

Link

For the parishes of Bunbury & Tilstone Fearnall



May
2018

People who say it cannot be done should not interrupt those who are doing it -
George Bernard Shaw

Beeston Castle Fete

Monday 7 May
11am-5pm



Come for the dog show... Stay for the BBQ, beer, stalls, circus skills – and more!

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held for local
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Third Sunday
brunchers get a
taste of heaven

Who we are



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The Link

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www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk

Community news

We welcome **Ffion Katie Hall**, daughter of **Simon** and **Kate**, who was baptised at St Boniface on Sunday 8 April. Ffion means 'Foxglove' in Welsh - to signify a resilient female who can take care of herself and still remain graceful.

Congratulations to **Nell Elizabeth Wadlow**, daughter to **Adam** and **Victoria Wadlow**, baptised at St Boniface on Palm Sunday.

Rose Hayward and **Lucy McKay** will be confirmed at St Boniface on Sunday 29 April at 6.30pm by **Bishop Libby Lane**.

Congratulations to **Stephanie Dean** and **Clive Norbury**, married at St Boniface on 5 April (pictured below).



Mia and Peter Crump would like to thank all who have supported them in so many ways following the tragic and untimely death of their daughter **Leena**.

Beeston Castle Fête Monday 7 May – This is St Boniface's biggest fundraiser and a small committee, led by Sarah Thompson, work year round to make it a success. Please come and bring your family and friends to enjoy the entertainment at this historic place.

The annual **Ascension Day walk to Stanner Nab** is Thursday 10 May at 7pm - meet in the Peckforton Castle car park.

GraveTalk will be on **Saturday 12 May** from 10am to 12 noon, at the Village Hall.

On Friday 18 May, the **Sandstone Ridge Festival** comes to Peckforton and Bunbury, with several events including a talk about extreme marathons at Tilly's and a performance by an a cappella group at St Boniface. More at:

www.sandstoneridgefestival.co.uk/ or see ad on p7.

It's **Christian Aid week** starting 14 May. Please support the house to house collection. Many thanks to organiser Joyce Buxton and all the collectors. Thanks to all who supported the coffee morning on Monday 16 April.

The third **Third Sunday Brunch** will start at 10am on Sunday 20 May. Come and enjoy bacon baps or croissants in church, café style, with a variety of discussion, music and drama – a service for all ages with a difference.



Calveley Chapel Fayre will be held on **Saturday 16 June**. Come and enjoy 'Made in Cheshire' and gardening stalls, café and much more at this 150 year old Grade 2 listed church and its attractive garden.

It's time to release your inner superhero: Summer may still feel like an age away but there are plans and schemes being put into place to make sure one of the season's key events goes off with a bang: **Bunbury Village Day!** This year we are delighted to announce that our theme will be **SUPERHEROES** and we're expecting all sorts of heroes new and old to be in attendance. Peter Parker, Clark Kent and Bruce Wayne may be there incognito but hopefully Thor, Iron Man and Captain America and all the rest will be there in all their Lycra-clad glory! **Saturday 23 June** is the date for your diary. No Bunbury Village Day would be complete without the traditional attractions including a bar, a BBQ, funfair, parade, stalls, arena activities, WI café, puppet show, vehicle display, the list goes on! To keep up to date with plans, keep your eye on www.bunburyvillage.info or email: contact@bunburyvillage.info

Bunbury WI will hold their Resolutions and Social Evening on 10 May.

The next meeting of **Bunbury Gardening Club** will visit **Bolesworth Castle** near Tattenhall on Tuesday 15 May. Meet at the property at 6.30pm. Admission £5.00. Further details from Margaret Bourne 01829-260944. New members and guests are welcome, but please make yourselves known to a member of the Committee. We are asked to wear suitable footwear. **Bunbury Gardening Club's Annual Show** will be held on Saturday 8 September. Copies of the Show Schedule have been sent to Club members. Copies of the Schedule are also available from Burrows the Butchers.

Bunbury Bowling Club The green will be open every Monday afternoon for regular practice during the season from 1.30-4.30pm. New members are welcome and we have tuition for new starters. Enquiries to Dave Evans 01829 262514 or Brian Blake 01829 260700.

The generous supporters of the Dig Deep coffee morning and supper, hosted by Nicola Elsegood, raised a fabulous £712 for our local **Citizens Advice** as well as collecting more than 60 gardening books for the Nantwich Oxfam bookshop. Volunteering as a trustee for three years, Nicola is keen to raise the profile of **Citizens Advice** in rural communities. CA is a source of free, impartial, independent and confidential advice on a range of issues including employment, benefits, debt, housing, law and rights, health, consumer issues, relationships, discrimination and education. Face to face advice sessions are available in Nantwich, Crewe, Congleton, Sandbach, Alsager and Middlewich. Advice can also be accessed by telephoning 03444 111 444 or at the informative, up to date website at www.citizensadvice.org.uk which also gives access to an email advice service.

Our prayers for May

We pray for healing for our broken world and for wisdom for world leaders. We pray for all who are ill, particularly thinking of **Hazel Wilkinson, Pam Hardy, Margaret Marr, Phil Allcock and Elaine Crotty**. We also pray for all who are mourning a loved one especially the families and friends of **John Kinnersley, Leena Broadhead, Rachel Windsor, John Walker, Irene Hickie, Dorothy Stockton and Reginald Farrall**.

The copy deadline for the June edition of the Link is Friday 11 May. The magazine should be in church: Friday 25 May.

TIM HAYWARD
Your Vicar



Take care

“When the seat belt sign illuminates, fasten your seat belt.”

I've always been intrigued by the in-flight passenger safety announcement given before take-off. No doubt years of experience and hours of committee work have gone into preparing this important briefing, about what we should do, should there be an emergency.

And it's a succinct summary of how to handle life. More to the point, it is often counter-intuitive.

“In some cases, your nearest exit may be behind you.” In other words, don't do the obvious thing - even if everyone is moving forward, you may need to go back.

Or, should we land on water, you have a life jacket under your seat. “To inflate the vest, pull firmly on the red cord, only when leaving the aircraft.” Think before you act. Wait before you pull the cord. Stay calm.

But the best one is when the oxygen masks descend in the event of the plane losing cabin pressure.

“If you are travelling with a child or someone who requires assistance, secure your mask on first, and then assist the other person.”

Again, if you think about it, this is obvious. But if you are with a young child or a loved one with a disability, your deepest instinct would be to look after them first and then put your own mask on. However, in doing so, you are putting both of you at risk.

There's a fundamental principle here. In fact, this week I found myself quoting this part of the passenger briefing to someone caring for their spouse. In order to care for your loved one properly, you need to care for yourself. So often people care for their loved one, particularly if they are both advanced in years, to the point of exhaustion. Very simply, the carer needs a break. Even if you do feel guilty, it's the right thing to do. You put your own mask on first.

Jesus, of course, cared for himself as he cared for others. He took time out to spend time with his Father in prayer, even if people in real need were demanding his attention. It's worth quoting in full: “Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: ‘Everyone is looking for you!’ (Mark 1:35-37)

Other times Jesus was so tired he just sat down and let his disciples do the work.

Relying on others is not a sign of weakness but simply the way God has made us.

As Rosalyn Carter points out:

“There are only four kinds of people in the world.

Those who have been caregivers.

Those who are currently caregivers.

Those who will be caregivers, and those who will need a caregiver.”

A message of thanks from Celia Kinnersley

I should like to take this opportunity to thank the many people, who sent cards and letters and who called at the house or telephoned or who just stopped me in the street, for their words of sympathy and very kind thoughts following the death of John Kinnersley. It would take months to thank everyone individually, so I hope this will do something to show how much it has meant to my family and to me personally.

Also, I should like to thank everyone who came to the funeral. John was not a very outgoing man; he had lived in Bunbury since February 1970 and had come to know a lot of local people and newcomers and felt part of the fabric of the village. It was where he wanted to be and he was happy here. It was his home.

It was great to know that people were prepared to travel to Vale Royal Crematorium and to come together at the Pavilion in Bunbury afterwards. It was very heartwarming.

He loved his children and adored his two grandchildren and it was good to have the whole family together, with their partners, from Glossop and from much further afield in New Zealand.

Church diary for May

Wednesday 2 May	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 6 May	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Family Communion & Sunday School 10.30am Family Worship 11.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface St Jude's St Boniface Calveley
Wednesday 9 May	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 13 May	9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Family Communion	St Jude's St Boniface
Wednesday 16 May	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 20 May	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Family Worship 10.00am 3 rd Sunday Brunch 11.00am Morning Worship 6.00pm Evensong	St Boniface St Jude's St Boniface Calveley St Boniface

Wednesday 23 May	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 27 May	9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Family Communion	St Jude's St Boniface
Wednesday 30 May	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Sunday 3 June	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Family Communion & Sunday School 11.00am Holy Communion - joint service with St Boniface led by the Revd Vicky Barrett	St Boniface St Jude's Calveley
Wednesday 6 June	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface



Pat Ellis - Reader Emeritus A Pioneer Ministry

Isabella Gilmore, 1842 -1923, the sister of William Morris, was a nurse at Guy's Hospital in London and in 1886, long before women would be ordained as priests, she was asked by Bishop Thorold of Rochester to pioneer deaconess work in his diocese.

Together they planned for an Order of Deaconesses along the same lines as the ordained ministry. She was ordained in 1887 and developed a training house, called Gilmore House in her memory.

Dr Randall Davidson predicted that "Some day, those who know best will be able to trace much of the origin and root of the revival of the Deaconess Order to the life, work, example and words of Isabella Gilmore."

These verses by George Macdonald were on the fly-leaf of her Bible. 1887.

I said, "Let me walk in the fields."
He said, "Nay, walk in the town."
I said, "There are no flowers there."
He said, "No flowers, but a crown,"
I said, "But the skies are black,
There is nothing but noise and din."
But He wept as He sent me back,
"There is more," He said, "there is sin."

I said, "But the air is thick,
And fogs are veiling the sun."
He answered, "Yet souls are sick,
And souls in the dark undone."

I said, "I shall miss the light
And friends will miss me, they say."
He answered me, "Choose to-night
If I am to miss you or they."

I pleaded for time to be given.
He said, "Is it hard to decide?
It will not seem hard in heaven
To have followed the steps of your Guide."



Mike Rogers writes... Filling in the gap

My eye was taken by a recent advertisement for a Hyundai* car which read as follows: 'Evrythng abt th IONIQ HYBRID is as eficnt as it can posbly b.' The copy writer had clearly read the same newspaper article that I had a few years ago in which a Cambridge University language and reading expert had suggested that we can understand any written text, however it is spelt, provided the first and last letters of each word are in the right place. Here's an example: With olny a samll ajudstemnt in your cnotecriaon you are albe to raed tehse wrods and udretsnad what I am tynrg to say. It ralely smeas quite bzrraie, and wehn I tinhk of the hruos I (and I spsuet msot of you) senpt lernaing to spler wrods crroectly, it aslo smeas quite sad too. One can eevn go a sagte fthurer; Omttg th vwls frm ch wrd still lvs th txt ntlgble. Th nly dsdvntg s tht th wrd " " cmpltly dspprs! Whilst this discovery may be nothing new to a generation brought up to 'text' messages to and from their friends via a mobile phone, to those of us

who fall into that category described in the Book of Common Prayer as being of 'Riper Years' this latest revelation is yet another illustration that our traditional values may need to be re-examined in the light of our 21st Century experience.

But I see nothing wrong with this. We are called to listen to God's word and to do his will in our time just as much as the first disciples were in 1st century Palestine and the Tribes of Israel were in their time. But, to do that effectively, we have to try to understand the relevance of the word of God to us today. How does it apply to us in the 21st Century, what values are important today and just how do we interpret Scripture with an eye on today's imperatives? We know where to start as we have Jesus' teaching to follow and we know that the finish is the coming of God's kingdom, but can you put what lies between the start and the finish in the right order or fill in the missing vowels? Wth Gds hlp y cn!

* other makes are available

New management for Bunbury Mill Café

Bunbury's Watermill Café is now under new management, with Tina Everton, Susi Waddington and Liz Mulcahy manning the ovens to serve a fabulous selection of home-baked cakes and scones every Sunday and bank holiday from 1pm-5pm.

Visitors are invited to come down for lunch, with sandwich specials, baked treats and a range of teas and coffee available. And, of course, since the café is part of a fully working water mill, sandwiches on spelt and wholemeal bread made from Bunbury's very own flour are also on the menu. Or why not pre-order a loaf and have it to take away?

Sweet and savoury afternoon tea is also on offer for those who book ahead. Plenty have done so already and the feedback has been very positive!

The mill is set in beautiful surroundings. Recent investment from the mill's charitable trust has gone towards the creation of an island in the reservoir, giving resident ducks a safe place to nest; the creation of a new garden to benefit both wildlife and visitors; an insect hotel; and the introduction of wild flowers and bee hives to encourage pollination and natural honey production - Look out for Bunbury Mill Honey on our shelves later this year!

The Watermill Café can be booked for private functions and wedding receptions. Otherwise, the team look forward to welcoming you each weekend. It's the perfect treat before or after a historic mill tour.

"We're so excited to be running the Watermill Café, it's a dream come true for us," say Tina, Liz and Susi. "As well as a range of



colourful cakes each week, we've got lots of ideas for events throughout the summer and beyond. We look forward to seeing fellow Bunbarians each Sunday - and, if anyone wants to book the café and catering for a special event, please do get in touch!"

Find Bunbury Mill on Instagram and Facebook for the latest updates and cake snaps fresh out of the oven.



GRAVETALK IS RETURNING TO BUNBURY by popular demand

DATE: Saturday 12th MAY 2018, 10am-12noon

PLACE: Bunbury Village Hall

FREE: Tea, coffee and cake provided.

A chance to think about, and discuss in small groups, your wishes for your own end-of-life care or that of a loved one, and also planning and arranging funerals.

This is a friendly, informal opportunity to reflect, discuss and share ideas over tea, coffee and cake.

There will be short presentations by

- John Pughe of Promedica, providers of live-in care
- Marna Garner, about choosing care homes
- Funeral directors; Nigel Burrows and Jackie Wilson

Rev Tim Hayward, Rev Vicky Barrett and members of the St Boniface Pastoral team will also be in attendance.

For more details; Amber on 01829 261437 bunburypastoralteam@gmail.com

Sunday Brunch - dates for your diary

20 May - in church

17 June - Brunch and pet service on the cricket field

15 July - Brunch will be at Bunbury Playground

August... No Sunday Brunch

16 September - in church

21 October - in church

18 November - in church

16 December - in church (with Nativity).



Memorial Service held for Private C E Griffiths

10 (Shropshire and Cheshire Yeomanry) Btn and Kings Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI)



This memorial service for Charles Edward Griffiths (Ted to his Army comrades) was similar to the previous service held in St Boniface 100 years ago to mark his death. Charles was born in Nantwich in July 1889, educated at Nantwich and Acton Grammar School, joining the Cheshire Yeomanry (in modern parlance

Members of the Griffiths family, led by Julia Ray, Ted's granddaughter, who, along with Trevor Ray organised the great detail of the service and the superb communications beforehand, were very well represented at Saturday's service. In St Boniface on Saturday 7 April as well as members of the Griffiths family, Cllr. Nick Parker represented the Bunbury Parish Council, plus contingents and standards from Bunbury branch of the Royal British Legion, the Rifles Association who also kindly provided a very smart bugler, the Cheshire Yeomanry Association, Bunbury Scouting Association and last but by no means least Bunbury Guiding Association. I must mention the resilience of the children from the Scout and Guiding Association who marched cheerfully from the Scout Hut to the church in weather that was not only very wet but also very cold. One of the younger members did not even have a coat, but this old softy went to the church in a very warm and dry car.

James Walton

this was a Territorial Unit) in 1910 /11 as Trooper 661.

Charles met and married Sarah Ann Dutton, a farmer's daughter whose family farmed at Peckforton Farm, where they lived after their marriage at St Boniface on 20 August 1913.

At the outbreak of the Great War, Charles immediately enlisted at Nantwich. After service at home in Norfolk he was posted to Alexandria in Egypt and his battalion joined the Egyptian Expeditionary Force as part of the KSLI. They fought their way across Egypt into Palestine. After the battle of Beersheba, pressure was increased on the Turkish enemy forces who surrendered Jerusalem in December 1917. The final battle for Charles was the attack on Tel Azur when on 10 March 1918 Charles was Killed in Action along with nine of his comrades, who are all buried in the CWGC cemetery in Jerusalem.



Scouts tackle the Cheshire Hike

Congratulations to the eight fabulous scouts who did an amazing job on The Cheshire Hike. At only 11 years old, Alexander, Tom, Lottie, Eliza, Tilly, Rebecca, Frank, Peter and Ben plotted a route from Cuddington to Knutsford following co-ordinates and using excellent map-reading skills and compass work to walk 19km on Saturday and 12km on Sunday. They put up their tents cooked a hot meal and hot breakfast too, and their leaders are immensely proud of them all.

Grateful thanks are also due to Max and Amanda Harris, Dave Grace, Ian and Thomas Adkins and all the parents for their support in all the practice hikes - it really did make a difference. These young people are amazing!





Bunbury Bowling Club



We are looking for new Members to join our club

The green is open for practice on Monday afternoons
Come along for a trial and a cup of tea
1.30 pm
Free tuition

Contact : Brian Blake 01829 260700

Sandstone RIDGE FESTIVAL



Sandstone RIDGE FESTIVAL

Featuring ANTOINETTE SANDBACH, LUCY STEVENS, JULIE SUMMERS, BRIAN MELLOR, CHARLIE CLARKE, PAPAGENA, CLAIRE DOVE, BOYS ALLOWED... DUT, NINE BARROW, DIANA MATHER AND MANY MORE...

17TH MAY - 20TH MAY 2018
SANDSTONERIDGEFESTIVAL.CO.UK



Bunbury Singers
Present
Music for a May Evening
In aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care
on
Saturday 12th May
7.30pm
at
Tarporley Baptist & Methodist Chapel

Tickets £8 (including refreshments)

Available from:
The Old Fire Station Chocolate Shop
Swaffields, Tarporley
Tilly's Coffee Shop, Bunbury

Parish council pursuits

The Parish Council met on 12 April with seven councillors and three parishioners attending.

A Parishioner asked for the roads in Bunbury to be swept more regularly. Cheshire East will be contacted.

The PC congratulated and welcomed our newly elected Bunbury Ward Cllr, Chris Green, who of course is also a Bunbury Parish Councillor. A planning application for restoration work at the Chantry House was discussed and approved.

The new Playing Fields bench given by Cllr Leila Potter for grannies, grandpas and friends to rest upon, has been inaugurated. The bench is strategically situated at the half way point on the pathway, specifically for those who can't get round the field without a little break! Chairman Ron Pulford, Rev. Tim Hayward and Curate Vicky Barrett, with folks from the 'Walking for Health' group and 'Anyone Can Play,' all gathered to celebrate the new bench with a glass of wine, followed by tea and cakes at the Methodist Chapel. Cannot be bad, being a Bunbarian!

Cllr Leila Potter, PC Press Officer



Calveley Chapel Fayre Saturday 16 June



On the 8 May 1988 CALVELEY CHAPEL, our St Boniface 'daughter chapel' celebrated its 150th anniversary. Today, 30 years on, it is now Grade 2 listed and continues to hold regular services as well as being a particularly lovely setting for smaller, more intimate, wedding and baptism ceremonies. Situated in a peaceful and beautiful part of rural Cheshire, only 2 miles from Bunbury, it is unusual in that it was not built as a church but is a converted coach house. The building dates from the mid 17th century and was converted into a private chapel for Calveley Hall in the early 19th century.

After the Hall was demolished in 1952 the ownership of the Chapel passed to St Boniface Church Bunbury and the local Calveley congregation are dedicated to maintaining this unique chapel as part of the historic heritage of the rural community.

Each year we hold a small, traditional, **Calveley Spring Fayre** and the congregation would like to invite you to visit our "chapel with a difference" and support us at our Fayre on **Saturday 16 June** between **10:30am and 1:30pm**.

Inside the Jacobean style interior you can view the late medieval panels on the west wall and the stained glass windows by Powell, whilst enjoying soothing organ recitals on the Victorian pipe organ. There will also be display boards where you can read all about the Chapel's remarkable history over the past 180 years.

Outside browse the small selection of traditional fundraising stalls, that include 'made in Cheshire', gardeners' corner, books, bric-a-brac, tombola and raffle, and then relax with tea/coffee refreshments.



Please make a diary note of the date and we do hope you will find a little time to visit us.

There is no admission charge and ample free parking is available.



Murphy makes his Palm Sunday appearance



Murphy, the donkey, took the

Palm Sunday parade in his stride. The children took it in turns to lead him from the Nag's Head car park to church, as we celebrated Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, riding on a donkey as people strewed palm branches in his path.

Third Sunday brunch - simply heavenly



Bacon sandwiches provided by Tilly's, croissants and pains au chocolat went down well at the second Third Sunday Brunch.

We were treated to a sketch about an aircraft crash, a review of the papers, a nostalgic trip to Button Moon (via an in-house animation) and several interviews as we thought about the heavens and God's creation.



Leena Broadhead (née Crump) 12th November 1975 - 27th February 2018



Leena was born in a small village Great Ayton in North Yorkshire. She was premature and arrived two months early weighing only 4 lb. She was in an incubator for two months before returning home.

She grew steadily and was soon back to normal weight. She attended the Infant and Junior Schools in the village where she enjoyed life to the full. In 1986 Leena moved to Bunbury with her family and attended Bunbury Aldersey School. She made lots of friends and became involved in many activities. In 1987 she won the Haberdashers Bible (in those years only one Bible was awarded) and moved on to Tarporley High School. At home she joined the Church Choir attending services every week. She learned to be a bellringer and was confirmed in the church. She was a brownie, guide and ranger. At Tarporley she was successful with her GCSEs and joined the 6th form for A levels.

Leena's Mother is Finnish and summer holidays were spent in Finland. She became a true Finnophile and held dual nationality.

Leena was successful with her A levels and went to the University of Surrey to read microbiology. This was a sandwich course and Leena spent her third year out at Fisons in Holmes Chapel. Here she met John. A romance developed.

On graduation she was offered a job with a pharmaceutical company in Dartford. The separation was trying and Leena eventually managed to get a job in Wrexham. John and Leena set up home in Wybunbury. Leena was made redundant and decided to change career and become a management accountant. She joined a company in Knutsford and studied in her own time eventually achieving full professional status.

Leena and John were married in St. Boniface in May 2008. Dylan was born in June 2012 and Freya in April 2015 and Leena was busy passing on her love of Finland to her family.

Unfortunately Leena succumbed to sepsis without any warning and died very rapidly.

Leena was loved by many and was known for her cheery smile and for always having time for others. She will be sorely missed by her family. She was laid to rest in St Boniface graveyard.



Rachel Windsor - lover of the outdoors

Rachel, the second eldest of four children, was born at Hilbre Bank, Alraham in 1934. Her childhood was full of affection and humour. She and her siblings were spoilt with their Mum's food whose recipes for lemon curd "to die for" and Christmas pudding have been handed down through the generations.

She attended Tilstone School and then went to Chester to take a secretarial and bookkeeping course. Initially Rachel worked at Tarporley vets and then moved to do bookkeeping at the dairy at Calveley. She went to chapel in Alraham and it was here at the social events and playing table tennis that Rachel met Harold. They were married at St Boniface Church in October 1954 by Canon Maurice Ridgeway.

Whilst Harold was on National Service they lived with his parents in Bunbury, later moving to Grove Cottage on the

Dorfold Estate where they lived for over sixty years. Rachel loved the outdoors and spent time gardening and growing vegetables. She loved the arrival of snowdrops heralding the start of spring, and watching the lambs in the field opposite the house.

Rachel was devoted to Harold. Together they made a great team, creating a wonderful family home for their children, Alan and Helen and later their grandchildren, Sam and Katy. Family Sunday lunches were a highlight for all with Rachel making everything by hand. Her warmth and great sense of fun were balanced with her practical side, dealing with the finances and showing great determination when things were difficult.

Family was at her core and Rachel's love, support and tenacity will be greatly missed.

John Walker - courageous and loyal



Born in Audlem, John was one of eight children. Initially, after school, he was a butcher's boy but as with all those of his generation

the Second World War changed his life significantly.

John joined the Durham Light Infantry and with his battalion went to North Africa. He saw action in both battles of El Alemein and was wounded. After his recovery, determined to rejoin his battalion, John set off into the desert to rejoin them with his pack and pint bottle of water. This expedition lasted about ten days with John stopping any military unit to fill his water bottle and to ask for directions to his unit.

Following North Africa John saw action in both Sicily and Italy before returning to the UK for retraining prior to Operation Overlord, the invasion of occupied Europe. He ended his service in Berlin, guarding inmates at Spandau prison.

Subsequently, he was de-mobbed and settled for a quieter life with Dot.

They first met at a dance at Crewe Town Hall and John would think nothing of cycling eighteen miles to see Dot at weekends. They married in June 1947 at St Barnabas, Crewe. Their first home was in a small village, Adderley, a big move for Dot from town to country. In 1949 they moved to Bunbury their home for sixty eight years. Family was hugely important to John and he was the proud father to Susan and Dot and more recently enjoyed his role as grandad and great grandad. John was a proud member of the Royal British Legion for seventy five years, serving in many roles such as Membership Secretary and Vice Chairman. As he didn't drive, John would get on his bike and cycle to visit farms and homes far and wide to collect subs and was known to be sustained with a "wee nip of the amber liquid" along the way. He was awarded an MBE for his services to the Royal British Legion and also received a Royal British Legion Cheshire County Certificate of Appreciation as well as an Honorary Life Membership.

For John his gardening job was not seen as work: for him it was a lifelong passion. He took great delight in growing fruit and vegetables at home for the shows and he was just as proud of winning Best in Bloom at Nantwich Civil Hall as receiving his MBE.

Throughout his life John showed courage and loyalty. Always putting others especially family first, he will be sadly missed.

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