

Parish of Monks Risborough

Newsletter



St Dunstan's Church St Peter's Chapel

August 2024 - September 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

Mrs J Curry, Mr E Kent

Ex Officio Member

The Rev'd Sally Prendergast

Elected Members

Mrs A-M Burke, Mr C Fairall, Mrs A Maycock, Mrs D Norie, Mrs J Rogers, Dr 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 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:

This time twelve years ago, I was on a summer placement as part of my training for ordination. The parish that I went to was called St Christopher's Walworth, located in the London Borough of Southwark, with Elephant & Castle and Bermondsey to the north, and Camberwell and Peckham to the south. The congregation was a thriving one, and made up primarily of people from Nigeria and Ghana.

My short time there was one of the best experiences of my three years of training. I was made to feel utterly at home from the moment that I arrived there, and was profoundly moved by the love that I received from the community.

The thing that left the most lasting impression upon me was the hospitality I experienced when I visited people in their homes. Everywhere I went, I was made to feel like a member of their family. This meant being welcomed in a very practical way – with food and lots of it. No matter what time of day I visited, I was given a meal – a full meal – usually of spicy chicken and rice, sometimes with some incredible fish and glorious mixed vegetables. It was all delicious and right up my street.

I was truly humbled by the warmth that I experienced from people who had only just met me, not least because, for many of them, providing such sumptuous food would have been a financially sacrificial act. Such was the generosity that I received, that I was sometimes tempted to say 'Oh no, I couldn't possibly accept.' But as the days and visits accumulated, I came to realise just how important these acts of giving were: they were expressions of their kindness, their care, and their love. To accept them was to experience those things, to be blessed by my hosts; but by accepting their gifts, it also meant that I blessed the givers in return, by allowing their kindness to be expressed.

This was a very great lesson to learn, not least because it also directs us to how we should be open to the work of God in our lives. The Christian faith holds that, whatever we receive from God, we receive as a gift. We cannot earn God's love; it is simply given to us. Similarly when we sin, we cannot earn his forgiveness – He simply grants it upon anyone who truly seeks it. His sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion, the skills and abilities He endows us with, and all the good things that come our way from Him: all of them are freely given gifts that we are to accept, devoid of any sense of transaction or achievement on our part.

In some ways, this can be quite hard to accept. Many of us feel like we should earn these things, and we can perhaps even feel resentful when others are on the receiving end of God's extraordinary generosity – much like the older brother in the Parable of the Prodigal Son.

But like the wonderful food I was given every time I stepped over the threshold of a home in Walworth, God's gifts are not granted because we either earn or even necessarily deserve them. They are given because He loves us, and desires to lavish His love, His mercy, His forgiveness – what we call 'grace' – on every one of us. The

challenge for us, is to let Him: to open our hearts, and let His grace in, no strings attached.

God bless every one of you, richly, and abundantly.

With my prayers for you all,

Peter

From the Parish Registers

Wedding: *We send our love and congratulations to:*

1st June: Amy Burleigh and Andy Curtis

Funeral: - *Rest in Peace:*

19th June: Pamela Strickland, age 85, formerly of Place Farm Way

Memorial Service:- *We remember with thanksgiving the life of:*

5th June : David Chalkley, age 95, of Mill Lane

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**.

Church Calendar

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

1st August	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
4th August	Sunday	Tenth Sunday after Trinity 8.00 am BCP Holy Communion 10.00 am All-Age Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong
8th August	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
11th August	Sunday	Eleventh Sunday after Trinity 9.00 am BCP Holy Communion (St Peter's Owlswick) 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong
15th August	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
18th August	Sunday	Twelfth Sunday after Trinity 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong
22nd August	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
25th August	Sunday	Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong (St Peter's Owlswick)
29th August	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
1st September	Sunday	Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity 8.00 am BCP Holy Communion 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong
5th September	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
8th September	Sunday	Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity 9.00 am BCP Holy Communion (St Peter's Owlswick) 10.00 am All-Age Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong
12th September	Thursday	9.30 am Said Holy Communion

15th September Sunday

Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

6.00 pm Evensong

19th September Thursday

9.30 am Holy Communion

22nd September Sunday

Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

6.00 pm Evensong (St Peter's Owlswick)

26th September Thursday

9.30 am Holy Communion

29th September Sunday

Feast of St Michael & All Angels

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

6.00 pm Evensong

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.

Parish Prayer Group

The Parish 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 9.00 am for about half an hour. (No meeting in August.) The next meeting is on 20th September. A reminder will be in the e News and Pewsheets on the Sunday prior to the date 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

Report on meeting of the PCC in June 2024

The main item discussed at the June meeting of the PCC was a possible development in the worshipping life of St Dunstan's, regarding the proposed admission of children in the congregation to Holy Communion ahead of Confirmation. This is something that many churches across the Church of England do, but requires a formal policy to be adopted by the PCC. Following a sermon on the subject from Peter, an accompanying introductory document and a Q&A session, feedback and comments were gathered, and the PCC considered its steps. The PCC wished to have a draft policy composed to be considered at its August meeting, which would then have to be approved at diocesan level before returning to the PCC for a formal vote. If you are interested in knowing more about this, please do get in contact with Peter.

Also discussed was the re-introduction of the common cup and methods of distribution, which at the time of the meeting, had been in place for six weeks. It was generally agreed that this was working well, with the split between methods of distribution varying slightly week on week, but overall a fairly equal split.

As usual, reports from the various PCC teams were circulated and Peter expressed his ongoing gratitude to all who work so hard to support these hugely important areas of parish life. The Events Team continues to work especially hard, and the Jazz concert and Bucks Arts Week in particular have raised considerable funds for the parish.

The next meeting of the PCC in August will include an update on the planned restoration of the organ, so I shall report on this in due course.

Lucy Nott, Secretary to the PCC

ActionAid

As a church we support Adam, a 7 year old boy living in Northern Malawi, through ActionAid. We promise to send £180 per year. Thank you to all those who have generously donated. So far this year I have received donations of £225. The balance will be used to give the children extra sports equipment or something that the children want.

If you would like to contribute, please send your donations to me:- June Timms, Nags Head House, Aylesbury Road, Monks Risborough. HP27 0JT. Cheques should be made payable to "Monks Risborough PCC".

Thank you. June

Monks Risborough Church of England Primary School

Reflections of a Chair of Governors - Could You Be A School Governor?

Following on from the successful advert for school governors that we placed in the Parish Magazine at the end of last year and with my forthcoming departure as a governor after 7 years (5 as Chair of Governors), I thought that it might be of interest for me to reflect on my experience in that time in the hope that there may be others who would also be interested in becoming a governor.

I became a governor as a means of 'giving something back' to the local community - in fact, I have no other connection to the school except that I live quite close by (as such I'm described as a co-opted governor). My background was with a major telecoms company where I was employed as a programme manager.

As governors we are all responsible for the strategic direction of the school. (We are not involved with the day-to-day operational activities which are the responsibility of the outstanding headteacher we have there.) We are also responsible for overseeing the management side of the school (monitoring finance, policy, the curriculum, safeguarding, special needs, equality, health and safety and HR, amongst others), which enables the school to run as effectively as possible, working alongside our senior leaders and supporting our brilliant teachers and staff, to provide an excellent education for our children.

In the 5 years that I have been Chair of Governors, we have successfully negotiated several significant challenges and enjoyed many successes, which have all served to make this role immensely rewarding. In that time, we had a change of headteacher, 2 years of COVID, a visit from OFSTED (we are a GOOD school!) and we have managed to maintain a healthy financial position.

With my approaching departure, I would like to say how privileged I have been to work with everyone at 'Monks', staff and governors, and how proud I am of the school that it has become. In addition, my experience at the school in a variety of roles has provided me with a genuine education and has broadened my own perspective.

I would very much recommend the role of governor to anyone who feels that they may have something to offer.

Colin Platt

Chair of Governors

Monks Risborough CofE Primary School

Church Flower Rota

Organisers:

Gwen Miles 01844 345230

Jenny Masterton-Smith 01844 273538

Sunday Coffee Rota

Organisers:

Jo Wade 01844 346321

Anne White 01844 346536

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, except during August.

For more information please contact Margaret Pitman 01844 346008.

Bell Ringers

This friendly group practises from 7.30/7.45 pm 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

The subjects we look at in Open House are based on questions from those who come. In the three years that Mary and I have been involved in Open House it has led to many interesting discussions on the Bible, the Church and Christianity. The new subject we start in August is based on the question 'How did Christianity Spread?' At first it seems like a limited subject until you see how each generation has had to face different challenges.

All are welcome to this friendly group as we meet in different houses each month.

Dates - Wednesday 14th August at 7.00 pm and Wednesday 18th September. Venues will be found in the church's eNews or by contacting Ted or Mary Kent on 01844 274089.

Ted and Mary Kent

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 8th and 22nd September.

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

Hody's Charity

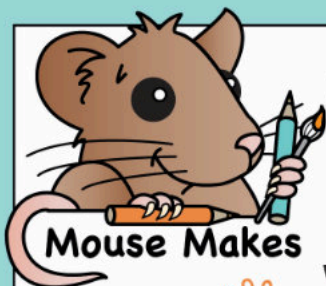
Small grants for local students or apprentices

The charity was founded by a former Rector of the parish in his will dated 1706. It was later added to by his successor, Dr. Quarries. The trustees are the Team Vicar and Churchwardens of the parish of Monks Risborough.

An applicant must be 16 and over and not more than 21 years of age. The applicant must live in the parish of Monks Risborough or have a connection with St Dunstan's Church or St Peter's Chapel (Owlswick). The grant is to be used for the applicant's personal or professional development and may be given for books, specialist equipment, outfits, tools, fees etc.

For an application form, please contact one of the churchwardens at:

pwoodwardc@hotmail.com or suemingram@hotmail.com



"AND WHEN YOU PRAY,
PRAY THEN LIKE THIS ..."

Where does Jesus say
to go to pray?
Matthew 6:6



What does God know
before you ask Him?
Matthew 6:8



What can we ask God
to deliver us from?
Matthew 6:13

If you forgive others
what will God do?
Matthew 6:14



"Always be full of **joy**.
Never stop praying.
Whatever happens,
always be **thankful**."
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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LORDS PRAYER • OUR • FATHER • HALLOWED • HONOURED
NAME • THY • KINGDOM • COME • YOUR • WILL • DONE
EARTH • HEAVEN • DAILY • BREAD • FORGIVE • DEBTS
SINS • TEMPTATION • DELIVER • EVIL • AMEN



August Cathedral Trip



Date: Thursday 15th August.

Venue: Southwark Cathedral, London which is hosting the *"Threads Through Creation"* exhibition by Jacquie Parkinson.

Time: 9.30 am departure from Aylesbury Road lay by.

Returning: 4.00 pm departure from cathedral, arriving approx 6.00pm depending on traffic conditions.

Lunch: Can be bought either in the cathedral cafe or in the nearby Borough Market.

There is a lunchtime Eucharist at 12.45 pm which should give plenty of time to grab some food and have a look at the exhibition.

Cost: £20 per person which includes transport and entry to the cathedral/exhibition.

Places, which are limited to 35, can be booked by contacting Sue Ingram in Church, or at suemingram@hotmail.com or on 01844 275287.

The Chandos Ensemble

Leader: Marion Garrett

Conductor: Patrick Garrett

Present September Serenade

A concert for the Autumn Equinox

St Dunstan's Church Monks Risborough

Saturday 21st September 7.30 pm

The programme will include

Mozart: Divertimento no 1 in D major

Marcello: Concerto for Oboe and Strings

Samuel Barber: Adagio for Strings

Mozart: Eine Kleine Nachtmusik

Complimentary glass of wine/soft drink

Tickets - Adults £12- accompanied children (under 18) £3

available from Jo Wade in church or 01844 346321

or Days to Remember in PR High Street

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

Prize Raffle

Jamadar

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 **stdunstanschurchohall@gmail.com** or ring 07942 356245.

Whitechapel Mission

Supporting homeless men and women in London

Since 1876, the Whitechapel Mission has been faithfully serving the homeless and marginalised – providing for their basic needs, and offering a day centre, skills training and career advice, activity programmes and specialist support for complex needs.

Each year, clothing, tinned and dry food, and toiletries are donated to the Mission from St Dunstan's following our Harvest Festival, which will be on Sunday 6th October this year.

We will start collecting donations in church from Sunday 8th September, and will publicise the most urgent requirements from the end of August. Further details about work done by the Mission, and its requirements, can be found at:

<https://whitechapel.org.uk/>.

Prior to 8th September, contributions can be accepted – by prior arrangement only – by David Kemp (01844 344097).

Thank you for your support, please contact me if you have any questions.

Simon Gray (simongray0@gmail.com)

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

St Dunstan's

Harvest Ploughman's Lunch

**Sunday 6th October
in church
after 11.00 am Service**

£5 Adults, Children under 12 free

**Tickets will be available in September from
Anne White 01844 346536 or Cathy Farquhar 01844 343226
or in church**

Jamodar

Monks Risborough Church of England Primary School

Pupils' Contributions – July 2024

Year 6 STEM Week

On Wednesday 26th June, Louis Witney's mum came to talk to us about her job at Ercol, a furniture making company in High Wycombe. She had organised lots of fun activities for us to do. We were split into four teams, High Vis 1+2 and Goggles 1+2. In our groups, we had to make a chair, guess the dates of when they were made, guess how much a colourful chair was (£1200! that was really unexpected!) and organise a historical timeline. After everyone had finished those activities, we played guess the answer. That was so much fun. Finally, we tallied up the points to see who won (dum, dum, dum...) High Vis won, which was really great. High Vises' got 163 points whereas Goggles got 143 points. Not that much between them. Everyone who won was given a shiny gold medal to celebrate their success.

RNLI Visit to Year 6

On Tuesday 18th June we were visited by Chris and Andy from the RNLI. It was Chris' last presentation - he has been visiting schools for it for 14 years. We learnt what the different flags mean at beaches and how to stay safe on the beach. He told us about some of the rescues that had happened for the lifeboat crew - one was 19 hours long - and they rescued both people and animals. Our closest lifeboat station is Teddington in London on the River Thames. We learnt that life jackets aren't inflated on land but inflate when you get in the water. We got to try the clothing on and it was big. The clothing is tight to not let any water in.

by Year 6

MicroBits

On Tuesday 11th June we set my MicroBits to play rock paper scissors shoot. MicroBits are tiny little computers that you can plug into your computer/pc to programme to do what you want. Some of our computers suffered an error because it didn't download properly onto the MicroBits. So we spotted our mistake and corrected this and then successfully downloaded it.

Once you have programmed it you can unplug it to carry out the investigation. We programmed it so that when you shake the MicroBit three times it will change from rock, paper or scissors. An image appears of one of these things so that you know if you are the winner.

It was a fun activity that we would recommend for KS2 to do.

By Jessica, Alice & Gracie-May, Year 6

Vacancies for School Governors

Several of our governors are now retiring, so we are keen to recruit new members of our governing body for the next academic year starting in September.

Being a school governor can be a very rewarding experience and we welcome enquiries from all walks of life in the community.

No formal qualifications are required, though ideally governors will have some relevant skills and experience. However, free training courses, including online options, are provided for all governors.

As a guide, being a school governor requires a commitment of 5-10 hours a month. This includes attending formal meetings (most of which take place in the evening by video conference), studying the relevant material prior to meetings, occasional visits to the school during the day and undertaking the free training.

Further details about the role of a governor, an overview of the school's governing body and profiles of current members are all available on the school website at <https://www.mrisborough.bucks.sch.uk/>

All we ask for is a genuine commitment to engaging in this important role to continue to make our school a success.

If you should be interested in becoming a governor or would like any further information about the role, please contact Jane Curry, vice-chair of governors, on 07973 300758 or at jcurry@monks.org.uk, who is looking forward to hearing from you.

Allotments



Are you interested in growing more produce in the garden, but don't have the space? If so, you might like to put your name on the waiting list for an allotment. "The Bennell" in Stockwell Lane, Meadle has plots that are likely to become available this autumn. Allotment holders need to have enough time and energy to cultivate an allotment regularly, but if you can do this you will have the satisfaction of growing your own produce.

If you would like more information please contact Monks Risborough Parochial Charities via jane.rogers.owlswick@outlook.com or ring 01844 347906.

DIARY DATES FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

August

- 3rd MR Horticultural Society - Annual Show 11.30 am (Page 32)
- 10th Fellowship Group - Church Hall 2.45 pm (Page 10)
- 14th Open House Group - TBA 7.00 pm (Page 11)
- 15th Cathedral Trip - Burton Lane 9.30 am (Page 14)
- 22nd Knitting Group - Church Hall 2.00 pm (Page 11)
- 28th Walking Group - Burton Lane 10.00 am (Page 10)

September

- 4th Women's Institute - Whitecross Hall 1.45 pm (Page 32)
- 12th Fellowship Group - Church Hall 10.15 am (Page 10)
- 14th Ride and Stride - Various 10.00 am (Page 21)
- 18th Friendship Group - Church Hall 2.30 pm (Page 10)
- 18th Open House Group - TBA 7.00 pm (Page 11)
- 18th MR Horticultural Society - Church Hall 8.00 pm (Page 32)
- 19th Knitting Group - Church Hall 2.00 pm (Page 11)
- 20th Parish Prayer Group - Church Hall 9.00 am (Page 7)
- 21st Chandos Concert - St Dunstan's 7.30 pm (Page 15)
- 25th Walking Group - Burton Lane 9.30 am (Page 10)



**For further information about the Church,
services, and current notices**

see our website

www.stdunstanchurch.com

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

A Member of the Risborough Team Ministry

SPONSORED "RIDE & STRIDE"



Bicycle Ride, Horse Ride and Walk

will take place on

SATURDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2024

10.00 am - 6.00 pm

This is the annual fund raiser for Buckinghamshire Historic Churches Trust. Participants ride, run or walk from church to church to raise money which is then divided equally between the Church of your choice and the BHCT.

This charity gives grants to Buckinghamshire's Christian churches, chapels and meeting houses for the preservation, repair, restoration and upkeep of the fabric of their church.

St. Dunstan's & St. Peter's need YOU

Sponsor forms and list of participating churches
can be obtained from

Rosemary Woodward-Court 01844 344417

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

Please give copy to one of the following:

Editor	Morna Hinch	morna.hinch@btinternet.com	01844 345169
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Proof reader	Jane Curry	jlecurry@gmail.com	07973 300758

The next Newsletter will be issued from 29th September 2024

Gardening for the Bees

“Gardening for the bees” is a common enough theme, but which bees? There are three main types of bee in this country and they all have different needs.

Everyone’s favourite, the bumble bee, is the first to emerge in spring. They survive the winter as fertilised queens and when they wake up, which can be as early as February if the weather is warm, they are hungry and need nectar for energy. At this time of year there are very few plants in flower so they have to rely on things like snowdrops and a little later, crocuses. Being fat and hairy, they cannot fly long distances and need to feed close to where they hibernated, before looking for a nesting site, mouse holes and bird boxes being favourites. Here the queens raise worker bees that will forage for them while they lay small numbers of eggs that turn into worker bees. In late summer they change their egg laying behaviour to raise both queens and male drones in order to ensure a number of fertilised queens by the time that they need to hibernate in August or September, ready for the following year. This timing means that they need to have flowers on which to forage continuously from spring to late summer, but will be asleep by the time the Michaelmas daisies are in full flower.




Mention bees and most people will immediately think of honey, but honey bees need our help less than most other types. They are the only bees that are active all year round and this is because they make large colonies and store large quantities of honey. In order to be able to do this, they can fly up to three miles, find their way back home and even tell their sisters where the best forage is to be found. In order to support colonies of tens of thousand of bees, they need to forage on an almost industrial scale. So, while it’s cute to see them on our rosemary, lavender and sage plants, they are only really spicing up the flavour of the honey. There are very few honey bees in the wild due to lack of nesting sites in modern buildings and the weakening effect of Varroa mite infestations. Honey farmers and amateur bee keepers will monitor their bees for signs of starvation and take steps to feed them as well as ensuring that they have adequate stores for the winter.

The third type of bee and the least understood are known as solitary bees. These bees do not make any sort of colony and only occur as males and females; no worker bees are needed as they do not make nests. As they do not have a colony to protect, they are not aggressive and may even not have a sting. Some varieties are known as

ground bees and emerge fully formed in late summer from eggs that were laid in the ground the previous year. These bees do not live long but are happy to forage in our gardens before getting down to the process of laying their eggs ready for next year. Ivy bees are a specialised type of ground bee in that they emerge late in the year when the ivy is in flower. They look similar to honey bees and it's not unusual for beekeepers to be called out to a "swarm" on an ivy clad hedge that turns out to be ivy bees. Mason bees lay their eggs in cracks in masonry, timber frames etc., and seal them in using mud, hence the comparison with a stonemason and his bucket of mortar. Queen mason bees lay a single egg at the end of a crack, add a stash of honey and pollen, seal it in and then lay another and so on until the nest is full when they seal the whole thing off.

Ask a child to draw a flower and they will probably draw a circle surrounded by a halo of petals and this is exactly the shape of flower favoured by bees. The size of the flower is not important but complex shapes like snapdragon and deep bells are inaccessible to their short tongues. Extensively bred flowers with multiple rows of complex petals tend to have little pollen or nectar and have little to offer to insects. Hellebores flower early in the year, cotoneaster bushes flower in May and their tiny flowers are a great draw for bees. Raspberries and strawberries, together with other soft fruit are also popular. Fruit trees of all sorts benefit from the attention of foraging bees which make it a two-sided relationship. Willow and hazel make good sources of pollen which bees need to feed their young.

Brian Highe



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The Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela

Part 16 - Las Herrerías to Arzúa

After a journey lasting fifty-seven days, I was soon to enter Galicia, the province in which Santiago de Compostela lies. I woke early and was on the road by 7am for one of the most attractive sections of the Spain's Camino. At the end of the village of Las Herrerías, the road climbed through lush, green fields with grazing cows. Some way up the hill, a mule track led away from the road to the hamlet of La Faba. The path rose steeply through plantations of oak and chestnut, which reminded me of the peaceful tracks which I had enjoyed in France. No other pilgrims were in sight. Perhaps this was another section of the route where people were put off by descriptions of the terrain and had preferred to take the bus.

I had breakfast in a café at La Faba, a small hamlet on the ridge, and then continued along a track offering lovely views over a valley to the high ridge beyond. The mountains were covered in a mass of white broom, and gorse. The mule track continued all the way to O Cebreiro, where I was to pass into Galicia.

The hamlet of O Cebreiro is another high point of the Camino, standing at 4,225 ft. It is a small settlement of grey stone and slate, which boasts some round, thatched Celtic dwellings called pallozas, recently restored.



The hamlet has a tradition of caring for pilgrims going back to the 11th century. I entered the church, a simple stone building, which blended in with the rugged landscape. Inside, the atmosphere was calm and sanctified. I sat and contemplated for a while before resuming my journey.

The weather had now closed in again - Galicia is famous for its rain. As I walked towards the next town Tricastela, the promised magnificent views miraculously appeared as the clouds lifted, revealing a wonderful panorama over green valleys and mountains. The motorway, which I had left in my wake the day before, was now visible,

leaping over the landscape on its viaducts far off to the north-west. The rest of the day's journey was a disappointment after the delights of the morning. Not only did it start to rain heavily, but along the path were discarded plastic bottles and other detritus littering the ditches. I was pleased when the Camino turned off to the right, joining a track to Tricastela, where I found my hotel and was glad of its central heating. I could now dry my clothes and boots. It was not a good night, however, as a barking dog disturbed my sporadic slumbers.

The following morning was sunny and dry. My way continued through green lanes and small hamlets. Soon I fell in with an irate American lady, who was vainly trying to avoid the cow manure on this country lane. Her bitter complaints fell on my unsympathetic ears, as I felt that this was only to be expected in this rural setting. Eventually I reached Samos, famous for its large Benedictine monastery, which is now a National Monument. Restoration work meant that it was surrounded by scaffolding. That evening, I stayed at Sarria and continued the next day in grey, threatening weather. Sarria is, at 110 km from Santiago de Compostela, the point of departure for those wishing to walk the minimum distance to be awarded a compostela - 100 km. I was quickly reminded of this when taking a break at Marzán O Real, when the peace of the café was shattered by a group of excited and noisy Spaniards. Unfortunately, I was to encounter them every day thereafter. Individually they were, no doubt, delightful but, collectively they were a nightmare. The Camino continued through the verdant Galician countryside until I reached Portomarín, my destination for the night. The town now sits above a lake, the original settlement having been flooded, when the river Miño was dammed in the 1960s. The fortified Romanesque church of San Nicolás was reconstructed, having been moved, stone by stone, before the valley was flooded. The portal is by the same mason who built the Pórtico de la Gloria in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela (Master Mateo). While inside the church I was disturbed by a racket coming from outside. On leaving, I found the Spanish group of the morning standing on the church steps taking photographs noisily.

The next day I left at 7.30 am and soon fell in with a French lady, whom I had met up with on several occasions, and who had spent a sleepless night in the albergue, where she too had encountered the Spanish group. A remarkably equable and tolerant person, she felt that their behaviour was selfish and not at all in keeping with the spirit of the Camino. I continued to Palas del Rey where I had booked accommodation. The following day was to be my last. I spent the night at Arzúa. Santiago de Compostela was now very close.

David Keysell

Finding Time



Prince Henry Frederick 172.1x75.6cm 1610 Parham House, Pulborough West Sussex
Robert Peake c1551-1619

He looks like a weightless child, even in his heavy gilt armour. He is England's hope for a great future King: seventeen-year-old Henry Frederick, invested Prince of Wales in 1610. He sits on his immaculately groomed white horse, its eyes wide with awe, for a ride in the peaceful countryside glimpsed on the left.

The first child of James I of England, Henry (1594-1612) had all the promise of a great King: he was intelligent, cultured, an accomplished swordsman and an avid patron of the arts. As a staunch Protestant he would be expected to lead his troops through the Continent in a mission against Catholic Spain.

Henry's sword hangs from the flared skirt of his riding costume, which, like his horse's matching saddlecloth, is embroidered with roundels featuring hilly landscapes with hands holding anchors upright, signifying hope (Hebrews 6 18-19) that he would be England's best-ever King. Prince of Wales feathers spring from Henry's hat and the horse's head, as well as adorning sculpted tablets top left and right of the intricately depicted wall behind horse and rider.

The horse's tail is bound with Prince-of-Wales-red bands, whilst a fantastical wave of red, royal blue and mauve feathers arches over the two figures, attached by a twisted rope of fabric in red and blues to a tuft of hair on the otherwise bald head of an old man. This naked figure, his bare feet perilously close to the horse's hooves, holds Henry's lance and a helmet from which the crescendo of feathers erupts. His wings identify him as a classical allusion: an allegorical Father Time (who sometimes holds a scythe or hourglass) pulled along by his forelock, a classical symbol of Opportunity to be seized here by Time for England's chance of glory under Henry. If Father Time were to mount the horse, he would tower over Henry, (compare the sizes of their similarly-posed hands), but perhaps their difference in scale indicates that Time only symbolises a concept.

Time flapped his wings too fast, for a year later this adored heir to the throne died suddenly of typhoid. Thousands of people walked in the mile-long funeral cortège to Westminster Abbey, where Henry was laid to rest with his grandmother Mary Queen of Scots. His brother became Charles I in 1625.

This painting is the masterpiece of one of the few England-born painters at a time when the English art scene was dominated by foreigners: Robert Peake, who was Henry's Picture Maker from 1604. Peake had painted for Elizabeth I and was Serjeant Painter to James I in 1603 with three foreign artists. They specialised in brightly-coloured full-length 'costume pieces' which were a spectacular speciality of English art. Peake and his son were 'artificers and officers' at Henry's funeral.

When Henry died, this painting lost its significance and it was put away until the Restoration of the Monarchy under Charles II in 1660. At some time it was trimmed on all sides except the left and everything but horse and rider was overpainted with a forest scene. In 1985 the painting was X-rayed before an exhibition in Washington, revealing what we see now, so the forest was painstakingly removed. Henry could be seen once more leading Time by the forelock of Opportunity for England's great future under his reign.

Halted for over 300 years, Time walks on again.

Susanne Carr

The First Train to Monks Risborough was 66 Years Late

Part 2

We learned in Part 1 that Monks Risborough finally got its rail connection on November 11th 1929, 66 years after the railway first passed through the village.

The simple halt was initially named Monks Risborough and Whiteleaf, recognising the growing number of properties below the Cross and probably the increasing numbers of weekend walkers who were heading out of London to the Chilterns. The GWR published a wide range of books detailing various walking routes including all those that remain so popular today.



Monks Risborough & Whiteleaf Halt early 1950s. Photo: Lens Of Sutton

Not all the local railway halts created in the 1920s survive today. The closure of the railway line to Thame in 1963 heralded the closure of Towersey and Horspath Halts and another at Ilmer rather predictably never attracted any significant business apart from very occasional visitors to the nearby Shell demonstration farm. And it's interesting to note that some rural communities would never get their station, such as Bradenham.

Isambard Kingdom Brunel's influence on the line through Monks Risborough can still be seen today, most notably in the sections of his early bridge rail, and also his realignment of local roads where they interfered with his chosen route is never clearer than in Crowbrook Road. Its final 100 yards or so to the junction with Mill Lane was

twisted to parallel the new railway, having previously run straight on to a junction further north, i.e. somewhere under the present-day station and embankment!



Monks Risborough Station remains fairly busy today with occasional direct services to Marylebone. There were plans a few years ago to incorporate the Risborough to Aylesbury branch into the new East West Railway system with potential services to Milton Keynes and beyond, but that is currently shelved with question marks hanging over the future direction and management of our railways. This would have tested Brunel's patience somewhat!

Francis Gomme
Risborough Countryside Group

Plant Pots for the Advent Bulb Stall

We do hope that readers will find a few minutes soon, please, to start hunting through their cupboards/sheds/garages for any spare indoor plant pots they may have, which they would be happy to donate to St Dunstan's for its bulb stall at the Advent Fair at the end of November.

Ceramic pots (without holes) around 5"-6" in diameter are best, please. Ideally we would like the pots to be left in the church porch any time during October, please, or contact us if you would like us to collect them. Thanks in advance for your help!

Christopher & Wendy Trower email: trowerchristopher@hotmail.com or phone: 0782 777 2948.

Springing into summer at Whiteleaf

During the spring we have continued to tackle the effects of ash dieback by clearing dead trees from along the footpaths, opening up shaded areas and creating more dead hedges. You may notice our latest work along the footpath from the back of Whiteleaf Hill down towards the golf club.

This is also the time of year to tackle site maintenance jobs in preparation for school holidays and increased visitors.

Those of you who use the car park will hopefully have noticed we have filled in the largest potholes and also erected some parking signs to ensure the emergency vehicle access is not blocked. The picnic area has also had its first mow and rake of the year.

A new bench has been installed to make the most of the view at the top of Brush Hill- do go and try it out on a clear day.

As everything springs into life at this time of year, we have also started our regular summer footpath clearing. This ensures the nettles, brambles, hogweed and overhanging branches don't encroach around information boards, by gates and along paths and spoil the experience for our visitors- large, small, canine and equine!

Another regular summer job is weeding Whiteleaf Cross. Our work on the cross is always weather dependent as, being on a steep chalk slope, it is treacherous underfoot when it's wet and not safe to work on. Fortunately the weather for our June and July work parties was ideal and around a dozen people set to work with hoes to lightly scrape off the surface weeds and expose the white chalk underneath. It's a painstaking job which isn't everyone's favourite, but the results are well worth it.

Our planned work for the summer includes lots of brush cutting and raking during August, once the wild flowers on the hill have finished. This will encourage them to grow again next year. As we have such a large area to cut and rake, we rely on other Chiltern Society groups to help us, as we need to get it done as soon as possible after the flowers have finished and certainly by the end of September.

We have our work parties on the first Thursday morning of each month, so if you see us, do come along 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 Coordinator
Whiteleaf and Brush Hill



All Heritage & Culture Festival events can be viewed here
<https://chilternsociety.org.uk/heritage-festival/>

John Hampden Talk & Private Viewing of the Exhibition 'A Wycombe Man with a Global Impact'

Thursday 8 August Wycombe Museum £10.00 pp

Join Beth Rogers, Chair of The John Hampden Society, for a talk on the Chilterns squire who became a beacon of liberty for the American Founding Fathers and the Chartists. Find out how he opposed King Charles I's arbitrary taxes, escaped arrest for treason, fought in the civil war and died for his cause. There will be an opportunity to browse the John Hampden exhibition which includes some fine items of Civil War armour, as well as Wycombe museum's general display.

Highlights close to Princes Risborough.

Chilterns Landscape Walk and Talk - Whiteleaf Hill

Tuesday 17 September 10.30 - 12.00 am £7.50 pp

Join our Head of Conservation on a guided, general interest walk through two of the Chiltern's finest nature reserves.

You will be introduced to a diverse range of habitats and will see how they are managed to support an array of flora and fauna throughout the year. Whiteleaf Hill is also well known for the 100m high chalk hill figure – The Whiteleaf Cross – on its northern slope and is home to several other interesting archaeological features, including a Neolithic barrow, WW1 practice trenches and the Ridgeway National Trail, reputed to be Britain's very oldest road.

Tour of Lacey Green Windmill

Friday 27 September 11-12.30 pm £7.50 pp

This is the oldest surviving smock mill in England and has an Engineering Heritage Award. In use until 1915, some of the timber machinery dates to the 1600s. It's undergoing renovation works, and we invite you to join our knowledgeable and dedicated volunteers on an in-depth tour of the windmill.

Tour of Chinnor Windmill

Wednesday 18 September £7.50 pp

This unique mill in Oxfordshire was demolished in 1967 but is being steadily rebuilt by volunteers with the aim of grinding flour again. Enjoy a guided tour of the mill and browse presentations of the mill's history and restoration process.

Booking is essential as there are limited places available. For more information and to book visit <https://chilternsociety.org.uk/events> or call Emma Anderson on 01494 490746.

Monks Risborough Horticultural Society

130th Anniversary for MRHS

Our aim is still to promote the cultivation and enjoyment of plants in the Risborough area.

New members are most welcome, £10 family, £6 single, giving regular meetings and free entry to the Annual Summer Show.

The highlight of the year remains the Summer Show. This is a great local event. It is on **Saturday 3rd August** starting 11.30 am to 4.30 pm in the field, Peters Lane, by Monks Risborough School. There will be a full variety of stalls, brass band, dog show, ferret racing, children's events, tea tent, burger stall, bar facilities. The marquee will be full of exhibits of fruit, vegetables, plants, flowers, handicrafts, photos and domestic produce all entered by local people of all ages.

In the evening, from 7.30 pm – 10.30 pm, we look forward to a Barn Dance in the Show Marquee led by Jubilation Band and caller Tim Rooke. Tickets, £10 each, under 16s £5, available from Mick White 01844 346536/07377363348. Bring your own refreshments, - bar available.

Please buy your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Our next monthly meeting is **Wednesday 18th September** 8.00 pm in St Dunstan's church hall. The speaker is Claire de Carle of Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust, whose mission is to record and conserve the gardens and parks of historic Bucks and to aid in the creation and restoration of gardens, parks and green spaces in this historic county.

Website: <https://themrhs.wixsite.com/mrhs>

Monks Risborough Women's Institute

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

We do not have a meeting in August, but will be at Monks Risborough Horticultural Society's Show on August 3rd selling cakes. etc. We may see you there.

On September 4th our speaker is Dave Silvis and his subject 'Crime Thrills – Making Crime Pay'. I don't think he is advocating we become criminals, but it should be very interesting.

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.

What Ushers Do

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud during the service. Finally, his big sister had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church."

"Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked indignantly.

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers!"

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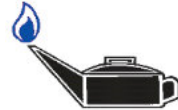
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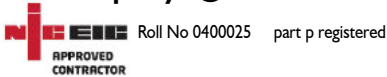


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Thank you *Lisa*

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