

Services for October

5th 10.00am Rev Mrs C Shergold

12th 10.00am Rev Mrs R Williams

19th 10.00am Miss Marilyn Dore

*26th 10.00am Rev Mr H Moon
Holy Communion*

Services for November

2nd 11.00am Rev Dr H Ofori-Attah

*9th 10.00am Rev Mr R Atkinson
(Remembrance Sunday)*

16th 10.00am Mr Ken Harris

23rd 10.00am Mr John Shaw

*30th 10.00am Rev Mr H Moon
Holy Communion*

Princes Risborough

Methodist Church

'The Messenger'

Oct / Nov 2025

Autumn



*This magazine comes to you with the
good wishes of the Church*

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Wycombe Road
Princes Risborough
Buckinghamshire**

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**Superintendent Minister: Rev Richard Atkinson
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**Material for the December / January edition Messenger
to the editors, by Sunday 16th November at the latest, please.**

***This Church is proud to be a member of 'Churches Together in
Risborough' associated with The Baptist Church, Elim Church,
St. Dunstan's Church, St. Mary's Church, St John's, Kimble
Free Church and St. Teresa's Roman Catholic Church***

Rotas for November 2025

	Duty Steward	Welcoming Stewards	Bible Readers	Tea/coffee
2 nd	Mrs J Gerrard	Mrs M Stevens & Mrs B Oates	Mrs M Stevens & Mr N Marriner-Kyle	Mrs V Spires
9 th	Miss M Dore	Mrs T Sheppard & Ms V Spires	Mrs T Sheppard & Ms V Spires	Mr B Oates
16 th	Mr N Marriner-Kyle	Mr & Mrs G Hudson	Mr & Mrs G Hudson	Mrs F McMullan
23 rd	Mrs M Stevens Mrs T Sheppard	Mr J Drake & Mrs F McMullan	Mr J Drake & Ms Y Ayoola	Miss P Scott
30 th	Mr J Needham	Mr & Mrs N Trout	Mr & Mrs N Trout	Mrs S Wilson

Weekend	Flowers	Cleaning	Grass Cutting
1/2	Mrs M Judd	Mrs D Pullen	Mr M Pullen
8/9	Tues Fellowship	Mrs M Stevens	Mr D Stevens
15/16 (YDA)	Mrs T Sheppard	Miss P Scott	Mr J Needham
22/23	Mrs M Stevens	Mrs K Trout	Mr N Trout
29/30		Mrs N Baker	Mr K Smith

If unavailable, please arrange an exchange or replacement, notify the steward, and amend the porch and vestry lists. If you would like to be involved as a welcoming steward or Bible reader, or any other rota please speak to Joe Needham (07507 416421) or one of the other Stewards.

Those who kindly provide flowers, please leave the wrappings in the vestry so that the stewards have something to wrap the flowers in when they distribute them after the service.

Rotas for October 2025

	Duty Steward	Welcoming Stewards	Bible Readers	Tea/coffee
5 th	Mr J Needham	Mr & Mrs G Hudson	Mr & Mrs G Hudson	Miss P Scott
12 th	Mrs J Gerrard	Mr J Drake & Mrs F McMullan	Mrs M Judd & Mrs M Cookson	Mrs S Wilson
19 th	Mr M Pullen	Mr & Mrs N Trout	Mr & Mrs N Trout	Mrs M Stevens
26 th	Miss M Dore	Mr & Mrs V Baker	Mr & Mrs V Baker	Ms Y Ayoola

Weekend	Flowers	Cleaning	Grass Cutting
4/5	Ms V Spires	Mrs N Baker	Mr K Smith
11/12	Mrs D Robbins	Miss M Dore	Mr B McCleery
18/19 (YDA)	Mrs D Robbins	Mrs B Hudson	Mr G Hudson
25/26		Mrs F McMullan	Mr C McMullan

Volunteers Wanted

If any of you can help with taking a turn as a Welcoming Steward (being there to greet people as they arrive for church, give out hymn books, etc as required and to take the offertory forward during the service) it would be much appreciated. The more help we have the fewer occasions that each person does it – note that it does require those involved to arrive at church about 30 minutes before the service starts.

Some of us also do the Bible Readings, but there is no obligation to do those as well if you don't want to. If you are able to help, please let me know so that I can include you on the rota in future months.

Joe Needham

Rest Day - Rev. Heegon Moon's 'day off' is Friday; please try to respect this whenever possible.

From the Manse ...



Dear friends, the changes of the autumn Harvest season are with us now. The abundant colours of Autumnal food and nature reflect God's faithfulness in providing our daily bread. Autumn's harvest is the result of months of continual effort: spring sowing, summer growth, and patient caring, and while the fields are gathered during this time, nature can finally slow down and rest. Ecclesiastes says that everything has its time, and Autumn is a reminder to us of this truth: sow when the time comes, work while the sun shines, and rest in the trust that God delivers renewal in His perfect timing.

In an African proverb, it is said that "if you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together." This simple yet profound statement reminds us that when we work alone, we may find ourselves moving quickly; however, there are limits to our capacity. On the other hand, working together slows us down - collaboration requires patience, compromise, and a willingness to listen to different perspectives. It can sometimes feel frustrating to wait for an impossible consensus, or to adjust our own plans for the sake of the group. However, when we walk together, we go on a journey that can go much further than we might alone, resulting in more significant and long-term effects.

In Paul's letter to the Corinthians, where he speaks about the Church as the body of Christ he writes: "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." (1 Corinthians 12 :12), Paul emphasises the body works best when all its members work together in harmony. Just as no single part of the body functions alone, so too can no single person achieve the full potential of God's mission by themselves. Along the way together, discouragement may creep in when our effort can appear fruitless, but as Galatians 6:9 promises, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Like farmers who endure harsh weather conditions, we should also persist in our sharing of faith.

In a world rushing towards mass consumerism, immediacy, and selfish convenience, we should recognise that we need each other more than ever in this autumn harvest. This means that while we work together, we value each other's contributions and are willing to listen, compromise, and wait for consensus. It means sacrificing our own benefit for the sake of a greater and more enduring outcome. Most importantly, it means trusting that God's plan for our lives is not just about us as individuals, but about how we contribute to the mission and the broader ministry of His Kingdom. Amen.

Tuesday Fellowship

Our next meeting is the 21st October at 2pm when our speaker will be Kay Watters, a retired priest who has worked in this country and in Cyprus who will tell us about her life.

At our meeting on the 18th November we will be having someone from The Wycombe Homeless Connection to talk to us.

New members are always welcome to join us.

Pam Scott

SALT Group

The SALT group (Sharing And Learning Together) has now started a study of The Book of Daniel. Our meetings will be on October 2nd and 16th and November 6th and 20th.

In October we will meet at the home of either Fran McMullan or Fay Shephard – please check in the weekly notices, but in November we will probably move to meetings on Zoom (please contact me if you require the logon details). Meetings start at 7.45 with a refreshments & chat, and Bible Study commences around 8pm.

Even if you have not been before, you are welcome to join us (each study session is 'self-contained' so attendance at every meeting is not essential).

Joe Needham

Table Top Games

We meet every **Friday** between 10.00am to around 12.00 noon, to play Scrabble, Upwords, and Rummikub, to name but a few. The attendance fee is £2.00 and refreshments will be served.

Sue Wilson

Church Forum

The next Church Forum will be on Tuesday 21st October at 7.30pm at Church. Agenda and Reports will be circulated prior to the meeting. Please attend if you can.

Pam Scott

Diary Dates for October

2nd	SALT (see notices for venue), 7.30pm
11th	Karibuni Quiz Supper Night, AMC, 7.00pm
11th	Men's Group Breakfast
13th	Bereavement Group, Chapter House St Mary's, 3.00pm
16th	SALT (see notices for venue), 7.30pm
21st	Tuesday Fellowship, Church, 2.00pm
21st	Church Forum, Church, 7.30pm

Diary Dates for November

1st	Ladies' Breakfast, St Mary's Parish hall, 9.00am
1st	Ellesborough Silver Band/ Karibuni, Fairford Leys, 3.00pm
6th	SALT (by Zoom), 7.30pm
10th	Bereavement Group, Chapter House St Mary's, 3.00pm
18th	Tuesday Fellowship, Church, 2.00pm
20th	SALT (by Zoom), 7.30pm
29th	Town Christmas Lights switch on, CTR Carols (TBC)
30th	CTR Advent Service, St Dunstan's (TBC)

Regular events

Fridays	Table top games, Church, 10.00 -12.00
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Bereavement Drop In

This group meets on the second Monday of every month throughout the year offering a warm welcome to anyone struggling with the grief of bereavement. We share together over a cup of tea or coffee, talk about our experiences or just listen. Many find comfort in talking about their loved ones with others who know what they are going through.

We next meet on 13th October and on 10th November in the Chapter House at St. Mary's Church, Princes Risborough, at 3.00pm, and everyone is welcome, of any faith or of no faith at all. Please contact Rose Williams if you need further details.

Revd Rose Williams 01844 274225

Prayer Circle

The Prayer Circle is 'here for you' so if you know of someone who would appreciate our prayers, please contact anyone in the table below.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining the Prayer Circle.

Name	Preferred contact	Email/Mobile
Vicky Spires	Email or text but calls in evening	E: vixspireslane@gmail.com M: 07786901454
Anna Rogers	mobile	E: amrogers@talk21.com M: 07496853701
Chris Palmer	Email	E: christinepalmer100@gmail.com M: 07709556785
Maureen Judd	Email	E: maureenj148@gmail.com
Beverley Hudson	Email	E: beverleyshudson@gmail.com M: 07969366625
Neville Trout	Email	E: Kathryn.trout@tiscali.co.uk
Kathryn Trout	Email	E: kathryn.trout@icloud.com M: 07716904157
David Robbins	Email	E: drobbuk@yahoo.co.uk
Judith Gerrard	Email	E: judithgerrard.ww@btinternet.com

Vicky Spires

Weekly Church Notices

Please contact Mrs Maureen Judd by telephone, 01844 617650, or email: maureenj148@gmail.com by noon on Friday with any information to go into the weekly notices.



On a dry, but quite breezy morning I met Michael Hoey at 08.00hrs on 11th September. We started off by visiting Saunderton and Bledlow churches before heading to Chinnor and beyond. We visited a lovely church set in the grounds of a grand house at Great Hasely, a great place to visit. Then back on the bikes and several churches later we reached Garsington. Their church is fine but the views towards Wittenham Clumps and Oxford were magnificent.

As we had been cycling more than two hours we were in need of refreshment and headed for a pub at Sandford on Thames. The barman confirmed that only coffee was available, with no hot chocolate or cake. He pointed us towards a cafe on a nearby industrial estate which I anticipated might be a little mobile place. After a hunt we found an industrial unit where they were cooking a massive array of cakes and goodies, no advertising. Nevertheless it was crowded and the cakes were mouth watering, so we really enjoyed the stop.

So far, although the skies had been very dark it had not rained, and we continued up the Thames towards Oxford. At the Rood church near Hinksey it started to rain and for 5 minutes it was heavy. Luckily there was cover and we could stand out of the rain but it was soon sunny again and we were able to proceed. Once near the centre there were several occasions where we had to consult the map and one or two churches were not readily recognisable as churches, which did not help.

It did rain very heavily with lots of thunderclaps as we were leaving St Cross church. I was not happy to see so much rain and where we were sheltering a couple of paving slabs were forced up by water emerging from the ground, but luckily it did not last long, and we were soon able to proceed. The Oratory church had the most magnificent interior that we had seen until then. We soon came to St Martyr which was in a poor rundown state.

We decided to catch a train back from Oxford, with another heavy downpour as we were waiting for the 14.19 train. It was too early to go home so we got off at Haddenham to visit the churches there as well as in Thame, Towersey, and Kingsey, before the local ones in Owlswick, Kimble and PR.

We returned after nearly 9 hours cycling. We had aimed at visiting 40 churches but visited 49, and cycled 59 miles. Tired but happy that we had met our targets for the day. A big thank you to all who sponsored my ride.



Men's Group Coffee Morning

Thanks to those who served at, baked for, or attended the Men's coffee morning on 6th September. Some managed to do all three! A total of £76 was raised which will be donated to charity yet to be selected.

Neville Trout

Many thanks to all those members who generously offer their excess produce for sale. Funds go to support charities of the church.

Vicky Spires

Action for Children

Our envelope appeal in July amounted to £175, most of which was gift aided, thanks to all who contributed.

This will help Action for Children to take action so children don't miss out on a safe and happy childhood.



Action for Children have thousands of people working on the ground, giving children and young people the protection and practical help they urgently need as well as campaigning tirelessly for lasting change.

One of their projects is Merryfields in High Wycombe, which is a Children's Home delivering short breaks for children with a learning disability and additional physical, health and/or sensory needs. The service provides a fun and stimulating environment, promoting positive peer relationships and independence skills.

Judith Gerrard

Karibuni Children News

The special events organised for the 30th anniversary celebrations have now taken place and (as far as I know) been very successful in raising the profile of the charity and raising funds for its ongoing work in Kenya. During the rest of this year there are two more fundraising events which have been held annually for a number of years and are always well worth supporting.

Quiz Supper Night on Saturday October 11th at Aylesbury Methodist Church, HP20 2NQ (note the change of venue this year) starting at 7pm. Tickets £15 and include Fish & Chips or Veggie Burger option.

Ellesborough Silver Band Concert on Saturday November 1st at The Church on Fairford Leys, Aylesbury, HP19 7HT from 3pm to 5pm. No ticket required, please make a donation at the door (proceeds shared between Karibuni and the band); Karibuni merchandise and refreshments will be available during the interval.

Further information and tickets (where required) can be found on the website www.karibuni.org.uk/shop or by email office@karibuni.org.uk or telephone 01296 614887.

Joe Needham

A reflection

Last Saturday I went to the 'Flying Proms'. It's like the 'Last night of the Proms' concert, but outside...and with planes! Included was a flying display overhead from a Lancaster bomber and a Spitfire. The sound of their engines roared above a symphony orchestra in full flow. Stirring stuff !

It got me thinking...sometimes it can be good to reflect on the past. To be stirred once again by memories and sounds, even though they may be connected with very challenging times. To reflect once again on how faithful God was in bringing us through those difficult days, when we chose to trust Him despite it all.

As we reflect on God's faithfulness in the past, our confidence and trust grows. God is the same yesterday, today and forever. He will continue to be faithful in the challenges we may be facing now ...as we choose once again to trust Him as best we can.

All I need your hand provides...Great is your faithfulness Lord unto me.

Alison Bryan (Contributed by Vic Baker)

Fellowship Tea

August 19th saw the annual Tuesday Fellowship tea kindly hosted again by the Bakers in their lovely garden. It was also good to see their daughter, Helen again who was helping with the super spread of tea and cakes.

It would have been unfortunate, if not ironic, in the hot and dry summer that we had if the event had to be cancelled due to rain. After a gloomy start, thankfully the sun came out at 2pm, just in time for everyone to enjoy Vic and Noreen's hospitality and refreshments whilst chatting in the shade.



If you were not there—you missed out!

Fruit trees in the church garden

Many of you will remember that there are two small fruit trees, one apple and one pear, planted in our church garden in memory of our dear friend Rev. Geoff Bending who was a significant contributor to our church life in many ways.

This year, in common with fruit trees across the country, they excelled themselves in producing masses of delicious apples and pears which church folk have been able to share. With hindsight we should have thinned out the fruit before the weight broke several branches! The pears in particular are enormous. Hopefully the trees will recover and we can continue to enjoy the fruit in future years.

Judith Gerrard

PR Ladies' Breakfast

Our next Ladies' Breakfast is on Saturday November 1st in St Mary's Hall at 9am.

Our speaker will be Maggie Wooster Keyte giving her testimony of how God has worked in her life. All ladies and friends are welcome but PLEASE let Rose know if you are coming. Numbers are increasing and we don't want to run out of food! Telephone :01844 274225 or email rosewilliamsjp@yahoo.co.uk.

Rose Williams

South Bucks Talking News

Sue Seward and Jacquie Biddlecombe (St Mary's PR) work for the charity South Bucks Talking News (SBTN). This is the charity that converts The Bucks Free Press newspaper into a recording and audio USB stick for the blind and partially sighted people in the South Bucks area.

Sue and Jacquie are team leaders (editors) and both of them need **a man or two** on their teams who would be happy to read the newspaper in **the SBTN studio in High Wycombe on about five Friday nights in the year between 6.30pm and 9.00pm. It's not a big commitment.**

A team is made up of about ten people and there are four teams taking a week-end each per month. Each team has twelve sessions in the year as we don't work at Easter or Christmas.

A reader reads about four A4 sheets worth of articles that the editor has selected from the paper that week. Four people are needed for each session – two women and two men. Readers are known as 'voices'.

If you are interested in joining Sue or Jacquie then please contact Sue on 01844 698453 or via email – susan.m.seward@gmail.com

Sue Seward / Jacquie Biddlecombe

PR Baptist Church Pyjamas

PRBC are collecting new pyjamas for children in hospital and are inviting other CTR churches to participate. The pyjamas are given to children 0-18 years old so that they don't have to wear hospital gowns and as a present at Christmas.

Please drop off any donations at PRBC before the end of November.

CTR : Churches Together in Risborough

Lighthouse went ahead successfully during the last few days of July and the beginning of August, with a number of new volunteers stepping in to fill those roles which some of us were unable to do this year for various reasons.



The main news over the summer was that the Revd Canon Steve Benoy has accepted the invitation to be Rector of St Mary's, Princes Risborough and St Peter's at Ilmer. He is currently Chaplain to the Bishop of Peterborough, and the licensing service will be at St Mary's on November 26th, subject to the normal legal and administrative procedures of the Church of England. He will be joined in Risborough by Alex, his wife who is an administrator and their collie, Freddie. They have 3 sons who have all left home and live in the Midlands and Wales and they are described as a musical family with pretty varied tastes. He loves to help people come close to God in worship, understand the Bible better, be attuned to the winds of the Spirit and discover their place in God's service. Whilst that is good news for St Mary's, there is no news from The Baptist Church on progress at finding a new minister.

The main events coming up for Churches Together are in the season of Advent. The CTR Advent service will be on November 30th at 6pm in St Dunstan's church, Monks Risborough (subject to confirmation). It has also been agreed that we would again join with the Ellesborough Silver Band for 2 sessions of Carol Singing at the street fair organised for the switching on Christmas Lights in the town.

Joe Needham

Men's & Ladies Group Events

The men's group will be breakfasting on 11th October. As predicted we will be making a return visit to the Crew Café in Wade's Park starting at 9.00am.

All men welcome. Please let Neville Trout know if you are coming so that a suitable reservation can be made.

The Ladies' are having a Coffee and Cake Gathering in early November. An invitation will be sent by Vicky Spires for you and friends to attend. Please invite others if Vicky misses anyone off the list.

Vicky Spires & Neville Trout

Lighthouse

Another successful Lighthouse week ran from 28th July to 1st August and was attended across the week by 450 children and 150 volunteer helpers.



The teaching was based around the theme of 'explorers' (safari) and taught through the daily activities of singing, dancing, craft, sport and sessions in the Big Top. The memory verse was **Jeremiah 31:3** 'I love you people with a love that will last forever. I became your friend because of my love and kindness'.

Monday Key word: **Chosen**

God has chosen every single one of us. It did not matter that the disciples were not perfect, they were still chosen by Jesus.

Tuesday Key word: **Unique**

God looks at everybody on the inside, not just the outside. He knows that we all have special and unique skills and talents. Mary was not rich or royal but was chosen for her dedication to God to bear his son.

Wednesday Key word: **Valued**

Learning about the story of the lost sheep. "The Shepherd loved all of his sheep, just as God loves all of us. Each sheep was special and valued, and so are we".

Thursday Key word: **Bold**

They learnt about the story of Daniel in the lions den, and how Daniel was bold and brave and stood up for his faith.

Friday Key word: **Kind**

The Good Samaritan story showed us that we should be loving and kind to everyone, just as God is.

Thank you to everyone who contributed in whatever way towards Lighthouse week. It continues to be such an important way for children in the town and surrounding villages to learn about the love of Jesus.

Fran McMullan