

GRASS

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

Service Schedule for May 2019

5 May

10.30 a m: Benefice service, Blisworth.

NB: this is Rev'd Andrea's last service in the Benefice

12 May

9.30 a m: Holy Communion, CW, Stoke Bruerne

9.30 a m: Morning Worship, Milton Malsor

11.00 a m: Holy Communion, CW, Blisworth

19 May

8.00 a m: Holy Communion, BCP, Blisworth

9.30 a m: Holy Communion, CW, Milton Malsor

11.00 a m: Holy Communion, CW, Grafton Regis

11.00 a m: Morning Worship, Blisworth

26 May

9.30 a m: Holy Communion, CW, Alderton

9.30 a m: Morning Worship, Milton Malsor

11.00 a m: Holy Communion, CW, Blisworth

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

FREE INDUCTION & TASTER

MINDFULNESS & CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

IN THE CHRISTIAN TRADITION

2-3PM, WEDNESDAY 8 MAY
OR 11AM - 12 NOON, SUNDAY 12 MAY
ST. MARY'S CHURCH, STOKE BRUERNE, NN12 7SG



Take an hour out to explore and experience mindfulness in the ancient practice of contemplative prayer.

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

Churchwarden of Blisworth: Mrs Fiona McKenzie, tel 01604 859541 & Mrs Angela Cheesbrough, tel 01604 858059

Churchwardens of Stoke Bruerne: Mrs Christine Frost, tel 01604-862561 and Mr Lee Arnfield, tel 01604 864553

Churchwardens of Grafton Regis: Mrs Jean Glanville, tel 01908 543463 and Mrs Judy Kendrick-Simonsen, tel 01908 542535

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

The Julian Group for Silent Prayer

The Julian Group for Silent Prayer – making space for God. The group meets on the second Monday of the month (13 May) from 5.00 p m to 6.00 pm, usually at 2 Towcester Road, Blisworth. You are welcome to join us to 'taste and see' or on a regular basis. Contact Sue Cutts or Hilary Spurrier for more information.

Date for your Diary

Please make a note in your diary for either Wednesday 8 May at 2.00 p m or Sunday 12 May at 11.00 a m, both times at St Mary's Church Stoke Bruerne if you would like to experience a 'taster' of contemplative prayer in the Christian tradition. Everyone and anyone is welcome – bring a friend if you would like to. You do not have to be a 'paid up' Christian to come. It is free and is a 'no strings attached' opportunity to ask questions, find out more and experience what it might be like if you wanted to take it further. A leaflet giving more information will be available in April in churches to take or give to a friend. Contact Sue Cutts (07840 318300)

VILLAGE NEWS

STOKE BRUERNE

St Mary the Virgin Church

Coffee Morning

Our next coffee morning will be on Saturday 11 May from 10.00 a m until 12.00 noon. On this occasion, "ReChaired" will be performing from 11.00 a m, and there will be a plant stall. Please come and join us for what will be an eventful morning.

Lilies

Lilies in memory of deceased loved ones will also be displayed in the church over the weekend of 11 and 12 May, along with a scroll of loved ones' names. If you would like someone close to you to be remembered in this way, please contact Jackie Evans on 01604 862473 or Lynne Wild on 01604 830279. Names on the list are not dependent on a donation being made, but all donations are gratefully received.

Towcester Food Bank

There will be a collection for the Towcester Food Bank at our service on Sunday 12 May at 9.30 a m.

Mrs Marjorie Cheney

Thank you to all the people who came to pay their last respects to my late sister, Mrs Marjorie Cheney, at Milton Malsor crematorium on 2 April 2nd 2019.
Enid Stimson



Village Hall Summer Fete

The Stoke Bruerne village hall summer fete is to be held on 1 June at 2.00 p m. There will be strawberry cream teas, lots of stalls and table tops, flowers and raffle. Please support your local hall. Setting up will be on Friday evening, 31 May at 7.00 p m. Judy Cave
Any help setting up would be appreciated. If you would like to have at table top the rate is £5. Please ring either 01604 864275 or 01604 862825.

Celebrating 800 Years

Palm Sunday was special on so many levels. It was the Reverend Andrea's last service at St. Mary the Virgin and therefore fitting that she was able to dedicate the wall hanging which had been sewn to mark the church's 800th anniversary.

Jackie Evans gave a heartfelt speech of thanks to all who had worked on the wall hanging - Lynne who designed it, the Reverend Andrea for her help and support and to the David Blagrove Trust who financed the project. The stitchers, pictured here, were presented with a rose each by Lynne as a personal thank you. Everyone was grateful that Jean Blagrove, brought along by her daughter, Sarah, and other members of the David Blagrove Committee, were able to attend. There is a secret to the wall hanging in that there is a stitched plaque detailing names of the designer and stitchers sewn onto the back. There will be a book detailing the process behind the wall hanging in church shortly.

Delicious cakes and savouries were enjoyed with coffee as everyone mingled and admired. Carol Elliott



GRAFTON REGIS

The Last Lunch Club of the Season

Thanks to Henry and May McKay's donation of a turkey, there was an additional lunch club on 18 April. As usual, there was an amazing array of food, thanks to Jean, and the two Kathie and various other contributors.

These lunches are always tremendous fun and are thoroughly enjoyed by all who attend. We look forward to the next one, which will be in the autumn.

It was also a special day for Kathy Colgrove as it was her 70th birthday so she was heartily congratulated.



BLISWORTH

Blisworth Art & Crafts Group

Dates for your diary later in the year where the Art & Crafts Group will be demonstrating their works are as follows:

- 4 & 5 May Blisworth Art Show
- 10 & 11 August Blisworth Canal Festival
- 5 - 13 October SNA Art Trail.

Handbell Ringers

The team will re-commence meetings over the summer months in the church on Tuesday 30 April at 2.00 p m. All are welcome to come along and have a try with a view to joining the team in future.



ALDERTON

Church Cleaning Rota Churchyard Rota

May	Ruth Barry and Jacqui Vaughan
30 April to 13 May	Richard and Lulu Pelly
14 to 27 May	Jonathan Currie
28 May to 10 June	Steve and Alessandra Towell

Church service: 26 May

Mothering Sunday Service 31 March 2019

Mothering Sunday coincided with Alderton hosting the Benefice service this year, and the clocks being put forward. We were delighted to welcome a good number from all the Benefice churches. Andrea spoke of Mary, the mother of Jesus, who had to witness the crucifixion of her son. During the service, posies of spring flowers were given to all the ladies in the church. Thank you Amanda for this, they were lovely. It was so nice to have Andrea with us after the service to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and cake and to be able to join the chat. She usually has to dash off to her next service, but the Benefice family were all here and so welcome. Doris Knights

Yard Sale in Aid of the Knight

We will be holding a yard sale in aid of the Alderton knight conservation fund at 4 Church Lane Alderton on Saturday 4 May from 10.30 a m to 4.00 p m. There will be plants, produce, interesting items and refreshments available. Fingers crossed for good weather. Come and find a bargain and help us to raise the last £18,000 needed to complete this project. Margaret H-T

Notre Dame

On Thursday 18 April at 7.00 p m (Maundy Thursday), Bob Halsey chimed a bell in St Margaret's Church, Alderton as part of the nationwide show of solidarity with the people of France, in honour of the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, which was so tragically damaged in a fire.

Churchyard Trees and Stone Wall



On 30 March, Roger and Graham were joined by Brian and Anthony in the mammoth task of cutting all the suckers from the pollarded trees which had been growing good and strong. Thank you all and especially to Graham, who made a good start on Friday, which was very heartening to the Saturday volunteers. The churchyard looked its best with the newly mown grass and in the spring sunshine. Many thanks to Roger for organising this, and to Mel who provided coffee and scones.

Another milestone in the life of the church has been the start made on rebuilding the wall which runs along the boundary of the central field. This is a painstaking job and no quick fix as it all has to be done by hand. We just hope that the weather is kind to Mr Michael Skeats as he works his way along. Stonemasons are a very special skilled people and difficult to find so we are looking forward to seeing the wall back again fully restored. He is doing a wonderful job and the wall looks great.



Easter Day

There was a service, which was led by Amanda and Doris, in church on Easter morning, 21 April. The Paschal candle was lit and the congregation was invited to come and light a candle which each person had been given as they arrived in church. We were asked to make a small chain out of pipe cleaners to represent things that we should not have done in the past and then were



invited to place these onto the wooden cross. It was a very interesting service, which made everybody think.

After this, there were races at the bottom of Spring Lane, which other villagers joined in with. These had to be curtailed somewhat because the eggs that the Easter bunny had hidden around the churchyard, waiting to be found, were fast melting in the intense heat. The children enjoyed looking for their eggs and several came in with baskets full of them.

During the races, Jayne Skippen talked about CPR and mouth to mouth resuscitation, which is so important.

Lots of people enjoyed refreshments after all this and many people stayed in church enjoying a chat.



MILTON MALSOR

Upcoming Events

On 3 May, the Milton Malsor film club will meet for the last evening of the session to see the film "The Way". On 4, May the Saturday coffee morning will be held from 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon at Holy Cross Church. On 9 May, the Milton & Collingtree WI will meet at 7.30 p m for a talk by Kevin Varty on "Sweet Memories". On 16 May, the Historical Society meets at Raynsford House for a talk by Phil Haynes on the story of ERNIE the first premium bond machine.

There will be a Celebration of Milton Malsor event on Sunday 30 June from 12.00 noon until 5.00 p m. Ten gardens in the village will be open and at Holy Cross church there will be 21 displays representing the life of the village. There will be refreshments available, and tickets/brochures (£5 children under 16 free), giving access to the gardens can be obtained from the church. The last time the village successfully hosted open gardens was in 2008 and this year promises to be even better with a variety of gardens of all types plus the displays within the church. It will be a real treat for a summer Sunday afternoon.

Mums and Tots

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

GENERAL NEWS

Notes from a Local Farmer

Since I last spoke to you, we have finished lambing. The weather has been good, which is a great help in the early days. We have just finished the stubble turnips which were used by the sheep as they lambed. It saved the grassland, allowing it to grow unhindered. We have since drilled the field with spring barley, the last crop to go in.

The rest of the spring drilled crops are just coming through, a month ahead of last year. It has been a dry winter, so we are hoping that it will not be a dry summer.

The wheat is receiving its second dressing of nitrogen and is well advanced for April. Next to go in will be the maize, which is grown for a digester plant. This will allow us to plant wheat in the autumn and maize is a break crop. The winter beans are growing strongly and have had their first fungicide and insecticide to control bean weevil. These weevils burrow into the seed, leaving a black hole which makes them unsuitable for human consumption and they are only used for animal feed, as they are rich in protein.

So everything is work in progress as the spring goes into summer. I will talk to you again soon.

Robert Davy

News from The Old Mail

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

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.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 at www.northants.police.uk

Yardley Gobion Garage Sale

There will be a garage sale on Saturday 11 May 2019 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 will go to the church.

Fitness Classes in Paulerspury Village Hall

No pilates classes on Monday 6 May (Bank Holiday).

No classes half term week, week commencing 23 May 2019

Monday pilates classes: 10.45 a m – 11.45 a m, 11.55 a m – 12.55 p m, 6.00 p m – 7.00 p m, 7.00 p m – 8.00 p m.

Wednesday pilates classes: 10.45 a m – 11.45 a m - currently full

Contact: Lisa on 07729 608 960

Tuesday yoga classes: 10:00 a m – 11.30 a m: sorry no vacancies

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.

SNIPPETS:

Life is like a camera – focus on what's important, capture the good times, develop from the negatives and if things don't work out, take another shot.

You can't have everything – where would you put it?



QUINTON HOUSE SCHOOL

An independent day school for girls and boys aged 3-16 years

Places available for September 2019 start

Why not come and take a tour of the school and experience life at Quinton House School first-hand.

To book your place, call 01604 684828
or please email joanna.sainsbury@quintonhouseschool.co.uk

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Grafton Regis - 1,000 years in 100 minutes!



Henry VIII



Elizabeth Woodville



Shakespeare?

Experience the dramatic history of Grafton Regis brought to life on a leisurely walk through our beautiful village. Meet, in authentic costume, some of our most famous and infamous inhabitants.

Our 2019 historical walks will take place on Saturday May 11th, Saturday June 22nd and Saturday September 14th.

The walks begin at 2.30pm at the Village Hall, then we visit the Church of St Mary the Virgin and finish back at the Hall, where tea and cake is served. The cost is £9.50 for adults, under 16s £1.00, and under 5s free.

All profits are divided between the funds for the maintenance of the Village Hall and of the Church of St Mary the Virgin.

Booking is essential. For further information and to book, please phone Kathy on 0791 009 2132 or email keith.harry@btinternet.com

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www.grafton-regis.co.uk

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United Benefice Calendar for 2018/19

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

<u>May</u>	3	Milton Malsor Film Club – the Way, 7.30 pm
	4	Coffee morning, Milton Malsor, 10.00 a m – 12.00 noon
	4	Yard sale, 4 Church Lane, Alderton, 10.30 a m – 4.00 p m
	4/5	Blisworth art show
	8	Shutlanger & Stoke Bruerne Flower Club, 7.30pm Roade Village Hall
	9	Blisworth WI, 7.30 p m, village hall – resolutions and social evening
	9	Milton Malsor WI meeting, 'Sweet memories', 7.30 p m
	11	Milton and Collingtree WI - resolutions
	11	Grand garage sale at Yardley Gobion, maps from St Leonard's Church, 10.00 a m - 1.30 p m
	11	Coffee morning – St Mary's Church, Stoke Bruerne, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon
	11	1,000 years of history in 100 minutes, Grafton Regis
	14	Stoke Bruerne Parish Council meeting, 7.30 p m
	16	Towcester Heartbeat meeting, the Forum, 7.00 – 8.30 p m – recipies, taster evening
	16	Milton Malsor Historical Society – Raynsford House – talk about ERNIE
	31	Coffee and cakes at 7 Pond Bank – homemade jams & bring and buy, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon
<u>June</u>	1	Stoke Bruerne village hall fete, 2.00 pm
	13	Blisworth WI, 7.30 p m, village hall – fashion show
	15	Milton Malsor & Collingtree WI outing to Kew Gardens
	20	Concert – Blisworth Community Choir
	22	1,000 years of history in 100 minutes, Grafton Regis
	25	Stoke Bruerne Parish Council meeting, 7.30 p m
	28	Coffee and cakes at 7 Pond Bank – homemade jams & bring and buy, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon
	30	Towcester Heartbeats – canal trip
	30	Open gardens, Milton Malsor, 12.00 noon to 5.00 p m
<u>July</u>	9	Milton Malsor Historical Society outing to Cowper Museum
	11	Blisworth WI, 7.30 p m, village hall – flower arranging
	21	Streetchurch team on duty
	26	Coffee and cakes at 7 Pond Bank – homemade jams & bring and buy, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon
	26	Prosecco, pastries & proms concert by Blisworth Community Choir
<u>August</u>	8	Blisworth WI, 7.30 p m, village hall – surprise trip
	10	Coffee morning – St Mary's Church, Stoke Bruerne, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon
	10/11	Blisworth canal festival
	13	Milton Malsor Historical Society outing to Delapre Abbey
	13	Stoke Bruerne Parish Council meeting, 7.30 p m
	30	Coffee and cakes at 7 Pond Bank – homemade jams & bring and buy, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon
<u>September</u>	11	Shutlanger & Stoke Bruerne Flower Club, 7.30pm Roade Village Hall
	12	Blisworth WI, 7.30 p m, village hall – animal rescue
	14	1,000 years of history in 100 minutes, Grafton Regis
	24	Stoke Bruerne Parish Council meeting, 7.30 p m
	27	Coffee and cakes at 7 Pond Bank – homemade jams & bring and buy, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon
<u>October</u>	5-13	SNA ART trail
	6	Streetchurch team on duty
	9	Shutlanger & Stoke Bruerne Flower Club, 7.30pm Roade Village Hall
	10	Blisworth WI, 7.30 p m, village hall – AGM
	25	Coffee and cakes at 7 Pond Bank – homemade jams & bring and buy, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon
<u>November</u>	9	Coffee morning – St Mary's Church, Stoke Bruerne, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon
	12	Stoke Bruerne Parish Council meeting, 7.30 p m
	13	Shutlanger & Stoke Bruerne Flower Club, 7.30pm Roade Village Hall
	14	Blisworth WI, 7.30 p m, village hall – passionate about pasta
	29	Coffee and cakes at 7 Pond Bank – homemade jams & bring and buy, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon
<u>December</u>	12	Blisworth WI, 7.30 p m, village hall – Christmas party
	17	Stoke Bruerne Parish Council meeting, 7.30 p m

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

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF GRASS is 17 May 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.