

Appointment of Rev Dr Stephen O'Connor as the new Rector of St James, Great Horwood in the Winslow Benefice

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of the Reverend Doctor Stephen O'Connor as incumbent of the Winslow Benefice.

Stephen was brought up in the catholic faith and became a committed Christian as a young man which led him to spend some time as a missionary volunteer. After initially starting work in banking, Stephen turned to a career in nursing, where he specialised in palliative care and rose to a senior position. Later, he moved into academia, having gained his PhD, and held various roles including Associate Professor at Maastricht University, Reader at Bedfordshire University, and Reader at Canterbury University in Cancer, and Palliative Care.

After several years, Stephen decided to enter the ministry. He has experienced a wide variety of styles of worship and feels comfortable in all of them. Stephen was appointed as associate incumbent to an Oxford benefice with specific responsibility for social outreach, prayer and faith for a period of three years but realised that he missed the regular, daily interaction with members of a congregation that he had enjoyed as a curate and so applied for our incumbency.

During the interview process we were impressed with Stephen's thoughtful, yet fluent, replies to our questions. He spoke easily during his homily and came across as someone who is intelligent, innovative and, above all, deeply caring for other people. He, and his civil partner, Pascal, are intending to visit us very soon and he is looking forward to taking up his post.

We have confirmed with the Diocese that the Licensing Service, when Stephen will be formally licenced to this post, will take place on

Tuesday 21st February, in St Laurence, Winslow church at 7.30pm.

Stephen's first service at St James Great Horwood will be the following evening,

Ash Wednesday 22nd February at 7.30pm - St James Church

All welcome to both services!



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Church Times

Church Wardens:

David Brazier 714712 and June Margerrison 714554

www.winslowbenefice.org.uk

St James' Services for February

5 th Feb	11.00am	Come & Praise
12 th Feb	11.00am	Holy Communion
19 th Feb	11.00am	Creative Communion
22 nd Feb	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday
26 th Feb	11.00am	Holy Communion

Sidesmen Readers Intercessions

D Brazier	S Brazier	-
P Moyles	S Bayliss	D Brazier
I Lamberton	I Lamberton	J Brigden
-	-	-
J Margerrison	R Margerrison	J Margerrison

5th Mar 11.00am Holy Communion

D Brazier S Brazier D Brazier

Church Key:

February - Denise Davies - 712763

March - David Moore 713281

We welcome the Archdeacon of Buckingham, Guy Elsmore to our Holy Communion service on Sunday 12th February. Do come and support him. All welcome. .

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

The Ash Wednesday Service this year will take place on Wednesday 22nd February at 7.30pm. This is a service to mark the start of our time of Lent, as we look forward to the joy of Easter. During the service the imposition of ashes may be received.

CHURCH COFFEE MORNING

We would like to **thank** everyone who helped in any way and those who came to the Church Coffee Morning and Fun Raiser. £475 was raised for Church funds.

Margaret and Lindsay

VILLAGE HALL CENTENARY RENOVATIONS - WE NEED YOUR INPUT

2023 marks the centenary of our village hall and we are looking to upgrade our facilities. The hall was last updated in 1969. Although in recent years we have been able to replace the roof and added a disabled ramp and door access, the interior has remained largely unchanged since 1969. The Trustees hope to fund these renovations through several grants that we have applied for.

The current priorities are the refurbishment of the existing toilets and the creation of a disabled toilet and baby changing facilities. We also hope to be able to make improvements in the main hall area, particularly to the floor and ceiling, and to improve thermal insulation throughout.

We would love to hear what you would like to see changed so please email Ian Lamberton (ianlamberton@aol.com) or call Russell on 714554 with your suggestions. We look forward to hearing from you.

RETURN OF THE MAD MARCH HARE! SUNDAY 26 MARCH 2023, 12 NOON

"Runners, joggers, walkers, lend me your ears!". Want to raise money for your school PTA and have fun at the same time? Look no further!

Yes, the Great Horwood PTA Mad March Hare Family 5k is back. It's the same out and back course as previous years, along Pilch Lane, starting and finishing at the school. The lane will be closed to traffic and instead opened up to people of all ages and the odd pushchair for the duration of the event (sorry, no four-legged friends, bikes or scooters allowed for safety reasons).

This will be a family-friendly event with hot and cold refreshments for participants and spectators alike.... And there will be a medal for every finisher!

Are you on the journey from couch to 5k? Looking to do your first parkrun? - Well, here's your target! Already doing regular parkruns? Why not volunteer to marshal at your favourite one on the Saturday and run the MMH5k on Sunday!

Never heard of a parkrun? Search for parkrun.org.uk/Buckingham.

It's the perfect antidote to the winter blues, even if you just get out there and walk the course among fellow human beings on a beautiful early spring day (disclaimer: weather not guaranteed by the fun run organisers).

Enter using the form on the back of this edition of Focus, or search online.

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THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY

The Queen's Green Canopy is a tree planting initiative to mark the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It has been extended to March 2023, on the wishes of His Majesty The King, to give people the opportunity to plant trees in memoriam to honour Her Majesty.

The Trustees of the Great Horwood and Singleborough Recreation Trust kindly agreed that a tree could be planted on Horwode Pece and the Parish Council agreed to fund a plaque to mark the occasion. Roger Jefcoate CBE DL has already planted one black poplar at the Pece and he kindly agreed to plant another of these endangered trees.



It wasn't possible to plant the tree at the time of the Jubilee because of the very dry conditions. However, by the time of the National Tree Week in 2022 (26 November - 4 December) the conditions were perfect. So, on 2 December Roger kindly planted the tree assisted by John Nicholls and Cathy Holland along with Caroline Cousin.

It might only look like a twig right now but hopefully it will flourish and grow into a magnificent tree.

Caroline Cousin

GREAT HORWOOD & SINGLEBOROUGH WI



The new programme of events for Great Horwood & Singleborough WI in 2023 has now been published. Once again we have an interesting line-up of speakers planned for our monthly meetings beginning with a talk from a representative of the Medical Detection Dogs in February. Other speaker topics this year include everything from How to Add Style to your Country Garden to the Great Train Robbery.

We are also organising a number of exciting day trips throughout the year as well as workshops where members can learn new crafts. The walking groups continue to enjoy their weekly rambles on Mondays and Wednesdays around different areas of the unspoilt countryside of Buckinghamshire.

Our WI group in Great Horwood is a very social and friendly place to make friends and the ideal way to get more from village life in Great Horwood. We are delighted to welcome new members. We meet in the Village Hall on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm.

If you would like more information or are interested to join any of our social activities to see if your local WI is for you, please contact Ann Biggins annieqqmk@gmail.com / 07961 960802.

Walkers enjoyed a sunny walk in January in the grounds of Stowe.

Copy and advertising deadline for next issue of Focus - 15 February.
editor@ghfocus.com

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HORWODE PECE UPDATE

RECYCLED RUBBER AND PLASTIC HELPS TO ENHANCE HORWODE PECE

There was much activity on our recreation ground just before Christmas.

Despite freezing conditions, a team of volunteers topped up the rubber chippings using coated recycled tyres. 4,000 kg were spread across both areas of play equipment. Many thanks, to all who helped.

Also, a new picnic table was installed. Volkswagen Audi in Milton Keynes donated this. It is made from recycled plastic packing from shipping parts for their vehicles and we are very grateful to Rooman Ali Syed for organising this. The picnic table has been positioned between the two black poplars at the top of the Rec. In time, as the poplars mature, they will provide shade over the new picnic table.

John Nicholls Tel:715331, Chairman of Horwode Pece Management Committee.



WINSLOW AND DISTRICT ART SOCIETY

Meetings are held in Winslow every Thursday morning and in Padbury every Tuesday morning. Anyone over the age of 16 with an interest in visual arts is eligible to become a member subject to a small subscription. We are a friendly, helpful group and anyone interested in becoming a member can find more details on our website www.winslowart.org.uk

Demonstrations in a range of media are normally held at the Winslow Bowls Club on the last Thursday of each month. Entry is from 7.00 for a 7.30 start. These are enjoyable and informative evenings and last about two hours with a break for coffee and biscuits. Non-members are welcome to attend and entry will cost £5.00.

Details of recent and future demonstrations are as follows:

6 January Mark Warner. Acrylics. Seascape

23 February Jean Turton. Chinese brush

30 March Heather Miller. Acrylics and mixed media. Lake in a landscape

For more about us please look at our website or contact

Chair: Maureen Barnes 01280 815691

Secretary: John Beckerleg 01280 816932

Treasurer: Jackie Chambers 01296 713607



NOOK PARK RESIDENTIAL PARK HOME SITE

As most of you are aware we have a new site owner at Nook Park. He is Joe Burns of Silk Mill Leisure Ltd, Tring.

If you do not know where Nook Park is, we are at the bottom end of Willow Road. We are now going through a very stressful time. The renters were evicted, their homes destroyed, the garages were demolished and the roofs which contained asbestos was laying on the ground uncovered for six months. Since then, there has been harassment and intimidation from the park owner to some of the residents.

There is a site licence for 25 park homes issued by Buckinghamshire Council. Mr Burns plans to put 32 homes on the site. Some of us have lost our parking spaces due to new plots in readiness for new homes. We now live in a mud bath. Joe Burns has tried to



take parts of our pitches away and still try to increase our pitch fees. We have also lost most of our of our footpaths. Therefore we have only one way off the site by foot via the road which is only tarmacked a short distance. This means one of our residents is severely sight impaired and registered blind has to walk around on the mud as his home is cut off. How is he to get gas, deliveries and his post? We have some residents who have blocked drains since before Christmas. The park owners contractors have not dealt with this completely as one resident has raw sewerage coming from her home. The list is endless, broken water pipes, broken water meters, electricity cables severed, we could go on.

The hedges have been taken up with no regard to wildlife and has made us very exposed to the wind. One of the hedges belonged to a local farmer and therefore the new bases have now encroached onto his land.

We are a quiet vulnerable community. Kettle is always on if you come down and visit.

Please feel free to come down and see us.

We would like to thank Great Horwood and Singleborough for all the support we have had since we have made this public.

If you would like to help us please email or write to Martin Tett at Buckinghamshire Council. We are very desperate for help. The council are dragging their feet as they are investigating Joe Burns. We still have no support from them.

Look forward to meeting more of our village and Singleborough.

Liz Phillips, Nook Park Resident.



PARISH PUMP



Great Horwood
Parish Council

LOCAL CAUSES BENEFIT FROM PARISH COUNCIL GRANTS

At the Parish Council meeting in December, the lucky recipients of the Worthy Causes grants were given the opportunity to be presented with their cheques and certificates by Councillor John Gilbey, Chairman of Great Horwood Parish Council. Those that were unable to attend received theirs by post. The successful organisations were - Football Club, WI, Great Horwood Church of England School, (*pic.1*) Winslow and District Community Bus, Scouts & Guides, the Silver Band (*pic.2*) and the Art & Craft Group (*pic.3*). Congratulations to all.



1



2



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GIGACLEAR WORKS IN GREAT HORWOOD

As many of you are aware, Gigaclear returned to the village in January.

If residents would like to get in touch with Gigaclear, please contact their dedicated Customer Operations team on the details below.

Email: networkbuildqueries@gigaclear.com

Phone: 01865 591131

If and when I receive any updates, they will be published in Focus, which is also available on the Great Horwood Parish Council website e-voice.org.uk/ghpc/, the High Street noticeboard and on the Great Horwood village Facebook page.

NOOK PARK

The Parish Council are aware that there are major changes being made at Nook Park and are continually in contact and pressing Buckinghamshire Council officers and Councillors including the leader of the

Council to try and ensure that the best interests of the residents are safeguarded. We have also made our local MP Greg Smith aware and we will be following up to ensure that all changes are being made in accordance with the relevant regulations and legislation.

VILLAGE HALL RENOVATIONS



The Village Hall Management Committee are having discussions regarding the renovation of our Village Hall. They would like to see the hall brought up to date so it

can be hired out for a wide range of activities and events. If anyone would like to make representations concerning these works, you are welcome to do so during the Public Participation Period of the next Parish Council meeting on Monday 13th February.

FOCUS ONLINE

Did you know that there is an online edition of Focus with every copy from February 2012?

So, if you have mislaid your copy and can't find the information you need, just log onto

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

NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will be held on Monday 13th February at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. There is always a public participation period when members of the public can have their say. The Notice of the meeting is advertised on the Great Horwood Facebook page, 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/

Sue Brazier, Parish Clerk Great Horwood
clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk

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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 new Data Protection Regulations that came into force in 2018. It is good policy to keep council emails separate from private emails.

John Gilbey	Chairman	01296 711915	johnwgilbeypc@gmail.com
Caroline Cousin	Vice Chairman	01296 713548	carolinecousinghpc@gmail.com
Robert Davies		01296 712763 07967 868881	robert7_daviesghpc@yahoo.com
Dave Taylor		07980 546484	daveghpc@btinternet.com
Jackie Goss		01296 713135	jackiegossghpc@gmail.com
Andy Waller		01296 712798	andywallerpc@mail.com
Jonathan Evans		07470 298324	jjevans.ghpc@gmail.com
<u>Clerk to the Council</u>			
Mrs Sue Brazier		01296 714712	clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk
Parish Council Website			www.e-voice.org.uk/ghpc/
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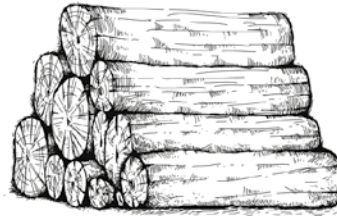
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February 2023

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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

Tuesday 7th February

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.

Westcroft Shopping

Thursday 9th & 23rd February

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

Asda

Asda - Monday 27th February

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.

The Boat Inn at Stoke Bruerne

Thursday 16th February

Situated in the small village of Stoke Bruerne. A lovely village pub, serving homemade English pub favourites. A chance to visit The Canal Museum. Travel £4.00.

Waterperry Gardens

Tuesday 21st February

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Passengers are not to travel on the bus if they or any member of their household are displaying any signs of the COVID-19 virus.

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Please note this service is independent of The Film Place.

To purchase film tickets and find out more about the planned films, check The Film Place website: <http://www.thefilmplace.org.uk/>

Don't forget to register so that you can receive their monthly newsletter.

February Films

Friday 3rd February - Boiling Point (2021)

Saturday 4th February - Ticket to Paradise

Friday 10th February - The Quiet Girl

Friday 17th February - The Banshees of Inisherin

Friday 24th February - Living

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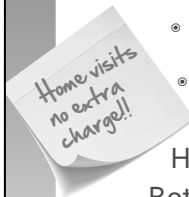
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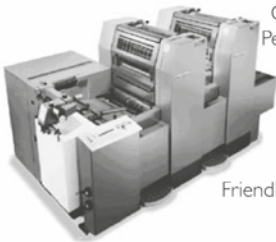




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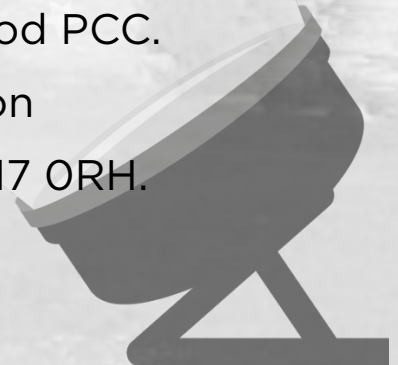
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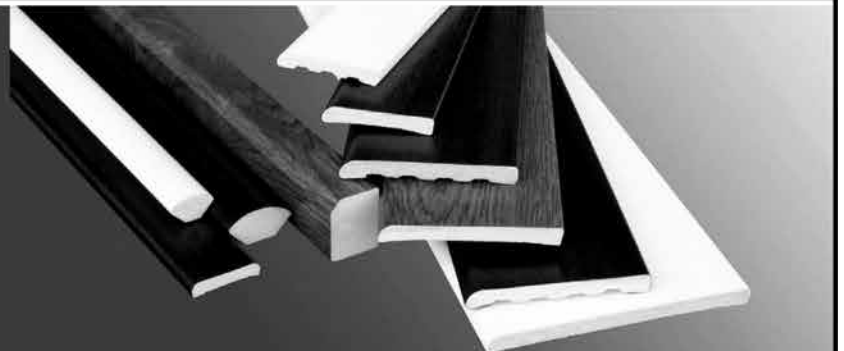
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Great Horwood's

MAD MARCH HARE

FAMILY 5km ROAD RUN / JOG / WALK

SUNDAY 26TH MARCH 2023 AT 12.00 noon

**An undulating road course closed to traffic for the duration of the event
 MEDAL TO ALL FINISHERS**

Prizes

1st Male & Female
 1st age 16 and under M&F
 1st age 12 and under M&F
 1st age 9 and under M&F
 Fastest Villager!!!!

Venue

Registration at Great Horwood
 School from 10.45am

Numbers

Issued on the day



HOT & COLD FOOD AND DRINKS AVAILABLE ON THE DAY

Entry Fees (before 21 March)

£7.00 Adults 17 and over
 £3.50 Age 4-16

Entry on the day

£8.50 Adults 17 and over
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Under 4's free

Surname		First name	
Address		Postcode	
Telephone		Email	
Male	Female	Age on day of race:	Entrant's signature

By signing above I declare that I enter this event entirely at my own risk. The organisers shall not be held responsible for any injury, loss or damage as a consequence of my participation. I understand that my entry is subject to the organiser's discretion and that after acceptance and in the event of cancellation, the entry fee is not refundable.

Return with fee to: Fun Run, Great Horwood Church of England Combined School, School End, Great Horwood, Bucks, MK17 0RG.

Cheques payable to: Great Horwood School PTA