



# Link

February 2026

Also in this issue...



8

Coffee morning in support of INSPIRE



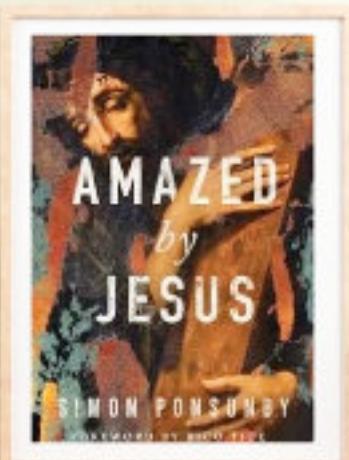
9

New course in February



Please give to St Boniface to maintain this beautiful church building

A magazine for the parishes of Bunbury and Tilstone Fearnall



## LENT SERIES

Simon Ponsonby's book 'Amazed by Jesus' will shape this year's Lent series. A series of 7 short reflections following the 10am Midweek Communion service at St Boniface.

- Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Feb - Jesus is amazing
- Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Feb - Jesus is not a White European
- Wed 4<sup>th</sup> March - Jesus is the water of life
- Wed 11<sup>th</sup> March - Jesus is worth it
- Wed 18<sup>th</sup> March - Jesus was a mountain man
- Wed 25<sup>th</sup> March - Jesus is not the Au Pair
- Wed 1<sup>st</sup> April - Jesus is coming back

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



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# Who we are

## **TIM HAYWARD - Vicar**

St Boniface, St Jude, & Calveley Chapel  
01829 261511  
revtimhayward@stbonifacebunbury.org

## **Associate Minister**

Rev Claire Wilson  
claire.wilson@stbonifacebunbury.org

## **Parish administrator**

Kay Carson  
parishadmin@stbonifacebunbury.org

## **Pastoral team leader**

Amber Middlemiss  
amber.middlemiss@stbonifacebunbury.org

## **St Boniface Church & Calveley Chapel**

**Churchwardens**  
Elaine Crotty  
elaine.crotty@stbonifacebunbury.org  
Astrid Logan  
astrid.logan@stbonifacebunbury.org

**Deputy Churchwarden**  
Sean Augustin-Wood  
sean.augustin@stbonifacebunbury.org  
Bunbury PCC Vice-chair  
Elaine Crotty  
elaine.crotty@stbonifacebunbury.org

**Bunbury PCC Treasurer**  
Yvonne Wood 01270 528442

**Bunbury PCC Secretary**  
John Mason  
pccsecretary@stbonifacebunbury.org  
**Secretary for Calveley Chapel**  
Yvonne Wood 01270 528442

## **St Jude**

**Churchwardens**  
Elizabeth Marren 07551411022  
Mike Lightfoot 01829 732611

**Organist**  
Ann Badrock 01829 260343

## **The Link**

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

**Editorial:** Elaine Crotty  
parishlinkeditor@stbonifacebunbury.org

**Advertising:**  
parishlinkads@stbonifacebunbury.org

# In the Link

- 3 Rev Tim's letter**
- 5 What's on**
- 6 Bunbury School news**
- 7 Sky notes**
- 10 Poppy Appeal 2025**

## ***A word from the editor***

Welcome back to the Link where you will find news of local activities and opportunities to be involved in the life of our parishes.

Christmas, as always, was a time of great celebration: from Christingle to Midnight Mass, there was a service for everyone. The ALIVE lunch group was hosted by Henry at the Nag's Head for Christmas lunch, and you can read Beth Hayward's run-down of the young people's events on page 6. Thank you to all those who made donations to the Food Bank you can read an update in Community news.

Thank you also to the St Boniface Bellringers for holding a very successful quiz night last November which raised funds to repair the church's clock face.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are planning the return of the arts show, **Inspire**, which we first ran in 2022. Please turn to page 8 to find out how you can be involved. We are inviting people to a **coffee morning** on **Thursday 26 February** to raise funds to support the event. — there will be a raffle and a children's area. Please join us if you can.

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



## Amazed by Jesus Lent series 2026

Lent is a season of slowing down, of returning to what really matters, and of allowing God to re-shape our hearts. This year, our Lent series will be centred on Simon Ponsonby's book "Amazed by Jesus": a rich, honest, and deeply human exploration of who Jesus is and why he still has the power to surprise and transform us.

Simon Ponsonby is a well-known Anglican priest, theologian, and speaker, but "Amazed by Jesus" is not a dry theological text. Instead, it is written with warmth, humility, and a deep pastoral sensitivity. Ponsonby begins with a simple but searching question: when did we stop being amazed by Jesus? For many of us, familiarity can quietly dull wonder. The stories become known, the words predictable, and faith can slip into habit rather than encounter. This book invites us to rediscover Jesus not as a distant religious figure, but as someone astonishingly alive, challenging, compassionate, and compelling.

Each session will focus on a different aspect of Jesus: his humanity, his compassion, his challenge, his grace and will invite us to pause, reflect, and respond. Ponsonby does not shy away from doubt, struggle, or complexity. Instead, he writes with an honesty that makes space for real questions, making the book accessible whether you are new to faith, returning to it, or have walked with Jesus for many years.

What makes "Amazed by Jesus" particularly fitting for Lent is its emphasis on transformation rather than information. This is not a book about mastering ideas, but about

### Our prayers

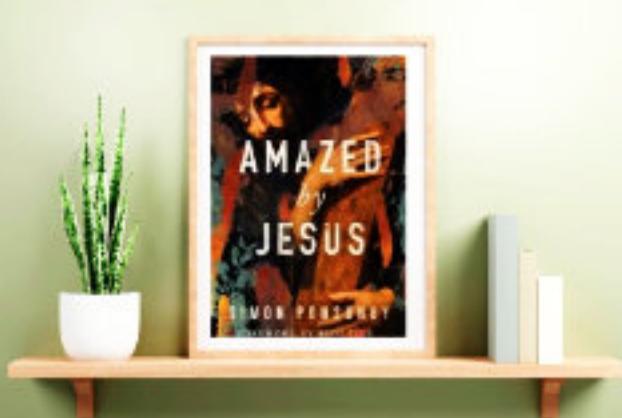
*Lord Jesus,  
we confess that familiarity can dull our wonder.  
In this season of Lent, help us to look again  
to see you not as a distant figure,  
but as the living presence who still calls and loves.  
Where faith has become habit, awaken us.  
Where we are tired, restore us.  
Where we have lost our sense of awe,  
surprise us again with your grace.  
May we be amazed once more by who you are.  
Amen.*

allowing ourselves to be met, surprised, and changed. It encourages us to look again at Jesus, at ourselves, and at the world with fresh eyes.

Our Lent series will use this book as a guide for conversation, reflection, and prayer. You don't need to be someone with all the answers. You simply need a willingness to be open and perhaps to be amazed again. If Lent is a journey back to the heart of faith, my prayer is that "Amazed by Jesus" will be a wonderful companion for the road.

You are most welcome to join me on Wednesdays at 10:00am at St Boniface for a short BCP communion service (20 minutes) followed by a reflection (approximately 15 minutes) from 18 February.

Coffee and refreshments will also be served.



## LENT SERIES

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# Community news

**Congratulations to Prof. Jeremy Shears** (known to us as Bunbury Stargazer — see page 7) who was presented with the gold medal of the British Astronomical Association (BAA) by its President at its Christmas meeting in London. The BAA was formed in 1890 and Jeremy joined at the age of eleven. The medal is named after Walter Goodacre, an astronomer from the early twentieth century. It recognises "the recipient's contribution to the progress of astronomy over many years". Jeremy commented: "I am humbled to receive this medal from an association that has been such an important part of my life for so many years and for doing something I truly love: observing the stars".



**Food Bank update** — Thank you to all those who have contributed to the food bank box throughout 2025.

For those new to the village, there is a storage box situated just inside the Village Hall gates next to the large red box for clothing donations. It is emptied weekly by some very loyal helpers who take it to the sorting warehouse on the industrial estate in Winsford. Once sorted, the contributions are forwarded to the main distribution centre where fresh vegetables and bread products are added.



Emergency bags are made up to contain enough food to last individuals and families three days. The contents are based on nutritional guidance.

The food bank works under the guidance of the Trussell Trust, but the distribution of the food relies solely on volunteers and the kindness of donations from individuals and donations from drop-off points and supermarkets. The remit is to provide food to individuals or families in a moment of financial crisis, up to three tokens can be issued to see them through the emergency. During this period

there is a system to direct them to other agencies if the problem is more long term, as the food bank is only a sticking plaster and not a long-term solution.

Dried goods and tin food contributions are welcome: tins, cereals, porridge, pasta, rice, long life milk; any foods that can make a sandwich or be eaten cold: sandwich fillings, tinned fruit, custard, rice pudding; toiletries: toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap; some basic cleaning products: washing-up liquid and kitchen and bathroom sprays.

When you next go shopping, please think of the Bunbury Food Bank. The volunteers will guarantee that the donations get to where they are needed. Thank you.

**Highway Code for Pedestrians** — Many motorists and pedestrians in the village have noted near-misses between cars and people, especially in the dark, so here's a little reminder of the Highway Code for Pedestrians:

If there is no pavement, keep to the right-hand side of the road so that you can see oncoming traffic. You should take extra care and be prepared to walk in single file, especially on narrow roads or in poor light, and to keep close to the side of the road. However, it may be safer to cross the road well before a sharp right-hand bend so that oncoming traffic has a better chance of seeing you. Cross back after the bend.

Help other road users to see you. Wear or carry something light-coloured, bright or fluorescent in poor daylight conditions. When it is dark, use reflective materials (e.g. armbands, sashes, waistcoats, jackets, footwear), which can be seen by drivers using headlights up to three times as far away as non-reflective materials.

To balance out the argument, motorists need to take extreme care when driving in built-up areas at night, as not all people do heed the above guidance. A notoriously tricky location in Bunbury is on Vicarage Lane between the church and the vicarage, where the road is narrow and bends over the brook, and the hedges are high.

Pedestrians should always walk on the outside of that bend, as it is completely blind to traffic coming towards Bunbury, and vehicle drivers should take extreme care.

Here's to safe travels in 2026 for everyone!

**St Boniface 100 Club winners** — The club draws take place on the first Sunday of the month at St Boniface church after the 10:30am service. The winning numbers on **7 December** were **25, 17 and 88**; on **4 January** they were **12, 37 and 82**. Congratulations to the winners!

# What's on

## **Dates for your diary**



### **The Bereavement**

**Journey** course — after a very successful launch in October, the pastoral team at **St Boniface** will be running a new seven-week course starting on 11 February. Places are limited but new courses will be run in the near

future. You can book online at <https://www.stbonifacebunbury.org/event-list>, or email [tbl@stbonifacebunbury.org](mailto:tbl@stbonifacebunbury.org) to reserve a place on the next course. You can read more about the course, including participants' feedback, on page 9.

## Church diary for February

Sunday 1 February	8:00am BCP Communion 9:30am Morning Worship 10:30am Holy Communion and Forest Church	St Boniface St Jude St Boniface
Wednesday 5 February	10:00am BCP Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 8 February	09:30am BCP Communion 10:30am Morning Worship	St Jude St Boniface
Wednesday 11 February	10:00am BCP Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 15 February	9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Third Sunday Brunch 4:30pm Evensong	St Jude St Boniface St Boniface
Wednesday 18 February	10:00am BCP Communion followed by Lent reflection	St Boniface
Sunday 22 February	9:30am Morning Worship 10:30am Holy Communion	St Jude St Boniface
Wednesday 25 February	10:00am Holy Communion followed by Lent reflection	St Boniface

### **Lent series at St Boniface** — "Amazed by Jesus" —

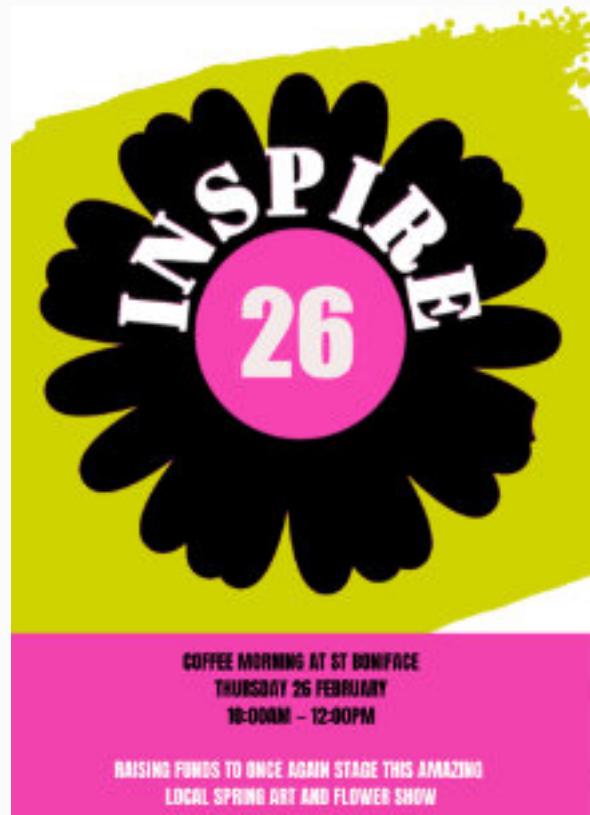
**Wednesdays at 10:00am** for a short BCP communion service (20 minutes) followed by a reflection (approximately 15 minutes) **from 18 February**, followed by coffee and refreshments..

**Coffee morning** at St Boniface for **Inspire 2026**. The show's organisers will be holding a coffee morning on **Thursday 26 February 10:00am — 12:00pm** to support the event. Turn to page 8 for more details if you would like to be part of the show.

**Bunbury WI** meets on the **second Thursday of the month** at **Bunbury Playing Fields Pavilion** at **7:30pm**. At their meeting on **12 February** they will welcome Anne Smart for a talk on "El Camino de Santiago by bike", and in March, Peter Holloway for a talk on "Retail Thinking". New members and visitors are always welcome. For further information contact Lynda Davies 01829 863781

**Bunbury Gardening Club** will be meeting on **Tuesday 17 February at 7:30pm** at the Bunbury Village Hall to welcome their guest speaker, Frank Forest, whose subject will be "Mary, Mary, how does your garden grow?"

New members are always welcome: please contact Margaret on [mjbourne249@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:mjbourne249@tiscali.co.uk) or find them on facebook.



# Bunbury School news



## ***Smartphone-free childhood: A growing movement at Bunbury Primary School***

In today's digital age, the pervasive presence of smartphones in our lives has become undeniable. While technology offers many benefits, educators, parents, and researchers are increasingly recognising the importance of limiting screen time for children, particularly in their formative years. Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary and Nursery School have decided to embrace and support the "smartphone-free childhood" movement.

The smart-free childhood aims to encourage parents to talk about smartphones, social media and their impact on our children's lives. And to empower parents so they don't feel they have to provide their children with smartphones, just because everyone else does.

### **How the Initiative Works**

The smartphone-free approach at Bunbury Primary involves several key components:

- Encouraging device-free zones: the school is a designated device-free zone. From September 2024 we asked all parents and carers not to answer or make any calls whilst on school property.
- Educating families: workshops and information letters are regularly shared to guide parents on managing

screen time at home. These sessions provide practical tips on balancing technology use while ensuring children have time for physical activities, hobbies, and family interactions.

- Role modelling by staff: teachers and staff lead by example, demonstrating limited use of phones during school hours. This reinforces the school's commitment to the initiative and sets a positive example for the children.

The success of the smartphone-free childhood movement at Bunbury School has been bolstered by strong community support from our parents. A number of parents have signed the Smartphone Free Childhood Pact. Bunbury Primary School is currently ranked fourth in Cheshire for its smartphone-free initiative.

Bunbury School hopes to inspire other parents within our community to take similar steps. By prioritising real-world connections and experiences over screen-based distractions, the school is helping to nurture a generation of well-rounded, resilient, and socially adept individuals.

**Nic Badger**  
**Principal**

## **Youth news from St Boniface church**

It's been a very busy few weeks at St Boniface, with plenty happening over the Christmas season, and it's been lovely to see so many of our children and young people laughing, connecting and getting involved in our community.

We kicked things off with our Cinderella pantomime, which was a huge success and completely sold out. There was a great buzz around the performances. A lot of time, energy and commitment went into making it happen, and the laughter from the audience made it clear that all the effort was well worth it. Thank you to everyone who took part, whether on stage, behind the scenes, or helping in practical ways. It really was a team effort.

Once the panto was over, and keen to stay in the wintery spirit, we headed off ice skating as a treat. Wrapped up warm, we enjoyed an evening of wobbly starts, encouraging shouts and lots of laughter.



Christmas itself brought a number of wonderful services, including our much-loved DIY Nativity. There's something very special about watching the Christmas story told through the eyes of children. The excitement and pride on their faces was a joy to see, and when the confetti

cannon went off, the church filled with laughter and delight. It was a simple but powerful reminder that the joy of celebrating the birth of Jesus is something to be shared — moments that will stay with the children long after Christmas has passed.

The New Year began on a very cold note, but we kept warm by gathering around the fire at Forest Church, toasting marshmallows, chatting together and watching ice slowly melt before our eyes. It was calm, cosy and a welcome chance to slow down after the busyness of December.

Thanks so much to everyone who's given their time, energy and support, it genuinely means a lot and we're really looking forward to 2026!

**Beth Hayward**

# Sky notes for February

## Planets on show in the evening sky

This month is a good month for spotting several planets in the evening sky.

Look for **Saturn** in the west after sunset. It sets around 8:00pm. On 19 February Saturn lies to the left of the crescent Moon. A small telescope will show his rings, which are almost edge on, so looking more like a line extending each side of the planet's disc.

**Mercury** is usually pretty hard to spot as it is generally very close to the Sun. In fact, many people have never seen Mercury. You just need to know when and where to look. From around **8 February**, you might be able to spot Mercury to the lower right of Saturn. You will need a western horizon free of trees, houses and other obstacles. There is a super opportunity to spot Mercury on the evening of **18 February** when it is above the very slender crescent Moon. The following evening, **19 February**, Mercury is below the crescent Moon. Look around 6:00pm. Much later and Mercury will be too low in the sky to see. Mercury is low and faint in the twilight; binoculars are highly recommended to spot it near Saturn — but wait until the Sun has fully set.

From around the middle of February, **Venus** begins to appear low in the west after sunset. By the end of the month it will be dominating the evening sky, setting around 7:45pm, and will continue to do so over the next few months.

The gas giant **Jupiter** is visible all month as soon as the sky is dark. It is very bright and sets around 5:30am. On **26 February**, Jupiter lies to the left of the Moon, with the stars Castor and Pollux (the heavenly twins in the constellation of Gemini) above. On **27 February**, you'll find the Moon below Castor and Pollux, with Jupiter to the right.



Using Orion's belt as a signpost to Sirius and Aldebaran

This is a good month to see the bright constellation of Orion in the south. His two brightest stars, Betelgeuse and Rigel, really stand out. Between them are the three stars that make up Orion's belt. The belt stars can be used to find Aldebaran (the brightest star in Taurus, the Bull) and Sirius, as shown in the accompanying diagram. Sirius, also known as the Dog Star (as it is in Canis Major, the Big Dog) is the brightest star in the night sky.

The diagram also points out Orion's sword — a fuzzy patch of gas below his belt, best seen through binoculars. The constellation of Taurus is also home to the pretty star cluster, the Pleiades — also shown in the diagram.

Finally, get your binoculars out on **28 February**. The Beehive star cluster is immediately below the Moon. This will be a lovely sight.

Clear skies!

*Bunbury Stargazer*

Rev Tim found himself having fun under Aurora skies by the church



# Bunbury Medical Practice news

## Training Days for 2026

The practice will be closed from 1:00pm and it will reopen the following working day at 8:00am on the following dates:

Tuesday 3 February  
Wednesday 11 March  
Tuesday 21 April  
Tuesday 12 May  
Wednesday 10 June  
Thursday 9 July  
No closure in August  
Wednesday 9 September  
Thursday 8 October  
Wednesday 11 November  
No closure in December

All training days for 2026 can be seen on our website.

## Dispensary News

There will be no price change in prescription charges for 2026; the NHS prescription charge is currently £9.90 per item. If you regularly pay for NHS prescriptions, you could save money by paying for them in advance. A standard Prescription Prepayment Certificate (PPC) lets you get as many NHS prescriptions as you need at a set price for three or twelve months.

All types of PPCs can be purchased from: NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) website:  
[www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/ppc](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/ppc)

## Appointments system

In the December issue, we mentioned that we would be making changes to our appointment system in the New Year. At the point of writing, we have no further update but would remind patients that the changes will appear via the waiting room information screen, recorded telephone messages when you call the surgery and on our website and social media platforms.

We will provide more information in The Link when we have it.

## Men's health information session

In mid-January, we held an information session for Bunbury patients who are members of our farming community; attendance was by open invite.

This informal get-together was a chance to learn more about common health issues which can affect men (particularly those working in agriculture) whilst providing the opportunity to have an optional health check.

This was our first such dedicated health information session and we are hoping to organise future events for other specific demographic groups.

# INSPIRE returns to Bunbury



**INSPIRE 26** will be an art show that will use St Boniface church as its exhibition space. This year's event follows the very successful INSPIRE 2022 which some of the readers will remember. There will be art, paintings, ceramics, textiles, woodwork and jewellery for sale. It will also feature flower installations inside and outside the church.

New to the show will be a temporary garden of vegetables and flowers grown in pots and garden artefacts, built around the church on its northern side. Inside the church we will be using locally grown flowers for the arrangements: as June is the month of the rose, weather permitting, we are hoping roses will be available for use. We want as many local people as possible to be involved: anyone who enjoys growing can plant either flowers or vegetables in pots to be incorporated into the outdoor garden. As a team we are trying to be as sustainable as possible, so we are asking contributors to use recycled pots and make sure nothing is too heavy as the exhibition will be dismantled. There will also be a café.

If anyone would like to help in any way please contact Elaine Crotty on 01829 260648 and leave a message. We look forward to hearing from you. There will be a meeting for anyone interested in doing the flower arrangements on Wednesday 11 February at 7:00pm in St Boniface.



## "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.*

### Take Vitamin D

Vitamin D is the only food supplement that Dr Mosley generally recommended that people take. His rationale was that in the winter in the UK there is just not enough sunlight for most people to generate sufficient Vitamin D in the skin, and it is hard to get enough through diet alone.

Darker-skinned people produce less Vitamin D with the same sunlight exposure, and older people get poorer at producing it too; it is estimated that over half of older people and darker-skinned people in the UK are deficient.

Vitamin D was discovered in the 1920s and quickly linked to bone health; rickets (osteomalacia in adults) was then common, but became easily prevented by supplementation. But it is now known that there are Vitamin D receptors in nearly every cell in the body and adequate levels will boost the immune system, making it less likely that people will catch colds, more likely to get over them quicker, and less likely to develop chronic inflammation after any infection.

Perhaps the most exciting new research shows that Vitamin D can also help maintain brain health; a meta-analysis of 40 studies showed a strong link with decreased depressive

symptoms. But it may also protect against dementia: Professor David Llewellyn from Exeter University says that a large population-based study in the U.S. showed a 50% increased risk of dementia in those who were deficient in Vitamin D, and a 125% increase if severely deficient. The mechanisms are complex, but it is known to help break down and remove the clumps of amyloid protein that are present in Alzheimer's, and it may also protect the blood supply to the brain, thus combating vascular dementia. And in May 2025 the Harvard Gazette reported that Vitamin D seems to slow biological ageing, and protect against many of the characteristic diseases of ageing.

So how much should we be taking? It is thought that the dose of Vitamin D present in most multivitamin supplements (400 iu) is sufficient for most people, though it is possible to take up to ten times this amount and still be within normal ranges of what the skin can produce in optimal sunlight conditions. As ever, if you think you are at high risk of developing dementia you should speak to your GP, but otherwise taking this supplement is one of the easiest changes you can make to boost your health, especially during the dark days of winter.

**Liv Weller**

### In November and December we ran our first Bereavement Journey course (TBJ) at St Boniface.

Nine people attended, from within and outside the parish and church community; ages ranged from 35 to 78 and included both women and men with a huge range of bereavement experiences.

The course is seven weeks long, each session lasts two hours and 15 minutes, and is highly structured. Each session consists of two films about the theory and experience of loss and grief, followed by small group discussion, led by two or three facilitators. The group is closed after week one, so that confidentiality can be maintained and group trust can develop.

The course is open to any adult bereaved of any person at any time, though very recent deaths may be too raw to manage in a group; it is certainly recommended that the funeral has taken place. Many of the bereavements are much older than this. The only overtly Christian content is in the final session, which is optional, so it is suitable for people of all faiths and none.

There is a small charge of £20 per person for the whole course, which encourages attendance when it's hard, and



also covers the cost of the personal handbook for each attendee. To book please go to <https://www.stbonifacebunbury.org/event-list>, or for more information email [TBJ@stbonifacebunbury.org.uk](mailto:TBJ@stbonifacebunbury.org.uk).

This is some of the feedback from previous course participants:

"The small size of the group greatly helped being open and not overwhelmed."

"This has been a valuable opportunity to share about our loss with others who understand that loss. I have felt humbled by, and in awe of, their bravery and strength. A beautiful, safe, comfortable and inspiring environment in which to be able to do that."

# Poppy Appeal 2025

## *The people of Bunbury remember*

On behalf of the members of the Bunbury Branch of The Royal British Legion, I would like to take the opportunity to once again thank the residents and businesses of Bunbury and surroundings, for their continued generosity and support during the 2025 Poppy Appeal.

As a village, we donated a grand total of £4,821.05, a further increase on last year. This included a door-to-door collection (many apologies if we didn't catch you in and grateful thanks to those who helped to collect!), static boxes in various businesses and pubs in and around the village, and the church collection on Remembrance Sunday.

Donations collected via the QR codes now available on boxes continues to increase, with over £400 collected via this method. But, for now at least, cash is still king!

The total also included several independent donations and the money raised through the sale of Poppy Wreaths for various groups and societies in the village. The wreaths were laid at the War Memorial on the Church gates on Remembrance Sunday. Thanks also to the pupils and staff of Bunbury School who also gave generously.

Many thanks must go to Andy Fairclough, Bunbury Scouting Leader, and Scouts Sam, William, George and

James, who collected an amazing £271.99 outside Bunbury Co-op on the Saturday morning before Remembrance Sunday. Refreshments were generously provided to the Scouts by the Co-op and The Village Chippy kindly served up some very welcome free chips!

The total amount collected has been sent to the National HQ of the RBL and will help to provide important and life-changing support for individuals and families in our Armed Forces Community.

Thank you all once again for your invaluable support.

*Mairi Harris*



## RAF Calveley

RAF Calveley, Wardle Airfield as it is known locally, is now an Industrial Estate. The new memorial at the entrance to the estate is beautifully designed and was commissioned by Philip Posnett as a memorial to the men who gave their lives serving there. It may look slightly odd from ground level but from above it shows the layout of the runways.

It was authorised as one of the 300 wartime airfields in December 1940. It eventually became a fighter base to defend Liverpool and Manchester. Not completed until 1941 with its concrete runways it was too late for the Liverpool blitz, but did help fend off later attacks. In 1942 it became a fighter training base and was passed to 21 Group Flying Training Command. (*continues on page 11*)



# Gardener's diary for February

While looking for inspiration for gardening in February, I looked into a very old edition of the Gardening Year 1974 and discovered — nothing! Apparently nothing happens in January or February. Funny, I thought, something happens in the garden all year round, so here goes.

**Cyclamen coum** (photo below) makes for a stunning display from February onwards. There are a range of colours from dark pink to white and, given time, will spread



into a fine display by self seeding. Unless you venture out into your patch you will not know what is going on. My cyclamen are planted in a shady corner under trees and last from January until March. **Cyclamen hederifolium** are autumn flowering and give a great

display in similar colours.

A little known fact about cyclamen is that they are germinated by the activity of ants. The outer coating of the seed is a soft membrane and the ants eat that off and push the seed into the ground. Without this activity they would not self seed.

**Primroses** and **polyanthus** give a colourful display in both borders and pots later on in the year. I have a few polyanthus out at the moment and they will last until early spring. I keep mine all year. However, many people treat them as an annual and plant new ones every year.

I get great pleasure from seeing the swelling buds of **camelias**, which will flower in a few weeks. Who says there is nothing to look forward to in the garden this time of year?

**Keith**

## RAF Calveley (continues)

During its operations it unfortunately lost some 27 men, commemorated by name on the memorial. They came not only from Britain but also the Commonwealth and one man from Belgium. One plaque also lists the Squadrons involved flying from Calveley.

It ceased flying on the 21 May 1945. In its 42 months it had trained hundreds of pilots but, no longer required, it was to be returned to agricultural use. A Spitfire in distress did an emergency landing on it in 1954, the last known use of the runways which were still there.

Calveley got its own hangars and control tower and also defensive pillboxes which were still there until a very few years ago. We were always anxious about the German Airborne arriving.

I was told that it was also a diversion airfield for the women of the Air Transport Auxiliary who single handed flew bombers and fighters for delivery to operational units. It must have been a very lonely task. We often forget the work of the many young women who undertook work to help win the war. To become an ATA pilot the women had to be able to drive a car or ride a horse. They also had to be over 5ft 4ins tall — though they were allowed to stand on tiptoe!

For more information on Cheshire's wartime airfields see Aldon Ferguson's book, "Cheshire Airfields in the Second World War" ISBN 978 1 85306 927 7. It is still available in the Bookshop in Nantwich.

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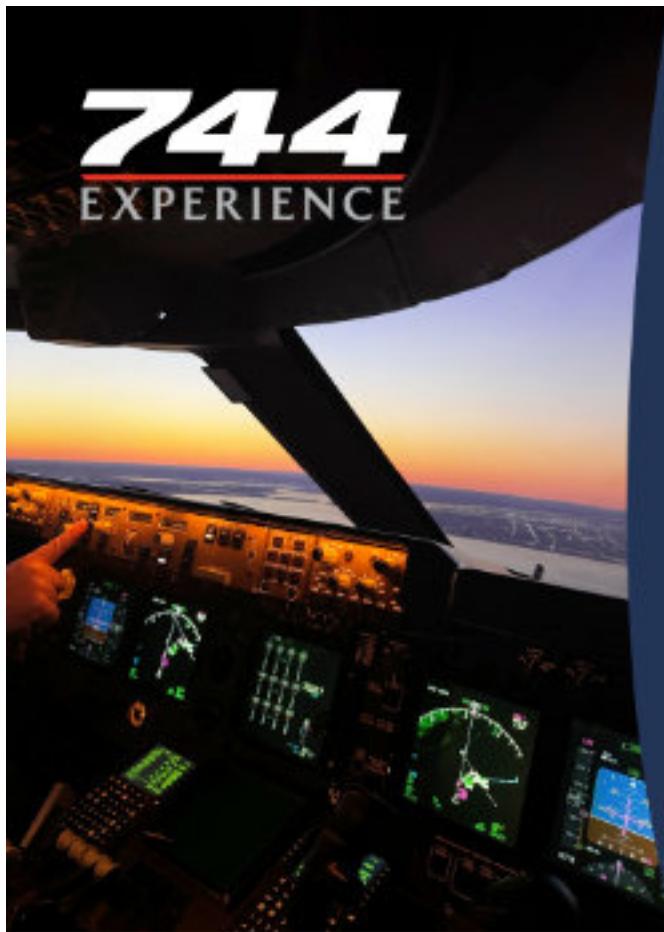
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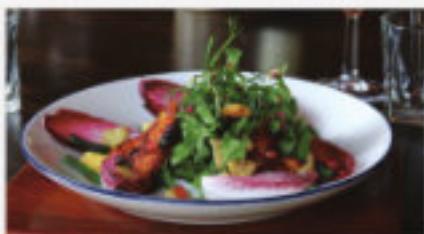
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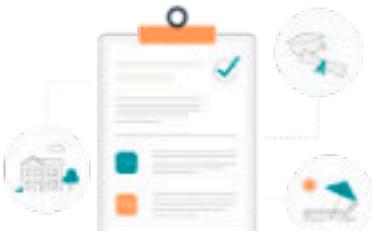


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