

St Michael's Church Shotwick

September Newsletter 2009



Coming up this quarter:

Hymns of Praise to celebrate the installation of our new sound system & arrival of new hymn books; Harvest Festival & Supper.

Christmas preparations.



News from the Vicar

Revd Cathy Helm

This summer has been a great growing season with lots of sunshine and rain, or so it looks from the enormous amount of growth that's been going on in the Vicarage garden. And of course the growth doesn't always happen in the places you most want it to!

We are very blessed in our parish with some incredibly beautiful gardens. However, I'm certain that those who care and tend for those gardens will tell you of the hours of patience and love that goes into them. Beautiful gardens don't just happen. They take time and hard work to enable them to develop and flourish.

Relationships within our families and church family also take time and care in order to flourish and grow.

Jesus said 'I am the Vine, you are the branches' [John 15:5]. He wants us to grow and flourish and produce fruit that will last.

As a parish, we are being asked by the Diocese to explore our 'Growth Action Plan.' How do we want to see our church grow and flourish? In which areas as individuals and as a church family do we want grow, to prune or to plant new ideas?

A huge THANK YOU to all who came to the open forum. A good evening was had by all and thanks again to Jack for hosting us in his

Photos are courtesy of Cathy Robertson

studio. It was really important to hear different viewpoints and ideas. We have put all the feedback together and the PCC will be looking at it in September in order to produce our Growth Action Plan. This will outline our priorities and intentions to lead to growth as individuals and as a church.

To help us all look at what it means to 'Grow as a church family' there is also a short sermon series in September and October. We will be looking at what the Bible has to say about how we need to care for the whole family, young and old, middle aged and even the odd relative! There will also be Home groups to look more closely at what that means for us. If you'd like to join a group please sign the list in church or let me know. It's a great opportunity to have a good discussion and look more closely at what the Bible says about being a family with all its ups and downs.

Look out for other new initiatives with young teenagers starting this September and the service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance on Nov. 1st.

Let's all get involved in that slow but careful process of purposeful growth

Revd. Cathy Helm

**Dates to note in September –
December 2009**

For more information contact: Rev. Cathy Helm 353 0453

Friday 2nd October

Hymns of Praise

With the Neston Ecumenical Singers at St. Michael's Church, Shotwick 7.30pm (Flyer enclosed)
Come and celebrate the installation of our new sound system & purchase of a new set of hymn books

If you would like to request a favourite hymn or song please email or phone Rev. Cathy Helm with up to 3 choices by Sunday 13th Sept. [0151 353 0453]

Sunday 11th October

Harvest Festival 3 pm.

No 11h30 am Service.

The sermon will be delivered by the Rev. Geoffrey Parsons. Afterwards, there will be the **Harvest Supper** at Shotwick Hall Farm. Tickets (£4 children £8 adults) are available from Alison Allen.

alisonallen961@btinternet.com. Please book by October 4th.

Sunday 1st November

Service of Thanksgiving & Remembrance
at 3pm St. Nicholas' Church, Burton

An invitation to come to a special service where all those who have been recently bereaved can come and give thanks for and remember their loved ones.

Sunday 8th November

Remembrance Day. Congregate in Church at **10.50 am** prior to a short ceremony by the Cenotaph. Normal service follows.



Saturday 28th November

10 am – 1 pm

Christmas decoration making in Church – especially for our younger members. Come and learn how to make home-made decorations.



Sunday 20th December

Carol Service 8 pm (mince pies afterwards)

No 11h30 am Service on that day

25th December Christmas Day

11h30 am Communion

(no 8 am Service on Christmas day)

Service Rota

All services start at 11h30 am

First Sunday: All Age Worship
(Followed by coffee)

Second Sunday: Holy Communion
(Common Worship)

Third Sunday: Matins
(1662 Book of Common Prayer)

Fourth Sunday: Holy Communion
(1662 Book of Common Prayer)

Fifth Sunday: Holy Communion
(1662 Book of Common Prayer)

Bell ringing practice every Friday evening: contact Frank Parry on 01244 881731. The bell ringers ring at the Matins Service as well as the All Age Service.



Bell Matters!

A Potted History

Around A.D 600 Pope Sabinianus made bell ringing compulsory when he ordered that tower bells should be rung to indicate the beginning of divine service

Over the centuries men experimented with, and improved on the mixture of metals used and also the shape of bells until in the twelfth or thirteenth century they

arrived at a bell shape and mixture that has not altered greatly to this day.

The next improvement in this country was to mount bells on a half wheel with a rope running down to the ringer. Around the time of Elizabeth 1 it was discovered that by using a full wheel it was much easier to control the bell.

The speed at which a bell was rung could be slowed or speeded up enabling the bells to change places in the ringing sequence .

This development was a purely an English thing and is generally only used in Great Britain and countries where we have had an influence i.e., the old empire and the U.S.A. From about 1630 ringers started constructing sets of changes which they called methods and in 1668.Fabian Stedman, who ringers look on as the father of change ringing published a book on change ringing and we still ring some of those methods to day.

Shotwick has six bells which enables us to ring 720 changes without repeating one ,the calculation is $6 \times 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 = 720$.(Liverpool

cathedral with 12 bells can ring 480 million changes !)

The Shotwick ringers are in the near future installing more sound insulation in the belfry and when this is complete it is proposed to ring the bells as they were intended ,for every church service. If you have any ideas or comments about the bells do not hesitate to contact me on 01244881731. FP

FP.



Fund raising events for 2009.

Stall at Burton Fête **£270**

Garden Party at 'The Remote' **£1900**

Photos of the Garden Party are for sale. Please contact the Church Wardens.

Harvest Supper after the Harvest Festival Service in October when

Photos are courtesy of Cathy Robertson

home produce will once more be on sale

We hope to encourage use of the Church building for exhibitions and concerts, film shows and lectures especially after the sound system and heating are in order. Temporary toilets can be hired until permanent facilities are in place.

Friends of Shotwick.

In October we will be sending the usual letter to all Friends in thanks for their support every year and hoping they will renew their Membership. The support we received is invaluable in our efforts to keep the church viable and therefore open for services and for Outreach, for weddings, baptisms and funerals and of course our many visitors.

If you receive this Newsletter or the October letter and are not already a Friend we do hope you will consider responding and keep a link with your church.

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod

The Synod is exploring the possibility of producing a banner for our Wirral South Deanery which would celebrate the diversity of the churches in the Deanery and also show our unity. We are fortunate to have the help and advice of a skilled textile artist who has experience in this field.

On 12th September there will be a Deanery Pilgrimage visiting six churches on the Wirral and saying one of the ancient Monastic Offices in each church. We will also look around the church and learn of the history of the church and Parish.



Shotwick Fellowship.

A very successful re-union lunch was held at Inglewood Manor Hotel on 10th August. It was attended by 19 former Fellowship members. In addition, we were delighted to welcome the Vicar of Shotwick, the Revd. Cathy Helm. It was a very happy occasion, everyone catching up on news and Inglewood did us proud with a private room and excellent food and service.

We were grateful to Mrs Gerry Challinor and Miss Brenda Lloyd who organised the event.

Gift Aid

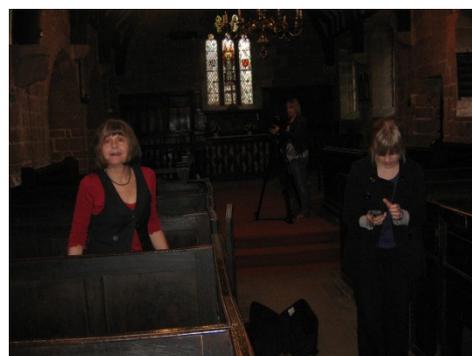
The need to support the Church is as vital as ever as people continue to give generously to the Church. The Church runs a Gift Aid scheme which enables St Michael's to benefit by 28p for every £1 gifted from all eligible donations. To achieve this it is important that all donations – individual and via service giving are placed in an identifiable Gift Aid envelope.

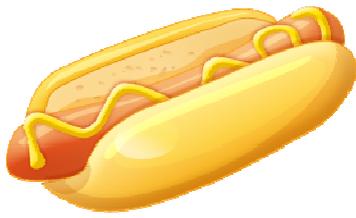
They also need to be accompanied by a signature – a Gift Aid mandate. Forms are available from the Church Wardens.



Other news

In May we were filmed for Welsh TV. Gillian Williams – a local author read from her latest novel 'Blood etc'. Gillian was shortlisted as one of six for a National literature award. On Mon 6th July over 2 days our sound system was installed. The cost was **£3141.36** all raised by fund raising & donations raised this & last year. The system is very unobtrusive, and includes 4 radio and one hand-held microphone. We also have connections to show computer generated material in Church.





Are you 11 – 15 years old?

Come and join us on Sunday evenings

7.00 – 8.30pm @ Burton Vicarage

starting Sunday 13th Sept.

with a Sausage Sizzle & Games night.

For more details contact:

Sue Church 336 2228 or Amanda Ankers 336 3998

Thanks are due

Thank you to all our volunteers for general maintenance, Jane Robbison for opening & closing up, flowers....the list is long

Vicar: The Revd. Cathy Helm, The Vicarage, Burton 0151 353 0453

chelm@shotwick.org.uk

Church Wardens: Mrs Joan Norman jopn5@yahoo.co.uk 0151 336 2954

Jenny Sneddon : jcsned@gmail.com 01244 881493



Photos are courtesy of Cathy Robertson