

Bunbury Church Online



Join us every Sunday @ 10.30am

August–September 2020

Also in this issue



3

Sue Baker presents church with 700 years banner



6

Chris Jones gives us two minutes



12

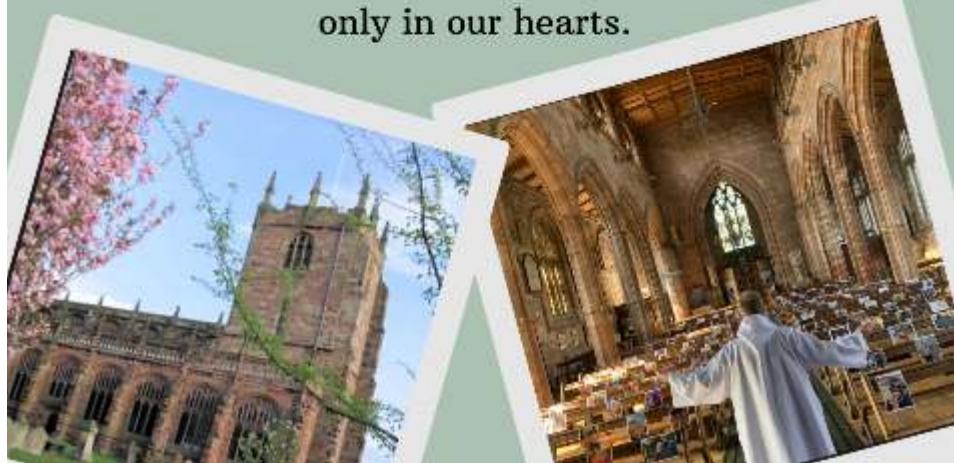
The Dysart's Stuart Groves shares their sea bass recipe

A magazine for the parishes of Bunbury and Tilstone Fearnall

A point of view can be a dangerous luxury when substituted for insight and understanding *Philosopher Marshall McLuhan*

CHURCH OPEN FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP

We are delighted to restart public worship on Sunday 2nd August at St Boniface and St Jude's. If you would like to join us, please allow extra time to enter and be seated for the service. You will be invited to use hand sanitiser on entry and we will take your name and phone number as part of the government's Track and Trace initiative. We will be maintaining 2M social distancing and the service will be 30 mins and feel a little different, as movement will be restricted. We will be able to join in singing only in our hearts.



Follow Bunbury Church on Facebook to receive regular updates on local support.

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The Link

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

Community news

Revd Alex visits Nantwich foodbank

It looked just like a village shop, but without fresh fruit and vegetables or bread. I was immediately struck by the friendly but business-like atmosphere. Half the working day is spent picking and packing food into boxes for families and getting them delivered as quickly as possible. The other half is spent sorting donations onto the carefully labelled 'shop' shelves ready for the next team of pickers. All this work is done by volunteers. Nothing given to the foodbank is wasted: unusual food ingredients, such as tinned smoked peppers, are packaged together with a recipe card and everything else needed to make them into a tasty meal. (These are added into family boxes *in addition* to the normal week's provisions, just in case!) The food boxes are

also weighed to show that net output is virtually the same as net input, whatever might be donated. Each household box contains three meals a day for each person there, and enough to last for seven days. Vegetarian and other diets are catered for, and child-friendly foods also supplied where appropriate. A referral to the foodbank from social services, a health visitor or doctor, for example, creates a 3-week food support package for a household – 63 meals per person. 1,000 people were supported in this way in April–June this year.

Sometimes, such as when Universal Credit is awaited, this period can be extended. Households can also be referred if necessary.

Nantwich foodbank was formed eight years ago. The



team are so grateful for the generous contributions that have been coming from Bunbury, and for those volunteers who deliver food to the food bank. Please keep donations coming; they make all the difference to those in need.

Alex Sanders
(alex@oftheriver.com)

The foodbank donation box has been moved. It is now outside the village hall porch. Copies of the Link will be inside the porch for collection.

Bunbury welcomes new curate

Bunbury's new curate Claire Wilson was born in a small village called Binley Woods in the Midlands in 1970. She first worked for a life assurance company before studying Law at Aberystwyth University, where she met husband Graham in 1999.

After marrying in 2000, Graham's work took them to Sweden in 2002 for three years, after which they set up home in Leicestershire, where their children, Hannah (14) and Noah (12) were born. Claire balanced motherhood with work as a Support Worker with families suffering from domestic abuse, mental illness, and parents with learning disabilities. Moving back to the North West in 2011 to Middlewich, she pursued her growing sense

of calling to the ministry by attending the Foundations for Ministry course,

leading to training as an Ordinand. Her ordination will be on 25 October.

"I am nervous and excited in equal measure about the next few years," Claire told the Link. "One thing this crisis has taught me is that we are created to be connected in the physical presence of each other. I have missed being able to hug people and gathering round our dining table. My first challenge will be working out how to get to know the community and church whilst socially distanced and staying alert."



A word from the editor

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Link during lockdown especially those advertisers who have stayed with us. The Link team hopes our readers are able to enjoy the summer and we look forward to producing a magazine for October.

Home deliveries of the Link will resume with the October issue. A huge thank you all those people who over the years have delivered for us, but feel it is time to stop. Thanks go to **Joan Burrows, Ruth Court, Pat Ellis, Nicola Elsegood, Fred Hardy and Mary Large**. Thank you to **David Ellis** for taking on Joan Burrows round. We now need your help for the following roads:

Spurstow: Long Lane both sides, Spurstow cross roads to Spurstow Hall 20 copies

Bunbury: Vicarage Lane 12 copies

Calveley: Green Lane 4 copies

Humblebee Bank: 3 copies

Please contact

bunburyparishoffice@gmail.com if you can help. The team would be very grateful.

Congratulations to **Jennie** and **Ollie Castle**, on the birth of their son,

Cody Jensen Castle, born Tuesday 7th of 7th, in the year 2020, at 11.11 weighing in at 6.6lbs.

Grandparents Hilary and Mike Watson are delighted!



Have you had had a good old clear out during lockdown? Do you have good quality clothes, furniture, books etc to donate to charity? If so, **Alder Hey Children's Charity** would be grateful for your preloved items for their charity shop which supports the 330,000 children treated at Alder Hey every year. For further

details please message jeanniefh@me.com

Thank you so much to **Sue Baker** for making the banner for our **700 year celebrations**. We hope to hold events next year.



The copy deadline for the October issue is Friday 11 September. The magazine should be delivered starting Saturday 26 September. Notices to bunburyparishoffice@gmail.com



TIM HAYWARD
Your Vicar

In C.S. Lewis' story The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, the whole of Narnia is in the depths of winter. The land is cloaked in snow. But the power of the White Witch begins to fade, and the great lion Aslan is abroad in the land. Things quickly begin to change. We read these words. The child Edmund's 'heart gave a great leap ... when he realised that the frost was over... . And much nearer there was a drip-drip-drip from the branches of all the trees.'

C.S. Lewis describes the moment of his own conversion in almost identical terms: 'I felt as if I were a man of snow at long last beginning to melt. The melting was starting in my back: drip-drip and presently trickle-trickle.' The winter was over.

So is the winter over or isn't it? That's the question for all of us in the midst of this pandemic. And the truth is, none of us know. A million business, academic, governmental, and personal decisions rest on the question. But no one really knows, however many titles they have before their name, or responsibility they hold over millions of pounds or thousands of people. And the challenge for each of us is not to lose ourselves in the minutiae of things we can't know and still less control, but to focus our thoughts and energies on the things the pandemic can't change.

I'm guessing that for each of us there's a moment like there was for Edmund when we sense a

Longing to be reunited!

drip-drip-drip from the branches of all the trees, when we know that, even if winter isn't yet over, its demise is sure. For some that will be getting out of the house, going back to work, returning to old routines: doing the shopping, going to the pub or seeing friends in the coffee shop. For a number of us, gathering in church, albeit at 2m length – being in God's presence together, is such an experience.

But I'm willing to guess there's one person you long to see again, to hug, touch, be with in a way no screen or gadget or virtual rendezvous can substitute for. Until we get to be close to that person and relax and rejoice in their presence without feeling we're breaking some kind of guideline, we won't really be able to say the winter is over. The good news for all of us and the message of hope we share in these unsettling times: is that God loves us. Full stop. No matter what.

Because that person whom God is longing to be intimate with, longing to see after all this time; that person about whom God feels, 'Until we can touch and embrace and be close, the winter won't truly be over'; that person with whom God is dying to share in an everlasting life of trust and friendship: that person is you.

USING THE BUTTON BELOW YOU CAN EITHER MAKE A ONE-OFF DONATION OR SET UP A REGULAR MONTHLY DONATION.

DONATE

Bunbury Primary School end of year report

It certainly has been a year to remember! It would be easy to write about the school closure which has dominated our lives over the past few months, but I also want to reflect on all the fantastic things Bunbury Primary School achieved prior to this closure time. Our Ofsted inspection report, our work in the community and the attitudes and ethos of the children are all things to celebrate over the past 12 months. It would be impossible to highlight everything that has kept us busy this year; our twitter feed @BunburyACE and Facebook page are great ways to recall those moments that show our 'Love for Learning' to the full. I am incredibly proud to be Principal here at Bunbury and I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff, pupils, parents, governors, directors and members of the community for making this school such a special place. The dedication of the staff and the lengths that they go to ensure that learning is as it should be - inspiring, motivating, engaging and above all fun! This week we said goodbye to our year

6 leavers. This year despite everything happening in the world the event was not going to be any different. On Tuesday, we celebrated and marked the end of their primary education with a socially distanced outdoor service. Joined by Rev Tim and Piers Bostock I was able to share a special afternoon with our Lockdown Leavers. This was followed in the evening by an outdoor, socially distanced bubble group 'Sunset Flicks' screening of Shrek. It was lovely to be able to mark this special time in the lives of our Year 6 children. In many of my communications over the past few months I have said how our school is reliant upon children being in the building, making relationships and working together. Our school community has continued to do this in a virtual form. Although far from ideal, the teachers and parents have found a myriad of ways to engage with and support learning at home. It could not have been done without working together.

All children are welcomed back on a full-time basis in September.



Traditionally, the school year ends with a whole school service at St Boniface. We may not have been able to gather this year, but we've built a community that distance cannot break. That may well be our greatest achievement.

Nicola Badger

Notice: Invitation to apply for grants

The trustees of Bunbury Parochial Charities (charity number 216368) invite applications for a limited number of grants, which will be awarded once a year in December, from residents and organisations of the following parishes:

Alpraham, Beeston, Bunbury, Burwardsley, Calveley, Haughton, Peckforton, Ridley, Spurstow, Tilstone Fearnall, Tiverton & Wardle.

An application may be made by the proposed beneficiary, or by a trustee or other person on their behalf. In considering applications the trustees will take into account the following guidelines:

1. The proposed recipient should normally be resident in one of the constituent parishes or be an organisation active in providing benefit

for the residents of one or more of the constituent parishes.

2. A grant may be made to a recipient who is in financial difficulties, particularly where the difficulties are adversely affecting a child or elderly person.
3. A grant may be made to assist the education of a child who is being hindered by financial difficulties.
4. A grant may be made to support a resident, particularly a child, in an activity deemed to be a worthy use of the charity - for example to help the recipient undertake an extracurricular educational project, to participate in a charitable project or to learn skills to assist that resident in finding work.
5. A grant may be made to support an organisation providing support within the constituent parishes, for example providing

clubs/group activity for the young and the elderly, support groups for the elderly, assistance for the disabled or disadvantaged, and groups providing hospital transport, respite care and home support.

Applications must be in writing on our formal application form and sent to David Ellis, Ivy Cottage, Wyche Lane, Bunbury CW6 9PS preferably by email to dwellis7.de@gmail.com. Completed applications to be returned by 12.00 noon on Wednesday 11 November for consideration at the trustee meeting on Wednesday 2 December when the awards will be made at the complete discretion of the trustees whose decision will be final. Application forms can be obtained from the clerk at the above address/email or by telephone on 01829 261898.

Allotment adventures

Last January we were given the opportunity to have an allotment, writes **Elaine Crotty**. Three of us took it on. The first time we visited, it was a wet gloomy day. The allotment looked a mess with all sorts of rubbish on it and it was covered in long grass. We wondered if we were doing the right thing. In February we started to dig it ready to plant onions.

Then came lockdown. As we had to drive to the allotment, we weren't sure if we were allowed to go, so didn't for about a month. I then messaged the police using Facebook (thinking they wouldn't reply) and was told that it was fine to travel as long as we practised social distancing and had hand sanitizer. The first time going out it all felt very strange. We set to over the weeks with digging and planting potatoes and started growing some things from seed, but we mainly used Mike Dodd as our supplier. We didn't manage to dig all of the allotment in the time as it became so dry. The soil is sandy and can dry out in sunny weather. We planted fruit bushes and have left an area of grass that we strim until next year, where hopefully we will have a shed and some more planting space.

We dug out the topsoil in the green house and mixed it with compost. It was so dry. I didn't think anything would ever grow in there again.

We kept planting, the dahlia tubers went in and the greenhouse was filled. Watering the greenhouse started. It was so hot in the greenhouse we had to hang up a sheet.

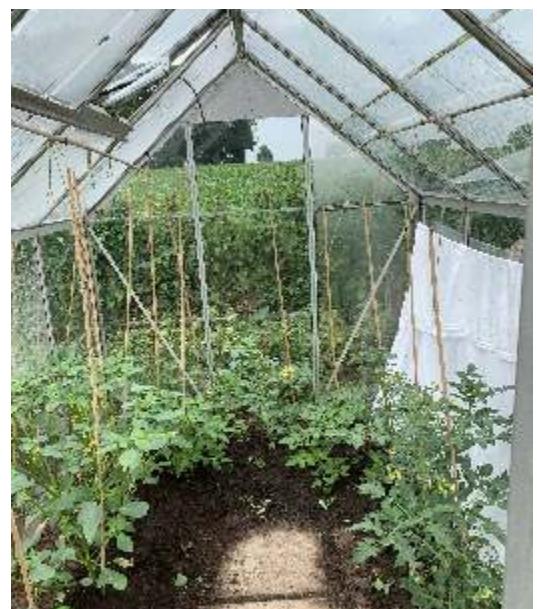
The rain recently has been very welcome, but with the warm wet weather the bugs have come and eaten our broad beans. One has to be very vigilant and you have to be prepared for disasters.

The allotment has been the greatest thing for my mental well-being, meeting new people who are very willing to share their knowledge, pottering about in the sun and rain, the smell of the greenhouse, growing new things, eating the produce that you have grown and being physically tired when you get home. It's very different to a flower garden and it's great to have a decent space for vegetables. I would recommend anyone to put



their name down for an allotment, but they are a lot of work (depending on the size if you can share it's even better).

As Monty Don states gardening is fantastic for mental well-being. If you have a small garden (or no garden at all) an allotment is the way to go. We pay £13 a year! Next year there will be cutting flowers as well and it will be a no dig plot on the ground that has been dug this year.



Give us 2 minutes

I remember that I did this item in the autumn of 2013, and looking back at that article I've seen how much and how little has changed. Then, Tim was "the new vicar", but now it's difficult to see St Boniface without Beth and Tim, and so many of my answers now are the same as they were then, but the best thing that has changed is that both my children have grown up to be far better people than I deserve.

I have to confess that I was born in the "soft south", but grew up in the shadow of Liverpool on the Wirral, and choose to go to University in Leeds simply because The Who recorded their seminal live album there, and the university was slack enough to let me in.

I met Barbara at the end of 2000, moved to Spurstow in 2002, got married in St Boniface in 2003 and brought Elizabeth back to Spurstow in 2005.

After a succession of jobs kicking around finance departments for far too long, I ran away to join the boaters at Bunbury Locks, and have been there for the last couple of years, indulging my fascination with canal boats. Sometimes it's difficult to understand why someone will pay me for driving their boats (often backwards) around the canals of Cheshire, when I'd probably do it for nothing.

If you had a motto what would it be?

Changes aren't permanent, but change is (a quote from "Tom Sawyer" by Rush.)

It's a celebrity beer call who would you invite?

Emma Hamilton, Charles Babbage and John Lennon (again!), but this time I'd like Mo Salah to bring (if I time the beer call correctly) the Premiership and Champions League Cups to put on the table.

What would you call your autobiography?

There's always another last minute.

What was your first job?

Accountant, I'm sorry to say.

What would you change about Bunbury if you could?

I'd re-route the canal so that the locks were in the dip between the Dysart and the medical centre.



Chris Jones

What is the best book you have read to date?

Still: Moby Dick, Narrow Boat, The Riddle of the Sands, Les Misérables, Iain M Banks Culture Series, Discworld (especially the witches), and also Malcolm Pryce's Welsh Noir books, Simon Armitage's and Stephen Fry's re-workings of the myths.

Following on from your extensive book selection, what would be your Desert Island Discs?

The sadness and viciousness of the four great Pink Floyd albums, The dark side of the moon, Wish you were here, Animals and The Wall, The Who's Tommy, Quadrophenia and Who's Next, Rush's 2112, Permanent

Waves and Moving Pictures, Springsteen's Born to Run and The River, all of which have been with me for years, and all of which have said something to me in good and less good times.

What is your biggest regret?

Not seeing Pink Floyd, The Who or The Clash enough times, and a lot of the internet.

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

Greater social, political and economic equality, with a reversal of global warming. (I know that's more than one wish.)

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

My father's first language was Welsh, and it won't surprise that I'm a classic only child and have the EQ that goes with that.

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

To do more things that we like to do and fewer that we don't.

What is your favourite place and why?

My house, because that's where my family live, and my friends visit.

How would you spend your ideal weekend?

Coniston, living out Swallows and Amazons with a load of friends and small boats.

Church faces financial pinch

The COVID-19 crisis has had widespread impacts. In this article, John Mason, PCC Treasurer, outlines the financial challenge for Bunbury PCC (which covers St Boniface and Calveley Chapel). St Jude's faces similar issues.

Last year the church lost almost £1,000 per month. This was a major worry for the management – the PCC – but the pandemic has made the situation much worse.

What has the impact of the pandemic been?

When the church closed abruptly at the end of March we immediately lost nearly all our income - collections at services, fund-raising events, fees for using the church, gifts in the church box – whilst most of our costs remained. As a result, we began to lose money rapidly – at a rate of £2,000 to £3,000 per month.

What are the running costs?

In a normal year we need income of about £2,000 per week to cover running costs of which over £1,200 are "fixed" – primarily insurance and our contribution to the Diocese (which mainly covers the cost of the parish having a vicar with housing).

Does the church have reserves to fall back on?

Yes, and reserves are for times such as this, but many are "restricted" so can only be spent on the specific purpose for which they were created, e.g. maintaining the churchyard, providing a youth worker, or running the Friday at Tilly's Club to benefit older members of the community. Reserves are also held as investments rather than ready cash so there is the added problem of when/whether to sell investments when their value has dropped. We also need reserves to cover unexpected expenses needed to maintain a medieval Grade 1 listed church where repair costs can be eye-watering. Our policy is to have unrestricted reserves sufficient to cover six months of expenditure. At the current rate of cash burn we are heading towards a breach of that policy by year-end.

Is the church getting any income at the moment?

We are grateful for individuals who are able to give and continue to do so using electronic and other means. There have been some very generous donations made in the last month or two. We are also grateful to local businesses who are still advertising in the Link so that most of the costs of its production are covered and this important source of communication can continue. As the church is beginning to open we are starting to get some very limited fees again, but we are still a long way from having the income that is required.

What are your plans to address this financial position?

We are keeping what expenditure we have under tight control. There is currently no non-essential expenditure,

and we are putting back repairs where this is possible without causing more damage. We are encouraging regular and other givers to use online methods, including through a new "donate" button on the church website. This has led to several donations from far-flung parts of the country being made by individuals who have tuned in to the Sunday online service. We are looking at introducing contactless giving for when we return to church in the hope this will increase giving as well as avoiding the need to handle cash.

Why might someone consider giving now?

We clearly need more income now if the church's work is to continue and the building is to remain in a good state of repair. We wish the church to remain an important hub for the community, to provide support through its pastoral work and to offer activities to both older and younger members in particular. The beautiful church of St Boniface, set on a hill, has been a centre of worship, for celebration and for remembrance and a focus for all parishioners for over 700 years. We want it to continue to play that role.

What about those who cannot afford to give?

We are conscious that many people are struggling financially, especially - but not only - as a result of the pandemic. There are also many other charities suffering at this time and individuals of course will wish to support them – many Christians choose to support secular charities as well as the church. We do not wish or expect people to put themselves into financial hardship, and we are very conscious of the parable of the widow's mite who gave the little she could afford and was much blessed. We are however hoping that there are sufficient who can afford to give a little or a little more than they have been giving since they last reviewed it. In reality an average increase of £4 per week per regular giver – less than the cost of a daily newspaper – would make a huge difference. To have any new regular givers would be wonderful!

How can I help to support the church financially?

If readers wish to respond, please contact me and I can provide details of the church bank details and any forms needed to set up standing orders and make gift aid declarations. Alternatively, as mentioned above, you can use the "donate" button on the church website: stbonifacebunbury.org. My contact details are: John Mason, mob: 0780 858 0261, email: bunburypctreasurer@gmail.com

From our bookshelf

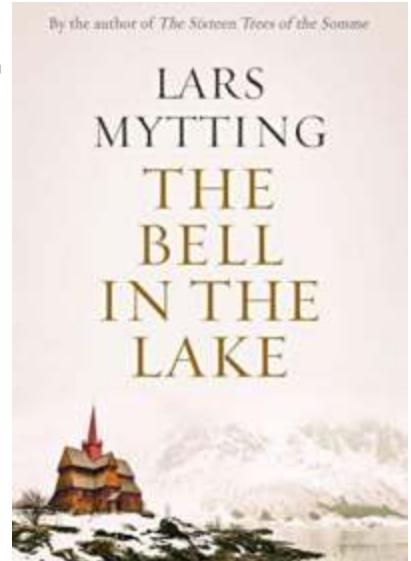
The Bell in the Lake by Lars Mytting

My heart leapt when I saw that there was a new novel from Lars Mytting, the Norwegian author of one of my favourite novels, *The Sixteen Trees of the Somme*. I was even more excited to hear that this new novel, *The Bell in the Lake*, was to be the first in an ambitious historical trilogy. The one theme that runs through all of Mytting's work is his fascination with wood. He has written three non-fiction books on chopping, stacking, drying and using wood in the Scandinavian way and his first fiction work, *Sixteen Trees*, had wood at the heart of the story. *The Bell in the Lake* continues this theme with an amazing exposition on something that I had no real knowledge of, the mediaeval stave churches of Norway.

This first book of the trilogy is set in 1880 and follows a young German architect who is despatched to the frozen wastes of rural Norway to dismantle and transport one of the few remaining stave churches from the site that it had occupied for 600 years. Stave churches were built in Norway from about 1100 until about 1350 and are an astonishing feat of ancient engineering. Constructed totally of wood and without a single nail, they are all held together by joints and pegs. By the late 19th century many of these churches had been lost and some were 'rescued' by being dismantled and moved to city

locations which provides the premise for this novel. At the heart of the story is Astrid Hekne, eldest daughter of one of the local farmers and descendant of the family who donated the distinctive bells that are the pride of the local church. Astrid's relationships with the young pastor who is keen to get rid of his old draughty stave church and use the money to build a modern one and with the German architect who is sent to make that happen, really drive the story forward. Things start slowly but stick with it. Mytting creates a real sense of place, you can feel the cold numbing you and he captures brilliantly the sense of a community closing ranks against outsiders. The characters are well drawn and the ending will surprise but clearly sets the potential for the second part of the trilogy. Let's hope Mr Mytting starts writing that soon.

Paige Turner



Praise God for Jürgen Klopp!

Congratulations to Liverpool FC! It's been a long wait since winning the top-flight title way back in 1990, some 1149 games ago. Over those 30 years LFC have employed no less than nine permanent managers and fielded some 239 players.

Praise God for Jürgen Klopp! But Praise God for Reverend Ben Swift Chambers too!!

It was Chambers, who in 1878 as minister of St Domingo Methodist New Connexion Chapel in Everton, encouraged members of his Bible class to start a cricket club. Almost as an after-thought, it would seem, to keep his players fit over the winter months, he formed St. Domingo's Football Club. Their first match was against St Peter's Church at Stanley Park. However, to

attract players who were not church members they soon became known as Everton Football Club.

A row over money in 1892 led to a split, with Everton F.C. moving to Goodison Park. John Houlding the owner of the club's ground, Anfield then created Liverpool FC.

In other words, EFC and LFC share a common Christian heritage as is typical for many Premier League clubs. For ministers like Revd Ben Chambers football fostered spiritual growth by encouraging certain qualities.

You play for the team and not for yourself. To quote Jürgen "You can't have all the benefits of being part of a team and then behave like a single star. If you want to do that, play darts."

Disciples of Jesus are by definition to be team-players. "Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good."

(1 Corinthians 12:7).

Today it's fitting that Liverpool are in first place in the current FA Fair play table with 122 points. Revd Chambers would be pleased: for him how you played rather than merely winning was key and who you played for was of overwhelming importance.

And who does Jürgen play for? His response: "Jesus Christ is the most important person in history. For me, this is an easy answer."

So congratulations, Jürgen and everyone at Anfield!

A day in the life of...

I didn't expect March 17 2020 to be my last working day at Suttons Tankers' head office in Widnes, but that's how it's turned out. The COVID-19 pandemic has made our business challenge so many of our normal everyday practices, and our non-operational employees all now work from home where possible, like many other businesses.

Suttons Tankers deliver a range of materials in LGV bulk tankers across a variety of sectors including chemicals, gas, fuels, waste and powders.

Delivering life's essentials safely.....

I joined Suttons in 2015 fulfilling a number of roles for them including Operations Director and taking on the role of Commercial Director in the last two years.

During March things started to change very quickly. Initially, we didn't know if Suttons' would be allowed to continue operations as essential workers. Once that was established we wanted to know the situations of our customers and to what extent our services would still be needed.

It became vital to analyse the situation very quickly for our workforce and business.

Suttons had two new customer contracts due to start, 1 April and 1 June. Both of these had to be reviewed as to whether we could safely start the operations amid a pandemic.

Some customers' work increased and new markets emerged e.g. William Grants distillers switched from whisky production to manufacturing industrial alcohols for hand sanitiser, which we were inundated with requests to transport to packers.

... Suttons Tankers' Commercial Director, Roger Parr

INEOS created completely new supply chains in a matter of weeks and generously donated the resultant supplies of hand sanitiser. Some other hauliers in our sectors temporarily ceased trading, meaning we had a number of

customers urgently needing our transport. Some customers experienced partial and some total loss of volume e.g. those using chemicals to manufacture parts for automotive production, cement manufacture, whilst road and air fuels volumes plummeted. Heating oil delivery volumes then soared due to a drop in fuel prices causing people and businesses to fill their tanks. It had become very volatile and difficult to predict.

There have been a number of very difficult days since 17 March. We have had to furlough significant numbers of drivers and staff, knowing the impact this has on families financially. Thankfully many of these have already been able to return to work in the ensuing time. We have had two drivers who have both lost two family members from their households, as



well as many employees having lost individual family members or become seriously ill as a result of this virus.

COVID-19 has made me think more about what is important to us. I've avoided as much as possible thinking about the things we cannot do, and instead focused on what we can influence. The health of our families and those close to us, the responsibility to our employees to secure work for them and ensure their safety. To ensure our business remains stable, as it means so much to all those that depend on it.

We've all experienced our own version of the pandemic, I hope you and your families have enjoyed good health, and that you have been able to meet whatever challenges you have had.

Stay safe.

The evolution of St Boniface church

Part 7 The differing duties of the 'Preacher' and the 'Vicar', the dual incumbents of Bunbury

As noted earlier the duty of 'The Preacher' was simply to preach (and thereby spread the puritan doctrine in Bunbury) while all the other parochial work including officiating at all the church services was undertaken by 'The Vicar'. Both offices were to be held by university men with the Preacher having at least an M.A. degree from an English university. Both incumbents could be dismissed for 'unfitness, for absence without approval (the preacher forty days, the vicar thirty days), or for being detected in, accused, or strongly suspected of incontinency' (an archaic name for adultery!). Perhaps of interest, the annals reveal that no preachers were ever so dismissed, but two later vicars were found guilty of adultery and were duly sacked.

Thomas Aldersey made the first appointments himself c.1593, appointing Christopher Harvey, MA, and John Tomkys as Preacher and Vicar, respectively. Little is known about Vicar Tomkys but the inventory of his will includes 'one nagge, four hens and one cock, furniture bed linen, fire irons, tea, half a years stipend 10 marks' and the most valuable item - his books - £4 6s. 8d.

More is known of Preacher Harvey who was a graduate of Brasenose College, Oxford. A clause in Thomas Aldersey's will, dated 1596, offered to forgive him an outstanding debt on condition that he would remain in his place (as Bunbury preacher) for seven years longer. Even though Harvey was described as 'that learned and godly Master Harvey' he was charged, in 1601, 'with not wearing the surplice'. All Puritans were reluctant to wear

surplices, but they were a requirement for all Church of England clergymen.

Harvey managed to upset Bunbury's local hero, Sir George Beeston, in 1600, by removing the pulpit that had been positioned on the south side of the chancel/nave pillar since 1588, to a new location which was warmer for preaching. Sir George, a strong Protestant, reacted thus: 'My lord, this is an idle excuse; for it was never hard for a zealous preacher ever took cold in the pulpit'.

Sir George Beeston, d.1601

Sir George is the third of Bunbury's famous knights who - as local tradition asserts - lived for over one hundred years and served five monarchs. He is best remembered for his part in the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588 when he assumed command of the Dreadnought. For his bravery he was knighted at sea on 23 May 1588 by Lord Howard of Effingham. This and more of his exploits are described on a tablet above his recumbent effigy located on his monument situated in the sanctuary. This tablet, together with a second one, bear Latin inscriptions very neatly carved in classical styles. Tantalisingly, however, although the dates of his death and that of Lady Alice (his first wife) are given, blank spaces are left for their ages. It seems that Dingley, about 1684, recorded their ages as ninety-nine and eighty years which were later 'adjusted' to one hundred and two and eighty-six years, respectively, by Cheshire's renowned historian, George Ormerod. Using the larger age figure

this leads to the assumption that Sir George was aged eighty-nine, in 1588, during the battle of the Armada. Such a great age seems highly improbable, but by spoiling a good story, a more recent analysis suggests Sir George was some twenty years younger, dying aged eighty-one. Certainly all of his exploits mentioned on his memorial tablet indicate they could have been achieved by a younger man.

A curious feature of his tomb effigy is that his right foot is smaller than his left. The present author suggests that the effigy was found to be too large to fit under the arch so the problem was solved by making his right foot smaller! It is interesting to speculate who gave permission for the erection of Sir George's large monument? It would appear that this permission was given by John Aldersey, d.1648, the great-nephew of Thomas Aldersey, as the Aldersey family had proprietorial rights to the chancel - not the Chester diocese.

1601 was an unfortunate year as the burial register also records some other significant deaths. First on 18 March, Vicar John Tompkins; second, on 2 May, John Tomkis, the late vicar's son; third, on 23 October, Sir George Beeston (above) and on 23 December, Preacher Christopher Hervey. Perhaps they all died of the plague that was to devastate Chester and Nantwich in the early 1600s?

Part 8 will indicate how Puritan beliefs influenced Bunbury parish prior to and during the Civil War.

John Elsworth, Churchwarden 1992–2001



Pat Ellis – Reader Emeritus Feet of clay

There has been a fashion, a craze, this year, seeking to tear down effigies of famous men, benefactors in their time in so many communities worldwide.

And why? Because of their links, personal or historical, with the very real evils of slavery, oppression and persecution.

Perhaps it is time to step back and take another look.

No person ever on earth has been without fault, except for Jesus himself.

And even he had dodgy ancestors.

David, the great King of Israel, was devious, a murderer and an adulterer, yet wrote the most exquisite poetry in the Psalms; and was a direct ancestor of Jesus.

Solomon, known for his wisdom, was a womaniser and overcome by greed.

Earlier, Jacob had tricked his elder brother out of his inheritance, and deviously received his dying father's blessing.

Much later, St. Paul, as Saul, terrorised, persecuted and stoned Christians.

When we examine our own lives, there may be much we are not proud of. Instead of jumping to conclusions and making rash, emotional



judgements, we should look at our "heroes", however fallen, in the context of their life and times, and balance their iniquities with the blessings they have bestowed on so many.

Trying to airbrush all the nastiness out of history will not solve the problems of today.

It is up to each one of us to treat everyone we meet with respect, care and love, so that together we may build a society closer to God's Kingdom.

God loves each one of us and forgives us by grace we don't deserve.

We must show grace and wisdom, too.

" Father, forgive us,

We know not what we do."

Mike Rogers writes...

Keep it simple



Children have a wonderful way of simplifying things that defeats those of who are what the Book of Common Prayer describes as being 'of riper years'.

Take temptation. It was Oscar Wilde who famously said: "*I can resist anything except temptation*" but his words pale into insignificance when compared to the answer I was given when, a few years ago, I innocently asked in a school assembly for a definition of 'Temptation'.

The room went quiet until one lad put his hand up and declared with some confidence:

'Temptation is when we do something wrong but it's not our fault because the devil made us do it!'

Somehow, I kept a straight face!

However, his efforts were nothing compared to one member of a class who were tasked by their teacher to learn Psalm 23.

They were given a month to learn it, but one unfortunate lass, even after a great deal of practice, could barely get past the first line.

On the day that the children were each scheduled to recite the Psalm in front of all the others, our young lady was understandably somewhat nervous.

When it came to her turn, she stood up and proudly said in a clear voice:

"The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want." and that's all I know. And with that, she sat down.

It works for me. How about you?

Our prayers for August

We continue to pray for all who are anxious, remembering especially those who are still shielding for health reasons that they would know God's peace.

We give thanks for the summer holidays and pray for all those who are able to have a break that they would be refreshed and renewed, remembering especially all those who work in our local schools and colleges.

Dear Lord,
be with us through
changing times,
changing seasons,
changing patterns of days.
Give us courage and faith,
and hope for the future,
we pray.
Amen

Sea bass à la Dysart Arms

Each month the Link will ask local cafés and hostelries to give us their favourite recipe. This month features the Dysart Arms

Ingredients

4 fillets sea bass
1 tbsp plain flour
2 tbsp olive oil
150g unsalted butter
200g banana shallots, peeled and finely diced
1 sprig thyme
1 bay leaf
250ml white wine
100ml white wine vinegar
100ml double cream
50 ml lemon juice
1 tbsp chopped fresh chives
1 tbsp chopped fresh chervil



First, make the sauce.

Heat 20g of the butter in a saucepan over a low heat and add the shallots, thyme, bay leaf, 2g of salt and 12 turns of a black pepper mill.

Cook for 2 minutes, until softened.

Add the white wine and white wine vinegar and simmer until reduced by two thirds.

Add the cream and simmer until reduced by half.

Whisk in the remaining butter, then add the lemon juice and check the seasoning.

Remove the thyme sprig and bay leaf, then stir in the fresh herbs. Keep warm

Heat the olive oil in a non-stick frying pan.

Dust the fish with the flour, shaking off any excess.

Season with salt and pepper and add to the hot pan, skin side up.

Cook for 2 minutes, then turn the fish over and cook for a further 2 minutes.

Serve with the sauce, potato anna and some leeks carrots, cavelo nero, samphire or spinach, or a mixture as shown in the photo.

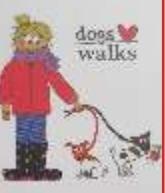
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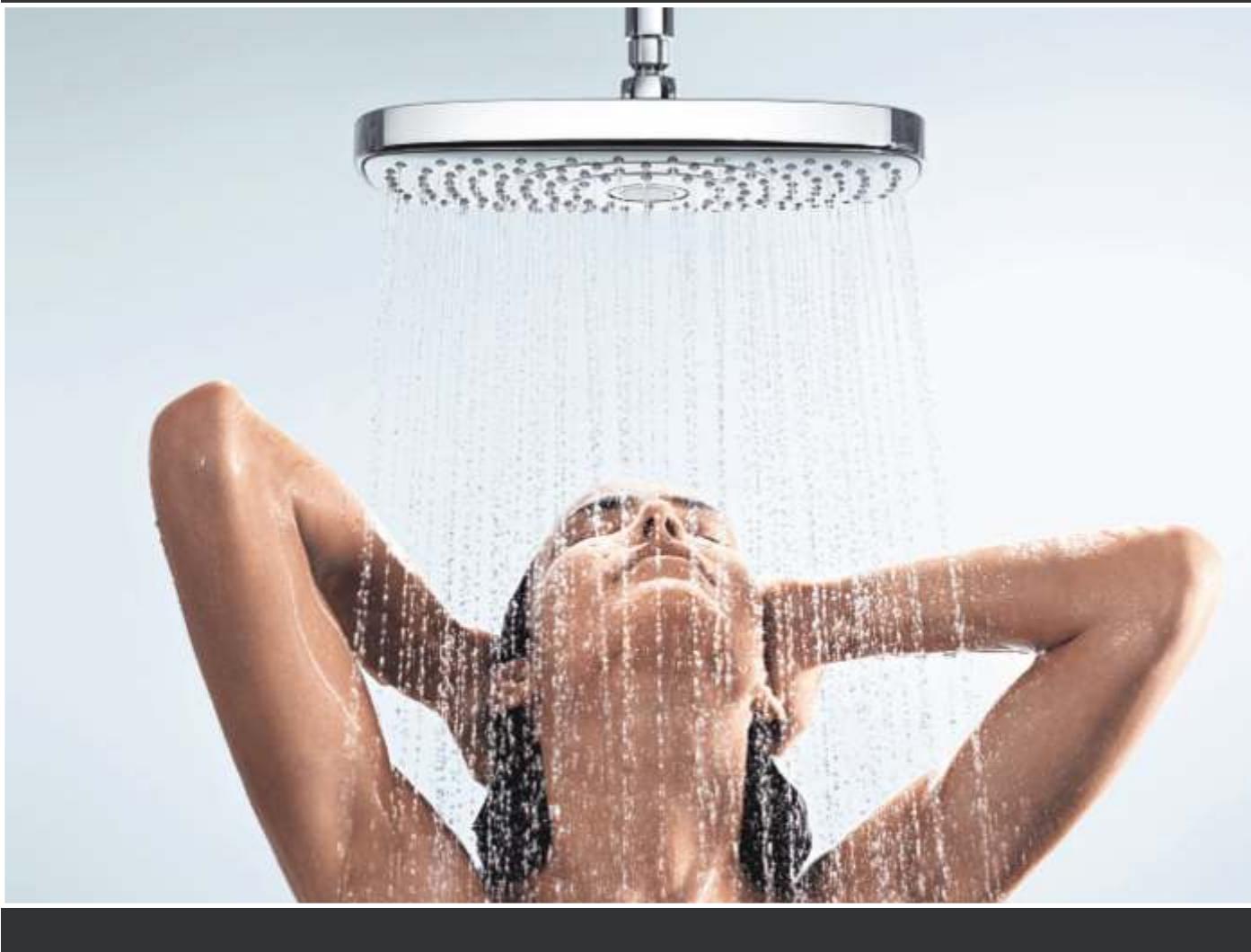
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In such unprecedented times we wish to emphasise the thoughts of the nation in thanking our NHS doctors, nurses & staff, paramedics, all carers in our community and care homes and the long list of keyworkers keeping our country functioning. Our best wishes to everyone, stay safe.



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