

# Link

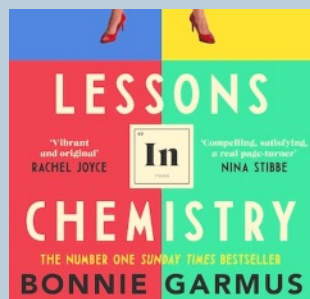
March 2024

## Also in this issue...



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What causes the Northern Lights?



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Get involved!

A magazine for the parishes of Bunbury and Tilstone Fearnall

## EASTER 2024

### SERVICES IN BUNBURY AND TILSTONE FEARNALL

**Good Friday**  
**Friday 29 March**

**11:00am** Outdoor service at Tilly's  
**2:00pm** Quiet reflective service at St Boniface

**Easter Day**  
**Sunday 31 March**

**9:30am** Easter Communion at St Jude  
**10:30am** Easter Communion at St Boniface  
**6:00pm** Easter Communion at Calveley Chapel

A new men's group is starting in Bunbury thinking about the big issues of life over a pint  
See our community news on page 2 for more details



Follow Bunbury Church on Facebook

# Who we are

## TIM HAYWARD - Vicar

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## St Boniface

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### Treasurer

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## The Link

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

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

# Community news

## The Bunbury Water Mill

reopens on Easter Sunday and is open every Sunday from 1:00 to 5:00pm to the end of October (plus most Bank Holiday Mondays).

Bunbury Watermill is a working mill with three floors of machinery and a magnificent integral over shot, 10 tonne, working water wheel

On Easter Bank Holiday Monday there is to be a family themed afternoon with a free butterfly treasure hunt and art experience for young children in the Visitors Centre. There will be family tickets for mill tours and our usual refreshments with cakes.

See the website, Instagram and Facebook for more information and pictures.

The Visitor Centre is available for private hire for birthdays, club events such as car clubs... vintage or otherwise.



## Decibellas' news

Please see page 9 for news about this amazing local choir's fundraising success.

**Bunbury WI** meets on the second Thursday of the month at the Bunbury Playing Fields Pavilion starting at 7:30pm.

Guests are warmly welcomed to

all our meetings. Members have recently enjoyed a New Year Lunch at the Tollemache Arms, a talk from Dr Karen Castle on "How I ended up in prison" and an origami competition. At our meeting on 14 March, Claire Henry will entertain us talking about "My crazy life with sled dogs". For further information contact Lynda Davies on 01829 260084.

## Coffee morning at St Jude Church Hall, Tilstone Fearnall.

Saturday 23 March, 10:00am to 12:00pm. Tickets will be £3.00 at the door in aid of church funds. Cake stall, book stall and raffle. All welcome.

## New men's group starting in Bunbury — thinking about the big issues of life over a pint.

Meeting on Thursdays once a month at local pubs (except in August) starting on 7 March at 7:30pm at the Dysart Arms. For more information please email Rev Tim at  
revtimhayward@stbonifacebunbury.org.

BUNBURY CHURCH  
**PUB CRAWL**  
THINKING ABOUT THE BIG ISSUES OF LIFE OVER A PINT  
THURSDAYS ONCE A MONTH FROM 7.30PM ONWARDS

MARCH 7 - DYSART | DUST  
APRIL 10 - NAGS BUNBURY | TREES  
MAY 2 - YEW TREE | FLAME  
JUNE 6 - TOLLEMACHE | EMPTY  
JULY 4 - HAUGHTON NAGS | SOCIAL  
SEPT 5 - DYSART | LUGGAGE  
OCT 3 - NAGS BUNBURY | TODAY  
NOV 7 - YEW TREE | WHIRLWIND  
DEC 5 - THE SWAN | SOCIAL I

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
EMAIL REVTIMHAYWARD@STBONIFACEBUNBURY.ORG

## A word from the editor

This month the Link is 16 pages rather than 20 as we have lost some advertising. We are going to remain flexible — if we have more content or advertising to publish we will revert to 20 pages. If anyone would like to advertise with us, please email [parishlinkads@stbonifacebunbury.org](mailto:parishlinkads@stbonifacebunbury.org).

Last month I wrote about the Alsama Project in Beirut. This week a fourth school has opened. The building was previously a prison; now 220 new students have brought the total being educated by the project to 880. The headteacher joined Alsama in 2020 as a cricket coach, she then became a maths teacher, and is now its head. More next month on the cricket in Alsama.

Please consider helping the Church Fete Committee organise and run this year's fete which will take place on May Bank Holiday, May 6. You can do a little or a lot — it all helps. If you would like more information please email me at [elaine.crotty@stbonifacebunbury.org](mailto:elaine.crotty@stbonifacebunbury.org).

## Church diary for March

Sunday 3 March	8:00am BCP Communion 9:30am Morning Worship 10:30am Holy Communion & Forest Church 11:30am Holy Communion	St Boniface St Jude St Boniface  Calveley
Wed 6 March	10:00am BCP Communion & Easter reflection	St Boniface
Sunday 10 March	9:30am BCP Communion 10:30am Morning Worship	St Jude St Boniface
Wed 13 March	10:00am BCP Communion & Easter reflection	St Boniface
Sunday 17 March	09:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Third Sunday Brunch 6:00pm Evensong	St Jude St Boniface St Boniface
Tuesday 19 March	2:30pm & 7:30pm Contemplative prayer	St Boniface
Wed 20 March	10:00am BCP Communion and Easter reflection	St Boniface
Sunday 24 March	9:30am Palm Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am Palm Sunday Holy Communion	St Jude  St Boniface
Wed 27 March	10:00am BCP Communion and Easter reflection	St Boniface
Friday 29 March	11:00am Outdoor Service 2:00pm Quiet reflective service	Tilly's St Boniface
Sunday 31 March	9:30am Easter Communion 10:30am Easter Communion 6:00pm Easter Communion	St Jude St Boniface Calveley

The copy deadline for the April issue is Friday 15 March.  
The magazine should be delivered from Saturday 30 March.  
Please send notices to [parishlinkeditor@stbonifacebunbury.org](mailto:parishlinkeditor@stbonifacebunbury.org)



TIM HAYWARD

### Your Vicar

I love it when the clocks go forward.

After the long dark nights of winter, the days have already been getting longer for a while. It's no longer dark when I leave for morning prayer, or when the girls leave for school. And then with the changing clocks, we will take a collective step forward. Boom! An extra hour of sunlight in the evening.

And even though officially spring has only just begun, it's clear that summer is coming. We moved from one time zone to another, from GMT to BST — Greenwich Mean Time to British Summer Time.

This year Easter Day coincides with the changing of the clocks, and there's something fitting about that. In the Bible, the apostle Paul wrote: "[Jesus] is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead." Jesus had miraculously raised other people to life, but they were still subject to death and would one day die again. Jesus was the first human being to go through death and escape the other side.

That he was the firstborn has two key implications. Firstly, that there will be others who follow him in being born to new life. The Christian hope is that the reign of death is broken by Jesus' victory, and everyone who trusts in Jesus will share in his resurrection life.

Secondly, firstborn carries the implication of inheritance rights — the King's firstborn son inherits the Kingdom. Jesus' resurrection marks the beginning of a new order over which he is the ruler — the Kingdom of God, where sin is forgiven, the sick are healed, the dead raised, and justice rules.

When God raised Jesus from the dead, he was "putting the clock forward" to this new age. We've entered a new time zone, that of the Kingdom of God. As Tom Wright put it: "Easter was when Hope in person surprised the whole world by coming forward from the future into the present." The clock hasn't just gone forward for our personal lives, for our private faith. When the clock goes forward, all of life shifts to the new pattern — school, work, community, business. So it is with God's kingdom.

Everything must change to fit the new rhythm of resurrection life. Jesus is reconciling all things to himself — bringing peace to warring countries, justice to unfair economies and societies, wholeness to broken families and communities. Of course, in the interim it can be hard to believe when we still see so much oppression, suffering, injustice and pain. Like the dark storms that still gather in springtime, and the tired mornings adjusting to a new rhythm, the transition is not an easy one — and all around us, peoples and societies still try to live by the beat of the old clock.

But as dark and difficult as this world still is, we know that winter is passing. The light of Jesus' kingdom is growing each and every day, and one day soon Jesus will bring in the endless summer.

Alleluia to that!

## Easter Day: turn your clocks forward

Mike Rogers



## Now the green blade riseth...

I am writing this at the beginning of February in the hope that by the time it is published, spring will be underway and the signs of new growth will be all around us.

Nature follows a cycle of creation and re-creation which is mirrored in our human lives. On one level we move from birth to death - from spring to winter - but on another level we are constantly being re-created and made new.

This second level of re-creation and being made new is, of course, the spiritual level and Easter, which we celebrate at the end of this month, is the crown of that new creation both in the Church and in our lives.

One of my favourite Easter hymns begins:

*Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain.*

For me, the words make a powerful connection between the new birth of spring and the Resurrection of Jesus. Wheat that has lain in the dark earth suddenly bursts forth and is alive again.

*Jesus, laid in the grave, comes forth at Easter.*

In other words, Love that was thought to be slain, lives again, something that the refrain of each verse in the hymn reminds us:

*Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.*

It seems to me that the words describe the Resurrection and the beginning of the 50-day long festival of Easter beautifully; they are a simple reminder of the essence of the Resurrection. That amazing event tells us that the love that is embodied in Jesus Christ has triumphed and all that is not love is conquered. In short, there is nothing that can defeat love.

At Easter we are reminded, just as we are by spring, that God makes and re-makes all things. Spring heralds new life and at Easter we are given new life. We are renewed.

But perhaps you don't feel like that. Perhaps the Easter Joy passes you by and the church's celebration may be something you can only observe; for you, participation in it may not be possible. And there is nothing worse than being at a celebration when everyone is enjoying themselves and you are feeling miserable.

The final verse of my favourite hymn acknowledges this. It runs:

*When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
Thy touch can call us back to life again,  
Fields of hearts, that dead and bare have been  
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.*

Jesus went to the depths of the tomb and he knows the dark places of our lives. He is the Love who comes to us there and his touch can help us.

The only question is, will you let him?



## A Correction

In last month's Link I wrote about the future of the Bunbury and District Branch of the Royal British Legion and said that were the Branch to close or amalgamate with a neighbouring Branch, the Standard would not be available '... to be present at the funeral of a Legion member.'

This was incorrect. The Royal British Legion exists to help members of the Royal Navy, British Army Royal Air Force, veterans and their families and the presence of a Royal British Legion Standard is available to all those who qualify for Legion assistance, not just to Legion members.

However, if the Bunbury and District Branch were to either close or amalgamate, it would not be our Standard that was present; this would have been laid up in St Boniface and another Branch would have to be approached to provide a Standard.

I apologise for any confusion my statement may have caused.

**Mike Rogers**  
**President, Bunbury and District Branch RBL**

## Our prayers

### ***This month's prayers are thanks to Pat Ellis***

*To quote Elizabeth Rundle: "Prayer is that invisible process which strengthens us with a power beyond understanding." This prayer is an extract from a much longer prayer by the late William Barclay, Church of Scotland minister and writer.*

*Father of peace and God of love, grant us your peace. Send your peace to the world. Take from the world the threat of war, and bring a time when the nations will live in friendship.*

*Send your peace to our country. Help those in politics to set state above party, and to set your will above all else.*

*Send peace within ourselves. Help us to live in peace with each other.*

*All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

## “Just one thing” for a healthier life: dance and drink coffee!



### *Our well-being expert brings us more ideas from the successful Radio 4 series*

#### **Eat Oily Fish**

Most of us know that fish is a good source of protein and many have consciously tried to increase our intake, but the real health benefits are not found from white fish but from oily fish, best identified by the acronym SMASH; salmon, mackerel, anchovies, sardines, herrings. These are high in Omega 3 fatty acids, especially EPA and DHA. Between five and six percent of our brain tissue is made from DHA, and both are involved in neurogenesis (new brain cells), neurotrophins (compounds which support brain function) and in gene regulation. Eating these fish regularly significantly reduces the risk of heart disease; very low incidences of heart disease in Inuit and other first peoples who consume large amounts of oily fish and very few fruit or vegetables were what first drew attention to their protective effects. They are also known to reduce inflammation, and these combined effects lead to better memory, focus, learning and cognition, and reduced rates of dementia. Consuming significant quantities during pregnancy decreases the risk of premature births and seems to result in higher literacy rates for those babies once they are at primary school. Omega three fatty acids are also believed to help protect against the negative influences of high air pollution. Ideally we will incorporate more fresh oily fish into our regular diets, but in the short term supplements can be taken, and if you are vegetarian or vegan these will be made primarily from algae as other plant sources are fairly low.

#### **Meditate**

Dr Lazar, Associate Professor in Psychology at Harvard Medical School, defines meditation as formal mind training achieved by focusing on one thing for periods of time. Mindfulness is a type of meditation which can be practised at any time and is about

becoming aware of our present moment experience in a curious and non-judgemental way. It frequently uses focus on our breathing as a good and easy way to do this, but mindful movement, scanning different parts of the body, and mindful walking are all popularly practised too. In the latter we pay attention to the way our body feels as we use and move it, and also to the sensations of wind or sun, and the sounds and smells of water, trees etc. Mindfulness and meditation are very ancient eastern practices that were introduced to the West in the 1970s and have since had more than 8000 studies done which show massive benefits in health and wellbeing, including; reduced stress, anxiety and depression, which in turn lead to a healthier immune system; improved mood and energy levels, and improved sleep patterns. Brain scanning after only eight weeks of daily practice show reduction in the size of the amygdala, which is our 'fight or flight' centre, and increase in the size of the frontal lobes and hippocampus, which improves our memory, focus and emotional regulation. Mindfulness has also been shown to help improve people's relationship with chronic pain. Even ten minutes practice a day, several times a week can produce positive effects but building up to 40 minutes every day gives optimal benefits. Ideally find a teacher or group to learn the techniques, but many apps exist, and there are numerous free guided meditations on YouTube and other online sites. It can be very hard to start with if you have a very busy mind, but the important thing is to keep at it, and in time learn to notice when your mind starts to wander so you can bring it back to the breath (or other focus point) more quickly and easily. Practice always brings improvement!

*Liv Weller*

## Gardener's March Diary

Last month I was cutting old leaves off my hellebores to reveal the flowers for this season. I was only just in time as they are now in full flower. It's worth wandering around the garden to have a look.

Garden pots always make a good garden feature, however now is the time to do some maintenance. If they contain permanent plants look to see if they have become pot bound; if they are you will need to replant them in larger pots with some fresh compost. Lillies and similar perennials will also benefit from repotting and feeding. For plants that are not pot bound, just scrape away a few centimetres and top up with fresh compost and feed.

Clematis, a beautiful favourite for any garden, are divided into

pruning groups:

1 — Early flowering are seldom pruned

2 — Early summer prune now

3 — Flowering late summer can also be pruned now.

These groups are for guidance and whenever you prune them they will benefit; find two strong buds and prune just above.

The snowdrops and crocus are giving a wonderful show just now and we can look forward to the daffodils appearing soon. It is also planting time for summer flowering bulbs so check your plant catalogue, or pop down to your favourite garden centre to see what takes your fancy – there is always room for summer bulbs.

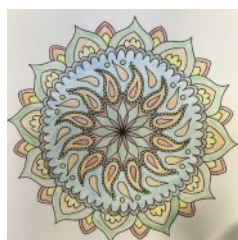
Happy gardening from the garden club correspondent.

# News from Bunbury School



At Bunbury School the staff pride themselves on teaching a broad and balanced curriculum, promoting high academic standards, and also on building a strong knowledge and understanding of the world around us. Religious Education at Bunbury School is taught as an academic subject focusing on Christianity and exploring world faiths and beliefs.

Over the last year the children have learnt about Judaism, Islam, Sikhism, Humanism and Christianity.



During this half term, we learnt about the Hindu faith as part of one of our World Faith and Belief days. Through our regular World Faith and Belief days we aim to promote understanding of different religions and beliefs around the world. Each class participated in a workshop led by our visitor, Prags Birk, alongside classroom



activities planned over the course of the day. The workshops taught the children about different aspects of Hinduism and were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The school also supported NSPCC Number Day on Friday 2 February. The children were invited to come to school in number/maths inspired outfits as part of Dress Up for Digits Day to raise funds for the NSPCC's vital services such as Childline.



The NSPCC believes that all children deserve a childhood free from harm and is working to help keep children safe from abuse. The NSPCC's Speak out Stay Safe Programme aims to equip a generation of children with the knowledge and understanding they need to stay safe from abuse and neglect through the delivery of assemblies and workshops in schools.

*Nic Badger  
Principal*

## Shaping the future of Bunbury

**The story.....** A great partnership between The ALIVE project and Early Birds Pre School together with CEC Cllr Becky Posnett supported by CEC Communities team set out to create a public event to bring people together to reduce isolation to connect people to services and to ask what could be better in Bunbury. The Bunbury Great Winter Get Together (a Jo Cox national campaign) event took place on a cold Saturday afternoon on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2024

**70 residents attended**

**Of 39 people responding 100% said there is a need to improve access to services for both older people and young families**

### Consultation findings

- Of 38 people surveyed **100%** said **preserving a sense of community was really important**
- The top 3 barriers to accessing services were said to be, transport, not knowing what is available, and being signposted to Cheshire West services not accessible to residents
- The top 3 best things about living in Bunbury were said to be, its community spirit, its clean and lovely rural environment, and its facilities
- The top 3 things that could be improved were said to be, public transport, reducing speed to 20, and affordable small houses for older people
- The top 2 ways of accessing the internet were via laptops, and mobile phones respectively
- 40% of all those attending said they did not know what their network of support was or what Cheshire East services were available to them

### The best of Impact

The partnership delivered an event of purpose and resident benefit with good participation that was extremely successful on different levels especially connecting rural residents of the village to services and each other in a friendly welcoming environment. It also presented networking opportunities for organisations and enabling them to improve their rural reach but also was a great platform for conversations and consultation with over half of all those attending the event sharing their views. Results have provided clear insights to the thoughts and aspirations and health needs of the Bunbury community that will be used to shape the direction of future engagements and development of any projects and activities. The partnership is now consulting with Bunbury parents/carers of young families and would encourage any parent/carer to have their say on the link <https://surveys.cheshireeast.gov.uk/s/ShapingBunbury-OFFICIAL>

## THE GREAT WINTER GET TOGETHER

INSPIRED BY JO COX

### Best quote

"We had a wonderful event bringing together Cheshire East Community services, local educational facilities, community groups, AGE UK, health care providers and Bunbury Parish Council and WI to name but a few. I am a strong advocate for community engagement, and the event was a great opportunity to listen to residents and highlight any unmet needs the village residents currently have. I am truly grateful to everyone who attended and helped make this event possible." Cllr Posnett

# Sky notes: March

As winter gradually gives way to the promise of spring, be sure to get out and enjoy the March night sky. The Spring Equinox occurs at 3:06am on 20 March, when day and night are equal. Then on 31 March, at 1:00am, British Summer Time starts — don't forget to put your clocks forward by one hour!

## Catch the mighty Jupiter

The only bright planet visible this month is Jupiter. This gas giant dominates the early evening sky, setting around 10:30pm. It is located in the constellation of Aries, the Ram. This is a relatively star poor region of the sky, so it makes Jupiter stand out even more. The thin crescent Moon lies just to the right of Jupiter on 13 March.

## Look out for the Northern Lights

The Northern Lights, also known as the aurora borealis, are a stunning natural phenomenon caused by the interaction between charged particles from the Sun and the Earth's magnetic field and atmosphere. Normally you need to travel a long way north, to the Arctic Circle, to see them well, but there have already been quite a few sights of them from southern England during the winter. Their appearance is not predictable far in advance, but websites give an indication of the likelihood of them appearing. The website I use is Aurora Watch hosted by Lancaster University at: <https://aurorawatch.lancs.ac.uk>. This has a graph which is normally green, but if it turns red, then we might be in with a chance of seeing an aurora. You can also sign up for aurora alerts. So what causes the aurorae? The Sun constantly emits a stream of charged particles known as the solar wind. This stream is composed mostly of electrons and protons. As the solar wind approaches Earth, it encounters the Earth's magnetic field. The Earth's magnetic field is like a protective shield that surrounds our planet. When the charged particles in the solar wind come into contact with the magnetic field, some of them are trapped and guided toward the polar regions.

Once in the Earth's atmosphere, the charged particles collide with gas molecules, predominantly oxygen and nitrogen.



**The Aurorae from Elgin, Scotland, on 2 December 2023 (Alan Tough)**

These collisions transfer energy to the atmospheric gases. The excited atmospheric gases release this energy in the form of light when they return to their normal (unexcited) state. The specific colours produced depend on the type of gas and the altitude at which the collisions occur. Oxygen at higher altitudes can produce red and green aurorae, while nitrogen can produce purples, pinks, and blues.

The intensity and visibility of the auroras are influenced by solar activity. During periods of high solar activity, such as solar flares or coronal mass ejections, the solar wind becomes more intense, leading to more vibrant and widespread aurorae. At the moment we are heading to the maximum of the Sun's 11-year activity cycle, so we stand a good chance of seeing aurorae.

The Northern Lights are a breathtaking manifestation of the interconnected relationship between the Sun, the Earth's magnetic field, and the gases in our atmosphere. They add a touch of magic to the night skies.

Clear Skies!

*Bunbury Stargazer*

## Tarporley Probus Group invites new members

**Tarporley Probus** is a group established to provide a regular meeting point for retired gentlemen that promotes social well being through companionship and other activities such as rambling, bowls (a very active team that plays other Probus groups) and other social events, such as visits to Belton Cheese farm, the atomic energy plant at Heysham, Middleport Pottery and Dorfold

Hall. We meet every last Monday of the month at the Dysart Arms Pub, from 10.00am until 12.00pm. We have speakers booked covering a wide range of topics.

We currently have vacancies for members and if it sounds like something you are interested in, why not come along as a guest to see if it is something you would enjoy?

If you want any further details please feel free to contact:

- Steve Perry (Chairman) Phone No 01829 261628 email [saeperry@btinternet.com](mailto:saeperry@btinternet.com)
  - Cliff Percival (Secretary) Phone No 01829 260916 email [c.percival@btinternet.com](mailto:c.percival@btinternet.com)
- Look forward to seeing you.

# Bunbury Medical Practice

## news: March

### Online consultations

You may have noticed that our online consultation provider has changed. PATCHS has replaced the E.Consult service.

PATCHS is accessible via our website. Patients can submit their consultation request which can be of a medical or administrative nature (this includes requesting a sicknote or test results) without having to call the surgery. All requests are sent to a GP for a response.

### Social Media

Bunbury Medical Practice has a Facebook page! We aim to use this platform to keep patients updated on the latest news and events taking place within the Practice.

Please share our stories and invite people to like our page in order to be kept informed of any new uploads. Our page will not be monitored daily and we do not intend for this to be used as a two-way communication platform between the Practice and patients; if you would like to speak to us, please contact the surgery directly.

We hope that you will find this page informative and we welcome any feedback as to what patients would like to see shared.

Please search Bunbury Medical Practice and follow our page.

### Training Days 2024

Tuesday 19 March.

The surgery will close at 13:00 and not re-open until the following morning.

**A full up to date list of training days appears on the practice website.**

### New Lift

The Practice is having a new lift installed; work started in early February and will take eight weeks to complete.

We apologise for any noise disruption you might experience when visiting the surgery.

### National No Smoking Day 2024

Wednesday 13 March is National No Smoking Day.

We would like to remind our patients of the help available to them if they would like to quit smoking.

The Cheshire Change Hub run a Smoking Cessation service; the service is open to patients who live in Cheshire West or who attend a West Cheshire GP practice, such as Bunbury Medical Practice.

Patients can self-refer by following the online link at [www.cheshirechangehub.org](http://www.cheshirechangehub.org) or calling 0300 777 0033.

Once a patient has registered their details, the smoking cessation practitioners will be able to discuss the best way for you to stop smoking and guide you through the range of options available to help you quit for good.

The programme provides up to 12 weeks of free nicotine replacement therapies and unlimited behavioural support.



### Memory Art Club coming soon to Bunbury

Could you benefit from memory art club sessions with **Alison Jones**?

Time for carers to chat over a tea or coffee, whilst their loved-one spends an hour of gently guided art work with Alison.

A dementia-friendly time of reminiscence based painting, collage and conversation.

**Bunbury Village Hall**

**Fridays 1:30pm — 2:30pm**

**£10 each for all materials and refreshments**

Booked in advance for four weekly sessions. Places are limited to please message Alison to secure your place on **07596 234666**



## Book review

# “Lessons in Chemistry” by Bonnie Garmus (*Penguin, paperback, 400pp*)

This is, without a doubt, a stunning first novel from US author Bonnie Garmus. It is storytelling at its best with great characters, a wonderful sense of time and place and a plot that keeps the reader engaged from the first page to the last. The book is set in the 1950s and tells the story of Elizabeth Zott, a brilliant chemist whose career is constantly blighted by the sexism and misogyny of her time. She is forced to stand by and watch incompetent male colleagues advance while she ends up doing most of their work for them. Things change when she meets Calvin Evans, the company’s most brilliant chemist who not only recognises her potential but also falls madly in love with her. They

shock everyone by moving in together – a taboo in 1950s America. Without spoiling the plot, a series of events leads to Elizabeth using her talents as a wonderful home cook to host a new early evening TV show called ‘Supper at Six’. The show propels her to fame with her eccentric style appealing to women everywhere. Instead of treating cooking as a chore, she treats it as chemistry and as a means to teach people to understand both the science of what they are doing in the kitchen and the potential that each of them has to better themselves. I cannot recommend this book strongly enough. It is such a delightful and engaging read and

the character of Elizabeth Zott will live long in the memory. It is one of those books that you do not want to end and I envy those of you coming to the book for the first time.

Paige Turner



## Local women’s choir hits fundraising high note

Women’s choir **Decibellas** has hit a high note with its fundraising over the past 12 months and has also awarded grants to several local mental health charities to support their work with children.

A 75-strong choir for upper voices based in Tarporley, Decibellas raised £3150 over two concerts in 2023, the most recent being their annual Christmas concert at St Boniface Church in Bunbury. The choir, a charity in its own right, also awarded grants of £4,500 to children’s mental health charities over the past 12 months. These charities include Platform for Life, a Chester-based charity offering free local counselling and play therapy for families, Visyon, supporting the mental health of children, young people and their families, Motherwell, a dedicated women’s health and wellbeing charity, Chapter Mental Health from Ellesmere Port, and Chester International School’s mental health provision. At each concert, there is also a cash bucket collection, and at the latest Christmas concert local charity Visyon collected £1200. Said Linda de Sá, Visyon’s Fundraising

and Marketing Manager: “COVID has had a huge impact on the mental health of local young people and their families which has seen demand for our service increase. Our early intervention approach gives young people the tools to lead happy and fulfilling independent futures as young adults. We want to thank Decibellas and all their supporters for helping us to continue being here for young people and their families when they need us the most.”

Commenting on the choir’s fundraising achievements, Decibellas’ Chair Jo Mason said: “We are absolutely thrilled to have held two such successful events during 2023, particularly selling out our Christmas concert. It is a privilege to be able to support the work of small, local charities which are doing such important work with children’s mental welfare whilst having such a wonderful time, bringing the joy of singing to so many and being part of such a great group of singers.”

# Have you ever wondered...

## *The story of the reconstruction of St Boniface after WW II part 3*

By 1952, almost twelve years since a WW2 bomb caused such devastating damage to St Boniface Church, the new roof was finally in place, and now began the enormous task of replacing no fewer than 24, completely destroyed, stained glass windows. Only one stained glass window and 12 of the coloured clerestory windows, all on the south side of the church and so furthest away from the point of explosion, had survived, although all with minor damage.

The scale of the destruction can be imagined from a note made at the time that stated: "Twelve large crates of shattered glass fragments were swept from the floor, and collected from the churchyard, and these were sorted and examined over many months in an attempt to salvage any interesting features. However very few (and then only very limited) partial reconstructions were possible."

Since 1940 all the windows had been temporarily boarded up making the church interior very dark but at least it had enabled church services to resume after only six months, albeit in very difficult conditions.

In the appeal for funding support that was launched by Rev. Maurice Ridgway in 1950 he listed a long programme of all the repair works that were still needed at that time to return the Church to its former glory and it is a reflection of the overall scale of the task in that the windows were included with the simple one line: "To refill the windows with either clear or coloured glass when possible." Understatement!

Both cost, and shortage of stained glass craftsmen at a time of great post war demand, meant that this would then take a further ten years, into the early 1960s, to complete.

The first work undertaken on the windows was the repair of the Chancel windows which began with a symbolic incorporation of the only small panel of 14th century glass to survive, into a new north west Chancel window of rectangular shaped plain panes.

Replacing the main east window behind the Altar was then the first major challenge.

### **The history of the east window**

An east window was in place in medieval times and bore the Latin inscription translating as "This window was erected in 1345 in honour of St Boniface by Rector David de Bunbury who thereby sought his prayers". Though the actual design of the medieval window, apart from the inscription, remains unknown, Rev. Ridgway in November 1952 noted: "Mixed in with the soil during excavation of the sanctuary were over 150 fragments of the original east window of XIV century date."

Documentary evidence had long pointed to the fact that at one time the window may have contained a Jesse tree Subject - being a design showing Christ's descent from Jesse, father of David, usually in the form of a tree springing from Jesse and ending in Christ or the Virgin and Holy Child, with the immediate descendants placed on scrolls of foliage branching out of each other. The fragments recovered in 1952 proved almost beyond doubt that



they did indeed come from a window of this subject. These fragments were framed and are today held in the Vestry.

At some stage in the 17th century, for reasons unknown, the east window was completely closed off and remained so for about two centuries. An exterior stone plaque on our east wall records: "This window as reopened 1848 Joseph R Fenna Churchwarden" when panels of diamond-pattern glass were installed, which remained in place for about fifty years.

In 1897 these were replaced by the Ralph and Eliza Ann Brocklebank memorial window with a plaque "To the Glory of God and in memory of his parents this window was erected by Ralph Brocklebank of Haughton Hall in Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee year 1897".

This survived until that fatal night in 1940.

To be continued...

*David Kendrick*

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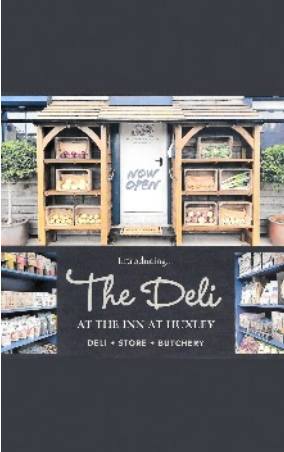
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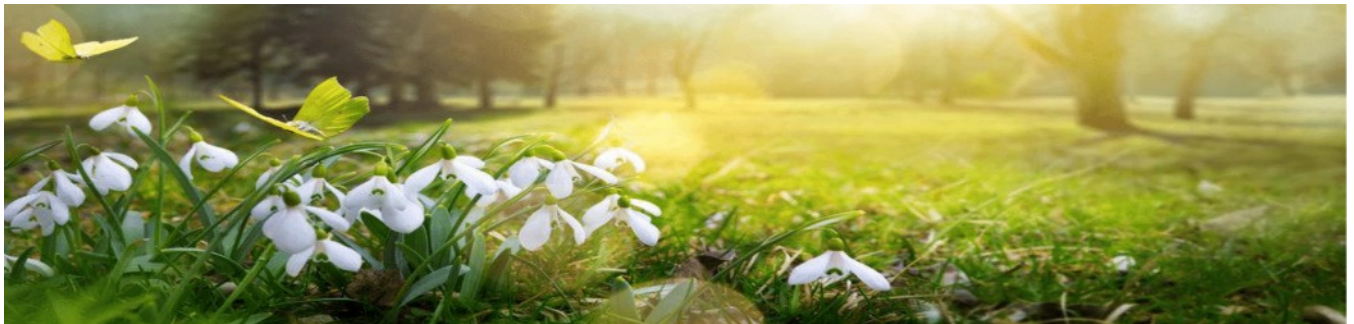
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