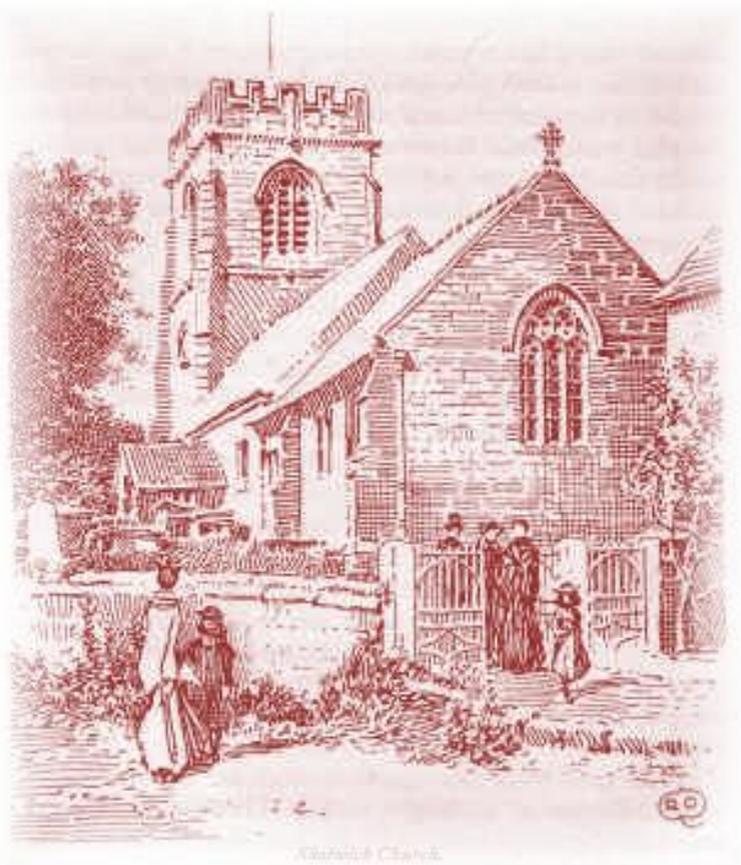


St. Michael's Church Shotwick



Newsletter November 2012

Welcoming and active at the heart of the Parish

Church Officials

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Visit our website:-

www.shotwick.org.uk



A Message from Our Vicar

My Dad always used to say that he had a very good 'forgetary'. and he was right. He always struggled to remember names in particular, including that of his third child. I often was called by the names of my older sister and brother but I was forever thankful that he never called me by the dog's name!



It's like the story of the conductor Sir Thomas Beecham who was attending a prestigious reception and was in conversation with someone he recognised but whose name he could not recall. He began the conversation desperate to find a clue to the person's identity

'So are you well?'

'And the family?'

'And your husband, is he well?'

'And is he in the same line of business?'

'Yes, thank you.'

'Yes, they are fine.'

'Yes, very well, thank you.'

'Yes, he's still King!'

As we move swiftly towards the end of the year, we come to a season for remembering. Remembering and giving thanks for the lives of those whom we've loved and are no longer with us. Remembering those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice and given their lives in the line of duty serving their country. Having been to the National Arboretum and Garden of Remembrance earlier this year will ensure for me this year's Remembrance Day will take on a new poignancy, having seen the walls covered with thousands of names of the fallen. Remembering the arrival of God's own Son, something at times it can be hard to remember amongst all the gloss and sparkle that comes with Christmas that as the saying goes 'Jesus is the reason for the season!'

Why is remembering so important apart from saving embarrassment when you really can't remember someone's name again. The retelling the stories and events of our lives help us to remember what is really important, it helps us to appreciate the present and hopefully inform future decisions. It keeps significant events and people firmly placed in our lives. Different people will have differing perspectives in remembering even the same event, we can all listen and hear something different, so retelling the story together helps to fill in all the details and brings an event back to life again.

As we enter again this season of remembering and retell those familiar stories, let's enjoy the retelling and aim to recapture the significance of past relationships and events in history but use the remembering to enrich our lives now.

Psalm 77 says 'I will remember the deeds of the Lord, yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago, I will meditate on your works and consider all your mighty deeds.'

And what's even more amazing in Psalm 136 we're reminded 'that God who remembers us.'

It's because God has remembered his love for us that he sent Jesus to live amongst us.....that's a story worth retelling.

Rather than the 12 days of Christmas here are 12 things to remember:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. The value of time | 7 The influence of example |
| 2. The success of perseverance | 8 The obligation of duty |
| 3. The pleasure of working | 9 The wisdom of economy |
| 4. The dignity of simplicity | 10 The virtue of patience |
| 5. The worth of character | 11 The improvement of talent |
| 6. The power of kindness | 12 The joy of originating |

And of course.....the love of a Saviour.

Yours in Christ

Cathy

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)

Sunday 23rd December



Please note that the Service of Carols and Lessons will this year start at the earlier time of 4pm.

There will be no 11:30 service this day

Church Festivals And Special Services

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.
Sunday 13 th 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

Saturday 17 th November	Christmas craft making in Church. 2-4 pm Refreshments provided.
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Report for Archery Practice!

In 1252 the 'Assize of Arms' ensured that all Englishmen between the ages of 15 to 60 years old were ordered that they should equip themselves with a bow and arrows. King Edward III took this further and decreed the Archery Law in 1363 which commanded the obligatory practice of archery on Sundays and holidays.

Some subsequent laws on the same subject have been repealed but as far as we can tell, these early laws are still in existence. See you Sunday – remember your bow!

Sir Malcolm Thornton



On 27th September Sir Malcolm Thornton came to Shotwick to talk about his life in politics and education.

Sir Malcolm was born in Wallasey and grew up there. When he left school he joined the Liverpool Pilot Service and in 1965 he was also elected as a member of Wallasey council. He represented the County Borough of Wallasey until 1974, then became the first leader of the council

for the new Metropolitan Borough of Wirral.

Sir Malcolm stood down from the council when he was elected as a member of parliament for Garston. He recalled his first impressions of the Palace of Westminster, which he found awe-inspiring and which reminded him of the generations of people who had been there and passed the torch on. He also described his maiden speech in the House of Commons, when in accordance with tradition he talked about his constituency and said nice things about the candidate he had just defeated in the election. Some of Sir Malcolm's time in Parliament was when Margaret Thatcher was Prime Minister and he told us how he found her to be strong-willed with very strongly held views.

Sir Malcolm later lost his seat in Garston in an election but went on to win the seat in Crosby. In 1985 he became a member of the education select committee and three years later he became its chairman. In this role he felt for the first time in his life that he was doing something where he could make a difference

Sir Malcolm eventually lost his seat in Crosby and decided at that point that he had spent enough time in politics. In 2001 he met the vice chancellor of Liverpool John Moores University and this led to him joining the board of the university. He became chairman of the board in 2007 and still holds that post today.

Sir Malcolm considers himself to be a very lucky man and emphasized that he has achieved everything he has done with the support of his family and friends to whom he owes so much.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Cathy and the evening finished with refreshments kindly provided by the members of the catering committee.

SEC

Saturday 17th November

Christmas craft session in Church 2pm – 4pm



Card Making

Flower Arranging

Felt Making

Try Handbell Ringing!



Costume Jewellery on Sale



Suitable for children and adults.

Please bring your own scissors.

Refreshments will be provided.



Emergency Food for people in crisis

The Trussell Trust's UK foodbank network works in partnership with local churches and communities to open foodbanks in local communities. We have registered with our local Chester and Ellesmere Port foodbank and are collecting gifts of non perishable, in date foodstuffs to donate to those less fortunate. These gifts are sent to a local warehouse where they are sorted and boxed ready for distribution.

Care professionals such as doctors, health visitors, social workers, CAB and police identify people in crisis and issue them with a foodbank voucher which is then brought to the foodbank centre where it can be redeemed for three days emergency food.

Volunteers meet clients over a cup of tea or free hot meal and are able to signpost people to agencies able to solve the longer-term problem.

If you would like to help, please bring your gifts of suitable produce to the Church where they can be forwarded to our local foodbank.

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

Bell Matters



What a beautiful old church St. Michael's is and how fortunate we are that we feel safe (well 99 % of the time) to leave it open for people to appreciate its peace and beauty .

We as bell ringers have, I think, one of the best views of the church interior looking down its full length to the altar, and that brings me to one of my favourite themes. The base of our tower is open to the body of the church and the bell ringers can be seen by the congregation. We are not hidden away behind a screen or in a room half way up the tower as is the case in the vast majority of churches. We are there and feel connected with the church and people.

I smile to myself when I think of the number of people who have come out for a drive on a Friday evening and have wandered into St. Michael's as we are ringing; I can assure you not many wander out again before they have rung a church bell. Cameras are produced and pictures taken and they leave with a smile on their faces. In fact one of the stalwart members of our band was recruited in just this way. Cathy Robertson. She came into the church with a camera club taking photographs and after a while stood watching us ringing, I approached her and said "I think you would like to have a go at this wouldn't you"? The rest is history. She now supplies photos for St Michael's web site and is also secretary of the Wirral Branch of the Guild of Church Bellringers.

We rang a quarter peal for the Harvest Festival service, the band was Ann Parsons 1 Edwina Zacharias 2 Susan Costello 3 David Russell 4 Robert Peers 5 David Lewis 6. Robert conducted the peal. What a nice service it was with the Church full, and then up to Shotwick Hall for Harvest supper. Thank you Martin and Dorothy for letting us use your beautiful home.

F.P.

Deanery Banner

The almost completed Deanery Banner was on display at the last Synod meeting held on the 11th October 2012.

Dr. Ellie McBeath from All Saints' Church, Thornton Hough told how in 2009, Revd. Gordon Welch (who was Rural Dean at the time) had asked for suggestions for a project which would bring the Deanery together and the idea of the Banner was the result.



Norma Heron, who is a skilled textile artist, together with Ellie who provided the venue of her home for the meetings, resulted in all 13 churches of the Wirral South Deanery producing a 9" square tapestry depicting their Church.

The Banner is 7' x 5' and at the meeting the names of all 13 churches were put in a 'hat' to decide the first to have the banner on display in their Church.

The Rural Dean drew out the first name, which was St.Oswald's, Backford, Mollington and they will also host the Dedication Service which is planned to be some time in the New Year

The name of each church was then drawn out in turn and each will

have the banner for 3 months.

The order was Backford, Thornton Hough, Ellesmere Port, Bromborough, Great Saughall, Burton, Hooton, Shotwick (which means we should have it at the end of 2014!), Neston, Eastham, Willaston, Capenhurst and finally Great Sutton.

The Shotwick square depicts the river Dee, Wales, the old Celtic cross, farming and our links with medieval archery.



Appreciation was shown to Ellie and Norma for their inspiration which had brought success and had achieved Revd. Welch's original idea of bringing us all together.

JN

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.

Harvest Gifts



On Sunday the 14th October, we held a very successful service to celebrate God's gift of the harvest. Some 90 people were present in Church and many enjoyed the ploughman's supper at Shotwick Hall after the service. The Church looked



a picture decorated with flowers and produce and many thanks are owed to all those who contributed and gave their help.

If you visited Church later in the week you may have wondered where all the produce had disappeared to!

This year it was donated to the local charity, Charles Thompson's Mission. Many of you will be unaware of this organisation, but it was started by grocer Charles Thompson who opened the mission, in Hemingford Street, Birkenhead in 1890.



Charles Thompson's aim in opening the mission was to ease the suffering of children in poverty and donations in that day came from local shops, businesses and individuals.

He died in 1903 aged 61, but his mission survived through his daughter, Annie, who was eventually awarded the MBE in 1953 for her services to the people of Birkenhead.

The Charity exists to present the Christian message of the gospel of Jesus Christ to men, women and children with particular emphasis on those in need. It provides food, clothing, bedding, furniture and toys to anyone who needs it.

Each year the team serve 25,000 meals a year to the homeless, children, elderly and the lonely - anyone less fortunate.

Prayer Book Society Annual Conference **Friday 14th – Sunday 16th September**

The Church Wardens attended the Annual Prayer Book Society Conference in Lincoln Sept 12-14th. Detailed notes taken by the Wardens at the conference and notes obtained by Steve Fletcher on the presentation on the Book of Common Prayer given at Deanery Synod by John Scrivener (Editor Prayer Book Journal) can be found from a link on the home page on the St Michael's web site (www.shotwick.org.uk)

We were very heartened by the calibre of the presentations at the Conference. The morning and evening services delivered each day were beautifully read and delivered by ministers with a life long interest in the Book of Common Prayer. The history of the development on the Book of Common Prayer and its relationship to English politics and history gives it equal importance with Shakespeare in terms of its contribution to English culture. A laminated folder covering this topic will soon be on display in Church,

The Cramner Awards take place on a national level every year whereby primary and secondary school children take place in a competition where they recite passages from the Book of Common Prayer. Perhaps this will assist to further to foster reading from the Prayer Book at School Assemblies. The Wardens have suggested and Revd Cathy Helm has agreed to offer St Michael's as a venue for training Ordinands in the reading of the Prayer Book Service. Anyone interested in joining the Prayer Book Society should visit the Prayer Book Society website from the "Links" page of the web site or speak to one of the Church Wardens.

JS/JN

Remembering?

In an ancient monastery in a far away place, a new monk arrived to help his brothers in copying books and scrolls in the monastery's scriptorium. His job was to copy the copies.

One day he asked Father Florian [the rather ancient head of the Scriptorium], 'does not the copying by hand of other copies allow for some error? How do we know we're not copying the mistakes of someone else? Are they ever checked against the original?'

Father Florian was taken aback by the observation of this youthful monk. 'A very good point my son. I will take one of the latest books down to the vault and compare it against the original.'

Father Florian went down to the vault and began his verification. After a day had passed, the monks began to worry and went to look for the old priest. They were sure something must have happened. As they approached the vault, they heard crying. When they opened the door they found Father Florian sobbing over a new copy and the original ancient book, both of which were opened before him on the table. It was obvious the poor man had been crying his heart out for some time.

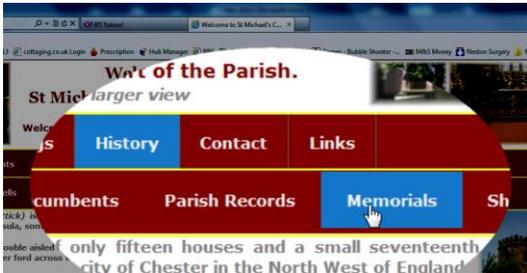
What is the problem Reverend Father?' asked one of the monks. 'Oh, dear, oh, dear,' sobbed the priest. 'In the ancient book of the sacred rites of priesthood. the word is

"CELEBRATE"

Memorial Transcriptions

Did you know that the memorials in the Churchyard have been digitised and made available on our website? The project is ongoing, but there are details of over 800 persons buried in the graveyard, with photographs and locations of the memorials currently being added.

An index page will take you to a detail page for each memorial, where a picture (which can be zoomed for a larger image) and details of each memorial can be found. A map of the churchyard shows the approximate location of the memorial.



Click on Memorials from the menu bar to browse the transcription database.

Memorial Details
St Michael's Church, Shotwick
Welcoming and active at the heart of the Parish.
Click on any image for a larger view

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

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ID	Surname	Forename
179.1	Taylor	Jane
179.2	Taylor	Thomas
179.3	Taylor	Ann

179.2 Thomas Taylor

Memorial Type See 179.1
Features See 179.1
Date of Burial 18 May 1867
Age 73
Abode Great Saughall
Relationship Father of above JT

Click for a bigger image
Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord.
Rev XIV. 13.

Return to Index
Printer Friendly Version

Area Location is J3