

**Parish of Monks Risborough**

*Newsletter*



**St Dunstan's Church    St Peter's Chapel**

**June 2026 - July 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:**

Christopher Trower 07827 772948

Mick Quigley 07354 105400

**Secretary:**

Lucy Nott 01844 345268

**Treasurer:**

David Curry 07854 198498

**Deanery Synod Reps**

**Associate Priest**

Mr C Fairall, Mr E Kent, Mrs A Vere

The Rev'd Sally Prendergast

**Members**

Mrs C Byrom, Mr S Gray, Mrs D Kerwood, Mrs A-M Longshaw,  
Mrs D Norie, Mrs J Rogers, Mrs C Turnbull, 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** Chris Reynolds 01844 273683

**Bell Ringing Practice at St Dunstan's** **Thursdays 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm**

# The Rev'd Peter Godden writes:

Dear friends,

Our world is full of the most extraordinary contrasts. If the weather holds between my writing and this Newsletter hitting your doorsteps, then out of the window can be seen wonderful blue skies, trees in full-leaf, early summer flowers, and all other manner of sights that bring balm to the soul. Yet if we turn on our news screens we are frequently confronted with the most troubling situations, both in our own nation and around the world. The peace and optimism that can be found on our doorsteps could not be further from the fear and anguish experienced by all those affected by violence and war around the world.

It is an entirely natural question to ask where God is in all of this.

The scriptures would unequivocally say that he is to be found in all of it. God identifies with and comforts those experiencing times of fear and terror, whilst He also brings us to times of hope and peace – for He *is* our peace.

I have often been struck by how one can read the consecutive Psalms of 22 and 23 for a demonstration of this. The twenty-second psalm begins with an impassioned cry from the depths of the soul, articulating anguish with such potency that, when Jesus was hanging on the cross on Good Friday, it was to these words that He turned to articulate His own sense of desolation:

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me,  
and are so far from my salvation,  
from the words of my distress?

The fact that these words can be found in scripture is a great reminder that, when we face times of despair, we should not be reluctant to take our feelings to God; for, even when we fear that He is far off, He most assuredly hears us – as the Psalmists discover for themselves later in the psalm, when they cry:

Save me from the lion's mouth,  
from the horns of wild oxen.  
You have answered me!

From the visceral struggle and wrestling of this psalm, we then come to Psalm 23 – perhaps the most famous of them all, with its timeless bucolic images that invite us into a place of peace and restoration:

The Lord is my shepherd;  
therefore can I lack nothing.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.  
He shall refresh my soul  
and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

It is to this place of safety and restoration that God most assuredly longs to bring us all; but when we find ourselves in the midst of the darkest of places – even the valley of the shadow of death – we can be certain that He is there too.

Whatever the world looks like for you at this time, may God’s consolation and peace be with you.

With my very best wishes,

**Peter**

## From the Parish Registers

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

23rd March: Patricia Badrick, age 93, of Princes Risborough

6th May: Reta Everest, age 61, of Owlswick

8th May: Gary Clack, age 66, of Wellington Avenue

## 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.ver@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.ver@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.

4th June Thursday

9.30 am Holy Communion

7th June Sunday

**First Sunday after Trinity**

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion

10am All-Age Parish Eucharist

6.00 pm Evensong

11th June Thursday

9.30 am Holy Communion

14th June Sunday

**Second Sunday after Trinity**

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

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

6.00 pm Evensong (St Dunstan's Hall)

18th June Thursday

9.30 am Holy Communion

21st June Sunday

**Third Sunday after Trinity**

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

6.00 pm Evensong

25th June Thursday

9.30 am Holy Communion

28th June Sunday

**Fourth Sunday after Trinity**

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

6.00 pm Evensong (St Peter's Owlswick)

2nd July Thursday

9.30 am Holy Communion

5th July Sunday

**Fifth Sunday after Trinity**

8.00 am BCP Holy Communion

10.00 am All-Age Parish Eucharist

6.00 pm Evensong

9th July Thursday

9.30 am Holy Communion

12th July Sunday

**Sixth Sunday after Trinity**

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

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

6.00 pm Evensong

16th July Thursday

9.30 am Holy Communion

19th July Sunday

**Seventh Sunday after Trinity**

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

6.00 pm Evensong

23rd July Thursday

9.30 am Holy Communion

26th July Sunday

**Eighth Sunday after Trinity**

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

6.00 pm Evensong (St Peter's Owlswick)

30th July Thursday

9.30 am Holy Communion

# Parish Prayer Group

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

Meetings are held in the Church Hall on the 3rd Friday of each month at 9.00 am for about half an hour. The next meetings are on 19th June and 17th July. A reminder will be in the eNews and Pewsheets on the Sunday prior to each of those dates and we will also email those who regularly attend.

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

Jill Iredale      [jillstovold@icloud.com](mailto:jillstovold@icloud.com) 01844 346488

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

## Recycled Greetings Cards

Thanks largely to donations for Mothering Sunday and Easter Cards, over £200 has been given so far this year to the Church Treasurer for the Organ Fund. It is really encouraging to have such support for this project, not only for the donations but also for the many used cards which are given to me to be recycled. There are already over 200 Christmas Cards and a good number of Easter Cards ready to be recycled!! I am very grateful to all of you who have helped and continue to do so. Once you have finished with them, your old cards can be left in the box in the church porch or, if it is easier, dropped in at 9 Westmead.

It is also really encouraging when people say how much they like the cards. If you haven't had a look at them yet, they are available in St Dunstan's and the church is open every day. The suggested donation for each card, with its own envelope, is just £1, far cheaper than you can buy in the shops and, unless stated, they each contain a message inside. There is a good selection from which to choose: Father's Day (21st June), birthdays, including special ones with the age printed; birthdays for relatives; children's birthdays; congratulations, including for the birth of a baby; thinking of you; with sympathy; and new home. Over £1,000 was raised from donations for the recycled cards last year, but a great deal more is needed to ensure that the organ repairs get under way and the music is beautiful once again, not just for our Sunday Services, but also for the weddings and funerals which take place at St Dunstan's.

Let's see if, together, we can raise as much, if not more, this year! Thank you!

**Canon Rob**

# 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.

## 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](mailto:cathy.farquhar@btinternet.com).

A call by Friday evening would be appreciated.

# Report on the Annual Vestry meeting and the APCM in March 2026

The Annual Vestry meeting and the APCM meeting were held on 23rd March, with 28 parishioners present. The APCM marked the end of Sue Ingram's term as churchwarden; Sue was unable to make the meeting, and so Peter expressed his thanks in her absence for all her work in this role.

Mick Quigley and Christopher Trower were elected as churchwardens for the coming year. Every three years there is a full re-election of Deanery Synod, and we are grateful to Ted Kent, Charlie Fairall and Angeline Vere for standing for election. David Curry, Jane Rogers and Debbie Norie were re-elected as members of the PCC, and three new members were also elected: Caroline Byrom, Diane Kerwood and Charlotte Turnbull. Peter expressed his gratitude to Alison Maycock for her work and contributions to the PCC and the wider life of the church.

There are still copies of the annual reports available on the website, and Peter reflected on how these reports paint a brilliant picture of all that is going on in our community. Peter commented on his sense that we are entering a new period during which we can embrace all that lies ahead, as we try to discern what is God calling us to be and to do. He encouraged those present to consider with God's help what it means to be a hub of the local community and parish, and to shine the light of Christ in our community. Peter spoke warmly of the joy of welcoming a significant number of new regular worshippers over the past few months. These individuals are finding community within our church family, wanting to encounter something more in life. He went on to reflect upon the words of Saint Augustine of Hippo, "Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in him". One young member of the church was to be admitted to Holy Communion on Palm Sunday, and young people are contributing to the ceremonial aspects of our worship.

In other business, Peter thanked Ann Preston for work during this and previous years as the Independent Examiner of Accounts. Simon Merchant has agreed to take on this role from 2027 onwards. The Rev'd Sally Prendergast expressed her thanks to Peter and indeed to his whole family for their ministry and service, and Peter thanked Sally for her immense contribution to the life of the parish.

The meeting was a wonderful occasion to reflect on the privilege shared by us all to serve Christ in the many and varied ways that we do, and Peter urged us all to remember that in all things our thanks and praise go to our Lord.

The first meeting of the new PCC will be on 19th May.

**Lucy Nott**  
**Secretary to the PCC.**

# 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:**

**11th June:**            Please bring along a poem or short piece of prose you particularly like, to share with the group. Perhaps you will discover a poet/author you didn't know before, but who you want to read more of. Open to anyone with or without a poem.

£2 to cover refreshments.

There will be a Garden Party in July or August. Keep an eye on the church website, subscribe to the weekly e-news or phone me nearer the time.

Details from Rosemary 01844 344417.

# Walking Group

Well done in April as we completed a walk up to Brush Hill for bluebells then onto Askett fields for lambs! 5 miles.

On 24th June and 29th July we will be using our local bus service in order to walk in Naphill, Hughendon, Bradenham. So 2 more venues with a 9.15 am meeting at Burton Lane.

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

# The Crafty Sew & Sews

**Organisers:**        **Pam Scott**  
                              **Janet East**

**01844 346857**

**01844 345028**

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

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

# Knitting Group

This group meets on the 4th Thursday of the month at 2.00 pm in the Church Hall. For further information please contact Janet East 01844 345028 or Pam Scott 01844 346857.

# St Dunstan's Friendship Group

**Co-ordinator: Avril Clark**

**01844 342165**

Meeting at 2.30 pm in the Church Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (except in August).

All who wish to attend our meetings are very welcome.

## Church Choir

Choir practice is held in church every Thursday evening from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

For more information please contact Margaret Pitman 01844 346008.

## Bell Ringers

This friendly group practises from 7.30/7.45 pm to 9.00 pm on a Thursday evening. We welcome beginners and experienced ringers.

If you would like to come along to see what's involved please contact Tower Captain Chris Reynolds 01844 273683.

## Open House

Our next meetings are on Wednesdays June 17th and July 15th at 7.30 pm. The venue will be on the weekly e News. These meetings will be looking at Paul's first letter to Timothy. This a very practical letter of encouragement to a young but experienced leader about encouraging the new church in Ephesus but also dealing with practical issues.

For more information please contact Ted or 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.

## 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 June, 28th June, 12th July and 19th July.

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

## Could **you** support **your** parish church?



For centuries, St Dunstan's Church has stood at the very heart of our local community.

For generations, whether in times of national importance or for families' own precious moments, our doors have been open, our bells have rung, and prayer has been offered.

We continue to be here for you, as your parish church. We are the place for newborns' baptisms, for joyful marriages, and for the crucial times when we mourn the loss of loved ones. It is here that the community gathers in huge numbers for Christmas and Easter. We are here for all those moments that matter most and, just as crucially, for all the times in between – just as we have been for centuries.

Throughout all those years, our predecessors have made sure by their generosity that our church – its building and its ministry – is still here for us today.

Last year it cost around £288 every day to sustain the life of the parish, all of which we have to raise ourselves.

Could you donate £5 a month – or whatever you feel you could give – to ensure that our doors continue to be open today, and for the generations that come after us?

### **Ways to donate:**

The best way to set up a regular gift is through the Parish Giving Scheme, a non-profit organisation that helps parish churches collect and process donations. Access our page via our own website at [stdunstanschurch.com/giving](http://stdunstanschurch.com/giving) or via the QR code.



Alternatively, contact our Treasurer, David Curry, on 07854 198498 for other ways to give.

**Whatever you can give, thank you.**

# Giving Thanks for Fathers

There is no finer sound in the world than your child calling you 'Daddy', or 'Dad'. I love it!

And as I look around our neighbourhood, dads today are far more involved in their children's lives than when I was a child. Pushing prams, holding hands while out on a walk, bathing, playing games. Dads are in all these activities and more. I see the dads on either side of our house, and they obviously love their kids with all their hearts.

Unfortunately, too many kids grow up without a stable and involved male figure in their lives over the whole of their childhood and beyond. And no prizes for guessing the outcome; when they reach fatherhood, their kids often grow up without a stable and involved male figure in their lives.

The month of June brings Fathers' Day - this year on the 21<sup>st</sup> June. May all dads reading this be pampered like never before! If it's a fine day, it may be a case of 'Stand back everyone- dad's going to bar-b-q'. But before we get carried away, let's spare a thought for those who for one reason or another couldn't be dads, or whose dads fell far short of the high expectations we invest in them, or who lost a dad at a crucial time in life and feel a permanent ache where 'Dad' should be.

Our Christian faith teaches us to look at God as 'Father'- we address Him as such in the opening words of the Lord's Prayer, and it was Jesus' custom to talk to God as 'Father'. Maybe, taking into account those who have had a very mixed experience, or a bad experience of fathers, we should qualify what we say of God and call Him 'the Good Father', or 'our Good Father'.

Because that is what the experience of countless Christian would testify to; that God is a good father. I think of the picture Jesus paints in the parable of the Prodigal Son; the father on the look-out for his wayward son day after day, and when he sees him in the distance runs all the way to him to embrace him. Now in Jesus' time, in that culture, fathers did NOT run, least of all to welcome returning no-goods who had wasted half the father's fortune. Fathers were people of dignity. Run? Never!

Jesus has turned that on its head. We can be sure that a welcome awaits us; we turn to God, or return to God, and find that He's already half-way towards us, coming at speed to embrace us.

## 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

# Live Jazz at St Dunstan's

Featuring

Tim Boniface

Chris Diamand

Tom Early

Peter Godden

Following his outstanding gig in 2024, acclaimed composer and recording artist Tim Boniface returns with a band showcasing some of the best talent in British jazz, joined by our Vicar Peter as vocalist.

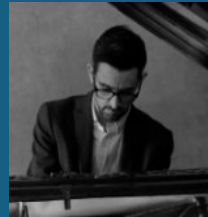
7.30pm Sat 4<sup>th</sup> July | St Dunstan's Monks Risborough  
Tickets £15 | Licensed cash bar | Prize Raffle

Tickets available from:

Anne (07811 659583) or Cathy (07906 180550)

Days to Remember, 59 High St, Princes Risborough

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



# Cream Teas at St Dunstan's

2.30 pm to 4.30 pm

Saturday 6th June

Sunday 7th June

Saturday 13th June

Sunday 14th June



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

## **MRHS (Monks Risborough Horticultural Society) VILLAGE SHOW**

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August from 12 noon to 4.30pm.**



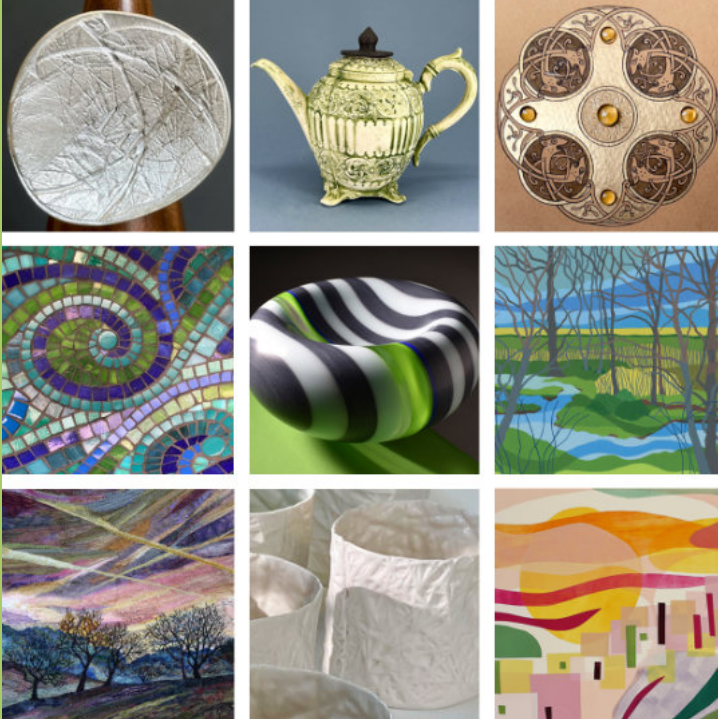
**Risborough Rangers Football Ground – Peters Lane**

A great family afternoon with extra children's entertainment this year.

Please support your local event.

**BARN DANCE** from 7.30pm with our usual live band with tickets £10 each.  
80 tickets now available to buy from Mick White asap (07377 363348)

## BUCKS ART WEEKS AT ST DUNSTAN'S



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

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

For photos and more info, see [www.artatstdunstans.blogspot.com](http://www.artatstdunstans.blogspot.com)

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

**Art at St Dunstan's is open Saturday 6 - Sunday 14 June**  
**Saturdays and w/days 10 - 4, Sundays 12 - 4.**

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

# ActionAid

We currently support Adam, a 9 year old boy living in rural Northern Malawi, through ActionAid. Adam is the third child to be supported by the parish since 2005. We have promised to send £180 per year.

In the area where Adam lives, schools lack basic educational resources. Donations received in excess of the annual agreed figure are used to provide books, writing materials or other needed equipment for the children in Adam's village.

I am thrilled to relate that Kristina of our 10 O'clock Club raised an initial £91 for Adam by selling her beautifully made bracelets at the recent Patronal Festival Barbecue. Many thanks to Cristina!

If you missed that opportunity but would like to contribute towards the 2026 payment, please contact me on 07973 300758 so that I can give you the details for making a bank transfer to Monks Risborough PCC.

Alternatively, if you would prefer to pay by cheque or cash, please hand your donation to one of the sides people at any St. Dunstan's or St. Peter's church service, or drop it off at the Rectory. Cheques should be made payable to "Monks Risborough PCC".

If you wish to use gift aid, please place your donation in one of the blue donation envelopes available in St. Dunstan's or St. Peter's, write ActionAid on the envelope and add your name and address. Thank you for your support.

**Jane Curry**

## Ladies' Breakfast

The next Ladies' Breakfast will be on Saturday July 4th at 9.00 am in St Mary's Hall. All ladies and friends are welcome. Our speaker will be Carole Edwards giving us her Musings from the Camino. Please let Rose know by Thursday July 2nd if you would like to come. [rosewilliamsjp@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rosewilliamsjp@yahoo.co.uk). Or telephone 01844 274225.

## Men's Breakfast

The next men's breakfast will be on 11th July at 8.45 am when we are having an 'away day' by holding it at Neil Dyson's farm in Bledlow. The address is Holly Green Farm, Bledlow, HP27 9QG. A chance to see this farm and its cattle and find out more about the work they do.

Contact Steve Williams on [mensbreakfast@stmarysrisborough.org.uk](mailto:mensbreakfast@stmarysrisborough.org.uk) or phone 01844 274225 if you would like to come so that we can control the catering and avoid waste. Male guests are very welcome.

## Springing into Action at Whiteleaf and Brush Hill

As we move from Winter into Spring, there is a shift in our tasks as we tread 'more gently' on the sites as things begin to grow, nest and hatch!

Whilst a small (strong!) team continued to wrestle with the rotten car park sleepers in January, the rest of the group coppiced hazel at the Pheasants' Path Viewpoint on Brush Hill. Coppicing involves cutting the hazel branches down to 1m high (to avoid grazing on the new growth) and is done to encourage new growth on older trees. Cuts are sloped outwards so the rain runs off. The material we cut was used to build up the dead hedge at the Pheasants' Path Viewpoint. A regular winter job, the coppicing continued into February on both sites.

In March we had our last bonfire of the season, burning the arisings from some great work done over the winter on Whiteleaf by the brushcutting team. They have managed to clear most of the thick scrub from the hill for the first time in years.

Once Spring proper starts, it's time for the heavy-duty maintenance jobs. In April we filled the potholes in the car park. If you're a regular car park user, hopefully you have noticed a difference.

Out on Whiteleaf Hill we continued clearing scrub growth, by hand at this time of year to avoid damaging habitat for nesting birds or caterpillars and butterflies. We cleared around the junipers just by the Cross which are fenced in as they are rare, very slow growing and need to be protected from grazing by deer.

In May we tackled a new task, digging and rejuvenating two old ponds in Brush Hill woods. It was heavy work with pick axes and mattocks in unseasonably warm weather for early May. It's a long job, so June will see us return with the pond liners to finish it, then we will leave them to fill naturally.

We checked the new trees we planted in Brush Hill Woods. We were very pleased that out of 400, fewer than 10% had not made it.

You may have noticed the fence at the top of Whiteleaf Cross starting to show its age, with loose posts the fence was becoming unsafe. We replaced many of the posts and put up a new rail so it's now much more stable.

We've also completed our first seasonal mow of the picnic area in time for half term, Summer is definitely on the way!

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

**Caroline Bridgman**

**Chiltern Society Site Coordinator, Whiteleaf and Brush Hill**

# DIARY DATES FOR JUNE AND JULY

## June

- 6th-14th Bucks Art Weeks - St Dunstan's (Page 17)
- 11th Fellowship Group - Church Hall 10.15 am (Page 10)
- 16th Library Talk - PR Library 2.30 pm (Page 31)
- 17th Friendship Group - Church Hall 2.00 pm (Page 11)
- 17th Open House - TBA 7.30 pm (Page 11)
- 19th Parish Prayer Group - Church Hall 9.00 am (Page 7)
- 24th Walking Group - Burton Lane 9.15 am (Page 10)
- 24th Owlswick Talk - St Peter's Chapel 7.30pm (Page 21)
- 25th Knitting Group - Church Hall 2.00 pm (Page 10)

## July

- 4th Jazz Concert - St Dunstan's 7.30 pm (Page 15)
- 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 7)
- 23rd Knitting Group - Church Hall 2.00 pm (Page 10)
- 29th Walking Group - Burton Lane 9.15 am (Page 10)



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**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*

# 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 24th June** 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 talk will start at **7.30 pm**, doors opening at 7.00 pm.

Entry is by donation (cash only), 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)

**Final copy date for next *Newsletter***  
**is**  
**10th July 2026**

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

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*The next Newsletter will be issued from 26th July 2026*

# Monks Risborough C of E Primary School

## **Year 5 Visit to Oxford Science Museum**

On Thursday we went to the Oxford Science Museum and planetarium, it was so fun there were three activities during the day. The first thing we did was the Exploration zone.

Firstly, we went to the Exploration zone (a room of fun gadgets and experiments) where everywhere I looked there were fun games. There were microscopes, tubes of air that shot out balls and scarves, thermal cameras, brain teasers and animations that were fascinating. Some of the games made you think really hard to find out the answer.

Next, we went to the changing states workshop, where with your partner we wore really cool goggles and used a candle to test materials and how they changed and reacted to heat. Our workshop leader Kate told us what we tested and how they changed, it was so fun. My favourite part of the workshop was caramelising sugar (that sugar melted fast) personally this was my favourite part of the day.

Finally we went to the planetarium and saw cool images of the milky way, the sun, galaxies and stars. We went to the moon and it felt like we were flying. We went to an inflatable dome which made a funny noise. When we spoke (which we didn't) it echoed really loudly, my favourite part was looking at the milky ways.

**By Sophie**

## **Year 2 Great Fire of London Day**

On Tuesday we had a Great Fire of London Day with Huw. Huw wore a hat with a laser and had a big stick. He told us all about the Great Fire of London. It was amazing. The hall had been set up with different stations; one was bread making, candle making, ink making, leather printing and clay making. My favourite was bread making.

**by Theo R**

I wore a grey and brown dress with buttons. First we did activities, I did clay and ink making. I also nailed my initials in leather. Huw said that the fire started in Pudding Lane and he told us that six people died including a maid.

**by Courtney**

## **Year 2 Visit to Whipsnade Zoo**

On Wednesday 29th April Year 2 went to Whipsnade Zoo. First we got on a coach, it took 45 minutes. I sat next to Otilie. Then we saw Bison! Then we walked to the wild dogs. They were laying down. Then we saw a giraffe. They were so tall. We saw a lion called Simba. Simba made me laugh because he scratched the wall four times. After we had our lunch I had crisps. Then we saw Rhinos and we saw flamingos. They were fighting because they had a baby. So we left to go to the Zebras. They were calmer.

We went to see some Meerkats. Finally, we went to the farm then we got on a coach to go back to school. I had a lovely time

**By Courtney**

## **The Eco Team**

Monks' Waste Free Lunch was a huge success this week! The children were delighted to show their waste free boxes and the Eco Team are also very pleased to see the reduction in waste!

It's wonderful to be part of reducing the size of landfill sites Thank you for your ongoing support and remember...'Little by little, a little becomes a lot'.

On the 23rd April, the Eco Team spent some time sowing seeds in the area of the field in which our new saplings are planted.

We hope to attract bees and insects to this area by attracting them with pollinator-plants to support the biodiversity of the school.

**Miss Goodright and the Eco Team**

## **Our British Bumblebees**



Did you know we have about 270 kinds of bee in the UK, including 24 types of bumblebees? Here are just six of them:

**Early Bumblebee:** - Found throughout the UK. Rather small, with distinctive lemon-yellow bands on thorax and abdomen, and an orange tail. An important pollinator of our soft fruit.

**Common Carder Bee:** - One of our most common bees, and often still feeding in November. Fluffy, brown and orange, with sometimes darker bands on the abdomen.

**Tree Bumblebee:** - Found in England and Wales, and recently Southern Scotland. A fuzzy bee, with brown-orange hairs on its thorax, a black abdomen, and a white tail.

**Red-tailed Bumblebee:** - The female is very large, with a big red 'tail', while males are smaller.

**Garden Bumblebee:** - A scruffy-looking large bee, with a long tongue and face. It has yellow bands at the collar, rear of the thorax and at the first segment of the abdomen, and the tip of the tail is white.

**Buff-tailed bumblebee:** - The biggest of our bumblebees, with a yellow collar near the head and another on the abdomen. The queen has a buff-coloured 'tail', while the workers have white 'tails' and black hair on their faces.

Be kind to our bees. They are in steady decline across the UK.

# Be My Buddy

Many of you will know that I express my admiration for Monks Risborough School whenever I'm writing about the different literacy projects Year Six and I embark on together each year. After many years of volunteering there, I never cease to be impressed by the dedication of the staff and the quality of the teaching. The results are evident in the pupils themselves – they are well-read and well-grounded in the disciplines they need for their journey through the school system and into further education and adulthood. They have a wide vocabulary, excellent spelling and numeracy and an appreciation of the wider world; academically and personally, they're a credit to the school, their parents and to themselves.

That's because they're all-round great kids. Willing – and able – to think on serious subjects, they have opinions of their own, yet they respect the views of others. They're kind and tolerant. Competitive of course, bursting with enthusiasm and keen to win but, if someone is struggling, generous and eager to help – even when they're competing against each other!

I see all this at first hand, weekly, and it is a joy and privilege to work with such delightful, (and friendly!) children.

So what's my point? Well, life has its ups and downs. Children can be subject to pressures just like all of us, but in a wonderfully practical fashion, Monks has started an initiative to help with this and more besides. In a nutshell they have a new alumnus, called Buddy.



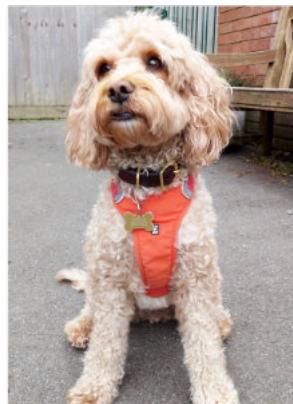
Buddy is four years old and lives with Head Teacher Amy Robinson. He's an attractive cavapoo with a cheerful face and a winning expression, full of enthusiasm as he studies to be a fully-fledged Therapy Dog. I checked in on him during his break and he was relaxed and approachable. We hit it off. He is now in the final stages of his training and hopes to have his assessment later this summer.

His job involves a lot of multi-tasking... He's there to accustom children to dogs – how to approach a dog with a calm voice and gentle body language; but there's much more to it than that. The way they learn to interact with

Buddy can prevent children from being afraid of dogs and help those who have been frightened by a dog to overcome their fear. Pupils learn about dogs' lives and their needs, and how to be around them. This has a lot of benefits for the children. From their very first school year, they realise the joy his presence brings. He can cheer you up if you're sad, or anxious about something; he's a friend you can talk to; if you're shy he can give you confidence. You can practise your reading on Buddy and if you make a mistake, he won't judge you.

There's another side too. A child who refuses school might be encouraged to attend; or you might be given a special session with Buddy as a reward for doing well in some way.

The children are learning at first-hand how to respect and care for animals. Buddy can get tired and scratchy just like people do, and so he needs his space. When he's wearing a red collar he's working and not to be interrupted, and a green collar means he's available for a chat. He doesn't work all day – school is a noisy, busy, sometimes tiring environment and he's only four.



And he has to learn a lot himself – how to accept a friendly stranger; how to be calm; to sit politely for petting; to walk quietly on a loose lead and listen to his person, especially in a crowd; like everyone he needs to be polite and remember his manners. It's a big ask. But there's plenty of fun, and some pleasant tricks to perfect for ending sessions, like giving a paw or a high five, or sitting or lying down.

Buddy is now firmly the school's mascot – a star amongst stars; seeing him and the children together, the mutual love and respect is clear.

Amy says Buddy loves his role, and there's no doubt he's loved right back - with knobs on.

**Jackie Highe**

A poster for a 'Charity Open Garden' event. The background is a vibrant field of various flowers in shades of purple, yellow, and pink. The text is centered and written in a mix of black and purple fonts. At the bottom left is the British Heart Foundation logo, and at the bottom right is a small circular inset photo of a stone building.

*Charity Open Garden*

*27<sup>th</sup> June 2026*  
*2pm-5pm*  
*29 Bunsmore Avenue*  
*Monks Risborough*  
*HP27 9JX*

*£1 entrance*  
*& Cream teas available*

*All proceeds to go to*  
*British Heart Foundation*  
*and*  
*St Dunstons Church Organ Fund*



## Spades and Hammers



*Fruit Dish, Bottle and Violin* 92x 73 cm 1914  
Picasso 1881-1973 Tate Modern

It's about time that we did something a bit challenging after all our pretty pictures. Don't stop reading this just because it's a Picasso. He is an old master now: this was painted 112 years ago. Still-lives were painted on some interior house walls in Pompeii

and throughout the history of western art, so Picasso is merely continuing an ancient tradition, but in so doing he has reinvented art itself.

Picasso didn't like the word Cubism, which was coined by an art critic around 1905. He was greatly influenced, if not obsessed, by Cézanne (1839 to 1906) especially after seeing his 1907 retrospective exhibition. Some other influences on Cubism were museum African carvings, multi-exposure photography, negatives and x-rays. Picasso had a lot of enjoyment and fun experimenting with 'Cubist' figures, landscapes and still-lives. What's the point in copying objects after photography had been invented?

In this painting (it is not a collage) objects are not seen from a fixed viewing point, but from several standpoints simultaneously and are anything but still. They jiggle about and present fragments of themselves. Picasso teasingly begins to draw, for instance, a fruit bowl, a violin, a cloth, a newspaper and a table, then he stops describing them and breaks them up into patterns.

The top right-hand side outline suggests a wine glass, but its echoing block of orange and some other areas are just shapes. The little circles perhaps evoke bubbles and froth on beer. The AL implies JOURNAL, newspaper, under which a violin is indicated. They make a carefully balanced, not random, pattern, with dotted areas left and right and blue/turquoise top and bottom.

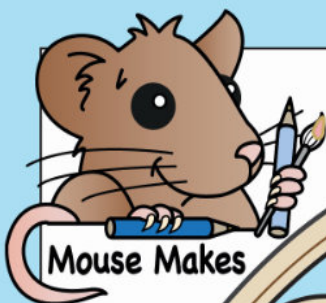
The painting can have alternative interpretations such as a seated figure holding the objects. It is like a jigsaw to which Picasso has taken his hammer to bang the pieces into arbitrary places, making his still life jigsaw puzzle even more puzzling. He is shaking up all our preconceptions of what a painting should be and rearranging them to make us think again. Not that he was working for an audience or courting popularity - he guessed correctly that his Cubist paintings would lose him the buyers of his preceding Pink and Blue periods. He no longer wanted to make pretty paintings like those earlier works and has deliberately chosen colours which are not particularly pleasing or harmonious, so that we are not seduced by an instant appeal. Instead of simulating sand he's scattered some on a sticky surface. Why not? He experimented with ideas and new modes of expression rather than following convention.

Picasso makes us realise that reality in a picture does not necessarily lie in reproducing external appearances. A painting is a real thing in itself, not an illusion of what one sees. He used objects as a starting point to make a purely pictorial reality. Conventional perspective played no part: he challenged the concept that an illusion of three dimensions is relevant on the two dimensional surface of a canvas. Perspective creates an illusion of recession, but Picasso is creating a different illusion of shifting, fluctuating and disrupted planes.

He thought that art had no point in confirming what people already knew. He wanted to stretch minds and give more than the eye can see or understand. He wanted to challenge, to provoke contradictions and unexpected relationships, to give the viewers what they are not expecting and might reject, to reconstruct a new reality.

Picasso does all this in spades - and hammers. I hope you have read this far. But I don't expect you like it!

**Susanne Carr**



Mouse Makes



"May the grace of the Lord  
**JESUS CHRIST** and the  
 love of **GOD** and the  
 fellowship of the  
**HOLY SPIRIT** be  
 with you all."

2 Corinthians  
 13:14



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 SON • SAVIOUR • LORD  
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Jun26 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

## Update April 2026

We have had an enjoyable month here at The Princes Centre, full of creativity, connection, sunshine and getting out in the community. Our older clients have been enjoying planting and pottering in the garden. Gardening provides our clients with low impact exercise, it can reduce stress and is good for our emotional wellbeing. We also enjoyed a local walk with some of our clients. Being out in the sun assists with vitamin D production which is essential for immune function and bone health. We've also enjoyed celebrating St George's Day this month, plus time spent with others playing table top games, which have proven popular and competitive!

Our younger clients have enjoyed completing lots of crafts lately and we've enjoyed seeing their enthusiasm shine through. It has been wonderful to see everyone chatting together whilst working on their designs, building confidence with numbers, colour recognition and enjoying the social benefits that come with it. We've also made the most of the beautiful sunshine, getting out as much as possible.

The April instance of our recently launched "Princes Communi-Tea Cafe Lunch Club" proved to be popular. We were delighted to welcome many members of our community, who joined us for a hot two-course meal with plenty of great conversation. Lunch Club is 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 May lunch club will take place on Friday 15 May.

Thank you to everyone who supported our recent Easter raffle. We raised a brilliant £180. The generosity shown from the community truly makes a difference and the funds raised go directly towards enriching activities and experiences for our clients.

Finally we are proud to share that The Princes Centre has been awarded Silver in the Community Business category at the Buckinghamshire Business Awards 2026. As community is at the heart of everything we do, this recognition means a great deal to us and celebrates the strong relationships we've built and the positive difference we continue to make together.

**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.**

# Why I love my heat pump

Before we bought our heat pump we did lots of reading, but were still a bit worried as articles in the newspapers had said that lots of our radiators would need to be replaced AND it wouldn't heat the rooms fast enough AND it wouldn't manage on really cold days AND it would be more expensive to run.

Basically, that it would not work properly in our house with some old radiators and a few draughts.

Although we were assured by our installer that these things would all be ok, it still felt like a big decision and a bit of a leap of faith.

After living with the system for 4 years, we can now say that all our worries were unfounded and it works very well in practice.

A few of the radiators did need to be replaced but probably needed changing anyway as they were so old ! Even on the coldest days, the heat pump extracts heat from the outside air, and concentrates it into the house making it more comfortable than with our old boiler.

It is true that the radiators don't heat up as fast and don't get as hot as a gas boiler, but they are on for longer and it still costs less to run than previously.



We're in the second energy crisis since we installed it and moving away from fossil fuels as much as possible seems more important than ever. By switching, we've made our home a bit more future proof and are likely to see our energy costs increase less than if we had kept our gas boiler.

Over the next few years we all have to drastically reduce our carbon emissions and eliminate our reliance on fossil fuels. Installing a heat pump now was a commitment to act and not wait for someone else to fix the problem, and was the biggest single contribution that we could make to this process.

Governments obviously need to make this process as easy as possible for everyone to make the switch and there's still a grant scheme to pay up to £7500 towards the installation costs. We're very pleased with our decision, and enjoy the feeling of being part of the solution and the transition to a low carbon economy.

We'll be taking part in an open day run by Climate Action Now Risborough as part of the Risborough Festival on 5th July, so if you'd like any more information, why not come along and hear more about it ? Details will be in the festival programme, or email to me, Jaaganroop Marshall at [marshalls\\_info@btinternet.com](mailto:marshalls_info@btinternet.com).

## Eco Home Tours

Are you interested in making the switch away from fossil fuels ? Do you want to make your home more efficient, cosier and cheaper to run?

Climate Action Now Risborough is a local group promoting awareness of climate issues and the benefits of positive action. We are holding an Open Eco-Homes event in Princes Risborough on Sunday 5th July.

Book your slot to visit a well equipped home with solar panels, solar thermal, batteries, a heat pump, and EV charging. Meet the homeowners for a tour and find out what it's like to live with the new technology.

Search on Eventbrite, look out for the Festival Programme or contact Jaaganroop at **marshalls\_info@btinternet.com**.

Tours at 10am, 12am, 2pm and 4pm. Add your preferred time when booking and we'll be in touch with the location before the event.

## Princes Risborough Library

### The Afternoon Group Monthly Talks 2.30 pm

**Tuesday 16th June:** A talk about "The Calibre Audiobooks Charity".

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.

## Monks Risborough Horticultural Society

**Saturday 1st August Annual Village Show**

See *Newsletter* Page 16.

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

## Princes Risborough Area Heritage Society

No meetings until September.

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