

# The Villager

August 2020 Volume 49 No 7

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

## Kidzone

It might be Independence Day in The US, but here in The UK July the 4th will now for ever be known as the day the parks opened up! It's been so lovely to hear the laughing voices of so many children enjoying their first swing, slide and hang for over three months - for some for the first time ever! I know so many of you have missed being able to play with your friends on the climbing frames and trim trails and it's been really hard to walk past them day after day, and not be able to have a go...

As we gradually come out of lockdown, I wonder what else you've missed... Grandparents, holidays, school...?

Looking back, I wonder what we will miss about lockdown? Sunny afternoons in the garden, long walks, no school...!?

One of the things I will miss most is how generous people have been. How many times I have seen people looking out for their neighbour, going shopping for a friend, writing a note to check someone is OK.

Another thing I'm going to miss, is how peaceful the world has been. Without so many cars, airplanes and people, nature seems to have slowed right down. As part of Art Week, children from Long Sutton School created pieces of art using the natural world, to remind them just how precious God's creation is.

The thing is, just because lockdown is changing, I don't want these things to change! In The Bible, God tells us to love our neighbours as ourselves, always putting others before ourselves, and to care for creation, because it was His special gift to us.

So this summer I've got a couple of very special challenges for you!

- Remember to be kind to others. We can never know what other people are going through, so always share a smile and a kind word.
- Enjoy the natural world. Take time to go for long walks, listen to the birds sing, feel the breeze on your face.
- Take care of our planet. We've seen how beautiful our world is when we don't spoil it. Recycle your rubbish, don't waste electricity, leave the car behind.



Dear Residents, I am seeking any assistance in relation to the following crimes with the area of this magazine. Overnight of June 26th and 27th a large log used to prevent access onto farmland in Newnham Lane was pulled out into the road which as you appreciate was extremely dangerous in the dark. Overnight of July 1st and 2nd between 4pm and 6 am, several metal containers were broken into at the railway-building site in Crown Lane with tools being stolen; security officers now patrol the site.

On July 9th 2020 between 1:15 and 1:30 AM thieves gained entry into a farm on Newnham Lane having driven across fields, they stole two quad bikes having broken into a shed and we are aware that they were driven along Newnham Lane towards Newnham. One was seen later at about 5 am being ridden by a man wearing a balaclava hood. I ask residents if you have CCTV or door cam can you please check between the times of 00:30 through to 02:00 AM and again from 04:30 to 06:00 AM. If you have any footage of any vehicles or the quads themselves, please give me a call direct.

I am also seeking any information in relation to the theft of an orange wood chipper machine from a farm in Newnham Lane; (not the one above) overnight of July 21st and 22nd. I am aware that the thieves used a metal gate over a trench of a field in Newnham Lane to access the land and used a stolen Golf buggy to pull the wood chipper over the gate onto Newnham Lane when it was taken. May I ask residents whilst looking at your CCTV and door cams if you could also please check for the period of these dates between 10 PM and 06:30 AM. I am aware that late the previous evening about 8/9 PM, two suspicious men were seen parked late at a layby on Newnham Lane. They were in a small silver / white car trying to put two large metal gates onto the roof of the vehicle. The two men described as young and wearing dark coloured clothing. If you can help with any of these crimes please give me a call direct, as always all calls received will be treated with strictest confidence.

I have also had reported to me that over a two month period damage has been caused to the roof of St Nicholas Church in Newnham, if any can assist with any information, again please give me a call direct.

Thanks you once again for your continued support, which is as always, gratefully appreciated.

Andrew Reid, Local Constable 01256 389050 mob 07768 776 844

**CONFUSED BY YOUR COMPUTER?  
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**IAN**

**01256 701480**

**07719738897**

imcs@hotmail.co.uk

# Mapledurwell & Up Nately



**TENNIS** Mapledurwell & Up Nately residents of who wish to make use of the courts please contact hugocubitt@gmail.com for the combination code.

**VILLAGE HALL** It has been decided that, sadly, the Village Hall will remain closed for the time being – until further notice – except for the sole use of the Monkey House Nursery.

## NOTES FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 21ST JULY

Remote meeting via MS Teams, with thanks for Paul French for hosting

**Report from PC Reid** 'On 6th June a damage road traffic collision took place in Greywell Road in which a car overturned, thankfully no one was injured; on the same day but not connected we had a theft of a bird scarer from a field in Andwell Drove. 'We had a concern for safety in Up Nately which was resolved; on June 26th we had reports of a 'naked' Rambler in White Lane (near border with Greywell), and reports of Travellers riding pony and carts along Frog Lane and Greywell Road.'

**Fly tipping** Thanks to BDBC for removing material (mainly carpet some mirrors) from Greywell Road (the morning after its reporting).

**Audit** 2019/20 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) forms were approved for signing. The forms and Parish Council accounts pages are available on the website.

**The Playground at the Village Hall** re-opened on 4th July in line with Government guidelines. The play equipment has in the meantime been cleaned and the fence repaired by 'Premier Grounds and Garden Maintenance' who is also the Parish Council 'Lengthsman'. Parish Councillor Kevin Rafferty is a RoSPA qualified playground inspector and will carry out a further inspection and report.

**STaNHd** It was agreed that the Parish Council should be represented on STaNHd action group (Stand up for North Hampshire Downs) and that Alison Stent would take on this role.



## ALLOTMENTS AVAILABLE

**Mapledurwell Allotments** – there are vacant plots at the allotment site in Frog Lane which now has some parking space. Annual lease of £20 (plus share of the water bill recently about £10-£11) plus £50 deposit. Plots variable in size, around 100m<sup>2</sup>. If interested in taking on a plot, please contact Parish Councillor Paul French email mrfrench@hotmail.co.uk, or Susan Turner 07515 777060 clerk.mapledurwellupnately@parish.hants.gov.uk

### Parish Planning applications

20/01675/FUL (15 July) Parrotts, Greywell Road, Mapledurwell.

Demolition of agricultural building and erection of one single storey dwelling.

20/01723/FUL (29 June) Brockwell (Paddock and Stable) Andwell Lane, Andwell. Erection of eight dwellings with new service road and improved access from the highway.

20/01350/LBC (pending - 23 June) Andwell Mill, Andwell Lane. Internal wall reconfigurations.

20/01257/HSE and 20/01258/LBC (pending - 19 May) Mead House, Heather Row Lane, Up Nately. Two storey rear extension.

20/01107/FUL (granted 28th June) Ivy House, Tunworth Road. Replacement field shelter in existing horse paddock.

20/00901/FUL (refused 29th July) The Gamekeepers, Tunworth Road. Detached double garage.

20/00060/HSE (pending - 03 Mar) The Farm, Tunworth Road. Single storey rear extension.

20/00153/FUL (pending - 24 Jan) Elmwood, Heather Lane. Demolition of outbuilding and erection of 1 x five-bed detached dwelling with associated access and landscaping.

20/00009/PIP (pending - 03 Jan) Nunnery House, Tunworth Road.

Permission in Principle for conversion of an agricultural building to one dwelling.

### Tree applications

T/00346/20/TCA (30 July) Sakantha, Frog Lane, Mapledurwell. One Willow: Re-pollard leaving an approx finished height of 6m with a crown spread of approximately 5.5-6m.

T/00318/20/TCA (16 July) Lanterns, Tunworth Road Mapledurwell. Willow (T1) - Crown Reduction. Crown needs thinning and grown over 10-15ft since last worked on. The tree now very high and needs attention to reduce overall crown height. Sycamore (T2) - Crown Lifting. Lower branches overhanging roof line and rubbing on the upper ridge tiles. Continued growth will cause damage to property. Request removal of lower branches to avoid damage.

T/00290/20/TCA (03 July) The Willows, Greywell Road, Mapledurwell. T1 Ash: fell.

### Old Basing Moto application

17/03487/FUL Land Adjacent To J6 M3. New Motorway Service Area comprising amenity building; lodge; drive thru coffee unit; car, coach, motorcycle, caravan, HGV and abnormal load parking, and a fuel filling station with retail shop. Alterations to M3 roundabout and slip roads to form an access point and works to the highway. Landscaping, infrastructure and ancillary works.

Weekly waste collections for grey bins will resume w/c Monday 17th August. New requests for a Garden Waste service can be made from Monday 3rd August though it may take over a month for bins or bags to be delivered and collections to start.

# DEVELOPMENT SOUTH OF THE M3

*The M3 has for some time provided a physical barrier to southward growth of Basingstoke. There are now two major development proposals which could potentially breach this divide*



## **UPPER SWALLICK GARDEN COMMUNITY**

This 'Garden Community' concept from Portsmouth Estates is a real threat to villages immediately south of Basingstoke.

The proposal will seek recognition via the Basingstoke & Dean Local Plan – alongside other sites promoted via the SHELAA (strategic housing and economic land availability assessment) published last December.

There will be opportunity via the public consultation process – scheduled to start in September – for Parish Councils and residents to register their opinion. The Borough Council will consider these representations – and what new sites to be included in the Local Plan Update.

Although 'Upper Swallick' is a couple of Parishes removed from Mapledurwell and Up Nately it will be viewed by many with great concern.

STaNH (Stand up for the North Hampshire Downs) is an action group set up by residents of local parishes – notably Cliddesden, Ellisfield, Winslade – including representatives from Parish Councils and from Hampshire CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England).

Mapledurwell & Up Nately Parish Council has been invited to join STaNH and has agreed that Parish Councillor Alison Stent will represent the Parish as part of the action group.

## **MOTORWAY SERVICE AREA M3 JUNCTION 6**

The BDBC planning officer is yet to make a formal decision on Moto's application for a Motorway Service Area south of J6.

However, in consultation on the most recently amended proposals, Hampshire Highways and Highway England both indicate they have no objection subject to conditions. (To note that the Transport Planning Consultant engaged by Winslade is widely respected – his report suggests that the analysis by Highway England is flawed.)

The borough consultee on Landscape also indicates 'no objection subject to conditions'. Hampshire County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority continues to voice concerns.

PRESS RELEASE 29 June 2020

## **STaNH**

### **Stand up for the North Hampshire Downs**

is a new action group set up by local people to protect the rural environment of the North Hampshire Downs, South of Basingstoke.

The first threat is the proposal by Portsmouth Estates, made public on 18th June 2020, to build 2,500 houses on 900 acres between the M3 and the A339 titled 'Upper Swallick Garden Community'.

The proposal represents an attempt to extend Basingstoke southwards and could represent the start of loss of outstanding landscape, agricultural land and significantly damage the environment of the area.



The development would engulf the village of Cliddesden and reach as far as Ellisfield and Winslade thereby ridding these villages of their individual characters.

STaNH's new Chairman, Marcus Rule said: 'The area of countryside under threat helps make up the "LUNGS" of South Basingstoke.

'The North Hampshire Downs is an open space well used by the people of Basingstoke, many residents walk and cycle along the footpaths of the area from Cliddesden through Winslade and up to Ellisfield. This area is much valued by residents nearby'.

'This was especially relevant during the recent Covid-19 Pandemic when many people from all over the area used the area for recreation, it was a lifesaver for many people during lockdown and made us all realise the enormous importance of having access to clean air and countryside as well as appreciating the natural world.

'The proposal would irreversibly harm some of the finest rural chalk downland landscape, the North Hampshire Downs provides the most beautiful views over undulating farmland that stretch into the distance in all directions.'

To find out more visit our website [www.stanhd.com](http://www.stanhd.com) or contact email: [office@stanhd.com](mailto:office@stanhd.com)

# Newnham & Nately Scures



## BAR OPENING HOURS

Monday – Closed  
 Tue - Fri – 12:00 - 15:00  
 17:30 - 22:00  
 Saturday – 12:00 - 22:00  
 Sunday – 12:00 - 18:00

## KITCHEN OPENING HOURS

Monday – Closed  
 Tue - Fri – 12:00 - 14:00  
 17:30 - 21:00  
 Saturday – 12:00 - 14:30  
 17:30 - 21:00  
 Sunday – 12:00 - 16:00



OldHouse NewnhamGreen

## The Villager



For Newnham & Nately Scures, most copies of the August *Villager* are still digital – this will be reviewed for September.

With thank to those who have already responded, if you haven't yet done so could you please advise if, for the future, you prefer to receive a printed copy?

Please contact 07515 777060  
 clerk.newnham@parish.hants.gov.uk  
 or any member of the Parish Council.

In line with the provisions of GDPR (the General Data Protection Regulations), Newnham Parish Council takes the protection of your personal data seriously and we will only use your email address for the agreed purpose and will not pass your details to any third party.



## COVID-19 & CLIMATE CHANGE Chris Alliston

You may recall from last month's *Villager* the Clubroom space has been used as a venue to produce home education videos, and as a hub to assemble 3D printer-produced face mask parts into the finished article. I have some statistics from the PPE volunteers concerning their achievements and demonstrating their industry.

- **PPE masks** – Dispatched 6,015 complete face shields
- Supplied approximately 45 different organisations
- Sent 1,750 3D-printed frames to other regions to help them meet demand
- Used (roughly) 2.6km of elastic
- Received 118 'maker' deliveries
- Enabled 85,000 antibody tests to be processed a month faster than they otherwise would have been
- Our smallest order was for two visors, our largest for 550.

**Upkeep...** More cosmetically the entire Clubroom interior has been decorated and the rear sited storage extension 5.7m x 3m has been completed. As part of this work we also had the exterior wood-treated. Part of the lawn at the back has been reseeded, having suffered during the building works. The trees overhanging the front car park have been cut back and all the borders of the plot have been tidied up.

**Going solar...** Following the lead from Basingstoke & Deane's 'Climate Change Emergency' we have been looking at the benefits of Solar Energy. Engaging with a specialist company we have worked to define the energy requirements of the Clubroom, produced a feasibility study, a system specification and design. It is expected there will be no cost for electricity going forward, other

than standing charges, and spare energy stored in the battery can go back into the grid and we'll be paid for it. This has been approved by the Clubroom Committee and is moving into the install stage. The project is still subject to a site survey but confidence is high that there will be no issues.

**Re-opening...** Having started this piece on lockdown I can end with the good news (old news to some) that we re-opened, in line with Government guidelines, on 25th July. Numbers attending regular keep-fit and dance based classes will be restricted according to social distancing guidelines.

A risk assessment for the Clubroom has been drawn up and each group will produce its own specific risk assessment. Required signage for social distancing, use of hand sanitisers and markings indicating 2m spacing is all in place. Part of the protocols dictate that course leaders will take names and contact details per class for 'track & trace' reasons.

The Clubroom Committee will be party to any reports of CV-19 symptoms and will close the Clubroom immediately should any be notified. We would then endeavour to reopen within 48 hours having ventilated and thoroughly cleansed the hall – subject to actual circumstances at the time. The hall at present is not for hire for parties / large gatherings which are outside of Government guidelines.

Any queries or for booking requests please contact Chris Alliston on 07435 782 122 or via [bookings@newnhamclubroom.org.uk](mailto:bookings@newnhamclubroom.org.uk)

**Weekly waste collections** for grey bins will resume w/c Monday 17th August. Collections days will stay the same. New requests for a Garden Waste service can be made from Monday 3rd August though it may take over a month for bins or bags to be delivered and collections to start.





PHOTO: Chris Broughton

**'On our return... 25 miles completed in just under four hours even with a coffee stop!'**

## HOSPICE CYCLE RIDE

'Thank you for all your messages of support and donations, we're sure the Hospice will be delighted. For anyone who would still like to give, the hospice details are:



'BACS, Friends of St Michael's Hospice  
Sort Code 30-93-32, Account No 01188861  
Reference – your surname and "C&JBcycle".'

'Or you can pop your donation though our door when you're passing if that's easier. Many thanks again,' Chris and John Broughton. 01256 762490 [cjbroughton@talktalk.net](mailto:cjbroughton@talktalk.net)

## HOOK TO NEWNHAM GAP

The 'Gap' is identified and supported within Hook Neighbourhood Plan (adopted 27th February 2020) Policy HK6 as upheld at Judicial Review.

**'Development in the gap will only be permitted where it does not lead to the physical or visual coalescence of the settlements or damage their separate identify.'**

The importance of the Gap to both Hook and Newnham communities has been consistently demonstrated in strong and active opposition to proposed developments.

The most recent application is for two new houses at Fairfields, see [20/01486/FUL](#) 'Planning Applications' overleaf. The following is from Hart planning officer's published response to a pre-application enquiry.

'Any future application would need to demonstrate that any impacts on the countryside are minimised and acceptable (this should be done with reference to the existing impact of any relevant development on the site) and that the site represents a sustainable location for residential development.

'In relation to the former it is noted that there are open views to the site from the footpath to the north (in particular) and the existing built form on the site is generally low level and equestrian use, this use being appropriate to its countryside setting. Concern is therefore raised in relation to the likely resulted consolidation of built form in the countryside associated with larger dwellings and associated urban influences.

'In relation to the latter, the site is approximately 1km (as the crow flies) from Hook centre and station. It is noted that the track from which the site is accessed links to Newnham Road which has no footpaths at the relevant point. The site is also physically separate from Hook. Concern is therefore also raised in relation to the sustainability of the site and the potential reliance on unsustainable modes of transport.'

## CHURCH PATH NEWNHAM

What do you know about Church Path?

It seems to lead from Newnham Green to St Nicholas' church – so what? That's almost no part of the story at all. This short stretch is a fragment of a path that begins, even today, in Hook and it runs across the open land of Owen's Farm of Hook, and Naish's Farm fields in Newnham. And it has done this for 900 years or more, so here's the story.

From earliest times, Hook was part of Newnham and only became a separate parish in 1932. Hook's first church, a corrugated iron construct that stood on the Budgens site in Elms Road, was built in 1886. Before that when Hook people went to church they came to St Nicholas'. In the Middle Ages, people went to church very regularly on Sundays and the many saints' days and they did this because life was short, death from disease was all around (there were no antibiotics and herbal remedies were the only medicines) and they wanted to remain in touch with God for the good of their souls. And after 1559 people were required to go to church to prove they were Protestants, and later on peer-pressure, and perhaps employer pressure encouraged attendance.



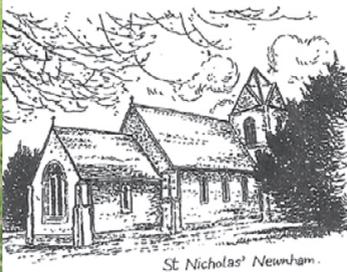
PHOTO: Harry Hayden

Inevitably, the majority will have walked to church: the main road from Hook to Newnham went out almost to the Barracks, before the railway was built in 1838, and then turned right up to the Green. It was the main road between London and Exeter from about 1370 and carried plenty of commercial and military traffic. In addition, there were cattle and other livestock driven daily on to Hook Common to graze. The roadway itself was essentially clay with stones put down by villagers without road building experience. The surface will have been like a quagmire during much of the winter and uneven concrete in a dry summer. To make churchgoing easier, Church Path was created by our forebears, with a better surface for walking and making a shorter journey. So if you haven't walked it lately, and seen the new causeway over The Strings, try it this week: enjoy the tranquility, the open countryside, the wildlife, and remember the thousands of people who have trodden the same way for weddings, baptisms and other church services.

NIGEL BELL

Continued...

## Newnham & Nately Scures continued



The Friends of St Nicholas' Church would like to thank the hens of Newnham Hill – and the Bell family – for their generosity over the years and in particular the most recent donation towards the restoration of the church windows.

The Newnham Hill hens have recently contributed £1,670 to the window refurbishment, which was completed at the end of 2019. This amounts to enough to cover one complete window and a further sum towards the other windows.

In the past they have provided funds for the weathercock, for both hand rails up to the organ loft to assist the choir and the bell ringers, for another handrail from Crown Lane into the churchyard, for the large sign on Newnham Green telling of the church's foundation in the 12th century, as well as runners for the pews and for hymn and prayer books. There have been many other expenses over the years.

The background to this is that when Mrs Bell, Nigel's mother, died in 1982, he and Nancy took over her flock. The Bells have provided for the flock since that time, and as the older hens have died – due to natural causes and several times due to fox attacks – they have introduced young replacements to maintain the flock at about 20 birds.

These hens, essentially a Rhode Island Red variety, are bought as point-of-lay-pullets which live for up to three or four years, a free-range lifestyle from the day they arrive in the Village. From the Bells' point of view it is a pleasure to have them. And of course they lay eggs. The Bells themselves don't eat very many eggs and the

surplus are offered as gifts to friends who are asked to make a contribution (which nowadays is usually £2 per half dozen), but the sum of money people like to give to the church is entirely at their own discretion.



**It is the plain windows on the north side of the church that have been restored. The other five restored windows are similar in appearance to the one pictured**

It is solely due to the generosity of those who enjoy Newnham Hill eggs, that funds have been provided for this window and the other things mentioned. The Bells and the Friends of St Nicholas' would like to thank all their friends for their generosity, every penny of which has gone to the church.

JEFF FORD FOR  
ST NICHOLAS' NEWNHAM

### Parish planning applications

20/01798/FUL (20 July) Land Adjacent to Tithe Barn, Ridge Lane, Newnham.

Erection of a dwellinghouse partly on the site of a tennis court; formation of access driveway following demolition of car port attached to stables at Tithe Barn Cottage.

20/01666/FUL (25 June) Land at Blackstocks Lane, Nately Scures. Erection of one new dwelling and detached garage.

20/01597/FUL (24 June) Land at Blackstocks Lane, Nately Scures. Two dwellings and associated parking.

20/01587/ROC (17 June) Snipes Wood House, Scures Hill. Variation Conditions 1, 3, 4, 7 & 8 of 17/01659/FUL to allow for the addition of a garage, slight rotation of dwelling, alterations to elevations and to alter pre-commencement conditions.

20/01213/HSE (pending - 23 June) Naishes Barn garden, Newnham Road. Construction of domestic swimming pool & landscaping

20/01230/HSE (pending - 8 June) Newnham Edge, Tylney Lane. Erection of a single storey rear extension with roof terrace above and external stairs to garden. Alterations to fenestration – two new external doors.

19/03224/LDEU (pending - 29th Nov) Manor Farm, Newnham. Certificate of lawfulness for the continued siting of a caravan as farm workers' dwelling.

19/02070/ROC (Pending - 12th Aug) Land to the Rear of Nately Place, Scures Hill. Variation of condition 1 of 17/00619/FUL to amend plans.

16/03282/RET (Pending - 15 Sep 2016) Manor Farm, Blackstocks Lane, Nately Scures. 'Change of use from solely agricultural to mixed use to include the diversification of farm open days for no more than 100 days in a year with ancillary tea room and associated car parking.'

### Tree applications

T/00272/20/TCA (pending - 24 June) Newnham Lodge, Tylney Lane, Newnham. Acacia tree: crown reduce to suitable growth points approx 4-5m.

T/00232/20/TPO (pending - 3 June) 11 The Baredown, Nately Scures. Area G2: 1 Spruce: fell.

T/00161/20/TCA (Correction - Approved 24th June as amended application) Beech House, Newnham Road. Oak and three Ash trees: Crown reduce to no smaller than 8m in height, and prune as necessary to achieve no more than 8m clearance above the highway. Prune to give no more than 1m clearance from the adjacent overhead services. Remove deadwood as necessary.

### Hook application

20/01486/FUL (30 June) Fairfields, Newnham Road, Hook. Demolition of existing outbuildings and erection of two detached dwellings [1x4bed, 1x5bed] with integral garages & new access to the highway.

Responses to this application to: [planningadmin@hart.gov.uk](mailto:planningadmin@hart.gov.uk)

The official consultation period is to 29th July but later submissions are usually taken into account.

# Greywell

## Planning Applications

20/01567/HOU Skylark Cottage  
Deptford Lane Greywell Hook  
Hampshire RG29 1BS. Erection of  
part first floor part two storey rear  
extension, extension to driveway and  
alterations to fenestration.

20/00568/HOU Old Pound Cottage  
Hook Road Greywell Hook RG29  
1BU. Erection of a barn style shed and  
replacement of old white picket fence  
bordering Hook Road with new white  
picket fence.

### NORTH WARNBOROUGH & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

We do not meet in August, but we  
look forward to welcoming everyone  
when we meet again on Thursday 26th  
September.

For further information, please  
telephone 01252 843848

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Greywell Harvest

## PHOTOGRAPHY & ART COMPETITION

On the theme of  
**'MEMORABLE MOMENTS IN  
GREYWELL'**

4 Categories: Children's Art/Photo. Adults Art/Photo  
£1 per entry: Physical & Online  
Proceeds shared by Church & Village Hall  
Judging: October Harvest Weekend (tbc)

An illustration of a village scene with several houses and a cow in the foreground. The cow has a speech bubble that says "Oh my goodness!". The scene is set against a light blue sky.

## Churches Open for Worship

It is lovely to be able to write to you all again now I am back from my two months of furlough. Where possible I have tried to keep in touch with what has been happening in each of our five communities and I am enjoying catching up with people now I am back at work.

As you might be aware since 4th July churches have been able to open once again for public worship with sensible precautions in place. In order to enable us to plan this well and to build up people's confidence we have currently re-opened two of the five churches in the United Parish with a view to opening others from September onwards. You are very welcome to attend worship at any of our upcoming services regardless of which village you live in, all we ask is that you register your attendance by emailing [nhdbchurchservices@gmail.com](mailto:nhdbchurchservices@gmail.com). This is because each church has a limited capacity due to physical distancing measures and we do not want to have to turn anyone away at the door. In the meantime, if you do not yet feel ready to return to church you can still join in with our online service which can be found on the News page of our website ([moretolife.church](http://moretolife.church)) from 9am every Sunday morning.

Our services for August are as follows:

2nd August: 9am Mapledurwell Common Worship Holy Communion & 11am Greywell Informal Service

9th August: 9am Mapledurwell Common Worship Holy Communion & 11am Greywell Informal Service

16th August: 9am Mapledurwell Common Worship Holy Communion & 11am Greywell Informal Service

23rd August: 9am Mapledurwell BCP Communion & 11am Greywell Informal service

You can find details of services in other parts of the benefice by looking on our website, [moretolife.church](http://moretolife.church) While we are not yet able to sing we are trying to include music as part of our services. At our Communion services we are listening to choral recordings of hymns and anthems and at our Informal service we are enjoying some more recent songs as well as Taize chants to enhance our worship.

I would like to thank our churchwardens and all who have made it possible for us to re-open safely. Thank you for your patience and support as we continue to navigate the current situation and guidelines. We will communicate via email and our website when we have more information about September.

Rev Helen - [helen@moretolife.church](mailto:helen@moretolife.church)

## FROM THE MINISTRY TEAM

This morning the clergy team met to finalise plans for our first services back in church since the beginning of lockdown way back in March. The logistics to manage things safely are quite considerable and so there was, of course, plenty to discuss; the energy in the room was palpable. Once some of us (me!) had mastered the new technical skills required, leading worship online has been a wonderful journey of learning and discovery. Most of all, it has been pure joy to hear from so many of you that you have followed weekday online services and/or one (or even both) of the Sunday services, most of you at the time of its 'première', for others at a moment later in the day. Amongst the team there was this morning a sense of relief coupled with excitement that we can meet again in our magnificent church buildings to worship as a gathered community of followers of Jesus Christ. This same Jesus Christ who said, "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

During this long period of lockdown some people may have felt isolated and cut off from their communities, including church communities. Perhaps some have felt as if they were alone, as if Jesus was not with them, as if they were somehow forgotten, and they may have longed for things to go back to the way they were before lockdown started. As churches begin to open much is being written about how we should do this, what it means, and whether we can 'return to normal'. I wonder if anything in any walk of life can return to exactly the way it was before, because so much has changed and on top of that we have to adjust to new restrictions and regulations in order to keep ourselves and others safe.

I have family in Suffolk and Norfolk, so I often hear what's happening in that part of the country. Recently the Bishop of Norwich commented: "During lockdown I sense that Church of England communities have asked less, 'Will you come to this?' or 'will you buy that?' and have asked more, 'how can we help?' and 'what do you need?' and 'can we pray for you?'" And he goes on to say that, "far from being absent we have been more present serving our neighbour". Then began an online discussion about the delicate balance between the church worrying about falling numbers and how to pay its bills (the Bishop's first two questions above), and whether it could at the same time serve its communities faithfully (his next three questions). An interesting and relevant discussion that perhaps we will be drawn into as well as time goes on in relation to our own network of churches.

Over the last few months, we have found new ways of relating to one another, and of worshipping and praying together. As we go forward, what is to stop us holding on to what we have learned and are now doing, and even to continue to look for other new ways to put our energy and hopes into? Sometimes the time is right to make a move to something new and different and perhaps that right time is now. Perhaps now is just the time to collect and take with us the best of past traditions in all aspects of our lives, and to add some new and innovative things that we have discovered and learned during this period of lockdown and have found fruitful and helpful.

In the Jewish tradition there is a collection of ethical teachings - Pirkei Avot: Sayings of the Fathers - and in one of these the rabbi says, "It is not your responsibility to finish the work of perfecting the world, but neither are you free to desist from it" (Pirkei Avot 2:16). I hear those words as an invitation to truthfulness, authenticity, honesty, integrity and creativity. They hold a vision of the work before us and, as we take our tentative steps towards collective worship again in whatever its form, I hope that these words will lead us to the joy and peace of a life lived knowing that Jesus is with us always, to the end of the age.

With best wishes and every blessing

Rev'd Linda Scard - linda@moretolife.church

### From the Parish Registers **Funeral**

2 July Basingstoke Crematorium - Ann Smyth of Greywell  
*May she rest in peace*

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