

GRASS

THE NEWSLETTER AT THE ROOTS OF THE GRAND UNION BENEFICE OF BLISWORTH AND STOKE BRUERNE/ SHUTLANGER, WITH GRAFTON REGIS, ALDERTON AND MILTON MALSOR

Rector's Letter

November sees the close of another church year, as we celebrate the feast of Christ the King on 24th, the last Sunday before the beginning of Advent. This past year we have been following the gospel of Luke, walking alongside Jesus through the different stages of His life - from the arms of His mother as a newborn child (Christmas), to the moment of His baptism as an adult in the river Jordan by John the Baptist and the beginning of His ministry (early January), to a young man lying in those same loving arms when He was taken down from the cross; and being laid in the tomb (Easter), and His loving mother holding Him one last time before He ascended back to sit at the side of His Heavenly Father (Ascension). This past year, we have heard the stories of the healing and feeding of those in need; plus the confrontation of the religious and secular authorities. This is the annual story of Christ on which we reflect in our churches week by week. Yet, how might this be our story, too?

For each of us, as we journey with the story of Jesus through the cycle of each year, we have had plenty of opportunities to ask ourselves questions about our true relationship with Jesus and what we believe. Jesus promises, in turn, to renew and transform our everyday lives if we believe and trust in Him. So as we approach the end of this year's cycle, we might well ask ourselves afresh: do I recognise that Jesus is the true King of all creation? And then, if you genuinely believe in Jesus, how do you fulfil your own calling to be His follower? How we can better become Jesus's disciples in the world today is one of the principal questions we will be looking at throughout next year together. During 2020, there will be study groups across the Benefice to help us focus on our discipleship, and what it means to live as a follower of Christ. Please do look out for more details and come and join in the conversation. All are welcome.

But let's not get ahead of ourselves! As our celebrations of Christ the King conclude our church year, we shall begin the new year with the reflective time of Advent. This is a time for our own spiritual preparations for the birth of Christ, a time when we do well to try not to get caught up in the mad rush to Christmas, despite the secular world trying to engage our consumerist tendencies earlier and earlier each year. This time of the year brings into focus the contrast of these two kingdoms, a clash between our spiritual selves and the materiality of our culture. There is, if we are honest, a battle being fought within each of us for our time and loyalty, and the treasures to which we are drawn. Only you can decide in which kingdom you want to live. How might you make time to nurture your spiritual self during the Advent season? Peace, Richard.

Streetchurch

The team this month was Maureen, Carolyn, Andrea, Anna, Roger and Linda and we did not stop from the moment we arrived until the moment we left. As usual, the Benefice was very generous with gifts of food, clothes and miscellaneous items like cosmetics and we were thankfully helped in to the building by some of the waiting friends as the two large cars we had taken were full.

Work immediately started on heating up soup, cutting up sandwiches, sorting out fruit and crisps and setting out the tea and coffee so by the time the shutters went up we were ready for the onslaught. As always, the visitors were always polite and grateful and enjoyed, initially, the soup, tea and coffee and then the sandwiches etc, followed by the cakes. The demand for hot drinks was relentless and we had to fill the boiler up a couple of times to accommodate this.

Once everybody started enjoying their cakes, our task was then to prepare the ever popular 'pack ups', which are very gratefully received. During the afternoon, there were hairdressers who worked non-stop and there was a table full of various items of clothing which, again, were gratefully received. Thank you again for all those who gave so generously. Linda

Service Schedule for November 2019

Sunday 3 November

9.30 a m: Holy Communion, BCP, Milton Malsor
9.30 a m: Morning Worship, Shutlanger (lay-led)
11.00 a m: Morning Worship, Blisworth

Sunday 10 November, Remembrance Sunday.

9.30 a m: Holy Communion, CW, Stoke Bruerne
10.00 a m: Morning Worship, Milton Malsor
10.50 a m: Morning Worship, CW, Blisworth
6.00 p m: Act of Remembrance, Alderton

Every Wednesday: 9.30 a m, Morning Prayer, Blisworth and Milton Malsor

Sunday 17 November

8.00 a m: Morning Prayer, BCP, Blisworth
9.30 a m: Holy Communion, CW, Milton Malsor
11.00 a m: Morning Worship, Blisworth (lay-led)
11.00 a m: Holy Communion, CW, Grafton Regis

Sunday 24 November

9.30 a m: Morning Worship, Milton Malsor (lay-led)
9.30 a m: Holy Communion, CW, Alderton
11.00 a m: Holy Communion, CW, Blisworth

The Julian Group for Silent Prayer

The Julian Group for Silent Prayer – making space for God. The group meets on the second Monday of the month (11 November) from 5.00 p m to 6.00 pm, usually at 2 Towcester Road, Blisworth. You are welcome to join us to 'taste and see' or on a regular basis. Contact Sue Cutts or Hilary Spurrier for more information.

Useful Telephone Numbers for the United Benefice of Blisworth and Stoke Bruerne with Grafton Regis, Alderton and Milton Malsor

Rector: Canon Rev'd Richard Stainer, The Rectory, 37 High Street, Blisworth NN7 3B, tel 01604 857619

Churchwardens of Blisworth: Mrs Fiona McKenzie, tel 01604 859541 and Mrs Angela Cheesebrough, tel 01604 858059.

Churchwardens of Stoke Bruerne: Mrs Christine Frost, tel 01604 862561.

Churchwardens of Grafton Regis: Mrs Jean Glanville, tel 01908 543463 and Lord Charles Fitzroy, tel 01908 542908

Churchwarden of Alderton: Mrs Amanda Selvey, tel 01327 811380.

Churchwardens of Milton Malsor: Mrs Jane Treharne, tel 01604 858323 and Mrs Sue Bell, tel 01327 351043

An Invitation from Rev'd Andrea

Hello to my dear, kind, generous friends.

My beautiful summerhouse was erected on 30 September and I am currently filling it with things to make it into my outdoor studio space. I cannot thank you enough for this wonderful gift.

If you would like to come and have a look at what you have bought, then please come along on Saturday 9 November between 2.00 p m and 4.00 p m. I can't promise the weather will be good, but I can promise a very warm welcome.

With love and heartfelt thanks.

Andrea, The Rectory, Main Street, Great Brington, NN7 4JB.

VILLAGE NEWS

Monday Group

We are a group who have sadly lost someone we loved deeply, and if you also have suffered the same sadness, we would welcome you to join us. We meet in Milton Malsor church on the first Monday of each month from 2.00 p m to 3.30 p m. We have refreshments, chat and an occasional speaker. If you come along you will not find us a miserable group, but a friendly, welcoming group.

Geoffrey Goswell, tel 01604701572.



STOKE BRUERNE

Christmas Bazaar

The Christmas bazaar will be held on Saturday 16 November at 2.00 p m. We will be selling Christmas gifts, cards, wrapping paper, crackers, table decorations and bric a brac. There will be a flower table, a tombola, a raffle and we will be serving mince pies and mulled wine. There will be a few spare tables if you would like to sell your own crafts, at a charge of £5. Please phone either 01604 864275 or 01604 862825 to book a table.

We will be putting the tables up on Friday 15 November at 7.00 p m and would be very grateful for any help.

Stoke Bruerne Hall Management Committee

Stoke Bruerne Parish Council

Speedwatch

Stoke Bruerne Parish Council is looking for volunteers to help with the parish Speedwatch. If anyone is interested please contact Bobs Damerell, Parish Clerk at clerk@stokebruernepaishcouncil.org.uk.

Playing Field

Stoke Bruerne Parish Council has asked for members of the public not to use the gap in the hedge in the playing field for safety reasons. The Parish Council asks that all members of the public use the gates as the only entrance and exits. Bobs Damerell, Stoke Bruerne Parish Clerk

Stoke Bruerne Community Speedwatch

As a result of our efforts in August and September, the police sent out 144 warning letters to the registered keepers of vehicles that were detected exceeding the speed limit at 25 mph or above in the 20 mph zone.

Whether we can take part next year depends on the number of volunteers who offer to participate. If you can lend a hand, please let me know. Alison Jones, Stoke Bruerne Community Speedwatch Co-ordinator, tel 01604 863598, email AlisonandBernard@aol.com or text 07454 987096.

Christmas Cards

At the Harvest Festival Service on 13 October, members of the Church Sewing Group were very pleased to donate £320 to the PCC via the Rev Richard, being the profit made from the sale of 1,000 Christmas cards we had printed of the church wall hanging, celebrating 800 years.

All the cards were sold, and our thanks go to all who generously contributed, and a special thanks to the local printers, Ashman & Clough, who supplied the cards at a very low cost, enabling us to make the maximum profit for the church.

Alison Grace



St Mary the Virgin Church

Autumn Coffee Morning

Our next coffee morning, on Saturday 9 November promises to be an eventful one! It starts at 10.00 a m and goes on until 12.00 noon. "ReChaired" will be performing at 11.00 a m. We can look forward to hearing them sing a selection of stirring wartime favourites as part of the weekend of Remembrance. We shall also be treated to performances by talented soloists. Greetings cards will be on sale too. Do come along and bring your friends. Join us for coffee and cake while you enjoy the entertainment!

Remembrance Sunday

Our Service of Remembrance will be held at church on Sunday 10 November at 9.30 a m. You are very welcome to join us.

Autumn Tidy

It is that time of year when we need to give our church a thorough clean, inside and out. This will take place on Saturday 2 November between 9.30 a m. and 12.00 noon. We are always grateful to friends who give up their time to help us polish the interior and clear and tidy the churchyard. Cleaning materials are available for the inside of the church. If, however, you prefer to work outside, we would ask

you to bring your own equipment for the task. Refreshments will be available during the morning to keep us sustained! Many thanks on behalf of the PCC.



GRAFTON REGIS

Lunch Club

It was another wonderful lunch on 17 October. Despite the fact that she could not attend, Doris sent along some leek and potato soup; this was followed by a lamb hot pot, a chicken and leek crumble and a vegetarian lasagne, accompanied by seasonal vegetables. The desserts then came out and that's when the scrum started! There was a massive choice of about 6 dishes, accompanied by cream, custard and ice cream. If that wasn't enough, there was cheese and biscuits, chocolates and tea or coffee.

During the afternoon, we listened to a talk from the Alzheimer's Society with regard to volunteering to help with those suffering from this dreadful disease.

Our thanks to Jean, Kathy and Tony Colgrove who worked so diligently in the kitchen. These events are always delightful and it's so good to see so many friends each month. The next lunch is on 21 November.



BLISWORTH

Christmas Coffee Morning and Bazaar

St John's annual Christmas coffee morning and bazaar will take place on Saturday 23 November, in church, from 10.00 a m to 12.30 p m. Do come along to enjoy tea, coffee, mince pies and chat, with time to browse stalls including Christmas goods, gifts, cakes and produce, books, tombola etc. Donations are welcome for any of these stalls. The handbell group will visit to entertain with a selection from their repertoire. This is always a friendly and sociable occasion to which everyone is welcome.

Baptism

St John's was full to capacity on Sunday 22 September for the normal 11.00 a m service, which included the christening of Louis Matthew Callaghan, son of Steven and Eleanor Callaghan of Briar Hill, Northampton.

It was Rev. Richard's first baptism since his arrival in the Benefice and proceedings went perfectly with Louis performing magnificently on the day. The congregation warmly welcomed the Callaghan family and friends as tea and cakes were dispensed before a celebration afterwards.



Break in at St John's

We are disappointed that again there has been a break in – entry being gained via a window. Fortunately, nothing was stolen or badly damaged, apart from the glass, so, another expense will be incurred to get that repaired. Because of increasing potential for breaking into the church building, we are going to obtain quotes for security covers for the plain glass windows, similar to those already on the stained glass ones. This will have to be covered by fund raising and seeking grants.



ALDERTON

Church Cleaning Rota
Churchyard Rota

November
November

Emma H & Sarah R
Martyn Mann & anyone who feels like helping

MacMillan Coffee Morning

Friday 27 September was the MacMillan world's biggest coffee morning and we at The Homestead were happy to host, along with Kathy and Simon Lamb. Kathy and I baked for two days to get ready and as you can tell, with what we baked and those cakes that were donated by Jean Smallwood and Val Kliene, we had an amazing spread. We had a wonderful turnout. Thank you everyone so very much for supporting us. You have all helped raise an amazing amount; at the moment it comes to an amazing £382.16 added to which we have £200 from Barclays that Simon got us funding for. Thank you to all those who donated cakes and raffle prizes and came for cake, coffee and a chat - without everyone's support in baking and eating, we couldn't raise such a brilliant amount. See you all again next year. Liz and Pete Smallwood



Fireworks Party

Please see the poster on page 6 for details – everybody is welcome. There will be a prize for the best guy. Proceeds will go towards the upkeep of the field.

Coffee Morning to Raise Money for the Knight

A coffee morning to raise funds for Alderton's knight will be held at 4 Church Lane, Alderton (Margaret's H-T's house) on Saturday 16 November from 10.30 a m to 12.30 p m. As well as coffee and cake there will be a raffle and goodies for Christmas, or just goodies. Please come along and Join in, it would be really good to see everyone. Margaret H-T



MILTON MALSOR

Concert

An amazingly talented line-up of musicians on 28 September at Holy Cross Church started the autumnal season off with a lovely evening of classical music and songs from the shows.

Some £1,400 was raised for Alzheimer's Research and in specific memory of the late Sally Townsend.



Coffee Morning

The November coffee morning at Holy Cross was an outstanding success raising over £300 for MacMillan nurses. The next coffee morning will be on Saturday 1 November from 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon. The December coffee morning on 7 December will feature displays of our favourite carols. Groups and individuals who would like to make a display illustrating the first verse of their favourite carol are invited to take part. Details from 07729 311988.

Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday has become a major feature of our village life in recent years. Hundreds attend the church service and the Memorial Act on the village green. This year, the church service at Holy Cross is a united service with the Baptist Church on Sunday 10 November at 10.00 a m. The uniformed youth organisations and the school will be taking part. The procession leaves the church at 10.45 a m, to arrive at the village green for 10.55 a m in order to join in the National Silence at 11.00 a m. Wreaths will be laid and the event will close with light refreshments in the village hall, courtesy of the Christian community.

Upcoming Events

Milton Malsor Film Club meets on Friday 1 November when the film "Children Act" will be screened.

The Milton & Collingtree Women's Institute meet on Thursday 14 November, and the Milton Tots continue every Friday morning in the village hall. The Historical Society meets on Thursday 21 November at 7.30 p m at Raynesford House when Denise Legge will be suitably costumed and will speak on the life of an Elizabethan housewife (complete with some tasty dishes).

Mums and Tots

This takes place every Friday morning through term time at Milton Malsor Village Hall from 9.30 a m until 11.30 a m. All mums and tots welcome.

GENERAL NEWS

Paulerspury Picturedrome

Laurel and Hardy were one of the great comic duos of all time and in their prime were the funniest guys around. Stan and Ollie is a film about their later years: very funny but sad at times. The two actors give incredible lifelike impersonations and the film is worth seeing for that alone. So, it will be on at the village hall, on Friday 8 November at 8.00 p m. Pay £5 at the door as usual. Derek Batten

News from The Old Mail

For events and happenings in the nearby villages: Cosgrove, Potterspurys and Yardley Gobion, see the newsletter, The Old Mail, is available online at various websites: www.cosgrovevillage.co.uk; www.potterspurypc.org.uk; www.yardleygobionpc.wordpress.com

How to Contact the Police

999 – for a crime or incident in progress

101 – you will be asked with which police station you would like to be connected

03000 111 222 – direct dial Northamptonshire police

Email for Towcester: SCT-SouthNorthantsTowcester@northants.pnn.police.uk

Your local officers are as follows:

Alderton: PCSO 7018, Peter Firth, tel 101 ext 343971

Stoke Bruerne: PCSO 7018, Peter Firth, tel 101 ext 343971

Shutlanger: PCSO 7018, Peter Firth, tel 101 ext 343971

Grafton Regis: PCSO 7018, Peter Firth, tel 101 ext 343971

Blisworth: PCSO 7012 Tara Cooksammy

Milton Malsor: PCSO 7012 Tara Cooksammy

For more local SCT information, visit the local policing pages www.northants.police.uk.

Fitness Classes in Paulerspury Village Hall

Monday pilates classes: 11.00 a m – 12.00 noon, 12.10 p m – 1.10 p m, 6.00 p m – 7.00 p m & 7.10 – 8.10 p m.

Wednesday pilates classes: 11.00 a m – 12.00 noon.

STOTT pilates beginners/intermediate mat work classes running Monday-Friday at various times during the day and evenings in Paulerspury, Old Stratford, Towcester & Silverstone.

All levels welcome and all small equipment is provided, just bring along yourself and a mat. Classes are friendly, welcoming and progressive and offer a great all over body workout which is kind and gentle to the joints. Take an hour out of your day to allow yourself a little bit of 'me time'!

Contact Elizabeth on 07547 618 987 for more information.

Tuesday yoga classes: 10.00 a m – 11.30 a m (sorry currently no vacancies)

Contact Sue 01327 811 596 or fitnessgroup@paulerspuryparish.org.uk

Saturday morning yoga session: 2 November 10.00 – 12.30 p m in Paulerspury village hall. Cost just £10,

A Hatha yoga morning: Work with Iris, a local teacher of 40 years experience. Covering breathing, stretching and relaxation. Suitable for all levels: bring a mat, drink if required, & something warm for relaxation. Profit to be donated to the village hall funds.

Contact Iris: 01327 351920 for further enquiries.

Theatre Group

Please see: <http://paulerspuryparish.org.uk/local-groups/theatre-group/> then click the link new shows. Contact Sue, via the web site or phone, 01327 811 596 to reserve seats.

You are invited to a Book Launch



Royals, Rectors, Lands and Locks
Lynne Wild

at Stoke Bruerne Canal Museum on
16th and 17th November
from 10.30a.m. to 12.30p.m.

In 2017 St Mary the Virgin Church in Stoke Bruerne celebrated its 800th Anniversary. As part of the celebrations, an exhibition was set up outlining the way life changed in the villages of Stoke Bruerne and Shutlanger between 1217 and 2017. It is interesting to look back through the centuries and discover how life was influenced by what was happening elsewhere and to see how its history has affected life today. This book has been produced as a result of the research carried out. It is to be sold for the benefit of the beautiful 13th century church.

Lynne will be there to talk about the book
and sign copies

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jameshalson92@gmail.com

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Please
Bring a
Bottle for
the Raffle!

Firework Display

Friday 8th November
Alderton Village Field

Large Bonfire – Fireworks Display – BBQ – Bar
Serving Alcoholic and Soft Drinks

Guy Fawkes Competition!

Gates Open 7pm

Donations toward the upkeep of our field will be collected and hugely appreciated



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Sat 7 Dec - Live Music with JoJos & The MoJos

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Sat 21 Dec - Tribute Night with The Blueprint Blues Brothers

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OPEN MORNING
Saturday 16th November
10am to 1pm

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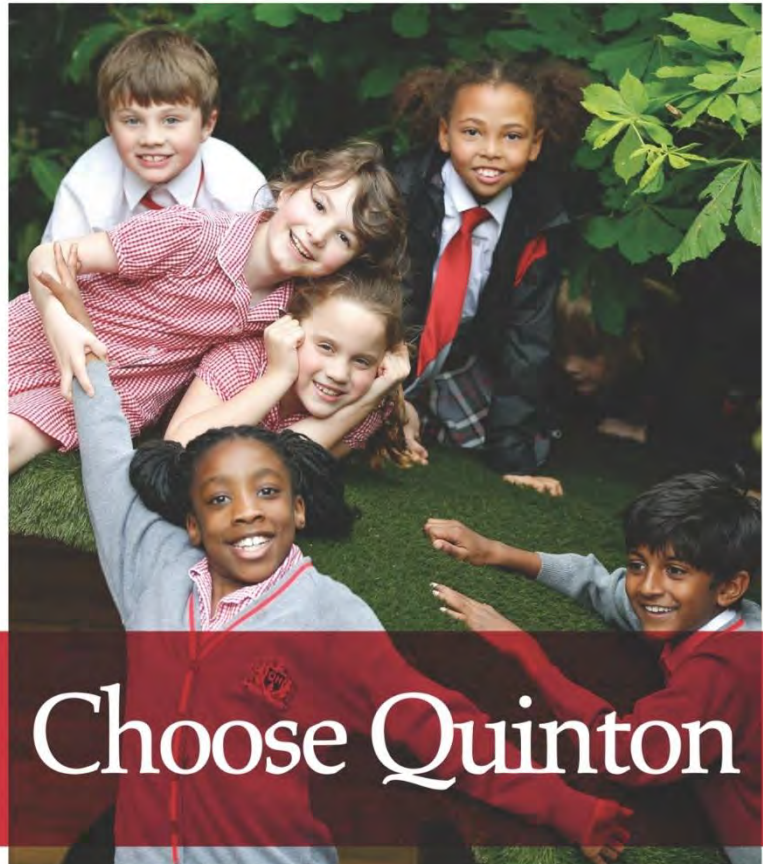
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United Benefice Calendar for 2019/20

All groups and organisations within the community are warmly invited to include events here.

<u>November</u>	1	Milton film club, Children Act, 7.30 p m, village hall	
	2	Autumn tidy, Stoke Bruerne church, 9.30 a m – 12.00 noon	
	2	Coffee morning, Milton Malsor	
	8	Towcester farmers' market, 9.00 a m – 1.30 p m	
	8	Paulerspury Picturedrome – Stan and Ollie, 8.00 p m	
	8	Fireworks display, Alderton village field, 7.00 p m	
	9	Coffee morning – St Mary's Church, Stoke Bruerne, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon	
	9	Invitation to visit Rev'd Andrea in Great Brington, 2.00 p m – 4.00 p m	
	12	Stoke Bruerne Parish Council meeting, 7.30 p m	
	13	Shutlanger & Stoke Bruerne Flower Club, 7.30pm Roade Village Hall	
	14	Blisworth WI, 7.30 p m, village hall – passionate about pasta	
	14	Milton and Collingtree WI meeting	
	16	Coffee morning, Alderton, 10.30 a m to 12.30 p m, to raise money for our knight	
	16	Christmas bazaar, Stoke Bruerne village hall, 2.00 p m	
	16/17	Canal museum event - Floating market	
	16/17	Book launch – Lynne Wild, 10.30 a m to 12.30 p m, Stoke Bruerne Canal Museum	
	21	Grafton lunch club, 12.30 p m, Grafton Regis village hall	
	21	Historical Society, Milton Malsor, 7.30 p m	
	23	Christmas coffee morning and bazaar, Blisworth, 10.00 a m – 12.30 p m.	
	26	Book Club, the Boat, Stoke Bruerne, 7.00 p m	
	29	Coffee and cakes at 7 Pond Bank – homemade jams & bring and buy, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon	
	<u>December</u>	6	Milton film club, Yesterday, 7.30 p m, village hall
		7	Coffee morning, Milton Malsor
		12	Blisworth WI, 7.30 p m, village hall – Christmas party
		13	Towcester farmers' market, 9.00 a m – 1.30 p m
	17	Stoke Bruerne Parish Council meeting, 7.30 p m	
	19	Grafton lunch club, 12.30 p m, Grafton Regis village hall	
	<u>January</u>	10	Towcester farmers' market, 9.00 a m – 1.30 p m
		16	Grafton lunch club, 12.30 p m, Grafton Regis village hall
	<u>February</u>	20	Grafton lunch club, 12.30 p m, Grafton Regis village hall
	<u>March</u>	8	Benefice team on duty at Stretchurch
19		Grafton lunch club, 12.30 p m, Grafton Regis village hall	
<u>April</u>	16	Grafton lunch club, 12.30 p m, Grafton Regis village hall	
<u>July</u>	19	Benefice team on duty at Stretchurch	
<u>October</u>	11	Benefice team on duty at Stretchurch	

Community choir: Come along and join the community choir who are meeting every Thursday night from 7.30 p m till 9.00 p m in Blisworth church. All are welcome to swell the ranks, and subscriptions are only £2 per person.

SNIPPETS:

Those who try to bring you down are already below you. So just ignore them.

Sometimes later becomes never. Do it now.

If you cannot do great things, do small things in a great way.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF GRASS is 17 November

thanks to Jackie Grundon for proof reading

If you can get any copy to us earlier than that it would be very much appreciated

Please send any copy to: Linda Dards, Moorend, Spring Lane, Alderton NN12 7LW tel 01327 811265, e-mail: linda@dards.net. **Could you please include your name & phone number with entries in case we have any problems.** If you would like to add photographs or drawings to your text these are welcome and can be supplied via email or as photos, and returned after scanning. Contributions by email are most welcome, we can accept most formats; please request a response from us on receipt – so you are sure that we have your submission. Word (any version) is preferred.