

February  
2026



Easter lilies seem as traditional and indispensable as chocolate eggs and Easter bunnies. Just like the eggs their symbolism has ancient roots in many pre-Christian myths and legends. They certainly appear in the Bible but not once are they mentioned in connection with the death or resurrection of Christ. Indeed in the Middle East lilies do not bloom in time for Easter.

So why did they become linked with Easter? Fast Forward to 1819 when the "Lilium Longiflorum" - the Easter lily as we know it - was introduced to England from the Ryukyu Islands of Southern Japan. It was then discovered that the bulbs could be forced in the heated greenhouses rich Victorians were building to mollycoddle exotic plant treasures arriving in the country with every ship.

At first they would only have been seen in churches with rich greenhouse owning patrons, as much to show off their wealth as to honour the risen Lord.

The idea of coercing lilies into flowering out of season became the norm, and by the late 20th century flowers were readily available from the greenhouses of Holland or the fields of Africa.

Thus the Easter Lily became the optimum Flower in almost every church in the land.

Back in February 2023 the Financial Times ran an article entitled 'Carbon Counter', their research showed that one single rose stem flown to the UK or a single Dutch grown lily each creates 3 kg of CO2. This is the equivalent of burning 1 kg of coal per stem.

The Oxford Diocese subsequently approved a motion encouraging its churches to look for alternatives to Easter lilies, calculating that if all 800 churches in the diocese did so it would save approximately 24 tons of CO2.

The Sustainable Church Flower Movement, founded in Worcestershire, promotes the use of local seasonal flowers or pots of primroses which can then be planted in the churchyard to increase biodiversity there too.

Therefore in a move to care for our precious planet albeit in a small way, at Saint James this Easter we will be asking you to remember your loved ones with naturalised British primroses.

(Details in March's Focus)

In 2026 we need to think of the cost to the environment of the production and transportation of lilies, and it is beholden on us to encourage sustainability.

St James PCC

Advertising and copy deadline for next issue : 15th February 2026.  
To advertise or submit articles email: [editor@ghfocus.com](mailto:editor@ghfocus.com)



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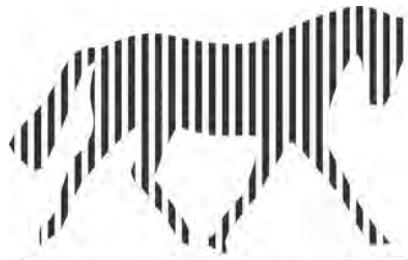
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# CHURCH TIMES

Dr Stephen O'Connor  
 rector@winslowbenefice.org.uk  
 www.winslowbenefice.org.uk

Church Wardens:  
 Ian Lamberton 715968  
 Carolyn Bayliss 715814

## February

<b>Sunday 1st</b>	11.15	Holy Communion - a traditional service with hymns lasting 1hour
<b>Sunday 8th</b>	11.15	Come and Praise - more informal worship with live instrumental music lasting 45 minutes
<b>Sunday 15th</b>	11.15	All Age Communion - a more informal communion service lasting 1 hour
<b>Wednesday 18th</b>	18.00	Ash Wednesday communion service with ashing
<b>Sunday 22nd</b>	11.15	LENT 1 Holy Communion - as above

## CHURCH KEY:

**Ian Lamberton 715968** Please note in winter months the church may be locked once it becomes dark

## Knitted Nativity

St James would like to thank Liz Nicholls who painstakingly knitted and accessorised a delightful nativity tableau for us this year.



## Lent Lunches

This Lent season there will be 3 light lunches held at 12.00 in the Village Hall on the following Wednesdays.  
 25th February - 11th March - 25th March  
 Everyone is welcomed.



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# WINDOW CLEANING

Contact Carl:  
07979395101

countryhousecleaning100  
@gmail.com

## **GREAT HORWOOD VILLAGE HALL**

As we enter our second year of bookings for our refurbished hall I am pleased to say that we are earning ourselves a good reputation for Birthday Parties and various forms of recreation with Pilates and circuit training on a regular basis together with business meetings, talks, film nights, and musical events.

A reminder for anyone considering hiring the Hall the charges for the next year are unchanged which means that a villager can hire the hall for as little as £8.00 per hour for a regular booking and we are very flexible over booking times and dates. The detailed fee structure is on the Hall noticeboard and on line.

Please contact me for any enquiries about future bookings.

In order that we are able to maintain a high standard of presentation a spring clean for the Hall; has been booked for Saturday March 14th when we ask anyone in the community to come along and lend a hand for an hour or so. Refreshments of course to be provided!

Ian Lamberton  
07973 225428 / [ianlamberton@aol.com](mailto:ianlamberton@aol.com)

## **GREAT HORWOOD & SINGLEBOROUGH WI**

### **Invitation**

GREAT HORWOOD & SINGLEBOROUGH WI invite you to a talk by Kim Smith on sepsis awareness "My Journey"

Tuesday, 10th February in the Village Hall, at 7.15pm. Tickets £5 on the door.

It was great to see members again at our January meeting where we were entertained by the Rapskallions, a group of Morris dancers from Stony Stratford. They explained the origins of Morris dancing, said to have started in the 17th century, and the distinctive styles in different parts of England and around the world. They said that a lot of young people are now enjoying Morris dancing and taking it to a whole new level. After performing some of the folk dances characterized by rhythmic stepping, choreographed patterns, and the use of props like bells, handkerchiefs, sticks, or rapper swords, it was the turn of members to have a quick lesson and experience a traditional Morris dance themselves.



After the dancing, members were invited to vote for one of the National WI campaigns and enjoyed chatting over tea and biscuits. As well as our monthly meetings with a varied programme of interesting speakers, we organise visits to places of interest and host practical craft days. As part of the Bucks Federation, there are other activities available such as the Science and Discovery Day coming up in March and Mix and Mingle with other WI groups. We also enjoy weekly walks on a Monday and Wednesday exploring the beautiful north Buckinghamshire countryside.

Members were saddened to hear of the passing of Jeannie Marshall, who had been a President of Great Horwood & Singleborough three times. We send our condolences to her family and many friends.

Great Horwood & Singleborough WI meet every second Tuesday each month in the Village Hall, with doors opening at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. Our February meeting will be about sepsis awareness emphasising the need for early recognition of symptoms to save lives. Non-members welcome, £5 at the door. If you're new to the village or feeling lonely and in need of some companionship, come along to see what we are all about – some friendly faces await you.

Heather Grant



5 Star rating \*\*\*\*\*

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## MEN IN SHEDS

At last - snowdrops have arrived to confirm that Spring really is on its way and I think we will all be pleased to see the back of what seems to have been a particularly cold and damp winter. Our productivity with making and mending jobs might have suffered as a result but attendances remain at about 20 per session and that can only mean one thing - a lot more chatting and tea drinking has been going on which is (in fact) mainly why we're here. Happy days!

Another distraction from the chilly workshop has been our winter talks programme. This month we were extremely lucky to have local artist Peter Keegan visit to talk about his work, about the 'art world' in general and about his journey from being a talented youngster in South Wales to a highly-respected portrait artist and teacher with an international following. Peter's engaging commentary and entertaining style kept his audience of Shedders spell-bound and all while he made our very own Dr Tony Watson emerge as a charcoal sketch on the easel. Quite magical.

Next month's talk is on Thursday 5th February at 11:00 when I will be talking about the Austin A30 I spent the first 8 years of my Shedding career restoring. Not so much about nuts, bolts and rust but more about a car with a fascinating history and some of the people I have met along the way.

The Shed is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 - 4:00 Unit 4, Station Road Ind. Estate.

[www.MenInShedsWinslow.org.uk](http://www.MenInShedsWinslow.org.uk)

Or for more info call or message Tim Elderton 07746 194163

## ART AND CRAFT COFFEE MORNING AND CRAFT FAIR

Fridays 10am-12.30 in the Village Hall.

This term we will be attempting to learn new embroidery techniques from those very patient ladies amongst our group, who know how to embroider beautifully .

There is a quiet simple pleasure in sitting with a needle and thread and creating something unique. Life is very fast and it good to just slow down .

If you fancy learning something new, or you have an unfinished craft project ,maybe you've been given a craft kit for Christmas just pop in, there is always someone who knows how to help .

The kettle is always on and you are welcome to pop in for a cuppa and a chat .

## MAD MARCH HARE RUN

It is with sadness, that the Great Horwood School PTFA must inform readers that the Mad March Hare Run, which is a much-loved village event, will not take place in 2026.

In recent years, the cost of traffic management has significantly increased the operational cost of the event, and in 2025, we were fortunate enough to engage a partner who was able to provide the traffic management for free as part of their community fund. Despite the efforts of the PTFA, it has not been possible to secure a similar arrangement this year, and without this, the event is simply not viable.

We remain committed to the event returning in 2027. With our focus now switching to this objective and the need to secure traffic management funding, we really need a representative from the village who would be willing to work with the PTFA on the organisation of the event. In previous years, this arrangement has worked well and made the event a truly collaborative endeavour between the school and the village community. If you are interested in taking on this role, please do get in touch for a chat at:

greathorwoodpta@gmail.com

## NEW BIRD BOXES FOR THE REC



We are very grateful to Andy for donating three new bird boxes to be installed down Horwode Pece. Andy makes these attractive, sturdy boxes at home.

For the twitchers among us, let us hope some interesting birds enjoy these new des.-res.

'Horwode Pece' is Great Horwood and Singleborough's recreation ground. It is

inspected weekly to RoSPA standards, and when necessary maintained by village volunteers, again to these standards.

If you are interested in helping, please contact me, John Nicholls, chairman of the Recreation Management Committee, on 01296 715331, either to help with the inspections (training will be given) or to help with maintenance as required.

Maintenance is usually in the form of a weekend working party. The next is planned for February, when we should take delivery of some additional rubber chippings to top up the safety fall height around equipment down the Rec.

## THE 10% SALES COMMISSION SCANDAL AND PHOJC

Happy New Year to everyone. It's been a while since Nook Park has been in the Focus.

All residential park homes when they are sold by the homeowner the buyer pays up to 10% of the price to the site owner. Therefore, the seller only gets 90% of the price. Although it's up to 10% we have not heard of any site owner taking less than the 10%. So, if you buy a park home for £200K the buyer pays the homeowner £180K and the site owner £20K. This is on top of the monthly pitch fees which are for the upkeep of the site. So where does this money go? It goes straight into the site owners bank account. It certainly doesn't go towards the site. PHOJC and homeowners think this is a very unfair and an archaic tax on vulnerable people. What other leasehold property has this on their Lease? It means that we only own 90% of our homes. When someone must either go into a care home, sells or passes away then they only get the 90% to pay for care home fees or for the family.

Of course there are some very good site owners, but there are some rogue ones also. Some of them have homes worth millions, yachts, helicopters, multiple residential sites, other businesses selling high end cars etc. One has even moved to Monaco to evade tax. When you think about it most residents who live in park homes do so because of the cost as opposed to the price of the normal bricks and mortar homes. It is cheaper and more economical to live in a park home, especially for a retired or person living on their own.

So you may be wondering what this has got to do with me. Well Nook Park is residential and is in your village. The park does look much better than it used to be, but a lot of parks are not maintained to the standard like Nook Park. This is where PHOJC (Park Home Owner Justice Campaign) comes in. They have successfully campaigned for pitch fees in England to be increased by the CPI instead of RPI. State Pensions are increased by the CPI. Which is why the campaign went ahead and it was one of the first things that King Charles signed when he became King. So very successful.

So please if you are on Facebook there is a page that anyone can follow, I did put it on the new village Facebook page so please follow it. When I have any more news, I will put it on that page and ask you to share, share and share.

Do remember you are welcome to come down and visit us and take a walk around and there is no more mud!



**The Winslow & District Community Bus relies on volunteer drivers to run all our services, excursions and hires.**

**Volunteer drivers needed now. If you have a D1 licence and some free time, please consider helping your local Community Bus.**

Our Scheduled routes are

Aylesbury Market Bus - runs every Friday and Saturday morning  
From Winslow, through Gt Horwood, Nash, Whaddon, Mursley and Swanbourne, arriving in Aylesbury Bus Station and parking in our reserved bay.

Winslow Market Service 54abc - runs every Wednesday morning  
Picking up in the surrounding villages and then into Winslow, (Swanbourne, Mursley, Great Horwood, Whaddon, Nash and The Claydons).

Buckingham Bus Service - runs on the first Tuesday of the month  
Picking up in Winslow and surrounding villages. 1 hour in town then 1 hour in Tesco, or 2 hours in Tesco.

Westcroft Shopping – runs on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month  
Picking up in Winslow and surrounding villages.

**All of our scheduled routes start at around 9.00am and finish around 1.30pm. We pay out-of-pocket expenses.**

We also run our own outings visiting all kinds of places, including garden centres, stately homes, shopping centres and countryside drives. The use of the bus is also available to local non-profit groups

#### **We offer certificated training to MiDAS standard**

MiDAS is the Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme and is administered by the Community Transport Association. The scheme provides a nationally recognised standard for the assessment and training of minibus drivers and has been designed to enhance minibus driving standards and promote the safer operation of minibuses.

WDCB provide free training to "MiDAS" standards for all our drivers. A certificate is awarded after successful completion of the course, which is valid for four years and is recognised UK-wide. Candidates must be aged over 21 and have category 'D1' on their licence. The course is usually completed in a day, the time being divided between classroom and practical work. The latter comprises coaching and assessment of driving skills plus a briefing on the use of the minibus wheelchair lift.

For more information, or to find out other ways you can volunteer your help, please visit the Volunteering page on our website  
**[www.winslowbus.com](http://www.winslowbus.com) or call 07483 336440.**

## FUNDS FOR LOCAL CAUSES

At the Parish Council meeting held on 15th December 2025, the Worthy Causes Grant awards and certificates were made to the following organisations: -



Great Horwood Football Club



Great Horwood CofE School



Great Horwood Rainbows/Brownies/Scouts



Great Horwood WI



Great Horwood Art and Craft Club



Winslow and District Community Bus

A poster for the Great Horwood Fete 2026. The background is light blue with white clouds. A decorative bunting with pink, green, and purple flags hangs across the top. The text "Great Horwood" is in a cursive font above "FETE 2026" in large, bold, 3D letters. Below that is a blue banner with the text "Saturday 4th July".

**Great Horwood**  
**FETE 2026**  
*Saturday 4th July*

We need you ... If you can help in any way ... big or small.

Come along to the first planning meeting  
Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Feb, 7.30pm @ The Swan Inn

Email: [ghvfete@outlook.com](mailto:ghvfete@outlook.com) or Message Vicky 07876 565637

## GREAT HORWOOD PARISH COUNCIL



**Great Horwood  
Parish Council**

### **Useful contact details**

#### **Members of the Parish Council:**

Please note that councillors now have a dedicated Parish Council email address. This is in order to comply with UK Data Protection Regulations 2018. From 1 January 2021 this is now referred to as the UK GDPR. It is good policy to keep council emails separate from private emails.

Caroline Cousin	Chairman	07903 549339	carolinecousinhpc@gmail.com
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Thomas Lee	Vice Chairman	07901 994996	tlee.ghpc@gmail.com
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Jonathan Evans		07470 298324	jjevans.ghpc@gmail.com
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Jackie Goss		01296 713135	jackiegossghpc@gmail.com
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Mary Saunders		01296 713610	marysaundersghpc@gmail.com
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Clerk to the Council	01296 715803	clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk
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Parish Council Website	www.e-voice.org.uk/ghpc/
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Great Horwood Village Hall Booking	01296 715968
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Winslow and District Community Bus	01296 715786
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3W Health (Winslow Health Centre)	01296 711150
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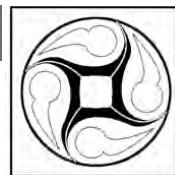
Community Police Officers

PCSO Andy Piotrowski	Tel: 101	Andrew.Piotrowski@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk
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## PARISH PUMP

### NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will be holding a consultation on various possible options for the emerging Neighbourhood Plan in the Village Hall on Saturday 21 March. More details will be published on the Parish Council website and Notice Board nearer the time. The Neighbourhood Plan will affect you all, so please do come along and make your views known.



**Great Horwood  
Parish Council**

### PARISH COUNCILLORS WANTED

We have vacancies for Councillors on the Parish Council. If you think you might be interested in volunteering to serve your local community as a Parish Councillor, please email the Clerk on [clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk) for more information.

### WELCOME PACK

If you are new to the village and have not yet received a Welcome pack, please email the Clerk and a pack will be sent to you – [clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk)

### FOCUS ON LINE

Did you know that there is an online edition of Focus. If you have mislaid your copy and can't find the information you need – just log onto the Parish Council website.

<https://e-voice.org.uk/ghpc/focus-magazine/>

### Fix My Street

Just a reminder to everyone that "FixMyStreet" is an online facility where anyone can make a public report for things like graffiti, fly tipping, broken pavings slabs, and potholes that they see in the Village. This information gets passed to Buckinghamshire Council for them to action.

The website address is <https://www.fixmystreet.com>

### PLANNING MATTERS

As you know, Buckinghamshire Council no longer display comments from members of the public to any applications. In order for the Parish Council to be kept informed of resident's comments/objections can you please provide a copy of any comments you make for any planning applications/appeals AFTER you have submitted your response to Buckinghamshire Council.

### TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF BUCKINGHAM HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE

A reminder that the above recycling centre will be closed from 1st December 2025 for up to 14 weeks to allow for essential drainage works to be carried out. The site is due to re-open again before the end of March 2026, subject to no weather-related delays.

### NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will be held on Monday 9th February 2026 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There is always a public participation period when members of the public can have their say – please feel free to attend. The Notice of the meeting is advertised on the Parish Council website and the noticeboard in the High Street.

Minutes of meetings can be found on the noticeboard and the Parish Council website.

[e-voice.org.uk/ghpc/](https://e-voice.org.uk/ghpc/)



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**ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**  
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The Royal British Legion, Elmfields Gate,  
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# Winslow Community Bus

## February 2026



### Winslow & District Community Bus

Tel: 07483 336440 [admin@winslowbus.com](mailto:admin@winslowbus.com)

**Aylesbury Market Bus - runs every Friday and Saturday morning** — from Winslow, through Gt Horwood, Little Horwood, Mursley and Swanbourne, arriving in Aylesbury just after 10am and departing 12.15pm. FREE with a bus pass, otherwise only £4.50 return. Drop offs at Sainsburys and Broadfields on request.

### Winslow Market Service 54abc - runs every Wednesday morning.

This service picks up in the surrounding villages and then into Winslow, (Swanbourne, Mursley, Great Horwood, Whaddon, Nash and The Claydons). Pick up times vary according to village. Bus passes accepted, otherwise £3.00 return.

**Buckingham Bus Service** — Picking up in Winslow and surrounding villages. 1 hour in town then 1 hour in Tesco, or 2 hours in Tesco. Door to door service. Bus passes accepted, otherwise £4.50 return.

Tuesday 3rd February 2026

Tuesday 3rd March 2026

### Westcroft Shopping —

Picking up in surrounding villages. Morrisons, Boots, Aldi, etc. Bus passes accepted, otherwise £4.50 return. Ring to book.

Thursday 12th & 26th February 2026

Thursday 12th & 26th March 2026

### Asda — travel £5

Bus passes are not accepted on this trip and will cost £5.00.

Picking up in Winslow and surrounding villages

Asda Shopping with the option to drop at Stadium MK1 for M&S, Primark, Next and more. Drop off at Westcroft on request.

Monday 23rd February 2026

Monday 23rd March 2026

### Lunch Trip to The Grove Lock, Leighton Buzzard Thursday 19th February, Travel £5

A Canalside pub serves hearty food, perched right on the Grand union Canal.

Timetables can be found online [www.winslowbus.com](http://www.winslowbus.com)

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WDCB Co-Ordinator 07483 336440





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Editor: Russell Margerrison, David Brazier. editor@ghfocus.com  
 Typing & Layout: Russell Margerrison, David Brazier, Andy Gibbs.  
 Printing: Harlequin Press Ltd.  
 Copy deadline: 15th of month before publication.

Distribution: June Margerrison, Ann Biggins, Caroline Cousin, Edwina Daymond, Louise Edwards, John Gilbey, Valerie Hancock, Duncan Hogston, Cathy Holland, Helen Jackman, Ian Lamberton, Gary Lee, Kathy Thompson, Sylvia Whitehall, Gill Wood.

Available online at: [www.e-voice.org.uk/ghpc](http://www.e-voice.org.uk/ghpc)

## GREAT HORWOOD CHURCH RESTORATION 1872 - 1874



I recently found this photo of the church dating from around 1870 prior to the Church's restoration.

The restoration was to a design by the eminent architect Sir Gilbert Scott who was born in Gawcott rectory and agreed at a meeting of 30 villagers and the Rector the Rev. S. T. Adams in October 1872. The clerk of the works was a Mr. Hanniford and a Mr. Fast of Melton Mowbray the Building Contractor all under the supervision of Scott.

Below is a brief resume of the changes that took place.

The church was completely emptied and the roof of the Nave and chancel were also removed. The height Nave roof was left but the Chancel roof was increased probably to accommodate the new Stained Glass Window. The top section of the Tower was removed and rebuilt adding the Turret probably to improve access to the roof. The Porches had their doors removed and during the restoration marriage services were held in them or in the Tower. A Vestry was built at the north east end of the church.

New seats were fitted, the Font, Pulpit and Rood screen restored using as many original parts as possible. A new Lectern was donated by the clergy of the Deanery. A new clock donated by the Parishioners was fitted in the Tower and repositioned to allow the window to be seen in full. The present organ was installed.

The whole renovation was completed in under 2 years. The church being reopened on 10th June 1874 with clergy from the Diocese attending and the sermon was preached by the Bishop of Oxford.

The cost totalled around £5000 (approx. £7500,000 in today's money) of which a considerable amount was gifted by the Rev. S. T. Adams and his friends.

I am working on a fuller detailed account of the renovations which I hope to add to the Great Horwood History web site sometime in the future.