

# **St Michael's Church Shotwick**

## **January Newsletter 2011**

***Welcoming and active at the heart of the Parish***



**Dates for the year are inside and on the web site  
[www.shotwick.org.uk](http://www.shotwick.org.uk) – investigate the menu buttons**

**How we plan to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
Publication of the King James Bible**



## News from our Vicar

I wonder if 2011 is a year of special anniversaries or celebrations for you? 2011 is a year not just of celebrating Royal weddings, but the King James version of the Bible is 400 years old. When it was published in 1611 it became one of the English language's most pre-eminent books. It's more popularly known as the Authorised Version and many people still have a least one copy somewhere in the home. Some of you may still have the old 'family Bible' with the names and dates of past generations.

This anniversary presents a unique opportunity for the Church to focus its attention on the Word of God and ask the questions....

Is the Bible still relevant today?

What can the Bible say to me in this age of instant communications and advances in science?

Mahatma Ghandi once said

*'You Christians look after a document containing enough dynamite to blow all civilisation to pieces, turn the world upside down and bring peace to a war torn planet. But you treat it as if it is nothing more than a piece of literature.'*

Whether you agree with Ghandi or not it is still the world's bestselling book, outstripping all the Twilight saga and Harry Potter books. And yet recent surveys (taken by the Bible Society and Scripture Union) show that less than 25% of Christians regularly read their Bible. Most Christians indicate that they think it is a good thing to do, but they lack the motivation, know-how and encouragement to make Bible reading a regular habit. When asked about the Bible responses are often along these lines: "I've read bits of the Bible but I don't really know how they all fit together." or "I love the Bible, but I don't get the Old Testament, why's that there?"

The E100 Challenge is something anyone can get involved with. We will be following it in church but it can be done at home, on your own, or why not in a reading group? It's a book produced by Scripture Union that encourages us to read the Bible we already own. It dares us to blow the dust off our Bibles and tackle 100 selected readings that will take us through the narrative of Scripture. It'll give a good overview of the Big Picture of God's story. 50 passages are selected from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament each being able to read in about 10 minutes with a short explanation or helpful guide.

The Bible is a historical record of the most important story of all time: God's interaction with humankind. Although the Bible contains many kinds of writing and introduces us to a wide variety of characters, they all combine to tell one main story, that God created the world, that humans rebelled against God, and that God initiated a plan to save the world - a plan that culminated in Jesus Christ. That's 'the big story' that makes sense of the Bible and all of life.

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Essential 100 is an easy way for us to discover that 'big story' for ourselves.

I have some copies if you're interested which will be in Church over the next few Sundays.

If E100 seems a bit daunting I'd still encourage you this year to make a resolution to blow the dust of the world's best seller and see what amazing things God can do.

My prayer for this year is that we can get excited about God's Word to us and really discover how relevant it is. God does still speak through his Word. King David with all his power and grandeur still recognised where he needed to turn to

*'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path'* Psalm 119 :105

Rev. Cathy Helm

## Community Events

- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January 7h30 pm in Church. Refreshments afterwards £ 5 per ticket. Interactive lecture from Bill Harriman. Expert on militaria (military items) from the Antiques Road-show.
- Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January 8 pm Gladstone Village Hall Burton. £5 per ticket includes glass of wine. Showing of the film Lady Macbeth shot partially in Shotwick and Burton churches. 8h30 – 9h30 pm. Shoreline Film Company Director James Chalmers.
- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March – Mon 18<sup>th</sup> April. **Shotwick Lent meetings** each Monday 8 pm at Alison Allen's 'Westway'. Theme Essential 100 Bible Passages.
- Decoration of Church for Easter Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 10am -12 noon. Bring flowers and implements for arranging them. 2-4 pm Easter Egg Rolling at the Vicarage, Burton.
- Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May. Annual spring clean 10 am onwards. Please bring suitable implements for inside or outside work according to your preference.
- Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June Burton Fete – please donate (especially home produce and plants) and come and support our stall.
- 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> June. Parish Weekend Hinsley Hall Leeds. £10 deposit to John Church Warden, Burton Church.
- Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July. Shotwick BBQ at 1 Hall Lane.
- Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October. Decoration for Harvest Festival. 10 am – 12 noon.

**Further events in the pipeline**, a lecture in Church on citizenship from David Lord Alton.  
**An event to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the King James Bible. In September/October Theatre in the Quarter hope to put on their play 'James' in Church.**

## Church Festivals and special services

- Sunday January 9<sup>th</sup> Plough Sunday. An agricultural service followed by a ploughman's lunch in Church.
- February 6<sup>th</sup> All Age Service 11h30 am. A film and presentation from Derek Adamson of the Gideon Society.
- Glyn Jones (priest in training) will assist at the following services: 30<sup>th</sup> January, 13<sup>th</sup> February, 13<sup>th</sup> March and 27<sup>th</sup> March.
- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March Ash Wednesday Communion St Nicholas Burton 7h30 pm
- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April Good Friday Meditation 4-5 pm
- Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April Easter Day
- Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October Harvest Festival Service 3 pm. Bishop Keith Sinclair will preach. Harvest supper at Shotwick Hall after service . Information on tickets to follow.
- Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November Remembrance Day. Congregate at Church 10h50 am prior to a short ceremony by the war memorial. Normal service follows.
- Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Carol Service 8 pm followed by refreshments of a seasonal nature.  
**No 11h30 service on that day.**
- Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December. Christmas Day. 11h30 am service.

## Church and community meetings

- Parochial Church Council meetings for 2011 (The Vicarage, Burton 8 pm)  
26<sup>th</sup> January  
14<sup>th</sup> March  
7<sup>th</sup> June  
PCC Away Day with Burton PCC Saturday September 10<sup>th</sup> Heswall.  
11<sup>th</sup> October
- Annual Marriage preparation day Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April
- **Service Rota All services start at 11h30 am**
- First Sunday: All Age Worship (Followed by coffee)
- Second Sunday: Holy Communion
- (Alternative Service book)
- 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 Matters 2011

Since I last wrote in the news letter we have suffered the theft of the bell from the tower floor.

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This bell was cast by John Scott in 1664 and was a rare example of a casting by him. The inscription on the bell read GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO 1664, it was the treble (the lightest bell) of the original 3, the other 2 still give sterling service.

I have been surprised by the number of people who have said how shocked and saddened they were at our loss, I have written to Dr David Knight at Church House in London so that the details of the bell and its subsequent loss can be recorded by the C of E bell theft seem to be coming a common occurrence.

On a happier note now that the first phase of the work on the tower has been completed we are able to resume ringing. We managed to ring as a Shotwick band on every Friday evening whilst the work on our tower was going on because of the generosity of Burton church and Hawarden church, we rang at each church on alternate Fridays.

It is a good experience for bell ringers to ring in other towers, its a bit like driving different makes of cars when your not quite certain what to expect and you have to adapt fairly quickly.

All the very best for 2011. FP.

### The Tower Roof Project

Work on the tower roof has been completed apart from some pointing work which has been left until the warmer and drier weather of spring. A team of three craftsmen, overseen by the diocesan architect, have removed all the old lead, built a new timber covering for the roof, rebuilt the gullies and resurfaced the whole tower roof with new lead.



(architect). Also part of the team was Gareth Roberts.

It was interesting to see the team dress the lead using hand tools in the same way as it has been done for hundreds of years. This has helped to preserve the integrity of the building as is fitting for our beautiful Grade 1 listed Church.



supporting the cross beam.

Prior to the work being started, the architect was very concerned about the condition of a major cross beam supporting the roof which had rotted at the ends due to the roof leaking and soaking the wood. When the roof was stripped and access to the beam was possible it was found that it had dropped and was in serious danger of collapse.

The beam has now been supported by stainless steel plates at both ends as can be seen in the photograph. We have been very fortunate to undertake the repair of the roof before catastrophic damage has had a chance to occur by the collapse of this beam. We are very grateful for the generous donations that have so far been made to the tower roof appeal,

but a substantial sum of money is still required to

Almost there! Only some finishing touches are needed.



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meet all the costs. If you are able to help either directly or by helping with our fund raising efforts please contact either of the churchwardens.



#### **Famous misprints:**

**The Wicked Bible** of 1631 reported the seventh commandment as 'thou shalt commit adultery' a mistake that infuriated King Charles. He ordered all the copies to be destroyed and fined all the printers whose hands had touched this edition!

**Camels Bible:** In 1832 an edition of the Bible had Rebecca leaving her tent to meet Isaac with a group of 'camels' instead of 'damsels.'

**Sin on Bible:** The first English language Bible to be printed in Ireland in 1716 encouraged its readers to 'sin on more' rather than 'sin no more'!



ON SALE NOW!

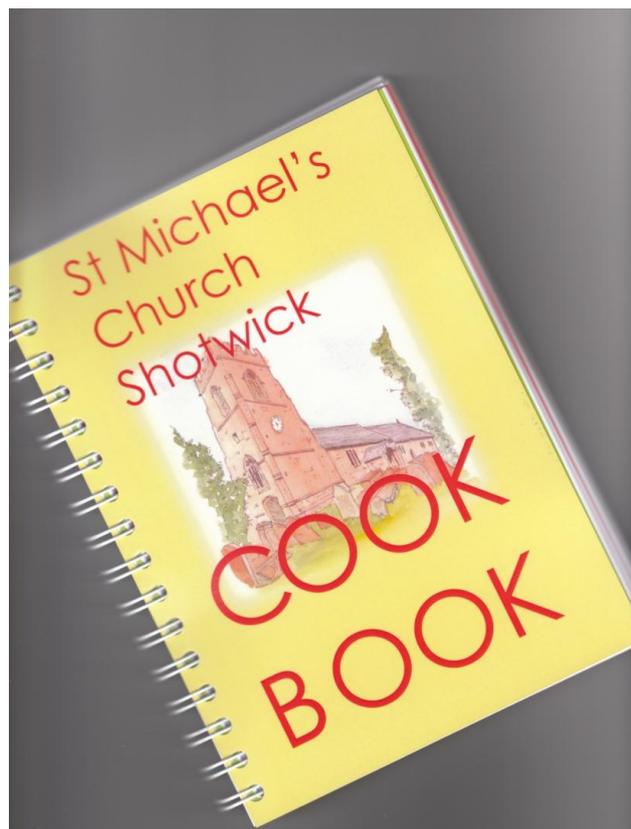
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Available in Church every  
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From John Carsley

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[john.carsley@btinternet.com](mailto:john.carsley@btinternet.com)

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