

# The Villager

February 2019 Volume 48 No 1

The community newsletter for Mapledurwell,  
Up Nately, Newnham, Nately Scures & Greywell

## WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE....

County Council works with Southern Water to improve services

Protecting people in vulnerable circumstances is particularly important during the winter months, when we know people could become more concerned about household bills. Energy bills are often the focus of worry, but it is important residents are equally aware of support available to them. Water services in particular are often overlooked when it comes to household expenses, but none the less important for that.

Southern Water has advised that it provides a range of tariffs and services specifically designed to help vulnerable customers and also maintain a Priority Services Register to ensure customers with particular needs can always access water services.

Additionally, it plans to cut water bills by 3% in real terms between 2020-25 and, through its Target 100 initiative, is redoubling its efforts to help people use water more efficiently, so Greywell households can save water, energy and money.

We're also working with Southern Water to raise awareness of what to do in extreme weather events, such as last year's freeze / thaw, and ensure customers who need the most assistance receive it. Advice and discounted products are available to help customers protect their homes from the impact of cold weather – more information can be found at [southernwater.co.uk/prepare-for-winter](https://www.southernwater.co.uk/prepare-for-winter) <<https://www.southernwater.co.uk/prepare-for-winter>>.

In addition, Southern Water provides a range of reduced payment options for customers in vulnerable circumstances. For example, the Essentials programme provides a discount if water bills are over 3% of the disposable household income. WaterSure caps bills when a customer has a water meter and someone in their household receives a means-tested benefit, and has three or more children under 19, and/or has a medical condition which means they need to use additional water. Water Direct allows Jobcentre Plus to pay Southern Water directly from a customer's benefits to help manage bills. NewStart provides help reducing debt for customers who owe money or haven't made a payment for a while.

You may be eligible for more than one financial support scheme—depending on your circumstances.

Priority Services also ensure that customers with individual needs can always access water services by requesting a specially tailored package to meet their requirements. This includes providing bills in alternative formats, such as audio, to ensure extra support is available during disruptions.

These services are available to customers with limited mobility, disabilities or chronic illnesses, medical conditions, or difficulty seeing, hearing, or communicating.

Customers in temporary vulnerable circumstances, such as new parents, or those with short-term medical conditions, can also apply for additional support.

If you believe any of the circumstances listed above are relevant to you, please enquire by calling the free Southern Water support line on 0800 027 0363, emailing [payless@southernwater.co.uk](mailto:payless@southernwater.co.uk), or visiting [www.southernwater.co.uk/difficulty-paying-your-bill](http://www.southernwater.co.uk/difficulty-paying-your-bill).

My next surgery will be on Saturday, 2nd February 2019 at 10am at the Elms Road Life Church centre. Please feel free to come along and discuss anything you like!

Hope to see you there.

\* \* \*

Councillor Jonathan Glen  
(01962) 843278  
[jonathan.glen@hants.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.glen@hants.gov.uk)

## Diary dates

### February

- 5 St Mary's Holy Dusters, Maple, 10am
- 8 Up Nately Coffee Morning, 10-12 noon, Lealands
- 14 Greywell Cafe, Village Hall, 3-4pm

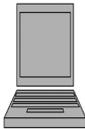
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## Baby Massage Classes

Baby massage gives parents the opportunity to experience the relaxing benefits of interaction with baby in a calm and warm environment. Local friendly classes for baby's from 6 weeks to crawling.



07585005143

Jane Michael    [babymassageandmore.com](http://babymassageandmore.com)

# Mapledurwell & Up Nately

## Up Nately Coffee Mornings

The next coffee morning will be at Lealands, on 8th

February, 10-12. Call Jane on 762891. Do join us for a morning of interesting tales and lots of laughter, children and babies are welcome!

Donations from the coffee mornings amounted to £290 this past year and have been sent to Camrose. The charity to support this coming year, will be decided in due course.

The Camrose Centre thank the coffee ladies for their generous contribution to their funds



## Village Hall

Please note that the waste bins outside the Village Hall are meant for Hall users only, not for personal use by local residents. The Village Hall committee have to pay the council to empty those bins, please do not use, thank you!

## Congratulations!

Very many congratulations to Shelby & John who celebrated their marriage here at St.Mary's Church on Saturday the 15th of December. It was such a lovely, joyous occasion and we wish them much happiness in their life together.



## St Mary's church 'Holy Dusters'

Cleaning for this month will be on

**Tuesday 5th February @ 10am**

Come and enjoy a natter while we dust - All are welcome.

Refreshments and pastries will be provided.

Thank you in advance for your support –

Suzie 0750 448 2838.

## MAPLEDURWELL & UP NATELY VILLAGE HALL



### HIRE THE VILLAGE HALL

Contact Caretaker Jayne Norman  
on 474432

or check out the website at  
[www.mapledurwellvillagehall.com](http://www.mapledurwellvillagehall.com)

## Mapledurwell & Up Nately Parish Council

### Bonfires

Please show courtesy to your neighbours and care for wildlife if considering a bonfire.

### Next Parish Council meeting

Wednesday 13th March, 8pm, Village Hall meeting room. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

### Mapledurwell & Up Nately Parish Planning Applications

18/03675/FUL (validated 24th Jan) Parrotts, Greywell Road, Mapledurwell. Change of use and extension of agricultural building to form 1 no. two-bed dwelling.

T/00504/18/TCA (no objection 23rd Jan) Land At Os Ref 468719 150901 St Marys Church Road, Mapledurwell. Tree works as per proposed tree work schedule to include felling and pruning works.

T/00490/18/TCA (no objection 4th Jan) Hurdles, Tunworth Road, Mapledurwell. Various; Ash and Field Maple G1: cut back branches overhanging house and driveway to give no more than 4m horizontal clearance from the house and 8, vertical clearance from driveway. Ash T2. Remove large limb north side at main fork overhanging garages Ash T3. Remove twisted stem and over extended stem growing over garden towards the north.

18/02573/AGPD (no objection 20th Dec) Garys Farm, Tunworth Road. Erection of a covered sprayer fill area and bio filter.

T/00425/18/TCA (granted 4th December, registered 24 Oct) Manor Court, Tunworth Road, Mapledurwell. Weeping Willow, repollard to original pruning points.

T/00418/18/TCA (granted 27th November) Land Adjacent To Crosswater Cottage, Frog Lane, Mapledurwell. Coppice Hazel on the site boundary. Clear fell Ash along the boundary plus 2 Ash trees. Prune back Beech and Oak limbs that overhang property and utility cables to give no more than a 3m clearance.

### Old Basing application – Moto Motorway Service Area M3 J6

17/03487/FUL (registered 2nd November 2017) Land Adjacent To Junction 6 M3. Construction of a new Motorway Service Area. Agreed expiry date (on going to press) remains at Thursday 31st January. If the case officer is minded to approve, the application will be decided by Development Control committee.



## POLICE UPDATE

Dear Residents

I am pleased to report a general reduction of twenty-four reported crime across the whole of my inner beat area consisting of the former beat area BW02, and covering the twenty-two parishes from the Candovers to Newnham south of the M3.

I am further pleased to report a reduction of homes being broken into with five reported, of these five three were preventable, two being unlocked homes and one was to steal car keys that were clearly visible to see on the hall table. Another home was in the process of being built and had no resident and the last resulted in a man being arrested and charged for the offence.

Force the area of your Parish the following crimes were levels were reported

Parish	2017	2018
Andwell	3	4
Mapledurwell	18	16
Nately Scures	13	11
Newnham	11	14
Up Nately	4	6

Each spring brings me three things that are more prevalent than other seasons, first is an increase in livestock worrying especially sheep. May I also remind all residents who have dogs that the lambing season is again beginning and we have seen an increase in sheep numbers across our area. Most years I report sheep worrying in our area, I urge all residents to make sure their dogs are on leads near livestock and that they remain on designated footpaths. Farmers do have authority to shoot dogs involved in worrying livestock on farm land, and sadly most dogs will chase sheep if not under control even if only the dog thinks it is a game, but to sheep it is deadly. Please keep YOUR dog under control and on a lead near livestock.

My second problem is garden shed and outbuildings being broken into, last year Up Nately suffered badly, hence the crime prevention evenings. This was only one of the two types of crimes that increased and whilst happening all year round, spring seems to show an increase, two years back we had the spate of such crime with reports of 5/6 in a night in some areas, I ask please

keep sheds secure, use good locks and hasps, record and photograph expensive garden machinery and use marking such as postcodes engraved onto them and consider a shed alarm which can be battery operated and very effective.

My third problem is theft from parked cars in our beautiful area, as spring comes please if you park your car in the countryside do not leave any electrical device, such as laptops etc. in the boot, do not put the handbag under the seat as this is the first place they look. Park your car in a busy area with other walkers being about or leave it in the village and walk from there. We do have criminals who will be out and about in our beauty spot areas, just like the criminals who stole the car from the burglary later used in the theft of a cash machine from Swindon, sadly they are always about and will never miss an opportunity if you give it to them.

Many thanks as always

*Andy*

**Andrew Reid, Local Constable**

01256 389 050 Mob 07768 776 844  
andrew.reid@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

### CAROLS AT THE POND

It was a most enjoyable occasion to start off the Christmas celebrations, singing carols together with Villagers, accompanied by John Maclean on the accordion, drinking delicious home-made mulled wine and mince pies and a brazier to keep out the cold. And the wonderful amount of £105.70p. was collected for the Children's Society. Have a very happy New Year.



### Litter pick

Many thanks to Abigail and Jane Komrower who completed a pre Christmas litter pick down Andwell Lane ... resulting in 4 bags of rubbish.



### Parish Council Notice

Alan Hutton has resigned from the parish council after nearly 20 years in the post. During this time, he has been proactive in maintaining our footpaths, bridleways and liaising with Highways over the maintenance of our lanes and roads.

He has kept close contact with our police and provided invaluable background information on the parish history, both recent and older which has helped in the decision making of the council. He has helped greatly in the organisation and execution of our big events like the Millenium Carnival and Jubilee Celebration and taken an active part in Parish Council discussions.

Thank you, Alan, for all your contributions to the parish over all these years.

To replace David Ellison, who resigned in October, and Alan, we now welcome Matt Heywood and Hugo Cubitt onto the council.

The new Parish Council website is up and running with details of our activities - [mapledurwellupnately.co.uk](http://mapledurwellupnately.co.uk)

## ASSERT PROJECT SOLUTIONS



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# Newnham & Nately Scures

## Hart Local Plan Examination in Public

For detailed reports see <http://www.faceit-group.org/community/face-it-group-13510/the-hart-local-plan/>

Concluded on Friday 14th December with general satisfaction that the Inspector was well-informed and gave all parties a fair hearing.

Some amendments were agreed during the examination process and the Inspector will confirm these via a letter to Hart, likely this month. This will allow an update to the Local Plan pending the Inspector's full report and adjudication on the adoption of the Local Plan, which will follow after due consideration sometime this year.

The 'Gaps Between Settlements' (Policy NBE2) is likely to be subsumed within Policy NBE3 on Landscape and the identification of specific Gaps may be removed. The examination questioned whether the definition of the Gaps specified in the Policy was sufficiently detailed and unambiguous. Although settlement boundaries are clearly defined the boundaries of gaps between them are not. The Inspector tended towards the opinion that this Policy wasn't sufficiently robust.

Policy SS3 which allows for the creation of a new Settlement – but not included in the housing figures – faced various charges of being unsound (being effectively a work in progress) and so site boundaries not identified, infrastructure and funding not specified.

The need for a new Secondary School was discussed without a position statement from Hampshire County Council (as Local Education Authority). Hart's position is that options for expanding existing secondary schools plus associated provision of transport infrastructure are limited.

Re Housing figures – Housing trajectory, deliverability and land supply – 95% of the housing supply has already been granted permission and its delivery forecasted.

Hart figures show that the five years 2007-2012 showed a 92 dwelling shortfall but in the five years 2012-2017 there was a 500 dwelling oversupply. The provision of the required five-year land supply is likely to be found sound.

## LAND AT OWENS FARM

PLANNING INSPECTORATE REF:  
APP/N1730/W/18/**3206951**

Inquiry to be heard Tuesday 19th March, Hart Civic Offices  
The Appeal for the 700 houses etc at Pale Lane was heard on 8th January with the Inspector choosing to await the outcome of the Local Plan examining Inspector's decision on Hart housing figures.

(16/03129/OUT Pale Lane Farm, Pale Lane, Hartley Wintney APP/N1730/W/18/3204011 Outline application for the development of up to 700 residential dwellings, site for primary school and local centre etc...)

This will equally be a major consideration for Owens Farm but in the meantime preparation for the Appeal representation continues unabated.

Bellamy Roberts has confirmed Wilbur Developments' ownership of relevant areas of Village Green at the Hook Memorial junction (Jubilee Green) and Common land alongside Newnham Road.

The next logical step is likely to be an application to the Commons Team at the Planning Inspectorate to deregister these parcels of land to assign for junction and road widening.



## OLD HOUSE AT HOME

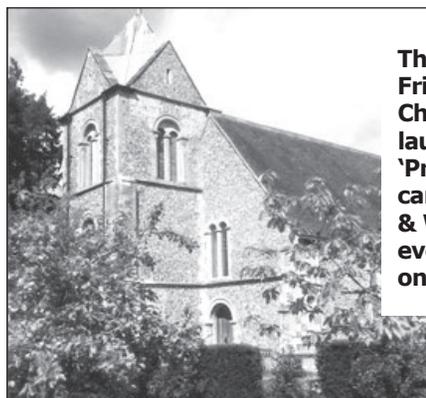
*Newnham Green*

**VILLAGERS NIGHT** second Thursday of every month, next one... Thursday 14th February  
Pint Andwells £3 or any Gin & Tonic £5

*Plus... Don't forget to book for*

**VALENTINES, 14TH FEBRUARY AND  
MOTHER'S DAY, SUNDAY 31ST MARCH**

tele 01256 761896



**The Trustees of the Friends of St Nicholas' Church Newnham launched their 'Preserve Our Church' campaign with a Gin & Wine Tasting evening in the church on 1st February**

**Window project update.** The windows on the north wall have all been refurbished and were reinstalled just before Christmas. Anyone who has been inside the church recently will have seen that this is a great improvement.

The old secondary plate glass inner secondary glazing has not been re-fitted as it does not comply with current safety requirements and could not be opened for cleaning purposes.

It is intended to replace this with modern panels of high thermal efficiency safety glass mounted in frames which can be opened on an occasional basis for cleaning.

As the church is a Grade II listed building we have had to submit a faculty application (equivalent of a planning application) and are waiting approval from the diocesan authorities. It is hoped that this process will not take too long and as soon as approval is obtained the contractor will be instructed to proceed.

## NEWNHAM SPRING LITTER PICK

Advance notice for a mid-April gathering  
Date to be arranged next month



## NEWNHAM CLUBROOM

After 30ish years, Rosemary Richardson is no longer Clubroom bookings secretary! (Though she remains an active member of the Clubroom Committee.) With this end of an era, and thanks from all for her time and commitment, Rosemary hands over the role to Chris Alliston (Mr). The booking number remains the same...

The Clubroom is for hire from £15 per hour inclusive. Tables and chairs may be borrowed for use at your own venue for £3 and 50p per day respectively, hirer collects. Visit [newnhamclubroom.org.uk](http://newnhamclubroom.org.uk) or call 07435 782 122.

## WATEREND BUS SHELTER

The Parish Council has received agreement from Insurers to build a replacement shelter – and permission from Hampshire Highways to reposition the new shelter further back from the road. A new base will be put in and new shelter built as soon as possible.

## Local Government Boundary Commission for England Electoral review of Basingstoke & Deane

<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/electoral-review>

The recommended changes to Ward boundaries continue to mean Basing Ward merging with part of the present Upton Grey & Candovers to form 'Basing & Upton Grey'. However the planned implementation has been postponed for a year with all Ward Councillors to stand for election in May 2020.

### Parish Planning Applications

19/00028/FUL (validated 14th Jan)  
Land at Nately Scures House, Scures Hill. Erection of one 5-bed dwelling and attached garage with accommodation over. Erection of a detached garage with store, swimming pool and associated landscaping. Creation of a new access.

This is a replacement application for 15/04234/FUL approved March 2016: Erection of one detached dwelling and detached double garage with associated landscaping and new private driveway.

18/03387/HSE (**withdrawn** 15th Jan, validated 21st Nov) 1 Crown Cottages, Crown Lane, Newnham. Erection of first floor extension over existing garage and room. Erection of single storey rear extension, front entrance porch and detached garage.

T/00470/18/TCA (**no objection** 14th Jan, validated 4th Dec) Ashmead Newnham Road, Newnham. T1 Oak: crown reduce to no less than 12.5m in height and 18m canopy spread. T2 Ash: pollard to a monolith of approx 5m in height (in decline, dropping limbs). T3 Oak: Fell (in decline, removal benefit other trees). T4 Ash: Fell (dead).

T/00466/18/TCA (**granted** 13th Dec validated 14th Nov) New House, Church Path, Newnham. T1 Birch 12m high and radius 4.3m: Fell (very close to house).

18/02894/HSE (**pending**, validated 1st Oct) The Cottage, Blackstocks Lane, Nately Scures. Erection of two storey side and rear extensions.

16/03282/RET Manor Farm, Blackstocks Lane (**pending**, amended 20th Jan 2017, validated 15th Sept

2016). Change of use of agricultural land to educational farm and leisure use (Class D1 & D2) with ancillary tea rooms and associated car parking (retrospective). To be considered by BDBC Development Control Committee, meeting date tba.

16/00097/OUT Appeal reference APP/H1705/W/18/3201213 (now to be considered by informal Hearing scheduled for Tuesday 12th Feb). Land Adjacent to Oakfield Farmhouse, Scures Hill. Outline application for three detached dwellings including access.

### Hook Planning Application

18/01071/FUL (**pending**, validated 7th June 2018) High Ridge House, Owens Farm. A new building for 11 stables and tack room for applicants' personal use; an agricultural / equestrian hay barn, replacement storage building.

**NetworkRail**

Railway neighbour  
Ref: IPS/Wessex/B&C/158149/YF/BML1 43m 440y - 43m 660y

Community Relations  
Basingstoke campus  
Gresley Road  
Basingstoke  
Hampshire  
RG214F5

03 January 2019

**T: 03457 11 41 41**

Dear neighbour

### Update on Hook cutting stabilisation work

We are writing to provide an update on the essential stabilisation work on the railway cutting to the south of Newnham Road.

As detailed within our letter of 24 October 2018, some trees and vegetation were removed in November to allow a full visual examination and ground investigation to take place.

This has now been completed and we will now be undertaking remediation work to stabilise the cutting after it has suffered a recent slip failure. Some final vegetation work will be completed.

Work will take place from 04 January until 26 April 2019, between 07:30hrs to 17:30hrs.

Most of the work will be completed during the week however, we may be required to work on some Saturdays (daytime only), depending how the work is progressing.

Throughout this period, you will see an increased presence of our operatives in the area. Our staff are briefed on working responsibly in the local community and we fully expect those on site to be considerate, polite and courteous at all times.

We would like to assure you that we have sought the advice of an ecologist and this project is being undertaken following their guidance. We have also been working closely with the local authority and Natural England.

We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and we hope this information has been helpful. If you have any further questions, please telephone our 24-hour help line on 03457 1141 41, quoting the reference at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Community Relations, Wessex route

Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd Registered Office, Network Rail, 2nd Floor, One Eversholt Street, London, NW1 2DN  
Registered in England and Wales No 2904587 [www.networkrail.co.uk](http://www.networkrail.co.uk)

# Greywell



## VILLAGE HALL

### To hire the Village Hall

please contact  
isabel.pound@hotmail.com or  
alibarter@aol.com.

### St Mary's Greywell February highlights

Rev Simon Butler will be leading the Family Service in February on the 17th at 11am . All Welcome and refreshments will be served.

The communion service on 24th February will be with the choir SingUP .

The GREYWELL CAFE will be open in the Village Hall on

Thursday, 14 February between 3 and 4 pm.

Tea, or coffee, and biscuits will be provided for a small charge of £1 per person, any profit going to Village Hall funds.

We are looking forward to welcoming you for a cuppa and a chat.

Should anyone require transport to the Hall, I am sure we will be able to arrange it.

Libbie (702978) and Jackie (702859)

## Parish Planning Applications

**17/02868/CON** The Old Forge Hook Road Greywell Hook Hampshire RG29 1BT. Approval of conditions-2- materials-and 3- windows/doors and rooflights-pursuant to 17/02868/HOU and 17/02869/LBC Removal of corrugated Asbestos roofing material to outbuildings 1 & 3, and replacement with traditional hand-made clay roofing tiles. Demolition of Building 2 and reconstruction as an annexe for additional guest accommodation ancillary to the main house. Building 2 to be clad in traditional oak cladding. Building 1 to be clad in oak on the south side only. Installation of conservation rooflights to rear facing roof slopes of Buildings 1 & 2.

**15/02685/CON** The Old Vicarage The Street Greywell Hook Hampshire RG29 1BZ. Approval of condition 3- details of materials, bond and mortar- pursuant to 15/02685/LBC Replacement of existing garage and garden wall including demolition of the existing garage.

**17/02868/CON** The Old Forge Hook Road Greywell Hook Hampshire RG29 1BT. Approval of conditions-2- materials-and 3- windows/ doors and rooflights-pursuant to 17/02868/HOU and 17/02869/LBC Removal of corrugated Asbestos roofing material to outbuildings 1 & 3, and replacement with traditional hand-made clay roofing tiles. Demolition of Building 2 and reconstruction as an annexe for additional guest accommodation ancillary to the main house. Building 2 to be clad in traditional oak cladding. Building 1 to be clad in oak on the south side only. Installation of conservation rooflights to rear facing roof slopes of Buildings 1 & 2.



Happy New Year! A new beginning for all of us....

As always, winter presents a unique set of challenges for many services across the County Council. Ensuring Hampshire's vulnerable residents are safe and well looked after is a priority for us all. The content below provides you with some helpful information for Greywell residents to the help they need.

### Staying Well this Winter

There's plenty of advice available to help the county's residents to stay well during the colder months.

- For advice on flu vaccinations: [www.nhs.uk/staywell](http://www.nhs.uk/staywell) - please do encourage all those eligible for a free vaccination, including carers, to have one
- For general advice on keeping warm and keeping well: [www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/keep-warm-keep-well](http://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/keep-warm-keep-well)
- For general health advice: [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

And Finally...

Very positively over the past few months, through the concerted efforts of our social care teams and our independent and voluntary sector partners, working

closely with NHS colleagues, we have seen a near 40% reduction in the numbers of people delayed in hospital for social care reasons. We continue to focus considerable resource on supporting people to be appropriately discharged from hospital settings and will be undertaking specific additional work into the New Year period. It is also really important to recognise that across all our services, much fantastic work will continue with all those who use our services, their families and carers, and communities to keep people safe and well this winter, using informal and formal support.

Stay warm!

Councillor Jonathan Glen

Email: [jonathan.glen@hants.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.glen@hants.gov.uk)

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# Church Notices

'Journeying together, we worship God and serve the community'  
www.united-parish.org.uk

## From the Parish Registers...

### Wedding

27 December at St Nicholas', Newnham: Gareth Darvall and Kelly Smith

### Wedding blessing

15 December at St Mary's, Mapledurwell: John McDowall-McShane and Shelby McShane

*We wish them every happiness in their life together*

### Diary dates in February:

13th February PCC Meeting, Mapledurwell/Up Nately Village Hall at 8pm

## Church Services

### February 3rd

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Newnham (on behalf of Nately Scures)
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	Mapledurwell
11.00am	Morning Service	Greywell

### February 10th

8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Up Nately**
9.30am	Family Service	Mapledurwell
11.15am	Matins	Newnham

### February 17th

9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Mapledurwell
11.00am	Family Service	Greywell**
11.00am	Matins	Newnham (on behalf of Nately Scures)

### February 24th

8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Newnham
9.30am	Family Service	Up Nately
11.00am	Holy Communion (CW)	Greywell

\*\*Please note that our **Team Rector, Reverend Simon Butler** will lead worship at St Stephen's Up Nately on 10 February and at St Mary's Greywell on 17 February.

## Mid-Week Holy Communion

We next meet in the warm and welcoming home of Adams Farm, The Street in North Warnborough on Tuesday 12 February at 11am. We have a traditional service, with a chance to discuss the gospel reading, to offer our own prayers and then to enjoy coffee, cake and conversation before we go home! We'd love you to join us – and if you would like to hear more about it, or would like a lift, please contact Rev Linda Scard.

## Special Church Services

### Explore:theology

Following on from the Autumn School of Theology, Reverend Helen O'Sullivan and Peter Moore, Licensed Lay Minister are running a group for people who would like to delve deeper into the Scriptures and theology. You don't need to commit to coming to every session and please feel free to invite others along. For more information, please email Helen on nhdbupcurate@gmail.com.

The sessions are every other Tuesday afternoon from 2 – 3.30 pm at the Chaplaincy Centre, RAF Odiham, RG29 1QT (enter the RAF Station, take the first right and the Centre is on your right with plenty of parking outside). The theme for the sessions is: Sunday School Stories you think you know. We will uncover the surprises in well-known stories and texts. In February the sessions are:

Tuesday 5 February: Genesis chapters 6 to 9 – Noah and the Two Flood stories

Tuesday 19 February: the Book of Ruth – Faithfulness, Love and Belonging

### Foodbank

Thanks to the many generous donations leading up to Christmas, the Basingstoke Foodbank has not particular shortages at the moment, but this can change quickly so please do continue putting your donations into the boxes in each of our churches. At present they have plenty of: Baked beans; pasta ; soup; Tea; kidney beans and other tins of pulses; sugar; biscuits; rice; hot cereals; tinned fish; custard; pet food; hot chocolate.

### Special Notices

St. Swithun's Nately Scures – good news that the ceiling repairs will commence on 1st April and we therefore hope that the church will re-open by the end of May. We will be planning a huge service of celebration on that joyous day.

## Benefice Tea – time services in 2019

After a run of very successful tea time services, St Mary's church in Upton Grey are continuing with the format this year. The services are open to all across the benefice and are designed for all ages, with a family-friendly feel.

The services takes place on the 4th Sunday of each month. We meet at 4.30pm at St Mary's Upton Grey for a light supper of sandwiches, crisps and chocolate fingers (which are so good they are close to being a sacrament!) and then there is a short half hour time of worship and teaching.

The next dates are:

Sunday 24th February, Sunday 24th March, Sunday 28th April, Sunday 26th May, Sunday 23rd June and Sunday 28th July

## Letter from Helen Chatfield, Youth Worker for the Benefice

Dear Friends,

Friend. A word we hear almost every day, assume we understand, and yet use in such different ways, depending on the context. We have those friends we see almost every day as we walk down the street; friends who we knew really well years ago, haven't seen in ages, but can be certain we'd pick up with straight away if we were to see them again; best friends; work friends; even friends on social media who we've never met before and can 'unfriend' at the touch of a button as soon as we disagree with something they post...

Last November I had the great privilege to visit some very special new friends. I was given the opportunity to travel to Hoima in Uganda, in my capacity as Youth Pastor, to investigate the possibility of taking out a group of our young people in summer 2019. They may never have met me before, but the historical links between our diocese and theirs, mixed with a liberal sprinkling of that famous East African hospitality, meant I was greeted as a long-lost family member and friend from the moment I set foot on the parched ground.

Hoima is a town in Western Uganda and part of the diocese of Bunyoro Kitara, which is officially linked with Winchester diocese, and the Odiham Deanery specifically has had a strong and long-standing link with Hoima since the 1980s. This was consolidated in 2008, when the charity 'Help Hoima' was established, but none of this quite prepared me for the welcome I received from everyone I met.

One of our first stops was Duhaga Boys' School. Don't be put off by the name – they have just as many girls as boys in their 100 strong classes! Fred, the headteacher took great pride in showing us around the school. We sang songs with the children, played with banana-leaf dolls and found out about some of the exciting initiatives the staff and pupils are part of.

Then there was pig chasing with Bishop Nathan, sunbathing on the top of a 4x4 as we watched the elephants go by in the local reserve, impromptu Sunday School for over 100 children at All Saints, Hoima, dodging potholes the size of small lakes in the high street, dancing with the teachers at speech day and struggling with language barriers in the 4-hour long ordination service.

Yet the emotional highlight of our trip for me was during one of our many visits to The Mustard seed Children's Home, when we met Christopher, a young boy with cerebral palsy. He is around 8 or 9 years old, but during our time there he took some of his first few faltering independent steps – trying to get to a toy we'd taken with us. The look of joy on his face when he reached it and the determination he showed making sure no one else took it from him would have made the trip worthwhile on its own!

Saying goodbye to this after just over a week was incredibly difficult. So many new experiences, new friends. So, the words of Bishop Sam as he shook my hand a final time have been ringing in my ears ever since. He said, "I look forward to being good friends with North Hampshire Downs Benefice ..."

But what can that possibly mean? We haven't known him for years, won't see him that often, most of us have never met him and we don't even have that much in common... So how can we possibly be good friends?

True friendship involves showing that you care, picking people up when they are down, sharing what you have when they have less. This is something we, in affluent England, are really good at and I can certainly see how that is possible through support of the schools and churches through prayer and more practically with resources.

But it doesn't stop there. A true friend encourages and inspires; pushes you to be the best you can be; helps you to reach out for your dreams. I certainly know my time in Hoima inspired me. Gave me a new zeal for our work here. Encouraged me that all is possible, whatever the hardships we face might be.

A true friend is someone you want to spend time with, talk to, do things together with. So, I am particularly excited to be taking a group of young people out to enjoy some of the once-in-a-lifetime experiences I had. You see, the final and most important part of a good friendship is that it is two way. Before our visit we will be raising money for resources and during it we will be training young people in computer skills – but just as important will be the life-changing visits of our young people to orphanages and schools, joint environmental initiatives with the local diocesan youth and time just getting to know people whose lives are so different from ours. Watch this space and find out how you can be involved!

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