"Be patient and you will finally win, for a soft tongue can break hard bones"

(Proverbs 28:13)



READY FOR THE YEAR AHEAD:

St Boniface's new Parochial Church Council pose for the camera following their annual church meeting.

Colin Stanyer, who was appointed secretary, said he would be keen to receive your ideas for how the church could improve, both physically and spiritually.

He can be contacted on 01829 262402.

He tells how coach swayed from side to side

Bunbury dad caught up in earthquake that rocked Japan

A FATHER from Bunbury was caught up in the terrifying Japanese earthquake.

Jonathan Barrett was on tour with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra when the tremor triggered the devastating tsunami that left thousands dead.

"We had just got halfway over a suspension bridge when our coach driver slammed on the brakes," he said.

"Our coach then started rocking violently from side to side for what seemed like a few minutes and the lamposts flexed as if they were made of rubber."

Mr Barrett, who filmed the incredible scenes on his mobile phone, said lorries swayed from side to side and one had toppled over

"It was then we realised how



Lucky man: French horn player Jonathan Barrett was in Japan

lucky we were that our coach hadn't tipped over straight into the Pacific because we were in the lane closest to the edge of the bridge and it was a long, long way down," he said.

The musicians remained calm until the second earthquake struck.

"By then a few people were dis-

traught and one colleague suffered a panic attack," he said.

The orchestra made it to the concert hall for the rehearsal but it was abandoned after police cars patrolling the deserted streets warned of a possible tsunami.

"I managed to get through on the phone to my wife Hazel, and my mum, just before the mobile network went down," he said.

The musicians were advised to return to their hotel in Tokyo but the 20-mile journey took eight hours due to the worst traffic jam in Japanese history.

"We decided to walk the last few miles," said Mr Barrett, who often plays the bass guitar at Sunday services at St Boniface.

When they arrived back at **Turn to Page 5**



The great **debate**

Lay reader Tom Crotty on the importance of Christianity in the workplace Page 6



Come & enjoy view

Vicar Rick Gates will be leading a once-in-a-year walk to Stanner Nab - and everyone is welcome to join him.

Page 5



Neil joins rank and file

Policeman Neil Dewson-Smyth, right, has been elected a warden at St Boniface Church. He joins Walter Done. Page 3

Who we are

RICK

GATES

Vicar, St Boniface, St Judes, Calveley
If you ever
need him, call
him. He will

need him, call him. He will always respond to those in need or distress.



t: 01829 260991 **m:** 07715 178750

e: rick@prayer.fsnet.co.uk

Alternatively, please call readers Peter & Kath Collinge on 01829 260077

St Boniface

Churchwardens (until May 17)
Barbara Croley 260344
Walter Done 01244 332563

Youth worker

Laura Warrington 07763 408609

Secretary (until May 17)
Neil Dewson-Smyth 261680

Treasurer

John Mason 733971

Flowers

Margaret Bourne 260944

St Jude's

Churchwardens

Brigid Sayce 260865 David Wright 260467

Secretary

Ann Posnett 261154

Organist

Ann Badrock 260343

Calveley

Churchwardens

Barbara Croley 260344 Walter Done 01244 332563

Organist

John Batchelor 261056

Secretary

Sue Woodward 01270 522822

The Link

We are always happy to get calls/emails about The Link. Please contact us if you would like to advertise your business, or if you want to send us your news, views and pictures

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www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk



Congratulations to Helen and Simon Bennett on the birth of their first child Edward Alan Bennett, who was born on 12 March.



Welcome to **Eleanor Margaret Lewis**, daughter of **Nigel and Rachael**, baptised at St Boniface
Church on 17 April.

We were greatly saddened to hear of the death of **John Ryder** following a fire at his home in Peckforton. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time

Kate Mason raised £320 for Alder Hey Children's Hospital, where local boy Maximo Williams is currently receiving treatment.

Having conquered a few 10km runs last year, **Tom Crotty** thinks a new challenge is called for and so he's entered the Cheshire Triathlon on Sunday 22 May in Nantwich in support of Cancer Research. You can sponsor Tom

http://www.runningsponsorme.org/tomcrotty2

A High Tea in honour of **Barbara & Ernest Croley**, retiring churchwarden and verger respectively, will be held between 4pm and 6.30pm on Saturday 7 May in St. Boniface Church. This will be accompanied by a quarter peal by the bellringers. If you would like to attend, please add your name to the lists at the back of St. Boniface, Calveley or Tilstone Fearnall churches.

The Knutsford-based **Good News Singers** will be performing a service of song – 'Music with a Message' - at St Jude's at 7.30pm on 13 May. Entrance free and refreshments will be provided.

A **family cycle ride** is being held on Sunday 18 September in aid of

A message from the new team

WELCOME to your newlook Link magazine. We hope you like it. As your new editors, we want to deliver what we promise every month. To our readers and our advertisers.

We know, though, that a magazine like this can only survive with the support of the community so we hope that you will be gentle with us during these early months at the helm.

And although it is a church magazine, we view the Link as a magazine for all, so we look forward to your contributions, ideas and feedback.

Please do get in touch.

Sue Briggs-Harris & Jo Mason

What's on

May 18

3pm: Plant sale, Bunbury Primary School. In aid of school funds.

May 21

7.30pm: Budget Ball, Tarporley High School. For tickets call 01829 731789. 10am-5pm: Flower festival, Calveley Church. Also Sunday. Admission £3.

May 22 Burland Hall Country Fair

June 18
Bunbury Village Day.
St Luke's Midnight Walk

Prayers

This month please pray especially for Lily O'Donaghue, Phil Mayers, Maximo Williams, Paul Rathbone. Mary Cummins, Jean Healev and Beckv Bebbington. Please also pray for the families of John Ryder, John Large and Evelyn France, who died last month, and for all those suffering in body, mind or spirit. If you would like us to pray for someone you love, please email jomason06@gmail.com

Tarporley Hospital at Oulton Park Motor Racing Circuit. Details to follow or contact eebpulford@btinternet.com for more information.

St. Luke's is holding their garden party and country fair, with lots of new attractions including a novelty dog show, a children's scarecrow competition and an antiques roadshow, on Sunday 22 May at Burland Hall, near Nantwich. For more information, visit www.stlukes-hospice.co.uk or call 01606 555688.

Do you have any **photographs of local men** who died during the **First World War** please? If so, a local resident would like to include them in a new book, *Where the Fallen Live Forever*. Please contact Mark Potts on 01270 560015.

We are delighted to welcome some new faces at the Bunbury Medical Practice. There are three new nurses, Barbara Jones, Steph Burrows and Jo Foster, a new phlebotomist, Bernie Langley, and a new GP registrar, Claire McCourt. Julia Cureton joins the dispensing team, Jeanette Wright the reception team and Keri Boaz returns from maternity leave to complete the secretarial team.

A **Bunbury Gardening Club** outing is planned for 17 May at 6.30pm to Tattenhall Hall. Contact Adrian Caine on 01829 261163.

The **Lay Conference** at Swanwick will be held 20-22 May, entitled The Greatest Story Never Told. Application forms are available from St Boniface.

The Calveley Church Flower Festival will be held Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 May. The show will be open from 10am to 5pm. Admission is £3.

The **Summer Holiday Club** will be held on 27-29 July in St Boniface Church. It is open to children from primary age.

Link distributors are needed for several routes, including School Lane, A49 Beeston and Calveley (the Chantry and Gowy Court).

Congratulations to **Annabelle Greco** who celebrated her 21st birthday with a party on 9 April.

Sandbach Voices will be joined by soloists from the Royal Northern College of Music for a concert, entitled **A Night at the Opera**, on 21 May at 7.30pm at Sandbach High School. For tickets call 01606 738373 or 01270 766546.

THE TWO-MINUTE INTERVIEW

If you had a motto, what would it be?

Always look on the bright side of life. Being cheerful helps you through the daily routine of day-to-day work.

It's a celebrity beer call. Whom would you invite?

It would have to be Al Murray. He's a straight talker and comes over very well. I would love to share a Sunday roast with him at my local, the Nag's Head in Haughton.

What would you call your autobiography?

A Woman About Town.

What was your first job? I had a Saturday job at John Hughes' shop in Bunbury.

What would you change about Bunbury if you could?

I feel there has been too much development. It used to be a very small village where everyone knew everyone

What is your biggest regret?

I feel very lucky because I have no regrets.

Maureen Burrows

Maureen Burrows has been a familiar face at The Co-op in Bunbury for the past 11 years.

But older villagers will perhaps remember her from her days at John Hughes' shop after she left school in 1966.

Today Maureen, who was born at Lilac Cottage in Spurstow in 1951, is happiest when she is helping shoppers find what they want...

What is your biggest achievement?

Buying the family home in Haughton.

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

I would love to retain good health.

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

I'd love to win the Lottery. I buy a ticket every week and if

I won, I would have a very good time.

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

I joined the St Boniface Church choir in Bunbury when I was a child and sang in the choir for many years.

What is your favourite place and why?

I love being at home where it is nice and quiet.

Describe your ideal weekend

I would do a spot of gardening, go out for Sunday lunch, then get home and put my feet up.

If you know someone in one of our parishes who would make interesting reading for The Two-Minute Interview, please would you email their name, address, telephone number and email address to briggsharris@live.co.uk

Neil steps into Barbara's 10-year-old shoes

Time of change

IT is certainly a time of change at St Boniface Church.

A new team is now running the parish Link magazine, Barbara and Ernest Croley officially retire after 10 years' service and youth worker Laura Warrington is off to Papua New Guinea.

But it is also an exciting time in the history of the church which is moving towards being more loving, God-centred and tender.

At the Annual Parish Church

Meeting last month, Colin Stanyer was appointed secretary, and Neil Dewson-Smyth and Walter Done were elected as wardens.

Both wardens will be officially appointed at the Archdeacon's Visitation on 17 May in Malpas.

During the meeting, it was agreed to reinstate the ruling that had previously prevented wardens from performing more than six consecutive terms of office. Other matters dis-



Wardens Walter Done and Neil Dewson-Smyth will be officially appointed on 17 May

cussed concerned the church's finances, activities and the election of the Parochial Church Council.

"There are challenges ahead as we take our church forward, and they may not be easy," said Vicar Rick Gates.

"But with the help of God and the power of prayer we can achieve anything."

God really is on end of phone ...

THE St Boniface text link is now up and running and so far the response has been

We send one text a week to make you think, and sometimes one to let you know of anything special happening - and best of all it is absolutely free.

Please do try it and let us know what you think: just text the word CHURCH to 60060.

That's all you have to do, and if ever you want to stop, just text CHURCH STOP to the same number. We promise never to use your number for any other purpose or to pass it to anyone else, and it is completely anonymous.

THE GRUMPY GARGOYLE



A stone with a view

At last! I have been sitting up here for centuries, just a silent and ignored piece of stone, abused by the occasional sparrow but unseen by those who walk beneath me.

I was delighted when someone from the Link approached me and asked if I would like to impart some of my centuries-old wisdom and air my grievances through a monthly column.

You see, sitting up here, I have seen a lot

The real problem is where to start. So, I will start with a simple one. Drivers.

It is often said that manners cost nothing. A true expression indeed, and yet something often absent when behind a wheel.

It is sometimes necessary for a vehicle, let's say a car, to wait for another to pass in order to ensure safe passage. Something I have often thought a kind and friendly gesture is to acknowledge the waiting car, sometimes by a little wave, a nod of the head, even a smile.

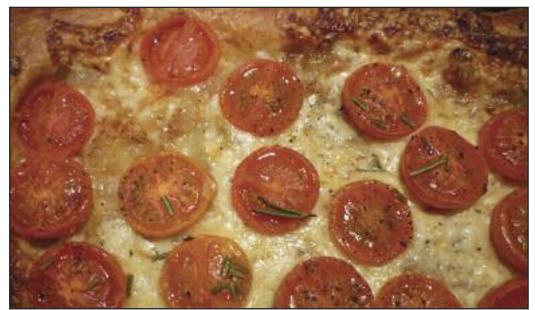
This is the friendly, civilised way.

And yet, some people simply pass the waiting car without so much as a glance, presumably as it's 'their right of way', leaving the kind soul who waited feeling unappreciated, unnoticed and frustrated - feelings with which I can truly identify.

Come on folks, spread a little

Do you agree with the Grumpy Gargoyle? Email your views - or gripes - to briggsharris@live.co.uk

FATIMA CRUTTOCK'S COOKERY SLOT



Onion, Gruyère and Bacon Tart

This recipe is one of my, and Major Cruttock's, favourites.

It is easy to make and you can get all the ingredients in Bunbury for about £10.

If you want to make it vegetarian (or 'hairy legs and sandals', as the Major calls it), just leave out the bacon bits – it still tastes delicious...

HOW TO MAKE IT

Heat the oil in a pan and add the onions, salt and pepper. Cover and cook over a low heat for 20-25 minutess, stirring every now and again, until soft. Unroll the pastry on to a lightlyoiled baking sheet. Using a

WHAT YOU NEED (serves 4-6)

3-4 medium onions, thinly sliced
375g sheet of ready-rolled puff pastry (in the Co-op chiller rather than the freezer)
180g Gruyère cheese, grated
4-6 rashers smoked bacon, cut into small strips
250-300g cherry tomatoes, cut in half
1 tbsp fresh herbs (thyme, oregano and/or rosemary)
Freshly ground salt and pepper
Olive oil

sharp knife, score deeply (but not all the way through) the pastry about 1 inch inside the edge to form a border, and brush this border with milk. Spread the softened onions onto the pastry inside the border, sprinkle the cheese and bacon bits on top and top with the tomatoes, herbs and some more black pepper.

Milk for glazing

Pop it into the oven (220C, or 200C in a fan oven, or the

second shelf in the Aga roasting oven) for 20-25 minutes or until it is all puffed up and golden.
Serve with a green salad.

Don't forget to say Grace

There once was a cock and a hen, who gave lunch to a goose in a pen. 'Good Lord,' said the goose,

'Good Lord,' said the goose, 'Bless this food to our use and us to their service ... Amen'

And to go with it

> Greg Williams
The Dysart Arms, Bunbury

Gruyère has always lent itself to wines with reasonable acidity. If one didn't feel too adventurous, a nice French Sauvignon Blanc would do the trick with Pouilly Fume and Sancerre springing

immediately to mind. For a little better value for money, though, venture a little further down the Loire Valley where you will not have to pay for the name as well as the wine. As so often with wine, however, the jewels are often found off the beaten track and never is this

more so than in Alsace, Northern France, where a stylish and aromatic Pinot Blanc or Pinot Gris awaits the honest tart.

For the red drinkers amongst you, steer clear of anything too powerful and stick to a light and delicate Pinot Noir or decent Beaujolais.

Your once-in-a-year chance to enjoy the view



EVERYONE is invited to join this year's Ascension Day Walk on Thursday 2 June - and enjoy this fantastic view from Stanner Nab. The path is normally closed the public but every year Peckforton opens it up to St Boniface Church. The 40-minute walk starts from the Peckforton

Castle car park where all are asked to meet at 7pm. From the top of the sandstone hills you will be able to see – weather permitting - North Wales, the Wirral and Liverpool. Along the way, the group pauses for an occasional reading from the Bible, a hymn or two, and at the

top the vicar, Rick Gates, normally has a surprise in store. Dogs are welcome, providing they are kept under control. After the walk, the group returns to Bunbury and, if tradition is anything to go by, may end up in a hostelry for some beer and fellowship. Please come along.

John reveals true cost of worship

ST Boniface Church has to pay Chester Diocese almost £38,000 every year.

Treasurer John Mason revealed the figure as he presented the church accounts for the year ending 31 December 2010, at the annual church meeting.

"The Church of England is often portrayed as a wealthy institution but this is not the case," he said.

Last year St Boniface's general funds showed a deficit for the year of about £2.000.

"It had looked a lot worse last summer when the church appeared to be heading for an annual deficit in the region of £7,000," he said. "But thankfully that was averted by generous giving from members of the congregation in response to publicity about the situation."

However, John told the annual meeting that year-on-year deficits were eating into reserves and that the position could not continue indefinitely.

During his report to the meeting, he said 2010 had been an exceptional year, though, in terms of expense with almost £50,000 spent on various building projects.

Some of that money had been raised by the Target 1250 group. Grants from external bodies had

also helped. John said it had cost almost £15,000 to lower the nave floors and £7,000 - in the form of a grant from the Historic Cheshire Churches Preservation Trust - had paid for repairs to the tower and in the chancel.

Other works, including re-ordering of the South Porch and the Baptistry, had also been funded either through generous individual donations or from church funds legally restricted to be used only for that type of work, not day-to-day expenditure. Looking to the future, John struck a cautiously optimistic note and said he hoped the church would break even in 2012.

Bunbury dad caught up in Japanese earthquake

From Page One

their hotel, members of the public had also sought sanctuary in the hotel and were asleep on the floor. "It was like a scene from a disaster film," he said.

That night he hardly slept.

"Our hotel was a skyscraper and I was near the top," he said.

"There were constant aftershocks and the whole room swayed from side to side. There were times when I thought the building was going to collapse."

It was only then that the magni-

tude of events unfolded as he tuned into CNN.

The orchestra remained in Tokyo for the next few days until the BBC - by then worried about the escalating crisis at the nearby Fukushima nuclear power plant - took the decision to fly the musicians home.

Roads to the international airport, though, were gridlocked so they were driven to Osaka where they were split into four groups and flown home at different times.

"My group flew back via Kuala Lumpur, to Heathrow, then we got a coach back to Manchester," said Mr Barrett who lives in Church Row, Bunbury.

"It was a very long trip back, and it was only when I got back to Bunbury that the truly horrifying videos of the tsunami started to play on the news

"To think that was all happening around the corner brings a shiver to the spine."

He later discovered that the boxes containing all the musicians' instruments had been affected by radiation

RICK GATES

your vicar



My vision for a better future ...

WHERE there is no vision, the people perish. Those are not my words, but the words of God. But that is my focus: the future.

My hope is to 'remould' the church to meet the needs and expectations, not only of those who already belong, but of the many of you who, for one reason or another, are not members.

We need to recognise what is going on around us. It is often the case that we only see what we are told to see, or what we want to see. If, as children, we are told we are stupid, we will grow up believing that deep down, no matter how successful we actually become, we are stupid.

We should also recognise, of course, that the opposite is true

As children we are told by others that Christians are followers of Christ and are kind, forgiving, prayerful, gentle and long-suffering. But in reality that is not always the case: they squabble, and sometimes hurt each other and treat each other with suspicion, so my vision for this church is that we become a people of tenderness.

It seems to me that tenderness is a core outward sign of being truly human and therefore truly Christian. I yearn for a church that will live far more by faith than by tradition and dogma.

We have much work to do, to love God and love our

neighbour.

My fondest dream is that we can move forward together to build this community, this church, where tenderness,

love and faith are the foundations.

I believe we can commit ourselves to building bridges not boundaries, to create ways and attitudes which are open to the views, desires and hopes of our neighbours. I hope that you will be able to join me in making my vision come true.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 1 May

8am: Holy Communion, St Boniface Church 9.30am: Holy Communion, St Jude's Church 10am: Family worship, St Boniface Church 11am: Holy Communion, Calveley

Wednesday 4 May

10am: Holy Communion, St Boniface Church

Sunday 8 May

9.30am: Holy Communion, St Jude's Church 10am: Holy Communion, St

Boniface Church [followed by lunch in honour of Barbara and Ernest Croley]

6pm: Evensong, St Boniface

Church

Wednesday 11 May

10am: Holy Communion, St **Boniface Church**

Sunday 15 May

8am: Holy Communion, St Boniface Church 9.30am: Holy Communion, St Jude's Church

10am: Family worship, St **Boniface Church**

11am: Matins, Calveley Church

Wednesday 18 May

10am: Holy Communion, St **Boniface Church**

Sunday 22 May

9.30am: Holy Communion, St Jude's Church 10am: Holy Communion, St **Boniface Church**

Wednesday 25 May

10am: Holy Communion, St Boniface Church

Sunday 29 May

9.30am: Holy Communion. St Jude's Church 10am: Holy Communion, St Boniface Church

If you have an event for our diary, please email the date, time and place to briggsharris@live.co.uk



Eric Wallington: Thought for the month

DURING the Second World War. six million people were sent to the

Nazi prison camps to be killed in the gas chambers. Most, but not all, were Jewish. Those who were still alive at the end of the war were no more than skeletons. One of the most notorious camps was known as Bergen-Belsen, where a Romanian Christian was imprisoned. Somehow, amidst the terrible conditions and suffering, he managed to pray that he would be enabled to respond to God's commandment to love our neighbours. As a result, he spent much

of his time with the sick, the starving, the diseased, the dving and even with those who had betrayed their neighbours - people whom nobody else would even speak to. An atheist, who had seen the Romanian Christian seeking to help and support many in their suffering, approached him and asked him about his love and concern for those who so severely suffered, amonast them the outcasts.

The Romanian Christian was asked about the God he worshipped and when asked: 'What is your God like?' he replied quite simply: 'He's like me.'

None of us could say that - 'God is like me'. We haven't the life of devotion and self-sacrifice that the Romanian showed. All, I suppose, we could claim is that we're trying to become more like God. Philip, one of the 12 Disciples, once asked Jesus what God was like. Philip got the same answer from Jesus as the atheist did when he asked the Romanian Christian what God was like. Jesus effectively said to him 'God is like me' when he told Philip 'Whoever has seen me, has seen the Father.'

The great debate: Christianity at work in the workplace

Why I put my faith in God

LAY reader Tom Crotty has a difficult job.

But he believes his life as a chief executive at manufacturing company Ineos is made easier with God's help - and says he often prays about issues at work.

"I believe that you can be a better businessman if you live by your Christian values," he says.

"I imagine Christ as a colleague and as I go through the day, I try to reflect on whether I am ashamed to have said what I said or did what I did in front of Him."

But he understands why others may be sceptical.

"No one has ever said 'How can you be a Christian and a businessman?' as directly as that but I've sensed the implication several times," he said. "There are a lot of

BIG BUSINESS: Ineos chief executive Tom Crotty is also a lay reader at St Boniface Church

people who assume that the words 'business' and 'morality' are not easy bedfellows

"Bankers' bonuses and the cynical selling of dodgy mortgages all reinforced that prejudice of immoral businessmen."

with a turnover of £4billion and 4,000 employees and one that is focused on the creation of wealth. But the licensed lay reader at St Boniface Church said Christ did not view money as evil.

in a fit of anger but that was Christ

telling us to get our priorities right," he said.

"I'd be pretty upset to walk into church on a Sunday to find that Barclavs had installed a cash machine and Costa had opened a coffee franchise.

"Christ repeatedly told his followers that money is not evil; it's the way men use it and abuse it where things go wrong.

Mr Crotty lives with his wife Elaine in School Lane.

ity important at work? Email us at briggsharris@live.co.uk

Mr Crotty runs a division at Ineos

"He may well have thrown the moneychangers out of the temple What do you think? Is Christian-

dgley: Prayer for the month

BREAD is our staple food. We eat it every day.

From sliced white to virtuous wholemeal, there is something infinitely satisfying about it.

The slow risen, lovingly hand kneaded artisan bread is best, but for today's frantic lifestyle, the bread machine is the best thing since, well, sliced bread.

Ever watched teenagers demolish a new loaf in minutes after school? What is a seaside picnic without Jesus, you are the bread of life. Your bread lasts forever. Thank you for giving us the bread we need. To nourish our bodies. Give us your living bread. To nourish our souls.

the sand-filled, soggy sandwich? And oh, the comfort of hot buttered toast when you're miserable. It's a sociable thing, too, sharing a basket of fresh warm bread and dipping it into a dish of fragrant, fruity olive oil.

Jesus ate like that. He fed 5,000 people on a mountainside. He ate supper with His friends just before He died. It was Judas, who dipped in the dish with Him, who went out and betrayed Him.

And after the resurrection, when Jesus appeared to His Disciples, they only recognised Him when He broke the bread.

www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk

PICTURE SPECIAL



SPECIAL APPEARANCE: Wilmslow-based Chorale travelled to Bunbury on 2 April to give the village a very special performance of choral favourites. The audience also enjoyed mingling over a few glasses of wine in the interval. As one could expect from one of the North West's finest choirs, the standard was excellent and we hope they will return



Stylist Suzanne Badder used her head to thank a client who loaned her £1,000 to help pay for an operation on her dog Molly.

The owner of The Salon in Bunbury had her head shaved.
Molly has since undergone the £4,000 operation - and is recovering well.

"I cannot thank my client enough," said Suzanne.



WINNING SIDE: Beeston Young Farmers' netball team – [back row] Jenny Brereton, Cat Bull, Sarah Roberts, Anna Christian, and [front row] Amelia Aspden, Alastair Shallcross and Ashleigh Dean beat Malpas Young Farmers to lift the Cheshire Young Farmers' Federation Cup at Brine Leas sports hall



NOT SUCH A TALL ORDER: Elise with her giant sunflower

Can you grow a giant sunflower?

Schoolgirl Elise Whiteman and her father grew a giant sunflower, almost by accident, last year.

The leviathan specimen grew to a height of 15ft 3" despite its stem being a bit bent.

Elise said the secret was regular water.

This year – to entice others to have a go at growing a giant sunflower – they are running a competition of their own in conjunction with the Link.

The date for entries will coincide with Bunbury Gardening Club show on August 27 with the winning entry judged on site. Measurements should be from the ground to the highest point, so it the head droops that length will not count.

Good luck.



MOUNTAIN EFFORT: Bunbury's 'boys' took to the hills again. This time the famous five became eight when Paul Holbrook, Graham Melia, Roger Parr, Johnny Gillett, George Dowie, Chris Jones, Robert Tomlins and Neil Dewson-Smyth decided to tackle England's seventh highest mountain – the 2,949ft peak Great Gable. Neil took this photograph as they stopped to enjoy the view – and catch their breath – on the climb up to Hay Stacks



Pupils merit finest awards

Johnny Gillett would like to say a big well done to all the pupils of The Journey Man Theatre who took their speech and drama exams recently. Out of the 61 entries in total, everyone passed - 30 with merit and 25 with distinction. Most of the children are pupils at Bunbury Primary School, where the lessons

take place, with a small, but significant, group of High School students.

"The Journey Man is very proud of them all," said Johnny.

The photographs show a celebratory time at the youth theatre, working with international puppeteers, No Nonsense Theatre Company.





www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk

Evelyn France, of Rose Cottages, Wyche Lane, lived in or near Bunbury for all her adult life.

It would be fair to say that her life was painted on a small canvas – she didn't travel much and was happier 'on her own patch' – but that did not stop her packing a good deal into it.

Eve or Evelyn - she hated to be called 'Evlin' - was born the 5th of six children to Wilf, a railway worker, and Margaret Claydon near Runcorn.

A large part of her childhood was spent at Norton Station, where Wilf grew his own vegetables and walked his children to the Methodist Church on Sundays.

Eve and her sisters remembered it as a Spartan existence.

At 18, Eve moved to Peckforton to work as a nanny to the Leach family.

Shortly afterwards, she met her husband-to-be, farm-worker Charlie France, when he saved her from a bull (or so she said) This romantic encounter led to a long marriage which only ended when Charlie died in

Charlie was a well-liked man who worshipped at St Boniface Church and his quiet presence was much missed by his family. The couple lived first in Rose Cottage, Peckforton, where in 1955 they adopted a daughter, Lindsey.

Eve's nieces have happy memories of staying with the family when they were children, walking, cycling and creating adventures in what to them was a story book landscape complete with castles.

Work was important to Eve. She was a milk woman, a shop worker and, for many years, a barmaid at The

Wild Boar and also at the restaurant now known as Panama Hatty's in its previous

incarnations as the Rembrandt and the Lantern.

Eve was well-suited to this job, being sparky, with a ready smile, although she did not stand any nonsense from either customers or employers.

She once told her sister, Nora, that her boss had sacked her at lunchtime only to ask her back in the evening: 'Well, I told him,

HAPPY SOUL: Evelyn Claydon, as a teenager, in Norton near Runcorn



SPARKY AND WITH A READY SMILE: Evelyn France, front left, with her sisters lvy, now aged 91, Brenda Elliott (at the back with glasses) who died in 2004 and Nora Walton, now aged 82

Evelyn, a woman who was happy 'on her own patch'

you cannot sack me, I'm the best barmaid you've ever had.' After Charlie retired, they moved to Green Cottage, Peckforton, and after Charlie's death Eve moved into Bunbury. She remained active until almost the end of her life.

'The old Eve would have been glued to the Royal Wedding'

She never drove but cycled in her youth and enjoyed a walk.

Eve, despite illness, was able to stay in her own home until almost the end of her life.

Her family gratefully acknowledge the kindness of neighbour Joan Proctor and her daughter Sandra who did so much to help support Eve as she became older and more frail. In her heyday, Eve was vivacious and sociable and lived life to the full.

It would be fair to say that she enjoyed life's pleasures including a drink and a smoke. Until old age she also had a busy social life.

She loved clothes and jewellery and took a great pride in her appearance.

She was also one of the mobile library's best customers.

Having not had a good education she regretted not being able to have music lessons when she was young.

However, she did listen to music and some her favourite songs were played at her funeral last month at St Boniface.

She had strong views on current issues and could be forthright. She also followed all

the popular TV soaps avidly and would often argue strongly with her sisters over details of plotlines and characters.

The old Eve would have been glued to the Royal Wedding, no doubt happy to share her views on what to her were another cast of heroes and villains. Alzheimer's disease. diagnosed 18 months before her death, took away much of Eve's sparkle - a sadness for her and those who loved her. "We can only be thankful that in true Eve fashion she did not hang about once diagnosed with terminal cancer in early March," said her niece Miriam Walton.

Eve leaves behind two sisters, Ivy (92), Nora (82), her daughter Lindsey, grandsons Jonathan and Sam and several nieces and nephews.

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A quiet, gentle man who did not like fuss

MOURNERS last month bid farewell to John Large who died aged 75.

John was a Bunbury man at heart and spent his entire life in the village where he was wellknown and well-liked.

He was born at Church Farm, Bunbury, on 24 November 1935

Having left school at 15, he started his working life at Lea's Agricultural Engineers of Nantwich, before moving on to work for Herbert Murray, a Bunbury builder.

After his National Service, which was served in Egypt, he became a member of the Royal British Legion.

He spent the remaining 40 years of his career working for NWF, first as an HGV driver and laterly working at the mill, where he made many true and loyal friends.

Having a large, close-knit local family was very important to www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk



DUTY: John served his National Service in Egypt

John. He had six siblings and many nephews and nieces. His Godson and nephew Richard followed in his footsteps by becoming an HGV driver.

Waiting until he was in his late thirties to tie the knot, he married Margaret on 10 February 1974 at St Boniface Church.

Being a quiet, gentle, loving husband, he wasn't prone to big romantic gestures, but he summed up his love for Margaret by saying: 'You were made for me'.

He turned out to be right and they remained devoted to each other for his remaining 37 years

He may be best known in Bunbury for his sporting interest and achievements, having played football and cricket for Bunbury, and even following in his father's footsteps by becoming captain of the Bunbury Cricket Team.

He later played cricket for Oulton Park, and played darts and dominoes for the pub teams in and around Bunbury.

Always a keen gardener, he also helped to maintain several gardens for other residents in Bunbury.

Vicar Rick Gates described him as a very quiet, gentle man.

"He did not approve of any kind of fuss, not even at his funeral," said Rick.



Come and see us sometime

THE question of women bishops was raised at a recent meeting of the Malpas Deanery Synod.

As a result, members of the Synod have been asked to note the views of their respective PCC members, and others in the parish. So if anyone has strong views on this subject, we

views on this subject, we would be pleased to hear them so that we can present them at the next Synod meeting.

On April 12 the annual vestry and PCC meetings were held.

St Judes' excellent treasurer said although the church was not overflowing with money, it was solvent.

But we would always be grateful for more money.

The actual church building was reported to be in a sound condition with no major or worrying structural faults.

Brigid Sayce and newcomer Elizabeth Marren were appointed as churchwardens.

Elizabeth was thanked for volunteering to take on this important job and David Wright was thanked for his time in office.

He will, however, continue to look after the churchyard records, which is no easy

Ann Posnet will continue as secretary at least for another year, Martin Phillips will continue to look after money matters and Ann Badrock remains as the organist.

Vicar Rick Gates thanked everybody for their continuing support for St Judes and spoke of the important role the church played in the life of the parish.

St Judes remains a peaceful place to worship or meet away from the frantic world around us. Come and see us sometime.

School reaps rewards

TEACHER Elaine Crotty was full of praise for the many parents - and non parents who helped with the 'big dig' at Bunbury School.

"So much was achieved," she said. "And the area looks so much tidier. There was a real sense of community."

Mrs Thacker gave Elaine a big hug on the Monday morning because she was so pleased.

The vegetable plot in the new field has been fenced now and the children are furiously planting seeds, so look out for vegetables being sold at the school gate during the summer.







BUNBURY'S Henry Johnson was among the thousands who lined up on 17 April to take part in this vear's London Marathon. Henry. who is the son of Guy and Carolyn Johnson, completed the 26.2-mile challenge in four hours and 15 minutes. Well done to Henry and anyone else from Bunbury who took part in this exhilarating run through London.

Labour and Tories battle for borough

VILLAGERS go to the polls on May 5 to pick the person they want to represent their interests on Cheshire East Council.

It will be a straight fight between Labour's Constance Jones, who lives in Nantwich, and Tory candidate Michael Jones, who lives in Bulkeley.

This will be the first election under the new ward boundaries set out by the Local Government Boundary Commission in January following a review by the Boundary Commit-

There will be 52 wards and 82

councillors. Bunbury lost a seat in the shake-up.

On May 5 the public will also be asked to vote on whether to change Britain's 'first past the post' election

Villagers in Bunbury will not, though, be voting for their parish council this year.

Nominations closed in early April and nine residents put their names forward for the nine council seats, meaning that there will be no elec-

Those who will form the new council are: Sally Beard, Dennis Burrows, Brian Dykes, David Ellis, Eric Lord, Gary McCormack, Nick Parker, Erica Partridge and Jill

The village offers its thanks to them for putting their names into the hat once again and to work on behalf of the village.

Each of us pays for the work of the parish council through the precept, and we trust and pray that the members will use our money wisely in these difficult times for many.

Spare a thought also for Calveley Parish Council, where nobody put their names forward.

Need help writing your CV and covering letter?

YCs get set to celebrate

THE Young Christians celebrate their 30th birthday on Sunday June 19 by leading a service of celebration at St Boniface Church - and they are hoping to be joined by a few 'old' Young Christians. The 10am service will be followed lunch and a spot of entertainment provided by the YCs themselves with music from Tom Crotty and Andrew Dean. Rita Aston founded the group, which was then known as Club 21, for teenagers. It eventually became the YCs.

For more details about the event in June, please email Wendy Slack wendy slack@hotmail.com



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FOND FAREWELL: Lucy Munro and Jill Robey, staunchly supported by Peter Crump, are now all enjoying a well-earned rest after seven successful years at the helm of the Link. Deadlines will no longer be a part of their monthly calendar. Instead they can look forward to attending church and village events rather than reporting on them. We thank them for all their hard work and wish them well

Special service at Calveley to welcome John

New High Sheriff chooses Rick as his chaplain

A LOCAL businessman and father of two has been appointed High Sheriff of Cheshire.

John Lea, of Alpraham Green, was officially confirmed at a unique ceremony before the Privy Council at Buckingham Palace when the Queen used a silver bodkin to 'prick' his name on a list written on parchment of all the new High Sheriffs for England and Wales.

As High Sheriff, he hopes to help steer young people away from a life of crime.

"Away from the pomp and ceremony, this role holds an important place in society and offers great service to the community, in particular its support of the voluntary sector and dealings with the police on crime prevention," he said. "I will be actively looking to promote schemes which encourage www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk



local youngsters to become achievers, no matter what their background or financial status."

To help him, John, who is managing director of Crewe-based Mornflake Oats Ltd, has invited the Rev'd Rick Gates to become his chaplain for the year. Last

month, Rick conducted a 'Shrievalty Service' - in the presence of the Bishop of Chester, the Right Reverend Dr Peter Forster - at Calveley Church to welcome John into his new role.

The High Sheriff and Under Sheriff signed the Declaration of Office which was then followed by a blessing conducted by the Bishop of Chester.

The retiring High Sheriff Diana Barbour, Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire David Briggs, Under Sheriff of Cheshire David Mason and Michael Trevor-Barnston also attended the service at Calveley.

"It was a truly memorable occasion for all those who were privileged to attend," said Sue Woodward, secretary of the Calveley Church Committee and chairman of the fund-raising committee.

POETRY **CORNER**

SPRING

I speak not of spring; it is but a word Of black and white and icy

If that is the spring you

It might as well be sleet and snow;

Words do not capture such a thing,

Though I am trying now.

The daffodils you have all seen:

The soaring skies, and in between

The birds sit lightly, nest and sing.

Words cannot capture such a thing;

I am a fool. The waking oaks

Put forth their tentative shoots of green.

Green is a calming colour – still

In hectic life the hours spin by.

Yet as the sun withdraws its rays

Into the multi-coloured haze

It leaves the ever-longer days.

As all things, daffodils will die –

Yet next year they will rise again.

By that time all things may have changed;

And today will be merely then.

Eilidh Bodfish, aged 12



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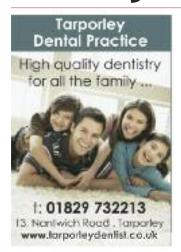
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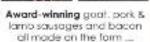
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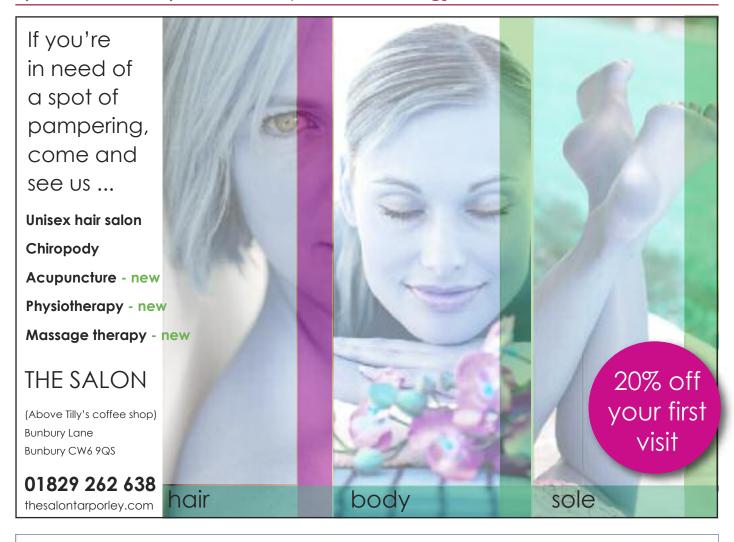
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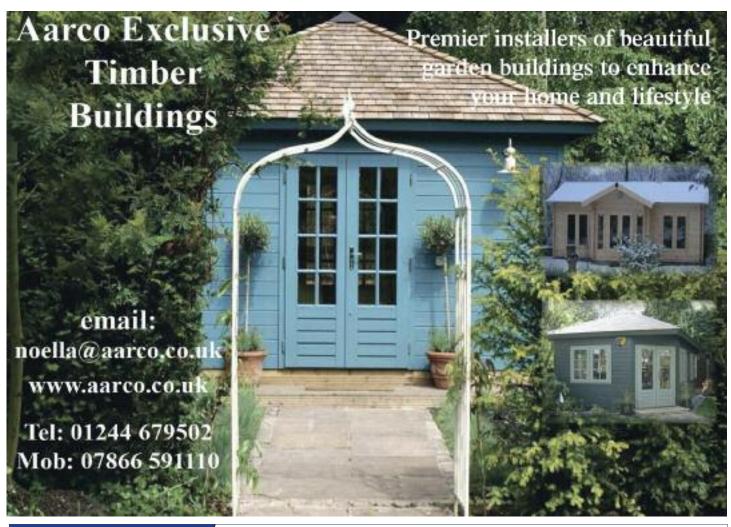


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