

# GRASS

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



St Mary the Virgin Church  
Grafton Regis



## CHURCH BAZAAR



Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May



1pm - 4pm

**CRAFT STALLS**    Tea & Cakes

**JEWELLERY**

**PLANT STALL**                      **Raffle**

**WOOD CARVING**

**WHITE ELEPHANT SALE**

**ORNAMENTS, BRIC A BRAC ETC**



**YOUR ATTENDANCE WILL HELP TO GET OUR BELLS  
RINGING AGAIN. PLEASE SUPPORT US.**

## Rector's Letter

Reflecting back, last month we had a wonderful Holy Week and Easter celebrations in all of the churches across the benefice. I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who worked hard in preparing the church buildings and worship for this most important festival.

Standing in the churchyard of Saint Margaret's at 6.00 a.m. was a magical experience on such a beautiful spring morning as we stood listening to the world beginning to wake up. The light began to penetrate the darkness reminding us of the power of the Lord of light, of Christ himself who rose from the dark tomb.

The weather was exceptional this year and continues to be. I have been enjoying being outside in the garden working in God's creation, feeling the soil that all life comes from between my fingertips while at the same time looking in detail at the different unique plants beginning to respond

to the warmth of the sun. I stand in wonder at the beauty of each individual part of each plant. There is new life in the fields near me, lambs playing in the early morning light. Having just celebrated the resurrection of Jesus, we also celebrate the resurrection within nature that is taking place all around us, a reminder of the oneness of Our God in all things.

Richard



## Service Schedule for May 2022

### Sunday 1 May, Easter 3

9.30 a.m. Milton Malsor, Family Eucharist.  
11.00 a.m. Blisworth, Family Eucharist.

### Sunday 8 May, Easter 4

10.00 a.m. Grafton Regis, Family Eucharist.

### Sunday 15 May, Easter 5

9.30 a.m. Milton Malsor, Family Eucharist.  
11.00 a.m. Blisworth, Family Service.  
11.00 a.m. Grafton Regis, Family Eucharist

### Thursday 19 May

9.30 a.m. St Anne's Shutlanger, Celtic morning prayer, followed by coffee and fellowship

### Sunday 22 April, Easter 6

9.30 a.m. Milton Malsor, Family Service.  
9.30 a.m. Stoke Bruerne, Family Service.  
11.00 a.m. Blisworth, Family Eucharist.

### Sunday 29 May, Sunday after Ascension Day

10.00 a.m. Alderton, Benefice Service

## 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 3BJ, tel 01604 857619.

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

**Churchwarden of Stoke Bruerne:**

**Churchwardens of Grafton Regis:** Mrs Jean Glanville, tel 01908 543463 and Mr Nieldre Laubscher, tel 01908 542979.

**Churchwardens of Alderton:** Mrs Margaret Hall-Townley, tel 01327 811307 and Mrs Linda Dards, tel 01327 811265.

**Churchwarden of Milton Malsor:** Mrs Sue Bell, tel 01327 351043.

## Grass Funds

Despite GRASS being compiled, printed, proof read, stapled and distributed completely free of charge, the cost of materials, like everything else, continues to rise and it has now been two years since we last made an appeal for funds.

We realise a number of you view GRASS online but for many, this is still not an option and others prefer a hard copy rather than to read from a screen.

A number of you, individuals, Parish Councils and other organisations, have sent donations in the last two years, (our thanks to them), but it is now necessary to ask once again, please, to make a donation towards the production of GRASS each month. Please put what you can into the attached envelope. Donations may be handed to your distributor, sent to Joy Wilson (Treasurer), 18, Windsor Close, Towcester NN12 6JB, or to Linda Dards, Moorend, Spring Lane, Alderton NN12 7LW, or paid directly into our bank account, Barclays, a/c 60717592, sort code 20-61-51.

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT EVERY LITTLE REALLY DOES HELP. Thank you.**

Joy Wilson, Treasurer

## VILLAGE NEWS

### STOKE BRUERNE

St Mary the Virgin Parish Church for Stoke Bruerne and Shutlanger

#### *Easter Wall Hanging*

The Stoke Bruerne sewing group has created another stunning wall hanging for our church and it was a joy to see it on display over the Easter festival. The beautiful piece was skilfully executed by these talented ladies. The detail on it is intricate and exquisite. We are very grateful to them for all their hard



work.

#### *Dates for your diary in May*

Saturday 7 May – working party in the churchyard 9.30 a.m. – 12.00 noon

Sunday 8 May – Eucharist service, 9.30 a.m.

Thursday 19 May – Mums and tots group meets at 2.00 p.m.

Sunday 22 May – Family Service, 9.30 a.m.

We look forward to welcoming you to these events.

Lynne Wild





### Queen's Platinum Jubilee Long Weekend

Events have been organised for all fellow residents and the village school to come together and celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The itinerary is as follows:

#### **Thursday 2 June**

*Let's Fill the Church with Flowers 10 a m – 4.00 p m - St Mary the Virgin:*

Everyone is invited to bring along flower arrangements or even a jam jar of wild flowers, anytime during the day. Tea, coffee and cake will be served and donations are welcome.

#### **Friday 3 June**

*Village Family Party at the Cricket Club, 4.00 p m – 10.00 p m:*

Free admission and barbecue food to residents wearing a wrist band which will be available via response (by 10 May) to door drop leaflet to houses in Stoke Bruerne and Stoke Park.

Event sponsored by the Parish Council and the David Blagrove Community Trust.

Planned activities (still subject to confirmation) include music stage headlining our local band, The Offcuts, plus open mike by arrangement. Children's activities. Drinks on sale in the Cricket Club bar.

#### **Saturday 4 June**

*Choir Concert at the Church, 2.00 p m, St Mary the Virgin:*

The Village Vocals Choir will first perform patriotic songs from each of the four countries of the UK. During the second half of the performance, there will be audience participation. (Free entry, donations welcome)

*Afternoon tea in the village hall, 2.00 p m – 6.00 p m:*

Indulge in strawberry cream teas and assorted cakes provided by the Village Hall Committee (donations welcome)

#### **Sunday 5th June**

We would encourage everyone to join the rest of the nation by having family and neighbours' get togethers with your own Street Parties.

For further information please contact Colin Tomkinson on [colin@stokebruerne.co.uk](mailto:colin@stokebruerne.co.uk) or Christine Sears on [christinedbct@gmail.com](mailto:christinedbct@gmail.com)



## **SHUTLANGER & STOKE BRUERNE FLOWER CLUB**

are holding an  
**Open Evening Demonstration**

by the talented

**Linda Seabrook (NAFAS)**

titled

**'Maytime'**

at The Village Hall, Baileys Brook Road, in **Road**

**WEDNESDAY 11 May at 7.30pm**



**Guests are VERY WELCOME**

**Please pay £5 on the door**  
(Refreshments included)  
**All Flower Arrangements demonstrated will be raffled at the end of the evening**

**Do join us!**



### SHUTLANGER

#### Dog Mess in the Village

Please can you those of you who do not clean up after your dogs, do so.

It's not pleasant to have to clean your dog mess out of children's shoes. A big thank you to considerate dog owners who do clean up after their dogs in the village; it is greatly appreciated.



### GRAFTON REGIS

#### Village Hall Lunches

Thursday 21 April was the first lunch of the year at the village hall. We had decided to start with a light lunch of soup and pudding

because it was easier for us to manage the hygiene aspect and also because our main chef was busy with lambing.

We had 14 guests and it was so good to see everyone busy chatting as well as enjoying the food. It was so good to see everyone again.

Our next lunch is on Thursday 19 May at 12.30 p m and will be a soup and pudding menu again. We will then go into our summer break and reconvene in September.

Jean Glanville



### BLISWORTH

#### Gift Day

On Saturday 9 April, we held our planned "gift day". We were, of course, very conscious that everyone is facing rising prices, but churches also are having problems, and we decided to go ahead with the date planned

quite some time ago. Pat and Mason put together, and printed, an eye-catching leaflet, entitled "your Church, don't let it fade away".

It had been arranged that we could insert copies into Round and About which goes to all properties - about 900. However, R&A was unavoidably delayed, so volunteers delivered the leaflets to all houses within 24 hours. Pat and Mason also revamped and printed the church information leaflet, and Hilary laid out a display of church information, and other pages, from the 2012 Jubilee scrap book.

A good number of folk visited during the day, a sociable time with refreshments – there was cake, of course! We were humbled and grateful for donations during the day, and some since then. Much of the work pinpointed in the last quinquennial is still out of reach, particularly things needing scaffolding, but we can immediately see to the leaking roof over the north aisle, and that work will be done early May. Our thanks to everyone for help and support.

Hilary's display reminds us that a scrap book update is planned, and so we need to get together and produce a page or two (or more) covering the last 10 years in St. John's. Please come forward with ideas, photos, jottings. All can be included.

The churchyard has been colourful with spring flowers but could do with regular attention during the summer. There is a new area set aside for burial of ashes which needs to be kept clear and planned, perhaps with a path. Jon and Steve do sterling work grass cutting, but there is always weeding etc. Even a few people putting in the odd hour would make a difference.

The Jubilee flower festival (see last month) is taking shape, and Blisworth has a full programme of events spanning the whole weekend.

Fiona McKenzie

Blisworth Monthly Coffee Morning and Cake Sale

The last Friday of the month has become a permanent fixture in the calendar for many people. We all enjoy a jolly chat and meeting friends old and new whilst tasting the delicious variety of homemade cakes. There is always a selection of gluten free and dairy free items. Coconut macarons are most sought after, with the ginger cookies a close second. The marmalade is also very popular with jams and pickles also available.

P.S. The Heritage Society is asking for pages for the new scrapbook, and I would like to do something about the coffee morning during the pandemic. If anyone has any photos taken while we were socially distanced on the drive, I would very much appreciate copies. Pat & Mason



ALDERTON

Churchyard Rota

End of April – 15 May  
16 – 29 May  
30 May – 19 June

Tom and Julie Chaplin  
Richard and Lulu Pelly  
Brian & Maureen Patton  
Ruth and Jacqui Vaughan  
Dawn and Doris

Church Cleaning Rota

May  
June

**Services: 29 May & Breakfast on 19 June**

Alderton's Easter Sunday Dawn service

When we proposed a service for dawn on Easter Sunday (just after 6.00 a m), rather than having our service before Easter or after Easter, the reaction from most people was, 'it's too early - nobody will come!'. How wrong they were and how glad we were that we ignored the doubters and went on with the idea; it was one of the most magical services we have had for a long time



and we counted 34 in the congregation – some villagers and some from elsewhere in the benefice.

The service began outside in the churchyard with the sun beginning to rise and the birds in full voice. A fire

was lit before dawn and from this a Paschal candle was lit. The light was then carried into church and placed in our striking, new, purpose-built candleholder. Cannon



Stainer had prepared a very beautiful service that included reference to the universe and to our immediate environment as well as to us as individuals. Part of this service took place in the churchyard and Communion was conducted in church.

Breakfast of bread rolls filled with a choice of hot sausage or bacon (vegan sausages available) and warm croissants with butter and jam followed, all washed down with tea and coffee or juice.

Our collection for this service went to the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal and, with the addition of Gift Aid, came to £162.50.

Thank you to everyone who made the effort to attend this lovely event. It made a wonderful beginning to the Easter Day celebrations.

Linda & Margaret

### Plant Sale

We were blessed with nice weather for our plant sale and it was wonderful to see so many of our friends come and join us – some from the village but others from further afield. Everybody seemed to be enjoying themselves and nobody seemed to be in a hurry to leave. We sold a huge number of plants and preserves and every single cake and biscuit were sold. Doris sold cups of her delicious soup throughout the day and Anna came with her pizza oven at noon and served a large number of pizzas. We made just under £600, which is an amazing result. Huge thanks go to Pam, Doris, Anna and Doreen for manning the stalls, and to all those behind the scenes – Val Kleine who provided her wonderful carrot cakes, Jane Trehane, who always comes and supports us and brought cakes and preserves and various



other people who arrived with donations for the plant stall. Pam had an amazing array of plants – she had worked very hard to get them all ready for the day. Thanks also go to the team who erected and dismantled the marquees and who set the tables up and put them away again – Brian, Don, Graham and Martyn. Apologies if anybody has been left off the list!

### Sale for the Knight

We will be having one of our market stalls to raise money for the repositioning of our knight on Saturday 14 May from 10.00 a m until 12.00 noon. Just where this will be depends on the weather, but in the vicinity of the church – updates in due course via email or WhatsApp. M & L

### Breakfast in the Churchyard

After the success of last year, we are planning a breakfast in the churchyard on Father's Day, 19 June. More details next month but we do hope you will be able to join us. Yummy breakfast – bacon, eggs, sausages etc etc. Margaret and Linda



### MILTON MALSOR

#### Memorial Service for Malcolm Deacon

The memorial service for Malcolm Deacon was held on 9 April; it was a cold but bright, sunny spring day. The service was well attended by friends who were happy to all be able to be together again after the long Covid lock down. We had a lovely time reminiscing about past times. Thank you to everyone who worked hard to make it so successful and thanks to all of you who came to share this afternoon with us. Malcolm would have loved it!!

Steff Deacon and family.

### A Tree to Commemorate the Platinum Jubilee

After the church service on 20 March, the congregation went outside to plant a rowan tree to commentate the Queen's platinum jubilee.

### Monday Club

The Monday Club will meet on 9 May, as the first Monday in May is a Bank holiday.

Sue Bell

### GENERAL NEWS



#### Yardley Gobion Garage Sale

The Yardley Gobion Garage Sale will be held on Saturday 14 May from 10.00 a m to 1.30 p m. There will be up to 40 driveways and the village hall will be open - one man's junk is another man's treasure.

Maps, tea, coffee and bacon butties will be available at St. Leonard's Church.

Proceeds to the Church.



### How to Contact the Police

Your Neighbourhood Policing team covers all South Northants villages and this ensures villages are covered across all shift patterns.

TO REPORT AN INCIDENT OR CRIME PLEASE USE THE 101 NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER OR 999 IF AN EMERGENCY; do not contact the team direct. All reports must go via the Force control room. You can also use the online report form via the Northants Police website [www.northants.police.uk](http://www.northants.police.uk).

If you have any events or should you wish to discuss a particular issue or meet a member of the NPT, then please contact team via: [NT-SouthNorthantsTowcester@pnn.police.uk](mailto:NT-SouthNorthantsTowcester@pnn.police.uk)

Our current force focus, "A Matter of Priority" puts a spotlight on the four crime types which we will give special attention to in the next 12 months –

- Serious and organised crime
- Knife crime
- Domestic abuse
- Anti-social behaviour.

We use social media (Twitter: @SthNorthantsNPT and Facebook: 'Daventry and South Northants Neighbourhood Policing Team') and Neighbourhood Alert in order to inform you about crime and incidents relevant to your area and some of the work that the team undertake – please see recent updates on catalytic convertor thefts and recovery of stolen property. Unfortunately, there are a lot of aspects of our work that we cannot report on due to the vulnerabilities of the people involved. You can also follow the work of our Rural Crime Team via Twitter: @hutch472 & @NorPolRural

Neighbourhood Alert is an email messaging system that all schools, Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Watch and community members can sign up to. Register your email address to receive up to date information. Sign up to Neighbourhood Alert Messaging System at: [www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk](http://www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk)

If you wish to have up-to-date crime statistics for your area then we recommend that you visit [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

### A Celebration of the Platinum Jubilee

With just a few weeks to go to the Platinum Jubilee weekend, there is a chance to get the celebrations underway early with an afternoon tea and nostalgic playlet at Old Stratford.

With a dozen local actors playing the parts of people from the area across the 40s and 50s, music of the era underpins memories of the young Princess, her romance with Philip and her coronation. This all takes place at the Community Centre on Sunday May 1 and tickets can be booked via [www.ticketsource.co.uk/treadtheboards](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/treadtheboards).

There is a vegetarian option available and seating will be street party style. You can take your own beer/wine with glasses but teas will be provided.

Dressing up is optional but there will be bunting and flags. Alternatively, there is another chance to join in at Wavendon Gate Pavilion in MK on the Friday evening, April 29, when a fish and chip supper accompanies the performance.

### Notes from a Local Farmer

Dear readers,  
Work on the farm progresses with drilling of spring crops, complete with the barley just coming through quite well despite the dry weather. Spring beans were the last to be drilled and we await their pre-emergent spray to control weeds. Fertiliser is being applied to all crops - wheat and barley. Next to go in is the maize seed and we are hoping there will be no late frosts to hinder growth. On the sheep front, lambing has finished and has done very well this year helped by good weather which makes a lot of difference. So things are well at the moment but we need some rain.

Robert Davy

**TREAD THE BOARDS  
Theatre Group**

Marking the Platinum Jubilee of her Majesty, Tread the Boards invites you to join us for a nostalgic time as we look back at the accession and Coronation and celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's 70 years of service, as experienced by people of this area.

A chance to get together, wearing your glad rags from the 40s and 50s,  
Join us on the Friday for a Fish & Chip supper or on the Sunday for High Tea

# Happy and Glorious

**Friday 29th April 7pm @ Wavendon Gate Pavilion  
Fish & Chip Supper  
Isaacson Drive, Wavendon Gate, Milton Keynes MK7 7RZ**

**Sunday 1st May 4pm @ Old Stratford Community Hall,  
High Tea  
Deanshanger Rd, Old Stratford, Milton Keynes MK19 6NL**

Seats are £14.00 per person (concessions £12 per person)  
Ticket price includes Tread the Boards production of  
Happy and Glorious  
Along with refreshments, details and bookings see  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/treadtheboards](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/treadtheboards)  
Enquiry line : 01908 377449  
Registered charity number. 1087823

### 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](http://www.cosgrovevillage.co.uk); [www.potterspurypc.org.uk](http://www.potterspurypc.org.uk);

[www.yardleygobionpc.wordpress.com](http://www.yardleygobionpc.wordpress.com)

## R. Wilson Garden & Tree Maintenance

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Contact Paul Dards on 07540 000844 or 01327 811265 or [paul@dards.co.uk](mailto:paul@dards.co.uk)

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### SNIPPETS:

*Strength doesn't come from what you can do – it comes from overcoming the things you once thought you couldn't.*

*Time will not wait for you to change your life. You must change your life before you run out of time.*

*Be like a tree. Stay grounded, connect with your roots, turn over a new leaf. Bend before you break. Enjoy your unique natural beauty. Keep growing.*

## United Benefice Calendar for 2022

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

### May

- 7 Church bazaar, Grafton Regis  
7 Working party in Stoke Bruerne churchyard, 9.30 a m to 12.00 noon  
9 Monday Club, Milton Malsor  
11 Shutlanger & Stoke Bruerne Flower Club, demonstration, Roade village hall, 7.30 p m  
12 WI meeting, resolutions and supper, Blisworth village hall, 7.30 p m  
13 Farmers' market, Towcester, 9.00 a m to 1.00 p m  
14 Sale for the knight, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon, Alderton  
14 Yardley Gobion garage sale, 10.00 a m to 1.30 p m  
14 1,000 years in 100 minutes, Grafton Regis, 2.30 p m  
19 Soup and pudding lunch, Grafton Regis village hall, 12.30 p m  
19 Mums and tots group, Stoke Bruerne Church, 2.00 p m  
22 Shutlanger open gardens event  
27 Coffee morning, 7 Pond Bank, Blisworth, 10.00 a m

### June

- 2 Stoke Bruerne Jubilee Church Flower Festival, 10.00 a m to 4.00 p m  
3 Stoke Bruerne Jubilee family party at the cricket club, 4.00 p m – 10.00 p m  
4 Stoke Bruerne Jubilee church choir concert, 2.00 p m  
4 Stoke Bruerne Jubilee village hall afternoon teas, 2.00 p m – 6.00 p m  
9 WI meeting, 'Up the Cut', Blisworth village hall, 7.30 p m  
11 Coffee morning, Stoke Bruerne, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon, with plant stall  
18 Working party in Stoke Bruerne churchyard, 9.30 a m to 12.00 noon  
18 1,000 years in 100 minutes, Grafton Regis, 2.30 p m  
19 Breakfast in the churchyard, Alderton  
24 Coffee morning, 7 Pond Bank, Blisworth, 10.00 a m

### July

- 2 Quiz night, Shutlanger  
9 Working party in Stoke Bruerne churchyard, 9.30 a m to 12.00 noon  
14 WI meeting, Madam Tussauds, Blisworth village hall, 7.30 p m  
29 Coffee morning, 7 Pond Bank, Blisworth, 10.00 a m

### August

- 11 WI meeting, a local trip  
13 Working party in Stoke Bruerne churchyard, 9.30 a m to 12.00 noon  
26 Coffee morning, 7 Pond Bank, Blisworth, 10.00 a m

### September

- 8 WI meeting, the story behind the story, Blisworth village hall, 7.30 p m  
10 Coffee morning, Stoke Bruerne, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon, sale of cards  
10 Ride and Stride weekend  
14 Shutlanger & Stoke Bruerne Flower Club, demonstration, Roade village hall, 7.30 p m  
17 Working party in Stoke Bruerne churchyard, 9.30 a m to 12.00 noon  
24 1,000 years in 100 minutes, Grafton Regis, 2.30 p m  
30 Coffee morning, 7 Pond Bank, Blisworth, 10.00 a m

### October

- 8 Working party in Stoke Bruerne churchyard, 9.30 a m to 12.00 noon  
13 WI meeting, AGM and supper, Blisworth village hall  
28 Coffee morning, 7 Pond Bank, Blisworth, 10.00 a m

### November

- 9 Shutlanger & Stoke Bruerne Flower Club, demonstration, Roade village hall, 7.30 p m  
10 WI meeting, a visit from Queen Victoria, Blisworth village hall, 7.30 p m  
25 Coffee morning, 7 Pond Bank, Blisworth, 10.00 a m

### December

- 8 WI meeting, celebrating Christmas, Blisworth village hall, 7.30 p m  
10 Coffee morning, Stoke Bruerne, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon, sale of cards

### **THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF GRASS is 20 May**

#### **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](mailto: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.