

Link



June 2011

Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase ~ Martin Luther King, Jr



A different view of Bunbury ... taken from the rooftop of St Boniface Church

Barbara and Ernest take back seat - for a while

Well-earned break for the Croleys ...

YOU would be hard pressed to find a couple who have undertaken as many jobs as Barbara and Ernest Croley for the good of St Boniface Church.

Over the past ten years they have been there come rain or shine.

And both have performed their duties as churchwarden [Barbara] and vergers [Ernest] over and above the call of duty.

"I could go through all the deeds, all the jobs, all the responsibilities Barbara & Ernest have undertaken but actually we all know most of them already," said vicar Rick Gates at

a high tea that was held in their honour at the church.

In the past, Barbara would have been one of the first to roll up her sleeves to help organise such an event.

But this time she was told in no uncertain terms: it's not your concern.

Barbara and Ernest first became involved with St Boniface after they were married in May 1980 and moved to Church Bank Cottage in the village.

As their faces became more familiar, they began to take on more jobs. Over the years

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HAPPY COUPLE: Barbara and Ernest Croley



Win tickets to firework spectacular

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The great debate

The Revd Alex Sanders on women in the church

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Who we are

RICK GATES

Vicar
St Boniface
St Judes
Calveley



t: 01829 260991
m: 07715 178750
e: rick@prayer.fsnet.co.uk

Alternatively, please call readers Peter & Kath Collinge on 01829 260077

St Boniface

Churchwardens

Neil Dewson-Smyth 261680
Walter Done 01244 332563

Youth worker

Laura Warrington 07763 408609

Secretary

Colin Stanyer 262402

Organist

Andrew Dean 261222

Treasurer

John Mason 733971

Flowers

Margaret Bourne 260944

St Judes

Churchwardens

Brigid Sayce 260865
David Wright 260467

Secretary

Ann Posnett 261154

Organist

Ann Badrock 260343

Calveley

Churchwardens

Neil Dewson-Smyth 261680
Walter Done 01244 332563

Secretary

Sue Woodward 01270 522822

Organist

John Batchelor 261056

The Link

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Advertising

Nick Sanders
nick.sanders@gmx.co.uk

Editorial

Sue Briggs-Harris
briggsharris@live.co.uk

Jo Mason

jomason06@gmail.com

You can also read The Link online by logging on to www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk

THE village was deeply saddened by the deaths of several of our local residents last month, including **Paul Rathbone, Robin Gibson, Gordon Jones, George Carter, Edith Phillips and Dora Hewitt.**

We welcome **Bethan Haf Rees**, daughter of Nicholas Haydn Glyndwr and Sally-Anne Rees, baptised at St Boniface on Sunday 8 May.



We were delighted to welcome **James Breton Ross Hooper** (pictured above), baptised on Sunday 1 May. James is the first child born to Carol and Tim Hooper.

Welcome to **Connie Grace Maclennan**, born to Christopher Maclennan and Clare Mossford, baptised at St Boniface on Sunday 15 May.



We were delighted to welcome **Evan Fraser Dewson-Smyth** (pictured above), son of church warden Neil and his wife Cathy, at his baptism during the service on Sunday 15 May.

Congratulations to **Steve Mort**, chairman of the Bunbury Village Day Committee, on the celebration of his 40th birthday on 3 May. The Nag's Head in Haughton put on a fantastic party, complete with hot buffet and a bouncy castle for the kids.

The **Bunbury Gardening Club** is holding a 'Sounds of the Sixties' evening, featuring Alan Sherwood and

At the heart of **your community**

What's on

Thursday June 2

Ascension Day Walk to Stanner Nab. Meet Peckforton Castle car park at 7pm.

Wednesday June 15

9.30am-11am: Fair Trade coffee morning, Bunbury Primary School.

Saturday June 18

Bunbury Village Day. Parade leaves St Boniface Church at 12.30pm. Lots of attractions on the Jubilee Playing Fields.

Sunday June 19

10am: Young Christians' 30th birthday service, St Boniface Church.

Prayers

This month please pray especially for Lily O'Donoghue, Phil Mayers, Maximo Williams, Mary Cummins and Jean Healey.

Please also pray for the families of Paul Rathbone, Robin Gibson, Gordon Jones, George Carter, Edith Phillips and Dora Hewitt, who have died. We also ask you to pray for all those taking exams and preparing to leave school, whether moving on to new schools or to further/higher education, gap year travels or work. We also pray for all those facing loss of any kind, to find the strength and faith to see them through.

Strawberries & Cream, at St Boniface Church at 8pm on Sunday 21 June.



David Riley, tower captain of the St Boniface bell ringers, and his wife Vicky have a new addition to the family: Dill the dog.

Martina Phillips would like to thank all box holders who raised money for The Children's Society. The 2011 Box Collection raised £387. Many thanks to all who donated.

Tarporley Hospital's League of Hospital Friends are organising a family bicycle ride around Oulton Park racing track on Sunday 18 September to raise money for the hospital. Entry forms are available from The Co-op in Bunbury and Chadwick Newsagents in Tattenhall. In addition to the fund-raising cycle ride, there will be a bouncy castle and stalls. For more details please email ebpulford@btinternet.com

The **copy deadline** for the July edition of **the Link** is Wednesday 22 June. The July Link will be available for distribution on Saturday 2 July.

We would like to thank the new **distributors** who have kindly volunteered for the School Lane, A49 and Calveley areas, enabling all Parish residents to receive the Link.

There will be a **Fair Trade coffee morning** at Bunbury Primary School on Wednesday 15 June from 9.30am until 11am. There will also be Fair Trade gifts on sale. The coffee morning is part of the school's Eco Week, during which every class will learn something about sustainability. The school is keen to include the village community and looks forward to seeing you.



Congratulations to Bunbury Primary School's **Y4 gymnastics team**, who have just competed in the Chester School's final, narrowly coming second (by only 0.05 of a point)

Bunbury Primary School is pleased to announce the appointment of a new deputy head teacher. Mrs Nicola Badger will join the school in September. She has been teaching at Frodsham Weaver Vale Primary School.

THE TWO-MINUTE INTERVIEW

If you had a motto, what would it be?

We would love to see a return to old-fashioned values when people respected and made time for one another.

It's a celebrity beer call. Whom would you like to invite?

Since cooking is a passion of mine, it would have to be Gordon Ramsay [Andy]
For me, it would be Westlife [Sharon]

What would you call your autobiography?

The Importance of Family and Friends [Andy]

Ups and Downs [Sharon]

What were your first jobs?

I was 15 when I got a job at a motorway service station, serving petrol. I earned £15 a week [Andy]

I worked at Kwik Save on the tills [Sharon]

What would you change about Bunbury, if you could?

Absolutely nothing. We love this village.

What is your biggest regret?

Not doing what I do now as a job sooner in life [Andy]

Not having my parents around anymore [Sharon]

Andy & Sharon Lewis

Andy & Sharon Lewis have been feeding the people of Bunbury for at least eight years now - and they love it.

Keeping their customers satisfied is what matters most to them - and they plan to stay at The Village Chippy for as long as you want them ...



What is your biggest achievement?

Making The Village Chippy a success. We are very proud of what we have been able to do and having the support of villagers means a lot to us.

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

I'd love to win the Lottery [Andy]

It would be wonderful to bring back my parents just for one day so they could meet our grandchildren [Sharon]

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

Nothing! What you see is what you get. [Andy]

I was a nurse at Leighton Hospital for 17 years and worked as a district nurse for seven years [Sharon]

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

We'd love the business to remain a success and continue to keep all our

customers happy and satisfied. We'd also wish for good health.

What is your favourite place and why?

Stalis in Crete. We have very special friends there and always enjoy a good rest.

How would you spend your ideal weekend?

At home on a sunny day enjoying a barbecue and relaxing with friends.

briggsharris@live.co.uk

Michael Jones proves the people's choice

Result for the Blues

THE people of Bunbury last month elected Conservative Michael Jones to look after their interests on Cheshire East Council.

The 46-year-old beat Labour's Constance Jones by 693 votes.

Sadly, though, only 46.9% of those eligible to vote bothered to turn out.

In the run-up to the election, many villagers wrote to Michael Jones with their con-

cerns. Their biggest was the 'over development' of Bunbury.

"In Bunbury, it was clear from the doorstep, that people were very wary of further development but felt local voices were not listened to on further development," he said.

Poor local transport, speeding and the state of the roads were also matters of concern - all of which he planned to tackle.

He said he also wanted to help cut down on the number of lor-



ELECTED: Michael Jones

ries that unnecessarily cut through villages like Bunbury.

"I am going to try to de-prime the A51, A534 and the A49 from the Sat Navs," he said.

Councillor Jones said he now planned to hold regular surgeries at Tilly's coffee shop.

He also pledged his support for Bunbury Water Mill.

St Boniface marks Last Supper

ST Boniface Church commemorated The Last Supper with a roast lamb and salad inside the historic church.

Scores of parishioners dined together to remember how Jesus and his disciples had gathered together to break bread and drink wine just before his betrayal and crucifixion.

During the Agape meal at St Boniface on Maundy Thursday, their guest speaker, the Revd Dr Chris Burkett spoke about ministry and sacrifice.

He said Agape meant the giving of yourself for the benefit of others, just as Christ did when He made the ultimate sacrifice for mankind.

www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk

THE GRUMPY GARGOYLE



MOBILE phones. Love 'em, or hate 'em, it looks like they'll be here a while. With them, they have brought a quagmire of etiquette dilemmas. We were all taught to eat with our mouths closed and say our Ps and Qs from the womb, but nobody could have predicted the arrival of the phone and the difficulties and offence it could cause if used inappropriately.

The classic example is the 'I'm on the train' refrain. If you are 'on the train', then don't be 'on the phone'.

Simple, as the meerkats would say. We don't want to hear your ringtone, let alone your latest personal drama or very important business meeting outcome.

Equally, the same applies if you are on a bus, at a shop till, in a cafe, pub or restaurant, or just in the company of someone else. I do not want to be out with a supposedly good friend who considers an electronic interruption more important than me. Don't answer it, or better still, switch it off. 'Can I just answer that'? No. Not unless it is a hospital.

Young people (with stronger right thumbs – with more RSI - than any previous generation) seem to think it is acceptable to text in each other's company to the detriment of face-to-face conversation. On average, teenagers apparently send over 3,000 texts a month. What?

Have we completely lost the plot?

Yes, mobile phones are jolly useful, but let us not forget what really matters.

Look at who and what is around you, not an electronic device. It will save you walking into static objects/moving traffic when texting too.



Erwtensoep

Major Cruttock has always been fascinated by dikes. We have spent many a happy holiday in the Alvis touring the wonders of the Dutch sea defences, many of which date back to the 13th century. We picked up this recipe for a Dutch pea stew on our travels. It tastes really good in both hot and cold weather and gets even better if you leave it a couple of days.

HOW TO MAKE IT

IN a large casserole, put the peas, the ham hock, two litres of water, bay leaf, thyme and cloves, bring to the boil, cover and simmer for 45 minutes to 1 hour, stirring every now and again, until the peas have dissolved and the ham is cooked. Remove the hock,

WHAT YOU NEED (serves 6-8)

- 500g green split peas
- 1 ham hock from Burrows
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 tsp chopped thyme
- 3 cloves
- 1 Mattessons smoked pork sausage, sliced (either the garlic or original, depending on taste)
- 250g carrots, thinly sliced
- 200g onions, chopped
- 250g leeks, chopped
- 2-3 sticks of celery, sliced
- 2 medium potatoes, cut into small cubes

remove the bone and skin and cut the meat into pieces.

Return the meat to the pea soup, together with the sliced smoked sausage.

Put all the vegetables with a knob of butter and a couple spoons of water into a separate pan and simmer gently until partly cooked (the onion getting soft).

Add this to the pea and sausage mix, cook gently for a

further 30 minutes, check and season and serve with French bread, or rye bread spread with Dijon mustard.

Don't forget to say Grace

'Lord, bless this bunch as they munch their lunch'
Amen

And to go with it ...

> **Greg Williams**

The Dysart Arms, Bunbury

FOR Dutch pea soup we need to find ourselves something that we might not ordinarily reach for ...

On the white side of things, we are especially looking for a bit of spice in the wine so get your search engines on to a Viognier or

Gewurztraminer either French, Chilean or Argentinean.

For the more daring amongst you, head to Austria, home of some wine gems and especially its indigenous Gruner Veltliner grape which, with its lime zest flavours and gentle spice, make it very difficult to put down your

glass. On the red side we need something not too full, but with good fruit and spice, so a new world or Austrian Pinot Noir should hit the spot.

The more traditional tastebuds should try a medium-bodied, not too heavy Cotes Du Rhone which will complement our Dutch friend just about perfectly.



TIME FOR CELEBRATION: Villagers gathered at St Boniface Church in honour of church stalwarts Barbara and Ernest Croley. Inset: Vicar Rick Gates with John Mason and two of his daughters Jenna and Natasha

From Page One

there have been many happy memories – and sad ones too.

“Many friends have passed away and have been brought to church for their final service,” said Barbara.

Her jobs as churchwarden have been varied – from assisting the vicar to making sure he knew who was ill or in hospital.

And each one, she did brilliantly.

But not everyone was happy when Barbara was first appointed churchwarden – the first female for Bunbury.

“The long-standing members

were very distant,” she said. “But as time went on they became more accepting.”

As verger, Ernest had a mountain of jobs too.

“Ernest knew all about pipes, both up and down spouts, the black art of candle burning and smart water, and how to re-make an ancient pine pew so that it was stronger than the original,” said Rick.

“He wasn’t always in perfect health, but he carried out all those tasks with tenacity.”

Although they have both elected to step down, their involvement with St Boniface

won’t end. “I will always be part of this church until they wheel me away,” said Barbara.



HEART-FELT THANKS: Vicar Rick Gates toasted the Croleys’ future happiness



TIME FOR TEA: Those present were reminded of all the jobs the Croleys had willingly undertaken



OLD FRIENDS: Bill Corn presented Barbara with a red rose which she wore throughout the day



YOUNG ONES: The Young Christians also wanted to thank Barbara for all she had done



SWEET OCCASION: Katie Mason and Lucy Munro were among those helping to serve cakes to the masses

RICK GATES



your vicar

Mustard seeds & weeds

I KNOW next to nothing about gardening, but these sayings appealed to me because they seem so true.

Your lawn is always slightly bigger than your desire to mow it. Whichever garden tool you want is the one you lent to someone else. The only way to ensure rain is to water the garden. The only way to guarantee some colour all year round is to buy garden gnomes. Weeds grow at precisely the rate you pull them out.

So why would I bother pulling them out? After all aren't weeds just flowers growing in the wrong places?

Pliny the Elder, a contemporary of Jesus, described all the known plants growing in the Middle East in the book *Naturalis Historia*.

Indeed, Jesus may have been a bit of a gardener Himself as He often used fruit, herbs and seeds as metaphors for the Kingdom of God.

There is one particular parable that Jesus used (told to us in Matthew 13, vv 24-35) where he describes His Kingdom as being like *Sinapis Arvensis*. Whichever it was, Pliny said this plant has two properties: firstly, it is medicinal and could benefit all mankind.

Secondly, it is like a weed, it will grow everywhere even in places you do not want it.

So one must take care not to plant it where you cannot control it, or it will take over everything.

It is, of course, the humble mustard seed, one of the smallest of all seeds.

I guess Jesus knew all that, and that is why He used it as a metaphor. He said the good news is like a mustard seed: from very small beginnings it will bring healing to the nations and the individual, and it will spread.

Nothing, no law of man or nature, can stop it from spreading out of control.

It feels special to realise that, by sowing the seeds of non-violence, acceptance, peace, forgiveness and loving kindness, they will eventually spread like a virus throughout the world.

It might disappoint this year but perhaps in another two, 20 or even 200 years the crop will one day blossom. Start planting today.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 5 June

8am: Holy Communion, St Boniface Church
9.30am: Holy Communion, St Judes Church
10am: Family worship, St Boniface Church
Today is the Festival of our Patron Saint, St Boniface
11am: Holy Communion, Calveley

Wednesday 8 June

10am: Holy Communion, St Boniface Church

Sunday 12 June

9.30am: Holy Communion, St Judes Church
10am: Family Communion, St Boniface Church
6pm: Evensong, St Boniface Church

Wednesday 15 June

10am: Holy Communion, St Boniface Church

Sunday 19 June

8am: Holy Communion, St Boniface Church
9.30am: Family worship, St Judes Church
10am: Family worship, St Boniface Church
11am: Family worship, Calveley Church

Wednesday 22 June

10am: Holy Communion, St Boniface Church

Sunday 26 June

9.30am: Holy Communion, St Judes Church
10am: Family Communion, St Boniface Church
12.30pm for 1pm: St Judes' summer lunch, Tilstone Fearnall Old School

Wednesday 29 June

10am: Holy Communion, St Boniface Church



If you have an event for our diary, please email the date, time and place to briggsharris@live.co.uk



Eric Wallington: Thought for the month

Don't you just love a good story?

I suppose it's been the same since we were youngsters, hoping for a story at bedtime, insisting on being read to, until we were able to read for ourselves and so open up the world of stories.

Maybe today you like to curl up with a good book, or perhaps you're something of a film buff or even a telly addict, desperate not to miss an episode of your favourite soap opera. Any story

needs a beginning, a middle and an end, with a plot that develops and keeps you wanting to know more, with believable characters and an interesting setting - albeit some soap operas seem never to have a real ending.

Yes, stories do play an important part in teaching us about life.

Jesus, of course, told many stories. They're usually called 'parables' and are often described as 'earthly' stories with heavenly meanings. I suppose we all know such parables as 'the prodigal son' and 'the good

Reader Emeritus

samaritan' but altogether there are more than 80 parables in the Bible, and no doubt Jesus told other stories which never found their way into the written page.

Yes, we all love a good story. It's been said that the legacy of Greek civilisation lies in the Greek myths, because Greek stories survived, when Greek science had been forgotten.

But the teaching of Jesus will last, whatever else, through his parables provided that whenever we hear or read one, we ask ourselves 'What does that say about me?'

The great **debate:** Women in the church

I believe this is the path God chose for me ...



WOMAN OF INTEGRITY: Alex Sanders respects her critics

THE ordination of women has been – and continues to be – a controversial issue.

But women, like Alex Sanders, who was ordained priest last year, hopes to lead by example.

"I cannot help being a woman any more than I can help the colour of my skin or eyes," she said.

"But I believe that I am doing God's work in the way which He has made happen. I certainly never expected nor sought to be a priest."

In fact, Alex's first job was in the Army – a post she held for three years.

For some, though, the issue of women priests will always be a contentious one.

"I understand, and respect, why they find women priests unacceptable," said Alex. "But I do find it

painful when people express this view by refusing to talk to me at all, or blanking me.

"Thankfully for most people I come across, it makes no difference at all whether their priest is a man or a woman."

She draws her strength, when needed, from God and from what Jesus might have made of it all.

"I believe that a church where Christian brothers and sisters value one another and each other's gifts is more in sympathy with what Jesus said and did, than a church where some people are discriminated against," she said.

"I think he would be baffled – and saddened – by the amount of time we spend on such issues today."

Critics believe that there is no Biblical precedent for women to become priests. Indeed, some argue that once a Bishop has ordained a woman, he is 'tainted'.

But Alex, who became the officiating priest at St Oswald's Church, Worleston, in January, believes that if women bishops are eventually allowed, then Britain might well see a female Archbishop of Canterbury.

"More women are now ordained each year than men so it may well be during my lifetime," she said.

"There are already very capable women Archdeacons, and women Deans of Cathedrals. Bishop is the next step, and the only one remaining before Archbishop-hood."



Pat Edgley: Prayer for the month

IT'S June. That wonderful month when spring is just maturing into summer, days are long and it doesn't really get dark at all.

Tennis, cricket, parties, barbecues and, for some, exams.

For all of you in a darkened room, buried in your books, scanning

your screens, doing last-minute revision, or trying to cram two years' work into a few weeks, take heart. Even if you get into the exam room, and everything you have learned evaporates, don't despair. Instead take a deep breath, still your mind and keep calm. Maybe these words will help.

Lord, I need you today. Guide and help me through these

exams. So that I may do justice to all I have learned. I need a calm mind, grant me your peace. I need a clear head, grant me your wisdom. I need inspiration, grant me your enthusiasm. Keep me from all panic. As I put my trust in your power to help me and keep me today. And help me, and all of us doing exams. To keep their importance in perspective.

Reader

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KIDDIES CORNER

Bunbury Primary School

What's Dad really like?

How do you celebrate Father's Day in your house?

We give him breakfast in bed.

We sit on the couch and take turns to give him presents.

He has breakfast in bed with black pudding.

We don't shout and he has breakfast in bed.

We don't celebrate Father's Day in our house.

We have a meal at the Bickerton Poacher. He has a big man's platter.

We give him cards, presents and chocolates.

What does your dad do that makes you laugh?

He tells very funny football jokes.

He tickles me.

He tells us silly stories and jokes that are not true at all.

He says stuff to Mum which is really funny.

He does silly voices when he reads.

He doesn't really make me laugh but he takes me to lots of places and spends loads of time with me.

He pulls funny faces.

Does he help your mum with the housework?

No, but sometimes he makes roast dinners.

Yes. He washes up.

He absolutely does not help with anything.

Not really. He only helps to tidy the floor. Cleaning is not one of his things.

No because he thinks it's for the kids.

He doesn't help with the housework but he cooks Thai food for my mum and sister.

Yes he does. He helps with the washing up and tidies rooms.

He doesn't. All he does is sit there, watch TV, sleep and eat.

He helps clear the table. Sometimes he cooks but only rarely.



Big royal occasion for the little ones

PUPILS from Bunbury Primary School celebrated the Royal Wedding with a playground party.

There was a prize for the best wedding hat and everyone dressed in red, white and blue.

The older Kate and William were Thomas Fairclough and Holly Illingworth; the mini ones were Isabella Barnes and James Topp.

The children all went home with a piece of wedding cake and a commemorative coin.

"It's a day they will never forget," said headteacher Alyson Thacker.

Fresh hopes for reopening of Bunbury mill

BUNBURY'S historic water mill could soon be reopened to the public.

Villagers, who formed a trust to save the mill about a year ago after United Utilities announced it could no longer afford to keep it running, had hoped it might reopen at Easter.

But their plans suffered a slight setback due to a slight disagreement in the contract with United Utilities.

"It's all currently in the hands

of solicitors," said Ernest Croley, of Wyche Lane.

Once it's up and running, the Bunbury Water Mill Trust plans to invite all those who helped to save it to an official re-opening.

"When we launched the appeal for help, we managed to raise £7,000 in just six weeks," he said. "There were some very generous donations."

Long-term plans include opening a museum on the site and producing spelt flour.

Abandoned tent recovered from woodland

THE owner of a tent that was abandoned in Sadlers Wells woodland in April is still being sought.

He - along with about a dozen friends - fled after being challenged by a local resident in the woodland.

The late-night incident was later reported to Bunbury's community support officer.

If the owner of the tent does not come forward, the tent will be donated to charity.

Do you have any news? Then why not email us at briggsharris@live.co.uk

Edith loved family life

EDITH Phillips loved people. But she especially adored children. "She just had a natural rapport with all of them," said her husband Tom. "It didn't matter whether they belonged to family, friends or neighbours."

Edith, who was known as Edie, will be remembered as a lovely lady who was generous and loving in nature.

She and Tom were married for 55 years and loved to travel.



Together they visited places as far flung as New Zealand, Canada, The Holy Land and – one of their particular favourites – Africa, part of which was spent on safari.

One of the highlights of their love of travel must have been their trip on Concorde as part of a birthday surprise.

They also loved dancing and frequently went to see the Joe Loss Orchestra, which was Edie's favourite.

Edie also enjoyed days at the races.

She was a determined woman when she set her mind to something.

So no one was surprised when she learned to swim in her late forties and passed her driving test – at the first attempt – at the age of 50.

Tom and Edie were blessed with two daughters, Jane and Ann, both of whom were brought up in Bunbury, and were delighted with three grandchildren: Adam, Kirsty and Katie.

Edie embraced family life and was always there to help out looking after the grandchildren, even taking them on holiday to Anglesey for three years.

Closer to home, Edie will be remembered as a wonderful cook who was famous in the village for her baking, frequently baking bun loaves for local residents.

'Dad has given us the strength to look forward to the future'

Bike-mad Paul 'runs in the shadows'



ST BONIFACE Church was packed to the rafters with mourners wanting to pay their last respects to much-loved local family man Paul Rathbone, who died of cancer just a day after his 48th birthday.

With the sounds of Fleetwood Mac's 'The Chain' in the background, and a beautiful bespoke casket decorated with famous motor racing icons, the congregation was reminded of Paul's love of motor sports.

Whether racing bikes, cars, rallying or motocross, he loved it all.

Paul had given his family an indication of his love of bikes at an early age.

When he was two, he disappeared one day, only to be found, on his new three-wheeler bike, queuing up with the traffic waiting for the lights to turn green on his way to Lostock to meet his Auntie Sheila and cousin Janet.

At 16, Paul began to participate in the sport he so loved, racing motorbikes with the help of Derek Roberts.

He soon had the first of several bikes of his own and his passion for the sport never waned.

Despite his illness, he managed to attend last year's British Grand Prix with his brother.

Paul's first love, however, was his family. With his polite, loving and generous na-



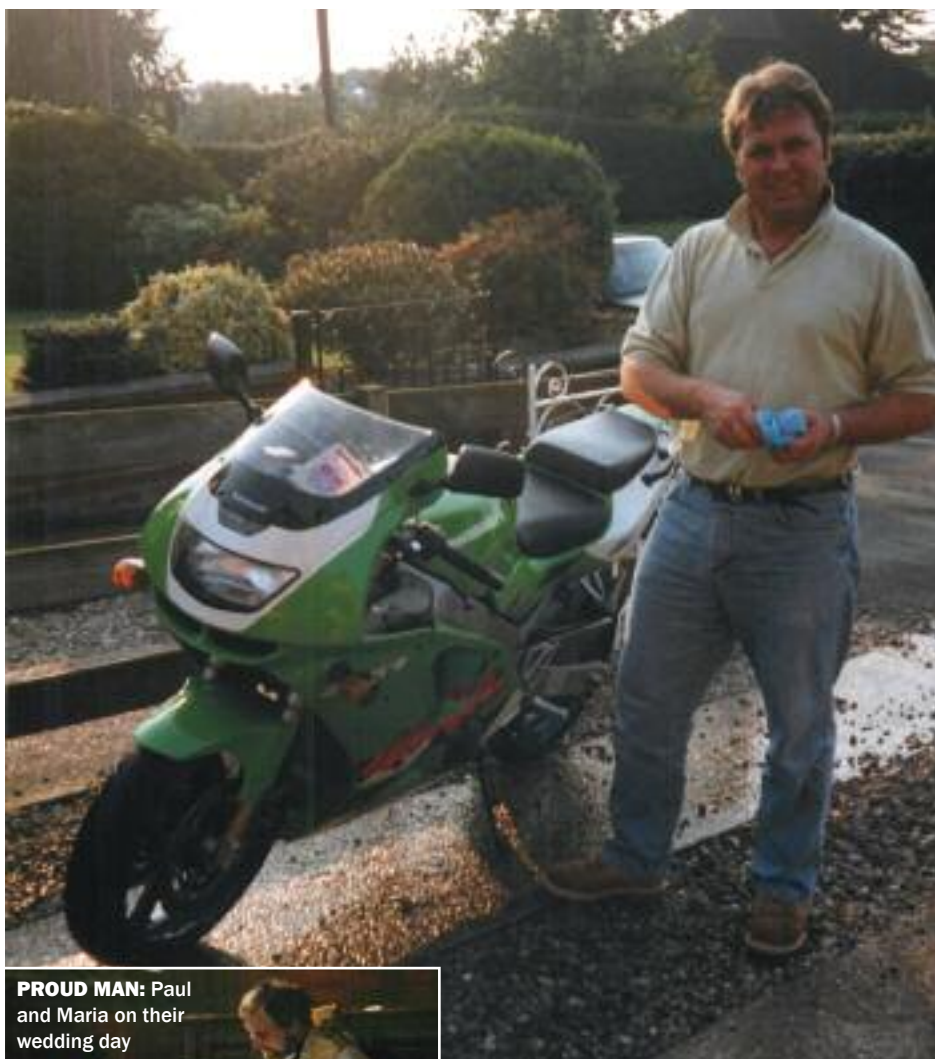
AT PEACE: Paul's coffin was personalised in a way he would have loved. The Chain - the BBC's Formula One theme tune with the poignant lyrics 'run in the shadows' - was played as his coffin was brought into church

ture – and not forgetting those incredible blue eyes - it didn't take long for Maria to fall for him.

They were married at St Boniface Church almost 20 years ago, and they were delighted when their daughter Poppy was born in 1995.

"Dad was hands-on right from the moment I was born, showing his devotion to support me in whatever I was willing to try," said Poppy.

"I am so proud of him as he strived with



Maria Rathbone and Poppy and their close relatives would like to thank you for the kindness and support which they have received during the past 18 months or so.

On behalf of St Luke's Hospice, they thank you for the donations, which amounted to more than £2,000.

Devoted dad laid to rest

JOHN Ryder, who tragically died as a result of a fire at his home on 7 April, will be remembered by those who knew him as a quiet, contented man who loved the simple things in life.

His untimely death shocked the village and the wider community.

John spent his life in and around Bunbury, Tattenhall, Beeston and Peckforton, and loved the area deeply.

His friends remember his quick smile, polite manner and ready willingness to lend a hand.

John loved nature and the countryside, and is remembered as a man who worked constantly, whether tending to his garden, gathering logs and timber or caring for his animals.

Most of all, John was a devoted husband to his wife Pam and father to their three children, Joanne, Gemma and Leslie, and our thoughts and prayers are with them at this time.

Family says goodbye to Robin

FAMILY and friends said farewell to Robin Gibson also this month.

Through his work as an engineer, Robin, 44, had spent years travelling around the world, including working in Abu Dhabi, Venezuela, Taiwan, China, Kuwait, Nigeria and Texas.

He was a highly capable man, carrying out his demanding work confidently without fuss or drama.

He reached a senior position and was highly respected for his work.

PROUD MAN: Paul and Maria on their wedding day



courage through his illness, helping us all through the tough time, never showing signs of weakness.

"He has given Mum and me the strength to look forward to the future."

Paul, who was born in Northwich on 21 April 1963, grew up in Tarporley after his family moved there when he was three.

They later moved to Bunbury and then Calveley where Paul, who had qualified as an electrician after leaving Tarporley High School, established his business and own family.

Over the years he became a well-known and popular figure who will be much missed by everyone who was lucky enough to cross his path.

He remained close to his sister Alison and brother Brian, who also live locally.

"Paul had a great sense of humour, was a true gentleman and the most kind, thoughtful and gentle soul," said Brian.

"He will always be our hero and legend. "Whether at work or play, Paul combined professionalism with humour and set the standard for us all."

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CLOSE COUPLE: Paul and Maria enjoy some time together



IN HOSPITAL: Paul's daughter Poppy shows him one of the dresses she considered wearing for her forthcoming prom

A lifetime of good deeds



BUNBURY has also bid farewell to Gordon Jones who died 16 days after his 91st birthday.

Gordon was born on 23 April 1920 in Newmarket but the family returned to Bunbury when Gordon was six and he remained here his entire life.

He was a well-known and loved figure in the community.

Although he later worked as an HGV driver for United Dairies and as a storeman for Rolls Royce, a love of horses influenced his work early on.

He worked at Sandiway Kennels and Colonel Churton's stable and joined the Cheshire Yeomanry during the Second World War.

Six years ago, in an article for the Parish Link, he described some of his wartime experiences.

He told how he had been working as a second horseman to the huntsmen of the Cheshire Hunt when he was approached to join



the Yeomanry, a regiment that was still using cavalry horses.

"My friends and I decided we might as well join up rather than face conscription," he said.

By September 1939, aged just 19, he found himself travelling with the horses to Dover, across to France, by rail to Marseilles in horseboxes, and from there by boat to Palestine.

Gordon then became groom to the officers' horse.

The Cheshires had a mainly peace-keeping role, though after

one incident with the Free French, when they had to cross into Syria, it was deemed that horses were not fit for modern warfare.

So that was the end of a centuries-old tradition.

Gordon then became a member of the Royal Corps of Signals, though they retained their own cap badges. They followed the Infantry north through Italy via Tripoli, and eventually, after six months in Belgium, arrived back home. Gordon had been away for four and a half years without home leave.

In the same article, Gordon remembered the family of six girls who had come to live in Queen Street. "I picked one out, but the war broke out, she was called to work in munitions and we lost touch," he said. "When I came home, I looked around again, and found her younger sister Joan

who had turned into a very nice young lady."

He and Joan were married in 1947 and, although Joan died in 1990, Gordon remained cheerful and active in the community.

In his younger days, he was involved with Bunbury Amateur Dramatics and, when it was suggested that Bunbury Village Day be restarted, he became heavily involved in its organisation.

A stalwart of the Bowling Club, and the Gardening Club, he also provided some of the home-grown produce which was for sale when his daughter Vicki owned the local village shop, Village Greens (now Tilly's).

His hard work was rewarded more than once by winning the Top Tray at the annual Gardening Club Show. He also liked to pop into Tarporley Hospital to 'entertain the inmates' with old songs and monologues.

Sense of humour that never waned



GEORGE Carter, who was born in Alpraham on 20 May 1921, lived in the Bunbury area for most of his life.

He attended the village school, leaving eventually to become an HGV driver.

After the Second World War broke out, he volunteered for the RAF and served for six years, spending time in India and Burma.

He was awarded the Burma Star, of which he was very proud.

On his return from the RAF he went back to work as an HGV driver with British Road Services.

The firm was eventually taken over by Offley Brothers where he worked until he retired and made many, lifelong friends. Having known June for most of his life, they courted for a few years and

were married at St Boniface Church on 6 December 1952.

They began married life in Tarporley where their daughter Ann was born.

Their son John followed three years later after which the family moved back to Alpraham in 1959 where they lived for 38 years before moving to Nantwich 13 years ago.

Whilst living in Alpraham, George became a keen gardener and loved growing vegetables in his large garden.

He was an avid Manchester United fan and keen footballer himself, playing in the RAF team and for Tarporley Vics when he left the RAF. He enjoyed playing snooker and often bragged of "proving himself in the British Legion at Tarporley and the Read-

ing Room at Alpraham". He enjoyed watching all sports on television.

In 1979 his first granddaughter Clair was born, followed by Emma, Sarah, Nicola and Natalie. In 2000 Connor his first great grandson was born followed by Lily his great granddaughter a few years later. George was very proud of them and their achievements and loved spending time with them all.

June and George had several holidays in Jersey with John, Margaret, Nicola and Natalie. On their first trip, which was the first time George had been in an aircraft since leaving the RAF, the landing was quite rough.

The rest of the family were quite concerned but, on landing,

George calmly said: "That was a good landing compared to a Lancaster Bomber."

He overcame throat cancer in 1978, but in the last few years of his life George's health began to deteriorate, although he managed to survive two strokes, a broken hip and a heart attack under anaesthetic.

He maintained his sense of humour and his interest in Manchester United to the end and will be much missed by his large family and many friends.



Service was reminder of hope ...

YET again our Easter services have served to remind us all of the hope and promise that was made to all people of good faith.

St Judes' Easter service reminds once again of that promise.

This year our service was conducted by an old friend of our church, the Rev'd Alan Mumford who, as usual, gave a thought-provoking address.

The church looked beautiful with the floral decorations, thanks to the major efforts of the ladies.

Another feature of our service was the quality of the hymn singing. The hymns sounded so good in the church that even the 'croakers' – like me – sounded as if they were in tune.

A particular joyous event at this time of the church year was the visit of The Good News Singers from the Knutsford area.

Never have we had such enthusiastic singing in our church before, and we were rather proud of our singing too.

It was a wonderful evening of hymns and sacred songs, a new experience for our church enjoyed by all.

It was thanks to the hard work (and worry) of our organist Ann Badrock that we had such a wonderful evening. So a big thank you to Ann.

Rumour has it that Margo Elsdon has reached a significant age but if that's true she must have been drinking at the spring of eternal youth.

Bob Gardner



Win tickets to concert

CHOMONDELEY Castle's annual Fireworks Concert and Military Tattoo returns this summer – and you and a loved one could be there.

The Link has two pairs of tickets to give away for this year's extravaganza on Saturday 16 July.

For your chance to win, all you have to do is tell us where in the parish is this black postbox [see inset]?

Answers please, with your

name, address and phone number, by email to link.competition@gmx.co.uk or by text to: 07535 971218 or by mail to: Link Competition, Woodstock, Hill Close, Bunbury, CW69QJ.

The winning names will be drawn and the winners notified by 30 June. The winners' names will also be published in the July Link.

The concert, led by Manchester Camerata

Orchestra, will end in traditional Last Night of the Proms style with the 1812 Overture accompanied by cannon fire.

The grounds open at 4pm which allows plenty of time to picnic on the castle lawn.

The concert is in aid of the Combat Stress charity.

For more information about the event visit chomondeleyfireworks.com or call 01829 772430.



Is this the answer to developers?

DEVELOPERS who might be eyeing up land in School Lane will be sorry to learn that great crested newts have been discovered.

Elaine Crotty found some of the tiny creatures, which are protected by law, in her garden. Great crested newts have become the bane of the modern developer.

In February 2008 a colony, found in a pond, threatened to scupper plans to mine more than half a million tons of coal from a site in the North East. A year earlier, 15 great crested newts added £315,000 to the cost of a road widening project in North Wales and a builder was fined £8,400 for damaging the habitat of great crested newts.

www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk

Comments wanted

What's your view of the pavilion?

VILLAGERS' comments about the possibility of replacing Bunbury's ageing but well-used pavilion are now being sought.

The Playing Fields Charity will have a stand at Village Day on 18 June in the reception area of the pavilion where your suggestions will be welcomed.

"We want people to give us their feedback, and take this opportunity to step up and help make the village an even better place to live," said Paul Devonport, a member of the Bunbury

Playing Fields Committee. The charity, which also watches over the Jubilee Playing Fields, wants to make sure the village develops facilities that will serve the community for the future.

"As a community we need to make sure that our playing fields and the associated facilities are protected, remain fit for purpose, and relevant to the needs of our village," he said.

All the current users of the pavilion will be consulted.

Children cross paths with God and learn about message of Easter

CHILDREN who attended the Easter Holiday Club at St Boniface Church had a wonderful time, said youth worker Laura Warrington.

The little ones - along with the helpers who volunteered - had the opportunity to hear people's stories, have lots of fun, but also experience Jesus, maybe for the first time.

"Holiday clubs are always an amazing tool for reaching out to the community," said Laura.

"It's important that we are available and useful to the people around us in practical, as well as spiritual, ways."

During the Easter Holiday Club, Caroline Dale, a teacher from a Christian school in Cambridge, shared the story of Moses lifting up the snake for the Israelites to be healed.

"The story helped us to



remember the four crosses which illustrate the message of Easter," said Laura. "It meant the children went away with an understanding of the incredible love God has for us

and the unsurpassable worth He ascribes to each of us."

Volunteers are now being sought to help run St Boniface Church's three-day summer holiday club. The club, which

is open to all primary school-aged children, starts on Wednesday 27 July. Sessions are held at the church from 10am to 12.30pm.

On the final day, there is always a barbecue in the evening.

If you would like to register your child for a place, please fill out one of the forms which will be available from 13 June at Bunbury Primary School and at Calveley school, in church and by contacting Debbie Shears on 01829 260707. The closing date is 1 July.

Any adult or teenager who would like to help out is asked to contact Laura Warrington (laurawarrington@googlemail.com) or Debbie Shears (bunbury_holiday_club@hotmail.com).

Neil signs up for top job

BUNBURY'S newest churchwarden Neil Dewson-Smyth is confident he can fill Barbara Croley's 10-year-old shoes.

But the police sergeant did not always feel like that.

When he was first approached to stand as a churchwarden by vicar Rick Gates, he dismissed the suggestion as ridiculous.

"The churchwarden's role is massive," he said. "I felt I couldn't do it because I work shifts and

have a very young family." But he went away - with Rick's words ringing in his ears - and did a spot of soul-searching and prayer.

He remembered a pastor's sermon which explored whether God would ask you to do something you couldn't handle. "The pastor said it was a common phrase but it was utter baloney because you would fail if you tried to go it alone," he said. "The

truth is that God will send you challenges you cannot handle and you will face upset, confusion and despair. He will send you down paths you have no chance of walking.

"He will send you into the mist with no map or compass and you will fail if you attempt it alone. I believe that only if you walk with Jesus, will the challenges be achieved."

Last month, Neil attended the

Archdeacon's Visitation at St Oswald's Church in Malpas where he was officially appointed a warden to Bunbury parish.

"Momentarily I thought 'What have I done?' but I put my faith in Jesus and know that all will be as He plans," he said.

Neil, who last month stepped down as secretary of Bunbury Parochial Church Council, lives with his wife Cathy and their three children in Bunbury.

The Wild West Comes to Bunbury

Bunbury Village Day

Saturday June 18

Parade leaves St Boniface Church at 12.30pm

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Young Christians' 30th birthday party

Sunday June 19

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