

GRASS

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

Unto Us A Child Is Born

Being a grandfather is a privilege; spending time with my two little girls always brings a smile, even when they are fighting dragons and I am a horse in their eyes. When I take the eldest swimming, spending the whole time following her around getting cold is pleasure. Like many grandfathers before me, I am always excited to have them around, while at the same time I have concerns about the world into which my grandchildren have been born. With the birth of a new child, our family systems expanded within moments, never to be the same again. But then, as it is said, the birth of any child changes the world.

Writing this letter, then, for the Advent magazine, my mind is drawn to the birth of a small child that took place over 2,000 years ago and changed the course of humanity; a birth that continues to take place each year in the hearts of Christians around the world. I can still remember waiting for news to come of the birth of my grandchildren, checking to make sure I had not missed a text or phone call; I found that my mind was flooded with thoughts and expectations. I ponder what would have been going through the mind of that young girl, Mary, as she travelled to Bethlehem. Did she have any understanding of how her life was going to change and the many sacrifices she would have to make? Did she have a conversation with Joseph while they travelled the dusty road to Bethlehem, considering what the future had in store for them as parents?

Like every parent or grandparent, we cannot help wondering what the child will look like, whose facial characteristics will he or she have. Pelagius, a British monk/theologian (354-420), said that to look at the face of a new-born child is to see the face of God; what a gift this is! I have had the privilege on many occasions to look upon the face of a new-born child to see the face of God. Of course, when Mary and Joseph looked upon the face of their son, Jesus, they really were looking at the face of God.

It is written in sacred Scripture that God is with us and will never forsake any who call upon Him. I find reassurance here: that even when the world seems to be set on self-destruction and saturated in political turmoil, our Heavenly Father is still at work in making this a better world. If the birth of a small child into our families is powerful enough to change the dynamics of how we and our families function, how much more impact the birth of Jesus, Son of God, 2,000 years ago has had on the world. Then imagine the effect of allowing Christ to be born within our hearts this coming year. As we await the birth of the Christ-child once more into our very selves, we prepare for our lives to be transformed.

As I travel around the Benefice over the Christmas season, I shall come across a variety of nativity cribs. Some Christians put the Christ-child in before the 25th while others wait until Christmas Day itself (the time most appropriate to the narrative). Whichever your custom, can I ask that you spend a short while in front of the Christ-child this Christmastide to ponder the difference that this event, the birth of Christ, makes in your life. A small child is very vulnerable and we give a great deal of ourselves to look after and nurture them. This is the same with our faith: at times it can be very fragile and in need of feeding and care. We do this not only by reading sacred Scripture, and in prayer, but also through regular attendance at the Eucharist when we renew our communion with the One who was born into the world to bring God's saving grace.

I look forward to seeing you all over the Christmas celebrations. May I wish you and your families all a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Canon Richard Stainer

Service Schedule for December 2019

Sunday 1 December, Advent 1

9.30 a m: Holy Communion, BCP, Milton Malsor
9.30 a m: Holy Communion, Shutlanger
11.00 a m: Holy Communion, Blisworth

Sunday 8 December, Advent 2

9.30 a m: Holy Communion, Stoke Bruerne
9.30 a m: Morning Worship, Milton Malsor, lay-led
11.00 a m: Holy Communion, Blisworth

Sunday 15 December, Advent 3

8.00 a m: Holy Communion, BCP, Blisworth
9.30 a m, Holy Communion, CW, Milton Malsor
3.00 p m: Carol service, Blisworth
6.00 p m: Carol service, Grafton Regis
6.00 p m: Carol service, Milton Malsor

Sunday 22 December, Advent 4

9.30 a m: Morning Worship, Milton Malsor, lay-led
11.00 a m: Holy Communion, CW, Blisworth
6.00 p m: Carol service, Alderton

Tuesday 24 December, Christmas Eve

3.00 p m: Crib service, Milton Malsor
4.30 p m: Crib service, Blisworth
8.00 p m: Christmas Communion, Stoke Bruerne
11.30 p m: Midnight Communion, Blisworth

Wednesday 25 December, Christmas Day

9.30 a m: Christmas Communion, Milton Malsor
10.00 a m: Christmas Communion, Alderton

Sunday 29 December

10.30 a m: Holy Communion, Milton Malsor

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

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.

Churchwarden 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

Streetchurch

A very special big thank you to all of you who brought shoes, wellingtons and other footwear, woolly hats, gloves and fleeces this past couple of weeks. I have just been and delivered them ready for a very welcome distribution today – Sunday 24 November. They are so much appreciated. Thank you. Doris

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 01604 701572.



STOKE BRUERNE

St Mary the Virgin Parish Church

Coffee Morning

The last of our quarterly coffee mornings was held on Saturday 9 November. The attendance was the best yet and the church was buzzing. One couple had walked across the fields from Roade to join us, which was a first! Also attending for the first time was Reverend Richard Stainer and his wife, Monique; everyone was glad of the opportunity to talk to them in a relaxed way. We were also delighted to welcome 'ReChaired' to this event. They sang a selection of wartime songs which were very well received. It was a fitting introduction to the Remembrance weekend. I would like to thank our growing number of supporters and helpers for these events. We appreciate those of you who regularly supply us with a scrumptious variety of cakes and those who willingly give of their time to help in several different ways. Together, we raised £324.50 for church funds, from the sale of refreshments and greetings cards. So, a big thank you to all those involved. Our next Coffee Morning is on Saturday 8 February 2020.

Christmas Eve Service

The annual Christmas Eve service of "Carols and Communion" will start at 8.00 p m, followed by nibbles and mulled wine. We look forward to welcoming you.

Decorating the Church

In readiness for the Christmas Eve service we plan to decorate the church on Saturday 21 December between 9.30 a m and 12.00 noon. If this is something you might like to help with, you are welcome to join us. All flowers and foliage for arrangements will be provided, but we would appreciate some laurel, holly and ivy for decorating window sills. Many thanks. Lynne Wild

Book Launch

The launch of my first book "Royals, Rectors, Lands and Locks" took place over the weekend of 16 and 17 November. This was a very new experience for me and I wondered how it would turn out. I'm pleased to say, it far surpassed my expectations! The staff at the Stoke Bruerne Canal Museum, who had kindly invited me to hold the launch there, made me feel very welcome. I was astounded to see so many familiar, smiling faces of people coming in to support me on Saturday morning. Friends and family filled the museum cafe and chattered away, having first purchased one or two books and greetings cards. I was delighted. After such a buzz, I was convinced that, by comparison, Sunday would be much quieter. How wrong I was. Once again I was busy selling books and chatting to people. On this occasion, I met some for the first time and it was interesting to hear of their associations with Stoke Bruerne and Shutlanger. I am very grateful to all of you, for your interest, for your kindness and for your generosity. It has been overwhelming! The sum raised so far is £630.00; St Mary the Virgin Church will benefit from the money raised this weekend and in the weeks to come. Thank you.

Lynne Wild



Canal Partnership

During the autumn, our Adoption Group has continued to work to keep the canal centre looking tidy and cared for. Autumn gales have brought down several old ivy clad trees and these have been dealt with to keep paths clear and safe. The museum car park has been cleared of leaves and debris and the soakaway drains kept clean. The flower beds and tubs have been weeded and replanted so hopefully they will look good again in the spring. An area of old allotments down by the lower locks was cleared of a huge amount of overgrowth on an exceedingly wet day in October by a stalwart gang of volunteers. We are now discussing the best use for this area next year – wild flower grassland and an area of herbs for boaters' use are under consideration.

We have been quite successful in sourcing funding to enable the far end of the Woodland Walk to be improved during the coming winter months and hope to get this project underway as soon as possible.

In October, the Partnership organised another 'Big Draw' event on the Museum green, on a bright and dry day albeit with a very chilly wind! Some 40 or more adults and children, encouraged and advised by a professional artist, enjoyed the free opportunity to be creative during the half term holiday. We are grateful to Stoke Bruerne Boat Company, the Northampton branch of the Inland Waterways Association, South Northants Council and CRT for enabling this event to take place.

The Canal Partnership has been included in discussions and input into the ongoing plans which the Canal & River Trust are making to improve the visitor experience for those who come to Stoke Bruerne. Details of these plans are now under consideration and it is believed that CRT aim

to start work on improvements to the Museum cafe and ground floor in the early spring. We are pleased that Stoke Bruerne is at the forefront of the East Midlands priorities for expenditure. Stoke Bruerne Canal Partnership takes this opportunity to wish all residents and visitors good Christmas cheer and a healthy and successful New Year.
Helen Westlake, Stoke Bruerne Canal Partnership

Village Hall Bazaar

Stoke Bruerne village Hall bazaar raised £263.00 towards the maintenance of the hall. We would like to thank all who donated, helped, had a table, and came to support us. It was a lovely afternoon.
Stoke Bruerne Village Hall Management Committee

SHUTLANGER AND STOKE BRUERNE (Combined)

Stoke Bruerne and Shutlanger Combined Charities (the New Charity Estate and the Charity of Thomas Bosenhoe).

The combined charities wish to support local people and to that end they have a remit to provide a small amount of money to local people who are over 65. In the past, not all eligible people have requested a Christmas payment. If you are over 65, a resident of either Stoke Bruerne or Shutlanger parishes, and would like a small Christmas payment from the Combined Charities, please let our secretary (Kathryn Dodington) know either by email (kathryn.dodington@gmail.com) or by calling her on 01604 863951.

Shutlanger Reading Room

The Combined Charities own the Reading Room in Shutlanger which has sadly been empty for the past 18 months or so. If you would like lease this building from the Combined Charities, we would be most interested in hearing from you. We would be particularly interested in supporting any local community groups. Please contact Kathryn as above if you are interested.

Allotments

We have a small number of allotments available to lease; these are situated at the intersection of Shutlanger Road and Stoke Road. If you would be interested in leasing an allotment, please contact Kathryn as above.



GRAFTON REGIS

Grafton Murder Mystery Dinner

This will be at Grafton Regis village hall on Friday 6 December at 7.00 p.m. Our dinner takes place in a medieval Yuletide setting. Come in costume if you wish. Spot the villain and win a prize!

£20 per head for entertainment and food. For further details and to book, please ring Kathy on 0791 0092132 or email keith.harry@btinternet.com. Discover more about Grafton and its amazing history at www.grafton-regis.co.uk.

An Ode to Jean

There are many people in Grafton,
who do lots of wonderful things,
But one lady in particular
I feel is worth a mentioning,

She cares for and walks with people's dogs
Always with a cheery smile
Although she is mature
It's not a challenge, many a mile

She practices taekwondo
And she is the one to fear
They all achieved a black belt
But she's the best, I hear.

But today I heard an astounding tale
She climbed the church tower, with just a
hard hat
The church of Saint Mary the Virgin
Why? When asked, she replied, "I can do that"!

May God bless you Jean Glanville Alan Drake



Lunch Club

Another amazing lunch was enjoyed by about 30 people in Grafton Regis village hall on 21 November. We started with vegetable soup and home-made bread, followed by a beef cobbler, a vegetarian stew and the most delicious loin of pork, with all the relevant accompaniments.

There was then a selection of amazing desserts, served with cream, ice cream and custard, then cheese and after that, tea or coffee and the most contentious of all the foodstuffs at lunch – the chocolates! Certainly on some of the tables, there is always a scrum for the favourite chocolates; ridiculous as nobody is actually hungry.

Thanks go to Jean, the two Kathies and Keith and to all those other people behind the scenes who contribute to these incredible lunches. The next one will be on 19 December.





BLISWORTH

Blisworth Community Choir

Once again, the Community Choir will be giving two performances this December. The first is at the Abbey Centre, Hunsbury on Saturday, 14 December, and thereafter in St John's Church, Blisworth, on Thursday 19 December at 7.00

p.m. As usual donations will be taken in support of local charities.

Julian Meeting

The next meeting of the group will be on Monday 16 December, between 5.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m., at 2, Towcester Road, Blisworth.

World Vision

All are welcome to come to the World Vision Christmas Party at 2, Towcester Road Blisworth from 12.30 p.m. onwards. Come and enjoy lunch, snacks, wine or soft drinks. Donations in aid of World Vision (Armenia).

The summer garden party has helped to establish a children's centre in Stepanavan so that young children and their parents can learn how to play. We have provided furniture and equipment. Thanks to all who have supported this initiative.

Dates for the diary in December

Sunday 1 December: 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion. It has been requested that we return to Communion on first Sundays.

Sunday 15 December: There will be an 8.00 a.m. BCP Communion as usual, but no 11.00 a.m. service.

At 3.00 p.m. on the same day we will be holding our carol service – with refreshments being served from 2.30 p.m.

Thursday 19 December: Blisworth Community Choir concert 7.30 p.m.

Sunday 22 December from 12.30 p.m.: Hilary Spurrier will host a World Vision lunch. There will be no teas in church after the morning service – just go off to Hilary's - not to be missed!

Christmas Eve 4.30 p.m.: family service. This is always popular, and a time to step aside from the preparations that keep us so busy. 11.30 p.m. Midnight Communion. There is no service at Blisworth later on Christmas morning.

Sunday 29 December, 10.30 a.m.: Benefice service at Milton Malsor.



ALDERTON

Church Cleaning Rota

WOULD ANYONE LIKE TO VOLUNTEER? PLEASE CONTACT ANNA IF YOU CAN HELP.

Bonfire Night

A big thank you to all that came to the Alderton firework night on Friday 8 November. Despite the initial bad weather, it cleared up to be a fine night with a good display of fireworks and a substantial fire.

Numbers were down on last year which was a shame but in spite of this we managed to make £414.95. This was only possible because of the generous contributions towards the evening, and I would like to thank everybody for their donations. Unfortunately there were no guys to judge this year which meant that the tin of sweets went into the raffle, which was well received.

I would especially like to thank all of those that helped set up and worked on the night. Anthony (Field Committee)



Coffee Morning to Raise Money for the Knight

To everyone who contributed so generously to the coffee morning at 4 Church Lane on Saturday 16 November 2019 to help raise funds for Alderton's 800 year old effigy of a knight, thank you so much! We raised £462.12p and this, with two other event amounts has brought our short fall for the next phase of conservation work down from £3,340 to £2,421.98.

You were all wonderful. We had a really lovely morning with lots of friends from different parishes as well as from Alderton. Special thanks go to Linda Dards (tea) Doris Knights (jam), Joy Wilson (raffle), Pam Hutchinson (bargains), Brian Patton (perimeters) and Val Kliene (special cakes). However, so many others contributed that really, thanks to everyone for your generosity. What a wonderful result and warm and lovely morning!

Our next event will be on Saturday 7 December, when we will have a stall at the Christmas Carol Festival which is taking place at Holy Cross Church in Milton Malsor Church from 10.00 a.m. until 4.00 p.m. - do come along and see us there. Margaret Hall-Townley

Hamper to be Auctioned to Raise Money for the Knight

Before the coffee morning that we held in aid of Alderton's Knight fund on Saturday 16 November, we were given almost the complete contents of a hamper. We were also given a beautiful basket, so we have put the two together and added a few more items and now the hamper is ready to be auctioned. The hamper contains, wine, nuts, some home produced preserves and the accompaniments needed to make your Boxing Day repast a really special one. The hamper will go to the highest bidder. The closing date is Saturday 7 December at 12.00 midnight.

Your bids can come to my email: magshall-townley@hotmail.com or be sent by post to: 4 Church Lane, Alderton, Towcester, NN12 7LP

All proceeds will go to the Alderton PCC Knight Fund. Good luck. Margaret Hall-Townley



Jean Needham, RIP

We were saddened to hear that Jean Needham died on 16 October 2019. Jean lived in Alderton with her husband, Laurie (joint instigator of GRASS), and daughter, Tricia, for many years and was very involved with village and church life; often events were held in their garden and home, including the annual carol singing. Jean bred, showed and latterly judged corgis. She and Laurie lived initially at Bekonpenn, formerly (and now) Pear Tree Cottage, and then moved to a barn conversion next door. They moved away from the village some 20 years ago but maintained contact with several people in the Benefice.

We send our condolences to Tricia and the rest of Jean's family.

Tree Dressing

Alderton's tree dressing, to help to feed the birds through the worst of the winter, will take place as usual under the tree at the top of Church Lane on Saturday 21 December 2019 at 6.30 p.m. Come and join us for a cup of mulled wine and a mince pie and celebrate the natural new year. The actual solstice will take place on 22 December at 4.19 a.m. Any contributions to either feast would be gratefully received.

Margaret Hall-Townley

New Year's Day Walk

Everyone is welcome to join us on our traditional New Year's Day walk. Just turn up wearing suitable footwear and clothing, as it can be muddy. We shall meet at the bottom of Spring Lane, Alderton for a 10.45 a.m. start. We head over to Stoke Bruerne where, weather permitting, we can watch the Morris dancers for a little while, so if you feel like joining us there just for a bit of a get together, then do so.

Afterwards, Paul and Linda have kindly invited us back to their home for the usual festivities. It would be helpful if you could let them know if you will be coming, for catering purposes. Any contributions to the feast would be most welcome, as usual.

I look forward to seeing you. Don Allen



MILTON MALSOR

1st Collingtree & Milton Malsor Scout Group

Collingtree & Milton Malsor Scout Group is celebrating its 50th anniversary in May 2020 and is in the process of arranging several occasions to mark this special year. One of the calls we

are making is for anyone that has been in any way involved with the group since its formation 50 years ago either as a leader, helper or scout, to get in touch to share memories of the time they spent with the group; we are also hoping to have a reunion of all previous members.

Many of you have seen our group members throughout the last couple of weekends working alongside the Royal British Legion, helping to sell poppies at Weston Favell shopping centre and again attending the two Remembrance services at Milton Malsor for the morning service and again in the evening at Collingtree for the evening service. We had a 99% turn out of group members. As Group Scout Leader, I was so very proud of those members

At present we have approximately 75 young people in the group with more waiting to join, so if anyone out there would like to join the adventure and help us give these young people an experience to remember, please contact me. Carol Fraser GSL,GSL.1CMM@gmail.com

Christmas Carol Festival

Christmas Displays Light Refreshments

Bric-a-Brac Scouts Tombola

Country Kitchen

Free Entry

Saturday 7th December
10am till 4pm
and
Sunday 8th December
11am till 4pm
HOLY CROSS CHURCH,
MILTON MALSOR

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.

Remembrance Sunday

A huge congregation of some 250 including the friends from the Baptist Church, scouts, cubs and brownies gathered at Holy Cross on 10 November for the annual Remembrance service. The service was led by Malcolm Deacon and the names of The Fallen were read out by Gary Day and Tim Godfrey. William Brown read the lesson from Isaiah and extracts from Karl Jenkins' Mass for Peace (The Armed Man) brought many to the point of tears. From the church the procession moved to the village green, led by Malcolm and Connor Lear, who carried the cross as the symbol of the Prince of Peace. Steve Howell read the names of The Fallen, Rebecca Ludlow played the Last Post before the National Silence. Wreaths were laid by Gary Marshall (British Army), Nic Tomic (United States Air Force), Gary Day (British Army) and Steve Howell (Royal Navy), the uniformed organisations and Charlie Baker and Georgie Smith on behalf of the school. Refreshments were served in the village hall courtesy of the churches. It was a most moving occasion which brought many in the village together. It is estimated that some 350 attended. Thanks to all those who organised and led the event, including the Parish Council, and for those who provided and served the refreshments. Collection from the church service and other donations amounting to £365 will be given to the Royal British Legion.



Charity Concert

The charity concert at Holy Cross Church on 28 September raised a final total of £1,610 for the Alzheimer's Society and in memory of Sally Townsend. A big thank you to all who helped to make the evening such a success.



SHUTLANGER

Shutlanger Parish Council

We met on Thursday 19 November in the village hall and were delighted to be joined by one member of the public. It does make such a difference to our work when people from the village are able to join us at our meeting. As quite a lot has been going on this year, this meeting was to some extent finishing off projects we already had in hand. One major project is the real equipment of the village playing field, and we agreed to take out a loan to complete the financing for this. As a parish council, we are able to access borrowing at very competitive rates and this helps make projects like this affordable. We hope that the new equipment for the playing field will be in place during the late winter, so that villagers can start enjoying it from next spring onwards. As we are sure people walking around the village will have noticed, the new dog poo bins are now all in place. We hope that people walking the dogs will use his bins, making the village a nicer place for everybody. Continuing on that theme, we will be planting some shrubs on the grass triangles at the junctions of the High Street and Twitch Hill with the Showsley Road. There is only a limited range of shrubs that we can plant with the approval of Northamptonshire Highways, and we are going to opt for viburnum bushes. These should flower nicely in the spring and brighten these two junctions. We also hope to get a lot of this year's leaf fall removed from pavements and walkways over the next couple of weeks. There has been a great deal of rain this autumn, and for the first time in many years due to our parish clerk's patient work with Northamptonshire Highways, most of the drains on the village roads have been cleared. Please let us know if any of those drains are now starting to block up again.

One area where we have limited legal powers to intervene is the maintenance of the village hall. While the Parish Council can donate a limited sum of money towards the upkeep of this historic building, the upkeep does need more help from the village more widely. We would welcome your ideas for raising funds to renovate the village hall, perhaps involving a summer fete or some other such event. Please let the parish clerk know if you are able to help, or have any ideas as to what we could do. Finally, we would like to continue with the village speed watch campaign to reduce the continuing problem of speeding along the roads in the village. This campaign however is going to need more support from other people living in the village, many of whom live on or close to our roads and are directly affected by cars driving too fast through the village. Due to lack of support, we were only able to ask the police to issue a very small number of letters to drivers exceeding the speed limit during our campaign in late summer this year. By comparison, the speed watch campaign in Stoke Bruerne led to well over 150 letters being issued. Again please let our parish clerk know if you are interested in joining a speed watch campaign during the spring or summer this year.

GENERAL NEWS

Used Postage Stamps

Please keep your old postage stamps - don't throw them in the bin but make them work for people with leprosy. All stamps are wanted, even those franked ones. If you can, please leave a 1/4 inch margin around the stamp. These are all sold to raise money for medical treatment, support hospitals and staff in areas of leprosy as well as proving aids for walking and getting about. When I have a good stack, I take them to The Leprosy Mission HQ in Peterborough. Please leave them in Milton Malsor Church or drop them at my home, 8 Lapwing Close, East Hunsbury. Geoffrey Goswell

Notes from a Local Farmer

Dear Readers

Well, what a change in the weather; the last time I spoke to you, I commented on how dry it was; since then it has never stopped raining.

We have managed to drill 250 acres of winter barley and wheat but the windows have been so small that we still have a further 50 acres to drill, plus 100 acres of winter beans. This may have to go into spring crops if the weather does not dry up.

We have taken the rams away from the ewes to avoid late lambers, although they all appear to have been 'done'!

Maize harvesting was completed on a fine day in late October, and yielded well. We have also loaded large quantities of wheat and barley onto lorries; sometimes the lorries stay here overnight as the drivers only seem to go home at the weekends.

We are down to 90 lambs left from this year's crop and should see them all go to market this month. Our next job will be with the sheep, to have their tails trimmed out, ready for lambing. This is being done by contractors, and helps to keep them clean going into the spring. We will be scanning them in early December to see how many lambs each sheep is having.

We have been busy with estate maintenance, butting the lower branches of the young trees off. I counted 128 trees in the avenue to Lord Hesketh's house as was. We also found time to install a new cattle grid going on to the road, as the old one was too narrow for modern equipment.

Sounds as if I deserve a holiday! Talk to you soon.

Robert Davy

News from The Old Mail

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

www.yardleygobionpc.wordpress.com

Fitness Classes in Paulerspury Village Hall

Monday pilates classes: 11.00 a m – 12.00 noon, 12.10 p m – 13.10 p m, 6.00 p m – 7.00 p m & 7.10 p m – 8.10 p m.

Wednesday pilates classes: 11.00 a m – 12.00 noon.

Contact: Elizabeth on 07547 618 987 for more information.

Tuesday yoga classes: 10.00 a m – 11.30 a m

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

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.

Paulerspury Picturedrome

Earlier this year, in March, the village hall was rocking to a showing of a film about Freddie Mercury. Something similar is promised for Friday 7 February when a film about the rise to fame of Elton John is booked. It is called Rocket Man, and has received rave reviews. So come along, pay £5 at the door and be prepared to let your hair down. Derek Batten

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.

Are you Worried? Depressed? Dealing with big problems?

Perhaps you could consider

COUNSELLING

I am a fully trained counsellor available to you to help with all sorts of problems. One hour a week could be all you need to completely change your circumstances. Do something you will thank yourself for later and find out more!

For more information just get in touch by e-mail or telephone:

James Halson

jameshalson92@gmail.com

New telephone number: 07895 654749



PDC
Computer Solutions



I have a selection of desktop computers all refurbished and fast.

Upgrade your old slow machine from £100.

Looking for a laptop? I have a number of refurbished laptops, including MacBooks with prices starting from £130.

I also build, to order, bespoke high speed quad core desktop computers.

I repair laptops down to component level, ask for a free quote.

Contact Paul Dards on 07540 000844 or 01327 811265 or paul@dards.co.uk

PDC, Moorend, Spring Lane
Alderton, NN12 7LW
Web www.dards.co.uk

TREAD THE BOARDS
Theatre Group
Registered Charity No. 1087823



Big Bad Wolf

Fairytale fun
for all the
family

Friday 13 December 7pm

Saturday 14 December 1.30pm / 7pm

Chrysalis Theatre, Japonica Lane,
Willen Park South MK15 9JY

Credit card booking via:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/treadtheboards

Tickets: £10 and concessions (under 16 or over 60) £8

Book before Saturday 30 November and save £2 on each ticket.

The traditional stories of Goldilocks, Red Riding Hood and the Three Pigs are brought together in one production delivered in panto style at Milton Keynes this month.

After the success of their sell out Alice in Wonderland last Christmas, Tread the Boards Theatre Group will perform Big Bad Wolf at The Chrysalis Theatre, Willen Park, on 13 and 14 December.

Full details with show times and prices plus a link to book tickets can be found on their website www.tread-the-boards.org.uk.

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Grafton Murder Mystery Dinner!



Grafton Regis Village Hall

Friday December 6th at 7pm

Our dinner takes place in a medieval Yuletide setting. Come in costume if you wish. Spot the villain and win a prize!

£20 per head for entertainment and food. For further details and to book, please ring Kathy on 0791 009 2132 or email keith.harry@btinternet.com

Discover more about Grafton and its amazing history at www.grafton-regis.co.uk

Get FIT for Christmas!

Fitness classes at

Shutlanger Village Hall

Every Tuesday

09.00am-10.00am

NEW CLASS - Begins Thurs 05 Dec

7.00pm-8.00pm

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- **Core strength**
- **CV workouts**
- **18+**



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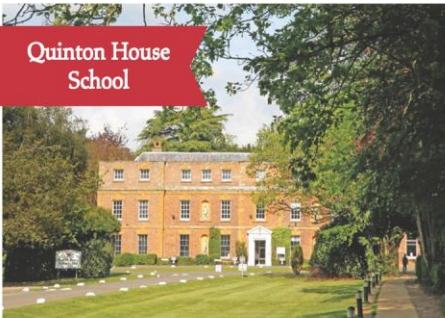
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United Benefice Calendar for 2019/20

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

<u>December</u>	5	Fitness classes begin, 7.00 p m, Shutlanger village hall
	6	Milton film club, Yesterday, 7.30 p m, village hall
	6	Murder mystery evening, Grafton Regis, 7.00 p m
	7	Coffee morning, Milton Malsor – Christmas carol festival, 11.00 a m to 4.00 p m
	12	Towcester Heartbeats Christmas get together and quiz, The Forum, Towcester, 7.00 p m – 8.00 p m
	12	Blisworth WI, 7.30 p m, village hall – Christmas party
	13	Towcester farmers' market, 9.00 a m – 1.30 p m
	13	Performance of Big Bad Wolf, 7.00 p m, Chrysalis Theatre, Milton Keynes MK15 9JY
	14	Blisworth Community Choir concert, Abbey Centre, Hunsbury
	14	Performances of Big Bad Wolf, 1.30 p m & 7.00 p m, Chrysalis Theatre, Milton Keynes MK15 9JY
	17	Stoke Bruerne Parish Council meeting, 7.30 p m
	19	Grafton lunch club, 12.30 p m, Grafton Regis village hall
	19	Blisworth Community choir concert, St John's Church, Blisworth, 7.00 p m
	22	World Vision lunch, Hilary Spurrier's house, 12.30 p m
<u>January</u>	1	New Year's Day walk, 10.45 a m, Alderton
	10	Towcester farmers' market, 9.00 a m – 1.30 p m
	16	Grafton lunch club, 12.30 p m, Grafton Regis village hall
	16	Towcester Heartbeats meeting, The Forum, Towcester, 7.00 p m – 8.00 p m
<u>February</u>	7	Showing of Rocket Man, Paulerspury village hall
	8	Coffee morning, Stoke Bruerne Church
	20	Grafton lunch club, 12.30 p m, Grafton Regis village hall
	20	Towcester HeartBeats social evening, 7.00 p m at The Forum Towcester, all welcome
<u>March</u>	8	Benefice team on duty at Streetchurch
	19	Grafton lunch club, 12.30 p m, Grafton Regis village hall
	19	Towcester HeartBeats – menu for health with Donna Lowe, nutritionist, all welcome
<u>April</u>	16	Grafton lunch club, 12.30 p m, Grafton Regis village hall
	16	Towcester HeartBeats – AGM, social evening and quiz, all welcome
<u>July</u>	19	Benefice team on duty at Streetchurch
<u>October</u>	11	Benefice team on duty at Streetchurch

SNIPPETS:

A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love.

Be grateful for what you have and stop complaining - it bores everybody else, does you no good, and doesn't solve any problems.

The richest man is not he who has the most, but he who needs the least.



TOWCESTER HEARTBEATS
(YOUR LOCAL HEART SUPPORT GROUP)
Affiliated to the British Heart Foundation

Our friendly and informal group is open to anyone living in the Towcester area who has a heart condition, their family members or carers, and for parents of children with a heart condition.

We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month at The Forum (Library), Moat Lane, Towcester NN12 6AD
7pm - 8:30pm

12th December: Christmas get-together + Quiz
16th January: Heart conditions v. World Record Challenges - an inspirational start to 2020

 All welcome 

£2 guests/members (1st 'member' meeting free), raffle & refreshments

For any enquiries, please contact Annie:
07554150870 mrschimchim57@gmail.com

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF GRASS is 14 December 2019

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.