



Link

March 2026

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Open call for exhibitors



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Bunbury Mill reopens



Please give to St Boniface to maintain this beautiful church building

A magazine for the parishes of Bunbury and Tilstone Fearnall



Spring is not yet here, but the plucky snowdrops in our churchyard don't seem to know. Peter Jones captured this image for us. See if you can find his second snowdrops photo in the magazine.

You can read the Link online at www.stbonifacebunbury.org



Follow Bunbury Church on Facebook

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The Link

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A word from the editor

The INSPIRE organisers are making good progress towards our vision for this year's exhibition. Most of the flower installations in church now have a name against them. If you would like to help, please let us know.

The outdoor group were not put off by the rain in early February as they brainstormed ideas on how the plot will be used for the flower and vegetable garden. People have very kindly offered artefacts for the garden: we have a small shed; someone is going to make us a container pond; a table chairs; a dovecote that's not being used; and an empty beehive. We are looking for someone to make or lend us an innovative water butt made from recycled materials.

We are also asking for potted plants (a minimum of two, if possible) which you can take back after the exhibition: if there are any plants you want to split when you are gardening that might look good in our garden, please think of us. If you are planting seeds, we would love you to donate some to the exhibition. We welcome reused plastic pots of all sizes up to five litres, please. Thank you!

The copy deadline for the April issue is Friday 13 March. The magazine should be delivered from Saturday 28 March. Please send notices to parishlinkeditor@stbonifacebunbury.org



Look at the snowdrops

Most of us would like life to be plain sailing. We hope for good health, steady work, loving relationships, and enough security to stop us worrying in the night. We don't ask for perfection, just for things to hold together.

But life doesn't always work like that. Sometimes things unravel. Plans fail. Relationships strain. Confidence drains away. And when we are in those moments, they feel bleak and discouraging. Yet when we look back, often much later, we see that those same seasons have shaped us more deeply than the easier ones. They taught us patience, compassion, and humility. They made us who we are.

At this time of year, the natural world offers us a quiet image of that truth. Snowdrops appear when winter is still present. They do not arrive with drama or brightness. They bow their heads and push gently through frozen ground. They do not defeat the cold; they endure it. Their beauty lies in their fragility and persistence. They are signs that life is already at work, even when the world still feels hard and bare.

That same wisdom lies behind the image we hear in Jeremiah. God sends the prophet to the potter's house. Jeremiah watches as the potter shapes the clay on the wheel. And then the vessel is spoiled in the potter's hands. The shape collapses. Something goes wrong. Yet the potter does not discard the clay. He does not begin again with new material. Instead, he patiently reworks the same clay into another vessel, as seems good to him. It is a simple image, but a profound one. We are the clay.

A prayer

*Gracious God, you are the potter and we are the clay.
Where we are cracked, mend us.
Where we are weary, strengthen us.
Where we are fearful, give us trust.
As snowdrops push through frozen ground, bring
quiet hope to the hidden places of our lives.
Fill the cracks in us with your grace, that your light
may shine through all that we are.
Take what is broken, shape it in love, and make us
vessels of your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

God is the potter. And brokenness is not a failure of the process: it is part of it.

There is a beautiful Japanese practice called kintsugi. When a bowl or cup is broken, it is repaired using lacquer mixed with gold. The cracks are not hidden; they are traced and honoured. The vessel is not restored to what it once was; it becomes something new, more precious precisely because it has been broken. The damage is not erased. It is transformed.

That is a helpful way of thinking about God's work in us. God does not pretend we were never broken. God does not airbrush our past. Instead, grace flows into the cracks. What has been fractured becomes a place where light can catch and shine.

The coming of Christ does not remove difficulty from life; it enters into it. Like snowdrops growing through frozen ground, and like a mended bowl marked with gold, God's light shines through vulnerability rather than around it.

The potter's image reminds us that faith is not about being finished or faultless. It is about relationship. God is not looking for perfect clay. God works with what is there, with all its weakness and cracks. And the shaping does not happen once and for all. We are always being formed, undone, and remade.

That can be a relief. Many of us carry quiet regrets: things we wish we had done differently, words we cannot take back, opportunities we feel we missed. Jeremiah tells us that none of this disqualifies us. The clay is not thrown away. The bowl is not discarded. It is reworked, repaired, and held together by grace.

Much of the Christian life is lived quietly in showing up, in prayer, in faithfulness that no one applauds. But that does not make it insignificant. God's work is often hidden, gentle, and easily overlooked. Like snowdrops beneath frost, growth is happening long before we can see it.

Whenever we gather around the altar in church, bread will be taken, broken, and shared. That, too, tells this same story. Brokenness is not the end. It is how life is given. We do not come offering ourselves polished and complete. We come as we are — tired, hopeful, uncertain, grateful — and place ourselves back into the hands of God.

So when life feels cracked or unfinished, remember the potter at the wheel. Remember the snowdrops. Remember the gold in the cracks. God is still at work, shaping, waiting, and bringing light — quietly, patiently, lovingly — even now.

Community news

Congratulations to Poppy Hayward who completed a **24-hour pianothon** from 7:00pm on Friday 13 February to 7:00pm on Saturday 14 to fund raise for her trip to Zanzibar. She will be travelling to help teach music and



maths to children in underprivileged areas. Poppy's pianothon was a really lovely and special event. Lots of people enjoyed her joyous playing in the church during the day and night, and also at Tilly's and the Sheds over lunchtime. Poppy gave us this message for her supporters: *"Thank you so much to everyone who supported me in lots of different ways. People who came*

in overnight helping me stay awake, for all the snacks and hot chocolate that kept me going, friends who came to play and sing alongside me, and for everyone who generously donated and helped me reach my target." The stunning photo was taken by Jeremy Shears.

Congratulations to the teams at **Tilly's** and **Bunbury Hair** who were both finalists at the **Shop Local Awards 2025**. The awards ceremony took place at Wychwood Park Golf & Country Hotel. Bunbury Hair were delighted to win the Customer Service Award and Tilly's were in the final five in the Food and Drink Award category.

The trustees of the Reading Room Trust who manage the **Alpraham and Calveley Village Hall** would like to say a big public thank you to **Ann MacLennan and John Faulkner** on their retirement from the Trust (photo below). Neither can remember who has been a Trustee the longer! What they can confirm is that they have been involved with the running and maintenance of the original wooden Reading Room, which was situated on the A51 in Alpraham



close by the Old Post Office, for a very long time — probably 60 years or more each.

The Old Reading Room was the community hub. Childrens' parties, jumble sales, hot pot suppers, whist drives and keep-fit classes were just a few of the activities. Ann masterminded the whist drives which supported the funding of the hall for many years. John was Treasurer and also spent many an evening going and unlocking the hall then returning after a "do" to make sure all was safe and to lock up.

They will still be involved but will now be Honorary Trustees for the new, busy, Alpraham and Calveley Village Hall. The Trust is very grateful for all they achieved during so many years of service to the community.

INSPIRE 2026 is inviting artists who would like to exhibit a maximum of three pieces for sale at the exhibition to get in touch following the instructions on the Open Call poster below. You can find more details on the church's website at <https://www.stbonifacebunbury.org/inspire-26>.

Open Call



Arts Exhibition

St Boniface Church, Bunbury
26 - 28th June 2026

Are you an artist or Craftsperson?

Exhibit your work in this beautiful place.
All disciplines encouraged (painting, ceramics, photography, sculpture, textiles, wood, metal.....)
Submission deadline 19th May 2026

For more information including entry requirements contact
inspireart26@gmail.com/07860128427
or visit <https://www.stbonifacebunbury.org>



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 **1 February** were **45, 86 and 30**. Congratulations to the winners!

What's on

Dates for your diary

Church diary for March		
Sunday 1 March	8:00am BCP Communion 9:30am Morning Worship 10:30am Holy Communion and Forest Church	St Boniface St Jude St Boniface
Wednesday 4 March	10:00am BCP Communion fol- lowed by Lent reflection	St Boniface
Sunday 8 March	09:30am BCP Communion 10:30am Morning Worship	St Jude St Boniface
Wednesday 11 March	10:00am BCP Communion fol- lowed by Lent reflection	St Boniface
Sunday 15 March	9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Third Sunday Brunch (Mothering Sunday) 4:30pm Evensong	St Jude St Boniface St Boniface
Wednesday 18 March	10 :00am BCP Communion followed by Lent reflection	St Boniface
Sunday 22 March	9:30am Morning Worship 10:30am Holy Communion	St Jude St Boniface
Wednesday 25 March	10:00am Holy Communion followed by Lent reflection	St Boniface
Sunday 29 March	9:30am Morning Worship 10:30am Morning Worship	St Jude St Boniface
Wednesday 1 April	10:100am BCP Communion followed by Lent reflection	St Boniface
Friday 3 April	11:00am Good Friday outdoor service at Tilly's 2:00pm Quiet reflective ser- vice	Tilly's St Boniface
Sunday 5 April	8:00am BCP Communion 9:30am Easter Holy Commu- nion 10:30am Easter Holy Commu- nion and Forest Church	St Boniface St Jude St Boniface

Lent series at St Boniface — "Amazed by Jesus" — **Wednesdays at 10:00am** for a short BCP communion service (20 minutes) followed by a reflection (approximately 15 minutes) **from 18 February until 1 April**, followed by coffee and refreshments..

Bunbury WI meets on the **second Thursday of the month at Bunbury Playing Fields Pavilion at 7:30pm**. At their meeting on **12 March Peter Holloway** will present a talk on "Retail Thinking" and our April Meeting will be a Social and Quiz. New members and visitors are warmly welcome. For further information contact Lynda Davies 01829 863781.

Bunbury Gardening Club will be meeting on **Tuesday 17 March at 7:30pm** at the Bunbury Village Hall to welcome their guest speaker, **George Pilkington**, whose subject will be "Garden birds and their behaviour".

The **Annual Show** will be on **Saturday 5 September**. New members are always welcome: please contact Margaret on mjbourne249@tiscali.co.uk or find them on facebook.

St Jude's will be holding a coffee morning on **Saturday 21 March** between **10:00am** and **12:00pm**, to raise funds towards the restoration of the church pinnacles.

The Bunbury Village Day team are delighted to confirm that **Bunbury Village Day 2026** will take place on **Saturday 13 June**. This will mark the event's 57th year, a remarkable achievement for a volunteer-led community celebration that has become a firm favourite not just within the village, but across the county of Cheshire, bringing together residents, neighbouring communities and returning families for a truly special day.

Planning is already underway behind the scenes. While June may seem some way off, preparations for one of the area's most anticipated summer events begin months in advance, and the team are excited to once again create a day full of tradition, entertainment and community spirit.

Further announcements will follow in the coming months, including this year's theme, activities and entertainment line-up.

If you're interested in booking a stall for 2026, please get in touch at bunburyvillagedaystalls@gmail.com.

To stay up to date with all the latest news, follow Bunbury Village Day on Facebook and Instagram, or visit the village website at:

www.bunburyvillage.info/village-day

Bunbury School news



Department for Education invites the school to be part of a national project on building strong communities

The first half of the spring term has finished on an incredible high for Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary School. Alongside all the usual learning, events, and daily school life, we were thrilled to receive a request to take part in a major national project commissioned by the Department for Education (DfE).

This research aims to deepen the national understanding of how schools create strong pupil belonging, alongside excellent attendance and high academic achievement. Out of thousands of primary schools across England, only **sixteen** have been selected to take part in this detailed study — and Bunbury Aldersey is one of them.

This is a significant and heartfelt acknowledgement of what our school community has worked so hard to build. To receive national recognition for the work we do every day is truly something to celebrate. Our commitment to helping every child feel valued, noticed, included, and supported is woven into every part of school life, from classroom relationships to playtime friendships, from the warm welcome at the gate each morning to the nurturing partnerships we share with families.

Identifying Bunbury Aldersey as a school demonstrating strong practice in fostering pupil belonging is a testament to the dedication of our staff, the positive relationships we have with parents, and the wonderful resilience, warmth, and kindness of our pupils.

We feel immensely proud that the ethos of our village school is being recognised at a national level.

During the visit, time was spent talking with staff, pupils,

and leaders to understand:

- What helps children feel they truly belong at school
- How a sense of belonging supports good attendance, motivation, and academic progress
- How other schools can learn from our culture and approaches

Their findings will directly inform the DfE's upcoming national guidance on pupil engagement and belonging. We are proud that what we do here in Bunbury will help shape wider national thinking and contribute to improving children's experiences far beyond our own community.

Being chosen for this research is a powerful reflection of something we believe strongly: that children flourish when they feel secure, known, and genuinely valued for who they are. Academic achievement is important, of course — but it is made possible by the strength of relationships, the sense of safety, and the feeling of belonging that lie underneath.

Our pupils, our families, our staff, and our wider village community all contribute to the warm, inclusive culture that makes Bunbury Aldersey special. This national recognition is something our whole community can share in and feel proud of.

Nic Badger
Principal



Some of you will have noticed that a small group of volunteers have been trying to encourage wildflowers to return to the old churchyard by cutting the grass only once a year and taking away the clippings. We hope you have all enjoyed the beautiful snowdrops that feature in this edition of the Link, but we have not been as successful with summer flowers — yet. When we started our project, we were warned that it may take a few years to see a wild meadow. So at the end of last year, we planted some yellow rattle flowers to discourage grass growth and allow flowers to emerge. We are also hoping to plant some native wildflowers for this year.

In the meantime our friends at Caring for God's Acre are encouraging us to look out for wildlife in our churchyard. In particular, the delightfully named **hairy-footed bumblebee**.

The males emerge first and can be found from late February onwards. The male is a rusty brown with a yellow face and long hairs on the middle pair of its six legs. It is these long hairs that give the bee the name "hairy footed". About two weeks later the females emerge, looking completely different. Females are mainly black with orange hairs on their back pair of legs which act like little brushes, collecting pollen as they visit flowers. Hairy-footed flower bees have a long tongue which they use to probe into flask-shaped spring flowers such as primrose and lungwort (or pulmonaria). It is worth checking primroses and lungworts for this little bee, they have a faster, more zippy flight than a bumblebee and also a shrill buzz.

Sky notes for February

Venus is the very bright object low in the west after sunset. It sets around 7:30pm. On **20 March** Venus and the crescent Moon lie close to each other.

Saturn is close to Venus during the first part of this month. At the beginning of the month, Saturn lies above Venus, but it is much fainter. During the first week they get closer together and on **8 March** Saturn is a just smidgen to the left of Venus. Turn binoculars onto them for a better view.

Jupiter is visible in the south at sunset. During the night it will gradually track westwards, setting around 4:00am. The Moon is just above Jupiter on **26 March**.

On the **29 March** at about 8:17 pm there is a chance to see an unusual sight. At this time, Regulus, the brightest star in the constellation of Leo the Lion, reappears from behind the Moon. This is best seen with binoculars. Start observing a few minutes before and keep a close eye on the top part of the Moon. You should see the bright star suddenly pop into view. Note that the sky will not be totally dark when this event happens.

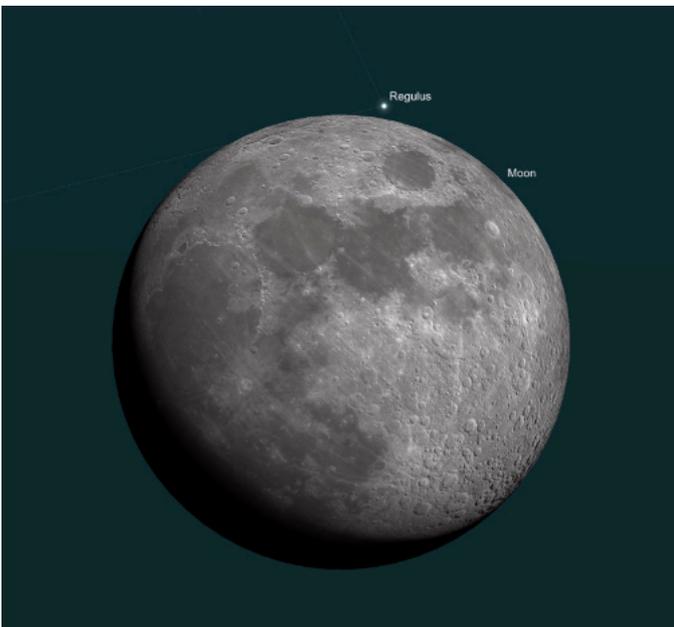
The **Spring Equinox** occurs on **20 March** when day and night are of equal length. Changes in the length of day and night are caused by the tilt of the Earth. When Earth orbits the Sun, at certain times of the year the Northern Hemisphere is tilted towards the Sun and the Southern Hemisphere is tilted away from it. For the other half of the year, the reverse happens.

Equinoxes happen when neither hemisphere is tilted towards or away from the Sun and there are roughly equal hours of daylight and darkness. Solstices, on the other hand, happen when a specific hemisphere is tilted towards or away from the Sun, which results in long days or long nights.

On Sunday 29 March at 1:00am, British Summer Time starts. Don't forget to put your clocks forward one hour. Clear skies!

Bunbury Stargazer

The nearly full Moon on 29 March at 8:20pm — the star Regulus has just reappeared from behind the Moon (image prepared using SkySafari Pro software)



Bunbury Medical Practice news

Our 'Digital Front Door' is opening

We are excited to introduce a new and improved way to contact the practice — our **Digital Front Door**.

From April, this will become the **quickest and most convenient way** to book appointments, request help and access our services. Available through the homepage of our website, it can be used anytime day or night without waiting in a telephone queue or travelling to the surgery.

We are encouraging all patients to make the Digital Front Door their first point of contact wherever possible.

Using it, you can:

- Book appointments
- Request repeat prescriptions
- Submit administrative requests
- Ask questions about your care
- Access information about our services

By using the Digital Front Door, you will help us to make sure you are directed to the right clinician or service straightaway. It is quicker for you and helps us care for you more effectively.

Getting started

To use the new system, you will need your NHS number, which can be found:

- In the NHS App
- On hospital letters

- From our reception team
- By entering 'Find your NHS number' on your browser.

While our phone lines remain available for those who need them, we kindly ask patients to use the Digital Front Door wherever possible. This will help reduce waiting times and ensure everyone receives the right support more quickly.

We are proud to be introducing a system that will make accessing care simpler, faster and more flexible.

We look forward to welcoming you through our Digital Front Door. **Click first, start online**

Training Days for 2026

The practice will be closed from 1:00pm Wednesday, 11th March; it will reopen the following working day at 8:00am

All training days for 2026 can be seen on our website.

Communication update

From 1 April, we will be contacting you for routine, non-urgent requests via email rather than SMS/text message.

Please ensure that your contact details are up to date and include an email address.

You can update your contact details by emailing bunbury.medicalcentre@nhs.net, calling us, or when you next visit.

The dash *by Linda Ellis*

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I read of a man who stood to speak
at the funeral of a friend.
He referred to the dates on the
tombstone
from the beginning to the end.
He noted first came the date of the birth
and spoke the following date with tears.
But he said what mattered most of all
was the dash between the years.
For that dash represents all the time
that they spent life on Earth.
And now only those who loved them
know what that little line is worth.
For it matters not how much we own,

the cars, the house, the cash.
What matters is how we live and love,
and how we spend our dash.
So, think about this long and hard.
Are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left
that can still be rearranged.
If we could just slow down enough
to consider what's true and real,
and always try to understand
the way other people feel.
And be less quick to anger,
and show appreciation more,
and love the people in our lives

like we've never loved before.
If we treat each other with respect
and more often wear a smile,
remembering that this special dash
might only last a little while.
So, when your eulogy is being read
with your life's actions to rehash,
would you be proud of the things they say
about how you spent your dash?

Hilary Watson shared this poem with us to remember our dear Joyce Buxton on the first anniversary of her passing.



“Just one thing” for a healthier life

We have chosen to continue with this series of articles based on the popular podcast by the late Dr Michael Mosley as testament to his life's work and passion for educating and helping people, which is what we believe he would have wanted.

Take Vitamin D

Vitamin D is the only food supplement that Dr Mosley generally recommended that people take. His rationale was that in the winter in the UK there is just not enough sunlight for most people to generate sufficient Vitamin D in the skin, and it is hard to get enough through diet alone.

Darker-skinned people produce less Vitamin D with the same sunlight exposure, and older people get poorer at producing it too; it is estimated that over half of older people and darker-skinned people in the UK are deficient.

Vitamin D was discovered in the 1920s and quickly linked to bone health; rickets (osteomalacia in adults) was then common, but became easily prevented by supplementation. But it is now known that there are Vitamin D receptors in nearly every cell in the body and adequate levels will boost the immune system, making it less likely that people will catch colds, more likely to get over them quicker, and less likely to develop chronic inflammation after any infection.

Perhaps the most exciting new research shows that Vitamin D can also help maintain brain health; a meta-analysis of 40 studies showed a strong link with decreased depressive

symptoms. But it may also protect against dementia: Professor David Llewellyn from Exeter University says that a large population-based study in the U.S. showed a 50% increased risk of dementia in those who were deficient in Vitamin D, and a 125% increase if severely deficient. The mechanisms are complex, but it is known to help break down and remove the clumps of amyloid protein that are present in Alzheimer's, and it may also protect the blood supply to the brain, thus combating vascular dementia. And in May 2025 the Harvard Gazette reported that Vitamin D seems to slow biological ageing, and protect against many of the characteristic diseases of ageing.

So how much should we be taking? It is thought that the dose of Vitamin D present in most multivitamin supplements (400 iu) is sufficient for most people, though it is possible to take up to ten times this amount and still be within normal ranges of what the skin can produce in optimal sunlight conditions. As ever, if you think you are at high risk of developing dementia you should speak to your GP, but otherwise taking this supplement is one the easiest changes you can make to boost your health, especially during the dark days of winter.

Liv Weller

Gardener's diary for March



Going potty!

With all this rain and gloomy weather I went into the shed to find something to do, apart from tidying it up.

The shed is where I store all my old pots. I try never to buy new ones, so I began the chore of cleaning them ready for reuse. Even if a pot has only been used once it must be cleaned thoroughly. You can use a detergent or Jeyes fluid diluted in water. Many of my pots have been used multiple times and they get all sorts of bacteria and debris in them. If you ever wonder why your seeds have not germinated or plants have not thrived it may well be because your pot has not been thoroughly cleaned. This applies all sorts of pots, plastic, clay or stone. This is also important if you are using seed trays.

There are some seeds which can be sown at this time of year, sweet peas, tomatoes, aubergines and some bedding plants. If you have a greenhouse, heated mats or propagators get them ready and begin sowing!

Keith

Bunbury Mill reopens

Winter 2026 update from the Bunbury Mill Trustees



Bunbury Mill reopens on Sunday 29 March (and will be open every Sunday, but not bank holiday Mondays, until the end of October with special events to be announced)

Looking after a historic building is not all glamour. We wouldn't do this if we didn't love the building and didn't have the camaraderie of a great bunch of people. Preserving this part of Bunbury's history is important so it's worth it. Sometimes it's hard graft and teamwork but always with the promise of a cuppa and biscuits.

Some of the volunteers got together to spread the surface over the new path round our wildlife area, just the ten big one ton bags! This will make it accessible to all buggies and wheelchairs as well as make it more durable and attractive.

Some have also refreshed the paint in the Visitors Centre to be more welcoming to our many visitors in the warmer months. Please admire this next time you come for tea and cake.

Inside the mill, time has taken its toll on many parts of the huge machinery and a group of our volunteers have dismantled the Pentrough (a large wooden structure that controls and delivers the water to the wheel) ready to rebuild it with new timbers. This has been heavy work that revealed a lot of rotten wood and rusty metal. With the help of a Millwright we will get the job done, work finished for the opening in March. It's going to be tight. The great water wheel will need work in the next couple of years.



How can you help?

We have so many ways people can get involved, from gardening through tea making and all the way to guiding visitors through the mill. One of our biggest reasons for maintaining the mill is to show future generations how their food was made before supermarkets, online shopping etc. We host several visits from schools from the area over the year and the education team always need some help to organise and run these sessions. Every job is important and all need to be done. Consider popping down on a Wednesday morning when you will find us hard at work but smiling. No obligation and, if you are interested, then just let one of us know and that's it!

We open on Sunday 29 March. The younger visitors can feed the ducks and there are lots of hands-on activities in the mill for children and adults alike. Tickets are £7.50 an adult and children visit for free.



A prisoner at Nagasaki

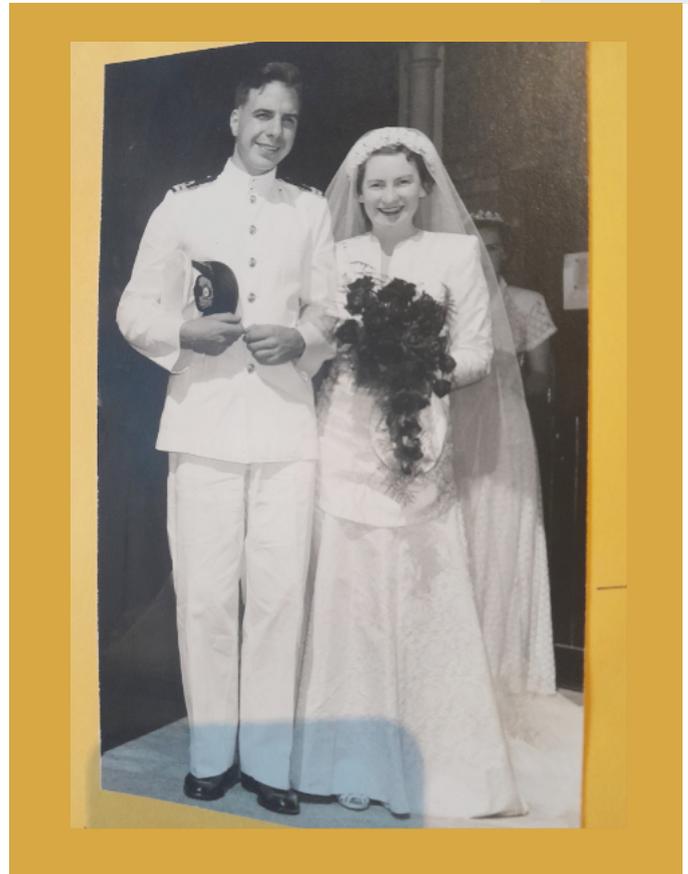
John Ellis kindly retells a wartime family story of kindness in times of trouble

My Dutch brother-in-law, Frans Kramer, was a ship's engineer before the war and was called up to join the Navy in the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia). Serving on a torpedo boat they were ordered out during the Battle of the Java Sea to finish off the Japanese fleet. On arrival only Japanese ships appeared to be afloat. So, the Dutch were the ones sunk and took to the lifeboat. Soon a Japanese destroyer came alongside and removed their oars, sail, food and water and promptly left. Fortunately, the next day another Japanese destroyer saw the drifting boat and pulled alongside and took them all on board as prisoners. This boat was on its way back to Japan so took their prisoners with them.

On arrival they were put to work in the coal mines until Japan, later in the war, needed more ships to replace those being lost and sent all engineers to the Nagasaki shipyards to help rebuild the diminishing fleet. With his best friend he became a rivetter and they did their war effort by seeing how few rivets they could put in the ship's plates so they would pass inspection, but put the ship at risk of springing the plates in high seas. Their *pièce de résistance* was when a ship was launched down the slipway and broke up on hitting the water. He did tell me they lived to regret their achievement!

As they marched to and from the yards to the prison camp, a Japanese family, at some risk to themselves, used to slip food to the prisoners. Interestingly Nagasaki had the largest Christian community in Japan. Indeed, the atomic bomb when dropped regrettably seriously damaged the Christian Cathedral which happened to be on almost ground zero. Nagasaki was not the intended target, but the actual place was cloud covered so the plane diverted. (These details from the recently published contemporary diary of Takashi Nagai, *The Bells of Nagasaki*). The prisoners were on parade when the bomb was dropped. They had their backs to the explosion and though many were injured in the blast many survived. The guards who were facing the blast were evidently blinded by the exceptional flash.

Post war my brother-in-law returned to his passenger liner which plied to Japan. He was able to trace the family who clandestinely fed them. They became good friends and he



would take them out to dine. Eventually he developed a brain tumour as did his good friend of those days. On operating the surgeon asked my sister if he had ever been subject to radiation. She answered, "Just a bit". She then explained the reason. Evidently his brain was still showing signs of radioactive damage some years after the bomb. However, he had managed to have a few years of good life post war.

The photo is of Hans and my sister, Hilda, on their wedding day in Hong Kong. They met on our trip from South Africa to Hong Kong in 1948 and married soon after. He spoke no English when he met Hilda on the trip across the Indian Ocean, but he sat down after duty with the deputy purser and could speak it reasonably well by the time we got to Hong Kong. He was a very bright chap!

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