



Link

December 2004
January 2005

Though an infant now we view him,
He shall fill his Father's throne,
Gather all the nations to him:
Every knee shall then bow down.



Happy Christmas!

The shortest, darkest days of a Cheshire winter are approaching: we have already seen the first snow (much to our children's excitement) and on many days we need electric lights from dawn to bedtime. The shops are full of glitter and tat, there are too many crowds and too much to do. It can seem a miserable and uncomfortable time of year. But with the magical birth of the baby Jesus, the days once again begin imperceptibly to lengthen, and we can begin to look forward to a new year's spring.

Rick and Lin

As we go to print Rick has recovered well from his operation and is about to start a course of chemotherapy. It's been lovely to see him up and about at church and village events including the panto (page 5). We are sure that all our readers will join with us in wishing Rick, Lin and their family a peaceful and special Christmas and our prayers for good news in the new year.

While Rick is ill, evening services at St. Boniface are suspended except for sung Evensong and the annual carol service on 19th December (see church noticeboards for any other changes). Peter and Kath Collinge will continue to respond, in the first instance, to anyone suffering sickness, bereavement or distress (see contact details on page 2).



Alfie Dickens at St. Boniface Christingle on Advent Sunday



Santa gets an early Christmas kiss at St. Jude's traditional Christmas Fair on November 27th! All generations enjoyed the various stalls and entertainments.

Who wants this baby doll for Christmas? (page 13)



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'Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given'

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



The Yule Log

Before the advent of the Christmas tree, the Yule log played a leading role in the British Christmas. A great log or gnarled root of oak, pine, ash or birch was borne in on Christmas Eve or drawn in with ivy-covered ropes, the children sitting astride it and, amid great frolic and toasting, lit with a brand saved from last year's fire. Herrick wrote of the ceremony in the 17th Century:

'Come, bring, with a noise,
My merry, merry boys,
The Christmas Log to the firing:
While my good Dame she
Bids ye all be free,
And drink to your hearts' desiring'

Sometimes corn was sprinkled over the fire or a glass of wine or ale poured on for good luck in the harvest. Reflecting the belief in the sacredness of perpetual fire, the log was supposed

to burn for the full 12 days of Christmas. If the log went out during this time evil spirits would invade the house, but, as it normally did go out overnight, the custom was relaxed to being able to light it up again each morning.

In Shropshire no one threw ashes out of the house on Christmas Day for fear that they might be thrown in Christ's face.

Almost all the superstitions and practices connected with the Yule log belong to rural farming communities. Sadly they faded away as more and more people moved into the cities.

Few domestic fireplaces these days have the capacity to consume a great Yule log but many of us still light up for Christmas. Nothing can beat the comforting warmth, the cheerful

crackle and the old fashioned smell of a good log fire. The focus of any room, it welcomes friends and family and once the fire is hot and glowing and the flames have died down, it can be used for cooking. Crumpets, muffins and toast all taste better off the end of a toasting fork. Toasted marshmallows and roast chestnuts are traditional Christmas fare and potatoes wrapped in foil can be baked in the embers.

Liz Jones



VICAR

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

St Boniface

Churchwardens:	Barbara Croley	01829 260344
	Walter Done	01244 332563
Youth Worker	Johnny Gillett	01829 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

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An amazing gift from God

My favourite time of year is at last approaching: that magical time of year when all your money disappears, when too many pounds get put on and too many go out from the bank account.

I simply love it: the excitement, the tinsel, the resurrected colours, lights and snow and the presents, even buying them! And I am also in awe of the silent gift given to me by God, which includes our five grandchildren, not so silent, who add a certain flavour of chaos and mess to events.

The excitement and the delight of Christmas has, for the first time in my experience, an urgency as well as a longing; theologically, that may be just as it should be and I have missed it in past years. Celebrating Christmas also serves as a reminder that The Christ will come again, not silently as the first time, but with awesomeness of Judge and Redeemer. It's a bit scary for me and a bit exciting as I do not know what will be revealed to me in that moment. The urgency and longing I feel, comes from a fear that, just perhaps, it could be a very significant Christmas for us. So in a way I wish it would take time coming, and when it does arrive, it would last far longer than it did last year!

So come Christmas Eve I shall take full advantage of being

off duty. I'm quite determined to enjoy myself: I'll attend Christmas Eve parties, (it's been a working day for the past 18 years) and enjoy some fine port instead of spending most of the evening near the loo worrying about my midnight sermon. (Lin thinks I will spend most of the time there anyway, after a mince pie and a sip of port!)

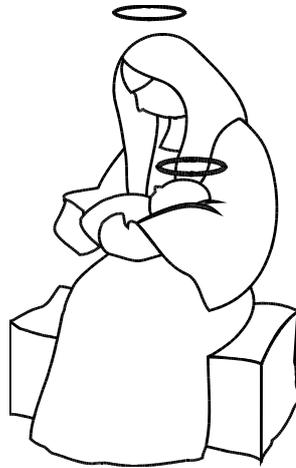
And then into Church to celebrate with many of you, as we remember God's amazing love gift.

I shall quietly remember His gifts to me, one of which is recorded in St. John Chapter 1 vs.12.

This is a text I have read in church every Christmas Eve since 24th December 1986 and I am sure will be read again this year by someone else

"to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God".

An amazing gift from God and like all gifts, totally undeserved, but gladly received.



After the service Lin and I will continue to remember the love and supreme generosity that you have surrounded us with over these past 'interesting' months (not how Lin would describe them!)

Rick

So as this year comes to an end, Rick & Lin wish you all the most wonderful Christmas and a gracious New Year.

Dealing with doubt

"John said to Jesus 'are you the one who is to come or are we to wait for another?'"
(Matthew 11, 3)

John was Jesus' cousin and he had done his work faithfully and effectively in preaching and preparing the way for Jesus. He had played such a vital role in the spectacular baptism of Jesus. Why on earth should he, of all people, be having doubts?

Another great preacher, Charles Spurgeon, was quoted as saying, 'Doubting, like toothache, is more distracting than dangerous. I've never heard it proving fatal to anyone'. Yes, doubting is human and none of us can escape entirely times of doubt.

Faith does not come with a cast iron guarantee, along with the Baptism certificate. Faith involves hard work and real commitment. 'Salvation is free but discipleship costs' said Billy Graham - and there are no exceptions. We all pay the price of faith - and that is what makes our faith real and worthwhile.

Eric Wallington

Candlelit Carols at St. Boniface

On **Sunday 19th December, at 6.30 pm**, the ancient building of St. Boniface comes into its own when we hold our atmospheric Candlelit Carol Service with readings and music old and new.

The carols, readings, candles, tree, mince pies and mulled wine all add to the special feeling of anticipation as we enter Christmas week itself.

With musicians from all over the parish including our Occasional Choir (specially convened for the event) & some guest stars, it will be an evening to remember!

Save the Family needs gifts of emergency toiletries for mothers fleeing domestic violence. Please bring wrapped items such as flannel, soap and toothbrush/paste to St. Boniface or give them to Barbara Croley (260344) by 18th December.

Below is a photo taken by Peter Crump of one of the medieval panels on the south wall of St. Boniface: one of the treasures of our church.



Gifts to Cuba

Residents of Sadlers Wells may have noticed considerable building going on at our house over the past few months.

The building work to strengthen the roof beams at our house in Sadlers Wells to support the weight of all the clothes, toys and shoes, which have arrived over the last few months for the El Shaddai Orphanage in Goa, has finally been completed, and the builders have moved out.....

Most people seem to know that my pilot's job enables me to take a lot of baggage with me on my travels around the globe, so filling the suitcases up for India has become a regular winter routine.

In the summer months I do not fly to India; I therefore asked some people who had contributed items, if they would mind me taking some things to the Caribbean instead.

In Cuba, as in so many other places, I discovered that, away from the tourist hotels, many people are struggling to live without ordinary things we take for granted.

Cuba is a Communist Country: no one goes hungry there; everyone is entitled to a free education and health care and in this respect it differs from many poor countries. However, the only wage that the Government provides is about \$15 a month to every person. This makes buying clothes and shoes almost impossible for many. Any luxury goods such as toys, books, writing

equipment and medicine are very expensive. Therefore, although there are many teachers and doctors they have little equipment to work with. Religion is only just making a comeback into many people's lives after many years underground, and I have been lucky enough to find some good friends who have taken me to their lively Evangelical Church. I take many of the items to them to be distributed amongst the congregation.



I am starting my winter trips to India again soon. Last year I had a problem with Customs out there, as they stated I would have to pay duty on all the items I had brought in! I am still in the process of resolving this issue.

Anyway, thank you again to everyone who has left bags of clothes, shoes and toys on my doorstep. Your donations really do make a great difference to people's lives!

Andrew Fairclough



Thanks for the stamps

Thanks to everybody who saves their used stamps for me. They should be flooding in over the next few weeks! I sort and trim them, and then send them to St Luke's Hospice and the Multiple Sclerosis Society, who can then sell them to raise funds. Walter Williamson collects them for me from the back of Bunbury Church, not only at Christmas, but all through the year. Many thanks.



Penny Jolly, Wardle

Operation Christmas Child

Many local people have despatched at least one Christmas present already. Over 150 filled shoe boxes have been sent to the children of Eastern Europe from our parishes and the cake stall at Bunbury School raised £120 towards transport costs. Many thanks to Burrows Butchers and to the Village Greens for supplying the Operation Christmas Child leaflets and of course thanks to all who donated boxes.

Nicola Elsegood



Fizzy and Ralph Elsegood collecting boxes from school.

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What did they think of the show?

Your editors received these instant reviews:

"Superlative prompting!"

"Masterful sets and a fantastic pie!"

"Better than 'Joseph' in London" - Anna (brownie)

"I like the bit where the giant pointed at me" - Emma (brownie)

"I loved Marigold the cow because she was a great dancer" - Lucy (brownie)

"I loved the princess and all her pretty outfits" - Petra (brownie)

"Please pass on to the YCs and everybody involved with the panto, hearty congratulations on a terrific show. Cleverly written, smoothly acted, skilfully choreographed, 'sounded', dressed and lit, it was seamless from beginning to end - 'Oh no it wasn't!' - well, nearly! You all did a wonderful job and this was the best yet. Keep up the good work!"



Congratulations on another triumph for show directors

Teri Williams and Wendy Slack and thanks to all those working backstage.

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

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Bob and Trish's Christmas Quiz



Round 1

1. Winfrid - better known in Bunbury and Germany as whom?
2. Scottish author whose best known work can be seen at Crewe Lyceum this Christmas.
3. Legendary "giant" who is sleeping in the chancel of our church.
4. By what name is Beeston Towers now known?
5. In what state would you find Bunbury down under?
6. Where do the Northern and Bakerloo lines meet locally?
7. What local celebrations take place on 25th January every year?
8. What do a 16th century cleric and a Cheshire Hamlet have in common with Bunbury Church?
9. At the sign of a Scottish aristocrat you can get your alternative spiritual needs here.
10. How many "gold rings" are there in a well-known Christmas song?
11. WCT Dobson is generally regarded as sending the first of what in 1844.
12. The poem "Twas the night before Christmas" was written by whom?
13. Merchant after whom the Primary School is named?
14. What connects Frodsham and Whitchurch?
15. Locally, one is made of Iron the other of Stone, what and where?
16. What "charitable" song has been recorded again, 20 years after the original?
17. Who is credited with introducing the Christmas tree into England around 1840?
18. "Peace on earth and mercy mild" is a line from which Christmas hymn written by whom?
19. What was built between 1841 and 1850 at a cost of £68,000?
20. Which local building features in the novel "Shiny Night"?
21. What connects an ancient long distance path and an obsolete piece of ordnance?
22. Naval commander against the Armada commemorated in St. Boniface Church?
23. What would you add to Boswellia and Commiphora for a special gift?
24. Which former Headmaster of Bunbury School was described on his tombstone as being a "painful schoolmaster"?
25. Where might you see sunflowers on local buildings?
26. What is the connection between "a dealer in small articles of dress" and Bunbury Church?
27. Near to Bunbury, a house destroyed by fire, where you can still race around the grounds.
28. Which capital city has square and a statue dedicated to St. Wenceslas?
29. Which plant venerated since pagan times has been used since the 17c. for a very popular Christmas tradition?
30. "and she shall bring forth a son and thou shalt call his name JESUS" is a line from whose Gospel?



This month's magazine has an international feel. We asked Finnish born **Mirja Crump** for a flavour of her native Christmas and here it is:

Finnish Beetroot Salad

This is best served immediately after making as a slightly warm winter salad, but it will keep in the fridge for a couple of days. It goes very well with ham and all kinds of fish, in particular gravad lax or pickled herring. Fresh uncooked beetroot is best but you can also use the ready cooked variety. The biggest job is chopping all the ingredients into small cubes.

- 2-3 medium sized waxy potatoes, washed.
- 2-3 carrots, washed
- 5-6 medium sized beetroots, washed.
- ½ of small red onion
- salt and white pepper to taste



Cover the beetroot with water and cook until tender. Do not add salt in the water. Once cooked put them in cold water for a while to make them easy to peel. Place the potatoes and carrots in a separate pan, cover with water, add a little salt and cook until tender. Drain and let them cool for a while before peeling. Chop all the vegetables into 1 cm or even smaller cubes. Then chop the red onion finely and mix all the ingredients together in a bowl. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Pink Creamy Dressing (served separately)

- 200 ml tub of crème fraiche
- 1 tbsp liquid from pickled beetroot
- or soak a piece of cooked beetroot in 1 tbsp wine vinegar or lemon juice
- ½ tsp sugar
- salt and pepper to taste

Mix all the ingredients for the creamy dressing together.



Round 2 - picture round (a bit easier?)



1. What is this insect and where is it found?



4. This man could be said to be married to music. What is her name?



7. Which vegetable is this man particularly interested in?



2. Which Wyche Lane resident is seen here winning a competition to blow up a surgical glove through his nose? (Don't try this at home children!)



5. What character did this lay reader play in the 2004 panto (and what on earth is he doing in the picture?)



8. This lady is mentioned on page 5. Who is she?



3. On what occasion was this lady eating an éclair in church?



6. Under what name does this local author publish his walking books?

Tie-breaker

Amazon links Bob Harris' book with an unlikely 'partner'. What is it?

Win a prize!

Answers please to Lucy Munro at Heath Cottage, School Lane. Don't worry if you can't answer all the questions - send us your answers and the best entry will be judged by Bob and Trish and will receive an appropriate prize.

All the answers will be published in the next issue of the Link.



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Community news

Pictured below are baby **Matt Boaz** and his parents **Andrew and Keri** of Calveley at his baptism reported last month.



Lizzie Simpson (below), daughter of **Lynne and Jim**, and sister of **Matthew**, was baptised at the Catholic Church of St.Thomas Becket, Tarporley, on October 31st. The baptism was followed by a party for many friends held in a marquee - surely the last outdoor party of the season!



Jodie Adele, daughter of **Howard and Kirsty Sellers** of Dutton, Warrington is due to be baptised on 5th December.

Congratulations to **Peter Evans** and **Caroline Taylor**, who married at St.Boniface on 27th November.

A very happy birthday to **Jo McDonald** now living in Germany who hits the big 40 on 8th December. Vanessa Greenbury and Katie Mason will be taking our greetings in person the following weekend.

We are sad to report two recent local deaths (our sympathies to their families):

Edith Mary Edge who died 12th November, was born in Tiverton, the second eldest of seven children, Walter Williamson being the youngest of that family. Edith attended Beeston School, now the outdoor centre, and after leaving school she went into service. She came to live on Bunbury Heath (now School Lane), and was a member of many of the organisations in the Village. Edith was a founder member of the Ladies

Christmas Diary





December			
1	10.00am	Communion	St Boniface
5	8.00am	Holy Communion	St Boniface
	9.30am	Communion	St Jude
	10.00am	Family Worship	St Boniface
	11.00am	Family Worship	Calveley
8	10.00am	Communion	St Boniface
12	9.30am	Morning Service	St Jude
	10.00am	Family Communion	St Boniface
	6.30pm	Crib & Carol Service	Calveley
	6.30pm	Evensong	St Boniface
15	10.00am	Communion	St Boniface
19	8.00am	Communion	St Boniface
	9.30am	Communion	St Jude
	10.00am	Family Worship	St Boniface
	6.30pm	Candlelit Carol Service	St Boniface
22	10.00am	Communion	St.Boniface
	7.00pm	Carol Singing around the village meet outside the Co-op - All Welcome!	
24	4.00pm	Crib Service	St.Boniface
	6.30pm	Carols round the tree	Bunbury Village
	7.30pm	Holy Communion	Calveley
	9.30pm	Communion	St.Jude
	11.30pm	'Midnight' Communion	St Boniface
25	9.30am	Christmas Communion	St Jude
	10.00am	Family Communion	St Boniface
26	9.30am	Morning Service	St Jude
	10.00am	Family Worship	St Boniface
29	10.00am	Communion	St.Boniface

Circle and also the Bunbury Mothers Union. Although registered blind, she was a very independent lady and remained self-sufficient at her home in Alraham until she was forced to move into residential care a few weeks ago.

Gordon Sefton Bridge from Haughton has also sadly died. His wife, Pat Bridge is a member of the flower team and a great supporter of the floral decorations in church on special occasions.

Nesta Ledward of Sadler's Wells, Bunbury, would like to thank everyone for the many cards and

letters of help and support she received in her recent sad bereavement, and also for the generous donations for Christie's Hospital and St. Boniface.

Bunbury friends of the **de Bell** family will be interested to hear that they are on the move again, this time from Singapore to Melbourne.

They are planning to spend this Christmas in Shropshire before the move.

As we went to print we heard the sad news of the death of Simon's father in Wem. Our sympathies to the family.

New Year Diary

January

2	8.00am	Holy Communion	St Boniface
	9.30am	Communion	St Jude
	10.00am	Family Worship	St Boniface
5	10.00am	Communion	St Boniface
7	6.30pm	Beetle Drive and Supper	Pavilion
9	9.30am	Morning Service	St Jude
	10.00am	Family Communion	St Boniface
	11.00am	Family Worship	Calveley
	6.30pm	Evensong	St Boniface
12	10.00am	Communion	St Boniface
16	8.00am	Communion	St Boniface
	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Jude
	10.00am	Family Worship	St Boniface
	11.00am	Communion	Calveley
19	10.00am	Communion	St Boniface
20	7.30pm	Alpha	St Boniface
21		St Jude's Race Night	
23	9.30am	Morning Service	St Jude
	10.00am	Education Sunday	St Boniface
26	10.00am	Communion	St. Boniface
27	7.30pm	Alpha	St Boniface
30	9.30am	Communion	St Jude
	10.00am	Family Communion	St Boniface



Looking ahead February

5	7.30pm	Amici Concert 'The Power of Love'
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Special prayers for: **Rick, Lin** and family; **James Bartlett**, still very seriously ill, and his parents, **Jane and Charles**; and **Benjamin Thomas**, also seriously ill, and his parents, **Keith and Dawn**; **David Evans**, **Vera Burrows**, **Hanni Latham** and their families.



Pictured above is **Gerry Murphy** of Darkie Meadow performing at the recently-revived Songs with Strings. After a gap of several years it was good to see several 'old rockers' performing again, including **Loft Longhurst**, **Adrian Pickering** and **Paul Stafford** who all now live in distant parts of the country. Gerry organised the evening with great success and raised valuable funds towards a new tennis club pavilion.

Church notices

Canon John Bowers has written with news that his Turkish cycling adventure has raised over £7000 in sponsorship towards the St. Barnabas Fund which supports education in southern Sudan. He is already planning his next trip around the Aegean - anyone fancy going along for the ride?

There will be a **Beetle Drive and Supper** on 7th January (6.30 for 7.00pm) at Bunbury Pavilion in aid of St. Boniface Church funds. Tickets from **Barbara Croley** 260344.

General notices

The Tarvin Singers are performing a concert in aid of **Hope House Hospice**, celebrating 'A Song for All Seasons' at Tarporley Community Centre on Tuesday December 14th at 7.30 pm. Tickets £7.50: contact 781376 or 260656 for more details.

Bunbury Singers are performing "A Christmas Cracker", an evening of Christmas music conducted by Martin Cook with local young musicians at St. Boniface at 8.00pm on 18th December. Tickets £6.00 including refreshments.

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Johnny at Tarporley High School

Those of you who are at Tarporley High School may have seen me around, either being shown about the place by Mr Putt or in one of your classes. In October, I visited Year 8 drama classes to help with work on mime and physical theatre. In November, I used Forum Theatre techniques with Year 9 in their work on 'Ricky Brown'. And in December I will be leading assemblies throughout much of the school.

This is just the beginning. Look out for what will be on offer in January:

In the new term, I will begin a new type of drama club, which will be focusing on Forum Theatre. Some of you may remember the taster sessions we did of this at AugustARTS. The great thing about Forum Theatre is that you don't have to like acting to be involved. What we really need are your views and experiences. You can give us your ideas based on the real things that have happened in your life. We can then create some short scripts, which the budding actors can perform. The drama will be about the real life dilemmas that young people face, which we can then use in PHSE classes, youth clubs and even perform to adults. But Forum Theatre's real

Alpha coming soon

The Alpha course is a great opportunity to explore the Christian faith and what it means in today's society. It's designed for people wanting to investigate Christianity, for newcomers to the Church and for those who simply want to brush up on the basics. Each Alpha evening starts with a light supper, giving people the chance to get to know each other, followed by a video presentation and then we divide into small groups to discuss the topic of the evening, ask questions and express opinions. Topics include "Christianity: Boring, Untrue and Irrelevant?" and "Who is Jesus?". You can listen, learn, discuss and discover - Alpha is a place where no question is too simple or too hostile.

Hear what others say about Alpha:

Johnny Gillett, Parish Youth Worker, says, "For me, Alpha's greatest strength is in what appears to be two

strength is that it provides a way for people to discuss these issues with characters from the drama. You then help the characters to deal with what life has to offer in a better way. It's interactive and always met with excitement. It's a fantastic way for young people to show other teenagers, or adults, what life is really like for them.

The second thing I will be starting is a lunchtime club to have some fun with Christianity. The idea is to use videos, music, stories and games to understand a basic of the Christian faith and then let you discuss how that really works for you. The idea is to have this opportunity for you to explore Christian stuff at a time and place that is easy for you.

So look out for me in the school and especially in January, as this new year is bringing in some whole new experiences!

Johnny Gillett

Parenting Course

Lin Gates is planning to run another parenting course starting in the new year. Please contact Lin (260991) or Nicola Elsegood (260507) for information on dates and times.

extremes - it makes things clear, but gives a lot of space for open discussion and personal understanding."

"What distinguishes Alpha from other initiatives is the easy-going, relaxed feel of the proceedings" - Damian Thompson, The Times.

So why not come along and find out for yourself? Our first Alpha evening is on Thursday January 20 2005 and St. Boniface Church, Bunbury, starting at 7.30 pm.

For further details or to sign up, contact Jeremy Shears on 01829 260707 or by e-mail: bunburyalpha@hotmail.com



Nick knows his wimps

Quietly watching University Challenge, our intellectual fix for the week, one Monday night in November, we were startled to hear one of the members of the Edinburgh team announce himself as 'Nick Styles, from Bunbury, Cheshire'.

Nick, from Swan Lane, is the eldest of Peter and Ros Styles' children. We watched with added interest, as Edinburgh stormed ahead of rivals Glasgow to win through to the next round. Incidentally, according to Nick, a wimp is a 'weakly interacting massive particle' - does that leave you any the wiser? We look forward to Nick's appearance in the next round - is it true that his mother prescribed a haircut?

"Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption".



(from the Catholic Elementary School).

ANDREW P. DEAN
(Dip. N.T.C., C.G.L.I., A.V.C.M.)



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Large turnout for Remembrance Sunday

The annual Remembrance services and parades took place this year in our parishes on November 14th. It is now an incredible 90 years since the outbreak of the Great War, but the service continues to inspire new generations. Pictured are some members of Bunbury Royal British Legion, who led the parade as usual. Many on-lookers were pleased to see a larger turnout of youngsters this year, and

George Potter complimented all those members of Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies who took part, for their smart appearance and good



Rock star teacher!



It is with great surprise that we have to report the premature departure at Christmas, of one of Bunbury School's most recent teacher recruits. Gareth Padfield, who joined the school in September, has been lured away by something very exciting – a record deal! Gareth, who plays bass guitar in indie group Alter Kicks, is in discussions with three record companies, including Virgin, with a view to recording an album, and the band has already been heard on Radio One. Bunbury School's only male teacher has felt very torn about

the move as he says he has really enjoyed his short time with us. Many pupils are planning to secure autographs before he leaves, and he has promised to send the school a copy of the album. Well done, Mr Padfield, and all the best in your change of career.

Mr Padfield's Y5 class will be taught until the summer by Mrs Lucy Jenkins.

Beavers troop starting

St.Jude's Beaver Scout Troop will start in January for boys & girls aged 6 to 8. Contact Joy Parker (260032).

50 years ago.....

Mrs Edge of Waverton has been kind enough to send us a copy of the Parish Magazine from November 1954, when Rev Maurice Ridgeway was Vicar. It makes fascinating reading! It is good to see that despite the intervening 50 years, some of the many advertisers are still familiar names – Burrows Butchers, Blaggs (who sold cycles then as well as electrical goods) – but it is also a testament to a different way of life.

There is mention of a forthcoming children's festival to be held at the Parish Church, when all the Sunday Schools were to join together for the 6.30pm service. The Calveley banner was due to be carried by Luke Lupton (whose grandfather actually made the banner pole years previously) and the first lesson was to be read by Anne Kinsey, both of whom were in the Calveley Sunday School - does this bring back any memories?

Tree dressing

On November 19th, with a light covering of snow on the ground, Year 2 pupils, led by artist Andy Leigh, dressed one of the yews in front of Bunbury School with some striking portraits, two shown here.



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Beeston Castle Fête

The custodian of Beeston Castle is trying to build up its exhibition of fêtes at the castle. If anyone has any memorabilia they would be willing to lend, it would be copied and returned. Please ring Teri Williams (260279) who would be very willing to collect and return items.

The accounts for this year's fête are now available on the St.Boniface website or church notice boards or from fête secretary Margaret Ellis (261898).

A big thank you to all members of the Fête Committee for their year-round hard work.

Christmas in Sweden

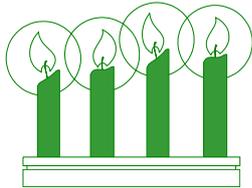
*Embroiled in our own Christmas preparations, it is interesting to know what happens in other countries. Here **Lars Axelsson** tells us about some Swedish traditions.*

Before I tell you about Christmas in Sweden, I'd like to mention another tradition celebrated in Sweden in December - The Lucia Day celebrations.

These take place on the 13th December to commemorate Saint Lucia who, according to the legend, was a 4th century Sicilian girl carrying food and drink to hungry Christians hiding in dark underground tunnels. To light the way she wore a wreath of candles on her head. Subsequently accused of witchcraft, she was burned at the stake on December 13, 304 A.D.

There are many legends about her and in each one Lucia stands as a symbol of light and hope to all mankind. Exactly why this is celebrated in Sweden, and I believe in other Scandinavian countries, is not clear. One theory is that Saint Lucia once visited Sweden, another that Swedes were entranced by Christian missionary stories of her life. Whatever the origin, St. Lucia's Day marks the beginning of our Christmas celebrations: feasting, merriment, singing and the spirit of friendliness and goodwill that lasts all through the holidays.

The Lucia Day is celebrated in schools, hospitals and workplaces starting the day with a gathering in the auditorium, gym or canteen first thing in the morning. The lights are dimmed and the Lucia, a young girl dressed in white with candles on her head, and the Lucia maids enter, singing the old song "Santa Lucia". Seasonal gingerbread biscuits and buns made with saffron are served with coffee or warm "glögg" (similar to mulled wine).

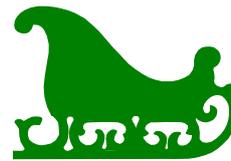


As for Christmas in Sweden, the big day, at least for children, is Christmas Eve. This is when Father Christmas comes with gifts. Instead of entering down the chimney, in Sweden Father Christmas actually comes in to your house in person. Traditionally, he doesn't arrive until it's getting dark in the early evening - Christmas Eve can therefore be a very long day for anticipating children. Eventually there's a loud knock on the door (funnily enough, often just a short while after a senior member of the family, like Uncle Harry, has disappeared on an errand!). Father Christmas enters, wishes

everyone a Happy Christmas and asks if there are any nice children who have been behaving well all year, to which, of course, he gets resounding positive replies from all. Father Christmas then gets the presents out of his big sack.

Christmas in Sweden, as elsewhere, is a time to enjoy plenty of good food. On Christmas Eve we normally have a "smörgåsbord"- type lunch consisting of a number of different dishes where a whole boiled or baked ham is the centrepiece. Other dishes include herring salad, small meatballs, sausages, liver pate and *Jansson's frestelse* (*Jansson's Temptation*) which is a potato gratin with onion and anchovies (see recipe opposite). An old tradition is to savour "dip-in-the-pan"; dark bread with caraway and raisins dipped into a big pan with the hot fat from the ham (I normally pass on this one!).

Christmas Day starts with an early morning church service, *Julotta* starting at 6 or 7 o'clock in the morning. Despite the early start, this is probably the most- visited service of the year - in many places you have to arrive in good time to get a seat. Traditionally, people travelled to church through the snow, in horse drawn sledges with torches lit - quite a magnificent sight, I can assure you.



The rest of Christmas Day is spent very much as here - eating, drinking and trying out the Christmas presents. Traditionally lunch consists of a special fish-dish, *lutefisk*, which is only served at Christmas. The fish is *ling* which, when bought, is dried and looks like hard, ½ inch thick square or rectangular pieces of cardboard. The fish is first soaked in water and then boiled. The final result is thick, white fillets served with béchamel sauce, mustard, boiled potatoes and green peas. Nowadays however, many families opt for the more Anglo-Saxon tradition of serving turkey for Christmas lunch.

Boxing Day is spent recovering from the previous days of indulgence. As in Britain, lunch consists of various culinary inventions using leftovers from Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

King Knut (Canute) declared a thousand years ago that Christmas would last a month from the Lucia celebrations on 13th December. So in Sweden Christmas officially ends on January 13th, St. Canute's Day.

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Jansson's Temptation



For 4 servings, peel 8 medium-sized potatoes and cut them into thin strips. Peel and thinly slice 2 white onions. Brown the onions and the potatoes in a little butter. Alternate layers of potatoes and onions with approximately 125 g (= 4 ½ ounces) filleted anchovies in a buttered, ovenproof dish. Finish with a layer of potatoes. Pour 150 ml thick cream over the dish and sprinkle some breadcrumbs over the top, dotting with 1-2 tablespoons of butter. Bake in an oven at 200° C (400° F) for approximately 40 minutes. Add a further 150ml thick cream. Continue to bake for another 10 minutes until the potatoes are soft.

News from Western Australia



We have heard from the Very Reverend Gunnar Rippon, the new Dean of the Cathedral Church of St. Boniface in the Anglican Diocese of Bunbury, Western Australia, that he follows the life of our parishes through the Link which has been sent to the Bishop over there for many years.

He brings greetings from the Cathedral Parish family in the City of Bunbury, who are praying with us for Rick and his family. He promises to

write again soon.

We have also heard from a church just outside Perth that they are running a beach mission this Christmas holiday based on Seaside Rock (which 2003 holiday club members may recall). They have borrowed our theme song and some of our ideas for creative prayer. More on this in the new year we hope.



Please Santa could I have.....?

Thanks for these suggestions from Year 1 (ages 5&6) and some of their adult friends!



"a toy dog" - Fiona



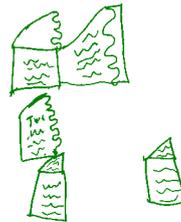
"a sootcase" - Laurie



"a dolls house" - Rachel



"a snowman" - Poppi



"lots of books" - Eilidh

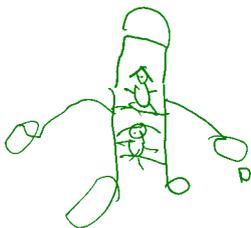


"a piano" - Chloe



"a rocking horse" - Lucy

"a duoble buggy" - Phoebe



"a sweet shop" - Frances



"Diarmid to come and do our gardens" - Mrs Waddington and Mrs King
 "a Caribbean cruise" - Mr Bibby
 "a large box of chocolates to take with us" - Mrs Bibby
 "a vibraphone" - Mr Robey
 "soundproofing" - Mrs Robey
 "the Computer Nerd's Book of Ecclesiastical Law" - Mr Crump
 "endless patience" - Mrs Crump

"snowe" - Dan



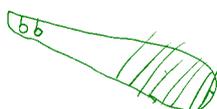
"a book" - Imogen



"a dog" - Sophia



"an electric guitar" - Jessica



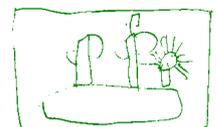
"a baby doll" - Elizabeth



"Bratz DVD" - Genevieve



"Peetor Pan pirut ship" - Joe



Walk off your Christmas lunch!

Local teacher and published author Bob Harris has kindly supplied us with this walk for Link readers to enjoy over the holidays. His latest book, **“Walks in Ancient Wales”**, is available from the author price £8.95 - a great Christmas present for a keen Rambler!

Raw Head from Peckforton

Distance – 7 miles

Time – 3 hours at a leisurely pace

Maps – Landranger sheet 117 or Pathfinder sheet SJ 45/55

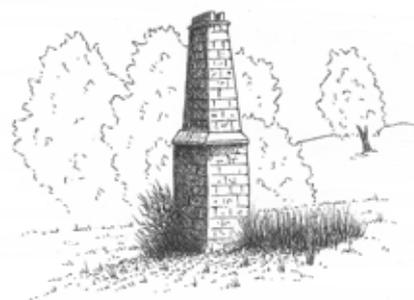
The walk begins in Peckforton, a scattering of old, half-timbered cottages huddled at the foot of the Peckforton Hills. The name means literally ‘the village on the hill road’, which describes it perfectly. In the front garden of one of the houses is a large statue of an elephant with a castle on its back, the origins of which seem to be lost in the mists of time, although many theories exist. A narrow lane, still cobbled in parts, leaves the village and climbs up towards the woodland, which still clothes the upper slopes of the hills. As the lane rises, the view behind widens to take in all of the eastern Cheshire basin, with the distant Pennines just a faint shadow on the far horizon.

As the track plunges into the wood, it passes beneath an old sandstone bridge. Known as the Haunted Bridge, it is reputedly the scene of a spectral coach and horses which may be heard passing over it in the depths of the night.

Beyond the bridge and to the right of the path is a wonderful area of ancient woodland, one of the last remaining fragments of a great forest which once spread across most of Cheshire. Gnarled oaks, decorated with tiny ferns and lichen, rise above the bracken. Just off the path, hidden away within the woods, are the remains of an old horse-driven mill, the millstones of which are still clearly visible.

The track passes over the wooded crest of the ridge and begins to drop down towards the village of Burwardsley. Along the line of this ridge once ran a prehistoric trackway linking together the earliest known settlements in central Cheshire, which date back to the Bronze Age. These early settlers farmed the light sandy soils of the ridge and traces of their huts and fields have been found on the slopes of Raw Head and Beeston Castle.

The track turns back into a lane, and passes several outlying houses and cottages, one of which is known as the Elephant Track Cottage, presumably named because it is on the track to the strange statue back in Peckforton. The lane reaches the village itself near to the Pheasant Inn with its pleasant terraces looking out over the Cheshire Plain.



There are several routes through the village, but the quietest is the narrow lane leading past the Cheshire Workshops, and down around the wooded slopes of Willow Hill. A swampy area to the left of the lane is one of the sources of the River Gowy, from where it begins its journey across the Plain to reach the River Mersey. Further on it reaches the lovely village church and an old row of cottages, complete with water pump, which is known as The Street. The route leaves the village along the road to Harthill, passing between lush green fields for a short way until the wooded slopes of Burwardsley Hill rises up above the road. Ahead, the small church of Harthill can be seen on the far hillside.

Just past the large dairy farm of Mickerra, and opposite Mickerloo, another footpath turns off to the left, and climbs up across the fields. It passes beneath the strange, stone building of Mickerdale Cottage with its unusual cruciform window slit, and rises to an area of woodland. Here, tall pine and beech trees tower over a woodland floor which in early spring is carpeted with bluebells. The path weaves through the wood until it reaches a remote cottage, then crosses a small field to a very narrow lane. Over the lane it climbs through the woods again for just a short way until another lane is reached. An obvious footpath, signposted for Gallantry Bank and Bickerton, leads off from there, but our route turns instead to the left and follows the lane for a short distance towards Hangingstone Farm, until another path branches off to the right. This climbs steeply up through the pine woods until a line of sandstone steps leads up to the summit ridge of Raw Head.

Up to this point the dense woodland has restricted the view, but just a short way along the ridge the trees fall away and a panorama unparalleled in Cheshire opens up before you. The Cheshire Plain sweeps westward towards the great estuaries of the Dee and the Mersey, beyond which the cathedrals of Liverpool are clearly visible, and Moel Famau rises over the distant and ethereal Welsh Hills. The ridge then rises gently to the trig point which marks the highest point.

The encroaching trees have removed the airy feel which this lofty place once had, but it is still a wonderfully atmospheric place to sit and rest after the climb up. Just below the top is a cave, almost hidden beneath the undergrowth, that was reputedly the lair of a gang of brigands and highwaymen who preyed on the travellers who used the road to Wales which passes beneath the



hill. The gentle slopes just to the east of the top are the site of a prehistoric settlement, and it is marvellous to sit and imagine the scene as it would have been then. Raw Head, which means 'bald, or cold top', would probably have been a high rocky island rising above the vast and seemingly endless forests of lowland Cheshire.

The next section of the walk, following the Sandstone Trail, is very popular and rightly so. The path rises and falls along the crest of the escarpment, sometimes beneath the trees, sometimes rising above them to give breathtaking views over the plain towards Wales. Up above, buzzards ride on the rising air, and the harsh croak of ravens echo across the steep rocky ridges dropping away to the right of the trail.

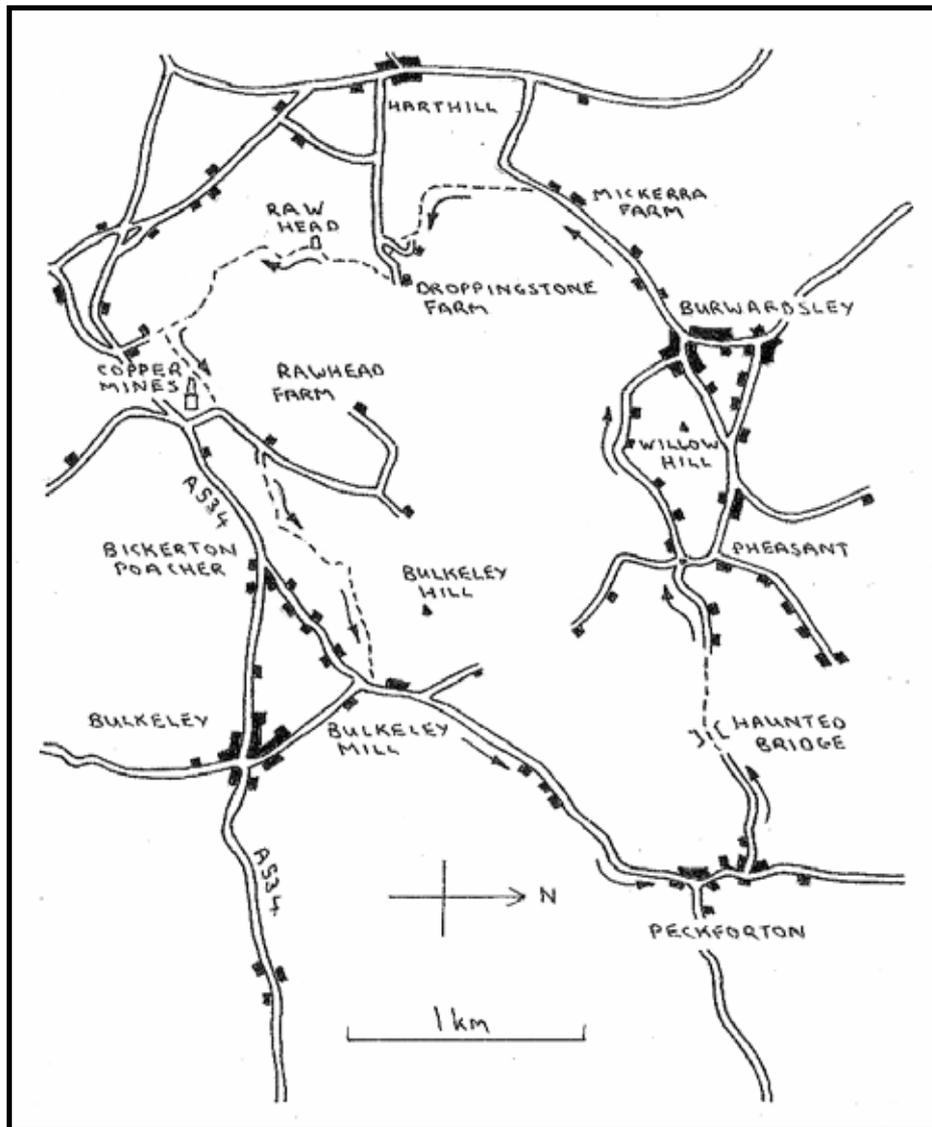
Lower down, the path turns away from the westward facing edge and runs instead down the more gentle slopes facing towards the distant Pennines which edge the sky to the east. The path reaches the scattered cottages of Gallantry Bank and our route turns off the main trail on a path signposted for the Copper Mines and the Poacher's Inn. This contours around the hillside until a strange sandstone chimney appears to the right of the path. This is the site of old mine workings that once exploited a rich vein of copper which lies just below the surface. Although these remains are from our relatively recent history, it is thought likely that this copper vein was known about and used back in

prehistoric times when it would have been mixed with tin to make that most useful and versatile metal, bronze.

The path passes above the mine workings and joins the narrow Coppermines Lane beside some shallow rock shelters in the broken sandstone cliffs. The lane is followed uphill until a track turns off to the right towards Chestnut Cottage. This passes above the cottage, plunges into a dark tunnel of overhanging holly trees and emerges into an open but overgrown area of ferns and scattered trees. The narrow path weaves between the wild damson trees and climbs steadily uphill until it passes through a metal stile and joins a better path climbing up towards the tree-clad top of Bulkeley Hill. This is followed downhill through an area of beautiful woodland, now happily in the care of the National Trust, to where it meets the road near to Bulkeley Mill.

The walk back to Peckforton follows the road and care is needed as it winds along between the high hedges and banks so typical of rural Cheshire, but the constant companion of the wooded hills to the left, and the scattering of farms and cottages along the way make it a pleasant end to a wonderful walk.

Robert Harris





The Dysart Arms, Bunbury

Christmas and New Year 2004

Christmas is rapidly approaching, so we thought we'd show you our festive menu for this year.

Christmas Menu

Honey-roast parsnip soup with fresh bread

Chicken liver pate with red onion jam
and brown toast

Grilled goat's cheese with roasted pear
and walnut salad with cranberry dressing

Tartlet of smoked salmon and leek on a dill sauce



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

Braised beef in red wine with baby onions,
mushrooms, smoked bacon and horseradish mash

Cajun salmon fillet with sauted new potatoes,
peppers, courgettes and caper butter sauce

Grilled loin of pork with Shropshire blue rarebit,
glazed apples and cider cream sauce

Wild mushroom and parmesan risotto cakes on
creamed leeks with red pepper and tomato sauce



Christmas pudding with brandy sauce

Golden ginger sponge pudding and custard

Warm chocolate tart with white chocolate sauce

Vanilla panacotta served with tangerine
and Cointreau compote

This menu runs from Wednesday 1st December through to Friday 24th December, alongside our usual blackboard menu. The two-course (any two) menu is £13.95 and the three-course menu is £18.50.

Festive opening hours

Christmas Eve	Open 11.30am - 11pm	Food served 12pm - 9pm
Christmas Day	Open 12pm - 2pm	Drinks only
Boxing Day	Open 12pm - 6.30pm	Food served 12pm - 5pm
New Years Eve day	Open 11.30am - 3pm	Food served 12pm - 2pm
New Years Eve night	From 7.30pm (Ticket only affair)	
New Years day	Open 12pm - 6.30pm	Food served 12pm - 5pm

For an independent view, we're in the Good Beer Guide 2004 on page 60 and the Good Pub Guide on page 92 (we're their current Cheshire Dining Pub of the Year). If you would like to know more, we have a website full of information, menus and photos at www.dysartarms-bunbury.co.uk.

Bowes Gate Road, Bunbury, Cheshire,
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dysart.arms@brunningandprice.co.uk

Link is edited by **Lucy Munro** (260487) and **Jill Robey** (260081). We welcome all your comments and contributions. Our deadline for the February edition is January 20th, 2005. Please send material to lucymunro@hotmail.com, or to Heath Cottage, School Lane, Bunbury.

While our vicar, **Rick Gates**, is recovering from surgery please ring **Peter or Kath Collinge on 260077** in times of sickness, bereavement or any distress. They are co-ordinating a group of people who will be pleased to respond to your call.
www.stbonifacebunbury.org.uk