

GRASS

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

ARE YOU READY FOR 2020?

MARK SHETTLE FITNESS is...

Shutlanger Hall Classes

- Every Tuesday 09.00am-10.00am...begins 14.01.20
- Every Thursday 7.00pm - 8.00pm...begins 16.01.20
- £6.00 PAYG or £20.00 for 4 sessions
- CV, Circuits, Core strength, Boxing fitness
- 18+, everyone welcome as full instruction given



Personal Training

- Personal training also available...I can come to you!
- 1:1, Couples, families, kids (Fully DBS Checked)
- Cardio focus, boxing fitness, core strength, circuits
- Level 3 PT qualified and fully insured

CONTACT ME NOW FOR FURTHER DETAILS!

E. Mark.shettle1@btinternet.com

M. 07585 113271

FB. Mark Shettle Fitness

Rector's Letter

I want to start by wishing you all a very happy and fulfilling New Year; may Our Lord bless you as you travel through 2020. I would also like to thank everyone who worked so hard in preparing our churches for our Christmas celebrations. It was encouraging to see so many people coming through the doors to worship and celebrate Christ's birth.

As I begin to write this letter, we are fast approaching the feast of Epiphany, the manifestation of Christ to the world with the visit of the Magi (wise men from the East) to the infant Jesus. These travellers set out on a journey to find the Messiah as foretold by the Holy Scriptures. From the moment they started to study the ancient texts and plan for their journey, the lives of the Magi would have begun to change. Through their inner and physical journeys, which led them towards their encounter with Jesus Christ, they would never again be the same. And they are not alone. Throughout scripture, we read of many personal journeys undertaken by people of faith: Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Aaron, Ruth, Elijah, Mary and Joseph, all of the disciples, Paul, Barnabas and even Jesus Himself, to name but a few. We read of men and women who, hearing the Creator call their name, set out in faith on a journey that was to be both physical and spiritual.

We too are on the journey of life, a pilgrimage of sorts with all its twists and turns, good times and bad. Our pilgrimage might not be a physical one, but it's still a journey with its many trials. And Holy Scripture continues to be the text by which we are guided in our travels. Each year within the Church's liturgical calendar, we follow one of the three so-called "synoptic" Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke), walking with the author as he unfolds the life of Jesus for us. In fact, all four Gospels (the synoptic Gospels, together with John) are unlike any other kind of literature that we have and they have had the most significant impact on human development over the last two thousand years. At one level, they are simply narratives recounting the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth. Yet, at another, they are an example to us today of a living faith in Jesus, the One who lived, died, rose from the dead and is exalted as Lord over all.

I noted previously that this year we shall travel with Matthew, as he relates the life and teachings of Jesus to the scriptures of Israel (contained in the Old Testament) and to God's plan of salvation for the whole world. We will not just hear about the life of Christ; we will be invited to journey as Christ's disciples to uncover what meaning this has for us in our everyday walk with God.

Through the coming year, therefore, we as a church community are going to be looking at our discipleship, an essential aspect to our Christian journey. Like the Magi, we are looking for a close encounter with Christ; and like the Magi, who travelled home by a different path, we too will never be the same once we have encountered Christ for ourselves. Are we prepared to travel by a different path in the shadow of the risen Lord? I would encourage you all to read and study the Gospel of Matthew with us during this coming year.

February also sees the beginning of Lent, a time of spiritual preparation as we journey with Jesus through the desert and towards the cross and resurrection. This is a time that all Christians should take seriously, a season for studying what Holy Scripture is saying in the context of our life and for self-reflection. It is not a season to be taken lightly or ignored. If you are interested in joining one of the Lent groups, please can you come and talk to me early in the New Year. Our aim is to create groups across the benefice to provide nurture and opportunity for everyone to play a real part.

Blessings, Richard

Service Schedule for January 2020

Sunday 5 January, Epiphany

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

Sunday 12 January, Baptism of Christ

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 19 January, Epiphany 2

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

Sunday 26 January, Epiphany 3

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

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.

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

Churchwardens 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

The Julian Group for Silent Prayer

The first meeting of 2020 will take place on Monday 20 January between 5.00 p m and 6.00 p m at 2 Towcester Road Blisworth and thereafter on the 3rd Monday of each month. Ring Sue on 07840318300 if you would like to know more.

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

Stoke Bruerne Parish Council

'The Parish Council asks if any members of the Parish notices any use of nitrous oxide, please contact the police'.

The David Blagrove Community Trust

Hello everyone - members, supporters, volunteers and all interested parties.

You may have noticed a subtle change to our name in that we are now a 'community' trust as opposed to a charity trust. Both David Blagrove and Roy Sears were passionate about the canal, Stoke Bruerne and the wider community and under this banner we plan to ensure their combined legacies continue.



More on this can be heard at our AGM which will be on Thursday 30 January, in the Boat Inn cocktail bar at 7.00 p m, and to which you are cordially invited. Our guest speaker will be Mike Partridge. Do join us.

During the past couple of years we have provided support to the village hall, the church, the Parish Council, disadvantaged youths, the Friends of the Canal Museum, the village and wider community. Some of this support has used the funds we have successfully generated through events such as our garden party and catering at the Village at War. Some of the support also comes in the form of volunteering where we can use this resource to help save money on community projects. Details of all these will be shared at the AGM.

Besides fundraising events, the Trust remains thankful for donations and volunteers and wants to focus on these invaluable resources. Rather than administer a fee-paying membership scheme, as of the beginning of 2020, we now aim to keep a data base of interested parties who are happy to support the Trust through donations, volunteering and supporting events etc.

We will be re-instating the annual garden party later this year, so please hold the date – Saturday 20 June, with further details to be confirmed.

Finally we do want to hear from members of the local community about ideas for projects that the Trust could consider supporting financially or with volunteers' support. To submit these or raise a question on anything else mentioned above or regarding the DBCT please use the contact details below. Christine Sears, Secretary for the David Blagrove Community Trust, email: christinedbct@gmail.com.



GRAFTON REGIS

Carol Concert

Our annual carol service was well attended as a party of local ramblers came along after enjoying a Christmas dinner at the White Hart. The church sound system has recently been repaired and the music was up at full volume, encouraging everyone to raise their voices singing the carols. Mulled wine and mince pies were enjoyed by everyone after the service.

The December murder mystery dinner was well attended earning £300 profit which will be split between the village hall and church.



Grafton Lunch

The Christmas lunch at Grafton really surpassed itself this year. There were a couple of kinds of pate to start and this was followed by a traditional Christmas lunch with all the trimmings, together with vegetarian and vegan options.

This was followed by a number of different desserts and then mince pies, chocolates and tea and coffee and then, if you had room, cheese and biscuits. Needless to say, not much of the cheese was eaten on this occasion; usually it is very popular but I think that we were all totally full from the delicious lunch.

There had been a collection from those who usually attend the lunch and presentations were made to Jean and Barry Glanville, Kathy and Keith Harry and Kathy Colgrove, who all received lovely camellias in pots and also hand-made (by Geraldine) cake stands as a very small token of our appreciation for the winter lunches which are always amazing and which they produce month after month in spectacular fashion. Pots of plants, together with hand-made coasters (Geraldine again) were given to Doris and Linda as thanks for their contributions of soup, pavlovas and bread. The next lunch will be on 16 January.



BLISWORTH

Prayer Pebbles and Candles

There are three aids to prayer that we use in Blisworth Church. This month we will tell you about the prayer board.

When Rev'd Harry Bunker retired in 1997, Mrs Greta Bodsworth thought it would be good idea to place a board in church where anyone, not just church family, could place a prayer request. Harry Bunker was a man of prayer, so Greta thought it would be an appropriate memorial to him. Greta's son made it and over the years it has been well used, as each week the requests are remembered at our church services and at Wednesday morning prayers. We have had good feedback from people who have had prayers answered; we really should have kept a record of them. Father God is faithful to answer all our prayers.

Peter Bull

Christmas Lights – Help for Heroes

On 1 December the evening finally arrived when the now traditional lighting up ceremony for the Mick & Daphne Wreford Christmas garden lights came around. Father Christmas carried out the ceremony as a crowd of around 300 people from Blisworth and other villages came to witness the event. Mulled wine and mince pies were dispensed, and parents and children alike were amazed at the display which has been added to yet again by the Wreford family.

The lights will be switched on every night until 6 January to allow as many visitors as possible to see them in all their glory.

A collection is taken each year for the Help for Heroes charity which has benefited enormously from the generosity of visitors to the gardens, and the Wreford family must be congratulated for staging the event each year. It has now become a “must see” traditional event in Blisworth and long may it continue.



Coffee Mornings

The monthly coffee morning & cake sales at Mason & Pat's home have been very well attended through the year. Thank you to everyone who has supported the event with cakes, jams and other goodies.

It is a really friendly, chatty morning and we look forward to the first one in the New Year on Friday 31 January with a special welcome to anyone who hasn't been before. We would love to see you. Dates for 2020 are on the calendar on the back page.

Pat Masterman

Handbell Ringers

Before and after the carol service in St John's on Sunday 15 December the handbell ringers provided entertainment while refreshments were being served. The group continues to flourish but are always happy for new people to join them. Anyone interested should contact Jennie Cahill for details.

Scholl Carol Service

St John's was full almost to capacity on 9 December, with parents and grandparents turning up to see their children and grandchildren from Blisworth Primary School perform in their annual Christmas carol service.

The service was initially led by Rev'd Richard, but then the children delivered all of the readings and prayers between the traditional Christmas carols, some of which were sung by the Blisworth Voices School Choir. It was a very professional performance by the children and was enjoyed by all.



Blisworth Community Choir

Blisworth Community Choir would like to thank all who turned out on a horrendously wet December night to hear us perform our Christmas Concert, at St John's the Baptist Church. Despite the weather, we managed to raise £580 for the Talbot Butler Special Unit NGH. Your generosity is overwhelming. Thank you again for your continued support, and look forward to seeing you at our summer concert.

Blisworth Community Choir wishes you all a happy and peaceful New Year. Until then, keep on singing!!! Winnie Bateman, tel 01604 859597



ALDERTON

Church Cleaning Rota

January

Amanda Selvey

Tree Dressing

The tree dressing took place on 21 December and we were lucky that the rain did not start until a good crowd had gathered by the tree at the top of Church Lane. Once we were all there and had partaken of mulled wine and other goodies, it didn't seem to matter that a fine rain had started, as we were all dressed up and prepared for inclement weather. The tree looked fantastic, as ever, with apples and peanuts strung around and lit lanterns hung on the tree and surrounding support. Two carols were sung, everybody was wished a 'happy new year' (the solstice was actually in the early hours of 22 December) and then it was over for another year.

Thanks, as always, to Margaret, for organising the event and for supplying the bird seed, mulled wine and other goodies. The birds and squirrels have now found this wonderful source of food and are taking good advantage of it.

Carol Service

The carol service on 22 December was well attended and the traditional carols were sung and readings read. Afterwards, mulled wine and other refreshments were served and this gave everybody an opportunity to stay and chat, which was lovely. Thanks must go to Bob Halsey who has constructed a beautiful stable for the Holy Family and the other figures.

Lighting of the Church

Once again, thanks to Roger Gavan for lighting up the church during the festive period. That, together with the lights which are all round the village, have made Alderton seem like a truly magical place again this year.



MILTON MALSOR

Mums and Tots

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

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

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 p m – 8.10 p m.
New term starts 6 January. Wednesday pilates classes: 11.00 a m – 12.00 noon. New term starts 8 January.
Contact: Elizabeth on 07547 618 987 for more information.
Tuesday yoga classes: 10.00 a m – 11.30 a m. New term starts 7 January.
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 811596 to reserve seats.

News from The Old Mail

For events and happenings in the nearby villages: Cosgrove, Potterspury 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.

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



W&H PEACOCK

AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS



Weekly Auctions

Visit the Bedford Auction Centre to enjoy the excitement of a live auction.

Antique & Modern Furniture • Clocks • Books
Ceramics & Glassware • Pictures & Prints
Bicycles • Jewellery & Watches • Collectables
Garage Tools & Equipment • Household Electrical Items
Office Furniture & Equipment • Retail Products & Stock
Vehicles • Horticultural & Commercial Equipment
Building Materials • Garden Furniture & Effects

Eastcotts Park, Wallis Way, Bedford MK42 0PE
01234 266 366 peacockauction.co.uk

R. Wilson Garden & Tree Maintenance

Robert Wilson is a qualified tree surgeon and gardener based in Hartwell covering the Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire area.

NPTC Qualified since 1997

Over 15 years gardening experience, including tree surgery at Buckingham Palace gardens

Public liability insurance to £5,000,000
For more information or a FREE quotation call

01604 862034
or 07854 218992

Email: bobtreesurgeon@hotmail.co.uk



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

Quinton House
School



**QUINTON
HOUSE
SCHOOL**

At Quinton House School we deliver an innovative learning experience both within and outside of the classroom that is tailored to suit the needs of your individual child. Quinton offers a 21st century curriculum based on traditional values.

Book a visit today and discover our exceptional school where dreams are realised. Call Jo Sainsbury, Admissions Manager on 01604 684828.

www.quintonhouseschool.co.uk  
Upton Hall, Northampton, NN5 4UX

A co-educational independent day school for girls and boys aged 3-18 years.

Choose Quinton House

United Benefice Calendar for 2020

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

<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
	30	David Blagrove Community Trust AGM, 7.00 p m Boat Inn
	31	Coffee morning, Blisworth
<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
	28	Coffee morning, Blisworth
<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
	27	Coffee morning, Blisworth
<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
	24	Coffee morning, Blisworth
<u>May</u>	29	Coffee morning, Blisworth
	20	Possible date for garden party, Stoke Bruerne
<u>June</u>	26	Coffee morning, Blisworth
<u>July</u>	19	Benefice team on duty at Streetchurch
	31	Coffee morning, Blisworth
<u>August</u>	28	Coffee morning, Blisworth
<u>September</u>	25	Coffee morning, Blisworth
<u>October</u>	11	Benefice team on duty at Streetchurch
	30	Coffee morning, Blisworth
<u>November</u>	27	Coffee morning, Blisworth

SNIPPETS:

Life is like riding a bicycle; to keep your balance you must keep moving.

The longest word in the dictionary? 'Smile': because it has a 'mile' between the first and last letters.

In old age, the slower you move, the faster time does.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF GRASS is 18 January 2020

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.