



The Parish Magazine

& Community News

St Nicholas' Church, Burton-in-Wirral

December 2020 & January 2021



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR EDITION

IN THIS EDITION

Church Services at Christmas

Sandstone Cross in Burton

Story of Hampstons Well

GVH Calls for Help

Pumpkin Festival Pictures

*Growing & Thriving With God
in Our Community*

*Church Directory -
Who you may need to contact ...*



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	<i>Basil Keys</i>	<i>936 1403</i>
	<i>John Morris-Best</i>	<i>327 7873</i>
	<i>Ann Rudd (Emeritus)</i>	<i>336 1513</i>
<i>Churchwardens</i>	<i>Nigel Griffiths</i>	<i>336 3621</i>
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<i>Deputy Wardens</i>	<i>Tony Carter</i>	<i>336 5446</i>
<i>PCC Secretary</i>	<i>John Vinson</i>	<i>336 8350</i>
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<i>Gift Aid Secretary</i>	<i>John Miles</i>	<i>336 4972</i>
<i>Verger Duties</i>	<i>Ann Warr - Services</i>	<i>336 2747</i>
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	<i>Sue Church - Housekeeping</i>	<i>336 2228</i>
<i>Friends of St Nicholas</i>	<i>Robin Cowan - Chairman</i>	<i>306 4587</i>
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<i>Junior Church</i>	<i>Amanda Ankers</i>	<i>336 3998</i>
<i>Flower Arranging</i>	<i>Sue Church</i>	<i>336 2228</i>
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*Frost in the Ancient
Churchyard of St Nicholas' Church*

*PAST THREE A CLOCK,
AND A COLD FROSTY
MORNING,
PAST THREE A CLOCK;
GOOD MORROW, MASTERS
ALL!*

*BORN IS A BABY,
GENTLE AS MAY BE,
SON OF THE ETERNAL
FATHER SUPERNAL.*

*SERAPH QUIRE SINGETH,
ANGEL BELL RINGETH;
HARK HOW THEY RIME IT,
TIME IT AND CHIME IT.*

*MID EARTH REJOICES
HEARING SUCH VOICES
E'ERTOFORE SO WELL
CAROLLING NOWELL.*

FROM THE CAROL 'PAST THREE O'CLOCK'

[CLICK HERE](#)

Rev Cathy Helm

The Vicar Writes . . .



We can easily recognise things that make us uncomfortable, such as uncertainty, something too tight, too scratchy or too lumpy, an embarrassing situation or person, being somewhere different, being too hot, too cold, music that's not to our taste or even too much rich food!

Conversely, things that bring comfort often bring a deep sense of joy and security, like an old jumper, chocolate, a hug, friends, family, a familiar place, a handshake, a comfy bed or favourite song or meal. These all evoke memories of security, of happy and certain times. They bring comfort.

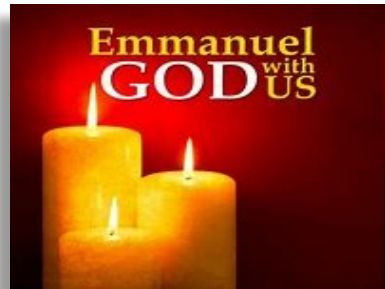
As we approach Christmas, with murmurings of cancelling it, 'after all, what's the point?', we may be thinking that comfort is a distant memory.

When Jesus was born to Mary and Joseph, I don't think the surroundings into which he was born were overly comfortable. There was the Roman occupation, the borrowed room, the journey and being a long way from home, let alone the disgrace of pregnancy before the wedding, not forgetting childbirth which is not the most comfortable!

Yet into this, God's angels bring a message that this child will bring

'Comfort and Joy', he will bring 'Peace on earth'. They needed comfort and joy, they needed peace and hope.

God's message didn't say all the external pressures and difficulties would go away, but rather that God had heard his people's cry. He recognised the need, he saw the pain, he stepped down into earth from heaven in Jesus to show us the depth of his saving love. The wonder of the incarnation is that Jesus, Immanuel is God with us.



In Jeremiah [not the most cheerful of prophets] 31: 13 God says:

*'I will give you
comfort and joy
instead of
sorrow.'*

When I looked for verses on joy there were over 212 to choose from! A favourite of the children at Bishop Wilson school is from Nehemiah 8: 10

*'The joy of the Lord
is my strength.'*

Recently, sorting through his parents' home, Steve found a small, well-kept St John's gospel. It had been given to his Dad during the war, and these are the words from the King written in the front cover.

'To all serving in my Forces by sea or land, or in the air, to all my people engaged in the defence of the Realm, I commend this book. For centuries the Bible has been a wholesome and strengthening influence in our national life, and it behoves us in these momentous days to turn with renewed faith to this Divine source of comfort and inspiration.'

As King George VI clearly suggested, can we also discover the Divine source of comfort and inspiration in God's Word? Notice all the things I listed that bring us comfort are about physical, emotional and contextual needs. What about our spiritual comfort?

Holding onto wonderful verses from Scripture can help us be certain that whatever else is happening, we can still know God's comfort and joy.

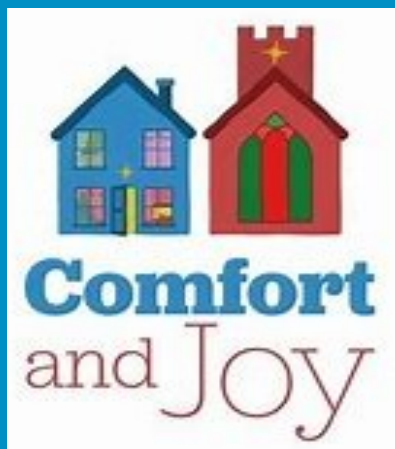
However we're able to spend Christmas this year, we can do so in the presence of the COMFORT BRINGER and the JOY GIVER, the New Year need not hold fear and trepidation, rather hope, because God is with us.

Cathy

Preparing for Advent & Christmas 2020

Comfort and Joy holds together the hope that Christmas will bring joy and celebration after a uniquely difficult year with an acknowledgement that – for those who have lost loved ones or livelihoods, or who are potentially still not able to be together with loved ones – it may be the Church's role to provide consolation, rather than assume everyone will be ready to join in jubilation. The Church of England is providing online a series of Nine Lessons and Carols from Christmas Day to 2 January with Carols, Readings, and Reflections.

These can be accessed either online or by downloading the app. All the resources can be found at www.churchofengland.org/comfortandjoy or #ComfortAndJoy



SEE AMID THE WINTER'S SNOW

***SEE AMID THE WINTER'S SNOW,
BORN FOR US ON EARTH BELOW,
SEE THE TENDER LAMB APPEARS,
PROMISED FROM ETERNAL YEARS.***

***HAIL, THOU EVER-BLESSED MORN!
HAIL, REDEMPTION'S HAPPY DAWN!
SING THROUGH ALL JERUSALEM,
CHRIST IS BORN IN BETHLEHEM.***

***LO, WITHIN A MANGER LIES
HE WHO BUILT THE STARRY SKIES;
HE WHO THRONED IN HEIGHT SUBLIME
SITS AMID THE CHERUBIM.***

***SAY, YE HOLY SHEPHERDS, SAY
WHAT YOUR JOYFUL NEWS TODAY;
WHEREFORE HAVE YE LEFT YOUR SHEEP
ON THE LONELY MOUNTAIN STEEP?***

***AS WE WATCHED AT DEAD OF NIGHT,
LO, WE SAW A WONDROUS LIGHT;
ANGELS SINGING PEACE ON EARTH
TOLD US OF THE SAVIOUR'S BIRTH.***

***SACRED INFANT, ALL DIVINE,
WHAT A TENDER LOVE WAS THINE,
THUS TO COME FROM HIGHEST BLISS
DOWN TO SUCH A WORLD AS THIS.***

***TEACH, O TEACH US, HOLY CHILD,
BY THY FACE SO MEEK AND MILD,
TEACH US TO RESEMBLE THEE,
IN THY SWEET HUMILITY!***

**PLEASE CHECK THE CHURCH WEBSITE
FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION
REGARDING ALL SERVICES OVER
THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR PERIOD**



ADVENT

SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	10.00AM MORNING WORSHIP
WEDNESDAY 9 DECEMBER	10.15AM BCP HOLY COMMUNION
SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	10.00AM COMMON WORSHIP HOLY COMMUNION
WEDNESDAY 16 DECEMBER	10.15AM BCP HOLY COMMUNION
FRIDAY 18 DECEMBER	6.00PM CHRISTMAS BOOK AT BEDTIME VIA ZOOM (LINK ON WEBSITE OR VIA EMAIL)
SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER	7.00PM CAROL SERVICE - 9 LESSONS AND CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT (RECORDED CAROLS, NO LIVE SINGING)
TUESDAY 22 DECEMBER	7.00PM REPEAT OF SUNDAY CAROL SERVICE (RECORDED CAROLS, NO LIVE SINGING)
WEDNESDAY 23 DECEMBER	10.15AM BCP HOLY COMMUNION

CHRISTMAS EVE

THURSDAY 24 DECEMBER	4.00PM CAROLS ROUND THE TREE VIA ZOOM (LINK ON WEBSITE OR VIA EMAIL)
	11.15PM COMMON WORSHIP HOLY COMMUNION

CHRISTMAS DAY

FRIDAY 25 DECEMBER	9.30AM CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP
SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER	NO SERVICE IN CHURCH
WEDNESDAY 30 DECEMBER	NO SERVICE IN CHURCH
SUNDAY 3 JANUARY	10.00AM MORNING WORSHIP
WEDNESDAYS 6 JANUARY	10.15AM BCP HOLY COMMUNION

CLICK HERE - WWW.BURTONCHURCH.ORG.UK

Burton & Puddington Christmas 2020



A Host of Angels

This year would have been when we arranged the Advent Windows again as we alternate with the Christmas Tree festival. As socialising is still proving to be difficult we would like everyone in both villages, if possible, to take part in our 'Host of Angels' celebrations by putting a Christmas angel in a window. It can be big, small, handmade, bought, or even edible!

Let's fill both villages with a host of angels who bring the good news that God is with us, not just for Christmas, but for all time. If we start on December 1, we can look out as we're out and about for all the different angels.

*'Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy
that will be for all the people'*

Luke 2: 10

Cathy



A TIME TO REMEMBER

A prayer based on Psalm 46 for all those who left stones or lit candles in memory of their loved ones for our recent Time to Remember service.

God our refuge and strength, close at hand in our distress; meet us in our sorrow and lift our eyes to the peace and light of your constant care,

Help us so to hear your word of grace that our fear may be dispelled by your love, our loneliness eased by your presence and our hope renewed by your promises.

In Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen



St Nicholas' Church Pumpkin Festival Display

For all the people passing by who said they didn't know who David and Goliath were, this is the story from the Bible:

David the shepherd boy was outraged that Goliath, the Philistine champion, insulted God's people and belittled God. So, he challenged him knowing that with God's strength and courage he would defeat the well-armoured, experienced soldier. He did, with a sling and a very well-aimed stone.



David & His Slings

David eventually became Israel's most famous King and wrote many of the Psalms [songs] we find in the Bible's Old Testament. David is the king referred to in the much-loved Carol 'Once in Royal David's City.'



Goliath
A Philistine Giant



Keeping You Posted

The Mango Tree's BIG GIVE

Along with many other organisations and individuals within our local community, St Nicholas' Church supports the excellent work that the charity ***The Mango Tree*** undertakes in some of the most deprived parts of the world. This year the charity has launched a ***Big Christmas Give*** challenge. The aim is to raise £32,500 with online donations which, with some matched funding, will enable it to reach its target of £65,000!



This year's funds will go towards paying school fees, equipment, sanitary towels, and health insurance for orphaned children in secondary schools in Kenya and Tanzania. To donate online simply visit www.thebiggive.org.uk and search for ***The Mango Tree***.

Since 2003 the organisation has raised over £8 million and has supported over 30,000 HIV orphans and their families with education, school infrastructure, family-based foster care, health and welfare, HIV awareness and testing, clean water, and sustainable agriculture.

For more information:

✉ emily@themangotree.org or

Call 01453 840307

[Click Here - www.themangotree.org](http://www.themangotree.org)





‘Christmas is a gift of love wrapped in human flesh and tied securely with the strong promises of God. It is more than words can tell, for it is a matter for the heart to receive, believe and understand.’ (Source unknown)

Anne Parsons recalls retrieving an important symbol of Christmas still in use today.

Imagine my surprise when preparing a classroom for my first teaching post in Barnston, to see through the window an old model stable tossed on top of a dustbin. The headmaster assured me that I was welcome to keep it and the retiring teacher said she had no further use for it. This was in the 1960s.

Her father, a farmer, had made it for her in the 1890s when she was a child. We cleaned it up and bought some figures for the stable. Since then countless classes of children have had the crib scene as a focus in the Advent classroom and indeed, our own children and grandchildren too.

A few years ago, I decided it needed some restoration and repair. Out came glue, scissors, paint and string. A bellringer friend from Shotwick provided me with some fresh straw for the thatch.

As I removed the old tufts of straw, in the very heart of the roof, I came across a complete ear of wheat, placed there when it had been made 120 years before. I wondered if any of the seeds would grow but, in the end, decided to leave it there, beneath the new thatch.

This year it will continue to be the focus of Christmas in our home.

Is there a Christmas ornament or decoration with special meaning in your home? Send us a picture and a few words with the story behind it.

[Click here](#) to join the Mothers' Union.

To Members and All Readers of the Parish Magazine

We hope and pray that we may soon be able to meet again. In the meantime we send greetings to all our members and friends this Christmas and for the New Year.



REMEMBRANCE SERVICE 2020

A short Remembrance Service was held at St Nicholas' Church on Wednesday 11 November. Following national Covid-19 guidelines, the service was held outdoors, masks were worn, and everyone was socially distanced.

We remembered those from the villages who gave their lives in World War I and World War II and wreathes were laid beside the grave of Harry Mellor, one of the fallen.

"They shall grow not old, as we that
are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor
the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and
in the morning
We will remember them."

*For the Fallen by
Robert Laurence Binyon*

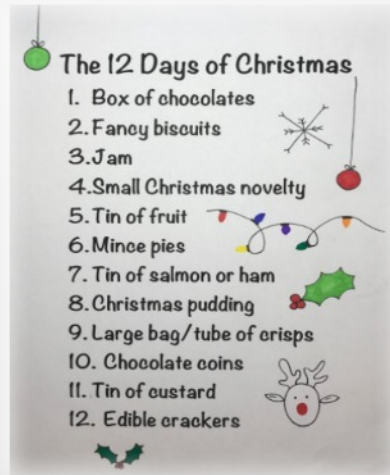


Charles Thompson's Mission - 12 Days Christmas Appeal

Fancy buying some Christmas treats?

We all know that the 12 Days of Christmas traditionally come after Christmas, but we are holding an appeal to help us collect Christmas items that will go into hampers for people in need.

Simply buy an item a day, and we'll use them to make fantastic Christmas hampers.



Bring them to the Mission any Monday, Wednesday and Thursday in December up to and including Friday 18 December, between 10.00am and 12 Noon.

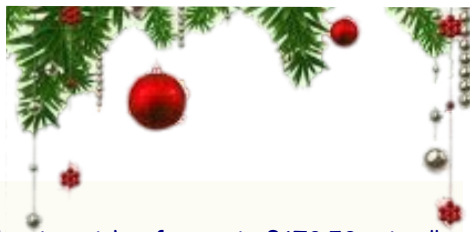
Alternatively, you can drop your boxes at Church when it's open currently or in the Vicarage porch and they will be taken to the Mission on the morning of Wednesday 16 December .

Thank You



Bishop Wilson Church of England Primary

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



Thank you from the PTA

In October, the PTA held a Bags2School collection with a fantastic £172.50 raised! A big thank you to everyone who donated from school and a super big thank you for our local community donations. They make a huge difference.

Eagles

Congratulations to all the children in Eagles class who took part in our first series of Virtual School Games. It was great to see everyone have a go, challenge and push themselves in events they may not normally have been interested in. They all took on the Rugby and Hockey challenges brilliantly and put on a real display of skill.

Owls

Owls Class had some end of Half Term fun. They travelled back in time to when Burton was an Iron-Age settlement and became members of the Catuvellauni tribe. Wearing some amazing costumes they created a mini village of round houses and had some delicious Iron-Age party food by candlelight whilst listening to Iron-Age music and preparing for battle against warring tribes!

Robins

In Robins class we are really happy to be back in school. We love school and playing with our friends outside makes us really happy. We have been having so much fun in school. We found some things in our class and they look like they have been nibbled. We had to make a list of the things that had been nibbled and then send them to Mrs Friend. We tried to work out who had done it and it turned out to be Nibbles the Book Monster who had nibbled his way out of a book. We have been looking for him ever since, but haven't found him yet.

We have also been doing PE. We have learned some rugby skills and played a game called Bake Beans. We have also been collecting leaves that have fallen off the trees and we made them into an autumn wreath to go on display. There were lots of lovely colours, but we didn't like the brown ones very much.

We hope that God is with you.

From Bella and Frankie - Robins Ethos Group.

Preschool Availability

Bishop Wilson Preschool have availability for 2, 3 and 4-year olds. We have 15 & 30 hour funded spaces available. Please email bishopwilson@s4yc.co.uk or call 07940 956871 and speak to Lisa for more information.



Bella & Frankie

The Puddington Society

A Cheshire Village Community Association



Whilst there will be a Christmas Tree on Puddington Village Green this year it won't be possible to have 'Carols Round the Tree' which has been a tradition in the village for over 40 years. And, for many people in Puddington the Christmas lights will seem a little dimmer this year following the deaths in recent months of two people who played an important part in village life for all of that time.

Chris Harding of Old Hall Nurseries who played a major role in Puddington's Christmas celebrations died earlier in the year and more recently, Ray Barnes who lived at Hawthorne Dene in the village and had been instrumental in shaping community life for so many years, also died.



Chris - Santa at 'Carols Round the Tree'

The community of Puddington Village owes much to both Chris and to Ray for the richness they brought to village life and for the generosity of spirit that each displayed towards their friends and other residents. People will know that Chris and the Old Hall Nurseries provided a focal point within the village for such a long time. Others will remember that in recent years he also had a starring role as 'Father Christmas' at the annual 'Carols on the Green'. Ray was one of those who helped fell the first Christmas Tree for the village green all those years ago. He also made the very first set of festoon lights to go on the tree which lasted for many years.



Ray - Tree Planting at Age 90

GVH A Call for Help



As with so many businesses, groups, organisations and families, Covid-19 has had a great impact on Gladstone Village Hall, our community space.

The hall and surrounding land was donated to the people of the two villages of Burton and Puddington in 1906. Since then it has been extended and improved over the generations through the efforts of village people. Above all it's a wonderful asset to have whether you enjoy our community events, attend a class, walk your dog here, bring the kids to the play area or use our sports facilities.

But every year volunteer villagers have to raise £28,000 to keep the hall and facilities running, largely due to maintenance and a very large insurance bill. Most of this bill is paid through our major fundraising events, summer fete and bonfire night, and hiring for weddings and parties, and as you know, these have been cancelled since March.

The committee quickly put into place measures to make us a Covid secure venue so that groups old and new could restart, providing light relief for some villagers. We've also held a very successful farmers' market and the Pumpkin Festival. We've applied and received a Covid grant, too, but it's not enough.

So, we're now reaching out to our community to ask for your help. We recently posted a request to households and are extremely grateful to anyone who's able to donate. You can also support us by hiring our hall, when restrictions allow, joining our fundraising team or making us aware of any funds we could apply for.

We've already started to receive donations and would like to sincerely thank you for your support.

Contact us at info@gladstonevillagehall.org or 0151 665 0875

Click Here



GVH Pumpkin Thanks



We're so grateful to villagers for their imaginative contributions towards this year's pumpkin festival. We made £1,000 for the Village Hall funds, and the Charles Thompson's Mission send their gratitude to all.

Once again, we saw some incredible creations. We were thrilled that so many people joined in and the displays brought pleasure to so many.

If you haven't yet donated, you can still do so at:
www.justgiving.com/charlesthompsons-mission



Due to Covid we kept our marketing to a minimum. However, without other events to attend, and as our pumpkins were so spectacular, through word of mouth and via posts on social media as well as mentions on BBC Sport and DJ Pete Price, it meant people flocked to our villages and the area became busier than expected. We apologise to anyone who was inconvenienced. Please be assured that we have taken advice from local authorities which will help to minimise disruption in future.

GVH Committee



Tales from the Wirral Foodbank

It's mid-November (you'll remember it as halfway through Lockdown II). Things are in many ways the same as they were in September - the socially distanced, pre-bagged distribution centres, but we're more organised and slicker now. And we're still open in the lockdown.

Footballer Marcus Rashford has just been in the news (again) to highlight childhood

hunger (Go Marcus!). It's also on the minds of Wirral Foodbank Trustees' too. There have always been some schools in Wirral who could issue food vouchers where they see the need, but following consultation with other head teachers, the foodbank is now extending that capability to all Wirral schools as a way of getting food to families in need.

Earlier in the year (Lockdown I), Wirral Council was delivering food parcels from their food hub to those in need or who could not get out to shop.



Marcus Rashford and his mum volunteer

WIRRAL FOODBANK
**EMERGENCY FOOD
FOR LOCAL PEOPLE
IN CRISIS**

The food hub has closed, but the council is now using some employees to collect food from the foodbank for those who cannot get out. The council's One Stop Shop phone service is also one of the main places that issues food vouchers. It's good to see the council using its considerable resources flexibly and compassionately.

The Wirral foodbank is still in good shape to deal with this. There's concern (and planning) about what will happen as the central government income support winds down and as employers decide that they can no longer keep all their staff. As always, we will rely on your generosity, both for food/money and as volunteers.

<https://wirral.foodbank.org.uk/>

<https://westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk/>

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

Times Past

The Cross in Burton Village



The cross at the bottom of Vicarage Lane in Burton is often mistaken for a war memorial. In fact, the parish war memorials are found inside St Nicholas' Church. So, what is the cross in Vicarage Lane and why is it there? Ruth Chesworth writes:

I can only pass on what I was told by the late William Henry Gray (Harry) on numerous occasions.

Harry was just over 4 years old when he stood with his parents to watch a big carthorse and trailer bring up the sandstone blocks that form the cross and the base. His mother had told him that Lady Maud Gladstone, wife of Henry Neville Gladstone, had connections in France and that she had seen many wayside crosses there so when she came home she instructed that the cross should be constructed.

The sandstone for the cross came from the quarry in Haddon Wood, which had been opened specially for the restoration of Burton Hall (Burton Manor).

The inscription on the cross reads:

*Walk where you will never find a higher
road above nor surer road below than
the way of the Holy Cross.*

*Give peace in our time O Lord.
Holy Cross Day
September 14th A.D. 1917.*

Hampstons Well

Jenny Schwarz has been getting to the bottom of things:

The public spring that can still be found on the road below Station Road served Iron Age settlements at Burton Point and the Anglo-Saxon settlement of Burton about 900AD. The earliest known written records are in the Manor Court book 1602/1603 where it is referred to as Patricks Well.

The constables of Burton were charged with cleaning the well each year and all able-bodied men of Burton were required to help under pain of a fine of sixpence. The court also passed by-laws to raise funds for the maintenance of the well and forbade the washing of clothes there and turning the water out of its course.

By the 19th century it had become known as Hampstons Well after a family that had lived in Burton since the 16th Century.



Hampstons Well, Station Road, Burton

Water standpipes were put in the village in the late 19th century. Prior to that water was delivered in a barrel which sat on two wheels pulled by a donkey.

There was a tap on the barrel and water cost 'tuppence' a bucketful. In the 1920s water was still being sold in this way as many people preferred the well water to the standpipe water.

Hardy Perennials

We'll Keep on Keeping In Touch

As friends who normally meet fairly regularly over lunch, the Hardy Perennials haven't been able to get together as a group at Pollards Inn since last March. For many, this lack of contact during the Covid-19 pandemic and the need to 'stay safe', has undoubtedly been extremely difficult. Nevertheless, individually we have been able to keep in contact with one another, largely by telephone or the occasional meeting outdoors or, for some, at a church service. So while matters remain difficult we will try to stay in touch with as many people as possible who normally meet as 'Hardy Perennials'. Stay well and stay safe!

Linda & Viv

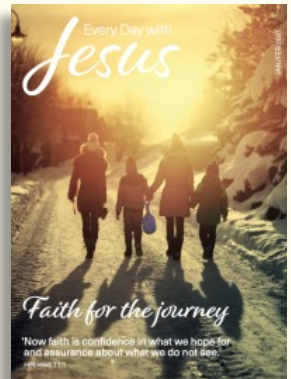
Tel: Vivienne 336 7435 or: Linda 336 5017



'EVERY DAY WITH JESUS'

For many years, the Bible notes 'Every Day with Jesus' have been published and brought God's Word and how to apply it to everyday life in a very readable and accessible way. The short daily reflections help people keep rooted in God's Word, whilst bringing hope and good news in uncertain times.

These Bible notes are being offered free of charge in the UK to help to strengthen faith and provide comfort and hope from January 2021. If you would like to receive them, you can order online at waverleyabbeyresources.org/store or if you let me know I can order for you. Large print copies are also available.



I would highly recommend 'Every Day with Jesus' as an excellent way of taking a little time each day to hear from God's word and to be encouraged.

Cathy

Winter & Christmas Ness

BOTANIC GARDENS

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

Ness Gardens is open to visitors, but government guidelines are in force. For the most up-to-date information and news, visit the website:
<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/ness-gardens/>

Winter Holiday Closure

Admission to the gardens will finish on Sunday December 20 from 4.00pm and we will then remain closed until 10.00am on Friday 1 January.

Member only access to the gardens will not be available this year over the festive period due to issues around the monitoring of the gardens – the safety of our Members, visitors and staff remain our priority during this challenging time and we apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Christmas Membership Offer

This year, our Christmas offer for gifting a Membership is a Family Day Entry Ticket (2 adults & up to 3 children) worth £20, to use before 1 December 2021. This can be used by any holder and will be sent directly to the donor of the gift.

You will be able to buy your gift during a visit to the gardens, or online.

This offer only applies to NEW Gift Memberships purchased between 19 November 2020 and 20 December 2020 and excludes gift membership renewals.

Visit our new on-line shop!

We have developed our on-line shop even further so that you can now purchase memberships (for you, or to give as a gift), buy a day ticket in advance or purchase a selection of items which are usually only available in the visitor centre shop!

<https://payments.liv.ac.uk/product-catalogue/conferences-and-events/ness-botanic-gardens>

Rock Garden

You can now visit the Rock Garden at Ness Botanic Gardens virtually with Head Gardener, Phil Kay by clicking on the link below. Phil takes us on a tour lasting nearly 10 minutes and he talks about the history of the creation of this area, the planting, features and the geography:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3twjQQjdYQc&feature=youtu.be>

Our Pheasants

Tammie Christelow, a member of the Visitor Services Team, has been following the pheasants in the gardens and she has written for us:

Back in June a pheasant nest was accidentally disturbed. Sadly, the mother had run off and did not return. Our wonderful team acted swiftly and contacted Jackson's Animal Rescue (formerly Wirral Animal Sanctuary) who came and rescued our seven baby pheasants. They continued to care for the chicks until August when they were returned to us for release.

Our lovely gardeners made the chicks a spacious run next to our ex-battery hen enclosure. The chicks remained in their run learning to forage, taking dust baths, and learning to fly. They are now old enough to be able to wander freely around the gardens and can be frequently seen around the visitor centre so do keep an eye out for them on your next visit.

As is frequently the case with birds, it is the male who has the brightly coloured plumage whilst females are a lovely variation of brown. Our pheasants do not seem to be fearful of our visitors and so may very well approach, especially if you drop crumbs!



Whilst they can fly, pheasants prefer to run and are seldom seen up in the trees, even choosing to nest on the ground. Their average flight speed is 38-48mph but can reach speeds of 60mph when being chased.



Winter at Ness Gardens

BURTON MERE WETLANDS

Winter Wildlife Walks at Burton Mere Wetlands & Beyond

Writing this after we have just entered the second lockdown, it is difficult to know what the next couple of months has in store for the reserve. Thankfully, we were allowed to keep the car park and trails open as an important place for local people to seek outdoor exercise and recreation.

Our visitor centre and mail order shop which had recently reopened have closed, along with the two hides that were in use. We can already tell that our being open is much appreciated by local supporters but also plenty of new local residents visiting for the peaceful, scenic walks.

We're also still able to sell our drinks and snacks for takeaway from outside the visitor centre, with several picnic tables and benches at which visitors can eat. It's a great way to continue supporting the charity's vital nature conservation work during these challenging times.

The usual array of winter wildfowl and waders are with us, attracting birds of prey on the hunt and the bird feeders are busy once more whilst flocks of siskins and occasional bullfinches add a splash of colour to the fading trees.

Thankfully, lockdown has not affected any of our reserve management or contract work this time around, so although slightly behind schedule, the new hide replacing the old Inner Marsh Farm hide, is still being built and whetting the appetite of those who have watched it rise in the distance.



Scenic Walks



Car Park & Trails Open



Siskin

Pictures Courtesy of RSPB



Accessible Facilities

The new boardwalk was completed in September and opened in October, giving access to previously uncharted territory along with its long-term goal of providing a wheelchair-accessible path to the new hide.

For years, we've used cattle to help manage the wet grassland habitat, but we're excited to currently have a small herd of highland cows from Four Acre Farm at Neston taking over the historically sheep-grazed areas to further improve the habitat for nesting birds next spring.

Hopefully, we will be able to stay open over the festive season and continue to offer a place for a brisk winter walk. Whether we have more of our facilities open depends on developments over the coming weeks. However, do bear us in mind if you're looking for some fresh air, as our friendly team are on hand daily to welcome you and provide information on Burton Mere Wetlands and the wider reserve on the estuary.

Even the Burton Marsh Greenway between Burton Point and The Harp Inn is ideal for a pleasant walk close to the estuary, often a great place to see the marshes' iconic hen and marsh harriers and the mystical short-eared owls, not to mention the breath-taking sunsets over the Welsh hills.

For full details and news, check our website blog at rspb.org.uk/burtonmerewetlands and you can follow us on Facebook and Twitter or call us on 0151 353 2720

If you live locally we're very much on your doorstep so we hope to see you down on the Reserve sometime soon.



Improving Habitat



Short Eared Owl



Paths Along the Estuary

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

Finding Colour in the Garden

As the year draws to a close, there is still plenty of colour in the garden.

Sedum (ice plants) have turned into a dark crimson which looks lovely against the pale green fleshy leaves. The viburnum has masses of white flowers and the hebe is still blooming (purple and white flowers).

The holly bush has masses of red berries so some berry-laden branches will be



Masses of Holly Berries

netted to preserve some for later decorations. The lovely blue fir provides some colour against the dark dusk skies, and the camellias are in bud.

The tallest of the roses will be pruned by one-third to prevent wind rock. The geraniums (Pelargoniums) have been cut down and their pots taken into their winter quarters where hopefully they will survive the winter.

Wallflowers were the choice for some containers and other pots filled with mixed varieties of daffodils and tulips. Queen of the Night always have to feature (black).



Crocuses were planted on the *Queen of the Night Tulips* rockery this time as last year they were stripped out of the pots (just the shells left) – no doubt by the squirrel. Various varieties of Erica Carnea (heathers) adorn the rockery and, as they have ceased blooming, have been cut back. The dahlias are producing fewer and fewer blooms and will shortly be cut down and the tubers covered in grass cuttings.

Masses of birds frequent the feeders – gold/green finches, blue/great and sometimes long-tailed tits (usually about 6), a nuthatch. Sometimes Jenny Wren appears, and Robbie Robin, of course.

Tasks to be getting on with in your garden:

- Keep dead heading flowers to continue new growth
- Plant Spring-flowering bulbs
- Prune tall roses by one-third to prevent wind rock

Stay safe and enjoy the garden!

Flori Bunda

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Our **Redundancy Action Support Team (RAST)** offer advice and guidance services to employers addressing redundancy issues in Cheshire West. The wider team comprises professional, private and public sector organisations, whose aim is to increase awareness of the advice available and broker the right support for your business.

NESTON LIBRARY

Watch out on our social media (FB@cwaclibrary and Twitter @cwaclibraries) for the Christmas Countdown. Each day throughout Advent we will be posting crafts, simple cookery demonstrations, book suggestions, Christmas rhymetimes and songs. Don't miss our two special storytime sessions with guests Father Christmas and Mrs Christmas who will read a story for us.

We haven't forgotten about the adults either, as during this time we will also be posting Christmas crafts and book recommendations for the festive season.

Remember - we've thousands of eBooks, audio downloads and eMagazines for you to borrow. If you can't remember your PIN/password, please use our password reset feature. Alternatively, email libraries@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk for assistance.

Please share this information with friends and family who might like access to these services.

To keep up to date with what's going on and to keep in the loop with new interactive initiatives and activities that we've got planned, follow us on Facebook @cwaclibrary and Twitter @cwaclibraries.

Order and Collect Service

You can now order and collect from Neston Library.

Place an order by filling in the online form or by phoning the library (0151 337 4670) during their Order and Collect hours (Monday 10.00am-1.00pm, Thursday 2.00pm-5.00pm, Saturday 10.00am-1.00pm). Staff will then select up to 10 books for you.


Once you have placed an order, it will be ready at the next open session for the library. You won't be contacted by us unless there is a problem with your order. Collection will be at the entrance of the library - just give your name to staff. All books will already be on your library card ready to go, and while collecting please maintain social distancing and wear a face covering.

If you have anything to return, these items can be placed in the returns bin provided during opening times - you can return books even if you're not collecting an order.

[Click here to join online](#) or email libraries@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk for assistance.

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...and start a conversation on Domestic Abuse

From the Parish Registers



Funeral

5 October

- Robert David Hague Lacey

23 November

- Raymond Barnes



David Lacey

Beverley Lacey would like to thank the many people who sent cards and flowers and expressions of sympathy following David's death on 18 September. They were a wonderful tribute to David and a huge support and comfort to Beverley and her family.

Raymond Barnes

Jocelyn Barnes and her family extend their grateful thanks for the support that both she and Ray received from friends within the local community during Ray's illness and his subsequent death. She hopes that friends will continue to visit her at Hawthorne Dene in Puddington.



LOCAL PCSO LINDA CONWAY

The Calling Tree

Supporting our neighbours and wider community who are not connected on social media can be a challenge. Why not setup a calling tree in your area? It's a lovely way to stay connected, particularly with those who are not online.



Here is how it works: You call 3 people. Those 3 people call 3 people each making 9. Those 9 each call 3 people reaching 27 people. Those 27 each call 3 reaching 81 people. The phone tree builds.

[Click Here](#) for more information.

If anyone in the villages is interested in coordinating a Calling Tree, please contact Cathy at revc.helm@burtonchurch.org.uk.

Neighbourhood Watch

Puddington Village has successfully operated a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme for well over 25 years. It's coordinated by a retired police officer. If anyone in Burton is interested in setting up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme here are some links you can follow for advice and information:

www.ourwatch.org.uk

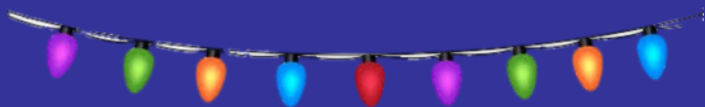
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Community & Society Information

Due to the Government's Covid-19 restriction most Societies are unable to hold meetings at the moment but when the restrictions are lifted eventually they are sure to want to offer interesting and informative programmes of events

THE BURTON SOCIETY

For information please contact Janey Griffiths 0151 336 3621

THE PUDDINGTON SOCIETY

For information please contact Hazel Huxley on 0151 336 2288

BURTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Promoting & protecting the interest of Burton Village
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 information please contact Robert Thrift on 0151 336 1771

BURTON WALKING GROUP

For information please contact John Nuttall on 0151 336 7178

BURTON BRIDGE CLUB

For information please contact Hazel Huxley 0151 336 2288.

FRIENDS OF BURTON MANOR GARDENS

For information please 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-neston-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 18 January 2021
Magazine Administrator - sue@suebirch.com***

*The Parish Magazine is published by the PCC of
St Nicholas' Church, Burton-in-Wirral.*

*Publication is made possible through the contributions and
donations of church members, Friends of St Nicholas' Church,
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*Copies of this magazine can be found at
www.burtonchurch.org.uk*

*This magazine is published bi-monthly, six times a year.
It is distributed to residents in the villages of Burton and Puddington and to others.*

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