



Link

August–September 2022

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Dennis Burrows



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hosts Ethos
conference



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Early Birds and
Alive group
join forces

A magazine for the parishes of
Bunbury and Tilstone Fearnall

Inspired we were!



Congratulations to the small team that mounted the beautiful **Inspire22** exhibition of arts and crafts in July. Over three days, 460 people came to view, buy and try their hands at creating their own pieces. See pages 9–12 for more photos of this incredible display. Watch a video of the exhibit at: <https://youtu.be/kwSs6NJeVTg>



Follow Bunbury Church on Facebook

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Community news

The Link distribution team is looking for a volunteer to deliver in **The Hawthorns** and **Lower Darkie Meadow**. Please contact the editor (details below) if you can help.

We are very sorry to report the death of **Dennis Burrows**, a stalwart of the Bunbury community and former churchwarden at St Boniface. Last month the Link reported that Dennis had joined the bellringing team for the Queen's Jubilee as he had 70 years ago. Dennis is pictured here with his wife Joan in 2019. He will be greatly missed by the community and our prayers and thoughts are with Joan and the family. There will be more on Dennis in our next issue.



Sue Watson writes: For all who have asked, **Phyllis Cowap** is settled and happy in Wrenbury Nursing home. She joined her sister Flo there who has sadly died. Phyllis lived in Church Row for 75 years and worshipped at St Boniface all of that time. Although her memory is not what it was, her sense of humour and quick wit are still there. She had a pacemaker fitted and then suffered a fractured hip before celebrating her 98th birthday in April. I am proud to call her my friend; she is such a lovely lady.

The next meeting of **Bunbury Gardening Club** is a garden trail in Bunbury on Tuesday 16 August at 6.30pm. Further details will be sent to members; details available from Margaret Bourne on 01829 260944. The Annual Show is on Saturday 3 September in the Village Hall. Schedules will be circulated to members or available from Burrows Butchers and Tilly's.

On 10 July, **Cody Jensen Castle** was baptised just after his 2nd birthday (pictured with his brothers and parents **Jennie** and **Ollie**). Jennie is Mike & Hilary Watson's daughter.



Congratulations also to the following families on recent baptisms:

Eddie Warriner (parents Lucy and Richard) on 19 June; **James Cannon** (parents Colm and Kirsty) on 25 June; **Primrose Harvey Robins** (parents Abby and David) on 3 June and **Ezra Jackson**, whose parents Kat and David held a thanksgiving service as part of forest church.



Congratulations to local couple **Carys Ryder** and **Chris Murton**, married at St Boniface on 27 May.

The collection box for **Mid-Cheshire**

Foodbank is at the village hall. People will need food over the summer and they will not necessarily be fortunate enough to be able to go away.

Items needed

Jam
Long life fruit juice
Tinned fruit
Desserts - jelly, rice pudding
Tea bags (especially 80s)
Custard
Tinned/mashed potatoes
Savoury sandwich spreads

Not needed for now

Soup
Baked beans
Tinned tomatoes
Tinned snack meals
Coffee

Thank you to all those helped to make **INSPIRE22** such a success. The committee has received such positive feedback from the artists and visitors. The church looked beautiful and is a wonderful building for an

A word from the editor

This month's editor's note is inevitably going to focus on INSPIRE22. The church did look so beautiful with the flowers and the exhibits were really interesting. People used words such as "astonishing" and "stunning".

One of the most memorable things was the sense of togetherness. Sophie Handy, a young artist from Alraham, said that she loved meeting so many different people.

The café in the church meant that people could have tea and cake and socialise with their friends. It felt like being at Storyhouse.

A comment from one of the artists: "It must have been a lot of work for you all but looked worth it; the art, the flowers and the church looked beautiful."

The event was a lot of work and the committee needs to decide whether there will ever be another one!

Thank you to all those who have supported the Link this year delivering or submitting articles. A huge thanks also to Jo Mason – layout is a huge job and the church community is very grateful

We will be having a break over the summer.



Claire Wilson

Curate

Steadfast love

"The Steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end they are now every morning, great is His faithfulness."

It is coming to that time of year, the preparation for and the beginning of a new academic year. Parents will be starting to think about shopping for new school uniforms and stationery. Some children will be preparing to return school with their classmates, moving up into a new year group and others will be priming themselves for an even greater leap to a new school. It is also a common time for adults to change jobs, move house and begin training courses.

With these changes can come anxiety and nerves. What will my new school or office be like? Will I make any new friends? Will I be able to keep up with people's expectations of me? Have I made the good choices or decisions? The pressure to get things right, to be right, to fit in can feel overwhelming. Often it stems from fear, fear of being alone, fear of failure, fear of the unknown.

Rest assured that God's love for us is not dependent on our performance, whether we get it all right or not. In fact, God knows that we often make mistakes, feel out of our depth, make the wrong choices. To this end he promises to love us unconditionally, consistently, and never endingly. And so dependable is his love for us that we can rely on it. Amazingly, he also promises that no matter how many mistakes we make, wrong choices and turns we take, he will always be there for us, each time to pick us up and set us on our way again. As sure as the sun rises in the east and sets in the west, we can be confident of God loves for us and his goodness.

Whatever new things await you in life, know that you are not alone and that you are loved, even if things don't go quite to plan!



exhibition of flowers and art and craft. It looked really professional! There are so many people to thank:

- To the 50 people who were stewards or helped in the café
- To the many who ran knitting, crochet, patchwork, flower buttonholes workshops
- To the woodwork team who were demonstrating all day on the Saturday
- To those who arranged the flowers
- To the pew movers (a massive job as they are so heavy and had to be moved twice)
- To those who put up and dismantled the marquees
- To the artists and craftspeople who had faith in us and exhibited their lovely work
- To the local people who supplied art and craft to help make such an interesting exhibition
- To the local photographic group who created a display that created much interest
- To the musicians who played throughout each day
- To the firm who supplied the art boards and were so helpful
- To those who helped hang the pictures and bend the hooks into shape
- To Phillip Posnett for organising the delivery and collection of the Houghton tables and chairs
- To the Brosters for allowing parking on the field
- To anyone who helped in any other way.

And a huge thank you to those in the community who came to support – some more than once!

The copy deadline for the October issue is Friday 16 September. The magazine should be delivered on Saturday 1 October. Notices to bunburyparishoffice@gmail.com

THE PARISHES OF BUNBURY & TILSTONE FEARNALL

Harvest Services

Join us as we celebrate the blessings of this Harvest season. Donations for our local foodbank welcome

ST JUDE'S - 25TH SEPTEMBER - 9.30AM
ST BONIFACE - 25TH SEPTEMBER - 10.30AM
CALVELEY CHAPEL - 25TH SEPTEMBER - 4PM

www.stbonifacebunbury.org

Pet service

Many thanks to the Dysart Arms for hosting this year's blessing of the pets on Sunday 17 July. As ever in the heat it was a successful event. Thank you to the church band for playing.



Church diary for August

Wednesday 3 August	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 7 August	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Family Worship 10.30am Holy Communion 11.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface St Jude's St Boniface Calveley
Wednesday 10 August	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 14 August	9.30am Family Communion 10.30am Family Worship	St Jude's St Boniface
Tuesday 16 August	2.30pm & 7.30pm Contemplative prayer	St Boniface
Wednesday 17 August	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 21 August	9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Family Worship 6.00pm Evensong	St Jude's St Boniface St Boniface
Wednesday 24 August	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 28 August	9.30am Family Worship 10.30am Family communion	St Jude's St Boniface
Wednesday 31 August	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface

Church diary for September

Sunday 4 September	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Family Worship 10.30am Forest Church & Family Communion 11.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface St Jude's St Boniface Calveley
Wednesday 7 September	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 11 September	9.30am Family Communion 10.30am Family Worship	St Jude's St Boniface
Wednesday 14 September	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 18 September	9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Sunday Brunch 6.00pm Evensong	St Jude's St Boniface St Boniface
Tuesday 20 September	2.30pm & 7.30pm Contemplative prayer	St Boniface
Wednesday 21 September	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 25 September	9.30am Family Worship – Harvest 10.30am Harvest Communion 4.00pm Harvest Tea & Service	St Jude's St Boniface Calveley
Wednesday 28 September	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface

Sky notes for August and September

August and September are usually very good months for observing the night sky. Not only is it fairly mild outside, which makes for more comfortable viewing, but it also gets dark earlier in the evening so you don't have to wait up so long to enjoy the sky. The darkening evenings are especially noticeable during September as we head towards the Autumn Equinox on September 23 at 2am. Then day and night will be equal over the whole earth – after that the nights become longer than days for we borealites.

Saturn and Jupiter grace the skies

The Gas Giant planets, Saturn and Jupiter, are prominent in August and September and are visible all night long. Saturn is closest to earth in August in the constellation of Capricornus. Through a small telescope you will see his amazing rings. On August 11 Jupiter lies upper left of the moon and on September 8 it is to the upper right of the moon.

Jupiter, which is considerably brighter than Saturn, is closest to the earth in September when it is in the constellation of Pisces. It can be found near to the waning moon on August 14-15 and again on September 11, when the moon is just one day past full.

Constellation of Lyra, the lyre

One of my favourite constellations is on view during August and September. Lyra is a small but perfectly formed star grouping. It represents the lyre of Orpheus, the musician and poet in Greek mythology who met his end at the hands of the Bacchantes. When he died, his lyre was thrown into a river. Zeus (who is Jupiter in Roman mythology) sent an eagle to get the lyre and placed both of them in the sky.

Look for Lyra almost overhead. It is dominated by the brilliant white star Vega, the fifth brightest star in the night sky. Vega is relatively close neighbour, at least in astronomical terms, being just 25 light years away (which means it takes Vega's light 25 years to reach us). The star is surrounded by a disc of dust which is giving birth to new planets. One of these planets is thought to be a gas giant, very similar to Jupiter.

The accompanying chart and long exposure photograph show the main stars of Lyra. The star next to bright Vega marked with the Greek letter epsilon, ε, and by the arrow in the photograph, is especially interesting. It's known as the Double-

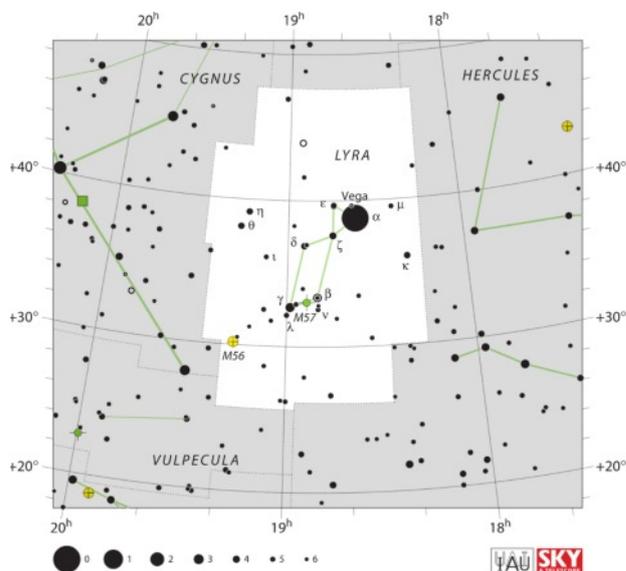


Photograph of Lyra by Simon Dawes taken with a Canon EOS 600D camera and 50mm lens

Double and is comprised of four stars. Keen-sighted people can separate two stars with the naked eye, but binoculars make it quite easy. They are just resolved in the photograph. Now, if you turn a small telescope to epsilon, you will see that each of the two stars is itself double!

Lyra lies next to the Milky Way. You can see the fuzziness, caused by a myriad of distant stars, towards the left side of the photograph. On a dark moonless night, away from streetlights, you can trace the Milky Way over a large part of the sky. Try scanning through it with binoculars. You will be amazed by the many star clusters.

Clear skies! Bunbury Stargazer



Our prayers for August & September

*Lord of sunshine, and of rain,
Lord of work and play;
Lord of love and care and hope,
Watch over us this day.
Amen.*

Bunbury Medical

Practice news: August

Dispensary

We offer a medication delivery service to those patients who are housebound and live in Bunbury and the surrounding villages. Deliveries are made each Wednesday. We are grateful for Keith Gilby's amazing work in this regard particularly during the height of the pandemic. However, Keith is moving on to other things and we are left with a vacancy for a medication delivery driver. This is a paid position requiring you to have your own vehicle. If interested, please contact practice manager Alan Courtenay for more information: 01829 260218.

As we continue to bring services back into the surgery, this is a gentle reminder that proof of payment exemption is required when collecting medication. During the pandemic, NHS England relaxed the need for signing prescription scripts and providing evidence. However, they are now clamping down on the need for evidence with the risk of a fine if not provided. Please speak to one of the dispensary team if you need to discuss this further.

Remember: ordering of medication is easy online – see our item on the NHS App below.

NHS App and your NHS Account

Your NHS account gives you access to certain NHS services online. You can log into your NHS account using the NHS App or the NHS website. The app has similar functionality to Patient Access and is now the NHS' preferred platform.

Some people do not have a device they can use to download the NHS App, or do not want to download it. While we still recommend downloading it for the best user experience, logging in to the NHS website is a quick and easy way to access your NHS account.

<https://www.nhsapp.service.nhs.uk/login>

New users do not require any log in or pin numbers from the practice. Patients can register online in a matter of minutes.

You will be able to use the NHS App to do many things including:

- Get your NHS Covid pass – view and download your Covid pass for travel abroad.
- Get advice about Coronavirus
- Order repeat prescriptions
- Get health advice.
- View your health record - securely access your GP health record to see information like your allergies and your current and past medicines.
- Register your organ donation decision.
- Find out how the NHS uses your data.

Primary Care Network/Enhanced Access

Practices within the Rural Alliance Primary Care Network (covering Bunbury, Kelsall, Malpas, Tattenhall and Tarporley) are collaborating to provide additional GP and other primary care appointments. We are working towards an October launch at which time one or more practices will be providing additional appointments each weekday evening between 6:30 PM and 8:00 PM as well as Saturdays. More information on this new service will follow.

Mask Update

As of the beginning of July, we have not been enforcing the wearing of masks within the building. However, we do still strongly recommend it as Covid cases are increasing, and when entering the building it is possible that you might come into contact with patients who have Covid and do not yet know it.

If staff are seeing a patient with a fever or with respiratory symptoms, we will insist that the patient wears a mask to protect staff and other patients in the building. We would also recommend that if a patient is clinically vulnerable, elderly or immunocompromised, it would be wise to continue wearing a mask; our clinicians will do so during consultations using our hot room for additional safety.

Musculoskeletal (MSK) Physiotherapy

MSK issues can be seen by an NHS Physiotherapist at the surgery without the need to see a GP first. From here patients can be referred onwards for scans etc. Indeed, only the physio make an onward referral and seeing a GP first will unnecessarily delay appropriate scans. Please ask at reception.

Bowel Screening

The sad news of the passing of Dame Deborah James, following her diagnosis of incurable bowel cancer, is a timely moment to remind patients that bowel cancer screening is offered every two years to those aged between 60 and 74. Screening kits are sent to patients by the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme with instructions for use. Sadly, we often receive notifications from the screening team that our patients have not returned their sample kits. This quick and easy test can help to reduce your risk of developing bowel cancer. Please do not be worried about using the kit; 98% of patients have normal results and a healthy bowel. The signs and symptoms of bowel cancer often go unnoticed until the disease is already well developed but if caught early enough, 90% of bowel cancers can be successfully treated.

We encourage our patients to complete their screening kits as soon as possible.

"Find a life worth enjoying, take risks, love deeply; have no regrets; and always, always have rebellious hope.

And finally, check your poo – it could just save your life"

Dame Deborah James

Last year's honey into jars!

Rather later than I'd hoped because of variable weather and other logistics I decided that the bees would be ok and I could see if they had any left of the honey that they had stored up for the winter. So, I togged up and had a good look at the Swan Lane Hive and the results are in the brewing bucket below. The old comb they used isn't very prepossessing and so it's not really good enough to just cut comb and honey into pieces which is actually rather popular with the cognoscenti. It's necessary to extract the honey and while there are special machines for doing this for conventional hives which spin the honey out, it's rather more primitive from top-bar hives. The comb has to be crushed with a potato masher (or similar) and then the honey is allowed to ooze out in a warmish place to reduce the viscosity. The honey is then strained to take

out the bits of bee or other unwelcome additions and then it is put into jars.

I've crushed the comb and am now straining it using a very rudimentary, al-fresco honey strainer as seen below using a very large jar of my homemade chilli pickled onions as a weight. Strangely effective as it happens. I then give it a final strain through a tea strainer into jars see below. It's a messy business as you might guess, but Ros is very accommodating as long as I do the clearing up. There is a bit more in this hive which I will inspect once I'm certain the bees are happy. There is some honey to harvest from my hive down at the Mill which at first inspection doesn't look as if it has as much, but I need to make space for this year's combs of both brood and honey.

I save jars, but it's usually hard to get a consistent set (as you can see) but a good friend has come up with a couple of dozen all the same with lids which will do me this year.



Peter Styles who keeps bees and who, with John McDonald, supported INSPIRE22 with their woodworking

Grandson Max had his first taste of Granddad's honey on Granddad's home-baked bread (got to get the adverts in) this year as he's old enough for his mum not to fret and seemed to really enjoy it. The bees know pretty much what to do after millions of years of evolution and so it's a bit of a watching brief for a while, so I can also look after the tomatoes and chillies!



School news

On 8 July Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary school hosted the first Rural Church Schools Academy Trust Ethos conference. Ethos teams from across the Trust gathered in an outdoor classroom to explore the value of Hope.

We welcomed Rev Tim for an opening worship and Beth Hayward for a Forest Church session to start our conference. As part of our session we learnt how to light a fire before burning away our worries, helping us to feel hopeful for the future. We were also treated to some marshmallow toasting.

In the afternoon sessions, we reflected on what Hope meant to us as individuals. We talked about our worries and our Hopes for the future at a personal, local, national and international level. We thought about how we are seeds of Hope as the next generation and that we can bring about change across the world from our small

actions. To help us think about this we all took packets of seeds back to our schools to scatter around our school grounds.

As the afternoon progressed we completed some craft and art activities to take back to our schools. Taking the idea of footprints and bringing about change we completed individual pieces and decorated wooden crosses of Hope.

It was a fantastic day and opportunity for all the Ethos teams from across the Trust

to come together to explore this Christian value. We look forward to making this an annual event across the Trust.



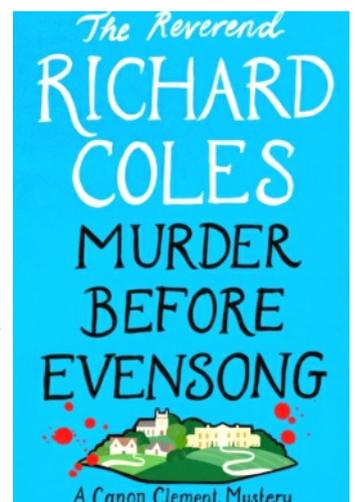
Book review

Murder Before Evensong by Rev Richard Coles

Most people will know of the Rev Richard Coles from his weekend Radio 4 broadcasts, his appearance on *Strictly* or even as a 1980s pop star in *The Communards*. You may not know him as an author of fiction and I approached this, his first novel, with trepidation. I knew that he could write; his autobiographies are witty, entertaining and intelligent. I also knew from the title of this book that he was going to use his many years as a country parson as his inspiration. I feared that this would make the book something that could only really be enjoyed by a church going minority. I was wrong. This is an erudite, absorbing and witty piece of crime fiction. The novel is set in the late 1980s and our hero, Canon Daniel Clement, Rector of Champton St Mary has his village idyll disturbed by his discovery of a bloody body in the back of his church. We are introduced to a host of perfectly described villagers and their lives in a community that still has memories of a feudal past in the shadow of the big house and the oversight of Lord de Floures. The author's descriptions of the minutiae of church and village life are a delight such as his description of the faithful lined up before him at the communion rail..."like text on a page, a text that

told the story of Champton, its light and shade, those who were in, those who were out, the fortunate, the unfortunate, the saintly and the works in progress".

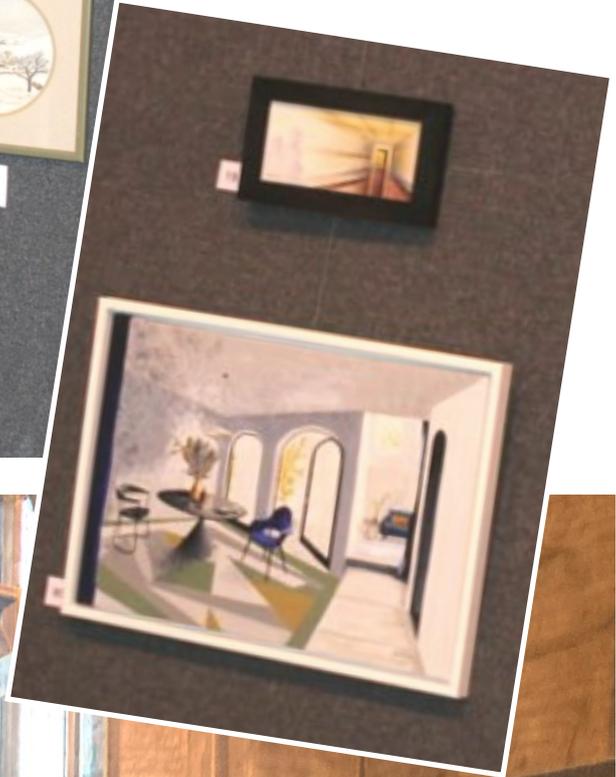
Church politics are wonderfully described as Daniel's attempt at modernization by the addition of a lavatory is met by stony resistance from the Flower Guild who wish, instead, to extend the flower room. All of this is overtaken by the murder, the attentions of the police and the arrival of the inevitable press pack. The book moves at a fine pace and is a genuine crime thriller, more Ruth Rendell than Richard Osman. A great summer holiday read - add it to the suitcase.



Paige Turner



Flowers • Arts • Craft
St. Boniface Bunbury



A wealth of local



talent on display!

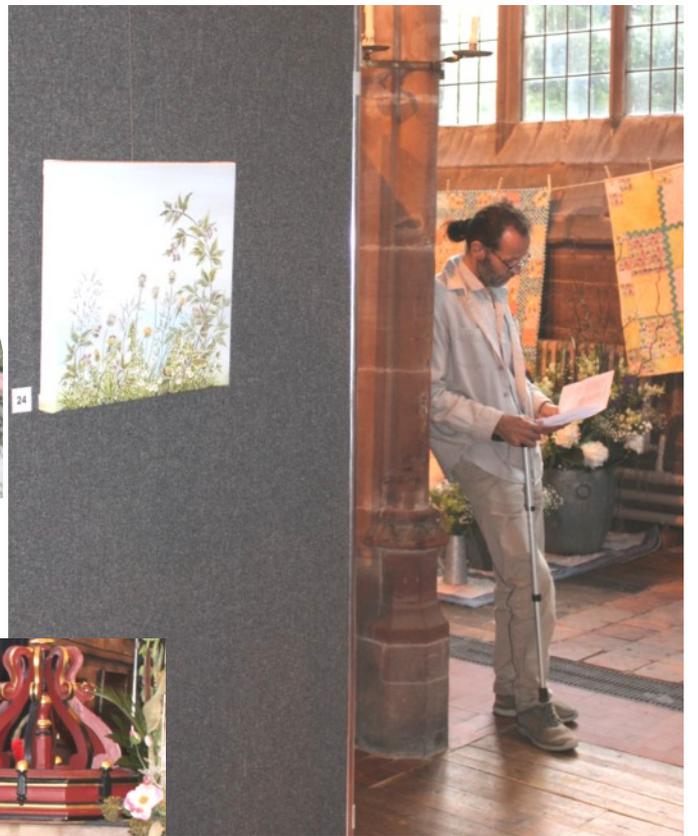
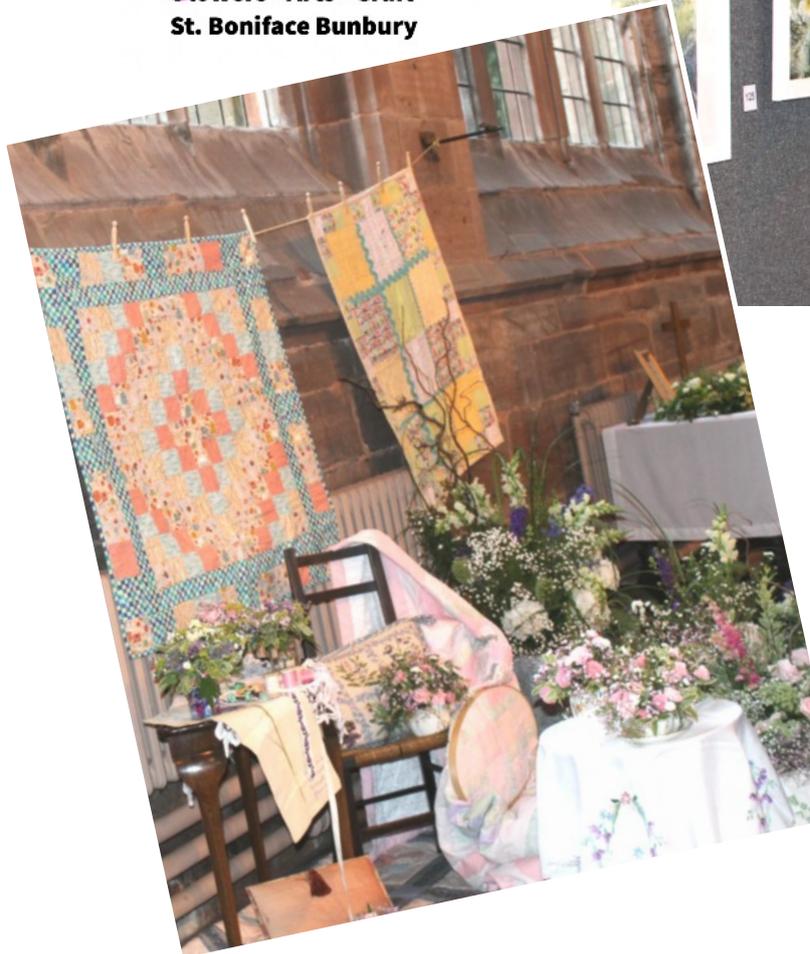


Arts • Craft
Bunbury





Flowers • Arts • Craft
St. Boniface Bunbury



YOUNG and ALIVE!

The Early Birds and the ALIVE group joined together recently for fun and games. Before the Jubilee there was a craft afternoon in the village hall. Everyone enjoyed making crowns, colouring in flags, making friendship bracelets and chatting together about the Queen and her amazing 70 years. It was wonderful to see the little ones walking back to school in their high viz jackets wearing their Jubilee crowns with lots of colourful gems and sparkle.

Last week the children joined us for a morning of games. Animal snap and dominoes were very popular and the older ones amongst us were delighted to relive our childhood. There was a lot of fun and laughter! Pat Blackwood, the founder of ALIVE said she very much hoped these events will continue. "To see the little ones interacting with the older generation is such a joy and a huge benefit to both groups. Many who come to ALIVE do not have families or grandchildren close by. Also some children do not have grandparents locally."

Gillian Cadman, Early Birds Manager, observed: "Early Birds has been at the heart of the Bunbury community for more than 50 years and we love getting the children involved in all areas of village life. They have enjoyed meeting the ALIVE group and it's been so lovely seeing the different generations interact."



Mike Rogers Uncertainty



Magazine deadlines mean that I am writing this at the end of June and that you will be reading what I have written in August or even September. May I therefore crave your indulgence and ask you to cast your minds back some four weeks to eight weeks or so.

In June, we had one glorious week of sun with the pundits promising a long hot summer, followed immediately by a drop in temperature and some rain; the government was reeling in the aftermath of two by-election defeats; the future of the Prime Minister looked uncertain; the war in Ukraine continued; the RMT brought the railways to halt; further strikes by other groups were being threatened; prices continued to rise; in America, Roe v Wade was struck down and that country was reeling after mass shootings.

And the common denominator? In a word: uncertainty.

None of us are strangers to uncertainty – the future is unknown and despite the best efforts of astrologers and the like, we are unable to either predict or control our destiny or indeed, the weather. And as Benjamin Franklin, the American scientist, inventor, statesman, printer, and philosopher said, '...in this world, nothing can be said to be certain except death and taxes.'

But uncertainty remains. It has become a part of our way of life and our culture so how do we cope?

The answer is faith, simply because if we had certainty, we would not need faith.

So, what is faith? My dictionary defines it as: '... belief, especially in a revealed religion; trust or reliance'.

But how do you build that trust and reliance? Neither is won easily; both need to be earned.

Trust, especially between people, is only built up over a period of time and it can be destroyed in a moment and once destroyed, it is difficult to re-build – the Prime Minister's predicament stands testimony to that – but how about our trust in and reliance on God?

This is a difficult one. Those who seemingly have no faith in God appear to prosper. On the surface, their life looks to be as comfortable as anyone else's and they do as well in their careers as the next person.

Where's the catch then? Why do we need faith and faith in God in particular?

Well in a circular sort of way, the answer is certainty.

I am convinced that we may trust God completely. His love for us will never fail. He will always be there, ready to welcome us with open arms. The parable of the Prodigal Son proves that (it's in Luke's Gospel, Chapter 15). And the most remarkable thing about this story is that the father does not greet his returning son at the door of the house – he runs to meet him whilst he is still a long way off.

That's how it is with God. He is ready to run to meet us if we so wish. We may be certain of that and, in an uncertain world, I find that a very comforting thought.

Debbie and Jeremy Shears share a family favourite

Spanish chicken with chorizo and potatoes



Ingredients

2 tablespoons olive oil
12 chicken thighs with skin on and bone in
750g chorizo (whole if baby ones or cut into 4cm/1½ inch chunks if regular sized)
1kg new potatoes (halved)
2 red onions (peeled and roughly chopped)
2 tsp dried oregano
grated zest of 1 orange

Method

Preheat the oven to 220°C/200°C Fan/gas mark 7/425°F. Put the oil in the bottom of 2 shallow roasting tins, 1 tablespoon in each. Rub the skin of the chicken in the oil, then turn skin-side up, 6 pieces in each tin. Divide the chorizo sausages and the new potatoes between the 2

tins. Sprinkle the onion and the oregano over, then grate the orange zest over the contents of the 2 tins. Cook for 1 hour, but after 30 minutes, swap the top tray with the bottom tray in the oven and baste the contents with the orange-coloured juices.

In tribute

Eileen Margaret Overy 1924–2022

Eileen was born Eileen Margaret Dutton at Baddiley Hulse, her parent's dairy farm. She lived there with her brother, Frank, until she married. Eileen went to Wrenbury Primary School followed by Nantwich and Acton Grammar School. The Duttons were Methodists; both Eileen's grandfathers were Methodist preachers and passed on a strong faith to Eileen, via her parents. Eileen was between 15 and 21 years old during the war. She remembered enemy planes flying overhead on their way to bomb Liverpool, barrage balloons up in the clouds over Crewe and searchlights sweeping the night sky. Eileen left school at 16; she was needed as labour on the war-time farm at home. She washed the cows before milking, scrubbed the milking equipment, looked after the chickens, worked on the binder at harvest time, stooked corn, made butter and helped in the house. Two years after the war ended, Eileen went to a party near Shrewsbury, held by Peter's best school friend, Dick Lea, a cousin of Eileen's from Nantwich. Eileen and Peter were both 23 years old. It was love at first sight, but Eileen had been dating someone else. Shortly after, Eileen was taken to a quiz night by said male friend, but it was Peter who took her home. Six dates later, Eileen and Peter got engaged. Three days before their wedding, she was confirmed into the Church of England. Their wedding was at the picturesque, historic and tiny Baddiley church. It was a marriage made in heaven. Peter was relatively new to farming, but he was marrying a girl of ancient Cheshire farming stock: a perfect match. In 1942, when Peter was 18, Peter's parents, John and Kathleen Overy, moved into Fox Farm, near Shrewsbury, perhaps with a view to Peter taking up farming. Eight years later, Eileen and Peter moved in, a year after getting married.

The Fox Farm days were the happiest days of Eileen's life. Nigel, Paul and their elder sister, Christine were all born in the house. Eileen was integrated into the Overy family. Already a good cook, she honed her gardening skills under the tuition of her father-in-law, John Overy, and her dress-making skills at classes. After 14 years of bliss at Fox Farm, in 1963 Eileen and Peter started looking for a farm to buy. As luck would have it, they found and came to Lower Hall, Spurstow, where Nigel still farms, and where Eileen's ancestors and relatives had farmed from 1817 to 1949. Eileen immersed herself back into Cheshire life, involving herself in the WI, the North West research fundraising committee, Meals On Wheels and the Bunbury Gardening Club. She became a regular churchgoer at St Boniface, embroidering kneelers and cleaning the church, flower arranging and, with Peter, fundraising at the annual church fête. Eileen loved her garden at Lower Hall – especially the blackcurrants – and excelled at making preserves. Peter refused to travel outside Britain until Paul moved to the USA, after which he caught the travel bug. They travelled to the US twice, to Singapore and Malaysia, Spain, Italy, Norway, and Ireland numerous times to visit Paul and Helen. Eileen was a doer. Even in her 90s, she was on her hands and knees weeding Paul and Helen's front border in Ireland. At 92, she would take her car to Nigel's farm, don a milking apron, rain hat and wellies and clean her car with a pressure hose. Aged 94, she was still edging her own lawn and pulling weeds. The family loved Eileen, and they miss her dreadfully. May she rest in peace.

Thelma Davies

Thelma was born in Tattenhall at her aunt's house 89 years ago and was the only child of Lily and Wilfred Cowap. However, she lived in Bunbury all her life, in her early years in one of the small cottages opposite the church, and then the rest of her childhood in Wyche Road. She moved to Fairlie, Wyche Lane as a young bride 66 years ago.

Thelma attended Bunbury Girls School in College Lane much of the time during the war years and shared the classroom with evacuees from Guernsey.

During the war she lived with her mum as her dad was serving in the army and she was very close to her grandparents who lived in The Square. Throughout her life she adored her Granddad Oliver Cowap.

Although Thelma was an only child, she was never lonely growing up with her friends. As a teenager the highlight of the week was for the six friends to walk to Beeston on Sundays in their 'New Look' suits and lipstick. Thelma's suit was pale blue. Thelma also enjoyed attending the local dances at Bunbury Village Hall, often cycling to Tilstone Fearnall to attend dances.

At the age of 14 Thelma left school and went to work in John Hughes grocer's shop situated at the end of Wyche Lane. In those days the work of a shop assistant was very different, nothing was pre-packed; everything had to be weighed, as well as having ration books to contend with.

Whilst at work Thelma met Bert who worked alongside her in his father's business. They courted for several years, got engaged in August 1955 and were married at St Boniface Church on Wednesday 6 June 1956 and moved into Fairlie, the house built especially for them. Lynda was born a year later and Nigel in 1961.



Thelma and Bert were married for nearly 60 years.

After being a stay-at-home wife and mother, in 1977 Thelma went to work as a midday assistant at Bunbury Aldersey School and remained in that post for 20 years until she retired in 1997. She also used to work, alongside local friends, catering with Sarah Thompson – it was hard work but they had lots of fun. Thelma loved her home and was her happiest being a housewife and mum. However she enjoyed holidays in the Lake District and Llandudno with Bert and Lynda and enjoyed going out for meals especially for Christmas lunch. She gave Bert wonderful care during his final years and, as Lynda always remained at home, went above and beyond in looking after her too.

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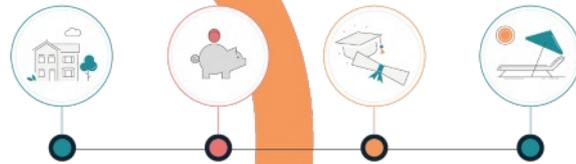
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