

PARISH MAGAZINE



St. Mary's, Herriard



All Saints', Turworth



St. Mary's, Upton Grey



St. Lawrence, Westcott Parvick

**March
2025**

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

Letter from the Benefice Ministry Team

In our national life and public discourse we have become used to a growing fragmentation. We hear a multiplicity of competing voices all calling for their own preferment or privilege, often over and against anyone who would dare to disagree with them. Finding common ground for discussion it seems has become more and more difficult as notions of community, or 'being in it together' are increasingly undermined. I think it is true to say that in a small village community such as ours this is far less pronounced than in the larger communities of towns and cities, but still, prevailing culture has an impact on us, even if relatively minor.



I suggest we need to rediscover the first person plural, or the 'we', if we are to live well with one another, both our immediate neighbours and the other citizens with whom we share this island. In this we might look at the family, however constituted, as an example of the importance of the 'we'. In a well-functioning extended family there will be numerous opinions, conflicting ideas and even factions. But in this happy and well-functioning family there is a shared investment in staying together as a unit, looking out for and loving one another. At the heart of this commitment lies the belief that there is something more important than each individual's own opinion or desires – that something is the family, the collection of relationships whose welfare and future they are all equally invested in.

Of course a simple abstraction from the level of the family to our national life is impossible – the bonds that connect parents and children, siblings, grandparents etc are different to the bonds that connect strangers who by a twist of fate happen to co-exist on the same piece of land at the same time. But, there are some lessons to be learned from the domestic sphere that might improve the quality of our national life.

The collective life of our nation needs to rediscover this sense of 'we' – we need a resurgence of the first person plural to allow us to navigate disagreements, come to shared understanding, and live well side-by-side as we belong together in a shared home. I would go so far

as to say that a rediscovery of this sense of ‘we’ is essential for the future flourishing of our nation.

In the record of the Gospels Jesus says relatively little about how his followers are to relate to the nations in which they lived, short of a couple of well-known pronouncements about living peaceably under authority and giving dues to those who claimed them - memorably Caesar when it comes to cash. Contra to some more radical interpretations of Jesus’s teaching, he seemed to have no desire for his followers to be the cause of huge political upheaval – instead it seems he encouraged them to belong fully to the communities of which they were a part and to live peacefully under the systems which governed their lives. This it seems was due not to lack of interest in the politics and structures of the day, but because it was in the midst of these structures and communities (however temporary) that the kingdom of God would be revealed in the lives of those who professed to follow him.

You see one of the great callings of the church is to be a demonstration of the importance of the first person plural in the name of Jesus. To be a community of ‘we’ in which individuals of all ages, backgrounds, experiences and preferences can find a sense of belonging which is genuinely transformative, anchoring life and bringing joy. This is good in and of itself but it also points to a reality beyond, namely that in living together, navigating differences of opinion and ceaselessly and resolutely continuing to love each other, we demonstrate and make manifest something of the character and life of God. We bring heaven to earth as it were.

As recent news reports make clear, the church doesn’t always get this right and indeed it sometimes gets it profoundly wrong, however, it keeps trying because the first person plural matters as an expression of the fullness of life which Christ offers.

Rev Simon Butler

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism: George Cheyney at St Mary’s Herriard on 26th January
Baptism: Gabriella Macpherson at St Mary’s Upton Grey on 2nd February

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 2nd March

- 9.00am Tunworth – BCP Holy Communion
- 10.00am Upton Grey – CW Holy Communion
- 5.00pm Herriard – Evensong

Wednesday 5th March – Ash Wednesday

- 11.00am Tunworth – Benefice Ash Wednesday BCP Holy Communion
- 7.30pm Odiham – Benefice Ash Wednesday CW Holy Communion

Sunday 9th March

- 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 March

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

Sunday 16th March

- 9.00am Tunworth – 1662 Morning Prayer
- 10.00am Herriard – Morning Worship
- 10.00am Upton Grey – CW Holy Communion

Thursday 20th March

- 10.00am Herriard – BCP Holy Communion (said)

Sunday 23rd March

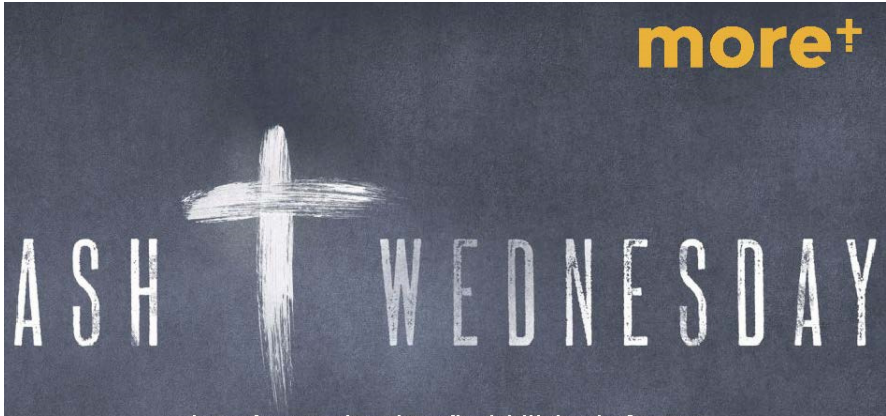
- 9.00am Tunworth – BCP Holy Communion
- 10.00am Herriard – Family Service with Baptism
- 10.00am Upton Grey – Morning Worship
- 5.00pm Weston Patrick – Evensong

Sunday 30th March – Mothering Sunday

- 9.00am Tunworth – Mothering Sunday Family Service
- 10.00am Herriard – Mothering Sunday Family Service
- 10.00am Upton Grey – Mothering Sunday Family Service
- 10.00am Weston Patrick – Mothering Sunday Family Service

CHURCH NEWS

Ash Wednesday



There are two benefice Ash Wednesday communion services this year: a Book of Common Prayer service in All Saints Tunworth at 11.00am and a Common Worship service in All Saints Odiham at 7.30pm.

Coffee & Cake

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

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

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. For more information about The Table please contact The Revd Matt Bianchi (matt@moretolife.church).



KidsZone

The last time you heard from me was in the December edition during the season of Advent. I now have the privilege of sharing with you at the beginning of the other significant season in the church calendar, Lent; the time leading up to Easter.

On the eve of the first day of Lent we traditionally celebrate Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day. But what do pancakes have to do with Lent and Easter?

Well, Lent is a season of 40 days (actually it's 46 - but we don't count Sundays!) and it ends with Easter Sunday and the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. Traditionally these 40 days have been a time of fasting for Christians (not eating) and living more simply. Christians do this to remember the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert after he was baptised and before he started travelling around telling and showing people all about God. During that time in the desert Jesus went without food. He fasted (read about it in Matthew 4). Now while most Christians don't stop eating altogether for 40 days, traditionally they have stopped eating some foods, in particular fatty, rich foods like butter and eggs. That's why on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Lent starts, it has been tradition for people to use up all the remaining fatty foods in their homes, and pancakes have been the best way of doing that. Throughout the history of the church great festivals would have been held where the whole village or town got together to do this. On that note, if you are reading this before March 4th we would love to see you at our Pancake Party at All Saints, Odiham.

For Christians, the purpose of giving up stuff and living more simply over Lent is to create more time to reflect honestly on how you are living and to make more room for the things that make you more human and alive: love, forgiveness, generosity, hospitality... (the things that Jesus typified). If you and your household would like to be more intentional in practising these things over Lent, there's a great resource which you can access using this QR code or visit flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2016/02/lent-ideas-for-families-printable.html



Whether you observe Lent in any particular way this year or not, may you know the immense love and kindness God has for you as shown through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. And, in turn, may you find yourself giving and receiving more love and kindness to and from others.



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



NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

Farming News

We've had a glimpse of winter with a week of cold frosty weather but now it's back to being reasonably mild, overcast and wet although a dry week is forecast. A good few weeks of cold, frosty weather would be really welcome to kill off the bugs and diseases that 'trouble' (I was going to say 'plague' but that might be overdoing it thankfully) our crops and livestock. We are being vigilant for signs of Blue Tongue in our cows after some cases have been reported in the South East when the midges that carry it had been blown across the channel from the Continent. Thankfully it doesn't affect the cows too much but there would be a drop in milk for a few weeks. We blood tested some cattle a few weeks ago just to make sure and the results were all negative. A good cold spell would drastically reduce the risk.

The cows have been milking really well this Winter on the grass and maize silages we made last year. They are chomping their way through our silage stocks at an alarming rate, so I've just bought some extra maize from a neighbouring farmer. Our maize and grass silage yields were lower than I'd anticipated last year so that's left us a bit short, so we've had to bolster our stocks. The extra should get us through to October by which time our clamps should be full again. I'm going to plant more maize this Spring to make sure we are not in the same position next year. I like to be in the position of having too much forage in stock but after the two previous disappointing growing seasons due to

lack of sunlight I've been caught out. The area of maize we plant this Spring and the consequent yield we get, should see our maize silage stocks through to January 2027, so it's really important my 'back of an envelope' calculations are correct!

Our milk quality is consistently the best it has ever been with the milk solids running at 62.5kg/cow of Fat and 45.5kg/cow of Protein this month. With our milk yield, that will equate to well over 1,000kg of milk solids/cow/year which is exceptional. We not only get paid by our milk buyer, ARLA, for milk yield but also for quality. There is now huge demand for unprocessed, natural ingredients and protein which is why milk and meat prices are on the rise.

Whey was seen as a byproduct of dairy and fed to pigs a few decades ago but now is hugely in demand to promote muscle growth and tissue repair. You only have to look at the many products available to see its popularity. There was a report you may have seen from Cancer Research UK recently that stated, 'Our new study shows that an extra 300mg of calcium a day - or a large glass of milk - could be linked to a 17% decrease in bowel cancer risk'

With sports stars like Dame Laura Kenny (milk, milk and more milk!) and Erling Haaland (What's your favourite snack? Raw Milk!) promoting milk this has certainly been beneficial marketing with the well informed younger generations watching TikTok. That's possibly a bit ageist but I'm certainly not a TikToker..... if that's a thing?

So now the days are really drawing out and Spring is around the corner after a difficult year last year, the future looks brighter on all fronts.

Joe Ives

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

Upton Grey Village Hall – 100 club

Congratulations to February's 100 Club winners:

1st (£100) A Janaway, 2nd (£40) B McGowan

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.

Lent Lunches

As in previous years, Lent Lunches will be held in the village during Lent. Everyone is invited. Starting time is 12.30, to finish no later than 2.00. The menu is simple but delicious - home-made soup and cheese - and very good company. Dates and hosts are as follows:

14th March Mark and Millie White 07557 793237 (8 Hoddington Farm Cottages, RG25 2RT)

25th March Jill Lestrille 01256 862131 (Barn Cottage, Weston Road)

2nd April Val Buckley 01256 862460 (The Butts - behind the church)

9th April Frances Yeowart 01256 861218 (The Old Post House - next to the Hodd)

Please could you let your host know if you are coming by the preceding day. There is no charge, but you are invited to donate to the charity chosen by your host. For the avoidance of doubt everyone is welcome - these are not exclusively ladies' lunches but please no dogs. Any enquiries or requests for a lift please contact **Jill Lestrille, 862131**

more+

At 10am on the second Thursday of every month we hold a short 30min Book of Common Prayer Communion Service at St Mary's Upton Grey. We'd love you to join us.

2025 Dates:

Feb 13th, Mar 13th, Apr 10th, May 8th, Jun 12th, Jul 10th,
 Aug 14th, Sept 11th, Oct 9th, Nov 13th, Dec 11th.

Coffee and Cake drop in
 Upton Grey Village Hall
Monday
10th & 24th March
11.00-1.00
All welcome



St Mary's Upton Grey
www.moretolife.church

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

Activities at Upton Grey church (and nearby)

As February draws to a close and the signs of spring are beginning to appear, I want to take the opportunity to talk about some of the things happening at St Mary's Upton Grey and the surrounding area - especially new activities starting or restarting for our children and young people.

Upton Grey 'Get OWT' (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)

We launched a new pre-schoolers group in late January called **Get OWT** - Get **O**(ut) **W**(ith) **T**(oddlers). The idea is simple, it's a toddler group based around being outdoors and exploring and enjoying all that the natural world has to offer. The group meets at 10.00 on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at St Mary's Churchyard. In January we made bird feeders, drank hot chocolate, watched nature, sang songs and generally 'let nature nurture our little ones'.

Messy Church

Messy Church is restarting on **Wednesday March 19th** in Upton Grey Village Hall. It's a fun-packed hour and a half for primary-aged children with crafts, music, food and a bible story, running from 3.30 to 5.00pm.

Herriard Youth Hub

Sunday evenings are busy for our village youth, now that the brand new Herriard Youth Hub has started up. The first one was on Sunday 2nd February, and the young people learnt to juggle, ate pizza and had a go at pool. The Herriard Hub is such a fantastic venue, and we are so grateful that the committee have made it available for us. There is so little for our young people in the villages, so we hope that this will become a space where young people from 11–18 can feel relaxed and welcome. If you know of a young person you think might enjoy this group, please do encourage them to come along, or contact Helen Chatfield on youth@moretolife.church for more information.

Odiham Thursday evenings

The Youth group on Thursday evenings at All Saints Odiham has expanded to include children from school year 4 and up. The younger ones meet at 4.30, with the older ones joining them at 5.30 for a relaxing meal together, then a session just for the older ones from 6.00 to 7.30. This is a safe place where everyone is welcome and no one is judged. Come and feel part of the family!

Pancake Party (March 4th)

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, and the day before on Tuesday 4th March we'll be hosting our benefice Pancake Party in All Saints Odiham as usual. Come along any time between 3.00 and 6.00pm for delicious pancakes with some amazing toppings!

Ash Wednesday (March 5th)

There are two benefice Ash Wednesday services: the traditional evening service in All Saints Odiham (7.30pm) and, this year, also a morning service in All Saints Tunworth (11.00am). All will be welcome at either – or both! - services.

Lent Groups

This year we will be using the excellent book by Rowan Williams 'Finding God in Mark' during Lent. Our Homegroups will follow the material, and in addition there will be a daytime and an evening Lent Group for those who don't want to join a Homegroup. Those Lent Groups are open to all and will meet at 7.30-9.00pm on Tuesdays in Upton Grey and 11.00-12.30 on Wednesdays in Odiham. To sign up for a Lent Group or for information on Homegroups please email: simon@moretolife.church or call the benefice office on 01256 703791.

Lent Lunches

As in previous years, there will be a number of Lent Lunches in Upton Grey. Details elsewhere in this magazine.

Safari Supper (22nd March)

Saturday 22nd March sees our now legendary Safari Supper take place - if you've never been, you've missed a treat. Sign up now for a really fun evening. Details elsewhere in this magazine.

Mothering Sunday (30th March)

All are invited to our Mothering Sunday Service at 10.00am on Sunday 30th March. As usual we will be giving out flowers to all the ladies in the congregation and we'll have refreshments after the service.

Rev Simon



Mothering Sunday Service

Do join us for the service followed by refreshments
 Sun 30th March 10.00am
 St Mary's Church Upton Grey

more+

Tennis Dates for 2025

Junior Tennis Coaching

Easter Tennis: Monday 14th - Thursday 17th April

Sessions start from 9.00am and are 45 minutes long. The coach will be Andrew Ridgers, who has been leading the tennis coaching for many years. He is very experienced and highly regarded and makes the sessions fun for all. He also coaches at Odiham tennis club. The youngest children have the first session, which is 45 minutes and then there are several more groups, largely grouped together by age. The age range is roughly 3.5 up to 16/17 year olds.

The cost is £16 per child, whether your child is able to attend all the days or not. We are able to keep this low due to the continued and much appreciated support from the Upton Grey Educational Trust.

In the event of bad weather, the sessions will be cancelled. Please email Susannah Livingston Booth on: slivingstonbooth@gmail.com with your child/children's name(s), age(s), and your contact details.

Payment should be made by the 1st April 2025 by Bank Transfer to Upton Grey Village Tennis Court. Bank Details: Sort Code 30-93-32, Account No: 02410908 or alternatively you can pay by cash to Susannah Livingston Booth at Redwing House, Cemetery Lane, Upton Grey, RG25 2RD

Summer Tennis: Monday 4th - Thursday 7th August

St Mary's Church Fete, Saturday 7th June, 2.00-5.00pm, Sherborne Cottage gardens

Coming your way this summer! Please save the date for this annual long-standing village event which is both a fundraiser for the church and fun entertainment for all ages.

All the usual stalls plus delicious home-made cream teas, Pimms and ice creams and the ever popular Punch & Judy show and Cove Brass Band to entertain.

Get your families and friends organised now to come and enjoy this most traditional afternoon celebrating the best of village life in our beautiful corner of rural North Hampshire.

We are very grateful to Nick and Rosie Ralls who have kindly agreed for us to use their beautiful gardens at Sherborne Cottage, Church Street, Upton Grey.

Thank you so much in advance for your support. **Sarah Barnes and Frances Yeowart on behalf of St Mary's Church, Upton Grey PCC.** Contact: francesyeowart@outlook.com

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: 10.30am coffee and bacon rolls, 11.30am 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: 01256 862857, 07710 802254 or lucychurch2008@hotmail.co.uk.

Save the Date!

- Concert in St Mary's Church - **Sunday 22nd June 6.00pm**

Definitive record of St Mary's Church, Upton Grey

A comprehensive record of the church furnishings at St Mary's has been compiled by the Church Recording Group, Hart Branch, of the Arts Society (NADFAS) and presented to the PCC and the Diocese. It provides a detailed and informative analysis of the interior of the Church, illustrated by first class photographs. It is based on regular visits to St Mary's and extensive research carried out over two years. It is an invaluable source of information.

The Society comments that our Grade I listed Church has much to admire: a wealth of memorials, a fine collection of stained glass, a Norman arch, a fine ring of old and new bells, an interesting Perpendicular font, a turret clock still running after 260 years, and a curious fragment of a 13th century 'memento mori' inscription warning against loose living.

The book contains sections on memorials, metalwork, stonework, woodwork, textiles, paintings, books, windows and miscellaneous items. Interesting biographical details are included particularly on memorials.

It is planned to include a short 'Did you know' section in future issues of this magazine to highlight items of interest. **Geoffrey Yeowart**

HERRIARD AND WINSLADE NEWSwww.herriard-pc.gov.ukwww.herriardvillagehub.co.ukHerriard Village Group on <http://www.Facebook.com>

Greener Basingstoke is a local environmental action group that supports community led responses to climate change and environmental damage. Herriard Parish Council are pleased to invite local people and anyone from further afield, to attend a free 45-minute talk given by Greener Basingstoke on **Monday 3rd March at 6.30pm at Herriard Village Hub**. For more information: info@greenerbasingstoke.org

Herriard Parish Council will be holding their next meeting on **Monday 3rd March at 7.30pm** after the talk, at Herriard Village Hub. This is a chance to hear about local issues and plans in our area and have your say in the open forum. All Parish Councillors are residents of Herriard and volunteer to work on behalf of our community, we welcome locals to come along and hear about what we've been doing.



St Mary's Church Herriard
Saturday 22nd March

Please join us for an evening with the
Odiham Military Wives Choir

6.45pm for 7.00pm start

Tickets £10 each to include refreshments

To book your tickets please call

Gemma Hounsell on 01256 381354

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Dates for your Diaries

Lent Lunches

Herriard and Tunworth churches are running a joint lunch series at the Herriard Hub during the season of Lent this year. The dates are:

Friday 14th March

Friday 21st March

Friday 28th March

Friday 4th April

Friday 11th April

Please come and join us for a soup and bread lunch at 12 noon, followed by a short discussion (the theme will be Mark's Gospel) finishing at 1.30pm latest. Tea and Coffee will be supplied. All are welcome.

Mothering Sunday Service - 30th March 10.00am

Easter Sunday Service & Egg Hunt - 20th April 10.00am

Fete - Sunday 1st June

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Youth Hub

Please see news of the Herriard Youth Hub on page 10 of this magazine.

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. 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 get an updated list of items they so desperately need, please visit

www.thecamrosecentre.org. They also have an Amazon wish list - the list is regularly updated:

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

The latest statistics from the centre for the period October to December 2024:

- 904 breakfasts served
- 681 hot lunches served
- 206 food parcels to go
- 151 hot showers taken

And this from their latest update:

“A new project we are determined to make a success of is our weekly women’s group on Wednesdays. We know it is important that we recognise that the key to being successful is that we deliver a person-centred approach to all who come to Camrose to seek, comfort, solace and a respite from the challenges of daily life. As ever, we put the immediate needs of our client base first by providing a place to rest, recuperate and relax whilst offering sustenance, practical assistance and a kind word of support from all involved with the charity.”

The Camrose Centre is a drop-in centre for anyone who is sleeping rough, homeless or vulnerably housed within Basingstoke and Deane.

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

Prayer Hour: Saturday 1st March 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.

Ash Wednesday: 5th March 11.00am

In addition to the customary Ash Wednesday service in Odiham, this year All Saints Tunworth is holding a BCP communion service at 11.00am.

Coffee & Cake: Thursday 6th March 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 March dates are the 12th and 26th.** If you would like to know more or to join, then please contact Gabrielle.

Herriard and Tunworth Lent Lunch series

The Herriard/Tunworth Lent Lunch series is at the Herriard Hub on Fridays March 14th, 21st & 28th and April 4th & 11th.

Mothering Sunday: 30th March

All Saints Tunworth has a Mothering Sunday Family Service at 9.00am on 30th March.

An Exclusive Evening with author and broadcaster Robert Hardman talking about his latest book 'Charles III, New King, New Court, The Inside Story' Thursday 3rd April, 6.30-8.30pm

We are delighted to welcome the renowned writer and broadcaster Robert Hardman to speak about his best-selling new book, with insights and anecdotes about the royal household; it should be a very entertaining event! Tickets are £30 each including drinks and canapés, and all proceeds will go to Tunworth Church. The event will be held at Middlewood House, Weston Corbett, Basingstoke RG25 2PB.

To book tickets or for more information please email or call Amanda Aldous amanda@amandaaldous.com 07768 416234.

WESTON PATRICK & WESTON CORBETT NEWS

St. Lawrence's next service will be Holy Communion on Sunday 9th March at 10.00am. An Evensong service at 5.00pm follows on Sunday 23rd March and our **Mothering Sunday** service at St Lawrence at 10.00am on Sunday 30th March.

Reverend Linda Scard will be praying for our community in our church at 9.00am on the first Friday of every month. All are welcome to join her.

Our coffee morning on the fourth Wednesday of the month is 26th March 2025 at 11.00am in the Village Hall. Everybody (and your dog) is welcome to pop in.

We will be holding another Village Quiz Night in our Village Hall on Thursday 20th March. Please contact Lesley Don on 07939 201573 if you would like further details.

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 01256 703294/07801 039717.

Coffee Mornings

Weston Patrick Village Hall

Wednesday 26th March

11.00-12.30

Then on the fourth Wednesday of each month

Join us for Coffee & Cake

All ages welcome!



St Lawrence
Weston Patrick
www.moretolife.church

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

A Devolved Hampshire

As you will have seen in notes from our Parish Clerks, Hampshire will be part of the Devolution Priority Programme, which will give the county greater control over education, transport and health services.

A new mayor will be elected in Spring 2026 to head up a new combined authority covering Hampshire County Council, Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth and Southampton Councils. This mayor would work with council leaders to make decisions about local matters, including transport, employment, housing and climate change.

Leader of Hampshire County Council, Nick-Adams King said ‘This is exciting news for Hampshire. Devolution represents the biggest change to local government in a generation. Hampshire and the Solent are pivotal to the UK’s economic landscape.’

The Government will consult with residents to gather feedback on the proposals.

North Warnborough and District Garden Club

Our speaker for our Meeting on Thursday March 27th will be Barry Newman. His talk ‘The Modern Kitchen Garden’ will be perfect for a Spring meeting. The venue as usual is the North Warnborough Village Hall from 2.10pm for the talk at 2.30pm.

We look forward to welcoming new members. Visitors can attend for £3.00. For more information look at our website, www.nwdgc.org.uk

Cross Barn Odiham – film / theatre

21st Mar: Donmar Warehouse – Macbeth

The actors are uniformly excellent, but David Tennant and Cush Jumbo can 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. Dr Strangelove and Macbeth: £15.00 – start 7.30pm; Paddington and Conclave: £7.00 – start 7.45pm.

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

Basingstoke Choral Society Concert at the Anvil

Our Spring concert takes place at the Anvil, on Sunday 30th March at 7:30pm. 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

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



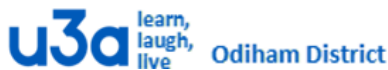
In January this year I became the Diocesan President for Mothers' Union in this Diocese. On Sunday March 9th I will be commissioned, along with other Diocesan officers for Mothers' Union, during Evensong at

Winchester Cathedral. I am hoping that many of our members will join us for what I am sure will be a wonderful service.

Mothers' Union is focussed on supporting families, particularly those who are in difficult circumstances. Our local branch runs the Sunflower Café in partnership with the Vine Church to support those living with dementia and their carers.

Mothers' Union also run a Child Contact Centre in Popley, Basingstoke, to support families where the relationship between the parents has completely broken down. This project enables the non-resident parent to spend time with their children in a safe and welcoming environment. We are looking for volunteers to help with both of these projects – if you want to find out more then please get in touch with me.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 3rd March at 7:30pm at the RAF Chaplaincy Centre. If you want to find out more about Mothers' Union or our branch, please contact Sue Murphy on suemurphymubbranch@outlook.com or 01252 845011.



Members doing it for themselves!

We are all guilty of thinking something should be done or sorted out, and then look around for someone else to deal with it! One of the many advantages of the u3a is when something does need doing, there are usually other members around to help. Our u3a is run very much on the principal of a mutual self-help group.

An example of this was the formation of the Short Walks group. For some time, a number of members, for a variety of reasons, felt they needed a shorter walk than those undertaken by the Walking for Pleasure and Nordic Walking groups. So, they gathered together for a cup of coffee and planning session in the Bel and the Dragon and the rest, as they say, is history and the first Short Walk has now taken place.



Meanwhile, Wine Group 2 undertook research into non-alcohol and low-alcohol wines as part of their 'slightly damp' January. As the u3a has no wish to cause this publication any grief with the purveyors of these beverages, it suffices to say that they were not well received. Apparently, a recent article in The Times stated that when you strip out the alcohol, it affects the flavour. However, the wine group were happy to report there were some acceptable low(ish) alcohol wines including a Prosecco, a Sauvignon Blanc and a Val de Loire Malbec – to be had.

And what a difference Pickle Ball has made! From a casual conversation in the Spring of 2023, through the first trial sessions in September 2023, involving just 8 players, playing fortnightly, our group has now grown to include 50 registered members playing on a weekly basis. The participants are from all the local u3as and provided an excellent opportunity to swap ideas across the local branches.

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/>



National Garden Scheme – Hampshire

Last month our NGS Chief Executive, George Plumtre EMH announced that he will be stepping down from his role at the end of Summer 2025 after 15 years of service. George says “The opportunity to lead this unique charity for 15 years has been the great privilege of my working life and I have loved every minute of it. However, the National Garden Scheme will celebrate its centenary in 2027, and I feel strongly that the person leading the charity at that time must also be the person who will be leading it for the years thereafter, not someone who is about to retire. The centenary is a once in a lifetime opportunity for the charity and a new Chief Executive will maximise this. I am delighted that the Trustees have asked me to stay on in a part-time role managing some centenary projects that I have initiated, which I will be delighted to do until the centenary year. After that I will enjoy exploring new opportunities and challenges.”

George will be sadly missed by many people, but we look forward to the next chapter in the life of this amazing charity - The National Garden Scheme.

So, to some gardens around Upton Grey.

Lord Wandsworth College, Long Sutton, Hook RG29 1TB

Opening: Saturday & Sunday 12th & 13th April 11.00am to 3.00pm
 Admission £4.00, children free. Cashless Payments available.
 Refreshments: Home-made teas (not to be missed). After a very successful maiden opening in 2024, LWC is opening its gates again for the General Public. Lord Wandsworth College is set in 1200 acres of rolling farmland and wooded valleys. The main college campus is set around formal lawns with mature paper bark maples, cedar trees, cherry trees, and magnolias. The herbaceous borders are planted with an array of very unusual tulips, daffodils, and alliums. A South African inspired border runs the full length of the new science centre.

Old Thatch and Millenium Barn Spratts Hatch Lane, Winchfield RG27 8DD

Opening: Sunday 13th April 2.00pm to 6.00pm Admission: £5.00 children free. Cashless Payments only. Refreshments: Home-made teas.
 Who could resist visiting Old Thatch, a chocolate box thatched cottage (not open), featured on film and TV, a smallholding with a 5-acre garden and woodland alongside the Basingstoke Canal (unfenced). A succession of spring bulbs, a profusion of wildflowers, perennials and homegrown annuals pollinated by our own bees and fertilised by the donkeys, who await your visit. Over 30 named clematis and rose cultivars. Children enjoy our garden quiz; adults enjoy tea and home-made cakes. If the weather and conditions permit, you may be able to get a ride on the Canal Barge from the Car Park to the garden.

Beechenwood Farm Hillside, Odiham RG29 1JA

Opening: Monday 21st April 2pm to 5pm Admission: £5.00 children free. Cashless Payments available Refreshments: Home-made teas (in aid of Sebastian's Trust). Opening for over 40 years is this 2-acre garden with many parts. Lawn meandering through woodland with drifts of spring bulbs. Rose pergola with steps, pots with spring bulbs and later aeoniums. Fritillary and cowslip meadow. Walled herb garden with pool and exuberant planting. Orchard including white garden and hot border. Greenhouse and vegetable garden. Rock garden extending to grasses, ferns and bamboos. Shady walk to belvedere. 8-acre copse of native species with grassed rides.

So, to other 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 - Turning over stones, one turnstone at a time

Turnstones are fascinating shorebirds which are easily recognisable due to their distinctive behaviour and striking plumage. The scientific name of the bird, *Arenaria interpres*, refers to its unique habit of 'turning' over stones and debris in search of food, so is of course, where the name 'turnstone' originates.

During the winter months, these medium-sized waders are a common sight along the shores of Hampshire, particularly in places like Langstone Harbour, the Solent, and along the Isle of Wight's coast.

Despite weighing only around 100g, the turnstone is a remarkable migrant, traveling incredible distances during its seasonal migration. Originating from breeding grounds in northern regions such as Lapland, Greenland, and even as far as Canada, these waders make long, arduous journeys - sometimes covering up to 1,700 miles - to reach their wintering sites.

The UK serves as a crucial stopover on their migratory route, a pit stop to rest and refuel before continuing their journey further south to Africa. These passage migrants rely on the UK's coastal habitats to

sustain them during this critical phase of their migration. Although a migrant to the UK, it can also be seen all year-round as different populations arrive throughout the seasons.

The birds seek out the rocky shorelines, tidal mudflats, and sandy beaches where they feed primarily on small invertebrates, crustaceans, and molluscs, often flipping over small rocks and shells with their strong bills to uncover hidden prey.

The turnstones striking plumage changes with the seasons. In summer, their feathers are rich with orange, black, and white tones, making them particularly noticeable against the backdrop of coastal scenery. In winter, their plumage becomes more muted, offering them better camouflage among the pebbles and rocks they scavenge.

They are widely recognised by different names across countries due to their unique habits and widespread distribution. In addition to turnstone, it is also sometimes called the 'sea quail' in coastal communities, referencing its stout build and patterned plumage. In North America, there is also a second species, the 'black turnstone', which lives on the Pacific coast.

Their long-distance migration is a testament to the turnstone's resilience and adaptability. The birds offer a powerful reminder of the interconnectedness of global ecosystems and the importance of preserving coastal habitats for migratory species. Conservation efforts are essential to protecting their habitats and ensuring that future generations will continue to enjoy the sight of these fascinating birds in the wild. Find out more information about the turnstone on the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust website:

hiwwt.org.uk/wildlife-explorer/birds/wading-birds/turnstone

Helen Skelton-Smith, Communications Officer

Helen.Skelton-Smith@hiwwt.org.uk



Get involved – Volunteer Fair

29th March, 9.00am-3.00pm, Hart Shopping Centre

Thinking of volunteering but don't know where to start? Come along to Hart shopping centre on 29th March and have a chat with us and other organisations at our upcoming Volunteer Fair!

For more information, please contact: HartVC@hartvolaction.org.uk
01252 627070 <https://volunteernorthhants.org/>

Hart Voluntary Action: Hart's Community Garden

Located on the outskirts of Fleet, our community garden is an inclusive, accessible space where everyone is welcome. With two polytunnels, a fruit cage and both ground level and raised planting beds our members are able to grow a wide range of fruit, vegetables and flowering plants; there are wide, even paths and a large gazebo providing a covered area for workshops and group meetings.

Opening times:

- Mondays 2.00-4.00pm
- Tuesdays 10.00am-12.30pm
- Wednesdays 10.00am-12.30pm
- Thursdays 11.30am-2.00pm

Location:

- Hart Community Garden, Pale Lane, Winchfield, RG27 8SP

Contact:

- Tel: 01252 815652 (ext. 702/706) or 07865 239058
- Email: HCG@hartvolaction.org.uk
- www.hartvolaction.org.uk/community-services/community-garden

Events:

(For full details and to book your place, visit:

hartvolaction.org.uk/community-services/community-garden/events)

Stargazing at the Garden, 5th March 7.00-9.00pm

Hart's Community Garden, Pale Lane, Fleet, RG27 8SP

Come stargaze with us and Cody Astronomical Society in March. This fascinating event was such a success last year, we thought we'd offer it again! £12 HCG members | £15 non-members

Creative Wellbeing: Origami, 12th March 2.00-4.00pm

Campbell Place, Reading Road North, Fleet, GU51 4AL

Come and try your hand at origami with Hart's Community Garden. Simply by folding a piece of paper, you can create many things without scissors or glue. No experience necessary. Materials & refreshments included. £10 HCG members | £20 non-members

Easter Wreath Workshops, 9th & 10th April***Hart's Community Garden, Pale Lane, Fleet, RG29 8SP***

Create a beautiful Easter Wreath for your home or a loved one with Hart's Community Garden team. Refreshments included. £15 HCG members | £30 non-members

Save the Hedgehogs! 17th April 2.00-3.30pm***Hart's Community Garden, Pale Lane, Fleet, RG29 8SP***

Learn how you can save the hedgehogs in your garden this half-term with this kid's hedgehog rescue talk from Prickle Lodge Rescue at Hart's Community Garden. Refreshments available. £5 per person.

Hart's Community Garden – Further Events 2025

Fleet Market Stall 26th April

Create a Summer Hanging Basket 10th May

Hedgehog Rescue Talk 15th May

Understanding Dementia 19th May

Bat Walk & Talk 29th May

Carers' Cream Team 11th June

Summer Fete (child friendly) 28th June

Creative Wellbeing: Flower Pressing 9th July

Open Saturday 16th August

Halloween Fun (child friendly) 29th October

Creative Wellbeing: Scandi Christmas Trees 20th November

Christmas Wreath Workshops 27th November-15th December

Garden Open Day 10th May 2025**Brick Kiln Cottage, The Avenue, Herriard RG25 2PR**

(opposite Lasham Gliding Club on the Avenue, A339 between Basingstoke and Alton)

Set in the old Herriard brickworks, our wildlife woodland garden is open for one day from 11.30 till 3.00pm in aid of National Garden Scheme fundraising for MacMillan cancer support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, Carers Trust, The Queen's Nursing Institute and Parkinson's UK. Enjoy walking in the bluebells, and homemade cakes, endless pots of tea, coffee, country lemonade, sandwiches, or a cream tea. Textile studio open, reading area, bubbles and making seed bombs, fun for children, treehouse, bug palace, shepherds hut. Parking, toilet, dogs on leads please.

SMALL ADS MARCH

Purple Leaf Gardening. Experienced local professional gardener. Hedges, pruning, leaf blowing, lawn care, strimming, planting, patio cleaning, garden furniture painting. Tree and shrub supply. Fully insured. Call Joe Gibb 07859 170183 purpleleafgardening@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 bookings@uptongreyvillagehall.co.uk or visit our new website www.uptongreyvillagehall.co.uk.

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 – MARCH 2025

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

MARCH DATES

1st Mar	Sat	Upton Grey Reels Night, UG Village Hall	
3rd Mar	Mon	Greener Basingstoke Talk, Herriard Village Hub	6.30pm
3rd Mar	Mon	Herriard Parish Council Meeting, Village Hub	7.30pm
14th Mar	Fri	Lent Lunch, 8 Hoddington Farm Cottages, UG	12.30pm
19th Mar	Wed	Messy Church, UG Village Hall	3.30-5.00pm
22nd Mar	Sat	Military Wives choir concert, St Mary's, Herriard	7.00pm
22nd Mar	Sat	Upton Grey Safari Supper	7.15pm
25th Mar	Tue	Lent Lunch, Barn Cottage, Weston Road, UG	12.30pm
30th Mar	Sun	Basingstoke Choral Society Spring concert, Anvil	7.30pm

ADVANCE DATES

2nd Apr	Wed	Lent Lunch, The Butts, Upton Grey	12.30pm
3rd Apr	Thu	Evening with Robert Hardman, Middlewood Ho, WC	6.30pm
9th Apr	Wed	Lent Lunch, The Old Post House, Upton Grey	12.30pm
14th-17th Apr		UG Junior Tennis	9.00am-12.45pm
7th Jun	Sat	St Mary's Upton Grey Fete	2.00pm
17th Jun	Tue	UG Golf Day, Tylney Park, Rotherwick	10.30am
22nd Jun	Sun	Concert in St Mary's Church, Upton Grey	6.00pm
4th-7th Aug		UG Junior Tennis	9.00am-12.45pm

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
Every 1st Saturday	Prayer Hour, All Saints Tunworth	9.00am
2nd & 4th Mon	Coffee Morning, Upton Grey Village Hall	11.00am
2nd & 4th Tues	Upton Grey 'Get OWT', UG Churchyard	10.00am
Every 4th Wed	Coffee Morning, Weston Patrick Village Hall	11.00am

PARISH MAGAZINE COPY DEADLINE

The copy deadline for the April issue is 15th March 2025.

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

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