



Link

December 2021 – January 2022

Great things are done by a series of small things brought together
Vincent Van Gogh

*Merry
Christmas
and a
happy new
year, from
all at
the Link*

THE PARISHES OF BUNBURY
& TILSTONE FEARNALL

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

SUNDAY 5TH DECEMBER

ADVENT CAROLS AT CALVELEY CHAPEL – 11.30AM

SUNDAY 12TH DECEMBER

CAROL SERVICE AT ST JUDES – 4PM
SERVICE OF LIGHT AT ST BONIFACE – 6PM

SUNDAY 19TH DECEMBER

DIY NATIVITY BRUNCH AT ST BONIFACE – 10.30AM
CAROL SERVICE AT ST BONIFACE – 6.30PM

CHRISTMAS EVE

CRIB SERVICE AT ST BONIFACE – 4PM
CHRISTMAS COMMUNION AT CALVELEY CHAPEL –
7.30PM
MIDNIGHT MASS AT ST BONIFACE – 11.30PM

CHRISTMAS DAY

CHRISTMAS COMMUNION AT ST JUDES – 9.30AM
CHRISTMAS COMMUNION AT ST BONIFACE –
10.30AM

WWW.STBONIFACEBUNBURY.ORG



A magazine for the parishes of
Bunbury and Tilstone Fearnall

**At the heart
of Christmas**



Follow Bunbury Church on Facebook

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Please contact us if you would like to advertise your business or to send us your news, views and pictures.

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

Community news

Congratulations to the **confirmation candidates** (pictured below). Bishop Mark encouraged them to be resilient and to remember God will be with them in good times and bad.



The **Carol Service** at St Boniface is on Sunday 19 December at 6pm. Led by Marcus Williams, the **Christmas Choir** will rehearse on 11 and 18 December at 10am-12pm, and on Sunday 19 December at 4pm. All are welcome to join.

With the help of Tarporley's Rotary and 41 Clubs, **Santa will be visiting**

Bunbury on Wednesday 8 December 5.30-8.15pm* (his helpers will be collecting donations for local charities.)



Father Christmas will also visit **Bunbury Mill** on Sunday 19 December 1pm-4pm! To keep everyone safe, they are taking timed bookings (one slot per family). For more details and to book your timed slot, please email Vanessa.greenbury@bunburymill.com with your group's details including how many children, their ages and number of accompanying adults. £5 per child.

Good news on the repair of the church clock! A few months ago it suffered a major defect in the mechanism which controls the hands. In late October, clock engineers from the Cumbria Clock Company came with



rope access equipment to descend from the tower roof to get to the clock face from the outside so they could remove the hands and then the faulty parts, taking them to the workshop for repair. They returned on 12 November with the repaired parts.



We are delighted that the clock is running again. The total repair cost was around £3,000. There was a fantastic response to our fundraising efforts from the village; a very well supported quiz night raised over £2,000 and with a generous number of direct donations, we raised the full amount needed, with a surplus for future restoration costs. Thank you to all who supported this fundraising campaign.

Some breaking news: The company who repaired the clock just made public that they have been restoring the Great Clock (aka Westminster's "Big Ben"). They had been sworn to secrecy whilst the clock was in their workshop!

A word from the editor

It was lovely to see so many people at St Boniface for Remembrance Sunday.

The theft of the memorial plaques from the gates of St Boniface in September 2017 prompted an outcry in the village and an outpouring of financial support for their replacement. In the event, the church's insurance covered the cost of the loss and the gates once again bear the names of those who gave their lives in the service of their country. The loss of the plaques, however, led to a wish to have a new memorial to be kept in St Boniface church that would be less vulnerable to theft. There is great significance in utilising something used in conflict to fashion a symbol of peace, reconciliation, remembrance and sacrifice – doing so is a poignant reflection of the words of the Prophet Isaiah, who, yearning for peace thousands of years ago, wrote about ...beating swords into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks. On p8 you can read more about the Memorial Cross unveiled during the Remembrance service. Thanks to the beavers and cubs, who made the poppy wreaths around the cross from their own perspectives and to the scouts who cleaned it.

Thank you as ever to all those who have contributed to the Link in any way, providing articles and delivering the Link. My thanks must go to Jo Mason who has to do the massive task of putting it all together every month. There will now not be a Link until February. The Link team wishes you all a peaceful Christmas and happy New Year.

Services at St Jude's: Advent Sunday 9.30am on 28 November, Carol Service at 4pm on Sunday 12 December followed by refreshments, Christmas Communion on Christmas Day at 9.30am. There will be a **memorial Christmas Tree** in St Jude's and anyone who wishes to place a bauble in memory of a loved one may do so.

Fundraising for **Bunbury's new pavilion** has begun and all villagers need to do to help is continue to shop online via www.easyfundraising.org.uk

Looking for the new pavilion to be widely used by the community, the team hopes to unveil plans early next year. It is currently mostly used by the football and bowling clubs and the WI, but could be used for other activities, such as archery and table tennis, and host regular film nights. "This is a project for the whole community," said acting chairman Lesley Davies.

The copy deadline for the February issue is Friday 14 January. The magazine should be delivered starting Saturday 29 January. Notices to bunburyparishoffice@gmail.com



TIM HAYWARD

Your Vicar

What a song and dance

One of the great joys of Christmas is music, and we all love a good carol service. We're delighted to be able to host them again this year in our churches and it will be great fun carol singing in some of our local pubs too. What's your favourite carol or piece of Christmas music?

At the beginning of the Christmas story, there is quite a lot of singing, and a bit of dancing too, and it always conveys a deeper meaning.

When Mary goes to meet Elizabeth (her elder cousin) to tell her the news she is to give birth to a baby - God's son - as soon as she enters the house, the child in Elizabeth's womb, for she is pregnant too, starts to dance for joy. It's as though the foetus has heard God's music, singing around the baby Jesus in Mary's womb, that he just has to dance. It is very touching and very joyful.

And joy is the hallmark of the next musical interlude in the gospels. This time it is the angels who are rejoicing. They have been sent by God to a group of shepherds sitting on a hillside, to tell them about the birth of Jesus. But words are not enough - a whole heavenly choir appears and breaks into songs of praise. It's as if the angels just cannot contain themselves - they need the shepherds to experience their joy - and the only way is through singing. Only music can really convey the magnitude of what God is doing at Christmas.

Christmas music picks up on the idea of God as composer. The world is created in joyful melody and at Christmas joyful melody celebrates God's coming to restore the world to its proper song. It's as if, somewhere underneath all the noise and bustle and dissonance of the world we know and live in, there is a fresher, clearer world where the angels are singing. At Christmas, that original world comes closer to the surface, and we can begin to hear the singing again and feel our feet begin to join the dance.

Sadly, the Christian gospel that is supposed to be 'good news', is so often told in such gloomy ways that it is hard to hear it as the joyful thing it is. Yet Christmas music helps us catch a glimpse of God, dancing with joy at creation, filled with excited love of everything that has been made.

There is a strange and lovely carol that is sometimes sung at Christmas, which is all about God's dancing day. I have never quite worked out what the words mean, but the music gives me the elated sense of being whirled into a fast, exhilarating dance. I love the idea that Christmas is God's invitation to us to join in his dance and sing the song of creation. We're invited to join in the deep harmonies of life and spread God's music further and further: the music of God's love for the world, the music of the innate beauty of all that is, the music of the promise that God will not abandon what he has made, but will come and dance and sing it back to life.

Merry Christmas!

Bunbury school news

School life continues to be busy with school and community events. On Thursday 11 November, Rev Tim and the Royal British Legion were welcomed into school for the Remembrance Worship. The list of the fallen was read by year 6 pupils during the service along with poems which had been written by Year 5 and Year 6 pupils.

A number of open days have been held with prospective parents. Parents have been able to book an individual guided tour with the Principal, Nic Badger, hearing about the Connected Curriculum, seeing the PE teacher with classes and viewing the Forest School provision. Although there are set dates for open days this term, prospective parents can book a school tour at any time.

There are further events in the run up to Christmas including the Community Reindeer Run, Christmas Nativity Play and Carol Concert.



Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary School

"A caring Christian family where we grow together"

Proud to be part of the Rural Church Schools Academy Trust

The Rural Church Schools Academy Trust
100 Years of Education
1920-2020

Tel: 01829 260524 or Email: admin@bunburyaldersey.cheshire.sch.uk



Starting school in September 2022...

At Bunbury we can offer an inspiring education based around our bespoke Connected Curriculum. Children are recognised as individuals and encouraged to 'let their light shine'. Inspected in January 2020 and rated good with 3 out of 5 outstanding areas Bunbury Aldersey Primary school can offer you and your child:

- Ofsted **OUTSTANDING** EYFSP provision - January 2020
- A refurbished EYFSP outdoor area
- Large grounds with an all-weather running path, MUGA, outdoor stage, outdoor classroom and activity areas for KS1 and KS2
- Newly developed Forest school area and specialist PE teaching
- After school extra-curricular clubs
- 'Bunbury Badgers' wraparound care for before and after school provision
- A caring Christian family where children are nurtured
- Specialist training in Mental Health awareness and provision.

Please call or email the school office to book your personal tour



Sky notes for December & January

Three of the planets are on view in the south western sky in December. Venus is the brightest, low in the south-west at sunset, Saturn is in the middle, but much fainter, and Jupiter is on the left. If you have a small telescope, or even binoculars held steadily, you can make out Venus as a tiny crescent. At the start of December, the Evening Star as Venus is sometimes called, sets at 6.30pm, but by the end of the month it sets at 5.20pm. By early January, Venus will be very difficult to catch. It passes between the Earth and the Sun on January 9, emerging later in the month as the Morning Star, rising in the south-east at 7 am. Just before the Sun.

Early January should be a good time to spot meteors. The maximum of the Quadrantid meteor shower occurs on the night of January 3/4. These meteors result from tiny grains of dust left in space by an old comet. As the particles enter the Earth's atmosphere, they get hot and burn up at an altitude of 70 - 100 km. That's what we see as a shooting star. This should be a good year for the Quadrantids as the Moon is well out of the way and thus its light doesn't interfere. Meteor showers are usually named after the constellation they appear to come from. But "where is the constellation of Quadrans?", you might well ask! The name comes from Quadrans Muralis, the Latin name of an old astronomical measuring device called the mural quadrant. Quadrans

was a former constellation created in 1795 by the French astronomer Jérôme Lalande that is now part of the constellation of Boötes, the herdsman.

All you need to observe the Quadrantid meteors are your unaided eyes, plus a warm sleeping bag and a sun lounger (you might have to get it out of the shed, though!). In fact, if several people get together you could make a party of the event. Everyone should look in different directions to cover the whole sky. Shout out "meteor!" when you see a shooting star. One person can record the time of the observations, using a watch, note

pad and pen. Try to use a red torch as white light (or a smartphone screen) will destroy your night vision and you will miss fainter meteors. When everyone gets too cold, go inside for a warm drink and biscuits!

Any night in December and January you can enjoy the spectacular constellation of Orion, the hunter. Orion's seven main stars are in the top 70 brightest stars in the sky. The one at top left, which appears as an orange/red colour, is Betelgeuse. This is a red supergiant star 640



The constellation of Orion, the hunter

light years away. Rigel, at the bottom right, appears by contrast as a blue-white star. This is 860 light years distant. It is a young, very hot, star. The three stars in the middle, make up Orion's belt. The stars are Alnitak, Alnilam and Mintaka (left to right). Below his belt you might just be able to make out his sword, which appears as a misty patch. Have a look in binoculars or a small telescope to see this cloud of gas better. It is a stellar nursery where new stars are being born.

Clear skies!

Bunbury Stargazer

A delicious treat for December...

Apple meringue

Many thanks to PCC member Elaine Crotty for this mouth-watering recipe



My daughter in law's mother gave me this recipe. It is a delicious treat especially at this time of year when there are still windfalls. I weigh everything out ready and then make it just before we eat Sunday dinner. Puddings are only on a Sunday to share with friends so it is worth the effort.

Ingredients

Base	Meringue
170g butter	3 egg whites
170g caster sugar	170g caster sugar
255g self-raising flour	2 to 3 cooking apples
3 egg yolks	

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C/fan 160°C/gas mark 4.
2. Grease the base of a 28cm, 3.5cm deep flan tin.
3. Melt the butter with the caster sugar in a medium sized pan.
4. Add the flour and the egg yolks, mix well with a wooden spoon.
5. Spread the mixture into the tin.
6. Beat the egg white with an electric beater until stiff while adding the caster sugar a little at a time.
7. Peel the apples and grate them. Spread them over the base mixture.
8. Cover the apples with the meringue.
9. Put in the preheated oven for approx 45 minutes, turning the oven down after 20 minutes if getting too brown.
10. Cool a little and serve with whipped cream or Greek yoghurt.

Reflections of a chilli grower



As the year draws to an end, even I have to concede that this year's chilli growing must be put to bed.

While not as fruitful as last year it has been as good as anyone could wish, as you will have seen in my "reports from the front" throughout 2021. There are still chillies to pick and still some flowering but they will have to take their chances with the frosts which must be round the corner.

If you mistakenly feel sympathetic that I am likely to be short of dried chillies because of the vagaries of the weather then take a look at this picture where I have poured out my current stock which is a mixture of previous years and

current dried up to now. When you realise that when once ground the merest tip on a teaspoon of this incendiary stuff will suffice to tantalise the taste buds of all but the most stoical, I confess that I will be leaving dried chillies in my estate to my children; whether they appreciate that remains to be seen!

'Tis also the season to be pickling and you won't be surprised that I have a regular assignment in that milieu as well. Indeed, my eldest son Nick who lives in Hamburg is insistent that there must be home-made pickled onions for Boxing Day and the festive season generally. They need a good 6 weeks of maturing to be at their best and so this week I peeled, salted, and brined about 3 pounds, in old money, of pickling onions and is my wont, surprise, surprise, I make a jar for the foolhardy with chillies in and you can see that in the small (still a Kilner) jar in this picture. There is also a bottle of a greenish liquid with chillies floating in it and this is my chilli olive oil which adds a frisson to any dish or salad! It won't escape your attention that there is yet another jar which



contains a fair number of aforesaid chillies in a clear liquid and, this is a first this year: Chilli Vodka. It's already very invigorating and has a while to go to further mature before it is mixed with Tomato Juice to make Bloody Mary's on Christmas Morning. I can taste them now.

However, as Shakespeare should have said, even if he didn't:

The principal part of enjoyment is in the anticipation

Ah well, all that remains is to get next year's seed chosen and ready for planting in early Spring and I have already embarked on that voyage.

I hope you have enjoyed travelling with me this year into the mystical and arcane world of the serious (some would say fanatical) chilli grower and if you are ever short of a pinch of dynamite to liven up a spicy meal, you know who to call.



Elizabeth Pulford would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for their kindness and support over the last year. I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Wishing everyone a lovely Christmas and happy new year. **Tom and Elaine Crotty**

May Christmas bring everyone joy and hope – with love from **Nick and Alex Sanders**

The Goodfellow family would like to wish all their friends and neighbours a very happy Christmas.

Tim and Judy Gray wish to thank all our wonderful friends and neighbours on School Lane, Bunbury for their kindness and support this year. Wishing each and everyone a very happy healthy Christmas and new year.

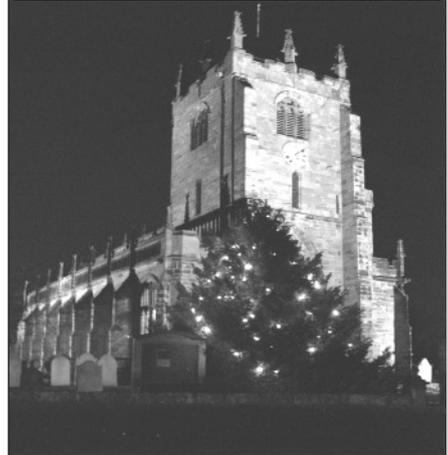
Joy, Fiona, Julia and Simon Parker wish everyone a happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

Wishing everyone a happy Christmas and a safe new year, from **Anne James.**

Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy new year from **the Mason family.**

For those we love and those we miss

Tree of Lights 2021



To sponsor a light on the tree at St Boniface, please fill in the form and send it with a cheque payable to Bunbury PCC to: Lucy Munro, Heath Cottage, School Lane, Bunbury CW6 9NR

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

.....
.....

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

To gift aid this donation to Bunbury PCC (Charity No 1133106) tick box*

*By ticking this box you acknowledge that: you are a UK taxpayer and understand that if you pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all your donations it is your responsibility to pay any difference.

Full name.....

Address.....

.....
.....

Postcode.....

Signature.....

Date:

Tick this box for an entry in the Book of Lights

Remembrance

In recent times it has been the practice to hold a vigil at the going down of the sun for a comrade fallen in battle. A salvo is fired in commemorating them. Inspired by this action and the cross made of 105mm shell cases which once stood in Camp Bastion Afghanistan and which rests at the National Arboretum, it was

decided that a similar cross would be fitting and that this new memorial would be not just to those who gave their lives in the two World Wars, but would embrace all those who have suffered in the service of their country, both in the World Wars and in the countless conflicts since.

Suitable shell cases were acquired by James Walton.

Because of the wish for this new memorial not to be specific to any particular generation nor to any particular conflict, its inscription will be universal, thereby allowing it to stand in memory of those who have died as well as those who lived

but been scarred in some way by their shared experiences of conflict.

The cross will therefore bear not names, but the simple inscription:-

In memory of all those who have made sacrifices in the service of their country



The cross made by colleagues of 42 Commando Royal Marines for St Boniface



Remembrance at RAF Calveley

An act of Remembrance was held on 11 November at the former RAF Calveley known as Wardle Airfield, now Cheshire Green Industrial Park, to remember the men and women who were stationed there during WW2. A new war memorial on the site, commissioned by Philip Posnett, was dedicated in honour of those who lost their lives in the service of their country. Wreaths were laid by Mayor Sarah Pochin, (Cheshire East); Martyn Hudson of Unette; and Philip Posnett, of Cheshire Green Industrial Park.



(L -R) Pat Ellis; Martyn Hudson; Mayor Sarah Pochin; Philip Posnett; Keith Roden (Chair Wardle Parish Council)

The power of silence

At 11.00am on Remembrance Sunday 2021 we all stood in silence for two minutes to pay our respects to the fallen and injured. My daughter Freya and I spent the weekend together without a dry eye on either day! Having served in the Territorial Army for 33 years the significance is very close to my heart.

I was fortunate enough to obtain tickets for the Royal Albert Hall Festival of Remembrance for Saturday evening because I am member of the Royal British Legion (Bunbury Branch). It was an amazing event that focused on their 100 years of remembering and supporting military and civilian personnel, the young and old, and the British and Commonwealth men and women who have fought in wars and assisted in disasters.

The following day Freya and I went to the service at the Cenotaph in Whitehall with thousands of others. Our overwhelming memory is the power of the deafening silence of just two minutes. It was a truly amazing and powerful time shared by the young, old, war veterans and people from all over the World. All minds were focused on one common goal that was to remember people who served a country.

So whether you are in the Royal Albert Hall, at the Cenotaph in London or in your own village community the goal is to remember them.... We will remember them.

Major (Rtd) Gaynor MacGregor



Tarporley Community Centre



Christmas Film Show 2021

The Rotary Club of Tarporley proudly presents:

Peter Rabbit 2 (U)

at 3.30pm on Sunday 12 December

Thomas and Bea are now married and living with Peter and his rabbit family. Bored of life in the garden, Peter goes to the big city, where he meets shady characters and ends up creating chaos for his family.

Starring: Rose Byrne Domhnall Gleeson David Oyelowo.

ALL PROCEEDS DONATED TO ROTARY SUPPORTED CHARITIES

Adults £5 Children £4

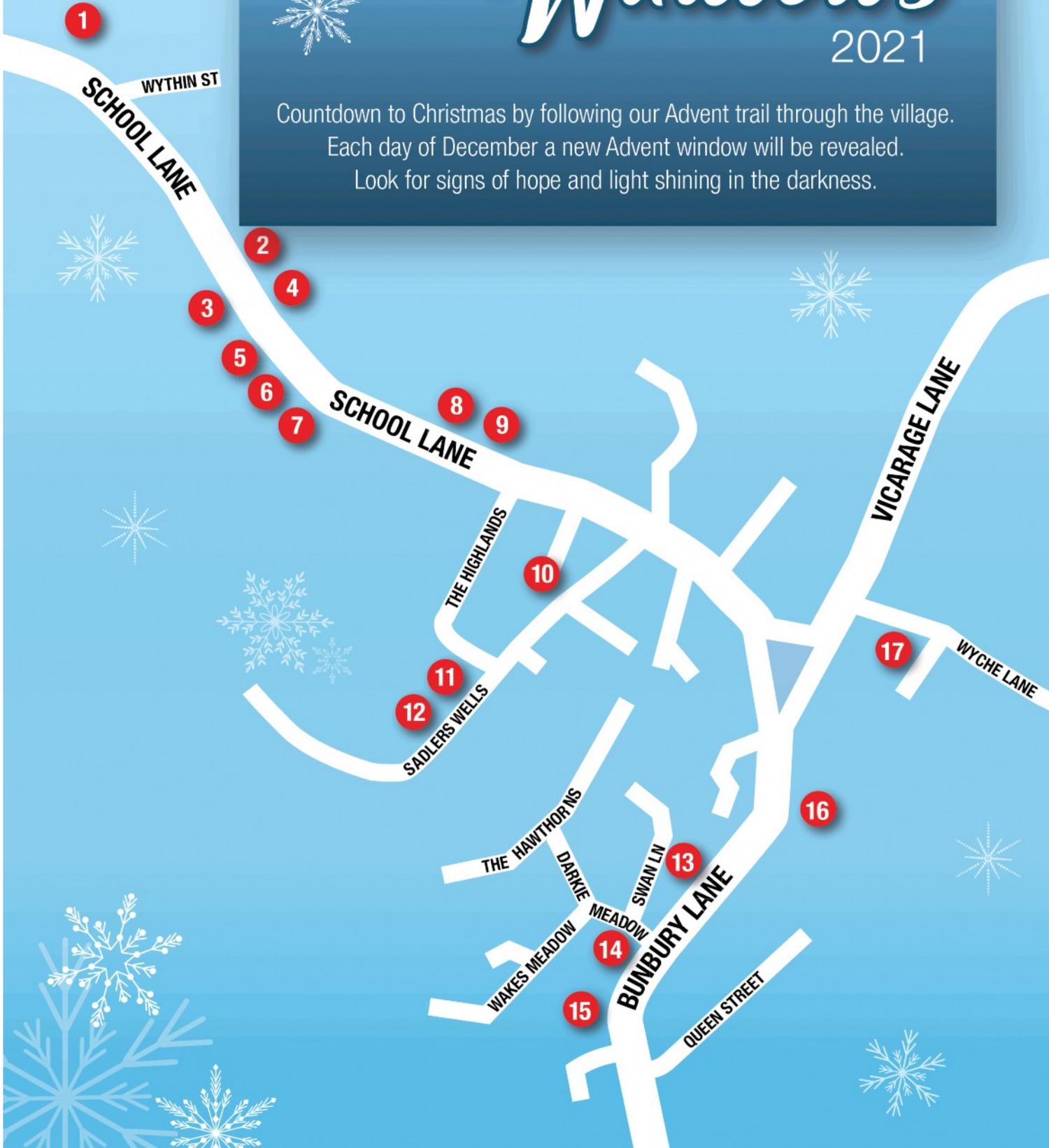
For more information email: filmnight@tarporleyrotary.org.uk or
please see the Tarporley Rotary, TCC or TPC websites



BUNBURY Advent Windows

2021

Countdown to Christmas by following our Advent trail through the village.
Each day of December a new Advent window will be revealed.
Look for signs of hope and light shining in the darkness.





1ST - 24TH DECEMBER 2021

- 1st** Oakfield House, School Lane
- 2nd** The Briars, School Lane
- 3rd** Sycamore Villa, School Lane
- 4th** Acton House, School Lane
- 5th** Sunnybank Cottage, School Lane
- 6th** Pear Tree Cottage, School Lane
- 7th** Bunbury Heath Cottage, School Lane
- 8th** Gables Cottage, School Lane
- 9th** Whitehouse Cottage, School Lane
- 10th** 4 Aldersey Way
- 11th** 2 The Orchards, Sadlers Wells
- 12th** 1 The Orchards, Sadlers Wells
- 13th** Brookside, Bunbury Lane
- 14th** Towdah Darkie Meadow
- 15th** The Croft, Bunbury Lane
- 16th** Witch Hazel, Bunbury Lane
- 17th** 4 Rose Cottages, Wyche Lane
- 18th** Dorward, Wyche Lane
- 19th** Fern Cottage, Wyche Lane
- 20th** Inyanga, Wyche Lane
- 21st** Lyndren, Wyche Lane
- 22nd** Rosedale, Wyche Road
- 23rd** Dysart Arms, Bowes Gate Rd
- 24th** St Boniface, Vicarage Lane

25th Celebrate Christmas with us at St Boniface

For up to date information on Christmas services please check notice boards or www.stbonifacebunbury.org

Foodbank

Wishing a very happy Christmas to everyone this year – and a request for your help please to make Christmas happier for those in difficulty...

Can YOU donate a food item, or a gift, to a person or family in need in our local area?

Suggested Foodbank donations for Christmas include those listed on the right.

THE COLLECTION BOX IS AT THE FRONT OF THE VILLAGE HALL and will be emptied regularly.

Please make your donations as early as you can.

Thank you for your kindness.

The Rev'd Alex Sanders

H: 01829 261622 M: 07813 326313

Food

- Christmas cake
- Christmas pudding
- Fancy biscuits
- Cheesy snack tub
- Crackers (to pull)
- Mince pies (*with sell-by date after 25/12/20*)
- Tinned gammon
- Custard
- Coffee
- Long-life fruit juice
- Tinned fruit

Gifts - unwrapped

Gift for child 1-4

Gift for child 4-8

Gift for child 8-12

Gift for teenager

Toiletry gift set

Small box chocs

Chocolate coins

Tubes of sweets

Church diary for December

Wednesday 1 December	10.00am	Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 5 December	8.00am 9.30am 10.30am 11.30am	Holy Communion Family worship Holy Communion & forest church Advent Carol Service	St Boniface St Jude's St Boniface Calveley
Wednesday 8 December	10.00am	Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 12 December	10.30am 4.00pm 6.00pm	Family worship Carol Service Service of light	St Boniface St Jude's St Boniface
Tuesday 14 December	2.30pm 7.30pm	Contemplative prayer Contemplative prayer	St Boniface St Boniface
Wednesday 15 December	10.00am	Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 19 December	9.30am 10.30am 6.30pm	Family Communion Sunday brunch/DIY Nativity Carol service	St Jude's St Boniface St Boniface
Wednesday 22 December	10.00am	Holy Communion	St Boniface
Friday 24 December	4.00pm 7.30pm 11.30pm	Crib service Christmas Eve Communion Midnight Mass	St Boniface Calveley St Boniface
Saturday 25 December	9.30am 10.30am	Christmas communion Christmas communion	St Jude's St Boniface
Sunday 26 December		No services	

Church diary for January

Sunday 2 January	8.00am 9.30am 10.30am 11.30am	Holy Communion Family worship Holy Communion & forest church Holy Communion	St Boniface St Jude's St Boniface Calveley
Wednesday 5 January	10.00am	Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 9 January	9.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion Family worship	St Jude's St Boniface
Wednesday 12 January	10.00am	Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 16 January	9.30am 10.30am 6.00pm	Family Communion Sunday brunch Evensong	St Jude's St Boniface St Boniface
Tuesday 18 January	2.30pm 7.30pm	Contemplative prayer Contemplative prayer	St Boniface St Boniface
Wednesday 19 January	10.00am	Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 23 January	9.30am 10.30am	Family worship Family communion	St Jude's St Boniface
Wednesday 26 January	10.00am	Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 30 January	9.30am 10.30am	Family communion Family worship	St Jude's St Boniface



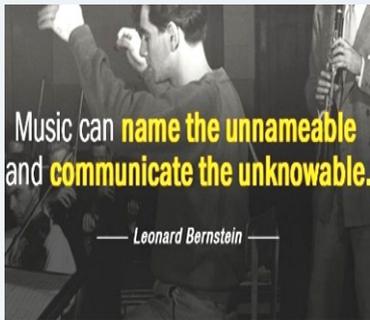
Claire Wilson

What is it about music?

Men and women from different times and places have reflected on music and the profound impact it has on life.

Recently Jake Wesley Rogers, musician, song writer and soulful singer, was told by his interviewer that his "music was church to her" and he responded that was because with his music "people come together to get to the heart of the matter and to feel something deeper."

So, what is it about music that makes people feel moved by it?



Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, a poet in the 1800's, suggested it is because music is "the universal language of mankind."

Whether a bunch of football fans is singing a chant, or a packed auditorium is listening to opera, or a tribe is pulsating to a dance, music has an amazing ability to enable us to express ourselves and to make connections with other people.

It is no wonder then that music and singing forms such an integral part of worship in our churches, as it enables us to express our feelings to God, uniting us as the body of Christ to praise and glorify God.

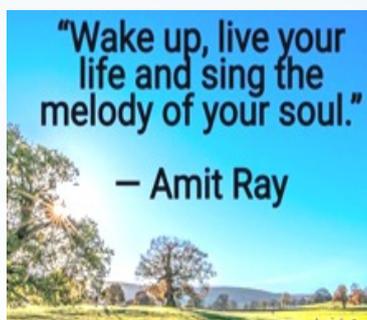
Music is also special as it mirrors the creativity of God. Something is created out of nothing which inspires awe and wonder. Each



time we sing together, we are sparking the miraculous moments of creating sound together. C S Lewis in the Magician's Nephew describes the creation of Narnia, as Aslan singing a series of exquisite notes, differing in tone, depth, and volume, each calling forth an element of creation, the mound of earth, the expanse of water, the individual flora and fauna.

That is why it was so difficult during the pandemic, to have lost our ability to sing uninhibited indoors as choirs or congregations. The loss was felt more keenly at important times in the church calendar, Christmas, and Easter. People continued to be creative, desiring that connection and creation, by forming many online choirs or singing socially distanced outdoors.

As our opportunities to sing together increase, let us take heart, feel the connection, and sing with gusto!



Mike Rogers



Just Another Day...?

As a priest, I am often thrown into close contact with families at some of the most significant times in their lives. A baptism, a wedding or a funeral are all important life events and no two families react to them in the same way. And I have to say, I have become fascinated by the many family traditions and customs that I encounter.

At a baptism one often finds the infant wearing the family christening gown, a garment handed down through the generations to be worn with pride by the latest addition to the family. If there are siblings, then there is usually a frantic search for their baptism candles which have been carefully stored somewhere safe.

Weddings bring forth the 'family hymn' or the bride will wear the family heirloom as she follows the 'something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue' tradition.

Funerals again involve a 'family hymn' or sometimes a 'family reading' and very often, the one who has died is brought home to rest with his or her forebears in the same churchyard.

But it is not just these life events that evoke family traditions and customs.

Christmas too brings its own family practices. These involve when and how presents are distributed. When is the tree decorated? Then there is the question about what is eaten and at what time - turkey, goose, chicken or beef and is it eaten on Christmas Eve, at lunch time on Christmas Day or in the evening of Christmas Day? When do we pull the crackers? Where does the Queen's speech fit in the day? Who cooks and who washes up? And what about church? Midnight Mass or Christmas morning?

Such things are important, for without adherence to these time-honoured family patterns of celebrating the day, Christmas Day can become 'just another day'.

But it's not 'just another day'. And perhaps the most important tradition to follow is the one where we take a moment to ask ourselves exactly why we are doing things in a way that is different to the everyday pattern of our daily lives.

And you can probably provide the answer to that yourself.

Contemplative Prayer. As the 3rd Tuesday of December is close to Christmas Day, for December only, the Contemplative Prayer services will be held at 2.30pm and 7.30pm on Tuesday 14 December.

Bunbury Medical

Practice news

December is the busiest month for our **dispensary team** so we felt it would be a good idea to concentrate on them this month. Next month: The Reception and Admin Teams.

The People

Rachel Thirlwall is the dispensing manager and works Tuesday to Friday.

The Team consists of 9 part-time dispensers and assistants. We also have the help of the Bunbury Buddies who provide ad hoc cover in dispensary, handing out medication at the window. If you would like to join them, please contact Rachel at the surgery.

Diane Bolton, our Pharmacist, does not work in dispensary but is carrying out medication reviews and co-ordinating chronic disease checks for our patients.

As a rural dispensing practice, we provide an invaluable service in that as well as providing repeat medication, our patients can see a GP and immediately pick up their acute medication, treating that urgent condition. We also provide blister packs for certain patients deemed appropriate by their GP. Currently demand for these packs is at an all time high and we have a waiting list for patients wanting this service.

We also offer a delivery service to housebound patients. Our delivery driver is Keith Gilby who makes weekly deliveries on Wednesday.

Dispensary in general

The pandemic has put a lot of additional pressure on our dispensary; demand for medication has increased by 30%. Additional pressure has been caused by supply chain and manufacturing delays. Despite these challenges, we are still pleased to be able to provide a 4 working days repeat medication service.

During this busy season and with an increase in demand, please be mindful of what you are ordering. In recent weeks, we have had a lot of unwanted medicine returned; this is upsetting as it wastes NHS resources as we cannot reuse this medication. We hope that Diane's work on medication reviews will help our patients to better utilise their medication and so help to reduce waste.

We are very aware of patients' issues and concerns regarding access to the surgery, in particular for our dispensary. Members of the Bunbury Patient Participation Group (more about our PPG next month), visited the surgery to look at our access arrangements. How we manage the flow of visitors has been an ongoing discussion within the practice and we are mindful that our current arrangements whereby patients collecting medication need to queue outside the building, is not ideal. It has been a very difficult task to maintain working conditions whilst protecting patients and staff.

We continue to take account of guidance from NHS England and are also aware that new Covid cases have continued to rise locally despite the success of the vaccine roll out. We wish to minimise avoidable transmission of the virus for patients and staff as if we were to have an outbreak at the practice, this would have a significant and detrimental effect on our ability to provide a service to our patients.

Our belief is that currently, the potential downside of patients queuing at the dispensary counter inside the building and then flowing out through the main door and across the path of other visitors in the waiting area, many of whom are vulnerable or immunosuppressed, is greater than the risk to patients queuing at the window.

We described to the PPG members how we have looked at erecting a marquee outside, but our local CCG advised against this on safety grounds. We spoke to a local builder about building a temporary shelter, but we would need planning permission as we are in a conservation area and given the need to maintain social distancing, only one or 2 people would benefit from such a shelter at once.

In conclusion, we apologise that you still have to wait outside for your medication. We will continue to review this as guidelines change and communicate changes with you. When collecting your medication, please be mindful of the weather and arrive armed with weather-appropriate attire. We did consider providing umbrellas for patients, but infection control rules sadly prohibited this idea.

Just to remind you, the surgery and dispensary will be closed for only three days over the festive period: 27th/28th December 2021 and 3rd January 2022.

WISHING YOU ALL A HEALTHY AND HAPPY FESTIVE SEASON

Help with non-medical issues which are affecting your health and wellbeing:

We can refer you to the Social Prescribing Service which helps patients over 18 who are:

- feeling lonely or isolated;
- needing help with housing support, debts or benefit claims;
- in need of carers or bereavement support;
- wanting access to social groups or activities in the area.

Brightlife is part of this service and offers support to people over 50 who are struggling with loneliness and social isolation.

You do not need to see a GP to be referred to the Social Prescribing service; any practice staff member can refer you.

John Peter Frodsham

Peter was jolly lucky to make it to 80 years of age! When he was just six weeks old, in November 1940, during the Blitz, a landmine dropped. Fortunately it bounced on the telegraph wires and landed in a field (now Church Row.) He wouldn't have survived if it had hit the road.

This church of St Boniface bore the brunt of the blast. Pete was snug in his Moses basket across at the Dysart Arms with his mother and big sister Pam. Meanwhile his father was busy rescuing people with the local branch of the A.R.P.

When the 'All Clear' was sounded Mother May picked up her precious son only to find blood streaming down her hand. There was a piece of glass on his pillow - if he'd moved his head it would have been 'Bye, Bye, Peter.' Luckily the blood came from a cut on Mother's hand. Father Ernie was called up 2 weeks after the disaster to serve in the Army. This left brave May to bring up two small children on her own until December 1945.

As a result of that terrible night the family had to live firstly with an aunt and uncle in Farndon and then with grandparents in Mickle Trafford. They were away for 18 months whilst the cottage was made habitable again.

Peter began his education at Bunbury Girls and Infants School and progressed to Bunbury Aldersey Boys School. He enjoyed being a Cub and later a Boy Scout.

Following in his father's footsteps, at 15 he became an apprentice plumber. This training came in useful in later years with work around the house. He was also handy at woodwork and particularly enjoyed working on his lathe.

Then followed a series of jobs in Nantwich and Crewe.

Peter began his professional career as a land surveyor in Reading, where he took lodgings. He returned to dear old Bunbury as often as possible. When he crossed the Shropshire/Cheshire border he'd let out a cheer and throw his cap in the air!

Eventually he came back to England's sunny North West,

where he worked for Liverpool City Council as a land surveyor. He bought a house in Liverpool and lived there until his retirement.

Peter had many hobbies, but his passion was motorbikes. This began when Father bought a Scott

motorbike and sidecar, his pride and joy. Many happy times were had with Mum and Pete in the sidecar and Pam riding pillion.

The highlight of Pete's year was a trip to the T.T. races on the Isle of Man. He took part in the lap of honour over several years and each time he was presented with a plaque to mark the occasion.

Peter played cricket in his younger days for Bunbury Cricket team. Later as a member of Bunbury Parish Council he became the Secretary of the Playing Fields Committee.

One of his great loves was classical music. He had a wide collection of CDs and tapes which he listened to frequently. Whilst working in Liverpool he regularly visited the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall to listen to concerts played by the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

Peter enjoyed watching the Promenade season on television and visited the Proms in the Park on a couple of occasions. The New Year's Day concert from Vienna was a special treat. On holiday in Russia he visited the original Swan Lake in Moscow which inspired Tchaikovsky's ballet.

He constantly had Classic FM on the radio and his final days were passed listening to the world's finest music. By his passing we have lost a good brother, friend and colleague.

God bless you Peter and Cheerio.

Our prayers for December

We pray for all who will be on their own this Christmas, especially those who have lost loved ones this past year.

We give thanks for the work of charities such as Shelter and Crisis who work with the homeless and we continue to give thanks for our local Food Banks.

Help us to find practical ways to share your gift of love this Christmas.

*A Christmas Prayer
Welcome Lord Jesus,
baby and King:
be in our hearts, as
love;
be in our minds, as
peace;
be in our days, as joy.
[Adapted from a
David Adam prayer]*

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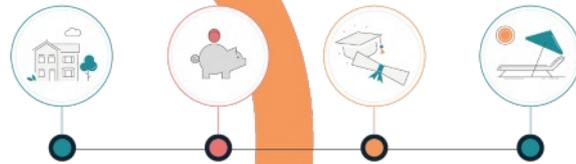
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