

Link

August – September 2024

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The Archbishop of York
visits Forest Church



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A Norman carved stone in
Bunbury, Australia



Please give to St Boniface to
maintain this beautiful church
building

A magazine for the parishes of
Bunbury and Tilstone Fearnall



Follow Bunbury Church on Facebook

A new village hall for Alpraham and Calveley



Alpraham and Calveley villages are celebrating the opening of their new village hall. It has taken a lot of work by many people from both parishes but finally it is here. Find the story on page 8.



Sadlers Wells Community Woodland volunteers making good use of tools purchased for the charity with funds kindly awarded by the Bunbury Village Day charity. Find out more about BVD on page 9.

Who we are

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www.stbonifacebunbury.org

Community news

Congratulations to **Sabrina Turner and Max Owen** whose recent wedding was blessed at St Boniface on 6 July.



Congratulations to **Hannah and Scott Armstrong** on the baptism of their son **George William** at Calveley Chapel on 2 June.



On 22 June **Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell** visited **St Boniface church**. He joined a special **Saturday Forest Church** and encouraged those attending. (See page 6).



The annual Bunbury pet service took place at the Cricket Field on 14 July. Many thanks to all those who made happen.



St Jude's held a successful afternoon tea on Sunday 7 July at Tiresford by kind permission of Ms S Posnett. It was an enjoyable afternoon with proceeds going towards St Jude's.



St Jude's Harvest Supper will take place on Saturday 28 September at 7:00pm in the church hall. Tickets will be available in August from the church wardens: Elizabeth Marren on 01270 528556 or Mike Lightfoot 01829732611.

ALIVE members enjoyed a day trip to the British Ironworks and Sculpture Park in Oswestry. The Knife Angel, made from confiscated knives, which stood outside Chester cathedral for many weeks was made there. However, no one was expecting the amazing sight which greeted us as soon as the coach turned into the

A word from the editor

Thank you to all those who volunteer with the Link in any way. You are having a deserved rest for the summer. The next issue will be delivered in October.

Many thanks to Sue Sergeant for taking over Carolyn Johnson's round delivering the Link. Thank you also to Carolyn who has organised the distribution of the Link for many years.

Bunbury, Tilstone Fearnall and the surrounding areas are full of people who lead varied and often fascinating lives, with many interests and passions as well as a wide knowledge base. We would love it if you would all write a short piece about your passion or interest, and maybe include a photo or picture for added interest. The editorial team will be delighted to receive them and will decide if and when to publish; they reserve the right to edit or shorten pieces as necessary to fit in the space available. Examples might be hobbies, pastimes, sports, history, places, nature — the list is endless.

We hope that "Share your passion" will become a regular column or page, so don't be shy; bite the bullet and send us your thoughts! (Thanks to Amber Middlemiss for this good idea.)

entrance. Enormous figures, standing almost as high as a house, animals, comic book heroes and fantasy. Wandering around some of the 70 acres of grounds we saw life-like flocks of geese and herds of deer. We enjoyed a magnificent lunch in the Forge café and wandered in the gift shop before our return home.

Our group meet every Tuesday in the Nags Head Bunbury for lunch. There is a choice of meals to choose from for £5. Lunch is followed by a social afternoon for those who wish to stay. New members are joining us each week so if you are over sixty why not come along. There is no need to book and you do not have to commit to coming every week just when you feel like coming. You will receive a warm welcome and will make new friends.

Bunbury Gardening Club — On 20 August there will be visit to Okell's Nursery at 2:30pm including a tour of the nursery and a planting demonstration.

The annual show will take place on 7 September at the Village Hall — time to start thinking about your free entries! There will be a variety of classes including arts and crafts, cookery, photography, flowers, fruit and vegetables! Get your show schedule copy from Tilly's, The Yew Tree or The Dysart Arms, or contact the membership secretary by email: mjbourne249@tiscali.co.uk

On Sunday 7 July the **Rain or Shine** theatre company performed "The Importance of Being Earnest" on the Cricket Field. It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon with the proceeds split between the Cricket Club and Bunbury Mill. Thank you to Judy Grey for organising such a fun and worthwhile event.

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



If (only), dear Gareth

I write this article on the day Gareth Southgate resigned from his role as England Football Manager. Many are dissecting his time in post, but few could argue he has done a very good job in turning our serial losers into serial finalists and contenders, but sadly couldn't quite make the final step and win a trophy for all the progress that has been made.

Speaking at a press conference after the Euros semi-final victory, Southgate explained what it meant to him being England manager: the pride, the honour, the privilege of giving the fans and country nights of great joy and celebration. He said, "We all want to be loved, right?!" And yet, he increasingly suffered very personal and at times vociferous criticism at the beginning of the tournament, managing to keep his composure and dignity throughout.

For me, the manner in which Southgate operated as a coach to the players and an ambassador for the FA, embodied a poem we might remember from our school days: "If" by Rudyard Kipling.

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream — and not make dreams your master;
If you can think — and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with kings — nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And — which is more — you'll be a man, my son!

Dear Gareth, thank you for being our "Man'ager"!

Tom Crotty

I want to tell you a story



Storytelling is an art form. The variety of people listening, the inflections in your voice, the mood of the day, the colour of the sky — they all combine to create a one-time-only atmosphere for the words you speak. A story may bring a tear or a smile at one telling, and yet, the very next audience experiences the same words in a completely different way. Storytelling is also one of the most basic practices common to all human communities.

Throughout the gospels, we hear of Jesus talking to people in parables. Some people find that quite annoying. Why didn't Jesus come right out and say what he meant? Why did he leave behind all these cryptic sayings, instead of a crisp code of laws or a stack of essays with titles like "How to Be a Good Disciple", "A Brief Definition of the Kingdom of God" or "Seven Key Features of the Coming Kingdom and What This Means to You". But a list of rules never changes, never adapts, whereas Jesus's parables take the fluid format of a story — a tale that can never quite be told the same way twice — to keep breathing new life into the Good News.

By preaching to his followers in parables, Jesus let each listener make the Good News become his own story, her own experience. As we are swept up in the story, we ourselves become part of a new parable — the parable of our lives. Taken all together, our individual experiences of the kingdom, our personal stories of God's work and witness in our lives, end up creating a new gospel.

We are greatly mistaken if we think our tradition stems from only four canonical gospels. As well as "The Gospels According to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John", the church has almost 2000 years' worth of other gospel books to celebrate. "The Gospel of Augustine", "The Gospel of Martin Luther", "The Gospel of John Wesley", "The Gospel of Dietrich Bonhoeffer". All these "gospels" have remained vital parts of our tradition because of their eternally rechargeable parable power.

Other gospels may not be quite so well-known, but they work just as persuasively in our lives. "The Gospel According to Grandma" or "The Gospel According to Aunt Mary" or "The Gospel According to That Bloke I Met in Church But Whose Name I Can't Even Remember" may have affected our lives dramatically.

All of us are in the process of writing our own gospels. Writing a gospel through the very act of living is part of being a disciple of Christ. It is why Jesus gave the power of the parable to all those listening to his words.

Church diary for August and September

Sunday 4 August	8:00am BCP Communion 9:30am Morning Worship 10:30am Holy Communion* 11:30am Morning Worship *No Forest Church	St Boniface St Jude St Boniface Calveley
Wednesday 7 August	10:00am BCP Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 11 August	09:30am BCP Communion 10:30am Morning Worship	St Jude St Boniface
Wednesday 14 August	10:00am BCP Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 18 August	9:30am Morning Worship** 10:30am Morning Worship*** 6:00pm Evensong ** No Holy Communion *** No Sunday Brunch	St Jude St Boniface St Boniface
Tuesday 20 August	2:30 and 7:30pm Contemplative Prayer	St Boniface
Wednesday 21 August	10:00am BCP Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 25 August	9:30 Morning Worship 10:30 Holy Communion	St Jude St Boniface
Wednesday 28 August	10:00am BCP Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 1 September	8:00am BCP Communion 9:30am Morning Worship 10:30am Holy Communion and Forest Church 11:30am Holy Communion	St Boniface St Jude St Boniface Calveley
Wednesday 4 September	10:00am BCP Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 8 September	09:30am BCP Communion 10:30am Morning Worship	St Jude St Boniface
Wednesday 11 September	10:00am BCP Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 15 September	9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Sunday Brunch 6:00pm Evensong	St Jude St Boniface St Boniface
Tuesday 17 September	2:30 and 7:30pm Contemplative Prayer	St Boniface
Wednesday 18 September	10:00am BCP Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 22 September	9:30 Morning Worship 10:30 Holy Communion	St Jude St Boniface
Wednesday 25 September	10:00am BCP Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 29 September	9:30 Morning Worship 10:30 Morning Worship	St Jude St Boniface

Caring for our churchyard

As part of our ecochurch journey we are exploring ways to enhance the natural quality of our churchyard. Andrea Gilpin, Ecologist and Communications Manager at Caring for God's Acre found treasures in our churchyard: queens and green woodpeckers

Old churchyards and cemeteries have become a refuge for the harmless yellow meadow ant, *Lasius flavus*, because it lives in permanent pasture that has become a rare habitat. You can tell if you have this lovely species in your area by the large mounds it creates, often against gravestones, facing the sun. When I visited St Boniface church earlier this year, I was delighted to see that there were many in the churchyard!

Each of these mounds is started by a queen ant who lands in a warm sunny spot and starts a new colony. She lays eggs which hatch into worker ants. These workers then forage for food and build the nest by excavating in the ground and carrying innumerable particles of soil above ground level to build a series of chambers. As the number of workers increases, so does the size of the mound. The little passages they make and travel through are above and below ground. In the winter the whole colony retreats underground.

Mounds can be up to 100 years old and form a mini-habitat of their own. The ants need the warmth of the sun, so they trim back the grass growing on the surface, encouraging plants like lady's bedstraw and wild thyme. Green woodpeckers visit the nests and use their extraordinarily long, sticky tongues to feast on the ants.

When you next visit St Boniface or another ancient churchyard, look out for these mounds. On a sunny day you will see the ants busy at work.

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Share your passion — Peter Styles writes

When you retire and your kids leave home you either get a dog or a cat, a camper van, a canal boat or in my case grow tomatoes and chillies. This isn't a new venture though. I started growing tomatoes in about 1972; chillies came later.

I was a PhD student in Geophysics at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne (is there any other?) in what is now called The Herschel Building designed by Sir Basil Spence. In those days it had a two-level upper floor with a coffee room



on the lower level and an upper level with a flat where Professor Sir Keith Runcorn often lived if he wasn't in California inventing Paleomagnetism.

Those were the days! More importantly, that top floor had floor to roof windows looking over the city in all directions.

The windowsills were in full sun. It was too good to waste. So, another PhD student

and I decided that the windowsills were perfect for growing tomatoes on and no one seemed to mind.

The tomato growing bug had taken root and I have, depending exactly where we were living, have grown tomatoes ever since. I have grown them for around 40 years! It's not just the taste, it's the smell of a fresh tomato plucked from a truss in the morning and then fried with a bit of olive oil and garlic. Usually many more than one! I can hardly bring myself to eat the tasteless tomatoes we sell in the UK all through the winter. The trick is to start germinating and growing them in the conservatory with beneath-heating elements, and then Grolights in February/March, until it is plausible to fill one side of the green house with tomatoes and one side with chillies! Soon there will be loads ready!! However, despite the consistency of a greenhouse, I probably get my best tomatoes (from a range of varieties (not chillies), including Gardeners Delight and Shirley as the more common varieties, but other more uncommon ones (Black Krim as an example) just outside my back door against the kitchen wall. They are already c. 6 feet tall and will achieve c. 10 feet by the end of the season and I will probably still be harvesting in November.

So that's how I keep myself amused and mainly out of trouble most years!

Bunbury School news

Bunbury School Fest 2024



During the week of 8–21 July Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary School held its School Fest 2024. All 196 children in school enjoyed participating in a range of different activities which included: forest skills, Taekwondo, bubble capers, silent disco, street dance, drumming, nerf battles, kayaking, cave bus, and new for 2024, high ropes, crazy golf and fencing. Year 6 and Year 3 also enjoyed an overnight camp on the field.

It has been a joy to see all the children challenging themselves and enjoying new experiences. As head teacher, I am passionate about the school being so much more than academic learning. The skills and personal



development the children have experienced this week cannot be put into a percentage, but it is clear from their faces how much they have enjoyed the challenge and grown through it. They have developed resilience,

independence, strength of character and practical skills, as well as overcoming personal fears and challenges throughout the week. The children's laughter has been infectious and I know everyone has thoroughly enjoyed what the week offered.



School Fest began during COVID and was born out of the fact that children had not taken part in such activities due to the restrictions around the pandemic. The commitment of the staff team ensured that despite everything this was not going to be an element of school life that the children were going to miss out on. Four years later we are still passionate about the opportunities that School Fest brings to the children. We are looking forward to planning School Fest 2025.

Nic Badger
Principal

The Archbishop of York visits Forest Church



On Saturday 22 June the Archbishop of York and the Bishop of Chester visited St Boniface church. They came to join a special Saturday Forest Church. Many thanks to all the families who came to take part. We also had tea and cakes in church, and a question and answer session with the Archbishop. The Archbishop said he went away feeling inspired. Thank you to Beth for leading Forest Church, to Rose and Poppy as her helpers, Poppy for playing the piano, to the youth band and the pop-up choir and to Tim for coordinating. Thanks also must go to Lucy Munro and her team for the tea and cakes. It was a lovely afternoon and it didn't rain!



Sky notes for August and September

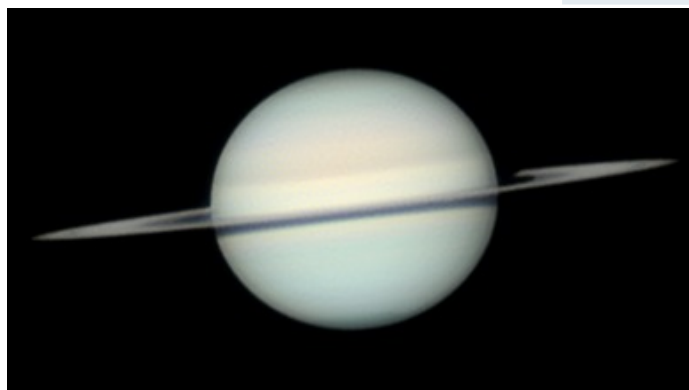
By the beginning of August, the nights are already lengthening noticeably, which means it gets dark earlier in the evening. I love this time of the year as there is more time to observe the sky and enjoy the pleasantly warm evenings. After we reach 22 September, the Autumnal equinox, the nights become longer than the days as the Sun moves south of the equator.

During September the comet Tsuchinshan-ATLAS will be approaching the Sun. There is a chance that it will become visible during the last week of September in the dawn sky. However, comets can be unpredictable. They may brighten unexpectedly or indeed fade well below what was expected of them. Someone once said: "Comets are like cats: they have tails, and they do precisely what they want". Nevertheless, as of the time of writing, the comet has been performing as expected, which gives optimism that it may well brighten above the naked-eye threshold in September.

The comet has been under observation for quite a while. It was discovered in early 2023 by astronomers at South Africa's Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System (ATLAS) telescope and China's Tsuchinshan Observatory, hence its name. It returns to the inner solar system roughly every 80,000 years.

You will need a clear south-east horizon to stand a chance of seeing the comet. At 6:00am on the morning of 28 September it will be just above the horizon as the sky brightens. Try to find it a few days before and after, too. Binoculars will help.

I'm also hoping for a clear night on 12/13 August for that is the maximum of the Perseid meteor shower. After the Moon sets at 11:00pm, you might see shooting stars overhead, perhaps one every minute. The longer you stay up, the more likely you are to see these meteors.



The planet Saturn on 29 June — note that the rings are almost edge on (image by Luigi Morrone. British Astronomical Association)

On 21 August from 4:28 to 5:21am the Moon passes right in front of Saturn. It will be twilight at this time and the "occultation" will be best observed with binoculars or a small telescope. This is a special event — the first time the Moon has hidden Saturn since 2007 as seen from Bunbury.

Saturn is visible throughout August and September. In early September it will be due south at midnight. A small telescope shows its rings, which at the moment are almost edge on.

Brilliant white Venus is low in the western sky after sunset throughout August and September. On the evening of 5 September, the tiny crescent Moon lies just to the left of Venus.

Clear skies!

Bunbury Stargazer



Our prayers

O Lord, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You mark out my journeys and my resting place and are acquainted with all my ways. Psalm 139:1-2

Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us: open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence and know your peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Bunbury Medical Practice

August and September

Staff Update

We are very pleased to announce that we have three new members of staff in our dispensary; Vicky Williams joins us as our new Dispensary Manager, Lisa Hayter joins us as a dispenser and Helen Gardener is our new prescriptions clerk.

After 17 years at Bunbury Medical Practice, Lisa Pywell left the practice on 25 July. Lisa worked initially in dispensary, first as a dispenser and then as Dispensary Manager, she then moved on to be Deputy Practice Manager. She will be hugely missed by her colleagues and patients alike and we wish her all the best in her future ventures.

August Bank Holiday

The surgery will be closed for the Bank Holiday on Monday, 26 August 2024; please allow sufficient time when ordering your prescription.

Training Days

There is no training day in August, but the surgery will close on Tuesday, 3rd September at 13:00 and not reopen until the

following morning. All Training Days for 2024 can be seen on our website.

Flu Vaccinations

Flu vaccination appointments will be available from early October; please look out for invites to attend which will be sent out by text or post.

All patients aged over 65 are eligible to receive a flu vaccination. Some patients under 65 are also eligible; please contact the surgery if you are unsure.

We are hoping to run our first flu clinic in early October 2024; updates will be available on our website and Facebook page.

Patient Reminder

If you change your mobile phone number, please remember to contact the surgery so that we can amend your patient record ensuring that you continue to receive useful information and updates from the practice. It will also ensure that the correct contact details are included on any referrals which are made for further care.

A new village hall for Alpraham and Calveley

Alpraham and Calveley villages will be celebrating the opening of their new village hall. It has taken a lot of work by many people from both parishes but finally it is here. For more than 120 years, the parishes were served by the Alpraham and Calveley Reading Room which was first opened in the 1890's. The old site was sold for development and the new hall built on the Alpraham Playing Field, bringing the main village facilities onto a single site for the first time. The war memorial which was once located next to the old hall is being returned from temporary storage to a new permanent location here at the new hall.

The old hall was much loved but had become worn out and impossible to bring up-to-date. The new hall provides villagers with a twenty first century facility to be proud of. It has been constructed from the latest materials and has been finished to a very high standard. The building is energy efficient and plans are being made to fit solar panels to further minimise its carbon footprint. WiFi is provided throughout the building and this can also be accessed outside on the patio areas. The heating can be controlled remotely and it is hoped to extend this to all aspects of building management and operation e.g. booking, access and security.

The main hall provides space for events of up to 120 people. It is approximately 14.5 metres long and 9.8 metres wide (48

feet by 32 feet). The floor covering is a hard-wearing oak-effect vinyl with a long life. Indoor sports equipment is being purchased for use by clubs and this includes indoor bowls, table tennis and badminton. Of course, we are always interested to hear suggestions of the kind of things that people would like to be provided in the future. There is also a meeting room which will cater for smaller gatherings of around fifteen people. An LCD display screen is provided for presentations and an electric piano for the musically inclined. The meeting room is carpeted for comfort.

A well-appointed kitchen has a built-in cooker, dishwasher and fridge along with microwave oven and kettles. There is sufficient cutlery, crockery and utensils for meetings and small events. Two large external doors also allow caterers to supplement the kitchen space with their own facilities.

Whilst we encourage people to walk when possible, there is main and overflow car parking for sixteen cars plus two disabled spaces. A disabled toilet and baby-changing facilities have been included. A team of volunteers has been meeting regularly for a number of months to plan the operation of the hall and we welcome residents who wish to get involved.

For the latest information please go to website www.acvillagehall.co.uk

"Just one thing" for a healthier life

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



Choose red wine

This may seem like the one you've been waiting for, so it begins with a strong caveat: alcohol is generally bad for one's health, and if you're a non-drinker you should not start drinking red wine because of this article! But if you're already a drinker then swapping beer, cider, white wine, spirits etc. for red wine can be helpful. Red wine contains a huge range of polyphenols, produced by the fermentation of grape skin; polyphenols are great fuel for a wide variety of beneficial gut bacteria, effectively creating an internal living pharmacy. The so-called 'French Paradox', observed in the 1980s, that although the French eat far more saturated fats than Americans, their rates of heart disease are far lower; red wine was seized upon as the magic element. It has since been shown that much of the effect was due to the French eating many more fresh fruit and vegetables than their American counterparts, but in 2015 another study showed that randomly assigning a regime of a small glass daily of either red wine, white wine or mineral water to 224 teetotal diabetics over two years resulted in much lower cholesterol, better sleep quality, and some better blood sugar responses in those who drank the red wine.

Other studies suggest that it can also lower blood pressure and boost mood. It is important to note that the beneficial effect is only seen if the red wine is drunk with a meal, and if no other alcohol is consumed, and it needs to be a small glass, but it doesn't have to be an expensive wine. Experts also remind us that it is important to have some nights a week without alcohol for general health benefits. So enjoy, in moderation!

Put your phone down

The first iPhone was sold in 2007 and since then smartphones have become an integral and indispensable part of life for most of us; it is estimated that there are more smartphones than toothbrushes worldwide, and 80% of adults in the UK have one, using them for an average of 3 hours a day. Many

suspect that excessive use of them has a range of ill effects, and a study of undergraduates at the University of Texas where groups were asked to put their phone either on the desk beside them, in their bag, or in another room whilst they undertook a series of cognitive tasks found that those with the phone on the desk performed significantly worse than those who had their phones out of sight.

It seems that we have a limited cognitive capacity for any task and when we try to multi-task we perform worse in all of those tasks. The smartphone is effectively another task, even if we are not actually using it; if we can see it then our attention constantly wanders towards it and it requires effort ("switching cost") to bring it back. As phones contain so much that is attractive to our brains: social connection, learning new things, strong emotions (outrage!), they act as a huge distractor, using our energy and cognition as described above. However if we can't see or hear them, this effect is massively reduced and we can do the other things more effectively; e.g. it has been shown that when we do things without our phones we remember the experiences better. This obviously affects so many aspects of our lives, including our social relationships, and probably our motivation to exercise or do other non-phone-related activities.

Reducing phone usage also tends to improve posture, reduce back pain, improve mood, sleep, productivity and our social lives. In particular, limiting social media usage to 30 minutes a day leads to less loneliness, depression and anxiety. So the suggestion is to consciously leave your phone behind or put it out of sight and earshot when you are working or doing other activities that do not require it; have specific 'no phone zones' in your daily regime, and try to reduce the total time spent on it to no more than 2 hours.

Liv Weller

What is Bunbury Village Day about?

In 1969 the ancient custom of "The Wakes" was reborn as Bunbury Village Day, which means that this year we are celebrating our 55th year!

The main focus of the day is to provide a great day for people of all ages in Bunbury and the surrounding villages. The event is organised by a core team of volunteers (this year there are 12 of us). On the weekend of the event, we are joined by many additional volunteers who help with all the practicalities. Sometimes after an event we find that we have a small profit (although it is not our aim to make one) and in past years we have used this to help fund all manner of things for the community,

including maintaining the village website and painting the Pavilion at Bunbury Jubilee Playing Fields.

Our most recent donation was to the local community run charity — Sadlers Wells Community Woodland (<https://bunburyvillage.info/sadlers-wells-woods/>). Katherine Hutchinson, Chair of SWCW, said "I am delighted to announce that the Village Day committee have donated £200 from last year's Village Day to us in order to help us fund more tools which are needed for our Working Parties."

So, we hope that has answered all your burning questions and that we are successful in delivering our central goal – to provide a great day out for the whole community!

Have you ever wondered...

David Kendrick continues his series on the history of our St Boniface Church with something a little different: William the Conqueror reaches Australia'

What is the connection between William the Conqueror and Australia? The answer, unbelievably, is St Boniface Church Bunbury.

Although our existing church building is itself more than 700 years old it stands on the site of an even older place of worship.

In approximately 760 AD King Ethelbald of Mercia had a wooden chapel erected here in Bunbury to commemorate his friend Boniface who was cruelly murdered in the Netherlands in around 755 AD. Why the small hamlet of 'Bolberie', as Bunbury was once named, located on a rise in a landscape surrounded by dense woodland, came to be chosen as the site isn't known, and the structure itself can only be imagined, but some form of worship took place here for the next 300 years.

Then on 28 September 1066 England was changed forever when William the Conqueror landed with his Norman army invasion force of over 7,000 men. After his victory at the Battle of Hastings, William marched on London and, on Christmas Day 1066, was crowned the first Norman king of England. With that, the 600 year Anglo-Saxon phase of English history came to an end.

Ruthlessly putting down all resistance William's army then spread across the country, with his knights reaching Cheshire during the winter of 1069-70. Exactly when they discovered our isolated wooden Anglo Saxon chapel here in Bunbury isn't known, but when they found it they burnt it to the ground.

In 1086 William ordered a countrywide survey in which it was written down exactly what everyone owned in land, cattle, crops and tools so that he knew exactly how much people could pay in tax. This survey became known as the Domesday Book, with Bolberie recorded in it at the time as having a total population of "three households with a priest."

By the early 12th century a more substantial stone Norman Church had been built on the site and this was used for worship until the 14th century when it was demolished to be replaced by the magnificent St Boniface Church we have today, and all that remained of the original Norman Church were a few scattered carved stones.

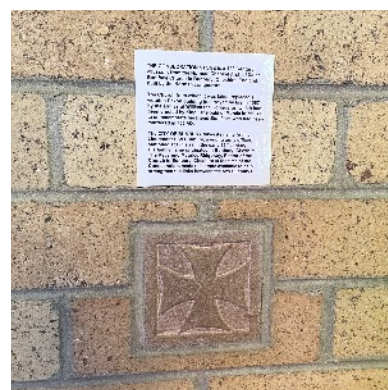
More than 700 years after William's fleet landed in England a much smaller fleet of ships arrived in January 1788 on the other side of the world at Botany Bay, to establish a penal colony, marking the beginning of the British colonisation of Australia.

In 1843 a settlement called Bunbury was founded in the state of Western Australia, named after Lieutenant Henry William St. Pierre Bunbury, who had explored the area, and whose family name originated in Bunbury, Cheshire. That settlement has grown to become today the second largest city in the state, with a population of over 80,000. A cathedral, dedicated to St Boniface, was built there in the early 1960s and their bishop, Bishop Hawkins, whilst on a visit to Cheshire, was presented by Rev. Maurice Ridgeway with one of the few remaining carved stones from our Norman Church. The stone was from the Norman Chancel Arch and can be seen in the pictures.

This was transported to Australia and was set into the wall of the new Cathedral near to their altar as a consecration stone, forever linking William the Conqueror with Australia

The stonemason who sat carving the stone in the 12th Century could never have imagined in his wildest moments what would become of it, 900 years and 9000 miles later!

Postscript: Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting Vicar's Report from 1967 records : "The Rt Revd, the Lord Bishop of Bunbury Western Australia, visited our Parish and preached in our Church on 10th July. He presented the Parish with a painting of the new sanctuary of the Cathedral at Bunbury". This painting hangs today on our south Nave wall.



Bunbury Parochial Charities — Invitation to apply for grants

The trustees of the 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: Alpraham, Beeston, Bunbury, Burwardsley, Calveley, Haughton, Peckforton, Ridley, Spurstow, Tilstone Ferarnall, Tiverton and 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 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 Mrs Bridget Caffrey, Spring Meadow, Whitchurch Road, Beeston, Tarporley CW6 9NJ, preferably by email to bridget_caffrey@yahoo.co.uk. Completed applications to be returned by 12:00 noon on Wednesday 6 November 2024 for consideration at the trustee meeting on Tuesday 3 December 2024 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 261670 or 07940877388.

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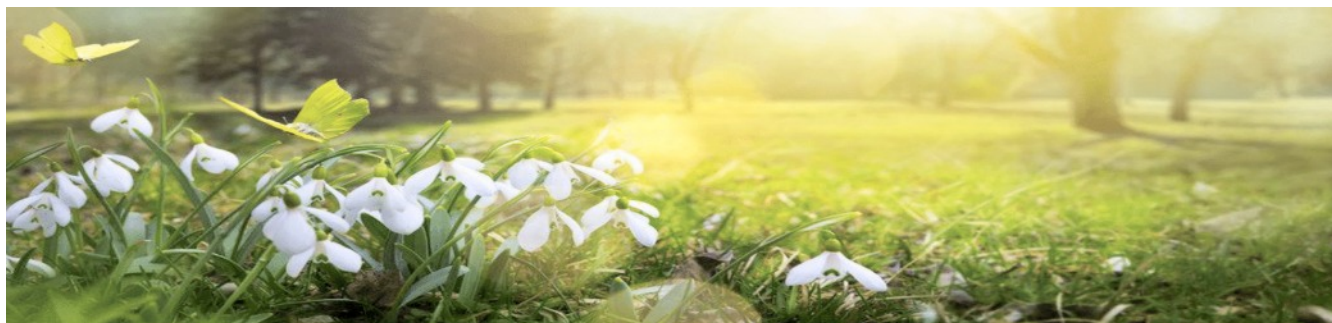
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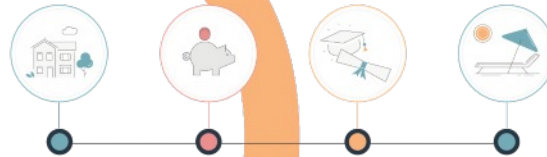
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