April 2020 - May 2020

Newsletter

Parish of Monks Risborough
St Dunstan’s Church
St Peter’s Chapel

Open to God: Open for Everyone
GRACE

CARPENTRY & BUILDING

All aspects of carpentry and building work undertaken
A friendly, reliable and trustworthy service

Tel: 01494 482787 Mob: 07725 328 049
Email: grace.gcb@outlook.com

Priority Service Ltd

• Cleaning - Regular
• Spring Clean
• End of Tenancy Clean

01844 275151
Friendly, local and professional service

Lunches
Parties
Funerals
Family Cakes
Meals for Freezer

01844 761600 (Zoe)
01844 343701 (Caroline)
zoeandcarolinecatering@gmail.com

If you wish to advertise in the Newsletter

contact June Timms
Tel: 01844 344966
email: stdunstansads@gmail.com

Family Celebrations, Christenings, Weddings, Funerals, Buffets, Anniversaries etc.

Ashlea Catering
SPECIALISING IN HOME-MADE FOOD

Debbie Catlin
Tel: 01844 347426
Mob: 07710 603416

Web: www.ashleacatering.co.uk
Email: ashleacatering@yahoo.co.uk
Information
Arrangements for Baptisms, Confirmation Preparation, Confessions, Banns of Marriage, Weddings and Funerals can be made by contacting Rev David Williams at parishoffice@stmarysrisborough.org.uk ☎ 01844 273300

Web Site: www.stdunstanschurch.com Registered Charity No. 1153869

Regular Services

All services at St Dunstan’s and Owlswick Chapel are suspended until further notice

The Parochial Church Council

Chairman: To be advised
Churchwardens: Mrs J Powell ☎ 343996
Mrs M Hunnibell ☎ 274366
Secretary: Sue Ingram ☎ 275287
Treasurer: Anne White ☎ 346536

Deanery Synod Reps
Mrs J Curry, Mr T Goode, Mrs M Pitman, Mrs J Rogers

Elected Members
Mrs J Baxter, Mrs S Dodds, Mr C Fairall, Mrs J Griffin, Mrs S Ingram, Mrs J Iredale, Mrs L Keane, Mrs J Precious, Mrs A White

Directory

Churches Together in Risborough Rep. Margaret Pitman ☎ 346008
Gift Aid Secretary Nick Tyler ☎ 344589
Electoral Roll Officer Susanne Dodds ☎ 342746
Weekly Notice Sheet Organiser Frances Dodds ☎ 342746
email: stdunstanspewsheet@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor Morna Hinch ☎ 345169
St Dunstan’s Choir Coordinator Margaret Pitman ☎ 346008
Bell Ringing Tower Captain Brian Highe ☎ 343755
Dear Friends,

In his book, *Surprised by Hope*, Tom Wright states, ‘Take Christmas away, and in Biblical terms you lose two chapters at the front of Matthew and Luke, nothing else. Take Easter away, and you don’t have a New Testament; you don’t have Christianity’. So, basically, if nothing happened at Easter, then we Christians should all pack up and go home. And yet, if something did happen at Easter, then it changes everything!

I was reading an article the other day about whether supermarkets should stock ‘The Real Easter Egg’ at Easter time, as they show Christian crosses on the packaging and include a leaflet that explains the story of Jesus’ resurrection. Amazingly, one of the leading supermarkets’ buyers was reported to have said: “What has Easter got to do with the Church”? In such a context, it can be very tempting to feel disheartened, as if Christians are swimming against the tide. Yet haven’t we been here before? After all, in 1776, Voltaire, the French Enlightenment writer, famous for his attacks on Christianity, confidently predicted that ‘100 years from my day, there will not be a Bible in the earth’. Now clearly he was no prophet, but more amusing is the fact that 100 years after this claim Voltaire’s house had, in fact, become a Bible factory!

As we hear and read about the Easter encounters that those first disciples had with their risen Lord Jesus, encounters that turned their lives around as well as the lives of those around them, may we be inspired! Like them, may our sadnesses be replaced with hope; our fears replaced with confidence; and our shattered dreams replaced by new beginnings. True disciples of Jesus stand out from the people around them. They show, with their lives, the fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control - in a world that all too often is full of despair, hatred, violence, infidelity, harshness, greed, mistrust and impatience. Lives shaped by Jesus – the surprising, unpredictable, loving Jesus – are what the world needs most. We may live in a Good Friday world but we are an Easter people, and with the God of resurrection there will always be new beginnings. Let us rise up and proclaim together: Alleluia! Christ is risen! *He is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

David

Revd David G. Williams, Team Rector of Risborough

---

**St Dunstan’s is an inclusive church and everyone is welcome**

**whatever their age, gender, sexual orientation or background.**

**We are a community who are open to God and open for Everyone.**
From the Parish Registers

**Baptisms:** - *We welcome in to the family of God:*
Ralph Brady and Philippa Morgan, both baptised on 1st March

**Funerals:** - *We remember with thanksgiving the lives of:*
Brian Phipps: whose funeral was on 4th February
Alan Brookes: whose Memorial Service took place on 15th February
Joe Ratlidge: whose funeral was on 21st February

**Better Together Again!**

Vicky and I started worshipping at St Dunstan’s about 9 years ago. We immediately felt at home and enjoyed worshipping with you. That has continued to be the case, only more so. The worship we offer to God is the number one priority for the Church: it is this coming together week by week which identifies us as Christians.

But the coming together isn’t just for worship. It is all the things listed in this Newsletter – providing a variety of opportunities to bring others together - and much more. The churchwardens and I are so encouraged by the way this Vacancy has brought us closer together, with more and more people offering to play a part in making sure St Dunstan’s not only continues but thrives.

Before Christmas, about forty of us met to talk through how we felt about James’ leaving. That was called “Better Together” and everyone said how helpful it had been. Four months on, I am offering the opportunity to meet for “Better Together Again.” The aim will be different but just as important. We have moved on and we need to start thinking about the future with a new Team Vicar.

So, on **Wednesday 22nd April** there will be two sessions, as before, in the church hall: the first from **10.30 am – 12 noon**; the second from **7.30 – 9.00 pm**. The report which David Williams and I have written for the Annual Meeting gives information about the main questions we will discuss. The outcome of our meeting together will be passed on to those who have the task of writing a parish profile which will be used when the Team Vicar’s post is advertised and potential candidates can read what St Dunstan’s is like.

We all share responsibility for the life, worship and witness of the Church and therefore I hope both sessions will be well supported. Come and have your say about what you would like St Dunstan’s to be like and what sort of priest we need to help us achieve that. As before, there will be a list for names in church. So please do sign up.I look forward to seeing you to help make St Dunstan’s “Better Together Again.”

Thank you.

**Canon Rob.**
Church Calendar

St. Dunstan’s Church is open daily from at least 9.30 am – 4.00 pm for visitors and St. Peter’s Chapel is generally open during the day too. Morning Prayer is usually said in St Dunstan’s at 8.45 am on Thursdays. Please check the pew sheet in case of necessary changes. All are welcome.

In light of the Government guidance around non-essential contact, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued advice that public worship is suspended until further notice.

Churches should be open where possible but with no public worship services taking place.

“Being a part of the Church of England is going to look very different in the days ahead,” the Archbishops wrote.

“Our life is going to be less characterised by attendance at church on Sunday, and more characterised by the prayer and service we offer each day.

We may not be able to pray with people in the ways that we are used to, but we can certainly pray for people. And we can certainly offer practical care and support.”

The archbishops have joined other church leaders in calling for a day of prayer and action this Sunday (Mothering Sunday) particularly remembering those who are sick or anxious and all involved in health and emergency services.

We understand that this is difficult news for us, especially during this time of vacancy at St Dunstans. However, during this period we would encourage everyone to look after themselves and the people around them and to pray for those in need. Over the coming days and weeks, as further guidance is forthcoming, we will ensure that it is passed to as many people as possible. We would envisage updating the website regularly with thoughts and prayers.

We will endeavour to let as many people know that all services are cancelled with immediate effect. However, please do help us to pass the word around.
Below is the Church of England prayer which we all may find comforting at this time.

*Keep us, good Lord,*
*under the shadow of your mercy.*
*Sustain and support the anxious,*
*be with those who care for the sick,*
*and lift up all who are brought low;*
*that we may find comfort*
*knowing that nothing can separate us from your love*
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Silent Prayer Meetings at St. Dunstan's Church Hall**
**Monday evenings at 8.00 pm on the following dates:**

- May 11th; June 22nd; August 3rd;
- September 28th; November 23rd

We need silence to help us to get a proper perspective in our lives - to hear the still, small voice of God, and to refresh our inner being. All are welcome to these meetings - of any faith or none. Each meeting lasts for about 40 minutes. A short passage, usually from the Bible which is read solely twice, to reflect upon in the half hour of silence. We then either leave quietly or feel free to share an experience if wished.

*These meetings are part of The Julian Meetings which meet in small groups across the country. They provide a booklet of spiritual thoughts and reading reviews three times a year which can be borrowed and passed on to others.*

Jill Iredale (01844) 346488 or jillstovold@icloud.com

Further information about the Church, services, clubs and events and much more can be found on our website at

www.stdunstanschurch.com

*A Member of the Risborough Team Ministry*
### Request Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Request</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raise awareness</td>
<td>Lighthouse is a nationwide Christian children’s holiday club. The local Lighthouse is on the sports field of Princes Risborough School and offers a week of fun, games and activities for children from 4 upwards in marquees. Little Lighthouse caters for parents and babies/toddlers. Children can become helpers from 12 years old and enjoy a range of evening activities. Lighthouse is funded from parental donations, fundraising and church contributions and every child is accepted regardless of their ability to pay.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prayer</td>
<td>Volunteers from churches to join the on-site prayer team to pray with children and volunteers who request prayer. This activity is overseen by a prayer co-ordinator.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising events/activities</td>
<td>Please support our fundraising Quiz being held on Saturday 25th April at 7.30 pm at St Mary’s Church. Tickets are £5. Bring your own refreshments (although not red wine! As it stains the floor). All proceeds go directly to offering children places. Contact Jamie Carter 01844 273286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vote for Lighthouse!</td>
<td>Tesco Bags of Help. Customers of Tesco Princes Risborough will be able to vote for Lighthouse Princes Risborough during April, May and June with the possibility that we will receive up to £2,000. So please visit Tesco and ask for a blue token and vote for your local Lighthouse.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchandise Co-ordinator</td>
<td>Can you offer a few hours prior to the week to receive our merchandise order and collate name badges with T-shirts? We also need someone to run our Merchandise stall during the week.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To register as a volunteer please visit https://lighthousecentral.org/get-involved

Children’s registration will be open from 1st May 2020.

If you have any queries about Lighthouse and how you can get involved either during the week or in other ways please contact Elaine Hassall at lighthouse@pymcombe.co.uk
PCC News

At our January meeting, the treasurer presented the year-end accounts for approval prior to contacting the independent examiner, David Powell. The charitable giving will remain the same for 2020 as it was for 2019; £1400 will be given to the following seven charities: Bucks historic Churches Trust, Anorexia and Bulimia Care, Christian Aid, The Pace Centre, The Princes Centre, Rennie Grove Hospice Care and The Whitechapel Mission.

We reviewed the details of the Lent Courses being given at St Dunstan’s throughout March and an ecumenical Lent course being offered by all the other churches in Princes Risborough.

St Peter’s chapel at Owlswick are planning further Speaker Evenings for the last Thursday every month over the spring and summer months (see page 23) and Silent Prayer meetings are continuing on certain Monday evenings through the year (see page 7). The Open House Group will continue after Easter with Ted and Mary Kent helping to lead. The Bethany Group has restarted.

We have updated our Terms & Conditions for renting the church hall to ensure all participants have a good rental experience. Our safeguarding officer has been very busy keeping our policies and training requirements fulfilled.

Sue Ingram - Secretary to the PCC

Easter Lilies in Memory of a Loved One

St Dunstan’s Church is once again offering the opportunity for parishioners to donate the cost of an Easter lily as part of an arrangement in memory of a loved one. If you would like to take part, please write your name and the person(s) whom you wish to remember, on the list in the Church or contact Jenny Masterton-Smith on 01844 273538 or Gwen Miles on 01844 345230.

To make your donation, please put your contribution into a blue gift aid envelope and write “Easter Lily” on it (with your name and address on, if you are a taxpayer). Please put the envelope into the wooden chest on the pillar.
Fellowship Group

Co-ordinator: Rosemary Woodward-Court

Meetings usually take place in the Church Hall starting at 7.30 pm

In February we had a very interesting insight into the work of the Crown Prosecution Service with a talk by Helen Draycott who was a former Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor.

In March Rev Rose Williams kindly took a Kenyan Communion service for us, which was followed by our AGM.

Future Meetings:

Cancelled until further notice.

Walking Group

Please join us for a gentle stroll on the fourth Tuesday of each month, (except in December). We meet at 9.15 am in the lay-by off the A4010 leading to Burton Lane. The walks aren't too challenging and we pause where necessary to enjoy the views, as well as stopping for a Werther's Original sweet! Sometimes we have coffee afterwards.

For more information contact Janet Griffin (01844) 274235 or Rosemary Woodward-Court (01844) 344417.

St Dunstan's Friendship Group

Co-ordinator: Avril Clark, Dunoon, New Road, Prince Risborough

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.
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.

Cancelled until further notice.

The Crafty Sew & Sews
Organisers: Janet East 345028  
            Pam Scott 346857

We meet every Tuesday in the Church Hall, between 1.30 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).

Cancelled until further notice.

Church Choir
This is open to singers of all abilities aged 8 to 88+. The choir leads the congregation in the singing of hymns and psalms throughout the year at the weekly Communion service and some members attend Evensong. The choir sings in three/four part harmony and unison, performing anthems and other pieces for special occasions and festivals. The choir is also invited to sing at a number of weddings during the year.

Choir practice is usually held in church every Thursday evening from 6.15 pm to 7.15 pm. You will be assured of a warm and friendly welcome.

For more information please contact Margaret Pittman 01844 346008.

Bell Ringers
This friendly group usually practices from 7.30/7.45 to 9.00 pm on a Thursday evening and welcomes beginners and experienced ringers.

If you would like to come along to see what’s involved please contact Tower Captain Brian Highe (01844) 343755, or Ringing Master Ann Tomkins 07970 617268.
Young People at St Dunstan's

A new addition to the family is always a reason for celebration. Whether you would like to mark this with a special naming and blessing ceremony for your child or welcome your baby into the life of the Church through Baptism, please contact Rev David Williams on 01844 273300 or at parishoffice@stmarysrisborough.org.uk, who will be happy to discuss the options available to you.

10 O'Clock Club

We have a fun get-together for children in the Church Hall which runs parallel to the Sunday morning service. Children have nearly an hour of games, Bible stories and illustrations, crafts and songs and normally then join the congregation for the end of the service in Church. However, on the first Sunday of the month we join the congregation for the family service in Church.

We welcome children aged 3 months and upwards. The parents of younger children often appreciate being able to go to the Church service in peace knowing that the little ones are being looked after. Our older children enjoy the activities and informal lessons provided by ‘Roots', an excellent resource and planning guide. We are happy for any children to join us, whether it is just for one week, or more regularly. There is no need to "book" - just turn up - but if you would like further information, please contact:

Debbie Norie 01844 345437 debbienorie@googlemail.com
Cathy Farquhar 01844 343226 cathy.farquhar@btopenworld.com

Monks Monkeys

Praise and Play for babies, toddlers and children under five, plus parents/carers at St Dunstan's Church Hall, Monks Risborough Thursdays during term time 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm.

Each session includes ‘action' songs, an interactive Bible story and short prayers. There is also some time for the children to play, adults to chat and refreshments to be served. On the 4th Thursday of the month we meet in the Church for an additional special craft activity. No need to book, just turn up on the day.

If you would like more information please contact:

Debbie Norie 01844 345437 or Anne White 01844 346536
Meets fort nightly on Fridays from 4.00 pm to 6.45 pm at Elim Church, Bell St., Princes Risborough.

Breakout is a lively, fun, action-packed kids' club for 5 to 11 year olds, led by members of the Lighthouse main stage team. All are welcome to come and find out more about our amazing God!

The Breakout team leaders are members of various churches in the town. All have been police checked and trained in the best practice guidelines in our Child Protection Policy.

For more details please contact:
Doline Gadd; Doline.gadd@gmail.com  01844 216502

Opportunities for Young People in and around Princes Risborough

‘Later’ meetings will continue to be held on the evening of the 3rd Sunday of the month from 6.00 - 8.00 pm at Princes Risborough Methodist Church, Bell Street (next to ‘Bella Vita’) for all young people aged 11 years old and upwards in and around Risborough. The evenings feature food, a space to be and chat, a range of games/activities and a short interactive ‘God slot’.

For further information please contact Rev David Williams
parishoffice@stmarysrisborough.org.uk

Bereavement Drop In

This monthly group offers a warm welcome to anyone struggling with the grief of bereavement. We share together over tea or coffee, talk about our experiences or just listen. Many find comfort in talking about their loved one with others who know what they are going through.

We normally meet on the second Monday of every month in the Chapter House at the back of St Mary's Church Princes Risborough at 3 o'clock. However, in April because 13th is a Bank Holiday we will meet on 6th instead.

Everyone is welcome, of any faith or no faith at all.

Further details from Rose Williams 01844 274225
Walking the Thames Path

Day 10

Six weeks pass before we find ourselves at Marlow again. We’re en route to Maidenhead from where we have arrived by train. There’s an exciting Test Match going on, so listening to that periodically adds pleasure to the walk. Today I feel aware of the influence of natural light; on our moods, and on the river. We pass Cookham, where there is England’s only gallery devoted to a 20th century artist, namely Stanley Spencer. Sometimes we are walking on compacted sand, which makes a crunchy noise as we plod along.

On the opposite bank, the imposing tree covered grounds of Clivedon rise up. Forever associated with the Profumo Affair, it was also where the first female MP, Nancy Astor, lived. It’s September but it could be an early spring day. The birds are twittering, and people are in colourful, light clothing. Now and again, we see and hear the single track Maidenhead-Marlow shuttle train. It feels somehow like the early part of our walk. There is a deep peacefulness being in woodland beside water.

The northern tip of Boulter’s Island is where Richard Dimbleby lived. There is a seated figure of him there, which looks so life-like I thought I saw it move, till someone gave me a wry smile. Boulter’s Lock is the longest and deepest on the Thames. There are several benches along the route with plaques remembering loved ones. Today we pass this inscription, placed in 2002:

```
Old Father Thames goes gliding by:
As ripples run he winks his eye
At Cotswold cows & Oxford dons;
Nodding to Windsor’s royal swans,
He bears our nation’s liquid crown
By lock and weir to London town.
May all that know and love his banks
Pause here awhile to offer thanks.
```

Rosemary Woodward-Court

Save the Date - Sunday 21st June
Alscot Lodge open garden
in aid of Harefield Hospital Healing Garden
COVID-19

Following Oxford Diocese guidance, the Spring Concert with the Manor House Quartet and the Village BBQ have both been cancelled. Cream teas will not be served during Bucks Arts Week. There will no longer be any refreshments after church services. The monthly Lunch Club has been suspended until further notice.

At the time of going to print, we have continued to show other planned events and club meetings. However, these have all been cancelled.

ActionAid

I am sending a birthday card to Maina who will be 17 in April. I wonder what gifts she will receive?. Here a child will often receive driving lessons for their 17th birthday, and other items. Her life is very different in a village in Northern Malawi. We promise to support her by giving £180.00 to ActionAid each year. So far this year I have received £19.45 towards this amount.

If you would like to donate cheques should be made payable to Monks Risborough PCC, and given to me:- June Timms, Nags Head House, Aylesbury Road, Monks Risborough, HP27 0JT. Thank you.
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.

Unfortunately this will be the last

Newsletter

until further notice.

Newsletter Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Editor</th>
<th>Morna Hinch</th>
<th><a href="mailto:morna.hinch@btinternet.com">morna.hinch@btinternet.com</a></th>
<th>📞 345169</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Production</td>
<td>John McKay</td>
<td><a href="mailto:penserve@gmail.com">penserve@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>📞 274650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising</td>
<td>June Timms</td>
<td><a href="mailto:stdunstansads@gmail.com">stdunstansads@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>📞 344966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution</td>
<td>Penny Hollings</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hollings.penny@gmail.com">hollings.penny@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>📞 275310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proof reader</td>
<td>Mick White</td>
<td><a href="mailto:whitema35@gmail.com">whitema35@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>📞 346536</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Christmas in Switzerland

Pontresina is a small resort in the Upper Engadin valley in the south eastern corner of Switzerland. It lies at nearly 6,000 feet, and is reached from Zurich by a mainline train to Chur and then onwards on the metre gauge Rhaetian Railway. The red electric train climbs, over a two-hour journey, through magnificent scenery, gaining height in narrow valleys by passing through spiral tunnels and crossing from side to side on high viaducts. By the time that the train reaches Pontresina, it has gained over 4,000 feet.

Snow lay deep in the town on Christmas morning, as we set off on our walk up the beautiful Roseg valley. Bells were ringing in the Roman Catholic and Reformed churches to welcome in Christmas day. The path lay first through pine woods, where the hoof marks of deer could be seen in the snow along the way. When human activity has ceased for the day, they come down to browse on vegetation, which can easily be reached from the paths. At one or two points, bird tables are provided. Small packets of seeds can be bought for the birds (mainly members of the tit family), which are so tame that they will take the food from the palm of your hand. Soon I reached the start of the Roseg valley. Crossing the partly frozen river on a wooden bridge, I began the two-hour walk up the deep, U-shaped valley with sides so steep that the sun, at this time in the morning, only touched the upper slopes on one side. It was very cold, well below freezing, but the view was wonderful. Ahead were the peaks of the Bernina range. The highest, Piz Bernina, is over 13,000 ft. On the snow-covered slopes high above us, deer could be seen grazing on vegetation, which they had managed to find under the deep snow.

The valley has no motor traffic. The only vehicles are horse drawn sledges, which carry the less energetic to the hotel at the end of the road. This makes the area a paradise for cross-country skiers and walkers, who are able to enjoy the mountain air without the noise or pollution of motor vehicles. Horse traffic, skiers and walkers have their own distinct paths, so everyone is safe.

As I emerged into the Upper Roseg valley, which was our destination, a magnificent sight opened before us, with the whole Bernina range, bathed in winter sunshine, now visible in all its glory. Here I found the hotel, which offered a sun terrace, on which people were enjoying delicious looking cakes and hearty meals, while they took in the beauty of the scenery. We opted for goulash soup, knowing that an excellent dinner would be provided in the hotel that evening. After a good rest, we took to the path back to Pontresina after a very enjoyable and rewarding day.

David Keysell
Ring the Changes

St Dunstan’s has six bells, five of which date back to Charles 1st and which ring out every Sunday before morning service. In theory this requires a band of six ringers but illness, family commitments etc. mean that, in practice we need a bigger band if we are to keep on ringing. Currently we are down to six regular ringers and need to recruit some learners if we are to carry on ringing all six bells.

Many people will have considered having a go at bell ringing and decided against it for various reasons, so here are a few myths about the hobby.

**I’m not musical and so couldn’t ring bells.**

Change ringing is not musical and we cannot play tunes, although we did once try “Twinkle Twinkle”. The order of the bells changes every pull, either as instructed by a conductor or to a known method.

**I won’t be strong enough to pull a bell rope.**

We have six bells increasing in weight from treble to tenor. Although the tenor is heavy, the treble can be rung by a twelve year old.

**I don’t have enough spare time.**

We practice from 7:30 to 9:00 pm on Thursday, immediately after choir practice and then try to ring every Sunday morning for half an hour. Apart from this we ring for weddings, Christmas Eve etc. when people are available.

**I don’t go to church.**

Although in an ideal world, the congregation would provide all the ringers, this rarely happens and most towers rely on visitors.

**I’m too old.**

Several of our ringers are at or near their 70s. Ringing is both a physical and a mental exercise; use it or lose it!

**I’m too young.**

We can teach people to ring from around 12 years of age and some ringers are younger than this, although we do need a chaperone for minors. Young people learn very fast and progress very quickly.

So if you want to learn more or simply have a look at the historic bells, come along to a practice session, ask one of the ringers or call Brian Highe on 01844 343755 or at ringingatstds@hotmail.com.

**Brian Highe**
Has ever a loving gaze been so tenderly captured as in this, Vermeer’s only broadly smiling female face? It makes such a modest almond shape, yet it forms the painting’s focus, like a cherished opal nestling in cotton wool. The exquisitely dressed girl leans slightly forward, the palms of both her hands held open on the table, as if to give and receive love. A knobbly glass rests between her palms.
We witness a precious moment held in a lambent light spreading over the room from an open casement window. Sequins of light pick out the golden stripes on the girl’s sleeves and the round-headed brass studs on her embossed leather-backed chair, gold and black like the bodice of her dress. The rest of her is lost in shadow. The Dutch Maiden, allegorical symbol of the Netherlands, is surely spot-lit here.

Another emblem is Vermeer’s characteristic finials on both the chairs. They feature a lion’s head with a brass ring in its mouth: the Netherlandish lion, a symbol for the unity of the United Provinces, so recently (1648) independent of Spanish rule. They guard both officer and girl.

The seated soldier in his gloriously deep red uniform is in shadow, his dramatic black hat tilted towards the girl, which, with his arm akimbo, frames her in light. Little flames of ribbon adorn his hat. Although they are both seated at the same small table he looks twice her size, creating an air of authority and protection, as well as establishing a foreground space.

On the back wall is a large expensive map hand-coloured in blue and ochre: the Dutch were the first to make maps as wall hangings. Vermeer was a picture-dealer and may also have dealt in maps, which were both cartography and art. The Dutch Republic was rapidly expanding its commercial outlets through geographical explorations and had become the world’s foremost naval and commercial nation, so maps were vital. The capital letter Latin lettering along the top of the map declares it to be a new and accurate view of all Holland and West Friesland. West is at the top. The lower edge inscription praises the Dutch Republic for their good women and for holding their land against the enemy, embodied here by the soldier and his maiden.

Thirteen of Vermeer’s modest total of about thirty-five paintings have a tiny pinprick at his chosen vanishing points. He tied a string to a pin or tack, pulled it taut and moved the string up and down to make accurate perspective. Try it: tie string to a pin stuck in the knot of the girl’s head cover, pull the string tight and move it up to the lines of the left-hand casement window and see how they converge accurately.

The dramatic *chiaroscuro* (light and dark) reveals the influence of Caravaggio on Vermeer and so many other Dutch artists. Vermeer’s mother-in-law, with whom he, his wife and eleven surviving children lived in Delft, owned many paintings by the Dutch *Caravaggisti*, a large group of Dutch artists who had lived in Rome, bringing back Caravaggio’s *chiaroscuro* to Utrecht on their return.

Vermeer often featured these *Caravaggisti* paintings on the back wall of his interiors. But did even the mighty Caravaggio ever use light to such a touching effect as on the face of this rosy-cheeked laughing girl?

*Susanne Carr*
**Monks Risborough Women's Institute**

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

Following an excellent talk by Tony Eaton about Glen Miller, on **April 1st** our speaker is Ian Scott-Hunter who will regale us with ‘Memoirs of a Royal Footman’.

On **May 6th** we will be discussing the year’s Resolutions, followed by social time. The June meeting will be a demonstration on ‘Felting’, details to follow.

We welcome visitors and look forward to seeing you.

**Monks Risborough Horticultural Society**

**Chairman:** Mick White 📞 346536

Monthly speaker evenings take place in St Dunstan's Church Hall starting at 8.00 pm

**Future Meetings:**

- **Friday April 17th**
  - Is Your Garden Climate Change Ready? - Speaker Chris Day.

- **Friday May 15th**
  - Bumble Bees In The Garden - Speaker John Catton.

See our website http://www.bucksvoice.net/mrhs

**The Princes Risborough Area Heritage Society**

**Hon Sec:** Dr A J Macfarlane 📞 343004

Once again we have reached the last meeting of the Princes Risborough Heritage Society for the season and we finish on Tuesday April 14th with our traditional AGM. Hopefully, this will be short and sweet, and after a break for tea and coffee, will be followed by a pictorial show of "Princes Risborough, Then and Now". This will be presented by Mike Payne with help from the other Risborough Historians, Chris Kingham and Sandy Macfarlane. The meeting will be at our usual venue of the Baptist Chapel in Bell Street, and the meeting will start at 7.30 pm prompt.

After our Summer break, our next meeting will then be on Tuesday September 8th.

**Princes Risborough Choral Society**

Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings at Lower Hall Baptist Church. Rehearsals are from 7.30 pm until 9.30 pm. Please note the change of venue. New members are always welcome. Please contact the membership secretary on 01844 346916.

The Summer Concert will be a concert performance of H M S Pinafore, which will take place on Thursday 25th June Friday 26th June and Saturday 27th of June at Longwick village Hall all starting at 7.30 pm. Tickets will be available from the Risborough Cook Shop, Art and Office, and the Information Centre in the library.

If transport is required for the Concert please ring 01844 345554.
Owlswick Events

We are looking forward to another season of “Speaker Evenings in St. Peter’s Chapel Chapel”. This year we had decided to change the date to the last Thursday in the months of April, May, June and July. Full details will be advertised closer to the time. The evenings are both entertaining and informative, the cost of £5 per head includes a drink and nibbles, which are served from 7.30pm for a start time of 8pm.

The planned meetings on 30th April 28th May are now cancelled.

On Friday May 8th we hope to be entertained by Owlswick Morris Dancers in the road opposite the chapel.

Going forward, if you’d like to reserve a seat for future “Speaker Evenings” please visit https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/rosalind-wates or contact Jane Rogers on 01844 347906; or email roz@rosalindwates.co.uk.

ADVERTISEMENTS

If you use any of the services advertised on the following pages, please mention that you saw it the Newsletter.

M SIMMONDS
Decorating Contractors
01296 655774
www.msimmonds.co.uk
Craftsmen Decorators
Carpentry & Repairs
Total Refurbishment
Established 1979

FOR ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS
Motor, household & all types of business insurance
Award Winning Insurance For Over 35 years

For more Information please call (01844) 275 655
BUCKS MAN AND VAN REMOVALS SERVICE

Small family business est. 2000

Unrivalled care and service
Small to medium house removals
Man and van services, Local or long distance
House Clearance and Bulky item disposal
Large clean Luton vans with tail-lifts
Fully insured (goods in transit - public liability)
Trade waste registered

Contact Sean or Layla
07799 170724 - 01844 342919
www.bucksmanandvan.co.uk

Paul Trunkfield
Painter & Decorator

15 years experience
Friendly, reliable & trustworthy
For a free estimate please ring
01296 421785
077652 48588
E-mail paul.trunkfield@sky.com

Vale Burner Services Ltd

SERVICE & BREAKDOWN REPAIR FOR OIL FIRED BOILERS

Back under original family management. Providing the service WE would like to receive.
Tel: 01844 208444
www.valeburnerservices.co.uk
M R COLLINS GARDEN CONSTRUCTION
Princes Risborough (established 1979)

For all paving and hard landscaping requirements
Specialists in
Block Paving Drives, Patios, Terraces
Brickwork * Fencing * Turfing
Full range of Paving Slabs & Indian Stone supplied and laid
Mini-digger with operator for Excavations & Spoil removal
Licensed Waste Carrier for removal of concrete and hardcore

For Free Estimate call:
01844 346360 or 07774 256732

---

Chiropodist
Tel: 01844 343023
Mobile: 07711 984330
Louise J. Smith
MBChs, MSSCh
HCPC registered - CH21730

Surgery in Monks Risborough
Professional & friendly service

www.louisesfootclinic.co.uk

---

PRINCES PAVING
For all your garden landscaping needs from design to installation
Patios Decking Driveways
Fencing Turfing

For a free of charge, no obligation quotation
Call 01844 275287 Evenings/Weekends
07776 137693 Daytime

A Local Family Business
32 Summerleys Road, Princes Risborough, Bucks., HP27 9DT

---

A Swansbury
WOOD FINISHING LTD
(C&G 555 182)
Modern & Antique Furniture Restoration
Refurbishment of Kitchens
All Types of Interior & Exterior Wood Finishing
Over 20 years experience

Workshop: 01844 353555
Mobile: 07761 216231
www.swansburywoodfinishing.co.uk
swansburywoodfinishing@gmail.com
Manor Farm, Chinnor Hill,
Chinnor, Oxon, OX39 4BG
Sometimes it can be difficult to cope with the challenges that life throws at us so talking to a counsellor may be helpful.

Based near Wendover, I offer a warm, friendly and confidential space for you to talk through any problems you may be facing such as anxiety, stress, sadness, low self-esteem, anger and relationship difficulties.

For further information on how I may be able to help, please contact me:

Natalie McGourty MBACP, BA (Hons) Psychology
Tel: 07976 968166
Email: natalie@nmcounselling.co.uk
Website: www.nmcounselling.co.uk
Risborough Carers Ltd
Family Company, Est. 1992. Rated “Good” by CQC
Do you have some spare time to help people in your community?
If so, we would like to welcome you to our team of

Home Care Assistants
We cover a variety of visits from Companionship calls, Hospital Appointments as well as giving help and support with Personal Care and Meal Preparation.

Excellent Rates of Pay & Full Training is provided

If you would like to know more, please contact Stephanie on 01844 212271 or e-mail:
Stephanie.Sandwell@risboroughcarers.org.uk

OSTEOPATHY

Robert Pettingell D.O.
Registered Osteopath
* Sports Injuries
* Neck and Back Problems
* Muscular and Joint Problems
* Headaches

Risborough Therapy Clinic
13 Duke Street
Princes Risborough
07786 536163 / 01494 529769

Recognised by all major health insurance companies

Colin Jones
Retired gentleman, willing and capable handyman.
Carpentry, light gardening, decorating and repairs.

£18 per hour.
Please contact for a quote
07751428094 | cpj1950@icoud.com
Crendon Beds And Furniture

Handmade luxury mattresses at CLEARANCE PRICES!
AMAZING VALUE Bedroom Furniture

Visit our new Showrooms at 11-12 Meadow View, Drakes Drive,
Long Crendon, Bucks HP18 9EQ

Opening times: Monday - Thursday 9am to 5pm Fridays 9am to 3pm Weekends by appointment only!

Tel: 01844 358064

www.crendonbedsandfurniture.co.uk

Graham’s Garage Services

◆ Top quality vehicle servicing & repairs
◆ Quotations provided
◆ Welding undertaken
◆ MOT testing
◆ Highly competitive rates
◆ No hidden extras
◆ Honesty & thoroughness at all times

Crocketts Yard,
Aylesbury Road, Askett,
Buckinghamshire HP27 9L

Telephone: 01844 344003

Risborough Therapy Clinic

A centre for Alternative and Complimentary Medicine

www.risboroughtherapy.co.uk

Acupuncture
Chinese Herbal Medicine
Osteopathy
Hypnotherapy
Cognitive Behaviour Therapy
Sports and Remedial Massage
Reflexology
Homeopathy
Tui Na (Chinese Massage)

Tel: 01844 347889 or 01844 274369

13 Duke Street, Princes Risborough
Traditional Chinese Acupuncture
Chinese Herbal Medicine

Michele Marsland
M.A. Lic Ac MBAcC Dip CHM RCHM

Risborough Therapy Clinic
Princes Risborough
01844 347889 01844 274369

or

Castle Street Clinic
High Wycombe
Tel: 01494 530004

Email:
michele.marsland@jing.demon.co.uk

Chimney Sweeping
Qualified, Professional Sweep
Fully Insured
01844 343726
07936 791833
www.swebbchimneyservices.co.uk

Princes Risborough Art Group
Small friendly art group
Baptist Church Hall
Princes Risborough

Wednesdays 12 - 2 pm

There is no formal tuition but we are happy to share our ideas and knowledge.

Wendy 01296 433824
or Ann 01844 343042
The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of St Dunstan’s Church PCC under whose auspices the Newsletter is issued, nor can any responsibility be accepted for the accuracy or content of any article or advertisement published herein. By carrying an advertisement the PCC is not necessarily endorsing the product or service advertised.
VILLAGE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
DOMESTIC DRAIN SERVICES

BLOCKED DRAINS? CALL US DAY OR NIGHT

07850 635 844 01296 624 221 (MESSAGES)

Let us transform the quality of your lawn!

From as little as £6!

Our specially tailored treatment programme will ensure your lawn is in excellent condition all year round

Weed Free • Lush Green • Moss Controlled

FREE Lawn Analysis Call: 01844 343479
FREEPHONE 0808 100 1413 or visit us at: www.greensleeves-uk.com
THE PHYSIO CLINIC
STEPHEN REECE MCSP., SRP.
30 years of experience

Physiotherapy – Manipulation – Acupuncture

For the treatment of all spinal, muscular and sports injuries

The Physio Clinic 115, Wendover Road, Aylesbury
01296 336755
The Practice, 98 High Street, Thame
01844 213344

A window on to better health

www.physioclinicaylesbury.com

Your Local Mobility Centre
You Talk, We Listen - Since 1998

- Scooters - Power Chairs - Wheelchairs - Bath Aids
- Rise & Recline Chairs - Pressure Relief Cushions
- Continence Supplies - Grab Rails - Reachers - Wider Fit Shoes

FREE PARKING and on the 300 bus route High Wycombe to Aylesbury

MOBILITY CENTRE
New Road
Princes Risborough
Bucks. HP27 0JN

Call us:
01844 273050
or email info@ilcmobility.com

Printed by South Bucks Business Products Ltd - 01494 769599