

Link



A sceptic is a person who would ask God for his ID card

~Edgar A. Shoaff

They switch celebrations after fire at Peckforton

Couple miss out on Rick's blessing



MAJOR JOB: At one point 100 firemen were tackling the blaze that destroyed the drawing room and 10 bedrooms at Peckforton Castle

VICAR Rick Gates rolled up at Peckforton Castle last month to bless a happy couple – unaware that the castle had been partially destroyed in a suspected arson attack.

He arrived at the Grade 1 listed building to conduct the blessing only to be confronted by a dozen fire engines, scores of firemen, a couple of ambulances and a handful of police officers.

"I just assumed it was for a film set and drove in," he said. "But then I saw staff gathered in the courtyard in varying states of shock and disbelief."

Hours before 70 guests from an earlier wedding had been evacuated as 100 firemen using 20 pumps tackled the blaze that destroyed 10 bedrooms including the bridal suite.

As they fought the blaze, another bride, who is employed as



a wedding co-ordinator at Peckforton, had been getting ready for her own fairytale wedding at the castle.

But it was not to be. Not certainly as she had planned.

For the drawing room, where she had planned to hold her reception, was also destroyed – along with everything in it.

Staff managed to secure a licence for one of the bars so that the couple could still get married in the castle, but their reception

was switched to the Wild Boar Hotel at Beeston at the last minute – and Rick wasn't needed.

It is not yet known how much it will cost to repair the damage but Peckforton Castle, where many of the couples who wed at St Boniface host their receptions, was closed to the public for a week.

Thankfully no-one was injured in the fire.

A man has been arrested.

Laura bids farewell to spread God's word

YOUTH worker Laura Warrington leaves St Boniface this month for pastures new.

But she leaves behind a hard act to follow.

For over the past two and a bit years she has made a positive impression on all those whom she has met.

"Laura has done much to encourage our young people to come to know Jesus better and, by her example, to understand the meaning of true Christianity," said Kate Reeves.

"From day one she set about showing young Christians that faith could be fun."

Within a couple of weeks of starting the job, she had borrowed a minibus to whisk a group of youngsters off to a Christian pop concert in Manchester.

Then last summer she and her husband Luke took four teenagers to a Christian youth camp for the weekend.

Laura also won a £500 grant specifically to go towards youth evangelism and out of that 'The Bigger Picture' was formed – a fortnightly outreach using film and discussion to bring the gospel message to teenagers that was relevant to them.

But that's not all.

She also started a new and very popular group called 'Toasties' where teenagers meet to look at the Bible together and explore issues which affect young people's lives – both spiritual and secular. And she also helped to open people's eyes by inviting

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UNSUSPECTING: Rick Gates thought he had driven on to a film set ...

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WE were sorry to hear of the death of **William Boyd**, father of **Carol Hooper**, who died on 24 May.

We were also saddened to hear of the death of **Noel Woods**, father to **Susan Cox**.



We extend a warm welcome to **Benjamin Christopher Wilgose**, baptised at St Boniface on 12 June. Although his parents, Simon and Amy, live in Melbourne, they were delighted to have their son baptised at the same church where his father and grandfather were baptised. Two of Benjamin's great-grandparents, **George and Blanche Wilgose**, live in Bunbury.



We also welcomed **Isla Mae Georgina Smith**, daughter of **Kim and Hamilton Smith** of Alpraham, baptised at St Jude's Church on 29 May.



Finally we also welcomed **Milo Oskar Castle**, son of **Jennifer and Oliver**, baptised on 25 June at St Boniface, and **Oliver Frederic Parsons** (pictured above) born to **Russell and Michaela** of Bunbury.

Prayers

We pray especially for **Lily O'Donaghue, Maximo Williams, Mary Cummins, Mike Watson, Mary Williamson and Arthur Cowap**.

We pray also for the families mourning the loss of loved ones, particularly the families of **William Boyd, Noel Woods, Harry Kirkham, Dora Hewitt and Evelyn Graybill**.



STAFF from **Barclays** were given time off from work on Wednesday 22 June to re-decorate and spruce up the hall part of the pavilion. The bank also paid for all the materials.



Congratulations to **Cath Cockburn and Darren Kenyon** who were married at Calveley Church on Friday 27 May. They were delighted to be surprised by the arrival of the children from **Utkinton School**, where Cath is a teacher.

On 19 July **Bunbury Gardening Club** will visit 'Greenways', in Alderley Edge. More details are available from **Adrian Caine** on 01829 261163.

Thank you to everyone who supported the **Bunbury Primary School** plant and Fair Trade sale during ECO Week. During ECO Week every class studied a different topic linked to sustainability. Every class has made a pledge to do something for the environment. The children also dressed up in green on the last day or made a

At the heart of your community

recycled costume. The money raised over the past two years has paid for rabbit fencing around the two plots, seeds and compost and in November they are having a willow dome and tunnel.



AS news goes, it could not get any better for **Angela and Gordon Forsyth** from Pudding Lane in Tiverton. For one of their daughters has just had a baby and the other has announced she is getting married. **Nicola and David Tomlinson**, of Bunbury Lane, are now the proud parents to **Jack** (pictured above) who was born on 17 June, weighing in at a healthy 10lb 2oz. And Nicola's sister **Claire, 25, and Henry Buckley, 26**, (pictured below) of Darkie Meadow, are planning to wed at St Boniface next year.



We would like to be the first to wish **Maureen Burrows**, who works at The Co-op in Bunbury, a very happy 60th birthday on 6 August.



Ten girls from Bunbury caught the 'bus' to **Tarporley High School's** annual prom. More pictures will be published next month.

THE TWO-MINUTE INTERVIEW

If you had a motto, what would it be?

Be positive. It's my blood group (B+), it's my philosophy on life.

It's a celebrity beer call.

Whom would you like to invite?

I'm not a big one for celebrities because everyone is a celebrity in their own field. That said Mark Hall from the band Casting Crowns inspires me with his music and his preaching every day.

Archbishop Cranmer from Henry VIII's time and author of The Book of Common Prayer.

My Grandpa Smyth would be the other. He died before I was born and I would love to spend some time getting to know him.

What would you call your autobiography?

Still Learning.

What was your first job?

I was a postman. I worked at the Old Trafford sorting office and delivered to all the flats and crescents in Hulme that are now mostly demolished.

What would you change about Bunbury, if you could?

Once a traffic policeman, always a traffic policeman. I'd like to see all children who have to travel to school by car wearing a seatbelt and parents getting them out on the footpath ... not the road.

Policeman **Neil Dewson-Smyth** is 43 and lives with his wife Cathy and their three children in Bunbury. Neil and Cathy were married at St Boniface Church in September 1999 – three months after moving to the village. Today Neil is heavily involved in the church and recently became a churchwarden ..



Neil Dewson-Smyth

What is your biggest regret?

Knowing what I know now, I would have worked harder at school, gone to university and trained to be a pilot or an air traffic controller.

What is your biggest achievement?

Marrying Cathy. I was punching well above my weight but managed to win. Closely followed by the children who make me proud every day.

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

I'd like to successfully manage my new role as churchwarden, face the church firmly toward the future and encourage more people to our services and our fellowship groups.

What is the one thing that

people would be surprised to learn about you?

I have not had a television for over 13 years.

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

A bigger house. On the condition it was in Bunbury.

What is your favourite place and why?

Without a doubt, it is the beach at Great Bay, St Martins on the Isles of Scilly. Glorious white sand, clear blue sea and lovely and quiet. Perfect.

How would you spend your ideal weekend?

With friends at Lowthwaite Guest House in Cumbria and combine climbing, sailing, great food and great company.

Retired vicar's mission of hope

RETIRED Bunbury vicar Canon John Bowers is clearly a man who practises what he preaches.

Over the past four years he has raised more than £40,000 to help save African girls from a barbaric tribal custom.

And he's done it on his bike.

It's little wonder then that he has won over an army of supporters who believe in him – and his mission to rescue young women in a remote part of Northern Kenya from a particular form of female mutilation.

On July 16 Canon Bowers, now 79, sets off on another sponsored cycle ride with daughter Ruth again by his side.

They plan to cycle from his home in West Kirby to Keswick in the Lake District and are hoping people in Bunbury might be kind enough to support his venture once again.

"Any help would be greatly appreciated," he said.

"There are some in Bunbury who remember me and contribute handsomely."

If you would like to support Canon Bowers, please send your donation to the Barnabas Fund c/o 2 Shalford Grove, West Kirby, The Wirral, CH48 9XY.

Last year's event raised £7,000 for St Boniface

Church gets set for August fete

VILLAGERS are invited to enjoy a grand day out on August Bank Holiday Monday – and raise vital funds for St Boniface Church in Bunbury at the same time.

The occasion is the annual church fete in the grounds of Beeston Castle and features all the usual attractions, including splat the rat, a barbecue and a tea tent.

Visitors will also be able to chance their luck on the tombola, test their skill on the

hoopla stall and browse for the latest books between 11am and 5pm.

Organisers will once again be praying for good weather.

"I am certainly hoping for a repeat of last year's fabulous weather," said David Cox.

"It was perfect."

The famous Whitchurch Dog Display Team will also be at the fete, but this year you too will be able to compete with your own pet in some fun agility and entertaining classes. Jack the

Jester is planning to cook up some fun and Andy Caldwell, who runs Extreme Adventure, has promised some 'dare-devil' entertainment.

And if you have a classic car, bring it along.

In the meantime, if you would like to donate any bottles of wine, prizes for the Golden Elephant stall or cakes for the tea tent, please contact Sarah Thompson on 07973 871769.

Volunteers are also needed to help before, during and after

the event. "If anyone can spare a couple of hours, we'd be delighted," said David. All proceeds from the event help to maintain the church and support the church youth work in the Bunbury area. Last year's fete raised almost £7,000 for St Boniface Church. Tickets are now on sale from Tilly's coffee shop and Burrows butchers in Bunbury.

Families can save up to £5. The ticket also entitles you to explore Beeston Castle.

THE GRUMPY GARGOYLE



It seems strange to try to be grumpy on what must be the most beautiful day of the year.

Even my sandstone is tanning slightly as I muster my grumpiness, but it won't be too hard. Believe me.

Vacuuming. An odd one, you may think. I am not talking about domestic vacuuming, but rather vacuuming in shops/café's etc.

As a young gargoyle, I had many a job which required a spot of vacuuming. This was done after hours, unpaid, and willingly. Because obviously it is rude to vacuum when there are customers in the shop. Only it doesn't seem so obvious any longer.

Why is this not obvious? If you had people round at your house, would you whip out the Hoover (or any other brand of vacuuming equipment) and do a spot of housework? I trust not.

So why do shops think it is acceptable? Quite simply, it isn't acceptable, unless there has been a major spillage of rose-flavoured sugar sprinkles, or some other dire emergency requiring immediate attention.

Many a shop has lost a gargoyle's custom, either by switching on a vacuum whilst I have been in a shop, or by having one on before I enter.

The shop assistant(s) might as well gesticulate rudely and use a few choice unwelcoming words. I figure they don't want my money. And what would the 'elf and safety bods say about trailing cables and Henry Hoovers to fall over?

Whatever job we do, be it voluntary, minimum wage or with a banker's bonus, surely we should do it well regardless of remuneration. And with respect for others.



Broad bean, mushroom and chorizo salad

SUMMER is a great time in the Cruttock household and the Major loves inviting some friends back after his round of golf for a glass or two and a bite to eat. We grow our own broad beans in the garden and this recipe is best when the beans are freshly picked.

It is also very quick to make and is best eaten on a sunny day in the garden. Enjoy!

HOW TO MAKE IT

IN a pan of boiling water, cook the beans for three to four minutes until tender.

Drain and refresh in a bowl of cold or iced water.

Peel away the outer skins of

WHAT YOU NEED

300g broad beans, podded
150g chorizo, chopped
200g mushrooms, sliced
4 tbsp olive oil
some fresh chives, about a handful
sea salt + black pepper
extra virgin olive oil



the beans. Heat the oil in a frying pan and add the bacon. Cook for a couple of minutes. Add the mushrooms, cook for a couple of minutes more then remove from the heat and leave to cool.

Mix the beans and chives with the cooled bacon and mushrooms.

Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Add a drizzle of extra virgin

olive oil just before serving at room temperature.

Don't forget to say Grace

Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
 Who eats the fastest
 gets the most. Amen

And to go with it ...

> **Greg Williams**

The Dysart Arms, Bunbury

LET'S start with reds for a change.

I would plump for a nice young un-oaked Spanish red.

The reason? They eat chorizo as if it were a national sport in Spain.

With that in mind, a cheeky

Tempranillo – the red grape used in Riojas – will do very nicely.

You will always pay a higher price for a Rioja but there are excellent ones made all over Spain. The key is to look for the word Tinto as these are the younger, un-oaked, more fresher style.

Staying in Spain for the

whites, treat yourself to an Alberino which is a stunning grape generally grown in coastal regions. It is not the cheapest but I have yet to try a poor one which is reassuring. For something a little more inexpensive, an Italian Pinot Grigio or Trebbiano will help to wash down the salad handsomely.



STERLING WORK: John Ellis, left, said the flower festival was a wonderfully successful event



BLOOMING LOVELY: Calveley Parish Church was awash with colour thanks to the flower festival which drew large crowds to the beautiful church



LIFE in Calveley was brought out in stunning style - thanks to a very talented bunch of flower arrangers.

They produced a host of gorgeous arrangements for the two-day flower festival to show off village life at its best.

There were flowers representing the Old Hall, dairy farming, cheese making, the wartime airfield, the canal, the

coal yard and United dairies. Even 'the undertaker' put in an appearance.

Organisers agreed it was a wonderfully successful event and apart from the wind on the first night, which demolished one of the show tents, there was very little to upset the proceedings.

"We now have a new and hopefully more robust marquee

for next time," said John Ellis.

The flower festival was a swansong for the outgoing team and a welcome 'hi' to the incoming squad.

Calveley is a lovely little place of worship. If you haven't been, do try a first or third Sunday at 11am.

You would be made most welcome by their small group of regulars.



THEY DID IT: Alex and Kitty Abberton

Race to give life to others

A MUM and daughter from Bunbury joined thousands of women for this year's Race for Life in Chester. Alex Abberton, 44, completed the 5km course in 28 minutes in memory of her own mother Rachel who died of cancer when she was just 59 and her granddaughter Kitty was one. Alex said her mum would have been especially proud of Kitty who crossed the finish line in 24 minutes – and in the top 15. "Doing it with my daughter in memory of my mother kept me going because I didn't want to let either of them down," she said. Alex and Kitty are hoping to have raised at least £500 towards the fight against cancer and are very grateful to all those who have kindly sponsored them. In all, 5,600 women took part in the race.

MP offers advice to Anglican Church

LABOUR MP Frank Field has urged the Church of England to stop navel-gazing.

During a talk to the diocesan synod, he said the Anglican Church needed to stop being precious about its internal matters such as women bishops.

"We should do what we ask others to do: trust in God's will and move on," he said.

"These other issues appear to be of no relevance to the rest of the world."

Treasurer John Mason was www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk

among those listening to his message. "It was a bit of a throw-away remark but it seemed to strike a chord," said John.

The synod meets three times a year to regulate the affairs of the Diocese and has representatives from many different parishes including Bunbury.

Its June meeting included the usual financial business but the highlight was undoubtedly the talk by Mr Field, who is also a Lay Canon of Chester Cathedral.

Never one to avoid controversy,

he has recently produced a report on "The Foundation Years" that advocates a very different approach to parenting as a way of reducing child poverty.

His recommendations include not 'throwing money' at child poverty, measuring and enhancing life chances for children rather than just their relative wealth and concentrating on raising standards in those who are most disadvantaged rather than setting targets for GCSE results.

Church services



Sunday 3 July

8am: Holy Communion, St Boniface Church
9.30am: Holy Communion, St Judes Church
10am: Family worship, St Boniface Church
11am: Holy Communion, Calveley

Wednesday 6 July

10am: Holy Communion, St Boniface Church

Sunday 10 July

9.30am: Holy Communion, St Judes Church
10am: Family Communion, St Boniface Church
6pm: Evensong, St Boniface Church

Wednesday 13 July

10am: Holy Communion, St Boniface Church

Sunday 17 July

8am: Holy Communion, St Boniface Church
9.30am: Family worship, St Judes Church
10am: Family worship, St Boniface Church
11am: Matins, Calveley Church

Wednesday 20 July

10am: Holy Communion, St Boniface Church

Sunday 24 July

9.30am: Holy Communion, St Judes Church
10am: Family Communion, St Boniface Church

Wednesday 27 July

10am: Holy Communion, St Boniface Church

Sunday 31 July

9.30am: Holy Communion, St Judes
10am: Family Communion, St Boniface Church



Eric Wallington: Thought for the month

Reader Emeritus

SIR Ralph Richardson was one of the greatest Shakespearean actors of his time.

In 1952, when he played Macbeth at Stratford-upon-Avon, his performance was savaged by the critics who referred to him as 'untalented'. The following evening, the cast got together before they went on stage, and Sir Ralph was heard to ask quietly of his fellow

actors: 'Has anyone seen a talent? Not a very big one. I seem to have mislaid it.'

It was probably the best answer he could have given to the critics because a particular talent is something you either have or you haven't, as talent shows often underline. If you have a talent, you may sometimes not make full use of it, but talents, big and small, come as a gift from God.

Faith too is a gift from God. So we can never boast of

faith, any more than an actor can appropriately boast of his or talent. We must simply be grateful for what we've been given.

But, of course, gifts don't emerge automatically. They have to be nurtured.

The gift of faith, freely offered us by God, has to be cared for. God gives the germ of faith and, like the gift of a talent, it has to be tended and nurtured through all the changes and challenges of life.

ANOTHER VIEW: Hartford vicar offers opposing view on women priests

VICAR Mike Smith is a man of conviction.

He doesn't believe that women should be made priests and he fears homosexuality will destroy the Church of England if it follows the Church of Scotland's recent change of heart in allowing openly gay clergy.

"It is hard to see the survival of the Church of England in any recognisable form if it goes down that line," he said. The 42-year-old vicar of St John's Church in Hartford firmly believes the Anglican Church is sailing towards those two icebergs.

"Either of them could sink us," he said. "But by the grace of God, we will hold fast to His word and find a way through together." His big bugbear with women priests is that allowing them to serve God goes against the word of God.

"I think Jesus would delight in a woman priest's desire to serve Him but I think she has misunderstood the details of His call," he said.

"Although He broke cultural norms in teaching God's word

'Women should not be priests'



MAN OF CONVICTION: The Revd Mike Smith does not want the Church of England to follow Scotland's example

to women, and viewing them as equal to men amongst his followers, He chose only male apostles, and that pattern of male leadership is made prescriptive by His apostles, who speak with His abiding authority in the church."

Mr Smith, who is married with three children, said he would encourage any woman wanting to become a priest to 'pursue other avenues of Christian service'.

"There are other opportunities for either voluntary or paid service in the church," he said.

"In Hartford, for example, we have just employed a woman

to a full-time paid ministry post." The bigger problem for Mr Smith, though, are practising gay clergy.

"In some ways, the issue of women priests and bishops is the smaller one because the Bible addresses it as an issue of church order, not of salvation," he said.

"Not so with homosexuality because it is a lifestyle that the Bible itself explicitly says is evidence of being excluded from the kingdom of God."

Mr Smith said accepting that 'lifestyle choice' would set the Church of England in polar opposition to the Bible.



Pat Edgley: Prayer for the month

Reader

Be still and know that I am God

HOW do you like to relax?

A strenuous uphill walk, perhaps, with the reward of a stunning view at the top?

The thrill of motor sport, that throaty roar of the engines and the smell of the high octane fuel assaulting the senses?

Or just chilling by the pool with a cool glass of something

delicious and a good book? We all need to de-stress our bodies and our spirits, to step back from our cluttered lives and feed our souls.

Give your spirit a holiday. Take a few moments to let go, breathe deeply and listen to God.

He is here, really, even if you don't think you can find Him, He will find you...

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am.

Be still and know.

Be still.

Be.

Happy holiday.

www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk



READY FOR THE OFF: Vicar Rick Gates was joined by members of his flock for the annual walk



PAUSE FOR REFLECTION: Rick read a passage from the Bible en route to Stanner Nab

Record turnout for walk

A RECORD 35 people – and nine dogs – took part in the annual Ascension Day climb to Stanner Nab this year.

The weather was perfect as the group, led by vicar Rick Gates, trekked to the 655ft summit.

During the climb through woodland, which is normally

out of bounds to the public, the group paused six times for a short Bible reading and to sing a hymn, accompanied by churchwarden Neil Dewson-Smyth on his flute.

After the final reading at the summit, Rick released three rockets into the setting sun to symbolise the Father, the Son

and the Holy Spirit before the stroll back to Peckforton Castle car park and a return home - via the pub for some.

"It is always a very special event," said Rick.

"And thanks to the publicity in the Link, there were many new faces on this year's walk."



SYMBOLIC: Rick released three rockets into the setting sun ...



AT THE TOP: Eric Wallington read the final passage from the Bible at the summit



RICK GATES

your vicar

What will you miss in life?

GOING on holiday is, for me, a necessity.

Just to lie in the sun, to sleep, to read and to do very little else.

However, it's the leaving home that causes me to worry because I have a need to hide my few keepsakes.

They have little intrinsic value, but I would hate to lose them - my pen, watch, some photographs and a ring.

Then my camera, computer and maybe my car keys, not that I even vaguely suspect that anyone would want to steal my 10-year-old Skoda.

Why do I hide them?

Because they are important to me and they hold a special significance for me. I recently watched a documentary about the Nazi invasion of Poland where they forced Jewish families to abandon their homes, giving them a few hours to pack their belongings and leave.

There was one terrible scene where an old lady's suitcase burst open and her precious life mementos were strewn across the road.

There were a few clothes, a couple of bits of china but a lot of family photographs. We knew which was most important to her.

A few years ago, I heard of a family who took their elderly mum on holiday, her first for many years.

So, in the large family home she hid all her valuables and precious things in the most secret places she could think of.

On her return, she could only find the front door key, which she had hidden under the mat as usual. Everything else was lost to her.

If we hide the things most precious to us, we may be in danger of losing them.

From now on, I shall use my fountain pen more often.

I shall reflect over my photographs more often.

I enjoy painting, so I shall start again.

If loving, then love with passion. If generous, then give extravagantly. If hospitable, open your home. If your relationship with God means anything to you, then open your heart and share your experience with others.

The Bible. The greatest story never read?

WHEN a group of Anglicans get together for a conference, all they ever usually talk about is women bishops and gay clergy.

Correct? Well no. Not on every occasion.

Last month two members of St Boniface – Nick Sanders and John Mason - attended the Diocesan Lay Conference in Derbyshire and neither topic came up. Instead the

200-plus non-clergy delegates explored the Bible and its message.

During discussions, it emerged that the Bible was not one but a collection of different books covering just about all genres: thriller, comedy, poetry, history, politics, spiritual, philosophical, legal and so on.

The conference – billed as The Bible: The Greatest Story

Never Read – took place over a weekend and, as well as the more thoughtful sessions, it had lighter moments and plenty of time to meet with others, compare notes and discuss the world in general over a drink in the bar.

The next Diocesan Lay Conference will take place in 2014.

"I can highly recommend it," said John.

Village reins in the crowds as the rain holds off

ORGANISERS promised Bunbury Village Day would be wild this year – and they were right.

Spectators were literally spoilt for choice as they flooded the playing fields to enjoy a host of wild west-themed attractions.

In fact, the only thing that wasn't wild – thankfully – was the weather, although it did threaten to do some damage at about 11am.

The festivities began around lunchtime with the annual parade from St Boniface Church to the playing fields where Rose Queen-elect Charlotte Williams was crowned by retiring queen Krista Harris.

The organisers had seemingly gone wild themselves this year in making sure there was something for absolutely everyone to enjoy. "The variety of stalls and attractions this year was overwhelming," said budding journalist Rachel Thompson.

If you were in the mood for a contest, there was the traditional tug of war competition or football for the kids.

If you were feeling hungry, those on the BBQ were serving goat burgers.

If you fancied spending some money, there were stalls selling everything from toys and books to plants to vegetables.

If you fancied your luck, there was always the tombola. And if you were feeling adventurous, spectators could ride the rodeo bull or climb the wall.

Everyone had to hand it to Steve Mort and his organising committee that the day was a huge success.

All proceeds from the day will go towards the restoration of the pavilion.



PRETTY AS A PICTURE: Retiring queen Krista Harris with her attendants



FANCY THAT: Suzanne Badder, centre, and two colleagues from The Salon got into the spirit of the occasion



QUEEN FOR A DAY: Charlotte Williams was escorted by not one but five beautifully turned out attendants - Maisie Craig, Abigail Johnson, Otilie Goodfellow, Ella O'Brian and Eve Dewson-Smyth



SMILES ALL ROUND: There was something for everyone at this year's Village Day as these pictures testify



Laura bids final farewell to Bunbury

From Page One

some of her special Christian friends to tell their own special stories.

On one very memorable occasion a young man, who had been an active member of the IRA, gave a very moving testimony of how God's protection had saved him from self destruction and changed his life immeasurably. And the Revd Peter Davies, the father of

one of Laura's close friends, who spoke at the Agape meal two years ago, has since become a regular preacher at St Boniface.

"Laura has contributed so much to our church community that she really will be a hard act to follow," said Kate.

Laura is due to leave after the summer holiday club which takes place between 27 and 29 July.

As usual the club ends with an

evening BBQ for children, family and friends. If you would like to attend the BBQ – and thank Laura – please call Debbie Shears on 01829 260707 or email to bunbury_holiday_club@hotmail.com by 20 July.

Laura and her husband Luke are planning to spend the next two years in Papua New Guinea as part of the Wycliffe Bible Translation Team.



What Bible do you like?

THIS year is the 400th anniversary of the publication of the authorized King James Bible.

It is a much praised book, not only for its content but also for its language and poetry.

Personally I find it difficult to read. Of course that may just mean that I should have paid more attention at school.

But when I turn to the Book of Common Prayer, the language it quite different.

It is English prose at its best, so easy to read and so meaningful.

It is largely the work of one man - the champion of the English Reformation, Thomas Cranmer.

He was a man who gave his life for the great truth of salvation by faith alone.

It would be difficult these days to think of anybody who would be prepared to make the same noble sacrifice for the Faith.

Meanwhile, it's off with the old and on with the new.

At the recent annual vestry meeting David Wright was thanked for his devoted service as churchwarden – and Elizabeth Marren was warmly welcomed to the post.

It is only right and proper that these jobs are shared around, with everybody taking a turn.

Nothing is more demoralising for the holders of the various positions to be stuck with them year after year.

It's a big, big welcome to Miss Isla Mae Georgina Smith who was baptised at St Jude's on 29 May. Hamilton and Kim are the proud parents. After the service all decamped to a local hostel.

But as we know only too well, life has its dark side and we have had to say goodbye to Mrs Dora Hewitt and George Carter, both of whom were lifelong residents of the parish.

They will be much missed by relatives and friends.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Bob Gardner

Village counts its 411-year-old blessings ...

A GROUP, whose history dates back to medieval times, paid a visit to Bunbury in May.

They toured St Boniface Church, the school and the scout hut – all places that are dear to the hearts of those who belong to The Worshipful Company of Haberdashers.

The group owes its existence to Thomas Aldersey who founded Bunbury Free School in 1594 and endowed the church and subsequently placed the future care of both to the company.

To this day, the company remains patron of the church, appoints several school governors and administers the Thomas Aldersey Trust – still a useful source of income for the school.

From time to time the Haberdashers support church projects – examples include the youth worker and the Ridgway Window – and village projects, most recently the scout hut. In May the



IMPORTANT GATHERING: The Haberdashers outside St Boniface Church

present Master and several colleagues enjoyed their tour of Bunbury. They agreed that the church was 'a revelation, a wonderful building with a serious heritage, in very good restorative order and well looked after'.

The Haberdashers, who present year 6 pupils with Bibles every year,

were pleased to hear that the school had appointed a good new deputy headteacher and commented on the school's friendly atmosphere.

"The Haberdashers may be quintessentially Old England but Bunbury is fortunate to have their continuing support," said churchwarden Walter Done.

Rick blesses happy marriage

A COUPLE who were married at St Boniface Church in Bunbury on 23 May 1951 celebrated their diamond wedding – with a blessing at St Boniface.

And vicar Rick Gates was proud to do the honours for Robert and Vera Turner.

Back in 1951, the then vicar, the Revd Maurice Ridgeway and the Revd Cecil Jarman, vicar of St Barnabas Church, Crewe, had officiated at Robert and Vera's wedding.

After the service they held a reception at Vera's family home, Holmwood, on the Whitchurch Road, now very familiar to

the Bunbury community as Panama Hatty's. Robert and Vera set up home in Wistaston where they had three children, Christopher, Elaine and Nicholas.

Today they are very proud grandparents to Philip and William.

Robert - known to his friends as Bob - was a grocer in the family business in Crewe before training as a school teacher, where he taught at Wistaston County Primary School until his retirement. Vera's mother left Holmwood and became the postmistress in Bunbury Post Office for many years.



BLESSED: Vera and Robert Turner



HER WAY: Evelyn Graybill owned Peckforton Castle for almost 20 years

Evelyn was one of a kind, says son

EVELYN Graybill, who died peacefully at her home in Chester on 23 May with her children and friends by her side, was given a fine send-off by vicar Rick Gates.

He conducted the funeral service which included a reading from John 14 v 1-6 – “In my Father’s house are many mansions: if [it were] not [so], I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you” and Jenny Joseph’s poem, “Warning - When I Am an Old Woman I Shall Wear Purple”.

During the service at St Boniface on Thursday 2 June, Evelyn’s son Martin spoke on behalf of the family.

He said life with his mum, who had owned Peckforton Castle for almost 20 years, was never boring.

“Evelyn was motivated to a point of being obsessive and was an independent self-starter, not needing or wanting others to tell her what to do,” he said.

“We hope and pray that you remember her, like we will, with love, warmth, good humour and affection.

“Yes, Evelyn was truly one of a kind and will leave a hole in all our lives.

“Most of all though, like us, we hope you will take comfort that she is in a better place and is finally at peace.”

The service ended with family and friends reflecting on their own memories of Evelyn as they listened to Frank Sinatra’s My Way before making their way to the Wild Boar Hotel for the reception.



Family pay tribute to a wonderfully honest man

FAMILY and friends gathered at St Boniface Church on Monday 6 June to bid a fond farewell to William Boyd, who died on 24 May aged 70.

Born in Newcastle upon Tyne, William – or Bill, as he was known to his friends – began his career as an engineering apprentice.

Having then joined the Merchant Navy with Blue Funnel Line, he left to form his own engineering company, Unicorn Engineering, a company that became both successful and respected, working with leading UK companies such as ICI, Bowers and North West Water.

Bill married Ann and they had three daughters, Carol, Wendy and Denise.

But he was not fazed by having three daughters, and would take them on outings to power stations, slate mines and train museums.

“It will come as no surprise that, in my teens, I had developed an interest in planes and battleships,” said Wendy.

“My dad was so proud to see me in my uniform when I joined the sea cadets and he was the only dad who drove my friends and me around to collect money for our cause.”

Despite having to work away from home



FAMILY MAN: William Boyd was a wonderful role model for his children

much of the time, Bill was a hands-on, loving father, building rabbit hutches to precise engineering specifications and making fabulous princess hats for school pantomimes.

He was a wonderful role model for his children, a man with a broad range of knowledge, a keen interest in history and a passion for politics, and a man who upheld high standards for himself in his professional life as well as at home.

“He was a kind-hearted man, very soft, so very, very honest and always a loyal husband,” said Ann.

Dora is laid to rest in peace

DORA Hewitt, who was born at the Travellers Rest and lived there for 90 years, died at home peacefully on 16 May.

Her devoted sister Minnie and son Michael gathered with family and friends at St Juds Church on 25 May to celebrate her life.

After leaving Tilstone School, Dora worked in the family business until the outbreak of the Second

World War when she joined the Land Army.

After the war and a time working at Marriott’s poultry farm, she returned home and rejoined the family business, remaining at the Travellers Rest for the rest of her life.

After her marriage to Ron and the birth of their son Michael, Dora continued to work, enjoying baking, knitting and working in the gar-

den. She became a dab hand at managing the large coach parties that would call in on their way to and from the North Wales coast and even broke up any arguments that may have arisen in the bar.

Her family and friends were delighted that she was able to celebrate her 90th birthday at home just a few weeks before her death.

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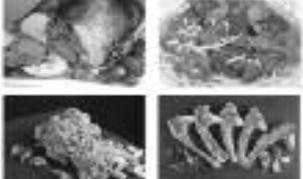
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Letters...

Your chance to share your thoughts with others

What makes a church magazine?

THANK you for taking on organising the Link.

I think it's a very good and worthwhile magazine and I think it significantly adds to the village.

It has many interesting articles and I am glad it is published.

The Link should be read by many people and widening its scope is likely to achieve this.

Yet I hope a clearer line can be drawn between what is a church magazine and articles that would be better included in a village magazine.

There is obviously a grey area between church and village, but I'm not sure articles on cookery, walking up mountains or trips abroad have a spiritual dimension and I struggle to see a connection between the church and elections to the borough council.

I'm sorry this is negative feedback as I do think the Link is very worthwhile and I'm glad you are doing it.

I think that the articles on faith, the obituaries, the church news and so on are very good.

I also love the Grumpy Gargoyle.

It's a fabulous and refreshing idea.

I can imagine later articles on all sorts of things because the gargoyle must have seen many things in his - or her - life.

And later perhaps another gargoyle could be jealous and want their say too?

I'm looking forward to reading more from the gargoyle.

Long live the gargoyle!

JOHN MEDDINGS
Church Row
Bunbury

Thank you so much for taking the trouble to write in. We value all feedback, good or

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email your views to briggsharris@live.co.uk

KNOW YOUR BUNBURY

ONLY one person correctly guessed the location of the black postal box at Bunbury Locks (see below).

So congratulations to Michelle Harding, of Park House, Bunbury Lane, Bunbury, who got it right.

She wins all four tickets to the Chomondeley Castle fireworks concert on 16 July.

This month's prize is six-weeks' free membership for two at the leisure club at Portal Hotel Golf and Spa at Tarporley.

All you have to do is tell us where you would find this plaque.

Email your answers to Nick Sanders at nick.sanders@gmx.co.uk

The winner's name will be published in the August/September edition.



bad. You raise a really interesting (and very theological) point about whether it is a church or a village magazine.

It obviously contains information about what is going on in and around St Boniface, but we also believe that God is not just for church on Sundays. He is a seven day a week God and is there in everything we do.

He is there when we climb up mountains, or go to the pub, or go to work.

He is there when we sit down and enjoy a good meal together (even with Major Cruttock), or when we meet friends.

Social justice also plays a big part in a Christian life and that is why we include articles about our local councillors and things which affect you and

me, living in Bunbury.

We hope that by including a mixed range of articles there will be something in it for everyone, and that people may get to know more of God's work in our lovely village.

THE LINK TEAM

Well done on 'first' edition

I PICKED up your 'first edition' of the Link and just wanted to say how terrific it is.

It has a nice fresh feeling about it and it has a good balance between community and churchy stuff.

All I can say is: really well done to everyone, you have done an absolutely cracking job.

JEREMY SHEARS
Bunbury

POETRY CORNER

CHANGING TIME

I look up from under the stars,
They shone forever and
forever will shine.
Reflected on water, at my feet
they lie,
Unchanging upon the
changing time.
In the spotlight, in the
distance,
My life will decide.
My future awaits at my hands,
Stretching far beyond these
lands.
In mystery and pride.
Time is short, time is long,
Time is present, time has
gone
Every moment, something
new,
There is no place but here
with you.
There is no time but now.

Eilidh Bodfish and Jenny Wilson

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