

Services for February

- 1st 10.00am Rev Mr H Moon
Covenant Service
- 8th 10.00am Miss Marilyn Dore
- 15th 10.00am Mr Pete Honeyball
Holy Communion
- 23rd 10.00am Rev Mrs R Williams

Services for March

- 1st 10.00am Mr Ken Harris
- 8th 11.00am Rev Mr K Edwards
(NB time change) Church Anniversary and lunch
- 15th 10.00am Rev Mr H Moon
Holy Communion
- 22nd 10.00am Rev Ms C Collins
- 29th 10.00am Mr Arthur Sara
(NB Clocks go forward)

Princes Risborough

Methodist Church

'The Messenger'

February / March 2026



LENT

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

**Princes Risborough Methodist Church
Wycombe Road
Princes Risborough
Buckinghamshire**

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**Superintendent Minister: Rev Richard Atkinson
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Interim Editors: Mr Neville Trout / Ms Vicky Spires

**Material for the April / May edition of *The Messenger*
to the editors, by Sunday 15th March 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 March 2026

	Duty Steward	Welcoming Stewards	Bible Readers	Tea/coffee
1 st	Mr M Pullen	Mrs M Stevens & Mrs B Oates	Mrs M Stevens & Ms Y Ayoola	Ms Y Ayoola
8 th	Mr N Marriner-Kyle	Mr & Mrs G Hudson	Mr & Mrs G Hudson	Miss P Scott
15 th	Mr J Needham	Mrs T Shephard & Ms V Spires	Mrs T Shephard & Ms V Spires	Ms V Spires
22 nd	Mrs J Gerrard	Mr J Drake & Mrs F McMullan	Mr J Drake & Mrs M Judd	Mrs M Stevens
29 th	Mr M Pullen Mrs T Shephard	Mr & Mrs N Trout	Mr & Mrs N Trout	Mrs F McMullan

Weekend	Flowers	Cleaning	Grass Cutting
28/1		Mrs M Stevens	Mr D Stevens
7/8		Miss P Scott	Mr J Needham
14/15	Mrs D Robbins	Mrs K Trout	Mr N Trout
21/22 (YDA)	Ms Y Ayoola	Mrs N Baker	Mr K Smith
28/29	Mrs D Robbins	Miss M Dore	Mr B McCleery

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.

NB Clocks go forward on Sunday 29th March.

Rotas for February 2026

	Duty Steward	Welcoming Stewards	Bible Readers	Tea/coffee
1 st	Mrs J Gerrard	Mrs T Shephard & Ms V Spires	Mrs T Shephard & Ms V Spires	Miss P Scott
8 th	Mr J Needham	Mr J Drake & Mrs F McMullan	Mrs M Cookson & Mr N Marriner-Kyle	Mrs F McMullan
15 th	Mr M Pullen	Mr & Mrs N Trout	Mr & Mrs N Trout	Ms V Spires
22 nd	Miss M Dore	Mr & Mrs V Baker	Mr & Mrs V Baker	Mrs M Stevens

Weekend	Flowers	Cleaning	Grass Cutting
31/1	Mrs M Tomkins	Miss M Dore	Mr B McCleery
7/8		Mrs B Hudson	Mr G Hudson
14/15	Ms P Scott	Mrs F McMullan	Mr C McMullan
21/22 (YDA)	Mrs M Stevens	Mrs D Pullen	Mr M Pullen

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 Monday; please try to respect this whenever possible.

From the Manse ...

Dear friends, A Happy New Year to you all!



You may wonder why I say Happy New Year in February? As you read this edition, we are at the beginning of February, and as a Korean I also celebrate the Lunar New Year, which falls on 17 February, 2026. So I offer you this blessing: "May this year be marked by the grace, peace, and joy of Christ."

I write this in mid-January. While only a few weeks ago we celebrated Christmas, the lectionary already moves us into Jesus' public ministry. In John's Gospel, interestingly, His ministry does not begin with a mighty command, as in Mark; nor with a sermon on the mount, as in Matthew; nor with a proclamation of God's favour, as in Luke. Instead, it begins with a simple question — ordinary in form but extraordinary in significance. What are you looking for? (John 1:38) or in other words: What do you need? What do you want? This is a question worth wrestling with —individually, as congregations, and as communities. So, let us begin this year by asking: What are we looking for in 2026?

Many today are searching for meaning, purpose, and hope. The emptiness we sometimes feel is not a sign of failure—very often, it is God drawing us towards what truly matters. In John 1, when two disciples begin to follow Jesus, He does not lecture or demand. He simply invites them: "Come and see." This invitation echoes throughout the Gospel: Philip says it to Nathaniel; and the Samaritan woman in John 4, says it to her neighbours. Those who meet Jesus discover for themselves that He is the Saviour of the world.

So let us return to the question: "What are you looking for?" If you are looking for God – come and see Jesus. If you long to know love – come and see Jesus. If you desire life that lasts – come and see Jesus. For this year, "Come and see" remains our invitation—to explore, to be curious, to take a step of faith, and to discover who God is and who we are called to become. Following Jesus is not only believing certain truths; it is choosing a way of life. It appears in our daily decisions- how we speak to others, what we value, what we buy, and how we care for our neighbours and our world. This way can be costly, but it builds our families, strengthens our communities, and reveals God's kingdom among us. For this, we rely on our loving God, who gives us strength to live as His people.

As we begin this new year, remember: while you may be looking for God, God is already seeking you. He invites you into a life of adventure, hope, and purpose. So let us journey together and see what God has in store in 2026. Amen.

Heegon

Tuesday Fellowship

Our meeting on the 17th February at the Church at 2.00pm will be our AGM which will be chaired by Rev. Heegon Moon when we look back over the last year and also look forward. Please come with suggestions for our future meetings and charities that we can donate to.

At our meeting on 17th March at the Church at 2.00pm Gerald Tomkins will give us another talk about Mozart.

New members are always welcome to join us.

Pam Scott

SALT Group

The SALT group (Sharing And Learning Together) will be finishing our study of The Book of Daniel. Our meetings will be on February 5th & 26th and March 12th & 26th.

Meetings are on Zoom (contact me at jdneedham@hotmail.co.uk if you require the logon details) and start at 7.45pm with a time for chat, with Bible Study commencing at around 8pm.

Even if you have not joined us before, you are welcome to come and try us out! 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 held on Tuesday 24th March 2026 at 7.30pm at the Church. Agenda and Reports will be circulated prior to the meeting.

Pam Scott

Diary Dates for February

5th	SALT (by Zoom), 7.30pm
8th	Racial Justice Sunday
9th	Bereavement Group, Chapter House St Mary's, 3.00pm
15th	Universal Day of Prayer for Students Sunday
17th	Tuesday Fellowship, 2.00pm
17th	Shrove Tuesday
18th	Ash Wednesday
26th	SALT (by Zoom), 7.30pm
28th	Men's Group church coffee morning, 10.15am -12.00

Diary Dates for March

6th	World Prayer Day, St Johns Lacey Green, 11.00am
7th	Ladies' Breakfast, St Mary's Parish hall, 9.00am
9th	Bereavement Group, Chapter House St Mary's, 3.00pm
12th	SALT (by Zoom), 7.30pm
17th	Tuesday Fellowship, 2.00pm
24th	Church Forum, 7.30pm
26th	SALT (by Zoom), 7.30pm

Regular events

Fridays Table top games, 10.00 -12.00

Future dates

3rd April - Good Friday & CTR service of witness

5th April - Easter Day & CTR Sunrise service

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 9th February and on 9th March 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.

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: 07743341563
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.

Church Anniversary

We will be welcoming our previous minister, Rev Keith Edwards, to lead our Church Anniversary service on Sunday 8th March, at the later time of 11am.

This will be followed by lunch, and all are welcome to join us for this celebratory meal which will cost £6 per person (an increase from last time, but we haven't put the price up for years!). Recently we have had a choice of casseroles for both Spring and Autumn lunches, but if the cooks would like to revert to the soup, cold meat, salmon and salads which we used to have for the Anniversary, there is time to plan if you let me know at the beginning of February. Desserts would be similar in both versions.

Whatever we decide, there will be a list in the church porch to sign up from the middle of February if you are coming, and also volunteer to prepare a dish if you wish (expenses will be paid), or wash up afterwards.

Perhaps we can decide where to donate any profit from the lunch at the Church Forum later in March. Ideas welcome!

Judith Gerrard

Men's Coffee Morning

You and any friends and neighbours are invited to join a coffee morning run by the men of the church on Saturday 28 February between 10.15—12.00.

Neville Trout

World Prayer Day or WWP

This year's WPD will be held at St John's Lacey Green on Friday 6th March at 11.00am, and this time the materials have been prepared by Nigeria.



The inspiration for the service is drawn from Matthew 11 : v28— 30. At a time when people worldwide are carrying heavy burdens, our Nigerian sisters offer profound insights into finding rest in God, not least through community support, faith, and hope.

I look forward to welcoming you to the service and to the refreshments after.

Vicky Spires

THANKS

Spokes in the wheel

Thank you, Heegon, for introducing us to the 'spokes of a wheel' in your letter in the last Messenger, I thought it was a very interesting idea.

Judith Gerrard

Ride and Stride

Talking of spokes and wheels, thanks to Mike Pullen's magnificent efforts in the September 2025 Ride and Stride, we have received a cheque for £330.63. When the relevant amounts have been distributed to Haddenham and Chinnor churches, Mike has raised a grand total of £207.51. Thanks Mike!

Editors

Reverse Advent Calendar

Once again you all responded very well to our "Reverse Advent Calendar" challenge, and several boxes of food were taken to One Can in High Wycombe.

A similar amount of donations which are suitable for Whitechapel Mission breakfasts have been set aside for collection later.



Judith Gerrard

Church notices

Thanks to Maureen Judd for continuing to compile and circulate the weekly notices to keep us all in touch.

Smile

Church notice: the third form will be presenting Shakespeare's "Hamlet" in the church basement on Friday at 7 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.



Editors

Other news:

We held our first car boot sale recently. The event was a great success raising £345.63 with around 100 visitors through our doors. One of our trustees, along with 19 other helpers, organised a collection for the centre outside Tesco's and raised almost £900 once Gift Aid is included. In addition, **the Bird in Hand** pub kindly selected us as their chosen charity for their Christmas Carol event and the **Risborough Santa Run** also generously collected donations for us. Jo, one of our staff also organised a Christmas raffle.

If you would like to consider having a relative or yourself attending the Centre, a free taster of what we have to offer can be arranged. Please contact Mags on 01844 345105 or Marina on 01628 527024 for our Bourne End Centre.

Maggie Wooster Keyte

News from Wycombe Youth for Christ (WYfC)

Erica Holt, Director, WYfC writes: I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support of the ministry of WYfC. We are encouraged by all those who pray for, and support the team as we share the love of Jesus with children and young people in the area. Your help at Princes Risborough Methodists is a great help in enabling us to effectively share what God is doing in our ministry and hearing of what He is doing in and through the church.

We have our 4 weeks of prayers beginning on Monday 26th January and finishing on Sunday 22nd February. This is part of our rhythm of prayer and we take time to fix our eyes on Jesus and seek His guidance for the ministry. A prayer book is available, that includes daily prayer points (*in the porch*). Further copies can be made available. We hope soon to have a pdf version.

Last Christmas (2025) we shared the events of the first Christmas with 650 children, 12 schools and in 8 churches through year groups, in 90-minute sessions. These sessions stimulated many awesome questions: 'who wrote the bible?', 'Is Jesus the Son of God?' and discussions on why Jesus was born in a stable, and why were shepherds and wise men the first to know of Jesus' birth. Several schools have already booked up for Easter. Our thanks go to all the volunteers and churches who helped make these sessions a success.

Erica Holt

Princes Centre

We wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.



A Happy New Year to you all. 2025 was a year of change for the Princes Centre. With the retirement of our General Manager Kim, the trustees changed the Centres' management structure. There have been staff upgrades and our new Day Centre Managers, here and in Bourne End, have brought fresh ideas. Our Finance Officer Julia, has had her role extended and is now our Business Manager. The Friday community bingo sessions will now take place fortnightly.

Our Jingers performed once again in St Mary's Church with their Christmas Jumper debut and entertained everyone with their singing. Our MP Greg Smith, and our Mayor and Chairman Matt Walsh, attended their performance. It was a great success and enjoyed by all. £154.50p was raised in donations from the audience.



Jingers' concert



Shelly the Snowman

The run up to Christmas was an exciting time for our clients who enjoyed making wreaths, Christmas decorations, and calendars in the craft sessions. During the week before Christmas the clients were treated to Christmas lunch and there was music every day with the Kelybilly Stomp Duo, Sally Blossum (a wonderful singer), the Black Dog Band, and the Hemley Hill Billies who rounded off the week. Some of the more mobile clients enthusiastically danced to the music. Some staff dressed up as elves and helped to provide the Christmas atmosphere and one member of staff transformed herself into a snowman and entertained the younger clients with her dancing and singing. There were mince pie workshops all week, so everyone had a chance to learn how to cook mince pies and to enjoy eating them afterwards. There were plenty of other activities too with various games, dancing and entertainment.

Mercy Ships

There will be an extra collection for the charity we currently support, Mercy Ships, on the first Sunday in February, but not in March. Mercy Ships is a global Christian charity that follows the 2,000-year-old model of Jesus to bring hope and healing to those suffering from disability, providing free surgical care in some of the poorest nations.



Judith Gerrard

Why is Lent 40 days?

The origin of the word "lent" lies in the Old English word "lencten" for *springtime* or *spring* and from the West Germanic "langitinaz" meaning *longdays* or *lengthening of the day*. Lent is the 40-day period leading up to Easter (excluding Sundays) that starts on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter.

The 40 days of Lent are symbolic of significant biblical events, including

- Jesus' 40 days of fasting and temptation in the wilderness (Matt 4:1-11).
- Moses spending 40 days on Mount Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments (Exodus 34:28).
- Elijah's 40-day journey to Mount Horeb (1 Kings 19:8).
- The 40 days of rain during the Great Flood (Genesis 7:12)
- The Israelites' 40 years of wandering in the desert (Numbers 14:33)

Taken from various websites

Ladies' coffee Morning

Thank you to Vicky who organised a ladies' coffee morning at Hildreth's garden centre in Prestwood at the beginning of December. It was a nice bright morning, so it was a good drive through the countryside from Risborough. We enjoyed coffee and cakes / pastries and lots of convivial chat before a wander through the garden centre for some as we made our way home.

Coffee shops are not mentioned in the bible, but Jesus enjoyed hospitality in many people's houses during his ministry. Sitting around a table with a cup in hand, just sharing life together, is surely the kind of nurturing fellowship Jesus would have been part of. We look forward to more ladies' gatherings in the year ahead.

CTR : Churches Together in Risborough



At the start of Advent, the Carol Singing at the street fair for the switching on of the Christmas Lights (accompanied by the Ellesborough Silver Band) went well, though more people there to sing would have helped it go even better. The CTR Advent service at St Dunstan's was quite well attended and the retiring collection raised a good sum for Lighthouse. Only one group, led by Revd K Turck from Kimble Free Church followed the suggested Advent study course but did attract a small number of members from other churches.

By the time this is published, we will have held the CTR service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on January 18th, and hopefully that will be well supported by members from the churches in CTR.

Looking ahead, plans for Lent study groups on a CTR basis have yet to be finalised, though hopefully these will be close to finalisation by the time CTR meets again on January 27th. I would also expect plans to be developed for the customary Easter services held by CTR - the Good Friday service at 11am on April 3rd in the Market Square and the Easter Sunday Dawn Service on April 5th on Whiteleaf Hill above the Cross.

Joe Needham

Circuit bible study

The Tuesday night (7.30pm) and Thursday (2.00pm) Zoom circuit bible studies continue and are currently looking at Romans. Everyone welcome. Please contact Richard Atkinson for details on how to join.

Neville Trout

Ladies' Breakfast

The next Ladies' Breakfast will be on Saturday March 7th at 9am in St Mary's Hall. All are welcome but please let Rose Williams know if you are coming. (01844 274225 or rosewilliamsgp@yahoo.co.uk) Our speaker will be the new Rector of St Mary's, Steve Benoy.

Rose Williams

Week of prayer for Christian Unity

"One body, One Spirit" was the theme of The CTR service for Christian Unity which looked at the emphasis St Paul places in Ephesians (4, v1-13) on the "oneness" of the church and the importance of unity. We heard how unity was not the same as uniformity and that all Christians and denominations were called to be light to the world—both illuminating and drawing people to Christ.

As part of the service, and before we joined in fellowship over refreshments, we also heard from the Chair of PR Lighthouse who described the reach and potential impact of hosting about 450 children and 150 volunteers. Lighthouse 2026 will be in the week of 27-31 July and we are all asked to pray for growth and open hearts, as well as for better finances and for people to feel moved to volunteer.

Neville Trout

Karibuni Children Fundraising News.

On Sunday May 31st there will be a Big Band Concert with LP Swing Orchestra at Wycombe Swan Theatre at 3pm – last year a similar event raised several thousands of pounds for Karibuni, but the theatre was far from full – can we do better this year and help to fill the place. Those who attended last year thoroughly enjoyed the concert.

For the golfers amongst us, there is a Karibuni Golf Day at Sandy Lodge Golf Club in Northwood on Thursday September 17th at 1.30pm.

If you are considering changing your energy supplier and are a supporter of Karibuni, you are asked to consider Octopus Energy. For each Karibuni supporter who switches to Octopus Energy, Karibuni Children receive a £50 donation and the Karibuni supporter will receive a £50 credit on their first bill. This link will take you to the 'get a quote page' for Karibuni supporters "Octopus.energy/quote/?affiliate=karibunichildren".

A Karibuni supporter, David Lynn, and a friend of his are going to trek to Everest Base Camp in order to raise funds for Karibuni. You will be able to follow their progress on the Karibuni Facebook and Instagram pages and can sponsor them using this link: https://www.justgiving.com/page/david-lynn-2?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

Further information and tickets (where required) from www.karibuni.org.uk/shop or by email office@karibuni.org.uk or telephone 01296 614887.

All the above information is taken from the Autumn 2025 Karibuni Newsletter.