

link

for the parishes of Bunbury & Tilstone Fearnall

March
2012



Faith is a knowledge within the heart, beyond the reach of proof. Khalil Gibran



What's Cooking at St Boniface?

We are delighted that the new small children's area at the back of the church is open for play!

Many thanks from grateful parents are due to Dionne Lennon for donating some beautiful toys and books, which are now housed by the carpeted area on the right at the back of the church. This area enables parents to enjoy the service whilst their young children play, rather

than having to leave the service to check on them if they are in one of the rooms at the back.

Please come along and give it a try for yourself.



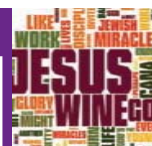
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Who we are

Until a new vicar is appointed, please call readers Peter & Kath Collinge for pastoral support on 01829 260077 or the churchwardens for all general enquiries (details below).

St Boniface

Churchwardens

Neil Dewson-Smyth 261680

Walter Done 01244 332563

Youth Worker

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Secretary

Colin Stanyer 07791 869674

Organist

Andrew Dean 261222

Treasurer

John Mason 733971

Flowers

Margaret Bourne 260944

St Jude's

Churchwardens

Brigid Sayce 260865

Elizabeth Marren 01270 528556

Secretary

Ann Posnett 261154

Organist

Ann Badrock 260343

Calveley

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Walter Done 01244 332563

Secretary

Yvonne Wood 01270 528442

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John Batchelor 261056

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.

Advertising

Nick Sanders

Nick.sanders@gmx.co.uk

Editorial

Jo Mason

T: 01829 733971

E: jomason06@gmail.com

You can also read The Link online by logging on to

www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk

Community news

We welcome **Jack David Tomlinson**, son of Nicola and David Tomlinson of Bunbury, who was baptised at St Boniface on Saturday 28 January.



Congratulations to **Joy Parker** on the arrival of a new granddaughter. Pictured below are parents **Danny and Helen Scott, Alexander** and his new baby sister **Jennifer Holly**.



This year's **Women's World Day of Prayer** service will be held at Bunbury Methodist Church at 2.30pm on Friday 2 March. The speaker will be the Revd Sue Levitt. The service has been prepared by the women of Malaysia and the theme is "Let Justice Prevail".

Tiverton Methodist Chapel Anniversary will be held at 2.30pm on Sunday 1 April.

Early Birds are hosting an **Easter Film Night** on Friday 30 March 4- 6pm. The film is "Hop", an Easter themed animation and the cost is £2. Meal deals and refreshments will be available. For tickets please contact Becky Posnett on 260251 or any member of the Early Birds committee, or email info@earlybirdsbunbury.co.uk.

We send our congratulations to **Jeremy Shears**, who is celebrating a significant birthday this month.

The **NSPCC** Nantwich District Committee is holding the 5th **10k spring cross-country run** along the Sandstone Trail on Sunday 15 April. Supporting Rainbow House in Crewe, the run will start from Beeston Market car park at 10.00am. Advance entry will be £10 (£12.00 on the day) and there will be running vests for all participants. Professional chip timing will be in place and water will be provided. There will be prizes for the first men and women in each age category. There will be 1k

race for children along with a bouncy castle. To enter or obtain a sponsorship form, call Andrea Beaumont on 732994 or e-mail sandstonerun@yahoo.co.uk Forms can also be downloaded from the website on www.sandstonerun.co.uk

We pray for **Nicola Howbrigg** and anyone who is unwell and also for the families of those who have died recently including the **Shears** family, who are mourning Jeremy's mother. We pray for our parishes especially the **Churchwardens and Lay Readers**. We pray for the work of our representatives in the selection process, **Neil and John**, and that we will soon welcome a new vicar.

The Bunbury Gardening Club event for March is a cheese & wine evening with Nicola Reynolds on "bulbs" on 20 March (bring your own wine).

Early Birds preschool will be collecting again for **Bags2School** this spring. Bags2School recycles second hand clothing, bedding, soft toys, paired shoes, belts and handbags. Bags to fill are available from Early Birds.

Alternatively, fill a bin bag with any of the above items and drop it off at Early Birds, Bunbury Village Hall. Should your items require collection, please call Becky Posnett on 260251. All bags need to be at Early Birds before May 2012.

Thank you to the small band who cleaned the church in February. **A church de-clutter and spring clean** will be held on Saturday 3 March, 10am-1pm at St Boniface. Please come and help!

The Early Birds staff, parents, carers, friends and family wish to say a big thank you to **Helen Martyn** for all her hard work and effort over the past 25 years! A well-known and popular member of the Bunbury community, Helen has cared and nurtured many toddlers in their early years helping them to prepare for their first years of school.

Chester Cathedral is holding a **Big Bible Event** – a family event with plenty to capture the attention of all ages – on Saturday 10 March from 9.30am. Discover the big story of the Bible and where you fit in. More details are available on postcards to be found at the back of church.

The **copy deadline** for the April issue of the Link is Monday **12 March** and the magazine will be available for distribution on **Friday 30 March**.

Don't forget Mothering Sunday - 18 March

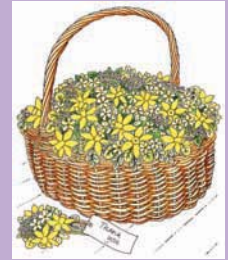
There is an old Jewish saying:

**God could not be everywhere,
so He made mothers.**

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday', as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families - this is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.



Come to St Boniface at 10am on Sunday 18 March for our Mothering Sunday service (and a taste of Barbara Croley's mouth-watering simnel cake!).

Laura and Luke make it to Papua New Guinea

After four months of training and preparation, Laura and Luke have reached their destination in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and are in the midst of acclimatisation and orientation. Their day starts at 6am as the sun (and wildlife) rises. Classes begin at 8am with songs and a Bible passage in Tok Pisin (the main trade language) before language lessons. The photo here shows the bamboo walled classroom, with bug-screen-windows, ceiling fans, aged wicker furniture, musty bookshelves, and maps and artifacts on the walls.

Later in the morning, they hear testimonies and lectures on topics such as anthropology, basic medicine, radio skills, fire lighting, purifying water and stress management.

Everything is geared towards building relationships with the PNG people. As they write on their blog: "It's a steep learning curve for us so we really do value your prayers. Thanks for all the encouraging emails and texts." You can keep up with their activities in PNG by visiting: <http://lukeandlaurainpng.blogspot.com/>



Church diary for March 2012

Sunday 4 March	9.30am Holy Communion 10.00am Family Worship 11.00am Holy Communion	St Jude's St Boniface Calveley
Wednesday 7 March	10.00am Holy Communion 7.30pm Compline	St Boniface St Boniface
Sunday 11 March	9.30am Holy Communion 10.00am Family Communion 4.30pm Evensong	St Jude's St Boniface St Boniface
Wednesday 14 March	10.00am Holy Communion 7.30pm Compline	St Boniface St Boniface
Sunday 18 March Mothering Sunday	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Morning Service 10.00am Family Worship 11.00am Family Worship	St Boniface St Jude's St Boniface Calveley

Wednesday 21 March	10.00am Holy Communion 7.30pm Compline	St Boniface St Boniface
Sunday 25 March	9.30am Holy Communion 10.00am Family Communion	St Jude's St Boniface
Wednesday 28 March	10.00am Holy Communion 7.30pm Compline	St Boniface St Boniface
Sunday 1 April Palm Sunday	9.30am Holy Communion 10.00am Family Worship 11.00am Holy Communion	St Jude's St Boniface Calveley
Wednesday 4 April	10.00am Holy Communion 7.30pm Compline	St Boniface St Boniface

Grumpy Gargoyle



I'm back! I thought I'd vented my gargoylian spleen enough last year, but no, I'm as grumpy as ever. And that's because of one thing that it doesn't seem that the New Year has brought: **consideration.**

Love him or loathe him, Confucius had a point: "Consideration for others is the basis of a good life, a good society." Personally I think Winnie the Pooh said it better: "A little Consideration, a little Thought for Others, makes all the difference."

How often do you think of others as you meander through your daily life, getting your work done, achieving your aims, ticking off your things to do list? When you drive your kids to the school bus and leave your engine running as you wait for the bus to arrive, whom are you considering then? Passers-by walking their dogs? Children standing outside waiting for the bus whose parents can't spare the time to wait with them? The owners of the houses who have to tolerate the noise of the engines?

Or are you really just considering yourself: your need to stay warm, your toasty warm bum nestled on your heated seat, your children hushed by the in-car sound system. You may not have considered that lots of unfortunate people like those mentioned above breathe in the exhaust fumes from your car carried on the breeze – whether directly into their lungs or into their kitchens.

Being considerate isn't always easy: it requires deliberate thought, awareness of the world around you and a decision to act. But it makes us all feel better, takes us out of ourselves – and makes your village a happier place. Often I hear people who have experienced hardship or illness say, 'I never knew what it was like until I went through it myself'. Eh? We don't have to wait until we are the ones breathing in the fumes or living at a school bus pick-up point, do we? So although it may cause us a little discomfort, let's change how we behave so we make others' lives a little more comfortable.

Even if it means getting a cold bottom – trust me, you get used to it.



Major Cruttock's Cookery Page

Don't tell the old girl, but it's Mothering Sunday in March and I have decided to give Fatima a bit of a treat. Normally it is a quick flip to a restaurant, but this year I am going to knock the socks off her by cooking this special recipe one of my golfing chums gave me - he assures me that 'nothing can go wrong' and that she is bound to be impressed. All I need from Greg is an idea for the wine - could be tricky with all those lemon flavours in the food.

Ingredients

200g couscous
400ml boiling chicken stock
2 tbsp olive oil
4 courgettes, grated
2 lemons, 1 halved, 1 cut into wedges
2 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
Ground black pepper

How to prepare it

1 Tip the couscous into a large bowl and pour over the boiling stock. Cover and leave for 10 mins until fluffy and all the stock has been absorbed.

2 Heat 1 tbsp oil and fry the courgettes

until softened and crisping at the edges.

3 Tip into the couscous, then stir in with plenty of seasoning and a good squeeze of lemon juice from one of the halves.

4 Halve the chicken breasts horizontally and put each piece on a sheet of cling film. Cover with another sheet and beat each piece out with a rolling pin to make it thinner. Season.

5 Heat the remaining oil in a large pan and fry the chicken for about 2 mins on each side until cooked through.

6 Squeeze over the juice from the other lemon half, sprinkle with freshly ground black pepper and serve with the couscous and lemon wedges on the side.

And the wine to go with it...

When trying to match wines with food there are a two choices, either of which can keep us on the right track: 1) go 'plump' for a complete opposite on the taste spectrum (a great example being savoury cheese matching beautifully with sweet desert wines or Port); or 2) play it safe and go 'like-for-like'. In this case, choosing the latter approach, I would look for a wine with lemon flavours to counterbalance the flavours of Major Cruttock's Mothering Sunday feast; the good news is that white wines expressing lemon citrus characteristics are more often than not likely to be young, inexpensive and easy to obtain! Read the tasting notes on the label or ask for help, as there are many varieties that fit the bill. Reds will not pair up well with lemon flavours, but there are a number of real ales that have pronounced lemon flavours, such as: Deucher's IPA; Harvistoun's Bitter and Twisted; and Oakham's Jeffery Hudson bitter. **Cheers! Greg**

And don't forget to say Grace

**Come Lord Jesus, be our guest,
let this food and us be blessed.**

Give us 2 minutes... Alyson Thacker



Alyson Thacker joined Bunbury Primary School as head teacher in 2008 and is married with two sons, Tom and Sam.

If you had a motto, what would it be?

Don't take the road everyone else takes - it will only get you stuck in traffic!

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

Cole Porter and George Gershwin.

What would you call your autobiography?

You can only do your best!

What was your first job?

Putting the sachet of soy sauce in the Vesta Chow Mein!

What is the best book you've read to date?

Captain Corelli's Mandolin.

What would you change about Bunbury, if you could?

I'd love to be able to reduce the traffic by the Co-op - without affecting village trade!

What is your biggest regret?

It's no use having regrets. We should all enjoy what we have; life is short.

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

I'd love to sing with a wonderful orchestra.

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

I once nearly ran a policewoman over in Wolverhampton!

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

It would be fantastic if I could find the perfect house to buy, as I've just sold mine.

What is your favourite place and why?

Home - because my family is there.

How would you spend your ideal weekend?

Someone else doing the cooking!

News from Calveley Church

Calveley has had some lovely events recently like the Christmas Tree Fair which was very well received. We are following it with 'Get Painting', an art exhibition on Saturday 28 April. Entry forms have been sent to previous exhibitors but anyone else who would like to join in will be most welcome. Entry forms and details can be obtained from **Kenneth Donald on 260433** or email **kandd@thedonalds.net**. Make sure you put the date in your diary and come to see what is always a first rate exhibition -- and tea will be available too!

How many words does it take?

Pythagorean Theorem:	24 words
Lord's Prayer:	66 words
Archimedes' Principle:	67 words
Ten Commandments:	179 words
Gettysburg address:	286 words
US Declaration of Independence:	1,300 words
US Constitution with all 27 Amendments:	7,818 words
EU regulations on the sale of cabbages:	26,911 words

Charity goes a long way at St Boniface

Not everyone realises that, as part of the church mission, we support good causes not just in Britain but overseas as well. In 2011 it was agreed to help a small school in the bush of Northern Zululand, Kwa-Zulu. A charitable trust had been set up to provide a school there by renovating a derelict building and providing the necessary facilities.

Several people made donations to get work underway and it has been a successful project. The Zulu are hardworking, proud and very good humoured, and the children - now able to be educated - are no different. They adore the opportunity to better themselves and their families through education and many walk a good distance to attend. Our money this year helped the project but also provided a pair of shoes for each student and a Christmas hamper for them to take home to their families.

All were truly well received.



Eric Wallington

Reader Emeritus

Thought of the month

Before filling in an application form for a job, applicants naturally seek out - in some form or another - the job description. What will I be required to do? The applicant then asks himself or herself some fundamental questions: could I cope? Would I find the job satisfying?

So what is the job description for being a Christian? Someone once joked, 'The working conditions are lousy but the retirement benefits are out of this world'. What did Jesus have to say about being a Christian? He told his twelve key followers that he was sending them out 'like sheep among wolves' - hardly encouraging! - and said, 'They will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me'. Jesus left them in no doubt that the job description of a

Christian involved some suffering.

In many parts of the world today Christians suffer horribly, losing their homes, their families and even their lives through persecution.

We all, of course, sometimes suffer the burden of pain and grief which may seem too heavy to cope with on our own. We all have difficulties that may test our endurance to the limit. But Jesus showed us that God knows what it is to suffer, and the Bible promises that, however great our burden at any point, God will always give us sufficient strength to carry on. The job description of the Christian may well include persecution, suffering and grief but it also includes the promise of God's grace to enable us to continue to serve him, whatever comes our way.

Sadlers Wells Woods

blighted in the winds

For once the weather forecasters got it right. It really was windy and windy is not good if you have a wood to look after. With well over a thousand trees in cultivation, there are bound to be some casualties, but it is still disappointing to see old friends meet their end. An end that is not as simple as just lying down. Quite likely they will fall into the branches of their neighbour and then threaten anyone who dares to go near them.

Immediately "health and safety" becomes not a box to be ticked but a real issue.



The Trustees of Sadlers Wells Wood are busy trying to put things right. This is quite a challenge; tree surgery is expensive and at this time of year tree surgeons are in high demand.

It is doubly disappointing because our aim is to save trees, not chop them down. It is cold comfort that this may be all part of the cycle of growth; today's decay makes a wood what it is and the insects and fungi and whatever feeds on them have been served a real treat. In the meantime the Trustees and others who support this wood will have to work hard to rebuild finances.

Ernest Croley



Pat Edgley

Reader

When misfortune strikes...

...And one becomes unable to do all those lovely things of earlier

times, it is very hard not to become isolated and despairing.

Lord, I realise I can't do the things
Other people can.
And from time to time,
I resent it, bitterly,
And ask, "Why me?"

But why not me, Lord?
You love me as I am,
For what I am,
For who I am,
For how I am.

And you have given me special skills,
I may not even realise.
Forbearance to keep going at
difficult times.

Courage to face an uncertain future.

Patience to accept my limitations.

Help me, Lord, to count my
blessings.

To give thanks for those who love
and look after me.

For the wonders of modern
technology

That keeps me connected to the
outside world

And enables me to travel in my
mind if not my body.

And may I be a joy and a blessing
to others.

For Jesus' sake. **Amen.**

St Jude's news

During the current Interregnum the Sunday service will continue as usual at 9.30am. We have arrangements with a variety of speakers to stimulate and interest all members of the congregation. St Jude's is justly famous for the quality of its music, and the quality of the singing, which is said to be out of this world!

A note for your diary: We are having a coffee morning at St Jude's in the church hall on behalf of the Children's Society (formally the CofE Children's Society) on Saturday 17 March at 10.30am. Please come along and help to make this a

roaring success; as well as being a worthwhile charity, it is our Christian duty to support this sort of cause. Any member of the general public who attends will be awarded brownie points, which may come in useful at some point in the future!

The local branch of the WI has been holding their monthly meeting in St Jude's church hall over many years. They meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. The secretary is Mrs Brenda Hunt 01829 260978. Their current programme is full of interest, so why not come along and see for yourself that the WI is not just "tea and Jerusalem"!

General Synod standardises church fees

At the February General Synod, the new fees for weddings and funerals to apply from 1 January 2013 were finally agreed (see 'Shake-up of wedding fees rejected', Parish Link August 2011). Although coverage in the national press has suggested that the new fees are much larger than the current ones, as is often the case, this does not reflect reality. What they have done is stop churches supplementing wedding or funeral fees with "extras" that were not genuinely extra – charges for administration, use of the church for rehearsals, consultation with the vicar, cleaning, contributions to building maintenance and so on. The basic fee is higher but churches are prohibited from supplementing this with additional charges for anything that is not a genuine extra. Genuine extras are fairly obvious: choosing to have an organist, bell ringers, a choir, a verger,

or flowers. Less obviously, heating has also been determined to be an "extra", although in mid-winter most people would not think that was something they could do without!

The net result of all this? For St Boniface, the fee for a wedding or funeral will remain virtually unchanged (a difference of maybe £10 depending on exactly how much is charged for heating). So have many hours of debate at General Synod and much additional background work and consultation all been a waste of time? Not necessarily. We now have uniform charges across the country and fees at a level that directly reflects the cost of the use and maintenance of buildings and the time required by clergy and others to provide their services. Some churches that were perhaps a little "creative" in the past with their charges for extras will have to reduce



fees, but that is not the case for any of our three churches.

John Mason, Treasurer of St Boniface and an elected member of General Synod

Children's Corner

Jumbled Bible Books

Can you unscramble these letters to find books in the Bible?

1. e r e d m o n t y o u
2. a h a c e h i r z
3. a k m r
4. a e d i l n
5. b e e w r s h
6. c c e h i l n o r s
7. a e v e l i n o r t
8. e d g j s u
9. t e e p r
10. a l m p s s

Answers can be found on page 8

What is Lent?

Many of us speak of 'giving something up for Lent', but what is Lent really about? For Christians, Lent is a time to prepare for the most important part of our year, for Easter when Jesus died on the cross of our sins and rose again from the dead. It starts on Ash Wednesday (which this year is 22 February) and ends at sunset on Maundy Thursday, the day before Good Friday. The day before Ash Wednesday is known as Shrove Tuesday (or Pancake Day!) and was traditionally the last chance to use up the foods that would not be eaten during Lent.



The custom of Lent appears to have originated in the prescribed fast of candidates for baptism (which always took place once a year on Easter Day). Lent lasts 40 days, not including Sundays. Why 40? This number has a special significance in the Bible: Moses, Elijah and Jesus all underwent 40-day fasts - Jesus went into the wilderness for 40 days to prepare himself for his ministry. But why not Sundays? Well, for Christians all Sundays are a mini-Easter and celebrate Jesus' rising from the dead.

During the early centuries of the Christian church, the fast was very strict: only one meal a day was allowed, taken towards evening, and meat and fish (and in some places milk and eggs) were forbidden. However, from the 9th century onwards, the practice became more and more relaxed, with the hour for breaking the fast moving back to three o'clock, and by the 15th century it was 12 noon!

These days, most of us give up something for Lent to help us remember what Jesus went through for us – to remind us what it feels like to do without. Many Christians also make a point of putting aside the money that they have saved by giving something up and giving it to a charity or a deserving cause.

It is perhaps easy to think of Lent in negative terms, but it is really an opportunity to strengthen your faith, and to grow in your love of God. Perhaps this year, as well as giving up something, you could also think about doing something positive: maybe start reading from the Bible every day; or commit yourself to writing a letter to someone each week of Lent; or make a special telephone call of encouragement each week in Lent; or do a specific extra act of kindness every day during Lent.

Whilst the period of Lent is intended to put us in the right frame of mind to celebrate the Easter season to the full, there is also the possibility that our own preparations could also make a difference to other people.

Enjoy your Lent!

Youth Work at St Boniface



Hi - for those of you who don't already know me, I am Kim, the youth worker at St Boniface. We have a range of activities going on throughout the week in St Boniface. We have YCs on a Monday, Toasties on a Wednesday, Chat with Kim on a Thursday and 711s on a Friday. You are welcome to come to any of these if you are 11-18. Just give me a ring on 07847608365 to find out more about any of the groups.

At the moment we have 'preparation for the Olympics' in our YCs group, which has been the cause of a range of strange happenings from relay races to bin bag sports kits!

Keep an eye out in the Link where we will post information about what we are doing, our plans and where young people from the groups will give reports of what's going on.

Take care, **Kim**

Answers to children's corner quiz:

1.Deuteronomy 2.Zechariah 3.Mark 4.Daniel 5.Hebrews
6.Chronicles 7.Revelation 8.Judges 9.Peter 10.Psalms

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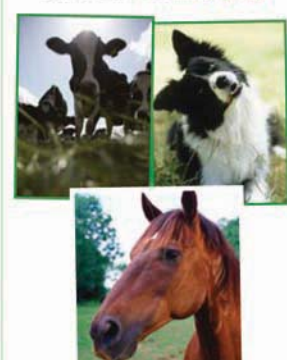
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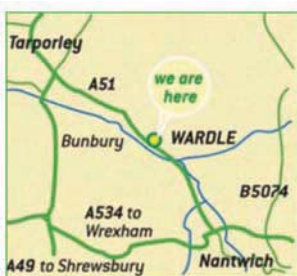


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