

Parish of Monks Risborough

# *Newsletter*



St Dunstan's Church      St Peter's Chapel

August 2025 - September 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 Sally 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 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 pm Evensong	<b>4th Sunday in month</b>

## 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](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 Sally Prendergast writes:

I achieved something delightful and astonishing recently. I made over 3471 people laugh - and counting, as I type!

I posted something really trivial on social media, and it clearly hit the spot; not only did thousands of people take the time to read my post, but almost 2000 of them decided to comment beneath it.

What extraordinary subject matter was I tackling?

Fish finger butties (I told you it was trivial)!

My husband Patrick wanted one for lunch, and to my horror he refused ketchup and opted for mayonnaise - with butter. He then cut it on a skewed diagonal! We joked and laughed about it as we pottered in the kitchen together.

Seeing the entertainment value of the situation, I took to Facebook to share our lunchtime banter in the 'Dull Men's Club' (open to others). The string of comments grew and grew, with endless opinions about the choice of sauce, bread (brown or white, toasted or untoasted), the direction of cut, and choice of additions such as cheese, vinegar, lettuce, and tartare sauce. We had a good giggle reading through the comments, mostly from people who clearly understood our banter and embraced the silliness.

The following morning, the comments had exploded as America had caught up with the fun overnight. They knew nothing about the tradition of the Great British fish finger, and had no concept of a butty, and translation was required.

This world is full of distress, tragedy and conflict, and we need to hone our coping skills to deal with it all. I firmly believe that God gave us the gift of laughter to break into our hearts, not because we should turn a blind eye and stop caring about the sadness of the world, but because we need to rest from it periodically.

Laughter is healing; it boosts our immune system, reduces stress hormones, relaxes us, reduces pain, and can prevent illness. It boosts our mood and if it's a shared experience, it improves social bonds and enhances relationships. There's plenty of humour in the Bible - my favourite is the time Paul preached late into the night until a young man called Eutychus dozed off on a windowsill and fell three storeys to the ground - he died but was resurrected (Acts 20). Then there's the account of Balaam's talking donkey (Numbers 22)!

Yes, there's comfort to be found in the familiar (ketchup, white bread, cut straight across middle with two fish fingers on each side, obviously) but there's also much to gain from experimenting and approaching things afresh. We need to feed our minds as much as our bodies, to explore, be curious and playful, and to have fun doing so, in order to have the resilience, strength and patience to step out and make the world a kinder, more peaceful place.

With blessings for joy, peace, and room for laughter -

**Sally**

# From the Parish Registers

## **Funeral: - *Rest in Peace:***

28th May: Sarah (Sally) Mortimer, age 92, of Princes Risborough

## **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.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 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.

3 <sup>rd</sup> August	Sunday	<b>Seventh Sunday after Trinity</b> 8.00 am BCP Holy Communion 10.00 am All-Age Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong
7 <sup>th</sup> August	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
10 <sup>th</sup> August	Sunday	<b>Eighth Sunday after Trinity</b> 9.00 am BCP Holy Communion (St Peter's Owlswick) 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong
14 <sup>th</sup> August	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
17 <sup>th</sup> August	Sunday	<b>Ninth Sunday after Easter</b> 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong
21 <sup>st</sup> August	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
24 <sup>th</sup> August	Sunday	<b>Feast of St Bartholomew</b> 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong (St Peter's Owlswick)
28 <sup>th</sup> August	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
31 <sup>st</sup> August	Sunday	<b>Eleventh Sunday after Trinity</b> 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong
4 <sup>th</sup> September	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
7 <sup>th</sup> September	Sunday	<b>Twelfth Sunday after Trinity</b> 8.00 am BCP Holy Communion 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong
11 <sup>th</sup> September	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
14 <sup>th</sup> September	Sunday	<b>Holy Cross Day</b> 9.00 am BCP Holy Communion (St Peter's Owlswick) 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong
18 <sup>th</sup> September	Thursday	9.30 am Said Holy Communion
21 <sup>st</sup> September	Sunday	<b>Feast of St Matthew</b> 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong
25 <sup>th</sup> September	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
28 <sup>th</sup> September	Sunday	<b>Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity</b> 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong (St Peter's Owlswick)

## 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. There is no meeting in August and the September date is Friday 19th September at 9.00 a.m. in the Church Hall. 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

## Monks Risborough Church of England Primary School

### Vacancy for a School Governor

One of our governors stepped down at the end of this last term, so we are now keen to recruit a new member of our governing body to start at the beginning of the next academic year in September.

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, 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, chair of governors, on 07973 300758 or at **[jcurry@monks.org.uk](mailto:jcurry@monks.org.uk)**.

# Whitechapel Mission

## Supporting homeless men and women in London

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

Each year clothing, tinned and dry food, and toiletries are donated to the Mission from St Dunstan's following our Harvest Festival, which will be on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October this year.

Donations may be left in church from Sunday 7th September - the most urgent requirements will be publicised from the end of August. Further details about work done by the Mission, and its needs, can be found at <https://whitechapel.org.uk/>.

Before 7th September, contributions can be accepted – by prior arrangement only – by David Kemp (01844 344097).

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

**Simon Gray (simongray0@gmail.com)**

You can see what Whitechapel Mission's current needs are by scanning the QR code below.



## ActionAid

As a church we support Adam, a 7 year old boy living in Northern Malawi, through ActionAid. I have not received any information from ActionAid recently. We promise to send £180 per year. So far this year I have received £135. 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 of the PCC Meeting on 27th May 2025

The new PCC met for the first time on 27<sup>th</sup> May, a slightly smaller gathering due to some Half Term absentees. At each meeting, members of the PCC consider a safeguarding scenario, and discuss some actions that should be taken. Safeguarding is not just the responsibility of our Safeguarding Officer. Indeed, as charitable trustees, all members of the PCC must ensure that safeguarding requirements are complied with, so this type of exercise is very useful. It was noted that there is a new nationwide statutory requirement for all bell ringers to do some basic safeguarding awareness training.

A couple of topics under discussion regarding the fabric of the church were the church alarm and internet connection in the church. No final decisions were made, but some members of the PCC have been tasked to explore various options.

Following a detailed report and presentation on the St Dunstan's church organ to the PCC in August 2024, a shortlist of options was produced. Subsequent further investigation has enabled the Organ Working Group to recommend a preferred solution, and supplier for the project. The PCC was asked to review this proposal and confirm the planned next steps. Following some discussion of the timings, costs, and practical implications, the PCC agreed that the Organ Working Group should seek a detailed final proposal from a hybrid organ supplier. Further details of this will be shared in due course.

There are many varied and wonderful events coming up in the church calendar, and at the time of writing this report, the annual Bucks Art Week has just come to a close. All these events could not happen without the willingness, time and generosity of those who run them, and a particular word of thanks should go to the Events team. Speaker evenings at Owlswick are also a wonderful opportunity to hear members of the community talk about particular interests or skills.

The condition of Rev'd Peter Godden's cassock might not have gone unnoticed – fraying hems, missing buttons – and the PCC agreed to fund a new cassock, which we look forward to seeing on his return from his sabbatical.

Finally, the cleaning of the church was discussed. If anyone would consider volunteering for an hour or two on a regular basis, please speak to the churchwardens.

**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:**

We are taking a break in August, and will meet again on 11th September, which will be a Book Club morning. Come along for/with some recommendations and a chance to dip into our Bookswap Basket.

10.15 in the Church Hall. £2 to cover costs.

Details from Rosemary 344417.

# Walking Group

We will meet as usual on the last Wednesday of each month.

Please note again that for August and September we will continue to meet at Burton Lane at the earlier time of 9.15am in order to catch the 300 bus at 9.27 am.

Our walking usually takes no more than 2 hours, often finishing with coffee.

August: Hughenden.

September: Naphill.

Please contact Mick & Anne White(01844 346536) if more information 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 2.30 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.

## **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**

We meet once a month on a Wednesday evening. Please see the weekly eNews for dates and venues.

Ted and Mary Kent

## **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.

Rev'd 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 Rev'd Sally Prendergast on 07876 515098, or at [revsallyp@gmail.com](mailto:revsallyp@gmail.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 10 O'clock Club will be closed during August and will be back on 14th September and 28th September.

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:

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



## Mouse Makes



Just as the different parts  
of our body need each  
other to make a **whole**,  
living person so  
Christians need each  
other to make a  
whole living church!



"Just as a **body**, though **one**, has **many** parts,  
but all its many **parts** form one body,  
so it is with **Christ**. For we were all baptised  
by one **Spirit** so as to form one body...  
Even so, the body is not made  
up of one part but of many...

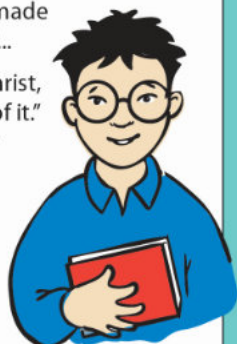
...Now you are the body of Christ,  
and **each** one of you is part of it."

from 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

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

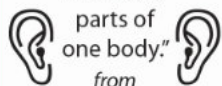
Look in the Bible verses for the words written in **bold**  
then look for these words too!

GOD • TOGETHER • EQUAL • ALL • EVERY  
HEAD • EYES • EARS • MOUTH • TONGUE  
TEETH • NOSE • ARMS • HANDS • FINGERS  
LEGS • KNEES • FEET • TOES • GIFTS



"Though we are  
many, we are one  
body in **union**  
with Christ,  
and we are  
**joined** to each  
other as  
**different**  
parts of  
one body."

from  
Romans 12:1-7



# A wake up call to the world

By The Rt Hon Baroness Theresa May of Maidenhead

If you stop to ask anyone in the street about slavery they would probably tell you it was abolished hundreds of years ago. After all, in the UK the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act of 1807 made it illegal to trade in enslaved people across the British Empire and in 1833 the Abolition of Slavery Act ended the use of enslaved labour.

More than that, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted in December 1948 states clearly that *'No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms'*. Yet today it is estimated that there are 50 million people in slavery of one form or another around the world. It is happening in every country including the UK. All too often it is hidden in plain sight.

We may speak of victims and survivors, but these are not just victims and survivors, they are individuals. Each one of them has a personality and hopes and dreams which have been cruelly shattered by those who make a profit from them. The slave drivers and traffickers buy and sell people as commodities, whose only value is in the profit they generate.

Scooped up from towns and villages to satisfy the personal or commercial interests of the slave drivers, their freedom is cruelly torn from them; they are deprived of their dignity, dehumanised and thrust into a life of misery.

Sadly, vulnerability to modern slavery and human trafficking is increasing. Climate change, conflict, migration and poverty lead to vulnerability to being taken into slavery and/or trafficked into exploitation.

This is a moral stain on our humanity. Modern slavery and human trafficking is the greatest human rights issue of our time. If we are going to end this degrading and inhumane activity, to give people back their freedom and the right to make choices over their own lives we need to act and we need to act now.

After I stepped down from No 10, I worked to establish the Global Commission on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking which I Chair. On 8 April at the headquarters of the United Nations (UN) in New York we launched our report with recommendations to the UN, governments, businesses and civil society organisations. The report can be found on the Commission's website

**<https://www.modernslaverycommission.org>**

This report is a wake-up call to the world. It challenges governments, businesses and civil society to recognise the prevalence of modern slavery and human trafficking and to understand their responsibility to act. We can reduce the number of people in slavery around the world, but to do so we must all play our part, including the public. The report is a Call to Action to us all.





# The Chandos Ensemble

Leader: Linda Miller Conductor: Patrick Garrett  
present

## Music for String Orchestra

featuring great music from the  
Baroque and Romantic eras

### St Dunstan's Church Monks Risborough

Saturday 13th September 7.30 pm

The programme will include

Charles Avison : Concerto Grosso in G major

J.S.Bach : Violin Concerto no 3 In E major  
( Violin Soloist : Marion Garrett)

Antonin Dvorak : Serenade in E major for Strings

Giocomo Puccini : " Crisantemi "

Complimentary glass of wine/soft drink

Tickets on sale from 1st August

Adults £12- accompanied children (under 18) £3  
available from Jo Wade in church or 01844 346321  
or Days to Remember in PR High Street (cash only)  
or [www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-dunstans-church](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-dunstans-church)

Prize Raffle

*Jamadar*

# **Monks Risborough C of E School**

## **Zero Waste Lunch Day - Thursday 3th July**

The Eco Team are delighted to announce that our Waste Free Lunch Day at school was a roaring success! We reduced our waste from packaging by over A QUARTER!

During worship today, the Eco Team shared the results and were delighted to show the effect of our community efforts. We hope to make this a more regular feature of our school year.

Thank you for all your support with our Zero Waste Day!

### **The Eco Team**

## **Year 4 - Visit to Verulamium Museum**

We visited the Verulamium Museum on Tuesday 3rd June 2025. WE went there to gain a better understanding and to look around the museum. It was a 45 minute drive.

When we arrived we got out of the coach and headed into the museum, we went downstairs to put our bags away. After we watched a video about the history of Verulamium. After we explored the museum, we also looked at a mummified frog. Suddenly it was our time for us to handle some actual Roman artefacts but some of them were replicas. Then we had lunch.

After lunch we had a short walk to the Hypocaust and looked at it, it had a mosaic over the underfloor heating system.

I would rate the visit 4/5 stars because I would have liked to see more artefacts.

**by Josie**

## **Year 6 - Visit to Waddesdon**

At Waddesdon we went orienteering and did map making. The journey took about half an hour. When we arrived we ate and drank then started orienteering. The orienteering was around the entire Waddesdon grounds and took a long time to complete. After that we travelled to the front lawn near the Manor and ate our lunch. Afterwards we went to one of the gardens and made maps, we separated into groups and were given a ribbon to hide and mark on your teams map. We swapped maps and attempted to find the ribbons. When we finished that, we made our way back to the coach and came back to school.

by Austin Year 6

## **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

## The Rotary Club of Princes Risborough

The end of June marks the end of the Rotary Year, which involves a change of President and the Club Council.

Canon Tony Bundock, of St John's Lacey Green, is now presiding, and will be working to keep our lively members on the straight and narrow, whilst still caring for his parishioners and a busy parish. He has our full support, our thanks and good luck wishes.



The past 12 months have been exciting for a number of reasons: we have seen our numbers continue to grow, with an additional 6 new members and a further 4 in the "pipeline"; we have raised a record of over £40,000 through such events as Race Nights, Farmers' Markets, Street Collections and our Rotary Ramble, etc. Much of this has already been donated to over 32 organisations, schools and individuals, the vast majority being local. We are holding the Ramble again this year, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July in Wades Park, Princes Risborough, with an emphasis on something for the local community, including a Chocolate Hunt, "Tea in a Tent", and a Barbeque, etc. There is a choice of walks from 6 and 12 miles, and a family walk of 3 miles. For more details go to **[www.prrr.uk](http://www.prrr.uk)**.

Our lunch on the 7th June for those over 75 in the town who live alone was a great success, and plans are already being worked on for our Christmas dinner for the same group. Another success was our Farmers' Market on 21st June, which focused on "Blood Bikes". Readers of previous articles will recall that our Club comprises a group of lively, fun-loving men and women focused on giving back to the community whilst having a good time. If you want to be part of this, and are considering joining us, visit our website and come to one of our Monday evening meetings at the Whiteleaf Golf Club to see if it might interest you. Also, if you know of causes that would benefit from our support, or you would like to donate to our Charity, please use the contact details below.

You can contact us at: **[rcpr.org.uk](http://rcpr.org.uk)** or call David White on 07787 750889, or email: **[david@dhwhite.plus.com](mailto:david@dhwhite.plus.com)**

## DIARY DATES FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

### *August*

- 6th Women's Institute - Whitecross Hall 1.45 pm (Page 28)
- 27th Walking Group - Burton Lane 9.15 am (Page 10)
- 28th Knitting Group - Church Hall 2.00 pm (Page 10)

### *September*

- 3rd Women's Institute - Whitecross Hall 1.45 pm (Page 28)
- 3rd PR Heritage Society - Wades Centre 7.30pm (Page 28)
- 11th Fellowship Group - Church Hall 10.15 am (Page 10)
- 13th Ride and Stride - Various Churches 10.00 am (Page 19)
- 13th Chandos Concert - St Dunstan's 7.30 pm (Page 15)
- 17th Friendship Group - Church Hall 2.30 pm (Page 11)
- 17th MR Horticultural Group - Church Hall 7.30 pm (Page 28)
- 19th Parish Prayer Group - Church Hall 9.00 am (Page 7)
- 24th Walking Group - Burton Lane 9.15 am (Page 10)
- 25th Knitting Group - Church Hall 2.00 pm (Page 10)



## **Plant Pots for the Advent Bulb Stall**

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

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

Christopher & Wendy Trower email: [trowerchristopher@hotmail.com](mailto:trowerchristopher@hotmail.com) or phone: 0782 777 2948.

## SPONSORED "RIDE & STRIDE"



Bicycle Ride, Horse Ride and Walk

will take place on

**SATURDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2025**

10.00 am - 6.00 pm

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

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

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

Sponsor forms and list of participating churches  
can be obtained from

Rosemary Woodward-Court 01844 344417

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

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

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***The next Newsletter will be issued from 28th September 2025***

# What Goes Around Comes Around

Many of we baby boomers, born in the late nineteen forties and early fifties, have grandchildren, who regularly tell us about the latest initiative to save the planet. But do we have much to learn from these Greta Thunberg wannabees? Apparently not much, as we have seen most of it before.

For instance, take reuse and recycling. Milk was always delivered in bottles. No single use plastic jugs or Tetrapak cartons for us. These bottles were collected by the milkman and reused an average of thirty times before being crushed and recycled. Bottles for beer and soft drinks carried deposits and were always returned to the supplier for reuse. Newspaper recycling is nothing new either, and the Scouts raised funds by collecting large quantities of newsprint and selling it directly to the recyclers. Even jam jars were reusable. My junior school made an annual spring jam jar collection and we boys walked miles collecting jars, which were then sold back to the manufacturers for washing and reuse. It would have been no use trying to do this in autumn however, as many households used the jars for homemade jam made from foraged fruit. The rag and bone man, often using a horse drawn cart, collected scrap metal and old clothes. The metal was melted for scrap and the clothes sorted into reusable items, cotton and woollen rags. Cotton was processed for paper making, thus reducing our dependence on imported wood chips. Wool was either re-spun into yarn for reweaving or made into wadding for the furniture industry. The car industry today makes a fuss about the recyclability of its products, but car parts have always been recycled. If your family was lucky enough to have a family car and it needed parts, then a Saturday morning spent at the local breakers' yard stripping off a wing or even an engine was the way to go.

We had no single use plastic food packaging and in fact, most grocery stores bought their products in bulk and weighed them out into paper bags as required. Sweets came loose in large jars, biscuits in reusable tins, butter in barrels and flour in sacks. We wrapped our sandwiches in grease-proof paper and carried them in a metal sandwich box. If we wanted a hot drink at work you could forget the single use coffee cup. We usually had our own mug and often provided our own coffee or tea, loose of course. No plastic coffee modules or tea bags for us. If we needed water for exercise or sport, we carried an aluminium water bottle and filled it from the tap. Anyone asking to buy a bottle of water would have been laughed out of the shop. Fast food was usually fish and chips, which were wrapped in paper with a couple of layers of newspaper for insulation. The greasy paper was not much use for recycling, but made a good firelighter the next morning.

When it came to getting around, we left a very small carbon footprint. We walked or cycled to school or if we were very lucky took the bus. No school run in a gas-guzzling 4x4 for us. Since the invention of the motor car, there have always been electric vehicles. The batteries have just got smaller. In 1919, Harrods introduced battery electric delivery vans in London and their last electric van came out of service in 1970 when it was donated to a museum. Today Google and Ocado are experimenting with electric vans, which look very similar to the 1930 Harrods model. The milkman made the transition from horse and cart to electric floats in the 1940s and until fairly recently, Wren Davis in Prestwood still used electric floats for milk

delivery. Many cities used electric buses in their city centres, which were powered from overhead lines giving them infinite range, unlike today's battery powered buses, that will need recharging at bus stops. Cities such as Manchester, Croydon and Birmingham have introduced tram systems to reduce city centre pollution. Actually they have reintroduced trams as the original vehicles were taken out of service in the 1960s and Blackpool never did give up on its seafront trams.

All this begs the question, "What's new?" Solar voltaic electricity generation is certainly new, although solar water heating is as old as mankind. Wind power is certainly not new, but to use it to generate electricity is, although hydro-electric power goes back to Edwardian times. Awareness of the issues facing us today is a new phenomenon. Post war prosperity made us pleased to be able to be wasteful and to use the new plastics. So, the next time your grandchild tells you how to save the planet, you can say, "Yes, I know".

**Brian Highe**

## Allotments Available



Do you enjoy food fresh from the garden and would like to grow your own vegetables, fruit, or flowers?

Allotments are available to rent from 29<sup>th</sup> September.

if you would like more information contact

Monks Risborough Parochial Charities

**[jane.rogers.owlswick@outlook.com](mailto:jane.rogers.owlswick@outlook.com)**

Phone: 01844 347906

## Food for Thought



*Christ in the House of Martha and Mary* 160x142 cm c1655

Johannes Vermeer 1632-75

National Gallery of Scotland

I feel sorry for Martha. She had invited Jesus into her home and whilst her sister Mary sat at Jesus' feet listening to Him, Martha did all the work. She asked Jesus to tell Mary to help her, but Jesus chided her for being too busy and fretful, praising Mary for just listening. (Luke 10: 38-42).

Here, Martha brings bread in a basket, for she could hardly invite a guest and offer him nothing. The bread is in the centre of the top half of the painting, perhaps referring to Jesus' later words (Luke 22:19) at the Last Supper calling bread His body.

This is Vermeer's only biblical painting, but it looks more Italian than Dutch. It is huge with more than life-size figures painted with a vivacious bravura completely uncharacteristic of Vermeer's later small still interiors. It is so large that it must have been a commission, perhaps as an altarpiece, in a Catholic church as Dutch Calvinist churches are unadorned.

The composition is simple: Mary sits on a stool right in our space, and, if this is an altarpiece, her bare feet at eye-level. We look up from her to Martha, who speaks to Jesus, who points us back to Mary. There are large areas of swiftly-painted clothes with dramatic folds in alternating blocks of light and shadow, perhaps for the congregation to 'read' at a distance. Patterning is restricted to the bold table-carpet design and stripes on Mary's delectably painted head-cloth and twisted belt. Jesus has a spiky aureole of light around His head, like a ghostly foretelling of the crown of thorns. His face is lit, whilst Martha's is half in shadow and Mary's profile is startlingly outlined against the tablecloth which is as pristine as an altar covering.

The colours fall into three diagonal bands: the bottom third dramatically dark green and blue, above which is a middle band of cream, orange and Mary's possibly symbolic sacrificial-blood-red blouse at which Jesus points. A mid-tone orange-brown where a door and beams can be discerned sets the scene in a modest interior.

This is an early work painted when Vermeer was about twenty-three, married for two years to Catharina Bolnes (1633-87), beginning their family of fifteen children in twenty-two years, eleven of whom survived. Vermeer had inherited his parents' businesses of inn-keeping and picture-dealing and he was considered an expert in Italian painting.

More importantly his mother-in-law Maria Thins (1593-1680), with whom the family lived, owned a collection of paintings by the Dutch Italianate school, the *Caravaggisti*, so-called because they had been transfixed by Caravaggio's (1573-1610) paintings in Rome, where they had lived. There was a group of *Caravaggisti* in Utrecht in the 1650s and this painting is very like their work. Sometimes Vermeer featured Maria Thins' paintings on the back walls of his painted interiors.

Maria Thins was a fervent Catholic and Vermeer a baptised Protestant, so this painting may refer to the theological dispute about the active or earthly life (Martha) versus the contemplative or spiritual existence (Mary). To Catholics salvation came through faith and good works, such as feeding the hungry, whereas Protestants believed that it came through faith alone, not good works.

Although I feel sorry for Martha, I bet Jesus ate her bread.

**Susanne Carr**





**St Dunstan's**

**Harvest Ploughman's Lunch**

**Sunday 5th October  
in church  
after 11.00 am Service**

**£5 Adults, Children under 12 free**

**Tickets are available from  
Anne White 01844 346536 or Cathy Farquhar 07906 180550  
or in church**

*Jamaday*



## **Those long car journeys of summer...**

Are you taking a LONG car journey as part of your holiday this summer? Beware: hours on the road can leave you tired, a bit travel sick and with aching muscles.

Tiredness is the most serious – at least if you are the driver! It is reckoned that 10 – 20 percent of all car crashes are due to sleepy drivers. So, try and get enough sleep the night before, as research in Queensland, Australia has shown that drivers with less than five hours sleep are just as likely to crash as if they were over the legal limit for alcohol. Take breaks, and keep air flowing well through the car.

Motion sickness can be another hassle - and it affects around one in three of us. Though curiously enough, drivers hardly ever suffer from carsickness - just the passengers.

Gut discomfort is another problem - on long car trips we tend to drink less, go to the toilet less, snack at odd times on junk food, and not move for hours. No wonder we feel sluggish and bloated.

So – when you stop for regular breaks, take the trouble to walk about. Drink plenty of water, and eat healthy snacks like bananas, apples and nuts.

Finally, avoid tight clothes on a long trip. They only put extra pressure on your abdomen. Instead, opt for loose-fitting trousers or skirts which have some 'give' around your tummy.

## **Why can I see the moon in the day?**

It's holiday time, and you may be spending more time than usual with your children. That will give them ample opportunity to ask you those questions for which you have no answer. A survey has found the top ten questions that most stump parents are:

Why is the moon sometimes out in the day? Why is the sky blue? Will we ever discover aliens? How much does the Earth weigh? How do aeroplanes stay in the air? Why is water wet? How do I do long division? Where do birds and bees go in the winter? What makes a rainbow? Why are there different times on earth?

Research by the British Science Association found that two thirds of parents most dread those questions that have to do with maths or science. Prof Brian Cox, the scientist and broadcaster, has suggested that "the best thing parents can do is work with their children to find the answers – not only can it be fun, but you'll both learn something new along the way."

## **Read a book!**

This summer, why not encourage your children to read a book? A recent study has found that children who read for pleasure carry the benefits with them far into adulthood. And the most avid childhood readers score far higher on vocabulary tests, even 30 years later. As Marcel Proust, the author, once said, there are "no days of our childhood lived so fully as those spent with a favourite book..".



## Update July 2025

We would like to welcome anyone interested in seeing the Centre to come along during Festival week on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July at 5.30 pm, and you are invited to stay for our AGM which follows at 6.30 pm.

The arrival of summer has enabled our clients to enjoy more activities outside and staff have been careful to ensure that they are well hydrated and protected from the sun and extreme heat that has occurred on several days. The garden has been well used with some clients attending to the plants and others enjoying games there. The parachute game is very popular. Some clients have been out to the Connexions Cafe, or to look around Thame market and enjoy a lunch out. Some of the men enjoyed helping to take a number of old chairs to the local recycling centre.

Indoors, everyone has been occupied with baking, sewing, knitting, playing with beanbags and hoops, bingo, Rummikub, craft work [where the clients were able to personalise cloth bags], bell ringing, fine motor skills activities for some clients and more.

Our clients enjoyed a visit from local beekeepers who gave a wonderful presentation showing all the aspects of their work including samples of the honeycomb. There has been dancing and singing to 'Band in a Van' who showed everyone all their instruments. The Black Dog Band also got the clients up and dancing.

More small changes have taken place with the buildings. We have been gifted some comfortable 'new' chairs for the lower hall and the previous ones have now been recycled. We have had a large tree removed from the front of the building, the roots of which were causing problems on an adjacent pathway which will be repaired and tarmacked. The little bricked area along the path to the Lower Hall has been planted with roses and there will be a plaque to commemorate our late patron, Peter Cullimore, who bequeathed a generous legacy. We recently held a collection, with boards and leaflets broadcasting our service, outside Tesco's and wish to thank all the volunteers who helped, and the generous shoppers who made it all worthwhile.

If you would like to consider having a relative or yourself attending the Centre, a free taster of what we have to offer can be arranged. Please contact Mags on 01844 345105 or Marina on 01628 527024 for our Bourne End Centre.

**Maggie Wooster Keyte**



## Heritage & Culture Festival

### Heritage Tour of Old Tring

Thursday 25 September 1.30-3pm

Tring

£15 pp

Enjoy a guided tour through this historic market town, led by former mayor Tim Amsden. You'll learn about life in and around Tring from prehistoric times through to modern times. With a rich history to explore, discover interesting buildings and tales of fascinating people. The tour begins at Tring Local History Museum, where you can enjoy the story of the Tring Exhibition, which includes the replica 14th century Tring tiles.

### Guided Walk with the Wendover Canal Trust

Monday 29 September 1.30-4pm

Wendover

£15 pp

This walk will bring the Wendover Canal to life, with stories of its restoration, biodiversity and heritage. Followed by tea, coffee and cake at Gusto.

### Local Author Talk – Bradt Guides

Thursday 2 October 6-7pm

£7.50 pp

Chilterns-based Bradt Guides have spent 50 years publishing pioneering guidebooks to everywhere from Antarctica to Zimbabwe. Most of their guides are the only detailed books about the places they cover. We'll hear from three Chilterns-based Bradt writers: Helen and Neil Matthews, authors of The Chilterns & Thames Valley and Heritage Weekends; and Murray Stewart, author and updater of numerous guides including The Basque Country, Cabo Verde, and Azores.

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

# Monks Risborough Horticultural Society

We hope that by the time that you read this in August many of you will have enjoyed taking part in our Annual Summer event. Thanks for coming and thanks to all the help in setting up and making it possible on the day.

## Future Meetings:

St Dunstan's church hall, 7.30 pm start.

**Wednesday 17th September:** Katherine Woods on 'The Blitz as a catalyst to greening London'

**Wednesday 15th October:** AGM.

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.

We don't normally have a meeting in August, but due to unforeseen circumstances the June meeting was canceled. So the speaker for that meeting, Marcelle Siddall, has agreed to come on **6th August** to tell us about the 'Way of life in rural South Africa'.

The following meeting is on **3rd September** when the speaker is Michael Kerry White. His talk is 'Tales of an Accidental Traveller?'

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

## Future Meetings:

**Wednesday 3rd September:** "History and Restoration of the Wendover Canal." Clive Johnson.

**Wednesday 1st October:** "John Nash and Clare Leighton. Bucks Artists and Gardeners between the Wars." Sarah Gray.

Brushwood Suite, Wades Centre. Doors open 7.15 pm meeting start 7.30pm  
Mount Car park free after 7.00 pm.

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please mention that you saw it  
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Family Celebrations, Christenings, Weddings,  
Funerals, Buffets, Anniversaries etc.

## Ashlea Catering



**Debbie Catlin**

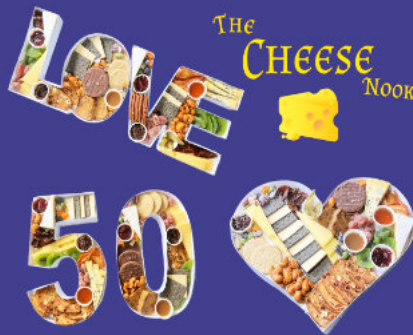
Tel: 01844 347426

Mob: 07710 603416

Web: [www.ashleacatering.co.uk](http://www.ashleacatering.co.uk)

Email: [ashleacatering@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ashleacatering@yahoo.co.uk)

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Thank you *Lisa*

**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*



# THE CHILTERN GARDENER

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Other Services

 **01844 616236**



<https://www.thechilterngardener.com>



[getintouch@thechilterngardener.com](mailto:getintouch@thechilterngardener.com)



## WENDOVER COMPUTERS

3 Icknield Court, Back Street, Wendover HP22 6EB 01296 200275

**Do you feel like throwing your computer out of the window?**

**Fed up with it going slow?**

**Strange messages popping up?**

**Or would you just like to upgrade it?**



Obliterate your home Wi-Fi issues. No matter what size your home is we can get Wi-Fi into every area of your home, especially where it's most needed



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