

Nature notes

"We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land, but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand" and whilst the seed is being scattered, in its wake float pearly-white seagulls and nicely-contrasting black crows waiting to pounce on a ready meal. The crows bark anxiously but give way to the herring-gulls. The wise farmer sows double the calculated amount per acre – one to grow and one for the crow.

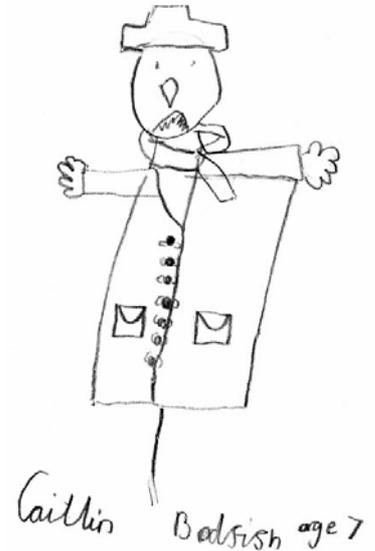
In an effort to save the seed and to act as a deterrent, a scarecrow, dressed in the discarded clothes of the farmer, was erected in newly-sown fields. These scarecrows stared bleakly out of their cardboard or straw faces as though offended by their task. To show their own disapproval the crows would disrespectfully spatter these ragged figures with whitewash.

You do not encounter many scarecrows or 'tattie-bogles' nowadays, but years ago they were a common feature of the countryside, decked out in old bowler hats and with pipes stuck in their mouths like tramps earning a few pence. Sometimes a dead crow was attached to an arm as an added deterrent.

Half a century or more ago, live scarecrows used to be employed in the shape of small boys who were armed with rattles or wooden clappers or tins full of pebbles which they banged with sticks. This was known as bird-tending, or crow-starving.

The decline of the scarecrow is due to the changes in farming technology during the industrial revolution. The hectic life of the farmer means he doesn't have time even to feel the earth or walk on it. He sits in his tractor and is protected against the elements. He is high off the ground and earth and its magical properties are lost in a kind of factory floor.

If you wish to see some modern scarecrows, there is a wonderful display at Wrenbury during the weekend of 3rd and 4th July, and the week before. I don't know whether they would scare any crows, but they might scare some children! It is certainly worth making the trip to see them.



VICAR

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

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Secretary	Carolyn Johnson	260703
Organist	Ann Badrock	260343

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Jungle Drums

No, nothing to do with celebrities or Bush Tucker Trials – this is a request for information! We want your news, and news of your friends and family: who's moving, who deserves congratulations, new babies, big birthdays, anniversaries, news of old Bunbury friends – you get the picture! You can write a piece for Link, or just give us the facts, and now we are computerised, the deadline before printing is a few days shorter. We also need news about events, to include in our calendar and noticeboard sections – this is a great way of getting some free publicity for your worthy cause.

And we are looking for more young artists to help with our illustrations (see this page.) Contact Lucy Munro (260487) if you are feeling creative!

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A day in the life of a vicar and his wife

We have decided to give Rick the occasional month off from contributing to Parish Link (just a breathing space!) and instead ask 'guest writers' for a piece. This month, Lin has bravely stepped into the breach:

I was asked to write something for the magazine – “Nothing too deep,” was the request, “We get ‘deep’ from Rick!” I said, “Okay”, because I didn’t think too hard before I spoke, but now, sitting here wondering what to say, I rather wish I had. I hear him huffing and puffing through the house as he’s writing a sermon – obviously much more important! - and trying to say all he has to say in under 17 and a half minutes before his congregation falls asleep. (At least I would never know if you fell asleep whilst reading this - and please don’t tell me if you do!)

Anyway, I find myself considering the word ‘important’, wondering what’s important to me, and my mind drifts

towards my children. I’m probably going to sound like one of those irritating, all-knowing ‘mothers’ I came across when my children were younger: they had always ‘been there, done that’- they were no help to me, and only undermined my own confidence as a young parent. But finally, in these recent times I find myself able to say, ‘My children have grown up now’, and not only does my pride swim through, so does the absolute relief – the fact that we made it at all. We’ve grown up together, and the results are two gorgeous young men of 19 and 21. We’ve all survived and not only do they still speak to me, I still speak to them and they still speak to each other! (Well, apart from the times when we’re not speaking to each other that is!)

I would call that success. Ben and Jobs make me laugh, and I think I make them laugh too, although it’s much more with that cautious tolerance that young people have as it

dawns upon them their parents are growing older too. Ben has even started doubling up on giving me messages that’s he’s already given to Rick, so that I can remind Rick of messages that Ben has given him. Sounds complex? Not really - unless someone forgets of course - and there’s an example of when we might not be speaking to each other.

But the thing is, I wouldn’t want to change a thing. Well, to be truthful there are lots of ‘things’ I’d like to change - I’d like to be able to buy more shoes for example - but I wouldn’t want to change a thing about who these two gorgeous young men are. And that’s what’s important to me. The sense of having been there and having done that. The sense of still being there. The sense of growing up together – even in those ‘not speaking’ moments. Is that too deep? Perhaps I just need more shoes!

Lin Gates



Seed pearls of wisdom

Jesus said: “Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God.”
(St. Luke 8,11)

Hold a seed packet in your hand and marvel how God, with sun, warmth and rain, can convert a few little dry things into a wealth of leaf, flower and fruit. The seed in the parable was ‘the word of God’ which God seeks to plant firmly in our lives.

Exciting and marvellous though the seeds in the packet may be, how much more exciting it can be to hold ‘the word of God’ – the Bible – in our hands, and to recognise and to praise God that he can use his word to transform lives!

An American missionary once described the Bible as ‘God’s medicine chest – to be taken daily til Christ comes’. Maybe the long lists in Numbers or the protracted laws of purification in Leviticus are not the most riveting, but ‘the word of God’ gives us so much that **is** riveting and inspirational.

There are many parts of the world today where people are deprived of access to the Bible and desperately seek the privilege of a copy of ‘the word of God’, whilst in this country many bibles collect dust and are never opened. We vitally need our ‘word’ input of divine seed every day. Let’s make full use of the divine seed so readily available to us.

Eric Wallington

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Learn to win at Golf
Live the High Life in our Pimms Tent
Admire the tradition of our Rose Queen and her Attendants
Guess the number of sweets / name of the Teddy
Enjoy the Music, the Floats, the Stalls, the Sunshine (well...)



Village Day 2004, it's YOUR day.
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Our winning team

The YCs took part in a diocese-wide football competition on Saturday 15th May. Congratulations to our team, who were silver medal-winners.

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Headlines from Bunbury School

Mr Priddey

There were some tears after school one Friday in May when the children heard that Mr Priddey will be leaving after 7 years' service to take up a deputy-headship in September. Some of his pupils aren't sure how the school will manage without him – but we wish him the very best in his new job.

Chess club

Pupils have been enjoying success in the British Land UK Chess Challenge. Eight children gained a score of 17 or more points, qualifying for the Megafinal held in Warrington. The triumphant qualifiers were Charles Plumridge, Benjamin Carson, Richard Munson, Alex Andrew, Edward Quinn, Stuart Wood, David Donkin and Laura Bull. Special congratulations to Eddie Quinn who was the overall winner in what has been a keenly-fought but good-humoured contest. And thanks to Mrs Wilson for giving up her lunchtimes to run the chess club!

Here Alex Andrew tells us about the Warrington tournament:

"On Sunday 2nd May, myself, Richard, David, Stuart and Edward took part in this challenge which was held at a school in Warrington. Over 300 children in different age groups took part. Throughout the day we each had six

matches to play and had to win four of them in order to qualify for the Gigafinal. We all tried our very best during all six matches but unfortunately we did not qualify for the Gigafinal. However we had a fantastic day and felt very proud having represented our school at such an important event."

View from Shining Tor

The school has also been taking part in the Cheshire Young Person's Learning Journey, which is a celebration of the county's history and geography. At the launch of this exciting project, Mrs Lander took Alex Hardy, Lisa Major and Ali Coley to meet other Cheshire schoolchildren for a walk up Shining Tor, near Macclesfield.

Lisa writes:

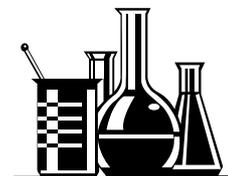
"The journey was a long slow steady ride on the minibus. It was a warm day and perfect to see the view and took about an hour. When we arrived we waited until all the other schools had arrived then we were put into groups. Our colour was indigo. Then we set off.

The walk took less time than I expected. When we got near to the top there was a stile and everyone waited in the cool air until it was their turn to go over. Five minutes...seven minutes... then it was our turn and there was the view! It was like a watercolour painting: we could

see little houses below us everywhere, and the airport with planes flying in and out. Then a man called the Green Knight read out our Learning Journey Challenge in Cheshire dialect. When we reached the bottom, we all had sandwiches and cake. It was a fantastic day!"

Children Challenging Industry

Year 6 children have been enjoying several sessions with Sue Andrews from Chemicals Northwest, as part of the Children Challenging Industry Project. Their topic has been "Water for Industry" and they have spent time in the classroom with Sue separating dry solids, undissolved solids from liquids and cooling hot liquids. They have also devised their own investigations and considered a method of cooling hot liquids frequently used by industry. The children will visit the Solvay factory in Northwich this month to learn how the work they have been doing in class is relevant to industry. Thanks to Sue and to our governor Peter Crump (a man of many talents—ed) for organising this event.



Out of the mouths...

A Sunday School teacher had asked her class to draw pictures of their favourite Bible stories. She was puzzled by Thomas's picture which showed four people in an aeroplane. So she asked him which story it was meant to represent.

"The flight to Egypt," replied Thomas. "I see . . . and that must be Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus, but who is the fourth person?" asked the teacher.

"Oh, that's Pontius the Pilot."

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Picture the scenebroad blue skies, warm sunshine, tiny wisps of cloud and the crowd buzzing, truly delighted by some splendid cricket and the antics of some larger than life personalities. Of course, there can be no certainty about the brilliant weather. What can be guaranteed, however, is the spectacle and entertainment on offer at The BIG Game in Bunbury on Sunday 13th June when The High Sheriff, Simon Sherrard, and his impressive XI will take on the might of The Bunburys, the star studded celebrity cricket team.

For advance tickets at special pre-match prices please phone;

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SUN JUNE 13 2004

Bunbury Young Artists Competition

Girls swept the board when the prizewinners for the annual Young Artists Competition were announced. Congratulations to Lucy O'Neill and Rachel Overy (Age 5 and under); Charlotte Greenbury and Charlotte Everton (Age 6-8); Kirsty Mason and Miranda Harle (9-11) and Anastasia James and Jessica Hardern (12-14). Anastasia was also judged Bunbury's Most Promising Young Artist 2004 – which is not surprising to anyone who has ever seen her mother's handiwork! Well done to all the entrants and to the Bunbury Society who stage the competition.

Bunbury Rose Queen

Another village tradition was continued this month with the choosing of the Rose Queen and her six attendants. Nineteen names were put in the hat, and Bunbury School's Headteacher Mrs Phillips did the honours. Anna Mason will be crowned this year's Queen on Village Day, and her attendants will be Georgina Lewis, Chloe Stratton, Caitlin Bodfish, Eleanor Meredith, Kate Lawrence and Emma Bowman. We look forward to seeing you in all your finery! (P.S. - anyone willing to help decorate the two Rose Queen floats for Village Day will be welcomed with open arms! – contact Lucy Lawrence on 261330.)

Drama Queens

Bunbury Youth Theatre Group will have some places for new members from September. This popular club meets on Friday evenings at Bunbury Pavilion – years 3 to 6 at 4.30pm; year 7 and upwards from 6pm to 7.30pm - and it is open to anyone of school age, not just children from Bunbury. The group is run by a professional drama teacher, and this year the children have tackled a range of material, from Shakespeare to Oliver! Anyone who is interested in joining is welcome to come and see the end-of-term show (date to be arranged) or the last class of the session on July 16th. Please contact Vanessa Greenbury (260715).

Scouts go back to nature!

Bunbury may have seemed curiously quiet over the weekend of 15th -16th May. Many families were enjoying the glorious sunshine in peace, as 50 of our sons and daughters, with 12 intrepid leaders, headed into the Peak District for the Scout and Cub Summer Camp.

The party spent the weekend learning new outdoor skills, from orienteering, caving and shelter-building, to outdoor cooking and river-crossing. The scouts were all under canvas whilst the cubs were housed in a residential cottage. One of the weekend's highlights was the traditional

campfire on Saturday night when the whole group came together for the evening meal followed by entertainment from the cubs and scouts. It was also great to be able to invest the two newest cubs, Ralph Elsegood and Joseph Kelly at the Saturday night event. Thanks to the fine weather, the hard work of all the leaders and the behaviour of the cubs and scouts, a fantastic weekend was enjoyed by all.

Shaun Kelly

Cubs enjoying the sunshine (right) and Ben Rogers at the barbeque (far right)



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Letter from St. Jude's, Tilstone Fearnall

"Hello! St. Jude's calling! We would like to welcome Lucy Munro and Jill Robey as the new editors of Parish Link and wish them good luck. Also to take this opportunity to thank Jean Healey for the endless trouble she took to put correct copy in the magazine for Tilstone Fearnall over many years, and for her help and good humour always.

Here is the date for our summer lunch – Sunday, July 11th, We hope you will all join us on that day for an excellent lunch, we promise you!

We had an excellent congregation for our Easter service, and our thanks go to the willing little band of flower-arrangers. The church looked really beautiful.

We will sign off now, and look forward to getting to know our editors much better". **Ann Latham, Churchwarden**

Film 2004

Are you interested in films? Rick is very keen for the new-look Link to include a film-review feature. Any of our readers who fancy a go at being Bunbury's answer to Barry Norman (or even Jonathan Ross) – here's your chance. Give us your opinions on any film you've seen recently – good or bad, at the cinema or on television, DVD or video, and we'll include it, as long as it's printable. So Rick, we're looking forward to your contributions in July's edition!



Community news

Phoebe Victoria Hyslop (4) and her sister **Tabitha Alice** (2), were baptised at St Boniface on May 1st.

Amber Middlemiss reached a significant milestone at the end of May—congratulations!

Sadly, we have to report the death of **Doris Garner**. Doris started her life on a farm, but during the war she worked in munitions factories in Capenhurst and Risley, Warrington. After the war she came to work at Crewe Railway works. She lived for the first part of her life in Haughton, and 29 years ago moved to Bunbury. After Crewe, she came to work in the village at what was then John Hughes, Raymond West at Spurstow, and John Burrows – all grocers. She stopped work at 59 and enjoyed 25 years of full and happy retirement.

During her life, Doris was a regular churchgoer and worked hard for the church. A number of the kneelers in St. Boniface are her handiwork - she was a wonderful needlewoman. She also had a great love of music and was an enthusiastic traveller: there was always another holiday being planned!

Doris was a loyal member of the W.I., the Mothers' Union, the Wednesday Club and of the Methodist Women's Fellowship. She was always a happy person, who in latter years attended the Methodist chapel. After the service, Doris was always one of the first to offer an encouraging word before she went on her way.

(This was taken from the address given by Rev Neal Street).

Church notices



The Archdeacon made his annual visitation to the Deanery on 17th May at St Boniface. As well as the traditional service at which churchwardens and sidesmen and women were asked to affirm their commitment to their duties, he blessed the new facilities. If you would like to help with sidesperson duties and in welcoming people as they come into church each Sunday please contact Rick.

St Boniface Day this year, 5th June, marks the **1,250th anniversary** of the death of St Boniface. The early wooden church in Bunbury, built six years after Boniface's murder, was named after him by his friend, the King of Mercia. Succeeding churches on the site, including our stone one, inherited the "dedication". *(Thanks to Jean Healey for this).*

The annual **Children's Society** box-opening for 2003-4 amounted to £364.35. The Children's Society would like to thank everyone who contributed and assure you that your donations are helping to change many children's lives for the better. Anyone who would like a collecting box at home or workplace, please contact Martina Phillips on 261143.

General notices

Action Stations, the newsletter of the **Railway Children** charity, reports that Bunbury Church has donated £500. Katie Mason from Beeston is the events manager for this very worthwhile charity, based in Crewe. Originally founded to help destitute children living on railway stations in India, the charity now helps needy children all over the world, and the church is hoping to continue its financial support in the future.

A **Country Fair** will be held in the beautiful gardens of Burland Hall near Nantwich on Sunday 27th June 2004, 12-5pm in aid of **St Luke's Hospice**.

Burland Hall is on the A534 Wrexham to Nantwich Road at the Long Lane junction. Attractions include a circus workshop, flower arranging demonstrations, birds of prey, live music, watercolour challenge, putting and laser shooting competitions, traditional country games for adults and children, a marquee shopping mall, sandwiches and Brookshaw's sensational sausage sizzle, cream teas, Rodney Densem Wine Bar and Weetwood Real Ale. Admission £5 per family or £4 in advance. Many attractions are included in the admission charge. Sorry no dogs are permitted in the gardens but they can be walked on a lead in the car park area. Contact St Luke's Hospice fundraising office—01606 551246) or www.stlukes-hospice.co.uk.

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Diary

June

2	10.00am	Holy Communion Patronal Service	St Boniface
6	8.00am 9.30am 10.00am 11.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Family Worship Family Worship Holy Communion	St Boniface St Jude St Boniface Calveley St Boniface
9	10.00am	Holy Communion	St Boniface
11		Summer Eve Ball	Calveley
13	9.30am 10.00am 6.30pm	Morning Service Family Communion Evensong Celebrity Cricket Match	St Jude St Boniface St Boniface Bunbury
16	10.00am	Holy Communion	St Boniface
16-19		A Midsummer Night's Dream—Tarporley School	
19		Village Day	
20	8.00am 9.30am 10.00am 11.00am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Family Worship Holy Communion Holy Communion	St Boniface St Jude St Boniface Calveley St Boniface
23	10.00am	Holy Communion	St Boniface
27	9.30am 10.00am 6.30pm 12 - 5.00pm	Morning Service Family Communion Compline Country Fair, Burland Hall, for St Luke's Hospice	St Jude St Boniface St Boniface
30	10.00am	Holy Communion	St Boniface

Looking ahead

July

3rd	Bunbury School Barbeque
4th	Flint Male Voice Choir, Calveley
11th	Tilstone Fearnall Summer Lunch
23rd	End of Bunbury School Term
26th-30th	Holiday Club, St Boniface

August

30th	Beeston Castle Fete
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Link is edited by Lucy Munro (tel. 260487) and Jill Robey (tel. 260081). We welcome all your comments and contributions. Our deadline for the July edition is June 18th. Please send material to lucykmunro@hotmail.com, or to Heath Cottage, School Lane, Bunbury. We are looking for new advertisers - if you are interested please contact us.

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