PARISH MAGAZINE



St. Mary's, Herriard



All Saints', Turworth



St. Mary's, Upton Grey



St Lawrence, Weston Patrick

November 2026

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Benefice Rector	Rev Chris Dudgeon	chris@moretolife.church
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Vicar, Herriard & Weston Patrick:	Rev Suzanne Newcombe	suzanne@moretolife.church
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Church Office	01256 703791	admin@moretolife.church

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	Adrian Spruce	07976 967059
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Upton Grey	VACANT	
Weston Patrick	Lesley Don	07939 201573

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

Member of Parliament: Alex Brewer alex.brewer.mp@parliament.uk

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Herriard	Simon Wills	Chair@herriard-pc.gov.uk
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Upton Grey	Charles Holroyd	01256 862127
Weston Patrick/Corbett	Peter Stemp	07470 251008
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Upton Grey	Tania Day	wrighttania@me.com
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BENEFICE MAGAZINE – November 2026
Edition for the Parishes of Herriard with Winslade, Tunworth, Upton Grey and Weston Patrick

Letter from the Benefice Ministry Team



Our lectionary readings (at the time of writing) have included two interesting incidents from Matthew's gospel (ch21); firstly, Jesus angrily overturns the tables of the money-changers in the temple and, secondly, we read a quite extraordinary scene where he curses a fig tree which then withers and dies.

I once heard a very helpful reflection on these two episodes (but from Mark's gospel) by Rowan Williams on the podcast Question Mark (hosted by David Payne and Stefan Smart). His reflections help shed some light on what Jesus is doing here and what it might mean for us today living as communities of his disciples.

It's as if Jesus is staging for the disciples something that is going on in his mind and heart. Jesus is looking for signs of life. He is not finding it in the temple, nor is he finding it with the fig tree. In the temple, instead of a place of welcome and hospitality for people of all nations to come and worship God, he finds, instead, signs of an anxious, busy, and rather corrupt religious obsessiveness.

When Jesus curses the fig tree it is like he is saying that this kind of life which is obsessive, anxious and fearful of God has now withered up and something else is about to happen, or, indeed, something is already happening. What Jesus is looking for is a kind of life that breaks through the ordinary cycles of human ages and activity. He is looking for the kind of life that belongs to and with God's future. And what Jesus is about is that divine future here and now.

Where Jesus is, God's life and love and reality comes pouring in. It may well not be the season for figs but the good news is that God's action cuts right through the ordinary seasons and cycles of our lives and existence. So instead of waiting around passively for the future or hyperactively trying to control it, we are to keep our eyes and ears open for God's action coming amongst us unexpectedly. God being present to heal, forgive and challenge.

Maybe we can be praying together that Jesus might clear the clutter to open up a fresh possibility of the promise of God's future in us, our

families, communities and churches. Can we let go of the temptation to think we need to be hyper busy trying to persuade God to be kind to us, and, instead, open up some space where that future of love and grace can come in and be real in and for us. **Paul Dadd**

Children & Youth Pastor (All Saints Odiham)

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 1st November

9.00am	Tunworth	Patronal BCP Holy Communion
10.00am	Herriard	BCP Holy Communion (said)
10.30am	Upton Grey	CW Holy Communion

Sunday 8th November

10.30am	Upton Grey	Remembrance
10.45am	Herriard	Remembrance
5.00pm	Tunworth	Remembrance Evensong

Wednesday 11th November

10.45am	Tunworth - Remembrance Prayer Service	
10.45am	Upton Grey - Act of Remembrance (at the War Memorial)	

Thursday 12th November

10.00am	Upton Grey	BCP Holy Communion (said)

Sunday 15th November

9.00am	Tunworth	1662 Morning Prayer
10.00am	Herriard	Morning Worship
10.30am	Upton Grey	CW Holy Communion

Thursday 19th November

10.00am	Herriard	BCP Holy Communion (said)

Sunday 22nd November

9.00am	Tunworth	Family Service
10.00am	Herriard	Family Service
10.30am	Upton Grey	Informal Service
5.00pm	Weston Patrick	Evensong

Thursday 26th November

10.00am	Herriard	Celtic Morning Prayer (said)

Sunday 29th November

11.00am	Odiham	Benefice CW Holy Communion
6.00pm	Herriard	Advent Carol Service

FROM THE REGISTERS

Memorial Service
Valerie Bedford at St Mary's Herriard on 28th September
Interment of Ashes
John Westbrook at St Mary's Herriard on 13th October

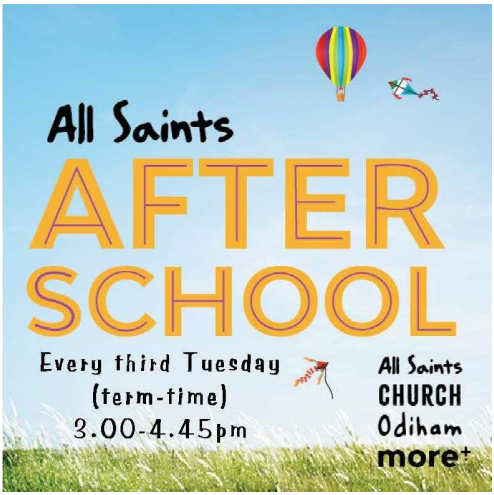
CHURCH NEWS

Children & Youth Activities
Get OWT (see poster in the Upton Grey section of this magazine).
Get **O**ut **W**ith (your) **T**oddlers, 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 10.00-11.30am, St Mary's Upton Grey, 10th & 24th November.
More4Kids Upton Grey (see poster in the Upton Grey section of this magazine), 3rd Wednesday (18th November), 3.30-5.00pm, Upton Grey Village Hall.
Herriard Youth Hub (see poster in the Herriard section of this magazine), Sunday evenings, restarts Sunday 1st November, 6.30-8.30pm at the Herriard Hub. Join us at Herriard Hub every Sunday in term time, chill out with your friends, enjoy some crafts and challenge each other to sports and games.

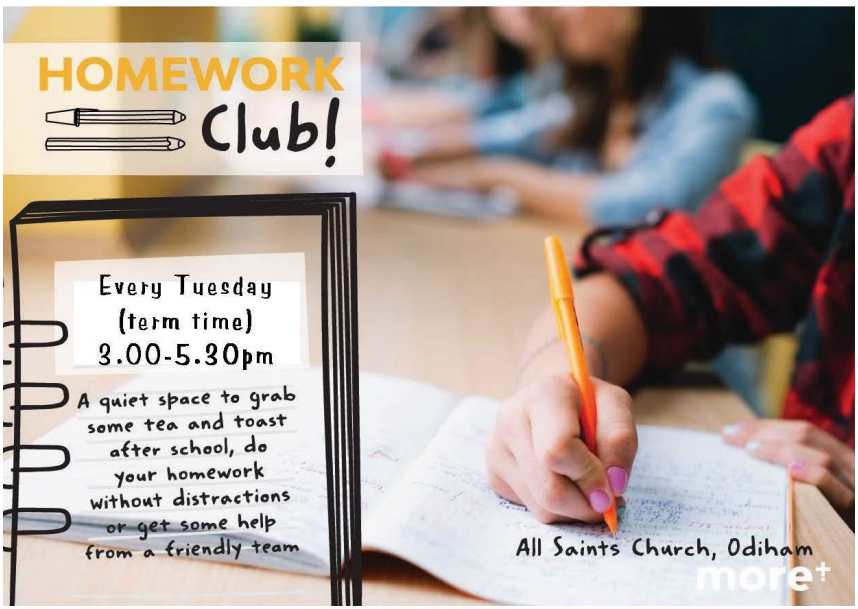


More4Kids, Odiham
Every Thursday,
(5th/12th/19th/26th November).
School Years 4-7, 4.30-6.00pm
(includes meal 5.30–6.00pm).
All Saints Odiham.

More4Youth, Odiham
Every Thursday
(5th/12th/19th/26th November).
School Years 7-11, 5.30-7.30pm
(includes meal 5.30-6.00pm).
All Saints Odiham.



All Saints After School
17th November, 3.00-4.45pm, All Saints Odiham.



Homework Club
3rd/10th/17th/24th November, 3.00-5.30, All Saints Odiham.

Paul Dadd, Children & Youth Pastor
(paul@moretolife.church)
Helen Chatfield, Children & Youth Outreach Pastor
(youth@moretolife.church)

Winchester Cathedral – Simon Butler's installation, 11th October
Please see page 19/20 for a report on Simon's installation, collation and licensing.

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

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

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



KidsZone

Hi Everyone!
As we step into November and the air turns crisp, we begin to notice the world changing around us. The long, golden days of summer have quietly slipped away, and now the mornings feel cooler, the evenings arrive earlier, and the trees are beginning their annual fireworks display of reds, oranges, yellows, and browns. Leaves swirl at our feet, conkers appear in our pockets, and the whole world seems to whisper "It's time for something new".

This autumn brings a change for me too. After many happy years serving as your Youth and Families Pastor, I will be moving on after Christmas. It has been so much fun to walk alongside you - playing games, asking big questions, exploring faith, laughing together, and discovering God's love in so many creative ways. Saying goodbye to a season we've loved is never easy. But just like the trees letting go of their leaves, sometimes we have to release one chapter so that God can begin another.

The Bible reminds us that change is part of God's beautiful rhythm for the world. In Ecclesiastes we read 'To everything there is a season,

and a time for every purpose under heaven'. Autumn teaches us that, even when things shift, God is still at work - growing us, guiding us, and helping us become who we are meant to be. And just as the trees trust that new leaves will come in spring, we can trust that God has good things ahead for each of us.



Many of you will know how much I love being outdoors and, as you enjoy the outdoors this month, here's a simple autumn craft you can try - an autumn creation mandala. A mandala is a circular pattern that reminds us of God's creativity and the beauty of order in nature. Here's one we made at church in South Warnborough!

Go for a walk and collect fallen treasures: colourful leaves, acorns, conkers, pinecones, feathers, tiny sticks, or anything that catches your eye. When you get home (or even right there in the park) find a clear space and begin to arrange your items in a circle. Start with something special in the centre - a bright leaf or a shiny conker - and then build outwards, placing items in repeating patterns. You'll soon see a beautiful design forming, made entirely from God's autumn gifts. Take a photo to remember it, or leave it outdoors as a little offering of creativity and joy. I'd love to see what you do – just email the photo to me at youth@moretolife.church.

As the season turns, I want to thank you all for the love, laughter, and learning we've shared. I will miss you deeply (but remember I'm not going anywhere until Christmas!) but, as the leaves fall and the seasons turn, let us trust that God is always doing something new, and through it all His love stays steady, bright, and wonderfully close.

God Bless.

Helen Chatfield
Children & Youth Outreach Pastor
youth@moretolife.church



NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

Farming News – November 2026

This has been the autumn of vocal robins and kamikaze squirrels. I don't think I've seen so many grey squirrels around the farm and running the gauntlet across our country lanes foraging the ground to stock their winter stores. The robins too have been marking their feeding grounds around the farm with gusto. We saw at least three robins' nests in our barns back in the Spring and now those young ones have grown I guess they are challenging their parents for territory… I know the feeling!

We had a very sad day last week; I think the hardest part of being a livestock farmer is when the inevitable time comes and you have to 'move some cows on'. We did so last week when we sent on three of our eldest cows to enter the food chain. Henja had produced over 160t (160,000 litres) of milk, Senta over 130t and Roxy over 100t. This when the average lifetime yield of a British dairy cow is about 34t. All three were over 10 years old and beyond the age when it would be fair to breed from them again. Their milk yield had dropped and they were becoming passengers. We had kept a few favourite cows previously after retirement thinking we would be doing them a favour and they could live out their remaining days in bucolic bliss but unfortunately it didn't work out like that and after some hefty vet bills and a long-drawn-out demise we had to put them down on farm.

So now, as sad as it is, we send them to the abattoir where they are met by certified animal welfare officers to ensure humane and professional handling of the cows. Somewhere between 90 & 95% of the cow will be used for meat, medicine, hide etc. The cow gets an unfair amount of stick for harming the planet but if she can produce over 100t of milk and then, at the end of her life, provide all the other useful and valuable things, then I think that's pretty impressive and perhaps not as detrimental to the environment as is made out. I am obviously very biased though!

We thank Henja, Senta and Roxy for all they have given us and each has produced daughters, granddaughters and great granddaughters who are now in the herd so the families live on.

Since we have been celebrating harvest festivals in our churches and village halls, if you then find yourselves in a fancy restaurant and see 'retired dairy beef' on the menu, maybe try it if that's your thing and be grateful for the bounty that God has given us. **Joe Ives**

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

Upton Grey Village Hall – 100 Club October Winners
1st Prize £100 Turnball; 2nd Prize £40 Barker

Congratulations to our winners.

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 1980's and half of the proceeds were put into a Trust. The Trust can use the limited income from the investment twice yearly 'or the advancement of education'.

The Trust meets 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 120 applicants and 16 groups in addition to Long Sutton School.

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 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 2026 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.

(NOTE that any late applications received after the deadline will automatically be carried over to the next meeting).

Derek Paravicini concert – 21st 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 21st November, 7.00pm (doors open 6.15pm). Tickets £25.00. Please contact Jane Hanbury on derekugvh@gmail.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

Upton Grey Fun-Run

On Sunday, September 27th, Upton Grey had its inaugural fun run/walk to raise funds for our church. An impressive 140 people of all ages turned up. Both walkers and runners were provided with the warm-up conducted by serious professionals to the tunes of Aerosmith and AC/DC and we regrouped for food, drink and music. Funds were boosted by our sponsor (Provizsports), face painting, drink sales and a raffle, plus the generous donations from villagers to the bake sale.

The intention was a health-promoting, inclusive event for all ages and abilities where participating and fundraising were the emphases rather than winning. Success would not have been possible without our generous hosts, the Darkes. We also had dozens of local friends who offered help, support, advice and donations, from liability checks, safety, recruitment and route laying, to sound systems, raffle prizes, face painting, marshalling, checking in and out and clearing up.



If this happens again next year the tunes might get bigger - but at 10cm across, I doubt the medals can.

Juliette



Get OWT - Tuesdays November 10th & 24th



More4Kids Upton Grey - Wednesday November 18th

Coffee and Cake drop in

Upton Grey Village Hall

Monday 9th & 23rd November

11.00–1.00

All welcome



St Mary's Upton Grey
www.moretolife.church

Remembrance Services at St Mary's Upton Grey

On Sunday 8th 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 Wednesday11th November there will be an Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial at 10.45am.



Long Sutton Christmas Trees and Virtual Raffle!

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 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 £35.00.

Virtual Christmas Raffle 2026

If you want to support your local school in a different way, why not enter our Christmas Raffle? We have some excellent prizes available and it's just £2 a ticket! Will you be one of our lucky winners?

Save the Date: Upton Grey Reeling Evening, **27th February 2027**. Upton Grey Village Hall. Time TBA

Save the Date: Upton Grey Safari Supper, **20th March 2027**. Starts at 7.15pm and tickets will cost £16.00 per person.

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

All Saints Day / All Souls Day
On Saturday 31st October the church will be open from 2.00 to 3.00pm. All Saints Day and All Souls Day are celebrated that weekend. Please come to the church if you would like to light a candle to remember someone or to say a prayer or spend a few moments in quiet and reflection.

North Hampshire Downs Churches – Herriard Youth Hub
Sunday evenings 6.30–8.30pm at the Herriard Hub.
Restarts Sunday 1st November.

Join us at Herriard Hub every Sunday in term time. Chill out with your friends, enjoy some crafts and challenge each other to sports and games.



Remembrance Sunday Service

St Mary's Church Herriard
with Winslade

Sunday 8th November at 10.45am

On Sunday 8th 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



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 £2.50 each to cover costs

Do come and join us – everyone welcome

Advent Carol Service



Adoration of the Magi - British Library

St Mary's Church Herriard
with Winslade

Sunday 29th November 2026
at 6.00pm

All are warmly invited to our annual Advent Carol Service – with its moving liturgy, music and readings both sacred and secular and followed by refreshments, and we are delighted this year to be welcoming the Ancora Female Voice Choir. This is an evening not to be missed.

more
St Mary's Herriard and Winslade



Christmas at St Mary's Church
Herriard with Winslade

Sunday 29th November – Advent Carol Service – 6.00pm
A candlelit service of moving liturgy, music and readings.
followed by refreshments

Sunday 6th December - BCP Holy Communion by candlelight - 10.00am (said)

Sunday 13th December - Christingle - 3.30pm for a 4.00pm service
Come to St Mary's from 3.30pm to build your own Christingle orange, followed by a half hour service at 4.00pm
Come and meet Cherry and Blossom the Christmas ponies who will welcome you to Church!

Thursday 17th December – Carol Singing & Barn Nativity
5.00pm meet at Hydes Farmhouse
Enjoy a festive evening with animals, carol singing and refreshments as we celebrate the nativity story

Sunday 20th December – Carol Service – 6.00pm
The story of the birth of Christ through traditional Bible readings and carols

Christmas Day – Family Service – 9.30am
Our informal Family Service to celebrate the joy of Christmas morning



Everyone is very warmly invited to join us.

more+
St Mary's Herriard and Winslade

Harvest Supper 2026



Pumpkin Pete!

This photo tells you all you need to know about the now legendry Herriard & Winslade Harvest Supper! It's always a joyful evening of chaos and laughter, mixed in with supper and auction!

And it remains only to say thank you! Thank you to everyone who helped set up for the evening, to the catering team (Sara, Kate, Michelle, Emma, Anna & Laura) for the absolutely delicious supper and to everyone who kindly donated the food, to Chris D for the table decorations, and to Chris R for taking the money, to Jenny and Julie for running the bar, to Adam and the band for the fantastic music as everyone arrived, to the kitchen team for the speedily efficient clearing and washing up, to everyone who donated the many items for the auction (Bids of the night? Has to be the stunt kite, and without a doubt the brilliant Pete the Pumpkin suit!!), to Adrian and Peter for their expert and hilarious auctioning (and for being such good sports!), to everyone who helped clear up at the end, and to everyone who came along to support the evening – thank you all so, so much!



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Sunday 15th November 2026

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Raffle Grand prize freshly-cut Christmas tree (to be collected by winner)

Mulled wine, hot beverages and Christmas treats, and a selection of yummy hot food

Entry Fee £2.00 Under 14 Free

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

Alpha Course

There is an Alpha Course running in Herriard. This is an opportunity to explore faith in an informal setting and discuss life, faith and meaning. It is open to all.

Light supper and refreshments followed by a short video and discussion. Starting at 7.00pm and finishing at 8.45pm on 5th, 12th and 19th November.

If you would like to join the group, please contact either Suzanne (suzanne@moretolife.church) or Virginia (vlmcg100@gmail.com).



Family Service

All are welcome to our family service at 10.00am on Sunday 22nd November. The service is followed by refreshments (this month - homemade biscuits/cookies!). Please invite friends and neighbours to this simple service for all.

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's aim is to promote fulfilling lifestyles, emotional wellbeing and support long-term changes for those experiencing the effects of homelessness, mental and physical ill-health, poverty, substance misuse, domestic violence, unemployment, exploitation and social isolation

TUNWORTH NEWS

Coffee & Cake: Thursday 5th November at 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.

Prayer half-hour
The monthly prayer half-hour sessions are on hold pending the arrival of the new Vicar.

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 November dates are the 4th and 18th. If you would like to know more, please contact Gabrielle.

Patronal Service: 9.00am Sunday 1st November
Bishop Kelly will be preaching at our Patronal service of BCP Holy Communion.

Remembrance
Remembrance Evensong will be on **Sunday 8th November** at 5.00pm. There will be a Remembrance Prayer Service on **Wednesday 11th November** at 10.45am.

Save the Date
Tunworth Carol Singing at 6.00pm on Wednesday 16th December

Winchester Cathedral October 11th
Many of our congregation attended the service to collate and install Simon Butler, the Venerable Archdeacon of Winchester, as an Honorary Canon of Winchester Cathedral. It was a most joyful occasion, marked by beautiful singing by the choir and a sermon about wisdom given by the Dean, the Very Reverend Chris Palmer. It was marvellous to see "our old vicar" in his colourful Canon’s robes and to catch up with Hannah and his daughters. We wish him every blessing in his new ministry and look forward to his return to Tunworth to preach at some point in 2027.





WESTON PATRICK & WESTON CORBETT NEWS

Our Harvest Festival was held on Sunday 11th October with a well-attended service in the church led by Suzanne Newcombe. Our local farmer Peter Cheyney kindly gave an informative and entertaining talk about his farming year. All donated produce was taken to Hook Food Bank who were extremely grateful and send their thanks. 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 and it was a memorable village occasion.

Reverend Suzanne Newcombe will be in our church between 3.00pm and 4.00pm on Saturday 31st October, All Souls Day, for those of you who would like to light a candle, say a prayer or just to sit in reflective silence to remember a loved one. If you are unable to attend the church that day but would like a prayer to be said and a candle lit in remembrance, could you please contact Reverend Suzanne Newcombe on: 07484 162186 or suzanne@moretolife.church.

We will be holding a **Village Quiz on Thursday 19th November** – details to follow.

There will be **no service at Weston Patrick on Sunday 8th November**, but Herriard Church will be holding a Remembrance service starting at 10.45am.

Evensong will be held on 22nd November at 5.00pm. The wonderful choir will be singing

The Village Coffee morning is on the fourth Wednesday of the month, on 25th November at 11.00 am in the Village Hall. Adults and children are all welcome to pop in.

Reverend Suzanne Newcombe will be praying for our community in our church at 9.00am on Friday 6th 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: 07484 162186 or suzanne@moretolife.church



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OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

North Warnborough and District Garden Club
Our meeting on November 26th will be our members lunch followed by our AGM. The afternoon will commence at 1.30pm and tickets should have been purchased in advance at a club meeting or from the Secretary. For further information https:/www.nwdgc.org.uk

Cross Barn Odiham – November/ December 2026
20th November – Film: Tuner
Niki (Leo Woodall), a talented young piano tuner who suffers from hyperacusis (a hearing disorder), is mentored by Harry (Dustin Hoffman). He discovers an unexpected aptitude for cracking safes, which turns his life upside down. "They are a real pleasure to watch in an easy, unforced drama that mixes romcom moments with a relaxed crime thriller."
27th November – Film: Midwinter Break
A seemingly happy empty-nested Irish couple, take a midwinter break to Amsterdam where Stella (Lesley Manville) confesses to Kathy (Niamh Cusack), an Irish expat in the city, a terrible secret about her time in Northern Ireland that she has never told anyone. "Thoughtful, intimate and anchored by exceptional performances, it's a modest and deeply satisfying film that lingers long after it ends."
11th December – Film: The Greatest Showman
Starring Hugh Jackman, Zac Efron, Michelle Williams, this is a singing and dancing extravaganza that celebrates the birth of show business, based on the story of the visionary P.T. Barnum who rose from nothing to create a spectacle that became a worldwide sensation. Come and join us for an evening of feel-good entertainment, with 11 memorable songs composed by Oscar- and Tony-award-winning duo Ben Pasek and Justin Paul, including 'The Greatest Show', 'A Million Dreams' and 'Come Alive'. "The film that will make everyone stand up and cheer…a feel-good masterpiece"
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The Jubilee Choir – Brahms Requiem

On Sunday 15th November at 7.00pm, join the Jubilee Choir at All Saints' Church, Odiham, for a performance of the beautiful and uplifting German Requiem by Brahms. Tickets are £15.00, free for those aged 18 and under, and are available from www.jubileechoir.co.uk, Katharine Jane in Odiham High St or Lynn Lymer on 07837 571708.

Basingstoke Choral Society presents a festive charity concert

Celebrate the festive season with Basingstoke Choral Society at a special Christmas concert in support of local charity Forever Singing. The concert will offer a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the uplifting sound of a large choir at Christmas, while supporting a local charity that uses the power of singing to make a real difference to people's lives.

Tickets are £10.00 adults, £2.50 under 18s with a retiring collection held during the evening in aid of Forever Singing. Forever Singing is a Basingstoke-based charity supporting adults living with cognitive, physical and mental health challenges through the joy and benefits of singing. The charity runs a memory choir and provides interactive singing sessions for community groups, creating welcoming spaces where people can come together, make connections and enjoy music. Event details

Date: Wednesday 9th December; Time: 7.30 pm; Venue: Queen Mary's College, Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke RG21 3HF. Tickets: http://tiny.cc/bcscarols

Hook Choral Society

Fresh from a dazzling day out singing at two fine churches in Bournemouth and then at the lovely Christchurch Priory nearby, Hook Choral Society will be giving its autumn concert this year on Saturday 21st November, at St. John's Church, London Road, Hook RG27 9EG, starting at 7.00pm. Highlight of the programme will be John Rutter's joyful sequence of gospel songs 'Feel the Spirit', but we will also be singing Mozart's glorious 'Coronation Mass' and his 'Laudate Dominum'. We will have the talented Simon Earl accompanying us at the organ, and soprano Kate Lowe will be singing the solo parts.Tickets are £18.00 each (16.00 each for parties of 4 or more), available fromhookchoral.co.uk, or £20.00 on the door on the night.Any reader who wishes to hear us rehearse may do so any Tuesday evening at St. John's Church, address as above.

St Michael's Hospice

Light Up a Life: Sunday 6th December

Join St. Michael's Hospice for a special service of remembrance and celebration at St. Joseph's Church in Basingstoke. With two services at 3.00pm and 6.30pm, it's a chance to pause, reflect and remember the people who remain close to our hearts. Tickets must be pre-booked. Find out more at stmichaelshospice.org.uk/LUAL.

Reindeer Run: Get your antlers ready!

Walk, dash, dance or prance your way around our festive 3K Reindeer Run and help raise vital funds for St. Michael's Hospice. Choose from Alton on Sunday 29th November or Basingstoke on Sunday 1th3 December and make it a Christmas to remember! Find out more and sign up at stmichaelshospice.org.uk.

Carol Service, 8th December, All Saints Odiham

We are again holding the Friends of St Michael's Carol Service on Tuesday **8th December** at All Saints Odiham. Doors open at 6.00pm, and the service will commence at 7.00pm. We are joined this year by Trinity Boys Choir and Al Petrie. We will again be serving canapés and wine before the service and mince pies as the congregation leaves. Tickets are £40.00 and can be purchased at Katherine Jane, High Street, Odiham or at www.stmichaelshospice.org.uk/events. We hope you can join us for a festive evening.

Hampshire Harmony is back!

As the days draw in, it has been good for members of Hampshire Harmony to get back to regular practices on Monday evenings at Carnival Hall, Basingstoke.

Hampshire Harmony is an award-winning, upper voice choir, which sings in three-part harmony. The choir has been established for over 60 years and was known for many years as Basingstoke Ladies Choir. The name was changed in 2020, in part to reflect the fact that our membership comes from a wider area. In 2023, we were joined by our most recent Music Director, Clare Oliver, and since then, we have gone from strength to strength.

Clare is an experienced MD, who has taught singing for over 30 years. She brings out the best in the choir, leading us in a sympathetic manner, to attain her high standards. Come to any of our concerts and you will notice how her teaching helps us tell the story of each song and convey the emotions.

Our first concert of the term is 7th November at Queen Mary's College where we shall perform alongside Basingstoke Silver Band and the BSB Cavaliers and Tadley Concert Brass Band. You will be in for a night of excellent entertainment if you come along.

Our next appearance will be when we sing at the, Light up a Life Service, for St Michael's Hospice on Sunday 6th December at St Joseph's Church, St Michael's Rd, Basingstoke RG22 6TY The hospice is the charity for which we are raising funds throughout the year.

On Sunday 13th December, the choir will be appearing throughout the day at the Tower of London. Along with other choirs from across the country, we shall sing at different locations at the Tower, in order to bring the Christmas spirit to the public.

Sunday 20th December is our own Christmas concert, 'Glow' at 2.00pm at Queen Mary's College, Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke. Again, we shall be raising funds for St Michael's Hospice. Do come along. You are bound to enjoy the Christmas songs.

For more information about the choir or any of our performances, please visit our website hampshireharmony.org. Don't forget to also follow Hampshire Harmony on Facebook and Instagram.

Be present this Christmas and let us entertain you.

Home Library Service available from Hampshire Libraries

Did you know that Hampshire County Council Libraries offer a free monthly service to anyone who finds it difficult to access a library due to ill-health, disability or caring responsibilities? The Home Library Service provides an opportunity for individuals to enjoy the pleasure of reading, even if they find it difficult to leave their homes.

The service can deliver a variety of library materials including books in standard and large print, audio books in various formats, and specialist items such as those from our Reminiscence Collection.

Specially recruited volunteers are matched to customers in their own communities and visit their homes each month.

This service can be a lifeline which enables access to reading, despite physical or other limitations, plus regular contact with a friendly volunteer. The daughter of a customer recently told us 'The HLS service is about so much more than reading...giving my elderly Mum much appreciated companionship.'

Applying for the service is easy. If you or someone you know would benefit from it, you can enquire at your local library or online via the Hampshire Library website by selecting 'Access for All', then 'Home

Library Service' and completing a short form. Applicants then receive a phone call to discuss their needs and preferences.

The service is adapted for each individual and ensures everyone has access to the library materials.

We also have a free digital service available for library members who are able to access the internet. You can use Borrowbox to access eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and eNewspapers from the comfort of your own home using a computer, tablet or smartphone. You can borrow up to five items in each format at a time, and with automatic returns there are no late fees to worry about. BorrowBox also includes a range of helpful accessibility features, such as adjustable text sizes, dyslexia-friendly fonts, customisable reading themes, and adjustable audiobook playback speeds, making it easier for everyone to read.

You need your Library number to join.
https://www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/library

Could a free thermal imaging appointment help you save money on your home energy bills?

Local charity, Hart Voluntary Action is working alongside Hart District Council over the winter months (November 2026–February 2027) to offer Hart residents a chance to look at the thermal properties of their homes. Our trained volunteers are getting ready to visit homes in Hart to take pictures using a thermal imaging camera which could you help you with the following:

- Identifying heat loss through windows, doors and external walls.
- Checking if your radiators which are in need of repair or maintenance.
- Finding out if you have any areas lacking fitted loft insulation.

Equally, a thermal imaging visit could help you confirm that the energy efficiency improvements you have made to your home are working well.

To find out more, please search "Thermal Imaging" on the Hart Voluntary Action website www.hartvolaction.org.uk where you will find the link to register your interest for an appointment, or you can call 01252 815652 during office hours with your contact details.

Once you have registered interest, you will be offered a selection of appointment dates and times with our thermal imaging volunteers. Appointments are offered on weekdays between 17.00 and 20.00 and should take a maximum of one hour to complete. It is recommended that our volunteers take images externally and internally, however taking

images inside your home is optional.

You are welcome to chat to our volunteers as they go around your property to find out more about the images they are taking, but please note that our volunteers are not able to give you advice. At the end of the visit, our volunteers will offer you printed information provided by Hart District Council about how to interpret your thermal images and sources of support to help you 'retrofit' your home, including grants.

We will send you copies of your thermal images by email, and let you know about opportunities to discuss home energy efficiency solutions with an independent energy advisor provided by other local charitable services, and hosted at our Hart Eco Hub in Hart Shopping Centre in Fleet.

Please also see the Impact Hart website www.hart.gov.uk/impact-hart for tips on how to make your home greener and more energy efficient. Last winter we helped just over 150 households in Hart review the energy efficiency of their homes – we would love to be able to be to the same during this coming winter!



Ark Cancer Charity

In the area around Basingstoke, we are very privileged to have access to the Ark Cancer Charity, set up with a massive contribution from the late Mervyn Rees, the internationally recognised cancer surgeon – who sadly recently died from prostate cancer. This charity specialises in 'putting wellbeing at the heart of cancer treatment'. The North Hampshire Prostate Cancer Support Group benefitted from a highly informative talk from Ian Harrison, one of the trustees, who also works at the Ark Cancer Charity providing acupuncture therapy.

Ian highlighted how brutal modern cancer treatments usually are, generating numerous side effects. As a result of cultural change coming through with a new generation of medics, the Ark is receiving many hundreds of NHS referrals each year, which is fully supported by the positive advocacy of patients.

Ian followed these comments with several 'guess the statistic' challenges for the group. Few realized that the human body contains 30–

37 trillion cells, and it is involved in creating typically 330 billion a day or 3.8 million a second; in the prostate alone, there are typically 10–30 billion. He added that stem cells transform into specific cells within 24 hours. With such magnitudes of recreation, understandably things can go wrong, leading typically to cancer growths. The amazing reality is that so much of our bodies work so well! He went on to mention that the typical body has 86 billion neurons with 1 trillion connections as a result.

Starting with a slide showing the routing of the nervous system, highlighting both the central nerve system up the spine and the cross-over of the main nerve runs to opposite sides of the body (which is why nerves on the left affect the right side of the brain and vice versa), Ian pointed out that these nerves typically extend to about half a million miles in length. He explained that peripheral nerves from body parts such as hands/feet merge into the main highways which carry the links from major parts of the body to the brain. Whilst the science of acupuncture is not yet fully understood, he then explained how they think it works, using neuroplasticity to re-organise and change and adapt the body's responses. The aim is to activate remote or feeder nerves using specialist needles of different sizes in the more remote parts of the body. It is these needles which induce the body to release pain relievers such as histamines, with the overall aim of trying to retrain the brain to a new normal. Ian was the first to admit that it did not work for everyone, although it can often be more effective when linked to a variable electrical source, which is the basis of how a Tens machine works.

The work of the Ark Cancer Charity revolves around providing an uplifting environment combined with emotional support, helping patients be more positive during a dark period of their lives. In addition, it provides relaxation and complementary therapies to ease some of the side effects of treatments, all located within a caring community aimed at helping to improve the experience of those going through the dark journey of cancer diagnosis and treatment.

Odiham Voluntary Care Group Needs Drivers!

Would you be prepared to join us as a volunteer to support those in several local villages in need of transport to medical appointments?
We are also looking for a Treasurer (about two hours a week on average).
Please contact 07551 587862 if you can help.



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. As usual, Mothers' Union members from around the diocese will gather outside Winchester Cathedral for a prayer vigil between 12noon and 2pm on Wednesday 25th November. All are welcome to join us for, even if only for half an hour.

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 support families in the local Women's Refuge by providing clothing and Christmas gifts for them. Our next branch meeting is on Monday 2nd 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.

Every adult that wants to learn to read, can!

Many of us have been incredibly fortunate when it comes to learning to read and, as adults, it is certainly something we take for granted. However, this is not the case for all, and many adults are both deeply embarrassed and ashamed by the fact that they struggle significantly with reading. As a result, they often harbour painful memories of school and would naturally avoid returning to a formal classroom setting at all costs, where old feelings of personal failure could potentially be reawakened.

The 'Skills for Life Survey' (Dept. BIS, 2011) clearly identified that some 2.4 million adults in England alone can barely read or cannot read at all. In Basingstoke and the surrounding local area, it is estimated that well over 7,000 individual adults struggle to read and need support to improve

their basic reading skills. These are conservative estimates however and could potentially be higher.

Ginny William-Ellis MBE spent many dedicated years working as a literacy tutor and was responsible for running the highly successful Shannon Trust's prisoner-to-prisoner reading programme. Through this, she saw how a confidential, individual approach could encourage people to come forward for support and successfully learn to read. Ginny also became fully aware of the huge number of adults who struggle with even the most basic level of reading, not just in prisons, but across the population at large. As a direct result, she quickly realised that there was much more vital work to do and so in 2010, she founded the very first Read Easy group. Today there are over 100 local groups set up and run by passionate volunteers under the Read Easy banner. Read Easy Basingstoke was proudly set up in July 2019.

Read Easy since then has continued tirelessly to help adults to completely transform their lives by learning to read and strongly believes that 'every adult that wants to learn to read, can'. Read Easy groups at a local level achieve this by training volunteers to provide personalised, one-to-one reading coaching that is free and entirely confidential, both in-person and online. Due to a recent expansion in Management Team members and volunteers, Read Easy Basingstoke wants to help even more adults gain greater agency and autonomy over their own lives through better reading skills.

If you know someone who could benefit from our free services or if you would like to volunteer, more information and contact details may be found on our website https://readeasy.org.uk/groups/basingstoke/. we would love to hear from you!

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 2026

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

NOVEMBER DATES

15th Nov	Sun	Herriard's Christmas Fair, Herriard Hub	
15th Nov	Sun	Basingstoke Choral Society, Haydn brothers, The Anvil	7.30pm
15th Nov	Sun	Brahms *Requiem*, Jubilee Choir, All Saints, Odiham	7.00pm
20th Nov	Fri	*Tuner* film, Cross Barn, Odiham	7.30pm
21st Nov	Sat	Derek Paravicini concert, Upton Grey Village Hall	7.00pm
21st Nov	Sat	Hook Choral Soc., Autumn concert, St John's Ch, Hook	7.00pm
26th Nov	Thur	North Warnborough Garden club lunch and AGM,	2.30pm
27th Nov	Fri	*Midwinter Break* film, Cross Barn, Odiham	7.30pm
29th Nov	Sun	Advent Carol Service, St Mary's Church, Herriard	6.00pm

ADVANCE DATES

8th Dec	Tues	Friends of St Michael's Carol Service, All Saints, Odiham	7.00pm
9th Dec	Wed	Basingstoke Choral Soc., Festive Charity Concert, QMC	7.30pm
11th Dec	Fri	*The Greatest Showman* film, Cross Barn, Odiham	7.30pm
20th Dec	Sun	Hampshire Harmony 'Glow' Christmas concert, QMC	2.00pm
23rd Jan	Sat	Weston Patrick Burns Night Supper, WP Village Hall	7.30pm
27th Feb	Sat	Upton Grey Reeling Evening, UG Village Hall	TBC
20th Mar	Sat	Upton Grey Safari Supper	7.15pm
12th Jun	Sat	St Mary's UG, Summer Fete	

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	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 2026.

Please send news and contributions to uptongreymagazine@gmail.com. Your editors for the November issue were Tess Chevallier and Nick Willmer. The editors for the December issue will be Sheila Stranks and Nick Willmer (Church).

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