

The Villager

December 2025 Volume 54 No 11

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

Season's Greetings to all Villager
readers and special thanks to contributors and distributors.
Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



Greywell Hill Estate HARDWOOD LOGS

Cut in the summer from naturally
seasoned estate timber
and stored in a ventilated barn.
(Minimum carbon footprint)

Price held from last year
£150 per cubic metre delivered
£25 discount if more than 2 cubic
metres ordered

Tel: Office 07434 924810
or Tom 07515 371681
or Joe 07956 055071

Christmas Services

in the United Parish

Newnham, Nately Scures, Mapledurwell, Up Nately & Greywell



Carol Services

Sunday 7th December, 11am

St Swithun's Nately Scures

Saturday 13th December, 4pm

St Nicholas' Newnham

Friday 19th December, 5.30pm

St Mary's Mapledurwell

Saturday 20th December, 5.30pm

St Stephen's Up Nately

Sunday 21st December, 5pm

St Mary's Greywell

Crib Service

(with Blessing of Toys)

Christmas Eve, 4.30pm

St Stephen's Up Nately

Midnight Holy Communion

Christmas Eve, 11.30pm

St Swithun's Nately Scures

Christmas Day

Family Services

9am, St Mary's Mapledurwell

10am, St Stephen's Up Nately

11am, St Mary's Greywell

11am, St Nicholas' Newnham

more+

Wishing you a Christmas filled with the joy of the angels, the wonder
of the shepherds and the worship of the wise men.

With love from Rev Debbie, Rev Luke and the PCC of Greywell,
Mapledurwell, Nately Scures, Newnham and Up Nately.

All are welcome at any of our services - we look forward to seeing you!

LAUNCH OF BDBC'S LOCAL PLAN DRAFT SPATIAL STRATEGY REGULATION 18 CONSULTATION

**Take part from Friday 28
November to Friday 23 January**

The consultation focuses on an
updated Spatial Strategy which meets
Government's housing requirements.

NOTE Comments submitted to the last
Reg 18 consultation in early 2024
remain valid and under consideration.

**Extract from letter from BDBC Council
Leader Cllr Paul Harvey and Cabinet
member for Strategic Planning &
Infrastructure Cllr Andy Konieczko**

'Dear all, Many of us are experiencing
a very strong sense of *déjà vu* because
we've been here before, almost
exactly two years ago, when we
decided to take our first draft Local
Plan to public consultation.

'A lot has changed since then.

Continued p 4...



**BC Gardening
Maintenance**
Ben Christian
07502 229175
Benchristian20104@gmail.com

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

TOYS AND SUPPORT FOR BASINGSTOKE HOSPITAL CHILDREN'S WARD

Following the United Parish Toy Service at St Stephen's Up Nately on 23rd November, thank you so much to everyone who has donated toys, treats and craft materials for the Children's Ward at Basingstoke Hospital. Your generosity brings real joy and comfort to children, families and staff alike - and we're so grateful. If you'd still like to take part, it's not too late. You're warmly invited to bring your gifts to any service in the United Parish churches between now and Christmas Eve. Please bring new, wrapped toys (labelled with age and gender if possible), unwrapped craft supplies or festive treats.

Thank you for helping us share light and love this Christmas. If you are able to join us, we look forward to seeing you at the 4.30pm Crib Service in Up Nately for the blessing of the toys on Christmas Eve!

Mapledurwell & Up Nately

NOTES FROM NOVEMBER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Present Parish councillors, clerk, footpaths warden, plus three members of the public.

Local Plan Update Draft Reg 18 consultation document approved by Cabinet on 11 November to be published for public consultation for eight weeks from 28 November.

Public contributions to the meeting included from a Mapledurwell resident in support of more robust housing and better provision for sewage treatment to protect our precious chalk streams.

Ward Cllr Onnalee Cubitt's speech to meeting noted, *see overleaf*.

Request from the borough council administration, Ward Councillors and the Parish Council, that everyone from the Parish responds to the consultation.

Village Hall update Gents and ladies toilets to be refurbished during February half-term (06-20 Feb 2026)

Five Lanes End byways open to all traffic (BOATS) subject to further seasonal closure – see notice from HCC Countryside Services.

Footpaths booklet *A Guide with sketch maps to the Footpaths of Mapledurwell & Beyond* updated and reprinted by the Friends of St Mary's.

Direction signage fingerposts in Mapledurwell to be replaced using aluminium fingers with vinyl lettering to match style as the sign at Up Nately pond. To include four signposts – at Mapledurwell pond and along Greywell Road at junctions with Tunworth Road, Frog Lane and Andwell Lane. The finials and posts are to be cleaned and refurbished as best possible.

Outdoor tennis table for the Village Hall recreation ground BDBC have confirmed that the Parish Council's proposal for a table tennis table is compliant as a 'Play Area contribution project' using the remainder of outstanding S106

SING CHRISTMAS CAROLS

AT BARNSGROVE CLUBHOUSE
THURSDAY, 4TH DECEMBER
7.30PM TO 9PM

Tickets include a mulled cyder and mince pie.
Proceeds go to supporting the choir and the military families they represent.

Members tickets: £10 | Non-members: £15
events@barnsgrove.com

funding. The table tennis table is to be installed beside the children's play area in front of the old car park.

Mapledurwell village noticeboard

An argument for replacing the noticeboard, not everyone is on social media, need a system for keeping it up-to-date. Also agreed in favour keeping the mapboard (next to the noticeboard); it is still legible. To seek prices for replacement, refurbishment.

TPO application for Tunworth

Road hedgerow supported by Tree Warden declined by BDBC Tree Officer. Tree officer's comments included: 'While a live development proposal can constitute a threat that supports a Tree Preservation Order... a TPO also depends on trees' individual merits, condition, longevity.'

Maintenance work for Village Hall grounds and allotments – including fencing etc – scheduled for January.


Phone box Agreed to again replace broken panes as for now they're not being used as catapult targets.

Defibrillators New pads installed for phone box defibrillator (with thanks to Chris Beck as registered guardian); new battery to be installed for Gamekeepers defibrillator (with thanks to Alison Stent).

Parish Precept for 2026/27 Basic budget modelled on this year shows a Precept increase of five per cent maintaining the status quo with some small surplus to put to tennis court reserves. Provisional agreement for five per cent increase noting the starting point, the current Precept, is relatively low. To be confirmed and request submitted to BDBC in January.

Parish Council meetings 2026

Wednesdays, 7pm Village Hall meeting room – 21 January, 18 March, 20 May (AGM & Assembly), 15 July, 16 September, 18 November.



TEMPORARY CLOSURE

TUNWORTH BOAT 7, UPTON GREY BOATS 18,19 & 20, MAPLEDURWELL & UP NATELY BOATS 22, 23 & 25 & GREYWELL BOATS 9 & 20

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Hampshire County Council has made an Order under Section 14(1)b of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, to prevent the likelihood of serious damage to the road surface as follows:

PLEASE NOTE - THE CLOSURE APPLIES TO VEHICLES WITH 4 OR MORE WHEELS

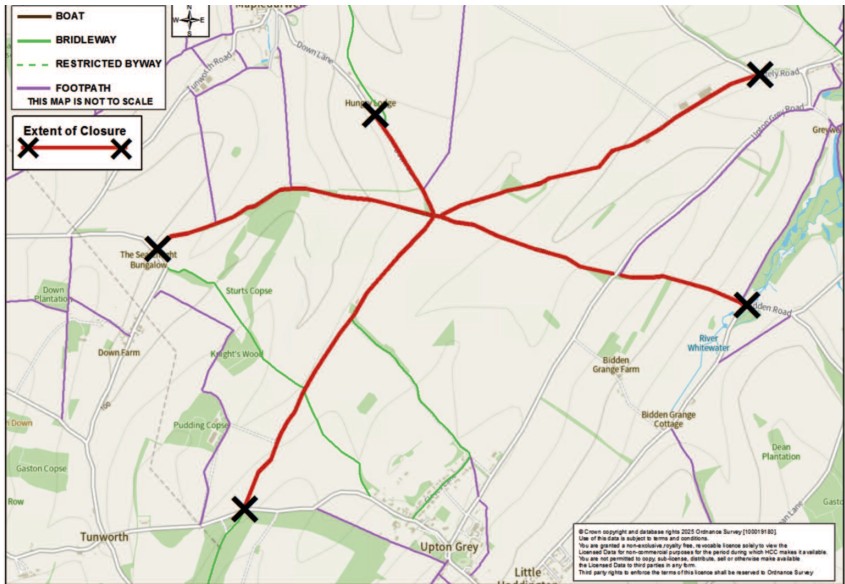
ROAD TO BE CLOSED: TUNWORTH BOAT 7, UPTON GREY BOATS 18, 19 & 20, MAPLEDURWELL & UP NATELY BOATS 22, 23 & 25 AND GREYWELL BOATS 9 & 20

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE: PUBLIC HIGHWAYS AVAILABLE

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: From 22.11.2025 until 01.05.2026 or until the path is considered safe, whichever is sooner.

For information visit www.hants.gov.uk/publicnotices, contact the Countryside Access Team on 0300 555 1391 or email countryside@hants.gov.uk

Countryside Strategic Manager, Castle Avenue, Winchester, SO23 8UL



PARISH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

25/02579/ROC (Validated 27 October)
Bridgeway Mansion, Heather Lane. Relief of condition numbers 1, 3, 5, 7, 14 and 16 of application BDB/74968 (Erection of 1no dwelling following demolition of piggery buildings and barn) for Condition 1- Approved Plans, 3-Details of Materials, 5- Landscaping, 7- Brickworks Docks, 14 - Visibility and 16 -Front Enclosure

25/02178/LDEU (Refused 03 November)
The Gamekeepers. Certificate of lawful development for the existing use of the Gamekeepers as a restaurant.

25/01920/HSE (Grant 21 October) Eastrop Farm House, Heather Row Lane. Installation of a swimming pool and shed to house pumping and filtration.

25/01148/FUL (Pending 09 June) Nunnery House, Tunworth Road. New vehicular access onto Tunworth Road.

24/02682/FUL (Withdrawn 13 Nov)
Hungry Lodge, Down Lane. Change of agricultural land to residential use plus greenhouse (part retrospective).

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

24/00756/FUL (Pending 16 April 2024)
Land North of Parrotts. Four detached new dwellings, garages, access, parking, amenity space etc. For Development Control Committee of 12 November.

TREE APPLICATIONS

T/00588/25/TCA (Validated 20 Nov)
Ashlea Tunworth Road. T1 Cypress, reduce by 3m to natural bulge and cut back overhanging growth to boundary.

T/00549/25/TCA (Approve 18 Nov) Little Common Cottage, Frog Lane. T1 - Robinia Pseudoacacia Frisia: Fell.

T/00524/25/TCA (Approve 12 Nov)
Elm Cottage Tunworth. T1 - Old Apple, reduce height by max of 4m to 6m with a spread of 4m. T2 - Weeping Willow, repollard max of 5m; T3 - Goat Willow, reduce height and spread max of 5m to pollard, finished height 6m and spread 5m. T4 - Cherry, reduce spread by max of 1.5m, finished height 5m. T5 - Young Maple, reduce spread by max of 1.5m to finished spread of 2m. T6 - Catalpa, remove low branch growing into Robinia, prune back by max of 1.5m, remove deadwood; T7 Robinia, reduce height by max 3m to 7m. T8 - Red Oak, remove lowest three branches growing into Catalpa, remove dead branches.

MOTO APPLICATIONS – OLD BASING

17/03487/FUL - (Withdrawn 02 October 2025, Validated 02 Nov 2017) Land Adjacent To Junction 6 M3.

25/00754/OUT (Validated 25 March 2025) Land Adjacent To J6 M3. 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. Latest consultation to 20 November.

CAROLS AROUND THE POND

Friday 12th December 6pm

All welcome to enjoy
mulled wine or hot chocolate
and a mince pie.



Sponsored by the Friends of St Mary's
Collection for Naomi House and Jackspace
Please bring cash or credit card

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2025

Friday 19 December 5.30pm

Carol Service St Mary's

Saturday 20 December 5.30pm

Carol Service St Stephen's

Christmas Eve 4.30pm

Crib Service St Stephen's

Christmas Day 9am

Family Service St Mary's

Christmas Day 10am













Family Service St Stephen's



Up Nately coffee morning Our next gathering for coffee will be on Friday 2nd January 10-12, at Maple Field (opposite The Laurels), call Jane on 07585 005143. Thank you Jane for hosting.

UP NATELY HALLOWEEN Children in the village enjoyed another Halloween Scavenger Hunt and many residents left treats out for them. Thanks to Charlotte for organising again!

Up Nately's Halloween Scavenger Hunt 2025

Flutter, flutter little bat, How I wonder where you're at? 	Witch's hat so straight and high, look up for it in the sky. 	Ziggy, zaggy, zoom - can you spot a purple broom? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Little black cat, little black cat. Have a look around and see where i'm sat. 	A Zombie hand of the undead is creeping from the path ahead. 	I use my webs to make a nest, if you're brave enough to touch me be my guest! 
Look out for a goblet shaped like a skull, with yucky sludge it's really full! 	I'm a skeleton, boney and white. Don't come too close I might give you a fright! 	Look for a candle on this track, look down low as it is short and black. 	A creepy pumpkin ghost with boney fingers, tick this one off quickly and don't dare linger! 	Watch out incase it attacks, spot a large bird of black. 	There's a ghost of white floating at some height! 

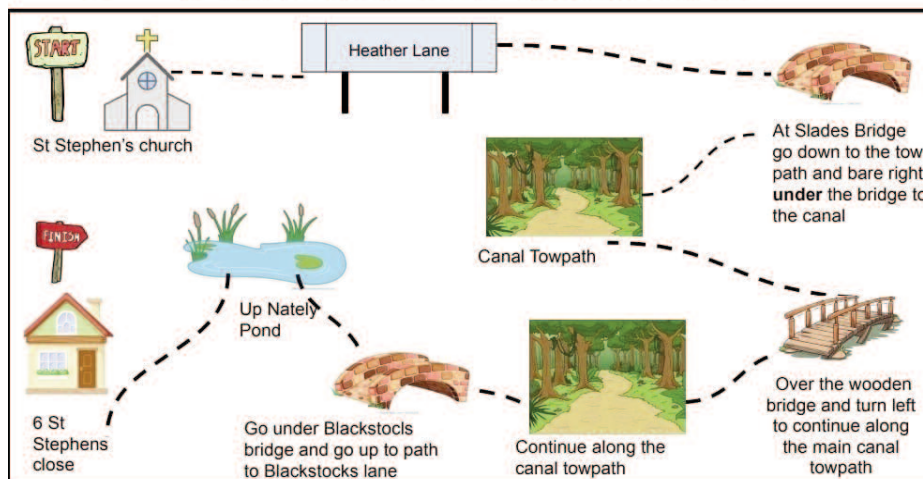
The spooky characters from "A Nightmare Before Christmas" are waiting at the end. Did you make it through all the twists and bends? If you did you'll find something sweet to eat. Help yourself and then you're complete!

- ★ Follow the map and tick off each spooky item you find on the back of this card.
- ★ Keep your wits about you as they can be found **in any order!**
- ★ If you're lucky, collect trick or treats along the route from spooky neighbours.
- ★ Make it to the end and help yourself to a final treat!



Spooky Prize: As a challenge, can you take a photo on the route with your SCARIEST pose possible?

The winning submission will receive a prize (extra points for creativeness!).



Newnham & Nately Squires

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2025

Saturday 07 December 11am

Carol Service St Swithun's

Saturday 13 December 4pm

Carol Service St Nicholas'

Christmas Eve 11.30pm

Holy Communion St Swithun's

Christmas Day 11am

Family Service St Nicholas'



NEWNHAM COMMUNITY'S



November draw results

£100 - June and Peter James (21)

£50 - Anonymous – kindly donated to church funds (42)

£25 - Collette Wiggins (72)

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to Jeff, Al and Richard for drawing the numbers at the VCC meeting. Carolyn Bell

Newnham, Our Newnham



Nigel Bell

Newnham, our Newnham, written by long-time Newnham resident and local historian Nigel Bell to commemorate Newnham Church's 900th anniversary, is available to buy for £15 a copy, signed or unsigned.

For today's villagers, those with family links to the village, local residents and history buffs alike, it is a fascinating account of a typical rural Hampshire community that has evolved over the last millennium. With over 90 years of first-hand knowledge, Nigel describes the village's history, people, houses, economy, church and environment. The book, which has been generously supported by the Hampshire Archives Trust, is extensively illustrated with maps and photographs.

Once the author's costs have been recovered, any profits from sales will go to The Friends of St Nicholas' which supports the upkeep of Newnham's wonderful 12th Century church. Please contact the church Treasurer jeff.ford@hotmail.co.uk to obtain a copy or copies.

THE IRON BULL ROADHOUSE IS NOW PERMANENTLY CLOSED FOLLOWING THE SALE OF THE BUILDING BY THE OWNERS

'Our deepest thanks to our many regular and loyal customers for your wonderful support over the past four and a half years.'



The pub property and the field behind have both been sold to a commercial property developer so the future of both is uncertain

Newnham's November Parish Council meeting, the first since the '900' Festival, recorded its thanks to the Newnham 900 team for their achievement in producing an amazing event, with feedback from everyone to this effect, and meeting a principle objectives of bringing all parts of the Village together.

- Matthew Morris was co-opted as Parish Councillor with unanimous agreement.
- Good news from the Old House at Home at least that new tenants hope to reopen soon; the Parish Council is committed to supporting both its pubs.
- To request everyone please respond to the Local Plan Reg 18 consultation.
- Next Parish Council meeting Tuesday 20 January, 7pm Clubroom.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR

THE ORDINATION
INTO THE PRIESTHOOD
OF THE REVEREND
DEBBIE VEEL

WITH THE BISHOPS OF WINCHESTER AND BASINGSTOKE

MONDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2025

6PM

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, ODIHAM



RSVP DEBBIE@MORETOLIFE.CHURCH

ATTENDING YES/ NO
STAYING FOR REFRESHMENTS YES/ NO

Continued from front page...

'As we all know, the most significant new development has been the change of Government, with its clearly stated desire to 'build, baby, build'. For us here in Basingstoke & Deane, that has meant a significant jump in the housing target that our next Local Plan needs to meet, from around 830 new houses per year under the old rules to around 1,150 now. That works out at around 6,300 extra new houses over the life of the Local Plan up to 2042.

'This change has meant that we've had to go back to the drawing board with our Local Plan process... We'll be the first to admit that developing an updated Draft Spatial Strategy has been a real challenge. It's involved us making some very difficult decisions and we've been forced to include sites that we were able to keep out of previous iterations. We don't take any pleasure from that.

'We genuinely believe that continuing with the Plan-making process is better than the alternative of either allowing rampant speculative development or having our planning powers taken from us by the Government. That really is the choice; we either take this Plan forward and make some decisions ourselves; or we let others make those decisions for us.

'We encourage you to take part in the Regulation 18 Consultation. Please consider that we have had to find 6,300 more houses than before. This is not straightforward in any way and we want to be honest and open with you about the situation.'

CLEANERS RECOMMENDED

If anyone in Newnham is looking for an efficient, reliable cleaner, I have two women who come on Tuesday and Friday mornings and are looking for more work in this area.

Thoroughly recommended. Contact me for details. Fiona 07766 758571

PARISH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

25/02704/ROC (Validated 11 Nov) Land Adjacent to Blackstocks Lane. Variation of conditions 2, 3 and 14 of ref 25/00548/FUL (Erection of one dwelling, creation of new access and associated landscaping). Con 2 to vary footprint following design change; Con 3 materials; Con 14 water consumption.

25/02505/HSE (Pending 20 Oct) 13 The Baredown. Erection of open porch to front following demolition of garage conversion; to include new windows to front, replace windows and doors, new rooflights to rear roof slope, elevational treatments.

5/02080/FUL (Pending 26 Aug) Land East of Nately Scures House, Scures Hill. The construction of a self-build single detached house and associated access.

25/02019/RET (Pending 18 August) Land at Blackstocks Lane. Variation of Con 9 of 21/01670/FUL (Erection of one dwelling) Changes to landscaping (retrospective).

25/01947/HSE (Pending 08 August) Woodlands House, Scures. Erection of a single storey extension to side (to replace existing); erection of two-storey extension to side; installation of a rear porch; erection of porch; external works.

25/01458/FUL (Grant 12 November) Wild Green Acres Farm, Ridge Lane. Change of use of existing agricultural barn to farm shop and cafe (Class E).

PLANNING APPEAL

APP/H1705/W/25/3368891 ALLOWED 29 October. Land adjacent to Blackstocks Lane. Erection of 1 no. dwelling with new access and landscaping.

PARISH TREE APPLICATIONS

T/00563/25/TCA (Approve 26 November) Newnham Hill, Crown Lane. G1: 2 Ash trees with advanced ADB, fell. T1: Dead Sycamore, fell. The Ash tree crowns are diminished and have become unstable. A line of Elms are being planted in replacement. All trees to be removed are marked at the base of tree. The Sycamore is within the woodland copse to the west.

T/00506/25/TPO (Approve 04 Nov) Nately Scures House, Scures Hill. T1 Oak: Cut back to fence one overhanging oak, approx 2.5m for low light levels and leaf fall.

T/00460/25/TCA (Pending 11 Sept) Rose Farm Cottage, The Barracks. 2x Willow: reduce back to previous points. Oak tree (Black Oak) reduce height by one third to allow more light into the front of the house. The Eucalyptus in the back right hand corner of the back garden: fell.

CLLR ONNALEE CUBITT, CABINET SPEECH 11 NOV 2025: LOCAL PLAN UPDATE REG 18

Good evening, Leader, Deputy Leader, fellow Cabinet Members, Ladies and Gentlemen
Let's be absolutely honest, we are not where we want to be. This reality has been forced upon us by a Labour Government elected on promises it cannot possibly deliver. This Government has set itself a grand target: 1.5 million new homes during this Parliament. But here in Basingstoke, that ambition comes at a heavy price – a demand that we build 21,000 homes by 2042.

Even the best of teams cannot achieve the impossible without the tools and the funding to do it. And that is exactly the problem.

Because while Labour talks about housing numbers, it says very little about the infrastructure that must come with them. We are being asked to deliver growth on a scale we have never seen – yet without the schools, the roads, the surgeries, the water supply, the hospital capacity that any responsible government would provide first.

Under the National Planning Policy Framework, this Local Plan Update must be evidence-based. But the evidence is already clear, we are operating with an infrastructure deficit so large it borders on reckless.

Our hospital was built in 1974 for around 100,000 people. Today, our population stands at 187,500 and growing every year. Since 1974, the UK population has grown by 23%; in Basingstoke, its grown by over 80%. And what has been done to match that growth? Nothing meaningful.

Before Labour came to power, we had a Local Plan. It wasn't perfect, but it was settled. Now, Government has ripped it up and ordered us back to square one. Instead of 15,000 homes, we're being forced to plan for 21,000, a 40% increase, dictated from Whitehall, with no promise of investment to match. Labour wants us to build as if money were no object, as if bricks and mortar could replace proper planning, infrastructure, and services.

We can't meet the needs of our existing population.

- We don't have the water.
- We can't cope with the sewage system we already have.
- Our NHS is stretched to breaking point.

Even if developers build surgeries, the Integrated Care Board doesn't have the money to recruit the doctors or nurses to staff them. We don't have enough dentists, and we don't have the capacity to fix any of this under the current financial straitjacket.

So, I say this clearly to the Labour Government:

'If you want these houses, get your cheque book out.

'Show us the money for our water infrastructure.

'Show us the money for our hospital and our roads.

'Show us that you understand the meaning of local consent and sustainable growth, not empty targets set from Westminster.'

We were promised that £20 million would be spent on essential upgrades by a key water provider to make our last Local Plan sound. As far as we know that money was never spent.

As has already been said, there is still much evidence to gather. This is not the final Plan, it is a draft, and tonight's decision must be reviewed once every piece of key evidence is on the table.

So yes, with a heavy heart, I will support this Draft Regulation 18 Local Plan going out to consultation. But let me be crystal clear, this is not a blank cheque for Labour's housing agenda. This is a call to arms for the people of Basingstoke. Because ultimately, this fight is not about politics, it's about fairness. It's about whether communities like ours are treated as partners or as dumping grounds for national housing targets.

So, to our residents I say this:

'Now is the time to speak up.

'Now is the time to stand up.

'Engage in this consultation.

'Make your voices impossible to ignore.'

This is your town, your community, your future. And together, we will make sure that Basingstoke is not forgotten and never taken for granted.

Thank you.

Church Notices

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

www.united-parish.org.uk

www.moretolife.church

From the Parish Registers

Wedding: Natasha Lewington to Warren Pomery at St Mary's Mapledurwell on November 22nd



FROM THE BENEFICE MINISTRY TEAM

Welcome to this season of Advent! Advent is a great

time for preparing, and I wonder what preparations for Christmas are already filling your mind? I know our household is already caught in a whirlwind of preparations! Preparing for who's coming for Christmas, who will sleep where, who's cooking which meal... are we still having stockings on Christmas Eve... so the list goes on!

The word 'Advent' literally means 'coming', and so this season is a time of both hopeful anticipation for our joyful celebration of Jesus' birth, and also a time of reflection on his second coming in the future.

It's a time of expectation, of waiting and watching, of getting ready. It is indeed a time to prepare.

In the very first chapter of *Mark's gospel*, we're given a great reminder of what we should be preparing for in Advent, in these words:

'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'

A sense of 'good news, he's coming, get ready!' So how might we prepare ourselves this Advent?

Firstly, we can remember what this good news is.

At Christmas we remember that God himself has drawn close to us in the person of Jesus, to remove the barrier between all of humanity and Himself, caused by all the mess we so often make of things – our sin.

In dying on the cross, Jesus took all our sins – all the weight of that barrier – upon himself, so that as we put our trust in him we might be forgiven, and our relationship with God might be completely restored.

This is certainly good news!

Secondly we can respond to this good news ourselves. In that first chapter of *Mark*, Jesus says: 'Repent and believe the good news.'

'Repent' literally means changing our mind, turning around, and following Jesus – going God's way – the best way! – rather than our way.

So part of our preparations needs to be responding to this good news by repenting and believing afresh in Jesus, in whom we find salvation and the promise of new and eternal life.

And thirdly we can prepare to recount this good news to others.

So how might we recount the good news of Jesus to others?

There are so many exciting things happening in all of our churches here in the North Hampshire Downs this Christmas. And there are lots of ways in which people can hear afresh this good news of God's love for each one of us, and that in Jesus he has drawn near to us. Ways for us all to hear afresh that there is hope in this dark and confused world. And that this hope is found in Jesus.

All we have to do is invite others along to hear this good news. Who might

you invite to church this Christmas?

So, as we enter Advent, we begin this season of waiting and preparing, preparing the way for the Lord, as we prepare for his coming at Christmas, and indeed as we prepare for that day when he will come again.

Let's use the time wisely to prepare.

Let's remember what this good news of Jesus is all about.

Let's respond to this good news ourselves, by repenting and believing once again in our Saviour, who loves us so much that he was willing to come and die in our place.

And let's recount this good news to others, that they too might know the love, the joy and the peace that Jesus alone can bring.

With best wishes, Chris

Revd Chris Dudgeon, Rector, North Hampshire Downs Benefice – our network of 12 churches in Greywell, Herriard, Long Sutton, Mapledurwell, Nately Scures, Newnham, Odiham, South Warnborough, Tunworth, Up Nately, Upton Grey and Weston Patrick

chris@moretolife.church

www.moretolife.church

01256 702918

CHURCH SERVICES DECEMBER INTO FEBRUARY

Sunday 07 Dec	9am St Mary's Mapledurwell, CW Holy Communion 11am St Mary's Greywell, CW Holy Communion 11am St Swithun's Nately Scures, Carol Service
Saturday 13 Dec	4pm St Nicholas' Newnham, Carol Service
Sunday 14 Dec	9am St Stephen's Up Nately, BCP Holy Communion (said)
Friday 19 Dec	5.30pm St Mary's Mapledurwell, Carol Service
Saturday 20 Dec	5.30pm St Stephen's Up Nately, Carol Service
Sunday 21 Dec	11am St Mary's Mapledurwell, Informal Service 5pm St Mary's Greywell, Carol Service
Christmas Eve	4.30pm St Stephen's Up Nately, Crib Service (with Blessing of Toys for Basingstoke Hospital Children's Ward) 11.30pm St Swithun's Nately Scures, BCP Holy Communion
Christmas Day	9am St Mary's Mapledurwell, Family Service 10am St Stephen's Up Nately, Family Service 11am St Mary's Greywell, Family Service 11am St Nicholas' Newnham, Family Service
Sunday 28 Dec	10.30am All Saints' Long Sutton, Benefice CW Holy Communion
Sunday 04 Jan	9am St Mary's Mapledurwell, CW Holy Communion 11am St Mary's Greywell, Morning Worship 11am St Swithun's Nately Scures, 1662 Morning Prayer
Sunday 11 Jan	9am St Stephen's Up Nately, BCP Holy Communion (said) 10.30am St Nicholas' Newnham, 1662 Morning Prayer
Sunday 18 Jan	9am St Mary's Greywell, CW Holy Communion 11am St Mary's Mapledurwell, Informal Service
Sunday 25 Jan	10.30am St Nicholas' Newnham, BCP Holy Communion 11am St Stephen's Up Nately, Morning Worship
Sunday 01 Feb	9am St Mary's Mapledurwell, CW Holy Communion 11am St Stephen's Up Nately, Morning Worship with Baptism 11am St Swithun's Nately Scures, 1662 Morning Prayer.



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

KIDZONE

Hi Everyone!

Please don't judge me – but as I write this in mid-November, I'm already listening to Christmas songs... No, I have a good excuse, really!

I'm sure you all know one of my favourite songs: Great Big God. It's written by a band called Rend Collective, and I'm excited, because they've just released their Christmas album, *Christmas in Belfast*.

There are loads of well-known Christmas songs on it, done as only *Rend Collective* can, but I'd like to introduce you to my new favourite: 'Room at the Inn'. Follow this link / QR code to see it on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/s5EdoJKIw4U?si=SZE1O8uQvI2UY9Lj>

Room at the Inn – A Christmas Story With a Big Welcome



Have you ever been in a nativity play or heard the Christmas story told like this: 'Sorry... there's no room at the inn.'? Most nativity I watch begin with Mary and Joseph knocking on doors, to be turned away again and again. But this song reminded me of something wonderful: with Jesus, there is always room. No one is turned away. God's heart is wide open!

The 'no room at the inn' part of the Christmas story shows that Jesus didn't arrive in a fancy palace or a comfortable guest room. Instead, He came into a messy, ordinary stable. It wasn't perfect – but it was enough for God to use it for something amazing.

Rend Collective sings about how Jesus welcomes everyone – no matter where you're from, how you look, or what you've done. Their song flips the usual nativity idea on its head.

Instead of 'no room,' Jesus says: 'Come on in! There's room for you!'

And that's the heart of Christmas:

- Jesus came for shepherds in fields – poor and forgotten.
- He came for wise men from far away – curious travellers and those who cannot be in their homeland this Christmas.
- He came for Mary and Joseph – ordinary people with extraordinary faith.
- And He came for you.

Whenever you feel left out or not good enough, remember the stable. If there was room for Jesus in a stable, then there is definitely room for you in God's family. He made sure the door is always open.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT:

Make Your Own Welcome Star

Create a star to remind you – and everyone who sees it – that Jesus welcomes all.

You'll need:

- Paper or thin cardboard • Scissors
- Something to decorate with (markers, stickers, foil, glitter) • A ribbon or string

Steps:

1. Draw a big star and cut it out
2. Write across the front: 'There's Room for You!'
3. Decorate it as brightly as you can
4. Punch a hole at the top and tie a ribbon through
5. Hang it on your tree, door handle, or bedroom wall.

Each time you see your star, remember the message of 'Room at the Inn': Jesus welcomes everyone – and that includes you!

Have a great Christmas, Helen



Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

N Hants Downs Mothers' Union

Our November meeting discussed how we can better support our local Women's Refuge and we are planning to provide Christmas gifts for the families who are living there. Please pray for all the families affected by domestic violence which is shockingly common in our society. In December the branch members will meet for coffee and mince pies on Monday 8th December.

150 YEARS OF Mothers' UNION

In 2026, Mothers'

Union will be

celebrating its 150th

Anniversary, which is a tremendous milestone. We will have a number of celebrations during 2026, including a special evensong at Winchester Cathedral on Sunday 9th August when we will particularly remember the founder of Mothers' Union, Mary Sumner. We hope to continue for many more years working to end poverty, to end injustice and to end violence.

In our local branch we will start 2026 with a Wave of Prayer service on Monday 5th January at the RAF Chaplaincy Centre at 7.30pm. Mothers' Union divides the year into three-day periods when we pray for the members and projects of a particular group of dioceses. Winchester diocese has its turn in January along with our Diocesan Links in Mauritius, Nandyal (South India), Kericho (Kenya), Katsina (Nigeria) and Kumasi (Ghana). We are very grateful to the RAF for allowing us to use their hall for our meetings.



I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas, and share with you a photo I took at an exhibition in Guildford Cathedral of the stunning textile art of Jacqui Parkinson.

If you want to find out more about Mothers' Union or our branch please contact Sue Murphy on 01252 845011

or suemurphymubbranch@outlook.com

explore
more+

Are you curious about faith?

The taster evening for our next Alpha course is on the 21st January at 7.30pm:

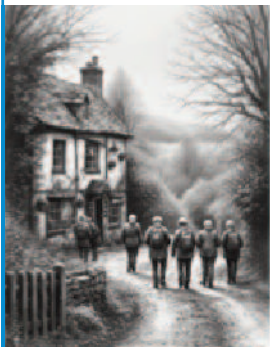
for more information or contact the church office:
01256 703791 admin@moretolife.church

Join us in Odiham

WISHING YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS

But what about planning for those January days?

December is always busy, lots going on, and that's true at the u3a as well. We start the month with one of our favourite speakers on 3rd December, Tony Harris helping us guess the meanings of little-known Words & Phrases – with lots of chocolates!



But what about January, festivities over, the need to get fit. We are looking to start a second walking group next year, so if you are a keen walker (about five miles) and like pub lunches this might be for you.

If you want to stay out of the cold, you might prefer our Line Dancing classes, we now have three groups, including one for absolute beginners. Who knew it would be so popular, lots of fun to banish those January blues.



Our monthly talk in January is Tales of the Unexpected, going behind the scenes of this long-running TV thriller series with the sinister twisted endings.



If you are not already a member, joining is only £20 for u3a membership for the year.

To see the full programme of our Monthly Meetings and group activities, please visit our website www.odihamu3a.org.uk

u3a
learn, laugh, live
ODIHAM DISTRICT

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

GOVERNMENT'S CONSULTATION

<https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/hampshire-isle-of-wight-portsmouth-southampton/>

Government has launched its consultation on proposals, submitted by first and second tier councils in Hampshire, for reorganisation into Unitary Councils that will deliver all local services.

The majority of district and borough councils support proposals for four unitary councils in mainland Hampshire which include a Northern Unitary of BDBC, Hart and Rushmoor.

Please respond to the consultation.

PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE BILL



The
Wildlife
Trusts

www.wildlifetrusts.org/about-us/what-we-do/our-work-land/planning/planning-and-infrastructure-england-bill

The process of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill

'In response to huge pressure, the Government amended the Bill to add some environmental safeguards in July. In October the Lords voted to add important protections for chalk streams (amendment 94) to the Bill. Crucially, the Lords also voted to back amendment 130, which would prevent Part 3 of the Bill applying in areas where it could hurt wildlife.

'On 10 November, both amendments returned to the Commons. Over 30,000 of our supporters emailed their MPs asking them to retain amendment 130 (now amendment 40) and amendment 94 (now amendment 38).

'On 13 November, despite some great speeches from MPs of all parties backing the amendments, Government whipped its supporters in the Commons to reject both amendments.

'On 24 November, the Bill returned to the Lords. Despite valiant efforts by nature champions in the House of Lords, the Government bulldozed the wildlife-harming Bill through its last remaining hurdles.

'We are grateful for the incredible number of emails nature-lovers have sent to MPs and encourage people to keep going. We will hold Ministers to their concessions and commitments that the implementation of the Bill will not cause undue harm to nature.

'Nature needs us to keep fighting.'



The Friends of St Michael's Hospice are again hosting the popular and festive Carol Service on Tuesday 9th December at All Saints', Odiham, music by Schola Cantorum of Oxford and a reading by Ed Chamberlin.

Doors open at 6pm and the service starts at 7pm with canapes, wine and mince pies. Tickets from Katherine Jane, High Street, Odiham or at www.stmichaels-hospice.org.uk/events

We look forward to seeing you.



HOOK CHORAL SOCIETY
DIRECTED BY NICHOLAS WOODS
CHRISTMAS CONCERT
ST JOHN'S CHURCH, HOOK
SATURDAY 20 DECEMBER

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