

Sunday Lent Walks

Give up the couch for Lent – est. 1999. Join us for Sunday Lent Walks. **Starting at 2.30pm from a Church near you** - linking the communities of the Schorne Team. All are welcome.

9th March	Weedon to Whitchurch	2.4 miles
16th March	Whitchurch to Dunton	2.2 miles
23rd March	Dunton to Granborough	4.2 miles
30th March	Granborough to Oving	2.4 miles
6th April	Oving to Quainton	2.4 miles
13th April	Quainton to Waddesdon*	2.2 miles

NB – Route from Quainton to Waddesdon may change due to HS2 works
The first Lent Walk starts from Weedon Chapel on Sunday 9th March at 2.30pm - just turn up and enjoy. The walks are suitable for most ages. We walk at a leisurely pace, keeping to footpaths across fields & avoiding roads whenever possible. Each walk takes between 1 ½ to 2 hours. Participants should also think about co-ordinating transport to enable transfers back to the start of each walk. A great way to meet some new & old friends. All are welcome. Further info from Martin Wright martinwright@gmail.com

Village Raffle Results - Thank you

Our celebrity drawer this year was Miss Diane Clarke, having put up with us all for 10 years & counting! Sorry if it wasn't your year, with the Hamper going to Mrs D Doncaster, many congratulations. Other winners were ticket numbers: 924, 822, 711, 641, 703, 367, 791, 797, 680 & 355.

Your Village Hall needs You!

Granborough Village Hall is a charity run by Trustees. In recent years the hall has been fully renovated and a modern booking system installed. This makes the maintenance of the hall much easier. The original constitution says that there should be a minimum of 11 Trustees whose main tasks are to run the hall efficiently and organise fund raising events to support the running costs. The hall also hosts many regular and one-off events to support our thriving village. We meet on average every 6 weeks. We need new Trustees so if you think you can help or need more information then please contact our Chairman, Philip Oakland, on 0759632871.

Granborough Church Flower Rota – Volunteers required

We are now a very small team of flower arrangers and would welcome some help. You do not have to be an expert as we usually fill a few vases with flowers. Your turn lasts for 3 weeks at a time and occurs 2 or 3 times a year plus major festivals such as Easter and Christmas. Please contact Davina on 670596 for further information.

Pew News material should be submitted by the 15th of the previous month to **Carolyn Scholes (670035) candmscholes@gmail.com** (please put 'Pew News' somewhere in the title of your email so that I don't miss it – thank you!)

St. John the Baptist Church

A worshipping church, welcoming everyone into the Lord's family; proclaiming the Gospel and serving the community.



Pew News – February 2025

2nd February	11am FAMILY SERVICE
9th February	11am FAMILY COMMUNION
16th February	11am FAMILY SERVICE 6pm TAIZÉ SERVICE
23rd February	11am FAMILY COMMUNION

You are most welcome to join us for any or all of our services, or to come into our church for private prayer, as the building is open daily.

For an update on church events and activities you can always check our website (shared with North Marston Church) www.nmgchurches.co.uk

The Schorne Team Services

- > **Whitchurch** live-streams their Holy Communion Service each **Sunday at 11am**. Log onto **Facebook** and find The Schorne Team of Parishes' page.
- > **Discussion Group** - David and Janet will be hosting their Discussion group on **Tuesday 4th February, at their house, at 7.30pm**. The film we use for our discussion will be Lady in the Van, exploring the theme of homelessness. We begin with refreshments. Join us for an evening of an interesting discussion, lively opinions and reflection. Janet Bayly 670245
- > **Messy Church** on **Sunday 9th February at 4pm at the Wesley Centre in North Marston** with some messy art and craft and also prayerful activity, games and refreshment for young families with children. You are most welcome to join us.
- > **Taizé Service** on **16th February at 6.00pm** with continuing Prayers for Middle East and Collection for DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal.

Granborough Church Flower Rota

1st February to 21st February	Sarah Sutton
22nd February to 3rd March	Jenny Dean

Prayer requests

If you have something for which you would like prayer, please contact Alison Rosser or Jayne Evans on paulandally1979@gmail.com or jaynegranborough@hotmail.com or pop a note through the door of either 3 or 24 Winslow Road. All requests are held in complete confidence. Requests may also be anonymous if preferred.

If you find yourself in the coming weeks in need of any practical help and support, or if you have any request for prayer, or if you have any enquiries, please contact us:

Rev Petra Elsmore	07557 045703	petra.elsmore@gmail.com
Rev Janet Bayly	670245	janet.bayly@gmail.com
Alison Rosser	670504	paulandally1979@gmail.com
Robert Kemp	670204	rookery4@aol.com

Thought for the Month – The Advent of Hope

February is not a popular month; the excitement of Christmas is over but the cold and dark days are still with us. Many of us feel often quite low during this month, it is a strange time of the year, nothing much seems to happen in February.

It makes me always wonder about the time following the birth of Jesus, not just the time after the shepherds had gone back home, but more especially the 30 years gap between his birth and the start of his ministry. There was so much fuss and excitement, shepherds, angels and wise men gathering, witnessing the birth of Jesus, but what about the 30 years that followed when seemingly not much happened?

If we think about our own lives, perhaps the pattern is familiar. We experience great moments in life, moments of great hope and promise and sometimes moments of significant change, a marriage, the birth of children, career changes, and times of great losses too. And between those big moments are ordinary years and ordinary days. Lots of Februarys.

There is said to be an ancient curse: "May you live in interesting times." Seen in this light, perhaps we should be grateful for the ordinary days, for the Februarys.

For 30 years of his life, Jesus lived a rather ordinary life. There was nothing remarkable about him, as far as we know. Rather, he seems to have lived a life no different to his contemporaries. And this is Good News. For it means that in Jesus, God blesses the ordinary days of our lives. For he knows what it is to be one of us. With every blessing, Petra.

Pastoral Work

Gifts and cards are taken by members of the Church to anyone who may be celebrating, in need of support, or are new to the village. If you know anyone to whom this applies, please contact Davina on 670596, thank you.

The Crew

Age 10 and above, Thursdays at 7pm, school term time only at Rookery Farm, Hogshaw Road. Newcomers are very welcome! The Crew are a member of Urban Saints and Granborough Church but encourage all faiths and none to join together for fun. Contact Robert 07905 419117

Granborough Pub Lunch

Held every first Wednesday of the month in the Crown. Two courses for £15. All are welcome so please come and join in this friendly lunch club. Next lunch is Wednesday 5th February (please arrive at about 12.15 pm). Main course Shepherds Pie or Spaghetti Carbonara. Dessert Lemon Tart or Banoffee Pie. To book a place contact Jenny 670647 or Davina 670596 a week before latest.

Granborough 101 Club

December results: Congratulations to our Winners who all won a cool crisp £50.00 note: 015, 219, 065, 150, 263, 245 & 234. If you wish to support local good causes & have a chance to win a few quid, then join the 101 Club. Entry forms will be coming through your letterbox in February. Your simple way to help many events continue in Granborough.

The Granborough Friendship Club

Granborough Friendship Club returns on the 6th February with the AGM and we pay our subscriptions of £20 for the following year. On the 20th February we will have a games afternoon with prizes!! Keep an eye out for our details of events through the year. We will have interesting speakers, a visit to Medical Detection Dogs, a day out to the Cotswolds and of course an afternoon tea or two! So if you would like to come to any of our meetings (held fortnightly) or for any more information, please contact Jane 07491652646.

Coffee, Cake and Chat Mornings

The 3C's coffee morning will be held in Granborough Village Hall, 10.15am 'til 12.00 noon on Wed 5th & Wed 19th February. Everyone is welcome, just turn up and enjoy the company of friends old and new.

Café-Club Zest – Keeping Active, Living Well

Café Zest meets each month – usually the first Saturday at 2.30pm at St John's Church Hall, Whitchurch. It is a welcoming and dementia-friendly community sing-along & afternoon tea & everyone is welcome. Jenny Dean 670647.