



Easter fun at St Boniface

Our youth worker Laura Warrington writes: "We had a wonderful time at the Easter Holiday Club this year. There was singing, dancing, crafting, parachuting, three-legged-egg-and-spoon racing and much more! Through stories, drama, songs and beads we were able to explore the real meaning behind the chocolate and chicks of this holiday. On the first day we looked at creation and how beautiful God made everything, but also how quickly we were able to mess things up. The second day we discovered how God sent His Son, Jesus to rescue us and the world. We were fully booked with 39 children attending. Thanks to all who were involved in making this a success. We look forward to seeing everyone again at our summer club starting on 3rd Aug - phone Debbie Shears on 260707 if you can help."



Scout hut grant success

The Scouts were delighted to hear in late March that they had been awarded a £50,000 grant from WREN Waste Management towards the building of the new scout hut. This is in addition to the grant from the Borough Council of £47,000. The WREN grant was made possible by the provision of substantial third party funding from POCHIN Construction - our thanks to them for all their support with this application.

Chief fundraiser David Stockman writes: "We are now within £20,000 of the amount we need to build the new hut. Lots of local organisations including all the scouting and guiding

groups are planning their own fundraising activities in the next few months so please support them if you can. It is a condition of both the grants that we must have all the funding in place, before they will release theirs.

We also intend to approach a number of local business people and other key individuals to ask for financial support to help cover the small amount of remaining funding. If you can help in any way please contact **Phil Elsegood on 260507**. We would be most grateful for any help you can offer towards this village project and will publicise our donors if they wish."



In March, Bunbury's Ernest Croley was installed as president of the Wyche Malbank Probus, (Probus is a national organisation for retired professional and business men.)

Wife Barbara says, "He scrubs up rather well. If he has nothing to do at home he can spend the next year polishing the little name plates - it should keep him out of mischief!".

Please support

Christian Aid week May 10th-19th

Keeping Hope Alive

Community news

Mike and Carole Ridley have gained another grandchild, born less than three weeks after **Hannah** (whom we mentioned last month). Second son **Pete** and his wife **Kat** are now proud parents of **Alex Michael**, who was born on March 27th. Here he is (left) with his young cousin and their mums. Mike tells us he is starting to relax after all the excitement, however excitement levels are expected to soar again in the Ridley household in August with a planned family trip to Poland for Hannah's Christening (watch this space).



Welcome to **Samuel Alexander**, son of **Nigel & Rachael Lewis**, of Wardle who was baptised at St. Boniface on Easter Day

Congratulations to **Cara Williams and Simon Greaves** of Knutsford who were married at St. Boniface on 5th April.

Last month we included a picture of **Maral Danesh and Keith Hann** who were married at St. Boniface. This photo has since come to our attention of their dog **Craster** stealing the show during the signing of the register. Whatever next?



We gather that someone who has been instrumental in the success of the local scout movement over the last 10 years reached his half century last

month but wouldn't want a mention. Congratulations anyway, you know who you are.

The weekend of 15th -17th May looks busy locally, starting with the first performance of the **Good Companions pantomime** on Thursday evening (see p4), then **Bunbury School Barbeque** on Friday evening. **Tarporley High School** is holding its **Hog Roast and Dance** on Saturday with dancing to Chester-based band, **The Front Room**, who played to great acclaim at the last School Ball in 2006. As if that wasn't enough excitement for one weekend Target 1250 is holding a **Family Fun Treasure Hunt** starting from St. Boniface 2-2.30pm. (More details on page 5). No prizes for attending all 4 events.

Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers are once again being given away with your shopping. Please collect them and donate to one of our local groups, who will be able to redeem them for children's play equipment. **Bunbury Brownies, Earlybirds and Bunbury and Tarporley High School** are all collecting. Many thanks.

Bookings for **Bunbury Pavilion** are now taken by **Morag Taylor**, 260771. For **Bunbury Village Hall** please contact **Gill Johnson** on 260422

The **Parish Council** meets on the second Tuesday of the month, at 7.30pm at Bunbury Methodist Chapel. Their meetings are public and anyone can go along.

Johnny Gillett has written to tell us that **Indigo Moon Theatre's shadow puppets** will be visiting his theatre group and Bunbury School in May.

Bunbury Explorers invite you and your friends to an exclusive curry night to be held on Friday 8th May in Bunbury Pavilion. Tickets are very limited and at a bargain £10 to include three-course curry feast and complimentary Pimms. Please contact Sarah-Jane Stockman on 260714.

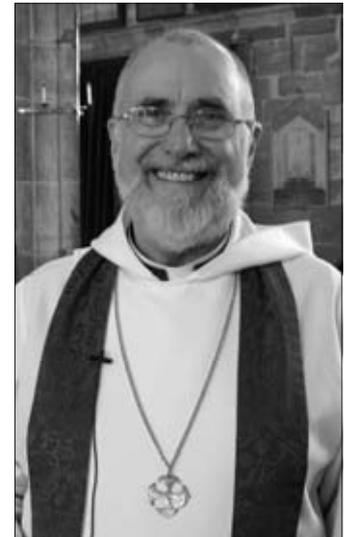
On 23rd April there was a **storytelling special** in the church with tales from **merrie old England**, organised by Johnny Gillett in honour of St. George's Day as a fundraiser for the new scout hut.

St. Luke's Hospice invite you to join them for Champagne and Cupcakes on Monday 15th June at Sicily Oak Farm, Croxton Green, Cholmondeley, 3

for 3.30pm. Demonstration by leading florist Sean Hirst, Hats and Headwear fashion show by Kath Clarkson, Girly Retail therapy and a chance to view a stunning sculpture show in the grounds of Sicily Oak farm. Individual tickets are available at £12.50 each. Tables of 8 or 10 can be reserved. For tickets or more details please call **Jane Thompson on 01606 555688** or e-mail jane@ditnet.co.uk

St. Lukes also remind us that there are places still available on their ladies-only 5th Annual **Midnight Walk**, beginning at midnight on 20th June. To learn more visit www.midnightwalk.co.uk

Church news



Former Vicar of Bunbury Donald Marr, who was delighted to be invited back to St. Boniface in March

This month please pray especially for **Timothy Atkins, Alan Bosley, Mary Large, Pam Thomas and Eileen Overy** and the families of those who have recently died. We pray also for anyone who is anxious about jobs or finances.

Christian Aid week is 10th-19th May - please support the house to house collection and well done to **Joyce Buxton** who organizes this every year.

The **June edition** of the magazine will be available in St. Boniface from Sunday May 31st. Our deadline for material to be included is 15th May.

Rick takes stock of our churches

At the St. Boniface Annual meeting Rick thanked those who had the vision for the future and made it happen with the appointment of Laura Warrington as our youth worker. "We look forward to her ministry here with our young people", said Rick.

"I also want to record my sadness at the departure of Jane Stephenson who worked so hard for us (often behind the scenes), and also of Alex Sanders who is to be ordained Deacon in July and will then be leaving us to be Curate at Tarporley.

"We have to say goodbye as well to Martin Cook who for years has led the Bunbury Singers. Martin, who has been a great support in playing the organ regularly for services, is taking up an opportunity to study in the USA.

"We have a fine and committed team here and my special thanks go to our now regular visiting preachers, Mike Ridley, Jeremy Hunns, Alan Chesters and our Methodist friends.

"I would like us to develop into an accepting, welcoming and radical Christ-centered church. Let us use Jesus Christ as our model, for in Him we see God's intention for everyone. This is how we should be: loving, caring, healing, listening, sacrificial, honest".

Rick is a Bunbury School Governor and on one of his recent visits he took in some of his stoles (scarves) to show Years 3 and 6. He also mentioned that it was his birthday coming up. Year 6 pupils Annie and Eloise set about making him a

special "birthday scarf" and they are pictured here presenting it to him in church on Palm Sunday.



Flower power

There is only a month to go before Bunbury's 40th Anniversary Village Day on June 20th. Loads of exciting events are planned in and around the arena, and we hope lots of you will take part in our competitions too - whether flower-arranging, cake-making, scarecrow-constructing or tug of war. Entry forms from the Co-op, Burrows, Dysart or either Nag's Head. There will also be a children's art competition with a sixties theme, so nans and granddads, get ready to offer some 'Flower Power' inspiration: remember the moon landings, the Beatles, the clothes...

This year's Rose Queen will be Emily Griffiths, with her sister Lucy joining Tabitha Green, Hallie Johnson, Georgia Edwards, Eloise Nuttall and Holly Steward as attendants.

We are short of marquees, tents or gazebos to make sure Village Day is covered, whatever the weather. Please contact me if you have anything suitable that we could borrow for the day. We also still need volunteers to help set up on Friday night and Saturday morning. Many hands really do make light work, so if you could spare even an hour or two please let me know.

Here's to a great 40th Village Day. See you all there!

Steve Mort 262473

Guides raise £400 in the sun



Bunbury Guides chose a beautiful sunny day for the Crocus Walk in aid of Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

Over 50 Guides, their mums, friends and four-legged friends enjoyed the spring sunshine on a couple of miles' walk across the fields around the village.

The walk was followed by lunch of home-made soup and cakes, and the total raised by this ever-popular event was over £400.

Well done Guides!



St. Boniface Easter celebrations

After the Holiday Club St. Boniface Church was given a quick spring clean in time for the popular Agape Supper on Maundy Thursday, followed on Good Friday by prayers and then a showing of the film "The Passion of the Christ".

St. Boniface church was full on Easter Sunday with many visitors and family members home for the weekend. As usual for the Church's most important festival the flowers were lovely, there were chocolate eggs cunningly hidden around our ancient building and was that a whiff of incense we could detect, all adding to the sense of occasion?

Bishop Alan Chesters was welcomed as preacher and celebrant. His Wikipedia entry tells us that Bishop Alan was Bishop of Blackburn from 1989 until his retirement in 2003, following which he became Assistant Bishop in the dioceses of Chester and Gibraltar. He was recently admitted as Honorary Fellow of his old college, St Stephen's House, Oxford. Rumour has it he enjoys his visits here, so maybe he will come again before too long.

Becca gets Gold at last

Congratulations to Bunbury's Becca Shears who recently received her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award:

"I really enjoyed all aspects of the DoE scheme during the last 4 years: it provides a real contrast to normal school activities. The expeditions were tough, especially when it poured with rain for 3 days, but everyone helps each other and the sense of satisfaction of finishing was great. You also have to attend a residential course. I was fortunate enough to spend 2 weeks in China where I had the chance to learn some Mandarin and Chinese brush painting. I also learnt a lot from my year's service at Tarporley hospital working with the elderly - Prince Edward asked me about that during the presentation at St James's Palace."



Bunbury Cricket Club and Bunbury Aldersey School warmly invite you to

Bunbury Summer Ball

Saturday the 4th July
Bunbury Cricket club

Tickets on sale at the Cricket Club
on Saturday 9th May 10am to 11am

Tickets £50 each to include
5 course dinner and live Music

There are 25 tables of 10 available on a first come first served basis

Nick's RAF Guard of honour



The Patons of Bunbury have sent us this picture of son Nick and daughter-in-law Caroline after their wedding in February at All Saints Parish Church, near RAF Odiham, where he was stationed with the Special Forces Squadron. Nick has since been promoted to Squadron Leader and awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for an action he led in Afghanistan last year.

Bunbury Good Companions proudly present

"TROUBLE IN PANTOLAND"

A pantomime for all ages

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 14th-16th May



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Adults £8, Children £5

Tickets from Jo Perry 260500

or Chris Green 260671

Proceeds towards new scout hut and Junior Cricket Club

All good things come to an end?

'So that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints' (Ephesians 1,18)

If you've been lucky enough to have had a really wonderful holiday, no doubt someone at the end of the holiday has sighed and said something like 'Well, I suppose all good things have to come to an end'. Then perhaps someone else has interjected 'Well it has been great but I'll be quite glad to be home again.' Although reason no doubt told you that there was plenty to look forward to when you go home, at the end of the holiday, you were so full of the wonderful time you'd had that you couldn't believe that anything so wonderful would happen again. It's true in general that all good things must come to an end but sometimes they're followed by something even better.

The disciples clearly enjoyed travelling around Galilee with Jesus and also enjoyed to the full his friendship and good company. After a while they must have thought to themselves, 'This is as good as it gets'. Then Jesus was crucified and they thought it had all come to an end, but surprise of surprises! They saw him again and

eventually they were transformed. They began to see that death was not something to be feared and that death was a gateway to something better. Some forty days later, they experienced the sight of Jesus ascending to heaven. But in the days that followed they tried to convince themselves that Jesus was still out there, somewhere. Later, they did find him! They found him - in their hearts and lives! They discovered that Jesus was indeed alive - in them - giving them all the power they needed to spread his message of love and saving power.

Peter, the tongue-tied fisherman who invariably said the wrong thing, discovered a gift for public speaking. John, the Son of Thunder, who had wanted to call down lightning on his enemies, showed compassion for a lame beggar and found he could help him to walk again. Stephen discovered that he could out-argue the Greek-educated clever-clogs in the synagogue. Philip found he could heal mad people and succeeded in persuading an African man to follow Jesus. Eventually even Saul of Tarsus, the persecutor of the followers of Christ, (later known as Saint Paul), was convinced that Jesus was truly alive, and would be with us for ever if we only have faith in him.

In the time that followed they became more and more convinced that living lives inspired by the indwelling of God's power and love was really 'as good as it gets' - in this life!

Eric Wallington

St. Judes news

St Judes saw a good attendance for the Easter Day service, taken by the Rev M Davies. The church looked beautiful, thanks to Ruth Aidley and her team of flower arrangers. Following the service, the congregation enjoyed refreshments in the church hall provided by Judy Morris.

Don't forget to buy tickets for the Bunbury Singers in St Judes on 9th May at 7.30pm and for the Summer Lunch at the home of Ann Posnett on Sunday, 28th of June, all welcome.

The frontage of St. Judes has now been restored to its former glory, after suffering damage from a vehicle accident and the church yard looks wonderful. All are welcome to come along and share our Sunday services at 9.30 am. Look forward to seeing you.

Ann Badrock

Get to know your village!

Family Fun Treasure Hunt Sunday, May 17th

Join Target 1250's treasure hunt around Bunbury village. Great prizes for families: separate matchbox quiz for kids.

Start between 2pm and 2.30pm from St Boniface and return afterwards for afternoon tea and homemade cakes.

Also: Informal family portraits available from a professional photographer. Small fee to the Target 1250 fund to help maintain our lovely church.

See you there!

(details from Lucy Munro 260487)

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Chips for everyone

Long before Columbus, the natives of the High Andes grew potatoes, which they called batadas. The Spanish conquerors tasted them, liked them and took them - along with gold, slaves and anything else they could lay their hands on - and as a result, by 1570 potatoes were more or less established as an edible vegetable in Spain. The English approached the tubers more cautiously, despite Sir Francis Drake's earnest advertisement in the late 16th century that 'potatoes be the most delicate rootes that may be eaten and doe farre exceed our passenepps (parsnips) or carets'.

The few people who did grow them were probably more intrigued by the plant's reputed aphrodisiac qualities than by its flavour. How the innocent potato gained this sensual reputation is a mystery, but it was passed on to its relative, the tomato, when that plant began to be widely grown in Britain a century later. This was why the Jacobians and the French called the tomato the 'love apple'.

Potatoes are variously said to have been brought to Ireland by Sir Walter Raleigh or by a storm-driven survivor of the Spanish Armada. Whatever route it came by, the Irish seized eagerly upon the vegetable, finding in it a food source that would flourish in poor soil and a soggy climate. Sustained by the potato, the population multiplied over the next three centuries until the 1840s, when the failure of several crops in succession brought Ireland to starvation and destitution. The cause was potato blight, a disease that devastated the crops of other European countries as well. The effect was less devastating in other countries as they were not so dependent on the single crop. In Ireland the famine killed around a million people and drove many more to emigrate. There are some 300 varieties available today, many now resistant to blight.

Potatoes made their principal entry into England via Ireland and were being grown by Lancashire smallholders in the late 17th century. They and Liverpool seamen evolved lobsouse,

the meat and potato stew whose name, shortened to 'Scouse', has since become the label of every Liverpudlian. Potatoes were soon growing in all the western counties of Britain but as late as the mid 18th century no one would grow potatoes in Hampshire without being paid a subsidy. In the end it was the potato's sheer versatility that won the day but it was left to a Frenchman to point this quality out. He was Antoine-Auguste Parmentier, an 18th century economist and cookery writer, who began a notable public-relations exercise by winding potato flowers in Queen Marie Antoinette's hair, and by giving a dinner of dishes and even coffee made entirely from potatoes. Reassured, the British took to potatoes in earnest and now consume about 15,250 tons a day. Developments in the crop continue to this day. Plant breeders in the USA were, in the mid 1980s, trying to develop a hybrid plant which would produce tomatoes on its stems and potatoes on its roots!

Liz Jones

5 minute Chocolate mug cake

Listeners to the Chris Evans show on Radio 2 may have heard this (or something similar) being made "on air" a few weeks ago.

- 4 tablespoons flour
- 4 tablespoons sugar
- 2 tablespoons cocoa
- 1 egg
- 3 tablespoons milk
- 3 tablespoons oil
- 3 tablespoons chocolate chips (optional)
- a small splash of vanilla extract
- 1 large coffee mug

Add dry ingredients to mug, and mix well.
Add the egg and mix thoroughly.
Pour in the milk and oil and mix well.
Add the chocolate chips (if using) and vanilla extract, and mix again.

Put your mug in the microwave and cook for 3 minutes at 1000 watts.
The cake will rise over the top of the mug, but don't be alarmed!
Allow to cool a little, and tip out onto a plate if desired.

EAT! (this can serve 2 if you want to feel slightly more virtuous).

And why is this the most dangerous cake recipe in the world?
Because now we are all only 5 minutes away from chocolate cake at any time of the day or night!



All change at the council

The new Cheshire East Council committees have been formed, I have become the Chairman of the Planning Committee for the Southern Area, which includes the old Boroughs of Crewe & Nantwich, Congleton and Sandbach. I also sit on the Standards Committee, Licensing Committee, Nantwich Museum Trust, Wulvern Housing, West Coast Rail 250.

Within our rural villages little will change and we are all going to receive free brown bins for garden waste if you require one. There is also free swimming for the over 60s and under 16s at Nantwich or Crewe Baths until 2010.

I will keep you informed of any further issues that will affect this area "from a distance"

Cllr Brian H Dykes
Cheshire East Council
Nantwich Ward

Doubting Thomas was right

I became attracted to Thomas the disciple some 25 years ago. I guess the attraction was borne out of similarity of character. Like Thomas, I too know what it is to find it difficult to trust.

He was a courageous man who was willing to die with Jesus. He could be counted on to do the right thing – but only after had been convinced it WAS the right thing. When the other disciples told him about Jesus' resurrection, their say-so was not enough: he thought he had to prove it to himself, touch Christ in the flesh. In the end he found he could believe without touching.

His first response in my view was logical. Faith is okay if it can be proved. Unconditional faith is too difficult for me too.

Because of Thomas, I feel okay about wanting to see something for myself before deciding whether it's true. I need to know that putting my total trust in Jesus, whom I have never seen, is safe. Because I have experienced him I know that my faith is safe and real, and not just wishful thinking.

I'm often emotionally silenced on

Sunday mornings as others profess and respond to the Creed, because it's not rational or logical. One day, like Thomas, I too may not need to 'touch' to believe.

No-one knows why Thomas was not present on that first Sunday evening. Maybe he was too angry or afraid – maybe he had to be alone in his grief, having put his trust in Jesus who was now dead. Or maybe, in God's amazing plan, Thomas's recorded experience is for people just like me?

Thomas has come to stand for all doubters. But many other great thinkers over the centuries have expressed the value and power of doubt as a means of coming to a deeper understanding:

'Faith which does not doubt is dead faith' (Miguel de Unamuno)

'With great doubts comes great understanding, with little doubts comes little understanding' (Chinese)

'I doubt, therefore truth is' (Augustine of Hippo)

Rick

Village gathers for John

Readers will remember the highly hush-hush arrangements we publicized for postman John Faulkner's secret retirement party in March. On his 65th birthday John's wife Margaret brought him to the Dysart Arms for a quiet celebration: it was not to be. The bar was packed with a dozens of colleagues, friends, family and 'customers' who all wanted to wish John the very best on his retirement after over forty year's cheerful service to our village.

John has asked us to pass on his thanks to everyone for their cards, gifts and good wishes, and especially to Elaine Crotty who organized this lovely event, and to Don Watson who composed a special ode. We hear that

John's cash gift will be put to good use next year as John and Margaret are planning a fortieth wedding anniversary cruise.



Ascension and Power

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses."

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

Two men in white stood beside them and said, "Why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way."

Lord, it is so hard to say goodbye. As we look up into the sky, watching for the last glimpse of you, Bring us back down to earth.

Help us to see that you are still with us, and now it is up to us to carry on your work.

Touch us with your holy fire, fill us with the breath of your power, and keep us in the warmth of your love.

May we be your hands and feet, Sharing your love with those around us;

A word, a smile, a listening ear, Not judging, but accepting.

With one voice and one song

May we praise your name

in joy and thanksgiving,

Our ever present Saviour.

Amen

Pat Edgley

Join us for Ascension Day Walk

Why not join in this year's Ascension Day Walk up Stanner Nab starting at Peckforton Castle car park at 7pm on May 21st?

Although the walk takes you up to the highest point on the Peckforton hills (not normally open to the public) and some wonderful views to the Cathedrals in Liverpool on a clear day, it is a gentle climb with plenty of stops.

"Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones."
(from another church newsletter).

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May Diary

3	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Jude's
	10.00am	Family Worship	St. Boniface
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Calveley
6	10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
10	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Jude's
	10.00am	Family Communion	St. Boniface
	6.00pm	Evensong	St. Boniface
13	10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
16	7.30pm	Hog Roast	Tarporley High School
17	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Jude's
	10.00am	All Age Family Worship	St. Boniface
	11.00am	Matins	Calveley
	2.00pm	Target 1250 Treasure Hunt	
20	10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
21	7.00pm	Ascension Day Walk	Peckforton Castle Car Park
24	9.30am	Family Service	St. Jude's
	10.00am	Family Communion	St. Boniface
27	10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
31		Whit Sunday (Pentecost)	
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Jude's
	10.00am	Family Communion	St. Boniface
June			
3	10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface

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Our vicar, Rick Gates, is always available in times of sickness, bereavement or any distress.

You can contact him at The Vicarage, Bunbury, on 01829 260991 or at Rick@prayer.fsnet.co.uk

Other church contacts:

Peter and Kath Collinge (pastoral support)

260077

St. Boniface

Churchwardens:

Barbara Croley

260344

Walter Done

01244 332563

Secretary

Neil Dewson-Smyth

261680

Flowers

Margaret Bourne

260944

St. Jude's

Churchwardens:

Brigid Sayce

260865

David Wright

260467

Secretary

Ann Posnett

261154

Organist

Ann Badrock

260343

Calveley

Churchwardens:

Barbara Croley

260344

Walter Done

01244 332563

Organist

John Batchelor

261056

Secretary

Sue Woodward

01270 522822

The Link is edited by **Lucy Munro (260487, email lucymunro@hotmail.com)** and **Jill Robey (260081)**.

We welcome all contributions.

Visit the St. Boniface website for pictures of recent weddings, weekly church notices and **The Link** on line.

www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk

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