PARISH MAGAZINE



St. Mary's, Herriard



All Saints', Turworth



St. Mary's, Upton Grey



St Lawrence, Weston Patrick

March 2026

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

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	Adrian Spruce	07976 967059
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County Councillor: Juliet Henderson (juliet.henderson@hants.gov.uk) 01256 862413

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BENEFICE MAGAZINE – March 2026
Edition for the Parishes of Herriard with Winslade, Tunworth, Upton Grey and Weston Patrick

Letter from the Benefice Ministry Team



I have been thinking recently about the idea of the 'Common Good'. It's something we don't hear that much about in a culture which is highly individualistic, and yet, I think, it's rather important.

The 'Common Good' has been variously defined by different ages and philosophical schools. Aquinas, Locke, Rousseau, Marx, JS Mill, Keynes and more have all incorporated and developed ideas around the Common Good in their thinking and writing. In doing so they follow in the footsteps of other notable individuals such as Plato and Aristotle.

The Common Good therefore is not necessarily simple to define and enact, but despite this it remains an important idea. If we were to try to give it some shape we might say that the Common Good is that which emerges through collective participation in the forming of a shared desire. We might say that it is inseparable from, and must respect, basic human rights. We could try to define it in a more utilitarian way, suggesting that it is the outcome in which the greatest number of people benefit in the greatest possible way. However we seek to define it, one feature of the common good prevails - the idea that it is attainable only by the community and yet individually shared by its members.

This I think captures something important, that a balanced view of the individual and the collective - or, to put it another way, of the citizen and society - matters. This balance is important if we are to value both individuals and the collective appropriately. Being out of balance one way or the other ultimately leads to dehumanising consequences. If we think only of the collective, then individuals cease to matter and are expendable (as in Marxist and Socialist thought). If we think only of the individual, then the social structures that bind us together fail and we are less fully alive than we could otherwise be (an undercurrent in many of the ideas of classical liberalism and Humanism, for example).

In his book 'The City of God' St Augustine of Hippo suggests that human wellbeing is found in the good of the whole society. Contemporary Catholic social teaching suggests that the Common Good

is 'the sum total of social conditions which allow people, as groups and individuals, to reach their fulfilment more fully and more easily' - importantly, this school of thought also notes that the Common Good is for all people and the whole person, and that human beings cannot find fulfilment only in themselves, as we necessarily exist with others and for others.

For me, this captures something profound. The idea that, as wonderfully made and unique beings, our individuality is to be honoured and prized, but that the proper place for this is within community, because without community we are not and never can be fulfilled or fully ourselves.

The Church, both worldwide and expressed locally across our villages, tries to live out its calling to work for the common good in faithfulness to Jesus's teachings. The church at its best is a community in which each of us becomes more fully alive and more fully themselves in reference to and alongside others - together working for the flourishing of all. The Jesus that we meet in the Christian Bible was interested in the life of the individual and the community. And, in his teaching, one does not have to triumph over the other, rather each needs the other in order to find purpose and joy. **Rev Simon Butler**

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism: Percy Spice at St Mary's Herriard on 23rd November
Memorial Service: Jane Rose at All Saints Tunworth on 7th February
Baptism: Cecilia Pridgeon at All Saints Tunworth on 8th February
Funeral: Catherine Turner at St Lawrence Weston Patrick on 12th February

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 1st March
9.00am Tunworth – BCP Holy Communion
10.00am Herriard – BCP Holy Communion (said)
10.30am Upton Grey – CW Holy Communion
Thursday 5th March
10.00am Herriard – Celtic Morning Prayer (said)
Sunday 8th March
9.00am Tunworth – 1662 Morning Prayer
10.00am Weston Patrick – CW Holy Communion
10.30am Upton Grey – Morning Worship
5.00pm Herriard – Evensong

Thursday 12th March
10.00am Herriard – Celtic Morning Prayer (said)
10.00am Upton Grey – BCP Holy Communion (said)
Sunday 15th March
9.00am Tunworth – Mothering Sunday
10.00am Weston Patrick – Mothering Sunday
10.30am Upton Grey – Mothering Sunday
11.00am Herriard – Mothering Sunday
Thursday 19th March
10.00am Herriard – BCP Holy Communion (said)
Sunday 22nd March
10.00am Herriard – Family Service
10.30am Upton Grey – Informal Service
5.00pm Tunworth – Evensong
5.00pm Weston Patrick – Evensong
Thursday 26th March
10.00am Herriard – Celtic Morning Prayer (said)
Sunday 29th March
9.00am Tunworth – Palm Sunday family service (starting from the Tunworth bench)
10.00am Herriard – Palm Sunday Service
10.30am Upton Grey – Palm Sunday Service (preceded by procession up the hill from the pond)

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 March events are:

- Coffee and cake in the church porch, **All Saints Tunworth**, at 10.30am on **Thursday March 5th.**
- Coffee and cake drop-in at **Upton Grey Village Hall**, 11.00am–1.00pm on **Monday March 9th** (followed by Lent Lunch) **and 23rd.**
- Coffee morning at **Weston Patrick Village Hall**, 11.00am–12.30pm on **Wednesday March 25th.**

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



KidsZone

The dark, gloomy days of Winter are almost behind us and Spring is in the air. The long winter can be hard for many of us and it can affect our sense of wellbeing. Our worries and anxieties can feel a little heavier and we can tend to neglect the very things that nurture our souls.

So, I was so encouraged by the decision from Robert May's School to run a mental health awareness week for their students last month called 'Bounce, Don't Break'. The week focused on six key practices that help to nurture and guide us and keep us from falling down when we have a wobble.

Below is one simple idea for each of the practices that might help you to see out the winter and get you through tough times.

Be Active

Even if it's too cold or wet to go outside for a walk, how can you be active indoors? Whether it's an exercise bike, a YouTube Just Dance session, playing a game together or doing the vacuuming - how can you get moving?

Over Give

This is about practising generosity. Giving to another person helps us to connect with our own need for contribution and purpose. This might be spending quality time with someone, giving a simple gift or even giving some words of love, encouragement or appreciation.

Understand Oneself

Knowing what helps to nurture your soul is hugely important. Is it moving, making, exploring or problem solving? Make sure you do at least one thing in your day that helps you feel like you.

Notice how Fortunate

Experts say that practising gratitude is the best medicine for when our souls are feeling sad. Take time at the end of the day to name at least one thing for which you are grateful.

Connect

Take time to connect with yourself. Spend a minute or two, a couple of times a day, to check in with yourself: stop what you're doing, take a few full breaths and note any sensations in your body, e.g. tension in your shoulders. How are you feeling…stressed, excited, annoyed, bored, tired, hurt, disappointed? Acknowledge all this and take a few more full breaths before carrying on.

Engage

Even if you like being by yourself, take time to be in the company of family and friends every day. Talk, play, laugh, cry with others.

All of these things are good for us because it is how God made us to be. These are things that people of faith have practised for centuries. And, since we have just started the season of Lent, these are good things to be practising today.

Bless you.



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

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

Farming News

I was going to quote from Alex Johnson's book '100 words for rain' but when I went to buy it, Waterstones had sold out. Obviously a very popular book at the moment, as if we haven't had enough of the wet stuff by now. Three words for rain that I could glean from the book online which I thought were apt are Grissy (wet and warm), Measie (fine drops of rain) and Starmy (persistent showers), we seem to have had a combination of those three every day this year so far. All our heifers and cows are inside the barns for winter, the cows on deep sand beds, the young heifers on straw. Our heifer barns are quite open sided because we want good airflow ventilation, otherwise the heifers can develop respiratory problems. The downside of open-sided barns is that when the weather is continuously grissy, measie and starmy the straw bedding and feed straw inside the barn get wet and damp.

The equivalent for me is when I pour the milk onto my cornflakes and at exactly the same moment my phone rings (guaranteed every time!), by the time I get back to my cereal it's all gone a bit soggy. Not ideal. On bright, crisp mornings the calves skip around as happy as can be on rustling, dry straw but on these damp wet mornings they look at me as if to say "is this the best you've got, I hope your cornflakes go soggy too".

However, the days are drawing out, the bird song ramping up and I've seen my little 'pet' Wren hanging around in the eaves of the old wooden lean-to above where I keep my wellies and where she has had her nest for the past two years. So, with some confidence, I feel the rain will stop at some point soon which will enable us to get back out in the fields, rolling the grassland, spreading cow muck, fertilising the wheat and finally letting some heifers and cows out into the paddocks.

I went up to the DairyTech dairy show at Stoneleigh Park a few weeks ago. There was a lot of shiny, expensive equipment that dairy farmers seemed reluctant and unable to buy in the current climate but the main reason to go was to chat with fellow farmers and industry commentators and gain a view of the long term. There were many seminars about managing cash flow and keeping your bank onboard and up to date with your budgets. In one of the talks a Yorkshire farmer said he was adopting his grandfather's approach to business - "when times got hard he would become the arch typical Yorkshireman and develop short arms and long pockets!". Basically, don't spend what you haven't got. The general mood because of the low milk price at present was short-term pain but long-term gain. It was a good show though and, like most things in life, it helps to talk and share your problems with others and you realise you are far from alone in those. Gathering a few thousand moaning farmers together probably doesn't sound that inspiring but it was good to catch up with friends and colleagues, have a bit of banter and a good laugh.

World dairy prices are still very low but there are indications that we maybe at the bottom now. The latest Global Dairy Trade (GDT) auction rose 6.7% which is the largest single rise since March 2021. However, as one market commentator said last week "prices have rocketed but you have to remember that this is from a ludicrously low base". Hopefully for us that means the market will tick up sooner than expected.

Finally, a bit of agricultural common sense advice I heard at the show which I'm sure you'll thank me for… "Cow pats are more corrosive than salt, so never buy a Land Rover from a dairy farmer".

Joe Ives

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

Upton Grey Lent Lunches 2026

Please do come to a Lent Lunch in March: 12.30-2.00pm, open to all. Enjoy a simple but delicious lunch of soup, bread and cheese whilst having a chat with neighbours. The lunches are free, but you are invited to donate to the charity chosen by the host.

The first of the March lunches is in the Village Hall on **Monday 9th March**, following on from the usual Coffee morning. Please contact Jill Lestrille (862131) or Rosie Reid (baronessrosyposy@aol.com) if you would like to come or can offer some help. The second lunch is at Frances and Geoffrey Yeowart's house, The Old Post House, on **Tuesday 17th March**. Please email francesyeowart@outlook.com if you would like to come or leave a message on: 01256 86128.

Looking forward to seeing you!

Jill Lestrille & Frances Yeowart



More4Kids Upton Grey

A reminder that the monthly Wednesday afternoon event in the Village Hall, previously 'Messy Church', is now More4Kids Upton Grey: 3.30-5.00pm on **March 18th**; School Years R to 6; crafts, songs, tea, games.

Upton Grey Village Hall 100 Club winners

This month's Upton Grey Village Hall 100 Club winners are:
1st Prize (£100) Barbara Stewart
2nd Prize (£40) R Clarke
Congratulations!

Upton Grey Village Hall 100 Club subscriptions



Please support your Village Hall by joining the 100 Club.

This is our vital fundraiser that helps keep our wonderful Village Hall running. Our hall hosts many village events from the Harvest Supper to music and comedy nights, as well as exercise classes and toddler groups and private events. Without your support it cannot continue to function.

By joining the 100 club you enter a monthly draw to win £100 (first prize) or £40 (second prize). All remaining funds go towards the upkeep of the Village Hall. The more entries, the more chance of winning!

Each entry (or number) costs £24 for 12 monthly draws. Why not set up an annual standing order? Or you can transfer your annual payment of £24.00 to: Upton Grey Village Hall Committee, Sort Code 09-01-51, Account Number: 86355505 (please ref your house name/number and postcode).

Cheques payable to "Upton Grey Village Hall Committee". Please write your house name/number and postcode on the back. You can drop your cheque into Rowan Croft, Weston Road.

Any questions please ask **Sam Clough, 07766 663511 or email ugvh100@gmail.com.**

Thank you for your support.

Upton Grey Ladies Group

For any lady interested in Upton Grey, our Ladies Group meets once a month for various activities throughout the year. Here is our programme of events for 2026.

- **March 11th: Pub lunch**
- April: Surprise event
- May 12th:Visit to Wisley
- June: Surprise event
- July 21st: Picnic lunch at Barn Cottage and Orchard Cottage
- August 11th: Tea and book exchange in the garden
- September: To be arranged
- October 19th: Your favourite things
- November 20th: Pub lunch
- December: Christmas Party in the Village hall

If you think you might be interested in joining the group and would like more information please contact me by email or phone.
Email vivanscombe@gmail.com, Phone 01256 862455
We pay a subscription of £10 a year. I look forward to hearing from you!

Viv Anscombe

Absolute Beginner Powertool Class

Learn to use a range of the most useful power-tools for DIY, woodwork and hands-on creativity – only with the Salvage Sister!

Join us at Upton Grey Village Hall on **Saturday 21st March at 12.30pm**. Make new pals, and feel empowered to DO IT YOURSELF with power-tools.

You'll learn to use: combi drills, impact drivers, circular saws, chop saw, pin guns, jigsaws, pallet-deconstruction techniques!

Book online via: https://tinyurl.com/SalvageSister, or email charis@salvagesister.co.uk for queries and help. I can't wait to meet you & get the tools out!

(All PPE, tools & materials are supplied. Classes are aimed at adults. Price is £86 per student. Minors with a ticket may join with a responsible adult. We have six venues across England and many more workshops to enjoy at www.salvagesister.co.uk.).

Palm Sunday 29th March

To join the procession up the hill, please gather at the pond from 10.00am. Otherwise please meet in the church for the 10.30 service. (If the weather is awful, we shall all just meet in the church for 10.30.)

Tennis Dates for 2026

Junior Tennis Coaching

- ***Easter Tennis: Monday 30th March - Thursday 2nd April***

Sessions start from 9am and are 45 minutes long. The coach will be Andrew Ridgers, who has been leading the tennis coaching for many years. He is very experienced and highly regarded, and makes the sessions fun for all. The youngest children have the first session, which is 45 minutes and then there are several more groups, largely grouped together by age. The age range is roughly 3.5 up to 16/17 year olds.

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

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

Payment should be made by the 27th March 2026 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

- ***Summer Tennis: Monday 10th - Thursday 13th August***

St Mary's Church Fete - Saturday 6th June from 2.00 to 5.00pm

The Old Vicarage, Upton Grey RG25 2BS

Please save the date for this annual long-standing village event which is both a fundraiser for the church and fun entertainment for all ages. Even though the rain last year was torrential, you all turned up, so hoping for a bit of sunshine this June as our just rewards. You can look forward to all the usual stalls plus delicious home-made cream teas, Pimms, ice creams and the ever-popular Punch & Judy show and Cove Brass Band to entertain.

Now is the time to get your families and friends organised to come and enjoy this most traditional afternoon celebrating the best of village life in our beautiful corner of rural North Hampshire. Car parking next door in Church Meadow.

We are very grateful to Carol and Richard Butler-Adams who have kindly agreed for us to use their beautiful gardens at The Old Vicarage, Church Street, Upton Grey.

If you would like to be involved, please contact Frances Yeowart email: francesyeowart@outlook.com, who will happily point you in the right direction.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Sarah Barnes & Frances Yeowart

St Mary's Church Upton Grey – need for further funding

Please can you help?

Upton Grey benefits from having a thriving church at its heart. It brings us together as a village at Christmas and Easter and other popular services such as Harvest Festival and Remembrance Sunday. It provides a resident Vicar who christens our children, marries our young people, gives thanks for the lives of our departed. It is a focal point for our community life. St Mary's is now asking for increased local support to continue its work within the community and as a place of Christian worship.

St Mary's is self-funding. It receives no financial contribution from Winchester Diocese, the central body of the Church of England or the State. It depends entirely on local giving. Our income falls short of our expenses and in particular has been eroded by inflation. We have experienced a cumulative inflation rate of 32% since our last funding initiative in 2018. We had a deficit in 2025 and expect another in 2026.

We need the help of all who live in our community. Can you please take a moment to read this and respond?

We are asking two things:

(1) that you consider reviewing and increasing the amount you give or, if you do not already give, consider becoming a regular giver;

(2) that your future donations be made regularly by direct debit (monthly, quarterly or yearly) under the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) which improves cash flow and reduces administration.

Donations and gift aid are collected by the Scheme and paid monthly into our Parochial Church Council's bank account. If your donation is eligible for gift aid, this adds an extra 25% on top of the amount given. If you are a higher-rate tax payer, you can claim tax relief on the amount given. The Scheme is quick, convenient and efficient.

The Scheme also enables you, if you choose at your discretion, to increase your donation annually in line with inflation. You will be notified of the increase one month in advance and will have an option to decline or vary it.

If you wish to help, you can join the PGS online via its website (www.parishgiving.org.uk), or by calling the PGS team on 0333 002 1271, or by contacting them by email (info@parishgiving.org.uk), or filling in the PGS gift form available from us and sending it to Parish Giving Scheme, 76 Kingsholm Road, Gloucester GL1 3BD. The PGS parish code for St Mary's is 410641133.

If you decide to support this appeal, it will be most helpful if you can tell one of us. The amount of your donation will, of course, be treated as confidential. The Scheme involves no enduring commitment; you will be free to cancel or amend your direct debit at any time. If you have any questions, please contact one of us.

We intend to use part of the new funds (after providing for the Church's running expenses) to create a sinking fund to help with future maintenance and repairs.

Over the years many people have played a part in the life of St Mary's Church and we are grateful to all those who have provided support in so many ways. We now need everyone to be as generous as they can to ensure that St Mary's continues to thrive.

The Revd Simon Butler (Vicar) Tel: 01256 861706
Sarah Barnes (Churchwarden) Tel: 01256 861164

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

Herriard Litter Pick
The Herriard Village Annual Litter Pick will be on **Sunday 1st March** from 10.00 to 12.00, starting at Herriard Village Hub. Please join us in helping to keep our village free from litter. Litter picking sticks, sacks and hi-vis vests will be available. Please bring your own gloves. Children must be accompanied. Refreshments afterwards.

Easter Bingo at Herriard Hub: Saturday 21st March
6.30pm for a 7.00pm start.
Book of 6 games £10 including raffle tickets and cash flyer
Raffle & Filled Rolls (£1 each) at half time
Lots of Easter eggs to be won
To book a table, please contact Jenny Falconer
at treasurer.herriardhub@aol.com or text to 0780 123 8200

WEEKLY COFFEE MORNING IN HERRIARD

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

North Hampshire Downs Churches – Herriard Youth Hub
The Youth Hub meets from 6.30 to 8.30pm every Sunday this March at The Herriard Hub, following the *Six Beats - One Story* course, which runs alongside The Bible Course. For more information, contact Helen Chatfield, youth@moretolife.church. **Please note the additional dates and the revised timing!**

St Mary's Church
Herriard with Winslade

Mothering Sunday

St Mary's Church, Herriard

Sunday 15th March at 11.00am

Family service with the gift of a posy of flowers

All welcome







Lent Lunch

A Lent Lunch will be held on **Monday 16th March** 12.00-1.30pm in the Herriard Hub when we will share home-made soup, bread and cheese. A time to eat a simple meal together. There is no charge for this but donations made will be given to Water Aid.

A warm welcome is extended to everyone!



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To be held at The Herriard Hub on Friday 27th March 2026 at 7.00pm

Entry is £5 each to include a cheese buffet and a glass of wine.
The bar will be open for beer, wine and soft drinks.



Some of the Promises so far:

A visit to West Green Garden, Hartley Wintney, to include afternoon tea.
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Tickets are available from Fiona 07867 973266 or fiona@ashmeadow.co.uk

Palm Sunday – 10.00am, 29th March

Please join us for our Palm Sunday service when we will be reading the Palm Sunday Gospel and when we traditionally hand out Palm Sunday crosses (the symbolic connection to how the last week of Jesus' life started - with his triumphant entry into Jerusalem - and how it ended…)



St Mary's Church Herriard with Winslade

Saturday 4th April 2.00-4.00pm
Easter Garden Festival



Please come and enjoy St Mary's decorated with flowers and Easter Gardens ready for Easter Sunday, and join us for a cup of tea and a slice of homemade cake.

Easter Sunday – 5th April

Our Easter Sunday service at 10.00am will be followed by an Easter Egg Hunt in the walled garden at Herriard Park.



Everyone is very welcome!

Herriard Folk Nights



Herriard Folk continues at the Herriard Village Hub for another night of live Folk and Roots music: 7.00-11.00pm on **Saturday, 28th March**.

There will be some warm-up performances followed by a headline act. After the main show, fun continues in the bar with an open session. Please bring your instruments! We welcome young & old, musicians & beginners, performers & those that just like to listen.

Find out more at www.HerriardFolk.co.uk

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.

Foodbank at St Mary's Herriard with Winslade

We have a box in the Church for food donations. If you can't make our Sunday service, you can 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:

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

TUNWORTH NEWS

Prayer Half-Hour: Thursday 5th March 10.00am
At the monthly Prayer Half-Hour, on the first Thursday, we meet and pray in the church for everyone in the parish. (Previously a Prayer Hour at 9.30am.)

Coffee & Cake: Thursday 5th March 10.30am
On the first Thursday of the month we meet for coffee and cake in the church porch. Please do join us if you are at home and fancy taking a break from online work.

Tunworth Home Group
The Tunworth Home Group usually meets 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 March dates are the **11th and 25th.** If you would like to know more, please contact Gabrielle.

Lent Lunch
A Lent Lunch will be held on **Monday 16th March** 12.00-1.30pm in the Herriard Hub when we will share home-made soup, bread and cheese. A time to eat a simple meal together. There is no charge for this but donations made will be given to Water Aid. A warm welcome is extended to everyone!

Palm Sunday
On Palm Sunday (**29th March**) there will be a Family Service at All Saints. Weather permitting, the service will begin at 9.00am at the bench in Tunworth, and then we'll process to the church.

WESTON PATRICK & WESTON CORBETT NEWS

St. Lawrence's next service will be on 8th March at 10.00am, and the following week our **Mothering Sunday** service will also be at 10.00am. An Evensong service at 5.00pm will take place on Sunday 22nd March.

Reverends Linda Scard and Suzanne Newcombe will be praying for our community in our church at 9.00am on Friday 6th March. All are welcome to join them.

Our coffee morning on the fourth Wednesday of the month is 25th March 2026 at 11.00 am in the Village Hall. Everybody is welcome to pop in.

Weston Patrick and Weston Corbett's Women's Home Group will be joining the Bible Course by the Bible Society running in Odiham. This is an 8-week journey, starting on Tuesday 10th February at 7.30pm at All Saints' Church Odiham. The course covers the whole biblical story, Old and New Testaments, and is great for anyone at any stage of faith. For a preview of the course, see:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lh795sgYfxc
For more details, or if you would like to join us, please contact
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or linda@moretolife.church

Burns Night Supper

A Toast to the Lassies and Laddies of The Friends of St Lawrence.

To the sounds of the Pipes and Drums of the Royal Tank Regiment Scotland the Brave rang out (albeit on tape – our Village Hall isn't quite big enough to welcome them in person) … the Haggis was brought in and an excellent evening began in the Weston Patrick Village Hall.

Our thanks to the Friends of St Lawrence for organising a wonderful village event to raise funds for the repair, maintenance and upkeep of our beloved Church and grounds here in Weston Patrick.

The night started with a glass of bubbles and delicious canapes and then we sat down to a superb feast of haggis, neeps and tatties washed down with a wee dram or two. Of particular note was the rendition of the Selkirk Grace to start the meal, by Suzanne Newcombe. Thank you, Suzanne for taking it on and what a superb rendition it was indeed.

"Fair fa'your honest, sonsie face, Great Chieftain o' the Puddin-race! …." then rang out as full of vigour and with great drama, Tom Redfern addressed the Haggis to the delight of all. It was a superb

address and as many commented after, Tom missed his vocation on the stage. Superb Tom!

Traditional cranachan (a pudding of raspberries and cream laced with whisky, honey and toasted oatmeal) then followed. Several present who hadn't tasted haggis or cranachan before, declared themselves fans.

To raise further funds, an auction was held and to the delight of all raised yet more valuable funds for the Friends. Thank you to all the local businesses and friends who submitted items for the auction. Thanks must go to all who attended and made the evening such a success, to the committee of the Friends of St Lawrence, to Dick Longfield for all his premarketing efforts and to the Village Hall Committee for making the Hall available for this event.

In total over £2,300 was raised from ticket sales, the auction and donations. A wonderful total from a wonderful night. All attendees declared the evening a great success and many expressed the hope to meet again to celebrate Rabbie Burns in Jan 2027!



OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

North Warnborough & District Garden Club
We look forward to welcoming members and guests to our meeting on **Thursday March 26th** from 2.10pm in the Village Hall. We will welcome back the ever popular Andy McIndoe whose talk on this occasion will be *Planting for Wildlife*, an ideal topic for a Spring afternoon. Our plant stall will be back after its Winter break. Contributions from members are always welcome.

For further information visit our website at www.nwdg.org.uk.
Visitors are always welcome for one afternoon for the small fee of £3.00

Luminosa Music to perform at St Lawrence Church, Alton in March
Luminosa is delighted to announce it will be performing on **Saturday 21st March** at St Lawrence Church, Alton. Starting at 7.00pm, Luminosa will be performing a vibrant performance of excerpts from Haydn's *The Seasons*, and Joanna Forbes L'Estrange's beautiful work *A Season to Sing*, a reimagining of Vivaldi's Four Seasons.

Luminosa continues to champion choral music that connects audiences with both the classical canon and contemporary works. Luminosa's concerts always sell out, so early booking is essential. Tickets are priced at £16 for adults and £9 for children.

For tickets and more information, visit www.luminosamusic.com.



National Garden Scheme – Hampshire
If you would be interested to read about which beneficiaries received the record £3.85 million of donations from the National Garden Scheme, simply go to the NGS website ngs.org.uk then click on *Who We Support*. The second batch of reports is the Impact Report, which does just that - reports on the Impact these donations make to the various charities who receive them. There are some really heart-warming stories.

The Snowdrop Gardens are pretty much behind us now and we move on to the Spring Bulbs. Opening in April are a couple of gardens within 15 minutes drive of Upton Grey.

Beechenwood Farm, Hillside, Odiham RG29 1JA
Opening Monday 6th April 2.00-5.00pm. Pre-booking available.
Admission £5.00, children free. Cashless Payments available.
Refreshments: Home-made teas (in aid of Sebastian's Trust)

Opening for over 40 years, this 2-acre garden, with many parts, has lawn meandering through woodland with drifts of spring bulbs. Rose pergola with steps, pots with spring bulbs and later aeoniums. There is a fritillary and cowslip meadow, and a walled herb garden with pool and exuberant planting. The orchard includes a white garden and a hot border. There is a greenhouse and vegetable garden, a rock gar-den extending to grasses, ferns and bamboos. There is a shady walk to the belvedere, and an 8 acre copse of native species with grassed rides.

Brick Kiln Cottage, The Avenue, Herriard, Alton RG25 2PR

Opening Sunday 26th April 11.30am to 3.30pm, pre-booking available.
Admission £5.00, children free. CASH ONLY.
Refreshments: Home-made teas

A 2-acre bluebell woodland garden with a perimeter woodland path including a treehouse, pebble garden, billabong, ferny hollow, bug palace, waterpool, shepherd's hut and a traditional cottage garden filled with herbs. This garden was created by Barbara Jeremiah - Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners - developed using the natural landscape left in the Old Brick Works to give a series of unique features in harmony with the peacefulness of an old English wood. She uses eco-friendly measures to look after the woodland and the garden. Saving water, using no pesticides, our own mulch and compost, chip-ping against weeds, using eco methods against slugs and the available wood on paths and seats.

Your visits make a difference to very many lives!!

Pat Beagley (Head of Publicity), pat.beagley@ngs.org.uk
National Garden Scheme – Hampshire

Volunteer Fair – March 7th 2026

Thinking of volunteering this year? Then why not consider popping along to the Volunteer Fair on 7th March, 9.30am-–3.00pm at the Hart Shopping Centre, Fleet.

For further information contact hartvc@hartvolaction.org.uk or call 01252 627070. We'd love to see you there!

Cross Barn Theatre, Odiham – March 2026

March 20th Film: About Time

Starring Bill Nighy, Domhnall Gleeson, Tom Hollander.

A romantic comedy/drama film, written and directed by Richard Curtis. A young man (Domhnall Gleeson) discovers from his father (Bill Nighy) that he has inherited the ability to time travel. With this gift he tries to change his past in the hope of improving his future.

Beautifully filmed and unabashedly sincere, 'About Time' finds director Richard Curtis at his most sentimental – Rotten Tomatoes

March 27th Film: The Choral

Starring Ralph Fiennes, Roger Allam, Alun Armstrong

Ramsden, Yorkshire 1916. The local Choral Society's men are quitting the choir and enlisting, leaving the demanding Dr Henry Guthrie (Ralph Fiennes) to recruit teenagers to replace them. Together they experience the joy of singing, whilst the young boys grapple with their impending army conscription as wounded soldiers return from the frontline. Written by Alan Bennett & inspired by the experiences of the Huddersfield Choral Society.

A quiet & consistent pleasure; an unsentimental but deeply felt drama which subcontracts actual passion to the music of Elgar & leaves us with a heartbeat of wit, poignancy & common sense – The Guardian

Tickets £7.50. Doors open at 19.00, Film starts at 19.45.

Coffee/tea, wine and ice cream available.

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

Cardiac Health launches a year of 50th anniversary celebrations

Throughout 2026, local Alton charity Cardiac Health is celebrating 50 years in operation with a host of fantastic fundraising events. Cardiac Health helps people lead stronger, healthier lives through exercise at its dedicated facility in Chawton Park Road.

The charity is launching its anniversary celebrations with an *art and design* competition for local children. Since July 2025 Alton Football Club has been its charity fundraising partner, so it was only natural that Alton FC Chairman Carl Saunders joined Cardiac Health Centre Manager Denise Ellis to jointly launch the competition at the start of February. In this competition Cardiac Health is inviting young footballers from Alton Football Club and children from local schools to design a 'Heartfelt thank you card' for the cardiac charity.

Denise Ellis, Centre Manager at Cardiac Health said, "*So many local people have been supported by Cardiac Health over the last 50*

years; it's been a pillar of the community since Dr Hugh Bethell first launched the 'cardiac rehab' exercise sessions at Alton Sports Centre in 1976. Partnering with Alton Football Club for this, our 50th anniversary year, makes so much sense, as health, fitness, exercise and community are at the heart of everything we do. I am so pleased that Carl and the team at Alton FC have agreed to help us launch this competition and provide some of the prizes. I can't wait to see the entries!"

Cardiac Health will invite every child who enters the competition to see their design on display at their dedicated exercise centre in Alton on Thursday 26th March. As well as seeing the wonderful artwork, the children and their families will be offered after-school refreshments and given a chance to tour the facilities at Cardiac Health. See the full terms and conditions of entry here: https://cardiachealth.org.uk/about/news/can-you-design-a-heartfelt-thank-you-card-for-us/

On **Friday 6th March** 2026 the famous **Cardiac Health Big Quiz** returns to Alton Maltings. Sponsored by long-term supporters Sheen Stickland, tickets are £21 person and includes a hot supper. Tables seat 8 people and a bar will be open throughout the night.

The **Social Bridge Afternoon Tea** returns to Beech Village Hall on **Thursday 23rd April**. This popular event, which combines and afternoon Bridge with a wonderful tea, provided by charity volunteers, costs just £70 for a table of four.

For further details on all Cardiac events and to purchase tickets please visit the website www.cardiac-rehab.co.uk/events; alternatively, email hearty@cardiachealth.org.uk or call 01420 544 794

STRUT: A fashion show with a difference

Saturday 25th April 7.00pm, All Saints' Church Odiham

For one night only, All Saints Church Odiham will be transformed into a catwalk for a charity fashion show with a difference. Where contemporary designs meet slow fashion and timeless elegance: from Dolce and Gabbana to Cerruti; Prada to Michael Kors; Jigsaw to Joseph.

Hosted by ITN/Sky presenter **Olivia Guthrie** and former BBC foreign correspondent **Adam Mynott**, STRUT is a celebration of people and community through clothes.

Your evening will begin on the red carpet, followed by bubbles and canapés. This lively show will include an auction of some fabulous offerings, plus special appearances, prizes and surprises. So it's an evening for everyone. Proceeds from the show and pop-up shops afterwards will go to supporting the fabric of this much-loved Grade 1 listed building.

For tickets simply scan the QR code, or go to friendsallsaintsodiham.org or pop into Katharine Jane, Fountains Mall, Odiham (with cash). Adult ticket £30 to include bubbles and canapés. Students £15.

Premium seat (now ***SOLD OUT)*** - front row of the main catwalk or tiered seating) £50 including a gift bag of gorgeous Bramley products too.

Dress code: In true STRUT spirit, please dress for a big night out. That could be formal evening wear, effortless elegance, your best bling or whatever you love wearing for an evening in special surroundings. Just be prepared for prizes for the best dressed.

The Friends of All Saints

(A non-religious charity dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of our church building for the enjoyment of all. Registered charity 292657)

The winter life of the wren

One of Hampshire's most familiar birds is also one of its smallest. The wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) may be tiny, but during the winter months this charismatic bird proves that size is no barrier to survival. In fact, the wren is the most common breeding bird in the UK, with an estimated 8.6 million breeding territories — a remarkable success for such a small species.

Barely larger than a ping-pong ball, wrens are instantly recognisable by their warm brown plumage, delicately barred wings and tail, and their habit of holding that short tail cocked upright. Look closely and you'll spot a fine, pale eyebrow stripe and a slim, slightly curved beak, perfectly designed for probing into crevices for insects.

Despite their modest appearance, wrens have one of the loudest songs relative to body size of any bird in the UK — a surprisingly powerful burst of sound that can be heard on crisp winter mornings. Their sudden bursts of song are thought to help maintain territories and may also play a role in strengthening pair bonds ahead of the breeding season.

Wrens are found across a wide range of habitats. They favour places with plenty of cover, including hedgerows, woodland undergrowth, scrub, gardens, reedbeds and even coastal habitats. In winter, dense vegetation becomes especially important, offering protection from cold winds and predators. You might also spot wrens around log piles, compost heaps or garden sheds, where insects and spiders shelter from the frost.

Winter is a challenging time for wrens, but they have developed remarkable survival strategies. On the coldest nights, they may roost communally, huddling together in old nests or sheltered spaces to conserve warmth. Historical records describe dozens of wrens squeezing into a single nesting box — an extraordinary sight for such a fiercely territorial bird during the breeding season. Nests are also distinctive structures: domed and carefully woven from moss, twigs and leaves, with a small side entrance that helps retain heat.

It's diet in winter consists mainly of small invertebrates, including spiders, beetles and larvae. Wrens are relentless foragers, constantly flicking through leaf litter, moss and bark to find food. Their fast metabolism means they must eat almost constantly during daylight hours, making short winter days especially demanding.

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust is a charity which protects wild places so that wildlife including the wren can flourish. Members directly contribute to this work. To join the Trust and help this vital work, visit the Trust website for more information: hiwwt.org.uk/join-today

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



Wren ©Jon Hawkins Surrey Hills Photography

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 – MARCH 2026

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

MARCH DATES

1st Mar	Sun	Herriard Village Litter Pick, Herriard Hub	10.00-12.00
7th Mar	Sat	Volunteer Fair, Hart Shopping Centre, Fleet	9.30-3.00
9th Mar	Mon	Lent Lunch, Upton Grey Village Hall	12.30pm
11th Mar	Wed	Upton Grey Ladies Group pub lunch	
14th Mar	Sat	Safari Supper, Upton Grey	7.15pm
16th Mar	Mon	Lent Lunch, Herriard Hub	12.00-1.30
17th Mar	Tues	Lent Lunch, The Old Post House, Upton Grey	12.30pm
18th Mar	Wed	More4Kids, Upton Grey Village Hall	3.30-5.00pm
20th Mar	Fri	Film: *About Time,* Cross Barn, Odiham	7.00pm
21st Mar	Sat	Powertool Class, Upton Grey Village Hall	12.30pm
21st Mar	Sat	Easter Bingo, Herriard Hub	6.30 for 7.00pm
26th Mar	Thur	North Warnborough Garden Club, NW Village Hall	2.10pm
27th Mar	Fri	Film: *The Choral,* Cross Barn, Odiham	7.00pm
28th Mar	Sat	Herriard Folk Night, Herriard Hub	7.00pm
30th Mar - 2nd Apr		Upton Grey Junior Tennis Coaching	9.00-12.45

ADVANCE DATES

4th Apr	Sat	Easter Garden Festival, St Mary's Herriard	2.00-4.00
25th Apr	Sat	STRUT Fashion Show, All Saints Odiham	7.00pm
6th June	Sat	St Mary's Church, UG Fete	2.00pm
10th-13th Aug		Upton Grey Junior Tennis Coaching	9.00-12.45
31st Oct	Sat	Bonfire, fireworks, Halloween Events	3.00pm

REGULAR EVENTS

Each Mon/Thur	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 Thur	Prayer group, 4 Little Hoddington	5.00–5.45pm
Each Thur	Coffee, Tea & Cake Morning, Hub, Herriard	10.00am
Each Thur	Upton Grey bell-ringing practice, St Mary's, UG	7.45pm
Every 1st Thur	Prayer Half-Hour, All Saints Tunworth	10.00am
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 April issue is 15th March 2026.

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

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