

MARCH  
2024



I am writing this article to you all on Ash Wednesday, the day on which we enter into the penitential season of Lent as we prepare ourselves to remember Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection at Eastertime. It is a season when many Christians give something up as a reminder of the great Lenten fast of yesteryear when Lent was observed not by giving up one small thing, but by a serious and prolonged period of abstinence from everything but the absolute necessities of life as people reflected on the words I will say to many today as I mark them with a sign of the cross of their foreheads: 'Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ'.

Fasting is becoming popular and trendy again these days, as demonstrated by the considerable press attention given to the Prime Minister's much publicised fast from Sunday night to Tuesday morning each week. But the origins of the Lenten fast owe much more to concern for our spiritual than our physical health or waistlines. It is of course, all about stripping back to the basics, but it is also about being stripped back, which is something different when the choice is not our own. When we have to do without something we value, it reminds us by its absence, that everything we have or own, is tenuous, and can be taken away from us at any moment, just as the mains water supply was taken away from those of us living in the Winslow area last weekend!

Most of us have got so used to having everything we want, whenever we want it, that it is sobering to go without sometimes, so that we can focus on what really matters. In church during Lent, the flowers are stripped back and parts of the liturgy we enjoy each Sunday are missing as we trim even our services down to the bare basics in order to remember that the Christian faith has little to do with church buildings and bells, our pipe organs, or the spiritual comfort zone of familiar liturgies, but to a relationship with 'the good shepherd' who lay down his life for his sheep.

It is a reminder that so much of what we obsess about in our daily lives is far less essential to our spiritual or mental health than we might realise, and that our 'communion' is not dependent on our church buildings or the paraphernalia that go along with them, but is about God's people being gathered together into one place where bread will be broken and wine out-poured as a reminder of the events which took place during that first Easter.

In a world in which many are having the necessities of life taken away from them through war, natural disasters, and climate change, it is good perhaps, to be reminded of the tenuousness of our daily lives so that we can better empathise with those who have to do without far more than we could ever choose to give up during Lent, and appreciate all the more, the one who gave up everything for our sake – even his life – so that we might have reason to celebrate his glorious resurrection on Easter morning!

*Rev Stephen O'Connor*



Advertising and copy deadline for next issue : 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024.  
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# Church Times

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

Church Wardens:  
 June Margerrison 714554  
 Carolyn Bayliss 715814

## St James' Services for March

3rd	11.00am	Holy Communion
10th	11.00am	Come and Praise
17th	11.00am	Creative Communion
24th	11.00am	Palm Sunday
27th	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross
28th	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Service
31st	11.00am	Easter Day Communion

## Sidesmen

C Bayliss
P Moyles
I Lamberton
C Bayliss
R Margerrison

## Readers

S Bayliss
Clergy
I Lamberton
S Bayliss
R Margerrison

## Intercessions

Clergy
Clergy
J Brigden
Clergy
J Margerrison

Church Key March: David Moore - 713281

## EASTER CHURCH SERVICES

There will be a procession through the Village on Palm Sunday starting at 10.15am in Willow Road before the Service in St James at 11.00am. On Wednesday the 27th of March there will be a Benefice Stations of the Cross Service and on Maundy Thursday we have a Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar at 7.00pm. On Easter Sunday we will celebrate Holy Communion starting at 11.00am and finish with Easter Eggs. All are welcome to attend any of our services and we look forward to seeing you there if you can make one.

## EASTER LILLIES

As many of you will know, St James' is decorated at Eastertime with lilies which can be purchased in memory of a loved one. The cost this year will be £3 per lily or £7.50 for three lilies. If you would like to purchase the lilies, please complete the memory list at the back of the Church and give any monies to Carolyn Bayliss at Spring Farm, 4 Spring Close by Friday 22nd of March. Thank you.

## VILLAGE HALL

Work continues at a pace with the refurbishment programme.

We now have all the new lights installed which look very smart and they have the benefit of being dimmable so we can cater for different occasions!

The floor finish and colours have been chosen and they will complement the general appearance. The new sanitary ware is in place together with enhanced storage area for chairs.

A new fire door has been fitted together with a new fire alarm system.

We are now planning to reopen at the beginning of April and will be looking for volunteers to help with some redecoration at the time.

Ian Lamberton : Chairman

ianlamberton@aol.com : 07973 225428

## LENT COURSE IN GREAT HORWOOD

A Lent Course will be held on Monday evenings at 7pm on February 19th and 26th, and March 4th, 11th and 18th for all in the benefice who are interested from Winslow, Addington and Great Horwood.

Led by the rector, a relaxed and informal 90 minutes of reflection on what we may want to do for others and ourselves, and how we may be guided in this.

It will be held at Stuart and Carolyn Bayliss' house at Spring Farm, 4 Spring Close, first (immediately!) right off Spring Lane. 01296 715814.

## CHURCH LIGHTS

The tower was lit on Saturday 3rd February in memory of Phil Kilkenny on what would have been his 55th Birthday.

## THE MAD MARCH RUN IS BACK! SUNDAY 24 MARCH 2024, 12 NOON

Spring is in the air and the date for this major fundraising event for the school PTA is fast approaching, so if you've not got round to entering yet, look no further than the back of this edition of Focus. Please follow the instructions on the entry form carefully so we connect your entry with your payment!

It's the same family-friendly, non-elite local event 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 or stand cheering on your friends and family from the sidelines. Hot and cold refreshments will be on hand at the school for participants and spectators alike.

The course, as in previous years, is 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, 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.

Apart from the form on the back page, you can also enter or contact us with any queries via our Facebook page, or email gh5kfunrun@outlook.com.

Hope to see you there!

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## GREAT HORWOOD & SINGLEBOROUGH WI

Once again Great Horwood & Singleborough WI enjoyed a sociable evening at the Cricket Club while the Village Hall continues to be refurbished. Our guest speaker this month was Dorothy Howlett, an ambassador for Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity in Aylesbury which offers respite and palliative care for Bucks residents. Dorothy, a former palliative nurse, spoke about the care and support the charity offers to patients and their families at the hospice in Stoke Mandeville, including day care and bereavement counselling, and emphasised that while they are given a grant by the Government, they are reliant on fund-raising. They have 13 retail charity shops, rely on many company sponsorships and donations and organise a number of fund-raising events throughout the year to help their vital work continue. They need to raise around £1.5m each year to continue to run the hospice, so every contribution is vital towards reaching this target. We at the WI were very impressed by the work the charity does and will be backing this important and worthy cause. A midnight walk has been organised by the charity in June.

During tea and coffee, we had a fun competition - making flowers using pipe cleaners - which Dorothy kindly stayed on to judge. Sorry, there are no photos but there were some very creative entries. Well done everyone.

Walks continue on a Monday and Wednesday, and our walk-through Stowe to see the snowdrops and bird sculptures on what was an unusually sunny, rain free day. (See picture page 9). We have a trip planned to the recycling centre at Greatmoor in March and are looking forward to visiting Wrest Park in April. It feels like Winter is coming to an end.

Thank you to Darren for opening up the cricket club for our members, we really do appreciate it. Our meetings, held every second Tuesday each month, are currently held at the cricket club while the village hall is being refurbished. We have a varied selection of speakers booked this year including an evening of magic and mentalism. If you'd like to join our friendly group or would like more information, please contact

*Ann Biggins*

**annieqqmk@gmail.com : 07961 960802**

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## GREAT HORWOOD SILVER BAND

We are rehearsing hard for our annual Spring concert which is being held on Saturday 16th March at Furze Down School, Winslow. Tickets for the evening are £7 and are available by contacting [ghsbsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:ghsbsecretary@gmail.com) or will be available on the evening. The proceeds from the concert will be split between the Band and Furze Down School. We look forward to seeing you, for a fun evening of entertainment and music.

We then have our AGM on the 20th March before we look forward to another year of entertaining people. A list of confirmed events is below with our Concerts on the Green reappearing in May, June, July and September. Please come along and support us whenever you can.

Now for our usual appeal. If you or anyone you know are interested in becoming a member of the Band, we would love you to come along and meet us. We offer free tuition and can provide instruments if needed. We are open to welcome players of any age or ability, so please contact the Band or come along on a Wednesday evening. We are still rehearsing in Great Horwood School hall with our training band rehearsing from 6.30pm to 7.00pm and then the main Band rehearsing from

7.15pm to 9.15pm.

Contact details:

*Email: [ghsbsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:ghsbsecretary@gmail.com)*

*Website: [greathorwoodband.com](http://greathorwoodband.com)*

*Facebook: [@GreatHorwoodSilverBand](https://www.facebook.com/GreatHorwoodSilverBand)*

Upcoming engagements:

**Saturday 16th May** - Spring Concert - Furze Down School, Winslow - 7.30pm start.

**Wednesday 15th May** - Concert on the Green - Great Horwood Village Green

**Saturday 1st June** - North Bucks Country Show - Pilch Lane, Great Horwood

**Thursday 6th June** - 80th Anniversary of D-Day - Slapton

**Saturday 8th June** - Courteenhall Fete - Courteenhall

**Wednesday 19th June** - Concert on the Green - Great Horwood Village Green

**Saturday 22nd June** - Tingewick Village Fete - Tingewick

**Wednesday 10th July** - Concert on the Green - Great Horwood Village Green

**Wednesday 11th September** - Concert on the Green - Great Horwood Village Green

**Are you in a club or society in**

**Great Horwood and Singleborough?**

**Share your new with the whole village,  
 it may even help attract new members!**

**[editor@ghfocus.com](mailto:editor@ghfocus.com)**

## LIGHT UP THE TOWER OF ST JAMES

If you wish to sponsor the tower lights for that special occasion, please help us by using this form for your request.

I would like to sponsor the lights on the following date (s):

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3 The Green,

Great Horwood

MK17 ORH.

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## Winslow Community Bus



### March and April 2024

#### 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

Tuesday 5 March and Tuesday 2 April

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 14 and 28 March, Thursday 11 and 25 of April

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

#### Asda

Monday 26 March and Monday 22 April

Bus passes are not accepted on this trip which 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..

#### The Grove Lock, Leighton Buzzard,

Monday 11 March, £6 travel

Enjoy lunch and an afternoon with friends.

#### The Greyhound Inn, Aldbury

Tuesday 23 April, £8 travel

Our annual Bluebell run and lunch at The Greyhound Inn in the picturesque village in Aldbury. Afterwards a stop at Tring Garden Centre.

Future Dates for your Diary:

Bicester Avenue Shopping. Thursday 2nd May Shops at Bicester Avenue include, Blue Diamond Garden Centre, Lakeland, Pavers, Pets Corner, Cotton Traders and more...

Seaside Trips Weston Super Mare on Thursday 16th May Eastbourne on Sunday 30th June

**Please contact the WDCB Coordinator for more details of any trips.**

Timetables can be found online [www.winslowbus.com](http://www.winslowbus.com)  
On notice boards outside the Town Council offices, Winslow Library or calling the WDCB coordinator.

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## MEN IN SHEDS



Shed time is always a mixture of chat, refreshment and chipping away at a project and all three are important - but maybe people get the wrong idea sometimes? When we were asked, recently, if we could make a new garden gate, our potential customer admitted to being hesitant to ask us for fear of interrupting our tea breaks. We grinned and thought 'Bloomin' cheek!' but, of course, the remark was kindly-meant so we started measuring-up and resolved to make this month's Shed News a bit more about our making and mending work!



These pictures were all taken on the same chilly February morning and show just a small selection of the work underway that day. David is starting refurbishment work on another sailing dingy for MK Sailability while Ray is cutting timber to reinforce and further weatherproof the Book Swap cabinet, he built for Padbury Village Hall a couple of years ago. Steve is one of our newer members and is inspiring everyone with his considerable woodcarving skills. Woodturning is similarly engaging and the latest Shedder to get hooked (obsessed?) is Andrew. From a standing start Andrew is now coming in with requests and orders for his work! We seldom have lessons or classes at the Shed - as such - but all our members are keen to share what they know and love about their craft.



We do, however, need to be a bit more formal with training for our larger machines so we are starting a series of sessions later this month. Members will be getting details via email or WhatsApp.



Another formal event is our AGM which will be on Thursday 11th April starting at 11:00 - all welcome!

The Shed is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 - 4:00 at

Unit 4, Station Road Ind. Estate.  
[www.MenInShedsWinslow.org.uk](http://www.MenInShedsWinslow.org.uk)

Or for more info call Dave Saunders; 01296 714164

## PARISH PUMP



### LITTER PICK

Great Horwood Parish Council

A date for your diary - Sunday 17th March 2024, starting at 10am on The Green.

Please come along to help tidy the village. Litter pickers and rubbish sacks will be provided. We will also be providing hi viz jackets but if you have your own, that would be even better. Please could you bring your own gloves; gardening gloves would be good as thorns and sharp objects tend to tear plastic gloves.

### PARISH COUNCILLORS

We still have two vacancies on the Council. If you think you might be interested in volunteering to serve your local community in this way, please email and we can arrange to have a chat about the role and see if it is suited to you. [johnwgilbeypc@gmail.com](mailto:johnwgilbeypc@gmail.com)

### DOG WASTE

I am sure that you will have seen the various posts on the Great Horwood Facebook page concerning the amount of dog litter around in the village that is being left and not picked up. As I am sure you are aware, not only is this unsightly but it presents a health hazard. Please remember if you are taking your dog for a walk, please pick up after them - thank you.

### SPEEDWATCH

We are pleased to announce that we now have a team of 6 members of the public for the Speedwatch team and will plan to start recording speeds within the next few weeks (once everybody has been trained in the use of the equipment).

## THE CROWN

The Parish Clerk has contacted Buckinghamshire Council (the Heritage function within the Planning, Growth & Sustainability department) a number of times over the last month to try to ensure that the current owner is not allowing The Crown (a listed building) to fall into a state of major disrepair. This is an ongoing discussion between the Parish Council and Buckinghamshire Council and further updates will be given when they become available.

## FLOWER PLANTERS

If you would like to volunteer to be part of the "Planter Team" which helps with planting out and maintaining the 5 Planters around the village please get in touch - all help is gratefully appreciated.

## ALLOTMENTS

There is one plot available on the allotments in Church lane. Please contact Sarah Biswell on [clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk) if you are interested.

## INFORMATION SHARING GROUP

This is a good way of communicating useful information to villagers. If you would like to receive information first hand, such as Thames Valley Police info, roadworks updates and other ad hoc information, please contact Sarah Biswell on [clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk) if you are interested and you can be added to the email group.

## FUND FOR LOCAL CAUSES

At the Parish Council meeting held on 13th February 2024 the remaining awards to the Great Horwood Scouts and the Great Horwood Football Club were given and certificates provided. Pictures below.



## WELCOME PACK

If you are new to the village and have not yet received a Welcome Pack please email as shown below with your address and I will drop one off to you.

## PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

With Spring not far round the corner, it seems the right time to spring clean and update the Parish Council website with new photographs that have been taken around the village - if you have any local photographs that you would not mind being published on our website that depict the village life please forward these to the Clerk by email: [clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk)

## 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 Tuesday 12th March at 7.30pm in the Scout Hut (this will be our normal venue whilst the Village Hall is being refurbished.)

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

*Cllr. John Gilbey* : Chairman of the Council

[johnwgilbey@gmail.com](mailto:johnwgilbey@gmail.com)





## MORE BLACK POPLARS FOR GREAT HORWOOD

In February last year I reported that Roger Jefcoate had planted a second black poplar at Horwode Pece as part of the Queens Green Canopy initiative. In January Roger kindly planted another two in Shorts Field. (Shorts Field is the amenity land north of the new development in Nash Road.) He told me that the two cuttings had come from a tree on the Sandringham estate!

Roger was assisted by me, Paul Robertson and Katy Slade. He then went on to plant another sapling in Katy's field and one more at Paul's.

According to the Forestry Commission, black poplar is the most endangered native timber tree in Britain. Only around 7,000 wild black poplars now grow in Britain.

These new plantings in Great Horwood, together with several mature trees we have already, will hopefully help with their recovery.

Roger is more than happy to provide and plant black poplars for anybody who would like one - and has the space. Mature trees can grow to 30m!

*Caroline Cousin*



### GREAT HORWOOD & SINGLEBOROUGH WI



### Sending photos to Focus?

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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.

<b>John Gilbey</b> Chairman	01296 711915
johnwgilbeypc@gmail.com	
<b>Caroline Cousin</b> Vice Chairman	01296 713548
carolinecousinghpc@gmail.com	
<b>Jackie Goss</b>	01296 713135
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tle.ghpc@gmail.com	

**Clerk to the Council**  
 Mrs. Sarah Biswell 01296 715803  
 clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk

**Parish Council Website** [www.e-voice.org.uk/ghpc/](http://www.e-voice.org.uk/ghpc/)

**Great Horwood Village Hall Bookings** 01296 715968

**Winslow and District Community Bus** 07483 336440

**Community Police Officers**

PCSO Andy Piotrowski Tel: 101  
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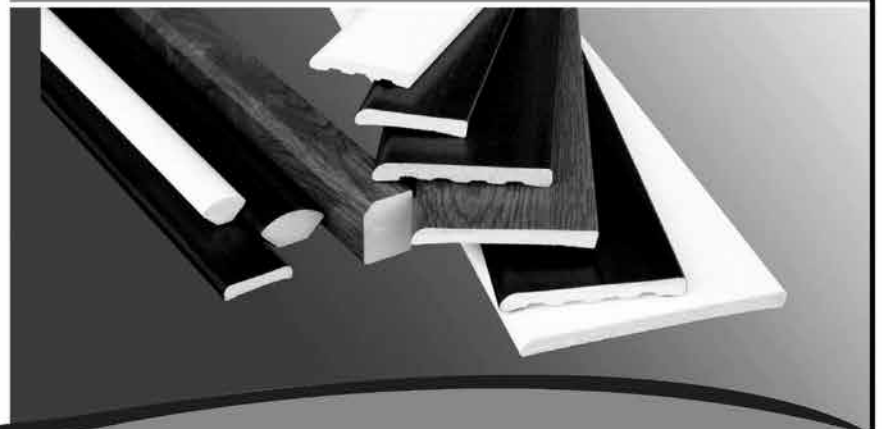
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MK ONE Business Centre, Unit B, 12a Romar Court, Bletchley, MILTON KEYNES, Buckinghamshire, MK1 1RH

<b>Editor:</b> Russell Margerrison	editor@ghfocus.com	<b>Distribution:</b> June Margerrison, Ann Biggins, Edwina Daymond, Louise Edwards, John Gilbey, Valerie Hancock, Duncan Hogston, Cathy Holland, Helen Jackman, Ian Lamberton, Gary Lee, Kathy Thompson, Sylvia Whitehall, Gill Wood.
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# MAD MARCH RUN

FUN FOR THE FAMILY

SUNDAY 24TH MARCH 2024



Starts 12 noon from Great Horwood Church of England Combined School.  
Out-and-back, undulating, traffic-free road course of 5km.

Numbers issued on the day. Medal to all finishers. Special prizes for winners of age and village categories

- Advance Entry Fees (not available after 17 March)
- £7.50 Adults 17 +
  - £3.50 Age 4-16
  - Under 4's free
- Entry on the day from 10.45am (CASH or CARD)
- £9.00 Adults 17 +
  - £4.00 Age 4-16
  - Under 4's free

<b>First name</b>		<b>Surname</b>	
<b>Address/postcode</b>			
<b>Email address</b>			
<b>Phone number</b>			<b>Age (on day of race)</b>
<b>Gender</b>	<b>M/F (please select)</b>	<b>Entrance or responsible adults signature</b>	
<small>*If entrant aged 16 or under, a responsible adult must sign and state their relationship to the entrant</small>		<b>Relationship (if applicable)</b>	.

This event is entered entirely at the entrants own risk. By signing above, you as entrant, or their responsible adult if 16 or under, declare this unreservedly. The organisers shall not be held responsible for any injury, loss or damage as a consequence of the entrants participation. It is understood that this application is subject to the organiser's discretion and that after acceptance and in the event of cancellation, the entry fee is not refundable.

**ENTRY OPTION 1:** Post your signed completed form to: Fun Run, Great Horwood Church of England School, School End, Great Horwood, Bucks, MK17 0RG and enclose a cheque payable to: "Great Horwood School PTA".

**ENTRY OPTION 2:** Email your signed & scanned (or photographed) form to: gh5kfunrun@outlook.com and make your online payment to GHS PTA: 30-99-74 00625224, quoting reference: "MMR24", followed by your surname and initial.