

# Link

April 2024

## Also in this issue...



3

Tuesday 23 April



3

Joy Parker  
receiving her MA



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to St Boniface

A magazine for the parishes of  
Bunbury and Tilstone Fearnall



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or the giving terminal in church.

Thank you.

# Who we are

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## The Link

Please contact us to advertise your business or to send us your news, views and pictures.

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### Graphic design: Kay Carson

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

# Community news

Congratulations to **Jemma Parocki** and **Stuart Groves**, married at St Boniface on 11 February.



Congratulations to Tom and **Katie Pakinkis** on the baptism of **James Edward Everton** at St Boniface 17 February.



Congratulations to **Kimberley** and **Rob Ash** on the baptism of **Finlay**



### Arthur Robert.

Congratulations to **Hilary** and **Mike Watson** whose two grandsons, **Alec** (4) and **Kit** (2) were baptised on 4 February at All Saints, Fulham, after Covid interrupted earlier plans. They have both been baby Jesus at the Nativity Christmas services having

been born in November and December, respectively. Hilary & Mike now have six grandsons!

There will be no **Contemplative Prayer** session at 7:30pm on Tuesday 16 April at St Boniface. However, the 2:30pm session will run as normal.

The **Bunbury Gardening Club** will meet at the Village Hall at 7:30pm on Tuesday 16 April. Their guest speaker is Neil Holding. Hear the remarkable story of how Norley Bank Farm gardens were lovingly restored and recreated, from fabulous flower meadows, pretty perennial borders, ponds bursting with wildlife to rare breed sheep and donkeys. They are now enjoyed by many on National Garden Scheme open days, which raise money for much loved health charities. New members are always welcome. Please contact Margaret Bourne on 01829 260944 or email: [mjbourne249@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:mjbourne249@tiscali.co.uk). See their news and events by joining the Bunbury Gardening Facebook group. 21 May — Gardener's question time. Please send garden related questions in advance to [Keith.651@yahoo.com](mailto:Keith.651@yahoo.com). 18 June — Garden party & plant stall 16 July — T.B.A.

20 Aug — Visit to Len's Allotment 7 Sept — Annual Village Show (Village Hall)

15 Oct — Flower Workshop 19 Nov — A.G.M & Gardener's Supper

**Bunbury WI** — members recently enjoyed a coffee morning at the Nags Head in the village. There will be a quiz evening on 11 April and a cream tea afternoon on 25 April. Meetings take place on the second Thursday of the month at the Bunbury Playing Fields Pavilion at 7:30pm. For further information contact Lynda Davies 01829 260084. **Bunbury Bowling Club** will be

## A word from the editor

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of Barbara Croley after an illness she bore with grace and courage. Barbara played a pivotal part at St Boniface for a very long time. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family. Her funeral will be at St Boniface on 12 April at 11:30am.

This month we sadly say goodbye to **Joy Parker** who has lived in Bunbury since 1992. She is moving to live near her daughter Fiona in Nansledan, Cornwall. Joy has been a lay reader at St Boniface and Parish Link editor. She is also an accomplished artist and has just received an MA in Fine Art at Chester University. I know that she will continue painting and will be inspired by Cornwall. Thank you Joy for all that you have done at St Boniface. You will be missed, as will your lovely family.

The Link team is indebted to the magazine's many distributors. Please see page 8 where we give thanks to a special group of people.

starting its 2024 season with the opening of the bowling green on Monday 1 April. They are always looking for new members to join them; all are welcome to come along and give it a try! Coaching available to all. Every Monday afternoon the green is open for social bowls and practice, and this is a good opportunity to meet other members. For more information please contact: Dave Evans 01829 262514 daveevans80@hotmail.com or Neil Fowkes 01829 206381 neil.fowkes53@gmail.com

**Bunbury Mill** reopens on Sunday 31 March 1:00 to 5:00pm. [www.bunburymill.com](http://www.bunburymill.com)

**Bunbury Bellringers** are holding a quiz in the church on Friday 12 April at 7:00pm to raise funds to refurbish the clock. Tickets are £12, available from Lucy Munro: WhatsApp or text 07580 066153. Maximum eight per team and includes a ploughman's supper.

The annual **Christian Aid Coffee Morning** will take place between 10.00am and 12.00pm on Tuesday 23 April at St Boniface Church. It is always a friendly event and for those who are newer to the village a way of meeting people. There will be a raffle. If anyone would like to help please contact Elaine 07860128427

**Just Sing** presents a concert at Tarporley Baptist Church on Saturday 18 May with guest choir: A Chaired Taste from Market Drayton. The concert is in aid of the RNLI 200th Anniversary Campaign. Tickets will be on sale at Tilly's and Ginger and Pickles in Tarporley.

**Bunbury Village Day** will take place on 8 June. This year we will be celebrating the wonders of water in our very own Aqua Fest!

**The copy deadline for the May issue is Friday 12 April. The magazine should be delivered from Saturday 27 April. Please send notices to [parishlinkeditor@stbonifacebunbury.org](mailto:parishlinkeditor@stbonifacebunbury.org)**



## Bunbury Church pub crawl

A big thank you to James and all the team at the Dysart for hosting our first Bunbury Church Pub Crawl in March. I've wanted to set up a Men's Group for a while — a fun, relaxed and safe space for blokes to think about the big issues of life over a pint — it was great to see so many guys of all ages turn up and share stories (some that would make you cry, others that would make you laugh).

We spent the first half an hour getting to know each other. There was a good mix of those who have lived in the village for many years and those who have recently moved here, blokes recently retired as well as young dads juggling work and family life. To set the tone everyone was invited to share a fun fact about themselves and people didn't hold back — one guy had "slept with a terrorist" (don't worry, not as bad as it sounds!), another sleepwalks (and has a very accommodating and supportive wife); another surprised us all by saying he had recently married and his new son-in-law was sat around the table (all of a sudden it was like we were participating in the TV show Traitors!).

We then spent half an hour discussing a few provocative but inclusive questions about faith:

- Is faith a force for good or the root of many of the world's problems?
- When you picture someone in your life who is a person of faith do they look like your typical negative stereotype portrayed in the media or are they kind or inspiring?
- Is faith really about what we believe or is it best described as God's belief in us?!

Everyone chipped in and everyone's opinions were of equal worth — there were no right or wrong answers. What was really encouraging at the end was we all agreed it was a good thing to do and not at all cringy, but something we'd be happy to invite others along too.

We want the group to be fluid and not cliquey, each month there'll be a different topic and you don't have to have been before. You can be a person of faith or share your doubts — in a friendly, nonjudgmental environment.

So give it a go if you're interested, there'll be a pint (or something non-alcoholic) waiting for you at the Nags Head on Thursday 18 April at 7:30pm. Cheers!



Mike Rogers

# Are you smiling or are you thinking?



I came across this the other day and as I started to read it, I began to smile. But slowly, my smiling faded and I found myself thinking:

- Have you ever noticed how a £5 note “looks” so big when you take it to church, but so small when you take it to the supermarket?
- Have you ever noticed how long it takes to serve God for an hour, but how quickly a team plays 90 minutes of football?
- Have you ever noticed how we can't think of anything to say when we pray, but how we don't have any trouble thinking of things to say to a friend?
- Have you ever noticed how thrilled we get when a football match goes into extra time, but how we complain when a sermon or a church service is longer than usual?
- Have you ever noticed how hard it is to read a chapter in the Bible, but how easy it is to read 100 pages of a best-selling novel?

- Have you ever noticed how people always want to get a front row seat at a play or a concert, but scramble to get a back seat at church services?
- Have you ever noticed how hard it is for people to learn a simple gospel passage well enough to tell others, but how simple it is for the same people to understand and repeat gossip?
- Have you ever noticed how we believe what we read on social media or in the newspapers, but question what we read in the Bible?
- Have you ever noticed how everyone wants to go to heaven provided they do not have to believe, think, say, or do anything?
- Have you ever noticed how many “jokes” folk send through e-mail and how they spread like wildfire, but how seldom (if ever) we receive messages regarding our faith?

Are you smiling or are you thinking?

Church diary for April		
Sunday 7 April	8:00am BCP Communion 9:30am Morning Worship 10:30am Holy Communion 11:30am Morning Worship	St Boniface St Jude St Boniface Calveley
Wed 10 April	10:00am BCP Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 14 April	9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Morning Worship	St Jude St Boniface
Tuesday 16 April	2:30pm Contemplative prayer <b>Please note no 7:30pm session this month</b>	St Boniface
Wed 17 April	10:00am BCP Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 21 April	09:30am BCP Communion 10:30am Third Sunday Brunch 6:00pm Evensong	St Jude St Boniface St Boniface
Wed 24 April	10:00am BCP Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 28 April	9:30am Morning Worship 10:30am Holy Communion	St Jude St Boniface

## Our prayers

### ***This month's prayers are thanks to Pat Ellis***

*To quote Elizabeth Rundle: "Prayer is that invisible process which strengthens us with a power beyond understanding." This prayer is an extract from a much longer prayer by the late William Barclay, Church of Scotland minister and writer.*

*Give us within our own hearts the peace that passes understanding.*

*Take from us the worries which distract us, and give us more trust.*

*Take from us the doubts which disturb us, and make us more sure of what we believe.*

*Take from us the wrong desires from which temptations come, and make us more pure in heart.*

*Take from us the false ambitions which drive us, and make us more content to serve you where we are, and as we are.*

*Take from us all estrangement from you, and give us the peace of sins forgiven.*

*All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

# Introduction to autism



***Amber Middlemiss, our pastoral worker and a retired counsellor, gives a short introduction to autism for World Autism Awareness Day on 2 April — its presentations and its main characteristics, and the need for understanding of the condition and the provision of appropriate support and intervention where possible.***

Autism is a neurodevelopmental condition (i.e. present from birth and lifelong) which means that some brain functions are wired differently. It can range from mild, which may often go undiagnosed (especially in the past) to severe, whereby individuals may be non-speaking and/or unable to function independently. The mild end of the spectrum used to be known as Asperger Syndrome but now all affected people are referred to as autistic (or ASD). Autism forms part of the neurodiverse group of conditions which includes ADHD, dyslexia, dyspraxia and dyscalculia, and people may have more than one of these. Incidence is estimated at 1.5% but that is increasing as one in 36 children are now diagnosed annually in the UK, more of whom are male.

To warrant a diagnosis an individual needs to display differences in each of three areas: sensory processing (under or over sensitive to stimuli such as light, sound, smell, touch and taste); social and communication difficulties; and organisational differences. It is possible for people to have some of these traits strongly but not warrant a diagnosis if all three criteria are not fulfilled.

Autistic minds tend to be very literal, prone to black-and-white thinking, and to be hard-wired for high levels of anxiety. In children there may be difficulties with peer relationships and bullying, leading to under-performance at school or non-attendance. Relationships can be difficult because the autistic mind has trouble interpreting what others are thinking or feeling, and can struggle to find words for their own emotions. Some are introverted and withdrawn, others quite extrovert and sociable but flitting from one friendship group to another. Sensory overload easily occurs, leading to 'meltdown' — when the individual is overwhelmed and either has an external outburst of some sort, or an internal one whereby they close down, withdraw and stop effective functioning or rational thought.

To the autistic individual the environment can seem chaotic and they may ceaselessly seek to problem-solve or control things, or try to avoid unknown and busy situations. Special

interests are often a feature e.g. collecting things or information, and are often resorted to as a way of self-soothing in the face of overwhelm. Routines and rituals may play the same role, and some may develop certain behaviours which serve to self-stimulate in a calming way, hence known as 'stims'; more obvious ones include hand-flapping or rocking but there may be far less noticeable ones which the individual goes to lengths to hide, knowing they lead to social judgement. The energy used to hide them, and to mimic more normal behaviours is called "masking" and can lead to exhaustion, burnout or chronic illness. Females seem to be more adept at social masking and hence have been under-diagnosed until recently.

Adults who have slipped through school undiagnosed will continue with these difficulties which can impact negatively on marriages, jobs and friendship groups, meaning they are more likely to experience anxiety and depression and to have little social support. Autistic people may have rigid ways of thinking and hate change and be distressed by mistakes. Unusual prosody (tone, pitch, tempo and rhythm of speech) is common and interferes with effective communication, especially of emotion; similarly, they may have a relative lack of facial expression and eye contact, though this is not always so.

Some autistic people are of course highly skilled in various non-social domains, and they tend to be very fair-minded, rule-abiding, focused and are often very intelligent, sometimes being the "little professors" at school, or actual professors in adulthood! There are strong genetic elements to autism and hence some families have higher incidences than others.

For further information go to [www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk). An easy screening test is available here <https://embrace-autism.com/aq-10/> See also: A14 - 'Am I Autistic?'; BBC iplayer - 'Chris Packham; Asperger's and Me' - 'Paddy and Christine McGuinness; Our Autistic Family' - 'The Autistic me'



## **Christian Aid Week: 14–20 May**

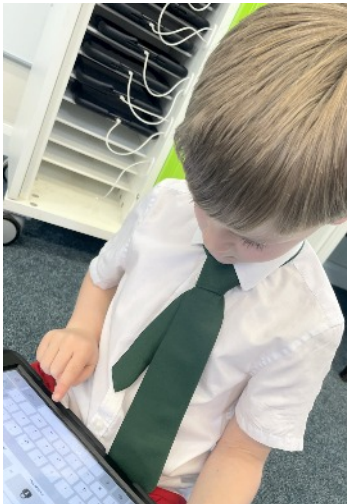
Look out for your collection envelopes in May's edition of the Link. This year we are asking people to drop their contributions in their envelopes either at The Vicarage, Bunbury Lane, or at Sunnybank Cottage, School Lane (Elaine Crotty's home). Otherwise please give online at [christianaid.org.uk](http://christianaid.org.uk).

# Bunbury School News



Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary is committed to a broad and balanced curriculum for all its pupils. Through our Connected Curriculum approach staff provide a love and enjoyment for learning by linking the national curriculum to book-based inspired learning themes. This ensures that all subjects are taught and covered progressively in a manner that is inspiring, engaging and exciting for the children.

Computing is a key area of learning and an important skill. The children live in a digital world and we promote education around e-safety, as well as ensuring that the key skills of problem solving and digital literacy are learnt. The teaching and learning curriculum is also supported by comprehensive PSHE work around safety online as well as regular parent workshops led by PC Andrew Cornall. These help to support all parents and carers with the ever changing mobile and online world the children have access to.



The computing curriculum is delivered on i-Pads and laptops so that the children are skilled in both forms technology which helps prepare them for secondary school. As well as a rich and broad computing curriculum we have also run extra-curricular activities. The recent purchase BBC microbits has also added to a rich resource bank; using these mini-computers children will be able to code, measure and log using digital technology.



More information about our curriculum can be found on our curriculum pages on the school website. <https://www.bunburyaldersey.cheshire.sch.uk/page/curriculum/57302>

*Nic Badger  
Principal*

## Pulford Place naming ceremony



The residents of the new homes that have been built on Pulford Place next to Bunbury Medical Centre were delighted to be asked to attend the official naming ceremony of our road on a sunny afternoon in January.

The event to open the road, which is named in honour of the late Councillor and Chair of Bunbury Parish Council Ron Pulford, was organised and attended by members of the council and Councillor Pulford's family. As newcomers to the area we have all received a very warm welcome from the community and are looking forward to getting involved in village life.

*Allison Laycock-Sullivan*

# Sky notes: April

*As spring blooms across Cheshire, the night sky becomes a canvas adorned with celestial wonders, inviting stargazers to step outside and witness the cosmic symphony above.*

## Last chance to see Jupiter and guides us to Uranus

By the end of April, our skies are planet-less as Jupiter says goodbye after spending eight months on stage dominating the night sky. As dusk settles in, cast your gaze toward the western horizon to spot Jupiter.

Jupiter is the bright “star” in the west after sunset, setting around 10:00 pm. There’s a lovely sight in the early evening of 10 April when the thin crescent moon pairs up with Jupiter.

Jupiter also acts as a guidepost to faint Uranus. Uranus is another gas giant at the very limit of naked eye visibility. It wasn’t discovered until 1781 when the astronomer William Herschel swept it up in his home-made telescope from his back garden in Bath. Herschel House is well worth a visit if you are going to Bath — a beautiful Georgian house that houses a museum to the great astronomer.

Uranus is best seen in binoculars or a small telescope, but you need to know here to look. This month we have a guidepost in the form of Jupiter. At the start of April, Uranus is found to the upper left of Jupiter. It passes to the left of Jupiter on 20 April. On that night it will be about a Moon’s diameter away from its neighbour which shines 1500 times brighter.

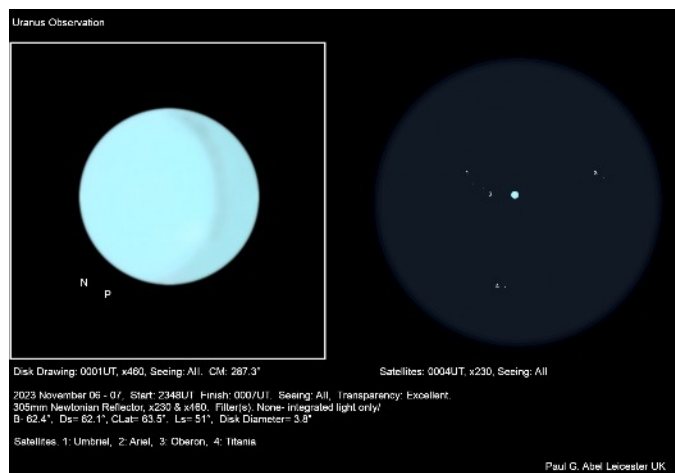
So, grab this opportunity to spot distant Uranus, the seventh planet out from the Sun! A telescope at high magnifications may show Uranus a very tiny disk. Some people note it is

greenish or bluish in colour. Keen-eyed amateur astronomers with large telescopes are able to see some delicate marking on the planet as well as its brighter moons, Umbriel, Ariel, Oberon and Titania.

As we bid farewell to winter and welcome the warmth of spring, the April night sky beckons us to look up and marvel at the celestial wonders above. So, whether you’re a seasoned astronomer or a casual observer, venture outside and let the cosmos unfold its mysteries.

Clear skies!

*Bunbury Stargazer*



# Gardener's April Diary

I was kicking my heels at home one very rainy afternoon, admiring the early daffodils and crocus in the garden when I decided to visit my neighbour to have a chat.

Over a cup of tea from a teapot and some custard creams, which I last had when I was in short trousers, we talked about his passion for growing chillies.

“Why are you obsessed with such a challenging plant?” I asked. “Because I can,” was his answer. Growing them is a long job. Having planted them earlier this month, the crop will not be ready until the end of August or the beginning of September. There is such a huge variety to choose from with amazing names such as Scorpion, Bolivian, Rain Boy, Old Mother and Bhutjolokia. He has just received a new packet of seeds from Finland, if they can grow them so can we!

When they are ready to harvest, my neighbour dries them out and puts all varieties in a large glass jar. When he wants some chilli powder, he takes a handful, grinds them and plays a game of Russian roulette with his chilli con carne, not knowing how hot it will be.

Now is the time to sow your seeds, just as you would tomatoes. You don’t need a greenhouse, a warm windowsill will do to get them started — easy peasy! So get going, there may be a chilli challenge in the next garden club show!

Back in the garden. This year there is an awful lot of moss in our lawns so you need to scarify, treat and then overseed for a half decent lawn throughout the coming year.

Happy gardening from your gardening correspondent Keith.

# Bunbury Medical Practice

## news: April

### Staff Update

We have been joined by a new practice Nurse, Emma Perry. Emma has a special interest/training in respiratory, so those of you with a diagnosis of asthma and COPD may have already met her for your annual respiratory review.

Dr Lizzie Harding has now started her maternity leave and her Wednesday surgeries are being looked after by Dr Charlotte Webb.

### Vaccination Update

Shingles — eligible patients can still make an appointment to be vaccinated here at the practice. To check for your eligibility, visit the National Immunisation Programme at [getshinglesready.co.uk](http://getshinglesready.co.uk)

### May Bank Holidays

As we approach the two Bank Holiday weekends of May, please allow extra time for ordering repeat medication. Please only order the medication that you require; there is no need to request extra as this creates an unnecessary workload for dispensary.

As mentioned in our January article, the quickest and easiest way to order your repeat medication is through the NHS App. This way of ordering will also help the NHS to reduce unnecessary medicine wastage and save money as patients are able to just order what they need, when they need it.

Patients will still need to order repeat medication seven days in advance as it takes time for requests to be approved by the GP and then dispensed by the pharmacy team.

If a patient sees one of the Enhanced Access GPs on a Friday evening or Saturday and is given a prescription, they will need to take the script to a high street chemist as our dispensary is closed during Enhanced Access surgery times.

### Training Day for April

Tuesday 9 April 2024

The surgery will close at 1:00pm and not re-open until the following morning.

**A full up to date list of training days appears on the practice website.**

### Healthier You – the NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme

Healthier You is a free, community-based behaviour change programme which helps those at risk of developing type-2 diabetes and aims to reduce an individuals' risk of developing a range of conditions linked to a sedentary lifestyle, poor nutrition and being overweight or obese.

Patients who are eligible will be sent a letter by their GP; the letter includes all the information patients need to be able to self-refer to the programme. We would encourage eligible patients to take advantage of this programme.

### Bowel Cancer Awareness

April is bowel cancer awareness month. Bowel cancer is the fourth most common cancer in the UK and yet nearly four in ten people cannot name a single symptom of this disease. Knowing the symptoms and acting on them, means that bowel cancer can be diagnosed earlier when it is more treatable and curable, however, fewer than four in ten people are diagnosed at the early stages.

Another way of early detection is to complete the free screening kit which is sent out to people aged 56 to 74 on an annual basis; data shows that almost one third of people in England who are sent these screening kits, do not go on to return them.

Early diagnosis is vital as detecting bowel cancer at the earliest stage makes you up to nine times more likely to be successfully treated.

We often receive notifications that Bunbury patients have not returned screening kits; Bowel Cancer Awareness Month provides us with an opportunity to remind people of the importance of completing this, free of charge, screening opportunity.

*"Find a life worth enjoying, take risks, love deeply; have no regrets; and always, always have rebellious hope.  
And finally, check your poo – it could just save your life."*

*Dame Deborah James*

## A note of thanks from the Link team

All at the Link team would like to thank Martin Phillips for delivering the Link in Wyche Lane and wish him and Martina well with their move to Yorkshire to be near their daughter. Also thanks to Lynda Davies who will take over his round in addition to her own. Thank you to Peter and Kath Collinge for delivering the Link to Upper Darkie Meadow for many years, and Rosemary Smart for taking over their round. Finally, thank you to Jill Oldman for delivering the Link in Bunbury Lane plus Oak Gardens and Astrid Logan for taking over her round.



# A quick guide to local hardship support

*Bunbury residents are very generous in their giving to Mid-Cheshire foodbank. For those who would like to donate more widely, or wish to support those who need help, below is a guide to local resources put together by Anne James.*

## Support through referrals

Access to **foodbanks** is via a referral from over 150 registered referral agencies ranging from community groups, churches, health visitors, schools, other charities (Age UK included) and care agencies. The main referrers are the **Cheshire West Help Team** – freephone 0808 175 3599. You have the option to leave a message, the advisors do call back.

Applications for **emergency payments**, such as white goods' breakdown, subject to eligibility, can be made to **CWaC** at: <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/education-and-learning/household-support-fund>

**Citizens Advice** in Northwich and Winsford – freephone 0808 278 7806. It can take a while to get through, but there are drop-in sessions at the Methodist Centre, Witton Street, Northwich on Thursdays, 1:30pm to 4:00pm or Wyvern House, Winsford on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, 10:00am to 2:00pm.

**Citizens Advice Help Through Hardship** — freephone 0808 208 2138 can issue food vouchers and refer to local Citizens Advice.

**Citizen's Advice benefit review** – freephone 0800 1448848 to book an appointment. (You may need to hang on as they can be very busy).

## Support for which no referral is required

**Very Green Groceries**, run by Cheshire Foodhub, is on Manchester Road in Northwich and the old Job Centre, High Street, Winsford. Shopping can be done once a week and is a hub for information and local activities. A membership fee of £5, only payable if you visit, gives over £20 of good quality food. These are sustainability projects open to anyone in the community without a referral. Neither of these projects are operated by Mid Cheshire Foodbank so please refer to their Facebook pages or websites for more information. They have a very affordable cafe with volunteers who will always have a chat and they host community group activities and support services.

**Changing Lives** in Winsford provide refurbished furniture and white goods, and have part-used decorating materials and

other household goods — it is a great place to stretch a budget and be a waste warrior too. <https://www.changing-lives-together.org.uk/>

**Motherwell**, based at the Community Centre Wistaston, provides for children's needs on request and subject to availability: from a baby bank supporting expectant mothers to small children up to two years old. They can provide cots, Moses baskets, baby bouncers, slings and carry systems, strollers and travel systems, subject to availability. Donations of good quality items are always welcome. The centre also provides primary and secondary school uniforms; football boots and astro trainers; children's winter coats; seasonal clothing, such as prom dresses, Christmas jumpers and world book day fancy dress. You can contact them at [motherwellhub@motherwellcheshirecio.com](mailto:motherwellhub@motherwellcheshirecio.com) or 01606 557666 to speak to someone or 07496 160941 to send a text

**Healthy Start** vouchers are available for eligible families with children under five and from ten weeks of pregnancy — apply online by searching Healthy Start NHS.

**St Paul's Centre** in Hightown, Crewe offer a wide array of support.

**Furniture** – by referral through Cheshire Emergency Assistance run by Cheshire East Council

**Friday Furniture Sale** – open to all 9:30am to 12:30pm every Friday. Pre-loved and restored furniture for sale at very reasonable prices, all proceeds support the food bank at the centre and furniture projects.

**Sal's Shoes** – footwear for children through a referral system: GP, health visitor, school pastoral team or Citizen's Advice: 0800 1448848 (you may need to hang on as they can be very busy).

**Extra Miles** – can collect discharged patients and take them home. With the patient's approval they can return later that day to ensure all is well.

**St Boniface** also has a small emergency relief fund thanks to our patron the Haberdashers for those in financial difficulty. Please contact the vicar or warden to discuss further.



## The fete committee are looking for volunteers for this year's fun and games.

We need help setting up on **Saturday 4 May**, meeting at the Church at 10:00am, collecting everything from the fete shed and then going to the castle to set up or, alternatively, meeting at Beeston Castle at 11:00am to set up. You should be finished by 1:00pm.

We also need people to help tidy up and take down on **Monday 6 May** from 4:00pm. If you are able to help we would be very grateful.

We also need help in the tea tent, providing baking, manning stalls, stewarding, and helping with car parking on Monday. Tombola bottle donations can be delivered to Elaine at Sunnybank Cottage School Lane (Please contact Elaine before delivering).

If you would like to be involved please contact Lucy on 07580066153 or Elaine on 07860128427.

# Have you ever wondered...

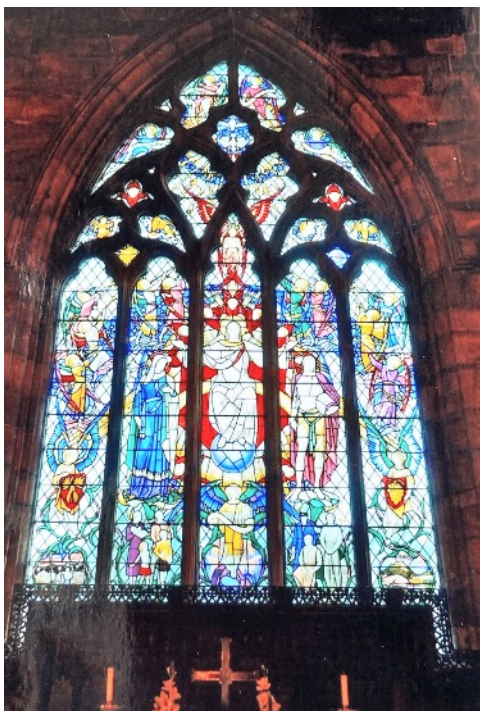
## *The story of the reconstruction of St Boniface after WWII part 3 — The East Window 'A Glimpse into Heaven'*

By 1952 the new roof was finally in place and at last work could begin on replacing the Chancel stained glass windows that had been so completely destroyed by the WW2 bomb, starting with the east window behind the altar.

Deciding on the actual stained glass design for the replacement east window was the first challenge and after much deliberation the theme known as 'A Glimpse into Heaven' was devised by Rev Ridgway, together with the renowned stained glass designer and craftsman Christopher Webb, based in St Albans.

It was impossible to try replicate the original medieval design, even if wanted to, as no images existed, and a somewhat controversial decision was taken to combine both traditional and modern, and in particular to incorporate the local modern scenes that cause such puzzlement with many visitors to our church today. The final design agreed upon represents the life of the Parish and the things which have contributed to it.

The centre figure is Christ in Glory, with his feet upon the Universe, and on either side are the figures of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the last of the Prophets — John the Baptist. The gifts of Christ to this church are



on either side, the bread and the wine, and these are symbolically received by the Church in the persons represented in the roundels.

Now look closely at the window roundels and you will see 'modern' workers in uniform within images of four things that have contributed so much to the life of our parish: the railway, the canals, Peckforton Estate and Beeston Castle. A scene sketched personally by Rev Ridgway from a position on "Mr Bates Beeston Mill bridge" can be found incorporated within the window and even the uniforms of the railway workers

were copied from actual photographs of the time provided by the Crewe Railway. The farm depicted is that of Herbert Major (church warden at the time) at Beeston Gate.

Above Christ stands the seraphim and the other angels carrying the gifts of the Spirit. The figure of the angel below is the Angel of the Church of Bunbury holding the Church rescued from the dark clouds of War.

Like artists with their paintings, most famous stained glass craftsmen "sign" their creations in some way and Webb's signature was a depiction of St Christopher, together with his initials; and if you look closely at our East Window today, in the bottom right hand corner, you will see a small St Christopher and the inscription Christopher Webb 1954, together with the names of the actual painters of the glass.

The work of replacing the east window took two years and was completed on 3 February 1954. The final cost was £1,428 4s 5d and this was paid out of monies from the War Damage Commission.

But this was just the beginning ...

*David Kendrick*

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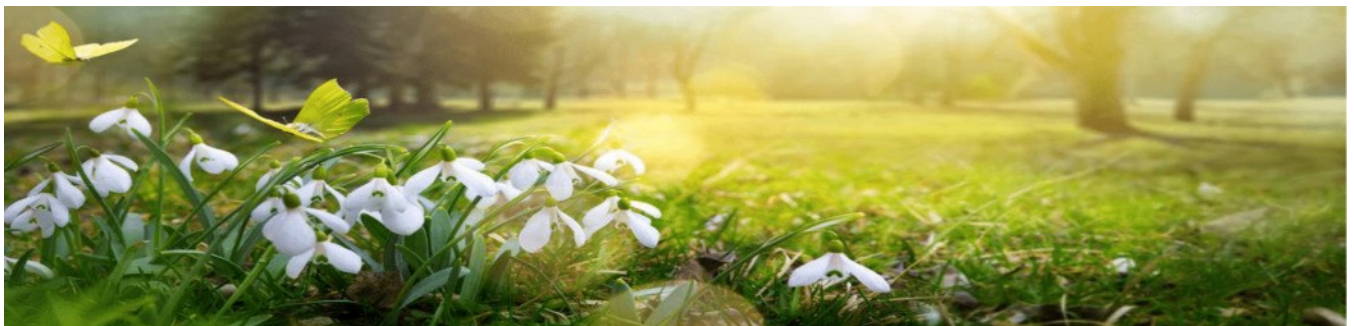
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