

Parish of Monks Risborough

Newsletter



St Dunstan's Church St Peter's Chapel

August 2026 - September 2026

MRHS (Monks Risborough Horticultural Society) VILLAGE SHOW

Saturday 1st 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)**

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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

Registered Charity No. 115386

Regular Services

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

The Parochial Church Council

Chairman:

The Rev'd. Peter Godden

Churchwardens:

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

Weekly Notice Sheet Organiser John McKay 01844 274650
email: comms@stdunstanschurch.com

Newsletter Editor Morna Hinch 01844 345169

St Dunstan's Choir Practice **Thursdays from 6.30 pm**

Tower Captain 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,

My wife quite rightly observes that I have three singing voices: one for singing jazz, one for when I'm in church, and one for going to the football. Those last two are about as polar opposite as can be for one person to produce: one aims to be melodious and peaceful, while the other is, well, less so.

I once read an article that suggested that churches could only dream of having the passion that is displayed on the football terraces. But having spent an extraordinary amount of time in my life in both of those environments, I can say that that perspective completely misunderstands what is happening in those two environments.

I love going to the football – specifically to Vicarage Road, where my beloved home team Watford play. When I go, I take a place in the Rookery End, the 'home' end behind the goal, where you don't just get to observe the pattern of play from that really interesting vantage point, but are also in the midst of the most devoted of fans who sing the loudest. The atmosphere is fantastic. The reason behind the volume that is generated isn't just because people love their club – although they do – but because they know that they are playing a key role in giving their side the best possible chance of winning the match. Home advantage is a real thing in sport, and the energy from a home crowd is a huge element in that. And so it is that the crowd in the Rookery End will generate as much noise and energy as they can, to help their players to overcome the adversary in their midst and emerge with all three points.

Christian worship on the other hand doesn't work like that. When we go to church, we don't go there trying to cheer Jesus on. We're not making our way there on Sunday morning (or whenever else we go) wondering whether Jesus is going to manage to defeat the powers of sin and death this week. He has already won that victory – as He Himself said on the cross on Good Friday: 'It is finished.' Death has been defeated, and in bursting free from the tomb he has won for us a glorious victory. So when we go to church, instead of cajoling someone on, we are there to be lost in wonder, love, and praise.

This doesn't mean that Christian worship will never have energy in it. Sometimes it looks very exuberant indeed – such as when we celebrate the resurrection at Easter, and express what a uniquely extraordinary thing it is that Jesus has risen from the dead. At other times, it looks quiet and meditative, such as at a quiet service of Evensong. And much of the time there is a whole mixture of elements.

What all of this *does* mean for Christian worship is that the passion – the meaning and the substance of Christian worship – is not revealed by its volume or its visual vivacity. Instead, it is characterised by a sure and certain hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and our belief that the maker of heaven and earth loves us beyond anything we can comprehend – and that is more meaningful than anything I have ever encountered at a football match.

I'll leave the last words to St Paul who, reflecting on Jesus' resurrection, wrote the following in a letter to the early Christians in Corinth.

'Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?'

I've always liked those lines. It sounds like a football chant.

With my prayers and very best wishes,

Peter

From the Parish Registers

Funerals: - *Rest in Peace:*

1st June: Sue Knightley, aged 77, of Askett

1st June: Brian Ball, aged 82, of St Dunstan's Close

22nd June: Gwendoline Moore, aged 95, of Westmead

9th July : Elizabeth Farquhar, aged 84, of Stone

St Dunstan's Pastoral Care

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

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

We are here for you.

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

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

The Pastoral Care group works alongside and with Peter, the Vicar, who can be contacted on 01844 274771.

Church Calendar

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

2nd August	Sunday	Ninth Sunday after Trinity 8.00 am BCP Holy Communion 10.00 am All-Age Parish Eucharist 6.00pm Evensong
6th August	Thursday	9.30am Holy Communion
9th August	Sunday	Tenth Sunday after Trinity 9.00 am BCP Holy Communion (St Peter's Owlswick) 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong
13th August	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
16th August	Sunday	Eleventh Sunday after Easter 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong
20th August	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
23rd August	Sunday	Twelfth Sunday after Trinity 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong (St Peter's Owlswick)
27th August	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
30th August	Sunday	Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong
3rd September	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
6th September	Sunday	Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity 8.00 am BCP Holy Communion 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong
10th September	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
13th September	Sunday	Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity 9.00 am BCP Holy Communion (St Peter's Owlswick) 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong
17th September	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
20th September	Sunday	Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong
24th September	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
27th September	Sunday	Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong (St Peter's Owlswick)

Parish Prayer Group

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

Meetings are held in the Church Hall on the 3rd Friday of each month (except August) at 9.00 am for about half an hour. The next meeting is on 18th September. A reminder will be in the eNews and Pewsheets on the Sunday prior to each of those dates and we will also email those who regularly attend.

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

Jill Iredale **jillstovold@icloud.com** 01844 346488

Angeline Vere **angeline.verere@btinternet.com** 01844 343006

SPONSORED "RIDE & STRIDE"



Bicycle Ride, Horse Ride and Walk

will take place on

SATURDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2026

10.00 am - 6.00 pm

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

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

We need more participants from our churches, and people to oversee refreshments in the porch.

Sponsor forms and list of participating churches
can be obtained from

Rosemary Woodward-Court 01844 344417

Ordinary - but challenging

In the church year, we are now well into that long season - it seems to go on forever - variously called 'Trinity' or 'Ordinary time'. Each of those labels tells us something about the approximately six months between Pentecost and Advent Sunday.

'Trinity' reminds us that with Pentecost, God has made Himself known to us in all His fullness (or at least as much as we can bear) as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. 'Ordinary time' tells us that this is the season where, now armed with the insights and power of the Holy Spirit, we can revisit the life of Jesus with new eyes, new heart, see new things in the faith, see new opportunities to serve God.

This is the time when those words of Jesus (John 15:15) 'I have made known to you *everything* I have learned from the Father' come into play. It may seem a long season, it may feel like the drudgery of 'Keep on keeping on' without the excitement of Christmas, Easter and Pentecost to lift our spirits, but it is ordinary time charged with the knowledge that we have *everything* we need in the resources of God. The love of the Father, the words and works of the Son, the power of the Spirit will energise us as we 'keep on keeping on' through this long season.

This long season up to the end of November is a reminder that working out our love for God in our community is probably more about perspiration than inspiration. Few are called to be heroes of the faith, but all are called to faithfulness, and somehow or other, with the transforming power of the Spirit, we are all able to keep on keeping on, doing little things with great love.

Here's a lovely prayer which captures some of the mindset of the Trinity season/ Ordinary time; it may help you 'keep on keeping on' through the months ahead;

*Let not our soul be busy inns that have not room for Thee and Thine,
but quiet homes of prayer and praise where Thou mayest find fit company;
where the needful cares of life are wisely ordered and put away,
and wide sweet space is kept for thee.*

Amen to that. Ordinary - but challenging!

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.

PCC report of the meeting held on 19th May 2026

The newly elected members of the PCC, Caroline Byrom, Diane Kerwood and Charlie Turnbull, and incoming Churchwarden Mick Quigley were all welcomed to the PCC by Rev'd Peter Godden, who thanked them for committing their time and service to this important work. The agenda was long, but the meeting proved to be efficient and focused.

Peter paid tribute to Philip Crockett who, after seventy years as altar server at our 8am service and many additional years as verger, has stepped down from these roles. He invited everyone to attend the 8am on 7th June when Philip's contribution to the life of the parish would be recognised.

The Safeguarding Officer Angeline Vere invited members of the PCC to consider completing a domestic abuse awareness course offered by the Diocese of Oxford.

Financial matters were discussed at some length, and included the upcoming Stewardship Campaign, looking at options for improving contactless giving, and the financial elements of the organ project.

Peter passed on to the PCC a letter from a recently bereaved family complimenting the condition of the churchyard, and he thanked all those who work so hard to maintain and upkeep this precious area.

There were various other discussions, including regarding health and safety at our Lunch Club, the disposal of the church's old photocopier, and upcoming events – at which point Peter recorded the PCC's thanks for all those who work hard making our events such a success.

Lucy Nott, Secretary to the PCC

Church Organ

The Organ Working Group has some good news to share!

A faculty application has been submitted for permission to refurbish and enhance the church organ, as previously reported, and the Diocesan Advisory Committee has recently recommended approval of this application as "the most practicable and cost effective option for the Parish".

This is a significant milestone. Some additional paperwork must now be prepared, after which a 28-day period of public consultation will follow.

I'm fairly certain that we will request a fuller article in a future edition to explain the proposed changes, but I can't be sure at this stage when that will be - so it's probably not appropriate to 'trail' it yet.

Simon Gray

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:

8th August: Fellowship Garden Party from 2.30-4.30 pm In/beside the church hall. Come and indulge in scones, strawberries, tea, Prosecco/ Pimms. £4 to cover costs.

10th September: A quiz and games morning. A variety of games will be provided, but it would be good if participants could bring some.

Details from Rosemary 01844 344417.

Walking Group

We will continue our local walking on Wednesday 26th August with a 9.30 am bus start from Aylesbury Road/Burton Lane to Loosley Row.

The following walk is on Wednesday 30th September. It will also be a 9.30 am bus start from Aylesbury Road/Burton Lane but in the Aylesbury direction.

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

Church Choir

Choir practice is held in church every Thursday evening except in August from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm. For more information please contact Margaret Pitman 01844 346008.

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.

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 19th August and 16th September at 7.30 pm. The venues will be announced.

In August we continue our look at Paul's first letter to Timothy where Paul is giving advice to Timothy as he leads a new church in the pagan town of Ephesus. In Chapter 4 Paul deals with difficult issues concerned with false teaching as the new Christians from many different communities try to push their own ideas.

In September, we look at chapter 5. Paul is giving practical advice on how the church should care for each other when there are practical needs. Paul also talks about the practical needs of those who lead and teach the community.

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 next on 13th and 27th September.

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

The Church Hall

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

It is available for people to use after Christenings, weddings, funerals and other services. It is also available for hire to local community groups and charities, and is very popular for hosting small classes.

For further details or to arrange a booking, contact stdunstanschurhhall@gmail.com or ring 07942 356245.

Church Flower Rota

Organisers:

Gwen Miles

01844 345230

Jenny Masterton-Smith 01844 273538

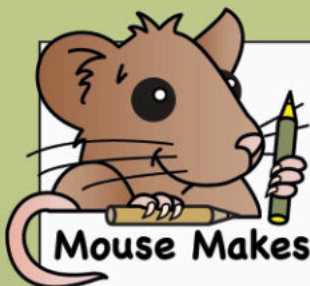
Sunday Coffee Rota

Organisers:

Jo Wade

01844 346321

Anne White 07811 659583



Mouse Makes

1. To which city did God send Jonah?

Jonah 1:1-2



2. Where did Paul travel to after seeing a vision?

Acts 16:9-10

MOAB

5. Which town did Naomi and Ruth travel to after leaving Moab?

Ruth 1:22



6. Where did Paul and Barnabas go after being persecuted in Antioch?

Acts 13:51

4 across

After Paul was stoned, where did he travel to with Barnabas?

Acts 14:19-20

LYSTRA

4 down

Where was Saul travelling to when Jesus appeared to him?

Acts 9:3



EGYPT



JERUSALEM

7 across

Where did the Church in Jerusalem send Barnabas?

Acts 11:22

JOURNEYS

7 down

Where did Noah's ark come to rest after its journey?

Genesis 8:4

9. To which city did Philip travel to proclaim Christ?

Acts 8:5

10. To which river did people travel out to to be baptised?

Mark 1:5



11. After a five day journey where did Paul arrive?

Acts 20:6

GALILEE

12. Which sea did Moses walk through to get away from the Egyptians?

Exodus 15:4

8. To where did Mary and Joseph flee to get away from Herod?

Matthew 2:13

JUDEA



13. Where did Paul travel to after he left Athens?

Acts 18:1

Whitechapel Mission

Supporting homeless men and women in London

150 years ago the Whitechapel Mission was formed to serve the homeless and marginalised in society. Demand for its services sadly continues to rise – the number of people helped has increased by 20% this year alone.

Each year clothing, tinned and dry food, and toiletries are donated to the Mission from St Dunstan's following our Harvest Festival, which will be on Sunday 4th October this year.

Donations may be left in church from Sunday 6th September - the most urgent requirements will be publicised from the end of August. Further details about work done by the Mission, and its current needs, can be found at <https://whitechapel.org.uk/support/giftlist>.

If you have donations that need a home before 6th September please contact me.

Current Needs



On behalf of the Mission, thank you for your support.

Simon Gray (simongray0@gmail.com)

Ladies' Breakfast

Ladies' Breakfast is on Saturday 29th August at 9am in St Mary's Hall. Our speaker is Rev Sally Prendergast who came before to tell us about her stole making business and now returns to share with us her exciting new project! All ladies and friends welcome. Please let Rose know if you are coming this time by Thursday 27th August on 01844 274225 or **rosewilliamsdp@yahoo.co.uk**.

Men's Breakfast

The next men's breakfast will be on 12th September at 8.45am in the St Mary's Church Hall. There will be the usual full English breakfast. The cost is £5, payable on the day. Contact Steve Williams on **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.

St Dunstan's

Harvest Ploughman's Lunch

**Sunday 4th October
in church
after 11.00 am Service**

£5 Adults, Children under 12 free

**Tickets are available from
Anne White 07811 659583 or Jo Wade 01844 346321
or in church**

Jamaday

Let's not take our Cathedrals for Granted

US Vice-President JD Vance may have criticised an art installation at Canterbury Cathedral – but a new report shows that the Church of England's cathedrals are its most popular places of worship.

They are also vital centres of community, arts and music and are major tourist attractions.

But the latest research shows that many of the historic buildings are facing major financial challenges.

Religion think-tank Theos has published a detailed report looking at the role of cathedrals in modern England. The report, 'Living Stones: English Cathedrals as Sacred Spaces in Changing Times,' revealed that more than three-quarters (77 per cent) of adults in England had visited a cathedral at least once in the past three years.

The research showed that "Cathedrals reach beyond regular churchgoers. A majority of those with no religious affiliation have visited a cathedral in the last three years, and many enjoy worship, music, prayer or stillness while doing so."

Other research confirms that cathedrals have significant economic benefits, generating around £235 million of additional expenditure in their local communities a year, creating more than 6,000 jobs and mobilising 13,000 volunteers.

Yet the Theos research also points out that four out of five of the cathedrals operate 'in structural deficit' with no guaranteed national funding for their core functions.

In recent years, cathedrals have attracted criticism for activities aimed at drawing new visitors into their buildings. Last autumn, JD Vance criticised an art installation at Canterbury Cathedral, saying that the graffiti-style artworks had made "a beautiful historical building really ugly."

Other cathedrals have prompted complaints after installing a temporary fairground 'helter-skelter' inside the building or hosting silent discos.

Research from the Bible Society has shown that one of the top three places for people with no religion or non-practising Christians to encounter the Bible was while sightseeing in a cathedral or church.

But one of the Theos report's main findings highlights the growing gap "between the scale of public benefit cathedrals provide and the level of recognition, understanding and support they receive."

The report concludes that, to survive and thrive, cathedrals need sustainable investment from funders that recognise the cathedrals' public benefits.

It also encourages visitors and local community members to consider joining a 'friends' scheme or making a regular donation.

10th August

Trip to Christchurch Cathedral Oxford

There will be a tour of the Cathedral, a talk about stained glass windows and the opportunity to attend Evening Prayer at 6.00pm. You may also like to arrange a boat trip.

The cost is £25, payable online, by cash or cheque.

Please let Anne (078116 59583) or Rosemary (07787 971542) know if you'd like to come.

The coach will leave from Mill Lane at 9.30am. There will be plenty of time to explore before the coach leaves Oxford at 6.45pm.

St Dunstan's Events

Isis

DIARY DATES FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

August

1st MR Hort Soc - Annual Show Peter's Lane 12 noon (Pages 2,27)

8th Fellowship Group - Church Hall 2.30 pm (Page 10)

10th August - Cathedral Trip Mill Lane 9.30 am (Page 17)

19th Open House - TBA 7.30 pm (Page 11)

26th Walking Group - Burton Lane 9.30 am (Page 10)

27th Knitting Group - Church Hall 2.00 pm (Page 10)

September

2nd PR Heritage Society - Community Centre 7.30 pm (Page 27)

10th Fellowship Group - Church Hall 10.15 am (Page 10)

12th Ride and Stride - St Dunstan's 10.00 am (Page 7)

16th Friendship Group - Church Hall 2.30 pm (Page 11)

16th MR Horticultural Society - Church Hall 7.30 pm (Page 27)

16th Open House - TBA 7.30 pm (Page 11)

18th Parish Prayer Group - Church Hall 9.00 am (Page 7)

24th Knitting Group - Church Hall 2.00 pm (Page 10)

30th Walking Group - Burton Lane 9.30 am (Page 10)



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

www.stdunstanschurch.com

**Or sign up for our weekly e-Newsletter at
comms@stdunstanschurch.com**

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

Facebook  and 

A Member of the Risborough Team Ministry

Newsletter Appeal

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your support.

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

Please give copy to one of the following:

Editor	Morna Hinch	morna.hinch@btinternet.com	01844 345169
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Proof reader	Jane Curry	jlecurry@gmail.com	07973 300758

The next Newsletter will be issued from 27th September 2026

It's Been a Difficult Year in the Bee Hive

As a retirement project, my wife and I started keeping bees about fourteen years ago and this has proved to be a fascinating hobby with the welcome addition of a hundred or more pounds of honey every year. Honey bees are unique among insects in that they store sufficient food over the winter to survive without hibernating or dying. This has made it possible for them to live in large social colonies of many thousands, rather than having to breed a new colony every year. Bees, however, like all of us, are feeling the effects of climate change, none more so than last year.



In order to survive a winter with no flowers from which to produce nectar for food and temperatures that are too cold for flying anyway, bees store honey as a food source. This means that in summer, the worker bees fly every possible hour of the day and after six weeks or so have literally flown their wings off. The colony survives by raising large numbers of replacement workers from eggs laid by the queen. As winter approaches and nectar availability falls, the need for so many workers reduces, but someone has to look after the hive all winter. Nature's solution to this is for the hive to raise winter bees, which can be

thought of as caretakers for the hive. These bees begin to emerge in late summer as the numbers of flowers falls along with the day length and temperature. They are slightly larger than worker bees, cannot fly long distances, can create warmth by "shivering", store fat, protein etc. in their bodies and produce a substance that boosts their immunity and extends their lifetime. "If only" I hear you say. Their jobs are to feed the queen, keep her warm and raise the first brood of the next year, when the queen starts laying eggs, so that these will eventually become the year's first nurse bees.

Now comes climate change. In 2025 the months of July and August were warm and very dry and this led to flowering of almost everything being over by early August, just as the winter bees were beginning to take over. This led to poor development of the winter bees and by early 2026 as the queens were starting to lay eggs, the winter bees were getting to the end of their lives. This meant that lots of colonies simply died out due to lack of numbers to keep warm and despite there



being ample winter stores of honey available to them. In our case, out of six hives, we lost three and a further one was on its last legs. This struggling colony was fed and given an extra brood in order to boost the numbers.

A common way for beekeepers to replace colony losses is to offer a swarm collection service from which we benefit by getting viable colonies and the property owner gets rid of unwanted swarms of bees before the dog gets stung or they take up residence in a cavity wall. In our case, the first call turned out to be for a tiny cast swarm. This is a small secondary swarm, containing a virgin queen. This was brought home and put into an empty hive with some food to keep it going. Next swarm was large but just would not go into our box, despite several attempts. So that was left to its own devices and eventually flew off. Then we got a call from Prestwood for a swarm, which we collected, brought home and housed. Come the morning the bees had all flown away! We went to Marlow to collect a swarm hanging nicely in a back garden, accepted a cup of tea while the bees settled a little and then watched them fly away. By this time, we were getting a little desperate, but a call from Naphill led to a swarm that was collected, put in a hive and stayed put. After these setbacks we decided to try another approach to fill the last hive.



Bees will only tolerate one queen in a colony. However, when they sense that the queen is getting past it or for some reason dies, they have the ability to raise a replacement. They do this by selecting a newly laid egg and feeding the resultant larva with royal jelly. This special diet causes the bee to develop differently and turn into a queen bee, capable of mating and laying eggs. If the beekeeper tricks the colony into thinking that it has lost its queen, then they will sense the loss and immediately raise a replacement; this is called a split. We split our strongest colony in half and sure enough they raised not one but three new queens. Only one survives however as the first to emerge promptly kills her sisters.

The result of all these trials and tribulations is that, as of the end of June, the weakling hive is full of bees which sting us every time we go near and are producing honey; the tiny cast swarm has grown into a colony large enough to survive the winter; the Naphill swarm is in the same healthy condition; the fourth colony has already given us honey and has also replaced its ageing queen; the hive that was split has also replaced its ageing queen and the result of the split is a thriving colony, also producing honey.

As we approach the end of the beekeeping season, we already have our hundred pounds of honey with a month of the honey season yet to go but we have to wonder what the next year of our fascinating hobby will bring.

Brian Highe

Man on a Plinth



By the by the time you read this, the life-size striding statue here may have been taken down, destroyed or stolen. It was installed without permission on the night of the 30th of April this year 2026 signed 'Banksy' on its plinth. It is near the Crimea War memorial in Waterloo Place St James (tube Piccadilly Circus or Charing Cross) standing among traditional monuments. 'There was a bit of a gap' Banksy wrote on his Instagram post on the 30th of April.

This profoundly powerful statue depicts a suited (not uniformed) man with his chest thrown out, proudly marching blindly off his plinth, one foot raised above the void. He holds up a huge unidentifiable flag which has flown over his face, completely covering it, so he can't see where he is going, yet on he marches. Marching Man was quickly surrounded with safety barriers.

This installation of Marching Man can mean different things to every viewer, with no single interpretation. It could be a warning against bumptious blind following of toxic nationalism or an ideology, or a zealous devotion to a cause pursued without critical thought, or perhaps it depicts a man on a protest march, leading to an inevitable fall. Is he a world or political leader (no names) taking a step too far in these dangerous and frightening times? What is your interpretation?

You will surely remember Banksy's most famous framed work 'Girl with a Balloon' which was sold for £1million at Sotheby's in October 2018. The moment it was sold, Banksy (or a minion) activated a self-shredder and the picture slithered down out of its frame, destroyed. (You can watch it on YouTube).

How we laughed at the art world! Banksy likes ephemeral art!

We are not sure who Banksy is. He could be Robin Gunningham/David Jones, born in the 1970s. If you haven't heard of Banksy, he would be delighted.

I am reminded of another statue, the first one to be placed on the empty fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square in 1999. (Installations there are changed every two years, so today we see something VERY different.)

Although life-size, the single statue looked minuscule. It was called 'Ecce Homo' (John 19:5) 'Behold the Man', by Mark Wallinger (born 1959); a still small Jesus, hands bound behind His back wearing a gold barbed wire crown, naked except for a loin cloth. There is no bluster and pomp like Marching Man, but Jesus too stands right on the edge of His plinth.

Looking regularly for two years at Wallinger's still innocent Jesus, so utterly alone, knowing of his impending agonising death, I felt like crying. But I wanted bombastic striding Marching Man to tumble right off his plinth while I laughed.

I expect someone will make sure he falls before he is removed or stolen.

What are your thoughts?

Susanne Carr

Ted Kent, the BBC, and booms

Ted Kent is a licensed lay minister, and he and his wife Mary, a priest, each play their part in the ministry and congregation of our church. But there is a less well-known aspect – something about which you can say ‘not many people know that’. In Ted’s case, it’s the mighty Beeb.



He left school at 18 in 1965, when for many young people university was not an option. The BBC had just started BBC2 and the Open University, and was short of staff, so he joined the BBC technical operations training scheme.

‘Our three-day induction course was mostly about Civil Defence. I still have my notes on what to take into our shelter for a two-week stay to avoid radiation! Remember, it was only a year after the Cuban crisis and our sixth form chats had mostly been about whether we would be bombed tomorrow’.

‘This was the exciting early years of technological development, and one highlight was to see the BBC’s first video tape recorder, which had been developed from 1952-58 and demonstrated on live TV by Richard Dimbleby on Panorama’. Then he joined his crew for his three-month training in the practical side of working on TV.

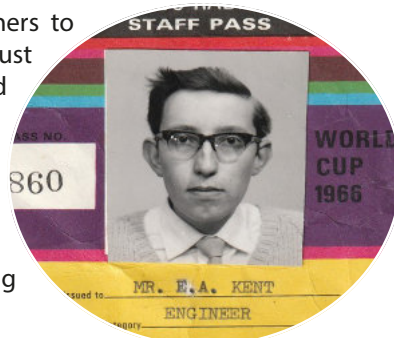
‘My first day was on a six-part sit-com called *Bed-Sit Girl* starring Sheila Hancock. It had a live audience which took up half the studio, leaving a very tight space for four cameras and a boom mike, which all had to move from set to set into exact positions for shots. I had to keep the camera cables clear as they moved. They were thick and needed to be stacked in a figure of eight – hard work and dusty! The first rehearsal, called a ‘stagger-through’, was mostly spent waiting about for the floor manager to sort out problems. What worked for the actors in a church hall didn’t work in the studio – odd bits of furniture clogged up the cameras and so on. But after six weeks I had actually been a cameraman once, on a still shot of credits.

Then I moved to sound and made my First Big Mistake – I got the microphone in shot! It was a Fanny Cradock show and what I remember most was that the potatoes were dyed green and the hard-boiled eggs blue – it was black and white TV and this improved the contrast...’

After his three months training in the theory of vision and sound equipment he went back to London for practical work in the studios.

He had the option of working on the sound crew or being a more glamorous cameraman. The promotion pathway for cameras was much longer, so he chose sound. A few months later he was instructed to report for a training session (in those days you were sent, not asked). He was to be on a radio team on the forthcoming 1966 World Cup!!

He was assigned to Liverpool with twenty others to Everton Football Ground. Their equipment was just a small mixing desk, a tape recorder and microphones. They were working for several radio networks, and radio commentators from visiting countries, including Brazil. 'There wasn't room on the bench for us all so I had to squeeze on sideways, and couldn't see much pitch. But the noise told me when things were getting exciting...'



Teams were assigned to programmes, some regularly, others as one-offs, so there was plenty of variety and scope.

'In one week you might be on a schools programme, Grandstand, a sit-com and a play. I worked a couple of Top of the Pops a year. That was easy for a sound engineer because a lot of acts mimed their records. In 1967 I was working the show and I only had one main job – to collect the microphone from the singer of the number one hit before the camera took a wide shot of the studio. Rehearsals were fine, but on the live show the studio audience was dancing, crowded round the groups – they were everywhere. As I rushed to get the microphone, my jumper got caught on the hook and eye of a dancer's dress. I managed to get clear in time, but didn't get the mic. It was 'Englebert Humperdinck's 'Please Release Me'.

'I enjoyed my five years at the BBC, during a fascinating period - including the start of colour TV. I worked the first Hancock's Half Hour, which was recorded; the first live 24 Hours with Cliff Michelmore from Lime Grove; Song for Europe; The Two Ronnies, The Golden Rose at Montreux; plus Z Cars. This was live with back projection when they were driving, and once they forgot to turn it off and the actors got out with the road still spooling away behind them!' About 50% of programming was live – all the big sports shows and Saturday Night Spectaculars.

'It was fantastic working in a team, and opened up the Arts to me, but life moves on and I married Mary, took a one-year Bachelor of Education and trained as a primary school teacher. It was right at the start of computer education.

I didn't come into the Church of England until quite late, because I'd been a Baptist all my life. But that's another story...'

As told to Jackie Highe

Summer Action at Whiteleaf

A large group of volunteers turned out in both June and July, which meant we were able to get lots done in what is normally our 'quiet' season.

In June, we returned to the job of rejuvenating the ponds in Brush Hill woods. Small bodies of water make a big difference to biodiversity. Volunteers removed the old liners, dug the ponds deeper to accommodate hibernating invertebrates and relined them.

The ponds will be seasonal as they will rely on rainfall to top them up. A pond doesn't have to have water in the whole year round; some ponds dry out some of the time and this is usually good for freshwater wildlife. Temporary or seasonal ponds are an important and highly threatened habitat type, many of which persist for millions of years.

It is important that these ponds be kept as they are and not made into more permanent ponds. That's because they have a range of specialised and rare plants and animals, particularly amphibians and invertebrates such as water beetles. One in four seasonal ponds in places such as woodland, old meadows and heathland, has a rare Red Data Book species. Temporary ponds are also important for wildlife because the occasional drought gets rid of fish (which are major predators of insects and amphibians) allowing other species to thrive.

Despite non-seasonal June weather, we managed to start weeding Whiteleaf Cross. July weather was much kinder and we made a great job of clearing the 'arms'. Hopefully you will notice the difference from a distance! Fingers crossed for a fine August and we can finish the job. As a bonus, we identified kidney vetch growing on the cross and were able to harvest the seeds before weeding. Once these are dried out we will replant them in scrapes on the hill to encourage more plants in the right place!

We are lucky to have several juniper bushes growing on the hill. Over the years these rare and slow growing shrubs have been enclosed with wire fences to discourage damage from grazing animals. These fences are now inhibiting their growth, so we have spent several hours carefully removing them with wire cutters, ensuring we don't damage the junipers. Our next task will be to clear the encroaching scrub which has been growing unchecked around them.

A satisfying July job for our 'strong arm' group was to install 3 new information boards across the Whiteleaf site. These are at the cross and the lesser known sites of the Neolithic barrow and the cross-ridge dyke. These are Scheduled Monuments - sites of national importance which are protected by UK law. The boards will hopefully give visitors a better insight into the history of Whiteleaf and why it needs to be protected.

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

Monks Risborough Church of England Primary School

In June the school was inspected by Ofsted, using the new system of assessment introduced this academic year, covering 8 areas of focus. The official final report has now been received. We are accordingly very pleased to confirm that the inspectors were satisfied that the school had met requirements and reached expected standards or above in all categories inspected.

All staff at the school have worked very hard to achieve this successful result. The requirements are wide-ranging and demand considerable effort. Everyone who contributed to this effort is to be congratulated.

Inspectors highlighted several areas where our school is performing particularly strongly. Overall results for each area were as follows:

Early Years and Personal Development & Wellbeing – Strong Standard (above expected standard)

Achievement, Attendance and Behaviour, Curriculum and Teaching, Inclusion, Leadership and Governance – Expected Standard

Safeguarding (either met or not met) – Met

Many very positive statements about the school, its methods of teaching and its nurturing of all pupils were included in the report. For example, Inspectors described behaviour as calm and respectful, teaching as generally effective, and staff morale as “extremely high.” They also recognised our inclusive practice and the strong relationships we build with families. You can read the full report on the Government website - <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Miss A. Robinson, Head Teacher

Mrs. J. Curry, Chair of Governors

Monks Risborough Horticultural Society

Future Meetings:

1st August: Annual Village Show. See *Newsletter* Page 2.

16th September: “The Evolution of the Perennial Border - Jekyll to Dunnett”.
7.30 pm in St Dunstan’s Church Hall.

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

Princes Risborough Area Heritage Society

Future Meetings:

2nd September: “The changing wildlife of the Chilterns” Speaker John Tyler.

Brushwood Suite, Wades Park. Doors open 7.15 pm talk 7.30 pm.

Admission - Membership £20 annual. Talk only £5.

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