



July 2026

# Link

A magazine for the parishes of Bunbury and Tilstone Fearnall



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# WHO WE ARE

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

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Please give to St Boniface to maintain our beautiful church building

## A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you to everyone who supported Bunbury Village Day, making it such a success! With special thanks to the Village Day Committee for such a great effort on their part.

At the time of writing this piece there is only a week left until the artworks for Inspire 26 start to arrive in church. I am sure the event will be a success thanks mainly to the contributors and to all the wonderful volunteers who are helping in so many ways. Another community effort.

After our next double August and September edition, the magazine will take a break over the summer and be back in October. Thank you to all those who contribute and also to all those who deliver the Link.

*The Link team hope everyone has a lovely summer.*

*The copy deadline for the Aug/Sept issue is Friday 17 July.*

*The magazine should be delivered from Friday 1 August*

*Please send notices to: [parishlinkeditor@stbonifacebunbury.org](mailto:parishlinkeditor@stbonifacebunbury.org)*



## Our prayers

Loving God,

We thank you for the gift of community: for friends and neighbours, for those who serve quietly behind the scenes, and for all who help our village to flourish. We give thanks for the success of Wild Bunbury Village Day and for everyone supporting Inspire 26 with generosity, enthusiasm, and hope.

Help us to recognise Christ in one another, to welcome those who feel alone, and to build bridges of friendship and understanding. Strengthen us in our shared purpose, that together we may create a community marked by kindness, belonging, and joy. In Jesus' name.

Amen.



# Celebrating Community



One of the great joys of village life is that we are constantly reminded that we belong to something bigger than ourselves.

In an age when many people speak of loneliness and isolation villages like ours

continue to demonstrate the power of friendship and neighbourliness. Over recent weeks, we have seen this spirit of community displayed in abundance.

The success of Wild Bunbury Village Day was a wonderful example. What began as a vision to celebrate our local community became a day filled with creativity and connection. Families spent time together, children dressed up, volunteers welcomed, and neighbours came together to enjoy the place we call home.

Events such as these do not simply happen by themselves. They rely upon countless hours of planning, preparation, and practical support. To everyone who organised, volunteered, attended, baked, stewarded, tidied up, sponsored, or simply encouraged others to take part, thank you. Together, you made something special happen.

At the same time, many people across the village have been working hard to support Inspire 26. Whether through fundraising, planning events, offering practical help, sharing ideas, or simply cheering others on, there has been a tremendous sense of people pulling together towards a common goal.

Inspire 26 is about more than an exhibition. It is about investing in our community, building relationships, creating opportunities, and helping people discover hope, beauty and belonging.

When we look around our village, we can easily see that community is built in many different ways.

It is found in organised events and committees, but it is equally found in the everyday acts that often go unnoticed. It is the neighbour who checks in on someone who is unwell. The friend who offers a listening ear. The volunteer who gives their time. The parent who drives others to activities. The landlord or coffee shop owner who knows customers by name. The countless small acts of kindness that weave together the fabric of village life.

The word "community" is sometimes used so often that we can forget what it really means. At its heart, community is about relationships. It is about recognising that our lives are interconnected and that we flourish best when we care for one another.

Friendship and neighbourliness are not simply pleasant additions to life; they are among the things that give life meaning.

For Christians, this understanding of community lies at the very heart of faith. Jesus taught that we should love God and love our neighbour. When asked who our neighbour is, Jesus deliberately expanded the definition beyond family, friends, or those who are similar to us.

A neighbour is anyone whose life touches ours and whom we have the opportunity to serve with kindness and compassion. This does not mean we always agree with one another.

Villages, like families, are made up of people with different opinions, backgrounds, interests, and experiences. Yet community is not built on everyone being the same. It is built on a willingness to value one another, work together, and seek the common good.

Perhaps that is why events such as Wild Bunbury Village Day and initiatives such as Inspire 26 matter so much. They remind us that we are stronger together than apart. They create opportunities for new friendships to form, for old friendships to deepen, and for people to discover a sense of belonging.

They help us see that each person has something valuable to contribute.

**As we look ahead to the months to come, may we continue to nurture this spirit of friendship, generosity, and shared purpose. May we never take for granted the gift of community that we enjoy. And may we each play our part, however small it may seem, in helping Bunbury remain a place where people are welcomed, valued, supported, and inspired.**

For it is often through the simple acts of neighbours becoming friends, and friends serving alongside one another, that communities truly flourish.



# Community News

## St Boniface 100 Club winners

The club draws take place on the first Sunday of the month at St Boniface church after the 10:30am service. The winning numbers on 7 June were 45, 22 and 43. Congratulations to the winners!

**Bunbury WI** meets on the second Thursday of the month at Bunbury Playing Fields Pavilion at 7:30pm. At our July meeting we will welcome Lena Keane – Medical Detection Dogs. The August meeting is a members only social with cheese and wine. Bunbury WI warmly welcomes visitors and new members. For further information contact Lynda Davies 01829 863781.

## Bunbury Village Day

This year's "Chris White Award for Contribution to the Community" was presented to Ann Wall at Bunbury Village Day on 13 June. The award was created in honour of Chris, who sadly passed away in 2016 and was the Treasurer of both Bunbury Mill and Bunbury Village Day. It was presented by Nicky Durrant Chair of the Village Day Committee



**Join Decibellas Choir** for their summer concert, 'Cloud' — an uplifting evening of beautiful music on **Saturday 4 July** at St Boniface Church. Tickets are available from Decibellas members, Hair Academy in Tarporley and at [Decibellas.co.uk/boxoffice](http://Decibellas.co.uk/boxoffice).

Adults £10 | Children £5 including refreshments. A bucket collection will be held at the end for Kelsall Wellbeing Hub in support of their work to combat loneliness in the local community.

Many thanks to our headline sponsor, Mornflake Mighty Oats, for their generous support.



**Congratulations to Peter McCleave** of 10,000 Donors on being recognised, on the King's Birthday Honours List for 2026, with an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE). An incredible and much deserved achievement for his tireless work for Stem Cell Donors DKMS UK and raising the awareness of blood cancer



## The Pickwick Papers

on Sunday 12 July at the Yew Tree Inn at 4:00 pm All proceeds go towards maintaining Bunbury's watermill. The mill is a Victorian Grade 2 listed building and a mill has stood on the site since the 11th century.

*Please see the Bunbury Watermill website for more information*



# What's on



## Alpraham & Calveley Village Day 2026

Following the success of last year's event, Alpraham & Calveley Village Day is back for 2026 on **Saturday 5 September**! We're planning a fantastic day for the whole community with live music, food and drink, family activities, games, a makers' market and much more. Entry will be free, and everyone is welcome. Keep an eye out for further details over the coming months, but for now, please **save the date** in your diary!

## Church diary for July

|                   |                                                                                              |                                                               |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 1 July  | 10:00am BCP Communion                                                                        | St Boniface                                                   |
| Sunday 5 July     | 8:00am BCP Communion<br>9:30am Morning Worship<br>10:30am Holy Communion and Forest Church   | St Boniface<br>St Jude<br>St Boniface                         |
| Wednesday 8 July  | 10:00am BCP Communion                                                                        | St Boniface                                                   |
| Sunday 12 July    | 9:30am BCP Communion<br>10:30am Morning Worship                                              | St Jude<br>St Boniface                                        |
| Wednesday 15 July | 10:00am BCP Communion                                                                        | St Boniface                                                   |
| Sunday 19 July    | 9:30am Holy Communion<br><b>10:30am No service</b><br>10:30am Pet Service<br>6:00pm Evensong | St Jude<br><b>St Boniface</b><br>Cricket Field<br>St Boniface |
| Wednesday 22 July | 10:00am BCP Communion                                                                        | St Boniface                                                   |
| Sunday 26 July    | 9:30am Morning Worship<br>10:30am Holy Communion                                             | St Jude<br>St Boniface                                        |
| Wednesday 29 July | 10:00am BCP Communion                                                                        | St Boniface                                                   |

**Charles Dickens' THE PICKWICK PAPERS** RIOTOUS COMEDY

*"A hilarious show"*  
*"Quite simply OUTSTANDING"*  
*"Five brilliant actors doing the work of ten!"*

**Open Air Summer Theatre**

**The Yew Tree Inn**  
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What 3 Words Location - [///manicured.acrobat.supplied](#)  
**Sunday 12th July at 4:00pm**  
Tickets: £18.00 adults, £8.00 child (5-15yrs)  
Tel: 03306 600541 - [www.bit.ly/Pickwick-Bunbury](http://www.bit.ly/Pickwick-Bunbury)

\*\*The Bar and BBQ will be on the field from 3pm onwards for the duration of the play\*\*  
gates open 3:00pm for picnics \* please bring your own low-backed seating or rug



**St Boniface**  
**Annual Outdoor Pet Service**  
**Sunday 19 July**  
**10:30am**  
**Bunbury Cricket Field**

**All pets and owners welcome**



**BUNBURY GARDENING CLUB**

Present our:  
**VILLAGE SHOW!**

**SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER @ 2PM**

CASH ONLY EVENT - please bring change  
**BUNBURY VILLAGE HALL**

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*Tea and cakes will be served from 2pm*



 **SCAN QR CODE FOR SHOW SCHEDULES**

**TOP TIPS FOR ENTRIES**  
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Facebook users: Join BUNBURY GARDENING CLUB GROUP



# Sky notes for July

Vindemiatrix

Alula Borealis

Tania Australis  
Tania Borealis

Denebola

Zosma

Porrina

Chertan

$\alpha$  Lyn

Adhafera

Algieba

Ras Elased Australis

Leo

Venus

Moon

Regulus

Looking west on 17 July at 10pm. The Moon is near Venus and Regulus just after sunset

(sky chart generate using SkySafari Pro software)

Algorab

Corvus

W

*The brightest object in July's night sky is the planet Venus.*

## Venus Blazes in the West

Look for it dazzling away in the west after sunset. It is visible all evening, leading to its common name of the "Evening Star", setting around 11:00pm.

On **9 July**, Venus passes just above Regulus, which is the brightest star in the constellation of Leo, the Lion. Then on **17 July**, the crescent Moon lies to the left of Venus, making a beautiful pairing with Regulus to the right. The accompanying sky chart shows the western sky at 10:00pm. It won't be completely dark then, but Venus, Regulus and the Moon will be visible just after the Sun sets.

## Antares, the Rival of Mars

The planet Mars rises about 2:00am in July. On the morning of **12 July**, Mars is to the right of the crescent Moon. Binoculars will show it to be orange in colour.

On **24 July**, the Moon is near the bright star Antares, the brightest star in the constellation of Scorpius, the scorpion. This takes place low in the south, so a clear southerly horizon is needed.

Antares means "Rival of Ares (or Mars)" in Greek, due to its distinct, fiery orange-red colour, reminiscent of Mars. You might be able to see this colour with the unaided eye, but binoculars will make it easier. Antares is a red supergiant star and is approximately 700 times wider than our Sun. It is around 12 million years old. Because of its immense mass, it is near the end of its life and will eventually explode as a supernova. But not in our lifetimes!

**Clear skies! - Bunbury Stargazer**

## Caring for the Environment

Some of our readers will remember that in the autumn a small group of people planted yellow rattle seeds in the churchyard. We are pleased to report that some of the seed has grown into plants (see photo).

On a similar theme church members were invited to a walk at the Barracks by Karen and Mark Sergeant. Since 2021 improvements have been made to attract wildlife. With tree planting, pond creation and herbal leys, the land has attracted over 88 species of birds as well as butterflies, dragonflies and other wildlife. It was a fascinating afternoon.

**A huge thanks to Mark and Karen**



# Bunbury Aldersey School

*Let Your Light Shine: A Week of Faith, Community and Celebration*



At Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary School, the week beginning 9 June was a particularly special one, filled with moments of reflection, celebration and community spirit.

The school was delighted to welcome the Haberdashers to the Deputation Day service, a significant occasion in the life of the school. During this service, the Year 6 children were each presented with a Bible, a gift which marks both an ending and a beginning — the close of their primary education and the start of a new chapter as they move on to secondary school. The photo is of Henry Bellis Ferreira (head boy) receiving his Bible from Caroline Davis, the Prime Warden of the Haberdashers Company.

Year 6 along with each class, played a central role in leading the service, confidently presenting and reflecting on the school vision: "Let Your Light Shine." Through readings, prayers and thoughtful contributions, the children demonstrated a deep understanding of what it means to live out this vision — showing kindness, courage, compassion and faith in their daily lives. It was a proud and moving occasion for staff, families and members of the wider community.

This service formed part of a wider week focused on reaching out beyond the school gates. As a rural church school, great importance is placed on the school's role within the village and the relationships with the local community. These connections enrich the experiences of the children and help them to understand their place within the community.

This sense of community was further celebrated on Saturday 13 June, when the school proudly took part in the Bunbury Village Day. Staff, families and pupils joined the vibrant "Wild Bunbury" parade, representing the school with enthusiasm, creativity and pride.

Events such as these are incredibly important, maintaining the school's presence within village life and upholding cherished traditions. It provides opportunities for the children to live out the Christian vision beyond the classroom — to truly "let their light shine" in the wider world.

*The staff at Bunbury School are very grateful to everyone who contributed to all these events. Working together a strong, caring and connected community is created for the children to grow in and flourish.*



## Murmuration

Spring, limbering up on the side line, pitches a mid-March surprise of wide blue sky over the Llyn, freckled with a smattering of mackerel. Gulls glide, catching their silent reflections in the pancake sea, before perching on outcrops when the wind dwindles. The sky-cracking boom of a man-made Typhoon thunders overhead, piercing the peace. Boy's Own adventurers, jetting off from Anglesey, guileless as the gulls in their Hawkish play. Always in pairs. In formation. In ghoulish tandem. And if they never have to fly in harm's way, amen.

*Debbie Roberts wrote this poem and sent it into the Link*



# The Hanlon School of Dance

*2027 will make 50 years of the Hanlon School of Dance, and 31 of those have been here in Bunbury. If you weren't taught to dance by Mrs Hanlon, you'll know somebody who was.*

Born in Cardiff, and proudly Welsh, Alyson Hanlon fell in love with dancing while watching "The Red Shoes" on her family's black and white T.V.

After training at a local dance school, Alyson moved to The Hammond to further her study and started teaching there in 1977 before opening her own dance school on the Wirral.

In 1995 the parent of a former student reached out and let Alyson know that they were looking for a dance teacher in Bunbury. The rest is history.

Alyson has been a steady member of Bunbury village life. She was involved in the Young Christians

pantomime for years, and still to this day has a slot in the Bunbury Village Day. She taught the little ones of Bunbury at Early Birds Pre-School for 20 years and has taught hundreds of children and adults from the village and surrounding area.

Alyson says she's still doing what she loves and seeing a pupil master a move they have found really difficult still gives her a "massive buz".

Alyson recently took a group of her senior and intermediate dancers to perform at the Birmingham Hippodrome, home of the Birmingham Royal Ballet, and next summer is taking another group of her older students to perform at Disneyland Paris.

As 50 years of teaching approaches, the school has their biannual show next spring, which is set to be a special one to mark the anniversary, and there'll be a celebration for all past and present students to celebrate.

**No doubt there will be some dancing!**



## Try and Try Again



Three years ago I bought a climbing rose when visiting the RHS Bridgwater gardens. You can never have too many roses! I kept an eye on it after it had been planted but it did not do anything so I moved it to another spot but it still sulked and refused to grow.

Early this year I decided to have one last try and moved it yet again to another spot in the garden. It has romped away, reaching nearly seven foot high and is about to flower. My ornamental maple was also sulking so that too has been moved to another part of the garden and it is loving its new home.

You can never tell if a plant is going to thrive, never give up on it but try different options and it will thank you one day when you find a spot it feels at home in.

You may remember my boxus woes when I discovered it was covered in box moth caterpillars. After cutting it down to three quarters of an inch it is now growing well from the base again. Not a hedge yet but I am hoping it will become one.

The area by my greenhouse where I had to remove three topiary box plants was planted with spring bulbs, which gave a wonderful colourful display. Now I am going to plant small ground cover plants with a few rocks in between. Gardens always present opportunities for change.

The garden club stall at the Village Day event was successful yet again. Thank you to everyone who brought plants and bought them on the day.





## Remembering Carole Ridley

Carole was born in Carlisle. She was brought up by a loving Mum and Dad. She was joined by a brother, Ian who, although 18 months younger, did try to boss Carole about. They were a loving family who regularly spent their summer holidays in a caravan at a famous seaside resort (for Cumbria!) called Silloth.

Perhaps surprisingly, Carole was an "adventurous" young girl! She was particularly proud of her ability to walk across a local weir (unknown to her parents) on the river close to her home and also to ride her bike down the hill outside her house.... with her hands on the handlebars and her feet on the seat. Following one crash, she became very proud of a scar which remained with her for the rest of her life, just under her chin.

Carole enjoyed school and after primary school moved on to the Margaret Sewell Secondary School where she made many good friends and began her life-long interest in the "arts" side of learning. She successfully achieved eight "O" levels but, being quite a "homely" young girl, decided that any further education was not for her.

After an initial first job she saw an advert and successfully applied to be a clerk with the Carlisle City Council in the Treasury Department. It was at this time that a young scholar by the name of Mike was also applying and was successfully appointed as a clerk for that same City Council...in the Surveyors Department. That was in 1966, meeting making tea for their respective departments was the beginning of a wonderful relationship, and the rest is history.

Carole and Mike were engaged two years later and were married in the local Methodist Church. A quiet, peaceful honeymoon based in Callander in Scotland set a pattern for their shared love of nature and beautiful places. They settled into their new home where one of Carole's first jobs was to plant sweet peas in her new back garden.

Anticipation was high when Carole became pregnant, and on a dark January night, baby Steve entered their lives. But no one was prepared for his immediate transfer to special care, with blood transfusions, an incubator and an ambulance transfer to an acute hospital. Thankfully he survived and the whole family gave thanks...although Steve, even then, wasn't the easiest of babies.

The family moved to Edinburgh and following a new job offer, returned to Carlisle with Carole once again pregnant. What a celebration, a baby girl, Joanne, home for Christmas...but all too suddenly, two months later, the terrible experience of a "cot death". After the devastation, Carole's strength and determination returned, resulting in the births of Peter and then Laura. But the devastation was not over. Her brother Ian and wife Sue had given birth to a son and a daughter, but again tragedy struck with Ian's sudden death while he was lecturing to a group of students.

Carole showed such strength of character in so many ways and her care for others was perhaps strengthened and expanded by what she had been through. After a move to Kidderminster the family moved again, this time to Bunbury. So many will have experienced her as she worked at the Chestnut Pavilion, or on Meals on Wheels, or down at Bunbury Mill, or maybe just through her talent for baking a cake, or providing flowers for some special purpose, or just sitting with her in her precious garden.

Her quiet support for those in need, her counselling of bereaved parents and so much more will mean that she will always be remembered. The only time that she didn't mind noise was when she was with her much loved, dear grandchildren – a most precious mutual relationship. She also loved the special holidays she spent around Europe, but none more than in her beloved Lake District, and perhaps it was inevitable that she should spend her final days of relaxation by the side of Lake Derwentwater.

She began to feel unwell after Christmas and was finally admitted to hospital, then, sadly, to the Hospice and to a nursing home for her final weeks. This meant Carole was able to spend precious time with Mike and go in a wheelchair to a small chapel next to the nursing home, where she worshipped and gave thanks one last time with Mike and Laura by her side.

Carole is sadly missed by all who knew her but we give thanks that she is now reunited with those gone before in her heavenly home.



# Bunbury Medical Practice

## News - July 2026

### Training Days for 2026

The practice will be closed from 1:00pm Thursday 9 July; it will reopen the following working day at 8:00am  
All training days for 2026 can be seen on our website.

### Building works

Patients visiting the surgery will have noticed that we are currently having some roof repair work done. The work will hopefully be complete by early August, during which time a section of the car park behind the surgery will be fenced off. We apologise for any inconvenience caused during this time.

### Staying hydrated in the summer heat – advice from our nursing team

The human body is 60% water, so it is important to stay hydrated!  
The NHS advises drinking at least 6-8 glasses of fluid daily as a minimum. The amount we need to increase our water intake will vary and can depend on factors including how much time you will spend in the sun and if you will be doing any physical activity. Generally, experts recommend drinking 2-4 litres of

water during hot weather; it is also important to spread this throughout the day to avoid drinking excessive amounts in one go.  
Try to avoid fizzy drinks as they can contain sugars. Water is best, but fruit teas and sugar-free juices are also acceptable. Limit alcohol and caffeine.  
The elderly, young children and babies are more at risk of dehydration.  
Signs of dehydration include feeling thirsty, a dry mouth, dark-coloured urine or passing urine less frequently.

### Rooted and Booted

*Keli Fox, our Wellbeing Co-ordinator, was recently contacted by the owner of Rooted and Booted which is a programme providing a safe, therapeutic and caring environment for young adults with learning disabilities. It is based on a working farm just outside Malpas.*

*Keli visited the owner, David Young, and was given an introduction to the programme which helps service users to engage in nature-based activities, be it growing vegetables in their market garden or doing conservation work in the woods, hedgerows, streams and ponds across the farm.*

*Anyone who would like to find out more about this innovative and positive programme should visit <https://rootedandbooted.org.uk/contact/>*

## Church Tower Clock Face Restoration

Over the past two years the church community has been fundraising to enable the restoration of the clock face on the church tower, which had deteriorated to the point it needed repair to remain safe. Due to the generosity of the village (including the Parish Council) in supporting Quiz Nights run by the bellringers and other fundraising, the required restoration has now been completed, and the clock face is looking as good as new.

The work was completed by The Cumbria Clock Company, specialists in "Turret Clocks." The work required the engineer to hang from ropes off the tower roof so that he could remove decades of rust and corrosion from the clock face, do the necessary repairs, and finally repaint the face.

The engineer said the clock face on St Boniface was one of the more interesting he had worked on, as unusually the back of the face is stone that is painted white, with a cast iron face on top.

The restoration took four days to complete. To further enhance the appearance of the front of the church and its tower, the lantern and its cast iron archway over the Memorial Gates are being repaired and restored by Barry Menzies.





## News about our Sir Hugh

On Sunday 31 May a visitor, Maureen Cunningham called into church to visit the effigy of Sir Hugh. Maureen said that her brother, Owen Cunnigham, had created a sculpture for the Isle of Jersey of our noble knight on horseback, and that he had been to St Boniface some years before to measure the very tall Sir Hugh.

Mrs Cunningham kindly sent us a photograph of the sculpture. The piece is situated in the grounds of Mont Orgueil Castle on Jersey and was commissioned to be completed ready for the opening of the Castle in 2006. Lord Calveley served as Warden or Governor of the Channel Islands from 1376 to 1393. The piece is known as **The Perfect Knight**.

*Sir Hugh will be decorated with roses for Inspire 26. More on this in the August–September issue*



By the end of July or the beginning of August most plants will have flowered and set seed, so if you haven't already done so, it's time to cut and rake your flowery grassland. If you have late flowering plants such as Devils Bit Scabious you can just leave that area to allow it to set seed.

Raking up the cuttings will ensure the nutrients don't go back into the soil and feed the grass, helping the flowers to flourish.

This is also a great time of year to spot swifts, swallows and martins on the wing, as the young have fledged and are testing their wings before their long migration.





# Jacqueline Wilson

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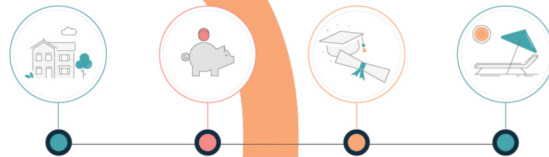
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