



# Link

December 2022 – January 2023

*Merry  
Christmas  
and a  
happy new  
year, from  
all at  
the Link*



*MERRY  
Christmas*

*Come and celebrate with us...*

Sunday 4th Dec 4pm | Christingle | St Boniface  
Sunday 11th Dec 4pm | Carol Service | St Jude's  
Wednesday 14th Dec 7pm | Carol Service | Calveley  
Sunday 18th Dec 10.30am | Nativity Brunch | St Boniface  
Sunday 18th Dec 6.30pm | Carol Service | St Boniface  
Christmas Eve 4pm | Crib Service | St Boniface  
Christmas Eve 7.30pm | Christmas Communion | Calveley  
Christmas Eve 11.30pm | Midnight Mass | St Boniface  
Christmas Day 9.30am | Christmas Communion | St Judes  
Christmas Day 10.30am | Christmas Communion | St Boniface

# Who we are

## TIM HAYWARD - Vicar

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### Churchwardens

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Sean Augustin-Wood  
bunburychurchwardensaw@gmail.com

### Vice-Chair

David Cox 01829 734008

### Treasurer

Yvonne Wood 01270 528442

### Flowers

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### Secretary

John Mason 01829 733971

## St Jude's

### Churchwardens

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Mike Lightfoot 01829 732611

### Organist

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## Calveley

### Churchwardens

Si Lees-Jones 07711 227617  
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### Secretary

Yvonne Wood 01270 528442

## The Link

Please contact us if you would like to advertise your business or to send us your news, views and pictures.

### Advertising:

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### Editorial: Elaine Crotty

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### Graphic design: Jo Mason

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

# Community news

Congratulations to **Mason Brown**, son of **Sarah** and **Andrew**, christened on 16 October, **Harriet Paterson**, daughter of **Alison** and **Edward**, christened on 23 October, and **Matilda Reid**, daughter of **Emma** and **Charles**, christened on 6 November.

As representatives of the church community, the **PCC** is proud to support three charities each year: one local, one national and one international. **Save The Family** and **KNYSNA (South African Educational Trust)** are the current recipients of our local and international support, respectively. The three-year cycle for the current national charity, **Childline**, has ended and a new one must be chosen. The PCC will consider nominations at their next meeting. If you would like to nominate a national charity, please email [revtimhayward@gmail.com](mailto:revtimhayward@gmail.com).

**St Jude's church** is holding a **Carol Service** on Sunday 11 December at 4pm followed by refreshments, all welcome. Christmas Day service is the usual time of 9.30am.

With the help of the **Tarporley Rotary and 41 Clubs**, Santa will visit Bunbury on Wednesday 7 December, starting at St Boniface Church at around 5pm. His 'little' helpers will be collecting donations for local charities. Please come out to support, wave and say hello.



### Santa expected at Bunbury Mill

Father Christmas plans to visit Bunbury Mill on Saturday 17 December 1-4pm. On arrival, visitors will be guided to his grotto. Refreshments will be served in the Visitor Centre tea room after your visit, giving the children a chance to unwrap their gifts from Santa. They are taking timed bookings (one slot per family). For more details and to book your timed slot, email [Santa@bunburymill.com](mailto:Santa@bunburymill.com) with your group's details including how many children, their ages and number of accompanying adults. £7 per child.

**St Luke's Hospice** is once again offering their **Christmas tree collection**. Let St

Luke's remove and recycle your Christmas tree. See ad on p4 for more details. Book your collection now at:  
[www.slhospice.co.uk/christmastree](http://www.slhospice.co.uk/christmastree)

The **Christmas choir** is preparing for the **St Boniface Carol Service** on Sunday 18 December with rehearsals at 10am-12pm on Saturdays 3, 10 and 17 December. All are welcome to join.

**Decibellas' Christmas concert** is on Saturday 10 December at 7.30pm at St Boniface. Doors open at 7pm. Bunbury's new choir, **Just Sing!**, will be joining them to showcase their new repertoire. Tickets from Tilly's, Little Tap of Tarporley or online at [decibellas.co.uk](http://decibellas.co.uk)

A group of volunteers is needed to collect and **deliver the Link** around Tattenhall Lane and Beeston Lane. Please contact Carolyn Johnson on 01829 260703.

**The Foodbank** last collection for 2022 is **Monday 19 December**. Your donations make a huge difference so please ensure they arrive in plenty of time. Thank you to all those people who thoughtfully donate Christmassy food treats and small gifts for all ages such as:

- Chocolate, sweets, mince pies, individual Christmas puddings, custard, etc.
- Small boxes of Lego®, fancy socks, sparkly tights, small cars, smellies, hand cream, playing cards and small games.

Mid Cheshire Foodbank suggest two other charities that help those in crisis:

**Fresh Start Baby Bank** – working with the local community to offer pre-loved and new donated clothing, blankets and specific equipment to families in need in Cheshire. Contact:  
[freshstartbabybank@gmail.com](mailto:freshstartbabybank@gmail.com)  
Tel 07786 263293  
<http://www.freshstartbabybank.com>

**Toy Appeal** - make up Christmas gift packages for families in need - accessed via the schools – always looking for good quality donated toys  
<https://thetoyappeal.com/>

## A word from the editor

A huge thank you to **Jo Mason** who has been involved with the Link since 2011. **Kay Carson** has very kindly offered to take on the layout of the Link for 2023. Thank you so much Jo.

I paid my respects in a tiny village in Yorkshire. As we stood outside laying the wreath, hauntingly from way out in the distance someone played *The Last Post*.

Our next issue will be in February; the deadline for articles to be submitted will be Friday 13 January.

If anyone is interested in coming to the Nags Head on a Tuesday for Henry's bargain lunch you would be very welcome. It is very sociable and a few stay to play games afterwards. I always feel much better for going. Everyone is such good company.

It just remains for the Link team to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

On behalf of the Bunbury community, Elizabeth Pulford would like to thank **Sue Briggs-Harris** for producing the Paper over the last 2½ years. She produced it voluntarily whilst looking after her family, parents and also working at her own job. It will be missed. Thank you from us all, Sue.



**OPAL Services** provides services across rural communities within West Cheshire, including a **Digital Inclusion service**, OPAL GoOnline, a one-to-one service for older people and carers looking for help in using their communication

devices: tablets, iPads, mobile phones, laptops, etc. Friendly and approachable volunteers are there to help with issues. In addition to operating in the venues below, they offer a home-based service for those who cannot leave their homes. The next three months' dates will be on the website mid-December, and dates of December GoOnline sessions are shown below and can be seen on their website [www.opalservices.com](http://www.opalservices.com)

Wednesday 7 December at St Philips Church in Kelsall from 10am to 12pm

Thursday 8 December at Tarporley Garden Centre cafe area from 10am to 12pm

Wednesday 14 December at the Parish Rooms, Ashton Hayes from 10.30am to 12.30pm

No appointment is necessary. For more information contact Jane Colville on 01829 752607 or email [jane.colville@opalservices.org.uk](mailto:jane.colville@opalservices.org.uk)

## Our prayers for December

*Loving God,*

*Here we are, Jesus, on this Christmas Day  
Here you are, Lord Jesus, always ready for us.  
Here I am God, ready to greet you  
And here you are Emmanuel, always with us  
Grant us your Spirit of joy and peace. Amen  
(adapted from a Methodist Church service)*



**TIM HAYWARD**  
Your Vicar

## It's time to stop being more spiritual than Jesus!

Around Christmas we often hear the song *From a Distance*. It's got a lovely tune. "From a distance, there is harmony, and it echoes through the land." Then it continues, "God is watching us from a distance." Sounds beautiful — but it misses the whole point of Christmas.

God doesn't watch from afar like some benevolent grandfather watching the children play at the bottom of the yard. God joins in. A God who watches us from a distance is a God we can keep at a distance. A God who takes human form is a God that comes up close and personal. That's why our natural instincts at this special time of year are to be with loved ones, no matter the distance.

But Christmas is also about how God went to great lengths to relate to people who needed God but weren't sure they much wanted God. Celebrating Christmas means going to such lengths to relate to people who need us but aren't sure they want us: eating with those with whom no one eats, listening to those to whom no one listens, touching those whom no one touches, remembering those whom no one remembers, loving those whom no one loves.

We are called to be shepherds roaming in Bethlehem looking for Jesus among teenage parents and homeless people and those who live among farm animals. We remember Jesus's parents fled Bethlehem for Egypt and so are on the lookout for Jesus among immigrants and refugees and those in fear of their lives in a new country. We recall the wise men travelled to find Jesus in a manger when they thought he'd be in a palace, and so we're always seeking wisdom among strangers from another country.

You will often hear Christians complain Christmas has become too materialistic! And they're right to a point, when you see the number of people getting themselves into debt to keep up with the Jones'. Yet the heart of Christmas is about God being materialistic (in the most profound way). About seeing each other's flesh and blood — humanity, fear, anger, exasperation. And letting the light of hope, generosity and courage shine through, in acts of goodness, truth and beauty. That's what happened 2000 years ago.

This is what God did at Christmas: this is what we can do at Christmas. This is how to celebrate a material God. It's time to stop trying to be more spiritual than Jesus.

**The copy deadline for the February issue is Friday 13 January. The magazine should be delivered on Saturday 28 January. Notices to [bunburyparishoffice@gmail.com](mailto:bunburyparishoffice@gmail.com)**



Wishing all our friends in and around Bunbury a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. With love from **Graham and Sue Melia and family**

Season's greetings and best wishes for the New Year from **Tom and Elaine Crotty**

**Nick and Alex Sanders** send all best wishes for a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year!

**Judy and Tim Grey** wish our friends and neighbours a very happy festive season and a contented and healthy 2023

Merry Christmas to everyone and all good wishes for the coming year. **Anne James**

**Joy, Fiona, Julia and Simon Parker** wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Merry Christmas and a healthy, peaceful New Year, from **John and Jo Mason and family**

**St Luke's Hospice**  
**Christmas Tree Collection**

We will collect and recycle your Christmas tree to raise money for St Luke's Hospice!

In partnership with **JUST HELPING**

Kindly sponsored by **A-plan insurance**

[www.slhospice.co.uk/christmastree](http://www.slhospice.co.uk/christmastree)

## Church diary for December

Sunday 4 December	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Family Worship 10.30am Holy Communion & Forest Church 11.30am Holy Communion 4.00pm Christingle	St Boniface St Jude's St Boniface  Calveley St Boniface
Wednesday 9 December	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 11 December	10.30am Family Worship 4.00pm Carol Service	St Boniface St Jude's
Tuesday 13 December	2.30pm & 7.30pm Contemplative prayer	St Boniface
Wednesday 14 December	10.00am Holy Communion 7.00pm Carol Service	St Boniface Calveley
Sunday 18 December	9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Sunday brunch & DIY Nativity 6.30pm Carol Service	St Jude's St Boniface  St Boniface
Wednesday 21 December	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Christmas Eve	4.00pm Crib Service 7.30pm Christmas Communion 11.30pm Midnight Mass	St Boniface Calveley St Boniface
Christmas Day	9.30am Christmas Communion 10.30am Family Communion	St Jude's St Boniface

## Church diary for January

Sunday 1 January	9.30am Family Worship 10.30am Holy Communion	St Jude's St Boniface
Wednesday 4 January	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 8 January	9.30am Family Communion 10.30am Family Worship & Forest Church	St Jude's St Boniface
Wednesday 11 January	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 15 January	9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Sunday brunch 6.00pm Evensong	St Jude's St Boniface St Boniface
Tuesday 17 January	2.30pm & 7.30pm Contemplative prayer	St Boniface
Wednesday 18 January	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 22 January	9.30am Family Worship 10.30am Family Communion	St Jude's St Boniface
Wednesday 25 January	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 29 January	9.30am Family Worship 10.30am Holy Communion	St Jude's St Boniface

# Sky notes:

# December & January

## Mars plays hide and seek behind the moon

The evening skies promise to put on an impressive show for December and January. Not only are four bright planets on display - Venus, Saturn, Jupiter and Mars - but we also have the bright winter constellations to enjoy, like Orion the Hunter and his retinue. Busy times!

Mars is very impressive. Closest to earth on December 1, it is just 81 million kilometres away. The Red Planet is visible all night long for the next two months. It is in the southeast at dusk and is due south at midnight in early December and is at its brightest. It is readily distinguished from other "stars" by its brilliance and its ruddy colour. On the morning of December 8 a very rare event occurs: Mars will disappear behind the full moon at about 4.55am, reappearing an hour later, at 5.55am (see the diagrams). This event is called an occultation and is the first Mars occultation to be visible from the British Isles since 1952; the next won't occur until 2052. It's therefore worth getting up early to watch. The event might be a little easier to follow using binoculars.

Venus begins another long reign as an Evening Star and her brilliance will dominate the western skies at sunset for the next few months. In early December Venus sets just after the sun, but by the end of the month it sets later, at 5.30pm. During January it pulls further away from the Sun and will be visible for longer before it sets. It is so bright that it can cast shadows.

Mighty Jupiter is the next brightest planet after Venus and a bit brighter than Mars. Look out for the king of planets in the south during the early evening. On December 1, the Moon lies just below Jupiter and on January 25 Jupiter is above the crescent Moon.

Saturn is the faintest of the four major planets on view. It is low in the southwest in the early evening. On December 26 Saturn lies just above the crescent moon. On the evening of January 22, Saturn is less than a Moon's diameter above Venus. They are an unmatched pair, with Venus being 75 times brighter. Then the next evening, January 23, a very thin crescent moon forms a beautiful tableau with Venus and Saturn.

I don't often mention the planet Uranus as it is barely visible to the naked eye, though is an easy object with binoculars if you know where to look. But there are two opportunities coming up to spot it easily, with the Moon acting as a guide. On the evening of December 5, the Moon passes in front of Uranus between about 4.50 and 5.20pm. This is best viewed with binoculars or a small telescope, which might show

Uranus with a greenish hue. If you miss that occultation of Uranus, you will have another chance on New Year's Day. Start looking about 10.15pm on January 1. Uranus will disappear behind the dark part of the Moon a few minutes later, reappearing on the bright side just before 11pm.

There is lots to look out for during the long winter nights ahead. The Winter Solstice, giving us the longest night of the year, is on December 21. After that the days will gradually begin to lengthen.

Clear skies! Bunbury Stargazer



**Mars disappears behind the Full Moon on December 8. It disappears at 4.55 (top) and reappears at 5.55am (bottom)**

# Bunbury School news



School life continues to be busy at Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary with lots of school and community events to celebrate. On Friday 11 November, Rev Tim and the Royal British Legion were welcomed into school for Remembrance Worship. The list of the fallen was read by year 6 pupils during the service along with poems which had been written by Year 6.

There have also been a number of Open Days this term for prospective parents. Parents have been able to book an individual guided tour with the Principal, Nic Badger to view the school in action. During the tour parents have been able to hear about the Connected Curriculum, see the dedicated PE

teacher in action with classes, view the Forest School provision as well as classes working in their rooms. During the tour visitors have been able to see the new mental health provision in 'The Nest' where a dedicated member of staff is available to support both pupils and their families.

Although, all the dates for Open Days this term are full, prospective parents are welcome to view the school at any time. Should prospective parents wish to visit Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary please contact the school office.

We currently have spaces for in year transfers in Reception, year 1, Year 2, and Year 6.

As the term progresses there are a number of events in the run up to Christmas: Reindeer Run, the Christmas Fair and our Christmas Nativity Play and Carol Concert.

## Forest church fun

On a beautiful November day, Forest Church marvelled at the mathematics that runs through nature, reflecting on how when the sun is shining pine cones open and spread their seeds. This is how we can be open to God and spread his love to those around us. There are not many churches where children (and adults) get to explore nature as a way of hearing bible stories. Making pots and hedgehogs out of freshly dug clay, foraging for berries and painting with the fruit, creating life size pictures with leaves, starting fires, making bird feeders. the list goes on. Our children love how interactive the sessions are, how fun the activities are, and that it's a family affair. Forest church caters for all ages. It's so good to take the time as adults to appreciate our beautiful surroundings while the children and young people hear from Beth and the team how special they are; they learn so much about themselves and each other from everything around them – from the tiniest bug to the biggest tree.



# Remembrance

Thank you to all who made the parish Remembrance Services so special. This year's service included all the uniformed groups in the village. People commented on what a lovely service it was and how well behaved the youngsters were. A huge thank you to Ted Fowles for playing The Last Post for the 70th time.



## November Requiem by David Kominz

*While writing cheques this morning,  
Something gave me pause.  
Glancing at my watch, it said  
Exactly eleven o'clock.*

*Then I saw the faces, young,  
Friends of long ago*

*Who never came home  
But closed their eyes on fields  
Of Italy or snowy Belgium  
Or underneath dark waters,  
None of them heroic, names  
Like Wilfred, Alvin, Lee –  
Laughing, ordinary, like me –  
But I rejoice in sunshine while  
Their youthful faces fade.*

*Who threw the dice so long ago?  
Why was his ditch the one they strafed?  
Why did his plane stray from formation?  
Why could I go on with school?*

*Not knowing why I  
Have been allowed to live,  
May I live my life fully,  
As if they were in me,  
Living lives through me.*

*Though autumns and springs ahead  
Grow fewer, and snowy slopes  
One day shall best my knees,  
May I proceed unrushed, aware  
Of every quiet moment, 'til  
Rounding an ordinary corner,  
My surprised eyes, like theirs,  
Grow dim.*



# Bunbury Medical

## Practice news: December

### Staff Update

Dr Keith Gillespie left the surgery at the end of October having been our permanent locum for the past year while Dr Caroline Hickley has been on maternity leave. Dr Hickley will be returning in mid-January 2023.

Dr Charlotte Webb has joined us; she will be our new permanent locum, working Thursday afternoons and alternate Fridays.

We are pleased to say that we continue to have more clinicians and therefore appointments available, than prior to the pandemic.

We appreciate that sometimes patients are not able to make their planned appointment; in this event, please do let reception know so that the appointment can be offered to another patient.

### Dispensary News

You may have noticed that we have implemented a new system of texting patients when their prescription is ready for collection. Feedback so far has been very positive. We hope that this new, streamlined system will increase our capacity to dispense and therefore provide an improved patient experience.

Obviously it would be very helpful if patients would ensure that contact details are up to date. Having up to date contact details also helps when patients are referred on to the hospital, as it enables the hospital appointments teams to send text reminders to patients.

We currently have a "front of house" vacancy in dispensary; if you are interested in finding out more information about the role, please call in and ask for Rachel, our dispensary manager.

The busy Christmas season is with us once again. Please be mindful of what you are ordering and only order the medication you need and then please collect your prescription in a timely manner. We are still finding that medications are being requested and then not collected.

We will be closed for only three working days over the festive period: 26–27 December 2022 and 2 January 2023.

### Extended Hours Service

The surgery is now providing a number of GP, nurse and pharmacist appointments from 18:30 until 20:00 on a Monday evening, which we hope will improve access to the surgery, especially for people who work and struggle to attend daytime appointments. These appointments are

pre-booked with reception. The building is closed other than for the patients who have these pre-booked appointments so please do not call into reception or the dispensary during this time as there will not be anyone there to help you

### Hospital Transport

If you need help attending a hospital appointment and have a clinical need and reduced mobility, please be aware of the West Midlands Ambulance Transport service. Please call 0345 425 0050 with details of your appointment and staff will assess your eligibility and arrange transport if appropriate.

If you are currently undergoing chemotherapy, radiotherapy or renal dialysis, irrespective of your mobility, you would qualify for ambulance transport, under the current CCG contract.

It might be that you do not qualify for ambulance transport and will need to use a taxi or public transport. The Healthcare Travel Cost Scheme is an NHS scheme which could potentially cover all or part of transport to hospital costs. Please call 0300 330 1343 for more information.

### Meals on Wheels

Our Patient Participation Group ALIVE team would like us to let you know about Harvey's Farmhouse Catering Meals on Wheels service.

Harvey's covers the Bunbury, Tarporley, Bickerton, Bulkeley, Malpas and No Mans Heath areas. They aim to deliver hot, fresh meals between 12 noon and 1pm Monday to Friday.

Please call Harvey's on 01829 260170 between 9am and 5pm or email [carl@harveyscatering.co.uk](mailto:carl@harveyscatering.co.uk) for more information.

### We wish you all a healthy and happy festive season

**Please remember that help is available through the surgery with non-medical issues which are affecting your health and well-being:**

We can refer you to the Social Prescribing Service which helps patients over 18 who are:

- feeling lonely or isolated;
- needing help with housing support, debts or benefit claims;
- in need of carers or bereavement support;
- wanting access to social groups or activities in the area.

You do not need a GP appointment to be referred to the Social Prescribing service; any practice staff member can help you.



*A seasonal treat, courtesy of Good Food magazine*

# Christmas Pie



## Ingredients

2 tbsp olive oil  
knob butter  
1 onion, finely chopped  
500g sausagemeat or skinned sausages  
grated zest of 1 lemon  
100g fresh white breadcrumbs  
85g ready-to-eat dried apricots, chopped  
50g chestnut, canned or vacuum-packed, chopped  
2 tsp chopped fresh or 1 tsp dried thyme  
100g cranberries, fresh or frozen  
500g boneless, skinless chicken breasts  
500g pack ready-made shortcrust pastry  
beaten egg, to glaze

## Method

1. Heat oven to 190C/fan 170C/gas 5. Heat 1 tbsp oil and the butter in a frying pan, then add the onion and fry for 5 mins until softened. Cool slightly. Tip the sausagemeat, lemon zest, breadcrumbs, apricots, chestnuts and thyme into a bowl. Add the onion and cranberries, and mix everything together with your hands, adding plenty of pepper and a little salt.
2. Cut each chicken breast into three fillets lengthwise and season all over with salt and pepper. Heat the remaining oil in the frying pan, and fry the chicken fillets quickly until browned, about 6-8 mins.
3. Roll out two-thirds of the pastry to line a 20-23cm springform or deep loose-based tart tin. Press in half the sausage mix and spread to level. Then add the chicken pieces in one layer and cover with the rest of the sausage. Press down lightly.
4. Roll out the remaining pastry. Brush the edges of the pastry with beaten egg and cover with the pastry lid. Pinch the edges to seal, then trim. Brush the top of the pie with egg, then roll out the trimmings to make holly leaf shapes and berries. Decorate the pie and brush again with egg.
5. Set the tin on a baking sheet and bake for 50-60 mins, then cool in the tin for 15 mins. Remove and leave to cool completely. Serve with a winter salad and pickles.

## Hiring Bunbury Village Hall

Bunbury Village hall is an airy multi-functional hall ideal for parties, children's parties, exercise, dance or craft classes, indoor sporting activities, business meetings or events. With stage and lighting facilities, it's a great venue for amateur dramatics! The hall accommodates up to 120 people. The loft room is suitable for smaller gatherings and business meetings of up to 10/12 people. The hall also offers:

- A modern kitchen with cooking and dishwashing facilities, along with crockery, cutlery and glassware for use by our hirers;
- Trestle tables and chairs for hirers to use, whether you want to set up for meetings or in a theatre style;
- Free WiFi, which comes as standard with your booking;
- The option for your event to be licensed for alcohol;
- Easy access to the A51 and A49.

With the online booking system, hiring the hall couldn't be easier! Simply go to the village website: <https://bunburyvillage.info/about-bunbury/> and click on Bunbury Village Hall in the Village Facilities section. You'll find the booking schedule and a form to note your requirements. It's as simple as that!

## BUNBURY BOWLING CLUB



**BUNBURY PAVILION**  
**FRIDAY 9th DECEMBER 2022**

**DOORS OPEN 6.30 PM**  
**EYES DOWN 7.00 PM**

**Super Prizes**

**Refreshments**

**Raffle**

**ALL WELCOME SO DO COME AND SUPPORT US AGAIN**



**More details from:**  
**Barbara Burrows 01270 524851**  
**Margaret Wilson 01829 732781**



# Bunbury's Neighbourhood Plan - What's happening?



In the spring a copy of the Bunbury Neighbourhood Plan consultation document was delivered to every Bunbury address. Many of you responded with your views and comments.

The current Neighbourhood Plan is valid until 2030 but is being modified to reflect changes in national and local planning law including the adoption of the Cheshire East Local Plan in 2017. Bunbury's Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has been busy producing a new modified plan.

The Steering Group (part of the Parish Council) has now drafted a modified neighbourhood plan taking into account your comments from the spring consultation. The draft modified plan includes:

- Saved and modified policies from the 2016 Neighbourhood Plan, such as the saved policy on protecting important views and vistas and the modified policy on Public Rights of Way
- New policies reflecting new planning legislation, such as a new policy that new housing development up to 2030 may only take place within the settlement boundary of Bunbury
- A revised Vision and new Objectives
- Amended maps including Bunbury's settlement boundary.

A copy of this draft will be delivered to every address in Bunbury in the new year so that once again you have the chance to give your views before it goes before the Independent Examiner. Watch out for the draft modified Plan dropping on your doormat and please have a look at it.

Public meetings and opportunities to meet the Steering Group are also being planned. Look out for advertised dates and please come and talk to us! We are once again asking everyone to give us their comments in writing by returning a form included in the draft.

So please let us know what you think: this is your last chance to help make sure our Neighbourhood Plan remains as robust as possible to protect the good quality of life in our village.

## Mike Rogers Light



I wonder what comes into your mind at the mention of the word Christmas. If you are a child, I suspect you might think about what presents you would like to receive. A teenager might have in mind parties and going out. A mother of a family might be thinking about more practical issues - turkey and Christmas puddings. A father might worry about how it is all to be paid for. The elderly and those who live on their own may dwell on where they are to spend the festive season and will they have anyone with whom they will be able to celebrate. And there will be some for whom Christmas is just another day to be endured.

These are all valid responses, but sadly, they all miss the point of Christmas. Yes, it is a time to give and receive presents, it is a time to rejoice, it is a time for families to gather and celebrate, it is a time to reflect on just how much we are spending and it is a time when we should all be concerned about those who will be on their own.

But above all that, it is a time when we give thanks and celebrate the greatest gift that the world has ever been given, the birth of the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, the Light of the World.

We use light a great deal at Christmas. And whilst candles and Christmas trees decorated with bright twinkling lights might well create a sentimental atmosphere or a warm, cosy, fireside feeling, light has a much deeper significance. In the cold drear of a dark winter's day to have 'light in the darkness' seems a very natural thing to do and let's face it, without light, we struggle to complete even the simplest of tasks.

In our world today we so much need the Light of Christ to come into our lives, to shine into our darkness, to change us, to comfort us and to heal us and to guide us on the right path as we stand at the dawn of another year.

So, this Christmas, as you look at the lights on your Christmas tree or perhaps at a candle, may I ask that you spare a thought for those for whom this will be a difficult time? Think about those who have fled their homeland and will spend Christmas in a strange country with different customs, those who sit in the darkness of despair, those who are sick, those who mourn and who will have an empty place at their table, those who are alone and those on whom the true meaning of Christmas is lost.

And may the Light of Christ shine in your lives this Christmas and sustain you in the year to come.

## Book review

# The Last Overland by Alex Bescoby



I thought a break from fiction was due, so my recommendation this month is *The Last Overland*, a very well written travelogue with a difference. Back in 1955, a group of Oxbridge undergraduates decided that they would attempt an overland journey that had never been tried before; namely to drive from London to Singapore. They persuaded the Rover Company to give them two of their precious new Landrovers which had just come into production and persuaded a reluctant young BBC producer called David Attenborough to provide them with cameras and film to document this remarkable feat. You can read all about that great adventure in a book by one of the members of the group, Tim Slessor, called *The First Overland*.

The two Landrovers, appropriately named Oxford and Cambridge, managed the journey through post war Europe and Asia and finally returned to do service on subsequent adventures before Cambridge was destroyed in a crash on the borders of Turkey and Iran and Oxford was lost on the island of St Helena. Skip forward 60 years and a Yorkshire Landrover nut called Adam Bennet succeeded in repatriating the rusting hulk of Oxford, reuniting it with Tim Slessor and

then restoring it to roadworthy condition. Tim had always dreamt of reliving the adventure by driving Oxford from Singapore back to London but at the age of 87, it seemed like a pipe dream.

Step up adventurer and film maker Alex Bescoby and a plan is hatched to do just that and this book is the story of that remarkable journey. Bescoby and his team set out with the 87 year old Slessor to Singapore to make his dream come true. Naturally, like all good stories, things don't go according to plan but I won't spoil that for you. The remarkable thing about the book and the references back to the First Overland is just how much the world has changed in the ensuing 65 years. In 1955, the team had to skirt the Iron curtain whereas in 2019, the Last Overland flew through modern Eastern Europe, most of it now a part of the EU. In 2019, Iran, Iraq and Syria were no go zones whereas in 1955 they were open societies welcoming the crazy Brits in their blue Landrovers. You really don't have to be a car nut to enjoy this book although if you are you will love it. It's a great reflection on the changing face of the world.

Paige Turner

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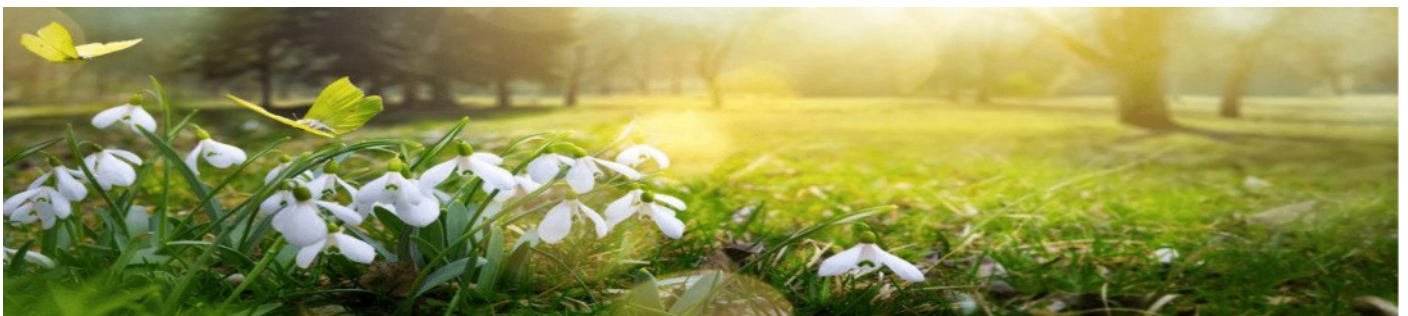
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