

Parish of Monks Risborough

Newsletter



St Dunstan's Church St Peter's Chapel

April 2024 - May 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
		6.00 pm Evensong	Except 4th Sunday in month
Thursdays		9.30 am Holy Communion	
Owlswick Chapel		9.00 am Holy Communion	2nd Sunday in month
		6.00 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 Reps	Ex Officio Member
Mrs J Curry, Mr E Kent	The Rev'd Sally Prendergast

Elected Members

Mrs A-M Burke, Mr C Fairall, Mrs A Maycock, Mrs D Norie, Mrs J Rogers, Mr C Trower, Mrs A Vere

Directory

Churches Together in Risborough Rep.	Margaret Pitman	01844 346008
Gift Aid Secretary	Nick Tyler	01844 344589
Electoral Roll Officer	Caroline Godden email: electoralroll@stdunstanschurch.com	
Weekly Notice Sheet Organiser	John McKay email: comms@stdunstanschurch.com	01844 274650
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:

The April showers came early this year. I am writing to you all on the first day of March, about a month before this *Newsletter* comes through your letterboxes, and the weather today has gone through a remarkable transformation. At 10:15 this morning, the dark grey clouds brought forth a torrent of rain so intense that it was hard to believe that it would ever clear up. I was convinced that this dreadful weather was here to stay for quite some time and found it impossible to evoke the feeling of the warmth of the spring sun on my face. Fast forward to lunchtime however, and there are now clear blue skies up above, with the slowly decreasing puddles all that is currently left of the previously terrible weather.

When we face times of struggle in our lives, it can often feel like we are in the midst of that dreadful weather that I experienced this morning, when it seems inconceivable that there will be any end to it at all – let alone soon. In his beautiful poem *Stop All the Clocks* - read so memorably by John Hannah's character Matthew in *Four Weddings and a Funeral* as he mourns the death of his partner, Gareth – WH Auden articulates with searing accuracy the all-consuming nature of pain and grief:

The stars are not wanted now; put out every one,
pack up the moon and dismantle the sun,
pour away the ocean and sweep up the wood;
for nothing now can ever come to any good.

I have always loved this poem, but some years ago I started pondering how I could make sense of something so desolate in the light of my faith, which is so grounded upon the inextinguishable hope that I find in Jesus Christ.

I found the answer one year at a Holy Week service in the build-up to Easter. This poem was used to help articulate the grief and despair that Jesus' friends and followers must have felt on that evening of Good Friday in Jerusalem all those years ago, when the one whom they had thought to be God's own Son had been taken away from them in the most awful and desperate of ways. This poem made complete sense in the context of that moment in the Christian narrative, for no-one in that unhappy band of people that day could possibly have been able to imagine a time of light or joy ever again.

And yet the Christian Scriptures tell us that a time of rejoicing did indeed follow: from the moment that Mary Magdalene met with the risen Christ on Easter Day, and told his disciples whom she had seen, the dark shroud began to lift, as God's love broke into their lives once again, showing that there is no situation into which his love and grace cannot enter.

The remembrance of this is something that I endeavour to hold on to whenever I have experienced painful or difficult times, which, as for many or indeed all of us, have been plentiful over the years.

As we reach the time of year when Easter again dawns on us, I pray that you may know the hope, the light, and the love of Christ in all things, not least when things are difficult, or all seems lost.

Grace, mercy, and peace, be with you all, always.

With my best wishes and my prayers, as ever,

Peter

From the Parish Registers

Baptism: - *We welcome into the family of God:*

11th February : Poppie Oxdale

Funerals: - *Rest in Peace:*

10th January : Barbara Drake, age 85, of Dunsmore Avenue

15th January: Margaret Wickham, age 89, of Jasmine Crescent

29th February: Don Maddock, age 91, of Mill Lane

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 dates are 8th April and 20th May.

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.

30 th March	Holy Saturday	8.00 pm Easter Vigil
31 st March	Sunday	Easter Day 8.00 am BCP Holy Communion 10.00 am All-Age Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong (St Peter's Owlswick)
4 th April	Thursday of Easter Week	9.30 am Holy Communion
7 th April	Sunday	Second Sunday of Easter 8.00 am BCP Holy Communion 10.00 am All-Age Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong 9.30 am Holy Communion
11 th April	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
14 th April	Sunday	Third Sunday of Easter 9.00 am BCP Holy Communion (St Peter's Owlswick) 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong 9.30 am Holy Communion
18 th April	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
21 st April	Sunday	Fourth Sunday of Easter 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong 9.30 am Holy Communion
25 th April	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
28 th April	Sunday	Fifth Sunday of Easter 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong (St Peter's Owlswick)
2 nd May	Thursday	9.3 0am Holy Communion
5 th May	Sunday	Sixth Sunday of Easter 8.00 am BCP Holy Communion 10.00 am All-Age Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong
9 th May	Thursday	Ascension Day 9.30 am Said Holy Communion 7.30 pm Sung Parish Eucharist
12 th May	Sunday	Patronal Feast of St Dunstan (transferred) 9.00 am BCP Holy Communion (St Peter's Owlswick) 11.00 am Parish Eucharist, followed by festivities 6.00 pm Evensong

16 th May	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
19 th May	Sunday	Pentecost 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong
23 rd May	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
26 th May	Sunday	Trinity Sunday 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong (St Peter's Owlswick)
30 th May	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion

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.

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.vere@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.vere@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.

In Memoriam – Bishop Alan



It was with great sadness in mid-February that we learned of the sudden death of our bishop, Alan, Bishop of Buckingham.

The Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, paid tribute to Bishop Alan, saying:

Alan loved God and loved God's church with a rare passion. He was a bishop who prioritised the parishes and clergy in his care above everything else and served the people of Buckinghamshire with devotion over a long and demanding ministry.

I will miss him as a friend and colleague. The Church has lost a wise, pastoral and prophetic bishop.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Justin Welby, added his tribute:

Bishop Alan was never afraid to stand up for those on the margins, those that felt they were being ignored by the church. He was a man of prophetic spirit, reaching out where he saw injustice, and speaking up where he witnessed the abuse of power.

He leaves behind a huge gap and an important legacy. We have much to learn from his life and his courage.

You can find fuller tributes from Bishop Steven and Archbishop Justin in the news section on the front page of our website.

We continue to pray for Alan's family, colleagues, and many friends who have been so saddened by their unexpected loss.

May he rest in peace, and rise in glory.

Report on the meetings of the PCC in January and March 2024

The PCC has met twice this year, and one of the main points of discussion in these meetings has been our ministry to children. The enduring effect of the pandemic on this particular aspect of worship has been significant, and Bishop Steven Croft has expressed a wish that parishes prioritise this in the coming months.

Following the meeting in January, the 10 o'clock club changed their pattern slightly, starting in church and only leaving after the confession. It is hoped that this will promote a sense of inclusion, and the response has been very positive.

Other plans involve setting up an altar team with young people as part of it, and considering preparing some of our young people for receiving the sacrament of Holy Communion.

The PCC discussed matters relating to the boilers, both in the church and the church hall, and advice is being sought from the Diocesan Heating Advisor.

At the January meeting, business ahead of the APCM was carried out, and the statutory reports were approved. The final financial elements were then approved at the March meeting.

There are always lots of possible ways of being involved in the life of the parish, and the Events Team in particular would welcome new members. 2024 promises to be a full year of events, ranging from a cathedral coach trip, to a jazz concert featuring our very own vicar, and the gourmet village barbecue. Monks Risborough Primary School has a vacancy for a governor, so anyone interested should speak with Jane Curry.

St Peter's Owlswick also has a variety of events planned, including speaker evenings and a fund raiser Quiz on 23rd March – do see Jane Rogers for more details.

I think everyone would agree that the Flower Team is extraordinarily talented, and that we are very blessed to have such beautiful and skilfully crafted arrangements in the Church. So the PCC was delighted to pass a motion approving the purchase of new aprons to replace the 18 year old aprons currently being worn.

With the APCM on 17th March, no date has yet been fixed for the next PCC meeting until the PCC cohort for the coming year has been finalised.

Lucy Nott

Secretary to the PCC

Church Flower Rota

Organisers:

Gwen Miles 01844 345230

Jenny Masterton-Smith 01844 273538

Sunday Coffee Rota

Organisers:

Caroline Clay 01844 344591

Jo Wade 01844 346321

Fellowship Group

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

The Fellowship Group meets in the Hall on the second Thursday of the month at 10.15 am.

We have a mix of speakers, summer and winter parties, craft activities and DIY sessions, with a possible annual outing.

The next two meetings will be on April 11th and May 9th.

Everybody is most welcome.

£2 covers refreshments.

Details from Rosemary 344417.

Walking Group

We are looking forward to further local walks in Spring time.

The walk/stroll is usually around one and a half hours (10,000 'steps!'), starting from Burton Lane at 9.30 am on the last Wednesday of each month.

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.

On March 7th the bellringers rang a quarter peal of Plain Bob Doubles in 52 minutes. The band was augmented by ringers from Ellesborough and Great Kimble.

This was the first such event in several years and for three of the band it was their first quarter peal.



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.

Dates of the next meetings - Wednesday April 24th and May 22nd. Both at 7.30 pm. The venue will be on the weekly news sheet.

The possible subjects based on the book of Joshua are: -

Making wise decisions - A 3,000 year old scam!

Law and Justice - Land ownership and the first Domesday book, Cities of Refuge

All are welcome to our friendly Bible study and discussion group where we try to answer some of the hard questions.

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

Princes Risborough Library

The Tuesday Afternoon Group Monthly Talks 3.00 pm - 4.00 pm

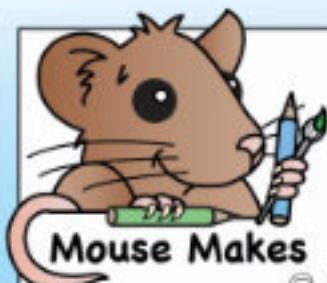
Tuesday 16th April : A talk given by author Janice Smith.

Tuesday 21st May : "Who Do You Believe You Are?" A talk by June Brazier.

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.

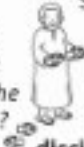


Mouse Makes



How many times
had the risen Jesus
revealed himself to the
disciples before this?

Read
John 21:14



How many
disciples were there?
Who were they?

Read John 21: 11

How many fish
did they catch?
Read John 21: 11



READ
the story in
John 21

Some time after Jesus had risen a few of His
disciples met together to go fishing.

They fished all night but caught nothing.

As the sun rose a man on the shore asked:

"Have you caught anything?"

"Not a thing" they answered.

He said to them "Throw your net out onto the
right side of the boat and you will catch some."

So they did and they and they caught so many
fish they could not pull in the net.

Then John recognised the man,

"It is the Lord!"



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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.

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: 21st and 28th April and 12th and 19th May.

If you would like any further information, please contact: Debbie Norie 07982 247715 or at debbienorie@googlemail.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 stdunstanschurhhall@gmail.com or ring 07942 356245.

Peter Eacott

The Eacott family thank the kind parishioners of St Dunstan's Church for their prayers and tributes for the loss of our beautiful husband and father Peter. You have touched our hearts.

St Dunstan's



Gourmet Village

BBQ

Award winning and locally sourced
'pulled pork' sausages, burgers
from Orchard View Farm

Sunday 12th May
at 12 noon
after the 11am service

Please advise in advance if a special
dietary option is required
e.g. gluten free, vegetarian etc.

A complimentary drink will be served

Tickets £10 (Children under 12 £5)

Tickets from Susanne Carr
01844 346827

Susanne Carr



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 19th April and 17th May. 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.ver@btinternet.com** 01844 343006

ActionAid

I received this message from Adam (the little boy living in Northern Malawi whom we support through ActionAid) just as the previous issue of the Newsletter was being distributed.

Dear Supporter

I am your friend Adam. I am learning at nursery school and at our school there is also Std 1 and 2, its like private primary school. This school is at a very good place and near my home and it is easy for me to walk. This school has all materials and we learn very well.

Thank you.

There is also the following written by one of the ActionAid workers in the community.

"Due to climate change many difficulties has come in our country. Many people are affected by flood in the Northern part of this country. The nutrients of the soil has washed away and there is stunted growth of crops this will result into famine. People will not harvest enough food. This has also affect the government in that they will have to budget for this issue and find a way on how can assist the victims. With the help of the Chikulamayembe Women's Forum people have encouraged to replant the trees as well as planting on bare lands so that soil nutrients should not be washed away this will help to control the flood."

We promise to send £180 each year to support Adam, so far I have received £75, thank you. If you wish to contribute please send your donations to me :- June Timms, Nags Head House, Aylesbury Road, Monks Risborough, HP27 0JT. Please make cheques payable to Monks Risborough PCC. Thank you.

Live Jazz at St Dunstan's

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Acclaimed jazz recording artist Tim Boniface performs a wonderful setlist of familiar songs and tunes you'll love, accompanied by our Vicar Peter as vocalist, and Chris Diamand on double bass.

Saturday 25th May, 7.30pm | St Dunstan's Church Monks Risborough
Tickets £10 | Licensed cash bar | Prize Raffle

Tickets available from:

Jo (01844 346321) or Penny (07762 880219)

Days to Remember, 59 High St, Princes Risborough

www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-dunstans-church

Monks Risborough's World of Work

Lucy Nott – French Teacher

1. What do you do?

I teach French and I'm the Head of French and Head of the Modern Languages department at Wycombe Abbey.

2. How did you get into this field of work?

I read French and Spanish at Cambridge, focusing mainly on French, and especially the literature. I've taught French for 20 years now and before that, when my children were young, I was a freelance translator of legal, medical and insurance documents. So I've always worked using my French. After I had been a translator for about 11 years, I wanted to do something that would take me out of the house to work with people. Coming from a family of teachers, I had always had teaching in mind as something I might do. In 2004 I did a PGCE (Postgraduate Certificate in Education) with the Open University with placements at three different local secondary schools. Since then, I have worked at a number of different schools including 8 very happy years at a boarding school in Oxfordshire, where my husband and I lived on site, and where I was fully immersed in school life. I have been at Wycombe Abbey since 2020.

3. What might a typical day include?

I get to school quite early, about 7 am. I spend an hour catching up with administration and emails and then I meet up with all the team to discuss any particular issues or problems. My work is an equal mixture of teaching and meetings, plus managing "drop in" issues, which come to me frequently as Head of Department. I usually arrive home between 6.30 and 7 pm. I work 4 days a week in school and have Wednesdays off. I spend time with my elderly mother who lives next door, and catch up with school work.

4. What is a memorable moment from your working life?

I'll never forget my excitement when my first cohort of 6th formers got their A level results. Results day is always memorable. You are so proud when they do well. Trips to France also bring memorable moments, and for pupils these are often the highlight of their time at school.

5. And your most embarrassing moment?

I was teaching a 6th form class, when the headmaster came in to see me. He decided to try out his French, but made a mistake with his vocabulary and asked me to come and see him in his bedroom rather than his office after the lesson. It caused much hilarity in the class after he left.

6. Why do you do what you do?

I have loved French ever since I was a child. I started an exchange with a Belgian girl when I was just 12 and loved being immersed in the language and culture. My exchange partner is now godmother to one of my sons! My other love is literature and combining that with my French made a perfect combination for me when deciding on a degree course. Teaching for me is about sharing that passion.

7. What's one big lesson you've learned from your work?

I feel that I never stop learning, but one very valuable lesson has been the importance of affirmation. If your pupils (particularly those who are struggling) know that you believe in them, they will respond. The same is true for colleagues and for me; we all need affirmation to bring out the best in us.

8. What have been the most significant changes during your time at work?

Undoubtedly, computers; moving from exercise books and everything being written by hand, to writing on a screen with a stylus or digital pen. Covid precipitated the move to everything being done on computers. I'm very interested in technology and the possibilities that it allows in a teaching context so I've enjoyed keeping up with these changes.

9. How do you see your field of work changing in the future?

The impact of AI, and how educators are going to use it, is a constant focus for discussion and exploration. There are many advances in technology and before long, the whole exam system, for example, will have to be redesigned. I feel very strongly that we have to educate our young people to be proficient in all aspects of a rapidly developing technological landscape, and to be adaptable to frequent changes. This affects teachers of all subjects, and brings to the fore all sorts of questions, such as what the nature of learning is when the internet can provide answers, essays, and solutions that remove the need for individual effort. It's a fascinating, if worrying, prospect.

10. You live in Princes Risborough and worship at St Dunstan's. What do you like about living in this area?

It is such a privilege to live in this beautiful part of the country. We enjoy walks in the Chilterns, the proximity to Oxford and London, and we have loved becoming more involved in the life of the parish. It is a wonderful community that we are part of, and we feel particularly blessed to have Peter and his family, not to mention Sally and all the wonderful clergy who do so much. I am over the moon that my daughter will be getting married at St Dunstan's – it is a very special place.

DIARY DATES FOR APRIL AND MAY

April

- 3rd Women's Institute - Whitecross Hall 1.45 pm (Page 22)
- 8th Silent Prayer Meeting - Church Hall 8.00 pm (Page 5)
- 11th Fellowship Group - Church Hall 10.15am (Page 10)
- 16th Tuesday Talk - PR Library 3.00 pm (Page 12)
- 17th Friendship Group - Church Hall 2.00 pm (Page 10)
- 18th Owlswick Talk - St Peter's 7.30pm (Page 22)
- 19th Parish Prayer Group - Church Hall 9.00 am (Page 16)
- 20th MR Horticultural Society - MR Primary School 7.00 pm (Page 33)
- 21st Quiz - Whiteleaf Scout Hut 2.00 pm (Page 29)
- 22nd PR Heritage Society - Baptist Chapel 7.00 pm (Page 33)
- 24th Walking Group - Burton Lane 9.30 am (Page 10)
- 24th Open House Group - TBA 7.30 pm (Page 12)
- 25th Knitting Group - Church Hall 2.00 pm (Page 11)

May

- 1st Women's Institute - Whitecross Hall 1.45 pm (Page 22)
- 9th Fellowship Group - Church Hall 10.15 am (Page 10)
- 12th BBQ - St Dunstan's 12 noon (Page 15)
- 15th Friendship Group - Church Hall 2.00 pm (Page 10)
- 15th MR Horticultural Society - Church Hall 8.00 pm (Page 33)
- 16th Owlswick Talk - St Peter's 7.30pm (Page 22)
- 17th Parish Prayer Group - Church Hall 9.00 am (Page 16)
- 20th Silent Prayer Meeting - Church Hall 8.00 pm (Page 5)
- 21st Tuesday Talk - PR Library 3.00 pm (Page 12)
- 22nd Open House Group - TBA 7.30 pm (Page 12)
- 23rd Knitting Group - Church Hall 2.00 pm (Page 13)
- 25th Jazz Concert - St Dunstan's 7.30pm (Page 17}
- 29th Walking Group - Burton Lane 9.30 am (Page 10)

**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 

A Member of the Risborough Team Ministry

Sharing the load



Did you know that over 12 events are arranged by **The Events Team** each year?

Each event has different needs for setting up, manning and tidying away.

Would you be willing to help for one or two events? For example:

- Putting up and removing posters in allocated places in the local area.
- Moving, setting up and replacing furniture for concerts and Advent Fair.
- Running refreshment/bar for concerts and BBQ.

Please contact Cathy Farquhar on 01844 343226 or email

cathy.farquhar@btinternet.com if you feel you could help in any of these ways.

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

Please give copy to one of the following:

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The next Newsletter will be issued from 26th May 2024

Owlswick Speaker Evenings are back!

Owlswick Speaker Evenings comprise a short series of talks on subjects of interest to local people, held in St Peter's Chapel in Owlswick. Often the speakers are local residents, sometimes from Owlswick itself. The talks haven't been put on since the pandemic, but due to popular demand they're returning.

The Programme

Thursday April 18th: Biodiversity in Your Garden given by Tracy Russell of award-winning Bucksom Farm Shop. Tracy is passionate about working with nature to naturally manage pests & diseases, and increase the amount of wildlife in your garden. <https://bucksom.co.uk>.

Thursday May 16th: John Hampden – Rebel or Patriot? Dr Beth Rogers will give a talk on the famous parliamentarian, John Hampden of Hampden House. John Hampden was a modest gentleman from a South Bucks family with a history of service to the crown. Yet he is best known for refusing to pay a tax, Ship Money, and for narrowly escaping arrest for treason. What caused him to become a leader of Parliamentary Radicals, and why was he in particular, many years after the Civil War, celebrated by the American Founding Fathers, English Romantics, Chartists and Suffragettes?

Thursday June 20th: My Life in Music and Comedy by local resident Philip Pope. Philip has appeared in or written music for some of the most iconic comedy programmes on British radio and television of the last 40 years. He will tell a few stories about what goes on behind the scenes and sing a few songs.

The talks will start at 7.30pm, doors opening at 7.00pm.

Wine, soft drinks & nibbles will be provided.

Entry is by donation. Any surplus goes towards the chapel repairs.

Monks Risborough Women's Institute

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

On **April 3rd** we welcome Pat Day Bagman to give a talk and demonstration on the subject of Morris Dancing which we hope will prove very lively!

May 1st is the yearly Resolutions Meeting which looks at the new National Campaign, followed by, as yet unknown, entertainment and social time.

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.

Spring on the veg plot

We are coming to the end of a winter that was remarkable only for excessive rainfall and a few high winds. None of those extended freeze/thaw periods which do so much to break down clods in the soil and reduce the number of pests. After all the rain, it will take a while for the ground to begin to dry out and much of our local soil, although fertile, sets like concrete if trodden down too early. This is where the no-dig, no-walk proponents come to the fore, provided they mulched their plots last year.

Good Friday is the traditional day for planting seed potatoes, not for any religious reason but because, in the days of six-day weeks and when working on Sundays was frowned upon, this was the first holiday of the year. This year Good Friday falls on March 29th, which is a little early for planting spuds but the seed potatoes should already be chitting or sprouting in trays in full light, ready for the end of April. On the veg plot any crops planted for the winter such as leeks and Savoy cabbage should be harvested and used, before they run to seed. Garlic and autumn-planted onion sets should be standing tall, ready to fatten up when the warmer weather comes. It's still too cold to sow frost tender crops and the runner beans and sweetcorn seeds can stay in their packets for a while, before sowing them in individual pots, ready to go outside when danger of frost is over. Outdoor tomatoes can be sown under glass ready for the warmer weather.



There are, however, some crops which appreciate the cooler weather. Broad beans and peas can be sown now and left to grow, without fertiliser, as they make their own by fixing nitrogen from the atmosphere. Lettuce germinates better in the shorter days and it can now be sown thinly in shallow drills. It will need regular thinning to prevent overcrowding and as the thinnings get bigger, they can be eaten whole, minus their roots, and will add a nice crunch to a cheese sandwich. Plants of pointed cabbage will be available in garden centres now and as few households need more than a dozen cabbages in a year, buying these is much easier than growing from seed and they will be ready before any you sow yourself. Remember to protect these from pigeons. Seeds which can be sown in spring include beetroot, parsnip, which are quite reluctant to germinate, carrots, radish, leeks and spring onions. Crops which tend to run to seed such as Florence fennel and coriander are best left until after the summer solstice when the days are getting shorter.

Above all, now is the time to get on top of the weeds. Bittercress was flowering in February and will already be on its second generation. Chickweed and groundsel will not be far behind. Once the battle with weeds is lost in spring, then it's lost for the whole year. So, it's out with the hoe and fork as soon as the soil is dry enough to walk on.

Brian Highe

The Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela

Part 14 - Burgos to León

When I left the centre of Burgos, I passed through its extensive suburbs into the countryside. Eventually, the path climbed up on to the meseta. My guide-book promised that I would feel on top of the world and I had to agree, as the sky, with its great billowing white clouds, stretched away above this vast, raised plain. Good arable land had clearly been produced by the toil of generations of peasants, as evidenced by huge piles of stones, which had been laboriously picked from the soil to enhance cultivation. This was the first day for some time that the path was away from noisy roads and I was exhilarated by some real walking. Only the sounds of nature could be heard; larks, sparrows and many other species of birds were everywhere. Suddenly it became very windy. Then I heard thunder and felt a few drops of rain. First I put on my rain jacket, not wanting the bother of struggling into my waterproof over-trousers if that proved to be unnecessary. The decision appeared to be justified as the storm passed by to the north, but then, suddenly, the heavens opened. By the time that I had retrieved the over-trousers from my rucksack and put them on, I was drenched. Eventually, after a walk of twenty-seven miles, I reached Castrojeriz, where I soon found an hotel.

The following morning, I walked across another meseta, eventually reaching Frómista, where, having found accommodation, I went on to explore its very fine Romanesque church, dedicated to Saint Martin of Tours.



It is notable for its wealth of thirteenth century sculptures produced by the Master of Orestiada, who, it is believed, was influenced by the Roman sculptures, found in the area. These show vegetation and human figures, the latter telling Biblical stories, such as that of Adam and Eve. Later in the day I met a Swiss lady, whom I had originally come across in France. When I told her that I was finding the large numbers of people on the Way rather tiresome, she wisely pointed out that I was allowing this to devalue my own experience of the journey and that I must learn to adapt myself to the Camino. This proved excellent, wise advice.

The following day, I passed through Carrión de los Condes, where the church entrance has a portico showing the hundred virgins, who had to be paid every year as tribute to the Moorish rulers of that area. The town was celebrating a fiesta, despite the inclement weather. Glad to get out of the rain, I ordered a tortilla at a bar. The owner and his mother were rather grumpy and not ideally suited to working in the hospitality sector, but perhaps their attitude was coloured by the fact that my soaking outer clothing had formed a puddle on their floor.

I took the brave decision to continue to Calzadilla de la Cueva, which was eleven miles further on. More important, there was no intervening settlement, which might provide accommodation, should I feel tired. As I left Carrión de los Condes, I felt elated, as the tide of walkers appeared to have subsided for the day. For the first time I had the path to myself. The busy road was only just visible to the north and the rain had stopped. High mountains, which I took to be the Picos de Europa, were visible in the far distance. The path lay along a straight, paved, quiet country lane. For the next few miles, I could have been passing through a flat part of England, such as East Anglia. The way then became a track, following an old Roman road. My initial elation began to evaporate, as I tramped along in this featureless landscape, with no landmarks to tick off as I passed them. I even began to miss other people! How strange human nature is! After four hours, I reached, at last, Calzadilla de la Cueva, another dead Castilian village, but here I found a friendly hostel, where the conversation at supper proved interesting. A retired soldier from Gijón had very strong views about the Camino. He lamented that many pilgrims showed little interest in what they were seeing and he wondered why they were making the journey at all. He also pointed out another effect of the large numbers on the route: in the summer months the vast numbers could outnumber the local population, causing raised prices, litter and pressure on facilities. These were thoughts worth pondering.

That night I slept very badly, perhaps over-stimulated by the evening's conversation, but more likely because my room gave on to an atrium, around which the noise of the bar and kitchen echoed until the early hours. For the next two days, I passed through unremarkable countryside and villages, eventually approaching León, where I was to meet a friend and enjoy a welcome rest.

David Keysell

Seeing Things



The Vision After the Sermon 72.2x91 cm 1888
Paul Gauguin 1848-1903 National Gallery of Scotland

Eyes closed and kneeling, the women imagine the sermon. It was from the story of Jacob who one evening sent all the people and animals travelling with him over the ford of Jabbok, leaving himself alone. A being who would not give his name wrestled with Jacob all night but, unable to prevail against him, he merely dislocated Jacob's hip, making him limp. The mysterious assailant is referred to as God (verses 28 and 31), but Gauguin has made him into a yellow-winged angel.

The women from Pont Aven in Brittany in their traditional costumes have such a simple faith that, under the spell of the sermon, these events are entirely real to them. Four or five women kneel (top left), then three more curve round to the foreground trio, with one woman in profile praying on the left balancing the priest (lower right). Gauguin offered this painting to two parish priests, but they refused it.

The un-natural red ground could indicate that this is a landscape of the imagination. It also shows the influence on Gauguin of recently imported Japanese coloured woodblock prints, which were new to the West. They were highly popular amongst artists and the Petit Gallery in Paris had an exhibition of them in 1883, the year Gauguin left work as a stockbroker to paint full-time.

He was captivated by Japanese prints by artists such as Hokusai (1760-1849) and Hiroshige (1797-1858) whose work he often featured pinned up in the background of his paintings. Here Gauguin's wrestlers imitate the position of warriors in some of Hiroshige's prints. He emulated the bold stylisation of Japanese prints, their pure line and blocks of primary colour which lacked the shading and perspective of European art.

The diagonal tree dividing the picture is another design characteristic of some Japanese woodcuts, but Gauguin has taken it further to separate the imagined scene of wrestling from reality. The cow (top left) may be a reminder of Jacob's vast herd, or merely a grazing Breton cow. Its shape is smaller than but similar to the outline of the wrestling couple, without the wings. Gauguin liked emphasising shapes such as these and of the Breton women's head-dresses.

Like his friend Van Gogh (1853-90) with whom he was to spend nearly ten weeks in Arles at the end of 1888, Gauguin used intense colours like red and yellow to heighten the emotional content of his paintings. Writing to Van Gogh about this painting he said, *'I believe I have attained a great rustic and superstitious simplicity'*.

Degas (1834-1917) bought two of Gauguin's Breton women paintings and Gauguin exhibited in four of the eight Impressionist exhibitions between 1874 and 1886; but he was no Impressionist. Capturing transient light effects on meadow, water or snow was not for him: he wanted to go beyond appearances to the working of the mind and what he called Symbolism. Japanese prints inspired this breakthrough for him.

This picture reflects Gauguin's own mix of influences. His mother was a Peruvian Creole and although he was born in Paris, he spent his early childhood in Peru, speaking Spanish. In his art he strove to recapture the primitive, the exotic, the non-European. Only Gauguin could mingle peasant piety, Japanese prints and an Israelite wrestling with a heavenly messenger to create this pivotal painting which left Impressionism behind.

Susanne Carr

Heaven

Seen in a parish magazine: "We shall be meeting on Wednesday, when the subject will be 'Heaven – how do we get there?' Transport by bus is available at 6.45pm opposite the King's Arms.

Monks Risborough C of E Primary School

A School Governor's View

As a governor at Monks Risborough CofE Primary School, I am delighted to share insights into my role and the fulfilling experiences it brings.

I am a member of the Achievements Committee and we meet every term to delve into pupil performance data to scrutinise academic progress while comparing it to age-related expectations. Ensuring the success of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and those benefiting from Pupil Premium (PP) is a key focus. In cases of shortfalls, we collaborate with the Head to ensure that effective corrective measures are being implemented. The aim is always to foster an environment "where everyone thrives in every way" – the School's Vision. We evaluate pupil attendance and behaviour, addressing both positive and challenging aspects. We celebrate kindness and teamwork while tackling challenges together. We also keep a track of the regular sporting activities that promote physical well-being and the notion of fair play, while prioritising enriching school visits for memorable learning beyond the classroom.

As the subject governor for science, my role centres on bringing my passion for science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM) to the forefront. I have the privilege of visiting the School each term, allowing the opportunity to engage with teachers and students, check that the curriculum is being delivered as intended, while ensuring it remains in line with the stated values and strategic direction of the School. It is heartening

to see the love of learning and curiosity developing within our students and seeing the joy with which the children engage in the experiments and scientific exploration.

Running the parent and staff surveys is another aspect of my role. These surveys provide invaluable insights into areas requiring improvement and highlight the School's strengths. By understanding both the challenges and successes, we can channel our efforts effectively, fostering a collaborative environment between parents, staff and governors.

I am also responsible for ensuring that the school website is compliant with government regulations, and that data is protected appropriately. Confirming that the necessary action plan is in place if there were ever to be a data breach should reassure our community that their information is handled responsibly.

Contributing to the School's success is fulfilling and satisfying, and it is rewarding to apply my professional skills, for the benefit of the local community which underscores the collective effort that shapes the future of our children.

In essence, my role as a school governor is a fulfilling experience where, as a volunteer, I positively impact the education and well-being of our community's youngest members. I appreciate the opportunity to serve Monks Risborough CofE Primary School and eagerly anticipate the continued growth and success of our students.

Paul Summerscales,
Co-opted School Governor

Recent Events

Key Stage 1 Cross Country at St John's on Wednesday 6th March

We were very excited to take part in the cross country race. Every race had 28 people competing running around 3km. We ran in year groups with girls and boys. The run was very tiring but we kept on going! I, Seb, came first and I, Gabrielle, came second for which we got a medal. We had a great time and enjoyed being outside.

By Seb & Gabrielle

Book Week

This week Monks Risborough School are learning 'How to write the perfect sentence' and we are all reading 'Journey' as part of book week. We have all been sent home a Book Bingo sheet, where we have to complete as many squares as possible for example 'Read 5 poems to an adult.' The prize for this is an Amazon voucher. Some people have also taken part in the sponsored read, the most sponsors and minutes of reading will pie Mr Stannett! On World Book Day we do the grand book swap, where children bring in a book to swap with another person's book. A lot of us have brought in books for the Book Drive to give to another home. We dressed up in our favourite book characters or comfy clothes. I dressed as Daisy Wells the detective, Freya and I dressed in my comfy clothes, Jayden. We also had a comfy picnic in the hall at the end of the day, which was really busy! The whole week has been great fun with the teachers changing the lesson from usual.

By Freya & Jayden



Family Quiz

Whiteleaf Scout Hut

Sunday 21st April 2024

2-4pm

£5 a ticket - under 2's free

Questions for all ages

To book tickets call/text: 07982247715 or email imynorie06@gmail.com

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

All funds go towards Immy's world challenge fund to go to Tanzania.



Whiteleaf in Winter - Sheep and scrub clearing

Winter is the season of scrub clearing and our volunteers have been very active clearing the middle of Whiteleaf slope. As the area is so large, we divide it into 'thirds', in sections across the hill, and tackle a third each year. Doing this helps to focus our efforts and maintains the variety of habitat. This season we have had help from other Chiltern Society groups and the Chiltern Rangers - who held a Saturday session for the public to try their hand at conservation work.

In December our local Herdwick sheep arrived for their annual visit to Brush Hill. In preparation we fenced in over 50 newly planted horseshoe vetch in case they were tempted to have a nibble! Horseshoe vetch is the sole food plant for the caterpillars of the Chalk Hill Blue butterfly, so an important addition to the other wild flowers on the hill.

However well we maintain the fences, being Herdwicks, some seem determined to escape and 3 were found in a neighbour's woodland before being safely returned to the hill.

As we approach Spring, we've been working to get winter jobs complete before it's too late. This includes tree popping (pulling out saplings with a special tool) and cutting blackthorn before the blossom appears in March, as it provides pollen for bees and butterflies.

We've been coppicing hazel along the footpaths at Whiteleaf. You may have seen hazel stools cut back to around 1.2m above the ground. This is to stop the new regrowth being eaten by deer. The stems are cut at a slant to stop rainwater rotting them.

In Whiteleaf woods you will notice new dead hedges along the paths. We've used brash (large and small cut branches resulting from felling) created by the contractors. As well as creating boundaries and marking the footpaths clearly, clearing the woodland floor helps smaller plants to re-establish.

We have our work parties on the first Thursday morning of each month, so if you see us do come and say hello. All our work party members are volunteers as the Chiltern Society is a charity and we couldn't continue the work we do across the Chilterns without the support of local people. Do visit our website to find out more. www.chilternsociety.org.uk

Caroline Bridgman
Chiltern Society Site Co-ordinator
Whiteleaf and Brush Hill

Chiltern Society Spring events

Botanical Mono Printing

Saturday 6th April 10-1.15 pm

Captain's Wood, Chesham

£10.50 special price thanks to funding from the Chess Smarter Water Catchment project.

This nature craft workshop allows you to enjoy a few hours of creative escapism.

Begin by venturing to our nature site, Captain's Wood, to learn about the types of trees, foraging for leaves as you go. Using the array of leaves collected, you will learn the skill of mono-printing to create a beautiful piece to take home with you. Led by the brilliant Lisa from Growing Bright who prides herself on using local foliage from our beautiful Chiltern landscape and ensures activities are accessible to all. All materials, tuition and refreshments provided.

Foraging for Edible and Medicinal Plants

Thursday 11th April or 16th May 12-3 pm

Marlow Common, Marlow, Bucks SL7 2QP

£27.50 pp

Springtime walks will never be the same again if you come along to our foraging day with Fred Gillam (aka Fred the Forager). He's been foraging for his supper for more than 30 years and will show you exactly what you can safely pick, what to avoid, how to prepare your harvest, and most importantly how to make sure this is all done sustainably so that other creatures also get their fair share! Fred is a herbalist as well as a forager, and has been running a small community dispensary with his partner in Wiltshire for a number of years. A surprising number of our native plants provide useful ingredients for herbal remedies such as tinctures, teas and balms, and Fred will discuss both this, and their edible qualities.

Bat walk

Thursday 2nd May 8-9.30 pm

Whiteleaf Nature Reserve, Peters Lane, HP27 0RP

£7.50 per person

Join bat enthusiast Veritie from North Bucks Bat group on a fully immersive bat walk using handheld detectors to take a glimpse into the lives of the only true flying mammal. Learn more about these amazing creatures and the night time world they inhabit. All welcome – children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

PTO

Forest Bathing in Captain's Wood

Saturday 13th April or Sunday 19th May 3-5.30 pm

Captain's Wood, Chesham

£27.50 pp

We are delighted to invite you to join us on a calming Forest Bathing session at our beautiful Captain's Wood site.

Forest Bathing, also known in Japan as Shinrin-yoku, is an enjoyable and restorative nature-based wellbeing practice. Together with other participants you will be guided on a 2-hour slow, sensory woodland walk designed to calm your body and mind.

Forest Bathing can help you quiet your mind, relax deeply, boost your body's natural defences, sleep better and much more. The session is a naturally therapeutic experience with potentially profound relaxation and time to enjoy the beauty and positive effects of being in nature. In this session you will also learn about the latest science and research for nature-based healing and nature connection.

The guided session will be about a 1 mile and will be both on and off the paths. It will include some gentle inclines, so please do bring sturdy footwear.

Adults 18+

All proceeds go towards protecting the Chilterns.

To book go to <https://chilternsociety.org.uk/events/category/events/>

World Autism Acceptance Week, 2nd – 8th April

Autism is on the rise. Or at least, the recognition of it is. According to the website psychcentral.com, there was a 787% exponential increase in the number of people who were diagnosed with autism between 1998 and 2018 in the UK.

The National Autistic Society says that in the UK, more than one in every 100 people are now on the autism spectrum. It reckons that around 700,000 adults and children in the UK suffer with the condition to some degree.

All of which means that you probably know of someone who has autism, to some degree. And you may know that, as it says on the NHS website:

Autistic people may act in a different way to other people, ... and find it hard to understand how other people think or feel. They may find things like bright lights or loud noises overwhelming, stressful, or uncomfortable. They may get anxious or upset about unfamiliar situations and social events and take longer to understand information.

To help people with autism, you may wish to support this 'acceptance week', by going to the National Autistic Society's website, <https://www.autism.org.uk> and taking part in some way in their fundraising campaign.

Monks Risborough Horticultural Society

Future Meetings

Saturday 20th April: Annual Quiz event at Monks Risborough Church of England School. Start at 7.00 pm.

Contact below for team entry and further details.

Wednesday 15th May: Tba. 8.00 pm at 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>**

The Princes Risborough Area Heritage Society

Monday 22nd April: Celebrating 37 years of Heritage Society.
Unseen photos and artefacts. Untold stories. + A.G.M.

Meetings are held in Princes Risborough Baptist Chapel 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm.

Talk starts at 7.30 pm. All welcome. Admission £3 if not a member.

**THE SOCIETY NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT
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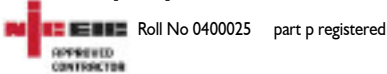


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