

### Pews packed for Easter service



Although the Easter service is always popular, St. Boniface has not seen such a large Easter congregation for many years. The flower arrangers had done a magnificent job (see above) and the pews were packed so full that latecomers had to sit at the front! Young families, teenagers and older people from our area and from

elsewhere all gathered together on that sunny morning to celebrate the highest point in the Christian calendar. What an uplifting way to celebrate the Resurrection!

Jane Stephenson engaged all ages of the congregation from the floor rather than the pulpit with a thought-provoking discussion about whether various written statements were "sense or nonsense". An example was Einstein's theorem which many of us would struggle with but which has "sense" to the initiated. She had all the congregation puzzling over a number of cryptic clues with the aim of helping us understand better that sense can be made of what seems like nonsense. It was a thought-provoking way of illustrating the conundrum of that empty tomb.

Of course, the service ended with our traditional Easter egg hunt, so there were a few children who left church that morning with chocolatey hands and faces!

St. Jude's also enjoyed a record attendance - see page 9.

### Peter Overy

Many local people will have been saddened by the news of Peter Overy's death just before Easter, after a two-year struggle. His memorial service was held at St Boniface on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April, and a congregation of well over 200 heard tributes from his friend Eric Wallington and son Nigel, to this very well-known and popular 'Shropshire lad'. See page 10.

### Jo and Phil



Pictured here are Joanna Moore and Phil Wilson after their wedding at St. Boniface on Easter Saturday. Jo, the elder daughter of Chris and Andy Moore of Bunbury, is a former bell ringer and choir girl.

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### Looking forward to Village Day 2007

Village Day, June 16<sup>th</sup>, is approaching fast, so here is a taste of what we have planned and how you can all join in to make this year one to remember.

The parade will set off half an hour earlier this year, 1pm. And we would like as many groups to take part as possible. Why not get together with your friends or neighbours to organise a float or walking group? Or why not get a team of six together and enter this year's tug of war competition? To enter ring Sarah Donaldson 260590.

All the usual favourites for children and

adults will be the on the field including the beer tent and BBQ, a wide variety of stalls and competitions, and of course plenty of entertainment for the children. New this year will be a soft play area with trampolines, a miniature railway and many other attractions for older children which we are still in the process of confirming. So, well worth your entrance fee!

Watch out for more Village Day news and let's look forward to an enjoyable and sunny Village Day!

**The Village Day Committee**

## Beeston Castle Fête - a new future planned - p5

# I thought I had died and gone to heaven

The first day of the month is May Day which is a day evoking gaiety, the threshold of an exuberant month of bursting green fertility and warmth. The children's song tells of 'Gathering nuts in May on a cold and frosty morning' - the nuts mentioned here are not those of hazel or chestnut which ripen in the autumn but the tubers of pignut, a relative of cow parsley, found in unploughed grasslands.

Certainly frost is on every gardener's mind. Local frosts can scorch the apple blossom and congeal the nectar and pollen so the bees fly elsewhere. Many poets have written about May and one likened it to a beautiful maiden clothed in sunshine, scattering flowers on the earth while she danced to the music of the bird song and brooks. The fields and woods now ring with incessant

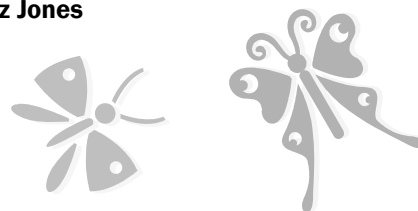
sounds of so many birds that only a practised ear is able to distinguish one from the other in this grand wild concert.

Spring flowers, especially those in a woodland, are involved in a desperate race against time. They must produce their flowers and their leaves and get on with the vital task of producing food before the larger dominant plants cast their dark shade, cutting off the essential sunlight. Bluebells bow out the spring and herald the summer. They fill our senses with both colour and heady scent. Keats called the blue bell 'Sapphire, Queen of the Mid-May', and who could argue with this? Bluebell sap is very sticky and at one time was used to gum the leaves into books and the fletchers also used bluebell glue to stick the feathered flights onto the shafts of

arrows. The rich nectar produced by bluebells serves to attract the butterflies which pollinate them.

By the end of May most trees will have donned their new attire. None will appear more beautiful than now. The spring-green leaves are so fresh and new and still delicate enough to reveal traces of the branches through their slender attire - a beauty that will be lost when they attain the full-burgeoned matronliness of summer. If you wish to visit a bluebell wood there is one, surprisingly enough, at Bluebell Cottage, Dutton, open from April 28th. - [www.bluebellcottagegardens.co.uk](http://www.bluebellcottagegardens.co.uk). The description on the web site says 'I thought, after walking round it all, that I had died and gone to heaven!'

Liz Jones



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# A psalm for all seasons

Stuck in a rut? Can't think how to pray? Want to tell God how you feel but don't quite know how? Would like to read the Bible but don't know where to begin? Then try reading the Psalms.

This great collection of songs and prayers expresses the heart and soul of humanity. In them the whole range of human experience is expressed. Probably one of the most striking features of the psalms is their unedited honesty. David and the other writers consistently and candidly poured out their thoughts and emotions to God reflecting a dynamic, powerful, and life-changing friendship with him. When they felt abandoned by God they told him so. When they were impatient with how slowly God seemed to be answering their prayers, they also told him so. Because they recognised the difference between themselves and God, they were free to be human and to be honest with their Creator. That is why so many of the 'dark' psalms end in the light.

God wants us, also, to be completely honest with him. He craves a two-way relationship with us. Too often we give God a watered-down version of our feelings. Often, patterns of superficial communication spill over into our talks with him. We easily slide through well-worn lines recited for decades,

or we quickly toss a cliché or two at God and call it prayer. But by limiting the depth of our communication, we become shallow in our relationship with him. Using the psalms as our prayers can teach us a great deal about how God wants us to communicate with him. As we choose and use the psalms to express our true feelings, we learn that God values honesty, openness, and sincerity

As you read the psalms you will see that the psalmists praise God, not only for what he does – his creation, his blessings, his forgiveness – but also for who he is – loving, just, faithful, forgiving, patient. They are the most wonderful way of expressing our own heartfelt praise to our Maker.

So next time you wonder what to pray, why not dip into this glorious book and try a few for size?

'Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.  
Praise the Lord'.

**Kate Reeves**



# Superman

'Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things' (Psalm 98,1)

In one of the Superman stories, a disaster is set to happen at a fixed time by the clock. To give himself time to prevent it, the hero grabs hold of the rotating earth and turns it the other way by half an hour! It's just too fantastic to be anything other than science fiction, but it does arouse a wistful feeling.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if just one human being had the power to alter the operations of the universe? Suppose we could alter the operations of the universe. What if we could halt the inevitable tramp of death, of change and decay, of return to primitive chaos which seems to fill the universe with frustrated hopes? Well there really is good news for us all. One man has done just that.

On the first Easter Day, Jesus rose again from the dead to live for ever. And so he defeated the 'last enemy', death itself. What Israel had been struggling for – justice and obedience – was seen to have eternal significance. And not only for Israel. The resurrection of Jesus fulfils the hope of the world – the reign of death is at an end. Oh yes, our bodies will die, but our souls, our inner personalities, our real selves, will go into another dimension, and live for ever in the presence of our Lord and Saviour.

The resurrection of Jesus fulfils the hope of Israel, of the world and of the universe. These are truths which are difficult to grasp. Resurrection is the gift of God which comes through his grace and our faith. We may not be Supermen or Superwomen but by seizing the grace-given opportunity of faith, we can start the world of injustice and oppression turning in the opposite direction – the direction of love and hope – in our part of the universe, at least.

**Eric Wallington**

## A Rogation Prayer

This time of year is known traditionally as Rogationtide, when we thank God for all his good gifts in creation. In rural areas, such as ours, there was a tradition of walking around the village and neighbouring farms to ask God's blessing on all the livestock and the young crops for the coming year, and looking forward to a good harvest. Sadly, these old customs are dying out, but we still need to be reminded of all God has done for us.

God our heavenly Father, our Creator,  
Every good gift we have comes from you.  
You have promised to supply all our needs  
out of your abundant store.

In your creation you have willed that the earth and the sea should bear fruit in season.  
We ask you to bless all who work on the land and out at sea, who enable us to enjoy the resources of nature, whether through farming, fishing or industrial labour.

May we, with grateful hearts, give thanks to you,  
and always be mindful of our responsibility  
to keep our environment clean and healthy,  
and to be good stewards of your great gifts.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

**Pat Edgley**



# Youth Action

## Club 13 on the slippery slope



The picture, left, shows members of the new Club 13 group enjoying a trip to the dry ski slope.

We don't know whether they were starting or finishing a run in this position!

These last few months, a number of our young people have enjoyed the company of Naomi Mercer and Hayley Nicholson - two students working with us on placement from Chester University. Their presence has been extremely helpful in YCs and they will be taking responsibility for T7.5 this term. Naomi and Hayley are also organising our forthcoming trip to 'Are You Bovered?' - look out for a report in next month's Link.



Naomi and Emma Downey helping out at the Easter workshops

## Tarporley High School thanks Friends

The Friends scheme (introduced to Link readers last year) has raised over £6,000 a year since it began in 2005: sincere thanks to all supporters. The money has been put to very good use refurbishing dilapidated areas of the building. This year a number of classrooms have been redecorated and recarpeted and the latest improvements have been carried out in the Maths Department. Students and staff alike have been delighted at the improvement in working conditions, particularly the new blinds which help with necessary shade and with temperature. None of this work would have been carried out without Friends' donations. The Friends Scheme is such a worthwhile undertaking - so much can be achieved with large number of small monthly donations. If you have a child at Tarporley High School and agree that the buildings badly need improvement, please consider joining the Friends scheme. Contact the school on 732558 for more information.

Tarporley HSA

## Local youngsters rise to the Challenge



Many local youngsters are taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme expeditions over the summer. In fact we hear that our

local group is one of the largest non-school groups in the country. The first practices took place in good weather but the participants' have to be ready for anything. resilience and determination. They have to carry tent, cooking equipment and food for one or two nights in the wilds, and work as a team to make sure all their members complete the challenge. Good luck to everyone taking part:

### Dinner with the Duke

The Duke of Edinburgh Scheme, running since 1956, relies for funding on sponsorship from commercial companies. The DoE organisation arranges events and corporate dinners at which sponsoring companies can entertain clients and it was to one of these dinners at the Dorchester that we

## Weekly Diary

### Sunday: Kingdom Kids

10am Service at St Boniface

### Monday: Young Christians

7.30 to 9.00pm: at St Boniface

### Club 15

7.30 to 9.00pm, Bunbury Scout Hut

### Tuesday: D of E Award

5.00 to 6.00pm: at St Jude's Church Hall, Tilstone Fearnall

### Club 13

7.30 to 9.00pm, Bunbury Scout Hut

### Thursday: T7.5

7.30 to 8.30pm: St Boniface.

### And at Tarporley High School: The Cross

In Drama Dept (B2)

Year 7 Tues; Year 11: Thurs;  
Year 10: Fri

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were invited some years ago: not an everyday occurrence for us! There we saw the Duke himself in action. The media image of the Queen's husband has for many years been of an irritable buffoon - prone to making bad-taste jokes. But on that evening we saw a different side to him. Before the dinner he was brought to each table and introduced to each of several hundred guests, finding a few witty words for each one. It was an impressive performance - for him, even then an elderly man, a working evening. But he did not betray boredom or indifference to his guests, though he must have spent hundreds of similar evenings.

The success of the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme must in large part be down to Prince Philip's real involvement in the organisation that carries his name. Many, many thousands of young adults have been given opportunities to test and prove themselves through the challenge of the DoE Scheme: long may it continue.

**Lucy Munro**

## Beeston Fête: Plans for a new future

Since last years successful fête, both Rob Williams, our long-serving treasurer, and Margaret Ellis, our secretary, have both left the committee. Both have given many hours of invaluable support and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them both for all their hard work. Sarah Thompson has taken on the role of secretary, but we have found it difficult to replace Rob. Despite several pleas for new volunteers, not only to replace Rob, but also to help the existing team, it is disappointing to note that there has been a complete lack of new blood with not a single person willing to come forward to assist the already very stretched team. Therefore we have been left with no alternative but to change the whole format of this year's fête.

Since our first meeting, just after last year's event, the committee have worked on new ideas for this years fête with the intension to reduce the dependence on volunteers on the day. We have been frustrated at almost every turn by red tape. One serious plan that we had worked on for several months was to have a beer and food festival, however due to local protests to Beeston Castle's entertainment licence we have recently been advised that we are unable to go ahead with such an event.

As we had already worked on the idea of a festival we decided to continue the theme. This years event will be a

Food and Fun event. We hope to have several local producers of fine foods, together with brand new attractions and games for all ages, together with the old favourites such as the Tea Tent, Tombola, Grand Draw and Jazz Band.

Notwithstanding the new format of this year's event, we would still welcome anyone coming forward to run a specific stall, though the committee have decided that if no one comes forward to help, we will not run some of our traditional stalls such as books, plants, and coconut shy.


The fête has ben a valuable source of finance to our Church for many years. It has been in existence in some form for well over 150 years, but it would not exist without the continued support of what has become a very small team of dedicated volunteers. So if you don't want to lose this valuable asset, please come forward and volunteer to help.

If you can help please contact Sarah Thompson on 01829 261254 our new secretary or myself on 01829 733975 we look forward to having you on board.

**Nigel Mulliss**  
Chair, Fête Committee

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# Last supper remembered

On the beautiful spring evening of Maunday Thursday, 60 adults and children gathered at St Boniface for the Agape supper, in remembrance of Jesus' Last Supper with his friends. The meal, organised by Fiona Holbrook and helpers, was as usual delicious (you're getting too good at this, Fiona!). There were generous helpings of roast lamb and colourful salads, all served on long tables arranged in the

nave, and washed down with plenty of wine. And there was lots of cake or cheese for those who still had space for more. Paul Holbrook gave a thoughtful talk at this, the start of the Easter weekend, and the celebration finished with communion and the ritual washing of feet or hands for those who wished. A memorable event well worth attending – watch out for next year's invitation.



# Rick presented with new stole



Following a sermon about gifts and giving Rick's friends at Calveley Church surprised him with the gift of a new hand-knitted stole

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# Kashmir earthquake - rebuilding problems

Earlier this year I was able to visit the site of one of the most catastrophic (although not one of the largest) earthquakes since instrumental records began. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2005, at 8.50am while most children were in school, a magnitude 7.6 earthquake, occurred at a depth of only 10km, beneath the Balakot-Muzzarafabad region of Northern Pakistan and Azzad Kashmir with devastating effect. Even though this is a very sparsely populated region, the death toll in Pakistan was almost 75,000 with as many injured, and a total of some 3.5 million people were affected as far south as Islamabad almost a hundred kilometres away. In some regions extended families lost on average 6 members. Nearly 2.5 million people lost their houses and many remain in temporary accommodation, often tents, in a region where winter temperatures fall to -10°C on a regular basis and as many were subject to severe food shortages. The earthquake was caused by the collision of the Indian plate with the Asian plate which has led to the formation of the highest mountain ranges in the world; the Hindu Kush, the Pamirs, the Karakoram and of course the Himalayas. The quake lies on the western margin of the Nanga Parbat massif and close to the valley of the Indus River. Nanga Parbat (Naked Mountain) is rising faster than anywhere else on the Earth's surface and although only 9<sup>th</sup> highest is considered to have the highest mountain face in the world, the Rupal Face rising an incredible 4,600 m (15,000 feet) above its base. This is not the first major earthquake in the region, a similar large event occurred in 1155 and some scientists consider that the stress released in this quake is a small fraction, perhaps 10%, of the stress that has built up since the previous event due to the collision between the Indian and Eurasian plates.

Many landslides on natural and cut slopes were triggered by this quake damming rivers and causing extensive damage to bridges, roads and other engineering structures over an area of 30,000 sq. km.

Most tragically, a total of about 10,000 schools were devastated by this single event, with 8,000 schools collapsing in the Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP) and 2,000 in Pakistan's less-populous Kashmir region. All the schools in Muzaffarabad itself collapsed leading to a great loss of life amongst children. The young Pakistani geologists who were our guides were on the spot assessing the situation and helping with the rescue the day after the quake and were deeply affected by the experience, as was I, even more than a year after it happened.

Much of the damage observed in the quake affected areas (Islamabad, Abottabad, Balakot, Muzaffarabad) was due not to earthquake shaking as often mistakenly thought (and a myth perpetuated by many films), but is mainly due to the use of poor building materials, inadequate construction practice particularly of concrete structures, lack of any building codes and little knowledge of the engineering properties of the ground on which the villages are built, often river gravels or even landslide material from previous historic earthquakes.

On my recent visit to Balakot (above) it was clear that rebuilding has already begun using construction techniques which have plainly proved inadequate in the past with poorly tied reinforced concrete pillars and solid concrete roofs. Of course, shortage of timber and an abundance of aggregate transported directly from the Karakoram make this inevitable, if undesirable.

At Keele University we are developing a project in conjunction with the National Centre for Excellence in Geology in



Peshawar to bring a Pakistani geoscientist (probably a current member of staff at a local University) here to work with us for a PhD on seismic monitoring techniques which can not only map the location and movement on faults but more importantly, use an analysis of the properties of seismic background noise to determine the engineering properties of the ground and help to identify particularly damage-prone areas.

It very sobering to realise that the risk of death in an earthquake is directly proportional to the state of economic deprivation of the area which suffers it. Both Japan and the US have suffered comparable earthquakes in magnitude to this with much less human impact mainly due to the existence of well-developed building codes and adherence to strictly controlled construction practice. Hopefully, this work can help bring some of the benefits of this knowledge to the people of Pakistan and the other countries bordering the Himalayas and helping make the events which will occur inevitably somewhere along this tectonic boundary much less devastating.

## Peter Styles

Peter, from Bunbury, is the Director of the Environment, Physical Sciences and Applied Mathematics Institute (EPSAM) at Keele University

## Christian Aid Week 13th-19th May 2007

Help poor communities grow a future this Christian Aid Week by giving generously in our door to door collection.

Congratulations to **Katie Mason** who after months of training has completed the **London Marathon** in a very creditable 4 hours 36 minutes, and, as she texted the Link on the day, "Ready to die!". Katie has raised over £1,200 through sponsorship for the **Railway Children**, one of the charities St.Boniface supports. If you know of another local marathon runner who deserves our congratulations please let us know!



## Easter fun at holiday workshops

Following the success of previous Easter holiday workshops, the Kingdom Kids team once again organised activities for children this year. Lots of local youngsters enjoyed two mornings of crafts, drama and singing and you may have spotted some of their colourful artwork in St. Boniface over Easter. The team, led by Sarah Tomlins and Debbie Shears, were joined by a group of young helpers and more experienced friends including Barbara Croley and Helen Jones.



**Thanks to all the leaders and helpers pictured right for all their time and hard work.**



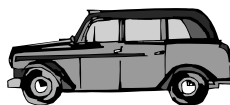
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## Remembering Marjorie Fellows

In the April Link we noted the sad death of Marjorie Fellows of Spurstow. Husband Gerald contacted us to point out that in fact she had never been a horse breeder, and we are glad to correct our mistake. We are also glad that speaking to Gerald has given us a chance to find out more about Marjorie. The following tribute is taken from the address given at Marjorie's funeral by close neighbour Ken Jones.

'Marjorie Jones was born in 1934 at Radley Wood Farm, Spurstow, where she lived until elder brother Frank married and she went to live with her father at Fields Farm. As a child she attended Spurstow School and then Beeston Towers School – known to us now as the Wild Boar Hotel – before going on to Nuthurst School, which was then established in the Churches Mansions building in Nantwich.

In 1965 Marjorie moved to The Hollies in Badcocks Lane, Spurstow, and she and Gerald married in 1967. (They would have celebrated 40 years of marriage in March.) Daughter Julie was born in 1968 followed by son Alan in 1970.

Irene and I have been next-door neighbours of Marjorie and Gerald for almost 30 years: throughout that time we have been good friends. The special willingness of Marjorie to help at all times, and in any way, has always shone through. We could always leave our house and animals knowing that everything – even the house plants – would be well looked after in our absence.

We had a particular joint interest, in that we both kept sheep, and again, Marjorie was always there if anything needed doing – there was no need to ask for help. When I needed to attend the sheep for any reason, I would suddenly become aware of a presence. Bending down to look at the first animal, I would look under my arm to observe a familiar pair of wellies: that would be Marjorie, complete with blue overalls and woolly hat! "Want any help?" she would ask, not, "What are you doing?" – she was willing to help whatever the task.

Her knowledge of country ways were also a great help to me. Where her astute observance of my flock or field might cause her some concern, she would delicately draw my attention to it with appropriate advice.

This then was Marjorie: bringing up her family with Gerald, busy all the time with her vegetable plot (their frozen harvest saw the family through the winter) and her animals. She loved animals and there was a succession of family pets, and in later years a Shetland pony she doted on. Sadly, this was when her illness was beginning to make itself known, and she felt she had to give it up.

Throughout her married life she had the loving support and companionship of Gerald, our good friend and neighbour. She will be sorely missed – not just by her family, but by all her friends – who will continue to remember her.'

## Easter at St. Judes

The Easter Day service was attended by a congregation of over fifty people – the largest congregation we have seen at St. Judes for many months. There is no doubt that in spite of rumours to the contrary, here at Tistone Fearnall we go from strength to strength! Our efforts to regenerate the life of our church seem to be paying off.

The surrounds of the hall and car park are looking neat and tidy, thanks to the efforts of Johnny Gillett and his 'cohorts' – lads from Tarporley School working for their Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

**Bob Gardner**

## Canon John in fight against slavery

Canon John Bowers has written with news of his latest fundraising exploits. He is planning a sponsored cycling pilgrimage on behalf of the Barnabas Fund following the trail of the Pilgrim Fathers in New England, in this, the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the Abolition of the Slave Trade. His aim is to raise money to help the young women and girls of the Pocot Tribe of Northern Kenya who suffer agonising mutilation according to traditional African religious beliefs, and are often sold as virtual slaves to much older, polygamous men. One couple are doing something to help these women, by providing a refuge for up to 25: the Barnabas Fund has committed £8,000, which will pay for a year's running costs

including security, food, clothing, medical costs and schooling. Saving these girls from a life of slavery and giving them a new life will follow the example of William Wilberforce, who did so much to abolish slavery here.



If you can help Canon John by sponsoring him,

please send a donation to the Barnabas Fund, c/o Canon John Bowers, 2, Shalford Grove, West Kirby, CH48 9XY. There will also be sponsor forms in church from the end of May or early June.




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## Peter Overy remembered - continued from front page

'I first met Peter soon after moving to Spurstow some twenty years ago, when the members of the Church Council met to welcome Donald Marr as our new Vicar. As I listened to Peter, during general conversation, I became aware of his detailed knowledge of Bunbury School, and became convinced that he must be the headmaster. A little while later I found out that in fact he was a local farmer of some renown! His detailed knowledge of school activities arose from his work as a school governor, and indeed as acting Chairman of the Governing Body at the time. I soon got to know Peter as a great Christian friend and we served together for many years on the Church Council. Before long, Peter and Eileen had handed over Lower Hall Farm to Nigel and Jane and moved to Spurstow as close neighbours. Madolin and I were able to get to know them as even closer friends. Our Nursery Lane get-togethers became times that we enjoyed and looked forward to. At these parties Peter was always ready to relate to us all stories from his seemingly-inexhaustible supply, and he always played a large part in keeping the evening party going. Now and again he repeated a story – but it was always well worth the repeating!

During the last twelve months, when Peter was largely housebound, I have been privileged on a number of occasions to take Communion to him. Even in the latter stages of his life, when it was clearly a real effort for him to concentrate on anything, he somehow summoned enough strength to participate as fully as he could in the brief service of Holy Communion. He was a wonderful Christian friend and I shall much miss him.' **Eric Wallington**

'Dad was born close to The Column on the outskirts of Shrewsbury – truly 'A Shropshire Lad'. He was the second of five children, his father owning Overy's Outfitters, a feature of the centre of Shrewsbury for over 100 years. When he was four, the family moved to a house built by his mother's family firm, Bickerton the Builders. There was a tennis court, hothouses, a maid, a nurse-maid and a gardener. At the end of a piece Dad once wrote about his childhood, he says ironically, 'As you can see, life was hard!' Cars seem to have made an impression on the young Peter too: on a trip to Salisbury in 1934, when he was ten, he recalls doing 84 mph – a burst of speed that left a life-long memory.

He started school at Prestfelde, a few doors from home, before moving on to Shrewsbury School. Although he was a day boy, school was still a seven days a week affair, Sunday uniform being morning dress, complete with topper. He was useless at team sports and ball games – a gene he has passed to at least the next two generations! – and this ineptitude at sports seems to have had quite an impact on his position in the school's pecking-order. Part of the summer holidays in his last year there were spent digging air-raid shelters, as war had been declared the previous autumn. On leaving school he went to learn farming at Preston on Severn. Here are a few snippets from his pocket-book that first year, showing the range of his activities: thistles being cut with horse mower; learned to thatch; cutting oats, greased binder; duck shooting; blowing post holes with gellignite! And the entry on December 5<sup>th</sup> reads 'Looked round Fox Farm' – a tenancy which he then took on, starting farming on his own aged 18!

Dad met Eileen, our Mum, through a distant relation of hers, Dick Lea. Eileen and Dick had holidayed with their families and others for several years at Rhyl. Dick was Dad's school friend and rowing

partner and it was at a party of his in 1947 that Eileen and Peter were introduced. After only 8 dates they were engaged! They chose well, celebrating 58 years together just a few days before Dad died. They were a real team, he the farmer, she the model farmer's partner and wife, sharing gardening, decorating, church life and friends and so much more: a true partnership to the end.

At Fox Farm Dad led a very full life. He rowed with Dick and they won regularly until at 34 they threw in the towel, having been soundly beaten by a couple of 17-year-olds. He was a keen gardener and kept an enormous vegetable patch, as well as bee-keeping. He was also heavily involved in the District Council and the NFU and was a churchwarden at Berrington for 11 years. Regular visits to market were also a feature of life there, as were the shooting parties. Christine, Paul and I were all born at Fox Farm and I have very happy memories of life there.

We moved to Spurstow on New Year's Day 1964 and as usual Dad threw himself into local affairs. If there was a committee, he was soon on it! Gardening continued as before – I can hardly remember our buying vegetables during our childhood – and we still had the bees. One bumper year I remember we extracted a hundredweight of honey. Mum and Dad were both also committed to the church and I can remember mammoth efforts for flower festivals and church fêtes. Their annual task at the Beeston Castle Fête was to cook and sell (with help) a hundredweight of sausages as hot dogs. This was at the Fête's peak, the era of the famous motor-cycle hill climb. It was for Dad's work for the church and as a school governor that he was honoured by being made a freeman of the Haberdashers.

Life was not always good to Dad. His worst time was thirty years ago when he and Mum lost their only daughter, our sister Christine, just as she had qualified as a teacher. It seems to me that his faith in Christ and trust in God must have helped him through those times: he always sheltered Paul and me from any stress.

Peter had a wide range of interests and talents. He was a collector and knowledgeable about blue and white china; he could identify and date silver; he could recite by heart all sorts of verse and doggerel and was good with words; he had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the Overy family tree, as well as the even more complex Dutton one. He would also strip down a broken tractor into a thousand pieces with great glee, and usually (though not always) get it back together and working again!

Dad and I got on incredibly well on the farm and until a couple of years ago he was still very involved, keeping fit by walking around the stock each day and keeping his mind active doing the farm books. He also had the vital role of 'Gofur' – when something was needed he was the one to 'go for' this or that, and he was still involved in the mowing and rowing at silage time. On his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday he celebrated with a cake in the calf ring at Beeston, something he really enjoyed – and enjoyed the tales afterwards. He is very badly missed on the farm, as everywhere else.

He didn't find the past two years easy and got frustrated by his inability to do or remember things, but he bore it well really, being greatly aided by the love, care and patience he received from Mum in particular, but also latterly from his wonderful team of carers.

We all miss him dearly, but what he would want is for us all to have as many happy memories of him, and tales to tell of him, as he told of others. **Nigel Overy**



## Community news

Congratulations to **Sally and Ken Hazeldine** of Wyche Lane on the arrival of **Daniel Luke Elliot** on February 21<sup>st</sup>, baby brother for **Georgia**, aged 6.

And congratulations to **Paul and Diane Williams** on the arrival of **Phoebe-Dixie-Peach**, born on 4th April, her dad's birthday. The picture shows her with big sister **India**, 4, and big brother **Maximo**, 21 months



On 22nd April **Jessica Louise Welling**, daughter of **Richard and Tina** of Barbridge, was baptised at St.Boniface,

Congratulations to the following couples who have recently married at St.Boniface: on 7th April **Jo Moore** and **Phil Wilson** (pictured front page); on 9th April **Michelle Deedman** and **Vasilus Evangelidis** pictured below (the groom is Greek and though his



relatives did not all understand English, they enjoyed the warm St.Boniface atmosphere; and on 14th April **Elizabeth Mayfield** and **Ben Woodrow-Hirst**, whose many younger guests were entertained by a puppet show during the signing of the register.

A belated happy birthday to **Gerry O'Neill** of Bunbury, who reached a significant milestone on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Still young enough at heart to wear silly hats in public!

Congratulations to **Dave and Sandra Cadman** on their recent Silver Wedding Anniversary. We hear Dave was particularly romantic on this occasion though sadly we cannot reveal any details! Dave also recently won his bodyweight in Haribo sweets. We haven't been told how many boxes that was, but we understand it is a lifetime's supply!

We are sad to report the death of **Peggy Edge** whose funeral was on 16th April at St.Boniface. Peggy lived at Church Bank before moving to a bungalow and worked for many years at the Village Greens.

Our sympathies also to the family of **Gladys Timmis**, long-time Alraham resident, whose funeral took place on April 17<sup>th</sup> at St. Judes.

The CAB Rural Advice Service is now based at the new surgery in Bunbury every Wednesday from 11-1. The van no longer visits the Nags Head. However, there is a new service for the van at Bickerton Hall every Thursday from 10 - 12 noon.



## Church news

From May, **evensong at St.Boniface will be held at 6pm** (changed from 6.30pm) for the summer months. It will revert to 4.30pm in October.

**This month please pray especially for Neville Edgley and Claudia McLaughlin; for the families of Peter Overy, Gladys Timmis and Peggy Edge and all those mourning the death of a loved one; for those who are troubled in body, mind or spirit and for those who care for them.**

## General news

It has come to our attention that several well-known pillars of the community have been seen '**body surfing**'. You know who you are - pictures please!

We forgot last month to give **Carys Ryder** special mention in our piece about the Guides' Crocus Walk. Guide leaders were amazed at Carys's confidence and skill at cakemaking - the next Nigella maybe?

A **bona fide journalist** has been spotted in School Lane. We're hoping she will offer some bona fide journalism to the Link before too long!

**Country Fair at Burland Hall**, Sunday 20th May, 12-5pm in aid of St Lukes Hospice. Come and enjoy the beautiful gardens, circus workshop, demonstrations, wine bar and high class catering, laser shooting and golf competitions, luxury shopping marquee and much more,. Tickets £5 on the day or £4 in advance. For more details ring 01606 555688 or see [www.stlukes-hospice.co.uk](http://www.stlukes-hospice.co.uk).

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## Diary

May			
2	10.00	Holy Communion	St.Boniface
6	8.00am	Holy Communion	St.Boniface
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St.Judes
	10.00am	Family Worship	St.Boniface
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Calveley
9	10.00am	Holy Communion	St.Boniface
13-19		Christian Aid Week	
13	9.30am	Morning Service	St.Jude's
	10.00am	Family Worship	St.Boniface
	6.00pm	Evensong	St.Boniface
16	10.00am	Holy Communion	St.Boniface
17-19		Noises Off	Bunbury Village Hall
20	8.00am	Holy Communion	St.Boniface
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St.Jude's
	10.00am	Family Worship	St.Boniface
	12-5pm	Country Fair	Burland Hall
23	10.00am	Holy Communion	St.Boniface
27	9.30am	Morning Service	St.Judes
	10.00am	Family Communion	St.Boniface
30	10.00am	Holy Communion	St.Boniface
June			
3	10.00	Holy Communion	St.Boniface
6	8.00am	Holy Communion	St.Boniface
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St.Jude's
	10.00am	Family Worship	St.Boniface
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Calveley
Looking ahead			
June			
15		The Front Room perform at the Village Hall	
16		Village Day and St.Luke's Midnight Walk	
30		Tarpoley School talent night	
July			
14		Bunbury School/Cricket Club Summer Ball	
15		Church Cricket Match and Service	
August			
27		Beeston Castle Fête	

Link is edited by **Lucy Munro (tel. 260487)** and **Jill Robey (tel. 260081)**. We welcome all contributions. Our deadline for the June edition is Wednesday 16th May. Please send material to [lucykmunro@hotmail.com](mailto:lucykmunro@hotmail.com). Our vicar, **Rick Gates**, is always available in times of sickness, bereavement or any distress See p2 for phone numbers.

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