

# The Villager

May 2025 Volume 54 No 4

The community newsletter for Mapledurwell  
Up Nately, Nately Scures and Newnham

## VE-DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY VICTORY CONVOY SATURDAY 10 MAY 2025

<https://commemorativeconvoys.org/>

### Please join us on Saturday 10th to mark VE-Day 80

'Following the success of convoys in 2017, 2019, 2022, 2023 and 2024, we are embarking on a convoy to "Reflect and Celebrate" the VE-Day 80th Anniversary. This will be the last official convoy organised by our volunteers so we really hope you can take part and help us make it a special occasion.'

### ROUTE...

#### Convoy leaves D-Day HQ

#### Southwick PO17 6EJ 10am...

B2177 – North Boarhunt to Wickham  
– A32: Wickham to Droxford,  
Corhampton, Warnford, West Meon,  
Meon Hut, East Tisted, Lower  
Farringdon – A31 to Alton: Alton –  
A3390 Whitedown Lane, right onto  
B3349 and left onto New Odiham  
Road B3349 – Golden Pot, The  
Avenue to Lasham Airfield –

#### Stop at Lasham Airfield

**at approx 11am-11.30:** Depart  
Lasham via The Avenue to the A339  
to Southrope, Herriard, Winslade  
then onwards to **Milestones Museum**  
**arriving at approx 12 noon.**

### A SPECIAL ADDITION TO THE VE-DAY 80 CONVOY...

At the request of group members  
eight former US police cars will follow  
the convoy. 'We welcome the South  
Coast Cop Cars and thank them for  
their support... On arrival in  
Basingstoke, they will be collecting for  
the Poppy Appeal. Visitors are invited  
to have their photographs taken in  
the cars for a donation.'

As in previous years, the convoy will  
be escorted by members of the Royal  
British Legion Riders Branch.



**BC Gardening  
Maintenance**  
Ben Christian  
07502 229175  
[Benchristian20104@gmail.com](mailto:Benchristian20104@gmail.com)

All gardening work plus small engine (mower, strimmer  
etc) maintenance and repair; mole trapping

## THE THIN BLACK LINE

Jenny Faulkner-Quick

Fellow IAM Roadsmart

Thames Valley Advanced Motorists

On most occasions a walk down a  
lane to access a favourite footpath  
passes without incident, and with  
common courtesy we all go on our way  
with a wave, a smile or a thumbs up.

Unfortunately though there are times  
when this isn't the case and the  
outcome isn't for the faint hearted.  
Being hit by a vehicle wing mirror or  
having a vehicle pass at speed at a  
ruler's length isn't something that  
most drivers would feel comfortable  
with – even if they were in their car  
let alone walking! Some drivers think  
that 20mph should be ok, and their  
efforts are acknowledged, but with  
some of our roads being very narrow,  
this leaves very little clearance  
between pedestrian and car wing  
mirror. It feels much less safe than  
you might think. If it isn't possible to  
make space, please stop and let the  
pedestrian pass.

*continued page 3*



**Power  
to the  
Flowers**

**NO  
MOW  
MAY**  
Plantlife

[www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/](http://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/)

## No Mow May™

Plantlife's No Mow May is here!

No Mow May is one of the easiest  
ways to help and connect with  
wildlife, and the perfect way to start  
supporting nature in your garden (in  
May and beyond!). Join in by letting  
the wildflowers grow and be part of  
the No Mow Movement.

## TENNIS AND CHILDREN

Developing Tennis & Developing Children Since 2000

**FREE TRY OUT LESSON**

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Group & Individual Tennis lessons  
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Children aged 4-18 years & adults  
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[www.tennisandchildren.com](http://www.tennisandchildren.com)

# Mapledurwell & Up Nately

## AN INVITATION TO THE **ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY** **WEDNESDAY 21ST MAY 7.30PM**

Mapledurwell & Up Nately Village Hall

refreshments provided

This is a residents' meeting not a Parish Council meeting – a social event with wine and crisps as always! – an opportunity to discuss issues relating to the Parish; to give feedback, raise questions, and suggest projects.



### AGENDA IN BRIEF

*Times intended as a guide only*

- 7.30pm 1. Chairman's welcome  
2. **Police update from PCSO Andy Jones**  
3. Parish Councillors updates
- 8pm 4. **PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION WITH BDBC COUNCIL LEADER, CLLR PAUL HARVEY**

*main topics:*

**BDBC Local Plan Update**  
**Devolution & Local Government Reorganisation**

*Q & A to follow*

- 9pm 5. **Open session Q & A**

9.30pm *Thank you and close*

*Looking forward to seeing you all, Hugo Cubitt, Chairman*

### PARISH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**24/02682/FUL** (Validated 28 March) Hungry Lodge, Down Lane. Change of use of agricultural land to residential use and erection of a greenhouse (part retrospective)

**25/00304/HSE** (Validated 26 February) 6 St Stephens Close. Erection of part first floor, two storey side and rear extension and single storey rear extensions.

**24/02283/ROC** (Grant 10 April, ref DC 09 April) Nunnery House, Tunworth Road. Variation of con 13 of 21/00427/FUL (Erection of four-bed dwelling etc) to change from septic tank or cess pit to water treatment plant.

**24/02002/FUL** (Grant 10 April, ref DC 09 April) Nunnery House, Tunworth Road. Demolish barn and one new dwelling.

**24/01354/FUL** (Pending 24 June) The Gamekeepers. Laying of hardstanding to provide access to the cesspit for the pump-out lorry and to enable the dray lorry to make deliveries clear of the highway; the hardstanding also to serve as additional parking; provision of 4 No. low-level, bat-friendly downlighters within the landscaped margin. (Reduced scheme to 21/01777/RET)

**24/00756/FUL** (Pending 16 April) Land North of Parrotts, Greywell Road. Four detached new dwellings, garages, access, parking, amenity space etc.

**22/02210/RET** (Pending 05 Aug 2022) Priors Farmhouse. Variation of Con 2 of 15/04301/FUL for continued use Class E children's nursery to 2032.

### PLANNING APPEALS

APP/H1705/W/25/3362558 APPEAL IN PROGRESS Land Adjacent To Twine Rose Cottage, Heather Lane. Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of residential dwelling with garage. (Refused BDBC 25 Feb 2025.)

APP/H1705/W/24/3347575 APPEAL IN PROGRESS Brockwell Paddock and Stable, Andwell Lane. Erection of three dwellings and landscaping. (Refused BDBC 18 Jan 2024.)

### PARISH TREE APPLICATIONS

**T/00166/25/TCA** (Validated 01 Apr 2025) Manor Farm Barn, Tunworth Road. T1 Ash: fell. T2 Fruit tree: fell.

**T/00156/25/TCA** (Validated 31 Mar) Hill Cottage, Greywell Road, Up Nately. T1 Oak - Reduce in height by 5-6m to suitable growth points and shape to balance to leave a finished height of 16m with a crown spread of 12m.

**T/00153/25/TCA** (Validated 24 Mar) Mapledurwell Bungalow, Tunworth Road. T1 Leaning Acacia tree: thin crown by 30% and reduce height by 2m leaving a finished height of 7m.

**THE MAPLEDURWELL & UP NATELY VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE INVITE YOU TO A**

### Fused Glass Tealight Workshop



DESIGN AND MAKE 2 BEAUTIFUL FUSED GLASS TEALIGHTS £25 PER PERSON TO INCLUDE A GLASS OF FIZZ AND NIBBLES

ALL GLASS, EQUIPMENT AND FIRING INCLUDED IN THE PRICE.



THURSDAY 8TH MAY 6:30 - 8:30PM

**IF INTERESTED AND FOR PAYMENT PLEASE CONTACT**

ramsdaleheather21@gmail.com or 07552 506898

St Mary's Church Upton Grey

more+ North Hampshire Down Churches

**Church Fete**  
**2.00pm Saturday**  
**7<sup>th</sup> June**  
**Sherborne Cottage**  
**Church Street**  
**Upton Grey RG25 2BS**

**Tombola/Raffle**

**White Elephant/Garden plants/Books**

**Cakes/Cream teas/Ice creams**

**Pimms/Toys/Woodworking**

**Brass band/Punch & Judy**

**Classic Cars/Children's games**

**Admittance £2/ Under 14 free**

**Parking on Church Meadow Church Street**

Church St, Upton Grey RG25 2RB

www.uptongreychurch.co.uk

## NEWS FROM UP NATELY

**Welcome** to Rowan Mackay, born on Good Friday 18 April. Many congratulations to Sarah and Alasdair; a little playmate for Angus!

### Children in the village enjoyed another Easter Scavenger Hunt

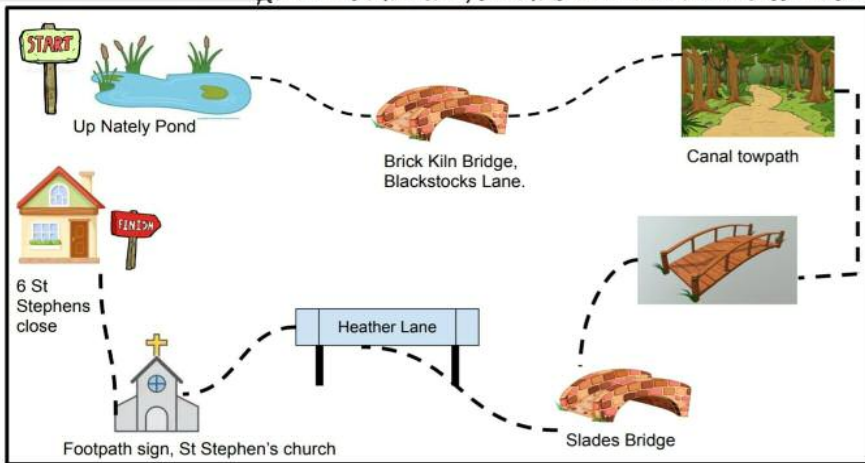
Thank you Charlotte Stephenson for setting it all out, and to the villagers leaving Easter eggs along the way!

**Up Nately Easter Scavenger Hunt**

<p>Look up for some eggs on a tree, count them 1,2,3!</p>	<p>Keep going in a hurry, check all around for two bunnies!</p>	<p>Go down the lane and not too far somewhere soon you'll find a "baa baa".</p>	<p>As you go up the hill, look for a special bunch of daffodils.</p>	<p>If you're after some chocolate you're in luck - your nearby there once you've found some little ducks!</p>
<p>Poking out is a bunny's lunch - a bunch of crunchy carrots to munch!</p>	<p>Beneath the door with the wreath, there will be your easter treats!</p>	<p>A sunny day in spring, will help you see these rabbits on a string.</p>	<p>There is a bridge for you to go through, to find a little bird of blue.</p>	<p>Go down the path super quick, somewhere close will be some hatching chicks</p>

## SCAVENGER ROUTE MAP

CAN YOU COMPLETE THIS COUNTRYSIDE TRAIL, YOU WILL BE CHASING THE EASTER BUNNY'S TAIL SEARCHING HIGH AND LOW, UP IN EVERY TREE, TICKING OFF EVERY SPRING TIME THING YOU SEE. LOOK OUT FOR EASTER CHARACTERS YOU MAY MEET, AND AT THE FINAL SPOT, EXCHANGE YOUR CARD FOR A SWEET TREAT!



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (LGR) UNITARY COUNCIL PROPOSALS

BDBC is clear on its preferred option for four mainland unitaries, with a 'Northern Hampshire' Unitary comprising BDBC, Hart DC & Rushmoor BC.

### Timescales

- 26th September 2025 (requested extension to 28th November 2025) for full proposal to Government on Hampshire's Unitary organisation.
- May 2027 – Shadow elections for new Unitary Councils.
- May 2028 – New Unitary Councils take over.

To follow the borough council's decision-making process, see the BDBC website for minutes of Cabinet meeting of 18th and Full Council meeting of 20 March, and for links to meeting recordings on YouTube:

<https://democracy.basingstoke.gov.uk/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/BasingstokeGov>

## THE THIN BLACK LINE

Jenny Faulkner-Quick  
 Fellow IAM Roadsmart  
 Thames Valley Advanced Motorists

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It only takes moments and won't impact your onward journey.

A common assumption is that motorists pay for the roads and, therefore, have more rights. This is wrong. The roads are funded from general taxation and as pedestrians, cyclists, riders and drivers pay some form of tax then all groups are funding the roads.

Then there is the matter of the National Speed Limit (NSL). The key here is the word 'limit' and as such it isn't a target or an entitlement that trumps the way other people use the road. Country lanes are often given an NSL, not because it is believed they can be driven that fast, but because it negates the requirement for repeater signs in many circumstances. There is a legal expectation that you drive to the conditions rather than the limit. So even if you are driving below the limit and hit another road user, you could still be charged with dangerous or careless driving.

There is a temptation within neighbourhoods to see the safety issues with rural roads as being something that has no origin within the community. Studies consistently show that you are most likely to have an accident within the area you are most familiar with. It is called the 'close to home effect' where familiarity with roads lulls road users into being less ready for the unexpected. It is also well documented that there is a far greater propensity to drink-drive in rural areas with access to public transport being limited and the greater likelihood of 'getting away with it'.

If asked, delivery drivers are most quoted as being the worst offenders of all road users, along with taxi drivers. There are no doubt rogues, but drivers of recognisable companies are monitored using in-cab technology, so it is also likely that a fair number are road safety compliant, as failure to be so, ultimately results in dismissal even without Police involvement.

Whilst pedestrians don't necessarily have any legal obligations when it comes to using the roads, they can also help themselves by making sure they can hear their surroundings and can be seen.

*continued back page*

# Newnham & Nately Scures

## NEWNHAM 900 COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

### HISTORY TALKS

**Please join us for our summer series of talks** held in Newnham Clubroom, refreshments available.

*Just confirmed on going to press...*

**TUES 13 MAY – THE NORMANS**  
...where Newnham 900 begins. Enjoy finding out about the Norman lifestyle; 7.45pm in the Clubroom (note the later time).

### SATURDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER

Event on the Green  
please save the date

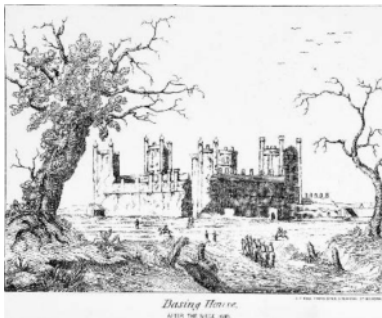
Fete, attractions, reenactments  
plus medieval-style banquet.

### SATURDAY 15TH JUNE

A Church Path commemorative walk  
from Hook to St Nicholas'.

A Special Church Service with the  
Bishop of Winchester 3-4pm.

### 7PM TUESDAY 3RD JUNE – ALAN TURTON ON THE CIVIL WAR



### THE IMPACT OF THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR ON NEWNHAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

The Sieges of Basing House (1643-45) were amongst some of the most significant military actions of the English Civil War. The events affected the whole of North Hampshire with villages being taxed by both sides, raided for provisions and horses, billeting soldiers and in Newnham's case, becoming a parliamentarian outpost to keep watch on royalist Basing House.

Alan Turton is a military historian who specialises in the English Civil War and was curator at the civil war site of Basing House for twenty-four years.



### NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME – HAMPSHIRE, OPENING IN MAY

<https://ngs.org.uk/>

**TYLNEY HALL – OPENING: SUNDAY 18TH MAY, 10AM TO 4PM.**

Pre-booking available

Admission: £7.50, children free  
CASH ONLY

Refreshments: Coffee, tea and cake from 12 noon in the Chestnut Suite

Large garden of 66 acres with extensive woodlands and beautiful vista. Fine avenues of wellingtonias; rhododendrons and azaleas, Italian garden, lakes, large water and rock garden, Dry stone walls incorporated into gardens designed with the assistance of Gertrude Jekyll.

### NEWNHAM COMMUNITY'S



April draw results are

£100 – Colette Wiggin (73)

£50 – Angela Downes (53)

£25 – Chris & Lisa Bingham (6)

*Drawn this month by random selector.*

*Carolyn Bell*



CLUBROOM HIRE Wifi available

<https://newnhamclubroom.org.uk/>

To book tel 07802 972722 or email [bookings@newnhamclubroom.org.uk](mailto:bookings@newnhamclubroom.org.uk)

more+

St Nicholas Church, Newnham



### Flower Arrangers service



...and everyone who helps maintain the church, clean and those who keep the graveyard tidy too

Come and join us on **Sunday 11th May 11.30am** for an informal family friendly service to celebrate all you do followed by a 'bring and share' lunch

And we will have a 'Life since the 1100's jam jar flower festival- so get creative!!! (you can use a **small** vase) There might even be a **prize**!!

more+

North Hampshire Diocese Churches

A network of 12 local churches, in Greyswell, Harriard, Long Sutton, Malsbrough, Nately Scures, Newnham, Odham, South Westborough, Totton, Upton Nately, Upton Grey and Wotton Patrick.

### ROWAN LODGE CLASSIC CAR EVENT SUNDAY 27 JULY 2-4PM

Held at Rowan Lodge and open to the local community with cream tea refreshments.

### MOTO APPLICATIONS FOR A MOTORWAY SERVICE AREA M3,J6

*Moto has submitted a new planning application for the proposed MSA at J6. This application is 'Outline' only and a somewhat scaled-back version (for now) seeking to nullify key objections. The case officer had been minded to refuse the current application due to concerns from National Highways and the Environment Agency. The two applications are now concurrent.*

**Please submit responses to the new application.**

*The application for construction access remains outstanding.*

**25/00754/OUT** (Validated 25 March 2025) Land Adjacent To Junction 6 of the M3. (Old Basing Parish) Outline application (with access to be determined, all other matters reserved) for development of a new Motorway Service Area (MSA) and associated landscaping, infrastructure and ancillary works.

**17/03487/FUL** (Validated 02 Nov 2017) Land Adjacent To J6 M3. Construction of a new Motorway Service Area to comprise an amenity building, lodge, drive thru coffee unit, associated car, coach, motorcycle, caravan, HGV and abnormal load parking, and a fuel filling station with retail shop, together with alterations to the adjoining roundabout on the M3 and slip roads to form an access point and works to the highway. Provision of landscaping, infrastructure and ancillary works.

## PARISH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**25/00758/GPDMA** (Validated 22 Apr 2025) 1 Crown Lane. Application for prior approval of change of use from building used as bed and breakfast accommodation to Class C3 dwellinghouse.

**25/00554/ADV** (Validated 19 March) Basingstoke Country Hotel. Regularisation of the display of 12 no. signs – comprising 2 no. internally illuminated totem signs, 8 no. internally illuminated post signs and 2 no. non illuminated post signs.

**25/00548/FUL** (Validated 07 March) Land adjacent to Blackstocks Lane) Erection of 1 no. dwelling, creation of new access and associated landscaping.

**25/00486/HSE** (Validated 03 March) Tally-Ho, Newnham Road. Demolition in part of rear flat roof aspect, erection of single storey extension with new crown roof to both, exterior sauna, window replacement, pond, landscaping and exterior hot compost system.

**24/02978/ROC** (Pending 20 Dec) Land at Blackstocks Lane. Variation of con 1 and discharge of con 4 of 22/02643/FUL (1 no. dwelling with landscape and parking); addition of rooflights dormer window, additional rooms in roof, changes to elevations & site layout (part retrospective).

**24/02797/FUL** and **24/02798/LBC** (Pending 29 Nov) Newnham House, Ridge Lane. To form a separate dwelling with extension to the Coach House plus amenity space, car parking etc.

**24/00882/LBC** (Pending 16 April 2024) Nightingale Cottage, Heather Row. Demolish south entrance porch, changes to fenestration; new porch with access ramp in revised position. Alterations to conservatory, replace glass roof with tiled. Internal / external alterations.

**23/02722/FUL** (Pending 02 Nov 2023) Land East Of Keepers, London Road. Three new detached dwellings with new access, parking, drainage, landscaping.

## PARISH TREE APPLICATIONS

**T/00190/25/TCA** (Validated 10 Apr 2025) Fir Tree Cottage Newnham Road. T1 Ash: Tree dimensions: 16m Lateral spread 8m. located in the rear garden. The proposed work. To dismantle down to ground level and replant. Reasons for works: large ash in close proximity to house approximately 4 m causing excessive shading when in leaf, bias towards property. T2 Conifer - Tree dimensions: 12 Lateral spread 4 m - located in the front garden. The proposed work. To dismantle down to ground level. Reasons for works: Poor form, previously been topped, multiple leggy stems from pruning height, power lines adjacent.

**T/00104/25/TPO** (Refuse 24 April) 11 The Baredown, Nately Scures. 2 Oak, take two branches on each back to trunk.

**T/00474/24/TCA** (Pending 24 Sept) Newnham Lodge Tylney Lane. Acacia: fell and remove stump.

**IRON BULL ROADHOUSE**

# VE DAY 80 PARTY!

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 1pm - 5pm

**SPECIAL WARTIME MENU**  
Corned Beef Hash topped with a Fried Egg  
Beef Casserole with Stout, Mushrooms, Dumplings & Mash  
Homely Pie - Creamy Leek, Potato & Cheddar Pie with Shortcrust Pastry  
All with Braised Red Cabbage & Vegetables (subject to rations availability)  
Apple Crumble & Custard | Warm Chocolate Brownie & Ice Cream | Spotted Dick & Custard

With the amazing **STEPHANIE BELLE** singing wartime songs

**£50 BEST DRESSED CASH PRIZE!**

ENTRY: £10 pp  
Book now at <https://fienta.com/80-year-ve-day-theme-party>

Water End Park, Old Basing, Basingstoke, RG24 7BB

**80 VE DAY 80<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

## NOTES FROM THE APRIL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Thank you to everyone who attended, with special thanks to the speakers and to PCSO Andy Jones.

**Newnham 900** Al Richmond outlined the concept for the celebrations and the work so far undertaken by the 900-team – also including Matt Morris, Sue Symons, David Matthias and Revd Debbie Veel.

Valiant efforts had been made to compile a Lottery application but this was ever a very challenging aspiration and ultimately not successful.

Funding is secured for a scaled-down event; further grants and sponsors will be sought; the team will seek to involve the Parish pubs and other local businesses. But ultimately the aim is for a journey and series of events that bring the community together:

**'This is YOUR celebration; the team is looking for your involvement, support, comments, ideas, offers; particularly hands-on help with the main event.'**

**Please contact Al or any member of the team, either directly or via [clerk.newnham@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.newnham@gmail.com)**

**HIWARG** Pete West described the status and roles of the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Amphibian and Reptile Group, as well as its involvement with Newnham Green ponds. To thank Pete particularly for HIWARG's support in providing advice and volunteers.

Working parties will be arranged as soon as parts of the main pond dry out. Local volunteers – even if you can only help for a short time – will be very much appreciated; dates to be circulated as soon as possible.

The slides for both presentations are available on the Parish Council website [www.newnham-pc.info](http://www.newnham-pc.info); a page from HIWARG's presentation copied below.

**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
AGM, Tues 20 May, 7pm in the Clubroom, everyone welcome.

### Newnham Ponds: A wildlife haven

**Amphibians:**

- A 'large' population of great crested newts!
- Smooth newt,
- Palmate newt,
- Common frog
- Common toad

**Reptiles:**

- Grass snake
- Viviparous lizard
- (Slow worms likely present, but not recorded)

**Notable invertebrate presence:**

- 7+ dragonfly species
- 8+ species of water beetles
- Caddisfly
- Mayfly
- Otter spiders
- Water stick insect
- Plus many more

And of course, you have your breeding moorhen

# Church Notices

'Journeying together, we worship God and serve the community'  
[www.united-parish.org.uk](http://www.united-parish.org.uk)  
<https://www.moretolife.church>

## From the Parish Registers

Interment of Ashes: Sarah Laird at St Nicholas' Newnham on April 25th



## North Hampshire Downs Mothers' Union

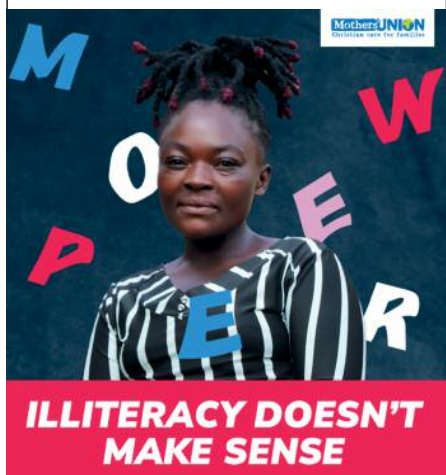
Because of the Bank Holiday on Monday 5th May, our branch meeting will take place on the second Monday, 12th May, at 7.30pm. We will meet at the RAF Chaplaincy Centre as usual.

On Saturday June 14th, we will have a stall at Hartley Wintney Village Festival where we plan to sell second-hand books to raise funds for the Mothers' Union campaign to support literacy around the world, particularly for women and girls.

There are 480 million women around the world who can't read or write, which means that they can't register the birth of their baby, read the labels on medicine bottles or open a bank account.

Literacy is so important as it empowers women and, in changing their lives, changes the lives of their communities. If you would like to donate some books to support us, then please contact me for more details.

Sue Murphy, 01252 845011 / 07881 828450 or email [suemurphymubbranch@outlook.com](mailto:suemurphymubbranch@outlook.com)



## CHURCH SERVICES APRIL INTO MAY

<b>Sunday 04 May</b>	9am St Mary's Mapledurwell, CW Holy Communion 11am St Mary's Greywell, Morning Worship 5pm St Swithun's Nately Scures, Evensong
<b>Sunday 11 May</b>	9am St Stephen's Up Nately, BCP Holy Communion (said) 11.30am St Nicholas' Newnham, Flower Arrangers' Service
<b>Sunday 18 May</b>	9am St Mary's Greywell, CW Holy Communion 11am St Mary's Mapledurwell, Pet Service in Alan Hutton's barn, Tunworth Road
<b>Sunday 25 May</b>	10am St Nicholas' Newnham, BCP Holy Communion (said) 11am St Stephen's Up Nately, Morning Worship
<b>Thursday 29 May</b>	7.30pm All Saints' Odiham, Benefice Ascension Day Service
<b>Sunday 01 June</b>	9am St Mary's Mapledurwell, CW Holy Communion 11am St Mary's Greywell, Morning Worship 5pm St Swithun's Nately Scures, Evensong.



## FROM THE BENEFICE MINISTRY TEAM

As I write this, the sun is shining bright in the sky,

grass is being cut, birds are singing and children are playing out in the park. After a fairly dreary start to the year, it is safe to say that this feels wonderful. It brings a real sense of hope to the world around us, and hope it sorely needs right now.

We have just journeyed through Lent, a time of mourning and reflecting, as we carried the story through the joy of Palm Sunday, the sober reflection of Maundy Thursday, the devastation of Good Friday and finally the celebration of Easter Day. That season is one of the most profound for me, as it takes us through such a breadth of human experience, and carries us in the tough and the joyful.

And here we are now, in the Easter season, following that day. It is a season of hope and promise. It is a season where we are fully aware of the promise of resurrection; of life coming out of death; of light breaking through the darkness. Of the certainty of Jesus in the confusion of life.

Our world is a fairly uncertain one at the moment. Whether through tariffs, political manoeuvring, environmental crises or all-out war, it is hard sometimes to see the solid ground for the chaos and confusion all around. It would be all too easy in these times to fear, to crumble, to panic. But as a good friend of mine once said to me... 'This is what we've been training for'.

The message of Jesus isn't one of comfort, of ease, of complacency. His isn't a story that tells us that everything is fine, just relax. His is a life lived in the muck. A God who embraced the messiness of humanity, who walked with the questions and engaged with the doubting.

The message of Easter which we live in today tells us that all will be well... though maybe not as we expect, or when we expect. The Easter story tells us that Jesus came to equip us, and enable us to engage with life in all its realness. That he invites us to journey with him through the pain, the heartache, the uncertainty. He equips us to live out in precisely the world we find ourselves in today.

His is a real hope, not a false one. A lived, experienced and tested hope. This is what we've been training for... to live confidently today. If you want to find out more about this life, this faith, why not pop along to one of our services on a Sunday, or get in touch with the clergy in your village. We would all love to meet and chat with you, and explore this together.

Enjoy the sun... whenever we get it!

*Matt*, Revd Matt Bianchi  
Vicar, All Saints' Odiham

**The Table**  
FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

North Warnborough Village Hall

Generally held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month.

From **5PM**

Contact Matt [matt@moretolife.church](mailto:matt@moretolife.church)



Paul Dadd  
Children and Youth Pastor  
[paul@moretolife.church](mailto:paul@moretolife.church)

## KIDZONE

Recently at our Sunday children's programme at All Saints' Odiham, we explored the words of Jesus and his wonderful invitation to us to remain connected with him *like a branch is connected to a vine* (John 15). As we stay connected with Jesus, we stay connected to God, the source of life.

How do we stay connected to God?

Identifying the things that help us to remember and celebrate God's faithful presence with us is really important. What does that look like for you on a daily, weekly, monthly, seasonal and yearly basis? Maybe it involves some of the following...

Daily:

- Thanking God for a new day before you get out of bed in the morning.
- Naming one thing for which you can be grateful before you go to sleep at night.
- Sharing a prayer of gratitude at the dinner table.
- Going for a walk or run.

Weekly:

- Going to church or other faith gatherings
  - Meeting with a friend or family member who encourages and inspires you
  - Attending a Kid's or Youth Club
- Seasonally/yearly
- Special church services, school assemblies
  - Observing Lent and Advent in your home
  - Camp or holiday club
  - Pilgrimage or mission project

Our connectedness to God isn't dependent on just one of these things, but we find our lives are nurtured and nourished through the regular rhythms and habits of all of them.

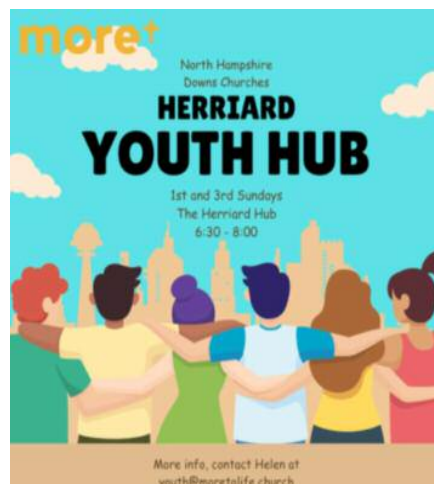
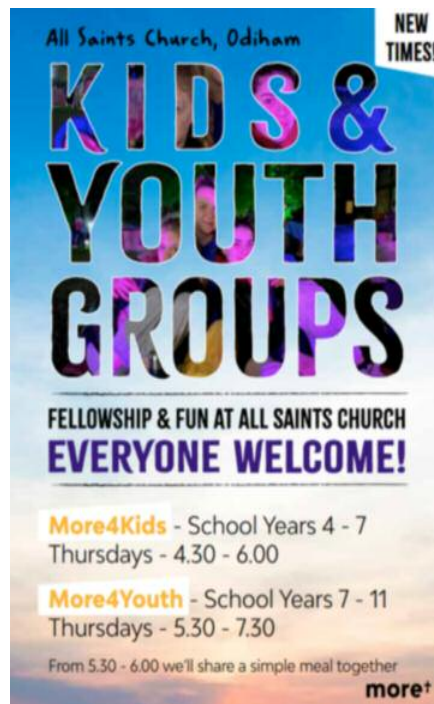
Why not have a go as a family or household at tracking the things across your days, weeks and months that keep you connected to the things that really matter?

Who are the people who encourage and inspire you and help you to see how what you do day by day gradually broadens out into what you might grow into year by year?

If you are looking for some ways to help you connect, you might like to consider one or more of the following below. Get in touch if you want to find out more.

In all we do, may we learn to live more truthfully; becoming more ourselves - more like the person who God made us to be.

Blessings, *Paul*



## JOIN US ON ASCENSION DAY

**more+**

North Hampshire Downs Churches

Have you marked your calendar for Ascension Day on Thursday May 29th?

Please do join us for our beautiful Ascension Day service at 7.30pm that day, in All Saints' Church, Odiham. As we look ahead to this important date in the Christian calendar, people often remark that they've not even heard of Ascension Day.

But for hundreds of years, Christians have affirmed Jesus' ascension in the words of the Apostles Creed, as part of which we say:

'...I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead...'



Photo courtesy of Bayerische National Museum, Munich

The picture above is of one of the earliest remaining sculpted-panels in ivory, dating right back to AD400. It depicts Jesus' ascension, and underlines how important this event has been to Christians right through the centuries.

Today, the Ascension reminds us that Christianity is not only a historical faith, but a faith of the present and future. For the present, Jesus is not just our suffering servant who came and died and rose triumphant, but our actively ruling, actively conquering king, who remains active and engaged in our world and our lives.

And as Christians we have this steadfast hope in a glorious future - with him, forever. This is great news... Please come and join us in All Saints Odiham at 7.30pm on Thursday May 29th to find out more!

Rev'd Chris Dudgeon, Benefice Rector

## LONGER DAYS, WARMER WEATHER, MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO DO EXCITING THINGS!

As we move into our summer term, despite having 70 activity groups already, our members have been organising even more. When places for a Neil Diamond tribute evening at Winchester Theatre were offered, they were seized upon with a speed that rivalled Glastonbury!

**Our new activities for May include Ballroom Dancing and Chess** Our Ballroom Dancing group will be waltzing their partners in weekly sessions across the floor of North Warnborough Village Hall. Guiding them through their steps will be professional dance duo, Thomas and Hayley, who will keep members on their toes with two-hour sessions of ballroom and Latin dancing.

With less sequins but still plenty of practiced moves our Chess group is also taking to the boards! This new group is just beginning as interested members come together to make arrangements for regular play dates.

Croquet makes a return for the summer season – always a favourite amongst members. The Odiham & Greywell Cricket Club are kindly hosting us again, providing three courts for us to use. Sessions here are fun and light-hearted but we can also provide for the more serious player too.

**Summer also means our U3a Annual Picnic, organised to coincide with Odiham RAF Families Day which allows us to enjoy a free air display – weather permitting!**

And, we also start planning for our fast approaching ...



### Open Day; Wednesday 13th August at Robert May's School

Our Open Day is an opportunity for members and non-members alike, to come and see what our u3a is all about, to see the wide range of activities we offer, and to meet socially over tea and cakes. Our groups will be there, with 'stalls' which will showcase their activities and, above all, provide an opportunity for visitors to talk and learn about what they actually do.

Why don't you make a note of the date so you can keep it free and come along? To find out more, please visit our website.

<https://odiham.u3asite.uk/>

**u3a**  
learn, laugh, live

**ODIHAM DISTRICT**

## THE THIN BLACK LINE

Jenny Faulkner-Quick  
Fellow IAM Roadsmart  
Thames Valley Advanced Motorists

*continued from page 3*

Wandering down a road at night, headphones on, dressed in black with no torch, would present a challenge to any other road user even if they had 20/20 vision and decent lighting. Cyclists do have a legal requirement to have lights but would be well advised to follow in a similar vein in choice of attire.

Sadly, according to RoSPA's 2024 Rural Road Safety Factsheet, in 2023 44 pedestrians were killed on rural roads and 309 seriously injured. In small communities it hits even harder if a local person is either the perpetrator or victim of an incident. I would urge all of us to look out for each other however we use the roads. The roads are for all, and no-one leaves home expecting to return either with life changing injuries or not at all.

So please slow down, think and give space to your fellow humankind. Let's travel the thin black line safely.

## BASING SINGERS

The Basing Singers have been asked by Deane Sinfonia to join them in a...

**Concert at Queen Mary's College on Saturday 17th May at 7.30 pm**

... where you will be treated to an array of music including Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Miss Saigon Medley, songs from *Wicked* and *Les Miserables* and more.

Would love you to come and join us. Tickets are £10 for adults and £1 for children and can be purchased at:

[www.deane-sinfonia.com/next-concerts](http://www.deane-sinfonia.com/next-concerts)

Basing Singers are a non-audition choir for ladies and gentleman who love singing; they meet every Wednesday at St Mary's Church Hall from 7.30pm to 9.30pm, and putting on events throughout the year to entertain you.

New members are always welcome so why not give it a try.

Mike Leaming, Secretary

<https://basingsingers.org.uk>

### NORTH WARNBOROUGH & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

Next meeting Thursday 22nd May North Warnborough Village Hall, from 2.10pm with plant stall; talk at 2.30pm. Speaker Margaret Lennard on 'Forage for Pollinators'.

We look forward to welcoming new members. Visitors welcome entry £3.

[www.nwdgc.org.uk](http://www.nwdgc.org.uk)

**more+**  
GET OUT TUESDAYS 10 - 11:30  
2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, meet outside St Mary's Upton Grey.  
1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month, St Andrew's, South Warnborough  
**Tuesday Toddlers**  
Contact [admin@moretolife.church](mailto:admin@moretolife.church)

**Kevin Curtis**

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