

Bunbury Church Online

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Join us every Sunday @ 10.30am

June 2020

Celebrating VE Day in Bunbury

Some of the uplifting decorations found in Bunbury



Observing VE Day mid-lockdown brought extra poignancy this year. Confined to home, villagers were spurred on to decorate their houses and find ways to mark the event safely with their neighbours. See p12 to read the moving memories of some of Bunbury's residents from VE Day 1945.

A magazine for the parishes of Bunbury and Tilstone Fearnall



Follow Bunbury Church on Facebook to receive regular updates on local support.

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You can also read The Link online at: www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk

Community news

John Elsworth wrote to thank his many friends from Bunbury and Calveley for the many birthday cards he received on his 90th birthday. They were most appreciated.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the new Bishop of Chester, the Rt Revd Mark Tanner, pictured below with his family. He succeeds the Rt Revd Dr Peter Forster who retired in September 2019. Bishop Mark is currently the Bishop of Berwick in the diocese of Newcastle. "It will be hard to say goodbye to the North East," he says, "however, Lindsay and I are really excited to return to Chester where I was ordained, and both of our children were born."



Foodbank donations — the foodbank is unable to take fresh items of food at the moment. The support from the village continues to be fantastic. Please continue to think of those most vulnerable at this difficult time. The food bank is particularly short of: long-life fruit juice, long-life milk, custard/rice pudding, cereals, pasta, and tinned fruit and vegetables.

We are delighted with the response to our online services on our YouTube channel:

Bunbury Church Online. Rev Tim would like to thank all those who have sent messages to say how much they are enjoying these services. Please send in a photo if it's your or a loved one's birthday. We'd love to celebrate them during the service.

Sadlers Wells Wood is accessed by walking up the Highlands and turning right onto the unmade road. At the

bottom of the unmade road is the wood, which is owned and maintained by the Sadlers Wells Wood Trust and provides a much welcomed amenity for the village, open to all at all times and providing a pleasant woodland walk between the village and Whitchurch Road. Easily accessible from Bunbury it is a very good place for locals to walk and visitors will notice daily changes in this beautiful spring weather. Please remember, in this current climate, to keep two metres away from anyone not in your own family group. Katherine Hutchinson has taken over as Chair of Sadlers Wells Community Woodland on the retirement of Mike Bourne who has become vice-chairman. Katherine lives in Peckforton Hall Lane and has been a trustee of the trust for approximately 15 years. Dave Clapperton, who lives in The Hawthorns, has been appointed as a trustee and will take over responsibility for administrative matters. An active Friends of the Wood association provides email newsletters and updates about the wood, with a subscription of £5 per year, or £10 for a couple., If you are interested please contact Katherine Hutchinson katherine@spurstow.com or Dave Clapperton dave.clapperton@gmail.com

A message from Sue Watson, President of Bunbury WI

We are now into our 6th week of self-isolation. We have been blessed in the main with glorious weather enabling us to tend the garden, go for walks, sit outside and relax with a book or just be quiet and still our minds. I personally feel truly blessed – as I am sure most of you do – that I am having my shopping delivered, prescriptions sorted out as well as friends and neighbours being there for me in a moment of crisis, to have a chat, just to know that no-one needs to be alone as we are all here for each other.

Members tell me that they are finding simple pleasures in card games, jigsaw

A word from the editor

"I try to avoid looking forward or backward and try to keep looking upward" Charlotte Brontë

I am writing this on the hottest day of the year so far. It is a lovely day, but as I walk around Bunbury, the village feels very sleepy. Not so on VE Day: most of the village had tea on their front lawns; overnight, decorations were put up and tables appeared. People were so pleased to join in with something and it emphasised the feeling of community. It was a lovely occasion. Later on a friend said that she felt really flat the next day.

Sue Watson says everything in the closing line of her lovely article for the WI featured in the Link, "We will get through this, we will celebrate together again."

puzzles, scrabble and various crafts, baking, making jam, completing the knitting that has lain dormant for months, finishing the poppies for the flower festival (which I feel sure will happen at some point), picking up a musical instrument again, interacting online with quizzes and virtual visits to museums and galleries – many varied and interesting topics we can enjoy.

A few members have taken up the challenge along with others in and around Bunbury of making scrubs, headbands and laundry bags for the NHS – they are doing a fantastic job. Some are enjoying FaceTime with family and friends and even Zoom.

Some of you will read this and think: 'I feel inadequate, I feel guilty, I am not doing any of these things.' Please don't: this is not a competition – we all have talents and will continue to use them for the good of others as we have always done.

Sometimes life sends us changes we've never contemplated, problems we'd just as soon do without and inconveniences that we'd rather not have to deal with. Next week would have been the Resolutions meeting; we can still share in this, not in the two chosen subjects but in the resolve to continue to be there for each other in whatever form that takes. We will get through this, we will celebrate together again. Take care and stay safe.

With the support of our advertisers, we continue to publish the Link, delivering it to the Co-op for collection. The copy deadline for the June issue is Friday 12 June. The magazine should be in the Co-op on Saturday 27 June. Notices to bunburyparishoffice@gmail.com



TIM HAYWARD

Your Vicar

Bob fertilised his lawns yesterday with Ernie's lawn spreader. Hilary has given her wheel chair (which had belonged to her mother-in-law) to Barbara, who lives across the road, recovering from her fall. Anne picks up Lesley's prescriptions while Colette supplies Arthur with his beloved fruit muesli. David mows Mary's lawn, while Fiona delivers Eileen's newspaper. And Roz organised a wonderful street party on VE Day.

All simple acts of kindness. All examples of how neighbours are coming together during this difficult time.

The coronavirus pandemic, while devastating the country, has had some positive outcomes, above all in relationships. We have come to value not just the valiant NHS staff but also ordinary people doing their ordinary jobs - postal workers, refuse collectors, shop assistants.

Moreover, local networks have sprung to life. It's not just that more people are supporting their local shops. We are getting to know people during our daily walks, those who we bump into (while observing social distancing!) and also those working in their front gardens with time to chat.

"Get ready for a smaller world" wrote economist Jeff Rubins presciently in 2009. This maverick argued then that the future is not going to be a continuation of the past. (He was thinking more in terms of an energy crisis than a pandemic but even so he deserves a longer quote.)

"Soon, your food is going to come from a field much closer to home, and the things you buy will probably come from a factory down the road rather than one on the other side of the world. You will almost certainly drive less and walk more, and that means you will be shopping and working closer to home. Your neighbours and your

Neighbourhoods are coming together

neighbourhood are about to get a lot more important in the smaller world of the none-too-distant-future."

In fact we are now living, just 11 years later, in that "none-too-distant-future." Already we have been changed.

This is important because neighbours and neighbourhoods are a key part of God's plan for us.

Memorably Jesus summed up the entire Torah in just two commandments: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength'. The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'"

We can choose our friends but we cannot choose our neighbours. Whether we like it or not, they're just there. So, says Jesus, just get on with it and decide to love them even if they do support Man City!

Of course, we are drawn to people just like us, that's human nature. Similarly, when we decide to follow Christ, the temptation is to have fellowship with people just like me rather than just like Jesus. The danger then is that the church becomes just another club.

And yet the cross of Jesus destroys all boundary markers so that the apostle Paul can rejoice: "Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all."

Put simply, each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, no matter what their political persuasion or what car they drive, and ask ourselves, "How can I help?" And our smaller world will be beautiful.

USING THE BUTTON BELOW YOU CAN EITHER MAKE A ONE-OFF DONATION OR SET UP A REGULAR MONTHLY DONATION.

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Sewing bees get busy

Our Sewing Bee is made up of many ladies and one man: our "Scrubaroo". Most of us live in Bunbury and neighbouring villages. We are not an exclusive group and we would welcome new Bees.

The word sewing is misleading; not all of us have sewing machines and not all of us are sewing. Some are knitting, others are delivering items. Some are sewing on buttons, others have donated and purchased fabric and accessories. Some of us are using borrowed sewing machines. I am using my misbehaving sewing machine. We have rediscovered old skills, others are developing new skills. A local architect has also printed some sewing patterns for us! What do we have in common? A readiness to support others.

The items that we have created have been donated to support workers in the NHS and Carers. This has been a very humbling experience for us, especially when we know the person that is using the item (however tenuous the link is).

We have made scrubs, scrub hats, scrub bags, ear protectors (sewn and knitted), gowns and now are concentrating on face masks and hearts. We have produced hundreds of items, purchased meters of fabric and I believe have used up the whole of the village's bedding.

We have made things for Leighton, Whitchurch, Shropshire and countryside. We have enjoyed being part of a national and international effort – just doing the best we can.



Garments ready for distribution

As a Sewing Bee, I make up part of the 'hive' so its only fair to ask fellow worker bees to comment:

"Little did I know that a message from a friend, "Sewing for the NHS, thought it might be a useful project, could you pass it on" would open up a world of scrubs and ear protectors and give me a role supporting those on the NHS front line in the only way I can, by sewing."

"I think we all owe something to our beloved NHS, whether it's our own care, looking after a loved one, maternity services or simply knowing we can see a doctor whenever we need to. When the opportunity came up to give something back in this crisis I had no hesitation, resurrecting long-forgotten pattern cutting and sewing skills! It is even more special knowing our work is going to help local hospitals and services. Queen Bee and Bee no 1* have been inspirational and very hard working!"*

"I have really appreciated the opportunity to help out in some small way. It has also been an excuse to get the knitting needles out again which I have loved, especially seeing that the knitted Ear Savers have been of benefit to those on the front line."

"Being able to do something practical to help out in the crisis has been hugely rewarding. A welcome distraction to put to use rusty sewing skills and support local hardworking NHS who we all rely on. Being part of a group albeit remotely has been great during this surreal time - lots of laughs and loads of support. Setting up a sewing room has been a legitimate excuse to escape the household and have a peaceful time."

We have shared moments of happiness and moments of sadness. The nation has been socially isolating, the silence has been deafening, however, the love for our families and friends, for our community, country and world has been humbling.

The future might be unpredictable but I look forward to coming together as a physical hive to celebrate our friendship and the things we have produced together.

We are happy to support our community and if our skill sets is needed please contact us:

Helen Barrie

E: bunburysewingbee@gmail.com

T: 07970 669340

Any donations to buy raw materials would also be welcome .
<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/bunbury-sewingbee>

Any monies left over will be donated to St Luke's Cheshire Hospice.

From the potting shed

I cannot believe that the tulips are still in flower whilst many of the summer perennials are coming into their best. It has been an extraordinary spring so far in more ways than one. The apple blossom has lingered on the trees for many weeks because of the long wet period we had earlier in the year followed by a long dry sunny spell. We are having to learn to cope with many changes in the seasons.

The greenhouse is packed with tomato plants growing very slowly. The annuals are reaching the point when they need to be planted out. Don't let the plants get too big. When their roots begin to fill the pots they begin to suffer from lack of nutrients and will need to be potted on.

I had a splendid display of hyacinths this year but I now need the bed for my dahlias which are desperate to get going, so

they have had to come out and be left to dry out naturally ready for replanting next autumn.

The daffodils have given a wonderful display. Now they are going over let the leaves die back naturally. Do not be tempted to tie them up or cut them down as this impairs next year's growth. Dead head them so that the plants put all their efforts into the bulbs.

One job that continues from spring to autumn is weeding, especially the vegetable plot. If you turn your back on it now you will have months of weeds towering over your vegetables taking all the nutrients from the soil. Nothing looks better than a row of vegetables with clean ground between them, a joy to behold.

Not much time to sit and cogitate in the potting shed just now!



Ear Savers worn in Nightingale Hospital Manchester



Face covering



Ear savers ready for distribution

Give us 2 minutes



A happy childhood in Twyford, Berkshire was followed by University in Nottingham completing a degree in Electrical

Engineering. Working for companies in Bedford, Reading and Bristol, Mark's marketing career coincided with the start of the globalised silicon chip industry enabling him to travel across Europe and to Japan, Silicon Valley and India.

This industry was always volatile and following a series of redundancies he took the opportunity to move to Wirral and start a new career setting up his own web design business. He moved in with Sally and helped to bring up his two stepsons Sam and Nick. It has been very rewarding watching them succeed in their different careers. Sam is a junior doctor in paediatrics in Sheffield, and married a fellow doctor, Pippa last year, while Nick is completing his PhD at Manchester University & Chester Zoo, studying the conservation of black rhinos in Kenya.

Sally and Mark only moved to Bunbury in 2015. They love it here and are so grateful to live in the village during lockdown. Although he has always been a voracious consumer of news and current affairs, he has only become active in local politics since moving here and has really enjoyed meeting so many interesting and community minded people.

If you had a motto what would it be?

Take every opportunity however small, you never know what it will lead to.

It's a celebrity beer call who would you invite?

Frank Zappa, Mary Magdalene, Leonardo DaVinci, Greta Thunberg & Shirley Williams

What would you call your autobiography?

A tone deaf lover of music.

What was your first job?

Choirboy at St Mary's Church Twyford. One shilling per service and half a crown for weddings, and I can't hold a tune (see

Mark Ireland-Jones

previous answer) so I pitied the wedding guests. My first 'proper' job was joining Texas Instruments in Bedford

on their graduate training scheme.

What would you change about Bunbury if you could?

Open the train station at Beeston.

What is the best book you have read to date?

The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail by Michael Baigent. Not the best literary work but the book that inspired me to explore history, world religions and cultures.

What is your biggest regret?

Selling my ticket to see Bruce Springsteen in 1980. The friend who bought it reminds me frequently of the legendary 3 hour concert.

If you were granted one wish, what would it be?

We could share wealth more fairly (and that the Village Hall had a higher roof for our regular Thursday evening badminton!).

What is one thing people would be surprised to learn about you?

I motorcycled on a Royal Enfield from Delhi through the Himalaya on the world's highest motorable road to Leh.

What would you like to achieve most over the next 12 months?

Build our Community Scheme into something lasting.

What is your favourite place and why?

In 1994, pre-internet days, I saw an ad in Private Eye and went on a tour to Burma when the country was still closed. I felt like a pioneer, meeting people who had never met anyone from outside their country.

How would you spend your ideal weekend?

Lockdown has reaffirmed it's the shared experiences with family and friends which are important. I would spend Friday night in the local pub, on Saturday drive to the Lakes in an E-type jag (Sally wants to drive!), a walk followed by dinner at L'Enclume and cooking Sunday lunch back at home.

Sky notes for June

The sky never gets fully dark in Cheshire in June; twilight lasts all night long. Midsummer's Day occurs on June 20, when the Sun reaches its most northerly point in the sky, with the longest period of daylight and the shortest night. From then on, the days become shorter, all the way to December. So enjoy the warm evenings while you can, although it won't be dark enough to see much until approaching midnight.

There is one compensation during these light nights; you might get to see a display of the enigmatic Noctilucent Clouds. These distinctive clouds often shine with an electric-blue colour. Look to the north to maximise your chances of spotting a display. These clouds are extremely high, something like 80 to 85 km, thus they are far above any other clouds. They are only visible for about a month either side of Midsummers' Day. The reason why they glow is that they are illuminated by the Sun, which is hidden below the northern horizon. They often take on a wave-like form like the picture shown here.

This month, Mars begins to make its presence known, although it will be much better placed in a few months. It rises about 1.30 am. Look out for it just above the Last



Noctilucent Clouds over Cirencester, 21 June 2019, James Weightman

Quarter Moon, low in the south-east at about 3 am on June 13. A few days before, on June 9, when the moon is a little bit larger, it will lie just below Saturn and Jupiter, again low in the south-east.

Clear skies!

Bunbury Stargazer

Parish pursuits

An extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council was held on 13 May by conference call for the first time, including members of the public.

The majority was devoted to planning applications. The request to move the affordable housing from the Bowes Gate Road behind the church to the land next to the Medical Centre took a good chunk of the meeting. We had conflicting information from Cheshire East and the developers, which Cllr Sarah Pochin with support from our Clerk resolved to investigate the following day. It would appear that we have retained the eight "affordable houses" (for rent and shared ownership) in the plan, though they will move to the Medical Centre site. It is a complex story going back nearly five years; we will report back in detail at the next meeting.

We agreed to extend the working hours of our lengthsman in order to empty the bins more frequently as these are filling up much quicker during lockdown!

All in all, a successful meeting – as Vera Lynn would say: "We'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when." Take care of each other.

Leila Potter
Parish Cllr - Press Officer

Community Scheme

Many of you will have watched the broadcast from the Prime Minister announcing the gradual easing of restrictions; although there are some relaxations, we would like to reassure users of the Bunbury Community Scheme that it will continue. Many people still need to self-isolate and therefore for us nothing changes.

We hope everyone enjoyed the good weather and VE commemorations on Friday – the village looked absolutely fantastic. If you have any photos please email them to bunburycommunity@gmail.com so that we can add them to the website.

Please find below a link to a five minute Act of Remembrance for VE Day weekend with Ted Fowles playing the Last Post and some stunning photos of Bunbury during and after the war when the church was bombed. <https://youtu.be/K8Fj9Xo7C64>

The Fish van is now a fixture in the village, 1.15–2.15pm at the Nags Head every Monday.

We will still have a large stock of DVDs, books and jigsaws.

If you have any questions then please don't hesitate to contact us.

Mark and Tim

From the bookshelf of Paige Turner

Precious Bane, by Mary Webb

Precious Bane was written in 1924 and is a novel that I come back to regularly. It is set in the depths of rural Shropshire around the time of the Napoleonic wars and tells the story of Prue Sarn, a young woman born with a hare lip which seems to condemn her to a life of drudgery and toil with no prospect of love. Her brother, Gideon, is a driven character who is relentlessly focused on making the farm profitable, using Prue as a virtual slave to his ambition. The title, taken from a line in John Milton's Paradise Lost refers to both Gideon's fixation with earning money as well as to Prue's disfigurement.

This may not seem like an uplifting storyline but at heart it is both an inspiring story of triumph over adversity and a tender love story. The one person

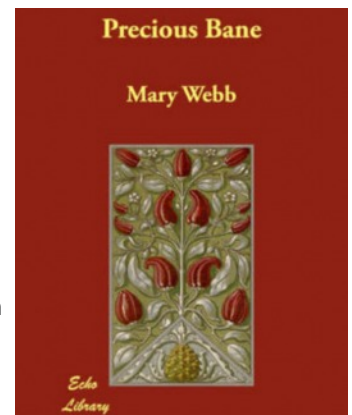
who can see past Prue's physical impairment is Kester Woodseaves, the travelling weaver and the story of their blossoming love and ultimate escape is wonderful. What Kester sees in Prue is what we can all see as readers, a delightful woman who has come to terms with the hand that life has dealt her and risen above it all with grace and humour. Prue Sarn is one of the great female literary characters, equal to Jane Eyre or Elizabeth Bennett.

Mary Webb's evocation of her beloved rural Shropshire is stunning. Her ability to describe both the beauty and the threat of this timeless environment is very special and her description of the life of poor rural farmers in the early 19th century; their customs and beliefs as well as their daily grind creates a wonderful

sense of place. Critics have accused Mary Webb of creating a melodramatic novel of a lost bucolic life –

indeed part of Stella Gibbons inspiration for writing Cold Comfort Farm was to mock Webb's style but that misses the point. What makes this novel special is its heroine.

Read and be inspired.



Beeston 2.6 challenge for local heart charity

Local resident Lynn Hedgecoe from Pear Tree farm Beeston took part in the national 2.6 challenge on Sunday 26 April, what would have been the day of the London marathon. She and her two black labs completed 26 laps of the six-acre field opposite her house wearing 26 different costumes including Elvis, scuba diving and chefs' outfits, a wig and gown and even her wedding dress.

Setting out at 9.30am she completed her last lap by the light of the moon at 9.15pm, a staggering 31,928 steps later!

A Trustee of Vital Signs Foundation, a heart screening charity, Lynn, who was diagnosed with the heart muscle disease Cardiomyopathy 13 years ago, was walking to raise funds for the charity's lifesaving work across the north west. Her aim was to raise enough money to hold a free heart screening event for the young people of Bunbury and the surrounding villages as soon as lockdown restrictions are lifted.

Her challenge took place in a field overlooking Beeston Castle. She couldn't help wondering about other events that might have happened in these fields over thousands of years and about the lives of others who have walked them. She suspects they might not have been doing such a crazy thing as this!

Lynn has been overwhelmed by the hundreds of wonderful messages of support she received and by the level of everyone's generosity. Her challenge has now raised over £4,300 and has been reported across the world, even hitting the New York Post.

VSF works to prevent the loss of young lives to Sudden Cardiac Arrest. It is confirmed that at least 12 young people die unnecessarily every week though it is believed to be more in the region of 28pw. 18 lives have now been potentially saved and over 1200 referred to their GP with conditions which may lead to problems in later life if not followed up. Please encourage your 16–35 year olds to get checked out at a next screening.

To support Lynn and donate or to learn more about the charity, please follow the link to her JustGiving page below: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lynnm-hedgecoe>



A day in the life of...

... INEOS director, Tom Crotty

I work as Corporate Affairs Director for INEOS, a global petrochemical, oil and gas company and I am normally based at the company headquarters in London. INEOS is Britain's biggest private company with a global turnover of about \$60 billion and employs 22,000 people on almost 200 sites in 26 countries. My job is to manage the external face of the company and the way it communicates both internally and externally. In the last few years, we have developed an interest in a number of sports activities which broadens my role significantly. We own Team INEOS cycling (formerly Team Sky), Ben Aisnlie's Americas Cup sailing team as well as professional football clubs in France and Switzerland. Most recently we became main sponsor for the Mercedes AMG Formula 1 team.

Sadly my life is not spent flitting from one major sporting event to another although it does have several of those perks. Our office in Knightsbridge would be my normal abode but, of course, these are not normal times and I now spend my days, like so many people, working from home. A day in my life is now spent almost exclusively on a succession of video conferences. Like so many companies, we've learnt to use systems that we've had available for some time but rarely used. Our internal weapon of choice is Skype for Business but because I interact with many external agencies and with government, I can also find myself using Microsoft Teams, Zoom and Bluejeans to name just a few.

Occasionally, for old times sake, we even have a teleconference although

that now seems strange, listening to disembodied voices without being able to make rude comments about their lockdown haircuts or the contents of their bookshelves. Even old fashioned one to one phone calls are being affected with some of my colleagues now so addicted to video that they will now Facetime rather than just call me!

Any misconception that lockdown was going to be a chance to put my feet up and catch up on my reading were rapidly dispelled as I seem to have been busier than ever. At the start, I had endless calls with government departments about what we could do to help with the urgent medical needs of the country and I got involved in discussions on supplies of oxygen, ventilator parts and chemical reagents for testing kits. The area that we rapidly identified as being at the heart of our business was in the manufacture and supply of hand sanitiser.

We are already Europe's largest manufacturer of high purity industrial grade alcohol and so we took the decision to build a number of hand sanitiser factories. We started in late March with an intention to get our first factory built and operating within 10 days in Newton Aycliffe, County Durham. We were successful and



quickly followed this with plants in Germany and France and, at the time of writing, we have supplied 4 million bottles free of charge to health services including 1.5 million to the NHS. We are now starting to supply supermarkets and pharmacies so you should see INEOS Sanitiser on the shelves soon!

Working from home has taken some getting used to. The problem with it is that it is hard to get away and there is really no down time. I would normally spend a lot of time travelling around Europe and beyond. When your entire travel is a 10 metre walk from the kitchen to the home office there really is not much time to think. I never thought I would miss the Eurostar to Brussels but these are strange times!

The evolution of St Boniface church

Phase 5 The two private chapels and the addition of the Ridley chapel in 1527

The heightening of the nave enabled two private chapels, of timber, to be installed in the eastern two bays of both aisles in about 1450. The northern chapel, dedicated to St. Catherine, was used by the Davenport family - descendants of Sir Hugh Calveley - and the southern chapel, dedicated to Our Lady, by the Spurstow family, whose last member, Charles Spurstow, died in 1685. After his death the Spurstow estate was sold to Sir John Crewe of Utkinton whose family will feature later in these accounts of Bunbury church. It appears that these chapels were not chantry chapels but served only to provide some privacy for the respective two families during the services. Though the two chapels were generally similar in construction they were not identical. Both chapels had woodwork rising to the arches (as shown in an early photograph on the south aisle wall), with painted panels depicting saints, and west-facing entrances. The two chapels were dismantled in 1865 but the panels, after conservation, were returned to the south aisle wall in 1988.

The addition of the Ridley, Egerton chantry, 1527, in the perpendicular style

Of all the medieval alterations and additions to Bunbury church the erection of the Ridley chapel is the only one that has a definite date, of 1527, as stated in stone on the north, screened, arcade, as follows:

"This chapel was made at the cost and charg of Sir Rauffe Egerton, knight, in the yere of owre Lord God A.D. M.CCCC.XXVII."

It is unusual that the chapel is known as the 'Ridley chapel' when normal family convention suggests 'Egerton chapel' would be more appropriate. Certainly Sir Ralph lived at Ridley Hall and that is the obvious source of the name Ridley. This peculiarity is, perhaps, best explained as a Bunburyism!

Chronologically, Sir Ralph is the second of the trio of illustrious knights contributing to the history of Bunbury church. He was a scion of the ancient Cheshire, Egerton of Egerton family, a soldier in the French wars, joint escheater of Cheshire, ranger of Delamere forest, knighted in 1513 and had the grant of office of the King's (Henry VIII) Standard-bearer for life, with the salary of £100 per annum. Sir Ralph died on 9th March 1527 before his chantry was complete. However, his will left instructions for his elaborate funeral and for the completion of his chantry. A double tomb with effigies of Sir Ralph and Lady Margaret was placed in his chapel but the monument has long since disappeared. His will endowed 'two chantry priests to pray for his soul, for his father's and mother's souls of his kind and all Christian Souls for ever.' The priests lived in The Chantry House, situated about 200m from the church which was to be roofed with Welsh slate.

The Ridley chapel is the newest and last major addition to the fabric of Bunbury church. The chapel is wholly in the perpendicular style - then in fashion - and its building involved the partial removal, and remodelling, of the south chancel wall which was replaced with a stone screen

remarkable for having painted, not carved, motifs which are the oldest in the county. By accident or design the building of the Ridley chapel necessitated raising the chancel roof by about 1m., and the opportunity was taken to replace the middle portion of the existing high ridged roof with a new panelled wooden ceiling together with a less steeply ridged weather roof above. It seems probable that both the chancel and the Ridley chapel were also roofed with Welsh slate at that time. Security was also a feature of the new chapel as all the windows are fitted with exterior wrought-iron grilles to deter any human access: likewise the top of the stone screen has sockets suggesting that the screen, at one time, was even taller to enhance security.

In one sense, with the completion of the Ridley chapel after 1527 it could be said that the evolution of Bunbury church was complete with the then ground plan of the church very similar to that of the present day. Certainly if the incumbent of 1550 could be juxtaposed with the present vicar then both would be in familiar surroundings. However, Bunbury church later evolved in several other senses due to important events occurring abroad and nationally which have had lasting consequences even of importance in the twenty-first century. These events and their impacts with respect to Bunbury Church will be explored in later articles.

To be continued.

John Elsworth, Churchwarden 1992-2001



Pat Ellis – Reader Emeritus Healing Waters

At Holywell, Flintshire, is a shrine to St Winefride, a 7th century Celtic saint.

There is found a healing spring, where many miracles are said to have occurred, curing bruises, wounds and broken bones.

According to legend, Winefride, of a noble family, had a suitor, Caradog.

Winefride spurned him, deciding to become a nun.



This enraged Caradog so much that he drew his sword and cut off her head, which rolled down the hill, and where it stopped, a spring appeared.

Her uncle, St Bueno, was so incensed by this that he called upon all the powers of heaven, and by a miracle, Winefride's head was once again joined to her body.

The hapless Caradog fell dead and the ground swallowed him up.

After some years, Winefride left Holywell and went travelling.

It is said that wherever she stopped, a healing spring appeared, one being at Holywell Farm between Tattenhall and Clutton.

*Lord Jesus,
Only you are the true
living water,
In you we put our trust.
Pour out your healing
waters upon all
Who need your help
today.*

*We remember those who
are sick,
The sufferers from Covid
virus,
The bereaved and
grieving.
All who are struggling
with mental illness,
Those who are
despairing over loss of
jobs,
Wrestling with
addictions,
Who are homeless,
rootless
And far from home.
Touch with your healing
Families in distress,
Where there is violence,
abuse and disfunction.
May we always be
thankful for your many
blessings,
And grateful that you
wash away our wrong
doings,
And heal our souls.*

Mike Rogers writes... A rainbow



I wonder if you, like me, have joined your neighbours each Thursday evening at 8pm to bang saucepans, ring bells or to simply clap in support of and to say thank you to the 'Key Workers' and especially to those in the NHS for their care and commitment to our well-being in the face of this COVID 19 epidemic.

But this is not the only way we can express our support for the unknown legions of folk who are keeping things going for our benefit. The rainbow has caught on as a sign of hope and it may be seen in windows and on banners around the village.

The rainbow is mentioned in the bible, in Genesis, where at the end of the great flood God says: "I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth." It is a sign for all of us that God will guide us through the storms of life - and that includes the current pandemic.

However, sunlight is needed before a rainbow can exist,

and if recent weeks have proved nothing else, they have shown us all that we feel so much better when the sun is shining. Sunshine dispels the gloom and brightens up the day.

The idea of light overcoming darkness is something we can all recognise and it is a familiar concept in the Christian faith representing the triumph of good over evil.

But it is to another faith that we must turn to find what is for me one of the most profound expressions of a belief in God and of good over evil.

Written on the wall of a cellar during the Second World War by a Jew incarcerated in the Cologne concentration camp was the following:

I believe in the sun even when it is not shining. And I believe in love, even when there's no one there.

And I believe in God, even when he is silent.

Stay safe and may the sun always shine for you.

Our prayers for June

We pray especially for those who are alone, afraid, isolating or anxious. We pray for the family and friends of **Terry Brookfield, Shirley Barnes, Raymond Smith, Frank Woodward, Richard Coates and Mavis Berridge**

As the spaces around us grow green and strong and plants blossom and fruit; we give you thanks, Lord God, for these signs of strength and health in a changed and troubled world. Amen

Recollections of VE Day

1945

Jean Davies

All we could think about was our Dad coming home. He went away at the start of the war. He was a gunner in the Royal Artillery. When he was away he sent me a handkerchief (pictured right) for my birthday. I have always treasured it.



Eileen Wood

I went to a dance in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. We walked to the dance on the edge of town and met our friends. Everyone really celebrated they were glad the war was over.

Marianne Young

Diana Kinsey suggested that the Link should speak to Marianne Young after their VE Day party.

Marianne has lived in Bunbury for 52 years. She was a district nurse at Bunbury Medical Practice. If she had her time over again she would still be a nurse.

At the end of the war I was at my grandmother's house in Mortlake. The announcement came and we went into London. It was a seething mass of population. I was 10. We went to Trafalgar Square, and a man lifted me up and put me on one of the lion plinths so that I could see. People were doing the conga and dancing. Everyone was so happy. We then walked up the Mall to Buckingham Palace. Everyone was shouting, "We want the King!" An old Cockney man was standing next to us, and



said: "Come on, George – put your pants on!" The King, Queen, two princesses and Winston Churchill came out on the balcony. Everyone surged forward they were delirious with happiness.

I was an evacuee in the war. I was sent with my twin to Midsummer Norton (not on the train). I started school. My twin Anne, caught pneumonia so we went home and she died.

I had four other sisters and a brother. They were all evacuated to other places. I have one sister left who is 94 and she is still a guide at Salisbury Cathedral. She has macular degeneration but still manages; she is indomitable.

My father was in the first world war. He was underage at the start of the war. When registering, he was told to go out and come in again and say he was 18. He became a prisoner of war. He got caught behind the lines on despatch. It saved his life otherwise he would have been at the Battle of the Somme. At the end of the war he came back with TB (he spent a lot of time in the trenches). He never wanted to talk about his experiences.

Editor Elaine Crotty writes: While I wrote this down Marianne was sitting on a bench. Her blackbird is so tame that it stayed the whole time I was there, singing at the top of its voice (pictured above).



Sue Baker sent this photo in of her first Christmas after the war in 1946. Her mother made their clothes made from a parachute that her father brought back after the war.

Absence makes the heart grow fonder



It's Ascension Day so I've decided to film at the top of the church tower to get a heavenly perspective and the views are incredible.

This is the day we remember Jesus ascends to the heavens and is reunited with his father, it is a happy day.

But it's also a poignant day because his disciples, his friends now feel his absence, he is no longer with them.

Perhaps they're beginning to realise all the things they took for granted. Perhaps they have regrets, thinking about all the things they wished they had said or done. Perhaps they just miss Jesus, all the memories they have, the times they shared. During these 10 days between Ascension Day and Pentecost we feel God's absence.

Jesus encourages his disciples and us to pray: Come, Holy Spirit, come!

My prayer for us all at this difficult time is we will receive God's Holy Spirit, we will know his comforting presence and peace, we will know God's love for us.

Perhaps, like me, you are beginning to realise the things we took for granted before the lockdown: seeing grandparents, meeting up with friends, going to the pub or church.

We long for the time when we will be able to see each other again and be able to gather together. But in the meantime, know this: you are not alone. Looking down on our community from the church tower, you get a sense of our togetherness even if we have to be a part for a while.

I've put together a short reflective service for those who are mourning a loved one at this time. The sense of loss is especially difficult during lockdown. Please share with anyone you know who might find comfort in watching. It's also aimed at those who on the anniversary of the death of a loved one might normally visit church and say a prayer, but are currently unable to.

Link: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=iBnd-TUnnZc>



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In such unprecedented times we wish to emphasise the thoughts of the nation in thanking our NHS doctors, nurses & staff, paramedics, all carers in our community and care homes and the long list of keyworkers keeping our country functioning. Our best wishes to everyone, stay safe.



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