

Flower Festival tells our church's story



On Friday 18th July St. Boniface welcomed the first of several hundred visitors to our flower festival, the culmination of several years' hard planning by Margaret Bourne and her band of helpers. The church was transformed by a multitude of floral arrangements based on scenes from St. Boniface's rich history, including

memorials to Ronald Littledale, who escaped from Colditz, and to 'Busty Jane', the original of our famous statue. Congratulations to Margaret, whose inspiration the event was, and thanks to all who helped put her ideas into action, whether by arranging flowers so beautifully, manning the tea tent or moving the pews.

School send-off for Alison

Bunbury School has bid a very fond farewell to Head Teacher Alison Phillips who is taking early retirement. It was not an easy decision for Alison but with husband Neil also retiring she feels the time is right to spend more time together. The couple have lots of exciting plans for the future including getting to know brand new grandson, Frankie (Franklyn Rhys), her first grandchild, who arrived on June 25th. Here she is pictured holding him at the school's recent Grandparents' Day, when he paid a visit with proud parents Nicki and Deian.

Alison and Neil are already involved in the life of Nantwich Church and in September Alison will start her training as a lay reader, a long-held ambition.

Bunbury School and its pupils have thrived under Alison's care and

commitment: pupils, parents, staff and governors are all sad to see her go, but wish her the very best in everything she does in the future.



What's it worth to you?

In recent editions of the Link, Rick set out a vision for the future life and growth of St Boniface within Bunbury's community. This culminated in the launch in June of a giving initiative, **What's it Worth to You?** when Rick contacted everyone on the church electoral roll explaining what could be achieved and how individuals could contribute. Since the launch, many have taken the trouble to respond and commit some of their time or money to help bring about the vision. Some respondents are in no position to offer more money, but have been prepared to offer their time and prayers, whilst others who are fortunate to be in a position where they can contribute more have chosen to do so: whatever has been offered has been appreciated. From the first 20 or so returns about £5,000 additional giving per year has been pledged. This is a great start, although we still have some way to go if we are to be able to commit to support a post such as a youth worker which will benefit the whole community. If you have yet to respond, it's not too late. We'd love to hear from you. If you have not received any literature or forms about the initiative (or have lost them), please do contact me or Rick - you do not need to be on the electoral roll, and all contributions are most welcome!

John Mason, Treasurer, St. Boniface

Honk!

These three froglets took part in Bunbury School's production of Honk! See page 5 for more pictures.



Community news

Welcome to the following local children who have recently been baptised:

Spencer Stewart, (pictured below) son of **Alan and Natasha Harding** of Calveley, on 22nd June at Calveley.



Max Alexander, son of **David and Joanne Evans** of Wyche Lane, Bunbury, on Saturday 1st July at St. Boniface.

Lucy Jane, daughter of **Jason and Lynda Williams** of Rookery Farm Road, Tilstone Fearnall, on 20th July also at St. Boniface.

The following couples have recently married at St. Boniface:

Graham Taylor and Lynette Howell, and **Geoff Yates and Janet Hancock**.

A certain lady from Bowes Gate Road doesn't agree with fussing over birthdays – even big ones – but her friends would nevertheless like to wish her the very best for her big day on August 1st, and very many happy returns.

Another lady also achieved her half-century on 4th July and celebrated with a jaunt to New York. Is her husband being paid too much? Belated Happy Birthday, **Lin Gates**, hope you had a great time.

Congratulations to perennially youthful cub leader **Shaun Kelly** who also joined the half century club on 28th July.

We are sad to report the death of **Dave Brewin** of Church Row on Sunday 13th July. Dave was the former owner of the newsagent at Beeston.

While one group of **3 Peaks Challengers** have recently been making a big noise in the Link to raise money for the Railway Children, (see p3), local man **Graham Jones** from Wyche Lane, and a team from work have quietly and successfully completed the Challenge in 23 hours, 25 minutes, raising over £6,500 for **Leukaemia Research**. For them the challenge involved not only climbing the three highest peaks in England, Scotland and Wales (a distance of 25 miles on foot with a total elevation of 3407 metres), but also over 482 miles of driving, all within 24 hours. The weather was reasonably kind, although nothing could have prepared the team for the wind chill factor at the summit of Ben Nevis. Congratulations to them on such a huge task!

On June 19th three Guiders were awarded long service badges: **Jo Lester** for 10 years service; **Debbie Shears** and **Vanessa Greenbury** (5 years). We are sure they have everyone's admiration for their enthusiasm and perseverance.

At this time of year many **rights of way** and local paths become overgrown and blocked. Dog owners who used to walk their pets in the field next to Hopwood House on School Lane will have been put off not only by the nettles and other undergrowth, but also by the locked gate across the right of way. However, we have been informed by the owner that the gate is only to prevent travellers camping there, and that dog walkers are still welcome. He also promised to tidy up the entrance to the site, essential if the right of way is to remain viable.

News from St. Lukes: Our event at Burland Hall was once again on a hot sunny day (how lucky have we been?) We had a fabulous sell out picnic ball on the Saturday and then a record 2,500 people through the gate on the Sunday. (twice last years number) We had to resort to sending volunteers to raid Sainsburys for extra supplies of both food and drink and the ale bar was sold out within 2 hours. Rodney Densem staff had to hot foot it to their warehouse to restock their wine bar ...it was just unbelievable. As a result the weekend brought in £40,000 profit. For future events see **www.stlukeshospice.co.uk**

And see page 9 for more St. Lukes news.

Mr Cadman I presume? Bunbury holidaymakers have done it again. The **Dyers and Cadmans** bumped into each other by coincidence in the market at Kalkan, Turkey. Is there anywhere safe to travel without risk of being recognised we wonder? Not everyone would relish being spotted in holiday garb....

And another local resident was spotted on TV recently. **Sue Finney** and friend (sorry we don't know your name) were taking part in "Bargain Hunt" and were spotted by Barbara Croley who obviously has too much time on her hands. Sadly Sue was not a winner that day.

Church news

Why not join us for **prayers** at St. Boniface on Fridays at 9.30am?

This month please pray especially for Bob Gardner and Suzanne Swann. And please pray for all those mourning the death of a loved one or who are troubled in body, mind or spirit and for those who care for them.

Please come to the **Harvest Sunday service** at St. Boniface with lunch afterwards, commencing at 11am on Sunday 28th September. This is '**Back to church Sunday**' and everybody is warmly invited to come and try church for the first time or join us again if you haven't been for a while. The meal is free but for catering purposes please let Barbara Croley know if you are coming by Sunday September 21st (260344).

Alex Sanders is delighted to tell us that she has been offered a part time curacy next year at St Helen's in Tarporley. She says she is thrilled to bits: "The new incumbent there, Revd Keith Hine, is used to training curates, which will be a big help. I think there will be a lot to do in the parish (three churches, three schools, a hospital and no Readers!) so it should be a very busy and interesting time. My only sadness, of course, will be having to leave St Boniface, but this is softened by the fact that I will still be living in Bunbury, so hope I shan't lose my friends altogether!"

The **October edition** of the magazine will be available in St. Boniface from Saturday 27th September.

All our teams get to the top

In July, 16 local walkers joined over 200 others for the Three Peaks Challenge in aid of the Railway Children charity. The challenge was to climb the highest peaks in Wales (Snowdon), England (Scafell Pike) and Scotland (Ben Nevis), against the clock, travelling by train.

Starting from Crewe the train was over two hours late so nerves were calmed at a nearby pub. Rob Sissons added to the tension with his dramatic last minute entrance still in his pilot uniform after a delayed flight from Portugal. Eventually we were on our way to Bangor and started our guilt-free consumption of the goodies provided by the organisers.

We set off from the foot of Snowdon at midnight, reassured by the weather forecast of light rain. The heavens duly opened and we got on our waterproofs just

in time to seal in the moisture on our drenched trousers! The Challenge demanded a fast pace and so a long line of head torches quickly snaked off up the mountain which, if we could have seen more than 15 feet ahead through the rain, would have made a wonderful sight. As the teams spread out things got a little frightening for those left at the back as the glow from the other head torches grew faint. Half way down some teams lost the pathway but somehow the last of the Bunbury teams arrived back with minutes to spare to catch the train to Ravenglass.

After just a few hours we arrived at Ravenglass and transferred to la'al Ratty (a miniature train) that took us to the base of Scafell Pike. Well, actually an extra 4 mile walk from the base (the organisers' sadistic streak showing through). Scafell was completed in good time, our incentive being a drink at the station's "Ratty Arms".

Next came the journey to Fort William and a chance for some sleep. The 3.30am alarm call was not well received, however bacon rolls and the thought that there was only one more peak to go lifted the mood.

The ascent started at 5.30am and for some, fitness (or lack of it) was beginning to tell. A number of the other teams had already lost members, but the Bunbury contingent was still going strong with a real team spirit taking hold. The summit of Ben Nevis was snow-covered, windy and cold, but this could not take

away the real sense of achievement we all felt when we stood there knowing that it was downhill all the way.

During the climb down some of us began to really feel the strain, whilst other finished with a flourish (Jonathan Middlemiss running some of the way!) but we all eventually made it back to the train to consume a healthy quantity of food and alcohol in order to subdue the pain of our aching limbs.

Between us the 4 teams raised over £13,000 for the Railway Children. Thanks to all who supported us.

Steve Marsh



Red Fox comes up trumps for curry night

The idea was hatched after a glass of wine. Why not invite a few friends for a curry evening at home, to raise a bit of money for the Railway Children? (The Three Peakers needed to raise £2,500 per team.) Well after another glass of wine, the 'few friends' became almost 80 local ladies; 'home' became Bunbury Pavilion (unrecognisable after Jacquie French had got to work with Indian fabrics and party lights); the plate of curry became a three course feast and the grand total was over £1100 to the Railway Children. Thanks to all our guests for their generous support, to the many local businesses and individuals who provided some superb raffle prizes, and particularly to The Red Fox Indian restaurant, Tarporley,

who were so generous in donating all the poppadums, chutnies and starters and also the prize of a meal for two.

Organisers and guests really enjoyed the chance to meet up with old friends: how about making it an annual event?



News from St.Jude's

My dog Patsy is a mongrel – a cross between a Jack Russell and a standard wire-haired dachshund. Unfortunately she chased and caught one of my neighbour's chickens but I am glad to say it recovered. She also has appallingly bad breath. She yawns in the car and so I have to drive with the window down. I took her to the vet to see if something could be done and he gave me a special toothbrush and toothpaste for her. Now she greatly enjoys having her teeth brushed and, after the bad behaviour with the chicken I am not surprised: the toothpaste is labelled 'Poultry Flavour for dogs and cats' !

Ann Posnett

We hear that Bob Gardner, St. Jude's' Churchwarden, has recently suffered a

heart attack, though he was fortunately at hospital as it happened. We hope you make a swift recovery, Bob.

Ann Latham writes: "I just want to say a very big thank you to Chris and George Molyneux for their very generous open house and garden for our St Jude's Summer Lunch. They are so kind and generous that it does deserve a special mention. Also I was very cheered by the amount of help received from very good younger helpers in essential jobs like carting chairs and tables there, and clearing them away again, on the same day. Also very able people willing to cook and serve the lunch and take no costs for their ingredients. The voluntary bar man and raffle sellers also provide a necessary part of the proceedings too. As I feel it is time for me to retire from

being the organiser it was cheering to see the help so willingly given. Thank you everyone.

On June 2nd Kim and Hamilton Smith had a lovely little daughter, Amelia. we give them our very best wishes for their future together. Amelia joins quite a few new babies and youngsters in Alpraham. Chris and Sarah Jane at the Grange have had another daughter, Francesca, joining Olivia and Isobela, all lovely girls. Liz and Jim at the Old Post office have young Henry James to keep the girls company.

A proud father has just phoned me from 8, Thornton Bank to say his son has passed with Degree in 3D Spacial Design and Interior and Landscape Design at Falmouth University. Congratulations to Mark, Well done."

Well done Bunbury Kwik Cricketers

On an exciting day at Warrington on 27th June Bunbury School won their section of the Cheshire finals to be one of 4 schools to represent the county in the North West finals of the National Schools Under 11 Kwik Cricket competition. Bunbury had reached this stage by winning all 7 matches in earlier rounds held at Nantwich and Wistaston.

The first match saw Bunbury pitched against Moorfield School, Halton. Batting first Bunbury posted a respectable 59 runs off the allotted 8 overs. Agonisingly, this was not quite enough and Moorfield reached their target by scoring 2 runs off the very last ball to win by 1.

The gloom in the Bunbury camp matched the dark clouds in the sky. In an attempt to lighten things up Jaffa cakes and bananas provided by sponsors Asda were quickly distributed. As responsible adults the management team of Susie Waddington, coach John Hughes, and assistant yours truly gave the players the healthy offering, we tucked into the chocolate option.

Next up was Davenham, followed by Susie Waddington, who was coerced into leaving her stash of Jaffa cakes to perform scoring duties.

Bowling first Bunbury restricted Davenham to 26 runs. This was never going to be enough and Bunbury doubled their total to win by a

comfortable margin. Better news was to follow as news filtered through that our conquerors in the first match had been defeated by St Hughes School, Trafford, our next opponents. Winning the group was now back in our own hands.

St. Hughes batted first and tight bowling from Bunbury restricted the opposition to 24 runs. It was now vital that Bunbury won by a convincing margin. Steady batting throughout the innings enabled Bunbury to amass a winning total of 40. Was this to be enough?

A low scoring game between Davenham

and Moorfield was the order of the day for Bunbury to win the group. Parents mesdames McCormack, Ryder, Simpson and White sat impassively munching the last of the Jaffa cakes. One box later the required result was delivered, much to the delight of the players, parents and management team.

With confidence sky high the final KO game against Stretton St Matthews, Warrington was eagerly anticipated. Batting first Bunbury accumulated 52 runs. This proved far too much for Stretton who could only muster 20.



Term ends with a honk!

Summer term at Bunbury School always builds to a crescendo of activity, and this year it reached a peak in the very last week of term with the wonderful production of Honk! playing to packed houses. Year 6 left the school on a real 'high'.

The last weeks also saw the fun of Caribbean Day for Year 4, the annual Family Barbecue - well-supported, despite downpours - sports days and Grandparents Day, where the children entertained their guests with readings and drama, and Year 3 contributed to the St Boniface Flower Festival with a stunning well-dressing.

Governors and teachers held farewell events for Mrs Phillips, including a special assembly where all the pupils joined in a specially re-written version of 'With a little help from your friends'. The school year ended with an emotional Leavers Service at St Boniface.

Phew! We wish all our leavers a very happy summer holiday and the best of success in the future. The new term begins on September 4th, when we will be welcoming Alyson Thacker as our new head.



Honk!

Ugly the duckling (Jack Harrison) - below - and some of the other animal characters from the well-known story. Congratulations to director Mrs Chatfield and all involved



Some people are never satisfied

'To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed and you did not mourn"'. (St. Matthew 11, 16-17)

"Yesterday," wailed the tour guide, "all the passengers were complaining that the weather was too cold. Now they say it's too hot. Some people are never satisfied!" It's a well-worn comment.

Jesus described a situation of some children playing games in the marketplace. One lot is playing weddings, playing dance music on their flutes. The rest of the children are looking on, but they won't join in.

Another group start playing funerals. An odd choice, but I suppose children sometimes do strange things. They start weeping and wailing, just as at a

funeral, and invite the others to do the same. But nobody wants to join in such a gloomy game. It seems that nobody wants to join either the wedding or the funeral. Some people are never satisfied.

John the Baptist told the people that being religious and respectable wasn't good enough. He called them to repent of their sins – they didn't think they'd committed any – and start living in a more actively loving way. That of course, is never a popular message: people generally are not keen on sermons which make them think twice about their way of life. So they changed the subject and ridiculed John for being too judgemental.

Jesus seemed to be the opposite. He was always going to parties with disreputable folk, people who were immoral and possibly even traitors. And

Jesus seemed also to enjoy the revelry, so they said he was a greedy drunkard. It wasn't true of course, but 'any stick will do to beat a dog'. And Jesus spoke of a God who forgives sinners, goes after the one lost sheep with love and brings it home, then rejoices over one sinner who trusts completely in God's mercy, more than over ninety-nine self-righteous folk who imagine they've done nothing to repent of.

There is here surely a similarity to the parable of the children. John's condemnation was like a funeral whilst Jesus's forgiveness was like the celebration of a wedding. Neither John nor Jesus would do, for many. Some people are never satisfied! But trusting in God really **does** satisfy!

Eric Wallington

Give us two minutes: Roger Parr



Roger was born in Liverpool, but moved with his family to Duddon, near Tarporley, when he was 16. He met Sophie 20 years ago and they now have 2 boys, Jack and Harry. Sophie wanted to move to Bunbury following a school visit to St. Boniface Church with Jack's class from Vicars Cross. A week later they had bought a house in the village, overlooking the church.

Roger's hobbies include classic bikes, classic motorsport and he also enjoys sailing. Roger was rash enough to volunteer as the chairman of the St Boniface Fete Committee and is now preparing for the August Bank Holiday Fete on 25th August at Beeston Castle. He reports that everything is on track for a great day out, with everything from the bouncy castle to steer riding, the fabulous tea tent and lots of other attractions, as well as the Castle itself.

If you had a motto, what would it be? Never give up

It's a celebrity beer call. Where is it and who do you invite?

Charley Boorman and Steve McQueen, both petrol-heads who manage to be cool at the same time. I'd ask McQueen about the Mustang in Bullitt and Charley if he wanted a 3rd rider for the next road trip.

What would the title of your biography be called? "

Parr for the course – the first 39 holes"

What was your first job?

I worked at a garden nursery in Kelsall, moving plants around the nursery on a tractor. It was very physical and taught me all about hard work. I'm glad I'm not doing it now!

Who would you make Prime Minister?

If he were still alive, Ernest Shackleton. He was a charismatic leader of his men who, when up against the odds put his people before himself. (and he'd probably do a better job than some politicians even from the grave!)

Where did you meet your partner?

When I was living in Duddon, I met Sophie at the Headless Woman pub in the village. She had an evening job behind the bar

What would you change about Bunbury?

I would add an eighth day to the week after Sunday, called "Bunday". There's so many things to get involved in living here and not enough days in the week.

What would you like to achieve most in the next 12 months?

The usual house stuff (Sophie has the list!). I also want to rebuild my old bike which has recently expired, 30yrs after its first rebuild.

Where and how would you spend your ideal weekend?

I am torn between spending it with Sophie and the boys or motorcycling. So it would probably be touring with my Dad on our motorbikes, around the West coast of Scotland with the weather set to "fine" (I just need a sidecar so I can take the boys along as well).

Nick Sanders

An uncertain future?

As I write this it's a perfect summer's day and yet yesterday a rare summer gale was blowing outside, causing the house to rattle. Of course living in the U.K. we are used to rapid changes in the weather. So, too, life's circumstances can change rapidly especially in these uncertain economic times and if we're not careful we can allow the future to paralyse us with worry. Jesus knew about our propensity to worry about many things: jobs, exams, money and that amorphous thing, "the future". But He said "Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?"

So what did Jesus mean by "Do not worry"? Well, he didn't mean that we should not think about the future at all or that we should opt out of our responsibilities. Neither was he saying

that we won't have anything to worry about. Instead Jesus was telling us that to worry is to miss the point of life. Life is far more important than material things like food, clothing or cars. And do you, like me, worry about all those things that never actually happen? As Mark Twain reflected, "Most of my disasters never happened to me".

So the real question is - How do we stop worrying? Jesus told us the answer is to "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness". This means getting our ambitions and priorities right, putting Him first in our lives and following Him. If we take on His priorities, then He will provide us with everything else we need.

Jesus said "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all those things will be given to you as well". If we do this we can stop worrying and start living.

Jeremy Hunns

Martin Bell at St. Boniface

Martin Bell - the TV journalist well-known for the white suit he always wears - is coming to Bunbury in September.

The former BBC war correspondent will be giving a talk at St Boniface to raise money for the church.

Mr Bell was a familiar face on the BBC up until his sudden and unexpected departure in April 1997 when he quit journalism to stand against beleaguered Tory MP Neil Hamilton in the now famous battle for the Tatton constituency.

The father-of-two won that battle, overturning a significant Tory majority, to enter Parliament as an Independent.

"Frankly it would have been easier to lose," he later wrote in his book *An Accidental MP*.

On Saturday September 13th he will be in Bunbury to discuss his story so far during **An Evening with Martin Bell**.



It's an event not to be missed and Martin will also be signing his latest book.

Tickets are £10 and include a glass of wine. To book please call Lucy Munro on 260487 or Jill Robey on 260081.

We want your coppers

Isobel Munro, Charlotte Greenbury and Esther Gillett have been working hard to raise £150 for the international charity The Smile Train. This amount will pay for a complete operation to repair one child's cleft palate or severe facial deformity in the third world. The girls made and sold cakes at Bunbury School to start their fundraising but now they want your cash. Please consider donating all those pennies and two pence pieces cluttering up your purse, down the back of the sofa, or in your bedside drawer, or even in a collecting jar. If you take your coppers to the change machine in Sainsbury's, they take a commission of nearly 12%: if you donate to us, ALL the money goes to this wonderful cause. There is a collecting shoebox at the back of St. Boniface, or you can give your coppers to any of the girls. We will even collect if you ring me. Many thanks for your generosity.

Isobel Munro 260487.

Time Out

When God finished his wonderful creation, of which we are a part, he rested.

And so must we take time out from our busy, stressful lives, to recharge our spiritual batteries.

Whether or not you are getting away on holiday this month, try to find some time and space to relax and just "be".

Lord, as I relax into your presence,
I offer to you

My anxiety,
My "busyness",
My stress,
My fear.

Grant me your rest, your peace,
So that I may be refreshed,
Re-created,

And return with new vision, energy and contentment. Amen.

Pat Edgley

Why Chose Christianity?

Well, the retirement benefits are out of this world!

Formby squirrels eat out of your hand

My sister has recently come over from Canada to stay for a while and was asking me where she could go to see red squirrels. My first reaction was to send her to Cumbria but when I did some research I found a National Trust Reserve situated on the Sefton coast just North of Liverpool.

The Reserve offers visitors an opportunity to explore the beach, sand dunes and coastal pine woodland. Within the stands of Corsican and Scots pine there is a large population of wild red squirrels. Unlike most other populations of red squirrel the Formby animals are so used to people that they can be fed by hand.

Red squirrels will frequently approach within a few feet of visitors, indeed it is not uncommon for the little creatures to take peanuts from the palm of your

hand. The red squirrel is native to Britain but its future is increasingly uncertain as the introduced American grey squirrel expands its range across the mainland. There are estimated to be only 140,000 red squirrels left in Britain with over 2.5 million greys. The Forestry Commission is working with partners in projects across Britain to develop a long term conservation strategy that deters greys and encourages reds.

Red squirrels are seed eaters. They favour pine cones but also eat larch and spruce. Their diet includes fungi, shoots and fruits of shrubs and trees and sometimes birds eggs. Reds do not hibernate and store fungi in trees to eat over the winter months.

When food is plentiful they put on weight in the autumn to help them

through the winter months. This is important for breeding females so that they are in good condition for producing young in the spring. Their babies are called kittens and if the summer conditions are favourable they can reproduce two litters of usually 2 or 3 kittens.

My sister came back from her trip full of enthusiasm as she had actually seen what she had gone to see and if she had gone up to Cumbria all she would have probably heard would have been a 'chuk chuk' warning noise on her approach which they make when they are frightened and agitated and then they would have disappeared from view.

Liz Jones

Youngest ever Angel Gabriel for Chester Mystery Plays

David Edwards, former Bunbury School pupil and now year 10 Drama student at The Hammond School, Chester, recently played the Angel Gabriel in The Chester Mystery Plays. The Chester Mystery Plays are produced only every five years and are played out on Chester's Cathedral Green.

Mystery (or miracle) plays were created in the 13th and 14th centuries to tell Bible stories so that everyone could enjoy and understand them. They were traditionally performed (until the 16th century) by local Guilds.

The Plays tell stories of ordinary people whose lives have been affected by extraordinary things in an entertaining, thought provoking and endearing style.

During the production run of 3 weeks, David also sang several songs specially written for him by Composer and Musical Director of The Plays, Matt Baker, who is

also the Musical Director of the highly successful choir, Handbags of Harmony. At 15 years old, David was also the youngest ever Angel Gabriel in living memory.

Julia Edwards



Clear out your garage for a good cause

Les Thomas, Rural Dean, has contacted us with details of the 'Hope '08' Appeal being organised by the Rural Deanery. This year the "Tools with a Mission" charity has been selected. Tools With a Mission enables people to earn a living and to support themselves. A switch from and aid dependency to self-sufficiency is impossible without help. Unwanted tools – both hand tools (like hammers, drills and saws) and garden tools (like forks, spades and scythes – but not lawn tools) and cycle tools are being collected, refurbished and sent to the third world where they will be put back into use. As long as the tools can be made usable it doesn't matter how old they are.

If you have anything suitable, please leave it at the back of St. Boniface for collection. Many thanks.



Claudia McLaughlan - an inspiration to so many



It is with great sadness that we report the death, at 55, of Bunbury's Claudia McLaughlan.

Claudia was born the only daughter in a family of five sons in Lörrach, Germany, very near the Swiss border. It was not an affluent or easy childhood, and she moved in the early '80s to London for a fresh start. Having started her working life in banking, she was now working as a regional manager for clothing retailer Hennes, in South Kensington. (The girls add, "Mum only meant to move to London for a year to learn the language. She was then supposed to go back but she met Dad".)

Claudia moved in 1985 to Chester and shortly afterwards to Red Walls, Bunbury, for a new life in the country. Joanna had been born in London in 1985, and Michaela followed in 1987. Claudia loved the early years in Bunbury with her small daughters: she got involved in village events and made many lasting friendships who have continued from that time. A slim, stylish lady, with a trademark blonde bob and still noticeable German accent, she was always so welcoming to newcomers to the village. She loved meeting new people and took a special interest in children. Claudia was a familiar sight out running, often with Harry, her adored golden retriever, or with the Bunbury Running Ladies, of whom she was a founding member. Artistic and creative in so many ways, she made a business making salt dough figures – unusual at that time – and selling them at local craft fairs. The family moved along the lane to Clare Cottage in 1993.

Much as she was proud of her German background, and keen to continue German traditions for her own children,

she was also very proud of Bunbury and of its community life. Even before her illness she used to say that nowhere else could hold a candle to our village when it came to community spirit. Nothing if not sociable, Claudia could never resist an invitation to any village event. Birthday parties, Burns' Nights, dances, dinners: she was in her element, truly interested in other people and wonderful company. Only a week before she died she was out at a supper party joining in all the laughter and conversation as usual until late into the evening.

In 1999 she and the girls were faced with a move from their family home. Claudia was determined not to leave Bunbury (or even her close friends on School Lane if she could help it) and, fortunately, a house only two doors away was on the market. So on a sunny autumn day, streams of friends and neighbours helped with the move and Claudia, ever pragmatic, set to, swiftly turning the rather plain little house into an attractive home for the family. Needing a steady income, she also took a job at Coppenhall High School working as a teaching assistant with disturbed teenagers. Always brave in challenging situations, she found a real rapport with those troubled youngsters who responded to her directness.

Her cancer was first diagnosed the following year, and the outlook was gloomy. Claudia's first thought, naturally, was for her teenaged daughters and, from then on, through all the years of treatment that were to follow, it was her determination to see the girls into adulthood which kept her going. She was so proud of all their successes – they both graduated this summer – and, perhaps even more, of the way they have dealt with her illness.

Over the past seven years Claudia repeatedly confounded her doctors' prognoses. In recent weeks however it was clear that she was finally failing. On Friday 11th July she died peacefully at Clatterbridge Hospital, with close friends and daughters by her side.

Claudia would have been the first to acknowledge the love and practical support she received from a group of special friends and from a wider

network. From lifts to hospital, to lawnmowing, housework or dogwalking, she was always grateful for and uplifted by any act of kindness. Her friends were inspired to help in whatever way they could, not through duty or pity, but through genuine affection and admiration.

Claudia taught us all a valuable lesson. She showed us that life is precious. And that even under the darkest shadow it is still possible to take pleasure in small things; to accept new challenges; to be creative and optimistic; to continue to enjoy the company of family and friends; to plant a garden.

Jo and Micky have lost a loving mother and wise friend. They too have been forced to walk down a very hard road: our thoughts and prayers are with them.

They have asked us to pass on their thanks to everyone for their kindness during recent weeks.

Midnight Walk raises record total

The St. Luke's Midnight Walk on June 28th was a great success and for the 4th year in a row we were blessed with a dry night. Over 1500 women walked the route through Crewe, pledging an incredible £241,000 on the night. When we add in company match-funding and Gift Aid we expect to break through the £300,000 mark which is fantastic. Sadly this amazing total only covers 9 weeks of hospice running costs, leaving 43 weeks still to fundraise for this year.



**Alison Black and Anne King
enjoying a banana during the walk**

Yvonne Ellis - a generous heart

Yvonne was born in London but at three was evacuated to Preston. Her earliest memory was of lying in a large hall on a blanket and a lady peering down at her, saying, "I'll take that one". The lady was Mrs Booth who ran a smallholding in the Lancashire countryside and whom Yvonne came to love dearly: she became a Northwesterner by adoption.

When her mother came to collect her she did not want to leave. However at the end of the war the family gathered at RAF Kinloss where her father was adjutant. Yvonne was sent to Forbes Academy where she was made Dux Scholar – an early indication of her keen intelligence.

The family moved to Cyprus where Yvonne finished her education at the French Convent of the Lebanon – all lessons in French. When the Suez crisis was mounting in 1956 Yvonne became a liaison officer with the Foreign Legion Paras.

In those early days, post-school, she was a catwalk model, an actress for the English Theatre, a 'newshound' for the two Cyprus dailies and a Reuters correspondent. She had her own music column too. However, her main job was running the distribution of records in the Near East for 'Mr P', her lovely Armenian boss, who was so fond of her he even asked her parents if he could adopt. He taught her much about business and negotiation, so well that in later life it was always Yvonne who smilingly undertook any business

negotiation needed by the family. Their first car was bought by Yvonne, the disgruntled salesman complaining that she had cost him all his commission.

Married in 1959 – husband John had been stationed in Cyprus – they returned to England. When the children arrived Yvonne embraced the role of full-time mum. In 1973 John was posted to Colorado after several Northern Ireland tours, as an exchange officer. They decided that all the family should join him – it was almost the first time they had spent any length of time together. Now Yvonne had the chance to shine again. She became editor of the Officers' Wives Club magazine and she became a volunteer social case worker for the Red Cross: in her last year there she was awarded the Clara Barton Medal for outstanding service – a rare honour.

John having left the British Army, the family returned to his native Cheshire, moving into Vale Cottage, Alpraham. Very soon afterwards Yvonne was introduced by her neighbour to the WI. It proved a fitting arena for so many of her talents. She had always been a good craftswoman and was a cordon-bleu cook: she was invited onto the W.I.'s National Home Economics Sub-Committee and soon elected to the National Executive. Among so much else, she organised the writing of the judges' manual, 'On with the Show', and also masterminded the first WI garden at the Chelsea Flower Show, which took

a gold and was also judged best in show. She typically neither took nor assumed any of the credit for her success. Her credo was 'Look what we have achieved together'. Proud to be selected for Churchill Fellowship in 1983, she visited the States to see how crafts were taught in rural communities. She was secretary of the North West Association for several years. She loved the organisation and the people she met through it.

She and John were devastated when in 1998 the memory problems she had been experiencing were diagnosed as the beginnings of Alzheimer's Disease. John and she continued to manage trips to her beloved Italy and also walked parts of the pilgrim way to Santiago do Compostella.

As she declined, John cared for her with love, tenderness and practicality, admired by all who witnessed it. Her last days - so cruelly extended - were spent in Tarporley War Memorial Hospital whose staff cared for Yvonne so kindly. She smiled almost to the very end, despite every indignity the dreadful disease could present her with. She died in July aged 71.

Yvonne will be remembered for her energy, her talents and her leadership, and for that memorably warm and serene smile which came from a generous heart.

These words are an extract from the address at Yvonne's funeral. She was buried in St. Jude's churchyard.

Bunty Fairclough - friendship and loyalty

On 24th June a large congregation gathered at St Jude's Church, Tilstone Fearnall for the funeral of Evelyn Beres Fairclough, better known as "Bunty". She died on 17th June, just a few weeks short of her 90th birthday. Bunty was a regular attender at St Jude's from 1965 when she and her husband Peter moved to Alpraham. She continued to attend St Jude's after moving into Tarporley and in her later years became a familiar figure sitting at the front of the congregation where she could hear better.

Bunty was born in Liverpool in 1918, the third daughter of James and Claire Gardiner. Her early childhood was in Lowton near Newton-le-Willows, which

in those days was in Lancashire. Her later childhood was in Thelwall, Cheshire, near Warrington. She was sent to boarding school at Harrogate Ladies' College. She married Peter in 1940 and from 1942 to 1945 she served with the WRNS as a driver in Chatham Dockyard where she made some very good friends. After the war Peter and Bunty lived first at Appleton near Warrington and then at Alpraham where they lived very happily until Peter died in 1983. Bunty moved in 1991 to Tarporley where she became very much a part of the friendly community in Bell Meadow Court.

For many years Bunty was a strong supporter of charitable causes. Among

these, in Warrington she was secretary of the local RSPCA branch and delivered Meals on Wheels for the WVS (as it then was). On moving to Alpraham she became a committee member of the local NSPCC branch and continued to deliver Meals on Wheels. She was a keen member of the Cheshire Beagles and of the Treaddur Bay Sailing Club.

Her last years were dogged by arthritis, but she remained very willing in spirit. One recent letter sums her up as follows: "She will be sorely missed, but always remembered for those qualities of friendship, loyalty, cheerfulness and good humour, all of which she personified in her character."

Tim Fairclough

New Scout Hut plans

There are now 136 members of 25th South West Cheshire (Bunbury) Scouts (Cubs, Scouts & Explorers), with 35 leaders (largest number anywhere in the UK) regularly giving of their time. Each week they undertake a variety of activities, including this year having over 25 of the Explorers going through the Duke of Edinburgh Programme; we understand this is the largest non-school sponsored group anywhere in the country.

As the group, and all the associated kit and equipment to support them, has grown, it has become increasingly apparent that the old Scout Hut, in the centre of the village, is no longer capable of supporting such a successful and vibrant youth organisation. In order for the Scout Group in the village to continue to thrive, it is now vital that a new, dedicated and permanent home can be found, in the next 18-24 months.

The sale of the existing Scout Hut is progressing well. The proceeds from this will provide a contribution to the overall figure that will be required to fund the purchase of the new Scout Hut, which is proposed to be located beside the tennis courts, at the Playing Fields. We have already been in contact with other Scout groups, about how they have gone about this and visited Coventry Scout group, who have recently moved into their new purpose built hut (shown below).

Allowing for the proceeds from the sale of the old Scout Hut, it is estimated that we will have to raise approximately an additional £75,000. A small fund raising committee has been set-up with the task of raising this money and it is hoped that this will be achieved through a number of sources – grants, sponsorship (corporate and individual) and a lot of fundraising!

If anyone has any suggestions or would like to help, for example in the successful submissions of grants, then please contact

David Stockman 260714.

Further details about the new scout hut can also be found at

www.25thswcscoutgroup.org.uk/newscouthut.htm



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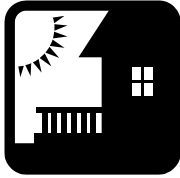
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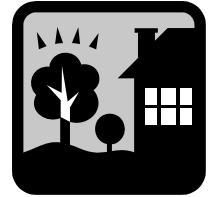
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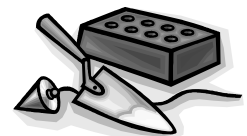
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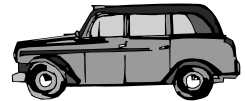
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August Diary

3	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Jude's
	10.00am	Family Worship	St. Boniface
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Calveley
6	10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
10	9.30am	Morning Service	St. Jude's
	10.00am	Family Communion	St. Boniface
	6.00pm	Evensong	St. Boniface
13	10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
17	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Jude's
	10.00am	Family Worship	St. Boniface
	11.00am	Family Service	Calveley
20	10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
24	9.30am	Morning Service	St. Jude's
	10.00am	Family Communion	St. Boniface

25

Beeston Castle Fete

27	10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
31	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Jude's
	10.00am	Family Communion	St. Boniface

September Diary

3	10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
7	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Jude's
	10.00am	Family Worship	St. Boniface
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Calveley
10	10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
13	7.30pm	An evening with Martin Bell at St. Boniface	
14	9.30am	Morning Service	St. Jude's
	10.00am	Family Communion	St. Boniface
	6.00pm	Evensong	St. Boniface

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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	Matins	Calveley
24	10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
28	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Jude's
	11.00am	Harvest Communion and lunch	St. Boniface (note time change)

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Flowers	Margaret Bourne	260944

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	David Wright	260467
Secretary	Ann Posnett	261154
Organist	Ann Badrock	260343

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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 October edition is Monday 15th September. Please send material to **lucykmunro@hotmail.com**

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

www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk

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