

Parish of Monks Risborough

Newsletter



St Dunstan's Church St Peter's Chapel

February 2024 - March 2024

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Clergy

Team Vicar The Rev'd. Peter Godden, The Rectory, Mill Lane, Monks Risborough HP27 9JE

Tel: 01844 274771 Email: revpetergodden@outlook.com

Associate Priest: The Rev'd Sally Prendergast

Tel: 07876 515098 Email: revsallyp@gmail.com

Arrangements for Baptisms, Confirmation Preparation, Confessions, Banns of marriage, Weddings and Funerals can be made with Peter at the address above.

Website: www.stdunstanschurch.com

Registered Charity No. 115386

Regular Services

St Dunstan's	Sundays	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	1st Sunday in month
		10.00 am	PARISH COMMUNION	
		10.00 am	FAMILY SERVICE	1st Sunday in month
		3.00 pm	Evensong	Except 4th Sunday in month
Owlswick Chapel	Thursdays	9.30 am	Holy Communion	
		9.00 am	Holy Communion	2nd Sunday in month
		3.00 pm	Evensong	4th Sunday in month

The Parochial Church Council

Chairman:

The Rev'd. Peter Godden

Churchwardens:

Paul Woodward-Court 01844 344417

Sue Ingram 01844 275287

Secretary:

Lucy Nott 01844 345268

Treasurer:

David Curry 07854 198498

Deanery Synod Rep

Ex Officio Member

Mrs J Curry

The Rev'd Sally Prendergast

Elected Members

Mr C Fairall, Mrs A-M Longshaw, Mrs A Maycock, Mr S Merchant,
Mrs D Norie, Mrs J Rogers, Mrs A Vere.

Directory

Churches Together in Risborough Rep. Margaret Pitman 01844 346008

Gift Aid Secretary Nick Tyler 01844 344589

Electoral Roll Officer Charlie Fairall
email: electoralroll@stdunstanschurch.com

Weekly Notice Sheet Organiser John McKay 01844 274650
email: comms@stdunstanschurch.com

Newsletter Editor Morna Hinch 01844 345169

St Dunstan's Choir Practice **Thursdays from 6.30 pm**

Tower Captain Brian Highe 01844 343755

Bell Ringing Practice at St Dunstan's **Thursdays 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm**

The Rev'd Peter Godden writes:

I am a massive fan of the BCC quiz show Pointless, which I can seldom catch live – that's usually just a treat during time off – but I often catch it on iPlayer. One thing that is bound to earn a contestant some teasing from the presenters is if they complain that a question is about something 'before their time'; they are always light-heartedly rebuked that that is no excuse for not knowing about a subject.

When I think about the things that I enjoy and which interest me, I realise that most of them are from before my time! As many of you will know, I have been something of a fanatic for the music of The Beatles and many of their contemporaries – music recorded long before I was born – since my teens. My big loves in poetry are much earlier than the 1960s: TS Eliot and John Keats. When it comes to drama, my tastes go back further still – ranging from William Shakespeare all the way back to Sophocles, whom I discovered as a teenager while doing my GCSEs. It seems like I was born in the wrong era – or maybe the right one, as it means that I get to enjoy them all, albeit from a distance.

But more than anything, I am captivated by the ancient writings that make up the Bible. The Bible is often referred to as a book, which is a bit misleading really. It is a vast collection of texts (referred to as 'books'), written by dozens of authors, over a period of many hundreds of years. Those books encompass a vast array of genres: history, biography, law codes, prayers, poetry, prophecy and more. In truth, the Bible is best described not as a book, but as a library.

And that library is a stunning treasure trove of literature. As an English Literature undergraduate I undertook a paper on Biblical texts, which gave me a fresh appreciation for the breadth and depth of the scriptures, quite apart from the importance they held for me in my life of faith.

There are the turns of phrase which, in translation, have entered our everyday speech. When we call someone the apple of our eye, observe that there is nothing new under the sun, or warn about wolves in sheep's clothing, we are quoting scripture.

Then there is the sheer quality of the content: the poetic beauty of the creation narrative in Genesis; the viscerally articulated emotion of the Psalms; the drama of Pilate's interrogation of Jesus on Good Friday as documented in John's Gospel; the inspirational oratory of Paul's letter to the early Roman church; the stunning imagery of John's prophetic vision Revelation.

And from a Christian perspective, there is the fascination that all of these texts were written by people who, in one way or another, were attempting to make sense of their experiences in the world in light of their belief in God, or who were bearing witness to what they had experienced of Him in their lives. The result, Rowan Williams says in **Being Christian**, *'is a gift, a challenge, and an invitation into a new world'*. He explains that, in the scriptures, *'God is saying, "This is how people heard me, saw me, responded to me; this is the gift I gave them; this is the response they made... Where are you in this?"'*

No wonder, then, that the Bible continues to captivate me, and millions around the world – for it is not just a testament to what people have witnessed and experienced, but it is a living thing that encourages us to discern where God is at work in our lives today. If you ever have cause to turn to it, I hope that it might inspire and enlighten you too.

You are all in my prayers, as ever. With my very best wishes,

Peter

From the Parish Registers

Funerals: - *Rest in Peace:*

8th December: Millicent East (93), formerly of Longwick

15th December: Peter Rainbow, formerly of Pympton Close

Silent Prayer Meetings at St. Dunstan's



St. Dunstan's Church is affiliated to The Julian Meetings which are held across the country, providing space and time to meet together to pray and be in the presence of God. It is a time for renewal of spirit and a chance to keep God company, silently showing what is in our hearts and listening to what we may hear in return. Following a short chosen verse which is read slowly twice, there is a silent time of quiet contemplation for about 30 minutes. Although this is a time of individuality, it is also a time that provides a sense of communal and spiritual refreshment. The verse is then read again and following the Grace, which is

said together, people are free to leave quietly, taking with them all the thoughts and prayers which linger in their souls.

The Meetings are at 8.00 p.m. in the Church Hall on selected Mondays across the year, and the next date is 26th February.

If you would like to find out more, or wish to be a part of this, then please do contact me, either by email or telephone.

Jill Iredale 01844 346488 or jillstovold@icloud.com

Church Calendar

All services at St Dunstan's Monks Risborough unless otherwise stated.

1 st February	Thursday	9.30am Holy Communion
4 th February	Sunday	Second Sunday before Lent 8.00am BCP Holy Communion 10.00am All-Age Parish Eucharist 3.00pm Evensong
8 th February	Thursday	9.30am Holy Communion
11 th February	Sunday	Sunday next before Lent 9.00am BCP Holy Communion (St Peter's Owlswick) 10.00am Parish Eucharist 3.00pm Evensong
14 th February	Ash Wednesday	10.00am Said Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday 7.30pm Sung Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday
15 th February	Thursday	9.30am Holy Communion
18 th February	Sunday	First Sunday of Lent 10.00am Parish Eucharist 3.00pm Evensong
22 nd February	Thursday	9.30am Holy Communion
25 th February	Sunday	Second Sunday of Lent 10.00am Parish Eucharist 3.00pm Evensong (St Peter's Owlswick)
29 th February	Thursday	9.30am Holy Communion
3 rd March	Sunday	Third Sunday of Lent 8.00am BCP Holy Communion 10.00am All-Age Parish Eucharist 3.00pm Evensong
7 th March	Thursday	9.30am Holy Communion
10 th March	Sunday	Mothering Sunday 9.00am BCP Holy Communion (St Peter's Owlswick) 10am Parish Eucharist 3.00pm Evensong
14 th March	Thursday	9.30am Holy Communion
17 th March	Sunday	Fifth Sunday of Lent 10.00am Parish Eucharist 3.00pm Evensong

21 st March	Thursday	9.30am Holy Communion
24 th March	Sunday	Palm Sunday 10.00am Parish Eucharist 3.00pm Evensong (St Peter's Owlswick)
27 th March	Wednesday	7.30pm Stations of the Cross
28 th March	Maundy Thursday	7.30pm Eucharist (There is no morning Eucharist this day)
29 th March	Good Friday	11.00am Churches Together in Risborough Service (Princes Risborough Market Square) 2.00pm The Good Friday Liturgy
30 th March	Holy Saturday	8.00pm Easter Vigil
31 st March	Sunday	Easter Day 8.00am BCP Holy Communion 10.00am All-Age Parish Eucharist

Would you like a lift to and from church on a Sunday morning?

If you would like a lift either on a regular basis or as a one-off, please contact Cathy on 01844 343226 or at cathy.farquhar@btinternet.com.

A call by Friday evening would be appreciated.

10 O'Clock Club

Our Sunday school is a fun get together for children, in St. Dunstan's Church Hall, which runs parallel to the Sunday morning 10.00 am service, usually on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

We run an hour of games, craft, Bible stories and Lighthouse songs, and then join the congregation in church for the end of the service. There is no commitment or need to book. Just come along and join in the fun.

On the first Sunday of the month, we join the congregation for the family service at 10.00 am.

The next dates for the 10 O'clock Club are: 11th and 25th February, 10th and 24th March.

If you would like any further information, please contact: Debbie Norie 07982 247715 or at debbienorie@googlemail.com.

Holy Week

Holy Week is the most special week in the Christian year, marking the dramatic days from Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, to His betrayal, arrest, His execution, and finally His glorious rising from the dead.

You are warmly invited to come and experience the beauty of this journey with Jesus, through life and death to the dawning of life eternal.

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday Procession and Eucharist, 10.00 am

We remember Jesus entering Jerusalem to the adulation of the crowds. For those who are able, we recreate the procession at the start of our service by processing around the environs of St Dunstan's.

Monday

Compline, 7.30 pm

A short ancient service of quiet prayer for the end of the day.

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A short ancient service of quiet prayer for the end of the day.

Wednesday

Stations of the Cross, 7.30 pm

A service where we journey around the church, stopping at images of Jesus' last hours called 'stations', to reflect upon Jesus' journey through the streets of Jerusalem before His death on the cross.

Maundy Thursday

Eucharist of the Lord's Supper & Watch, 7.30 pm

The night before His death, Jesus washed His friends' feet, showing them the extent of His love and devotion. He blessed bread and wine, and gave it to them, saying that it was His body and blood. They all then went to a garden to pray, where Jesus asked them to watch over Him, before He was then arrested and taken away. We recall all these events in this poignant service, which concludes with the chance to hold a watchful time of prayer.



Good Friday

The Good Friday Liturgy, 2.00 pm

A solemn service of prayer and devotion, where we mark Jesus' death on the cross, and give thanks for His sacrifice made for us.

Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil, 8.00 pm

The start of our Easter celebrations! We gather in the quiet and darkness of the end of the day, and our service begins with the kindling of a flame. From there we light the Easter candle, and then more and more candles are lit, until the church is filled with light and music, and we joyfully proclaim Jesus' rising from the dead. This is a service full of drama and wonder, and it marks the start of Easter.

Easter Day

Churches Together in Risborough Easter Dawn Service, 6.00 am, Whiteleaf Cross

A short 'sunrise service' above Whiteleaf Cross with other local churches.

BCP Holy Communion, 8.00 am

A quiet, contemplative service of Holy Communion at the start of Easter Day, using the Book of Common Prayer

All-Age Easter Celebration Eucharist, 10.00 am

Our main celebration of Easter, a joyful, vibrant service of Holy Communion as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Parish Prayer Group

The Pastoral Care Group meets to pray for both the needs of the Church and the parish in general, but also for individual people who may wish to benefit from the power of prayer. It also addresses urgent wider issues of concern.

Meetings are held in the Church Hall on the 3rd Friday of each month at 9.00am for about half an hour. (No meeting in August.) The next meetings are on 16th February and 15th March. A reminder will be in the Pewsheets on the Sunday prior to each of those dates and we will also email those who regularly attend.

If you would like prayers said for you or for a loved one or for any aspect of Parish life, in confidence, then please do get in touch - or fill in a Prayer Request Card and put it in the new Prayer Request Box in the centre of the church. Also, if you are interested in being part of this Group, on a regular or occasional basis, we would be so pleased to hear from you - or indeed just arrive at the stated time.

Jill Iredale

jillstovold@icloud.com

01844 346488

Angeline Vere

angeline.vere@btinternet.com

01844 343006

St Dunstan's Pastoral Care

Caring for our community is part of our vision and service. The Pastoral Care group is there to visit and support all those in need - the bereaved, sick, lonely and housebound, and those who may feel anxious about themselves or a loved one.

Similarly, if you know of someone who might benefit from contact, please get in touch.

We are here for you.

For more information, please contact Angeline Vere on 01844 343006 or at **angeline.ver@btinternet.com**

There may also be those who could benefit from some spiritual encouragement. No matter where you might be on a journey of faith, there are members of the Pastoral Care group who would be only too happy to visit or have a telephone call with those who would appreciate a chat and perhaps someone to pray with. If you would like such a phone call, you can contact Jill Iredale on 01844 346488 or at **jillstovold@icloud.com** or Angeline Vere on 01844 343006 or at **angeline.ver@btinternet.com**.

The Pastoral Care group works alongside and with Peter, the Vicar, who can be contacted on 01844 274771, or at **revpetergodden@outlook.com**.

Baptisms



The birth of a child is a wonderful occasion, and a time for thanksgiving and rejoicing. Many people still wish to mark this in their parish church, either with the service of Baptism (also known as a Christening), where a child is baptised and welcomed into the Christian faith, or with a service of Thanksgiving and Dedication, where a child is named and blessed.

If you would like to find out more, please do not hesitate to contact Peter our Vicar, on 01844 274771, or at **revpetergodden@outlook.com**.

The Church Hall

The fully equipped hall is available for church and associated events.

It is available for people to use after Christenings, weddings, funerals and other services. It is also available for hire to local community groups and charities, and is very popular for hosting small classes.

For further details or to arrange a booking, contact **stdunstanschurhall@gmail.com** or ring 07942 356245.

Report on the meeting of the PCC in November 2023

The PCC met on Peter’s first day back in work following his leave. Sue Ingram chaired the meeting, and everyone expressed their huge gratitude to Sally and all the local clergy for holding the fort during Peter’s absence.

Various reports had been circulated prior to the meeting. Debbie Norie confirmed that Monks Monkeys had stopped in October half term due to low numbers. This will be reviewed next March.

Sally commented that if anyone is on social media, they can help to keep in touch with St Dunstan’s congregations past and present by ‘liking’ and sharing posts.

Following consideration of charities nominated for the charitable giving, it was decided to allocate 10% or £13k of the total income (whichever is lower) to the list of charities drawn up by Simon Merchant. Please do ask me if you would like to see the list of charities for this year.

A working group has been working on revising policies for the parish, and a new page will be added to the website for easy access to these policies. A new policy that is currently being worked on is for a Volunteer Code of Conduct, and this should be available shortly.

Exploration into the organ restoration continues, and two members of the organ working group visited some churches in Birmingham to see the finished products of restoration.

At the time of writing this report, Christmas is approaching, and all the services are planned accordingly. The Events Team continues to work hard, and the dates for Bucks Arts Week have been confirmed for 8-16 June 2024. Once again, both the Events Team and the Lunch Club are looking for more volunteers to help with these very valuable and appreciated occasions, which form the bedrock of the mission and outreach of our parish. If anyone feels they could give some time, either regularly or on an occasional basis, please do contact Cathy Farquhar (Events Team) or Anne Baker (Lunch Club).

The dates of the next PCC meetings were confirmed for 23rd January and 5th March, and the APCM will be on 17th March.

Lucy Nott
Secretary to the PCC

Church Flower Rota		Sunday Coffee Rota	
Organisers:		Organisers:	
Gwen Miles	01844 345230	Caroline Clay	01844 344591
Jenny Masterton-Smith	01844 273538	Jo Wade	01844 346321

Fellowship Group

Co-ordinator: **Rosemary Woodward-Court** **01844 344417**

Thursday February 8th: We will be having a Souper Soup Morning in the Church Hall from 11.30 am to 1.00 pm. Homemade soup, crusty bread and hot drink. All very welcome. Suggested donation £5. All monies to Christian Aid. If you could offer to make some soup that would be wonderful.

Thursday March 14th: AGM Church Hall at 10.15 am.
£2 to cover refreshments.

See you there! Rosemary 344417.

Walking Group

Starting as usual from Burton Lane at 9.30am on Wednesday 28th February and on Wednesday 27th March, for an opportunity to stroll locally with pleasant company.

Please contact Mick & Anne (01844 346536) if more info needed.

St Dunstan's Friendship Group

Co-ordinator: **Avril Clark** **01844 342165**

Meeting at 2.00 pm in the Church Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (except in August).

All who wish to attend our meetings are very welcome.

The Crafty Sew & Sews

Organisers: **Pam Scott** **01844 346857**
 Janet East **01844 345028**

We meet every Tuesday in the Church Hall, between 1.30 and 4.00 pm. Come along and learn new skills, share knowledge, expand your interests. Bring along your own work (Cross Stitch, Tapestry, Knitting etc.).

Join us for just £1.00 per session (for Church Funds).

Knitting Group

This group meets on the 4th Thursday of the month at 2.00 pm in the Church Hall. For further information please contact Janet East 01844 345028 or Pam Scott 01844 346857.

Church Choir

Choir practice is held in church every Thursday evening from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

For more information please contact Margaret Pitman 01844 346008.

Bell Ringers

This friendly group practises from 7.30/7.45 to 9.00 pm on a Thursday evening. We welcome beginners and experienced ringers.

If you would like to come along to see what's involved please contact Tower Captain Brian Highe 01844 343755.

Open House

At Open House there is the chance to talk and ask questions about God, Faith, the Church and everyday living. It is a friendly group and welcoming to all. We normally meet once a month on a Wednesday.

Next Meeting is on Wednesday 7th February at 7.30 pm. We will continue to look at the book of Joshua looking at the events around the battle of Jericho.

There is no meeting in March when special Lent studies take place.

For more information and venues please ring Ted or Mary Kent on 01844 274089.

Bereavement Drop In

This group meets on the second Monday of every month throughout the year offering a warm welcome to anyone struggling with the grief of bereavement. We share together over a cup of tea or coffee, talk about our experiences or just listen. Many find comfort in talking about their loved ones with others who know what they are going through.

We meet in the Chapter House at St. Mary's Church, Princes Risborough, at 3.00 pm, and everyone is welcome, of any faith or of no faith at all.

Please contact me if you need further details.

Revd Rose Williams 01844 274225

Notice of Revision of the Church Electoral Roll for the Parish of Monks Risborough with Owlswick

This notice is applicable to persons not already on the church electoral roll and wishing to enrol, and those who are currently on the roll who wish to be removed from it.

The electoral roll will be revised by the Parochial Church Council beginning on 8th February 2024 and ending on 22nd February 2024.

To be eligible to join the Roll, you must:

1. Be baptised and aged over 16 or become 16 within twelve months of completing the form, and become eligible on your 16th birthday.
2. Be a member of the Church of England (or of a Church in communion with the Church of England) and a resident in the parish.

or

Be a member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with the Church of England, and, not being resident in the parish, have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months, or would have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months but have been prevented from doing so.

or

Be a member in good standing of a Church which is not in communion with the Church of England but subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, and also be a member of the Church of England, and have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months, or would have habitually attended public worship in the parish during the preceding six months but have been prevented from doing so.

Applications forms for enrolment are available in the church porch or by email at **electoralroll@stdunstanschurch.com**.

For any further enquiries, please contact Mr Charlie Fairall on 01844 344164 or at **electoralroll@stdunstanschurch.com**.

Applications must be received by 22nd February.

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on Sunday 17th March, at 3.45 pm, in St Dunstan's Church. The meetings will be preceded by a 3.00 pm service of Evensong.

ActionAid

In October, we sent £180.00 which we promised to ActionAid in support of Adam, the 6-year-old boy living in a small village in the Rumphu district of Northern Malawi, whom we as a church support. We usually receive a letter from him about this time of year telling us what he is doing but, as yet, it hasn't arrived.

At present it is the hot, rainy season with many thunderstorms, which will affect his parents as they tend their small farm. So far this year I have received £75.00 towards this year's support. Thank you to those who have contributed. If you would like to donate, please send your donation to me June Timms, Nags Head House, Aylesbury Road, Monks Risborough. HP27 0JT. Cheques should be made payable to Monks Risborough PCC. Thank you.

Getting Married at St Dunstan's & St Peter's

When considering where to get married, couples are faced with a vast array of choices; yet thousands of couples still marry every year in church.



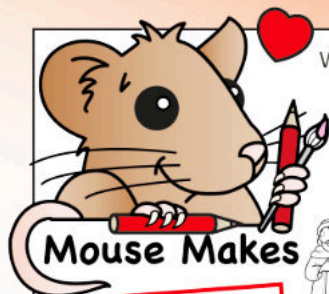
Choosing to be married in a church is about so much more than choosing a venue, because a Christian wedding brings with it so many important dimensions. The service frames the wonderful act of committing oneself to another within the incomparable love of God. In the service, the couple are prayed for, and receive encouragement and blessings. They commit themselves to one another in the

same spot, using the same words, as thousands of others before them. They are given support and guidance by their parish priest in the build-up to the big day, to help them prepare both practically and pastorally. And by getting married in a church, that church becomes for that couple a special place to which they can return again and again, with a community there who will be delighted to welcome and support them.

Choosing to marry in a church, then, is about so much more than your wedding: it's about your marriage.

To marry in any given Church of England church, a couple must have what is called a 'qualifying connection' to that church; there are many such connections, primarily including living in the parish, having lived in the parish in the past, or being recently descended from those who married here.

If you would like to know more, please do not hesitate to contact Peter our Vicar, on 01844 274771, or at revpetergodden@outlook.com.



CONNECT THE BIBLE COUPLES

ADAM ELIZABETH
ABRAHAM MARY
ISAAC HANNAH
JACOB PRISCILLA
BOAZ EVE
ZECHARIAH RUTH
ELKANAH REBEKAH
AQUILA RACHEL
JOSEPH SARAH

Which couple helped the
Apostle Paul in his ministry?

_____ and _____ Romans 16:3

Who were the first couple?

_____ and _____

Genesis 2:22-25

Who's wife became a
pillar of salt because
she disobeyed the
angel's warning?



Genesis 19:26

Which of Laban's
daughters did Jacob love?

Genesis 29:18

Who was Moses' wife?

Exodus 2:21

Who married Boaz
to become
King David's
great-grandmother
and a distant
relative of Jesus?

Matthew 1:5



FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter
in this bible verse
to the letter **before**
it in the alphabet.

XIBU HPE IBT
KPJOFE UPHFUIFS,
MFU OPU NBO
TFQBSBUF.

NBSL
UFO WFSTF
OJOF

DID YOU KNOW?

King Solomon
had **700** wives!
They were princesses
of royal birth and he loved
them all, but his wives
caused him to turn
away from God
See 1 Kings 11:1-3

E E Z R E E L I Z A B E T H R
S V Q S L R Z J I B O A D A M
R E B E K A H O J R A O Q N O
U I S A A C A S A A Z P R N S
T H A Q N H Z E C H A R I A H
H R U T A E V P O A I E B H I
S A R A H L T H B M A R Y S D
P R I S C I L L A Q U I L A

ABRAHAM
ADAM • AQUILA
BOAZ • ELKANAH
ELIZABETH
EVE • HANNAH
ISAAC • JACOB
JOSEPH • MARY
PRISCILLA
RACHEL
REBEKAH • RUTH
SARAH
ZECHARIAH

MONKS RISBOROUGH "POP UP"

CINEMA
ST DUNSTAN'S CHURCH

SHOWING NEW
FILMS ON

Saturday February 24th at 6.00 pm
Saturday March 9th at 6.00 pm



Entry is by donation

All children must be accompanied by an adult

Bring your own snacks/drinks

Because of Licencing laws it is not possible to advertise the names of the films. However, if you are interested in cinema events please email comms@stdunstanschurch.com with your name and confirm that you would like to hear information about the cinema events via email.

Alternatively contact Cathy Farquhar on 01844 343226 for further details.

Jamadar

Easter Lilies in Memory of a Loved One



St Dunstan's Church is once again offering the opportunity for parishioners to donate the cost of an Easter lily as part of an arrangement in memory of a loved one. If you would like to take part, please write your name and the person(s) whom you wish to remember, on the list in the Church or contact Jenny Masterton-Smith on 01844 273538 or Gwen Miles on 01844 345230.

To make your donation, please put your contribution into a blue gift aid envelope and write "Easter Lily" on it (with your name and address on, if you are a taxpayer). Please put the envelope into the wooden chest on the pillar or hand it to Peter Godden.

Hooray for Play Day!

St Dunstan's Church

Monks Risborough

*Join us for some Spring fun,
crafts, activities and singing.*



Tuesday February 13 th 9.30-12pm

*Free, no need to register. For all ages up
to 11. Under 5s to be accompanied by
an adult.*

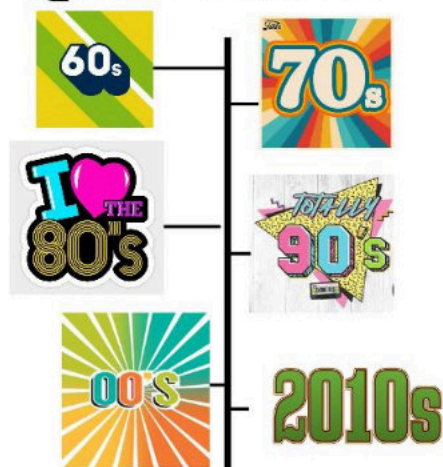
Snacks and refreshments provided.

Tea and coffee for adults.

If you can, bring a bear!



THROUGH THE DECADES QUIZ NIGHT



Come and test your knowledge?

Whiteleaf Scout Hut

SATURDAY 3RD OF FEBRUARY 2024

6-9PM

Bring your own drinks and snacks,
cash for the raffle and Immy's
fundraising stall

ADULTS £10

UNDER 16 £5

MAX 10 ON A TABLE

TO BOOK TICKETS:-07982 247715

Immynorie06@gmail.com

**World
Challenge**

This event is to sup-
port Cara and Immy
for world challenge



TANZANIA 2024

DIARY DATES FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

February

- 3rd Quiz - Whiteleaf Scout Hut 6.00 pm (Page 19)
- 5th PR Heritage Society - Baptist Chapel 7.30 pm (Page 31)
- 6th MR Horticultural Society - Zoom 7.30 pm (Page 26)
- 7th Women's Institute - Whitecross Hall 1.45 pm (Page 26)
- 7th Open House Group - TBA 7.30 pm (Page 13)
- 8th Fellowship Group - Church Hall 11.30 am (Page 12)
- 13th Play Day - Church Hall 9.30 am (Page 18)
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**For further information about the Church,
services, and current notices
see our website**

www.stdunstanschurch.com

You can also keep up-to-date by following us on Facebook  and Twitter 

A Member of the Risborough Team Ministry

Quiz



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Saturday 23rd March

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Longwick Village Hall

Teams of up to 8 people @ £8 per head

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jane.rogers.owlswick@outlook.com

Final copy date for next *Newsletter*
is
10th March 2024

Please give copy to one of the following:

Editor	Morna Hinch	morna.hinch@btinternet.com	01844 345169
Production	John McKay	penserve@gmail.com	01844 274650
Advertising	Janette Bacon	stdunstanads2@gmail.com	07812 325758
Distribution	Penny Hollings	hollings.penny@gmail.com	07762 880219
Proof reader	Jane Curry	jlecurry@gmail.com	07973 300758

The next Newsletter will be issued from 31st March 2024

The Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela

Part 12 - Burgos

The city of Burgos dates from 884 AD, when King Alfonso III of Castile built a defensive fort there. At that time, the Moors - Moslems from N Africa - occupied most of Spain and Alfonso was trying to drive them out of his kingdom. Later, as the pilgrimage route to Santiago developed, Burgos became very prosperous and, for a while, was the capital of Castile.

Readers of the previous article will recall that I had arrived in this lovely city after an arduous walk, which left me tired and in need of my bed. I awoke the following morning, refreshed by a good night's sleep and looking forward to a break of two days. I set off with enthusiasm to visit the cathedral, availing myself of the lower entrance fee offered to pilgrims. Construction of the present building began in 1221, directed by Master Enrique, a French master-builder, who introduced the then fashionable Gothic style of contemporary French cathedrals. The real glories of the



building, however, date from the sixteenth century, when a family of masons, the Colonias, arrived from Germany and introduced the flamboyant, decorative style of late German Gothic. The result is an interior which gives the immediate impression of light and space, partly created by the lovely sixteenth century lantern over the crossing, where the nave and the transepts meet. At that time, the Spanish empire included the Netherlands and large parts of Italy, so it is not surprising that the side

chapels display fine art works from these areas, including Flemish paintings, Italian sculpture and a beautiful fifteenth century polychrome altarpiece showing the Tree of Jesse. The tomb of Castile's senior military officer in the fifteenth century - Pedro Fernandez de Velasco and his wife - dominates the Chapel of the Constable. At the lady's feet, the sculptor has included her little dog. The whole piece is in Carrara marble. Having seen the wonders of the church, I passed on to the cloister, which unusually has two storeys.

The following morning I walked out into the outskirts of the city to visit Las Huelgas. This former Cistercian monastery, now in part a state museum, is stunning in its simple beauty. Part of it is still a convent. In 2008 there were thirty nuns there, members of an enclosed order. The guide explained that the church was only used in the summer, which was understandable because Burgos is close to 3,000 feet above sea level and, even at the beginning of May, when I visited, the interior of the building was chilly.

The church is the burial place of the medieval kings of Castile and León, whose coffins lie in the nave. Unfortunately, when Napoleon's troops passed by the convent in the Peninsular War, they desecrated some of the tombs. Outside the church, there lies a Gothic cloister, which was, unusually, enclosed, probably to keep out the winter cold. Traces of *Mudéjar* decorations can be seen on the vault. The term refers to work produced by Christian craftsmen, who were strongly influenced by Islamic art, which had been brought to Spain during the centuries of the Moorish occupation. The walls of the chapter house are decorated with portraits of kings and abbesses. Three lancet windows display lovely medieval glass. The earlier, delightful Romanesque cloister is the only one in Burgos, as most the city is built in the later Gothic style. The capitals - the carvings on the top of the pillars - have been restored and are decorated with floral motifs. The Romanesque chapel nearby has a restored *Mudéjar* ceiling and a statue of Saint James with moving arms. It is suggested that this was used to dub the knights of the important military order of Santiago. The *pièce de résistance* came in the final room, which contains cases displaying a magnificent collection of medieval textiles which were found in the tombs. The colours, produced by vegetable dyes, are remarkably vibrant for their age. There was a strong Arab influence in the patterns and many fabrics were enriched with gold and silver thread.

I returned to the city centre and in the evening tried to visit the church of St Nicholas. On the way there I was caught in an amazing thunderstorm with enormous hailstones. Fortunately I managed to find shelter in a doorway by the side of the cathedral. Water was pouring off the roof through the gargoyles and then flowing down the steps in a torrent. When it had abated, I walked on towards the church, but found that it was closed for repair, so I returned to the hotel for a picnic supper and an early night. My rest in Burgos was over and an early start awaited me in the morning.

David Keysell

Hare Heaven



Endymion Porter 150x127 cm. c1643-5
Tate Britain William Dobson 1611-46

What an ambitious name! Mr Porter Senior obviously intended great things for his son. Sure enough, Endymion Porter (1587-1649) became a man of culture and learning, devoted to literature and the arts. He became Charles I's favourite courtier and trusted Groom of the Bedchamber, and, more importantly for Porter, was one of Charles' agents who scoured Europe for paintings for the magnificent Royal Collection.

When the Court was in exile in Oxford during the Civil War, Charles I, for the first time, chose a native-born Englishman as his Court Painter, after all the Germans and Flemings whom he and past monarchs had appointed. Charles' finest Court Painter, Van Dyck, had died in 1641, and the following year he gave the post to his loyal servant William Dobson, who followed him into exile.

Dobson was one of the first truly English painters of any stature, miniaturists apart. The little we know about him is that he lived an undisciplined life, dying at thirty-six soon after coming out of prison for debt. Both Dobson and Porter had doubtless examined Charles I's paintings, many of them Venetian, especially by Titian; and of course superb Van Dycks. The Royal Collection was a resplendent source for a painter at a time when there was no official school to train artists and no national painting collection to study.

Endymion Porter is Dobson's outstandingly accomplished masterpiece. Porter may have suggested the pose himself, which echoed a Titian Charles owned of the Roman Emperor Vespasian. The rich colouring is like Titian's, but Porter's florid, unidealised face is quintessentially English.

He is portrayed as a cultured connoisseur, which is emphasised top left by a bust of Apollo, Greek god of the arts. Lower right, making a diagonal, is a classical low-relief sculpture of three figures representing painting, sculpture and poetry. The central figure of sculpture is carving Pallas Athene, Greek goddess of the sciences, arts and war. She holds a spear and shield, which could be significant because Charles I was at war when this was painted.

We also see Porter as a sportsman and country squire. All that fabric of his voluminous hunting outfit must have encumbered his aim, as he has only managed to shoot a large rabbit or hare with his magnificent wheel-lock hunting gun. That gun makes a dramatic diagonal to counteract the one made by Apollo and the frieze.

There is a small sub-plot on the left below the bust of Apollo, which upsets the composition a little. The page boy holding the dead hare looks up at Porter almost accusingly, as if about to cry at his pet's death. The boy's eye is similar to that of the dog, its nose touching the hare's: dog's head and hare echoing the line of the gun.

The boy wears a touch of the only red in the painting, the colour of blood.

The gun points to the landscape beyond where I cannot help seeing the tree as a hare's nose, the tree trunk leading to its mouth, and the two cloud formations either side above the tree as two big smudged eyes: a celestial hare in hare heaven. Once seen I cannot un-see it; and now I am afraid that it will be the same for you.

Susanne Carr

St Dunstan's Organ

Progress is being made, slowly, towards identifying options for restoring the organ.

Since the last update, we have visited churches that have already undertaken similar restorations, welcomed an independent organ builder to assess the situation (as recommended by the Diocesan Organ Advisers), and had further discussion with our existing organ tuner.

Once we have received the report from the independent organ builder the next step will be to decide which options to pursue and to seek indicative quotes for.

It is apparent that the organ building industry is not short of work, as responses to our enquiries take a long time, and we have been advised that work on our instrument would be scheduled for 2025 at the earliest.

Simon Gray

Monks Risborough Horticultural Society

Future Meetings

Tuesday 6th February: Zoom (details via Bill O'Kelly) on Organic Gardening – Happy Plants, Happy Minds by Nicola Hope (RHS Master of Horticulture).
at 7.30 pm

Wednesday 20th March: Florestry - Life without oasis, a practical example by Gwen Miles. 8.00 pm St Dunstan's Church Hall.

Contact Details: Andrew Leach (Chairman) 07909 970204
andrewt.leach@btinternet.com
Bill O'Kelly (Membership Secretary) 07966 139052
MRHSContact@gmail.com
Website: **<https://themrhs.wixsite.com/mrhs>**

Monks Risborough Women's Institute

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 1.45pm in the Whitecross Hall.

Our February Meeting is on the 7th, and the speakers will be Cath Campbell, plus Yvonne Alton, who are the BFWI Climate Ambassadors.

On March 6th we welcome back regular speaker Sheila Keating to tell us about her recent trip to Namibia, and show us some fascinating photographs of her visit.

We welcome visitors and look forward to seeing you. We do ask that any visitors contact a member beforehand to make sure we can welcome you. A contact number is 01844 346582.

My Life as a Bee

My life began as a tiny 1mm white egg that was laid by my mother, the queen bee, in my own private cell in one of the honeycombs that made up our hive. My mother



became queen after her mother, my grandmother, left the hive with about half our worker bees and a load of our honey, to form another colony. At this stage my mother was about to hatch out as a princess bee, not yet ready to be the new queen. When she was ready, she flew out of the hive and had a wild time with lots of drones (male bees) from several

hives. This means that it's impossible to tell which hive my father came from. After she came back to our hive as our new queen, she set to work on her only job which was to lay thousands and thousands of eggs, just like the one that I came from. She would spend the next few years laying eggs until the hive decided that she was getting past her best and they would raise another princess bee to replace her.

When I hatched from my egg I quickly grew into a rather ugly grub and was fed a mixture of honey and pollen by the nurse bees for several days until I was fully grown. At this point, the nurse bees sealed me into my cell with beeswax and my own private miracle took place. By a process known as metamorphosis I changed from an ugly grub into a fine, striped, worker bee and from then on, I worked all the time. My first job was to nurse the new grubs but as I grew stronger and could fly, I took up my main job of collecting nectar from flowers. My first flying task was to learn about navigation. I took longer and longer flights outside the hive until I could recognise our hive from several metres away. Then I learnt how to find the best flowers for nectar from my more experienced sisters. When they found some good flowers, they came back to the hive and by doing a strange wagging dance they told the rest of us where these flowers were. We can see blue and ultra-violet so once we get close to the flowers, we can find them by ourselves. My job was to take the nectar from the flowers into my stomach and collect pollen by sticking it on my back legs. I then flew back to the hive and handed these spoils over to my sisters who stored the pollen for feeding grubs and nectar for drying into honey. We store honey during the summer so that we can feed ourselves during the winter and do not need to hibernate.

I spend every daylight hour, when the weather is warm enough, collecting honey and then when it gets dark, I do other jobs in the hive until the sun comes up. I will work like this for about six weeks and then one day, my wings will be worn out, and I will not be able to fly back to the hive. During these six weeks, thousands more of my sisters will have been born and they will carry on the work that I can no longer do.



As related to Brian Highe

In Praise of Christmas Cards

As a member of the older generation, I appreciate that the sending of Christmas cards has tailed off as the younger people now use more modern means of communication, email and iPhones. Also, the postage costs have risen which hasn't helped.

This year – well last year – I resolved to send my cards to long remembered friends early on with a few comments about my life and a small label with my address and telephone number. The card is probably the only contact I have with them during the year and I have been astonished and thrilled with the result. Most of them send me a card each year, but this time they also had included comments about their own lives. Some included the copy of a long letter which they send round their own families – including one such from a German friend – in German – which I have had fun translating, and a French card. But what has really pleased me was a phone call from a friend, who said that he can no longer write and cannot, therefore, send cards. He had lost my phone number, and so we intend to remain in regular telephone contact.

One downside to this is that some people assume that they are my only friend as they sign the card with their first name only. As an example, I have four friends called Anne and I got three cards signed Anne. In the olden days the envelopes were franked so one could work out where the cards had come from. I have, therefore, not been able to ascertain which Anne has not been in touch!

I do hope that the dispatch of Christmas cards will continue unabated, not just for the benefit of the older generation, but also because of the benefit the Charities get from the sale of their cards.

David Kemp

Don't forget those Nestboxes!

On 14th February the annual National Nestbox Week begins.



Now an established part of the ornithological calendar, it aims to encourage people to help out the birds in their gardens each Spring. Everyone is invited to put up more nestboxes in their local area, and a very helpful website gives full instructions on how to do this. More details at: <https://www.nestboxweek.com/>.

Answers to Last Newsletter's Nativity Quiz

1. *Where did Mary and Joseph live before Jesus was born?*
a) **Nazareth** b) Bethlehem c) Jerusalem
2. *What was the name of the angel who told Mary she would have a child?*
Gabriel
3. *What did Joseph do for a living?*
Carpenter
4. *Who was the Roman ruler when Jesus was born?*
Caesar Augustus
5. *Why did Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem?*
To register for the census.
6. *How did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem?*
We are not told in the Bible.
7. *Why couldn't Mary and Joseph find a place to stay?*
There was no room at the inn.
8. *Where does the Bible say Jesus was born?*
a) In a stable b) In hay c) **In a manger**
9. *According to the Bible, which animals were specifically mentioned as being present in the stable when Jesus was born?*
a) sheep and a donkey b) cattle and a donkey c) donkey, sheep and cattle d) **None**
10. *What does the angel say to the shepherds when they tell them to go to Bethlehem?*
'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to all people.'
11. *The wise men travelled to Jerusalem.*
a) northward b) southward c) eastward d) **westward**
12. *What did the Wise Men follow to find Jesus?*
A star
13. *How many Wise Men visited baby Jesus?*
The Bible doesn't say.
14. *What gifts did the wise men bring for Jesus?*
Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh
15. *Who spread the news about baby Jesus throughout Bethlehem?*
The shepherds
16. *What is the City of David also known as in the Bible?*
Bethlehem
17. *Which of the gospels tell the story of the Nativity?*
Matthew and Luke
18. *What does Jesus' other name, "Immanuel", mean?*
a) **God with us** b) Son of God c) He who is God d) Chosen One
19. *How many days after the birth of Christ did Joseph and Mary give him the name Jesus?*
8, according to the law.
20. *Jesus was born on the 25th of December. True or false?*
False; we don't know the date.

Monks Risborough CofE Primary School

Class Outings



Visit to the Gurdwara

On the 29th November, Year 6 went to the Gurdwara to learn about Sikhism. When we arrived we went into a little building in front of the Gurdwara. First, we listened to Nirmal who told us a little bit about how to behave and what to do in the temple. Everyone has to cover their heads with a turban or a mini headscarf, which he taught us how to tie it round our heads. There was a flag outside which was yellow which was high, but the one on the Golden Temple in India was four times as high! When you go into the building you must take off your shoes for respect, you must wash your hands as well. We learnt about the 5K's – Kara a round silver bracelet – resembles God's life he lives on forever, and if you wear it you are cuffed to God. Khanga – a comb shape, a semi-circle usually made of wood, this symbol to make your life not messy and scrambled up. Kirpan – a sword - this symbol is to remind you to protect people if they are going to be harmed. Kachera – white pants – keep yourself clean and tidy. Kesh – turban – this symbolises that God gave you hair and you must keep it in good condition and not cut it. You cannot enter the temple if you have been drinking and must not have cigarettes with you. For lunch you are not allowed to have meat, egg or fish, in the temple they provide food for you which is vegetarian. Sikhism you must pray to the words in the scriptures, we gave a coin as an offering to Guru Nanak. We went to have a look around the whole of the Gurdwara including the kitchens.

Towards the end of the visit Nirmal showed us how a turban was placed on the head of Tabasum.

It was very interesting to learn about a religion we knew little about.

By Ollie & Alice D

Wrens walk to Whiteleaf

We put on our wellies and coats. We walked around the field and up the hill. It was very steep but we persevered! When we got to the top we had our snack. Then we went into the woods and used our senses. When we were stepping on the leaves we could hear them crunching under our feet. We smelt wet leaves. We saw raindrops on the grass – I think they were called dew drops. We saw fallen trees. We heard the wind blowing. We saw a house when we were in the field and that is a human feature. We saw the hill which was a physical feature. It felt cold at the top because there weren't any trees surrounding us. We had a good time! Thank you to Mr Stannett, Mrs Williams, Mrs Wraight, Mrs Lawson-Wood and Mrs White for coming with us.

By Samuel and Millie

Year 3 & 4 Visit to Roald Dahl Museum

Yesterday was amazing! I went on a school trip to the Roald Dahl Museum in Great Missenden. I walked quietly to the coach. I was very excited. The grass was cold and sprinkled with icy crisp. I went up the stairs and sat down with Cleo, I was very cold. Me and Cleo played games on my little notepad and little pen. When we got there we met Bethany's mum and Aiden's mum, we also met Year 4. We quickly walked to the Roald Dahl Museum. At the Wonkers gate we met a lady called Hannah she worked there. Hannah took us to the lunch room and we put our bags and coats off. Then we went to the writing hut (it was fake and copied) and we looked at pictures like the writing hut, and educated us about his characters. After that we made some characters. After that we got to freely roam around. At 11.30am we went back to the lunch room and had some yummy lunch. When everyone had finished lunch we went on a walk to places that inspired Roald Dahl like the houses from the BFG. We went to his grave and got to go inside the church. Last but not least we walked back to the coach.

By Theo & Nieve

The Princes Risborough Area Heritage Society

Monday 5th February: "Film and Photos". Film - Gomm's Forge, Loosley Row. Photos - Risborough Silver Jubilee 1935. A unique, unseen collection of photos plus more.

Monday 4th March: "Pharmacy. Plants, Pots and Poisons". A talk by Bryony Hudson, Director of Amersham Museum.

Meetings are held in Princes Risborough Baptist Chapel 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm. Talk starts 7.30 pm. All welcome. Admission £3 if not a member.

Princes Risborough Library

The Tuesday Afternoon Group Monthly Talks 3.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Tuesday 20th February : Talk on "Back To Brunel" given by Francis Gomme.

Tuesday 19th March : Talk on "Physics of Climate Change" given by Maurice Rhodes. Refreshments available.

To book a place, talk to the Library staff or call 01296 382415 but, if you have not booked, just turn up.

We shall be pleased to see you.

The Princes Centre



Update January 2024

December 2023 ended with lots of fun activities held at the Princes Centre. The Jingers gave a fantastic performance of an alternative Nativity at St Mary's Church. The dancing angel was just one of the scenes creating a lot of laughs with the audience. There was much positive feedback and we are very grateful for the support of St Mary's Church and for all the hard work put in by Sue Newton and the staff who enabled this to take place.

At the Centre there were a lot of party activities, fun Christmas games and a special Christmas dinner provided for all the clients, who were served by the staff dressed up as Christmas elves and Santa, as well as entertainment provided by local bands.

A coach trip was organised to take clients to see the Christmas Lights in London and everyone had an amazing time. A big thank you to all the staff and volunteers who came along to help.

At other times, some of the clients were able to make and decorate small Christmas cakes and others made some beautiful oasis flower arrangements with flowers provided by Marks and Spencers. There have been many other activities including a special one called 'These Hands' where photos were taken of clients' hands and put with a few facts about their life, which feedback indicates has given pleasure to many of their families.

We are very grateful for donations from St Mary's Church which will help to fund a tail lift for one of our vehicles and to the Kop Hill Climb for one which will help to fund the replacement of an unsafe path at the rear of the lower hall. We are also grateful for a generous donation from St Dunstan's Church. A big thank you to all who helped raise further funds by helping with the collection outside Tesco. We were very impressed with the generosity of the shoppers. Support such as this helps us to upgrade our facilities for our clients' benefit whilst maintaining attendance fees at a very affordable rate.

If you or your loved one would like a free taster of what we have to offer or would like to consider volunteering at the Princes Centre, please contact our manager Kim on 01844 345105 or Mags at Bourne End 01628 52702

Maggie Wooster Keyte

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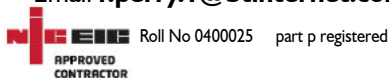


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Thank you *Lisa*

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