

GRASS

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

ALDERTON ART FESTIVAL

St. Margaret's Church, Alderton NN12 7LP

Open: Saturday 10.30 am - 5 pm, Sunday 10.30 am - 4 pm. Entry £1



Photos: James Rudd Photography

Over **200** paintings
by more than 30 local artists

Raffle
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Tombola
White Elephant Stall
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Craft Stalls
Beer Tent
Towcester Mill Brewery Beers

Tea Stall
Home Made Cakes
Second Hand Books
All Day B-B-Q
Entertainment

4TH & 5TH SEPTEMBER 2021

www.aldertonartfestival.co.uk

Rector's Letter

Trust in the Lord. 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.' Proverbs 3:5-6

With most restrictions now being relaxed and as we begin to venture out, it feels like waking up from hibernation and seeing the landscape of our lives differently. We can choose to try and return to our old ways or take this opportunity to step out on a different path of new beginnings.

When we reflect through our lives, it can seem at times that we just keep going round in never ending circles never getting anywhere. Proverbs tells us to 'trust in the Lord, and He will make our paths straight.' I can hear you saying, 'what does this mean?' The answer is that the Christian way of life is all about a personal relationship with Jesus; it is about coming to know Him like a soul friend; if you don't have a personal relationship with Him, it can feel an impossible request. It's hard to trust someone you don't know.

I often hear people say that the Christian way of life is not for them; they are too busy and get nothing from attending church. My answer is always the same, 'have you ever given the Christian way of life a real go? Have you truly lived your life to the universal teachings of Jesus, allowing them to enhance and transform your life?'

We always find time for that which is essential to us. If you are beginning to ask yourself deep questions about the meaning of life and would like to explore this question, please come, and join us. We plan to hold different gatherings across the benefice at various times, hoping to meet the needs of everyone at different stages of their journey. This will be implemented slowly throughout the autumn.

Wednesday morning, we will continue to meet on Zoom for morning prayer at 9.30 a.m.

On the first Monday of the month, we will hold our Monday group at 2.00 p.m. in Holy Cross Milton Malsor.

On the third Thursday of the month at 9.30 a.m. in St Anne's Chapel Shutlanger, we will be holding morning prayer set in the Celtic tradition followed by coffee in the hall.

For preschool children, we are starting a carer and tots group in Holy Cross, Milton Malsor, starting during the autumn. There will be a short story for the children followed by coffee and tea for adults with a chance to meet and talk with others.

On 27 September, we will be starting Christian meditation at Holy Cross Milton Malsor set within a Celtic service at 7.00 p.m. This will be a relaxed evening where we can explore this ancient but simple way of prayer together.

Service Schedule for September

Sunday 5 September:

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

Sunday 12 September:

9.30 a.m., Stoke Bruerne, 11.00 a.m., Blisworth (Harvest Festival).

Sunday 19 September:

9.30 a.m. Milton Malsor, 11.00 a.m., Grafton Regis. (Harvest Festival), Harvest Festival in Alderton, time to be confirmed

Sunday 26 September

11.00 a.m., Blisworth, & 11.00 a.m., Milton Malsor, Harvest Festival followed by bring and share lunch.

Peace, Richard

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: Mrs Christine Frost, tel 01604 862561.

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.

VILLAGE NEWS

STOKE BRUERNE



St Mary the Virgin Church for Stoke Bruerne and Shutlanger

Churchyard Clearance

The PCC would like to say a big thank you to the twenty-one volunteers from the local community who formed the working party at St Mary's Church on Saturday 14 August. Everyone worked extremely hard throughout the morning, and as a result the churchyard has been cleared and looks much tidier. We are keen to leave it in a good condition before the winter sets in so we are planning to organise another working party on Saturday 18 September from 9.30 a.m. until 12.30 p.m. We do hope you will be free to join us. If you wish for further details, please contact Lynne Wild on 07833694710

Coffee Morning

The next coffee morning at St Mary's Church will be held on Saturday 11 September from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. There will be a raffle on this occasion and a selection of greetings cards will be on sale. We look forward to welcoming everyone.

Police Community Surgery Stoke Bruerne, 8 September, 1.30 p.m.

Your local officers will be about throughout the afternoon to visit residents and you will be able to pick up some crime prevention packs and local info from the team. We will be parked at different locations in the village and walking around so hopefully you won't miss us.



SHUTLANGER

Tote draw

The next live tote draw will be on Sunday 5 September, in the village hall, at 3.00 p m. The prize this month is more than £100! The hall will be open from 2.30 p m for tea, coffee, cake and ice-cream. Please join us for a catch up with the community.

Ride and Stride

We are planning to open St Anne's Chapel (at the village hall) as part of the annual fundraising efforts by Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust. The Chapel will be open between 10.00 a m and 6.00 p m on Saturday 11 September. Pop in for coffee and cake.

Coffee Morning

This month our coffee morning was preceded by a short prayer service in St Anne's Chapel. It was a special peaceful time well attended by parishioners from other parts of the Benefice, who then stayed to enjoy coffee and cake.

Our monthly coffee, cake and chat morning was on Thursday 19 August from 10.00 a m until 12.00 noon. We had a brilliant turnout; it was lovely to see so many villagers come along and some new faces too. It would be great to see you at the next one on Thursday 16 September. We have free wi-fi and contactless payments. We serve excellent coffee and delicious homemade cakes. Our coffee mornings are always on the third Thursday of the month; put a note in your diary so you don't miss it.

Plant Swap

The village plant swap is in the village hall garden. Stock up your garden for next year, the plants are always changing. Either bring your spare plants and take a new one home with you or, take a plant you like the look of and leave a donation in the letterbox near the hall door. Plant information leaflet coming soon.

Fundraising

As always, we are still trying to raise money to renovate the hall and to provide excellent facilities at only community asset. Please consider supporting us in any way you can. We have JustGiving, Smile and Easyfundraising accounts where you can make easy donations. Joining the tote is another way to help. You need to choose smile.amazon.co.uk and choose Shutlanger village hall to make a donation when shopping at Amazon. Sign up for Easyfundraising, then search for retailers, then the site redirects you to the retailer's website. Neither of these sites cost you anything to use but the hall gets a donation. To join the tote, contact secretary@shutlangervillagehall.org.uk our website www.shutlangervillagehall.org.uk has all the information too.

Please consider helping preserve this lovely old building next time you are shopping. The new phone number 01327 640547 is the number to call for bookings or to talk to a committee member. Shutlanger Village Hall Management Committee



GRAFTON REGIS

1,000 Years in 100 Minutes

Famous historical characters returned to Grafton Regis on Saturday 7 August during our first historical walk for almost a year. After the eccentric Abbot of Grestain explained Grafton's early link with Normandy, members of the Woodville family described their rise to power and fame, and Richard III restated his innocence of the death of the Princes in the Tower.

Henry VIII told us why he visited Grafton so frequently and introduced two of the queens he brought to the village, Anne Boleyn and Katherine Parr. Two Cardinals, Wolsey and Campeggio, once again brought Henry news of his attempt to annul his marriage to Katherine of Aragon.

We heard Elizabeth I's unfortunate experience in Grafton, Lady Crane recalled the destruction of Grafton House after the Civil War siege, and the discovery of the Grafton portrait of Shakespeare was described. There was also a chance to preview the new heritage centre which is taking shape in the church thanks to Heritage Lottery funding.

And from more recent times, we met Isabella Sams, water colourist and promoter of lacemaking, and Ada Brafield, the schoolmistress. All characters were resplendent in authentic costumes created by Jean Glanville, and tea and cakes were served at the end.

Our next walk is scheduled for 2.30 p m on Saturday 25 September, and places are still available. We're limiting numbers so that people will feel comfortable with extra space. The cost is £9.50 for adults, under 16s £1.00, and under 5s free. Booking is essential - to book or for more information, phone Kathy on 0791 009 2132 or email keith.harry@btinternet.com all profits are shared between village hall and church funds.

There's more information about Grafton's history on the village website at www.grafton-regis.co.uk and you can also follow us on Twitter @GRWhiteQueen and on Facebook @GraftonRegis1464.



Keith Harry

Star Martial Arts in Grafton Regis

Our regular Tuesday night training session on 17 August was a special occasion because we welcomed a visitor from Beijing, Yu Danfeng, who gave us a spectacular demonstration of Tai Chi. This is a quite different martial art from Taekwondo, but is clearly physically and mentally demanding in several similar ways, requiring, for example, the development of memory, balance, flexibility and coordination. It's probably just as well that we don't have the opportunity to wield a sword, though! If you're 60+ and interested in trying out Taekwondo, please get in touch for more details at keith.harry@btinternet.com or contact <http://taekwondo.starmartialarts.co.uk/wellbeing> – we welcome new recruits; it's very good exercise and a lot of fun, and no previous experience or knowledge is necessary. We meet from 6.00 p m until 7.00 p m on Tuesday nights. Our instructor, Tino Cesar, is a former GB national squad member, so our instruction is of a very high standard.

Keith Harry



BLISWORTH

Dates for Your Diary

As things more nearly approach normal, we have been able to begin to see a way forward, and to make plans for the autumn and early winter. From October, we will again have a service in St John's on the third

Sunday of the month. This will be at our normal time of 11.00 a m, and will be Morning Worship, led by Helen Halson. We are very grateful for her offer to take this service on a regular basis.

Other dates are Harvest Festival on Sunday 12 September, followed by a bring and share lunch. Preparing the church for harvest will be on Saturday 11 September, when we will also be open for ride and stride weekend.

Remembrance Sunday is 14 November, when we will gather at the war memorial at 10.50 a m. We hope to welcome the uniformed organisations, as usual.

Our traditional Christmas coffee morning/bazaar will be on Saturday 27 November from 10.00 a m to 12.30 p m. Lists will soon be in church asking for volunteers for this event.

Looking ahead to December, a service of readings and carols will be held on Sunday 12 December at 11.00 a m.

On Christmas Eve, Helen Halson will lead a family Christingle service at 4.30 p m. Volunteers will be needed prior to that to assemble the Christingles - more details to come.

Then, in a departure from what we have done in the past, the Christmas communion, rather than being at "midnight" will be at 9.30 p m. It has been decided to try this new time as perhaps appealing to more people.

The Christmas Day service will be in Milton Malsor at 9.30 a m.

On Boxing Day, there will not be a service in St. John's.

Fiona McKenzie- Churchwarden

Ride and Stride

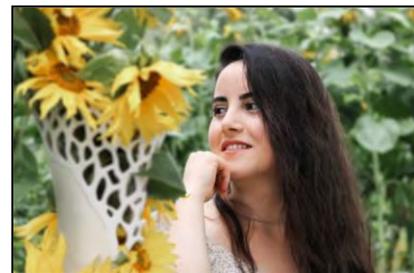
It is the annual "Ride and Stride" charity event on 11 September. Once again St John's will be open to receive visitors and the intrepid Peter Banks will be touring local churches to raise much needed funds. There is a sponsorship form in the church for anyone who wishes to support him.

Garden Party

A huge thank you to all who supported the garden party on 24 July; £1,250 was raised. Anahit, the student I sponsor in Armenia, has been able to have her eye operation and World Vision has also had a donation to support emergency relief.

Anahit has written: "it is like being born again; colours are brighter and print is clearer." Hopefully this very able student will be able to tackle her last year at university more easily thanks to all your help.

Hilary Spurrier



ALDERTON

Church Cleaning Rota

September

Anna and Sarah Myners

Churchyard Rota

3 – 26 September

Anthony Barry

27 September to 10 October

Roger Gavan

Service and Harvest supper: 19 September, time to be advised

Art Festival, Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 September. (Doors open 10.30 a m on both days)

Our art festival is unique and is a quintessential English event held in a picturesque setting of St Margaret's Church in the middle of one of the prettiest villages in England.

We have more paintings than ever for sale from a wide range of local artists, our white elephant "antique" stall is larger than ever; we have more trade stands selling everything from home produce, jams and chutneys, beautiful handbags to doggie treats, plus many more.

All day refreshments include a range of barbecued food, teas and cakes as well as a licensed bar serving real ale from Towcester Mill Brewery. Grand prize draw with many fabulous prizes.

See website for further details www.aldertonartfestival.co.uk

FREE PARKING - Entrance to the sale of art in St Margaret's church just £1

Harvest Supper

It's harvest time and all around us, in our rural environment, we can see crops being safely gathered in ready for the onslaught of winter. To this end, we are hoping to have a short Harvest Festival service on Sunday 19 September, followed by a harvest supper in a marquee in the churchyard. In the absence of Richard, who will be away on holiday, Lulu Pelly has kindly agreed to lead the Harvest Festival service. We are not sure of timings yet, but will let you know. This will be a traditional service and the congregation will be invited to offer their gifts of produce, as has been the tradition for so many years, and which so many of us remember from our childhoods. We are hoping that this produce will be auctioned off at the harvest supper.

The supper will commence early evening. Everyone is welcome. All we ask is that you bring your own crockery, cutlery and glassware, and whatever you want to drink. Hearty, traditional harvest fare will be served at the supper and those who come along will be asked to make a donation for the food – this will go to church funds.

We really hope you will be able to come along and join us for both events. Further details will be released in due course, once we have finalised arrangements. This is a chance to say 'thank you' for the bounteous fare that we all enjoy and which is so easy to take for granted. Margaret and Linda

Ride and Stride

This event will take place on Saturday 11 September and is organised by the Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust. What happens is that volunteers travel between churches in their area, as many or as few as they want to, and are sponsored by friends and family for each church that they visit. They can travel however they wish – walking, cycling, horseback riding etc. They will be signed in at each church they visit and will invariably be offered a drink and a snack and quite often this is an opportunity to look at other churches in the vicinity, which is always interesting.

This is a really nice thing to do and several people from Alderton have taken part in the past. We will be welcoming visitors to St Margaret's and will be offering refreshments. We will also be holding one of our knight market stalls, this time in the churchyard, so that we are on hand if people want to go into the church.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact Linda for the relevant sponsorship forms and list of open churches. You can find more information on www.nhct.org.uk. Margaret and Linda

Easyfundraising

Did you know you could raise money for St Margaret's Church without it costing you a penny? It's really easy to get involved and you won't be bombarded by unwanted texts and emails, as some people fear. St Margaret's would really appreciate it if you did. If you haven't signed up yet, it's easy and completely FREE. 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to do your everyday online shopping - at no extra cost to you!

Every donation you raise makes a difference to us so please sign up today – <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmargaretsalderton/?invite=YMCJDN&referral-campaign=c2s>.

Some people in the village have already registered and the amount raised so far is £45.71, which is very much appreciated but it would obviously be good if more people got involved. When new supporters have raised their first £5, Easyfundraising will match it and give us an extra £5. One person in Alderton has just achieved this goal.



MILTON MALSOR

The Monday club will start again on 6 September at 2.00 p m in Milton church, where the programme and wishes of members will be discussed.

Holy Cross Harvest Festival will take place on 26 September at 11.00 a m, followed by a bring & share lunch. The Baptist church will be joining us in these celebrations and anybody else in the benefice or from further afield will be most welcome. Any produce will be donated to a local charity.

The Milton Malsor and Collingtree WI will be holding their first in-house monthly meeting in Milton village hall on Thursday 9 September at 7.30 p m, with David Brogden giving a talk on silver. All visitors are welcome.

The Bowls Club here in Milton village hall starts again on Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning 28 September, 2.00pm to 4.00 p m. Again, all visitors are welcome. They are friendly bunch, so, if you have always wished you had had a go here is your chance.

GENERAL NEWS

James Cameron, RIP



James Cameron - Jimmy, joined the Benefice bell-ringers in January, 2014 as a lapsed ringer, having learned to ring at Whittlebury in his youth. He very quickly dusted off the years to become a very valuable and competent ringer of the band, ringing at all the Benefice churches.

He shared in the weekly scramble from Blisworth, usually in one vehicle, to arrive at Milton Malsor, Stoke Bruerne or Alderton churches on a Sunday for 9.00 a m ringing for the 9.30 service and then back to Blisworth for some breakfast and a comfort break before ringing at 10.30 a m at Blisworth or Grafton Regis.

Jim's greatest personal achievement in the belfry was to ring a 1/4 peal at the 2018 Canal Festival, with ringers from Bobbing in Kent who bought the mini-ring of bells to the festival.

A keen Cobblers fan, he was frequently teased about the wrong shaped ball by the Saints fans in the team, and the ups and downs of both codes was the subject of much discussion during the winter

months. Unfortunately, Jimmy only enjoyed a very short busy retirement before being diagnosed with his illness. It was such a pleasure to meet him, Jane and Daisy when out for a walk in the village.

Jimmy was a true gentleman, and will be greatly missed by his friends in the belfry.
May you rest in peace and rise in glory.

Used Postage Stamps

I am delighted to be able to say that someone felt that the work of The Leprosy Mission was so vital that it would be a shame to cut off this form of income. They have agreed to collect the stamps and take them to the Mission Office. Please continue collecting as many stamps as you are able and I will pass them on. Stamps can be left at Holy Cross Church, Milton Malsor or 8 Lapwing Close, East Hunsbury, Northampton NN4 0RT. Geoffrey Goswell

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.



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

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

If you wish to have up-to-date crime statistics for your area then we recommend that you visit www.police.uk

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

Northampton Hope Centre

Do you have an apple tree, or more than one?

Hope plans to make apple juice - we have all the necessary equipment, but we need apples!

This juice will be given to people accessing our services and also sold to raise funds for Hope.

Many apples just end up rotting on the ground. If you can collect any you do not want, and bring them to Hope when the harvest comes, it will be a great project.

Get in touch on 01604 214300 or email office@northamptonhopecentre.org.uk

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Email: bobtreesurgeon@hotmail.co.uk



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Windows 7 has reached end of life, and it will no longer receive security updates; it is time to change.

I can upgrade it to Windows 10, but still keep the look of Windows 7; all your documents, pictures and programs will transfer as well.

Looking for a laptop? I have a number of refurbished laptops, prices starting from £150.

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
www.dards.co.uk

United Benefice Calendar for 2021

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

September

- 4 Coffee morning, Holy Cross Church, Milton Malsor, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon
4/5 Alderton Art Festival
4 Tote draw, village hall, Shutlanger, 3.00 pm
6 Monday Club, 2.00 p m, Milton Malsor church
7 Parish Council meeting, 7.30 p m, Stoke Bruerne
8 Police community surgery, Stoke Bruerne, 1.30 p m
9 Parish Council meeting, Shutlanger
9 WI meeting, Milton Malsor village hall, 7.30 pm
10 Farmers' market, Towcester, 9.00 a m to 1.00 p m
11 Annual Ride and Stride
11 Market stall for the knight, in the churchyard, Alderton, 10.00 a m – 4.00 p m
11 Coffee morning, Stoke Bruerne Church, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon
12 Harvest festival followed by bring and share lunch, Blisworth, 11.00 a m
16 Shutlanger – coffee and cake, village hall, 10.00 a m. – 12.00 noon
18 Churchyard tidy, Stoke Bruerne Church, 9.30 a m to 12.30 p m
19 Harvest festival and harvest supper, Alderton, time to be advised
24 Coffee morning, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon, Pond Bank, Blisworth
25 Walk and talk, Grafton Regis, 2.30 p m
26 Harvest Festival, Milton Malsor, 11.00 a m, followed by bring and share lunch
28 Bowls club starts, 2.00 p m to 4.00 p m, Milton Malsor

October

- 2 Coffee morning, Milton Malsor, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon
19 Parish Council meeting, 7.30 p m, Stoke Bruerne

November

- 6 Coffee morning, Milton Malsor, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon
13 Coffee morning, Stoke Bruerne Church, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon
14 Remembrance Sunday
27 Christmas bazaar, Blisworth, 10.00 a m – 12.30 p m
27/28 Christmas tree festival, Milton Malsor Church,
30 Parish Council meeting, 7.30 p m, Stoke Bruerne

December

- 4 Coffee morning, Milton Malsor Church, 10.00 a m to 12.00 noon
12 Carol service, Milton Malsor Church, followed by mince pies and mulled wine
25 Christmas celebration, Milton Malsor Church, 9.30 a m

SNIPPETS:

It's not what you gather, but what you scatter that tells what kind of life you have lived.

People will throw stones at you; don't throw them back. Instead, collect them and build an empire.

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF GRASS is 19 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.