

The Parish Magazine

St Nicholas' Church, Burton-in-Wirral

January February 2016

www.burtonchurch.org.uk



IN THIS ISSUE OF THE MAGAZINE

'Charlie Brown' characters epitomise unity not uniformity

Mark Turner - The Curate's curious vestments

Flori Bunda's suggests jobs for winter

GROWING & THRIVING WITH GOD IN OUR COMMUNITY

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<i>Curate</i>	<i>Mark Turner</i>	<i>07469 893 264</i>
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UNITY NOT UNIFORMITY

Charlie Brown has made a big comeback this year with a new '*Peanuts*' film. The observations of a small, morose boy seem to be able to hit just the right note between humour and melancholy.

One of my favourite *Peanuts* cartoons is of Lucy and **Charlie Brown** with her brother **Linus** watching TV. Lucy demands that **Linus** changes the channels and threatens him with her fist. 'What makes you think you can walk right in and take over?' asks **Linus**.



'These five fingers' says **Lucy**.

'Individually they're nothing but when I curl them together like this into a single unit, they form a weapon terrible to behold.'

'Which channel do you want?' asks **Linus**.

Charlie Brown looks down at his fingers and says 'Why can't you guys get organised like that?'

I like the cartoon, *not* because it advocates violence but because it emphasises the power of being united in a single purpose.

In John's gospel Chapter 17 Jesus prays firstly for himself and all he is about to endure at the cross; secondly he prays for his close friends the disciples; and thirdly he prays for us - that's you and me!

I find this just amazing, but more than this Jesus prays that:

'we may be brought into complete unity to let the world know that you [the Father] sent me, [Jesus] and have loved them even as I love them.'



Between 17 and 24 January we have the *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*. All the churches in Neston are taking part.

We may have different ways of worshipping, organising our church life and even theology, but we want to gather together to pray for the needs of the world and because of what unites us - our shared love of Jesus and a desire for all to know his wonderful love, forgiveness and grace.

We are also having a pulpit exchange where the ministers from each church swap around on **Sunday 17 January**. I believe this shows a strong commitment and trust between the churches.

We will be welcoming **Father Ravi Bosco** from St. Winefride's R C church to preach at 10.00am Morning Worship and I will be preaching at St. Winefrides. It's such a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate our unity, not uniformity.

'The snowflake is one of nature's most fragile things, but just look at what they can do when they stick together.'



Cathy

A CURATES' VESTMENTS

Mark Turner Explains

For those who attend 8.45am Holy Communion Services at St Nicholas' Church you may have noticed that there are some items of clothing that I, as your new Curate, wear for the service that differ from those our Vicar Cathy wears.

So, firstly I would like to explain what they are and why they are important to me. Also, I should say that it's fine to be different, and that both Cathy and I are comfortable with these differences.

The first item you will notice is the Amice which is a piece of white linen, rectangular in shape, with two long cloth ribbons. It covers my clerical collar and it ties by crossing the ribbons to the front to form a St. Andrew's cross.



The practical purpose of the Amice is to conceal the normal clerical clothing. The spiritual purpose is to remind the wearer of St. Paul's admonition:

'Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, the Word of God' (Ephesians 6:17). The vesting prayer I try to remember is *'Place, O Lord, the helmet of salvation on my head to resist the attacks of the devil.'*

I also wear a white Alb, the spiritual purpose being to remind me of my baptism, being clothed in white to signify freedom from sin, purity of new life, and Christian dignity.

Moreover, the Book of Revelation describes the saints who stand around the altar of the Lamb in Heaven as *'These are the ones who have survived the great period of trial; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb'* (7:14).

On a practical note I find it lighter and more comfortable.

Finally, I wear the stole which is there to remind me of Christ's Cross and that I am called to pick up my own and follow him. The different colours help me to realise the richness of each Church season and the significance and focus of my worship. I also pray that it will be of use to members of the congregation. Of course all of this is a question of personal preference and for all of us it is OK to prefer different things.

Christingle Service

Sunday 28 November saw our annual Christingle service in church.



Over 70 people turned up on a wild and blustery afternoon to think about the plight of young and vulnerable people who would struggle over Advent and Christmastide. We also celebrated Christ as the light of the world who can and will help to overcome such darkness.

We took time out of the service to make our own Christingles before lighting them.

A big **'Thank You'** to all who took part and for donations received towards **The Children's Society 'Christmas Appeal' which raised almost £200.**

JUNIOR CHURCH, SCHOOL & YOUTH ACTIVITIES

This year we celebrated our first 'Light Party' instead of Halloween.



Many people find the new influx of commercialised Halloween and its dark connotations sends out the wrong message to young people. There seemed to be a number of families who were looking for something different as an alternative. So we held our first Light Party!

We had nine children and their families join us for hot dogs, pizza, sweets, and cakes. We had party games, we flew aeroplanes from the pulpit, we dunked apples in the porch and undertook lantern making and cake decorating. While the children enjoyed themselves there was also a chance for parents to relax.

One of the good points of holding an event like this in church is that children have a chance to explore all aspects of the church building so we ate hot dogs in the pews and tucked into pizza in the choir stalls!

Our thanks go to the leaders of our Junior and Youth Church for making this such a special night.

Brownies

Burton Brownies completed a display for the back of the Church ready for the Remembrance Service in November.

Each of them decorated a poppy or a dove and the list of the parish war dead was also displayed.



Bishop Wilson Church of England Primary
"The joy of The Lord is your strength" Nehemiah 8:10

FOREST SCHOOL

All the children in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 at Bishop Wilson Primary School had a fantastic time earlier in the term when they took part in Forest Schools.

The children thoroughly enjoyed building dens, making camp fires and making their own hot chocolate! All the activities the children participated in were linked to their topic work.



LENT COURSE



Over the last few months there has been considerable debate and news items regarding the very sensitive issues around end of life care and assisted suicide.

In September there was a vote in the House of Commons to legalise assisted suicide. Various high profile church leaders spoke on either side of the debate but ultimately the 'Assisted Dying Bill' was defeated.

This year during Lent there will be an opportunity to discuss some of these issues and other considerations concerning end of life care and related decisions. We will use a resource called '*Finishing Line*' written by **Professor John Wyatt**. He currently teaches and leads research into ethical dilemmas raised by technological advances.

There are five sessions. Each raises questions to talk through and explore, to listen and to try to grapple with what can be a very emotive subject. There is also the opportunity to listen to what the Bible has to say, not about specific technological instances, but about the value of a human life.

If you'd like to join in the discussion the meetings start on Wednesday 17 February at 8.00pm at the Vicarage.

2015 Christmas Tree Festival

Our Church
Christmas
Tree Festival
from 5-11
December
was a great success.



Over 20 trees were on display with each sponsored tree being decorated around the theme of a Christmas Carol. On Saturday 5 December the event began with the lighting of the trees, refreshments, handbell ringing and carols.

Advent Windows

Advent is the season observed by the Christian church as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus. The term is a version of the Latin word meaning 'coming'. In Burton Village during each of the 24 days before Christmas a real *Advent Window* was lit and revealed at different homes along the village street. It encouraged people to come together and as one couple said, '*It was a lovely chance to talk to neighbours*'. See pictures @ www.burtonchurch.org.uk

A 'Thank You', from Dwenna Georges

Dwenna is most grateful to all those who attended her farewell party and she wishes to thank church members and all her friends for a wonderful afternoon and such lovely food.

ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH - *all are welcome in...*

In this church we extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, gay, confused, filthy rich, comfortable, or dirt poor. We extend a special welcome to wailing babies and excited toddlers.

We welcome you whether you can sing like Pavarotti or just growl quietly to yourself. You're welcome here if you're 'just browsing', just woken up or just released from prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury, or haven't been to church since Christmas 1995.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, football dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps or don't like 'organised religion' - we're not keen on that either!

We welcome those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or come because granny is visiting and she wanted to go to church.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced, both or neither. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throats as kids or got lost and wound up here by mistake.

We welcome pilgrims, tourists, holiday makers, locals, seekers, doubters... and of course you!

(Acknowledgement: Coventry Cathedral)

Recipe for a Happy New Year!



Take twelve whole months. Clean them thoroughly of all bitterness, hate, and jealousy. Make them just as fresh and clean as possible.

Now cut each month into twenty-eight, thirty, or thirty-one different parts, but don't make up the whole batch at once. Prepare it one day at a time out of these ingredients.

Mix well into each day one part of faith, one part patience, one part courage, and one part work.

Add to each day one part of hope, faithfulness, generosity, and kindness. Blend with one part prayer, one part meditation, and one good deed.

Season the whole with a dash of good spirits, a sprinkle of fun, a pinch of play, and a cupful of good humour. Pour all of this into a vessel of love.

Cook thoroughly over radiant joy, garnish with a smile, and serve with quietness, unselfishness, and cheerfulness.

Now you're bound to have a happy New Year!

HARDY PERENNIALS

Ladies' Lunch Dates 2016



Monday - 25 January

Monday - 29 February

Monday - 11 April

Monday - 23 May

Monday - 11 July

Monday - 22 August

Monday - 26 September

Monday - 31 October

Monday - 12 December



Pollard Inn, Willaston

12.30pm for 1.00pm

 Vivienne 336 7435

FROM THE REGISTERS

Weddings

5 September

Claire Marshall and Graham Skinner

19 September

Emma Blizzard and

Graeme Hughes

Baptisms

1 November

Isla Jayne Mills

Funerals

11 November

Inez Frith



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 17 January

Fr Ravi Bosco

As part of Neston and District Churches Together 'Pulpit Exchange' **Fr Ravi Bosco** from St Winefride's RC Church in Neston will be preaching in Burton at 10.00am Morning Worship

START THE WEEK IN PRAYER

Monday morning at 9.00 am in church - 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.

CHRISTIAN LIVING GROUP

7.30pm Wednesdays in term time
Contact Dee Foster 0151 336 2336

STUDY GROUP

8.00pm - 2nd and 4th Wednesdays
Danes Court, Mudhouse Lane
Contact Tony Carter 0151 336 5446



Help! Help! Help!

Messy Church is looking for volunteers to help within the periodic Saturday afternoon sessions either in the preparation of food or with the activities themselves.

If you can help in any way or would like more information please call Cathy on 07471 890 827

CHURCH DIARY



January

- 3 2nd Sunday of Christmas
Epiphany
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Family Worship
6:30 pm Evensong
- 6 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 10 1st Sunday of Epiphany
Baptism of Christ
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Morning Worship
- 13 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 17 2nd Sunday of Epiphany
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Morning Worship
***Neston Church's Pulpit
Exchange***
Visiting Preacher
Fr Ravi Bosco
- 20 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 24 3rd Sunday of Epiphany
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Family Communion
- 27 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 31 4th Sunday of Epiphany
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Morning Worship

February

- 3 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 7 Sunday next before Lent
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Family Worship
& Parade
6:30 pm Evensong
- 10 Ash Wednesday
10:15 am Holy Communion
7:30 pm Holy Communion
- 14 1st Sunday of Lent
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Morning Worship
- 17 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 21 2nd Sunday of Lent
8.45 am Holy Communion
10.00 am Family Communion
- 24 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 28 3rd Sunday of Lent
8.45 am Holy Communion
10.00 am Morning Worship



HYMN STORIES

John Bunyan

'He Who Would Valiant Be'

*He who would valiant be 'gainst all disaster,
Let him in constancy follow the Master.
There's no discouragement shall make him once relent
His first avowed intent to be a pilgrim.*

*Who so beset him round with dismal stories
Do but themselves confound—his strength the more is.
No foes shall stay his might; though he with giants fight,
He will make good his right to be a pilgrim.*

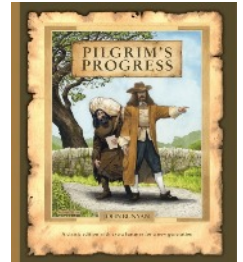
*Since, Lord, Thou dost defend us with Thy Spirit,
We know we at the end, shall life inherit.
Then fancies flee away! I'll fear not what men say,
I'll labour night and day to be a pilgrim*

This popular and rousing hymn actually started life as a poem written by John Bunyan (1628 -1688).

John Bunyan was born in 1628 at Elstow near Bedford, the son of a tinker (a maker and mender of metal pots). He had little schooling and during the English Civil war served in the Parliamentary Army.

During these turbulent and violent times he sought spiritual guidance and found the peace he was looking for within the fellowship of a Baptist congregation. He became a lay preacher and also a tinker during the time of Cromwell's Commonwealth.

After the Restoration of the monarchy



and the Established Church in 1660 Bunyan was viewed with suspicion as a Puritan Sympathiser.

He was ordered to stop preaching. He refused and was sentenced to prison. There he began writing poems, the most famous of these being "Pilgrim's Progress".

"Pilgrim's Progress" is based on the words in Hebrews 11 v 13. It recounts in allegorical form the experiences of a person called Christian, from the first awareness of his sinfulness and spiritual need, to his personal conversion to Christ.

The book follows Christian's pilgrimage to the 'Celestial City', his true and eternal home. The work was an immediate sensation and its popularity has endured for well over 300 years as a classic in English Literature.

The first version of the hymn called '*He who would true valour see*' is part of Pilgrim's Progress and the words are spoken by Mr Valiant-for-truth to Mr Greatheart.

*Who would true valour see,
Let him come hither;
One here will constant be,
Come wind, come weather.
There's no discouragement
Shall make him once relent,
His first avowed intent
To be a pilgrim.*

The poem was first included in the English Hymnal, in the BBC Hymn Book and later editions of Hymns Ancient and Modern. It was revised by Revd. Dr Percy Dearmer (1867 - 1936). The hymn is almost universally sung to the tune "Monk's Gate". This appeared in the first edition of the English Hymnal. It was arranged by Vaughan Williams from the melody of a Sussex folk-song, collected by a Mrs Verrall of Monk's Gate.

The hymn was used in Sir Richard Attenborough's 1977 film "A Bridge Too Far" and was sung at the funeral of Margaret Thatcher.



*Dear Lord, hear our prayer today
for all women and men, boys and
girls who are homeless this day.
For those sleeping under bridges,
on park benches, in doorways or
bus stations.*

*For those who can only find
shelter for the night but must
wander in the daytime. For
families broken because they
could not afford to pay the rent.*

*For those who have no relatives
or friends who can take them in.
For those who have no place to
keep possessions that remind
them who they are.*

*For those who are afraid and
hopeless. For those who have
been betrayed by our social
safety net.*

*For all these people, we pray that
they may find shelter, security
and hope.*

*We pray for those of us with
warm houses and comfortable
beds, that we not be lulled into
complacency and forgetfulness.*

*Jesus, help us to see your face in
the eyes of each and every
homeless person we meet so that
we may be empowered through
word and deed, and through the
political means we have, to bring
justice and peace to those who
are homeless.*

Amen

PRAYING HANDS

Painting by Albrecht Durer

Albrecht was born in the fifteenth century near Nuremberg, one of eighteen children. Albrecht's father, a goldsmith by profession, worked long hours and took any other paying work he could find in his neighbourhood in order merely to keep food on the table for his family.

Two of the children, Albrecht and Albert, were talented artists and they both dreamt of pursuing their talent further, but they knew that their father would never be able to afford to send either of them to Nuremberg to study at the Academy.

So the two boys worked out a plan. One would work in the nearby mines and support his brother with his earnings whilst the other would attend the academy. Then when that brother had finished his studies in four years they would swap. Albrecht won the toss of the coin and attended the academy whilst Albert worked in the mines and earned enough money to support his brother during his studies, intending to swap roles in four years time.

Albrecht's etchings, woodcuts and his oils were often far better than those of most of his professors, and by the time he graduated, he was beginning to earn considerable fees for his commissioned works. After four years the young artist returned to his village and Albrecht was ready to fulfil his commitment to pay for his brother's time at the academy.

The Durer family held a festive dinner to celebrate Albrecht's return.



After the meal, Albrecht rose to drink a toast to his beloved brother in recognition of his support and to thank him for his years of sacrifice that had enabled Albrecht to fulfil his ambition.

His closing words were, "And now, Albert, blessed brother of mine, now it is your turn. Now you can go to Nuremberg to pursue your dream, and I will take care of you."

Albert rose, and holding his hands close to his right cheek, he said "No, brother. I cannot go to Nuremberg. It is too late for me. Look what four years in the mines has done to my hands! No, brother ... for me it is too late."

The bones in every finger of his hands had been broken at least once and he now suffered from arthritis. His thumbs were bent and twisted, so much so that it was difficult for him to hold the glass to toast his brother, much less a brush.

Albrecht paid homage to his brother for all he had sacrificed. He painstakingly sketched his brother's hands with his palms together and his thin fingers stretched skyward, simply calling the drawing 'Hands'. But the world renamed his tribute of love and called the work

"The Praying Hands".

NATURE NOTES

A New Gardening Year Unfolds

Many flowers stayed in bloom longer than expected due to the mild weather in November and December. However, with the last of the rose blooms picked, the remaining hybrid tea roses have now been pruned off by about a third to save them from wind rock on the roots.

The winter jasmine, with its lovely long yellow flowers, now brightens up many a dull day in the garden. The variety of pots and tubs were cleared of their summer blooms and were either washed and stored away or planted with spring flowering bulbs. Their reappearance is always eagerly awaited.

A Meconopsis (Himalayan blue poppy) seedling is growing well in the greenhouse and hopefully it will survive the winter ready to be planted out in Spring.

Fallen leaves have been a real problem. Care needs to be taken when disturbing any mound of leaves as a slumbering hedgehog could be underneath. This happened a few years ago, although fortunately the hedgehog's prickles were spotted and the leaves quickly replaced.



The first *Galanthus Nivalis* are usually first to be spotted from the kitchen window.

Some jobs to be getting on with in January and February

- *Cut back hedges before birds start to nest.*
- *Water trees, shrubs and climbers in containers if the weather is dry or windy.*
- *Trim winter flowering heathers as soon as they have finished flowering.*
- *Give the greenhouse its final clean before the sweet peas are sown.*

At last - the return of a variety of birds.. These have included nine long-tailed tits, blue and great tits, goldfinch, grey wagtail and of course, Robbie Robin.

A very recent and unwelcome visitor in the garden has been a sparrow hawk who perched outside the patio window and was quickly shooed away!

Flori Bunda



St Nicholas Church Supports

wirral foodbank

*Please place donations of food and
other items in the boxes in the
Church porch*

***In 2015 Wirral Foodbank fed and supported 8,100 individuals
(5,271 adults and 2,829 children.) with 80 tonnes of food
distributed.***

***Since the Wirral Foodbank started in November 2011 we have fed
and supported 37,871 individuals (24,237 adults and 13,634
children) and distributed 318 tons of food.***

The Foodbank URGENTLY needs the following items:

- ***Tinned Spaghetti***
- ***Tinned Tomatoes***
- ***Coffee***
- ***Dried Milk***
- ***Squash***
- ***Tinned Fruit***
- ***Smash***



'Thank You' to everyone for your continuing support.

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*Alastair
Sawday's*

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Junior Football	336 6158
Walking	336 7178
Snooker	336 3268
Bowls	336 2050
Art	353 8354
Membership	07826 417 047

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

THE BURTON SOCIETY

The Society meets at 8.00pm in the Gladstone Village Hall. Everyone welcome.

Thursday 7 January: 'My Life as a Tour Organiser – Why'

Talk by Pat Kynaston about her own tour business. She will be telling us how she decided to set it up and some of her more memorable experiences.

Thursday 4 February: 'The Lost Halls of Wirral'

: Gavin Hunter takes us on an illustrated tour of looking at the wonderful manors, old halls and large houses of Wirral – many of which are no longer here.

Thursday 3 March: 'Travels in the Peruvian Andes'

Nigel Griffiths will be giving an illustrated talk about the Incas, Conquistadors, Railways, Condors and more.

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

7 January 2016: 'Past Pleasures of the Peninsula' – Heather Chapman

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

THE PUDDINGTON SOCIETY

For more information about events 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

BURTON MANOR

23 February: 'The History of Wirral's Dee Coastline'

Gavin Hunter. Starts at 7:15pm in Squirrel Lodge

For more information call 345 1107

or email burtonmanorgardens@gmail.com

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