

## St. Boniface better than ever!



### Easter Day

On Easter Day, the new improved St. Boniface was once again ready to welcome visitors after all the building work. The Church looked beautiful,

with spring flowers on every pew and pillar. Teams of volunteers had been working all week to remove builder's dust and cobwebs, and the magnificent new doorway and facilities (one of them flushing!) were revealed in their full splendour. Many thanks to all those involved in cleaning and decorating the church – and indeed to those who maintain the church come rain or shine, all year round.

The Archdeacon is visiting Bunbury on 17th May to conduct a service in which he will bless our new facilities.



### Lavatory accolade

A member of visiting choir Amici remarked admiringly "That has to be the finest toilet door in the country!". Rick flushed with pride - and why not, since St. Boniface has been waiting 35 years for this particular convenience.

### Johnny is on his way

Bunbury Parish's new youth worker, Johnny Gillett, is to touch down in England in the next few weeks prior to moving into Church Row with his family. Having spent the last four years in South East Asia he is keen to get back to bread-and-butter pudding and an understanding of irony!

He and wife Debs and their children Esther (9), and Morgan (7), are looking forward to making their new home in Bunbury and being part of the community of St Boniface. Johnny certainly feels that the Lord has been preparing him for this post and he is excited to see how all his past experiences in youth work will come into play as he seeks to encourage and inspire the teenagers of Bunbury.

Johnny will be starting his new role as our Youth Worker in June and there will be plenty of opportunities for you to meet him, and get to know the Gillett family.

The Youth Worker initiative has been wholly funded through additional giving to Bunbury Church and a very generous commitment from our patrons, the Haberdashers. If you wish to support this initiative, please contact Rick.

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# Rick's annual report

*For only the second time, Rick this year delivered his 'Vicar's Report' to the annual parish meeting in person. The report is available in full at the back of St Boniface, but here is a précis of some of his themes:*

"I take great delight in the very obvious signs of growth in our church, both in the increase of our congregations, and in the improvements to the fabric of this lovely building. But there is something far more significant going on. There is an overwhelming sense that God is doing something new in this church. There is a new spirit of openness and honesty which has been forged out of the solid, good hearts of the people of this church. Of course, this development has been painful at times, but the fruits are beautiful. I recognise this as God's church, and becoming more so as new people come into our midst offering new insights and expressing their love for God through worship and commitment to his work.

A major development is in the recruitment of a full-time youth worker, Johnny Gillett, to present the gospel to the young people of this village and deanery. It's a new venture, his contract is initially for three years, and we believe that his work for families in this area will leave a positive and permanent legacy.

Another area of growth is in the many ways the church communicates with, and ministers to our community. We are a Church of celebration and offer an increasing range of

services, liturgies and groups to meet people's individual needs. The church reaches out into our community in many other ways including our music, our leaders, our teaching for children in Kingdom Kids, Young Christians and holiday clubs, and through our Parish Link magazine.

The future holds many challenges for rural ministry including the decrease in the numbers of clergy and the closure of churches. We have been encouraging the Diocese to look at the parochial needs of the Deanery of Malpas.

The purpose of all our activities is to build a people of God; a church which will not only survive, but grow. We must also aim to be a church which will care for and build up other churches and train others in ministry. We must be responsible for our own growth, not merely functioning as a place to worship, but as a vibrant place of worship.

We are rebuilding our church in more than a physical way, with the older and wiser Christians informing and encouraging the younger to experiment and develop worship. Theology does not remain static. It develops; God speaks afresh to each new generation. We have become a new congregation, God is speaking afresh to us. And as we listen more carefully to Him, as we take time to hear Him, we shall be overwhelmed by His grace and blessing upon us."

**Rick**

## Perfect love drives out fear

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you". They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened?" (St Luke 24, 36-38a)

Man looks on the outward appearance but the Lord looks on the heart. Why then, if God knows us so well, does he allow us to be afraid of so much, so often? It is, of course, because having given us the gift of free will, he does not impose his will: he does not compel faith. If he did, would it really be faith?

Jesus no doubt recognised the shock his appearance after resurrection would give his friends: the amazing thing is, he does not expect them to be afraid. He even asks them to look at his ghastly wounds.

Jesus had only a short time left on earth after the resurrection. In that he used so much of it in telling people not to fear shows the importance of the question. Looking to Jesus in all things can oust fear, and the disciples had learned this lesson by the time Jesus' life on earth came to an end. Instead of being devastated by the loss of their Lord, they were able to return to Jerusalem 'with great joy'. As 1 John 4, 18 tells us, 'Perfect love drives out fear'.

**Eric Wallington**

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# What do Readers get up to on placement?

Many of us know Joy Parker, who manages to keep serene amidst her tribe of children. Here she tells us about part of her training to be a Reader (a lay person qualified to assist in parish work):

"I was particularly looking forward to my placement as part of my Reader training. I was lucky to go to somewhere very warm and welcoming. You are supposed to go to a church of a different tradition from your own, so I went to the Anglo-Catholic parish of St. Andrew's, Crewe.

The first Sunday I was up at a startling 5.45am to do a sermon and intercessions at the 8.00am Eucharist. I'd been warned that the congregation might be a bit sleepy, but otherwise had little idea what to expect. I assumed we would have a low-key service in the Lady Chapel.

When I stepped out of the choir vestry the most amazing sight met my eyes. The main church was ablaze with candles, six on the high altar, two either side and about thirty in the choir stalls. Daunting! It was the feast of the Baptism of Christ and a sizeable and seemingly very alert congregation was starting to assemble. I stepped into the chancel feeling like Eliza Doolittle suddenly relocated to the scene in the Phantom of the Opera, when the candles come up. Would I manage, in this totally different situation, to be in the right place at the right time, doing the right thing?

I didn't do anything awful at that first service and my sermon seemed to be OK, but I did lose the choir the first time I took Evensong. How, you may wonder, can you lose a whole choir? I could see them. They were sitting in the congregation for the sermon; I just couldn't remember how

to get them to process back to the choir stalls. I invited them back, and one of their number stage whispered, "announce the next hymn", which I did and they all returned, hymn books aloft.

Twice during my placement we had Prayers for Healing after Evensong. Initially cautious, I enjoyed assisting with this very simple and gentle service. On other occasions I went with the Reader to give Communion in two old people's homes, and to do home Communion, which was very moving. I also went with the Vicar to visit a lady in intensive care. Sadly, she died a few days later.

There's a Friday Fayre every week, with morning coffee, a wide lunch menu and a bric-a-brac stall. Between 25 and 35 people drop in for lunch as well as two guide dogs, one working, one retired. One Friday we even produced home-made steak and mushroom pie for 39 in the evening too, for a barn dance.

Ministers from five churches meet weekly in the early morning for Ecumenical prayer. It gives real hope in a divided world if Christian leaders from widely varied denominations are meeting regularly to pray, read the Bible and talk together. A Churches Together service is held periodically, always worshipping in the host church's tradition. I much enjoyed the one held at the New Testament Church of God.

I was very lucky in having a rich patchwork of experiences at St Andrew's. It was hard work but I thoroughly enjoyed myself. Like going on holiday, though, it is good to be back!"

**Joy Parker**

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# Memories of Marion Cook

*A service of remembrance for Marion Cook was held on March 30th. Her grandson Christopher Ingram, spoke these affectionate words on behalf of her family:*

"Gran, who would have been 97 next week, played a huge part in the lives of Louis and me. We spent virtually every school holiday staying with Gran and Grandpa and when Gran moved to Cheshire from Kent, Louis and I moved to the flat above her garage and became her noisy next-door neighbours for six years, regularly calling in to be fed and watered.

Gran was born in London to a proud Welsh family and had an idyllic childhood surrounded by dogs and horses, the love of which we have all inherited. She spent holidays with her maternal grandmother on a large farm in south Wales, with all her cousins. Not one to be outdone, she learned to speak Welsh fluently. She was also an extremely talented musician, being able to sing beautifully and play the piano brilliantly. It was this accomplished young lady who on a visit to Keston Court Farm – Grandpa's family business – spotted a rather

dashing young man alighting from a Lagonda, one of the smartest cars of the day. Recognising Grandpa's weakness, she wandered over and admired the car, whereupon Grandpa declared proudly that it belonged to him. Gran promptly asked for a ride and two years later they were married!

They lived in Farnborough in Kent, and during the 1930's had a fairly wild and exciting time as pioneering motorists competing in various rallies and motorsport events all round Europe. This culminated in an extensive rally in 1938 which took in Hungary, the Baltic States, Yugoslavia and finally Italy. It was there that they noticed the billboards everywhere proclaiming Mussolini's support for Adolf Hitler, and Germany's opposition to Great Britain. Gran turned to Grandpa and said "I think it's about time we went home!".

After the War and the arrival of their daughter Jacqui they were once again off motoring all around Europe with Gran in full support mode. She regularly acted as 'number 2 driver', driving back Bugattis and Bentleys from various events and circuits.

One of Mum's earliest memories is the first day of her school life: Gran had the spark plugs of her Ford 8 in the oven in a vain attempt to bring the car to life. This failed, and now running late for their first morning, Gran sped Mum and Robert, the next-door neighbour's son, to school in the racing 4¼ Bentley.

When Mum grew up, she brought home the odd boyfriend, but when she brought John home for the first time, Gran knew immediately that he was going to be a son to her, and I know that a very strong bond was formed between Dad and Gran.

The 200 miles between Gran and Mum presented little problem – they would talk on the 'phone every evening for an hour or so. Sadly, Grandpa died at a relatively young age 22 years ago, and Gran showed great fortitude in dealing with her loss.

I will find it hard to come to terms with the fact that Gran herself is now no longer with us."

*Our sympathies to Marion's daughter Jacqui Ingram, son-in-law John, and grandsons Louis and Christopher.*



## St Boniface Agape

More than sixty people aged from 5 to 39(!) enjoyed the traditional Maundy Thursday supper held in the nave of St Boniface. After a thought provoking talk by Canon Michael Botting, Sarah Thompson worked her usual miracle, with helpers, and served delicious roast lamb followed by cheese and home-made cakes. (One of my daughters had to 'test' 3 pieces to check how good it was! ed.) Many thanks to Sarah and to all the organisers for a such a memorable start to the Easter weekend.

## Sherrard planning big day for village

Simon Sherrard's plans for the big celebrity cricket match on 13th June continue apace. "It'll be a great day out for all the village as there is something for everyone to enjoy." Proceeds will be shared between Crimebeat, DebtCred and the English Schools Cricket Association. All these charities work exclusively with young people. Rick,

who is Chaplain to the High Sheriff for the year said "It's all about young people developing a sense of self-acceptance and an appreciation of others". For ticket information contact Nicola Elsegood 260507 or Jan Clifford 260245.

### Simon Sherrard made High Sheriff

Simon with the Lord Lieutenant on the day of his installation.



## Young Christians at Easter



### Stuart and Linda

Over the past couple of months, the 'big kids' of Bunbury have been lucky enough to have the services of two youth workers, Linda and Stuart, who have come from Chester to run various youth groups after Sunday morning services, and, during the Easter holiday, at the Pavilion. They have also visited Tarporley School, taken part in Young Christians meetings and accompanied the YCs on their London pilgrimage. They have shown unflinching cheerfulness, energy and resourcefulness working with our 'big kids' – many thanks to you both!

### YCs in London

At 7.15 am we met, yawning and very tired! We hopped on the bus and 40 minutes later we arrived at Crewe Station. Amazingly, the train was not late, so we sat down and started our breakfast! We took our bags to the YMCA, then after catching what seemed like 40 tubes, we arrived at

St. James' Park for our picnic lunch. Next stop Buckingham Palace! Then off to Trafalgar Square, back to the YMCA to get changed, and out for pizza. An hour later we were in our seats waiting for the show to start! It was We Will Rock You, and it was fantastic.

After a late night, it was another early start, and we were off to HMS Belfast, for an interesting morning and we then spent the afternoon shopping in Covent Garden. After collecting our luggage from the YMCA, we caught more tubes to the station. Unfortunately there were no seats reserved on our train, as the computers weren't working, but eventually we all found seats and after an eventful day we returned to Bunbury. The whole trip was great! Thankyou to Teri, Wendy, Linda and Stu for organising it and giving us such a memorable time.

**Hannah Munro**

### Night of the Tomb

The Young Christians slept overnight in the Pavilion on Good Friday. The evening started with the boys playing football and the girls having a good chat. Other games quickly followed such as-how many marshmallows you could put in your mouth and say 'fluffy bunny' at the same time! We built 'tombs' from chairs and tables in a girls versus boys competition, and later these were transformed into huge dens.

Rick brought the supper, a tasty takeaway of pizza and chips. Further games followed in between periods of rest, but the majority of us didn't sleep at all that night!

A big thankyou to all the helpers on the night, particularly to Stuart, Linda and Katie Crotty, who all stayed the distance with us all night long (and cooked the breakfast!).

**Robert Noonan**

## School news

Bunbury School's Easter Service took place as usual on the last day of the spring term. St. Boniface was full of parents - seats were at a premium this year - and we watched and listened as the children sang, read, played their instruments and danced so beautifully. The children told us the Easter story, from 'I have a Donkey' sung by Reception and Year 1, to Resurrection Dance with Frank Farrington as an impressive Christ-figure, and the final song, 'Resurrection Rock', was complete with a forest of waving palm leaves. As usual, the service was a touching celebration of the Easter message.

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John Batchelor at the Organ



Lorne counting the pennies

## News from Calveley

On Easter Sunday we said a fond farewell to our antique organ which was skilfully removed from our premises during the next week. The organ has been taken away to be fully refurbished and returned to us as good as new, but still preserving all of its antique charm. While it is away John, our organist, will persevere with an electric keyboard.

The organ fund was started some 5 years ago when Den and Edwina Worrall had an evening event at their home. The fund was not added to for three more years until more pressing maintenance issues and our facilities for the disabled had been brought up to scratch. Through hard work and use of the begging bowl, Lorne Campbell and David Woodward secured some donations from The Leverhulme Trust (Lorne was previously employed by Lord Leverhulme and he previously attended our church when resident at his estate in the village) and from John Lea of Mornflake Foods. Grant funding was also obtained from WREN. Further fund raising added to our total and we were all delighted when we were able to reach our target of £27,000 from dedicated funds.

The organ will come back to Calveley in 10 weeks' time and we aim to celebrate the return with several musical events.

We have a few advance notices of fund-raising and social activities that will be taking place over the next six months. On Saturday 22nd May we will be holding what has become our annual Art Sale and Spring Fayre, the doors will open at 10.00 a.m. and close at 4.00 p.m. As well as the sale of art by local artists we will have our usual stalls – plants, bric a brac, cakes and refreshments. There is plenty of parking and no entrance charge. On Sunday, 4th July, we are very fortunate to have secured the services of the world renowned Flint Male Voice Choir. This concert, starting at 3.00 p.m, will take place at the home of Mr and Mrs George Basnett and will be followed by refreshments. Tickets are priced £10 and are available from Sue Woodward, Dorothy Basnett and Yvonne Wood. Finally, in September, Graham Wood will be taking his second international bike ride in aid of Macmillan Cancer Research. This time it will be in Brazil (last year it was Cambodia). If anyone is able to sponsor Graham in his 600km ride please make your cheques payable to Macmillan Cancer Research and pass them on to anyone at Calveley Church who will make sure that Graham gets them.

### Canon John to visit Noah's Ark

Our former Vicar, Canon John Bowers, is once again planning a sponsored ride - this time raising funds for schools in Southern Sudan. He is hoping to cycle across the northern mountainous regions of Turkey to the foothills of Mount Ararat and to see what are claimed to be the remains of Noah's Ark rediscovered in 1948. Canon John would warmly appreciate any sponsorship: please send cheques payable to the Barnabas Fund to him at 2 Salford Grove, West Kirby, Wirral CH48 9XY.



### Community news

**Congratulations** to Alex and Fraser Watson, married at St. Boniface on 3rd April. Alex was the first bride through the new doors!

Hugo Frank Roberts, son of Steven and Karen of Eaton Hill Farm, was **baptised** on 28th March at St Boniface. Welcome!

Both the **French** and **Copley** families (now living abroad) have been spotted visiting Bunbury friends during the the Easter holidays. Hello again!

**Jill Robey, Melody Burrows and Neil Bodfish** have all celebrated a big birthday recently. Congrats!

### Church notices

On Ascension Day, 20th May, the traditional **church walk from Peckforton Castle to Stanners Nab**, takes place. The church is given special access on this day to an area

not normally open to the public. Everyone is welcome, meet at 7.00pm in the Castle car park.

**St Jude's** is seeking a dedicated person to create and run a Sunday School. Every support will be given to whoever undertakes this difficult but important task. Please contact the Churchwardens.

### General notices

**Good Companions** are staging a 20th Anniversary Show in October. They are hoping to track down as many former members as possible to take part. If YOU know where any former thespians are hiding, please blow their cover, and get in touch with Meg Fairweather (261015).

June 11th, **Summer Eve Ball** at Bankside Farm, Calveley Hall Lane, by kind permission of Mr J. Boakwright. Tickets £35, proceeds to Calveley School funds.

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## DIARY

### May

2	8.00am 9.30am 10.00am 11.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Family Worship Matins Holy Communion	St Boniface St Jude St Boniface Calveley St Boniface
3		The Bunbury Society's Exhibition of Photographs	
5	10.00am	Holy Communion	St Boniface
<b>9-15th</b>		<b>Christian Aid Week</b>	
9	9.30am 10.00am 6.30pm	Morning Service Family Communion Evensong	St Jude St Boniface St Boniface
12	10.00am	Holy Communion	St Boniface
15		Car Boot sale at Cholmondeley Castle	
16	8.00am 9.30am 10.00am  11.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Family Worship - followed by a Baptism Lunch Holy Communion Holy Communion Bunbury School Band playing at Reaseheath open day	St Boniface St Jude St Boniface  Calveley St Boniface
17	7.30pm	Archdeacon's Visitation	St Boniface
19	10.00am	Holy Communion	St Boniface
20	7.00pm	Ascension Day Walk to Stanners Nab. Meet Peckforton Castle car park	
22		Tarporley School Ball	
23	9.30am 10.00am 6.30pm	Morning Service Family Communion Compline	St Jude St Boniface St Boniface
26	10.00am	Holy Communion	St Boniface
30	9.30am 10.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Compline	St Jude St Boniface St Boniface

### Looking ahead

#### June

11th Summer Eve Ball, Calveley  
13th Celebrity Cricket Match

#### July

4th Flint Male Voice Choir, Calveley

Thanks to **Miss Robey** for the Noah's Ark on page 7

Link is edited by Lucy Munro (tel. 260487) and Jill Robey (tel. 260081). We welcome all your comments and contributions. Our deadline for the June edition is May 17<sup>th</sup>. Please send material to [lucykmunro@hotmail.com](mailto:lucykmunro@hotmail.com), or to Heath Cottage, School Lane, Bunbury. We are looking for new advertisers - if you are interested please contact us.

Your vicar, Rick Gates, is always available in times of sickness, bereavement or any distress. He tries to have Friday as his day off duty. If you need to contact him, please ring **Bunbury 260991** or **0771 5178750**