



Link

December 2005
January 2006

Happy Christmas!



*"No love that in a family dwells
No carolling in frosty air
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single truth compare
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in bread and wine."*

*Rick and Lin wish you a
peaceful Christmas and a
healthy New Year.*

Flying start for Target 1250

As we are putting this Link together, preparations are well under way for the Evening with Ranulph Fiennes, on December 3rd. There has been lots of interest, with tickets being sent out all over Cheshire, so the official launch of the **Target 1250** campaign looks likely to be a really successful and enjoyable evening.

The **Target 1250** fund has already had two huge boosts, with sponsorship from the Dublin Marathon topping £800 (well done Jasper, Tim, Katie and Sally, below) and an anonymous donation of a very generous £1,000. The **Target 1250** group is confident that enough funds will soon have been raised to repair the crumbling masonry on the north side of St Boniface.

Our next event is the Burns Night Ceilidh at Bunbury Village Hall on January 26th. This will be a really enjoyable night of traditional Scottish dancing and fun (all explained on the night!). Tickets are limited.

Target 1250 is a new group raising funds for the restoration of the ancient St Boniface building. Why '**Target 1250**'? 'Target' because we want to aim at specific restoration projects which will otherwise not be undertaken, and '1250' because this year sees the 1250th anniversary of St Boniface's death. It is a reference to the past, and a hope for the next 1250 years.

Target 1250 Group



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Attention All Scots! (and anyone else who enjoys a good time)

Burns Night Ceilidh

With traditional dancing to the **Usquebaugh** band

On

Saturday January 28th 2006 at Bunbury Village Hall

Tickets £12, supper included
Tickets very limited, available
from the Village Greens, Bunbury



All profits to 'Target 1250',
the new St. Boniface
building appeal

'He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High'

Parish Link is produced for all in the parishes of Bunbury and Tilstone Fearnall



Christmas Robins

Everyone recognises the robin with its distinctive bright red breast and very bright black eyes. We see more of him in the winter when he comes close to our windows and even ventures into our houses looking for an easy feed of crumbs. The three special qualities associated with the robin are its inquisitiveness, its fearlessness and its red breast. It is much cheekier than other birds and hops up to investigate anything new and utters a friendly, wistful thread of song often prompted by the arrival of a human being.

The robin is one of the most popular subjects appearing on our Christmas cards because it reminds us of Christmas and of home and that is why Englishmen all over the world remember and love Robin Redbreast more than any other bird. Having gained such a liking for this little feathered friend people started to weave an invented folklore around it to make its link with Christmas a lasting one. One such legend originated from a time when postmen wore red tunics and were popularly known as 'robins'. This resulted in Christmas cards depicting a robin knocking at a door or carrying a Christmas card in its beak.

There is an older pagan tradition that the robin was a fire bringer. The symbolic 'flames' on its breast were considered responsible for bringing fire and therefore warmth to the Earth.

My favourite Christmas story is the one where two robins, husband and wife, were regularly fed on a certain windowsill. The wife watched as the family brought in a huge tree and decorated it with candles and tinsel. How she loved the glitter of the tinsel and longed to have some entwined in her nest. On seeing an open window her devoted husband, wanting only to please her, flew in and landed on the tree but before he could fulfil his mission the door opened and in walked the family. Our intrepid explorer was so frightened he was rooted to the spot until the little girl, thinking it a Christmas robin, tried to reach for it. At this point he took flight and through the window he went, empty-beaked, to a waiting wife who no doubt gave him a penetrating 'tic tic' in his ear. There is a happy ending to this tale as after Christmas the tree was duly discarded and a glitter caught the robin's eye: and there was a piece of tinsel left dangling on one of its bare branches.

Liz Jones

The Reverend **RICK GATES** The Vicarage, Bunbury 01829 260991
 Rick's e-mail: Rick@prayer.fsnet.co.uk
 The Reverend Jane Stephenson (parish curate) 250249
 Peter and Kath Collinge (pastoral support) 260077

St Boniface

Churchwardens: Barbara Croley 260344
 Walter Done 01244 332563
 Youth Worker Johnny Gillett 260680
 Secretary Jill Robey 260081
 Flowers Margaret Bourne 260944

St. Jude's

Churchwardens: Bob Gardner 260555
 Ann Latham 260488
 Secretary Carolyn Johnson 260703
 Organist Ann Badrock 260343

Calveley

Churchwardens: Barbara Croley 260344
 Walter Done 01244 332563
 Organist John Batchelor 261056
 PCC contact Yvonne Wood 01270 528442



The lovely festive robins appearing on our pages this month come from Mrs Waddington's Year 1 class at Bunbury School.

Ian Bulkeley

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A politically-correct Christmas



Reading the newspapers recently it does seem that political correctness has again gone mad this year. Councils that will not allocate funds for Christmas lights for their communities in fear of offending non Christians; Christmas dinners are 'festive' dinners; the traditional school nativity play is replaced with a Disney production.

It seems that all over the country political correctness, or rather secularism and the perceived fear of upsetting minorities, is rife, and the real meaning of Christmas is being increasingly marginalised as the years go by. In many cases, the decisions not to explicitly mention Christmas in these activities is seen as being sensitive to other religions as if the possibility of offending Christians is not even considered!

Imagine the uproar if Diwali, Ramadan or some Jewish celebrations were secularised for fear of upsetting Christians!

Perhaps it is the case that Christianity is becoming so marginalised and back of mind in Britain today that those in authority don't even expect a response and take the easiest way out because Christians have become complacent and don't challenge things that cause affront to our beliefs.

Perhaps those in authority consider themselves to be Christians and if they are not offended then that's OK.

I have often heard Muslims, Hindus and Jews say they have no issue with Christmas being celebrated for what it is so why is it that it seems under attack?

Whatever the reason it is so reassuring that these attitudes do not seem to pervade in Bunbury where there is evidence of so much, of what some would refer to as, traditional Christmas or just perhaps Christian values: the sense of community; the school Christmas service at St Boniface which is always a delightful and moving expression of Christ's birth; the Christmas services – Christingle, the Carol Service and Crib Service which also pack the church to the rafters and the singing of Christmas carols around the tree in the heart of the village.

To me the great joy of Christmas is the simple fact we are celebrating Christ's birth – a day that changed the world. God becoming man – a light and a symbol of hope for the future - the reality of God's love for us in a world that appears so dark at times.

Amongst all the celebrations and exchanging of presents, let us not shut Jesus out. If there are occasions where people, perhaps even well-intentioned people, seek to marginalise Christmas and put it on the sidelines, let us speak up against it and be heard because as the well known phrase goes - take Christ out of Christmas and you are just left with M&S!

Have a wonderful Christmas!

Paul Holbrook



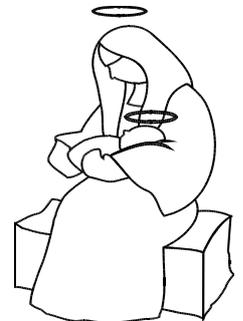
The Long-term view

“He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom will there be no end.” (St. Luke 1, 32 – 33)

At Christmas we relate to a baby in a manger with little difficulty but this Christmas is, of course, not the birth of Jesus but a celebration of his birth day – a commemoration of his birth.

Two millennia of history have rolled along in between and so we come, in awe and wonder, to celebrate a birth – but we

also know the child as Lord, King and Saviour. And it is that extra knowledge that we have today and the realisation of who Christ is and what he has done and all that he means in our lives that makes this 'birthday' so special. It's so much more than the celebration of a little child; it's a new birth, certainly – but the birth of an everlasting king of an eternal kingdom.



Eric Wallington

Special services at St Boniface



On **Sunday 11th December at 4pm** St Boniface will be holding the traditional **Christingle** service, where children take part in a magical celebration of the 'Light of the World'.

On **Sunday 18th December, at 10.00 am**, St Boniface Church Kingdom Kids are presenting the

Nativity. We would like to invite everyone to join us on this special occasion. Any primary school age children who would like to take part please contact Debs Gillett on 01829 260680. We will be holding a rehearsal at St Boniface Church on Saturday 17th December at 4pm to 5pm. Even if you are unable to make this, we will be delighted to see you on the day.

Later, at **6.30pm on the 18th**, we hold our atmospheric **Candlelit Carol Service** with well-known and some less well-known carols and readings, helped along by instrumentalists and the Occasional Choir, specially convened for this event. You are invited to stay after the service, to enjoy a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie.

On Christmas Eve, families are welcomed to the **Crib Service at 4.30pm**. In this service, which has become something of a tradition at St Boniface, we help our children to remember, amidst all the excitement, the baby Jesus at the centre of the Christmas celebrations. This service is followed at 7pm by carols round the tree in the centre of Bunbury Village.



Family Christmas Quiz

Thanks to Tom Crotty for the quiz - some Tarporley School students and parents may recognise the questions - but will they remember the answers?

Answers on page 11. NO CHEATING!

1. In chess, by what name is the castle also known?
2. Who was the first man to set foot on the moon?
3. In the TT motorcycle races held on the Isle of Man, what do the letters TT stand for?
4. In which English county is Matlock?
5. In which street did the Great Fire of London start?
6. Which fruit is also known as a grenadilla?
7. In which abbey is Poet's Corner?
8. Into which sea does the River Volga flow?
9. Which fruit is used to make the liqueur Kirsch?
10. Which programme first made a star of Simon Cowell?
11. In which country is the Lazio football club?
12. Which Australian tennis player won the Wimbledon Men's Singles title in 1987?
13. Which American football team is known as the Cowboys?
14. Who was England's first professional cricket captain?
15. For which club did Wayne Rooney play before moving to Manchester United?
16. For which Guinness Premiership rugby union team does Jonny Wilkinson play?
17. Who was the first European golfer to win the US Masters?
18. What were the first names of the cricketer W G Grace?
19. Which heavyweight boxer was the first to win 3 Lonsdale belts outright?
20. What nationality is the opera singer Placido Domingo?
21. According to the song, in which London square did a nightingale sing?
22. With which instrument is Paul Tortellier associated?
23. In which country did the dance The Mazurka originate?
24. Which musical features the wife of an Argentinian leader?
25. Who played Mr Humphries in the television series "Are You Being Served"?
26. Who played boxer Jake La Motta in the film Raging Bull?
27. In 'The Simpsons' what are the names of Bart's 2 sisters?
28. Which former hard man footballer starred in the film 'Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels'?
29. Which 'Sex and the City' star had a baby with Matthew Broderick in 2002?
30. What 1995 film was about a pig?
31. Which superstar actor was born Thomas Mapother IV?
32. Who played the title role in the 1982 film, 'Gandhi'?
33. Which nautical fish finger fan made a return to TV screens in 2002?
34. What cars were used for the getaway in the original film of 'The Italian Job'?
35. Which monarch ruled England from 1558 to 1603?
36. What English city was called Glevum by the Romans?
37. What Roman Catholic religious order was founded by St Ignatius of Loyola in 1540?
38. Which French Emperor was defeated at Waterloo?
39. Whose mistress was Eva Braun?
40. Which British television channel celebrates its 50th birthday this year?
41. Which prince planned the Great Exhibition of 1851?
42. What were the scientists on the Manhattan Project working on?
43. Which Soviet leader tried to install missiles in Cuba in 1962?
44. What is the capital of Poland?
45. In which ocean is the Marianas Trench?
46. What is the longest river in Africa?
47. Of which American state is Lansing the state capital?
48. On which river is Washington DC?
49. Kathmandu is the capital of which country?
50. How many lakes make up the Great Lakes of America?
51. What is the largest of the Canary Islands?
52. What country is also known as Nippon?
53. Which valley in California is the lowest and hottest place on the North American continent?
54. What is the title of the latest album by Coldplay?
55. In which country did reggae originate?
56. Who had a number one hit in 1981 with 'Green Door'?
57. A musical about the life of which musical legend has recently flopped on Broadway?
58. Kian, Nicky, Shane, Mark & Brian were which boy band?
59. How many pairs of ribs are there in the human body?
60. What bird has the scientific name 'Pica Pica'?
61. Of what is mycology the study?
62. In the periodic table what element has the symbol Ag?
63. Which planet has a year that lasts 88 days?
64. What type of creature is an oriole?
65. Which German physicist originated the quantum theory of radiation?
66. What is the partition dividing the nostrils called?
67. What acid is in a car battery?
68. Who discovered penicillin in 1928?
69. In the nursery rhyme what frightened Miss Muffet away?
70. What name is given to a painting, especially an altarpiece, of two hinged panels?
71. Which novel was recently released as a film starring Keira Knightly as Elizabeth Bennett?
72. What nationality was the artist Paul Klee?
73. Who wrote the 1749 novel 'The History of Tom Jones, a Foundling'?
74. 'Who painted 'Yellow Wheat and Cypress' in 1889?
75. What is the name of Harry Potter's ginger haired best friend at Hogwarts?
76. Which Britart artist is famous for her 'Unmade Bed'?
77. Who created Squirrel Nutkin and Peter Rabbit?
78. Who wrote the 1922 novel 'Ulysses'?
79. In the song, what did the jolly swagman camp by?
80. In fiction, by what nickname was Sir Percy Blakeney known?

CINDERELLA

The YCs staged their traditional panto at the end of November (oh no they didn't!) – this year, 'Cinderella' rewritten by Tom Crotty. Audiences have grown accustomed to the impressive performances these youngsters achieve in so short a time – and this year was no exception. The costumes, made by Liz Mulcahy and Tina Everton, were spectacular, and John Waddington's set really added to the show. The pumpkin coach was a particular triumph as, in the great tradition of amateur dramatics, it last appeared on stage as a sedan chair with Jill Robey, no less, as the King in Jack and the Beanstalk in 1993!

The show demands lots of adults' support, especially from Wendy and Teri, but they all agree that the experience for all the youngsters, and their enjoyment in performing, makes all the hard work worthwhile.



Bunbury honours the war generation



Members of the British Legion



Bunbury Explorers in their new uniform

On November 13th, a beautiful autumn morning, the Royal British Legion and members of Explorers, Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies marched together in the sunshine to St Boniface for the annual Service of Remembrance. Each year, sadly but inevitably, fewer veterans are able to take part, but it was good to see so many young people turning out

so smartly to honour the sacrifices of older generations. For the first time, those familiar words, 'Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn' were spoken not by a member of the British Legion, but by a scout, in a symbolic recognition that increasingly it must be the younger generation who carry on the baton of commemoration.

Brownies learn about Alice

At 2nd Bunbury Brownies we are thinking about our Disability Awareness badge. This week Alice, one of the Brownies, talked to us about her life and the complications of cerebral palsy. Joy, Alice's helper, and her mum, Lesley, helped with our meeting.

Joy showed us how to help Alice and told us some interesting facts about Alice's problems. When she is not feeling very well - any type of sickness; even a cough - her eyes almost switch off and she cannot see anything until the sickness has gone away. A few years ago Alice could not see at all. Now she has a little vision in her right

eye. Alice has to be helped to do everything that we take for granted. We learnt that we can help Alice in various ways - don't make sudden loud noises or movements near her; talk to her on her right side (this is her best side); let her hold things and explain to her what you are doing;

Alice goes to a special school in Winsford. The school bus has a special ramp and a lift so she can get into the bus safely. At school, Alice has lots of equipment and people to help her, including a computer to help her communicate; a hoist to lift her into a special push chair; and Helen, her

one-to-one helper. At home, she has lots of animals (a puppy, rabbits, chickens and a pony called Dizzy). She has just had a special lift fitted in her house. Despite having cerebral palsy, Alice leads a very full life and has lots of friends. She clearly loves coming to Brownies. Alice has had an experience that most of us will never have: Robbie Williams came to her school and sang Angels and Millennium for them and then he listened to their music.

Charlotte Greenbury, 10

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Good Companions strip on stage

In the Good Companions' latest production, 'Bed of Roses', staged in November, the audience was treated to the sight of Mairi Harris repeatedly stripping to her underwear, as well as Mike Ridley in suspenders (sock variety) and Carol Parry in scarlet petticoat: the racy goings-on all took place in a charity shop overseen by Gill Johnson as a very credible charity shop supremo, Laura Fitzwater-Brown. The casting of familiar faces was masterful – several of the Good Companions seem to have missed their true vocations in life – especially Steve Hutchinson who made a truly scary traffic warden! This was Chris Green's directorial and acting debut: well done to Chris and the whole cast, and particularly for those responsible for the clever set.



The pictures show the Good Companions in full flow including newcomer Chris Green (top left) as an officious shops inspector



If you would like a 5x7in 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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Community news

Congratulations to **Alison Foy** and **John Fitz-Gerald**, who married at St. Boniface on 5th November.

The carpet laid out at the gate of Calveley Church for the wedding of **Natasha Marshalsea** and **Alan Harding** (pictured below) on Tuesday 8th November, had become increasingly soggy by the time the bride arrived. However, spirits were not dampened and the ceremony, conducted by **Bishop William of Gawsworth**, brought a touch of sunshine to a happy and



memorable occasion. Some readers may remember the groom's great Uncle Wallace who ran the cycle shop in Tarporley for 30 years. He is now 86 and lives with his family in Alpraham.

Congratulations to **Emma and Mark Taylor** of Peckforton on the safe arrival on November 22nd of twins **Rufus and Beatrice**.

Apologies to **Collette Walker** for the premature announcement of her 40th birthday last month when in fact it is in February - call it advance notice?



Does anyone recognise these two lovelies from a pantomime of yesteryear? Thanks to **Hanni Latham** for supplying the photo, one of them is her son!

Christmas Diary

December

3	2.00pm 7.30pm	Bunbury School Christmas Fair Ranulph Fiennes	St Boniface
4	8.00am 9.30am 10.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion Holy Communion Family Worship All Age Worship	St Boniface St Jude St Boniface Calveley
7	10.00am	Communion	St Boniface
11	9.30am 10.00am 4.00pm 6.30pm	Morning Service Family Communion Christingle Crib & Carol Service	St Jude St Boniface St Boniface Calveley
13	7.30pm	Confirmation	St Boniface
14	9.00am	Holy Communion Tarporely School Carols	St Boniface St Boniface
18	8.00am 9.30am 10.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Carol Service Family Worship with Nativity Candlelit Carol Service	St Boniface St Jude St Boniface St Boniface
19	7.30pm 7.00pm	New YCs Group Carol Singing around the village Meet outside the Co-op - All Welcome!	St Boniface
20	7.00pm	Bunbury School Christmas Service	
21	10.00am	Communion	St Boniface
24	4.30pm 6.30pm 7.30pm 11.30pm	Crib Service Carols round the tree Holy Communion 'Midnight' Communion	St Boniface Bunbury Village Calveley St Boniface
25	9.30am 10.00am	Christmas Communion Christmas Communion	St Jude St Boniface
28	10.00am	Holy Communion	St Boniface



"Would the congregation please note that the bowl at the back of the church labelled 'for the sick' is for monetary donations only"

(Published in a church magazine)

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New Year Diary



January

1	10.00am	Holy Communion BCP (said)	S	t
Boniface				
4	10.00am	Holy Communion		St Boniface
8	9.30am	Morning Service		St Jude
	10.00am	Family Communion		St Boniface
	11.00am	Matins		Calveley
	6.30pm	Evensong		St Boniface
11	10.00am	Holy Communion		St Boniface
15	8.00am	Holy Communion		St Boniface
	9.30am	Holy Communion		St Jude
	10.00am	Family Worship		St Boniface
	11.00am	Holy Communion		Calveley
18	10.00am	Holy Communion		St Boniface
22	9.30am	Morning Service		St Jude
	10.00am	Family Communion		St Boniface
25	10.00am	Holy Communion		St. Boniface
28		Burns Night Ceilidh		Bunbury Village Hall
29	9.30am	Holy Communion		St Jude
	10.00am	Family Communion		St Boniface

February

1	10.00am	Holy Communion		St Boniface
5	8.00am	Holy Communion		St Boniface
	9.30am	Holy Communion		St Jude
	10.00am	Family Worship		St Boniface
	11.00am	Holy Communion		Calveley
8	10.00am	Holy Communion		St Boniface



Special prayers for: Neville Edgley, Benjamin Thomas, Rob Williams, Mary Crookshank, Claudia McLaughlin, Camilla Broster, Peter Overy, Elizabeth Barry and Maxine Sweeting and the family of Tony Loyden.

General notices

Tiverton & District Bridge Club meet at Tiverton Village Hall every Monday at 6.30pm and Wednesday at 1.30pm. Duplicate Bridge is played and you can bring your own partner or partners can be arranged. £1.00 per session including light refreshments. For further information please ring **June Gregory** on 01829 733502.



Tom

A Lady

**Are these two by any chance related?
We think we should be told**

Is there anybody out there?

It's great to get a response to stories we publish in the Link: Ann Latham has contacted us to say how much she enjoyed reading about the funeral-going cat, after her query. And last month's lost property also found its way home thanks to the Link. Jill and I really enjoy getting feedback and contributions, however small, to our pages.

Thanks

In this, the last Link of 2005, we must thank our regular and irregular contributors, particularly **Eric Wallington, Liz Jones, Johnny Gillett, Linda Downey** and house photographer **Peter Crump**, who make your editors' task much easier. Particular thanks to **Peter Crump** and **George Robey** for always solving our at times considerable technological problems. Also a huge thanks to all our faithful distributors, who promise to get the magazine out come rain or shine. We must also thank all our advertisers for this year's support - it is much valued.

Church notices

Once again **Barbara Croley** is looking for donations of good condition toys and new toiletries for Save the Family, the Wrexham-based charity that helps mothers and children made homeless through domestic violence. Sometimes these mothers leave in such a hurry that they do not even have a toothbrush and other essentials. Please leave your contributions at the back of St Boniface or telephone Barbara 260344.

The picture, right, shows the new Ridgway Window being installed. The dedication is on 22nd January.



YC's launch new older group

2006 sees the launch of a new group for the Young Christians.

Over recent years, the YCs have catered for all those in secondary school, but have found that generally members leave once they reach the age of 15. The pantomime is often their final activity and then the drive to Year 11 exams - GCSE! - takes over.

However, there was once an older group for those aged 15 and up many years back known as 'Club 21'. After many chats and discussions with the current 15 year olds at YCs and discussions with Wendy and Teri, we are now ready to begin a programme especially for this age group again.

As of January, Amber Middlemiss and I will be hosting a very laid back event each week for those in Year 10 and 11. It's yet to be named, but the idea will be to offer a break in all that revision and course work.

Young people will be able to meet together each week to chat, have some refreshment and receive any encouragement they need. There will be the option of games and videos, but no heavy programme of activities planned. Any ideas for trips out from the young people themselves will be welcome and supported by the two of us. There has already been a request to include the Diocesan Football Tournament again this year. But it will very much be about young people setting the agenda themselves and having a safe space to catch up with friends.

So all Year 10 and 11s make a note: Monday 19 December 7.30 - 9.00pm. This will be a preliminary session to discuss ideas over pizza, as well as deciding on a name!

Johnny

Operation Christmas Child



On a crisp, frosty morning, Janine Fairclough and I made our way to the Wrexham industrial estate where Operation Christmas Child is based. We had loaded up 40 Christmas shoeboxes from the Bunbury area for children in developing countries. We thought that was a lot, but when we walked into the warehouse there were what looked like thousands of boxes waiting to be checked.

That day, all the boxes being sorted were destined for Swaziland. A container of about 9,000 boxes was going to be packed before heading off, to arrive, with any luck, with the children before Christmas.

Janine and I marvelled at how this could be possible with only about 10 volunteers. Most were women probably of retirement age. It was easy to see that they need many more volunteers to get the boxes out to the children,

and particularly male volunteers to help shift some very heavy crates.

The warehouse handles boxes not only from local areas but from further afield. We were checking boxes from the Birmingham area.

We were shown how to check each box and then secure it. Several of the boxes had lovely messages inside. One donor had written a card, and on the envelope was written, *"To the beautiful girl who opens this box"*. Another had a digital photo and underneath the child who had packed the box had written, *"A picture of my mum and me packing your box"*.

We would like to thank Nicola, who gave us the idea of helping at OCC in the first place, from her article in the Parish Link. We think that it is a very worthwhile cause and one that needs more volunteers because the packing of the boxes can go well into the New Year. We will be going to the warehouse to help right through to January, so if you'd also like to help or would like to give us some more things to take, please give either Janine or myself a call on 260240 or 260714.

Sarah-Jane Stockman

Neville climbs his Everest

We are thanking God every day that Neville is making excellent progress towards a good recovery. He is very grateful to everyone who has prayed for him, sent messages of love, and visited the hospital. Neville has been overwhelmed by the love he has received from so many people, and this is spurring him on to his goal of being home for Christmas. He is gaining strength by the day, but it is still a long struggle.

This is what happened when we were able to go on our first 'date' together .

Today we climbed Everest, Neville and I. True, he was in his slippers, not his hiking boots, and I did the pushing, but we negotiated the big, roomy lift from Base Camp to the Upper Slopes of the First Floor corridor, stopping to wonder at every leaf on every tree in the little gardens between the wards. Then we had to overcome the final hurdle, the North Face of the absurdly small wheelchair lift into the restaurant. Quite a feat that was. The doors in and out are at right angles to each other and extremely heavy. They don't stay open. It was a huge struggle to get the chair in and lined up so that the 'pusher' was in the correct position to open the 'out' door. We need more training in this technique! We managed eventually and proceeded in triumph into the restaurant, planting our flag of victory firmly at the window table overlooking the fields and hills. We celebrated with tea, [in a real, china, cup!] and a blueberry muffin. We stayed for ages, just enjoying being together in a 'normal' situation. It is amazing how the minor things in life, which we take so much for granted, and often don't even notice, take on such deep significance. Perhaps there is a lesson here for all of us, to be more aware of life around us as it happens. By the time we got back to the ward, Neville was exhausted, but also exhilarated at a victory achieved. Thank God for small mercies!

Pat Edgley



St Judes

Catastrophe had not struck the children who went to school swathed in bandages. They just didn't want to take off the bandages they had practised with at Beavers the night before! Much fun and quite a bit of learning went on, the night we had two nurses, Mandy Stein and Jane Brown, visit us. Everyone brought teddies to bandage (some are still bandaged) and we had a 'teddybears' picnic' too. Laurie Brown's Daddy, Mark, played the Last Post and Reveille on his bugle at the Remembrance Day Service at St Jude's. At the Christmas Fayre the Beavers sold gifts they had made and ran a hook-a-duck stall. They also invited everyone to have a go at making Christingles for the Christingle Service the following afternoon.



Quiz answers

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1.Rook | 35.Elizabeth I |
| 2.Neil Armstrong | 36.Gloucestre |
| 3.Tourist Trophy | 37.the Jesuits |
| 4.Derbyshire | 38.Napoleon |
| 5.Pudding Lane | 39.Hitler |
| 6.passion fruit | 40.ITV |
| 7.Westminster Abbey | 41.Prince Albert |
| 8.Caspian | 42.Atom bomb |
| 9.cherries | 43.Kruschev |
| 10.Pop Idol | 44.Warsaw |
| 11.Italy | 45.Pacific |
| 12.Pat Cash | 46.Nile |
| 13.Dallas | 47.Michigan |
| 14.Len Hutton | 48.Potomac |
| 15.Everton | 49.Nepal |
| 16.Newcastle Falcons | 50.five |
| 17.Ballesteros | 51.Tenerife |
| 18.William Gilbert | 52.Japan |
| 19.Henry Cooper | 53.Death Valley |
| 20.Spanish | 54.X & Y |
| 21.Berkeley Square | 55.Jamaica |
| 22.Cello | 56.Shaking Stevens |
| 23.Poland | 57.John Lennon |
| 24.Evita | 58.Westlife |
| 25.John Inman | 59.12 |
| 26.Robert de Niro | 60.Magpie |
| 27.Lisa and Maggie | 61.fungae |
| 28.Vinnie Jones | 62.silver |
| 29.Sarah Jessica Parker | 63.Mercury |
| 30.Babe | 64.bird |
| 31.Tom Cruise | 65.Planck |
| 32.Ben Kingsley | 66.septum |
| 33.Captain Birdseye | 67.sulphuric |
| 34.Mini Cooper | 68.Alexander Fleming |
| | 69.spider |

Calveley

The first of our special Christmas Services this year, is our Crib and Carol Service with the Forest Group W.I. Choir on 11th. December at 6.30 p.m.

On Christmas Eve, 24th. December, we are holding our traditional Christmas Communion at 7.30 p.m. with the welcome return of Reverend Trevor Davies.

And finally, there is good news of Neville, one of our Lay Readers, who is continuing to make steady progress and expected to be home by Christmas.

Sue Woodward



- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 70.diptych | 76.Tracey Emin |
| 71.Pride & Prejudice | 77.Beatrix Potter |
| 72.Swiss | 78.James Joyce |
| 73.Henry Fielding | 79.Billabong |
| 74.Van Gogh | 80.The Scarlet Pimpernel |
| 75.Ron Weasley | |

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Christmas in the South Atlantic

Christmas in the Falkland Islands always came rather as a surprise. The lack of commercialism was amazing and very refreshing but it was easy to forget that Christmas was actually approaching – this was a particular problem because cards and gifts had to be posted back to the UK in November. Because choice in the Island shops was limited, most people got their cards etc by mail order which meant ordering them in September!

After this early flurry of action, everyone relaxed and with no advertising on television, radio, newspapers or hoardings, it was easy to forget that Christmas was coming. By about the 21st of December, however, the festive spirit was catching on, and shops were urging customers to 'shop ahead for Christmas'! Traditional Christmas lunch was not turkey but local lamb, ordered from one of the local farms. A lamb came whole, in a bin bag, and looked rather too realistic for our liking – we had to hide ours in the garage in case the children saw the little legs poking out!

There are certainly a few little local variations. For one thing, the reindeers are real! There is a national herd (about 60) an hour's drive away from Stanley, which you can visit at any time. For our first Christmas, there was also a pet reindeer which would be taken for walks around Stanley, but following a nasty accident, he was "retired" back to the herd. Another difference - Father Christmas arrives in a large military helicopter, assisted by two beefy "Elves". He visits all the outlying farms, and then lands by the

harbour in Stanley on Christmas Eve afternoon, looking surprisingly young and muscular!

The Christmas holiday is a very sociable time, with the post-16 students all flying back to see their friends, if not much of their parents! On Christmas Eve, there is an open-air carol service in the sunshine outside the Cathedral. Anyone who has a musical instrument brings it along,



The Whalebone Arch outside Stanley Cathedral

even if they can't play it very well, and we sang about winter snow in strong sunshine.

The most striking thing about Christmas Day was how long it was! In the UK, it has always seemed a scramble to get the turkey in, open stockings, cook breakfast, go to church, visit friends, cook lunch, eat it, open the presents and watch the Queen's speech, before falling asleep watching the TV or playing games. In the Falklands, it got light around 4 am

and we got up around 8 am. The stockings took a few minutes to open, then we had breakfast, and found we had a couple of hours to spare before church. The lamb, being so small, only required one hour's cooking, and we didn't have to worry about stuffing, chipolatas etc. By 1 we were done, and then we had another 9 hours of bright sunshine before bedtime – we celebrated by having a sleep in the sun, followed by a walk on the beach, then drinks with friends.

Boxing Day is the big celebration, as it is the day of The Races on the Stanley racetrack. This track, situated near the edge of town, looks like the sort of racetrack you'd add onto a model train layout. There is a great atmosphere, and almost everybody turns out for the occasion.

New Year was spent much as here. We spent our first New Year there Scottish dancing at Government House. Another was a safari supper by taxi, ending up once again at Government House; where we danced and waited for the pips at 3 a.m. GMT, our start to the New Year. We celebrated it by walking home in the early hours, watching the water in the harbour shimmering under the clear light of the Southern Cross. Happy New Year!

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A magical Meeting in Finnish Lapland

"If you go to Lapland, not only will you experience the chance to sledge or snowball but you can see Santa Claus as well. It's such a magical experience because he's so jolly and has your wish list. He gives you something on your list or something you didn't think he knew about! He has such cheeky elves, all dressed in green and yellow. They go to houses and see what children want for Christmas. The whole place just feels enchanted."

Lorna, 9

I went to Lapland last year and saw Father Christmas. He had a long white beard and a friendly, magical face. The funny thing was he was reading my letter when I came in. It was a brilliant trip!

Annie, 7



Santa chats to one of his elves in Lapland last year

Visiting the Munich Weinachtsmarkt

Last year we were lucky enough to be able to visit one of the traditional Christmas markets so popular on the Continent. To British eyes these open-air markets are a delight, seeming to hark back to a more innocent, less commercial celebration of Christmas. Of course, these days the markets are a hugely commercial enterprise, with many traders earning the bulk of their year's income during those four frantic weeks, but with the attractive, rustic stalls decorated with pine boughs and twinkling lights, the mounds of special gingerbread and local specialities, the smells of mulled wine, roasted hazelnuts and waffles: how could we fail to be enchanted?

In Munich, the Weinachtsmarkt stalls are put up in several areas of the city during November: they are much more robust than our market stalls. We visited at the beginning of December, on a very cold and busy weekend. There were plenty of tourists like us, but most of the crowd seemed to be locals, for whom the Christmas markets are an essential part of the celebrations, not only to buy special foods, Christmas trees, handmade wreaths, decorations and gifts, but also to experience the atmosphere. As evening fell, a choir began singing from the balcony of the Rathaus (Town Hall) in the city centre: the singers themselves were hardly visible, but the effect was magical.

Of course we had to try a mug of steaming mulled wine (hot fruit punch for the children), just to keep warm! Each stall prints its own special mugs each year, which customers can then buy cheaply as a souvenir: after sampling a few, we chose some showing Santa on his sleigh: they'll come out again to use this Christmas as a new family tradition.

We walked in the dusk through the city to the market in the Englischergarten where the famous Chinese tower - a traditional pagoda - was decked out in strings of white lights, and steam was rising from a tempting waffle stall. As we stood with yet more hot toddy, munching our waffles and watching the lights and busy stalls in the darkness, it made a really memorable end to our first Weinachtsmarkt experience.

On Sunday morning, we were back at the Rathaus, and as we were busy examining the fantastic display of dolls house furniture on one stall, we heard the ringing of a handbell. Who should appear but St Nick himself, with a cart full of presents: he handed something to every child in the crowd: you could tell from everyone's faces, child and adult alike, that this was the real Santa.

Lucy Munro

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Andrew Lewis remembered

The following is taken from the address given at the funeral of this well known local man, who died suddenly in October.

'Andrew met Wendy some forty-odd years ago and they married in July '64, when they went to live and work at Moss Farm, Haughton, with Uncle Bob. Mark appeared on the scene in May '65, Jane in March '69.

'Andrew loved farming and the countryside in general. He served as Chairman of the Beeston Castle Young Farmers Club and also as joint secretary, with Wendy. In 1967, the year of the foot-and-mouth epidemic, he became chairman of the County Federation of Young Farmers Clubs. When Uncle Bob retired in 1972, Andrew and Wendy moved to Firs Farm, where he was the first in the area, along with Marshall Ryder, to have a brucellosis-free herd. Once his children started horseriding it wasn't long before Andrew became a member of the pony club Committee and he staged a junior camp at Firs Farm for a number of years. Some years later, Andrew was made chairman of Deeside Dairy Farmers and also served as Administrative Director and Chairman of the Vet Group. Subsequently he became Director of the Nantwich Show with a special interest in the Shire Horse Section.

'Andrew had many interests, including foxhunting, Grand Prix

racing and football but his greatest love was cricket, at all levels. One of his proudest moments was when Mark was picked to play in the under-17s team in the County League. In the process, Andrew would travel to cricket matches all over the county, returning in the evening to do the milking.

'But his proudest moment was when Jane was married at St. Boniface, and he had the privilege of giving her away in marriage. It was of course, an emotional day for both Andrew and Wendy and all the family.

'Andrew enjoyed foreign parts, and particularly Cyprus, where he and Wendy returned year after year, with their very special friends Myrna and Neil, to enjoy both the country and the Cypriot people.

'His pride and joy were, of course, his grandchildren. He enjoyed seeing them grow and develop their own special characters, all so different, and spending time with them. Andrew was a loving and much-loved husband, father, grandfather and friend: he will so clearly be much missed.'

Eric Wallington

Memories of Nan Stockton

"If everyone put more into the world than they took out it would be a better place". This was Nancy's motto in life.

'Nan, as she was known to all her family and many friends, was born in 1930 at the family home in Haughton. She attended Spurstow School until she was eleven and then Bunbury girls school until she was fourteen. She then started her first hairdressing job in Chester, travelling by bike to Beeston Station and then by train, the fare costing twice as much as she earned! Bill used to get the same train as Nan back to Bunbury on Friday evening and their romance blossomed as they cycled up Beeston Hill together. They married in 1951 and Bill signed up for a three year spell in the armed forces to earn enough to keep them. Brian, their only son was born when Bill was away. When first married they lived at Bill's parents at "The Beeches" (opposite the chip shop) but in the early 1960s the family set up home in "The Bungalow" in Sadlers Wells - a home they bought themselves.

'Nan's first hairdressing shops were part of the village garage and later what is now "Beeches Cottage", but eventually she became a mobile hairdresser and her clients included many senior citizens who found it hard to get out and about. In total she worked for 61 years non-stop in the same profession of hairdressing. You could hardly call it a business, she thought of it more as a way of helping people and keeping in contact

with many who she had grown to know so well. Brian and Sheila married in 1974 and two grandchildren, Joanne and Mark were born in 1978 and 1981, the family moving to Bunbury in 1984, enabling Nan and Bill to delight in watching the grandchildren growing up.

'Family and friends will know that Nan always had a smile on her face, never had a bad word to say about anyone, always put others before herself, was extremely patient, and an excellent listener. She would do anything for anyone, just as an example she frequently delivered and collected prescriptions for elderly friends and customers and often shopped for them as well. She did not like fuss. A few years ago she was awarded the "Chairman's Cup" by the Parish Council for services to the village but she declined to be photographed or presented with it in public.

'Nan was a devoted and much-loved wife, mother and grandmother, and will be much missed by many people in Bunbury who are as much shocked by her sudden passing as the family are.'

The above is taken from the address given by Rick at Nan's funeral service.

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Did the earth move for you?

It always takes us a long time to plan our holidays but finally we decided on two weeks in Zante in October. The apartment was on the first floor overlooking the pool and I was set for two weeks' relaxation. The beach was 10 minutes away, the water clear and the most beautiful blue I have ever seen. During the second week we took a trip to Cefalonia.

One day by late afternoon after a shower I was sitting on the balcony, G & T on the table and book in hand, when the ice in the glass started to tinkle and the water in the pool parted just as though a large log had been dropped into the pool. As I started to get out of the chair I found I couldn't get back through the door as the building was shaking so much. Ernest eventually managed to get out of the shower and we hurriedly made our way outside. We were experiencing an earthquake 6.9 on the scale. We were told that we were safe as the buildings had to meet certain standards after the quake of 1953 when nearly all buildings razed to the ground. In the days that followed there were over twelve further tremors, though none as serious as the first. We saw much damage to small supermarkets, the nearest losing all the bottles of wine, spirits and soft drinks which made a disgusting river of mess: shelves were emptied of all goods.

There was no injury or loss of life, but as for the experience - once is quite enough, thankyou!

Barbara Croley

Christmas cards

There is a list of folks I know
All written in a book,
And every year at Christmas time
I go and take a look.
And that is when I realize that
These names are a part
Not of the book they're written in,
But of my very heart

For each name stands for someone
Who has touched my life sometime,
And in that meeting they've become
The 'Rhythm of the Rhyme'.
I really feel I am composed
Of each remembered name:
My life is so much better
Than it was before you came.

So never think my Christmas cards
Are just a mere routine
Of names upon a list,
Forgotten in between.
For when I send a Christmas card
That is addressed to you,
It is because you're on that list
Of folks I'm indebted to.

And whether I've known you
For many years or few,
In some way you had a part
In shaping things I do.
So every year when Christmas comes
I just realise anew,
The biggest gift that God can give
Is knowing folks like you!

Anon (thanks to Liz Jones)



Christmas Gifts

Now what shall I give them for Christmas?
The old season comes round again.
The worry and thinking about it
nearly drives me insane.

There's all my in-laws wanting presents,
Auntie Lil and Uncle Ern.
They've asked for the most expensive things,
They think I've got money to burn.

Auntie Lil wants a new set of false teeth,
Her old ones keep falling out,
They come out with such a clatter and bang
Especially when she starts to shout.

Old Uncle Ern wants a new outside loo,
Cos he sits there most of the day.
He sits there avoiding her teeth flying out,
He's worn the loo out so they say.

Then there's old Mrs Whatsit next door,
She's worn her glasses right out,
She peeps through the windows to

see what's going on,
They've got caught in the curtains no doubt.

There's the children I've got to consider,
Their requests have put me in a scare.
With bicycles and things like that
they must think I'm a millionaire.

But what about me for a present?
Turning out this rubbish again
If anyone wants to give something
What about a new ballpoint pen?

I've at last come to this conclusion
Which took a long time to reach,
To save any disagreement,
I'll give them all
twenty pence each!

Gordon Jones
Gordon is pictured on p6
with the British Legion



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The festive season is upon us, so here is this year's menu to tempt you. We go to great lengths to source good local produce which we cook simply without cutting any corners.

This menu runs from Thursday 1st December through to Saturday 24th December, alongside our usual blackboard menu. The two-course (any two) menu is £15.95 and the three-course menu is £19.95, both including coffee.

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Christmas Eve	Open 11.30am - 11pm	Food served 12 noon - 9pm
Christmas Day	Open 12pm - 2pm	Drinks only
Boxing Day	Open 12pm - 6.30pm	Food served 12 noon - 5pm
New Year's Eve day	Closed	
New Year's Eve night	From 7.30pm (Ticket only affair)	
New Year's day	Open 12pm - 6.30pm	Food served 12 noon - 5pm

Christmas Menu

Green pea and ham hock soup

Roast pumpkin and chestnut tartlet
with grilled goats cheese

Pork and apricot pâté with spiced tomato chutney

Smoked salmon on dill pancakes
with horseradish crème fraîche

Salad of fig and roast pear with toasted seeds
and soy and honey dressing



Roast Cheshire turkey with bacon and chipolata roll,
stuffing and cranberry sauce

Grilled cod fillet glazed with a Welsh rarebit on spring
onion mash with herb salsa

Venison and beef casserole with herb dumplings and
garlic potatoes

Pan-fried pork loin on black pudding, dauphinoise
potatoes and Diane sauce

Roasted parsnip and red onion tatin, creamed leeks
and warm gazpacho



Christmas pudding with brandy sauce

Chocolate and amaretti torte with Baileys sauce

Orange, Cointreau and cranberry crème brûlée

Mincemeat bread and butter pudding and custard

Iced parfait of caramelized hazelnuts
with fruit compôte



Cafetiere of coffee with amaretti cookies

Link is edited by **Lucy Munro** (tel. 260487) and **Jill Robey** (tel. 260081). We welcome all your comments and contributions. Our deadline for the February edition is January 19th, 2006. Please send material to lucykmunro@hotmail.com, or to

Heath Cottage, School Lane, Bunbury.

Our vicar, **Rick Gates**, is back at work and always available in times of sickness, bereavement or any distress (see p 2 for phone numbers). www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk