

Link

For the parishes of Bunbury & Tilstone Fearnall



July
2016

Service to others is the rent we pay for our room in the hereafter - Muhammad Ali

Bunbury meets Dibley!



Pet service followed by church v club cricket match -
2 tortoises, 3 chickens, 4 guinea pigs, 5 lambs, 13 wickets, 23 dogs, 26 cricketers, 68 beef burgers, 74 hot dogs, 242 runs -
1 great day!



Also in this issue...



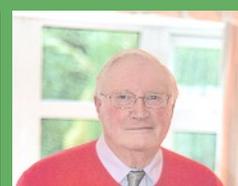
06

Street parties celebrate Queen's 90th birthday



07

A glimpse into the work of local artist Sophie Parr



08-09

Tributes paid to community stalwart, Ernest Croley

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Community news

Congratulations to **Phoebe Louise Crank**, daughter of **Philip and Anna**, baptised at St Boniface on 29 May, and to brother and sister **Dexter and Sophia Spence**, baptised with their father **Andrew** at St Boniface on 29 May.



We also welcome **Connie Elspeth Nicholas** (left), daughter of **Charles and Veronica**, baptised at St Boniface on 4 June, and **Thomas James**

Clucas, son of **Steven and Rachel**, baptised at St Boniface on 5 June.

Many congratulations to **David Eubank and Amy Newton**, married at St Boniface on Friday 20 May, and to **Thomas Pearson and Sarah McCune**, married at St Boniface on Saturday 21 May.

Calveley Hall Chapel was delighted to host the marriage of **Scott Kinsey and Claire Walker** on Saturday 28 May.

Congratulations also to **Shaun Allwood and Jessica Rose**, married at St Boniface on Saturday 28 May, and **Sam Evans and Rachel Helm**, married at St Boniface on Saturday 4 June.



Many happy returns to **Walter Williamson** (left) who celebrates his **90th birthday** on 13 July.

Walter is a

former pupil of Bunbury School and was for many years a Lay Reader at St Boniface, St Jude's and Calveley.

Sue Watson would like to thank Tilly's Coffee Morning Group for their card, flowers and the wonderful cake, baked by Mel, on the occasion of her 70th birthday. "It made me feel special", wrote Sue.

The Chairman and representatives of the Parish Council voiced **strong objections to the proposed 52 houses** on Bunbury Lane, at the Appeal by developers against refusal of planning permission, held from 14 June, in Crewe. Bunbury residents turned out in force at the Appeal, which is ongoing as we go to press.



The **Parish Council Chairman's cup** was presented to **Andy Fulbrook**, by Ron Pulford.



The July meeting of **Bunbury WI** will be held on Thursday 14 July at Bunbury Playing Fields Pavilion at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Sue Hardacre whose talk is entitled '**Fiji - The Way the World should be?**' Visitors always welcome.

There will be a **Deanery service** at Malpas on 3 July at 11am to commemorate the Queen's 90th birthday.

On 17 July there will be a **Service of Confirmation** in St Boniface church at 10.30am.

Host families for French teenagers urgently wanted 20-27 August. Can you help? Tarporley has been twinned with Bohars near Brest, Brittany since 1983 and the Twinning Association is open to all in Tarporley and surrounding villages. In August, 19 young people are hoping to spend a week with local families but we urgently need more hosts. Many activities will be organised for the young people and you do not need to speak French. For further information please contact Ann Bodfish 01829 260936

St Jude's Harvest Supper will be on 24 September.

Amber Middlemiss will be licensed as our Pastoral Worker on 24 September in Chester Cathedral. (She reports on the completion of her training on p10.)

Hilary Watson wishes to thank all those who supported her in her night bike ride through London for Women v Cancer on 28 May. She completed the 104km in under six hours arriving at Windsor Royal racecourses at 4.30am. The London Eye was lit up in pink for the charity event and they had closed The Mall especially for the riders to cycle down to Buckingham Palace. Cycling towards Windsor in the early morning

and seeing Windsor Castle in the sunrise was an amazing experience. Over 3,000 women did the challenge



and Hilary is so grateful to have raised just under £3,000 for this good cause, making a total of just under £20,000 she has raised in her various challenges for cancer.

The **Friday at Tilly's** group had an enjoyable outing to **Trentham Gardens** (photos below).



Johnny Gillett would like to congratulate all the students of The Journey Man Theatre on their recent successes with this year's **Speech and Drama** exams. 46 children from Bunbury and the surrounding area all passed their exams. 14 of these passed with Merit and 28 with Distinction. A big thank you to all the teachers and parents who gave so much support in the background.

Barbara Croley and her family would like to thank all who over the past few months kept **Ernest** in their prayers, and also for the beautiful cards they have received following their loss.

The **Children's Society** thank all boxholders for their contributions this year, which amounted to £281.

Hope Dewson-Smyth is hosting a **Barn Dance** at St Boniface on 29 October. Proceeds from the event will be split between the church and her fundraising for her school trip to Borneo.

Help is needed delivering the Link - Starting in September, help is needed to deliver around 40 copies of the Link, mainly around the church and Bowes Gate Road. If you can help, please contact bunburyparishoffice@gmail.com. **Thank you to Sue Mc Neil** for taking over deliveries to the A49 end of School Lane from September.

TIM HAYWARD
Your Vicar



A Great Legacy

It's been quite a year so far, both nationally and locally, with the number of funerals we have witnessed. Our local funeral directors have been rushed off their feet, and the obituary pages of our national newspapers have been very full. Artists, musicians, sportsman we grew up with, who shaped our lives, have sadly died, and yet they have all left us in their own unique way, a rich legacy. In the following pages, you will read of the remarkable legacy Ernest Croley has given his family and this village, in Barbara's tribute 'The Four Corners of Bunbury'.

I write these words, the day of Muhammad Ali's funeral. A gentle, giant of a man, Muhammad Ali was a role model for a faith that flourishes in the USA yet is strangely invisible. He converted to the Nation of Islam in the 1960s but gravitated to mainstream Sunni Islam in 1975. His faith was shaped by his experience of racial prejudice; Islam offered an alternative source of spiritual authority to an American Christianity that could be suffused with white bigotry. Taking a new name severed the bonds to his slave past. But whereas we tend to see Western conversion to Islam as wholly politically motivated, as an intellectual reaction to events, what's striking about Ali's faith is how personal, quiet and deeply felt it obviously was.

When asked: "How do you feel about different religions?" Ali replied with respect and humour (and I invite you to imagine his wonderful voice): "Rivers, ponds, lakes and streams. They have different names, but all contain water. Religions have different names but all contain truth."

Ali might have embraced Islam out of anger at white society but, over time, he was actually tempered by the Koran and came to realise that its message is egalitarian. If anything, Islam had the capacity to make young radicals more tolerant, not less. In Islam itself, there is no black or white but simply the children of Allah.

Sound familiar? "In Christ Jesus, you are all children of God through faith...there is no longer Jew or Gentile, no longer slave or free, no longer male or female, you are all one..."

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Our prayers for July

We pray for all who are going on holiday, that they may relax and then return with renewed zest. We give thanks for the continuing recovery of **Max Dickson**. We pray for all who are ill, especially **Hazel Wilkinson**. We also pray for all who are mourning a loved one especially the families of **Ken Butchart**, **Betty Wright**, **Gordon Fishwick**, **Ernest Croley** and **John Cheers**.

The copy deadline for the August/September edition of the Link is Thursday 14 July. The magazine should be in church: Friday 5 August.



Eric Wallington
Reader Emeritus
Prayer

A little girl once asked her father, "What's a prairie tortoise?" Her dad replied, "I have no idea, why are you asking?" The girl answered, "Because our Sunday School teacher said that she was going to tell us about Jesus and the prairie tortoise." The prayer which Jesus taught us is, of course, generally known as 'Our Father' or 'The Lord's Prayer', or, if you like, the prayer he taught us.

The words which most of us know by heart are from one of the earliest translations of the Bible into English, long before the Authorised Version. They are the foundation of faith for many Christians, even young children, but the modern translations help us to understand better what they mean. Yet it would seem clear that the words are essentially there to guide us into wordless and unspoken prayer. Mahatma Ghandi on one occasion is quoted as saying, "Prayer is not asking. It is rather a longing of the soul. It is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart".

Jesus, of course. Teaches us that God loves us like a father and that we should trust God as children trust their parents. We pray that God's 'name' may be worshipped or hallowed, or regarded as holy: 'Father, hallowed be thy name'.

Then we pray, 'Your kingdom come'. Of course, the kingdom of God is already here in every heart where Jesus is known as our king. The consequences of obeying God are that our selfishness is overcome and injustice is banished from the world. We've still got a long way to go, but we are working towards it.

One of the major injustices in the world is that some people are starving, while others may eat too much. So, when we pray, 'Give us this day our daily bread', we are asking that we ourselves may have the basic necessities of life, and that the earth's resources may be fairly distributed to those in greatest need.

Church diary for July

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|--|---|--------------------|--|---|
| Sunday 3 July | 8.00am Holy Communion 11.00am Deanery Service at St Oswald's | St Boniface Malpas | Wednesday 22 July | 10.00am Holy Communion | St Boniface |
| Wednesday 8 July | 10.00am Holy Communion | St Boniface | Sunday 24 July | 9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Family Communion | St Jude's St Boniface |
| Sunday 10 July | 9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Family Communion | St Jude's St Boniface | Wednesday 29 July | 10.00am Holy Communion | St Boniface |
| Wednesday 15 July | 10.00am Holy Communion | St Boniface | Sunday 31 July | 9.30am Family Communion 10.30am Family Communion with Methodists (Rev Denise farewell service) | St Jude's St Boniface |
| Sunday 17 July | 8.00am Holy Communion 10.30am Confirmation Service 6.00pm Evensong | St Boniface St Boniface St Boniface | Wednesday 3 August | 10.00am Holy Communion | St Boniface |
| | | | Sunday 7 August | 8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Family Communion 10.30am Family Worship 11.00am Holy Communion | St Boniface St Jude's St Boniface Calveley |



Pat Edgley Ellis
Reader
A Lamp for our Feet

Nestling in the Conwy valley is a little stone cottage, Tŷ Mawr (the Big house!), birthplace of William Morgan, son of a Yeoman farmer and later Bishop of St Asaph, who, encouraged by John Whitgift, Archbishop of Canterbury, translated the Bible into Welsh.

We take for granted that we can read our Bible in our own language, but it was not always the case.

For 1,000 years the Bible across Europe was the Latin Vulgate, kept in churches and read to the people who couldn't understand it and had to have it explained by the clergy.

The Protestant movement under Martin Luther proclaimed that the people should be able to read the Bible for themselves.

Bishop Morgan, a Cambridge scholar, translated from the original Hebrew and Greek and 1,000 Bibles in Welsh were printed in 1588.

Today, 19 survive. Tŷ Mawr has one, and houses a collection of Bibles in many languages, including three different Celtic and even an Xhosa version!

Almighty God,
You have taught us that your word
Is a lamp for our feet and a light
for our path.

Help us, and all who prayerfully
read your word,
To deepen our fellowship with you
And with each other through your
love.

And in so doing may we come to know you more fully,
Love you more truly
And follow you more faithfully
In the steps of your Son Jesus Christ
Who lives and reigns with you
And the Holy Spirit
One God for evermore.



Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF) Prayer

A newbie's perspective of Bunbury Baby and Tots

Hi I'm Elliott and I'm six months old. Since I was two weeks old, every Wednesday morning my Mum's been taking me to baby and toddlers group. I thought other babies and toddlers who haven't been along yet might want some insight from the people who matter - the kids!

It's a hub of activity every week - from playing on the sensory mat with the other babies to watching the older toddlers drive around in their ride-alongs, play dress up and create all sorts of crafts. It's non-stop fun. There is snack time for the kids and even tea and biscuits for the mums.

Lately we've had special events such as a dancethon and cake sale for Sport Relief, an Easter egg hunt and we created a time capsule for the new playground opening.

I've made loads of new friends and my mum tells me, being new to the village, it's been a



great way for her to get to know other mums. Even the dads regularly meet up in the pub.

The group has a break over the summer but there is still lots going on. There's a family BBQ on 17 July and trips to Delamere and Cholmondeley. I hear the mums also have some outings planned including a night at the open-air cinema in Chester.

Baby and toddler group takes place every Wednesday during term time at the Pavilion on the Jubilee Playing Fields from 9.30am to 11.30am. All babies and pre-school children are welcome.

To find out more about our forthcoming events and the latest news visit our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/BunburyMothersAndToddlers



YCs full of bounce at half term

Young Christians chose to go trampolining over half term. A group of 12 young people, including some friends and siblings, went to Wilmslow. They all had a great time and all ended up very tired after an hour's bouncing and fun.

If you would like to join any of our youth activities please contact our youth work Abby on 07852 162239 or email: bunburyyouthworker@gmail.com



MODERN EXPRESSIVE WATERCOLOUR CLASSES

run by

Elena Maria Roman

Starting Thursday 22 September
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Fee £10/week

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Tel: 01829 260707

or

Elena Maria Roman on
elenamariaroman@gmail.com
For more information please visit
www.elenamariaroman.co.uk

Bunbury street parties - in spite of the rain

Celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday, street parties in Swan Lane and School Lane provided a great celebratory get-together for residents. The bunting was out, tables groaned with amazing food and there were games and lots of music. School Lane's oldest residents cut an enormous crown cake. The rain, arriving halfway through, was the only unwelcome guest, kept at bay with gazebos and umbrellas and funnelled into unexpected places by mischievous small boys.



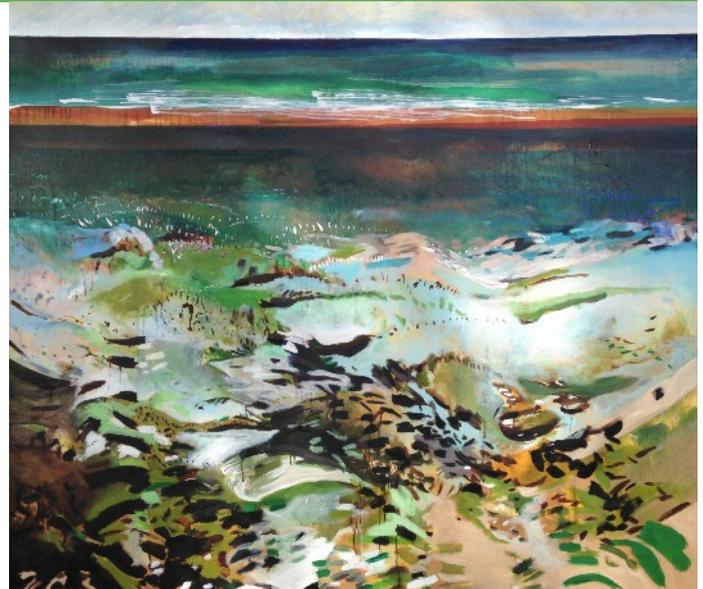
Local artist, Sophie Parr, showcases her work



Sophie Parr took time out to tell the Link about her love of art.

Sophie did her degree at Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Art. She then did a PGCE qualification which has led to teaching Art & Design for the last 23

years. Between a busy family life and work, Sophie has built up a new portfolio of work, recently producing a series of paintings inspired by the Cornish coast. Her paintings are not direct representations but an attempt to represent the feeling of being there; the movement, the elements, the textures and colours. Sophie is currently working on a new set of work inspired by the landscape locally. She uses her Facebook page to record and document the work as it progresses. You can see more of her work at www.sophieparr.co.uk



information with the potential to develop into paintings back in the studio.

Q: What is your favourite medium to work in and why?

A: I like to use different media, and will often change from one to another to help ideas develop. I trained to paint in oils, but you need time to work with layers of oil paint so I am using acrylics more.

Q: How do you tackle a blank canvas?

A: I have a good idea of what I want by the time I start a canvas and I love the feeling of reorganising this new blank space. I will usually have a coloured wash or ground and start by using a rigger brush so that I can draw with paint to create as much mark making as possible.

Q: What do you find the most challenging about the creative process?

A: It is often a struggle; it can take weeks to work out how to resolve a painting. I worry that I am never going to create another decent painting!

Q: How do you differentiate your work from that of other artists?

A: My work is personal, it evolves from honest observations.

Each painting is a fresh response, I try to avoid getting trapped in processes that make them stilted and contrived.

Q: What are your essential tools?

A: My rigger brush in order to achieve the quality of marks and line. Pencil and paper too.

Q: Do you have a favourite art tip that you can share with our readers?

A: If you are stuck with ideas, go back to drawing.



Q: What inspires you to be creative?

A: I like to capture what I see, feel and experience; the layers in the landscape, colour, texture, reflections, and movement are elements that continually excite and inspire me to record.

Q: How would you describe your creative process?

A: I start by drawing from observation, I need to experience the elements I feel as well as see in order to achieve expressive, honest drawings. I draw and paint with watercolours until I get enough





In 1972, the 'Croley' Bell presented to Ernest after restoration of the village hall

Bunbury will be a poorer place for the loss of Ernest Croley, a true Yorkshireman 'exiled' here for much of his adult life. Ernest was born in 1932, won a scholarship to grammar school (where he was fairly naughty) and later went to Oxford. He died, still a member of the Bodleian Library, but wore his scholarship lightly. He endeavoured (and succeeded) in making the world a better place. In this tribute, Barbara draws together some of his passionate efforts to rescue seemingly lost causes in the village and make them successes.

The Public Hall as it was known, was closed by Crewe and Nantwich Rural District Council, for public health reasons, leaving only the Oddfellows Hall in the village for any social events. In 1967 an appeal was made for help to form a working group to set about trying to reopen the most useful site in the middle of the village. It turned out to be a major task and a labour of blood, sweat and many tears. Ernest, who always believed that a committee of two is one too many, this time had to accept that

even he could not carry out this task on his own. Fortunately, many rallied round, some until the bitter end: events were held to raise money to buy materials; John Stockton had, at that time, just returned from Australia and his skill as a bricklayer came in handy; the Egg Packing Station's old heating system was acquired and installed; Brenda Clarke, Leila Potter, the late Betty Spencer Jones and others scraped the floor of old rubbish before a new floor could be laid.

After many months of work, 1972 saw the Village Hall reopened, the Trustees very kindly presented Ernest with the *"The Croley Bell to be rung only by a Villager of Bunbury in a time of need"*, on 15 September 1972. The Village Hall has hosted many things over the past years: wedding receptions, pantomimes, serious drama and many indoor activities for people of all ages. It is hoped that dedicated villagers will make sure the Village Hall never has to close again.

So on with next project: Where can the children play safely? Bunbury Parish Council purchased grazing land, and so another mammoth task started to be hatched. This land was alongside that to be used for bungalows for the elderly of the parish, so help came from Crewe and Nantwich District Council. The new Constitution, written by Ernest and held by Bunbury Parish Council for all times, gave the opportunity for grant aid. A company down at Beeston sand quarry was dismantling their wooden weigh bridge office; this was brought up to Bunbury by Ken Rogers on his flat wagon and volunteers rebuilt the wooden shed, which became temporary changing rooms for the football clubs. Meanwhile the architect, John Edwards, drew up plans for a more permanent building, and once again the villagers helped, along with an organisation named NACRO (young offenders with supervision). Although many changes have been made over the past years, the Playing Fields Pavilion is a much-used building over 40 years on.

Ernest was on the Parish Council for over twenty years and, for much of the time, was Chairman. He and the other councillors improved many things; Sadlers Wells Wood became another project,

Ernest championed the construction of the pavilion by the playing fields



in 1999. The wood is on the earliest map of Cheshire- Burdett 1777. The Peckforton Estate realised it needed much work and felt that clear felling was the only option. The villagers thought that the (TPO) Tree Preservation Order issued in 1973 would prevent any clearance, so they acted fast. The Flintshire Forestry Commission were persuaded to come up with a management which avoided clear felling and the Forestry Commission to help with funds and encourage Peckforton Estate to accept the alternative scheme. Many village people now manage the Sadlers Wells Wood, with a good team, and although there was some felling to be done, it opened the tree canopy and allowed flora and fauna to flourish. The exposed land that was planted with

Ernest Croley his mark on the corners of



various native trees is flourishing and is used on a regular basis by school children and adults alike.

One of the things a councillor was expected to do to serve his community, was the pub crawl to collect enough money to pay for the Christmas tree lights. If there was not enough on the first round, back they went and sang again, only much worse than the first time. Having collected enough it had to be counted, in a village pub of course. Father Christmas came to Bunbury first before he set off around the world, leaving with his merry "Ho ho ho".

Another project was Bunbury Mill. This building has passed through many changes. In 1977 the watermill was bought and brought to life again. It probably owes its new life of providing visitors with a realistic glimpse of the past to two things: the belief of the water authority in wanting to save the mill and the



Ernest championed the preservation of Sadlers Wells Woods, five acres of woodland in the village

ley - leaves on the four of Bunbury

enthusiasm of the workers, some of them volunteers, and who spent a year on the difficult transformation. Restoration began in earnest in August 1974 and several of the employees worked during their spare time and holidays, volunteering to join the small group of Job Creation workers. The work was heavy: hard millstones are not the lightest of items to move. Tom Parker's family had worked at the mill for over 70 years and his help and his memory were invaluable. Tom remembered the water wheel being frozen hard to the stone wall, he climbed into the wheel and gradually chipped the ice from each bucket. Tom had a very lucky escape, for as he freed some of the lower buckets the top ones started to move, trapping Tom in the wheel. When United Utilities felt they could no longer maintain the Education Programme, Ernest appealed to the village for any interested people to meet, while he put a proposal to them and so the Bunbury Watermill Trust was formed. The funding was provided by WREN, a 'not for profit' business, which awarded grants to community heritage and environmental projects. Ernest purchased the Mill for £1.00 (a single pound); this coin has been framed and is on display in the Visitor Centre. The purchase might have been very appealing, but the hard work started from then onwards. WREN offered a grant of £12,500 - this was excellent news. The Mill is now an excellent visitors' centre, with tours around the mill with very informative millers, good quality flour is ground for baking bread, there's a small gift shop and a tea room with cakes to drool over. Once again, Ernest could not see a piece of Bunbury historic heritage being lost.

On becoming Verger at St Boniface church there was nothing he couldn't fix, from down in the boiler room to the top of the church. A neighbour of the church telephoned us late one Christmas night to say there was a fire alarm sounding the church. We went up, only to find that the beautiful offertory box at the back of the church had been so badly damaged, the wood was just match wood on the floor. It was suggested we buy a new one. Patiently, wood of the same type and markings was found



The Bunbury Mill, saved from closure for the benefit of the community and local schools



in our shed and the box was restored and very few people would ever know it was not the original box.

So, the four corners of this village have a mark of Ernest Croley, mostly done because he cared about the history of his village. I must also say that Ernest was not British, he was a Yorkshire Man from top to toe. This just a small snapshot of Ernest's life in Bunbury and, sadly, as I wrote these little captions of his time in Bunbury, Ernest passed away on 28 May 2016. There have been many, many helpers along the way - he didn't do it all himself - but he certainly was a leader and was very grateful to those who stood with him to see things through.

Jill Robey - from churchwarden to organist



I stood down as churchwarden at the end of May, and many will have already noticed my successor, David Kendrick, has kindly taken on the role, **Jill Robey** told the Link. David was already helping quietly and efficiently behind the scenes and will be a wonderful churchwarden.

I would like to pay tribute to David Cox, my fellow warden over the last two years, and to Neil Dewson-Smyth before him for all their hard work. It's a lot of responsibility but it's been lovely getting to know many people better, meeting new people, (including Tim, Mike and Veronica and many others) and helping to care for our beautiful building at St Boniface. So

many people are involved in the many aspects of running St Boniface. I tried counting when I started but gave up when it got past 100. I would like to say a big THANK YOU to all concerned. You know who you are.

One of the reasons I stepped down was so that I can play the organ at Calveley and again I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor John Batchelor. I've been on a massive learning curve having started not long ago and only having played the piano in public only 3 times before that (twice when I was 6 and once at 20-odd I played Jerusalem and Carols at my Mum's WI after months of practice!) so thanks to the lovely people at Calveley for putting up with a fair few wrong notes! I still get nervous every time a hymn is announced! Calveley is the beautiful daughter church to St Boniface with its own unique history and a small, immensely loyal current congregation. I would love to see the worship continue there for many more years, and not only so I can play the organ!

Jill Robey

Amber's completes Pastoral Worker training



I have now completed the final module of My PW training; Ministry, Sickness and Pastoral Visiting, writes Amber Middlemiss. This tied in a lot of what I have learned from setting up the Pastoral Visiting Team here in

Bunbury and covered things such as definitions of health and sickness, attitudes to disability, comparing hospital and home visiting, and the role of the liturgy in ministering to the sick, including taking Holy Communion to them. Our final assignments had to include a reflection on our learning over the whole three years, which was an interesting exercise and helped to clarify a lot of things for me. The course concluded with a 'Spirituality' weekend at Foxhill, the Diocesan Retreat house near Frodsham, set on a hillside amidst lovely gardens and an arboretum which is open to the public.

Licensing for the five of us who finished this time will be on 24 September in Chester Cathedral, with one of the bishops - sadly probably not Bishop Libby, as she did it last year!



Walking for Health

First Anniversary Walk

Wednesday July 13th 2016

A short & long walk are planned followed by coffee and cake

Meet 10.15 Bunbury Methodist Church

**WEDNESDAY
13 JULY**

**ANNIVERSARY
WALK**


walking for health

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

Lesley Arrowsmith 01829 260385

Cate Gregory 01270 528202

Jim Walker 01829 261227

Blessings on our pets - all shapes and sizes



In tribute

Gordon Fishwick - full of humour, optimism and enthusiasm



Gordon Fishwick, born in July 1928, spent his childhood out of doors playing with his friends, riding his pony bareback, and spending holidays with his cousin at their grandparent's home in Crank, Lancashire. His school career was notable only for his many canings, a record of twelve times in one day. Much to his regret school sports were off the curriculum as the school playing field became a vegetable plot as part of the Dig for Victory Campaign. On Saturdays

Gordon's job was to deliver meat by bicycle, up to twelve miles from his father's shop.

On leaving school at fifteen, his parents decided he should train in accountancy but he hearing of seeing the world from friends who had joined the Merchant Navy, he joined up aged sixteen, without a word to his parents or being able to swim.

Following training he joined his first ship, a C-class destroyer HMS Comus, part of the Pacific Fleet, but did not see active service as

the war finally came to an end. Gordon was demobbed in 1948 and joined his father in the butchery business.

At twenty one Gordon met Brenda at a dance and on their second date, at Quaintways, Chester, (now Rosie's), Gordon informed Brenda that he was going to marry her. Engaged by Christmas 1949 they married in 1951. He and Brenda had two children, Judith and Peter.

Often working from six in the morning until eleven at night Gordon expanded the business into new areas: farming, cold storage, meat canning and frozen food centres. His drive and enthusiasm for business continued throughout his life and only recently he was excited by involvement of the company in hydro-electricity. His passion and dedication for the business inspired loyalty amongst the staff and Brenda was always at his side to support him.

Gordon took great pride and joy in his family and loved sharing time with them, especially family holidays, even going on the Tower of Terror at Disney aged 70. He embraced all his interests with great vigour whether water skiing, golf, shooting, or travel, his enthusiasm was endless.

Elizabeth (Betty) Dorothy Wright - a warm vibrant person

Betty was born on 29 September 1929 and lived with her father, John Moors, a butcher and grocer from Over, near Winsford. Sadly, her mother died whilst she was a baby. Later John married Peggy, and Betty had a step-brother, Lester. Betty went to Beeston Towers, a local boarding school which is now the Wild Boar Hotel.

John introduced Betty to Alan Wright, whose family firm was the auctioneers now known as Wright Marshall. They were married in March 1951, initially living with Peggy, then later moving to the business head office at The Elms, Alpraham. Betty spent her entire life supporting Alan in the business.

Married life was busy for Betty and Alan with their three children Libby, John and Paul. The house was always full and lively. Betty loved entertaining and over the years held countless dinner parties at The Elms, entertaining a large section of Cheshire's rural community.

Betty's six grandchildren adored her as much as Betty adored them. Always an active and involved Nan she would load the grandchildren and dogs into the car for trips walking to local beauty spots. Returning home, Betty would feed them to bursting point with homemade dinner and cake.

In 2001 Betty and Alan celebrated her 50th wedding anniversary with a cruise from Mumbai to Southampton, an experience they enjoyed so much that it led to many more cruises.

Sadly, Alan died in 2007 and although she found the loss devastating, Betty made great efforts to live a full life. She was a member of St Jude's church and many clubs and groups such as Tarporley Luncheon Club, flower club, farm women's club and many more. Gardening gave her great joy. She was delighted with the arrival of her two great-grandsons.

Betty maintained her independence and she moved only recently to Iddenshall Care Home. Everyone will remember her warmth and love of life.

John Milner - medieval historian, CEO of AQA and former Reader at St Jude's



John was born in 1949, an only son, in Chorlton, Manchester. He attended Chorlton Grammar School and Manchester University, where he studied Medieval History. He taught at Nantwich and Acton Grammar School where he worked with Simon Parker (organist at St Jude's). John was a licensed Lay Reader and took services at St Jude's.

At thirty, John moved to work in a senior position with NUJMB, the northern universities' exam board for O and A levels.

After various name changes and mergers for the organisation and incorporation of the separate CSE boards, he became CEO of AQA as it is now known. He had to negotiate carefully between Government ministers, examination boards and the teaching unions and was well regarded by all the people involved. He was known for his tact in carefully working for improvement.

Moving to Manchester in 1979, he became a Reader at Christ Church, in central Manchester and later became Reader at The Parish Church of St Chad, Ladybarn, where his memorial service took place.

Over the years, he published many in-depth papers on 15th century history. His last paper was published in January, although he was not well enough to present it in person.

John was Chairman of Governors at Burnage Academy, leading them through the change from being a grammar school. His first words on appointment as a governor were, "What can I do to help?"

Discovering that his life was limited, due to a serious cancer, he organised his memorial service, the music, prayers and hymns knowledgeably chosen. There were three eminent speakers: Dr Mike Cresswell, former Director General at AQA, Mr Ian Fenn, Head Teacher, Burnage Academy and Professor Emeritus, David Hayton, Queen's University Belfast.

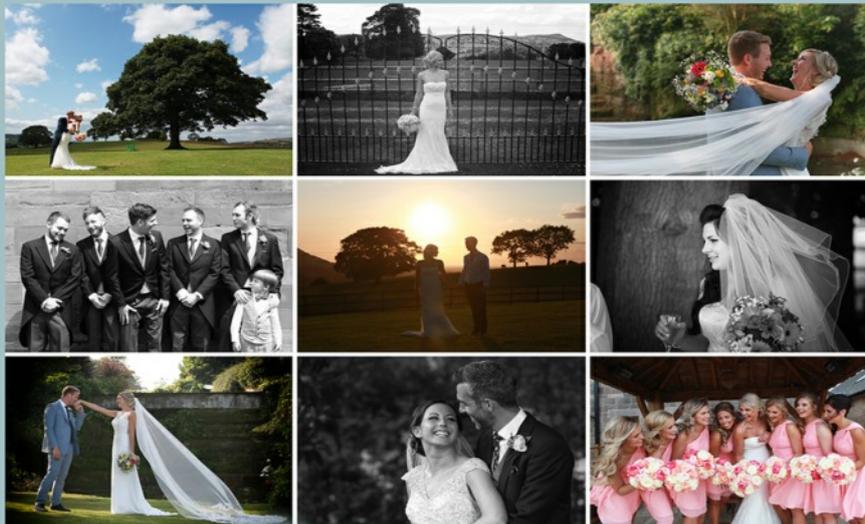
John enhanced many lives and will be greatly missed.

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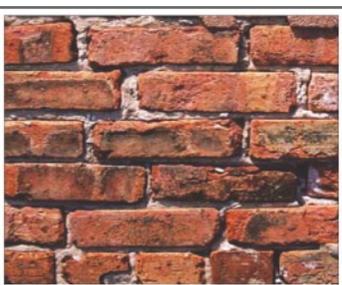
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