

PARISH MAGAZINE



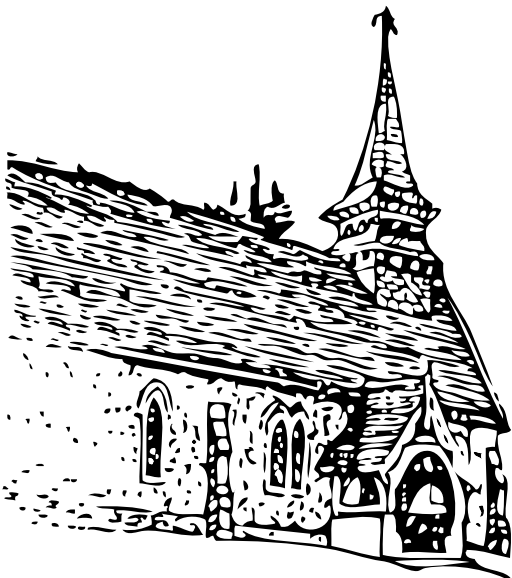
St. Mary's, Herriard



All Saints', Turworth



St. Mary's, Upton Grey



St. Lawrence, Westcott Patrick

January
2023

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	Adrian Spruce	07976 967059
Tunworth	Mark Ruffell	01256 346148
	Edwina Spicer	01256 471271
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Weston Patrick	Clare Davies	01256 862762

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County Councillor: Juliet Henderson (juliet.henderson@hants.gov.uk) 01256 862413

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BENEFICE MAGAZINE – January 2023
Edition for the Parishes of Herriard with Winslade, Tunworth,
Upton Grey and Weston Patrick

From the Benefice Ministry Team

In his December editorial my friend and colleague Rev Chris Dudgeon wrote about the timeless invitation to ‘Follow the Star’ and to come face to face with the person of Jesus Christ. He drew on the experience of the wise men who undertook a quite impressive 800 mile journey to visit Jesus and encouraged us to each take on our own personal journey to encounter Jesus afresh this Christmas.



The theme of journeying and following is woven not just into the Christmas story but into the whole of the Christian story. What began with a series of journeys following a star or an angelic invitation translates into a lifetime of following the one for whom the star shone.

In the ancient near-East, at the time of Jesus, following Rabbis and spiritual teachers was a common part of everyday life. The most dedicated followers would spend 24 hours a day with their Rabbi, eating with them, resting with them, even sleeping on the floor next to them, just in case they uttered some profound words during the night. The disciple, or follower, would carefully observe each and every interaction their teacher had, how they spoke, what they said, how they ate, who they sat next to at supper. It was, to coin a contemporary phrase, an ‘immersive experience’.

If I had to summarise the Christian life I would start by saying that at its heart it is about following Jesus. Paying careful attention to him, noticing what he said and how he said it, who he spent time with and how he conducted himself. It is about the patient expectation of catching a word of wisdom and insight in the most unlikely of places.

Now that might seem a little abstracted. After all, we can’t follow Jesus in the same sense that his first disciples did, because we cannot see him. However, over two millennia, people have still found ways to follow Jesus, paying attention to him through the Christian scriptures, hearing his voice by making time to spend in prayer, or catching his words of wisdom as they are mediated through the historic Christian faith.

From the earliest days following was never a singular activity. Disciples were always part of a larger group and found encouragement and support from those whom they journeyed with. Following Jesus needs to be worked out in community.

Over the last few months we've been really fortunate to see some new initiatives bubbling up across our churches, all of which are about creating community. In several of our villages there are regular times to drop in for coffee and cake (Upton Grey Village Hall on the second and fourth Mondays of the month 11.00–1.00 and Tunworth Church on the first Thursday of the month 10.30-11.30 for example).

Additionally, in partnership with local business SonicWall we have recently launched 'The Dinner Table', a community hub in North Warnborough Village Hall. The Dinner Table is open to all and meets on two Sundays most months. It's a place to gather, enjoy community, develop friendships and to enjoy a delicious (free) hot supper.

Rev Simon Butler
Benefice Rector

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism: Vivienne Sudlow at St Mary's Upton Grey on 4th December

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 1st January

9.00am Tunworth – Benefice BCP Holy Communion

Sunday 8th January

9.00am Herriard – Morning Worship

10.00am Upton Grey – Family Worship

10.00am Weston Patrick – CW Holy Communion

5.00pm Tunworth –Evensong

Thursday 12th January

10.00am Upton Grey – BCP Holy Communion (said)

Sunday 15th January

9.00am Herriard – BCP Holy Communion (said)

9.00am Tunworth – 1662 Morning Prayer

10.00am Upton Grey – CW Holy Communion

Thursday 19th January

10.00am Herriard – BCP Holy Communion (said)

Sunday 22nd January

9.00am Tunworth – Family Service

10.00am Upton Grey – Morning Worship

11.00am Herriard – Family Service

5.00pm Weston Patrick – Evensong

Sunday 29th January

9.30am Odiham – Benefice CW Holy Communion

11.00am Odiham – Benefice Informal Service

CHURCH NEWS**Christmas Thank-You**

I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone, whether a regular worshipper or an occasional guest, who has been involved in the many Christmas services and events in Herriard, Tunworth, Upton Grey and Weston Patrick. Over the Christmas period we hosted an Advent Carol service, a Crib service, two Christingle services, three Carol Services, a Midnight Communion and four Christmas Day celebrations. I would like also to say a big thank-you to all of the volunteers who made this happen - preparing oranges, lighting candles, singing in choirs, doing the flowers, cleaning the churches and so many other things. We really could not do it without you - many, many thanks!

Rev Simon Butler

Coffee & Cake Drop-in – Monday 9th & 23th January

The St Mary's Upton Grey 'Coffee & Cake Drop-in' events are now twice a month, and the next two are on **Monday 9th and 23th January in Upton Grey Village Hall**. Tea or coffee, slice of cake, chat – plus the **option of soup and a roll**, and please note the **new time of 11.00-1.00**. Open to all, very informal, no need to book, just turn up.

New bell ringers sought for St Mary's Upton Grey

Please see the article in the Upton Grey News section of this magazine asking for new bell ringers, with the particular aim of having a self-sustaining band of ringers ready to join the nationwide campaign for every bell tower in the country to ring in the new King at his coronation in May – 'Ring for the King'!

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

Is There Any Point in Complaining?

Almost two years ago, Upton Grey was attacked by workmen digging a trench for a sewage pipe along Weston Road that extended from almost one end of Weston Road to the other. There was also around two months of chaos and disruption for road users of not knowing what was going on, of damaged verges, of having to walk past unprotected deep trenches, of being delayed by unexpected road closures, and so on. Surely the vast majority of those who were living in the village at that time will say it was truly a horrendous time.

Many people complained during the period – to the contractors, to the County Council, to our local councillors and to our MP, as well as - albeit to a limited extent - to the Parish Council. But frankly little changed during the time the work was being undertaken and, before we knew it, the contractors had more or less finished their contract and disappeared.

Was it inevitable that our complaints would be ignored and that the interests of the villagers be ignored by the contractor? Could the chaos have been avoided or at least kept to a minimum?

Seeking answers, I did a little bit of digging myself. I found out that the Parish Council was not involved in anything to do with contractors having the necessary permission to dig the road up, and that it was Hampshire County Council (HCC) under Section 171 of the Highways Act 1980 that had issued their licence. Interestingly the Act gives HCC powers to set “.... *such conditions as they think fit*....” And it goes on to say that:

A person who without reasonable excuse contravenes any condition subject to which a consent is given is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding £10 in respect of each day on which the contravention or failure occurs.

There is also the New Roads and Street Works (1998), Clause 59 which defines the ...

‘General duty of the street authority to co-ordinate works’ and says (1) that a street authority shall use their best endeavours to co-ordinate the execution of the works of all kinds in the street for which they are responsible (a) in the interests of safety, and (b) to minimise the inconvenience to persons using the street.....

Putting to one side the issue of whether Weston Road is a road, or a street, or both, it is clear that HCC had neglected to impose sufficient conditions on the contractor to enable HCC to fulfil its statutory duty. Surely, this provided the basis for us to complain about the Council’s total

failure to carry out Parliament's intention to reasonably protect the interests of those affected by such works.

Rather than adding to the pile of complaints, it seemed more constructive to produce an alternative approach consistent with the two Acts. This led to a couple of us defining a new approach which we concluded was a 'Win+Win+Win' for HCC, the contractor and the villagers. Its basic idea was to make the contractor's licence conditional on them reaching an agreement with the Parish Council (or equivalent) on a plan for minimising the negative impact of the proposed works. The plan would cover 13 topics such as Safety, Lighting, Spoil, and Verges and, as a guarantee of their commitment to minimise the negative impact of the works, the contractor would agree to compensate the village where they transgressed.

As an example, this might be at the rate of £0.50 per head of population, per day, per village, per class of negative impact). This would not be a fine but would be based on a commercial relationship between the parties. As an illustration of how this might work, I estimated that in undertaking the work involved in laying the sewage pipe, the contractor had made a total of around 55 daily infractions. Assuming the relevant affected population was about 750, then the total compensation payable would have been about £20,000.

Our then County Councillor kindly passed a copy of our suggested approach to HCC. In their reply of January 2021, they admitted that only a few conditions were specified on the licence agreement and that, due to the lack of resources, they did not make any effort to monitor the side-effects of the works as they were carried out on site. While they had some sympathy with our proposal, they doubted whether it could be implemented but most notably they made no offer to meet to see how improvements in their system might be introduced.

This was hardly encouraging and there appeared to be only two ways forward: (1) via formal channels, such as our MP, or (2) by building up a larger group of people seeking a change in HCC's attitude, for example, by asking others other parishes, districts etc which had been badly affected by the way road works had been carried to join with our Parish Council in making a combined protest. My initial action was to propose the establishment of a pressure group, tentatively called Justice for Village Residents, with our Parish Council as founder members. For a variety of reasons, the councillors rejected the idea at their April 2021 meeting.

This left the MP route to pursue and in September 2021 Mr Jayawardena kindly forwarded a letter to the Secretary of State for Transport setting out our complaint against HCC in the hope he could do

something about it. In their reply, the Ministry of Roads said that it is only responsible for setting out the legislation and does not comment on individual circumstances. However, they pointed me in the direction of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO).

This at least looked encouraging and on 14th Oct I completed the complaint form on their website. It was not entirely surprising that in that post-Covid period that I did not receive an immediate reply and I should admit that in the following months I was heavily involved in a court case following the death of my elder son. In fact, it was not until May 2022 that I contacted them again. I was told that they had no record of my October complaint and that the only way forward was to make another complaint. To my surprise, this was rejected on the grounds of lateness of my complaint.

Naturally, I protested that I had made a complaint in the previous October, but LGSCO again rejected my claim and in the process accused me of not speaking the whole truth. They also went on to say that they did not consider the injustice the village suffered was significant enough to justify their involvement so that they would not exercise their discretion to disregard their finding of lateness. They said their criteria had not been met, which led me to enquire about the nature of these criteria. However, this only resulted in a somewhat hostile reply in which they accused me of being unreasonable in continuing my ‘cross-examination’ regarding their decision not to investigate our complaint.

In what I consider a serious breach of their duty as a public body to be transparent, and to be seen to be transparent, LGSCO have refused repeatedly to inform me of the factors they considered in reaching their decision. This is despite the fact that on page 34 of their “Guidance on Good Practice” an example is given of how they would deal with a complaint regarding ‘various nuisances, including smells, dust, smoke, and noise, which are prejudicial to health or cause a nuisance’, where it is written: *Smells, dust and smoke cannot be easily measured, but the government has given guidance. Whether the problem amounts to a statutory nuisance depends on type, frequency, duration and timing, and is a matter of professional judgement.*

With this in mind, I suggested to LGSCO that the level of injustice we suffered cannot be measured and that therefore LGSCO ought to have considered in their deliberations several indicators of injustice to the residents of Upton Grey. If they did, they have refused to tell me. It is possible that LGSCO wanted to do so but lacked the data to carry such an evaluation. However, they had several opportunities to ask for further information on the injustices the village suffered but have not done so. It

was very disappointing but no surprise when they refused to provide any further information on their evaluation process.

So, I got nowhere, and HCC can continue to disregard the protection given to villagers to minimise the impact from road works, and LGSCO can continue to operate disregarding reasonable levels of transparency.

Is this what Parliament intended when they passed the relevant legislation. Are we really expected to go to Courts to seek a Judicial Review of LGSCO's decision? Or give up, and admit defeat? Or seek wider publicity? Or sit back and think of England!

I would love to hear from anyone who has any other idea on how we might proceed as well from anyone who has suffered in recent years from poorly implemented roadworks or something similar, as such laying pipelines across fields.

Mike Hoyle, Beam Ends, Weston Road mhhoye@aol.com

Farming News

Shorts finally consigned to the bottom draw in early December, that's the latest for many years! We had a phenomenal autumn for grass growth after the extremely dry summer when we were desperately short. I think the grass finally stopped growing during the cold snap in early December. The autumn growth has been a real boon for us because we have low winter feed stocks due to the dry summer and are facing high input costs across the whole business.

We were able to keep heifers out in the fields much longer than normal rather than housing them in the barns for winter, which is usually some time in November. When they are winter housed, we feed and bed them on straw and give them a concentrated feed nut that consists of wheat, oats, rape meal, minerals and molasses. This is more expensive in feed, labour and time than keeping them out in the fields. Providing the grass is of good quality and the ground not too wet, to avoid damaging the grass and soil structure for the following year, then keeping them out for as long as possible makes sense. The downside is that I was still mowing my lawn and around the farm buildings well into December.

With all the cows and heifers now housed, warm and dry we are ready for the worst that winter will throw at us..... we hope. We have a big site generator in case of power outages. We must keep the robot milkers running 24 hours a day, every day. We cannot afford to be without power, even for a short while. I've bought a one tonne bag of road salt ready to grit our farm track in case of snow and ice so we can get feed lorries, deliveries and most importantly, the milk tanker in and out. The milk tanker picks up 20,000 litres of milk from us every other day and if

he can get close to Herriard, we will get him in and out. It's amazing what you can pull/push with a large tractor and a JCB! Most water pipes are well lagged where they can be although the cows and calves love chewing the lagging off whenever they get half a chance! I think I've ordered plenty of feed and tied down the correct delivery dates which has been a real problem this year because of ongoing supply issues.

Shottle Primrose 3, who is now our oldest cow, has just become our highest yielding cow ever. She has just past 160,000 litres of milk produced in her lifetime which is quite something. 160 tonnes of milk!

We have a beauty parade by an independent assessor from the Holstein Society for all our cows every 8 months. He considers their conformation and ranks them so all cows classified can be compared worldwide. The top score worldwide is 'Excellent 97' (no cow can be 'Excellent 100'. Maybe there's no such thing as the perfect cow?). Primrose is ranked 'Excellent 94' and still looks terrific despite having produced so much milk and 9 calves. There's a misconception that the modern dairy cow doesn't last but if she's from good breeding, in a caring and comfortable environment, then she will. Primrose is bit of a diva though; she doesn't suffer fools. If she were human, there'd be a touch of Beyoncé with a bit of Naomi Campbell thrown in and a dash of Miriam Margolyes in so much as she's getting on a bit and doesn't really care what people think!

Primrose won't have any more calves now at her age, but we have many generations of her daughters, granddaughters and great granddaughters here at the farm. In fact, we've just served her last daughter born, to a very good bull called Renegade. Here's hoping we have many more Primrose descendants born in 2023 to do the old matriarch proud.

Happy 2023 to you, from all at Park Farm.

Joe Ives

News from Long Sutton C of E Primary School

We have enjoyed welcoming prospective families at our open days during October and November; the highlight is always the school tours, led by our Y6 children. If you have a child due to start school in September 2023 or require a place in another year group, please contact the school office on adminoffice@longsutton.hants.sch.uk or tel: 01256 862238 to book a meeting and tour with me. Applications for Reception 2023 can be made at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions>. The deadline for applying is 15th January 2023.

Hannah Inglis (Headteacher)

UPTON GREY NEWS

www.uptongreychurch.co.uk

www.uptongreyparishcouncil.co.uk

facebook.com/uptongreyvillagecommunity

TEA@3 - January/February 2023

We will **not** be holding a tea in January, so our next tea will be on Thursday 16th February at 3.00pm and Maureen Deere has kindly offered to host it at her house, Hazeley, Weston Close. We hope you will join us to welcome in the New Year – please let one of us know if you would like to come and we can arrange a lift for you if you need one. There will be a reminder in the February magazine for you!

We wish you all a very happy and peaceful New Year and look forward to seeing you in 2023.

Barbara 862627, Jill 862131, Viv 862131

Upton Grey Village Hall 100 Club Draw

December Draw

First prize of £100 was won by M. Harmon (45) and second prize of £40 by M. Hooker (112)

Change of Date: Upton Grey Safari Supper 11th March 2023

Please save the date for next year's Safari supper on Saturday 11th March 2023. Could everyone who has been before please invite someone who hasn't? Thank you.

Julia and Viv

Coffee and Cake drop in

Upton Grey Village Hall
Monday 9th & 23rd January

11.00am – 1.00pm

(please note new times)

Also Soup & a Roll now!!

All welcome

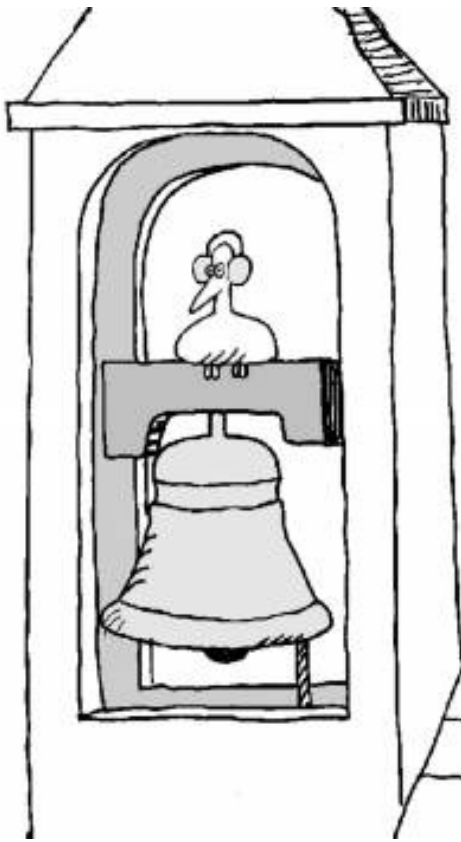


St Mary's Upton Grey
www.moretolife.church

St Mary's Upton Grey – New bell ringers sought for ‘Ring for the King’ – May 2023

You may have heard the bells chime out on a Thursday evening and enjoyed the sound, and now there is another chance (since our last ‘welcome to the bell-ringing tower’ evening) for anyone in the parish to see what bell ringing is all about.

We are aiming to have a self-sustaining band of ringers ready to ring in the new King at his coronation in May. Nationwide, the aim is to have every single bell tower in the country ringing in King Charles III under a campaign called ‘Ring for the King’.



What is involved in ringing in Upton Grey?

- We practise on Thursday evenings for about an hour and are hoping to ring for some Sunday services for half an hour.
- It is a lovely ‘mindful’ activity.
- Everyone can do it; no – you don’t have to be strong, fit or musical (just able to walk about 30 stairs to the bell ringing room).
- It is open to all ages over 10 years old – children welcome
- Everyone will be supervised by experienced ringers and initially have group starter lessons (in a ratio of 1 to 1).
- All can go ‘at their own pace’ in terms of learning.
- We often go to the pub after practices and have fun with ringers’ outings to other towers, quizzes and an annual dinner

If you would like to have a go, please contact Michael (tower captain) and Rachel (tower secretary) on uptongreybells@gmail.com if you are interested in coming along to see what it’s all about. **Rachel Dulai**

Save the date – Upton Grey Fete

The Upton Grey village fete in aid of St Mary’s Church will be held on Saturday 10th June 2023 at 2.00pm. Save the date for this annual village bonanza. We are very grateful to Nick and Rosie Ralls who have very kindly agreed for us to use their beautiful spacious gardens at Sherborne Cottage. More news and requests later in the year! Thank you.

Frances Yeowart 861218

HERRIARD AND WINSLADE NEWS

www.herriard-pc.gov.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/herriardexservicesclub>

Herriard Village Group on <http://www.Facebook.com>

Winter Support

Hampshire County Council have a range of measures to help people with costs of food, fuel and other essentials. Full details can be found by emailing connect4communities@hants.gov.uk or visit the [connect4communities](http://connect4communities.org.uk) website.

Household Support Fund

Essentially this is a programme funded by the Dept for Work and Pensions to support those in need with significant rising living costs, particularly families with children and pensioners who would otherwise struggle with energy, food and water bills. Support with fuel and utility bills - direct financial support to pay fuel bills dependent on individual circumstances which will be assessed by Citizen's Advice. Support is available from Dec 2022 - March 2023.

Citizens Advice free phone advice line: 08082 787829

Local Citizens Advice address: The Discovery Centre, 19-20 Westminster House, Potters Walk, Festival Place Basingstoke RG21 7LS

Food vouchers and housing costs for households

For those in receipt of Council tax support and housing benefit. For more information contact our local Borough Council.

Support from education and early years settings

There is funding via educational settings that can be used to provide support to families they recognise in need. It isn't means tested and might include supermarket vouchers, warm clothing, white goods, blankets.

Alton Food Bank

Provides emergency food to people in crisis. The Food Bank partners with a wide range of care professionals such as doctors, health visitors, social workers and police identify people in crisis and issue them with a foodbank voucher. Foodbank clients bring their voucher to a foodbank centre where it can be redeemed for three days of emergency food. Volunteers meet clients over a warm drink or free hot meal and can direct people to other agencies able to help solve longer term problems. Call the free national helpline if you are in financial crisis 0808 2082138 to talk confidentially with a trained Citizens Advice adviser. If needed they can issue you with a voucher.

Alton Food Bank 15 Market Square Alton Hants GU34 1HD

Phone 07773 034447 Email info@alton.foodbank.org.uk

Cost of Living Assistance Fund

The Herriard Parish Council website Ecohub page has information about the new Cost of Living Assistance Fund. This funding is in addition to support announced by the government and the Household Support Fund detailed above.

Eligibility – One-off grants available up to the following:

Up to £1000 for those on a household income of 0-£15,000
Up to £500 for those on a household income of £15,001- £20,000
Up to £200 for those on a household income of £20,001- £25,000

Please note: You must not have savings of more than £20,000. Assistance will be provided on a first come first served basis. The grant is normally paid in cash that you will be able to collect from any Post Office. In addition, a payment may be made directly to your utility or energy supplier. Only one grant will be awarded per household within a 12-month period. For more information go to Basingstoke.gov.uk/costofliving where you can apply online. You can get help to apply by asking anyone you trust to help fill in the form. They will have to provide their details too. If you are unable to fill in the form and you do not have anyone to help, please contact the Benefits Team on 01256 844844 or alternatively contact Herriard Parish Council and one of the Councillors will offer support with the form. This is offered confidentially to Herriard residents.

Local Energy Advice Partnership (LEAP)

This is a free energy and money saving service helping people (predominantly homeowners but some grants are for landlords and tenants) to keep warm during the colder months and to reduce energy bills. LEAP also replace old inefficient appliances free of charge. You can apply yourself or on behalf of someone else. A LEAP adviser will then contact you to confirm eligibility for insulation and other energy efficiency measures all free of charge. Eligibility criteria is broad and includes if you receive Government benefits, allowances and credits or an annual household income of below £31,000.

Further information about eligibility via the Herriard Ecohub link or applyforleap.org.uk Freephone 0800 060 7567

G. Hill, Herriard Parish Council, Tel 01256 381448

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TUNWORTH NEWS

John Gimlette Talk on Madagascar

7.30pm Monday 23rd January 2023

Tunworth PCC is delighted that the celebrated author and excellent speaker, John Gimlette, will be talking about his book on Madagascar, *The Gardens of Mars*, to raise funds for the church. The event will take place at Mapledurwell & Up Nately Village Hall, Greywell Road. Tickets are £25.00 net of Eventbrite commission. The link is here, or you can google 'John Gimlette talk Mapledurwell' to buy tickets:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/john-gimlette-discusses-his-new-book-about-madagascar-tickets-465656078867>

WESTON PATRICK AND WESTON CORBETT NEWS**An Update**

At the time of writing, we are preparing for the Christmas carol service. I'm sure it will be a wonderful occasion. The collection will be donated to Alton Food Bank.

A reminder that the food bank collections continue at the back of the church and if you are able to add a little something to your shop to share, it will be gratefully received. It is a truly humbling experience speaking with those who not only rely on it but the kind souls who coordinate the service.

We have now completed the repairs to the damaged spire. Words such as spectacular, splendid and magnificent are just a few that have been shared. It has been a challenging project but at last we can see the outcome. We are planning a celebration service in January to give thanks for the efforts of so many.

A before and after photograph is below. 2023 will bring new challenges but at least the spire stands tall for us now.

Clare Davies, Church Warden.



OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

North Warnborough & District Garden Club

We look forward to seeing everyone again at our first Meeting of the New Year which will be on Thursday 26th January in the North Warnborough Village Hall at 2:30pm. Pip Bensley will join us on this occasion to tell us some “Chelsea Secrets”.

Our Competitions will be:

1. A Bunch of Hips and Haws tied with Twine.
2. A Spray of a Winter Flowering Shrub.

For further information about our Club, please visit our website at <https://www.nwdgc.org.uk>

Some useful numbers to help with financial issues

Useful contacts/numbers from Basingstoke Council

www.basingstoke.gov.uk/benefits

Free debt advice is available from the following charities

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Money Advice Service – www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk or 0300 500 5000

Citizens Advice www.citizensadvice.org.uk or 03444 111 306

Basingstoke and District Disability Forum (BDDF)

Chronic Pain Support Group - into 2023!

Our Chronic Pain Support Group has moved to a monthly slot on a Thursday at Proteus Creation Space in Basingstoke town centre.

We have had some busy and informative sessions recently and it is fantastic to see so many of you supporting each other at these events! Please continue to come along and share these events so we can keep it running for the whole community.

We are looking for guest speakers to share information and demonstrations in the new year, if you would like to be involved please get in touch.

Upcoming meeting dates for 2023: 5th January, 2nd March, 13th April, 4th May, 8th June, 6th July. For more information call 01256 42386.

BDDF Disability Information Service

Do you have a disability related query and don't know which way to turn? Email our Signpost Service for help Information@BDDF.org.uk. 1 to 1 appointments also available - contact us on 01256 423869 to request.

Disability Awareness Day

Our Disability Awareness Day is back for 2023! Save the date - April 28th. The location will again be at The Malls, Basingstoke Town Centre. If you are a Charity or organisation that would like to be involved, please email office@bddf.org.uk or call 01256 423869.

Volunteering

We are also looking for volunteers so please get in touch if you can help or know someone who could!

As a Trustee.....

BDDF currently have 2 spaces on their Trustee Board, to learn more about what being a trustee is all about, please contact BDDF Chair directly on Chair@BDDF.org.uk.

As a Volunteer...

We are always seeking volunteers to help with a variety of tasks from supporting members using our Information Service, to admin jobs & helping out our events, we have a whole range of opportunities available! Maybe you know someone who can help us? If so, please feel free to share our details!



New resolution for January?

People often ask what u3a stands for and the truth is, that nowadays, it's not an easy question to answer. Originally, when the U3A was founded in France it was linked to the extra mural departments of Universities and stood for "Université de troisième Age". But, some 40 years on, the focus has moved to helping people of a 'certain' age to get the most out of life by sharing ideas, activities and interests.

A look at our newest groups shows how far we have moved from that original link to universities. This month sees the start of Social Cycling and Music Jamming and recently Scottish Dancing, Backgammon and our 5th wine group have swelled the ranks to over of 55 activity groups. The key idea linking all these activities is self-help; people working together and creating opportunities to socialise and make friends as they 'learn, laugh and live'.



And let's not forget our existing groups. The Climate Change group focuses on helping interested members to understand the implications of this key issue for us, our children and especially our grandchildren. We also do love talking! Whether it's about books, current affairs, history, art or as one group puts it so honestly, "Crafts & Chat". We also exercise our bodies, e.g., ballet, yoga, walking and tennis to name but a few.

Members also enjoy our free monthly talks. For example, January's fascinating talk was about the chalk figures found across the uplands of Southern England. In the coming months talks will cover a range of subjects from women artists to plants & insects in the garden, to what inspires novelists.



Have you been meaning to do something more adventurous in the New Year? Why not get in touch?

Contact: membership@odihamu3a.org.uk

Our website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/odiham/homed>



Mothers' Union

In January we look forward to our Wave of Prayer. Mothers' Union is based firmly on prayer for our work locally, and for members in other parts of the world. Mothers' Union divides the year into 3-day periods when we pray for the members and projects of a particular group of dioceses. Winchester diocese has its turn between 12th and 14th January along with Mauritius, Nandyal (South India), Kericho (Kenya), Katsina (Nigeria) and Kumasi (Ghana). We plan to hold a Wave of Prayer service in January 2023 but the details for this have not yet been finalised.

If you want to know about our branch or the Mothers' Union, please feel free to contact me.

Sue Murphy, 01252 845011 or sue@the-murphys.me.uk

Christians Against Poverty – Alton

I'm Steve Hannington and since January 2022 I've been Debt Centre Manager for the Alton branch of the charity, Christians Against Poverty, better known as CAP. We provide free help to anyone, regardless of background, in complete confidentiality.

Unmanageable Debt?

Our free CAP Debt Help Service has been running in the Alton area for over eight years. Over that time, we've got to know over 230 individuals or families locally who've needed help with debt. Most live in social housing and over half are single women, many of them single mums. If their main income is benefits, they may struggle to pay basic bills such as rent, council tax, or water bills – and this is often how they run up debts. We'll help anyone who has debts, whether it's £500 or £50,000 or more. And we don't judge anyone as to why they got into debt in the first place.

With CAP, our approach is to provide compassionate personal support – normally visiting people in their homes. We also offer to pray with them and, if they wish, tell them about Jesus. We achieve this in Alton through a great team of three Debt Coaches and about 25 helpers – all Christians – drawn from 11 local churches. We work with CAP's national headquarters to provide a professional debt service where the charity deals with all a person's creditors until they get free of debt. In Alton we've succeeded in getting 71 households out of debt so far, which is a huge relief to those people, and several of our client friends have opened their lives to Jesus.

If there's anyone you know in financial difficulty with unmanageable debts, urge them call us on 0800 328 0006 or check out CAP on www.capdebthelp.org.

Out of work?

Since 2021 we have run a free CAP Job Club in Alton, meeting on Tuesday mornings. The Job Club offers practical help to identify strengths and skills, prepare a great CV and practise interview technique. Based on an 8-session course, and with one-to-one support from our trained Job Coaches, we provide a friendly, relaxed environment in which jobseekers can build their confidence and find work.

If there's anyone you know who's out of work and needs support to get a job, urge them to check out CAP on www.capjobclubs.org and call Alastair Smith on 07871 635934.

A life-controlling habit?

Another service that Harvest Church (Alton) provides is called Fresh Start. Fresh Start helps people who want to change a life-controlling habit such as smoking, gambling, over-eating, internet or social media addiction,

shopping compulsions, binge drinking, soft drugs, etc. A free 8-week course, inspired by the Bible and the Twelve Steps of Recovery principles, is led by four trained coaches who also offer 1-to-1 coaching. The group provides a confidential, supportive community where members meet regularly and work through a plan of action to break free from these dependencies. We've run ten courses in Alton, and members have successfully tackled habits of smoking, gambling, over-spending, alcohol and drugs.

If you know anyone who wants to tackle a life-controlling habit, encourage them to call Mark Rumsby (07769 030913) or email freshstart@harvestchurch.uk for details.

Ways you can help these ministries:

1) Pray. If you'd like to receive a monthly email with prayer points, contact me. 2) You might wish to join one of our teams as a helper. For further information, or leaflets contact me:

Steve Hannington – 07501 914563 – stevehannington@capuk.org

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust – The wonderful world of worms

By Laura Kruisin, trainee ecologist at Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. Laura explains why Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust have been busy conducting worm surveys and why we should all appreciate worms more.

Worms are not often at the forefront of our minds, but perhaps they should be. Now the soil isn't bone dry thanks to the recent downpours, me and the rest of the ecology team at Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust have been out doing worm surveys on our nature reserves. These involve digging into the soil and seeing what we find beneath the surface. Any worms we find are divided into four main groups: endogeic, epigeic, anecic and compost.

Endogeic worms are the most common worms in arable fields, they live in and feed on the soil itself and so burrow horizontally through the soil. Epigeic worms live in the topsoil among the leaf litter. Whereas anecic worms – the biggest worms in the UK – are deep burrowing worms that feed on leaves which they drag deep down into their burrows. The final group of worms, composting worms, are most likely to be found in areas of rotting plants or food.

But why do we spend hours counting worms in the mud? Well, worms are vital for several reasons. Firstly, each group of worms has an important role in the environment. Worms are often called 'ecosystem engineers'. Their burrowing produces holes within soil that allow water

and other elements, such as oxygen and carbon dioxide, to move between the air and the soil. This small act can help prevent disasters, such as flash flooding and erosion, and allows plants to access vital water sources during drought.

Another huge benefit of worms is nutrient cycling and decomposition. Endogeic and epigeic worms break down waste material and turn it into easily accessible nutrients. The worms decompose dead plant and animal matter and drag it deep into the soil. As they burrow, the nutrients mix in the different soil layers, and these can then be accessed by living plants. Nutritiously enriched soil is advantageous not only to plants but to home gardeners, allotment holders, and farmers as well. Worms can also act as indicator of toxicity and pollution in our soil, alerting us to any problems and cleaning contaminated land through ‘bioremediation’ – the process where living organisms convert toxic pollutants into non-toxic substances. Earthworms are also a vital food source for some of our favourite British species, from hedgehogs to robins to frogs.

So, when you next see an earthworm, remember all the important work they do for us. Worms really are wonderful.

Find out more about local wildlife on the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust website at www.hiwwt.org.uk

**Jake Kendall-Ashton, Senior Communications Officer
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust**



*The presence of earth worms is an indicator of a healthy landscape
(c) Aggie Thompson / Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust*

Message from local MP Ranil Jayawardena

Happy New Year! In 2023, I will remain on your side and that of all my constituents, as ever, and I'm always keen to help where I can. This includes chasing for a reply on your behalf when you've been unable to get through to our councils or other government agencies, as well as making Ministers aware of local views on legislation and policy issues.

Ahead of what is set to be another busy year, I thought it might be helpful to explain a little more about our constituency and the different tiers of local authority that represent you too.

Upton Grey, Tunworth, Herriard and Weston Patrick are part of the North East Hampshire constituency. Fleet is its biggest town – which is bordered by Church Crookham and Elvetham Heath – and it includes Bramley, Crondall, Crookham Village, Eversley, Hartley Wintney, Hook, Long Sutton, North and South Warnborough, Odiham, Pamber Heath, Preston Candover, Ramsdell, Sherborne St John, Sherfield on Loddon and Yateley also, to name just the biggest communities of all the parishes in the constituency! In my view, the boundaries of North East Hampshire include some of the best places to live in the country.

Much of our interaction with 'the council' is through our borough or district council – and there are two covering North East Hampshire. To the west, we have Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, which covers the villages within the Wards of 'Tadley and Pamber', 'Bramley' and 'Sherborne St. John and Rooksdown' to the north of Basingstoke, and the villages within the Ward of 'Basing and Upton Grey' and 'Oakley and the Candovers' to the south.

To the east, we have Hart District Council, which covers Hartley Wintney, Hook, Odiham and surrounding villages in the centre of the constituency, as well as Yateley, Fleet, Elvetham Heath and Church Crookham in the east.

In Upton Grey, Tunworth, Herriard and Weston Patrick, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council represents your neighbourhood, and is responsible for bin collections, planning applications and administering your council tax – a part of which they pass on to the county council.

As well as the borough and district council wards, Hampshire County Council is responsible for our local roads, schools and social care. Each County Councillor represents a division in our constituency; these are larger than the district council wards and don't necessarily line up! You can find out who your councillors are at: hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/councillors

In addition, we have a directly elected Police and Crime Commissioner for the whole of Hampshire, and two 'Integrated Care

Boards' are responsible for making decisions about NHS spending in our area too.

Should you ever need assistance, I am here to help, including to make sure that these bodies serve your interests, alongside those elected to them. Please do not hesitate to write to me at: email@ranil.uk – and please make sure you include your full name and postal address details too!

From Donna Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner, Hampshire

November was certainly busy, locally and nationally. My office responded to 134 pieces of casework this month, and I have represented victims nationally at the NPCC/APCC summit which brought together all police chiefs and crime commissioners. I raised the issue of how long it is taking for cases to get to court, specifically when it comes to rape cases, and how this can re-traumatise victims. I was clear it isn't good enough and the police and CPS need to work smarter and faster to get these cases to court and deliver justice.

I also met with all Hampshire MPs in Parliament to discuss crime and policing across the area and really to get to grips with the crimes that are making people feel unsafe locally. It has been a great month to really drill into some of these issues and talk to residents so that I can look at ways to improve policing and the criminal justice response across the two counties, but first – I made a big announcement at the start of the month.

On November 7, I was delighted to be able to announce Scott Chilton as my preferred candidate for Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary's next Chief Constable. I selected Scott after a rigorous recruitment process, and he was confirmed in post by the Police and Crime Panel on Monday 21 November. He will begin to lead the force in February 2023, taking over from Chief Constable Olivia Pinkney. I am very much looking forward to working with Scott on our shared ambition to make Hampshire and the Isle of Wight the safest counties in the UK.

SMALL ADS JANUARY

Game Meat. Breast only packs: Pheasant 5 per pack £6, Partridge 10 per pack £6, Pigeon 10 per pack £5. Oven-ready whole Partridge 2 birds for £4. Oven-ready whole Pheasant 2 birds £6. Venison to order (price on application). Contact Robert 07557 054844.

HALLS FOR HIRE

Upton Grey Village Hall can be hired at a basic rate of £10 per hour. Tables and chairs are also available to hire. There are kitchen facilities, including china, cutlery & glasses, central heating, sound system, stage and disabled access. If you don't know the hall, we would be happy to show you round. To book, or if you have any questions, please contact Jane Hanbury 01256 862681 email: ajhanbury@btinternet.com.

The Royal British Legion Hall, Herriard (RBL Hall / Herriard Hub) available for hire: wedding receptions, functions, parties, meetings, and events. Fully licensed bar, full kitchen facilities, garden, tables, chairs, sound system, disabled access, central heating, pool table and darts. To reserve, contact Tracy Crawford on 07769 220390 or email bookings.herriardrblhall@gmail.com.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – January 2023

NB: All Church Services are listed under CHURCH NEWS near the front of the magazine

JANUARY DATES

9th Jan	Mon	Coffee & Cake drop-in, Upton Grey Village Hall	11.00–1.00
23rd Jan	Mon	Coffee & Cake drop-in, Upton Grey Village Hall	11.00–1.00
23rd Jan	Mon	Madagascar Talk, Mapledurwell Village Hall	7.30pm

ADVANCE DATES

16th Feb	Thur	Tea@3, Hazeley, Weston Close, Upton Grey	3.00pm
11th Mar	Sat	Upton Grey Safari Supper	
15th Apr	Sat	Upton Grey Spring Horticultural Show	
10th June	Sat	Upton Grey fete, Sherborne Cottage, Upton Grey	2.00pm
12th Aug	Sat	Upton Grey Summer Horticultural Show	

REGULAR EVENTS

2nd & 4th Mon	Upton Grey Bridge Club (not summer)	7.30pm
Each Mon/Thur	Odiham book exchange, Bridewell, Odiham	2.00pm
Each Sat	Odiham book exchange, Bridewell, Odiham	10.00am
Each Mon	Prayer group, 4 Little Hoddington	10.00am
Each Tues	Prayer group, 4 Little Hoddington	5.00pm
Each Thu	Coffee, Tea & Cake Morning, RBL, Herriard	10–12noon

PARISH MAGAZINE COPY DEADLINE

Please note that the copy deadline for the February issue is the 15th of January 2023.

Please send news and contributions to uptongreymagazine@gmail.com. Your editors for January were Sheila Stranks and Nick Willmer (Church). Your editor for February is Ian Lansley- Neale.

Disclaimer: Please note that the views expressed in this magazine are the contributors' personal opinions and do not necessarily represent the views of the editors.

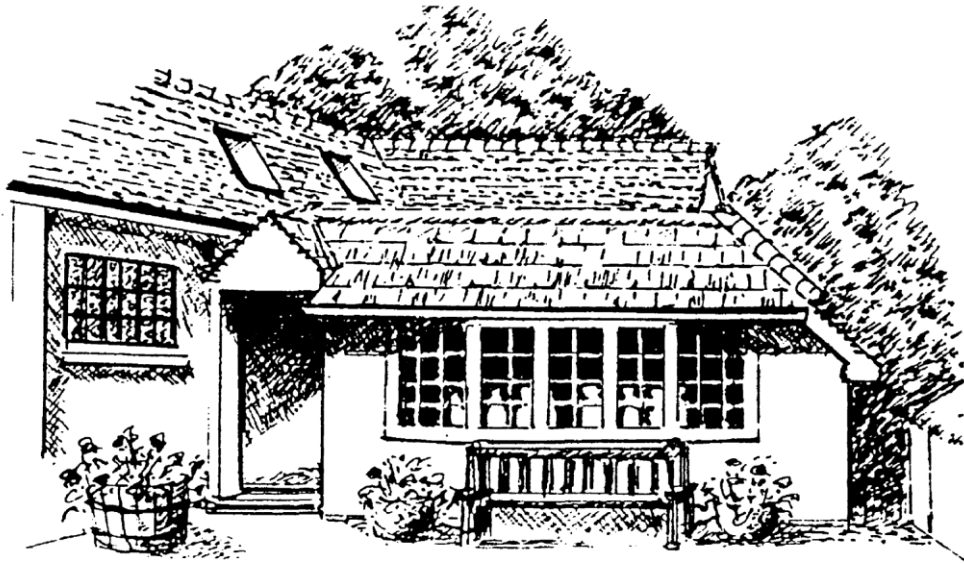
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"Supported by all who care for Village Life"



THE VILLAGE SHOP

RANGE OF GOODS

Special range of Cheeses
Fresh Bread & Vegetables daily
Fresh Meat & Fish to order
Range of Wine & Spirits
Home Cooked Food
and Delicatessen
Dry Cleaning & Shoe Repairs
Newspapers
Home Delivery Service
Fresh coffee, teas, chocolate

Shop Opening Hours

8am – 6pm Mon to Sat

8 am – 1pm Sun

Fresh Fruit & Veg market,

Fridays 8am-1pm