supplies of Johannes Barleycornus which they convey to the woods and sly places and consume freely, making the cannikin clink right merrily.

They were very successfull

So why were there so many public houses in Burton in the first place?

Since medieval times and in the centuries immediately following Burton had been an important trading centre and one of several ports on the Wirral side of the Dee Estuary. Burton wasn't the picturesque place it is today. It was a dirty, squalid, disease-ridden place and the public houses were there to serve the many travellers, sailors and merchants passing through.

Around the mid 1700s the River Dee was canalised on the Welsh side and over many years the estuary began to silt up. As a consequence the ports on the Wirral side of the Dee gradually declined and with it the amount of trade conducted in Burton and so began the demise of its public houses.

Photography ...

Do you have any good quality local pictures taken with a digital camera, that you would be willing to share?

Since we asked people to send in their pictures of local scenes, the lanes and byways, wildlife, local landmarks and the natural landscape we have received some excellent shots from around the area. It is very obvious that there are some really good amateur photographers out there.

Many of the shots relate to the various seasons of the year whilst others reflect the local environment throughout the year.

Consequently we will use the photographs submitted in future editions to illustrate a particular item in the magazine or at an appropriate time of the year.

Thanks to everyone who has provided pictures for publication so far including:

Alison Watts, Gail Fulton, Kate Smith,
Louise Farrell, Anne Parsons,
Bryan Blakeman, Ivor Thomas
and Nigel Griffiths.



Photographs must be original and submitted digitally. By submitting a piece of work the photographer agrees to grant St Nicholas' Church a royalty-free licence to use the image. We will endeavour to acknowledge and credit the photographer of any images we are able to use.



When submitting photographs please send them via email together with your name, a brief description of the subject matter and any other relevant details. Thank you.

Please submit your photographs to: burtonchurchcomms@btinternet.com

Life Under Lockdown



The Coronavirus pandemic continues to affect us all and in recent months we have tried to reflect the thoughts, optimism, fears and hopes of different people and the various groups around the parish. Here we highlight the perspective of Burton Manor Gardens and the reflections of how some people in Puddington have been coping.



INDEPENDENT

THE UK'S OFFICIAL CORONAVIRUS DEATH TOLL HAS RISEN TO 42,647, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE (DHSC) FIGURES SHOW.



Burton Manor Gardens

Like everything and everyone else in the country, Burton Manor Gardens haven't escaped the effects of this terrible pandemic that the country and the world are experiencing. But, despite everything, life in the gardens has continued, albeit within all the rules set out by the government. As soon as the lock-down was announced the volunteers began self-isolating, our planned events were all cancelled, the greenhouse was locked, the offices in The Manor closed, the café shut, and work on the building site ground to a halt.

The walkway down to the icehouse and back was left open for local residents who wanted to walk their dogs, but the weeds continued to grow, the grass needed cutting, and during that prolonged hot spell the plants needed watering. So, a skeleton team of volunteers working within the requirements for social distancing moved in to keep things under control. Working individually, and often on different days, the beds have been weeded, cuttings taken, plants watered, crops harvested, and the grass has been cut. A new fruit cage has been erected. Lettuce, carrots, leeks, and onions have been planted, and the gardens are looking as good as ever.



Slowly life has been returning to some degree of normality. More volunteers have returned to work. The walled garden has been re-opened to visitors. Plant sales have resumed and cut flowers have re-appeared. Work on the foundations for the new houses has started again, some of the office staff have returned to The Manor, the café has re-opened for take-away coffee and meals, and hopefully very soon the refurbishing of our bookshop will be completed and back in service.



Our visitor centre and toilets will remain closed for the time being. Volunteers will continue to keep apart and provide their own refreshments and, as always, our visitors and dog walkers are asked to take their waste bags home with them. Hopefully, it won't be too long before life in the gardens can return to normal.

Puddington Village Reflections on Lockdown



The difficulties brought on by the Coronavirus pandemic have affected everyone, no matter how young or old. Children's education has been interrupted, in many instances workers' incomes may have been reduced either significantly or marginally, for others normal interaction with family members either locally or at a distance has been affected, and for some the loss of social interaction has been difficult to bear.

However, for a certain group of people in Puddington, lockdown has presented a different number of challenges, for both them and their families.

The Nonagenarians

Puddington Village has at least three households in which inhabitants are over 90 years old: the nonagenarians. The circumstances of each of the households has been different so each has had to adapt in a different way. In some instances life has changed only slightly with the main difference being a lack of contact with family members, even with those living only a short distance away.

Restrictions on venturing out have affected everybody who is either in a

vulnerable category, is elderly or who has had to 'shield'. Being able to stay in one's own home has been achieved in each nonagenarian home in Puddington, albeit via different means. At 90 years of age people often need a bit of extra support. In lockdown the need to maintain social distancing whilst having a variety of people calling each day to provide support services presented its own issues. In one household no additional care support has been required other than arrangements for shopping. In another instance the problem was solved by two immediate family members moving from their London home to live with their relative at the start of lockdown thereby replacing the normal daily support. In the third instance a couple's requirement for extra support (both nonagenarians) coincided with the start of lockdown. For them the solution was the introduction of long term live-in care.

What each of these situations has in common for the people concerned is the response of family and friends, as well as their own endeavours, to do 'whatever it takes' to ensure that life continues to be maintained within an environment in which they are able to feel safe and secure.

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for charity

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**BRIARFIELD,
THE RAKE, BURTON. CH64 5TL
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All proceeds for the National Garden Scheme.
Main beneficiaries - Macmillan Cancer Care, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, Carers Trust.

Self-service, cash only. Social distancing essential.

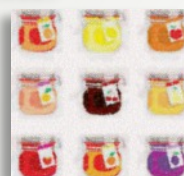
**Text or call Liz Carter, 07711 813732 to make an
appointment.**

***For the time being this will replace Liz Carter's
stall on Neston Market***

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Produce Includes

***Raspberry Jam, Blackcurrant Jam & Beetroot Chutney
with More Varieties to Come in the Autumn.***

***To buy or to order, please call Beth on
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All proceeds in aid of St Nicholas' Church Projects Fund

With so much pain and suffering going on across the world, filling our television channels and news feeds, it is easy to feel overwhelmed and fearful. It is also easy at times like these to believe that the world is a dark and tragic place, and to forget the goodness in our fellow human beings.

This year, in particular, calls for deep faith – faith in God, and in ourselves. It is a powerful thought that a relationship with God can bring any person around, no matter how irredeemable they or their situation may appear.



Just as we lit candles to signify the light of Christ during our Thy Kingdom Come online service in May, we must be the light in the lives of others. That is what Mothers' Union members do best, staying connected and staying supportive. Each member is woven into the life of their community just as the Holy Spirit is woven into our hearts.

[Click here](#) to explore the resources available for 'Thy Kingdom Come'

Prayer

Loving Father, in the face of Jesus Christ your light and glory have blazed forth.

Send your Holy Spirit that we may share with our friends and those we serve the life of your Son and your love for all.

Strengthen us as witnesses to that love, for your name's sake.

Amen

COVID-19 Resources

MU continues to produce resources to support people for as long as we find ourselves in this difficult period. It is our aim to combat feelings of loneliness that may arise and help everyone stay upbeat during these challenging times. Craft ideas, puzzles, prayers, support for mental health, bereavement resources and much more.

MU is still running Midday Prayers, Monday - Saturday on the Mothers' Union public [Facebook](#) page

If you don't have access to the internet at home, you can still hear the Midday Prayers via the Church of England's Daily Hope Line. Call 0800 804 8044 from a UK mobile or landline and press option 4, then option 8.



We're Reopening!

Ness
BOTANIC GARDENS

Please keep checking our website <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/ness-gardens/> and social media channels for updates.

Ensuring the health and safety of our Members, visitors, staff, students and volunteers remains our priority. On 17 July, we opened to Members and we anticipate that this will be followed by opening to all during August. You will be required to book for your visit in advance in order that we can maintain safety and social distancing.

NBG Photography Competition 2020

This year's
Ness Botanic
Gardens
Photography



Competition encourages everyone to explore the great outdoors (please explore responsibly!) and record how inspiring plants and gardens can be. The 2020 competition is now open!

Visit our website for information about categories, how to enter, terms and conditions as well as prizes. The closing date is Friday 18 December 2020.

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/ness-gardens/whats-on/photo-competition/>



Ness Botanic Gardens YouTube Channel keeps growing!

We hope you are still watching all the videos on our YouTube channel. They are being posted on a very regular basis – there are plenty of ‘virtual tours’ with Phil Kay, Head Gardener, as well as educational footage, hedgehog and chicken clips and historical footage. George the ForresTed has been out and about in the Gardens and has made some fun video clips for our younger visitors. In his first episode George explains just how important nettles are for our ecosystems. There are also episodes on daisies, being mindful and grow your own.

Please join us on YouTube and watch the clips so far – subscribe, show your approval, and leave your comments.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_P-vNwIUQvvEmVUD9lZqiw

BURTON MERE WETLANDS

Reflections on Lockdown & Anticipating Autumn

As the RSPB cautiously emerges from lockdown and restarts its operations, Burton Mere Wetlands has been open for visiting again since mid-June. Inevitably, the reserve looks and feels somewhat different, with our usual vibrant visitor centre and hides closed and car park spaces limited to reduce the number of people on site. However, our friendly team are present as always to welcome visitors - outdoors and at a safe distance - to provide updates on what to expect from a visit.

Our return coincided with the end of the breeding season, and another generally successful one at that. Although wading birds like avocets and lapwings fared less well due to the dry weather, the reserve has hosted successful breeding bearded tits for the second year running. These reedbed specialists often prove difficult to see and are restricted in their numbers and range across the UK. We're particularly delighted they have found a favourable home here.

Similarly, another first from last year – nesting great white egrets, the large cousin of the abundant little egret – was repeated, but this year three pairs have raised seven youngsters. Having increased in prominence on the Dee Estuary for a decade, it looks like they have a firm foothold to thrive here into the future. What's more, we currently hold the record for the most northerly breeding pairs of this bird in the entire world!



Bearded Tit



Lapwing



Little Egret



Marsh Harrier



Sandpiper



Damselfly



Lots to See

A final highlight of breeding season was a pair of marsh harriers nesting in the reedbed for the first time: one of three pairs on the estuary after an initial success in 2017. These magnificent birds of prey, now a year-round resident here, are putting on wonderful displays as they hunt for food to bring back to the nest for their young, who have yet to fledge the nest at the time of writing.

As we move through late summer into autumn, we can still enjoy an array of butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies decorating the trails, but we'll also see the beginning of the birds' migration as they return to their winter homes. A range of sandpipers and 'shanks' will trickle through along with ever-growing numbers of ducks and geese, which in turn attract an increase in bird of prey activity.

Whilst our usual events programme is currently paused due to the pandemic, the reserve still boasts a wealth of wildlife and green space, opportunity for mindfulness and some of the best views in the local area for you to enjoy on any day. We recently started serving drinks, snacks and ice creams again, and our numerous benches and picnic tables are perfect for relaxing outdoors.

We've been overwhelmed by the support from visitors in keeping the reserve Covid-safe, and delighted at how many new faces we have welcomed as a result of people's love of nature.

For full details and news, check our website blog at [rspb.org.uk/burtonmerewetlands](https://www.rspb.org.uk/burtonmerewetlands) and you can follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

We hope to see you down on the Reserve soon.

Find out
what's been
going on
down the
Garden Path

High summer with days of intense heat followed by rain which was much needed for the garden.

As the season moves on, tubs and various spaces in the garden were filled with annuals. However, Sea of Pink proved to be disappointing as the plants lacked variety. The Cosmos have been a delight (white, crimson and various shades of pink). There are a number of Sea Hollies both in the front and rear garden. They are now turning from green to a wonderful shade of blue and are perfect for flower decorations.

A hydrangea cutting is growing on well and is flowering with very pale florets even though the parent plant is blue.



The roses have been lovely and although the first flush of blooms is over, there are plenty of buds waiting to come into full bloom. The sweet peas are beautiful. The seedlings were unnamed, but with regular watering and feeding have developed some good blooms.

The dahlias are in bud at the time of writing, but Natal (dark crimson) is actually flowering. The gladioli (Paloma Blanca) and Donatella (peach) have yet to flower.

The greenhouse, now devoid of all seedlings, has been completely taken over by two cucumbers. This success is a first!



The lavender bed is in full bloom and will soon be harvested, dried and passed on to my great-niece for her herb bags. She is also growing some lavender.

Many different species of butterflies have visited the garden. The birds are still visiting i.e. blue/great tits, green/gold finches and a pair of bullfinches. Baby robins seem to shelter in our garden seat.

Tasks to be getting on with in your garden ...

- Weeding - there'll be plenty of them in our garden!
- Remember to water tubs and pots - even if it has rained
- Dead head flowers to promote continuous flowering

Most of all, enjoy the garden.

Flori Bunda

NESTON LIBRARY

Neston Library re-opened on 13 July with temporary revised opening hours. Items can be returned and borrowed via the self-service machines. You are also able to pre-book a computer for essential tasks and urgent printing as well as use the photocopier (self-service).

Please remember to bring your library card.

To support a safe and managed opening, the following measures are in place:

- Limited numbers of people will be allowed in each building.
- Families are welcome, but to ensure spaces can be managed safely, all children under 12 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.
- Some services may be unavailable e.g. reservations, reference stock, newspapers, local studies materials and equipment, seating, toilets, meeting rooms and Customer Services.
- Some regular activities have been suspended and replaced with online alternatives
- All of our reading challenges are online. Anyone can take part in our [Summer Reading Challenges](#), which include: Summer Reading Challenge (U13s), Adults Read Two and #30DayBookChallenge
- There will be provision of hand sanitiser, one-way systems and floor markings to maintain social distancing. We'll also be following Government Track and Trace guidelines.

All loans have been extended until 1 September. You can still renew your loans using the [Cheshire Libraries Catalogue](#) or by phoning 0300 123 7739 (24 hour renewals).

Remember you can also access [ebooks](#), [audio downloads](#), [eMagazines](#), [eNewspapers](#) and [eResources](#), free of charge. For enquiries please email libraries@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk.

Temporary Revised Opening Hours

Monday: 10.00am – 1.00pm & 2.00pm – 5.00pm

Tuesday: 2.00pm – 6.00pm

Wednesday: 10.00am – 1.00pm & 2.00pm – 5.00pm

Thursday: 10.00am – 1.00pm & 2.00pm – 5.00pm

Friday: 2.00pm – 6.00pm

Saturday: 10.00am – 1.00pm

[Click here](#) to visit the Neston Library page for the most up-to-date information.



Burton & Puddington's

GLADSTONE VILLAGE HALL



Village and community life in and around the two villages of Burton and Puddington may be gradually returning as well as to our much loved Village Hall and Social Club.

For many of us, the playing field with its space and far reaching views became a regular haunt during lockdown; a place where we would willingly spend time exercising. We'd be thrilled to spot a friend and neighbour, at a distance, at a time when seeing people was a rarity.

The first positive step to be taken was reopening bowls and tennis, and the green and courts have been safely busy ever since. Then in July the play area was back in use, a highly anticipated event for parents of young children and village cricket, a summer stalwart, returned. Shortly after that and following the removal of some squatting spiders and changes to make us COVID secure, the Village Hall was allowed to open.

We have a new Pilates class, a kids Karate class as well as one for the adults, and a meditation class, as well as kids' cookery sessions over the summer holidays. Some of these groups are fully booked but if you're interested [contact us](#) and we'll put you in touch.

Some of our regular groups and classes haven't returned yet, due to the nature of their activity paired with a duty of care towards their attendees, but we look forward to a time when they're ready.

If you'd like to visit our play area, you'll need to follow these rules

- ◊ Bring hand sanitiser, use it on entry and at regular intervals.
- ◊ Adhere to current social distancing guidelines.
- ◊ Observe only one household per piece of equipment, at any one time.
- ◊ Not use if Covid symptomatic

As usual, Children must be supervised by an adult.

Government guidelines on good hygienic practice must be followed including:

- ◊ not allowing children to mouth equipment or
- ◊ put hands in mouth.

Consumption of food and drink in this area is currently not allowed.

Future Events - Subject to Government Regulations

Saturday 19 September, in the morning, Village Farmers market with 20 wonderful stalls of local, artisan produce and free entry.

And keep your eyes open for our returning Village Scavenger Hunt, date to be confirmed.

Visit our webpage: [Click Here](#)

Visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/gladstonevillagehall/>

Burton & Puddington's GLADSTONE VILLAGE HALL



Burton Village Farmers Market

Gladstone Village Hall
The Village, Burton, Neston
Cheshire CH645TH

Saturday 19th September 2020
9am – 1pm

A great opportunity to support
your local farmers and award
winning artisan food producers.

Wirral Pomona Society will be there
so bring your apples from your
garden with a container and take
home freshly pressed apple juice.

Free Entry and parking



The Gift Cafe will be bringing
their *vantastic* food to
Gladstone Village Hall on
Saturdays, from the 1st
August. They'll be serving delicious
lunch options that you could picnic with
on our field as well as takeaway meals
for tonight's dinner. If you simply can't
wait, catch up with the van at their cafe
site in Puddington on Chapel House
Lane.



To the relief of parents and grandparents
locally, our play area is now open, and
all you need to do is remember to bring
hand sanitiser and follow the rules on the
gates.

GVH Tennis Club launch its new online booking system

The courts have made a resurgence of
late, perhaps due to the perceived safety
of outdoor sports paired with the new
resurfacing. The new online system with
Fastcourts makes booking a court
simple. To sign up to membership or pay
as you go and to be made aware of our
Covid rules please contact

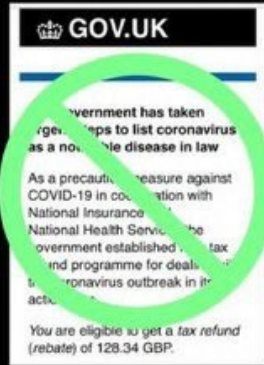
tennis@gladstonevillagehall.org



HM Government

Coronavirus

Be aware of refund scams.
If you receive a text or email
from HMRC offering you a
tax refund, it's a scam.



BEWARE NHS 'TRACK & TRACE' FRAUDSTERS

Criminals are taking advantage of the NHS Test and Trace service by sending phishing emails and texts containing links designed to obtain your banking passwords and PINs.



If you receive a suspicious text, email or phone call, make sure you [#StopChallengeProtect](#).

Ensure you check the web address carefully and avoid clicking on links. Always type the official address directly into your browser followed by the unique characters given to you.

It's important to remember that NHS Test and Trace will never ask you for financial details, PINs or passwords. They will also never visit your home.

You can forward scam emails to report@phishing.gov.uk and report suspicious texts to your mobile provider by forwarding the message to 7726.

If a scam text claims to be from your bank, you should also report it to them. [#TakeFive](#)



From the Parish Registers



Funeral

5 June

- Isabelle Wilcox

9 June

- John Deelun Somauroo



FLORIST OPENS IN BURTON MANOR

Flourish Flowers is now open at Squirrel Lodge in Burton Manor.

Flourish Flowers was established by Angela Adlard in 2011 and is a preferred Florist for 'Oh Me Oh My', Thornton Manor, Tower Hill Barns and are also the resident florist at The Red Fox in Thornton Hough.

They concentrate mainly on creating bespoke flowers for weddings and events, but Flourish bouquets are available online for next day delivery. Drop into the shop to see their range of flowers for sale or sign up for one of their flower-arranging workshops (dates to be confirmed).

Flourishflowers.uk or email shop@flourishflowers.uk



Hardy Perennials

Next Lunch Dates

Not Out to Lunch unfortunately!

Meetings Suspended

Stay Safe!

POLLARDS INN, WILLASTON

12.30PM FOR 1.00PM

Tel: Vivienne 336 7435

Tel: Linda 336 5017

Holy Communion

Soup & Sandwich Lunch

For the last 9 years we have been holding an informal Holy Communion service once a month for those who find getting up the steps to church a bit of a challenge.

Initially we started in the Burton café and then moved to the Glass House at Burton Manor for a while until we settled in the Sports and Social Club where the facilities make it a perfect venue.

Several of the volunteers who have helped making the soup and sandwiches and hosting the lunch over the years have now stepped down....so a big **Thank You** to all those who have helped so faithfully and also to the new volunteers who have made up the teams so that we can continue to provide this very special service.

Many thanks from
Cathy and those who enjoy coming along each month.

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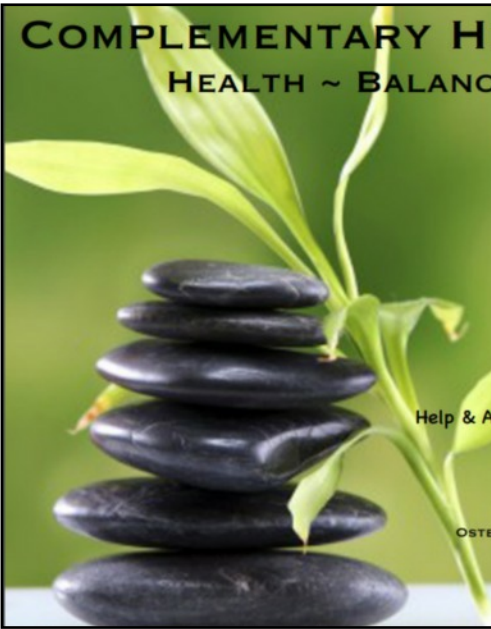
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Also on Mondays & Thursdays at the Burton Sports and Social Club - Chair Yoga 9.30 am to 10:30am

Beginners and returners are all welcome and equipment can be provided



Contact Andrew Collin

Tel: 07802 73 258

✉ andrewcollin@btinternet.com

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[@YogawithlorraineC](http://YogawithlorraineC)

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Community & Society Information

**DURING THE PRESENT NATIONAL EMERGENCY SOCIETIES
ARE NOT PERMITTED TO MEET**

THE BURTON SOCIETY

Meetings in the Gladstone Village Hall at 8.00pm
Contact Janey Griffiths 0151 336 3621

THE PUDDINGTON SOCIETY

For more information about events
Contact Hazel Huxley on 0151 336 2288

BURTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Membership is open to all residents of Burton
An annual charge of £5 per household is payable from April
burtonresidentsassociation.co.uk

BURTON AND NESTON HISTORY SOCIETY

For more information about events
Contact Robert Thrift on 0151 336 1771

BURTON WALKING GROUP

New members always welcome - for more information about activities
Contact John Nuttall on 0151 336 7178

BURTON BRIDGE CLUB

For further information about future meetings
Contact Hazel Huxley 0151 336 2288.

FRIENDS OF BURTON MANOR GARDENS

For membership information and events:
Contact 0151 336 6154 or email, burtonmanorgardens@gmail.com

LOCAL POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER (PCSO) LINDA CONWAY

You can contact Linda by emailing linda.conway@cheshire.pnn.police.uk or by calling her
Police Mobile Number 07824 609048.

You can also reach Linda at: www.cheshire.police.uk/little-leston-and-burton

Facebook: Little Neston and Burton Police

Twitter: LilNestonBurPol In an emergency, dial 999.

For general enquires and non-urgent assistance, dial 101.

***The deadline for the next edition for copy & advertisers is 15 September
Magazine Administrator - sue@suebirch.com***

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