



# **The Parish Magazine**

**St Nicholas' Church, Burton-in-Wirral**

**January February 2017**

*www.burtonchurch.org.uk*



## **IN THIS ISSUE OF THE MAGAZINE**

***'Friends of St Nicholas' Church' Scheme Launched***

***Village School's Ofsted Report - Highly Praised***

***Ruth Abbott - New Lay Reader***

*A colour version of the magazine is available at [www.burtonchurch.org.uk](http://www.burtonchurch.org.uk)*

***GROWING & THRIVING WITH GOD IN OUR COMMUNITY***

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	<i>John Morris-Best</i>	<i>327 7873</i>
	<i>Ann Rudd (Emeritus)</i>	<i>336 1513</i>
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## THE VICAR WRITES



If you were asked what your favourite Bible verse or story was, I wonder what your response would be.

Would you;

- *Choose immediately?*
- *Struggle to choose because there are so many?*
- *Struggle to choose as you couldn't think of any?*

Whatever your response would be this year in Chester Diocese we're being encouraged to think about 'Y Bible'.

Is it important and if so why? Why is it such a great read? Why is it still a best seller and published in hundreds of languages and dialects?

Is The Bible merely important as a piece of historical literature, as a compilation of a variety of genre which gives light to different periods of history across the near middle east? Is it just a library of books which sheds light on the religious journey of the Jewish people and nation?

Could it be the inspired story of God's attempt to love and be loved by the people he created? His story?

Could it be that the Bible can still speak to our hearts and minds, challenge us, encourage us, inspire us, breathe new life into us?



One of my favourite stories is the story of Daniel and his courage in keeping to God's ways despite pressure to conform to the culture around him and then even facing the lions rather than compromise his faith in God. What a hero and God honoured his faith and kept him safe. The verse to which I currently keep returning to is from Proverbs 3: 5

***'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight'.***

Former Chief Rabbi, Jonathan Sacks, expressed how Jews approach the Bible: *"Jews don't read the Bible. We sing it, argue with it, wrestle with it, listen to it and turn it inside out to find a new insight we have missed before. It is God's invitation to join the conversation between heaven and earth that began on Mount Sinai and has never since ceased."*

This New Year, I'd encourage you to find your Bible and start reading it if you've not read it for a while, or to read a bit you've not read for ages if yours is well worn and used; look for bits that you don't understand and let's try and work out what God might be saying. Come and tell me your favourite story or verse and let's encourage each other with the word of God which is living and active even today. Psalm 119:

***'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.'***

Cathy

## CHURCH MATTERS

**RUTH ABBOTT**

**New Lay Reader for Burton and Shotwick**

'Readers' are lay people who have been selected, trained and licensed by the Bishop of a diocese to preach, teach and lead worship in a pastoral context. There are more than 10,000 active readers in the Church of England. Most are licensed to a parish but some are chaplains in prisons, hospitals, hospices or schools. A few are in charge of parishes.

2016 marked the 150th anniversary of the establishment of reader ministry in the Church of England. There have been national events, deanery events, and, on 15 October last, a diocesan celebration in Chester Cathedral.

Bishop Libby led the service and gave licences to eight new readers and a further four who have transferred into parishes within the diocese. The preacher was the Rt. Revd Robert Paterson, Bishop of Sodor & Man, and Chair of the Central Readers Council.

I had the privilege of being one of the eight and am now a licensed Reader for the parishes of Burton and Shotwick. I feel truly blessed to be able to minister among these two lovely congregations.

*Ruth Abbott*

## Memorial Bench for David Rudd

AGE (UK) Cheshire has donated a memorial bench to St Nicholas' Church in memory of David Rudd, who passed away recently.

Made by the "Men In Sheds" project – with which David had been involved – the bench is one of only two handmade by the team – the other being placed at the gardens at AGE (UK) Cheshire's Head Office.

The plaque was worded by AGE (UK) and the bench has been placed by the West Door of the Church.

*Ann Rudd* and the family have been deeply touched and are very grateful for this special tribute to a much missed member of the Church community.

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## Praying for One Another



We would like to include on the weekly pew sheets the names of people who, for whatever reason, would like to be remembered in our prayers. Someone's name will only be included with their permission and we will pray for them in the services and keep them in our own prayers.

*If you would like a prayer please either email or ring Cathy Helm.*

✉ [c.helm@burtonchurch.org.uk](mailto:c.helm@burtonchurch.org.uk)

## CHURCH FINANCES

# R E S P O N S I B L E G I V I N G



Although viewed as somewhat controversial amongst some church members the 'Responsible Giving' initiative has had an impact and resulted in a great number of responses.

People are asked to consider what they can afford to give in order to support the work of the church and to help meet the running costs – in all around £2,000 per week. The church receives no direct financial support from central Church of England funds, or from Government or from the public purse. 'Thank you' therefore to those who have quietly increased their giving or who have made a special donation. Your support and generosity is very much appreciated

**Friends of St Nicholas' Church** officially launched its appeal for new members in December. So far we have had a very encouraging response from many people within the community and are delighted to say that we have had some very generous financial donations and helpful suggestions regarding how we might best reach our target of raising an additional £20,000 a year to bridge the shortfall in the church's finances.



We are very much in the early stages of developing the role of the Friends and the intention is to reflect the desires and ambitions of our membership as a whole alongside attracting interest from the wider community. Your input is vital to this - it is your church, your community and your future that we seek to protect, foster and nurture.

If you would like to be involved in helping shape the future direction of the Friends in any way, please do contact Cathy Helm or Robin Cowan either directly by phone or email or through the Friends of St Nicholas Box which is now situated at the back of the church.

***An information leaflet is included in this edition of the magazine which includes a Gift Aid form for any donations you would consider, to help us save our beautiful church. Thank you!***

*Robin Cowan*

# BISHOP WILSON SCHOOL



Bishop Wilson Church of England Primary  
"The joy of The Lord is your strength" Nehemiah 8:10

## OFSTED REPORT

### ***'Calm and nurturing environment...'***

Staff, governors and pupils at Bishop Wilson Primary School are celebrating after the school received high praise during its recent Ofsted (*Office for standards in education*) inspection.

In a positive report Her Majesty's Inspector Neil Dixon said the school had continued to maintain a good quality of education in the five years since its previous inspection in 2011 and said its leadership team had created ***"a school in which pupils feel safe and happy and are eager to learn"***.

He also praised the high levels of achievement in reading and writing and said by the time pupils left Year 6 their attainment in both was typically higher than the national average.

The report, which follows a visit on November 9, said: "During the inspection, pupils, parents, staff and governors all described Bishop Wilson School as being a 'big family', which very accurately describes the atmosphere within school."

It highlighted the good provision of early years care, saying children "get off to a good start to their school lives and thrive in an environment that is calm, nurturing and full of things for them to do."

"There is no sense of complacency within the school and school leaders and governors have a shared ambition to continue to move the school forward so that Bishop Wilson School is the best it can be".

Commenting on the positive findings, Headteacher Darren Jones said:

***"Everyone connected with the school is extremely pleased with the positive outcome of the report. After such pleasing Ofsted and SIAMs (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) reports, the school and everyone involved should be proud of all the hard work that has taken place over the last few years."***



## ST NICHOLAS CHURCH LIGHT PARTY

### **An alternative Halloween Celebration**

**Reporter - Dan Jones**

The light party was about Jesus being a light in the darkness. We learnt the verse *Jesus said 'I am the light of the world'*.

It was really fun.

We made candle holders with chocolate bread sticks and sprinkles. We had to draw a picture of ourselves with a blindfold on which was really funny. We also decorated doughnuts and hung them up and tried to eat them without using our hands. That got really messy!!

It was dark when we got there and the church was really pretty with lots of little lights. Before we had tea we went outside and had sparklers and glow sticks that we spun around to see the shapes they make in the dark.

There was apple bobbing and I got 2 apples! Cathy talked to us about Jesus and how we can be a light in the darkness too. It was really fun and I loved the church in the dark.



## **EVENING TALK**

### ***Ruth Chesworth - A Visit to the Solomon Islands***

On Wednesday 23 November Ruth Chesworth entertained a large gathering in Church with tales of her many visits to the South Pacific, the Solomon Islands and the Christian Melanesian Brothers.

The Melanesian brothers are supported by Chester

Diocese and

Ruth,

together

with her

friend

Barbara,

have visited the islands as part of our friendship and links with them.

Her fascinating talk was accompanied by photographs which captured the spectacular beauty of the scenery.

Amongst the many sights we saw were their beautiful chapel, busy school children, welcoming dances and a lovely picture of Ruth and Barbara proudly adorned with garlands of flowers.

Ruth had also brought some beautifully carved artefacts with her and a copy of The Lord's Prayer in pidgin English ("Heaven" and "Amen" were decipherable!)

Ruth could have amused us for longer with more tales of trips in dugout canoes and local traditions and there were heartfelt thanks and applause for a delightful evening.



**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

### **Christmas Stall**

Our stall at the annual Burton Christmas Fayre is always an important fundraising event for us, so at the November meeting those of our 'less talented' members helped the 'more talented' to finish the sale items that were sold on Saturday 3 December at the Fayre.

### **MU Christmas Gathering**

The Christmas gathering was held in Church on Wednesday 14 December at 2pm. Thanks to all who attended.

### **Annual General Meeting**

The Mothers' Union AGM will be held on Wednesday 18 January at 2.00pm at which we will present our programme and collect subscriptions for 2017.

***All Mothers' Union meetings and events are open to visitors.***

### **Betty Coppack**

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of long-standing Mothers' Union and church member Betty Coppack who sang in the church choir for many years.

Betty would have reached 90 years of age this June. A painful end robbed her of that privilege, but she now no longer suffers.

***Goodbye Betty – we will miss you.***



## IMAGES OF CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR EVENTS

### Advent Windows in Burton

24 windows were decorated in Burton  
Village during Advent



To view these images online and in colour visit  
[www.burtonchurch.org.uk](http://www.burtonchurch.org.uk)



## Christmas Book at Bedtime



'Book at Bedtime' on the Thursday before Christmas attracted 48 children and 40 adults! Everyone gathered in church - in pyjamas and with a favourite teddy - and enjoyed bedtime stories, sang carols and heard the story of the nativity, followed by a cup of hot chocolate.

## Coffee Morning



The regular 'Coffee Mornings' provide a chance to meet and enjoy coffee and cakes as well as the opportunity to buy jams, cakes and preserves.



## CHARITY SUPPORT



*Save the Family provide a safe and supported community for homeless and troubled families where safeguarding is paramount.*

*Our vision is to keep families together and help them create a positive future.*



The charity, **Save the Family** based in Cheshire, is one of the small number of nominated charitable causes supported by St Nicholas' Church and its members.

For over 40 years, **Save the Family** has been providing support and accommodation for families from across the UK that have become homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless.

The families the charity supports often have multiple, complex needs which have resulted in them becoming marginalised in society. In addition there can be other negative characteristics that manifest themselves in the lives of such families.

In 2017, **Save the Family** would really like to see steps taken so that everyone in society has a chance to flourish and be the best they can be.

It is the charity's view that we all need to work together to give homeless and troubled families trust and confidence in their own abilities and to help them look ahead to a brighter and more secure future.

*"When I close my eyes I think what life would be like if I hadn't been referred to **Save the Family**. Without doubt I would have lost my three children and would have had no home to call my own." Ella*

*"We faced homelessness in March and couldn't really find anyone to help us. We called **Save the Family** and their mentor helped us sort out a situation that let us keep our home. We still get support from the charity with food and clothing but we are managing to stay in our own house." Greg*

*"Our first baby is due shortly and we lost our flat six weeks ago because we got into debt. I was really depressed and anxious and my doctor told me to get in touch with Save the Family. We now have a home with **Save the Family** and we are getting our confidence back - for the first time ever I feel safe. We've never had a family until now." John & Mandy*

To make a donation or to support **Save the Family**, please contact:

Save the Family, PO Box 3825, Chester CH1 9BA ☎ 01244 409100

✉ info@savethefamily.uk.com 🌐 www.savethefamily.org.uk

facebook: SaveTheFamilyUK

## CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

*Home*

*Group*

*Meetings*

The 'St Nicholas Church Home Group' meets regularly at Danes Court, Mudhouse Lane, Burton.

Everyone is welcome to join this friendly and informal study group which meets on specific Wednesday evenings during the month at 8pm at Danes Court, Mudhouse Lane.

Upcoming dates are:

25 January

8 & 22 February

Contact Tony Carter

☎ 0151 336 5446



## HOLY COMMUNION & LUNCH

**Burton Sports & Social Club**

Monday 9 January at 11:30am

Monday 6 February at 11:30am

Monday 6 March at 11.30am

Although primarily intended for those who have difficulty accessing the Church building, all are very welcome to attend.



**Contact**

*Basil Keys* ☎ 936 1403 or

*Jen Williams* ☎ 328 1006

## YOUTH CHURCH



*Messy Church* is a fun and interactive way for children of all ages to learn about the Bible stories through games, craft and story time. Plus a two course meal for young and old is included!

Held in the Gladstone Hall, 4.00pm to 6.00pm.

Saturday 21 January

Saturday 18 February

Saturday 18 March

*If you're able, please come and join the fun – getting messy is optional!*

## FROM THE REGISTERS



### Funerals

4 November Betty Coppack

28 December Margaret Emmett

## HARDY PERENNIALS



The Hardy Perennials are a group of ladies from around the parish who, for whatever reason, live largely independently. They meet regularly for lunch and to share each other's company

ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH  
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### Ladies' Lunch Dates for 2017



Monday - 16 January  
Monday - 20 February  
Monday - 27 March  
Monday - 15 May  
Monday - 19 June  
Monday - 31 July  
Monday - 18 September  
Monday - 30 October  
Monday - 11 December



Pollards Inn, Willaston  
12.30pm for 1.00pm  
☎ Vivienne 336 7435  
☎ Linda 336 5017

## PUDDINGTON VILLAGE 'Carols on the Green'

A big **'Thank You'** to village residents and friends from Puddington, Burton and Shotwick who came along to the annual **'Carols on the Green'** on Saturday 17 December.

Those who gathered on the Village Green in Puddington to sing carols enjoyed a glass of mulled wine as well as a delicious mince pie or two!



The attendance of the **Salvation Army Band** from Rock Ferry added much to the overall occasion - gathered around the Christmas Tree and lights - as did the words of reflection provided by Rev. Cathy Helm.

**The charity collection, given to the Salvation Army to support its work, raised £300!**

## START THE WEEK IN PRAYER

Monday morning at 9.00 am in church is a quiet time at the beginning of each week when we meet to pray for the needs of our church, our local community, our country and the world.

***You do not need to pray aloud; many who attend choose to pray silently.***

# CHURCH DIARY



## January

- 1 First Sunday of Christmas  
9:30 am Family Communion  
6:30 pm Evensong
- 4 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 8 First Sunday of Epiphany  
Baptism of Christ  
8:45 am Holy Communion  
10:00 am Morning Worship
- 11 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 15 Second Sunday of Epiphany  
8:45 am Holy Communion  
10:00 am Family Communion
- 18 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 22 Third Sunday of Epiphany  
8:45 am Holy Communion  
***Bible Society - visiting speaker***  
10:00 am Morning Worship  
Bible Society speaker
- 25 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 29 Fourth Sunday of Epiphany  
8:45 am Holy Communion  
10:00 am Morning Worship  
***Pulpit Exchange visiting speaker Mark Thomas***

## February

- 1 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 5 Fourth Sunday before Lent  
8:45 am Holy Communion  
10:00 am Family Worship & Parade Service  
6:30 pm Evensong
- 8 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 12 Third Sunday before Lent  
8:45 am Holy Communion  
10:00 am Morning Worship
- 15 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 19 Second Sunday before Lent  
8:45 am Holy Communion  
10:00 am Family Communion
- 22 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 26 Sunday next before Lent  
8:45 am Holy Communion  
10:00 am Morning Worship

## March

- 1 Ash Wednesday  
10:15 am Holy Communion  
7:30 pm Holy Communion

## HYMN STORIES

### ‘How Great Thou Art’

**Rev. Carl Boberg 1859-1940**



*O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:*

***Then sings my soul, my Saviour God,  
to Thee:***

***How great Thou art, how great Thou art!***

***The sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee:***

***How great Thou art, how great Thou art!***

*And when I think that God, His son not sparing,  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin:*

***Then sings my soul...***

*When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!*

***Then sings my soul...***

**‘How Great Thou Art’** was first published in 1886 under the title “O Store Gud” (O Great God). Written by Carl Boberg, a Swede, it was originally a poem and not intended to be a hymn, but Boberg later heard it being sung to an old Swedish tune and it is believed that it was sung in church for the first time in 1888.

The hymn was first translated into German and then into Russian. It was whilst in Russia that English missionary Stuart Hine first heard the hymn.

Hine and his young wife were missionaries in the Carpathian region of Russia, then a part of Czechoslovakia. Whilst ministering in the mountains, Hine found himself in the midst of a threatening storm. The thunder, as it rolled through the mountain range, reminded Hine of the Russian hymn.

**How Great Thou Art** was not widely known until the late 1950’s when the Billy Graham Crusade introduced it to a new audience. It has been translated into many languages and additional verses added - one notably by Hine after the Second World War.



## FLORI BUNDA

### A New Gardening Year Unfolds

Each year has differing highs and lows. This season is a favourite as many bulbs are showing their green tips and *Galanthus Nivalis* (snowdrop) should be in full bloom. They are such a joy to see from the kitchen window and brighten up the duller day. Winter Aconites with their collars of green and bright yellow flowers are also wonderful.

The three *Buddleia Davidii* will have their hard prune towards the end of February. Harry Lauder's Walking Stick (Twisted Hazel) has been growing out of control and has been lightly pruned.

The Camellias have masses of buds and Felice Harris (light pink blooms) has settled well in the rear garden, having been transported from its pot. The white unnamed Camellia has grown on strongly during the last few months, so maybe a space will have to be found in the garden.

All the spring flowering bulbs are awaited. The seed trays will be filled with compost towards the end of February awaiting the sowing of many seeds.



A large variety of birds have visited the garden: a pair of pied wagtails, nuthatch, coal, great, blue and long-tailed tits, chaffinch, the odd blackbird and a green woodpecker (first in this garden). A most unwelcome visitor was a sparrow hawk perched in the bird feeder!



### Tasks you could be getting on with:

- *Tidy the greenhouse ready for Spring*
- *Clear any wet leaves from around the borders*
- *Prune shrubs as appropriate e.g. buddleia Davidii*

*Good gardening,*

**Flori Bunda**



## PLEASE GIFT AID DONATIONS IF POSSIBLE

As you may know St Nicholas' Church is very much in need of additional income in order to bridge the gap between what it receives by way of its ordinary income and what it spends in order to maintain the church and meet its ministry cost. The annual shortfall is approximately £20,000. The shortfall cannot be maintained any longer and as responsible stewards of church finances the Parochial Church Council (PCC) has launched an appeal under the title '**Responsible Giving**'. The appeal asks all church members, new and old, to review what they give towards the work of the church as well as to the wider community who value the existence of such an historic landmark and community facility that is valued by so many people within this rural parish.

Above all, the church very much appreciates the efforts of all those who continue to organise and raise money through church events as well as for the valuable contributions we receive from our sponsors and advertisers. There is always so much to do and every penny counts!

***If you are able, please support your parish church with a regular donation from your bank account or by using the Gift Aid envelopes in church.***

Standing order forms are available on the church website:  
[www.burtonchurch.org.uk](http://www.burtonchurch.org.uk) or from:

**John Miles, Gift Aid Secretary** ☎ 336 4972

*giftaid it*

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Tennis	353 0577
Junior Tennis	336 5613
Junior Football	336 6158
Walking	336 7178
Snooker	336 3268
Bowls	336 2050
Art	353 8354
Membership	07826 417 047

## **COMMUNITY & SOCIETY INFORMATION**

### **THE BURTON SOCIETY**

Meetings at Gladstone Village Hall

5 January - **'Pleasures of the Peninsula'** Heather Chapman

2 February - **'Living in a Hostile Environment'** (Gulf War Field Hospital) Jill Mackeen

2 March - **'From Habitat to Liverpool Cathedral, by Design'** Ray Semple

### **THE PUDDINGTON SOCIETY**

For more information about events call Hazel Huxley on 0151 336 2288

or email [puddingtonvillage@hotmail.com](mailto:puddingtonvillage@hotmail.com)

### **BURTON AND NESTON HISTORY SOCIETY**

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

### **BURTON WALKING GROUP**

For more information please contact John Nuttall on 336 7178

### **BURTON BRIDGE CLUB**

Burton Bridge Club meets every Monday evening at 7.15pm  
in the Gladstone Village Hall

Experienced players most welcome for duplicate bridge.

For further information please contact Hazel Huxley 0151- 336- 2288.

### **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 unless stated

5 January - **'Dee Estuary Nature Reserve'**, Dan Trotman

5 February - **'Seven Deadly Sins'**, Father Michael Burgess

2 March - **'Wales Meets England in Song & Story'** Ruth Moore Williams

For information contact Rodney Lyon on 336 2128 or [www.manorgatehouse.info](http://www.manorgatehouse.info)

### **BURTON MANOR**

To book any events at Burton Manor please call the Friends of Burton Manor  
on 345 1107 and leave a message on the answer machine or

alternatively email, [burltonmanorgardens@gmail.com](mailto:burltonmanorgardens@gmail.com)

The Squirrel Lodge and The Edwardian Glasshouse are available to hire.

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