

# ORTON ORACLE

FEB  
2025

Issue 199

Online in colour! [www.abigjay.com/ortonoracle](http://www.abigjay.com/ortonoracle)

Hello readers. Happy New Year and welcome to 2025. February is often associated with love and connection, and in our community, it's a perfect time to celebrate the bonds that bring us together. Despite the winter chill, the Ortons are alive with warmth and activity. As we step further into 2025, the energy from the success of our New Year's resolution events to the ongoing local projects enhancing our shared spaces, it's clear that our community will thrive with your support and participation.

March brings exciting opportunities to get involved in Spring Clean initiatives, together, let's prepare for a greener, brighter season. Thank you for your continued engagement and passion. Every conversation, contribution, and effort helps make our community stronger and more vibrant. Stay warm and connected.

This month we celebrate **National Storytelling Week** (February 1-4); **Children's Mental Health Week** (February 3-9); **Charles Dickens Day** (7th); **Darwin Day** (12th); **St. Valentine's Day** (14th); **Random Acts of Kindness Day** (17th); **Pancake Day /Shrove Tuesday** (25th);

Please contact us if you have any charity events, articles, recipes, healthy living tips or need to voice opinion. Please submit by 5th of each month.

Artwork : Astro Cruise, an art series by Ben Heine



## The heart of your community

A community bulletin produced and distributed for the  
Ortons, Alwalton & Chesterton. Supporting all our Churches



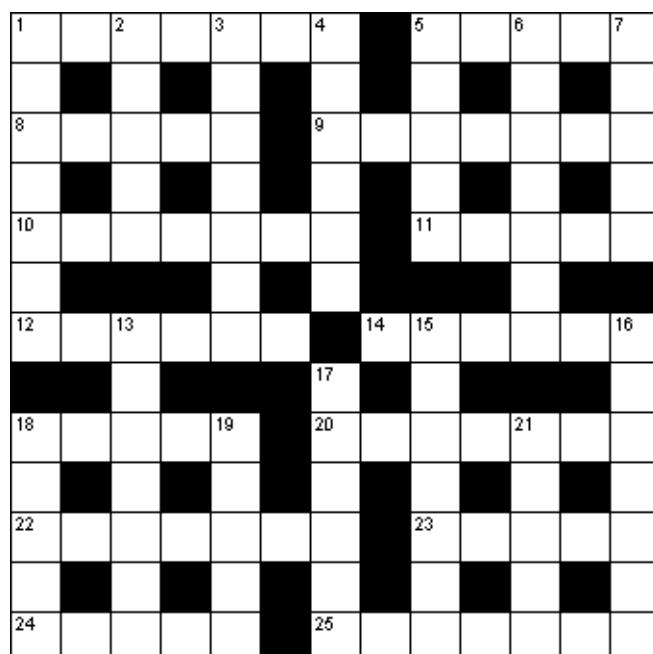
Where the community, local trades and all the local Churches meet

The oracle is published by a team of dedicated volunteers and delivered to  
Over 7000 homes If you can help in any way please get in touch at;

[ortonoracle@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ortonoracle@hotmail.co.uk)

**Down**

- 1 Drank (7)
- 2 "The Three Musketeers" author (5)
- 3 Run away (7)
- 4 Accessories (3-3)
- 5 Extra payment (5)
- 6 Antelope (7)
- 7 Children's nurse (5)
- 13 Type of crossword (7)
- 15 Tense, repressed (7)
- 16 Inhale and exhale (7)
- 17 Deteriorate (6)
- 18 Verdant (5)
- 19 Automaton (5)
- 21 Fathom (5)



## Across

- 1 US state (7)
- 5 Commence (5)
- 8 Explosive devices (5)
- 9 Inhabitant (7)
- 10 Woodwind instrument (7)
- 11 Foolish (5)
- 12 Make up one's mind (6)
- 14 Splendid (6)
- 18 Stratum (5)
- 20 Couplet (anag.) (7)
- 22 French Riviera resort (7)
- 23 Haggard (5)
- 24 Sailing-boat (5)
- 25 Eminent (7)

**February** gets its name from Februum, a festival of purification held on the 15th of the month in the times of the Roman Republic. The Anglo Saxons used to call the month Solmonath which means 'mud' month (very appropriate to this country). It was always known as February fill dyke when I was a child but I think the dykes are already full.

The most well known date in this month is the 14th, St. Valentine's day. Valentine was martyred during the Lupercalian Fertility rites in Rome. It is supposed to be when the birds choose their mates and this has been used by people to try and sort themselves a partner.

February is usually the beginning of Lent when the church remembers the journey of Christ to the cross. The day before the beginning of lent was Shrove Tuesday when all the food not allowed in Lent (when fasting was expected) was eaten, one of which was eggs. Another name for Shrove Tuesday is Pancake day. There is a children's rhyme, " Pancake Tuesday is a very happy day, If we don't have a holiday we'll all run away, Where shall we run, up High Lane, And here comes the teacher with a great big cane."

There were many special games played on this day in the past. A type of football was played in the streets, with no limit on the players. It was more of a free for all with the goals being particular ale houses. There were mass skipping events and the most common event, pancake races. These are still run and often feature on the local television news.

After all the fun and games, the following day was Ash Wednesday, when Lent and fasting began. No meat, eggs or dairy produce was allowed. A sign of the cross was made in ashes on the forehead of those who wished.

A solemn month, but the nights are getting shorter and daylight is growing and new life stirs in the garden. JH

8						
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2		7	9		6	
	4			9		
1	3	4			7	
	2	5	6	4		
						9

## Become Part of Parkside Athletic Football Club!



Parkside is a welcoming and inclusive club, providing children with the chance to play football in a supportive environment. We're currently recruiting players and volunteer coaches—whether you're new to the game or have plenty of experience, we'd love to have you join us!

Get in touch with Malcolm:  
 ☎ 01733 753 918 / 07590 481 535  
 ✉ gaffer.parkside@hotmail.com  
 Bushfields Sports Field, Orton



**Day Services**

**What can we help with**

- An opportunity for older people to socialise, make friends and participate in activities.
- A hot meal is served at lunchtime with refreshments throughout the day.

**Our Services**

**Information and Advice**  
Finances, Health, Social Care, And Much More

**Practical Support**  
Community Wardens  
Hospital Discharge and Admission Avoidance  
Cambridgeshire Handyperson

**Social Opportunities**  
Day Services and Friendship Clubs  
Sharing Time

**Get Involved**  
Volunteering  
Fundraising

**Contact us to find out more**

Orton Day Service Peterborough  
Mondays and Wednesdays  
10.00am to 2.30pm

Email: [dayservices@ageukcap.org.uk](mailto:dayservices@ageukcap.org.uk)  
Tel: 01733 806 336

Visit our website [www.ageukcap.org.uk](http://www.ageukcap.org.uk)

**STOP, take a breath, are you struggling to find time for you?**



Introducing

## Breathing space

A chance to take time out to quietly reflect on life and faith through craft activities

Each session will have a Christian, sessional focused thought which you can contemplate while peacefully crafting with time for a chat.

**WEDNESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> February**  
 at Waterville Methodist Church, Chapel Lane  
 from 9:30am – 11:30 am

**PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL**

**CREATE MOMENTS THAT MATTER.**  
**BECOME A FOSTER CARER.**

**WHY FOSTER WITH YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITY?**

- ★ We're not-for-profit. Our children and foster families, come first.
- ★ Generous allowances.
- ★ Local, dedicated support for whenever you need it.
- ★ Build a fostering career, through training and development.

**Foster with PETERBOROUGH**

**FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**  
**01733 86 86 86**  
[fosterwithpeterborough.org.uk](http://fosterwithpeterborough.org.uk)

SCAN THE QR CODE TO FIND OUT MORE

# YOUR COMMUNITY

## Orton Longueville Parish Council

Contact Parish Clerk  
Alison Brown on 07907 160161  
Chairman is Nick Pennall

Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month except August in the Herlington Community Centre, Orton Malborne Peterborough PE2 5PW at 7:00 pm.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and will have an opportunity at the start of the meeting to bring up matters of concern which the Parish Council will discuss at a future meeting if they can't be dealt with immediately.

Agendas and minutes can be obtained from the website:

[ortonlongueville-pc.gov.uk](http://ortonlongueville-pc.gov.uk)

## COFFEE MORNING AT ST. MICHAEL'S

Thank you for joining us for our summer coffee mornings



We have enjoyed your company and hope you enjoyed ours



We have raised over £1000 for the Women's Refuge

Natter & Knit, Crochet, Embroider or Cross Stitch at the...

### CRAFT & CHAT GROUP

We meet on a Tuesday at Orton Waterville Village Hall between 10:00-12:00

Come along and enjoy a chat while you knit or sew! £2.00 per session includes tea and biscuits.

Contact:  
Gina 07809 292379



## ST. ANDREW'S ALWALTON

COFFEE MORNING  
10:30– 12:30  
Wednesday 12th Feb  
ALL WELCOME



## Community Litterpicks

The regular monthly litter pick from

The Herlington Centre is taking a break. If any community or local group in Orton wishes to organise a litter picking event please feel free to loan equipment stored at The Herlington Centre. This can be loaned by contacting the centre Mon- Thurs and speaking to Dave Warne on 01733 233132 or visiting the centre in person. Individuals are also welcome to borrow the equipment.

For help and support in organising a litter pick in your own area contact

Ward Councillor

Cllr Heather Skibsted on 01733 201085  
Or Peterborough Litter Wombles on Facebook

## Orton Waterville Parish Council

Parish Clerk is Mrs Alison Brown who can be contacted by email: [clerk@ortonwaterville-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@ortonwaterville-pc.gov.uk) or by telephone 01733 346483.

Meetings are now taking place on the last Wednesday of each month (except August) at 7:00 pm in the Orton Waterville Village Hall, Glebe Avenue.

Members of the Public are welcome. Should you have a matter to raise, please contact the Clerk before the meeting.

Agendas and minutes can be obtained from the website [ortonwatervilleparishcouncil.org.uk](http://ortonwatervilleparishcouncil.org.uk)

## Orton Waterville Methodist Chapel, Chapel Lane

### Drop-in for the Retired

Every Monday afternoon between 2pm and 4pm



Meet up with old friends and make some new ones, newspapers, magazines, games and crafts available to keep the hands and the mind active or spend time in company over tea and biscuits.

## SILVERTOPS at CHRIST CHURCH

For the over 60s at Christ Church Orton Goldhay Wednesdays at 10am except 3rd Wednesday of each month at 2pm

Coffee, table games, quizzes, talks, social contact and more  
Call Liz on 07768015561

## ORTON WATERVILLE METHODIST CHURCH CHAPEL LANE



## Rummikub

Friday 14th Feb  
from 2:30pm



Friday 28th Feb  
from 2:30pm  
Friendly Fun  
For all levels of ability

## Whist Group

Meets on a Friday evening, 6.30pm - 9.30pm at

Orton Waterville Village Hall?  
The charge £3 per session with tea / coffee provided.

It's a friendly group and has been going for 40+ years but would welcome new people.

WHIST

## Boost Your Knowledge!



- Birds do not urinate. Horses and cows sleep while standing.
- The bat is the only mammal capable of true flight. Its leg bones are so thin that it cannot walk.
- Even when a snake's eyes are closed, it can still see through its eyelids.
- Despite their fluffy white fur, Polar Bears actually have black skin.
- The average housefly lives only 2 to 3 weeks.
- For every human, there are approximately one million ants.
- Alligators and sharks can live for up to 100 years.
- A honeybee has two stomachs: one for honey and one for food.
- Elephants weigh less than the tongue of a blue whale. A blue whale's heart is the size of a car.
- Blue whales are the largest creatures to ever roam the Earth.
- A cockroach can survive for about a week without its head before dying of starvation.
- When a dolphin is sick or injured, its cries of distress prompt other dolphins to assist, helping it surface to breathe.
- A snail can sleep for up to 3 years.
- Sharks are immune to every disease, including cancer.
- A mosquito's proboscis has 47 sharp edges to help it cut through skin and even protective clothing.
- The human brain has a memory capacity of over 2.5 million petabytes, equivalent to 2,500,500 gigabytes.

## Loss of Muscle Mass, Strength and Function in Humans

What is the biological phenomenon responsible for the gradual loss of muscle mass, strength, and function as we age? This is known as Sarcopenia! Sarcopenia refers to the progressive loss of skeletal muscle mass and strength due to aging. The impact of this condition can be severe, depending on the individual. How to prevent Sarcopenia?

**Stay Active:** If you can stand, don't sit—if you can sit, don't lie down! Movement is key to preventing muscle loss.

**Encourage Movement in the Elderly:** When an elderly person is sick or hospitalised, avoid encouraging them to rest or remain in bed. Help them walk, unless they are too weak to do so. Lying in bed for just a week can cause a 5% loss in muscle mass, and seniors often cannot fully recover this loss.

**Sarcopenia is more concerning than osteoporosis:** With osteoporosis, the primary risk is falling, but sarcopenia not only affects quality of life but also contributes to high blood sugar due to reduced muscle mass.

**Idle muscles lead to faster muscle loss:** Muscles in the legs deteriorate quickly when not used. Sitting or lying down limits leg movement, weakening muscles.

Activities like walking, running, and cycling are excellent ways to build and maintain muscle mass.

**Aging Starts from the Feet Up!** Keep your legs active and strong as you age. If you don't move your legs for just two weeks, you'll lose the strength of a decade! Regular exercises like walking and cycling are vital for maintaining muscle strength. The feet support the entire body's weight, making them critical for mobility. So, walk every day to maintain strength and mobility.

### What If A Climate Crisis Is Not Likely?

Artwork : Astro Cruise, an art series by Ben Heine



"In 1985 the amount of money that the USA has spent on the Cold War since 1945 was approximately 10 trillion dollars. In 1985 with that amount of money, one could own everything in the country, minus the land.

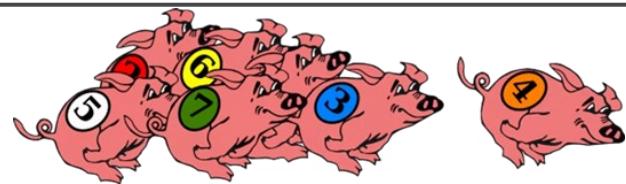
How certain was it that the enemy were going to invade? Was it 100% certain?

Guess not since they never invaded. What if it was only, let's say 10% certain? What would advocates of big military buildup have said?..... We must be prudent. It's not enough to count on only the most likely circumstance. I ask my friends who are comfortable with that argument.

Why doesn't that same argument apply to Global Warming? You don't think it's 100% likely? Fine. You are entitled to think that. If it's only a small probability of it happening since the consequences are so serious, don't you have to make some serious investment to prevent it or mitigate it? I think there's a double standard of argument working and I don't think we should permit it."

Unlike military spend that benefits only a segment of the economy, all of the money we would spend fighting climate change would be economically beneficial even if climate change does not happen.

Prof Carl Sagan



### Orton 'Pig Race' Wednesday 12 March 2025

After the successful Quiz night last year, the Orton Waterville Show Committee are holding a 'Pig Race' at **7pm on Wednesday 12 March 2025** at Orton Waterville Village Hall to raise money to fund the Show on Saturday 6 September 2025.

So, for an evening of fun and laughter, be sure to book your place! Teams will be formed and each team will have a pig. Dice will be rolled, races will be run and the aim of the game is for your pig to win! Entry is £5 per person.

Nibbles will be provided and there will be a raffle. Please bring your own drinks and cash from your piggy banks for the races and raffle!

Please contact Joan or Angela for your tickets.  
joantiplady@yahoo.com or 07816 533956 or  
angela.henderson2@ntlworld.com or 07884 043811

**REFLECTION** — Groundhog Month

If you are reader of Orton Oracle and have a good memory, you may recall the Reflection that I wrote 12 months ago.

And so, like Groundhog Day, here is another offering.

Lots of us have seen the film Groundhog Day. In the USA it is celebrated on February 2nd when a superstition is that if a groundhog animal emerges from its burrow and sees its shadow, it will retreat and winter will go on for six more weeks; if it does not see its shadow, spring will arrive early. Christians also celebrate Candlemas on the same date. However, unlike the film character (played by Bill Murray), we are not trapped to forever repeat waking up on February 2nd exactly as before until we become better people.

Under Jewish rules, a boy had to be circumcised 8 days after birth, to us that is January 1st, and 33 days later he would be presented to the Lord God in the temple or other place of worship. That takes us to February 2nd. Also, 40 days after giving birth has been a traditional confinement period for mothers in many cultures. For Jesus our Messiah, or Christ, the story is told in the Bible, how his parents, Mary and Joseph, took him to the temple courts in Jerusalem and presented him.

So why Candlemas? Before we had electricity, candles were our main source of artificial light and people used to take theirs to church to be blessed on February 2nd, the Festival of Purification or Presentation of Jesus, hence the name Candlemas.

A bit later in the month, we may again celebrate St. Valentine's Day. He was a priest or bishop who ministered to persecuted Christians during the Roman Empire. When he refused to renounce his faith, he was tortured and beheaded on February 14th, 269 AD. Tradition has it that before his execution, Saint Valentine wrote a note to a girl whom he had healed in the name of God, and signed it "from your Valentine", which is said to have led to the sending of romantic cards and gifts in modern times. Whatever the month holds for you, if you have made mistakes try not to repeat them, somehow love the ones you are with (romantically or in other ways), and hope we have an early spring. David / Christian Presence church.

**WALKING WITH FRIENDS IN & AROUND THE ORTONS**

Wishing everyone a very happy and healthy New Year. We'll continue to hold our free weekly walks over the coming weeks into 2025, weather permitting, so please come along and join us on our friendly strolls around the Ortons, whenever you can find the time. Simply turn up on the day, join the walk and enjoy the company. (Dogs, under your control, are welcome too). We look forward to seeing you, whenever you can make it. (For further details go to [www.vivacity.org](http://www.vivacity.org) and scroll down to Wellbeing Walks)

**Ramblewood Walk**

**Every Thursday morning at 11.00am**

**Meeting place: The Ramblewood Inn car park, at Orton Hall, Orton Longueville**

Approx. 1 hour (3 miles/5km)

Don Worby – 07722 367302 or 01733 236218 or email [don.worby@ntlworld.com](mailto:don.worby@ntlworld.com)

**Hampton Vale**

**Every Tuesday morning at 11.00am**

**Meeting place: Outside the Sue Ryder shop in Stewartby Avenue. PE7 8ND**

60 minutes approx.

Don Worby - 07722 367302 or 01733 236218 or email [don.worby@ntlworld.com](mailto:don.worby@ntlworld.com)

**Ferry Meadows Three Lakes morning walk**

**Every Monday at 10.00am**

**Meeting place: Visitor Centre/café in Ferry Meadows.**

45 – 60 minutes (dependant on attendees)

Barry Oxbury on 07931 179962 or 01733 713206 or email [barryoxbury@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:barryoxbury@hotmail.co.uk)

**Ferry Meadows afternoon walk**

**Every Thursday afternoon at 1.30pm**

**Meeting place: Visitor Centre/café in Ferry Meadows.**

45 – 60 minutes (dependant on attendees)

Barry Oxbury on 07931179962 or 01733 713206 or email [barryoxbury@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:barryoxbury@hotmail.co.uk)

**Botolph Green/Ferry Meadows walks**

**Every Friday morning at 11.00am**

**Meeting place: Please park on roads adjoining Botolph Green, just off Oundle Road, Peterborough, 60-90 minutes**

Barbara Parsons – 07763 345817

**Bereavement Wellbeing Walks**

**On the First Saturday of each month at 10.30am.**

**Meeting place. Notcutt's car park PE2 5UU.**

Approx 60 -75 minutes.

Cruse Bereavement Support Volunteers.

**Contact Peterborough Cruse by email at [peterborough@cruse.org.uk](mailto:peterborough@cruse.org.uk)**

**Central Park Walk NEW WALK**

**3rd Saturday of each month at 10.30am**

**The Willow Cafe, in Central Park,**

Approx 30 – 60 minutes

Walk Leaders. Cruse Bereavement Support Volunteers

Contact Peterborough Cruse by email at [peterborough@cruse.org.uk](mailto:peterborough@cruse.org.uk)

**City Centre Walk – Cathedral Green,**

**Every Saturday morning at 10.30am**

**Meeting place: Cathedral Precincts, just inside the Norman Archway main entrance, PE1 1XS**

Approx. - 90 minutes

Eleanor Elliott 07745 173790

## Orton Waterville Methodist Church, Chapel Lane

Sunday Morning Worship  
Normal services 10.30am

Holy Communion with Rev. Janet Titterton on  
Sunday February 9th at 10:30am

**Orton Friends**  
Drop in for retired people.  
Every Monday afternoon  
between 2.00pm. and 4.00pm.  
Come and meet with friends old and new.  
Share in a variety of activities and  
refreshments.

**Rummikub**  
Friday 14th Feb  
**Scrabble**  
Friday 28th Feb

## ORTON GOSPEL HALL

MALBORNE WAY, PETERBOROUGH, PE2 5LX



### EXPLORERS - SUNDAYS (EXCEPT 3RD SUNDAY) AT 12PM.

Term time only. Singing, quizzes & Bible stories for  
primary school-aged children.



### GOOD NEWS SERVICE - 1ST, 2ND AND 5TH SUNDAYS AT 4:30PM.

A good news message from the Bible for everyone.



### FAMILY SPECIAL - 3RD SUNDAY AT 4:30PM.

A Bible-based message, songs, quizzes and a buffet tea  
for the whole family.



### TEA & TOTS - TUESDAYS AT 10AM.

Term time only. Fun, snacks, stories and singing for  
pre-school children.



Want to know more? Visit  
[www.ortongospelhall.org.uk](http://www.ortongospelhall.org.uk)

"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."  
1 Timothy 1v15. The Bible



## The Salvation Army Matley Community Centre Orton Brimbles

Services are all Sunday Worship

All services start at 10.15 — All are Welcome

For further information please contact:  
Major Rena Litchfield

Tel:  
01733 230830/394200

Email:  
[rena.litchfield@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:rena.litchfield@salvationarmy.org.uk)



## Christ Church

Orton Goldhay and Orton Malborne

Revd Canon Sarah Gower [sarahcgower@btinternet.com](mailto:sarahcgower@btinternet.com)  
or 01733 394411

### February 2025 Services

Sunday Feb 02	10.00am Morning Worship
Sunday Feb 09	10.00am Holy Communion 3.00pm Afternoon Holy Communion
Sunday Feb 16	10.00am Holy Communion Sunday
Feb 23	10.30am Morning Worship with Methodist Circuit 6.30pm Healing Communion

**Coffee Connect** meets twice this month on Fridays, February 14 & 28, from 2.00 – 4.00pm. Do come along for a cup of coffee or tea, for homemade cakes and biscuits, and for a chat.

**Half Term Messy Church** is happening on Friday, February 21, from 10.30 – 12.30, with fun and activities for all the family – lunch included. We look forward to seeing you!

AT CHRIST CHURCH  
2 BENSTEAD ORTON GOLDHAY, PETERBOROUGH PE2 5JJ

If you or anyone you know have difficulty  
reading, why not have it read to you? The Oracle  
is recorded on tape, and can be reproduced on  
tape, pen drive or CD - Email us:

[ortonoracle@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ortonoracle@hotmail.co.uk)

# St. Andrew's Alwalton

Serving Orton Wistow, Orton  
Northgate Orton Southgate & Alwalton



[www.alwaltonchurch.org.uk](http://www.alwaltonchurch.org.uk)

Revd Canon Sarah Gower  
Tel 01733- 394411  
Church wardens;  
Mr David Neate 236823  
Prof Jonathon Chambers 233638

**Normal services at 10.30 a.m.**

**FEBRUARY 2025**  
All services at 10.30 am

**2nd Family Service**  
**9th Holy Communion**  
**16th Morning Worship**  
**23rd Morning Worship**

Services based on Common  
Worship. For other activities please  
see the website Learning, loving &  
living for Christ

## St. Michael's Church Chesterton

**Rev Canon Sarah Gower**  
**01733 394411**

**Services for February**

**2nd** 9am Holy Communion  
**9th** 5pm Evening Prayer  
**16th** 9am Morning Prayer  
**23rd** 5pm Evening Holy Communion

To learn more about our church visit the  
“A Church Near You” website.

All Welcome

## The Orton Benefice: St Mary's Orton Waterville and Holy Trinity, Orton Longueville.

Revd. Imogen Falvey  
Tel: 01733 230896  
Email: [revimogen@gmail.com](mailto:revimogen@gmail.com)  
(Rest day Friday)

### Website

Full details of church services can be found  
on the [A Church Near You](#) website.

### St Mary's Orton Waterville

Church Warden  
Mr Daniel Goymour  
01733 231535

#### For bookings of Weddings and Baptisms and Funeral Enquiries

Revd Falvey 01733 230896  
[revimogen@gmail.com](mailto:revimogen@gmail.com)

For Service times please contact the  
Church directly

### Holy Trinity Orton Longueville

Church Wardens  
Jackie Harrison 01733 238732  
Mrs Sue Martin 01733 288875

#### Wedding enquiries

Wendy McCormick 01733 239453  
[wendy.margaret@icloud.com](mailto:wendy.margaret@icloud.com)

#### Baptism and Churchyard enquiries

Jill Norman 01733 237872  
[jill.748norman@btinternet.com](mailto:jill.748norman@btinternet.com)

#### Funeral Enquiries

Revd Falvey 01733 230896  
[revimogen@gmail.com](mailto:revimogen@gmail.com)

For Service times please contact the  
Church directly

## PETERBOROUGH FOODBANK.

If you would like to  
donate items for the  
Peterborough  
Foodbank.  
**Orton Waterville  
Methodist Church**  
will be pleased to  
receive them at any  
of their events and  
pass them on to the  
warehouse.



Artwork :  
Astro Cruise, an art series by  
Ben Heine

## St. Michael's Church Chesterton

**Rev Canon Sarah Gower**  
**01733 394411**

**Services for February**

**2nd** 9am Holy Communion  
**9th** 5pm Evening Prayer  
**16th** 9am Morning Prayer  
**23rd** 5pm Evening Holy Communion

To learn more about our church visit the  
“A Church Near You” website.

All Welcome

## CHRISTIAN PRESENCE CHURCH

founded in 1976 in Orton Malborne  
Herlington Community Centre

**Services for February**

**2nd February - 10.30am - Sue Claydon**

**9th February - 10.30am**

**16th February - 10.30am**

**23rd February - 10.30am**



Contact: Tracey 07479 933845  
All are welcome

## An update from our local Councillors serving the Ortons.



Cllr Imtiaz Ali, elected in May 2024, and myself, Cllr Heather Skibsted councillor since 2019, cover Longueville, Malborne and Goldhay as Green Party city councillors. I am also a parish councillor for these areas.

There are always many issues affecting residents in the Ortons. One of the concerns regularly raised is the state of the bushes and green spaces which in many areas and on many estates appear to be quite overgrown, in some cases, causing issues of access and safety. As councillors we always raise specific complaints when we get these reported which all residents can do via phone or email. The schedule for cutting back of trees and bushes and maintaining green spaces has been reduced due to budget pressures, but the next round of maintenance in Malborne was in December and is in January for Goldhay, Wistow, Waterville, Brimble, Southgate and Northgate.

Many are aware that Orton Longueville Parish Council have, like Orton Waterville Parish Council, employed a lengthsman who is full time and picks up litter across the parish and reports fly tipping. I have seen a visible difference in the tidiness of the area over the past few months. Please do report to us of any specific hotspots that may need some extra work. We will no longer be running regular councillor-led litter picks but are very willing to support any groups that wish to run their own litter pick or would like us to support a litter pick in a specific area. Equipment is available for all groups at the Herlington Centre – just ring or call in and sign out the equipment to borrow.

The Goldhay centre in Orton Goldhay is now closed since it was vacated by Family Voice. The council are looking for a community group to run this centre where it can also be of benefit to the local community. It is sad that the weekly café had to close, so it would be great if the centre can re-open and the café reinstated at some point. I hope to hear about the future of this centre very soon and am pressing for an answer on this.

Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We are regularly out on “street surgeries” in different areas of the ward, but can always be contacted.

Cllr Heather Skibsted 01733 201085 [heather.skibsted@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:heather.skibsted@peterborough.gov.uk)

Cllr Imtiaz Ali 07970 697639 [Imtiaz.ali@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:Imtiaz.ali@peterborough.gov.uk)

Cllr Nicola Day is a Green Party ward councillor in Orton Waterville, covering Waterville, Wistow and Brimble as well as Orton Southgate and Northgate:

The two planning applications for 850+ Leisure and 650 homes to be developed on the Showground were heard at the Planning Committee on October 15<sup>th</sup>. I had set up a residents steering group (Showground Plans Under Residents Review) in July 2024 so I could best represent residents’ concerns at this meeting.

I raised issues around the application going against Peterborough’s Local Plan policies, that the access road and highways mitigations still needed addressing and that Public Health had objected due to an inadequate Health Assessment. The NHS noted that none of the planning documents included assessment of local primary care facilities, and PCC Open Space objected on the lack of clarity on quantities of open space and accessibility plans for play areas, neighbourhood park, allotments and green space. The refused application for the 650 homes has now been approved by the Planning and Appeals Review Committee on January 13<sup>th</sup>.

On another planning matter, the application for 42 flats to be built at Ascot House. Ascot House (the former Norwich and Peterborough Building) already has 96 serviced apartments has applied to build another 42 flats partially on the car park. I objected to this proposal and the Planning Department at Peterborough City Council refused the application.

However the developer/ applicant at Ascot House has appealed this application to the Government Planning Inspectorate. Cllr Nicola Day has been giving residents information on how to comment on this appeals application.

Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We are regularly out on ‘Meet On Your Street’ sessions in different areas of the ward. If there is anything we can help with in Orton Waterville, contact me:  
[nicola.day@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.day@peterborough.gov.uk) 07443535902

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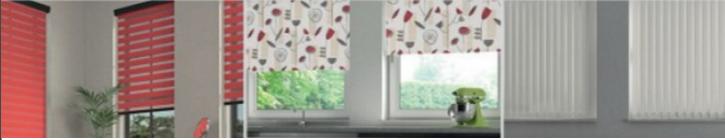
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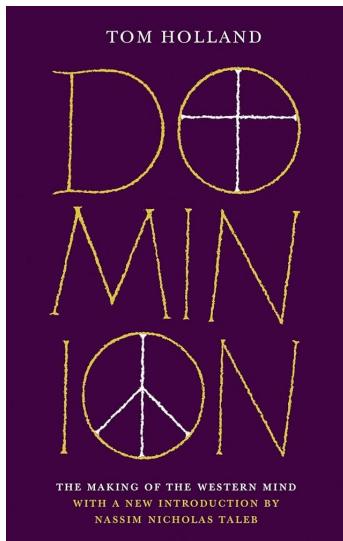
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## BOOK OF THE MONTH - Dominion - Tom Holland

This month we dedicate a book in memory of John McKee who sadly passed away this month. One of our own volunteers for which we will be grateful for. John was also the Churchwarden at St. Michaels at Chesterton. He was very enthusiastic about this, one of his favourite, books.

Dominion is a thought-provoking and engaging work that offers a fresh perspective on the enduring legacy of Christianity in shaping Western thought and culture.

"Dominion: The Making of the Western Mind" by Tom Holland is a comprehensive exploration of Christianity's profound

influence on Western civilization. Holland traces the religion's evolution from a marginalized sect to a dominant cultural force, shaping values, ethics, and institutions over two millennia. He argues that many modern Western principles, including secularism, science, and even atheism, are

deeply rooted in Christian theology. The book spans from ancient events like the Persian invasion of Greece in 480 BC to contemporary issues such as

Europe's migration crisis, illustrating Christianity's enduring impact on societal norms and thought processes

In memory of John McKee and our thoughts are with his family.

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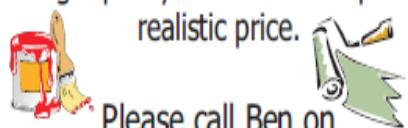
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