



Link

April 2026

Also in this issue...



4

Take part in the show



5

Easter services



Please give to St Boniface to maintain this beautiful church building

A magazine for the parishes of Bunbury and Tilstone Fearnall



*

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS NOW TO HELP PLAN & RUN THE DAY HELP US CREATE A GREAT DAY OF FAMILY FUN AGAIN IN 2026

IF YOU CAN HELP PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH ELAINE CROTTY
elaine.crotty@stbonifacebunbury.org

HELP NEEDED

Saturday 2 May 11:00am — 1:00pm
Meet at Beeston Castle for set up

Monday 4 May 11:00am — 5:00pm
Help on the day at the tea tent, providing baking, manning stalls, stewarding and car parking.

Monday 4 May 4:00pm — 6:00pm
Help with tidying up and taking down the equipment and return it to St Boniface.



Follow Bunbury Church on Facebook

Who we are

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The Link

Please contact us to send us village news, views and pictures or to advertise your business.

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A word from the editor

As many of you will remember, Tom and I are involved with **Alsama**, a remarkable project in Lebanon that provides **education to teenage refugees**. The progress these children make is astounding — often going from total illiteracy to being university-ready in six years.

However, the current war has hit them hard, and not for the first time. On 5 March, people were told to evacuate south Beirut. The students in the Bourj refugee camp centre have evacuated, and many from Shatila are currently sleeping rough. There are 950 teenagers in the schools and 2000 on their waiting list.

The school in Shatila opens for as long as the staff deem it safe. The Bourj students are being taught online. I was particularly moved by Maram, a girl I've spoken with on Zoom, who showed up for her 9:00am lessons after a night spent in the open. Wissal, another student, speaks about experiencing war for the third time saying: "War may threaten my present, but I am completely sure that education will protect my future".

The Alsama project would welcome your help to survive in this war zone. If you can donate, please go to <https://alsamaproject.com>

The copy deadline for the May issue is Friday 10 April. The magazine should be delivered from Saturday 25 April. Please send notices to parishlinkeditor@stbonifacebunbury.org



A mother's love

Mothering Sunday, just passed, is a day when we give thanks for mums, grandmothers, carers, and all those who have shown us love and care. But it's also a day when we remember something even bigger. It reminds us what God is like. The Bible often speaks about God in ways that sound very much like the love of a parent, especially the kind of love we often see in mothers. A love that creates, protects, and provides.

God the Creator

First, God is our creator. Everything that exists: the stars, the oceans, the trees, the animals, and every single one of us exists because God made it. And creation isn't just about making something once and walking away. It's about bringing life into the world and nurturing it. When a mother brings a child into the world, something extraordinary happens. Life is created.

But motherhood isn't just about the moment of birth. It's about the thousands of moments afterwards: feeding, comforting, teaching, encouraging. It's about helping someone grow into who they were created to be. And that's exactly how God relates to us. God delights in us, nurtures us, and helps us grow. And the church, if we are doing our job properly, should be a place where that happens too. A place where people can grow, discover their gifts, and become who God made them to be.

God the Protector

Secondly, God is our protector. Many of us can remember times when our mum protected us. Sometimes that meant standing up for us. Sometimes it meant comforting us when we were frightened. Sometimes it meant putting an arm around us and saying, "It's going to be okay".

The Bible describes God like that too, as someone who gathers people close and keeps them safe. Like a shelter in a storm. Like strong arms around us when life feels uncertain. And again, the church is meant to reflect that. The church should be a place where people feel safe. Safe to ask questions. Safe to be themselves. Safe when life is difficult. A community that looks out for each other.

God the Provider

Thirdly, God provides. Mothers are often incredible providers. Meals appear. Clean clothes appear. Packed lunches appear. Somehow things that are needed simply

turn up. And very often that provision comes with quiet sacrifice, things that happen behind the scenes that we don't always notice until much later.

God provides for us like that too. Every breath we take. Every good thing in our lives. Every moment of strength when we thought we had none left. And the church is meant to mirror that generosity. Sharing what we have. Caring for those who struggle. Making sure no one is forgotten.

This is actually where Mothering Sunday originally came from. It was a day when people returned to their "mother church": the church that had nurtured their faith. Because the church, at its best, acts a bit like a mother. A place that creates life, protects people, and provides love and care.

And today we also remember that families come in many shapes and stories. Some people have wonderful memories of their mums. Some people carry sadness or loss. Some people long to be mothers. Some people have been mothers in ways that don't involve biology at all, through kindness, mentoring, fostering, teaching, caring.

So today we celebrate all the ways people reflect God's love. Because whenever someone nurtures life, protects another person, or generously provides for someone else, they are doing something deeply God-like.

So here's a simple question for all of us today, children and adults alike: how can we reflect God's mothering love this week? Maybe it means: encouraging someone, looking out for someone who is lonely, helping someone who needs support, sharing something we have. Small acts, but powerful ones. Because when we do those things, we mirror the love of the God who created us, protects us, and provides for us.

A prayer

Our Mother God, Creator, Protector and Provider, help us to trust in your compassion and to reflect your love to the world. Amen.

Community news

The organisers of **INSPIRE 2026** are inviting local artists of all ages, whether professionals or not, to submit their work if they wish to sell at this year's exhibition by **Tuesday 19 May**, using the application jotform link on the exhibition's webpage:

<https://www.stbonifacebunbury.org/inspire-26>
or contact bunburyinspire26@gmail.com

Bunbury's Got Talent at INSPIRE26

If you would like to exhibit **one piece of art work that is not for sale** (it can be any discipline: ceramics, embroidery, sculpture, models, metalwork, woodwork or jewellery), the organisers would love to see your work.

They are asking for a £5 donation towards the cost of the display boards for the entry. This donation can be brought when the art work is dropped off. All paintings must be framed. The art works are to be collected at the end of the exhibition.

The application form can be found on the exhibition's webpage: <https://www.stbonifacebunbury.org/inspire-26> or contact 01829 260648 for more details. We look forward to hearing from you.

St Jude's — On the A51, in Tilstone Fearnall, St Jude is sitting surrounded by scaffolding. Turn to page 10 to find out why.



Children's Art Competition

An opportunity to exhibit your work alongside professional artists at Inspire 26 Art Exhibition with prizes

Theme : Self Portrait

Must be on A5 paper (portrait format)
Any material/medium pencils, pencil crayons, paint, pen....
No collage/items stuck onto surface

Deadline 1st June 2026

Categories: Pre School 0-4, Key stage 1 4-7, Key Stage 2 7-11, Key Stage 3 11-14, Key Stage 4 14-16

Deliver to St Boniface Church (in named box provided) or Bunbury Aldersey School

Name Age and contact number on the back

Contact Lucy Munro with any questions 07580 066153
or visit <https://www.stbonifacebunbury.org>

Just Sing Bunbury had the great pleasure of presenting a cheque for £800 to Jo on behalf of St Luke's Hospice at their evening rehearsal on Monday 9 March. This money was raised at their Christmas concert with the wonderful support of their friends and families for which they are truly thankful.

St Boniface 100 Club winners — The club draws take place on the first Sunday of the month at St Boniface church after the 10:30am service. The winning numbers on **1 March** were **61, 89 and 29**. Congratulations to the winners!

Volunteer opportunities — the Link team is looking for a new graphic designer. If you would like to join the team please get in touch with the editor:
elaine.crotty@stbonifacebunbury.org.

EASTER 2026
SERVICES IN BUNBURY AND
TILSTONE FEARNALL

Good Friday -
Friday 3 April
11:00am
Outdoor service at Tilly's
2:00pm
Quiet reflective service at St Boniface

+
Easter Day
Sunday 5 April
8:00am
BCP Easter Communion
at St Boniface
9:30am
Easter Communion at St Jude
10:30am
Easter Communion at St Boniface

+
Sunday 19 April
4:30pm
Afternoon tea followed by Easter
Communion with the St Boniface
choir at Calveley Chapel

*Afternoon tea followed by
Easter Communion with
the St Boniface choir
Sunday 19 April
4:30pm
Calveley Hall Chapel*



What's on

Dates for your diary

Lent series at St Boniface — "Amazed by Jesus" — concludes on **Wednesday 1 April**, followed by coffee and refreshments.

Easter services in Bunbury and Tilstone Fearnall — please see the church diary on this page, and posters in church, on the village notice board for services during Holy Week.

On **Sunday 19 April at 4:30pm Calveley Chapel** will be celebrating Easter with an afternoon tea followed by a Communion with the St Boniface choir. Everyone is welcome. Because the choir will be at Calveley there will not be Evensong at St Boniface in April.

Beeston church fête will take place on **Monday 4 May from 11:00am to 4:00pm**. The church fete committee are looking for **volunteers** for this year's fun and games. They need help setting up on Saturday 2 May: meet at Beeston Castle at 11:00am finishing by 1:00pm. They also need people to help tidy up and take the tents and stalls down on Monday 4 May from 4:00pm. If you are able to help the fête committee would be very grateful. Help is also needed in the tea tent, providing baking, manning stalls, stewarding, and helping with car parking on Monday.

Tombola bottle donations and cakes can be delivered to Elaine at Sunnybank Cottage, School Lane, before the day. Please contact Elaine if you would like to help or bake cakes. Leave messages on: 01829 260648.

Children's animal-themed cake competition at the church fête — turn to page 8 for details of how to take part.

WI meets on the **second Thursday of the month** at Bunbury Playing Fields Pavilion at **7:30pm**. Our April meeting will be a Social and Quiz and in May we will welcome Linda Barton and Richard Slater who will demonstrate the use of the defibrillator, CPR and basic first aid. New members and visitors are warmly welcome. For further information contact Lynda Davies 01829 863781.

Bunbury Gardening Club will be meeting on **Tuesday 21 April at 6:30pm** at Norley Court Garden, Marsh Lane, Frodsham, WA6 8NY for a club visit.

The **Annual Show** will be on **Saturday 5 September**. New members are always welcome: please contact Margaret on 01829 260944, email mjbourne249@tiscali.co.uk or find them on facebook.

The **Christian Aid** coffee morning with plant sale and bric-a-brac will take place at St Boniface church on **Thursday 14 May** between **10:00am and 12:00pm**.

Church diary for April

Wednesday 1 April	10:00am BCP Communion followed by Lent reflection	St Boniface
Friday 3 April	11:00am Good Friday outdoor service at Tilly's 2:00pm Quiet reflective service	Tilly's St Boniface
Sunday 5 April	8:00am BCP Communion 9:30am Easter Holy Communion 10:30am Easter Holy Communion and Forest Church	St Boniface St Jude St Boniface
Wednesday 8 April	10:00am BCP Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 12 April	9:30am BCP Communion 10:30am Morning Worship	St Jude St Boniface
Wednesday 15 April	10:00am BCP Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 19 April	9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Third Sunday Brunch 4:30pm Afternoon tea and Easter Communion with the St Boniface choir 6:00pm No Evensong	St Jude St Boniface Calveley Chapel St Boniface
Wednesday 22 April	10:10am BCP Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 26 April	9:30am Morning Worship 10:30am Holy Communion	St Jude St Boniface
Wednesday 29 April	10:00am BCP Communion	St Boniface

INSPIRE26 — On **Saturday 23 May 9:00am to 12:00pm** there will be a tidy up around the perimeter of the church before the INSPIRE weekend. Everyone is welcome. Any tools that help with weeding would also be very welcome.

Bunbury School news



Walking the Easter story at Bunbury School

As spring begins to brighten the fields and paths around Bunbury, the children at our school have been taking their own thoughtful journey through the Easter story. This term in RE, the classrooms have been filled with a sense of quiet curiosity as pupils explore the events of Holy Week not simply as a sequence of historical moments, but as a story that continues to speak to people today.

Our journey began with the excitement of Palm Sunday. Children imagined the bustling streets of Jerusalem, the waving branches, and the sense of anticipation that surrounded Jesus' arrival. From there, the story led them into the warmth and closeness of the Last Supper, where conversations about friendship, loyalty, and remembrance unfolded naturally. As the week's narrative darkened, the children reflected on the Garden of Gethsemane — on fear, courage, and those difficult moments when we face things we don't fully understand. Through discussion, drama, artwork, and stillness, they have explored the emotions at the heart of the story as much as the events themselves.

This learning will come together in our whole-school Easter Service on Thursday 2 April. With readings, prayers, and music, the children will guide us gently through the themes of loss, hope, and renewal.

Alongside this, our Easter Experience will offer something truly special to the school and community. The school hall will be transformed into a series of interactive stations, each capturing a different part of the Easter story. Children will move quietly between them: laying down

prayers in Gethsemane, holding objects that symbolise key moments, and standing before the empty tomb to consider the meaning of hope and new beginnings.

This year, we are delighted to share this experience with our wider community.

The Easter Experience will be open to all on Good Friday, from 2:00–4:00pm in the school hall.

We warmly welcome you to join us in walking the story that continues to shape this season of hope.

**Nic Badger
Principal**



Bunbury PCC's charitable giving



The day-to-day running of St Boniface church and Calveley Chapel is the responsibility of the Bunbury Parochial Church Council (Bunbury PCC), a registered charity. PCC members are volunteers and serve as trustees of the charity, with Rev. Tim serving as Chair. If you would like to be involved please speak to Rev Tim.

The PCC is responsible for the financial management of both churches. Regular and occasional gifts allow it to maintain our historic buildings and fund all church activities within the parish. The PCC is deeply grateful for the support of everyone in the St Boniface and Calveley Chapel communities, whether you attend services or not.

Generosity is central to our faith. Each year, the PCC gives 10% of its unrestricted giving to three charities — one international, one national, and one local. It rotates these

beneficiaries every three years to spread its support. The current beneficiaries are:

- International: Tear Fund (Toilet Twinning Scheme)
- National: Papyrus (Prevention of young suicide)
- Local: Cheshire Wildlife Trust

Sky notes for April

The two brightest planets put on a good show this month. **Jupiter** has been in our skies for several months. Located in the constellation of Gemini, the Twins, it is visible in the south-west when night has fallen and sets about 3:00am.

On **22 April**, Jupiter lies to the left of the Moon. Gemini's two brightest stars, Castor and Pollux are just above.

Even brighter than Jupiter is the planet **Venus**. Visible during twilight, low down in the west, by the end of the month it can be seen against a truly dark sky. It sets about 11:00pm. On **18 April**, a narrow crescent Moon lies to the lower right of Venus, with Aldebaran, the brightest star in the constellation of Taurus, the Bull, just above. On the following evening, **19 April**, the crescent Moon is above Venus. Then from **22 to 24 April**, Venus passes to the left of the Pleiades. This is a tiny cluster of stars often called "The Seven Sisters". This will be a beautiful sight in binoculars which will show the Pleiades well.

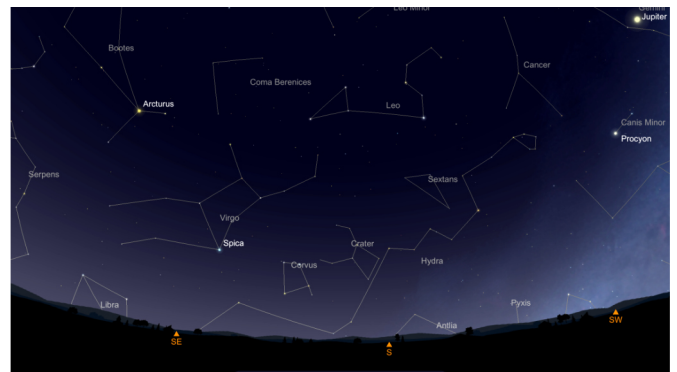
On **23 April**, there is a chance to spot the distant planet **Uranus**. Uranus is just to the left of Venus on that evening. It's on the borderline of being visible to the naked eye, but very challenging. Instead, use binoculars and these will show a bluish-green "star". Uranus is usually hard to find as it is so faint, so now is an ideal time to find it, signposted by dazzling Venus.

Another constellation to seek out this month is Leo, the Lion. It's due south when the sky first becomes dark. It's

one of the few constellations that bears a resemblance to the object it is supposed to depict, in this case a crouching lion. If you look at the sky chart, you might be able to make of the lion's head with his mane. To me it looks more like a back-to-front question mark. The star at the base of the question mark is Leo's brightest and it is called Regulus. To the left of that is a triangle of stars make up the lion's haunch.

Clear skies!

Bunbury Stargazer



The constellation of Leo, the lion, lies due south after nightfall in April (chart produced by the author using Sky Safari Pro)



PAPYRUS
PREVENTION OF YOUNG SUICIDE

**TOILET
TWINNING**

Bunbury Medical Practice news

Our 'Digital Front Door' is opening

We are excited to introduce a new and improved way to contact the practice — our **Digital Front Door**.

From April, this will become the **quickest and most convenient way** to book appointments, request help and access our services. Available through the homepage of our website, it can be used anytime day or night without waiting in a telephone queue or travelling to the surgery.

We are encouraging all patients to make the Digital Front Door their first point of contact wherever possible.

Using it, you can:

- Book appointments
- Request repeat prescriptions
- Submit administrative requests
- Ask questions about your care
- Access information about our services

By using the Digital Front Door, you will help us to make sure you are directed to the right clinician or service straightaway. It is quicker for you and helps us care for you more effectively.

Getting started

To use the new system, you will need your NHS number, which can be found:

- In the NHS App

- On hospital letters
- From our reception team
- By entering 'Find your NHS number' on your browser.

While our phone lines remain available for those who need them, we kindly ask patients to use the Digital Front Door wherever possible. This will help reduce waiting times and ensure everyone receives the right support more quickly.

We are proud to be introducing a system that will make accessing care simpler, faster and more flexible.

We look forward to welcoming you through our Digital Front Door. **Click first, start online**

Training Days for 2026

All training days for 2026 can be seen on our website.

Communication update

From 1 April, we will be contacting you for routine, non-urgent requests via email rather than SMS/text message.

Please ensure that your contact details are up to date and include an email address.

You can update your contact details by emailing bunbury.medicalcentre@nhs.net, calling us, or when you next visit.

Children's cake competition

CHURCH FÊTE
BEESTON CASTLE
4 MAY
2:30PM

CHILDREN'S CAKE COMPETITION

Prize for the best animal themed decorated cake or biscuit.
Bring your masterpiece to the fête in time for the judging at 2:30pm.
You can use any cake or biscuit, home-made or bought, and any kind of decoration.
We will be choosing the winners on how good they look. Good luck!

St Jude's pinnacles

This is why St Jude's has been surrounded by scaffolding

Some years ago probably before the pandemic the pinnacle on the East side of St Jude church in Tilstone Fearnall split, fortunately it fell forward and not into the roof!

The church sits in quite an exposed spot and gets all the weather straight off the Irish sea.

In consultation with the church architect a faculty (formal permission from the Diocese of Chester) was prepared and quotes obtained for a new pinnacle. With a small investment fund, Lloyd and Smith were engaged with the understanding that the quote for the work had to be firm.

The only worry at this point were the finials which the

stone mason and Mr Holland the architect thought could be reused — unfortunately this was not the case. After much soul searching and some movement of funds it was decided that the pinnacles and associated finials were such a recognisable part of the church they would need to be replaced like for like.

Once the scaffolding was in place it was possible to get up close and take some pictures which show clearly that we acted just in time.

Mike Lightfoot, Churchwarden



From top left to bottom right: the east pinnacle; original finial; making the new pinnacle; making the new finial; pinnacle and finial in place; the view from the top.

“Just one thing” for a healthier life

This series of articles is based on the popular podcast by the late Dr Michael Mosley as testament to his life's work and passion for educating and helping people.



Do a Plank

Back pain is the leading cause of disability worldwide, but the good news is that daily planking is highly effective in reducing back pain. A study involving 30 young men and women with lower back pain found that after three weeks of doing a few minutes of plank exercises daily they all had significantly less pain.

Holding a plank is a form of isometric exercise — when muscles are worked without stretching or contracting them. Researchers at Penn State University attached electrodes to 30 volunteers whilst exercising, to monitor how hard their abdominal and core muscles were working; they found that planking and wall squats worked them much harder than other types of exercise such as press-ups, crunchies, sit-ups and oblique twists. They think that this is because it is a core 3D type of workout for all the muscles from the hips to the shoulders. Stronger core muscles also help with all sports, give greater protection against injury, and lead to better balance and posture.

Other studies show that planking is also highly effective at reducing resting blood pressure (BP). A meta-analysis of 270 studies involving all kinds of exercise found that isometric exercise was the best for reducing BP.

To do a plank you lie on your front on the floor then put your forearms in front of you with the elbows under the shoulders, lifting your body off the floor by tucking the toes under. The body should be straight from heel to shoulder. Alternatively you can rest your weight into your hands with straight arms. Try to do a minimum of 30 seconds then rest for two minutes, and repeat four times. If you can hold for longer than 30 seconds then do so. A wall squat involves standing with your back against a solid wall, with your feet a few small steps away, then sliding gently downwards until your knees are at a comfortable angle, and holding it, for between 30 seconds and two minutes. Rest for two minutes then repeat four times. Try to do this at least three times per week!

Liv Weller



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Staying Independent and Connected in the Place You Love

Most of us share the same wish as we get older: to stay in the comfort of our own homes, surrounded by the memories and routines that matter most. Since November 2025, a dedicated local team has been helping Tarporley families do exactly that, providing the personalised care and companionship needed to maintain independence.

Led by Director Robert Dancy and Care Manager Zoe Cooper, the team focuses on more than just practical support; they value the social connections that keep life vibrant. The team has also extended its support beyond in-home care with the launch of a welcoming day centre, offering families a friendly space to meet for a chat, join in activities, and enjoy the simple pleasure of good company.

The team has also been active in the wider community. Shortly after launching, the Reggie the Radfield Teddy campaign brought smiles across Tarporley while raising £735 for OPAL (Older People Active Lives) Tarporley, helping older people across Mid Cheshire stay active and engaged. Looking ahead, Radfield Home Care plans to continue supporting local families through initiatives that connect people, celebrate community life, and promote wellbeing for all.

“We wanted to be an active part of the community from the very start,” says Robert. “It has been wonderful getting to know so many local families and seeing the difference personalised support can make.”

Call 01829 697 043 today to find out more about Radfield Home Care Tarporley & Mid Cheshire.



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