

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

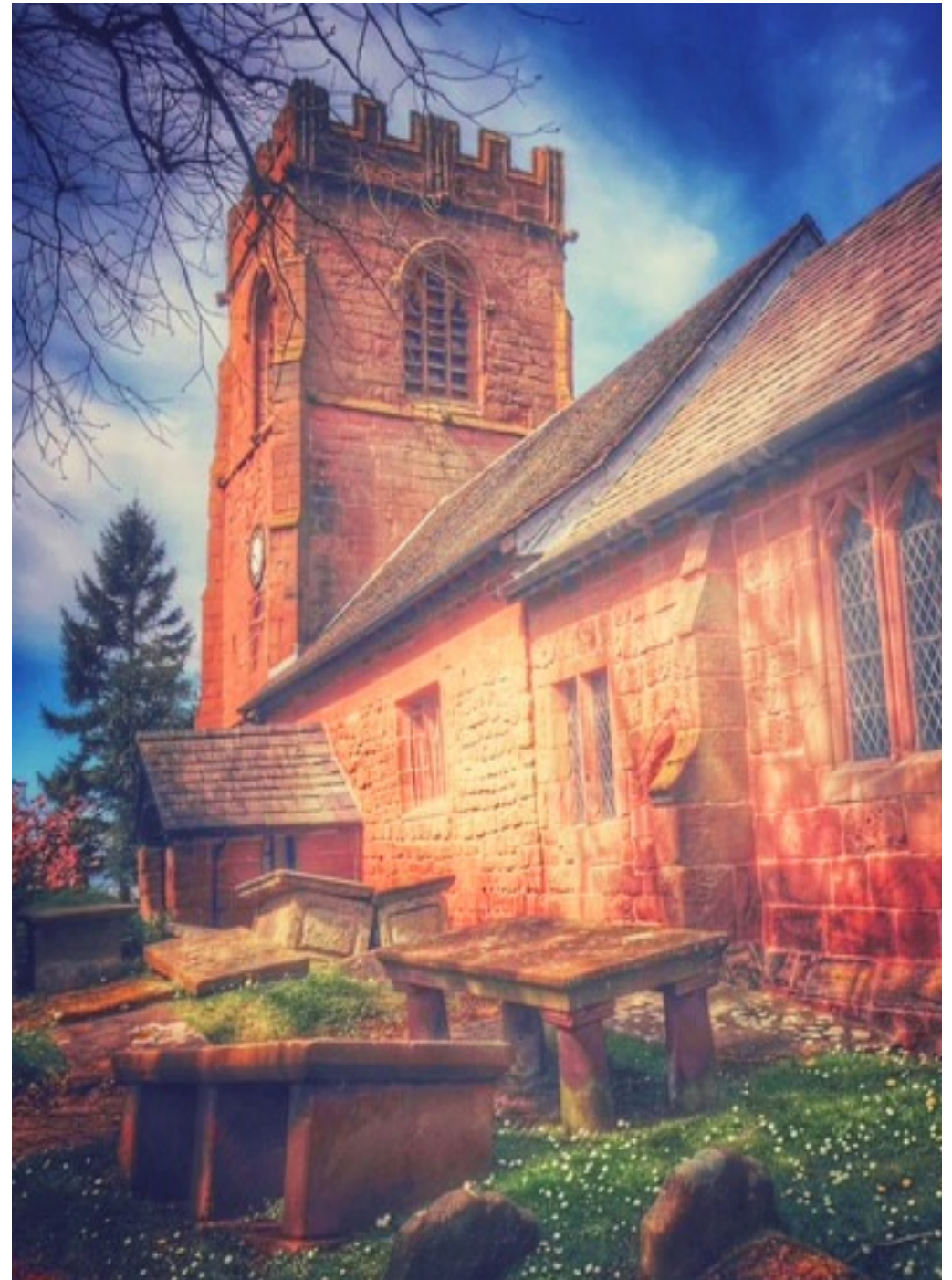
SHOTWICK



This is the Parish Church of
St Michael's, Shotwick
There has been a worshipping
community here for over
a thousand years.

Our beautiful Grade 1 listed
building holds a wonderful sense of
prayer, worship and welcome.

www.shotwick.org.uk



Welcome

St Michael's Church, Shotwick, in conjunction with the neighbouring parish of St Nicholas' Church, Burton with whom we regularly share resources, is seeking to appoint a part-time priest.

We envisage that the role will be based on 0.6 of a full-time position. The successful applicant will be supported in true partnership by an experienced team of lay readers and PCC members in providing worship, pastoral care and evangelism across the parish.

St Michael's is a medieval double nave church with largely eighteenth century furniture including box pews and a three tier pulpit. It stands on the site of a former ford across the River Dee which forms the border with Wales.



Foreword



Jennifer Sneddon - Churchwarden

St Michael's Church is a very special place. As someone who has lived and worked in this corner of Cheshire for over thirty years and has lived in both Shotwick and Puddington for all of this time, I can appreciate why people are drawn to this small parish with its ancient church and traditions. It is a small village community with a church that attracts its congregation from far and wide. Above all, St Michael's Church is a place of prayer and tranquillity with a unique sense of identity. We work with, and share resources very successfully with St Nicholas' Church in Burton and, as a result, activities and services are coordinated in order to maximise efficiency and to ensure that the requirements of both parishes and their congregations are met.

Shotwick has an experienced and effective PCC that has worked closely with Burton's PCC for many years. We share their dedicated team of readers and lay people. We can also work independently on community events. We are very confident that we can provide the extra support that will be required for a part-time vicar.



Basil Keys - Lay Reader

Our church holds a wonderful sense of prayer, worship and welcome for all who enter this place. The doors of St Michael's Church are open every day during the week and, because of the history and heritage of the village, many visitors are attracted to this small corner of Cheshire.

By providing visitors with an opportunity to visit the church many are able to find a sense of God's presence in the quiet peace and tranquillity of the church building.

St Michael's meets the needs of its church members in a number of ways. Through its ministry team, both lay and clergy, it offers a strong leadership role to which its dedicated and committed congregation responds enthusiastically. St Michael's Church also continues to maintain strong links with the local farming community with special services of thanksgiving and reflection.



St Michael's Church



Its Vision

Through the innovation and commitment of its church members, the vision of St Michael's Church is to reach out to local inhabitants of both Shotwick Village and the wider area, as well as drawing in other church members attracted by its unique setting and its commitment to maintaining traditional services.

Its Values

St Michael's Church upholds its long-standing traditions. It has strong appeal to Christians who seek solace and nurturing centred on ministry founded in the traditions of the Book of Common Prayer.

Its Role

Although a small village, the church is very much part of the local community providing a place of worship for all who enter. Naturally, the viability of such a small parish has come under review. However, there continues to be a strong desire to see the church remain open, along with a commitment from people to assist with maintenance tasks and a desire to maintain the current pattern of services. Holy Days and Feast Days are extremely well attended with upwards of 80 individuals. Importantly, the community is heavily involved in decorating the church at Christmas, Easter and Harvest.

Ministry & Outreach in the Parish

Attendance at services is dependent on a core of 20-30 regular attendees, most of whom come from outside the Parish. St Michael's is one of over 120 corporate members of the Prayer Book Society and representatives from the congregation attend its annual meeting.

The All Age Worship on the first Sunday of every month has double this attendance and this number continues to increase. House to house calls, although time-consuming, are appreciated in a parish of just 39 properties.

A questionnaire has been deployed on two occasions in the last decade. About 40 responses were obtained on each occasion, and these revealed a consistent desire to see the church remain open, a commitment by church members and others to assist with indoor and outdoor maintenance tasks and satisfaction with the current pattern of services.

Looking ahead the PCC feels that the format of the All Age service needs further thought in order to build on the existing interest in this form of worship.



Our Church as a Community Resource

The main area of church life we are seeking to develop is that of creating facilities for community use. To this effect, in recent years we have successfully upgraded our facilities to make the church building more usable:

- We have a good sound system
- Fibre optic broadband internet is installed
- The church has a car park for people travelling from outside the area
- A functioning kitchen operates in the Lower Vestry
- Space at the back of church has been reordered for community use

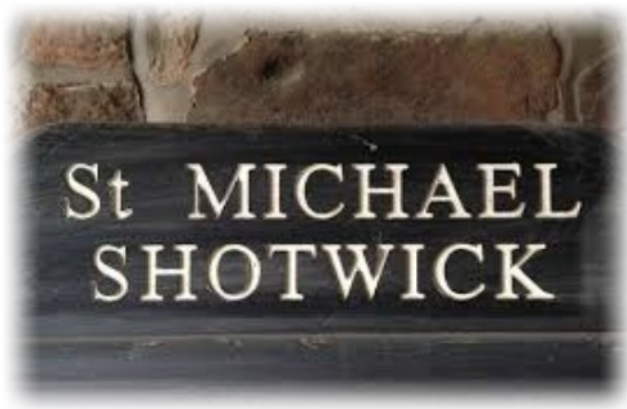
The community puts these resources to good use and recent events and fund-raising activities have included:

- Celebratory dinners
- Music and choral concerts
- Illustrated talks and lectures
- Art and photographic exhibitions

Wirral Photography Group now provides us with a visual almanac of church life throughout the year via the medium of digital photography. The PCC has also agreed to disseminate information on local biodiversity and is compiling a National Lottery Heritage application for local oral and photographic history and singing programmes, the latter with the assistance of new residents in the village. More recently we have endeavoured to enhance community involvement in the church by organising catering as part of the Events Committee's activities. The committee has a full programme of events covering most months in the year.



A Special Church in a Very Unique Village

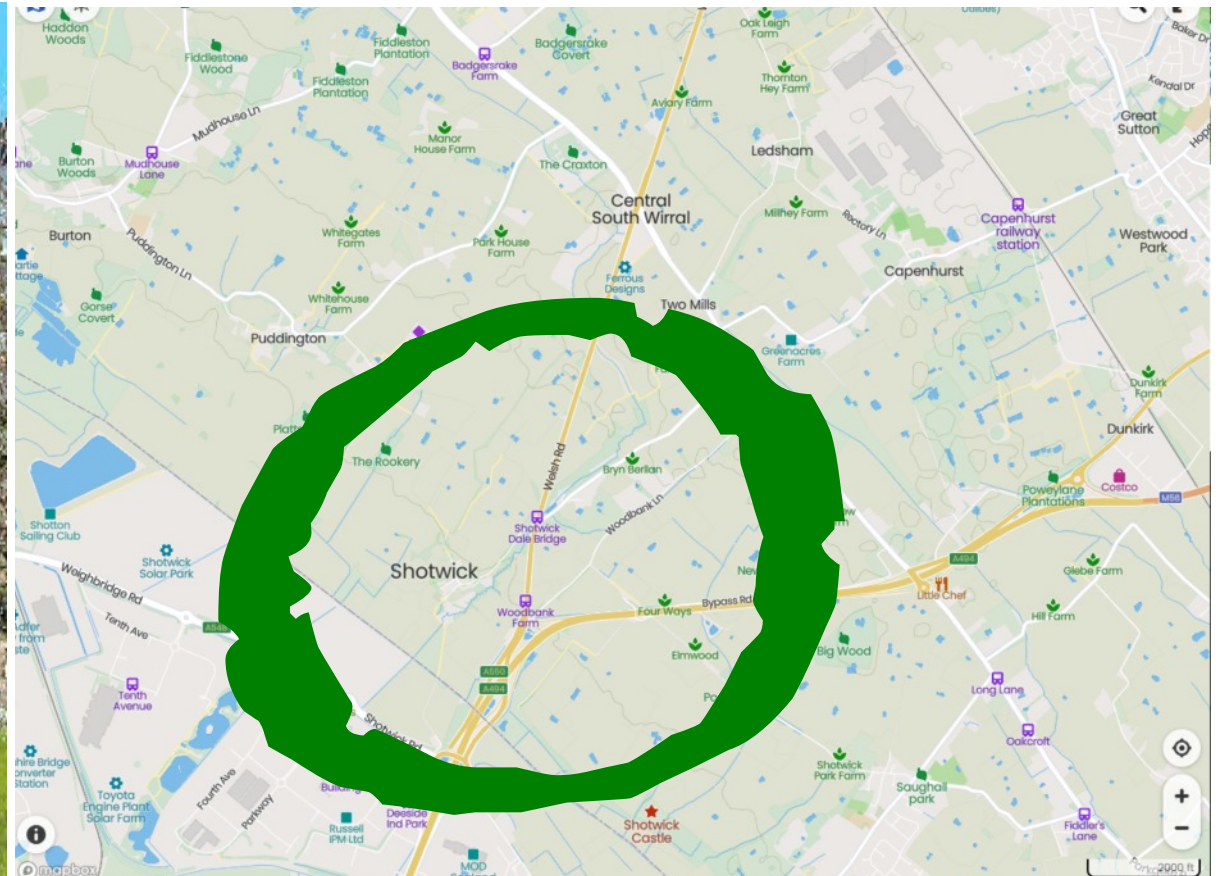


Shotwick Village & St Michael's Church Building on Tradition

The fabric of the church has been well-maintained and is good. Its congregation is extremely loyal and church members are keen to see the life of St Michael's continue to develop and thrive. When it comes to the annual 'spring clean' and the stall we have at the local fête in Burton and numerous other events throughout the year, our congregation provide great support and encouragement. With regard to the fabric of the building, a major re-roofing exercise was undertaken in the 1970s and whilst 25 years have passed since then it has withstood all that the weather along the Dee estuary can throw at it. The heating system and the tower roof have also been renewed in the last decade. Other substantial work has been completed in recent years on the churchyard wall and the clock surround has been repaired.

The Location & Environment of the Parish

The parish is located on the north west corner of Cheshire literally only metres from the border with Wales. The village of Shotwick is special to so many people. In the village itself there are just 15 houses, only four of which are privately owned, and the remainder form part of Shotwick Estate. The village is a 'dead end' as the road ends by the church: children are able to play in the street. There is a public footpath to Puddington and one leading to Deeside and the principality of Wales. Shotwick Village is architecturally attractive with a long history and is run by a Family Trust. The trust's intention is to retain the estate as it is and, over the years, to continue to upgrade the properties. Shotwick is an agricultural village and the main farm is Shotwick Hall which has been expanded in recent years to absorb all the land immediately adjacent to the village.



Keeping In Touch With Our Friends in the Parish & Beyond

Parish Newsletter

We publish a Parish Newsletter four times a year.

The newsletter is circulated both electronically and in print. It covers a range of articles and items of interest to readers both near and far. A typical edition will include:

- An article and introduction from the Vicar;
- Reports on events of interest that have taken place;
- Prayers and details of forthcoming services;
- Suggested items of interest and related Bible notes;
- Foodbank and charitable appeals requiring community support.

The Friends of St Michael's Church

Many people, either living in the parish or beyond, have a strong connection with St Michael's Church, often having fond memories of services attended – weddings, funerals, or school events. Others, such as visitors enchanted by the quiet simplicity of the building, its history and its surroundings, often wish to provide ongoing support. Our church is for everyone, but the costs associated with maintenance of a listed building are considerable. So, in the 1970s 'The Friends of St. Michael's Church' was started with the aim of generating small amounts of regular income to help sustain the church building.

Then, as now, the aim was to ensure that the church was kept open and to maintain its fabric, guarding against damp, rot and the general signs of decay inevitable in such an ancient building. Around the same time the Parish Newsletter was also started as an acknowledgement of the help given by 'The Friends' and to keep them and others informed.



St. Michael's Church Shotwick

News Sheet August 2020



Photograph by Caroline Ellison

"Welcoming and active at the heart of the Parish"

The Bells of St Michael's

The first record of bells at Shotwick is in 1549-1550 when the tower contained a ring of three bells.

In 1610-1611 the second bell was recast by an unknown founder. In 1616 the tenor was recast by William Clibury of Wellington in Shropshire. The second bell was recast in 1621, probably by William Clibury, and both these bells are of very good quality with fine lettering and ornamentation. The treble was recast by John Scott of Wigan in 1664, but unfortunately this bell was of poorer quality. In 1728 the tenor fell from its bearings and the clock hammer was subsequently moved to another bell. As the tenor was not damaged in the fall it probably became wedged in the frame.

In 1731 the church agreed to have the bells re-hung in a new frame by Barnes, a Neston carpenter, although his price of £24.2s. was questioned when it was discovered that Burton had had a frame and headstocks made for five bells for only "12 or 14 pounds more." The frame made by Barnes was a fine piece of work, although the hanging was not so good.

By 1938 the only bell in use was the treble, which was rung by means of a rope attached to the clapper. In that year the Rev. F. R Wansbrough, Vicar of Shotwick, died, and in his will he left a legacy to the church. Some of this money was used to augment the ring of three bells to a ring of six, and the work was entrusted to Taylors of Loughborough. When they inspected the existing bells they found that the treble had been cracked due to clocking, and in view of its age and the fact that not many of John Scott's bells remained it was decided not to recast it.

The bell was initially placed in the north aisle on a platform made from the oak of the old frame, but later it was moved to the base of the tower where it remained until it was stolen from the church in 2010.



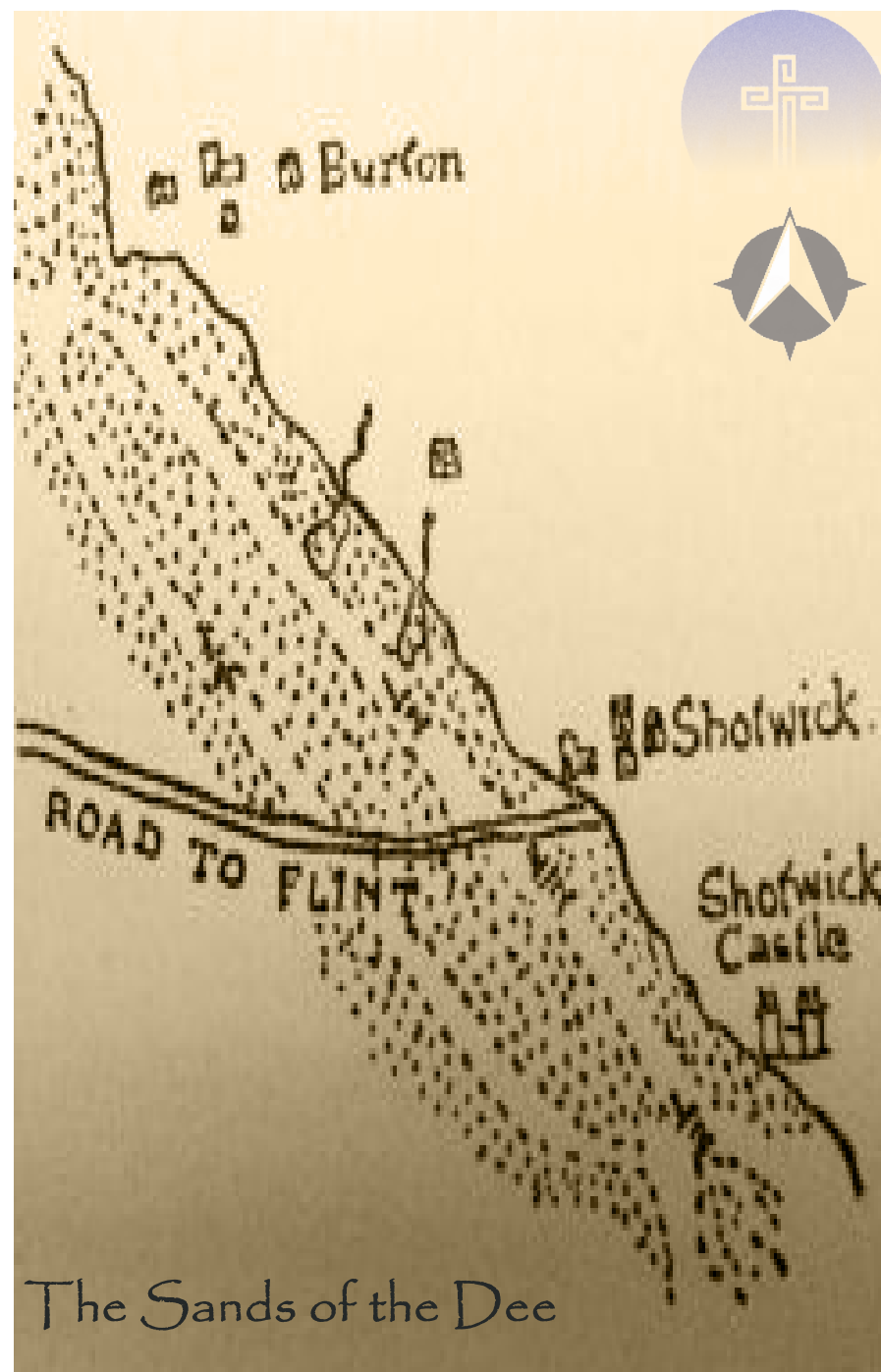
Local History - 'The Church at the Ford'

It is not known when people first began to settle at this spot, although it is likely that even in prehistoric times, the ford was part of a route for people going into North Wales in search of the flints they were unable to find in Cheshire. Historians believe that the 'wick' refers to the creek which afforded anchorage for small craft and proves Viking penetration. Others argue that the name derives from the small salt workings which were still there in 1539, but have completely disappeared. However this might be, the first recorded mention is in the Domesday Book where nine taxable families are listed, quite a prosperous little community. Also recorded was the fishery which was to remain an important industry for the area throughout the Middle Ages.

Traders were probably crossing the ford at Shotwick carrying salt from Cheshire into North Wales long before the Normans came, salt having been produced in Britain in Roman times and probably earlier.

Certainly by the Middle Ages, a 'Saltesway' was well established, being a trading route from the three Cheshire 'wiches' of Northwich, Middlewich and Nantwich, into Wales. The latter part of this road became known as the King's way.

Today St Michael's Church is applying for a National Lottery Heritage Grant to start a local oral history project, which will be maintained on the Church website for both local and national access.



Church Events & Activities

St Michael's has an active church membership and amongst recent events organised have been:

Walk of Witness

- A Good Friday walk - Shotwick, via Puddington to Burton

Remembrance Time

- Remembrance Sunday service
- All Souls Sunday held in conjunction with St Nicholas' Church in Burton

Illustrated Talks

- Interesting topics on a variety of subjects

Harvest Thanksgiving & Supper

- A very popular afternoon service of thanksgiving, with a guest speaker followed by a hearty supper

Book at Bedtime

- An opportunity for families and young children at Christmas time to come together

Songs of Praise

- A time to bring people together 'In cheerful voice'

Annual Pet Service

- A special 'indoor/outdoor service' for owners and their pets



The Future

The PCC of St Michael's Church believes securing and developing a good relationship with its new part-time priest must be a priority if the church is to build the size of the congregation and nurture the spiritual life of the church amongst its membership.

Due to the fact that many members of the congregation come from different areas, to some extent the parish lacks the geographical cohesion normally found within a village community.

Other priorities that the PCC has identified include:

- To develop participation and relationships outside the parish by attending Deanery meetings/Synods/Chapter meetings, thereby widening the experience of St Michael's beyond its immediate boundaries. The PCC believes that reports from these meetings would assist the wider PCC in debating and understanding important issues in the Anglican Communion;
- In conjunction with a new incumbent, to develop a programme of pastoral care by visiting church members and local residents in order to support those in need of help as well as those seeking to deepen their faith;
- St Nicholas' Church, Burton intends to recruit a youth and families worker in order to develop relationships with young families and children of school age. We hope work with them to widen the scope of the initiative and broaden our outreach.
- To review the PCC's income streams and to diversify its sources of income by further promotion of planned giving and wider use of Gift Aid in order to better manage its finances;
- To ensure that representatives attend the annual meeting of the Prayer Book Society as reported in the Newsletter.

A surprising number of visitors reach St Michael's Church and record their experiences in the Visitors' Book as the building is normally open between 9:00am and 5:00pm. In a good year the church receives about 2,000 visitors from as many as 17 different countries. Although there is no set time or pattern to the arrival of visitors they seem to delight in finding the church open and in what they find both inside and out. As part of securing further sources of finance the PCC believes that it may be possible to secure additional revenue from visitors.



Seeking a New Incumbent ~ Who?

The PCC of St Michael's Church, along with our neighbouring parish of St Nicholas' Church, Burton is seeking someone who will

help build up on what has gone before and who is attracted by all that the parish has to offer in terms of its potential for ministry, its location and its challenges.

He or she will have enthusiasm and a practical approach to Christianity, and will be keen to:

- Attract new people, especially from amongst young families, to become involved in the church;
- Continue with the tradition and use of the Book of Common Prayer and the promotion of other special services;
- Help develop family worship;
- Support, inspire, and expand our team of lay readers and other organisers and helpers;
- Provide teaching and instruction;
- Encourage the congregation to live out their Christian faith in everyday life
- Provide leadership on safeguarding and encourage all to contribute toward creating a safer church'
- Help support and develop outreach and further pastoral care;
- Be there for those in need or in distress.

There is the promise that the new incumbent will certainly receive wide-ranging support from lay readers, PCC members, the church congregation and many other people in the parish.



Services at St Michael's Church

(Pre Covid-19 Regulations)

Weekly - Sundays

1st Sunday of the Month

- 11.30 am - All Age Family Worship

2nd Sunday of the Month

- 11.30 am - Holy Communion - Common Worship

3rd Sunday of the Month

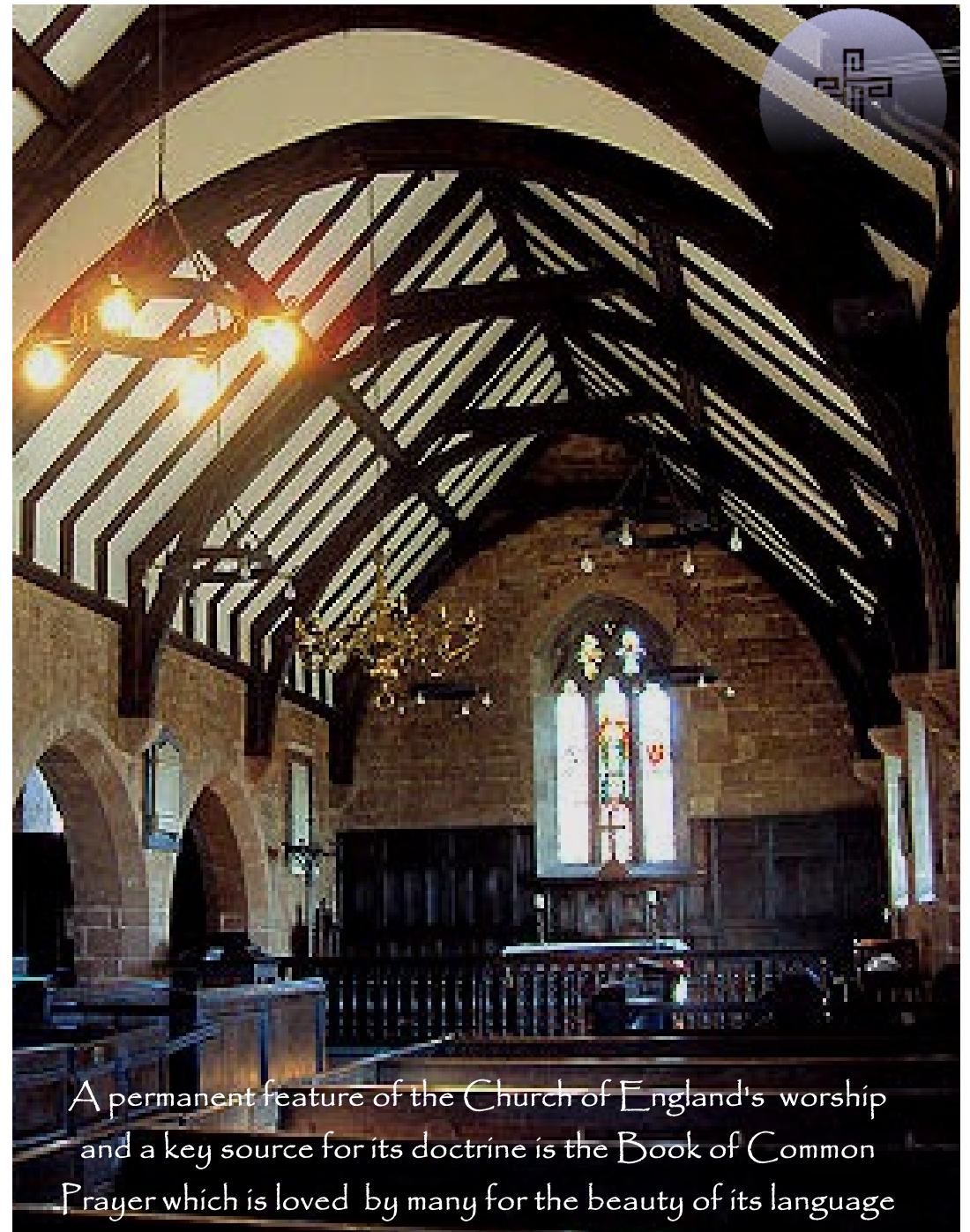
- 11.30 am - Morning Prayer - 1662 Prayer Book

4th Sunday of the Month

- 11.30 am - Holy Communion - 1662 Prayer Book

5th Sunday of the Month

- 11.30 am - Holy Communion - 1662 Prayer Book



A permanent feature of the Church of England's worship and a key source for its doctrine is the Book of Common Prayer which is loved by many for the beauty of its language

Who's Who - A Short Insight

Lay Readers

Basil Keys

Ruth Abbott

John Morris-Best

(In Training)

Philip Hillman

Churchwardens

Jennifer Sneddon

June Pickard

PCC Hon. Secretary

Alison Allen

PCC Hon. Treasurer

Vacant

Church Bells

Frank Parry

Elected Members

Susan Costello

Vanessa Stevens

Joyce Jones

George Makin

Rosemary Taylor

Caroline Rainford





St Michael's Church, Shotwick
A Welcoming Place of Christian Worship



ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

SHOTWICK

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