

GRASS

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

Rector's Letter

Congratulations to Sorcha Startin, a long-time member of the ministry team in the Great Union Benefice and who is well-known to most of you. We rejoice in the news of her selection for ordination to the priesthood. Please join me in keeping her in our prayers.

During August, we were blessed with some truly outstanding mornings. One morning, just before eight, I embarked on a walk and passed by a wheatfield. The light mist that blanketed the field added an ethereal beauty as I gazed across the top of the wheat, spotting trees standing out like angels on the horizon. I paused to pray in the stillness, offering thanks for God's exquisite creation and the blessings bestowed upon us. As the field blurred into the mist, a verse from Luke 6:1 came to mind as if whispered in mist. One Sabbath, while Jesus was going through the cornfields, His disciples plucked some heads of grain, rubbed them in their hands, and ate them, reminding me of how our Lord provides for His disciples and allows time for rest with family. It struck me that God's provisions are abundant and that we should similarly share with our neighbours and strangers without counting the cost to ourselves. Let's take a moment today to admire the splendour of the world and the generosity of our Creator.

Continuing my walk, I passed over the Blisworth tunnel and alongside the canal. The mist draped over the tranquil water, not a ripple in sight, evoking the imagery of Psalm 23:2: "He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still water." However, the serenity was disrupted as I encountered someone walking in the opposite direction, wholly absorbed in their mobile phone and oblivious to the natural beauty around them.

We are fortunate to have such beautiful countryside on our doorstep, where we can connect with the divine Creator of all things. The great outdoors can bring a sense of tranquillity, inner peace, and rejuvenation. We don't have to wait for a specific day to contemplate or pray if we remain attentive to our surroundings. We need to detach from our daily routines and electronic devices to appreciate the world we live in. Let's remember to make time for reflection, mindfulness, and appreciation of our environment.

I have walked past the cornfield many times, and this week, I'm reminded that we are in the harvest season. The corn has been gathered in. It's a time to express gratitude to our Creator for the abundance of goodness and to reflect on those less fortunate, especially the refugees who have been displaced from their homelands. We can learn from our Heavenly Father's boundless generosity and extend hospitality to all.

You are welcome to join any of our Harvest Festival services, where we gather in worship and express gratitude in the presence of the God who created all things in such a beautiful and bountiful manner. Peace. Richard

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

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

Churchwarden of Blisworth: Mrs Fiona McKenzie, tel 01604 859541

Churchwardens of Stoke Bruerne: Mrs Christine Frost, tel 01604 862561 and Mr John Brough, tel 01604 862646/07768 181598

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 Gill Franklin, tel 01604 706545.

Service Schedule for September 2024

Sunday 1 September, Trinity 14

9.30 a m: Family Eucharist, Milton Malsor

11.00 a m: Family Eucharist, Blisworth

Sunday 8 September, Trinity 15

9.30 a m: Family Eucharist, Stoke Bruerne

9.30 a m: Family service, Milton Malsor

11.00 a m: Family Eucharist, Blisworth

Sunday 16 September, Trinity 16

9.30 a m: Family Eucharist, Milton Malsor

11.00 a m: Family service, Blisworth

11.00 a m: Harvest Festival, Grafton Regis

Thursday 19 September

9.30 a m: Morning prayer, Shutlanger

Sunday 22 September, Trinity 17

9.30 a m: Family service, Milton Malsor

9.30 a m: Family service, Stoke Bruerne

11.00 a m: Family Eucharist, Blisworth

Sunday 29 September

10.00 a m: Harvest Festival, Benefice service

VILLAGE NEWS

STOKE BRUERNE

Afternoon Tea for Breast Cancer Awareness

A huge thank you to everyone who supported my afternoon tea which was held at the village hall. Thanks to your very kind and really generous donations, I have raised £620 (£380 at the hall and £240 through my Just Giving page). Sarah Pybus

SHUTLANGER

Shutlanger Parish Council

Website: www.shutlangerparishcouncil.org.uk,

email: clerk@shutlangerparishcouncil.org.uk



The next Council meeting is on Thursday 12 September at 7.30 p m. We will be discussing the questionnaire that we will use to help us write the Parish Plan. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

The Parish Council drop-in surgery at the village hall on the third Thursday of the month during the coffee morning is being well used. Representatives of the Parish Council are available for you to bring your queries, concerns or ideas.

Shutlanger Village Hall

Website: www.shutlangervillagehall.org.uk, phone number: 01327640547,

Twitter: @ShutlangerVHall

Facebook: Shutlanger Village Hall, Instagram: shutlangervillagehall,

What3words: confetti.freely.exacts

Coffee Morning

Our monthly coffee, cake and chat morning was on Thursday 15 August from 10.00 a m until 12.00 noon. The coffee morning was preceded by a short prayer service which started at 9.30 a m. The first Parish Council drop-in surgery was also there.

The next coffee morning will be on Thursday 19 September; there will be bacon rolls and homemade cake too. We have free wi-fi and contactless payments. Our coffee mornings are always on the third Thursday of the month; put a note in your diary so you don't miss it. A very warm welcome awaits you.

Tote Draw

The latest draw was, as always, during the coffee morning. We gave out two prizes of £100.00 - congratulations to all the winners. The tote has raised over £5,500 towards keeping our hall as a centre for our community; we have given out the same amount in prizes. Thank you for your continued support - it is making a real difference.

It's easy to join the tote, it costs just £5 a month; half the money goes to help the village hall and the other half to two lucky prize winners. The odds are much better than the national lottery! There are application forms in the hall, you can call 01327 640547 or email secretary@shutlangervillagehall.org.uk any of these make it easy for you to join our ever-growing band of supporters.

Events

Dog Show

We will be holding another Dog Show on Sunday 8 September at 2.00 p m. Ticket are £5 per dog and you can enter as many fun classes as you would like. Tickets are available for you to buy at www.shutlangervillagehall.org.uk/dogshow

The Angels Share

The band are set to perform for us again on Friday 20 September at 7.00 p m. The tickets are £15 and include food. Laurence Cook will be the supporting act. Buy your tickets online at www.shutlangervillagehall.org.uk/events or at the door. Put the date in your diary, tickets will sell fast.

Plant Swap

The plant and crop swap is in the hall gardens. Either bring some surplus plants from your garden and take home something new or pick up a plant you like the look of a leave a donation in the post box at the hall. All the proceeds from the plant swap go towards buying new plants for our lovely hall garden.



Fundraising

As ever we continue to raise funds to renovate the excellent facilities within our most important community asset. Remember you can help by: joining the tote, coming to the coffee mornings, donating plants, recycling your old ink cartridges in the hall and joining Easyfundraising where you can easily make donations.

Your help matters to us. EVERY penny counts! Barbara Stanbridge, Secretary Shutlanger Village Hall Management Committee

GRAFTON REGIS

Grafton Regis Village Hall Lunches

The winter lunches start again on Thursday 19 September at 12.30 p m. I will send out an e mail nearer the date but you can contact me by e mail me at barryglanville@btinternet.com or text 07528 607389.

The dates for the rest of the year are: 17 October, 21 November and 19 December.

Jean



Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator Vacancy

There is currently a vacancy for the volunteer role of Neighbourhood Coordinator in Grafton Regis. This is a rewarding role at the heart of the community, raising the awareness of crime and acting as a key contact point between residents and the local Policing teams. It is a great way to help your neighbours and contribute to the safety of your community. How much time you spend is largely down to you, training and support will be provided. Applications for all age groups are welcome, there are no special requirements, but it would help if you are a self-starter, a team player, are comfortable using some basic IT applications and have an interest in working alongside the Police.



This link will provide you with more detail: <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/start-neighbourhood-watch-scheme-and-become-coordinator>. If you would like to consider this further, please contact Nick Hamp on 07818 640455 for an informal chat to see if it is the opportunity for you.



BLISWORTH

Short Mat Bowls Club

The Blisworth short mat bowls club meets every Monday and Wednesday afternoon at 1.45 p m until 4.00 p m every week.

Ride & Stride

14 September is the date of the annual Ride and Stride. This year, Peter Banks is riding for Blisworth, and his sponsorship form is in church. Ride and Stride is organised throughout the country by the Historic Churches Trust. The sponsorship money collected by the riders is divided between their church and HCT. Their funds in turn are used to give small grants to participating churches.

Art Trail

14 September is also the first day of the Art Trail, which will run until 22 September. We look forward to seeing the varied work displayed by eleven artists. Entry is free, and their tea-time cakes are legendary!

Harvest Festival

An early note - our harvest festival and bring and share lunch is a little later than usual this year, being on 6 October.

Hunsbury and Blisworth Community Choir

A new term and new era for the choir starts on 5 September. After 9 years as Musical Director, Helen bowed out with a spectacular concert in July and handed over the reins to the very capable hands of Ian Riley. The first rehearsal will be on 5 September at 8.00 p m in the Abbey Centre Chapel and new members will be very welcome. There's no audition so if you enjoy a good old sing song, why not come and join our very friendly group? For more information call me, Jon Murray, 07460 617817.



ALDERTON

Church Cleaning Rota

September Julie & Tom Chaplin

Churchyard Rota

September (first half) Roger Gavan

September (second half) Lisa & John

Ride and Stride

This event will be on 14 September; if you would like to join in by riding or walking between wonderful local churches, then please contact Steve Hempenstall, tel 07808 052507. It would be great if as many as possible to join us this year for a leisurely ride or walk and help support our local churches. Or maybe you would like to sponsor somebody who is planning to take part – again, please contact Steve. Half of the money raised will go to the Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust and the other half will go to our church. Steve Hempenstall

ALDERTON
ART FESTIVAL
St Margaret's Church, Alderton NN12 7LP

Open: Saturday 10.30 am - 5pm, Sunday 10.30 am - 4.30 pm. Entry £1



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31 August & 1 September 2024
www.aldertonartfestival.co.uk

Harvest Festival

We are delighted to announce that our Harvest Festival service will be on Sunday 29 September at 10.00 a m; this will be a benefice service, which means that friends from other villages within the benefice will be joining us.

We would be really grateful if you have any gifts you would like to bring along – either leave them in the porch or come and join us when we decorate the church – probably on Saturday 28 September but that is to be confirmed.

After the service, we will be selling the goods off and the proceeds from the sale will be going to a charity so please bring some extra money with you.

Churchyard Tidy

A big thank you to everyone who came to help with the churchyard tidy up.

This was organised in preparation for the art festival as everything was getting very overgrown in the places where we need the space. It made such a difference having so many people to help.

Roger



MILTON MALSOR

Short Mat Bowls Club

The Milton Malsor Short Mat Bowls Club meets every Tuesday from 2.00 p m until 4.00 p m every week.

Monday Club

The Monday Club will be welcoming members back on Monday 2 September at 2.00 p m at Raynsford House. We will be meeting there each month until December, when we have our Christmas lunch.

Sue Bell

Holy Cross Church

Holy Cross has been busy during the month of August. We held holiday club on 7 August in the morning - it was an enjoyable event that attracted a small group of children. Adults and the children had great fun making and creating beautiful collages, cards and icing cakes. At the end of the morning, we had a show and tell.



Afternoon Tea

On 13 August we held an afternoon tea. This event kept us all remarkably busy, serving tea and cakes to the villagers and many from outside of the village. The strawberry and cream cake was a favourite, but all cakes and nibbles went down a treat. A thank you goes to all our fantastic bakers. The local art group displayed their beautiful work and all admired the artwork. A thank you goes to all the artist for displaying their wonderful work; they certainly inspired many visitors.

Craft Exhibition



In September we are holding an exciting craft exhibition in church. There will be diverse collection of work celebrating a spectrum of creativity. As can be seen by the two photos of some of the work that will be on display.

We are planning to set up on Friday 13 September from 2.00 p m to 5.00 p m. Bring your work along for us to display. This includes the under eleven photography competition, which will be judged by our visitors.

The



exhibition opens on Saturday 14 September from 10.00 a m to 5.00 p m. On the Saturday, we have two violinists to entertain us at intervals during the day. Their repertoire ranges from Bach to twentieth century music. Join us for coffee, tea and cake and take a pew to listen to these fine musicians making music. On the Sunday, the exhibition will be open from 11.00 a m until 4.00 p m. On both days, some of the exhibitors will be present to answer any questions and to talk with you regarding their fantastic and inspirational work. There will be a faberdashery stall for you to purchase materials, patterns, wool etc in readiness for your winter projects.

On both days there will be a model of the International Space Station (ISS). Come and listen about the fascinating work and research that this research space centre is undertaking.

Gill Franklin

GENERAL NEWS

Notes from a Local Farmer

Again, it's been a very busy month; we have nearly finished harvest with only one field of spring barley to finish. We have drilled 60 acres of stubble turnips which are growing well. The straw has all been sold - there was a better market for it this year and the land is being prepared for drilling rye in September. Sheep-wise, we have been sorting out all the flock for breeding this autumn, selling ones that are too old or have no milk. Fresh ones will be bought next month. Fat lambs continue to be sold with the price holding up very well for the time of the year. We are now using our new concrete road which I am pleased with, so as you read this, you can see we have been busy. Speak to you all next month. Robert Davy

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.wordpress.com; www.yardleygobionparishcouncil.gov.uk

SNIPPETS:

The greatest mistake you can make in life is to be continually fearing you will make one.

Never assume that loud is strong and quiet is weak. It's the lion's silence that signals danger, not his roar.

A problem is a chance for you to do your best.

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I have a number of refurbished laptops, prices starting from £150.

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

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Fun, Flowers and Friendship
is holding an
Evening Demonstration
By NAFAS National Demonstrator
Beverley Artis
titled

'Funny how Flowers can do That'

at The Village Hall, Baileys Brook Road, in Roade

WEDNESDAY 11 September at 7.30pm



Guests are **VERY WELCOME**
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raffled at the end of the evening

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United Benefice Calendar for 2024

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

September

- 1 Alderton Art Festival, 10.30 a m to 4.00 p m
- 2 Monday Club meeting at Raynsford House
- 5 Community Choir first rehearsal, 8.00 p m Abbey Centre Chapel
- 7 Coffee morning and Messy Church, Milton Malsor, 10.00 a m
- 8 Dog show, Shutlanger, 2.00 p m
- 11 Beat Bus, Royal Oak car park, Blisworth, 3.00 p m
- 11 Shutlanger and Stoke Bruerne Flower Club, Roade village hall, 7.30 p m
- 12 Blisworth WI meeting, 'Our Fifth Sense', 7.30 p m, Blisworth village hall
- 12 Shutlanger Parish Council meeting, 7.30 p m
- 13 Towcester Farmers' Market 10.00 a m to 1.00 p m
- 14 Ride and Stride day
- 14 Stoke Bruerne churchyard working party, 9.30 a m to 12. 00 noon
- 14/15 Exhibition of craft work, Milton Malsor. 10.00 a m to 5.00 p m Saturday, 10.00 a m to 4.00 p m Sunday
- 14-22 Northants Art Trail/Open Studio Event
- 17 Parish Council meeting, Stoke Bruerne village hall, 7.30 p m
- 19 Coffee morning, Shutlanger village hall, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon
- 19 Lunch, Grafton Regis village hall, 12.30 p m
- 20 The Angels' Share performance, Shutlanger, 7.00 p m
- 21 Grafton Regis, 1,000 Years in 100 Minutes, 2.30 p m
- 27 Blisworth coffee and cakes, 7 Pond Bank, 10.00 a m to 12. 00 noon
- 27 Pet service, Milton Malsor

October

- 5 Coffee morning and Messy Church, Milton Malsor, 10.00 a m
- 6 Harvest Festival and bring and share lunch, Blisworth
- 10 Blisworth WI meeting, Mata Hari – a spy or a scapegoat, 7.30 p m, Blisworth village hall
- 15 Parish Council meeting, Stoke Bruerne village hall, 7.30 p m
- 17 Lunch, Grafton Regis village hall, 12.30 p m
- 19 Stoke Bruerne churchyard working party, 9.30 a m to 12. 00 noon
- 25 Blisworth coffee and cakes, 7 Pond Bank, 10.00 a m to 12. 00 noon
- 26 Hallowe'en trail, Shutlanger

November

- 2 Coffee morning and Messy Church, Milton Malsor, 10.00 a m
- 9 Stoke Bruerne coffee morning – bacon butties
- 13 Shutlanger and Stoke Bruerne Flower Club, Roade village hall, 7.30 p m
- 14 Blisworth WI meeting, Northampton theatres, 7.30 p m, Blisworth village hall
- 16 Bingo evening, Shutlanger
- 19 Parish Council meeting, Stoke Bruerne village hall, 7.30 p m
- 21 Lunch, Grafton Regis village hall, 12.30 p m
- 29 Wreath workshop, Shutlanger

December

- 4 Beat Bus, Royal Oak car park, Blisworth, 3.00 p m
- 7 Coffee morning and Messy Church, Milton Malsor, 10.00 a m
- 7/8 Christmas Tree Festival, Milton Malsor church
- 12 Blisworth WI meeting, Christmas celebration, 7.30 p m, Blisworth village hall
- 14 A 'Christmas Carol' read by Rev'd Graham Brack, Moorend, Alderton
- 19 Lunch, Grafton Regis village hall, 12.30 p m
- 21 Tree dressing, Alderton, 6.30 p m
- 21 Tea and carols, Shutlanger

2025

April

- 6 Concert by Fiori Musicali, Alderton Church, 6.00 p m
- 26 Plant sale, Alderton

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF GRASS is 18 September

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.