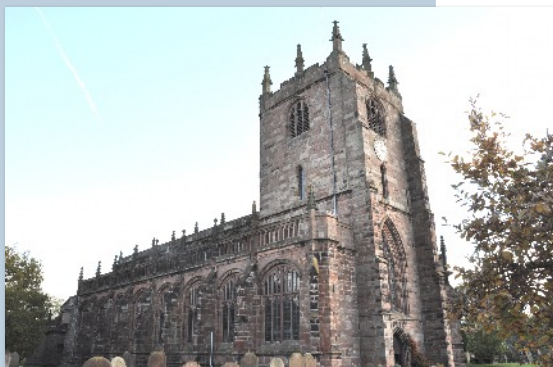




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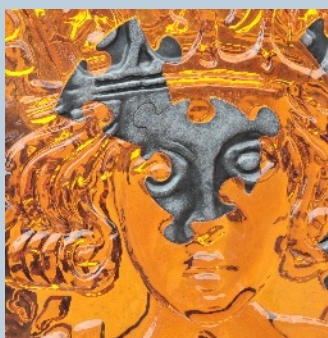
November 2025

Also in this issue...



2

Comedy evening
with Paul Kerensa



4

Bosworth Trail



Please give to St Boniface to
maintain this beautiful
church building

A magazine for the parishes of
Bunbury and Tilstone Fearnall



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ALL SOULS MEMORIAL SERVICE

SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER
4.00 PM

During the service the names of loved ones will be read out - those who have died last year as well as those whom people would like remembered. There will also be an opportunity to light candles in their memory. You can contact Rev Tim Hayward via email at revtimhayward@stbonifacebunbury.org

If you would find it comforting to come along and sit quietly to remember those who are important to you, please do join us.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

SUNDAY 9 NOVEMBER
10:45AM
ST BONIFACE CHURCH

Preceded by procession
leaving from the Scout Hut
at 10:15am

Could you help us deliver the Link in Calveley?
Please contact us on parishlinkeditor@stbonifacebunbury.org

You can read The Link online at: www.stbonifacebunbury.org

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The Link

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

Advertising:

parishlinkads@stbonifacebunbury.org

Editorial: Elaine Crotty

parishlinkeditor@stbonifacebunbury.org

Community news

Congratulations to **Aime and James Hawkins** on the baptism of their son **Henry James** on 14 September at Calveley Chapel.



Congratulations to **Emily and Andrew Weldon** on the baptism of their son **Caelan James** on 14 September at Calveley Chapel.



Congratulations to **Grace and Daniel Laidler-Hall** on the baptism of their son **Albert Montgomery** on 20 September at St Boniface church.



St Boniface will be hosting a performance by the award-winning comedian **Paul Kerensa** on **Friday 14 November**. In the first half of the evening Paul will present his stand-up act which will include a variety of comedy songs with audience participation. The second half will include more stand-up and a Q&A session on comedy, media, faith, and the universe. The evening will conclude with a musical finale. There will be an intermission for refreshments at the bar, where both cash and cashless payments will be accepted. The bar will be available from 7:00pm when the doors will open. Tickets are available on the church's website.

Christingle Service — On Sunday 7 December at 4:00pm **St Boniface** will be holding its annual candle-lit service for all the family in aid of the Children's Society.

Bunbury Gardening Club will hold their Annual **AGM** for club members only in **Bunbury Village Hall** on **Tuesday 18 November at 7:30pm**. It will be followed by a two course home-made supper. Club members are invited to bring their own wine or other drinks to accompany their meal.

Christmas Wreath Workshop — This year we are holding a special limited places event on **Friday 28 November** at the **Bunbury Pavilion 7:00pm-9:00pm**. Create your very own wreath with Margaret and Kath for

just £25 non-members or £20 members' price. All materials and refreshments provided. Book early to avoid disappointment. Contact Margaret (mjbourn249@tiscali.co.uk) or Kath (kathroden@hotmail.com)

Bunbury WI meets on the second Thursday of the month at Bunbury Playing Fields Pavilion at 7:30pm. Members enjoyed an Autumn Lunch on 2 October supplied by "The Little

A word from the editor

A huge thank you to Paula, Andy and the team at Tilly's who ran a quiz for St Boniface Church and raised over £500. It was a great night and the generous donation really helps towards the upkeep of our beautiful building and the work of the church.

There are still a few tickets available for the comedy evening with Paul Kerensa — it promises to be a brilliant night so don't miss out. (See Community news for details).

Deli" Malpas. Our next meeting on **Thursday 13 November at 7:30pm** will be the AGM and Social Evening including a quiz. In December members will take part in a Christmas wreath-making workshop (members only). Our Festive Lunch will be held at Dysart Arms on **4 December**. New members and guests are warmly welcomed. For further information contact Lynda Davies 01829 863781.

Alpraham and Calveley Village Hall news — The village hall is proving to be to be a popular venue welcoming regular exercise sessions including pilates, yoga, ballroom and line dancing, together with the more intensive HIIT, and table tennis. In addition to sports the hall is being used for activities enjoyed by young mums and their tots, and as a venue for parties.

The Village Hall Working Group arrange entertainment for the community, including the recent very successful Village Day. On **the second Thursday of the month** the doors of the hall are open between **2:00pm–4:00pm** providing an opportunity for neighbours to meet for a **Community Cuppa** of tea or coffee. Everyone is welcome. There is no charge but a small donation towards the refreshments is always appreciated. The next dates for Community Cuppa are 13 November and 11 December (Community Cuppa replaces Coffee and Chat which met in the mornings before 9 October). Our working group is continuing to develop its craft sessions for seasonal decorations and for budding artists. To see what is on offer keep an eye on Alpraham Facebook. For more information about the hall, or if you wish to make a booking, our website is www.acvillagehall.co.uk.

Bunbury Youth Group are bringing their panto **Cinderella to Bunbury Village Hall on Thursday 27 and Friday 28 November at 7:30pm**. Tickets are £10 adults, £5 children and £7.50 concessions, and are available online — just click on the panto poster on stbonifacebunbury.org/newevents.

Just Sing local choir brings **The Colours of Christmas** to their next concert on **Saturday 6 December at 2:00pm** at **Tarporley Baptist and Methodist Church**. Tickets are £10 and available from Tilly's and The Sheds in Bunbury, and the Hair Academy and Ginger & Pickles in Tarporley. The concert will raise funds for St Luke's Cheshire Hospice.

Decibellas women's choir returns to St Boniface to take us on a **Sleigh Ride** at their winter concert on **Saturday 13 December at 7:30pm**. Tickets are available from Stitch, High Street, Tarporley or via decibellas.co.uk/boxoffice at £10 for adults and £5 for children. There will be a bucket collection for the charity Share Chester after the concert.



Remember to grieve

Grief is one of the most deeply human experiences we share. It touches every life, sometimes unexpectedly, sometimes over long, aching seasons. In grief, we find both our fragility and our longing for hope, and in the Christian story, we discover that hope is never far from sorrow.

As we move through the season of All Saints, All Souls, and Remembrance, we're invited to pause and hold together memory and faith. We remember those who have gone before us: the saints who have shown us what holiness looks like in action, and the souls of all the faithful departed who rest in God's mercy. It is a time not only for mourning what we have lost, but also for giving thanks for what love has given.

On All Saints' Day, we celebrate the great company of heaven: men and women who lived with courage, faith, and love. Their stories remind us that holiness is not perfection, but the steady turning of our hearts toward God, even in weakness. They stand as beacons of hope, showing us that death is not the end, but a doorway into the fullness of God's life.

Then, on All Souls' Day, our focus turns tenderly to all those we have personally loved and lost: parents, friends, children, neighbours, each one precious to God. We name them, we remember them, we commend them into the eternal arms of love. In doing so, we acknowledge the ache of absence, yet we also trust that nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of Christ (Romans 8:38–39).

As we enter the wider season of Remembrance, when we honour those who gave their lives in war and conflict, our prayers broaden to include all who have suffered loss. We remember that Christ Himself was no stranger to grief. At the tomb of His friend Lazarus, Jesus wept, a divine tear joining ours. Yet He also spoke the words of resurrection: "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live" (John 11:25).

Grief, in the light of faith, becomes a place where love and hope meet. It is the shadow side of love — proof that what we shared mattered deeply. As Christians, we do not grieve without hope. We grieve with faith that those we love now dwell in the eternal presence of God, and that one day, we shall be reunited in that great communion of saints, where every tear will be wiped away, and death will be no more (Revelation 21:4).

The copy deadline for the December–January issue is Friday 14 November. The magazine should be delivered from Saturday 29 November. Please send notices to parishlinkeditor@stbonifacebunbury.org

If you are passing: Bosworth 1485 Trail

Stephen Broadbent is a Public Sculptor and a regular contributor to this magazine. We hope you will enjoy seeing some of his recent work in Bosworth.

In May 2024 the first artwork of a new and important sculpture trail was installed at Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre. The sculptures were designed and created by Stephen Broadbent and the team at Broadbent Studio. The sculpture, *Piecing Together the Past*, represents a double sided coin, with Richard III on one side and Henry VII on the other, reminiscent of a partly completed jigsaw, as so little is known of the true history of the period and the incomplete picture we have of what happened on Bosworth Battlefield on 22 August 1485. This sculpture along with three others is linked by a walking trail of works: *The Calm Before the Storm*, close to St James Church in Sutton Cheney, the *Storm Breaks*, Fenn Lane, near the Battlefield itself, and at St James the Greater at Dadlington. You can read the blog telling the whole story of each step of the trail and photos of the making at <https://broadbent.studio/blog>.



Our prayers

A prayer for The Bereavement Journey

Loving God, we thank you for your compassion that meets us in our grief, for your comfort that surrounds those who mourn, and for the promise of resurrection life in Jesus Christ. We pray for all who will take part in The Bereavement Journey that they may find gentleness, understanding, and peace along the way. May your Spirit bring healing to broken hearts and renew in each one the hope of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



The Bereavement Journey course at St Boniface has now started but if you would like to take part in future courses in 2026, please get in touch by emailing TBJ@stbonifacebunbury.org.

Church diary for November

Sunday 2 November	8:00am BCP Communion 9:30am Morning Worship 10:30am Holy Communion & Forest Church 4:00pm All Souls Memorial Service	St Boniface St Jude St Boniface St Boniface
Wednesday 5 November	10:00am BCP Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 9 November	09:30am Remembrance Sunday 10:45am Remembrance Sunday	St Jude St Boniface
Wednesday 12 November	10:00am BCP Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 16 November	9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Third Sunday Brunch: Safeguarding Sunday 4:30pm Evensong	St Jude St Boniface St Boniface
Wednesday 19 November	10:00am BCP Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 23 November	9:30am Morning Worship 10:30am Holy Communion	St Jude St Boniface
Wednesday 26 November	10:00am BCP Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 30 November	9:30am Morning Worship 10:30am Morning Worship	St Jude St Boniface



Bunbury Aldersey School news



A new chapter for our youngest learners: outdoor area opens at Bunbury School Nursery

Since its official opening on 4 November 2024, Bunbury Nursery has gone from strength to strength, quickly establishing itself as a warm, welcoming, and inspiring environment for early years education. In the initial phase, the nursery underwent a complete interior transformation, creating a space that is both calming and stimulating, perfectly suited to the developmental needs of young children. This was soon followed by a full revamp of the outdoor area, which now offers a safe, engaging, and rich setting where children can explore, play, and learn through discovery. From mud kitchens and sensory play to climbing frames and planting beds, every corner has been thoughtfully created to support early development and lots of fun.

Outdoor learning is a vital part of our nursery curriculum, helping children build confidence, resilience, and social skills. Whether they're investigating mini-beasts, building dens, or simply enjoying story time under the canopy, our children are thriving in this enriched setting.

We are proud to offer places for children aged two to four, providing those crucial early years of support, nurture, and high-quality learning experiences. Our approach is rooted in the belief that every child deserves a strong foundation, and our team works tirelessly to ensure that each child feels valued, supported, and encouraged to thrive. Through a rich blend of play-based learning, structured activities, and outdoor exploration, we support each child's development across all areas — from communication and physical skills to creativity and emotional wellbeing. With strong links to our Reception class and wider school community, our nursery provides a seamless start to every child's educational journey. A key milestone in our journey came in April 2025, when we welcomed Miss Bourne as our dedicated nursery teacher.



Her passion for early years education and her creative, child-centred approach have brought a new depth to our provision. Under her leadership, the nursery continues to evolve, offering a rich and imaginative curriculum that fosters curiosity, independence, and a love of learning. As we look ahead, we remain committed to nurturing the potential of every child who joins our school, and we are excited to continue building on the strong foundations laid in our first year. We warmly invite any parents and carers who have nursery-age children to visit and see the new area for themselves. It's a wonderful example of Bunbury School's commitment to nurturing its youngest members.

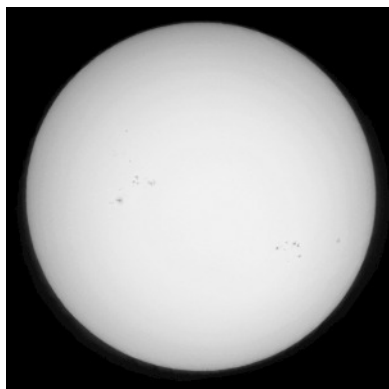
Nick Badger
Principal



Sky notes for November

We have been treated to a few marvellous displays of the Northern Lights over the last eighteen months. We are close to sunspot maximum in the eleven year solar cycle. So it is not surprising there have been large numbers of sunspots on display (note: NEVER LOOK AT THE SUN with your eyes, binoculars or telescopes; without special filters you will irreparably damage your eyes). The accompanying image was recently taken through one of the telescopes at Jodrell Bank visitor's centre.

Sunspots are storms on the Sun's surface. They are slightly cooler than the rest of the surface which is why they appear dark. But in reality they are still very hot indeed. Sunspots occur where the Sun's magnetic field punches through the surface of the Sun. Sometimes this results in charged particles being blasted into space. If these particles are ejected in the direction of the Earth, sometimes called a coronal mass ejection, they are attracted to the Earth's poles. The particles are then funnelled into the top of our atmosphere where they can excite oxygen and nitrogen,



Sunspots as seen from Jodrell Bank (note the telescope was fitted with a special filter)

causing them to glow. This is what we see as the Northern Lights, properly called the Aurora Borealis.

The Aurora Watch website: <https://aurorawatch.lancs.ac.uk/> has a display showing the likelihood of seeing it as an observer. When the display turns red, there is a good chance of seeing one. You can sign up to be alerted on



The small telescopes, in from of the Lovell Telescope dish at Jodrell Bank, are ready to observe the Sun safely with special filters

your smart phone if a red alert happens at <https://aurorawatch.lancs.ac.uk/alerts/>. If you get an alert, go outside, away from bright lights, and look around the sky, starting with the northern region. Hopefully we will get the chance to see more displays over the next few months, before the solar cycle begins to decline. Good luck!

The ringed planet

Saturn is putting on a good show in the south-west during November. It is just to the left of the Moon on 1 November and just to the right of it on 2 November. Then again on 29 November Saturn lies below the Moon.

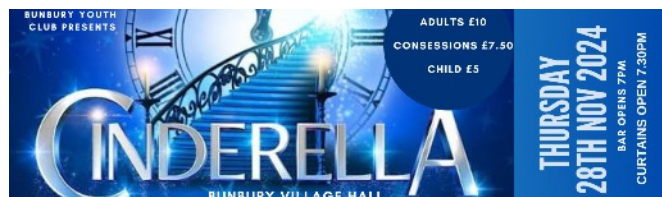
At the moment, Saturn's rings are almost edge on to us, but still worth looking out for if you have a small telescope.

Giant Jupiter

Jupiter, the king of planets, rises in the north-east around 8:00pm. It is well visible from late evening. On the night of 9/10 November the Moon passes above Jupiter.

Clear skies!

Bunbury Stargazer



There's a real buzz around the village as Bunbury Youth Group gets ready to put on Cinderella this winter! With a brilliant mix of kids from Year 7 right up to Year 13, it's shaping up to be full of fun, laughter, and plenty of sparkle — just what we all need to kick off the festive season.

One of the best things about this group is how everyone gets

involved. The young people help with everything — choreography, directing scenes, costumes, music, and backstage jobs too. It's lovely to see them working together, with the older ones encouraging the younger ones and everyone given the chance to shine.

Packed with catchy songs, lively dances, and the classic panto magic we all love, Cinderella is set to bring joy and festive cheer to the whole village. So gather your friends and family, get ready to laugh, sing along, and maybe even shout, "He's behind you!" — because Bunbury Youth Group's Cinderella is the perfect way to kick off the Christmas season!

Beth Hayward

Bunbury Medical Practice

November news

Dispensary news

The prescription enquiry time slot has been increased by an hour, to 1:00pm to 3:00pm, Monday to Friday. If you are not receiving texts informing you that your medication is ready for collection and would like to, please let the counter clerk know when you come in and they can check your patient settings and amend your patient record accordingly.

For patients who collect their paper prescription slips from the surgery for medication to be dispensed elsewhere, these slips are now to be collected from our dispensary window. We recently trialled collection from the reception desk, however following a review of this, we have decided to revert to the previous system.

Home visits

Patients may request a home visit if they are housebound or are too ill to visit the practice. Your GP will only visit you at home if they think that your medical condition requires it and they will also decide how urgently a visit is needed. Please be prepared to provide suitable details to enable the doctor to schedule a home visit.

To request a home visit, it is helpful if you telephone the practice as soon as possible after 8:00am in order for visits to be accommodated within the working day.

Training Day - November

The practice will be closed from 1:00pm on Tuesday 4 November; it will reopen the following day at 8:00am. All Training Days for 2025 can be found on our website.

Paracetamol and pregnancy

We would like to remind and reassure patients that there is no evidence that taking paracetamol during pregnancy causes autism in children. Paracetamol is recommended as the first-choice pain reliever for pregnant women, used at the lowest dose and for the shortest duration. It also acts as an antipyretic and is therefore used to treat fever. Patients should not stop taking their pain medicines as untreated pain and fever can pose risks to the unborn child.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/Paracetamol-and-pregnancy> — reminder that taking paracetamol during pregnancy remains safe.

Gardeners' November diary

The boxing gloves are off

Some twelve years ago I planted Box (Buxus) in my garden which flourished until three years ago. The Box was a formal low hedge and an area of topiary balls and pyramids. I noticed damage on the leaves, I identified it as blight, and the fight began.

I cut the hedge back and when it grew again it was very patchy but I persisted. The topiary, my pride and joy, I had to give up on and with tears in my eyes I dug it all out. At this stage I still thought I had blight. I cut the hedge down to four inches and cleared the ground of debris. It was then that I discovered a caterpillar for the first time in all these years, then I saw a box moth.

This is the pest which had laid its eggs on the leaves and destroyed my Box. Had I been wrong to assume it was blight or had I suffered from both? I have read that Box can recover after a hard cut back so we will wait and see.

So if your Box begins to show signs of disease don't assume it is one or the other, it could be both. The area which had

held the topiary was filled with summer annuals which gave a splendid display and is now full of spring bulbs. I have no idea what to do with this area's permeability but at least I have got some additional colour.

My garden continues to delight, however, I have neglected to thin out some perennials which are crowding out other plants. For instance Phlox, Kniphofia Uvaria and Japanese anemone — so the work has begun. I have discovered many alliums which had been suffocated so I am looking forward to seeing them thrive next year.

Happy gardening.



Keith

“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.



Listen to music

Probably most of us listen to music from time to time, but recent research shows that so-called “mindful listening”, whereby we do nothing but sit and focus on the music and what we notice about it and how it makes us feel, has numerous health benefits. In a small study of ten volunteers working with Dr Psyche Loui at NorthEastern University in Boston, USA, each listened to a custom-made playlist of music that either relaxed them or made them feel joyful, for an hour each day for eight weeks. The neuroscience team measured their brain function before and after the trial, using EEGs and fMRI scans, and saw a significant increase in functional connectivity in all the subjects, and especially between the auditory areas and centres of emotion and reward.

Reward is important for learning, motivation and social function, and naturally decreases with age, but it appears that music actually rescues this function, which has implications for use in dementia. Those who listened to joyful music also had significant opening (dilation) of their blood vessels, which seems to be due to the release of endorphins and NO (nitric oxide, a potent vasodilator with all sorts of health benefits, including lowering blood pressure (see the earlier article on eating beetroot)). These chemicals also help with pain relief; a group of people measured post-surgery showed that those

who listened to music needed 18% less morphine relief than those who didn't.

It has also been shown that listening to music with your children or adolescents leads to better relationships with them in the future, and it is well-known that listening to up-tempo music when exercising increases endurance and can also increase the speed of our running or walking.

Other benefits include general cognitive improvement and less feelings of loneliness; it can also help us to revisit and process old memories. Neuro-imaging studies show that when we listen to music our brains “phase-lock” to the rhythms, which means that groups of neurones actually fire in time with the music, and this activates the reward centres, especially if it's music we know and love. Exposure to and training in music early in life leads to better cognitive abilities, and adults with a lot of musical experience can generally hear speech better in noisy environments than those without.

So the verdict is to listen to music in any of three ways: mindfully, whereby you set aside time to listen attentively to the music; as a background to help with focus; and to help you move more, and more vigorously. It doesn't really matter what genre of music floats your boat, and you can mix them all up to create your ideal playlist; have some fun compiling it and then sit back and enjoy!

Liv Weller



St. Beuno's Jesuit Spirituality

Twenty-eight years ago Dave and I moved from the North East to Kegworth, on the borders of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire in the East Midlands. The house we bought had an Annexe which the previous owners had let out to a young French professional called Hervé Pierre Guillot. We didn't need the space and had no plans to use it in the foreseeable future so Hervé Pierre stayed on and we inherited a tenant.

Hervé Pierre was, and is, a very clever young man. He worked as a chemist for British Gypsum (now, ironically, owned by the French Company Saint Gobain), listened to the news each day in three languages and could converse on almost any subject. He was a gentle soul and a model tenant.

Hervé Pierre was a devout Roman Catholic. Enjoying dinner together one evening when Dave was away overseas, he shared that his deepest wish was to join the Church but he had huge loyalty to his family and was desperate not to disappoint his father who was so proud to have a son with so many educational and professional achievements under his belt at such a young age. We talked for a long time on this subject and it came as no great surprise a few months later to receive Hervé Pierre's tenancy notice — he had finally decided to apply, and been accepted by the Province of the Society of Jesus to train to become a Jesuit Priest.

I don't claim to know everything, but in a nutshell, to become a Jesuit Priest, one must give up personal possessions and rely solely on the community for sustenance. This vow of poverty is a fundamental aspect of the Jesuit commitment to serve the Church and the world. While not all Priests take a vow of poverty, it is a core principle of the Order. The Jesuit formation process involves a blend of spiritual, academic and practical training, culminating in the final vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. This journey can last up to 20 years, encompassing various stages from Novitiate to Ordination and beyond. It is a lengthy and immersive process, each stage focussing on developing specific aspects of a Jesuit's life.

Over the years Hervé Pierre never failed to keep in touch with Dave and me (he never forgets either of our birthdays). We were in awe at the studies he undertook in the early years before his Ordination in Paris, to which we were very proud to be invited. Jesuit Priests are expected to be totally obedient to their superiors, accepting orders to go anywhere in the world that they are needed. Imagine our surprise and delight almost two years ago to learn that Hervé Pierre had been sent to work at St Beuno's Jesuit Spirituality Centre near St Asaph, a mere fifty minutes' drive away.

We recently went to visit and, after a gap of 26 years, enjoyed a wonderful three hours with Hervé Pierre (known today as

"HP" to everyone at St Beuno's — much easier to remember and to pronounce. You may never have heard of St Beuno's (we hadn't) or may not be familiar with its origins and mission. I promise you, it is an amazing and inspirational place.

St Beuno's was built in 1848 as a theology faculty which prepared men to be ordained as Jesuits. Over two hundred Jesuit priests were ordained in the House Chapel! In 1926, St Beuno's ceased to be a theology faculty and became an infirmary for elderly Jesuits, but continued to train men in their final year of training for Jesuit ordination.

In the 1970s, there were great developments in the spirituality work of the Jesuits, their approach encouraging individuals to recognise God's presence in every aspect of life, from prayer to work and relationships, and so St Beuno's became what it is today, a retreat house and spirituality centre for all denominations and nationalities.

Dave and I had not been prepared for the absolute beauty of the place. St Beuno's is a large Victorian Grade II listed building (built in 1848) with spacious and very comfortable public areas and magnificent grounds, located in the Vale of Clwyd with spectacular views of the coast and the Snowdonia mountains from almost every window. The libraries, sculptures and paintings were something to behold, not to mention the most beautiful chapel.

Retreats are individual experiences and a dedicated spiritual director will discuss privately and individually how visitors wish to pray and how they wish to structure their days during a retreat. Apart from one-to-one meetings with the director, the structure of each day is your own, which allows ample opportunity to relax, pray or to simply put on your walking boots and enjoy the wonderful countryside around St Beuno's. Retreats can be for just a weekend, right up to a whopping 30 days. Am I selling this to you? There's not enough space here for me to share all my thoughts but if you have ever felt the need to find yourself and God through private space, peace, prayer and silence (not to mention good food I'm told) then please consider St Beuno's (www.beunos.com).



Lesley Evans

Remembering Barry Smith

Barry's family tribute

Barry was born on the 26 August 1947. Son to Dolly and Sid, and younger brother to Brian and David, he arrived into a busy, loving family. He was born in Sale, Manchester and he always spoke fondly of his childhood there. Those early years were full of stories, from his time as an altar boy, to endless hours playing and watching football. He loved the community he grew up in. His mum, Dolly, was the real football fan of the family, and a Manchester City supporter. She was the one who took him to matches, sometimes City one week and United the next. But it didn't take long before he was spending far more time at Old Trafford. The magic of the Busby Babes, the roar of Old Trafford, and the pride of wearing red, white and black captured his heart, and from then on, he was a Manchester United man for life.

When Barry left school, his first job was in an insurance shipping office, working as a courier and post boy. But it wasn't long before he followed his brother David into British Airways. It was a job that suited him perfectly. He loved travel, meeting people, and had the kind of charm that put passengers at ease.

It was at British Airways that Barry met Sue. Their first encounter wasn't exactly the stuff of romance — Dad was in full voice, singing some rude songs, and Sue promptly told him exactly what she thought about it. That set the tone for their relationship: Barry would say his piece, Sue would tell him what she thought... and then, more often than not, they'd do what Sue wanted.

They married on 2 March 1974 at Saint Paul's Church in Sale, the start of a partnership built on love, respect, and the ability to make each other laugh. A few years after they married, Sue and Barry started their own family. Sarah was born in 1976 and then Jim came along in 1982. Dad worked hard, often away with British Airways, to give us a good life. His job meant he couldn't always be there day-to-day, but we always knew he was working for us, to provide for the family and make sure we had what we needed.

Barry was very proud of his children and was also an amazing Grandad to Jack and Joey, who loved him dearly. Whether it was his silly noises, his daft jokes, or his gentle wind-ups, he always found ways to make them laugh.

Sport played an important part in Barry's life, whether it was playing or watching. In 1964, he was scouted by Matt Busby and Jimmy Murphy and invited to train at The Cliff — United's famous training ground — in plimsolls, no less. He was mega proud of this, and he even framed the letters inviting him for a trial. Jim now has them hanging in his office, and they always make him smile.

Dad was a great footballer — a lightning-quick right winger with a fierce shot. Jim remembers once, when he was about ten, Barry asked him to go in goal for him. Without warning, he whacked the ball straight at his legs. It really hurt, he just said

real goalkeepers use their hands and not legs!

He loved every sport, really, and would watch it all the time. Sport was always on when you visited him — from football to F1, snooker to cricket, rugby and everything in between. If it had a ball, a bat, a racquet, a wheel, or even a pair of darts, Barry was there watching.

Barry was a massive Manchester United supporter — something he proudly passed down. It was special to share the celebrations of winning the league in 1993, the treble in 1999, and all the successes along the way. Jim loved going to Old Trafford with him — the mix of arguing and celebrating together was priceless.

After Barry left British Airways, he ran a little vegetables shop in Tarporley, then worked as a gardener, then for Meat & Livestock. But in the end, he found his way back to flying. He returned to air stewarding and safety training with British Aerospace before moving to NetJets. Barry always said his final ten years at NetJets were the best of his career. With NetJets, Barry travelled the world again, looking after the rich and famous — from David Beckham to Britney Spears. One of the favourite stories was about Trudi, Sting's wife, who apparently would only fly if Barry was on the flight. That says everything about how good he was at his job.

And finally, Barry's second great love — after Sue, of course — was dahlias. Barry was the Alex Ferguson of the dahlia world. He won the lot: national, regional, and local cups and titles, something he was immensely proud of. Fergie may have won 49 major trophies, but Barry surpassed that! At one stage he'd come home from a competition and Sue would groan, "Not another cup — where are we going to put that?" Barry knew everything about dahlias and was utterly passionate about them. One show always sticks in Jim's mind — the Southport Show, where Barry was entering a national competition for Poms. He was preparing his entry when the guest of honour, none other than Alan Titchmarsh, came over. Alan said he loved Poms, that their shape just made you want to squeeze them... and then reached to squeeze one of Barry's. Barry's quick, firm, direct response ensured Alan knew exactly what would have happened if he'd tried!

Barry could be summed up by the four things he truly loved, family, sport, flying and flowers. Each one tells a different story about who he was, and together, they capture the heart of the man we all knew and loved.



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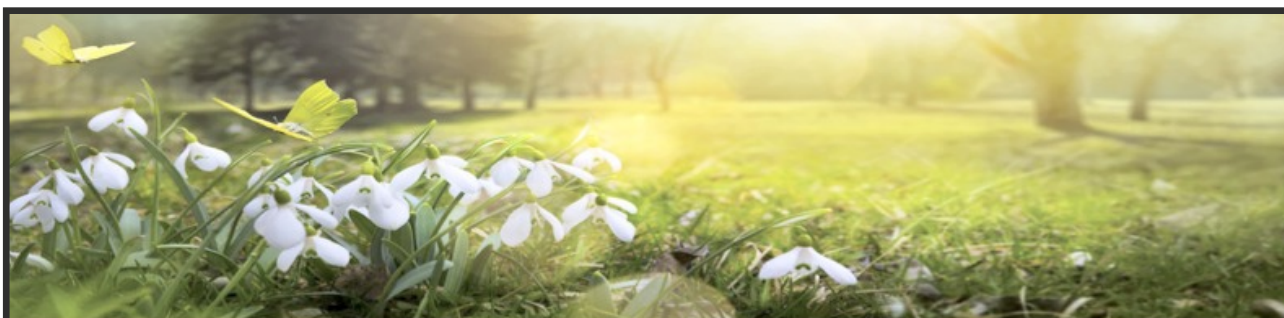
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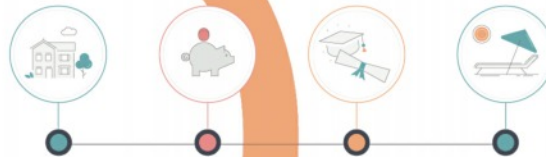
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