

Link

October 2020

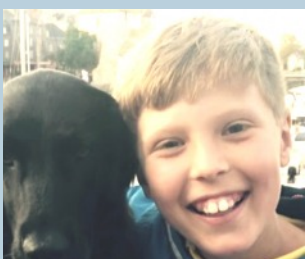
No one has ever become poor by giving *Anne Frank*

Also in this issue...



6

Nick Mould gives
us two minutes



7

What the kids
make of the
return to school



9

A day in the life of
a veterinary
surgeon

St Boniface photo makes history



A magazine for the parishes of
Bunbury and Tilstone Fearnall



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The Link

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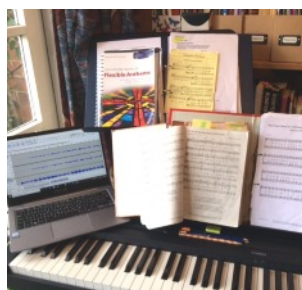
You can also read The Link online at: www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk

Community news

Congratulations to **Alex** and **Nick Sanders** on the birth of their grandson, **Archie**.

Beautiful twin girls **Valerie Hope Quilapio Kendrick** and **Doreena Faith Quilapio Kendrick** were born on 7 August in Kuwait City to Matthew and Carmie Kendrick. Proud grandparents are **David** and **Rita Kendrick**.

Faced with the closure of churches and then restrictions on singing in church earlier this year, members of **St Boniface choir** have kept in tune with fortnightly practices on Zoom, coordinated by **Jill Robey** with technical



support from **Peter Crump**. Initially revisiting favourite hymns and anthems, they moved on to new pieces, including a new hymn written for the pandemic by John Bell of the Iona Community, entitled "We Will Meet". Choir practices end with "virtual pub time", an opportunity for members to exchange news and keep in touch. New singers are always welcome. To join a practice please contact Jill Robey at robeyjill@gmail.com

On Sunday 26 July St Boniface **bellringers** (pictured below) were amongst the first in the UK to return to ring the bells after four months of silence, as public worship resumed with the outdoor service in the Dysart Arms garden. They have had to

follow strict national guidance, so it's very different to how it was before "lockdown" when six or eight bells could be rung. There is now strict 2m distancing in the tower, restricting the number of bells rung and they are only rung for 15 minutes.



Tarporley Rotary wants your change

Over £150 million of old pound coins are still in circulation – your change can make a difference!

Donate your UK and foreign banknotes and coins – any currency, any quantity, from any time – to support the Knysna Education Trust South Africa.

WANTED:

Any UK banknotes and coins
All foreign banknotes and coins
Obsolete currencies

What have you accumulated around the house over the years? Check your desk, cupboards, drawers, under beds, pockets and sofas. Ask family and friends to do the same. Don't let it lie worthless where it is.

We'll pool it and realise some value to support the Knysna Education Trust.

Donations are being coordinated by David Kendrick and can be posted through the letterbox of 43 High Street, Tarporley (corner of Millfield Lane) or, if necessary, they can be collected.

Tel. 01829 733254

A word from the editor

*It's lovely to have news reminiscent of normal life to put into this month's Link. A little random, perhaps, but Storyhouse in Chester has worked very hard to bring us entertainment through lockdown, with a drive-in cinema, outdoor film nights in the Cathedral grounds and the open air theatre during August. Alex Clifton, the artistic director, was interviewed on Radio 2 this week, and was quite inspirational. As a community we are very lucky to have such a great facility nearby – it really deserves our support. Excitingly, **A Christmas Carol** will be performed over the Christmas period.*

Wendy Slack (pictured below), who for so many years led Young Christians and directed the Young Christians pantomime, is retiring to Spain. Mike Ridley, her co-leader, and Rose and Poppy Hayward, who are in the current youth club, presented her with a painting of the church on Sunday 23 August as a memento.



The Link team would like to thank **Karin Lyle**, who used to deliver the Link in Birds Lane, **Sally Sissons** for offering to deliver the Link in Nursery Lane, and **Lynda Davies** for offering to deliver in Vicarage Lane. The team is still looking for a volunteer to deliver 20 copies in Long Lane, Spurstow crossroads to Spurstow Hall.

Continued on p10

The copy deadline for the November issue is Friday 16 October. The magazine should be delivered starting Saturday 31 October. Notices to bunburyparishoffice@gmail.com



TIM HAYWARD

Your Vicar

We are delighted that our photograph "Prayers for our Community", featured on the front page of this issue, has been selected to be part of the National Portrait Gallery's **Hold Still** exhibition: **100 Photos of Lockdown**, launched by the Duchess of Cambridge a couple of weeks ago.

It's been lovely getting messages from family and friends saying, "Have you seen your photo in the paper?!" One message read: "Your back will be a record for all posterity!"

It's been in *The Sunday Times*, *The Daily Telegraph* – in fact most of the national newspapers – as well as *Hello* magazine and even *British Vogue* online!

When it was announced back in March that church buildings were to be closed to reduce the transmission of the virus, I wanted to assure everyone that,

Prayers for our community

although we couldn't gather physically, your photos in church were a symbol that you and your loved ones were still very much in our thoughts and prayers.

So as soon as the Prime Minister made his announcement Beth and the girls and I rushed to church, put the photos in the pews (we were there until midnight – there are over 350 of your smiling faces!) and then the following day, Beth took the photograph in the morning light on her phone, no fancy camera or lens were involved! But it's remarkable how the photograph captures the warmth and light, the poignancy and something of the love and spirit of our community.

Special thanks must go to one of our new virtual worshippers, Lynn Hedgecoe, who saw the photo on Bunbury Church Online and encouraged us to enter the competition. Lynn said

her good friend and neighbour Joyce Buxton had sent her the YouTube link and the rest is history – a couple of months and over 31,000 entries later, we were amazed to find out the photograph had been chosen to be part of the exhibition.

I'd encourage you to explore the 100 Hold Still photos by visiting the National Portrait Gallery's website – they are a remarkable record of an extraordinary year.

#HoldStill2020

A poster titled "THE BEATITUDES" with the subtitle "Living right-side-up in an upside-down world". The background is a blue sky with a green landscape and a tree reflected in water. The text lists the Beatitudes for October services.

THE BEATITUDES
Living right-side-up in an upside-down world

October Services
9.30am St Jude's, 10.30am St Boniface
Holy Communion: 1st Sunday at St Jude's
2nd Sunday at St Boniface

Sunday 4th: Blessed are the merciful
Sunday 11th: Blessed are the pure in heart
Sunday 18th: Blessed are the peacemakers
Sunday 25th: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake

Bunbury garden club annual show

In a light wind and sunshine, a marquee erected on the Jubilee playing field held this year's Garden Club annual show. Due to COVID-19 the committee chose to continue with a smaller outdoor event with all necessary safety measures in place. The villagers' response was amazing; tables were laden with varieties of colourful flowers and vegetables of all shapes and sizes. There were dahlias the size of dinner plates, wonky carrots, wildly long rhubarb stalks and a sunflower too big to be displayed inside the marquee. Huge thanks to St Boniface for the loan of the marquee, and to David Cox, Mark Ireland-Jones, Mark Todd, Kath and Keith Roden, Mark Sharkey, the Janes and everyone who came to help put it up and take it down



again. Also, thank you to the members who helped and to Kevin and the Tilly's team for providing refreshments.

Special thanks this year must go to the youngsters who enthusiastically took part. Lucy Stansfield, Emily Thrussel and Ted Bennett all won trophies (pictured bottom right). The flower trophy was awarded to Kath Roden, the vegetables trophy to Len Davies and the Members Only trophy went to Mark Sharkey for his wonderful basket of produce. A Chairman's trophy is awarded each year to something which catches his eye and this year it was awarded to Elaine Crotty for the biggest and most highly polished red onions he had ever seen.

£285 was raised and has been donated to the village defibrillator appeal fund.

A fantastic result for all.



Notice: Invitation to apply for grants

The trustees of Bunbury Parochial Charities (charity number 216368) invite applications for a limited number of grants, which will be awarded once a year in December, from residents and organisations of the following parishes:

Alraham, Beeston, Bunbury, Burwardsley, Calveley, Haughton, Peckforton, Ridley, Spurstow, Tilstone Fearnall, Tiverton & Wardle.

An application may be made by the proposed beneficiary, or by a trustee or other person on their behalf. In considering applications the trustees will take into account the following guidelines:

1. The proposed recipient should normally be resident in one of the constituent parishes or be an organisation active in providing benefit

for the residents of one or more of the constituent parishes.

2. A grant may be made to a recipient who is in financial difficulties, particularly where the difficulties are adversely affecting a child or elderly person.

3. A grant may be made to assist the education of a child who is being hindered by financial difficulties.

4. A grant may be made to support a resident, particularly a child, in an activity deemed to be a worthy use of the charity - for example to help the recipient undertake an extracurricular educational project, to participate in a charitable project or to learn skills to assist that resident in finding work.

5. A grant may be made to support an organisation providing support within the constituent parishes, for example providing

clubs/group activity for the young and the elderly, support groups for the elderly, assistance for the disabled or disadvantaged, and groups providing hospital transport, respite care and home support.

Applications must be in writing on our formal application form and sent to David Ellis, Ivy Cottage, Wyche Lane, Bunbury CW6 9PS preferably by email to dwellis7.de@gmail.com. Completed applications to be returned by 12.00 noon on Wednesday 11 November for consideration at the trustee meeting on Wednesday 2 December when the awards will be made at the complete discretion of the trustees whose decision will be final. Application forms can be obtained from the clerk at the above address/email or by telephone on 01829 261898.

Sky notes – October

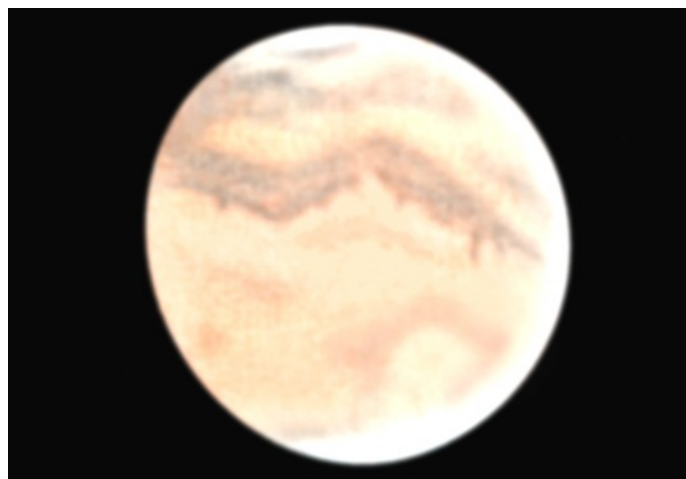
Mars is very much the 'star' of October's night skies and lies closer to the earth this month than it's been for two years. On 6 October Mars is at its closest: about 62 million km (39 million miles) away. It shines brighter and its globe is bigger than at any time until 2035. It rises around sunset and travels across the sky all night. If you go outside late evening and look to the south east, there you will find Mars. It will be the brightest object in that part of the sky. It will be at its highest about 1 o'clock in the morning, when it will be halfway between the horizon and the zenith point overhead. If you are an early riser, Mars will be in the south western sky before dawn. On the night of 2/3 October the Moon is very close to Mars. And on 29 October the Moon passes underneath Mars.

When you look at Mars with your naked eye, you might be able to see that it is ruddy in colour. This becomes more obvious if you look through binoculars or a small telescope. For this reason, Mars is often called the Red Planet.

Mars is the second smallest planet in the solar system (after Mercury) and is the world most similar to our own. The Red Planet has polar caps, dark rocks and a thin atmosphere (mostly carbon dioxide), seasons (twice as long as our own) and even clouds.

It has some amazing geology, including a huge canyon, the Valles Marinaris, which is 4000 km long and 7 km deep. There are also huge dormant volcanoes, the largest of which, Olympus Mons, is 26 km high. There is evidence of riverbeds, indicating the presence of liquid water eons ago.

A medium-sized telescope might reveal a tiny ruddy disc, one of the polar caps and perhaps some dusky markings. With a large



Mars drawn by Paul Abel on September 4

amateur telescope lots of detail can be seen, as in the accompanying drawing by Paul Abel early in September. Paul, who often appears on The Sky & Night on television, is one of the best planetary observers and sketchers. At this time Mars was showing a gibbous phase, just like the moon does a few days before full moon.

So, enjoy Mars in October 2020 – you won't see it this bright again until September 2035! Don't forget that British Summer Time ends on Sunday 25 October at 2am, when the clocks go back by an hour. Clear skies!

Bunbury Stargazer

Bunbury school news

On Wednesday 2 September all children were welcomed back into school. As Principal, the past few months have been some of the most challenging of my career; however, with positivity, perseverance and an amazing team, we are coming through the other side.

It was a pleasure to welcome the children back into school. They were happy to be back in class and there's a buzz and excitement in all the rooms. As I walk the corridors I am lifted seeing my colleagues doing what they do best: teaching. We had a fantastic few days seeing all children return and start to get into routines and reconnect with teachers and classmates. Their behaviour was exemplary and everyone very quickly adapted to the new systems and routines in place.

As always the teachers are providing a rich and stimulating curriculum, making up for lost time and also inspiring our children to engage 100% with their learning. Our theme this term is Atlas of Animal Adventures and I look forward to being able to share more work with you over the term.

I continue to be extremely proud of all the Bunbury family, both staff and children. Everyone has shown such resilience and determination during difficult times and a strength of character beyond their years. Their positivity and joy at being back in school has been infectious and school is once more alive and developing that 'love of learning'.

Nic Badger



Give us 2 minutes

Nick Mould was born in the Blackpool area where he stayed until he went to university in Leicester.

He met Claire his wife on the first day. They eventually settled in Manchester city centre and saw an opportunity to set up a business servicing the many new apartment blocks that were being built as the city rapidly developed. They decided to look for a quieter life and were recommended the Dysart Arms.

They fell in love with the area and, ten years later, feel very settled in Bunbury. They have three boys: Max (12), Hugo (8) and Freddie (6).

If you had a motto what would it be?

Enjoy life, don't stress about the things that aren't truly important.

It's a celebrity beer call who would you invite?

Socially distanced, of course: Steve Coogan.

Was your abiding memory of lockdown good and bad?

Both!

Good: The daily walks in the lovely weather across the fields around Bunbury with the kids and dog.

Bad: The challenge of trying to home school our children, whilst also working hard to maintain the business and the increased screen time this led to!



Nick Mould

What was your first job?

A Saturday job working in Dolcis selling shoes in Blackpool on £1.77 per hour.

What would you change about Bunbury if you could?

Someone to finally take on the unused shop next to the Nags. A small artisan bakery... ooo yes.

What is the best book you have read to date?

Stalingrad by Antony Beevor – brutal.

What is your biggest regret?

Selling my 1962 VW Splitscreen campervan. It broke down all the time

and usually in the worst situations, it was hard to drive and generally rubbish. But I loved it!

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

To be able to buy back my Splitscreen for the same low price that I sold it for!

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

The pandemic has shown that my business can continue perfectly well without a centralised office. I would like to this to continue with increased working from home over the next 12 months and beyond.

What is your favourite place and why?

The Inn at Whitewell. An unpretentious authentic pub set in the beautiful Ribble Valley in Lancashire.

How would you spend your ideal weekend?

Messing around with my boys in the garden followed by walking up Wansfell Pike in the Lake District, and finishing with drinks in The Dysart Arms with friends.

Recipe for October: Chicken and Chorizo Paella

Tilly's proprietor, Kevin Baker, gave the Link this recipe – a firm family favourite

Ingredients

- 1 yellow and 1 red pepper sliced
- 2 or 3 garlic cloves
- 150g cherry tomatoes
- chicken stock about 600ml
- 4 chicken thighs, sliced
- 60g chorizo cubes
- 1 lemon
- Parsley
- ½ teaspoon rosemary leaves chopped
- 300g basmati rice

Method

Put a splash of olive oil in a hot pan, fry the sliced chicken until brown on all sides and put it to one side. Slice the peppers into thin slices, smash the garlic to a paste, and cut the tomatoes into quarters. Add these to the pan with a splash of oil, and add the chorizo and rosemary. After about four minutes add the rice and the parsley and cook the rice for another two minutes.

Add the chicken and the stock and cook on a medium/low heat for 20 minutes.

Do not stir – a crispy bottom is the desired finish!

Serve with lemon. Enjoy!



Being back at school – what do the kids think?

Benjamin Chapman and Poppy Hayward write about some of the changes at school due to COVID-19



CHANGES I LIKE! 😊

1. Finishing early: although we have less lunch break, we

finish at 2:45pm instead of 3:20pm – yippee!

2. Wearing PE kits all day: on days we have PE, we get to go in our PE kit as the changing rooms aren't open!

3. The library is our canteen – it is a lot easier to get food now as only our year group is getting food from one place (the queue is loads shorter!)

CHANGES I DON'T LIKE! 😞

1. Theory work instead of practicals - because we stay in the same classrooms, the science labs and woodwork rooms are

unavailable so we do lots of theory work instead.

2. Staying in your year's designated areas isn't the best as there isn't as much space to walk around at break and lunch.

OTHER NEW RULES

1. New ties - Each year group has their own tie colour so all of the teachers know what year students are in (in case someone wanted to sneak into another year's area).

2. Year bubbles - Each year group has to stay together and isn't allowed to mix with other years.

3. Teachers can't walk around the classroom - it is a bit annoying because if you are struggling with the work, they have to explain from their desk.

Benjamin Chapman, Year 8
Tarpoley High School

*I was really excited to be back at school to see my friends as home schooling was very strange, writes **Poppy Hayward**. I'm in Year 6, my last year in Bunbury, and things are different: there are lots more toilet breaks and we are washing our hands... all the time! We stay in our classrooms even for lunch; when we do go out for break, we have our own Year 6 area as each class is in a bubble. As the oldest, the school day is longer for our year. We arrive and leave at different times to avoid other classes. I really miss my buddy Marcie who is now in Year 1; we used to see each other quite a bit at school.*

On PE days, we wear our kit all day – I think this is better because we have an extra 15 minutes in the lesson now we're not all getting changed!

Mrs Badger leads assemblies on Zoom from her office and we watch in our classrooms. I miss meeting in the hall because I used to play piano before and after the assembly.

I'm really excited to be Maths Champion: I mark my classes' times tables tests every Monday and read out who passed and got their Mathematics certificates on the Zoom assembly.

We can't do things like Ethos group during lunchtimes any more because it mixes the bubbles, but even so I'm just happy to be back at school.

From our bookshelf

A review by regular contributor, Paige Turner

Utopia Avenue by David Mitchell

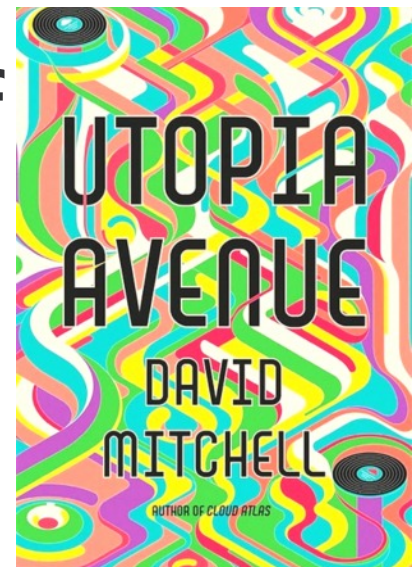
Let me start with a confession: I am a total David Mitchell fan so I cannot guarantee that this is a wholly unbiased review. I always fall upon a new David Mitchell novel like an oasis in a desert. Mitchell is one of those authors you either love or hate. He is best known for his most famous novel, *Cloud Atlas*, but no there is no Mitchell formula and his novels are all very different from each other but all open up the world of his wonderful imagination.

Utopia Avenue follows the ups and downs of a struggling 1960s rock band as they try to scale the heights of fame. It is an homage to a great period of musical development with constant cameos of real artists from Bowie to Hendrix to Zappa. The evocation of this crazy, creative world is perfect – we really get inside the heads of these young

musicians as they try to come to terms with growing fame.

Mitchell, as usual, leaves little threads of storylines that link back to previous novels, in this case primarily to

The 1000 Autumns of Jacob De Zoet. If you are of an age to remember the great rock music of the 60s and 70s then you cannot fail to enjoy this book; Mitchell's understanding and love of the music is apparent to all. He treats us to an unexpected twist in the tail to round off what, in my biased opinion, is a great read.



Parish pursuits

On 9 September the Parish Council met by telephone – this was rather difficult to administer, though it was excellently chaired by Mark Ireland-Jones. Most of the parish councillors were in attendance including Chairman Sarah Pochin. Various matters were discussed, including planning. The Parish Council met virtually again in September for another productive meeting. The Council is seeking to offer as many events as are possible, rather than cancelling the usual village events. Planning was put in place for fireworks on 5 November; although not the usual event with hundreds of people on the Jubilee Fields, it is planned to have "high flying" fireworks with people watching from their gardens – and maybe tickets for small groups to be on the field. More details to follow. The Christmas tree for the village has been ordered and a decision on the usual carols gathering will be made nearer the time.

It was noted with pleasure that some resurfacing of roads had been undertaken, but there are still flooding issues around the village. The Council is pushing Cheshire East to fix these and clear the drains.

Keep safe.

Bunbury Parish Council

Chestnut Meats meat award

Congratulations to Chestnut Meats, who were named as one of only six finalists in the Finals and Awards Ceremony for the national UK Meat Management Awards on 8 September.

Pre-lockdown, Chestnut Meats submitted some of their finest dry cured back bacon, something they are famous for locally on Nantwich and Rode Hall Farmers' Markets. In August they were informed that they had made the shortlist, but were sworn to secrecy. During the awards ceremony Chestnut Meats were named as one of only six finalists alongside competition from the Co-op, Iceland, M&S and other major retailers and specialist butchers.

This is a major success story for their small business, especially following their runners up position in the 2019 Best Traditional Pork Sausage. They are very proud of the butchery team and particularly David Roberts who takes such care and pride in the products he creates – he has always joked that he produces Michelin star quality bacon and sausages, and now he has full justification!



A day in the life of...

... Veterinary surgeon, Matt Smith

I graduated from the Royal Veterinary College in 2005 and initially worked in mixed practice before focusing on companion animal practice for the last 12 years. I can honestly say that no two days are ever the same and my cases can vary from the mundane to the sublimely ridiculous. I absolutely love my job and, although they say you should never work with children or animals, I beg to differ!

I am currently in my final year of a three year training position at a specialist referral hospital in Frodsham. Gone are the days when every vet saw every animal and the profession now has moved to such a place where the majority of vets concentrate on a particular species set and within that they can specialise in a particular area of veterinary work. In my current practice we have specialists in medicine, surgery, oncology, neurology, cardiology, imaging... not dissimilar to a human hospital in some respects! Once I have finished my current role I will be able to sit my diploma exam and will then be a registered European specialist in small animal surgery. This is something I have aspired to be for many years after watching my father get to the top of his field in human surgery.

A typical day would start early with hospital rounds where we discuss each patient with the hospital team, how they are doing and what the next stage in their treatment will be. After that if it's a day when I'm operating I spend the majority of the day in theatre. On a typical day I will do 4-6 surgeries and then start to tackle the enormous amount of paperwork that will have mounted up during the day. I will often have referring vets to call to discuss any cases they need advice with and a long list of owners to speak to. Sadly at



the moment due to coronavirus we are unable to have owners in the practice and everything has to take place via telephone so it is all the more important to keep in contact with them every day that their animals are in our care. After I have finished my admin I try and get back home to see the children before bedtime and then often retreat to my desk to study in the evenings.

In my career I have met some very interesting people and animals and have found myself in situations I would never have thought possible (such as the time I was asked to go and sedate a black tipped reef shark to travel to his new home at an aquarium after his owner reluctantly agreed that a hot tub was not a suitable environment for him to live in). Of course there are sad

times in the job such as when pets need euthanasing but I believe that giving pets a dignified and peaceful end is very important and something that I am privileged to be able to do. At the moment I am thoroughly enjoying my training path and I am constantly amazed by the things we can do for our animals – it is even possible to do open heart surgery on puppies.

Whilst the majority of my time at the moment is spent working and studying I love being in Bunbury with my wife and two boys and feel grateful that we have such a lovely community in which we live. My weekly men's tennis sessions are a great way to distract myself from work and I look forward to the time when I will be able to spend more time away from the books and enjoy what Bunbury has to offer.

Community news continued...

The **Bunbury Community Support Group** is still able to offer help where needed. Although most people are now supporting themselves, the future is uncertain. You can still email or phone the group for support if you find yourself ill or in temporary lockdown. The group thanks everyone who helped in any way over the last few months; they have received lots of messages of thanks from users and believe that it made a difference to many people in the village.

Rowlinson Garden Products at Wardle have very generously donated one of their large weatherproof garden boxes (pictured below), to take **foodbank** donations. It is located outside the village hall. Donations are taken weekly by church volunteers to foodbanks in Nantwich and Crewe. Thank you to all those people who have donated so generously. There is a list of currently urgently needed items in the church notice board on the village hall wall.

After so long of not seeing each other, a few members of **Bunbury WI** met up on a sunny day in August – on what would have been their members meeting – for a coffee morning at the Dysart. Everyone

enjoyed it so much it was booked again for September. On that day it was a little cooler, but equally as enjoyable. Thank you to Stuart and the team for making everyone feel safe and secure.

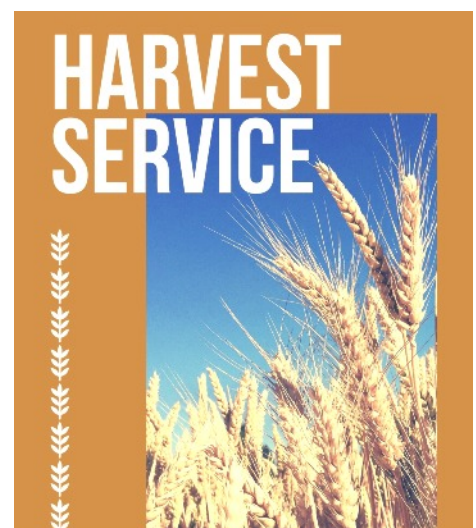
Two **outdoor defibrillators** for the village have now been ordered after a generously supported fundraising campaign over the spring and summer. Around £2,800 has been donated by individuals, as well as through fundraising and direct donations from a number of local clubs and organisations. With the highly successful musical fundraising events that were run at Tilly's before lockdown, this takes the total raised to over £3,600. Huge thanks are due to everyone who has supported this.

The new defibrillators will hopefully be installed in October. One will be located in the centre of the village on the village hall wall, and the second will be on the Pavilion wall close to the activities on and around the playing fields. Both will be available 24/7 for anyone to use. Once installed they will be registered with the North West Ambulance Trust and maintained as needed by our local First Responders group.

The defibrillators can be used by anyone as they literally talk you through what you need to do. Bunbury's First Responder group is also planning to run some defibrillator awareness training in the village once COVID restrictions permit.

Calveley Chapel is delighted to be able to open for their Harvest Festival Service on Sunday 4 October at 11.30am, their first service since the lockdown. Thanks are due to Jeremy Shears and Revd Tim for completing the risk assessment to ensure safe worship.

The **Poppy Appeal** will be somewhat different this year. With door-to-door collections impossible, the Royal British Legion will do their best to enable those who wish to support the cause to do so. Poppies will be available through many outlets (e.g. Sainsbury's and some other supermarkets, banks and online retailers). In Bunbury, we are grateful for the support of our three pubs (The Dysart Arms, The Nags Head and The Yew Tree), Burrows Butchers and Tilly's, all of whom will have collection boxes and poppies. The pupils of Bunbury Primary School will be able to access items from our School Packs as normal.



**Sunday 4th October 2020
11.30am Calveley Chapel**



Pat Ellis – Reader Emeritus

For what we are about to receive

The ritual of saying Grace at mealtimes has all but disappeared in families, who, sadly, rarely sit down to eat together these days, and many schools have removed it from their priorities.

In my school, it was the tradition for each class to be in charge of Grace for a week, and many of our more creative efforts did not pass the form mistress's censorship!

In my collection of Graces, some are fun, some are serious, but the message is always the same, even in times of great hardship, we have so much to be grateful for and we must daily count our blessings and give thanks to our creator God, our provider and our redeemer.

*Heavenly Father, bless us,
And keep us all alive.*

*There's ten of us for dinner,
And not enough for five.*

*Blessed Lord, we pray thee,
To be present at our table,
Hallowing thy gifts to our use;*

That eating to satisfy our needs

We may remember those who lack.

*Lord, forgive us that we feast
While others starve.*



O Lord, we thank you for this food we are privileged to eat.

*And we beseech you to help us to speak the right words
That we may not have to eat them later on.*

*We thank the Lord for what we've had,
It wasn't good, it wasn't bad.
The sodduck# was stale, the skilly* was green,
But thank the Lord, the plates were clean.
possibly soda bread,
* thin oatmeal broth.*

*Father, we thank you for this meal,
For our lives,
For other people,
For beautiful things,
For goodness and for you.
All we have comes from you,
O loving Father:
Help us to be more and more aware of your goodness to us. Amen.*

Mike Rogers writes...

The golden telephone



There is an oft told story about a visit by the Chief Rabbi to the Vatican to meet the Pope. On entering the Pope's inner sanctum, the Chief Rabbi was intrigued by the sight of a gold telephone on the Pope's desk. 'What's that?' he asked.

'Oh,' said the Pope, 'it's just my private line to God.'

'May I try it?' asked the Chief Rabbi.

'Of course, of course,' said the Pope

When he had finished his conversation, the Chief Rabbi asked nervously: 'How much was the call?'

'To you,' said the Pope with a smile, 'just €1,000'.

The Chief Rabbi was anxious to return the Pope's hospitality and invited him to come and meet him in Jerusalem. The Pope gladly accepted, but was equally intrigued when he entered the Chief Rabbi's office and saw a similar golden telephone to his own on the Chief Rabbi's desk.

'What's that?' he asked.

'Oh,' said the Chief Rabbi, 'that's just my private line to God'.

'May I try it?' asked the Pope.

'Certainly, certainly,' said the Chief Rabbi, 'help yourself'.

After a lengthy chat, the Pope said his farewells and replaced the handset, thus ending the call. 'And how much do I owe for that?' the Pope asked, somewhat anxiously.

'Oh, nothing, nothing,' said the Chief Rabbi, putting an affectionate hand on the Pope's shoulder, 'it's just a local call from here'.

You may smile, but the thing is, the golden telephone and the private line to God don't just belong to the top religious people. They belong to each one of us.

And it doesn't matter if you are a pillar of the church or someone who has never darkened the door of a church. It matters not if €1,000 is a sum beyond your wildest dreams or an amount you could easily afford; that golden telephone and that private line is yours – and it's free.

It puts you straight through to the God of love, of justice and truth.

But whilst the call might be free, what the God of love, of justice and of truth has to say may not be; it could be costly, for He has something to say to each one of us.

The only question is, 'Are we willing to listen?'

Our prayers for October

We pray for all those mourning a loved one, remembering especially the families and friends of **Doreen Edge, Patricia Edmonds, Mary Rutter, Richard Taylor, Edith Williams and Phyllis Williams.**

*Father God,
Watch over those who are dear to us,
especially those children and young people who are settling into new schools and colleges.*

*Bless those too whose life is unchanged and who may be weary, fed up or afraid.
We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen*

Edith Mabel Williams

Edith was born in the 'Pound House' in Dungiven, the first girl in the family of five children. Together with her siblings she attended the local primary school and, like most, her full-time education ended at that point, but she continued to learn through night classes in her teenage years.

Her childhood was spent in the countryside and her life revolved around the local community – it was a very happy childhood. Her first job was working for the local post office. When the Postmaster's wife opened a home bakery, not only was Edith involved in the baking, she also became an enthusiastic mobile saleswoman, using a small van to deliver the produce.

In the 1950s she spent some time in London working as a cook for the Queen Mother's cousin and in a chocolate factory; her time with chocolate put her off milk chocolate for life, although she was quite happy with the plain variety.

Edith met her husband John and they married in 1962; 8 December 2020 would have been their 58th wedding anniversary.

In 1966 they moved, now with a young Penny, to Bunbury, to a house in what is now School Lane, and the next 30 years or so saw Edith become a pivotal part of the community in Bunbury.

In her time in the village, she ran the youth club, helped run the Young Christians in St Boniface church, organised the Bunbury and District Darts and Pool League, was a key member of the Village Hall committee, was instrumental in the reintroduction of the increasingly successful Village Day and sat on the Parish Council as an Independent, fighting all the while for what was right in the village.

In the meantime, she also brought up her family – which, by this time had seen the addition of Christine, Alan and Heather – often on her own as John's life as a long-distance lorry driver took him

away from home for extended periods. The family were now living at No. 9 Wyche Lane.

Edith could turn her hand to anything. She and her wide circle of friends occupied the front room of No. 9 and, surrounded by an absolute fog of cigarette smoke, made the bunting for the whole of Wyche Lane for the Queen's Silver Jubilee. She also became expert at making costumes for the Young Christian pantomimes, not to mention sweaters for her growing family. The door of the Williams' house was always open.

Edith had the wellbeing of the community at the centre of her heart and this trait continued when, in the 1990s she and John left Bunbury for the bright lights of Nantwich.

Here she continued her life of service by being elected again as an Independent to the Council and was immensely proud to serve as the town's Mayor in 2009. Edith had nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren whom she adored. Edith remained active until the end. She will be very sadly missed by her family.



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in our community and care homes and the long list of keyworkers keeping our country functioning. Our best wishes to everyone, stay safe.



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