

# link

for the parishes of Bunbury & Tilstone Fearnall



December  
2011  
January  
2012

*Conscience warns us as a friend before it punishes us as a judge. Anon*



**Calvey celebrates the centenary of the reordering of the church**, pictured (l-r): Elizabeth and John Lea (High Sheriff of Cheshire), Rick, Bishop Peter and his wife Elisabeth (full story on page 11)

## The story of the Christingle

The word 'Christingle' means 'Christ Light', and celebrates the light of Jesus coming into the world. The Moravian Church in the Czech Republic, which has held Christingle services for more than 200 years, tells us how the first Christingle might have been made: Many years ago the children in a village were asked to bring a Christmas gift to put beside the crib in the church. One family was very poor but, determined to take something, the only thing the three children had was an orange. The top was going green, so the eldest cut it out, and put a candle in the hole. To add some colour, one of the girls took a red ribbon from her hair and tied it around the middle of the orange. To make the ribbon stay still, they fastened it in place with toothpicks.

The toothpicks looked a bit bare, so the youngest child added some raisins. The children took their decorated orange lantern to the church for the Christmas Mass. The other children sneered at their meager gift, but the priest seized upon it with joy. He held it up as an example of the true understanding of the meaning of Christmas, for the following reasons: the orange is round, like the world; the candle gives us light in the dark, like the love of God; the red ribbon goes round the 'world', as a symbol of Christ's blood, given for everyone; the four sticks point in all directions, and symbolise that God is over all: North, South, East and West; and the fruit and nuts remind us of God's blessings.



07-09

Bunbury gives thanks to Rick as he prepares to retire



04

Preparations are under way for the Nativity



05

Celebrations as the scout hut is reopened by Beth Tweddle

# Who we are

**Rick Gates**, Vicar  
St Boniface, St Jude's,  
Calveley (until 31/12/11)



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Peter & Kath Collinge on 01829 260077

## St Boniface

### Churchwardens

Neil Dewson-Smyth 261680  
Walter Done 01244 332563

### Youth Worker

Kim Beswick 07847 608365

### Secretary

Colin Stanyer 07791 869674

### Organist

Andrew Dean 261222

### Treasurer

John Mason 733971

### Flowers

Margaret Bourne 260944

## St Jude's

### Churchwardens

Brigid Sayce 260865  
Elizabeth Marren 01270 528556

### Secretary

Ann Posnett 261154

### Organist

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## Calveley

### Churchwardens

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### Secretary

Yvonne Wood 01270 528442

### Organist

John Batchelor 261056

## The Link

We are always happy to get calls/emails about The Link. Please contact us if you would like to advertise your business, or if you want to send us your news, views and pictures.

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You can also read The Link online by logging on to

[www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk](http://www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk)

# Community news

**Rick retires on 31 December this year.** He would like his last service to be a service of Holy Communion at St Boniface at **4:30pm on Saturday 31st December**. This will be a candlelit service, based on the Book of Common Prayer, with hymns chosen by Rick. It is hoped that as many as possible will come to give thanks for 2011 and to pray for all that is to come in 2012, as well as to pray with and for Rick as he leaves Bunbury.

There will be a **party** to celebrate Rick's time in Bunbury on Saturday 15 December. If you are able to help with providing refreshments, please contact Kate Reeves on 782077 or Carolyn Johnson on 260703.

Thank you to all who donated **shoeboxes** to the Operation Christmas Child appeal. They have been sent to the distribution centre at Wrexham and will soon be on their way to children all over the world.

Thank you also to everyone who has sponsored a light on the St. Boniface **Tree of Lights** to commemorate a special person or anniversary. There are still lights available and forms are on page 3 or at church. Lights can be sponsored up to Sunday 18 December.

Congratulations to **Susi and John Meddings** on the birth of their son James, who arrived on 6 November.



Belated **birthday greetings** are sent to Sue Roberts, and birthday greetings are also sent to Dorothy Vickers, Joyce Buckle and Trish Welch, all of whom have birthdays in November.

We welcome **Evie Alice Jones**, daughter of Martin and Eleanor of Spurstow, baptised at St Boniface on Sunday 19 November.



We also welcome **Sophia Linden Lucia and Luca Linden Brian Rodgers**, twins born to Anthony Lee and Lauren Elizabeth Linden Rodgers of Wettenhall, baptised at St Boniface on Sunday 4 November.

**Megan and Roger Fairweather** recently hosted two charitable events at their home. A lunch for MS raised £350 and a tea afternoon raised £230 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

**The Good Companions** will, once again, be serving mulled wine and mince pies in the Village Hall after the carol service around the village tree on Christmas Eve.

Penny Jolly is collecting **used stamps** to raise money for **St Luke's Hospice** and the **Multiple Sclerosis Society**. Please leave them in the 'stamps' box at the back of the church.

Due to a proposed boundary change, Bunbury could lose the use of **Tarporley Cottage Hospital** and other medical services in West Cheshire. Please sign the petition at Bunbury Medical Centre if you agree with Drs Black, Berry and Dixon that we are best served by remaining in the Western Cheshire Consortium.

St Luke's Hospice is holding their annual **Santa Dash** at Oulton Park Racing Circuit on Sunday 11th December, starting at 12 noon. This is a sponsored 5K dash, stroll or bike ride around the international circuit. Adults are encouraged to dress up in a santa suit and children can come in fancy dress. Spectators can shop at the dozens of festive food stands or buy one of the Christmas trees cut and transported from Scotland to support the hospice. More details at [www.stlukes-hospice.co.uk](http://www.stlukes-hospice.co.uk) or call 01606 555688.

The **Bunbury Gardening Club** is holding a quiz night with mulled wine & mince pies on 17 January in the village hall. For more information, contact Adrian Caine: tel. 261163 or email [ruffield@sky.com](mailto:ruffield@sky.com)

The **copy deadline** for the February issue of the Link is Monday 9 January, and the magazine will be available for distribution on **Friday 27 January**.

## Dates for your diary

The **Bunbury Singers Christmas concert** will be at St Boniface Church on Saturday 3rd December at 7.30pm.

During the vacancy, there will be no **Communion Service at St Boniface at 8am** on the first Sunday of the month; the 11am Communion Service at Calveley will continue on that day (except for 1 January 2012). It is hoped that a Communion Service will be held on the third Sunday at 8am, but please refer to the weekly sheets closer to the time.

The **Festival of Christmas Trees at Calveley Church** will be held on Saturday 10th December from 10.00am until 3pm. Entrance fee is £1.50 (50p for children and seniors), and will include light refreshments and a raffle.

The **St Boniface Carol Service** will be held on Saturday 18 December at 6.30pm. Rehearsals are scheduled for 3 and 10 December at 10.30am – 12.00pm.

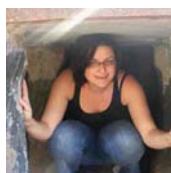
Bunbury Parish Council and the Bunbury Playing Fields Committee invite individuals and organisations from the village to celebrate the **Queen's Diamond Jubilee**.

Please reserve **Sunday 3rd June 2012** for an event probably centred around a **'big lunch'** with entertainment (details to follow).

Anyone interested in helping or attending should contact Sally Beard, Secretary, Bunbury Playing Fields Committee (email: [sallypbeard@fsmail.net](mailto:sallypbeard@fsmail.net) or phone 01829 262447).



# Give us two minutes Kim Beswick



**If you had a motto, what would it be?** Don't worry - something always happens.

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

group of comedians - Michael Macintyre, Dave Gorman, Jeff Dunham and Will Ferrell. I couldn't have a dinner party without Doctor Who's Matt Smith. Oh, and Katie Piper - she is inspiring.

**What would you call your autobiography?** You couldn't make this stuff up.

**What was your first job?** I worked as a waitress in a little seaside cafe.

**What is the best book you've read to date?** That's a really hard question... I think it would be 'Taming the Tiger' by Tony Anthony

**If you could change one thing about Bunbury, what would it be?** I'd have a regular bus that ran into the village.

**What is your biggest regret?** In general I don't

regret things...However, I do regret the time I accidentally sent a full bag of my favourite clothes to the charity shop when I was moving house.

**If you were granted one wish, what would it be?** I would wish that I had a teleporter so that I could visit family at home and get back to Chester in a flash. I'd probably also use it to travel the world a bit!

**What is the one thing that people would be surprised to learn about you?** Despite the fact I grew up in a seaside town, I never learned to swim.

**What would you like to achieve most over the next 12 months?** I want to broaden my experiences in both my personal and my home life and do at least five things that I have never done before.

**What is your favourite place and why?** Lee Abbey, It's a Christian retreat centre in Devon. It is a beautiful place where you can just escape from everything and be with God.

**How would you spend your ideal weekend?** I'd rent out a cottage and spend the weekend with friends playing games, pampering ourselves and relaxing.

## Church diary for December-January

Sunday 4 December	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Holy Communion 10.00am Family Worship 11.00am Holy Communion 4.00pm Christingle	St Boniface St Jude's St Boniface Calveley St Boniface
Wednesday 7 December	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 11 December	10.00am Family Communion 4.00pm Carol Service 4.30pm Evensong	St Boniface St Jude's St Boniface
Wednesday 14 December	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 18 December	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Morning Service 10.00am Family Worship including Nativity 11.00am Carol Service 6.30pm Carol Service	St Boniface St Jude's St Boniface Calveley St Boniface
Wednesday 21 December	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Saturday 24 December	4.30pm Crib Service 7.30pm Communion 11.30pm Midnight Communion	St Boniface Calveley St Boniface
Sunday 25 December	9.30am Holy Communion 10.00am Family Communion	St Jude's St Boniface
Wednesday 28 December	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Saturday 31 December	4.30pm Holy Communion farewell service	St Boniface
Sunday 1 January	No service 10.00am Family Worship No service	St Jude's St Boniface Calveley
Wednesday 4 January	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 8 January	9.30am Holy Communion 10.00am Family Communion 4.30pm Evensong	St Jude's St Boniface St Boniface
Wednesday 11 January	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 15 January	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Morning Service 10.00am Family Worship 11.00am Matins	St Boniface St Jude's St Boniface Calveley
Wednesday 18 January	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 22 January	9.30am Holy Communion 10.00am Family Communion	St Jude's St Boniface
Wednesday 25 January	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 29 January	9.30am Holy Communion 10.00am Family Communion	St Jude's St Boniface
Wednesday 1 February	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 5 February	9.30am Holy Communion 10.00am Family Worship 11.00am Holy Communion	St Jude's St Boniface Calveley

For those we love and those we miss

## Bunbury Tree of Lights 2011



To sponsor a light on the tree at St. Boniface this Christmas in aid of our church building please fill in the form or contact Jill Robey 260081 jill@1manorcottage.co.uk

I would like a light on the tree to celebrate:(please give details)

.....  
.....

I would like to donate £.....  
(£5 minimum)

☐ I would like to Gift Aid my donation to Bunbury PCC  
Tick box (Charity No 1133106)\*

\*To be able to gift aid your donation you must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax in the tax year that is at least equal to the amount of tax that will be reclaimed on your gift (25p per £1 donated). If you pay income tax at a higher rate you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your self assessment tax return if you want to receive the additional tax relief.

Name:.....

Address:.....  
.....

Postcode:.....

Signature:.....

☐ Tick box for an entry in the Book of Lights



## 28 December Curry

The Major and I will be taking Christmas at home this year. We were invited to Stinker Cartwright's villa in Cannes for a few days but we have decided that nothing can beat a celebration at Cruttock Towers in Bunbury. Carols around the village Christmas tree, a glass of mulled wine with friends, Christmas morning at St Boniface (10am!) and then a slap-up turkey lunch in front of the fire. A stiff walk with the dogs on Boxing Day, with a visit to one of the excellent village pubs: what could be better? One of our best treats comes after the excitement has died down and we are faced with the remains of the turkey – this is my recipe for a splendid mild and creamy turkey curry which I know you will love.

## Ingredients

1 tbs olive oil  
25g butter  
1 large onion, peeled and finely chopped  
4 garlic cloves, peeled and finely chopped  
2.5cm knob of fresh ginger, peeled and grated  
1 red chilli, de-seeded and finely chopped  
8 green cardamom pods, slightly crushed  
1 tsp ground cumin  
1 tbs ground turmeric  
1/2 tsp chilli powder  
1 tsp garam masala  
1 tsp ground coriander seeds  
2 large potatoes, peeled and cut into cubes  
1 butternut squash, peeled, seeds removed and cut into cubes  
500ml turkey stock  
125ml plain yoghurt  
85ml double cream  
1 tbs lemon juice  
6-8 large handfuls roast turkey, chopped  
1 tbs fresh coriander leaves, chopped

## How to prepare it

- 1 Heat the oil and butter in a large non-stick casserole pot.
- 2 Add the onions and cook for 2-3 minutes, then add the garlic, ginger, chilli, cardamom, cumin, turmeric, garam masala and ground coriander. Cook over a medium heat until the onion is soft. Careful not to burn the spices.
- 3 Add the potatoes and butternut squash and cook until the potato begins to stick to the bottom of the pan slightly.
- 4 Add the stock and bring to the boil. Season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper.
- 5 Reduce the heat and simmer for 10-15 minutes, until the potatoes and butternut squash are tender.
- 6 Stir in the yoghurt and cream, then add the lemon juice.
- 7 Add the cooked turkey, fold in and simmer to heat through.
- 8 Sprinkle with coriander leaves and serve immediately.

## Nativity Play

Sunday 18 December 2011, 10am at St. Boniface Church

The Nativity Play will be held during the Family Service on Sunday 18th December at 10.00am. This is a play for children of all ages - everyone (including the youth group) will be able to take part. Please arrive at 9.30am so that we can get you into your costume. A rehearsal will be held on Sunday 11th December straight after the 10am service (with refreshments!). If you can't make the rehearsal, don't worry - just come along on the day.

We will provide costumes but if you have your own and would like to wear it please do. Also if you are interested in playing your musical instrument please bring your instrument.

It would be useful if we could know numbers for our planning, so please contact Sarah Tomlins (730814) or Debbie Shears (260707) or fill in the form at the back of the church.

**We look forward to seeing you there!**



## And don't forget to say Grace

### And the wine to go with it...

For a turkey curry, or any Christmas poultry dish for that matter I would head straight for a well-oaked Chardonnay. The sometimes forgotten and often maligned Chardonnay is not having the best of times; there is even a rather odd group of wine drinkers that call themselves the ABCs (anything but Chardonnays). I am quite sure they would drink a Chablis, love it and be embarrassed to find that Chablis is made from 100% Chardonnay grapes. Chardonnay is ideal for well flavoured white meat dishes as it has the power to stand up to the strong flavours. For best value go for the new world - especially Chile - where for investing a few pennies more you can really reap the rewards. If you are throwing caution to the wind it has to be a French Burgundy or Bourgogne as they call it - absolutely stunning wines. On the red front we need to keep it nice and light with a Pinot Noir or even a nice chilled Beaujolais if dehydration from the festive period is beginning to take its toll.

**Merry Christmas! Greg Williams, Landlord, The Dysart Arms**

**Be present at our table  
Lord,**

**At Christmas and all times  
adored.**

**Thy creatures bless and  
grant that we**

**May feast in paradise with  
Thee. Amen.**



# Bunbury's Scout Hut reopens



**Scout hut team** (Jonathan Middlemiss, Chris Moss, Simon Walker, David Stockman, Neil Dyer and Phillip Elsegood) with Beth Tweddle

**Approximately 200 people turned up to see local girl and international gymnast Beth Tweddle formally open Bunbury's new Scout Hut on Sunday 6th November 2011.**



**Tina Everton and Sarah-Jane Stockman** help fuel the celebrations

The project to build the new hut has taken six years to complete at a cost of £200,000. The building has been actively used by the youth organisations in the village (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Brownies & Guides) since May this year and a premises licence has recently been issued by Cheshire East Council.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to providing what must be one of the finest Scout buildings anywhere in the country.

## And it's goodnight from me...

**"Saying goodbye is all we know of heaven and all we need know of hell."**  
These words were written by someone who knows just how I feel...

And I think Homer Simpson said: "Why can't we get all the people together in the world that we really like and then just stay together? I guess it wouldn't work because someone would leave, someone always leaves.

Then we would have to say goodbye and I hate goodbyes..."

Saying goodbye, even via this column, is difficult. The journey I have been on these past thirteen years with you, the interactions with people who have honed me, each individual experience has been an enigma and very special, as if God has prepared me for something more to do. I cannot imagine what, where, or even why!

I am however aware that recent experiences have left me exhausted and longing for recuperation. Yet, as the moment of departure arrives, I feel the excitement of an amazing new future and, as a prelude to that future, that moment when, as the New Year is ushered in, I shall break bread and pour wine for the very last time as vicar of Bunbury (or as some generous people have called me, the bishop of Bunbury!). To this sacred and secular moment, I invite you all.

I am so very grateful to you for the generous gift of time that you have given me, those within the body of the church and those who just belonged for a moment; for those sweet moments of listening and talking in your homes, in my study or in the church; for those moments of tears of grief and joy. The gift of just knowing you has become a part of me, almost a part of my DNA, experiences I shall take into my future, so thank you.

Choosing to retire now presents me with many new opportunities for which I am profoundly happy and yet there is the sadness of leaving; it would seem a contradiction, but that is the heaven and hell of being the Vicar of Bunbury, Tilstone Fearnall and Calveley.

I wish you all real joy this Christmas, and may you find peace with God who really does adore you all. In the words of Julian of Norwich: "Go well on your journeys, knowing that all will be well, all manner of things shall be well..." **God Bless. Rick and Lin**



**Rick's last service will be a Book of Common Prayer Candlelit Communion at St Boniface at 4:30pm on Saturday 31st December 2011.**

## Bunbury School christens one of its own

Pupils in Year 1 at Bunbury Primary School had a special excursion to church to learn about one of the ceremonies Christians take part in but usually can't remember – their Christening. Using a baby doll as the infant - named Charles Oliver One - being christened, some children were parents, others godparents and the rest of the class were guests at the celebration.



## Christmas card wishes

We give you our love, thanks of support & very best wishes for the season, from **Maria & Poppy Rathbone**

Merry Christmas from everyone who works at **Bunbury School**

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year with love from the **Crotty family**

With best wishes for a very Happy Christmas and an exciting 2012, from **Nick, Alex, Emily and Lizzie Sanders**

Wishing you a wonderful Christmas and a happy, healthy year ahead from **John & Jo Mason and the girls**

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year to all our friends & neighbours. Love from **Chris & Andy Moore & family x**

**Kath and Peter Collinge** wish all their friends a happy Christmas, and a peaceful 2012.



## Eric Wallington Thought of the month

Christians across the world have been singing and dancing - carolling at Christmastime - for at least a thousand years. The word 'carol' is thought to be the French name for a type of dance.

In 1328 the German monk, Henry Suso, reputedly had a vision in which he joined with angels in singing and dancing 'in dulci jubilo'. When the Puritans made Christmas illegal, fearing it would lead to idolatry, carols were no longer sung in church, but continued to be sung in pubs and elsewhere. Many of the early Christmas carols were developed from anonymous folksongs. The English Catholics of the 1740s gave us 'O Come all ye Faithful', whilst the Methodists wrote many carols, beginning with Wesley's 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing'.

In the early twentieth century people like Cecil Sharp and Ralph Vaughan Williams recorded surviving examples of folk songs which had probably never been written down before, such as 'The Holly and the Ivy'. They often set new Christian words to these, such

as 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' set to the tune called 'Forest Green'. Vaughan Williams later compiled the Oxford Book of Carols, introducing compositions such as 'In the Bleak Mid-winter' by Gustav Holst, with words by Christina Rossetti.

The Service of 'Nine Lessons and Carols' was developed in 1918 out of the medieval morning service for a major festival and has become part of the fabric of broadcast Christmas music in this country.

Many carols encapsulate the Christmas story and the wonderful message of the coming of the Son of God into the world. And so we sing, with feeling :-

**'How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him still,  
The dear Christ enters in'**



## Kay Carson addresses the Great Debate question

### Do you have to go to church to be a good Christian?

We wish all our friends and neighbours and readers of the Link peace and joy this Christmastide, and blessings in the year to come, from **The Croleys**

With our love and best wishes for a happy Christmas, and our hope that 2012 will be a special year for you all. **Carole, Mike, and all the Ridleys!**

**Peter, Helen, Rob & Claire** wish all our friends and neighbours a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year

**Megan and Roger Fairweather** wish everyone a happy Christmas and New Year

Wishing a very Happy Christmas to all my friends in Bunbury and a good year to come for us all, from **Jean Healey**

**Anne James and her family** wish everyone reading this message every good wish for Christmas and the New Year ahead

May you enjoy to the full the blessings of a happy Christmas, from **Eric Wallington**

Thank you to everyone who donated Christmas card wishes - including gift-aid, we raised over £525 for Chester Aid to the Homeless!

To use the term "good" in matters in which God sets the standard is dangerous. Jesus would not allow the rich young ruler to call him Good Teacher - He answered: "No one is good but One, that is, God." (Jesus had a way of setting the tone of conversations.) Therefore I am just left with the option of being a Christian or not. So I will re-state the question: Do you have to go to church to be a Christian?

Anybody who believes that Jesus is the Son of God, who has accepted His offer of forgiveness of sins and who follows His teachings, is a Christian. The consequence of these three acts of will is such joy that they cannot but share the discovery with others. Soon they either find other Christians who share their joy, or better still, they find others who discover the joy they describe. When two Christians meet, they are the Church - even if they are in a gutter. For many Christians persecuted throughout the ages that is all they had, and have, as "church". We are blessed that we are free to walk into a church building every Sunday morning just to declare the good news of the Kingdom of God, to show those who suffer the way to deliverance and to rejoice with others in the joy of our own salvation.

But the most potent reason for making a deliberate act of worship to God in church is to remind ourselves that He is God and we are His people, wholly committed to do what He teaches is good.



## Pat Edgley Soup for the Soul

There is nothing more nourishing on a cold day than a bowl of soup. Chicken soup is known as Jewish penicillin for its restorative properties. Chop an onion and whatever veggies are lurking in the fridge. Sweat the onion gently in a pan with some oil. Tip in the rest of the veg, swish round a bit and add chicken stock to cover. A cube will do. Cook till soft, season to taste, then blitz with a hand blender, or keep it chunky.

Enjoy. Feel your body and soul being nourished, and as you eat, ponder on that extraordinary birth in that simple stable, to an ordinary young girl.

Think, that baby grew up to be our Saviour Jesus, who nourishes us with his love; a love so deep that he died in our place, to save us for all time and eternity.

Next time, share your soup and your love with someone else.

Dearest Lord Jesus,  
We thank you for your simple gifts, warmth, food and shelter.

May we remember those who will be cold this Christmas,  
Those who are lonely,  
Those who are sad,  
Those who have nowhere to go and no one to love them.

Help us to show your love by sharing what we have.



# Bunbury school children tell us how they will remember Rick

Bunbury Primary highlights a few of the many wonderful memories of Rick's time in school:

Many memorable assemblies, exciting visits to church, the 'marriage' of Lizzy Anne in Reception!, talks in the classrooms, Aspirations Day - "Why I became a vicar"

... and probably the most memorable: the first whole school and community Communion last Easter.

## Some of the pictures of Rick drawn by children at school



My memory of Rick Gates is that he is very funny and really kind and helpful. He is a great vicar and we call him, **Rick the Vic**.

I remember when Rick told us the story of the Bank man and the priest and how he became a vicar. He is always really funny.

I remember when Emma got christened at our school and Rick christened her.

**Kate Capper-Moore**

I remember Rick Gates for how funny he was and kind and caring he is for everybody he meets. He is a great vicar.

**Hope Dewson-Smyth**

I remember when Rick did the harvest festival and sang in the choir.

**Sian Richardson**

I can remember when Rick christened me in school and put blue paint on my uncles, brothers, sister and my mums head. I didn't

want it on my head instead I had water.

**Emma Walker**

I remember when we went to church on a school trip and you gave us a tour of the church. It was really fun. I am very sad that you are leaving. **Toby Moss**

I remember when I went to church with Rick, you get to eat lots of biscuits. **Jack Green**

I remember when we were in Year 4 and year 6 and we had Holy Communion. Rick invited us but we had to have bread and Ribena juice as we weren't old enough to drink wine.

**Eloise Nuttall**

I remember when we had Holy Communion and children weren't allowed the bread and wine, instead I had a jelly baby.

**Thomas Adkins**

## Good luck for the future, Rick!

All the staff at Bunbury School



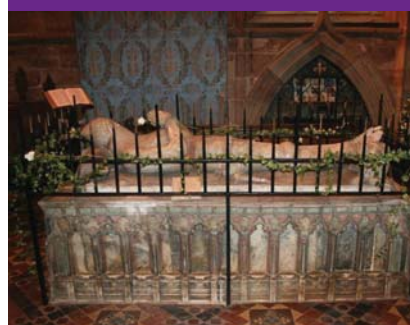
## A small family affair

On 29 October the marriage of local couple Melanie Shone and Crispin Reeves took place in the chancel at St Boniface. They chose the chancel, because they felt it was just perfect for the simple, happy, family wedding they had planned - only 22 guests, all family, 12 of whom were children. But before the big day it was obvious that the chancel was in need of a little bit of TLC, so Mel, future M.I.L Kate and friend Angie set-to and gave it a spring clean! - so that on the big day even Sir Hugh would have shining armour and was ready to be dressed for the big occasion!



Once outside the church, in true 'Wedding Day' tradition, the bride threw her bouquet. It was caught by her younger sister Sophie - and guess what! She and boyfriend Ben announced their engagement the next day!!

## A wonderful day for all and the start of a new family in Bunbury.





**Rick**  
**You add fun to**  
**worship. I shall**  
**miss you.**  
**Ernest**



**Rick, you've brought to**  
**Bunbury much laughter,**  
**and carried us through our**  
**tears. You've certainly left**  
**your footprints in "our**  
**sands of time".**  
**Best wishes Blanche W**







## Bunbury folk past and present pay tribute to Rick

An analytical conversationalist without judgments; inspirational preacher who knows who he is and where he is going (plus he's handsome) **C.Hooper**

Working with you for over ten years, and helping me to leave the ragged edge behind to find my own self will stay with me for a long time. I trust that as you have given support to your parishioners you have also gained from them as well. **B.C.**

Rick was a great source of support and comfort to me 11 years ago when I had been in Bunbury for only 6 months. I had 2 young sons and I needed him. He was there. His philosophical, non-judgmental, unstinting words of wisdom meant so much, not to mention his bear hugs that made me feel so safe if only momentarily - but gave me the strength to go on for the sake of my lovely boys.

That same support was there without prejudice (which is more than can be said for some!) 5 years later when I needed him again - he said to me, 'Let he who has not sinned cast the first stone'. Rick, I will miss you and wish you all the very best for the future. Keep in touch. **Love Lesley xx**

Rick, Thank you for being our vicar and for helping us feel at home in the village. You made the church very welcoming and inclusive and yet were able to often challenge our habits and ways of thinking. We always found your sermons very thought-provoking and they kept us discussing the ideas for many hours. We particularly enjoyed the crib service each Christmas Eve because of the lovely atmosphere - made more delightful because the lights on the tree never come on until the whole congregation blows!

Thank you for giving of your time and energy

to support us. You were there not only for the good times, such as our wedding, but you also helped us through difficult times and were always there when we needed support - both at home and in hospital. You have helped us immensely and enriched our lives. Thank you. **Susi & John Meddings**

Rick - you gave me the push I needed and the confidence to preach and lead prayer at the front of church. You supported me and helped my faith grow stronger during some tough times and I recall with great fondness those convivial evenings of cheese and fine wine when we put the world to rights. Thank you for your insightful and refreshingly irreverent ministry. Wishing a true friend a peaceful and well deserved retirement. **Paul Holbrook**

Rick Gates - **Ric the Vic** as he is affectionately known at YCs!!

The first thing which struck me about Rick, was that he was human - before that I wasn't sure vicars really were! I suppose the red socks were a bit of a giveaway. He made mistakes, got things mixed up during services - do vicars do that?! Rick has always made young people feel welcome, he's brilliant with "difficult" questions and his appearances in pantomime are legendary!

On a personal note Rick has officiated at a wedding and two baptisms for the Slack/Popple family and is held in high regard after making everyone feel welcome and at ease on these occasions. We want people to feel welcome in church and have been blessed for the last 13 years as Rick has welcomed everyone, whether stranger or not with warmth and friendliness - my mother-in-law is testament to that!!

We will miss Rick (and his socks) very much when he leaves and wish him well in his

retirement. God bless you Rick, we hope you find the peace you are seeking. **Wendy Slack**  
Dearest Rick, How I shall miss you! You have been such a support and listening ear during Neville's illness and my bereavement. You have sustained and encouraged me through Reader training and my ongoing ministry. Yes, you have driven me mad at times, but that's just you. Your oblique outlook on life has been a challenge and an inspiration. May this new phase in your life bring you joy, contentment and fulfilment. **With love, Pat.**

"Rick the Vic" - how very special to us all. When Rick knew he had cancer I asked him, "Has your faith helped you?" He replied, "No, not at all." Four years later I asked him again. He replied, "I thank God that he has given me this burden, I feel privileged. I can now help others in so many ways that I was unable to do in the past. I can hold their hands and be with them in heart and spirit."

When I suggested a joint service with the Catholic Church in Tarporley (does God really mind where we worship him or with whom?), it took five months to negotiate. As I saw the two priests walk to the altar I thought, "Thank you God, you are on our side, you must be smiling." Yes Rick, you are truly a "special" vicar. **Leila Potter**

I love how Rick is always willing to ask awkward questions - he thinks like no one else! His willingness and boldness to be the one to ask hard questions is admirable and has always encouraged me. He's been a pleasure to work alongside...I've appreciated his input at every stage - such an inspiring risk-taker! I pray I would have half of his guts and would keep an inquiring mind, like Rick, never accepting the status quo. **Laura Warrington**





# Fearsome pirates invade the church

A band of pirates invaded the church during October half-term. Having beached their boat (a real boat, lent by the Jones family) they made pirate hats, applied piratical war paint and figured out whether houses were better built on sand or rock. Lively singing of The Wise Man Built His House upon the Rock ensued.

Following Jesus into the wild, the group baked bread with Peter (Collinge, not Saint). Buttered and still warm, the bread was devoured at the end of the session. Ship's cook Barbara filled our empty corners with home made drop scones, toast and crudites.

With Amber's help, members of YCs produced a drama each day – we heard about the seasick pirate captain whose house accidentally floated away (built on sand), collected up the 12 baskets of bread after the 5000 had been fed and struggled with Peter as he tried walking on the water like Jesus. Giant puppets provided a humorous take on the Bible stories, aided by Julie. Raucous games related to the themes were led by Chris. Each team made a gorgeous pirate ship which they raced round the outside of the church building. The youngest group decorated theirs with finger painting; all flew the Jolly Roger. Three Lake Galilees mysteriously sprang up outside when we were ready to sail the wooden fishing boats we made on the final day.

In the evening on the last day, we had a short service and review (led by Kim and the puppeteers) and a relaxing meal (cooked by Colin and Debbie) for children, parents and helpers. Look out for our next port of call: Easter Holiday Club.



# Christmas season starts with panto

The traditional Young Christians (YC) panto, The Wizard of Oz, got Christmas festivities off and running and was a huge success. Congratulations to Wendy Slack, Tom Crotty and our ever-willing 'dame', Mike Ridley - and to all the YCs and helpers - for a tremendous show.



# Christmas at St Jude's

December is always a pleasant time of the year at St Jude's, preparing for our Christmas services. By the time this month's Link is in our possession, St Jude's Christmas Fair will have taken place. We will then be looking forward to our Advent Service on Sunday 4th December at 9.30am. Sadly this will be Rick's final service at St Jude's. We pass on our thanks, our goodbyes & wish him well for his retirement.

St Jude's Carol Service will be on Sunday 11th December at 4.00pm, when we will be pleased to welcome the Alpraham Singers, an event not to be missed.

All are welcome to St Jude's Christmas Day service at 9.30am.

Ann Badrock



# Brian Pennington

## success that bred success



Mourners came to St Boniface Church on Thursday 10th November to pay their last respects to Brian Pennington, who died aged 85.

Born in Crewe on 15th September 1926, Brian was a well-known and liked local figure, an acclaimed Professional Livestock Auctioneer and a man who enjoyed and lived life to the full. At about the age of 12 he accompanied his father to support what was to become his beloved Crewe Alexandra Football Team.

When he left school he joined Manley's of Crewe. After serving on HMS Victorious during the war (Brian regularly attended reunions), he returned to Manley's but then left to join Joseph Wright of Beeston in a more senior position.

Having been beckoned by the countryside and all aspects of it (which he loved), he had a smallholding and, as he conducted auction sales, valuations and resolved disputes, he gained first-hand experience. A feature on the front cover of Farmer and Breeder was the first time he hit the headlines.

In 1967 Brian's professionalism shone out during the foot and mouth outbreak. As he was required to value cattle, he gained respect and praise during heart-breaking times. His skills and reputation continued to grow: he was reputed to have sold 180 cull cows within the hour in his prime. He didn't forget to acknowledge excellent support from his staff, however.

Following several company mergers, Brian had taken charge of many local North West markets. The Shire Foal Society ran an annual show and sale until 1990, and Brian managed to persuade Wright-Manley to invest in Shire Horse Turnout as a promotional project, successfully taking the company name far and wide. At the 1997 Horse of the Year Show, Brian received an accolade as Breeder of the Top British Show Jumper, Wiston Bridget. In 2000 and again in 2001, this top flight show jumping horse won the Supreme Award for the Best British bred Show Jumper. This showed his interest in horses and ponies, and the support he received from his family and friends.

With 65 years involvement and 50 years as an Auctioneer, Brian put his own stamp on the company. He was recognised by his deep voice within the markets, and his commitment and contribution helped Wright-Manley become one of the best known and leading independent firms of Auctioneers and Valuers.

Brian taught compassion, integrity and 'how to be industrious.' As well as the familiar, he loved seeing and trying new places and things; indeed, only a few weeks before he died he made enquiries about capabilities of computers. "I'm beginning to miss out," he told a close friend. After the demonstration he told his wife Betty, "We're getting a computer." He had glimpsed the holiday deals available! He loved to have family 'get together' holidays, particularly in Guernsey.

Brian seemed quietly proud of his achievements, a man whose success from using two main tools - a barrow and a shovel - fed further success, resulting in him becoming regarded by many as the number one in the North West. During his retirement years, Brian wrote a valuable and delightful account of his experience of auctions, The Fall of the Hammer, published in 2002. As a devoted and doting family man with a direct personality, Brian is said to have been an amazing, loving father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Brian significantly contributed to the rich fabric of rural life in this area and, like Wright-Manley, this true country man's roots are embedded in Cheshire.

# David Newman

## a generous entertainer

Family members and many friends gathered at St Boniface church on Friday 11th November to say goodbye to David Newman who died aged 74.

David was born on 12th November 1937 in Liverpool. A very supportive father to Emma, Tim and Anabel, David was a traditionally minded man who 'knew right from wrong'; his character ensured that he did not always go with the opinions of others. His children recall how he could be relied upon to lift the mood unexpectedly. As a generous entertainer, skilled in the art of telling stories, David also loved to share his passion for food and drink with his family and friends. His Bentley car was his pride and joy and, together with his two friends of over 60 years, David would take to the road for wonderful trips and lunches out, later regaling Anabel with details of how lovely each trip had been. David had happiness and joy within him. "On the occasion of his 60th birthday party," Anabel remembered, "Daddy spoke about how life had not all been plain sailing but he had never met a happier man than himself." It was apparent to all who knew him that he took great pride in his children, and his life gained greater richness through the gift of grandchildren. "Some of David's traits and physical characteristics are present in all of David's children," said Anabel, "allowing our memories to be present and our Daddy to live on."



# Calveley celebrates its centenary



Calveley's centenary service was a great success thanks to all our friends from the three churches who pulled out the stops to attend. With the St Boniface choir and friends in attendance, Bishop Peter and his wife Elisabeth, the High Sheriff John Lea and his wife, the past-Master of the Haberdashers George Pullman QC and the Rural Dean Keith Hine joined the congregation for a special Evensong to celebrate the centenary of the reordering of the church.

Calveley church possesses two lovely 16th century woodcuts, believed to be South German. The one most appropriate for the season is a Nativity scene beautifully undertaken and so obviously with love by the medieval craftsman. The later painted dedications are of 17th century origin. Do come to a Calveley service on 1st or 3rd Sunday at 11am and see them for yourself over a cuppa.

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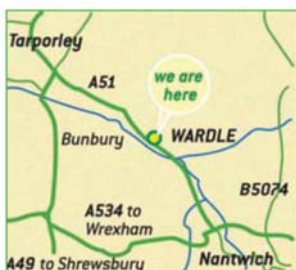




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