

Parish of Monks Risborough

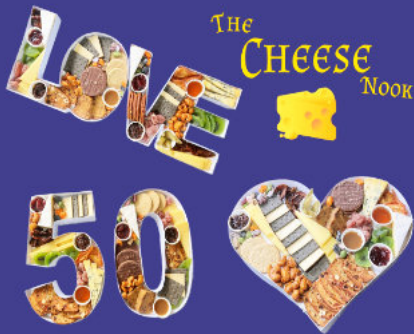
Newsletter



St Dunstan's Church St Peter's Chapel

June 2025 - July 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
		6.00 pm Evensong	Except 4th Sunday in month
Owlswick Chapel	Thursdays	9.30 am Holy Communion	
		9.00 am Holy Communion	2nd Sunday in month
		6.00 pm Evensong	4th Sunday in month

The Parochial Church Council

Chairman:

The Rev'd. Peter Godden

Churchwardens:

Sue Ingram 07786 986823

Christopher Trower 07827 772948

Secretary:

Lucy Nott 01844 345268

Treasurer:

David Curry 07854 198498

Deanery Synod Reps

Ex Officio Member

Mr C Fairall, Mr E Kent, Mrs A Vere

The Rev'd Sally Prendergast

Elected Members

Mr S Gray, Mrs A-M Longshaw, Mrs A Maycock, Mrs D Norie, Mrs J Rogers,
Mr P Woodward-Court

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:

I recently went for a potter around Antiques at Wendover – one of my favourite ways to spend a spare thirty minutes – and was struck by how, wherever one looked, there was such a variety of things that had been created with extraordinary skill, care, and ingenuity.

This is the case everywhere we are in the world, if only we take the time to look. I remember, during my last year as an undergraduate at Durham realising just how sensational the buildings in particular around that city were, and how little time I had left to appreciate them – and so I began intentionally looking up and around me, whenever I was walking through its streets.

We can find wonderful creativity in all sorts of ways. It is to be found in a glorious floral arrangement, a beautifully tailored suit, a well-crafted piece of furniture, a captivating piece of music, a vibrant printed design, a magnificent classic car.

Churches can in particular be a treasure-trove of beauty. They will of course have their centrepieces – an eye-catching east window, an exquisite altar frontal, a skilfully carved font. But I am often all the more affected by finding parts of those buildings which are in the shadows, almost hidden away, and yet still bear the hallmarks of inspiration and dedication. If one looks up high into the walls or ceiling of a church or cathedral, one will more often than not find flashes of beauty there: tiny stained-glass windows, or carvings right up in the rafters, destined to be spotted only by those seeking them out. The fact that such beauty exists in mostly unseen corners speaks of why they were created at all: there was a desire on the part of their crafter to create something beautiful simply to give glory to God, irrespective of whether it would be noticed by many of the people who pass by.

This echoing of God's own wonderful, overflowing creativity is a natural response to the one who has created heaven and earth. The world in which we exist is breath-taking, and again, its wonder is to be found in everything from the showstoppers like sunsets, mountains, and wild animals, through to the minutiae of an individual leaf upon an oak tree. Everywhere one looks, God's glory in creation is to be found.

Amidst all of this wonderful creation, there is you: wonderfully created by God, who, in the words of Psalm 139, knit you together in your mother's womb; an entirely unique, wonderful creation, loved beyond measure by the one who made you.

Enjoy looking around the world at the things beautifully created by both humans and by God; and as you do, know that you are a wonderful, precious part of it.

With my best wishes and prayers, as always,

Peter

From the Parish Registers

Marriages: - *We send our love and congratulations to:*

26th April: Grace Craker and James Ward

Funerals: - *Rest in Peace:*

11th March: Elizabeth Joan Winslow, age 99, of Askett

16th April: Zadie Eastwood, age 92, of Eaves Court

23rd April: Ellen Spittles, age 93, of Chapel St Leonards

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 07906 180550 or at **cathy.farquhar@btinternet.com**.

A call by Friday evening would be appreciated.

St Dunstan's Pastoral Care

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

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

We are here for you.

For more information, please contact Angeline Vere on **01844 343006** or at **angeline.verere@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.verere@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 June Sunday

Seventh Sunday of Easter

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion

10.00 am All-Age Parish Eucharist

6.00 pm Evensong

5th June Thursday

9.30 am Holy Communion

8th June Sunday

Pentecost

9.00 am BCP Holy Communion (St Peter's Owlswick)

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

6.00 pm Evensong

12th June Thursday

9.30 am Holy Communion

15th June Sunday

Trinity Sunday

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

6.00 pm Evensong (St Dunstan's Hall)

19th June Thursday

9.30 am Holy Communion

22nd June Sunday

First Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

6.00 pm Evensong (St Peter's Owlswick)

26th June Thursday

9.30 am Holy Communion

29th June Sunday

Feast of St Peter & St Paul

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

6.00 pm Evensong (**St Peter's Owlswick**)

3rd July Thursday

9.30 am Holy Communion

6th July Sunday

Third Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion

10.00 am All-Age Parish Eucharist

6.00 pm Evensong

10th July Thursday

9.30 am Holy Communion

13th July Sunday

Fourth Sunday after Trinity

9.00 am BCP Holy Communion (St Peter's Owlswick)

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

6.00 pm Evensong

17th July Thursday

9.30 am Holy Communion

20th July Sunday

Fifth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

6.00 pm Evensong

24th July Thursday

9.30 am Holy Communion

27th July Sunday

Sixth Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

6.00 pm Evensong (**St Peter's Owlswick**)

31st July Thursday

9.30 am Holy Communion

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 20th June and 18th July. 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.vere@btinternet.com 01844 343006

Trip to St Alban's Cathedral



The trip will be on Thursday 24th July. It will include a tour of St Alban's Cathedral and Choral Evensong.

For further information contact Rosemary 344417.

Report on the Annual Vestry meeting and the APCM meeting in March 2025

The Annual Vestry meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) were held on 23rd March, with 36 parishioners present.

The Annual Vestry Meeting included Peter paying tribute to Paul Woodward-Court who, after serving five terms as a churchwarden, was stepping down from the role. Peter spoke of the great privilege and responsibility that is the lot of the churchwarden, especially during a global pandemic, and he described Paul's remarkable willingness to serve through such testing times. Paul's work both out of sight and as a presence at services has been immense, and on behalf of the congregation and the wider parish for his service, Peter presented him with a gift.

Sue Ingram and Christopher Trower were subsequently elected as churchwardens,

Business moved on to the APCM, at which various reports and the PCC's financial accounts were received. Simon Gray and Lucy Nott were elected as PCC members, and Charlie Fairall and Angeline Vere as Deanery Synod representatives. Peter expressed his gratitude to Jane Curry for her faithful representation on Deanery Synod and PCC. A special thank you and presentation was made to Jane Rogers in recognition of her stellar work in looking after St Peter's Chapel in Owlswick.

There are still copies of the annual reports available on the website, and Peter commented on the many, varied and precious aspects of the parish life that had been captured in these reports. This was echoed in comments from the Assistant Area Dean, Tim Harper, who congratulated the parish on the vibrancy of the community, the clergy for their excellence, and the school which has just undergone its SIAMS inspection. He also expressed gratitude for the timely payment of the parish share!

The meeting was a wonderful occasion to reflect on the privilege shared by us all to serve Christ in the many and varied ways that we do, and Peter urged us all to keep reflecting Christ's light and sharing His grace.

The first meeting of the new PCC will be in late May.

Lucy Nott

Secretary to the PCC

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:

12th June: We are having a talk on the history and healing properties of Aloe Vera. £2 includes refreshments.

26th July: Fellowship Garden Party. 1.30pm-5.00pm by the church hall.

All are welcome.

Details from Rosemary 344417.

Walking Group

Will be meeting as usual on the last Wednesday of each month.

Please note that for the next 2 months we will meet at Burton Lane lay-by for 9.15am in order to catch the 300 bus at 9.27am. Walks usually take no more than 2 hours, often finishing with coffee.

June: Bradenham

July: Hughenden valley

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

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.

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.

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

After our break over Lent and Easter we start up again on Wednesdays, the 18th June and the 16th of July. Please check the weekly 'News Sheet,' for confirmation and venues.

The first session will be on queries about the Christian Faith and Belief. It has always been an important part of Open House to give an opportunity to explore the more difficult aspects of Christianity. We don't promise answers but a willingness to be honest about the Christian Faith. Since our last meeting there have been many challenging aspects of world politics together with the election of a new Pope. These sessions have often led to some of our more interesting meetings.

In July we will be continuing our theme of 'How did Christianity Spread?' Each generation has to face up to different situations. At the start it faced bitter persecution but became established throughout the Roman Empire. A brief period of peace from persecution, but then facing up to divisions and heresy. Then invasions from Nomadic tribes, churches being destroyed and people being taken into slavery, together with the need to bring the message of Christ to these fierce tribes.

As we continue our journey from the Tudor period, there are new challenges to be faced with division, the enlightenment, the rise of science and philosophy and in our own era where Christianity is irrelevant to many in England.

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 June and 13th and 20th July.

The 10 O'clock Club will be closed during August, back on 14th September.

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

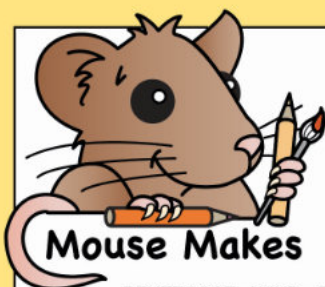
Bereavement Drop In

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



Mouse Makes

PENTECOST • WIND • FIRE
 HOLY • SPIRIT • TONGUES • RESTED
 JERUSALEM • JEWS • GALILEANS
 HEAR • LANGUAGE • ARAMAIC • GREEK
 HEBREW • PARTHIANS • MEDES
 ELAMITES • MESOPOTAMIA
 JUDEA • CAPPADOCIA • PONTUS
 ASIA • PHRYGIA • PAMPHYLIA
 EGYPT • LIBYA • CYRENE
 ROME • CRETANS
 ARABIANS • GOD



READ
 Acts
 2:1-41

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

It was fifty days since **Passover**, and Jews from many countries had come to **Jerusalem** to celebrate Passover. As the **Apostles** were gathered together the **Holy Spirit** came upon them and they began to speak in other **languages** as the Spirit enabled them.

The crowd that were listening were amazed as they heard about God in their own language.

How many people heard, believed and were baptised that day?

DID YOU KNOW?

The Bible or parts of the Bible have now been translated into over 3,000 different languages since it was first written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.

Cream Teas at St Dunstan's

Saturday 7th June

Sunday 8th June

2.30 pm - 4.30 pm

Saturday 14th June

Sunday 15th June

2.30 pm - 4.30 pm



The church will be open throughout the week for
Bucks Art Weeks at St Dunstan's



ST ANDREWS LITERATURE FESTIVAL 2025



13th - 14th June 2025, Great Missenden, Bucks

20+ authors, workshops, art exhibition

Celebrating the best of Christian Literature

WWW.STALITFEST.CO.UK

Recycling Greetings Cards: An Update



Once again, thank you so much to all those who have supported this venture, raising much needed funds for St Dunstan's Church, either by donating old cards or buying recycled ones, or both!

In just under three months, since I started making them, together we have raised just over £300! A great achievement. I'm always happy to receive old cards and they can either be left in the box in the church porch or, if it is easier, brought to our house at 9 Westmead.

The cards are selling for a donation of a £1 each, or more if you think they are worth it. They are available on Sundays, especially after the Services at St Dunstan's and there is now at least one box of assorted cards in church during the week. So please do pop in and have a look.

Canon Rob



Lighthouse Quiz Night

Saturday 14th June 2025

St. Mary's Church, Princes Risborough

prompt 7:30 pm start, cost £5,

Teams of up to 8 people,

Raffle and Heads & Tails Game.

Bring your own Drinks and Nibbles.

No Red Wine as it stains the floor.

Prizes for the winning team.

**To book a table, please contact Jamie Carter on
01844 273286 (booking essential).**

**If you would like to come and are not part of a team,
please contact Jamie and you can be sorted into one.**

Offers of raffle prizes appreciated.

Please contact Jamie if you would like to donate one.

**Please bring cash on the night as we will not have any
other payment facilities. Thank you.**

Owlswick Speaker Evenings



Sociable, informative, short evening talks: Owlswick Speaker Evenings comprise a short series of talks on subjects of interest to local people, held in St Peter's Chapel in Owlswick. All welcome.

All About Mosaics

Wednesday 18th June given by mosaicist and Owlswick resident Roz Wates.

Roz will give an illustrated talk on mosaics: a brief history of the medium along with stories from a varied mosaic career.

40 years as a Film & Television Archivist

Wednesday 16th July given by Charlie Fairall from Monks Risborough.

A technologist by profession, former BFI Head of Conservation Charlie Fairall will share highlights and challenges from a working life spent dedicated to a very special aspect of film and television.

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

Entry is by donation, and any surplus goes towards the chapel repairs.

Wine, soft drinks & nibbles will be provided.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Jane Rogers: jane.rogers.owlswick@outlook.com

Roz Wates: roz@rosalindwates.co.uk (tel. 01844 274417)

The Church Hall

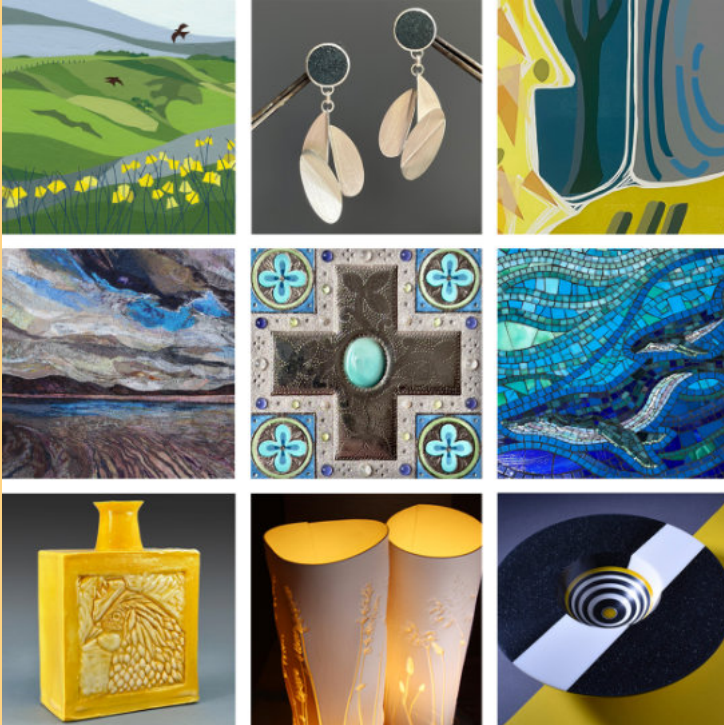
The fully equipped hall is available for church and associated events.

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.



BUCKS ART WEEKS AT ST DUNSTAN'S



An exhibition showcasing a group of established artists and makers in beautiful, medieval St Dunstan's Church, Monks Risborough.

Nine artists and makers showing paintings, print-making, illuminations, textile art, paper sculpture, turned vessels, ceramics, mosaics and jewellery.

For photos and more info, see www.artatstdunstans.blogspot.com

Home-baked cakes and drinks on offer throughout the show. On Saturday and Sunday afternoons, the church serves cream teas.

**Art at St Dunstan's is open Saturday 7 - Sunday 15 June
Saturdays and w/days 10 - 4, Sundays 12 - 4.**

St Dunstan's Church, Burton Lane, off Mill Lane, Monks Risborough,
BUCKS HP27 9JE. **Please park on Mill Lane.**

DIARY DATES FOR JUNE AND JULY

June

- 4th Women's Institute - Whitecross Hall 1.45 pm (Page 27)
- 7th-15th Bucks Arts Weeks - St Dunstan's (Page 17)
- 12th Fellowship Group - Church Hall 10.15 am (Page 10)
- 13th-14th St Andrews Literature Festival - Great Missenden (Page 14)
- 14th Lighthouse Quiz - St Mary's 7.30pm (Page 15)
- 18th Friendship Group - Church Hall 2.00 pm (Page 11)
- 18th MR Horticultural Society - Whites' House 7.00 pm (Page 27)
- 18th Owlswick Speaker Evening - St Peter's 7.30 pm (Page 16)
- 18th Open House - TBA (Page 11)
- 20th Parish Prayer Group - Church Hall 9.00 am (Page 7)
- 25th Walking Group - Burton Lane 9.15 am (Page 10)
- 26th Knitting Group - Church Hall 2.00 pm (Page 10)

July

- 2nd Women's Institute - Whitecross Hall 1.45 pm (Page 27)
- 16th Friendship Group - Church Hall 2.00 pm (Page 11)
- 16th Owlswick Speaker Evening - St Peter's 7.30 pm (Page 16)
- 16th Open House - TBA (Page 11)
- 18th Parish Prayer Group - Church Hall 9.00 am (Page 7)
- 24th St Albans Trip - TBA (Page 7)
- 24th Knitting Group - Church Hall 2.00 pm (Page 10)
- 26th Fellowship Group - By Church Hall 1.30 pm (Page 10)
- 30th Walking Group - Burton Lane 9.15 am (Page 10)



"Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are."

John Wooden

Newsletter Appeal

The time has come round again for us to ask for your most welcome donations. These help Church funds and cover the gap between the income from advertisements and the cost of producing enough copies of the Newsletter to fulfil the PCC's wish for each household in the parish to receive one.

In an endeavour to increase the value of the donations, we encourage tax payers to 'Gift-Aid' their donations. Please note that there is a blue 'Gift-Aid' envelope included in a white envelope.

The envelopes - duly completed with the donor's address if you wish to 'Gift Aid' - can either be put in the collection in Church, or sent direct to the Rectory. If you post the envelope to the Rectory, PLEASE put on a stamp as the PO admin charge of £1 plus the postage for unstamped letters is very expensive! Alternatively, Anne White would be happy to receive donation envelopes through her letter box at 31 Place Farm Way. Please make cheques payable to 'Monks Risborough PCC'.

By 'Gift Aiding' donations this should increase the total value of donations significantly as our treasurer can currently claim a further 25% of the amount of any donation 'Gift Aided' back from the tax authorities.

Thank you for your support.

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

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 27th July 2025

Who do you think we are?

Here is the second in a series where members of our church and congregation reveal a little bit about their lives. Revd. Michael Hunt tells how he came to be part of our family.



At St. Dunstan's, as well as our Dynamic Duo Peter and Sally, we are blessed with a marvellous group of retired clergy who help and support our full-time teams throughout the parishes. We are accustomed to them arriving, taking a service and then popping out again, in the process adding to the richness of our worship.

But Michael isn't retired so he's not one of those... Nor is he our Associate minister – that's Sally. So my first question is 'What are you doing here?'

'Technically I'm licensed to the Risborough team as a self-supporting minister with a working agreement to help out at St. Dunstan's. I'm also currently assisting Ellesborough and Little and Great Kimble during their interregnum.'

A familiar and regular presence, he brings yet another dimension to our church experience. But his journey to us has not been a simple one.

Michael studied economics at Southampton University and his first job was as an accountant with Hampshire County Council. He married in 1986, and worked for a major private accountancy firm and then a couple of local authorities, before becoming Director of Finance at Warwick District Council. He and his wife Jo had two daughters, and in 1995 moved to Aylesbury, where their third daughter was born. In 2002 he became Finance Director at Chiltern Leisure.

Jo became pregnant, but then, in 2003, just weeks after their son was born, she died.

‘Everything changed. I was a widower, on my own with four children – one just eight weeks old, and I needed to be with them, so I concentrated on that and decided not to continue with full-time work.

‘During that period I started reading a lot of theology, and it was making sense to me. I’d been brought up a Methodist but changed to Anglican after university, and one way and another I’d had many different roles within quite a lot of churches, including treasurer, church council member and so on. I started wondering – should I go the whole way and be ordained? It felt right.’

In 2006 he met Margaret, also a widow, who had two children. ‘Things took a turn. We married in 2007, and moved to Princes Risborough because it’s on the bus route!’

Michael began the long process of taking a distanced degree at Ripon Theological College in Cuddesdon, while beginning work again, this time at Bucks Community Action – now Community Impact Bucks, which provides professional advice to local charities.

‘I balanced work with my studies and my family life. Stepfamilies can be difficult, some say, but then, families are rarely simple and you need to focus on them. I originally planned to become a stipendiary vicar, but over time I decided I would be a self-supporting one instead.’

He became curate at St. Mary’s and St. Michael’s, Wendover and Halton from 2012 to 2016, when he also took a new job as Bursar of Ripon College. He was still working there when he joined the Risborough Team, first at St. Mary’s and then at St. Dunstan’s.

‘But by 2023 I knew that from a career point of view it was time for a change. I had spent so much of my time *managing* people, and I didn’t want to do it any more. Things come to an end. So two years ago I took a back seat, and am now just a part-time advisor at Ripon.

‘I’ve had a somewhat peripatetic ministry in recent years, but it is right for me. I enjoy in particular getting to know and sharing the worshipping lives of different communities. I realise that it involves being more absent than present, but it is a privilege to be with individuals and communities through the ups and downs of life, sharing worship, seeing where and how God is at work giving hope and joy.

‘Our daughters have flown the nest now, though our son is still at school. We like living in Princes Risborough, and I enjoy running, gardening and walking with the dog - especially in the Children Hills.

‘And it’s not the end of the road. I’m still open to things. Who knows what comes next?’

As told to Jackie Highe

Louis and Pablo

Pablo Picasso consumed other artists' works voraciously, transforming them into his own reinvented masterpieces. He had long admired the Le Nain brothers' peasant paintings which had played their part in inspiring his disaffected Blue Period of around 1901-5; so when in 1919 a version of this painting was for sale, he snapped it up. Manet, Cézanne and Van Gogh were all earlier Le Nain admirers.

The three Le Nain brothers were Louis and Antoine, now thought to have been born around 1598-1602, who died in the same week in 1648; and Mathieu, 1607-77. They shared a studio in Paris from 1630, often collaborating and making near-replicas of their own works.

As in so much of Picasso's Blue Period art, Le Nain's painting looks like a study in alienation and dysfunction. No-one moves or interacts. The muted tones are a subtle variety of blues and browns against a pallid schematic background as far removed as possible from the idealised Italianate landscapes of his famous contemporaries, Claude (1600-82) and Poussin (1593/4-1665). The figures are definitely not, like theirs, from classical myth or the Bible; yet they have a similar poise and the picture is large-scale like an academic painting.

Although probably a family, each member is isolated. With his too-small horse, the man looks out lugubriously under a gloomy cloud, his gaze and three-quarter view echoed by his dog's. Even its brown spot is like the hole in its master's cloak. He is dressed warmly although his cloak is torn, but whereas he wears shoes with leather gaiters, his family go barefoot. He can feed his animals but his sons are in rags.

The older boy plays a pipe, turning his back on his ragamuffin brother, ignoring the small hand on his shoulder. The younger child stands in his brother's shadow, less sharply defined than his family. He alone is bare-headed and he looks smudged and out-of-focus. He was painted over a small child in a chair and he still looks like an unresolved addition, conceivably painted by Antoine or Mathieu.

The woman looks bonny and adequately dressed, posing apart and smiling incongruously, with a finely-painted copper pot on her head, its tones reflected in the boys' pale rags. The parents are like dark bookends. She is close enough to her son to hold his hand, but neither reaches for the other. The narrow channel of space between them creates a tension which heightens the sense of disconnection. The wider gap between father and sons is even more unbridgeable.

The picture is like two separate halves, containing three beings each, linked by three faceless sheep; but if they were severed the unease would disappear and there would just be two attractive paintings. The spaces make it unsettling. It is a bleak picture with an enigmatic unreality, as if they are posing as peasants for a *tableau vivant* on a stage.

It is a mystery how the anti-classical Le Nain brothers were so successful when art was officially controlled during the reigns of Louis XIII (1610-43) and Louis XIV (1643-1715). Even more surprising is that they were all founder members of the Académie Royale in 1648, which favoured floridly ornate Baroque allegories.

Perhaps paintings of cavorting gods and goddesses made some patrons want the simple and unpretentious. For Picasso, these peasants posed questions which he answered by reinventing art.



The Resting Horseman 54.6x67.3 cm 1640s
Louis Le Nain c.1598-1648
Victoria and Albert Museum



Manet (1832-83) *The Old Musician* 1862
National Gallery Washington



Picasso (1881-1973) *Les Saltimbanques* 1905
National Gallery Washington

Susanne Carr

Chiltern Society



Summer events 2025

Private Visit to Dorneywood

Thursday 26 June 2-4.30pm

Burnham SL1 8PY

£40 pp

Join us on this private visit to the country residence of a senior member of government, currently the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The 18th century house, originally a Georgian farmhouse with Victorian and later additions, is decorated and furnished in the style of the 1930s and 1940s, and includes notable works of art. The visit offers the chance to see the four ground floor rooms of the house, where volunteer guides will provide you with information and answer any questions. You'll also have the chance to stroll around the 1930s-style garden with its herbaceous borders, cottage garden and lily pond. Tea and cake will be available to enjoy at your leisure during your visit.

Glow in the Dark

Saturday 12 July 9.45-11pm

Brush Hill, Princes Risborough HP27 ORP

£7.50 pp (children free)

If you haven't seen glow worms before, come along and witness this magical display of nature's very own fairy lights and learn all about their fascinating existence with expert John Tyler.

HS2 Across the Chilterns-10th Update (online presentation and discussion)

Saturday 12 July 10.30-12pm

FREE

Construction of HS2 across much of the Chilterns will soon be finished. Work beyond Great Missenden will continue for some time, with no date set for completion of the Wendover green tunnel. Using a mixture of maps, pictures, visualisations and, most importantly, aerial photographs, this talk will show the impact at several locations across both the Colne Valley Regional Park and the Chilterns. The talk will last approximately 60 minutes, with plenty of time for questions and discussion. This is the latest in a highly successful series of updates which will regularly show the impact as construction continues.

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

Update May 2025

With the arrival of a spell of lovely weather our clients are able to enjoy some outdoor activities. There have been visits to Widmer Feeds to see the goats and alpacas, a trip to Aylesbury on the train for lunch, returning home by bus, and a number of local walks, as well as activities in the garden.

There continues to be a large range of activities at the Princes Centre. Some encourage mobility such as boules, corn hole, a bean bag game, cardio drumming, dancing to music, exercising the lungs with singing, or even just getting up to pat a visiting pet dog. Others encourage communication, friendships, independence and mental stimulation.

In the cooking sessions, clients have been making quiches and flapjacks, to name a few. Some like to play scrabble, Rummikub or dominoes. Pottery is always a favourite and there is plenty of craft work making Easter bonnets, photo frames, Easter decorations, painting, knitting, having a go at jigsaw puzzles etc. with a drink of sherry thrown in at times. At other times the clients enjoy listening to music and one of our clients gave a performance on the piano one afternoon. For clients who are housebound or live in remote areas where they have little contact with other people, the Princes Centre is a great place to socialise and make friends with others. We serve wonderful meals too.

If you would like to support the Princes Centre 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 on 01628 527024.

Maggie Wooster Keyte

Are bananas really good for you?

On the one hand, bananas offer good things. They count as one of your five a day, carry only about 90 calories, and are packed with the essential mineral potassium (good in lowering blood pressure.) But they are not perfect...

So, here are some pros and cons of bananas:

Pro: High in potassium, good for heart health, lowers blood pressure, has Vitamin C, helps digestion, provides energy, full of fibre, cholesterol-free.

Cons: Can raise potassium levels too much (avoid them if you have kidney disease), can lead to wind and bloating, cause blood sugar spikes, weight gain, and disrupt sleep.

Overall, experts recommend eating no more than two bananas a day.

Monks Risborough CofE Primary School

Year 2 Visit to Whipsnade Zoo

First, we got on a coach and finally we got there. Then we spent time looking for the Africa bit with lions and meerkats. Next, we finally found the African part and there were giraffes and lions. After we ate our lunch. Finally, we saw the butterflies, one of the butterflies fell upside down and went on Emelia's shoulder.

by Ada

First we got on the coach. On the coach after a while I was getting sleepy already. When we arrived at the zoo we tried to get to the lions first. Then we saw the meerkat. They were the cutest things I have ever seen. They were all scampering about like cute puppies. Next we had lunch and people kept dropping the food! Then we went to see the hippos. They kept sticking their bottoms out at us! After that we went to see the cheetahs. We only saw one. Finally we went to the butterfly room. It was too hot.

By Florence

Mini Marathon

We ran a mini marathon on Friday 2nd May because the week before 20,000 people ran the London Marathon. The charity we chose was Cancer Research UK to raise money for research. We had to run 8 laps of our school which was 2 miles! I found it hard (Rowan) as it was very tiring. I found it alright because I did a mixture of walking and running (Harry). The little ones seemed to cope well as it is a long way for them but they were smiling. Everyone who completed the mini marathon got a custom-made badge with a person running on it and mini marathon at the bottom.

By Harry & Rowan Yr 6

Father's Day - what we most value in our fathers

Father's Day is 15th June - a day to honour and appreciate our fathers and father figures, such as grandfathers and fathers-in-law. Many of us will make a special effort to see them on the day.

No two fathers are alike, of course, but various polls across the internet reveal some interesting similarities of what people have most valued in their dad.

These traits include: being dependable, approachable, protective, patient, affectionate, honest, willing to listen, compassionate, and having spent time with them when they were young.

That's quite a list! People whose fathers had even some of those strengths have a lot to be thankful for.

Thankfully, our Father in Heaven certainly has all those traits. Jesus said the Father is totally dependable and protective of us, longs for us to turn to Him, and is full of compassion and love. And we are to call Him 'Abba' – Daddy!

Monks Risborough Horticultural Society

Future Meetings

Wednesday 18th June: Visit to Mick and Anne White's garden, 31 Place Farm Way. 7.00 pm onwards.

July: No meeting as preparing for Annual Show.

Saturday 2nd August: A great Parish event. See MRHS website for full details

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.

On **4th June**, our speaker is Marcelle Siddall and her subject is 'Way of life in rural South Africa'.

The following month we meet on **2nd July**. The subject is 'Arnold Bax; Master of the King's Music and his Mistresses!' given by Mr C Oakes. I can't imagine what the link is – should be very interesting to find out!

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 Area Heritage Society

The society is closed for the summer and reopens on Wednesday 3rd September. But there will be a local history display in the Literary Institute on the main Saturday of the town festival week and hopefully some form of stand at the Monks Risborough Horticultural show.

Ladies' Breakfast

There is a Ladies Breakfast on Saturday 5th July in St Mary's Hall at 9.00 am. Our speaker is Kay Watters, a retired priest who has worked in this country and Cyprus. She calls it "Expect the Unexpected". All ladies and friends are welcome. Please book your place by contacting Rose Williams on 01844 274225 or email rosewilliamsgp@yahoo.co.uk.

Open Farm Sunday – 17th June



Do you have any farms near to where you live? Then this month, they might just provide you with an interesting day out!

For June brings Open Farm Sunday, which can be a “fabulous opportunity for the public to discover the crucial work farmers do in producing food, nurturing nature, and protecting the environment for future generations.”

So says the website, **www.farmsunday.org**. And on the day, nearly 200 farms throughout the country will be welcoming the public to come and see their farms.

From Inverness to Cornwall, about 170 farms will be putting on guided tours, self-guided walking routes and static displays as part of the event. Visitors will be able to take part in a national pollinators survey. This will involve standing near a crop area for five minutes to count pollinating insects before doing a comparative count in a different habitat.

The day is organised by the group Linking Environment And Farming (LEAF).

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