



St.Boniface shock on Christmas Day



December was sadly marked by a series of attacks on the Church, vandalism, theft and the like. Even so, it was a surprise to receive a message at 10.30 p.m. on Christmas Day that the Church fire alarms were sending out messages that were not full of seasonal good wishes. Inside the Church there was so much noise that it was hard even to think, but no visible fire. However, a quick inspection revealed that the free will offering box had been attacked and that it was

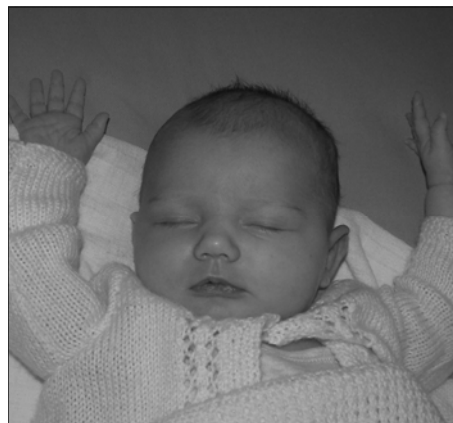
reduced to little more than firewood. Over the years the inside of the box has been progressively strengthened and even though damaged, the stout steel liner had not yielded up the thirteen pounds that it held.

The box was of fine quality oak and it is believed to date from about 1920. The steel inner box was added about ten years ago and it was further strengthened recently. The photo shows the scene on Boxing Day when the police arrived complete with scene of crime officers. Once the finger printing was successfully completed, it was possible to examine what was left of the box and the truly remarkable workmanship that went into its construction.

In fact the box, which raises over £1,000 a year, never contains more than a few pounds at a time, due to regular emptying.

Ernest Croley

Christmas baby



Welcome to Bunbury's Christmas baby, Hannah Mary Dickens, born to Lynn and Simon of Wakes Meadow on Christmas Day. We are glad to hear that big brother Jacob, aged 3, is very kind to his little sister – long may it last!

Public meeting hears O2 Mast latest

Well over 40 concerned local residents braved atrocious weather on 18th January to hear the latest position on the O2 Mast negotiations. Although the issue may have gone quiet for a few months, the Bunbury Mast Action Group have been beavering away speaking both to O2 and to CNBC who

gave permission for the mast installation in August. Sadly negotiations have ground to a halt pending legal action but the meeting resolved to support the group in further attempts to halt the mast. Contact Lucy Munro on 260487 for further information.

Margaret Oldman

Many local people will be shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden death of Margaret Oldman who was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in September. Margaret, 67, was a well-known environmental campaigner dedicated to fighting for a greener earth. Margaret and husband Richard celebrated their ruby wedding in July. Our sincere sympathies to Richard and their daughter Karen.

Contents

- New Beginnings 3
- Youth news 4
- Gifts and Giving 5
- Christmas Down Under 5
- Plan becomes reality 6
- Kingdom Kids have fun 7
- Target 1250 News 9
- George Harding 10
- Something for everyone 10

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Lent begins Wednesday 21st February

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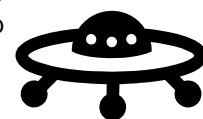
Alien Species

I read an article in the newspaper recently about an alien species of water primrose from South America which had the potential to match Japanese knotweed for invasiveness. This plant grows at breakneck speed and can double in size in only 15 days. It can block canals and rivers and take over ponds and lakes, choking native water plants and destroying the natural ecology. Affected sites are to be targeted and if the funding can be secured the plant could be eliminated in as little as a year. Alien plants are also known as exotic, non-native or non-indigenous. They are species that have intentionally or accidentally been introduced by human activity into a region in which they did not evolve. Many alien species are well known and economically important in agriculture and horticulture such as wheat,

soybeans and tulips. Alien species whether plant or animal often do not become established outside of cultivation and if they do they usually have few impacts on natural communities. There is a list of named invasive alien species in the UK and a lot of money and effort now goes into attempting to eradicate these aliens. In other countries invasive alien plants can cause problems where their native flora and fauna have evolved in isolation and are particularly vulnerable to introductions. This extreme situation, however, rarely pertains in Britain. In fact many of our rarest and most treasured plants are recent arrivals brought here by people in the last 2,000 years or as natural immigrants as the climate became increasingly temperate. There are some introduced species that can become rather

abundant in certain circumstances. Rhododendron can be a pest on acid, peaty soils and Canadian pond weed can be very abundant in eutrophic water bodies but there are just as many native species that can cause problems - bracken, brambles, the common nettle and ivy are currently some of the most invasive plants in the British flora. The problem is not so much one of alien species as of inappropriate management and/or pollution.

The danger of viewing alien species as a particular threat is that it distracts from the important issues facing nature conservation in Britain and diverts resources that might be better used elsewhere. When an individual species becomes overwhelmingly abundant in a particular habitat, it is usually because that habitat is being mismanaged or polluted. it does not matter whether the problem plant is native or exotic. The best solution is to restore a healthy vegetation community not to attempt to eradicate one species whilst leaving the underlying problems unaddressed. Thus there seems little point in spraying a road verge to eliminate Japanese knotweed just to leave the brambles, coarse grasses and even the frequently invasive cow parsley to take its place. A common alien aquatic invader is the attractive Himalayan balsam, or poor man's orchid with a flower that looks like a policeman's helmet. This plant is a frequent subject of villification with little evidence to prove that it is a threat to anything.



Liz Jones

The Reverend RICK GATES The Vicarage, Bunbury 01829 260991		
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The Reverend Jane Stephenson (parish curate)		250249
Peter and Kath Collinge (pastoral support)		260077
St.Boniface		
Churchwardens:	Barbara Croley	260344
	Nick Sanders	262494
Youth Worker	Johnny Gillett	office 733563
		mobile 07843 428842
Secretary	Neil Dewson-Smyth	261680
Flowers	Margaret Bourne	260944
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New beginnings

For many people, February is a very depressing month. All the excitement of Christmas seems a very long way away. Toys forgotten, packaging recycled, decorations back in the loft, resolutions made and broken, the last of the turkey still lurking at the bottom of the freezer awaiting its ritual baptism of curry sauce. We have struggled through January, dark days, coughs and colds, bad weather. And even with the promise of an early spring, we know there are still dark days ahead. Sensible small mammals are hibernating during this time, and many plants have retreated underground to restock for the season ahead. This is a time for Christians to take stock, too.

In the church calendar, this dull period is known as 'Ordinary Time'; a lull between Epiphany, with the revelation of the infant Jesus to the Wise men, who would take the good news into the wider world, and Lent, when we prepare, once more, for Jesus' trial, death and glorious resurrection, when we walk with him and share his pain.

So what do we do in 'Ordinary Time'? It's a time to be, well, ordinary. To get on with our lives, the day-to-day trivial round. Perhaps it's like the last minutes of a football match where the team that's in the lead kicks the ball about, just marking time until the final whistle. This is where we learn to live with

the boredom, the sameness, of our job, our routine. We need to take time to stop and stare. We are so ruled by the clock, the calendar, the email, that we find ourselves permanently rushing from one task to another, never really doing anything properly and getting frustrated in the process. We have become not 'human beings', but 'human doings'.

In the Parish over the past weeks, we have been looking at ourselves, our gifts and our talents. It is tempting to think of taking on even more activity, building up even more stress. But it doesn't have to be like this. Even in the most frantic of lives, there are things we can change. Have a good hard look at your lifestyle. What can you drop? What weight would fall off your shoulders if you did?

Jesus took time out. Even when people were clamouring to get to him, he retreated when he needed to. And we need to, as well. You don't run your car for very long on an empty tank. We need to fill up. We need to take time to pray, to reflect, to 'be'. Then we will come back energised and refreshed, and with God's grace, be able to realise our gifts and talents, and start using them to his glory.

Pat Edgley

Faith in the Creator

'Jesus said to his disciples, "Where is your faith?" They were afraid and amazed and said to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water and they obey him?"' St. Luke 8, 25

The disciples lacked faith as they saw the waves rising and their fishing boat was tossed about like a cork in a bottle.

We often lack sufficient faith because we fail to recognise fully the unlimited power of the God we call 'Our Father'. God is the creator of the universe. God created the world to be our home, our workplace and our artist's studio – as Louis Armstrong sang – 'What a wonderful world!' By studying the world we live in and all its beauty, we can see clearly that God loves us and so we can love him in return. Each one of us has a place in the Creator's eternal plan.

So we're all too precious to God for him to let us go. When our life is running through a stormy patch, God will help and

advise us how to cope with it, if we'll only listen. God never stops holding on to us, because he loves us.

The disciples got back their faith when they realised that Jesus was able to control the wind and the waves, just as the God who made them does. Each one of us, if we keep our eyes fixed on the grandeur and beauty of creation and the love of Jesus, will recognise more fully the Creator in whom we can have unlimited faith.

As Elvis sang:

Put your hand in the hand of the man who stilled the waters,
Put your hand in the hand of the man who calmed the seas,
Take a look at yourself and you can look at others differently,
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Help with Link

Ever thought you'd like to have a go at editing the Link? Ever thought you could do better? Well, now's your chance! Lucy and Jill are nearing their 3rd anniversary as editors and because of time pressures we're looking for help, with a view to handing over the reins at some point. Why not give it a try? You need to have ideas for stories, an ear to the ground and/or a familiarity with simple publishing technology.

We are also looking for someone willing to manage the monthly distribution of the Link. It takes a couple of hours parcelling up the magazines and another hour or so to deliver them to our distributors and it would be a great relief to lose this job.

We hear on the grapevine that a gentleman called Charles who lives in Wyche Road is keen to offer his Gallic observations of life in Bunbury. We look forward to hearing from him!

Youth news - Johnny reports

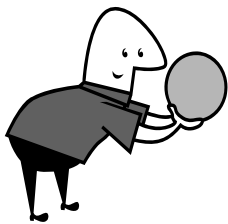
Club 15

For a year now, the follow-up to YCs has been running from Bunbury Scout Hut. In that year there have been a number of changes. We began solely with those who'd moved on from YCs, but now we are pleased to open up our club to any young people in the parish who are in Year 10 or 11.

Club 15 operates every Monday from 7.30pm to 9.00pm. Amber Middlemiss and Tom Belshaw assist me in providing a very relaxed atmosphere with games, a pool table and refreshments available. All of this gives plenty of time for chat and making new friends - as well as discussing plans for trips out and community action.

We made a great start to our new term with a trip to Lakeside Superbowl in Crewe. Eight young people took up the bowling challenge, with Tom Potts emerging the strong-armed victor with 144 points, closely followed by Rachel O'Neill. Mark Whalley gained our one and only strike of the evening! Despite none of us being what you could call champions, it was a good night out – enjoying the freedom and the company.

If you are in Year 10 or 11 and want to find out more about Club 15 then get in touch, or just pop in at the Scout Hut on a Monday evening. You'll be very welcome.



Why not check out this list of all the youth groups we run at St Boniface. It's quite impressive! Take a look and see if you are missing out on something.

Johnny Gillett



Pictured here are Bunbury Guides enjoying a “posh” Christmas dinner party laid on by their leaders. Their next planned venture is a Crocus Walk on March 11th, part of a national campaign to raise funds for Breast Cancer Care and an early celebration of Mother's Day. The girls will be inviting their mothers, grannies, aunties and sisters to join them on a 'girls-only' scenic walk around the village, ending at the Scout Hut for home-made cakes. Any other interested female walkers are most welcome to join in. All walkers will be asked to make a small donation towards the appeal. More information in next month's Link. (Mothering Sunday itself is March 18th).

St Boniface: our weekly activities for children and young people

Sundays: Kingdom Kids

during 10am Family Service at St Boniface Church
Games, crafts and discussion in age specific groups, pre-school to teenage.

Mondays: Young Christians (YCs)

7.30pm to 9.00pm: Age: 11-14 at St Boniface Church
Various fun activities and trips out, with the YCs Panto in the winter term.

Club 15

7.30pm to 9.00pm: Age: 14-16 in Bunbury Scout Hut

Drop-in youth club with games, pool table, trips and chat.

Tuesdays: Duke of Edinburgh Award

5.00pm to 6.00pm: Age: 15-16 at St Jude's Church Hall, Tilstone Fearnall

Working on the Expedition Section of DofE award.

Thursdays: 4TC

7.30pm to 8.30pm: Age: 12-16 at St Boniface Church

Confirmation preparation; spiritual chat on relevant issues for the rest of the year.

And at Tarporley Community High School:

The Cross

Lunchtime youth clubs in the Drama Department (B2)

Year 7: Tuesday – Games and discussion

Year 11: Thursday – Duke of Edinburgh Award

Year 10: Friday – Spiritual chat

Also the new **Christian Union**: Wednesday lunchtimes in 03C

For further information call Johnny Gillett on 01829 733563 (office), or 07843 428842 (mobile) or email johnny@stbonya.org.uk

Gifts and Giving

They say that it's better to give than to receive. Well over the first six weeks of the new year at St Boniface we have been testing that old adage, but don't worry – we aren't after your money! We are after something much more valuable – your talents. Different speakers have been talking on the subject of "gifts", and the series will culminate in a special service on the 18th of February where we will look to make a commitment of ourselves to the church and thus to God. As a reward, we'll all have lunch together! In this special service, which starts at the later time of 11.00am we will each be asked to consider what special gifts or talents we have as individuals, that we could offer to the church.

So what are we expected to give on February the 18th? What is a gift in this context? We're trying to encourage each person to look at himself or herself and ask – "What can I give?". "What talent do I have that will do good for God's community here in Bunbury?" Remember – don't confuse gifts with being gifted. Most of us look at ourselves and think, "I've got no gifts" when what we mean is "I'm not gifted". "I can't play the guitar like Segovia or Eric Clapton". "I can't preach like Winston Churchill", "I can't sing like Nellie Melba or even Madonna". So – look harder.

Maybe you can't be a great orator – but you may be a great conversationalist and be a boon to someone who is lonely and desperately in need of a chat. Maybe you can't sing but you may be a wonderful listener who can draw pain from



someone who just needs someone to hear his or her story. Maybe you can't dance but you can glide around the floor like no one else with a Hoover in your hand!

Sometimes it's so hard to see talent in ourselves but it's abundant to everyone around us. So as well as looking into ourselves, let's take some time to look around us at our friends in this church family. We can help someone to see God's glory in himself or herself. We can hold up a mirror for them to help them see themselves as God sees them. I'm not suggesting badgering or bullying – "Hey – you're good with flowers – why don't you go onto the flower rota!" I'm thinking more of responding to people's needs. Let's not be afraid to turn to someone else and say, "Help me. What do you think I might be good at?" Then we can happily say, "You have a wonderful skill with flowers – have you thought about getting involved with the flowers in church?"

Remember that the gifts that we want can be so, so ordinary. They're not gifts that might make headlines – they're just gifts that will make joy for someone, somewhere. On Sunday last, we listened to the story of Jesus' first miracle when he turned water into wine at the wedding of Cana. When Jesus gave his gift of wine, he gave something very ordinary but responded to a real need. He gave quietly and without fuss and he gave the best possible gift that he could. That might help to guide us as we ask ourselves, "What Can I Give?"

Christmas down under - The Holbrooks report

We had a Christmas of contrasts in 2006. As we stepped off the plane into 36C in the middle of December it felt weird. We were staying for 10 days in Perth, Western Australia and then going to Melbourne for another 10. By amazing coincidence the Ashes series were on in these cities at the same time. Paul and Andrew had a memorable day at Melbourne Cricket ground when they went to watch England sadly lose the 3rd test. They had a tour of the ground after the match with our friend's brother who is groundsman there and managed to get some souvenirs including one of the match balls.

Perth is a lovely city with great beaches it has the reputation for being the most remote city in the world – it is closer to Singapore than Sydney. Christmas in Perth was notable for its' lack of commercialism – there were some decorations up and cards/wrapping paper for sale but nothing like the piles of goods you get in Britain. As it's the end of the school year in December and the start of the long summer holidays the focus isn't solely on Christmas. But it was in the churches. Our friends' church in contrast to St Boniface looked like an industrial unit from the outside but inside was like a theatre with stage, lighting and a great sound system. We had a vibrant service with carols, songs and preaching about the Christmas story to the all age congregation, helped by 2 lead singers, drums, guitars and keyboards. Afterwards we went into the other part of the

building which has a huge soft play area and coffee bar which is open to the public during the week and generates funds to pay for the building and for mission – very relaxing chatting over a latte whilst the kids played.

That was on Christmas Eve as their church didn't have a service on Christmas Day. So on Christmas Day once the presents were opened and enough chocolate eaten (nothing unusual there) we headed for the beach and enjoyed a few

hours body boarding on a beautiful uncrowded beach (too much space in Australia to have crowds!). The only uneasy bit was the shark look out plane flying up and down (a local boy had lost his leg in the last month). There were quite a few families enjoying their Christmas meal on the grass areas beside the beach but we headed back to our friends' house for a sand free BBQ and Christmas pudding ice cream – delicious, sitting

in the shade by their pool!!

Another day we had a road kill BBQ, which featured meat not normally stocked by Burrows: crocodile sausages, emu and kangaroo steaks were interesting- the crocodile sausages were voted the tastiest!

Definitely a Christmas to remember as we flew back from blue skies and a drought parched land to drizzly wet Manchester.



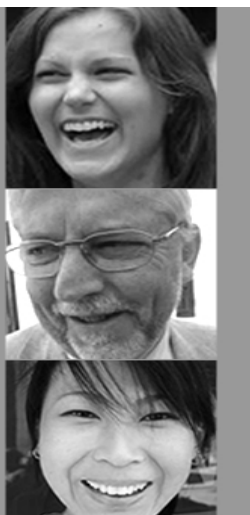
The plan becomes reality

Yes, it's almost arrived. The day when Bunbury's new medical centre opens for business will be, barring any unforeseen hitches, Monday March 12th. The new building will be handed over to the Practice just a week before, allowing for computers, files and telephones to be up and running for the big day. As we write, the contractors have completed and decorated the upper floor and final finishing is taking place downstairs. Work outside on the driveway, car park and landscaping will finish the job. Furniture and equipment will be delivered and installed as soon as the last bit of decorating is completed. Debbie xx, practice manager says the new facilities are fantastic: patients will benefit from comfortable purpose-built facilities and staff will enjoy the much-needed extra administration and consulting space. The practice will also be able to offer an increased range of treatments, for example podiatry. The Link would love to have your views on our new medical centre once it is up and running!



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Memories of Christmas!

This Christmas was as busy as ever at St Boniface, starting with the popular Christingle Service on December 10th. As ever, Tom and Elaine Crotty masterminded the Christingle production line in their kitchen, helped along by some atrocious Christmas music – it certainly got the job done quickly! The service itself was, as usual, a lovely spectacle, and not too many fringes were singed by the candles. Kingdom Kids organised a nativity play to take place during morning service on 17th. Lots of children wanted to take part, and a role was found for them all. Well done to Sarah, Debbie and all the other KK helpers. The service of carols and readings again on 17th was for many the real start to

Christmas: St Boniface was full to bursting and the choir was aided by the very welcome addition of the Bunbury Singers. Together, congregation and choir made a good noise! (Andrew Dean has asked us to thank all the singers and musicians who helped make the service such a success.)

Other traditional Christmas activities took place as usual outside the church: well done to teenagers Emily, Hannah and Hannah, who raised £40 carol singing for Cancer Research, and to Jade, Joel, Ellie and Charlie who raised the same sum for Shelter. Also thanks to those who contributed donations after the Christmas Eve carols around the tree – Meg tells us that £75 was raised for Hope House.

Kingdom Kids enjoy party

On Saturday January 20th thirty of the younger Kingdom Kids met at St Boniface for their delayed festive party. They enjoyed a



treasure hunt around the church, followed by a traditional party tea and more energetic games with a parachute and lots of plastic balls. It was a lovely afternoon: many thanks to all the KK leaders who do so much to encourage a real spirit



Calveley lit up

The 3rd annual Calveley Lanterns event was held, with great success, at Calveley Primary School on 16th December 2006.

The event kicked off at 4.30pm with a procession of well over 100 lanterns, made and carried by children from Calveley, Bunbury and Tarporley.

On arrival at the school the lanterns were added to the main display – a wonderful sight as it spiralled up into the night sky. A big thank you to our sponsors and to everyone who contributed to this memorable occasion.



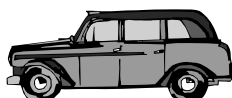
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Bugsy Triumph

Very well done to all the young performers who took part in the highly-praised production of Bugsy Malone at Tarporley High School just before Christmas. Due particular praise is Corinna White of Bunbury Heath who made a thoroughly convincing femme fatale. Corinna's proud father Fraser admitted he was surprised at her confident, talented performance and her amazing jazzy singing voice. She had kept her light hidden under a bushel!



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New term at Bunbury School

The autumn term finished on a high note with the school's Christmas service: as usual it was standing room only at St. Boniface, as parents, grandparents and friends came to enjoy the children's singing and reading, and Year 2's Nativity Play. Mrs Phillips had also persuaded some of the teachers to play instruments – they were much more nervous than the children! At the end of the service the school bade a fond farewell to Mrs Joule, who has now taken up the headship of Wrenbury School. Recruitment for her replacement is currently underway.

School started again (much too soon, groaned many!) on January 4th and there is plenty of fun planned for the new term, including, on January 26th, a sponsored sleepover in school for Years 1 and 2, organised by the courageous Mrs Waddington and KS1 staff.

An important date for your diary is March 24th when the Parents' Association are holding the Ceilidh rescheduled from last year. It promises to be a fantastic evening's fun, led by the band who did such a good job at the Target 1250 Burn's Night last January. Everyone welcome

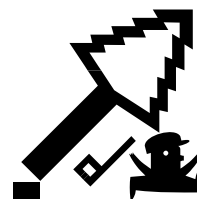
– watch out for further publicity.

Just as we were going to print Mrs Phillips heard that Bunbury School had been awarded Activemark 2006. This rewards exceptional delivery of National School Sport Strategy. "I am delighted and thank all the staff, particularly Mrs Black and Mrs Waddington who lead our PE teaching", said Mrs Phillips.

(Half term dates are 9-19th February, Easter is 30th March to 17th April).

Gale damage

There was a bit of excitement on Thursday 18th January when gale-force winds dangerously loosened the roots of one of the old conifers at the front of the school. The problem was spotted just as the children were leaving for home. Fortunately Steve Davies was available to perform emergency surgery, and pupils watched wide-eyed from a safe distance as he struggled to make the tree safe in the high wind.



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Tree of Lights

The Tree of Lights organised by the Target 1250 group in the weeks before Christmas proved a great success. The yew tree at the front gate was strung with 100 lights, and local (and some not-so-local) families and individuals sponsored lights in commemoration of a loved one or of a special event or happy memory. Messages were inscribed in a book of dedications on view inside the church, and many people expressed great pleasure both at the idea of the tree and at the beautiful sight it made in the dark over Christmas. The lights were formally switched on after Evensong on

December 5th, with a short service held by the tree amidst gale force winds. Thanks must go to all those who helped with this enterprise, especially to Jeremy Shears who climbed the ladder, Peter Collinge who held the ladder, and Dennis Clausen who untangled the cable and offered moral support. And also to Paul Rathbone who sorted out our electrical requirements. The tree raised several hundred pounds after expenses, for Target 1250, which will be spent on church renovations. The first application to be included in next year's tree has already been received!

Walter puts his head above the parapet....

The Target 1250 group have raised several thousand pounds over the past year and have been keen to see some work started with the money. It has now been possible for the church architect to invite tenders for repairs to the whole of the north aisle outside parapet. This is the area from which some masonry fell a while ago. It runs above the windows on the outside of the building for the whole length of the aisle. The work will involve dismantling

the traceried stone parapet and most of the pinnacles, consolidating the top wall and rebuilding the parapet and pinnacles using new stainless steel fixing rods (cramps and dowels!). We are advised that estimates are likely to run into many thousands of pounds so the 1250 funds will be a valuable resource.

Walter Done

Well done Anne King

Diana Kinsey has contacted the Link to tell us about the very impressive achievement of her modest friend Anne King. Anne, who works as full-time teaching assistant in KS1 at Bunbury School - and is in fact the longest-serving member of staff - has spent the last 2 years studying for a part-time

degree in supporting teaching and learning at MMU. Our congratulations are very belated, as she completed her degree last summer, but we agree with Diana that her achievement should not go unrecognised. Very well done, Anne!

Explorers, scouts and guides lend a hand

On Sunday December 10th almost the full might of the Bunbury Scout and Guiding movements descended on Sainsburys in Nantwich, to offer their bag-packing services to harassed pre-Christmas shoppers. Dozens of Guides, Scouts and Explorers in full uniform, plus numerous leaders, took it in turn to man the 27 tills in two-hour shifts - and two Explorers actually stayed for the entire 6 hours. The packers reported that the most common purchases were dog food, cat litter and Quality Street - can this be right? The

customers were mostly very grateful for the help, and many contributed generously to the voluntary collection, which at the end of the day totalled an amazing £1500 which will be shared between the various groups. The whole event, organised by Explorer leader Sarah Jane Stockman, was 'great fun and an easy way to raise funds' commented one of the explorers. Two more similar events are planned for later this year. (Now they need to organise a bag-unpacking event - ed)

Mark Lewis

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Remembering George Harding

George was born in 1918 in Beeston where he lived his entire life. He married Nora in 1950 and was a kind, devoted and caring husband for 56 years. He left school when he was 14 to work on Charlie Rider's farm. He then moved to work as a dairy man on the Peckforton Home Farm. He ended his working life mending roads for Cheshire County Council. Knowing George I am sure his work mates would have described him as hard working, dependable and a joy to work with.

George enjoyed life to the full, and was a keen angler who went out fishing with his brother Walter and his brother-in-law John. David and I remember seeing him going off on his scooter on a Saturday morning weighed down by fishing tackle and later enjoyed hearing his stories.

He was a very courteous man. I remember when George's brother Leonard drove Nora, George and Walter to visit Danuta, Elizabeth and myself for lunch in our last house in Anglesey. After that, he always reminded Danuta how much he enjoyed the duck she cooked. It was typical of his character that he was so grateful for everything people did for him. He enjoyed the car trips Leonard used to take them all on and was always interested to see new places.

David and I have known Nora and George all our life and see them both as second parents. They were responsible for teaching us to be caring and honest. George taught me a considerable amount about gardening, nature and wildlife. This is reflected in the painting I do today.

When I was three years old, Nora used to take me to watch George ploughing with the horses at Charlie Rider's farm. When reflecting back on memories of George I also think of the times that Nora took David and I as young boys to watch George milk the cows in the then new Milking Parlour. He was always in the pit milking the cows and we were fascinated by the whole procedure. I think we were also concerned about the cows hurting George. So we were probably disappointed when George left the Home Farm to work for the Council.

George was always interested in other people. He was kind, polite, concerned and had his own opinions. He always told me to listen and to never offend. George was a true country gentleman. We will all miss George but will always remember his kindness and his smile.

John Hedley

'Something for everyone.'

Are you in need of some good conversation? Take up prayer for Lent.

If you like peace and quiet; or if you prefer laughter and discussion; why not join our Lent Course at St.Boniface?

If you would like to learn more about why and how to pray drop in to any of the sessions: all welcome.

Starting date

Wednesday 21st February. at 8.15pm

Ring Rick Gates or Jane Stephenson

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Education Sunday

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**Tarporley Library is once
again operating from the
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and refitting.**

Andy's thanks

Thank you to everyone who contributed children's sports clothes and books, pens and games to the orphanage in Kenya. The items were very gratefully received and will certainly bring much happiness to the children who got them. I am very happy to keep collecting items if anyone else would like to donate to this worthy cause


Andrew Fairclough

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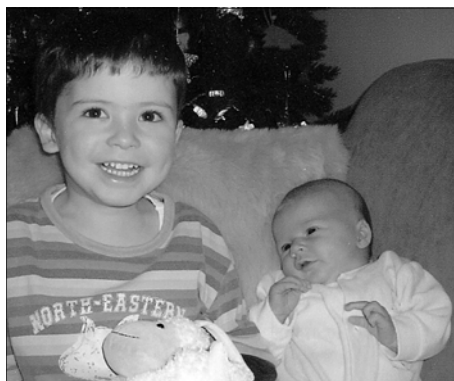
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Community news

Congratulations to **Jo and John Mason** on the arrival of baby **Natasha Rachel** on December 30th.



Below is a photo of **Teri and Rob Williams'** new grand-daughter **Gabriella Sophie** with her big brother **Michael**, aged 2. Gabriella was born on November 7th. Friends of the Williams will be glad to hear that they have now completed the purchase of their new house and will be moving in within the next couple of months.



Congratulations to **Mike and Trish Thomas**, proud grandparents of new grandson **Benjamin James**, (shown below) brother of Oliver (just 3) and Hannah (coming up 17 months). Their parents are **Dan and Debbie**.



And finally, congratulations to the **Mort** family of Haughton on the arrival of **Lacey**, baby sister of Jordan and Tasha, already immortalised in paint by Year 1s at Bunbury School.

Welcome to **Millie Leonie**, christened at St.Boniface on 17th December. Millie is the daughter of **Jane and Charles Bartlett** and baby sister of James.

And welcome also to **Ottillie Elizabeth**,

daughter of **Lisa and Richard Goodfellow**, and sister of Henry, who was christened on 7th January.

Congratulations to the following couples who have all celebrated their marriages during December at St.Boniface: on 8th, **Clive Dix and Lucie Bajerova** of Alpraham; on 16th, **Mathew Gower and Joanna Langstaff** of Liverpool; on 30th, **Brian Edge and Claire Barrett**, of Cholmondeley, and on New Year's Eve, **Andrew Mossford and Jennifer Collier**, of Sale, and on Saturday 13th January **Sarah Clarkson and Richard Derryhouse**.

Many congratulations to **Mabel and Harry Arrowsmith** of Hurst Court, Bunbury, as they celebrate their Diamond wedding anniversary. 60 years of marriage – what an achievement! They married on January 8th 1947. Harry now lives at Church House nursing home, but Mabel joined him there for a celebratory lunch.

Warm congratulations to **Jean and Brian Simcoe** of School Lane, celebrating their golden wedding on February 12th.

Many happy returns to **Enid Jones** of Meadow House Park, Spurstow, who celebrated her 80th birthday on December 3rd with family and friends. We hear that Enid enjoys reading the Link, and marked the special occasion by sponsoring the church floodlights.

The **Mann** family have been back from Australia for Christmas (at the same time that several local families travelled in the other direction!) It was nice to see Chris, Richard and the girls looking so well, and we understand the girls are already talking with an Australian twang!

We are sad to have to report the following deaths:

George Harding, at the end of November. His obituary is shown opposite, on page 10;

Joyce Short of Meadow House Park, Spurstow on December 26th, who died peacefully at Bangor Hospital, at the age of 85. Joyce was a regular worshipper at St.Boniface. Her funeral service was held at Crewe crematorium on January 4th.

Donations in her memory will be gratefully accepted for Tarporley War Memorial Hospital;

Gordon Major Walley of Alpraham, died on 27th December, and his funeral was held on 5th January.

John Samuel Peers, of Burwardsley who died on 9th January, His funeral was held at St.Boniface on 22nd January.

General news

Services will be held at **St Judes** every Sunday at 9.30am.

A note for your diary: **The Bunbury Singers** will be holding a **concert in aid of St.Judes Church funds** on March 10th. Please contact Liz Brereton 01829 740664 or June Gregory 01829 733502 for tickets.

There will be a performance of **Stainer's 'Crucifixion'** on Good Friday at St Boniface. Anyone who would like to take part is invited to rehearsals at Bunbury school on Monday evenings, starting at 8pm. Contact Andrew Dean for more information on 261592

Bunbury Singers had a very successful Christmas concert in St Helen's Church, Tarporley when £1,000 was raised in aid of Tarporley Cottage Hospital. If you are interested in joining the Bunbury Singers, please ring, **Liz Brereton, 01829 740664**, or come along to rehearsals on Monday nights at Bunbury School. Rehearsals are from 8.00 till 9.15 pm, giving singers a good excuse then to disappear to the pub! Liz says : 'We enjoy ourselves, singing is good for you and we are raising money for charity. Don't worry about feeling that you won't be good enough - come along and see what you think!'

Welcome to the latest puppy to be seen at Bunbury School gates – **Max**, a terrier cross now the proud owner of the **Steventon** family. Even your dog-phobic editors could be won over by this one!

Jungle drums tell us that someone in this village is not unrelated to **Bruce Forsyth**. Can it be true? Is it a dark secret we wonder.

No time off for good behaviour? **Helen Martyn** has just completed 20 years as an assistant at Bunbury Play Group, now Earlybirds. Helen is an invaluable member of the team who has taught many hundreds of local children.

Very well done to a group of **Bunbury School girls** who gave up a Sunday morning to sell unwanted toys and home-made cakes outside the Co-op. They raised £150 for the homeless.

Diary

February

*note later time

4	8.00am	Holy Communion	St.Boniface
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St.Jude's
	10.00am	Family Worship	St.Boniface
		(Education Sunday, with Alison Phillips)	
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Calveley
7	10.00am	Holy Communion	St.Boniface
11	9.30am	Family Worship	St.Jude's
	10.00am	Family Communion	St.Boniface
	4.30pm	Evensong	St.Boniface
14	10.00am	Holy Communion	St.Boniface
18	8.00am	Holy Communion	St.Boniface
	9.30am	Family Worship	St.Jude's
	11.00am*	Family Worship*	St.Boniface*
		followed by communal lunch	
	11.00am	Morning Service	Calveley
21	10.00am	Holy Communion	St.Boniface
		and ashing	
	7.30pm	Holy Communion	St.Boniface
		and ashing	
25	9.30am	Holy Communion	St.Jude's
	10.00am	Family Communion	St.Boniface
28	10.00am	Holy Communion	St.Boniface
	7.30pm	Compline	St.Boniface

March

4	8.00am	Holy Communion	St.Boniface
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St.Jude's
	10.00am	Family Worship	Bunbury
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Calveley

18 Mothering Sunday

Looking ahead

April

8 Easter Day

June

16 Village Day and St.Lukes Midnight Walk

Link is edited by **Lucy Munro (tel. 260487)** and **Jill Robey (tel. 260081)**. We welcome all contributions. Our deadline for the March edition is Friday 16th February. Please send material to lucykmunro@hotmail.com.

Our vicar, **Rick Gates**, is always available in times of sickness, bereavement or any distress. See p2 for phone numbers.

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