



# Link

December 2020 – January 2021

*Know God's comfort and, whatever your circumstances, be surprised by God's joy*  
Archbishops of Canterbury & York

*Also in this issue...*



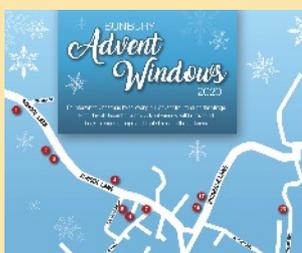
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What did the wise men really see in the sky?



7

Si Lees-Jones gives us two minutes

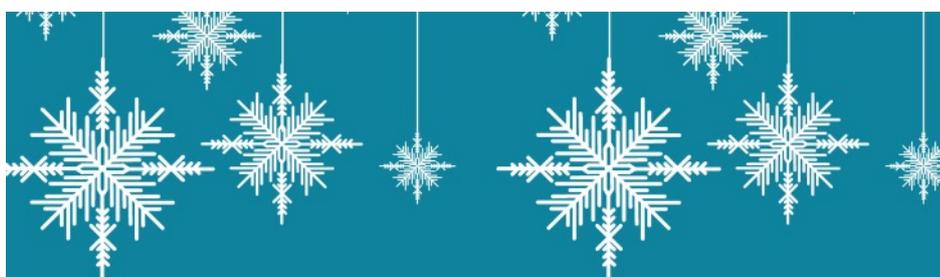


8-9

Grab the kids and follow the Advent map

A magazine for the parishes of Bunbury and Tilstone Fearnall

## #ComfortAndJoy



### *December Services*

6th December | Advent - Prophets  
9.30am St Judes | 10.30am St Boniface

13th December | Advent - John the Baptist  
9.30am St Judes | 10.30am St Boniface  
11.30am Calveley Chapel

20th December | Advent - Mary  
9.30am St Judes | 10.30am St Boniface  
Service of Light (ticketed) | 6pm St Boniface

24th December | Christmas Eve  
Crib Service (ticketed) | 4pm St Boniface  
Midnight Mass (ticketed) | 11.30pm St Boniface

25th December | Christmas Day  
9.30am St Judes | 10.30am St Boniface (ticketed)

**These services are subject to change due to COVID-19 restrictions.  
Tickets available via Eventbrite.**



Follow Bunbury Church on Facebook

# Who we are

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## St Boniface

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David Cox 01829 734008  
David Kendrick 01829 733254

### Vice-Chair

Vacancy

### Treasurer

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## St Jude's

### Churchwardens

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Vacancy

### Secretary

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### Organist

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## Calveley

### Churchwardens

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## The Link

Please contact us if you would like to advertise your business or to send us your news, views and pictures.

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### Graphic design: Jo Mason

You can also read The Link online at:  
www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk

# Community news

Congratulations to **Matthew Field** and **Emma Rowley** (below) married on the 27 September, to



**Andrew Scorer** and **Jo Bigland** (below) married on 26 Saturday September



and **Dan** and **Laura Payne** (below) also on 26 September.



All were married at St Boniface before the restrictions came in.

Congratulations to **Maggie** and **Richard Watson** on the birth of **Thomas William** born on 6 October, a brother to Annabelle and Rose.

Many thanks to **Sue Watson** for offering to deliver the Link in Long Lane, Spurstow.

Don't forget **St Luke's Hospice Christmas tree collection service** in

January. In return for a donation, they will collect and responsibly chip your tree. Go to: [www.charityxmasreecollection.com](http://www.charityxmasreecollection.com). Smaller local businesses with furloughed staff will help. If you can help in any way, contact Jane Thompson on 07964 394963.

The **Minor Injuries Service** at **Tarporley War Memorial Hospital** is back

up and running, after temporary closure, dealing with minor injuries such as cuts, burns, knocks or insect stings etc.

Bunbury now has **two outdoor**

### public access

**defibrillators** that anyone can use in a medical emergency; 24 hours a day, every day of the year. The first is located on the outside the Village Hall; the second is under the veranda of the Pavilion at



the Jubilee Playing Fields. Both are clearly signed so they can quickly be found. To access one, dial 999 first to confirm the location of the closest serviceable unit and obtain the access code if this is the one located at the playing fields. Our local First Responder Group is planning awareness sessions on using the defibrillators once restrictions on public meetings permit. If a defibrillator is needed in an emergency no training is required to do so safely, as they are straightforward with audible instructions that automatically start as soon as it is opened.

## QR code for church giving

Make donations to the church using this QR code and your mobile phone.



## Tarporley Rotary wants your change

Donate UK and foreign banknotes and coins to support the Knysna Education Trust South Africa.

Any UK banknotes and coins  
All foreign banknotes and coins  
Obsolete currencies

Donations can be posted through the letterbox of 43 High Street, Tarporley (corner of Millfield Lane) or, if necessary, they can be collected.  
Tel. 01829 733254

## A word from the editor

Thank you to Alex Sanders and her team for all their important work with the foodbank.

This Christmas will be very different for many people; as I write this we are in lockdown with no idea of the course of what the restrictions will be at Christmas.

2020 will be the first time our family has ever spent Christmas in our own home so it will be very strange. As a farming family, in the early days my mother and brother lived together and couldn't leave the farm so we always travelled there with three small children (Tom's parents also lived reasonably nearby). Then my brother had a young family and our three loved to be with little children who were totally invested in the magic of Father Christmas. They also loved to be on the farm with the routine of the animals being fed in the morning and afternoon on Christmas day and so the tradition continued – often with extra waifs and strays appearing for Christmas lunch. When given the option our children all wanted to go there – my poor sister-in-law! We have always shared the work (I took lots of food and started cooking as soon as I got there!) and there were lots of hands for washing up. She will probably be glad of the rest although I don't think she is looking forward to the washing up!

It will be a very different Christmas for everyone this year so wherever you are, the Link team hopes that everyone finds some peace this Christmas.

Have a happy Christmas.

**Wow, what a lot of kindness there is in Bunbury village!** Thank you so much for all the foods and gifts that you have been putting into the **foodbank donation box**

recently – they are all VERY much appreciated by the teams putting together parcels for people in acute need. Christmas food and gift donations can be made up until 30 November. And everyday food items will still be needed as usual of course after that date.



The items most in need now are unwrapped gifts, especially for teenage boys; tinned meat such as gammon; tinned vegetables (NOT baked beans or corn, which are plentiful); and chocolate in coins or boxes or biscuit form. Financial donations can also be made via:

[www.trusselltrust.org/get-involved/ways-to-give/make-a-one-off-donation](http://www.trusselltrust.org/get-involved/ways-to-give/make-a-one-off-donation).

**The copy deadline for the February issue is Friday 15 January. The magazine should be delivered starting Saturday 30 January. Notices to [bunburyparishoffice@gmail.com](mailto:bunburyparishoffice@gmail.com)**



TIM HAYWARD

### Your Vicar

I write this after a masterful press conference from Jonathan Van Tam, England's Deputy Chief Medical Officer. The professor used a train metaphor to describe the potential impact of a vaccine rollout. He didn't quite say there is "light at the end of the tunnel", but he spoke of "two lights appearing two miles down the track" of a train a way off offering real hope of a way out of this pandemic.

The first words that God speaks in the Bible are, "Let there be light" (Genesis 1:3). Into the darkness, into the chaos, God speaks and light appears. In a world gone wrong, where there is so much darkness, it is important to remind ourselves that light is a constant reminder, in every day, of the goodness of God's creative work. As each new day begins, the sun comes up. Light comes, life comes. There is always hope.

Sunny days are welcome in these shorter days of winter. At a time of real anxiety, when darkness can easily overwhelm us, we long for the coming of light: an end to injustice, to suffering, to poverty, to hunger, to COVID-19.

John's Gospel does not begin with the traditional Christmas stories. Instead, John starts with the eternal

story of God breaking in, with light, to our world and our lives. John reminds us, with words that need to constantly ring from our hearts and our lips in faith and protest at a world gone wrong.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:5

God is the source of all light and life and He is in control - the darkness will not win. John tells us that at the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas, God steps into His creation with the mission to bring light and life to all. So when darkness threatens to overwhelm, either on the global stage or in our own lives, let us remember that God has spoken, giving us light and life. God's work and purposes, God's gift of life, is not overcome by the darkness. But best of all, God Himself comes still at Christmas - and throughout the year - bringing light to everyone, bringing light to the darkest of circumstances we might face.

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!*

*Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.*

*Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;*

*The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

### ... and a note of thanks to outgoing churchwardens

On behalf of the church community I would like to record our tremendous thanks for both outgoing wardens. The two Davids were an excellent team, whose different skills and gifts dovetailed so well. David Cox has been a wonderful ambassador for the church community, being the face of the church on so many occasions, loving and serving the wider community in our ministry

to wedding couples and funeral families especially. His hard work behind the scenes on the fabric and fête committees was very much appreciated, as was his management of the church calendar.

David Kendrick's particular gift is his attention to detail and he brought this to bear with such great effect on our church inventory. In need of careful revision, David went about the task with

great discipline and determination and produced the most comprehensive update seen for a generation. He also worked behind the scenes on our fabric and finance committees, and was a great support to our PCC treasurer.

On a personal note, they were both a delight to work with and I am very grateful for their wisdom and support over the last five/six years.

# Christmas messages

For those we love and those we miss

## Bunbury Tree of Lights 2020



To sponsor a light on the tree at St Boniface this Christmas in aid of our church building please fill in the form or contact Lucy Munro on 07580 06615 [lucykmunro@hotmail.com](mailto:lucykmunro@hotmail.com)

I would like a light on the tree to celebrate: (please give details)

.....  
 .....

I would like to donate £..... (£5 min)

If you would like to gift aid this donation to Bunbury PCC (Charity No 1133106) tick box\*

\*By ticking this box you acknowledge that: you are a UK taxpayer and understand that if you pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all your donations it is your responsibility to pay any difference.

Full name.....

Address.....  
 .....

Postcode.....

Signature.....

Date: .....

Tick this box for an entry in the Book of Lights

Very best wishes for Christmas and for a brighter, happier New Year, with love from **Joy, Fiona, Julia and Simon Parker**



Wishing the lovely community of Bunbury and beyond our best wishes for Christmas and hopefully a much better 2021. **Tom and Elaine Crotty**



Greetings from **Meg and Roger Fairweather** in Brighton best wishes for Christmas and for the New Year which we hope will be virus free. Meg and Roger celebrate their diamond wedding on the 29 December and Meg will be 90 on New Year's Eve.



**Anne James** would like to send season's greetings to all and EVERY good wish for 2021!



Wishing everyone a joyous Christmas celebration (even if it's small) and for 2021, every blessing (and may they be huge!), **Nick and Alex Sanders** xxx



Wishing everyone a joyful Christmas with renewed hope for a better year ahead for all, **Jo and John Mason**



We pray that as we come into the most precious time in our Christian Calendar we will soon be able to greet one another. Wishing all a happy Christmas and a healthy new year, in the hope that this virus will be brought under control. God's blessing to all, **Barbara Croley**



**Thank you to all who donated Christmas wishes to raise funds for Shelter, which helps people struggling with bad housing or homelessness through advice, support, and legal services, and campaigns towards a day when no one will have to turn to them for help. The free emergency helpline is open 365 days a year. <https://england.shelter.org.uk/donate> Helpline: 0300 330 1234**

## St Boniface gets grant for repairs

Historic England has awarded a grant of £8,000 to St Boniface on behalf of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport under their C-19 Emergency Heritage at Risk Response Fund. Repairs to the chancel roof and various stonework sections were identified by the latest quinquennial report and this grant will cover roughly half

of the cost. The PCC is planning for work to commence this year.

Many thanks to Historic England who allocated £5 million to go to construction and maintenance projects that have been paused due to the pandemic. Further details can be read by following the links below. Hashtag #HereForCulture tagging @dcms, @HeritageFundUK and @HistoricEngland

# Sky notes for December & January

You will find the solar system's two giant planets very close to each other throughout December, low in the south-western sky at sunset. Jupiter and Saturn creep ever nearer to each other and on December 21 they pass closer to each other than at any time since 1623! They'll be about one-fifth of a moon's diameter apart and to the naked eye, seeming almost to merge together. They'll be right on the horizon, so grab binoculars or a small telescope if you can for a unique opportunity to witness this conjunction. Best to start looking before the sky is completely dark as the planets will set at 6.30pm, so you'll not have much time. This extra-close Jupiter-Saturn conjunction won't be matched again until March 15, 2080 – nearly 60 years from now!

One of the theories about the Star of Bethlehem is that this was not actually a single star, but a series of conjunctions of the bright planets Jupiter and Venus, including a very close one in June of the year 2BC. This took place in the constellation of Leo when the two planets would have been indistinguishable. No doubt the wise men, and other sky watchers in the East, would have been following the movements of these planets for months. The apparent fusion of two planets would have been a rare and awe-inspiring event. The wise men might have interpreted this conjunction in the constellation of Leo, the lion being a Jewish emblem, as the "go now" message to mount their camels and head towards Jerusalem.

December and January skies continue to be dominated by the planet Mars. At the beginning of December, it's in the south at nightfall, brighter than any other object in the night sky. As December turns into January, Mars fades a little as the separation between Earth and Mars rapidly increases.

On January 14 at 4.30pm, low in the south-west try spot the crescent new moon, which lies just to the left of three planets: Mercury, Jupiter and Saturn. Use binoculars to spot more easily the moon and planets against the sunset glow.

On January 11, just before dawn, look out for a lovely pairing of Venus with the thinnest crescent moon in the south-east.

There is another worthwhile stargazing opportunity on the night of December 13/14. Look out for the bright shooting stars of the Geminid meteor shower. These are dust grains from an asteroid called Phaethon which spend the last fraction of their lives burning up in the earth's atmosphere, producing a majestic flash. It's a perfect year for observing this meteor shower as there is no moon around. So wrap up warm, with warm food and drink, and scan the skies for meteors. Avoid streetlights and try to allow 20 minutes for your eyes to become dark adapted. The later, and longer, you can observe, the better. So cover up with a duvet and lie back to look at the beautiful winter sky above you!

Clear skies! Bunbury Stargazer



Geminid meteor shower

## Bunbury school news

The new half term began with the same guidelines and regulations. All are working well with all the procedures and there is an infectious positivity in school. The world may be strange and different, but wonderful things are continuing to take place behind our walls.

### Remembrance – 'We will remember them'

As always, the school supported the Royal British Legion with the sale of poppies in school. A Remembrance worship via Zoom was held with 87 on the call. Rev Tim led the school in a one-minute silence, whilst our head boy and girl Emlyn and Fleur read the roll of

honour. We decorated the hedge outside of school with poppies and asked the children to make a poppy out of a plastic bottle which we then attached to the hedge.

We had 76 poppies made to add to our display.



Christmas festivities may not be the same as usual in school this year, however Christmas in Bunbury is certainly not cancelled and we have a new plan for the festive period for our children:

**1 December** – Christmas Jumper Day £1 donation for Save the Children Fund

**10 December** – EYFS/KS1 Zoom Nativity

**Friday 11 December** – sponsored reindeer run and woodland Santa walk  
School Christmas lunch

**16 December** – KS2 Zoom carol concert

**18 December** – own clothes day for festive parties in class bubbles.

# Recipe for December: Winter Berry Posset



One of the sweet treats in Watermill Cafe's Christmas Afternoon Tea menu is a luscious Winter Berry Posset. With its lovely pink colour and fruity flavour, it's a dessert that would grace any Christmas table.

## Ingredients

300g mixed frozen berries  
2 tbsp lemon juice  
600ml double cream  
160g caster sugar

## Method

Defrost berries and whizz in a food processor until pureed. Remove any seeds by pushing the mixture through a sieve with a wooden spoon into a jug. Stir through the lemon juice and set to one side. Pour the cream into a saucepan, add the sugar and heat gently until sugar dissolves, then boil for three minutes stirring continuously. Take off

the heat and stir the berry puree into the cream. Finally, pour into individual glasses and chill in the fridge until set.

To serve, decorate each glass topped with blackberries, pomegranate seeds and chopped pistachios (or your favourite fruit or topping of choice). Include a piece of shortbread for extra indulgence!

## Life as a Bunbury churchwarden to 2020

Outgoing churchwardens David Cox and David Kendrick reflect on their times in this important role



As I reflect on the past six years, the first thing that occurs to me is to thank the many people who supported the team to deliver the many tasks, events and services to the

community. Thank you all.

Good times and not so good as demonstrated by lovely sunny days at Beeston Castle when record monies were raised and then washed out rainy days, drying out canvas in the church but still making a few thousand pounds to pay for church maintenance. Missing the team meetings in the Nag's Head as new ideas were developed. Christmas was always a highlight with packed church services and looking for seats. Lots of weddings to look back on.

**David Cox**

An early unknown stonemason's mark chiselled into a sandstone block at the top of the tower, graffiti on the Sir Hugh Calveley's tomb in the chancel done by prisoners incarcerated in the church during the English Civil War. A carved medieval image of an unknown knight from the early 14th century on a coffin lid; an unknown silversmith's mark on a small silver wafer paten from the 17th century, hidden stained-glass makers marks in the windows; and quill-written notations in an old 18th century Bible.

These are all small parts of the history of St Boniface church.

If the church could talk, what stories of life in Bunbury over the past 700 years it would tell. They remain a source of intrigue and a constant reminder that our church is not only a building but that it has an enduring life with generations of people at its heart, and in which my own tenure as churchwarden has been for just a very fleeting moment in time.

My role as a churchwarden, charged with being temporary guardian looking after the extraordinary and irreplaceable St Boniface Church and beautiful daughter chapel at Calveley, both such crucial centres of community life, could not have been performed without the guidance, backing, support and help of so many of you, and my gratitude and thanks to you all.

**David Kendrick**



# Give us 2 minutes

Si Lees-Jones grew up in Lower Peover, where his father still lives now. His family has always been very loving, sporty, outdoorsy and industrious. Si attended The Royal Agricultural College Cirencester, which embedded his love for the countryside, qualifying as a surveyor in Rural Estate Management in Shropshire & North Wales, returning to the family brewery based in North Manchester. He met his very lovely gorgeous wife Chrissy at a teenage party near her family farm by Chester. They met again 15 years later when she was running The Swan at Tarporley, married and moved to Tiverton. They are blessed with two gorgeous young girls Lara (17) and Tessa (14).



## Si Lees-Jones

### What would you change about Bunbury if you could?

For us all to keep the local community, enterprise and church growing in a caring way

### What is the best book you have read to date?

"The Book of Joy" Lasting happiness in a changing world by His Holiness The Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu & Douglas Abrams

### What is your biggest regret?

I joined The Cheshire Yeomanry TA as best recruit and potential officer. I left after 5 years' service, never rising above the rank of trooper. It was fun and got me fit, but perhaps, I should

### If you had a motto what would it be?

Life is what you make it – celebrate it.

### It's a celebrity beer call who would you invite (socially distanced, of course)?

Rev Tim, Prince Charles, Bear Grylls, Hugh Fearnley-Wittingstall, Katie Piper & Joss Stone

### What was your abiding memory of lockdown (good and bad)?

We were very lucky to be based by the seaside in Anglesey, looking after Chrissy's mother. The weather was heavenly. Spring and summer emerged around us. We have never had the chance to be there for so long and completely fell in love with flora, fauna, wildlife, farming, woodlands, beaches, sunrises, sunsets and the sea.

Good memory - we planted trees. Bad memory - the pubs were all closed.

### What would you call your autobiography?

How did I make it this far?

### What was your first job?

Farming - scraping yards, feeding calves, fencing & field work. Proper good physical work. Truly happy, carefree days

have tried for an Army Commission at Sandhurst as other friends did.

### If you were granted one wish, what would it be?

I walk our dogs at sunrise every morning and ask God for everyone in the whole wide world to be happy, healthy & good.

### What is one thing people would be surprised to learn about you?

I am a qualified pilot, despite my terrible TA career

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

To re-open the Yew Tree Bunbury, the Swan Tarporley & the Lion at Malpas better & busier than ever before - please support the cause

### What is your favourite place and why?

I adore the Alps, but a sundowner over-looking Beeston Castle is hard to beat.

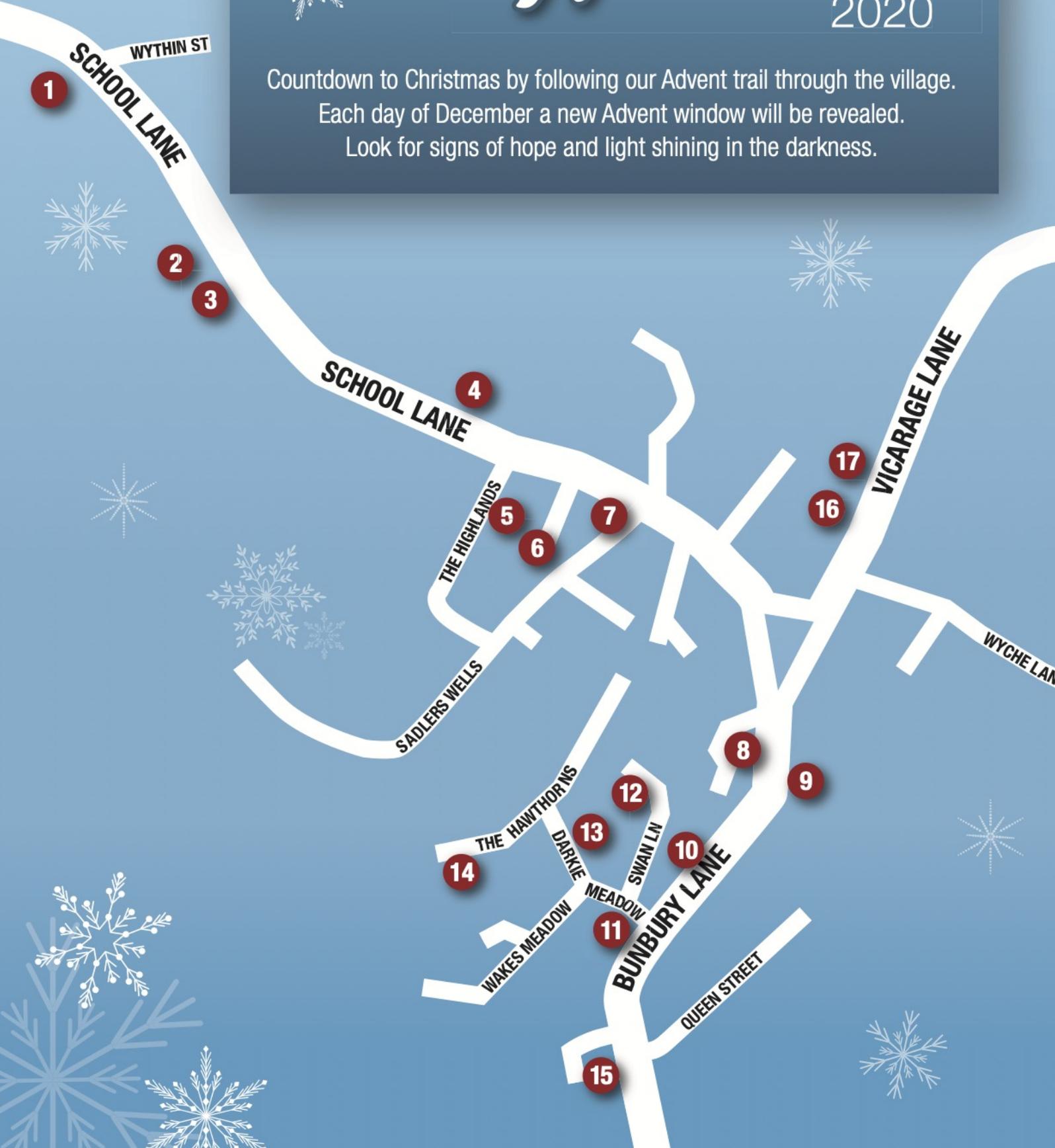
### How would you spend your ideal weekend?

Home with family & friends. Friday early evening gathering at the pub, Saturday exhausting outdoor pursuits in all weathers, dinner party with friends, Sunday Church service (we love them all), Burrows rare roast beef lunch with family collapsed by the fire.

# BUNBURY Advent Windows

2020

Countdown to Christmas by following our Advent trail through the village. Each day of December a new Advent window will be revealed. Look for signs of hope and light shining in the darkness.



## 1ST - 24TH DECEMBER 2020

- 1st** Corner Cottage, School Lane
- 2nd** Alvaston, School Lane
- 3rd** Sunnybank Cottage, School Lane
- 4th** Gables Cottage, School Lane
- 5th** 5 The Highlands
- 6th** 4 Aldersey Way
- 7th** Pemberton, School Lane
- 8th** Cobb House, Bunbury Lane
- 9th** Witch Hazel, Bunbury Lane
- 10th** Brookside, Bunbury Lane
- 11th** Towdah, 1 Darkie Meadow
- 12th** 2 Swan Lane
- 13th** 6 Darkie Meadow
- 14th** 4 The Hawthorns
- 15th** Heather House, Bunbury Lane
- 16th** Stoneleigh, Vicarage Lane
- 17th** Foxdale, Vicarage Lane
- 18th** Athletic House, Wyche Lane
- 19th** Diamond House, Wyche Lane
- 20th** The Mount, Wyche Road
- 21st** Fern Cottage Wyche Lane
- 22nd** 9 Wyche Lane
- 23rd** Belmont Wyche Road
- 24th** 19 Church Row

## 25th Celebrate Christmas with us at St Boniface

For up to date information on Christmas services please check notice boards or [www.stbonifacebunbury.org](http://www.stbonifacebunbury.org)





**Pat Ellis – Reader Emeritus**  
**Star of wonder**

*What inspired those mystics of so long ago to leave their research and follow a star?*

*Various investigations have suggested they were scientists, astronomers as we would know them today, as well as astrologers, looking for spiritual signs and wonders in the conjunction of the planets, according to their ancient time charts.*

*We think there was a planetary conjunction around that time, something rare and significant.*

*So who were they?*

*Where did they come from?*

*They had their star charts, beautiful and intricate, the technology of their day, as they computed their findings.*

*They are often depicted as being of various racial backgrounds, including usually an African' thus representing all the peoples of the earth.*

*In parts of Europe, notably Spain, the Epiphany is a major festival, the time when children get their presents.*

*Let us ride with the Magi into our unknown future.*

*During this past year of disruption, we have not only had to come to terms with a hitherto unknown and deadly virus, which has shaken the whole world to its very core, but it has exposed us all as never before to the inequalities of life, and made us aware more vividly of the injustices suffered by so many, in so many different countries, not least our own.*

*Unprecedented droughts, fires and floods, induced by our rapidly changing climate; racial inequities and prejudices; the treatment of*



*women, from gender pay gaps to rape, murder and 'honour killings'.*

*And the absolute scandal of children on our own doorsteps, going hungry through lack of coherent support services.*

*Those Wise Men, or kings, bringing gifts, travelled hopefully to a land and a future which changed the world for ever.*

*They discovered, in the most unlikely of places, our heavenly King, the Son of God, come as a vulnerable child to earth for us, to save us by his death and resurrection into a new life, which, if we choose, we can all share.*

*O Lord and Saviour, You took it upon yourself To enter into our fallen world, Bringing teaching, healing And your redeeming love.*

*Give us the grace To follow your great example, May we use our gifts, That, in our own small way, We, too, may make a difference.*

**Mike Rogers writes...**

**A pot of cream**



As I write this at the beginning of November, there is much debate about what sort of Christmas we will be having this year. Will we be able to visit family and friends? Will we be able to travel? Will we be able to sing carols? And so it goes on.

These as yet unanswered questions remind me of Christmases of my childhood which were similarly surrounded by uncertainty, albeit an uncertainty of a very different hue.

Is those far off days of my childhood, our milk was delivered by a man with a horse-drawn milkfloat. The man's name has long gone from my memory, but not his horse; it was a glorious animal and it knew the round as well, if not better, than the milkman. The horse needed no guiding; it knew which way to turn at a junction and where to stop for each delivery.

This was just as well, because come Christmas Eve, milk deliveries would become somewhat erratic. Every customer would want to thank our milkman for his service and their thanks would mostly come in the form of a generous tot of this or that.

Living at the end of the round as we did, our milkman's

arrival (or not) would become increasingly uncertain as the day went on. This increasing uncertainty would be matched only by my mother's increasing anxiety - were we to have any milk to see us through the Christmas break and, more importantly would our milkman, in his befuddled state, remember to bring the once-a-year treat of a pot of double cream?

As the day went on and the absence of our milkman continued, either my sister and I or my father would be sent out to try and find our errant milkman. Meanwhile, at home, the anxiety levels reached the stratosphere.

But once man and horse had been located and the delivery secured, calm would descend and peace would reign.

And it struck me that the coming of the Christ child is a bit like that, as is our reaction to him.

And my question is this. Are you confident that the peace of the Christ child will come this Christmas, or do you have to go out and search for him?

Whichever it might be, I hope you find the peace that the Christ child promises, mindful that his coming is, in some ways, as significant as that once-a-year treat of my childhood of a pot of cream.

**Our prayers for December**

We pray for all those who find Christmas difficult, especially those who are missing loved ones departed, remembering the family and friends of **Don** and **Jean Armstrong**.

*Lord God, We celebrate the birth of your son Jesus, born to a refugee family in an oppressed country some 2,000 years ago. Now, as then, he still brings a message of peace and goodwill and love to all - Your love God, for each one of us. Amen*

# From our bookshelf

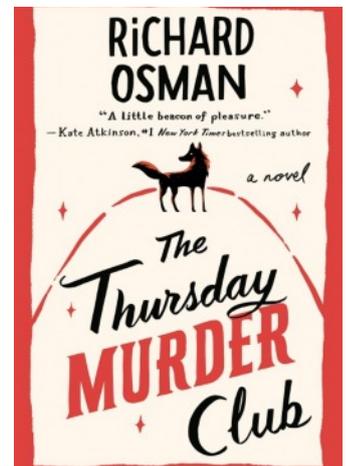
## The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman

*A review by regular contributor, Paige Turner*

Richard Osman will be well known to anyone who watches early evening TV, having been Alexander Armstrong's 'pointless friend' on the quiz show that he created in 2009. Having worked behind the camera for many years, he now spends most of his time as a presenter and now as an author with this his debut novel, *The Thursday Murder Club*. Set in an up market retirement community in Kent, it tells the story of a group of elderly friends who meet up every week to try and unravel old, unsolved murders. They suddenly find themselves in the midst of a real crime when a murder is committed on their doorstep.

This is a light but thoroughly enjoyable read with some great characters and a sprightly plot that carries you effortlessly through the book. Osman's TV production

background is evident in the style and pace of the novel which you can envisage on the screen almost from the first page, indeed Steven Spielberg has already picked up the film rights. It's a delight to encounter a cast of elderly characters who are written as individuals rather than two dimensional caricatures and if you are looking for something to lift the gloom of winter lockdown then look no further. Great fun, I can't wait for the sequel.



## Parish pursuits New curate ordained at Cathedral

The Co-op reopened on Friday 13 November, costing over £1m. There are new security bollards in the car park and a large hole was repaired. During lockdown our pubs are closed but the Village Chippy remains open and the Dysart and Yew Tree are doing takeaways. The fireworks were very successful, and many people commented on how they appreciated them during the pandemic. The Parish council are increasing the frequency of bin emptying as more people are walking the village during lockdown.

St Boniface Church is organising Advent windows in peoples' homes for December and will plan a route for those interested in finding them. The Parish Council are discussing with Father Christmas how he can visit us, and be COVID-compliant, and the village Christmas tree will be going up as usual.

Congratulations to Lesley Davies OBE our new Parish Cllr.

Leila Potter, Parish Press Officer

Swinging at the bottom of my garden chatting to God when I was eight and telling my parents that as God was my heavenly Father I would go wherever He told me to when I was twelve, I still had no idea that aged 50 I would become a deacon in the Church of England. My life has taken many twists and turns to this point, some parts joyous, others painful. The one thing I can



say through it all is God is faithful and good. I want to thank the



amazing folk of Bunbury and Tilstone Fearnall who have made the beginning of my curacy in these strange times so warm and welcoming. I am looking forward to exploring the faithfulness and goodness of God with you in the coming years.

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[www.slhospice.co.uk/pudding](http://www.slhospice.co.uk/pudding)

The Great Hospice Pudding Day on 13 December is a mash up of a live and virtual event.

In the morning take on your distance challenge by running, walking or cycling wearing your unique pudding t-shirt. On return open up your event box and award yourself your pudding medal (which converts into a memorable tree decoration), make up your complimentary hot chocolate and marshmallow drink and enjoy the sweet treats.

In the afternoon join us for a complimentary Christmas quiz on Facebook live.

Your special event number in your pack gives you entry to the fabulous Christmas prize hamper draw during the quiz.

Who's in? More detail from [www.slhospice.co.uk/pudding](http://www.slhospice.co.uk/pudding)

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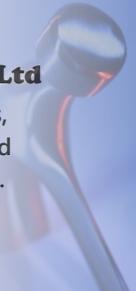
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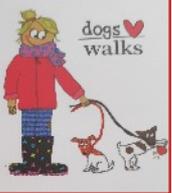
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In such unprecedented times we wish to emphasise the thoughts of the nation in thanking our NHS doctors, nurses & staff, paramedics, all carers in our community and care homes and the long list of keyworkers keeping our country functioning. Our best wishes to everyone, stay safe.



# Jacqueline Wilson

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