



This picture may be the nearest we get to a white Christmas this year but whatever the weather, a joyful Christmas and a very Happy New Year to all our readers. The Link would also like to give special thanks to all all loyal distributors - we know your deliveries are always eagerly awaited - and to our many contributors.

Rick celebrated 10 years as our Vicar in November. Read all about his first impressions of us on page 8.

For children far away

Once again there was marvellous support for the Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal. Clarks, Sole Trader, Jones the Bootmaker and Faith in Chester all donated empty shoeboxes for our community to use. The school, local churches, Burrows the Butchers and Bunbury Co-op have all played their part in bringing hope to these desperate youngsters worldwide by distributing leaflets, collecting boxes and promoting the scheme.

Over 200 boxes have now been taken to the Wrexham depot ready for dispatch. Our gifts are likely to be taken to the Ukraine which last year received

25,000 boxes. An OCC volunteer, speaking at Bunbury School, reported how delighted the children are when they receive their box. Never having had a present before, they kept on asking, "Who has given this to me?", amazed to receive such a special gift from strangers far away.

Nicola Elsegood, OCC co-ordinator



Tree of Lights

The Target 1250 Tree of Lights outside St. Boniface will once again be lit from 7th December, sponsored by local and not-so-local people commemorating the events of the year. If you would like to join the scheme by sponsoring a light to remember a special person or event there is still time. Please contact Lucy Munro on 260487.

Join us at church

There are several special services taking place over the next few weeks. Please join us:

7th December Christingle (Bunbury)

14th December St. Judes and Calveley Carol Services

21st December Nativity Service and Service of Carols and Readings (both at Bunbury)

Christmas Eve Crib Service (Bunbury)

For full details of times and of all other local church services, please see page 15.

Community news

Chris and Chrissie Latter would like to share the news of their first grandchild's arrival. **Isaac Richard** was born on November 7th to their son **Tom** and his wife **Lucy** (shown below). Congratulations to the proud grandparents.



Congratulations to **Barbara Morrey's** daughter **Helen**, (nee Cartwright) and husband **Richard Roberts** on the birth of **Alexander Hagen**, their first child in High Wycombe on 12th November, Barbara's 4th grandchild (below).



Francesca Anne Melina Barnes, daughter of **Christopher and Sarah-Jane** of The Grange, Alpraham, was baptised on 1st November at St. Boniface.

Amie Elizabeth Edge, daughter of **Peter and Katie** from Coppenhall was baptised on 14th November at St. Boniface.

Griff Stuart Glyndwr Rees, son of **Nick and Sally-Ann**, grandson of **Frances** and the late **Stuart Furber**, was baptised on 16th November at St. Boniface.

Congratulations to **Derek James and Racheal Sinden** who were married on 3rd November at St. Boniface.

Congratulations to **Nick James** and **Charlie Crotty** who celebrated their 21st with a joint party in November.

And let's not leave out Charlie's mum, the ever youthful **Elaine Crotty**, who reached her 50th birthday on 30th November.

A very happy birthday to **Tina Everton (below)** who reaches her half century on 16th December. (We think she is fibbing).



Sandbach Voices Christmas Concert is at St. Mary's Church, Sandbach on Sat Dec 13th at 7.30pm. Tickets £9 from 01606 738373

The next **Sandstone Run** in aid of the NSPCC is on Sunday 5th April 2009 starting at Beeston Market at 10am. For more information email race organiser Andrea Beaumont sandstonerun@yahoo.co.uk

£200 has been sent to **Crisis at Christmas** from readers publishing their Christmas greetings instead of sending cards. Thanks to all who have donated.

Remember **St. Luke's Hospice's Sportsman's Dinner** on Thurs 18th December. The speaker is Duncan McKenzie, ex Everton and Leeds footballer. Three course dinner, tickets £35, details from **Jane Thompson 01606 555688**.

Save the Family are appealing for small Christmas gifts, especially new toiletries, handkerchiefs, socks etc and for unwanted household items such as crockery, bedding and towels. Also children's and babies' clothing, equipment and toys would be most welcome. Please leave your donations in church from **Mon 8th Dec** for collection on **Wed 10th Dec** at 11am.

Church news

A **Christingle Service** will be held at St. Boniface on 7th December at 4pm following which the **Tree of Lights** will be lit up for the first time this year. A big thank you to all who have sponsored a light so far. If you would still like to do so please contact Lucy 260487 or Jill 260081.

The '**St. Boniface Christmas Choir**' will be rehearsing on Monday Dec. 1st and 15th at 8pm at the primary school in readiness for the Carol Service at 6.30pm on Sunday 21st Dec. All welcome.

A **nativity** for children of all ages (including the youth group) will be performed at **St. Boniface** at the 10am service on 21st December. There is a rehearsal on 14th December straight after the 10am service. Costumes will be provided. For details phone Debbie Shears (260707) or Sarah Tomlins (730814).

The **Memorial Service** held on 2nd November was well attended and appreciated by bereaved families but we know of some who were unable to attend at short notice - so here is the date for next year's service - November 1st 2009.

Things are happening at St Boniface with regard to employing a **new youth worker**; adverts are being placed and the word is being spread - we hope to be interviewing towards the end of January and employing soon after that.

If you can spare some time to help with church cleaning at St. Boniface we desperately need help. Please contact **Barbara Croley 260344**.

This month please pray especially for **Mary and Frank Large, Bill Corne** and **Suzanne Swann**.

Ann Latham writes from **St. Jude's**: 'We are lucky to have **Rev. Alan Mumford** preaching at our Christmas Day Service at 9.30am. He is always interesting, committed and sometimes controversial. Do come and join us. A very Happy Christmas in advance to everyone from all at St. Jude's, Tilstone Fearnall'.

The **February edition** of the magazine will be available in St. Boniface from Sunday 25th January.

Christmas fun comes early for School



Christmas came early to Bunbury School this year, with the arrival of Santa's grotto and the Christmas tree in time for the school's popular Christmas fair on November 21st. Only another 5 weeks' excitement before term ends on December 19th!

The Fair was well-supported, with lots of parents taking advantage of a chance to buy Christmas gifts, and pupils enjoying the chocolate fountain (below), swing boats and stalls.



Counting our blessings

If we each look back on the 12 months since last Christmas we'll remember times of great pleasure and great sorrow. We'll look forward to seeing people this Christmas and we'll be very sad that others can't join us. We'll remember that great holiday, that wet summer, that difficult stay in hospital, that wonderful surprise of friends caring for us when we were down. We'll call to mind the times our families made us proud, the times they made us embarrassed and the constant worry that comes from loving someone enough to let them explore the world.

Christmas reminds us that we are human, that we have good points and bad ones, high times and low ones. It reminds us too that our God comes into this very real world to share the reality of our lives, whatever that reality may be. If Christmas for you is a time of loneliness, of fear or of sorrow, remember that the birth of Jesus is there to show God's love for you. If Christmas is a time of shopping, parties and exhaustion, well it's for you too, if you can just spare the time to notice!

And if we have to cut back a little this Christmas and fill our stockings with

'credit crunchies' instead of Cadbury's ones, well, let's try to remember this:

If you have food in the fridge, clothes on your back, a roof and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a pot somewhere, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If you have never experienced the danger of war unfolding all around you, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of persecution, harassment, arrest, torture or death, you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.

If you can read this message, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read at all.

Thanks be to God. 'Peace on earth, goodwill to all.'

A very happy Christmas,

Jane Stephenson

Christmas greetings

Megan and Roger Fairweather wish all their friends and neighbours a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Anne James and family wish all village friends a happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year from **Paul, Maria and Poppy Rathbone**.

Kathy and Peter Collinge wish all their friends peace and joy for Christmas and the New Year.

Andy and Janine Fairclough would like to wish all their friends Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our village friends. Lots of love, **Chris and Andy Moore** and family.

Ernest and Barbara send Christmas Greetings to all our friends in Bunbury Village and at St. Boniface Church.

The Munro family wish all our friends a very happy holiday and all the best in 2009.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our friends, from **Gillian, Jim, Amy and Carly Grant**

Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2009 from **Paul, Fiona, Katrina and Andrew Holbrook**.

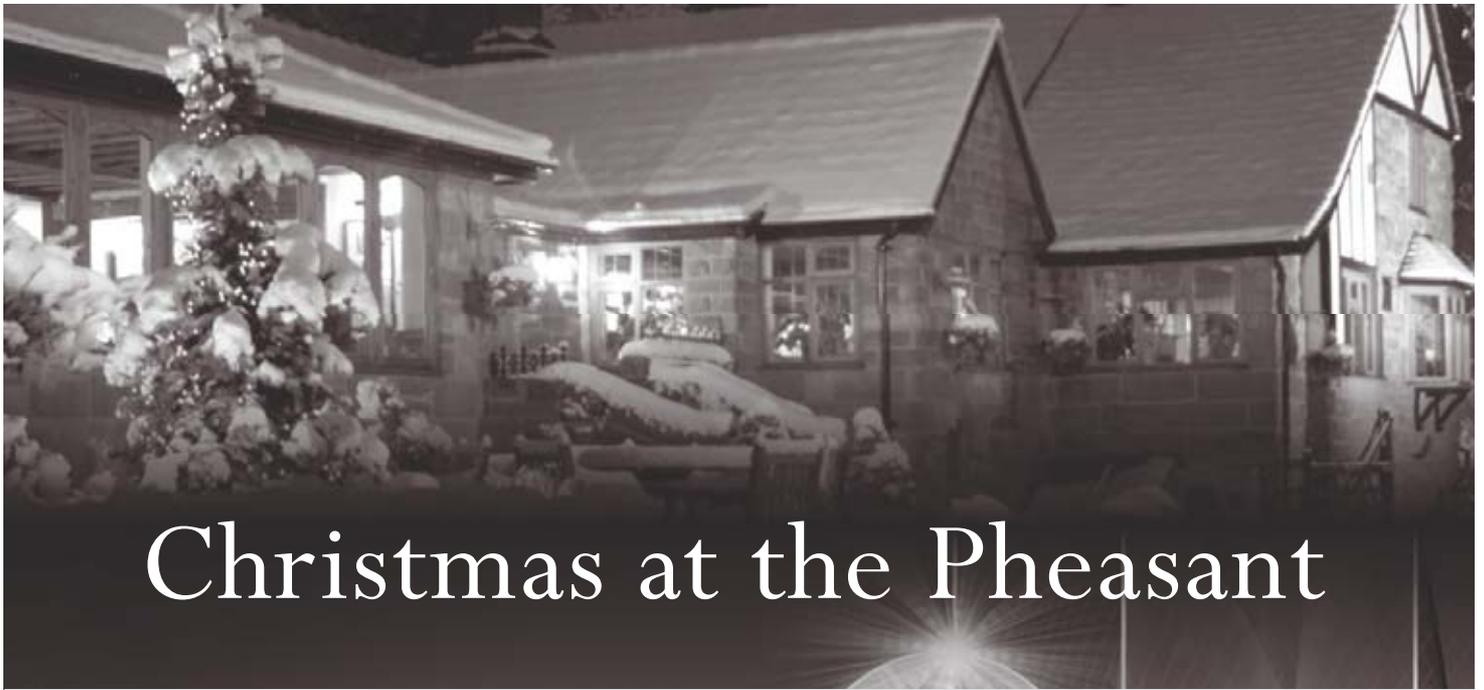
The Crotty family would like to wish everyone a peaceful and happy Christmas.

Happy Christmas and new year to all our friends love from **Jill, Lorna, Annie and Georgia Robey**.

All the teaching and non-teaching **staff at Bunbury School** would like to wish parents, governors, pupils and friends of the school a very Happy Christmas.

We are so lucky to have found Bunbury and its wonderful people. Merry Christmas everybody, from **Dennis and Betty Clauson**.





Christmas at the Pheasant

Christmas Fayre Menu

2 Course including coffee and mince pies £17.95
3 Course including coffee and mince pies £22.95

Menu available 26th November – 24th December

Our usual bar food menu will also be available throughout this period

Roast parsnip soup with chestnut shavings
Game Terrine on toasted brioche with homemade tomato and apple chutney
Beetroot gravadlax with lime dressing, capers and walnut bread
Bruchette of garlic mushrooms with melted goats cheese and pesto dressing

Roast turkey with cranberry stuffing and all the trimmings
Game hot pot with braised red cabbage and crusty bread
Fillet of seabass with olive crushed new potatoes, herb crust and ratatouille sauce
Butternut squash and vine cherry tomato risotto with parmesan crisp

Christmas pudding with brandy sauce
Vanilla Crème brulee with sable biscuit
Chocolate fudge cake with vanilla ice cream
Traditional cheese and biscuits
Coffee and mince pies

New Year's Eve

Bring in the New Year at The Pheasant Inn with a five course meal and dance the night away into the early hours with our after dinner disco. £65.00 per head

Traditional Scottish cock-a-leekie soup
Baked goats cheese crottin with baby beetroot salad
Winnie's chicken liver and foie gras pate with toasted brioche and sweet wine jelly
Pan fried scallops with Bury black pudding and fresh cranberry sauce

Champagne sorbet

Barry Pugh's roast suckling pig with whole grain mustard mash, baked apple and rosemary jus
Rack of Bowland lamb with caponata and sautéed new potatoes
Pan fried halibut on roasted peppers, salsa verde and vine tomatoes
Wild mushroom risotto with truffle oil and parmesan crisp

Chocolate tart with raspberry compote
Bailey's crème brulee with sable biscuit
Pear and almond frangipane tart with vanilla ice cream
Frangelico pannacotta with crushed hazelnuts and chocolate sauce

Selection of local cheeses and traditional garnish

Coffee and petit fours

For further information or to make a booking please call **01829 770434**

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The Christmas geese



'The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.'
(Titus 2,11)

Happy Christmas! Some may dream of a white Christmas but snow can be problematic for people and even disastrous for wildlife.

A Canadian naturalist noticed a flock of Canadian geese descending from a snowy sky on to a field near his home. He knew that these birds migrate to warmer climes further south but the cold weather had come earlier than usual and caught them out. Ice had formed on their wing feathers and made them too heavy to fly. The naturalist recognised that by next morning they would all have perished unless he could do something to save them.

There was a warm barn on the field, with some grain in it, and the man realised that if he could get the geese into the barn, the ice would thaw from their wings and they would break in the weather. He flung open the barn doors and tried to shoo the birds inside, but the birds were frightened and afraid of this human being and waddled in any direction away from him. The naturalist soon recognised that the only way he could possibly save the birds was if he

could become a goose himself and lead them to safety!

It's a true story but it's more than that. It's kind of a metaphor for what happened at Christmas. On the first Christmas Day, God came to earth to save us from the power of sin and to show to us that God is not someone of whom we should be afraid but rather our loving, Heavenly Father. And so God became one of us - a human body, helpless and vulnerable, lying in a manger. Clearly nobody could be afraid of a baby. The baby who was also God became the most loving man ever.

Jesus put his arms around the children and they knew they could trust him. He touched sick people and revealed his love in healing them. Jesus called his disciples his friends and they learned of his amazing love for all.

And so, after Christmas Day, St. Paul was able to write to his friend Titus, 'The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all'. The geese didn't realise they needed saving and, when salvation was offered to them, they rejected the help because they were afraid. Similarly God offers us his grace - to bring us salvation from suffering, hatred and sin.

God didn't appear on earth as a mighty king but as a lovable and loving baby. Baby Jesus brought salvation and offered it to everyone. And so we rightly wish others "Happy Christmas".

Eric Wallington

Latest on Bunbury Scout hut

The sale of the old Scout hut is progressing well and should be completed by early next year. Planning permission for the new community Scout and youth hut was granted on the 9th October. Funding allowing, it is hoped to start work on the new hut in the summer of next year, with completion by December 2009.

To this end, recent activities have focused on submitting the first of several key grant applications. The first grant application, for £50,000, has been submitted to WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd.), a national body which has previously given grants to Tarporley Community Centre and the new village hall in

Eaton. The 60-plus page application form was submitted in mid November and we will know the outcome towards the end of March.

It is hoped that the remaining grant application submissions will be made by the end of January, so that we can then turn our efforts and time to fundraising and sponsorship.

If anyone has any suggestions, requires any further information on the project, or would like to help in any way, then please contact either David Stockman (01829 260714) or Phil Elsegood (01829 260507).

David Stockman

Christmas shopping

Pat Edgley writes: Advent is the exciting time of waiting for the birth of Jesus, our Saviour at Christmas.

For many people, this year, money worries may be adding to the stress, hurry and rush as we strive to get things done. Here is a prayer to calm frantic shoppers.

Dear God, as I make my Christmas shopping list, I slowly bring before you each person I love.

I ask that you bless each one richly and keep them in your love. May the gift I find for them bring joy into their life.

As I choose, I pray that I will keep my buying in perspective and not spend more than I need or can afford. Let me remember all those who have so much less than I, for whom Christmas will be bleak, and find a gift for them, too. And help me, God, in all my busyness, to find time to centre myself on you, as I walk through the shops, sit on the bus, or drive my car. Let these times be moments, when, as I wait for your coming, I remember your incredible love for me.

Amen.

Brand new smiles

A cheque for £275 has now been sent to the Smile Train - most of the money from small change generously donated by readers. The charity is planning to perform a staggering 111,900 cleft palate surgeries on children in the coming year. The Smile Train has a record of never turning away a needy child. They estimate that there are about 6.4 million children in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Central and South America struggling to live with unrepaired clefts, but they say that every pound raised in the UK can be worth 500 times more when used to help children in these parts of the world.

We have paid for almost two complete operations but I am still collecting change in the shoebox at St. Boniface.

Many thanks for your help.

Isobel Munro, 13

Panto time again (Oh yes it is!)

As we go to print the Bunbury YCs are hard at work at the dress rehearsal for Dick Whittington, with Mike Ridley once again as the dame, Sarah Suet and Chris Green as the evil King Rat. Olivia Waddington takes the role of Dick with Charlotte Everton as her 'love interest', Alice. Both are following in older sisters' footsteps.



Pictured left are Sean Everton and John Waddington, busy constructing the set and above, the whole cast in rehearsal. Many thanks to Wendy Slack and all her team of backstage helpers without whom the annual panto wouldn't happen.

GCs success in farcical comedy

Bunbury GCs triumphed once again with their slick production of the farcical comedy "There goes the bride", a sell-out for 3 nights in November. Jim Walker starred as the advertising executive whose fantasy girl comes to life (just for him) after a bang on the head. Too complicated to explain, suffice it to say cast and audience alike enjoyed the hilarious mix-ups.



Need free debt advice after Christmas?



For confidential debt and other advice visit the CAB rural service at Bunbury medical centre Wednesdays 10-12 or the van at Bickerton Village Hall Thursdays 10-12.

Get fit after Christmas

- ◆ Aerobics Monday 9.15am and Tuesday 7.30pm, Bunbury Pavilion.
- ◆ Toning Monday 10.30am and 7.30pm, Bunbury Pavilion.
- ◆ Fitness Pilates Tues 9.30am, Jessie Hughes Village Hall, Eaton and new class Thursday evening 7.15pm at Bunbury School (to be confirmed).
- ◆ Boogie Fitt, Wednesday 1.40pm - energetic dance for pre-school children, Bunbury Pavilion

Call Ruth 262699 or Vikki 07967 112895



Give us 2 minutes - Andrew Dean



Andrew's family has long standing ties to the area. He was born in Tarporley but can trace his family back five generations in both Tarporley and Tilstone Fearnall. After Nantwich Grammar School, Andrew qualified as a piano tuner at college in 1983 and has worked for himself since then, building up a loyal client base covering Cheshire, Wirral and beyond. Married to Sharon in 1987, Andrew moved to

Bunbury from Eaton in 1998 and they have three daughters. Apart from being an organist at St Boniface, Andrew is also the keyboard player in the well-known local dance band, Tuner Salad. Aside from his musical interests, Andrew is also the proud owner of a 1959 Series 2 Land Rover which, very occasionally, leaves his garage.

If you had a motto, what would it be? Every day should be Friday!

It's a celebrity beer call. Where is it and who do you invite (and why)? It would have to be the Rat Pack, with Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr. Not only would they be interesting company, but just think of the singing on

the way home!

What would the title of your biography be? The Piano Man

What was your first job? I worked at Beeston Auction as a cattle drover when I was 16 and before going to college.

Who would you make Prime Minister? Me!

What is your biggest regret in life? Not being the Prime Minister.....

Where did you meet your partner? I met Sharon in 1986 at the Tarporley Church choir.

And what is your biggest success? Marrying the girl I met at Tarporley Church choir practice. (Editor's Note: Andrew was not alone in the house when he was asked this question....)

If you could change something about Bunbury, what would it be? It has to be the parking outside the chip shop – it is getting worse and it can only be a matter of time before someone gets hurt.

What is one thing about you that people may be surprised to learn? I tuned the piano for Spandau Ballet during their national tour in 1984.

Where and how would you spend your ideal weekend? I would like to go green -aning in my Land Rover followed by dinner in the Dysart with my wife and family (providing they left their mobile phones at home).

Nick Sanders

Our vicar, **Rick Gates**, is always available in times of sickness, bereavement or any distress. You can contact him at The Vicarage, Bunbury, on **01829 260991** or at **rick@prayer.fsnet.co.uk**

Other church contacts:

The Reverend Jane Stephenson (parish curate)	250249
Peter and Kath Collinge (pastoral support)	260077

St. Boniface

Churchwardens:	Barbara Croley	260344
	Walter Done	01244 332563
Secretary	Neil Dewson-Smyth	261680
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

Link is edited by **Lucy Munro (tel. 260487)** and **Jill Robey (tel. 260081)**. We welcome all contributions. Our deadline for the February edition is Friday 16th January. Please send material to **lucykmunro@hotmail.com**

Visit the St. Boniface website for pictures of recent weddings, weekly church notices and the Link on-line.

www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk

Rick celebrates the first ten years



Rick Gates has been vicar of Bunbury for 10 years but it's a job he didn't initially want. Here he talks to the Link about the past, the present and his future

When were you offered the job?

I was working in Runcorn when I was approached by the Bishop who said they were looking for somebody to offer a different slant to the church in Bunbury. He asked me about seven times to move here but I kept turning it down. It was such a big step to go from Runcorn with its obvious needs to a sophisticated Cheshire village.

What was your initial view of Bunbury?

After finally finding the place – I kept getting lost – I remember looking at the great big monster of a church and thinking it was not for me.

Were you worried about the move?

St Boniface is an incredible church for a village of this size. It's dramatic and awe-inspiring. I was scared of coming

here, wondering whether I would be accepted. In Runcorn, I did everything at the church, even cleaning toilets and unblocking drains. I realised that as the new vicar of Bunbury and Tilstone Fearnall there would be different expectations and responsibilities.

What did you discover about us?

The parish is overflowing with talent. A vicar here needs to allow people freedom and the place runs itself. Some vicars need to feel they're in control but I don't like the authority. I don't even like having keys.

How does Runcorn differ from here?

The problems are the same but they are dealt with differently. In Runcorn, if you have a problem with your neighbour, you just have it out with them. Here, you find a good lawyer. Here, if I go to people and spend time with them, then they'll tell me their stories. In Runcorn, they came to me. Here, people need me to be a listener rather than a talker.

Do people put you on a pedestal?

I want to be the same person in and out of the pulpit. I often say that I do bad things. I am not condoning it but it's the reality.

Are you a man at peace?

I am very comfortable in my own skin at the moment. But I have had to learn to live like that. I used to be an aggressive yuppie, always looking to the next thing but now I savour moments. A few years ago when I had cancer and thought I was dying there was a moment of realisation that I was actually getting better. I remember seeing hoar frost in

the garden. My skin was burning on my feet from the treatment. I took my shoes off and walked on it and saw green grass underneath. Everything I saw was real. From then I decided I was going to live each day in the moment.

Can people change?

Yes but they have to want to. I really believe that God changes people. When you have a relationship with God, you become like Him.

Do you ever doubt Heaven exists?

I have absolutely no doubt that God is there. I have more certainty about life after death than getting home from here. Is it really a possibility that after all our struggles and complexity that there is nothing after life?

How long does a sermon take?

Probably about 15 hours to write. I draw inspiration from everywhere. I know often go off the subject but I like to challenge my listeners.

What would you like for Christmas?

I'd like it to snow. Bells ringing, lights on the tree. I've never really grown up. I want to make up for all the lovely Christmases I never had as a child. I love all the razzamatazz and materialism at Christmas.

What is your most treasured possession?

Right now, in a fire, I'd rescue my new I-mac computer and my Pelikan pen. When I was ill I mentally let material possessions go. It is difficult to answer because of that.

Rick was interviewed by Sue Briggs



Happy Birthday

Another 10 year celebration will happen on December 28th when triplets Julia, Simon and Fiona Parker of Bunbury hit double figures. Look how they've grown!



Bunbury School challenges industry

Before saying goodbye to their teacher Mrs Gill, as she went on maternity leave, Year Six enjoyed a day 'Challenging Industry' at Solvay in Warrington, where they got the opportunity to try their hands at controlling the plant (see picture right). Sadly a follow-up evening for parents had to be cancelled, though it is hoped to reschedule it for next term. Anyone who recalls

the previous visit by the Children Challenging Industry initiative a few years ago will remember how much the children enjoyed, and even more importantly, were inspired by this insight into the world of manufacturing and problem-solving.



Well done to all the Bunbury School pupils involved in the new newspaper club run by Mr Harley. The "Little Link" is an impressive publication with a wonderful name!

WW2 Bunbury



The Bunbury Society meeting in an appropriately decorated pavilion on November 11th was particularly busy as interested members gathered for the launch of John Elsworth's most recent publication, "**Bunbury during the Second World War**" a fascinating compilation of unpublished photographs and accounts from old parish magazines. Copies are £5.00, available from John (260716) or Jean Healey (260238).

Haberdashers purchase field

The Governors of Bunbury School are very pleased to announce the recent purchase, aided by the Haberdashers, of the field adjoining the School grounds.

Vice Chairman of school governors, Geoff Vickers who has coordinated the purchase is delighted.

"During my term as a school governor, the land, which was part of a residential property, has been on the market a number of times. On each occasion we have tried to purchase it but were unsuccessful. This time we have succeeded."

The new land, adjoining the right-hand boundary of the school playing field and

running behind residential property on School Lane is a perfect fit with the existing school boundary. "The ink is still wet on the purchase documents so you will have to wait while Staff and Governors put together long term and short term proposals" said Geoff.

Our new Head teacher, Alyson Thacker is thrilled with the potential the purchase gives the school. "We are all very appreciative of the Haberdashers Company for their outstanding support when an opportunity like this arises." Chairman of Governors Mike Thomas added, "This was too good an opportunity to miss. The new field will allow all sorts of exciting new projects to be considered for the future."

Bonfire revels raise £1800

The Playing fields committee would like to thank everyone who supported bonfire night this year. We had a record turn out who all enjoyed an excellent display with more fireworks than ever. Despite bigger bonfire nights held in the towns it becomes more and more evident that our youngsters like to spend bonfire night with their friends in the village. The added bonus of this trend is that the playing fields charity will benefit by £1800 which can be spend maintaining and improving the facilities for the users of the playing fields, playground and pavilion.

Jane Thompson

South African adventure

Bunbury student Rachel O'Neill is set to work in South Africa as a volunteer with children aged 4 plus in a social care home. She will be teaching and organising extra-curricular activities. Many of the children are orphans requiring emotional support as well as physical care.

Rachel went through a rigorous selection procedure and now has the added challenge of raising £4,660, the cost of supporting a volunteer for 12 months of the project. She has lots of fundraising activities planned the first of which is babysitting - contact her on 07809 228339 and watch out for more fundraising events.

www.justgiving.com/racheloneill



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Bob's Christmas quiz

1. Which English Monarch was crowned on Christmas Day 1066?
2. Melchior and Balthazar were two of a famous "threesome", who was the third?
3. In which country would you find the Taurus mountain range?
4. Which Australian Territory is only 360kms from Java?
5. In 1930 which country won the first Football World Cup?
6. How many bones are there in a human skull?
7. Which famous diarist started his writing on 1st January 1660?
8. What temperature is 28C in the Fahrenheit Scale?
9. Who is 5th in the order of Succession to the Queen?
10. Who plays the part of Harry Potter in the popular film series?
11. In the films what time was the train to Yuma?
12. Where would you be if you were standing under the Eastgate Clock?
13. "Do They Know It's Christmas" was the Christmas No.1 in 2004 for which group of singers?
14. Add the number of "Calling Birds" to the number of "Ladies Dancing" and take away the number of "French Hens". What number are you left with?
15. John Ridd was the central character in which 19th Century classic novel?
16. What do the letters "www" stand for?
17. Which Cheshire town was immortalised by Mrs Gaskell in her novel Cranford?
18. In which European capital city you would find Wenceslas Square?
19. By what common name is *Ilex* better known?
20. What religious event is celebrated on January 6th?



Answers in February Link

The joys of spell-checker

Eye halve a spelling chequer
It came with my pea sea
It plainly marques four my revue
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.

Eye strike a quay and type a word
and weight four it two say
Weather eye am wrong or write
It shows me strait a weigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid
It nose bee fore two long
And eye can put the error rite
Its rare lea ever wrong.

Eye have run this poem threw it
I am shore your pleased to no
Its letter perfect awl the weigh
My chequer told me sew.

Sauce unknown

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Mis-spellings from other publikations

Dog kennel, suit medium-sized dog. Good condition. Very turdy. Buyer collects. £9.99. (Wisbech Standard)



People in Preston ward are invited to a meeting at 7.15pm tonight in St. Mary's Church Hall, Brighton, to meet councillors and beat police officers. (Evening Argus)

Winners in the homemade claret section were Mrs Davies (fruity, well-rounded), Mrs Rayner (fine colour and full-bodied) and Miss Ogle-Smith (slightly acid, but should improve if laid down). (from a Leicester parish magazine).

Due to a printing error, a story in last night's Gazette referred to athletics coach Billy Hodgins as an 'old waster'. This should, of course, have read 'old master'. We apologise to Mr Hodgins for any embarrassment caused.

An exasperated mother whose son was always getting into mischief finally asked him, "How do you expect to get into heaven?"

The boy thought it over and said, "Well, I'll run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St. Peter says 'for Heaven's sake, Richard, come in or stay out!'"

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The 12 days of Christmas

I wonder if, like me, you have been baffled by this song. It's an extremely old carol, but one that is never sung in church. What on earth have leaping Lords, swimming swans and French hens got to do with Christmas, and what about a partridge in a pear tree?

Is it simply that people used to be more generous with their present-giving in days gone by, and actually gave out presents on each of the twelve days from Christmas Eve to the sixth of January? I don't think so. As I understand it, the tradition of giving gifts, other than food to the poor, is another of those traditions, like the Christmas tree, which only started in Victorian times. I have got another explanation that came from a friend of a friend – which is where all good stories come from, after all!

From 1558, when Queen Mary died, until 1829, the date of the Emancipation Act, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practise their faith openly. At some point during those long years 'The twelve days of Christmas' was written as a 'secret' catechism song for Catholic children. Each element of the song had a secondary meaning known only to members of the Catholic faith:

The partridge in the pear tree is Jesus Christ.



Two turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments.

Three French hens stand for Faith, Hope and Love.

The four colly or calling birds are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The five gold rings recall the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.

The six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming represent the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit (prophesy, serving, teaching, exhortation, contribution, leadership, mercy).



The eight maids a-milking are the eight Beatitudes.

The nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control).

The ten lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments.

The eleven pipers piping stand for the eleven faithful disciples, and

The twelve drummers drumming symbolise the twelve points of belief contained in the Apostles' Creed.



Can anyone tell us if this story is true?

(Thanks to Meg Fairweather for this)

Youth worker wanted

St. Boniface Church is looking for a **Christian youth worker** to work primarily with young people aged 11 and over. This is a flexible, part time, paid position (15 hours a week).

For more information please contact **Amber Middlemiss** on 261437 or **Rick** on 260991. Please pray for the right person to come forward.

December and January Diary

December

3	10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
7	8.00am 9.30am 10.00am 11.00am 4.00pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Family Worship Holy Communion Christingle	St. Boniface St. Jude's St. Boniface Calveley St. Boniface
10	10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
14	9.30am 10.00am 4.30pm 6.30pm	Carol Service Family Communion Evensong Carol Service	St. Jude's St. Boniface (with Bishop Alan) St. Boniface Calveley
17	10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
21	8.00am 9.30am 10.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Family Worship And Nativity Carol Service	St. Boniface St. Jude's St. Boniface Bunbury
24	4.30pm 6.30pm 11.30pm	Christmas Eve Crib Service Holy Communion Midnight Communion	St. Boniface Calveley (note earlier time) St. Boniface
25	9.30am 10.00am	Christmas Day Family Communion Family Communion	St. Jude's St. Boniface
28	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Communion Family Communion	St. Jude's St. Boniface
31	10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface

January

4	8.00am 9.30am 10.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion Holy Communion Family Worship Holy Communion	St. Boniface St. Jude's St. Boniface Calveley
7	10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
11	9.30am 10.00 4.30pm	Holy Communion Family Communion Evensong	St. Jude's St. Boniface St. Boniface
14	10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
18	8.00am 9.30am 10.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion Holy Communion Family Worship Family Worship	St. Boniface St. Jude's St. Boniface Calveley
21	10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
25	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Communion Family Communion	St. Jude's St. Boniface
28	10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface

Local Christmas services

Methodists

Carol Service - 10.45am at Bunbury on 21st December - Rev Ann Rigby-Jones/Mrs Sheila Fath

Christmas Day - 10.00am Bunbury - Mike Ridley

More Carol services and Christmas concerts

WI Carols at St. Boniface - Mon 8th December, 7.30pm.

Abbey Gate College Choir at St. Boniface - Friday 12th December

Bunbury School presents **"One Bright Star"** at St. Boniface - Wed 17th December,

New Year invitations

Jim Walker has booked Bunbury Village Hall for New Year's Eve and is looking for people in the village to celebrate together. Each party will bring their own food and drinks - it's just the venue that's on offer - but if there are plenty of people there it could make for a great atmosphere. The only obligation for each group is to set up your own table and clear away your own mess afterwards (and help with the cleaning of the Hall the next day). 100 partygoers can be accommodated, and each table comfortably seats 8.

Please phone **Jim on 261227** if you wish to reserve a table.

The **St. Boniface bell ringers** will be ringing in the New Year from 11.40pm onwards. Everyone who can climb up the tower steps to join them is most welcome.

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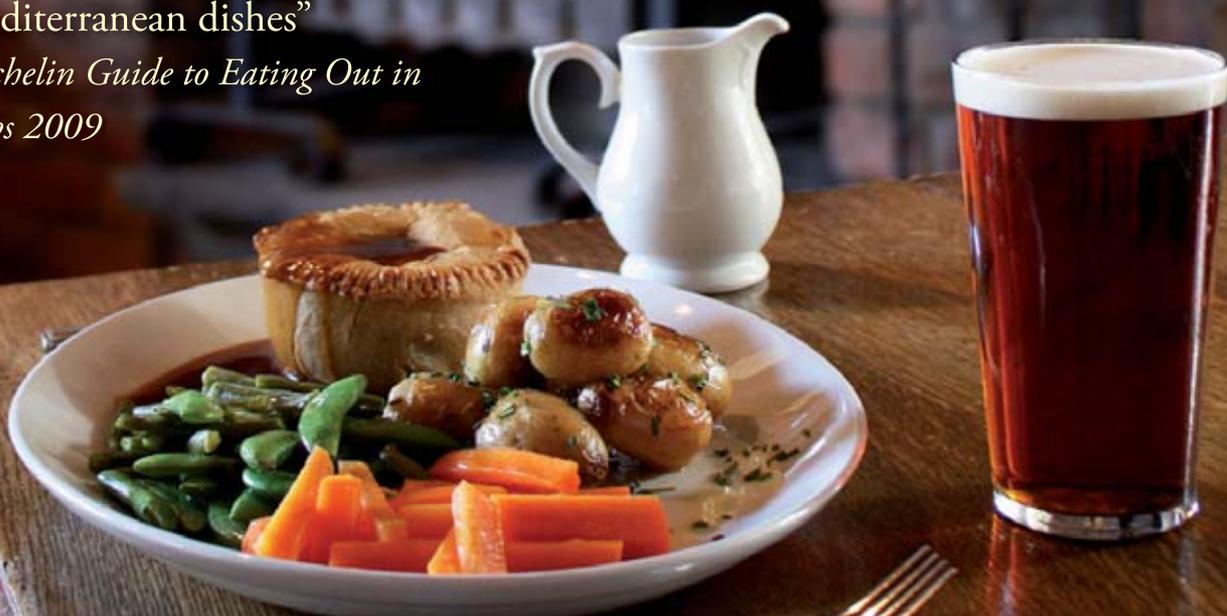
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