

PARISH MAGAZINE



St. Mary's, Herriard



All Saints', Turworth



St. Mary's, Upton Grey



St. Lawrence, Westcott

**December
2024**

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Vicar	Simon Butler	simon@moretolife.church
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Youth Pastor	Helen Chatfield	youth@moretolife.church
Pastoral Care Minister	Suzanne Newcombe	suzanne@moretolife.church

Church Wardens

Herriard/Winslade	Fiona Ives	07867 973266
	Adrian Spruce	07976 967059
Tunworth	Gabrielle Knights	01256 356945
Upton Grey	Sarah Barnes	01256 861164
Weston Patrick	Lesley Don (Secretary)	01256 862464/07739 201573

Elected Representatives

Borough Councillors:

Onnalee Cubitt (cllr.onnalee.cubitt@basingstoke.gov.uk)	07762 067411
Kate Tuck (Cllr.Kate.Tuck@basingstoke.gov.uk)	07747 000534
Sheena Grassi (Cllr.Sheena.Grassi@basingstoke.gov.uk)	07561 060596
County Councillor: Juliet Henderson (juliet.henderson@hants.gov.uk)	01256 862413
Member of Parliament: Alex Brewer	alex.brewer.mp@parliament.uk

Parish Chairperson

Herriard	Simon Wills	Chair@herriard-pc.gov.uk
Tunworth	Nick Villiers	tunworthparishchairman@gmail.com
Upton Grey	Charles Holroyd	01256 862127
Weston Patrick/Corbett	Peter Stemp	07470 251008
Winslade	John Raymond	01256 381203

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BENEFICE MAGAZINE – December 2024
Edition for the Parishes of Herriard with Winslade, Tunworth,
Upton Grey and Weston Patrick

Letter from the Benefice Ministry Team

As a young child, by the time Christmas arrived I was often fairly liberally smothered in Calamine Lotion, all because I was so consumed by excitement that HE was coming that I came out in heat bumps. I was a true believer in those days, my thoughts about Christmas were very much centred on one who was completely mysterious, utterly wonderful and totally giving. This was the white bearded, red robed old gent who mysteriously and wonderfully drove his reindeer through the skies on Christmas Eve, managing to go down all the right chimneys to leave all the right gifts, and on that magical night the urgently repeated question was “Has HE been?” That thinking only filled my mind at Christmas though it made no difference to the rest of the year.



Then once I got into the business of nativity plays Christmas thoughts began to be occupied with Mary, Joseph, an innkeeper, shepherds, angels and Wise men – oh and a baby although I was not too bothered about the baby – there was no chance that you’d get to appear in the play as the baby! This story, delightful as it was, also made no difference to the rest of the year for it was as self-contained as my thinking about Father Christmas.

Then I found myself letting the baby in the manger grow up. I found myself being drawn to the man Jesus. This man was a pretty wonderful human being, he showed how life could be lived. Christmas was no longer self contained, it was a celebration of this particular life. I was beginning to discover Father Christmas was someone you grew out of; Jesus was someone you grew into, someone who showed us what our mysterious, utterly wonderful and totally giving God was about and just how far his love for us could go. This was something which could be not contained, it was something which overflowed and spilled out into all the year because Jesus was for all day every day, HE has indeed come into the world – so that we can get in on the act - now that is exciting, pass the Calamine!

Happy Christmas!

Alan Hoar (Licensed Lay Minister)

FROM THE REGISTERS

- Baptism:** Seraphina Seccombe at St Mary's Herriard
on 17th November
- Interment of Ashes:** William (Bill) Ives at St Mary's Herriard
on 17th November

CHURCH SERVICES**Sunday 1st December**

- 9.00am Tunworth – BCP Holy Communion
- 10.00am Upton Grey – CW Holy Communion
- 6.00pm Herriard – Advent Carol Service

Sunday 8th December

- 10.00am Herriard – BCP Holy Communion (said)
- 10.00am Weston Patrick – CW Holy Communion
- 4.30pm Upton Grey – Christingle
- 5.00pm Tunworth – Evensong

Thursday 12th December

- 10.00am Upton Grey – BCP Holy Communion (said)

Sunday 15th December

- 9.00am Tunworth – BCP Holy Communion
- 4.00pm Herriard – Christingle
- 6.00pm Upton Grey – Carol Service

Thursday 19th December

- 10.00am Herriard – BCP Holy Communion (said)

Friday 20th December

- 6.00pm Weston Patrick – Carol Service

Sunday 22nd December

- 9.00am Tunworth – Family Service
- 4.30pm Upton Grey – Nativity Service
- 6.00pm Herriard – Carol Service

Tuesday 24th December

- 11.30pm Upton Grey – Midnight Holy Communion

Wednesday 25th December

- 10.00am Herriard – Family Service
- 10.00am Upton Grey – Family Service
- 10.00am Weston Patrick – Family Service
- 11.00am Tunworth – Carol Service

Sunday 29th December

- 10.30am Herriard – Benefice CW Holy Communion

CHURCH NEWS

Welcome to new members of our Church Staff Team

We are delighted to welcome two new members of staff to our team across the North Hampshire Downs Churches.

Firstly we welcome a new **Administrator – Cat Moulding**. Cat will be based in the benefice church office in Deer Park View in Odiham (behind the pharmacy). She works alongside Jo Hurley, and whilst Jo has responsibility for admin relating to Odiham, Cat will be responsible for supporting the other churches in the North Hampshire Downs Benefice (in Greywell, Herriard, Long Sutton, Mapledurwell, Nately Scures, Newnham, South Warnborough, Tunworth, Up Nately, Upton Grey, and Weston Patrick). Cat lives locally with her husband and two young sons, and if you're in Odiham, do pop in to introduce yourself! Cat works on Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 9.00am and 2.00pm, and can be contacted on 01256 703791, or cat@moretolife.church.



Secondly we welcome our new **Children and Youth Pastor – Paul Dadd**. Paul will be based in Odiham, and will also be working with Helen Chatfield, who has done amazing work here for some years and is now becoming our Youth Outreach Worker across our wider Benefice. Paul will be based in Odiham and will be particularly focused on activities taking place in church on Sundays and through the week, as well as supporting young families, and working with Helen to support our local schools in Odiham and Long Sutton. We are particularly grateful to the Benefact Trust for their very generous grant, which together with funding from All Saints Odiham has made Paul's new post possible. Paul is married to Mirjam, and whilst he originally comes from Kent, he and Mirjam have moved here from Auckland, New Zealand, where he has spent a number of years working with Scripture Union and two big churches there. He can be contacted at paul@moretolife.church, or via the church office on 01256 703791.



Welcome to Cat and to Paul!

Rev'd Chris Dudgeon

Acting Rector, North Hampshire Downs Benefice
chris@moretolife.church

Christmas Services

Generation after generation has told the Christmas story, each finding in it something which resonates and stirs both hearts and minds. At the heart of the story stands a simple yet profound message, that of God with us. The name given to Jesus, Emmanuel, means literally this 'God with us', and sets the backdrop against which Jesus life and ministry can be understood.

The true wonder of the Christmas story is that God would communicate himself to us in a form that we can understand and walk through the dust and mess of human life and share in our joys and sorrows, hopes and fears.

My prayer for each of us this Christmas is simple - that we might know the absolute joy of God with us this Christmas and beyond.

With love from Rev Simon, Rev Mark, Rev Linda and Suzanne

*In addition to many of our usual Sunday services, we have a range of Christmas specials to which all are invited. Most services are candle-lit and traditional.
The perfect way to celebrate Advent and Christmas.*

Sunday December 1st

St Mary's Herriard
Advent Carols, 6.00pm

Sunday December 8th

St Mary's Upton Grey
Christingle, 4.30pm

Sunday December 15th

St Mary's Herriard
Christingle, 4.00pm
St Mary's Upton Grey
Lessons and Carols, 6.00pm

Friday December 20th

St Lawrence Weston Patrick
Lessons and Carols, 6.00pm

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Sunday December 22nd

St Mary's Upton Grey
Nativity Service, 4.30pm

St Mary's Herriard
Lessons and Carols, 6.00pm

Christmas Eve December 24th

St Mary's Upton Grey
Midnight Communion, 11.30pm

Christmas Day December 25th

St Mary's Herriard
Family Service, 10.00am

St Mary's Upton Grey
Family Service, 10.00am

St Lawrence Weston Patrick
Family Service, 10.00am

All Saints Tunworth
Carol Service, 11.00am

Coffee & Cake

The arrangements for the coffee/cake sessions of All Saints Tunworth, St Mary's Upton Grey and St Lawrence Weston Patrick are slightly different at this time of year. The December arrangements are:

- Coffee and Cake in the church porch, **All Saints Tunworth**, at 10.30am on Thursday 5th December.
- Just one Coffee & Cake Drop-in at Upton Grey in December - 11.00am-1.00pm on Monday the 9th in **Upton Grey Village Hall** - but it will include mince pies and mulled wine and carol singing!
- There will be no Coffee & Cake at Weston Patrick in December. The coffee mornings will restart in January: **Weston Patrick Village Hall**, 11.00am-12.30pm on Wednesday 22nd January.

Tea or coffee, slice of cake, chat. Open to all, very informal, no need to book, just turn up. All ages welcome!

explore
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are you curious about faith?

our next Alpha courses
will start on the 8th January at 7.30pm:

Join us
at the Herriard Hub
or in Odiham

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions to discuss the Christian faith in an informal, fun and friendly environment

Everyone is welcome, and it's free

Why not come along to the intro evening and see what you think



Use the QR code for more information
or contact the church office:
01256 703791
admin@moretolife.church

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Alpha

North Hampshire Downs Churches

The Table

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL



North Warnborough Village Hall

UPCOMING DATES:

8th December

22nd December

From

5PM



Please contact Matt to book: matt@moretolife.church





KidsZone

Sunday 1st December marks the beginning of a special time in the church year: Advent. The word advent means ‘arrival’ and during this period of time, leading to Christmas day, we wait with hope-filled anticipation for the arrival of God’s long-awaited Saviour and King, Jesus.

I wonder what experiences you have had of waiting for something for which you have longed?

We tend not to have to wait for much in a world of fast-food, social media and binge-watching our favourite series on Netflix. But while waiting for something you really want can be hard, it can also be good for us; helping to exercise the muscles of patience and hope.

My wife, Mirjam, and I have just arrived in the UK from New Zealand and we are grateful to finally be joining the community here at All Saints and settling in to life. But it’s been a long wait. We started the process back in January and since then have had to wait for many things including a job, visa and a place to live. It has been hard at times but in the waiting we have found God’s grace and provision.

During Advent we remember that God is not afraid of things taking time. As families and households, I would encourage you to find a way of marking this season of Advent together. There are dozens of good ideas on the web, or you can scan the QR code below for a simple ‘Advent Spiral’ activity that is fun and meaningful for all ages.



This Advent season, as you wait, may you discover more about God; more about yourself and more about how God made the world to be.



Paul Dadd
 Children & Youth Pastor,
 All Saints Parish Church,
 Odiham
 paul@moretolife.church



NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

Farming News

Autumn has served up another prolonged wet period and this has made it extremely difficult to plant our winter cereals, triggering a bit of 'déjà vu' from last autumn. Despite this we have managed to muddle in all of the fields planned to be drilled, some good and some not so pretty.

The wet weather also provides ideal conditions for slugs which have been in abundance and our main pest that we have been trying to keep at bay. We have had to use more slug pellets to control the numbers this year than ever before.

Since the weather has dried up at the start of November, we have managed to stitch some more seed into more slugs grazed patches which will hopefully bulk up the thinner patches. Usually, slugs prefer the heavier clay soil where it generally stays wetter, but we have seen high numbers across the whole farm just showing how wet it has been. This is not just in the local area; nationwide, farmers have been struggling again with the wet weather. This is no doubt a weather pattern that we are going to have to try and adapt to.

Our last crop to harvest was the maize, which is forage harvested to be used at the Anaerobic digester to produce electricity. This was also made tricky with the patchy weather at the time, but overall, the harvesting went well with little mud on roads which is always a bonus.

We did have issues with a small grub called 'corn bora' which essentially is a caterpillar that bores through the maize plant. We have been able to manage this in the past few years but again down to various reasons and mainly milder winters, the numbers have increased significantly. As you can imagine once a plant has been munched away at by these caterpillar-like grubs, it is a lot weaker and naturally as a bigger plant it will fall over easier. So, the forage harvester struggled to pick up in these areas as the crop had flattened in the wind and rain.

When it came to planting the wheat later, we had to roll back the years and use the more traditional method of ploughing to bury any debris and leave some soil on the surface to be able to plant the wheat into. Now, when I first came back to the farm to join/annoy my dad, I was very anti ploughing. It is a slow process that wears through a lot of metal on the plough, it shreds tyres on tractors, and you use a lot of diesel whilst doing it, which makes it an expensive way to prepare a seedbed. This time, I had to suck up my pride and revert to it. Just for

one field I will add. It worked a treat, even if we had to run the spring tined cultivator over it a couple of times to level it off before planting. However, it does prove that there is more than one way of skinning the cat.

We must remain adaptable and be able to change our plans to try and get the job done and give the crops the best chance of growing for the next 8 months as this will be the difference between profit and loss at the end of the day. Oh, and we hope that mother nature is kind to us as well, as we know she is always in charge!

To sum up 2024. It has been challenging in many ways, but it has also been another year of doing the best job, I believe we can. So, with that we wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year from all of us at Hyde Farm.

Will Cheyney

UPTON GREY NEWS
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www.uptongreyparishcouncil.co.uk
facebook.com/uptongreyvillagecommunity

Upton Grey Village Hall – 100 club

Congratulations to this month's winners:

1st Prize (£100) Shane and Sandra Hattingh

2nd Prize (£40) T Stringer

Congratulations to our winners. If you'd like to find out more or join our important fundraiser, please email UGVH100@gmail.com

T@3 at Christmas

The next T@3 will be on Thursday 5th December at Christmas Cottage! It will be our special Christmas Tea @3 with lots of delicious goodies. Make it your first festive outing and start the celebrations. It would be very helpful if you could let either me or Jill know if you are coming and if you would like a lift. Parking at my house is limited so please bear that in mind. Looking forward to seeing everyone.

Viv Anscombe 01256 862455 Jill Lestrille. 01256 862131

A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens - Adapted and performed by John Bromley Davenport - Upton Grey Village Hall - Saturday 7th December 7.00-9.00pm

John Bromley-Davenport will be performing his captivating one-man show of, 'A Christmas Carol' on Saturday 7th December at 7.00pm. John has performed his solo adaptation of Dickens' masterpiece for over 40 years, with the acclaimed production enrapturing audiences on both sides of the Atlantic. Tickets (£15 - CASH ONLY) available at Upton Grey village shop or on the door. Mince pies and drinks included and served during the interval. A contribution from ticket sales will be made to St Mary's Church, Upton Grey. The show will start promptly at 7.00pm, so please arrive in plenty of time to take your seats.

Coffee and Cake drop in
 Upton Grey Village Hall
Monday 9th December
11.00-1.00

*Only one meeting in December, but
 it includes mince pies and mulled
 wine and some carol singing!*

All welcome



St Mary's Upton Grey
www.moretolife.church

Safari Supper Saturday 22nd March 2025

Last year, we welcomed some new faces to Upton Grey's Safari Supper, and we hope this year we shall see even more of you.

Safari Supper is a hilarious opportunity to travel the village in aid of St Mary's Church and end up being very well entertained, fed and watered. It is a fun evening, not to be missed, where you provide one of three courses and move around the village for the other two. At the end of the evening of laughter and surprises everybody congregates in the village hall for coffee, after dinner drinks and tales to tell.

If you have a young family, you could request a starter course to give time for children to settle before going out. Just book a babysitter. If you are alone, why not team up with a friend and join the fun.

It's a fantastic way to meet new villagers and experience another flavour of Upton Grey. Put the 22nd March firmly in your diary. Please fill in the online form (link below) and make your payment via BACS by 8th March. We will also send the link via the village email.

We hope to see you there. Let's make 2025 a Safari Supper to remember.

<https://forms.gle/gdFTyEWeob6zb52H6>

Julia Harker 862975 & Vivian Raven 862278

Save the Date!

- Upton Grey Reels Night - **Saturday 1st March 2025.**
- St Mary's Upton Grey Fete - **7th June 2025 (2.00-5.00pm).**

Christmas Services

at St Mary's Church, Upton Grey





 Christingle 

Sunday 8th December - 4.30pm

 9 Lessons & Carols 


Sunday 15th December - 6pm

 Nativity Service 

Sunday 22nd December - 4.30pm

 Midnight Communion 

Christmas Eve - 11.30pm

 Family Service 

Christmas Day - 10.00am

more+

Plea from the Heart

I'm looking for some people to come and join our team
 To Hoover up and polish and keep St Mary's clean
 Our faithful group of helpers has started to get less
 So, my monthly cleaning rota is getting in a mess.

Our church has been here for us for at least 800 years
 And seen such joy and laughter amidst its share of tears.
 It is a place of peacefulness amongst our busy lives
 And needs to gleam and shine to honour all those times.

So now the holidays are over, and the kids are back at school
 Could you spare an hour just now and then and maybe find it's cool
 To give a hand and tidy up and make me very glad
 That all the weeks are taken, and the rota's not gone mad.
 If you feel that you could help my contacts are below
 So please do phone or email, it only takes a mo!

Viv Anscombe, 01256 862455, vivanscombe@gmail.com

Upton Grey Autumn Festival 2024

We had another good display of Guys and Jack O'Lanterns around the village (and even in Weston Patrick) with Peter and Margaret Haynes 'Guy the Gardener' winning our Guy Fawkes cup and Carole Plant's 'Clifford Creepies' winning our Jack O'Lantern cup. Congratulations to all who entered.

Many thanks to all sponsors, helpers, attendees and all those who made Guys and Jack O'Lanterns for supporting this year's Autumn Festival. Special thanks to Marcel van Poecke for the use of Hoddington Park and David and Robbie Janaway and their team for their great efforts preparing the bonfire, preparing the two fields (even laying gravel over the muddy entrance), providing tractor and trailer and Guy Fawkes straw. Thanks also to Michael Church's Bell Ringers and, of course, Linda Webb's spectacular (Merlin) fireworks. The staff at the Hodd also put in a superb effort coping with the vast crowds demanding food and drink.

The huge bonfire took a little time to get going but was followed by another fantastic firework display.

We had nearly 800 people attending the bonfire and fireworks and over 200 attending the evening beer festival and Disco dancing. The weather was excellent. This all resulted in a record profit for the event of £4,762 – all in aid of St. Michael's Hospice (except we held back £500 against another disastrous weather event like we had last year).

We apologise to those people who were disturbed by the loud fireworks and late night noise from the Disco, but it was all in a very

good cause (with our younger generation demanding that the DJ keep playing!), record attendance and a significant contribution to the Hospice - who are an excellent charity to support.

For those of you interested in our finances please go to www.uptongreyautumnfestival.co.uk

Roger Clark

Report on Refurbishment of the Chandeliers in St Mary's Church

In the September issue of The Parish Magazine, I explained that the Movable Chandeliers by the High Altar (shown in the photo to the right), which were gifted to St Mary's by a T Hanson in 1884, were badly in need of refurbishment.



We launched an appeal for funds to help pay for the refurbishment, and many generous people contributed. Indeed, we raised just over £2,200 towards the cost of the work, which came to £2,700. We have found out that we can claim back the VAT on the refurbishment, which is very helpful.

The refurbishment work to the chandeliers has now been completed, and they were rededicated on 20th October 2024, during a communion service. All the donors had been invited to attend the service, and it was a joyous occasion, when Revd Simon Butler was able to remind us of the generosity of past generations, and the generosity of all the people who had contributed to the current restoration.



So a huge thank you to all those who contributed. However, we are still £500 short of our overall target, so if you would like to make a donation, then please contact the PCC Secretary, Paul Birkbeck, via e-mail on UptonGreyPCCSecretary@Hotmail.com

If the appeal should be oversubscribed, any surplus funds will be held by the PCC for maintenance work in the church.

Paul Birkbeck

Secretary to the St Mary's Upton Grey Parochial Church Council
UptonGreyPCCSecretary@Hotmail.com

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HERRIARD AND WINSLADE NEWSwww.herriard-pc.gov.ukwww.herriardvillagehub.co.ukHerriard Village Group on <http://www.Facebook.com>**Herriard Christmas Bingo, The Hub, Saturday 7th December.**

6.30pm for a 7pm start. Its £10 for the full set of games, £5 for half. There will also be a raffle.

Filled rolls £1 for sale at half time with the raffle drawn.

To book a table, give numbers in your party, or just come yourself, please text me on 0780 123 8200. **Jenny Falconer**

Foodbank at St Mary's, Herriard with Winslade

We have a box in the Church for any food donations you would like to contribute. If you can't make our Sunday service, you can always leave donations on a Saturday/Sunday at the vestry door at the back of church. The foodbank accepts long-life products such as long-life milk and fruit juice, tinned fruit, tinned vegetables, tinned potatoes, tinned fish and meat. Tinned pies and puddings are always welcome as are biscuits and chocolate. If you would like to sign up to the Camrose Centre's Newsletter, to keep up-to-date with the work they are doing, you can sign up by visiting www.thecamrosecentre.org.

Please note the latest Camrose statistics (July-September 2024):

- 850 breakfasts served
- 586 hot lunches served
- 176 food parcels to go
- 115 hot showers taken

WEEKLY COFFEE MORNING IN HERRIARD**Weekly every Thursday at the Village Hub****Open any time between 10.00 and 12.00****Good coffee and fresh baked cakes****Donations from £2.00 each to cover costs****Do come and join us - everyone welcome!**

***Come to
St Mary's
Church
Herriard
with Winslade
this Christmas***



Sunday 1st December

Advent Carol Service at 6.00pm

a service of moving liturgy, music and readings
followed by refreshments



Sunday 8th December

BCP Holy Communion at 10.00am

Sunday 15th December - Christingle Service

Come to St Mary's from 3.30pm

**to build your own Christingle orange,
followed by a half hour service at 4.00pm**

a beautiful candlelit service for all the family
(Collection in aid of The Children's Society)



Wednesday 18th December

Herriard Carol Singing / the Real Nativity

at 5.00pm – see next page

Sunday 22nd December – Carol Service at 6.00pm

with traditional readings and carols



Christmas Day – 10.00am

our informal Family Service

Sunday 29th December

Benefice Service -Holy Communion at 10.30am



more+

St Mary's Herriard and Winslade

Wednesday 18th December 5.00pm

**Herriard Village Carol Singing
with Real Life Nativity!**

**Start outside the Herriard Hub (RG25 2PG)
for carols and meet the Angel Gabriel
at 5.00pm**

**Follow the Star to our real life stable for the
Shepherd's Story at Hydes Farmhouse with
refreshments and more carols at 5.30pm**

Come and sing carols under the stars and follow the star
to the stable to see our real life nativity tableau!

Children (and adults!) are welcome to dress up as their
favourite Nativity character and join in following the star.

Please bring a torch or lantern.

All are welcome!



Herriard Harvest Supper 2024

What a fantastic evening and what a fantastic result! With supper tickets and the auction we made just over £3,100!

There are always so many people to thank – The Herriard Hub for so kindly hosting the evening and for running the bar. The food team for the delicious supper – as always an absolute triumph! With our Minister, Suzanne, being away on a course we were so grateful to Helen (Youth Pastor) for starting the evening with a very thought-provoking blessing. For everyone who kindly and very generously brought along items for the auction – fruit, vegetables, cakes, chocolates, flowers, eggs, flour, wine, cyder etc etc but also the evening's star items : a week's stay in a villa in Portugal, the trip on the Basingstoke Canal donated by the Odiham Galleon, and the half lamb from Street Croft Farm. Our Auctioneers, Peter and Adrian, had to work so hard to get through everything but worked their usual marvellously hilarious and unique magic and kept everyone thoroughly entertained with their banter as they auctioned the various lots – the bottle of 100% Moonshine most particularly!.....

A massive thank you to everyone who came along for the evening – you make it the brilliant village highlight it is. Thank you!

Herriard and Tunworth Lunch Group

The Lunch Group usually meets once a month on a Friday from 12.00 to 1.30pm at the Herriard Hub, to look at a Bible passage with a focus on practical Christianity. **Please note there will be no meeting in December.**

Herriard Prayer Group

If you or anyone you know would like to be included in our prayers, please contact suzanne@moretolife.church or fiona@ashmeadow.co.uk.

TUNWORTH NEWS

Coffee & Cake: Thursday December 5th 10.30am

On the first Thursday of the month, we meet for Coffee and Cake in the church porch. Please do join us if you are at home and fancy taking a break from online work.

Prayer Hour: Saturday December 7th 9.00am

On the first Saturday of the month, we have a Prayer Hour. We meet and pray in the church for everyone in the parish. If you would like to join us or would like us to pray for a particular matter, then please contact Mark.

Tunworth Home Group

The Tunworth Home Group usually meets fortnightly on Wednesdays from 7.00 to 8.00pm at The Orangery, Hackwood Park, to study Bible passages and Biblical themes. **There is just one meeting in December – on the 11th.** If you would like to know more or to join, then please contact Gabrielle.

Carol Singing

There will be village carol singing at 6.30pm on Wednesday 18th December. Please contact Mark or Gabrielle for details.

Herriard and Tunworth Lunch Group

The Lunch Group usually meets once a month on a Friday from 12.00 to 1.30pm at the Herriard Hub, to look at a Bible passage with a focus on practical Christianity. **Please note there will be no meeting in December.**

Tunworth Harvest Supper and Parish Meeting

On Friday 4th October over thirty Tunworth residents gathered at the Shoot Lodge for our autumn parish meeting and Harvest Supper. We were delighted to be joined by Councillors Juliet Henderson and Kate Tuck, who provided us with great insights into the priorities and challenges at Hampshire County Council and Basingstoke and Deane respectively, including some views on what the new government's housing targets might mean for the area. We discussed updates on the latest on the proposed Motorway Service Area (Moto) and progress in getting all of the parish on high speed broadband - both long term

challenges that various members of the community continue to work hard to bring to the right conclusion (with special thanks to David Shearer and Peter Caplan)! We also explored options for defibrillator and first aid training for the village, now arranged for 14th November - more of which next month.

Having dispatched with the business side of the evening, the Harvest Supper got into full swing, celebrating the harvest and raising money for All Saints Tunworth. With Mark Ruffell sadly unable to join the evening, we were delighted to be joined by Simon Butler, who opened proceedings with a wonderful grace. Reflecting the fine culinary skills throughout the village, delicious venison shepherds pies were followed by lemon possets and cheese (including a couple of Tunworths of course!), fuelling a fun evening of catching up with friends old and new, and setting us up for the changing season.

First Aid Training

Following a request at a recent parish meeting for a refresher course on defibrillator use, a group of Tunworth residents gathered for a first aid course from the wonderful Meon Valley Heartstart team. Heartstart is a fantastic charity that provides free first aid training to communities, schools and companies, funded by donations.

Over the course of three hours we learnt how to react to various accidents using the DRS ABCD approach, and rather than just sitting and listening, we all had to get hands on to practice the recovery position, giving chest compressions and even using defibrillators. The questions flowed but Steve and Adrian from Heartstart were able to answer them all, regardless of how extreme the scenario. We all left feeling much more confident, and extend our huge thanks to Meon Valley Heartstart, and to Rebecca and Peter Caplan for hosting us.

If you'd like to find out more about Meon Valley Heartstart do head to their website, where there is lots of useful information, you can also book courses and make donations.

www.heartstartmeonvalley.co.uk

WESTON PATRICK & WESTON CORBETT NEWS

Our very special 'In Loving Memory' service was well attended and was a beautiful and poignant service led by Linda Scard.

St. Lawrence's next service will be Holy Communion on Sunday 8th December at 10.00am, and the Village Carol Service will be taking place on Friday 20th December at 6.00pm followed by drinks in the Village Hall to which all are invited.

We will be holding a Christmas Day Family Service at 10.00am and all are invited to wear their Christmas jumpers!

There will be no coffee morning in December, but we will be back on the fourth Wednesday of the month on January 22nd 2025, at 11.00.

Weston Patrick and Weston Corbett's Women's Home Group

We welcome any women who would like to come along. This is an informal fellowship group exploring faith and how faith relates to our daily lives. Please contact Linda Scard for further details on: 01256 703294 / 07801 039717 or linda@moretolife.church

Coffee Mornings

Weston Patrick Village Hall

No coffee morning in December!

**Wednesday 22nd January
11.00-12.30**

Then on the fourth Wednesday of the month

Join us for Coffee & Cake

All ages welcome!



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www.moretolife.church

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

To all contributors to the magazine

As usual, the copy deadline for the January issue has to be earlier than in other months, to take account of printers' Christmas closures. **Please note that the deadline is Monday 9th December.**

Keith Brown's Christmas Baubles raising funds for St Michael's Hospice

Keith Brown is renowned for his annual Christmas light display, 'Keith Brown's Christmas Baubles', which has become a beloved tradition in Basingstoke. What began as a family activity grew significantly, and in 2012, Keith started collecting donations for St. Michael's Hospice. Over the years, Keith's display evolved to include synchronised music and lights and has expanded to over 10 boards and 64 extension leads, requiring multiple rewiring of his home's electrics. Keith's neighbours and local businesses have supported his efforts, allowing him to use their roofs and driveways, and providing scaffolding and carpentry work to enhance the display - the community at its finest, supporting one another.

Keith's display, featuring Christmas songs and characters like snowmen and Olaf from Frozen, attracts large crowds throughout December. On Christmas Eve, Keith dresses as Father Christmas, handing out sweets and gifts, with his family and friends joining in the festivities. Keith's motivation comes from seeing the joy on children's faces and raising funds for a worthy cause.

As of January 2024, he has raised over £63,573.59 for St. Michael's Hospice. Keith's dedication to the hospice has provided vital support to patients and their families, making his efforts truly inspirational.

The Christmas House is at 55 Brackley Way, Basingstoke RG22 6LL. Show times are at 4.30pm, 6.00pm and 7.30pm from the 2nd December until the 1st January 2025. You can follow Keith's journey on Facebook at [@KeithBrown'sChristmasBaubles](#)

Hook Choral Society, St John's Church, Hook, Sat 21st December

The date of the ever-popular Christmas Concert – carols and readings and wine and mince pies: which will be given at **St John's Church, Hook on Saturday, December 21st.**

The choir would love to entertain you Tickets can be bought at [**hookchoral.co.uk**](http://hookchoral.co.uk) or by phone from **07957 293641**

Carol Service – Odiham

The Friends of St Michael's Hospice are again hosting a festive Carol Service on **Tuesday 10th December at All Saints', Odiham**, joined by Winchester Cathedral Choir and with a reading by Mark Durden-Smith. The service starts at 7.00pm and doors open at 6.00pm for canapés, wine and mince pies. Tickets are £35.00 per person and can be purchased at www.stmichaelsospice.org.uk/events or from Katherine Jane, High Street, Odiham. We look forward to seeing you.



We had our branch meeting on 4th November and talked about the Rise Up campaign against domestic violence, and how we might support the local women's refuge. We also enjoyed an early Christmas get-together for coffee and mince pies on 29th November and will not be meeting in December.

Mothers' Union is based firmly on prayer for our work locally, and also 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 a little early on Monday 6th January at the RAF Chaplaincy Centre at 7:30pm. We are very grateful to the RAF for allowing us to use their hall for our meetings.

In January, I also take up a new role as the Diocesan President for Mothers' Union. I am very much looking forward to the new challenge, and to meeting members from our branches around the diocese. If you want to find out more about Mothers' Union or our branch, please contact Sue Murphy on 01252 845011 or suemurphymubbranch@outlook.com.

North Warnborough & District Garden Club

Season's greetings to all our members. We do not hold a meeting in December, but we look forward to welcoming everyone to our first meeting of 2025 in January. New members are always welcome. For further information view our website: <https://www.nwdgc.org.uk>

Cross Barn Odiham – Film / NT live

December 13th Film: The Holdovers

A thought-provoking dramedy about a boarding school's Christmas holiday left-behinds in the 70's, that is as achingly sharp as it is funny. 'A consistently smart, funny movie about people who are easy to root for and like the ones we know.'

January 11th Live: Jazz Night

Welcoming 2025 with a swing

February 21st NT Live: The Importance of Being Earnest

A trivial comedy for serious people! Being sensible can be excessively boring. At least Jack thinks so!

March 21st Film: Macbeth (David Tennant, Donmar Warehouse)

Unsettling intimacy and brutal action combine at speed in Shakespeare's tale of love, murder, and nature's power of renewal.

Doors open 19.00.

Start times: The Holdovers 19.30; NT Live, Macbeth, Jazz 19.30.

Refreshments: Coffee/tea, wine, ice cream.

Tickets: Films at £7.00, NT Live, Macbeth £15.00, Jazz £20.00

Purchase online at <http://www.thecrossbarn.org.uk>

News from Basingstoke and Deane Disability Forum

BDDF & Wavelly House Camera Club

No experience or equipment necessary as BDDF provide the cameras

Fun monthly meetings - no costs involved, with planned exhibition for best photos. Tuesday 17th December. For more information, please contact sanchia@bddf.org.uk or call 01256 423869

Save the Date: BDDF Christmas Party 13th December 12-3pm

At Popley Fields Community Centre. RSVP: office@bddf.org.uk 01256 423869



Countdown to Christmas!

At our AGM we said goodbye and a huge THANK YOU to our Chair, **Hugh Thomas**, who stepped down after three years of hard work re-establishing ‘normal u3a life’ post-COVID. And we offered a hearty welcome to our new Chair, **Ian Green**.

There was a definite artistic theme to groups in this month’s Newsletter!

- **Considering Art 2** is busy appreciating art and artists from key periods in history using video presentations and discussion.
- **Music for All** takes a different theme each month and in December they are taking a ‘Musical Tour of Europe’.
- **Play Reading** enjoy works ranging from Ancient Greeks to 20th Century whodunnits and although acting is not at all mandatory some members do enjoy a ‘good accent’ if one is required!
- **Simply Singing** is for anyone who ... simply wants to sing! Everyone is welcome regardless of ability and the songs for Christmas will be great fun!

Wine Group 1 added to their potential repertoire with this rousing version of Waltzing Mathilda - this is just the first verse!

*Once a jolly Wine Group met inside the Old Cross Barn,
Under the shade of the U3A,
And they laughed as they sat and they waited till the wine was poured,
You’ll come a-drinking, me hearties, with me.*

Yes! It’s all about learning, laughing and living!

Have a Merry Christmas and please make a New Year’s resolution to see what our u3a could offer you in 2025. We’d love to hear from you!

To find out more, please visit our website.

<https://odiham.u3asite.uk/>



Morland Choristers' Camp -The Adventure Starts Here!

Sunday 27th July to Sunday 3rd August 2025

The all-inclusive residential course offers young singers' fun, friendships and freedom to express themselves in a safe, supportive Christian environment with first class care. The course is open to all singers aged from 9 upwards, who may be members of church choirs, or school choirs, or other choirs – or who may just enjoy singing! There are no auditions. The course fee is £450 inclusive, and bursaries are available. There is an accompanied train from London, just a three-hour direct journey to Penrith. See www.morland.org.uk, or for a brochure please contact **Frances Yeowart (Trustee): francesyeowart@outlook.com**

Odiham Music Foundation - Supporting Music in the Community

If you would like to join in the work of the Odiham Music Foundation by becoming a member or hear more about its current projects, do please contact the chairman, **John Markham (Tel: 01256 702789)**.

For many years, *Odiham Music Foundation* has supported local children living in the benefice to enable them to attend *Morland Choristers' Camp*.

North Hampshire Prostate Support Group Goes Flying – HIOW Air Ambulance



Well not literally, but with the inspirational talk by Lucy Butcher, the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance Engagement Support officer, all who visited from the group got off to a flying start, just like the little helicopter that is a growing sight in our skies. What most did not realize was

that the Charity also runs a fleet of 4 fast response well equipped cars, which are often used in preference to the helicopter, which needs an area the size of a tennis court for a landing pad. In addition, the space in the helicopter is very compact, thereby limiting the scope of working on critical patients. Again, landing on a motorway is never ideal. Similarly, if the cloud base is below 500 feet, then they are not permitted to fly, and a ground response becomes essential.

The charity receives no funding from Government, but instead receives its funds typically from community events, legacies and trust funds, generating last year just over £10m. This may sound a lot, but

when compared to the cost of a lift off at £3,500 each time, with on average 5 lifts a day – with one day recently involving 13, the need for us the public to be generous in our support becomes very clear. Some of this funding also provides for a support team caring for those who have witnessed traumatic events in which the team has been involved.

Lucy went on to outline the call-out process. The service is closely linked to South Central Ambulance service, where two of the team sit in on all the typically 3,000 calls for an ambulance that service receives



each day. One of these is a senior doctor, the other a despatcher, with often the doctor using their experience and intuition to gauge whether to go live. The medical team, currently based at Thruxton Airfield, consist of a pilot – normally ex-military, a senior doctor, often of consultant level,

and two highly trained paramedics. On receipt of a radio call to ‘Go’, they will spend a few minutes initially planning their response, including of course identifying suitable landing sites.

It is once on site that the extensive training kicks in; the operations centre has a special room set up to provide training for a wide range of different situations, and teams spend most of their time when not out on call honing their skills. Unlike normal ambulance crews, the Air Ambulance teams can administer coma inducing drugs should this be required, the aim always being to first stabilise the patient, before transport and where appropriate delivery direct to a well-equipped hospital operating theatre for the next stage of their treatment.

Understandably there are times when stabilisation is not enough, and both amputations and even open-heart surgery has had to be done in the field, this being possible due to the high level of the medical staff in the team, all of whom are paid by the charity. However, despite all the training, there will also be scope for the unexpected, as a recent landing in a farmer’s field demonstrated when the resident bull perhaps perceived the helicopter as competition for his mistresses and charged, fortunately damage was minimal.

For more information contact: - Hampshire Isle of Wight Air Ambulance: **Lucy Butcher** lucy@HIOWAA.ORG

HALLS FOR HIRE

Upton Grey Village Hall can be hired at a basic rate of £12 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 Herriard Village Hub, Herriard, 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, please see booking form found at www.herriardvillagehub.co.uk or email bookings@herriardvillagehub.co.uk.

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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – DECEMBER 2024

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

DECEMBER DATES

5th Dec	Thur	T@3, Christmas Cottage, Upton Grey	3.00pm
7th Dec	Sat	Herriard Christmas Bingo, Herriard Hub	6.30pm
7th Dec	Sat	A Christmas Carol, UG Village Hall	7.00-9.00pm
10th Dec	Tue	Hospice Carol Service, All Saints, Odiham	6.00pm
18th Dec	Wed	Herriard village carol singing	5.00pm
18th Dec	Wed	Tunworth village carol singing	6.30pm

ADVANCE DATES

1st March 2025	Upton Grey Reels Night, UG Village Hall	
22nd March 2025	Upton Grey Safari Supper	7.30pm
7th June 2025 Sat	St Mary's Upton Grey Fete	2.00-5.00pm

REGULAR EVENTS

Each Mon/Thu	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 Thurs	Coffee, Tea & Cake Morning, Hub, Herriard	10.00am
Every 1st Thurs	Coffee & Cake, Tunworth church porch	10.30am
Every 1st Saturday	Prayer Hour, All Saints Tunworth	9.00am
2nd & 4th Monday	Coffee Morning, Upton Grey Village Hall	11.00am
Every 4th Wed	Coffee Morning, Weston Patrick Village Hall	11.00am

PARISH MAGAZINE COPY DEADLINE

Please note the very early copy deadline for the January issue of the 9th December 2024.

Please send news and contributions to uptongreymagazine@gmail.com. Your editor for December was Sheila Stranks with Nick Willmer (Church). The editor for January will be Nick Willmer.

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