

# Link

For the parishes of Bunbury & Tilstone Fearnall



February  
2018

*Society is a partnership between the dead, the living and the unborn*

*Edmund Burke*



Coming soon...

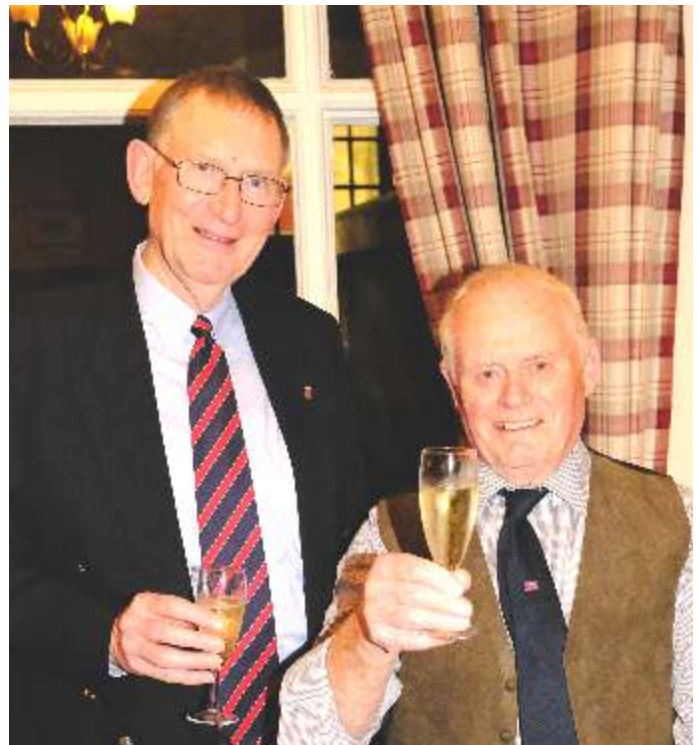
service with a difference!

A brand new monthly event every 3rd Sunday starting Sunday 18 March for all ages - free of charge.

More details next month!

Bunbury's  
Ted Fowles  
awarded British  
Empire Medal  
(BEM) in New  
Year's Honours

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*The Link*

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## Community news

Congratulations to **Charlotte Jones** and  
**Andrew Archer**, married at St Boniface  
on 5 January.

We welcome **Georgina Rose Rice**,  
daughter of **Alan** and **Victoria**,  
christened at St Boniface on 27  
December.



Congratulations also to **Harry Joshua  
Owen** christened at St Boniface on 14  
January, and proud mum **Hannah**.

Congratulations to **Lucy** and **Richard  
Gannon** on the arrival of **Alba Grace** on  
23 December, a first grandchild for  
**Stephen** and **Lorraine Broadbent**.



Congratulations to Parish Link designer,  
**Lucy** and **Rob Oates** and big brother  
**Elliot** on the arrival of **Edward (Teddy)  
Oliver Oates** on 8 January.



Many congratulations to **Irene Hickie**  
on her **100<sup>th</sup> birthday** on 25 January.  
Many people will remember that Mrs  
Hickie had a lovely traditional  
newspaper and sweet shop with rows  
of sweets in big glass jars, which is now  
a house on Vicarage Lane opposite the  
old bakery (later the lawnmower shop).



The **Friday at Tilly's** group were treated  
to free mince pies kindly donated by  
the Co-op in Bunbury, as part of their  
sponsorship of this community  
initiative. If you'd like to support our  
work, please notify the Co-op online or  
by phone that you'd like your share of  
points earned on your membership  
card to go to this group. Thank you!



**St Jude's Christmas Tree Festival** was a  
huge success. Many thanks to all who  
decorated a tree: Calveley School,  
Bunbury WI, The Tollemache Arms,  
Alraham Social Committee and St  
Jude's Sunday School. Thanks also to all  
who sponsored a tree.

Women (and men and children) from  
all over the world will celebrate the  
2018 **Women's World Day of Prayer** on  
Friday 2 March, this year on Suriname -  
see p9.

There will be another **GraveTalk** event  
in the Village Hall on **Saturday 21 April**  
10am-12 noon. We're giving plenty of  
notice for those who were unable to



come last time and said they'd like to attend with more notice.

The **Jigsaw Club**, which has funding from Bunbury Parish Council for prevention of rural isolation, is up and running. It has over 340 jigsaws of subjects to suit all interests available to anyone who is housebound. Call Ruth Tilston on 07837 261523.

**Bunbury WI** will have a February talk on **Handwriting Analysis**, given by Sue Ord.

**Bunbury Gardening Club** will be looking at **Gardening through the Seasons** on 20 February, with David Race. Meet at Bunbury Village Hall, CW6 9PB at 8pm. New members welcome.

**Bunbury Bowling Club** will bowl indoors until March, on Monday afternoons in the Pavilion starting at 1.30pm. All are welcome to come and enjoy.

Many thanks to the large team of helpers who put up and decorated our beautiful **St. Boniface Christmas tree**, some of whom are pictured. Special mention to Tim,

Jacquie French, Chris Jones and David Cox for their head for heights and courage at the top of a ladder. The paper cut-outs deserve a mention, too, they were amazing. Thanks also to Vicky and Martin for hoovering duties a month later.



The **Parish Link** needs a **volunteer** to deliver the magazine along the Whitchurch Road, as far as Sadlers Wells Wood. If you could do this, please call Joy 260032.

**Tarporley Vintage Charity Shop** is looking for donations to sell in aid of Tarporley Hospital.

### Our prayers for February

Help us to love you as much as you love us, to be true to you as you are always true. We pray for those who are ill, particularly for **Hazel Wilkinson** and **Jenny Brooks** and for those known only to you. We pray for the families of those who have died, especially remembering the families and friends of **Nigel Donaldson, Alex Hardy, Eileen Warburton, Joan Davies, Reg Benyon, Judy Morris, Brian Hughes, Enid Jones, Hilary Kemeny** and **Joan Edge**.

The copy deadline for the March edition of the Link is Friday 9 February. The magazine should be in church: Friday 23 February.

### TIM HAYWARD Your Vicar



Nearly everyone tries at some time or other a new diet or self-help book that promise quick results from easy to follow formulae. But most of us who are disappointed with the results never write for refunds - a mixture of guilt and embarrassment sees to that.

Who can forget the cabbage soup diet? Living on nothing else for a week may have shifted the weight, but may have also made your friends unlikely to come anywhere near you!

If anything, Lent teaches us the kingdom of God is a slow process of building, and unlike our quick-fix, instant self-help guides, this kingdom cannot be built even in 40 days.

Lent teaches us short cuts don't usually work - they cheat the journey of faith. Getting to know ourselves and God is a long and winding road. God's work is slow - the Christian life is a marathon, not a sprint.

Lent can't be done in ten days or twenty minutes; it is 40 days.

## Cabbage Soup!

There is no substitute for hard work. That's why miracle diets don't really work, so don't try a thirty day wonder; slowly change the way you eat; effort and will are better than quick fix cures.

Lent is all about slowing down and leaving quick-fix solutions behind. Jesus, in his Lent, turns his back on instant glory, instant results and an easy, happy ending. He will be glorified; he will get results; there will be a resurrection. But it will be in God's time, not ours. In surrendering himself to God, Jesus turns his back on cutting corners, short cuts, and the end justifying the means.

This Lent be sure you don't run and don't take short cuts - you'll miss something. You'll miss the slow, patient God, who is often found in the slog of ordinary life, not in the impostors of instant results and quick victories. A surrendered life is Jesus' path - it's all he asks of us.

## Lent course

The existence of suffering in the world is a major obstacle to belief in God for a great many people.

Thousands of books have been written on the subject of human suffering and there are many arguments that are put forward in an effort to explain

its existence, the classic ones being *suffering is punishment*, *suffering is education* and *suffering is a privilege*.

Some would seek to turn to the bible for an explanation and there is perhaps no greater treatise on suffering than the Book of Job.

At 6pm each Sunday evening of Lent Revd Mike Rogers will lead a series of reflections in St Boniface church which, with the help of Job and all his troubles, might provide you with food for thought on which to ponder about your own assumptions about God and his place in human suffering.

As before, each session will last between 30 and 45 minutes and, with the exception of those Sundays when Evensong is sung when the reflection will replace the homily, will include a period of silence for contemplative prayer and the saying of Compline. You will be most welcome at any or all of the sessions.

## Church diary for February

Sunday 4 February	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Family Communion & Sunday School 10.30am Family Worship 11.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface St Jude's  St Boniface Calveley
Wednesday 7 February	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 11 February	9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Family Communion	St Jude's St Boniface
Wednesday 14 February	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 18 February	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Family Worship 10.30am Family Worship 11.00am Matins 6.00pm Evensong	St Boniface St Jude's St Boniface Calveley St Boniface
Wednesday 21 February	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 25 February	9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Family Communion	St Jude's St Boniface
Wednesday 28 February	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 4 March	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Family Communion & Sunday School 10.30am Family Worship 11.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface St Jude's  St Boniface Calveley

## Veronica gets licensed



At a truly joyous licensing service on 28 November, the Revd Veronica Green, our former curate, was granted her Licence as Priest-in-Charge of Marbury, Tushingham and Whitewell. Up until now, Veronica has been finishing her curacy as Curate-in-Charge. Her new licence was granted by the Bishop of Birkenhead, the Rt Revd Keith Sinclair representing the Bishop of Chester, in the presence of the Archdeacon, Mike Gilbertson, the Rural Dean, Ian Davenport and the congregation drawn from her parishes, led by the church wardens. Other members of the clergy and parishioners from the deanery and neighbouring churches were also present as, of course, were Nigel and members of her family, who have been fondly welcomed into the parishes. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a magnificent spread in the village hall.



### Pat Ellis - Reader Emeritus Fit for Purpose

*How is the diet going? You've had a month now after the Christmas excess to shed the pounds and tone the body. So are you as lithe and fit as a racing snake, or like me, did you give up after a week in despair, and disgust at your failure?*

*Luckily for us, God loves us just as we are. That's not to say there's no room for improvement, and God encourages each of us to be the best that we can be. Each time we slip back into the miry pit, God offers us a helping hand to haul us back.*

*He doesn't expect perfection, he knows each of us only too well, a scary thought! But he knows what we are capable of, and he has a plan for us if only we stop beating ourselves up and put our trust in him.*

*Lord, you have searched me out and known me;  
You know when I sit down and when I rise up,  
You discern my thoughts long before.*

*You know my journeys and the places where I rest;  
You are acquainted with all my ways.  
You are behind me and before me,  
You have laid your hand upon me.*

*I cannot fathom or hold you,  
But you trust me, you free me, you love me.*

*I ask you to shape me and mould me  
In the way you want me to go,  
So that I may be fit for your purpose.*

*Based on  
Psalm  
139*



### Mike Rogers writes... Recycling

This year, I spent Christmas in America with our daughter who lives in Houston, Texas. Whenever I go there, I'm always fascinated by the catchy messages displayed outside some of the churches.

The trouble is, by the time I get home I've forgotten what most of them were and I seldom have the presence of mind to write them all down! However, I was sufficiently intrigued by one I saw this time to remember it; there, outside a Baptist chapel that the Americans would describe as 'cute', was a board which asked 'If you are going to waste, let God recycle you'.

It wasn't the message's impact as a Christmas by-line that struck me, but more its applicability to the rapidly approaching season of Lent, that time when folk set about giving something up for 40 days. Now I have no difficulty with those who want to do this; the

pangs of longing that accompany the self-denial of something we hold dear serve as a powerful reminder of the privations Jesus endured in the wilderness before he began his ministry on earth, but perhaps the question asked by the board I spotted in America points us to something deeper.

Yes, Lent is a time when we recall Jesus' time in the wilderness, but it is also a time of preparation, or, if you prefer, recycling, such that we are ready to greet the amazing events of Easter and understand their impact on the world and more importantly, on our own lives.

The process of recycling could be described as turning something of little or no value into something of worth. So, this Lent, which perversely begins on St Valentine's Day, will you do as that board in America asks and '...let God recycle you?'



# WWDP service Friday 2 March



We are inviting people of all ages to the Women's World Day of Prayer service at St. Boniface church. It is a worldwide interdenominational service for women taking part on Friday 2 March. Mums, please bring your toddlers, there will be activities for the toddlers. Men are very much welcome at the service and lunch.

The theme of this year's service is: "**All God's creation is very good**". The painting above was done by Alice Pomstra-Elmont. Alice says about her painting: "The hands symbolically receive the divine gift and pass it on to the next generations. Every day the sun shines over the land where

animals and plants have found a place. The fruits and the vegetables tell us there is enough food for everyone. The red and yellow heliconia is native to Suriname and the majestic Kapok tree is a beautiful giant in the forests. The Voltzberg is one of Suriname's many granite mountains. The seven women symbolize all women in Suriname who cherish this gift to pass it on to their children. Seven also symbolizes the seven days of God's creation".

Suriname is a former Dutch colony but had been in British hands before that. On July 31, 1667, the English and Dutch signed the Treaty of Breda, in which for the time being the status quo was respected: the Dutch could keep occupying Suriname and the British the formerly Dutch colony New Amsterdam (modern-day New York). It is a fascinating country and we will be able to gain an insight into how life is for these women as well as thinking more about the theme.

Please join us for (all or some) of the following:

10:45am **Welcome Cafe** with cakes from Suriname

11:30am **Service** led by Rev Andrew Emison (Methodist Minister)

Followed by a bring-and-share lunch: soup, bread and cheese and dessert. Please bring a £2 donation towards the cost of the lunch.

For more information, please contact: Debbie Shears (01829) 260707, akaroanz@hotmail.com



## About Suriname

Suriname is not very often in the news. However there was some news about former military leader Desi Bouterse who was elected to his second term as president in July 2015 after his National Democratic Party (NDP) won a slim majority in parliament.

He was elected to his first five-year term in 2010 after the Mega Combination alliance, which included the NDP, won the legislative election in May that year.

He had ruled the former Dutch colony twice before as a result of military coups, from 1980 to 1987 and again in 1990.

In 1999, a Dutch court tried him in absentia and sentenced him to 11 years in prison for smuggling 400kg of cocaine.

In April 2012, Suriname's parliament passed a controversial amnesty law granting him immunity for alleged violations committed under his earlier military rule and for which he was due to face trial.

## Recipe for coconut macaroons

### Ingredients

(NB using half of the ingredients shown below will make a plateful of macaroons as shown above)

- " 5 ¼ cups (400g) or two packets of desiccated coconut
- " 397g condensed milk
- " 1 cup (120 g) plain flour
- " 2 tsp vanilla extract
- " Melted chocolate (optional for dipping)

### Method

1. Heat oven to 170C degrees (gas mark 3).
2. Line a baking tray with lightly greased parchment paper.
3. Mix flour and coconut together in a bowl.
4. Add condensed milk and vanilla extract, stir well together until well blended.
5. Scoop by teaspoonfuls and, using wet hands, shape the macaroons into round balls before dropping them onto the baking tray.
6. Bake for 12-15 mins until top is golden brown.
7. Immediately remove from baking tray. Cool down completely before dipping in melted chocolate (optional).

# Wayword returns to Storyhouse for half-term

Family arts festival, WayWord, produced by multi award-winning Storyhouse, has revealed its programme of events for families to explore this February half-term (17–24 February).

Now in its 5th year, WayWord is a festival dedicated to families and children. For seven days Storyhouse will have a programme featuring children's illustrators, writers, performances, discos and workshops.

Gruffalo illustrator **Axel Scheffler** comes to Chester on Thursday 22 February to talk about his latest book with Smartie winner Julia Donaldson – *The Ugly Five*. Waterstones Children's Book winner, **Jonny Duddle** returns to discuss his latest adventure in the pirate world *Scurvy Sands*. There will be performances for families to enjoy in Storyhouse's theatre – **Captain Flinn and the Pirate Dinosaurs** based on the bestselling picture books on Tuesday 20 February and **beatboxer Lee Gibling** will perform and give a workshop on Saturday 17 February. Musicians **Kabantu** return to Chester to perform a concert followed by a music-making workshop for ages 4 up. There will also be lectures on the **Science of Doctor Who and Star Wars**. Workshops feature throughout: in-house dance theatre company **Fallen Angels** will do dance workshop for all the family on Monday 19 February. Creators of Wallace and Gromit **Aardman Studios** will lead a session on clay modelling. A capella singer **James Sils** will do a workshop on performing songs from musicals, followed by a performance in the Garret.

**New for 2018:** WayWord Flicks, a selection of family favourite short films - price includes a ticket, headsets for audio and a snack.

There will be a **hip-hop dance workshop**, **code a drone**, **Lego stop motion** and **computer game design**. 'Play in a day' on Saturday 24 February, gets participants to work with theatre makers to write, rehearse and perform a play in a day. The Atrium will welcome families to a **Silent Disco** and **Artful Playground** will perform with their swing band. Festival favourite **Den Building** returns for its 5th year: families will create incredible hiding spaces together.

**Storytelling** is at the heart of the programme with sessions daily in Storyhouse's children's library, plus Caveman parties, a puzzle library and free themed arts and crafts including kite, dreamcatcher and puppet making. Storyhouse's independent cinema will screen Aardman's latest film *Early Man*, plus documentary *Jane* and classic reissue *Doctor Dolittle*.

Tickets start at £4. Find out more and book at [storyhouse.com](http://storyhouse.com)



## Discover... Iceland

In the first of an occasional column profiling different travel destinations to whet the appetites of readers, Tarporley Travel puts the spotlight on their recent exploration of an increasingly popular destination: Iceland.

Day 1 - Looking forward to the adventure and hopefully catch a glimpse of the natural phenomenon of the Northern lights. Swiftly though Reykjavik airport, greeted by Super Jeep and quickly on the road to discovery.

Day 2 - Began with a hearty Icelandic breakfast before taking to the road. The scenery, although not typically pretty, was stunning and ever-changing with the natural light and weather. There is a saying in Iceland: if you don't like the weather, wait five minutes. Enjoyed an afternoon break at Laugarvatn Fontana Spa, with some travellers even cooling off in the lake - not for the faint hearted!

Day 3 - Arriving at the Langjokull glacier was a spectacular sight with the sun glistening on the ice, and the roaring sound of snowmobile engines ready to take us up to the ice caves. Then, after a superb dinner, we rugged up and went on the hunt for a glimpse of the Northern Lights... and found them! What a sight - we all felt very fortunate to see them.



Day 4 - Clear skies greeted us for our time on board the Viking Sushi Adventure Boat Trip, followed by exploration of the fascinating city of Reykjavik.

Day 5 - The city was cold and crisp with a beautiful blue sky as we headed off on a whale watching excursion. After spotting a whale, we were all ready for lunch by the port followed by a couple of hours in Reykjavik. Heading out of the city our last afternoon was spent at the Blue Lagoon. Having read mixed reviews on this tourist favourite, I actually thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Bathing in the healing waters whilst covered in silica mud... what's not to like?!

The introduction of low cost flights and excellent connections through Reykjavik to America and Canada, Iceland is a booming tourist destination - and well deserves its popularity. There is so much to see - one trip really isn't enough! If you'd like to find out more about trips to Iceland, contact Tarporley Travel (ad on page 15).

## New Bunbury youth club gets going

Bunbury Youth Club meets at St Boniface on Monday evenings from 7.30-9pm and is still open to new members from Year 6 upwards.

There are lots of fun activities in the beautiful surroundings of the church. It offers our young people some breathing space and time to relax in their busy schedules. If you would like more info, please contact Tim on 261511 or Vicky on 260385.

It is free - we are not inviting subscription. We will only ask for a donation when we go on special outings - such as go karting and ice skating.

**Events planned for Feb/March are:**

Feb 5th - Art Class

Feb 12th - Pancake Party

Feb 19th - Half-term

Feb 26th - Games Night

March 5th - Ice skating

March 12th - Games Night

March 19th - Bunbury Bake Off

March 26th - Easter Egg Hunt

## Fanfare! Ted Fowles awarded British Empire Medal (BEM)



We are delighted to report that Ted Fowles has had his unstinting efforts for his long and committed service to the Royal British Legion recognised by being awarded the BEM in the Queen's New Year's Honours List.

This is absolutely fantastic news for Ted and his family, our village and for the Bunbury branch of the Royal British Legion as Ted Fowles BEM has also recently been recognised by the Royal British Legion National President Air Marshal David Walker CB, CBE, AFC, MA (RAF Retd) with the National President's certificate of appreciation and a very nice letter of thanks to Ted

for his over sixty five years' service to the Royal British Legion.

Ted not only plays last post and reveille at the Bunbury Remembrance Service every November but also dashes from Bunbury to Tarporley to play there also. Ted is often asked to play at grave sites or aircraft crash sites throughout Cheshire, not forgetting his attendance at the Cholmondeley Park memorial to the Czechoslovak troops stationed there during WW II.

I am even more delighted to announce to all that Ted is an all-round good guy and a superb example of what camaraderie in the Royal British Legion should be. Ted's branch feel humbled and proud to have as a member someone like Ted Fowles BEM.

After our committee meeting on Monday 8 January had ended, Henry, landlord of The Nags Head Bunbury kindly presented three bottles of champagne for the members to celebrate his award with Ted."

*James Walton, Chairman, Bunbury RBL*

## Bunbury Buses saved - but with Loss of Chester service

When Cheshire East began its Subsidised Bus Service Review, last year, which included the 56 and 83 routes from Bunbury, both services were recommended for withdrawal. The Parish Council and residents responded to the review with many written and online replies, a deputation of Parish Councillors and residents attending an open meeting in Nantwich, and Chairman Ron Pulford and Vice Chairman Nick Parker going to see Cheshire East Leader, Rachel Bailey, to explain why it was essential to retain bus services from Bunbury. The number of responses from Bunbury, regarding our two routes, was higher than from any other area. In November many changes to the subsidised services were agreed by Cheshire East, but the Bunbury services were retained, with one alteration. Unfortunately our once a week service to Chester will be withdrawn but instead of the original two services to Nantwich there will now be three, on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Thank you to all those residents who joined our campaign and helped to save the Bunbury buses. Details of the new services, including timetables, will be confirmed following the procurement and appointment of a bus operator for each route. Further details are expected to be announced early in 2018. You can see the review report on the Cheshire East website by searching on 'Supported Bus Service Review'.

## Parish Council Pursuits

The PC met on 13 December with six Councillors in attendance. Ward Cllr Michael Jones has submitted his resignation which will become effective early in the New Year. We thank him for his valued advice and guidance. Stand by for an election! Four parishioners attended.

Dave Evans, Bowling Club Chairman, reported on the need for new mowing equipment. It was agreed that the PC would consider this at the January meeting. The club has more than 60 members, 40 from Bunbury. Sir Francis Drake loved bowling and so does Bunbury!

Your PC wish all Bunbarians a Happy New Year of health and smiles. The PC met on 10 January and five Councillors attended, with several apologies received. Three parishioners attended. Do come along and see what the PC does on your behalf. One planning application was discussed. More than 200 parishioners and Father Christmas attended the Carols around the Christmas Tree event on Christmas Eve, with prayers from the Vicar, dressed as an angel. Crewe Brass provided marvellous musical accompaniment. A collection was made for Tarporley Hospital. The Council agreed to purchase a new mower and scarifier for the Bowling Club, with help from money raised by the club and a grant from Tesco. The club is 60 years old and we are really glad to be able to lend our support to them. A discussion took place about the campaign to reopen the station at Beeston. The Council fully support this project. Long-time Bunbury resident Mrs Hickie will be 100 years old later this month. Many congratulations from the Parish Council - well done! Congratulations also to Ted Fowles from Bunbury British Legion who has been honoured with the BEM for voluntary service to ex-Service personnel over many years. And so Bunbarians, keep smiling and a Happy New Year!



# Give us Two Minutes - Anne King



**I grew up in Hartford, Northwich. I attended the local Primary and Northwich County Grammar School for Girls, which is now Leftwich High,** writes this issue's Two Minutes contributor, Anne King. In the late 70s I attended Mid Cheshire College, where I trained to be a Nursery Nurse (NNEB). My first 'proper job' was as a daily nanny to a three month old baby boy, what a responsibility!

After two years I applied for a job as a live in Nanny to three boys aged 5, 3 and 18 months in Cholmondeley. I have recently met up with them after 30 years and told them what mischief they used to get up to! They certainly kept me on my toes!

I moved on, after a year, to work for Social Services in a day nursery for under privileged children under 5. It was a very interesting, but tough place to work.

Four years later, I applied for the position of Bunbury School's very first Classroom Assistant. I was originally employed to work in Reception with Mrs Olwen Williams. However, the rest of the staff were jealous and wanted extra help as well, so I was released in the afternoons to help in other classes.

I was married in 1988 and Charlotte was born in 1990. She now lives and works in Manchester, after attending Bunbury, Tarporley High, Sir John Deane's and University of Liverpool. Charlotte is ambitious and has worked extremely hard to get where she is now and has never been out of a job, which makes me extremely proud. She is very much a career girl at the moment, but I'm sure grandchildren won't be too far away.

I can't believe I've been at school for 31 years, it has flown by. I have worked for six Head Teachers and seen many staff and children come and go. I decided it was time to go when ex-pupils were appearing with their own families..... this makes me feel very old and it was time to let younger staff take over! I shall miss being called 'Mrs Queen' or 'mummy'!!

In my spare time, which I have lots of, now, I practise my beauty therapies, Yoga and dance regularly. The dogs are always up for a

walk! I love the theatre and visiting all my other friends who are happily retired. I can highly recommend it!

**If you had a motto, what would it be?**

Live life to the full whilst you are fit and well!

**It's a celebrity beer call - who would you like to invite?**

It would have to be Peter Kay.....I only have to see him and he makes me laugh.

**What was your first job?**

My first job was as a Saturday girl in my dad's shop, Wilson's Sports Shop in Northwich. He had me running up and down a three storey shop relentlessly! I have many a tale to share about that shop from ghosts on the top floor, to chasing after a boy who stole a pair of trainers.....ask me again!

**What would you change about Bunbury, if you could?**

I think Bunbury village is lovely.....it's been a privilege to work at the school for so long.....lots of lovely memories. Now, you will probably find me in Tilly's, so come and say 'hello'.

**What is the best book you have read to date?**

How to train your Jack Russell.....I keep reading about those bossy little monkeys, but with no joy!! Any tips?

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

My one and only wish would be for my mum to have seen my sister and me grow up, we were young teenagers when she died suddenly. My dad had to cope with two feisty daughters, God bless him. However, I don't think he made too bad a job of it.

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

Gosh, there must be lots of things.....but I'm only going to disclose one! I've met the Queen at Haberdashers' Hall. I had to wear gloves before I shook her hand and curtsied and said, "Good afternoon, Ma'am (as in spam!)"

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

To enjoy early retirement to the full and go on holiday often and in term time.

**What is your favourite place and why?**

Bournemouth and Poole are favourite places, as they hold many happy childhood memories.

**How would you spend your ideal weekend?**

An ideal weekend would be spent with friends and family, eating, drinking, laughing, playing games and walking together.

## Poppy Appeal helps former soldiers

The 2017 Poppy Appeal raised a total of approximately £3730 (final figures still awaited) in Bunbury and the surrounding villages. Many thanks to all those residents who contributed. In the absence of a Bunbury Poppy Appeal Co-ordinator this year, Mairi Harris gallantly stepped in to organise a more limited circulation of boxes via the Tarporley Poppy Appeal Organiser, so many thanks to her, the various collectors including the children's uniformed organisations, house to house collectors, local businesses and the church.

Best house-to-house collector was Mairi Harris at just under £200, closely followed by Alison Atkins at £184 and Ted Fowles at £181. Bunbury Co-op collected a magnificent £217, so many thanks to them

too. The uniformed children's organisations raised £295 and the school raised £123.

It is thought that the church collection on Remembrance Sunday of £923, kindly donated to the appeal, surpassed all previous totals.

The money collected goes straight to the central Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal fund to support the old to the young who have served and fought for our country, and their families, where and when needed.

As a group of villages, we've made a great contribution to this national Appeal, so thanks again to all those who helped and gave, so that we can do our bit for those who have given so much for us to ensure our freedom.

*James Walton and Mairi Harris, Bunbury Royal British Legion*



## Bunbury Singers' Recent Successful Fundraising Events

Bunbury Singers has recently held a very successful series of concerts and events, performing two concerts over the Christmas period at Bunbury and Tarvin churches, with guests from the Crewe Male Voice Choir and Tarporley Silver Band at Bunbury; and Cantoris, Frodsham Chorus and Tarvin Church Choir at Tarvin. They also went carol singing at four Tarporley pubs and the Lockgate Café at Beeston. There was enormous support for all these events from the local communities. The total amount raised from the concerts was a fantastic £1,100, which was donated to St Luke's Hospice, and the carol singing raised £250 for the Guide Dogs for the Blind.

They rehearse on Monday nights term time at Bunbury school, 7.15-9pm and welcome new members. If you would like to come along or want to find out more, call Sarah-Jane Stockman on 01829 260714 or visit their website at [www.bunburysingers.co.uk](http://www.bunburysingers.co.uk)

## Decibellas Women's Choir sells out church for Tarporley Hospital fundraiser

Decibellas, the Tarporley women's choir, gave a highly successful concert in St Boniface to a packed church in December, raising over £1900 for Tarporley War Memorial Hospital. They also donated an additional £130 to St Boniface in gratitude for the support of the church wardens and others who assisted in making the evening such a success.



### Tributes

## Alex Hardy: 14 July 1994-24 November 2017



Alex died tragically at just 23 years of age in Canada. A pupil at Bunbury Aldersey Primary and Tarporley High school, Alex was known for his kindness, natural intelligence, gift for the written and spoken word and an enterprising spirit.

At age 18, Alex decided to take a 'gap year' on the West Coast of Canada, thereby following his wish to see more of the world and soon settled in Whistler, a beautiful mountain ski resort near Vancouver. There he progressed to take up employment with a luxury hotel chain where he earned the respect of his colleagues for his courtesy and professionalism.

Alex found his feet in Whistler, falling comfortably into a vibrant social scene and making many true friends. Alex's gap year became 5 years because of these new friendships, the warmth and courtesy of the Canadian people, the recognition and several promotions he earned at work together with the attractions of

skiing, snowboarding and mountain biking. To quote some of his Canadian friends, he was "the super smart Brit with immaculate manners", having "a sharp wit", "a smile that would light up the room" and he was "loved and cherished by so many".

During his time in Canada, Alex developed his passion for good food that first became evident during a family holiday in Rome. Such was his reputation as a connoisseur that his friends looked to Alex for recommendations of where to eat and what wine to buy. Alex bravely battled for two years with extreme pain from what should have been a routine operation. The Hope House Hospice is one of the charities, the other being Canuck Place Children's Hospice, Vancouver, that will benefit from donations made in Alex's memory. He will be forever missed by his heartbroken Mum, Lesley, his loving brothers Tom and James, his stepdad Ste, his wider family and his many close friends in Whistler.



# Nigel Donaldson - lived life, loved life



Born in St Andrews in 1972 to Isobel and Alistair, Nigel was the youngest of three children. His father was a county surveyor, which took the family to Couper, Peebles, and then Wrexham, which is where Nigel spent most of his childhood.

Nigel was always very proud to be Scottish and there was never any

question as to who he would be supporting at the rugby.

After school Nigel went to Liverpool Polytechnic to study Maritime Studies and whilst there he met Sarah, his wife. Sailing was a big part of Nigel's life, and he would visit boat shows and go on sailing holidays. Sailing also became part of Sarah's life and their honeymoon was spent sailing from Grenada to Tobago Keys.

Nigel started his career as an off-shore surveyor, based at Bergen on a boat called Rockness. With the arrival of daughters Isobel and Emily life was hectic and Nigel's flights to work were getting earlier and earlier and he hated sneaking out in the morning, missing his two precious girls. So in 2003 when he saw an advert for a Shell multi-site operator/retailer he embraced a career change.

He loved the variety: he wasn't a deskman, didn't like a suit, and was always first to get his jacket and tie off

and roll up his sleeves. He had sites at Chester, Wrexham, Mold and North Wales and was a well-respected retailer. Nigel's boundless enthusiasm combined with his fairness and kindness to staff made the business a great success. He had a unique sense of humour but he always got away with it because of who he was.

Nigel was diagnosed with cancer three years ago but his sense of humour never left him; during his first round of chemo, he stayed up at a party until 5am. His positive attitude stayed with him and even until a couple of months ago Nigel would still be seen walking his beloved dogs, maybe not in his shorts towards the end but still out there walking.

Isobel and Emily are Nigel's legacy and, as Sarah says, "If you have even a percentage of your father's strength, intelligence or calm you won't go far wrong!" Nigel was a remarkable man and his influence and love will live on in their memories and hearts.

## Reg Bennion: setting a path

8/2/24 - 2/12/17

Reginald Bennion was buried at St Jude's on 21 December 2017. He may have spent his last few years in Staffordshire, but he still saw himself as a Cheshire man, born and bred.

He grew up at Beeston Moss, and attended Beeston School. His mother died quite young, and so Reg came to move to Hilbre Bank to be with his sister, part of the family there until she died.

A childhood sufferer of epilepsy, Reg was not able to do National Service. Thankfully, the condition didn't seem to affect him in later life, and he was able to work for the Council on the roads until his retirement. It's an interesting thought that he has literally set a path down on which we all now travel.

And the path on which he travelled was a gentle, private one. His enthusiasms were simple and mainly linked to the countryside around him: dog-walking, bird-watching, and his regular trip to the pictures on Saturdays. Reg took great pride in his family - Kim, his great-niece, McKenzie, her daughter and Alex, his great-nephew.

Neighbours on Hilbre Bank showed Reg great kindness, checking on him and helping with twice weekly shopping trips and taking in his washing.

The Park Lane Care Home where Reg spent his last years after having been hospitalised for 17 weeks gave him excellent care, respecting his independence and helping him in many ways.

We give thanks for a long life, for one enriched by service and by a love of nature, and the love of family, friends and carers.

## Eileen Warburton - always ready to 'have a go!'

Eileen first met Jim at the end of School Lane sixty five years ago. Jim reckons it was the new motorcycle he was riding that caught Eileen's eye and motor bikes were to become a big part of their lives. They were married at St Boniface in November 1955 during Jim's leave whilst in the RAF doing National Service, and made a wonderful team over the coming decades.

For Eileen, family life with Jim and the children was busy. Eileen made a traditional family home and her cooking was memorable, especially her puddings. She took great interest in the family and was always supportive, often saying "if you want it, do it! Have a go!" She had a great sense of humour and loved to laugh at the tricks the children played.

Whilst Jim and Eileen had the business they couldn't go away, so when Jim retired twenty five years ago they took the opportunity to make up for all the missed holidays. There were many happy times with the family in the Canary Islands, Tunisia, Tenerife, as well as the Isle of Man for the TT races.

Outside of the family life and business Eileen was a proud member of the Peckforton and Beeston WI and enjoyed Saturday nights at the club in Whitchurch.

A loyal and supportive wife to Jim, beloved mother and mother in law, Eileen will be sadly missed.

# Joan Davies Bristow, Centenarian

12/5/17 - 1/12/17

Joan Bristow lived with her daughter, Heather and son-in-law Geoff Baker in Alpraham for 28 years. She chose to have her funeral at Walton Leigh crematorium as it brought her back to where her parents and her husband, Robert, are remembered, and home to the area she knew and loved; Stockton Heath. It was here that she was born and brought up, and met and married Robert.

She grew up in another era - an only child born in another century. The world must have been a different place a hundred years ago, when she could see the ships passing along the Manchester Ship Canal. Her family is linked through many generations to the area. Her father was office manager at Greenings in Warrington, and she worked there during the War, manning the overnight switchboard.

She married Robert in 1942 - a wartime wedding - and they had two children, Jean and Heather. She did the books for Robert's chemist's shop, as well as working hard as a housewife.

Joan's wide family are able to describe in poignant terms Joan's quiet, positive influence, especially during the 28 years in which she lived with Heather and Geoff and their children, Markus and Lexie. Markus was only a little boy of 8 when she

arrived, and Lexie grew up with her. The sights and smells of thick custard and burnt toast are still powerful reminders of Joan.

There is a strength of character here - she was driving into her 80s - and a love of active life. She played tennis and enjoyed walking, and the family had holidays in the Lake District, and later she and Robert holidayed in the Cotswolds - no passport needed when you can enjoy English countryside.

And enjoy it she did; especially in her infectious love of gardening, which she has passed on to her grandchildren and their families, as they continue to nurture cyclamen, roses and parsley. She was able to enjoy sharing time with four generations of family to celebrate her 100th birthday last May. The family of the church was also important to her. She went to church in Stockton Heath, and continued to go to the Wednesday communion services at Tarporley.

Tarporley Memorial Hospital also provided great help as Joan began to weary a little, and went there for assessment. She then received further considerate care and help at The Elms, Crewe.

So we give thanks - for a life well-lived, for the impact Joan has had on those around her. And as we give thanks, we can imagine her husband Robert, along with the whole company of heaven, saying, "Welcome home."

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