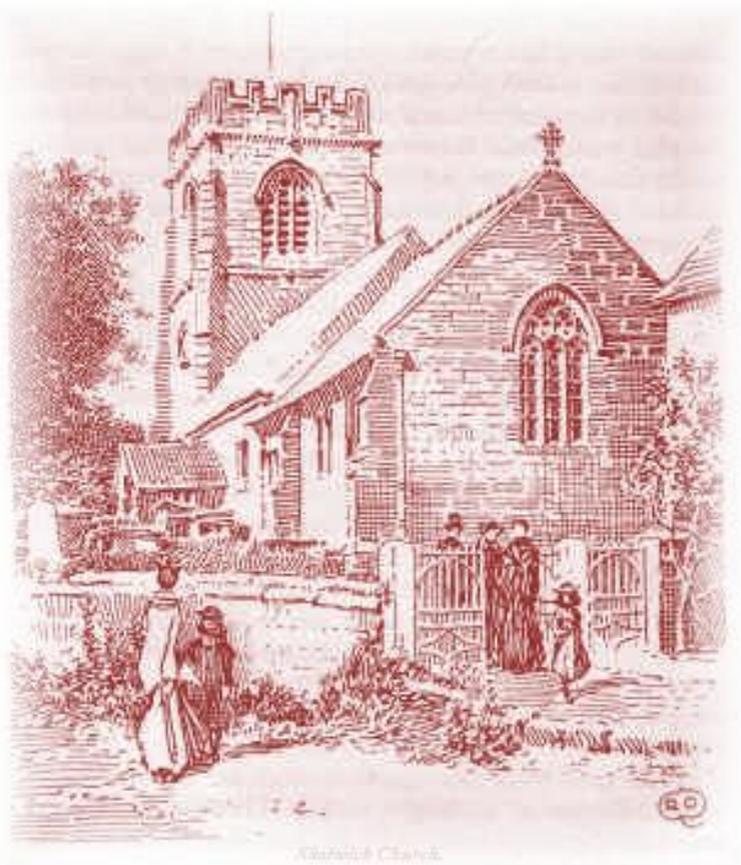


St. Michael's Church Shotwick



Newsletter August 2012

Welcoming and active at the heart of the Parish

Church Officials

Vicar:

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Church Wardens:

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PCC Secretary:

Mrs. Alison Allen
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PCC Treasurer:

Mr. George Makin
0151 336 5126

Bell Tower Captain:

Mr. Frank Parry
01244 881731

Visit our website:-

www.shotwick.org.uk



A Message from Our Vicar

Over the last three years at St Michael's church we have faced considerable challenges with regards to the tower roof and other ongoing repairs which are vital to maintain the good order of such a beautiful building. Thank you for the continuing support that you give to St. Michael's church and for the contributions you make that enable the work of the church to be maintained.



As we approach the end of summer [such as it's been!] and think of autumn, our Harvest festival is a natural time to give thanks to God for his goodness and for the many blessings we have received. As a church we believe it is important to come together to reflect on what God has provided and to consider how we can best use the resources, talents and gifts that we have been given. The use of resources both financial and non-financial is an important challenge for us all. As you probably know everything we do at St. Michael's, our church ministry, the cost of maintaining our church building, the support we provide to church members, visitors and the wider community and all we would hope to do in the future has to be paid from the contributions that we make each week, each month or whenever we are able.

The financial challenges facing the church today are considerable and whilst St. Michael's church operates careful financial stewardship of everything we receive, it is not immune from these pressures. Many people give very generously within this parish and willingly in proportion to their income.

However, we are now facing the need to raise £11,000 to cover the costs of the new heating system in church and the toilet which is now situated in the old boiler house. Both of these are very necessary for all of our church community!

Please read the flier you will receive in the next few weeks and consider prayerfully your response and please also join us for our Harvest service in October.

As a church we would like to grow, to reach more people and to be a blessing to the wider community. With your continuing support and the grace of our faithful God, I'm sure we will succeed.

Yours in Christ

Cathy Helm

MAKE A PROMISE - GRANT A WISH

We are proposing to hold an auction of promises in November as a fund raising event. We need **YOU** to come up with some offers of promises.

Some suggestions:

Cook a meal

A taxi ride to our next event

Gardening Services

Ironing or housework

Car Wash

Dog walking

Weekend break

Make a cake

Pamper vouchers

Hobby lesson

There will be forms in the Church, or you can ring Joan Norman on 0151 336 2954 (email jopn5@yahoo.co.uk) to offer your promise.

Church Services

All at 11.30am

1st Sunday (in the month)	All age Worship (Family Service)
2nd Sunday	Holy Communion (Book of Common Worship)
3rd Sunday	Morning Prayer (1662 Prayer Book)
4th Sunday	Holy Communion (1662 Prayer Book)
5th Sunday	Holy Communion (1662 Prayer Book)

Matins Services:

In the light of last year's celebrations of the 400th Anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible we will be using this version for 6 months at Matins services after which the PCC will review its use.

Bell ringing practice takes place every Friday evening. Contact Frank Parry for more details.

Church Festivals And Special Services

Sunday 14 th October	Harvest Festival 3 pm. No 1130 am service. Service will be followed by Harvest Supper at Shotwick Hall. £8.00 adults £4.00 Children, under 4's free.
Sunday 11 th November	Remembrance Sunday. Gather in Church at 10:50am to prepare for short ceremony by Memorial.
Sunday 2 nd December	Thanksgiving Sunday
Sunday 23 rd December.	Carol Service at 4 pm. No 11.30 am service on that day. Please note the earlier time this year
Tuesday 25th December.	Christmas Day. 11.30 am service.
Early January 2013.	Plough Sunday. Celebrate the beginning of the agricultural year with prayers for the blessing of the land, followed by a ploughman's lunch in Church

Community & Social Events

Thursday 27 th September	Talk by Sir Malcolm Thornton 7.30 pm See details later in the newsletter
Saturday 13 th October	Harvest Festival Decorating. 10-12 noon
Saturday 17 th November	Christmas craft making in Church. 2-4 pm Refreshments provided.

Toilet Facilities!

As you will have read in Cathy's message, we now have toilet facilities which will be open for church services and events.

Oriel Singers

On Saturday June 30th, over 40 people enjoyed an evening of choral music beautifully sung by 25 members of the Oriel Singers from Liverpool.

Founded in 1977, this mixed voice choir has a well respected reputation for its musicianship and has performed at a variety of venues throughout the North West including several of the Cathedrals in the area. Equally at home performing secular music the choir often sing at weddings and other functions.

For their concert at St. Michael's there was, not surprisingly, an emphasis on church music with, amongst others, pieces by Byrd, Bruckner and Rachmaninov. However the programme also included the choir's own version of Somewhere Over the Rainbow and Beside the Seaside, the latter requiring some audience participation! The music was interspersed with poetry and readings and overseeing the proceedings was the choir's inspirational musical director Liam Owens who also entertained us with some amusing anecdotes.

At the end of the concert Cathy auctioned an impressive watercolour painting of Shotwick Church and the evening was rounded off with refreshments to the usual high standard.

It was a most successful event for all concerned. The choir obviously enjoyed their visit to the church as they have offered to come and perform for us again.

VS

Jenny and Joan recently visited our old friend Will Tickle in the Isle of Man, where they attended a service at the parish church of St. John's. This article from their magazine reminds us that editors need to be careful!

The sermon this morning: *Jesus Walks on Water*

The sermon tonight: *Searching for Jesus*

Ladies don't forget the Jumble Sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help

For those of you who have children and don't know, we have a nursery downstairs

John Parks and Jessie Osborne were married on October 24th in the Parish Church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days

The Church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothes of every kind. They may be seen in the Church Hall on Friday afternoon

This evening at 7pm there will be hymn singing on the Green across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin

Low self Esteem Support Group will meet on Thursday at 8 pm. Please use the back door

The High School will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church Hall on Friday at 7.30pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy

Weight Watchers will meet at 8 pm at the First Methodist Hall. Please use large double doors at the side entrance

The Assistant Curate unveiled the Church's new campaign slogan last Sunday. 'I upped my pledge - up yours'

Bell Matters



A few Sundays ago in June at Shotwick we rang a Quarter Peal in celebration of the Queen's Jubilee. The band was all Shotwick ringers (no imports!) - namely; Robert Peers, Susan Costello, Edwina Zacharias, Cathy Robertson, Frank Parry and David Lewis.

We also rang for the joint Burton/Shotwick Jubilee service held at St Michael's. We rang people out of Shotwick after the service, and Burton ringers rang them into Burton, where we had a very successful picnic, thankfully undercover! Burton ringers took the opportunity to ring their Jubilee Quarter Peal at this time.

I hope the following poem about bells gives you the same pleasure it gave me when I read it. FP

The sacred bells of England
How graciously they ring;
From ancient tower and steeple
For cottager, for King

Church bells of Christian England
Ring out your message wide
Whene'er Our Lord is blessing
The bridegroom and bride

We love to hear their voices
While o'er the fields we roam,
And answering we enter
Our Father's earthly home.

When solemn knell is sounding
With measured beat and toll,
Uplift this prayer to heaven
"God speed the passing soul"

Church bells of happy England
Your songs of olden time
Are chanted down the ages
For Vespers and for Prime;

Ringers of happy England
Who peal in earthly fanes
For Christ our Lord and Master
(He all your homage claims)

On merry Christmas morning,
On holy Easter Day'
Fulfil your festal calling;
Bid church folk;
"Up and pray"

Complete your sacred office
While pilgrims on this strand.
That ye may swell the praises
In that Eternal Land

Wirral's Historic Dee Coastline

On 24th May Gavin Hunter came to give a very well supported talk on Wirral's historic Dee coastline. Gavin is the co-author of local history books and a landscape historian who regularly speaks and lectures on the history of the Wirral peninsula.

Gavin began his talk by explaining that the River Mersey originally flowed into the sea through the Dee estuary and that at that time there was enough water to prevent the Dee from silting up. When the course of the Mersey changed so that it flowed into the sea at Liverpool the Dee was doomed.

The original course of the Dee followed what is still the boundary between England and Wales, but the course of the river was changed to try to keep Chester navigable as a port and by 1916 eighteen square miles of land had been reclaimed.

The journey along the coastline started at Blacon Point and ended at West Kirby, covering the villages and other places of interest along the way. Gavin presented an excellent selection of slides to illustrate his talk, some of historical views of the area, some of old maps and some of modern maps with an overlay to show the extent originally covered by water before the course of the river was changed.

In particular, some of the slides showed Shotwick as a village on the coast with a tidal inlet and Shotwick castle nearby.

At the end of Gavin's talk a vote of thanks was proposed by Steve Fletcher. Gavin gave us the opportunity to ask questions and the evening finished with refreshments kindly provided by the catering committee.

Airmen at Shotwick



Avro 504

You may have driven past RAF Sealand many times, but did you know that until 1924 it was actually called RAF Shotwick?

It was established as a Royal Flying Corps airfield in 1916 until its closure in 2006, and originally was two airfields (Shotwick North and Shotwick South) separated by the railway line. During its early years RAF Shotwick was used for flying training and many pilots were killed in accidents. In one 6 month period there were at least 17 accidents with 8 pilots losing their lives.

In the Churchyard there are 9 gravestones of airmen covering the period from 25th April to the 9th November 1918. They are all from the Dominions or the USA.

Name	Age	Nationality	Date of Death	Aircraft	Cause of Accident
John Jewett Miler	25	American	25 Apr 1918	Avro 504	Stalled engine and spun into the ground
Henry N. Hastie	24	Canadian	12 Jun 1918	Sopwith Camel	Misjudged height and flew into ground
Hugh Robert Fuhr	19	South African	16 Jun 1918	Avro 504	Stalled while turning and nose dived to ground
Horace E.K. Bray	22	Canadian	9 Jul 1918	Sopwith Scout	Mid-air collision
Leonard S Morange	22	American	11 Aug 1918	Avro 504	Mid-air collision with Flight Cadet Outer-bridge
Herbert W Soulby	22	Canadian	19 Oct 1918	Avro 504	Misjudged turn near the ground
Frank A Samuelson	22	American	20 Oct 1918	Sopwith Camel	Error of judgement
Francis A Hinton	29	New Zealander	9 Nov 1918	Avro 504	Stalled engine during forced landing
Vernon F Gibson	20	South African	9 Nov 1918	Sopwith Camel	Probably fainted. Dived into ground at 40 ^o

The body of another American, Frank J Williams, who was killed in September 1918, was disinterred and repatriated in September 1920.

The gravestones of the RAF pilots buried in St. Michael's churchyard.



LIEUT. L. S. MORANGE KILLED

Bronxville Man Was Member of the British Flying Corps.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Morange of Bronxville received a cablegram Monday night from the Secretary of the British Air Ministry stating that their son, Lieutenant Leonard S. Morange, was killed on Aug. 11. No details were given. Lieutenant Morange was 22 years old, and was a senior at Yale when he attempted to enlist in the American Aviation Corps, but was rejected. He then was accepted by the Canadian Flying Corps, and was appointed as an instructor in the British Flying Corps.

The New York Times

Published: August 14, 1918
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the Bronxville branches of the American Legion and Boy Scouts. He was the first resident of Bronxville to be killed in WW1 and now has a square in the village named after him. Mr J. Pritchard and family from Chester maintain the grave.

Nine days before his death, he wrote some words for a newsletter...

"I was flying a Sopwith Scout, waiting for the morning mists to clear off the estuary before taking off from Shotwick. The dart across the green flying field with the cold wind whistling through the struts, then climbing through the

During the 1929 Scout Jamboree at Birkenhead, scouts from the home town of Lieutenant Morange, Bronxville, New York, placed 2 commemorative plaques at the Graveside. In 1957 these were respectively replaced and refurbished by American Servicemen stationed at Burtonwood.

Ever since 1929, on the anniversary of his death, the grave has had flowers placed on it courtesy of



Lt. Leonard Morange

mist and low cloud to burst into the bright sunshine, practising loops and climbs. Then after a while drifting down the River Dee at altitude to Chester before diving over the Dee meadows towards Wrexham, climbing again to avoid dark rain clouds on approaching the hills west of Wrexham

I picked up the Dee again and followed it back to base, stepping out of the plane frozen stiff and on to the Mess for an English breakfast!"

Extracts from "Wings Across the Border by Derrick Pratt & Mike Grant and "The landscape, heritage and society of St Michael's churchyard, Shotwick" by Greatorex Roskilly and Vanessa June .

Prayer Book Society Annual Conference

Friday 14th September – Sunday 16th September

‘350 years of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer’

At Bishop Grosseteste University College, Lincoln

Speakers include Revd Donald Allister formerly our Archdeacon

and now Bishop of Peterborough

For more details see Jenny or Joan



Sir Malcolm Thornton

On Thursday 27th September at 7.30pm, Sir Malcolm will be speaking in church on "**Reflections on my life in Politics and Education**"

Sir Malcolm started his career as a River Mersey Pilot, combining this with a 14 year period in local government, before entering Parliament

continued.....

in 1979 where he served for 18 years. He was Chairman of the House of Commons Select Committee for Education from 1988-97. He was made an Honorary Doctor of Education at De Montfort University in October 1994.

Since leaving Parliament, he has pursued a business career and holds a number of non-executive directorships, two of which are as Chairman.

In a voluntary capacity, Sir Malcolm was Chairman of Wednesbury Education Action Zone (1999-2004), Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Mersey Mission to Seafarers (2003-2010) and Chairman of Governors of a very large primary school from 1974-2011). He is a former Honorary Colonel of 156(NW) Transport Regiment RLC(V).

He is Pro Chancellor and Chairman of the Board of Liverpool John Moores University. Sir Malcolm was knighted in HM. The Queen's Birthday Honours List in 1992.

**Make a date in your diary for the
27th September – tickets available
soon!**

Do you get your newsletter in the post? Do you know that if you get it delivered by email you get it earlier and in colour?

If you want to subscribe to the newsletter delivery and event reminder service just send an email to newsletters@shotwick.org.uk with the subject line of "Subscribe", or visit our website and click on the link there.

Visit to the Isle of Man in early July Jenny and Joan

We were 4-day guests of a Friend of Shotwick, and a long term resident of the Isle of Man, Mr William Tickle. Here we are at the lighthouse at the Point of Ayr.



Will was very generous with his time in accommodating us and showing us round. The Isle of Man is a place that impresses by varied scenery and careful planning laws – no wonder the Government is pressing these advantages by investing in a £43 million film studio.

Tynwald Day on 5th July was an unique experience in that the ceremony has been going in something like its current form. It is thought to be one of the oldest Parliaments in the world having records back to 1417. We had an excellent commentary on the day from Ian Cameron of Radio Manx.



The ceremony is traditionally held on the day of St John the Baptist. The horse drawn tram along the Promenade in

Douglas was a unique experience. We were given the opportunity to see different aspects of the Island, and we made our own way to the Manx Museum at Peel. Odin's Raven was a replica of a Viking Ship that sailed from Norway to the Isle of Mann in 1979 on the 1000 year anniversary of the arrival of the Vikings





The island is like a miniature Australia with all the towns round the edge and or the most part, extensive upland agriculture in the middle. Ramsey has a charming museum in the form of The Grove museum – a Victorian house belonging formerly to the Gibbs family and now perfectly preserved.

We spent Sunday morning at a Methodist Service as the C of E and Methodists combine forces twice a month. This service was a celebration of the Sunday School with participation in the story of Daniel by all ages.



We paid a final visit to the Fairy Bridge so here is the evidence!

JS

Jubilee BBQ

Cancer Research has been the recipient of a cheque for **£2,850** as an outcome of the Jubilee Barbeque at Shotwick Hall Farm in early June. Very many thanks to all who attended and helped to raise this fantastic sum of money! Special thanks must go to Dorothy and family for their efforts in organising this event.