

The Magazine

Of St Nicholas' Church, Burton-in-Wirral

Growing and thriving with God in our community

November & December 2014



IN THIS ISSUE OF THE MAGAZINE...
Burton Manor Café - the heart of the Village
Better Together?
Using Astronomy to date the Nativity
Remembrance

Website: www.burtonchurch.org.uk

From our Vicar

Rev. Cathy Helm

BETTER TOGETHER



No, this isn't going to be a comment on the outcome of the Scottish referendum but the slogan of the campaign raises a very interesting question for a whole variety of contexts and even relationships.

Are we better together, or could we do much better apart?

This is a question I was asked at a meeting talking about services in church. Should we have separate adult and children's services or should we try to mix them up? Is a mixed economy going to please everyone or no one? Is it more worthwhile to have distinctively separate services?

Surely this is not just relevant to age appropriate services, what about the differences in preference in music style or even language used? When do personal preferences cross the line from being helpful to worship to becoming consumerist?

Perhaps a better place to start is to ask why do we come together to worship in church anyway?

One person wrote that 'too often we sing' make a joyful noise to the Lord' while our faces reflect the sadness of one who has just buried a rich aunt

who left everything to the hamster!

Throughout Scripture God's people are called to meet together. In the words of Psalm 100: 2

Worship the Lord with gladness come before Him with joyful songs...Know that the Lord is God.'

Jesus himself went to the temple or the local synagogue and joined in with reading the Scriptures and the regular Sabbath worship.

Paul writes to both the church in Colossae and in Ephesus '*Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music to the Lord always giving thanks to God for everything.*' { Eph. 5: 19 & Col. 3: 16} All kinds of music, hymns and songs are used even then in the early church. I'm not sure theirs would be as varied as is now possible in ranging from Gregorian chanting to hip hop and rock gospel! Would it be possible to say all are valid and worthy ways of praising God if as Richard Foster puts it '*worship is our response to the overtures of love from the heart of the Father.*'

Worshipping together should come from a natural response to what God has done for us through Jesus His son and because he has made us all different our ways of worshipping will also surely differ. Does that mean though that one particular way is better than another? Surely it is possible to value something that is different even if it's not



our preferred style. If Gregorian chanting can help someone get closer to God....then go for it...but also be open to recognise that others may find it most unhelpful.

The diversity and richness of different styles of worship can enrich and challenge our worship and help us to live out practically what it means to be 'better together'; to be able to learn from each other.

The joy of Messy church is that all ages are together as families and can eat a meal together and can worship together. The joy of Evensong is the quiet familiarity of the words and music.

The joy of our Harvest Songs of Praise this October was the diversity of worship and range of styles, ages and abilities.....that must have brought joy to the heart of God.

At St Nicholas we have a mixed economy, some services we do distinctively for one preferred style such as Evensong or Messy Church and some we mix it up a bit. Whatever we do though, we do it with gratitude, to the best of our ability and to the glory of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ who is worthy to receive our thanks and praise.

Cathy

Did you know...

...that it costs £2,000.19p a week to run our church?

A church decided to have four different worship services each Sunday. There was one service for people who were new to faith, another for regulars who preferred a more traditional worship service, one for those who had lost their faith and wanted to get it back and a service for those who had unsuccessful experiences with other churches and had some complaints. The four divisions were named: Finders, Keepers, Losers, Weepers.

Holy Communion Soup & Sandwich

Monday 3rd November at 11.30am

Monday 1st December at 11.30am

*An informal Holy Communion service for all who find it hard to get up to the church building, followed by a soup and sandwich lunch in the **Glasshouse** at Burton Manor.*

If you're interested in coming please contact:

Vicar: 353 0453

Basil Keys: 336 4933

Jen Williams: 328 1006





A Village Revival . . .

After years of hard work and stress in their individual careers, Lorraine and Jed Taylor were looking forward to a quiet and leisurely retirement. But all hopes for an easy life went straight out of the window when the couple inadvertently found themselves opening a café and store in their own village.

"We always said we'd love a nice café within walking distance that offered a friendly atmosphere, good value for money and high quality food," said Lorraine, who has lived in Burton for more than 30 years.

"By chance an opportunity arose and somehow we are here today with our own café, not quite understanding how it all happened!"

Located in the majestic grounds of Burton Manor, the café has more than great food to draw customers. The stunning gardens and the rich history attached to the Manor have drawn visitors for a number of years but now they have an added reason to visit.

The Manor closed as an adult education college in March 2011 and the original café, which formed part of the Atelier rejuvenation project run by Chester University, soon followed. After discussion with Chester University and the current owners of the Manor, Liverpool City Council, Lorraine took over and re-opened on May 21 last year.

Within weeks of opening, word got out about Lorraine's delicious homemade cooking and the high quality coffee available on people's doorsteps. The café has now become a hugely valuable asset to the village, attracting visitors from all over the Wirral and beyond. Even now, 18 months on, the café still hasn't advertised its services because of the glowing references customers have passed on.

"When the opportunity was offered to us we thought to ourselves 'we only live across the road, how hard can it be'. 'It's only 10 until 4 it will be fine,'" said Lorraine.

"We're now doing 70 hours a week easily and even when the café closes we have to go shopping at the wholesalers for the next day," adds her husband.

For many years, former marketing executive Lorraine had organised the advertising and marketing for Burton Manor while her husband worked long hours in the music industry. Although they're both active people, they did envisage slowing down a little when they retired.

"Sometimes I literally work late into the evening in my home kitchen preparing food for the next day," says Lorraine.

But thanks to a highly successful first year, the couple now have help. The café employs one full-time and



five part-time staff members and is open six days a week Tuesday to Sunday. All food is cooked by Lorraine on-site and in her own home kitchen using the finest produce and ingredients. She has already acquired an enviable reputation for her beef, ham, chicken and home-made soups, which are all gluten-free. Where possible, the soup vegetables are grown by the volunteers in the Manor's wall-gardens.

With so many customers to impress, there's little time left for relaxation or fine dining at home.

"Lorraine is a wonderful cook and we used to have dinner parties all the time. Not in the past 18 months!" said Jed.

"I used to come home to a wonderful home-cooked meal every night and now we're living on readymade curries because Lorraine is so busy cooking homemade food for all our customers but we're happy they're enjoying it."

Lorraine adds: "It's an absolute pleasure to see people eating our food and really enjoying it. The café is like a haven, we're in such a magical setting. We have Burton woods behind us; it's just an ideal setting.

"We get people from all over, some of them are even coming for a day out, enjoying lunch and a stroll around the gardens before coming back for afternoon tea."

Following a successful first year, Lorraine and Jed opened the village store in April this year which has been warmly received by local residents who no longer need to jump in their car to buy a Sunday paper. The store stocks basic food items such as freshly baked bread, milk and butter and other everyday essentials.

The café has also acquired a full license to sell beers, wines and spirits to enhance its lunch-time menu.

"It has brought the village back together. We're now a village focal point and a meeting place," says Lorraine.

"People who live in the village and beyond never had the opportunity to spend time with one another apart from saying hello when they crossed paths. Now they have a place to catch up properly and develop friendships," adds Jed.

With business booming, the couple have lots of ideas for the future and are hopeful that any new owner of the Manor will retain the café facility for the village.

"We never imagined we would be this busy but we're really enjoying it and wouldn't want it any other way," says Lorraine.

Burton Manor is also home to several other businesses, offering arts and crafts and home accessories. Pop along and have a look - and treat yourself to some delicious cake too!



Using astronomy to date the nativity

The Bible itself does not give an exact date for the birth of Jesus, or even enough indirect information to pin it down with certainty.

At the request of Pope John 1st in the early 6th century, the birth of Jesus was to be used as a dividing line for dating historical events into BC and AD. However, it's been known for quite sometime that the chosen point of division must be in error.

The birth of Jesus was marked by two astronomical events. The relatively short lived Star of Bethlehem is known to most people. Less well known is that fact that an eclipse of the Moon also helps to fix the date of the nativity.

Jesus was born shortly before the death of Herod and Herod is recorded as dying shortly after an eclipse of the Moon. So there was an eclipse of the moon close to the time when Jesus was born.

Dating eclipses is easy - by applying Newton's Laws of Motion and his Universal Law of Gravitational Attraction you just have to work out the orbits of the Moon, Earth and Sun to see when they were in lined up in this order - as viewed from Jerusalem. There are just two relevant possibilities - in 4 and 1 BC.

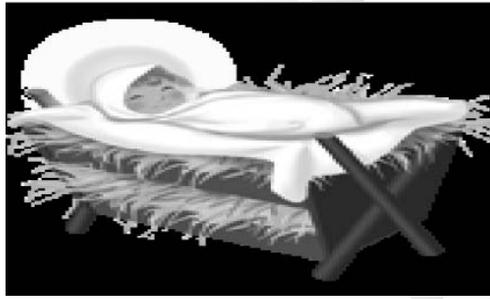
The Star of Bethlehem ought to tie the date down with precision if we can identify exactly what sort of astronomical event it was. It must have been

pretty impressive as it attracted widespread attention.

There are several possibilities but only those that persisted for several months need to be considered. This reduces the number of candidates to just two.

A comet was noted in the meticulous astronomical records of both the Chinese and the Babylonians. They describe a comet with a bright tail that appeared in the spring of 5BC and was visible for 70 days. The description of the 'star' in Matthew's gospel may mean that the comet's tail was seen from afar as being vertically above over Bethlehem. If this comet was the 'star of Bethlehem' then Jesus was born in the mid April of 5BC, which makes it the lunar eclipse of 4BC that occurred just after Herod's death.

The other possibility for the Star of Bethlehem is the apparent coming together in the sky - or conjunction - of the paths of Jupiter and Saturn in 7BC. Their combined brightness would have made them quite obvious in the night sky. In fact, due to the peculiarities of the motions of the planets as seen from Earth, Jupiter and Saturn would have moved back and forth close to each other in the night sky three times over a period of several months, before moving away to quite distinct regions of the sky.



To be guided by either these events - a comet, or the conjunction - the three wise men would have to travel typically 1000km in two to three months - say 1000/75 days or about 14km/day - which seems to be quite feasible.

Most favour the comet explanation not least because it would have been quite a bit brighter than the conjunction. Furthermore, although the multiple conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter is a rare event - it does repeat every 800 years or so. The comet of 5BC only visited our solar system just once. Unlike Halley's comet for example, it doesn't keep returning.

So mid April of 5BC looks the best bet for actual date of the nativity.

The crucifixion can be accurately dated using astronomical events. The date referred to our present day calendar was Friday 3rd April AD33

So for how long did Jesus live on Earth? It was from either 7 or 5BC until AD33. However, simply adding 7 or 5 plus 33 to get wither 40 or 38 years gives the wrong answer! Remember that 1AD and 1BC start at the same instant. There is no zero AD - or zero BC for that matter. Counting back 1 year from 1AD gets you to 1BC. So to work out any time interval that spans the BC - AD divide, you must subtract 1 from the addition of the BC and AD years.

So Jesus lived for either 39 years if the Star of Bethlehem was a conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn, or, more likely, 37 years if it was the comet of 5BC that was the 'star' of Bethlehem.



MacMillan Coffee Morning

There was a magnificent response to the Coffee Morning held in aid of MacMillan Nurses at the Burton Manor Glasshouse on September 26th. Over £520 was raised thanks to the generosity of the villagers, visitors and their guests who packed into the restored Edwardian Building - a fitting testimony to the hard work of the many volunteers at Burton Manor Gardens. Joint event organisers Mary Walton and Connie Draper said "the support was terrific and so many visitors were only too pleased to help such a deserving charity"



Burton Manor Café
Presents a

Christmas

Carol Concert

In aid of the homeless.

Performed by the

Rock Ferry

Salvation Army Brass Band

On

Friday, December 19th, 2014

Commencing at **6.30 pm** in the Café garden.

FREE ADMISSION & PARKING

Come well wrapped up and enjoy this festive occasion!!

Burton Manor, The Village, Burton, Wirral - 0151 353 8783



November 22nd 4 - 6pm

Gladstone Village Hall

More details: Cathy 353 0453

Start the Week in Prayer

Monday 9a.m. in Church

Come and join us in a quiet time at the beginning of each week when we pray for the needs of our church, our community, our country and the world.

You do not need to pray aloud; many pray in silence.



Burton Santa Dash!

Saturday 6th December 12:45pm

Start at Bishop Wilson School car park, run 500m to Gladstone Village Hall.

All ages welcome.

All you need is a Santa Hat and £1 to take part.

Prizes - 1st Adult – Christmas Cake

1st, 2nd & 3rd child – Chocolate prize

Special Prize for best Santa Costume!

free car parking at school

St. Nicholas Church Wedding News

Sunshine greeted guests as the final nuptials of the summer got underway at St Nicholas Church.

Alan Mahon and Danielle Nuttall, both of Ledsham Village, were married on Sunday, August 17, in front of a church packed with family and friends, many from Suffolk and Dublin.

The Church's recently-built additional seating platform was put to good use by the Philharmonic String Quartet, who played before and during the service. Thankfully, the weather held up for a sunny but blustery trip to Inglewood Manor for the reception courtesy of a vintage bus.

Earlier in the summer, on June 28, Alison Banks and Nick Raine and then Katy Griffiths and Mark Pniewski on 19th July exchanged their vows giving us some of the largest crowds seen at St Nicholas Church.

Guests enjoyed tractor transport to the vintage-style reception in a barn in the grounds of their farm. Included in the day's entertainment was a charity auction which raised £9,205.50 for Beechwood Cancer Care Centre in Stockport.

If you would like your wedding photo featured in the Church Magazine please email: saron@lineone.net.

Written by Danielle Nuttall



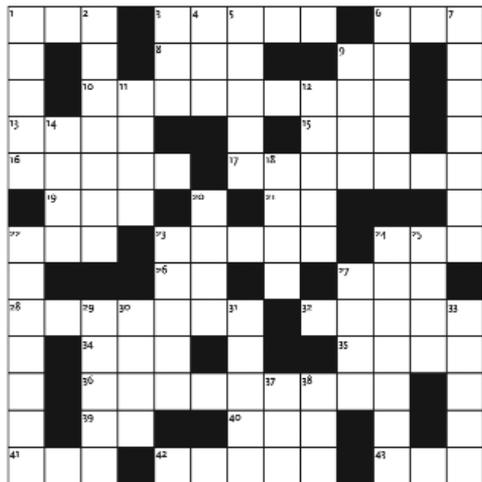


Christmas Health and Safety

1. All members of the congregation planning to dash through the snow in a one horse open sleigh, going over the fields and laughing all the way are advised that a Risk Assessment will be required addressing the safety of an open sleigh for members of the public. This assessment must also consider whether it is appropriate to use only one horse for such a venture, particularly where there are multiple passengers. Please note that permission must also be obtained in writing from landowners before their fields may be entered.
2. To avoid offending those not participating in celebrations, we would request that laughter is moderate only and not loud enough to be considered a noise nuisance.
3. Benches, stools and orthopaedic chairs are now available for collection by any shepherds planning or required to watch their flocks at night. While provision has also been made for remote monitoring of flocks by CCTV cameras from a centrally heated shepherd observation hut, all users of this facility are reminded that an emergency response plan must be submitted to account for known risks to the flocks.
4. The angel of the Lord is additionally reminded that, prior to shining his/her glory all around, s/he must confirm that all shepherds are wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment to account for the harmful effects of UVA, UVB and the overwhelming effects of Glory.
5. Following last year's well-publicised case, everyone is advised that Equal Opportunities legislation prohibits any comment with regard to the redness of any part of Mr R Reindeer. Further to this, exclusion of Mr R Reindeer from reindeer games will be considered discriminatory and disciplinary action will be taken against those found guilty of this offence.
6. While it is acknowledged that gift bearing is a common practice in various parts of the world, particularly the Orient, everyone is reminded that the bearing of gifts is subject to Hospitality Guidelines and all gifts must be registered. This applies regardless of the individual, even royal personages. It is particularly noted that direct gifts of currency or gold are specifically precluded, while caution is advised regarding other common gifts such as aromatic resins that may evoke allergic reactions.
7. Finally, in the recent instance of the infant found tucked up in a manger without any crib for a bed, Social Services have been advised and will be arriving shortly!



CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Tree for Christmas (3)
2. ——— Christmas! (5)
3. Belonging to him (3)
4. Alcoholic drink (3)
5. A tone on the diatonic scale (2)
6. The great day itself (9)
7. Chamber music group (4)
8. An eighth of the tenth month (3)
9. Jolly (5)
10. After Christmas, something to look forward to! (3-4)
11. Drive off with it (3)
12. Another great day (1, 1)
22. Affirmative (3)
23. One cured by Jesus (5)
24. Man's name (3)
26. Jesus was born — Christmas Day (2)
27. Female bird, possibly cooked for Christmas dinner (3)
38. Our Redeemer (7)
39. Birthday boy (3)
34. Holy sanctuary (3)
43. Must be taken sometimes (4)
36. Famous Edwardian song (4-5)
39. At home (2)
40. Mountain pass (3)
41. Young goat (3)
42. Statement of's down (5)
43. Bishop's responsibility (3)

DOWN

1. What we believe (3)
2. You might look at these to make your Christmas pudding (7)
3. Spoil (3)
4. Guardian of Samuel (3)
5. Sticky substance (3)
6. Hurry up! (5)
7. Crocus (7)
8. A decorative effort made of fabric containing patterns of holes (3)
11. Jesus is our great — (4)
12. Not used until the spring (5)
14. Speed (4)
18. Fertility (4)
20. Choices for Christmas dinner (4)
22. Veil (7)
23. Appearance (5)
24. Stays here (7)
25. Russian (4)
27. German personal address (4)
29. Authorised (5)
30. Golf club (4)
31. Check out (5)
33. Need a frozen lake to do this (5)
37. Gardening tool (3)
38. This glorious song came upon the midnight clear (3)



ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1. Tree 2. ——— Christmas! 3. Belonging to him 4. Alcoholic drink 5. A tone on the diatonic scale 6. The great day itself 7. Chamber music group 8. An eighth of the tenth month 9. Jolly 10. After Christmas, something to look forward to! 11. Drive off with it 12. Another great day 22. Affirmative 23. One cured by Jesus 24. Man's name 26. Jesus was born — Christmas Day 27. Female bird, possibly cooked for Christmas dinner 38. Our Redeemer 39. Birthday boy 34. Holy sanctuary 43. Must be taken sometimes 36. Famous Edwardian song 39. At home 40. Mountain pass 41. Young goat 42. Statement of's down 43. Bishop's responsibility

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Diary of Events

November 2014

Church Services

- 2nd 4th Sunday before Advent
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Family Worship & Baptism
6:30 pm Evensong
- 5th 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 9th 3rd Sunday before Advent
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:15 am Remembrance & Parade
- 12th 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 16th 2nd Sunday before Advent
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Family Communion
- 19th 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 23rd Sunday Next before Advent
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Morning Worship
- 26th 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 30th Sunday before Advent
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Morning Worship

Mothers Union Programme

- 5th 11:00 am Bible Study
- 18th 9:30 am Diocesan Council at St John's,
Hartford, Church Centre
- 19th 2:00 pm Members Afternoon at the
Sports and Social Club
- 25th 2:00 pm Deanery Committee Meeting
at Bromborough Village Centre

House Groups:

Christian Living:

7:30 pm Wednesdays in term time (Contact
Dee Foster 0151 336 2336)

Home Group:

8:00 pm Wednesday 5th and Tuesday 19th at
Danes Court (0151 336 5446)

From the Registers:

Funerals:

29th Sept. Dr. Stephen Williams

6th Oct. Norma Harrison

Little Stars



Praise and play-time for
babies, toddlers and
preschool children with
their parents or carers.

"Pop in, drop in, bring a friend."

Mondays 1pm - 2:30pm
St Nicholas Church
Burton

All Stars

(Primary age children 5-11
Years) meet every 2nd, 4th
& 5th Sunday during
10:00 am Service.

Diary of Events

December 2014

Mothers Union Programme

- 3rd 11:00 am Bible Study
- 10th 2:00 pm Christmas Gathering

House Groups:

Christian Living:

- 7:30 pm Wednesdays in term time
(Contact Dee Foster 0151 336 2336)

Study Group:

- 8:00 pm Wednesday 3rd and 17th at Danes Court (0151 336 5446)

First Week of January 2015

4th Epiphany

- 8:45 am Holy Communion
- 10:00 am Family Worship
- 6:30 pm Evensong

7th 10:15 am Holy Communion

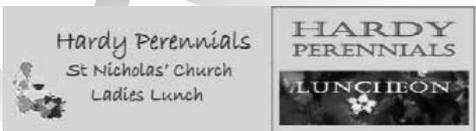
11th 2nd Sunday of Epiphany
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Morning Worship

Church Services

- 3rd 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 6th St Nicholas Day Christmas Tree Festival
- 7th 1st Sunday of Advent
8:45 am Holy Communion
3:00 pm Christingle Service
6:30 pm Advent Evensong
- 10th 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 14th 2nd Sunday of Advent
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Morning Worship
- 17th 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 21st 3rd Sunday of Advent
8.45 am Holy Communion
10.00 am Family Communion
19:00 pm Carol Service
- 24th **Christmas Eve**
16:00 Carols around the Christmas Tree
23:15 pm Holy Communion
- 25th **Christmas Day**
8.45 am Holy Communion
10.00am Family Communion
- 28th 1st Sunday of Christmas
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Morning Worship
- 31st **New Years Eve**
10:15 am Holy Communion



Box Notices



Meeting Dates

The Hardy Perennials are a group of ladies who, for whatever reason, live alone. They meet regularly for lunch and to share each other's company

The next meeting of the Hardy Perennials at Pollards, Willaston will be on 15th December. If you want to go along and haven't been before please call either Vivienne Blakeman on 336 7435 or Linda Jones on 336 5017



Burton Parish War Dead

Thank you to all those who sent us information about the names on the St. Nicholas Church War Memorial.

We are in the process of collating all the information and will have the information available in Church for the Remembrance Sunday Service on 9th November.



As indicated in the Diary of Events The Mothers' Union Bible Studies Group will now be held after Holy Communion on the first Wednesday of the month.

The next dates are November 5th and December 3rd.

Thank you



Burton Christmas Fayre

Plans are well advanced for this year's Burton Village Christmas Craft Fayre which is being held at Gladstone Village Hall on Saturday December 6th, starting at 1pm.

Connie Draper and her team of helpers have already booked a number of attractions including beer tasting from Burton's own mini brewery - and a local craftsman who restores furniture. There will also be a wide selection of hand made last minute Christmas gifts on view.

Connie is still looking for raffle gifts and bottles for the tombola - and any offerings can be collected by ringing 336 3679.

Mothers' Union

After a glorious summer and very pleasant September, October has arrived - quite cool. Our September meeting was an unusual event where we traced the life story of our very own celebrity - Anne Parsons - through the medium of 'Desert island discs.'

Anne led an eventful life having moved to different areas of Wirral and Cheshire both because her father and husband worked as ministers in the Church of England. Her family spent the war years in Crewe which was heavily targeted because of the rail network. In the radio programme 'Desert island Discs' the celebrity is interviewed and chooses suitable music to accompany the various stages of their life. Anne's choice was perfect beginning with the peaceful 'Banks of green Willow' by George Butterworth reminding her of our beautiful countryside and ending with her husband Geoffrey's favourite hymn 'The day thou gavest Lord has ended.' That's my favourite hymn too.

The book which she chose to take to the island was 'the country child' by Alison Uttley. What a fun afternoon we had where Anne dressed in a straw hat and garland set the mood perfectly.

Thank you Anne for a wonderful afternoon

which everyone enjoyed.

Ahead of us lies a busy period in preparing for Christmas, not only for our families but for several events - the Christmas fair and our own service to which we invite our friends from Shotwick.

Regards

Josie Isaacs

*A Big Thank You to
everyone at St Nicholas' Church
and Bishop Wilson School Burton
for
Your very generous Harvest Gifts
From
All the Families at Save the Family*

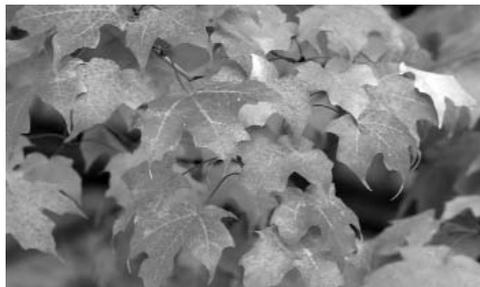


Save the Family
Keeping Families Together

Cotton Hall Farm, Cotton Edmunds, Chester CH3 7PZ

Autumn

What a wonderful start to the season. Lovely warm days, golden fields and the trees slowly donning their delightful colours. The Cornus has leaves of a wonderful crimson colour but unfortunately the Rowan has been stripped of its red berries by masses of birds! Spring flowering bulbs have been planted in the tubs and borders - some are last year's bulbs and others newly purchased i.e. Tulip Queen of the Night and Greenland which compliment each other. The Leycesteria Formosa (Himalayan Honeysuckle) has been wonderful and the old wood cut out. The three Buddleia Davidii have been cut down by one-third to prevent wind-rock. The florets on the Hydrangeas are turning into the most amazing colours - some have been picked for arrangements indoors and the rest left in situ until next spring as they protect the new buds from frost. The sweet pea seeds have arrived but will not be sown until next year. The Lavender hedge has also been trimmed back to promote new growth. Some has been dried to make bags which retain the scent. Weeds, of course, are still present to date, pots have to be washed and Zonal Pelargonium will be cut down, re-potted and brought indoors for the winter.



With so many berries and the mild weather not too many birds frequent the garden. However, Greater Spotted Woodpecker frequents the bird feeder, Robbie Robin is always around and the Buzzards are always present.

Flori Bunda

November and December 2014

Did you know...

...that our weekly income is £1,600?



Music Marathon in aid of Children in Need

The Burton Buskers and guests will be holding a 12 hour music marathon at Burton Sports and Social Club on Saturday 15th November - from 11am until 11 pm! Please come along and enjoy the fun and help raise money for a fantastic cause! Last year they raised £500 and this year they are hoping to raise a whopping £1,000.



Harvest Songs of Praise.

We were welcomed into church which had been beautifully decorated for the weekend of Harvest celebration. What a happy evening it was singing hymns and songs chosen by members of the congregation! Our first treat was hearing the School Choir singing 'We plough the fields and scatter' and 'It's a beautiful world'. It was lovely to hear the children's voices singing so well, particularly commendable as the younger ones had only just joined the school.



The Hadlow Green Singers were very professional leading us in our singing. They also performed twice in the evening, singing a wide repertoire ranging from Negro Spiritual songs to the Hallelujah chorus from Handel's Messiah.



During the interval hot drinks and cake were served at the back of church while we all had time for a chat. The St Nicholas' Handbell Ringers gave a great performance to start the second half of the evening. It was good to be able to sit back and listen to the bells! We are lucky to have so much talent in church. Our Harvest Songs of Praise finished with us all singing 'Praise, my soul, the King of heaven', which was a very appropriate ending. There was a retiring collection for the Christian Aid Harvest Appeal which raised an amazing £240, for which very many thanks.

Let's Grow vouchers

Bishop Wilson School are currently collecting the Morrisons Let's Grow vouchers and Tubs4Tablets tokens which can be used in the purchasing of information technology equipment. As the local Parish Church school is part of the St Nicholas Church family any help in collecting the vouchers and tokens would be much appreciated.

They can either be handed in at the school or dropped off to Kathryn Rawson at Woodland Cottage, Old Hall Close, Puddington.

It wouldn't be Christmas without...

Every so often, you hear people say that it wouldn't be Christmas without something – it could be a turkey dinner, the big movie on telly or having a Christmas tree. But most of our traditions over the festive season are newcomers. Here we look at some of the things that make people's Christmasses.

Father Christmas

Also known as St Nicholas, the red-robed figure who lives at the North Pole who brings presents to all good boys and girls is a modern incarnation of a fourth century Turkish church leader. Legend has it that he dropped money down the chimney of a poor family; his gift landed in the stocking put out to dry by the fire.

Christmas cards

Everyone loves receiving Christmas greetings – the tradition started in the 1840s when Sir Henry Cole arranged for some cards to be printed to save him time rather than handwrite greetings to his friends. The idea caught on, thanks to the Penny Post deliveries.

The big film on telly

Watching TV on Christmas Day is still a reasonably new tradition. The blockbusting soap episodes that we now take for granted started in the 1990s, and the big film dates back to the 1970s. For many years, entertainment for Christmas Day on the gogglebox included a circus and a variety show.

The Christmas tree

Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria, brought the first Christmas tree to the UK in the 1830s. A picture of the queen's family dancing around the tree set the template for our modern Christmas celebrations.

The evergreen tree in the homes has several origins – it's thought to be pagan, Roman and Christian, each with their own traditions.

Since 1947, the people of Norway have donated a Christmas tree every year to the UK. This is erected in Trafalgar Square.

Boxing Day

The first working day after Christmas Day is always Boxing Day (some years it's on December 27, rather than December 26) and dates back to the middle ages. The Church's alms boxes were opened after a year of receiving donations from parishioners. The money was divided up among poor people, hence the Christmas box which is given in thanks to people who serve us such as dustbin men.

Christmas crackers

Thomas Smith invented the cracker in 1847. The London sweet maker was suffering a sales slump: customers weren't buying. So he inserted mottos in to the sweet wrapper which gave sales a boost. He then inserted the crack, and, to prevent copying from rivals, dropped the sweet for a gift and added a paper hat.

Turkey

The traditional Christmas dinner sees us enjoy a massive feast – Christmas Day is a feast day after all. But the centrepiece hasn't always been a turkey. In years gone by, geese, swans and duck have all been popular choices.

But there is one thing that it wouldn't be Christmas without...

A baby, born in Bethlehem just over 2,000 years ago. Visited by Angels, shepherds and Magi, lavished with gifts and proclaimed a King, the prince of Peace and our Saviour. He is so important that history was divided into dates before he arrived and after.

His name is Jesus.

Have a very happy Christmas

The importance of remembrance

*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.*

This month we are told to remember twice over. As the centuries-old rhyme tells us, we must remember, remember the fifth of November for the gunpowder, treason and plot. But we also have reason to pause and reflect for two minutes on the Sunday nearest to November 11, Armistice Day.

We've been remembering the end of the First World War since 1918: hostilities ceased at 11am on November 11. We stand in silence for 111 seconds before placing wreaths on monuments.

We do so wearing our poppies and mindful of the verses in Ecclesiastes 3 telling us that there are times to weep and to mourn. These paper poppies, bought for a donation from old soldiers and volunteers outside shopping centres, have been sold since 1922, and were inspired by the poem Flanders' Field, written in 1915 by John McCree.

The poppies were designed by Major George Howson, a young infantry officer. They were easy to put together even if you had only one hand and gave work to people with a disability. This tradition continues today and last year 31 million poppies and 86,000 wreaths were made.



This year marks the 90th anniversary of the Royal British Legion and, with British armies in deployment all over the world, it seems that their services will continue to be in demand.

It is important that we stop to remember: we remember the millions who gave their lives in the 'war to end all wars', just as we honour those who fought Hitler and his oppressive Nazi regime.

War is brutal and savage. Not for nothing was the First World War said to be the last time we would go to war.

In a sinful world peace is fragile and needs to be protected. It can't be taken for granted and our world is full of people who would shatter that peace just for their own ends.

So this Remembrance Sunday let's stop and remember. Be thankful for those willing to fight for peace in this imperfect world. Pray for peace. And remember with gratitude those who have gone before us.

We will remember them.

To make a donation to the Royal British Legion, call 0845 845 1945 or log on to www.britishlegion.org.uk.

Gideon Mitchell



Note from The Editor

As we prepare ourselves for Remembrance Day and Christmas we should take time to reflect on an event in our history which shows the true meaning of Christmas.

On December 7th 1914 Pope Benedict XV suggested a temporary hiatus of the war for the celebration of Christmas. The warring countries refused to create any official cease-fire, but on Christmas Eve the soldiers in the trenches declared their own unofficial truce.

It started with the singing of Christmas Carols and at first light on Christmas Day some German soldiers emerged from their trenches and approached no-man's-land calling out "Merry Christmas" in their enemies native tongues. The Allied soldiers climbed out of their trenches and shook hands with their enemy soldiers.

The men exchange presents of cigarettes and plum pudding, shared family pictures and even a good-natured game of soccer. They also used this short-lived time of peace to retrieve the bodies of the fallen.

Christmas Day 1914 in the trenches of France came about an event that symbolises the true meaning of the nativity. The birth of a baby over thousand years before had, for that one day, truly brought about Peace on Earth.

May you all have a peaceful Christmas.

The South Wirral Deanery Banner is currently on display at St Nicholas Church until the end of the year.

Burton Bonfire Night

Saturday 1st November from 5.30pm / bonfire lit 6.30 / fireworks from 7

Hot dogs - Full bar - Glow toys - Soup - Cake - Hot drink

& NEW this year... 'Dance in the Dark!!'

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Our Church

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Lay Readers	Ann Rudd - Emeritus	336 1513
	Basil Keys	336 4933
	John Morris-Best	327 7873
Church Wardens	John Vinson	336 8350
	Mike Davies	353 0074
Verger Duties - Services	Ann Warr	336 2747
- Open/Close	Dwenna Georges	336 6151
- Housekeeping	Sue Church	336 2228
PCC Treasurer	Bryan Blakeman	336 7435
PCC Secretary	John Church	336 2228
Gift Aid	John Miles	336 4972
Director of Music	Alison Carter	336 5446
Mothers' Union	Josie Isaacs	336 3635
The Burton Youth (TBY) & Junior Church		
	Amanda Ankers	336 3998
Magazine	Susan Bristow	336 6707
	Sarah Curnow	336 8210
Flower Arranging	Sue Church	336 2228
Website Manager	John Morris Best admin@burtonchurch.org.uk	
Lay Synod Chairman	Basil Keys	336 4933
Bell Captain	Jane Davies	353 0074

Community Events

The Burton Society

The Burton Society meets at 8:00pm in the Gladstone Village Hall. Do come along.

6th November - "Tins, tubes and tenacity" is the title of Meg Parkes' talk about the British Forces Struggle to survive captivity in the Far East during World War 2.

4th December - Phyllis Oliver will be recapturing the music on the 1920's at our Christmas meeting as we eat mince pies and sip some wine. Tickets available from John Roe on 336 4640.

7th January - Harry and Audrey Watson share some of their experiences in working for the North West Air Ambulance Service.

Burton & Puddington Sports & Social Club

1st November - Burton Bonfire Night (see advert inside for more details)

6th December - Christmas Fayre (see inside box notice for more details)

RSPB Dee Estuary Nature Reserve, Burton

"Sky Dancers on the Dee" This is a free event held at the Donkey Stand opposite Nicholls Ice-Cream Shop In Parkgate. Have the chance to see such rare birds of prey as the hen harrier. Dates are 30th November and 21st December. No booking required.

Telephone 353 8478 for more information, or email decestuary@rspb.org.uk

Manor Gatehouse Club

A club for the retired or partially retired that welcomes new members and meets monthly with an invited speaker. Various interest groups include history, music, painting, literature, travel etc. All meetings are at 2.30 pm in Gladstone Village Hall and the programme is:

6th November - "Tiger Muffin Soaps" by Matthew Lepp

8th January - "The Life and Times of William Hogarth" by Julia Hesketh

For information contact Rodney Lyon on 336 2128 or www.manorgatehouse.info

The Puddington Society Event Dates

Saturday 20th December - Carols on the Green, 6.00pm - 7.00pm

For more information call Hazel Huxley on 0151 336 2288 or email puddingtonvillage@hotmail.com

Burton and Neston History Society

Every second Thursday of each month at 8:00pm in Gladstone Village Hall. For more information please contact Clive Edwards on 336 1190

13th November - Stephen Pickles "Bidston Lighthouse, Far from the shore"

11th December - Heather Butler "Brimstage, a local history study"

Burton Walking Group

9th November - 6 - 7 miles; **15th November** - 2 - 4 miles and pub lunch; **23rd November** - 6 - 7 miles

13th December - 2 - 4 miles and then Christmas lunch at The Goshawk.

For more information please contact John Nuttall on 336 7178

Burton Manor

6th November - "Edward Kemp: A Victorian Landscape Gardener". £10 (£7.50 for volunteers or "Friends") Cheese and Wine included after Presentation. Booking essential.

22nd November - "Painting in Silk". This is a full day tutored event starting at 9:30am until 4:00pm. Refreshments will be available but a packed lunch is required. £30. Booking essential.

26th November - "Curiosity Corner" Booking essential.

To book any of the above events at Burton Manor please call the Friends of Burton Manor on 0151 345 1107 and leave a message on the answer machine or alternatively e-mail burtonmanorgardens@gmail.com

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions for the next issue will be Monday 15 December 2014, please email your contributions to saron@lineone.net

Website: www.burtonchurch.org.uk