

New window for St.Boniface



Artist Ann Southeran's design

This is a first glimpse of what the new window for the Ridley Chapel *could* look like, based on the theme of Christ's Resurrection. The figure of the risen Christ is shown in the centre in white and pale gold clothing. He is looking at the figure of Mary Magdalen on his right and to balance the composition, an angel hovers on his left. It is hard to appreciate it fully from this black and white picture, so do please come into St.Boniface where the coloured version is on show.

So far about £5,000 has been promised but £13,000 is needed to make this project happen. The window would be a stunning addition to the Ridley Chapel which is so widely used. Please consider making a contribution so this inspiring design becomes a reality.

Spring on the way?

At the end of January the first few snowdrops made their appearance in the lower burial ground at St.Boniface. It won't be long now before the whole area is covered like a carpet. After that, suddenly it's spring!

If you want to go and see the drifts of snowdrops for yourself, make your way through the graveyard behind the church and down the hill to the wild part at the bottom. On a bright day, it is an unforgettable sight.



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Rick a granddad yet again!

Rick's fifth grandchild, Richard Stephen Spike Gates was born on 15th January weighing in at a magnificent 11lbs 7oz. He is a second child for Rick's son Russ and daughter-in-law Annie, and a brother for Mya. Congratulations to all!

Rick is now about a month into his chemotherapy and manages to keep smiling whilst feeling unwell much of the time. We continue to pray for Rick and his family.



Not another Rick Gates?: baby Richard with sister Mya

James Bartlett

For some months now we have been praying for James Bartlett and his family. Little James has been waiting for a major organ transplant which miraculously became possible at the last moment in mid-January. As we write, James is making a good recovery after successful surgery, but remains highly vulnerable to infection. He will spend the next 6 months effectively in quarantine. Please continue to remember James and his parents in your prayers.

Ash Wednesday is February 9th

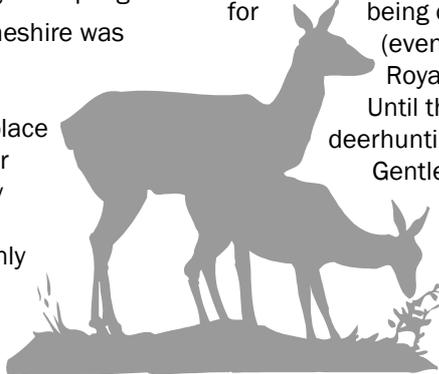
Nature Notes

'Of all the trees that grow so fair Old England to adorn Greater are none beneath the sun than Oak and Ash and Thorn.'

Rudyard Kipling

Long ago, much of Cheshire was covered with forests. Deforestation has subsequently taken place due to reclamation for farming and to supply shipbuilding and the housing industry mainly during the 15th and 16th Centuries which is evident in many of the half timbered cottages scattered throughout the county.

In Medieval times there was a forest stretching from Nantwich, north to the Mersey estuary, which was a royal



deer park used for hunting. Rigorous forest laws were the order of the day during the Norman era, when even the most minor offence carried extreme penalties. For instance the sentence for being caught with a dog (even on a lead) in the Royal Forest was death. Until the time of Charles I, deerhunting was the Gentleman's sport. It was the Civil War which caused a social revolution. Many of the great estates were broken up or confiscated, deer parks were abandoned or plundered and many of the deer were killed by roving soldiery. As gentlemen positively have to hunt something by the Restoration they took to chasing the fox.

Hunting in any form is an emotive subject, though the stag and hare evoke more sympathy than does the 'red thief', but in spite of its being the case of "the unspeakable in full pursuit of the uneatable", as Oscar Wilde put it, foxhunting has been a part of the English scene for centuries until now when an Act of Parliament has outlawed foxhunting, deer hunting and hare coursing with dogs. The pro-hunt Countryside Alliance is challenging the ban and if necessary will take the issue to the European Court of Human Rights.

In 1987 Delamere Forest which is a shadow of its former size, comprising a mere 1,300 acres of oak, beech and coniferous trees, was declared a Forest Park and provides freedom of access throughout the waymarked walks and trails where wildlife abounds and activities such as walking, cycling and horse riding are actively encouraged.

Lying on the eastern fringe of the forest, alongside the B5152 road and edged with reeds, is the small stretch of water known as Hatchmere. The private nature reserve owned and managed by the Cheshire Wildlife Trust has been designated a Natural Site of Special Scientific Interest due to the diverse makeup of bog, fen and woodland. The varied vegetation that such a habitat encourages attracts a multitude of wildlife. Perch, roach, bream and pike inhabit the water. Waterfowl such as the great crested grebe, mallard, mute swan and coot dwell amongst the reed beds and 17 species of damselfly and dragonfly have been recorded here.

Liz Jones

Liz is currently on holiday in New Zealand with recently-retired husband David but she was organised enough to make sure her February and March contributions were delivered before they set off.

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How can God let this happen?

On Christmas night, an earthquake occurred deep in the seabed off the coast of Indonesia. The waters above this quake were massively displaced and a series of huge waves emanated from that epicentre and grew in stature as they travelled towards land – a Tsunami that made landfall with a terrifying force that destroyed all before it, people, animals, buildings, vehicles. It is a catastrophe on a global scale and it is receiving a global response. We've all been moved by the images that we've seen on our television screens. It is of biblical scale. Noah's flood in the 21st century.

One of the things that I have heard repeatedly over the past two weeks is this. "If there is a God, how could he let this happen? Does He take pleasure in the suffering that He has caused to innocent people?" I find it quite ironic that it tends to be people without a faith who raise these questions most loudly as if to say to those of us who believe, "A Ha – caught you out! – How does your religion work now?" For me there are two different ways to answer this question, one a pragmatic one without emotion and the second a more philosophical one about the nature of our relationship with God. The pragmatic answer goes like this.

God created this wondrous living, breathing world and it is by nature unstable. Our earth is not a dead lump of rock floating through space – it is a complex interactive system, a hive of physical and chemical processes all interacting with one another to create the environment that we see around us. The continental plates on which we live are constantly shifting. In geological time they are forever bumping and grinding together like global dodgem cars and that leads to earthquakes and tsunamis. In geological time these occur constantly. Even on the scale of human time, they're pretty frequent. In the last 70 years there have been 20 tsunamis big enough to cause damage measured in tens of millions of pounds and bring about death and destruction. The recent Tsunami is the biggest in living memory but in 1960 in Chile, 2000 people died and in 1998 in Papua New Guinea 3000 died.

God created this environment but man chose the means by which we live in that environment. It's man that chose to live at sea level on exposed islands in the Indian Ocean at risk from the sea. It's man who chooses to build skyscrapers on known earthquake fault lines in Tokyo or San Francisco. God gave us free will so it's seems rich to blame God when we choose to use that free will. It's the same response that we should give people who say 'How could God allow war to happen?' God doesn't choose to go to war – people do. God has chosen to give us free will and to guide us to make the right decisions – we can't blame Him if we make the wrong decisions.

Which leads me to the second response to this challenge. If God is not to blame for what happened in the Indian Ocean then where is he in this? What possible purpose does God serve if he can't protect the innocents who perished or lost their loved ones or livelihoods? The Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, wrote in the Sunday Telegraph recently that the extraordinary fact is that belief has survived the tests of disaster time and time

again. Believers have learned to see the world and life in the world as a freely given gift. They have learned to be open to a calling or invitation from outside their own resources; a calling to accept God's mercy for themselves and make it real for others. They have learned that there is some reality to which they can only relate in amazement and silence. Religious people have learned to look at other human faces with something of the amazement and silence that God Himself draws out of them. They see the immeasurable value, the preciousness of each life.

This is what makes human disaster so appalling, so much of a challenge to the feelings. The uniqueness of every sufferer in a disaster such as the present one is especially harrowing. That is why the reaction of faith is, or should be always one of passionate engagement with the lives that are left, a response that asks not for understanding but for ways of changing the situation in whatever ways are open to us. The odd thing is that those who are most deeply involved, as sufferers and helpers, are often the ones who spend least energy raging at God. They are most likely to shrug off the great philosophical or religious questions as they focus on two things; a kind of strength and vision just to go on and a sense of the imperative for practical service and love. Somehow in all of this, God simply emerges for them as a faithful presence.

The only people who can speak with authority about these terrible events are those closest to the cost. The rest of us can only listen and then respond. How should we respond? Well we should give to the people in need to meet their practical requirements for food, shelter, clean water and the tools to rebuild their lives and we should pray. We should pray that they will know the strength of God supporting them in their hour of need.

Tom Crotty

A prayer from Christ Church, Bangkok, Thailand.

It is a prayer for God's comfort and reassurance for those who mourn. It is also a prayer for direction on how we might provide help, comfort and prayer.

O Lord our God, ruler of the waves

and Father of compassion,

Help us to show your love to people who are in great need because of this tragedy.

Bring forward the right people to help.

Comfort those who mourn and suffer.

Motivate us by your love.

Help us to be wise and to give the help that is needed.

For the sake of the one who showed us what love is, our Lord Jesus.

Amen



The Railway Children and the tsunami

When news of the tsunami broke on Boxing Day, few of us can have had any idea how truly global would be its impact. Here, Katie Mason tells us how it has affected the work of the Railway Children in India, several thousands of miles from the earthquake's epicentre:

"The Railway Children has projects in two of the areas in India affected by the Tsunami, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. We were very relieved to hear that the children and the staff were all safe and well. We immediately sent an emergency grant of £25,000 to our project staff to help them begin the work of reintegrating the children affected by the disaster with their communities. They are scared and tend to hop on trains in an attempt to get away from the horrors

they have experienced. One of our projects runs a 'stay-put' scheme at the major stations in the affected area in an attempt to keep the children in their communities.

To date there is no reliable data on the number of children displaced, however the numbers are likely to run into many thousands. The children need protection from possible exploitation and also have immediate needs in terms of trauma counselling, food, healthcare, etc. We will have to increase our capacity to cope with the increased number of street children and we will be appointing a locally based officer in the area, with strong relief and disaster management experience to manage this operation."

Katie Mason

Johnny needs YOU!

As the new year is well and truly here, so many new things have begun for our young people. It's looking to be an exciting year and it's great seeing the enthusiasm and hearing the ideas our teenagers have. However, I want to make sure that the adults don't miss out! There is a lot of good stuff about to happen, but StBonYA needs helpers. After 9 months of building up relationships with the young people, I would like to invite any adult interested in helping out to get in touch with me. Your help can be in a whole variety of areas from practical to administrative to interactive. Here are some of the regular meetings I have set up with young people - can you help?

- Youth on Sunday (during the service)
- Older Young Christians (Monday evening)
- Youth drop-in (Monday evening)
- Forum Theatre Club (Tues lunchtime) and The Cross (Wed) at Tarporley School
- 4TC - for the confirmed - (Tues evening)
- Millennium Volunteers

So often the youth worker can be building up a great rapport with the teenagers, but alone. Let's not let that happen in Bunbury. I hope that some of you reading this can help to build community by giving what time you can to the exciting work of St Boniface Youth Action. I am happy to work with whatever you can commit to - big or small - and will provide support.

More next month! Johnny

YCs Frugal Lunch

On Sunday 23rd January, over 50 people joined the YCs at a Frugal Lunch organised to raise funds towards the tsunami appeal. The YCs also sold cakes, books and 'bring and buy' donations, and altogether the not-so-frugal lunch raised a magnificent £750 towards the appeal. Many thanks to all those who provided delicious shepherd's pies and pasta dishes, those who came to eat and especially to Tom Crotty, Andrew Dean and Derek Burrows who entertained the troops while they were eating.



Harriet, Rowenna and Carmela running the cake stall



Rob, Neville and Ernest enjoy their frugal lunch

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Be bold, be strong...

'We boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope'
(Romans 5, 2b-4)

Suffering is a part of life. We don't like it, and when we can, we try to avoid it, or mitigate it or anaesthetise it. There seems at times to be no pattern to it, and certainly no justice in it. Some people suffer a lot, yet are modern-day saints in their faith and good works.

While some cope well with pain, grief or burdens of other kinds, others have a lower resistance. Some believe that suffering is sent by God to test them, others that Satan is the author of all that is bad, and that sufferers must therefore have done something to deserve their trouble.

Surely God 'allows' suffering, but he should never be seen as sending it.

What was Jesus doing healing people with all kinds of sickness and disease if God had inflicted it in the first place?

It is true that there are good and bad ways of enduring suffering, but certainly, godly endurance produces character - and 'character produces hope'.

Eric Wallington

Apologies to Eric

Unfortunately we lost the last line of Eric's piece in the Christmas Link. If you were wondering what you missed we have printed the last paragraph below - this time in full!

Faith does not come with a cast iron guarantee, along with the Baptism certificate. Faith involves hard work and real commitment. 'Salvation is free but discipleship costs', said Billy Graham - and there are no exceptions. We all pay the price of faith - and that is what makes our faith real and worthwhile.

Agape speaker

At the St. Boniface Agape (an evening meal based on the Passover and Last Supper) on 24th March the speaker will be Rev. Simon Chesters, Chester Diocesan Ministry Development

Officer. (This may sound like a dry job title but we are assured he is anything but!)

Kick off is currently scheduled for 7.30 but check the Link next month.

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Mr Verity's Xmas exhaustion?

Regulars at St. Boniface could not fail to notice that Mike Verity had a fuller-than-usual preaching schedule over Christmas, at one point managing to perform at three services within 18 hours! (He even managed to hold down his day job!).



In fact, all our lay readers deserve a huge vote of thanks for their year-round commitment, and especially for their unstinting efforts to keep our services going with minimal disruption whilst Rick is out of action.

Musicians raise the roof

The 'occasional choir', age ranging from an enthusiastic 5 to a dignified "mature", met for its annual outing for the service of carols and readings on 19th December led, as usual, by the redoubtable George Robey.

In total there were over 60 musicians whose combined noise made St Boniface's rafters ring. Choir, instrumentalists and congregation all enjoyed the magnificent sound and the mulled wine afterwards.

Many thanks to George, to all those who willingly agreed to read (and did a jolly good job) and to all those helping in other ways: it made an inspiring start to Christmas week.

Tilstone Fearnall

It was lovely to see Rick at St Judes on 12th December taking the Communion Service with Joy. The following week the Carol Service was held which was very much enjoyed by everyone, especially the music played by Emma and the mulled wine afterwards which was very nice on a wintry morning.

As from the beginning of February the normal programme of services will resume i.e.: 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month - Holy Communion, 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month - Family Service.

Communion Services will be taken by Rev. A. Mumford, Family Services by Joy Parker or another Lay Reader.

The funeral of Gar Murray on Thursday 30th December saw a very full church.

We are all very pleased that Joy has got permission to start her Beaver group in St Judes Parish Hall and wish her every success with the venture.

Best Wishes to all in the parish for a happy and prosperous 2005.

Linda Downey

Calveley

February - suddenly upon us again. A quiet month, (hopefully), but with a hint of anticipation of things to come, as the days become gradually longer.

Calveley Church is looking forward to Sunday 20th February, when the Archdeacon of Chester, The Venerable Donald Allister, will be presiding and preaching at our Holy Communion Service at 11am. We hope that as many people as possible will be there to welcome the Archdeacon on this, his first visit to Calveley Church.

The service on the first Sunday of the month, 6th February, will be taken by Pat and Neville Edgely, with the St. Christopher Chorale, who will enhance our traditional matins service where we follow the Book of Common Prayer.

Our newly-refurbished organ is now in the rudest of health and our organist,

John Batchelor, is enjoying its improved qualities - as is the congregation!

I hope that all local artists are busy preparing work for our 4th annual Art Exhibition and Spring Fair, which takes place in May. This is always an extremely popular event, so if there are artists out there who have not exhibited with us before and would like to receive an entry form, please do give me a call any time. (Sue Woodward 01270 522822). We have a good record of selling exhibited work.

Friends of Calveley Church, who arrange the social and fund-raising events, will be meeting soon to confirm the 2005 programme. Keep an eye on the Link for further news!

Sue Woodward



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Review 2005



The Christmas holidays gave many of us a chance to watch films and visit shows - here are some reviews.

Lemony Snicket's a Series of Unfortunate Events

We went with Guides to the pictures, and what a great film! Even without having read the books I found this film really exciting, and Jim Carrey as Count Olaf was hilarious.

Hannah

This film was really good. The actors, including Jim Carrey, gave 5-star performances. My favourite bit was when the children met their uncle, Count Olaf, for the first time - it was very funny.

Emma

The film is about the three Baudelaire orphans. They lose their parents in a mysterious fire and are sent to live with their cousin who they have never hear of. He lives in an old mansion and keeps trying to kill them so he can get their fortune. It's a great film and Jim Carrey is really funny as the cousin. Jude Law is in it as Lemony Snicket so there's something for the mums too!

Becky

(N.B. One of the adults in the party used the word 'bizarre'..)

The Phantom of the Opera

This was a very enjoyable film which was unusual because the story is told through songs. It is about a theatre in Paris. A phantom lives in secret underneath the theatre and is in love with one of the actresses. When she falls in love with someone else, he plays some very nasty tricks. Some parts are scary, which is why it is a 12A. I would really recommend the film because the costumes are so lovely and the songs are great!

Olivia

The Incredibles

I thought The Incredibles was good, although it was quite hard to follow. The best bit was when the magic powers of the baby, Jack-Jack, were discovered. My Dad liked the animation and Mr Incredible's car, but he managed to have a good doze in the middle!

Isobel

Ring of Bright Water and Born Free

We got these DVDs for Christmas. They are very old films but they are great for animal-lovers. The only thing we didn't like was the posh way the actors spoke! Marks out of 10 - 9.9.

Isobel



Did you watch Jerry Springer, the Opera? If you have strong opinions on this or anything you have seen on TV or at the cinema why not drop us a line? It's always nice to have new contributors!

Aviator

I didn't enjoy Titanic and the Gangs of New York was just plain silly. The connection? Leonardo da Caprio. So it was with some trepidation that I went to see The Aviator - especially as the latter was also a Scorsese film, like this film about Howard Hughes. At a little under 3 hours, it is certainly quite long but not excessively so - it moves at a good pace and has a lot to cover. This was, after all, about a man who was significantly larger than life and who thought on a big scale - a modern day Icarus, if you like, who stretched himself too far and then fell apart.

The action sequences are stunning although if you're a nervous flier this may not be for you! Da Caprio is also very good although I can't help thinking that it's Cate Blanchett as Kathryn Hepburn who will probably steal the honours.

A thoroughly enjoyable film which needs to be appreciated on a big screen.

Gregory Oboe

Jesus Christ Superstar

We went with Young Christians to Liverpool by coach to see this stagemusical: it was spectacular! The singing was amazing and the actors, especially Jesus and Judas Escariot were great. I definitely recommend this show to anybody. Thanks to Teri, Wendy and all our 'helpers' for a great evening out.

Hannah

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Not only does this month see the start of Lent but we also enjoy St. Valentines Day on 14th February. In this season when 'a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love' we look at some of the history of this day of romance.

The Lottery of Love



It might be said that love is a kind of lottery, particularly if we fall in love with someone we seem to have met "by chance" (or was it God's plan for us to meet?). Strange to think that there once really was a Love Lottery.

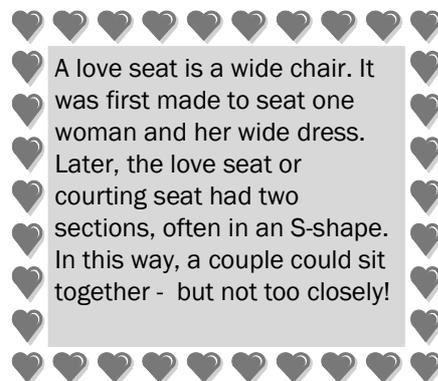
Valentine's Day started in the time of the Roman Empire. In ancient Rome, February 14th was a holiday to honour Juno, the Queen of the Roman Gods and Goddesses. The Romans also knew her as the Goddess of women and marriage. The following day, February 15th, began the Feast of Lupercalia.

At that time the lives of young boys and girls were strictly separate. However, one of the customs of the young people was the Love Lottery. On the eve of the festival of Lupercalia, the names of Roman girls were written on slips of paper and placed into jars. Each boy would draw a girl's name from the jar and would then be partners for the the festival with that girl. Sometimes the pairing of the children lasted an entire year, and often they would fall in love and later marry.

Under the rule of Emperor Claudius II Rome was involved in many bloody and unpopular campaigns. Claudius the Cruel was having a difficult time getting soldiers to join his military leagues. He believed that the reason was that Roman men did not want to

leave their loves or families. As a result, Claudius cancelled all marriages and engagements in Rome. The good Saint Valentine was a priest at Rome in the days of Claudius II. He and Saint Marius aided the Christian martyrs and secretly married couples, and for this Saint Valentine was condemned to be beaten to death with clubs and to have his head cut off. He suffered martyrdom on the 14th day of February, about the year 270.

The leaders of the early Christian Church in Rome endeavoured to do away with the pagan element in the February feasts by substituting the names of Saints for those of maidens. And as the Lupercalia began about the middle of February, the feast was re-named Saint Valentines Day. So it seems that the custom of young men choosing maidens for valentines for the coming year, arose in this way.



A love seat is a wide chair. It was first made to seat one woman and her wide dress. Later, the love seat or courting seat had two sections, often in an S-shape. In this way, a couple could sit together - but not too closely!

First meetings

It's always interesting to hear how couples meet, though perhaps surprising how many are shy when you ask! Walter Williamson however was happy to tell us. He met his future wife Mary as a child but recalls that when they first met again when they were older Mary thought Walter was a very cheeky boy because he was whistling behind her in the lane and she thought he was whistling at her! Bet you were really Walter.

For another sweet story of young love read the memoir of Vera Burrows on page 10.

Amici Chamber Choir
Presents

The Power of Love

A programme of romantic music including songs by Gershwin, Lloyd Webber, Lennon & McCartney.
St. Boniface Church, Sat. 5th February
Tickets £7.50 (£5.00 concessions) including wine, available from Village Greens or at the door.

Sadlers Wells Wood

Remember the appeal for funds that went out with the last issue of the link? Well some of you did and the outcome, so far, is an extra £1,500 of funding. Add that to the funds that are already in the piggy bank and the total stands at £3,000. Thank you to those who gave; your donations were extremely generous. The next stage is to convert all those vague promises and statements of good will into hard cash. For the cost of a single ticket to the ballet you can join our Sadlers Wells dance every day of the week. All donors are being invited to join The Friends of Sadlers Wells and we shall be in touch with you just as soon as we have waded through the sea of treacle that is called a grant application.

Ernest Croley



A new start

December 2004 was as busy as ever, full of both sad and happy occasions. It started with not being able to find the stable, needed for Advent Sunday. So many things put in "safe" places last January, when the re-ordering of the West-end started, were then "lost". Well, all was found in the end: the wise men found Jesus, gave him his gifts and left via another route!

Our new start is in its early stages, so while we can fit other activities in can I ask for some new people to help with the many things that happen to keep our church working in a well-ordered way? Could YOU help with the: -

- Coffee Rota?
- Church cleaning especially the rooms used by K.K.'s?
- Forming a Social Committee
- Sewing repairs?
- Flowers - arranging or donating for a special occasion?
- Helping to keep the grounds around church in good order?

Many people think that churches only want your cash - not true! Your time is even more valuable to us and small groups doing jobs can lead to more a productive and growing church. It is surprising how many new friendships are made just doing little jobs around the church.

For many months two small groups have prayed, on Wednesday Evening and Friday morning for all in special need, including James Bartlett, Benjamin Thomas and their families, and of course for Rick and Lin.

I am sure those who lead these two groups would like more people to pray with them for the world, our parish and those in need.

There are lots of different ways of helping your church so please let me know if you are willing and able!

Barbara Croley 260344

Working for St.Lukes

- here Jane Thompson writes another in our series of articles about changing direction

Working for St Luke's Hospice is just the best job imaginable! but I arrived here totally by chance:

My career choice was hotel management. The first year of my career path promised much. However it is not the life if you want any kind of steady relationship or 'normal social life'. I blame it for my strange sleep pattern. I'm wide awake at 3.30 am but struggle to keep my eyes open at 3.30 in the afternoon. (If you've seen me at the school gate it could explain a lot!)

Thankfully my mother thought every girl should be able to type "just in case", so I fell into secretarial work. I worked for an engineering company, followed by a rather wacky, psychiatrist in private practice who only seemed to take old but wealthy women patients! (No names and he's dead now so no chance of libel). I was offered a job for a major international company and worked in the amazing head office next to the American Embassy in London. It was the eighties and Dynasty had nothing on this company. I lived in a hotel in Buckingham Gate during the week, coming back north when they relocated to Altrincham and had a fantastic 5 years with them. This company bought both the Palace Theatre and Opera House, giving them back to a trust of which my boss was the major trustee. He often entertained major opera stars. One of my colleagues and I were once found trying on Pavarotti's overcoat to prove two people could fit into it. We were caught and he didn't find it amusing.

After James was born I started my Catering Equipment hire business which I ran for seven years. I was made a good offer for the business so it seemed a time for a change. Along with Tan Strong and Lindy Andrew I organised the Indian Ball at Spurstow Hall. To be honest it was just something we wanted to do, but obviously we had to give the money raised to a charity. We chose the village hall appeal and St Luke's Hospice which was Tish Fildes charity (she lived at Spurstow Hall at the time).

Lunch with an old friend (the one who shared Pavarotti's coat with me) led me to St Luke's Hospice. According to my friend who is a volunteer, St Luke's were completing the second round of interviews for a community fundraiser, "It would have been good for you, but you'll be too late". Ever hopeful, I rang anyway to be told much the same but I got a call back a few hours later asking if I had been involved with the Spurstow Ball. It proved to be my 'in'. I got an interview and the job that afternoon.

Working at St Luke's is challenging - we need to raise £4,000 a day; emotional - but we laugh just as much as we cry, and *extremely* worthwhile. There is never a day I don't want to go into work. It has opened my eyes to the bravery of our patients and their families and to the unstinting generosity of our community which allows our fantastic medical staff to carry out their roles with skill, gentleness, and understanding. I feel very privileged to work in such an amazing place.

We remember...

December was a particularly sad month for Bunbury, as we lost several well-known and long-time members of our community. Our sympathies to their families.

David Evans

David first came to Bunbury 30 years ago, whilst working for ICI, though he often said that he had actually cycled past the house when he was 15, en route from London to Scotland!

He was born in London of Welsh parents and at the outbreak of war was sent to his grandmother in mid-Wales, where he started school. When he returned to London, he continued his education at Merchant Taylors' School, followed by National Service with the Royal Engineers. He read mechanical engineering at Trinity College, Cambridge, enjoying spare time with the Cambridge Mountaineering Club. A spell with the Royal Marine Commandos resulted in a coveted green beret.

He met Mary in 1964 and they married within the year. Son Peter arrived in 1964, daughter Juliet two years later.

David spent most of his working life with ICI, mainly in Cheshire, but with two tours of Kenya. After retiring from ICI

he worked in Liverpool with the Merseyside Innovation Centre, then Vale Royal Small Firms Initiative in Winsford. Following full retirement he was able to be more involved with Bunbury life, becoming Clerk to the Parish Council for 9 years, and also a member of Bunbury British Legion.

He had a wide range of interests including mountain walking and classic cars, and he drove his Sunbeam Alpine in the parade at last year's Village Day.

He showed much courage in facing his illness with strength and dignity. Above all, he was a family man and will be very much missed.

Mary Evans

Mary and family would like to thank the many friends and colleagues of David for their cards and kind messages of sympathy and support.

Vera Burrows

These memories of Vera are taken from her daughter Sheila's funeral address:

Vera was born at Wyndhurst, Wyche Lane in 1917, the youngest daughter of Herbert and Annie Murray. She was a bright and happy child - perhaps a bit spoilt as the youngest of the family! - who made many friends at Bunbury School. On leaving school, Vera went to work at Houghton Hall: it was a lovely place to live, but hard work. She had to get up at 6.30 and do various jobs before breakfast.

Vera loved to dance and escape from work. If there was a dance in the Village Hall, she often rode there on her bicycle, staying the night at her parents' house. Her Dad would shout, "Come on Vera, the next dance is a one-step", and she would cycle back early next morning.

She met my father, Frank, through dancing (he was a good dancer himself), but even before they met, she had noticed the young man delivering meat to the Hall. Her employer, Mrs Dunne noticed too, and said, "I think Vera is sweet on the butcher's boy! ".

One night, Frank was walking Vera back to the Hall from the Village, and wondered why the umbrella was so heavy, only to realise it was thick with snow! They must have been so in love, they didn't notice how much it was snowing.

They married in 1940, but only six weeks later, Frank was called up. Like so many women, Vera had to manage alone, with her first child, Tony, arriving in 1941, and Sheila two years later. She had always said she would only have two children, but she greatly enjoyed motherhood, and she went on to have Jennifer, Nigel and last but not least, Derek.

Vera always put her husband and children first: she was a good cook and very houseproud. She also loved routine, which the family found very frustrating at times: there were times when holidays had to be cancelled because she wouldn't make up her mind! There were many happy

holidays, though, both abroad, and in England, with Bournemouth a particular favourite. Another place with lots of good memories was Blackpool, where they spent their honeymoon, and took the family for a week each summer.

Vera was a member of Bunbury Women's Institute, the British Legion Women's Section, The Ladies Circle and the Wednesday Club: she enjoyed meeting her friends, the outings, lunches and dinner dances.

Sheila writes: " Mum was a complex character: kind, generous, proud, dignified and sometimes very annoying. Dad would say ' We always have one journey to Chester to buy something, and another to take it back!' ".

Frank and Vera were married for 49 years. At her death in December, Vera had 16 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren, with another due this year. She was proud of them all and always took great interest in what they were all doing - even if she didn't agree with it! - and never forgot a birthday.

Vera was a lovely mum and Nana: she will be sadly missed by her family and friends.



Vera Burrows with her most recent great-grandchild, Evie

Derek Formstone

Many of you will have seen Jean Healey's article on Derek Formstone in the Winter edition of the Bunbury Journal. Very sadly, shortly after publication Derek died after several weeks in hospital. He had been suffering from Kennedy's Syndrome, a rare inherited condition. As we remember Derek here we cannot do better than pick out some of the highlights of Jean's article.

Derek was born prematurely in January 1935 in the village of Churton. He first went to school in Aldford but after 12 months moved to Farndon where he remained throughout the war. His father was called up and at one point Derek's family had some evacuees billeted with them. He also narrowly escaped Luftwaffe bombing in Newmarket but for the most part his childhood was spent playing football and fishing on the river Dee! He left school at 15 and went to work at Chester Engineering, then as an apprentice at Anchor Motors. Derek remembered those as the best years of his working life. In 1952 he met Ann, the cousin of a friend, though they were not to marry until 1960. After Anchor Motors he had to do his National Service and joined

the REME. It was the time of the Suez crisis and he was sent to Malta where he stayed until demobbed in 1958. While he was in the forces Derek saved enough to buy himself his first car - a little 1948 Bedford van with windows. After their marriage Derek and Ann lived first in Huxley, then Spurstow, where Mandy was born. Son David was born at the old family home in Churton, Derek's parents having moved. In 1973 he heard from Jim France, who ran the Bunbury garage, that he was looking for a buyer: Derek, Ann and the children moved into Swan House as tenants in 1973, and bought the business themselves in 1984. Soon afterwards, Mandy and husband David joined the flourishing business. The 90's saw serious health problems for both Derek and Ann and in 2003 Derek decided to retire. David and Mandy took over the business which has now moved to Wardle.

Derek died shortly before Christmas. He was a such a well-known figure, a friend to all those on four wheels, and he will be much missed by family and friends.

Community news

Many congratulations to **Natalie Parker** and partner **Jonathan Jewell** on the arrival of bouncing baby **Joshua Benjamin**, born on January 9th at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, and weighing in at an impressive 10lb 3oz. Well done, Natalie! Congrats must also go to first-time grandparents Joy and Nick, and to all the new aunts and uncles in the family.



Pictured left is **Jodie Sellers** of Dutton, Warrington with her parents **Howard** and **Kirsty**, after her baptism at St.Boniface on 5th December.

Congratulations to **Jeremy Meredith** and **Helen Hvaal** who married at St.Boniface on a very windy January 8th. Helen owns a florists in Chester and the church was filled with white and gold flowers.

There have been several recent local deaths. Our sympathies to the families of **Malcolm Brunton**, (affectionately known as Molly), a well-known character at Beeston Market; **Bessie Woodward** of Nantwich, sister of Frank Woodward; **Norman Gee** whose funeral service was held at Bickley and whose parents farmed at Ridley and

attended St.Boniface; and **Miles Vickers** who lived in Chester but came from an old-established Bunbury family. He worked all his life at Crewe Works. Eric Wallington recalled that all his family were given names beginning with 'M'.

General notices

Sandbach Voices and Middlewich Orchestra, conductor Martian Cook, will be holding a workshop day and evening concert of Fauré's Requiem and Rossini's Stabat Mater at Malbank School, Nantwich, on Saturday 26th February. The workshop starts at 10am, price £7. The concert starts at 7.30pm, tickets £5 (students and under 16s free).

They are also inviting all singers and choirs to join them at St. Boniface on Saturday, March 5th for a performance of Verdi's Requiem - more details next month! For information on either event, please contact Sue Cook on 01270 766546.

Three Men in a Bow Tie - an evening with the infamous satirical singing group in aid of St.Lukes Hospice at Tirley Garth on Saturday March 5th. Contact 01606 551246

Church notices

Kingdom Kids need toys in good condition suitable for pre-school children. Contact Debbie Shears (260707) or leave them in church.

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Diary

February

2	10.00am	Communion	St Boniface
5	7.30pm	Amici Concert The Power of Love	St.Boniface
6	8.00am 9.30am 10.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion Holy Communion Family Worship Matins with St. Christopher Chorale	St Boniface St Jude St Boniface Calveley
9	10.00am	Ash Wednesday - Start of Lent Communion	St Boniface
11		Start of half-term holiday	
12	7.00pm	British Legion Dinner Dance	
13	9.30am 10.00am 6.30pm	Morning Service Family Communion Evensong	St Jude St Boniface St Boniface
14		St Valentines Day	
16	10.00am	Communion	St Boniface
20	8.00am 9.30am 10.00am 11.00am	Communion Holy Communion Family Worship Holy Communion with Archdeacon	St Boniface St Jude St Boniface Calveley
23	10.00am	Communion	St.Boniface
26	10.00	Brownies Table Top Sale	Bunbury Village Hall
27	9.30am 10.00am	Morning Service Communion	St Jude St Boniface

Looking ahead March

4th	Women's World Day of Prayer
24th	Agape
25th	Good Friday
27th	Easter Day

Link is edited by Lucy Munro (tel. 260487) and Jill Robey (tel. 260081). We welcome all your comments and contributions. Our deadline for the March edition is Friday 18th February. Please send material to lucykmunro@hotmail.com, or to Heath Cottage, School Lane, Bunbury.

While your vicar, Rick Gates, is ill please ring Peter or Kath Collinge on 260077 in times of sickness, bereavement or any distress. They are co-ordinating a group of people who will be pleased to respond to your call.

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