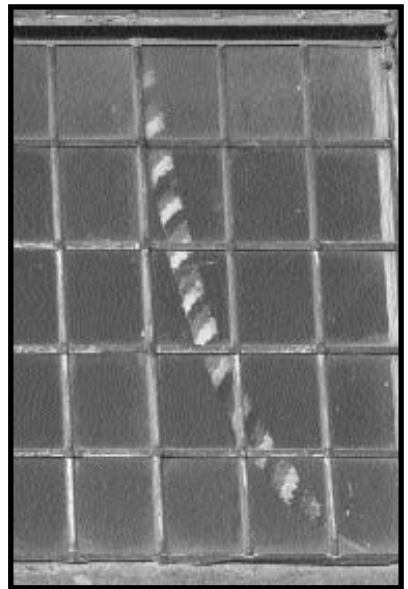


The Magazine

Of St Nicholas' Church, Burton-in-Wirral

Growing and thriving with God in our community

March & April 2015



IN THIS ISSUE OF THE MAGAZINE...

Dating the crucifixion
Good Friday Walk of witness
Being a Dementia friend?

Website: www.burtonchurch.org.uk

From our Vicar

Rev. Cathy Helm

The Bible has a lot to say about the importance of worship ...but why? If God is so awesome and Almighty, why does he need our worship?

God doesn't need our worship to make Him feel better. We need to worship to help us feel better!

Perhaps the Old Testament is so full of instructions as to how to worship in a way pleasing to God, because He knows how forgetful we can be! A poster outside a church read

'Problem of ancient times: IDOL worship

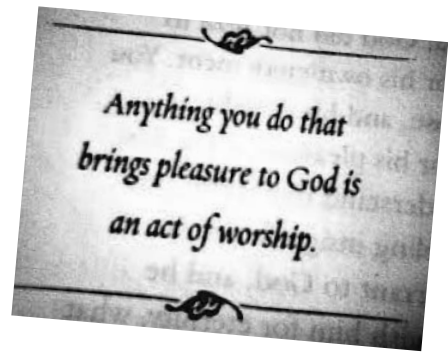
Problem of modern times: IDLE worship'

The Psalmist wrote in psalm 95: 6 'Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.'

He knew that the habit or practice of coming before God helps us to remember that God is so mighty, is faithful and is forgiving. We need to worship.

We need to worship because without it we can easily forget that we have a great Big God beside us and we will live in fear.

We need worship because without it we forget His calling and live in a spirit of self preoccupation.



We need to worship because without we lose a sense of wonder and gratitude and plod along with blinkers on.

We need to worship because we encourage each other and ride life's storms together, without that shared experience of worship we become isolated and cold like an ember that falls from the fire will grow cold.

We need to worship because of our natural tendency to self reliance and stubborn independence.

Worship is not dependent upon whether we sing hymns, psalms, choruses or songs, whether we gather in a cathedral church, chapel or cafe. It is dependent upon our attitude and openness to God.

A quote for John Piper which I find really helpful is that **'worship is an inward feeling and an outward action that reflects the worth of God.'**

When we see worship as not just what we do in church on a Sunday but as potentially every minute of the day, then worship will not be boring or dull but dynamic and exciting and a natural expression of our love and gratitude to God.

However, let's not use that as an excuse to NOT



come together to worship on a Wednesday, Sunday or at Messy Church! We need to worship together too, to encourage and share together.

The Lent course will also help us discover how the newly growing church in New Testament times worshipped together.

Another poster said 'if you can't find God, start worshipping and He will find you.'

Cathy

GAP Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you command and inspire your church to make disciples:
may our church become a joyful and vibrant community of welcome, worship and service, spreading hope to those around us and attracting others to the fire of your love;
may your Spirit be at work through our Growth Action Planning, helping us to catch a vision for your church and to serve you faithfully, to your glory and honour. **Amen**
'anonymous'

Good Friday Walk of Witness

This **Good Friday April 3rd** we will be remembering Jesus' Passion in both St Nicholas and St Michael's Churches with a **walk of witness**. There will be a half hour service at **St Michael's Church** in Shotwick at **2pm** and those who would like to will then walk across the fields to **St. Nicholas Church** in Burton.

There will be refreshments at St. Nicholas for those who will travel by car instead of walking from 3.15pm and then another half hour service at **4pm**.

All ages are welcome to join us but please don't worry if walking isn't for you! There will be quite a few who will be going between the churches by car.





Using Astronomy to Date The Crucifixion

The Bible does not give us the exact date of Christ's crucifixion, or even enough indirect information to pin it down with certainty. However, the crucifixion coincided with a partial eclipse of the Moon, and this helps us decide on the most likely date.

The only certainty about the date of the crucifixion in the Bible is that took place during the ten years that Pontius Pilate was in charge of Judea. This was from A.D. 26 to 36.

There is a complication in trying to date biblical events. Our months and days do not coincide with those of the Jewish calendar, which is implicit in the information given in the Gospels. Jewish days start and end at 6pm in the evening, and Jewish months straddle our months.

All the Gospels agree that Jesus died a few hours before start of the Jewish Sabbath. This commences at 6pm on a Friday evening. The Gospels agree to within a day that it was the time of the Passover - the annual Jewish feast held at the time of a full Moon. Newton's Laws of Motion allow us to calculate when the Moon is full - not forgetting of course that it is a full Moon as viewed from Jerusalem that is needed.

Passover time was precisely specified in the official Judean calendar. It took place on the 14th day of the Jewish month that straddles our March and April. The

Passover meal had to begin at moonrise that evening. Again Newton's Laws allow calculation of the time of moonrise (as viewed from Jerusalem).

It is recorded in the so-called "Report to Pilate" (a documentary fragment from the New Testament Apocrypha) that at Christ's crucifixion "The moon appeared like blood." The phrase "the moon appeared like blood" almost certainly refers to an eclipse of the moon.

For an eclipse of the moon, the Earth comes in between the moon and the sun, and so casts a shadow on the full moon. The reason the moon is red is easy to explain. Although in the Earth's shadow, some sunlight still reaches the moon by being refracted (or bent) by the Earth's atmosphere (just like light in a prism). While travelling through the Earth's atmosphere all the colours that make up white light (the rainbow) except red are easily scattered by the gasses and dust in the air. So it is mostly red light that travels on to illuminate the Moon.

Newton's Laws can be used to calculate to a few seconds the times of all past lunar eclipses. In the period AD26 to 36 there was only one lunar eclipse at Passover time visible from Jerusalem. The date referred to our calendar is **Friday 3 April AD33**.

On that day moonrise did not occur until 6.20pm, just after the start of the Sabbath when the Passover feast



was to start. The moon would have appeared with about 20% of its disc eclipsed. It would have been observed by most of the population of Israel, since the Jews on Passover day would have been looking for sunset to signal the start of the Sabbath, and Moonrise to signal the start of the Passover meal. Instead of seeing the expected full "paschal moon" they would have seen a full Moon with a large red crescent superimposed upon it. The effect would have been very dramatic.

Finally, it is interesting to note that the Last Supper could not have been a Passover meal, and this may lie at the heart of the difference in the Gospels as to the actual day of the crucifixion.

Heavens Door

I was shocked, confused, bewildered
as I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all,
by the lights or its decor.

But it was the folks in Heaven
who made me sputter and gasp--
the thieves, the liars, the sinners,
the alcoholics, you know the kind of trash.

There stood the kid from my old school
who swiped my lunch money twice.
Next to him was my old neighbour
who never said anything nice.

Fred, who I always thought
was rotting away in hell,
was sitting pretty on cloud nine,
looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, "What's the deal?
I would love to hear Your take.
How'd all these sinners get up here?
God must've made a mistake.

And why's everyone so quiet,
Come on, give me a clue."
"Hush child," said He "They're all in shock.
No one thought that they'd see you."

Author Unknown

The Bible in 50 words

God made
Adam bit
Noah arked
Abraham split
Joseph ruled
Jacob fooled
Bush talked
Moses balked
Pharaoh plagued
People walked
Sea divided
Tablets guided
Promise landed
Saul freaked
David peeked
Prophets warned
Jesus born
God walked
Love talked
Anger crucified
Hope died
Love rose
Spirit flamed
Word spread
God remained.

Author Unknown

Start the Week in Prayer
Monday 9a.m. In Church
Come and join us in a quiet time at the beginning of each week when we pray for the needs of our church, our community, our country and the world.
You do not need to pray aloud; many pray in silence.



Holy Communion Soup & Sandwich

Monday 2nd March at 11.30am

Monday 6th April at 11.30am

*An informal Holy Communion service for all who find it hard to get up to the church building, followed by a soup and sandwich lunch in the **Glasshouse** at Burton Manor.*

If you're interested in coming please contact:

Vicar: 353 0453

Basil Keys: 336 4933



Dementia Friends

Join us on either **Thursday March 12th** at 7.30pm or **Sunday March 22nd** at 11.15 am in St Nicholas' Church to be trained as a Dementia Friend. Refreshments will be provided.

The training only last 45 minutes as is run by two local practitioners Kim Dawson and Katrina Moore. **Dementia Friends** is about giving more people an understanding of dementia and the small things that could make a difference to people living in their community.

It makes such a huge difference to people with dementia if those around them know what dementia is and how it might affect them.

Please do come along. It would be good to have everyone, whatever age, to come along and see how we can all help in a small way.

Come and Join a LENT Group

This Lent we're running another York course called 'Praise Him' based on songs of praise found within the New Testament.

If you have never been to a group before, please do come long, it's informal, there will be refreshments and it's a good, none threatening way to explore the Bible together.

Groups are meeting on

Tuesdays at 8pm at Church Cottage, Burton Village from Feb. 24th

Wednesday at 2pm at 20, Winstanley Rd, Little Neston from Feb. 25th

Wednesday at 8pm at Danescourt, Mudhouse Lane, Burton from Feb. 25th

You don't have to attend the same group each week but can change if you need to.

Copies of the course can be bought for £3.50 from Tony Carter. If you'd like to join a group sign up sheets will be at the back of church or contact me on 353 0453.

Cathy



Christmas Tree Festival Highlights

With enormous thanks to everyone who was involved - and for those who couldn't make it here's a small selection of the trees.



Burton Fete



Saturday 6th June 2015

Can you help in any way, however small?

Please ring Janet on 0151 353 8860 or Ingrid on
0151 336 4974.

Easter Egg Hunt

Come and join the fun at The Vicarage on Easter Saturday (4th April) from 3pm when we will be hunting for eggs in the Vicarage Gardens, plus you can try your hand at egg rolling and painting eggs too! For those who would rather sit and enjoy the festivities



we will also be serving tea and cakes to all.
All donations of cakes gratefully received!

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Diary of Events

March 2015

Church Services

- 1st 2nd Sunday of Lent
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Family Worship
6:30 pm Evensong
- 4th 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 6th Women's World Day of Prayer
- 8th 3rd Sunday of Lent
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Morning Worship
- 11st 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 15th Mothering Sunday 4th Sunday of Lent
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Family Communion
- 18th 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 22nd 5th Sunday of Lent
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Morning Worship
- 25th 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 29th Palm Sunday
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Morning Worship

Mothers Union Programme

- 14th - 10:00 am: Bunching of posies in the vestry
- 18th - 2:00 pm: Lenten Meditation in Church
- 24th - Mothers Union Deanery Committee at St. Barnabas, Bromborough

Lent Groups:

Tuesday Group at Church Cottage 8pm

24th Feb. 3rd, 10th, 17th & 31st March

Wednesday at 2pm

20, Winstanley Rd. Little Neston

Wednesday at 8pm

Danes Court, Mudhouse Lane, Burton

25th Feb. 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th March

From the Registers:

Funerals:

9th Jan. Eileen Fairclough

11th Feb. Peter Ecclestone

Little Stars



Praise and play-time for babies, toddlers and preschool children with their parents or carers.

"Pop in, drop in, bring a friend."

Mondays 1pm - 2-30pm
St Nicholas Church
Burton

All Stars

(Primary age children 5-11 Years) meet every 2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday during 10:00 am Service.

Diary of Events

April 2015

Mothers Union Programme

15th at 2:00pm "Russia Today" in the Sports and Social Club

House Groups:

Christian Living:

10:30 am alternate Thursdays in term time
(Contact Dee Foster 0151 336 2336)

Study Group:

8:00 pm Wednesday 22nd at Danes Court
(0151 336 5446)

First Week of May 2015

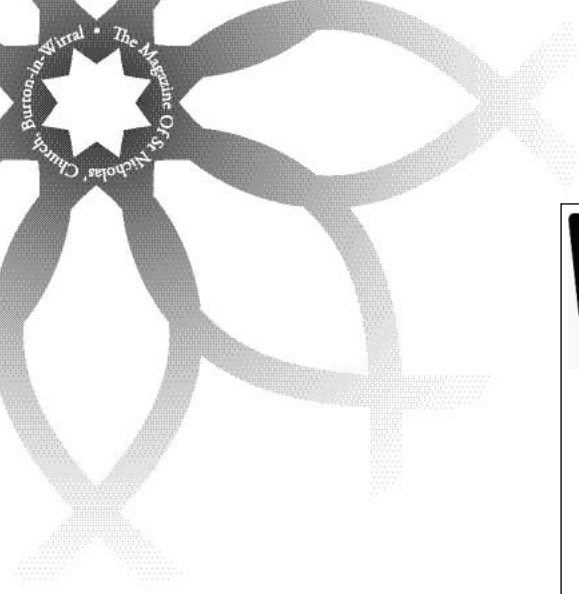
3rd 5th Sunday of Easter
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Family Worship
6:30 pm Evensong

6th 10:15 am Holy Communion

Church Services

- 1st 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 2nd Maundy Thursday
7:30 pm Holy Communion
- 3rd Good Friday
2:00 pm at St Michael's Shotwick
4:00pm at St Nicholas'
- 5th Easter Sunday
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Family Communion
18:30 pm Evensong
- 8th 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 12th 2nd Sunday of Easter
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Morning Worship
- 15th 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 19th 3rd Sunday of Easter
08:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Family Communion
Followed by APCM at 11.15am
- 22nd 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 26th 4th Sunday of Easter
08:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Morning Worship & Baptism
- 29th 10:15 am Holy Communion





Meeting Dates

The Hardy Perennials are a group of ladies who, for whatever reason, live alone. They meet regularly for lunch and to share each other's company

Monday 9th March at 12.30pm

Monday 20th April at 12.30pm

If you want to go along and haven't been before please call either Vivienne Blakeman on 015 336 7435 or Linda Jones on 336 5017

SPRING TIME!

Briarfield Garden Open

Sunday 19th April 2-5pm

(part of the National Gardens Scheme)

£4 entry & large plant sale

Teas served in Church in aid of Claire House



2nd Willaston Brownies are Recruiting NOW!

We meet in Willaston village on Mondays between 5.45pm and 7.15pm

Would your daughter like to find out what we do at Brownies?

Would she like to join in on all the fun?

Brownies are girls aged between 7 and 10 years old and don't need to have been a Rainbow previously to become a Brownie with us. Nor does your daughter need to live in Willaston village as we belong to the Girlguiding area of Hinderton which covers Burton, Ness, Neston, Parkgate and Willaston.

For a chat and perhaps to arrange a taster visit for your daughter at one of our Brownie meetings on a Monday, contact:

Sheena, Brown Owl on 0151 327 7138 or email: sheena.chalmers@talktalk.net

It is some time since our Brownie unit has been able to offer places on a Monday, so don't miss out on this opportunity.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

**Sheena Chalmers, Brown Owl,
2nd Willaston Brownies**

Mothers' Union Report - February 2015

At the AGM, last month, was the opportunity to look back at the year gone by and to look ahead to new interesting events to take place this year.

First of all, I would like to thank our retiring committee members Betty and Maureen for their contribution in past years, thank you to the ladies who are continuing to sit on the committee and welcome to Hazel who has consented to join us. Thank you all for your invaluable support with a special mention to Ruth our Secretary and Val our Treasurer. This month our guest speaker is Penny Allen who will demonstrate "The Mothers Union in a Simnel Cake".

There are some important events well worthwhile for your consideration later in the year:-

May 12th: The Diocesan Festival at Chester Cathedral. The new Bishop of Stockport - only ordained recently as the first woman Bishop, Libby Lane, will officiate. Lynne Tenby the World Wide President will be the guest speaker.

June 3rd: Deanery Afternoon tea at St. Thomas' Church, Ellesmere Port. A most enjoyable event.

In November there will be a Provincial Thanksgiving Eucharist in Chester Cathedral. Bishop Peter will preside.

As a group we stand firmly committed to the aims of the Mothers Union to support this worldwide

organisation in whatever way we can and our fundraising efforts have been most successful to this end. But what is just as important is the opportunity for us as a group to meet socially to share each other's good news and to give support to those who need it in difficult times.

It is with this in mind that we would welcome new members to our group. Here is the opportunity to meet together to discuss problems, and for those who live alone to feel less isolated. We enjoy our monthly meetings with guest speakers and outings, and most of all tea and cake and a chat.

To join us phone anytime. My number is 0151 336 3635.

Josie Isaacs

As indicated in the diary of events The Mothers' Union Bible Studies Group will now be held after Holy Communion on the first Wednesday of the month.

The next dates are March 4th and April 1st.

Thank you.



March Brings Breezes Loud & Shrill...

Having survived the cold snap, hopefully the spring bulbs will burst into a blaze of colour both in the garden and various tubs and pots. Harry Lauder's Walking Stick (twisted hazel) has masses of catkins which are lovely in flower arrangements. The Buddelia Davidii which had one-third of growth taken off prior to the winter have now been pruned hard back. Their florets are a haven for bees and butterflies in the summer. Of course, top of the agenda is seed sowing and the first seeds to be sown are the Sweet Peas. The varieties chosen this year are White Frills, Zillah Harrod, John Adie etc. These will be sown on or around the 16th March. Before that the greenhouse needs a further cleaning and a good sort out. Seed sowing is quite easy; it is the pricking out of the seedlings which takes most of my time, so most of my time will be spent in the greenhouse. Hebe seedlings were planted in various parts of the garden and these seem to be thriving. Some new roses will be planted this year but the variety is yet to be decided.

The fieldfare only appeared in the garden to feast on apples when it was cold. A few blackbirds appeared and masses of sparrows. Only one blue and one great tit but four long tailed tits visited occasionally. Jenny Wren is a frequent visitor and of course Robbie Robin visits daily (especially around breakfast time!)

Flori Bunda

March/April 2015

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

You are cordially invited to the AGM of
Gladstone Village Hall

(incorporating the Gladstone Village Hall
AGM, GVH Facilities Limited AGM and the
Sports and Social Club AGM)

**WEDNESDAY 11TH MARCH 2015
AT 8.00 PM AT GLADSTONE
VILLAGE HALL, BURTON**

At the conclusion of the meeting you are
warmly invited to join the Committee in the
Sports Club when the bar will be open and a
light supper available. All welcome

Visit the website

**www.gladstonevillagehall.org.uk for all
upcoming events and news**



COOK, GROW AND PHOTO SHOW

Saturday 1st August 2015 at 2:00pm

Gladstone Village Hall, Burton

The show is open to Burton and Puddington
Residents, their friends, families and local
gardening groups are welcome to enter too.

THE APPLICATION FORM WILL BE
AVAILABLE FROM OUR WEBSITE:

www.gladstonevillagehall.org.uk



We will be continuing to collect for the Food
bank throughout the year and there will be a
plastic box in the porch for the weekend to
collect additional donations.

Items which are asked for are:

Tinned Tomatoes | Tinned fish
Tinned sponge puddings | Tinned fruit
Tea bags | Coffee | Tinned soup
Breakfast cereal | Pasta sauce | Biscuits
Sugar | Tinned vegetables
Tinned meat | Pasta/noodles/rice
Instant mash | Juice or Cordial
Milk [UHT/powdered]
Tinned rice pudding

Burton Manor

10th March - “Mixed Borders, Planters and ‘Tubs’” - an illustrated talk by Karen Richards. Starts at 7.15pm and includes refreshments. £10 or £7.50 for friends of Burton Manor Gardens

20th March - “Seven Deadly Sins” - a humorous, non-religious look at the seven deadly sins with a biblical slant by Rev. Burgess. Starts at 7.15pm and includes refreshments. £10 or £7.50 for friends of Burton Manor Gardens.

15th April - “An Evening with Sue Lunt” - former Decorative Art Curator, National Museums in Liverpool. Please bring your Antiques and Collectibles along to learn something of their history. Starts at 7.15pm and includes refreshments. £10 or £7.50 for friends of Burton Manor Gardens.

18th April - “Painting Landscapes in Watercolour” with your tutor Nigel Morris. This starts at 10:00am until 4:00pm and costs £30 or £25 for friends of Burton Manor Gardens. Please note: This course needs pre-booking and there is a materials and equipment list of items that you will be required to bring.

To book any events at Burton Manor please call the Friends of Burton Manor on 0151 345 1107 and leave a message on the answer machine or alternatively e-mail burtonmanorgardens@gmail.com

Sainsbury's Voucher Scheme



Bishop Wilson School are now collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers, which help the school to obtain much needed sports kits. Vouchers can be dropped off at school, placed in the collection box in the Church porch or handed to Mrs Kathryn Rawson at Woodland Cottage, Puddington. All help is greatly appreciated.

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Burton & Puddington Sports Club

To sample the various activities available, please contact:

Cricket:	Graham Hogen - 336 7422
Tennis:	Cath Rogers - 353 0577
Junior Tennis:	Chary Elliott - 336 5613
Junior Football:	Mike Carlyle - 336 6156
Walking:	John & Gill Nuttall on 338 7178
Snooker:	Pat King - 336 3266
Bowls:	Ken Unsworth - 336 2050
Art:	Ruth Langley - 353 8354
Sports & Social Club Membership:	Guy Tilby - 07826 417 047

New members most welcome
Try your skills! Guidance available

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on 336 3679

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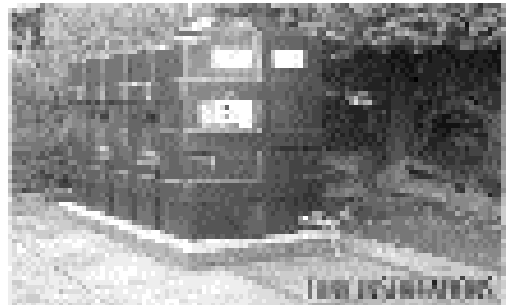
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Our Church



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Lay Readers	Ann Rudd - Emeritus	336 1513
	Basil Keys	336 4933
	John Morris-Best	327 7873
Church Wardens	John Vinson	336 8350
	Mike Davies	353 0074
Verger Duties - Services	Ann Warr	336 2747
- Open/Close	Dwenna Georges	336 6151
- Housekeeping	Sue Church	336 2228
PCC Treasurer	Bryan Blakeman	336 7435
PCC Secretary	John Church	336 2228
Gift Aid	John Miles	336 4972
Director of Music	Alison Carter	336 5446
Mothers' Union	Josie Isaacs	336 3635
The Burton Youth (TBY) & Junior Church		
	Amanda Ankers	336 3998
Magazine	Susan Bristow	336 6707
	Sarah Curnow	336 8210
Flower Arranging	Sue Church	336 2228
Website Manager	John Morris Best admin@burtonchurch.org.uk	
Lay Synod Chairman	Basil Keys	336 4933
Bell Captain	Jane Davies	353 0074

The Magazine

Of St Nicholas' Church, Burton-in-Wirral

Growing and thriving with God in our community

Community Events

The Burton Society

The Burton Society meets at 8:00pm in the Gladstone Village Hall. Do come along.

5th March - Travel back in time with Ken Pye to learn something of the history of Liverpool and its seafarers in "Going down to the Sea in Ships".

2nd April - Our AGM will be followed by a fascinating illustrated tour of the streams and rivers that serve the Wirral Peninsular by Gavin Hunter.

Gladstone Village Hall and Sports and Social Club Committee Meetings

2nd March - 7.30pm in the upper meeting room at Gladstone Village Hall

13th April - 7.30pm in the upper meeting room at Gladstone Village Hall

11th May - 7.30pm in the upper meeting room at Gladstone Village Hall

RSPB Dee Estuary Nature Reserve, Burton

For further information please telephone 353 8478, or email decestuary@rspb.org.uk

Manor Gatehouse Club

A club for the retired or partially retired that welcomes new members and meets monthly with an invited speaker. Various interest groups include history, music, painting, literature, travel etc. All meetings are at 2.30 pm in Gladstone Village Hall and the programme is:

5th March - "Who was Mata Hari? Who Indeed!" by Michael Murphy

2nd April - "Lighthouses, Treasure Island and all that" by David Cross

No meeting in May - next meeting is General Election Meeting on June 4th

For information contact Rodney Lyon on 336 2128 or www.manorgatehouse.info

The Puddington Society Event Dates

For more information call Hazel Huxley on 0151 336 2288 or email puddingtonvillage@hotmail.com

Burton and Neston History Society

Every second Thursday of each month at 8:00pm in Gladstone Village Hall. For more information please contact Clive Edwards on 336 1190

Burton Walking Group

For more information please contact John Nuttall on 336 7178

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions for the next issue will be Monday 13 April 2015, please email your contributions to saron@lineone.net

Website: www.burtonchurch.org.uk