

Parish of Monks Risborough

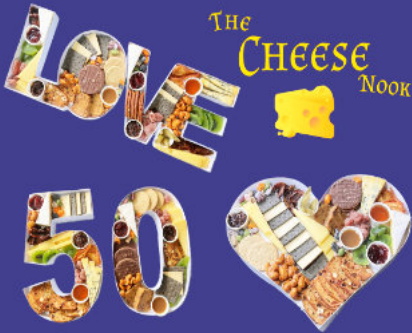
Newsletter



St Dunstan's Church St Peter's Chapel

February 2025 - March 2025

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Clergy

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

Tel: 01844 274771 Email: revpetergodden@outlook.com

Associate Priest: The Rev'd Sally Prendergast

Tel: 07876 515098 Email: revsallyp@gmail.com

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

Website: www.stdunstanschurch.com

Registered Charity No. 115386

Regular Services

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

The Parochial Church Council

Chairman:

The Rev'd. Peter Godden

Churchwardens:

Paul Woodward-Court 01844 344417

Sue Ingram 01844 275287

Secretary:

Lucy Nott 01844 345268

Treasurer:

David Curry 07854 198498

Deanery Synod 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:

Have you still got your Christmas decorations up? This may seem like a daft question, as most people observe the tradition of taking down their Christmas tree, wreath, and other festive adornments around the feast of the Epiphany on 6th January, when Christians celebrate the arrival of the Magi in Bethlehem to visit the infant Jesus.

Back in 2021 however, English Heritage encouraged the public to follow the medieval tradition of leaving their decorations up all the way until 2nd February, and the feast of Candlemas. We thought about it in our household, but were not sure that our tree would last quite that long.

Leaving the Christmas decorations up all that time came about as a tradition all those years ago because Candlemas signals the end of the Christian celebrations of Christmas and Epiphany. The feast centres around the final episode of Jesus' infancy in St Luke's Gospel, when Jesus' parents Mary and Joseph take their baby to the Temple in Jerusalem. While they are there, they encounter two people, Simeon and Anna: between them they tell Mary and Joseph extraordinary things about their child, how He will do remarkable things and bring great joy to many, but how there will also be profound sadness on the way too. It is a mysterious, bittersweet moment, even now when hearing the passage read aloud in a church service.

I find this moment of prophecy for Jesus' life remarkably resonant for the journeys of us all, and it feels particularly apposite to hear it early on in the calendar year. Just like Mary, Joseph, and Jesus Himself, our lives will always contain moments that bring us gladness and delight, and other times that bring us pain and sorrow.

Those painful times can leave us feeling terribly alone or bewildered, not least because our griefs or troubles are always very much ours. And so just as our experiences of them are very individual, so too are the ways in which we might respond and cope with such times of challenge.

Something that many of us who follow Christ cling to amidst the storms of life is the knowledge that this pattern of both wonderful joys and deep sorrows is one that Jesus, God the Son, has Himself shared. This means we have a God who takes all of our celebrations and our anguishes seriously, because He has made His way through this world too. As many of us sang at Christmas, 'And He feeleth for our sadness, and He shareth in our gladness.' So whatever we go through, we can take it all to God, knowing that it matters to Him, and that He offers His love and care to us in any and every situation.

I hope that 2025 will bring you far more joys than anything else; but whatever this year brings, may you know God's presence and His peace throughout it all. As always, you will all be very much in my prayers.

Peace be with you,

Peter

From the Parish Registers

Wedding: *We welcome into the family of God:*

21st December: Thomas Claessens and Alexandra Stone

Funerals: - *Rest in Peace:*

18th December: Dorothy Morecraft (formerly Battams), age 84, of Steeple Claydon

19th December: Colyn (Nibbo) Makepeace, age 81, of Pymcombe Close

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**.

The Church Hall

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

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

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

Church Calendar

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

2 nd February	Sunday	Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) 8.00 am BCP Holy Communion 10.00am All-Age Parish Eucharist 3.00 pm Evensong
6 th February	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
9 th February	Sunday	Fourth Sunday before Lent 9.00 am BCP Holy Communion (St Peter's Owlswick) 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 3.00 pm Evensong
13 th February	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
16 th February	Sunday	Third Sunday before Lent 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 3.00 pm Evensong
20 th February	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
23 rd February	Sunday	Second Sunday before Lent 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 3.00 pm Evensong (St Peter's Owlswick)
27 th February	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
2 nd March	Sunday	Sunday next before Lent 8.00 am BCP Holy Communion 10.00 am All-Age Parish Eucharist 3.00 pm Evensong
5 th March	Ash Wednesday	10.00 am Said Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday 7.30 pm Sung Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday
6 th March	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
9 th March	Sunday	First Sunday of Lent 9.00 am BCP Holy Communion (St Peter's Owlswick) 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 3.00 pm Evensong
13 th March	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
16 th March	Sunday	Second Sunday of Lent 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 3.00 pm Evensong
20 th March	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion

23 rd March	Sunday	Third Sunday of Lent 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 3.00 pm Evensong (to be held at St Dunstan's) Followed by the APCM
27 th March	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
30 th March	Sunday	Mothering Sunday 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong (St Peter's Owlswick)

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

Meetings are held in the Church Hall on the 3rd Friday of each month at 9.00 am for about half an hour. The next meetings are on 21st February and 21st March. A reminder will be in the eNews and Pewsheets on the Sunday prior to each of those dates and we will also email those who regularly attend.

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

Jill Iredale jillstovold@icloud.com 01844 346488

Angeline Vere angeline.verre@btinternet.com 01844 343006

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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. Last year, in November, we sent £280, which included £100 for the gift fund which provides extras for the children. So far this year I have received £15. 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

Report on meeting of the PCC 4th December 2024

At the December meeting of the PCC, the main item for consideration was our charitable giving. A few nominations had been received, and the PCC discussed the importance of balancing parish giving between local charities and those with a wider scope. It was decided to support the following eight charities: Mind over Mountains, Wycombe Youth for Christ, Bucks Historic Churches, Baby Unit Relatives Care and Support at Stoke Mandeville, Lighthouse, Ebony Horse Club, Whitechapel Mission.

Since the meeting, routine checks on the ceiling in St Dunstan's have confirmed that no work is necessary. Work on the south wall at Owlswick is ongoing, and work is also due to be done on the Altar Frontal at St Dunstan's. Various options include professionally cleaning, repairing and adapting the current one, or having a new one made. The PCC will discuss these options over the next few months.

Ted Kent and Jane Curry, our two Deanery Synod representatives, spoke about the continued need for representation from our parish. If anyone is interested, please do speak to Jane or Ted – being a Deanery Synod representative means that one is an ex officio member of the PCC if not already elected onto the PCC.

The date of the APCM has been fixed for Sunday 23rd March, at 3:45pm (straight after evensong), and the next meeting of the PCC is on 12th March.

Lucy Nott

Secretary to the PCC

Church Cleaning

We are all grateful to Dominique Jowett who cleans the church on a regular basis every two weeks.

For the intervening weeks we have a small, valued team of volunteers cleaning in pairs which works out at an hour, once a month. Ideally, we would like a couple more kind people to augment the rota. It can be done at a time to suit between church services.

Thank you.

Call Anne Baker 345686

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

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:

13th February: Souper Soup Morning (see Page 17).

13th March: Mini AGM and talk about working in the police force. £2 to include refreshments.

Details from Rosemary 344417.

Walking Group

There will be local walks on Wednesday 26th February from Burton Lane 9.30 am start and again on Wednesday 26th March.

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

All who wish to attend our meetings are very welcome.

The Crafty Sew & Sews

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

We meet every Tuesday in the Church Hall, between 1.30 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 next meeting is on the **19th February at 7.30 pm** - venue to be announced. We continue our series on the Spread of Christianity at the first Millennium. The modern nation states were taking shape but still faced many difficulties. Could Christianity survive? Many of the problems are relevant to us today.

There will be no meeting in March because of the Lent Groups. Contact Ted or Mary Kent for more information.

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

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.

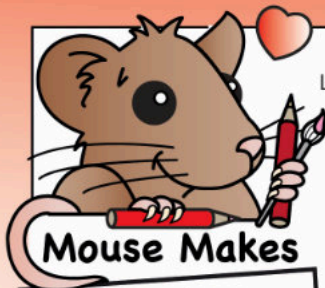
The next dates for the 10 O'clock Club are 9th and 16th February and 9th and 23rd March.

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

St Dunstan's Organ

Progress continues, slowly, towards our goal of preparing appropriate specific proposals for the PCC to consider for the future of the organ, and the likelihood of a replacement for the current instrument.

Members of the Working Group and PCC visited Wendover church to hear an electronic organ in situ. The Diocesan Organ Advisors have helped us to focus our enquiries on suitable suppliers, and organ builders are preparing specifications for us to review.



Mouse Makes

"Love is

_____ ,
love is _____ ,
 It does not _____ ,
 it does not _____ ,
 it is not _____ ,
 it does not _____

_____ ,
 others, it is not self - _____

_____ ,
 it is not easily _____ ,
 it keeps no record of _____

Love delights in _____ ,
 it always _____ ,
 _____ ,
 _____ ,

from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

The steadfast **love** of the Lord never _____ ;

His _____ ,
 never come to an end;
 they are new every _____

Lamentations 3:20-23

I pray... you will understand...
 the greatness of Christ's **love**,

how _____ ,
 and how _____ ,
 and how _____ ,
 that **love** is _____ .
 Ephesians 3:18-19

God is **love**. _____ ,
 whoever _____ ,
 in **love** _____ ,
 in God, and God _____ ,
 _____ in them.
 1 John 4:16

Give _____ ,
 to the Lord, for He is _____ ,
 his steadfast **love** _____ ,
 endures _____

Psalm 136:1

HOW DOES
 GOD **LOVE** ME?

God sent me a saviour:

He sent His one and only
 Son into the world so
 that we might have
 eternal life through Him.
 1 John 4:9

God gave me His spirit:

He has given you the
 Holy Spirit to fill our hearts
 with His **love**.
 Romans 5:5

God called me His child:

See what great **love** the
 Father has for us that He
 would call us His children.
 1 John 1:3

DID YOU KNOW?

Jesus told us to:
LOVE the Lord your God with
 all your **heart**, all your **soul**
 and with all your **mind**.
 Matthew 22:37

LOVE your neighbour the
 same as you **love** yourself.
 Matthew 22:39

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

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 GRACIOUS • PEACE
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 HOPEFUL
 PERSEVERES
 ENDURES
 HUMBLE
 SELFLESS
 PROTECTS • DEFENDS

MONKS RISBOROUGH "POP UP"



SHOWING FILMS ON

Saturday 22nd February at 6.00 pm

Saturday 8th March 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, and haven't already done so, please email

comms@stdunstanschurch.com

with your name and confirm that you would like to hear information about the cinema events via email.

Alternatively contact Cathy Farquhar on 01844 343226 for further details.

Entry is by donation

All children must be accompanied by an adult

Bring your own snacks/drinks

Easter Lilies in Memory of a Loved One



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

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

Hooray for Play Day!

St Dunstan's Church Monks Risborough

Tuesday 18th February 9.30am - 12noon



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

Free, no need to register. For all ages up to 11

Under 5s to be accompanied by an adult.

Snacks and refreshments provided.

Tea and coffee for adults.

Electoral Roll Renewal

Every six years, each parish church is required to form a completely new Electoral Roll, as required under the Church Representation Rules. This year, 2025, is a year for such a renewal.

This means that our church's electoral roll will start afresh from scratch. **Everyone who wishes to be included on the new Roll, whether they are on the present roll or not, must complete and return a signed application form between 17th February and 2nd March 2025.**

Under the Church Representation Rules any lay persons are entitled to have their names entered on the Roll, if they:

- (i) are baptised and aged 16 or over;
- (ii) have signed a form of application for enrolment;

and either

(iii) are members of the Church of England or of any Church in communion with the Church of England being resident in the parish or (not being resident in the parish) having habitually attended public worship in the parish during the six months prior to the application for enrolment;

or;

(iv) are members in good standing of a Church (not in communion with the Church of England) which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity declaring themselves to be also members of the Church of England and having habitually attended public worship in the parish during the period of six months prior to enrolment.

Forms will be available in the church, or via the parish website, in due course. Completed and signed forms should be returned **from 17th February and no later than 2nd March** to the Electoral Roll Officer Mrs Caroline Godden at The Rectory, Mill Lane, Monks Risborough, HP27 9JE, or electronically to **electoralroll@stdunstanschurch.com**.

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in the church on Sunday 23rd March at approximately 3.45pm, after the conclusion of Evensong.

Ladies' Breakfast

The next Ladies' Breakfast is on Saturday 1st March at 9.00 am in St Mary's Hall. Our speaker is Susan Seward who will be telling us about Talking Local Papers for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

All ladies and friends are very welcome.

Please book your place with Rose Williams (01844 274225) or email: **rosewilliamsgp@yahoo.co.uk**.

Souper Soup Morning for Christian Aid

Thursday February 13th Church Hall



Come and savour some lovely home made soup with a crusty roll and tea / coffee.

10.30 am- 12.30 pm. Suggested donation £5

Details Rosemary 344417.

Men's Breakfast

The next men's breakfast will be on 8th March at 8.45 am in St Mary's Church Hall. As usual there will be a full English breakfast. The cost is £7 payable on the day. Contact Steve Williams on mensbreakfast@stmarysrisborough.org.uk or phone 01844 274225 if you would like to come so that we can control the catering and avoid waste. Male guests are very welcome.

Walkers could lose 40,000 miles of footpaths

Walkers in Britain could stand to lose thousands of miles of rights of way, because of the sheer size of the growing backlog of applications for footpaths to be recognised and protected.

The Government has set a deadline of 2031 for public footpaths and bridleways to be officially mapped. But local authorities still have nearly 8,000 applications waiting to be processed. This has caused concern that some rights of way could be lost forever.

The Ramblers, the walking charity, reckons there are about 41,628 miles of missing rights of way. They are encouraging people to track these down, in their *Don't Lose Your Way* campaign.

DIARY DATES FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

February

- 5th Women's Institute - Whitecross Hall 1.45 pm (Page 28)
- 5th MR Heritage Society - Wades Centre 7.30 pm (Page 23)
- 13th Fellowship Group - Church Hall 10.30 am (Pages 10, 17)
- 18th Play Day - Church Hall 9.30 am (Page 15)
- 18th Tuesday Talk - PR Library 3.00 pm (Page 28)
- 19th Friendship Group - Church Hall 2.00 pm (Page 10)
- 19th Open House Group - TBA 7.30 pm (Page 11)
- 19th MR Horticultural Society - Church Hall 7.30 pm (Page 28)
- 21st Parish Prayer Group - Church Hall 9.00 am (Page 7)
- 22nd Pop Up Cinema - St Dunstan's 6.00 pm (Page 14)
- 26th Walking Group - Burton Lane 9.30 am (Page 10)
- 27th Knitting Group - Church Hall 2.00 pm (Page 11)

March

- 1st Owlswick Quiz - Longwick Village Hall 7.30 pm (Page 19)
- 5th Women's Institute - Whitecross Hall 1.45 pm (Page 28)
- 8th Pop Up Cinema - St Dunstan's 6.00 pm (Page 14)
- 13th Fellowship Group - Church Hall 10.15 am (Page 10)
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**For further information about the Church,
services, and current notices**

see our website

www.stdunstanschurch.com

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

A Member of the Risborough Team Ministry

Quiz



A fun general knowledge quiz to raise funds for

St. Peter's Chapel, Owlswick

Saturday 1st March

Starting 7.30pm

Longwick Village Hall

Teams of up to 8 people @ £8 per head

Bring your own refreshments if desired

To book your team ring 01844 347906 or email

jane.rogers.owlswick@outlook.com

Final copy date for next *Newsletter*
is
10th March 2025

Please give copy to one of the following:

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The next Newsletter will be issued from 30th March 2025

Monks Risborough CoE Primary School

Class entries

Year 3 have been learning about Buckinghamshire and reading the BFG by Roald Dahl and produced some lovely writing all about inhabited giant country.

'Giant country is a very strange land far, far away from the UK. The land is inhabited by giants and there is one friendly giant, the one and only BFG! In the country, the landscape is like nowhere on earth! The desolate ground is a dusty shade of pale yellow. The sky is as red as blood with a constant wind like a giant breathing. The background has a humongous craggy mountain with the most gloomiest cave on this planet (I mean giant country.)

In Giant Country the giants are big bloodbottling bruts, except one, the one and only BFG! The BFG lives in a cave with the other giants like bender around deep forests and rushing rivers.'

By Seb Whelan

All About Giant Country - Giant Country is a country very far away from the UK. In Giant Country lots of giants live there. There is nothing like you would see on earth. The ground is a dusty pale shade of yellow, the morning sun is as red as blood and the wind is nearly as strong as a tornado. In the background there is a massive blue craggy mountain looming over the whole of Giant Country. Lots of thick forests hiding the land with a range of hills as bare as concrete. The land is like a desolate wasteland. There are huge valleys as bare as a deep dark cave.'

By Ellie Donovan

Reception

Yesterday, Thursday 9th January, a hearing dog came to visit us, called Jessie. Before she arrived we watched a video about the dogs from a puppy to grown up, through puppy school. She came with Darcie and Fiona. To start with she came to each of us and we were allowed to stroke her. Fiona is Jessie's trainer 'Jessie tells Fiona about hearing' Darcie gave us lots of information about hearing dogs and about Jessie and her helping people. Jessie wore a special jacket that said Learning and Hearing Dog. She came to worship with us. She was nice and quiet. Jessie lies down when a fire alarm goes off to tell her owner that it has gone off. If the door rings Jessie goes to her owner and nudges her leg and then goes back to the front door!

By Jamie, Olivia, Remi & Willow Reception

A Ghost Story From Monks Risborough School

Here is another thrilling piece of mystery and imagination from a member of my Year Six creative writing course. I gave them a very limited wordage for the pieces to be published, because the magazine is always tight for content – and they all came well under it!

It is always difficult to edit your own work, especially if you are inexperienced; but it is essential if you want to be interesting/engaging/exciting/colourful etc, in a few words. What to keep, what to cut? As you can see, they manage it beautifully.

Last one to come in the next issue. Don't miss it!

Jackie Highe

The Pond

Terry's sister Rose loved her doll Maria almost more than she loved him and Terry didn't like it. He plotted to throw Maria into the pond outside their house. Legend said the pond was haunted by a dead spirit and if you swam in it you died.

Terry snuck out one night and threw Rose's doll into the murky green depths of the pond.

By the next night Rose was starting to act very strangely. 'Hello BROTHER' she snarled at him. Then suddenly, all sweet and perfect, without a hint of malice in her eyes, - 'You don't happen to know where Maria is do you?'

Terry woke at exactly midnight to a rhythmic ticking. Rap-rap-rap. Terry sleepily got up and opened his bedroom door. Rose was standing there, holding Maria. 'Come and get meeee!' she hissed. 'Yaaaagh!' screamed Terry, waking up fully from his nightmare.

At breakfast Rose didn't eat anything, she just kept staring at Terry. He found it very unnerving so he made his decision – he was going to go to the pond to get Maria back.

At 3.00pm Terry arrived at the pond and without a second thought, he plunged into the cold, icy deep. He surfaced two minutes later fully covered with weed - and Maria. But something had changed about the doll. She had been in the haunted pond for two days now, and had come to life - because she had been dead before.

Maria wriggled out of Terry's grip and whispered 'PAYBACK!' Then she pushed him into the pond, where Terrence Parker took his last breath and died, as the doll returned to her rightful owner...

The End

Chapter Two

In the last *Newsletter* you saw this frail young man Guidobaldo da Montefeltro (1472-1526) aged 5, leaning against his father, Duke Federico of Urbino. The Duke died 5 years later, so his only son Guidobaldo inherited the dukedom aged 10.

Pope Sixtus had his eyes on Urbino to become a Papal State, so pressure was on the boy Duke to have an heir to secure his dukedom. Thus in 1488, aged 16, he married 17-year-old Elisabetta Gonzaga (1471-1526), daughter of the Marquis of Mantua. Elisabetta, who, like all Renaissance noblewomen, had been highly educated with her brothers.

Alas there was no heir, because Guidobaldo developed gout before he was 20 and was in constant terrible pain, which worsened until he could neither stand or walk. Duchess Elisabetta, who remained devoted to Guidobaldo, reigned at the resplendent Court of Urbino. Contemporary accounts report that she was a very great, refined and elegant noblewoman, talented and courageous, with a lively wit. Her inherited Court was dazzling, its Palace built for Guidobaldo's father acclaimed as the most beautiful in Italy, its chief artistic and intellectual centre. It was adorned with treasures, walls hung with cloths of gold and silver, with countless objects of marble and bronze, rare paintings, every kind of musical instrument : everything rare and outstanding.



Duke Guidobaldo da Montefeltro
52.9 x37.4cm 1502 Uffizi
Raphael (1483-1520)

The Ducal library had choice and exquisite manuscripts in Greek, Latin and Hebrew, which resident scribes and illuminators had embellished in gold and silver. The most brilliant scholars and inventors in Italy lived at court.

In 1502 Duke Guidobaldo commissioned a local Urbino-born artist to paint his and Duchess Elisabetta's portraits: none other than Raphael (1483-1520), two years before he moved to Florence, where his art was to be completely transformed by studying the work of Michelangelo and Leonardo. All three of them were in Florence in 1505.

Guidobaldo and Elisabetta are shown in rigid frontal poses, wearing the Montefeltro heraldic colours of black and gold. Guidobaldo wears a black velvet cloak with silver buttons, edged in gold and black chequers. From the window behind him we see a landscape of farmland, a river and a walled city.

Elisabetta's portrait, too, has a landscape background, possibly the mountainous Urbino countryside. She wears two chains and a scorpion jewel on her forehead, an astrological good luck charm linked to fertility. Her black dress is decorated with asymmetrical gold oblongs. Most fascinating to a nerd like me are the Arabic letters embroidered on the ribbon border of her neckline, which could suggest that the ducal library contained Arabic manuscripts. Greek manuscripts sometimes had to be translated from Arabic, because Arabic scholars had found and translated Greek manuscripts before anyone else.

Glorious Urbino Court life was halted when Guidobaldo died without an heir aged 35. Duchess Elisabetta became Regent to their young adopted (in 1504) heir Francesco, Guidobaldo's nephew from one of his 8 sisters, Giovanna, who had been placed in marriage into the Papal della Rovere family. Thus the boy Francesco was also a nephew of Pope Julius II, who ensured that the boy became Duke of Urbino and Captain General of the Papal States.

When Francesco came of age in 1516, Elisabetta was expelled from Urbino by the then Pope, Leo X, and she died penniless at her refuge in Ferrara. Urbino passed into the Papal family, which had been their plan all along.

However, Duchess Elisabetta was eulogised by still extant contemporary accounts, and here both are immortalised by Raphael.

Susanne Carr



Duchess Elisabetta Gonzaga
52.9 x37.4cm 1502 Uffizi
Raphael (1483-1520)

Princes Risborough Area Heritage Society

Wednesday 5th February - "John Hampden and the Chilterns". Guest Speaker Colin Oakes tells about the life and times of our local 17thc Parliamentarian.

Brushwood Suite, Community Centre, Wades Park 7.30 pm. - 9.15 pm. The Mount car park free after 7.00 pm.

Admission £3 for non members.

Working through the seasons at Whiteleaf

I am lucky enough to be the Site Coordinator for the Chiltern Society joint sites of Whiteleaf and Brush Hill, with the job of organising an amazing group of volunteers to tackle the seemingly endless work needed to keep both sites under control. The work we do is divided between regular, seasonal tasks and ad hoc jobs in response to events or as one-off projects.

Here is a flavour of the work we have been involved in this year.

During the spring we continued to tackle the effects of ash die back by clearing dead trees from along footpaths, opening up shaded areas and creating more dead hedges. If you visit the sites, you may notice our work along the footpath from the back of Whiteleaf hill down towards the golf club.

Spring is also the time of year to tackle site maintenance jobs in preparation for school holidays and increased visitors. Visitors using the car park hopefully noticed we filled in the largest potholes and also erected some signs to designate disabled parking and to ensure the emergency vehicle access onto the hill is not blocked. The picnic area also had its first mow and rake of the year.

A new bench was 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 sprang into life, we 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 each month 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, even if they only last for a short time.

With August came the annual job of pulling golden rod. Solidago, as it is also known, is a yellow, decorative plant often found in walled gardens and flower arrangements. However, it has no place on Whiteleaf hill and is considered an invasive species. August is the best time for this job as the yellow flower of the plant makes it easily visible and we can pull it before it dries and spreads its seeds far and wide for another year. Around 15 volunteers braved a scorching morning in full sun to tackle this. We

had to admit defeat at coffee time, having worked for an hour and a half, as the mercury climbed towards 30 degrees which meant we had to stop work.

Our regular, seasonal work for the summer includes lots of brush cutting (with hand held machinery) and raking (by hand!), once the wild flowers on Whiteleaf hill have finished. This encourages 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, ideally during August, but certainly by the end of September.

As everything grew so late this year, our 'window of opportunity' was smaller than in previous years and most of the cutting took place in September, including an early start for 5 brush cutters in the mist and rain at September's work party (what a contrast to August!) rewarded later by the Volunteers' 'thank you' pizza party.

The Autumn and early Winter work parties brought the usual round of scrub clearing (with the help of brush cutters) and clearing brambles, branches, etc. by hand in areas around footpaths, entrances and the cross-ridge dyke (a late bronze age feature some 3,000+ years old which is a scheduled ancient monument and crosses the footpath onto Whiteleaf Hill).

We have our work parties on the first Thursday morning of each month, so if you see us do come along and say hello. We couldn't continue the work we do across the Chilterns without the support of local people.

Caroline Bridgman

Chiltern Society Site Coordinator, Whiteleaf and Brush Hill

Chiltern Society Events

Oaken Grove Vineyard – Tour & Tasting

Friday 28th February 2-4 pm

£30 pp or £17.50 pp alcohol free

Tour the vines and taste the wines on this private tour. You'll learn about Oaken Grove's grape growing and taste their award-winning still and sparkling wines. The session is informal, informative and most of all fun! The tour starts in the vineyard, where you'll discover how they grow the very best grapes, before moving to the Tasting Room which overlooks the beautiful vineyard for a guided tasting of three still and two sparkling wines.

To book go to <https://chilternsociety.org.uk/events/category/events/> If you have any queries contact Emma Anderson – emmaanderson@chilternsociety.org.uk

New life for “old” greetings cards



When we have finished with cards we receive, for birthdays, get well, best wishes and so on, most of us will put them in the ‘green bin’ to be recycled by the local council. If you are one of these people, can I invite you to bring them to church instead and I will “recycle” them to raise funds for St Dunstan’s?

Now that I have more time on my hands, this is something – a little creative – which I would very much like to do. The wife of a friend of mine has been doing something similar for some time now for her church and it has proved to be very successful. With your help, we can do the same

here. Cards for all occasions are welcome (no Christmas Cards though please!) I will be putting a box in the porch to receive unwanted cards in the hope that you will simply leave them there. The ‘new life’ cards I will make, will come with envelopes and a message inside ready for you to send to someone else. All for a donation to St Dunstan’s. I have spoken with Peter, our Vicar, about this and we are both keen to see if this little initiative will not only help church funds but also help you dispose of your old cards knowing that they can be used again to make someone else happy.

Thank you very much.

Canon Rob

The names we love to give our homes

Many people name their homes, and there is certainly a dizzying variety of names out there.

But now a new study has found that nearly all the most common property names have something to do with nature. And in Britain, the most popular house name of all is short and sweet: ‘The Cottage’. Next in line? ‘Rose Cottage’.

Other popular house names include Ivy Cottage, Garden Cottage, Orchard Cottage, Yew Tree Cottage, The Barn, The Stables, Orchard House, The Lodge and The Granary.

Dr Lynn Robson, Fellow in English at Regent’s Park College, Oxford said the trend seems “to reflect a nostalgia for a rural past.”

The survey also found that Newcastle has the greatest number of named homes, followed by Glasgow and Sheffield. The survey was carried out by Admiral Home Insurance.

Update January 2025

We wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year. December was a busy month at the Princes Centre. A big event was the Jinglers performing their 'Farewell Concert' at St Mary's for Rev David Williams, one of our trustees who has now left the area to move to Wales. They wanted to thank him for all his support over the years. It was a huge success. David was an enthusiastic participant of the Jinglers. A collection was organised outside Tesco to advertise our presence in the town and we raised just under £900 including Gift Aid, and we are very grateful to the generous shoppers who donated and all the helpers who endured the cold. The money will be used to enhance the experiences of our clients.

There were lots of preparations for Christmas and activities including special Christmas dinners for the clients and volunteers. Some of the trustees joined the staff in dressing up as elves to assist with the catering. Our cook, Jackie, did an amazing job. There has been dancing, singing and lots of fun with entertainment from the Hillbillies, the Black Dog Band and Elvis and also a group of pupils from Risborough Secondary School who came along to sing carols for the clients.

We are very pleased to make the following announcements: Mags West, our current manager at Bourne End has gained a Distinction in her EPA following a long training period. She is now a Chartered Manager. With the reorganisation of management, she will soon be taking on the role of Centre Manager in Princes Risborough, whilst Kim has been promoted to General Manager. Our new Manager for our centre at Bourne End is Marina Glen and Lyndsey Hayward has been promoted to be Deputy Manager there. We wish them every success in their new roles.

Due to a large legacy received last year, which has made this project possible, work to replace the downstairs roof is about to start. Scaffolders will be here first, then the solar panels will be removed, then the roof will be replaced, then the solar panels reinstalled and finally the scaffolding will be removed. We anticipate the work taking 6-8 weeks to complete. A smaller project is the replacement of the front fascia. Internal changes include moving furniture around in the rooms downstairs. The IT room is now in what was the quiet room along with the sofa, table and chairs. We have purchased two new laptops for the clients and look forward to seeing them being used.

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 Mags on 01844 345105 or Marina at Bourne End 01628 52702.

Maggie Wooster Keyte

Monks Risborough Horticultural Society

Future Meetings

- Wednesday 19th February:** John Tyler will talk about "The Changing Wildlife of the Chilterns".
- Wednesday 19th March :** "Planting Now for late Summer Colour" a talk by Billy, owner of nursery at Stokenchurch.
- Both meetings will be held at St Dunstan's Church Hall and start at 7.30 pm.**
- Saturday 12th April:** Annual Quiz Night. 7.00 pm start at Monks Risborough C of E School. Tables of 8 booked through Mick White 01844 346536.

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

Monks Risborough Women's Institute

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

The **February** meeting is on **5th** and is another visit from Sheila Keatinge. This year she will tell us about her visit to the Chilean Fiords and Patagonia, in the southern hemisphere, which should be fascinating.

On **5th March** we welcome back Keith Muras to give us his talk '*Loyalty to the State, loyalty to the People*' which was cancelled last year due to unforeseen circumstances.

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 18th February:** Talk on "The GroWet Project" - The regeneration of wetland and freshwater habitats.
- Tuesday 18th March:** Talk given by Eddy Smythe on his father's experience in the RAF.

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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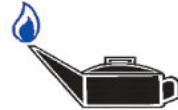
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Thank you *Lisa*

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