

PARISH MAGAZINE



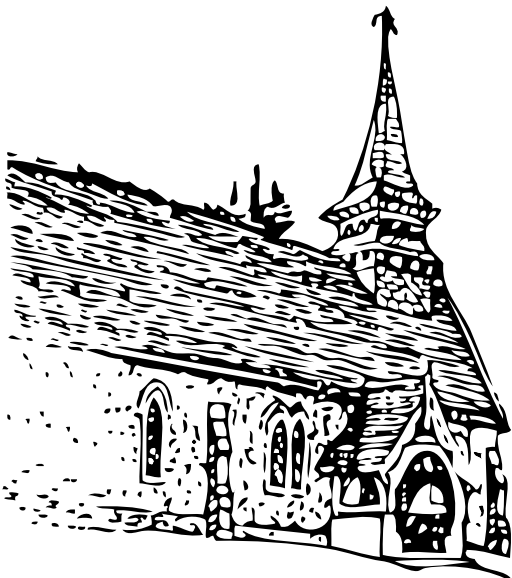
St. Mary's, Herriard



All Saints', Turworth



St. Mary's, Upton Grey



St. Lawrence, Walston Patrick

December
2022

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BENEFICE MAGAZINE – December 2022
Edition for the Parishes of Herriard with Winslade, Tunworth,
Upton Grey and Weston Patrick

From the Benefice Ministry Team

Many years ago Pauline and I were on a sailing trip and were told about a sea cave that was especially worth a visit. It was hard to find, but we were given very detailed instructions that involved getting on a ferry, walking across a small town, and then taking a small row boat to get into the cave itself. We carefully followed all our instructions, and were rewarded with one of the most beautiful sights I have ever seen – a small cave flooded with sunlight via a hole in the rocks which lit up the seawater a deep blue colour.



As we approach Christmas, this memory reminds me of how the Magi – the wise men – followed the star that led them to Jesus. In Matthew’s gospel, we read that they travelled a complicated and circuitous journey from the East, probably a distance of more than 800 miles.



Matthew tells us that “the star they had seen in the East went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house where Jesus was, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.” (Matthew 2:9)

Christmas is a time when we too can ‘follow the star’ and discover the joy of knowing Jesus for ourselves. It is Jesus who came amongst us as a baby – God himself in human form – and it is he who went on to live a perfect, sinless life, but then - out of his great love for each one of us - died on the cross for us.

It’s as we put our trust in him and choose to follow him that all our sins – all that we’ve ever done wrong, all the mess we make of things – are completely forgiven, and we get to live a ‘new’ life of freedom and fullness.

You may have seen posters around that say ‘*Wise men still follow the star*’. Just like the wise men of old who heard the good news of Jesus and took action, so too each one of us can ‘follow the star’ today, by coming to worship him and following him in our own lives.

This Christmas we would like to invite you to come to church, to hear the Christmas story told once again, and to discover afresh the joy and the freedom we discover in Jesus. We’d also like to invite you to bring your friends with you! And to help with this we’ve joined in with a national initiative called ‘Follow the Star – the Great Invitation’.



How about inviting five friends or family to come to church with you sometime over this Christmas season? It’s likely that this will be the best Christmas present you could possibly give them.

Jesus described himself as the “Light of the World”. He is the one who is more powerful than any star in the sky, and who fills our lives – which can often feel dark and difficult – with light and love. He was the one who said “whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Please do come and join us at our church services this Christmas, and discover this light of life for yourself.

And as we ‘follow the star’ together, we wish you a very happy Christmas.

With every blessing,

Rev’d Chris Dudgeon
Vicar, All Saints Church, Odiham
chris@moretolife.church

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism: Primrose Yerbury at All Saints Tunworth on 23rd October

Baptism: Peggy MacPherson at St Mary’s Upton Grey on 6th November

Baptism: Archie Lowndes at All Saints Tunworth on 20th November

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 4th December

9.00am Tunworth – BCP Holy Communion

10.00am Upton Grey – Morning Worship with Baptism

Thursday 8th December

10.00am Upton Grey – BCP Holy Communion (said)

Sunday 11th December

10.00am Upton Grey – CW Holy Communion

10.00am Weston Patrick – Christingle

4.00pm Herriard – Christingle

4.30pm Upton Grey – Christingle

5.00pm Tunworth – Advent Evensong

Thursday 15th December

10.00am Herriard – BCP Holy Communion (said)

Saturday 17th December

5.00pm Weston Patrick – Carol Service

Sunday 18th December

9.00am Tunworth – 1662 Morning Prayer

10.15am Herriard – Carol Service

6.00pm Upton Grey – Carol Service

Wednesday 21st December

5.00pm Herriard – Carol Singing with The Real Nativity

Saturday 24th December

4.30pm Upton Grey – Crib Service

11.30pm Herriard – Holy Communion

Sunday 25th December

10.00am Herriard – Family Service

10.00am Upton Grey – Family Service

10.00am Weston Patrick – Holy Communion

11.00am Tunworth – Carol Service

Please also see the list of all Christmas seasonal services across the benefice, in the News From The Villages section of this magazine.

CHURCH NEWS

Christmas message from the Rector

The Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell has published a short book for Advent called 'Let it Slow'. His basic premise is that many of us live fragmented and frantic lives, that we are often in touch with everyone and everything but have somehow lost touch with ourselves. He notes that at Christmas time the demands and expectations that we experience each day are at their worst.

The Archbishop wonders if Christmas is an opportunity to re-set; an opportunity to draw together the fragments of our lives and live in a more holistic way. Perhaps, he muses, the Christmas story with its joys and promises can help us to put life back together again in a more satisfying and less fragmented way.

My prayer this Christmas is that the reality of God with us – Immanuel – can restore some kind of peace and sense of belonging. That the incarnation might remind us that we are never alone and are always loved by the one who called us into being.

On behalf of the whole of the clergy and ministry team across our 12 churches, may I wish you a truly blessed and joy-filled Christmas.

With love,

Rev Simon Butler

Coffee & Cake Drop-in – Monday December 12th

The fourth of the St Mary's Upton Grey 'Coffee & Cake Drop-in' events is on **Monday 12th December between 10.00am and mid-day in Upton Grey Village Hall**. Tea or coffee, slice of cake, chat – and **now also with the option of soup and a roll!!** Open to all, very informal, no need to book, just turn up. Then in the New Year the plan is for the event to be twice a month, on the second and fourth Mondays.

Carol Singing with The Real Nativity– Wednesday December 21st

Come and sing carols under the stars, and follow the star to the stable to see our real life nativity tableau! **Meet outside the Herriard Hub (RBL Hall) at 5.00pm**. Please see the notice in the Herriard & Winslade News section of this magazine.

New bell ringers sought for St Mary's Upton Grey

Please see the article in the Upton Grey News section of this magazine asking for new bell ringers, with the particular aim of having a self-sustaining band of ringers ready to join the nationwide campaign for every bell tower in the country to ring in the new King at his coronation in May – 'Ring for the King'!



KidsZone

Hi Everyone!

♪♪ It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! ♪♪

Christmas is a wonderful time of year. A time to celebrate in style, an opportunity to get new presents – a much wanted gadget maybe, or a time to get a **lovely** knitted jumper from your great Aunt? It's a time to feast on Turkey and all the trimmings and to pile on the pounds by eating way too much chocolate whilst watching the King's speech and some Christmas special or other...

But what about the real meaning of Christmas? It does tend to get lost in the pile of presents (those wanted and unwanted) and everything else that gets thrown into the Christmas mix nowadays. This Christmas why don't we try to challenge ourselves with what Christmas really means: that Jesus, the son of God, came to our planet as part of God's amazing plan.



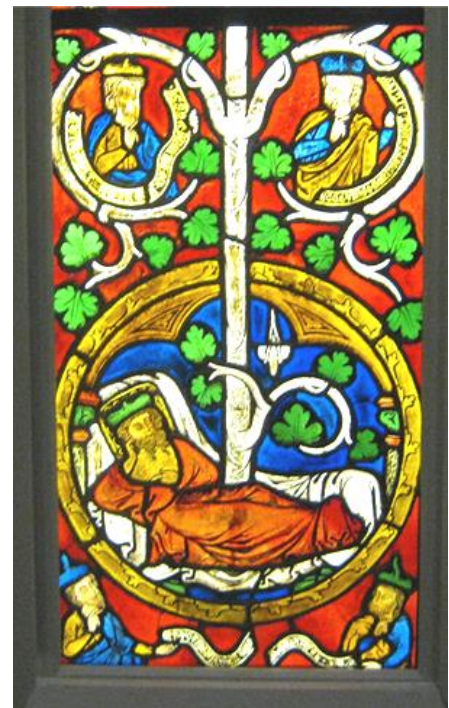
That reminds me of a song, and it's not even a Christmas one.

Follow this QR code to listen to a song you probably know really well – can you hear the bit about God's plan?

Do you know the actions?

It is so easy to neglect Jesus. He's the 'reason for the season' – but it's *so* easy to ignore him! One of the names Jesus is given in the Bible is 'the root of Jesse'. Jesse was King David's dad (remember him?) and from him we get the idea of The Jesse Tree.

Have you ever done one of those? Basically it's using your creativity to represent Jesus' family tree. It starts with Adam and Eve, and goes right through to Mary, Joseph and Jesus himself... This is a stained glass window, where someone has tried to show Jesus' family.



My family has always made ours by going on an Autumn walk, picking up a bare branch, popping it into a tub and then making decorations to represent different people leading up to Jesus.

If you would like to give it a try, Google 'Jesse Tree Symbols' for some ideas, and let your imagination go wild! I'd love to see some pictures of your creations! Just email me on youth@moretolife.church.

In the meantime, happy creating, and I look forward to seeing you over the Christmas season!



What's on

If you are in years 5–8, why not come along to Younger Youth at All Saints Odiham on Thursday evenings between 5.30 and 7.00? Games, chill out zones, crafts, table tennis and tuck.



Aged 11-14 and interested in looking into what you believe in a little more depth? Or maybe hoping to be baptised or confirmed? Why not join Helen at Club 3:16 on a Sunday afternoon in South Warnborough.

CLUB 3:16

A group of young people between 11-14 who want to find out more about **GOD!**

When: 3pm, 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

Where: St Andrew's Church, South Warnborough.

Who: Anyone aged 11-14!

What: Relaxed group where everyone can ask questions about God, the world and, well, just about everything!

Oh, and of course there will be snacks!

more+

For God

LOVED

the **WORLD**,

that **HE** gave

HIS ONLY

SON. JOHN 3:16

Or, if you are aged 11+, come along to United Youth, where we meet with other young Christians around the area every month at a different venue to have some fun, eat lots of snacks and find out a little bit about God!

For more information on any of these activities, get in touch with Helen or the church office at admin@moretolife.church.



Helen Chatfield
Youth Pastor
youth@moretolife.church
07540 140228



NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

Farming News

December on the farm is always a quiet time for us arable farmers with just a few ‘odd jobs’ to do along with washing down machinery before it is stored away for the winter. All the autumn-sown crops are in the ground and have established well so far. The last block of wheat to be drilled was delayed slightly as we were waiting for sewage sludge to be spread onto the fields, which we then turn around and cultivate to mix the manure in.

Since these fields have been cultivated and planted, we’ve had considerable rain; the cultivated top soil acts like a sponge and is very wet under the trees around parts of the headland where less sunlight reaches and on heavier clay soil, but the main part of the field is coping well. After such a long hot summer the soil has dried out considerably and the sub-soil has cracked naturally meaning the soil structure can take/retain that much more water. It seems a distant memory when we were waiting for rain to be able to start planting the oil seed rape back in August.

We were very worried about the OSR in September and into early October as the flea beetle were back with a vengeance this year and were munching their way through the tiny plants that were just emerging. Compared to last year where we planted the OSR from 5th–15th August, this year we were two weeks later due to the lack of rain. This meant the emergence of the plant coincided with the migration of the flea beetle. Thankfully due to the warmer Autumn and early winter the OSR has managed to get some rest from the flea-beetle bite to be able to recover.

All the other crops are looking well albeit with a few tramlines in the wrong place down to the drill operator (me). We plant a mixture cover crops into the fields now that, later, will have spring-sown crops such as maize and barley. These have got away well this year and we’re pleased with how they have grown, so much so that we are planning to graze them lightly with a neighbour’s sheep which will benefit us both. The sheep can fatten up on the nutritious crop and deposit their ‘byproduct’ (muck) back onto the fields. Also this makes it easier to kill off the cover crop in the spring as it is not quite such a big plant to kill. The aim with using cover crops is to plant a mixture of species that have deep roots to break up sub-soil compaction as well as particular plants that hold onto nutrients like Nitrogen, phosphate and potassium, which will benefit the following crop.

Our chickens are now unfortunately under ‘flockdown’ due to the rise in Avian flu across the UK. So we have made up a hard-standing base next to one of the barns to sit the hen house on. We have then netted off one of the sections of the barn and bedded it down with straw to give the hens more room to roam in during the day. The supermarkets are blaming

avian flu for the ‘supply issues’ that they are having, leaving the egg shelves bare. Which in part is correct but only because the cost of production has shot up since the start of the war in Ukraine. Every part of the industry has been affected with rising input costs. Thankfully we are very small producers compared to the farmers supplying supermarkets, who are dictated a price for their eggs regardless of the cost of producing them. Now having to keep the hens shut up means they eat more feed and require bedding as opposed to roaming the grass fields where they would graze the grass and forage on the bugs that live in the grass ley. Due to these increased costs, the farmers can only operate for so long whilst producing eggs at a loss. So inevitably they are getting out of it whilst they can and now the supermarkets are having to import eggs from Europe – complete bonkers when you think of carbon footprints and a secure food supply for the UK. Hopefully they will wake up to the issue and start paying a fair price so we can have British eggs back on the shelves.

Anyway that’s enough ‘preaching’ for now and that just leaves me to wish you all a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year from us all at Hyde Farm.

Will Cheyney

News from Long Sutton C of E Primary School

Our Christmas Fair takes place on Saturday 3rd December, 2.00–4.00pm. The whole community are welcome, so do come along! Christmas trees and wreaths are once again available through our PTA, with the option of local home delivery or collection from school. You can order online at www.longsuttonpta.org.uk. The last date for orders is 1st December.

The Junior Choir are looking forward to singing at various Christmas events over the coming weeks, including ‘Tea@3’ at Long Sutton Village Hall and the switching on of the Long Sutton Christmas lights. They will be special guests at the Deane Sinfonia Winter Concert on Sunday 4th December, in Elizabeth Hall, Hook (see p.17). Do come along to support us; tickets available from school or at the door (£10 single; £20 family).

We have enjoyed welcoming prospective families at our open days during October and November; the highlight is always the school tours, led by our Y6 children. If you have a child due to start school in September 2023 or require a place in another year group, please contact the school office on adminoffice@longsutton.hants.sch.uk or tel: 01256 862238 to book a meeting and tour with me. Applications for Reception 2023 can be made at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions>. The deadline for applying is 15th January 2023.

On behalf of the children and staff, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Hannah Inglis (Headteacher)



Benefice Christmas Service Times 2022



Sunday 11th December

Christingle Weston Patrick 10.00am

Christingle Herriard 4.00pm

Carol Service Greywell 4.30pm

Carol Service

South Warnborough 4.30pm

Christingle Upton Grey 4.30pm

Advent Evensong Tunworth 5.00pm

Saturday 17th December

Carol Service Newnham 4.00pm

Carol Service Weston Patrick 5.00pm

Sunday 18th December

Carol Service Herriard 10.15am

Carol Service Nately Scures 11.00am

Informal Carol Service Odiham 11.00am

Carol Service Odiham 6.00pm

Carol Service Upton Grey 6.00pm

Carol Service Long Sutton 6.30pm

Carol Service Up Nately 6.30pm

Wednesday 21st December

Carol Singing with The Real Nativity

Herriard 5.00pm

Friday 23rd December

Carol Service Mapledurwell 5.00pm

Saturday 24th December

Christingle Odiham 4.00pm

Crib Service South Warnborough 4.30pm

Crib Service Up Nately 4.30pm

Crib Service Upton Grey 4.30pm

Holy Communion

South Warnborough 10.30pm

Holy Communion Odiham 11.00pm

Holy Communion Long Sutton 11.15pm

Holy Communion Herriard 11.30pm

Holy Communion Nately Scures 11.30pm

Sunday 25th December

Family Service Long Sutton 9.30am

Family Service Mapledurwell 9.30am

Family Service Up Nately 9.30am

Family Service Herriard 10.00am

Holy Communion

Weston Patrick 10.00am

Family Service Upton Grey 10.15am

Family Service and Holy Communion

Odiham 10.30am

Family Communion Newnham 10.45am

Family Service Greywell 11.00am

Family Service

South Warnborough 11.00am

Carol Service Tunworth 11.00am

*Wishing you a very happy and blessed Christmas –
from the clergy and ministry team across the North Hampshire Downs Benefice*



UPTON GREY NEWS

www.uptongreychurch.co.uk

www.uptongreyparishcouncil.co.uk

facebook.com/uptongreyvillagecommunity

Upton Grey Village Hall 100 Club Draw.

First prize (26) was won by V Buckley and second prize (107) by C Plant.

Upton Grey Autumn Festival

Many thanks to all sponsors, helpers, attendees and all those who made Guys and Jack o' lanterns for making this year's Autumn Festival another great success. Special thanks to Marcel van Poecke for the use of Hoddington Park, David Janaway for the bonfire, tractor and trailer and Guy Fawkes straw, Michael Church's bell-ringers and, of course, Linda Webb for the spectacular (Merlin) fireworks.

The bonfire burnt well and we had approaching a thousand people to see it, and then watch the fantastic firework display. Our ticket sales were greater than any previous year's.

In total, and despite a sharp increase in the cost of fireworks, we made over £1200 for St. Michael's Hospice and we had a great display of Guys and Jack o' lanterns around the village with Lisa Morgan and Paddington Guy winning our Guy Fawkes cup and Mary Hooker winning our Jack o' lantern cup with the Owl and the Pussycat. **Roger Clark.**

Message of thanks from the Hospice team

Thank you so much to you and the Upton Grey community for supporting St Michael's Hospice with your generous donation of £1218.77, raised at this year's Upton Grey Autumn Festival.

With your donation the hospice can continue to provide the best professional care for our patients and their families at a time when it is truly needed.

The money you have donated is very gratefully received and we thank you very much for your contribution. With best wishes,

Vicki Harty, Supporter Care Officer, St. Michaels' Hospice

Change of Date: Upton Grey Safari Supper 11th March 2023

Please save the date for next year's Safari supper on Saturday 11th March 2023. Could everyone who has been before please invite someone who hasn't. Thank you.

Julia and Viv

Upton Grey Harvest Supper

We would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who contributed to our Harvest Supper last month. 75 of us gathered in the village hall and were treated to delicious homemade cottage pies and apple crumbles. Jamie Raven kindly organised an entertaining quiz, and there was a well-stocked bar and raffle.

Over £1,550 was raised on the night, before Gift Aid, and all proceeds go to St Mary's Church, Upton Grey. Many thanks to all.

The Harvest Supper Team

Christmas Postbox in Upton Grey

From 1st December, the Upton Grey Christmas Postbox will be back in Upton Grey shop. For a donation in aid of St Mary's Church, Upton Grey, the secret elves will deliver your cards around the village.

Given the price of a first class stamp is now 95p, please can we ask for a minimum donation of 50p a card. Just put your cards, together with your donation in a separate envelope, into the box.

The Postbox will be emptied daily by the Chief Elf. Please note that this service is for Upton Grey only! Thank you in advance for your support.

Sarah Barnes, Churchwarden, St Mary's Upton Grey

Coffee and Cake drop in

Upton Grey Village Hall
Monday 12th December
10am - mid-day

(then twice a month in 2023)

Also Soup & a Roll now!!

All welcome



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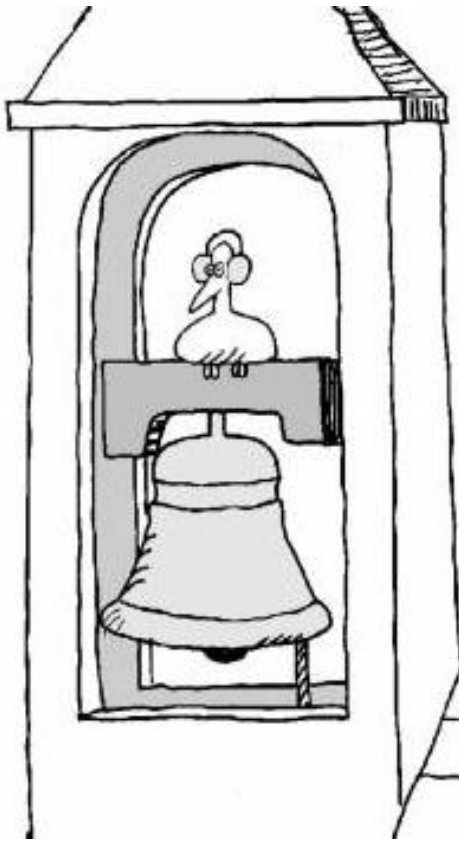
Veg & Fruit market Fri am.

New in-Shop Bakery

St. Mary's Upton Grey – New bell ringers sought for ‘Ring for the King’ – May 2023

You may have heard the bells chime out on a Thursday evening and enjoyed the sound, and now there is another chance (since our last ‘welcome to the bell-ringing tower’ evening) for anyone in the Parish to see what bell ringing is all about.

We are aiming to have a self-sustaining band of ringers ready to ring in the new King at his coronation in May. Nationwide, the aim is to have every single bell tower in the country ringing in King Charles III under a campaign called ‘Ring for the King’



What is involved in ringing in Upton Grey?

- We practise on Thursday evenings for about an hour and are hoping to ring for some Sunday services for half an hour.
- It is a lovely ‘mindful’ activity.
- Everyone can do it; no – you don’t have to be strong, fit or musical (just able to walk about 30 stairs to the bell ringing room).
- It is open to all ages over 10 years old – children welcome
- Everyone will be supervised by experienced ringers and initially have group starter lessons (in a ratio of 1 to 1).
- All can go ‘at their own pace’ in terms of learning.
- We often go to the pub after practices and have fun with ringers’ outings to other towers, quizzes and an annual dinner

If you would like to have a go, we will be holding an open evening on 8th December at 7:30pm at St. Mary’s Church, Upton Grey. Please contact Michael (tower captain) and Rachel (tower secretary) on uptongreybells@gmail.com if you are interested in coming along to see what it’s all about.

Rachel Dulai

Save the date – Upton Grey Fete

The Upton Grey village fete in aid of St Mary’s Church will be held on Saturday 10th June 2023 at 2.00pm. Save the date for this annual village bonanza. We are very grateful to Nick and Rosie Ralls who have very kindly agreed for us to use their beautiful spacious gardens at Sherborne Cottage. More news and requests next year! Thank you.

Frances Yeowart 861218

HERRIARD AND WINSLADE NEWS

www.herriard-pc.gov.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/herriardexservicesclub>

Herriard Village Group on <http://www.Facebook.com>

Herriard Christmas Fair, 11th December, 11.00am till 4.00pm at Herriard Village Hub (RBL Hall)

Lots of stalls including homemade crafts, cards, paintings, jewellery, wooden gifts, refreshments and bar. Everybody welcome, come and see our recent refurbishment. Free entry. Tombola prizes gratefully received. Please contact **Tracy on 07769 220390 for further details**

Herriard Gardening Club

Where has this year gone? Here we are in December with Christmas approaching fast. I think it's been one of the mildest autumns and early winters so far. I think the plants seem to think so too. They are reluctant to stop growing and flowering!

But here are a few jobs you can be getting on with this month.

Jobs for December

1. Carry on collecting leaves from the garden, it reduces viruses and makes great leaf mould!
2. Plant any remaining tulips before Christmas. If they are in the ground, try and plant them as deeply as you can with added drainage.
3. We are all trying to use less plastic, so reuse your pots and labels. Give them a wash now, ready for spring. I reuse plastic vegetable containers as seed trays, just put a few holes on the bottom and they work brilliantly!
3. Hellebores look beautiful in winter and early spring; it's a good time to plant a few. They have deep roots so dig a big hole for them and incorporate some grit and compost to give them a good start.
4. Plant shallot sets close to the shortest day (Dec 21st) and they will be ready to harvest on the longest day (June 21st!)

All the members of Herriard Gardening Club would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a lovely gardening New Year!

Gill Fitt RHS Dip. Dist.

Wednesday 21st December 5.00pm

Herriard Village Carol Singing

 **with Real Life Nativity!** 

**Start outside the Village Hub (RBL Hall, RG25 2PG)
for carols and meet the Angel Gabriel at 5.00pm**

 **Follow the Star to our real life stable for the
Shepherd's Story at Hydes Farmhouse with** 
refreshments and more carols at 5.30pm

**Finish with the final journey to the Fur & Feathers
 to find some Wise Men at 6.30pm** 

Come and sing carols under the stars and follow the star
to the stable to see our real life nativity tableau! Children
welcome to dress up as their favourite nativity character and
join in following the star. Please bring a torch or lantern.

All are welcome!

.....

St Mary's Church Herriard with Winslade

Sunday 11th December – Christingle Service at 4.00pm
a beautiful candlelit service for all the family

Sunday 18th December – Carol Service at 10.15am
with traditional readings and carols

*Please note: a morning service this year so as
not to clash with the World Cup Final!*

Christmas Eve 11.30pm – Midnight Holy Communion

Christmas Day 10.00am – our informal Family Service

*For more information please contact churchwarden Fiona
(fiona@ashmeadow.co.uk 07867 973266)*

TUNWORTH NEWS

Save the date - John Gimlette Talk on Madagascar 7.30pm Monday 23rd January 2023

Tunworth PCC is delighted that the celebrated author and excellent speaker, John Gimlette, will be talking about his book on Madagascar, *The Gardens of Mars*, to raise funds for the church. The event will take place at Mapledurwell & Up Nately Village Hall, Greywell Road. Tickets are £25.00 net of Eventbrite commission. The link is here, or you can google 'John Gimlette talk Mapledurwell' to buy tickets:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/john-gimlette-discusses-his-new-book-about-madagascar-tickets-465656078867>

WESTON PATRICK AND WESTON CORBETT NEWS

Race night

Race night on Saturday 12th November was enormous fun and happily we raised over £1,000 towards our spire repairs.



We had some wonderful outfits ranging from stable hands complete with muddy boots, jockeys and also Ascot Ladies Day best attire. Lots of laughter, lots of new faces and above all much enjoyment. Thank you to all who came.

We are still trying to raise the last bit of money required for the spire and if you have any spare pennies, the go fund me page would love to have them! We are so looking forward to the work being completed and the scaffolding coming down but this has been a very challenging project that has been anything other than straightforward. If you wish to and are able to support us, go to <https://gofund.me/f1ca0c03>

We now look ahead to Christingle on 3rd December and the Christmas Carol service on 17th December at 5.00pm with our wonderful choir. This will be followed by mince pies and drinks at the village hall. All welcome. The collection from the carol service will be donated to Alton Food bank and we continue to collect food just inside the church if you are able to spare anything.

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

Winter Concert - Deane Sinfonia with Long Sutton School Choir– 7.00pm, Sunday 4th December – Elizabeth Hall, Hook

On Sunday 4th December at 7.00pm, Long Sutton School Choir will join Deane Sinfonia orchestra, to perform a mixture of songs and classical music in a Winter Concert at Elizabeth Hall, Hook.

Pieces will include favourites such as Grieg's *Morning* and *In the Hall of the Mountain King*, Bach's *Toccatina and Fugue*, as well as medleys from *The Sound of Music*, *The Mikado* and *Christmas Festival*.

Tickets are available from Long Sutton School: tel 01256 862636 or on the door. £10 single; £20 family ticket. Refreshments available.

St Michael's Hospice Concert: A Musical Celebration of Christmas, Thursday 8th December at All Saints, Odiham

The Friends of St Michael's Hospice are hosting 'A Musical Celebration of Christmas' concert again this year. The concert is being held at All Saints, Odiham on the **8th December**. The doors open at 6.30pm and the concert commences at 7.00pm. This year we have the international award-winning Apollo 5 singers, Chaconne Brass and reading by Brough Scott the author and racing correspondent.

Tickets are for sale via Katharine Jane in Odiham or on the Hospice website www.stmichaelshospice.org.uk/events and cost £30.00 a ticket. The ticket includes canapés, wine and mince pies. The evening last year was a great success, and we look forward to seeing you again this year.

Christmas Concert, All Saints, Odiham, Sun 11th December, 6.00pm

Join the **Jubilee Choir** for a wonderful programme of Christmas readings and music, including *A Ceremony of Carols* by Benjamin Britten. The choir will be conducted by Oliver Tarney and Thomas Edney, with Ben Cunningham playing the organ. Tickets are £20.00, free for under 18s, and are available from www.jubileechoir.com, Katharine Jane in Odiham High Street or Lynn Lymer on 01256 701947.

North Warnborough & District Garden Club

We do not hold a meeting in December. We wish all our members a happy and healthy festive season, and we look forward to seeing everyone again in 2023. Our first meeting of the New Year will be on Thursday 26th January 2023 in North Warnborough Village Hall at 2.30pm. For further information about our club, please visit our website at <https://www.nwdgc.org.uk>



Finishing with a flourish!

As we come to the end of another calendar year it is clear that, post-Covid, many of us are embracing opportunities to get out and socialise. Whatever the mileage on our personal clock, it's fun to learn, laugh and live!

At the end of November, we entertained some of our many new members, with tea/coffee and biscuits in the Odiham and Greywell Cricket Club. It was good to hear how well they had settled in to their new activity groups, better still to hear ideas for groups we could, perhaps, run in the future.

We then entered the festive season with the Greywell Handbell Ringers bringing Christmas sparkle to our monthly meeting. We, of course, had mince pies with our coffee and our traditional free raffle for a Christmas Hamper. Meanwhile our groups spent their last session of the year celebrating in different ways. Many groups had mince pies, stollen and a festive drink, also:

- The Crafts and Chat group shared their Christmas projects;
- The five wine groups came together for a Christmas dinner;
- The MOTO Group (for members on their own) organised a trip to London for a concert and an opportunity to see the Christmas lights.

Have a Merry Christmas and maybe your New Year's resolution will be to try a taster session with one of our 50 groups. If so, we'd love to hear from you! Contact: membership@odihamu3a.org.uk, or our website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/odiham/home>

Basingstoke and District Disability Forum (BDDF)

We wanted to update you with what has been happening at BDDF. We had a relatively quiet summer at BDDF and are now back supporting members with our information service (previously signposting service), running a chronic pain support group as well as our regular community cafes and our new 'All About' events. I have added a link below to our most recent newsletter. <https://mailchi.mp/7b5379035000/bddf-sept-2022-newsletter-6139574?e=20c1988636>

Finally, a Christmas party invite – this is primarily an event for members (as well as supporters) and we are welcoming new members (free) all the time:

It is with pleasure that we invite you to our 2022 Christmas Party! The event will take place on Thursday 1st December between 12.00-14.30pm at Popley Fields Community Centre. We are hoping it will be a fantastic festive party just like last year! There will be nibbles, mince pies and a glass of fizz for all! Please RVSP as soon as possible to secure your place. Eventbrite link below. To RSVP or email me or call 01256 423869. You are welcome to bring a guest, but they must be booked in, and we only have 100 places so be quick!

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bddf-christmas-party-tickets-423220713547?utm_campaign=post_publish&utm_content=shortLinkNewEmail&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eventbrite

We look forward to seeing you all there! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sarah Pinnell,
Service Coordinator Basingstoke and District Disability Forum
sarah@bddf.org.uk



Mothers' Union

As I mentioned, last month, from 25th November to 10th December, Mothers' Union is part of the campaign to raise awareness of gender-based violence. It is shocking that 1 in 3 women worldwide experience domestic or sexual abuse. Cases of domestic violence have increased during lockdown and the pandemic and so there is more need than ever to join together and say 'No more 1 in 3'.

In Odiham, we are supporting this campaign by offering coffee to those walking past Odiham Church around 9.00am on Friday December 2nd and Friday December 9th. Do come and visit us on one of those days to find out more. If the weather is wet, then we will be in the Church Porch.

In January we look forward to our Wave of Prayer. Mothers' Union is based firmly on prayer for our work locally, and also for members in other parts of the world. Mothers' Union divides the year into 3-day periods when we pray for the members and projects of a particular group of dioceses. Winchester diocese has its turn between 12th and 14th January along with Mauritius, Nandyal (South India), Kericho (Kenya), Katsina (Nigeria) and Kumasi (Ghana). We plan to hold a Wave of Prayer service in January 2023 but the details for this have not yet been finalised. If you want to know about our branch or the Mothers' Union, please feel free to contact me.

Sue Murphy, 01252 845011 or sue@the-murphys.me.uk.

Christians Against Poverty – Alton

I'm Steve Hannington and since January 2022 I've been Debt Centre Manager for the Alton branch of the charity, Christians Against Poverty, better known as CAP. We provide free help to anyone, regardless of background, in complete confidentiality.

Unmanageable Debt?

Our free CAP Debt Help Service has been running in the Alton area for over eight years. Over that time, we've got to know over 230 individuals or families locally who've needed help with debt. Most live in social housing and over half are single women, many of them single mums. If their main income is benefits, they may struggle to pay basic bills such as rent, council tax, or water bills – and this is often how they run up debts. We'll help anyone who has debts, whether it's £500 or £50,000 or more. And we don't judge anyone as to why they got into debt in the first place.

With CAP, our approach is to provide compassionate personal support – normally visiting people in their homes. We also offer to pray with them and, if they wish, tell them about Jesus. We achieve this in Alton through a great team of three Debt Coaches and about 25 helpers – all Christians – drawn from 11 local churches. We work with CAP's national headquarters to provide a professional debt service where the charity deals with all of a person's creditors until they get free of debt. In Alton we've succeeded in getting 71 households out of debt so far, which is a huge relief to those people, and several of our client friends have opened their lives to Jesus.

If there's anyone you know in financial difficulty with unmanageable debts, urge them call us on 0800 328 0006 or check out CAP on www.capdebthelp.org.

Out of work?

Since 2021 we have run a free CAP Job Club in Alton, meeting on Tuesday mornings. The Job Club offers practical help to identify strengths and skills, prepare a great CV and practise interview technique. Based on an 8-session course, and with one-to-one support from our trained Job Coaches, we provide a friendly, relaxed environment in which jobseekers can build their confidence and find work.

If there's anyone you know who's out of work and needs support to get a job, urge them to check out CAP on www.capjobclubs.org and call Alastair Smith on 07871 635934.

A life-controlling habit?

Another service that Harvest Church (Alton) provides is called Fresh Start. Fresh Start helps people who want to change a life-controlling habit such as smoking, gambling, over-eating, internet or social media addiction,

shopping compulsions, binge drinking, soft drugs, etc. A free 8-week course, inspired by the Bible and the Twelve Steps of Recovery principles, is led by four trained coaches who also offer 1-to-1 coaching. The group provides a confidential, supportive community where members meet regularly and work through a plan of action in order to break free from these dependencies. We've run ten courses in Alton, and members have successfully tackled habits of smoking, gambling, over-spending, alcohol and drugs.

If you know anyone who wants to tackle a life-controlling habit, encourage them to call Mark Rumsby (07769 030913) or email freshstart@harvestchurch.uk for details.

Ways you can help these ministries:

1) Pray. If you'd like to receive a monthly email with prayer points, contact me. 2) You might wish to join one of our teams as a helper. For further information, or leaflets contact me:

Steve Hannington – 07501 914563 – stevehannington@capuk.org

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust –Time for a ghost hunt?

The clocks have gone back, the nights are drawing in and the weather is on the turn. However, this doesn't mean the chances of seeing wildlife are gone. In fact, this time of year is fantastic for owl spotting.

As we head towards winter, barn owls, for example, will extend their hunting hours into daylight to find the extra food they need to get them through the colder months. These beautiful birds of prey, with their heart-shaped faces and ghost-white feathers, are perhaps one of the UK's most recognisable and cherished birds.

Barn owls can be spotted gliding through farmland, grassland, marshes, fens and cattle-grazed coastal fields, and they will even hunt alongside busy main roads. Masters of stealth, these predatory birds have evolved many impressive adaptations that make them expert hunters of small mammals. An old country name for this much-loved countryside bird is 'hushwing', which perfectly describes its silent, stealthy flight that helps it ambush unsuspecting prey. This smooth, ghostly, near-silent flight is achieved thanks to the trailing edge of its wing feathers being covered in soft, comb-like serrations that trap air and absorb noise.

Barn owls have incredible eyesight, too, which is specialised for hunting at night in total darkness – it's estimated their eyes are twice as sensitive to light as human eyes. They also possess camouflaged plumage, plus long legs and toes and sharp talons for snaring prey lurking in deep grass. Their heart-shaped facial discs, meanwhile, help funnel sound into a pair of highly sensitive inner ears that allow the birds to detect tiny

movements at ground level. In fact, barn owls are thought to have the most sensitive hearing of any animal in the world. Interestingly, unlike other owls, which hoot, barn owls make eerie screeching and hissing noises.

Generally, the best time to see them is at dawn and dusk on still, dry days. With such soft feathers, barn owl plumage isn't particularly waterproof and so they tend to avoid hunting during rainfall.



Barn owls are also known as 'hushwing' due to their silent flight © Danny Green_2020VISION

In our region, Hockley Meadows Nature Reserve in Winchester and Farlington Marshes Nature Reserve near Portsmouth are known to attract barn owls – the latter also hosts winter migrant short-eared owls.

Always remember to watch and photograph birds responsibly by keeping a good distance from wildlife, leaving no trace, and keeping dogs on leads at all times when visiting nature reserves.

To learn more about barn owls and other local wildlife, visit the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust website at www.hiwwt.org.uk

**Jake Kendall-Ashton, Senior Communications Officer
(Publications & Media), Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust**

Message from local MP Ranil Jayawardena

What a year it has been! Upton Grey, Tunworth, Herriard and Weston Patrick, like the rest of North East Hampshire, will have experienced some great highs and lows this year. For me, this was epitomised by our joyful celebrations of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee in June, juxtaposed with the sadness that we collectively felt as a nation, after Her Late Majesty's sad death in September. On occasions like these our communities across North East Hampshire mean more to us than ever.

These are challenging times. I know how difficult the last year has been for some local families and businesses following the pandemic, and I've continued to receive an unprecedented level of correspondence from constituents this year. Whilst I prioritise cases of the utmost urgency throughout, I deal with every piece of correspondence from constituents as soon as possible. My team and I have worked on 11,000 individual cases in the last year alone – excluding all the other emails that come in about policy from lobbyists and others – so the hard work continues.

I have seen – from the inside – Ministers and civil servants across HM Government working to support the public too and, whilst I am no longer part of HM Government, I will continue to put pressure on Ministers to deliver. By way of an example, you can read the Parliamentary Questions I posed to HM Government prior to my appointment as a Minister, and since, at: bit.ly/ranilasks

From May 2020 to this September, it was a privilege to serve as Minister for International Trade, where I worked to back British businesses around the world, bulldozed 400 trade barriers, and secured trade deals. Between us, the then Trade Secretary – Liz Truss – and I reached free trade agreements with 71 countries around the world.

I am very grateful to her for appointing me as Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on being made Prime Minister and, though we've had international economic challenges to deal with, I am pleased to have laid the groundwork to 'free our farmers' and to continue protecting our environment. After much work in my tenure, my successor will now be able to take forward the plans set in motion.

Heading into 2023, we have much to be thankful for, and much to look forward to. I will continue to work hard for the people of Upton Grey, Tunworth, Herriard, Weston Patrick and beyond, where it continues to be an enormous honour to serve as your local Member of Parliament.

Should you need assistance, I am here for you, so do get in touch: email@ranil.uk.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful 2023.

SMALL ADS NOVEMBER

Colin Darnell for logs, sourced from locally managed and sustainable woodlands: 01256 460430 or 07796012718

Game Meat. Breast-only packs: Pheasant 5 per pack £6, Partridge 10 per pack £6, Pigeon 10 per pack £5. Oven-ready whole Partridge 2 birds for £4. Oven-ready whole Pheasant 2 birds for £6. Venison to order (price on application). Contact Robert 07557 054844.

Christmas food to order Make Christmas a little easier this year by ordering some family favourites to have in the fridge/freezer for when you just want to pop something in the oven and enjoy some family time. All food comes in oven-proof foil trays with full cooking instructions. Free delivery within the local area on 22nd December. Please see www.franwithapan.com for menus, pricing and ordering info or call/text 07889916121.

The Christmas Barn, Hartley Wintney at West Green Fruits, Hartley Wintney RG27 8LP. Open from November 24th, 9.00am to 5.00pm every day for locally-grown trees, wreaths, decorations etc. For information and assistance, please visit www.westgreenfruits.com and follow the Christmas link to www.christmasbarnhartleywintney.co.uk or call 01252 845772

Chiropodist, Friendly and professional, available to care for all your foot care needs, in the comfort of your own home. Contact Danielle Stacey on 01256 354854/07927614335

HALLS FOR HIRE

Upton Grey Village Hall can be hired at a basic rate of £10 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 01256 862681 email: ajhanbury@btinternet.com.

The Royal British Legion Hall, 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, contact Tracy Crawford on 07769 220390 or email bookings.herriardrbllhall@gmail.com.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – December 2022

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

DECEMBER DATES

3rd Dec	Sat	Long Sutton Primary School Christmas Fair	2.00–4.00pm
4th Dec	Sun	Deane Sinfonia Winter concert, Elizabeth Hall, Hook	7.00pm
8th Dec	Sun	Bell-ringing Open evening, St Mary's, Upton Grey	7.30pm
8th Dec	Thu	St M's Hospice Christmas Concert, All Saints, Odiham	7.00pm
11th Dec	Sun	Herriard Christmas Fair, Village Hub, Herriard	11.00–4.00
11th Dec	Sun	Jubilee Choir concert, All Saints Odiham	6.00pm
12th Dec	Sun	Coffee & Cake drop-in, Upton Grey Village Hall	10–12noon
21st Dec	Wed	Carol Singing and 'Real life' Nativity, Herriard Hub	5.00pm

ADVANCE DATES

23rd Jan	Mon	Madagascar Talk, Mapledurwell Village Hall	7.30pm
11th Mar	Sat	Upton Grey Safari Supper	
15th Apr	Sat	Upton Grey Spring Horticultural Show	
10th June	Sat	Upton Grey fete, Sherborne Cottage, Upton Grey	2.00pm
12th Aug	Sat	Upton Grey Summer Horticultural Show	

REGULAR EVENTS

2nd & 4th Mon	Upton Grey Bridge Club (not summer)	7.30pm
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	10.00am
Each Tues	Prayer group, 4 Little Hoddington	5.00pm
Each Thu	Coffee, Tea & Cake Morning, RBL, Herriard	10–12noon

PARISH MAGAZINE COPY DEADLINE

Please note that the copy deadline for the January issue is the earlier date of 9th December.

Please send news and contributions to uptongreymagazine@gmail.com. Your editors for December were Tess Chevallier and Nick Willmer (Church). Your editor for January is Nick Willmer.

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.

UPTON GREY VILLAGE SHOP

Tel: 01256 862326 (Shop)

shopuptongrey@btconnect.com

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THE VILLAGE SHOP

RANGE OF GOODS

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Shop Opening Hours

8am – 6pm Mon to Sat

8 am – 1pm Sun

Fresh Fruit & Veg market,

Fridays 8am-1pm