

The Villager

February 2023 Volume 52 No 1

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

UKRAINIAN GUESTS

Helen Chatfield, Youth Pastor

On the 6th January, while many of us were busy taking down our Christmas decorations, a small band of volunteers in Newnham were putting up decorations, wrapping presents and setting the table for 60 guests. It was almost time for us to celebrate Ukrainian Christmas Eve, or Holy Evening, as they call it in Ukraine.

This evening was celebrated with food, drink and, of course dancing. For some of the Ukrainians, this felt like the first time they were truly able to relax and be happy, for some the memories of Christmases past and those left back home meant the evening was very emotional.

'Thanks Geoff and Helen, for supporting us yesterday. The evening was wonderful and it was like we had a big family' Ira

'Geoff and Helen, thank you for yesterday. I felt at home, in familiar surroundings and surrounded by good company. This is the first time I have felt like this, since the first enemy bombs flew into our country on February 24th. We cried, we laughed, we danced. It was perfect!' Oksana

If you're wondering who Geoff is, he's the amazing Geoff Hawkes, who supports Ukrainians in so many ways and this evening provided us with a venue, drinks and even Christmas presents for the children. Thanks from all of us, Geoff!

More than 120 Ukrainian refugees have made their temporary home within the benefice in the eight months since we first welcomed them into our community and into our homes. Some have now been supported by us, their hosts and local authorities, into independent rented housing. Some have become an integral part of their host families and remain in their homes, a few have only just arrived or are on their way!

This means that the support we offer has moved on from predominantly finding hosts, to finding landlords, facilitating access to English lessons and jobs and generally supporting our new friends as they become more and more integrated into our local community.

All the children who came into the area have found places in local



schools, colleges and even nurseries - and a big thank you needs to go out to all the local educational establishments for their support and flexibility. Our most recent support package in the schools has been providing a Ukrainian learning support assistant to go into Mayhill and Long Sutton Schools. Thank you to OCC and Upton Grey Educational Trust for your support in this. Nearly all our guests who are in a position to do so have found work, and others are working hard to improve their English, so that they can.

It has been such an honour and a joy to get to know so many beautiful, strong people from a country I'd barely heard of, and if you ever get the opportunity to join them for a meal, you will fall in love with Ukrainian cuisine, but one highlight for me, as a youth pastor, has been the way Ukrainian young people have integrated into our groups, including our Thursday youth group, which is now 50% Ukrainian.

The teenage years are never easy to navigate, and trying to do that in a new country, without your usual support network and with the worry of what is happening to friends and family back at home, is particularly tough. To promote our teenage guests' wellbeing and provide them with a life-changing experience, we teamed up with Morning Star Trust in November to go on a sailing weekend between Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight. This was truly a time when these young people were taken out of their comfort zone and given responsibilities and opportunities which didn't allow them to dwell on worries at home for two full days.

'Thank you very much for this wonderful trip! I liked most when we got into a big storm and our boat glided over giant waves and we managed the sails ourselves! It was

also very cool that we were busy all the time - I didn't even have time to get my phone and it was splendid! Chris, Jacob and Helen, I am even a little embarrassed that you made such an effort for us!' Dima (12)

I could go on for ever about our experiences over the last eight months - but I think I'll get in trouble with the editor! But one final note - none of this could have been done without the support of the local community, in so many ways. Although we are not going out of our way to find new guests any more, we still have family members who are suddenly able to come, or guests who need new hosts, due to host ill health or that they have come to the end of their six months. Could this be you? If it is, we'd love to hear from you - please get in touch via my email youth@moretolife.church.

In the meantime, on behalf of all our guests, from 18 months to 87 years, thanks again for all your support already and God Bless.

Helen



Mapledurwell & Up Nately



www.mapledurwellvillagehall.co.uk



Towards the end of 2022 the Village Hall Committee ran two events in support of the Village Hall. Firstly, a coffee morning which attracted villagers and dog walkers alike raising £150.

Following this was a Quiz Night which was full of the usual challenging questions, good food and drink. Everyone threw themselves into the spirit of the event with the usual competitiveness and good cheer! All members of the committee created a wonderful night with particular mention to a new and excellent Quiz Master, Steve Chapman, who was nobly assisted by his daughter Phoebe. Thank you to all villagers who supported the event raising £993.16 for the Village Hall.

Further events coming up...

'BRUSH PARTY'

Friday 17th March 6-9pm

**Contact Heather Ramsdale
07552 506898 or
ramsdaheather21@gmail.com**

Tickets £45

Where painting gets social with wine and nibbles. It doesn't matter if you haven't picked up a paint brush since school...

A Brush Party is an unforgettable few hours of fun, friends and painting that you'll be talking about for weeks! All equipment supplied.



NOTES FROM THE JANUARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Village Hall Tim Lewis submitted a report on behalf of the Village Hall Committee detailing progress on the grant-funded works to improve energy efficiency now in progress.

Chalk stream Thanks to County Cllr Elaine Still for grant funding for the next project phase of planting.

Parish Council Precept 2023/24 agreed at £10,842, an increase of 5% on this year; however a small rise in the tax base will mean slightly less than 5% increase per household @ £36.15, an additional £1.09 per band D household (double this for band H and half for band A).

Parish Lengthsman funding now seems will continue next year, not via HCC, but their contractor Milestone.

Grip clearing The Lengthsman spent the best part of a day clearing one of the grips and holding ditches on Tunworth Road (south) on the hill towards the Parish boundary. Potential to be an ongoing and big job and logged with HCC Highways. 'The water runs from close to Blackdown Farm (Tunworth Parish) so approx 1.5 miles of road water to cope with.'

Two more days' work are booked. The LM will first spend a day clearing grips along the Greywell Road, then moving back up to Tunworth Road, ensuring to open out all grips, then clearing as much as time allows.

UP NATELY VILLAGE COFFEE MORNINGS

We have all missed meeting up regularly for coffee and are eager to start those cozy mornings again.

Sadly the planned extra gathering for February had to be cancelled but 3rd March is firmly in the diary, at Netherby Cottage, 10-12 noon.

Pop in for a while and meet other residents, for directions or anything else you wish to know call Rosemary on 01256 760216.

Jane Roberson will host on 5th May. Wishing everyone health and happiness and a better year than 2022 turned out to be!

Maths Tutoring

KS3 to GCSE (Ages 11-16)

I would love to help improve your child's confidence in Maths :)

I am studying A level Mathematics at Farnborough Hill and achieved a Grade 9 at GCSE (receiving 97% of marks available).

I offer both in person and online lessons, located in Mapledurwell. I am offering this service as I am fundraising towards joining an expedition to Borneo, assisting local community conservation and development projects.

I am diligent, trustworthy, reliable and flexible. I aim to assist your child in consolidating their learning on topics they find challenging and support them to achieve their potential.

Rate: £20/hr

And for more information please contact me by text on 07557916452

'From an environmental point of view the lack of County maintenance means that any soil wash or other pollutants will end up in the streams and thus pollute the rivers. Cleaning grips and maintaining road drainage will help prevent pollution, much more than generally realised.'

Thanks to Tom Horsey for hand clearing grips in Up Nately.

Allotments Agreed in principle to create a further allotment and engage the Community Payback team.

Five Lanes End - The old fence around the Beech trees has been removed and there is little sign at present of vehicles driving between the trees. Agreed to monitor.

Parish Assembly date Wed 24th May, to invite the Canal Society to present on the Last Five Miles.

PARISH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

22/03417/FUL (Validated 28 December)
The Egg Yard, Greywell Rd, M/durwell.
Erection of three dwellings with associated parking using approved access.

22/03317/HSE (Validated 13 December)
Arlings, Tunworth Road. Replacement garage (including home office and arts and crafts room) outbuilding.

22/03307/HSE and 22/03308/LBC
(Validated 12 December) Blaegrove Cottage, Blaegrove Lane Up Nately. Single storey rear extension.

22/03228/ROC (Validated 30 November)
Nunnery House, Tunworth Road. Variation of condition 1 of 21/00427/FUL to amend plans to allow for adding rear extension to the ground floor.

22/03089/HSE (Granted 05 January)
Fieldside, Heather Lane. Erection of single storey front extension, oak porch and front dormer window

22/02935/TDC (Scheduled for DC Committee of 8 Feb) Nunnery House, Tunworth Road. Technical details consent relating to the design, access, landscape, services and scale of the barn, in accordance with 20/00009/PIP (granted at Appeal) for conversion of agricultural building to 1 no. dwelling.

22/02818/ROC (Pending, 21 October)
The Egg Yard, Greywell Road, Mapledurwell. Variation of conditions 1, 3 and 10 of 20/02124/FUL to allow for revised design and update to landscaping and finishes condition and removal of condition 11 relating to garages.

22/02710/PIP (Pending, 17 October)
Land Adjacent To Blaegrove House, Blaegrove Lane. Permission in Principle for the erection of one new dwelling.

22/02416/FUL (Pending, 26 August)
Riverview House, London Road.
Extensions including an additional floor and a three storey rear extension to provide nine additional one-bedroom flats. [Total 17 x one-bed flats.]

22/02349/FUL (Granted 02 December)
Land Opposite The Laurels, Heather Lane.
One new dwelling with associated detached car port, parking and landscaping.

22/02210/RET (Pending, 05 Aug) Priory Farmhouse. Variation of Condition 2 of 15/04301/FUL to allow continued use as Class E children's nursery to 31/08/2032.

21/01777/RET (Pending 24 May 2021)
Gamekeepers. Hardstanding plus seven downlighters (retrospective).

21/00827/FUL (Pending 20 April 2021, new documents Oct / Nov 2022) Land opposite Hillside, Heather Lane. Change of use to dog walking area and off road parking; gate, fence and shed.

APPEAL PENDING

APP/H1705/W/22/3306530 for
21/00107/PIP – The Farm, Tunworth Road.
Permission in Principle for residential development of maximum six dwellings. (Note now officially six as opposed to original nine.)

NOTES ON HIGHWAYS, TREES AND HEDGES, AND LAND OWNERSHIP

'THE HIGHWAY' – DEFINITIONS

Meaning of 'highway' at common law 'A highway is a way over which there exists a public right of passage, that is to say 'a right for all [His] Majesty's subjects at all seasons of the year freely and at their will to pass and repass without "without let or hindrance".'

A highway may be dedicated, subject to certain restrictions or obstructions; and it may be limited to a recognised class of traffic. The right to 'pass and repass' is a form of legal right known as an easement.

Highways Act 1935 'Though the term highway is popularly used to refer to roads, its legal definition covers any public road, track or path. Historically, a highway, which was also referred to as "the King's highway", was defined as a public passage for the use of the sovereign and all his or her subjects. The Highway Act 1835 defines highways as "all Roads, Bridges (not being County Bridges), Carriageways, Cartways, Horseways, Bridleways, Footways, Causeways, Churchways and Pavements".'

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/public-rights-of-way/

Grass verges 'Lanes and rural roads often have wide grass verges but these are as much part of the highway as the Tarmac.'

www.mogersdrewett.com/hedges-verges-boundaries/

MAINTENANCE OF ROADSIDE HEDGES AND TREES

The responsibility for hedges and trees is that of the landowner.

The Highways Act 1980, Section 154 – Cutting or felling etc. trees etc. that overhang or are a danger to roads or footpaths.

'(1) Where a hedge, tree or shrub overhangs a highway or any other road or footpath to which the public has access, so as to endanger or obstruct the passage of vehicles or pedestrians, or obstructs or interferes with the view of drivers of vehicles or the light from a public lamp, or overhangs a highway so as to endanger or obstruct the passage of horse-riders, a competent authority may, by notice either to the owner of the hedge, tree or shrub or to the occupier of the land on which it is growing, require him within 14 days from the date of service of the notice so to lop or cut it as to remove the cause of the danger, obstruction or interference.'

'For the purposes of this section

"hedge, tree or shrub" includes vegetation of any description.

"competent authorities"... [includes] a local highway authority.'

LAND OWNERSHIP

'Roads, Pavements and Verges' according to Land Registry

'As a general rule Land Registry title plans do not show roads, pavements or grass verges outside of a building or parcel of land. However, there is a legal presumption in common law that the property fronting onto the road includes ownership of the paving, grass verge and road to the mid-point thereof. This presumption can be rebutted by evidence to the contrary. Such evidence, where it exists, is usually found within the title register or deeds to the property.

'It is the case that all non-private roads have been adopted by the local authority, who enter into an agreement and bond with the developer or builder of the property. This means that the local authority maintain the surface of the paving, grass verge and road, but so far as ownership of the sub-surface is concerned the owner of the abutting house or land (called the "frontager") is in actuality the owner of it.

'It is the practice of Land Registry to outline on the title plan in red ink the property owned, but to exclude therefrom the fronting pavement, grass verge and road. The only way to be sure who the owner is (whether the road is adopted or not) is to search by plan; usually the title plan for the property itself... as a result of the Land Registry identifying the land from the documents you provided.'

<https://www.landregistry-titledeeds.co.uk/frequently-asked-questions/information/map-search-land-with-no-address.asp>

OPEN CONSULTATION – LEVELLING-UP AND REGENERATION BILL: REFORMS TO NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/levelling-up-and-regeneration-bill-reforms-to-national-planning-policy/levelling-up-and-regeneration-bill-reforms-to-national-planning-policy

This consultation on proposals to update the National Planning Policy Framework published 22nd Dec is open until 11.45pm on 2nd March.

'Scope of this consultation: The Department for Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities is seeking views on how [it] might develop new and revise current national planning policy to support [its] wider objectives.'

NOTES ON THE CONSULTATION

To deliver more homes

It is evident from the online Consultation Document that a wider objective is to reinforce the case for house building, and to strengthen this position within the NPPF.

Chapter 2 of the Consultation Proposals discusses *Policy Objectives of the Levelling Up & Regeneration Bill...* 'ALL THIS IS NEEDED TO DELIVER MORE HOMES...'

CH2.4. 'The Government remains committed to its commitment of 300,000 homes a year.'

Chapter 4 on *Planning for Housing...*

CH4.1. 'This chapter is seeking your views on potential changes... that will support our objective of a planning system THAT DELIVERS THE NEW HOMES WE NEED....'

CH4.2. 'We propose making small additions to paragraphs 1 and 7 of the existing Framework (Introduction and Chapter 2 on Achieving Sustainable Development). These changes are intended to signal that PROVIDING FOR NECESSARY DEVELOPMENT THAT IS INTEGRATED WITH LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE IS A CORE PURPOSE OF THE PLANNING SYSTEM.'

'...THE FRAMEWORK SHOULD BE REVISED TO BE CLEARER ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF PLANNING FOR THE HOMES AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT OUR COMMUNITIES NEED.'

Housing numbers calculation – Government 'Standard Methodology'

The Consultation proposals (CH4.16) insist on the continued use of the 'Standard Method' for calculating housing numbers and on continuing to use 2011 census data until 2024.

CH4.8. 'Local authorities will be expected to continue to use local housing need, assessed through the Standard Method, to inform the preparation of their Plans; although the ability to use an alternative approach where there are exceptional circumstances that can be justified will be retained.'

A proposed difference according to Michael Gove is that the standard method should be seen only as an 'advisory starting-point' for assessing housing need.

Use of the Standard Method and exceptional circumstances as outlined in the NPPF para 61

The Consultation website publishes a copy of the National Planning Policy Framework (July 2021) with proposed 'tracked changes'.

The current NPPF para 61 says:

'To determine the minimum number of homes needed, strategic policies should be informed by a local housing need assessment, conducted using the standard method in national planning guidance – unless exceptional circumstances justify an alternative approach which also reflects current and future demographic trends and market signals.'

Proposed text added to NPPF para 61:

'The outcome of the standard method is an advisory starting-point for establishing a housing requirement for the area (see para 67 below). There may be exceptional circumstances relating to the particular characteristics of an authority which justify an alternative approach to assessing housing need; in which case the alternative used should also reflect current and future demographic trends and market signals.'

NPPF Para 67 proposes to add:

'The requirement may be higher than the identified housing need, if it includes provision for neighbouring areas, or reflects growth ambitions linked to economic development or infrastructure investment.'

Michael Gove states his intention to be clear on what exceptional circumstances will be considered, but focuses only on three criteria – housing densities out of keeping with local character; Green Belt, and over-delivery from the previous Plan period.

Local characteristics?

CH4.8 cont... *'We will make clearer in the Framework that the outcome of the Standard Method is an advisory starting-point to inform Plan-making – a guide that is not mandatory – and also propose to give more explicit indications in planning guidance of the types of local characteristics which may justify the use of an alternative method, such as islands with a high percentage of elderly residents, or university towns with an above-average proportion of students.'*

'We would welcome views on the sort of demographic and geographic factors which could be used to demonstrate these exceptional circumstances in practice.'

CH4.9 makes three specific proposals for where 'exceptional circumstances' will be considered:

- Where building at unacceptably high densities is the only way to meet need in full.
- Where building on Green Belt land is the only way of meeting need.
- Past housing delivery... where more homes delivered than planned for during the preceding Plan period... permissions granted exceed the provision made in the existing Plan...'

On the five-year housing land supply

Chapter 3 on 'Reforming the five-year housing land supply' proposes considerable change:

CH3.4. *'We propose to remove the requirement for local authorities with an up-to-date Plan (which in this case means where the housing requirement as set out in strategic policies is less than five years old), to demonstrate continually a deliverable five-year housing land supply. [Also] 3.5...we propose removing five-year housing land supply buffers from National Planning Policy in the future, [and] 3.7 We propose bringing our position on oversupply in line with that on undersupply, when calculating a five-year housing land supply.'*

Re up-to date Local Plan and 'Plans already in the System' (CH4)

BDBC would be unable to benefit from a lower land supply requirement until its next Regulation 18 (Draft Plan) Consultation presently scheduled for autumn / winter this year.

CH4.17. 'For the purposes of decision-making, where emerging Local Plans have been submitted for examination or where they have been subject to a Regulation 18 or 19 consultation – which included both a policies map and proposed allocations towards meeting housing need – those authorities will benefit from a reduced requirement... a four-year supply of land for housing, instead of the five.'

'Housing buffer' (CH3)

CH3.5. 'The Framework currently requires local authorities to include a buffer of 5%, 10% or 20% on top of their 5-year housing land supply in plan-making or making decisions... We propose removing these buffers...'

continued... following page

Continued... NPPF consultation
Including 'over supply' numbers
within the housing calculation

CH3.6. 'We have a system that has the potential to penalise those local planning authorities that overdeliver their housing requirements early in the plan period... it can result in a shortfall later in the plan period...

CH3.7. 'We propose bringing our position on oversupply in line with that on undersupply when calculating a five-year housing land supply. This will enable a local planning authority to include historic[al] oversupply in its five-year housing land supply calculations.'

The Housing Delivery Test (HDT)

Chapter 4 *Planning for Housing* includes 'Taking account of permissions granted in the HDT':

CH4.20. 'The government wants to apply the Housing Delivery Test in a way which does not penalise local planning authorities unfairly when slow housing delivery results from developer behaviour.'

Further chapters cover Environment, Climate change, Onshore wind and Energy efficiency.

.....
Please respond to the Consultation. The National Planning Policy Framework is the Government's 'overarching' authority on planning. Local Plans are required to comply with its policies, the outcome of this consultation will shape the future of BDBC's Local Plan Update.

BDBC Planning officers have proposed publishing their response to the Consultation on the BDBC website, (Planning Policy – Local Plan Update section), and also share group and councillor responses. Awaiting the published response.

ON CHALK STREAMS



AGREED MOTION FROM BDBC DECEMBER FULL COUNCIL MEETING

To protect our Rivers Itchen, Loddon, and Test – and their tributaries – this Council requests the Environment & Climate Action Portfolio Holder write, calling for clarification and urgent action, to:

- The Borough's MPs, Southern Water and Thames Water, DEFRA, the EA, the NFU;
- The charities, River Action and The Rivers Trust, in support of restoring the health of Britain's rivers;

And specifically re the River Loddon

- to DEFRA and the EA requesting reversal of the triennial reporting system and implementation of a more robust annual assessment under Water Framework Directive.

Newnham & Nately Scures



CLUBROOM HIRE

Check availability at
newnhamclubroom.org.uk/
Tel 07802 972 722 or email
bookings@newnhamclubroom.org.uk
Wifi available.



'NEWNHAM NOVELS'

**Saturday, 25th February
2-4pm in the Clubroom**

Donate the books you have read
and buy another for 50p.
Hundreds to choose from.

Refreshments available

All proceeds towards maintenance
of the Clubroom

PARISH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

22/03225/HSE and 22/03226/LBC

(Validated 03 Jan) Newnham House, Ridge Lane. Erection of new garden store / garage / annex with alteration works to flat within the Coach House.

22/03041/LBC (Granted 18 January)
Elm Cottage, Ridge Lane. Installation of gas main pipe and new boiler .

22/02783/HSE (Granted 29 November)
The Cottage, Blackstocks Lane. Erection of single storey rear extension.

22/02771/ROC (Granted 05 December)
Land West Side of Nately Towers, Scures Hill. Variation of condition 1 of 22/01190/FUL to make changes to the approved design.

22/02568/HSE and 22/02569/LBC
(Pending, 20 Sept) Newnham Green Farm. Demolition of single storey rear extension and outbuilding and erection of single storey rear extension.

22/02097/FUL (Pending, 09 Sept)
Nately Scures House, Scures Hill. The construction of a single detached house and garage and associated access.

22/02498/HSE (Granted 05 December)
Tollgate House, Water End. Part demolition of the existing house/garage, replacement with a three storey side extension with a detached replacement

NEWNHAM COMMUNITY'S



Results of the
December draw made
after the Carol Service

£100 Jeff Ford
£50 John & Chris Broughton
£25 Tim & Holly Simper

Winners of the January draw are

£100 Bob & Georgie Scott-Kerr
£50 Jane Lucas
£25 Claire Eales

£25 Claire Eales
Congratulations all! Carolyn B

OFFICE / STORAGE UNITS FOR RENT

On secure farm, available
from end of February.

Two x 20ft lock-up units, plus
parking available.

One unit for an office, with
electricity, water and office
furniture.

The other unit for storage.

Tel 07766 758571 for details.

garage with first floor accommodation
over, new entrance gates, altered access,
new windows through along with
internal alterations (amended plan to that
approved under 21/02185/HSE).

22/00132/FUL (Granted 09 December
(DC Committee 07 Dec) Land off
Ridge Lane. Farm workers' dwelling for
temporary period. Earth bunds (2.5m
max width by 1.5m max height).

Permeable surfaced farm access tracks.

16/03282/RET (Pending, 15 Sep 2016)
Manor Farm, Blackstocks Lane. Change
of use from agricultural to mixed
agricultural to include diversification of
farm open days etc 100 days a year,
associated parking.

TREE APPLICATIONS

T/00027/23/TCA (Validated 18 Jan)
New House, Church Path. T1 - Bay tree
front garden - crown reduce by 1m to
approx. finished height of 4m with
crown spread of 4m for compact shape
and to clear services. T3 - Silver Birch -
reduce to previous points. T4 - Beech -
remove three lowest, intrusive branches.
T5 - Yew - Fell, poor specimen due to
suffocated by Leylandii. T6 - Judas -
deadwood and remove two branches.

T/00534/22/TPO (Validated 06 Dec
2022) Oakhanger, Newnham Road.
T2,T3,T4 Ash trees: fell.

Church Notices

'Journeying together, we worship God and serve the community'

www.united-parish.org.uk

<https://www.moretolife.church>

From the Parish Registers

Interment of Ashes

Michael Franks, 28th November
St Mary's Mapledurwell.

Kathleen Hayward of Nately Scures
on 9th January at
at Aldershot Crematorium

WALKING IN HAMPSHIRE

With Spring around the corner we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Hampshire

www.walkinginengland.co.uk/hants

has loads of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said: 'There is so much walking information on the web generally but it is difficult to find. Walking in Hampshire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought all together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you.'

With walks from half a mile to 12 miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk
john@walkinginengland.co.uk



From the Ministry Team

This will be your first Parish Magazine of 2023, so on behalf of the ministry team may I wish you all a very Happy New

Year. May this be a year of good health for us all, and the year which sees the end of the devastation in Ukraine, sooner rather than later.

I'm writing this on the twelfth day of Christmas, or Epiphany, the day when we celebrate the arrival of the three Wise Men in Bethlehem and through them the manifestation of Christ to the gentiles. Lewis and I have just taken down all our Christmas decorations and put them away for another year. You've heard me say before, that I don't make new year's resolutions on 1st January when the fridge is still full of delicious leftovers.!

Robert Louis Stevenson said: 'New beginnings are always delightful, the threshold is the place to pause.'

I'm not sure that may be true for everyone. New beginnings, full of promise though they may be, are often close to endings which may have been painful. New beginnings always mean change, and there's something in most of us that makes us want to hold onto old, familiar comfortable things, like keeping new Christmas slippers 'for best' because the old ones are just too comfortable to throw away, however shabby.

But the threshold is the place to pause. Thresholds are places of promise. In biblical terms, they mark something holy, a place where God is. We stand at the beginning of a year, a new threshold where we shall find God. We don't have to take God with us into the new year, God takes us with him. That's what Christmas is all about. Emmanuel, God with us. We don't have to cling on to Christmas, for Christmas is never over, God is with us always. Pause at the threshold and remember that God's love is new every morning.

How do we respond to the amazing love and generosity of the God who

gave us Jesus? The Wise Men responded by offering precious gifts to the Christ-child. What precious thing do we have to offer? The most precious thing we have to offer is ourselves and that's what God longs for us – that we give ourselves to him. As the carol puts it:

'What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him – give my heart.'

On another subject completely, I've just finished writing a short talk for a moment of reflection outside the Civic Offices in Basingstoke on Holocaust Memorial Day. On 27 January each year people of all nations across the world reflect on a world scarred by genocide, with a shared understanding that the more we learn about the past the more we're able to empathise with others today to take action to create a safer future.

'This year's theme is 'ordinary people'. As we continue to learn from all that happened since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau in occupied Poland on 27 January 1945, now 78 years ago, what can we ordinary people do to create a world in which all are able to flourish?

Every blessing

Linda

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

North Hampshire Downs MU

Towards the end of last year, Mothers' Union was delighted to be asked to take part in the Angel Tree project again. This project supports prisoners and their families by buying Christmas gifts for the children of the prisoners.

This Christmas, we provided selection boxes to be handed out to each of the children that attend the Families Day organised by Spurgeons in Winchester Prison in December. The prisoners and their families were very grateful for these small gifts, which help to make Christmas a little less difficult for these families.

We expect to have a meeting on Monday 6th Feb at 7.30pm when we will have our AGM. The RAF have kindly agreed we can use their Chaplaincy Centre for our meeting, and we are looking forwards to strengthening our links with RAF Odiham.

If you want to find out more about Mothers' Union or our branch, please contact Sue Murphy on sue@the-murphys.me.uk or 01252 845011.

FRESH START COURSE Make a Fresh Start in 2023?

If you, or anyone you know, wants to tackle a life-controlling habit such as smoking, gambling, over-eating, internet or social media addiction, shopping addiction, binge drinking, pornography, soft drugs, etc – try Fresh Start.

It's a free eight-week course, based on principles from the Bible and the 12-steps-of-recovery process, backed by one-to-one coaching and a support group of others wanting to tackle their dependencies.

A new Fresh Start course begins on Tuesday 7th February, 10.30am-12noon at Alton Maltings, led by experienced Fresh Start coaches Mark and Ruth.

It's free and completely confidential. To enquire or sign up, call

Mark Rumsby on 07769 030913

or email freshstart@harvestchurch.uk.

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Helen Chatfield
 Youth Pastor
 More to Life network of Churches
 North Hampshire Downs Benefice

KIDZONE



I wonder if you are just a little afraid of the dark? To be honest, most of us find darkness a little bit scary. We can't see where we are going or we imagine all kinds of things in the dark corners ...

Did you know that there are places called International Dark Sky Reserves? These areas are naturally dark at night and free of light pollution. This makes them some of the best places in the world to view the beauty of the night sky. We even have a site near us in the South Downs! And this is a good time of year to visit a Dark Sky Reserve and experience the beautiful side of darkness.

You may not have a chance to go to one of these reserves, but maybe you could go on a walk at night with a parent, or simply stand outside together and look up at the night sky?

I wonder if you can think what might be the benefits of being in the total dark?

The most obvious benefit of darkness is that by limiting our sense of sight, we make our remaining senses stronger. Suddenly we can hear rustlings, wildlife calls, the sound of the wind and our breathing. Try it! We begin to smell the countryside, both its pleasant and unpleasant odours! Some people feel like they can almost touch the darkness, it's so thick.

In darkness we improve our chances of meeting nocturnal wildlife. In the countryside near us, owls and bats may swoop across our path. Deer may be disturbed, often pausing for a moment to stare at us before plunging into the undergrowth.

Another benefit of total darkness is that it enables us to see more. Only from a dark location can we begin to get a sense of the vast expanse of space. There are the individual stars that form groups we call constellations. There is the huge blanket of stars we call the Milky Way. We may see a meteorite, even a meteorite shower. If we're really lucky, we may catch a glimpse of the Aurora Borealis, the Northern Lights.

Only by placing ourselves in darkness can we get some sense of how vast space is, and how tiny Earth is in comparison. That's why the Bible says, 'When I look at the sky, which you have made, at the moon and stars that you have set in their places, what is humanity, that you think of him and her, human beings, that you care for them?' (Psalm 8.3-4).

How awesome that the God who cares for the moon and stars, also cares for us?!
 So, we may feel a bit scared about being outside in total darkness,

but if we can gather our courage, it's definitely an experience that's worth having! Why don't you make the most of the clear skies and marvel at the moon and the stars and how amazing is the God who put them all in place?

See you next month!

Helen C

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CHURCH SERVICES FEBRUARY INTO MARCH

Sunday 5 February	9am St Mary's Mapledurwell, CW Holy Communion 11am St Mary's Greywell, Morning Worship
Sunday 12 February	9am St Stephen's Up Nately, BCP Holy Communion (said) 10am St Nicholas' Newnham, 1662 Morning Prayer
Sunday 19 February	9am St Mary's Greywell, CW Holy Communion 11am St Mary's Mapledurwell, Informal Service 5pm St Swithun's Nately Scures, Evensong
Wednesday 22 Feb	7.30pm All Saints' Odiham Ash Wednesday Benefice Holy Communion Service
Sunday 26 February	10am St Nicholas' Newnham, BCP Holy Communion 11am St Stephen's Up Nately, Morning Worship
Sunday 5 March	9am St Mary's Mapledurwell, CW Holy Communion 11am St Mary's Greywell, Morning Worship.

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Prices from £55 on site Covers the first Hour

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SPRING EXERCISE!

Despite the inclement weather many of our members have been flexing their muscles. Our intrepid Nordic walkers enjoy weekly brisk and bracing outings along the canal or across Odiham Common. Whereas the Walking for Pleasure group, which meet twice a month, always follow a circular walk beginning and finishing at a pub. A recent walk took them from the Duke of Cambridge in Tilford, across Tilford Green, then on to Hankley Common before returning via Hankley Golf course to the all-important pub lunch.

Safe from the vagaries of the weather, our two table tennis groups meet at the Hook Community Centre. Here, they not only practise their forehand drive and backhand push, but also their chatting skills at Hartlett's Café afterwards. 'If the little grey cells are not exercised, they grow the rust' – Hercule Poirot

What better way to exercise the grey matter than with a Study Day. Peter Medhurst, a familiar face to audiences of music societies, regional theatres and British festivals, is bound to inspire with his delivery of 'Music Inspired by Paintings and Paintings Inspired by Music'. And not to forget social exercising which all our groups are very good at. However, the Wine Groups do appear to have this down to a fine art!

Have you been meaning to do something more adventurous in the New Year? Our revised Annual Programme is on our website with an at-a-glance description of all groups – have a look and get in touch! Contact: membership@odihamu3a.org.uk

Our website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/odiham/homed>



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Local government underfunding A letter from HCC Leader, Cllr Rob Humby, and Kent County Council Leader, Cllr Roger Gough – sent in November last year to the Prime Minister, Chancellor and Secretary of State – outlines the need for Government's immediate help and a clear plan for long-term financial sustainability, if the two County Councils are to avoid filing bankruptcy notices within the next year or so.

Councillor Humby sad: 'We have experienced more than 12 years of national austerity and cuts to our core budgets. Inflation continues to grow, along with demand for services such as social care for vulnerable adults and children. We are also constrained by outdated laws created in the 1940s and 1960s and have no autonomy to be able to introduce initiatives for some local services to help generate our own revenue.'

'We have gone as far as we can to close the budget gaps we have faced to date, and there is nowhere left to go in future without severely impacting some of the most vulnerable people in our society.'

'**Hitting the cold spots**' phone line is available for advice and guidance, from temporary heating and first-time central heating, to arranging home visits and sourcing boiler repair funding. Call the team on 0800 804 8601 (lines are open from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday). The phone advice line is open to all Hampshire residents. Some services have eligibility criteria, and the advisors will discuss the best possible solution for each caller. www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/adultsocialcare/coldspots

Tree planting HCC has produced a Tree Strategy and to facilitate the planting of at least one million trees. Part of the strategy is to plant mini forests across Hampshire, using a technique developed by a Japanese ecologist, Dr Miyawaki, which encourages faster growth and more successful establishment.

The Hampshire Forest Partnership has been set up to bring together the public and third sector, as well as residents, businesses, schools and the wider community. HCC is encouraging parishes and residents to suggest locations for mini forests and other tree planting. If you have any local suggestions, please also email the team at treeplanting@hants.gov.uk www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/hampshireforestpartnership

Roads update Hampshire residents' satisfaction with how HCC maintains the county's highways has improved, following the County Council's decision to provide additional funding. This to try to reduce the impact of reductions in Government funding for local highway maintenance over the past decade.

For details of Hants Highways' winter response see www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/severeweather

NORTH WARNBOROUGH & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB
Thurs 23rd Feb, N Warnborough Village Hall 2.30pm.
Speaker Gillian Taylor on her 'Greenhouse Year'.
Competitions: 1. A Posy of Snowdrops; 2. Floating Hellebores.
www.nwdgc.org.uk