

## All change at St. Boniface



**The snowdrops at St. Boniface**

We announced last month that the current editorial team for the Link will be relinquishing the job after the April issue. Luckily a new team of six have stepped forward and you can look forward to some exciting changes in the May issue. It is good to know the magazine will continue.

St. Boniface also appealed for help with the day to day running of the church after the retirement of Barbara and

Ernest Croley. Pleasingly, many people stepped forward to offer help with all the many jobs that need doing for the church to run smoothly, from booking weddings to cleaning the loo. Rick said "I am so encouraged by the number of people who have willingly offered their time and talents, a sure sign of growth and unity in the church and a most powerful statement of the love of God in action."

## Church goes live: text 60060

Following an autumn trial, St Boniface is now going live with an innovative text service which is free and open to everyone to join.

Known by some as the 'Godphone', the service sends you a weekly text - a short passage from the Bible or something else thought-provoking, to remind you that God is not just for Sundays. The service will also let you know about special events at St. Boniface.

It is easy to join and to leave, and it is free to receive the texts: simply text CHURCH to 60060 to start the service, and if ever you want to stop just text CHURCH STOP to the same number. As they say on 'Strictly', messages to 60060 cost one standard network text call. We guarantee that your number will never be released to anyone outside this service.

We really hope that you might be prepared to join, give it a try! If you have any suggestions for improvements please let us know.

**Nick Sanders**

## From our correspondent in Cairo

Seeing the recent dramatic events unfolding in Egypt over the past weeks we got in touch with a former Bunbury resident who is learning Arabic there as part of his degree course.

"I have been very lucky to witness the historic events in Egypt that have rocked the country for these last few weeks. Unfortunately it has not been wise for foreigners to venture out too far or for too long due to stories broadcast by the government after the "day of rage" that foreigners were behind the violence. Cabin-fever was staved off though by continuing gunfire cracking through the city, a cloud of

tear gas brought to my balcony by a gust of wind and the antics of the vigilantes on my street, who, pumped-up on revolutionary zeal, probably beat up more innocent pedestrians than looters. Things have started to function normally now after Mubarak stepped down and Egypt has been engulfed with a tremendous optimism. For the first time the people feel their

country's destiny is in their hands."

**Toby Elsegood**



## Community

Congratulations to **Hilary and Mike Watson**, proud grandparents of **Milo Oskar Castle**, another little boy for **Jennie and Ollie**.

Welcome to **Jacob Francis**, son of **Joanna and Matthew Gower** of Davenham, baptised at St. Boniface on 5th February.

Our Cairo correspondent **Toby Elsegood** (p1) has announced his engagement. Our congratulations to Toby and fiancée **Woenshet**.

Congratulations to the following who have married recently at St. Boniface: **Adam Matthews and Rebecca Morgan** on 29th January; **Matthew Carnell and Jayne Dykes** on 18th February.

Happy birthday to **Jo Lester** and **Caryle Sinnott** who have both celebrated birthdays ending in a "0" recently. Jo is having a fundraising birthday party in aid of Breast Cancer Care.

We are sad to report the recent deaths of **Joyce Ellis** and **Dennis Kirkham** (p8).

Following Graham's death, **Helen and Andrew Martyn** would like to thank everyone for their kind support during this difficult time. See p7.

**St. Boniface Choir** will sing Evensong on Sunday 20th March, at St. Oswalds, Worleston with Revd Alex Sanders.

**Henry Johnson**, son of **Guy and Carolyn**, is in training for the **London Marathon** on the 17th April, raising funds for **VSO**. If you would like to support him, his Virgin Money Giving page is

[uk.virginmoneygiving.com/henryjohnson](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/henryjohnson)

The **NSPCC** is organising the fifth **10k run along the Sandstone Trail** starting at Beeston Market on Sunday 10th April - good training for experienced runners and keep fit addicts. More details from **Andrea Beaumont, 732994**.

**Bunbury Garden Club meets on** 15th March in the Village Hall. This month's speaker is Paul Philpotts on the topic "**Wilderness to NGS**". All welcome. More details from **Adrian Caine 261163**.

**Chorale**, widely regarded as one of the North West's finest chamber choirs, are giving a concert at St. Boniface on Saturday, April 2nd at 7.30 pm. The

programme will be wide-ranging, from music across the centuries, and will include popular favourites and some unusual and attractive items. Tickets (£10 adults, £8 concessions and £2 under 18s) are available in advance from 01606 334890 and on the door.

**The Bunbury Singers** will be giving concerts on Friday 8th April at **Calveley** and on Saturday 16th April at **St. Mary's Church, Acton**.



Good news for **Richard Harley** means bad news for Bunbury School. Deputy Head Richard leaves at Easter for Tilstone School and his first permanent Headship. Richard has been a popular and inspiring member of staff and pupils and colleagues will all miss him.

**Bunbury Explorers** are holding a **fundraising quiz night** with chilli on Friday 18th March. Quiz by Bob and Trish Welch, tickets and more details from **Sarah-Jane Stockman 260714**.

This month please pray especially for **Paul, Maria and Poppy Rathbone, Mary Cummins, Patrick Ryan, Jean Healey, Keith Hann, Becky Bebbington and Jennie Chesters**. We pray also for the those recently bereaved and all those suffering in body, mind or spirit.

**John Mason** Church Treasurer, was delighted to announce on 20th February that the funding target for the part time youth worker to replace Laura had been met. Any further funds received will pay for additional hours which would be most welcome. To donate please contact **John 733971**

**The Link** can be read online during the week before your copies are available. Look on our website **www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk**

Please note that the deadline for the **April Link** will be **Friday 11th March**. The magazines will be available in church on Sunday 27th March.

John Elsworth's **History of Calveley Church** is to be published in the prestigious Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire. It is hoped that copies will be available in a few weeks: 260716

The inaugural meeting of the **Tarporley & Bunbury Local History Society** was held on February 22nd. Anyone who is interested in taking part is very welcome to contact **Peter Young** at **pfyoung@plus.net** or on **732700**.

**Our Vicar is Rick Gates. He is always available in times of sickness, bereavement or any distress. Contact him at The Vicarage, Vicarage Lane, Bunbury, on 01829 260991, 07715 178750 or rick@prayer.fsnet.co.uk**

### Other church contacts:

Peter and Kath Collinge (pastoral support)	260077
<b>St. Boniface</b>	Churchwardens: Barbara Croley 260344
	Walter Done 01244 332563
	Youth worker Laura Warrington 07763 408609
	Secretary Neil Dewson-Smyth 261680
	Flowers Margaret Bourne 260944
<b>St. Jude's</b>	Churchwardens: Brigid Sayce 260865
	David Wright 260467
	Secretary Ann Posnett 261154
	Organist Ann Badrock 260343
<b>Calveley</b>	Churchwardens: Barbara Croley 260344
	Walter Done 01244 332563
	Organist John Batchelor 261056
	Secretary Sue Woodward 01270 522822

**www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk**

The Link is edited by **Lucy Munro 260487**, and **Jill Robey 260081**.  
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# You are the salt of the earth

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste how can its saltiness be restored?"

I was struggling to understand what Jesus meant by this issue of the preservation of saltiness in this reading until I read a sermon from 1936 by the famous German pastor Martin Niemoller. Niemoller was a leader of the Confessing Church founded by Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Karl Barth which opposed the anti-Christian doctrines of the Nazi regime. Niemoller had watched many of his fellow pastors imprisoned for speaking out and not long after giving this sermon he was himself arrested and imprisoned in Sachsenhausen and Dachau for 9 years.

The regime were desperate for these rebel preachers to toe the line and to adapt their beliefs to fit with the majority and Niemoller used this line from Matthew's gospel to underline to his congregation why it was so vital that they did not allow their beliefs to be diluted in this way. As he put it, if our faith loses its unique flavour, its saltiness, then it will have no impact when it is cast into the great 'stew' of the world. We

have to hold to the word of God and protect its unique flavour. If it loses that unique flavour then it is worthless. Our duty as Christians is to ensure that our church and our lives reflect the life of Christ and not the life of the world.

We may not have the troubles that Niemoller and his congregation had in 1936, where the state was trying to impose its will on the church, but we have our own pressures in 2011 that threaten to reduce the saltiness of our beliefs. We live in a secular age where our beliefs are considered odd and out of step with the society around us. It would be all too easy to conform to this pressure, to reduce our saltiness and blandly reflect the world around us. How convenient if we just stuck to looking after our beautiful church building to provide a suitably historical backdrop to the village. How convenient if we just provided a picturesque venue for "hatches matches and despatches". And how bland.

**Tom Crotty**

## Surgeon sorts out problems

The Trustees of Sadlers Wells Wood have had a busy few weeks and had to close temporarily the main path through the wood because a cherry tree was leaning dangerously. A professional inspection confirmed that it needed to be removed. Cheshire East were notified in view of the Tree Preservation Order and a tree surgeon offered to do the work on 8th February. When he arrived on site he found that the high winds the previous day had caused other substantial damage and he cleared as much as possible in the day.



The path has now been re-opened but it has cost the Sadlers Wells Wood Charity about £350 for all this work. An old tree by the new plantation has not yet been dealt with but this fortunately fell in an area away from the path. We depend on donations to cover maintenance expenses like these and if you enjoy the visiting our own village wood and can help us with a financial donation towards maintaining it please contact Mike Bourne (260944)

or Ernest Croley (260344).

**Mike Bourne**

## End of an era

Many of you will now know that I will not be standing for re-election as Church Warden this year. I have completed 10 years and it is time to move on.

When I said I was 'giving up', the first comment I got was "How will we manage?" Well you will. I am delighted at the response to our appeal for people to help with the day to day running of the church. We are a family church so it is good to see us working as a family.

I am not standing again but neither am I leaving the Church. My ten years on duty have been mostly very enjoyable. I have seen lots of changes in the way we run things, and I have seen many brides through our doors. Sadly I have seen many village friends laid to rest.

It has been a real pleasure as churchwarden to welcome young couples who come to hear their banns read, and a warm welcome encourages some of them to stay and become part of the church fellowship. Banns were quite recently read out for a couple getting married, and they found themselves serving the coffee! Visitors often comment, "What a warm and welcoming church family this is". Let us grow from that wonderful compliment.

Thank you to all those who have supported me unstintingly over the years in so many ways.

God bless,

**Barbara Croley**

## Jesus Easter Egg

The Church has won a victory over the commercialisation of Easter after major supermarkets agreed to stock a chocolate egg which mentions Jesus on the box.

Morrisons, Waitrose and Co-op will stock the Real Easter Egg, along with some independent retailers and cathedral shops.

The Meaningful Chocolate Company developed the £3.99 product. Profits go to Traidcraft Exchange and Baby Lifeline.



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available for weddings,  
parties and special occasions.  
Contact Hazel for more details  
07729813121.**

# St. Jude's

It is always a matter of surprise that so many people do not know the whereabouts - or even the existence of St Jude's Church. This is surprising when you consider that not only is St Jude's the sister church to St Boniface but is also of equal status to the Bunbury Church, a fact that is too often overlooked.

So for the good folk of Bunbury, St Jude's Church and church hall are situated on the A51 a mile outside Tarporley on the Nantwich Road, CW6 7HP.

I'm afraid it is a case of 'There is none so blind as they who will not see'.

The Summer Lunch this year will be held on the 26th of June. It will be in the garden of the old Tilstone Fearnall school. by the very kind permission of Mr George Molineux.

There will be a visit later in the year by the "Goodnews Singers". The concert will include a mix of Gospel and Sacred music. Please look out for the date to be advertised.

The next PCC meeting will be held on 29th March at 7pm in the church hall.

**Bob Gardner**

## Flawless chickens

Readers of Cheshire Life may have spotted an impressive two page article on young entrepreneur Ralph Elsegood, Year 10 pupil at Kings School, Chester. In just three months he has built up a successful business which has attracted the attention of experts across the country. Ralph incubates and sells hybrid and pure breed chickens for people to keep. He raised the money needed to start up and to buy incubator equipment by mowing people's lawns when they were on holiday.

He and his father Phil also build handcrafted fox proof chicken runs for owners around the county. In the summer he plans to start selling eggs and running courses on chicken management. He also wants to start entering his chickens into competitions at agricultural shows. "I have had a lot of help from local breeders, friends and family and the internet has been a great resource. Chickens are fun to keep and children in particular enjoy having them. The best thing is to give it a try, it can be really relaxing".

## March Diary

4	2.30pm	Womens Word Day of Prayer (see below)	
6	8.00am 9.30am 10.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion Holy Communion Family Worship Holy Communion	St. Boniface St. Jude's St. Boniface Calveley
9	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> 10.00am and 7.30pm	Holy Communion with ashing	St. Boniface St. Boniface
13	9.30am 10.00am 4.30pm	Holy Communion Family Communion Evensong	St. Jude's St. Boniface St. Boniface
16	10.00am 7.30pm	Holy Communion Compline	St. Boniface St. Boniface
20	8.00am 9.30am 10.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion Morning Service Family Worship Matins	St. Boniface St. Jude's St. Boniface Calveley
23	10.00am 7.30pm	Holy Communion Compline	St. Boniface St. Boniface
27	9.30am 10.00am	Holy Communion Family Communion	St. Jude's St. Boniface
30	10.00am 7.30pm	Holy Communion Compline	St. Boniface St. Boniface
<b>April 3</b>	<b>Mothering Sunday</b> (normal pattern for first Sunday services as for 6th March)		

**Please note that the Womens World Day of Prayer Service will now be held at St. Boniface Church on Friday March 4th. Revd Alex Sanders will preach on "How many loaves have you?" 2.30pm All welcome including men.**

## St Boniface Easter Holiday Club

The Easter Holiday Club will be taking place in Holy Week this year, on Monday April 18th and Tuesday April 19th, 10am to 12 noon at St. Boniface Church, Bunbury.

The Holiday Club is aimed at children of primary school age. We will be offering a mix of crafts, music and drama.

Registration forms will be available from March 7th at Bunbury School and at Calveley school, by post (for those known to us who go to others schools), at the back of the church or from Debbie Shears (260707). Please return them to "Pemberton", School Lane, Bunbury, CW6 9NR by **28th March**.

For more information contact  
**[bunbury\\_holiday\\_club@hotmail.com](mailto:bunbury_holiday_club@hotmail.com)**



# Obedience

When anyone decides to take up a sport, the first thing they do is to make sure that they know and understand the rules of the game. Whatever it is – football, golf, tennis, bowls, or anything else, the rules are vitally important.

The rules of life are equally vital and important. The Bible begins with the history of the Jewish family team and tells us how they came to be slaves in Egypt. Then Moses brought them out of Egypt and for forty years they wandered.

To begin with, they were a right rabble. Each pursued his or her own self-interest, and 'the devil take the hindmost'. They murdered, they stole other neighbours' property and even their neighbour's wife, and they clearly yearned for the fleshpots of Egypt. Moses was at his wits' end to know how to lead them and then God called them to Mount Sinai and there he gave them the Ten Commandments. But did they obey them? No way!

But Jesus gave us a second law. It didn't in any way contradict the Ten Commandments but rather went to the heart of the Commandments and

simplified things. The simplified and core commandments were 'to love God and to love our neighbour' ('neighbour' in the widest sense of course).

In an observant Jewish household those commandments are taken very seriously. On the doorpost of the house will be seen a small container, called the mezuzah, containing a tiny scroll with the words from the Scriptures. Anyone passing through the door touches the container to show their love of the law.

The Christian Church has decided that such rituals are not binding on non-Jews but obedience to the heart of the law still is. Jesus, quoting from the Old Testament, defined the core commandments to be, 'To love God and to love our neighbour'.

Today we only have the freedom to play and enjoy football and other games if we learn and obey the rules. Equally, we only get the most from life and contribute the most to life when we obey the commandments we've been given to love God and to love our neighbour.

**Eric Wallington**

# Fete planning already well underway

The snowdrops are already here but it may be a while before the daffodils are in bloom but already the planning has begun for this year's Fete. The fete is held every year at Beeston Castle on August Bank Holiday Monday, this year on August 29<sup>th</sup>. When the care of Beeston Castle passed from the Tollemache Estates to the Ministry of Works in the 1950s, and subsequently to English Heritage, the right to hold this historic event was written into the 'deeds' of the Castle and we are lucky enough to have the benefit of this right today, with the proceeds of both the Castle entrance fee and all the fund-raising stalls and displays going to the Church funds. The first meeting of 2011 has already taken place and there are some new ideas on the table. This year the fete committee is looking for some new members to bring lots more new ideas to ensure the event continues to be a successful fund-raiser for St. Boniface. The committee meets every month or so, more frequently as the date approaches. Joint chairman David Cox says: "Our meetings are relaxed, usually in the pub and often quite a lot of fun. It is great to see all the hard work coming together in August for an excellent day, whilst raising a lot of money. We do hope that some new people can join us to work together for this great cause. If you are interested in helping just contact Rick on 260991 [rick@prayer.fsnet.couk](mailto:rick@prayer.fsnet.couk)

## Interested in the environment?

As part of the **Year of the Environment** we invite everyone who is interested in looking at issues of faith and the environment to a discussion group. We will meet during the 5 weeks of Lent starting Wednesday 15th March at 7.30pm-9pm in the Tower Room in St. Boniface Church.

We will be looking at practical ways in which we can change our behaviour positively towards the environment and imaginative ideas for reflection and prayer.

## Bunbury's Sophie slaloms to victory

Fourteen year old Sophie Caldwell, who first caught the skiing bug on a family holiday, has just returned from her second trip of 2011 to the Alps, sporting a gold medal. She won the Slalom. and was overall winner for her age group at the Anglo Welsh races held in Champéry, Switzerland. At her race meeting in Flaine, France, her Abbey

Gate School team came 6th out of the British-based schools, 8th overall, and Sophie herself came 16th out of 160 girls. Her latest training takes her to Norway and then to Italy for the English Championships.

Proud parents Diana and Andy say they just can't keep up with their sporty daughter. Long may her success continue.





## For the beauty of the earth

Earth is waking up again after her long sleep. Already the snowdrops have pushed their way through the iron hard ground to dust the churchyard and the lanes with their silvery whiteness, to be followed by the dazzling yellows of the daffodils and rich, royal purples of the crocus and windflower.

The birds, in their bright spring plumage are nesting again as the days lengthen and the promise of summer is just around the corner.

The rainbow colours remind us of God's promise never to leave us. We, in turn, must look after the good earth to keep it safe for the future.

Lord God,  
Your truth and beauty are all around us.  
In the earth  
In the flowers  
In the crops of our fields.

Teach us to respect the good earth,  
To use its gifts with thankful hearts;  
Never to exploit or pollute,  
But to be guardians of your abundance  
For the generations yet to come.  
For Jesus sake, Amen.

**Pat Edgley**



Some people never seem to be motivated to participate, but are just content to watch while others do the work. They are called "Spec Taters"

Some people never do anything to help, but are gifted at finding fault while others do the work. They are called "Comment Taters".

Some people are very bossy and they like to tell others what to do, but don't want to soil their own hands. They are called "Dick Taters".

Some people are always looking to cause problems by asking others to agree with them. It is too hot or too cold, too sour or too sweet. They are called "Agi Taters"

There are those who say they will help, but somehow just never get round to actually doing the promised help. They are called "Hezzie Taters".

Some people can put up a front and pretend to be someone who they are not. They are called "Immy Taters"

Then there are others who love others and do what they say they will. They are always prepared to stop what ever they are doing and lend a helping hand. They bring real sunshine into the lives of others. They are called "Sweet Po Taters".

(Thanks to Bob Gardner)

## Sure Start Children's Centre | Nantwich

Surestart Childrens Centre in Nantwich is a free service for kids aged 0-5 and their families providing fun things for kids to do and advice for their parents and carers.

**Come and see us.**

We are in the heart of the town at Dog Lane, just off the main street:  
There is car parking across the main road at the Civic car park.

The centre is open weekdays from 9am to 5pm. You can phone or drop in for a chat or join one of the timetabled classes including Baby Massage, Baby Café and Stay and Play. Professionals based at the centre are on hand to provide help and advice on a range of issues, including family matters, childcare, pregnancy, child development, finance, employment and training and disability. We pride ourselves on offering quick and efficient help to young families.

**We can come and see you!**

We know that it is not always easy to visit the centre if you live outside Nantwich so we hold Stay and Play sessions once a month in each of the following locations beginning at 11.15am each Friday - Bridgemere, Faddiley, Wrenbury and Church Minshull.

**To find out more please ring us on 01270 375390.**

**Another great event from Tarporley High School's HSA  
Don't miss our**

## Budget Ball

**21st May 2011 at the School**

**Tickets £20 including drinks reception,  
sit down 3 course dinner and live music from  
Tuner Salad.**

**Tickets available now from the school.**

**All profits towards refurbishment of school restaurant.**



# Graham Martyn - fairness, skill and artistry

Graham came from sound Cornish farming stock. His Grandfather was a clay worker and part time farmer on Bodmin Moor. His father had saved enough by 1942 to take the tenancy of 26 acres outside Liskeard which was to grow over the years to the present 350 acres.

Graham was born in 1946 at Liskeard and he and brother Brian went to the village school in St. Neot and then Grammar School at Liskeard.

Graham enjoyed his school years. An outgoing nature and the enjoyment of people and their company came naturally to Graham, indeed it was bred in him: all were welcome at his home, however busy the day.

Brian was always going to be the farmer but this life was not for Graham. A cousin, Jim Jeffery, was auctioneer at Lostwithiel Market so on leaving school at 16, Graham took articles with him. Starting out, he travelled to work by a 250cc scooter which was frequently collected from the hedge by whichever member of the family took the rescue call.

He was a keen Plymouth Argyle fan and Saturdays were given over to supporting the team via various watering holes en route. It was Graham's job to help Brian with the milking on a Sunday morning. Brian recalls that at best he would arrive late and sit on a bale looking poorly. Like many of us enjoying life and studying through correspondence courses our man had to take a few hurdles more than once but got there in the end. Jim Jeffery was a splendid role model and teacher and Jim's ways stayed with Graham always.

In time Graham's ambition could not be contained by the firm he was with and he was fortunate to come to the attention of Mr Wright in 1973 and start the second chapter in his career here in Cheshire.

In 1973 the 27-year-old Graham checked himself into the Perth Hotel in Tarporley, to begin working for the Cheshire firm of auctioneers, Joseph Wright. As the hotel didn't provide weekend meals, John and Rosemary Broomhall's offer of hospitality at the weekend ignited a strong lifetime friendship.

In those early days, Graham specialised in the sale of calves and built up the

Beeston Calf Section to one of the largest calf auctions in the country. The allure of one of the secretaries working at the Tarporley office became a little too irresistible for him and he eventually proposed to Helen Gunnery at the most romantic spot he could imagine - Beeston Auction. They were married at Tarvin Church in November 1974 with his elder brother Brian as best man. Incidentally, both their wedding outfits still fitted, some 25 years later, at a fancy dress party to celebrate the new Millennium!

Their union produced two sons, Roger and Andrew but Roger's tragic sudden death, aged five, was a bitter blow for all the family. Graham's Methodist upbringing and Helen's resilience helped them all to overcome this setback with a steady return to happy family life, initially at Cobbler's Cross, but for the most part at Bunbury, with fun-filled holidays taken with family in Cornwall.

Graham became highly respected throughout the land as an agricultural valuer, and joined the growing partnership of Wright Manley in 1995, retiring to the role of consultant in March last year.

The Government's penchant for form-filling meant that he met a wide range of farming clients in carrying out his professional duties, each relying on his well researched knowledge, articulate sound advice and all round fairness, interspersed with the odd cigarette of course. Rather than extracting the last ha'penny from every deal, he was always mindful of the bigger picture. He became heavily involved in the Livestock Auctioneers Association and played a pivotal role within the Central Association of Agricultural Valuers, becoming their President in 2007-8 when the City of Chester was the venue for their annual gathering - an occasion still remembered as 'one of the best'.

The other annual gathering that Graham became very involved with was Nantwich Show. Director, Secretary and eventually Vice Chairman were all roles he took on at one time or another, ably assisted by Helen. The showground at Dorfold has always been compact, with on-site parking at a premium. To alleviate this one year, a two vehicle limit was introduced for every livestock exhibitor. On Graham's stint on the gate, he encountered a trio of vehicles

belonging to Harvey Smith, with Harvey himself bringing up the rear in his Lotus. Clearly above the permitted limit, Graham boldly directed Harvey to the nearest car park, to which Harvey responded with a gesture that was patently not in the auctioneer's handbook!

As a long-time season ticket holder at Stoke City, there is a seat in the grandstand at the Britannia Stadium that is engraved with Graham's name, alongside that of his good friend John Broomhall. The football that Stoke City endeavour to play can lead to the odd heart-stopping moment during the match, but in 2006, Graham's heart-stopping moment happened before play had even started, much to John's dismay. Thereafter, both cigarettes and driving took little further part in Graham's life, but there were always plenty of community projects that needed him to support Helen's role. Earlybirds Preschool, Bunbury Primary School and even the Parish Council for one year, all featured. The Christie Hospital Balls raised thousands of pounds over the years in support of Cancer Research. He organised two 24-hour Ploughing Marathons for "Children in Need" and many of us locally will have bought one of the huge number of lots he sold at Promise Auctions for various fund raising charities. He would endeavour to palm off a hairdressing voucher to someone who was follically challenged or driving lessons to anyone who had just pranged their car; such was the skill of his craft and his mischievous nature.

Shirley Bassey may have been his idol, but Graham was no "Big Spender", however in Venice one year, on holiday with friends, all that changed when he bought Helen an expensive necklace and bracelet in St. Mark's Square - a treasured memento.

Graham was always punctual, occasionally stubborn and never afraid to speak out at a meeting should the need arise. His affinity with the younger generation was always evident: he was always ready with a bit of banter.

There were times, at the completion of one of Graham's exceptional sales that I felt a round of applause for his skill and artistry might have been appropriate, but I lacked the courage. Do you think now is the time to make amends?

**From 2 addresses given at the funeral**

## Dennis Kirkham - family man

Dennis was born in the shadow of Beeston Castle, the youngest of a large family. He completed his national service and went on to work as a motor mechanic at Beeston Garage, and then found his true vocation driving HGVs for Bibby's and then Hoveringham's. Dennis and Marge lived at Church View with Marge's parents. They were happy days - it was an open house, always someone calling and never a dull moment. I remember worrying when Wendy and I decided to marry - what would they say when I asked them? I needn't have worried, they were both wonderful and made me feel at ease. Den helped me in many ways over the years, when we sited our mobile home at Mum's in Beeston, and when we renovated our house on School Lane. We worked together in the evenings and at weekends and he never seemed to get tired.

Den loved his grandchildren and was very proud of Craig and Stuart. We would holiday together when they were younger, always at Taly-Bont in Wales. We all loved that place and wouldn't go

anywhere else. Marge and Den moved to Queen Street after caring for her mother during the last years of her life. It was a new start - they had their own place and we got it just as they wanted it.

Den loved his garden and soon had it looking great, but sadly their lives were to be scarred by ill-health. Den was devastated when Marge passed away in [2009]. We never thought he would survive the shock and he astounded us all. He was a very proud and caring person, blessed with great friends and neighbours, and we would like to thank everyone, especially close friends and all at Bunbury Medical Practice who helped care for Den at home. Den was a great father and granddad. He will be sadly missed.

### Graham Edge

Daughter Wendy adds: "Also our thanks to St. Luke's Hospice for making my Dad's last few days peaceful and free of pain. When he arrived at St. Luke's he said 'This is beautiful'. I know in my heart that you and Mum are together now".

## Joyce Ellis - her door was always open

Joyce was the very best of supportive mums imaginable, and mum not only to her own family but also a kind of grandmother to the whole village. Her home always had an open door and everyone was welcome.

It was always good to be with her because she was so positive and could talk about anything with humour and without shame or embarrassment.

Humour was probably her greatest gift to us all, the family still laugh at some of the memories. She was a WI member and enjoyed looking after her garden.

The family were fortunate to spend their last Christmas together at and to be able to say their goodbyes.

**Taken from Rick's words at Joyce's funeral.**



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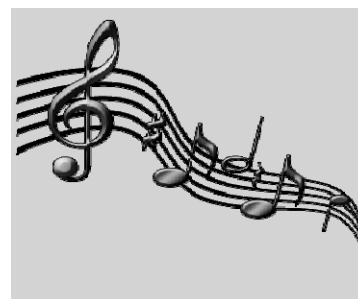
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