



PARISH MAGAZINE & COMMUNITY NEWS

February - March 2026

Pat_Photographies/Pixabay



**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



While she undoubtedly has beautiful countryside outside her door, when I spoke to my mum last week, she was lamenting the fact that she has to travel 40 minutes to somewhere with a range of shops to fill her needs. I often reflect how lucky we are to live here, all the benefits of being close to built up areas for shopping, culture, entertainment and Chester Zoo, but all the quiet benefits of the bird reserve, the marshes, the Welsh hills. And of course there is the kindness of the people.

I'm always pleasantly surprised by how many non churchgoers wish the church well. How many quietly and kindly donate to help maintain the churchyard and the fabric of the beautiful Georgian church because they enjoy walking past it, or take visitors to look round it, or just use it for some peace and quiet to sit.

Many people don't realise that the churches in Burton and Shotwick don't receive any funding from the Church of England so we are profoundly grateful to anyone who isn't part of the church family, but who helps us with the burden. I've been a Churchwarden for 3 years now and like many voluntary jobs it's had its ups and downs, but this has always given me lots of cheer.

There are a number of people who don't want to go to church but who, for a variety of reasons, want to see it stay open. So, lots of people have been kindly asking about our vacancy and when we might get a new vicar. If that's you, I wanted to say that you are appreciated and we are making good progress on the parish profile. Burton and Shotwick PCCs are working well together and the aim is to have it agreed by the end of February. We then hope to be able to advertise.

For our regular services we are being supported by a group of wonderful retired clergy and lay volunteers. Other volunteers are making sure that funerals are still taking place and we are looking forward to three lovely weddings from local families this year.

The church is here if you need it, and if you don't. Just as it should be.

Jane Davies
Churchwarden
St Nicholas' Church

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

CHURCH CONTACTS

burtonchurchpcc@gmail.com

07471 890827

SERVICES AT ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON

www.burtonchurch.org.uk

WEEKLY - SUNDAYS

10:00AM MORNING WORSHIP

WEEKLY - WEDNESDAYS

10:15AM HOLY COMMUNION BCP

1ST SUNDAY OF MONTH

8:45AM HOLY COMMUNION BCP

3RD SUNDAY OF MONTH

10:00AM HOLY COMMUNION CW

4:00PM EVENSONG



SERVICES AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, SHOTWICK

www.shotwick.org.uk

1ST SUNDAY OF MONTH

11:30AM MORNING PRAISE

2ND SUNDAY OF MONTH

11:30AM HOLY COMMUNION CW

3RD SUNDAY OF MONTH

11:30AM MORNING PRAYER BCP

4TH SUNDAY OF MONTH

11:30AM HOLY COMMUNION BCP

5TH SUNDAY OF MONTH

11:30AM HOLY COMMUNION BCP



EASTER SERVICES

Sunday 29 March

Palm Sunday

With distribution of palm crosses

10:00am - St Nicholas', Burton

11:30am - St Michael's, Shotwick

Friday 3 April

Good Friday Walk of Witness

Short services separated by a companionable walk across the fields and hot cross buns at Burton. Join for the whole or part.

2:00pm - St Michael's, Shotwick

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

Funeral

16 January

James Sumner McAllester

Interment Of Ashes

28 January

Alan Hudson

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

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 Nicholas' Church

Burton & Puddington News



Fellowship Group

The next meeting of the Fellowship Group is Tuesday 3 February at 7.30pm.



The group meet monthly for fellowship, bible discussion and prayer and the current focus is on discipleship.

This friendly, welcoming group would be happy to see new members.

For further information, please contact

Amanda
amandaankers.aa@gmail.com or

Lindsey
lindzandrob@hotmail.co.uk

Lent Group

Lent home group runs on Wednesdays throughout Lent. See Tony or the Churchwardens for details.

Spend A Penny Campaign/ Toilet Refurbishment

We are waiting for the final approval for the toilet refurbishment before work starts to make it a brighter, cleaner space complete with much needed baby changing facilities.

The vast majority of funding is in place thanks to a Diocesan discretionary grant and a grant from the Millwood Trust. To raise the final amount we will be launching a 'Spend a Penny Campaign'. Details will be available in church.

APCM

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on 19 April at 11:00am in church.

If you feel called to be a Churchwarden, Secretary or Treasurer, please see Jane or Ivor.

Handbell Ringing

St Nicholas' Church has a magnificent set of handbells and over the Christmas period our small complement of ringers have enjoyed playing at several local venues for charity.

The handbell ringers are now seeking some new recruits to enable the bells to be played more often.

Learners don't need to read music but a sense of rhythm and timing is useful.



Thank You

The PCC and churchwardens would like to place on record their grateful thanks to Linda Jones and her small team of helpers who made such a magnificent job of decorating our church over the Christmas period - and taking everything down again afterwards!

It has been a mammoth effort which has been appreciated greatly by church members and visitors alike.

World Day Of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer Service will be held on 6 March at 2:00pm at Willaston Methodist Church.

This year's service has been written by women in Nigeria. There will be posters on the church noticeboard with further information.



Jennifer Webb/Pixabay

If you would be interested in joining the handbells team please speak with either:

Linda Jones (organiser)
lindajones5748@hotmail.com or

Alison Carter (conductor)
alisoncarter0603@gmail.com

St Michael's Church

Shotwick

News



Christmas Celebrations

Our Christmas celebrations were particularly special this year, being interregnum and having Archdeacon Mike Gilbertson leading our Christmas Day Communion service.

We were a very small, but privileged, congregation and my goodness did the light of Christmas pour through the sanctuary window and sparkle directly on the altar - the illumination was striking and definitely picture worthy.



Joint Benefice Service

28 December saw St Michael's hold the joint benefice service. It was wonderful to see so many good people of Burton, you were all in fine voice, thank you.

Will we ever wear a Christmas cracker hat again without being reminded of Revd McGuinness's cracker sermon's reference to the hat representing a Crown?

Epiphany

The candle flame atop of the golden stand was the physical light that our Epiphany was centred around.

Philip Hillman curated a poignant service for us. We didn't know then that it would be his last service until mid-Summer as he is scheduled more ankle surgery. We pray this will be followed by a full recovery.

Plough Sunday

Our Plough Sunday service was on 11 January, giving thanks for our hardworking farmers and marking the start of the agricultural year.

Technically outside of the twelve days of Christmas but still with a future focus, though this time on crops that sustain us with God's protection.

It was quite moving when blessings were gifted on the gleaming tractor and particularly poignant as Revd Graham Cousins had spoken of his family's farming connection and struggles that the agricultural community endure.





As we return to school after the Christmas break, there is a renewed sense of energy and optimism around Bishop Wilson. The Spring term always brings fresh beginnings, new goals and a feeling of momentum as pupils settle back into routines and continue their learning with enthusiasm.

One exciting development this term is the progress of our school garden project, which is now well underway thanks to generous donations raised through our PTA and the kind support of Phillip Bates. We have already made a fantastic start, with plans taking shape for a rich outdoor learning space. There is still plenty to do, including purchasing and installing a greenhouse, adding gardening tools and equipment and developing a pond habitat area complete with log benches for outdoor learning and reflection. It's a wonderful project that will grow and evolve over time but seeing it start to come together is very exciting!

As the weather improves, we're hopeful to begin planting and growing, bringing the space to life for the children. If anyone in our community has green fingers and would like to get involved or offer support, we would love to hear from you.

Looking a little further ahead, we are also pleased to share that our **Teddy Bear's Picnic Open Day** will take place on **Saturday 25 April**. This is a lovely opportunity for families considering Reception places or in-year transfers to visit the school, enjoy some fun activities and see what makes Bishop Wilson such a special place.

We look forward to a bright and busy Spring ahead.

Best wishes from The Bishop Wilson Crew

Follow us on [Facebook](#)

Junior Church & Children and Families Work (CFW)

Email sheilad.stnics@gmail.com for further information.

St Nic's Nippers

Preschool.

Mondays at 10:30am in the Gladstone Village Hall.



Crafternoon - 14 February

Aimed at children around KS2.

2pm in the vestry.

Messy Church - 21 February

For younger primary aged children and parents. Starting at 2pm in church. The theme is "Messy Lent" and there will be pancake races, the chance to make a Mother's Day card and create an Easter garden.



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

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

The Burton and Puddington Mothers' Union will be attending church on Ash Wednesday at the 10:15am Holy Communion Service. They will also be holding a Lenten Meditation Service on 18 March at 2:00pm. If there is anyone who wishes to attend they are very welcome.

For more information, contact: Valerie Lyon vallyon@btinternet.com

Forest Bathing

Saturday 21 March 2026

Cost: £15 members, £20 non-members

Forest bathing encourages you to slow down, quieten the mind and relax through immersing yourself in nature.

During a forest bathing session at Ness, you'll be taken on a slow, gentle walk through the Spinney Woods and supported in immersing yourself in the natural world around you, through connection to your senses.

At times we'll gather in a group to share our experience, however this is optional so there is no pressure to participate in this element if you do not wish to.

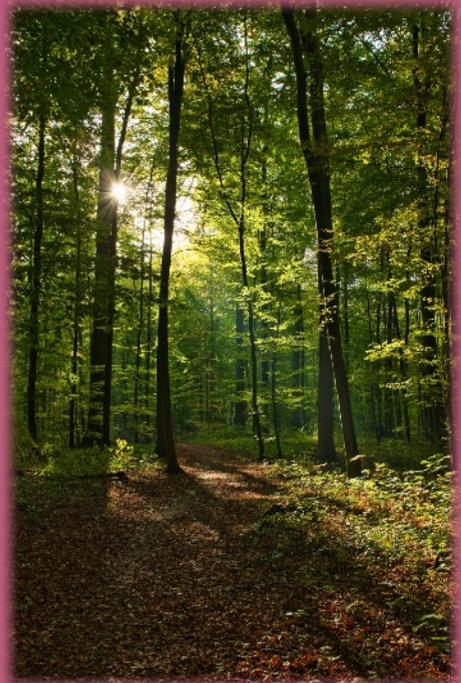
Forest bathing is suitable for all levels of fitness as we walk very slowly and cover no more than 1km.

If you're aged 18 or above, or aged 16 or 17 and accompanied by a responsible adult, you're welcome to attend.

No experience is necessary.

[Click here](#) to book.

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



[freepik.com](https://www.freepik.com)

Down the Garden Path with Flori Bunda

A New Gardening Year Unfolds

The hydrangea heads have finally lost their colour, but these will not be pruned until early Spring as the flower heads protect the buds from frost.

However, there is still some colour in the gardens - red skimmia, rose hips, flowering viburnum and a purple heather. It is wonderful to see the varying hues of green. Also spears of green appearing almost daily, both in the garden and various pots and containers.

The holly and two rowan saplings had bunches of red berries until providing tasty meals for our feathered friends.



freepik.com

The fleeces are at hand to cover the smaller camellias should hard frost be forecast.



Gini George/Pixabay

Leaves falling off the trees need frequent removal as they soon become wet and soggy.

There is always something needing attention (weeds!). Attention shortly will be to sowing sweet pea seeds. These will start off on the kitchen window-sill, then to the 'sun room' and finally the greenhouse if germination is successful.

The structures of leafless trees look wonderful against a darkening winter sky!

Of course, our feathered friends visit our garden. Greater spotted woodpecker, cock pheasant, nuthatch, blue/great tits, blackbirds and Robbie Robin.

Tasks to be getting on with:

- Weeding - weather permitting
- Sow seeds - if applicable
- Prepare pots, seed trays, wash out greenhouse (not if frosty)

Happy Gardening!

Flori Bunda



Burton Mere Wetlands



Past highlights

Recently many of our visitors have been rewarded by sightings of the **Otter**. First seen feeding on the meres, it has recently been showing right in front of the visitor centre.

The **Willow Tit** continued to be seen, and a **Lesser Whitethroat** delighted many visitors as they walked along the path to Border Hide.

All the regular winter visitors were recorded including **Whooper Swans**, **Wigeon** and **Pintail**, **Pink-footed Geese** and many **Black-tailed Godwits** and **Lapwing**. The **Kingfisher** regularly sighted and **Marsh Harriers** seen coming into roost in the late afternoon.

January brought some wintry weather to the reserve and had the birds skating on the icy scrapes.

What to expect in February & March

As the days lengthen, we await our first returning summer breeders. There is always a competition to predict date of the arrival of our first **Avocets**, usually well before the end of February.

The **Grey Herons** gather in large numbers around the scrapes before



Otter (J Mottishaw)



Otter (J Mottishaw)



Lesser Whitethroat (J Rogers)

moving into their breeding area in Marsh covert and they will hopefully be joined by **Little Egrets**, **Great White Egrets**, **Cattle Egrets** and **Spoonbills**.

Among the earliest breeders are the **Egyptian Geese**, and all duck species, in full breeding plumage, will be jostling to find the best nest sites. We also await the return of the **Sand Martins**, to breed in their bank.

Events

Book on to one of our popular events including kids activities, guided walks, yoga and nature journaling on our website.

We're also taking part in the National Lottery Open Week, offering FREE entry for players between 11 and 15 March. For further details see their website.

Complete your visit with a break at our award-winning café, offering a selection of drinks, sandwiches, warming pasties and soup and of course ... cake.

<https://events.rspb.org.uk/deeestuary>

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>



Grey Herons (J Hewitt)



Egyptian Geese (J Hewitt)



Sand Martins (J Hewitt)

News From Briarfield Garden



NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME
Garden Open For Charity

Briarfield

The Rake, Burton, Neston,
CH64 5TL

Snowdrop Openings
Sunday 1, 8 & 15
February

11am - 4pm

Adults £5 Children free



PLANTS FOR SALE



TEAS

More information at ngs.org.uk



Registered charity No. 1133641



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Hot drinks and biscuits
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Parking every Sunday at
Gladstone Village Hall and
Burton Manor and also at
Bishop Wilson School on 15
February.



Cheshire West & Chester Libraries

The National Year
of Reading 2026

GO
ALL
IN.

The National Year of Reading 2026 is a UK-wide campaign designed to inspire more people to make reading a regular part of their lives. There are so

many benefits of reading: it expands your world and sharpens your mind. This year is the perfect chance to put aside a bit more time to pick up a book to read just for pleasure. We are asking everyone to get involved. Whatever you're into, get ready to [GO ALL IN](#)

Cheshire West and Chester Council's Library Service wants everyone to see how reading in all its forms can unlock more of what you love, whether it's music, baking, family time, films, sci-fi or anything else.

There are books on every subject, from football to outer space, crochet to cosy crime and the Council's libraries are there to lend them to you free of charge in book, eBook or eAudiobook format. Your next great read is waiting and it won't cost you a penny.

It's free to join the library. You can join in person, online or over the phone during the National Year of Reading. Once you've joined, you can borrow free books, eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and eNewspapers, access free wi-fi and computers and enjoy free refreshments and social activities. You can also borrow an iPad if you need to use one at home.

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/libraries>

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: 13 February - 6 March - 27 March

Burton & Neston History Society



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

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

12 February 2026

Bidston - The Story Of A Hill. Speaker: Jim Marshall

12 March 2026

Housing The Workforce In Countryside & Town. Speaker: Elizabeth Davey

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.

New Information Boards

At the end of December, we installed four new information boards in Little Neston and Ness, each with some fascinating local history insights that you may not be aware of at each location.



Little Neston Green



Lees Lane, by the old
waterworks

Burton & Neston History Society



This is the second part of a Spacehive-CWaC funded project involving the Burton & Neston History Society and Ness Neighbours, the first part being the recently installed Memorial to the Miners of Ness & Little Neston at Ness village green.

There will be three more boards to complete the project at the Harp Inn, at the bottom of Moorside Lane and on the Wirral Way near Church Lane Neston in 2026.

Many thanks to the local organisations and individuals who have supported the project.



Mealor's Court, telling the history of Mealor's plough works



Little Neston at Station Road, where Neston South station once stood

GLADSTONE VILLAGE HALL

Run by the Community, for the Community



Painting Classes

Start Wednesday 4 February

10:00am - 12:00pm in the Hall

Block of 5 x 2-hour lessons for £45.

Contact Nigel at 07507 037649

nigelmorris@hotmail.co.uk

Pub Valentine's Party

Friday 13 February

5:00pm-9:00pm in the Pavilion

Pink Prosecco, Pizza, Pop Music Quiz, Raffle



Flower Arranging Demonstration & Afternoon Tea

Saturday 28 March at 1.45pm in the Hall

Tickets £20 available from Michelle at

mclarke@gladstonevillagehall.org



Friday Night Is Pub Night

Every Friday 5:00pm-9:00pm in the Pavilion. Everyone and every age welcome.



2026 Community Events

We have a great lineup planned.

gladstonevillagehall.org/events for more information.

gladstonevillagehall.org - Facebook - Instagram



YOU ARE
INVITED TO

A Flower
Arranging
Demonstration
Followed By
Afternoon Tea

SATURDAY
28TH MARCH
GLADSTONE
VILLAGE HALL

1.45 PM

£20 per ticket
available from
Michelle

mclarke@gladstonevillagehall.org





Home Security Guidance

Security advice and top tips from your local Policing Team.

Follow the checklist and tick as appropriate to help prevent you from becoming a victim of burglary.

- 1 Is access to the garden restricted with a fence/gate?**
Keep side and rear gates locked at all times when not in use.
- 2 Are fences difficult to climb or get through?**
High side and rear boundaries (1.8m-2m) with trellis and spiky defensive planting if possible. Low boundary fencing at the front so your property can be clearly seen.
- 3 Is there outside lighting to deter trespassers?**
A clear, low white light that activates from dusk until dawn is ideal for lighting a yard and garden and allowing any person to be clearly seen.
- 4 Are sheds and outbuildings secured?**
Keep your shed locked and secured. If possible, anchor it down to prevent it from being lifted to gain access.
- 5 Are tools and ladders secured from would-be burglars?**
Never leave tools (such as spades and forks) lying around as they can be used as a way of breaking into your home.
- 6 Are all keys kept out of sight?**
Keep handbags and all keys including car keys away from letterbox and out of sight. If you have a keyless entry/start vehicle, consider using a signal blocking pouch.
- 7 If you have an alarm - is it always used?**
Always activate the alarm when you are not at home. For advice and approved suppliers of alarms visit the National Security Inspectorate and the Security Systems and Alarms Inspection Board.
- 8 Are lights left on when you go out?**
Use an automatic plug-in time switch to operate a lamp or light at pre-set times when you're not home.
- 9 Are valuables kept out of sight and away from windows?**
Keep your valuables hidden from view.
- 10 Is your property identifiable?**
Make your valuables less attractive to thieves by using a property or police approved forensic marking solution only visible under ultraviolet (UV) light.



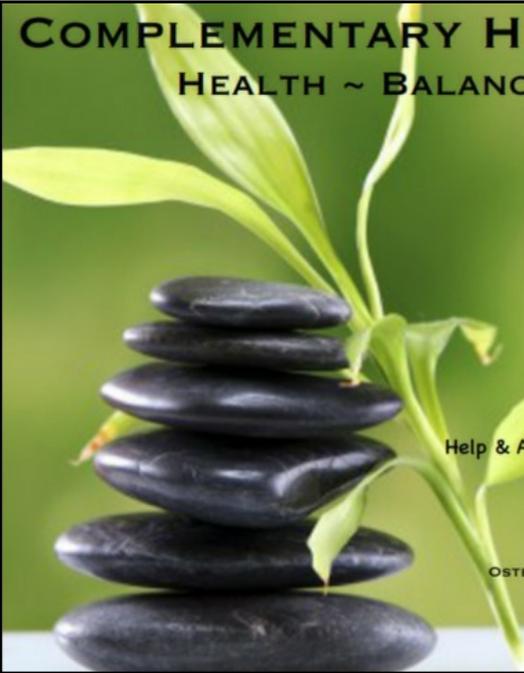
More advice can be found via our website:
www.cheshire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/



Cheshire
Constabulary

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- Aromatherapy
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- Hopi Ear Candling

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Community & Local Society Contact Information

THE PUDDINGTON SOCIETY

For information on activities & events please contact 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

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

FRIENDS OF BURTON MANOR GARDENS

For more information please contact 0151 336 6154 or email burtonmanorgardens@gmail.com

GLADSTONE VILLAGE HALL

Information and to sign up for the GVH Newsletter

gladstonevillagehall.org

Magazine Administrator sue@suebirch.com

*The Parish Magazine is published by the PCCs of
St Nicholas' Church, Burton-in-Wirral
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*Neither PCC is responsible for the content or claims of
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Consequently no warranties or endorsements should be inferred.*

*The PCCs and editorial team retain the right to edit items
submitted for publication. The editorial team's decision is final.*

Copies of this magazine can be found at

www.burtonchurch.org.uk

www.shotwick.org.uk

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

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

*In addition, the magazine is available on the St Nicholas' Church and
St Michael's Church websites.*

To discuss opportunities to advertise here, contact:

burtonchurchpcc@gmail.com

*St Nicholas' Church, Burton-in-Wirral is a Registered Charity No. 1184831.
St Michael's Church also has charitable status as part of the Church of England.*

