



# Link

July 2021

Also in this issue...

*Yesterday's the past, tomorrow's the future, but today is a gift* *Anon*



7

Nicky Done gives us two minutes



8

Mike Rogers colours in the detail



10-11

Paying tribute to two village stalwarts

A magazine for the parishes of Bunbury and Tilstone Fearnall



Forest Church is a creative way to continue worship with young families at St Boniface during this pandemic. In one session we created shelters using tarpaulin and reflected on how we can prepare ourselves for life storms. We are so lucky to be able to gather in a beautiful ancient churchyard under the shelter of the trees; a perfect space to leave our busy lives to one side, to be still, and to reflect and find space to enjoy nature, and spend time with our family and friends to think about what it means to be children of God.

We meet for 30 minutes on the 1st Sunday of the month at 10.30am. If you would like any further information please contact [bunburyouthworker@gmail.com](mailto:bunburyouthworker@gmail.com)



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You can also read The Link online at: [www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk](http://www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk)

# Community news

All being well, the next meeting of **Bunbury Gardening Club** will be a visit to Parm Place, Great Budworth CW9 6HF on Tuesday 20 July. Meet at the property at 6.30pm. Admission £4.00. Further details from Margaret Bourne 01829 260944. New members and guests are welcome, but please make yourselves known to a member of the committee.

**Lucy Munro** is trying to recruit enough volunteers to **clean St Boniface** so that there are at least five or six people every month – even then with that number of people only the bare minimum can be done in such a large building.

The next session is on Tuesday 6 July. It's always held the first Tuesday of the month starting at 9am. If you can spare an hour or so, even occasionally, it would be much appreciated. A bigger group would allow us to tackle much-needed tasks on ladders, like the impressive cobwebs in the entrance!

We wish the very best of luck to **Stuart Wood** (below), member of the British canoeing team representing Bunbury and Great Britain in the ParalympicsGB in Tokyo.



**Beth Hayward** wants to say a big thank you to everyone who showed their love and care in different ways. She writes: "Tim joked that he has never eaten so well after weeks of meals being dropped off at the vicarage!"



"Breaking your ankle in the middle of lockdown is not much fun! When the only legitimate excuse for meeting people is exercise and you can't even get off your own couch, it's fair to say things were feeling pretty bleak. This is until my sisters decided to club together and buy me a mobility scooter but it turns out mobility scooters are a bit like buses and two came at once. The second generously donated by the Chesworth family, couldn't really be described as a mobility scooter. It's more like the Landy of mobility scooters, known as a Trampler and my goodness who knew you could have such fun whilst recuperating. Not only could I nip to the shop or video families taking part on our Easter Trail, but I could even join Tim on his runs over Peckforton hills, skidding and freewheeling through the muddy paths of the sandstone trail. The only obstacle getting in its way were the styles or kissing gates, but after

## A word from the editor

*It has been a month in which two people who have been so prominent in village life have been lost to us: Margaret Large and Helen Martyn. They will be sadly missed by many.*

*I was lucky to know both of them and went to their funerals. As I stood outside St Boniface listening to Margaret's funeral on the speaker system (which was very good) I looked at the church with the clock, the doors and the amazing sandstone bricks, and contemplated the length of time the church has stood there. Looking at it with the blue sky moving above, it gave me a great sense of comfort.*

*The food bank still needs lots of help. There are many people in need. Donations can be dropped off at the village hall.*

several recces we soon discovered lots of paths opening up through the beautiful countryside around us and even managed to ascend the top of Beeston castle!



"I was so sorry to say goodbye to the Trampler but delighted to hear that it was going to someone else who needed it more than I did. I'm sure my physiotherapist would agree that it's no bad thing, because now you will see me walking around, even if I am a little slower than usual."

**The copy deadline for the August issue is Friday 16 July. The magazine should be delivered starting Saturday 31 July. Notices to [bunburyparishoffice@gmail.com](mailto:bunburyparishoffice@gmail.com)**



**TIM HAYWARD**

Your Vicar

# Just do it!

One of my heroes, Ron Hill, died last month, at the age of 82. Most people, I guess, will know him more from his eponymous sportswear brand. I have been wearing a pair of Ron Hill jogging bottoms for over a decade and refuse to run in any other socks than the legendary Hilly's, for Ron used his PhD in textile chemistry to pioneer today's lightweight, water-resistant running gear.

However, it was his marathon running which made him a prominent name in British athletics in the 1960s/1970s.

Ron competed in 115 marathons in all, winning 21, and ran his last in 1996. In a distinguished track career he represented Great Britain at three Olympics. A truly dedicated runner, Ron did not miss a day's training for – wait for it – 52 years. From 20th December, 1964, to 31st January, 2017, he ran every day, covering an amazing 158,628 miles. Even surgery didn't stop him - truly remarkable.

And that's the secret, and not just in athletics: a day-by-day discipline, come what may. It's the one thing running has taught me and has had a massive influence on my spiritual journey. Except nowadays, to avoid injury, I only run alternate days.

However busy, whatever the weather, however I may be feeling I go for a run. And of course, daily discipline is at the heart of the Christian life. Each day represents a challenge. As Jesus taught: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." (Luke 9:23).

Like running, taking up our cross each day, every day, is something God calls us to do – however we may be feeling, whatever the cost, wherever we may be. It's a mindset. And so we need daily discipline. There is simply no alternative if, in the words of the apostle Paul, we are going to win "the crown of righteousness." (2 Timothy 4:8)

For myself I grew up with what came to be known as the Quiet Time, an invaluable daily discipline. At its very least it would involve reading a passage from the Bible guided by a commentary and then a short time of prayer, usually guided by the passage. Simple but effective. And over the years my QT has evolved, just like my daily run.

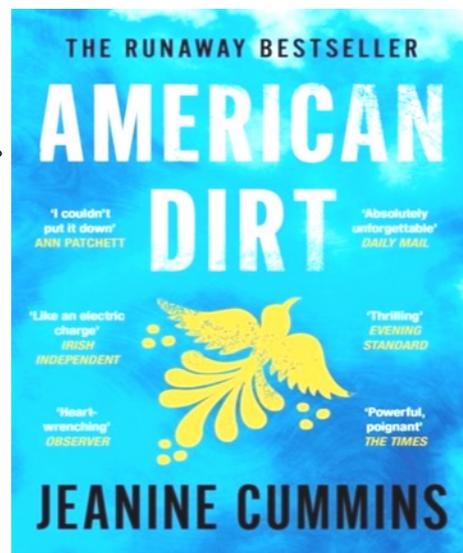
Over the years I've used different Bible reading aids: Scripture Union, Every Day with Jesus, BRF Guidelines, and more recently a CofE Daily Reflections App from the App Store.

Such spiritual discipline is hugely important: moreover, as we engage with God as individuals, we become better team players as members of Christ's church. This is certainly the experience of Henri Nouwen: "Whenever we pray alone, study, read, write, or simply spend quiet time away from the places where we interact with each other directly, we are potentially opened for a deeper intimacy with each other."

So when it comes to daily devotions, there's just one quote from the world of athletics, from Ron Hill's great rival, Nike no less: "Just do it!"

## From my bookshelf...

### American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins



We've all seen images of migrants in flimsy dinghies rescued from perilous sea crossings. The displaced, victims of persecution, seeking a better life. People fleeing something far worse than the unknown end to their illegal journey. It's hard to imagine the desperation they must feel and the journey they have been on, especially when there are children, so often we just don't – it's too hard.

This novel will take you on a journey with illegal migrants as they attempt to reach and cross the border from Mexico into el norte. The narrative is driven by Lydia, a bookshop owner from Acapulco, and her eight-year-old son Luca. They are running for their lives following the massacre of their entire family by a narcotics cartel, who's leader is seeking revenge for an exposé written by Lydia's journalist husband. On their journey to reach the border on the roof of a freight train, the infamous La Bestia, and then bribe a coyote (people smuggler) to help them cross the desert to US soil we meet other migrants whose reasons for being there are no less shocking.

Although the novel has a sensationalist all guns blazing level of violence that does not make easy reading, it does convey the

loss of hope that drives the perilous choices that Lydia and her fellow migrants must make. In particular the journey on La Bestia on the top of whose boxcars scores of migrants ride, at risk of mutilation or death through falling, or of capture by police agents, cartels and unofficial migrant-herders (la migra) who swarm the trains to pick off illegal passengers.

As characters I found Lydia and her precocious son Luca to be the least likeable, there was a sense that their situation was a consequence of bad luck and poor judgement without which they would have carried on in their settled middle-class lives. "All her life Lydia has pitied those poor people; she has wondered with the sort of detached fascination of the comfortable elite how dire the conditions of their lives must be wherever they come from that this is a better option. That these people would leave their homes, their cultures, their families, even their languages, and venture into tremendous peril, risking their very lives, all for the chance to get to the dream of some faraway country that doesn't even want them." It is only when she and her son must join them, Los Migrantes, does she truly think about

them as individuals forced to make choices to survive. The plight of their fellow migrants fleeing atrocities that were endemic to their homelands made them more sympathetic characters. It is their stories that are the most compelling.

On one level the novel is driven by Lydia's heart in mouth race to escape the revenge of the cartels and just for that is a good thriller read. I would however recommend it for the fact it should give you pause for thought about people across the world who are faced with no choice but to set off for what they believe will be a better place not knowing if they will ever make it.

#### Footnote

*American Dirt* has been the subject of controversy since its publication in 2019 with critics arguing that Cummins exploits the suffering of Mexican immigrants and resorts to stereotypes. The story behind this controversy is also worth a read.

Contributor: Margi Nalia

Link readers will have been alerted to the **partial solar eclipse** highlighted in last month's 'Sky Notes'. Two wonderful photos (below) have been submitted that capture recent lunar events.



Clouds parted for a few minutes whilst I was in my garden in Bunbury  
Submitted by Dave Kelsall 11 6 21



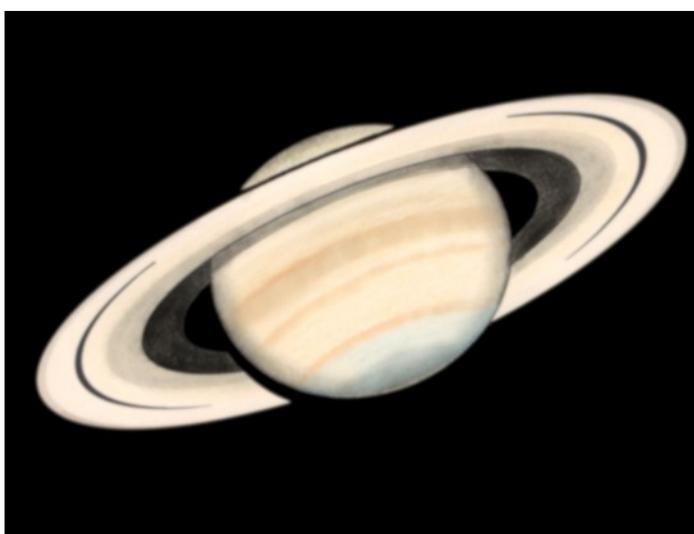
The full moon photo was taken by Peter Styles on  
26 May 2021 in Bunbury

# Sky notes for July

*The summer nights in July are still quite short – it gets dark late and, before you know it, dawn is arriving. The midnight skies are dominated by two bright planets: Jupiter and Saturn. And don't forget to look out for brilliant Venus.*

This is the month when you need a good, unobstructed southerly horizon to get the best views of the gas giants, Jupiter and Saturn, and the wonderful constellation of Sagittarius. None of these rises very far as seen from our northerly latitudes. A sea view can help to give a good horizon, if you are on holiday, otherwise fields with trees only visible in the far distance can also be good.

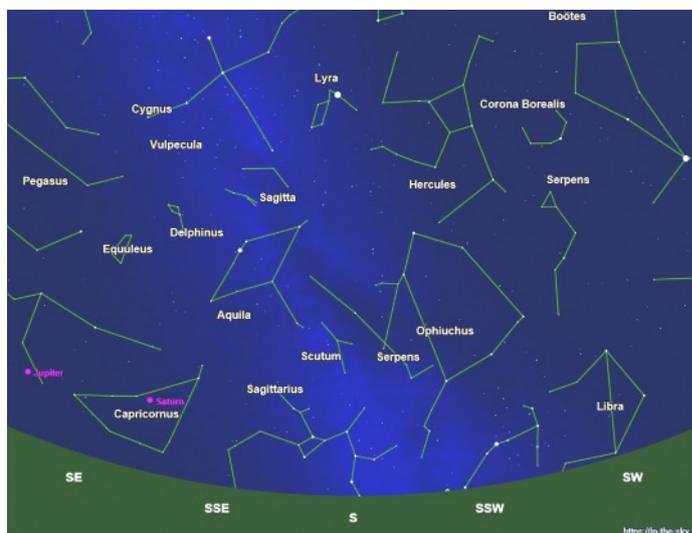
Saturn rises about 10pm and at 10.30pm is followed by Jupiter, shining very much brighter. You might have to wait a couple of hours for them to get high



Saturn on 1 June 2021 drawn by Paul Abel of Leicester using his 30 cm telescope

enough to see properly. On 24 July, Saturn is above the full moon, with Jupiter to the left. By the following night, 25 July, the moon passes below Jupiter.

Saturn is often called "the ringed planet" and its rings are visible in a small telescope at high magnification. The accompanying colour sketch was



Looking south from Bunbury at midnight in mid-July. Saturn and Jupiter are low in the South East

made by the British Astronomical Association's Paul Abel, using his 30 cm diameter telescope. You can see a dark gap in the middle of the rings, called the Cassini Division. It was discovered in 1675 by Giovanni Cassini at the Paris Observatory using a refracting telescope that had a 64 mm objective lens.

Earlier on in July evenings, as the bright summer twilight fades, the first object you'll spot is Venus. Look in the west, in the region when the sun has set. As the sky darkens, you should be able to spot Venus as bright "star" before any other star appears.

Look out for Sagittarius low in the south. This is not a particularly obvious constellations, but on a dark moonless night, this is when the milky way is at its brightest. The chart shows the milky way as a hazy blue band, ending in Sagittarius. If you scan this area with binoculars you will be able to see the rich stars clouds and star clusters that make up our milky way galaxy. July's New Moon is on the 10th, so a week before and after that is a good time for spotting the milky way in the south at around midnight.

Clear skies!

Bunbury Stargazer

# Recipe for July: PCC member Mike Ridley offers his wife Carole's fabulous 'Paradise Slice'



## Ingredients

A little jam  
4oz melted butter  
1 cup of semolina  
1 cup of dried fruit  
1 cup of sugar  
Glacé cherries (chopped or other fruit eg. apricots)  
1 beaten egg  
Short crust pastry (can be ready rolled)

## Method

*This is a recipe I came across 46 years ago when I attended our local parish church's Young Wives Group in Carlisle and has always been very popular with the family. Ingredients can be doubled if using a larger tin.*

Heat oven to 200°C (180°C fan).  
Grease and line swiss roll tin with parchment.

Line with pastry and spread over with jam.

Mix together the rest of the ingredients and spread on top of the jam level.

Bake until golden.

# Ruminations of a chilli grower

I now realise that it is all very well to decide to grow a wide range of species but some, mainly the more obscure African varieties (with the exception of Malawi Birds-Eye which is coming along a treat), are not as receptive to either my ministrations or the climate or both and on mature reflection perhaps that's not altogether surprising. Still, it was worth a shot as otherwise it would all be very boring. Some of the "American" varieties, Jalapeno for instance, already have rather large chillies (see picture) which I could pick if I didn't want to see



how they ripened to red in the fullness of time! However, nothing is ever plain sailing in the world of the chilli grower as this sudden

burst of beautiful weather has also been a signal for "beautiful bursts" of greenfly to appear especially in the crowded confines of my cold frame. I have taken quite a few out to give the others some room and am going to let them try living outside as the tomatoes seem to like our outdoors climate quite well and there has to be some upside to global warming.

I've also dipped the top leaves etc in a big tub of suds from washing-up liquid which apparently interferes with Greenfly breathing and have bought some NEEM Oil, courtesy of Amazon as the next line of attack if they don't vanish. [https://www.fatalii.net/Growing\\_chile\\_peppers/Fighting\\_Pests](https://www.fatalii.net/Growing_chile_peppers/Fighting_Pests)

The greenhouse chillies (right) have had the luxury of much more space and have been interplanted with marigolds (which are supposed to dissuade green and whitefly) and have escaped the worst predations (so far and fingers-crossed). The tomatoes (outdoor and greenhouse varieties alike) on the kitchen wall are

now making decent growth and are about four-foot high and have set some fruits and so my hopes are high(ish) for them as they have been my main source



of tomatoes well into the autumn and early winter for several years. The greenhouse ones are doing fine too. And, so we proceed almost to the Summer Solstice after which I can't really believe that we have to experience the days shortening again but it is the case. Maybe my pieces will shorten too which may please the Editor. Happy gardening whatsoever kind you incline to!

# Give us 2 minutes

**Nicky Done** was born at Leighton Hospital and has grown up in Bunbury from day 1. Although Bunbury has changed massively over the years, she couldn't imagine living anywhere else. She is very glad that her child, Dale, also grew up in Bunbury and now lives in Tarporley.

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

Do as I say not do as I've done.

**It's a celebrity beer call who would you invite? Socially distanced of course**

I am a massive tennis fan and love Rafa Nadal, but I am not a big drinker or a massive socialite, but I would love to get together with all my family for some food and a catch up .

**What would you call your autobiography?**

Just a country girl

**What was your first job?**

My first job was a voluntary position at The Ethel Elk Nursery in Crewe. I then went on to Nanny for two baby little girls.

**How has COVID affected your profession?**

As I'm a carer COVID hasn't stopped me from working over the last 12 months. Care is very close to my heart I've done all aspects of it from babies to 104 year-olds. I'm currently a one-to-one carer for a lovely, inspirational, little lady in Alpraham who never gives up regardless. I've also had my mum to care for and keep safe. I never thought I'd be living through a pandemic.

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

I would like all the building in Bunbury to calm down, we're losing beautiful green fields and I would also like everyone to be friendly. Say hello when you are out for a walk.



*Nicky Done*

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

I read lots of books mainly true life and factual, but I have just read *All Dogs Great and Small* by Graeme Hall. It was very interesting and have gained a few tips.

**What is your biggest regret?**

I don't really do regrets; you have to cope with the life you are given but I would say make time for yourself something I never really do.

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

One wish... I'd like my son to carry on being happy and perhaps for him and Kirstie to one day make me a nanna.

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

I love to go abroad every year with my friend Mandy, we go on ghost hunts!

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

Hopefully over the next 12 months the world can become normal again so people can become happy again mixing with friends and most importantly seeing family and being able to enjoy their time

**What is your favourite place and why?**

Being at home is probably my favourite place I'm a home bird. I love being with my son and his girlfriend Kirstie, My mum and I always have a lovely Sunday lunch every other weekend at their house I also have my dog Ronnie he's like my right arm.

**How would you spend your ideal weekend?**

An ideal weekend would be as above with family but also a little time for myself I love walking clearing my head in the fresh air, or visiting the beach – there's just something about being by the water.



## Claire Wilson 'Cause the times they are a-changin'

Bob Dylan's song was recorded and first played in October 1963 and has come to be the iconic anthem that many a generation of activists and frustrated youth choose to express their discontent. And as we look around us today, we see disaffected people, those whose lives are forever changed by this global pandemic, those whose families have suffered unbearable loss, those who face financial uncertainty, those who are facing a tsunami of mental health issues. During this time, we have also seen the rise of some ugly sides of human nature; in the increase in domestic abuse and violence towards women, racially motivated murders, and corruption within governments.

It certainly feels like 'times are a-changin' with a sense of unrest in the air and calls for justice to prevail. The zeitgeist of our times feels like "enough is enough". With each and every generation there has and will be ideologies and circumstances that are intolerable, things that need to change.

Change can feel extremely uncomfortable though. It means living through uneasy times, asking questions of ourselves, of others and the world

around us. It often requires a culture shift in minds and hearts.

The contemplative theologian Richard Rohr speaks of a cycle of change: order, disorder, and reorder. He suggests that this is reflected in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. The religious leaders in Jesus' time were often hypocritical and oppressive, so Jesus taught in a non-violent way that this was not acceptable, and he disturbed the status quo, creating disorder. This disorder was deemed so threatening to those in power that they chose to silence and stop it the only way they knew how, by destroying it completely. But Jesus' death was not the end. With his resurrection, he created a reordering, a new way of being and a new way of living life.

Transformational change is never without cost, but it bears life giving potential. When we challenge the status quo, when we ask the awkward questions, when we say no to injustice, there is birthed the chance and opportunity of a new way. Where reordering happens, where we take the best of what was, where we lay aside that which is wrong, we create the space and way for a better future.



## Mike Rogers writes... Colouring in the detail

There is something about children that always takes us by surprise.

During my full-time ministry, I often used to make my initial contact with a family about, say, a baptism by phone. I was always a little wary if my call was answered by a child. Usually, I would ask if Mummy or Daddy was at home and more often or not I would be passed to the appropriate adult.

But just occasionally, the innocence and spontaneity of childhood would take over and rather than say, 'Yes, I'll go and get him or her' the child would say, 'My Daddy's in, but he's in the toilet and he takes such a long time'.

You may smile, but it is that unaffected honesty combined with trust, a vivid imagination and a belief in a bright future that we see time and time again in children.

Perhaps it is these virtues that Jesus was trying to get us to embrace when he said '... unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matt 18:30), for

unless we are honest, unless we do hold in our mind's eye a vision of how the world should be and unless we do have a belief that the future will be better, we might as well give up now.

The trouble is, we are a bit short of detail. We might know what we want the future to look like and how we want it to be shaped, but the practicalities of how we get there are not quite so straightforward.

Another tale about a child might best describe this conundrum.

A little boy was drawing a picture and his father asked him what he was drawing.

'God' said the little boy.

'You can't draw God' his father said, 'No one knows what he looks like.'

'They will soon,' said the boy, 'I'm nearly finished.'

Perhaps if we each drew a picture of God in our lives, in all his glory, then we would begin to know what the world should look like - and then with the outline firmly fixed we could set to and colour in the detail.

## Our prayers for July

We pray for all those who are able to take time out over the summer holidays, remembering especially our children and young people and those working in education.

May they know your refreshment and joy as they rest in your summer sun.

We pray too for the families and friends of **Malcolm Turner, Helen Martyn, Margaret Large and Harold Wilson**.

May they know your peace and the warmth of your comforting presence.

*This world, God,  
Your creation  
Rolled into a  
sphere  
Packaged in  
sunshine  
Gift-wrapped in  
love  
Given to us  
Thank you.  
(John Birch)*

# Always round the corner

## Canon Chris Samuels shares his memories of St Boniface

*Many years ago, Canon Chris Samuels was Rector of Tarporley. He wrote to the Link recently to share a few thoughts about how St Boniface has come into his life in so many different ways over the years:*

Browsing through some old files during the pandemic I came across one marked 'Old Stamps'. On opening it up I found to my delight two particular stamps commemorating the 1300th Anniversary of St Bonifatius der Deutschen, with the dates 754-1954 and Deutsche Bundespost. And a few weeks later I came across a copy of the Bunbury Link magazine. Coincidence? I don't know, but it prompted me to write this article.

As a small boy I remember my father telling me about his life as a youngster living in Antwerp. He always got excited when he recalled (often!) that he was the first baby to be baptised in the new Anglican Church of St. Boniface being built in the city. He was born in 1908 but the church wasn't quite finished and so his parents had to wait till 1910 for his Baptism. He always said how proud he was that his parents named him John Bernard BONIFACE Samuels as a salute to St Boniface and the church in Antwerp. Since he told me this it is strange how Boniface has cropped up so many times in life. Happily I've had a chance to go to Antwerp, and see my father's Baptism recorded in the Registers and preach there.

I remember as a young lad doing a holiday job in Exeter SPCK shop and cycling over to Crediton one day to pay homage to St Boniface. A fine church there with strong links with the Saint. Was he born there? I ask. And then

some years later after three years at King's College London the next stage was 'the theological finishing school' at St Boniface College, Warminster. It was a wonderful place to prepare for one's ministry and I look back to it with tremendous happiness. Hardly a finishing school though, as I'm still learning every day! But Boniface was our inspiration.

And then my first parish was at St. Helen's, Tarporley. And what should the neighbouring parish be, but St. Boniface, Bunbury! When living in Tarporley I often helped out and preached in the church which was always a great joy. Happy days!

But there's more to come! I am a great lover of the islands off the Western Coast of Scotland as well as Orkney and Shetland and over the last forty years have visited some 80 of the inhabited ones. Recently I had the chance to go to one of the Orkney Isles, Papa Westray where I went to visit the wee chapel dedicated to St Boniface. What a gem to come across so far away from civilisation! Nearby is a religious site where the early Christian anchorites probably set up camp and where several small stone Celtic crosses from the graveyard have been found over recent years. All very fascinating. The site exemplifies how far Boniface's influence spread: he was a great evangelist and missionary and was steadfast in building up the church wherever he went. I did enjoy my visit and was specially moved that the small local community on the island had had the wit and energy to renovate the chapel some years ago. It is now used for worship and concerts and is much appreciated by visitors to the island.

Not sure where or when my next link with Boniface will come but you never know, I may pop over to Germany and visit the Cathedral and monastery in Fulda to see his last resting place. Now that's a good idea!

### Meaning in the **miracles** Church Services for July

Sunday 9.30am St Judes | 10.30am St Boniface  
Holy Communion - 1st Sunday St Boniface | 3rd Sunday St Judes

4th July | The healing of the Syrophenician woman's daughter

Jesus brings healing and wholeness for the whole world

11th July | The healing of a deaf mute

Jesus breaks down barriers and opens our hearts & minds

18th July | The healing of the man born blind

Jesus is the light of the world enlightening a world shrouded in darkness

25th July | The healing of the Centurion's Servant

Jesus is free from prejudice, loving enemies into friends

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# Margaret Large



Graham and Bill, Margaret's brothers gave Margaret's eulogy, but sadly their sister Mary who would have loved to have been there was too poorly to attend.

Margaret was born on the 3 May 1934 in Bunbury to parents Tom and Grace Edge. They had six children, Muriel, Margaret, Mary, Bill, Bernard and Graham, the baby of the family!

Margaret's father and mother lived in Bunbury near what was the old surgery close to the church. One night in November 1940 there was an air raid and a bomb landed nearby which demolished the house and extensively damaged the church roof. Muriel and Margaret were in bed upstairs when the bomb struck destroying the roof. A large beam fell and landed on the headboard of the bed, remarkably this stopped the beam from crushing them both. The house and shop were extensively damaged, and the family had to move out and lived in various houses in Bunbury for the remainder of the war.

The family grew up at the Gables, Beeston Brook, it was a place where everyone had such lovely memories. The family was now complete, and Margaret was always helping around the house.

Margaret's dad had motorbikes throughout his life, so it was no surprise when some of the youngsters followed suit. The house became a place where

friends would turn up on their bikes, and Margaret would rally round making sandwiches and tea.

On Sundays everyone looked forward to a roast dinner. Margaret and her mother would prepare it, and everyone was given strict instructions to be back at the agreed time. Inevitably there were the odd occasions when there were latecomers. Margaret was not best pleased! There were some interesting exchanges and some colourful language. She left us in no doubt how she felt!

Margaret worked in retail most of her life, in many of the shops in the village, for John Burrows who had the shop which is now the co-op and then in the co-op. She also worked for her mother who had a shop in the village and a very successful business on Nantwich market selling clothes for 25 years.

Margaret met John and they married in 1975, everyone thought it was wonderful. They lived at School House in College Lane and had many happy years there. They were blessed with wonderful neighbours.

John & Margaret travelled extensively visiting many countries around the world including a wonderful trip to New Zealand to visit her cousin Brian. They were also involved in the bowling club and had lots of friends

Margaret had inherited the family trait of arthritis. She was having major issues particularly with curvature of the spine. It was a difficult decision to have a major operation to insert steel rods in her spine. This procedure involved major risk, but she decided she must go ahead. The operation initially seemed successful, but sadly this was short lived. It soon became clear this was something she would have to live with. As usual Margaret just got on with it and rarely complained, "there was always someone worse off than her"

Tragically John suddenly died at home, it was a terrible shock, although terribly upset Margaret coped and carried on, but

no longer had John to help her. She had wonderful support from neighbours and friends and family. Muriel her elder sister had passed away some years before, Christine, her younger daughter became the daughter that Margaret and John never had. Christine provided help and support over the years, Margaret loved her very much.

Margaret made the difficult decision to move to 14 Queen Street in Bunbury with some apprehension. It was a major change; she needn't have worried. She immediately felt at home surrounded by wonderful neighbours and friends.

Moving to Queen Street was a new lease of life for Margaret, new friends and new opportunities which included Fridays at Tillys the local walking group and going to the Methodist chapel. People will have seen her with her walking aid going to the shops and wondered how she managed. Woe betide anyone offering to help her as she was fiercely independent and would tell you in no uncertain terms she could manage, it was this stubborn determination that enabled her to carry on when her condition was worsening. It was her way of dealing with the pain and frustration.

More recently her condition deteriorated, and she had to go into Leighton Hospital. It became apparent that she would not be able to go home again, and she went to Clarendon House. Lock down sadly made it difficult to visit, but although Margaret was very poorly as the restrictions were eased, we were able to visit on her 87th birthday. It was a shame that her many friends and extended family were unable to go due to COVID restrictions. It was less than 3 weeks later that Margaret passed away with family by her side.

Margaret's family would like to thank all her friends and extended family for all the love and support over the years and the staff at Clarendon Court for the love and care they showed Margaret during her time there.

# Helen Martyn

Helen Jane Gunnery was born at home in Waverton on 23 July 1948, the eldest child of Roger and Joan Gunnery – the Gunnery's being a feed merchants and shop owners in Tarvin since the 1840s, with the former shop still bearing the name. She attended Waverton Primary School and was one of the first years to attend the secondary modern at Christleton. It may surprise no one who has sampled her cakes that she excelled at home economics. As a teenager in the 1960s, she was a huge music fan, and she and her sisters saw – or rather, screamed at – The Beatles at the Royalty Theatre in Chester when 'Please Please Me' was in the charts. They were put out to find that their mother had waited outside and had a cigarette with the Fab Four when they snuck out during a break.

Helen completed a secretarial and bookkeeping course at Chester College and went to work at Beresford Adams, thereafter moving to Wrights in Tarporley. While at Wrights, a handsome young Cornishman called Graham Martyn entered her life. They were married in Tarvin Church, and started married life at Cobblers Cross in Tarporley, where they welcomed Roger in March 1976. They moved to Bunbury in 1976 and Andrew was a surprise Christmas present in 1977, a week early.

Both Roger and Andrew attended playgroup in Bunbury and the primary school. Sadly, Roger died just before his 6th birthday. To cope with her grief she needed to be busy. As part of her rebuilding, she went to work at the playgroup (later renamed Early Birds) where she stayed for 26 years. Upon retirement she earned the 'Chairman's Cup' from the Parish Council.

She was a great support to Graham with his involvement with Nantwich show, first as Cattle Secretary then as General Secretary. She remained a constant presence at the Show, being part of the team providing refreshments for judges.

Helen was a supporter of many charitable causes and fundraising events for the church, school and other causes, and helped arrange the Farm Women's Lunch for many years.

Graham's sudden passing in 2011 led to a new phase of life. She volunteered in Bunbury School; she so loved the children and the classroom was spotless by the end of the afternoon.

With no little guts and determination, Helen made the decision that there were places she wanted to see, leading to regular trips to Europe: walking in Italy, snow-shoeing in Switzerland and dancing to Abba in Morocco for New Year 2019. She would talk to anyone; a holiday report would not be complete without the people she met.

Family was very important to Helen; summers and alternate Christmas' were spent at Graham's family's farm in Cornwall with Brian, Mary and nephews James and Edward. She was



'Aunty Helen' to Debbie, Annabella, Elspeth, Eleanor, Ellis, Liam, Alice, Giorgio and Luchia.

Village life in Bunbury was also important. She was a member of the WI, Gardening Club and a regular at Keep fit classes. Whether it be the church fete or other organisations she was involved with, she would always bake her delicious cakes. She walked each day, and it was not unusual for an hour's walk to take double that due to the amount of people she would see and chat to.

The lockdown led to new challenges, which Helen took on to help maintain friendships with local people and further afield. She mastered Zoom and other new technology, however this was not without phone calls to Andrew trying to describe problems on her phone or tablet.

Helen was very proud of her son Andrew and grateful for all that he did for her. She loved to go to his house do a bit of gardening, do his ironing and generally sort out. She knew she needed a lot of coaching with technology and totally relied on him.

Helen was stoic. Her life has not been easy. She never moaned and always got on with it. One friend said she was always quietly reliable and she took it for granted that Helen would always be there. She hoped that Helen realised how much people thought of her.

Andrew, Pat, Charles and Bill thank everyone for their cards and best wishes during this time, and for the support that everyone has given to Helen in recent years, both following the death of Graham and the recent upheavals in lockdown. Andrew wrote: "If Helen's spirit and attitude in life tells us anything, it's to say hello to strangers, say yes to opportunities, visit new places and try new things."



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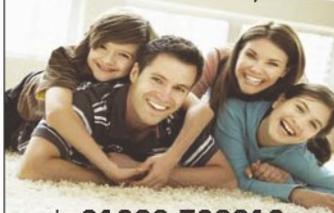
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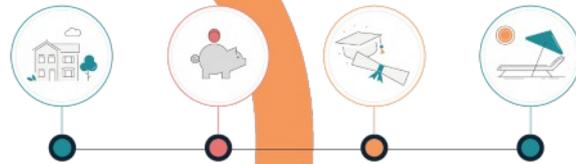
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