

Ella Burnett a name to watch

Bunbury schoolgirl Ella Burnett has taken her first step in following family friend and Olympic hero Beth Tweddle to gymnastic success. Ella, 7, like big brother James, 11, is a pupil at Bunbury School, but when James heads for the cricket nets, Ella spends up to 15 hours per week at Sandbach Gymnastics Club – up to 23 hours during school holidays.

Ella only took up gymnastics two years ago, but her talent became quickly obvious, and she was moved to daily training sessions within months. She recently came second in the North West compulsory Level 5 Competition in Warrington – the first step towards competing in Elite Performance Gymnastics. So there's every chance

that before too long we'll be cheering the national and international success of another Bunbury gymnast.



Children and helpers at the St. Boniface Easter holiday club. See p4.

Bunbury Good Companions presents the farce

Dying to Meet You

Bunbury Village Hall
Thurs-Sat

13th-15th May

Tickets £7 to include nibbles

Door and bar 7.30pm
Performance 8pm prompt.



Tickets from Jo Perry 260500.

Tarporley High School

Curry Night

22nd May
7.30 for 8.00pm

Tarporley
Community Centre

Tickets £10 from the school
732558, include 3-course
Buffet and welcome Pimms

Bring your own drink

Christian Aid Week - 9th-15th May

Poverty: Let's end it

Please support our local house to house collection

Community

Pat Edgley is pictured here with her latest grandchild, Caitlin, whose arrival we reported last month.



Congratulations to **Walter and Mary Williamson** on two new great grandchildren born in the last few months. All the best in your new role.

We welcome the following children who have been baptised at St. Boniface: **Joseph Peter Kennedy**, son of **Nicholas Kennedy** and **Adele Blinkhorn** of Peckforton on 10th April, and **Daniel David Walsh**, son of **David Walsh** and **Christine Brady** of Wardle on April 25th..

Happy Birthday to **Jonathan Turner**, who will be 40 on 23rd May.

Congratulations to **Peter and Helen Jones**, celebrating 30 years of marriage.

It's good to see **Paul Rathbone** and **John Mason** out and about, both having responded so well to their medical treatment.

Tom Crotty writes "I have foolishly decided that I will run a 10k before I expire - albeit the one may lead to the other! I've entered the **Delamere Forest 10k** in July and should you care to encourage me in this folly and help **Cancer Research**, donations would be gratefully received at www.runningsponsorme.org/tomcrotty"

On October 6th **Katie Mason** will be climbing the highest freestanding mountain in the world, **Mount Kilimanjaro** in aid of the Railway Children. She says this will probably be the most physically challenging thing she'll ever do. To sponsor her just go to www.virginmoneygiving.com/railwaychildren

There are still places on the **St. Luke's Ladies Midnight Walk** - phone 01606 555688 for more information.

Bunbury Cricket Club is holding a **Sportsman's Dinner** at Bunbury Village Hall on Friday May 21st. Speaker will be football legend 'Big Ron' Atkinson. Tickets £35 from Andy Lawrence 261330.

A warm welcome to the **Kastenemi family** from Finland. **Sami and Jaana** have recently moved to Swan Lane, Bunbury with their children **Max**, 7 and **Maija**, 4.

After many years as our **Operation Christmas Child shoe box appeal** organiser, **Nicola Elsegood** would like to hand over the reins. She writes:

"There really isn't much to do - order the leaflets, promote the appeal and collect the filled boxes - everything is done by mid-November. It's such a worthwhile cause." If you could help - (maybe you could share the job with a friend?) please contact Nicola **260507**

Friends of Calveley Church would like to thank all those who supported our recent **Spring Draw**, both those who sold tickets and those who bought. The very satisfactory sum of £609 was raised.

The June Link will be available on Sunday 30th May. Contributions by Thursday 13th May please.

Church news

The **Christian Aid Coffee morning**, on April 19th raised a brilliant £300. Thanks to Joyce Buxton for hosting.

There will be a
SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION
on Sunday 11th July.
BISHOP ALAN CHESTERS
will confirm the candidates and celebrate Holy Communion.

The **Link** can be read online during the week before your copies are available. Look on our website www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk

If you don't have a magazine delivered you are welcome to pick one up from church.

This month please pray especially for **Jean Healey, Claire Dickens, and Brenda Miller**. We pray for all those suffering in body, mind or spirit.

Please keep collecting Active Kids Vouchers from Sainsburys and donate them to Bunbury School or Earlybirds - thankyou.

Our Vicar is Rick Gates. He is always available in times of sickness, bereavement or any distress. Contact him at The Vicarage, Vicarage Lane, Bunbury, on 01829 260991, 07715 178750 or rick@prayer.fsnet.co.uk

Other church contacts:

Peter and Kath Collinge (pastoral support)	260077
St. Boniface	Churchwardens: Barbara Croley 260344 Walter Done 01244 332563
Youth worker	Laura Warrington 07763 408609
Secretary	Neil Dewson-Smyth 261680
Flowers	Margaret Bourne 260944
St. Jude's	Churchwardens: Brigid Sayce 260865 David Wright 260467
Secretary	Ann Posnett 261154
Organist	Ann Badrock 260343
Calveley	Churchwardens: Barbara Croley 260344 Walter Done 01244 332563
Organist	John Batchelor 261056
Secretary	Sue Woodward 01270 522822

www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk

The Link is edited by **Lucy Munro 260487**, and **Jill Robey 260081**.
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Why the great joy when Jesus left?

'And while He was blessing them, He was carried up into heaven and they returned to Jerusalem with great joy'.

With great joy? How strange is that?

Every time I have to leave someone I like, I experience regret. A longing takes hold of me. I want to be back with them as quickly as possible. I do not like leaving, or being left by someone I love. The longing and grief can be quite overpowering. Horrible desolation, brokenness, loneliness - as if I have been suddenly orphaned; life seeps slowly away from me, life loses its real meaning.

And I am quite aware that for every form of loss I experience, I replace that empty space with some other emotion - sometimes longing, sometimes anger, sometimes fear of never having that closeness again, sometimes tears, but never 'joy'.

But the disciples watched the one they loved leave them and they went off full of great joy. How, or why, were they able to feel joyful?

I wonder why every time we say the Creed together (an amazing statement of faith, which includes the words 'He ascended into heaven'), none of us look full of great joy? Perhaps we should?

It would be good to know what relevance the Ascension has for us today - apart from the very excellent walk up Stanner Nab. During that walk, we let off three rockets, symbolising the Trinity and the Ascension; God ascending into Heaven.

Perhaps to make this event relevant, we have to consider what we think of Heaven. Why, for instance, do we think of it as 'another place'? We may think of Heaven as like another country, people going on holiday, going off to another place, away from where we are.

It is perhaps logical to think that if Jesus ascended into heaven then He must have gone to 'another place'!

But I suggest that Heaven is not just another place. It is real. It is **more** than real. And it is also within us.

Think again of how you feel when someone you love leaves. Just suppose that the very act of leaving (and that terrible sense of loss) would actually mean that they would then spend every moment with you. They would never, ever, leave you again. Instead, they would now *always* be with you, guaranteed by an unbreakable promise. How fine would that be? How would you feel with that promise?

Could this be the explanation for the 'joy' that those disciples experienced when Jesus left them?

They believed the promise that Jesus had made to them (and to each of us), namely 'I shall never leave you nor forsake you'.

I think a very clear hope from the Ascension is that Jesus is close, always; that Heaven is always within our experience, if only we could believe the unbreakable promise of God.

God sends you flowers every spring. He sends you a fresh sunrise every morning and a sunset in the evening. God did not promise days without pain, nor laughter, nor sorrow. He did not promise sun without rain, but He did promise that He would never ever leave you, never forsake you.

I guess that is why the disciples went away with great joy.

I believe that whatever happens to you, if God takes you to it, He will carry you through it.

And I believe that when we say the Creed, when we break bread and drink wine, we can return with joy into the world after an encounter with the risen, ascended Lord.

Rick



This is the wonderful view from Stanner Nab To see it for yourself see page 6.

A year of progress at St. Jude's

Our Vestry Meeting on 12th April marked the end of one year and a beginning of a new year at St. Jude's. And what a year it has been, a year of real progress in the life of our church culminating in the most joyous Easter Day service with its promise of new life for all Christians.

This year the service was made memorable by the contribution of the Alpraham Singers accompanied by our own Ann Badrock who really is a master of the organ and its many "twiddly bits". Another star of the show was our dear friend the Rev Alan Mumford, and what a friend he has been to St. Jude's over the years. If only we had a few more friends like him.

This year has not been without its sadness. Our biggest loss was Keith Rae who died only recently. Keith was a quiet man, a regular worshipper at St. Jude's, and a war hero with gallantry medal to prove it. The size of the congregation at his memorial service paid tribute to the regard his many friends and colleagues had for him.

Please do remember in your prayers our friends who are still in the hands of the medical people: Frank Latham, Michael Morgan-Wynne, Margaret Colley and Joy Bell. All we can do is to pray for them and wish them peace of mind.

Finally on a happier note it is time to put out the flags and light the fireworks for Ruth and Alan Aidley who will be celebrating their Golden Wedding on 19th April, and I think they both deserve a long service award. Well done the pair of you.

The parish of St. Jude's is still here alive and kicking and will be for many years to come.

Bob Gardner

St. Jude's Summer lunch

27th June, to be held outside if fine but if not, in our newly-painted church hall. Information from our churchwardens or any member of the PCC. All welcome.

May Diary

May			
2	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Jude's
	10.00am	Family Communion	St. Boniface
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Calveley
5	10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
9	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Jude's
	10.00am	Family Communion	St. Boniface
	6.00pm	Evensong	St. Boniface
12	10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
16	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Jude's
	10.00am	Family Worship	St. Boniface
	11.00am	Family Worship	Calveley
19	10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
23	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Jude's
	10.00am	Family Communion	St. Boniface
26	10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
30	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Jude's
	10.00am	Family Communion	St. Boniface
June			
2	10.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
6	Festival of St. Boniface		
	8.00am	Holy Communion	St. Boniface
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Jude's
	10.00am	Family Worship	St. Boniface
	6.30pm	Evensong	Calveley

Easter holiday club

Trees dominated the Easter Holiday Club. A girl, appropriately called Hope, pointed out the cross outlined in the branches of the first tree. The cross was empty. Jesus is risen. Alleluia!

Our next trees were in a beautiful and perfect garden, where Johnny took us in the story of the Garden of Eden, where the snake insinuated that God didn't **really** forbid Adam and Eve to taste the fruit on the tree of knowledge. So, we followed the inevitable fall of humankind, with God tenderly stitching them garments before he ejected them from the garden, and we heard God's promise of rescue.

Laura led us through two exciting days, taught us lively songs and led us in thoughtful prayer. Barbara fortified everyone at just the right moments with drinks, toast and healthy snacks. We enjoyed Chris's raucous team games

with the ferocious happy Easter bunny and the happy little Easter penguin and tried drama where we were either persuasive tempters or staunch resisters of the temptation.

The second day we returned to God's rescue plan, with Jesus taking upon himself the sin of the whole world for all time. Tree shaped stained glass windows, designed with Helen, joined our tree of crosses artwork. Drama took us to the trees in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus' arrest and the crucifixion.

We looked forward to the evening Agape meal, its reminder of the Last Supper and its significance for God's banquet in Heaven at the end of time.

Advance info: The Summer Holiday Club will take place in the last week of July.

Joy Parker

Bunbury Mill needs you

Since United Utilities announced that they were putting Bunbury Mill up for sale we have decided to set up a trust as a vehicle for owning the mill. So far we have six trustees who are committed to saving the mill. If anyone else is interested in becoming a trustee please contact us and we can tell you what is involved. After much discussion between United Utilities and ourselves, the signs seem very encouraging and we are confident that we can succeed in taking over the mill for the community. Initially, we need to show that there is sufficient local support for the project and therefore we are asking people to give us their names and addresses if they feel they would like to support us. Also, if you have any skills which could be used in maintaining and running the mill please let us know.

In order to proceed with the purchase we will need funds to finance the conveyance, insurance and basic maintenance before we can obtain any grants. To this end we will shortly be launching an appeal for public funds. Please support us to save the mill so that it can continue to be used and enjoyed by both present and future generations.

If you are interested in helping to save the mill please let us have your details. Contact us (below) or return this form to **17 Wakes Meadow, Bunbury.**

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Alison Black 260860, Ernest Croley 260344, Tom Gilchrist 260862



Lent lunches and Agape well supported

Delicious lunches were served each Monday throughout Lent by the Well bible study group at the Methodist chapel. It was an ideal location and lots of people came to enjoy the food and chat. Donations of £120 were split between Christian Aid and the Bunbury Scout Hut. Thanks to all who supported us. Pictured here are customers Kev and Jenny who have recently moved into the village.



Record numbers attended this year's Agape meal at St. Boniface on Maundy Thursday. About 100 people sat down together to their meal of roast lamb with all the trimmings, wine and pudding. Our newly-levelled floor made arranging the tables much easier.

Rev Peter Davies gave his insights into the many biblical references to the Lamb of God. We ended the evening in a simple sharing of bread and wine as we remembered Jesus and his disciples at the Last Supper.

Get the message?

dad@hvn, urspshl. we want wot u want@urth 2b like hvn.giv us food&4giv r sins lyk we 4giv uvaz.don't test us!save us! bcos we kno ur boss, ur tuf&ur cool 4 evalok?



Friends of Calveley Church

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- Refreshments*
Free entry and parking

Visiting the Manns down under

Haughton and Bunbury readers may remember the Mann family who emigrated to Australia several years ago. Former neighbours Campbell, Sarah, Rachel and Cameron Thompson visited their Adelaide home this Christmas. Rachel writes:

“When I’d thought about travelling over to Australia, the highlight was the long journey watching the latest films and having food and drink delivered to me, but this soon wore off as the reality was a bit different. The first couple of hours were brilliant, but then I realised I had twenty left and all I could do was walk up and down a narrow aisle or visit the toilet, and I soon became aware of how small the space was.

When we finally arrived in Adelaide the journey felt worth it, we were greeted by the warmth of both the weather and the Mann Family. No one in Bunbury can forget Chris’s bubbly personality and as soon as we met up we felt as if we had never been apart. All it took for Louise and me to fall back into sync was a nail painting session by their pool overlooking the Adelaide hills. It really is the most beautiful place, the sea is pure blue and the sand really does shine white gold. We were blessed with glorious sunshine throughout our stay, though Louise and Jess complained that it is always too hot, which meant they can’t do anything but lie in the pool for the day. Oh, the hardship of their lives!

In true Mann style they pulled out all the stops for our visit with them and treated us to a Christmas Day to remember, the revelation of Richard’s amazing cooking skills on his poolside BBQ; huge prawns, delicious beef and an ice cream Christmas pudding. Then a trip on their boat to our own secluded beach, where we whiled away Boxing Day snorkelling, rock diving and sunbathing. Jess (15) and Louise (11) have hardly changed since they left. Though they have both adopted a strong Australian accent and unbelievable tans, they’re still the same Bunbury schoolgirls they always were; willing to try anything and always game for a laugh!

The trip has left me with heaps of memories that I will keep forever; of the pizza night where we all created our own pizzas and cooked them in the Mann’s pizza oven (the only way to enjoy the dish); of Jessie and Cameron flipping into the pool; of waking up on Christmas morning to the warm

sunshine; of Louise and me jumping off the jetty together into the deep water below.

My special memory from the trip is one of riding down the Murray River with Louise, Jess, and Cameron on their banana boat, jumping the waves and lapping up the Australian rays, Richard swerving unnervingly in a bid to send us all overboard!

I have to say it was just as hard the second time having to say goodbye to the Mann’s at the airport. I couldn’t believe that I wouldn’t see them again each morning, though my friendship with Louise has never altered and I feel it will last a lifetime. I know many people miss Chris and Richard at Bunbury gatherings, they really were the life and soul of the party. Richard is so settled in his role for the Water Board, a well-respected man in a country so short of rain. Chris’s work as an architect is restricted by the limited building resources available in Australia..

As I hugged her goodbye; she whispered to me that anytime I wanted to come over I’d be more than welcome. I don’t think she realised how much I will be taking her up on that. If there’s one thing I can recommend to anyone living in Bunbury, it’s that you haven’t lived till you’ve experienced the relaxed life of Australia.”

Rachel Thompson

See the view for yourself

Stanner Nab is a part of the Peckforton Hills not normally accessible to the public (picture p.3). We are allowed access on Ascension Day. If you would like to join the walk, this year on Thursday 13th May, meet at Peckforton Castle Car park, 7pm prompt. Phone Rick for more details.

Fishing for Jesus

The fly fishing season is under way, when brave or (fool) hardy souls stand thigh deep in icy swift waters casting for fish, with varying degrees of success.

An early Christian symbol was the fish, Greek Ichthys; **I**esous **C**hristos **T**heou **Y**ios **S**oter; meaning **J**esus **C**hrist, **S**on of **G**od, **S**aviour.

After the Resurrection, Jesus appeared on the beach to the disciples who were fishing on the Galilean Lake, but had not caught anything.

He told them to cast their nets on the other side of the boat, which would have been the shallow side where fish were not normally found.

They did so, and to their surprise, they could hardly haul in their catch, it was so heavy.

When we are seeking God, and cannot find him, often we are looking in the wrong place or at the wrong people. Let him surprise us.

Pat Edgley

**Lord Jesus,
Help us to look for you in the unexpected places.
When we think you are not present,
Let us find you in our homes, our community.
When our hope dims and our patience wears thin,
Keep coming to us.
Teach us to be prepared,
So that we may see your loving presence among us.
Amen**

Building work in progress

'The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer' (Psalm 18, 2)

Over the north door of St. Paul's in London there's a famous plaque commemorating the man who designed the cathedral, Sir Christopher Wren. The dedication simply consists of four words of Latin, which, translated, mean, 'If you require a monument, look around you'. No further tribute was necessary: the cathedral which he'd built was sufficient evidence of his genius.

Yet even the finest building begins with a building site. And what a mess building sites generally are! Often old buildings are being demolished because they are no longer suitable. There are bricks and stones to tumble over, and seemingly meaningless trenches to fall into, and to the unknowing visitor it seems impossible that the chaos could ever turn into a fine edifice.

In the Old Testament, the prophet Amos describes the universe as a building site. He was a poet and, I feel sure, didn't imagine that God literally laid the foundation of the vault of the skies on the earth, and built his upper rooms above them. But it is an imagination-

boggling metaphor. If you want a monument to God's activity, look around you. Yet Amos makes a very profound point: human souls and human society are an integral part of God's plan for the universe. And God



hasn't finished that part of his construction yet. It is a case of 'Building work in progress'. Some people put a notice on their bedroom doors or over the place where they work: 'Be patient with me, God hasn't finished with me yet'. It does give comfort to know that,

in spite of all our failings, God is still at work on us, seeking to turn us, if we will let him, into the kind of person he wants us to be.

The world is made of imperfect and unfinished individuals, so it's no wonder that our national life sometimes resembles a building site. There's a lot wrong with it, but God gives us hope that one day it will emerge as a fine structure. And so God needs people who are willing to be changed themselves, and to work with Him in changing the world around us into the sort of place God, the architect, designed it to be.

We're all needed in the building of God's kingdom on earth. God, of course, is the builder supreme, but he looks to each one of us to take our part in the building work. As we contribute to the building of his kingdom here on earth and, as we see his kingdom grow amongst us, we can then begin to echo Sir Christopher Wren's commemoration plaque: 'If you require a monument, look around you'. Yes, here in Bunbury!

Eric Wallington

**Bunbury
Village Day**
Saturday 19th June

Parade leaves 12:30 from St Boniface

This year's theme is
Children's TV Past and Present

Lots of competitions
from art to Cakes to
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All aboard St. Luke's special

This must be the biggest visitor ever to Bunbury School. It's the newly-acquired London bus which St Luke's Hospice has converted to a mobile fundraiser, with a charity shop below and a café above. Groups of pupils visited the bus and were told about the special work that St. Luke's does, then each was given a souvenir of the visit in the form of a bus-shaped collecting box.

Other school news

We were visited by the Pandemonium Theatre Company who performed a play about King Henry VIII called 'The Weavers Tale'. A pupil commented, 'It was really exciting and I particularly liked the drum and the costumes

which looked very realistic.'

Good luck to Y6 pupils as they gear up for SATs. They have already had a last class photograph taken as a reminder of their time at Bunbury School.

Thanks to the Pilgrim family for stepping forward with the offer of greenhouse staging after our appeal last month. Pupils have been busy planting and watering all sorts of vegetable seeds and there are lots of exciting developments in our garden, including a new wormery, thanks to willing handyman Richard Goodfellow.



Neil Palmer honoured

Neil Palmer has been made a Freeman of the Haberdashers' Company in recognition of his 20 years' service as a Governor of Bunbury School. Neil, who was himself a teacher in his 'younger days', first stood for election as the only Parent Governor in 1988 but was unsuccessful. At the time, the Governing Body was short of a Local Authority Governor. As time went on the local authority, awaiting the results of various elections, showed no sign of

appointing. So Neil took the initiative and told them that if they couldn't get round to picking their own governor then he would do it himself. So Bunbury got a new governor whose main interest was the good of the school and not party politics. Neil was a dedicated Governor, becoming the first elected lay Chairman from 1992-99, a period during which the school had its quatercentenary (1994), grew considerably and

underwent major development. Having 'served his time' as Chair, Neil took a step back but continued to serve as a very supportive Governor, for several more years before 'calling it a day' in 2009. It is very pleasing that his 20 years have been recognised by the award of the Freedom, not something the Company does lightly.

Hearty congratulations Neil!

Mike Thomas

All weather fun for Guides



Bunbury Guides goes from strength to strength. The girls here were all enrolled after an exciting night hike around Peckforton in torrential rain (the photo was taken after they dried out!)

The girls enjoy a wide variety of activities at their Thursday night

meetings and are looking forward to the Great Getaway Gig at Tabley in June and a PGL adventure holiday in the autumn.

If you would like to know more about guides please contact **Jackie Bruce** on 261305.

Universal laws

- ◆ **Law of mechanical repair** - After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you'll just need the toilet.
- ◆ **Law of probability** -The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.
- ◆ **Law of random numbers** - If you dial a wrong number, you never get an engaged tone and someone always answers.
- ◆ **Law of the alibi** - If you tell the boss you were late for work because you had a flat tyre, the very next morning you will have a flat tyre.



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