

PARISH MAGAZINE



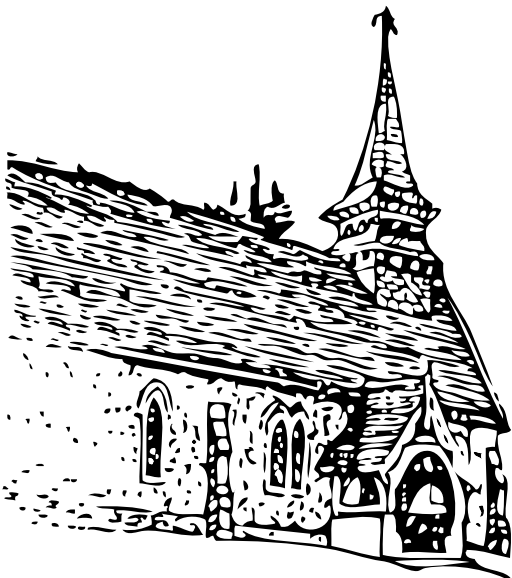
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All Saints', Turworth



St. Mary's, Upton Grey



St. Lawrence, Westcott Patrick

March
2021

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BENEFICE MAGAZINE – March 2021
Edition for the Parishes of Herriard with Winslade, Tunworth,
Upton Grey and Weston Patrick

Letter from the Ministry Team

John Betjeman's poem 'The Hon Sec' tells how the flag of a golf club flies at half-mast because the secretary has died. The poem goes on to tell of the man's affection for the course, the surrounding countryside, a glass of whisky, a game of cards and his garden. It hints at all the good things he has done "The Times would never have the space for Ned's discreet achievements" but the lines which hit me when I re-read the poem recently are the last because they are so true "It's strange that those we miss the most are those we take for granted."



On New Year's Day, I had a forceful reminder of just how easy it is to take things for granted, things which really matter. At lunch time I turned on the tap taking it for granted that the kettle would be full in a second or two and there was nothing – not a single drop. Fortunately, the supply was only interrupted for a short time, whilst a main was being repaired, but it really brought home to me how much what I took for granted mattered – how my life would be impacted without it.

One-offs which add a spice to our lives are exciting and memorable but perhaps what we've discovered during this year of pandemic is that the things we miss the most, the things which really matter are the everyday things; above all the everyday people, the people who we socialise with, the people who we meet, almost without thinking, at various activities – those we take for granted.

No one can deny the importance of the water which normally gushes out of our taps and in a way the fact that we take this for granted is a compliment to our water supply system; we would hate to be in the situation where day after day we were reminded of water's importance by its absence – that's why the absence of the familiar, the taken for granted, has come so hard in the pandemic.

Our everyday living is built around the mundane; the ordinary. The word mundane has its root in the Latin word for 'the world' and it can mean earthly. It's easy to take the earth in which things grow for granted too but we would literally be nowhere without it.

The word from which this season of Lent takes its name is quite simply the Anglo-Saxon word for spring – a time of growth. We quite often think of Lent as a time for giving things up, but the reason for giving something up is to give something else the space to grow. This, though, has been a year for an enforced giving up, and what I think I've seen grow is an increased appreciation of and thankfulness for those things and people, that in normal times are taken for granted - because they are normally what makes up a large part of my world.

One thing which is there for us day by day 'new every morning' is the love of God in Christ. We may not acknowledge its existence, we may take it for granted but it is there, there with the capacity to enable the ordinary to become extraordinary. Lent gives us the opportunity, if we will, to let it be the earth in which we can grow up in love. My grandparents never had the flow of water cut off; for water you went out into the yard to the pump and up it came crystal clear, cold and refreshing even on the hottest day. The love of God is like that – a fountain of water springing up to eternal life, there for the asking, but so easily taken for granted.

Alan Hoar

Licensed Lay Minister

North Hampshire Downs Churches

CHURCH NEWS

North Hampshire Downs churches – services in March

As we go to press, we are very much hoping that at the beginning of March we will be able to resume worship services in our churches around our network. This is very dependent on a number of factors to ensure everyone's safety, and we will monitor closely whether schools are able to re-open for all pupils in early March, whether the vaccination programme continues as planned, and whether cases of Covid-19 continue to fall. Full details of church, service and times are shown on our website, www.moretolife.church, so please do check there regularly to keep abreast of the latest information.

Revd Linda Scard

Associate Minister

North Hampshire Downs Benefice



KidsZone

Hi Everyone! As I write this, many of you will be taking part in the National School Birdwatch. I look outside and I can still see a dusting of snow from storm Darcy and a cluster of birds fighting over the scraps on the bird feeder in our garden. I wonder how many different birds you saw on your birdwatch in the garden. Did you go on a bird hunt? I wonder if you've ever tried going on a bird hunt in the Bible...?

God uses birds a lot in the Bible – let's look at just a few.



Do you recognise the bird in this picture? It's a dove. Some of you might remember the story of Noah's ark. After the storm had passed, when Noah wanted to check for land, he sent out birds. The dove came back with a twig in its mouth and Noah recognised a sign of hope. Can you think of another time God uses a dove in the Bible? Why not look up Matthew 3:16, and see what else the dove can represent in the Bible.

I'm sure you recognise this bird – of course! It's the robin: Britain's favourite bird! But did you know the legend of its red breast? On that first Christmas, it is said, the night was wrapped in a bitter chill. The small fire in the stable was nearly out, and the Mary worried that her baby would be cold, so she turned to the animals about her and asked them for help.



Suddenly, Mary heard a fluttering of little wings. Looking up, she saw a plain, brown-coloured little robin fly into the stall. He went over to the dying fire and flapped his wings hard. He continued to fan the fire, singing all the while, until the ashes began to kindle. With his beak, the robin picked up some fresh, dry sticks and tossed them into the fire. As he did, it suddenly burst into flame and burned the little bird's breast a bright red. But the robin simply continued to fan the fire until it crackled brightly and warmed the entire stable. The Baby Jesus slept happily. Mary thanked and praised the robin for all he had done. She looked tenderly at his red breast, burned by the flame, and said "From now on, let your red breast be a blessed reminder of your noble deed." And, to this day, the robin's red breast covers his humble heart.



And finally, for now, the eagle. The eagle plays a starring role in my favourite Bible verse - Isaiah 40:31. *“Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow tired; they will walk and not be faint.”*

What an appropriate verse for us at the moment, as we trudge through the last days of lockdown, tired and a bit fed up... Keep soaring!

The snow may have melted, but the birds still need feeding - why not try this super easy bird food?

- Toast some wholemeal bread
- Use a cookie cutter to make a hole in the slice.
- Spread it with peanut butter
- Stick seeds and berries onto the peanut butter and hang on a nearby tree. Added bonus? As long as you use seeds from the food cupboard, you can join in with the birds and have a yummy, healthy snack!



Helen Chatfield (Youth Pastor)
youth@moretolife.church
07540 140228



NEWS FROM THE VILLAGES

Warning to all Dog Owners

Sadly, a dog who walked in Upton Grey has died from Alabama Rot. The owner walked around The Hoddington Estate, The Dower House field off Cemetery Lane and Weston Patrick. It is important to act quickly with this disease so if you see any new lesions on your dog please call your vet as soon as possible. It is thought that it is picked up on paws and legs on muddy walk so always wash off the mud. Please look at www.vets4pets.com/alabama-rot for more information. Jane Hanbury.

Police Report from PC Andy Reid

Dear residents, I am appealing for any information in relation to an attempt to break into a car parked in Bagmore Lane, Herriard between 4:30 pm January 28th and 12:00 on the 29th. We have also had a number of plates stolen from two cars parked in Winslade lay-by whilst people out walking.

I also wish to reiterate yet again the requirements for dog owners to keep their dogs on leads when near farm livestock. I am currently dealing with three dog attacks on sheep resulting in seven ewes being killed, three others have aborted their lambs, and one other which was severally bitten and is undergoing treatment. In one case a dog literally ran over $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to get at a flock of sheep. **Farmers do have the right to shoot any dog found in the act of worrying livestock on agricultural land.** Every dog owner **MUST** keep their dog under proper control when in the countryside. You may not even be aware that a flock of sheep could be in the next field out of sight. Any dog, despite what most people say, will chase sheep given the chance.

Whilst I am pleased to report a lack of reported crime within the parishes of this magazine; the main problem we are experiencing is **various scams.**

One recently was a resident in Ellisfield having a man stating he was from the Oxfordshire Police. Usual story had a person in custody for fraud of the resident's bank card, can you confirm the details, in this case ask for a contact number and say you will call 101 later today to be put back to them. **DO NOT** call anyone back at that time as they will keep their phone line open and you will end up speaking to the same group. If you can get a telephone number put it through Google as frequently it is known for scams. Nearly a third of all fraud is committed over the telephone; criminals can impersonate your bank, the police, tax office, investment or software companies and other trusted organisations. They will try to convince you to part with your money. Hang up on cold calls from any business/authority, then 'Take Five' to check it out as genuine via a trusted source. The three most common scams are: 1. Your computer has a problem 2. A fraud investigation 3. An investment opportunity.

Fraudster's Tactics

1. Disguising Numbers. Criminals can disguise their phone number to make it look like it is from a bank, the tax office, the police... or anyone. They can call you with what looks like a genuine phone number. They will keep your landline open by not hanging up and even play a dialing tone over the phone.

They can text messages requesting you call them, or click on a link. These messages usually appear in the same text thread as genuine messages. And send website links which can steal your data and money when you click on them. Never trust the caller ID.

2. A ‘computer problem’. Criminals may call and claim that there are problems with your computer or internet. They claim to be your computer manufacturer, telephone or internet service provider and suggest they can help you. They instruct you to download a program which gives the criminal remote access to your computer. They can then access your bank. If you receive a call like this hang up. ‘Take Five’ and verify via a trusted method, not via numbers given in the call. TO REPEAT, never allow anyone to remotely access your computer. Do not download software on the request of a phone caller. A genuine service provider will never call you out of the blue regarding issues with your computer. If you are having issues with your computer, contact the retailer you purchased it from. If you are having problems with your internet connection, contact your internet provider.

3. ‘Fraud Investigation’. ‘Your bank account has been compromised’. Criminals may call and claim to be from your bank, the tax office or police and claim there is a problem with your bank account. They often state that there are corrupt staff at your bank, or criminals have cloned your bank cards, and request your assistance with the investigation. If you receive a call like this hang up. ‘Take Five’ and verify via a trusted method, not via numbers given in the call. Your bank, the tax office or the police will never ask you to transfer or withdraw money or buy items on their behalf. Your bank, the tax office or the police will never attend your home to collect your cash, bank cards or ask for your pin. Speak to friends or family, if you are unsure. Never share your PIN with anyone. Not even by tapping it into the keypad on your phone - if you receive a call like this hang up. ‘Take Five’ and verify via a trusted method, not via numbers given in the call. Never allow anyone to remotely access your computer. Do not download software on the request of a phone caller. A genuine service provider will never call you out of the blue regarding issues with your computer. If you are having issues with your computer, contact the retailer you purchased it from. If you are having problems with your internet connection, contact your internet provider. Genuine investment companies will not cold call you. Don’t be pressured into making a quick decision and seek impartial financial advice before committing to any investment. There are no ‘get rich quick’ schemes. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

When investing with genuine companies, research what you have been offered and the investment company. Speak to the Financial Conduct Authority if you have concerns. Call 0800 111 6768 or visit www.fca.org.uk. Scammers / fraudsters can call you to persuade you to invest in all kinds of products, including diamonds, wine or art. They offer low risk and high rates of return, claiming it's a once in a lifetime opportunity and you'll have to act quickly. If you do invest, the criminals will often request further 'transport' and 'storage' costs. These investments do not exist.

Always report scams and fraud to **Action Fraud**, either online at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by telephone on 0300 123 2040. Every report assists police investigations, provides intelligence, informs national alerts that protect all communities, disrupts criminals and reduces harm. Contact police directly on 101 or 999 in an emergency. Forward any scam text messages to Ofcom on 7726 (free of charge). All major phone companies provide a call blocker service. This should help screen out most phone scams.

5 things to look out for on a scam phone call:

1. The caller does not give you time to think, tries to stop you speaking to a family member or friend or is insistent and makes you feel uncomfortable.
 2. The caller asks you to transfer money to a new account.
 3. They phone to ask for your 4-digit card PIN or your online banking password. Even if they ask you to give it to them by tapping into the telephone keypad rather than saying the numbers out loud, this is a scam.
 4. They ask you to withdraw money to hand over to them for safe keeping.
 5. They may say that you are a victim of fraud and offer to send a courier to your home to collect your cash, PIN, payment card or cheque book. For more information, please visit <https://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/advice/>
- This is just a brief guide on what to / not to do when someone calls you.

Many thanks

Andrew REID, Local Constable Police Constable 3746 Rural Beat
Constable Police Office, Preston Candover

T: 01256 389050

M: 07768 776844

Email: andrew.reid@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

More Doggy Issues....

In Herriard, we had a dog without any collar or lead escaped from owner for 2 weekend days in a row. This creates unnecessary nuisance to residents, and potentially other animals and livestock. Please ensure all pets are collared, with contact details when roaming outside, and kept under control as elderly people, joggers, horse riders and walkers, can all find it a nuisance and often causes distress if a dog jumps up at them, when they are not kept under control on a lead on footpaths, bridleways etc. Added to that, bags of dog dirt attached to branches are a further complete environmental nuisance. Do you expect some person to go round clearing them up after you? Take your dog dirt bags home with you.

News from Long Sutton C of E Primary School

It has been quite a challenging start to the year for the whole school community, since the announcement that schools would close to all but critical workers and vulnerable children from 5th January. I have so much admiration for the creativity of the staff, the positivity of the children and the support of the parents and carers. We are proud of the Remote Education we have been able to offer, especially as a very small school, which includes live sessions and recorded lessons for all classes; the teachers even have their own YouTube channels!

We have held a daily, live assembly so that the whole school community have the opportunity to be together virtually, covering themes such as gratitude, dealing with worries, serving others and Children's Mental Health week. On top of all this, we have remained open for our critical worker and vulnerable families, welcoming about 30% of our children into school across each week.

We have one bubble for each of our 4 classes, and our support staff team are doing an incredible job of facilitating the remote education for all children in school, whilst the teachers focus on providing high quality provision for all children, whether at home or in school.

Times of crisis can often bring out the best in people and this has certainly been the case in our local area. We have a few organisations to thank for the support they have shown our school and our families:

- **Hook & Odiham Lions**, who have provided laptops to some of our families so that every child can access our online education
- The local **Food Banks**, who have provided support to many local families in financial need, by opening their doors and also providing food boxes over holiday periods

- The ‘More to Life’ network of churches have, once again, shown great generosity to us by donating Helen Chatfield’s time to help run two of our school bubbles.

Thanks to everyone in the local community who support these organisations; your donations really do make a difference.

Birds. As a Trailblazer School, we are always looking for opportunities to get outdoors to discover the beauty of the natural world and to care for the environment and wildlife. In the final week before our half term break, we enjoyed a whole school Trailblazer week on the theme of ‘Birds,’ linked to the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. The children learned how to identify many British Birds, made bird feeders, took part in a collaborative birdwatch and enjoyed a painting workshop over Zoom.

There were also many other ‘Bird-themed’ activities. We recorded the results of our Bird Survey across and beyond our catchment area. We challenged the children to look for the following common species, and thought you might be interested to see our results of the number of each species seen:

Magpies	31	Song Thrushes	27
Pied Wagtails	28	Wood Pigeons	31
Goldfinches	29	Blue Tits	30
Grey Wagtails	28	Woodpeckers	28
Collared Doves	29	Great Tits	29
Wrens	28	Crows	29
Blackbirds	34	Jays	28
Sparrows	28	Dunnocks	28
Pigeons	32	Goldcrests	28
Robins	34	Greenfinches	28
Coal Tits	29	Long Tailed Tits	28
Chaffinches	29	Starlings	30

In addition, we also had sightings of Red Kites, Nuthatches, Pheasants, Kestrels, Moorhens, Common Gulls, Jackdaws, Bullfinches, Nightingales, Fantail Doves, Buzzards & Partridges! We are having to do things very differently in the current circumstances for any prospective families, as we cannot welcome visitors into school in the usual way, but we are still very happy to offer a telephone conversation with our Headteacher and, when it is safe to do so, a covid-safe tour. The school office is open 8am – 4pm Mon to Fri: 01256 862238 or please email: adminoffice@longsutton.hants.sch.uk. Hannah Inglis, Headteacher.

UPTON GREY NEWS**www.uptongreychurch.co.uk****www.uptongreyparishcouncil.co.uk****facebook.com/uptongreyvillagecommunity/****Upton Grey Harvest Supper: Save the Date: Sat Sep 25th**

Upton Grey's Harvest Supper, in aid of St Mary's Church will be held on Saturday 25th September. Fingers Crossed! Further details will be will sent out in due course. Adele Dunkley

Upton Grey Tennis News: April, June and August!***Junior Tennis Coaching Courses - Ages 3-15 Years***

All being well with COVID19 restrictions, we hope to run the Junior Tennis Coaching this year, during the Easter and summer holidays. The provisional dates are as follows:

- Easter Holidays: Tuesday 13th - Friday 16th April
- Summer Holidays: Monday 9th - Friday 13th August

Please email me at slivingstonbooth@gmail.com, Susannah Livingston Booth, if you are interested in your child/children signing up for the Easter course and I will let you know if it is going ahead, once we have confirmation. So please do not pay for the course at this stage.

Tennis Mix-In Evening: Thursday 24th June: Time: 6pm

Meet at the Upton Grey Tennis Court. For ages 16 and over. All abilities welcome! Many thanks, Susannah Livingston Booth, Tennis Committee Member, M: 07957 401174

Upton Grey Open Gardens Charity Event: June?

I hope to organise another Open Gardens in Upton Grey, preferably the first week of June when the roses are out. If you are able to take part, or would like more information, don't hesitate to contact me; I would be happy to let you know the format. It would be wonderful to have some gardens that have not been opened before. **Margaret Haynes**

Upton Grey Toddler Group

We have been unable to open for almost a year now, due to COVID, and being unable to use the Hall. I have taken the decision that after 26 years at the helm, I am retiring from running the group. Would anybody be interested in taking it over? Please email me if you're interested, ideally it needs a few people to spread the load but I ran it by myself for a long time. Victoria Williams-Smith, tillyws@aol.co.uk

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Upton Grey Horticultural Society – Spring Show - Cancelled

As we have don't know how things are going to pan out with the pandemic, we have taken the decision to cancel our Spring Show due to take place in April. June Hunt, Secretary

Have an Old Computer? Help a Hardworking Student!

With remote learning now in full swing, it is more than ever essential for children to have a computer at home. This is just a reminder about Lions Club's scheme to recycle old computer equipment to support deserving students and school children. Do you have a spare computer or computer equipment that we can collect from your doorstep? If so – or if you have any queries – please contact me. I can arrange to collect from you, and the team will then clear it of data, recycle it and deliver it to someone who can really benefit from your generosity. Many thanks. Alison Barker (Cleves Lane), Email: alison12345@btinternet.com
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HERRIARD AND WINSLADE NEWS

www.herriard-pc.gov.uk

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

Herriard Gardening News - March

This is the Month when things start to get really exciting, especially on the veg plot. It's the first month when outdoor and indoor seed sowing can get under full steam! Do not overdo it, and keep an eye on the weather conditions. It is far better to sow most vegetables little and often, rather than all in one go. That way you will have a succession of crops, rather than a glut. Have cloches and fleece ready to cover seedlings, if a frost is forecast, it will give up to 5 degrees C of frost protection.

Here are a few tips to keep you busy this Month.

1. Finish rose pruning and give them a feed to encourage strong growth.
2. Last chance to plant bare-root fruit trees and bushes.
3. Mulch all fruit crops with well-rotted manure, or a potassium rich feed for heavy cropping fruit.

4. Try to avoid digging in really wet weather. If gardening on wet soil, work from a plank of wood to spread your weight and avoid treading on the bed and compacting the soil, or you could damage the soil structure.
5. Lawns could do with a Spring scarification to remove old, compacted thatch, and a spring feed.
6. Continue to chit potatoes ready for planting at the end of the month.

Gardening is the best medicine for stress and the rewards for time spent is always a joy! So, enjoy this month, it is a busy one! *Gill Venning.*

Farming Monthly News

Things have been fairly steady on the Arable farming side of things the last couple of months, and where changing a few lightbulbs in the grain store, and tidying the workshop, was as exciting as it got. We have just completed, and passed, our 'Red tractor' farm assurance audit, where we have to provide information about how we grow/store/sell our crops to meet the standards that are required to be able to sell our grain at the top of the market. The process has been a little different this year due to the pandemic. Previously, we have had an inspector visiting the farm to show around the grain stores (as well as where we store fertilisers and sprays) and also showing our records of all the applications we have done to each crop. Instead, we have had to upload documents and records onto an online portal, and FaceTime our assessor for the farm walk. This is actually a lot more efficient in hindsight, but just still seems very strange.

We also had the good news that we have been accepted onto a mid-tier Country Stewardship Scheme last month. Which is a 5-year scheme where we will be planting a few different mixtures of plants which will provide food for wild birds during the winter as well as a mix of flowering plants in the spring/summer to encourage pollinators. On the sheep front, we sold some finished (fat) lambs at Salisbury livestock market, making surprisingly good prices, which is down to a couple of things. Firstly, the lamb market has shot up after the threat of a no deal Brexit, causing a lot of sheep farmers to sell their livestock completely, as it is a market that heavily relies on export. Indeed, we could have seen heavy tariffs, so there is less lamb being produced in the UK. Secondly, there is also less New Zealand lamb coming over to the UK, as it is being sent to China instead.

Now the days are starting to draw out, we are hoping it won't be long until we can make a start with work out in the fields. We have got our fertiliser spreader test lined up for this week as well, this is to ensure the fertiliser we are applying to the crops are spread evenly and the machine is in good working order, fairly similar to an MOT test for your car. Roll on the Spring! Will Cheyney

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

Basingstoke & District Disability Forum (BDDF) – March 26th

Disability Awareness Day Friday 26th March – Free to attend, online & on Radio Event. BDDF is your local friendly disability charity invite you to the Disability Awareness Day. This year the event will be held online on Friday March 26th. Please share this information with friends and family who may benefit. The day will be full of video updates from local disability charities and support groups, each providing a current service update. Main themes for the day are Mental Health Wellbeing and Tackling Isolation. The two topics you told us are most important as per our lockdown survey. Full itinerary available on our website soon and also includes interactive sessions for both children and adults. The day will be split into sections, you chose which ones you want to join live and all can be watched later via our website. Between 10-12pm you can also join us Live on HHCR, Basingstoke Community radio. Please Tune in! All other sessions are available via Facebook & You-Tube. If you have difficulty accessing the internet, please contact us on Signposting@bddf.org.uk to see how we can help. Free to attend. For more information, please get in touch, Telephone: 01256 423869, log on at: www.bddf.org.uk or check us out on Facebook.

Our Lockdown One Members’ survey reinforced that the ‘digital divide’ exists between ‘the younger generation’ and those of our members who are either ‘older’ and / or living with a disability. Fifty percent of respondents admit they lack confidence, and/ or don’t have access to internet / technology. With 75% of our respondents citing the biggest challenges they faced during lockdown 1.0 were around psychological distress, mental health, social isolation and loneliness, it supports our concerns that confidence and access to digital equipment is leading to increased feelings of isolation and mental health issues.

What we can offer:

- If the barrier is around confidence / know-how we can help you use your personal devices, and our newsletter can be posted out to you
- A regular ‘care call’ to say hello and see how you are doing, with one of our volunteers
- Disability signposting service, connecting you with what is out there to assist you with your queries
- Our walking clubs for health and social interaction - as soon as they are permitted to resume
- Family friendly Scarecrow Trail around Chineham and Sherfield Park on 24th/25th July

- Face to face support groups / coffee mornings (again when allowed)
- Our weekly seated yoga class is currently online only but we will be back in person when possible.

Your local disability charity wants to reach out to you and keep you connected if you do not have access to technology. As with most charities and businesses, BBDF adapted quickly to the Covid pandemic in March 2020, by swiftly moving our services online and concentrating on fun and interactive activities. Our activities are free and fully inclusive. If you want to know more about any of our work please call 01256 423869, it is a voicemail, leave your details (home address, name & telephone number) and we will contact you. If you can receive emails and want to know more email on info@bddf.org.uk. From Amanda, Sarah, Ani & the Trustees.

Odiham Voluntary Care Group

Just to let you know the Care Group operates as normal, during Lockdown, covering Odiham and the surrounding villages. We continue to provide transport to medical appointments, and Covid vaccinations for those in the community who don't have transport available from family or friends. If you need help, please contact us on 07551 587862. You may get an answerphone but just leave a message and we will get back to you. David Woodward - February 2021

North Hampshire Downs Mothers' Union: Prisoner Support

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 16th March via Zoom, when we will be in Lent. The subject of our meeting has not yet been decided, but do contact me if you would like to know more. A number of Mothers' Union members help in the Visitors' Centre in Winchester Prison, when that Centre is able to open. We also support the Angel Tree project which provides Christmas presents for the prisoners in Winchester Prison to send to their children. Last year we were happy to provide 20 Christmas gifts to the charity Spurgeons who lead this work in the prison. In March, we will also provide cards and stamps for prisoners to send to their mothers for Mothers' Day. This is a small but important way to support the prisoners and help them to keep in touch with their families. We know that prisoners who have the support of their families when they leave prison are much less likely to reoffend. If you want to find out more about Mothers' Union or our branch, please contact Sue Murphy on sue@the-murphys.me.uk or 01252 845011.



Morland Choristers' Camp Sunday 25 July to Sunday 1 August 2021

A residential course for young singers aged 9 to 17 years. The adventure starts here...we hope...Plans are progressing for Morland Choristers' Camp to go ahead this year, as we try to celebrate our postponed 50th anniversary. Young people have lost out so much over the past year, and although our plans may well be derailed, we go forward in hope. Since 1970, over 3,000 children and parents have discovered the magic of Morland – a unique blend of music-making and 'summer camp' activities in the stunning countryside of the Eden Valley, near the Lake District. Our all-inclusive residential course offers children bags of fun, new friends and freedom to express themselves in a safe, supportive, Christian environment with first class care.

The course is open to all singers aged from 9 upwards, who may be members of church choirs, or school choirs, or other choirs – or who may just enjoy singing! Its unique feature is that over the years it has developed into an extended 'family', with a main age range of 9-17 and an even mix of boys and girls, offering first-class choral training in the highest traditions of the Church of England but in the atmosphere of an adventure holiday.

The week offers a busy, exciting mix of good music and good company. It is planned so that everyone has fun as well as working hard. Activities centre on the church and the grounds of Morland House <https://morlandhouse.net/>. There is a camping site for the boys, girls sleep in the Village Hall, and meals are taken in the school. A typical day has rehearsals in the morning and evening for a wide variety of music. Most afternoons are devoted to non-musical activities, for example a dam-building competition in a mountain stream or Morland's particular version of 'Sports Day', plus the most competitive croquet tournament ever.

The week concludes with a number of exciting performances. Evensong is sung in Carlisle Cathedral on Friday, then on Saturday a secular concert, in Penrith Methodist Church, which includes staged musicals, and possibly folk songs, spirituals and chart hits. On the final Sunday, the Camp processes down the village to morning Eucharist in the church. Then, in the afternoon, tea for parents and friends culminates in a prize-giving, which includes an award for the most 'professional' chorister and the presentation of the group Challenge Cup. This leads on to the closing Choral Evensong, for which Morland Church is always packed. There are some 20 highly qualified Staff with musical and/or pastoral training and experience.

If you know of any young singer who would enjoy this experience, then please encourage them to have a look at the website <https://morland.org.uk/> where it is also possible to sign-up. There is an accompanied train from London (Penrith 3 hours).

The **Odiham Music Foundation** was so impressed with the experience of some of the children from All Saints, that it has very generously offered to fund two bursaries for children from the Benefice who otherwise would not be able to attend. The fee is £360. There are no auditions – so all that is required is the courage to sign up for the first time.

If you would like to discuss any of the above, please contact **Frances Yeowart (trustee)** at: francesyeowart@outlook.com or 07774163217. I would be delighted to hear from you.

The Alton Choir that can't stop Singing!

It has not been the best time for the arts, but Alton choir, Luminosa, has been keeping alive its passion for music throughout the pandemic, firstly on-line each week on Zoom and, more recently for 8 weeks before the subsequent lockdown, at their regular rehearsal quarters of The Maltings in Alton. Inspired by its talented and charismatic choral director, Rebekah Abbott, who is currently Head of Voice with the Royal Marines Band Service, and its patron, Neil Ferris, Chorus Director of the BBC Symphony Chorus, members are always motivated to excel, and Covid-19 has not diminished the choir's ethos of singing captivating music at a high level of expertise.

The 'connectedness' of the Choir is one of the mainstays of its success. During the pandemic this has been a particular blessing, sustaining the emotional and mental health of its members, young and old, enriching self-esteem, confidence and community, through singing. The Choir was due to celebrate its 10th anniversary with a landmark concert in Odiham in March 2020 with an exciting programme of music, including an inspiring commission. Plans are being made to celebrate Luminosa's decade of choral success. For now, the main choir, Luminosa Voices, are rejoicing in Haydn's *Creation*, full of unsullied optimism expressed in some of the most lovable and life-affirming music ever composed. This is in preparation for a summer concert which the Choir is optimistically planning, to include Haydn's magnificent oratorio and other positive music full of light and hope, with singing by the Chamber Choir, Luminosa Chamber Voices, along a similar theme.

Luminosa Rising Voices (ages 10-16) and Luminosa Young Voices (ages 6-11), the choir is creatively led and managed by youth music specialists, Jonathan Upfold and Josh Robinson.

They are working on an exciting virtual choir project in which young singers are collaborating in the composition of an original song, which they will perform on-line later in the year. Luminosa is always keen to hear from new members! Why not come and trial a rehearsal for free? Information about the work of the choir, its ethos and how to get in touch can be found on the website www.luminosamusic.com.

Wild Wetlands, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

‘Wetland’ can be a confusing term because the habitats it describes are so varied. A pond in your garden is a wetland, albeit a small one, but so



Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust strives to create a better future for wildlife and wild places in our two counties.

Help wildlife where you live
www.hiwwt.org.uk

is the vast floodplain of the Pantanal in South America for example. Wetland is a general term for any area that is at least partially submerged or flooded with water, either permanently or seasonally (which can feel like everywhere after we have had a lot of rain!).

Ponds, lakes, marshes, mangroves and estuaries are all wetlands. Wetland habitats are important in a number of ways. They provide a habitat for a huge range of wildlife including many threatened species, with an estimated 40% of the world's wildlife living and breeding in wetlands. Locally, this could be water voles, kingfishers and otters, all making a comeback as we restore their wetland homes. Photo of Kingfisher © Garry Prescott. These habitats also reduce flood risk and control other effects relating to climate change like stopping temperature fluctuation. Some wetlands - mud flats and peat bogs especially - are great at capturing carbon from the atmosphere. And if that wasn't enough, they also help purify water by filtering out pollutants. And of course, for many of us wetlands provide access to nature and wild spaces, boosting mental and physical wellbeing. Despite all the many benefits they provide, wetland habitats are disappearing. Not only are they being drained and destroyed to make way for development, but humans are using more freshwater. We use (and waste) far more than the planet can replenish, putting pressure on wetlands and adding to climate change. Luckily, some of the biggest wetlands in Europe are now being managed for conservation and wildlife. There is a lot of work to do, especially stopping the pollution of rivers and streams and stopping the colossal waste from leaky pipes and loos. Wetlands are a vital part of a connected and healthy landscape with thriving wildlife populations, we work to leave our wetlands in a better state than we found them. Claire Thorpe, Communications Officer



New Walks in Hampshire

Please see www.walkinginengland.co.uk/hants for new walks in Hampshire! With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks plus contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more.

Walking in Hampshire is part of the Walking in England suite of websites – www.walkinginengland.co.uk – one for each county in England that has brought it together in one place. With walks from half-a-mile to twelve-miles-plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy. So, check out the websites and get walking! John Harris, email: john@walkinginengland.co.uk

Cub Leader – Odiham

2nd Odiham (Town) Scout Group is urgently seeking a cub leader or leaders to help run the busy Odiham Cubs. There is admin support in place, it's a couple of hours a week to run the group which takes place on a Tuesday evening (currently on Zoom). Cubs are aged 8–10 years. If you think you could help keep this valuable group going, please contact Rob Friend at chair@2ndodihamscouts.org.uk

Citizen's Advice: Dealing with Money Issues

Many people are struggling financially during the Covid-19 pandemic. At Citizens Advice Basingstoke we understand how difficult some people find it to deal with money issues and we are here to help. Last year we helped 5,789 clients with their money issues, including problems with rent arrears, council tax and fuel bills, unsecured loans, credit/store charge card debts and benefit queries.



We gave support to enable them to get their finances back into shape. We did this by helping them to take some or all the following actions:

- Collecting information about their debts and working out the priority debts
- Exploring ways they could increase their income
- Investigating how they could reduce their regular living costs, and
- Making a plan to pay off their debts.

An example of how we helped an individual with his money problems:

Mr B came to us for help in claiming his state pension. The Dept. for Work and Pensions (DWP) was helpful but communication with them was difficult, as he struggled to read and write. His ex-partner had previously taken care of his finances, but their relationship had finished, and was now dealing with things himself.

He had fallen into debt. He said he was behind with his energy bills and had also received a threatening letter from the housing association because of unpaid rent. He was extremely worried about his situation and needed support. We contacted DWP and it took a few more months for the payments to begin, which then allowed him to pay off his priority debts. We also called Mr B's energy supplier who told us that his account was fully up to date (although he had no recollection of making payments). We investigated into why he had received a threatening letter from his housing association, by calling the Council to check that he was receiving the right amount of housing benefit, and whether the payments were being paid directly to the housing association. The Council confirmed, but that there was a shortfall because Mr B's former partner - who still lived with him - was regarded as a non-dependent and his benefit entitlement had been reduced accordingly. As a result, he now needed to pay arrears of £20 per week, totalling about £400. We saw Mr B over a number of weeks to help him resolve all his difficulties, and gave him additional support until his pension payments began. When he came to see us for the last time, he said that finally he felt that he was sorting out his finances; he was much happier and relieved to be worry-free for the first time in ages. He was very grateful for our help, and said he could never have managed without us.

Basingstoke Citizens Advice is a local independent charity and is here to help people resolve their problems by providing free, impartial and confidential advice. 0300 3309 064 www.basingstokeandtadleycab.org.uk
Chat: citizensadvice.org.uk/contact-us.UK: www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Hampshire & Basingstoke Council: Support during Lockdown

Support will continue to be available for **vulnerable residents** during lockdown. Vulnerable residents are encouraged to use priority slots provided by supermarkets for shopping, prescription delivery services and support from family and friends. Vulnerable residents, who do not have this support, are being encouraged to **register for help by calling the Hampshire Coronavirus Support** and Helpline on 0333 370 4000 as a central point. The helpline is open Monday to Thursday from 9.00am to 5.00pm, 9.00am to 4.30pm on Fridays and between 10.00am and 3.00pm at weekends.

There are a number of local and national charities continuing to provide support on issues such as mental health, loneliness and domestic abuse. For more information, see www.basingstoke.gov.uk/support-services-covid19. Other County and UK Support and Help contacts:

- **Samaritans:** Confidential support for people experiencing feelings of distress or despair. Phone: 116 123 (free 24-hour helpline). From mobiles and some landlines - but not currently via Wessex Internet landlines (raised as issue). Please see website: <https://www.samaritans.org>. Please note website was incorrect in previous mags.
- **National Citizens Advice:** for advice about money & benefits, National Call Helpline on 03444 111 444 Mon to Fri, 9am to 5pm. This can be a free call, or local call, check with provider.
- **Domestic abuse:** Hampshire Domestic Abuse 03300 165112
- **Red Cross:** Free helpline 0808 196 3651

POETRY CORNER

Extract from '*When This Is Over*' by Laura Kelly Fanucci

*When this is over, may we never again take for granted
 A handshake with a stranger
 Full shelves at the store
 Conversations with neighbours
 A crowded theatre
 Friday night out
 The taste of communion
 A routine checkup
 The school rush each morning
 Coffee with a friend
 The stadium roaring
 Each deep breath
 A boring Tuesday
 Life itself*

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<http://motheringspirit.com/2020/03/a-month-that-changed-the-world/>

YOUR ONLINE MAGAZINE

This Parish Magazine is available online at www.uptongreychurch.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

All events remain subject to cancellation following Government advice, and restrictions on events and public meetings resulting from Coronavirus. If in doubt, please check with the organisers before attending an event.

26th Mar	Fri	BDDF Disability Awareness Day - Online	
13-16 Apr		Upton Grey Junior Tennis Coaching	
12th Jun	Sat	Upton Grey Fete	
24th Jun	Thu	Upton Grey Tennis Mix-In Evening	6.00pm
9-13 Aug		Upton Grey Junior Tennis Coaching	
25th Sep	Sat	Upton Grey Harvest Supper	

SMALL AD MARCH

Permanent full-time gardening position around the Odiham area available now. Duties include lawn care, hedge cutting, strimming, vegetable growing, border maintenance etc. Salary from £18,000. Please contact Mark 07909 223 649, or mseward.gardening@gmail.com.

HALLS FOR HIRE

(subject to government guidance and local constraints)

Upton Grey Village Hall for hire from £8.50 per hour. Functions, meetings, parties, private and commercial. Full kitchen facilities, central heating and sound system, chairs, tables, crockery and cutlery available. Contact Elaine Lewington on 01256 862894.

The Royal British Legion Hall, Herriard, available for hire: wedding receptions, functions, parties, meetings, and events. Fully licensed bar, full kitchen facilities, garden, tables and chairs, sound system, disabled access, central heating, pool table and darts. To reserve, email bookings.herriardrbllhall@gmail.com, or contact Tracy Crawford on 07769 220390 or Stef Lewis on 07779 454528.

PARISH MAGAZINE COPY DEADLINE

The copy deadline for the April issue is 15th March. Please send news and contributions to uptongreymagazine@gmail.com. April's editor is Sheila Stranks. Your editor this month was Ian Lansley-Neale.

UPTON GREY VILLAGE SHOP

Tel: 01256 862326 (Shop)

shopuptongrey@btconnect.com

"Serving the Community"

"Supported by all who care for Village Life"



THE VILLAGE SHOP

OPENING TIMES

Monday - Friday: 7am - 7pm

Saturday: 7am - 6pm

Sunday: 8am - 1pm

RANGE OF GOODS

Special range of Cheeses
Fresh Bread & Vegetables daily
Fresh Meat & Fish to order
Range of Wine & Spirits
Home Cooked Food
and Delicatessen
Dry Cleaning & Shoe Repairs
Newspapers
Home Delivery Service

The Post Office has
permanently closed

Temporary Shop Opening
Hours during restrictions

8am – 6pm Mon to Sat

8 am – 1pm Sun