

Link

March 2020

Every child is an artist, the problem is staying an artist when you grow up
Pablo Picasso

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Turning the church red for The Tide



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A day in the life of Bunbury GP, Helen Black



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700 years raises funds for Hope House

A magazine for the parishes of Bunbury and Tilstone Fearnall



700 years
festivities
start on
Easter
Sunday

St Boniface

BELLE VOCE
OPERA FOR EVERYONE



THE VOICE FINALISTS!

Saturday 25th April 7.30pm
St Boniface, Bunbury
Tickets £12

Available at Tilly's, Burrows and Eventbrite

Holy Week Easter Services

Sunday 5th April Palm Sunday Service at 10:30am
St Boniface Family Worship

Maundy Thursday 9th April Agape Meal at 7pm
at St Boniface

Good Friday 10th April
Outdoor Service 11am at Tillys Vigil Service 2pm at St Boniface

Easter Sunday 12th April
Easter Communion - 9:30am St Jude's
Family Communion - 10:30am at St Boniface



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The Link

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

Community news

Congratulations to **Duncan Bevan** and **Abigail Rowley** (right), married at Calveley Hall Chapel on Saturday 22 December.



Congratulations to **Millie June Walford** (pictured below), daughter of **Vince** and **Katie**, christened at St Boniface on 1 February.



Congratulations to brothers **Shaun Philip Pritchard Braisdell** and **Jaxson Lennie Pritchard Braisdell** and father **Luke Philip Braisdell** (pictured below), all baptised at St Boniface on 9 February, and to **Amelia Pamela Pritchard**, baptised at St Boniface on 9 February.



Congratulations to **Rory William Inigo Evans** (below), son of **Tim** and **Gemma**, baptised at St Boniface on 9 February.



Bunbury Mill opens Sunday 1 March 1–4pm.

Bunbury WI – On Thursday 12 March at 7.30pm in the Pavilion, the WI will hear about Bletchley Park and the Enigma Machine from Anna Manning, author and data scientist, who is writing a book on code-breaking during the Second World War; it should be a fascinating evening. Visitors are warmly welcomed at £4 which includes delicious refreshments. Contact Sue Watson 01829 260 642 or check the Facebook page Bunbury WI

Bunbury Gardening Club – The next meeting of Bunbury Gardening Club will be a talk by Ron Kirkman, a past chairman of the British Clematis Society, on "Around the year with clematis" on Tuesday 17 March. The meeting starts at 7.30pm in the Village Hall followed by cheese and wine (bring your own wine but not glasses as we now have our own). Members free, visitors £6 at the door. New members and visitors welcome.

If you are interested in helping with the **flower arrangements** for the 700 years **Flower Festival** – or are able to help in any way – please come to a

A word from the editor

700 years celebrations start with the Easter Sunday service at St Boniface on 12 April. Easter week itself, of course, begins Maundy Thursday and the beautiful Agape meal will be held that evening at St Boniface. Sign up for your place at the back of church.

We look forward to welcoming Belle Voci back to St Boniface on 25 April. Tickets are available from Tilly's and Burrows Butchers and at:

<https://bunbury700yearsbellevoci.eventbrite.co.uk>

The cycle sportive will take place at Beeston Castle on Saturday 9 May 8.30am onwards (the bank holiday weekend) followed by the St Boniface church fete on the same day in the grounds of Beeston Castle. Places are limited for the sportive – book at:

<https://bunbury700yearsstbonifacesportive.eventbrite.co.uk>

meeting at St Boniface on Tuesday 24 March at 3.30pm.

A **spring fair** will be on Saturday 28 March, 10am-2pm at the village hall, with free entry (see ad on p9).

Cheshire Agricultural Chaplaincy have organised an event to bring together farmers in and around our community. Monica, who is the Assistant Agricultural Chaplain, has arranged the **Farmer's Lunch** to be held at **Chestnut Meats Café** on Tuesday 28 April at 12.30pm, with advanced booking required, £5 per person. It is a great opportunity to meet new people, connect with those that are vulnerable and isolated as well as strengthen the community as a whole.

Bunbury Village Day will take place on Saturday 20 June on the playing fields. Following a highly successful 50th anniversary event last year, the team are excited to share the news that our theme this year will be the Olympics, to coincide with the slightly larger event taking place in Tokyo later in the summer! The day will feature all the much-anticipated elements including a parade, fairground, BBQ, stalls, arena entertainment and much much more. Follow us on Facebook and

Continued on p11...

Five Sundays in March 6pm at St Boniface: Lent talks followed by Compline.

Five Marks of Mission – 700 years and counting. The story of a parish church at the heart of our community. (N.B. Sunday 15 March: Lent talk will be part of Evensong.)



TIM HAYWARD

Your Vicar

It was a delight welcoming the Dean of St Boniface Cathedral in Bunbury Western Australia to our parish at the start of this special year when we're celebrating St Boniface being at the heart of our community for 700 years.



Rev Tim with Lee-Anne, Rev Darryl and headteacher Nic Badger

Dean Darryl and his wife Lee-Anne's reaction as they walked into church was beautiful - they were genuinely moved to be here and spoke about how their community on the other side of the world owes its existence and name to the generosity of this parish. For them this visit wasn't just a holiday but a pilgrimage to where their story began...

In 1907 Bishop Frederick Goldsmith from Australia was on a preaching tour in England - his vision was to establish a college of English clergy in Australia to spread the good news of God's love and establish schools and churches in the Bush.

One of his stops was our parish church and he preached at St

Generosity and mission

Boniface. A lady Isabella Aspinall who lived at Foxdale was so taken by him and inspired by his message she very generously wrote a banknote for £500 to set up the college.

For the next 3 years, 20 English clergy dedicated their life to this

mission in the Australian Bush. They became known as the Bush Brotherhood of St Boniface, named after their connection to this parish. They established churches and schools and spread the good news of God's love to various townships. The largest town was named Bunbury

and in 1962 a cathedral was consecrated there - St Boniface Cathedral, Bunbury. It has 4 cornerstones: one from St Paul's Cathedral, one from Westminster Abbey and one from our very own church!

It is a remarkable story and it was great to hear it told by the Dean. A real highlight of his trip was when we visited our school and five Year 6 boys told him they had raised nearly £400 by doing a cake sale and they were sending the money to Australia for the Bushfires Appeal. Dean Darryl said, "100 years on and you are still thinking of us on the other side of the world! You are still teaching us generosity has no bounds!"

The copy deadline for the April issue of the Link is Friday 13 March. The magazine should be in church on Saturday 28 March. Notices to bunburyparishoffice@gmail.com

The Tide is launched



Lee Gordon with Pete McCleave



Lee Gordon performs The Tide on Talk Radio

The official launch party on 24 January at St Boniface for the release of new song, The Tide, written for and inspired by Pete McCleave's #1000donors campaign, was a memorable evening. Pete spent much of the few days leading up to the event giving media interviews. He told the Link: "I would like to say a MASSIVE thank you to all the people of Bunbury who came out on a grotty, end-of-the-week Friday evening to help us to launch Lee's song. Bunbury has been pivotal to all that 10000 Donors has achieved and I will be forever grateful for the support you have all given the campaign and my family. This truly is a unique village of generosity and boundless ability! Lee, Gemma, Vic and myself had an awesome time and it went so much better than even we had hoped. We hope you all enjoyed it too!"



Pete McCleave with his family

A day in the life of...

Helen Black, who has been a fantastic GP in Bunbury for 25 years, has announced her retirement. She will be a massive loss to the community. Thank you Dr Black for all your care – you will be missed. In this article of 'A day in the life of...' Dr Black looks back on her days in Bunbury's GP practice.

I have had the great privilege of working as a family doctor in the wonderful village of Bunbury for 25 years, sharing some important moments in the lives of so many of the people of the area. I came here from Edinburgh in 1994 straight out of my GP registrar year, starting under Dr Aston as the salaried "Married Women's Retainer" GP and having just had my first child. Little did I expect that I would be senior partner 13 years later.

In my time I have seen excited expectant mothers and fathers and their new babies, growing through childhood into young adults and starting families of their own. I have accompanied so many through their retirement years and old age, advising on complex problems which traditionally would have been managed only in hospital clinics. I have been on the final journey with many people, who I have grown to care about over the years, and supported them and their families in their last illnesses and helping to try to enable them to be comfortable at home at the end. I

... Village GP, Helen Black

have always enjoyed the variety or daily challenges general practice brings.

Over my time I have worked with many doctors and nurses and a fantastic administrative team who have the skill to help the ever increasing workload flow as smoothly as it can.

I have loved doing baby and new mother checks as well as performing minor surgery and providing all family planning options for the community.

We are so lucky to be in the era that we live, with longer life expectancy and increasing good health and independence into old age. However inevitably this brings increased demands on a busy health service.

In Bunbury we are lucky to have an enthusiastic Patient Participation Group, the Church, the Walking Group and many other wonderful organisations, determined to decrease social isolation and improve the quality of life for all.

The life of a family doctor has changed a lot over my years working in the area. We have dealt with Health Authorities, PCGs, PCTs, CCGs and now the ICP and PCC. So many acronyms it gets confusing, yet family medicine remains the cornerstone of the NHS. Increasingly we are performance managed with targets and protocols and dozens of policies on



this and that and scrutiny by survey and questionnaires but fundamentally humanity and kindness are the key qualities often overlooked and the ones we feel are most vital.

Above all I love seeing patients and helping to sort out clinical conundrums. When I leave Bunbury I will be working in a more freelance way, enabling me to do more of this, with less of the administrative burden. I still love being a doctor and would not have chosen any other career and have been so fortunate to find a post in Bunbury after coming down from Scotland with my husband, who grew up in Cheshire.

I plan to spend more time in my garden, with my dogs, and to see more of my elderly mother in Edinburgh, where my two sons both now live and work as well.

I have also enrolled in French conversation classes and ballroom dancing classes. I am determined to try to get as much as I can out of life.

Give us 2 minutes

I am from Italian parentage and have lived in Bunbury for over 25 years. I am married to Wendy, with a beautiful daughter, Annabelle, and a fabulous granddaughter, Isabella.

If you had a motto what would it be?

Brevi tamen dulcis (short but sweet)

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

Eva Green, Mary Beard, Bob Mortimer.

What would you call your autobiography?

Just a quickie!

What was your first job?

Milkman (whilst at college) Driven to Deliver

What would you change about Bunbury if you could?

Stop continued urbanisation of our rural Cheshire village.

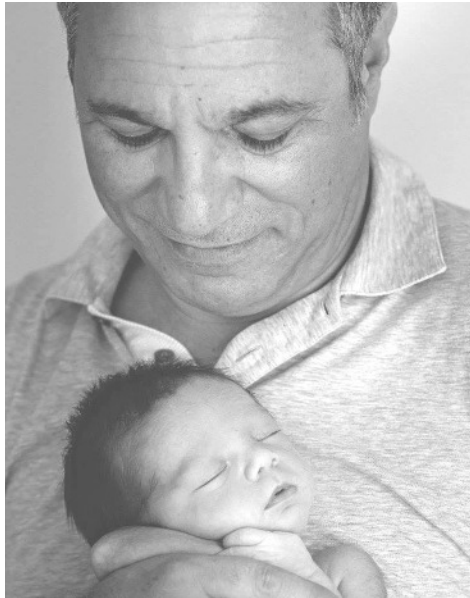
What is the best book you have read to date?

I am sorry have to put three as I cannot decide:

Against the Inquisition by Marcos Aguinis

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

The Reluctant Fundamentalist by Mohsin Hamid



Tony Greco

What is your biggest regret?

Being indecisive. Only joking!

Regrets, I've had a few... But then again too few to mention

I did what I had to do.

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

Aladdin was granted 3!

1. Hope not Hate

2. Win the Lottery

3. Good health for my family

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

I am a Reiki Master.

How would you spend your ideal weekend?

With my family at home chilling and making pizza with my granddaughter Isabella (not so chilling).

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

Learn to play a musical instrument.

What is your favourite place and why?

Santa Maria Al Bagno in Italy. It has so many great memories and we are still generating more of them.

Parish Council pursuits

A number of issues were brought up by members of the public. Speeding, particularly along School Lane outside school hours, was reported. Cheshire East Council made an analysis last October with speed strips placed around the village which showed 'average' speed was below 30mph. There are hot spots, however, such as the turn into the village off the A49. The PC will deploy its own speed gun to warn motorists over the coming weeks; help from the members of the public is welcomed.

It was reported that large groups of youths have been congregating on the Jubilee playing fields playing loud music and drinking on Friday and Saturday

evenings. We are working with the local police to address this issue but urge residents to report this via the 101 service if it is a nuisance, Cheshire Police has a new Rural Crime team who will be informed.

Incidents of fly tipping have been reported and the PC has arranged to have these cleared up and recycled.

A planning application has been submitted for Brantwood in the centre of the village; we are hopeful the derelict house will be restored and occupied soon.

The recent storms have seen a number of mature trees down around the village, always sad to see, so remember Bunbarians, keep your hats on!

Leila Potter, Parish Cllr Press Officer

Thanks to David Kendrick for this unusual viewpoint of Calveley Chapel



"Calveley Chapel - why look up?
See the beauty all around you."

From my bookshelf

We were the Mulvaneys by Joyce Carol Oates

Here is a saga that goes to the heart of the American family. Narrated by Judd, the baby of the family, the pivot of the tale is an incident involving Marianne Mulvaney, his pretty sixteen year old sister. The family's seemingly idyllic life at High Point Farm in the foothills of the Chautauqua mountains, in upstate New York State is shattered and their standing in the town is damaged beyond repair by the unspoken truths of the night of Valentine's Day 1976.

As Judd tries to make sense of his past, we learn about the making of the Mulvaney, their rise to prominence in the Mt Ephraim community and their sudden fall. We meet Michael John Mulvaney, Sr. owner of Mulvaney Roofing. Hard-working and proud, cut off by his bullying father, he used to say

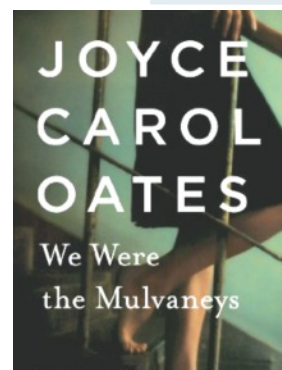
"We Mulvaney are joined at the heart." His wife, Corinne, a passionate "nondenominational Protestant", mother of the household, keeper of High Point Farm, who believes the things she says are truth. This is her terrible vanity: her pride in such truth. Her three sons Judd and his older brothers, athletic Mike Jr. "Mule" and intellectual Patrick "Pinch" are loved. However, it is her daughter the radiant Marianne "Button" whom she cherishes. It was Corinne's secret belief that her daughter was a far finer person than she herself, a riddle put to her by God. She knew that Marianne simply could not lie.

The author cleverly uses flashbacks to weave the details of the tragic incident into the narrative. Whilst ranging from the childhoods of Michael and Corinne,

through the early days of their marriage to its final crumbling she provides the reader with a deep understanding of the

characters. Heartbreakingly tracing the impact of the incident on each member of this family, she exposes how swiftly and irrevocably good can be dragged down and corrupted into evil. This book explores what it is that makes an American family and very effectively illuminates the values that underpin American society.

Margi Nalia



Celia Smyth's recipe for March



Ingredients

1 generous glug of olive oil
2 chicken breasts, chopped
1 large onion, diced
2 sticks of celery, thinly chopped
1 red pepper, thinly sliced
400g can chopped plum tomatoes
2 garlic cloves, crushed
2-3 tsp Cajun seasoning
100g cooking chorizo sliced
350ml chicken stock (I use a Knorr stock cube)
250g of long grain rice

Bunburylaya

Jambalaya is a popular Louisiana-origin dish of Spanish, French (especially Provençal cuisine), and West African influences, consisting mainly of meat and vegetables mixed with rice. This recipe is loosely based on a Spanish idea and combines Cajun spices and tasty chorizo with chicken and peppers. It has the benefit of being really quick and easy and proves to be a big hit with all ages. If you are serving a big meal, just scale up the ingredients - it is quite easy to feed twelve or more and only takes just over 30 mins from scratch.

Heat the olive oil in a frying pan with a lid and brown the chopped chicken breasts until golden.

Remove and set aside. Tip the diced onion and celery into the oil and cook for about 5 minutes, until they are soft but not browning.

Add the thinly sliced red pepper, crushed garlic cloves, the sliced chorizo and Cajun seasoning, and cook for 5 mins more.

Stir the chicken back in with the rice, add the can of tomatoes and chicken stock.

Cover and simmer for 20-25 mins until the rice is tender.

Bunbury school news

An 'outstandingly' good school



Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary school received a full Section 5 inspection on 8-9 January.

The inspection was carried out under the new framework which came into force in September 2019. The school was rated outstanding in 3 out of the 5 categories. Outstanding judgements were awarded for the Early Years Provision, Behaviour and Attitudes and Personal Development.

The school was deemed a 'happy place to work and learn' with 'staff having high expectations of all pupils regardless of their background.' Lessons were described as fun and engaging and pupils were excited to learn and want to do well. Particular praise was given to the school for the outstanding attitudes of pupils towards their learning and their behaviour.

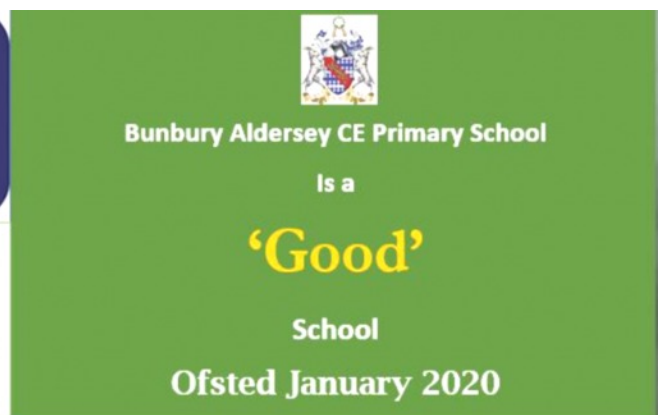
The report states: "Leaders have designed a well-thought out curriculum from early years to Year 6, which meets the needs and interests of pupils".

Particular praise was given to the approach for the teaching of writing and maths within the school.

"The consistent approach to develop pupils' writing skills is strong and effective."

"Pupils achieve well in mathematics. Teachers are confident and skilful in teaching mathematics at all Key Stages"

In the report, it adds that "Leaders support pupils' personal development exceptionally well." Pupils commented to the inspectors that they felt safe and well cared for in the school and that "bullying was not tolerated." When it does happen, staff deal with this well. The parents who made their views known to inspectors believe that bullying is dealt with well.



The report also said: "Pupils develop sound and caring attitudes towards each other and the world in which they live." There was also praise given to the school for the work they do on supporting pupils well to maintain their mental health.

Standards within Ofsted's grading system, which range from inadequate to outstanding, have once again been raised in the new framework and the expectations within each category are extremely high. Schools now have to meet all the criteria for good and outstanding, under each category, to be awarded an outstanding judgement for each section.

Academic outcomes are still a core part of Ofsted's inspection framework. Adding to that a judgement on how well a school designs and teaches its curriculum, and an assessment of how well it develops the pupils personally helps Ofsted to ensure they investigate what it is like to be a pupil at that school.

Organising further training needs, for some staff, in the teaching of history and reading comprehension meant that the school narrowly missed the outstanding judgement for leadership and management and quality of education.

Whilst such a judgment is extremely pleasing it certainly does not mean that as a school we will stand still. At Bunbury Aldersey School we know that children get one chance at education and for this reason we as a team will continue to pursue the best quality of education we can for the children of Bunbury.

Church calendar

Church diary for March

Sunday 1 March	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Family Communion 10.30am Family Worship 11.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface St Jude's St Boniface Calveley
Wednesday 4 March	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 8 March	9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Family Communion	St Jude's St Boniface
Wednesday 11 March	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 15 March	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Family Worship 10.00am Third Sunday brunch 11.00am Morning Worship 6.00pm Evensong	St Boniface St Jude's St Boniface Calveley St Boniface
Wednesday 18 March	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 22 March Mothering Sunday	9.30am Holy Communion & Sunday School 10.30am Family Communion	St Jude's St Boniface
Wednesday 25 March	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 29 March	9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Family Communion + Methodists	St Jude's St Boniface
Wednesday 1 April	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 5 April Palm Sunday	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Family Communion 10.30am Family Worship 11.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface St Jude's St Boniface Calveley
Wednesday 8 April	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 12 April Easter Sunday	9.30am Easter Communion 10.30am Family Communion	St Jude's St Boniface



*Bunbury
Spring
Fair*

*A wide variety of local stalls,
with refreshments provided by
St Boniface Church*

Saturday 28th March

@ The village hall

Doors open 10am - 2pm

Free entry



Coffee Morning
St Jude's Church Hall
Tilstone Fearnall
March 28th 10:30-12:00
Proceeds towards
A new kitchen for the church hall

Come along have a natter and help provide a new kitchen for the church hall

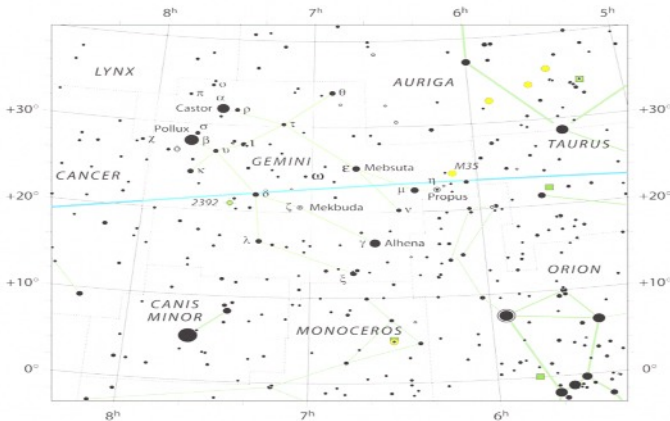
Entry £3:00
payable on the door

Any questions
contact
Heather Lightfoot
01829 732611



Tea & Cake

Sky notes for March



March evenings present a good opportunity for spotting the constellation of Gemini, the heavenly Twins. The constellation is dominated by the bright stars Castor and Pollux. These are also known as α (alpha) Geminorum (Castor) and β (beta) Geminorum (Pollux). Castor may look like only one star, but in reality, it contains six stars in orbit with each other. It lies some 52 light-years from Earth. Twin brother Pollux is an orange giant star that lies about 34 light-years away from the Sun. Pollux also has at least one planet in orbit around it.

To find Gemini, first of all locate the bright constellation of Orion, The Hunter. We have looked at Orion in this column before. You will find Orion in the south-west as the sky darkens. Gemini is located above and to the left of Orion. Castor and Pollux form the head of each twin and their bodies are represented by two lines of fainter stars stretching westwards.

Gemini contains a faint star cluster which you might like to try and spot. The first star cluster is called M35 and is marked by a yellow circle on the accompanying chart. It's what astronomers call an "open" cluster. That means that its stars are fairly scattered through space but are still traveling together. There are about 200 stars in M35, and this cluster can be seen as a hazy patch with the naked eye from dark-sky sites. It's also a lovely sight through binoculars or a telescope. Look for it near Castor's foot.

March also provides an opportunity to see Venus at its brightest. It will appear as a very bright star in the south-west after sunset

Clear skies!

Bunbury Stargazer

Calveley Primary School

January has been a very busy month at Calveley Academy. The fantastic football team were thrilled to represent Crewe and Nantwich in the county football finals. The children all played their best and worked brilliantly as a team. Unfortunately, they were knocked out in the semi-finals, but all are very proud of the children for being the 3rd best school football team in the entire county! A very impressive achievement for our wonderful small school.

The school also celebrated Chinese New Year by taking part in lots of different



activities. The children were able to learn

more about this special event by exploring Chinese dances and painting vases and plates. They also learnt how to write numbers in Chinese and solved maths challenges. They explored the history of Chinese New Year, learnt about the different animals, and discussed how people celebrate all over the world. Mrs May, school cook, prepared a delicious Chinese buffet which was enjoyed by children and staff alike. What a great start to the year!



Community news

... Continued from p2

Twitter or email:
contact@bunburyvillage.info

Tea Chat and Fun – Make new friends and have fun. Join us at 7.30pm every 1st and 3rd Thursday at Tiverton Village Hall. Call Alan and Janice 732476.

Annual hedgecutting of the new graveyard will take place on 7 March, cutting the boundary hedges of the new graveyard. The working party would welcome volunteers to join them. If you are able to give an hour or two to help that would be much appreciated. Please contact Vicki Riley Parish Administrator. Tel 260579 or email bunburyparishoffice@gmail.com

Friday 6 March **World Day of Prayer** 2020: Praying with Zimbabwe – everyone is welcome.

10.45am welcome café, 11.30am service led by Rev Alex Sanders followed by lunch.

Lay Conference 2020: Not Just Sunday Everyday Faith 15-17 May. The parish has a free place for anyone to attend. It is a time to learn, have fun share with others from all works of life. For more information www.chester.anglican.org/lay-conference-2020 or speak to Rev Tim.

Many thanks to **Pat Holmes-Henderson** for delivering the Link in Peckforton for many years. Many thanks also to **Ian Mullock**, our retired postman who delivers the Link along the A49 in Bunbury. He comes from Tarporley every month to collect them.

Thank you so much for all the generous donations to our local

foodbank - so much appreciated. They still urgently need long-life milk and fruit juices; tinned cold meat; and coffee at the moment.

Sunday School helpers – Many thanks to Amber and Kay for many years of service at our Sunday School Club. We are looking for new volunteers to help with our provision for children and young people on Sunday mornings. Please contact Beth our youth worker if you are interested in helping in this key area of the church. Please email: bunburyyouthworker@gmail.com

Friday at Tilly's – coffee and cake every Friday, from 10–11.30am. Coffee £1. Contact Amber Middlemiss 261437

Bunbury Youth Club – Monday nights 7–8.30pm at St Boniface church. For more details contact Rev Tim revtimhayward@gmail.com

Dates for your diary

Celebrations start with a special service on Easter Sunday 12 April and end with the Harvest Festival on Sunday 27 September

25 April – **Belle Voci** (the opera duo from 'The Voice') in concert at St Boniface

9 May – VE Day weekend- **Cycle Sportif** and **family fun** at **Beeston Castle**

4 July – **St Bonifest** – a day of live music on the playing fields.

17–19 July – **Flower Festival** at St Boniface

13 Sept – **Meet the Bells** event at St Boniface, with afternoon tea and art/photographic exhibition.

19 Sept – **Piano concert** featuring internationally recognized **Kathryn Stott**, whom *The Times* described as "one of the most versatile pianists on the circuit"

Date TBA – **'Alive'** event in the day followed by a Harvest supper at St Boniface



St Boniface's 700th anniversary celebrations will start with acclaimed classical vocal duo Belle Voci giving an intimate concert set in the historic church surrounds.

The talented opera singers were finalists of ITV's The Voice UK and sang the National Anthem at Wembley stadium FA Cup Final 2019.

The local singers actually met in Bunbury when they were both working at The Yew Tree and are excited to be returning to where it all started.

Belle Voci believe opera is for everyone and will treat you to a night of breathtaking music.



The evolution of St Boniface church Part 2

Phase 2: The Norman period 1066-1320

The aftermath of William the Conqueror's victory at Hastings in 1066 was nationwide with Cheshire becoming a Palatinate governed by the earls of Chester until 1237 when the Palatinate reverted to the Crown. In Bunbury - a typical rural parish - control was by a feudal manorial lord whose functions included the nomination of the rector and upkeep of the church fabric. Some idea of the conditions in post-Conquest Bunbury was recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086, when a priest was recorded, but without any mention of a church. However this apparent omission did not necessarily mean there was no church in Bunbury, as Domesday was primarily a fiscal evaluation of the country's assets.

Though the details of Bunbury's Saxon church remain tenuous Canon Ridgway, in the 1950's, 'made an examination of the



Norman stones once part of St Boniface church

soil beneath the footings of the nave piers, untouched since the foundations of the Norman piers were laid, and in this soil appears quantities of charcoal'. Ridgway suggested, therefore, that a wooden church had previously existed in Bunbury, but whether or not the structure was burnt before or soon after the Conquest, or even later, possibly to clear the site prior to the building of the Norman stone church, remained (and remains) unresolved. In contrast, however, there is positive evidence for a stone church built in the Norman period. The visible evidence consists of several distinctive pieces of Norman-type patterned sandstone (of which one was given to Bunbury cathedral, Western Australia in the 1950's) and a rare double piscina, relocated about 1850 in the then sanctuary. The use of then fashionable double piscinas was limited to the period 1250 to 1275, and this suggests that Bunbury's Norman style church was built during that period: Also there are, concealed beneath the nave floor-boards, ten circular piers that originally supported Norman arcades of round arches. These piers were retained by later builders who twice reused them to support the columns for gothic arcades. By modern standards, the Norman piers were over-sized at about one metre diameter, but more importantly they enable, at least in part, to deduce the size and style of the Norman church. Because the footings were circular, it indicates that the Norman church had a nave bounded by side aisles. The Norman building, was seemingly equal in nave area of the present-day church which doubtless

had arcades topped with round-headed arches. It seems probable, therefore, that Bunbury's Norman nave resembled, on a smaller scale, that of St John the Baptist, Chester, which served as the cathedral when Peter, the first Norman bishop of Lichfield, moved his seat to Chester, in 1075, for a period of about twenty years.

The previously noted date of 1320 marked the demise of Bunbury's Norman church, but why was this? Did this well-built church, possibly only about two hundred years old, not fulfil the needs of the parish? We do not have answers to these questions but several other Cheshire villages mentioned in Domesday had churches rebuilt in the fourteenth century in the fashionable gothic style. Possibly the impetus for church rebuilding had been stimulated by the on-going building of Vale Royal Abbey, 8.5 miles from Bunbury, initiated by the laying of the abbey's foundation stone by Edward I, on 13th August 1277, which, in turn, attracted many masons and related artisans to the district. The present author suggests that as Cheshire, at the start of the fourteenth century, had recovered from the dire effects of the Conquest it was enjoying a relatively prosperous period. Ergo, was the Norman style of the church then considered old-fashioned and, as funds were presumably available, was it not time for a complete rebuild of Bunbury church in the more fashionable pointed-arch gothic style?

To be continued...

John Elsworth, Churchwarden 1992-2001

Contemplative Prayer is on the third Tuesday each month at 7.30pm in the Ridley Chapel of St Boniface church. Contemplative Prayer is a way of praying which involves silence rather than the spoken word, thereby giving God a chance to speak to us rather than the other way round. For more details call Rev Mike. Tel no: 01829 261682 or email: mandmrogers@btinternet.com

Monday prayers 9.30am in Ridley Chapel; start the week with ten minutes of quiet reflection.

Prayers

We continue to pray for **Hazel Wilkinson, Cody Balshaw, Geoff Dickens** and **Linda Gregson**.

We also pray for all who are mourning a loved one, especially the families and friends of **Robin Goodyer, Julia Ray, Edward Fearnall** and **Bill Corn**.

*As the seasons swirl and
change Lord,
as we live through the days of
Lent, waiting for Easter:
may our hearts swell with hope
for the joy of Easter, for spring,
and for Life.
Amen*



Pat Ellis - Reader Emeritus A hand in the fire

Thomas Cranmer was the man who, in 1549, gave the Anglican Church as we know it today, its most enduring treasure, the Book of Common Prayer. The Book of Common Prayer is still used at 8.00am services at St Boniface, Wednesday Holy Communion services, and on third Sundays at 6.00pm for Evensong.

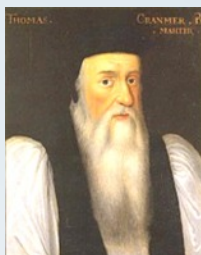
As Archbishop of Canterbury, Cranmer was instrumental in brokering Henry VIII's divorce from Katharine of Aragon, which caused the split from the Roman Catholic Church. After the Protestant King Edward's early death, Cranmer's fortunes changed and under the Catholic Mary, he was tried for treason and forced under torture to sign a declaration renouncing his Protestant faith.

But on his way to death by the stake, he recanted the papers he had signed.

He put his hand into the flames, shouting, "forasmuch as my hand offended, writing contrary to my heart, my hand shall first be punished therefore".

As he died said, " Lord Jesus, receive my Spirit, I see the heavens open and Jesus standing at the right hand of God."

*Father of all mercies,
who through the work of your
servant Thomas Cranmer
renewed the worship of your
Church
and through his death
revealed your strength in
human weakness:
by your grace strengthen us
to worship you in spirit and in
truth
and so to come to the joys of
your everlasting kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our
Mediator and Advocate.*



Mike Rogers writes...

I've forgotten the baby!



The month of March sees us sat on the cusp of spring. The excitement of Christmas is probably now just a distant memory and those Christmas tree lights that you put away so carefully are, as you read this, slowly working themselves into the tangle with which they will greet you when you retrieve them from the loft next December. We are in the season of Lent and Easter beckons.

But let me take one last look back at Christmas through the eyes of a story about a Nativity play.

The cast of the annual Nativity play had behaved beautifully, it had all gone brilliantly, the music had been faultless and the finale was going so well - true to the rehearsal, the entire cast was processing in an orderly manner

down the centre aisle and out of the church

The angels had led the way, then came the animals, then the shepherds, then the kings and, finally, Mary and Joseph.

Mums and dads, grannies and granddads were looking on with pride. It was a truly wonderful moment.

But the mood was shattered when, halfway down the aisle, Mary said in a piercing wail "Oh no, I've forgotten the baby!".

Chaos and tears ensued. It's a cautionary tale.

As the year rolls on and the seasons change, as the pressure of life in the 21st century mounts, as our busy lives take over, we would all do well not to forget the baby and all that he means.

Spotlight on 700 year charities

The Link highlights the wonderful work of children's hospice, Hope House Children's Hospices, making sure that no one faces the death of their child alone.



On 4 March 1991 the charity that was to become Hope House Children's Hospice was formed. An incredible fundraising campaign was launched to raise the £1.5 million needed to build a hospice at Morda, near Oswestry. It seemed like the whole of the area was holding coffee mornings, bring and buy sales and sponsored events for Hope House!



When Hope House opened its doors in October 1995 it was only the tenth children's hospice in the world. In its first full year after opening, 80 families were supported; in 2018 they cared for 400 children at the hospices with 900 families receiving support at home or counselling and bereavement support.

It costs £6.5 million every year to run the services and 86% of this is spent on care. Approximately one month's income comes from statutory sources; for the other 11 months of the year they are dependent on public support. They hope to raise an additional £2.5 million each year. Chair of Trustees, local businessman Steve Henly, so believes in the vital impact Hope House has on children and families that he was their first 'Pay for a Day' donor, donating £17,260 to fund total running costs for 24 hours.

Robin Goodyer

29 December 1944 – 9 January 2020

Robin was born in 1944 in Yorkshire and was one of six children. Robin had a happy childhood and enjoyed school. After school Robin went travelling - he skied in Scandinavia and hitch-hiked across Spain. Robin met Sue through mutual friends and would often cycle 20 miles to meet her.

He was quite shy at first, but they soon fell in love and the rest is history. They were married in Stevenage in 1968, and their 3 children Julia, Nikki and Mark followed to complete their family.

In 1977 Robin was offered a job in Winsford and so the family moved to Darkie Meadow in Bunbury. Robin soon became Managing Director of a plastics company, but decided in 1986 to set up his own business and Goodyear Packaging was born - initially in Prees and then in the early 90's in Bunbury.

Robin loved village life and was heavily involved - he was the PTA chair at the school, and a Cub Master who set up the Cubs football team - the Fairies - with Paul Stafford and Mike Lofthouse. He sponsored the annual bowling competition and was happy to be a part of the Reviews in the Village Hall.

Robin and Sue worked very hard to make the business a success but had a busy social life too - weekends were filled with fun and friends and they both shared a love of golf - at one stage both getting down to single figure handicaps.

Their children have many fond memories of family holidays - to Abersoch, the South of France, and Spain. Robin's family was hugely important to him. He embraced life to the full with his can do attitude and he will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Edward "Ed" Eric Fearnall

14 May 1946 – 13 January 2020

Edward was born 14 May 1946 into a farming family, the third of five children. Initially he went to the old school on College Lane, followed by Bunbury School at the age of seven and finally to Tarporley School for his secondary school years. Edward had a happy childhood with his three brothers: Robert, Sydney and Ken and his sister Margaret. He was very lively and around the farm there was always work to be done.

Edward was very skilled with his hands and loved making things; he especially loved woodwork. Life on the farm meant his skills were regularly called upon as there was always something to repair and mend. When he was sharpening the chainsaw he always said "you mustn't forget to oil them!". If a bailer went wrong, Edward would go and look in his drawer and always find something to fix it with.

Edward loved to watch sport and was a big fan of Manchester United, and enjoyed watching the cricket too. In his spare time he loved to garden, both outdoors and in his greenhouse, and grew a wide range of vegetables and fruit. Just last year he won prizes at the Annual Gardening Show.

Edward will be sadly missed by his brothers and sister.

Julia Anne Ray

1941 – 2020

Julia was born in Bickerton on St Patrick's Day 1941, eldest child of Ted and Annie Griffiths. She was a pupil at Bickerton School but contracted TB at an early age and was sent to an open air school on the Wirral before attending Bunbury Girls School with two of her sisters. She met Brian Hincks while working in Chester and became the first bride of 1960 at St Boniface. They had four children, Rosalind, James, Lorraine and Andrea.

Julia never let ill health hold her back and worked for The Cheshire Observer newspaper, Chester Football Club and spent the last twelve years of her working life at Macclesfield District Health Trust and married Trevor in 1986.

She loved to travel, flew on Concorde twice, visited Ireland 49 times (including Belfast in "the troubles"), Italy 28 times and Israel six times where she was able to honour her Grandfather Pte. CE Griffiths who was killed in action in Palestine in 1918. Locally she will be remembered for organising a Centennial Memorial Service for her Grandfather at St Boniface on 7 April 2018, 100 years to the day of his first memorial service. This service was made possible with the wonderful support of the Rev Tim, the RBL, the scouts/guides and military associations and will live long in the memory of those who attended. As recently as November Julia was a guest of HM Consul General in Jerusalem for the Remembrance Service; the photograph below was featured in the December issue of the Link.



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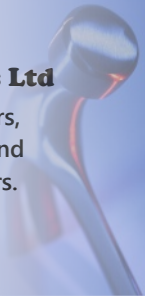
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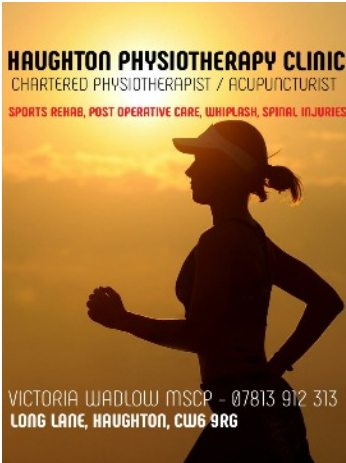
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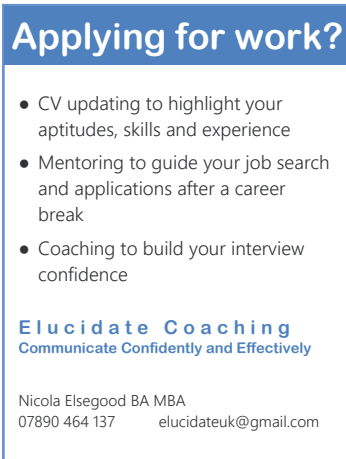


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