PARISH MAGAZINE



St. Mary's, Herriard



All Saints', Turworth



St. Mary's, Upton Grey



St Lawrence, Weston Patrick

November 2025

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

Letter from the Benefice Ministry Team



November contains the feasts of All Saints and All Souls as well as Remembrance Sunday, all of which makes it a time when the here and the hereafter, earth and heaven seem especially close, almost dissolving into one another. In the very act of remembering we can find pain and pleasure, sorrow and joy dissolving into one another. We cannot remember all that we have lost through someone's death without at the same time remembering all that we gained through their being alive. Sometimes I get an acute sense of that when I wake up having dreamed vividly and happily about someone who has died.

In the act of remembering we discover, if we did not know it already, that those we remember are not those we have loved but those we still love, and that in remembering them they are alive to us. Yet our hope goes beyond that, to embrace the belief that, not only are those we love and remember alive in our consciousness, but also that the essential them is also alive in the consciousness of God, and so is alive for ever.

We base this hope not on wishful thinking but on what we see in Jesus Christ. In Jesus we see someone who is fully human who knows pain and pleasure, sorrow and joy just as we do and so we bring our sorrows and our joys into our prayers knowing that they are understood. Yet this is also the Christ, the Messiah, the anointed one, whose life is totally mixed up with the life of God. So, as we see Jesus, the Christ, in the gospels, we see both how we can be and how God is. We see it especially on the cross, where the glory of God shines out through the surrendering of this man's spirit, the essential him.

In the tomb, the human life which was laid down is raised up; it dissolves into the life of God and the life of God dissolves into it. This is why, I guess, after the resurrection, the risen Lord is essentially the same and yet different. Our belief is that we can follow Christ in life and through death, so that our life is caught up into the life of God for ever, and can have an eternal quality both in the here and in the hereafter – both on earth and in heaven.

The 2nd book of Samuel Chapter 18 contains I think one of the most moving passages in scripture. It tells of the heartbreak of King David as he learns of the death of his rebellious son Absalom. 'Absalom, my son, my son, would that I had died in your stead, Absalom, my son, my son,' David laments. We can identify with those sentiments: it's our cry in those circumstances, confronted with the death of a loved one.

If we believe that in Jesus we see a God who loves us, then we also see a God who has gone to those lengths for us so that we shall not be lost forever.

I always find writing a piece for our magazines challenging and absorbing – so absorbing that it's easy to lose track of time; which in a way is what this piece is all about, looking to a time when we are totally caught up in God, totally absorbed in him, in the timelessness which is eternity. **Alan Hoar (Licensed Lay Minister)**

FROM THE REGISTERS

Interment of Ashes: Andrew Horne at St Mary's Herriard on 15th September

Interment of Ashes: Isabel Hogg at St Lawrence Weston Patrick on 10th October

CHURCH NEWS

Coffee & Cake

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

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

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

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 2nd November
9.00am Tunworth – BCP Holy Communion
10.30am Upton Grey – CW Holy Communion
5.00pm Herriard – All Souls Evensong

Sunday 9th November
10.30am Upton Grey – Remembrance Service
10.45am Herriard – Remembrance Service
5.00pm Tunworth – Remembrance Sunday Evensong
5.00pm Weston Patrick – In Loving Memory

Thursday 13th November
10.00am Upton Grey – BCP Holy Communion (said)

Sunday 16th November
9.00am Tunworth – 1662 Morning Prayer
10.00am Herriard – BCP Holy Communion (said)
10.30am Upton Grey – CW Holy Communion

Thursday 20th November
10.00am Herriard – BCP Holy Communion (said)

Sunday 23rd November
9.00am Tunworth – Family Service
10.00am Herriard – Family Service with Baptism
10.30am Upton Grey – Informal Service
5.00pm Weston Patrick – Evensong

Sunday 30th November
11.00am Odiham – Benefice Informal Service with Holy Communion
6.00pm Herriard – Benefice Advent Carol Service
6.00pm Long Sutton – Benefice Advent Carol Service

KidsZone

After the warmth and colour and fruiting of the summer season, things have changed. The nights are fast drawing in, the temperature has dropped and spending evenings at home with our blankets and hot chocolate is, once again, commonplace. At the same time, we have entered a season in the church year, between All Saints and Advent, where we are encouraged to remember; to remember that we are deeply connected – connected with the land, with others and with God.

Connected with the land

Last month we celebrated the Harvest Festival in our churches and schools across our Benefice. We remembered how our lives and wellbeing are connected with the land. We depend on it to produce food and it depends on us to take good care of it.

Connected to each other

All Saints is a day for remembering those who have gone before us and whose lives have been a blessing to the whole church by showing us God's grace at work in the world. I wonder who is your favourite Saint? Here are a few you might like to research: Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Benedict (of Nursia), Saint Teresa of Avila.

On All Souls Day we remember our own dearly departed; the lives of those with whom we are more directly linked – people in our own family, perhaps, who have been role models to us and helped to love and nurture us. Why not spend some time with family and friends one evening this week – under your blanket and with your favourite hot brew – flicking through the old photo albums and remembering your dearly departed. With some lolly sticks and a few glue dots, you can choose your favourite photo and frame it (see right).



Connected with God

As we ponder our connection with the land and with others we remember and give thanks for our deep connection with, and dependency on, God; the one who sustains everyone and holds everything together. This is so beautifully captured in these words from Psalm 85:10-13 below – maybe you can use them as your prayer today.

God's truth and faithful love join together.
His peace and holiness kiss each other.
His truth springs up from the earth.
His holiness looks down from heaven.
The Lord will certainly give what is good.
Our land will produce its crops.
God's holiness leads the way in front of him.
It prepares the way for his coming.

May you know the warmth of connection and belonging with others and with God this winter time.

Blessings, Paul



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



Join us for St Mary's monthly Messy Church in Upton Grey Village Hall for craft, food, games and music

From 3.30-5.00pm. School years R - 6.

Weds 17th September
Weds 15th October
Weds 19th November
Weds 17th December

www.moretolife.church

more+

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

Farming News

After months of the farm looking arid and brown, it is now a bright, verdant green – unusual for mid-October and almost spring-like in appearance. The rains that finally fell in late August and early September have replenished our grazing land and the grass has been able to take up all the nutrients in the soil and burst with growth. Your lawnmowers are probably busier now than they've been all year! This will enable us to keep our young stock and dry cows (the cows not producing milk because they are heavy in calf) out in the paddocks for longer and preserve the limited winter forage stocks we have.

Many livestock farmers have been busy making late cuts of grass silage to fill their winter feed stores and whilst we are now just about ok for grass, our maize harvest was very disappointing. Yields were poor because of the summer drought so I made the decision to buy in nine artic lorry-loads of 2024 maize silage from a friend's silage clamp 25 miles away. This was expensive but we have to have enough forage for the cows to last over the winter period. To grow maize, our costs per acre for planting, fertilising, spraying and harvesting are the same whether we yield the 18 tonne per acre I would plan for, or the 12 tonne per acre we actually harvested this year. Add to that the nine lorry-loads we bought in and that messes up my budgets somewhat! That's the joy of farming of course and highlights how reliant on the weather we are.

Having said that, we have enjoyed a really stunning autumn and our winter milling wheat seed has been planted into some lovely seed beds. A local arable farmer who is far more knowledgeable about autumn seed drilling than me said he can't remember a year when even the wet, heavy clay field corners under the trees have produced such good seedbeds. We've used these ideal planting conditions to reseed and grow extra acres of grass. With arable crop prices being so low we are currently better off growing extra forage for our cows rather than an arable crop that we may barely break even on in a year's time.

It's really tough for arable farmers at the moment. In dairy we've had a year of relative stability with a decent milk price and good beef price for our beef calves and 'retired' cows but that's coming to an abrupt end with milk prices now beginning to tumble. This is happening globally as the world has swung from having a slight shortage of dairy to now experiencing a slight oversupply. The quickest way to turn this around is to cut the milk price and as a consequence us dairy farmers will buy in

less feed, our milk yields will drop and the oversupply will then again become a shortage… you can see where this is going! And so the milk price we receive see-saws its way up and down. This is why our advisers and the farming press are always talking about building resilience into our business; control the things we can, have enough headroom to absorb the things we can't.

Meanwhile our heifers and dry cows have been enjoying this lovely autumn of lush grass and the wildlife have been making the most of the abundance of nuts and berries. I can't remember a year when I've seen so many acorns. The older ploughmen at the local ploughing matches have been saying that it's the sign of a harsh winter to come… They always say this, mind, and very occasionally they'll be right and they can say with a knowing nod 'told you so'. Let's hope this time they're wrong. Quite a few hard frosts to kill the bugs and a light dusting of snow to look pretty would be nice, but, as the last few years of weather have taught us, be prepared for anything! **Joe Ives**

Long Sutton Christmas Trees

The PTA at Long Sutton Primary School are selling Christmas trees again this year to help raise much-needed funds for our wonderful school. You can head to our new and improved website to order yours now! Available for delivery or collection. The trees are top quality Nordmann fir from a trusted supplier. A range of sizes are available and prices start at just £33.

For more details and to place an order, please head to our website: www.longsuttonpta.co.uk. Thank you for your support!

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

Upton Grey Village Hall October 100 Club winners
Congratulations to October's 100 Club winners:
1st place – Rosie Reid (£100); 2nd place – Darren Smith (£40)
Thank you for supporting our Village Hall

Derek Paravicini concert – 15th November
We are thrilled to announce that Derek Paravicini, Musical Genius, is returning to Upton Grey in aid of The Amber Trust and the Village Hall – an evening not to be missed!

Saturday 15th November, 7.00pm (doors open 6.15pm). Tickets £25.00. Please contact Jane on ajhanbury@btinternet.com or 01256 862681 for tickets.

If you are not able to come to the concert, but would like to make a donation to The Amber Trust please visit their website www.ambertrust.org

T@3
T@3 will be held on **Wednesday 23rd October** at Barn Cottage, Weston Road (hostess Jill Lestrille: 862131) and on **Thursday 27th November** at 5, Weston Close (hostess Diana Prain: 280368). As usual, we will enjoy a traditional tea and excellent conversation. It is very helpful if guests could let their hostess know that they are coming and whether they need a lift (which can easily be arranged). This invitation is limited to retired residents of Upton Grey – we just don't have room to include those who live in the other villages much as we would love to. It's such an enjoyable way of staying in touch with friends and neighbours and so easy to organise; we've been doing this in Upton Grey for something like 20 years and plan to continue and thoroughly recommend it. For more information, please ring me. **Jill Lestrille**

Messy Church
A reminder that Messy Church takes place most months in Upton Grey Village Hall - craft, food, games and music. For school years R to 6. From 3.30 to 5.00pm on **Wednesdays 19th November and 17th December**.

Educational Grants available to ALL Upton Grey Residents

The Upton Grey Educational Trust was formed when the Upton Grey School was sold after its closure in the 1980s and half of the proceeds were put into a Trust. The Trust can use the income from the investment twice yearly 'for the advancement of education' and in June and December each year to consider applications for assistance with educational needs, from any age group and with no means testing. Since the Trust was set up, it has awarded grants to over 100 applicants and 16 groups in addition to Long Sutton School.

For more information on how to apply and terms and conditions, please visit www.uptongreychurch.co.uk (under Groups & Organisations) or email debbie@debbie-bridle.com.

This is primarily open to residents of Upton Grey, but consideration may also be given to applicants from other parishes within the Benefice – funds permitting. Applications must be made in writing by the person requiring assistance and NOT by a parent/guardian or other.

We are very lucky to have this fund and very grateful to the late Ros Mills for establishing it.

Please submit your application in writing by the end of November 2025 to be in with a chance for the application to be put forward at the December meeting, to: The Secretary to the Trustees, UPTON GREY EDUCATIONAL TRUST, Clock Cottage, Cleves Lane, Upton Grey, Basingstoke RG25 2RG, or via email to: debbie@debbie-bridle.com (requesting a read receipt) – please ensure child written application is attached to the email sent by parent or guardian – in a printable form. (NOTE that any late applications received after the deadline will automatically be carried over to the next meeting).

Save the Date!

- Upton Grey Reels Night Saturday 28th Feb 2026
- Saturday 14th March 2026: Upton Grey Safari Supper at 7.15pm.
- St Mary's Church Fete, Upton Grey, Sat 6th June 2026 2.00-5.00pm

Remembrance Services at St Mary's, Upton Grey

On **Sunday 9th November** the Remembrance Sunday service will begin at the usual Sunday service time of 10.30am, moving outside to the War Memorial shortly before 11.00am for the 2-minute silence, then finishing the service outdoors.

On **Tuesday 11th November** there will be an Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial at 10.45am.



A Comic History of Upton Grey
Friday 28th November, at 7.30pm UG Village Hall

On Saturday 28th November in 1925 the foundation stone was laid for the building of our Village Hall.

In celebration of the 100 years that our wonderful hall has served the needs of our village, the Upton Grey Drama Group will present a comic evening looking at historic events that occurred in Upton Grey. Hear about the 'rapacious rector' of 1641; Queen Elizabeth I's visit in 1594; the historic moment when the Three Horseshoes pub was renamed The Hodd; the scout mistress who 'ran off' with one of her scouts and much more!



Join us at **7.30pm on Friday 28th November** in our wonderful Village Hall. Tickets are just £15.00 and are available from the Village Shop or by emailing uptongreydrama@gmail.com.

All profits from the evening will go towards maintaining our wonderful hall.

Upton Grey Drama Group

Coffee and Cake drop in

Upton Grey Village Hall

Monday
10th & 24th November
11.00-1.00

All welcome



St Mary's Upton Grey
www.moretolife.church

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

Parish Council meeting
Herriard Parish Council is holding a meeting on **Monday 24th November**, 7.30pm at Herriard Village Hub. All are welcome to come and hear about what's going on locally or to have your say.

All Souls' Day – 2nd November
Our evensong on Sunday 2nd November will recognise that it is All Souls' Day and there will be an opportunity to light a candle in remembrance of loved ones. The church will be open from 12.00–2.00pm on Saturday 1st November for anyone who would like to visit to light a candle in remembrance of a loved one or pause for a moment of reflection and prayer. Call in at any time between these hours and stay as long or as short a time as you wish to.

Remembrance Sunday
St Mary's Church Herriard with Winslade

On Sunday 9th November at 10.45am
we will be holding our moving
Remembrance Sunday service
at St Mary's

All are welcome

If you have photos of a relative who has served in the forces and would like their photo displayed in the Church for our Remembrance Sunday service, please let either Fiona (07867 973266) or Suzanne (07484 162186) know;

or alternatively, please bring the photo to St Mary's at 10.00am on the Saturday (8th) when we will be preparing for the service.



‘Standing with Giants’ Stow Gardens 2023

St Mary's Church Herriard with Winslade

Sunday 30th November
Advent Carol Service
6.00pm

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

Gilbert & Sullivan Herriard Picnic 21st September 2025

The grateful organisers would like to extend their sincere thanks to all who attended the Gilbert & Sullivan concert and picnic at The Herriard Hub. The event was planned for our garden but, due to the tricky weather it was decided to move it to The Hub. We would like to thank the Hub committee and everyone who set up the tables and chairs and helped clear up.

We always wanted to hold a musical afternoon in our garden because Antony Edwards, an actor and singer, offered to perform with a light-hearted programme which he arranged for us, and flew over from Spain to deliver.

We asked Tricia Neri to round up some singers and we were very fortunate to have a superb mixture of sopranos, alto and bass voices, each with a unique and special talent that made the event such a success, accompanied by Nick Willmer on the piano. All the entertainers said they loved singing and, although they travelled some distance and attended rehearsals, they did not claim any expenses. We cannot thank them enough: Claire and Duncan Hamilton, Keith Lawrence, Maggie Lowe, Tricia Neri and Heather Sims with Tony, as they gave us a wonderful and lively concert – we are still humming some tunes.

All the performers gave their time for no fee and all the concert proceeds went to St Mary's Church, Herriard, towards the refurbishment project with a donation for a new wheelchair for Zac, who lives in Herriard.

Thank you too to everyone who supported the event from Herriard and surrounding villages. **Barbara Jeremiah**

On behalf of St Mary's, grateful thanks to everyone who performed, who helped out, and to everyone who came along to enjoy and support such a fantastic event. And special thanks to Barbara, Kay and to Tony for instigating a fantastic afternoon of song, laughter, excellent company and brilliant fun. We had the most wonderful time, thank you – it was completely, wonderfully, uplifting! And yes – still humming those tunes!



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St Mary's Church Herriard: Advance notice, December services

- Sunday 7th December 10.00am BCP Holy Communion (said)
- Sunday 14th December – Christingle (3.30pm for a 4.00pm service)
- Wednesday 17th December 5.00pm Carol Singing & Barn Nativity (meet at The Herriard Hub, finishing at Hydes Farm)
- Thursday 18th December 10.00am BCP Holy Communion (said)
- Sunday 21st December 6.00pm Carol Service
- Thursday 25th December 10.00am Christmas Day Family Service
- Sunday 28th December – no service at St Mary's Herriard

All are always welcome at all services!



North Hampshire Downs Churches – Herriard Youth Hub

The Youth Hub usually meets from 6.00 to 8.00pm on the 1st & 3rd Sundays, at The Herriard Hub. **Please note the earlier start time of 6.00pm from October**. For more information, contact Helen Chatfield, youth@moretolife.church

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 November date is the 28th.**

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.

Herriard's Festive Christmas Fair

Sunday, 16th November, 11.00am to 4.00pm
@ Herriard Village Hub, King John's Lane RG25 2PG
What3Words: thunder.section.retraced
Website: www.herriardvillagehub.co.uk/christmas-fair/

Christmas is coming!!
Introducing new stallholders with a huge selection of gifts, gifts gifts!
Celebrating with a children's choir, DJ from Basingstoke Radio playing Christmas tunes, Petting Farm, Toys and 15-minute professional massages!
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Raffle Grand Prize freshly cut XMas Tree (to be collected by winner)
£2.00 entry (16 and under free)

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 statistics for Q1 2025 are: 1,035 breakfasts served, 768 hot lunches served, 173 food parcels to go, 119 hot showers taken.

Folk Music Night!

Herriard Folk music night is back at the Herriard Village Hub on the last Saturday of November.



Join us for a Nick Drake Tribute act plus support, followed by an open jam session in the bar. Feel free to join in with your own instrument, or just your ears!

£4.00 entry – tickets on the door. Students: free. **Saturday 29th November**, 7.00-10.00pm, https://herriardfolk.co.uk/

TUNWORTH NEWS

Harvest Supper

The Harvest Supper after the Tunworth AGM was a great success: twenty-six people attended and enjoyed Ploughman's enhanced by salads made by various valued village cooks and apple tart made by Rebecca. Rebecca and Dorothy had decorated the Shoot Lodge beautifully, adding to the conviviality of the evening.



All Saints Tunworth Patronal service: Sunday 2nd November
All Saints Sunday – Patronal Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at 9.00am. Preacher: The Ven Richard Brand, Archdeacon of Winchester.

Prayer Hour: Thursday 6th November 9.30am
The monthly Prayer Hour, which used to be held on the first Saturday of the month, is now on the first Thursday. We meet and pray in the church for everyone in the parish.

Coffee & Cake: Thursday 6th November 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 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. If you would like to know more about the group, or to join, please contact Gabrielle.

Herriard & Tunworth Lunch Group: Friday 28th November
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.

Save the Date!
Thursday 18th December village carol singing. Please contact Caroline Petre for details.

WESTON PATRICK & WESTON CORBETT NEWS

Our Harvest Festival was held on Sunday 12th October with a very well-attended service in the church led by Linda Scard and Suzanne Newcombe. Our local farmer Peter Cheyney kindly gave an informative and entertaining talk about his farming year. The service was followed by a wonderful village lunch in the Barn at Manor Farm, Weston Corbett, courtesy of Guy and Bongo Harrison. We had delicious food provided by brilliant cooks from the village. It was a memorable village occasion.



Evensong will be held on **23rd November at 5.00pm**. The wonderful choir will be singing.

The Village Coffee morning is on the fourth Wednesday of the month, on **26th November at 11.00am** in the Village Hall. Adults and children all welcome to pop in.

Reverend Linda Scard will be praying for our community in our church at **9.00am on Friday 7th November**. 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

In Loving Memory

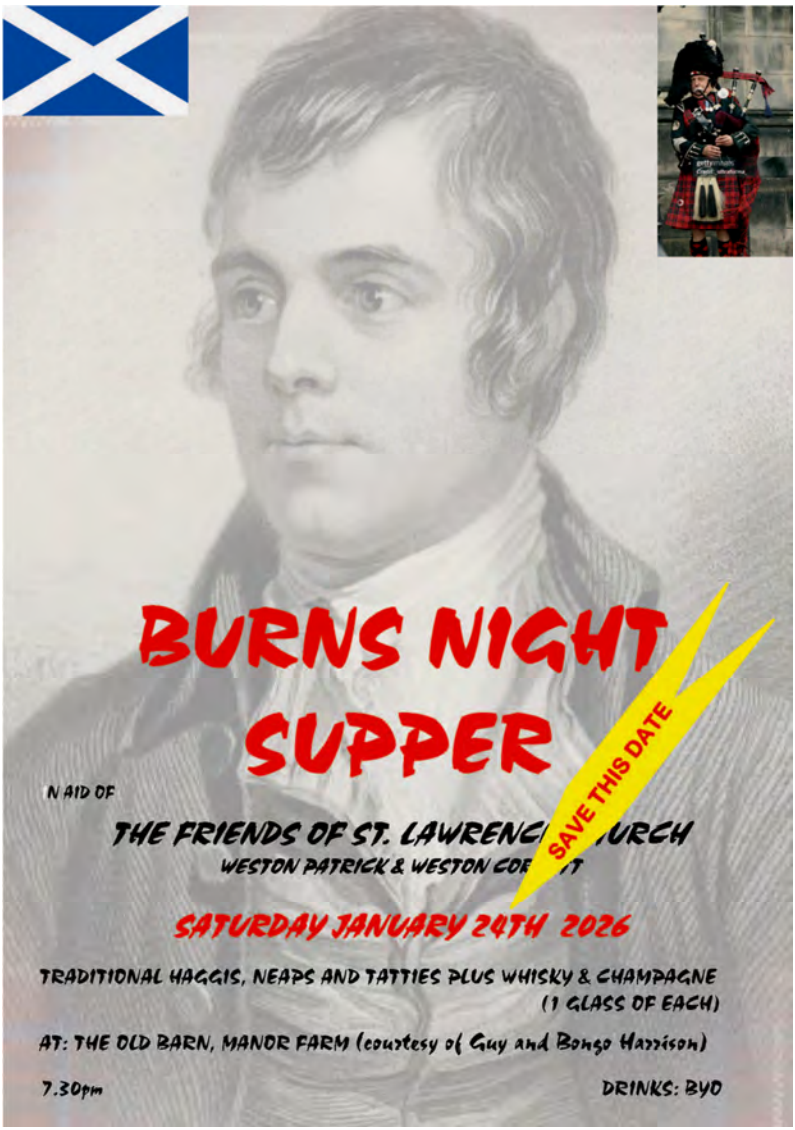
On Sunday 9th November we will be having a very special 'In Loving Memory' Service at 5.00pm. If you have someone you have loved but lost, whether a very long time ago or quite recently, we invite you most warmly to join us for a simple service of thanksgiving and remembrance at St Lawrence's church at **5.00pm on Sunday 9th November**. During this

quiet and reflective service, the names of those we have lost will be read aloud and a candle lit for each one.

If you know you would like to come along to remember someone, please let me have the name in advance (my contacts are below), or you can let me know before the start of the service on the day.

Every blessing, Linda

Revd Linda Scard (07801 039717, linda@moretolife.church)



OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

North Warnborough & District Garden Club

There will not be a speaker at the club in November. We shall be holding our Annual members' lunch from 1.00pm followed by our AGM at 2.30pm. on Thursday 27th November.

Lunch tickets should have been purchased in advance at the October meeting; there will not be tickets available otherwise.

We do not meet in December and look forward to seeing members and guests in January 2026. Visitors are always welcome at monthly meetings for a small charge of £3.00.

For more information view our website: https://www.nwdgc.org.uk.

North Hampshire National Trust Centre Visit to The Wakes

It was a miserable, drizzly damp day in September which saw the NHNTC group visit The Wakes in Selborne, home of our greatest naturalist, Gilbert White (1720-1793). The museum also houses collections devoted to the polar explorer, Lawrence Oates, and his naturalist uncle, Frank Oates.

An excellent guide started us on the Gilbert White tour by describing White's life and work in Selborne – as the local vicar and as a remarkable observer of all the wonderful aspects of wildlife in and around Selborne. His seminal work, *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne*, was published in 1789 and remains the fourth longest constantly-in-print book in the English language. Some of his most important observations included the first description of the harvest mouse, the soil enhancing properties of the earth worm, the lives of swallows, martins and house-martins and, of course, the peregrinations of Timothy the tortoise.

Gilbert's house, The Wakes, was the original Selborne vicarage and is considerably larger now than it was in his day -– but care has been taken to preserve as much of the original structure as possible. It houses a surprisingly large collection of portraits of his family, though the only impression of Gilbert himself is a sketch done by a fellow university student. There are a number of original furnishings and bed hangings and an enormous collection of different editions of his *Natural History of Selborne*.

Despite the miserable weather, we were tempted to wander round the extensive gardens which are being continuously revamped to restore their original form. I am sure that many of us will be drawn back to spend more time in the Wakes and take the opportunity to enjoy the gardens in more clement conditions.

An Evening with Brahms

Basingstoke Choral Society will perform two works by Brahms: his *German Requiem* and his *Song of Destiny*, on **Saturday 22nd November**, at 7.30pm at the Anvil, Basingstoke. It will be conducted by Jordan Theis, with the Docklands Sinfonia orchestra. Soloists are Sofia Ticciati (soprano) and Ross Cummings (baritone). There will be a pre-concert talk at 6.30pm. To book: https://www.anvilarts.org.uk/events/basingstoke-choral-society

Brahms gained recognition as a composer, pianist and conductor. He wrote numerous works, but his *German Requiem* is the only one for a large-scale choir. It was met with immediate success, establishing Brahms as a major force in European music. The beautiful fourth movement – How Lovely are thy Dwellings, will be particularly familiar as it is often performed as a single piece in its own right.

Schicksalsleid, The Song of Destiny, is a setting of a poem by Friedrich Holderlin and along with the *German Requiem* is considered to be one of Brahms's best choral works.

Hook Choral Society

Hook Choral Society's Autumn Celebration concert will be given **at 7.30pm on Saturday 15th November**.

The programme will include: Handel *Let their celestial concerts*; Whitacre *Sing Gently*; Gjeilo *Sunrise Mass;* Runestad *Let my love be heard*; Handel *Dank sei dir, Herr*; Kreiling *Salva me*; Elgar *In haven*; Handel *Silent Worship*; Schubert *Kyrie from Mass in E flat*; Gjeilo *The Rose*; Parry *My Soul there is a Country.*

Nicholas Woods, our distinguished and inspirational director, said recently 'It will be a classic concert, with a bit of something for everyone. A performance of music that we are happy and stylish enough to sing, and which will introduce the audience to music that is both attractive and likeable.'

The concert will be given at St. John's Church, London Road, Hook. Tickets £18.00 (£16 for four or more), from www.hookchoral.co.uk, or by telephone at 07957 293641.

And our **Christmas concert** will be given, also at St. John's Church, on the afternoon of **Saturday 20th December**.

Hampshire Medical Fund Celebration of Christmas – Friday 12th December, 7.30pm

We are delighted to be returning to Winchester Cathedral for our annual Celebration of Christmas carol service. This promises to be an excellent festive event, providing guests with a wonderful evening of readings, carols and beautiful music. We will be joined by some special guests and outstanding musical talent. Contact office@hampshiremedicalfund.org

Hampshire Medical Fund Christmas Fair – 14th November

Our annual Christmas Fair is back for a third year and this time we have a fresh new venue at Pinglestone Barn, Old Alresford, SO24 9TB.

We are delighted to have teamed up with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance for the event. This is an excellent way of starting your Christmas shopping early while supporting two very important Hampshire charities. Expect a variety of high quality stalls paired with delicious food, perfect to meet a friend alongside your shopping! Join us on Friday for a full day of shopping from 9.30am to 4.00pm. 10% of all sales benefit the charities! Tickets went live on 30th September.

Carol Service in aid of St Michael's Hospice

The Friends of St Michael's Hospice are again hosting the popular and festive Carol Service on **Tuesday 9th December** at All Saints, Odiham, with music by Schola Cantorum of Oxford and a reading by Ed Chamberlin. Doors open at 6.00pm and the service starts at 7.00pm with canapes, wine and mince pies. Tickets can be purchased from Katherine Jane, High Street, Odiham or at www.stmichaelshospice.org.uk/events. We look forward to seeing you.

BDDF Member Survey 2025

🍁 Attention Basingstoke and District Disability Forum Community!🍁

We need your voice! The Basingstoke & District Disability Forum (BDDF) is dedicated to supporting everyone affected by disability in our local community – whether you're a disabled individual, a carer, part of a disability charity, or a local business striving for accessibility and inclusivity.

📝 We're launching our annual member survey, and your input is vital! It takes less than 5 minutes to complete, and your feedback will help us enhance our services and support.

🎁 As a thank you for your time, everyone who completes the survey and provides their contact details will be entered into a voucher prize draw! Rest assured, all information will be handled in accordance with GDPR.
☞ Take the survey here! https://forms.gle/iqVhJtdD7NByDHiq6
Your voice matters - let's work together to make our community stronger and more inclusive! Thank you for your support! 🖤

November – the nights are drawing in!

It's getting dark outside, so the u3a have new ideas to keep you busy over the winter.



I woke up this morning, Heard the music in my head.

Most people have a favourite song or songs. Songs are all around us and are a great way to share stories, thoughts and feelings. Maybe you listen to songs and wonder what it is like to create a song? What does it take to bring a song into the world?

The Odiham U3A Songwriting Group know how this works and we can share it with you. Anyone can create a song – it is a natural process that we learn as children and then, often, forget. The group is led by local song writer who will teach, share, coach and mentor you through the process of song creation. No musical experience is needed – just the power to notice what happens around you in the world. And we cover all musical styles and genres – something for everyone.

Dance to the music



I mentioned last month that we had a new Ballroom & Latin Dancing group. Well, now Harley and Thomas, our dancing tutors have been chosen to represent the UK again in an international competition. We wish them the same success as they had in Estonia earlier this year, where they came 1st. We still have four places if you find you would like to spend your Friday mornings creatively.

If you are not already a member, joining is only £20.00 for u3a membership for the year. To see the full programme of our monthly meetings and group activities, please visit our website. www.odihamu3a.org.uk

North Hampshire Downs Mothers' Union

November sees the start of the 16 days of activism for gender-based violence which runs from 25th November to 10th December. This year the diocese will be holding a prayer vigil outside Winchester Cathedral between 12noon and 2.00pm on **Tuesday 25th November**.

As part of their action against gender-based violence, Mothers' Union launched their 'Rise Up' campaign in 2023 to raise awareness of domestic violence and support those who suffer from it. The letters in 'Rise Up' stand for Respond, Inform, Support, Empower, Unite and Pray. The statistics about Domestic Abuse are shocking with an estimated 1.6 million women in this country experiencing domestic abuse every year. One in seven children and young people under the age of 18 will have lived with domestic violence at some point in their childhood. Domestic abuse affects people throughout society and at every stage of life. Within our branch we are supporting families in the local Women's Refuge by providing clothing and Christmas gifts for them. Our next branch meeting is on **Monday 3rd November** 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 01252 845011 or suemurphymubranch@outlook.com.

Christmas Concert for Cardiac Health at St Lawrence om Alton

Hart Male Voice Choir is helping Cardiac Health (formerly known as Cardiac Rehab) welcome in the festive season with a charity Christmas Concert on **Wednesday 3rd December**. The choir, who 'put the fun into fundraising for local charities and good causes' will be singing seasonal favourites from 7.00pm in the Church of St Lawrence in Alton. Mince pies and mulled wine will be served during the interval.

Cardiac Health has been part of the local community for nearly 50 years, and thanks to the generosity of our supporters continues to offer specialist-led services across the region. In our purpose-built facility, exercisers regain confidence, stay active and take control of their health. By working closely with healthcare professionals, we reduce pressure on public services, track measurable progress, and ensure patients benefit from safe, effective, results-driven exercise. It costs nearly £800 a day to

provide this service to the local community and we do not receive funding from the NHS or government.

This is a ticketed event, please book ahead to avoid disappointment. Tickets cost £15.00 for adults and £5.00 for children. Tickets can be purchased from Cardiac Health, in Chawton Park Road, or on the charity's website: https://cardiac-rehab.co.uk/events/

Feathers that catch the winter sun

The glossy ibis (Plegadis falcinellus) is a migratory wading bird, breeding in southern and southeast Europe before travelling great distances to overwinter here in the UK. Twenty-five years ago they were a rarity in the UK but in recent decades, sightings have grown steadily, including on the south coast – and particularly the Solent's rich network of wetlands and estuaries – which are an attractive stopover.

These exotic winter visitors have just started to arrive again at Solent's wetlands. Often gathering in small flocks, glossy ibis use gentle calls to keep in contact as they sweep across the wetlands together in search of food. With long, slender legs, an elegantly curved beak and feathers that glisten with iridescent greens and purples, this striking bird is easy to identify.

Climate change may be the reason why the glossy ibis is becoming an increasingly familiar visitor, mirroring an increase in their breeding population in southwest Europe. With summers in southern Europe becoming hotter and drier, and UK winters milder, we may see glossy ibis settling here more regularly.

Despite their exotic appearance, these birds are perfectly at home in Hampshire. Using their long, sensitive bills, glossy ibis probe through mud in search of invertebrates such as beetles and dragonfly larvae, though they'll also take the occasional frog, newt or even lizard. It's a feeding behaviour that makes them a key part of the delicate balance in wetland ecosystems.

What makes the glossy ibis so captivating is its beauty in motion. At first glance, it may look like a dark heron, but a shaft of sunlight reveals shimmering feathers in shades of copper, green and violet. When seen in groups - known as a 'stand' of ibises - they create a spectacle that feels almost tropical against the wintry skies of the Solent.

Ringed birds spotted in the UK have been traced back to wetlands in Spain's Doñana National Park and France's Petite Camargue, evidence of the incredible journeys these elegant travellers make each year. Many

of the birds arriving now are young – sometimes just months out of the nest – embarking on their first migratory adventure.

The return of the glossy ibis is a reminder of how our local habitats connect with landscapes far beyond our shores. For the best chance to see them, head to the coast. Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust works to safeguard wild spaces, so that local wildlife and birds including the glossy ibis continue to thrive.

Find out how you can support conservation efforts by becoming a member of Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. Find joining information on the Trust's website: hiwwt.org.uk/join-today

Helen Skelton-Smith
Communications Officer – PR & Media
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust



© Nick Upton

SMALL ADS

Christmas at NEAR WILD HEAVEN
We're sisters Hannah & Laura, and this festive season we've filled our Odiham boutique (at the restored old post-office) with organic skincare, hand-poured candles, artisan gifts, festive hampers and even sustainable wrapping paper & cards. Thoughtful, planet-friendly presents wrapped up with love – find a little everyday magic with us.

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 – NOVEMBER 2025

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

NOVEMBER DATES

15th Nov	Sat	An Evening with Derek Paravicini, UGVH	7.00pm
15th Nov	Sat	Autumn Celebration Concert, Hook Choral Society	7.30pm
16th Nov	Sun	Herriard Christmas Fair, Village Hub	11.00am-4.00pm
19th Nov	Wed	Messy Church, Upton Grey Village Hall	3.30-5.00pm
22nd Nov	Sat	Basingstoke Choral Society, Anvil Basingstoke	6.30/7.30pm
24th Nov	Mon	Herriard Parish Council, Village Hub	7.30pm
27th Nov	Thur	T@3, 5 Weston Close, Upton Grey	3.00pm
28th Nov	Fri	100th Anniversary Celebration of UG Village Hall	7.30pm
29th Nov	Sat	Herriard Folk Night, Village Hub	7.00pm
30th Nov	Sun	Advent Carol Service, Herriard Church	6.00pm

ADVANCE DATES

3rd Dec	Wed	Cardiac Christmas Concert, St Lawrence Church, Alton	7.00pm
9th Dec	Tues	Hospice Carol Service, All Saints, Odiham	7.00pm
17th Dec	Wed	Messy Church, Upton Grey Village Hall	3.30-5.00pm
18th Dec	Thur	Tunworth Village Carol Singing	
24th Jan	Sat	Burns Night Supper, Old Barn, Manor Farm W Corbett	7.30pm
28th Feb	Sat	Upton Grey Reels Night	
14th Mar	Sat	Safari Supper, Upton Grey	7.15pm
6th June	Sat	St Mary's Church, UG Fete	2.00pm

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 Thur	Prayer Hour, All Saints Tunworth	9.30am
Every 1st Thur	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 December issue is 15th November 2025.

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

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