

Parish of Monks Risborough

Newsletter



St Dunstan's Church St Peter's Chapel

October 2026 - November 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

Registered Charity No. 115386

Regular Services

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

The Parochial Church Council

Chairman:

The Rev'd. Peter Godden

Churchwardens:

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,

A dinosaur craze has hit The Rectory. Our three boys can suddenly think of little else. They play with dinosaurs, talk about dinosaurs, listen to audio books about dinosaurs. My eldest can talk about species like *Lambeosaurus*, the break-up of *Pangaea*, and the vastness of the ocean of *Panthalassa*. It's quite eye-opening being schooled by a five-year-old.

In light of this, we recently took a trip to Lyme Regis to look for fossils on the Jurassic coast. We found ammonites aplenty, and it was amazing to see evidence of things that have existed on this planet millions of years ago.

I have had lots of really interesting questions through my years of ministry from people who ask things such as whether I believe in evolution and, particularly interestingly, whether I 'believe' in Genesis – by which they tend to mean the creation stories (for there are actually two of them) found at the book's start.

The answer is that I happily receive them both, alongside each other – for I don't believe they offer any conflict at all. The reason why is probably best explained by borrowing a brilliant analogy from the theoretical physicist and theologian John Polkinghorne.

If one asks 'why is the kettle boiling?', then one can respond by saying that electricity is flowing through an element, which in turn generates thermal energy; that heat transfers to the water molecules inside the kettle, which move more and more rapidly until they reach 100 degrees Celsius and turn into steam. That's a scientific answer to the question of why the kettle is boiling, which seeks to understand the technicality of what is going on. When people similarly seek to answer questions like where the universe comes from or how we came to be here in that scientific way, they come up with things like the big bang theory or the theory of evolution.

On the other hand, if one asks 'why is the kettle boiling,' one can respond by saying that it's 10.30am, breakfast was a long time ago, and I want a cup of tea. That's a relational answer to the question, which seeks to understand the story, the ultimate purpose and intent behind what is going on. It is this way of thinking that drives the Genesis narratives found in its first two chapters.

Far from being in competition with one another, these scientific and philosophical approaches to delving into the history of the universe complement one another: if you only have one, you don't have the whole story. I love contemplating how the universe exploded into existence; how its vast expanse is still increasing; how extraordinary the creatures are that have walked this earth before us. I also love reflecting upon why it is that all of this has been brought into existence, especially when I hear the wonderful poetry of the first creation narrative read aloud in church.

Perhaps my favourite moment in the first chapter of Genesis comes towards the very end, when God has finally created human beings. At the end of that sixth and final day of creation, God no longer sees everything merely as 'good,' as He does on the other

days; instead, this time, we are told that 'it was very good.' It is a beautiful climax to the story, articulating how precious every single one of us is in God's eyes; for, in this extraordinary universe, we are the ones who have been created in His own image.

May you likewise be able to gaze in awe at the universe, consider with wonder why it came to be here, and hold on to the sure and certain knowledge that you have been created by a God who delighted to create you, and who loves you.

With my prayers for you all,

Peter

From the Parish Registers

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

26th July: Jasaiah Hunt

Funeral: - *Rest in Peace:*

16th July : Neil Coutts, aged 79, of Mill Lane

St Dunstan's Pastoral Care

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

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

We are here for you.

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

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

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

Church Calendar

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

1 st October	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
4 th October	Sunday	Harvest Festival 8.00 am BCP Holy Communion 11.00 am All-Age Parish Eucharist, followed by refreshments 6.00 pm Evensong
8 th October	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
11 th October	Sunday	Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity 9.00 am BCP Holy Communion (St Peter's Owlswick) 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong
15 th October	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
18 th October	Sunday	Feast of St Luke the Evangelist 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 6.00 pm Evensong
22 nd October	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
25 th October	Sunday	Bible Sunday 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 3.00 pm Evensong (St Peter's Owlswick)
29 th October	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
1 st November	Sunday	All Saints' Day 8.00 am BCP Holy Communion 10.00 am All-Age Parish Eucharist 3.00 pm Service for the Feast of All Souls (Commemoration of the Faithful Departed)
5 th November	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
8 th November	Sunday	Remembrance Sunday 9.00 am BCP Holy Communion (St Peter's Owlswick) 10.00 am Parish Eucharist including 11am Act of Remembrance (All in St Dunstan's) 11.20 am Act of Remembrance (Monks Risborough War Memorial) 3.00 pm Evensong
11 th November	Wednesday	10.50 am Act of Remembrance for Armistice Day (Monks Risborough War Memorial)
12 th November	Thursday	9.30 am Holy Communion
15 th November	Sunday	Second Sunday before Advent 10.00 am Parish Eucharist 3.00 pm Evensong

19th November Thursday
22nd November Sunday

9.30 am Holy Communion

Christ the King

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

3.00 pm Evensong (St Peter's Owlswick)

26th November Thursday

9.30 am Holy Communion

29th November Sunday

First Sunday of Advent

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

No service at St Dunstan's:

6.00 pm Churches Together in Risborough Advent
Service (Venue TBC)

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 meetings are on 16th October and 20th November. 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.verre@btinternet.com 01844 343006

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.

Church Flower Rota

Organiser:

Gwen Miles 01844 345230

Sunday Coffee Rota

Organisers:

Jo Wade 01844 346321

Anne White 07811 659583

PCC report of the meeting held on 21st July 2026

We began as usual by reviewing worship in the preceding weeks. Several people have asked if Peter's sermons from the recent 'Reading in Faith' sermon series can be published, and Peter is looking into the various options for this, with the idea that profits from the book can go to the church.

The Ofsted report following the recent inspection at Monks Risborough School has now been published, according to the new framework. Across the seven areas the school acquired five Expected standards and two Strong standards. The PCC congratulated Head Teacher Miss Amy Robinson, Chair of Governors Jane Curry, and all the staff on this wonderful outcome.

Discussion of financial matters included initial results of the stewardship campaign, which are promising; approval by the PCC to fund the purchase of the Monks Risborough School leavers' Bibles and for a donation of £1,000 to Lighthouse; and the adoption of the recommended mileage reimbursement rate which has increased to 55p per mile. The DAC has reviewed and approved the faculty application for the organ project, so the PCC also granted their approval to set aside funds for the organ restoration project, alongside any fundraising and grants.

In other matters, the PCC discussed and affirmed its commitment to approaching churchyard maintenance in such a way that honours the dead, recognises the collective pastoral needs of those who mourn, and where possible enables wildlife to flourish.

Two PCC meetings are planned for later this year, together with a PCC Away Day.

Lucy Nott, Secretary to the PCC

Those new Royal Mail solar-powered digital post-boxes

Royal Mail has converted about 3,500 of the old trusty red post-boxes into digital affairs, out of the 115,000 post-boxes in the country.

The new solar-powered digital post-boxes feature a solar panel roof, a built-in barcode scanner, and an extra-large drawer that accepts parcels up to shoebox size.

The idea is that the solar panels on top capture sunlight to power the digital scanner and automated drawer mechanism. So, then all you have to do is to scan the 2D barcode on your pre-paid parcel label, using the box's scanner to automatically open the large drawer.

The traditional letter slot remains, for regular stamped mail.

As for proof of posting? You use the Royal Mail app on your phone to track and request confirmation when you drop off an item.

If you don't want to download an app or use a printer, the good news is that you can still send your parcels as before, at a post office counter.

You've got the wrong person!

At church recently, we stood to sing Charles Wesley's hymn 'Come Holy Ghost our hearts inspire'. Except the organist was playing the tune which normally accompanies the Christmas carol 'While shepherds watched their flocks by night'. (No, not 'On Ilkley Moor bar t'aht' - the other one).

I had never sung Wesley's hymn to this tune before, and it took a bit of believing that it was possible, a bit of getting used to. Some hymn tunes are what I call 'portmanteau tunes' - we can sing a number of hymns to the same tune, and we are usually quite happy about it. But we mess with carols at our peril! Most people know them, and they have become identified with very particular hymn tunes. Give us what we expect, please, organist!

We can all be a bit fixed like this. The Bible is full of examples of 'Who me? You've made a mistake there, God!' Or it comes down to 'Here I am, Lord, send him!' Perhaps the most well-known example is Jonah, who was so convinced that God had made a mistake in calling him to go and tell the citizens of Nineveh to turn from their wicked ways, that he set off in entirely the opposite direction to Nineveh, and took a ship going west, until he was ambushed by God and ended up in the belly of the great fish. But once Jonah realised God was serious, and that God would be with him, he set off as God had asked him to.

Moses is another example. 'Me, tell Pharaoh to let my people go? Me? You cannot be serious, Lord!' But again, once Moses was convinced that this was the way God wanted him to go, he submitted to God's plan, and became the great leader of his people, bringing them out of slavery in Egypt to the boundary of the Promised Land.

God's plans for us are always bigger than our horizons can presently accommodate. If you have a niggling feeling God is calling you to a particular task, or to abandon a particular something, it may take time to come round to God's point of view, but it will ultimately turn out to be a better way. When God calls, He does not leave us at that point; He will always resource us for the task, often in surprising ways.

'Who, me, Lord?' Yes, YOU!

Revd Roy Shaw, a retired but active priest in the diocese of York, where he is a spiritual director.

The Church Hall

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

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

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

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 October: Desert Island Discs - Bring along the name of some favourite pieces of music and we will listen to them.

Everybody welcome. £2 to cover refreshments.

12th November: tbc.

Details from Rosemary 01844 344417.

Walking Group

We can look forward to an autumnal walk on Wednesday 28th Oct. Please note an earlier 9.15 am bus start from Aylesbury Road/ Burton Lane to Ellesborough direction.

The following month back to 9.30 am bus to Hughendon woods. Wednesday 25th November.

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 except in August 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

The next two meetings are on Wednesdays 21st October and 18th of November at 7.30pm. Venue to be announced.

In October we will finish looking at the first letter from Paul to a young Church Leader. The letter is full of advice for Timothy but also the members of the Church living in difficult situations. The advice 2,000 years ago is still useful for us today, and while covering a lot of subjects, it has also many phrases that have entered our daily life such as *'The love of money is the root of evil,'* and *'Drink a little wine for your stomach's sake.'*

In November we will be looking at different aspects of the Advent Season. More information from 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.

Rev'd Rose Williams 01844 274225

Baptisms

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



If you would like to find out more, please do not hesitate to contact 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 11th and 18th October and 8th, 15th and 22nd November.

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

Hody's Charity

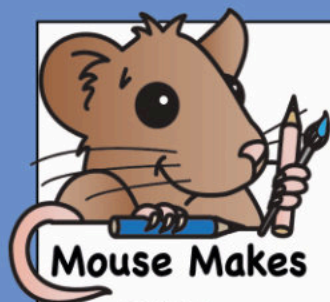
Small grants for local students or apprentices

The charity was founded by a former Rector of the parish in his will dated 1706. It was later added to by his successor, Dr. Quarries. The trustees are the Team Vicar and Churchwardens of the parish of Monks Risborough.

An applicant must be 16 and over and not more than 21 years of age. The applicant must live in the parish of Monks Risborough or have a connection with St Dunstan's Church or St Peter's Chapel (Owlswick). The grant is to be used for the applicant's personal or professional development and may be given for books, specialist equipment, outfits, tools, fees etc.

For an application form, please contact one of the churchwardens at:

trowerchristopher@hotmail.com or mickq@hotmail.co.uk



The **Bible** is a collection of books, written by many different people who were helped and inspired by God. The **Bible** includes books of history, law, poetry and songs, wisdom, testimony, letters and prophecy.

The **Bible** encourages us, corrects us and teaches us about God and how we can be friends with Him.



2. Which book of the Bible has the shortest title?

1. How many books are there in the New Testament?

2



3

3. The Word of God is sharper than a two edged

Hebrews 4:12



B I B L E S U N D A Y

4. He was an Old Testament prophet that has a book named after him.

5. The first book of the Bible.



6. God's word is like?

A _____ and a _____
Psalm 119:105

8. The last book in the Bible.

5

6

7

9. The Old Testament book of poetry and songs.

9

10

11

12

11. The last book in the Old Testament.

10. Who wrote the third book of the New Testament?

13

14

7. What are the first four books of the New Testament known as?

12. Which book tells the story of the spread of Christianity?

13. The Bible is also known as the

14. A book of the Bible named after a woman



of God.
Hebrews 4:12



Recycled Greetings Cards still available!



If you purchased our recycled cards from St Dunstan's last year, you helped raise £1,000 for the organ restoration fund! Thank you. So far this year, sales have not been as great but it's not too late to reach the same target or even more.

There is a wide range of greetings cards in church. So please go in and have a look. The church is open most days during the daytime and the cards are on display on the right at the end of the side aisle as you enter. The suggested donation for the cards is just £1 each and many people, who have bought or received them, have said how lovely they are. New cards are added most weeks too and I have been able to help one or two people who have requested something different. So do please ask.

Christmas Cards will be available again at the Advent Fair in St Dunstan's and the following days.

So you can stock up in good time. Prices for those will remain the same as last year: £1 each, 3 for £2.50 or 7 for £5. I look forward to seeing you there!

Canon Rob

Ladies' Breakfast

The next Ladies' Breakfast will be on Saturday 7th November at 9.00 am in St Mary's Church Hall. Our speaker will be Nicci Maxwell who is a senior paediatric doctor and missionary in the Sudan. All ladies welcome. Please let Rose know if you are coming this time by Thursday 5th November to ensure enough food and chairs!! Contact 01844 274225 or rosewilliamsgp@yahoo.co.uk.

Men's Breakfast

The next men's breakfast will be on 14th November at 8.45 am in the St Mary's Church Hall. As this is Remembrance Weekend the speaker on this occasion will be from RAF Halton.

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 Church

Mill Lane, Monks Risborough

Advent Craft Fair

Saturday November 28th

10.00 am to 2.00 pm

Greeting Cards

Craft Gifts

Love Debbie Patisserie

Plants

Stained Glass

Jewellery

Homemade Cakes/Produce

Festive Raffle

Entry £1.00 to include tea/coffee

Jamadar

MONKS RISBOROUGH "POP UP"



SHOWING FILMS ON

Saturday 17th October at 6.00 pm
Saturday 7th November at 6.00 pm

Because of Licencing laws it is not possible to advertise the names of the films. However, if you are interested in cinema events, and haven't already done so, please email

comms@stdunstonschurch.com

with your name and confirm that you would like to hear information about the cinema events via email.

Alternatively contact Cathy Farquhar on 07906 180550 for further details.

Entry is by donation

All children must be accompanied by an adult

Bring your own snacks/drinks

Jamabar

Hooray for Play Day!



Play Day will be on 27th October From 10.00-12.00

in St Dunstan's Church and Hall

Free, no need to register in advance

For children from 0-11;
to be accompanied by an adult

There will be a story, activities, games and singing

Snacks and refreshments provided,



Jamabar

*Christmas
Concert
by candlelight*

With the Chinnor Silver Band

DECEMBER

9

AT 8:00 PM

**St Dunstons Church
Monks Risborough**

Tickets £12.00

Tickets are available from 1st November from
Anne 07811 659583 or Penny 07762 880219
or Days to Remember, High Street, Princes Risborough (cash only)
or online from
www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-dunstons-church

Includes a Glass of Mulled Wine
or a Soft Drink and a Mince Pie

Prize Raffle

Samadav

DIARY DATES FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

October

- 7th PR Heritage Society - Community Centre 7.30 pm (Page 27)
- 8th Fellowship Group - Church Hall 10.15 am (Page 10)
- 14th MR Horticultural Society - Church Hall 7.30 pm (Page 24)
- 16th Parish Prayer Group - Church Hall 9.00 am (Page 7)
- 17th Pop Up Cinema - Church Hall 6.00pm (Page 16)
- 21st Friendship Group - Church Hall 2.30 pm (Page 11)
- 21st Open House - TBA 7.30 pm (Page 11)
- 22nd Knitting Group - Church Hall 2.00 pm (Page 10)
- 24th Owlswick Quiz - Longwick Village Hall 7.30 pm (Page 19)
- 27th Play Day - Church Hall 10 am (page 16)
- 28th Walking Group - Burton Lane 9.15 am (Page 10)

November

- 4th PR Heritage Society - Community Centre 7.30 pm (Page 27)
- 7th Pop Up Cinema - Church Hall 6.00pm (Page 16)
- 12th Fellowship Group - Church Hall 10.15 am (Page 10)
- 18th Friendship Group - Church Hall 2.30 pm (Page 11)
- 18th Open House - TBA 7.30 pm (Page 11)
- 20th Parish Prayer Group - Church Hall 9.00 am (Page 7)
- 22nd Tree of Life - Princes Risborough 4.00 pm (Page 26)
- 25th Walking Group - Burton Lane 9.30 am (Page 10)
- 26th Knitting Group - Church Hall 2.00 pm (Page 10)
- 27th MR Horticultural Society - Church Hall 7.30 pm (Page 24)
- 28th Advent Craft Fair - St Dunstan's 10.00 am (Page 15)



**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

Quiz



A fun general knowledge quiz to raise funds for

St. Peter's Chapel, Owlswick

Saturday 24th October

Starting 7.30pm

Longwick Village Hall

Teams of up to 8 people @ £8 per head Bring your own refreshments if desired

To book your team ring 01844 347906 or
email jane.rogers.owlswick@outlook.com

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

Please give copy to one of the following:

Editor	Morna Hinch	morna.hinch@btinternet.com	01844 345169
Production	John McKay	penserve@gmail.com	01844 274650
Advertising	Janette Bacon	stdunstanads2@gmail.com	07812 325758
Distribution	Penny Hollings	hollings.penny@gmail.com	07762 880219
Proof reader	Jane Curry	jlecurry@gmail.com	07973 300758

The next Newsletter will be issued from 29th November 2026

Oxford Trip

On Monday 10th August, it was the annual church outing to visit a cathedral and its city. This has become a very popular event and is well supported by church members and villagers.

This year's trip was to Oxford. We set off in Motts coach at 9.30 am and arrived outside the entrance to Christ Church Cathedral by 10.30 am. Uniquely Christ Church has a dual function of College Chapel and Cathedral. As a Chapel it serves the students and staff of one of the largest colleges in the University of Oxford, and as a cathedral it serves one of the largest dioceses in England, covering the counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

We were met by two volunteer guides, husband and wife it turned out, and, in two groups, we were given a guided tour. Our guide told us the fascinating story of eighth century St Frideswide who was canonised for spending three years hiding in a local wood to avoid the attentions of an insistent prince. When she finally emerged and found to her alarm that he was still waiting, she had him struck blind by a thunderbolt. He then sensibly left her alone and she became a saint. This story was well illustrated by a beautiful stained-glass window by Edward Burne-Jones.



After our guides had left us, we were all joined by Jacque Pavlosky who proceeded to give us a talk on the cathedral's windows. Previous to this day trip, some of us were fortunate to visit Jacqui's house in Askett where she gave a talk and demonstration of stained-glass painting. There was an article about her in an earlier edition this year of the *Newsletter*.

And so, to lunch ----

A few of us had a delightful meal at an Italian restaurant in the High Street. Others found other places for their refreshment!

Dead on 2.30 pm, a close call for those who lunched at the Italian 'Gusto', we all assembled on the balcony of St Mary the Virgin Church, also called the University Church. Without doubt, this was the grandest parish church in Oxford. The principal reason for this visit was for Jacque to show us close up the seven-lancet window by Kempe Studio. Charles Elmer Kempe founded the renowned studio in London and produced great windows for churches all over the world. It was amazing to get so very close to this magnificent window.

After this, we all had a free afternoon for doing our own things before gathering for evening prayers back at Christ Church Cathedral.

My wife, Sue, and I had a nice cuppa in the Town Hall Café before joining the throng of visitors, a large proportion of whom seemed to be Japanese. It appears that many of these tourists were keen to visit the area used in the filming of the Harry Potter movies. Certainly, there were several 'Hogwarts' T-shirts in evidence.



Sue and I, suitably refreshed, returned to the entrance to Christ Church Meadow, ventured off down the Broad Walk, and then sat and indulged in some people watching, as well as watching several passing craft on the river Cherwell.

We returned to the Cathedral just as it was closing to visitors and I persuaded the powers that be to allow Sue and myself to sit in the peaceful surroundings all on our own! It was whilst sitting there that we met a lady volunteer, who it turned out, used to live in Crowbrook Road in her childhood and remembered Anne White. A small world indeed. This lady then met our own group at the entrance to the choir stalls for evening prayers at 6 pm. Actually, this commenced 5 minutes later because, by tradition, Oxford time runs 5 minutes later than London time.

At the completion of the evening prayers, we all gathered back at St Aldates Street to take our transport home. There was lots of chatter about what everyone did in their free afternoon. It appeared that Edwin spent the whole afternoon in the Botanic Garden and two others managed a boat ride on the river.

Our coach and lovely driver picked us up at 6.45 pm and we were back in Mill Lane by 7.30 pm. All of us were suitably tired and weary after a brilliant day.

Huge thanks are due to Rosemary and Anne, and also to Jacque for her excellent knowledge of stained glass.

Tony Lambert



Bring on the Bling



Portrait of Duke Henry the Devout of Saxony and Duchess Catherine his wife. 1514
Each 183.5 x 82.5cm. Dresden Gemaldegalerie Alte Meister.
Lucas Cranach the Elder 1473-1529 and workshop.

I can't take my eyes off these two in their hurricanes of haberdashery - It isn't even their wedding finery, as by 1514 they had been married for two years. This showstopping double depiction was amongst the earliest of European life-size

full length portraits, So obviously, money was no object.

Duke Henry the Devout of Saxony (1473-1541) was the reigning Duke of the German Albertine domains. (The other domains were Ernestine, rival branches of

the House of Wettin who ruled Southern Germany, split by the Reformation into Catholic and Protestant) In 1512 Duke Henry had made a dynastic marriage to Catherine of Mecklenburg (1477-1561) who early on influenced the spread of the Reformation.

Their power dressing appearances purposely declare an inseparable bond and an equal political and dynastic alliance of the two powerful houses of Saxony and Mecklenburg, their red, gold and black jaw-dropping outfits being the colours of their family shields. Gold of course displays supreme wealth and high noble status in heavy festoons of gold chains and clothing, here applied with actual gold leaf. Red stands in this case for the duchy's authority and military power, and black clothing declares that they can pay the astronomical cost of high-quality black dye for attire that only the nobility could afford. The Duke and Duchess stand against black backgrounds so that nothing detracts the eye from their formidable presences.

Duke Henry is in the act of drawing his sword, his right hand gripping its hilt, which is lost in the jungle of his sleeve. Thus he is ready to defend his power and authority, his headgear in heraldic colours doubtlessly well anchored at its killing angle aslant his brown curls. His slashed doublet and quilted voluminous balloons of bling (elbows hung with gold and ruby pomegranates) end in dashing red stockings and curiously splayed feet in incongruous dancing shoes. Two oversized gold chains and a gold twisted jewelled torque bedeck his neck and chest and he wears three hefty signet rings. This swashbuckling slashed Teutonic outfit caught on everywhere and spread to the courts of the Valois, Tudors and Stuarts. The slashing fabric style had begun in the late 15th century with underlinen pulled through the fabric into

puffballs, especially at elbows to enable movement. It must have taken an army of servants to haul and layer on and off, never mind the needlewomen. One hardly notices the ducal hunting dog, its savage teeth ready for the enemy.

Duchess Catherine is similarly adorned with staggering gold neck collars and chain and about 13 finger rings. Her brow is fashionably plucked and her jewelled headpiece is topped with a crescendo of candy floss feathers. Her dress is applied here with gold and silver leaf and at her feet her half shaved lapdog has been seated so long that I spy a doggy deposit under its tail. Mischievous Cranach has littered the ground with little disguising pebbles, but I have seen the original in Dresden and it is a whoopsie. This is an Art History First, never before noted for 500 years!

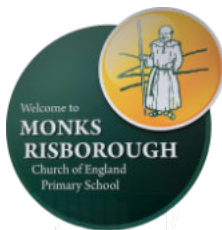
One forgets to look at their faces. The Duke's hard blue-eyed glare and the Duchess looking unapproachable and decisive. She was to do her duty by bearing six surviving children, three of them the required sons. She wrote a book on etiquette for ladies (but not for doggies). At her side is Cranach's coat of arms granted to him by his patron Prince Frederick the Wise of Saxony in 1508: a winged serpent with the date 1514 and LC for Lucas Cranach.

Cranach and his friend Dürer were also Court Painters from 1508 to the illustrious Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I (1459-1519). Cranach, a close friend of Luther, became Mayor of Wittenberg in 1537 and was its richest citizen. He was a towering Illustrator of the Reformation and very much else, like whole forests of animals.

If you missed the 2007 Royal Academy's colossal Cranach exhibition I'll set the Duke's dog on you.

Susanne Carr

Monks Risborough CofE Primary School



Princes Risborough Festival

14th July - A few children represented the school at the Princes Risborough Festival Concert at St Mary's Church. It was a really lovely concert showing the various musical talents of our children.

One Can Charity

17th July - The school community did a wonderful job in their support of the One Can Charity. We had a huge amount of food donated and wore yellow on the last Friday of the school year.

Year 6 Production

17th July - For our Year 6 production we did Mystery at Magpie Manor. The main characters were Lord and Lady Pica, Mr Fortune, Magpie Mac, Scribble, Blot, Inspector Spectre of the Yard and last but not least Agatha Christie. We all tried very hard to memorise our lines as we only had 3 weeks. Some of us enjoyed performing in front of family and friends while others found it tricky, though everyone did amazing. We all tried our best to remember our lines. We hope everyone enjoyed our production.

By Evie, Elliot, Scarlett, Rudy and Sophia

Monks Risborough Horticultural Society

Thank you to all who made the MRHS Village Show on Saturday 1st August such a great success.

Lots of great entries in the marquee, over 600. Great music by Ellesborough Brass Band. Fun balloons and shows by our new Children's Entertainer. A well attended dog show. And lots more for all ages to enjoy during the afternoon.

The evening barn dance with Jubilation Band and caller Tim Rooke was a 'sell out' with 80 enjoying the event.

Please note the next Village Show as Saturday 7th August 2027.

In the meantime for 2026 at St Dunstan's church hall, 7.30 pm on **Wednesday 14th October**, our AGM together with Show photos.

On **Friday 27th November**, 7.30 pm, our social & quiz.

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

Bats that aren't in the Belfry!

Bats have been found in churchyards for a very long time, often roosting in trees or buildings. A bat roost may be nearly as old as the building with around 60% of pre-16th century churches containing bat roosts. There are seventeen species of bat native to the UK: eight of these use churches or chapels for roosting, including some of the less common species such as the Natterer's bat and the Serotine bat. Some of the remaining nine species roost in large trees.



Bats do not roost in the belfry ... too much noise! They usually use different roosts through the seasons. Bats need nursery roosts for the young, winter roosts to hibernate and also temporary roosts to digest their food and to sleep in during the daytime. They like to roost in clean, draught free, quiet crevices where the temperature is constant. Within churches or chapels bats are found in the eaves,



porch, under roof tiles, in old timber joints, behind ceilings, hangings and commemorative plaques. They also roost within chest tombs, in holes or cracks within a wall, behind ivy or in lychgates. When roosting in trees they use holes, crevices, flaking bark and gaps behind ivy. Veteran trees are full of possible roosting places.

Churchyards tend to have a mixture of large trees, grassland, flowers, areas of long or tussocky grass, compost heaps, log piles and stonework. They are generally relatively free of chemicals, tend to have some areas which are not too tidy and may have been there a long time. All of this leads to a good population of insects which is food for the hungry bats.

Why not have a quiet sit in the churchyard at the end of the day, look to see if any swifts are swirling around the churchyard and then wait to see if any bats appear. Bats can fly long distances to forage for food so, even if you don't have roosting bats in your churchyard they may well come visiting.

The Bats in Churches project ran from 2019 to the end of October 2023 and their website batsinchurches.org.uk still holds a plethora of information and resources. Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the partnership comprised Natural England, Church of England (Cathedral and Church Buildings Division), Historic England, Bat Conservation Trust and Churches Conservation Trust.



Tree of Light



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**The Dedication Ceremony will take place at 4.00 p.m. on
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For those using this form we are encouraging donations via the Bankers Automated Clearing System (BACS) for online payments and would ask that, if possible, your donation could be made direct to the following bank account:

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However, if you are unable to pay via BACS, you can still donate by cheque or cash, which you should include when you return this form. Cheques payable to The Rotary Club of Princes Risborough.

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In order to Gift Aid your donation, you must tick this box.

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Signed.....**Date**.....

Please send to Princes Risborough Tree of Light c/o Chilternholm, Manor Road, Princes Risborough, Bucks, HP27 9DJ or hand in at Princes Risborough Inf Centre (in the library). Further information from David Griggs 01844 345554.

Whiteleaf & Cadsden Residents Association

All residents of Whiteleaf and Cadsden are welcome to join the Whiteleaf and Cadsden Residents Association (WCRA), which aims to:

- Maintain the character of the hamlets of Whiteleaf and Cadsden.
- Provide a friendly medium for discussion and solution of issues affecting the community.
- Act as a convenient link with local bodies.
- Provide community help and assistance, as necessary, to those in need.
- Promote community social events, including our annual Sausage Sizzle barbeque on the Whiteleaf Cricket Field, walks, and village suppers.

If you are a resident of Whiteleaf or Cadsden and have not already joined, we would love to hear from you. Please email us at info@whiteleafcadsden.org with your name and address if you would like to be added to our secure mail list.

We are a Community Interest Company and rely on donations to continue to run our insured events, provide resident support and promote our hamlets community. Residents are invited to make a £5 goodwill donation annually, to help fund our running costs.

Our website www.whiteleafcadsden.org is open to everyone and includes information about the history of our hamlets. We also have a private Facebook group for residents <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WhiteleafandCadsden>.



Andy Vere, Chairman, WCRA

Princes Risborough Area Heritage Society

Future Meetings:

7th October: Historic film. "Towards 2000. A year in the life of Longwick cum Ilmer" By Alan Bairstow & Charles Tyler.

4th November: "The Lollards of Amersham." Speaker Dr Peter Borrows.

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

Admission - non members £5.

Wedding guest

A little boy at Sunday School learned about the time Jesus went to a wedding and turned the water into wine. "And what did you learn from that Story?" asked his father later.

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