



# Link

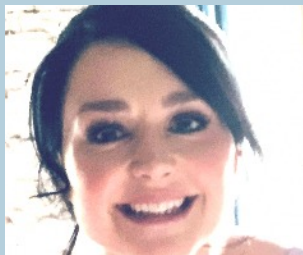
May 2021

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A magazine for the parishes of Bunbury and Tilstone Fearnall

*Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving*  
*Albert Einstein*



Rose still needs your help this Christian Aid week

For Rose, every drop of water is precious. Your gift could help a community build an earth dam

Every envelope. Every gift. Every challenge can change lives.

Together we stop this climate crisis.

The climate crisis hurts us all. But people living in poverty fight the worst of it every day. From drought to flooding, climate change robs people of control over their lives. Extreme weather means people are struggling to survive without a reliable source of water.

Your gift could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. A reliable source of water helps withstand long drought or relentless rainstorms.

Every envelope. Every gift. Every challenge can change lives.

In Bunbury, envelopes will be delivered, but there will be no collections. See p8 for where to drop off your donation or donate online at [donate.christianaid.org.uk](https://donate.christianaid.org.uk) or by telephone on 020 7523 2269.



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# Community news

The COVID pandemic has lasted much longer than anyone could ever imagined. During the long lockdown volunteers from ALIVE and the social clubs have tried to keep in touch with as many people living alone as possible, with an occasional friendly telephone call.

With Easter approaching and no end to lockdown it was decided to deliver a boxed Easter cake to those living alone, just to say "we are thinking of you".



A big "thank you" to Maisie Craig who made up the boxes and Kevin Baker, who made the cakes. The gifts were really appreciated. Now we are looking forward to being able to get together again as soon as meetings are permitted. Watch this space!



A big thank you to **David Elsworth** for delivering the Link. We are now looking for a volunteer to deliver the Link in Wakes Meadow. Please contact Carolyn Johnson [carolyn12a@hotmail.com](mailto:carolyn12a@hotmail.com)

## Mark Ireland Jones, Parish Council chair, reflects

A year has passed since our first lockdown. Looking back it seems much longer! At the time so much was unknown and



a little scary - how serious was COVID and how long might it last? Together with Rev Tim Hayward the Parish Council leafleted the village ahead of the expected lockdown and very quickly we had teams of people across the village ready to offer help. The feeling of community spirit was very high and events such as clapping for the NHS and the socially distanced VE Day celebrations brought out the best in people; something I was very proud to be part of. Empty roads, walking the local footpaths and queuing outside the Co-Op and butchers became part of everyday life. The recent lockdown has felt quite different; the Community Support program was no longer needed, a mixture of ongoing support from the first lockdown and home deliveries

## A word from the editor

*The life of Prince Phillip who lived to a great age was a shining example of duty and service. It is perhaps only after the event that people realised what a great deal he did. It must be very hard for HM the Queen.*

*After 9/11, HM the Queen sent an address to the prayer service in New York, which is worth a read. At the end she said: "Grief is the price we pay for love."*

*Recently it has hit home to me how many people are separated from close family across the world and have not been able to see them for a long time. Families who are based in the UK are very lucky; so many are not. A friend in New Zealand has always been able to travel back and see her family every year, particularly her mother who is 91. She is desperate to see her and is finding it particularly hard, as are many others. Spare them a thought.*

have rendered such a scheme unnecessary. Whilst one might feel sad at this, I believe it is very positive that we can now cope with lockdown and it demonstrates the strength and resourcefulness of the British people. I am sure if it were needed again we could set it up very easily. Now it seems we are at a crossroads, as we follow the roadmap out of lockdown we don't know what will return and what will change forever but hopefully the positives can be built on. I have heard many people comment that it has made them appreciate what is important to them with family, friends and the simple pleasures of meeting up combined with a slower pace of life amongst the lessons learnt. It feels now that COVID will be with us in one form or another for the foreseeable future and it will be fascinating to see what is written in another 12 months' time!



TIM HAYWARD

Your Vicar

Fans of Strictly Come Dancing will, I'm sure, be delighted to learn that England's Chief Medical Officer Prof Chris Whitty is being considered as a contestant for the next series.

I guess had there been no pandemic, Professor Whitty would simply be another grey suit in Whitehall. By all accounts, a very private person and certainly not one to strut under the SCD glitter ball!

But that's the whole point. Above all what people are looking for during this present emergency or indeed in any crisis is a sense of competence, someone who appears to know what they are doing. Understatement and composure come at a premium.

BBC health editor Hugh Pym describes Whitty as: "the official who will probably have the greatest impact on our everyday lives of any individual policymaker in modern times."

### "Cometh the hour, cometh the man"

I'm sure Prof Whitty did not plan to become, in the words of The Guardian's John Crace, "the country's *de facto* prime minister". In fact, one of his school reports actually said "Don't think about sending this boy to university, he can barely read." But it is as if, to quote Winston Churchill as he was appointed prime minister, "all my past life had been but a preparation for this hour and for this trial."

In the New Testament, the apostle Paul writes to Timothy: "God doesn't want us to be shy with his gifts, but bold and loving and sensible." (2 Timothy 1:7). That's a lovely phrase: "bold and loving and sensible," qualities we would normally hold in

**The copy deadline for the June issue is Friday 14 May. The magazine should be delivered starting Saturday 29 May. Notices to [bunburyparishoffice@gmail.com](mailto:bunburyparishoffice@gmail.com)**

## Strictly Come Dancing's next contestant?!

tension with each other, but virtues we look for in a crisis.

And it can take a lifetime to cultivate. For God knows what he is doing when he is preparing for us a particular task, but it may come to us in a flash – hence the need for boldness, to seize the moment before it passes. Here we need to be on our toes, so to speak. You never know until it happens.

In love – for we serve others. We are not talking here about self-promotion, but the very opposite. Even though we may find ourselves centre-stage, our motive is to bless rather than to boast.

And sensible. I guess we can sometimes downgrade sensibility as a synonym for boring. For we live in a society which values glamour, excitement and celebrity. But what we need more than ever, certainly during this pandemic, or any crisis is competence, just being able to do the job well and without fuss.

It's not often I quote Richard Dawkins but he's right when he observes that "anybody who has something sensible or worthwhile to say should be able to say it calmly and soberly, relying on the words themselves to convey his meaning, without resorting to yelling."

God bless Professor Whitty and all those who offer a still, small voice of calm.

**Make donations to the church using this QR code and your mobile phone**



# A day in the life of...

## Pilot, Gavin Sweet



Like any good stories mine starts at the beginning. When I was a child my Dad took me in with him on a work experience day. He was an air traffic controller at Manchester Centre. I sat next to him staring into a radar screen as he controlled numerous green blips heading in all directions. One radar return caught my eye, it was a Virgin Atlantic heavy jet coasting out over the Atlantic heading to America. Full of people on the move, people with hopes and dreams.

When my dad turned to me and asked if I wanted to become an air traffic controller I replied "no offence, dad, but I want to be the blip!" So the idea had formed and I learnt to fly a single engine light aircraft (PA28) out of Welshpool at the age of 16 and then went on to complete my ATPL (Airline Transport Pilot Licence) at Oxford Flying school. But just as I qualified disaster struck when 9/11 happened. All aircraft were grounded and job opportunities crumbled into the dust. But



**B787-9 Head up Display flying over Mongolia**

after many months of intense training, several redundancies, failed airlines and moves later I am sitting where I always wanted to be, flying the ultra modern Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner for Virgin Atlantic.

Yet again however, in Spring 2020, the spectre of redundancy raised its ugly head and the world shut down as Covid 19 took hold. From a person whose business it is to move people,

this was devastating. In March the skies were devoid of life nothing moved, only the birds!

Eventually countries realised that without aviation you just can't get important equipment and thankfully I returned to work in May turning up at the usually bustling Heathrow Airport. But it was empty! It was eerie to see abandoned trolleys, empty walkways and silent shops in the terminal. It was like an apocalypse, the silence was deafening.

I walked alone through the terminal and eventually made it to the aircraft. There she sat quiet and asleep in the dark, waiting for the world to start turning again, ready to be awoken for the journey ahead. Myself and a small group of pilots flew her to Shanghai to collect tonnes of much-needed PPE and medical equipment. Our first Ultra Long Haul flight, which was to become the norm. One crew would be flying her out on the 12-hour flight to China while the other



**Queen of the skies B787-9 on the ground in Shanghai**

crew rested. Cargo was unloaded and reloaded while we stayed on the aircraft and the resting crew took over.

Her holds were loaded and the cabin once filled with the chatter and excitement was now filled with equipment needed to protect NHS and front line staff. Every seat was piled high with boxes where passengers should have been. It was strange flying for so long with the absence of any humanity, just the throb of the engines as we flew through the night, Mongolia slipping beneath us.



**Cabin full of PPE**

Since May I have flown countless times to Shanghai and Hong Kong to supply the country with equipment ranging from masks, Covid tests and medical equipment.



**Hotel check in**

It has been very tough. The usual arrival in Shanghai, check in to the hotel and meet for drinks in an hour has gone. Now

# Sky notes for May

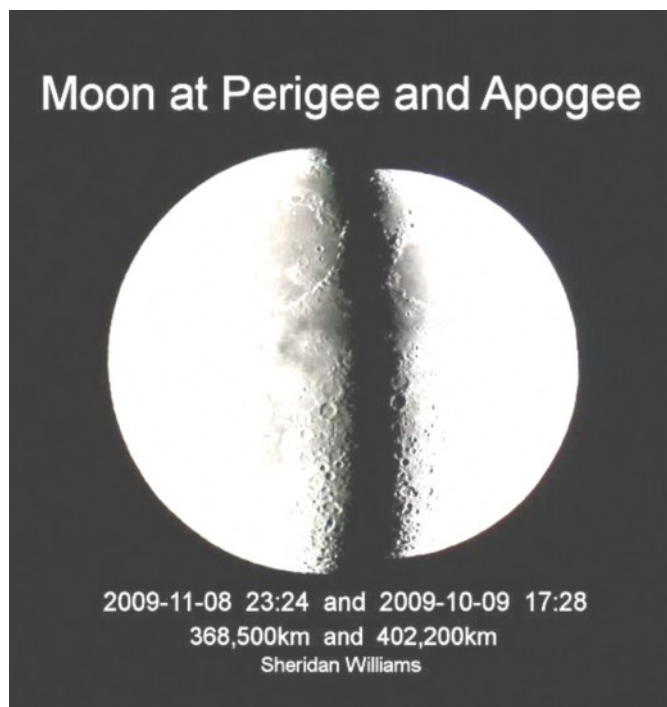
We're treated to an especially big and bright Full Moon on the night of 26 May. This is sometimes called a Supermoon. The Moon's orbit around the Earth is not a perfect circle, but an ellipse. It has an average distance of 382,900 km from Earth, but its apogee and perigee - the closest and farthest approaches from Earth - change every lunar month.

A Supermoon needs two key ingredients to occur. The Moon needs to be at its closest approach to the Earth in its 27-day orbit. The Moon also needs to be at the full phase, which happens every 29.5 days when the sun fully illuminates the Moon.

At May's Full Moon, it is at its closest point to earth in 2021 - just 357,314 km. As a result, it appears 14 percent bigger than when the Moon is at its far point. The picture shows the difference in size between a Supermoon and a normal Moon. The Moon will also appear as much as 30 percent brighter, but it's very hard to spot the difference with the naked eye.

The Moon may look especially large to you, however, if it's very close to the horizon, for example when it is rising. You can notice this effect a few days either side of Full Moon, whether it's a Supermoon or not. But this has nothing to do with astronomy and everything to do with how the human brain works. This effect is called the "Moon illusion" and may arise from at least a couple of different things. Scientists suggest that perhaps the brain is comparing the moon to nearby buildings or objects, or perhaps our brain is just wired to process things on the horizon as bigger than things in the sky.

It has become popular to give a name to each month's Full Moon. May's Full Moon is often referred to as a "Flower Moon," although it has different nicknames according to



different cultures. The name signifies the flowers that bloom during this month. Other names for the Full Moon in May are Corn Planting Moon, and Milk Moon from Old English/Anglo-Saxon. June's Full Moon is the Strawberry Moon

Another object to look out for this month is the brilliant Venus. This "Evening Star" sets at 9.15 at the start of May and 10.30 pm at the end of the month. Look out for Venus in the western sky at dusk.

Bunbury Stargazer

we are met by staff in full hazard suits, escorted, tested and checked then frogmarched to government run hotel rooms, locked in and not allowed out until we leave. Food is delivered to our doors. With poor internet connection I have read hundreds of books

I have brought hundreds of tonnes of equipment when the country was in dire need, when supply was short.

Life as a long haul pilot is usually much more fun. We generally enjoy a couple of nights in the Worlds most amazing cities. Fabulous steak and red wine in Johannesburg, cycling across the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, sharing Dim Sum in Hong Kong, strolling along Santa



## Cargo for the hold

Monica pier in LA, haggling in the Shanghai markets and walking down the strip in Las Vegas. However, it's not all one big holiday as we have to be well

rested for each flight and we very often fly through the night and have to adjust to numerous time zones. We also have to complete rigorous training days every 6 months in a simulator. We are faced with challenging situations where we hone our skills to prepare us for any eventualities that we may meet in the real world.

For nearly a year I have been moving boxes and not people. I will be transporting the vaccine around the globe and when it is safe to do so I will welcome you all back. I look forward to the day when I am transporting dreamers, explorers and adventurers rather than boxes.

# Recipe for May: Si's Cottage Pie

This month's recipe comes from Churchwarden *Si Lees-Jones*.



## Ingredients

Beef mince  
Onion  
Sweet pepper (optional)  
Carrots (optional)  
Salt & pepper  
Mixed herbs  
Beef stock cube  
Worcester sauce  
Whole grain mustard  
Garlic  
Red wine  
Potatoes  
Milk  
Butter

## Method

1. Take a big pan, splash in olive oil & heat. Add Burrow's best mince beef, stir & brown off for 5 minutes. Take off heat & leave in pan.
2. Chop up onion and sweet pepper, carrots and garlic.
3. Take another pan, splash in olive oil and heat. Fry onion and sweet pepper, add salt, pepper, mixed herbs and garlic.
4. Boil the carrots in a separate pan.
5. Mix onion and sweet pepper and carrots in with the beef. Add a beef stock cube (crumbled), Lea & Perrins Worcester sauce, red wine and whole grain mustard. Heat and stir all for 5–10 minutes. Pour into flat casserole dish.
6. Boil potatoes until soft. Add milk & butter, salt & pepper then mash. Spread mashed potatoes on to mince and fork swirly patterns on top.
7. Either leave in fridge till meal time, or cook straight away in hot oven for about 30 minutes. Serve with garden peas, Worcester sauce, ketchup & plenty of red wine. Perfect comfort food!

## EVEN more confessions of a chilli grower!



As I look out of my study window at a very nippy night (Ros has put the log fire on again) and Jessica tells me that it has been snowing in

London, I am very grateful that I didn't start these chillies even earlier as I might have been tempted to get them out into the greenhouse/cold frame. They are both heated slightly to keep the frost off, but chillies are delicate little creatures of the sub-tropics and don't take kindly to any interruption to their growth. Two years ago, I see from my photos app which likes to remind me of things (can be useful as I am now quite good at forgetting things!) that in April 2019 I had tomato plants two feet high in the greenhouse growing quite happily. While these are hardier than chillies, they prefer

a balmy 17 degrees or more – a much warmer spring methinks.



As you can see, the chillies aren't doing too bad and have moved up into grown-up pots. They

will soon have to be transferred into 15cm and then 25 cm+ or so pots which is when they start to become a problem as there are only so many potted chillies that you are permitted to keep in the house! The tomatoes which were started much later in early March have also put on some decent growth; they are already taller than the chillies.

For reasons more to do with having packets of seed left over from last year and them being expensive varieties, most of the tomato plants I've grown are reasonably exotic types, mainly blue and black (more purple in truth) as Ros has declared those to be much tastier than the "ordinary" ones. So, we have, (at least

for now) Blue Bayou (from high levels of anthocyanins, responsible for the blue and purple colours of fruits, such as blueberries, blackberries), Black Krim (large beef-steak type), Craigella (stripy), Bloody Butcher (an old heritage variety) and cherry-sized Sungold, which Grandson Max thought were "tasty" when they came in the non-lockdown period last year for my 70th!

I grow some of these in the greenhouse, just in case, but mostly up the wall outside the back door where they have done well and been pest-free for many years (despite sceptical advice-givers), growing to ~10 feet high in old money (~3 metres in foreign currency). They already needed staking and as I can see the roots starting to show through the drainage holes will also demand re-potting soon as they sulk if left pot-bound. Ah, the demands of these prima-donnas; why don't I buy plants from Mike from Coton (or heaven forfend: B&Q) like everyone else?! Still, you have to suffer for your art, although I haven't cut my ear off (yet).

Peter Styles

# Give us 2 minutes

I grew up on a small hill farm in the Eden Valley, Cumbria. I loved helping with the sheep (Swaledales), especially at lambing time. I qualified as a Diagnostic Radiographer in Lancaster and now specialise in Ultrasound, carrying out and reporting on Obstetric and General scans. Richard and I moved to Bunbury in 2014 and we are blessed with three children, Annabelle, Rose and Thomas.

**If you had a motto what would it be?**

In a world where you can be anything, be kind.

**It's a celebrity beer call who would you invite? Socially distanced of course**

Seeing that we have not been allowed out recently, I would just love to have a drink and dance with my friends.

**What would you call your autobiography?**

A Cumbrian Lass.

**What was your first job?**

I worked in the local Chippy - I loved this job, chatting to all the locals! : Or looking after the pet lambs as child.

**How has COVID affected your family life?**

Thomas was born in October so we have had a young baby in the most recent lockdown which was quite challenging with trying to keep up with schoolwork for Annabelle and entertaining Rose! We have been lucky during this time, as we have been healthy and we have spent more time together as a family, enjoying lots of walks and bike rides.

**What would you change about Bunbury if you could?**

Bunbury has lots to offer already but maybe a nice bakery.



Maggie Watson

**What is the best book you have read to date?**

The Island (by Victoria Heslop) & The Tattooist of Auschwitz (by Heather Morris)

**What is your biggest regret?**

I don't really have any regrets but I feel I should have appreciated how lucky I was to grow up on a farm when I was younger.

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

For Annabelle, Rose and Thomas to grow up happy and healthy.

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

I'm a qualified badminton coach

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

A smooth transition back to work and maybe a Lakeland trail race.

**What is your favourite place and why?**

The Lake District. I have lots of fond memories there and I love the beautiful scenery.

**How would you spend your ideal weekend?**

A nice walk with the family, prosecco and some homemade cake!

## Our prayers for May

Father God, thank you for the beauty of your creation. Help us to live faithfully in the face of a climate emergency.

We pray for world leaders, for a unity of purpose and resolve to tackle the climate crisis.

We give thanks for our young people who are taking the lead on speaking out for climate issues.

We pray for ourselves that we would not be weary of the suffering we see in the world, but refreshed to make a difference in our own lives and the life of our communities.

Let justice roll down like a river, may righteousness flow like a never-ending stream, for the flourishing of all people; in the name of the Creator, Son and Spirit. Amen.

*Blessed are you,  
Lord God of all creation.  
Glory to you for flowing  
air,  
for water as it flows  
and for soil and all that  
grows.  
Blessed are you for  
ever.*

*(A Celtic prayer)*



## Claire Wilson "I'm bored!"

Endless days made up of tedious hours and monotonous minutes. All the schoolwork done, all chores completed, piano practice practiced, and Joe Wicks' daily exercise challenge smashed. Everything on the study list is read and no extra-curricular activities are allowed during the pandemic. All the recommended box sets, and movies have been watched. And to top it off, the internet is down, no Xbox or PlayStation. So, now what?



"Mum, Dad, I'm bored!" These words have probably been said in every household where a child is growing up on multiple occasions. I know that my two children have said them, and my two sisters and I most certainly did. What these words say is, "I need entertaining, and you need to entertain me."

Life for us and for our children has become so fast paced, it feels like every moment should be accounted for and productive. And when we are not busy, our minds need to

be stimulated and entertained, usually by some multi-media type device.

Author Glennon Doyle suggests that 'when we are bored, we ask ourselves: what do I want to do with myself? We are guided to certain things: a pen and paper, a guitar, the forest in the backyard, a soccer ball, a spatula.'

In my childhood, the bus tickets stored in an old tin became the money that I paid out to people who came to my bank, the vice attached to my dad's work bench became the nautical wheel on the ship that took me round the world on adventures, and the washing up brush became the microphone I used to interview my guests on a chat show. Countless notebooks held the amazing stories and poems I penned.

Next time you hear your child or your inner child cry: "Mum, Dad, I'm bored!" don't be tempted to rush in with a solution. Instead, remember that potentially 'the moment after we don't know what to do with ourselves is the moment we find ourselves. Right after the itchy boredom is self-discovery.' Boredom becomes the gateway of creativity and imagination, where we explore who we are and what we are meant to be.



## Mike Rogers writes... Thank you



Let me begin by offering you a riddle to solve:

- My first is in GRATEFUL and also POLITE
- My second's in HAPPY as well as DELIGHT
- My third's in APPRECIATE and also ACCEPT
- My fourth's in SINCERE but not in EXPECT
- My fifth's in ACKNOWLEDGE and not in REPAY
- My last is in SHOWING as well as in SAY
- My whole is a word which, though only small, says each of these things and more than them all!

I know I've written about this before, but as our way out of this pandemic starts to become a little clearer, I make no apology for raising the topic again for it seems to me that even though the last 12 months have not been easy, we have a lot for which we might wish to be thankful. From an early age we are taught to SAY thank you when we ACCEPT something from someone else. Not only is it POLITE to do so, but taking the time to

ACKNOWLEDGE a gift is a good way of SHOWING that we are GRATEFUL and that we APPRECIATE what we have been given. It's not that we are expected to REPAY a kindness, (nor if we are a 'giver' should we always EXPECT a 'thank you'), but through showing our DELIGHT and PLEASURE at receiving a gift, rather than simply taking it for granted, we make the one who has given us the gift HAPPY. Simply saying 'thank you' however is not enough – we should show that our gratitude is sincere through action as well as through word.

Do we always say 'thank you' when people show us a kindness? Of course we do! But do we also make time to thank those whose contribution to our lives may be so familiar that it goes unnoticed?

And above all, do we say thank you to God as often as we should and perhaps more importantly, do we show our thankfulness to him through the way that we live?

Only you know your answer to that.

## Christian Aid Week 10–16 May 2021

Christian Aid week envelopes will be put through your door, but instead of being collected, there will be a collection box outside the vicarage for people to put their envelopes in or you can drop them off in church on Sundays. It is also very easy to give donate by telephone 020 7523 2269 or online at [donate.christianaid.org.uk](https://donate.christianaid.org.uk).



# Bunbury mill news

**Bunbury Mill** is actively considering when and how to reopen the mill to the public for guided tours and schools visits. Watch the website for updates. Bookings of the visitor centre for private events may now be possible – contact us at [info@bunburymill.com](mailto:info@bunburymill.com) to discuss your requirements. Essential maintenance work to keep the machinery and the grounds in good condition is still being carried out.



The second edition of Eric Elson's acclaimed booklet *Behind the Door* has now been published - professionally printed and substantially updated and expanded, with a wealth of fascinating information about the medieval history of the mill, its rescue from dereliction in the 1970s, and its subsequent operation under the water authorities and now the

Bunbury Watermill Trust. Copies (price £4) can be obtained at the mill on Wednesday mornings, or can be collected from an address in Bunbury, or delivered to you in the Bunbury area, by email request to [info@bunburymill.com](mailto:info@bunburymill.com)



On Sunday 25 July, the Rain or Shine theatre company will present their interpretation of *She Stoops to Conquer* at Bunbury Cricket Ground.

Profits will be in aid of the mill and the cricket club. To comply with Government Covid regulations, please book directly with the company, and provide a name and contact number for every individual ticket purchased. Details at [www.rainorshine.co.uk](http://www.rainorshine.co.uk).

## Church services for Easter Season 7 Reasons for Hope

- 11th April | Jesus brings us peace
- 18th April | Jesus gives us purpose
- 25th April | Jesus is the Good Shepherd who protects
- 2nd May | Jesus is the true vine giving life
- 9th May | Jesus is our friend who we can trust
- 16th May | Jesus is ascended bringing us joy
- 23rd May | Jesus sends us his Spirit to be our guide

Sunday 9.30am St Jude's | 10.30am St Boniface  
Holy Communion 1st Sunday St Boniface | 3rd Sunday St Jude's  
Midweek Communion 21st April | 19th May

# Bells rung for Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh



Part of a national request as part of the Duke's funeral arrangements was that church bell towers across the UK tolled a single bell "half muffled" during the hour before the funeral service was to start. At Bunbury we participated by tolling our heaviest bell, the "Tenor", 99 times to mark the late Duke's age. We started tolling as the Duke's coffin came out to be lifted onto the Land Rover and completed the 99 rings as the procession arrived at St George's chapel.

Half muffled ringing is used for solemn occasions. A leather pad is attached to one side of the bell's clapper which makes each alternate stroke sound very soft. The effect is a mournful sound as the bell is tolled.

Vicki (pictured below) was with me to tally the number of strokes to make sure we got it to exactly 99 in a timely manner.

David Riley



Bunbury Village Day, Jubilee Playing Fields, Hurst Close, Bunbury, Cheshire CW6 9QP

PRESS RELEASE  
14 April 2021

## An Olympic Day Out!

After some uncertainty, the Bunbury Village Day team are delighted to announce that the highlight of Bunbury's social calendar will go ahead this Summer (subject to the Government's roadmap out of lockdown being implemented as planned).

The theme will be The Olympics, to coincide with the delayed Tokyo Games, which were postponed last year due to the pandemic and we plan to have a medal winning Olympian open the event!

**Saturday 26 June 2021** is the date for your diary and of course no Bunbury Village Day would be complete without all the traditional attractions of this great summer event including a bar, a bbq, parade, Rose Queen and King, stalls, WI café, puppet show, vehicle exhibition, the list goes on!

This year rather than displays, the arena will be given over to a range of team sports, with medals and prizes for the winners.

The event will be extended into the early evening with a great set by much loved local band The Easy Peelers.

To keep up to date with plans:  
www.bunburyvillage.info  
www.facebook.com/BunburyVillageDay  
www.twitter.com/BunburyDay

For press queries and questions:  
debbypulford@gmail.com  
contact@bunburyvillage.info



The Rotary Club of Tarporley and District  
Garden Matters!



Grand sale of plants and garden items taking place on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May from 10.00am until 2.30pm at the Chapel Car Park, High Street, Tarporley.

A wide variety of bulbs/bedding plants/cuttings and other garden items to motivate and enthuse gardeners

Funds raised will be used to support local and national charities during these difficult times.

Rotarians and friends continue to work within and beyond the Community to support those in need.

Refreshments available from the Chapel Tea Ladies



Looking forward to seeing you there!

# From our bookshelf

## Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell

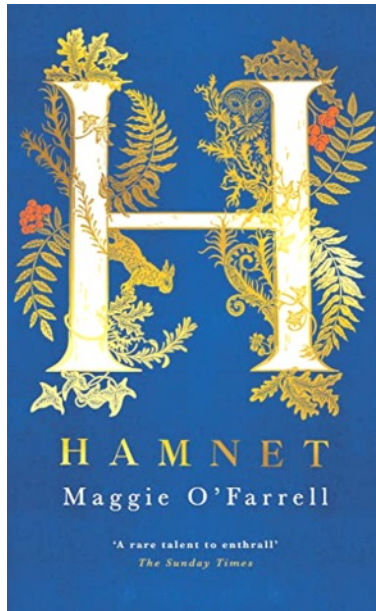
*A review by regular contributor, Margi Nalia*

We all know of the works of Shakespeare, but what do we know about Shakespeare the man?

This is a fictional tale based on the loss of his only son, Hamnet, twin brother to Judith. Hamnet died aged eleven in 1596 at a time when outbreaks of Bubonic Plague, the Black Death were common. The story presents day to day life in 16th Century Stratford, whilst exploring the bond between the twins and the unconventional relationship between Shakespeare and his wife Agnes.

It is Agnes who drives the spirit of the narrative. Known in the town for being unconventional, free-spirited, a gifted herbalist who trails rumours of other, stranger gifts, she captures the heart of the young Latin tutor, who spying her striding out of the forest with a kestrel on her wrist thinks she is a boy. They are determined to wed no matter the objections from both their families. This for me is the most illuminating part of the novel, entirely fictitious yet utterly compelling. The marriage is a success, but when her husband takes his chance and moves to London Agnes's wait to join him gets ever longer. He writes. "If the plague comes to London, he can be back with them for months. The playhouses are all shut, by order of the Queen, and no one is allowed to gather in public". She tells her daughter it is wrong to wish for the plague.

When Judith takes to her bed, it is Hamnet who goes for help. It is Hamnet who asks Agnes, if his twin sister has the



pestilence. It is Hamnet who decides to exchange places and clothes, a trick they, the twins, play leading people to believe that each was the other. "It will be easy for Death to make a mistake, to take him in her place."

O'Farrell makes Agnes's grief and Judith's pain after Hamnet's death palpable, however it is her imagining of the response of Hamnet's father and its impact on his marriage that is the most fascinating and believable. "He feels as though he is caught in a web of absence, its strings and tendrils ready to stick and cling to him, whichever way he turns". All he has made for himself in London might be destroyed, someone else's name will be across the playbills

and not his. He returns to the peace of his lodgings in London, to the joy of holding an ink-dipped feather and watching the words unfurl from its tip.

O'Farrell's writing is both wide ranging in scope and languorous in pace when it looks back at the lives of the central characters and yet meticulously detailed when recounting the central tragedy of the tale. This brings a sense of suspense and immediacy that allows the reader to be in the room as the tragedy unfolds. There is truth in her portrayal of each of the characters' experience of love, loss, grief and finally reconciliation. It is for this that you should share in her imaginings of the family life of the Bard.

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