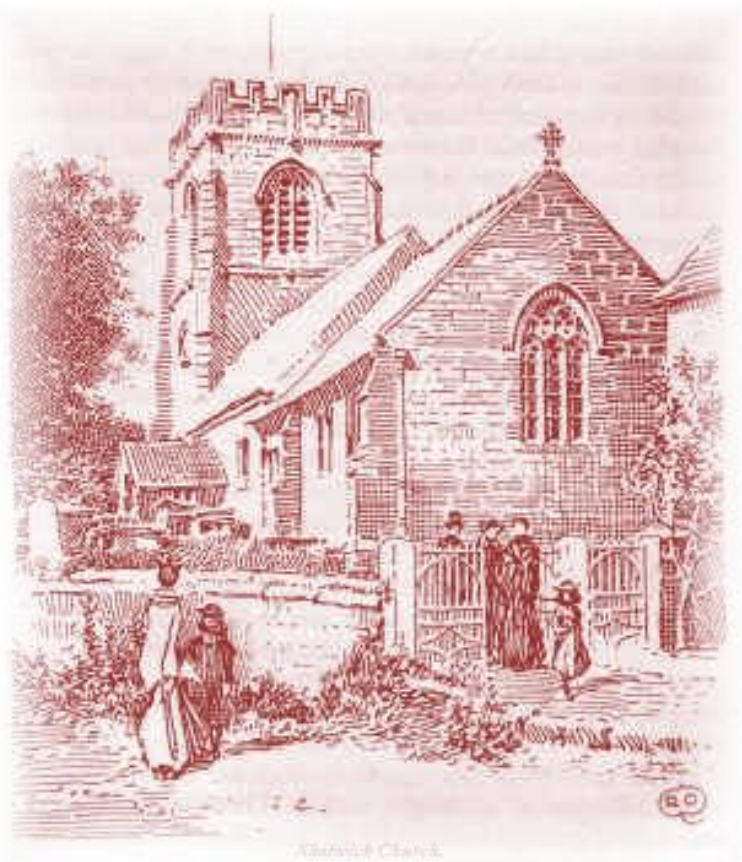


St. Michael's Church Shotwick



Newsletter May 2013

Welcoming and active at the heart of the Parish

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Visit our website:-

www.shotwick.org.uk



A Message from Our Vicar

Our vision statement as a church is that we aim to be **‘Welcoming and active at the heart of the parish’**



The PCC [Parochial Church Council] last year at our away day in September looked at the feedback from the consultation which asked you all to feedback about our GAP [Growth Action Planning] goals and how we were doing.

We recognised that the planned giving had increased and as many as we believe possible are involved in that. We have held some wonderful talks and activities over the last year, a special mention of the brave souls who did the walk for the Jubilee picnic in the rain last year! And we have now a well established system of welcomers for the Sunday services.

The PCC then looked at what the natural development was from these and what our priorities would be now.....and the first new priority identified is

1. To develop greater links with the agricultural community.

In a small parish like ours what is encouraging is that geographically we have a good spread of church members and friends across the parish. We also have been able to use the Yacht as a place to fund raise and meet. But predominantly our parish is agricultural and so we felt our focus should be more upon what we can do to care for those involved in agriculture. We have established Plough Sunday as an important part of supporting local farmers and this year we have re-introduced the age old tradition of Rogation and Canon Keith Ineson from the Cheshire Rural Chaplaincy Team joined us for our service and meal.

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2. The second priority which was identified was the need for a **more organised/intentional pastoral care system**. Previously we have relied on an *ad hoc* system, but we believe that part of our caring for each other should involve really being there for each other, whilst not intruding, but showing we care and offering help if needed. We also recognised the spiritual needs expressed by our many visitors and plan to introduce a small prayer station with candles and prayer cards. We have also encouraged an outward looking focus through the monthly collection of tins and cleaning items for the Chester foodbank.

3. Our third priority has grown out of the previous goals and priorities : As we now have more social activities and opportunities for the church to be used, the provision of a toilet and soon we will also have car parking facilities, we naturally looked as to **how we can make the building' fit 4 service' by increasing the flexibility in the area for refreshments and welcoming.**

Following last summers' consultation over 90% of the church members expressed their support for the PCC to look into this as an option and we are now moving towards a formal Faculty application.

At the Arch deacon's inspection last year, he was impressed at the way a small church community is showing so much careful stewardship of the inherited beauty of this church through all we have done to maintain the building whilst still being able to have vision for future growth and possibilities.

We are called to follow Jesus, to build his church, to make disciples and to ensure future generations have a place of beauty and worship to come to and as a PCC we are confident that this is a positive way forward and that these three priorities will help us achieve this.

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 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 12th 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

Thursday 9 th May 7:30pm	William and Gail Fulton talk about their work with the Mango Tree charity
Bank Holiday Weekend end of May	Art Weekend
Saturday 8 th June	Burton Fete

A Change of Churchwarden

At the Annual Church Meeting in April, in line with Diocesan recommendations having completed a 6 year term of office, Jenny Sneddon stood down as Churchwarden. She was presented with a gift in recognition of all her hard work for St. Michael's, and we thank her for her valuable contributions. Jenny will continue to work for the Church as a PCC member. We welcome on board John Carsley as our new Warden and wish him well in his new role

Art Weekend



St. Michael's will become an oasis of art at the end of May, when local artists display their work in the Church for your pleasure and purchase.

The exhibition will be open as follows:-

Friday 31st May, 6 – 8pm
Saturday 1st June, 10am – 4pm
Sunday 2nd June, 10am – 4pm

Refreshments will be available, so please invite your friends and neighbours and make this weekend a roaring success.

At 5 pm on 2nd June, in place of the usual 11:30 service, we will have an Evensong service in Church celebrating the Art Weekend which you are most welcome to attend.

The Mango Tree Charity

Thursday 9th May at 7:30pm



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 the 9th May, 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.



Admission is only £5 with all proceeds being given to the charity.

Refreshments will be provided.



Emergency Food for people in crisis

Remember:-



Every first Sunday of each month (the All Age Service), buy an extra item when you do your grocery shopping and bring it as a gift for the Chester and Ellesmere Port Foodbank.



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

A DIAMOND YEAR

On Saturday 23rd February the Venerable (Air Vice Marshal) Ray J. Pentland QHC BA DPS MTh RAF came to Shotwick to talk to us about his experiences in 2012. Ray is the Chaplain in Chief of the Royal Air Force and the mission of the chaplains is to serve the RAF through prayer, presence and proclamation.



Ray described how he had started the year by attending a conference in Sarajevo, then he had travelled to the Falkland Islands in February at the time when the Diamond Jubilee celebrations began in this country. When he returned to England he took part in a service where the Duke of Kent was asked to give an award to two young RAF airmen who had rescued badly injured American marines and who had both been mentioned in despatches.

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In May the Queen held a military muster at Windsor Castle for the Diamond Jubilee (a muster is a military parade and drumhead service.) Two and a half thousand troops paraded, the Red Arrows flew over and Ray led the act of worship with the Chaplains in Chief of the Army and Royal Navy. The muster was followed by lunch with Prince Michael of Kent and the Queen said afterwards how much the day had meant to her.

In June Ray went to London to dedicate the foundation stone of the Bomber Command Memorial in Green Park. At the time the foundation stone was laid permission to build the memorial had not in fact been granted but it is now one of the most visited attractions in London. Ten thousand people came to the dedication, including many veterans, and a Lancaster bomber flew over and dropped poppies during the service.



Ray preaches at the Battle of Britain service in Westminster Abbey every year and is involved in the Remembrance Sunday service which is a national focus of remembrance.

At the end of the talk there was the opportunity to ask questions and a vote of thanks was proposed by Steve Fletcher. Ray auctioned a hamper of home - made produce which had kindly been donated by Anne Parsons to raise money for the church and he was presented with a basket of vegetables to say thank you by the Reverend Cathy Helm. Cathy also reminded everyone that Ray would be preaching at the Sunday service the following day.

The evening finished with refreshments kindly provided by the catering committee.

SEC

Bell Matters



At last the weather seems to have settled down (fingers crossed) The weather does not often interfere with bell ringing as ringers are a hardy bunch, or should that be fool hardy! However we had to cancel one Friday practice recently because of the snow and poor driving conditions.

Some of you might be aware that on 8th June St Michaels is hosting the 6 bell striking competition of the Wirral branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild of church bell ringers, yes church bell ringing does have its own guild .Ringers from different Churches from all over the Wirral will come to Shotwick to take part. .As the name suggests the bands will be judged on how evenly they strike the bells, they are expected to ring a method or call changes in which the bells are continually changing places and will be judged by a top ringer from out side the Wirral, lots are drawn for the order the bands ring in and the judge does not know which band is ringing at any time .It is all good fun until it is your turn to start ringing then the nerves can kick in, sometimes with disastrous results.

We as Shotwick ringers will do our very best and do have a slight advantage as they are our bells, but we need to practice a lot between now and the 8th June , The winners of the Wirral heat will move on to compete against winners from all over the Chester Diocese ,and the winners of the Chester Diocese will move on to take part in the national competition, dizzy heights indeed where you would be mixing with the Manchester Uniteds and Arsenal's of the ringing world?

All that is very fine but years ago an old tower captain said to me a good ringer is one that turns up to ring on a Sunday, how right he was!
F.P

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

Toilet Matters

It's out of order! 1 in 3 people across the world don't have somewhere safe to go to the toilet. Bad sanitation is one of the world's biggest killers: it hits women, children, old and sick people hardest. Every minute, three children under the age of five die because of dirty water and poor sanitation. And, right this minute, around half the people in the world have an illness caused by bad sanitation.

Women and girls suffer most

In Africa, half of young girls who drop out of school do so because they need to collect water – often from many miles away – or because the school hasn't got separate toilets for boys and girls. Not having a loo puts people at risk of being bitten by snakes as they squat in the grass and makes women and girls a target for sexual assault as they go to the toilet in the open.

Now that we have our own toilet for the Church the PCC considered our mission and have made a donation to the Christian organisation "Tearfund", which provides access to better sanitation, clean water and hygiene education throughout the poorer communities of the world.

As a result, our toilet is now twinned with one in Uganda, and here it is.....!



It is located in the Kabale district, right on the border with Rwanda





Yaa Jim Lad!



Visitors to our Church, especially younger ones, often ask to see the “Pirate’s Grave” which is located just to the left of the Priest’s door on the south side of the Church.

This photograph clearly shows a skull and crossbones on the gravestone, and records tell us that it

dates from the 1700’s and marks the site of the Kelsall family remains.

We all know that the pirate’s symbol was the “Skull and Crossbones”, so does this mark a pirate’s grave? Piracy was in its golden years at that time and Shotwick had firm links with the river and sea, so perhaps it does.

For the less romantic, alternative theories have been put forward. The skull and crossbones is known to be a symbol of death and mortality. If a skull is winged it symbolizes the ascension into heaven.

The symbol is also related to freemasonry (which originated from medieval stone masons and craft guilds), so perhaps Mr Kelsall was a mason?

Alternatively, it may symbolise danger from infectious disease and a warning to keep away (but why would it be opened in later years for the burial of Mrs Kelsall and her daughter?)

The choice is yours.....!

How the Prayer Book Society Started

In the later part of the twentieth century, new books of services were authorised in the Church of England: the Alternative Service Book in 1980 and Common Worship in 2000.

These new forms of service did not replace or supersede the Book of Common Prayer; but unhappily they led to some hostility to the traditional services. This meant that, in some parishes the BCP fell out of use, or was relegated to 'off-peak' times such as 8.00 a.m. and Evensong. It remains a sad fact that very few parishes now use the BCP for their main Sunday service, so most churchgoers, especially young people and newcomers to the Church, never have the opportunity to experience it.

A number of people who were disturbed by this tendency came together to form a group for the protection of the Book of Common Prayer, which led to the establishment of the Prayer Book Society. Through speaking, writing and representation, often at the highest levels, its early officers and members worked to restore the respect which was in danger of being lost.

The aim of the Society is still to ensure that the Book of Common Prayer is still used and honoured, available for worship wherever it is desired. It has a Branch in every diocese of the Church of England, and it is through the Branches that its members are represented and find their principal activities in meetings and services

The Society also works from its central organisation, notably through journals sent to all members with articles on the history and present use of the Prayer Book, and by publishing books and pamphlets to make it more widely known and understood. There is an annual residential Conference with distinguished speakers and an opportunity for members to meet one another.

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An important activity is the annual Cranmer Awards competition, with prizes for recitation from memory by schoolchildren of a passage from the Prayer Book. To make the traditional words known to the next generation is one of the principal aims of the Society.

The Society is a Registered Charity and is honoured to have the Prince of Wales as its Patron and the Bishop of London as its Ecclesiastical Patron.

The Society is not hostile to new forms of service but seeks to ensure that they shall not come to be regarded as the norm for the Church. Antagonism to the Book of Common Prayer has decreased, largely through the work of the Society, but there is still need to protect and affirm our traditional services.

Prayer Book Society Annual Conference

Date:

13/09/2013

Location:

Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester

Details:

Conference runs from the evening of Friday, 13th September to lunchtime on Sunday, 15th September 2013. Full programme will be available here in due course.

JS

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Shotwick Village

Courtesy of Margaret Scane

