

A Tuesday evening in September, and St Boniface was busy. What was going on? Sixteen local youngsters had made the big decision to be confirmed – some were to be baptised as well – and the Right Reverend Keith Sinclair, Bishop of Birkenhead, was conducting the service. Friends and families had turned out in force to support the candidates, who took preparation classes with Johnny Gillett over the summer term. It was a great testament to Johnny's work here that so many young



**Pictured with the Bishop are Isaac Broadbent, Ashleigh Dean, Fizzy Elsegood, Charlotte Everton, Esther Gillett, Jade Grimwood, Katrina Holbrook, Kitty Lee, Kirsty Mason, James Melia, Hebe Middlemiss, Peter Mulcahy, Isobel Munro, Clara O'Brien, Shaun Ryan and Olivia Waddington. (Charlotte Greenbury is missing from the photo as she had an appointment with the buffet!)**

### Young people make big decision

people felt able to take this step. The candidates' first Communion was followed by

a celebration with party food, a special cake and some 'bubbly'.

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## GP and son walk from crash

How often do we hear of a crash on local roads and wonder if any of our friends are involved?

The Bruce family of Peckforton had a very lucky escape when local GP

Jackie and younger son Oliver, aged 18, who left Tarporley High School this summer, walked away almost unscathed from a car crash which left their Volvo estate car unrecognisable. The accident happened on the evening of Wednesday September 12<sup>th</sup> as Jackie, who works as Dr. Griffin at Tarporley Health Centre, was driving north to collect husband Nigel from Manchester airport. As they approached the railway bridge at Beeston, a lorry came under the bridge towards them. Jackie could see it was leaning at a precarious angle and the next thing they heard was a huge bang as the truck, laden with 30 tonnes of

potatoes, fell onto their car. Once released by the fire service, Jackie was taken to hospital with a gashed finger, and cuts from broken glass, but was able to go home in the early hours. The road stayed closed until the next morning. The driver of the lorry who was within the 40mph limit also escaped uninjured, but as local drivers know, that stretch of road demands special care, with a sharp blind bend made even more dangerous by the downward hill in both directions.

Surely now is the time for the authorities to look carefully at the speed limit on this dangerous road.



**Return of the Tree of Lights this Christmas - see p5**

# Gratitude

Jesus asked his disciples, 'Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' (St. Luke 17,18)

In this story, Jesus heals ten lepers. Nine were Jews and one a Samaritan, with whom the Jews had no dealings.

As directed by Jesus, all ten went off to display their healing to the local priests. Only one returned to say his thankyou to Jesus. Jesus was amazed – not, of course, that they would not all be grateful, but that only one came back to say so, and the Samaritan, at that.

Yet many of us have much to be grateful for and, like the ten lepers, often omit to give our thanks to God. How often do we give thanks for our home, our family, our material possessions and the beautiful world in which we live?

In general, we have so much in life to be grateful for. Maybe when we look back at the dark times in our lives, we recognise that it's because we somehow held our heads up and trusted God that we came through them. Job, in the Bible story of his terrible misery, cries out, 'Though he slay me, yet will I trust him.' It's sometimes only when we thank God in

such times for what little we have and trust him to do what is best for us, that he's able to give us the larger gifts stored up for us.

Gratitude is the best possible motive for serving God who gave his very self when Jesus died on the cross for us.

Gratitude not in order to 'get to heaven'; not from fear of punishment, but simply, like the Samaritan leper, because of what God has done for us already.

And it is as we give our thanks that we're prepared to trust the future entirely to the hands of an ever-loving Heavenly Father.

**Eric Wallington**

## Community news

Congratulations to **Lesley and Stephen Roberts** on the birth of **James Stephen** (pictured below) on 10th August.



Welcome to **Charlie James**, a true Bunburian, born to **Claire and Mark Burrows** on 9th September, baby brother to **Scott (5) and Evie (3)**.



The following baptisms have been held recently at St. Boniface: on 5th August **Heather Louise Prince**, daughter of **Andrew and Nicola**, on 18th August **Thomas Anthony Dix**, son of **Clive and Lucie**, and **Holly Mary Jacks**, daughter of **David and Deborah**, on 19th August **Owen Rhys Ward**, son of **Gareth and Kirsty**, on 9th September **Amy Victoria Kenworthy**, daughter of **Richard and Mandy**, and on 12th September **Jack David Laidlaw**, son of **Martin and Deana**.

Congratulations to the following couples who have married in August at St. Boniface: on 7th **Daniel Phillips and Emma Booth**, on 11th **Richard Ellis and Kathryn Buckley**, on 18th **Keith Reid and Claire Carlisle**, on 25th **Stephen Poulter and Rosemary Wright** (sadly **Freda Cheers** was unable to attend her grand-daughter Rosie's wedding as she was in hospital and died a few days later). And congratulations to those who married at St. Boniface in September: on 1st **Hugo Gomez and Alison Whitelegg** (Liz Morton's daughter), on 7th **Nigel Collier and Lisa Smyth**, on



14th **Scott Sutherland and Mary Lister**, on 15th **Paul Gauge and Victoria Jones** (below).

There have also been two recent weddings at St. Judes.

Congratulations to **Hamilton Smith and Kim Randles**, and to **Claire Wilson and Grant Leeding**.

And belated birthday congratulations to St. Boniface Churchwarden **Barbara Croley** who celebrated a nice round number in September.

We are sad to report the following local deaths: **Ethel Mossford**, **George Wrench**, **Francis Marriott**, and **Alan Wright** (see St. Judes news page 9).

The following funerals have recently taken place at St. Boniface **Fred Major** on 15th August, **Freda Cheers** on 4th September, and **Stuart Furber** on 7th September. The funeral of St. Boniface lay reader **Neville Edgley** was on 11th September. Obituaries pages 10,11.

## Church news

**Evensong** on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October, will be at the winter time of 4.30pm, and will be at the same time for the next 6 months.

On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October St Boniface welcomes the **Dean of Chester, Dr Gordon McPhate** and on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October Bishop **Alan Chesters, retired Bishop of Blackburn**.

**This month please pray especially for Claudia McLaughlin and Pat Edgley's daughter, Alison; for the, Edgley, Furber, Cheers, Major, Wright, Mossford, Wrench and Marriott families 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.**

**Penny Jolly** has asked us to continue to collect **used stamps** - ordinary British ones are fine. Please leave at the back of any of our churches. They are sold to dealers and money raised goes to **St Luke's Hospice**.

We know that Link readers enjoy reading news of local friends and neighbours but we can only print what we are told about. Please let us have news (happy and sad) to share with our readers.

# A better world for our children and our children's children?

I have just returned from taking my first Sunday Morning Service at the Birmingham Metropole Hotel on the National Exhibition Centre site.

It was a very special occasion as I had just been installed as the Chair-Elect of the national Motor Neurone Disease Association. I will formally become Chairman at the Annual Conference in September 2008, but in the intervening year, I suspect I will be very busy meeting people and learning more about the work of the Association.

As I waited to make my short acceptance speech, I was overwhelmed by the enormity and responsibility of the task ahead. I had mingled with many of those suffering from this terrible disease, talked to carers, listened to researchers and noted how dedicated all of those present were, to helping others in such desperate need.

From my new role, I spoke on the Sunday morning about "new beginnings", and we thought about how it is never too late to begin something

new, whatever our age or condition! Many of those I met, movingly spoke of how they were coping with the disease, of new faith, of new reassurance. And

**"God is dependent on us.....to bring simple miracles into peoples' lives"**

when I "wondered" whether miracles still happen, there were many nods from those present! I suppose this reminded me that everyone needs a bit of help sometime....and even God himself is dependent on the likes of us, to help him to bring simple miracles into peoples lives by helping in our own way, those who are not as well off as ourselves.

One of the Associations slogans is "A world free of MND". This is the objective of the clinicians, researchers, scientists, supporters and fund-raisers and there is a real belief that major progress can be made over the coming years to eradicate the disease. Whatever charity we support and wherever our interest lies, I am sure that we all have a vested

interest in leaving something better for our children and our children's children.

The changes that are taking place in my own life, following my retirement, are taking me along paths I would never have expected to travel even a couple of years ago. I am enormously humbled to have been asked to undertake this role for the Association, and I would ask for your prayers and support over the coming days and months, for all carers, sufferers and helpers.... and especially for those who have experienced first hand, the ravages of this disease as they have nursed and finally had to say goodbye to precious loved ones, lost too early to this awful condition.

You may see me around the parish with my collecting box!

**Mike Ridley**

**MOTOR  
NEURONE  
DISEASE  
ASSOCIATION**

## Penguins at St. Boniface



St. Boniface's holiday club is a high point of the summer holidays for loads of children. This year we were introduced to the Space Penguins, Middel, Fiddel, Ziddel and Kevin. The theme was patience, always having time for other people. Sadly this

year's club could only run for three days but we still managed to pack in five days' worth of fun, games, crafts and loads of songs. We finished with the traditional barbeque enjoyed by all. Many thanks to all involved.

**Lucie Mulliss**

## Teenage art group launch

A new young people's art group meets during the Sunday service at 10am at St. Boniface. The young people of high school age said that they preferred creativity to formal discussion. So lots of different creative materials are provided and we explore the theme of the service, for example Racial Justice, through art and informal chat. If you would like to join this group please contact Debbie Shears on 260707 or just come along and see what we are up to. No experience with art is required, and everything is provided (we also need volunteer helpers). If any reader has spare art materials please contact Debbie. Anything would help including wool, fabrics, paints or brushes .

Elsewhere on the youth front, the YCs led by Mike Ridley and Wendy Slack are already busy rehearsing this year's panto - Aladdin - which will take place on 29th November to 1st December. Put the dates in your diaries. Club 15 is looking for a part time youth worker now that Johnny has a new job. The St Boniface Children and Young people's Committee (CAYC) is now chaired by Alex Sanders and is looking at what our churches can best provide for our young people into the future.

**The popular Tarporley High School Annual Quiz Night takes place this year on Friday 5th October at Tarporley Community Centre at 7.30pm. Tickets from School 732558 or on the door. Supper included.**

# Building for the future in Uganda. Paul and Katrina report on their summer experiences



In the last issue of Link we thanked you for all the support we had received from our friends at St Boniface for supporting our sponsored fast to raise money for a project to build extra classrooms for a school for AIDS orphans in Uganda. In total we raised nearly £2,500 all of which went directly to buying building materials for the project and on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July, Katrina and I joined a group of 20 others at Heathrow Airport and began our long journey to Rukungiri, a regional town in the south of the country.

We flew to Entebbe via Cairo and after a rest day travelled 8 hours by bus and arrived at our destination on Monday evening. Our first challenge was to do without our luggage which was still in Cairo. Perhaps God was giving us a lesson – you

don't need all the stuff you have; you can get by on much less.

The next day we arrived at the Rukungiri Modern Primary School where the whole school had turned out to welcome us with songs and music and smiling faces. John and Alice founded the school when they saw the need to provide a home and education for the most needy children who had lost their parents to AIDS. What they have achieved since then is nothing short of a miracle – a school for about 700 children, half of whom are boarders. All are loved, cared for and educated by a dedicated team. The school is poorly resourced in Western terms, but the standards achieved are good. We were made so welcome by the most polite and joyful children you could hope to meet.

The previous Mission Direct team had built the ground floor to the extension and our team was there to begin work on the first floor. On the building site there was no machinery and everything had to be carried by hand to the first floor which meant tons of bricks, cement, and concrete. Everyone in the team took part (the youngest a 10 year old girl). It was hard and dirty work but as the days went by we could see the progress we were making and the walls started to rise. By the time we left we had built the walls for another classroom and the final concrete floor was being laid. We have since learned that the last 2 groups have almost finished the roof so the rooms should be ready to use shortly.

We were also given the opportunity to meet the children in their classrooms and run sessions for arts and craft, music, story telling, songs etc. Katrina on several occasions ran a Primary 1 class with her 13 year old friend, Georgina, and I took part in the wildest football match I have ever seen – 75 a side with no goals and just a mass of children chasing a ball across a field.

During our time in Rukungiri we were fortunate enough to visit other projects and programmes many of which were sponsored by the Anglican

Church out there. These included an occupational training centre, a clinic for children with club feet, a school for the hearing impaired, the local hospital and a project which provides chilli seeds to poor families which grow them to provide much needed income.

Meeting local people and being able to hand out clothes, shoes, toys which had been donated by people back in the UK was a moving experience. Although they have so little, they were so grateful for what little we were able to do for them and humble in accepting our aid. Everywhere we went there were churches – simple buildings with corrugated iron roofs. The church in Uganda is growing rapidly and the village church we attended on Sunday morning was filled with about 300 people. On entering the church the building was filled with the most beautiful singing from the heart and it felt like we were in the presence of a people close to God.

Perhaps this was how the early church was - simple, without a liturgy, just a gathering of people who wanted to worship God from the heart. It is the highlight of their week. At the end of the lengthy service, there was an auction of produce brought to church that morning including a cow, a goat, numerous chickens and fruit and vegetables. We bought a goat, at well above market rates! Profits went to





we will never forget. We spent time with some of the world's poorest people, poor in terms of material possessions, but rich in terms of their warmth, hospitality and

the Church and the goat we later donated to the school for the deaf. Later that week the minister, Reverend Joseph, invited the whole group back to his house for dinner and it was there I presented him with a bright red stole that Rick had given me to take out to Uganda.

On our way back to Kampala, we spent a day in a game reserve and saw elephant, buffalo, warthogs, hyena, hippo and a leopard's tail (spotted 300 yards away in the undergrowth).

Reflecting on our 2 weeks in Uganda, it was a great experience and one which

positive outlook. The money we and others raised built classrooms and dormitories and will make a big difference to the school. The clothes, shoes, wool and toys we brought were much needed and gratefully received. Perhaps the most long lasting change will be within the individual volunteers who went out and saw first hand how the other half live. We realise how fortunate we are and how a little help and a spirit of commitment can go a long way.

**Paul Holbrook**

Katrina, aged 14 adds:

"I feel so privileged to have had this experience with my dad. My strongest memory was teaching in one of the classrooms and the children's eagerness to learn and sing. I love the way that everyone would greet you with an open mind and heart like a long-lost brother or sister. Their love of God is amazing."



Mission Direct will be taking teams to Uganda, Sierra Leone, Dominican Republic, Brazil and other countries throughout 2008. If you would like further information about making a Mission Direct trip visit [www.missiondirect.org](http://www.missiondirect.org) or get in touch with Paul on 01829 770567.

### Operation Christmas Child

It's that time of year again. The deadline for boxes is Monday 12 November but please start gathering items to donate and finding shoeboxes (you can ask at shoe shops). As ever there's a huge demand for Christmas shoeboxes which are now enjoyed by impoverished children in Africa as well as eastern Europe.

## Tree of lights



Local Link readers will remember there was a beautiful **Tree of Lights** at St. Boniface last year, organised by Target 1250. This

year by popular demand the evergreen at the front gate will once again be covered in 100 white lights to be enjoyed by visitors to the church and by passers-by over the Christmas period. For a minimum £5 sponsorship, each light on the string can be dedicated to commemorate a life, or why not celebrate a happy event in your family? – a birth, a wedding, an anniversary, an achievement.

If donors wish, we will record their names and message in a special book to be viewed in church, and there will be a short service of dedication when the lights are first switched on, on 2nd December. If you would like to take part this year, look out for the form in the November Link or in St Boniface, or ring Jill Robey 260081 or Lucy Munro 260487.

# Living Dangerously

An evening with Sir Ranulph Fiennes

By popular demand, a repeat of his fascinating 2005 lecture

At St. Boniface Church, Bunbury

Sunday 2nd December,

7.00 for 7.30pm

Glass of wine included.

Booksigning

Tickets available shortly

From Huckleberry's

or Katie Mason 260374

Proceeds to **Target 1250**, the St. Boniface building fund

# Junior batsmen triumph at Oulton Park



The photo shows the Bunbury School cricketers who triumphed over three other teams from Tarporley and Tarvin Schools in the Oulton Park inter-schools Cricket Tournament in July. Jack Harrison's grandpa,

John Hughes, who helps run the team tells us, 'Throughout the contest Bunbury played very well as a team: their fielding, batting and bowling were well-coordinated and went from strength to strength as the

tournament progressed. Each match saw an increase in the number of runs, and the team scored well in the first few overs, giving them a good start to build on. The final match saw a glitch, when we lost a wicket with the second ball, and with 2 overs left we had only reached 67. The last two batsmen were Luke White and Jack Harrison, who went like whirlwinds, Jack scoring 28 and Luke 22.

Tarporley finished on 69 to our 117. All the team deserve congratulations, but special mention must go to the brilliant catching of Matt Simpson.' We might enter separate teams for Years 5 and 6 next year. Watch out for more cricketing success.

# Johnny writes

Writing this in the third week of my new job, I am only just starting to get my head round all the policies and procedures of Halton Youth Service. You can imagine how big the change has been for me, from having been the sole youth worker in a village to being one of thirty in an urban area.

My post here is Team Leader for a new project set up in Warrington Road, Widnes - not exactly what I was anticipating. However, the team are great, very keen and committed, and the young people are responding well. Like the youth of Bunbury, they are especially enthusiastic about going out on trips. As well as meeting up with the young people on the streets, there are plans to work with a local travellers community and a local night club - so plenty of variety for me.

Although I am not around as much let me reassure you that we Gilletts are still very much living in Bunbury!

# Raising £50,000 the hard way



The picture shows that Richard Munro and brother Nick made it to the top of at least one Alpine peak as part of their gruelling fundraising cycle tour organised by Guide Dogs for the Blind. In fact the week's tour covered 365 miles and 14 peaks, including the Col d'Izouard, Alpe d'Huez and the Col du Galibier (shown here). The participants included several mad Australians, a father and 14 year old son from Snowdonia, a Scot with antique cycle and equipment (he still made it!) and a

couple of doctors who took it more sedately with a proper lunch with wine every day. In total the group of 31 raised well over £50,000, but sadly that's only enough for one and a bit guide dogs as each dog costs more than £30,000 to train. Another surprising fact is that only 4% of registered blind people have a guide dog. Many thanks to those who have already contributed. If you would still like to give please contact Richard 260487

# First fruits - last fruits

Those of us who were brought up in wartime never throw anything away.

In those days of shortage, everything had its use.

At the end of harvest, all the left over fruits and vegetables, misshapen, bruised or tired, were transformed into wonderful jellies and chutneys to eat with the Christmas ham.

Lord, you never throw anything away.

We thank you for the harvest you have provided for us.

We thank you for the richness of our lives;

The roof over our heads,  
The food on our tables.

And we thank you, Lord,  
That you care for us;

No matter how bruised, misshapen  
or battered by life,

You can transform us into  
something wonderful and precious  
To use in your kingdom.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord and  
Saviour.

Amen.

# All the fun of the fair at re-vamped Beeston Fete

Cheshire's finest locally grown food. Beeston's answer to Alton Towers gave us a choice of 5 inflatable 'rides' to keep young and old amused. We were regally entertained by the Coverdale puppets and Jed Hone's jazz band. Lunch choices were many and varied; a hog roast, locally grown sausages and burgers on the barbeque, the home made delights of the

It's August Bank Holiday Monday so – it must be the Beeston Fete! Well this year, it was a fete with a difference – a family food and fun day that caught everyone's imagination and proved to be a great success. This event is the key fund raiser for St Boniface church each year and the fete committee worked very hard to inject new life into the event for 2007. Out went the coconut shy and the putting competition and in came an inflatable surf ride, a bucking bronco and some of

tea tent plus Cheshire Farm's ice creams. More food delights were to be found in the craft marquee where Huckleberry's delicatessen was joined by local cheese and yoghurt makers as well as great hand made crafts. Tradition was maintained with the white elephant and book stalls, two tombolas and the grand prize draw. All that and the wonderful setting of Beeston Castle. No wonder it was a great success – well done to the organisers.

**Tom Crotty**



**The jazz band always keeps the crowds entertained**



**Sue Cox and grandson Isaac enjoy the sunshine**



**Ralph and Cameron enjoy running the sweet shop**



**Mary Large (second left) and helpers on the White Elephant Stall - one tradition that couldn't possibly be abandoned.**



**Clare and Euan, Ann Bellis's daughter and grandson**

# Lucky Guides bask in first sunshine for months

About 20 guides from Bunbury went to Surf '07 Guide Camp at the start of the summer holidays. We all had great fun and made lots of new friends. Because of the rainy weather previously we couldn't camp at Manley Mere as originally planned: we were at Tabley instead but and we went to Manley for watersports. The whole week was fabulously sunny.

We enjoyed lots of different activities like the "dabble tent" where you could make things, arts and crafts and sports. At Manley Mere we could choose from kayaking, windsurfing, sailing and raft building. The tents were really good and had 3-6 people in them. There were 700 people in total at camp, and 70 in South West Division. The theme was surfing and all the divisions had beach names. South West's was "Hell's Mouth" (in Wales). There were guides from Russia and the Isle of Man. On the last night we did

camp fire songs, and had hot chocolate and cake. I think most people enjoyed camp, and might possibly go again

**Lorna Robey**



# Explorers exhausted by weekend fun



On the evening of Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, parents all over Bunbury must have been puzzled when their teenage children took themselves off to bed at about 8 o'clock. Unheard-of! Bunbury's Explorers had arrived back earlier that evening from their belated annual weekend camp, this year near Windermere, and they were all, 29 Explorers and 8 leaders alike,

completely shattered by their exertions. Leaving the camp till September paid off, with some wonderful late-summer sunshine and the group enjoyed some great activities, including quadbiking, rifle shooting, and an inter-team challenge of raft building and racing - all in the grounds of Greystoke Castle. The activities concluded on Sunday with a challenge to tackle Jacob's



ladder, a 10 metre climb involving ropes, climbing and lots of teamwork. The rain came in 10 minutes before the end for a damp ride home.

Meals were prepared by the saintly leaders, who provided a gourmet service including huge cooked breakfasts to the lucky youngsters.

A huge thank you goes to all the adults involved in giving our kids such an enjoyable camp.

Watch out for the Explorers packing bags in Sainsburys for funds before Christmas.

## Latest on St. Judes plans

For some time now we at St. Judes have been discussing the possibility of giving up our parish status, and reverting to being part of the parish of St Boniface.

However after careful consideration we have decided that the people of Tilstone Fearnall, Alpraham and Tiverton, could best be served by St. Judes remaining a separate parish.

This means that we will continue with our usual pattern of services, with a service every Sunday at 9.30am using both Family Worship and the Book of Common Prayer. And of course the church is still available for Weddings, Christenings and for Funerals. Not for nothing are we known as the friendly church.

**Bob Gardner**

## Community news from St.Judes



Although this news is somewhat late, it certainly deserves to be in print. At The Cheshire Show on the 19th June, Myra Lloyd from Tiverton Heath achieved a remarkable feat. For the second year running she won first prize for her exquisite needlework in the Helen Jean Platt Memorial Championship. The picture here shows, left to right, Margery Hall, County Chairman, Mrs Elizabeth Forster. Myra Lloyd, holding the championship cup, and Bishop of Chester, Peter Forster.

We have had two lovely weddings at St. Jude's recently, taken with his usual flair by Rick. The first was Hamilton Smith and Kim Randles, the second, Claire Wilson, and Grant Leeding. We

are always so pleased when people like our little church, and wish to be married or have christenings there.

Sadly there have been several recent deaths including Ethel Mossford, George Wrench and Francis Marriott, who had the chicken farm in Alpraham. He lovingly tended his wife's grave in St Jude's church yard, which was also the grave of a young son who died sadly at the age of five. Until quite recently he came to church regularly until he became too ill. We shall miss seeing him there.

Another well-respected and long-time resident of the village, Alan Wright, died after a very bravely-fought illness. Alan was known in many circles, being so involved in his business, Wright Manley, in Tarporley. We have asked his grandson David to write about him here. He and Betty, Alan's wife, gave him great care and love through his painful illness. We all miss him greatly.

**Ann Latham**

## Alan Wright - an amazing attitude to life

John Wright - always known as Alan - was a man whose cup was never half-full. It was always full. Completely full. And that is how his family will remember him.

He may not always have been blessed with good health but he treated every illness or difficulty the same. 'I'll either get better, solve the problem or learn to live with it,' he would say.

Alan was born the year that a Hollywood producer tipped Laurel and Hardy to become big stars. Perhaps that can explain his cheery, positive attitude. "He had an amazing attitude and energy towards life," said his grandson David Wright.

Alan was born in Alpraham on December 5, 1926. As a boy he attended Tilston Fearnall Primary School, then Nantwich and Acton Prep School, finishing his education at Rydal in Colwyn Bay. After leaving school he served with the Lancashire Fusiliers during the Second World War. After being demobbed he returned home to work for the family firm, Joseph Wrights. A family loss, though, left Alan, then just

26, and cousin Harold in charge. They worked hard and for 40 years they saw the firm grow into what is now Wright Manley.

In the meantime Alan had married Betty Moors and for 57 years they lived together at The Elms. They went on to have three children, Libby, John and Paul, who between them produced six grandchildren, David, Joanne, Thomas, James, Pippa and Francesca.

After he retired, he enjoyed a wonderful life with family and friends. He also travelled well and was a member of many different local organisations.

Ten years ago he had a heart attack but even though he took a long time to recover, he told his family: "It's time to get on with life." He learnt to swim.

Five years later he suspected there was something wrong and went by himself to see the doctor so as not to worry anyone else. The doctor told him he had bowel cancer.

When his family asked: "What's going to happen?" Alan replied in the only way he knew how. 'I will have an operation then get better,' he told them. He

underwent the operation at 75, which was a success.

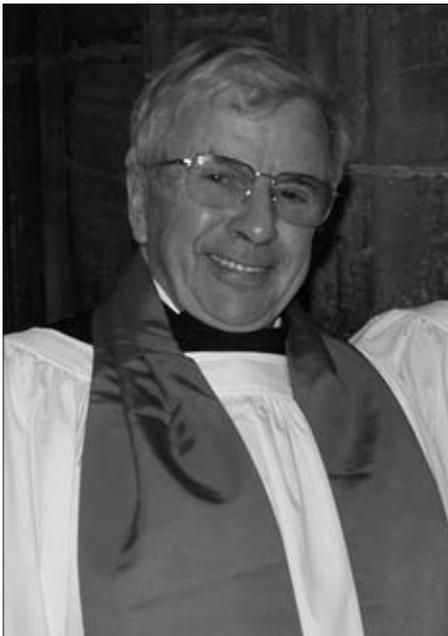
But two years later the cancer returned. Alan then underwent an intensive course of radiotherapy, which he came through. But after living with a heart condition for 40 years and diabetes for 30, he became very poorly eighteen months ago.

His grandson David said he had been fortunate to live with his grandfather for the past 10 years. "I can honestly say I have never looked up to anyone as much as I did to him," he said. "I never once heard him say 'Enough is enough'."

Sadly in the last year of his life he was too poorly to travel but the house was always full of family and friends.

On the day of his death - July 22nd - wife Betty and grandson David were by his bedside. "It was a very peaceful moment in which we experienced an overwhelming sense of peace," said David. The family held a small private service at St. Jude's, Tilston Fearnall, before a service of thanksgiving at St. Helen's, Tarporley.

# Neville Edgley - a friend of our churches



All our congregations will have been very sad to hear of the death of well-known local lay preacher Neville Edgley

who died at the end of August after several years of illness. As we go to print we do not have as much information as we would like on his life but hope for more next month. Neville's connection with our parishes goes back more than a decade ago when he started to come along with Pat to choir practice. They had met when they were both volunteers at the Citizens Advice Bureau. He soon became an established member of the choir. Subsequently the couple (who had both previously been widowed) married at St. Boniface and subsequently lived at Humblebee Cottage, Calveley. More recently they went on to train together as lay readers and the happy picture on the left is of Neville on the day of his licencing at Chester Cathedral. Many will remember Neville's characteristic twinkling eye and dry humour.

Pat, who nursed Neville so devotedly throughout his illness writes: "During

the last few difficult weeks of Neville's final illness and death, I have been overwhelmed by the love, support and prayer of so many people, holding me up and sustaining me. I am truly humbled by you all. Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your cards, letters, flowers, calls and all those little gestures which mean so much at this sad time. With love, Pat."

Our thoughts are particularly with Pat at this time as she is currently in Surrey with her daughter Alison who has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Pat tells us that only 10% of pancreatic cancers are operable but in Alison's case it was thankfully possible to remove the whole of the tumour. Chemo will start as soon as she is fit enough and Pat tells us Alison is strong and very determined. She asks for our prayers for Alison, husband Phil and their young sons James and Nick.

## Don't upset the apple cart

The apple is, of course, the fruit of myth and legend - the fruit from the tree of knowledge, our first fruit. Some well known sayings are The apple of my eye, One rotten apple spoils the whole barrel, Don't Upset the apple cart. The trouble that fell upon Adam and Eve who tasted the forbidden fruit (supposedly an apple) in the Garden of Eden. William Tell - was a great archer who lived in Switzerland in the 14th Century. He is famous for shooting an arrow through an apple that was sitting on his son's head. An apple falling from a tree led Isaac Newton to investigate the wonder of gravity. Elizabeth Gentil has sent me this information about the apple and the Wrenbury Apple Festival:

Great Britain has one of the most suitable climates for growing apples and although the main producing counties historically were Hereford, Worcester and Kent, here in Cheshire we have had a long tradition of growing apples, pears and plums for local consumption. As you drive through the Cheshire countryside, particularly in the spring, you can often see one or two old pear trees standing tall close to a farmhouse, the last remaining tree of a

once productive farm orchard. Local food has made a stunning comeback in recent years, owing much to the very significant threat of climate change. At the Apple Festival in the village of Wrenbury we are celebrating our heritage of the autumn harvest of apples along with other local foods.

There have been several thousands of different varieties of apple recorded through the pages of history. Only around 2200 survive today but in the shops you will be lucky to find more than a handful. At the Wrenbury Apple Festival 2007 you will be able to see many more than this as Tony Gentil, one of the country's leading experts on fruit, will be bringing a display of apples from his personal collection of over 400 varieties.

If you have a fruit tree and do not know what the fruit is called, then this is the ideal venue for you. Bring along a few typical examples and for a modest charge Tony will identify the fruit for you and tell you how to look after it. All the donations will go to the upkeep of St Margaret's Church, a beautiful 15<sup>th</sup> Century building in the heart of the village. If you have surplus fruit from

your own trees you can bring it to be juiced at the Festival. You'll need your own clean plastic containers too, but once home and in the freezer, you'll have the prospect of fresh juice from your own trees for the rest of the year. Other attractions include an art display amongst the harvest flowers in church, stalls, local produce, games and activities and of course traditional refreshments. The Wrenbury Apple Festival is on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October this year from 11am to 4.30pm and Harvest Festival is on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am. The Festival is held in the Village Hall, on the Green and in church. Entry is free.

An apple tree can be grown from a pip, which is of course, a seed. It will take approximately 5 years to grow before it fruits and the fruit might not be the same as the apple that produced the pip as it will have characteristics from both parents of each parent tree. It is fun to try and see what you end up with. You may be as lucky as a retired London brewer named Richard Cox. In 1825 he planted a seed from a Ribston Pippin and it grew into the Cox's Orange Pippin one of the all-time great apples which is still a favourite today.

**Liz Jones**

## Freda Cheers - a story of love



Freda was born in 1923 to the Burrows family at Dairy Farm, Haughton, the fifth child and first daughter. One year later the

farm was sold and the family moved to Bunbury where the butchers business was founded. It was a large family – three more children arrived after Freda – so everyone had jobs to do. Freda became almost a second mother, responsible for seeing the boys went to school properly dressed and helping to prepare the large meals required by the growing family. School in the week and chapel on Sunday – religion was very much a part of life.

When war was declared, four brothers joined the two already in the services, which left their father on his own, so Freda, who had wanted to be a nurse,

stepped in to fill the breach and instead worked alongside her father in the butcher's shop throughout the war and after. An important activity during that time was the letter-writing to all her brothers away from home. It was a great boost to their morale, in particular to one in a prisoner of war camp, to receive her loving messages.

In 1951 Freda and Ken were married, later moving to Brook Cottage, Sadlers Wells, Bunbury, with their two children, Andy and Laura.

Freda was always busy and involved in so many village activities: the British Legion, W.I., Church Fete, Mother's Union, Village Day – cakes and sandwiches provided for all! She ran the Cub Group for 26 years and looked after her elderly parents.

Knitting was one of her many skills – baby hats, coats, gloves and booties spun from her needles like magic. She could solve crosswords and puzzles with ease and she had a wonderful memory for names, phone numbers, addresses and birthdays.

Brook Cottage and its garden was a place everyone liked to visit, where family and friends always felt better after some words of comfort and encouragement from Freda. She was never one to lecture, having a generosity of spirit that few are blessed with. She saw the good in people and believed that even those who stray from the path can put their mistakes behind them if they try. Proud to be Mrs Cheers, housewife and homemaker, her love was all-embracing, spreading beyond family to her many friends. How shall we manage without her? Freda would have known the answer: 'Love conquers all'.

### Ken Cheers

When we'd tripped into the brook sometimes,  
And given ourselves a fright,  
She was the one to give us a cuddle,  
And tell us everything was alright.

Then as we all grew older, She was known as Gran to us,  
Always there with words of wisdom, And to offer us so much love.

(Taken from the verses grandson Paul wrote on behalf of all her grandchildren)

## Fred Major - a true son of the soil

Last night I sat down to watch a video. It was a recording of a beautiful church, magnificently decorated for harvest. The camera panned around the congregation and lingered for a moment on a face. A weather-beaten, rosy, farmer's face, a face that showed many summers and winters of working on the land and now in full and melodious voice thanking God for all good gifts around him. And in the expression of concentration you just knew that he meant it from the very bottom of his heart.

This, of course, was Fred in this very church, 11 years ago.

Fred's life began at High Bank Farm, Calveley, in 1925. He was the second son of Herbert and Lizzie Major. Fred and elder brother George had one sister, Edna, who sadly died in early childhood. The brothers attended Calveley School and Fred became a member of Calveley Church choir and later joined the St. Boniface choir. In the spring of 1934 the family moved to the larger farm at Beeston Gate.

Fred moved to Aldersey Boys School, Bunbury, and he was awarded joint first prize for gardening. His love of horticulture and agriculture was already well-established. During his teens and early twenties he was involved in Beeston Young Farmers Football team and any social or educational activities. He was never shy, and if asked to give a song at the Young Farmers dances or socials, he would readily oblige. His zest for life was appreciated by everyone. On one occasion he and some friends gave a rendition of the *Worzels* at the Nantwich Show singing "I've got a brand new combine harvester", Fred adapting the words especially for his wife Ruth.

Fred and Ruth were married in 1952, taking on the tenancy of Beeston Gate, where their children Christine and Brian were born. Fred was a familiar figure at all the auctions, farm sales and particularly at the Cheshire Ploughing and Hedgelaying Competitions, where he won numerous prizes. One particular year he was hedgelaying and gashed his finger quite badly. Characteristically, he persevered, despite losing a lot of

blood, and as a result had a permanently misshapen finger!

Another love was his showing of cattle at the Christmas Fatstock show at Beeston which added many more trophies on the sideboard.

Fred's life was filled with many good things: his love for his family and friends, his planting and ploughing, his animals and auctions, his singing and socialising, his children, grandchildren and church. Even in hospital and in pain he was heard singing hymns and psalms.

The Bible reading has spoken to us of love – a special love – the kind of love which Fred gave to and received from others. I'm sure that's the legacy he would like to leave to each one of us today. That we might share that love and understand the importance of it whilst we are on this earth.

Today, we give thanks for a life well-lived, for a true son of the soil and for well-earned rest and peace for Fred.

# Church cleaning

Well done to all these smiling volunteers who had spent an (enjoyable?) morning giving St. Boniface a thorough spring clean.

Ernest Croley, pictured centre, has also found the time to construct a solid wooden box to be used for the display of the St. Boniface greetings cards which will be on sale again within the next few weeks. They are ideal as Christmas cards.



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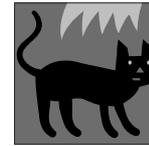


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## Earlybirds craft Fair coming soon

This year's Earlybirds Craft Fair will be held on 23rd November.

## Calling all Penningtons

Mrs Joyce Dowds has written to us requesting information regarding her great-grandfather, Jonathan Pennington (born 1845 in Bunbury) who married Mary (born in 1846 in Liverpool). Although the family moved to London, his wife, Mary, with some of her sons, returned to Cheshire after his death. Joyce would be very interested to hear from anyone who has any information about Jonathan and his ancestors, (the name can be spelt Pinnington) or who thinks they may be related. Her address is 89 Alfoxton Road, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 7NW.

## Andy Hunter

**Andy Hunter** from Australia, who was part of the St. Boniface congregation for six months has written to say he has arrived safely in The Yemen and has started teaching English in a school in the capital, Sana. He writes

"I am really enjoying the experience and have been able to go on adventures to different spots such as the local volcanic baths. One of the other big highlights was seeing an Egyptian pop singer in concert last weekend. I've never seen so many people (completely sober) that excited! Such a counter culture to the rest of the things I've done: even the women were animated, despite being separated from the men by a line of machine gun bearing soldiers." Let us hope that Andy remains safe and in good health for the remainder of his stay in The Yemen.

## Australian visitors

Among many visitors to St. Boniface this summer were some from St. Boniface Cathedral in Bunbury, Western Australia. On 2nd September the **Very Revd Gunnar Rippon** and his wife **Margaret** joined the congregation, and the very next day **Heather Porter** arrived and spent nearly a week here and joined our St. Boniface choir for their Thursday practice and for Evensong.

## October Diary

|                      |              |  |                            |
|----------------------|--------------|--|----------------------------|
| 3                    | 10.00am      | Holy Communion   | St. Boniface               |
| 5                    | 7.30pm       | Tarporley School Quiz Night                              | Tarporley Community Centre |
| 7                    | 8.00am       | Holy Communion   | St. Boniface               |
|                      | 9.30am       | Holy Communion   | St. Jude's                 |
|                      | 10.00am      | Family Worship   | St. Boniface               |
|                      | 6.30pm       | Harvest Communion  | Calveley                   |
|                      |              | Circus at Bunbury School                                 |                            |
| 10                   | 10.00am      | Holy Communion   | St. Boniface               |
| 13                   | 11.am-4.00pm |  | Wrenbury Apple Festival    |
| 14                   | 9.30am       | Morning Service  | St. Jude's                 |
|                      | 10.00am      | Family Communion   | St. Boniface               |
|                      |              | (Preacher: the Dean of Chester, Dr Gordon McPhate)       |                            |
|                      | 4.30pm       | Evensong   | St. Boniface               |
| 17                   | 10.00am      | Holy Communion   | St. Boniface               |
| 21                   | 8.00am       | Holy Communion   | St. Boniface               |
|                      | 9.30am       | Holy Communion   | St. Jude's                 |
|                      | 10.00am      | Family Worship   | St. Boniface               |
|                      | 11.00am      | Family Service   | Calveley                   |
| 24                   | 10.00am      | Holy Communion   | St. Boniface               |
| 28                   | 9.30am       | Morning Service  | St. Jude's                 |
|                      | 10.00am      | Family Communion   | St. Boniface               |
|                      |              | (With Bishop Alan Chesters, retired Bishop of Blackburn) |                            |
| 31                   | 10.00am      | Holy Communion   | St. Boniface               |
| <b>November</b>      |              |  |                            |
| 4                    | 8.00am       | Holy Communion   | St. Boniface               |
|                      | 9.30am       | Holy Communion   | St. Jude's                 |
|                      | 10.00am      | Family Worship   | St. Boniface               |
|                      | 11.00am      | Holy Communion   | Calveley                   |
| 7                    | 10.00am      | Holy Communion   | St. Boniface               |
| <b>Looking ahead</b> |              |  |                            |
| <b>November</b>      |              |  |                            |
| 3                    |              | Earlybirds Craft Fair                                    | Bunbury Village Hall       |
| 23                   | 5.00pm       | Bunbury School Christmas Fair                            |                            |
|                      | 8.00pm       |  |                            |
| 24                   |              | Tarporley High School Christmas Fair                     |                            |
| 29-1                 |              | YCs Panto - Aladdin                                      |                            |
| <b>December</b>      |              |  |                            |
| 2                    |              | Ranulph Fiennes Tree of Lights                           | St. Boniface               |

The new season for Open House began again in September. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month for a wide variety of events - from theatre trips to cheese and wine. All local ladies are invited to join this friendly and sociable group. Contact Nikki Ryder (260270) or Lynne Simpson (260717) for more details.

Our vicar, **Rick Gates**, is always available in times of sickness, bereavement or any distress. You can contact him at The Vicarage, Bunbury, on **01829 260991** or at **Rick@prayer.fsnet.co.uk**

**Other church contacts:**

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| The Reverend Jane Stephenson (parish curate) | 250249 |
| Peter and Kath Collinge (pastoral support)   | 260077 |

**St.Boniface**

|                |                   |              |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Churchwardens: | Barbara Croley    | 260344       |
|                | Walter Done       | 01244 332563 |
| Secretary      | Neil Dewson-Smyth | 261680       |
| Flowers        | Margaret Bourne   | 260944       |

**St.Jude's**

|                |              |        |
|----------------|--------------|--------|
| Churchwardens: | Bob Gardner  | 260555 |
|                | Linda Downey | 732017 |
| Secretary      | Ann Posnett  | 260251 |
| Organist       | Ann Badrock  | 260343 |

**Calveley**

|                |                |              |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Churchwardens: | Barbara Croley | 260344       |
|                | Walter Done    | 01244 332563 |
| Organist       | John Batchelor | 261056       |
| Secretary      | Sue Woodward   | 01270 522822 |

Link is edited by **Lucy Munro (tel. 260487)** and **Jill Robey (tel. 260081)**. We welcome all contributions. Our deadline for the November edition is Friday 16th November. Please send material to [lucykmunro@hotmail.com](mailto:lucykmunro@hotmail.com).

Visit the St.Boniface website for pictures of recent weddings and the confirmation and for the Link on-line.

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