

Explorers – please help!

September saw the launch of a new scouting group. Explorers is the most senior troop of the Bunbury Scouts Organisation, aimed at 14-18 year-old boys and girls. This exciting new venture will offer its members an opportunity to meet socially and to take part in some challenging and adventurous activities, as well as the chance to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

There is no shortage of interest from our young people, but we do need more adult leaders! You do not need any special skills apart from

enthusiasm, and you only need to be available for meetings on two Friday evenings per month from 8.15 to 9.45pm. Meetings take place in the Scout Hut, though we are also planning some excursions. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Kay Kelly (tel. 261378), Jonathon Middlemiss (261437) or Martin Stockley (260983).

This is a great way to contribute to village life – please think about it!

Please also help us to raise funds by supporting our jumble sale on October 16th: see our ad on page 4.

Roll up roll up for the Beeston Fete!

The Bunbury summer season drew to a traditional end on Bank Holiday Monday with Beeston Castle Fete. Despite rather uncertain weather there were plenty of visitors and in excess of £4,000, after expenses,

was raised for church funds. Well done all the organisers for their hard work and thanks to volunteers on the day and all who donated prizes or goods.



Shown left, Guy and Carolyn Johnson in charge of the Hoopla and Elaine Crotty running the barbeque

Rick

Many of you will have heard that our Vicar, Rick, is undergoing treatment for cancer. We wish Rick quick and effective medical treatment and a swift recovery, and we keep Rick, Lin and family in our prayers.

A Gethsemane Prayer

After the recent events in Beslan we offer this prayer for the victims of violence and injustice everywhere.

**Christ of wounds, Christ of tears,
Christ of the wounds of the piercing,
Hold us in your hands, scarred with love
Through all our trials and sufferings,
And by your wounds may we find
healing. Amen**



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Garden show

Bunbury Gardening Club annual show took place on August 28th. There was a fine display of produce from giant marrows and cucumbers to begonias and gooseberry jam. Roger Fairweather, Chairman, said that there were lots of new faces to be seen in the hall and a good level of entries. Congratulations to the following prize winners: Margaret Bourne (Floral Art Cup); Gerald Fellows (Flowers and Potplants); Sophie Welling (Junior Cup);



Hope (3) with her blackberries and Charlotte (10) with her winning marrow (right).



Bronwen Kelly (Cookery); Jim Harris (Fruit and Vegetables) and Gerald Fellows (Chairman's Cup).



Reg and Audrey Goodyer

Window appeal - see page 6

Nature notes

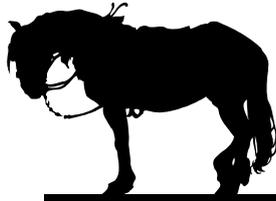
A visit to Acton Scott Farm Museum could transport you back in time to an age before mobile phones and even the motor car. Nothing can better represent man working together with nature than a farmer sitting patiently on the harrow talking gently to the mighty beast, the heavy horse, as it plods slowly forwards pulling the harrow over the rich brown soil, leather harness and feathery white socks a gleaming. Yet this vision of man and horse working as one is threatened as never before.

Shires are the best known of the four remaining work horse breeds, the Suffolk Punch, the Clydesdale and the Percheron are the others. On firm ground the horses can haul up to five times their own weight and think nothing of lugging a three ton load.

Truly they are magnificent beasts, with legs like oaks and hooves the size of

frying pans. The trademark feathery hair on their ankles was traditionally seen as a sign of strength bred into the beasts to make buyers think they were getting a horse with thicker, stronger legs.

On average a working horse will eat two bales of hay, a basket of apples and 25 lb of oats a day. What is left behind in the stables provides a



quarter of a ton of fertiliser every week. To plough an acre field in a day a farmer would need two horses and he would walk 11 miles.

The meadows are rich in clover, buttercups and cowslips while horse

and harrower tread their steady path. It could be a scene from any rural novel of the 19th century and central to the scene is the wonderful Shire, the great symbol of England's once green and pleasant land.

Liz Jones

Knight in shining armour

Is chivalry dead? Not in Bunbury it seems. On 13th August as the rain teemed down, three bridesmaids waited in School Lane to be transported to the Church. A distinguished bearded gentleman watching proceedings and realising the young ladies were already 20 minutes late, stepped into the breach with the keys to his Volvo. A certain lady bell ringer, taking a rest from her labours, was not a little surprised to see the bearded gentleman, her husband, arriving at the church with the bevy of beauties.

The bearded gentleman was later heard to say that he had enjoyed every moment!



VICAR

The Reverend **RICK GATES** The Vicarage, Bunbury 01829 260991
mobile: 0771 5178750
e-mail: Rick@prayer.fsnet.co.uk

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	Walter Done	01244 332563
Secretary	Jill Robey	01829 260081
Flowers	Margaret Bourne	260944
Youth Worker	Johnny Gillett	260680

St. Jude's

Churchwardens:	Bob Gardner	260555
	Ann Latham	260488
Secretary	Carolyn Johnson	260703
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www.stlukes-hospice.co.uk

The popular cards produced by the **Railway Children** with paintings by David Charlesworth from the Age of Steam are available from the Railway Children 01270 251571 or at:

www.railwaychildren.org.uk

St. Lukes Hospice

The Hospice is holding an exclusive shopping event at the Wild Boar on Wednesday 13th October between 11am and 6pm.

God is with us

For two Sundays in a row, those in Church will have heard me open the service with thoughts of human frailty. One week it was the horror and tragedy of the school hostages in Beslan, together with an awareness of those in the congregation struggling with long running illness of loved ones or bereavement. The next week it was Rick with cancer.

How do you reconcile the emotion within, in such circumstances, with the call to worship? Paul exhorts us to worship God and give thanks in all circumstances – that is easy to do until you are in the midst of testing times.

To give praise and worship on a beautiful summer's day (remember those?) when all is well and life is rosy may seem easy, but in the midst of pain, suffering, anguish, grief, or loss it is a different matter, and can be a challenge or feel like a complete contradiction. How can I worship God where I am when I would much prefer to be somewhere else?

So how do we cope with this day by day? Is our faith really relevant or is it something that sits on the side?

What about Rick? He is the person who is charged with bringing comfort to the bereaved, the ill, those suffering or in anguish – how will his faith stand up?

When those outside, or indeed inside, the Church look on and judge, will we watch how things unfold and judge God accordingly? I hope not. Judging God is not good for the soul! Particularly if we judge against our expectation of what God should do. We are so often tempted to question God as to why he allows suffering, and pain, yet we know that ultimately from dust we came and to dust we shall return

(a phrase that flows off the tongue until confronted with its reality).

By the time this is read, we will have had the Ryder Cup and either the Europeans or Americans will be rejoicing and the other side sad. The commentators will tell us how various people's games have stood up to the high pressure of competition, a pressure that reveals weaknesses of technique, or mental strengths so starkly exposed in the pressure cooker of competition.

So too can suffering and illness, pain and anguish expose the reality of our faith. We are told that testing refines our faith.

We all know that life is one big assault course, and we each have a different one! Climbing under razor wire one minute, scaling the slippery precipice the next, wading through swamps, scrambling a net, climbing the rope, leaping over gullies and sometimes just running down hill. The assault course is there with all its obstacles to be crossed with perspiration and fear then joy and exhilaration: to what end we do not know, except there will be an end. The question is whether we want to take on this assault course in the dead of night with no moon and complete blackness, or in the light of day. Jesus is that light: He is not there to flatten the assault course. He wants to be with us as we take it on and for us to be with him at the end. That is the simplicity of our faith – Emmanuel – God is with us.

Mike Verity



The safe deposit

"I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him".
(2 Timothy 1, 12)

We can trust God to guard all that we have deposited with him – our love, our loyalty, our enthusiasm, our very future, and all that we possess now and will leave behind for glory.

But God is unlike the bank manager: God will not lock away anything we have handed over to him in some kind of safe deposit box, in suspended animation. Rather, he will use our deposits to fund our ministry in the world. He's not in the business of letting benefits lie unused.

And he expects us to do the same. He has entrusted deposits to us – not to lock them away in our own little world, but to make them readily available for the benefit of others. Are we using God's deposits to the full?

Eric Wallington

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100 Not out ...Johnny reports back after his first 100 days as Bunbury's youth worker

"My initial plan has been to get to know people, gain a good picture of what is really going on for young people and know who is involved. I've seen that there really are a good number of groups and activities doing well in Bunbury, but even these groups don't reach everyone.

"I now have two clear aims: to help those groups with the needs they still have and to work with young people who are not part of these groups. So here's what I plan to do next:

Supporting Young Christians "I think the Young Christians must be the longest running youth group I have ever worked with – 20+ years! But there is a need for more helpers to support Teri and Wendy who are doing a fantastic job with 25 or so teenagers We need to know of people who enjoy working with 11-14 year olds. I've stepped in to make sure help is there for now.

"But what happens to those who enjoyed YCs but are over fourteen? Having chatted to some of the *graduates* I've found that there is a real desire to have a group along the same lines but for those in their later teens.

Helping Explorer Scouts" Jonathan Middlemiss has done an excellent job in rallying the troops with many parents (mainly fathers) to make this a reality. Joining the discussions and planning groups has meant that I have been able to bring in some ideas from my experience of 14-18 year olds, working alongside Explorers to help the group find its feet and mature as a working unit.

In the Summer Time ..."From the reports in previous Parish Links, you will know what an exciting summer we had with some twenty teenagers fully involved with our projects.

"One of the most fulfilling parts of my job has been getting to know the young people who spend a lot of time around

the Pavilion. While they may not feel that the groups on offer are really for them, they have proved to be of such immense help when asked and full of great ideas regarding further youth provision in Bunbury. I really hope to have a lot more on offer for them and stand by them with advice and direction as they look to realise their aspirations.

But where are the lads?" I am concerned about the lack of Christian opportunity for young men in the village. It's certainly my aim to have the young people at St Boniface a lot more involved in leading activities within the church, but the vast majority who are there on a Sunday are girls. I am not looking for our teenage lads to give up sport to come to church – not at all! But I am wondering how a young man can find out more about Christianity and see himself grow spiritually – a question being asked right across our nation. I think that some sort of lunchtime group at Tarporley High School may be a start, offering a programme of Christian exploration for those guys who would like to find out more and develop.

St Boniface Youth Action" This is the name to my work. The first part highlights the fact that I come from the mission of the church - to follow Jesus' example and be salt and light to our community – so I proudly say that I serve the village from St Boniface Church. But it's more than setting up a group and hoping teenagers come along. It's about taking **action** - getting involved where there's a need, bringing acceptance, experience and encouragement.

"That's the story so far and how I hope it will develop. Look out for the name and let me know if you want to be part of the action!"

Johnny Gillett 260680

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Gaynor says thanks

I would like to say a very belated special "thank you" to all of you who supported Freya and myself when I was out in the Gulf last year, then continued to help us to get to where we are now, in what one could only describe as a hectic year!

It all started back in March last year when I was mobilized with the Territorial Army (TA). Although I joined the TA over 20 years ago, it still came as a shock when I received my compulsory call-up papers. Despite the political unrest and talk of war I never really thought they would want a 40-plus nurse who had worked as a Health Visitor for the last 15 years, thus not actively working in a clinical environment.

A week later I left Bunbury! It was a really stressful period, as the decision was made for Freya to return to live with her father and my family back in Liverpool. We had to settle her into a new school there. She coped so well and took it all in her stride - even viewing it as an adventure. I was so very proud of her!

I was actually away for three and a half months and was attached to 202 Field Hospital working as a Nursing Officer in a 200-bed tented hospital. We were located in Kuwait for the first two months, and then moved up into Iraq, being based on Shibah Airfield. The hospital was full virtually all of the time. With 4,000 British Troops out in the theatre of war, plus POW's and local Iraqi casualties to accommodate when injured, the 600 staff were kept more than busy at times! Our holding capacity for British Troops was 3 to 5 days. If they could not be returned to their unit after this we helicoptered them back to Cyprus. We obviously could not do this with the Iraqi nationals, so once they had received life-saving surgery - mainly for gunshot wounds, mine injuries resulting in amputations, and burns - they tended to be with us for long periods.

School news

The children and staff returned from the summer holiday full of enthusiasm and there was soon a busy, purposeful atmosphere in the school! We have welcomed Miss Bedford and Mr Padfield, our two new teachers, as well as several new junior children and of course the new Reception class. Mrs Bulkeley has also returned from maternity leave to share Year 3 with Mrs Sullivan.

Year 2 children have already been on a visit to Nantwich as part of their topic about The Fire of Nantwich and the resulting follow up work is stunning. Years 5 and 6 are looking forward to the London visit early this month when they will take a river trip up the Thames, see London from the air on The London Eye, take a Blue Badge tour, visit the theatre and the Haberdashers' Hall. The Haberdashers will make a return visit to Bunbury later in October for Deputation Day.

Lots of our topic work this term is based on the Cheshire Young People's Learning Journey, a project initiated by the county as a celebration of our environment and local history. A selection of children's work will be used for our Hall display this term.

My tour out there was, in retrospect, a positive part of my life, despite missing Freya so much and the heat being merciless. It was 152F the day we came home and the air-conditioning was non-existent in those early days. Throughout my time away it was so special to know so many of you were praying for me and keeping me up to date on what you were all doing. I tried to reply when I received a "bluey" but good old BFPO was a little erratic to say the least. Last week I received a card from Lynne Simpson which she sent to me some 14 months ago! The content of your letters did not really matter: it was just good to hear life in general was ticking by. However, when Katie Mason included a snippet about a lost bag of chicken nuggets from her Tesco delivery, I knew she was struggling to fill me in on gossip! Katie, when we ran out of conversation out there in the desert (yes, I know you cannot believe that of me!) someone would ask if the nuggets had turned up and we would cry with laughter!

On my return the challenge continued: within 8 weeks, Freya had come back to Bunbury School, we moved into the centre of the village and I took on a new job.

I can honestly say I would not have coped over the last year without my friends here in Bunbury - so a great big warm "thank you" to you all!

Gaynor MacGregor



Our Harvest Festival took place in church on 24th September. Again, the Salvation Army took our gifts to distribute to needy families.

Year 5 children are taking part in the Pilgrim Day at Chester Cathedral at the beginning of this month. This is an annual event now for us and an excellent opportunity for the children not only to see the Cathedral, but also to try a variety of activities including, bell ringing, calligraphy, embroidery, singing and stained glass design.

Science Week at the beginning of November promises to be a challenging and exciting event for the whole school. Representatives from RSPB, The Museum of Science and Industry, Cheshire Wildlife Trust as well as science teachers from Kings School, Chester and Tarporley High School will be leading workshops.

On a personal note, I am also enjoying spending a day a week at Buerton Primary School near Nantwich this term, giving some support before the new Head Teacher takes up her appointment in January 2005.

Alison Phillips

Katie's Three Peaks triumph

I've done it! I have successfully completed the Railway Children Three Peaks Challenge by Rail. On Thursday 16th September, 200 intrepid people joined our specially chartered train at Euston and incredibly, 48 hours later, everyone returned, stiff, sore but euphoric, having climbed the highest mountains in England, Scotland and Wales. Unfortunately winds of 100 mph and driving rain prevented us from reaching the summit of Snowdon, but it was an achievement just being on the mountain at night in the most awful conditions.

Not only has everyone achieved an amazing personal challenge but also the event raised an estimated £105,000, far exceeding the £60,000 target. As all costs were covered by sponsorship from various rail companies, every penny raised will help children living around the world's railway stations.

The support and encouragement I have received has been fantastic and thank you to everyone who sponsored me, helping me raise an incredible £2,160.



New Window

As reported in last month's Link, Bunbury PCC are appealing for funds to provide a new stained glass window in the Ridley Chapel in memory of Canon Maurice Ridgway, Vicar 1949-62.

Those who wish to contribute are asked to contact the Churchwardens (telephone numbers on page 2).

Operation Christmas Child

Once again Nicola Elsegood (260507) is co-ordinating the collection of Christmas gift boxes for destitute children in Eastern Europe - and this year to Chechnya as well. Last year over 100 boxes were sent from this area. If you would like to participate in this very worthwhile scheme, please look out for the leaflets in church, local shops and in Bunbury School book bags. Now is the time to be saving shoeboxes, collecting small gifts and asking your children to



donate spare toys. If you find a whole box hard to fill, you could share with a friend, or we welcome any donations of gifts or toiletries to be added to boxes at our depot. We also welcome money donations to help towards transport costs. Boxes and other donations can be left at Bunbury School or at St. Boniface ready to be sent off in early November. Nicola is planning a fundraising cake stall at the School on Friday 12th November.

Please support her!

After the Olympics

Since Beth returned from the Olympic Games she has been busy preparing for a new chapter in her life. She, along with so many other local teenagers, will be starting university in Liverpool next week. She is so excited about returning to a "normal life" but she won't be turning her back on the sport she loves.

We all enjoyed the Games but Beth loved the experience and now won't rule out returning in four years time. Apart from competing in her chosen sport at the highest level it was the thrill of meeting the famous faces, the wonderful stadiums and hospitality of the Greek nation, and the camaraderie of the Olympic village which will remain with her. At the closing ceremony she heard the words, "I call upon the youth of the world to assemble in four years time in Beijing", and she says it made her want to return.

Of course 4 years is a long time in gymnastics but at the moment she is fit and enjoying it. She may not have got the results she wanted, but it has not put her off. She has already qualified for the World Cup Final in December which will be held in Birmingham (and probably televised). Before that she has an important date at Buckingham Palace when the British Olympic Team will meet the Queen.

Beth has asked me to thank everyone for their support and good wishes over the last year.

Ann Tweddle

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Man reads Link!

Your editors have received evidence that the Link has an influence beyond these shores! A recent visitor to Bunbury picked up the August Link after a trip to the **Dysart**, spotted the



Sutherlands' holiday website and promptly booked 2 gites for 2 weeks in Brittany. And pictured here are two more readers of the Link (no relation to the editors) caught reading the magazine in broad daylight at the Beeston Castle Fete. Fleet Street here we come! (Well maybe not yet).

We also know two readers have enjoyed the Link this summer as far north as Finland. Are there any further-flung readers than that out there? We would love to hear from you....

Tilstone Fearnall

Ann Latham writes to remind us that Tilstone Fearnall's Harvest Supper takes place on Friday 15th October, food by Mrs Harvey and tickets available from Ann 260488.

Services at St.Judes will continue as usual during Rick's absence. Everyone at St.Judes would like to wish Rick well and hope he makes a full and speedy recovery. We will keep him and his family in our thoughts and prayers and look forward to his return.

Community news

The latest **Burrows** arrived on 3rd August, **Evie Elizabeth**, pictured below, a daughter for Mark and Clare, a sister for Scott and a new relation for too many to mention!



And welcome to the latest in another local dynasty: baby **Ellie Rathbone**, first daughter of Kay and Brian of Barbridge. (Picture please!)



Above is **Emily Donaldson** at her baptism in August.

Megan Illingworth, daughter of Ruth and Phil of Cholmondeley, was baptised on 5th September and the daughters of Johanna and Mark Steward, **Anna** (3) and **Holly** (1) of Beeston Brook, were baptised on 12th September, all at St.Boniface.



Mela Preston and **Michael Heverin** after their marriage on August 13th (see page 2 of this edition!)

If you think the bells rang a lot in September, you were right! It seems it was **the** month for weddings in Bunbury. Congratulations to the following happy couples: **Martyn Bebbington** and **Rebecca Stubbs** (daughter of Phil and Catherine and granddaughter of John and Pat Rogers), married on 4th; **Sally Beddows** and **James Tyson** on 5th; **David Christmas** and **Kerry Gilder** on 10th; **Mark Walker** and **Yasmin Al Mogwadh** on 11th (many of the bride's family attended all the way from Australia and were greeted by their national flag flying from the tower); and local couple **Mike Baily** and **Tish White** on 17th, pictured below in a storm of confetti.



A blessing was held on 17th August for **Barbara** and **Ken Hamilton** on their 25th wedding anniversary. And Richard and Helen Pyne also celebrated their 10th anniversary with a blessing on 11th September. Congratulations to all.



Above are old friends Lucy Lawrence and Sarah Burrows pictured at Lucy's recent "surprise" birthday party. We hear that Jenny Lewis of Haughton is about to pass the same milestone.

We regret to report on 5 recent deaths: **Leslie Ryder**, 84 years, originally from Beeston; **Alfred Candy**, 92, who lived at Meadow House, Beeston Castle; **Tommy Ledward** of Sadlers Wells; **Jack Dutton** of Wyche Lane and of **Elsie Stoney**, aged 83, also of Wyche Lane, Bunbury.

Elsie Stoney was a regular Wednesday communicant and had a wealth of knowledge and tales to tell. She had fought cancer several times but never gave in to it. She never complained and was always ready to give encouragement to all she met. Latterly she moved to Prospect House in Malpas, where she continued to see many of her friends from Bunbury including Rick, whom Elsie said was the "best hugger", and who visited her until her last day.

Church notices

As we go to print the following were preparing to be confirmed by **Bishop David of Birkenhead** on 30th September: Linda Downey, Kerry Gray, Sharon Lomax, Geoff Lomax, Emma Downey, Rose Everton, Lucie Mulliss, Hannah Munro, Jane Parry, Sally Rowley, Rebecca Shears and Emma Waddington.

And finally, commiserations to **Tina Everton** who broke her arm doing keep fit - that well known extreme sport. Anything to get out of the ironing, Tina!

If you would like a copy of any photo we publish in the Link, we are happy to supply it in return for a £5.00 donation to cover costs and a donation to the Youth Fund.

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Diary

*Services may be subject to change after we go to print due to Rick's illness.
See notice boards for changes.*

October

3	8.00am	Holy Communion	St Boniface
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Jude
	10.00am	Family Worship	St Boniface
	6.30pm	Harvest Festival	Calveley
6	10.00am	Holy Communion	St Boniface
10	9.30am	Morning Service	St Jude
	10.00am	Family Communion	St Boniface
	6.30pm	Evensong with Harvest Hymns	St Boniface
13	10.00am	Holy Communion	St Boniface
	11 - 6.00pm	St.Luke's Hospice Shopping Event at Wild Boar	
15		St.Judes Harvest Supper	
16		Scout Jumble Sale	Bunbury Village Hall
17	8.00am	Holy Communion	St Boniface
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Jude
	10.00am	Family Worship	St Boniface
	11.00am	Holy Communion	Calveley
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer	St Boniface
20	10.00am	Holy Communion	St Boniface
24	9.30am	Patronal Festival	St Jude
	10.00am	Family Communion	St Boniface
	6.30pm	Compline	St Boniface
27	10.00am	Holy Communion	St Boniface
31	9.30am	Morning Service	St Jude
	10.00am	Family Communion	St Boniface
	6.30pm	Evensong	St Boniface

Looking ahead

November

13th	Songs with Strings
14th	Remembrance Sunday
27th	St.Jude's Christmas Fair
25th-27th	YCs Jack and the Beanstalk

December

4th	Bunbury School Christmas Fair
	Nantwich Choral Society Christmas Concert
16th	Bunbury School Christmas Service
19th	St.Boniface Carol Service

January 2005(!)

21st	St.Jude's Race Night
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Link is edited by Lucy Munro (tel. 260487) and Jill Robey (tel. 260081). We welcome all your comments and contributions. Our deadline for the November edition is Friday 22nd October. Please send material to lucykmunro@hotmail.com, or to Heath Cottage, School Lane, Bunbury. We are looking for new advertisers - if you are interested please contact us.

Your vicar, Rick Gates, is always available in times of sickness, bereavement or any distress. He tries to have Friday as his day off duty. If you need to contact him, please ring **Bunbury 260991** or **0771 5178750**
www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk