

# Link

For the parishes of Bunbury & Tilstone Fearnall



February  
2014

*Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase*  
Martin Luther King, Jr



Bunbury Common on a beautiful winter's day



**Pancake Party at Tilly's on  
Shrove Tuesday 4 March  
from 5-6pm - all are  
welcome!**

**Bring your own pan  
Proceeds to Save the Family**



**Also in this issue...**



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Richard Broster gives  
us two minutes



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A new playground for  
Bunbury's children



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PCC gives £5000 to  
charity

## Who we are



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[www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk](http://www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk)

## Community news

We welcome **Elise Mary Tomlinson**, daughter of **Nicola** and **David**, christened on Saturday 4 January,



**Mia Natasha Grace Vacher**, daughter of **Scott** and **Jessica**, baptised on 5 January

and **Alfred (Freddie) Graham Duckett**, son of **Jen** and **Simon**, baptised on Sunday 12 January.



Congratulations to **Helen and Simon Bennett** on the birth of **Martha Lilian**, baby sister to Edward.

Congratulations to **Blanche Wilgose** who celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 27 December.

Very best wishes for a long and very happy retirement to **Jean Fehan**, after nearly 10 years in Bunbury Post Office. We will miss you!

Congratulations to **Roger Fairweather** who had an 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party at the village hall on 14 December. In lieu of gifts the guests kindly donated £800 to Tarporley Hospital.

Congratulations to **Catharine Verity**, who celebrated her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday on 31 January.

**St Luke's Cheshire Hospice** thanks all who bought Christmas trees and handcrafted wreaths, and to everyone who used St Luke's Christmas tree recycling scheme. Per head of population, Bunbury is one of their most well supported areas for tree collection.

Jane Thompson would also like to thank all the volunteers who made these seasonal fund raising projects possible.

**Caroline Docherty** would like to thank the kind lady who passed her handbag to Gwyneth and Tony Burrows, who returned it to her house within moments of her realising she had left it in the pavilion car park. The world is a better place than we often think.

The **Good Companions** served mulled wine and mince pies in the village hall on

Christmas Eve, raising £50 for Tarporley Hospital, **Christmas greetings in December's Link** raised £191.84 for Crisis and the **Christingle** collection raised £88.93 for The Children's Society.

The **Good Companions** are staging the classic farce, **A Servant to Two Masters**, by Carlo Goldoni from Wednesday 26 February to Saturday 1 March, in the village hall, with bar and nibbles. Tickets £7.50 from Burrows.

There will be a **public meeting** to discuss developers' **housing proposals** at the village hall on Monday 10 February 6-8pm. The meeting will give residents the opportunity to air their views and also ask questions (see page 5 for more information).

On **Friday 7 February**, from 10.30am until 12.00pm at **Tilly's**, there will be '**coffee and cake**' for anyone in the village who is heading towards (or is beyond!) retirement age. All are very welcome and coffee will be at the discounted rate of £1 per cup. Looking forward to seeing lots of you there! If all goes well we hope to run it every Friday morning subsequently. If you need transport please contact Amber Middlemiss on 07804 396808 or email [midrook@btinternet.com](mailto:midrook@btinternet.com)

**Bunbury Mill Visitor Centre** will once again host an **evening of folk music** on Saturday 15 February. Last year sold out fast. Tickets Ken Broster 733244.

**Bunbury YCs** will lead the service at St Boniface on Education Sunday 16 February at 10.30am.

The **Women's World Day of Prayer 2014** will take place on Friday 7 March at 2.30pm at St Boniface. The theme will be 'Streams in the Desert' and has been prepared by the women of Egypt.

The next **Praise Evening** will be on Friday 28 March and will be at Tarporley Baptist and Methodist church.

**Bunbury Gardening Club** turn their attention away from the February weather on 18 February with a talk on Three Southern Gardens by Jane Alison in the village hall back room. The Gardening Club is looking for a new chairperson. Please contact Adrian Caine on 261163.

**Jonathan Verity**, with a group of fellow students from Bath University, is raising money for The Children's Society. They will be climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in June 2014. Donations would be gratefully received. Jonathan's immediate target is £3,000. [www.justgiving.com/Jonathan-Verity](http://www.justgiving.com/Jonathan-Verity)

The **copy deadline** for the March issue of the Link is **Friday 14 February**. The magazine should be in church for delivery on **Friday 28 February**.



## Community news (contd...)

Bunbury School's **Year 1 class**, together with teacher Miss Brockley, have moved into their **brand new classroom** and are thoroughly enjoying their new environment.



The **Bunbury Parish Plan Steering Group** held a drop-in session at Tilly's on 10 December. The main action points from the questionnaire were displayed and attendees were requested to give comments on several other issues. We are grateful to Tilly's for supplying tea and coffee which provided a relaxed atmosphere. The names of everyone who came to the evening were entered into a raffle for a bottle of wine which was won by **Michael Bourne**. We are grateful to Revd Tim for displaying some of the information in church for those unable to attend the session. It is anticipated that the Action Plan will be published in the early part of 2014.

## Our prayers for February

We pray for all who are ill, especially remembering **Betty Clauson, Ann Flint, Hilda Elsworth** and **Robert Baxter**. We pray for everyone mourning a loved one, particularly the families of **Ron Everstead, June Carter, Richard Hopley, David Green** and **Rick Jones**. We pray for all who have suffered as a result of **flooding**.

## TIM HAYWARD

Your Vicar



We begin the year full of resolutions and promises to perhaps eat better, exercise more, work less, find more time for our friends and for ourselves. But come February we may already be feeling guilty, or are already struggling to establish the habits we wanted. Yet, there is something so very hopeful to me in this fundamental impulse - our longing for a richer way of being in the world, our desire to better ourselves and to grow. Here's a list of my five resolutions for the year ahead. I've tried to avoid the trap of addressing a list of shortcomings or wanting to fix my flaws, but instead I've tried to cultivate a change of heart and mind, as well as growth in faith, hope and love:

- 1) Never stop starting over, never despair whatsoever - do all in your power not to fall, but if you do fall, get up again and again, even if you fall a thousand times... rise up again each time.
- 2) Live intentionally, not aimlessly, and be ruthlessly realistic - discover your gifts and talents, know your limitations, expect difficulties, but live

# How is it all going?

life to the full, enjoy the present, and have purpose going forward.

3) Listen to your dreams - honour your intuition and instinct, keep paper and pen by your bed, jot down some of the images and feelings, reflect on what they might have to say. Dreams often reveal the hidden rooms of our soul and invite us inside for exploration.

4) Don't judge others, always think good of everyone - acknowledge when you fail another person and make amends, forgive and let go, avoid having to justify yourself.

5) Love, love, love - don't live by fear, or make decisions based on self-preservation, be vulnerable, put others first, be community minded, never expect others to do something that you would not do for them.

They are what they are: a list, a start, a desire to be better...

My prayer is that we will all grow this coming year, and find deep within ourselves new things that will help us to make our bit of the world a better place.

## Christmas festivities at St Boniface and St Jude's





## Eric Wallington

Reader Emeritus

### Thought of the month

The meaning of cricket is quite baffling to most Americans. After all, what is a crease, a leg bye, a googly? And, of course, the meaning of a game is not readily found in the game itself, but rather in the people who play it. They say, 'Cricket makes one proud to be British!' (or even, possibly, Australian!).

Here's another question: do you believe that life has meaning? Like cricket, the meaning doesn't lie in the thing itself but rather in its relationship with things outside it. The meaning of this beautiful universe can't be found anywhere in the universe - but rather in the heart of God himself.

So what did God himself mean by creating the universe and us in it? The simplest answer to the question is, I suppose, that God made us all in love. We are not unconnected individuals but rather people

in relationships. And it's love which makes those relationships possible - love which rescues us from eternal loneliness.

We are not alone; we are here because God loves us and has created us in love. He has given each of us the incredible privilege of free will, so that we can choose to love God and choose to love each other, without being forced to. And love, of course, means giving the object of our love freedom; allowing us to develop in our own way - allowing each of us to develop our unique potential.

If that's how God loves us, then surely that's how he means us to love each other, with generous tolerance for those who are different from us. Surely God has put us here so that we can learn to love one another with all our hearts, and also learn to love God in the same way.

## Church diary for February

Sunday 2 February	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Family Worship 11.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface St Jude's St Boniface Calveley	Wednesday 19 February	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Wednesday 5 February	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface	Sunday 23 February	9.00am Holy Communion 10.30am Family Communion	St Jude's St Boniface
Sunday 9 February	9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Holy Communion 4.30pm Evensong	St Jude's St Boniface St Boniface	Wednesday 26 February	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Wednesday 12 February	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface	Sunday 2 March	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Family Worship 11.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface St Jude's St Boniface Calveley
Sunday 16 February	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Morning Prayer 10.30am Family Worship 11.00am Family Worship	St Boniface St Jude's St Boniface Calveley			



## Pat Edgley Ellis

Reader  
Stuck in a rut

Life does not progress at an even pace. There can be periods when we are stuck, bogged down.

Over Christmas, Akademik Shokalskiy, the Antarctic research ship, got stuck in unseasonal deep ice. Three rescue ships failed to get through. The scientists could only wait till rescue came by helicopter, disappointed at leaving their work unfinished.

But life is messy, with no clear and tidy endings.

We can all get stuck, drowning in worry, debt, grief, pain or sheer boredom, and there appears to be no way out. Our safety net is missing, and God seems very far away.

But if we have the patience and trust to wait for him, he will surely rescue us.

Save me O God,  
For the waters have come up to my neck.  
I sink in the miry depths  
Where there is no foothold.  
I have come into the deep waters,  
The floods engulf me.  
Rescue me from the mire,  
Do not let me sink.

I am worn out calling for help.

But I pray to you, O Lord,  
In the time of your favour;  
In your great love, O God,  
Answer me with your sure salvation.

(From Psalm 69)



# Give us Two Minutes... Richard Broster



Richard started working on the family farm after school and at weekends at the age of 12. At 16, after his last exam, he couldn't wait for the bus, so he walked home (Tarporeley to Little Budworth). The next 12 years he spent rearing cattle and growing potatoes and vegetables and helping in the farm shop. There was only, ever, one girlfriend for Richard - Helen. They

married and have three sons, all of whom work with them today.

In 1993, Richard decided to leave farming and move to another career in car recovery and accident repairs. He became a partner in K.C. Autos of Winsford. They were one of eight operators recovering vehicles for Cheshire police and over the next 17 years the business grew from 12 employees to nearly 200; repairs went from 15 a week to over 300.

In 2009, after years of looking for a farm, Richard and Helen bought four fields on Bunbury Common. Richard finished working in the car industry and began farming full time again. Over the past four years, the farm has grown to around 500 acres and has 1000 laying hens, 450 beef cattle, 200 sheep, 50 acres of potatoes and 5 acres of vegetables. In June 2010 they started their farm shop in a garden shed with an honesty box. They hardly dared think it would take off - but it did. Christmas 2011 saw so much congestion on the road that today's building was established. A desire to supply their own meats and, unfortunately, theft from the honesty box, made it necessary to staff the shop. Richard thinks that theirs is one of only two Cheshire farm shops to entirely source their own eggs, meat and potatoes.

**If you had a motto, what would it be?**

Not a motto, but a joke that's true. A farmer was asked what he would do after he won the lottery. He replied, "Carry on farming, until it's all gone".

**What would you call your autobiography?**

It's been a busy life.

**What was your first job?**

Farming.

**What would you change about Bunbury, if you could?**

Nothing, it's just right.

**What is the best book you've read to date?**

Not a book, just a magazine, 'Horse'.

**What is your biggest regret?**

I don't have any.

**If you were granted one wish, what would it be?**

That farming remains a good industry to be in over the coming years.

**What is the one thing that people would be surprised to learn about you?**

After never sitting on a horse, I decided to start riding one at 48.

**What would you like to achieve most over the next 12 months?**

I'd like to spend more time with my wife, Helen and learn to ride Seamus, the horse, to a good standard.

**What is your favourite place and why?**

The farm. I couldn't find one, so we built one.

**How would you spend your ideal weekend?**

For a start, it would have to be warm and sunny, with no rain!

## New housing heats up in Bunbury

The Housing Development event held on 30 November provided residents with information about proposed developments. Though no proposal was yet at the planning application stage, six developers provided information about locations, intended numbers and types of houses. The developers were: Bird (land off School Lane/adjacent to the Cricket Club car park), Bloor (land off School Lane), Goodier (land west of Bunbury Lane, off Oak Gardens), Harding/Ryder (land west of Bunbury Lane), McCormack (land off Wyche Lane), Strutt & Parker/Rural Housing Trust (land off Bowes Gate Road).

Approximately 350+ people came to the event; many were surprised or shocked at the scale of the proposed developments, when taken as a whole. There was overwhelming support for a public meeting to discuss the issue further, and that will take place at the village hall on Monday 10 February 6-8pm. The meeting will give residents the opportunity to air their views and ask questions of a panel which will include: Cllr. Michael Jones, Leader of Cheshire East Council, Cllr. Jo Mundell, Chair of Bunbury Parish Council and a Senior Planning Officer.

To date the Parish Council has received approximately 170 feedback forms from the event, with many residents also sending emails or letters. It is intended to have the feedback ready for the public meeting.

Ron Pulford, Bunbury Parish Council Vice-Chairman

**ST. BONIFACE CHURCH  
BUNBURY**

**THE CITY OF CHESTER  
MALE VOICE CHOIR**

**SATURDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2014**

**at  
7.30PM**

**TICKETS £10.00 (including wine &  
refreshments)**

**All proceeds for church funds**

**Tickets on sale now  
For further information please contact  
Jenny Brooks 01270 522214**

# Playground vision and fundraising



After months of research, presentations and playground visits, Bunbury Playground Committee is starting to consolidate the vision for the new playground.

The design aim is for it to be in keeping with rural setting of Bunbury and to use natural local materials. The play equipment will be arranged in zones to accommodate toddlers, juniors and teenagers. Additionally the theme, landscaping, seating, planting and nature area will be designed to attract more adults into the playground. The proposed play equipment is made from high quality wood, will be durable and easy to maintain, and the landscaping will generate imaginative play.

The playground will be themed around the life of Sir Hugh Calveley. He was an English knight and commander who took part in the Hundred Years' War and was famous (or infamous) for his antics at home and abroad. His story is a great one and there is a tomb in his name at St Boniface church (pictured above).

The Committee are also delighted to announce that Beth Tweddle has agreed to design a piece of gymnastic equipment for the playground, and that nationally renowned local sculptor Stephen Broadbent will design a unique piece of art that children can interact and play with.



The playground will be unique to Bunbury and something that the village can be proud of. The committee are very grateful to many of you in the community who have already generously supported our fundraising efforts to date. The Christmas cards and baubles were a success raising just under £1000. Our goal is to raise £5000 before the planning application process in June. We have raised £2000 to date.

**Please support the forthcoming events. In February, there is the 80's disco night at the village hall (Friday 7 February 8pm) and in March a quiz night will be held at Tilly's (Friday 21 March at 7pm).**

## It's all in the eye of the beholder



Bunbury Mill Trustees and volunteers were all disappointed by the news received just before Christmas, that a Heritage Lottery Fund application unsuccessful, but with the approach of the 2014 season it is business as usual at Bunbury Mill.

The trustees will submit an amended grant application, so that major work, including dredging the Mill Pond and repairing the wooden parts of the water wheel, can be started. In the meantime volunteers are busy planning improvements to the buildings and grounds ready for re-opening in the spring. On 15 January the Mill welcomed its first school visit this year; a group of pupils from Helsby Hillside Primary School. Most of the pupils were impressed by the dimensions of the water wheel, though one little girl confided that she thought the London Eye might be bigger...

On 15 February the visitor centre will again host an evening of folk music - judging by last year's sell-out, tickets will be like gold dust, so snap them up quickly. Contact Ken Broster on 733244 for details.

If you are interested in helping with Mill tours, school or adult visits, gardening and grounds maintenance - or any other aspect of running this historic building - you would be very welcome. Please contact us at [info@bunburymill.com](mailto:info@bunburymill.com) or call Peter Robinson on 260641.

## John Douglas Walker MBE



Johnnie Walker, of School Lane, Bunbury had a day to remember on 3 December, when he received his MBE from the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, Mr David Briggs MBE, on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen.

Johnnie, who will soon be 94, received the award for 73 years' service to the Royal British Legion. Instead of travelling to London, to Buckingham Palace,

he was able to receive his award in Bunbury, surrounded by his wife Dot, friends and family.

He has been Branch Chairman, Vice Chairman of the Service Committee, Welfare Committee Chairman and Poppy Organiser and has collected for the Poppy Appeal since 1948. At his investiture, the Lord Lieutenant said, "Your steadfast and unrelenting service to Bunbury is an inspiration to us all and an example of compassion, dedication and loyalty to your community."

Johnny joined the army in 1939 and was with the Durham Light Infantry, in the 8th Army (The Desert Rats) from 1940 to 1946 and saw action at both battles of El Alamein in Egypt. John served with his battalion in Sicily, the Italian mainland, Normandy and Germany.



# Save the Family in crisis



An aerial view of Cotton Hall Farm

The people of Bunbury have supported the work of Save the Family for 25 years; Barbara Croley organises collections of household goods and clothes three or four times a year. This support has helped to furnish a number of family flats, where families

in difficulty can be helped to rebuild their lives, be part of a community and learn household skills.

Barbara tells us, "I have, since the late 1980s, been associated with Save the Family (StF) and have been astounded at the results they achieve in keeping families together in dire circumstances. I watched Plas Belin grow from a single building into outreaching accommodation within the centre. I have seen young girls grow in

confidence, battling against drink, drugs and debt to protect the children they have brought into the world.

"We all held our breath as we waited and prayed for Cotton Hall Farm (CHF) to rise from derelict outbuildings to the wonderful accommodation it is today, keeping families together and avoiding children going into foster homes."

In 2013, hard-pressed Flintshire County Council withdrew funding,

which fundamentally affected StF. As a result, Plas Belin and Sunraye will now be run by "Local Solutions", although StF still owns the property. StF hoped that local government would assist in funding CHF but, despite relentless applications to Cheshire West, Cheshire East, Warrington, Stoke, Sefton and the Wirral, no funding has been forthcoming. To avoid closing CHF, the tough decision to reduce staff was made. Steve, manager of CHF, took early retirement and fortunately two other staff found jobs quite quickly.

After a worrying AGM in December, a few more families are now in residence, which helps finances. Some funding is again starting to come in, though smaller scale than the corporate donations made in the early years.

The appointment of Edna Speed, Honorary (non-trustee) to Lifetime President, was tinged with sadness. Edna, with her determination, has in the past been able to cajole people to help in so many ways and is very troubled that some things are no longer possible.

"I wanted to explain what is going on in the hope that we can see how vital our help is in upholding family life and keeping families together. In Bunbury, we are so generous in giving items of all descriptions, so I have not had to ask for monetary donations until now. I can't thank you all enough for all the support you give to this charity."

If you can help, please contact the office at 01244 409100, email [info@savethefamily.uk](mailto:info@savethefamily.uk). com

There will be another collection of goods for Save the family, at St Boniface in the spring.



Flats house vulnerable families



Save the Family playroom

## Catching up with St Boniface's former Youth Workers



Former St Boniface youth worker Kim Beswick features in an update of the best-selling "Brilliant Graduate Career Handbook"

co-authored by Judy Done (a former careers adviser) and Rachel Mulvey. The book is a practical guide to the graduate labour market and guides readers through the process of getting that crucial first job, using real-life stories of recent graduates. Judy said, "I was very keen to include Kim in the new edition as she's a perfect example of how a new graduate can build up a career, even

when jobs are hard to come by.

Following her degree in Christian Youth Work she was determined to secure a job in her chosen field, even though most youth work posts are part-time. She was delighted to be appointed to St Boniface, despite needing to travel from Chester by bus for several months. To enable her to pursue her dream job, she supplemented her income with a part-time job in retail and later dovetailed her job at Bunbury with a part-time post in student guidance, where she was able to use her skills with young people. Her approach showed real motivation and planning and she is a great role model for new graduates."

Kim is now thoroughly enjoying her post as a learning mentor at Churchfields Academy in Swindon, working with Year 8 pupils. She sends her best wishes to everyone at Bunbury.

Meanwhile, Laura Warrington, youth worker prior to Kim and Abbie, returned mid-November from two years



in Papua New Guinea, working with husband Luke (pictured above) for Wycliffe Bible Translators. They have been debriefed about translating the bible into Sissano, had an orality course and spent Christmas with family around the UK. Currently training in Gloucester and making Toc Pisin video tutorials for future translators in PNG, they should be in the UK for six months, but their baby's arrival end of February/early March may delay their departure. They might return to PNG, but it is increasingly likely they will move on. Various destinations beckon - watch this space... and for news of baby Warrington.

# Ron Everstead - Liverpool through and through



Ron was one of three children, born in Aintree in 1944. He loved sports and won various awards at athletics. His real love and passion was for football, and he was very gifted. He was on the books at Liverpool FC at 14 and played for Liverpool schoolboys'. He then signed for Wolves at 16, but in the end, decided not to go. He took one look round the living

accommodation, and thought, "I don't want this".

He was very family orientated and adored his beloved mum 'Lily-Ev' and was very close to his brother Eric, who sadly died in 1986, waiting for a heart transplant.

A hard working lad, Ron worked on building sites and then had jobs in factories and as a telephone engineer. In 1967 Eric got him into the Prudential Assurance as an agent. Ron

was promoted to Branch Manager and worked for them for 29 years, until 1996.

He was very driven and progress in his job meant the family moved around a lot. Being an inspector meant working mainly afternoon and evening, which allowed Ron, who loved his golf, to play in the mornings. Over the years, he was a member at Vicars Cross, Aldersey Green, and finally Eaton. He raised money for Help the Heroes at Eaton and was on the social committee at Old Hall.

It was while playing golf, that Ron had the first of two heart attacks, causing him to take early retirement at the age of 52.

Ron married Barbara after they met at Orrel Park Ballroom, and then again by chance at Southport Fair. They were married in October 1966 and they had three children, his 'quality street gang'. Ron always had a dog and the photo shows Daisy with him.

He kept his cancer diagnosis secret and carried on playing golf for six months. Ron was a very determined man, courageous and prepared to give anything a go.

He was a life-long supporter of Liverpool FC and this was marked at his funeral service.

## June Carter - lover of beach holidays and family fun

June was born in Alpraham on 8 June 1928. She attended Tilstone Fearnall Primary School and Nantwich and Acton Grammar School, then went on to Chester Secretarial College. She then worked at Eagle Star Insurance Company, in Chester. June married George, whom she grew up three doors from, in 1952. Their children, Ann and John were born while they lived at Birch Heath, Tarporley. They moved back to Alpraham in 1959, only moving to Nantwich in 1988.

June was a full-time housewife and loved reading, gardening and family activities. She was clerk to Alpraham Parish Council for many years. June and George took great delight in family holidays, usually in Bournemouth. In later years, when they holidayed with Ann and John and their families, June loved nothing more than playing with her grandchildren in the sea and on a beach.

When George became ill, June was his full-time carer for 3 years. Sadly, within months of George's death, June herself became ill. She battled on.

A prospective trip to Venice had to be converted to a trip to St Ives, but June astonished her doctors in her tenacity for life. She managed a second trip to St Ives. June died at home, as she had wished, having spent her final months surrounded by family.

## Bunbury Remembers gains more support

The Bunbury Remembers project has profited from local football rivalry and generosity. Junior Football gave £72 from the Lads & Dads match on 14 December, and on a cold, wet, muddy New Year's Day the Nags Head played a friendly game of football against the Dysart Arms.

The game was played in a good competitive spirit, and the Nags secured a 3-2 victory over their fierce rivals.

The vicar may have been on the losing team, but Tim was delighted when both sides donated the money raised - £245 - to the Bunbury Remembers project and its planned refurbishment of the War Memorial Gates

More Bunbury Remembers events will be coming up soon!

Thanks to the generosity of our village and the willingness of so many people to be collectors, the 2013 Poppy Day Appeal raised £4,074.29. The Poppy Appeal is open all year, so if you would



**1914 - 2014  
Bunbury Remembers**

still like to give something, please contact Roger Fairweather or Fred Hardy. Would-be collectors can contact any member of the Bunbury Royal British Legion to add their name to the list for this special year.



# Martin Luther King Day is more than a day off school

In this first 'Letter from America', **Jo Mason** gives a glimpse of one of the [very different!] churches the family has attended since arriving in Oregon. **The Lake Oswego United Church of Christ** is a non-denominational church, which shares its premises with a Reform (liberal) synagogue. From the pews, one can admire the large cross hung on the wall behind the altar and the Ark next to it which holds the Torah scrolls (a sacred part of a synagogue). When much of what one hears from the UK about Christian life in the US seems to focus on the more extreme, fundamentalist communities, it is refreshing to discover a vibrant, welcoming church just as fiercely dedicated to celebrating tolerance for all in its community. Jo and John hope to share more of their explorations of life here over the next few issues.

***"Oh God, all people are your Beloved,  
across races, nationalities, religions, sexual orientations  
and all the ways we are distinctive from one another.  
We are all manifestations of your image..."***

So began the opening congregational prayer of the service at Lake Oswego United Church of Christ today - quite a contrast from the Church of England first congregational prayer:

*"Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden..."*

On the long weekend of Martin Luther King, Jr Day, a public holiday in the US intended to be a day of public service, Americans consider events past and present which have served as a marker for our tolerance and compassion towards our fellow humans. Being

reminded of these events, combined with the reality of how minority communities are still treated in the US and across the world, brought new meaning to the words above which opened today's service.

During the service, we reflected on the rights and wrongs of the internment of over 100,000 Japanese Americans following the attack on Pearl Harbor which brought the US into the Second World War. We were privileged to hear a heartfelt, personal story told by the niece of one second-generation Japanese American, Stanley Hayami, interned at the age of 16 with his family. Stanley kept a journal recording his thoughts and experiences throughout internment. Having been drafted into the Army to fight for the very government that had interned him for two years, Stanley left the internment camp in June 1944 and to fight in Europe. He died in battle in Italy, trying to aid a fellow US Army soldier, and was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. How much we owe those who fought for us; how little some of our leaders did to earn that loyalty.



## Bunbury PCC gives £5,000 to charity

On behalf of the parish churches, Bunbury PCC undertakes charitable giving each year. This year, the PCC asked for suggestions from the community, and thanks are due to all who nominated potential recipients.

The current policy is that about half of the giving goes to UK charities, 30% to local charities and 20% overseas. The PCC was fortunate to have £5,000 to give at a time when any sum is greatly appreciated by struggling charities. It was therefore decided to spread the giving widely and support the following:

†Three UK charities - **RABI** (Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution) - supporting members of our farming communities across the country facing need, hardship or distress - **Crisis** - the national charity for single homeless people - **Christians against Poverty** - working across the UK to lift people out of debt and poverty

†Three local charities - **Tarporley War Memorial Hospital** - providing healthcare for all those in need - **Cheshire East Citizens Advice Bureau** - offering free, confidential and independent advice on a wide range of issues affecting members of our communities - **Bunbury Playground** project - providing a new and inclusive play area for the children and young people of our community

†Two overseas charities - **Village Water** - changing lives in rural Zambia through safe water and sanitation - **Embrace the Middle East** - tackling poverty and injustice in the Middle East.

No matter how tough we may feel things are, we are so fortunate compared with the beneficiaries of many of these charities and feel blessed to be able to support them in this way.

## Isaac Broadbent in a windy Isle of Man



Well this has been an interesting few weeks: the wind has been howling, the waves have been crashing, the Spirit has been calling. I have seen waves of amazing size and power, wind so strong that walls have come crashing down, and a God so powerful that all

things are possible through him. Just think of how much we could do if we had his Spirit Wind in us, what walls could be knocked down in our lives?

I thank you again for all your support, and pray that God will bless and look after you all there. If possible please pray for volunteers in Colby, as I am struggling to find people to help in the youth club (which is going amazingly). Thank you all, God bless and look after you.

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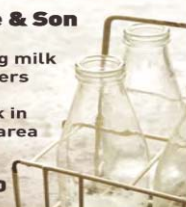
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