

Link

For the parishes of Bunbury & Tilstone Fearnall



April
2014

The Gospel is so simple that small children can understand it and so profound that the wisest theologians never exhaust its riches

Charles Hodge



Mary's Shell is one of a series of artworks, by local sculptor, Stephen Broadbent, linked to a children's book entitled 'The Sea Swallow'. You can walk this 'Mythic Coast Story' along the length of the promenade between Cleveleys and Fleetwood in Lancashire (see pages 8-9 for more on Stephen's work)

Easter services

Palm Sunday - 13 April

Stainer's Crucifixion at St Jude's - 16 April 7pm

Maundy Thursday - 17 April - Agape meal 7pm

Good Friday - 18 April - service outside Tilly's 11am

Easter Day - 20 April

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Community news

All the way from Charleston, USA, we welcome **Amelia Sky Wharmby**, daughter of **Autumn** and **Anthony**, baptised on Sunday 16 March. Her grandparents live in Alpraham (photo on p7).

We congratulate **Eileen Overy** on her 90th birthday on 29 April.



Congratulations to **Laura and Luke Warrington** on the arrival of baby **Penelope Rae (Penny)** on 22 February. Laura is a former youth worker at St Boniface.



Congratulations to **Eoin Stein, Jonathan Melia** and **Fiona Parker** on joining the U16 **Cheshire County Handball Team**.

The young people's **film night at Tilly's** was attended by 23 young people, who enjoyed watching *The Croods*, accompanied by chips, popcorn and a drink. Watch out for further film nights.



On 6 April **Tiverton Methodist Chapel's 150th Anniversary** will be celebrated at the 2.30pm service. The Preacher will be Edgar Gregory with music by The Good News Singers. All are welcome!

On 10 April **Bunbury WI** will have a talk by Gill Adlington on Painting for Everyone.

Bunbury Gardening Club will have a talk on Unusual Hardy Plants on 15 April, by Kevin Pratt.

Don't miss the **Children's Easter Egg Hunt** on Saturday 19 April at Tilly's at 2-4pm.

Margaret and Mike Bourne are opening their garden at Long Acre, Wyche Lane, again for Charity under the National Gardens Scheme on Sunday 20 April from 2-5pm. Teas and homemade cakes will be available and admission will be £4.00 (children free).

Save the Family will collect household items on Wednesday 30 April, 10.30am. Please leave items in church from Sunday 27 April.

Linda Tionco, Regional Manager of **Christian Aid**, will be preaching at St Boniface on Sunday 27 April. Christian Aid will also be holding a Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale (attended by Linda Tionco) at 1 Manor Cottages on 28 April from 10.30-12.30- please bring something with you and we hope to tempt you to buy!

Children's Society boxes will be opened in April.

There will be a **memorial service** in St Boniface for **George Potter** on Friday 11 April.

Calveley Grand Fair is on Saturday 10 May opening at 10.30 am. There is always a lot to do, so try to put it in your diary and come and join us. If you haven't seen Bunbury's delightful little Chapel in the parish, this would be a great opportunity to do so, and at the same time enjoy cake and a cuppa!

Peckforton Family Fun Day will be on Sunday 13 July. All proceeds will go to Bunbury playground.

On Fridays, from 10.30am until 12pm at Tilly's, there will be '**coffee and cake**' for anyone of ripening years - no need to be a church goer. All are very welcome and coffee will be at the discounted rate of £1 per cup and cake discounted too. Looking forward to seeing you! If you need transport please contact Amber Middlemiss on 261437 or email midrook@btinternet.com

Sunday Club thanks the **PCC** for funding the extra chairs for the Infants - needed due to increasing numbers. Sunday Club runs during the 10.30 service, in termtime, at St Boniface, for Infants, Juniors and Seniors.

The **copy deadline** for the April issue of the Link is **Friday 11 April**. The magazine should be in church for delivery on **Friday 25 April**.

Stainer's Crucifixion



performed by the
Alpraham Singers
at St Jude's

Wednesday 16 April 7pm

Our prayers for April

We pray for all who are ill especially **Ann Latham, Kath Collinge, Carol Hooper, Betty Clauson, Hilda Elsworth and Robert Baxter** and for those who are mourning a loved one, especially the families of **George Potter, Robert Wood, Brian Rosier and Madge Woodward.**

TIM HAYWARD

Your Vicar



Why are eggs associated with Easter? Why are they such a powerful symbol of resurrection? Because resurrection is transformation.

An egg is totally changed. What is yellow and white liquid becomes alive with feathers and a chirp. If you look at the liquid of eggs alone, you would never tell what they would become. A liquid goo becomes a chicken or a duck or an ostrich.

Another Easter symbol is the seed, or acorn. You can look at a seed and never imagine what colour it may turn out to have. Similarly with a caterpillar and butterfly. These are resurrection symbols because they become something else, totally unforeseen and beautiful. And yet there is continuity: the egg becomes a chicken; an acorn becomes an oak-tree; a caterpillar becomes a butterfly.

There are also human resurrection symbols: teenagers becoming

adults; people getting married or having children: they are the same people, but now transformed; they have new life, new hopes, and new possibilities.

The resurrection is an invitation to be part of a world transformed.

Jesus is the new generation of humanity, Humanity 2.0 (we might say). By celebrating his resurrection, we are inviting people everywhere to join him in a new birth, as part of a new humanity, with hearts and minds renewed, to walk "in newness of life." We are saying, "You don't have to wait for some distant future to start practicing kindness, nonviolence, reconciliation, reverence, joy, hope, neighbourliness, and peace. You can leave the old humanity behind and start practicing this new humanity now."

Happy Easter and enjoy the eggs!

Bunbury School - learning on location



Pictured (l-r) Y6 students India Williams, Holly Steward, Abigail Whittingham, Shivona Patel, Abbie Parslow, Tabitha Green and Lara Lees-Jones doing a fantastic job organising and running a cake stall to raise money for resources for a lunch time club

Every class loves an educational visit; a chance for a change of scenery, to eat a squashed packed lunch on the coach and to 'Learn on Location'. This term pupils at Bunbury Aldersey have already been out and about and with the spring weather on its way, there will be more visits to look forward to.

The reception class had a magical visit to Peckforton Castle Hotel. John Tollemache's 1851 pseudo-medieval castle seemed the real thing. Entering through the portcullis, their imaginations were sparked as they toured the hotel, the grounds and the on-site church. They even tried their hand at

the medieval sport of Hawking with the hotel's own raptors and owls.

Year 1 also had a fairy tale experience as their teacher Miss Brockley became Mrs Moxley, at St. Boniface. The class were invited to the ceremony (a weekend religious education lesson) the choir performed during the signing of the register and our head teacher Mrs. Thacker joined one of the bridesmaids in a beautiful duet.

During January years 2, 4 and 6 braved the cold, wet and windy weather outside to attend 'Forest Schools' sessions in our own wooded area and on the school fields. The philosophy of Forest Schools is to encourage and inspire individuals through an innovative, long term, educational approach to outdoor play and learning in a woodland environment.

Year 3 visited the Hindu Temple in Manchester to enhance their study of Hinduism. It's a fabulous experience and the children were amazed at the colour and spectacle of the temple. They have also been to Chester, this term, when a Roman Centurion took charge of the class, marching them around the city, barking orders and giving the children a taste of life under Roman occupation.

Continued on p5



Eric Wallington

Reader Emeritus

Thought of the month

A young woman was practising the church organ when a visiting bishop came up to her and said, 'Hello, Jane.' She was surprised, to say the least, because she hadn't met the visitor since she was a small girl, and somehow the bishop had apparently remembered her name from such a long time ago. She then reflected that probably her visitor had been told her name by somebody else in the church at the time. Whatever, the warm feeling stayed with her - that somebody had gone out of their way to enquire her name.

To be noticed by somebody we respect does give us a feeling of worth; that we really do matter to someone. Maybe something like that happened to Mary Magdalene, in the biblical recount

of the happening in the garden cemetery near Golgotha, following the death of Jesus. Others had visited the tomb and found it empty. There was nobody else there other than the figure she took to be the gardener and whom Mary spoke to. She expected an impersonal answer to a factual question: "Tell me where you've put him." But then the figure spoke - just one word, but it was enough, because of the tone of affection in which it was uttered: "Mary." He knew her name! She was Mary, a common enough name, but it was the name she'd been called by the one man who had brought her back from the brink of insanity. Her Jesus, who had been dead, was alive again. And Jesus seeks to know each one of us, better and intimately.

Church diary for April

Wednesday 2 April	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface	Sunday 20 April Easter Day	8.00am Holy Communion 9.00am Holy Communion 10.30am Family Communion 6.30pm Holy Communion	St Boniface St Jude's St Boniface Calveley
Sunday 6 April	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Family Worship 11.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface St Jude's St Boniface Calveley	Wednesday 23 April	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Wednesday 9 April	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface	Sunday 27 April	9.00am Family Communion 10.30am Family Communion	St Jude's St Boniface
Sunday 13 April Palm Sunday	9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Holy Communion 6.00pm Evensong	St Jude's St Boniface St Boniface	Wednesday 30 April	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface
Wednesday 16 April	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface	Sunday 4 May	8.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Family Worship 11.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface St Jude's St Boniface Calveley
Friday 18 April Good Friday	Noon-3pm Readings and prayer	St Boniface	Wednesday 7 May	10.00am Holy Communion	St Boniface



Pat Edgley Ellis

Reader

The still, small voice

The more words we need in order to say something, the less it is worth saying, and the more clamour there is around an event, the less likely we are to see the truth.

Elijah went looking for God (1Kings: 11 -13) but He wasn't in the roar of the wind that split the rocks, nor in the upheaval of the earthquake, nor in the heat of the fire that followed.

Finally came the sound of sheer silence. And God was there.

After a winter of storms, floods, power disruptions and political upheavals, this season of Lent gives us the opportunity to be still, to wait in faith to sense the closeness of the divine mystery of God as we await that glorious Easter morning of resurrection.

Lord, give us space to seek
the silence beneath the noise,
the stillness beneath the clamour,
the space to breathe,
to face up to what we are,
to accept what we cannot change,
to refresh our weariness,
to transform our depleted energy,
to look upon you and your healing grace,
to renew our spirits
that we may ever trust in your unfailing strength
so that your grace and goodness may be revealed.

Give us Two Minutes... Ken Broster



Ken was born on 31 May 1947 in the Grange Nursing Home on the Heswall, Wirral. His father was a Thursaston/Irby man and his mother came from Maryport in Cumbria. He spent a lot of his formative years in the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital and went to full time education at Greenbank Primary School when he was 9 years of age, followed by a very happy 6 years at Pensby High School.

What was your first job?

At first I considered the sea or the police, then I planned to go into engineering with John Summers, at their huge works on the Dee. However, having become disillusioned, I left school rather suddenly and went to work in a shipping office in Cunard Buildings, Liverpool for the great weekly wage of £1.50! I worked for this group for 13 years, rising from being a junior shipping clerk to a subsidiary company director and moving to Saudi Arabia. On returning, I joined a large transport plc running one of their many companies and going on to be CEO in various Transport and Logistic companies. Before I retired I was running the distribution for Pets at Home, at their Stoke National Distribution Centre, which was both interesting and challenging.

I had a very interesting 48 years in the shipping/transport and logistics industry that took me to many interesting places around the world, including a 6 year stint in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. There, I set up at joint venture trucking business - lots of stories to tell on that one! I retired in April 2012.

So, what have you done since?

For some time I have been very involved with the Austin Healey Club Northern Centre, and am at present its Chairman. I have made a lot of new friends at Probus, in Tarporley. My grandfather was a great bowler and left me his championship winning bowls - so away I went. I have been made very welcome at Bunbury Bowling Club and have renewed some old village acquaintances.

I'm involved with Bunbury Mill Trust - as a Trustee and Miller! I guess you all know about Bunbury Mill and what we are trying to do - but, sadly, a lot of people in the area have missed it, which is a great shame, as this facility is one of our two heritage sites left in the village, along with the church.

There's not much time left for anything else. As Cathie says, I am never at home during daylight hours!

Tell me about your family

I have been married to Cathie for 43 years this year (never an argument - liar!) Initially, we lived in Sandbach and when Cathie got a transfer to the Chester HQ of the Library & Museum Service, we moved to Peckforton Hall Lane, Spurstow. We now live in Tilstone Fearnall. Our children, Patrick and Sophie live in the south with their families. Both have daughters, Autumn (15 months) and Evie (5 months).

What would you change about Bunbury, if you could?

I love this village and the area - I have made some lifelong friends here - especially in 1983, when I returned from abroad and joined the school PTA, where I was later to become the chairman and then the first parent elected governor. I would change the junction of Wyche Lane and Vicarage Lane - The Wilkes' Mower shop, yes, I remember it as well as being a customer - I would demolish it and widen the junction into Wyche Lane.

Against a lot of local opinion, I believe the village needs some more housing - why? - Because families tend to stay once they find Bunbury, so we have a low turnover in our housing stock. As our children get older they move away, but we stay living in our 3, 4, 5 bed roomed houses, but producing no new youngsters for our wonderful primary school. In the end the school will slowly shrink and we could eventually lose it.

As one of my Bunbury friends said to me some weeks ago, "I like those cottages they are proposing next to the old doctors' surgery. I could sell up and have one of those and I would at least be able to get to the Dysart in my electric buggy, when the time comes".

What would you like to do in the future?

Downsize and relocate locally. I want to be buried in Bunbury Churchyard alongside some of my old Bunbury friends, characters and acquaintances, so we could have a few laughs..... not too soon, though!

Bunbury School learning on location - contd. from p3

Year 4 are in the middle of a very exciting Tudor mystery. It involves St. Boniface church, the Chantry House in Whyche Road and someone who owns a metal detector. Finally they will visit a wood-framed wattle-and-daub Tudor manor house, Speke Hall in Liverpool.

Year 5 have been combining keeping fit with road safety, as they took part in their 'Bikability' training. Bikeability is cycling proficiency for the 21st century, designed to give the next generation the skills and confidence to ride their bikes on today's roads. They were easy to spot, riding round the village in their 'high vis' jackets!

Year 6, now in their final six months at primary school, are working hard for their SATS tests. (Bunbury School came top of the Cheshire East Times League tables for these tests last year). However, they still found time to visit the World War 2 air raid shelters in Stockport. Having complained about their

forthcoming tests, they compared this to the stress of a child of the war and understood that "They've never had it so good." (Harold Macmillan Prime Minister 1957)

The whole school worked together on enterprising, charitable and fund raising initiatives. They have raised £151 for the Children's Heart Federation through the ever popular cake sale and also money for Barnardo's Children's charity. Congratulations to Clara Carson from year 5 who won the raffle for the Barnardo's Bear.

Years 3 - 6 will compete in cross-country and netball tournaments later this term and are hoping to beat their personal bests as well as the other teams. Good luck to you all. Bunbury School would like to invite you to come and see some **of their drama and music at their Easter service at St. Boniface at 10 am on 4 April.**

Artefact donations sought



Bunbury Mill

As a Bunbury mill volunteer I have been working on promoting educational visits to the mill, using the resources at the mill and linking them with the national curriculum (which is set out by the government) and to the topics chosen by teachers. We currently offer visits covering science, cooking and nutrition, art and design, design and technology, the Victorians and World War 2; plus the facility for teachers to work with us to produce their own tailor-made visit.

For the two history topics; the Victorians and WW2, we would like to re-create, in the mill, a child's bedroom from these two eras. We're looking for artefacts to furnish and dress these rooms and would be very grateful for suitable donations or you may prefer items to be on loan to the Bunbury Mill Trust. The sorts of things we're looking for would include:-

Victorian and 1940s

Small items of furniture
Clothes, bedding and linen
Children's toys
Children's books
Water jug and basin
Candle holders
Chamber pot
Any other suitable items

1940s

Gas masks
Uniforms
Air raid rattle
Military artefacts

If you have any items that you would like to lend or donate to The Bunbury Mill Trust we would be very grateful. Please contact me via www.bunburymill.com or on 01829 260848.

Thank you.

Frances Lawford

Third Sunday introduces the Divine Love Booth

The third Sunday in March was rather special, with the service concentrating on God's love. We borrowed the Divine Love Booth from the diocese and people experienced being cosseted within it. Amelia Sky Wharmby (pictured right) was baptised during the service into God's love.



Stained glass window mystery



Where is this window and what does it represent? Answer on p.14

Journeying with Jesus throughout Lent

What stands out on the journey of your own life: which places, in particular, which people, have helped define who you are today? Can you think of a time when you have been in the wilderness? Was it a sanctuary or a wasteland, or both? What did you learn about yourself?

Are there any individuals or groups of people that you would never dream of talking to? Why not? Can you think of a time when you connected with someone very different to you? How did you feel? Sometime this week, give yourself five minutes alone. Sit quietly; be still. Imagine Jesus meeting you and sharing a pot of tea. What would you want to say to him? What do you think he might want to say to you?

These are just some of the questions that have been discussed at our Lent Group on Tuesdays at 7:30pm. All are welcome, and each session runs for about an hour. You can come to one or two or all four in April! The theme of each session and location is below:

Tuesday 1st April - Along the road - Bunbury Methodist Chapel

Tuesday 8th April - At table - St Judes, Tilstone Fearnall

Tuesday 15th April - On the cross - Calveley Chapel

Tuesday 29th April - On the road again - St Boniface

The Good Companions tread the boards



Pantaloon (alias Mike Ridley) reports:

The Good Companions (supplemented by budding child actors from the village and friends from Church Minshull), have just completed a four night run of the farce, *A Servant to Two Masters*, in the Village Hall. The audiences seemed to appreciate the show, which went almost without a hitch! That is, apart from when Florindo kept losing his beautiful blond wig and, sad to report, the one who is much more suited to his role as a pantomime dame, in his first serious role for a while, managed to

stride on stage when he wasn't supposed to be there, didn't appear when he was due on stage, and contrived to let his trousers slowly sink to the floor during a very serious, stately, dance! However, everyone was a star, both on stage and back-stage, but let me just pick out the brilliant performance of Truffaldino (Chris Fisher) who was on stage for most of the two hours and managed to learn an impossible number of lines! He will also be remembered for his improvisation when he wanted to re-seal a letter - he didn't have any glue so he decided that if he chewed a piece of bread into a pulp - that would work just as well - not a pretty sight in the end! But my star, once again, was John Headon, the Director, with his boundless enthusiasm, imagination and vision. Thanks to all, and hopefully a few more aspiring actors and actresses will be encouraged to join us for our next production.



Bunbury's playground redevelopment project -



A small model of the Sea Swallow sculpture

Local sculptor Stephen Broadbent, who has been



Stephen Broadbent, acclaimed local sculptor who has been completing work in the public realm for over 25 years and is now valued as an artist, consultant and international speaker, has agreed to assist with the redesign of the Bunbury playground. The Link caught up with him to find out more about the inspiration behind his work.

1 What inspired you as a child? What made you want to become an artist?

I have certainly always loved making things and still do. I was the lad given a Spirograph, while my brothers were given football boots. My school life was spent in the metalwork room, with a teacher who was a trained silversmith, where I developed a love of metal, tools and processes, but it was the Liverpool sculptor Arthur Dooley who revealed to me a whole new world of ideas and concepts. After school, I moved to his workshop in an old factory in Liverpool, rather than taking the orthodox route to art college.

2 What two pieces of work are you most proud of, and why do they mean so much to you?

Creativity is relational and takes at least two people, one to make it and another to receive it.

So the works I am most proud of, are those that have been lovingly received and owned by others, whether that be a large public artwork, or a small piece to celebrate an anniversary.

The 'Water of Life' artwork in the cloister garden of Chester cathedral has certainly found its home and I receive feedback from all over the world. A second recent piece I would like to mention is a carved memorial to Bishop David Sheppard in Liverpool cathedral.

3 Do you notice a difference in the way children react to your sculptures to adults? Why do you think that is?

Children are often much more 'hands on' and direct, inquisitive and like to interact with the sculptures. Play and imagination which comes so naturally to a child, does sadly wane and this is often based around fear. However, it's great to see that fear lessens and abandon return in our third age, and it would be good to see more fearless eccentricity expressed perhaps in some all age play equipment in Bunbury.

4 What feature might you have really wanted in a playground when you were younger? And now?

I still really love swings, even though when I was six years old I broke my arm copying the big boys swinging and jumping off.

It would be great to be able to create a safe place where children can meet each other to play unsupervised, and where they can also take a degree of responsibility for each other.

5 What are your views on how art and play can be combined?

Art can be play and play likewise art. Art should always play with our senses, and we can interact with it physically and

Sheppard Memorial Liverpool Cathedral (left)

... an interview with local sculptor Stephen Broadbent



'Water of Life' Chester Cathedral

emotionally. Art can also be a peg on which we can hang our imagination, transporting us to a different place.

There is also an art of 'creating a place', a place of safety which permits a sense of playful abandonment. There is also a very important element of craft and creativity within our build landscape and ideally a blurring of the lines that divide art, design and the everyday. It's really about how a place makes you feel.

A creative community will help to build a healthy culture, and this could express itself in special days within this new public space for storytelling, music, dance, water play, kite flying etc.

6 What is your involvement with the Bunbury playground project?

Our family has been worshipping at St. Boniface for nearly ten years, so it's a privilege to have this opportunity to contribute to this exciting vision. It's quite a challenge for everyone and a process that will certainly build relationships, skills and raise community aspiration. What excites me is the opportunity to weave a trail of artworks into this new space, that I hope will become enduring theatrical props for families to re-tell, or even act out the old stories of the village.

The Journeyman storyteller Johnny Gillett is collecting these stories. Some are more developed, but others require more research. Our intention is that through a series of workshops, stories will be developed and encouraged to be re-told by the community.



Mythic Coast - Ogre (right)

Many hands make church life work

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was held on Sunday 23 March, preceded by the Vestry Meeting at which church wardens were appointed. Neil Dewson-Smyth stood down as church warden; Jill Robey continues as a warden and is joined by David Cox. The vicar thanked Neil for his work, particularly during the challenging time of the interregnum.

We moved on to the APCM. David Kendrick and Gill Arnold joined the Parochial Church Council. The vicar pointed out that John Mason sent his report, as treasurer, all the way from Portland, Oregon.

Warden, Jill Robey, spoke about the challenges of a historic building and the pleasures of working with a wide range of people. She pointed out how invaluable were the regular meetings between wardens and vicar.

Peter Crump, member of Deanery Synod, described the hierarchy of the church. He pointed out that while things come down through the system, he has personal experience of local issues influencing the church nationally, upwards through the synods.

The vicar thanked Carolyn Johnson for ensuring there were plenty of sidesmen to welcome people into the church for services.

Amber Middlemiss joins our strong lay ministry team. Currently studying Foundations for Ministry, she will train as a pastoral

worker, from September - a first for Bunbury! She feels called to minister to older people and recently started the Friday coffee and cake sessions at Tilly's. She warmly recommended the Foundation for Ministry course, which can lead to various ministries or simply enrich the individual.

Youth worker, Abby Cooper, spoke about her role with around 50 young people. She spends half a day a week at Bunbury School and runs a biscuit club at Tarporley High School and is involved with YCs, Sunday Club and other activities. The vicar congratulated her on her baby, due in May. He also thanked our previous youth worker, Kim Beswick.

Joy Parker spoke about the challenges and pleasures of editing the Parish Link.

Walter Done spoke about the church fabric. We have 28 items of work to complete as a result of the quinquennial inspection and have money set aside for the work. Restoration will shortly start on the memorial gates.

John Ellis reported on Calveley Hall Chapel, which is self-financing, from a congregation of 20. Comment was made on its fine woodcuts and its musical life.

Carolyn Johnson thanked the vicar for his enthusiastic work.

Wedding dress stories

In response to last month's Editor's Note, readers have sent us their wedding dress stories to share:

Amber Middlemiss tells us:

"My wedding dress found its way into the YCs panto wardrobe, so every year I have the pleasure of seeing it worn in the finale of the panto - and it always looks better on them than it did on me!"

Celia Kinnersley tells us:

"My dress was a very simple, fairly short shift dress, typical of the late 1960s and made by a friend of my future husband. I bought the material, gold braid and gold sandals in Oxford Street, on the way home to Cheshire, from a meeting at the Ministry of Housing.

There was 9 inches of snow on our wedding day, so I abandoned the sandals in favour of long boots and a coat for the photographs.

Like many wedding dresses it was left in a wardrobe until I had children, when it came into its own. Andrew played God in it, at Bunbury School, and Bridget wore it, as an angel, complete with wings, on a Village Day float. I will never forget (vicar's wife) Rosemary Atkins' face when she saw Bridget on the float, going past the old vicarage. She was helpless with laughter! Back to the wardrobe - but not for ever.

Whilst I was working in Cumbria, in the 1990s, I was the king bringing the gift of gold to baby Jesus. I took the gold braid from my wedding dress and stitched it onto my darkish blue cloak and it looked splendid! The cloak is still on Nativity play duty in Dufton, Cumbria.....The rest of the dress is somewhere in the back of a cupboard - I think!"

Dancing the night away



Bunbury Royal British Legion had a lively annual dinner dance at Bunbury Village Hall, dancing to Wychcraft. The enthusiasm of the 22 musicians and their energetic director gave the night a real swing and no-one seemed to want them to stop.

Two long-serving members of Bunbury Royal British Legion received certificates, much to their surprise, from the County Chairman of the RBL, Don Taylor. Ted Fowles, who has been playing the bugle for this and other branches for over 60 years, was given his County certificate for outstanding commitment to the RBL. Fred Hardy, the Poppy Day co-ordinator, received the runners-up certificate for the Poppy Day Appeal for small branches without a club. Bunbury collected just over £4,000 again this year.

Tilly's goes pancake crazy on Shrove Tuesday

While some pancakes 'missed', the event was a great 'hit'. Tilly's was bursting at the seams on Shrove Tuesday, as children, parents and friends tried their hand at tossing pancakes, in fun or competition. Hot chocolate, wine and pancakes helped concentration and the winners were awarded Easter eggs. £50 was raised for Save the Family.



Save the Family rising to the challenge



There is a small light at the end of the tunnel at Save the Family. Barbara Croley went over to Cotton Hall Farm recently and met with Edna Speed (Lifetime President of Save the Family), who was delighted

with efforts to highlight the need at Cotton Hall Farm, where there are apartments and facilities to enable troubled families to stay together and gain vital learning experiences. Barbara also met John Church, who will become Chief Administrator in the next few months. The crisis has reduced slightly and there are now four more families moving into the units. These families have come with help from local authorities which makes a more

viable programme. Save the Family has also received a donation of four figures and a promise of a further donation later this year.

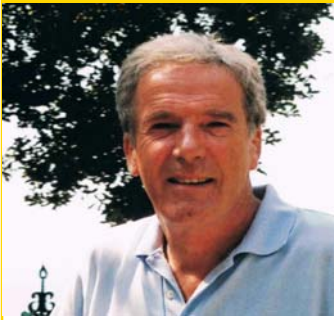
There is still much catching up to do, but things do look a little brighter and it is clearly important to keep Cotton Hall Farm (with the wonderful facilities pictured in February's Link) ongoing to help families stay together.

There is always room for those who would like to volunteer a few hours a week. Gillian will be glad to hear from anyone who can spare a little time (telephone 01244 409100).

There will be a collection of household items and clothing at church on Wednesday 30 April. (Items can be left from Sunday 27 February.) Anything you can send will be warmly received.



Gordon Forsyth - an upbeat personality with amazing wit



Gordon Forsyth who passed away at home last month age 63 was a very much loved husband, father and grandfather.

Born in Sheffield, he moved to Nottingham when he was just two.

Gordon and his wife Angela were extremely happily married for over 30 years and had a

wonderful life together.

Gordon's profession as a chartered accountant brought him to Cheshire in 1986 when Nicola was two and a half and Claire only 6 months.

The family is extremely close and after university both girls married and came back to settle in Bunbury. One of the proudest moments of Gordon's life was walking his daughters up the aisle of St Boniface on their wedding days to David and Henry, respectively.

Nicola and David blessed him with two grandchildren Jack and Elise and Claire and Henry have baby William.

To have his family around him was all Gordon ever wanted and he was so happy they also felt the same way.

Gordon was a true gentleman who always thought of others before himself. Even when battling cancer he had no self-pity. His upbeat personality and amazing wit helped the whole family to cope.

He was active in the community, being a former member of Round Table and Honorary Treasurer of St Luke's Hospice.

Angela, Nicola and Claire are so happy they were able to nurse Gordon and he passed away peacefully at home where he wanted to end his days on earth.



Madge Woodward - Caring in life and in her work

Madge was born in Bunbury in 1931 at Woodworth Green Farm just behind the church. She was the 2nd child of Alfred and Jane Woodward; her elder brother was Harold and she was followed by six more siblings Frank, Bessie, Norman, Catherine, Harry and Mary. She was always very proud and protective of her younger siblings and would often help her mother get them ready for school or church.

Life at the farm was always busy especially at harvest time but there was always a lot of love and laughter and always time for a game of cricket on the lawn at night.

Madge was educated at Bunbury School, going on to college in Chester. She was a Sunday school teacher and bellringer at St Boniface and was also involved with the Girl Guides in the village.

Her working career started when she got her first job with Joseph Wrights as a clerk in the Ministry Office. From there she moved to Hadfields and Prestcolds in Chester to do clerical work. Deciding that a nursing career was calling, she trained at Broad Green Hospital in Liverpool and passed her exams, eventually becoming assistant matron there. It was there she met her lifelong friend Betti Owen and they shared nursing accommodation together for a few years before buying a flat together in Liverpool. In 1970 Madge and Betti decided to leave hospital nursing and went to nurse at St Michaels Nursing Home in Rhos-on-Sea. After a year, they loved life so much in Wales they decided to buy the nursing home. In 1984 they decided to retire and bought a bungalow together in Rhos-on-Sea. Madge had many friends in this area but decided retirement wasn't for her and took a part-time nursing job at The Convent of Mercy Nursing Home where she spent the last few months of her life being nursed herself.

She had a huge interest in politics and had all the politicians weighed up. She enjoyed current affairs and always had an opinion on how to put the world to rights. Madge was loved dearly by all the family; their fondness was reflected in their nickname for Madge: The Matriarch.

Alan Griffiths - Bunbury born and bred

On Friday 28 February Alan (Al) Griffiths made his final short journey to St Boniface for his funeral. He was born in the parish in 1944 and the family home was on the Whitchurch Road, with his sister Molly. His father trained plough horses and always worked on a farm, whilst his mother had various jobs, including making cheese. Al attended Bunbury School and lived in the village throughout his life. He worked at the Rolls Royce factory in Crewe for 23 years until he retired. Perhaps that is why he was so passionate about keeping his car clean and serviced.

Al knew Barbara for most of his life but after many years they found themselves in the Nags Head and renewed their friendship, marrying in May 1993, so completing twenty happy years together. In retirement Al was able to concentrate on this garden and his love of birds (and his car) in his own calm and quiet way. He was a proud father to Paul and Jim, and adored his seven grandchildren. Not wanting to leave their dog Jessie behind when they went on holiday they bought a caravan and went on their first vacation but unfortunately Jessie died on arrival. However, they went on to share many holidays on the South coast and Whitby and the coast of Yorkshire. Al never held a passport but travelled extensively around England. However, he looked forward to returning home. For such a gentle man, surprisingly he enjoyed the gentleman's sport of boxing.

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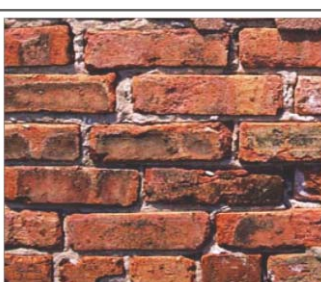
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