

# Link

For the parishes of Bunbury & Tilstone Fearnall



December  
2015 -  
January  
2016

*Christmas? It's about the stuff you can't buy at all*

*Allison Pearson*

*"I know a cave not far from here  
Where all the treasures of the world appear  
But the greatest prize of all the earth  
An enchanted lamp of magic worth..."*

**It's  
Panto  
time!**

# Aladdin!

## Christmas dates

6 Dec 4pm	St Jude's Christingle
6 Dec 5pm	St Boniface Christingle
13 Dec 4pm	St Jude's Carol Service
20 Dec 10.30am	St Boniface Nativity
20 Dec 6.30pm	St Boniface Carol Service
24 Dec 4pm	St Boniface Crib Service
24 Dec 7.30pm	Calveley Christmas Communion
24 Dec 11.30pm	St Boniface Midnight Mass
25 Dec 9.30am	St Jude's Communion
25 Dec 10.30am	St Boniface Communion



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# Who we are



**TIM HAYWARD**

Vicar

St Boniface, St Jude's,  
Calveley

t: 01829 261511

e: [revtimhayward@gmail.com](mailto:revtimhayward@gmail.com)

**VICKI RILEY - Parish Administrator**

t: 01829 260579

e: [bunburyparishoffice@gmail.com](mailto:bunburyparishoffice@gmail.com)

For pastoral visiting team, please call  
**Amber Middlemiss** on 01829 261437 or  
email [pastoralvisitingteam@gmail.com](mailto:pastoralvisitingteam@gmail.com)

## St Boniface

### Churchwardens

David Cox 261349

Jill Robey 260081

### Youth Worker

Abby Cooper 07852 162239

### Secretary

Jenny Brooks 01829 730225

### Organist

Andrew Dean 261222

### Treasurer

John Mason 733971

### Flowers

Margaret Bourne 260944

## St Jude's

### Churchwardens

Elizabeth Marren 01270 528556

Vacancy

### Secretary

Jenny Brooks 01829 730225

### Organist

Ann Badrock 260343

## Calveley

### Churchwardens

David Cox 261349

Jill Robey 260081

### Secretary

Yvonne Wood 01270 528442

## The Link

Please contact us if you would like to  
advertise your business or to send us  
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Advertising: [parishlinkads@gmail.com](mailto:parishlinkads@gmail.com)

Editorial: Joy Parker

t: 01829 260032

e: [parishlinkeditor@gmail.com](mailto:parishlinkeditor@gmail.com)

Graphic design: Jo Mason

You can also read The Link online at:  
[www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk](http://www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk)

# Community news

Congratulations to **George Heler** and **Sarah Smith**, married at St Boniface on Saturday 18 November.

Congratulations to **Michael (Dixie) and Barbara Dean**, celebrating their golden wedding on 18 December. They were married at St Boniface 50 years ago.



Happy birthday to **Randall Jones**, founder member of Friday at Tilly's, who was 90 on 1 November. He is pictured below with Karen Grimwood and her new guide-dog puppy, Hilly, set to become Randall's new best friend due to the number of treats he keeps in his pockets and fed to the previous puppy, Alice, who has now moved on to guide-dog big school!



Happy birthday to Parish Link distribution organiser, **Liz Morton** (pictured below with her grandson Santiago), who was 70 on 14 November, celebrating with a party in the village hall.



**Darryl and Ann Bibby** would like to thank everyone at Bunbury School, teachers, children and all parents for their fantastic send-off on their retirement. It has been

a great pleasure to work with them all and we wish them every success in the future. But always remember – Mr B's about!



Thank you to all who donated shoe boxes to **Operation Christmas Child**. These are now on their way to distribution around the world, where they will be greatly appreciated.

**The Light Party** at Halloween went well with 17 children and young people, despite it being half term. Many parents were also there and joined in with the crafts.



On 12 November, **St Boniface bell ringers** were sound-recorded by ITV for transmission in **Home Fires**.



Thank you to all who **sponsored a light on the tree of lights** to commemorate a special person or loved one. There are still some available and forms are available in church or on page 10.

**St Luke's Cheshire Hospice** will again be selling top of the range non dropping

**Christmas trees** at the Yew Tree pub on Saturday 5 December from 10am until it goes dark! If this is a little too early for some of you to put your tree up then you can still 'choose, tag and pay' for your tree and collect it later on from Jane Thompson's house on Peckforton Hall Lane. All of the profit from each tree goes straight to patient care at the hospice. Last year the sale at the Yew tree was a complete sell out. The hospice even offers to collect and **recycle your tree after Christmas** for a donation to the hospice. Tel 07964 394963 for more details.

**Bunbury WI** will hold their **Christmas Celebration** on 10 December.

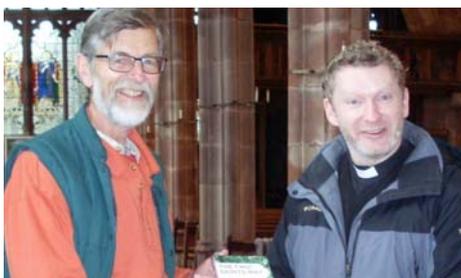
Tuesday 15 December is the Fellowship **Christmas Party at Bunbury Methodist Chapel**. The **Carol Service** will be held on Sunday 20 December at the usual time of 10.45am and the **Christmas Day Service** will be held at the earlier time of 10am.

The St Boniface **Carol Service** will be on Sunday 20 December at 6:30pm; as usual we will be having an extended Christmas choir. If you would like to join the Christmas choir, the next three are: 28 November, 5 December & 12 December at 10:00am-12:00pm, and Sunday 20 December 4:30pm-6:00pm. Dress is smart casual for the service.

There will be **Carols around the Christmas tree on Christmas Eve** at 6.30pm, after which everyone is welcome for **mulled wine and mince pies** in the Village Hall.

**St Jude's Flower Festival** will be on **23-24 April** on the theme 'Celebration', as the **90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Her Majesty the Queen** is on 21 April. Please call Jenny on 01829 730225 or email [jennifer-brooks@btconnect.com](mailto:jennifer-brooks@btconnect.com) for more details.

Tim accepted a copy of the **Two Saints' Way guidebook** (funded by Ann Fisher) from David Pott, on behalf of Bunbury School, as David and team called in at St Boniface on 2 November, between their other launch events.



The **copy deadline** for February's Link is **Friday 15 January**. The magazine will be ready for distribution from **Friday 29 January**.

**TIM HAYWARD**  
Your Vicar



Do you ever feel a sense of not quite belonging, of homesickness?

Most of the time this is buried, and when it does surface, we are hard put to say what it is we long for. We have strayed so far from home that we have forgotten what we yearn for.

At Christmas Jesus was born as a homeless child, so that we can have a home. God leaves home in heaven and comes to be born as a human child, not into a warm, safe home, but out in the fields, or in a barn.

It's as if God says, "Look, this is how life is for you. But I have come to take you home. I have come to share your homelessness so that you can come home with me."

All through his earthly life, Jesus - God living with us - has no fixed address. It is as though this is the only way in which he can keep before his own mind and ours that God is the only true home-maker.

For most of the time, many of us can mask our homesickness. Our comfort and our possessions, our food and our warmth can convince us that we are all right. That's why Jesus often said that it is harder for rich people to know that they need God.

We have been reminded, however, this year, with the refugee crisis that our world is full of people who are genuinely homeless and in need. And

# Home-making

at Christmas charities across the UK, especially CRISIS spring into action to try and provide food and shelter and company for homeless people, if only for a short time.

At Christmas God defines what it is to be human. And it is not a new definition, because it is one we instinctively recognise as we try and feed hungry and homeless people at Christmas.

Deep in our hearts, we know that human beings are not best described in terms of what they do or own. Human beings carry with them, wherever they go, their likeness to God. The baby Jesus comes to remind us we are all precious children of God.

The true human image is not a king or a celebrity, but a baby. And the true human community is one that will do its utmost to protect the vulnerable and the needy, as Mary and Joseph do for the baby Jesus. They don't fully appreciate he is God, they just know that he needs them, and they respond.

My prayer this Christmas is that our communities may know that God is with us, and where we can respond ourselves, as Mary and Joseph do, we may know we can make a home for others.

## St Boniface Nativity 20 December



This is a play for children of all ages, including the youth group. If your child or grandchild would like to dress up for our Nativity Play, please come at 10am for the 10.30am service. We'll provide costumes or you can bring your own. There will be a rehearsal after church on 13

December, but if you can't make it, you can still join in on the day. Bunbury School Choir will be performing and there will be coffee and mince pies afterwards.



**Eric Wallington**  
Reader Emeritus  
**Carols**

In just a few weeks' time we shall have the joy of wishing others 'Happy Christmas'. And carols will abound. And, of course, the story of Jesus' life on earth begins and ends in music. Christmas carols are one type of music which most people enjoy. The carols presumably started life as interludes in the popular mystery plays of the Middle Ages and I gather that the first carols were actually dances - the word carol apparently deriving from the word 'carola', meaning a ring-dance. And presumably the words told the story of Christmas for those who couldn't read it for themselves.

When other forms of singing were later introduced, in the non-conformist chapels, it was not so much the old carols, but rather the newly-written Christmas hymns. And one of the most prolific hymn writers was Charles Wesley, who wrote some 6,500 hymns,

one being 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing'. It seems that the tune we sing it to was originally composed by Mendelsohn for the Festival Cantata, to celebrate the anniversary of the invention of printing. Some time later, Mendelsohn realised that, with a little adaptation, the tune could be adapted to fit Charles Wesley's words. Immediately, all the other tunes to which the words had been sung, were forgotten and the new tune became the universal favourite.

Maybe we get the best of both worlds. 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' is certainly popular and it tells the story of both the virgin birth and of the shepherds in the fields. And it does seem that when we fully absorb the message of this carol, we can truly mean what we say when we wish each other 'Happy Christmas'.

# Christmas Cracker fun

Q. What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck up a chimney?

A. Claustrophobia.

Q. Why is it true that children brighten a home?

A. Because they never turn the lights off.

Q. Why does Santa have 3 gardens?

A. So he can ho ho ho.

Q. What is the best Christmas present in the world?

A. A broken drum - you just can't beat it.

Q. Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing?

A. Because they are always dropping their needles.

Q. What happened to the man who stole the Advent Calendar?

A. He got 25 days.

Q. How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizza?

A. One that's deep pan, crisp and even.

Q. What kind of motor bike does Santa ride?

A. A Holly Davidson.



**Pat Edgley Ellis**  
Reader

## Let your little light shine

We are hard wired to seek after light - without sunlight no life is possible on earth.

The power of the sun energises plants through photosynthesis, which in turn give life to animals and ourselves.

The greatest fear of the ancients was that the sun should desert them, and many winter festivals, Divali, Hanukkah and the feast of St. Lucia, celebrate the giving of the light.

Lucia, from Syracuse, dedicated her life to God. She was martyred on 13th December 304 AD, and before she died, her eyes were gouged out. She is often depicted carrying her eyes on a platter, and is patron saint of the blind.

In Scandinavia, girls dress up as Lucia with crowns of lighted candles, and process, carrying sweet rolls to represent her eyes.

Our light is Jesus, the creator and light of the world, who saves us from eternal darkness.

We must shine as lights for him.

Lord Jesus, you created the light,  
And you are the light of the world.

We eagerly await your coming at Christmas  
Into our darkened lives

To save and keep us for ever.  
May we reflect the glow of your love  
In our lives

That we in turn may brighten someone's day.

Jesus bids us shine  
With a pure, clear light,  
Like a little candle burning in the night.

In this world of darkness,  
So let us shine,  
You in your small corner,  
And I in mine.

*(Susan Warner)*



# Give us two minutes... Nick Swinbank



## Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

The war brought Mum and Dad together. Dad's family were cow keepers in Liverpool, but in 1941 an air raid claimed the house and shippons. Dad applied for the RAF, but being the eldest son, moved with Grandad to farm outside Burnley. Mother was a stonemason's daughter, born in Stockton-on-Tees. They moved extensively and eventually to Leyland. At 16 she was making gas masks, then moved on to rivet the wings on Lancaster bombers. Mum married, but lost her husband in the war, but not before my step-brother, Kevin, was born.

Mum and Dad met at the Nelson Imp (the Beatles played there) and were married in 1952 at Newchurch, Pendle - home of the Lancashire witches. Jill, my sister was born first, followed by yours truly on 22 December 1960, at Nelson. I passed my 11+ and went to Clitheroe Royal Grammar School for Boys, taking 'O' and 'A' Levels. But in 1982, I followed my father's footsteps, becoming an artificial inseminator for the Milk Marketing Board, at Tarporley, which lasted for almost 30 years. After travelling around for a few years, looking for digs, I moved into a farm cottage at Beeston Moss and 8 years later purchased a house on Church Row, where I have been for almost 20 years (not long to go before I become a Bunburian). Sport has always been in my family. Dad played for Accrington Stanley. I was a ball boy at Burnley in the 1973 season and my love of football and, especially, cricket has played a great part in my life. I am currently groundsman at Bunbury Cricket Club and I do one or two gardens to make ends meet. I have one daughter, Chelsea Louise Swinbank but, sadly, I never married until Monty, the dog, came along - it's the same as marriage - LOL. I do love them both.

## If you had a motto, what would it be?

Live every day as if it is going to be your last, because one day you will be right.

## It's a celebrity beer call - who would you like to invite?

All the Lancashire Pals who lost their lives, with a top table of Winston Churchill, Enoch Powell and David Cameron.

## What would you call your autobiography?

Brought up in hard times, laid a solid foundation

## What was your first job?

Like most people, I had a paper round.

## What would you change about Bunbury, if you could?

I'd reinstall the village bobby, just give him a speed camera and a parking ticket book.

## What is the best book you have read to date?

I am a very keen birdwatcher, so The Readers Digest Book of British Birds, 1967, 1st Edition.

## What is your biggest regret?

My father watched almost every game of football and cricket I played, but sadly passed away before my one and only century at Keighley, in Yorkshire.

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

To see my daughter, Chelsea, have a long and successful life.

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

We are a very Christian family and sang in the church choir at St John's, Higham, Lancashire for many years.

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

Just to earn enough money to survive. Times are hard, but we get on with it.

## What is your favourite place and why?

Lancashire. The people are so friendly 'reight' 'folk'.

## How would you spend your ideal weekend?

Going back to Burnley - Friday evening meeting my pals, Saturday watching the Mighty Clarets, Sunday making Sunday roast for Mum. She's 92, eating it on a tray, watching Songs of Praise. I do love her.

Deeside Ramblers Hockey Club had a very successful tour to Barcelona, during half term, in which they won all their matches.



# Freya Harkon-McGregor's challenge



Freya Harkon-McGregor, from Bunbury, will be walking the 92 miles of Two Saints Way, over the 4 day Christmas Period in aid of the mental health charity MIND. This challenge will see Freya walking 92 miles over 4 days on her own (sleeping in her mum's old caravan each night in laybys to ensure no costs are occurred). The Two Saints Way is a Christian Pilgrimage between the two cathedral



Sadly many of us don't understand mental health problems, feel awkward talking about them and can even have negative views of those who suffer. Freya admits she has previously been one of these people due to her lack of understanding but has grieved for those around her over the last year. She has seen friends from her friendship group and older neighbours from the local community, not only suffer, but decide that this this world was no longer for them. Her heart goes out to them and their family and friends. Please, please don't dismiss this because mental health problems in the UK are on the increase and every penny counts! Up to 20% of our UK population access services for depression each year and that does not include other mental health problems - Every penny raised will be going directly MIND.

cities of Litchfield and Chester, featured in last month Link. It will mean walking just under a marathon a day, across country, in the middle of the English winter. Those of you who know her well, know she hates the rain and has a tendency to moan when she is cold, hungry or tired! She occasionally gets her Fitbit goal to 10,000 steps a day but that is less than a quarter of the amount of steps she will undertake each day. She has chosen to walk from 27 to 30 December because the Christmas period sees many of the people who suffer with mental health issues alone.

Please visit the following website if you wish to donate, or many of you will know where Freya lives in the village if you like to talk to her about her personal challenge for those she wishes to support her:

<https://www.justgiving.com/Freya-Harkon-Mcgregor>

## Church diary for December and January

Wednesday 2 December	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface			
Sunday 6 December	8.00am Holy Communion 10.30am Family Worship 11.00am Holy Communion 4.00pm Christingle 5.00pm Christingle	St Boniface St Boniface Calveley St Jude's St Boniface	Sunday 3 January	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Family Communion 10.30am Family Worship 11.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface St Jude's St Boniface Calveley
Wednesday 9 December	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface	Wednesday 6 January	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 13 December	10.30am Family Communion 4.00pm Carol Service	St Boniface St Jude's	Sunday 10 January	9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Family Communion	St Jude's St Boniface
Wednesday 16 December	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface	Wednesday 13 January	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 20 December	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Family Worship 10.30am Nativity Service 11.00am Family Worship 6.30pm Carol Service	St Boniface St Jude's St Boniface Calveley St Boniface	Sunday 17 January	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Family Worship 10.30am Family Worship 11.00am Family Worship 6.00pm Evensong	St Boniface St Jude's St Boniface Calveley St Boniface
Wednesday 23 December	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface	Wednesday 20 January	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Thursday 24 December	4.00pm Crib Service 7.30pm Christmas Communion 11.30pm Midnight Mass	St Boniface Calveley St Boniface	Sunday 24 January	9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Family Communion	St Jude's St Boniface
Friday 25 December	9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Holy Communion	St Jude's St Boniface	Wednesday 27 January	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 27 December	10.30am Family Communion	St Boniface	Sunday 31 January	9.30am Family Communion 10.30am Family Communion	St Jude's St Boniface
Wednesday 30 December	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface			

# Veronica's message of thanks



Just to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone for making my time so special in Bunbury.

You are a warm and generous community.

A new chapter is about to unfold over here in Marbury, Tushingham and Whitewell and your prayers for us all would be appreciated.

Thank you also to all you kind and thoughtful folk who went the 'extra mile' and sent or gave cards and gifts to us - but especially to my mysterious benefactor who left an anonymous gift for me in the Vestry at St. Boniface - your generosity took my breath away and I thank you from the depths of my heart for such a caring and loving gift.

Here's wishing you all the very best of Christmas blessings...

Yours, Veronica. xxx

## Christmas messages



*To all our friends in Bunbury, Calveley and Tilstone Fearnall. Every blessing for Christmas and the New Year with love from **Pat & John***

***Kathy and Peter Collinge** wish all their friends a very Happy Christmas and peaceful 2016*

*Wishing all our friends in and around Bunbury a very merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year. With our love **Graham, Sue, James, Rachel and Jonathan Melia xxxxx***

***Joy, Fiona, Julia and Simon Parker** wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas*

***Megan and Roger Fairweather** wish all their friends in Bunbury a happy Christmas and New Year*

*Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year, with best wishes, **The Crotty Family***

*Wishing all our friends a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year, from **the Mason family***

Thank you to all who donated Christmas wishes to raise funds for Crisis at Christmas, which provides a hot meal, shower, fresh clothes and a health check for the homeless at Christmas, plus housing and job advice and access to year-round services at Crisis. The total raised will be published in the February issue.

## Our prayers for December

We pray for all who are ill, especially **Ernest Croley**. We also pray for all who are mourning a loved one, including the families of **Ron Parker** and **Norman Dutton**. We pray for all who will be spending Christmas alone, those who will be separated from family and friends and for all who are without a home and for refugees. We also pray for **Veronica** and for her new parishes.

## *Decibellas* Women's Choir presents a Christmas Concert

# We Shall Sing!

## Friday 18th December 2015

## St Boniface Church, Bunbury 7:30pm



An evening of beautiful Christmas music featuring *Britten's A Ceremony of Carols*, as well as a festive selection of traditional and contemporary favourites. Audience participation, and time for a seasonal glass after the concert too!

*Proceeds from the evening will be donated to Save the Children refugee crisis appeal.*

**Tickets : Adult £8 Child £4**

Available from Swaffields Tarporley, Tilly's Bunbury, via

[www.decibellas.co.uk](http://www.decibellas.co.uk) or from a choir member

# Meet the Pastoral Visiting Team



The Pastoral Visiting team for St Boniface Church is now assembled and ready for action. Our mission statement is based around the concept of 'shalom', the Hebrew word for peace and wholeness, and is as follows: "We are trying to be, and show, the heart of God for the community and the individuals within it." Quite a lot to live up to but, girding ourselves with prayer, coffee and cake, we hope to be up to it.

Led and coordinated by Amber, the team members are shown below and can be contacted on [pastoralvisitingteam@gmail.com](mailto:pastoralvisitingteam@gmail.com)



Sandra Green



Jill Robey



Debbie Shears



Jan Allcock

## Proposal to federate Bunbury Aldersey CE (Aided) Primary with St Oswald's CE (Controlled) Primary

Schools everywhere have changed significantly over the last few years. The forging of new partnerships between schools is the way forward - through collaboration, federation, or as part of an academy trust. Schools are expected to be increasingly autonomous and also to support each other. They are expected to find other schools to work with who have similar aims and values.

Over the past few months the Interim Executive Board (IEB), Cheshire East local authority, Chester Diocese and Haberdashers have been engaged in consultations with local schools about possible future structures for Bunbury, such as academies and federations.

However, the IEB felt that any partnership with other schools should be entered into on an equal footing. We did not want to enter any arrangement with other schools or academies as a 'sponsored school', that is, as a school still in special measures. We wanted the partnership to be with a local school with the same ethos, ideals and expectations as Bunbury.

We also realised how very fortunate we were in having secured the services of Mrs Todd as our interim head teacher. We are grateful to the governors of St Oswald's for letting us share Mrs Todd over the past few months. Her impact has been immense. We know that parents also recognise this.

There have been many complications in moving forward to put in place our preferred option which is for Mrs Todd to become Executive Head teacher with strategic responsibility at both St Oswald's and Bunbury and for Mrs Badger to become Head of School in charge of day to day leadership and management at Bunbury.

On 15 October the governors of both schools met together to draw up a Memorandum of Understanding. On Monday 9th of

November a six weeks consultation of parents began at both schools. This first consultation is about the proposal to federate with St Oswald's.

The proposal is that Bunbury and St Oswald's will form a federation, working closely together for the mutual benefit of both schools. When Bunbury comes out of special measures, which we are hoping will be after our next monitoring visit, we will then begin the process of forming a multi academy trust (MAT) with St Oswald's. There will then be a second consultation with parents. Both schools will keep their own names and identities. St Oswald's school is a small, successful, rural school in Aston Juxta Mondrum near Worleston.

The proposal to federate is fully supported by the Chester Diocese, Cheshire East local authority, Haberdashers and the Department of Education.

For further information and frequently asked questions, please go to the school website.

Sheila Loughlin, Chair, Interim Executive Board

On Friday 13 November Bunbury School held Remembrance Worship and were joined by the school community, parents and the British Legion. Year 5 pupils, Alexander Kepke-Smith, Isla Kinnear and Megan Stansfield read poems that they had written in Year 4 when they studied World War 1. Hannah Thomas and Jedd Healy from Y6 read out the names of those who died in the First and Second World Wars from Bunbury. It was a moving and thoughtful service. In December the school is looking forward to the Christmas Fair, trip to the New Vic Theatre to see Robin Hood and of course our Christmas productions. As a school may we take the opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas.

# Torticas De Navidad - Cuban Christmas Cookies



## Ingredients (makes 36 cookies)

- 1 cup butter
- 1 ¼ cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 ½ cups of flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
- 2 cups corn flakes lightly crushed into smaller pieces, not crumbs
- 1 cup chopped nuts (optional)
- 1 cup raisins or sultanas
- 1 cup glacé cherries

## Method

Preheat oven to 190 C /gas mark 5, line a baking sheet with parchment. Cut 18 of the cherries in half and set aside. Chop the remainder.

Cream the butter and sugar together in a small bowl (with wooden spoon or electric mixer).

Gradually add the eggs and vanilla.

Sift together the flour, baking powder and bicarbonate of soda.

Add these dry ingredients to the creamed sugar and mix well.

Gently fold in the nuts, raisins and chopped cherries.

Take a teaspoon of dough and roll it onto the corn flakes.

Place the cookies on a baking sheet, place a cherry half in the centre of each cookie.

Bake for 14 minutes, then cool on a rack.

Practise making these before Women's World Day of Prayer - Cuba - Friday 4 March 2016!



CALVELEY HALL CHAPEL  
THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS  
A DEMONSTRATION BY  
ANN GATER  
NAFAS  
AREA DEMONSTRATOR  
FRIDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> DEC 2015  
7.30PM  
Tickets £6  
Including Refreshments  
Calveley Hall Lane CW6 9LG  
Tel: Jenny Brooks 01829 730225

For those we love and those we miss

## Bunbury Tree of Lights 2015



To sponsor a light on the tree at St Boniface this Christmas in aid of our church building please fill in the form and send it with your cheque, payable to Bunbury PCC, to: Jill Robey on 260081

I would like a light on the tree to celebrate: (please give details)

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

I would like to donate £..... (£5 minimum)

If you would like to Gift Aid this donation to Bunbury PCC (Charity No 1133106)\* then tick box

\*I wish Gift Aid to apply to the enclosed donation. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less income tax and/or capital gains tax than the amount of gift aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode.....

Signature.....

Date: .....

Tick this box for an entry in the Book of Lights

# Bunbury tree of lights

The Tree of Lights at St.Boniface's gate during December has become a Bunbury tradition now. This year the evergreen at the front gate will again be covered in white lights to be enjoyed by visitors to the church and by passers-by over the Christmas period.

By sponsoring a light you can commemorate a loved one at Christmas. The Tree of Lights is organised to raise funds for the restoration of our ancient building. For a minimum £5.00 sponsorship, each light on the string can be dedicated to commemorate a special person or event in your family such as a birth, a wedding, an anniversary, an achievement. If you wish, we will record your name and message in a special book to be viewed in church. The lights will be turned on after the Christingle on 6 December but it isn't too late to sponsor a light any time up until Christmas. If you would like to take part this year, please fill in the form on the left, sending it with your sponsorship to Jill Robey.

## Christmas Fun at Baby & Toddler Group

Excitement is mounting here at the baby and toddler group as Christmas is now only a few weeks away. To help us celebrate and get into the festive spirit we have some lovely events arranged for the children and grown-ups.

During the session on Wed 2 December, from 9.30 am, we will be having a visit from Charley's Ceramics who will be visiting us in time to make some gorgeous keepsakes for Christmas. Children will have great fun making their very own Christmas bauble (£10 each), which will look lovely on the tree for years to come.

It is well know that this time of year is hard work for us Mum's so on Thursday 3 December it will be our chance to get together, relax, and enjoy some fabulous food and drink at the Dysart Arms.

Finally, this year we are joining forces with Early Birds for a super-duper Children's Christmas Party at the Village Hall on Wednesday 16 December from 11 to 1.30pm. There will be lots of fun and games for the little ones and a special guest appearance from none other than Father Christmas himself!

Baby and toddler group takes place every Wednesday during term time at the Pavilion on the Jubilee Playing Fields from 9.30 to 11.30 am. All babies, and pre-school children are welcome.

To find out more about our forthcoming events and the latest news visit our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/BunburyMothersAndToddlers](http://www.facebook.com/BunburyMothersAndToddlers)



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**Christmas**  
At Tilly's  
Wednesday 9th Dec 6-7pm  
Cafe Church for young adults with music and film

# Remembrance Day 2015



Once again this year, Bunbury's service was different: the Beavers, Brownies, Cubs, Guides, Scouts and Senior Scouts all contributed actively, by reading the names of the fallen from both the First and the Second World Wars, as well as Binyon's Ode and the Kohima Epitaph.

Alexander Kepke Smith read his own poem about the fallen, and some of the very young arranged poppy petals on a table at the front of the church. This year the Cubs had also made a beautiful tower of poppies which looked magnificent (photographed left), marshalled by Roz Kepke Smith. Ted Fowles and Olivia Barnes once again played the last post and reveille together and Ted has kindly offered his time in helping other youngsters to learn how to play the bugle or the cornet. Amanda Harris, Group Scout Leader of 25th SWC Scout Group in Bunbury and Roz Kepke Smith, Cub Scout leader (and mum of Alexander) presented Tim with a beautiful mounted poppy to mark this special day and later, when everyone was enjoying tea and cakes at the Scout Hut courtesy of the uniformed organisations, another special poppy was presented to Bunbury RBL President, Mike Rogers. The involvement of the young of our villages is so important, particularly as we in the Royal British Legion, along with the leaders of the Uniformed Organisations, very much see them as the future of Remembering, not just here in Bunbury, as the numbers of ex-military personnel decline. Their commitment in collecting funds for the poppy appeal on Saturdays, their attendance at the rehearsal before Remembrance Day, their enthusiasm to march along behind the Royal British Legion in the parade to and from the church, their excellent behaviour and respect for the fallen in church and their recognition of the significance in the wreath-laying ceremony makes us in Bunbury Royal British Legion feel very humble indeed. We want to thank each one of them and their parents and leaders for making Remembrance Day so participative and unique. Without their involvement, it would be hard to achieve the Royal British Legion's current motto - "Live On".

*James Walton, Chairman, Bunbury RBL and Amanda Harris, Group Scout Leader*



## New playground and perimeter track begin to take shape



Work has started (w/c Monday 9 November) on the new playground and perimeter track in Bunbury. The play area will be suitable for people of all ages and abilities. It will consist of exciting and challenging equipment from small timber tractor for toddlers to a large climbing frame and a zip wire for teenagers. A 420m multi-purpose perimeter track, with 100m interval markers and a clock, is also being created to promote healthy lifestyles. Linking to major footpaths in the village, the track will encourage people to walk through and enjoy the playing fields. The track will be available for runners and people with wheelchairs, as well as for organised keep-fit activities such as buggy fit, boot camps, running clubs for children, and 'stroll and stretch' classes for older people.

Beth Hayward, Chair of the Playground Committee, says, "We are delighted that work is starting. It will enable children and young people to play in a safe, inspiring and natural playground and will increase the use of the playing fields by people of all ages and physical abilities."

The Executive Director of The Veolia Environmental Trust, Paul Taylor, adds, "This project is a great example of how the Landfill Communities Fund can help create spaces which bring people together and encourage them to enjoy outdoor exercise. I look forward to seeing the completed play and recreational area being used and enjoyed."

**When did you start as Parish Administrator for St Boniface?**

I started in July so I have been doing the role for just four months. I work two half days each week.

**What did you do previously?**

I taught students with learning difficulties at Reaseheath College for eleven years. I also volunteer with a charity, Homestart, supporting a family with young children. Like several others in the village I have found another interest as a TV "extra", initially working on Home Fires, as well as a few other series this year.

**Where do you work?**

I usually meet Tim twice a week at the vicarage to go through the work for the week ahead and to plan future activity. Some of the work such as filing, printing of the weekly service sheets is done there, whilst other jobs I do from home.

**What does the job involve?**

I have been amazed at the amount of administration needed for parish the size of Bunbury. There is a mix of routine jobs that need to be done weekly, alongside annual activities that relate to the church calendar.

**Is it all routine?**

Definitely not! In the space of 4 months I have been surprised at the range of one-off projects that the church needs to undertake.

**Can you give us some examples?**

Tim is keen to keep in contact with families whose children have been baptised at St Boniface and couples who have married at our church. So that we can maintain contact I have set up databases of address and e-mail details which we used for the first time to invite these families to

the Harvest Service. There has also been an exciting project for our daughter church, Calveley Hall Chapel, who are looking to replace the existing pews with chairs to create a more flexible space. I hadn't visited the chapel before and preparing the initial documents for submission to the Diocese office and learning some of the history the chapel has been really interesting. I am currently liaising with the chair supplier on the delivery of suitable chair samples to try, so it is certainly a very varied role.

**How can you be contacted?**

The email address is [bunburyparishoffice@gmail.com](mailto:bunburyparishoffice@gmail.com) or tel: 01829 260579

# Interview with Vicky Riley Parish Administrator



## Ron Parker - One of the "three-must-have-beers"



Ron, born in 1935, was one of five children, the only boy to four sisters. He would quip that was the main reason why he never got married, because he had to put up with 4 sisters. He had a wonderful brain, attending Bunbury School he passed his 11+ but disappointingly never got the opportunity for further study. Ron always had knowledge way beyond his own experience, but he was very self-effacing, very modest.

During his National Service Ron went to Japan, following the army he worked for his uncle on a dairy in Staffordshire making cheese. After the dairy Ron's working life was varied and diverse working

with pigs, as a builder's labourer and working with Andrew Dutton. Throughout his varying jobs Ron always showed patience and ingenuity to get the job done.

In his earlier years Ron was a keen cricketer and treasurer of the cricket club. He was also a member of the Royal British Legion. Ron loved animals especially Billie, his dog. He always cooked for himself and Billie and it was only when Billie died that Ron stopped cooking.

Throughout his life Ron would often be seen walking through the village, even after he broke his hip, visiting the village pubs to join his many friends and share a pint. It was not unknown for Ron to start at the Crewe Arms (now The Yew Tree) and leave a pint there and move on to the Nags, leave one there, go to the Dysart - get one in there and then go back and finish the others. Indeed, Ron together with Len Stockton and Bob Bees were affectionately named the three-must-have-beers by John Slaney of the Crewe Arms.

Ron had his own special sayings "Parkerisms"- often fiddled with Biblical quotes. He would say, "How beautiful are thine tabernacles in the sight of the Lord!", or when leaving at closing time, "The day Thou gavest Lord has ended".

Right until the very end, Ron lived a life in which he gave so much love and inspired so much love in others and he will be much missed by his friends and family Janet, Lorna, Barbara and Jennifer.

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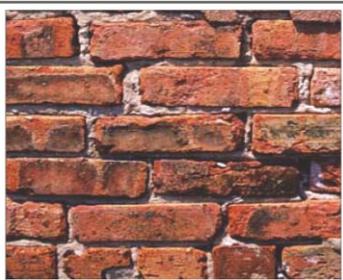
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