

### **REV JOHN COYNE**

## This message was issued by Rev John Coyne to both church congregations on Sunday 27 April 2025

In September last year I received some welcome news from my cardiac consultant. He was pleased to say that, medically, I was fixed. However, he then went on to say that my lifestyle must change to conserve my health. He suggested that, before too long, I should consider retirement, and that was not welcome news.

Over subsequent months different doctors have kept an eye on me and pressed the point until, in the end, I recognised that, in the interests of our parishes and myself, I should heed their advice.

To serve our admittedly small parishes well requires a lot of energy and I have gradually seen my stamina decline. And so, with regret, I must announce today that I will be retiring at the end of August this year – a full twelve months earlier than I had originally intended.

From this point onwards, the PCCs and Churchwardens in both parishes will be able to begin the process, with the Patrons and the Diocese of Chester, to look for a minister who can lead these parishes further into God's future.

Please pray for all concerned and pray for Sue and I, as we shall certainly pray for you.

The PCC of St Nicholas' Church, Burton and the PCC of St Michael's Church, Shotwick, as well as both church congregations and people from across the local community to whom John ministered and with whom he has maintained contact and provided much pastoral care over the last three years, will wish John and Sue Coyne well following their decision to step back from the rigours of managing two parishes and all the associated responsibilities that inevitably come with the office of parish priest.

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



Vicar: Revd John Coyne 5 Burton Manor Gardens, The Village, Burton, CH64 5AB

Tel: 07471 890 827

email: johncoyne.bps@gmail.com

SERVICES AT ST NICHOLAS'
CHURCH, BURTON
www.burtonchurch.org.uk

WEEKLY - SUNDAYS
10:00AM MORNING WORSHIP

WEEKLY - WEDNESDAYS
10:15am Holy Communion BCP

1 ST SUNDAY OF MONTH 8:45AM HOLY COMMUNION BCP

3RD SUNDAY OF MONTH

10:00AM HOLY COMMUNION CW

6:30PM EVENSONG



## SERVICES AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, SHOTWICK

www.shotwick.org.uk

1st Sunday of Month 11:30am Morning Praise

2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF MONTH 11:30AM HOLY COMMUNION CW

3RD 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



## SCRIBO



## LOOK BACK & PARTY, LOOK AHEAD & MAKE A DIFFERENCE

REVD JOHN COYNE

8 May 1945 was a day when nations took a deep breath and partied.

Although it was some time before Japan surrendered and the conflict in the Far East was also over, most people in Great Britain and Northern Ireland regarded VE Day as the end of World War 2 and the beginning of their return to normality.



They could hardly take it in that after almost 5 years,

Europe at least and months later the Far East saw the end of the Second World War. It led to a realignment in Europe. Troops who had been deployed on operations, (some of them for years), would soon be home. Separated families would be reunited; children who had been evacuated during the Blitz could be

brought back to cities, some to find many of their streets and homes devastated by bombing.

Although many would grieve their loss and suffer from unhealed wounds for years afterwards, VE Day in 1945 became the Day for Street Parties, the day for celebration and despite the limitation of food rationing, it was the day for



rejoicing. It is good that the joy and celebration marking the end of World War 2 is still remembered, and especially so this year, its 80th anniversary.

The anniversary will be marked over four days across our country with parties, church services and community events. In Burton there will be a Community Picnic on Monday 5 May at Burton Sports Field starting at midday and on the preceding day a Service at St Nicholas Burton at 10:00am



and later at Shotwick at 11:30am will mark a day 80 years ago that was a turning point across Europe. That day eventually gave birth to a long-term commitment

to building a shared peace among our nations.

Come and join in all the celebrations and if you can help please look out on community social media for more details and offer your assistance.

It's time for us to party. It is also time to reflect that changes to our world order on many levels are currently looming which call for a new resolve to seek peace across national and ethnic boundaries. It's time to rebuild community locally and ensure that all of our



communities flourish with the help of every generation – young, old and in between. Join in please.

Whenever Christians meet together to worship, and especially when we share in Holy Communion we not only remember that Jesus gave his life for all of humanity at the Cross but our worship is a timeless banquet, a never-ending party, to celebrate much that is good, self-sacrificial and Christ-like in the world today. It's an antidote to cynicism and a call to live faith-filled, generous lives which bless others every day and push back on all that undermines the best that God intends for us all.

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

## Burton

Funerals

25 March Alan Hudson

28 March
William Draper

Interment Of Ashes

22 April

Elizabeth Anne Halewood

## PALM SUNDAY

### Marking the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem





Walking with palm leaves and Paddy the donkey from Burton Manor to



#### MAUNDY THURSDAY

### Remembering the Last Supper

A Seder meal was held at 5 Burton Manor Gardens.

The Seder is a ritual feast marking the beginning of the Jewish holiday of Passover and recalls God's deliverance of the Hebrews from Egyptian slavery.

Today it is observed by Christian

churches to commemorate the Last Supper, linking to the Holy Communion that Jesus initiated a short while before his Crucifixion. Christians draw upon the theme of deliverance to recall Jesus' offering of himself to restore us to a relationship with God.



#### **GOOD FRIDAY**

#### Walk of Witness

Reminding us that Jesus had to carry his cross through the streets of Jerusalem.

There was a short service at 2:00pm in Shotwick and then a walk across the fields to arrive in Burton at 4:00pm for refreshments and a short concluding service.





## GARDENERS' QUESTION TIME

Fund-raising in support of church funds is essential to the life of St Nicholas' Church. And, when the fund-raising activity can provide a topic of interest to local people, it makes for a very successful event.

On Sunday 27 April a panel of local gardening experts faced a very intimidating audience gathered in the Gladstone Village Hall, all keen to know why their plants had failed to live up to expectations or how to make the best compost. There was a myriad of questions posed to the panel which included: **Ted Brabin**,

### Liz Carter, Tim Baxter and Peter Cunnington

St Nicholas' Church is grateful to the panel and to all those who contributed towards the event. It all added up to a very informative and convivial afternoon - not to mention the array of home-made cakes, scones and tea and coffee on offer.

## The event raised some £705 towards church funds.

Thank you to all who were able to support this event.











We have come to the end of another term and everyone is ready for a rest.

The building work which was started before Christmas is now complete and our new baby room (run by S4YC) is welcoming children from 9 months old. Preschool (also run by S4YC) and our reception class now share a hub which contains suitably sized toilet facilities. It has been a lot of work to get this far and the settling process is now underway. Everyone is welcome to come and look around. Please contact <u>admin@bishopwilson.cheshire.sch.uk</u> to arrange a visit. Anyone interested in baby room or preschool places should contact <u>bishopwilson@s4yc.co.uk</u>.

As well as working very hard there have been many visits. The Eagles class went on an outdoor activities holiday with children from Christ Church Ellesmere Port and had a fantastic time. Robins and Kingfishers visited the Blue Planet Aquarium and Robins also visited a local farm to see the lambs. Thank you to the Crossley family for making them so welcome.



The Robins also had a peek at Hampston's Well as they were passing, admiring the beautiful flowers. Some of Owls class visited Roman Chester and 'sinister dexter' has since been heard around school. Other Owls visited Ness gardens and got up to lots of exciting activities.



We must say a great big thank you to the PTA for arranging the Easter egg hunt on the last day and especially for the eggs and arranging a visit from the Easter bunny. The Kingfishers and Robins were very excited by this.



Sadly, I will be leaving Bishop Wilson Primary at the end of the summer term after 25 years. It has been a pleasure to work with so many lovely people in the church and local community (as well as the wonderful children and staff of course). I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been part of my journey at this school for their hard work, support and kindness over the years.

Mrs Roberts

#### Bishop Wilson Calendar of Events

PTA Bingo - Thursday 1 May 2025 Lap of the Wirral fundraising event - Monday 5 May Sports Day - Tuesday 20 May (weather permitting) Teddy Bear's Picnic - Saturday 7 June 10:00am - 12 noon (please pre-book)

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook to keep up to date. Click Here





St Nicholas' Church now runs a weekly pre-school group for parents, grandparents & carers with pre school children.

If you have a responsibility to look after a child or children please come along and meet others in Burton.

We get together on Monday mornings in the comfort of Gladstone Village Hall in Burton from 10:30am to 12 noon for activities, play, stories, learning and much more.

Note: No meetings 5 May & 26 May - May Bank Holidays.



No need to book.

For information please contact: Sheila Dennison St Nicholas' Church Families & Children's Worker sheilad.stnics@gmail.com



#### St Michael's Church

## Shotwick News



Where do I begin to describe a very special Confirmation Service held at St Michael and All Angels in Middlewich recently?

It was led by Bishop Julie and assisted by other ministers including our own vicar, John Coyne.

I was there along with others from our congregation to support three dearly held and dedicated people who took the step of choosing to commit themselves to Christ through the affirmation of promises made at their baptism as they continue on their Christian pathway.

It was an occasion of joyful singing, prayer and emotion.

These photos from a card given to me on a recent Sunday, speak volumes of what the service meant to James, Katie and her father Chris.

Rosemary Taylor Churchwarden On behalf of all at St Michael's







Mothers' Union is a global Christian movement working with people of all faiths and none to develop communities, strengthen families and advocate for change.

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.

There are different ways to belong to Mothers' Union depending on what works best for each person. To find out more: **Click Here** 

#### Theme for 2025:

### Join Us and Join In



The Mothers' Union had a 'Get Together For a Chat Meeting' during April.

This was held at Hazel Huxley's home in Puddington and greatly enjoyed by everyone.

Valerie, Joan and Hazel preparing the tea.

We will be holding our Annual Lunch Meeting on 21 May at The Boat House, Parkgate.

The Annual Garden Meeting is to take place on 16 July at Leawood, Mudhouse Lane, Burton.

For more information, contact:

Valerie Lyon vallyon@btinternet.com



7 days to make a difference

### **Christian Aid Week**

11-17 May 2025

#### Fighting Poverty in Guatemala: The story of Aurelia.

Aurelia's farm, first and foremost, feeds her family. She tries to grow a range of crops so she can provide them with a balanced diet. But as increasingly intense conditions kill her crops, Aurelia's ability to safeguard her family slips away.

With funding from Christian Aid, Congcoop supports communities to adopt ecological approaches that conserve their land, culture and livelihood. By working with Congcoop, Aurelia's gained the skills and knowledge to cultivate native seeds that are better suited to the changing climate. She's producing her own organic fertiliser, creating nurseries, constructing rainwater collection systems, and making nutritious food and medicine for her chickens.

Aurelia's hope has inspired her to develop other activities in her community, including producing chocolate, establishing a farmers' market, and fighting for women's rights.

COFFEE

MORNING

Thursday 15 May
10:30am-12:00 noon

Sports & Social Club

Envelopes will be available in Church for donations.

## REMEMBRANCE

**CHURCH SERVICES** 

**SUNDAY 4 MAY** 

10:00AM St Nicholas' Church, Burton

11:30AM St Michael's Church, Shotwick

**EVERYONE WELCOME** 



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## FORAGING WALK



Saturday 17 May 2025 10:30am - 1:30pm

Join a guided foraging walk to find the best edible plants and mushrooms the season has to offer.

Sam from Foraging ForAges will be leading this guided walk. Sam is a professional forager and she has been leading guided forags since 2017.

The walk will last around 3 hours. Sam will guide you around the gardens and will talk you through how to safely identify each species, how to sustainably harvest, and the best ways to use each ingredient in the kitchen.

After the walk you'll receive a follow up email with a list of what was found.



www.freepik.com

Sam will also bring along some of her home made samples for you to try.

The foraging walks are aimed at adults. Children who will find the session interesting are also welcome to attend, although the walks are recommended for aged eight years or above. All spaces, adults and children, will need to be reserved on the walk. Children must be accompanied by a participating adult.

Cost: £35 for members and £40 for non-members.

Book your place via our online store

www.liverbool.ac.uk/ness-gardens/

# Down the Garden Path with Flori Bunda

### An Exciting Time Of Year

The Spring flowering bulbs were/are wonderful, especially the Camellias – White Swan, a pale pink, Dark Red (Maggiore) and the last to bloom, Lady Macon (beautiful, huge pink blooms). Many vases were filled with these exotic blooms. Also Hellebores, Daffodils, Hyacinths, Muscari (grape hyacinth) and more.



The Ribes (flowering currant) have been lovely and when the flowers have died off, same will be pruned.

Although Celandines are really a wildflower, they appear each year in masses in the garden (good for pressing).

Gladioli bulbs saved from last year did not survive so Gladioli Strong Gold were purchased.

The crown florets on the Hydrangeas have been removed along with any dead wood.

Clematis Montana Rubens and Nelly Moser are just coming into bloom.



The Sweet Peas continued to grow on and have now been planted. Misty Mountains is a variety new to myself and I can't wait for the blooms (hopefully).

The greenhouse, of course, is full to capacity.

The Dahlias are growing on well. Annual mix (pink) is ready to be pricked out but germination of Larkspur is yet to materialise.

Lilac is coming into bloom. What an exciting time of year!

Goldfinches, pairs of blackbirds, blue and great tits have been seen. Of course, Robbie Robin and, heard but not seen, Jenny Wren.

### Tasks to be getting on with:

- Prick out seedlings
- Prune Ribes, Forsythia
- Remove weeds
- Water pots if dry



### RICHARD THE POSTIE RETIRES



On 7 March there was a gathering of residents from Burton and Puddington to say thank you to Richard Green, our long serving postman of many years, and to wish him well in his retirement.

There was a fantastic turnout – a true measure of how popular and liked he has been over the years. It was lovely that his wife Lorraine was able to come too and hear a number of anecdotes about him from his many fans!

Lindy Parkinson created the most amazing cake

which he was delighted by. Once again the many "secret helpers" who

helped run the bar, clear up and generally organise the event made it all possible and we are all very grateful to them.

Over the last month or so before his retirement a collection was arranged for him and it remained unknown to him right until the day of his party, so many thanks to all those who contributed, not only for their extraordinary generosity but also for keeping the secret. The final total collected was over £1,300.





After more than forty years working for Royal Mail, many of those on our patch, Richard deserved a good send off and nobody could argue that he certainly got just that!

Enjoy your retirement Richard!

Mark Watts



April is here, and this year that means warmer weather relieving pressure on household budgets, but it's also the start of a new financial year. Wirral Council is under financial pressure and has been forced to seek to cut costs. One of the costs that's been cut is the council tax support for those in receipt of housing and other benefits. Because of the poverty in the area Wirral used to be quite generous with this discount compared to other councils. They now come more in line with what other councils provide. This has meant that a single person typically has to find an extra £20 per month, and a family £33. Although wages and benefits have been rising, so have food costs, so this additional cost is causing concern. No visible impact on numbers of Foodbank clients yet (the change is less than a month old), but it's a topic that clients bring up.

It strikes me that I'm writing a lot of the time about non-food issues, but in reality, what drives people to come to a Foodbank, is quite varied. The pressure ends up in the same place – people who cannot see how they will be able to satisfy the most basic needs in Maslow's hierarchy (which include food, water and shelter) are seeking help for themselves and their families. There is a wider, long-term plan from the UK government to improve this. It is the economic growth that the Chancellor is pushing, which, along with other outcomes, is expected to increase opportunities and incomes for the lowest paid. Unfortunately, any significant results are years away.

In the meantime, your donations of food and money provide a lifeline to our neighbours. Food donations can be made at many supermarkets. The Wirral Foodbank is looking for rice pudding, tinned potatoes, tinned meat, and tinned fruit, while the West Cheshire Foodbank is looking for meat paste, small jars of instant coffee, biscuits, custard and toothpaste. Both Foodbanks also accept monetary donations which they use to bulk buy food as needed and to provide other services to Foodbank clients. Regular donations especially help with financial planning.

https://wirral.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/ https://westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/

Thank you again for your care and support for your neighbours in Wirral and West Cheshire.

## Burton Mere Wetlands

rspb.org.uk/burtonmerewetlands

### Spring Has Arrived!

Spring has definitely come to Burton Mere Wetlands and there's lots to see. The Bluebells are out in the woodland areas and the Marsh Marigolds are providing a bright splash of yellow along the boardwalks.

Waders are still being seen in good numbers, with Knot roosting among the Black-tailed Godwits, and sightings daily of Bar-tailed Godwits as well as Spotted Redshank, Ruff, Common Sandpiper, and Little Ringed Plover as well as the Avocets and Lapwings.

Cetti's Warblers, Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps are being heard in most areas and have been joined by Willow Warbler, Reed Warbler, Sedge Warbler, Whitethroat. Some visitors have even been lucky enough to get photographs of the elusive Grasshopper Warbler. Swallows, Sand Martins and House Martins have been seen in good numbers over the scrapes, particularly when the cloud cover means that they are hunting insects low over the water. Skylarks, Reed Buntings and Stonechats have also been seen as well as an occasional Whinchat.

Both Little Grebe and Great Crested Grebe are present, and duck species include Tufted Duck, Gadwall, Shoveler and a few remaining Teal.

Butterflies being seen include Comma, Peacock, Large White, Speckled Wood. Orange Tip, and other insects include this Marsh Tiger Hoverfly photographed on the Marsh Marigolds.





Bluebell Wood



Knot



Marsh Tiger Hoverfly - J. Rogers



### THE BURTON SOCIETY IS CLOSING

The numbers coming to our meetings have been declining and, sadly, it has now reached a point where it is no longer viable for us to continue.

So after over 50 years of inviting speakers to give us topical talks in the GVH we have held our last meeting and decided to close the Society.

A very big 'thank you' to everyone who has supported us and enjoyed the evenings we have arranged over the years.

## News From Briarfield Garden

#### **Spring Opening**

Blessed with a glorious sunny day the garden opening raised £2,391 for charity. Claire House volunteers served teas in the Church and lots of plants were sold. A very successful day.

#### **Burton Village Gardens**

This year we welcome a new garden.

4 Burton Manor Gardens is an excellent example of what can be created from scratch in just 3 years.



## **Burton Village** Gardens

Burton, Neston, CH64 5SJ

4 Burton Manor Gardens • Briarfield • Burton Manor Walled Garden • Trustwood

### Sunday 29 June 11am - 5pm

Combined entry £6 Children free

Teas in aid of Claire House Children's Hospice























## Burton & Neston History Society



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

8 May 2025 AGM followed by two short talks

Willaston In The Past

Speaker: Sarah Shannon

Myths, Neston and Much More

Speaker: Clive Edwards

12 June 2025 50th Anniversary Meeting

7:00pm Two Neston guided walks followed by

8:00pm Social event

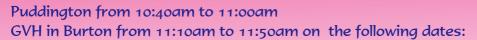
Click Here for information about the Society and for details of other meetings in our programme.

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.

There is free parking next to the Church Hall. If this car park is full, there is usually plenty of space in the free public car park behind the library, which is accessed from Beechways Drive (off Parkgate Road), just a few minutes walk away.

## Cheshire West & Chester Mobile Library

THE MOBILE LIBRARY VISITS BURTON AND PUDDINGTON VILLAGES



Fridays: 16 May - 6 June

### Neston Library Event

Wednesday 21 May, 7:00pm Curious and Amazing Tales of the Wirral

Ken Pye tells the funny, amazing, and thoroughly entertaining tales from all around this most historic part of Merseyside, including the Cheshire parts of Wirral.

Tickets are £7 on Ticketsource



## Willaston Country Market

#### DO YOU LIKE TO COOK AND BAKE?

Why not bake your favourite cakes, puddings, pies and savouries at home and sell them at our Country Market?

We sell food, local produce, crafts, plants etc weekly on Saturdays in Willaston Memorial Hall between 9.30am and 11.30am.

If you are interested in joining our friendly team, please contact Jackie for further details on 0151 721 6285 or email: <a href="mailto:jackiejenkins1896@gmail.com">jackiejenkins1896@gmail.com</a>





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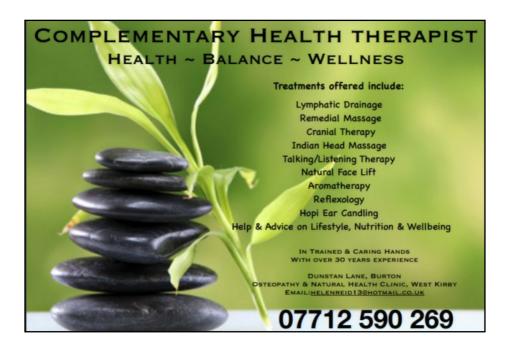
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### TRISTAN SKELLY

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- www.wirralwildlifelandscaping.com

# Community & Local Society Contact Information

#### THE PUDDINGTON SOCIETY

Saturday 12 July 4:00pm, Puddington Village Green
'Pizza Evening on the Green'
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 Hampstons 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 https://www.gladstonevillagehall.org/

Magazine Administrator - sue@suebirch.com

The Parish Magazine is published by the PCCs of St Nicholas' Church, Burton-in-Wirral. and St Michael's Church, Shotwick.

Publication is made possible through the contributions and donations of members of both churches, Friends of St Nicholas' Church, and Friends of St Michael's Church, as well as residents, advertisers and other members of the public. Neither PCC is responsible for the content or claims of advertisers nor do they warrant or endorse any such content. 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



**⋈** burtonchurchcomms@btinternet.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

