

October
2025



Great Horwood
Parish Council



YOUR VILLAGE YOUR VOICE

REMEMBER...IT'S TIME TO COMPLETE

Your Village Consultation

On PAPER or ONLINE

The information gathered will be used to develop the neighbourhood plan for the village and its surroundings; allowing the village to develop, but still be where you want to live.

Our neighbourhood plan will set the scene for the development of the village over the next eight years we need your views to enable us to respond representatively to the proposals for development that we have received.

We know it looks arduous, but once started, many of the answers flow.

This is a once in a decade opportunity to complete the village consultation.
So let's all take this opportunity to make your views known.

Thank you.



If you have any questions, please email
greathorwoodnp@gmail.com



**Drop off or post completed
consultation forms to:**

18 The Close, MK17 0QG
23 Nash Road, MK17 0RA
8 High Street, MK17 0QL
22 Greenway, MK17 0QR
14 Little Horwood Road, MK17 0QE



To complete online, scan this QR code



Your unique reference number required is in the
top Right Hand Corner of your paper copy.



Great Horwood Parish Council



www.e-voice.org.uk/ghpc

DEADLINE for RETURNS - 13th October 2025

Advertising and copy deadline for next issue : 15 October 2025.
To advertise or submit articles email: editor@ghfocus.com



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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

PLEASE NOTE ALL SERVICES WILL COMMENCE AT 11.15

OCTOBER

- 5th** - Holy Communion 'Generosity Week' - Traditional service with hymns lasting 1 hour
12th - All Age Communion - a more informal communion service lasting 1 hour
19th - Come & Praise plus Baptism - more informal worship with live instrumental music
26th - Holy Communion - Traditional service with hymns lasting 1 hour

CHURCH KEY HOLDER: Tracy and Neil Taylor. 712231

'A Day to Share'. Saturday October 4th

You are invited to join us in the Village Hall on Saturday 4th....for AFTERNOON TEA 2 - 4 PM
or for a KIDS MOVIE NIGHT 4.30 - 6.30 PM

Please book your places as numbers are limited and the list is filling up! Details on the poster in this issue.

GIFT ENVELOPES that are included in this issue are a request for financial support to help us maintain our Historic Church and Churchyard at the centre of our village. In the past your generosity has been extremely valuable.

If you are able to contribute please leave your envelope either in Church or drop off at 8 High Street opposite Church. Alternatively pop in to the village hall on Saturday 4th afternoon whether you are participating in the tea/movie night or not.

FLAGPOLE we apologise that the Church's flagpole remains out of action.

Unfortunately a church neighbour who is suitably qualified for the task to repair it, and had offered his expertise, had an extreme and unexpected health issue that has postponed this. We wish him a speedy recovery.

If anyone has a recommendation or indeed the relevant experience (training plus health & safety knowledge) to replace the lanyard and attachment please let us know!

CRAFT GROUP COFFEE MORNING 15TH NOVEMBER

We hope you will come and join us at our first coffee morning on Saturday 15th November at 10.30-12.30 in the Village Hall.

Your Christmas gifts sorted and you get to eat cake too !

We will be selling handmade gifts ranging from beautiful bespoke boxes , laundry bags, hand knitted hot water bottle covers, lavender bags, crocheted items ,cards and anything else we can finish in time !

This is a CASH only event .

- o Free entry.
- o Marvellous raffle prizes including a luxury Christmas hamper, Champagne and more
- o Children's craft corner
- o Crafting DIY table selling crafting bits and pieces.

Our first group project was an embroidered quilt .

This will be on display, it took a while to complete and hopefully it will find a good home by the end of the coffee morning.

The Craft group is a small group with a mix of abilities.

If you were to walk past the village hall on a Friday morning between 10.00 and 12.30 you most likely will hear chatter and knitting needles clacking away producing our next community project , do pop in and meet us.

Some of us are very new to craft so you don't need to worry about not being an expert !

Katerina Owen

THANK YOU - SINGLEBOROUGH

16th September 2025

Dear Human Kind,

Whoever you are and wherever you are I hope you read this. It is the most heartfelt thanks to the gang who rallied around and cared for me with warmth, humour, support (literally), and practical help when I was knocked over by three excited dogs in the field off Pilch Lane. A complete accident and a chance in a million. You were all wonderful from start to finish: Thank You.

It's been a bit of a saga but I am now screwed back together, out of hospital and home recuperating. It will be a while before I am back walking our dogs again but when I do, I will hopefully bump into you (not literally) and share our memories of an unfortunate accident which brought the best out of a group of people who, contrary to all the turmoil in the world at present, showed the human kindness is alive and well in our community.

Warmest wishes,
Sheena

A REFLECTION FOR AUTUMN

As the air turns colder after the record-breaking warmth of summer and the days start to shorten, we may find ourselves reaching into wardrobes for warmer coats, scarves, and gloves before venturing outside. The arrival of autumn reminds us that the seasons are shifting, and with that, our clothing must change and adapt to meet the new conditions we are likely to face.

Wrapping up warm is a simple, familiar act which is as seasonal to many of us as our first warm bowl of porridge in the morning. We do it automatically as the winter approaches, but it also represents a profound spiritual metaphor; for just as we must prepare ourselves outwardly for the winter weather, we are also called to prepare ourselves spiritually for the coming of Advent and Christmas which, believe it or not, we are already preparing for in church, by being "clothed with Christ."

In St Paul's letter to the Romans, he urges his listeners, and us as well to, "Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh." Similarly, in Galatians 3:27, he says, "For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."

These passages speak to more than just a change in our winter wardrobe. They invite us to allow the transformation of our whole selves by becoming more like Jesus, so that as we begin to draw inward, seeking warmth and comfort as winter approaches by donning extra warm layers to protect ourselves from the elements, we also "layer up" spiritually by putting on the fruits of the Spirit: love, kindness, compassion, humility, and patience (Colossians 3:12-14).

These are Christ's garments which protect our hearts, our minds, and our spirits, so that if we cover ourselves in them abundantly, they warm both ourselves and the other people we come into contact with; and it strikes me that we need that warmth more and more as time goes by.

As I watch the news and see how fractured and divided our nation and our world is becoming, I realise ever more acutely my own need for the full covering of Christ — his grace, his truth, his righteousness and his compassion which like body armour, protects me from the many assaults - both real and metaphysical I face each day in the modern world, and all of us face together.

But being 'clothed with Christ' means more than just looking like a Christian or going to Church on a Sunday. It means more even than wearing a dog collar (the ecclesial kind of course!) It means allowing God's life and grace to shape and warm our lives from the inside out - just as a certain winter breakfast cereal is reputed to do.

When we get dressed on a winter's morning we ask ourselves, 'what should I put on today? A coat for warmth, or a hat for my head, or boots to stop me slipping on the path perhaps?' But we should also ask ourselves, 'what spiritual clothing do I need today?' It might be patience for a difficult conversation, or peace in a moment of anxiety, courage to do what is right in the face of opposition, or compassion to help a stranger in need.

That doesn't mean we are invincible by any means. Our lips may still chap, our boots may leak, and we may fumble to open our umbrellas with mittened hands. But we will at least, be as spiritually prepared as possible, no matter what treacherous paths or icy roads lie ahead. And there are bound to be some, because we cannot insulate ourselves entirely from the world and its affairs no matter how tightly we draw our curtains. It is always better though, to be buttoned up with Jesus at our side, so that his warming presence can light the way through the worst of the winter's darkness.

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★★★★★

September?

It must be time to go back to school.



As we say goodbye to summer sun and hello to autumn leaves, we are delighted to welcome our wonderful children back to Great Horwood C of E School.

As we always do at this time of year, we are thinking fondly of the pupils who have left since the end of the summer term, most of them onto the new adventure of secondary school in Winslow, Buckingham and further afield. We wish them all the best in their new schools, confident that we have prepared them as best we can for this exciting step during their time in Great Horwood.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to the new members of our school community, with both new staff and new pupils joining us at the beginning of this term. Great Horwood is a special place to go to school, as many of you reading this will know from personal experience, from the tight-knit teaching and support team to the large playing fields, superb woodland area and extensive countryside views. This September is particularly special as it has seen the opening of our new Seedlings Nursery and Pre School, located in the Victorian School building at the front of the school grounds. The Victorian building, built in 1861, has undergone a significant refurbishment this summer, and we are delighted with the results, and even more delighted to see young children once again learning and growing within its walls. It is a privilege to watch our children make their way into the nursery pre-school, knowing that hundreds of other children over the last 150 plus years have gone before them, many with lasting connections to the village. We would like to sincerely thank everyone involved in the renovation work – we are absolutely blown away with the finished results.

Whereas in prior years we welcomed children from three years old during term time only, our Seedlings nursery and Pre School is able to provide for children from the age of two years and is open from 7.30am – 6pm 48 weeks a year (closed one week at Christmas, one week in August and all bank holidays). We accept childcare vouchers, tax free childcare payments, and 15/30 hour government funding. Please do get in touch if you would like to find out more.

Governor vacancies

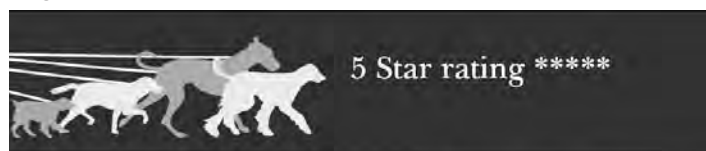
Have you ever thought about becoming a school governor?

We are currently looking for new governors from the local community to join our friendly governing body. Our governors come from a range of different backgrounds, skills and experience but all share a common interest of wanting the best possible education for the children in our school. Governors are essential for the effectiveness and success of the school and it is an extremely rewarding and fulfilling role. They act as a 'critical friend', working voluntarily to strategically oversee the running of the school. What does the role offer?

- A chance to develop your own personal skills
- A sense of achievement in helping make a difference to children reaching their potential
- The support and guidance from fellow governors

In looking to fill these vacancies we are particularly interested in applications from people with a background in education, curriculum or finance, and also people who can occasionally visit the school during the day, although please do not be put off if you do not have these skills. What is more important is enthusiasm, interest and the willingness to learn.

If you'd like to know more about the role please contact Mrs Shaw, the headteacher by emailing office@ghw.odbst.org.



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Winslow & District Community Bus Needs Volunteer Drivers

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 or call 07483 336440

MEN IN SHEDS

As ever, it was great to end Summer with a stand at the Winslow Show and yes, (before anyone notices) - it was coincidence that we found ourselves pitched next to 'Just Biscuits'. Despite temptation, our volunteers managed not to blow the profits and we were able to return a very useful £170 towards meeting our costs for another year. Thanks to all the Sheddors who made goodies to sell and to the good people who visited us and gave us support.

As we look forward to chillier days, we're planning something a little different for the winter months. From time to time we have run training sessions to familiarise members with the machinery we have available. Although intended as an introduction to further training, the half-hour sessions have proved popular in their own right. Many have welcomed them simply as an interesting rallying point to bring members together and as a catalyst for starting conversations. And why not? We've decided to test the water with a series of monthly talks this winter - each talk will last about half-an hour and topics will be wide ranging. We're working on the programme now and hope to publish full details next month.

We were given a 'project' woodturning lathe some years ago but it was in such poor condition that refurbishment seemed unlikely. Two Sheddors, however, knew that under the rust and chipped paint was a 50+ year old Myford - a revered name! Thanks to Tony Watson and Tony Stopp who have beautifully restored and modernised the machine ready for another lifetime of service.

The Shed is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 – 4:00
Unit 4, Station Road Ind. Estate. www.MenInShedsWinslow.org.uk
Or for more info call or message Tim Elderton 07746 194163



GREAT HORWOOD AND SINGLEBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL

We are now welcoming new bookings from September.

The Hall is a valuable Village amenity and as such needs to be used by as many people as possible. As many of you know the Hall has been recently upgraded with the help of the local community and a number of grants and provides a warm and safe environment for a range of functions which have included business presentations, children's parties, Pilates lessons fashion shows, wedding and private celebrations. The hire rates for villagers are very competitive and these can be seen on the website and poster outside the Hall.

For those of you that have yet to see the Hall a reminder that it is open every Wednesday morning from 9.30 to 11.00 for the popular mobile Post Office and refreshments.

Please contact me to discuss any booking enquiries
Ian Lamberton, 07973 225428
ianlamberton@aol.com

GREAT HORWOOD & SINGLEBOROUGH WI

Keeping busy in the WI

Speaker, Andy Harding, returned to Great Horwood & Singleborough WI's September meeting to talk about the Danube Delta. Andy is a guide and has immense knowledge about wildlife and insects, particularly moths. He is also a very accomplished photographer and his talk showing the huge variety of birds in the Danube region near Romania was fascinating.

Andy stayed on to judge our "flower arrangement in a teacup" competition which was won by Sandra Birrell. Lynda Sirett's display took second place and Gill Hammond's arrangement came third. This autumn members are being encouraged to donate any surplus fruit and vegetables to raise money for our friendship fund.

Many of our members took part and scooped several prizes in the Horwood Produce show. Among the prize winners were Kathy Thompson for her cross-stitch picture, Ann Biggins for her hand dyed cushion and marmalade, Margaret Moore for her Victoria sponge, lemon curd and shortbread and Carolyn Bayliss for her lavender scones.

At the end of the month we will be joining the Chase group (which comprises the Wis in Great Horwood, Padbury, Winslow, Stewkley, Thornton and Thornborough) thanks to Padbury WI who are hosting it and have arranged an afternoon of "West End" theatre.

For our October meeting, Violetta Corzo and Sarah Wood will be coming to tell us about their business (you may know their shop and workshop at Mursley farm shop) and to show us how to make a pair of earrings or a pendant.



Recently, WI committee members Debi Gale and Dee Albiston visited the Medical Detection Dogs (MDD) to present a cheque for £225 which was raised at our Fashion Show. Charlotte Richardson Corporate Partnerships Manager for Medical Detection Dogs was very grateful. "Your donation will help us to continue our important and lifesaving work of training Medical Alert Assistance Dogs, who are partnered with people who have a complex and dangerous illness; giving them greater independence, a better quality of life and most importantly, saving their life on a daily basis," said Charlotte. "Your donation will also help us to continue advancing our groundbreaking research into the early detection of diseases such as Prostate cancer and Parkinson's, and infections such as E. coli and Pseudomonas, by our incredible team of Bio Detection dogs."

The MDD are also starting a trial with their Medical Alert UTI Detection Dogs which aims to detect dangerous infections in vulnerable and elderly patients in the community.

Charlotte Richardson (left) from Medical Detection Dogs, was presented with a cheque for £225 from Great Horwood & Singleborough committee members, Debi Gale (centre) and Dee Albiston.

In November we are planning an outing to see the Ashridge illuminations which is described as Hertfordshire's biggest Christmas light trail. This was a very successful outing last year, and with new features added, the magical light show promises to be even more spectacular.

It was interesting to read that William and Kate recently visited the Women's Institute branch close to Windsor Castle, to which Queen Elizabeth II, had a close connection, having been a member for 80 years and serving as president to the Sandringham branch.

As reported in the Daily Mail in their news story covering the event, "the WI is an organisation that creates a safe space for women to build connections, learn new skills and make a positive impact on their local community".

Queen Elizabeth, who died at Balmoral Castle on September 8th 2022, was a member of the WI for 80 years, joining in 1943 and serving as President of the Sandringham branch from 2003 until her death. She often attended a meeting in early January while staying in Norfolk for Christmas.

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	carolinecousinghpc@gmail.com
Thomas Lee	Vice Chairman	07901 994996	tlee.ghpc@gmail.com
Jonathan Evans		07470 298324	jjevans.ghpc@gmail.com
Jackie Goss		01296 713135	jackiegossghpc@gmail.com
Mary Saunders		01296 713610	marysaundersghpc@gmail.com
Clerk to the Council		01296 715803	clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk

Parish Council Website	www.e-voice.org.uk/ghpc/
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Great Horwood Village Hall Booking	01296 715968
Winslow and District Community Bus	01296 715786
3W Health (Winslow Health Centre)	01296 711150

Community Police Officers

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

FUNDS FOR LOCAL CAUSES

As in previous years, Great Horwood Parish Council will once again be donating up to £3,000 to local causes. Forms can be obtained from the Parish Clerk, clerk@greathorwoodpc.org.uk.

Applicants must be from organisations associated with the village. Winning bids will be announced at the December 2025 Parish Council meeting.



Great Horwood
Parish Council

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>

YOUR VILLAGE CONSULTATION

You will have recently received a document called "Your Village Consultation" where you can record your views on what housing growth you want to see in Great Horwood and Singleborough in the coming years. The deadline for this consultation is 13th October 2025.

FOCUS ONLINE

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/>

NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will be held on Monday 13th October 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/

DOG WASTE

There are 8 dog waste bins within the village – please remember if you are taking your dog for a walk, please pick up after them and place the waste in the designated bin
thank you.

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

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We will meet every Tuesday 10:30-12pm at
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Winslow Community Bus

October 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 7th October

Tuesday 4th November

Tuesday 2nd December

Westcroft Shopping –

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

Thursday 9th & 29th October

Thursday 13th & 27th November

Thursday 11th December

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 28th October

Monday 24th November

Monday 22nd December

AGM on Thursday 23rd October

Our annual AGM meeting will be held at the Town council Offices at 6pm

Transport is available on request

Cambridge, Tuesday 28th October Travel £12

Enjoy a day out in the city, start your Christmas shopping, enjoy lunch at one of the many Cafes & restaurants.

Haddenham Garden Centre Tuesday 18th November, Travel £8

The Greyhound in Aldbury, Monday 15th December, Travel £8

Christmas lunch followed by a visit to the nearby Tring Garden Centre for a little last minute Christmas shopping
2 course £27.50, 3 course £31.50. call 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





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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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Date:
Commemorating

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The cost is just £5 per night.
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Vacancy for a Call Handler – Work from Home

The National Careline is a small, not-for-profit business that runs a freephone helpline and a website. It provides an information hub of charities, products and services that support older people or those caring for an older person.

We are looking to recruit a local person who can work from home, to answer calls to the helpline between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday. We will consider a job share arrangement if applicants are interested in working fewer than five days a week.

Experience within the care sector/NHS/Local Authority would be useful but not essential. Our callers are often unsure about sourcing information via the internet and prefer the reassurance of speaking with a person; therefore empathy and patience are needed. Full training will be given on the type of calls we receive and information that we regularly provide.

Most of the information and support we provide can be found on our website – www.thenationalcareline.org

We offer a competitive local salary and a mobile phone will be provided. You will need to provide your own device for access to the internet.

Please send your application to
office@thenationalcareline.org.

We very much look forward to hearing from you!

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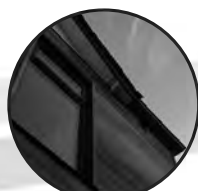
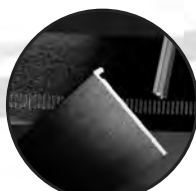
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Available online at: www.e-voice.org.uk/ghpc



Hosted by St James Church
to mark Generosity Week

Afternoon Tea

2 - 4pm

£12 per person

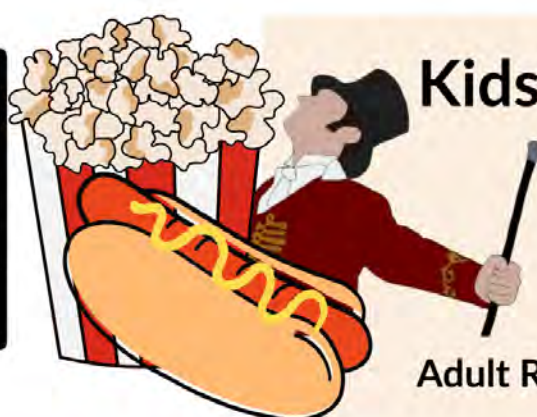
- Savoury Bites
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- A Selection of Beverages



Afternoon Tea - Book Here



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