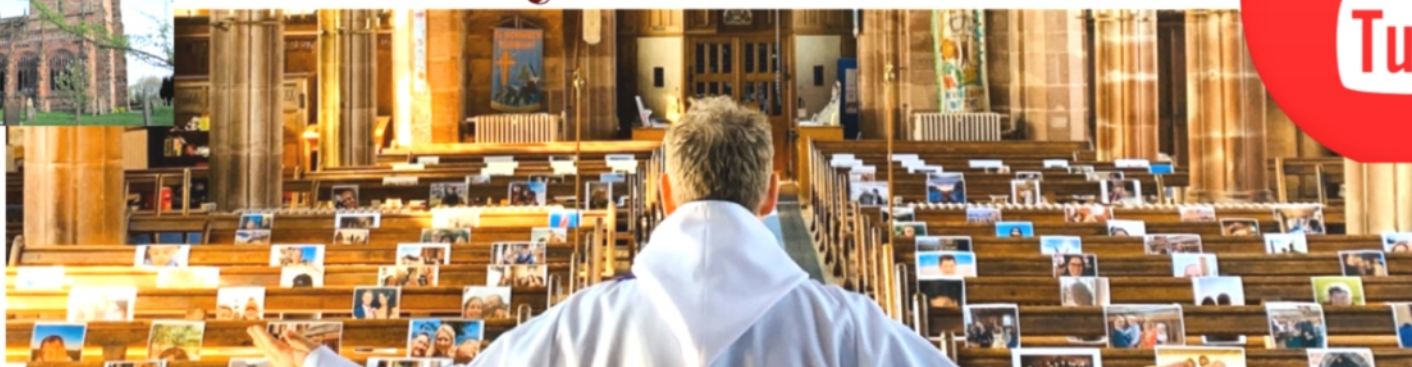




Bunbury Church Online

You
Tube



Join us every Sunday @ 10.30am

May 2020

Many thanks to Lucy Munro for decorating the entrance to the churchyard so beautifully on Easter Sunday, the day after what should have been her daughter Hannah's wedding, now postponed due to COVID-19.



A magazine for the parishes of Bunbury and Tilstone Fearnall

Happy Easter from us all at the Link

This is a time of joy amid distress, hope in the face of grief, new beginnings in spite of much sadness.

Our church buildings remain closed for the foreseeable future, but our worship continues online, every Sunday at 10.30am on our YouTube channel: **Bunbury Church Online**.

Like many charities we are facing a significant financial challenge to our finances due to the COVID-19 crisis. If you are

able to support us, all donations will be gratefully received. Using the Donate button on our website, you can either make a one-off donation or set up a monthly direct debit. Visit www.stbonifacebunbury.org We look forward to our doors opening again but in the meantime if you'd like to keep in touch, subscribe to our

YouTube channel: Bunbury Church Online or join our Facebook page: Bunbury Church.

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

DONATE

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The Link

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

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

Community news

Justin Bird has had to stay at college in Cheltenham during the lockdown and is missing his Bunbury friends whom he would normally visit in his wheelchair. If you would like to send him a photo of yourself with a cheery message he would be delighted to hear from you. Please email your message to parishlinkeditor@gmail.com and it will be sent on.

Ocean Wave – On Monday afternoons there will be a fresh fish van on the Nags Head car park from 1.15–2.15pm.

So many people and businesses have had to adapt at this time.

Mike Dodd

(pictured right) usually has a market stall, but due to the



shutdown, he suddenly had a nursery of plants with no one to buy them. Regular customer Anne James contacted him and he now delivers in Bunbury on a Wednesday. His customers are "growing" by word of mouth. He sells vegetable plants, annuals, perennials etc.

If anyone is interested contact Mike Dodd at cnpcoton@gmail.com. His plants are lovely and you would be supporting a local business. Mike grows the plants himself.

Lizzie Totty (pictured below) is one of Mike's happy customers!



(All photos were taken with the minimum two metres social distancing.)

Christian Aid collections hit by lockdown

Last year £8 million was raised nationally by Christian Aid Week to fight poverty in the poorest parts of the world. Droughts are ever more frequent and more intense due to the climate crisis. Rose (pictured right) and her family, and millions of people in Kenya, are struggling to get enough food and water.

Our gifts could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. People like Rose need every last drop to survive the drought.

Christian Aid will also be working on the ground to



help the world's poorest communities limit the impact of COVID-19. We are asked to pray for them in this vital work, and support them where you can by making an online donation.

There will be no house to house collection this year due to the lockdown, and

the coffee morning has been postponed. Christian Aid is unable to take any donations by post, so is wholly reliant on donations via the website <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week> or by phone: **020 7523 2269**.

A word from the editor

The Parish now has an online Sunday service. The service on Easter Sunday had over 500 views, including this comment on Facebook: "My mum listened all the way from Crete – she loved it and felt part of something very special. Thank you."

<http://stbonifacebunbury.org/>

If you type in the above link it goes straight to the church page and there is a direct link to services, or go to Bunbury Church Online on YouTube

The Bunbury community "Be A Good Neighbour" group is working really well. I still see elderly people shopping, although there are many willing volunteers to help. If you are elderly, living with an elderly relative, or have someone in your family who is vulnerable or you are self-isolating, please don't be embarrassed to use us. The phone number is 07823 490425 or email bunburycommunity@gmail.com. It is really important.

Give us 2 minutes this month is from Lesley Arrowsmith who is one of the coordinators of the "Be a Good Neighbour" scheme. Mark Ireland Jones has split Bunbury into areas. The names of those who ring or email are forwarded to a coordinator who approaches a volunteer. Puzzles and DVDs can be ordered too.



Congratulations to **John Elsworth** (pictured left), who turned 90 on 23 April. John is a very knowledgeable amateur historian who is writing articles on St Boniface for us and was churchwarden at St Boniface

from 1992 until 2001.

Thank you to **Hester Wade** who has delivered the Link along Whitchurch Road for many years.



With great sadness **Margaret Craughwell**, widow of Gerard Craughwell, passed away on 2 March at Beeston View after a long battle with Alzheimer's. She was laid to rest with her beloved husband in Bunbury

churchyard on 19 March. She is greatly missed by Moira and family especially her Great grand daughter Lily, Rest in peace.



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



TIM HAYWARD

Your Vicar

The following three statistics caught my eye this week regarding COVID-19:

- 100 doctors in Italy have now died.
- The first 10 doctors in the UK who have died from the virus were immigrants.
- 10 London bus drivers have died from the coronavirus along with 5 other transport workers.

What holds these disparate people together is a strong sense of duty. Certainly medics know the risks involved. Sadly Abdul Chowdhury, the latest doctor to die, warned the Prime Minister directly to provide NHS workers with adequate PPE. Even so they still show up in their thousands, many now out of retirement.

But the vulnerability of bus drivers, certainly in London, was not given much media attention until they started to die. Similarly for many key workers: cleaners, checkout staff, delivery drivers. Thankfully, we are beginning to appreciate their quiet heroism.

The pressure to take a 'sickie' for so many people must be intense. It just takes one cough in the household

Our quiet heroes

to allow an exit pass. The pressure on care home staff must be intense given that many do not have the protection they need.

And yet this morning, many in our community are just turning up, not just because it is their job but because it is their duty. They are needed. In doing so, whether they realise it or not, they are walking the way of the cross.

The cross is at the very heart of Jesus' ministry and our Easter faith. Jesus' life was not wrestled from him, he gave it, freely. On entering Jerusalem to fulfil his destiny he explains to his status-seeking disciples, "For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45).

And so in these difficult days, we see something of God's love and purpose in the quiet resolve of so many people just turning up for work. They bear witness to the God who is as meshed in the sadnesses and anxieties of life far more than we could ever imagine. These quiet heroes are the beating heart of our community. May we be forever grateful.

With the support of our advertisers, we hope to continue to publish the Link on its regular schedule, delivering it to the Co-op for collection.

The copy deadline for the June issue is Friday 15 May. The magazine should be in the Co-op on Saturday 30 May. Notices to bunburyparishoffice@gmail.com

The sun is shining, friends

Editor Elaine Crotty follows the blog of a family friend, who notes her thoughts since the start of the pandemic. May it lift your spirits!

The sun has been shining, and although it seems that everything else has been cancelled, spring has not. I think, in part because of this, we have been feeling more positive the past few days, so I thought I'd share the things I have enjoyed and feel grateful for. Of course, this comes with a great dollop of context and appreciation for the extremities and horror taking place outside of our bubble.

Pressure washers are amazing

The paddling pool looks like it is cultivating its own eco-system. So, I decided to give it a good once over with the pressure washer, having never used one. I bought it for my husband on Black Friday last year and have never had the 'today is gonna be the day I crack on with the pressure washer' urge. Once I actually started using it, however, I could not stop myself; I became pressure washer power hungry. It's like using a helicopter-powered hose or a massive, therapeutic, garden face steam. I went to town on the patio, garden seating, even washing the bricks on the wall in some sort of crazed trance. My husband's expression was somewhere between amusement and horror.

Nature is awesome

This is my favourite time of year. Our magnolia tree has started to flower and it is a gentle reminder that even during dark times there is beauty all around. The leaves on the trees are starting to grow and turn green. Flowers and blossom are developing all around us. I sit on our bench cross-legged every morning after my daily mile with a hot cup of coffee, the sun on my face, the sound of birds all around. The reduced traffic means I have no need for a mindfulness soundtrack to zone out: I have the sound of birdsong and people going about their day. Perfection, until about 11:30am when everyone cracks out the lawn mowers and the power tools. But even that is strangely comforting, the hive of activity and productivity, all around. Which brings me on to...

Doing stuff

I am lucky to have taken some leave this week, so we have had precious time together at home during glorious weather. We have baked cakes and bread, sunbathed, built new garden furniture, cleaned, played football, gone on walks, read books and magazines, had water fights, watched films and documentaries, played imagination games, taken long baths and pressure washed 80% of the outside space and our souls. I cannot remember the last time we had this length of uninterrupted time together at home. We have loved the time together – the girls told me today that I must visit the Queen's lake with them. This was obviously just the paddling pool into which they had sprinkled flower petals, yet they looked at it as though it was priceless. They are so happy just doing stuff together. While it is not the Easter break we had planned, it is one we will never forget.

Saying yes

Before all this happened, time was a precious commodity to be allocated sparingly because of work. Now, we are doing everything slowly. Cuddles in bed when we wake up? Sure. Have 15 minutes with a coffee on the patio before breakfast? Why not. Time for both of us to exercise and then shower, whilst maintaining The Chuckle Brothers happiness? Of course! Because we are not having to rush around, I am saying 'Yes' more and I am shouting "Please can you just put your shoes on, we've got to go!" a lot less. I am relaxing in to a slower pace. We are all happier than we have been in a long time, despite the challenges and uncertainty. And because of those uncertainties, we have time in abundance; we can always make more money, but we cannot make more time.

All our yesterdays



Why Look Up? - Calveley Chapel

"I lift my eyes to the hills - from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth"
Psalm 121

This advertisement published in 1808 is taken from a job vacancy for a Master of Ceremonies at the Bunbury Wakes:

"Applicant should have a complete knowledge of pony and donkey racing, bag cock and peg racing, archery, single-stick, quoits, cricket, football, cocking, wrestling, bull and badger baiting, dog-fighting, goose riding, bumble-puppy etc. In addition to the above qualifications he must be competent to decide in dipping, mumbling, jawing, grinning, whistling, jumping, jingling, skinning, smoking, scaling, knotting, bobbing bowling, throwing, dancing, snuff-taking, singing, pudding eating etc "

Would there be any takers today, we wonder?

A day in the life of...

... dentist, Colin Stanyer

I leave home at 7.15am for the practice in Alsager and, after negotiating the pot hole slalom down Long Lane, catch up with the news summary before "radio silence" to get my mind in tune with the day ahead. Having looked at my day list the evening before, I roughly know what the day has in store for me, but I can guarantee that it will be a busy day. My first patient is at 8.00am and, with hopefully a 30 minute lunch, I work through until 5.00pm.

Dentistry is mentally challenging; my last patient of the day gets exactly the same level of care and expertise as the first. There is no hiding place if you don't quite feel at your best. That said it is a rewarding and stimulating profession and I have thoroughly enjoyed my 38 years as a general dental practitioner, mainly working for the NHS. Dental visits were once free at the point of contact; in my opinion, the current dental NHS fee scale is too high and may discourage regular attendance for many.

The day is a mix of prearranged appointments and emergencies that arise. We leave spaces in the morning and afternoon for such cases but some days you can be inundated! We never turn patients away who are in pain as, if you've ever had the misfortune to have dental pain, you will understand the urgency to be seen and get remedial treatment. That is where we can come unstuck and waiting times start to increase for our prearranged patients. It can be very stressful for everyone but hopefully through excellent communication and understanding we get there.

Dentistry has made great advances during my clinical years, although still only 52% of the adult population and 58% of the child population regularly see a dentist. The introduction of fluoride to water supplies at a level of one part per million has also helped to decrease the caries rate of children in those

fluoridated areas by up to 50%. Not everyone agrees with its presence in our water – and sugar intake is also a major factor – but if you have ever been present when an eight year old child recovers from a general anaesthetic having had several teeth removed, it makes you think.

Thankfully the general population, as well as living longer, is retaining their teeth longer too. In 1968 37% of the adult population had no teeth (edentulous). The level is currently approximately 8% which is very encouraging but poses its own problems. Many of our elderly population find themselves in care homes and may find communication difficult for all sorts of reasons. They may have a mouth full of complex dentistry that they have meticulously maintained but now find it difficult. I do worry about their daily dental maintenance and their ability to communicate. Dental pain may befall them and they may suffer due to the inability to alert care staff of their plight.

A dental visit is not just about teeth: it is a holistic assessment noting your state of health, referring you in the right direction if we see need. We also examine the soft tissues of the mouth and look for anything that shouldn't be there. Unfortunately, there is a rise in the incidence of oral cancer, and if picked up early, treatment can be very successful.

Finally, the day is done and my fabulous dental team can go home and get ready for the same again tomorrow. Many of our staff have worked at the practice for over 20 years.



Well that would have been a normal 'day in the life of', but following a communication from the Chief Dental Officer for England on 25 March, we were no longer allowed to treat patients due to the increasing risk from COVID-19 infection. We were instructed to triage patients over the telephone; no face-to-face consultations were permitted. Patients suffering dental trauma, persistent bleeding from a previous extraction, facial swelling affecting breathing or severe dental pain not controlled by analgesia, were to be referred to specialist units. These dental hubs only provide urgent dental care, or again refer to hospital as required. This, although necessary, came as a great shock, as we have always cared greatly for our patients.

I'm sure that you will agree that we are all facing an uncertain future although we will pull through in the end. I feel sure that working practices will change.

I consider myself to have been very fortunate in my life and still sometimes pinch myself looking back at a truly privileged career.

Give us 2 minutes

Lesley Arrowsmith moved to Bunbury in 1995 with Mike and her two children, Helen (9) and Chris (7). She is originally from Bradford but moved to Chester in 1979 after university to work as a librarian for Wirral, then Cheshire County Council. Mike and she married in 1997 and had a wedding party on their drive!

The family took several camping trips with Mike's two children. Fun and chaos reigned.

Lesley has worked in public service for all of her working life and finds it very rewarding.

Following a change of direction, she finished her career by managing the Lifelong Learning team for Cheshire East Council from 2009-2013, from where she took early retirement to join Mike in having the time of their lives! They bought a campervan and have never looked back.

If you had a motto what would it be?

Learn by making your own mistakes- let others do the same

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

Jane Austen, John Lennon and David Cameron (so John and I could give the latter a piece of our minds)

What would you call your autobiography?

The pocket rocket

What was your first job?

Fox's Biscuits in Batley, West Yorkshire, as an operative. Hated the conveyor belt and finally glad I had decided to go to University (1975).

What would you change about Bunbury if you could?

During this health crisis the community in Bunbury has rallied round to support everyone who needs it. There can't be many rural communities like ours and in such beautiful surroundings. I've actually met my neighbours for the first time in some cases! I volunteer with Walking for Health and would like some of our local farmers and landowners to let the council replace stiles with kissing gates to facilitate access for our walkers.



*Lesley
Arrowsmith*

What is the best book you have read to date?

Pride and Prejudice - you can read it over and over. That's the definition of a classic.

What is your biggest regret?

In 1996 we set up Bunbury Running Ladies. We ran every Monday evening for over 10 years and we helped so many women get started with running.

A back condition put paid to my running days but walking with the Bunbury Mountaineers and cycling has taken its place.

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

My daughter Helen married Ollie on February 29th 2020, just three weeks before lock down. I would like the happiness that was around on that day to continue for everyone - that's a big ask, but the love bubble we all felt that day was wonderful.

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

I am severely lacking in art and craft skills but, following retirement, I took up photography and I absolutely love it. Of course I'm not talented at this either but I keep trying.

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

Mike and I should have been in Ghana now, with Helen and her new husband Ollie, to celebrate their recent wedding with the Ghanaian side of the family and then on to Namibia but we have rebooked for April 2021. Fingers crossed.

What is your favourite place and why?

There are two: The Lake District. I fell in love with the area and mountain walking in 1980, and the Yorkshire Dales. You can take the girl out of Yorkshire but not Yorkshire out of the girl.

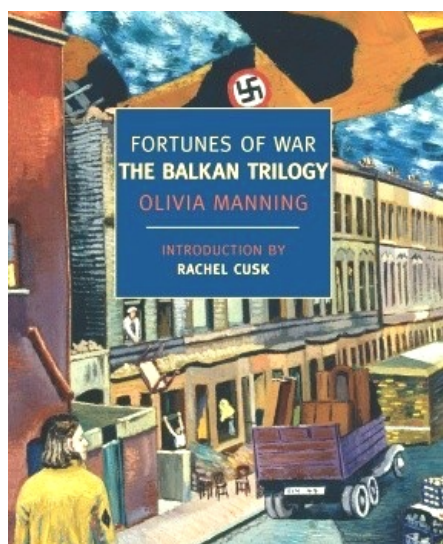
How would you spend your ideal weekend?

With my husband Mike in the Lakes in our camper van, completing some more Wainwrights... 80 to go out of 214. The sun must be shining and I will have a couple of hours with my tripod down by the lake. Oh and a pint at the pub on site, pre BBQ at the van.

From the bookshelf of Margi Nalia

With the Covid-19 lockdown stretching into an unknown future, what better than a 1600–page saga to really lose yourself in a different world.

Fortunes of War (The Balkan Trilogy & The Levant Trilogy) by Olivia Manning



The Balkan Trilogy, opens in 1939 and follows the fortunes of Guy and Harriet Pringle's marriage as they flee from Bucharest to Athens to Alexandria ahead of the Nazis. The Great Fortune, sees the Pringles journeying through Poland to Romania and their meeting with Prince Yakimov, one of many different foreign characters caught up in the turmoil of war. Guy, a lecturer at the university, throws himself into Bucharest life embracing those around him. Harriet finds herself isolated and lonely in her new surroundings, cut off from the outside world. In The Spoilt City it is 1940, and The Pringles and their friends in the English colony in Bucharest find their position growing ever more precarious. Their easy life among Bucharest's café society is gradually eroded as rumours become reality, and the Germans march in. In Friends and Heroes, Harriet is newly arrived in

Athens. Having fled Nazi-occupied Rumania, she anxiously awaits news of Guy, trapped in Bucharest. When Greece is invaded by the Italians, Guy, as ever, is engrossed in his work and the problems of others, and when Harriet is diverted by a handsome young officer, their marriage seems doomed. With Greece defeated and as Europe disintegrates around them, Guy and Harriet make their way to Cairo.

The Levant Trilogy, in The Danger Tree, the Pringles now settled in Cairo are again under threat as Rommel's Afrika Corps drives remorselessly east from Libya. There are constant rumours of the planned evacuation of Cairo and the city seems to have become the clearing house of Eastern Europe. As always, Harriet sees Guy give his attentions to his students, his friends and his acquaintances, but never to her. Manning introduces Simon Boulderstone, a gauche young officer, through whose eyes we witness the El Alamein campaign. She evokes not just the fears of civilians on the periphery of fighting but also the horror of combat itself. In The Battle Lost and Won the action centres around the life of the ex-pats in Cairo and the casual relationships that develop between an array of fascinating characters. As Harriet observes "The climate changed people: it preserved ancient remains, but it disrupted the living. She had seen common-place English couples who, at home, would have tolerated

each other for a lifetime, here turning into self-dramatizing figures of tragedy, bored, lax, unmoral, complaining and, in the end, abandoning the partner in hand for another who was neither better nor worse than the first." The Sum of Things draws the saga to a close with some deft plot twists and the

"Nobody has written better about World War II – the feel of fighting it and its dislocating effects on ordinary, undistinguished lives." (New York Times)

reappearance of characters we already know and maybe love. The war has moved well beyond Cairo and the city now appears a semi-abandoned backwater. Guy believes Harriet is dead and much of the novel focuses on her attempts to survive on her own.

Part historical war novel, part travelogue, and part soap opera, Fortunes of War offers something for everyone. Manning's depiction of people living and working under the most extraordinary conditions makes these books a compelling read. Whether you read one book or all six you are sure to find something to delight, distract or discuss. That's all you can ask for from a book during these uncertain times.

Sky notes for May

Brilliant Venus starts the month as an Evening Star, shining all evening and setting after midnight. Through a telescope or good binoculars (these must be held steady - try propping yourself against the edge of a building or a tree, or resting your elbows on the roof of a car), you can make out its crescent phase, rather like a tiny crescent Moon. But Venus quickly swings towards the Sun and disappears by the end of May. On May 24, as it grows dark, do enjoy the lovely sight of a narrow crescent Moon with glorious Venus to its right.

The giants of the Solar System, Jupiter and Saturn, rise together around 1 am. On the mornings of May 12 and 13, these planets are near the Moon. Jupiter is the brighter of the two.

Exactly one hundred years ago, a meeting of the National Academy of Sciences took place in Washington DC. Two astronomers presented papers that evening on a theme of 'The distance scale of the universe'. It would later be known as 'The Great Debate', for they held very different views on our universe. Harlow Shapley, the first to speak, felt we lived in the suburbs of an enormous galaxy, the Milky Way, and that the 'spiral nebulae' existed within it. Countering this view was Heber Curtis, who maintained that the true Milky Way Galaxy was very much smaller than Shapley's and that the spiral nebulae were 'island universes' at great distance from our system. Curtis turned out to be correct: our own Milky Way galaxy is but one of many millions of galaxies in the universe. The Milky Way is actually part of a "supercluster" of galaxies. Many of these lie in the constellation of Virgo, but these galaxies are very faint and require a telescope to be seen. Nevertheless, it's worth spotting Virgo's brightest star, Spica, which is low in the south during May evenings. First of all,



finding the Big Dipper, also known as the Plough, high overhead. Follow the curve of the handle of the Dipper to the bright star Arcturus. Arcturus is in the constellation of Boötes, the Herdsman, which to me looks something like a kite (see the diagram). Having located Arcturus, follow the curve the same distance again to Spica. It's slightly fainter than Arcturus. The Virgo supercluster galaxies are located above Spica.

Through a telescope, some galaxies have a beautiful spiral structure like the one I took a picture of from Bunbury shown here. Our Milky Way galaxy would look something like this if we were able to view it from a great distance.

Clear skies!

Bunbury Stargazer

Bunbury school news

It was with a heavy heart that Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary school closed its doors to the majority of pupils on Friday 20th March. Saying a temporary and unexpected goodbye to our pupils was hard hitting for the staff at school. Bunbury teachers love what we do. Even when our workload seems impossible, our resources short and our weekends non-existent I had heard staff saying; 'I had so much more planned for my class for the rest of the school year.' 'I thought I had more time' 'I am heartbroken.'

Despite the sadness however, Bunbury school re-organised how the school ran within 72 hours and by the morning of Monday 23rd March was up and running with an 8am-6pm provision 5 days a week for the children of our key workers. This provision will run right through March, April and even May

if needed including school holidays. Rotas, registers, daily checklists, new emails for communication and safeguarding documentation were all set up over a period of days so that the school could open to provide this new provision. The main aim was to provide a safe, calm and as happy place as we could for those children whose parents were critical workers during the pandemic. Throughout the closure the children attending school will be completing art, gardening, PE and outdoor learning activities during the day which will be run by the duty staff.

A huge personal thank you needs to be said to all the staff of the school who without their dedication, professionalism and commitment towards the welfare of our children of Bunbury none of this would be possible.

Lights, camera, action!



For a moment it felt like Home Fires was back in the village. There was a buzz and excitement within the vicarage garden. Neighbours could hear the action, or should I say tension, building. It was only my third time in front of the camera,

(I've never been particularly photogenic). The first time, I felt I wanted to say something to reassure the parish that although the church doors may be closing, our hearts and prayers would remain open, so I recorded a short message on my phone and posted it on Facebook (my first ever post, scary stuff!). I was totally blown away by the response and felt encouraged to give it another go. So I posted a second message, on the days the clocks go forward, and I reflected on how it may feel like time has stood still, but summer will come, there will be an end to this lockdown. I filmed it in front of a small grandfather 'Bunbury clock' beautifully and lovingly restored by Ted Fowles, and again, was delighted that it brought comfort and offered hope to those who watched it. So here I am, on Palm Sunday, trying to be creative, sat on the bonnet of my Land Rover, reflecting on the power of love. Traditionally, we'd be processing to church with Murphy the donkey, but sadly this year, no procession and no donkey, just horsepower instead, as Beth revs the engine and off we go for a drive around the garden, whilst I try and say something vaguely coherent, at the same time holding a selfie stick and camera, bumping up and down on the bonnet of the Land Rover. Let's just say there could be a reel of bloopers, as it must have taken us at least four or five takes. For those of you who have driven an old

vehicle with the turning circle of a bus, it's not the most agile of drives whilst trying to avoid a garden with a handful of cherry trees. For the observant amongst you, even on the final cut, which made it to Facebook, you'll notice towards the end, Beth has to reverse to stop me hitting the tree!

It will be the 10th anniversary of my ordination vows this summer, and if you'd have told me all those years ago when I was training to be a vicar that in the future I'd have to minister during the time of a global pandemic, when all services (except funerals) would be suspended and I couldn't do most of the things that I take for granted, I would never have believed you. But it's amazing how humans are able to adapt, and with a simple faith in God's love and care, we need not be overcome by fear.

I've often observed that those who are mourning the loss of a loved one speak of the time soon after their death, when they feel most alive, most creative. They find the courage to try new things, pick up old passions that got left behind along the way, or discover new interests. For many of us, this time is like a bereavement – we are having to acknowledge the loss of many of the routines that filled our days. I pray you will not be overcome or overwhelmed by it all, but that you will discover new gifts and new things about yourself and your loved ones.

I'm under no illusions – I'm no Kenneth Branagh – and I look forward to getting back to the day job! But for now, I'm going to turn my hand at ministering online and I'd love you to join me.

Visit our YouTube channel: Bunbury Church Online or our Facebook page: Bunbury Church to find out more.

I'm off now to do hair and make-up!



Message from St Luke's



Dear Elaine and all at St Boniface:

This is just a message of support from everyone at the Hospice: we are very sorry that your anniversary celebrations are on hold at the moment as 700 years is definitely something to party about. These are very challenging times for everyone and I am sure that the wonderful community of Bunbury and in particular

your church community will be pulling together. We look forward to working with you in the future when we can all celebrate again.

The offices at the Hospice are closed, but we are all still caring for patients on our Incare Unit and office staff are working from home. If we can do anything to support someone in the village do get in touch, we do have a 24 hour helpline where a qualified nurse or doctor can answer any palliative care queries from

patients or carers (01606 555489) if anyone in your community is caring for someone at home with a life-limiting illness.

We look forward to working with you all again when we get to the other side of Covid 19.

Wishing everyone in Bunbury all good wishes and stay safe and healthy

Mandy Shaw

Community Partnerships Fundraiser

mandy.shaw@slhospice.co.uk |

www.slhospice.co.uk | T: 01606 555811 |

The evolution of St Boniface church

Phase 4. Sir Hugh Calveley, his College and church reordering in the 'perpendicular' style

Sir Hugh Calveley, c.1320-94, a soldier and adventurer of international renown, is the first of three medieval knights that have played significant roles in the evolution of Bunbury church. While at sea, in 1380, Sir Hugh, together with seven sailors survived being shipwrecked and 'he now determined to sanctify the end of his days by an act of piety.' To achieve this objective, Sir Hugh purchased, in 1385, the rights to the tithes and patronage, etc. from the Bunbury and St. Pierre families to establish a Chantry college, authorised by letters patent, in 1386. It is important to note that this college was not a scholastic institution but 'an organised body of persons with shared functions and privileges'. Thus Bunbury church had dual-functions - as a parochial church and as a college.

The college consisted of 'seven chaplains, that of one master (i.e. magister artibus, a master of arts) and six other chaplains, in the church of Bunbury in the county of Chester, for prayers and the celebration of mass for our (the king's) own health and for the same Hugh's while we are alive, and for our souls when we shall have died, etc.' In medieval times one purpose of celebrating mass was to reduce the time spent by the souls of the dead spent in purgatory which was considered (and still is with some faiths) a very important stage after earthly death for souls to be expiated from their sins prior to entry into heaven. Purgatory, with this expiating concept, was held to be a very important aspect in the lives and deaths by all social classes.

It seems reasonable to assume that the college's celebration of mass was centred on the chancel which was considered too small for purpose. Accordingly, Sir Hugh's lengthened the chancel eastwards by one bay which necessitated rebuilding of the ornate east window.

The join between the older and newer chancel bays can be discerned on the south side masonry, but probably due to the addition of the Treasury on the north side the join between old and new masonry cannot be seen. Care was taken to build a new decorated window on the south side identical to those in the older chancel bays. On the north side the wall was left plain to allow for a lean-to roof on the Treasury. Possibly or probably a supplementary intention of Sir Hugh's was to provide space for his own proposed memorial. This large vaulted memorial was duly provided, but it is unknown if Sir Hugh was ever buried there, even though the date of his death, 23 April 1394, is known. The memorial is surrounded by metal railings, possibly for protection but also used as a 'hearse', as revealed fairly recently. Other consequences of the chancel extension were the relocations of both the piscina and sedilia to the new sanctuary. Sir Hugh also initiated the heightening of the aisles and nave.

Architectural considerations indicate the existing south aisle wall was heightened with the addition of seven, four light windows plus a smaller one over the southern porch in the newer, fashionable perpendicular style. Somewhat later, and probably after Sir Hugh's death, the north aisle wall was rebuilt from ground level with eight four light windows even wider than those on the south side. Thus the north aisle windows are of maximum practical width, with the wall supported by massive buttresses. To support the new loftier roof the nave arcades,



originally sprung at ten feet, were raised to fifteen feet six inches and the existing hexagonal-sectioned columns were replaced with those of a more decorative design. It appears the existing decorated arches were re-used with the result that the nave is a mixture of both decorated and perpendicular styles. No more access doors were built but the roof of the porch was raised. Thus the dark nave was made light and airy and remains to the present day, albeit with a later added windowed clerestory.

A contemporaneous addition was the treasury now used as the vicar's vestry, and remains the secure part of the church used to store the church valuables. Formerly, however, it was used as a chapel, as shown by the remains one half of a piscina on the south wall. Clearly at some unknown date the protruding half of the piscina was hacked off to accommodate some close fitting furniture. A later addition, in 1728, was a fireplace but this, too, was later removed and replaced with a window.

The plan of Sir Hugh's reordered church remains to the present day, with one addition, in 1527, when the second of Bunbury's medieval knights, Sir Ralph Egerton, built a second chantry chapel.

To be continued.

John Elsworth, Churchwarden 1992-2001



Pat Ellis – Reader Emeritus

Walled in



As I write, we are in "lockdown", unable to go shopping, and it has made us realise how difficult it is to give up our independence and rely on the goodwill of our very kind and generous family and friends.

At the time of the Black Death in the 14th century, Julian of Norwich was walled in, too.

She had chosen to be an anchoress, living alone in her cell, sealed in for life, it is said, with her cat for company. She received food through a window, made clothes for the poor, and offered prayers and advice to her visitors. She had many visions and wrote "The Revelations of Divine Love."

She had made her anchor- hold in God, holding strong and steady amidst the tides

of panic and blame which shifted around her.

*Show me, O anchoress,
your anchor - hold
Deep in the love of God,
and hold me fast.
Show me again in whose
hands we are held,
Speak to me from your
window in the past,
Tell me again the tale of
Love's compassion
For all of us who fall into
the mire.*

*How he is wounded with
us, how his passion
Quickens the love that
haunted our desire.
Show me again the
wonder of at- one - ment
Of Christ - in -us distinct
and yet the same,
Who makes, and loves,
and keeps us in each
moment,
And looks on us with pity,
not with blame.*

*Keep telling me, for all
my faith may waver,
Love is his meaning, only
love, forever.*

Malcolm Guite, Sonnet
to Julian of Norwich

Mike Rogers writes...

May



For me, one of the (many) bad things about using a computer to do all my writing is that I have lost what little ability I ever had to spell. With the in-built and unerring accuracy of my spell-checker putting a red line underneath anything my inexpert fingers happen to put on the screen I happily peck away at whatever it is I am trying to do.

But it all comes tumbling down on me when I try and write anything in my own fair hand. Even the spelling of some basic words eludes me, and I yearn for the comfort of my spell-checker. Without it, I am forced back to the dictionary.

Recently, in the course of my browsing, I fell upon the word 'may' which as a noun (and with an initial capital) is of course the fifth month of the year. But if it is used in a figurative sense, it is also (according to my dictionary) the 'youthful prime'.

And that set me thinking. This month we will be celebrating both Ascension Day (May 21st) and Pentecost (May 31st) albeit somewhat differently

because of the COVID-19 constraints.

So perhaps 'may' is a good word to consider as we reflect on what is effectively the birth of the Christian Church namely the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Having first been devastated by the events of Good Friday then amazed by the Resurrection before being thrown into turmoil again on Ascension Day, it was the amazing outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost that inspired the disciples to throw off their fears and face the world with renewed energy and courage. It is therefore an event well worth celebrating.

So, as we approach Pentecost at the end of this month, how might we as individuals react to it? Are we ready to embrace the fervour and the enthusiasm and be inspired anew - in other words, to do so 'with youthful prime'? Or are we content to plod along in the same old groove that we have been in before?

Only you know the answer to that!

Our prayers for May

We pray for the families and friends of
**Bernice Pritchard,
John Barton, Joan
Hopley, Joan Brady,
and Olwen Williams.**

Loving Father,
as we continue in a time of uncertainty
the Easter story reminds us
that Christ brings love, and
light, and hope.
In Him we trust. Amen

Life is tougher for those least able to manage

"When the children are at home you're feeding them more than when they would be at school having a free school meal."

"It's a really bad situation that people have to decide whether they can feed themselves, feed their children or put the heating on. It's a case of having to budget or having to go without."

These comments come from real-life users of foodbanks.

And they were made before the current restrictions came in. Life has become much harder now for so many people, not just in the loss of personal contact resulting from lock-down, but also in the very basic means of life. With so many people not working, and children off school, there are more mouths to feed at a time when income is perhaps lower than it's ever been. People who have worked all their lives are now raiding savings (if they have any) which won't last forever.

Government help is available, but is not always quick to access.

Foodbanks have never been needed more

At a time when people who usually would have given a couple of tins can no longer do so - due to reduced income, shortages in shops, or lock-down - the foodbanks are asking us who can make food donations to do so now. Bunbury has

a great record of helping our local foodbank week in, week out, so please do give now if you can. The boxes for food donations are in the porch of the Village Hall, and are emptied regularly as we take the food to the foodbank. Thank you so much for your support.



New drop off point for Foodbank

As the church is now closed until further notice the **new drop off point** for any donations to the Nantwich Foodbank is in the **Village Hall porch**. Any donations at this difficult time would be gratefully received.

The foodbank is particularly short of:
Long life fruit juice, custard/or rice pudding, cereals, tinned fruit and vegetables, washing powder and washing up liquid.

Many thanks for your continuing support and to Alex Sanders for coordinating.

A simple three-ingredient recipe for May



Ingredients

Serves four

4 hake fillets, each 150g
Finely grated rind and juice of 1 unwaxed lemon
1.5ml / 1 tbsp crushed chilli flakes
30ml / 2 tbsp olive oil
salt and ground black pepper

Grilled hake with lemon and chilli

To celebrate the arrival of the fresh fish van on Mondays in Bunbury, you can't beat a simple supper which is easy to prepare and healthy. If hake isn't to your liking, you can use any fairly firm, thick white fish fillet. Serve with boiled new potatoes and a vegetable of your choice.

1. Preheat the grill to high. Brush the hake fillets all over with olive oil and place them skin side up on a baking sheet
2. Grill the fish for 4–5 minutes, until the skin is crispy, then carefully turn them over using a metal spatula.
3. Sprinkle the fillets with the lemon rind and chilli flakes and season with salt and ground black pepper.
4. Grill them for a further 2–3 minutes, or until the hake is cooked through. Test using the point of a sharp knife – the flesh should flake.
5. Squeeze over the lemon juice just before serving.

Recipe courtesy of the three ingredient cookbook, Jenny White, Hermes House, 2004

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Try to keep calm, carry on and stay safe!

A message from Bunbury Care Agency

We are all greatly concerned about the impact Coronavirus is having on our lives and livelihoods. Speaking to my 96-year-old aunt recently I asked her if it was like this in the war? She said, "Not really because we were not so isolated; we were able to look after each other face to face". Well, we may not be able to get together like this, but due to the wonders of modern technology we are together and, boy oh boy, what a difference that is making!

The Bunbury Care Agency is doing everything we can to protect our elderly and vulnerable clients. I take my hat off to all my dedicated carers, for their commitment and hygiene diligence as they continue to provide our clients, some of whom live in Bunbury and in the nearby villages. Others are further afield and have live in carers who still manage to be there at the appointed time ensuring that all their needs are catered for.

Self-employed carers do not appear to get the same recognition as the other key services, but I just want everyone to know how proud and grateful I am to all of them.

When my mother, Leila Potter started this agency 52 years ago, she said

"Everybody needs somebody"

Now, everybody needs everybody!

Take care and thank you.

Sarah Green - Director



'Charity of the Month'

For 100 'Likes or Shares' on the Bunbury Care Agency Facebook page, we will donate £100 to:
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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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