

# Parish of Monks Risborough

## *Newsletter*



St Dunstan's Church    St Peter's Chapel

April 2026 - May 2026



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# Clergy

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

**Tel: 01844 274771**

**Associate Priest: The Rev'd Sally Prendergast**

**Tel: 07876 515098**

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

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

**Registered Charity No. 115386**

## Regular Services

<b>St Dunstan's</b>	Sundays	8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)	<b>1st Sunday in month</b>
		10.00 am PARISH COMMUNION	
		10.00 am FAMILY SERVICE	<b>1st Sunday in month</b>
		6.00 pm Evensong	<b>Except 4th Sunday in month</b>
	Thursdays	9.30 am Holy Communion	
<b>Owswick 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 Peter Godden writes:

Dear friends,

There was a time early this year where it felt as if we were in danger of slipping into the flood narrative from Genesis. It might not have actually rained for forty days and forty nights, but it certainly began to feel like it.

As I write this message to you, however, it is the start of March and the grey clouds and drizzle have given way to sunshine, blue skies, and a sudden abundance of daffodils. It is this cycle of rebirth that I daresay we all long for in the darkness of the later winter months, as we crave the newness of life that Spring so often brings. And each year, as the birds become busier, the gardens start blooming and the evenings lengthen, I know that Easter – with its own story of new birth and renewal - is on the way.

The reason I am a Christian is, above all else, because I believe that the Christian narrative concerning Jesus of Nazareth is true. As I have mentioned in the build-up to Easter in Newsletters past, I am completely convinced in the historical evidence for Jesus' resurrection from the dead on that Sunday morning on the outskirts of Jerusalem nearly two thousand years ago.

And yet, aside from this conviction, there is much in the story of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus that I find so compelling that, even if I weren't convinced that it were true, I would want it to be so. The idea that the God of the universe, who was there at the creation of all things billions of years ago, should be born among us as a fragile infant is remarkable enough. Even more so is the proposition that He willingly died for us, to take away the legacy of the wrongdoings of the world, and then rose from the dead, to open the way for us all to follow Him into eternal life.

This narrative is truly extraordinary; it can reach into us, shining light where there is darkness and bringing hope where there is fear. If it *is* true, it changes our perspective on the whole world, not least what our future might look like.

In the build-up to Easter, we observe a time called Holy Week, which is full of services which between them tell so much of what the Christian story means for us. Since my youth they have captured my imagination, with their rich symbolism that helps us to encounter the love of God revealed in the events between Palm Sunday and Easter Day. It is a very special time, and wherever you might be on a journey of faith or life, please know that you would be very welcome to come and join us for any of our services.

I hope that you will all know peace and new life this Easter. You will all be very much in my prayers, as always.

With my very best wishes,

**Peter**

# 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.

## From the Parish Registers

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

10th February: Sonia Taylor, age 96, of Hulcott Nursing Home

24th February: Daphne Agnew, age 91, of Freemantle Court Care Home

2nd March: Joan Ashford, age 103, of Cherry Tree Nursing Home

## 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.

# Church Calendar

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

29th March	Sunday	<b>Palm Sunday</b> 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong (St Peter's Owlswick)
30th March	Monday of Holy Week	7.30 pm <i>The Dream of the Rood</i> Poetry Recital followed by Compline (approx. 8.20pm)
31st March	Tuesday of Holy Week	7.30 pm Compline
1st April	Wednesday of Holy Week	7.30 pm Stations of the Cross
2nd April	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	7.30 pm Eucharist (There is no morning Eucharist this day)
3rd April	<b>Good Friday</b>	2.00 pm The Good Friday Liturgy
4th April	<b>Holy Saturday</b>	8.00 pm Easter Vigil
5th April	Sunday	<b>Easter Day</b> 8.00 am BCP Holy Communion 10.00 am All-Age Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong ( <b>St Peter's Owlswick</b> ) 9.30 am Holy Communion
9th April	Thursday	<b>Second Sunday of Easter</b>
12th April	Sunday	9.00 am BCP Holy Communion (St Peter's Owlswick) 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 3.00 pm Evensong 9.30 am Holy Communion
16th April	Thursday	<b>Third Sunday of Easter</b>
19th April	Sunday	10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong 9.30 am Holy Communion
23rd April	Thursday	<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>
26th April	Sunday	10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong (St Peter's Owlswick) 9.30 am Holy Communion
30th April	Thursday	<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>
3rd May	Sunday	8.00 am BCP Holy Communion 10.00 am All-Age Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong 9.30 am Holy Communion
7th May	Thursday	<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>
10th May	Sunday	9.00 am BCP Holy Communion (St Peter's Owlswick) 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong
14th May	Thursday	<b>Ascension Day</b> 9.30 am Said Holy Communion 7.30 pm Sung Parish Eucharist

17th May Sunday

**Patronal Feast of St Dunstan (transferred)**

11.00 am Parish Eucharist, followed by festivities

6.00 pm Evensong

21st May Thursday

9.30 am Holy Communion

24th May Sunday

**Pentecost**

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

6.00 pm Evensong (St Peter's Owlswick)

28th May Thursday

9.30 am Said Holy Communion

31st May Sunday

**Trinity Sunday**

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

6.00 pm Evensong

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

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



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

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

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

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

If you would like to know more, please do not hesitate to contact Peter our Vicar, on 01844 274771.

## Holy Week (29th March – 5th April)

Holy Week is the most special week in the Christian year, marking the dramatic days from Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, to His betrayal, arrest, His execution, and finally His glorious rising from the dead.

You are warmly invited to come and experience the beauty of this journey with Jesus, through life and death to the dawning of life eternal. All services are at St Dunstan's unless specified.

### **Palm Sunday 29th March**

#### **Palm Sunday Procession and Eucharist, 10.00 am**

We remember Jesus entering Jerusalem to the adulation of the crowds. For those who are able, we commemorate His journey at the start of our service by processing around the environs of St Dunstan's.

### **Monday 30th March**

#### **The Dream of the Rood Poetry Recital, 7.30 pm**

The beautiful Anglo-Saxon poem *The Dream of the Rood* – a vision of the crucifixion from the perspective of the cross – is read for us using a mixture of the original Old English and modern language, together with an introduction to the poem.

#### **Compline, circa 8.20 pm**

Following on from *The Dream of the Rood* recital will be a service of Compline – the ancient service of Night Prayer that prepares us for a quiet night.

### **Tuesday 31st March**

#### **Compline, 7.30 pm**

A peaceful service of prayer before the day's end.

### **Wednesday 1st April**

#### **Stations of the Cross, 7.30 pm**

A service where we journey around the church, stopping at images of Jesus' final hours (referred to as 'Stations'), in order to reflect upon Jesus' own journey through the streets of Jerusalem before His death on the cross.

### **Maundy Thursday 2nd April**

#### **Eucharist of the Lord's Supper & Watch, 7.30 pm**

The night before His death, Jesus washed His friends' feet, showing them the extent of His love and devotion. He blessed bread and wine, and gave it to them, saying that it was His body and blood. They then went to a garden to pray, where Jesus asked them to watch over Him, before He was then arrested and taken away. We recall all these events in this poignant service, which concludes with the chance to hold a watchful time of prayer.

**Good Friday 3rd April**  
**The Good Friday Liturgy, 2.00 pm**

A solemn service of prayer and devotion, where we mark Jesus' death on the cross, and give thanks for His sacrifice made for us.



**Holy Saturday 4th April**  
**Easter Vigil, 8.00 pm**

The equivalent of Midnight Mass at Christmas, this is the start of our Easter celebrations. We gather in the dusk and quiet of the end of the day, as our service begins with the kindling of a flame. From there we light the Easter candle, and then more and more candles are lit, until the church is filled with light and music, and we joyfully proclaim Jesus' rising from the dead. This is an ancient service full of wonder, and it heralds the start of Easter.

**Easter Day 5th April**  
**BCP Holy Communion, 8.00 am**

A quiet, contemplative service of Holy Communion at the start of Easter Day, according to the Book of Common Prayer

**All-Age Easter Celebration Eucharist, 10 am**

Our main celebration of Easter: a joyful, vibrant service of Holy Communion where we will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

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

A beautiful service of prayer and praise to end Easter Day.

## **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 17th April and 15th May. 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](mailto:jillstovold@icloud.com)    01844 346488

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



# 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

We start again after the Lent break with our next meeting on Wednesday 15th April, followed by one on the 20th May. See e-News for venue.

We are starting a new topic with a study of Paul's letter to Timothy.

Contact Ted or Mary for details.

## 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.

## 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 12th April, 19th April, 10th May, 17th May.

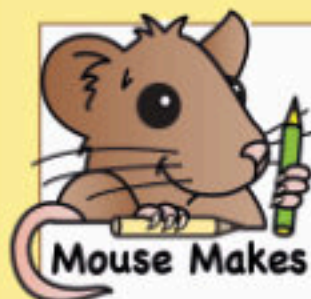
If you would like any further information, please contact: Debbie Norie 07982 247715 or at [debbienorie@googlemail.com](mailto:debbienorie@googlemail.com).

## 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 [stdunstanschurchohall@gmail.com](mailto:stdunstanschurchohall@gmail.com) or ring 07942 356245.



GOOD NEWS  
 OHOSANNA  
 DEATHQB  
 VNCOEUI  
 UAHNAAR  
 O  
 MIREVSYU  
 ALIVETDR  
 RISENEOK  
 YOTHORNS  
 PALMSQKA  
 RPILATEN  
 CRUCIFYG  
 RHIQUAKE  
 OCJESUSL  
 STOMBVDY  
 SRYEMPTY

JESUS • DONKEY • PALMS  
 HOSANNA • PILATE • THORNS  
 CRUCIFY • NAIL • CROSS  
 QUAKE • DEATH • BURY  
 TOMB • STONE • EMPTY  
 ANGEL • MARY • HEAVEN  
 RISEN • ALIVE • GOD  
 GOOD NEWS • CHRIST  
 SAVIOUR • EASTER • JOY



EASTER WITNESS - I WAS THERE



I carried Jesus into Jerusalem

Read Matthew 21:1-11



I handed Jesus over to be crucified

Read Matthew 27:11-26



I nailed Jesus to the cross

Read Mark 15:16-32



We watched Jesus die

Read Mark 15:33-41



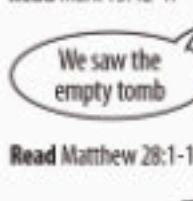
I laid his body in my tomb

Read Mark 15:42-47



I guarded the tomb

Read Matthew 27:62-66



We saw the empty tomb

Read Matthew 28:1-10



and spoke to the angel



Jesus is alive!  
He ate a meal with me!

Read Luke 24:13-35

# Owlswick Speaker Evenings 2026



Informative, sociable, short evening talks: Owlswick Speaker Evenings comprise a short series of talks on subjects of interest to local people, held in **St Peter's Chapel in Owlswick**. Often the speakers are local residents, sometimes from Owlswick itself.

## **The Programme**

**Wednesday 29th April** given by Suzie Davies – Film Production Designer

Suzie has worked on productions such as "Conclave", "Saltburn", and most recently Wuthering Heights. She returns after giving us a fabulous talk on the film "Mr Turner" a few years ago.

As this talk is likely to be particularly popular, please contact Roz Wates or Jane Rogers if you'd like to attend.

**Wednesday 27th May** given by The Reverend Sally Prendergast

Sally is a professional needlework embroiderer and will talk about, and display, some of the exquisite stoles she has made.

**Wednesday 24th June 24th** given by Tracy Russell of Bucksum Farm

Tracy gave us a wonderful talk on "Biodiversity in Your Garden" a couple of years ago. This time she will give a presentation on "How to Build a Swimming Pond". A dream surely many of us have!

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

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

Wine, soft drinks & nibbles will be provided.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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

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

# An Evening of English Music with



## The Manor House String Quartet

Presenting a varied and engaging programme of music spanning 500 years, from Thomas Tallis in the Tudor period, through to 20th century greats including Ralph Vaughan Williams, Gustav Holst and Benjamin Britten.

**St Dunstan's Church**

**Saturday 25th April at 7.00 pm**

**Tickets £12**

from

Jo 01844 346321 or Anne 07811 659583

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

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

**Complimentary glass of wine or soft drink**

**Prize raffle**

*Joanna*

**Sunday 17th May at 12 noon  
after the 11 am service**

# St Dunstan's

**Gourmet  
Village**

**BBQ**

**Award winning and locally sourced  
'pulled pork' sausages, burgers  
from Orchard View Farm**

**Please advise in advance if a special  
dietary option is required  
e.g. gluten free, vegetarian etc.**

**A complimentary drink will be served**

**Tickets £10 (Children under 12 £5)  
Available from Jo 01844 346321  
or Anne 07811 659583**

**Last date to buy tickets 10th May**

*Joanne*





# The Dream of the Rood Poetry Recital

Experience *The Dream of the Rood*, an Anglo-Saxon poem telling the story of the crucifixion from the perspective of the cross, in a blend of its original Old English and modern language.

Given by Caroline Godden, Tutor in Old English at St Albans Cathedral, this promises to be a very special beginning to Holy Week.

The recital is followed by Compline for those who wish to stay.

St Dunstan's Church, Mill Lane,  
Monks Risborough, HP27 9JF  
Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm  
No booking required

## The Beauty of Good Friday

Some of the most beautiful things in the world have an ugly side. What about the emperor penguin chick, nestling in a feathery pouch above its parent's feet? There's a lovely moment when mum and dad greet each other over the gaping beak of their fuzz-ball offspring. Heads bent together, making a heart shape in the air, we can't help seeing a reflection of our own ideals of love in the pair.

But the reality of what those birds are going through is even more gruelling than human parenthood. Father penguin has spent all winter sheltering the egg from freezing hurricane-force winds, while mother penguin was feeding at sea. When the chick hatched its parents started an exhausting game of tag, taking it in turns to walk across the ice and risk being eaten by leopard seals or killer whales, in order to catch fish for their new offspring.

The living world is truly wonderful in so many ways, but the darker side of the picture is never far away. Creation is groaning (Romans 8:22), and just waiting to be rescued. Enter Jesus, through whom all of Creation was made. The king of the universe came to live with us, bringing His great love and wisdom to the human population of first-century Israel. The Creator was relating to His creation in a very personal way, and this could have been a totally beautiful picture.

But there is a horrifically ugly side of Jesus' story that threatens to obscure the beauty of what He did on Good Friday. It was a brutal and terrifying day when human sinfulness resulted in the Son of God being executed by His enemies, but thankfully there was much more to it than that. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ set off a seismic wave of spiritual events whose effects are still rippling out across the world.

So that ugly day over 2,000 years ago is called 'good' because of what it achieved. Those who follow Jesus find their lives are changed for the better, even if their day-to-day existence may still be incredibly tough. When people come to understand what Creation is for and to whom it belongs to, they can begin to serve and preserve the earth as they should. These things are only whispers of what is to come, but they give me hope for the future redemption of all Creation. I can choose to dwell on the beauty of Jesus' death because it was not the end of the story – the future beckons.

### Church Flower Rota

Organisers:

Gwen Miles 01844 345230

Jenny Masterton-Smith 01844 273538

### Sunday Coffee Rota

Organisers:

Jo Wade 01844 346321

Anne White 07811 659583

## A history of our Easter chocolate

Chocolate. Just a mention of the word can trigger off all kinds of emotions: craving, greed, passion. Few foods have the ability to get such a hold on people. As you buy your Easter eggs and bunnies and whatever else this month, here are some of the facts of chocolate:

**Where does chocolate come from?** Chocolate is made from the seeds of the tropical cacao tree, *theobroma cacao*. The Greek word 'theobroma' means literally 'food of the gods'. The Cacao Tree is found in Latin America.

**Who first discovered it?** The Aztecs. The cacao beans were used to prepare a hot, frothy beverage with stimulant and restorative properties, something like hot chocolate.

**Who was (probably) the first chocoholic?** The Emperor Montezuma. He drank 50 goblets a day of the frothy drink.

**Who used chocolate as currency?** The Aztecs. 100 cacao beans would buy a slave; 12 cacao beans bought the services of a courtesan, etc.

**When did chocolate as we know it today begin?** Surprisingly, not until 1879. That year Rodolphe Lindt had the inspired idea of triglyceride cocoa butter. The cocoa butter in chocolate contains saturated fat, but a normal level of consumption doesn't have any bad effects.

**At what point does a chocolate lover become a chocoholic?** It is generally considered to be when a person feels impelled to consume 12 or more 60 gram bars of chocolate per week. Chocolate contains its own cannabinoid (a chemical that prolongs pleasurable sensations) and when you eat chocolate, there is an increased blood flow in areas of the brain which are also activated by addictive drugs such as cocaine. But scientists agree that occasional over-indulging will cause no long-term problems... except perhaps around your waistline!

### **How to get the best from your chocolate:**

Keep your chocolate cool (16 – 18 degrees Centigrade) and in a dry, airtight place.

Never put your chocolate in the fridge (if you already have, let it warm to room temperature for a couple of hours before you eat it).

Bring out the full flavour of chocolate by drinking water with it.

If you are drinking tea or coffee, don't bother with expensive chocolates – you won't be able to appreciate them properly!



# DIARY DATES FOR APRIL AND MAY

## April

- 1st PR Heritage Society - Wades Centre 7.30 pm (Page 31)
- 9th Fellowship Group - Church Hall 10.15 am (Page 10)
- 15th Friendship Group - Church Hall 2.00 pm (Page 11)
- 15th Open House - TBA 7.30 pm (Page 11)
- 17th Parish Prayer Group - Church Hall 9.00 am (Page 9)
- 18th MR Horticultural Society - MR School 7.00 pm (Page 32)
- 23rd Knitting Group - Church Hall 2.00 pm (Page 10)
- 25th Concert - St Dunstan's 7.00 pm (Page 15)
- 29th Walking Group - Burton Lane 9.30 am (Page 10)
- 29th Owlswick Talk - St Peter's Chapel 7.30pm (Page 14)
- 30th Library Talk - PR Library 2.30 pm (Page 29)

## May

- 6th PR Heritage Society - Wades Centre 7.30 pm (Page 31)
- 14th Fellowship Group - Church Hall 10.15 am (Page 10)
- 15th Parish Prayer Group - Church Hall 9.00 am (Page 9)
- 17th BBQ - Church yard 12.00 noon (Page 16)
- 20th Friendship Group - Church Hall 2.00 pm (Page 11)
- 20th Open House - TBA 7.30 pm (Page 11)
- 20th MR Horticultural Society - Church Hall 7.30 pm (Page 32)
- 27th Walking Group - Burton Lane 9.15 am (Page 10)
- 27th Owlswick Talk - St Peter's Chapel 7.30pm (Page 14)
- 28th Knitting Group - Church Hall 2.00 pm (Page 10)



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

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

**Or sign up for our weekly e-Newsletter at  
[comms@stdunstanschurch.com](mailto:comms@stdunstanschurch.com)**

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

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*A Member of the Risborough Team Ministry*

# What home gadgets do you regret buying?

You know what they are: those things you never knew you needed until you saw one in an advert. Then suddenly you felt that life would never be complete without one.

And so, you brought home the spiraliser that makes vegetables look like spaghetti. And the pasta maker that you can't quite figure out how to use. And the ice-cream maker that makes everything sticky and helped you put on another three pounds. And the robot vacuum which terrorises the cat. As for the bread maker, well at least it makes a good shelf on the kitchen counter.

If this is you, you are not alone. A recent survey by Saga has found that 65% of us have experienced 'gadget regret'. It occurs when we buy something and then wonder why we ever bothered, because who needs it anyway?

Top of the list of regrets is the spiraliser – 62% of us woke up one morning to realise that no one needs vegetables to look like spaghetti. Second place belongs to digital picture frames, which 52% of us regret buying. After that comes the pasta maker (45%), the ice-cream maker (42%), VR headsets (35%), the bread maker (31%), the internet-connected exercise equipment (31%) and finally, the robot vacuum (29%).

What do we do with all this stuff? 46% of us keep it, even when we don't want it. 15% of us try and sell the things, while a desperate 14% of us simply throw them away. And 19% of us grimly hang on to them for a year or so, before passing them on to an unsuspecting friend.

## Final copy date for next *Newsletter* is **10th May 2026**

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

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*The next Newsletter will be issued from 31st May 2026*

# Monks Risborough C of E Primary School

## **Book Week**

On Monday 2nd March, we had a special visitor come into school to talk to the whole school as part of Book Week. Teresa Heapy an author of many children's books. She introduced her new book Will Wolfheart and told us all about the journey of writing the story. Later on in the day she had many workshops with different year groups such as Year 1 & 2. In year 5 & 6 we wrote our own narratives around anything we wanted. Her advice was to put any ideas that pop into our heads straight down on paper, if we feel stuck we can start with a setting description to try and help us through. She was a really nice lady who helped inspire, develop our writing and imagination skills. Some children in school went with her books to have her sign them.

## **By Olivia & Sivuno, Year 6**

### **Ancient Greeks Day**

Year 3 had a wonderful day experiencing an ancient Greek life on Tuesday 24th March. A big thank you to those parents who helped out on the day, we couldn't have done it without you!

We dressed up as ancient Greeks for the day. First Ariadne, told us what crafts we would be doing: mosaic making, candle making, wax tablets, making medicines and making a game (it was like chess). We went around most of the crafts providing there were no more than six people at a table. We had lunch after lunch, Ariadne told us about a letter. The letter said that we, the Greeks, had won a war and we were going to have a feast. We were split into three groups, one of the groups, the servants, handed out some drinks and a bit of food - pitta bread, tomatoes, feta and olives. The second group told the story of Pandora's Box and the third group acted in the play of the Hare and the Tortoise. At the end of the day we were able to take home our crafts. Next we wrote a thank you letter to the mistress. Our favourite parts of the day was making the mosaic and eating the food whilst watching entertainment.

## **By Emelia and Arthur, Year 3**

### **Visit to Maidenhead Synagogue**

I came to school and Mrs Shea took the register. Then, the coach arrived and we were off. It took about 45 minutes. Finally, we got there and met a person called Diz and she showed us all of Maidenhead Synagogue. We learnt about David and the Flour [ed. Flour] and at the end of the trip we had some bread and water and then drove back.

## **By Clemmie, Year 2**

## Young Voices 2026 – Birmingham

On Thursday the 15th of January, Year 5 and 6 went on a coach to the BP Pulse Arena, Birmingham, to perform at Young Voices because it's important to sing sometimes. We left at 10.15 and got on the coach with Year 6 and sat down with our partners.

We parked at 12.30pm and walked into the stadium with our groups. We sat down in our seats at 1.15 and had lunch. Then we had a rehearsal of songs, some medleys Wicked, pop, sea shanty and songs like Power in Me and Something inside so strong. We did some Urban Strides dancing and then stopped for dinner. The chatter of excitement was so loud I could hardly hear myself think! Next we were given a small torch and when the concert was on we waved our torches wildly! Evelyn P spotted my mum and dad but I didn't see them. We sang lots of songs and I couldn't choose my favourite one!

Finally after the long wait it was time for the real thing! As soon as the lights turned on all of my nerves washed away and I was finally ready.

The performance was so fun and so loud and so amazing that I don't think I will ever forget. My favourite song was probably the pop medley but it was so hard to choose because they were all so fantastic. It was such a good experience and I hope everyone loved it as much as me!

After, we hopped on the coach and I sat next to Josie. We played with my panda, Ying and tried to get to sleep but we couldn't and kept laughing about random things!

Then we got back to school and my mum and dad were there. They picked me up in my dad's red car and I got home and told my gramma all about our trip to Young Voices 2026!

**by Rosie & Felicity**

## Ladies' Breakfast

The next Ladies Breakfast will be on Saturday 2nd May at 9.00 am in St Mary's Hall. All are welcome but please let Rose Williams know if you are coming. (01844 274225 or [rosewilliamsgp@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rosewilliamsgp@yahoo.co.uk)) Our speaker will be Richard Lodge from "Chosen", a charity which works with women who have been sexually exploited.

## Men's Breakfast

The next men's breakfast will be on 9th May at 8.45 am in the St Mary's Church Hall. The speaker on this occasion will be from Prostrate Cancer UK. There will be the usual full English breakfast. The cost is £5, payable on the day. Contact Steve Williams on [menbreakfast@stmaryrisborough.org.uk](mailto:menbreakfast@stmaryrisborough.org.uk) or phone 01844 274225 if you would like to come so that we can control the catering and avoid waste. Male guests are very welcome.

## Jacque Pavlosky: glass artist, church crawler, culture vulture, perpetual student

I was born in Michigan in the USA in the early 1950s. My father was a choral music educator and conductor. For eight weeks every summer as children we lived on a lake in a tiny rustic cabin where my father taught choir and operetta and we kids attended classes in all the arts which sparked my life-long interest in the arts and culture.

I was first inspired by glass and architecture in a glorious church we attended when I was very young. Later, when I was 11, our church Sunday school went to visit a glazier/artist who was making stained glass windows. He encouraged me to pick up a piece of red glass which I held up to the light and I was enthralled! And I still am in my 70s!

When I was studying to become an art teacher in Michigan our college art department joined a summer course in Perugia where I fell in love with European culture, architecture and art.

Later, in my early 20s I came to England to study for a summer, as European travel was truly in my blood! I met my husband, a Yorkshire lad, and we raised our children mainly in Buckinghamshire where we've lived for over 40 years, most of it in Askett.

I have always appreciated and enjoyed working in many different artistic media: textiles, crafts, drawing, sculpture, ceramics and glass. When I turned 50, I discovered a course in glass at High Wycombe and obtained a BA honours in Glass over the next 3 years. I then went to work in the studio of Colin Reid, a world-famous glass artist in Stroud, where I honed my skills as a glass artist.



There are many ways of working in glass, which is very exciting for me as I enjoy exploring new techniques, trying out new inspirations and subject matter. I am very lucky to be able to do this. Glass is such a unique and beautiful material to work in, but at the same time can be very technically challenging and requires both artistic and practical skills.

I work from my studio in Askett, in cold not molten, glass. I make my own moulds, in wood, then using the lost wax technique I cast my designs and fire them at 830°C. Once the casting has cooled, I remove it from the mould and finish the design – sculpt it, polish it – sometimes I paint it in glass and fire it again. I have

many machines to enable me to produce my sculptural glass: three one-metre square kilns, a sandblaster, lathe, grinders, saws, and various other mould-making tools.

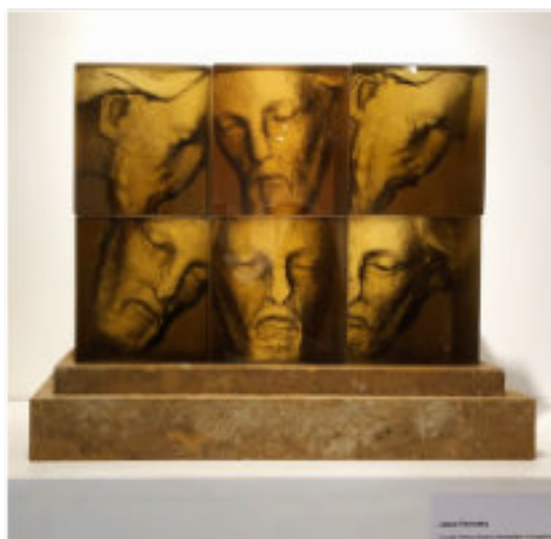


I am lucky too, to live within easy access of museums, art schools, historical architecture, a lively artistic community, theatres and concert halls which has made my life here in England very fulfilling. A perpetual student, I am presently studying ceramics and printmaking at Amersham College.

I've also studied glass and bronze casting in Germany, and glass in Washington in the USA. I have travelled to Uzbekistan to learn about their culture, architecture, and textiles. This year I'm doing the same in Hungary and Romania, and have participated in many stained-glass tours of England and Ireland.

I exhibit too. This summer my work can be seen in the Cotswolds at Fresh Air Sculpture in Quenington, June 14- July 5. My work in this show reflects my fascination for towers and turrets in architecture. [www.freshairsculpture.com](http://www.freshairsculpture.com)

I enjoy sharing my interests with others, and have taught many art subjects, and have given tours of stained glass locally.



## Interior with Shapes



*Mr & Mrs Clark and Percy* 213.4x 304.8 cm 1970-71  
David Hockney 1937- Tate Britain

I am mesmerised by this interior: its silence, balance and order; yet there is a tension in the calm design. I think this is achieved by strong abstract elements that still retain the realism of observed life and the photographs from which Hockney worked.

What I mean by 'abstract elements' are compositional lines and the reduction of objects to inter-related shapes and patterns beyond what they represent; somehow managing to give meaning and atmosphere. I will try to make this clear.

In 1969 Hockney had been best man at the wedding of his friends Ossie Clark and Celia Birtwell, fashion and fabric designers respectively. Here Ossie sits, or slumps, and Celia stands: she is a powerful pink and purple vertical. Apart from her, the colours harmonise, but she does not belong to the colour scheme, or possibly not in the marriage; but one does not want biographical information to detract from looking at structure and pattern. In fact the purple of her robe is picked up in Ossie's left foot, the 'leaves' of the lamp and the shadow behind. The hem of her gown touches and follows the line of the table, her arm making a triangle like that of Ossie's chair arm. There is a small smile on her delicate face, with the light half on it, but no smile in her eyes. The painting would lack dynamism if she, too, were in blue and green; nevertheless her dark colours jar and give her a disturbing presence, introducing a tension.

Ossie's body language slants away from his wife, possibly indicative of their eventual divorce. He slumps and sulks in his style-statement Bauhaus chair, making a dramatic diagonal which the table continues, but which his forward-angled head counteracts. Ossie belongs here, his clothes matching the colours inside and out. He ignores Percy the cat, a chilly note, whose fur links with other white areas. The tactile rug, in which Hockney half-buried Ossie's feet because he struggled to get them right, has a pile as curly as Celia's hair and looks softly warm, but the rest feels emotionally cold. Thus colours and design alone have conveyed a mood of uneasiness.

However, other ordered shapes are calming. The table on the left makes an oblique angle, with two others subtly slanting on it: the book and the shadow of the vase. The picture on the left-hand wall, which is one of Hockney's etchings, is a face-on rectangle, and two related oblongs are the windows of the house opposite. The white and turquoise of the sparsely-painted lilies and their slender vase are balanced by the lamp and telephone behind Ossie.

Strong verticals are made by windows and shutters with horizontal slats of light coming through the left shutter and darker slats on the right. Outside tones echo those inside, uniting them, giving an even more calming effect.

The balcony balustrade is clever and witty: one sees simultaneously the white positive shapes of the vertical struts and the background negative shapes of foliage and twigs. The eye alternates between them in a visual game.

In these ways I find this painting entirely satisfying to eye and mind: it is like a structured well-designed Meccano set that is somehow able to convey mood and meaning in one magnificent whole. Hockney's art has many pinnacles: this is one.

Susanne Carr

## What's orange, sticky and worth preserving?

This month sees National Marmalade Week (18th – 25th April). If you really want to celebrate, go to Dalemain Mansion and Gardens in Cumbria, where they hold the World Marmalade Awards & Festival. It celebrates, preserves and promotes artisanal marmalades, with thousands of entries. (Even Paddington Bear will be in attendance!)

If you like marmalade, ever wonder where it comes from? One tradition traces it to a storm-damaged Spanish ship which took refuge in Dundee Harbour in 1700. It was full of Seville oranges that the captain was desperate to sell before they went mouldy. A local

down-on-luck merchant, one James Keiller, bought the lot. He didn't know what to do with the oranges either, but fortunately he had a resourceful wife. She set about turning a shipload of Seville oranges into a preserve, and so the first marmalade factory was born.

Marmalade has been at the heart of British breakfasts for centuries. Winston Churchill fought the Second World War on it (washed down with a flute of Pol Roger each morning). DH Lawrence wrote novels on it. Paddington Bear's sandwiches were all marmalade. If you also want to get your fingers sticky, visit: [www.marmaladeawards.com](http://www.marmaladeawards.com).

# The Rotary Club of Princes Risborough

Rotary is a global movement with a rich history. It was founded in 1905 by an American lawyer as a small professional group built on fellowship, friendship, and mutual support among business people. The name comes from its earliest days, when meetings were held in rotation at members' offices. Today, Rotary has grown into a truly worldwide force for good. With around 46,000 clubs in over 200 countries and approximately 1.4 million members, it has evolved far beyond its professional roots. Its modern vision is to create lasting, positive change in communities locally and worldwide. Its most famous achievement is its leading role in the near eradication of polio globally, one of the greatest public health successes in history. Alongside this, it continues to work tirelessly in areas such as disease prevention, education, and community development.

We are proud to be part of this global organisation, and we support national and international Rotary projects, but our main focus has always been close to home, serving the people of Princes Risborough and surrounding area. We are especially proud of our work with young people and the elderly. Our support extends to the town's Youth Club, numerous primary schools, Princes Risborough Secondary School, and the Royal Grammar School. We also have links with the Princes Centre, a day-care centre for older residents. In fact, our club was instrumental in its creation and continues to play a major role in its success, including providing four of its Trustees.

We have around 70 members, men and women, and are delighted that our next Vice-President will be our first woman President, taking up the role in July 2027. At the heart of everything we do is friendship. We are a vibrant, welcoming group who believe that doing good should also be enjoyable. We make a real difference in our community, and we have a great time doing it. If you're looking for a meaningful way to give back, meet new people, and make new friends, we'd love to meet you. Visit our website or get in touch to join us at one of our Monday evening meetings at Whiteleaf Golf Club and see what we're about. And, if you know of any causes that could benefit from our support, please don't hesitate to get in touch using the contact details below. Together, we can continue making a real difference!

You can contact us at: [rcpr.org.uk](http://rcpr.org.uk) or use the QR code below:



or contact David White on 07787 750889 - email: [dwhite2025@hotmail.com](mailto:dwhite2025@hotmail.com)

# Chiltern Society

## Forthcoming events

### **Foraging for Edible and Medicinal Plants**

Thursday 14 May 12-3pm

£27.50 pp

Join Fred Gillan (aka Fred the Forager) as he takes you on a trip to Marlow Common to forage for edible and medicinal plants where he will show you exactly what you can safely pick, what to avoid, how to prepare your harvest, and most importantly, how to make sure this is all done sustainably so that other creatures get their fair share! Your springtime walks will never be the same!

### **Exclusive Visit to Hampden House**

Thursday 28 May 2-4pm

£42.50 pp

Exclusive visit to this grade I listed country house and estate, remodelled in the Georgian Gothic. The site has a history dating back to before the Norman Conquest, with original elements from the 14th century and is also the ancestral home of John Hampden. The site, not normally open to the public, has been used as a filming location for TV and film. The visit includes a tour of the ground floor rooms with the opportunity for Q&A. This will be followed by tea, coffee and cake after which there will be time to explore the grounds, including the 800-yr old church with its own points of interest – John Hampden memorial, interesting hatchments and a medieval squint.

To book go to <https://chilternsociety.org.uk/events/category/events/>.

## Princes Risborough Library

### **The Afternoon Group Monthly Talks 2.30 pm**

**Thursday 30th April:**

Author talk by author Carolyn Kirby.

Refreshments available.

To book a place, talk to the Library staff or call 01296 382415 but, if you have not booked, just turn up.

We shall be pleased to see you.

## Magnificent Yews



Whilst churchyards contain many different veteran trees, it is the yews that are particularly special. Globally, veteran and ancient yews are threatened; however, on a world stage the best refuges for these trees are actually the churchyards of England and Wales. It is in these enclosed spaces that over three quarters of Britain's oldest yew trees can be found. Some trees are believed to be several thousand years old.

The yew trees we are referring to are the long lived *Taxus baccata* (often referred to as the Common, English or European Yew) as opposed to others also found in churchyards, such as the Irish Yew which is more upright, neat in shape and not nearly as long lived.

Almost every part of the yew is poisonous to stock and wildlife (including humans!). But birds such as blackbirds, waxwings, thrushes, and fieldfares enjoy the fleshy red berries. If you are partial to gathering fungi to eat, it is best to avoid even edible species if you find them growing on a yew tree.

The Common yews tend to grow in a 'normal' tree shape until about 600 years old when they often hollow out and thicken around the base. This hollow cylindrical structure does not weaken the tree; in fact it may even strengthen its structure. Hollow yews are great for sheltering wildlife. Some, such as the attached picture from Much Marcle in Herefordshire, have seats inside, and in past centuries hollow yews were even used as homes by monks in Wales and Ireland!



In St Dunstan's churchyard we have two large yew trees, age unknown but thought to be at least 200 years, and 12 "Apostle Yews". These yews are specifically trained and pruned and represent the 12 apostles from the New Testament. They are commonly found in historic English churchyards like ours.

# The Princes Centre



Update March 2026

THE PRINCES CENTRE  
AWARD-WINNING DAYCARE

What a lovely month we have had here at The Princes Centre! With some brighter weather arriving there has been a real sense of positivity and energy as our clients continue to take part in activities, spend time together, and enjoy everything the centre has to offer. Our older clients have had a wonderful time taking part in seasonal activities. They celebrated Pancake Day and of course each client enjoyed tasting one once they were ready! We did Valentines crafts which were a great way to encourage creativity while helping to promote fine motor skills. We also welcomed a singer into the centre, who provided a lovely afternoon of entertainment that everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

Our younger clients have been busy with a wide range of group outings and sessions and have been on trips such as visits to Tring Museum and bowling, as well as travelling together by public transport to help build confidence and independence. They have also continued with their weekly gym and swimming sessions, supporting them to stay active and healthy.

Across both centres, we're proud to partner with New Beginnings Day Nursery, Bourne End and Princes Risborough Day Nursery. Through our partnership, we have enjoyed hosting the children weekly, which brings joy to both our older clients and the little ones.

We recently hosted our first "Princes Communi-Tea Cafe Lunch Club" with the aid of our younger clients. We welcomed 16 members of our community, who joined us for a delicious roast pork lunch and plenty of great conversation. Lunch Club will be held on the third Friday each month at the Risborough Centre. We look forward to welcoming more people from the community and surrounding areas. Our April lunch club will take place on 17 April.

Thank you to everyone who supported our recent Indoor Car boot Sale, raising £328.53 to fund future client activities. Our next event is on Saturday 6 June.

Other news: Come see what we're all about! Book a free taster session for yourself or a loved one and experience the Centre firsthand. Call Mags: 01844 345105 or Marina (Bourne End): 01628 527024 today!

## Princes Risborough Area Heritage Society

### Future Meetings:

**Wednesday 1st April:** "Chenies Manor and the Russells." Speaker Alison Wall.

**Wednesday 6th May:** "A Geological and Archaeological journey through the Chilterns". Speaker Jill Eyres. Followed by A.G.M.

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

# Monks Risborough Horticultural Society

## Future Meetings:

**Saturday 18th April:** Annual Quiz night 7.00 pm Monks Risborough C of E School  
Book in via Andrew Leach 01844344473.

**Wednesday 20th May:** Horatio's Garden with Nikki Blagg 7.30 pm St Dunstan's  
Church Hall.

**Saturday 1st August:** Annual Village Show schedules out soon.  
Barn Dance with usual live band, evening following Show  
7.30 pm start  
80 tickets now available. Sold out again last year  
so contact Mick White asap (07377 363348)

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

## Monks Risborough Women's Institute

After 104 years it is with regret that we announce the suspension of Monks Risborough WI. The last meeting was in March and there will be a farewell lunch after Easter. Hopefully in the next issue of the *Newsletter* we will relate some of the history of the group and its personalities.

Thanks to all who have been involved over the years. If in the next three years someone wants to start up the group again, it may be possible.

Margaret Pitman

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