

# Parish of Monks Risborough

## *Newsletter*



St Dunstan's Church      St Peter's Chapel

October 2024 - November 2024



for all design devotees who care about how and where things are made

# Princes Risborough

St Mary's Church Hall, HP27 0AF



**Saturday**  
**16th November**  
10am - 4pm



@sallyevansartistsmakersfair



@sallyartistsmakers

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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](http://www.stdunstanschurch.com)**

**Registered Charity No. 115386**

## Regular Services

<b>St Dunstan's</b>	Sundays	8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)	<b>1st Sunday in month</b>
		10.00 am PARISH COMMUNION	
		10.00 am FAMILY SERVICE	<b>1st Sunday in month</b>
		6.00/3.00 pm Evensong	<b>Except 4th Sunday in month</b>
	Thursdays	9.30 am Holy Communion	
<b>Owlswick Chapel</b>		9.00 am Holy Communion	<b>2nd Sunday in month</b>
		6.00/3.00 pm Evensong	<b>4th Sunday in month</b>

## 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](mailto:electoralroll@stdunstanschurch.com)

**Weekly Notice Sheet Organiser** John McKay 01844 274650  
email: [comms@stdunstanschurch.com](mailto: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:

Those of you who happen to be familiar with my taste in music will probably guess that I was very pleased by the news that one of my very favourite bands, Oasis, will be reforming to play some concerts next year. This was not so much out of any real expectation of Caroline and me being able to get our hands on some tickets, but rather being glad that the members of the band felt able to make music together again.

What I was particularly struck by was the amount of interest that their reunion generated. People across generations were delighted, and soon there were articles published that analysed why it was that their music was so significant for such a vast array of people.

I have always thought that the optimism and joy that characterises so many of their songs means that their music has a particularly uplifting quality. In the wake of the appalling Manchester Arena bombing at an Ariana Grande concert in May 2017, it was their anthem 'Don't Look Back in Anger' that became something around which the people of that city could unite, finding an expression both for their grief and for their aspirations for the future.

Fundamentally, their work is imbued with an authentic sense of hope. And it is this quality, perhaps even more than Noel Gallagher's ability to craft a melody, that makes their music endure in the public consciousness.

Hope is something that we all need. In the face of community disorder, environmental destruction, the violence of war and the countless personal things that can make our lives challenging or painful, having hope is essential.

The Christian scriptures are alive with hope; hope that God will nurture us, lead us, and protect us.

The foundation of this hope is most perfectly revealed in the person of Jesus Christ, as St Peter put it in one of his letters which we can find in the New Testament scriptures:

"[God] has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

In other words, because we have received the testimony of those people who met with Jesus and saw that He had risen from the grave, we have extraordinary hope: hope that Jesus has defeated the power of sin and death, that through Him we can inherit eternal life, and that we can also believe all of His other promises too.

We have probably all felt an acute need for hope, be it in recent weeks, months, or even years. My prayer for every one of you is that you will find it: in uplifting music, in the love of friends or family, in experiencing acts of kindness, in good news stories, and above all in Jesus Christ, through whose love we can live forever.

With my prayers for you all,

**Peter**

# From the Parish Registers

## **Baptisms:** *We welcome into the family of God:*

14th July: Pippa Turnbull

21st July: Theodore Leoma

25th August: Grace Wells & Reggie Wells

1st September: Benjamin Naghi

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

7th September: James Mackellar and Kerry Colvill

## **Funerals:** - *Rest in Peace:*

16th August: Keith Pettit, age 80, of Dovecote Close

3rd September: John Sunley, age 99, formerly of Aylesbury Road

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:jillstovold@icloud.com)** or Angeline Vere on 01844 343006 or at **[angeline.vere@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto:revpetergodden@outlook.com)**.

# Church Calendar

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

3rd October	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
6th October	Sunday	<b>Harvest Festival</b> 8.00 am BCP Holy Communion 11.00 am All-Age Parish Eucharist, followed by refreshments 6.00 pm Evensong
10th October	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
13th October	Sunday	<b>Twentieth Sunday after Trinity</b> 9.00 am BCP Holy Communion (St Peter's Owlswick) 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong
17th October	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
20th October	Sunday	<b>Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity</b> 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong
24th October	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
27th October	Sunday	<b>Bible Sunday</b> 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 3.00 pm Evensong (St Peter's Owlswick)
31st October	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
3rd November	Sunday	<b>All Saints' Day (Transferred)</b> 8.00 am BCP Holy Communion 10.00 am All-Age Parish Eucharist 3.00 pm Service for the Feast of All Souls' (Commemoration of the Faithful Departed)
7th November	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
10th November	Sunday	<b>Remembrance Sunday</b> 9.00 am BCP Holy Communion (St Peter's Owlswick) 10.00 am Parish Eucharist including 11.00 am Act of Remembrance (All in St Dunstan's)

		11.20 am Act of Remembrance (Monks Risborough War Memorial)
		3.00 pm Evensong
11th November	Monday	10.45 am Act of Remembrance for <b>Armistice Day</b> (Monks Risborough War Memorial)
14th November	Thursday	9.30 am Said Holy Communion
17th November	Sunday	<b>Second Sunday before Advent</b>
		10.00 am Parish Eucharist
		3.00 pm Evensong
21st November	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
24th November	Sunday	<b>Christ the King</b>
		10.00 am Parish Eucharist
		3.00 pm Evensong (St Peter's Owlswick)
28th November	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
1st December	Sunday	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b>
		8.00 am BCP Holy Communion
		10.00 am All-Age Christingle Service
		<b>No service at St Dunstan's</b>
		6.00 pm Churches Together in Risborough Advent Service, St John's Church, Lacey Green

## 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. The next meetings are on 18th October and 15th November. 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](mailto:jillstovold@icloud.com) 01844 346488

Angeline Vere      [angeline.ver@btinternet.com](mailto:angeline.ver@btinternet.com) 01844 343006

# Report on meeting of the PCC in August 2024

This month, the PCC was joined by Simon Gray who gave a presentation on behalf of the Organ Working Group to explain the background of the organ, the current issues and the options that need to be considered when deciding the way forward. Simon spoke about the three options of a pipe organ, an electronic organ and a 'hybrid' organ (part-pipe, part-electric), and explained their relative merits and drawbacks.

There was an informative and useful discussion around these different options, following which the PCC gave an indication to Simon and the Organ Working Group of the options that they would like to be researched further. These include looking into the relative merits of hybrid organs and electronic organs. The next stage will be for the Organ Working Group to submit a detailed proposal to the PCC and, in the meantime, please do speak with any member of the Working Group if you would like further information.

Another main item on this meeting's agenda was consideration of the draft policy for the admission of children to Holy Communion. There has been an extensive consultation period about this issue, and the Policies Committee, in the draft that they put forward to the PCC, has worked hard to reflect the comments and questions that arose from the consultation period. After some amendments and tweaking, the PCC decided that the draft policy should be sent to the Diocese for further recommendations; once the Diocese has sent any comments or recommendations, the policy will then be discussed and considered for adoption at the following PCC meeting.

Other business was conducted as usual, and members of the congregation might like to know that a legacy left by Pamela Strickland has been designated to be used for youth ministry, to reflect Pamela's love of young children.

**Lucy Nott**  
**Secretary to the PCC**

## In Memoriam

Robert James Constable passed away on 21st July 2024 aged 101. He had lived with his wife, Joyce at 57 Dunsmore Ave since 1985.

<b>Church Flower Rota</b>		<b>Sunday Coffee Rota</b>	
Organisers:		Organisers:	
Gwen Miles	01844 345230	Jo Wade	01844 346321
Jenny Masterton-Smith	01844 273538	Anne White	01844 346536



# St Dunstan's Organ

Further discussion with the Diocesan Organ Advisors in June highlighted the magnitude of remedial work that would need to be done if the existing organ is to be the foundation for an updated instrument. We were encouraged to investigate alternative technology to achieve a high quality organ sound cost-effectively.

An update of our investigations to date was given to the PCC in August. The working group will now work with organ builders to develop options and proposals in line with the PCC's inclinations.

**Simon Gray**

## Monks Risborough Church of England Primary School

### Vacancies for School Governors

Several of our governors retired at the end of last term, so we are keen to recruit new members of our governing body for the new academic year.

Being a school governor can be a very rewarding experience. No formal qualifications are required and we welcome enquiries from all walks of life in the community. Free training courses, including online options, are provided for all governors.

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

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/>

If you are 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](mailto:jcurry@monks.org.uk), who is looking forward to hearing from you.

## Ladies' Breakfast

The next Ladies' Breakfast is on Saturday November 2nd at 9.00 am in St Mary's Hall. Our speaker will be Sally Prendergast, Priest and stole maker! She will be sharing about her Christian journey, her work and showing some of the beautiful things she makes. All ladies are very welcome but do let Rose Williams know if you are coming, as this helps with the catering, on 01844 274225 or [rosewilliamsgp@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rosewilliamsgp@yahoo.co.uk).

# Fellowship Group

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

**01844 344417**

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

## Future Meetings:

**10th October:** Rev Sally is doing the postponed Embroidery Workshop. If you signed up for it in July please come along.

**14th November:** The founder of the charity 'My Cancer My choices' will be speaking to us about the complementary choices it offers to those undergoing cancer treatment.

Details from Rosemary 344417.

# Walking Group



Our next local walk will be on Wednesday 30th October starting from Burton Lane at 9.30 am.

Then our last walk for 2024 will be on Wednesday 27th November again from Burton Lane at 9.30 am.

These usually take one and a half to two hours.

Please contact Mick & Anne White (01844 346536) if more information is needed.

# St Dunstan's Friendship Group

**Co-ordinator:** Avril Clark

**01844 342165**

Meeting at 2.30 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  
Janet East

**01844 346857**  
**01844 345028**

We meet every Tuesday in the Church Hall, between 1.30 pm 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 pm to 9.00 pm on a Thursday evening. We welcome beginners and experienced ringers.

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

## Open House

The areas for discussion come from questions from the group when asked "How did Christianity spread". It seemed a difficult question to answer that would make it relevant to today's Church rather than an academic exercise. Rome had excellent trade routes we learnt, and one example of the trade with India would be valued at 30 million pounds a year in today's money. Along that route went Thomas, a disciple of Jesus who is famous for his doubts. In India, he told people about Jesus and still 2000 years later there are families who are called Thomas Christians because of the traditions remembered in the family from that visit of Thomas.

What can we learn from that today?

Dates - 16th October and 13th November. Venue to be announced in eNews or by contacting Ted or Mary Kent on 01844 274089.

# 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](mailto: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 13th and 20th October and 10th and 17th November.

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

## Hody's Charity

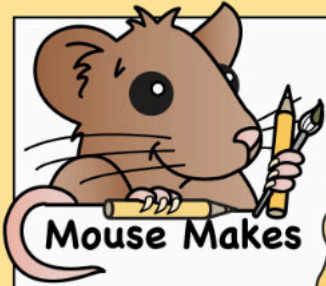
### Small grants for local students or apprentices

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](mailto:pwoodwardc@hotmail.com) or [suemingram@hotmail.com](mailto:suemingram@hotmail.com)



### WALK WITH THE LORD

"Teach me your way,  
O Lord, that I would  
walk in your \_\_\_\_\_."  
*Psalm 86:11*

"For we walk by

\_\_\_\_\_   
not by sight."  
*2 Corinthians 5:7*

"Walk by the \_\_\_\_\_"  
*Galatians 5:16*



Jesus said:  
"I am the light  
of the world.  
If you

\_\_\_\_\_   
me you won't  
have to **walk**  
in darkness  
because  
you have  
the light  
that leads  
to life."  
*John 8:12*



"Walk in \_\_\_\_\_  
as Christ loved  
us and gave  
himself up for us."  
*Ephesians 5:2*

"Walk in  
a manner  
worthy of the  
Lord, fully pleasing  
to him, bearing  
\_\_\_\_\_   
in every good work  
and increasing in  
the knowledge  
of God"  
*John 8:12*

\_\_\_\_\_   
is everyone who  
fears the Lord,  
who **walks** in  
his ways."  
*Psalm 128:1*

GOD • JESUS • LORD • WALK  
WAYS • STEP • FEET • PATH • GO • TEACH • KNOWLEDGE • LIGHT

Find the words from the questions too!

# 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.

## Lunch Club

Sue McKay, who sadly died recently, was a most valued friend and helper to the Lunch Club. She volunteered to help when she and John came to live in Whiteleaf, and for many years she cheerfully and efficiently donned her Marigolds and washed up the many plates, glasses and coffee cups landing endlessly through the hatch, while chatting away merrily to Pam Scott who was in charge of drying up. We all miss her very much.

**Anne Baker**

## 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.

## 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

# Christmas Concert by Candlelight

with the

## Chinnor Silver Band

### St Dunstan's Church

### Monks Risborough

Wednesday 11th December

at 8.00 pm

Tickets £12.00

Complimentary Glass of Mulled Wine  
or a Soft Drink and a Mince Pie

### Prize Raffle

Tickets are available from  
Jo (01844) 346321 or Penny 07762 880219  
or Days to Remember, High Street, Princes Risborough  
or online from

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-dunstans-church](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-dunstans-church)

*Jamadar*

# MONKS RISBOROUGH "POP UP"



## SHOWING FILMS ON

Saturday 26th October at 6.00 pm

Saturday 9th November at 6.00 pm



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

Alternatively contact Cathy Farquhar on 01844 343226 for further details.

**Entry is by donation**

All children must be accompanied by an adult

**Bring your own snacks/drinks**





St Dunstan's Church

Mill Lane, Monks Risborough

# Advent Craft Fair

Saturday November 23rd

10.00 am to 3.00 pm

Greeting Cards

Craft Gifts

Love Debbie Patisserie

Plants

Stained Glass

Jewellery

Usborne Books

Homemade Cakes/Produce

Festive Raffle

Entry £1.00 to include tea/coffee

*Jamabar*

## DIARY DATES FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

### October

- 2nd Women's Institute - Whitecross Hall 1.45 pm (Page 28)
- 2nd MR Heritage Society - Community Centre 7.15pm (Page 25)
- 10th Fellowship Group - Church Hall 10.15 am (Page 10)
- 15th Tuesday Talk - PR Library 3.00 pm (Page 29)
- 16th Friendship Group - Church Hall 2.30 pm (Page 10)
- 16th Open House Group - TBA 7.30 pm (Page 11)
- 16th MR Horticultural Society - Church Hall 8.00 pm (Page 28)
- 18th Parish Prayer Group - Church Hall 9.00 am (Page 7)
- 24th Knitting Group - Church Hall 2.00 pm (Page 11)
- 26th Pop Up Cinema - ST Dunstan's 6.00 pm (Page 16)
- 30th Walking Group - Burton Lane 9.30 am (Page 10)

### November

- 6th Women's Institute - Whitecross Hall 1.45 pm (Page 28)
- 6th MR Heritage Society - Community Centre 7.15pm (Page 25)
- 9th Pop Up Cinema - ST Dunstan's 6.00 pm (Page 16)
- 13th Open House Group - TBA 7.30pm (Page 11)
- 14th Fellowship Group - Church Hall 10.15 am (Page 10)
- 15th Parish Prayer Group - Church Hall 9.00 am (Page 7)
- 15th MR Horticultural Society - Church Hall 8.00 pm (Page 28)
- 19th Tuesday Talk - PR Library 3.00 pm (Page 29)
- 20th Friendship Group - Church Hall 2.30 pm (Page 10)
- 23rd Advent Craft Fair - St Dunstan's 10.00 am (Page 17)
- 27th Walking Group - Burton Lane 9.30 am (Page 10)
- 28th Knitting Group - Church Hall 2.00 pm (Page 11)

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

**see our website**

**[www.stdunstanschurch.com](http://www.stdunstanschurch.com)**

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

*A Member of the Risborough Team Ministry*

# Remembrance Poppies

In late 1914, WW1 erupted across Northern France and Flanders. Great swathes of previously green fields and forests were blasted and bombed, leaving them bleak and barren, with seemingly every living thing destroyed.

But then in the Spring of 1915, something beautiful began to come out of all the destruction. Tens of thousands of bright red Flanders poppies began to put out tentative shoots across the endless vistas of mud. These resilient little flowers had actually flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, because their seeds grow when exposed to sunlight, through disturbances to soil.

We all know that these endless fields of cheerful poppies, growing in the midst of such misery and destruction, were what inspired the Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, to write the now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'.

And it was McCrae's poem which inspired an American academic named Moina Michael to adopt the poppy in memory of those who had fallen in the war. She got it adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance across the United States, and worked with others who were trying to do the same in Canada, Australia, and the UK.

A French woman, Anna Guérin, who was in the UK in 1921, caught the same vision, and planned to sell the poppies in London. There she met Earl Haig, the founder of the Royal British Legion, who was persuaded to adopt the poppy as its emblem in the UK.

The Royal British Legion, which had been formed in 1921, ordered nine million poppies and sold them on 11 November that year. Ever since then, the red poppy has been a symbol of Remembrance, of support for the Armed Forces community, and also of hope for a peaceful future.

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

**Please give copy to one of the following:**

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***The next Newsletter will be issued from 1st December 2024***

# The Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela

## Part 18- Arzúa to Santiago de Compostela

Santiago de Compostela was now almost within reach. After two months, I was impatient to reach my goal. No doubt the prevalence of rain on the recent part of my journey had something to do with my decision to complete the final two stages in a single day, resulting in a walk of twenty-five miles. As I left Arzúa, the rain started again; not the best of auguries.

After periodic downpours, I reached Mount Gozo, where the medieval pilgrim would have caught his first sight of his destination. Unfortunately, the modern pilgrim's gaze is first attracted by a massive building, erected in 1989 for the visit of Pope John Paul II. I passed on as quickly as my tiredness would allow and was soon in the ugly suburbs of the city amid a complex of roads, a railway and a motorway. Fortunately, it was not long before I reached the attractive old town and the cathedral. The traditional

entrance to the cathedral for pilgrims - the Pórtico de la Gloria - with its magnificent medieval sculpture of the Tree of Jesse was cordoned off. It was the tradition of pilgrims to touch this as they entered, but the recent explosion in the numbers of people finishing the Camino has led the authorities to prevent the erosion of the masterpiece by thousands of hands. The effigy of Saint James behind the high altar was also out of bounds, so I was unable to carry out the second tradition - to climb the staircase at the back of the altar and embrace the statue from behind. I had a brief look around the wonderful building but was too tired to take it all in, so I went in search of my Compostela, the official certificate issued by the cathedral authorities to those who have completed at least a hundred kilometers. A kindly gentleman issued the certificate, which was written in Latin. More than 300,000 such certificates were granted in 2019.



The following day, refreshed by sleep and unencumbered by a rucksack for the first time since I had left León, I began to explore the cathedral area starting at the magnificent square, the Praza do Obradoiro. This is dominated by the Hostal de los Reyes Católicos, a hospital for pilgrims founded by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella

at the end of the fifteenth century. It is an impressive building and, like its counterpart in León, is now an hotel. Turning through ninety degrees, the pilgrim cannot but be overwhelmed by the cathedral of Saint James towering above him. The first church was built here in 829 AD but destroyed by the Moors in 997. What the modern pilgrim sees first is the extravagant Baroque façade added by Fernando de Casas Novoa in 1738. This has, fortunately, protected the sculptures of the original entrance - the Pórtico de la Gloria - from the elements.

I took my seat in the cathedral early, ready for the pilgrims' mass at noon, by which time the nave was full. There was a huge contrast in the attitudes of those present. To many it appeared to be little more than an experience to tick off on their bucket list. Many of these showed little sign of reverence or even decorum. There was constant chatter and photographing. Some people even stood on the seats in order to get a better view. On the other hand, to many, the service clearly had a great significance. At least one man made his way the whole length of the nave on his knees. Others were moved to tears. During the mass, one of the priests read a list of all those who had completed their pilgrimage during the previous 24 hour period, grouping them according to the place where they had started their journey. It was moving to hear that some had started in South America, others in Germany and even further east, using the considerable network of routes now available. When the priests entered the sanctuary, I noticed immediately that there was an odd man out. Most of them were elderly gentlemen, but one had long, black hair, a bushy beard and a sunburnt complexion. The priest, who had announced the arrivals, now called on him and an elderly gentleman to come forward. The younger man explained that the two of them had walked together from Nuremberg and had been on the road for three months. He then read a poem about the pilgrimage, but was in floods of tears before he could finish it. He was not alone and, as other pilgrims returned to their places having received communion, I saw that many of them were deeply moved.

At the end of the service, the presiding priest announced, to great excitement, that they were going to use the Botafumeiro, the giant silver censer, which hangs over the crossing of the nave and the transepts and is only used on special occasions. It takes a team of seven men to operate it, propelling it across the transepts with pulleys and ropes as it emits clouds of fragrant smoke. The service over, I returned to my hotel.

The journey had been a wonderful experience. I had visited cathedrals, churches and monasteries built as a witness to the Christian Gospel over many centuries. I had also met some remarkable people, with whom I had shared parts of my journey. Passing through France and Spain at walking pace enhanced my appreciation of the majesty of landscape, the beauty of nature and the wonder of creation. It was an unforgettable experience.

I took a further day to explore the city. As I did so, I reflected that the medieval pilgrim would have been only half way through his pilgrimage at this stage as he would have had to return home on foot. Although I had enjoyed my journey, I was relieved that my return would be by coach and train.

**David Keysell**



This must be the earliest signed self-portrait in Western art ever! With confident, flowing lines a large Christ nearly fills the page, with a diminutive figure crouching on His left: a humble St Dunstan on his knees. The monk's left index finger tentatively touches Christ's swirling garments, whilst his right hand shields his eyes, as if dazzled by his proximity to Jesus.

From his tonsure to his pointy shoes Dunstan makes a sophisticated and endearing drawing. In the two-lined inscription he assures the reader (for this is the frontispiece to a Latin Grammar) that he is the artist and brings himself and all readers of the Grammar to God's attention.

Above the crouching Dunstan, he has written a four-line prayer for himself, which reads 'I ask, merciful Christ, that you protect me, Dunstan, and that you do not let the Taenarian storms drown me!' Mount Taenarum was a stormy coastal mountain, at the foot of which lay the entrance to the classical underworld. (Monasteries were repositories of classical texts). Dunstan's storms were his worldly temptations to sin, to which he had sometimes succumbed.

Mount Taenarum's summit was, according to the first century Roman poet Statius, comparatively calm, out of both the storm-cloud's reach and the vapours of the lower region. This latter is where Dunstan crawls, as an expression of humility, on a rocky outcrop, as if he has climbed the mountain on his knees.

The wavy outline at the base of this remarkable drawing covers Christ's feet, as He rises from the vapours and storms of the mountain. Dunstan is too humble to expect Christ to turn to look at him, nor does he dare to look up, but he expresses his humility by his index finger, which brings him within touching distance of the divine. He has placed himself on Christ's left (Latin sinister = left) where the damned were placed in depictions of the Last Judgement.

Conspicuous humility was a characteristic of early medieval self-portraits, the holy figure large beside much smaller worldly beings. Even as late as the sixteenth century northern European patrons had themselves painted tiny beside saints and the Holy Family.

The social status of some medieval artists was very high, and several came from the upper strata of society. There was even a treatise on the visual arts: 'An Essay on Diverse Arts' c 1125, by Theophilus ('lover of God'), pseudonym of a German goldsmith.

Dunstan was, as we here know, one of the most high-ranking and politically powerful artists in art history. Also a metal worker, Dunstan 909-88, was the patron saint of English metal workers. Church reformer, statesman, scholar, chief minister to seven successive kings, Abbot of Glastonbury 943-57 and Archbishop of Canterbury 959-88.

So well may Dunstan draw himself, however small, next to God.

**Susanne Carr**

# A World of Words

As some of you will know, I work on a literacy project with each current year 6 at Monks Risborough School, and this year's project was creative writing. Well.....I unleashed a word storm of imagination and talent. Over the next issues, you will be able to read some examples. Enjoy!

**Jackie Highe**

## TERENCE'S ADVENTURE ON URLOO

### Prologue

A young four-legged creature was walking along the desolate surface of planet Urloo, its purple fur ruffling in the slight breeze. His name was Terence. All the towns he passed were deserted. This was because a few weeks ago, a terrible storm was believed to have wiped out almost the whole population of Urloo – and the water.

But Terence is sure that not all hope is lost. He wants to find the water, and all the missing creatures – including his mum.

### Ch 1

'Dad.' Terence called to his father, who was lying peacefully on his Dijbadoo-leaf bed, watching paint dry on his bedroom wall. There were not many other activities to do now.

'Yes Terry?' he replied.

'What actually happened on the day of the storm?'

His father sat up. 'This again. Like I've said so many times, people have their own opinions. You, Miss Chandra-rof, Mr Froople-doop and I, are the only ones left, plus Di, that cat-like creature your mother kept in the basement.'

'Dad, I know that! Tell me what you think. Please.'

'Alright. My opinion is: it was a lovely day and then, all of a sudden, a meteor landed about 5km from here. It destroyed almost the whole population. I'm not sure how the rest of us survived, but well...we did'

### Ch2

In the morning Terence took a walk across his planet. He grabbed a falafel and put Di on a lead. He knocked on Mrs. Chandra-rof's door. They sat together on her vintage sofa and talked about that tragic day. Miss Chandra-rof thought it had been a lightning storm.

Next he went to Mr. Froople-doop's shop. It was a meteor, he replied quickly. Our town is gone. Where are they? Where are they?'

Terence backed away.



### Ch3

As he walked he noticed something - a dip in the world. He saw what it was – the meteor. It was like a child guessing how many sweets were in a jar and winning the lot! He felt so happy, as though he had saved the day, because he could hear voices underneath it. He put his ear the giant rock.

'Help us!' called the voices. 'We're trapped!'

'I'll be back!' Terence ran off home. 'I've found it!' he screeched, bursting into his broken house.

'What, the meteor?' Francine, his father stood up and spun to face Terence.

'And they're all trapped beneath it! I'm not entirely sure but I think they all got sucked down there then the meteor acted as a plug.' He remembered the sound of rushing water. 'And the water with them, somehow.'

Francine said 'Let's go and save them then!'

### Ch4

They ran together, with Di, and Terence pointed to the rock. 'Under there.'

Francine pulled out a wand and struck the meteor; it shattered into a million pieces. Underneath there were billions of creatures, amazed and shocked at the same time, which made their faces look like bedraggled blobfishes (some of them actually were!)

There were Blue Masken birds and Geders (flying dog things); thousands of Calards and Bin-jin bots. There were waterfalls and lakes ruling this inner world. It was beautiful.

But there was only one thing Terence was looking at. 'Muum!'

### The End

## Princes Risborough Heritage Society

**Wednesday 2nd October** - "We're going on a Beer Hunt". A search for Risborough's lost pubs. Chris Kingham

**Wednesday 6th November** "A Birds eye view of the Chilterns and beyond" Flights in search of archaeology and enjoying the beautiful landscape from the air. Paul Green.

New venue - Brushwood Suite, Community Centre, Wades Park 7.15 pm. - 9.15 pm.  
The Mount car park free after 7.00 pm.

Admission £3 for non members.



# Tree of Light Dedication Form



**The Dedication Ceremony will take place at 4.00 p.m. on Sunday 24th November.**

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## THE PRINCES CENTRE AWARD WINNING DAYCARE

### Update September 2024

The big news is that our Chairman of the Trustees, Matt, married Laura recently and the trustees, staff and clients all wish them a wonderful married life together. The service took place at St Mary's and was conducted by our trustee, Rev David Williams.

Our clients always enjoy coming to the Centre. It beats staying at home and not socialising with others and gives them opportunities to meet others and experience all kinds of beneficial and enjoyable activities.

Some have been able to visit the Rye at High Wycombe and take a walk by the river and have a picnic there. Other outings included a walk through local fields, a trip to Oxford to the museum and a pub lunch at a pub in Marlow and a visit to see some alpacas in Bledlow Ridge. The staff also enable visits to the local cafes which are always popular.

Others have had fun in the garden with various outdoor games which included soaking the poor staff with a sponge game and the parachute game. Indoors there have been cooking activities, cardio drumming, playing on the Tiny Tablet computer table, board games, dominoes, singing, dancing, jigsaws, artwork and manicuring sessions etc. The younger clients recently completed a virtual 2 million metre challenge to walk from here to Italy which was a wonderful achievement exercise-wise. They were all presented with a special certificate and treated to a disco afterwards.

The roof renovating works are due to be commenced this month and investigations are in place concerning the replacement of the cooker which has been causing problems. The plan is to replace it with an electric all singing, all dancing model which will enable us to cater for larger groups as well as contributing to our long term aims to become carbon-neutral. We are also expecting to receive batteries in the near future which will store the electricity generated by our solar panels.

We are very grateful to St Mary's for donating their collection during the Risborough Festival week which raised £260.35.

If you would like to support the Princes Centres in any way or if you or your loved one would like a free taster of what we have to offer, please contact our manager Kim on 01844 345105 or Mags at Bourne End 01628 52702.

**Maggie Wooster Keyte**

# Monks Risborough Horticultural Society

## 130th Anniversary for MRHS

THANK YOU to so many who helped with our Annual Show back on 3rd August.



The weather was just right and the number of people coming to enjoy the event made it a great popular local parish event. 80 came to the evening barn dance which was a marvellous way to end the day.

Two further moments coming up:

**Wednesday 16th October 8.00 pm** at St Dunstan's Church Hall is our AGM with drinks and nibbles.

**Friday 15th November 8.00 pm** at St Dunstan's Church Hall is our 'seasonal quiz'.

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.

**2nd October** is our last meeting before the AGM. The subject is "Ten Centuries of Men and Stone". The speaker is David Robbins, the husband of one of our members who used to work with stone.

Our AGM is on **6th November**, where we review the year's activities and plan for 2025.

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.

# Princes Risborough Library

## The Tuesday Afternoon Group Monthly Talks 3.00 pm - 4.00 pm

**Tuesday 15th October** : Talk on "Railways of The Chilterns Part 2" given by Francis Gomme

**Tuesday 19th November** : Talk on "The Heritage Society"

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.

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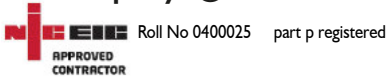


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Thank you *Lisa*

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