

PARISH MAGAZINE



St. Mary's, Herriard



All Saints', Turworth



St. Mary's, Upton Grey



St. Lawrence, Westcott

July
2025

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

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Parish Chairperson

Herriard	Simon Wills	Chair@herriard-pc.gov.uk
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Upton Grey	Charles Holroyd	01256 862127
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BENEFICE MAGAZINE – July 2025
Edition for the Parishes of Herriard with Winslade, Tunworth,
Upton Grey and Weston Patrick

Letter from the Benefice Ministry Team

900 Years of Faith: A Reflection from St Nicholas, Newnham

St Nicholas Church in Newnham has been a place of worship for at least 900 years. With a Norman arch dating to around 1125, and possible Saxon roots even earlier, the church has been a sacred constant in the life of this village for centuries. People have been baptized, married, buried here – generation after generation witnessing to the enduring importance of faith in community life.



As part of our Newnham 900 celebrations, we've explored the Church's role across history – from the Norman conquest to the Civil War. Throughout these periods, the Church wasn't just a building – it was the heart of life. Faith shaped how people lived, thought, and related to one another. It was central and essential.

Of course, the Church has had its failures, including one Hampshire example in the Civil War where horses were slaughtered and stacked to block attacking troops and more recently with the failing of the institutional church to recognise and act upon abuse, abandoning the most vulnerable.

But the Church has always stood as a place of sanctuary too – symbolised by Winchester Cathedral's shattered stained-glass window, later reassembled into a beautiful mosaic. Like our lives, faith holds together the broken pieces and transforms them into something meaningful.

So why, after 900 years of relevance, has the Church become unimportant to many? Often, it's a question of proof. People say "I can't see God, so I can't believe". But belief in unseen things is not unusual. We accept the existence of atoms, bacteria, red blood cells, and distant galaxies without ever seeing them ourselves. We trust the testimony of those who've studied and recorded them.

The Christian faith is built on similar testimony. The Gospels provide eyewitness accounts of Jesus' life and ministry recorded by his disciples. These are not second-hand myths but the reflections of those

who walked beside him. And many lives have been changed by this witness.

Science and faith are not enemies. Faith isn't a rejection of intellect – it's a decision to trust evidence passed down by those who have seen and known.

Today, the Church is not a rich institution. It's more like the NHS: under pressure, overstretched, and trying its best with limited resources. Many ministers serve without pay, or with housing alone. Our rural churches are struggling, not because faith is less real, but because regular attendance and support have faded. If local churches are to survive, they need more than money – they need people to come, to commit, and to believe.

In a world full of uncertainty - political unrest, war, division – faith remains one of the few things that offers something solid. God's love is constant. Worship reminds us of eternity, of purpose, and of the deep truth that we are loved.

We are invited into relationship with God – not through pressure, but through love – in, with and alongside Jesus Christ; part of a Christ-centred heritage leading to a Christ-centred future...

So if you've ever dismissed faith as outdated, think again. Nine hundred years of Christian belief in Newnham tells us this isn't a passing trend.

It's something deep, real, and life-changing.

Come and see. Come and believe. Come and be changed.

Amen.

Revd Debbie Veel

St Nicholas, Newnham & St Swithun's, Nately Scures

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funeral: Ena May Grey at St Mary's Upton Grey on 23rd May

Interment of Ashes: Ethel Westbrook and Wilfred Westbrook at St Mary's Herriard on 2nd June

CHURCH SERVICES**Sunday 6th July**

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

Thursday 10th July

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

Sunday 13th July

- 10.00am Herriard – BCP Holy Communion (said)
- 10.00am Upton Grey – Morning Worship (with Baptism)
- 10.00am Weston Patrick – CW Holy Communion
- 6.00pm Tunworth – Evensong

Thursday 17th July

- 10.00am Herriard – BCP Holy Communion (said)

Sunday 20th July

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

Sunday 27th July

- 9.00am Tunworth – Family Service
- 10.00am Herriard – Family Service (with twin Baptisms)
- 10.00am Upton Grey – Rose Service (in the Cemetery)
- 5.00pm Weston Patrick – Evensong

CHURCH NEWS

Welcome to Reverend Suzanne Newcombe!

We are enjoying a wonderful celebration in Winchester Cathedral on Sunday 29th June, at the ordination of Suzanne Newcombe.

Many of you will already know Suzanne who has been ministering across our Benefice of local churches for a number of years as a Licensed Lay Minister (LLM – what used to be known as ‘Lay Reader’). Suzanne has done wonderful work leading pastoral care, worship services on Sundays, home visits and communions, and much more besides.

In her new ordained role, she will now be providing pastoral oversight and local leadership in St Mary’s Church, Herriard, and (alongside Rev’d Linda Scard) St Lawrence’s Church, Weston Patrick, where she has already been actively involved for the last few years.

Suzanne, we are so pleased to be able to celebrate with you on 29th June, and we will be praying for you and John as you settle in to your new role. Welcome!

Chris Dudgeon

Rector, North Hampshire Downs Benefice

Coffee & Cake

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

- Coffee and cake in the church porch, **All Saints Tunworth**, at 10.30am on **Thursday July 3rd**
- Coffee and cake drop-in at **Upton Grey Village Hall**, 11.00am–1.00pm on **Monday July 14th & 28th**
- Coffee morning at **Weston Patrick Village Hall**, 11.00am–12.30pm on **Wednesday July 23rd**

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



KidsZone



Recently I went walking in the Forest of Bere for the first time. At the entrance of one of the walking tracks was a sign with the heading: Forest for Wellbeing. I read on. ‘Spending time among trees and really noticing nature, is scientifically proven to help us boost our physical and mental health.’ Along the track I found a number of other signs and panels that encouraged me to stop and pay attention to what was around me. By the end of the walk, I found that I felt a little bit lighter and more calm and steady in myself.

Christian tradition teaches us that God is always calling us into the present moment. We can so easily get lost in our regrets of the past and our worries about the future, but right here and right now is the only moment that truly matters. This is what prayer is for; connecting with God and with ourselves in the here and now, and allowing space for God’s life and love to come through into the present.

As we enjoy the summer and get out and about, I really encourage you to take some time, either by yourself or with the people you are with, to slow down and pay attention to what’s around you – to connect with nature, yourself and with God. Here’s a simple idea that I found on the walk at Forest of Bere which you might like to use:

As you walk take time to notice:

5 things that you can see....

4 things you can touch...

3 things you can hear...

2 things you can smell...

1 thing you can taste.

This type of practice is not just good for our physical and mental health, but it is good for our emotional and spiritual wellbeing as well.

So, what things will you do this summer that will help to nurture your whole self and connect you with the things that matter most?

Every blessing.



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

Holiday Club, 4th–7th August, All Saints Odiham



This year we have exciting news! We are moving to a new location – All Saints, Odiham. This will allow us to cater for more children, including children with additional needs, have better accessibility to catering and toilet facilities and protection from the elements. But don't worry – we are collaborating with local sports clubs and schools to allow the children amazing access to an even more varied selection of outdoor spaces and sporting opportunities.

The times have not changed (Monday–Thursday, 1.00–4.30), and we will still be looking into offering a football camp before we start, for those who want to (more details to follow). And the price still hasn't changed, it remains £20 for the week, payable in advance.



Our theme is 'The Guardians of Ancora', a popular Christian computer game from Scripture Union, and the children will be learning about Jesus' life through loads of different media and exciting activities.

Please use the QR code. Or the link to book is:
<https://allsaintsodiham.churchsuite.com/events/cltguulg>



NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

Farming News

I'm sitting here with a pint in hand at the 'Twice Brewed Inn' (brewing beer since the mid-1700s so the sign says) looking out across the Northumbrian countryside towards Hadrian's Wall atop Winshield Crags. I'm spending four nights in different hostelries walking west to east along the wall from Brampton to Chollerford with Claire and two of her cousins. Discovering more of the history of Hadrian's wall and the Roman occupation since AD43 has been fascinating and the scenery suitably epic. I've been as interested in the local farming, historically as well as present day, in this harsh landscape. We did hold a gate open between the patchwork of stone-walled fields for a shepherd on his quad bike today, who was guiding his sheep to fresh pasture with the help of two very well trained Border Collies. It's a joy to see these working dogs in action although we received a fairly gruff 'thanks' from the shepherd as I'm sure he was thinking 'blooming tourists, I can cope on my own'.

It makes me realise how lucky we are farming in Hampshire with our many acres of workable soil in large, manageable fields. With three days walking behind us we've only seen beef and sheep farming with one solitary dairy farm along the way, and no arable crops whatsoever. The boggy, stony, steep fields don't lend themselves to cultivation. In fact, today we crossed some medieval 'ridge and furrow' fields that had been ploughed centuries ago but have now been beautifully preserved because being unproductive, they had long ago reverted to grass. The stocking rates of cattle and sheep per acre are very low because of the sparse grass swards and consequently the farmers' returns will be minimal. It is a harsh environment in all senses.

We noticed that many of the farm buildings we passed were built using 'locally sourced' finely crafted Roman granite. One of the few upsides of farming near the wall is that it has been supplying farmers with free building materials for the last two millennia. It's been a fascinating few days and if you enjoy hiking then I'd highly recommend this middle section.

'Ash before oak: in for a soak. Oak before ash: in for a splash' as grandad used to say. This year our oak trees were definitely out in leaf before the ash trees on the farm and the saying has held true so far. A splash of rain sums up all we have had this spring. June 3rd was the first significant rainfall we recorded on the farm since late February. Finally, though, April showers in June! The consequences of this prolonged dry

spell will only become clear when the combines roll into our wheat this August and the forager harvests our maize in September.

Already, though, our grass yields have been much lower than usual for grazed grass and for the two cuts of silage we have made so far, purely due to lack of water. A farming friend sold his herd of cows in March with the plan of moving to New Zealand to start again over there. He had some of last year's grass silage left over in his silage clamps so we bought that from him to bolster our own stocks. At the time I wasn't sure if it was the right move but I'm very glad I did now as we'll need all the forage we can get to feed our cows and heifers through this coming winter.

There are at least four dairy herds going out of production in Hampshire that I know of this year. Chris, our milk recorder (we take individual milk samples from each cow every month to record her individual milk quality) was telling me that when she started in the job in the 1970s there were 20 dairy herds in her patch which was within a 12-mile radius of Preston Candover. Now we will be the only one. One dairy farm has apparently been bought by a French vineyard. A sign that our landscape continues to evolve as it has done for thousands of years.



We are lucky to have the Rain or Shine professional theatre company perform again for us on Sunday 10th August. Gates open at 3.30pm for the 4.30pm performance.

When fashionable 18th century London society comes to take the waters in the spa-town of Bath, comic confusion, daring duels and romantic entanglements abound. Come and sample the sparkling wit and whirlwind plot of *The Rivals*, a Restoration Comedy which has delighted audiences for over 250 years with its collection of comic characters, including the formidable Mrs Malaprop!

One of the comments on this year's production: 'Thank you, thank you, thank you for a perfect evening. It was just wonderful – so slick, so clever, so joyful. A complete and utter delight.'

Come with your hamper and chairs on Sunday 10th August for an afternoon of fabulous entertainment! Tickets for adults and children over 11 years are just £15 are available from www.bit.ly/Rivals-Upton

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

Upton Grey Village Hall 100 Club Winners

Congratulations to June's 100 Club Winners:

1st prize (£100) F. Yeowart

2nd Prize (£40) T. Seabrook

Upton Grey Fete

On behalf of the PCC of St Mary's Church may I offer my sincere thanks to everyone who attended the Church Fete on 7th June. Although the weather wasn't especially kind to us (I clearly didn't pray hard enough), we welcomed a lot of people through the gates, tea was drunk, cakes eaten, Pimms consumed, toys purchased and games played, and our village did what it does best in expressing its strong sense of community.

I'd like to offer some particular thanks to Frances Yeowart for organising the event, Nick and Rosie Ralls for allowing us to use their garden, the many stall-holders and helpers without whom none of this would be possible, Hunts for shifting vast amounts of stuff from the village hall, John Frieda for sponsoring the Punch and Judy show, the Parish Council who very kindly paid for the loos and the tables, and the many many people who gave a bottle or who donated items for the white elephant or toy stalls, made cakes and more.

We raised in the region of £7,000 for church funds which is remarkable given the rain! This money goes towards ensuring the ministry of St Mary's in this village is sustained and the building and churchyard kept in good order. So thank you one and all! **Simon Butler**

Junior Tennis Coaching: Monday 4th–Thursday 7th August

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 makes the sessions fun for all.

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 £16.00 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: slivingstonbooth@gmail.com with your child/children's name(s), age(s), and your contact details.

Payment should be made by the **1st August 2025** by Bank Transfer to Upton Grey Village Tennis Court. Bank Details are: 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

Rose Sunday, Upton Grey Cemetery, 27th July 10.00am

The Rose Sunday service will be held on 27th July in the Cemetery in Upton Grey starting at 10.00am. This service is held to remember those who are buried here and to thank God for their lives. A rose will be laid on every grave as a symbol of loving remembrance even though not all the graves are marked with a name. These are the people who in times past lived and worked in our village and who loved its beauty as we do. All are welcome to this service which is short. Please feel free to bring roses from your garden if you wish but there will be plenty of roses provided. Any queries please ring me on 862131 **Jill Lestrille**.

P.S. Please note that there are many rabbit holes in the cemetery and care is needed when walking around.

T@3

Our next T@3 is on Thursday 24th July at the Orchard, Weston Road by kind invitation of Adele Dunkley. On Thursday 21st August, we are invited to Pond House by Sarah Barnes. Lifts can be arranged for any of these occasions – please ring me, Jill Lestrille, on 862131.

Coffee and Cake drop in

Upton Grey Village Hall

Monday

14th & 28th July

11.00-1.00

All welcome



St Mary's Upton Grey
www.moretolife.church

HERRIARD AND WINSLADE NEWSwww.herriard-pc.gov.ukwww.herriardvillagehub.co.ukHerriard Village Group on <http://www.Facebook.com>**Herriard Fete & Fun Dog Show (1st June)***Photo by Will Cheyney*

In the words of an old advert – and in no particular order:

● grass topping ● hedge cutting ● car parking ● sign making ● flier printing ● bunting hanging ● dog showing ● ticket raffling ● tent erecting ● sausage cooking ● hoop throwing ● sword fighting ● sheep showing ● pony riding ● kite flying ● mc-ing ● allotment touring ● bric-a-brac-ing ● teddy tombola-ing ● zip lining ● Little Meadowing ● school singing ● bass & drumming ● tea pouring ● sandwich making ● cake baking ● ice creaming ● beer serving ● smoothie & donut-ing ● scones and jamming ● cheese mongering ● pickle jar-ing ● Bumblebee booking ● washing upping ● china smashing ● bottle stalling ● green fingering ● tattooing ● tarot reading ● teddy selling ● lucky dipping ● zip lining ● basket weaving ● produce selling ● card painting ● hospital radioing ● table topping! ● medieval re-enacting plus King Kenning

Sorry if we've missed anyone! So many from Herriard (and beyond!) contributed to making our Fete a truly lovely occasion – many thanks from the Fete Team and all at St Mary's for all your support and hard work, and to everyone who came along we do hope you had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon!

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 the many items they so desperately need, please visit www.thecamrosecentre.org. They also have an Amazon Wishlist – 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 Camrose Centre is a drop-in centre for anyone who is sleeping rough, homeless or vulnerably housed within Basingstoke and Deane. Their recent *Quarterly Impact at a Glance* statistics are:

Client Demographics

124 individuals supported

 20% presented as rough sleeping

 12% were sofa surfing

 20% in temporary accommodation

 12% attended the night shelter (Jan–Feb)

 36% have permanent accommodation

Meals & Food Support

- 1,055 breakfasts served
- 793 lunches provided
- 153 emergency food parcels distributed

Clothing & Showers

- 179 clothing distributions
- 134 showers taken

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 July date is 25th.**

North Hampshire Downs Churches – Herriard Youth Hub

6.30–8.00pm on the 1st & 3rd Sundays at The Herriard Hub.

For more information, contact Helen Chatfield, youth@moretolife.church

Taizé Worship at Hydes Farmhouse

Join us for a Taizé-style worship evening on **Thursday 24th July** at Hydes Farmhouse. An opportunity to meditate and reflect on God's glorious presence shaped by singing and silence. Silent Gathering 7.15pm. Worship 7.30 followed by tea and coffee. For more information, please contact Fiona Ives.

Brick Kiln Cottage Bluebell Wildlife Garden 2025

Thank you to everyone who came to our Open Garden afternoon on 10th May in aid of the National Gardens Scheme group of charities. We were blessed with lovely weather this year and raised £2,000, which includes a visit from the Basingstoke Agricultural Society.

A week later, on Sunday 18th May, Cardiac Rehab in Alton held their first open garden day and raised £903 from their afternoon tea in our bluebells.

This year games, seed-bombs and making bubbles were arranged for visiting children.

Very many thanks to all our family, friends and helpers (including the washing up done by our local Judge in yellow marigolds) – we could not have done this without you.

Our local community is so generous with help providing marquees, chairs, cakes, labour, clearing up and parking (courtesy of Herriard Estate). Thank you all very much.

Barbara and Kay

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 !

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.

Donations to St Mary's

THANK YOU to everyone who donates monies to help the running costs of St Mary's – we are so grateful to you.

It is possible to donate to our Church using a Standing Order or through a Gift Aid envelope but we also have our Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) which has been set up to help us best manage regular donations. Donations can be made on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis, using a Direct Debit instruction. Even though donations are made to the Parish Giving Scheme, they are restricted to our parish, and the PGS claims the eligible gift aid element immediately which comes back into the PCC bank account as soon as it is received from HMRC. There is also a voluntary decision to increase your gift annually in line with inflation.

Please do consider the Parish Giving Scheme – it is secure, confidential and easy to use, supporting our church today and for the future. There are two ways to sign up to the scheme:

- Firstly, the dedicated direct debit telephone number 0333 002 1271. You will need your bank account details, the Church/Parish name (St Mary's Herriard with Winslade) and the PGS Parish code for St Mary's (410641122)
- The second way is to register via the paper donor packs (available in Church or by contacting Fiona below).

If you would like further details please contact: fiona@ashmeadow.co.uk or phone 07867 973266.

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TUNWORTH NEWS**Prayer Hour: Thursday July 3rd, 9.30am**

The monthly Prayer Hour, which used to be held on the first Saturday of the month, will from July be on the first Thursday. We meet and pray in the church for everyone in the parish.

Coffee & Cake: Thursday July 3rd, 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.

Herriard and Tunworth Lunch Group: Friday July 25th, 12.00–1.30

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 July date is the 25th.

Tunworth Home Group: Wednesdays July 9th & 23rd, 7.00–8.00pm

The Tunworth Home Group usually meets once or twice a month on Wednesdays from 7.00 to 8.00pm at The Orangery, Hackwood Park, to study Bible passages and Biblical themes. The July dates are the 9th and 23rd. If you would like to know more, or to join, please contact Gabrielle.

Flower Festival: Sunday July 13th, 12.00–6.00

The Tunworth Flower Festival will be on Sunday July 13th from 12.00 to 6.00pm at All Saints' Church. Please see the poster on the next page. £5 entrance on the door. Refreshments available. To book a place on the corsage, posy and flower crown workshop and to enter the 'Decorate a Welly' competition, please visit <https://tunworthflowers.eventbrite.co.uk>

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Flower Festival

Sunday 13th July 2025

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DETAILS

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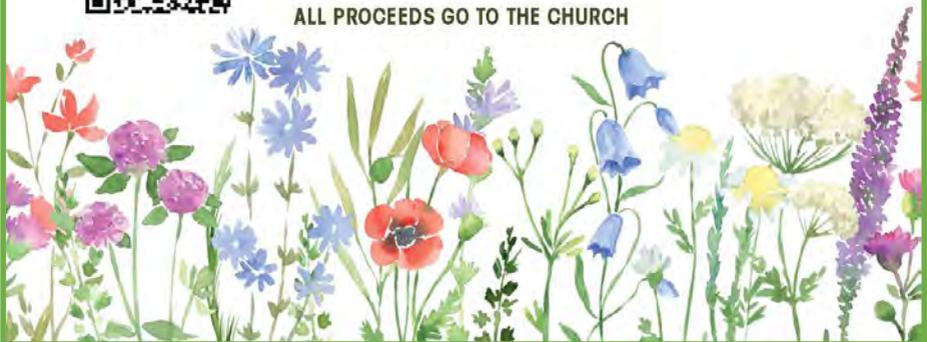
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Our next services are Holy Communion on Sunday 13th July at 10.00am and then Evensong on Sunday 27th July at 5.00pm with our fabulous choir.

Reverend Linda Scard will be praying for our community in our church at 9.00am on the first Friday of every month and will be there on Friday 4th July. All are very welcome to join her but if you are unable to attend personally and would like her to pray for someone specific please contact her: Revd Linda Scard on 01256 703294 / 07801 039717 or linda@moretolife.church

Our Village Coffee morning will be held on the fourth Wednesday of the month, on 23rd July, 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. For more details or if you would like to join us, please contact Revd Linda Scard on 01256 703294 / 07801 039717 or linda@moretolife.church

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Cllr Onnalee Cubitt, Cllr Sheena Grassi and Cllr Kate Tuck would love to hear from you if your group or charity is interested in seeking a small grant by no later than Sunday 28th September by email to cllr.kate.tuck@basingstoke.gov.uk with a brief outline of how much grant you are seeking together with your reasons to be selected as one of the chosen groups for us to support PRIOR to you submitting the formal application. We shall then 'sift' the brief outlines received and collectively determine which applications we will support. Sadly, not every application will be successful.

We really look forward to hearing from you and your group and to learning about your deserving causes and the benefits such a grant would provide to our wonderful community.

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On Saturday 2nd August at 7.30pm, Vox Populi return to All Saints Church, Odiham, to present their new programme – a wonderful celebration of the natural world in choral music featuring works by Byrd, Finzi, Gibbons, McDowell, Stanford and Tarney. Tickets £15, under 18s free. Available from www.voxpopulisingers.co.uk or at the door on the evening

North Warnborough & District Garden Club

We look forward to welcoming our members to our July meeting which will be held on Thursday 24th July at 2.30 pm in North Warnborough Village Hall.

Doors open at 2.10pm for the talk at 2.30pm. This gives plenty of time to view our Plant Stall and buy some seasonal plants.

Our Speaker this month will be Anthony Powell; his subject will be 'Planting for Autumn Colour'. Visitors are always welcome for a small charge of £3.00. For further information visit our website at <https://www.nwdgc.org.uk>

Upcoming Event for all Art Lovers

August 16th–25th sees the return of the popular annual Hampshire Open Studios (HOS). During this county-wide event, over 300 artists and creators will open the doors to their workshops, studios and galleries to welcome visitors. This is an opportunity for you to see these artisans at work and learn about their creative processes, whilst admiring their original artwork and even purchasing a unique gift. In addition, some locations will be offering workshops for you to try your hand at their chosen specialism, plus refreshments.

The local area is a hub for creativity, including but not limited to, specialists in ceramics, stained glass, fused glass, mosaics, paintings, textiles, photography, art groups and more traditional artists. The details of all these artists and their opening times can be found on the HOS app or their website www.HampshireOpenStudios.org.uk

For those wishing to visit a variety of local artists, you can follow the Odiham Villages Art Trail, which covers the picturesque villages of Odiham, Long Sutton, South Warnborough, North Warnborough and Rotherwick. Following this trail is a good opportunity to visit a number of artists within easy reach of each other. The artists involved in the Odiham Villages Art Trail are listed on the website from Venue 181 to Venue 190. In addition to these, there are a number of participants within the Basingstoke and Deane area, so why not make a day of it.

Samantha Stanley, Woodpecker Glass, Venue 181

Basingstoke Choral Society present a Summer Evening of Mozart, Saturday 5th July, 7.00pm, All Saints Church Odiham

The Conductor is Ben Cooper who will be accompanied by professional soloists and organ. Programme: Mozart Requiem and Mozart Solemn Vespers. To book: <https://www.basingstoke-choral.org.uk/events-all>. Strawberries and glass of wine or soft drink included in ticket price, available from 6.00pm.

We present an unforgettable evening of music performing one of the most iconic works in the choral repertoire: Mozart's *Requiem*. This haunting and emotionally charged piece has captivated audiences for centuries with its profound beauty and timeless power. The Solemn Vespers is not performed as often as the Requiem but is a work of emotional range and powerful contrasts making it a truly hidden gem from Mozart's sacred repertoire.

Cross Barn Odiham – film / theatre / Jazz for 2025

July 18th Film: Small Things Like These

While working as a coal merchant to support his family, a father (Cillian Murphy) confronts the truth of one of Ireland's infamous Magdalene Laundries.

July 25th Celebrate Summer: an evening of joyous, upbeat jazz: New Orleans, Dixieland and Swing...

... with the Pete Rudeforth Band: trumpet, clarinet, tenor, saxophone, trombone, banjo, double bass and drums - and plenty of vocals.

Tickets – Film: £7.50, Jazz: £20. Doors open at 19.00, Jazz starts at 19.30, Films at 19.45. Coffee/tea, wine and ice cream available. Purchase tickets online at <http://www.thecrossbarn.org.uk>

Hampshire Harmony's invitation

Put July 12th at 3.00pm in your diary. That's when Hampshire Harmony choir will be singing at Costello School, Basingstoke. Tickets are available from the website hampshireharmony.org. Light refreshments are included in your ticket and a raffle will be held. We are supporting local Cancer Charity, The Pink Place.

Hampshire Harmony is an award-winning choir, achieving two cups in the Fareham Festival in May with one performance awarded outstanding. Last year we celebrated 60 years with a special concert at the Haymarket Theatre. We also performed at the Tower of London in December and have performed twice this year at the Anvil, once as part of Basingstoke Festival of Choirs and again in May as guests at Basingstoke Area Youth Orchestras and Choirs concert. Our Summer Concert, *Why We Sing*, is the culmination of this year's joyful singing.

The Choir is currently looking for new members. If you want to sing with an upper-voice choir; Alto, Mezzo or Soprano, please contact us. We would love to hear from you. We sing a wide variety of music, ranging from musical theatre to folk, sacred and pop.

Our fabulous MD
Clare Oliver, an



accomplished singer herself, has taught singing for over thirty years and she brings out the best in us, leading us in a sympathetic manner to attain high standards.

Mondays are happy days where friendships, song and laughter melt away the stress of the new week. Join us! Find out more at <http://hampshireharmony.org>

DogsnHomes update – June



Fostering

At the start of the year we wanted to recruit some more fosterers to join our fabulous community. Having such an incredible network of fosterers means that we can ensure that any puppies that arrive and are unable to join their forever home immediately, are given a safe and loving start to their lives in the UK. We decided to launch ‘Fostering February’ and our Fostering Information Evening was a huge success: we had several applications, some of whom have already started to foster for us. If you are interested in fostering, details are on our website – a www.dogsnhomes.org.uk

Ukraine

Much of our energy is also focused on helping support the dogs and cats in Ukraine and we continue to do this by sending over supplies kindly donated by individuals and companies. To date we have shipped 266,500 kg which is quite incredible – www.facebook.com/DnH.Ukraine. Our Justgiving appeal to fund transport is:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/fuel4food>

Storage

We are continually looking for storage to help us continue with this part of our work and BIG YELLOW STORAGE very kindly offered us free non-food storage. We still need storage where we can keep animal food so if you have an empty garage/container please contact our Community Liaison sharon.w@dogsnhomes.org.uk

Mill House Monthly Walk

We truly love seeing so many of our DogsnHomes pooches in their new lives. It’s such a unique opportunity to meet other adopters (and fosterers) and we’re so grateful to the Mill House, North Warnborough, for allowing us to enjoy refreshments before the walk and to host the event. Join us on the 3rd Saturday of each month but please remember you must book in advance. All dogs and walkers welcome!

www.brunningandprice.co.uk/millhouse

Events

Much needed funds have been raised at our Comedy & Curry Night and Abba Tribute at the Gulshan in Fleet, Easter egg raffle at The Tweseldown in Fleet and Music Quiz Night at The Tweseldown. Follow us on Facebook for upcoming events – www.facebook.com/dogsnhomes www.facebook.com/DnH.Ukraine

DogsnHomes Rescue, Fleet, Hampshire
Registered Charity No. 1183775

Mothers' UNION North Hampshire Downs
 Christian care for families Mothers' Union



I am writing this a couple of days after the Hartley Wintney Village Festival and I would like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who gave me books to sell on our stall. The photo shows just some of the books which were stacked around my house before the sale! We made a total of £158.20 on the stall – and I am hoping to find other occasions to sell more of the books that were donated so that I can increase the total. The money will go to help women and girls around the world to lean to read and write.

Mothers' Union also runs projects locally, in particular our Sunflower Café which we run jointly with the Vine Church on Wednesday afternoons and our Child Contact Centre which supports children in families where the parents are estranged. We would welcome more volunteers for either of these projects.

Our branch usually meets on the first Monday of the month. However, in July, we will be meeting for a social get-together before having a break in August. If you want to find out more about Mothers' Union or our branch, please contact Sue Murphy on suemurphymubbranch@outlook.com or 01252 845011 / 07881 828450.

North Hampshire National Trust Centre

Hever Castle in Kent was the destination of the NHNTC outing on 22nd May – and what an outing! Our driver, Nick of Farnham Coaches, had a hard journey, made the more difficult by the long queues of cars on the M25 (beware the interception with the A3) and the narrow, winding roads of rural Kent. Once at Hever we had the run of the place for 4½ hours – hardly long enough, though, to take in all the wonders of this treasure trove of memories of our past monarchs and English aristocracy.

With thunder forecast for later in the afternoon, most of us headed for the magnificent gardens with their waterways, lake and extensive lawns, bordered by spectacular displays of seasonal flowers and shrubs. The yew maze was not too challenging but the water maze, with its hidden water-spout switches hidden in the stepping stones, allowed few to escape without a few splashes, if not a soaking.

The afternoon was spent learning the story of the castle itself and touring round its magnificent and beautifully restored rooms. These have been set up to cover the history and lifestyles of the various families who had called it home.

Hever was built in 1270 with a massive gatehouse and walled Bailey, surrounded by a moat and approached over a wooden drawbridge. In the 15th and 16th centuries, the castle was improved and gentrified by Thomas Bullen whose granddaughters, Mary and Anne Boleyn, became in turn mistress and second wife of Henry VIII. Later the castle became the home of Henry's third wife, Ann of Cleves, by then the ex-Queen.

More history was to follow in the persons of the Astor family who acquired the estate in the 20th century and further developed the castle and surrounding lands, bringing it to the memorable visit it is today.

Next month the NHNTC will be visiting Kew Gardens and in July a double visit to Beale Wildlife Park and Basildon Park House. To apply for these trips – and for membership information – go to the NHNTC website: www.NHNTC.co.uk

Foodbank

The Basingstoke Foodbank, together with Trussell, provides free emergency food and toiletries to local people in crisis within the Basingstoke and Deane area. Established in 2012, the foodbank operates through a voucher system with referrals from local agencies. It has multiple distribution points in Basingstoke and offers opportunities to donate food, volunteer, or contribute financially. For more details, visit <https://basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk/> Every egg counts!



National Garden Scheme – Hampshire

Two major changes have been announced at the top of the National Garden Scheme. Firstly, our president, Mary Berry, has decided that now is the time to step down, having served for ten years in the role. Her successor is to be Alan Titchmarsh, one of Britain's best-loved gardeners, writers and television presenters. Before taking on the role as President, Mary and her husband Paul were well aware of the amazing work of the NGS, having opened their own garden for 20 years.

The second appointment is that of Dr Richard Claxton, who is to become the new Chief Executive of the National Garden Scheme, stepping into the shoes of the retiring George Plumptre who has held the post for the last 15 years. Richard is delighted with the appointment, saying that it is the perfect fit for him. Richard is a keen advocate for gardening and health, and prescribed it for his patients within his work as a GP. He has also written for *Gardens Illustrated* and *Hortus* journal, and has worked in garden design. His is a very interesting story and you can read more about Richard by simply clicking on the link <https://ngs.org.uk/all-change-at-the-top/>

A visit to one of our Open Gardens helps us to raise much needed funds for our nursing, caring and health beneficiaries.

Church House, Trinity Hill Medstead Alton GU34 5LT

Opening: Saturday 9th August 2.00pm–5.30pm & Sunday 10th August 2.00pm–5.00pm. Pre-booking available

Admission: £8.00 children £2.00 Cashless Payments available

Refreshments: tea, coffee & cake.

A colourful 1-acre garden, set within a wide variety of mature trees and shrubs. Long, sweeping, colour-themed mixed borders give lots of ideas for planting in sun and shade. Contrasting features and textures throughout the garden are enhanced by interesting sculptures. Espaliered fruit trees, a woodland area, small greenhouse and roses in different settings all contribute to this much loved garden.

ALSO Open by arrangement until 7th September for groups of 15+.

Contact the owners on 01420 562592 or pauljames2309@gmail.com

The Thatched Cottage Church Road Upper Farringdon GU34 3EG

Opening: Sunday & Monday 24th & 25th August 2.00pm–5.30pm

Admission: £7.00 children free Cashless Payments available.

Refreshments: Home-made teas (In aid of Cardiac Rehab)

Hidden behind a C16th thatched cottage is an enticing 1½ acre garden. Colourful pots welcome you onto the terrace and four ducks

await on the pond. Mature beds burst with cottage garden plants and shrubs. Raised beds are filled with vegetables. Walk through the newly built pergola covered in roses and clematis to a gypsy caravan which sits in a peaceful area of shrub roses and mature specimen trees.

ALSO Open by arrangement until 1st September for groups of 15+. Contact the owners on 01420 587922 or dwhorton@btinternet.com

Blounce House Blounce S Warnborough RG29 1RX

Opening: Sunday 31st August 1.00pm–4.00pm Pre-booking available

Admission: £6.00 (children free). Cashless payments available

Refreshments: tea, coffee & cake (In aid of the Brain Tumour Trust)

A 2-acre garden surrounding a classic Queen Anne house (not open). Mixed planting to give interest from spring to late autumn. Herbaceous borders with a variety of colour themes. In late summer an emphasis on dahlias, salvias and grasses.

ALSO Open by arrangement until 12th September for groups of 10–30. Contact owners on 07788 911184 or tomb@thbartlam.co.uk

We really appreciate the support of all our volunteer garden openers and those of you who choose to visit. This helps raise much needed funds for all our beneficiaries. Happy garden visiting!

Pat Beagley (Head of Publicity), NGS Hampshire



Your personal invitation

Dear Reader,

You probably know a little about the u3a here in Odiham & Hook already, but you might not know we have added over 15 groups since last year, with more to come. Once again, we are running our Open Day, to welcome you all and to keep you informed.

Our Open Day is a unique opportunity for members and for non-members alike, to come and see what our u3a is all about, to see the wide range of activities we offer, and to meet socially over tea and cakes. Odiham District u3a is holding an Open Day at Robert Mays School on Wednesday 13th August from 2.00–4.00pm. We would love you to come along. (No booking required)

We have over 70 groups, which are the ‘beating heart of our u3’ and they will all be there with stalls, which will both showcase their activities and, above all, provide an opportunity for you to talk to group members and learn about what they actually do. So, if you are interested in getting more exercise, or satisfying your creative talents, or discovering new interests, or exploring literature or politics, or just want to socialise, there could well be something which catches your eye. Our u3a covers

Odiham, Hook and the surrounding villages and is open to everyone of any age who has the time and interest in staying active and engaged. It's an organisation run for its members, by its members, and so you will have the opportunity to meet many new faces, as well as old friends.



Please accept our invitation and just come along, and bring a friend perhaps. We look forward to welcoming you on August 13th. If you would like to know more, please visit our website. www.odihamu3a.org.uk

Ian Green, Chairman, Odiham District u3a

Adder's-tongue among the grasses

As summer unfolds, Hampshire's meadows come alive with a tapestry of flora. Among these is the elusive adder's-tongue fern (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*), a plant that, despite its modest appearance, boasts a remarkable natural history.

Belonging to one of the oldest lineages of ferns, the adder's-tongue is often termed a 'living fossil.' Its name derives from the distinctive spore-bearing spike that protrudes from its singular, tongue-shaped leaf, resembling a snake's tongue. This unique structure sets it apart from more familiar fern species.



Much of the adder's-tongue's life is spent beneath the soil as a rhizome. Its underground phase relies on a symbiotic relationship with mycorrhizal fungi, which provide essential nutrients. This subterranean lifestyle allows the fern to persist for years without producing above-ground leaves, emerging only when conditions are favourable.

Remarkably, the adder's-tongue fern holds the record for the highest number of chromosomes among known plants. While humans have 46 chromosomes, some species genus possess up to 1,260

chromosomes, highlighting its unique genetic makeup.

Adder's-tongue has also held a special place in human history and culture. In the past, it was believed to have magical properties, with some people carrying a piece of the plant to protect against snake bites. It was also used in traditional medicine to treat wounds and inflammation.

There are two other closely related plants, the small adder's-tongue fern and the least adder's-tongue fern, both of which are much smaller and rarer, and are only found at a few sites around the south-west of England.

In Hampshire, adder's-tongue thrives in ancient, unimproved grasslands and meadows – areas untouched by modern agriculture. Management practices, including careful grazing and habitat restoration, support the delicate ecosystems that these ancient ferns depend upon. Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust plays a pivotal role in preserving these habitats, ensuring that species like the adder's-tongue continue to flourish.

Adder's-tongue ferns typically appear in late spring and early summer, so now is the perfect time to keep an eye out for them. The fern is unusual as, along with growing on grasslands and meadows, it also grows on hillsides, along woodland rides and on sand dunes. It can typically be found alongside common spotted-orchids, quaking grass and devil's-bit scabious.

It is considered a good indicator species of ancient meadows. Their presence is a sign of ancient, undisturbed grasslands – an encouraging reminder of the richness and resilience of Hampshire's natural heritage.

For more information on the adder's-tongue fern, visit the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust's website: www.hiwwt.org.uk.

**Helen Skelton Smith, Communications Officer,
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Helen.Skelton Smith@hiwwt.org.uk 07880 888577**

HALLS FOR HIRE

Upton Grey Village Hall can be hired at a basic rate of £14 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 – JULY 2025

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

JULY DATES

5th Jul	Sat	An Evening of Mozart, All Saints, Odiham	7.00pm
12th Jul	Sun	Hampshire Harmony summer concert, Costello School	3.00pm
13th Jul	Sun	Flower Festival, All Saints Tunworth	12.00–6.00
18th Jul	Fri	<i>Small Things Like These</i> film, Cross Barn, Odiham	7.00pm
24th Jul	Thur	Tea@3, The Orchard, Weston Road, Upton Grey	3.00pm
24th Jul	Thur	North Warnborough Garden Club meeting	2.10pm
24th Jul	Thur	Taizé-style worship evening, Hydes Farmhouse	7.15pm
25th Jul	Fri	Jazz evening, Cross Barn, Odiham	7.00pm
27th Jul	Sun	Rose Sunday, UG Cemetery	10.00am

ADVANCE DATES

2nd Aug	Sat	Vox Populi concert, All Saints, Odiham	7.30pm
4th–7th Aug		UG Junior Tennis	9.00am–12.45pm
4th–7th Aug		Holiday club 2025, All Saints Church, Odiham	1.00pm–4.00pm
10th Aug	Sun	Comedy Theatre, Church Meadow, Upton Grey	4.30pm
13th Aug	Wed	u3a Open Day, Robert May's School, Odiham	2.00pm
16th–25th Aug		Hampshire Open Studios	
21st Aug	Thur	Tea@3, Pond House, Upton Grey	3.00pm
24th Aug	Sun	Hymns and Pimms service, St Lawrence, WP	5.00pm
25th Oct	Sat	Upton Grey Autumn Festival	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		Prayer Hour, All Saints Tunworth	9.30am
Every 1st Thurs		Coffee & Cake, Tunworth church porch	10.30am
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 August issue is 15th July 2025.

Please send news and contributions to uptongreymagazine@gmail.com. Your editors for July were Tess Chevallier and Nick Willmer. The editor for August will be Nick Willmer.

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