



***PARISH MAGAZINE  
& COMMUNITY NEWS***

***April - May 2026***

**IN THIS EDITION  
EASTER CHURCH SERVICES  
COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS**

***THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF  
ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON CH64 5TG  
ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, SHOTWICK CH1 6HX***

# SCRIBO



A church is just a building until it's used and a bible is just a book until it's read.

At a recent Junior Church event the children were interested in everything! Questions coming thick and fast, but one answer didn't come easily. "What's this book?" followed by "Can we touch it?" My first thought "It's a bible and no!" They were referring to the large, probably very expensive and certainly precious, bible at the front of church which is read from every week. But it's a bible and telling a child not to touch it must be wrong. I asked them to be careful and they were. I explained that it's the same bible as the ones in the pews with the Old and New Testaments, containing all of the stories about God, Jesus and Christianity that they have heard.

I think we sometimes forget that stuff is exactly that - stuff, but that words transform. I had a quote on the wall of my classroom; "The words from our mouths create the world around us." A translation of a Native American saying. I believed it then and I still do. If those children had been stopped from exploring and asking questions the world we created in church would have been unfriendly, authoritarian, boring. Saying yes created a place where they felt belonging and free to be curious – exactly how we should all feel about both the building and our faith.

We are blessed with a beautiful building in a stunning setting but its purpose is exactly the same as the 1980s red brick church standing opposite Liverpool's football ground where I spent my teenage years.

The words people hear in our church are more important than the building and its contents and we must ensure that they are as inspiring and beautiful as they are.

Sheila Dennison  
Junior Church  
St Nicholas' Church

# ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON & ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, SHOTWICK

CHURCH CONTACTS

[burtonchurchpcc@gmail.com](mailto:burtonchurchpcc@gmail.com)

07471 890827

## SERVICES AT ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON

[www.burtonchurch.org.uk](http://www.burtonchurch.org.uk)

WEEKLY - SUNDAYS

10:00AM MORNING WORSHIP

WEEKLY - WEDNESDAYS

10:15AM HOLY COMMUNION BCP

1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF MONTH

8:45AM HOLY COMMUNION BCP

3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF MONTH

10:00AM HOLY COMMUNION CW

4:00PM EVENSONG



## SERVICES AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, SHOTWICK

[www.shotwick.org.uk](http://www.shotwick.org.uk)

1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF MONTH

11:30AM MORNING PRAISE

2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF MONTH

11:30AM HOLY COMMUNION CW

3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF MONTH

11:30AM MORNING PRAYER BCP

4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF MONTH

11:30AM HOLY COMMUNION BCP

5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF MONTH

11:30AM HOLY COMMUNION BCP



# EASTER SERVICES

**Friday 3 April**

## **Good Friday Walk of Witness**

You are warmly welcomed to join our walk of witness between the two parishes in the benefice on Good Friday. The event has taken place for a number of years and is now firmly established in our church calendar. You can come along for the whole of the afternoon, or for one or more of the sections. Dogs and muddy boots are welcome (and expected) because the path through Puddington is often muddy. The walk takes around 45 mins and there will be refreshments and hot cross buns waiting for us when we arrive at St Nicholas.

**2:00pm - St Michael's, Shotwick**

**Walk to Burton (or drive if preferred)**

**4:00pm - St Nicholas', Burton**

**Sunday 5 April**

## **Easter Day**

**Holy Communion**

**10:00am - St Nicholas', Burton (Note: No 8:45am service)**

**11:30am - St Michael's, Shotwick**



FROM THE  
PARISH  
REGISTERS

*Burton*

*Interment Of Ashes*

*25 March*

*Pauline Ada O'Keeffe*

# *St Nicholas' Church News*



## Spend A Penny

The PCC has agreed to proceed with the refurbishment of the church toilet (estimated cost £22,000). We are grateful to the Millwood Trust for a generous £5,000 grant towards the work. The remaining costs will be met from the restricted Fabric Fund, helping us protect our unrestricted funds for ministry and community activities.

To support this, we are launching our Spend a Penny Campaign.

### How it works

- Pick up a large card “coin” in £5, £10, £20 or £50 denominations.
- Individuals, families and church groups are invited to take a coin and pledge to raise that amount.
- When you’ve reached your target, return the coin and the funds to church.
- Coins will be displayed to show our progress.

You can take as many coins as you feel able to fundraise for. Every contribution helps us create cleaner, safer, more accessible facilities for everyone who uses our building.

Coins are available in church. For further details contact Amanda Ankers at [amandaankers.aa@gmail.com](mailto:amandaankers.aa@gmail.com)

Thank you for supporting this essential project.

## APCM

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in church on Sunday 19 April at 11:00am, straight after morning service.

This is the meeting where the Churchwardens are appointed and PCC members are elected. The Annual Report is presented which records what has happened in the previous year, and there is an update about the financial situation.

## Fellowship Group

The group meets informally once a month in one another's homes for friendship, mutual support, prayer, socialising and Bible study.

The organisers are Lindsey Hatton and Amanda Ankers and our lay minister, Philip Hillman, is also part of the Group.

The group is very varied but all share the same purpose - to grow together in Christ, to deepen their faith and to seek to develop clearer understanding.

A Fellowship Group is where people find friendship, companionship and a sense of belonging that can sometimes be elusive in a wider church context. It enables people to study the Bible together and to discuss topics of mutual interest.

Prayers are offered for one another, for our broader church community and for the wider world. There is no pressure for people to have to say something or to pray out loud - everyone needs to feel comfortable.

The next meetings are on 7 April and 5 May at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

Lindsey [lindzandrob@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lindzandrob@hotmail.co.uk) for details.

## Vacancy News

Good progress is being made in the process of appointing a new vicar. The Parish Profile and Parish Fact Sheets have now been agreed by both Burton and Shotwick PCCs and have been sent to Chester Diocese.

## Philip's Progress

We have greatly appreciated Philip Hillman's input throughout the vacancy but he recently underwent planned orthopaedic surgery so will be less visible at services while he recovers.

Hopefully Philip will be back on his feet (both) before too long. We wish him well and ask that you hold him in your prayers over the coming weeks.

## Disabled Parking

When using the disabled parking spots at the Rake entrance to church, please make sure you leave enough room for the gates to be opened to allow wheelchairs and mobility scooters to safely pass through. Thank you.

# Junior Church & Children and Families Work (CFW)

Email [sheilad.stnics@gmail.com](mailto:sheilad.stnics@gmail.com) for more information

## St Nic's Nippers

Preschool.

Mondays at 10:30am in Gladstone Village Hall.



## Crafternoon - 11 April and 9 May

Aimed at children around KS2. 2pm in the vestry.



We meet at least six times a year (normally every other month) and start with a variety of games and craft activities all based on a theme or bible story. It often gets a bit messy! We then have messy worship, where we sing songs, join in a story and pray.



We are a loving organisation open to anyone, and supportive of everyone. You don't have to have children, be married, be a woman, or be a churchgoer to join us. To find out more: [Click Here](#)

## Upcoming Events

[Wednesday 20 May at 2:00pm](#)

The Mothers' Union will be holding a meeting on 20 May at the home of Tranmere, Puddington. After a short business meeting, members have been asked to contribute a poem reading followed by tea and cake. Everyone is welcome to attend as a visitor if they are not a member of the Mothers' Union.

For more information, contact: Valerie Lyon [vallyon@btinternet.com](mailto:vallyon@btinternet.com)

# Pastoral Care Visiting & Holy Communion at Home

Life events such as baptisms, marriages and funerals will continue to be managed through the church's normal channels by our parish administrator and Churchwardens.

Visiting people throughout the parish who live alone or are housebound, in care or in hospital has always been a mainstay of ministry at St Nicholas' Church. The PCC have made arrangements to ensure that people's pastoral care visits and Holy Communion at home needs are managed properly and sensitively.

Pastoral Care and Holy Communion at home will both be coordinated by John Church and his contact details are:

0151 336 2228 or 07703 199132  
or via email at  
[john\\_sue44@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:john_sue44@hotmail.co.uk)

Please don't assume that someone else has alerted John about someone who needs to be visited as it is important to respond to any requests on a timely basis.

And, if you visit someone as a friend and wish to have these visits coordinated, please contact John.



## Holy Communion at Home

In preparation for the vacancy three Eucharistic ministers were approved by John Coyne and endorsed by the Bishop of Birkenhead, Julie Conalty.

They are: Anne Parsons, Tony Carter and John Church and they will be supported by Lay Readers John Morris-Best and Philip Hillman.

Collectively they will deliver Holy Communion at home using bread and wine that will have been consecrated by an ordained minister at a Holy Communion Service following the appropriate liturgy.

## Bereavement & End of Life Visiting

Local ordained clergy will normally be asked to assist under these circumstances and, if necessary, further assistance will be sought from the Rural Dean.

# ***St Michael's Church News***



## **Hefin Duo's 'Rich Tapestry of Music'**

**Wednesday 17 June 2026 at 7.30pm**

Following Bethan Conway's highly successful harp evenings at St Michael's we are privileged that this year she will be joined by Charlotte Thomas, a flute and piccolo player. Together they are the Hefin Duo.

Bethan is an award winning harpist based in North Wales and London. Charlotte is a freelance musician and teacher with a passion for both flute and piccolo. Both musicians are held in very high regard and are particularly focused on education.

Tickets £15.  
Includes light refreshment.  
Under 16s free when accompanied by an adult.

Tickets available from 1 May but can be reserved now via the following:

Email [jdrj2009@live.co.uk](mailto:jdrj2009@live.co.uk)



For more information, phone  
Rosemary: 07762 605126

Many thanks in advance for  
your support.

## Purple for the King of Kings

The Spanish verb 'esperar' implies both to hope and to wait.

Advent suggesting hope as we prepare for a very special birth, marked by purple giving focus on our Lord's future.

Lent, the penitential waiting of forty days and nights.

I never consciously connected both seasons as such until recently, since supporting our visiting clergy and assisting with hymn choices via the readings and sermons.

I appreciate this opportunity to share my enlightenment.

## Rosemary



## Visit to Weatherstones Care Home

On 2 March Jenny Sneddon visited Weatherstones Care Home to give an interactive history of Shotwick to eight residents.

The residents were all local and therefore knew of or had visited Shotwick Village.

They hope to visit on the occasion of a fashion exhibition in St Michael's on 25 July.

The materials on the information boards (below) included detachable programmes from Village festivals and newspaper articles.



Between 1971 and 1975 the Church roof was treated for damp rot and replaced. Many fund raising events were held to raise finances for this tremendous project steered by Robert McConnell with a very strong committee.

# Wholehearted

Wholehearted is a brand-new digital magazine created to inspire generosity across the Diocese of Chester. It launched on Valentine's Day (14 February) 2026, a few days before Lent ... the perfect time to start talking about what it means to live and give with love.

Built on the honest conversations that helped shape our diocesan vision, Wholehearted is designed to support Christians and church communities with real encouragement, practical tips for talking about money, and inspiring true stories that help us grow in our faith.

<https://www.chesterdiocese.org/copy-of-strategy-communities>

You can explore the stories in three different ways:

[1: PDF Download](#)

[2: Magazine-style Viewer](#)

3: Website pages – below

[Living Generously](#)

My Journey as Digital Giving Adviser, by Bessia Kanengoni Diocese of Chester. Growing up in Malawi, Bessia witnessed firsthand the vibrancy and richness of what living out the Christian faith through generosity looks like. [Read More](#)

[My Money Journey](#)

A member of St Mary's, Weaverham Jerry Marshall shares his money story, from selling rat food at boarding school to studying economics at Cambridge and carving out a successful career as a social entrepreneur. [Read More](#)

[Two Cheeky Chimps - a cautionary tale](#)

The Bishop of Chester, Mark Tanner, reflects on teaching his children about sharing in a tale involving chimps, a baboon and a chocolate bar. [Read More](#)

## [Breaking the Silence](#)

Steve Haines, Partnership Development Manager (North England), Christians Against Poverty writes about equipping our churches to talk confidently about money. [Read More](#)

## [What is your view of Biblical teaching on giving 10% of our earnings?](#)

Three different people offer their perspectives on how Christian giving is a response to God's generosity, shaped by gratitude and trust rather than rigid obligation. [Read More](#)

## [What is Parish Share?](#)

Parish Share is the amount of money that your parish is asked to contribute to pay for mission and ministry, including clergy stipends and their housing. [Read More](#)

## [Doing Lent Generously](#)

40acts flips the traditional idea of giving stuff up for Lent to focus instead on giving stuff away. [Read More](#)

# Everyday Faith - A Church Of England App

Everyday Faith is the church's response to overwhelming user demand for an app that delivers inspirational reflections year-round, rather than focusing only on seasonal content during Lent, Easter, Advent and Christmas.

It is about where and how people live out their daily lives. It questions: 'Where is God in our lives?' 'How relevant is God?' and 'How do we find God in the fullness of everyday life?' So, whether someone is seeking to develop their faith or simply seeking to understand, Everyday Faith is designed to support a person in their spiritual journey. Available on the App Store or Google Play.





## ***3° West Meridian Charity Walk in Aid of UK Foodbanks***

Nigel Griffiths will shortly restart his remarkable charity walk in aid of UK Foodbanks.

So far Nigel has walked from the south coast of England up through the border counties of England and Wales, through northern England and the Lake District, the Scottish Borders, the ancient fiefdoms of the Scottish Highlands and finally on up to Inverness where he arrived last October.

In April he will continue his quest north, supported by Janey and others. He will be walking the land beyond the highlands where his final stop will be Orkney.

It is a sad fact that so many people and families have to rely on foodbanks in order to sustain themselves and Nigel's efforts in drawing attention to their plight is to be commended.

If, like many others across the local community, you would like to support this appeal you can do so by following Nigel on Instagram – just search for 3degwest on the Instagram app – or via email: [negriffiths@googlemail.com](mailto:negriffiths@googlemail.com)



Practical Christianity Providing Humanitarian Support For People In Need

Commenting on these last few stages of his charity walk, Nigel said: "As the far North of Scotland is such a long way, I will be walking for a couple of weeks continuously, rather than doing a week's walk at a time before returning home for a rest.

I will be travelling to Inverness by train on Thursday 9 April, and I start walking again on Friday 10 April. On Wednesday 22 April I will reach the top right-hand corner of mainland Scotland.

After a break for recovery, Janey and I drive up to the Orkney Islands, getting there on 7 May, and my final 6 days of walking the 60 miles (and ferries!) northwards from South Ronaldsay will start on Friday 8 May, with the last day of the whole venture finishing on the north coast of Westray on the afternoon of Wednesday 13 May. There will be nearly a dozen people with me on that day (some walking, with others at the finishing line), and we plan a celebration at a Scottish version of a tapas bar late in the evening when we get back to Kirkwall.

Thank you to all those who very generously supported this venture.



As the parishes of Burton and Shotwick seek a new incumbent, someone who will help to sustain, lead and enhance our church and community life amongst our individual village communities of Burton, Puddington and Shotwick, it is good to know that there are many like-minded parish churches also seeking to maintain their existence.

The Save the Parish Network is an organisation dedicated to preserving all that is best about local rural parishes. There is no getting around it: the shift the network has been pressing for is now firmly embedded in the language of the Church's leadership.

Archbishop Sarah used her first Presidential Address to recommit the Church to transparency, safeguarding and, crucially, the flourishing of local parishes and communities.

Five years ago, when Save the Parish first launched, the talk from the top and by local dioceses was all about 'vision and strategy', '10k new worshipping communities', and a 'mixed ecology' in which the traditional parish was but a small part. Today, the incoming Archbishop has placed the parish at the centre of her stated vision from day one. This is a significant shift, and it reflects the pressure that many thousands of parishioners, churchwardens, and clergy have brought to bear.

**"I hope to be the shepherd to care for people in their parishes, for our clergy, but also to speak of Christian hope at a time when there are lots of challenges for people."**

*Archbishop of  
Canterbury,  
Sarah Mullally, on  
the day of her  
Confirmation of  
Election in St Paul's  
Cathedral*



We should also note with encouragement that the poverty debate, marking the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Faith in the City, saw Synod recommit to ending poverty. It heard powerful testimony about the struggles of communities that are served by our local parish churches. Speakers highlighted the disproportionate impact of poverty on the under privileged, on ethnic minorities, on disabled people and, importantly, on rural and coastal area communities.

It is parish churches 'on the ground' in these communities that are supporting foodbanks, visiting the sick and keeping the doors open.

The debate implicitly underscored a truth that the Save The Parish Network has been stating for years: without a properly resourced parish system, the church and local community pastoral care is hollow.

[www.savetheparish.com](http://www.savetheparish.com)



## Bishop Wilson Church of England Primary

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

It is always such a joy when the first signs of Spring begin to appear. Across Burton and Puddington, the fields are coming back to life and the bright yellow daffodils along the roadside bring a welcome splash of colour. At school, this change of season also means that our children can spend more time outdoors, enjoying the beautiful grounds we are so fortunate to have here at Bishop Wilson.

Spending time learning outside is an important part of life at our school. All classes take part in regular Forest School sessions, where children have the opportunity to explore, learn and develop new skills through nature. We have also been working to further develop our pond and growing area, which will provide even more opportunities for the children to learn about caring for the countryside and understanding their role in protecting the environment. If there are any "green-fingered" members of our village community who would be willing to volunteer some time to help us develop our garden area, we would love to hear from you. Please do contact the school office if you would like to get involved.

In February, we were delighted to gather at St Nicholas' Church for a special service celebrating our parents and carers. The children sang beautifully, shared Bible readings and reflected thoughtfully on all the ways their parents and carers support them each day. It was a lovely occasion and a wonderful opportunity to come together as a school community.

Earlier this term, the whole school enjoyed an exciting trip to Chester Zoo. The children were fascinated by the wide range of animals and habitats they were able to see, and it was a fantastic learning experience for everyone involved. Looking ahead, we have many exciting events planned for the Summer Term, including a residential visit to the beautiful city of York.

Wishing you all a peaceful Easter.

From the Bishop Wilson Crew

Follow us on [Facebook](#)



# TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC and FOREST SCHOOL ACTIVITIES at Bishop Wilson Primary School

**Saturday 25th April 2026**  
**From 10am until 12 midday**

**Looking for a Reception place for September 2027 or in-year transfer?** Then come and spend the morning at our beautiful village school and get a taste for all that we have to offer. Have your children bring their favourite furry ted and enjoy a tour of the school, forest school activities and a picnic. Chat to our friendly staff and get a feel for all our school has to offer.

We are a small and family-oriented village school, set in the village of Burton, not far from Neston, Willaston and Little Sutton. The location provides a beautiful setting for children to learn and grow, and everyone knows everyone.

The event takes place on **Saturday 25th April 2026**.  
**Please book in advance by using this QR code.**



We are also opening our doors to prospective parents when school is in session on **Monday 8th June** and **Tuesday 30th June 2026** - both sessions **9.30am to 11am**. *No need to book for these sessions - please just turn up!*

If you would like to have a tour of the school and can't make any of the above dates then please call the school office on 0151 336 3396 for an individual appointment.



**Bishop Wilson CE Primary School**  
**Puddington Lane | Burton | Neston**  
**Cheshire | CH64 5SE**

# St Nicholas' Couple Celebrate 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary In Sydney

Same date, widely separated countries, starkly contrasting weather and startlingly different outfits.

On Sydney Harbour's foreshore on 5 March, in baking heat and wearing shorts and sandals, Erica and John Hume reflected on their wedding 60 years ago at St Nicholas' Church.

On that crisp day, John arrived in top hat and morning coat to wait for Erica in the church with the Reverend Eyre-Walker.

In a white velvet dress and a Jackie Kennedy-style pillbox hat, she appeared on the arm of her father, Bill Chorley, an active member of the Burton and Neston Historical Society in the 1960s.



Erica had chosen St Nicholas for two reasons: it was her parish church and "it's in a very pretty situation." John recalls: "It was such a privilege being married in a Georgian church with such lovely surroundings."

The couple celebrated their diamond anniversary with friends at a Turkish restaurant on the Sydney waterfront, another sharp contrast to the wedding day when the reception was held in Parkgate.



In the decades since their wedding, the globetrotting Humes – who have three children and four grandchildren – have lived and worked in Canada, the Netherlands, Singapore, Indonesia and Australia.

After retiring, they moved from Sydney to a lakeside home on the New South Wales mid-north coast.

"One daffodil is  
worth a thousand  
pleasures, then one  
is too few."

*William Wordsworth*

The display of daffodils in our villages has been magnificent this year whether they are found in pots, in your garden or growing wild along the paths and lanes.

Of particular delight has been the daffodils planted by local village community volunteers along the hedgerows and in communal areas in Puddington, Burton and in Shotwick.

Thank you to all those who take the trouble and who have the foresight to look after our local environment and habitats for the benefit of us all and for those who visit our villages.

*"Life is the greatest gift that could ever be conceived.*

*A daffodil pushing up through the dark earth in Spring, knowing somehow, deep in its roots, that Spring light and sunshine will come, has more courage and more knowledge of the value of life than any human being I've ever met."*

*Madeleine L'Engle*



# BGCI Accreditation for Ness Botanic Gardens



We are delighted to announce that Ness Botanic Gardens is now a Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) Accredited Botanic Garden.

Nick Lightfoot, Curator at Ness received the news in December 2025 and recognises that over the last year or more, staff have worked hard to put the detailed submission together and the accreditation reflects that Ness is excelling in the areas that make a botanic garden a botanic garden, such as:

- An underlying scientific basis for the collections
- Proper documentation of the collections, including wild origin
- Monitoring and long-term maintenance of plants in the collections
- Labelling of plants
- Conserving rare and threatened plants



We are now one of the fourteen institutions in the UK to have received accreditation. This marks a significant recognition of our wonderful and scientifically important living collection, as well as the professionalism of our staff and volunteers.

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/ness-gardens/>

# Down the Garden Path with Flori Bunda

## Spring Is Springing

When the weather is miserable, the sight of many clumps of snowdrops is a joy to behold.

The larger clumps are Galanthus Nivalis and smaller, less established clumps Flore Pleno (double), Elwesii, Beluga, Woronowii and Ikariae.



Liz Carter/Briarfield Gardens

Masses of green leaves are sprouting everywhere. Deep purple Hellebores are in flower, but Jet Fire, Tete-a-Tete and Thalia are still to flower. Will Spring be sprung with a riot of colour?

A little later than usual the Sweet Pea seeds have been sown: Swan Lake (white), Robert Uvedale (pink) and Nimbus (purple mottled). Misty Mountain seeds gathered from last year's sweet peas have also been sown.

The Buddleia Davidii have been hard pruned. The Hydrangeas will have their now brown florets cut down when the weather permits.

There are masses of buds on the Camellias, White Swan and Maggiore have managed one flower on each - a white and a deep crimson! There are lots of white 'blobs' on the Kilmarnock (Weeping Pussy Willow) and purple heather on the rockery providing some colour.

We have had many feathered friends: Greater Spotted Woodpecker, Nuthatches, Pied Wagtail, a flock of Long-Tailed Tits, Blue and Great Tits, Blackbirds. Of course, Robbie Robin and, occasionally, Jenny Wren.



Ruiterlijk/Pixabay.com

## Tasks to be getting on with:

- Clean pots and greenhouse
- Cut off brown Hydrangea heads
- Weed
- Sow seeds

Happy Gardening!

Flori Bunda



# Burton Mere Wetlands



Spring has come to Burton Mere Wetlands, and we are saying goodbye to our winter visitors such as Pink-footed Geese, Wigeon, and a variety of Wader species as they begin their journeys back to Arctic breeding grounds.

We have already welcomed some of our breeding birds with well over 100 Avocets being seen feeding on the scrapes. Lapwings are once again performing their spectacular aerial display flights over the wetlands, and Marsh Harrier are gathering nesting material as they prepare to breed.



*Avocets (J Hewitt)*

Soon the reedbed will resound with the calls of many species of Warbler who build their nests amongst the reeds. Grey Herons, Little Egrets, and Great White Egrets are returning to the trees in Marsh Covert. We look forward to the Spoonbills and Cattle Egrets joining them for another successful breeding season.



*Spoonbill (J Hewitt)*

We're hoping to see Sand Martin return to nest in the Sand Martin Bank. It will also be exciting to see whether Kingfisher take advantage of the new breeding boxes that have been installed in the bank of Reception Pool.

In April the wildflowers are a great attraction, particularly the Bluebells in the woods and at Burton Point. Marsh Marigolds brighten up the reedbed area with their yellow flowers, and then later in the season Orchids will be widespread.

Butterflies are already being seen, with the early species being Brimstone, Peacock and Comma. The insect lovers will be keeping an eagle eye out for the first Dragonflies.

We look forward to your visit, why not book on to one of our fantastic events including monthly guided walks, yoga and nature journaling?



***Bluebells (S. Ryde)***

For more information visit our website:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves/dee-estuary-burton-mere-wetlands>

To keep up to date with all news simply look up our public page:

<https://www.facebook.com/RSPBBurtonMere>

# News From Briarfield Gardens

 NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME  
Garden Open For Charity

## Briarfield

The Rake, Burton, Neston,  
CH64 5TL

**Sunday 12 April**  
**1 - 5pm**  
Adults £5 Children free

   
More information at [ngs.org.uk](http://ngs.org.uk)



PHOTO: M. GARDNER/REUTERS/GETTY IMAGES



Teas in the church kindly provided  
by Claire House volunteers.

Parking well signed.

Plants for sale at the house.



## SNOWDROPS

**BRIARFIELD GARDENS**

February 2026

# £3,563

raised for the National Gardens Scheme  
Carers Trust  
Hospice UK  
Macmillan Cancer Support  
Marie Curie  
Parkinson's UK  
and other nursing charities

Thank you for your tolerance when the village  
street was busy. Liz Carter 07711 813732

# Cheshire West & Chester Libraries

## Neston Library

Parkgate Road, Neston, CH64 6QE

Telephone: 0151 337 4670

### Opening hours

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday: 9am - 5pm

Tuesday and Friday: 9am - 7pm

Saturday: 9.30am - 1pm

Join us this spring for a fun filled programme of activities for children and families. Get creative with clay decorations, enjoy storytelling sessions, try your hand at seasonal crafts, sing along in Rhyme times, and dive into games, LEGO, gaming consoles and much more. There's something for everyone—come along and make your spring sparkle.

To find out more look at our [Events](#) page

## Mobile Library

### THE MOBILE LIBRARY VISITS BURTON AND PUDDINGTON VILLAGES

Puddington from 10:40am to 11:00am

GVH in Burton from 11:10am to 11:50am on the following dates:

Fridays: 17 April - 8 May - 29 May



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# Burton & Neston History Society



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Monthly meetings are held at the **Church Hall, Parkgate & Neston United Reformed Church, Moorside Lane, Parkgate, Neston.**

[Click here](#) for information about the Society.

**9 April 2026**

Vintage Advertisements To Make You Smile. Speaker: Dominga Devitt

**14 May 2026**

AGM & Members Talks

Talks start at 8:00pm, doors open at 7:30pm. Visitors are very welcome to attend our meetings and it is free on the first occasion. Refreshments are served after the talks.

The Society started as the Burton and District Local History Society on 21 April 1975 at Burton Manor College. It grew out of a local history course there led by Paul Booth from Liverpool University. Paul Booth became our President in 1999. The Society meets monthly for talks from October to May and outings



or history walks are organised during the summer months. We have an active Research Group where members pursue their own research interests but also collaborate for projects such as exhibitions and publications. New members are always welcome - come along to a meeting and see if you would like to join or fill in the form on our [membership page](#).

# GLADSTONE VILLAGE HALL

*Run by the Community, for the Community*

## Quiz Nights

Friday 17 April

Friday 15 May

In the Pavilion

Doors open 7.30pm

Main quiz begins at 8:00pm

## Folk, Blues & Beyond

Friday 24 April

Friday 29 May

In the Pavilion

8:00pm - 10:00pm

## Family BBQ & Pub Night

Saturday 30 May at 5:00pm

## Friday Night Is Pub Night

5:00pm - 9:00pm

In the Pavilion



[zazufiane/Pixabay](#)

A great way to support GVH! [Join our 100 Club](#) for a chance to win cash prizes each month and raise money to maintain and improve the facilities. First Draw 4 May.

GLADSTONE VILLAGE HALL  
**100 CLUB**  
MONTHLY PRIZE DRAW

Open to all residents of Burton and Puddington  
(16 years of age and older)

Maximum of five entries per person per month.  
Three prizes awarded each month.

With 100 entries:  
First Prize: £88  
Second Prize: £53  
Third Prize: £35  
Prizes will vary depending on number of entries.

**£5 PER ENTRY**

**SIGN UP TODAY!**  
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[gladstonevillagehall.org/fundraising](http://gladstonevillagehall.org/fundraising)

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Lottery Licence Number: 26/LOTTO/6

## 2026 Community Events

We have a great lineup planned. Visit [gladstonevillagehall.org](http://gladstonevillagehall.org) for more information.

[gladstonevillagehall.org](http://gladstonevillagehall.org) - [Facebook](#) - [Instagram](#)

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# *Community & Local Society Contact Information*

## **THE PUDDINGTON SOCIETY**

For information on activities & events please contact [puddingtonsociety@gmail.com](mailto:puddingtonsociety@gmail.com)

## **BURTON & NESTON HISTORY SOCIETY**

Church Hall, Parkgate & Neston United Reformed Church,

More information at: <https://sites.google.com/site/burtonnestonhistory/home>

## **BURTON BRIDGE CLUB**

Burton Bridge Club meets on Monday Evenings

Gladstone Village Hall at 7:15pm to play Duplicate Bridge

For more 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..

[burtonresidentsassociation.co.uk](http://burtonresidentsassociation.co.uk)

## **FRIENDS OF HAMPSTON'S WELL**

Friends of Hampston's Well brings together a community of people who care for and maintain this ancient site. For more information, please contact the Secretary at

[friendsofhampstonswellburton@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofhampstonswellburton@gmail.com)

## **FRIENDS OF BURTON MANOR GARDENS**

For more information please contact 0151 336 6154 or email [burtonmanorgardens@gmail.com](mailto:burtonmanorgardens@gmail.com)

## **GLADSTONE VILLAGE HALL**

Information and to sign up for the GVH Newsletter

[gladstonevillagehall.org](http://gladstonevillagehall.org)

*Magazine Administrator [sue@suebirch.com](mailto:sue@suebirch.com)*

*The Parish Magazine is published by the PCCs of  
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and St Michael's Church, Shotwick.*

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*This magazine is published bi-monthly, six times a year.*

*It is distributed to residents in the villages of Burton, Shotwick and Puddington  
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