

MARCH
2025



GREAT HORWOOD MAD MARCH RUN

SUNDAY 23rd MARCH

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Registration on the day from 9.45am @The Swan Inn, Great Horwood. Limited spaces available. Pre-register to guarantee your place. Please allow time to collect your running number before the run starts.

2k Dash for kids – 10.30am

- **Ages 4-14 only:** £4 in advance, £5 on the day.

5k Fun Run for All – 11.00am

- **Adults 15+:** £8 in advance, £10 on the day.
- **Ages 4-14:** £4 in advance, £5 on the day.



Facebook: Mad March Hare Run
Email: GH5kfunrun@Outlook.com

In aid of
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Church Times

All services at 11.15 unless stated otherwise.

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

Church Wardens:
 Ian Lamberton 715968
 Carolyn Bayliss 715814

ALL SERVICES WILL COMMENCE AT 11.15 until further notice

March

- 2nd **Holy Communion** - Sunday before Lent - a traditional communion service with hymns (1 hour)
 5th **Ash Wednesday at 14.30** - solemn said communion service with the imposition of ashes
 9th **Come and Praise** - 1st Sunday in Lent - a more informal service with live instrumental music (45mins)
 16th **Creative Communion** - 2nd Sunday in Lent - an informal communion service (1 hour)
 23rd **Holy Communion** - 3rd Sunday in Lent - as above
 30th **Holy Communion** - 4th Sunday in Lent - as above

CHURCH KEY: David Moore - Tel: 01296 713281



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

**PARISH OF ST JAMES,
GREAT HORWOOD & SINGLEBOROUGH**

PREPARATION OF NEW ELECTORAL ROLL

Notice is hereby given under the Church Representation Rules 2022, that a new Church Electoral Roll is being prepared. All persons who wish to have their names entered on the new Roll, whether their names are entered on the present Roll or not, are requested to apply for enrolment not later than:

Sunday the 13th day of April, 2025

The new Roll will come into operation on:

Sunday the 27th day of April, 2025

The new Roll shall be published for not less than 14 days. Under the Church Representation Rules any lay persons are entitled to have their names entered on the roll if they:

- (i) are baptised and aged 16 or over;
- (ii) have signed a form of application for enrolment; and either
- (iii) are members of the Church of England or of any Church in communion with the Church of England being resident in the parish or (not being resident in the parish) having habitually attended public worship in the parish during the six months prior to the application for enrolment or:
- (iv) are members in good standing of a Church (not in communion with the Church of England) which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity declaring themselves also to be members of the Church of England and having habitually attended public worship in the parish during the period of six months prior to enrolment.

Forms of application for enrolment can be obtained from the undersigned. In order to be entitled to attend the annual parochial church meeting and to take part in its proceedings, forms of application for enrolment must be returned by Sunday 13th April 2025. Any error discovered in the roll when published should at once be reported to the undersigned. Dated this day: Friday the 7th day of February, 2025

Signed:

Mrs C. Finnemore (Church Electoral Roll Officer).

GREAT HORWOOD SILVER BAND

On behalf of the Great Horwood Silver Band, I would like to say a big thank you to the residents of Great Horwood for your generous donations on Christmas Eve. The money collected came to just under £700, a fantastic amount and with playing for the village on Christmas Day rounded off a very busy Christmas period for the Band. We would also like to say thank you to our collectors that came with us on Christmas Eve, without them we would not get around the village so efficiently and to The Swan for providing a warm welcome at the end of our playing.

After a well-earned rest, the band have resumed rehearsals ready for our Annual concert that is being held on Saturday 8th March 2025, starting at 7.30pm, in Winslow Public Hall. Tickets are £7 each, available on the door or please contact ghsbsecretary@gmail.com. There will be refreshments available and a raffle. Please come along and support us and have an enjoyable evening of music.

We are still looking to welcome new players to the band of any age or ability. We offer free tuition and can provide instruments for those who need them. If you are interested, please contact us and we look forward to hearing from you.

Contact details:

Email - ghsbsecretary@gmail.com

Website - www.greathorwoodband.com

Or through our Facebook page

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Ages 6 to infinity

THE GREAT HORWOOD MAD MARCH RUN

SUNDAY 23 MARCH 2025. Registration from 9.45am at The Swan pub

Spring is in the air and the date for this major fundraising event for the school PTFA is fast approaching, so if you've not got round to entering yet, look no further than the back of this edition of Focus. There are significant savings on the cost of family entries if you do so in advance online. Entry numbers are limited, so this is the best way of ensuring your place on the start line.

If you can't run, we are always on the look-out for volunteers to help out. Just make contact with us using the details below.

It's the same family-friendly, non-elite local fun run as in previous years raising much-needed funds for our school and you can join in the fun in whatever way you choose - run, jog, walk, volunteer or stand cheering on your friends and family from the sidelines. It's an earlier start this year and we have a new 2k dash for kids before the main 5k event. Parents/carers are welcome to accompany their children on the 2k dash for free if they wish.

Hot and cold refreshments will be on hand at The Swan for participants and spectators alike.

The course, as in previous years, is along Pilch Lane, but with a new start/finish line at the start of the lane itself, by the grass triangle at the bottom of the road from Singleborough. As usual it is traffic-free and open to people of all ages and the odd pushchair for the duration of the event, though four-legged friends, bikes or scooters are discouraged for safety reasons. We would encourage you to bring your own water in a suitable container whilst out on the course.

Some may have noticed the Mad March Hare turning up on Pilch Lane for a training jog. He's a beginner just like you and there to help you get going for the big day. Meet him and his hare-y helpers at the pub around 5.30pm every Thursday.

You can always contact us with any queries via our Facebook page (search Great Horwood Mad March Hare Run), or email gh5kfunrun@outlook.com.

Hope to see you there!



Communi-tea Friends in Winslow

Join us for a cuppa, chat and a chance to connect with others in your local community

Our coffee mornings are entirely free and open to all to attend on an ad hoc or regular basis. There will be coffee, tea and biscuits as well as being simply a place to meet new people.

 We will meet every Tuesday 10:30-12pm at The Royal British Legion, Elmfields Gate, Winslow, MK18 3JG

For more details, please contact heritage.winslow@cpjfield.co.uk

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Winslow Community Bus

March 2025



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 4th March

Tuesday 1st April

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

Thursday 13th & 27th March

Thursday 10th & 24th April

Asda - 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 24th March

Monday 28th April

The Greyhound Inn, Aldbury on Tuesday 29th April, Travel £9 - Our annual Bluebell run and lunch at The Greyhound Inn in the picturesque village in Aldbury. Afterwards a stop at Tring Garden Centre.

Please contact the WDCB Coordinator for more details.

Timetables can be found online www.winslowbus.com

On notice boards outside the Town Council offices, Winslow Library or calling the
WDCB Co-Ordinator 07483 336440



Winslow & District Community Bus Needs Volunteer Drivers

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

We are always in need of volunteer drivers, especially at the moment! So, if you have a D1 on your licence, and have some spare time, please consider becoming a driver for your local Community Bus.

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 or call 07483 336440.

PARISH PUMP

PLANNING MATTERS

• The Parish Council have now submitted its objection to the Planning Application for the proposed 70 dwellings on the land north of Little Horwood Road and Cherry Leas - application number 24/03817/AOP.



Great Horwood
Parish Council

Buckinghamshire Councillor John Chilver has submitted his objection to this proposal. A robust objection from the Highways Development Management Officer (Planning Growth & Sustainability) from Buckinghamshire Council has also been submitted under this application.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW - STEERING GROUP

Thank you to those residents that have contacted the Parish Council to volunteer their time to being part of the Steering Group - it is greatly appreciated. The first meeting will be arranged shortly.

The Parish Council has received information from Buckinghamshire Council that the "indicative" figure for additional housing required in the parish is an average of 9 per annum. This has been calculated using the government's guide to councils called the "Housing and economic needs assessment" and includes an upwards adjustment to take account the affordability of housing in Buckinghamshire.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

On 1st May 2025, Parish Council Elections will be taking place. There are 7 Parish Councillor positions to be filled in Great Horwood. The Parish Council oversees many aspects of the running of the Village as diverse as grass cutting, street lamp maintenance and the allotments, as well as managing the budget and setting the Precept. It considers and comments on many planning applications and contributes to the running of Horwode Pece and the Village Hall.

Parish Councillors must have access to the internet in order to study planning applications online, respond to emails and to liaise with external bodies. Parish Council meetings are usually held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on the 2nd Monday of every month except for January and August.

Councillors are expected to attend and contribute to meetings and be prepared to spend some time outside of meetings on Parish Council business.

As long as you are at least 18 years old, and either a British, Commonwealth or EU citizen on the day of nomination, you can apply providing you are on the Electoral Register as a local government elector for Great Horwood and Singleborough.

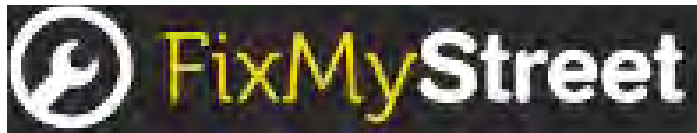
Nominations need to be with Buckinghamshire Council by Wednesday 2nd April 2025 so if you want to help shape your community and get involved, speak to any of the current Councillors, their contact details are in Focus, or contact the Parish Clerk, Sarah Biswell at clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk at the earliest opportunity.

PICNIC BENCHES - LIDEN PARK

The Parish Council has now ordered 2 picnic benches to be placed in the Open Space in Liden Park - suggestions as to whereabouts in the Open Space you would like these to be situated would be appreciated - please email the Clerk on clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk

ALLOTMENTS

There is currently an allotment free at the Church Lane Allotments - if you would be interested in renting this allotment space, please email the clerk at clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk.



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>

PARISH COUNCIL "SURGERY"

The Parish Council Surgery has resumed for 2025 and has the following dates available. Just to remind you, this is on a Wednesday at 10am when the Village Hall is open for the Post Office/coffee morning. If you are unable to get to the monthly meetings but wish to chat to the Parish Council, this is your opportunity.

Dates up to July 2025 are as follows: -

12th and 26th February

12th and 26th March

9th and 23rd April

14th and 28th May

11th and 25th June

9th and 23rd July

DOG WASTE

Can we please remind anyone that takes a dog for a walk in the village to remember to clean up after them. As I am sure you are aware, not only is this unsightly but it presents a health hazard. Thank you.

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 10th March 2025 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/

Cllr. John Gilbey : Chairman of the Council
johnwgilbey@gmail.com

RECTORS VOICE



It never rains but it pours!

Many of you will be aware that part of the churchyard wall collapsed into an adjoining garden last September in the aftermath of very high winds and a month in which north Buckinghamshire received more than three times its average

monthly rainfall within a few short weeks (Met Office, 09/10/24) .

We have been so grateful for the patience, forbearance, and good neighbourliness of the homeowner, who has been so understanding of the situation we face; but that generosity of spirit has not, so far, been shared by our insurers, whose initial response to our claim has been to reject it on the basis that the damage is unlikely to be due to the prevailing weather conditions, but the wall's age.

I am not sure that they thought very hard about the insurance risks they were taking on when agreeing to insure our grade II listed early medieval building and its churchyard, but it seems that nothing is ever as simple as it should be, and we are now involved in more expense and delay to appeal their decision for the £4,000 - £5,000 cost of repairing the wall and removing the offending tree.

It seems that a great many more institutions will do whatever they can to avoid meeting their social, moral, or contractual obligations these days: whether it is call centres that do not answer our calls, delivery companies which fail to deliver the goods we order, or indeed, those leading a church who fail to heed the very expertise they commissioned by failing once again to put safeguarding into the hands of an external, independent body as recommended by Baroness Alexis Jay last year. It is a decision I abhor, but may explain why the Old Testament prophet Jeremiah said 'cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength'. It is an abject lesson that those we look to in a crisis so often let us down, but God knows, and 'blessed are those who trust in the Lord, for they shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream'.... just so long as there aren't any walls about!

Farewell and New Beginnings

After five great and eventful years with the Winslow Benefice, serving in the parishes of Winslow, Great Horwood with Singleborough, and Addington as your associate priest, I have decided it is time to move on. This wasn't a quick or easy decision, but it feels like the right moment to explore new opportunities and to see where God might be calling me next.

I don't have another church role lined up yet, but since my paid work is outside the church, I have the freedom to take my time. I want to keep an open mind

and discover more about what the church is doing in different places. So, over the next few months, I will visit all sorts of churches, meet new people and learn what's happening elsewhere.

I have loved being part of this community, but my whole ministry has been in market towns and nearby villages, and now I feel ready for a change - something different, something that challenges and refreshes the way I serve. I won't be moving far, as I still live and work nearby, but I may start looking at churches in larger towns or cities. I will miss our three parishes a lot, but it's good to see that Steve and the churches in our benefice are planning new ways of engaging with our communities in future, the village library in church being one such example. In the meantime, I'll continue helping local churches in other parts of the diocese, supporting communities that need ministry as vacancies arise.

I hope this short article is not too self-absorbed, but I couldn't leave without saying goodbye and thank you. Thank you for making me feel so welcome; and thank you for sharing in this extraordinary journey of faith. Thank you too, for the wonderful send-off on my last Sunday with you (see below), and who knows, maybe God will cause our paths to cross again sometime soon! *Didier*



GREAT HORWOOD & SINGLEBOROUGH WI

The popularity of cup cakes has not faltered and appeals to most cake lovers, young and old. At our February meeting, members of Great Horwood & Singleborough WI enjoyed a cup cake decoration demonstration and were then invited to create their own designs which they could take home. There was a varied display from hedgehogs to Valentine's hearts and flowers themes.

At the suggestion by someone in our group, members also brought in clothes and toiletries and children's toys, books and games to donate to the Aylesbury

cont page 11



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continued from page 9

Women's Refuge. It is a charity that we will continue to collect for.

Despite the weather our two walking groups (Mondays and Wednesdays) have continued throughout the winter and for the most part have avoided the heavy downpours. Last week the Monday group enjoyed a trip to Stowe to see the magnificent snowdrop displays.

We've got a number of outings ahead as well as some craft days this quarter which we are looking forward to. Our meeting in March will be a talk by Marie Biswell on learning hand talking to communicate and in April we have a presentation on the importance of foot care by a local podiatrist who will be giving lots of hints and tips on looking after feet.

CPR Training

One of the suggested WI resolutions discussed by members at our January meeting, was how training bystanders in CPR and defibrillation can help save lives. Since then we've noticed that there has been a lot of publicity on television about the importance of learning CPR skills. Apparently, there are over 30,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests a year in the UK, and fewer than one in ten people survive. Women have a lower chance of surviving than men. Early CPR and defibrillation can more than double the chances of survival. For anyone interested, you can learn CPR for free online at the British Heart Foundation (BHF) website.

Great Horwood & Singleborough WI meet every second Tuesday each month in the Village Hall, with doors opening at 7.15pm. As well as our monthly meetings with a varied programme of interesting speakers, we organise visits to places of interest and practical craft days. If you'd like to join our friendly group or would like more information, please contact Ann Biggins - annieqqmk@gmail.com / 07961 960802.

GOOD NEWS ONCE AGAIN FROM NOOK PARK

Well, it's been a while since you have heard from us. The reason being, Joe Burns and some of our Residents Association had a meeting in December with quite a positive outcome.

Joe agreed to relay the paths between some of the homes which means that we no longer must walk on the road to get out of the park on foot. This was dangerous as when deliveries arrive, we are not taking our life in our hands.

The new homes one is a show home, and the other was for rental. This has now been rented to a gentleman who moves on 1st March. We look forward to meeting him and hope he will be happy in his new home.

You may remember that we have been waiting for someone to be appointed as the Fit and Proper Person for the site. Bucks Council has now appointed someone for this role. We have been informed that we will meet him soon.

We have also been informed that a new home will be arriving in April. We look forward to that also. It will be interesting to see if it's different to the other one.

Did you know that when a site owner buys a home to put on the site, they would pay for instance say £75K. They then sell it to a buyer when its on site and say they sell it for £150K they make a 100% profit. The buyers live in it for a few years and then decide to sell for about £250K the next owner then must pay 10% of the purchase price to the site owner. So that means the site owner gets £25K for doing absolutely nothing. This is on top of the pitch fees that we all pay every month. Over a few years they have made £100K profit. When you think this is the average price for a park home can you imagine the kind of profit they make on the homes that cost £500K. Yes, you read it right! More about this and other park home facts soon.

Liz Phillips



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.

John Gilbey	Chairman	01296 711915	johnwgilbeypc@gmail.com
Caroline Cousin	Vice Chairman	07903 549339	carolinecousinghpc@gmail.com
Jackie Goss		01296 713135	jackiegossghpc@gmail.com
Jonathan Evans		07470 298324	jjevans.ghpc@gmail.com
Thomas Lee		07901 944996	tlee.ghpc@gmail.com
Zain Daniels		07544 595906	zaindanielsghpc@gmail.com
Clerk to the Council			
Mrs. Sarah Biswell		01296 715803	clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk
Parish Council Website			www.e-voice.org.uk/ghpc/
Great Horwood Village Hall Bookings		01296 715968	
Winslow and District Community Bus		01296 715786	
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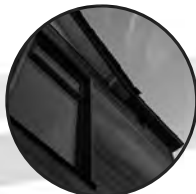
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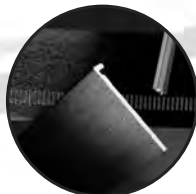
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Community Quiz Night

Fund raising by the Community
for the Community

Saturday 8th March

Arrive 7 for 7.30pm start

Prizes In the Village Hall Prizes

Teams of 4 (max)

Supper included £12.50 pp

CASH only Bar

Book in advance pay on the night

Reserve your table via email:

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Sara Walsh & David Brazier

Contact: 07773 340916



THANK YOU

to everyone who supported the Village Quiz, way back on Saturday 30th November.

A very enjoyable evening of quizzing, food and drink raised £800 for the local community.

We donated £200 to the following organisations; Great Horwood School, St James Church, Great Horwood Brownies & Rainbows and The British Heart Foundation.

Thanks again and please join us on 8th March for the next Quiz- see advert left.

Sara Walsh & David Brazier

Great Horwood Silver Band Annual Concert

Saturday, 8th March

7.30pm

Winslow Public Hall

Admission fee: £7.00

Purchase tickets via:
ghsbsecretary@gmail.com or at the door.

Raffle and refreshments!

We can't wait to welcome you!

In aid of Great Horwood Silver Band
Facebook: @GreatHorwoodSilverBand
Website: greathorwoodband.com

Venue Details: Winslow Public Hall, Winslow, Buckinghamshire, MK18 3DG

Friends of 3W Health

Annual General Meeting

Monday 31 March 2025

Whitchurch Surgery – 6.30 pm

Come along and make suggestions for fundraising

Registered Charity No. 296089