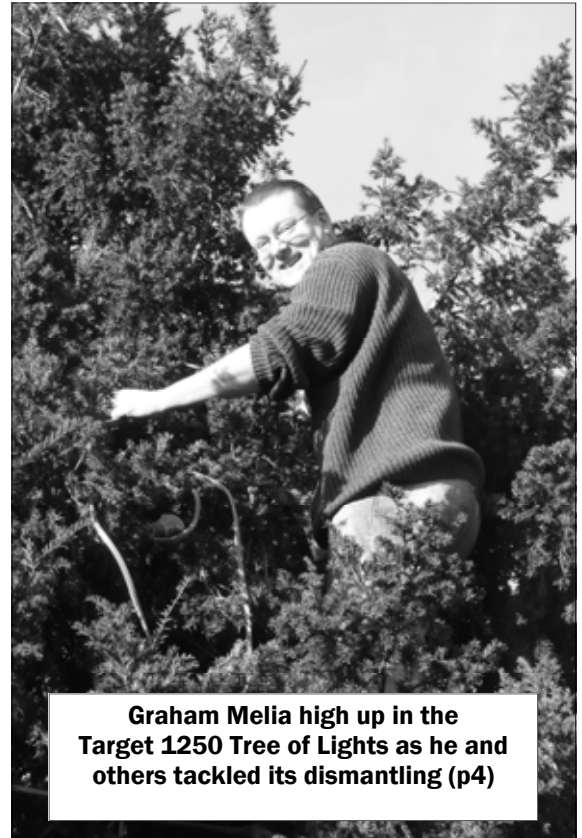


London Chamber Orchestra to perform at St. Boniface

Bunbury School will be welcoming some very important guests on Friday, February 22nd when members of the world-renowned London Chamber Orchestra spend time coaching some of our local primary schools' best young instrumental players. The same evening the children will join the orchestra for one piece as part of a concert of classical music at St. Boniface. For most of the children the opportunity of playing alongside professional musicians will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The LCO, led by world-renowned conductor Christopher Warren-Green, is the resident orchestra at St John's, Smith Square and enjoys worldwide acclaim from critics and audiences alike.

The visit, organised by headteacher Alison Phillips, has been made possible through Alison's sister Rosemary who worked with Yehudi Menuhin bringing classical music into schools. The concert will be a fitting way for Alison to mark this, her last year as Bunbury School's head teacher. Alison says, "This is a lovely chance to celebrate the value of music in the primary curriculum, something I have been passionate about throughout my career."

See back page for more details on this unmissable event.



Graham Melia high up in the Target 1250 Tree of Lights as he and others tackled its dismantling (p4)

RAF Christmas in Afghanistan

One of many poignant entries in the Target 1250 Book of Lights was that of Anne and Barry Paton of Bunbury, whose son, Nick, was spending Christmas thousands of miles away with our armed forces in Afghanistan. Anne said that seeing the lights as she drove home from work in the nights before Christmas, reminded her that Nick would soon be home. Barry writes: "As a helicopter pilot with the Royal Air Force, Nick, 29, has had several tours of duty in the Middle East, and in this last year he found himself "out in the sand" over Christmas and New Year. As the message of peace and goodwill hadn't got through to some local elements in Afghanistan, he and his colleagues found themselves very busy as Christmas Day dawned. However, after a successful conclusion to the morning's business, it was "early doors"

for those off duty. Though the mess tent at Kandahar doesn't have quite the charm of the Nag's, Dysart or Yew Tree, the company was certainly warm, and the beer was cold. While the lads had many senior establishment figures visit them over this festive time, Nick had the pleasure of sitting down to a meal next to Jeremy Clarkson. The lads thought him far more entertaining than any politician and more use too. Nick is hoping to be back at his Surrey home, with partner Caroline very soon.



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Welcome to Rick's 6th grandchild, James Benjamin, born on 21st December, the first child for Rick's daughter Rachel and husband Robin.

Community news

Olwen and Arnold Williams are proud to announce that they are grandparents at last. Their youngest son **Julian** (who was many years ago a member of the Young Christians) is now a father to **Miquel Arnold**. Julian and his wife **Emma** now live in Spain and Miquel will be baptized in the spring.

Welcome to **James Stephen**, son of **Steve and Lesley Roberts** of Sadlers Wells, Bunbury, who was baptised at St. Boniface on December 1st. Welcome too, to **Scott James and Aron Harry**, sons of Daniel and Claire Smith of Wistaston, baptised on December 9th.

Congratulations to **Toby Elsegood** on his 18th birthday just after Christmas.

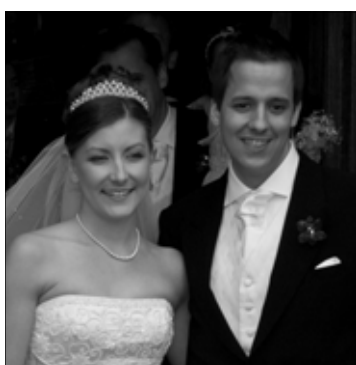
Happy Birthday to **Dave French**, who reached his half century on January 22nd.



Anthony and Emma



Louise and Philip



Nicola and Daniel

Congratulations to the following couples pictured below left who all had December weddings at St. Boniface: **Anthony Heppenstall and Emma Williams** on 15th (whose delightful bridesmaid is pictured below); **Philip Gartside and Louise Griffin** on 22nd and **Daniel Dodd and Nicola Marshall** on 27th. For more pictures look on www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk.

Sadly we have to report two deaths this month: that of **Edward 'Ted' Bowen** of Houghton and of **Margaret Rodwell**, formerly of Wyche Lane, Bunbury. For an appreciation of these two well-known local figures, see p7.

The **Snell family** are leaving the Dysart this month, though staying in Bunbury. The best of luck to them in their new ventures.

Commiserations to **Poppi Dickens** aged 9 who had a nasty fall requiring a visit to A and E and several stitches recently. Hope you will be fully recovered soon, Poppi.

As part of their 60th Anniversary celebrations, **Sandbach Voices** will be performing Brahms Requiem on Saturday 15th March at St. Mary's Church, Sandbach at 7:30pm. Tickets £10, available on 01244 540511 or from 01270 841727, under 16s free.



Bunbury Singers are having their 20th Anniversary Concert in St. Boniface Church on Saturday 8th March 2008 at 7.30 pm, in aid of Hope House Children's Hospice. The choir from Bunbury Aldersey Junior School will be performing as well.

Those readers looking for **Liz Jones's** nature notes will be disappointed this month. We have allowed Liz a month off to move house.

St. Luke's Hospice's annual Midnight Walk will this year take place on 28th June. The opening date for registration is February 1st and places are limited. Please phone 01606 555688 or download an entry form from www.midnightwalk.co.uk

Congratulations to Link Christmas Quiz winner **Margaret Ellis** of Wyche Lane, who came up with over 40 carol references - the prize is on its way.

This year sees the **50th Anniversary of Tarporley High School**. Many Link readers will recall its opening in January 1958. Various celebratory events are being planned, including a reunion dance in the autumn. The school is hoping to contact as many former pupils as possible. Watch out for details and dates of events.

Church news

Taylor's Bellfounders will be carrying out restoration work on the bell fittings at St. Boniface. The bells will be silent from 25th January but it is hoped work will be done by the end of February.

Save the Family have sent sincere thanks for all goods recently donated.

This month please pray especially for Claudia McLaughlin, Suzanne Swann, Phil Dean and for the Rodwell and Bowen families and all those mourning the death of a loved one. And please pray for all those who are troubled in body, mind or spirit and for those who care for them.

Tear Fund (in association with Church Times) are organising a "**Carbon Fast**" for Lent. Sign up for 40 of the most compelling pieces of evidence to prove climate change.

www.tinyurl.com/yuzjuh

The **March** edition of the magazine will be available on Mothering ' Sunday, March 2nd, a week later than usual owing to the short month.

Photo Alert

Remember the Bunbury Parish Calendar of 1989? Target 1250 is hoping to publish a fundraising calendar for 2009, with photos of local scenes or village life. Neil Dewson-Smyth is putting it together and is appealing for keen photographers to let him have any good quality pictures you may already have, or take over the coming months. Digital photos should be left 'raw' and mailed to neil@d-s.demon.co.uk

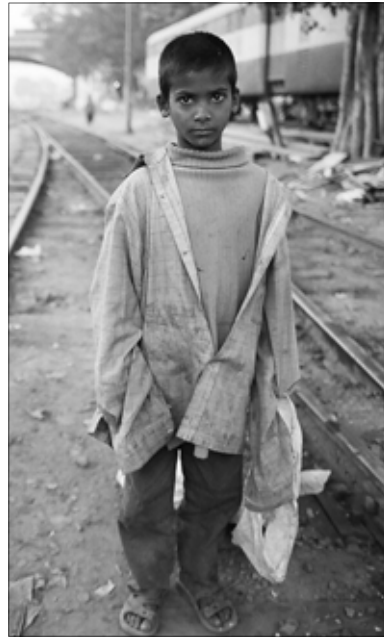
Any questions to Neil on 261680.

Three peaks, two days, one train

Many of you know about and support the charity I work for - the Railway Children - and you may be hearing a lot more about it in the next few months thanks to a very energetic group of people. Jonathan and Amber Middlemiss, Sally and Rob Sissons, Steve and Sally Marsh, Susi and John Waddington, Tim Wheatland, Jeremy Simpson, Andrew Simpson and Link editor, Jill Robey have all entered the charity's Three Peaks Challenge which takes place in July. They will be climbing the three highest mountains in the UK in under 36 hours, travelling between the mountains in a special train. It's a difficult event, said to be the equivalent of running three half marathons with little prospect of sleep. The three teams of four have to raise at least £2,500 per team and are planning lots of fundraising activities, so if you would like to support them, this is what the charity is all about:

The idea behind Railway Children began in 1993 when David Maidment, Chairman of Railway Children (former Controller of Safety Policy with British Rail), was on a business trip in Mumbai. David was deeply moved by the many street children he saw at the main railway terminal, and was haunted by the image of a 7 year old girl beating

herself to elicit sympathy and money. On his return he researched all organisations working to help street



children and saw a lack of provision. No one was focusing on early intervention. In 1995 Railway Children was launched, to stop the abuse of children living alone and at risk on the streets, through early intervention.

Railway Children now works with over 40 partner organisations with 117 projects worldwide across Africa, Asia,

South America and Europe. Last year we helped over 24,000 street children and for the first time ever spent over £1 million on street children projects.

I'm going out to India at the end of January to visit some of our projects. I went out there a few years ago and it was a profoundly moving experience seeing so many children living in such terrible conditions on the streets. It was also a very positive experience, visiting our projects and I was very proud to work for a charity that was doing so much to give these vulnerable children a future. The scale of the problem is horrific. India alone has 12 million street children, equivalent to every child in the UK living on the streets. Railway Children believe that all children deserve to feel safe and valued. By supporting the Bunbury Three Peakers, you can help give more children the help they so desperately need. And you will help give the Three Peakers a reason to get to the top of those mountains!

If you would like to make a donation to the Bunbury Three Peakers, they have set up an online sponsorship page - www.justgiving.com/susiwaddington or contact Susi Waddington on 260942

Katie Mason

Lost but not forgotten

Jesus said to his disciples, "What woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it she calls together her neighbours, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.'" (St. Luke 15, 8-9)

Beethoven, who was apparently not noted for his sense of humour, wrote a furious 'Rondo a capriccio'. It was accorded the nickname 'Rage over a lost penny' - a nickname that would seem apt because the music does convey a sense of a lot of fuss about nothing important.

But in the parable that Jesus told, about a lost coin, the loss was far from trivial. When a Jewish woman married, in the

time of Jesus, she was given a dowry in the form of silver coins, which she wore on her forehead on a band. In those days, it's said, that only ten per cent of the population lived beyond forty-five. So, even if she wasn't divorced by her husband, as could easily happen, she was very likely to become a widow. Then those ten coins became vital for her survival - without them she'd probably starve. So when one was lost, it was a very serious matter.

The parable itself gets a bit lost in St. Luke's Gospel because it's sandwiched between the better-known parables of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Son (or Prodigal Son as it's usually called). The shepherd went to look for his missing sheep in loving care for that one sheep. The father loved the prodigal son, longed for his return, and welcomed

him back home with unreserved love because he was his son.

Jesus told all three parables to teach one lesson - that people who may seem unimportant are precious to God. Unless we're hopelessly conceited and over-confident, we all have moments of self-doubt. Never mind, says Jesus, you're as precious to God as the one lost sheep is to the shepherd, as the one lost coin is to the widow, as the one lost son is to his loving father.

And the follow-on is that, just as Jesus loves us all, we're each called to love everyone, difficult though that may be, if we're to be able to receive his love in all its richness. Those we may find difficult to love are also precious to God - they should be precious to us also.

Eric Wallington

Target 1250

After last month's appeal, Target 1250 are delighted to have acquired at least one new volunteer – the redoubtable Tracy Bowman – and she has been put to immediate use peeling mountains of 'neeps and tatties' for the Burns Night Ceilidh on January 26th. Anyone else willing to join us will be made more than welcome (no more veg to peel we promise).

The Tree of Lights organized again this Christmas by Target 1250 was well supported and raised over £600 in sponsorship, which goes to church restoration funds. Several people commented on what a lovely sight the tree made in those dark nights before Christmas, and it would be nice to think that a continuing village tradition has been started. Thanks to all the Target 1250 volunteers who strung up and removed the lights – especially those brave souls with a good head for heights (see front page). Unfortunately the tree was unlit for four nights during the holiday, due to a technical difficulty – apologies.

Standing up for tolerance

This February is officially LGBT History Month for the third year in a row. What does LGBT stand for? L is for lesbian, G is for gay, B is for bisexual and the T stands for transgender. For more information visit www.lgbthistorymonth.org.uk

LGBT History month was started to counter the homophobic bullying that goes undetected or ignored in thousands of schools every day. How many young people use the word 'gay' to mean 'stupid' without a second thought? That of course is nothing compared to the isolation and beatings many young people regularly suffer,

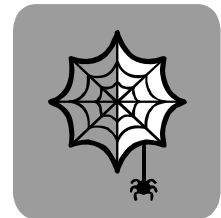
Thanks to all

Christmas seems a long time ago, but as we last went to print in November, before many of the special Christmassy events in our parishes had taken place, we must briefly thank here all those who work so hard to organise our seasonal celebrations. November and the YCs sell-out panto led into Christingle with its lovely service of candles. Hearing the many children sing 'Away in a Manger' in the dark church got Christmas off to a good start. The Tree of Lights was officially switched on with a small service of dedication and the next week it was standing room only at both the candlelit carol service and at the school's Christmas service. For both services the church looked beautiful, with its magnificent tree and floral decorations. Thanks to all the church wardens and to the many others who help make Christmas in our churches and villages the envy of so many visitors.

Cobweb alert!

All the many Christmas visitors to St. Boniface were impressed by our lovely decorations and the way the building is kept. However the church has not been cleaned since before Christmas and now needs a thorough going over if the spiders are not to take over. The ladies who turn out regularly on the first Monday of the month will not mind my saying that their pensions are due. And there are times when we are down to 3 people to clean the whole church. We need to keep our church clean and welcoming. We can organise a cleaning session to suit busy people. If you can help please contact me on 260344. Many thanks.

Barbara Croley

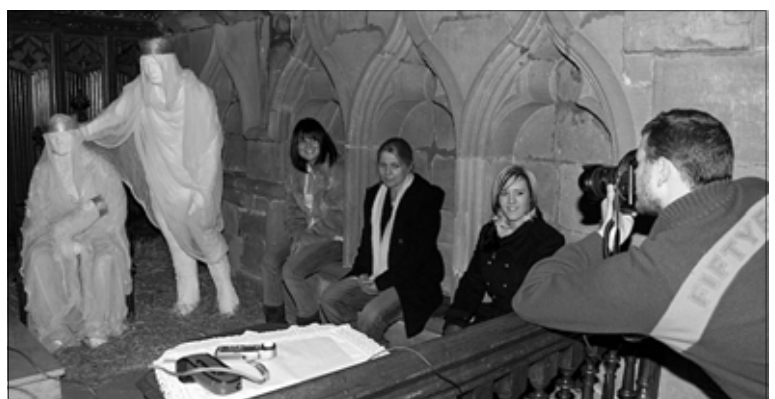


not joined the persecution of these groups, but they have quietly perpetuated a culture of intolerance by being happy in their ignorance - holding the coats of the oppressors. Is this the same church which follows Jesus Christ? The one who said, 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.'

If you have been touched by any of the issues raised in this article or want to find out more about Queer Theology you can send in your comments and questions, in complete confidence, to me at beloved.disciple@yahoo.co.uk

Johnny Gillett

If you caught sight of these rather ghostly figures posed near the St. Boniface altar over Christmas, you might have been startled. In fact the life-sized models of the Holy Family were made by three students at the University of Chester. The picture, right, shows the figures being photographed for the next official University Christmas card. So this image of our church will be sent to and seen by people in all corners of the globe next Christmas.



'Strangely warmed'

In midwinter, in Northern Canada, little Eleanor, wearing only a pink tee shirt and a nappy, toddled out into the snow. The temperature was minus 20 degrees, Eleanor was 18 months old.

When the rescue services found her, she was icy cold and still. The team believed she was beyond help, but one paramedic, who had seen a similar case, begged that they try to revive her. They lifted her into the ambulance and went into resuscitation mode. In hospital Eleanor was hooked up to a machine which slowly warmed her blood, and after a while her heart fluttered back into life. Next day, she was sitting up in her cot, chattering away as if nothing had happened. In the intense cold, her body had quickly shut down, protecting her vital organs from damage. A miracle, indeed.

It happens in life that our hearts get frozen, too. Not literally, like Eleanor's, but when things happen to us that are too hard to bear, we shut down, we freeze. We shut out people, shut out the world, we bury ourselves in the snow of misery.

When we feel like this, like the paramedic in the snow, God does not give up on us. He surrounds us with his love and slowly and gently warms us back to life.

John Wesley, who founded the Methodist movement, had a conversion

experience. He said, "I felt my heart strangely warmed".

I, too, have felt "strangely warmed", when in the midst of difficult times I have unexpectedly received immense kindness and acts of thoughtfulness. I also have felt it when I stand and watch a beautiful sunrise, pink with promise, or at the miracle of birth, a new human life in the family.



At times like these, the power of God breaks through into our ordinary lives with subtle touches of love, encouragement or challenge.

God has the power to take our frozen hearts and "strangely warm" them back into life.

God is here, at work through his creation, and his angels can be anyone, anywhere – even you and me.

Pat Edgley

Gaynor travels with Hope and Aid

During the Easter period I will again be travelling to Kosovo with Hope and Aid Direct, the small charity that is staffed solely by volunteers and has no salaried members. The charity guarantees that all aid is distributed personally and directly, by the team, to those in need.

Hope and Aid Direct exists to help refugees and other disadvantaged groups - mainly in Bosnia, Croatia and Kosovo. Even though 8 years have past since the cessation of hostilities in the Balkans, many families are without basic amenities. Following the destruction many are still homeless and most adults remain unemployed with an average family income of about £40 a month.

This year the convoy taking aid from

this area will consist of eight 7.5 tonne trucks and two 44 tonne trucks.

Rice, pasta and dried soup are surprisingly expensive in the Balkans and a small food parcel gives a family hope that they have not been forgotten. If anyone feels they could donate any of the above I am happy to collect it either directly from church or from your home. Alternatively, any food may be dropped off at my house, The Gables, Bunbury Lane (on the corner of Queen Street): 262402

www.hopeandaiddirect.org.uk gives more information about the charity and its activities

Thanking you in anticipation of your continued kindness.

Gaynor MacGregor

A good year for St. Judes

As we start another year we can look back with quiet satisfaction on another year of steady progress in the life of our church.

Money, or the acquisition of money, has always been a major concern, and with the help of past and present friends we have managed to meet our obligations. Our usual fundraising events - the Parish Lunch, Harvest Supper and the Christmas Fair - have all shown a big improvement in both social and financial terms over previous years. At the moment we are looking at other ideas to make us truly independent.

Our aim has always been to maintain St.Judes as a living, vibrant church. To do that it is essential that we keep to our programme of at least one service in our church every Sunday.

I am pleased to say that we have been able to achieve our object with the help of friendly vicars and members of the church.

A highlight of the year was our tour of the Wirral to observe different forms of C of E services from High Church to Low Church with a little 'happy clappy' in between (Link readers will remember Ann Latham's article last summer). It was a most interesting day, even if we did get lost a few times.

Again this year we have to say goodbye to old parishioners: Joan Rutter, and Joyce Mary Cauldwell both died this year. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

We have great news of Wyn Lloyd who after a rather prolonged spell in hospital is now well on the road to full recovery. We now ask for your prayers for Phillip Dean. Phillip is in dock with a rather recalcitrant condition which we hope and pray is now responding to treatment.

Bob Gardner

The future of Bunbury

It is proposed to produce a Village Design Statement for Bunbury. A leaflet about its objectives should be enclosed with this Link if you live in Bunbury village. If you have not received one please contact Eric Lord on 260123.

Give us two minutes



Born in London near Holloway Prison, Rick Gates has been the vicar of Bunbury and Tilstone Fearnall since his move here from Runcorn in November 1998. Before his ordination 20 years ago, Rick worked in merchant banking in London. Married to Lin for 13 years, Rick

has five children and six grandchildren.

If you had a motto, what would it be? Assume nothing

It's a celebrity beer call. Where is it and who do you invite? Westray, Orkney with CS Lewis, Sir Alec Guinness and John Humphries.

What would the title of your biography be called? "Learning to be me – it's what I have spend most of my life doing."

What was your first job? Furniture remover.

Where did you meet your partner? At St Berteline's School in Runcorn where I was a governor and she was a parent.

What is your biggest regret in life? Not buying a Rolf Harris original painting (very cheaply) when he was relatively unknown.

If you could change something about Bunbury, what would it be? Put the vicarage back to where it used to be before the new vicarage was built.

What is one thing about you that people may be surprised to learn? I used to butcher my own goats.

What would you like to achieve most in the next 12 months? Contentment – sometimes I think I am nearly there, and sometimes.....

Where and how would you spend your ideal weekend? In a very posh hotel in London with Lin.

Rick was interviewed by Nick Sanders

Facing the new year

Most of us celebrate the start of January with optimism. We want a better year than the last one. However, as New Year celebrations fade, we realise that nothing has really changed. We can find it difficult to get going again after the excitement and frenetic activity over Christmas and New Year.

The media remind us that the beginning of the New Year is in many ways the bleakest time of the year in the sense that issues regarding personal debt, employment and personal relationships often come to a head.

In the beginning of his letter (ch 1 vs1-8), James talks about how to face the difficulties and trials we face in our lives and encourages us to think about these times of hardship as "pure joy" (v2).

This seems a little bizarre. How can we seriously be enthusiastic about the troubles we have in our lives - illness, debt, work difficulties or relationships? These can be debilitating and draining and most of us will try to go to whatever lengths to avoid difficulties in pursuit of happy lives.

James suggests Christians should have a very different aim in life – to grow as whole persons, to develop spiritual maturity and stability of character – and that aim is not fulfilled through an untroubled life.

It is achieved by learning perseverance, enlarging our belief and trust in God, seeking wisdom. And what better way to accomplish these than through facing the sorts of problems that take us to

the very end of our strength? It is through confronting what we don't want that we are thrown back on to God, for only then can we find the wisdom we need to grow into mature Christian adulthood.

James does not promise that God will take problems away, or make our hardship any easier; only that, if we let him, God will give us what we need to get through it. The trial might test us to the limit but we will be better for it.

This is hard advice to accept but also liberating, because when we find ourselves overcome with hardship our normal tendency is to be afraid, complain or get angry. James offers an alternative that is more positive – accept it, trust God and grow. In the end, that brings not only maturity, but also peace.

Paul, in his letter to the Philippians (ch 4 vs 4-7) encourages us to rejoice in the Lord always, not be anxious about anything but take concerns to God in prayer and His peace "will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus".

Life without anxiety is an interesting concept. We all know that life is full of anxiety from youth to old age. When we are young, 'What will I do when I grow up?' When we are adult, 'How will we make ends meet?' and when we are old, 'How are the kids and grandchildren doing?'

But for Paul to say do not be anxious about anything seems difficult to accept.

What both James and Paul both seem to be saying is that as Christians we should accept hardships and face them in a positive way, relying on God, who is always near, to help us through them knowing He will never let us endure more than we can face and that through faith we will experience His amazing peace.

Paul Holbrook

Stars in your Eyes returns

Do you remember the success of the village version of Stars in your Eyes and the scramble to take part or get tickets? Well it's happening again, on October 4th and 5th. and as before there'll be an adult and a children's competition. However we need help in all aspects of the production, including, most importantly, a project manager. If you are interested in contributing in any way, please contact **Andy Lawrence 261330, Kay Kelly 261378 or Jaqui French 261818.**

Margaret Rodwell - devoted to village life

On the 4th, January, Margaret Rodwell died, aged 83, at Brookfield Residential Home in Nantwich. If you were a Brownie or you went to Sunday School in the 1970s and '80s, you will remember Mrs. Rodwell. Those who were small children at Playschool then, and more particularly the mothers and helpers of those days, will also remember her. It was at the end of the 1960s that Church Army Captain Douglas Rodwell was posted to Bunbury as Curate to the Reverend Timothy Atkins, with whom he had already been associated at Mildenhall: it was there that Douglas's and Margaret's only daughter, Grace, had been born. They moved with their infant daughter into Oakdene, Wyche Lane, which remained the family home for the next thirty-three years or more.

Margaret was soon known as a kind and busy lady who was involved in many activities in Bunbury, particularly

those to do with children or with the church. She was a skilled needlewoman and was able to run up fancy dress costumes, Rose Queen attendants' dresses or the wardrobe for a Nativity Play or a Pantomime almost at the drop of a hat. Her sewing machine was always busy. When it was not whirring, it was probably her bicycle wheels that were turning as she pedalled her way to the shops or to meetings. Margaret and her bicycle, her "trusty steed", were well known around the village.

She had so many interests and helped with so many things that it is difficult to pinpoint anything in particular, unless perhaps the Mothers' Union, of which she was a devoted member all her life.

When Captain Rodwell left Bunbury Church for Nantwich Church, Margaret became involved in various church activities there. But they continued to live in Bunbury and Margaret kept up much of her Bunbury life.

Recent years, especially after the death of her husband, were not easy.

Margaret's health was not so good; this was marked when she could no longer ride her bicycle – though she still pushed it down to the shops!

Following a bad fall, which necessitated a hip operation, Margaret went into Brookfield House. She was pleased to be back among Nantwich friends and enjoyed her room at the front of the house, from where she could see people coming and going. Even towards the end, when she was becoming increasingly frail and weakened, her mind and memory were still good, and she never lost her interest in others.

It was a comfort to her that Grace lived not far from her, in her own flat in Nantwich. Our sympathy goes to Grace and to the rest of Margaret's family.

Jean Healey

Ted Bowen - a Cheshire institution

Edward Leech Bowen became an institution in Cheshire rural life through his involvement with the young Farmers, Cheshire Show and of course as Secretary of the Cheshire Ploughing and Hedge cutting Society. He was also a devoted family man, married to Margaret for 59 years and supported to the end by his sons, 'young' Ted, Colin and their families.

He was born into a non-farming family in 1915 in Knutsford. His health deteriorated as a child which prompted the family to move for a short time to Southport 'for the air': it obviously did the trick, for that sickly boy lived to 92 and enjoyed such a full life.

After attending Bowden College, Ted began his farming career on a small farm at Allostock. He joined the Knutsford Young Farmers and was Treasurer from 1943 to '48. During the war he was a member of the Home Guard and also organised a ploughing match to raise funds for the Red Cross. That was the start of a life's work - indeed he came to be known as 'Mr Ploughing Match'! Even as a young man he had an ability to approach anyone and talk them out of their money.

He organised dances in Knutsford and it was at a YFC dance at Arley Hall that

he met Margaret. He looked no further: she lived at Great Budworth and that was the limit of his range by bike. Romance blossomed when Ted got his 2-seater Austin, and they were married on July 17th 1948.

The newlyweds moved to Woodcut Farm, Wrenbury, where Ted was farm manager, and soon afterwards they bought their own farm at Robberhill, Nomansheath. There Ted farmed, followed the Wynnstay and Cheshire Hunts and started his family. Sadly ill-health forced him to give up the farm in 1963, though this allowed time for new interests. He became a Proficiency Test Examiner who travelled the county testing the various skills of young farmers, from tractor driving to baling, milking and, of course, ploughing. For a short time he was Secretary of the Cheshire Show and he also became the Secretary of the Cheshire Ploughing and Hedge cutting Society.

Ted set out to transform the Annual Ploughing Match into a major feature of the Cheshire - and indeed national - rural calendar. Over the next 30 years he and Margaret nurtured farmers, members, sponsors, competitors, judges, stewards and exhibitors to give their services in creating the excellent

event we know today. Everyone was expected to contribute - even the officials were expected to pay for the catalogues needed to run the show, but everyone obliged with good humour, knowing that Ted was determined to raise as much money as possible for good causes.

By this time the Bowens had moved to Spurstow, but Ted kept his connection with the Young Farmers as Vice President of the Knutsford branch, President of Malpas and eventually County President.

Ted's proudest moment was being awarded his MBE for services to agriculture. Although this was a personal accolade, Ted always believed that the honour was shared by all those who had contributed to the success of the Ploughing Match. He truly considered it a family affair and he loved the annual meeting of the hundreds of friends that he and Margaret had made over the years. Ted was not a man for spreadsheets and databases. He preferred the traditions of a bygone era. How paradoxical then, that someone who hated change so much should have made such a difference in his long life.

£4000 for cancer research



Andrew Watson, son of Hilary and Mike Watson of Peckforton Hall Farm, ran his first marathon, in November in New York. Completing the run in 3hrs 39mins, Andrew raised an amazing

£4,000 for Cancer Research.

The cause is close to his heart as both his aunt and two close friends have died from breast cancer and Hilary herself has also been affected by the disease although fortunately treatment was successful in 2006.

Andrew finished in the first 6000 out of 32,000 runners. - not bad for a beginner. Proud parents Hilary and Mike were there to cheer him on and offer refreshment.

Brownies say thank you

Pictured here are members of 2nd Bunbury Brownies saying a big thank you to Clare Dickens who has stepped down as a leader. The group is now looking for another leader: anyone able to give a few hours each week, including the group's Wednesday evening meetings please contact Sandra Green on Bunbury 261671.



Recycling foil, coins, phones and specs

Many of you who remember Margaret Oldman will also remember that as part of her enthusiasm for recycling she had a bin put outside Bunbury Co-Op for aluminium foil which she sorted and recycled through Houstons in Crewe, the money raised going to the Cheshire Wildlife Fund. The bin is no longer there but there are two places where you can still recycle your foil:

1. The recycling area by Nantwich Swimming Pool.
2. At the recycling centre in the car park at Morrisons store in Crewe.

I am still collecting pre-decimal and all foreign coins. They are sent either to Christian Aid or to Oxfam: also old mobile phones which go to Oxfam and old spectacles which go to Pinningtons in Nantwich or Solder Optics in Crewe. If you cannot deliver these yourself, please leave in the porch at 14, The Highlands, Bunbury. Thank you.

Celia Kinnersley

Don't forget stamps are still being collected at the back of all our churches.

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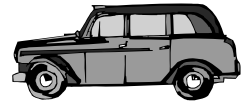
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February Diary

3	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Jude's
	10.00am	Family Worship	St. Boniface
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Calveley
6		Ash Wednesday	
	10.00am	Holy Communion and ashing	St. Boniface
	7.30pm	Holy Communion and ashing	St. Boniface
10	9.30am	Family Service	St. Jude's
	10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
	4.30pm	Evensong	St. Boniface
13	10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
	7.30pm	Compline	St. Boniface
17	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Jude's
	10.00am	Family Worship	St. Boniface
	11.00am	Family Worship	Calveley
20	10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
	7.30pm	Compline	St. Boniface
22		LCO Concert	St. Boniface
24	9.30am	Matins	St. Jude's
	10.00am	Family Communion	St. Boniface
27	10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
	7.30pm	Compline	St. Boniface

March

2		Mothering Sunday, March Link available	
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Jude's
	10.00am	Family Worship	St. Boniface
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Calveley
5	10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
	7.30pm	Compline	St. Boniface
9	9.30am	Morning Service	St. Jude's
	10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
	4.30pm	Evensong	St. Boniface

Looking ahead

March

9	Crocus Walk (ladies only)	Scout Hut
15	Explorers Big Band Night	Bunbury Village Hall
20	Agape	St. Boniface
	Bunbury School Breaks up for Easter	
21	Good Friday	
22	Easter Sunday	

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Other church contacts:

The Reverend Jane Stephenson (parish curate)	250249
Peter and Kath Collinge (pastoral support)	260077

St. Boniface

Churchwardens:	Barbara Croley	260344
	Walter Done	01244 332563
Secretary	Neil Dewson-Smyth	261680
Flowers	Margaret Bourne	260944

St. Jude's

Churchwardens:	Bob Gardner	260555
	Linda Downey	732017
Secretary	Ann Posnett	260251
Organist	Ann Badrock	260343

Calveley

Churchwardens:	Barbara Croley	260344
	Walter Done	01244 332563
Organist	John Batchelor	261056
Secretary	Sue Woodward	01270 522822

Link is edited by **Lucy Munro (tel. 260487)** and **Jill Robey (tel. 260081)**. We welcome all contributions. Our deadline for the March edition is Friday 15th February. Please send material to lucykmunro@hotmail.com.

Visit the St. Boniface website for pictures of recent weddings and the confirmation and for the Link on-line.

www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk

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