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BENEFICE MAGAZINE – February 2025 Edition for the Parishes of Herriard with Winslade, Tunworth, Upton Grey and Weston Patrick

Letter from the Benefice Ministry Team

This is my first Letter as the new Rector of the North Hampshire Downs Benefice, and so I wanted to introduce myself and say a little about our future plans.

The North Hampshire Downs Benefice is a network of 12 local churches - in Greywell, Herriard, Long Sutton, Mapledurwell, Nately Scures, Newnham, Odiham, South Warnborough, Tunworth, Up Nately, Upton Grey and Weston Patrick.



Across the Benefice we have a strong leadership team, comprising eleven vicars and lay ministers, two youth workers, and two administrators. I'm extremely grateful to Rev'd Simon Butler - whom I have taken over from as Rector - who has built up this team over the last eight years. Please do take a look at our website (www.moretolife.church) for more info on Who's Who...

My role as Rector is to serve and lead the benefice - developing its vision and mission, leading the team, and encouraging all our congregations. Previously I was vicar in Odiham, and I've now passed on that role to my colleague Rev'd Matt Bianchi.

At my interview last November for the role of Rector, I was asked to give my thoughts on the top three priorities for the benefice.

I believe our first priority is prayer, in every part of the benefice. I love the verse in Psalm 127 - right in the middle of the Bible - that says this: 'Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain'.

As we set our vision and plans for the next few years, we need to make sure that we're listening to and following God, and joining in with what he's doing in this place.

Our second priority is growth in our churches – both in maturity as Christian disciples, as well as in numbers. Our logo for the benefice for the last few years has been the word 'More+'. We are already a joyful community of Christians in this place – but we believe that God is calling us to so much more over the coming years.

Our third priority is unity. Unless we're united as one benefice, focused on God, working together as a team towards a common vision, we won't see the growth that we believe he is calling us to. My licensing as Rector only took place last month, on 14th January in All Saints Odiham, so it's very early days to be talking about plans. But Jesus said that he came in order that we might have life, life in abundance, and that fills me with confidence that we have so much to look forward to together.

I look forward to meeting you in my new role as Rector, and with best wishes, **Rev'd Chris Dudgeon**,

Rector, North Hampshire Downs Benefice chris@moretolife.church

Photos from Chris Dudgeon's licensing as Rector by Bishop David (photos courtesy Gina Stead and Carol Gibbons)





Funeral: Norina Fowler at Basingstoke Crematorium, followed by Thanksgiving Service at St Lawrence Weston Patrick, on 11th DecemberFuneral: Robert Sheridan at St Mary's Upton Grey on 12th DecemberFuneral: Belinda Hodson at St Mary's Herriard on 30th December

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 2nd February

9.00am Tunworth – BCP Holy Communion 10.00am Upton Grey - CW Holy Communion 5.00pm Herriard – Evensong **Sunday 9th February** 10.00am Herriard – BCP Holy Communion (said) 10.00am Upton Grey - Morning Worship 10.00am Weston Patrick – CW Holy Communion 5.00pm Tunworth – Evensong **Thursday 13th February** 10.00am Upton Grey – BCP Holy Communion (said) **Sunday 16th February** 9.00am Tunworth - 1662 Morning Prayer 10.00am Herriard – Morning Worship 10.00am Upton Grey - CW Holy Communion **Thursday 20th February** 10.00am Herriard – BCP Holy Communion (said) **Sunday 23rd February** 10.00am Herriard - CW Holy Communion for Herriard, Tunworth, Upton Grey and Weston Patrick, with Bishop Philip

CHURCH NEWS

Combined service on February 23rd with Bishop Philip

We are delighted to be welcoming the Bishop of Winchester, Philip Mounstephen, to our 10.00am morning service at Herriard on February 23rd. On 23rd we won't hold services in Upton Grey, Weston Patrick or Tunworth and instead will make the Herriard service a joint event. All are most welcome to attend and there will be refreshments after the service. **Rev Simon Butler**

Coffee & Cake

All Saints Tunworth, St Mary's Upton Grey and St Lawrence Weston Patrick are continuing with their regular coffee/cake sessions. The January events are:

- Coffee and Cake in the church porch, All Saints Tunworth, at 10.30am on Thursday 6th February.
- Coffee & Cake Drop-in at **Upton Grey Village Hall**, 11.00am-1.00pm on Monday 10th and 24th February.
- Coffee morning at **Weston Patrick Village Hall**, 11.00am-12.30pm on Wednesday 26th February.

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

The Table

Dates for 'The Table' (a free community meal at North Warnborough Village Hall) are usually the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, but in February not 23rd, which is the day that the Bishop of Winchester is joining us for our combined service at Herriard at 10.00am. For more information about The Table, please contact The Revd Matt Bianchi (matt@moretolife.church).

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KidsZone

Hi everyone!

Brrr... as I write this, there's snow on the ground and the thermometer is below zero. What better time to catch up on Christmas movies you might have missed?

As a family we have a list of movies that are a 'must see' over Christmas and, if I'm honest, it doesn't change much from year to year. But that's all about to change with a brand new movie from last November. I wonder if you watched it? It's 'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever'.



This movie tells the story of the Herdman kids, six siblings who terrorize the students (and grown-ups) in their town and school. One Sunday, they find themselves in church because they heard there were free treats ... and before they know it, they're playing the leads in the town's Christmas pageant.

These kids are apparently 'The worst kids in the world', and as they get up to their antics, the regular members of the church get more and more fed up and want them to leave. But as we go through the film, we learn something else very important about The Herdmans, and maybe why they behave like this – they have a really tough life. No-one has ever cared about them. They don't have people who believe in them. They've never even heard of the Christmas story! So when one family shows them kindness, allows them into their lives, it turns their lives upside down. It totally transforms them! Love changes them for ever.

The daughter in the new family struggles a bit, though. She's always been Mary in the past. She thinks it will spoil the pageant to have these naughty children involved. But her mum sits her down and teaches her a really important lesson – that Christmas is for everyone!

Sometimes it's easy to look at someone and think 'They look different from me', or 'They aren't doing things in the same way I would', or 'They don't say things like I do', and think that somehow they're not good enough. Isn't it amazing that Jesus says that at Christmas He came for everyone – even for those we find tricky?

Sorry this has been a bit like a movie review, and I know Christmas is over... but, I have two challenges for you this month.



- 1. Watch this film! It may just change your life!
- 2. Do you have a kindness superpower? Can your kindness to others be what it takes to totally change them?

See you next time!

Helen Chatfield, Youth Outreach Worker youth@moretolife.church, 07540 140228

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NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

Farming News

2025 is upon us but still in the midst of winter, for us there isn't a great deal of field work going on, but we are currently working our way through the hedge trimming. Which is a slow job, but when done well it is a satisfying job. We have several miles' worth of hedges across the farm to cover: the roadsides are done every year for safety reasons but we only trim internal hedgerows around the fields bi-annually, alternating blocks of fields so we don't have to trim all the hedgerows on the farm in one year. This also leaves untouched hedgerows for the local wildlife. But it is important to manage the hedgerows as if left untouched for too long it is a major and costly job to get them back under control.

This time of year also brings the joys of sitting in the office collating and cross referencing our field and crop records ready for our farm assurance (Red Tractor) annual audit. This is to make sure that all the cereal and oilseed crops we grow for human consumption meet the standard that qualifies it for the Red Tractor stamp – which you will have seen in the supermarkets on packaging of various different food that is produced in the UK and grown to the highest standard. This is one issue the National Farmers Union (NFU) has been pushing supermarkets to improve – to show the consumer where and how their food is produced. Using the red tractor badge on the packaging, ensures this.

This time of year also gives us time to go through all the different machinery, wash it off and replace any worn parts, making sure it is in working order before the busy season starts.

We also have a fresh batch of hens arriving at the end of the month to replace one of our two hen houses. We do this when the hens reach the end of their productive laying cycle. The older hens are collected by a chicken rehoming charity. The new hens will arrive at 17 weeks old but won't start laying fully until they're around 19 weeks old. The first eggs, known as pullet eggs, will be very small for a couple of weeks and will gradually get larger as the hens get older. But before they arrive, the hen house will get a deep clean and disinfected to completely sterilise it to ensure there is no chance of disease or bugs and mites to infect the new birds.

It has been a relief to get a break from the wet weather and have a colder, drier spell. It always makes jobs around the farm a lot more pleasant. The crops that are in the ground certainly needed a respite from the wet weather. It has battled away remarkably considering how much

rain we have had. My final total of rainfall for 2024 was 1073mm. Historically the average rainfall for our region would be around 800mm, so we have had roughly 25% more rainfall than the average last year. The total rainfall I recorded for 2023 was 1158mm, nearly 50% more than the average, so we've had back to back years of heavy rainfall, which has thrown some challenges at us. As farmers our main asset is the soil. If the soil isn't happy it won't grow crops, whether that's grass for animal feed or cereals for grain. So when it comes to carrying out field work with our machinery it makes it very difficult when the ground has been extremely wet. A lot of patience is needed but when there are prolonged wet weather periods it soon wears thin.

But I will finish this article looking ahead into 2025 with optimism/hope that the weather is on our side to give us the best chance of producing some top quality British food. Will Cheyney

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

Upton Grey Village Hall – 100 club

January 100 Club Winners: 1st prize £100 Barbara Stewart; 2nd Prize £40 Darke. Congratulations to them both.

The new year for 100 Club starts in April so now is the time to join for 2025–26. Please do contact us at UGVH100@gmail.com to find out more.

Sunday 23rd February

A note that there will be no service at Upton Grey on 23rd February, but instead a joint service at St Mary's Herriard for Herriard, Tunworth, Upton Grey and Weston Patrick. This will be a CW Holy Communion Service at 10.00am, when we are delighted that +Philip, Bishop of Winchester, will be joining us. All are warmly invited to attend.

Save the Date!

- Upton Grey Reels Night Saturday 1st March
- St Mary's Upton Grey Fete Saturday 7th June 2.00-5.00pm
- Concert in St Mary's Church Sunday 22nd June 6.00pm

Message about The Shop, Upton Grey

Hi everyone,

As Chairman of the Upton Grey Village Hall, my oversight also includes our wonderful Village Shop. How grateful we are to Suki and his team for looking after us so well.

The Shop is a necessity for many to collect their daily newspapers and groceries. It is also a meeting place for coffees and refreshments both for residents and those passing.

I am sorry to share that recent trading at the Shop has been slow and inevitably labour and ancillary costs are challenging. Profitability has been further affected by the recent budget with increases in both NI and the minimum wage. This only serves to increase the risk that at some point the Shop may have to review its ongoing viability.

There are some 700 residents in Upton Grey, many of whom collect their daily newspaper and spend little else in the Shop. The alternatives are both costly and inconvenient.

We need as fellow villagers to encourage everyone to consider our level of spend in the Shop. We should remember how well Suki served us during Covid.

A village like ours, with a shop and a pub at its heart, has a very beneficial impact on property values as well as being a lovely place to live for both young and not so young! Please consider how each one of us can individually and hence collectively improve the level of trade in our shop. Your comments and feedback are always welcome.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2025.

Kind Regards

Tom Seabrook, Chairman UGVH tom.seabrook14@gmail.com, 07850 338067

Tea@3

T@3 is back for 2025. We are having the next tea on Tuesday 4th February at The Old Post House (next door to the Hodd) thanks to Frances and Geoffrey Yeowart's kind invitation. Do come and bring a friend if you would like to. It is most helpful if you could let us know if you hope to come. A lift can be arranged if needed. If you have never come before, why not come along and enjoy a traditional afternoon tea with friends and good conversation. Please ring either Jill on 862131 or Viv on 862455.



Safari Supper Saturday 22nd March

In 2024 we welcomed some new faces to Upton Grey's Safari Supper, and we hope in 2025 we shall see even more of you.

The 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 22nd March (7.15pm) 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

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Upton Grey Golf Day - Tuesday 17th June

The annual Upton Grey golf day this year is at Tylney Park. The format for the day is: 10.30 am: coffee and bacon rolls; 11.30 am: 18 holes of golf; 4.30pm: one course meal and prize giving. Cost £57.50

Golfers of all abilities are welcome to join in this fun day. Please contact Lucy Church if you are interested: 862857, 07710 802254 or lucychurch2008@hotmail.co.uk

Upton Grey Ladies Group

As a new year begins, the Ladies group is meeting on Thursday 6th February at Christmas Cottage at 10.30am for a coffee to get together and discuss our activities for 2025. New members are very welcome and if you need to know where to come just give me a ring or email me: Viv Anscombe, 862455, email. vivanscombe@gmail.com



HERRIARD AND WINSLADE NEWS www.herriard-pc.gov.uk www.herriardvillagehub.co.uk Herriard Village Group on http://www.Facebook.com

Visit by the Bishop of Winchester, Sunday 23rd February

We are absolutely delighted that +Philip, Bishop of Winchester, will be joining us for our 10.00am CW Holy Communion Service on **Sunday 23rd February**. This will be a joint service for Herriard, Tunworth, Upton Grey and Weston Patrick. You are all warmly invited to join us for this very special occasion.



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. **The February date is 28th.**

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 the Church. The Camrose Centre is a drop-in centre for anyone who is sleeping rough, homeless or vulnerably housed within Basingstoke and Deane. If you would like to sign up for the Camrose Centre's newsletter to keep up-to-date with the work the centre is doing, and to get an updated list of items they so desperately need, please visit <u>www.thecamrosecentre.org.</u> They also have an Amazon wish list:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/printview/FY45O4AC8JKM?targ et=_blank&ref_=lv_pv&filter=persistent_all&sort=default

St Mary's Herriard with Winslade – monies from collections and donations

Following on from our last PCC (Parochial Church Council) meeting we thought we should explain exactly what happens to the monies from collections taken during services and other donations received.

Other donations include our Parish Giving Scheme which we, and other Churches across the country, have set up to help best manage regular donations. Donations can be made on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis, using a Direct Debit instruction. If you would like further details please contact: fiona@ashmeadow.co.uk

Other donations also include the food and other items so generously left in our box in Church for the Camrose Centre.

A large proportion of the monies we receive go towards the running costs for St Mary's which include our Parish Share, admin costs, heating, electric, water and general maintenance etc etc. However, during the year we also contribute to charities. In 2024 we donated to St Michael's Hospice (from our D-Day Service), The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Scotties Little Soldiers (supports children who have experienced the death of a parent who served in the military); from our Remembrance Sunday Service The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal; and from our Christingle Service The Children's Society.

We are so grateful to everyone who supports St Mary's - giving us the means that we not only maintain the Church and Churchyard, but also that we are in a position to donate to charities who urgently need help to continue their work.

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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!

Christmas 2024

With all the candles and flower arrangements cleared away, and the Crib and Christmas Tree decorations safely packed away for next year, it's good to reflect back over the last few weeks.

Such a busy time not only for our Ordinand Suzanne and the organists, but also for everyone who works hard to put on our services.

We had a brilliant Christingle Service – Suzanne and Helen, and Helen's helpers, alongside the children made up their Christingle Oranges followed by a beautiful service. The

children were thrilled to have ponies Cherry and Blossom join them at the back of the Church, decked out in their Christmas finery (many thanks to Sandra and Tarnya).

The weather didn't deter singers for our Herriard Carol Singing/Real Nativity on the 18th. Following the star from The Herriard Hub to the barn at Hydes Farm there were 60+ of us, with ponies Amazon and Rapid alongside (thank you to Jemilla). Many thanks to Philip and Lucy for the delicious sausages and mulled cyder awaiting us, and to Georgie for bringing along the sheep (including Marty the very tolerant lamb – with the youngsters desperate to say hello!).

Our Thursday Communion on the 19th, with a planned power cut, was lit by candlelight and in the busy Christmas period the service was particularly special in its quiet reflection.

The Church had been beautifully decorated on the Saturday for our Carol Service on the 22nd. Thank you to all our readers, and to everyone who joined us for the service – it was a wonderfully uplifting service of readings and carols.

On Christmas Day we had our traditional Christmas morning Family Service – with a special Christmas cracker featuring in Suzanne's talk! This is always such a wonderful service, and a hugely enjoyable start to the day!

Thank you to everyone for all your help and support in those busy weeks – for making it a very special Christmas indeed.

Fiona Ives (Churchwarden)

Herriard Prayer Group

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

TUNWORTH NEWS

Carol Singing

Many thanks to Caroline, Edward and Lucy Petre for hosting 35 of us for hearty carol singing the week before Christmas. The mulled wine, hot chocolate with marshmallows, sausages and mince pies were greatly appreciated amidst the cool wind outside our shelter. Fortunately the rain held off until we had finished. It was a wonderfully festive start to Christmas!



Upgrading the church's PA System

The Trustees of *The Friends of Tunworth Church Trust* would like to acknowledge, with gratitude, Basingstoke and Deane District Council for their contribution towards the cost of upgrading the PA system in All Saints Church, Tunworth. The Trustees would like to express their thanks to the ward councillors, Onnalee Cubitt, Sheena Grassi and Kate Tuck for their support for the award of the grant.

Sunday 23rd February

There is no service at Tunworth on 23rd February, but a combined service at St Mary's Herriard at 10.00am with the Bishop of Winchester.

Prayer Hour: Saturday 1st February 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.

Coffee & Cake: Thursday 6th February 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.

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. **The February dates are 12th and 26th.** If you would like to know more or to join, then please contact Gabrielle.

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. **The February date is 28th.**

WESTON PATRICK & WESTON CORBETT NEWS

St. Lawrence's next service will be Holy Communion on **Sunday 9th February** at 10.00am. There will be no Evensong this month at St Lawrence as we are joining Herriard to take part in a service at 10.00 am on **Sunday 23rd February** where our new Bishop Philip will be preaching. All are invited to come along.

Advance notice of our Mothering Sunday service at St Lawrence's at 10am on **Sunday 30th March**.

Our coffee morning on the fourth Wednesday of the month is 26th February at 11.00am in the Village Hall. Everybody (and your dog) is welcome to pop in.

Weston Patrick and Weston Corbett's Women's Home Group welcomes any women who would like to come along. This is an informal fellowship group exploring faith and how faith relates to our daily lives. This term we're using 'The Good and Beautiful Life' a book by James Bryan Smith which starts with the premise that everyone wants, and searches for, happiness and then explores what happiness is and how we know when we've found it. For more details or if you would like to join us, please contact Revd Linda Scard on 703294 / 07801 039717 or linda@moretolife.church



OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

North Warnborough and District Garden Club

We look forward to welcoming members and any new members to our February meeting, which will take place in the Village Hall in North Warnborough on Thursday 27th February at 2.00pm for the lecture to start at 2.30pm.

On this occasion Geoff Peach will talk to us about his 'Gardeners Life'. He has been a professional gardener and show judge for many years, and has broadcast on Surrey local radio answering listeners questions.

For more information look at our website, www.nwdgc.org.uk

Cross Barn Odiham – film / theatre

21st Feb: NT Live – The Importance of Being Earnest

Oscar Wilde described this – his final and best-loved play – as 'exquisitely trivial'; this production is superbly cast and perfectly judged...

28th Feb: Film – Paddington in Peru

When Paddington discovers his beloved Aunt Lucy has gone missing from the Home for Retired Bears, he and the Brown family head to the wilds of Peru to look for her. (With Antonio Banderas, Hugh Bonneville, Olivia Colman, Emily Mortimer, Ben Whishaw).

21st Ma: Donmar Warehouse – Macbeth

The actors are uniformly excellent, but David Tennant and Cush Jumbo, in particular, are able to infuse their characters with something new.

28th Mar: NT Live – Dr. Strangelove

Steve Coogan is magnificent, creating four very different characters and showing perfectly how the best laughs come from taking this dark comedy seriously.

25th Apr: Film – Conclave

Ralph Fiennes takes charge of a tense papal election thriller, leading a top-tier ensemble, including Stanley Tucci and Isabella Rossellini, in an entertainingly juicy adaptation of Robert Harris's novel.

Doors open at 19.00, coffee/tea, wine and ice cream available. The Importance of Being Earnest, Dr Strangelove and Macbeth: $\pounds 15.00$ –start 7.30pm; Paddington and Conclave: $\pounds 7.00$ – start 7.45pm

Purchase tickets online at http://www.thecrossbarn.org.uk

Our Spring concert takes place at the Anvil, on Sunday 30th March, at 7:30 pm. Our programme is inspired by the beauty and grandeur of the sea and showcases two major British composers. The programme Ralph Vaughan Williams's *Sea Symphony* and *Toward the Unknown Region* and Benjamin Britten's *Four Sea Interludes from Peter Grimes*.

Our conductor is David Gibson, and we are delighted to be joined once again by our friends from Croydon Philharmonic Choir, as well as a professional orchestra and soloists, making this a concert not to be missed. So join us on our seaward travels... To book: anvilarts.org.uk

Valentine's day concert, Odiham

The Friends of St. Michael's Hospice invite you to a beautiful romanticthemed concert at All Saints, Odiham, in support of St. Michael's Hospice – to raise fund and awareness of the vital care they provide across North Hampshire.

The concert will be on Friday 14th February, at 7.00pm. Drinks and canapes will be available.

Come and enjoy an evening of love songs and duets from opera and musical theatre. Performances from Thomas Elwin (Tenor), Solveig Neseth Kassar (Soprano) and George Ireland (Piano).

Please bring evidence of your ticket purchase on your phone or printed out to the concert. **stmichaelshospice.org.uk**

Odiham Cottage Hospital – Befriending service – new volunteering opportunity for 2025

Odiham Cottage Hospital's Befriending Service is a volunteer-led service run and managed by the hospital and covers the areas of Odiham, Hook, Hartley Wintney and Old Basing and surrounding villages. Our clients are those who have become lonely and isolated due to living with a long-term health condition, or who are receiving palliative care. The service recruits, trains and supports volunteers who on a weekly basis visit people in their homes, as well as provide befriending via the telephone. All clients are referred to the service through their GP practice, community health team or another medical professional.

We are currently recruiting new volunteers to be Befrienders for the service. For just two hours a week, you can make a real difference in someone's life within your local community. For more information or an application pack, please contact: Tina Birch, Befriending Manager on 393609 or via email at: befriending@odihamcottagehospital.org.uk

Mothers' Union Christian care for families For the past few y

Christian care for families For the past few years, Mothers' Union has supported prisoners in Winchester Prison by buying

A Ster

gifts for their children at Christmas time. This Christmas we provided selection boxes to be handed out to each of the children that attend the Families Day Spurgeons organised by December. The during prisoners and their families were very grateful for these gifts, which help to bring a bit of normality to the lives of these children.

In January we met for



our usual Wave of Prayer service, and on Monday 3rd February we will meet for our AGM and to start our knitting project for this year. To find to find out more about Mothers' Union or our branch, please contact Sue Murphy on suemurphymubranch@outlook.com or 01252 845011.

Do you love dogs? Have you ever thought of fostering..?

If so, please come to our Fostering Open Evening on February 18th at 7.00pm at The Tweseldown Pub (GU52 8DY) and find the answers!

We are DogsnHomes Rescue, a local UK charity which is dedicated to the rescuing and rehoming of dogs and puppies from Portugal and finds their forever homes in the UK. Please visit our website to find out more about us and the work that we do (www.dogsnhomes.org.uk). We also collect and ship animal related donations to Ukraine and to date have sent over 258,000 kilos of aid to the animals suffering as a result of the war.

As we do not have any UK kennels, we are always looking to extend our incredible fostering network which is why we are holding this information evening. The evening will include:

- A short summary of our charity
- A talk from 3 of our current fosterers so they can tell their stories
- An informal Q & A session

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We would love to see you on February 18th so please register for a free ticket at https://shorturl.at/YRttm

If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact us at volunteering@dogsnhomes.org.uk and thank you from all of us at DogsnHomes!

Good Health Matters to us all!



The pressures on our NHS have never

been greater and consequently more and more of us feel that there is a growing need to take some responsibility for our own health and well-being.

Our 60+ activity groups



already contribute as they provide regular opportunities for our members to stay active physically and mentally but above all socially. Indeed, an outing to London is already arranged to see Christmas Cracker 2025 in December!

Taking regular exercise is very popular with our u3a family, with over 20 groups offering a range of physical activities - some having multiple groups e.g. there are three Pilates groups. However, before we sound too good to be true, there are five Wine Appreciation groups!

Increasingly, however, it is being recognised that our lifestyles play an important part in our well-being. So, we are planning a Health and Wellbeing Study Day in April with the focus on 'Ears, eyes and other essentials'. We hope this will lead to regular 'Lifestyle' presentations.

Loneliness can also be a major factor affecting our well-being and our long-established MOTO group offers regular opportunities during the month for 'Members On Their Own' to socialise. They also organise special events e.g. they celebrated the Chinese New Year with a meal, and there are even, increasingly popular, MOTO holidays.

Underpinning so much of our understanding about health is science. The Science and Technology's January presentation was about 'Vaccines' with Dr Stephen Lockhart, who recently retired from a senior position in Pfizer.

If you would like to get involved, we would love to hear from you. To find out more, please visit our website. https://odiham.u3asite.uk/



Lord Mayor's charity concert

His Worshipful Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane invites you to attend the Mayor's Charity concert in aid of the Mayor's Charity appeal on 1st March at the Anvil, Basingstoke. The Concert returns with a programme of music which includes something for everyone.

This year's event will celebrate the key anniversaries of the 250th year of Jane Austen within the Borough and in nearby Steventon, as well as commemorate VE Day 80th Anniversary. These themes reflect the Mayor's principle of fostering community cohesion by bringing people together to enhance the wellbeing of all.

The concert will showcase the huge variety and diversity of musicmaking opportunities. A taster of who will be showing are, Basingstoke Festival of Choirs, Basingstoke Gospel Choir, Hatch Warren Infant School and Heritage Light Orchestra. All compered by David Allard. Music includes: Africa!, J'ai Ho (from *Slumdog Millionaire*), When You Believe (from The Prince of Egypt), The Dambusters' March, and the theme from *Pride and Prejudice*.

This is a great opportunity to support the Mayor's Charity Appeal, focusing this year on the North Hampshire Prostate Cancer Support Group, and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation. Further information and details of the appeal can be found at https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/mayorcharity

Tickets for this event go fast, so it's advisable to purchase early: https://www.anvilarts.org.uk/events/mayors-spring-charity-concert. Price: £20. Over 65s and f/t students £16, under 16s £13 (includes £3 booking fee).

Parking is available at the NCP Car park very close to the venue. The venue is fully accessible. Should you wish for a wheelchair position please ensure you ask at the booking office upon booking.

Please help promote the Mayor's Spring Charity Concert through your friends, family, colleagues and anyone else you know! Don't let them miss this great show.

Cardiac Rehab quiz night

The Cardiac Rehab Big Quiz and Supper, sponsored by Sheen Stickland Chartered Accountants, is being held at the Alton Maltings on Friday 28th February, 7.00pm start. If you would like to enter a team of eight, please go to https://cardiac-rehab.co.uk/events/. The cost is £20.00 and includes a hot pie supper. There will be a licensed bar. Tel. 01420 544794 for further info.



National Garden Scheme – Hampshire

The welcome news from our NGS Head Office is that the total donated to our beneficiaries from the 2024 season is a staggering £3.5million – £1.1million MORE than the NGS raised in 2023. Of course that means we really have to pull out all the stops in 2025 to try to beat this figure.

As always the lions' share (£2,550,000) goes to our main six nursing and health charities: The Queen's Nursing Institute, Marie Curie, Macmillan Cancer Support, Hospice UK, Carers Trust and Parkinson's UK. For 2024 a very significant beneficiary was added to our list. The John King Brain Tumour Foundation.

John King was an extremely popular chef with an international reputation. In 2015 John was diagnosed with a glioblastoma brain tumour, and sadly passed away in November 2016. You can read more about the amazing work of this charity on the website.

So to NGS Gardens open in March/April 2025...

Bere Mill, London Road, Whitchurch, RG28 7NH Open: Sunday 16th March & Sunday 13th April 1.00pm to 5.00pm Admission: £8.00, children free, cashless payments available. Refreshments: Home-made teas

The garden is built around the early C18th mill on an idyllic isolated stretch of the River Test, east of Whitchurch, with extensive bulb planting for the spring garden. The mill buildings were the original location of Portals who first sold bank note paper to the Bank of England from the mill in 1724 and there are interesting industrial and agricultural archaeological remains. The owners farm the surrounding fields with traditional breeds of sheep and cattle. The house and farm are self-sufficient in energy, waste and water. A butchery sells the home- grown meat from the farm.

This garden also opens by arrangement for groups from February to September, and coaches are welcome. Contact Rupert Nabarro: 07703 161074; rupertnab@gmail.com

Also open in March and described in last month's magazine:

Chawton House, Chawton, Alton GU34 2SJ

Open: Sunday 16th March 10.00am to 3.00pm Little Court, Crawley, Winchester, SO21 2PU

Open: Sunday & Monday 30th & 31st March 2.00pm to 5.30 pm.

Wishing you all a happy garden visiting season.

Pat Beagley, Head of Publicity, NGS, Hampshire pat.beagley@ngs.org.uk

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust - Silent Hunters

The barn owl, with its ghostly white feathers and heart-shaped face, is one of the most iconic birds of prey in the UK. Its haunting appearance has earned it the old country name 'hushwing,' which aptly describes its ability to glide noiselessly through the night in search of prey.

A remarkable combination of features allows the barn owl to be such an effective and stealthy hunter. The trailing edges of its wings are lined with soft, serrated feathers that reduce noise, enabling the bird to fly almost silently. Barn owls also have excellent night vision, perfectly adapted for hunting in low light. Their long legs, talons, and highly sensitive ears, aided by their distinctive facial discs, help them locate prey even in tall grass or underbrush. The facial discs act as a sound funnel, directing noises into the owl's keen ears, allowing it to detect even the slightest movement on the ground below.

In Hampshire, barn owls are an increasingly familiar sight, especially in the winter months when they extend their hunting hours to find enough food to survive the colder conditions. The best times to see them are at dawn or dusk, when their hunting is most active.

Several nature reserves managed by Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust offer great opportunities to observe barn owls in their natural habitat, including Hockley Meadows Nature Reserve in Winchester, Arreton Down on the Isle of Wight and Farlington Marches

Nature Reserve near Portsmouth.

While watching barn owls, it's important to be respectful of their environment. Always maintain a safe distance, avoid disturbing wildlife, and keep dogs on leads. With their captivating beauty and incredible hunting skills, barn owls are a testament to the wonders of the natural world.

For more information, visit the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust website: www.hiwwt.org.uk/wildlifeexplorer/birds/birds-prey/barnowl



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SMALL ADS FEBRUARY

Craft & Create Workshops, from February 2025, Unit 7-9, Folly Farm, Kingsclere Road, Basingstoke, RG26 5GJ. The workshops will be tutored by experts and will include: Candle Making, Soap Making, Salts & Clays, Upholstery (Head Board Making, Bring Your Own Wingchair, Ottoman Box Making, Drop Seat Pad, Upholstery Piped Footstool Making), Beginners & Advanced Curtain Making, Beginners & Advanced Roman Blinds, Scatter Cushion Making, Quilt Making. For more details see www.craft-create.co.uk, phone 07748 715350 or email asabove3@gmail.com.

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 on 01256 862681 or email <u>bookings@uptongreyvillagehall.co.uk</u> or visit our new website <u>www.uptongreyvillagehall.co.uk</u>.

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 – FEBRUARY 2025

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

FEBRUARY DATES

4th Feb	Tues	Tea@3, The Old Post House, Upton Grey	3.00pm
6th Feb	Thur	UG Ladies Group meeting, Christmas Cottage, UG	10.30am
8th Feb	Sat	Concert by village musicians, UG Village Hall	6.00pm
21st Feb	Fri	NT Live, The Importance of Being Earnest, Cross Barn	7.30pm
27th Feb	Thur	NW Garden club meeting, NW Village Hall	2.00pm
28th Feb	Fri	Herriard and Tunworth lunch group, Herriard Hub	12.00pm
28th Feb	Fri	Cardiac Rehab Big Quiz, Alton Maltings	7.00pm
28th Feb	Fri	Paddington in Peru, Cross Barn, Odiham	7.45pm

ADVANCE DATES

1st Mar	Sat	Upton Grey Reels Night, UG Village Hall	
22nd Mar	Sat	Upton Grey Safari Supper	7.15pm
22nd Mar	Sat	Military Wives choir concert, St Mary's, Herriard	7.00pm
30th Mar	Sun	Basingstoke Choral Society spring concert, Anvil	7.30pm
7th Jun	Sat	St Mary's Upton Grey Fete	2.00pm
17th June	Tues	UG Golf Day, Tylney Park, Rotherwick	10.30am
22nd Jun	Sun	Concert in St Mary's Church, Upton Grey	6.00pm

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	9.30-10.15am
Each Thurs	Prayer group, 4 Little Hoddington	5.00-5.45pm
Each Thurs	Coffee, Tea & Cake Morning, Hub, Herriard	10.00am
Every 1st Thurs	Coffee & Cake, Tunworth church porch	10.30am
	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 The copy deadline for the March issue is 15th February 2025.

Please send news and contributions to uptongreymagazine@gmail.com. Your editor for February was Tess Chevallier. The editor for March will be Sheila Stranks (with Nick Willmer – church).

