Parish of Monks Risborough

Newsletter

St Dunstan's Church St Peter's Chapel

December 2025 -January 2026

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Clergy

Team Vicar The Rev'd. Peter Godden, The Rectory, Mill Lane, Monks Risborough HP27 9JE
Tel: 01844 274771 Email: revpetergodden@outlook.com
Associate Priest: The Rev'd Sally Prendergast
Tel: 07876 515098 Email: revsallyp@gmail.com

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

Website: www.stdunstanschurch.com **Registered Charity No. 115386**

Regular Services

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

The Parochial Church Council

Chairman:	**The Rev'd. Peter Godden**	
Churchwardens:	Sue Ingram	07786 986823
	Christopher Trower	07827 772948
Secretary:	Lucy Nott	01844 345268
Treasurer:	David Curry	07854 198498

Deanery Synod Reps
Mr C Fairall, Mr E Kent, Mrs A Vere

Ex Officio Member
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 email: **comms@stdunstanschurch.com**	01844 274650
***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:

For many people, Christmas isn't quite Christmas without the music.

There is something immensely evocative about the music of Christmastide – probably in no small part because it is only heard at that time of year, the odd supermarket playlist excepted. But more importantly, I think it is the extraordinary beauty, both in lyrical depth and compositional glory, that particularly makes sacred Christmas music so special.

Take John Taverner's haunting setting of William Blake's poem 'The Lamb' which, whenever I hear it, instantly takes me deep into the heart of the mystery of God Himself being born among us as a fragile baby: "Little Lamb who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee?," go the words, sung to harmonies which seem to resonate with the echoes of eternity.

Or the exhilaration of hymns like 'O Come All Ye Faithful.' The bombastic melody coupled with the unbridled joy of the lyrics – "joyful and triumphant" – makes it clear that this is a time to rejoice.

Even less revered songs can, if we let them, speak to us profoundly. In recent years, I have become more and more affected by the innocent simplicity of the words to 'Away in Manger,' with their heartfelt plea for Jesus to be close by us, and to love us, for ever. For those of us who share the Christian faith, that's what much of our hope boils down to.

For Christians, the crucial thing in all these pieces is that their words and their melodies are all crafted so as to direct our whole selves towards Christ, whose birth is the catalyst for all the celebrations. 'The Lamb' makes me worship with deep, intense wonder; 'O Come All Ye Faithful' fills me with elation and gladness; 'Away in a Manger' reminds me of the deep need for all of humanity to know unrelenting, unconditional love.

I hope you have music that you love at this time of year – be it music designed for worship, or for hearing on the radio. In terms of the latter, I can really recommend Ella Fitzgerald's 'Ella Wishes You a Swinging Christmas,' which will be on repeat in the Rectory from the middle of December.

But for now, I will leave you with Christina Rosetti's final stanza of 'In the Bleak Midwinter' which has been blessed by many wonderful musical settings (check out the Harold Darke arrangement):

What can I give Him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;

Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

This piece is in some ways the flip side of that line in 'Away in a Manger;' for while we want God to love us with all His strength – and I truly believe that He does, more than we can ever comprehend – He calls us to love Him back just as much.

May the music of Christmas be a source of comfort and joy to you this Christmastide, and may it open for you afresh the extent of the wonder, the glory, and the love of God.

With my best wishes and prayers, as always,

Peter

From the Parish Registers

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

17th August: Isabelle Shana Hounslow

Funeral: - *Rest in Peace:*

16th October: Celia White, age 90

5th November: Heather Hobson, age 72, Princes Risborough

St Dunstan's Pastoral Care

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

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

We are here for you.

For more information, please contact Angeline Vere on **01844 343006** or at **angeline.vere@btinternet.com**

There may also be those who could benefit from some spiritual encouragement. No matter where you might be on a journey of faith, there are members of the Pastoral Care group who would be only too happy to visit or have a telephone call with those who would appreciate a chat and perhaps someone to pray with. If you would like such a phone call, you can contact Jill Iredale on 01844 346488 or at **jillstovold@icloud.com** or Angeline Vere on 01844 343006 or at **angeline.vere@btinternet.com**.

The Pastoral Care group works alongside and with Peter, the Vicar, who can be contacted on 01844 274771, or at **revpetergodden@outlook.com.**

Church Calendar

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

30th November	Sunday	**First Sunday of Advent** 10.00am Parish Eucharist No Evensong service at St Dunstan's: 3.00pm Churches Together in Risborough Advent Service
4th December	Thursday	9.30am Holy Communion
7th December	Sunday	**Second Sunday of Advent** 8am BCP Holy Communion 10am All-Age Christingle Service 3pm Evensong
11th December	Thursday	9.30am Holy Communion
14th December	Sunday	**Third Sunday of Advent** 9am BCP Holy Communion (St Peter's Owlswick) 10am Parish Eucharist 3pm Evensong
18th December	Thursday	9.30am Holy Communion 4pm Blue Christmas: A service for all who may find the season of Christmas difficult or painful
21st December	Sunday	**Fourth Sunday of Advent** 10am Parish Eucharist 3pm Owlswick Carol Service (St Peter's Owlswick) 6pm Nine Lessons & Carols
24th December	Wednesday	**Christmas Eve** 3pm Crib Service 6pm Village Carol Service 11.30pm Midnight Mass

25th December	Thursday	**Christmas Day** 8am BCP Holy Communion 10am All-Age Parish Eucharist

28th December	Sunday	**First Sunday of Christmas** 10am Parish Eucharist 3pm Evensong (St Peter's Owlswick)
1st January	Thursday	9.30am Holy Communion
4th January	Sunday	**Feast of the Epiphany (Transferred from 6th January)** 8am BCP Holy Communion 10am All-Age Parish Eucharist 3pm Evensong
8th January	Thursday	9.30am Holy Communion
11th January	Sunday	**Baptism of Christ** 9am BCP Holy Communion (St Peter's Owlswick) 10am Parish Eucharist 3pm Evensong
15th January	Thursday	9.30am Holy Communion
18th January	Sunday	Second Sunday of Epiphany 10am Parish Eucharist No Evensong service at St Dunstan's: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service (Time & venue tbc)
22nd January	Thursday	9.30am Holy Communion
25th January	Sunday	Third Sunday of Epiphany & the Conversion of St Paul 10am Parish Eucharist 3pm Evensong (St Peter's Owlswick)
29th January	Thursday	9.30am 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 19th December and 16th January. A reminder will be in the eNews and Pewsheet 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

Blue Christmas

St Dunstan's Church
Thursday 18th December, 4pm

If Christmas feels sad or heavy this year, you're not alone. Join us for a quiet space of reflection and comfort at our Blue Christmas service.

This is a special service for all those who may find may this season difficult or painful for any reason. The service includes prayers, Bible readings, music, and times of quiet and reflection, as we prepare for Christmas by both acknowledging our sadnesses, and embracing the hope that God offers us in the birth of Jesus Christ his Son.

All are very welcome.

ActionAid

After more than 20 years of coordinating this parish's support for ActionAid, June Timms has now retired from this role and passed on her mantle to me. Many, many thanks go to June for her dedicated service to this deserving charity.

As a church we currently support Adam, an 8 year old boy living in Northern Malawi, through ActionAid. We promise to send £180 per year. So far this year we have received donations amounting to £195. Thank you to all those who have generously donated. The balance will be used to give the children in Adam's village extra sports equipment or other items that they want.

If you would like to contribute towards the next payment, please contact me at **jlecurry@gmail.com** so that I can give you the details for making a bank transfer to Monks Risborough PCC. If you would prefer to pay by cheque or cash, please send or deliver your donations to me at Appletrees, Askett, Princes Risborough, HP27 9LTT. Cheques should be made payable to "Monks Risborough PCC". Thank you for your support.

Jane Curry

Report of the PCC Meeting on 14th October 2025

The PCC met for the first time following Peter's return from sabbatical on 14th October. After a few matters arising from the previous minutes were resolved, the PCC considered various reports which had been submitted in advance, or delivered verbally at the meeting.

Peter expressed his huge thanks to everyone for all that they had done during his absence, and particularly to Sally, Christopher and Sue who had all worked so hard to ensure that everything ran smoothly during the sabbatical period. A vote of thanks to Sally was unanimously agreed.

Prior to the meeting, the PCC Policies subcommittee had reviewed all the policies of the parish. Peter announced that the parish had now received approval from Bishop Dave on its policy for First Communion for Children.

Under the topic of safeguarding, the PCC reviewed its list of church activities; it also discussed requirements around data retention, and various church officers' responsibilities regarding this. Angeline Vere was voted in as the new Health and Safety Officer; in order for Angeline to be able to focus on both this and her Safeguarding role, Lucy Nott will assume administrative responsibility for DBS checks.

A proposal for a stewardship campaign in 2026 was mentioned, and the need for a fund-raising initiative for the organ fund. Simon Gray reported on progress from the Organ Working Group, and a meeting is scheduled with the organ builder in late October.

Those who help with the cleaning of the church will be delighted to hear that approval was given for the purchase of a new vacuum cleaner, and thanks were expressed to all those who help and have helped with the cleaning of the church.

The PCC is still exploring the options available for a new router to provide Wi-Fi in the church, and Peter expressed his gratitude to everyone who had looked after the churchyard over the previous three months.

The Rev'd Canon Steve Benoy's upcoming licensing was noted, and sincere thanks were given to the Events team for the many events planned for the remainder of 2025.

The meeting ended just before 9:30 pm, and the PCC will next meet on 1st December.

Lucy Nott, Secretary to the PCC

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.

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:

18th December: Our Christmas meeting is on the **third Thursday**. We will enjoy listening to the handbells again, sometimes singing along as we treat ourselves to some Christmas fare and mulled wine, tea or coffee. £4 to cover costs.

8th January: It will be a coffee/ tea morning to catch up after Christmas and to wish each other a happy new year. £2 to cover refreshments.

Details from Rosemary 01844 344417.

Walking Group

There are no meetings in December and January.

Please contact Mick & Anne White (07811 659583) if more information needed.

The Crafty Sew & Sews

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

We meet every Tuesday in the Church Hall, between 1.30 pm and 4.00 pm. Come along and learn new skills, share knowledge, expand your interests. Bring along your own work (Cross Stitch, Tapestry, Knitting etc.).

Join us for just £1.00 per session (for Church Funds).

Knitting Group

This group meets on the 4th Thursday of the month at 2.00 pm in the Church Hall. For further information please contact Janet East 01844 345028 or Pam Scott 01844 346857. There will be no meeting in December.

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

There will be no meeting in December but there is likely to be an Open House meeting in January. Please see the weekly eNews in January to see the date. Then we normally have a break during the Parish Lent Courses until after Easter.

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.

Revd Rose Williams 01844 274225

Baptisms

The birth of a child is a wonderful occasion, and a time for thanksgiving and rejoicing. Many people still wish to mark this in their parish church, either with the service of Baptism (also known as a Christening), where a child is baptised and welcomed into the Christian faith, or with a service of Thanksgiving and Dedication, where a child is named and blessed.

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

10 O'Clock Club

Our Sunday school is a fun get together for children, in St. Dunstan's Church Hall, which runs parallel to the Sunday morning 10.00 am service, usually on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

We run an hour of games, craft, Bible stories and Lighthouse songs, and then join the congregation in church for the end of the service. There is no commitment or need to book. Just come along and join in the fun.

On the first Sunday of the month, we join the congregation for the family service at 10.00 am.

The 10 O'clock Club will meet on 14th December for our Christmas Party with nativity dressing up and in the New Year on 11th and 25th January.

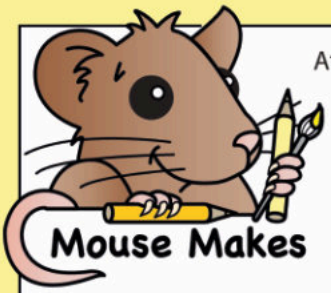
If you would like any further information, please contact: Debbie Norie 07982 247715 or at **debbienorie@googlemail.com**.

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
stdunstanschurchhall@gmail.com or ring 07942 356245.



Mouse Makes

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus, God's Son and our Saviour coming into the world as a baby, and we look forward to the time when Jesus will come again, not as a baby but as the King of kings and Lord of lords!

read John 14:3

A baby needs clothes to keep warm like a snuggly sleep suit or a vest and nappy.

What were you dressed in?

Jesus was wrapped in

.....

.....

read Luke 2:7

A baby needs somewhere to be born like at home or in a hospital.

Where were you born?

Jesus was born in a stable in

.....

read Luke 2:1-6

A baby needs somewhere to sleep like a crib or a cot.

What did you sleep in?

Jesus slept in a

.....

read Luke 2:7

A baby needs a name.

What name were you called?

Jesus was given a special name that had a special meaning.

read Matthew 1:21-23

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

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Christmas Concert by Candlelight

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Prize Raffle

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Jo 01844 346321 or Penny 07762 880219

or Days to Remember, High Street, Princes Risborough (cash only)

or online from

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

JOIN US FOR

CHRISTMAS
at St Dunstan's

Thursday 18th December

4pm | Blue Christmas
A special service for all those who may find this season difficult or painful.

Sunday 21st December

6pm | Nine Lessons & Carols
An evocative service of readings and Christmas carols.

Christmas Eve

3pm | Crib Service
A joyful service for all the family exploring the wonder of Christmas.
We would love to see you come dressed in nativity costumes!

6pm | Village Carol Service
A special service on the cusp of Christmas featuring readings and carols.

11.30pm | Midnight Mass
A service of beauty and wonder, as we welcome in the feast of Christmas.

Christmas Day

8am | BCP Holy Communion
A peaceful service of Holy Communion early on Christmas morning.

10am | Christmas Day Eucharist
A joyful all-age service of Holy Communion as we celebrate Christmas Day.

Christmas in the Rectory

What does Christmas look like for a Vicar and their family? We asked Peter what his December tends to look like…

Christmas must be busy for a Vicar?

It is, but it's a genuinely wonderful time. Part of my enjoyment starts by really embracing Advent – the season of watching and waiting, of preparing for the coming of the Lord and celebrating Christ's birth. I really love that sense of anticipation. It also means that, when Christmas Day comes, it's only the start of the celebrations. We go big on the twelve days of Christmas in our house!

So how do you make Advent distinctive?

There are a few things we do. One is to make sure that, as far as possible, practical things like shopping for presents, and planning the worship at St Dunstan's, are all done before December, so that Advent can be freed up from those kinds of distractions and demands.

We don't tend to put much Christmassy music on until about half-way through the December – there are loads of beautiful Advent music to be had, so we tend to major on that earlier in the month. And then, just like in church, we initially make our tree an 'Advent tree' – it starts life decked largely in purple, the colour of Advent, before then taking all those decorations off it on Christmas Eve, and replacing them with the gold of Christmas.

That sounds like a lovely Christmas tradition – do you have others?

Pigs in blankets when putting the tree up, always! Then I think our main one is always wrapping Christmas presents whilst watching the original Gavin & Stacey Christmas special; it's absolutely heartwarming, and so well-observed – and Alison Steadman is just phenomenal.

What other things do you like to watch at Christmas?

We are fairly addicted to University Challenge in our household, so we enjoy the special Christmas mini-series of that – especially because the questions are always much easier! And it would be pretty rare for us to go through the season without watching 'Love Actually' at some stage.

So when Christmas comes, what are your highlights?

All three of our services on Christmas Eve are particularly special. The Crib service at 3pm always has a wonderful sense of joy to it – lots of the young people come dressed as nativity characters, and there's something very heart-warming about seeing the nativity scene slowly filled with figures as the service progresses.

The Village Carol Service is great because it usually attracts our largest congregation of the year (so get there early if you're coming, because the space is finite!), and it's a privilege to be able to preach to such a large gathering of people about the dawning of our salvation through the birth of Christ.

Finally, Midnight Mass remains a profound experience, as we share the meal that this tiny baby whose birth we are celebrating would go on to institute. It's a quite remarkable moment in the Church year.

How do you balance ministry with family time at Christmas?

That's probably the hardest part – there's no getting away from the fact that Caroline and the boys would like to see me a bit more, and I them! But they're used to it, and, if I've been able to do as much prep as possible, I am hopefully able to spend some proper time with them all.

Do you have a favourite Christmas carol?

In terms of congregational carols, I think it would be 'O Come All Ye Faithful'. The lyrics are great – they're so full of unbridled joy – and they are about encouraging us to gather together and worship God because of what a wonderful thing the birth of Christ is for us. And then the music is fantastic – especially in the final verse (the one that is only sung on Christmas morning), which varies slightly from the rest of the hymn and makes my hair stand on end every year.

In terms of anthems for choirs, I would struggle to beat John Taverner's setting of William Blake's poem 'The Lamb.' It captures mystery of the incarnation perfectly. John Rutter's 'Donkey Carol' is also wonderful – full of lush harmonies accentuating a delicate, enchanting melody.

What about other Christmas music?

I know I've mentioned this in my message at the start of this issue, but Ella Fitzgerald's Christmas record 'Ella Wishes You a Swinging Christmas' is an absolutely masterpiece – the arrangements are brilliant; her voice is perfect.

In terms of pop music – I've been on a real Paul McCartney / Wonderful Christmastime kick for the last few years. And then Slade, Wham!, Mariah, Wizzard – it's all great stuff.

Finally, if there's one thing you could have this Christmas..?

To not get worn out in the build-up! But apart from that: if as many people as possible in this parish can experience a fresh revelation of God's love this Christmas, I'll be happy. And then a top-drawer glass of something red when the afternoon comes.

DIARY DATES FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

December

3rd Women's Institute - Whitecross Hall 1.45 pm (Page 18)
3rd PR Heritage Society - Wades Centre 7.30 pm (Page 27)
10th Silver Band Concert - St Dunstan's 8.00 pm (Page 14)
18th Fellowship Group - Church Hall 10.15 am (Page 10)
17th Friendship Group - Church Hall 2.30 pm (Page 11)
19th Parish Prayer Group - Church Hall 9.00 am (Page 7)

January

7/14th Women's Institute - Whitecross Hall 1.45 pm (Page 18)
8th Fellowship Group - Church Hall 10.15 am (Page 10)
16th Parish Prayer Group - Church Hall 9.00 am (Page 7)
21st Friendship Group - Church Hall 2.30 pm (Page 11)
22nd Knitting Group - Church Hall 2.00 pm (Page 10)

Monks Risborough Women's Institute

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

Our next Meeting is on 3rd December when we are having a Christmas Beetle Drive, followed by Christmas music and readings with suitable refreshment.The January meeting is still to be confirmed. It will be on 7th or 14th January 2026.

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.

Final copy date for next *Newsletter* is

10th January 2026

Please give copy to one of the following:

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The next Newsletter will be issued from 30th January 2026

Monks Risborough CofE Primary School

Forest School – Year 3

This week at Forest School, Year 3 enjoyed decorating their clay mammoths, making homes for their mammoths, conker paint marbling, leaf and bark rubbing.

The children have shown fantastic creativity and imagination when designing and creating their homes, using a variety of natural resources. I have been really impressed with their resilience and determination when tasks have been a challenge.

We have learnt some new games that I have since seen the children playing during playtimes.

Visit to Neasden Temple – Year 4

On Tuesday 30th September our class (year 4) went to Neasden Temple which is on the outskirts of London. We went there to find out more about how they worship.

We travelled there by coach and it took about an hour. When we got there, we took off our shoes and placed them in a special shoe rack. This was as a sign of respect and to keep the temple clean.

First, we watched a video on how the temple was built. I was surprised that the temple was built by volunteers and that the decorated stone was actually carved.

Next, we made our way into the main shrine to witness an aarti ceremony and to see gods covered with gold and gifts. The aarti ceremony was really exciting and we joined in with clapping.

After that, we visited a Hinduism exhibition. It felt like we were in a big underground cave!

My favourite part of the day was when we went to the Hinduism exhibition because we got clipboards and had to look for the answers. I hope I can go back to the temple one day.

By Gabrielle

On Tuesday 30th September year 4 went to the Neasden temple.

Firstly, we travelled be coach and we got to choose a friend.

When we arrived we had to take off our shoes and place them in a rack to show respect.

Next we went in to a big room to watch a video on how the temple was built it made me curious.

After that we went to see a aarti ceremony the music made me feel relaxed. Finally we went to a Hinduism exhibition it had so many facts about Hinduism and I learned a lot.

My favourite thing was the Hinduism exhibition. In the future I would like to go to another Hindu temple in India.

By Chloe

Talks on Safety

The PCSO's visited this morning to talk about safety as we are now old enough to go out by ourselves so we need to be responsible. They talked about train and road safety and anti-social behaviour. We also learnt not to go into abandoned places or building sites and everything has a consequence. The worst one is prison.

By Molly and Cliodhna

Luke and Megan came to visit us. They work at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. We learned how to call an ambulance when someone we know is hurt. They showed

us some equipment, including something that showed our heartbeat. We looked at Mrs Horton's heartbeat and it was healthy! They showed us how they get to our homes and we had to tell them our address! We know we only call 999 if it is an emergency!

From Wrens

Year 2's walk to Princes Risborough

Our field trip to Princes Risborough

On our walk we went past some houses. Mr Stannett us some human and physical features. The physical feature was The Brook. The Brook was not straight because it had been there a long time and humans had made steps to go over it. Next, we went to see a surprise person and it was Mrs. Hirst. She gave us a drink and a snack and it was amazing. Finally, we walked back to school Princes Risborough.

by Polly

We left school. We went past the church. We went past the Dovecot, this is a human feature. Next, we saw a physical feature, it was a stream. We went to the church and we saw Mrs Hirst. We had some squash and biscuits. We had the best time. Finally, it was time to head back. We went past a shelter and we were back at school. I had an amazing time on my trip.

by Clemmie

Church Trail in Princes Risborough

On the 16th of October we went on a church trail in Princes Risborough. The churches we went to were St. Teresa's the Baptists and St. Mary's.

St. Teresa's

In St. Teresa's we learnt about the Sanctuary Lamp which reminds us that God is always here. There are enormous domes that keep the heat in. There are 14 pictures of Jesus's last day that are beautiful gold leaf paintings.

The Baptists

At the Baptists we saw Mrs Hirst there she told us that the hole in the floor is a baptistery and there are beams to cover it up. There's a balcony that you can see all of the bottom level of the church. We were given a biscuit and juice at the start to keep our brains going. We got to do a very interesting scavenger hunt about the church.

St. Mary's

The altar has 2 massive candles on top. Did you know there's a secret mark called the bishop's mark? This is an old church. One of the main things they do is holy communion on a Sunday morning. They use wafers, made out of water and flour, and wine. The font has an old sink in it that they use for baby baptisms.

My favourite church was the Baptists because Mrs Hirst was there and all the facts were so fascinating.

By Sabina

Church Flower Rota

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Jenny Masterton-Smith	01844 273538

Sunday Coffee Rota

Organisers:

Jo Wade	01844 346321
Anne White	07811 659583

Spot the Dagger

Princess Henrietta of Lorraine Attended by a Page 213.4x127cm 1634
Sir Anthony Van Dyck 1599-1641 Kenwood

Henrietta was ten when she married sixty-three year-old Louis de Guise, Prince of Pfalzburgh. The *trompe-l'œil* label lower left, the illusion heightened by its red wax, reads *Princeps de Phalsburg 1634*. Louis had died in 1631, so here Henrietta is a twenty-three year-old widow.

Shortly after Louis' death, Henrietta had accepted a suitor, but he deserted her for another woman. The tiny dagger, which she must have asked Van Dyck to camouflage in an ice-blue rosette below her left breast, probably symbolises her suspected revengeful attempt on her betrothed's life a few months before Van Dyck painted her and her sister Marguerite. Three more husbands were not deterred.

Henrietta (1611-60) stands composed on a terrace, her eyebrows looking plucked and re-drawn higher. Her hair is fashionably fringed, her delectable pear-drop pearl earrings and simple pearl necklace matching her flawless skin, her elegant hands quintessential Van Dyck. The meticulous finish and detail characteristic of Flemish artists, painted with barely detectable touches of Van Dyck's thinnest brush, is exemplified in Henrietta's intricate wired bobbin-lace collar and cuffs, the tiny sleeve buttons and the subtle sheen of light on her satin dress, as glossy as photographic paper. What a dynamic contrast to the plain black block of her heavy coat! Like a background fire the golden drapery has been borrowed from Van Dyck's exemplar Titian (c1487-1576), whilst the stormy landscape reflects Henrietta's unsettled life.

She lays a restraining hand on her high-status page or slave, who gazes up at her fearfully, but she ignores him. Although side-lined, this boy transforms the painting – try covering him up. He may have posed with her or he may be an imaginary tribute to Titian, painted much more freely than the enamel finish elsewhere. His red velvet outfit with gold chain, earrings and bracelet, contrasting vividly with Henrietta's sombre clothes, recalls the rich opulence of a nobleman in a Titian portrait, robed in crimson and bedecked in chains. The most breathtakingly entrancing part of the painting is his golden platter of roses, rapidly painted with consummate flair. Alongside Henrietta's static stance he brings life and movement, a *tour de force* of painterly panache.

The sisters Henrietta and Marguerite de Lorraine, abandoned in exile, had taken refuge at the Brussels Court of Archduchess Isabella, Regent of the Spanish Netherlands. They had been banished from France in 1632 when Marguerite secretly married Louis XIII's younger brother Gaston when France and Lorraine were enemies. Since Louis XIII had no son, (Louis XIV was not born until 1638) he saw Gaston's marriage as a threat to his sovereignty. His troops invaded Lorraine, he nullified Gaston's marriage, took his property and banished him, the sisters and their brother Charles IV duc de Lorraine from France. Henrietta was accused of being an accomplice to treason, but she escaped to Brussels, joining Marguerite, Gaston and his mother Marie de Medici.

After seven years studying Renaissance art in Italy and painting the Genoese aristocracy, Van Dyck was celebrated in Antwerp before spending his last nine years in London as Court Painter to Charles I and his Queen, who was sister to Gaston and Louis XIII.

Van Dyck was a hero to Gainsborough, whose alleged last words were "We are all going to Heaven, and Van Dyck is of the party!" Surely Titian greeted them.

Susanne Carr

A Quiz on the year 2025

Multiple choice questions

1. **Ashley, Bert and Conall were:**

   Names of storms, Names of Eurovision entrant,s Names of footballers

2. **There was a re-wilding lynx project this year. Was it:**

   A new golf course, Releasing cats in the wild, Releasing aftershave

3. **Palmerston, the former resident cat at the Foreign Office, was brought out of retirement for a "purr-fect" diplomatic posting to where:**

   Belfast Bermuda Birmingham

4. **What is President Trump's favourite word?**

   Tariffs, Musk, Sorry

5. **We celebrated the 200th anniversary of the start of modern railways (or at least, I did). The East-West Rail Link is due to be opened next between Oxford, Milton Keynes and eventually Cambridge. What was the nick name of the original line?**

   The Varsity Line, The Farcical Line, The Gravy Train

6. **Donald Trump called King Charles "a …..man"**

   Young, Regal, Beautiful

7. **Restaurants in Pozzuoli, Italy cooked up a plan to attract customers who are being put off by 1800 land tremors a month. How long did they have to stay?**

   Until paid bill, Until dessert served, Until coffee served

8. **Birmingham experienced 'Binmageddon'. Was it**

   Shortage of bin bags, Too many bin bags, Bin collector strike

9. **Singer Katy Perry was joined by Bezos' fiancée, Lauren Sánchez, CBS presenter Gayle King, former Nasa rocket scientist, Aisha Bowe, civil rights activist, Amanda Nguyen, and film producer, Kerianne Flynn on a space trip. The flight lasted around 11 minutes and took the six women more than 100km (62 miles) above Earth, crossing the internationally recognised boundary of space and giving them a few moments of weightlessness. What music accompanied them?**

   Louis Armstrong's 'What a Wonderful World,' ' Fly me to the Moon', 'Up, up and Away'?

10. **A big hit at the cinema early this year the film Conclave. If you have not seen it is recommended. What colour is the smoke used to signify the election of a new Pope?**

    White, Black, Grey

11. **What was Doge that Elon Musk was associated with and then left?**

    Department of Government Elasticity, Department of Government Efficiency, Department of Government Energy

12. **Loretta Swit passed away this year. What long running sitcom is she best known for?**

    Friends , Mash, Frasier

13. **UK proposed a wider ban on destructive bottom trawling. Is it:**

    Anti-social behaviour, Long trousers, A type of fishing

14. **Which composer whose centenary was marked this year invented 'furniture music'? He always kept a hammer in his pocket for fear of muggers and once even founded his own church**

    Frank Sinatra, Jean Sibelius, Erik Satie

15. **What were the "mushroom murders" in Australia?**

    Killing by adding fungi to dinner guests' meals, Illegally picking mushrooms from fields, Killing someone in vegetable aisle at supermarket

16. **Which of the following were not Proms this year?**

    The Shipping forecast prom, The Traitors prom, The Grand Prix prom

17. **'Skibidi' "Delulu" and 'tradwife' among words added to Cambridge Dictionary. What does delulu mean?**

    French, Delusional, Incontinent

18. **Heartthrob Terence Stamp passed away this year, which part did he play in the 1960s film of Far from the Madding Crowd?**

    Sgt Troy, Farmer Boldwood, Gabriel Oak

19. **What month does October Beerfest in Germany start?**

    October, September, November

20. **In October a lady in Kew was given a fine of £150.00 for pouring what down a drain on a road? The council later withdrew the penalty notice.**

    Beer, Oil, Coffee

A Matter For Debate

Every year my literacy project with Year 6 at Monks Risborough School teaches me more about the resilience, resourcefulness and sheer appetite for challenge that the school engenders in its pupils. I would never underestimate their grasp of issues, their vocabulary – or their generosity and respect for each other.

Successive 6th years have devoured everything from writing poetry, short stories and other creative material, to developing from scratch a school magazine – planning, writing and commissioning content, including ads, editing, designing, printing and selling it, at school and to this congregation – without making a loss.

And these projects are in their lunch break – they give up their free time – half an hour, once a week. It's entirely voluntary.

With this year's group, as last year's, I am tackling oracy – the skill of combining the spoken and written word to present ideas and opinions lucidly and convincingly in a succinct, organised way, with supporting argument. This is important both for the written word and for robust and reasoned discussion. It will help build their self-confidence as they move through education and the adult world.

To bring this to life, we build a debating club together. They learn how to organise their opinions, to make notes and prepare ideas, how to spot weaknesses in argument (their own and others'), and how to use language to make their point – without falling out!

We started the beginning of the year with some technical rules – how a debate functions, with lead and supporting speakers, audience participation and votes, plus some pointers – politeness, humour, sarcasm (in moderation), don't get personal and so on. Then we hold a debate each week.

An exciting bit, of course, is deciding what to debate. They get to choose, although I wouldn't let them do anything party political, and I draw the line at Twix versus KitKat or who has the best football team. (I know, I know).

But their suggestions are almost always worth discussing – even potentially world changing. They are bursting with ideas. We've done all the following and more – the morality of war; pocket money in return for chores; whether zoos are ethical; a children's timeout on devices; should we abolish money in the world; ditto school uniforms; should under 15's have access to social media… oh yes they know what parents worry about. And parents may be glad to know that they mainly have responsible views, whichever side they take. They really do think things through. And they are passionate and well-meaning. They are all so different, and listening to them gives me hope for the future of the world.

But airing these topics might present challenges to the school – one debater asked me whether, if his side won the abolish uniforms motion, the school would do so…

I don't tell them what to think, or what I think (I wouldn't dare!) or take part in the debates. I act as Chair and to see fair play. At the end I might point out arguments they might have made, or weaknesses on the other team they might have exploited but I never take a side. It's a learning curve and you can see their skills growing, quiet ones learning to speak out, more up-front ones learning to listen (it might get them ahead!).

They are fiercely competitive, but combine this with genuine empathy. If someone is struggling they will listen, and even help out. They rush to the aid of a spelling or definition crisis, and shy participants are sure of a patient response. I have always marvelled at the sheer quality of the children's humanity, and as the years go by it just gets better. It's a privilege to experience it.

Jackie Highe

Princes Risborough Area Heritage Society

Future Meetings:

Wednesday 3rd December: "Victorian Street Life". A poor existence. Speaker. Graham Harrison. .

There is no meeting in January

Brushwood Suite, Wades Centre. Doors open 7.15 pm, meetings start 7.30 pm

The Rotary Club of Princes Risborough

Donations to the Rotary Charity Account for Tree of Light may continue to end of the year.

The Tree of Light is one of our major projects at this time of year, together with our over 75s' Christmas Lunch at the Princes Centre, our Christmas Street Collection in the Town and a party for the Bucks Young Carers. WHY SHOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN SUCH THINGS? Well, these are some of the many ways that members of the Club can give back to the local community. We provide support to numerous local and wider needs. To enable us to do so we need to raise money for our Charity Account and over the past few years we have raised over £30,000 annually.

The Club is a vibrant organisation that meets on Mondays at the Whiteleaf Golf Club for an enjoyable and light-hearted evening, which includes a meal and entertainment in a friendly and fun atmosphere which helps build **strong** relationships - a crucial part of our Club's identity, If you would like to be part of this and might consider joining us, visit our website and perhaps come to one of our meetings to see if it might interest you. We would love to hear from you. Also, if you know of causes that would benefit from our support, or you would like to donate to our Charity Account, or have any other queries please use the contact details below at:

rcpr.org.uk or David White on 07787 750889 for general Club enquires.

Monks Risborough Horticultural Society

There are no meetings December 2025 & January 2026.

Website: **https://themrhs.wixsite.com/mrhs**

Quiz 2025 answers

1. Ashley, Bert and Conall were names of storms.
2. The re-wilding lynx project was releasing cats in the wild.
3. Palmerston was brought out of retirement for a "purr-fect" diplomatic posting to Bermuda.
4. President Trump's favourite word is tariffs.
5. The nickname of the original line was the Varsity Line as it linked the two universities. It was a favourite journey of C.S. Lewis.
6. Donald Trump called King Charles "a …..man". Beautiful.
7. *Restaurants* in Pozzuoli, Italy cooked up a plan to attract customers who are being put off by 1800 land tremors a month. They got an "earthquake discount" if stayed until dessert served. I do not know if it was successful. I usually prefer the cheeseboard after a meal.
8. Birmingham's 'Binmageddon' was the Bin collector strike.
9. The music that accompanied the astronauts was Louis Armstrong's *What a Wonderful World.*
10. The colour of the smoke used to signify the election of a new Pope is white.
11. Elon Musk was associated with the Department of Government Efficiency.
12. Loretta Swit was best known for MASH. The television series made stars of some of the actors and went on much longer than the Korean War, which it was based on.
13. Destructive bottom trawling is a type of deep sea fishing.
14. The composer who invented 'furniture music' was Erik Satie.
15. The "mushroom murders" were done by adding fungi to dinner guests' meals.
16. The Grand Prix was not a prom.
17. Delulu means delusional.
18. Heartthrob Terence Stamp played Sgt Troy in the 1960s film of *Far from the Madding Crowd.*
19. October Beerfest in Germany starts in September.
20. She poured a cup of coffee down a drain.

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