



Busty Jane on the move

Many of you will have noticed that the west door of Bunbury church has been out on operation for a couple of months and regulars will occasionally have felt the lack of central heating: all in a good cause.

The entrance and west end of the church are being reorganised to give two new multi-purpose rooms and improved access for wheelchair users. There will also be a toilet (for this relief much thanks!) and a small kitchen area, allowing for the more convenient and hygienic preparation of tea and coffee.

The two new rooms will be a great boon during services, when the various Kingdom Kids groups need more sound-proofed space, but will be available for any groups meeting in the church building. They have also been designed so that a second storey could be added in the future, if necessary. The changes should make the church building a much more flexible and modern meeting place,



without detracting from the historic architecture and beauty of the building. The work is due for completion in the next few weeks – we may even see the tarpaulins down by Easter.

One casualty of the changes is 'Busty Jane', or the statue of Jane Johnson, shown above. She has had to be moved from her modest position near the tower steps, to a much more obvious one on the north side. At one time Jane stood near the Communion

Table, but her 'bulging udders' were regarded by one vicar as such a distraction to the local youth that she was secretly buried in the churchyard.

A later vicar rediscovered her, and mistakenly thinking he had found an effigy of the Virgin Mary, restored her to the church with great pomp and ceremony! No doubt Jane will enjoy her new prominence, but should we worry about her effect on today's local youth?

Is it or isn't it?

Yes this really is the Parish Link in its new, computerised guise. The Parish Link has always been the main way the Church reaches out to everyone in our parishes, not just those who go to church. And like many familiar friends, maybe we have taken it a bit for granted. We thought it was time for a facelift and some new-fangled technology to bring it up to date. The bigger pages mean we can have a bigger typeface which is easier to read, and also gives us more flexibility with photos and longer articles. There are lots of familiar items and contributors, but some new features too – the contents

(Continued on page 2)

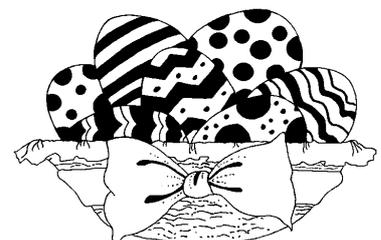


New arrivals

Many congratulations to the families of these three little girls born in January: **Clara Carson** of Alpraham (baby sister of Sammy, Benjamin and Petra), **Emily Donaldson** of School Lane (baby sister of Isobel), **Elisha Maddocks-James** of Peckforton (baby sister of Joshua, Joel and Isaac).

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A very happy and peaceful Easter to all our readers

Easter - A gigantic hoax?

The first Easter - such an extraordinary time! Such an amazing event! Could anyone who was not there at the time really be expected to believe it?

Only four months ago, our text in church was, "He shall be called Immanuel, God with us." Wise men were coming from the east, in search of the new King. On Good Friday, we will remember Jesus, God and King, being humiliated and crucified. Only a couple of days later, Jesus will rise! And soon the King will come into His Kingdom.

It has been such a short time for us to take in His story. No wonder minds may boggle.

I once tried to read Stephen Hawking's 'A Brief History of Time'. Why? First, the title attracted me - I imagined that was exactly what it would be, brief! Simple enough for me to understand and quote at length to all those I suspected had wished they had read it but hadn't. Second, it attempted to explain the mind of God as He created the universe : proof of God the Creator, I thought! As far as I am concerned, Stephen Hawking failed - as anyone would fail who tried

to write a brief understanding of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. However, if you do want a readable account, try 'Easter Enigma' by John Wenham, Paternoster Press. The Easter Enigma is not primarily a comfort but a challenge: there are two alternatives: either it is the supreme fact in history or it is a gigantic hoax

Fact? Certainly a small group of friends were so convinced that they turned the whole world upside-down with the evidence of their changed lives. Hoax? Sure, there will be plenty of space adventure experts who will demonstrate that Jesus had no trouble getting Himself beamed up out of the tomb. Others will claim that research suggests that Jesus lay in a cataleptic state and revived, in true Spielberg style, in time to beat Mary and the disciples' arrival at the tomb. Others will claim hysteria, hallucinations, and subsequent cooking of the Gospel books. There's got to be a scientific explanation! It couldn't really have been true - could it?

So what evidence do we have?

Firstly - those disciples. What could have changed that band of sad

defeated cowards into fearless missionaries? They turned the Roman world around and terrified the Jewish leaders, and in their wake a great company of Christians now inhabit every part of the world.

Secondly - the institution of the Christian Sunday by new Christians previously so strongly committed to their own historic Sabbath traditions.

Thirdly - the witness recorded, down all the ages, by a multitude of men, women and children, from every nation on Earth, who have found a foundation for salvation and a model for life in the risen Jesus Christ. Their transformed lives testify to the reality of their experience of the resurrection. That promise made by God, proclaimed by prophets and preached by preachers, still stands fast: "He shall be called Immanuel, God with us."

God is with us. He will never, ever, leave us. We learn this again at Easter. We carry it with us through May, on through the year, and for the rest of our lives.

Rick



The Challenge of Easter

'God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.' (St John 3,16)

Four months or so ago we were challenged by the child in the manger - but now the risen Christ asks of us so much more, for all eternity is at stake. It's a challenge that shouldn't in any way dilute the joy of Easter, but rather increase it. God has not given us belief in place of doubt, life instead of death, hope rather than despair for us simply to enjoy Eastertime and then to resume the worries of the world, as if nothing world-shattering had happened at Easter.

The Christ whom the tomb could no longer hold is waiting for what we are going to make of the Easter joy he has given us in the weeks and months that lie ahead.

Eric Wallington



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Do you believe in the Easter Bunny?

If you, or even your children, would like evidence that the Easter Bunny is alive and well, why not head off to a local National Trust property during Easter weekend, where various chocolate-themed events are being staged:

Biddulph Grange: 10th and 11th April: Easter trail and quiz. Tel. 01782 517999

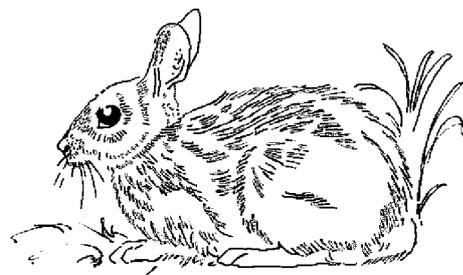
Erd dig: 9th to 11th April: Children's Easter trails and quiz. Tel. 01978 355314

Plas Newydd: 11th April: Easter Eggstravaganza 11-4pm. Tel. 01248 714795

Penrhyn Castle: 10th April: Easter Eggstravaganza 10-4pm. Tel. 01248 353084

Powis Castle: 10th to 12th April: Easter trail 11-5.30pm.

In general, normal admission prices apply, plus £1 to follow the trails.



Holiday Club

Sadly the decision was taken to cancel the Easter Holiday Club due to safety concerns with the continued building work. However if you were disappointed there will be the usual Summer holiday club to look forward to when it is hoped the new improved facilities will enhance everyone's enjoyment.

Out of the mouths of babes...

Mother – "Do you know what happened to Jesus at Easter?"

Five year old – "He died."

"How did he die?"

"In the war."

"What war?"

"Jesus' war."

"Then what happened?"

"He had his supper, and died, then he came alive again, then he went dead again."

"Why is he still important?"

"Because he is king of the world."

Singing, Banging, Blowing and Scraping

Did you know that every Saturday morning Bunbury Church is alive to the sound of music? George Robey is there encouraging a group of exuberant 6-pluses, to sing and shout their hearts out, helped as usual by the generous application of sweets! After choir, George takes the **Bangers and Blowers** through their paces – this is a great opportunity for young musicians, at any stage, to play with a group and enjoy their music. Anyone can join – no drill, no pack order. The junior choir is occasionally asked to sing at weddings, and gets paid for the privilege, and George also organises an annual trip to Camelot. Boys would be particularly welcomed, as the girls have had it their own way for long enough, but as always, the more the merrier. 9.30 every Saturday morning for choir, 10.30 for B&B. Contact George on 260081

Young Christians in love triangle

You heard it here first: Patrick Crotty, Hannah Munro and Ben Cadman have been picked to play Oberon, Titania and Bottom in the Tarporley School production of A Midsummer Night's Dream in June. Yet again the Young Christians' panto has proved a fantastic springboard to bigger things – we hope you three remember Bunbury when you're playing in Stratford! (ps Patrick – learn your lines this time!)

Earlybirds

The youngest members of our community have been making their own preparations for Easter. The children at Earlybirds pre-school have had a visit from Rick and have been busy making Mothers Day and Easter presents. They have also been enjoying some lovely spring walks around the village. The topic this term is recycling, and the centrepiece of the wall displays is Humpty Dumpty sitting on a wall made of cereal boxes.

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Sherrard honoured as High Sheriff

Wednesday 7th April 2004 will be a special day for the Sherrard family. In a ceremony, held at his home in Bunbury, Simon Sherrard will be installed as the High Sheriff of Cheshire.

As the new High Sheriff, Simon may well have some explaining to do during his year in office. After all, just what is the role of such a dignitary in the twenty first century? 'Sheriff' conjures up compelling images that are not helpful in describing the responsibilities of a modern day High Sheriff. The legendary Robin Hood fought against the notorious Sheriff of Nottingham's injustices while in westerns, spaghetti or otherwise, the sheriff is too often the beleaguered, lone law enforcer. Certainly these connotations bear little resemblance to the true duties of our new High Sheriff or indeed the manner in which they will be performed.

The responsibilities of the High Sheriff, the Queen's judicial representative, are exclusively linked to the judiciary, crime prevention and the maintenance of law and order. The High Sheriff has a real job of work to do, principally attending Her Majesty's Judges, acting as Electoral Returning Officer in some constituencies and assisting the statutory agencies. Simon hopes to encourage closer, more effective working relationships between the statutory agencies to make our communities safer.

The High Sheriff must also appoint a Chaplain to assist him during his tenure. Simon invited our very own Reverend Rick Gates to fulfill this role. Rick, delighted that the emphasis for the year will be youth, has commented "I will certainly do my best to support Simon and to encourage a practical Christian perspective as his Chaplain".

As a businessman, Mr Sherrard's leadership skills and expertise are much in demand. Many of his business and charitable interests are closely connected to the maritime world. Indeed, it was the lure of the high seas that brought Simon and Sara and their four children to landlocked Bunbury in 1986. Having been living in Singapore, Hong Kong and Malaysia for the previous eleven years, the move to Cheshire was prompted by his appointment as Chief Executive of Bibby Line Group, the Liverpool-based shipping

company that has now developed interests in logistics and business finance.

Master of the busy diary, Simon is currently Chairman of the Bibby Line Group Ltd, The Port of London Authority, Johnson Service Group plc, A&P Group Ltd and Deputy-Chairman of Lloyd's Register. He has several other non-executive director roles and is an Elder Brother of Trinity House, Deputy Chairman of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and a Member of the Council of the Mission to Seafarers.

Determined to make a real contribution during his Shrieval year, Simon will focus particularly on young people by supporting DebtCred and Crimebeat, two charities working with teenagers in Cheshire. DebtCred promotes education programmes for school leavers, teaching them how to manage personal finances in the face of unprecedented access to credit. Crimebeat, sponsored by High Sheriffs nationally, encourages young people to design and participate in crime prevention schemes.

When the work is done and it's time for relaxation, Simon enjoys golf, tennis and breeding rare sheep. He is an occasional cricketer and President of Bunbury Cricket Club. His love of the game was first kindled at school when he played in the Eton XI. Later, he went on to play for The Sussex Martlets and The Duke of Norfolk's XI at Arundel.

So it is no surprise that Simon has chosen a charity cricket match to raise much needed funds for DebtCred and Crimebeat and to highlight their achievements in Cheshire. The High Sheriff has challenged the famous Bunbury Celebrity Cricket Team to a match at Bunbury Cricket Club on Sunday 13 June 2004. It will be quite an event for the village with lots of fun for families, cricket fans and celebrity watchers. The Bunburys, created by David English, play just twenty matches every season and their members are professional sportsmen and other celebrities. The Bunburys rarely reveal in advance who will be playing. No one will know, not even the High Sheriff himself, until the big day. For further information (tickets, sponsorship and corporate hospitality) please contact Jan Clifford (01829 260245) or Nicola Elsegood (01829 260507).

Auf Wiedersehen Pets



We have to say a very sad and fond farewell to a family who have made a big impact on village life since they moved to Haughton 5 years ago. This month the McDonald family is moving to Stuttgart. The whole family has played such an active part in village life that it's hard to say where we will miss

them most.

Many people know how Stars in their Eyes came about – its success was largely down to Jo's hard work and perfectionism. Jo has also had a stint chairing the Early Birds committee, set up Bunbury Youth Theatre for children, and was until recently chair of the school's parents' association. John is well known for his cycling prowess – his Sunday morning performance famously improves after a whisky (or four) the night before! Both Jo and John have appeared, memorably, on stage with the Good Companions, and who could forget their appearance in Abba and Showaddywaddy! in Stars in their Eyes?

Jo, John, Alex, Isabel and Eloise – your friends will miss you, but we wish you loads of luck in your new life and know you'll all make the best of this wonderful opportunity. Don't lose touch and don't be surprised if you get a few Bunbury visitors!

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School News

The school has had another busy term as usual. Highlights for the children (apart from their lessons of course!) have included football workshops and a Penalty Shootout Event with Crewe Alex, the installation of the new Junior Play Area and lots of educational trips out, including to Erddig, Northwich Salt Museum, and to the River Weaver. As I write, the children are busy preparing for their end-of term Easter service (St Boniface, 2nd April at 10am) and collecting money in their Lenten Boxes. This year's donations are going to Leukaemia Care.

On March 4th, the school was filled with famous faces: it was World Book Day, so pupils and teachers came to school dressed as their favourite literary characters.

Deserving special mention are the children awarded prizes for their costumes: Petra Carson, Harriet Walker, Simon Parker and Andrew Wright from the Key Stage 1 (Infants) and Toby Middlemiss (his first attempt at public dressing-up!), Rory Jones, Lottie Capper-Cunningham and Clara O'Brien from Key Stage 2. Some of these prizes should probably have gone to parents instead - one fond mother got up at 6am to dress her little darling!



Joe Kelly
hideous as Ugluk the orc

COMPETITION!

The first young reader to answer these 2 questions correctly, wins an Easter egg:

1. What is 10/6 in modern money?
2. Which other characters were at the Mad Hatter's Tea Party?

Contact Lucy Munro on 260487 with the answers.



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Community news

Welcome

A big welcome to families new to the village: to the Mundell and Grace families who have moved to School Lane, to the Chow family on Long Lane (you may have spotted them on **Relocation Relocation** in February) and to the families who have moved into the new development at Bramble Manor. We hope you will soon feel settled and enjoy life in our community.

One 'new' family was quickly found to have an old connection in the village – Sandra Bull of Castleside Farm spotted her old friend Susan Melia on the school playground. Susan has moved from the south with her family – it's over 20 years since she and Sandra were at college in Northwich together. Small world!

New arrivals

Congratulations to new parents Craig and Sarah Parker, new grandparents Maurice and Jane Davies and new great-grandparents George and Mary Vernon on the birth of Abigail Louise Parker on February 21st: four generations in the Vernon family.



Here's a picture of baby David Michael, new grandson of Teri and Rob Williams and first child of daughter Ruth. Congratulations!

Birthday

A very happy 40th birthday, and many happy returns to John Waddington of Alraham on April 24th. (only 40? – ed.)

Baptism

Two little girls have been baptised at St. Boniface: Georgia Louise Edwards on 29th February and Imogen Rose Okell on March 7th.

Good news

Reg Goodyer has made a good recovery after his recent hip operation and is now back home after a spell at Tarporley Hospital.

George Baker

Our sympathy to the family of George Baker, of Beeston, whose funeral took place recently at St. Boniface. George was born in Huxley and in latter years worked as a driver for Tudor Griffiths. He will be sadly missed by his many friends.

Church notices

At 7pm, on Maundy Thursday, April 8th, there will be an **Agape meal** at St Boniface. The Agape is a symbolic recreation of the Last Supper. Everyone is very welcome: please bring your children if it isn't past bedtime! The food will be provided by Sarah Thompson and the meal is 'free', though a suggested contribution of £5 per adult will help offset costs to the church. Please contact the Collinges 01829 260077

On **Good Friday** there will be no service at Tilstone Fearnall, but the church will be open from 11am to 3pm for quiet contemplation. The Easter Sunday service will be at 9.30am as usual.

The Vicar is hoping to hold a series of classes for **confirmation**, and also to run an **Alpha** or **Beta** course for anyone who may have an interest in the Christian faith, but also has lots of questions. If you would like to join either of these groups, due to begin within the next few weeks, please let Rick have your name.

Amici, a semi-professional choir who have performed in Bunbury frequently before, will be putting on a performance of **Stainer's Crucifixion** as part of the Good Friday Devotions in the evening.

This will be a free concert although there will be a retiring collection to help cover costs.

Trinity Women's Fellowship meets at 2pm on April 27th. Speaker Mrs Linda Craven. Contact secretary Mrs A Davies on 260752 for details.

The **Children's Society** boxes will be opened in April for the annual collection. Boxes can be left in Church for collection, or contact Martina Phillips.

St Jude's is seeking a dedicated person to create and run a Sunday School. Every support will be given to whoever undertakes this difficult but important task. Please contact the Churchwardens.

Mrs. Avis Davies, Secretary of the **Women's World Day of Prayer** for Bunbury, wishes to thank St. Boniface Church, on behalf of the committee and of the ladies from Trinity Methodist Church, the ladies from Bickerton Church and other visitors, for the kind hospitality on Friday 5th March, from the warm welcome by the Vicar at the beginning of the service to the delightful refreshments provided by the St. Boniface ladies and the friendly chat afterwards. Everyone felt that it had been a lovely service, and those present will be pleased that we had a very good collection, £98.20, towards W.W.D.o.P. funds.

General notices

There'll be no ball in Bunbury this summer, but Tarporley High School **Summer Ball** takes place on Saturday May 8th at Chester Town Hall. Tickets, for what promises to be a great night out, are £35 per head and available from Mrs Trish Threadgold at the school on (01829) 732558.

Bunbury **Doctors' surgery** will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday.

The Bunbury Society's annual **Young Artists Competition** and display will take place on the 29th of April. Entry forms available after Easter at The Village Greens.

The **Bunbury Journal** needs distributors in Alraham, Calveley, Wardle and in Bunbury, School Lane and Sadlers Wells. If you are able to volunteer for this duty three times a year please contact David Black, (01829) 260860.

The Bunbury Society's **Exhibition of Photographs** will be held at the Scouts Headquarters on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd of May. Entry forms available from Jean Healey (01829) 260238.

Would you be interested in learning about **Islam**? The Bunbury Society is hoping to arrange a short series of four lectures by Peter Rutter (former Church Warden of St. Boniface Church). If you are interested, please contact Bob Gardner (01829) 260555.

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DIARY

April

4	Palm Sunday		
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St Boniface
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Jude
	10.00am	Family Worship	St Boniface
	11.00am	Matins	Calveley
	6.30pm	Holy Communion	St Boniface
7	10.00am	Holy Communion	St Boniface
	7.30pm	Compline	St Boniface
8	7.00pm	Agape	St Boniface
9	8.00am	Comminion	St Boniface
	10.00am	Ante-Communion	St Boniface
	11.00am	Quiet contemplation	St Jude
	to 3.00pm		
	7.30pm	Amici Concert	St Boniface
11	Easter Sunday		
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St Boniface
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Jude
	10.00am	Family Communion	St Boniface
	6.30pm	Holy Communion	Calveley
14	10.00am	Holy Communion	St Boniface
	14/15	Young Christians trip to London	
18	8.00am	Holy Communion	St Boniface
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Jude
	10.00am	Family Worship	St Boniface
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Calveley
	6.30pm	Holy Communion	St Boniface
21	10.00am	Holy Communion	St Boniface
25	9.30am	Morning Service	St Jude
	10.00am	Short Service	St Boniface
		followed by Vestry and Annual Church Meeting	
	6.30pm	Compline	St Boniface
29		The Bunbury Society's annual Young Artists Competition	

Looking ahead

May 3rd	The Bunbury Society's Exhibition of Photographs
May 15th	Car Boot sale at Cholmondeley Castle
May 16th	Baptism Lunch
May 21st	Bunbury School Band playing at Reaseheath open day Tarporley School Ball

Link is edited by Lucy Munro (tel. 260487) and Jill Robey (tel. 260081). We welcome all your comments and contributions. Our deadline for the May edition is April 19th. Please send material to lucykmunro@hotmail.com, or to Heath Cottage, School Lane, Bunbury.

A big thank you to Mark Williams who is a graphic design student for our new heading and logo.

Your vicar, Rick Gates, is always available in times of sickness, bereavement or any distress. He tries to have Friday as his day off duty. If you need to contact him, please ring **Bunbury 260991** or **0771 5178750**