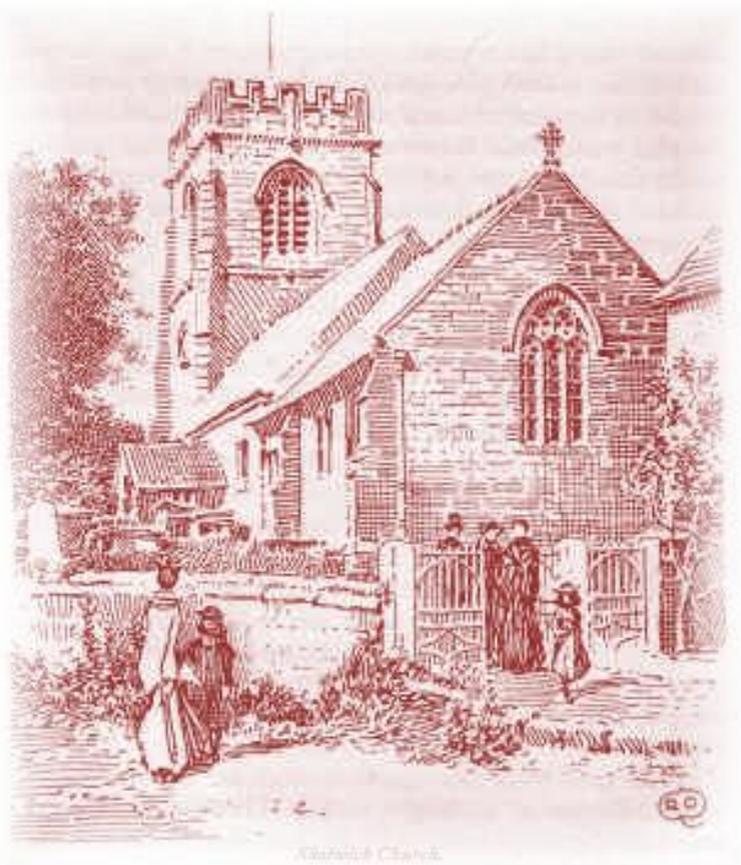


# St. Michael's Church Shotwick



Newsletter February 2013

*Welcoming and active at the heart of the Parish*

# Church Officials

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Visit our website:-

[www.shotwick.org.uk](http://www.shotwick.org.uk)



# A Message from Our Vicar

One of the reasons so many of us love Shotwick church is the beautiful rural surroundings and idyllic countryside. Even Fred the weatherman loved it when he came. However beautiful the surroundings are though we all know that there are many challenges facing those who live and especially for those who work in rural areas.



From the beginnings of the Christian church, the church has been a central part of rural life being the place to come to celebrate a good harvest or to pray for blessing on the fields to be ploughed or before the seed is sown. Plough Sunday, Rogation, Lammas and Harvest, all being focal points for the church to be there to support and pray for those who work the land.

At our last PCC away day we recognised that we needed as a church to be more proactive in the way we seek to 'be there for' and to support our local farmers and those whose livelihoods are dependent upon the land around us, but also to be able to celebrate with them when things have been good too.

Harvest has been the churches main celebration since Revd. Robert Hawker from Morwenstow in Cornwall in 1843 began the traditional church harvest festival but more recently at St. Michael's we have reinstated the Plough Sunday celebration the time when we gather to pray for God's blessing for the year ahead. Traditionally the farmers had a rest from Christmas until after Plough Sunday!

*Cont.....*

It is a celebration to remember the hard work involved in tilling the soil and preparation for the seed to be sown and also the winter labour of feeding the cattle. The tools of human labour, the plough became the symbol of this celebration and the Christian virtues of faith and fortitude are highlighted. The ploughman's lunch we enjoyed in church after the service was well attended. Thank you to everyone who joined us and for those who prepared a wonderful meal.

We are also re-instating Rogation Sunday which is technically the fifth Sunday after Easter. However, as we can only get the Cheshire rural Chaplain Revd. Keith Ineson for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, we're celebrating a week early on 28<sup>th</sup> April! Rogation takes place in springtime when there is the renewing of the earth and God's blessing is sought for the growing crops in the fields and gardens and on the young animals in the surrounding land. Our service on that Sunday will be one of celebration for the renewal of life and for God's blessing on the land and animals. We will again have a shared meal after the service in church, so please do join us if you can.

We are aware this is a small way in which we can seek as a church community to pray for God's blessing upon those who live and work around us.

A reworking of Ecclesiastes 3 reads:

*There is a time for working and a time for resting, a time for ploughing and a time for sowing, a time for spraying and a time for harvesting, a time for lambing and a time for market, a time for the byre and a time for the field, a time for family and a time for God.  
Indeed, all times are His.*

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)

## **What's Happening in 2013?** **Church Festivals And Special Services**

Saturday 23rd February 7pm	Talk by The Venerable Ray Pentland, Chaplain to the RAF
Sunday 24th February	Ray Pentland will preach at 11:30 Service
Thursday 28th March	Maundy Thursday. Passover meal at Glad- stone Village Hall
Friday 29th March	Good Friday Service at 16:00

Saturday 30th March	Decorating of Church for Easter 10:00-12:00
Sunday 31st March	Easter Day. Receiving of Water Aid jars
Tuesday 16th April	Annual Church Meeting 7:30pm
Sunday 28th April	Rogation Sunday. Rev. Keith Ineson, Rural Chaplain, will preach.  Service followed by Soup and Pudding Lunch!
Saturday 8th June	Shotwick bell ringers host a Bell Striking Competition
Sunday 29th September	Harvest Festival 3 pm. No 11:30 am service.  Service will be followed by Harvest Supper at Shotwick Hall.
Sunday 10th November	Remembrance Sunday. Gather in Church at 10:50 to prepare for short ceremony by Memorial.
Sunday 1st December	Thanksgiving Sunday
Sunday 22nd December	Service of nine Lessons and Carols at 4 pm. No 11.30 am service on that day.
Tuesday 25th December	Christmas Day. 11.30 am service.
Sunday 5th January 2014	Today is 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

## What's Happening in 2013? Community & Social Events

Saturday 23rd February  
7pm

Talk by The Venerable Ray Pentland,  
Chaplain to the RAF

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 7pm

William and Gail Fulton talk about their  
work with the Mango Tree charity

Bank Holiday Weekend  
end of May

Art Weekend

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June

Burton Fete

### Fancy That!

In 1960, gravediggers found Roman Coins while digging in the Churchyard. The find was reported to the authorities, but their whereabouts are now unknown.

Salt was produced in Roman times from the deposits in Cheshire and it is believed that it was carried to Wales through Shotwick.

# A Service At Ploughing Time As Well As At Harvest.....

**Plough Sunday** is a traditional English celebration of the beginning of the agricultural year that has seen some revival over recent years.

Plough Sunday celebrations usually involve bringing a ploughshare into a church with prayers for the blessing of the land. It is traditionally held on the Sunday after Epiphany, the Sunday between 7 January and 13 January. Accord-



ingly, work in the fields did not begin until the day after Plough Sunday:

Plough Sunday is seen as a way of generally celebrating farming and the work of farmers. Historically, villagers would walk through their village collecting alms, before gathering at the church for the Blessing of the Plough.

On 13<sup>th</sup> January we had 28 Parishioners to a Plough Sunday Service. Several local farmers attended representing the local farms, and the Shotwick Hall Farm 140 HP tractor was cleaned in preparation for a blessing.

*Cont.....*



Our recently installed central heating system was put to good use during and after the service, when a ploughman's lunch was served in the Church. Many thanks to all those who arranged this.

This year, we will be continuing to celebrate our links with the agricultural community by celebrating Rogation Sunday on the 28<sup>th</sup> April when the Priest for Rural Matters in Cheshire and Chester Revd Keith Ineson will preach the sermon.

## The Mango Tree Charity



For a number of years the Mango Tree has been one of our nominated charities. It works in Africa to help and support orphan and vulnerable children with the aim of making them self reliant adults.

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm we welcome William and Gail Fulton to talk about their work with the charity. Make a note in your diary now for what will be a stimulating and interesting talk.





*Emergency Food for people in crisis*

We recently arranged a collection of foodstuff for the Trussell Trust's UK foodbank network, which works in partnership with local churches and communities to run foodbanks in local communities. This was very successful and we are very grateful to everyone that generously contributed,

The PCC have agreed that every first Sunday of each month (the All Age Service) we would ask people to bring gifts of non perishable, in date foodstuffs to donate to those less fortunate. These gifts are sent to our local Chester and Ellesmere Port foodbank where they are sorted and boxed ready for distribution.

## **Remember:-**

Buy an extra item when you do your grocery shopping and bring it as a gift on the first Sunday of each Month.



Cans, Bottles, Jars - anything in date and non perishable.



## Bell Matters



We have had a lot of "special" services since I last wrote for the News Letter.

Sunday 11th November was Remembrance Service when we ring the bells half muffled in respect for all those who lost thier lives fighting for our country. After that, time seems to fly by and we are into Christmas with the Church looking lovely. It is a busy time for bell ringers as we are called on to help out at other Churches, but of course we love it, carol services are very special I think and ringing for Christmas Day has a magical feel to it.

Ringng for the carol service was even more special this year because we rang a quarter peal to celebrate the 50th year in the ministry of the Reverend Geoffrey Parsons, and to make it even more special his wife Anne was one the ringers.

After Christmas we have Plough Sunday which is an important event in a country Church like St Michaels. We have to finish ringing a bit earlier on that Sunday so that the tables can be set up in the base of the tower for our Ploughman's Lunch, what a great time that is with a lot of talking and laughing, thank you very much to all those who work so hard to make it a success.

Finally, we need more ringers at Shotwick so if you or someone you know is interested in learning to ring please contact me. The old saying is anybody from 8 to 80 years can be taught!  
F.P

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

**Saturday 23rd February**

**7:00 pm**

**The Venerable (Air Vice Marshal)**



**Ray J Pentland**

**QHC BA DPS MTh RAF**

We are very pleased to welcome Ray Pentland, Chaplain in Chief of the Royal Air Force, who will talk in Church on the evening of the 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

**“A Diamond Year”**

Personal insights into Diamond Jubilee events, the dedication of the Bomber Command Memorial, Remembrance Sunday, the Battle of Britain and a few more.....

Refreshments will be served after the talk.

On

**Sunday 24th February**

He will preach at our usual 11:30 am service.

Everybody most welcome.

## Airmen at Shotwick (cont.)

Our August newsletter contained an article about RAF Shotwick and the graves of airmen buried in our churchyard, As a result of this article we were contacted by a gentleman in Essex, who has been researching the Great War and provided some more information about Horace



Bray whose body is interred in our Churchyard.

Second Lieutenant Bray was killed in an aeroplane collision while flying his Sopwith Scout over Shotwick on July 9th, 1918, when on the eve of departure for France. He was only 22 years old.

Horace Edgar Kingsmill Bray was born at Thamesville, Ontario on March 27th, 1896, the second son of the Rev. H. B. Bray, Rector of St. John's Church, Thamesford, Ontario.

He was educated at the Galt Collegiate Institute in Cambridge, Ontario, but when about to enter University, war broke out and he enlisted with the 2nd Canadian Divisional Cavalry at the age of 18.

He served in France as a cavalryman in important engagements in the Ypres offensive and was seriously wounded there. Despite his youth, he was acknowledged as one of the great poets of WW1 and the following are typical of his work.

He wore twin stripes of gold upon  
An empty tunic sleeve ;  
His eyes were blue, his face so  
young  
One hardly could believe  
That he had seen the death and  
hate  
That make the whole world grieve.

His hair was fair, his eyes were  
blue,  
I thought that I could see  
(Just when his sunny smile came  
through)  
The lad he used to be:  
Dear happy little mother's lad  
Of only two or three.

But when across his eyes there  
came  
A sudden look of pain  
His mouth set very hard and  
straight,  
He was a man again.

He gave his shattered dreams of  
youth  
That England might remain.

I felt hot tears rise to my eyes

When I looked at the lad ;  
Brave, gallant, shattered, smiling  
youth

He gave us all he had ;  
For youth so fair, so sorely hurt

All England's heart is sad.

He passed me in a crowded street,

We did not meet again ;  
He showed me in a sudden flash

Our England's pride and pain.  
And when all else is long forgot

His memory shall remain.



## You will never regret:

- Thinking before acting.....
- Hearing before judging.....
- Forgiving your enemies.....
- Helping a fallen brother or sister....
- Being honest in business.....
- Thinking before speaking.....
- Standing by your principles.....
- Stopping your ears to gossip.....
- Bridling a slanderous tongue.....
- Harbouring only pure thoughts.....
- Sympathising with the afflicted....
- Being courteous and kind to all.

**Anon**

# Website Update

On the home page of the website ([www.shotwick.org.uk](http://www.shotwick.org.uk)) we now have a calendar which you can click on any highlighted date and read what events or services are planned for that day.

**News**

February 2013						
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		
<< < > >>						
23 2 2013: Talk by Ven. Ray Pentland RAF Chaplain 7:00pm. Followed by refreshments						

We also have a slideshow which you can access from the “History” tab of the menu. It has a selection of photographs of the Church and our activities. If you have any photographs that you would like to see, then email them to [admin@shotwick.org.uk](mailto:admin@shotwick.org.uk).

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