

Village Christmas Card – Well Done & Thank you

Currently the Village Christmas Card has beaten our target of £1000.00 raised last year, to be equally split between Crisis and The Salvation Army. As I type this, I am waiting for the final total which I will publish in January's Pew News. This is a great result, so thank you everyone who has contributed this year to these worthwhile causes - and may I wish you all a wonderful Christmas. Jayne Evans

Macmillan Coffee Morning – Thank you

We raised £514 - a fantastic amount for a small village! Thanks to all who came & helped, Julie & Jane. Thanks for the donations for raffle Karl & a great hamper from Simon Wilkinson, also Christine & Molly & thanks to Jason for providing the milk. Jo Williams

Barry Heritage Darts Tournament - Results

The 2024 final was the same two warriors as 2023, with result being reversed. With Bryan Carthorse handing the trophy to our new first time winner Mark Hertfordshire. Well done to all 12 warriors & thanks to The Crown for hosting.

Crown Open Golf Results

Weston Turville golf course treated the swingers to glorious sunshine. With Mark (Strawbs) Heritage holding off Graham (Fozy) Foster to win the Trophy.

Race Night at The Crown – Result

Well done to everyone who sponsored, purchased & or turned up on the night. Great fun had by all, with £752 raised for local good causes.

Spring Holiday to Cornwall 2025, staying in St Mawes

The coach will leave Granborough on Monday 31st March and return on 4th April. The price of £599 per person includes half board accommodation and three excursions, one being to the Eden Project. Further details can be found on the village notice board or contact Barbara Guiver on 670882.

Your Village Hall needs You!

Granborough Village Hall is a charity run by Trustees and 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.

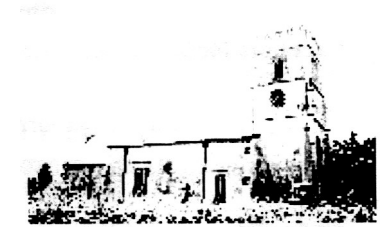
Bonanza Christmas Raffle

Fundraising for Granborough good causes in December. The raffle books are available from The Crown or will appear through your letterbox. Please return to 6 Church Lane, Granborough (next door to Village Hall). Or contact Karl 07917 002800 to collect your tickets. With a £200 Christmas Hamper & money, many more prizes to be won. Draw will make place Sat 21st Dec. Good Luck!

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 – December 2024

1st December	5pm	CHRISTINGLE SERVICE – Making Christingles from 4.30pm
8th December	11am	ADVENT FAMILY COMMUNION
15th December	11am	NATIVITY CELEBRATION
22nd December	4pm	CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT – Mince pies & mulled wine will be served afterwards
24th December	11.30pm	MIDNIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE
25th December	11am	CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY COMMUNION
29th December		No service in Granborough Church, Team Communion service at Quanton at 11am

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.
- > **Praise and Worship Service** on **Sunday 15th December at 6pm** at Quanton Church
- > **The Collection** from Carols by Candlelight/Christmas Day services will go to DEC to the Middle East Humanitarian Appeal this year. Right now, millions of people across Gaza, Lebanon and the wider region are in urgent need. Give at those services or direct via <https://www.dec.org.uk> Thanks

Granborough Church Flower Rota

30th November to 23rd December No Flowers - Advent
24th December to 10th January ALL - Christmas

Please decorate the church for Christmas either Mon 23rd or Tues 24th to suit.

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

The world seems like an uncertain place. War in Ukraine and the Middle East continues without hope of an end. The recent Presidential election in the USA leaves many wondering about what the future may hold. In our own nation, a little of the shine is wearing off the new government as manifesto meets reality.

The church is far from immune. The resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury indicates that the church is going through its own phase of turbulence and uncertainty.

In our own lives, many of us will have faced uncertainties this year, whether over health, family or finances, the uncertainty of the times can be mirrored in the uncertainties of daily life.

In short - hope is hard to find. Can we really celebrate Christmas amidst all the uncertainties of life and of this moment in history? In the end, I found, as ever that the Christmas story itself contained the answer to my question.

The story of Christmas is not a story of happy endings and neat solutions, nor is it a story that ignores a world of uncertainty and danger.

Far from it.

The story of the manger is a story of a travelling couple, a baby born in the wrong place and at the wrong time. It is a story which mixes political intrigue and danger, with moment of glory and revelation.

And above all, there is the birth of the child who was given to us to be “the light that shines in the darkness”.

Where did you find hope this year?

It is by following in the footsteps of Jesus that we are able to bring light into the darkness of this world, through small acts of kindness, prayer, or giving. In this coming season of Advent and Christmas, may we glimpse afresh the coming of His glory and through him may we find hope, and share hope, with those in need.

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 Baby and Toddler Group

Come and join our relaxed and friendly playgroup for parents/Guardians, babies and toddlers. Child snacks are included in the price: £3 per child and £1 per extra sibling. We meet in Granborough village hall on Thursdays twice a month & we look forward to welcoming you. For more information please contact Hannah Mansfield on 07846217092 or hannahjwarren@hotmail.co.uk

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 4th December (please arrive at about 12.15 pm). Main course turkey dinner with all the trimmings or vegetable wellington with all the trimmings. Dessert Christmas pudding and brandy sauce or yule log. To book a place contact Jenny 670647 or Davina 670596 a week before latest.

Granborough 101 Club

November draw was a meet of great minds! Local heroes Mr Alan Carleton & Mr Kenneth Zaremba jointly pulled out the hat tickets 219, 174 & 143. Congratulations to the winners & especially Toby Williams (the dog) for collecting £30.00 in winnings! BONANZA draw in December!

The Granborough Friendship Club

Granborough Friendship Club is coming to the end of its 2024 programme. On December 5th we are having a Christmas Party and the following week we are off to the pantomime ‘oh yes we are!’ We don’t meet during January, although the committee will be busy compiling the next year’s programme. If you or someone you know has an interesting topic/charity that you could come and talk to us about, please do get in touch with me: Janekathryn50@gmail.com

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 11th December (only one this month!). 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.

Christmas Tree Lights Switch On

On Sunday 1st December from 5.45pm at Granborough Village Hall, we will enjoy warm mince pies, mulled wine, squash & Christmas carols. Wrap up warm & watch the tree light up around 6.00pm ish.

Discussion Group

David and Janet will be hosting the last Discussion group of the year on Tuesday 5th December at their house at 7.30pm. We shall be watching ‘Nativity’ and having a lively exchange of ideas and opinions. We begin with refreshments. Janet Bayly 670245