

# The Villager

December 2018/January 2019 Volume 47 No 11

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



*The Villager would like to thank all contributors and distributors and wish you all a happy festive season*



## CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN THE FIVE VILLAGES

Please join us for any of these special Christmas services

### Saturday December 22nd

5.30pm	Carol Service	Newnham
5.30pm	Carol Service	Up Nately

### Sunday December 23rd

4.30pm	Carol Service	Mapledurwell
5.00pm	Carol Service	Greywell

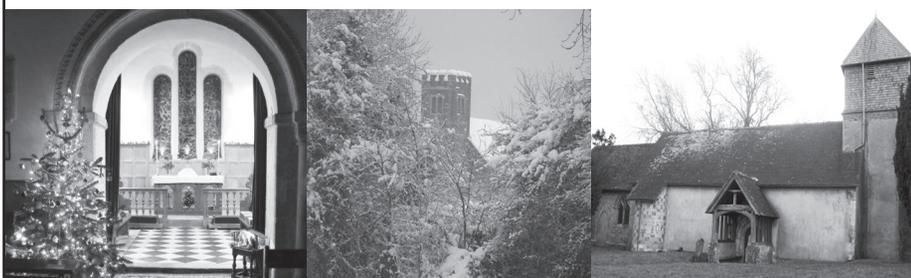
### Christmas Eve

4.30pm	Crib Service	Up Nately
11.30pm	Midnight Communion	Up Nately

### Christmas Day

9.30am	Family Service	Up Nately
9.30am	Family Communion Service	Mapledurwell
10.45am	Holy Communion (CW)	Newnham
10.45am	Family Service	Greywell

*Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas  
and a peaceful New Year*



## Diary dates

### December

- 4 St Mary's Mapledurwell, Holy Dusters, 10am
- 6 Greywell Cafe, Village Hall, 3-4pm
- 14 Up Nately Coffee Morning, 10-12 noon, 2 Canalside
- 18 Newnham Carol Singing, Rowan Lodge, 6pm
- 21 Maple Carols at the pond, 6pm
- 21 Christmas Holiday Messy Church, Greywell Village Hall, 3-5pm

### January

- 11 Up Nately Coffee Morning, 10-12 noon, Eastrop Cottage
- 12 Greywell Village Quiz Night, 7pm, Village Hall
- 16 Maple & Up Nately Parish Council Meeting, 8pm
- 25 Greywell Cafe, Village Hall, 11am-12noon
- 30 Newnham Parish Council Meeting, 7.40pm, Clubroom

## Christmas Holiday Messy Church

The Unexpected Christmas  
Friday 21st December 3-5pm

Greywell Village Hall



All children of (or linked with our United Parish are most welcome to join us for fun, food and Christmas crafts..

There is no charge.

For more details or to book a place, please email Rev Helen at [nhdbupcurate@gmail.com](mailto:nhdbupcurate@gmail.com) or speak to Rev Linda.

# Mapledurwell & Up Nately

## Up Nately Coffee Mornings

14th December coffee morning 10-12, will be at 2 Canalside, call Adele on 07967 465784 for directions and information.

11th January coffee at Eastrop Cottage, call Liz on 762059

We love to see everyone including new faces and children!

## Congratulations!

How lovely to have a new tiny resident in our village, congratulations to Sean and Charlotte Stephenson of St Stephens Close, on the birth of Rosemary!



## 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

### Housing needs survey

A Report on the Housing Needs Survey for Mapledurwell & Up Nately has been made available by Radian Housing. The survey was commissioned by Radian earlier in the year and received a response rate of 33% (8 online, 81 by post). Please contact [clerk.mapledurwellupnately@parish.hants.gov.uk](mailto:clerk.mapledurwellupnately@parish.hants.gov.uk) if you would like a copy of the Report. An emailed file can be supplied free of charge, there will be a charge to cover printing and postage for a paper copy.

### Bonfires

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

### Next Parish Council meeting

Wednesday 16th January, 8pm, Village Hall meeting room. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

## Mapledurwell & Up Nately Parish Planning Applications

**18/02595/HSE** (granted 25th October) 1 Blaegrove Cottages, Blaegrove Lane, Up Nately. Demolition of existing attached outhouses and construction of two storey side extension and single storey rear extension.

**18/02435/FUL** (pending, registered 22 August) Church Field, Land At OS Ref 468719 150901, St Marys Church Road, Mapledurwell. Change of use of land from agricultural to a dog exercise area, with associated parking and erection of a 1.8m high fence. Agreed expiry date (at time of going to press) Wed 12th December.

### Greywell application

**18/00765/FUL** (pending, registered 30 April) Dairy Complex, White Lane, Greywell RG29 1TL. Partial demolition and conversion of existing agricultural buildings to provide a day health spa facility. Creation of secondary access road, provision of car parking, landscaping and planting. To be decided by Hart Planning Committee of Wednesday 12th December.

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

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



Our Christingle Service will be held on Sunday, 9th December, at 4.30pm, and we look forward to welcoming our families to this service.

On Friday, 21st December, you are invited to join us for Carols at the Pond at 6pm, enjoying friendship together with home made mulled wine and mince pies, along with a brazier to keep out the cold, accompanied by John Maclean on the accordion. There will be a collection for the Children's Society.

Our Carol Service will be at 4.30pm on Sunday, 23rd December, and our Christmas Day Family Communion will be at 9.30am.

You are all very welcome to these Christmas services.

## 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.



Jane Michael

07585005143  
[babymassageandmore.com](http://babymassageandmore.com)

## St Mary's Holy Dusters

Cleaning for this month will be on

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December @ 10am**

All are welcome

Refreshments and pastries will be provided.

Thank you in advance for your support – Suzie 0750 448 2838.

## Mapledurwell and Up Nately Quiz Night

# Dabble in the Decades

## 1929 - 2019

### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 7.30pm

Come and join us at

Mapledurwell and Up Nately Village Hall

for a fun evening of quizzing

Bar

Raffle

Bring your own nibbles

Prize for best dressed 'Decade' themed table

Tables of 8 preferred but smaller groups can be combined

### Tickets £5 a head

For further information and tickets, please contact:

Julie Viney - Tel:476876 - [jules@cresswood.net](mailto:jules@cresswood.net)

Heather Ramsdale - Tel: 351363 -

[les.ramsdale@btinternet.com](mailto:les.ramsdale@btinternet.com)

### Remembrance Day at Mapledurwell

Thanks to the huge efforts by John McLean, our energetic tree warden, Remembrance Day on the 11th took on an extra meaning with the planting of seeds and saplings down by the allotments. These will be transplanted to a designated site in due course for a Remembrance copse. There was a good turnout for the task and the singing from Monkey House Nursery School and the sticky mud added to the occasion.

We hope that the children present will one day be able to reflect on the meaning of the project as they stand beneath the canopies of the trees planted on this day.



## POLICE UPDATE

Dear Residents

I start this month with an information appeal, at 11:48 pm on Wednesday November 21st three men broke into the grounds of a house in Newnham Lane near the new house. At 11:50 pm that evening a car past the premises travelling towards Old Basing from the village. I ask if anyone can assist me with the car and if they know who was in it at the time. If you can help please give me a call direct. The men left and returned back forty minutes later where they stole a red Honda quad bike pushing it through the hedge onto the road.

I also wish to make residents aware of two house burglaries in Oakley and another near Preston Candovers, all were broken into with the intention of stealing car keys and consequently two cars were stolen. In another the burglar(s) have placed an article through the letter box and pulled the door handle which opened the door! this type of entry is preventable, simply inside your house place a cover over the letter box, lock the door so even with the handle it will not open or just take the handle off and turn it around to opposite the normal way of opening, hence turn it another way to open.

On many plastic external doors the letter box is in line or not far from the lock and handle so please be aware that some burglars will actually place their arm through a letter box to open the door, other things I have known used include a fishing rod used to 'catch' keys left on the unit etc. in the hall way where people often place their keys when they come in so they know where they are. Some burglars have actually devised a tool for opening doors from the outside using the handle on the inside by putting it through a letter box. I urge all residents to please remove keys from view and possibly take them upstairs or place in a cupboard.

As Christmas is approaching at an alarming speed I wish to remind all residents to please take extra care on the security of your homes and property. In Herriard two cars were broken into during the night of Sunday November 11th when the thieves used an electronic device to open secure cars and steal property from within, please take all valuables out, we had a similar crime in Brown Candover recently.

In the February edition of this magazine I will provide a breakdown of the crime of 2018 within your parish, at the time of writing in November crime across the whole area is slightly down, that of course may be due to a more increased awareness that whilst we do live in a wonderful area we are very susceptible to being a victim of crime due to our close proximity to large urban expanse and a good motorway network.

I wish you and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas, please also don't drink and drive and remember you may still be over the legal limit in the morning from the night before. The Police annual drink drive campaign will be starting soon and morning after drivers will also be targeted.

Happy Christmas and thank you as always for your support

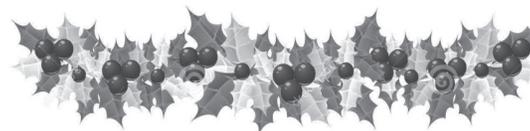
*Andy*

**Andrew Reid, Local Constable**

01256 389 050 Mob 07768 776 844

[andrew.reid@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:andrew.reid@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)

# Newnham & Nately Scures



## CHRISTMAS AT ST NICHOLAS'

*Please come and join us as we celebrate Christmas in Newnham*

**Christingle Service** Sunday 9th December 4.30pm  
Everything your family needs to make a Christingle will be available in the church before the service begins – do arrive a few minutes early to join in the fun!



### 'The Story of Christmas' Carol Service

Saturday 22nd December 5.30pm. A very special candlelit service. Enjoy listening to the children of Newnham as they tell us 'The Story of Christmas', and join in singing some favourite carols with the support of a full choir. *Afterwards mulled wine & mince pies will be served in the Church.*

**Christmas Day** 10.45am Family Holy Communion service. An uplifting and joyful celebration, with drinks afterwards!

*For details of all our Services throughout the year, please visit [www.northhampshirechurches.org.uk](http://www.northhampshirechurches.org.uk)*

## OLD HOUSE AT HOME

*Newnham Green*  
VILLAGE PUB · FOOD · GARDEN

### ❄️ Christmas Party Menu 2018 ❄️

Curried Parsnip **Soup** with bread  
(GF, DF V)

'Baker Boys' **Breads and Olives** with  
Cron dall Rapeseed Oil

Chicken Liver **Pâté** with homemade  
chutney and toast bread (GF\*)

Butternut & Sage **Risotto** topped with  
toasted pine nuts, pesto  
& parmesan (GF, V)

Mushroom and Tarragon **Tart** topped  
with Goats Cheese & pesto (V)

Test Valley Smoked **Trout** with Cron dall's  
tarragon mustard mayonnaise & capers  
\*\*\*

Traditional Roast **Turkey** & chestnut  
stuffing, pigs in blankets, brussel sprouts,  
roast potatoes & gravy

Pan fried fillet of **Sea Bass**, crushed new  
potato cake, green beans with a saffron &  
mussel sauce

Pan fried breast of **Pheasant**, dauphinoise  
potato, spinach with a liquorice &  
blackberry jus

Ratatouille and **Aubergine Stack**, rosti  
potato, spinach with a  
tomato sauce  
\*\*\*

Baileys & Banana **Crème Brûlée**

**X-Mas Pudding** with brandy sauce  
Raspberry **Frangipane**  
\*\*\*

#### Cheese Board

Dorset Blue Vinney &  
Wookey Hole Cheddar  
\*\*\*\*\*

❄️ 2 Courses £19.95

3 Courses £23.95

4 Courses £29.50

GF= Gluten Free, DF = Dairy Free, V = Vegetarian  
GF\* & DF\* Gluten/Dairy Free option available, please  
speak to your server for details

Old House at Home  
Newnham Green RG27 9AH  
tele 01256 761896

## NEWNHAM CAROL SINGING

**Tuesday 18th December**

All welcome, please come and sing !

Come well wrapped up, with a torch and hi-viz  
jacket if you have one. Carol sheets will be provided.



We are meeting at Rowan Lodge at 6pm and they are generously  
offering us mince pies and mulled wine to get our voices warmed up so  
we will start there.

If there are sufficient numbers, we will split into two groups to go  
around the Green and down Newnham Road as far as possible. We will  
then all meet again at the Pub and sing to/with a full house of diners.

Donna and Chris are generously offering their mince pies and mulled  
wine for all carol singers AND at 8.30pm a plate of Fish & Chips for  
£10 for the first 14 carol singers to sign up.

Joanna Bell 07757 406 410



## HOOK COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS 2018

### Are you on your own on Christmas Day?

Come and join us for a FREE 3 Course Christmas Dinner  
with all the trimmings 12noon - 3pm at Hartlets Cafe,  
Hook Community Centre, RG27 9NN

Following success of last two years, Hook Parish Council will be  
hosting a Christmas Day lunch for those of any age who would  
otherwise be alone on Christmas Day. There will be singing,  
games, raffle, fun & laughter. Santa will also pay a visit. We can  
also organise door to door transport at no charge.

We are able to offer this fantastic event for free due to the  
generous support of local business and residents.

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL please contact Hook Parish Council  
now to secure your place.

**Please register by 12 noon on Tuesday 18th December**

Call - 01256 768687 Email - [events@hook.gov.uk](mailto:events@hook.gov.uk)



## Parish Planning Applications

18/03387/HSE (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/00466/18/TCA (validated 14th Nov)

New House, Church Path, Newnham. T1 Birch 12m high and radius 4.3m: fell or reduce height to 6m the radius to remain the same 4.3m.

18/02894/HSE (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 (appeal by written representation, scheduled w/c 19th November, not yet decided at time of going to press) Land Adjacent to Oakfield Farmhouse, Scures Hill.

Outline application for three detached dwellings including means of access.

## Hook Planning Application

18/01071/FUL (pending, validated 7th June) 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.



## NEWNHAM CLUBROOM

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.

**Next Parish Council meeting,** Wednesday 30th January 7.40pm, Clubroom. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

Season's greetings and a Happy New Year



## Hart Local Plan Examination in Public

At the time of going to press, the first week of the Hearing, starting Tues 10th November (Tues Wed Thurs), is over. Due to length of discussion the reserve day and an extra day 18th December will be allocated.

Fleet/Crookham's FaceIT website is keeping an up-to-date summary:

<http://www.faceit-group.org/community/face-it-group-13510/the-hart-local-plan/> extracts below...

'The "duty to cooperate" seemed to pass successfully on the first morning, so good news on this first hurdle (which Hart's Plan failed on last time).

'Much time was spent on arguments regarding the Sustainability Assessment. This is the work that ranked the different strategic options on a number of criteria and recommended the current choice of strategy. Most of the people round the table were representing developers whose sites were not included in the Plan. It was notable that developers representing Owens Farm and Pale Lane were the most vocal. These sites are urban extensions which is not the preferred strategic option agreed in Hart's Plan.

'The Inspector also covered the Vision and Strategic Objectives of the Plan, in particular whether they are justified and consistent with National Policy.

'The Inspector reasserted that, under the transitional arrangements between the 2012 and the 2018 versions of the NPPF, the 2012 policy and methodology should be used. This means that the Government's new "standard methodology" which states a base number for housing need, allocated by central government, cannot be used for Hart's Local Plan. Instead the Hart Local Plan must revert to the Objectively Assessed Housing Need (OAHN) based on an independent assessment of local housing need. This assessment is based on a Strategic Housing Assessment in a strategic market area (SMA) comprising Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath and is also the basis of their Local Plans.

'Hart reinforced its position that it has followed Government guidelines, which however have been changing. There was much discussion about the need to provide homes for the unmet housing requirement from Surrey Heath under the duty to cooperate. The Inspector may put an obligation on Hart for a review of their numbers after the Local Plan has been adopted, when other factors are clearer.

'The "New Settlement" policy is clearly very important for everyone, the number of people round the table reflected this and the Inspector prioritised this in the running order. Hart and the promoters of the New Settlement were supporting the policy, with all the other developers, Winchfield Parish Council, and others, criticising it as unsound.

*'The Inspector will make his judgement known in his report after the examination has closed... The examination continues on the 4th December.'*

### EXAMINATION OF THE HART DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN: STRATEGY AND SITES (2016 – 2032)

#### HEARING SESSIONS PROGRAMME v3 23.11.18

Week 2	Morning Session: 09.30	Afternoon Session: 14.00
Tuesday 4 December 2018	Matter 9 - Economic Development	Matter 10 - Town Centre and Retail
Wednesday 5 December 2018	Matter 11 - Infrastructure	Matter 11 - Infrastructure (cont)
Thursday 6 December 2018	Matter 12 - Environment	Matter 12 - Environment (cont)

Week 3	Morning Session: 09.30	Afternoon Session: 14.00
Tuesday 11 December 2018	Matter 5 - Housing: the supply of land for housing, deliverability and viability	Matter 6 - Affordable Housing
Wednesday 12 December 2018	Matter 7 - Housing: provision for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople	Matter 8 - Other Housing Related Policies Matter 13 - Monitoring
Thursday 13 December 2018	Matter 1 - Legal requirements & the Duty to Co-operate (cont) Matter 2 - The Vision and Strategic Objectives	Reserve Session

# Greywell



## VILLAGE HALL

To hire the Village Hall

please contact

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

### December at St Mary's

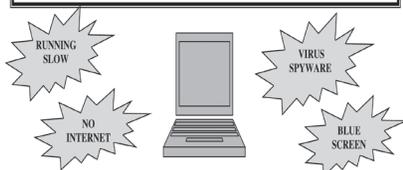
2nd Christingle 4.30pm  
In aid of The Children's Society  
All Welcome + refreshments

16th 11am Communion

23rd 5pm Carol Service  
Followed by refreshments in  
Village Hall

Christmas Day Family Service  
10.45am  
Bring your Family and Friends

CONFUSED BY YOUR COMPUTER?  
TROUBLED BY YOUR TELEVISION SET?



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Advice and Support.

Prices from  
£35

For more information or to book a house call contact



01256 701480

07719738897

imcs@hotmail.co.uk

## Parish Planning Applications

**18/02432/CA** Weston House The Street Greywell Hook RG29 1BZ. The trunk of the tree (T4 in the schematic) has been split for some time but it has recently worsened by getting longer and wider, possibly as a consequence of the recent storm. It is now about 80cm long and about 6mm wide at the widest point. We have been advised to have the tree felled before it falls onto our neighbour's property and causes any damage to their garage, house or cars. At the same time we need to have the walnut tree (T3 in the schematic) reduced by 50% in diameter, as its branches now significantly overhang the neighbouring property. We already have a number of trees so we do not have any plans to replace the Ash tree.

**18/01065/LBC** Manor House The Street Greywell Hook Hampshire RG29 1DB. Minor internal layout changes and refurbishments to the Coach House.

**18/00765/FUL** (pending, registered 30 April) Dairy Complex, White Lane, Greywell RG29 1TL. Partial demolition and conversion of existing agricultural buildings to provide a day health spa facility. Creation of secondary access road, provision of car parking, landscaping and planting. To be decided by Hart Planning Committee of Wednesday 12th December.

## Greywell Hill Estate

### LOGS

Seasoned hardwood logs (oak, ash, beech, birch et al)

Delivered in a farm trailer (approx 90 cu ft) and tipped

£180 per load      £115 per half load

Or smaller loads by arrangement

Tel: Office 01256 703565 or Nigel 07973 715361

## Greywell Village Quiz Night

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2019 7.00pm

- Light supper and cash bar
- £32 per team of 4; please let us know if you wish to join a table.
- Reserve your place with Mike O'Neill ([mjmoneill@gmail.com](mailto:mjmoneill@gmail.com)).

Payment to Joy MacAndrew at The Old Chapel, Deptford Lane. ( Cheques payable to Greywell Village Hall).

The GREYWELL CAFE will be open in the Village Hall on

Thursday, 6 December, between 3 and 4 pm

Friday, 25 January, between 11 am and 12 noon

and

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)

# Church Notices

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

## From the Parish Registers...

### Wedding

October 27th at St Mary's Greywell:  
David Beven and Emily Farrow  
*We wish them every happiness in their life together*

### Funeral Services

November 21 at St Mary's  
Mapledurwell: Isobel Ridland  
*May she rest in peace*

### Mid-Week Holy Communion

We next meet in the warm and welcoming home of Lady Nell at The Dower House in Greywell on 13th December at 11 am. 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. January's communion is on Thursday 10th January 2019.

### Diary dates in December:

December 21st Carols at the Pond, Mapledurwell at 6 pm.  
December 21st Carol Singing around Newnham, starting at Rowan Lodge Nursing Home at 6 pm

## Church Services

### December 2nd

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Newnham (on behalf of Nately Scures)
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	Mapledurwell
11.00am	Christingle	Up Nately
4.30pm	Christingle	Greywell

### December 9th

8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Up Nately
4.30pm	Christingle/Patronal	Newnham
4.30pm	Christingle	Mapledurwell

### December 16th

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

*For Christmas Services, please see the front page*

### December 30th

10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion	Mapledurwell
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### January 6th

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

### January 13th

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

### January 20th United Parish Services

8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Greywell
11.00am	Plough Sunday	Mapledurwell

### January 27th

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

## Special Church Services

### Christingle Services:

We begin our round of Christingle services in Up Nately on December 2nd at 11.00 am followed by a service in Greywell on the same day at 4.30 pm. Newnham will be holding their Christingle service on December 9th followed by a service in Mapledurwell on the same day both at 4.30pm.

Everyone is welcome, but especially children, as we remember the love of Jesus, the light of the world – with the help of juicy oranges, sweets and raisins and candlelight! The collection at these services will be given to the work of The Children's Society.

### Christmas Services:

These are all listed on the front of this Villager and on special cards attached to the new service schedule. Come and join us for traditional Christmas carols and readings.

### Remembering Loved Ones at Christmas:

Christmas can be a difficult time for those who have lost loved ones; the loneliness and memories are especially poignant. We shall be remembering them again this year by writing their names on little tags and tying them to the Christmas trees in each of our five churches. There will be spare tags available for you to write the names of your special people.

**December 30th** There will be a Benefice Holy Communion Service at 10.30 am at Mapledurwell to see off the old year and to welcome in the new. Please do come and join us.

### Plough Sunday:

January 20th at 11.00am at Mapledurwell

This has now become a United Parish tradition as we bless the farmers' ploughs and a pot of soil from their land at the beginning of the year. Hopefully we shall have some ploughs lined up outside for the children to look at and after the short, family friendly service we have refreshments.

## Letter from Alison, Parish Priest Odiham

Dear Friends,

We are becoming increasingly familiar with press reports about the state of our nations mental health and particularly in regards to loneliness.

Research by the British Red Cross suggests over 9 million people, almost one fifth of our population are always or often feel lonely with almost two thirds, 6 million people, who feel uncomfortable admitting it.

Loneliness is often heightened over the Christmas period. Perhaps the memory of how it used to be? Happy family celebrations with loved ones who are now just simply not around?

Most of us thrive when we are in a loving relationship with others, with family or friends. The God of Christianity is a God of relationship and this is never better witnessed than in the Christmas story of the birth of Jesus, Son of God. God desires a relationship with all, with those who seem successful, and with those that find life challenging or who struggle to do the right thing.

Over this coming year keep your eyes peeled for advertised events we will be hosting, initiatives that are open to everyone. I am hoping that together and with All Saints Odiham and the other churches in our Benefice we will be part of the solution to tackling the problem of loneliness in this community.

And you can also help? If you have good ideas to tackle this issue please call me. [01256 703220] I will be so happy to hear from you.

God bless, and may you have a happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Love Alison

**Are you able to give a Christmas present to a youngster in Southampton who might otherwise go without?**

Scratch (Southampton City and Region Action to Combat Hardship) is a charity which provides services to relieve the effects of hardship, disadvantage and poverty for individuals and families living in Southampton and the surrounding area. Southampton is the largest city in Hampshire and in the Diocese of Winchester and is a thriving city in many ways, not least because of the ever-increasing number of cruise operations. It is, though, a city of contrasts with some people still living on the edge and needing help. As a Benefice we have tried to support Southampton in different ways over the years.

The charity provides good quality furniture and household items to families in need, and even tins of paint so that parents can decorate their homes and make them as comfortable as possible, and they provide toys for the children, especially at Christmas so that these so that youngsters too have something to open on Christmas morning.

If you're planning to come to one of our services over the Christmas period, would you be able to bring a wrapped toy with you? If so, please attach a label marked 'girl' or 'boy' (or both) and an age, and we will get these gifts to Scratch ready for distribution during the year and next Christmas.

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