

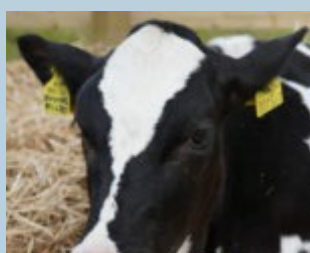
Link

December 2019 and January 2020

The hinge of history is on the door of a Bethlehem stable

Ralph W. Stockman

Also in this issue...



A farmer's view on the Beeston market collapse

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A day in the life of benefits adviser Jill Robey

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Parts 3 & 4 – secret history revealed


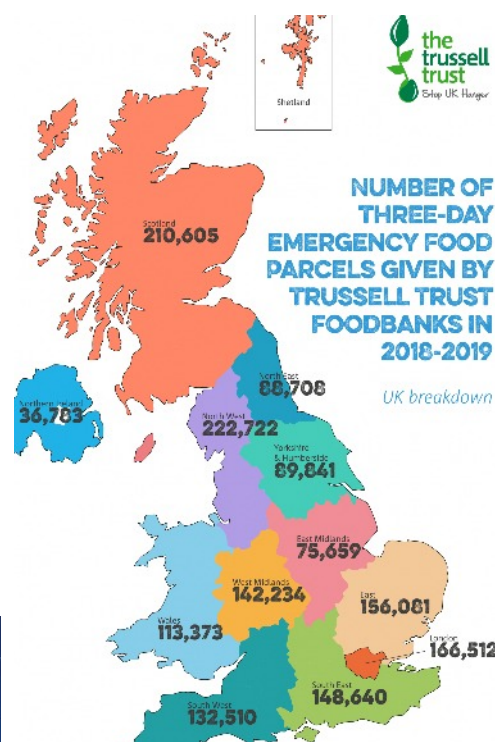
8–9

A magazine for the parishes of Bunbury and Tilstone Fearnall

North West foodbanks busiest in the UK

Every day people in the UK go hungry. Reasons range from redundancy to receiving an unexpected bill on a low income. A simple box of food makes a big difference, helping prevent crime, housing loss, family breakdown and mental health problems.

Can you add a few extras to your food order for the foodbank this Christmas?



Christmas Services			
St Boniface			
1 st December	4pm	Christingle	
15 th December	10am	Sunday Brunch & DIY Nativity	
22 nd December	6:30pm	Carol Service	
24 th December	4pm	Crib Service & 11:30pm Midnight Mass	
25 th December	10:30am	Christmas Family Communion	
Calveley Hall Chapel			
1 st December	11am	Advent Holy Communion	
15 th December	11am	Nine Lessons and Carols	
24 th December	7:30pm	Christmas Communion	
St Jude's			
1 st December	9:30am	Christingle Service	
15 th December	4:00pm	Carol Service	
25 th December	9:30am	Christmas Communion	



"The volunteers at the foodbank were so lovely – they listened to me and made me feel human again. It was the first place I didn't feel judged."

Continued on page 6

Who we are

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The Link

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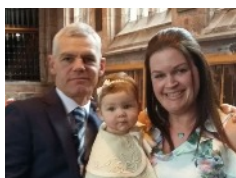
Community news

Congratulations to **Alexander Brian Clarke**, son of **Lisa** and **Graham**, christened at St Boniface on Sunday 20 October,



Ottillie Iris Tudor Cullinan, daughter of **Kyra** and **Philip**, christened at St Boniface on Sunday 10 November, and

Grace Annabelle Riley, daughter of **Kelly** and **Warren**, christened at St Boniface on Sunday 17 November.



Congratulations to **Mike** and **Carole Ridley** (below) on the celebration of their golden wedding anniversary.



Congratulations also to **Dennis** and **Joan Burrows** (right) on 60 years of married life.



St Luke's Hospice

will be collecting real Christmas trees for a donation and responsibly recycling them to raise funds for the hospice (see ad on p7). You can register your tree between 1 December and 7 January. Volunteers will collect after twelfth night. The link is www.charityxmastreecollection.com

The **St Boniface Christmas choir** will once again take part in the **Carol Service** on Sunday 22 December at 6.30pm. Rehearsals will be 10am–12pm on 7, 14, 21 December in church. Music will be provided. All are welcome to join!

There is a **collection of jackets, jumpers and hoodies** which have been left in St Boniface after various events. If you think something might be yours, please claim it by 10 December or they will be donated to charity.

As the pavilion will be used as a polling station on 12 December, the **Bunbury WI** monthly meeting will be at the Lockgate Café Beeston at 7.30pm. Visitors are welcome. A fee of £6 will be made on this occasion, including refreshments and a quiz. In January members will enjoy a festive lunch at the Tollemache Arms in Alpraham. Contact Sue Watson 01829 260642 or the Facebook page.

Many thanks to **Martin Cook** for delivering the Link in Darkie Meadow for several years and to **Alex Sanders**, who has agreed to take over his route.

Win Bond did Sober October this year raising £1,190 for Tarporley War Memorial Hospital and St Luke's Hospice. She thanks everyone who sponsored her.

It was exciting to see **Matt Baker** and his team of young people ride through Bunbury. A group in School made noise with lids and spoons and Matt and his team seemed amused by it. Well done to an amazing effort from the **Children In Need** team. The youngsters' stories were very moving.



A word from the editor

We need your help.

As part of the parish 700 celebrations we are asking people who enjoy knitting to knit poppies for the Remembrance part of the Flower Festival that will be held

17–19 July. We will provide a pattern and wool.

For the flower festival we are also looking for: Drain pipes and guttering, coloured glass bottles, beer bottle tops, plastic carrier bags of different colours, 2 litre plastic bottles, fruit and vegetable netting, corks and lastly black buttons for the poppies. Please contact Elaine Crotty on 260648 if you can help with either.

The 700 committee would like to thank Tony Greco for creating the logo for our celebrations. Preparations are moving quickly and the committee hopes that you will put the events in your diary.

The final instalment of the story of Malvina's family history is on p8-9. If you would like to re-read the entire story, the previous instalments are available on the church website (September and November editions).

I would like to thank all those people who deliver the Link each month and continue to do so.

Finally the editorial team would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Link this year and wish all our readers a Happy Christmas and peaceful new year.



TIM HAYWARD

Your Vicar

Christmas is for everyone, especially our farmers!

As we come towards the end of 2019 we couldn't have had a more different year weather-wise than 2018. Summer started gloriously early in 2018 with little rainfall for a good three to four months causing a national drought – poles apart from this year's nonstop rain of the last three to four months causing widespread flooding.

Spare a thought for our farmers and how challenging it has been for them. It's been impossible to get the crops into the waterlogged fields this autumn and so the cost of the spring seed is going through the roof.

But 2019 hasn't just been a challenge for farmers on the weather front. The closure of Beeston Market in June has had a profound effect. For many of our local farmers, the Wednesday auction at Beeston was the one fixed point in the diary when they could down tools and catch up with friends over chips in the cafe. When you're working most of your days in isolation, it's important to meet up with others in the same boat to swap stories and build a network of support. To have that network and the opportunity to meet once a week taken away overnight,

it's bound to have had a negative effect on farmers welfare and mental health.

I know there is now a weekly meet arranged by the Agricultural Chaplaincy Team at Rose Farm Cafe to fill the void, and we wish Jaana (formerly of Tilly's) every success with taking this new venture on.

So this Christmas as we celebrate the birth of Jesus in a barn surrounded by the animals, let's take the message of God's love to our local farmers. Remember it was the farmers who were at the forefront of the good news that very first Christmas. Just as God showed us how much he longs to be with us, let's find ways to demonstrate neighbourliness to our farmers. And in return we would do well to listen and learn from our farmers too, especially giving thanks for their respect for the environment, their dedication and commitment to making the most of what they've been given, and their resilience when times inevitably get tough.

And finally, perhaps, let's pray that after a White Christmas (for the children!), 2020 sees a return to more predictable seasonal weather patterns.



Bunbury festivities at a glance

7 Dec	7.30pm	Decibellas Christmas concert (p6)
7 Dec	7.30pm	Easy Peelers Christmas party (p10)
14 Dec	10am–2.30pm	Bunbury Christmas fair (p4)
14 Dec	3.00pm	Belle Voci concert (p5)
14 Dec	6.30pm	Christmas Bingo (p6)
14 Dec	7.30pm	Bunbury Singers concert (p4)

The copy deadline for the February issue of the Link is Friday 17 January. The magazine should be in church on Saturday 1 February. Notices to bunburyparishoffice@gmail.com



Wanted

Old photographs, articles or other information regarding

CALVELEY CHAPEL
CALVELEY HALL
CALVELEY PARISH

A REWARD of 10,000 THANKS offered!

If found contact Churchwarden immediately
dmaxkendrick@outlook.com

WARNING: collecting historical data can be highly addictive!

Bunbury Mill news

The 2019 summer season has finished - over 2500 visitors coming to our Victorian watermill. Sunday afternoons have been popular, and we've run a highly successful series of school visits (from reception class up to Year 5, and including Special Needs pupils), as well as visits from groups.

Work with schools in particular is seriously hampered by lack of space in the visitor centre, so we are submitting a planning application for a modest extension, which will improve the experience we can give the schools.

Part of the Trust's remit is to locate and preserve historical information about Bunbury Mill. There

must still exist old photographs, newspaper cuttings, publicity leaflets, and notices about the mill and the people involved with it. If you have any material that might be of interest please contact us at peter.robinson@bunburymill.com or phone 01829 260641.

Father Christmas will be making his annual visit to Bunbury Mill on Sunday 8th December. If you'd like to meet him, contact judy.gray@bunburymill.com

If you are not already a Friend of Bunbury Mill, the minimum subscription of £5 gives you free entry for a year - go to www.bunburymill.com for details.

Bunbury Singers Christmas Concert

Carols and Festive Music

Special guests
The Sovereign Saxophone Octet

Tarporley Baptist & Methodist Chapel

Saturday 14th December

7.30pm

Tickets £8
With seasonal refreshments

Available from:
Tilly's Coffee Shop, Bunbury
Fire Station Chocolate Shop
Swaffields, Tarporley
Or on the door

In aid of and proudly
supporting
Tarporley War Memorial
Hospital



A wide variety of stalls, with
refreshments kindly provided
by St Boniface Church

Saturday 14th December

@ The village hall

Doors open 10am - 2.30pm

Free entry



Down the lane

What a contrast to last year for local farmers!

All the cattle are housed as the ground is so wet, unlike last year when they were still all out in near perfect conditions.

We started this year with a brilliant spell of weather in February, the ponds still less than full. I was wondering if we were going to get another drought, but no it rained, and it was a fantastic season for growing grass, which didn't stop all summer. It all came to an abrupt end, due to all the rain we had to house the cows in the last week of September, marking a very early start to winter on the farm, with the daily round of feeding, cleaning out and bedding. The ponds were all full to overflowing by then.

When I last wrote the cows were under TB restrictions as we had two 'reactors', fortunately after culling these, we passed two whole herd skin tests and have now been declared clear again, but are subject to a six-month test. The skin test has its faults as an individual cow test, but repeated twice at a herd level it's a very good test, used worldwide.

Beeston market collapse

The collapse into administration of Beeston Market was a major blow for local farmers and all the people who worked there. Most weeks hundreds of cattle and over a thousand sheep would be sold there. Farming can be a lonely, isolated job and the market provided a meeting place for many farmers and was a central part of peoples' lives. The furniture and machinery sales held there were also a great outlet where almost anything could be sold if you were having a good clear out. I never imagined it would disappear completely, especially so suddenly. We were unable to sell anything due to TB restrictions so suffered no loss, unlike many others, who have lost large amounts of money. We are all waiting to see what will happen to the site now.

I commented last time how few swallows arrived this year, but they seem to have a very good breeding season as by the end of summer there were lots darting around the buildings and feeding over the pastures. We will see how many make it back next year. My obsession with swallows has been noted resulting in being given a

travel book for holiday reading. The book entitled, 'A Single Swallow' follows their return migration, quite an interesting read, but not the best book ever.

Driving back from the village in the beautiful sunshine on Remembrance Sunday I was struck by how beautiful Bunbury and the Cheshire countryside looked with the amazing autumn colours that have appeared over the last week. One of those rare moments when I actually realise how privileged I am to live here, most of the time I have to confess I walk around just not seeing all the wonders around me.



CHRISTMAS
WITH
BELLE VOCI

FEATURING SPECIAL GUESTS:
BUNBURY ALDERSEY SCHOOL CHOIR

SATURDAY 14 DECEMBER 2019

ST BONIFACE CHURCH BUNBURY

TIME: 19:30 // TICKETS: £12.00

AVAILABLE: LITTLE TAP, TARPORLEY // ST BONIFACE CHURCH // bellevoci.co.uk

BELLE VOCI
BUNBURY ALDERSEY SCHOOL CHOIR

bellevoci.co.uk [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [@bellevociopera](#)

Foodbanks

"The foodbank was there when we really needed it; it was an absolute lifeline."

It's hard to imagine that people are going short of food right here in Cheshire - but it's true. There is a network of food banks covering this county, where volunteers hand out emergency food parcels. Our nearest foodbank is in Nantwich. Foodbank clients are identified and referred by various agencies including Citizens Advice, children's centres, doctors and health visitors, social workers and the police. People in crisis are issued with a voucher for use at their local foodbank. The voucher is redeemed for three days' emergency food. At the foodbank volunteers meet clients over a warm drink and biscuits and signpost people to agencies able to solve the longer-term problem. Support and advice is offered while the food parcel, tailored to the client's or family's needs, is being packed.

The scheme works very well, but it relies on food donations from the general public. That's where we come in. There are collection boxes for food donations in the porch at St Boniface church. The church is open every day during daylight hours,

and the food donations are taken to Nantwich each week.

Food currently needed includes:

Instant coffee
Long-life milk
Long-life fruit juice
Tinned cold meats
Rice pudding/sponge puddings
Tinned tomatoes
Jam.

Washing powder, shampoo and deodorant are also needed. (A full list of items needed is displayed in the church porch.) If you could buy just one extra item when you are shopping and donate it to the foodbank, it will make a difference to

someone in crisis.
www.nantwich.foodbank.org.uk
financial donations via
www.trusselltrust.org



For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me...
Matthew Ch 25, vv 35

Decibellas
Women's Choir

It's Beginning to look like Christmas!



Saturday December 7th 2019 at 7.30pm
St Boniface Church Bunbury

Tickets £10 adults and £5 children from Old Fire Station
Chocolate Shop Tarporley, Tilly's Bunbury,
via www.decibellas.co.uk or email decibellas@gmail.com

Raising funds and building awareness for DKMS and Bunbury's Peter McCleave for his #10000donors appeal

BUNBURY BOWLING CLUB



CHRISTMAS

BINGO

BUNBURY PAVILION
SATURDAY 14th DECEMBER 2019

DOORS OPEN 6.30 PM
EYES DOWN 7.00 PM

Super Prizes

Refreshments

Raffle

ALL WELCOME SO DO COME AND SUPPORT US AGAIN

More details from:
Barbara Burrows 01270 524851
Margaret Wilson 01829 732781





A day in the life of...

On my way to St Luke's I call in on a lady whose husband has died, writes benefits advisor **Jill Robey**. She remembers I once accidentally took his mobile phone home thinking it was mine (I returned it before he realised!). At least it helps us remember each other! Modest financial help is available in the abrupt move life has thrown at her, from carer to bereaved wife. We are navigating the harsh world of working age benefits until she can get back on her feet. Universal Credit is now the main benefit if you can't work but aren't pension age. Its implementation has been controversial. It's great to try and simplify the system, but everyone's circumstances are different and I'm not sure it takes account of this.

This lady has family to assist with online claims so financially she'll get organised quickly. Coming to terms with her loss is a more uncertain road. St Luke's have bereavement groups that meet, guided by counsellors, or one to one counselling.

When I started at St Luke's the website said the Hospice is "where people can find a safe refuge on a difficult journey". It still says that, even though in 7 years we have been through considerable change. My job 3.5 days a week is to help identify benefits and grants people can claim when they are faced with life-limiting illness, then support them through the application process. With a life-limiting illness money can be a major worry. I

... a St Luke's Hospice Benefits Advisor

spend the other 1.5 days of the week at Citizens Advice running the Crewe drop in. I take the experience I get in Crewe with appeals, Universal Credit and accessing Food banks and debt advice back to the Hospice. Some seriously ill Hospice patients need this information.

I meet a lady whose world changed with her cancer diagnosis. She left the job and city life she loved to be cared for by family in rural Cheshire. We fill in a Personal Independence Payment form. She survived surgery and treatment but life will never be the same. She comes to St Luke's for therapies. People think of hospices as places where people die. They are so much more than this. More people now survive cancer but the after effects of disease and treatment are hard. The Hospice has initiatives to help.

I chat briefly to a man whose wife is a very ill inpatient and later I'll ring Crewe job centre for them. I reflect that they are very young.

At my desk I get though to a benefits agency who had written to a Motor Neurone Disease patient requiring an accidental overpayment to be repaid. I explain the

hardship this would cause. They agree not to pursue the matter.

Later I'm out visiting a couple in their late eighties - more forms. The wife worries about what they'll spend the money on - not normally a problem. She's just told me it's exhausting caring for her husband, but with a cleaner she worries she might not have enough to do. They have never had much but have never been in debt either. We can learn from such people. They need to take documents to their local library to support their claim for council tax reduction, but one has poor mobility and the daily bus service doesn't allow time to get across there. I photograph their stuff on my tablet and plan to talk it through with a decision maker. It might help if the husband came for St. Luke's day care.

As the founder of hospices Cicely Saunders said, "You matter because you are you, and you matter to the end of your life. We will do all we can not only to help you die peacefully, but also to live until you die." It's amazing to work in an organisation with this ethos.

Bunbury gardening club programme 2020

Jan-19	Quiz and fizz
Feb-19	"The story of the humble snowdrop" by Steve Halliwell
Mar 17	"Around the year with clematis" by Ron Kirkman, followed by cheese and wine BYOW
Apr 21	"Birds, Bees & Broad Beans" by Malcolm Mollart
May 19	Visit to Brooklands, Mouldsworth - Brian & Barbara Russell-Moore
June 16	Visit to Briarfield, Burton - Liz Carter
July 21	Visit to Parm Place, Gt Budworth - Peter & Jane Fairclough
Aug 18	Visit to Sunnyside Farm, Little Budworth - Mike & Joan Smeeth
Sept 5	Annual Show at The Village Hall
Oct 20	"Good plants for difficult places" by Anne Harrison
Nov 17	AGM and Hot Pot Supper BYOW
Indoor meetings 7.30pm, outside visits 6.30pm at the property.	

St Luke's Hospice

Christmas Tree Collection 2020

We will collect and recycle your Christmas tree to raise money for St Luke's Hospice!

Now in its 8th year!

www.charityxmastreecollection.com

In conjunction with **JUST-HELPING**

Kindly sponsored by **REDROW** HOMES

Our secret history:

Part three...



Ten years after my mother's death my father was about to remarry. He came to stay with us for a few days and brought with him a tin box containing Malvina's papers and documents. Before I could open it he told me that there was a family secret which he now felt able to tell me. My mother had been born a Jew, the orphanage she had grown up in was for Jewish children.

My sister and I were devastated, to think she had never trusted us with her secret but had hidden it from us for all those years. Dad said it was her secret to keep, she was terrified of repercussions if her parentage became known.

We decided to visit Rosl. She agreed to see us and give us more information. However, she would only see us alone without her husband or grown up children present. This we discovered was because, like us, they never knew of her true background. They had been told that the orphanage was a "boarding school" where the girls had met.

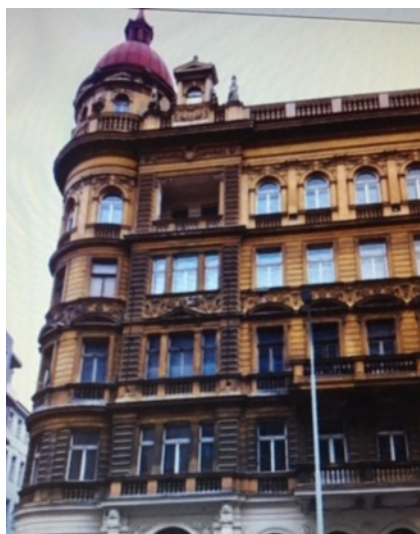
The first thing I found when I opened Malvina's tin was a certificate from St Leonard's church in Upminster

where, on 7 June 1942, she had been baptised into the Church of England. Perhaps this was why her true parentage had remained hidden all those years.

Her visa documenting her journey to the United Kingdom was there with the German stamps confirming the dates of her journey. Photographs of her parents and several letters from them sent via Milan and Portugal which had been opened and censored by the Germans. It appeared from subsequent poignant letters that Malvina's replies to them were not all received.

We could not understand why Malvina had been brought up in an orphanage as the letters seemed to be so loving and caring.

We thought this would be the end of our story. However, 16 years later events took an unexpected turn and once again we were to uncover so much more.



**Otto and Rosa's apartment
in Wenceslas Square**

... and part four

My daughter Natalie and her husband Mark were invited by friends to visit Prague for the Christmas markets. She thought this would be a good opportunity to try to discover a little more about Malvina's parents, her great grandparents. She contacted a company of genealogists called "Pathfinders". The only details we had were their names: Otto and Rosa Russ and their dates of birth. Pathfinders agreed to carry out some preliminary searches and to meet them at their hotel with any information they managed to find.

What they did find went beyond astonishing.

Otto Russ had been born in Kladno, 16 miles north west of Prague in 1892. His mother's name was Malvine. She was a needle woman. Was Malvina named after her?

Ruzena Shechickova, her maiden name, was born in 1891 in Hernik, a village east of Prague.

One theory we had entertained which could explain why Malvina had been brought up in the orphanage was that her parents may not have been married. However, their marriage certificate had been found. They married on 26 May 1918 in Vienna. Between the time of their marriage and 1939 they had moved 23 times. We will never know why but Otto was listed as a Merchant. The Nazis had issued a decree excluding all Jews from economic life and they were forced to register their assets. There was a dawn to dusk curfew. Their radios and driving licences were confiscated and they were forced to wear the Yellow Star of St David.

Adolph Eichmann arrived in Prague in the summer of 1939. He ordered the expulsion of 70,000 Jews. The Nazis

The truth unfolds

began seizing homes and businesses of Jewish families. They were then transported to old tenement buildings in an area of the Theresenstadt Ghetto. Otto and Rosa were amongst them.

Pathfinders took Natalie and Mark to a beautiful building in Wenceslas Square where Otto and Rosa had been living in an apartment until their transportation to the Ghetto. It was just around the corner from the textile company where Malvina was employed. She must have known this as we have a photograph of her with her father but why did she still live in the orphanage?

Pathfinders uncovered records which showed Rosa was arrested on 10 August 1942. She was transported on Train Da402 on 20 August to Riga in Latvia. Her prisoner number was 960. The prisoners were taken off the train in the forest and shot in front of ready dug graves. Rosa was 51 years old. The details were found in the Central Database of Shoah victims. Natalie was given a copy of her death certificate. She and Mark were taken to the Pinkas Synagogue

where on the walls the names of 78,000 holocaust victims are recorded.

Amazingly they found Rosa's name. However, they could not find any record of Otto.

Pathfinders agreed to continue the search for Otto after Natalie and Mark had returned home. Several months later they contacted us with more news.

Otto had been arrested and sent to Auschwitz. He was murdered there on 5 June 1942. Rosa would not have known of his death, which was three months before hers. The Auschwitz Museum sent us a copy of Otto's death certificate.

Natalie contacted the Jewish Museum in Prague and sent them a copy of Otto's death certificate. We have been told his name will now be added to the wall of Pinkas Synagogue.

Malvina left her past in Prague and never knew the fate of her parents. It was amazing that with the help of Pathfinders we had learnt so much and

we owe them a huge debt of gratitude for their hard work.

There was yet another shock in store for us. Pathfinders contacted me out of the blue last year. They had discovered that Rosa had given birth to a daughter. Her name was Edith. She had been born in Pilsen 18 months before Malvina.

Pathfinders passed the information to the Red Cross who took on the search for Edith. But the trail ran cold. They could find no trace of her. No marriage certificate, no certificate of death. So what did become of her? Malvina never knew she had a sister and we will never know if there any relatives still alive in Czechoslovakia.

On Mother's Day Natalie presented me with a book in which she had written about our history. The inscription on the back cover says it all.

"We have now uncovered the past and we are able to pass on this incredible story to future generations of our family so that it will never be forgotten".



Rosa pictured with her father



Rosa's name among the victims listed on the wall at Pinkas Synagogue



Rosa with her mother in the orphanage

Honouring the fallen



The weather was kind and the skies were blue for this year's Remembrance Sunday. The day started when some of the Uniformed organisations ascended the church tower to raise the flag at sunrise, thanks to David Riley (Tower Captain). It was lovely to see so many youngsters on parade this year with members of the Royal British Legion, especially the new Rainbows section (our youngest ever group) expertly marshalled by Duncan MacKenzie. Before the act of remembrance in church, Amanda Harris spoke powerfully about PTSD and its devastating effect, having lost her brother earlier this year.

During the service special mention was made of the 75th anniversary of D-Day and Bill Corn, our very own D-Day Veteran. Sadly, due to ill health Bill was unable to attend the service, but he watched the parade and laying of wreaths from his front window.

During the laying of wreaths, we didn't just remember the fallen from the two World Wars, but we also remembered those who we have lost loved ones in recent conflicts too.



Wreath laying

Julia Ray laid a wreath in Jerusalem in honour of Pte. C.E. Griffiths of Peckforton whose centennial memorial service was held at St Boniface last year and who was killed in action in Palestine in 1918. A wreath was also laid at our service in his honour.



From the bookshelf of Margi Nalia

This month: a lucky dip of choices!

Here is a selection from my 2019 bookshelf – take your pick, you may find a real gem.

The Offing by Benjamin Myers

Set over a summer in the aftermath of the second world war, the book follows 16-year-old Robert Appleyard son of a Durham coal miner who sets off on a journey whose only aim was transience. He encounters the elderly, eccentric Dulcie Piper who lives in a ramshackle cottage by the sea and they form an unlikely friendship that will profoundly alter their futures. Written in the lyrical style of a poet with a deep love of the natural world, this tale is a pleasure to read.

On Chapel Sands by Laura Cummings

In 1929 Laura Cumming's mother Betty, aged three, was kidnapped from a beach in Lincolnshire. Betty is found safe, in a house 12 miles inland. Until Veda and George adopted her, just a few weeks previously, Betty had been called Grace. Cumming's mother (now in her early 90s) has no memory of her first three years and didn't learn about the kidnapping for half a century. The circumstances that led to her being snatched were shrouded in secrets and lies. This is a fascinating book where the real story isn't how Betty was taken from Chapel Sands, but what was taken from her.

The Brimstone Wedding by Barbara Vine

Jenny is a carer for Stella, a gracious, dignified woman who is dying. Although dissimilar in terms of age, class and wealth a friendship develops and they discover what they have in common is unhappy marriages, unsatisfactory lovers, and a remote house which hides some strange secrets. As Stella begins to reveal details of her love affair that

came to an abrupt end 30 years ago we discover the terrible secret that has over-shadowed her life. The Brimstone Wedding is a masterful mystery. As with all Barbara Vine books the story is told from the perspective of the perpetrator of the crime, but you will have to read to the end to find out just what crime has been committed.

Cloud Street by Tim Winton

A chronicle of the lives of two working-class families, the Pickles and the Lambs, who come to live together in a large house called Cloudstreet in Perth, Australia. The two families could not be more different. The devoutly religious Lambs find meaning in hard work and God's grace, while the Pickles hope for good luck and don't share the Lambs' appetite for hard work. What they have in common is their flight from their poor rural homes and separate personal tragedies. The tale follows the shared experiences of the two clans from 1944 to 1964 and along the way reflects the social changes of this period. This book is bursting with great characters, full of humour and is a richly rewarding read.

Educated by Tara Westover

Tara Westover's memoir is about growing up in a Mormon fundamentalist family in Idaho. The youngest of seven, her father Gene was the prophet of their small family, convinced the world was going to end at the stroke of the millennium. It's a fascinating story about her upbringing, her journey to finding and living her own truth and the personal costs that entails.

Finally, the perfect read for the festive season. A child's Christmas in Wales by Dylan Thomas.

Celia Smyth's recipe for December



Ingredients

½ sheet ready-rolled puff pastry
16 Burrows' pork chipolatas
1 egg yolk, beaten, to glaze
2 tablespoon sesame seeds

Pigs in Puff Pastry Blankets

We all like Pigs in Blankets! In fact in our house on Christmas Day the turkey takes second place to these golden, crunchy wonders!

Whilst not replacing the highlight of the Christmas table, how about trying some of these for a change, either with the main course or as a robust canapé?

Heat your oven to 220C/200C fan/gas 7 and grease a large baking tray.

Unroll the puff pastry into an A4 sheet and cut 16 x 10cm-long strips.

Wrap each chipolata in a strip of pastry, winding it round like a corkscrew.

Place on the baking sheet and chill in the fridge for 15 mins. They can be chilled

overnight or, if you are being super-organised, frozen for up to two weeks.

Mix the egg yolk with 1 teaspoon of water and glaze the top of each pastry spiral.

Sprinkle with the sesame seeds, then bake for 25-30 minutes until the pastry is puffed up and golden, and the sausages are cooked.

Happy Christmas!

Bunbury school news

The children of Bunbury Aldersey primary school have had a busy week since returning from their half term break.

Bunbury School remembers

On Friday 8 November members of the Royal British Legion were welcomed into school for the annual service of remembrance. Our head boy and girl, along with other members of the year 6 class led the service with Reverend Tim.

A number of children read poems which had been written by them and the roll of honour was read by Evie and Christopher.

*Hearts filled with sorrow,
Sons never returning home,
Peace in our souls.*

Lilly-May

*Losing their brothers,
Thinking about their wives,
Wanting to go home.*

Ollie

*Dead - their spirit passed,
The guns ringing in their ears,*

*Families broken.
They shall not return,
Poppies grow for liberty,
We shall remember.*

Oliver

*Where bombs used to blow,
Where soldiers used to battle,
Where poppies now grow.*

*We never forget,
The soldier that risked it all,
For our modern lives.*

Jacob

*The shells exploding,
The conflict is terrible,
The young men will fall.*

*The husbands of wives,
Will never return from war,
The widows will cry.*

*The poppies will grow,
Their memories will stay here,
In our hearts today.*

Edward

Sports for champions

On Monday 11 November Sports for Champions visited school. All pupils took part in a sponsored fitness circuit to raise money for school sports' equipment as well as Team GB athletes. Team GB Gymnast Daniel Purvis worked with the children throughout the event and presented an assembly to tell the children about his sport-life. This was then followed by a gymnastic demonstration which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. After somersaulting over two of our teachers the morning was finished off with a Q & A session.

This was great way to raise funds for school sports' equipment and the Team GB athletes.



Ramblers walking for health

November has seen some of the worst rainfall across the country in recent times, resulting in serious flooding and disruption to many areas. Despite this dreadful weather, the Walking for Health group has been able to continue with its regular Wednesday walks without the need for cancellations. This is due to the excellent network of footpaths in and around Bunbury that have remained usable. The all-weather track that runs around the playing fields has provided a safe and

clean walking route for those who feel that they are unable to tackle the longer walks around the village. The path is suitable for all, including those who rely on walking aids. The introduction of the new bench earlier this year has provided a necessary resting point for those who need to get their breath back.

The group meets every Wednesday at the Methodist church at 10:30am.

For more information contact
Cate Gregory 07803 941599



Church diary for December

Sunday 1 December	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Christingle 10.30am Family Worship 11.00am Holy Communion 4.00pm Christingle	St Boniface St Jude's St Boniface Calveley St Boniface
Wednesday 4 December	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 8 December	9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Family Communion	St Jude's St Boniface
Wednesday 11 December	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 15 December	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Third Sunday brunch & DIY Nativity 11.00am Nine Lessons & Carols 4.00pm Carol Service	St Boniface St Boniface Calveley St Jude's
Wednesday 18 December	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 22 December	9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Family Communion 6.30pm Carol Service	St Jude's St Boniface St Boniface
Christmas Eve	4.00pm Crib Service 7.30pm Christmas Communion 11.30pm Midnight Mass	St Boniface Calveley St Boniface
Christmas Day	9.30am Christmas Communion 10.30am Family Communion	St Jude's St Boniface
Sunday 29 December	10.30am Family Communion with Methodists	St Boniface

Church diary for January

Wednesday 1 January	No services	
Sunday 5 January	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Family Communion & Sunday School 10.30am Family Worship 11.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface St Jude's St Boniface Calveley
Wednesday 8 January	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 12 January	9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Family Communion	St Jude's St Boniface
Wednesday 15 January	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 19 January	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Family Worship 10.00am Third Sunday brunch 11.00am Morning Worship 6.00pm Evensong	St Boniface St Jude's St Boniface Calveley St Boniface
Wednesday 22 January	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 26 January	9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Family Communion	St Jude's St Boniface
Wednesday 29 January	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 2 February	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Family Communion & Sunday School 10.30am Family Worship 11.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface St Jude's St Boniface Calveley

Sky notes for December & January

Magnificent Venus graces our evening skies



The constellation of Orion

The winter night skies are dominated by the constellation of Orion, the Hunter, which lies in the south. Its distinctive shape includes a line of three stars which form Orion's belt. Christmastime this year is a great time for looking at the sky as New Moon occurs on Boxing Day, so the skies will be very dark around that time. There is something appearing in our evening skies that never fails to impress: the planet Venus.

When the Evening Star, as it's sometimes called, graces our skies people often asked "what was that bright light I saw in the west?". This is by far the brightest object after the Moon, appearing as a very bright white star. It is so bright that it can even cast a shadow - on a dark moonless night stand with Venus behind you and look for your shadow on the frosty ground on front of you. Venus is the next planet in from the Earth heading towards the Sun. For this reason, it never strays very far from the Sun in our skies. In December it will be low in the south-west as the Sun sets, itself setting around 6pm. Darkness comes early in December, with the Winter Solstice occurring on December 22 at 4.19 am, when the Sun reaches its lowest point in the heavens, giving us the shortest day and the longest night. As January proceeds, Venus draws further away from the Sun, setting at 7pm at the start of January and 8.30pm at the end. In fact, you will be able to follow Venus apparition in the evening sky though

February and March. Look at the planet though a telescope and you will see that it shows a phase, rather like the Moon. Although Venus looks beautiful (Venus was after all the Roman goddess of beauty and love!), if you were to land on its surface it would be anything but! The reason why it is so bright is that it is covered with highly reflective clouds. But look beneath these clouds and you will find a toxic atmosphere of carbon dioxide and sulphuric acid. Not to mention an atmospheric pressure that would crush you. It's about the same size as the Earth and because it is so unpleasant there, it is sometimes called Earth's evil twin! One other thing to look out for in January: the Quadrantid meteor shower on the night of 3 January. Watch well after midnight (i.e. the small hours of 4 January) when the moon has set and you should see quite a few shooting stars. These are tiny dust particles left behind by an old comet burning up in our atmosphere.

Happy stargazing! Bunbury Stargazer

Parish Council pursuits

Nine councillors and three residents attended the November meeting. The Bonfire & Fireworks event raised over £1000 after expenses, £400 more than last year. This will cover the cost of the village Christmas Tree and Carols Around the Tree on Christmas Eve. Lots of positive comments had been received from residents on the bonfire and excellent quality of the fireworks display. This event brings lots of residents together and attracts visitors from far and wide.

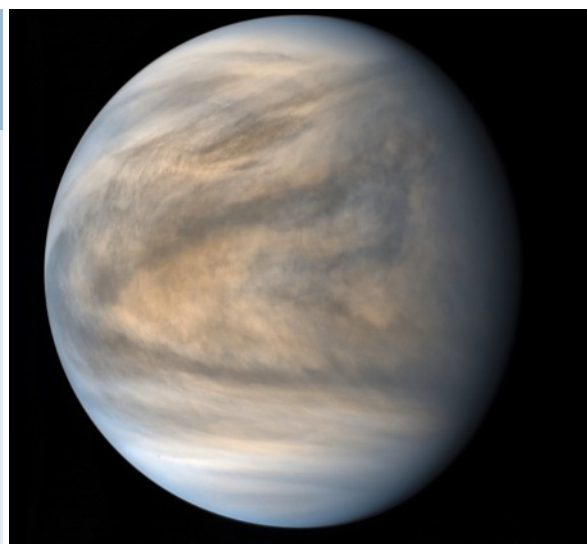
Planning applications and Highways issues were discussed along with Police Surgeries. A list of these can be found on the village website.

We began to review the budget and over the next two meetings will set our budget for the next year.

The Parish Council looks forward to supporting the church in it's 700th year celebrations in 2020.

And so Bunbarians, Christmas is coming, what a wonderful time of the year.

Leila Potter – Local Press Officer



Venus and her thick clouds



The 700 years of St Boniface celebratory events will raise money for three charities: Hope House, St Luke's Hospice and Tarporley War Memorial Hospital. These events will attract significant crowds and fantastic corporate sponsorship opportunities are available (more on that soon). The proceeds from the Beeston fete will go to St Boniface as usual.

If you feel able to help in any way, or would like to find out more about what we can offer you in return, please contact Elaine Crotty.

Dates for your diary

Celebrations start with a special service on Easter Sunday 12 April and end with the Harvest Festival on Sunday 27 September

25 April – **Belle Voci** (the opera duo from 'The Voice') in concert at St Boniface

9 May – VE Day weekend- **Cycle Sportif** and **family fun** at **Beeston Castle**

4 July – **StBonifest** – a day of live music on the playing fields.

17–19 July – **Flower Festival** at St Boniface

13 Sept – **Meet the Bells** event at St Boniface, with afternoon tea and art/photographic exhibition.

19 Sept – **Piano concert** featuring internationally recognized **Kathryn Stott**, whom *The Times* described as "one of the most versatile pianists on the circuit"

Date TBA – **'Alive'** event in the day followed by a Harvest supper at St Boniface

A year with the gardening club

Bunbury gardening club always begins the year with a garden quiz, mince pies and wine.

In February Barry Train, the head gardener at Cholmondley castle, talked about his plans for the gardens and the extensive new layouts and borders. These are a great addition to the castle and well worth a visit.

March is traditionally a popular month with a talk with cheese and wine. This year the talk was from Sue Clarke about creating and maintaining a cottage garden.

In April Barbara Wilkinson, a practicing herbalist, gave an enlightening talk on the use of the many common plants found in our hedgerows that can be used for lots of our aches and pains.

May. We come now to our season of garden visits starting with Wrens Nest and Oakfield Villa. Both close together in Wrenbury. Two small but delightful cottage gardens filled with many interesting plants.

June. Mayfield, belonging to Jeanie France-Hayhurst, a fine well planned garden of large lawns and colourful borders in Bunbury.

July. Bowmere Cottage in Tarporley, which belongs to Romy Holmes, a fascinating and colourful gardens which we all enjoyed together with a glass of Pimms.

August. The last of our visits this year was to Richard and Valerie Goodyear's garden, The Firs in Barbridge. This was a very interesting garden running alongside the canal.

All these visits end with a meal and good companionship at a local hostelry.

September is the month of our annual show in the village hall. This year excelled all previous years with many exhibits from the community and garden club members.

October. Frank Forrest gave a talk entitled "you don't need Sex", all about plant propagation.

November, yet to come is our AGM with a hot pot supper which we all look forward to. Bringing to an end another successful year for the Bunbury Garden club.

Christmas messages

For those we love and those we miss

Bunbury Tree of Lights 2019



To sponsor a light on the tree at St Boniface this Christmas in aid of our church building please fill in the form or contact Lucy Munro on 07580 066153 lucymunro@hotmail.com

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*By ticking this box you acknowledge that: you are a UK taxpayer and understand that if you pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all your donations it is your responsibility to pay any difference.

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Postcode.....

Signature.....

Date:

☐

Tick this box for an entry in the Book of Lights



Joy, Fiona, Julia and Simon Parker wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Tom and Elaine Crotty would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.



Kath and Peter wish all their friends a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.

We wish all our friends in Bunbury, Calveley and Tilstone Fearnall a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year. With love, Pat and John.



Anne James wishes everyone a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Wishing all a Happy Christmas and a year that brings unity and peace, from the Mason family.



Meg and Roger Fairweather wish everyone in Bunbury a Happy Christmas and New Year. We are happily settled in our home near Brighton.

Colin and Amanda Christie would like to wish all their friends in Bunbury a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.



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.

Prayers

We continue to pray for **Hazel Wilkinson, Cody Balshaw, Geoff Dickens and Senga Carman.**

We also pray for all who are mourning a loved one, especially the families and friends of **Les Fowles and Robin Hothersall.**

This Christmas, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus the Prince of Peace,

we pray that we may stop our noise and busyness long enough to hear the angels singing of hope and peace.

Peace among nations, peace in our land, peace in our homes and peace in our hearts.

Amen



Pat Ellis - Reader Emeritus The Sixth Sense

Whether we realise it or not, we all have a sixth sense, our spirit, intuition, an awareness of self, our soul, that which makes each of us unique and special in the eyes of God.

Through the spirit we taste, see, hear and feel what it is to be human.

Christians believe that we have the power of the Holy Spirit flowing through us, bringing gifts of love, joy and peace. Our spirit leads us beyond ourselves, catching a glimpse of something "other" beyond the horizon of this world, transcending our earthly beings into what the Celts call that "thin place", where earth and heaven meet. It is there that we can meet with Christ, who came as a human baby to be with us in our earthly lives, who faced up to death on the cross, taking upon himself all the sins of the world, and



opening up for each believer the sure and certain hope of eternal life.

Spirit of the Living God,
Shine your light into my life,
Flow through me
And take me beyond myself.
May I gaze in wonder
At the helpless Babe in the manger,
Joining with the shepherds
in amazement,
The Magi in worship,
The angels in joyful praise.

May your gifts flowing
through me,
Your love, joy and peace
Inspire me in my turn
To reach out into the world,
And give back just a fraction
Of what you did for me.

Mike Rogers writes...

A Brass Lamp



One of the great British traditions at Christmas is the pantomime.

And when it comes to pantomimes, no doubt all of us are familiar with the story of Aladdin in which a young boy comes across a mysterious brass lamp.

Much to his surprise, rubbing the tarnished surface makes a magic genie appear who offers him three wishes.

When I was a child, one of the ways we used to amuse ourselves was to talk about what we would wish for had we found Aladdin's lamp. Three wishes! Anything we wanted! What would we choose?

A million pounds? To be an international celebrity? To have an astonishing athletic ability? A beautiful mansion? How about a Rolls Royce? Sooner or later, someone would always come up with the idea that the first thing they would wish for was ten more wishes!

If you could wish for anything you wanted, what would it be? Or, to put it

another way, if God would answer any prayer you prayed, what would you ask of him? Long life? The ability to heal others? Peace in all the world? What would you ask for?

Whilst we may ask for whatever we want, there is no escaping the fact that there is something that God wants to give us more than anything else in the world. What he wants to give is the reason that lies behind his creation of the human race. It is the reason he sent the prophets. It is the reason why he sent his son, Jesus, to live and to die for us.

You see, what God wants to give us, more than anything else, is himself. And he does this at Christmas in the form of a helpless baby, the infant Jesus.

This is the gift God gives to each one of us. And his greatest desire is that we understand this gift, that we receive it from him, and that we enjoy it to the fullest.

Who needs a brass lamp?

Calveley - All our yesterdays (100 years ago)



An extract from the 1919 Parish Magazine

" Calveley School: Mr W. Gore has retired from the Head-mastership of Calveley School, which he leaves in good order after nearly 42 years of service."

Calveley School was built in 1874 by Mr Hitchen on land donated by the Bromley - Davenport family. The school itself was built first, followed by the school house, and the first headmaster was Mr William Gore, who originated from Knowsley and who served from 1876-1919. When the school first opened the local farmers all sent their sons, some of

whom were 18. Mr Gore himself was only just 21.

William and his family were regular worshippers at nearby Calveley Chapel and our original Baptisms Register records the baptisms of six of his children between 1882 and 1906.

Today, after 145 years, the school (now Calveley Primary Academy) continues to provide excellent first stage education for children from the parish and the surrounding area. Although set in a predominantly Victorian building, the school has been much extended and modernised in recent times.

World Day of Prayer in March: focus on Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe, officially the Republic of Zimbabwe, is a landlocked country located in southern Africa. It is located between the Zambezi and Limpopo rivers. It has an area of 390,757 square km. Its capital and largest city is Harare. Its official currency is the United States dollar. Its five bordering countries are Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia, and Namibia. The country has 16 official languages: Chewa, Chibarwe, English, Kalanga, "Koisian" (presumably Tsoa), Nambya, Ndau, IsiNdebele, Shangani, Shona, "sign language" (Zimbabwean sign languages), SeSotho, Tonga, Tswana, TshiVenda, IsiXhosa.

Interesting facts about Zimbabwe

1. Zimbabwe is believed to be the location of Ophir, the ancient wealthy country from which King Solomon got ivory, gold, and such other precious items.
2. The country has abundant reserves of minerals, which attracted Cecil Rhodes, the founder of the trading company that led to the British colonization of Zimbabwe and after whom the country was first named. Zimbabwe has the largest platinum and diamond reserves in the world.
3. The present name of the country was derived from Great Zimbabwe. Naming the country after the famous ruins was a move to form a national identity from its past.
4. The country's life expectancy, females (58.7 years) and males (57.3 years) is one of the lowest in the world. This is attributed to poverty and the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Although there has been a noticeable decline in HIV/AIDS population, Zimbabwe is still battling with poverty.
5. Zimbabwe acknowledges two types of marriage: customary marriage, which can be polygamous in nature, and civil marriage, which is characteristically monogamous.
6. Divorce is allowed in the country but is uncommon. It specifically is a stigma among women.
7. Zimbabwe has an impressive adult literacy rate of nearly 90% - one of the highest ratings in Africa.
8. Football, together with cricket and rugby union, is the most famous sport in the country. Zimbabwe has won a total of eight medals at the Olympic Games in two sports - hockey (1) and swimming (7).
9. To Zimbabweans, a big stomach among men is a sign of wealth. It implies that they can afford meat daily.
10. Traditional medicines and forms of treatment are still widely used in Zimbabwe. In fact, traditional healers, also called n'anga, are sought for their healing powers and religious counsel. They even have an association - Zimbabwe National Traditional Healer's Association.
11. Zimbabwe was once a very rich country. However, now it has one of the world's highest inflation and unemployment rates. Manufacturing, mining, and farming constitute the backbone of the Zimbabwean economy.
12. Zimbabwe became independent from the United Kingdom on April 18, 1980. They celebrate their national day on this day to commemorate their independence.
13. Zimbabweans mostly call every kind of toothpaste "Colgate," every soft drink "Coke," every washing powder "Surf" and every floor polish "Cobra."
14. For most people, power shortages and blackouts are a strange occurrence, and when it happens, power is restored in a very short time. But in Zimbabwe, blackouts are quite frequent and random, and when they occur, they can last for up to 3 hours or even more.
15. Zimbabwe's former president - the late Robert Gabriel Mugabe - is one of the oldest and also the longest-serving leaders of a non-royal country in the world. He served as the leader of Zimbabwe for 36 years. He served as the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe from 1980 to 1987, and then assumed office as the President of Zimbabwe on 22 December 1987 and resigned from the office on 21st November 2017. He was born on 21 February 1924 and died 6 September 2019. Robert Gabriel Mugabe was succeeded by Emmerson Mnangagwa (born 15 September 1942) who assumed office on 24 November 2017.
16. Victoria Falls, one of the world's biggest and most spectacular waterfalls, is located in the country's northwest as part of the Zambezi river.
17. It is illegal in Zimbabwe for the police to impound your vehicle on the road. The only occasion when they can do so is when they ask you to produce your driver's license.



WDP 2020 Zimbabwe "Rise! Take your mat and walk!" Friday 6 March 2020

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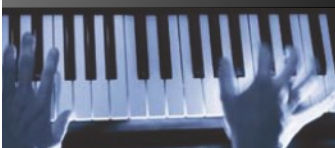


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