

The Villager

December 2016/January 2017 Volume 45 No 11

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



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



CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN THE FIVE VILLAGES

Please join us for any of these special Christmas services

Saturday December 17th

5.30pm	Carol Service	Up Nately
6.30pm	Carol Service	Newnham

Sunday December 18th

11.00am	Carol Service	Nately Scures
4.30pm	Carol Service	Mapledurwell
5.00pm	Carol Service	Greywell

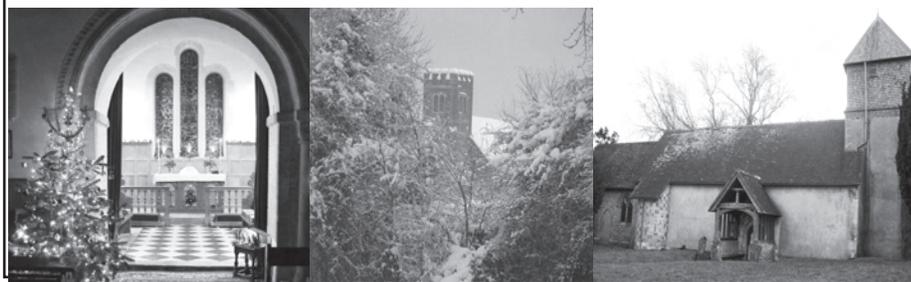
Christmas Eve

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

Christmas Day

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

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



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Diary dates

December

- 3 St Swithuns Christmas Market, 11am-2pm
- 3 Maple & Up Nately Children's Christmas Party, Village Hall, 2.30-4pm
- 3 Greywell Christmas Cafe & Cake Sale, Village Hall, 3-5pm
- 9 Up Nately Coffee Morning, 10-12, Queens Lace
- 13 Christmas Carol Concert in aid of Gene Therapy for Cystic Fibrosis, All Saints, Odiham
- 14 Greywell Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall, 6pm
- 16 Carols at the Pond, Mapledurwell Pond, 6pm
- 17 Newnham Carol Service, St Nicholas' Church, 6.30pm
- 20 Newnham Carol Singers, Rowan Lodge, 6pm
- 22 Christmas Holiday Messy Church, Greywell Village Hall, 2-4.30pm

January

- 15 Plough Sunday Service, St Swithuns, Nately Scures
- 17 St Nicholas' Church Cleaning, 10.30am
- 18 Mapledurwell and Up Nately Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall Committee Room, 8pm

Christmas Holiday Messy Church

Thursday 22nd December
2-4.30pm

Greywell Village Hall



All children of (or linked with) our United Parish are most welcome.

There is no charge.

For more details or to book a place, please email Rhona Blagden at gilesandrhona@greywell.eclipse.co.uk or speak to Revd Linda

Mapledurwell & Up Nately

Next Up Nately Coffee Morning

The next coffee morning will be at Queens Lace on 9th December, from 10 until 12 noon. Please contact Claire on 760554.



Future coffee morning dates:

January 13th at Linbern, contact Hazel 762648;
February 10th at Lealands, contact Jane on 762891

Welcome

Please welcome Caroline and Tim Lawrence and son Joshua who have moved into 'Kingfisher' in Tunworth Road, Mapledurwell. We hope that they enjoy living in the village with its beautiful old church.

Christmas at St. Mary's

Join us for Carols at the pond, Friday 16th December at 6pm, and enjoy home made mulled wine and mince pies. There will be a collection for the Children's Society.

The Christingle Service is on Sunday 11th December, at 4.30pm. Do come along to enjoy the Christingle by candlelight.

The Carol Service is on Sunday 18th December at 4.30pm. and the Family Service is at 9.30am on Christmas Day. You are all welcome.

Home Help

Anne Lywood's home help, Mita is now looking for other employment. She is hard working, honest and reliable and has been a great help to Ann over the last few years. Please phone Mita on 07916314336. Good references available.

Local Free Range Eggs

Super, free range, organic eggs available from Heather Row, Up Nately. The eggs are boxed up and ready for sale within 24/48 hours of them being laid. Most supermarket eggs sold as 'free range' have to reach the shelves by day 8 and cost around £3. So our box of one dozen eggs for £1.50 are a real fresh bargain.

PARISH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

New Application

T/00460/16/TCA (14th Nov) Basingstoke Canal (application by Basingstoke Canal Authority, Mychett). T402 Oak – remove deadwood above towpath and agricultural access; T405 Ash – in decline, reduce to monolith; T406 Ash – dead, fell; T407 Ash – in decline, reduce to monolith; T408 Oak – remove partially failed limb over canal; T409 Oak – dead, reduce to monolith.

16/04198/FUL (9th Nov), St Mary's Mapledurwell. Installation of compost toilet, provision of footpath for wheelchair access and upgrade existing footpath.

Application Pending

16/03715/VLA (6th Oct) 11 Aspen House, The Hollies. Variation of Section 106 agreement to allow sale of property on open market.

Application Withdrawn

16/03055/LBC (4th Nov, reg 22nd August) Slades Bridge, Heather Lane, Up Nately. General repairs.

Application Granted

T/00346/16/TCA (18th Oct, reg 8th Sept) The Farm, Tunworth Road. Two Ornamental Cypress – fell; one mature Cypress – fell; one Ash (close to the house) – fell.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Next Parish Council meeting Wednesday 18th January, 8pm, Village Hall Committee Room. Everyone is very welcome to attend.



During our harvest season (October - December 2016), we would welcome any of the items below. Please note we are unable to accept alcohol in any food or drink item.

- Tinned meat (Minced beef, ham and chicken) and tinned fish
- Long life fruit juice
- Dried milk powder
- Chocolates, sweets, treats and biscuits
- Packets of instant potato mash
- Jars of cooking sauce
- Tinned spaghetti/ravioli
- Tinned tomatoes and vegetable
- Tinned fruit, rice pudding and custard
- Jams, Peanut butter and marmite
- Crackers and crisp breads
- Toilet Rolls, Shampoo, Shower Gel, Toothpaste
- Cereals (hot or cold)
- Small jars of coffee
- Drinking chocolate / squash
- Roll-on deodorants

WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF

- Baked beans
- Soup
- Nappies
- Pasta
- Tea
- Kidney Beans and other tins of Pulses

And a message from Monica

I have been quite overwhelmed by the generosity of the people of the United Parish. The helpers at the Trinity Methodist Church on Sarum Hill receive our donations with much gratitude. It is sad that one in five of the UK population live below the poverty line and so many are dependent on food banks. With this in mind whilst driving around our five churches to collect the gifts some three Saturdays ago I had a most uplifting experience. I finished my trip at Nately Scures and set about the cleaning the church. Being the smallest of our church communities our foodbank box is never as full as the other churches. It was not until I got to the back of the church that I noticed two huge shopping bags filled to the gunnels with just about everything on the foodbank list. The bags were so heavy that I had to half empty them to be able to lift them to the car. With the boot already full from my collections these new goodies filled the whole of the back seat. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to whoever made such a plentiful donation; it felt like a gift from heaven.



POLICE UPDATE

Dear Residents,

I am appealing for any information concerning several crimes in the area of this magazine. Between November 18th and 21st someone has stolen wood and an axe from a wood yard in Nately Scures and overnight of November 24th and 25th an attempted burglary took place to an outbuilding at a joinery premises in Old School Road, Newnham. And in Up Nately between midnight and 20 past midnight on November 12th 2016, damage was caused to a car parked at St Stephens Close, again I am appealing for any information / witnesses. If you can help within any of these crimes please give me a call direct and as always all calls treated in strictest confidence.

As we go into December and the on coming festive period I ask that all residents please pay attention to their home security, please make sure lights are left on and perhaps a radio when you are out, make your home look as if someone is in. We are experiencing several house and outbuilding burglaries across the north Hampshire area.

Also as per any time of the year, I urge residents not to drink and drive; the Constabulary will be launching its annual Christmas drink drive campaign where drivers will be breath tested in the mornings as well as at night. Also please make sure all your lights on your vehicle are kept clean and in full working order, I do seem to see a lot of vehicles being driven with defective lights.

If you can help with any information regarding the two crimes above, please do call.

May I wish you all a very happy, safe and secure Christmas and thank you again for your continued support.

Andy

Andrew Reid, Local Constable

01256 389 050
Mob 07768 776 844
andrew.reid@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

MAPLEDURWELL & UP NATELY VILLAGE HALL



HIRE THE VILLAGE HALL

Contact Caretaker Jayne Norman on 474432
or check out the website at
www.mapledurwellvillagehall.com

MAPLEDURWELL AND UP NATELY CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY



Good old fashioned party games and a present from under the tree

Saturday 3rd December from 2.30pm to 4pm at the Village Hall

Entrance is by ticket only and, as the Elves would like to prepare a small gift for each child before the party, it is essential that you contact Helen Halstead on 07985 407200 or mapledurwellandupnately@gmail.com by the 25th November, 2016.

SHOE BOX APPEAL

Very grateful thanks to the supporters of the Shoe Box Appeal. 113 boxes were well filled with good gifts for deprived children in orphanages in Moldova, the poorest country in Eastern Europe, and Romania, ranging from very young up to teenagers.

The 113 boxes were collected from Chineham making up a total of 625 and are now on their way overland to arrive in time for Christmas. This number could not be achieved without very loyal supporters - and new ones too - and it is so encouraging to welcome the support from these people.

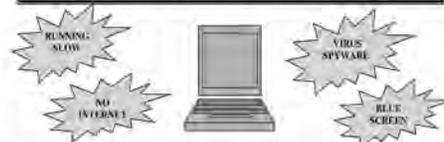
Thanks also should be given to the wonderful donations of wool and knitting needles and to the people of the village and beyond who knit all year round the beautiful hats, scarfs and gloves and teddies which go in the boxes, and this year from a new supporter 6 lovely little fabric teddies.

Last, but not least, the help from Nick Groves for transporting the boxes without whose help this could not be done.

We are looking for secure, dry storage space for shoe boxes all year round, large plastic boxes and all items relating to this charity. Please contact me on 323324 if you think you could help.

Thank you,
Patricia Stubbs.

CONFUSED BY YOUR COMPUTER? TROUBLED BY YOUR TELEVISION SET?



On site services include

PC/ Laptop Support , Repair and Service.
Virus / Spyware removal.
TV, Audio, Video Repair and service.

Prices from
£45 on site
Covers the first
Hour

Regular maintenance keeps your computer clean and fast

TV Install , tuning and Setup
Supply and Install Freeview receivers
Convert your old Analog TV's to Digital
Advice and Support.

Prices from
£35

For more information or to book a house call contact



Newnham & Nately Scures

Newnham Clubroom is for hire



Please visit newnhamclubroom.org.uk for availability, booking and further information.

Newnham Autumn Litter Pick

Once again, many thanks to the faithful band of volunteers, including Edward and Caroline, Angela and Nigel, Sara, Debbie, and Jo, who did an excellent job. Although, small in number we were able to cover most of the roads in the village. Our next Litter Pick will be in March, when 'hope springs eternal' ? John Broughton

Up-Nately - On-going Pond Works.

Over £1,000 has been raised this year from Villagers.

A Big Thank You to all those who contributed, jobs will continue as from now, weather permitting.

Best, David and Moira Bone.



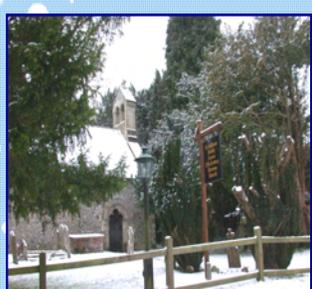
Christmas Market



St Swithun's Nately Scures

Saturday 3rd December

11.00am until 2.00pm



Christmas Cards & Gifts • Hot Food & Drinks
Christmas Wreaths & Trees • Cards & Calendars
Stalls around & inside the church • Local produce & crafts
Longdog Brewery • Bonboosh Marshmallows • Siobhan Louise Textiles



PARISH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

New Application

16/03850/FUL (31st Oct) Land Adjacent To Nately Towers, Scures Hill. Erection of a five-bedroomed dwelling with double garage and creation of a new access.

Applications pending

16/03726/HSE (7th Oct) Oakfield House, Scures Hill. Erection of a two storey side extension, single storey rear extension.

16/03282/RET (15th Sept) Manor Farm, Blackstocks Lane. Change of use of agricultural land to educational farm and leisure use (Class D1 & D2) with ancillary tea rooms and associated car parking (retrospective).

16/02187/FUL (16th June) Nately Scures House, Scures Hill. Three x four-bedroomed dwellings and garages including new access onto the A30, and associated landscaping.

16/01315/FUL (26th April) The Old House At Home. Change of Use A4 Public House to C3 Residential Dwellinghouse.

16/00097/OUT (13th Jan) Land Adjacent to Oakfield Farmhouse, Scures Hill. Outline planning application for three detached dwellings, including access.

Applications granted

16/03603/HSE (23rd Nov, reg 28th Sept) 6 Kingsbridge End, Old School Road, Newnham. Conversion of loft to living accommodation involving construction of hip to gable.

16/03302/HSE (18th Nov, reg 5th Sept) Cromwells, The Barracks. Erection of a 2.4 metre high fence along western boundary to replace existing.

16/02480/FUL (10th Nov, reg 27th July) Oakfield Farm Court, Scures Hill. New detached house and garage (amended design to that approved under 13/01460/FUL).

16/01446/HSE and 16/01447/LBC (4th Nov, reg 23rd May) Newnham Green Farm, Tylney Lane. Two storey side extension and a two storey rear extension, following demolition of parts of existing building.

16/03383/HSE (4th Nov, reg 9th Sept) Thursley, Scures Hill. Erection of carport.

Hart Applications

16/02681/PREAPP Beehive Farm, Tylney Lane, Rotherwick. New dwelling and associated works. Note this is a pre-application enquiry only. Drawings are available on the Hart website.

16/02929/PRIOR (14th Nov) Owens Farm (High Ridge House), Hook. Prior approval for the change of use of an agricultural barn, outbuilding B, into one residential dwelling, in accordance with Class Q, Part 3, Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015.

Newnham Carol Singers

Meeting in good cheer and good voice at Rowan Lodge at 6pm on Tuesday 20th December. We will start there, and then go to the houses around the Green and down Tylney Lane. Sadly Newnham Road is just too dangerous.

Gathering afterwards for drinks and mince pies at Newnham Hill, unless anyone else would like to host some refreshments. Parking at Newnham Hill Please join us, the more the so much merrier! All queries please to the Bells on 762104 or joanna.bell1@gmail.com

St Nicholas' Church Cleaning will be in January – Tuesday January 17th at 10.30am has been pencilled in – if you are happy to volunteer to join the fun, please contact but Chris Broughton on 762490.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Next Parish Council meeting

January 2017. Date To be confirmed.

Devolution and the future of local government in Basingstoke and Deane

A study by Pricewaterhouse Cooper to 'to support the development of local devolution proposals' has been commissioned by BDBC on behalf of the 14 district and unitary authorities in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

The study findings support combining districts to create five unitary authorities, two in the north and three in the south of the county. For BDBC this would mean combining with Hart and Rushmoor.

Previous proposals to split Hampshire into two combined authorities, north and south, seem still be under consideration. The aims are to achieve devolution of national powers and 'closer working' with districts – which could then possibly later develop into combining districts into the unitary authorities. However it seems at the moment HCC is not supportive of this – and full devolution would require an elected mayor.

There is also the suggestion that if these proposals prove unsuccessful, Basingstoke & Deane could bid to go-it-alone as a unitary authority. Proposals will be further discussed at BDBC's Community, Environment and Partnerships meeting on Wednesday, 30th November.

See:

www.basingstoke.gov.uk/devolution

Newnham Carol Service at St Nicholas'

Saturday 17th December at 6.30 p.m. Please note that the time of the carol service has changed this year to 6.30pm from from the usual 4.30 in previous years.

The 'Story of Christmas' Carol Service

A very special candlelit event where the children of Newnham tell us the 'Story of Christmas'.

Mulled wine and mince pies will be served in the church.

Christmas Day 10.45 a.m. Family Communion

Basingstoke & Deane Local Plan: SS6 New Housing in the Countryside

Applications for new houses in the Parish have recently (2015 to May 2016) been assessed and mostly approved on merit – according to the National Planning Policy Framework's criteria for 'sustainable development'. While BDBC had no Local Plan in place and no identified five-year land supply, once one application was deemed 'sustainable' others followed.

With a Local Plan and five-year land supply now in place, new-build applications must comply with Policy SS6: New Housing in the Countryside.

According to SS6, new housing will only be allowed:

- On 'previously developed land'
- for a rural exception site for affordable housing
- for the re-use of a redundant or disused permanent building
- for a replacement dwelling
- for small scale residential proposals... that meet a 'locally agreed need'
- for a new dwelling linked to an existing and viable agricultural, forestry, horse breeding and training, livery or equivalent rural business
- where allocated for development in a Neighbourhood Plan.

SS6(e) is a new policy adopted by this Local Plan. Recent guidance issued by BDBC's Planning Policy Team confirms that:

A 'locally agreed need' must be agreed by the local planning authority with regard to locally expressed views... The evidence would be expected to identify the need for proposed homes including details of their type, size and tenure... It should include a review of the existing housing stock... and an assessment of demand... This must be based on published up-to-date evidence. A generally perceived need... would not satisfy the criteria... nor would an individual's personal need for housing.



Plough Sunday Service

at

St. Swithun's Nately Scures

on

Sunday 15th January 2017 at 11:00

Followed by Ploughman's Pie & Mash Lunch*

in the Tea Barn at Miller's Ark



All are welcome

*No charge for lunch but numbers needed for catering – please call Monica on 01256 321727 or 07702 096810 or @ monica.wardrop@xerox.com

CHRISTMAS OPEN STUDIO AILEEN MAYERS – THE GLASS STUDIO

The Glass Studio will be open on Saturday 3rd, 10th, and 17th of December from 11.00am to 4.00pm. Lots of fused glass gift ideas including Christmas decorations, pictures, light catchers, coasters and plus dichroic glass and beaded jewellery.

8 Almond Close, Old Basing, RG24 7DW Tel: 01256 476732

www.aileenmayers.co.uk

Hampshire's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) have introduced charges for non-household waste.

Soil and rubble, which is usually created from construction, alteration or repair of homes and gardens, will be charged at £2.50 per part or whole 30 litre bag, or per item. Plasterboard, which is accepted at all sites, will be charged at £10 per sheet, or £6 per 30 litre bag. Cement-bonded asbestos, which will continue to only be accepted at Andover, Basingstoke, Efford, Netley and Portsmouth HWRCs will be charged at £12 per sheet. No other type of asbestos is permitted. Cash and card payment options are available at each centre.

The County Council has also opened up a new service at its HWRCs for small businesses to dispose of their commercial waste for a charge.

Greywell



VILLAGE HALL

To hire the Village Hall please contact isabel.pound@hotmail.com or alibarber@aol.com. For Marquee hire (Greywell residents only) contact Debbie Scott; Tel 01256 701624; deborahjscott1@gmail.com

Public Meeting with Ranil Jayawardena

Ranil Jayawardena, MP for North East Hampshire, speaks to Greywell villagers and takes their questions at a well-attended meeting held in the Village Hall on 18th November



Christmas at St Mary's, Greywell

Carol Service 5pm on Sunday 18th followed by 6pm drinks at the Village Hall.

Messy Church Thursday 22nd 2pm in the Village Hall see separate notice.

Christmas Day 10.45am Family Service for all.

Greywell Hill Estate LOGS

Fill your woodshed now with seasoned hardwood logs (oak, ash, beech, birch et al)

Delivered in farm trailer (approx 90cuft) and tipped

£160 per load

£100 per half load

or smaller loads by arrangement

Tel: Office 01256 703 565 or Nigel 07973 715 361

PARISH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

New Applications

16/00399/CON 4 Dorchester Way Greywell Hook RG29 1BX. Discharge of condition 3- materials- pursuant to 16/00399/FUL- Erection of a new 3 bedroom dwelling (attached to No.4) with parking and first floor rear extension to existing house (submission of 15/02649/FUL)

16/02340/CON Old Wharf House Hook Road Greywell Hook RG29 1BT. Discharge of conditions 2 - door details - and 3 - making good - pursuant to 16/02340/LBC Removal of downstairs WC (not original) and reinstate external door to form original entrance hall.

Applications Granted

16/02489/HOU Westwood House Hook Road Greywell Hook RG29 1BT. Single storey rear extension.

16/01011/LBC Dorchester Cottage Hook Road Greywell Hook Hampshire RG29 1BT. Retrospective: Partial demolition/ removal of partition to kitchen and lintel to kitchen chimney, removal of floor coverings, removal of dry rot to sitting room floorboards and ground floor level lowered to underside of the existing brick footing. New drainage laid and preparation of south east corner of building for underpinning.

Application Decided - Condition Discharged

16/02118/CON Manor Farm Barns The Street Greywell Hook Hampshire. Discharge of condition 2- underfloor heating and rainwater goods- pursuant to 15/00323/LBC and 15/00709/LBC: Conversion of existing farm buildings to five dwellings (pursuant to Listed Building Consent 15/00323/LBC). Amendments to include internal and external alterations to Plot 3, and external alterations to Plot 2. Application Ref 15/01294/LBC: Conversion of existing farm buildings to 5 dwellings (pursuant to Listed Building Consent 15/00323/LBC) - amendments to include; internal and external alterations to Plots 4 & 5.



Christmas Greeting From Rowan Lodge

December will be a busy month over at Rowan with festive activities throughout the month.

Please come along and join us on:

10th December – Greywell Bell Ringers from 2pm

13th December – Let It Snow Show from 2pm

17th December – Rowan Lodge Christmas Party, Raffle, Disco and Santa from 12.30pm

20th December – Village Carol Singers, Mulled Wine and Mince Pies from 6pm

21st December – Christmas Carol Church Service from 3pm

Our Christmas Fayre on the 19th November was a huge success, thank you all of you who attended

Christmas Café and Cake Sale Greywell Village Hall, Sat 3rd December 3pm – 5pm

Please come along to The Village Hall on Saturday 3rd December to enjoy a cup of tea, cakes and festive treats. Cake Stall, Book Stall, Tombola and 'pocket money' games and lucky dip for children. All welcome. Please contact R Blagden on 07799 813821 if you would like transport to or from the Village Hall.

Proceeds in aid of St Mary's Church, Greywell.

Donations of books and items for the tombola gratefully received any time in November. Please deliver to Rhona Blagden, (3 Dorchester Way – can be left in front of garage if not in)

Donations of cakes for cake stall also welcome on the day. Deliver to Village Hall any time from 2pm onwards on Saturday 3rd Dec.

Church Notices

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

From the Parish Registers...

Funeral Services

October 27th at St. Mary's, Mapledurwell, Shirley Pink

October 31st at St. Mary's Mapledurwell, Jean Jones

May they rest in peace.

Baptism

October 23rd at St Mary's Greywell, Edward Kempson

We welcome Edward into the family of the church.

Mid-Week Holy Communion

We next meet in the warm and welcoming home of Lady Nell at The Dower House in Greywell on 15th December at 11 am. We have a traditional service, with a chance to discuss the gospel reading, to offer our own prayers and then to enjoy coffee, cake and conversation before we go home! We'd love you to join us – and if you would like to hear more about it, or would like a lift, please contact Rev Linda Scard. The dates for January are still to be arranged.

Remembering Loved Ones at Christmas

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

Diary dates in December:

December 3rd St. Swithun's Nately Scures Christmas Market 11am-2pm

December 13th Christmas Carol Concert in aid of Gene Therapy for Cystic Fibrosis, All Saints, Odiham, 6.30 for 7pm

December 17th Wedding in Mapledurwell 3,45pm

December 22nd Christmas Holiday Messy Church, Greywell Village Hall, 2-4.30pm

Church Services

December 4th

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Nately Scures
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Mapledurwell
11.00am	Holy Communion (CW)	Greywell

December 11th

8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Up Nately
11.00am	Morning Service	Greywell
11.15am	Matins	Newnham
4.30pm	Christingle	Mapledurwell

For Christmas Services, please see the front page

January 1st 2017 Benefice Service

9.45am	Benefice Service for all the family	Odiham
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January 8th

8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Up Nately
9.30am	Family Service	Mapledurwell
11.00am	Family Service	Greywell
11.15am	Matins	Newnham

January 15th United Services

8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Greywell
11.00am	Plough Sunday Service	Nately Scures

January 22nd

8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Newnham
9.30am	Family Service	Up Nately
9.30am	Morning Prayer (said)	Mapledurwell
11.00am	Morning Service	Greywell

January 29th United Parish Service

9.30am	Candlemas with Holy Communion	Up Nately
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Special Church Services in December/January

Christingle Services:

We begin our round of Christingle services in Up Nately on November 27th at 9.30 am followed by a service in Greywell on the same day at 4.30 pm. Mapledurwell will hold its Christingle service on December 11th at 4.30pm.

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

Christmas Services:

These are all listed on the front of this Villager. Come and join us for traditional Christmas carols and readings.

Plough Sunday:

January 15th at 11.00am at Nately Scures (the church by Miller's Ark Farm)

This has now become a United Parish tradition as we bless the farmers' ploughs and a pot of soil from their land at the beginning of the year. Hopefully we shall have some ploughs lined up outside for the children to look at and after the short, family friendly service we have drinks and a delicious lunch in the barn opposite. Do join us! Names for catering purposes to either Rev. Linda (704835) or Monica Wardrop (321727)

January 1st there will be a Benefice Service for all the family at Odiham at 9.45 am to which everyone is welcome.

January 29th there will be a United Parish Service, Candlemas with Holy Communion, at Up Nately

From Your Curate linda.scard@btinternet.com



Dear Friends

For the first time in many a year I've actually managed to make Delia's Christmas cake in November and I'm now "feeding" it regularly with the good stuff. With a bit of luck it may even get decorated in time for the icing to harden before Christmas Day!

It's traditional to make our Christmas puddings on the last Sunday before Advent, or "Stir Up" Sunday, as it's nicknamed after the well known Collect in the Book of Common Prayer which starts with the words, "Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people". The prayer reminds us that our wills and all that God wills for us are not always in line with each other, and it's only through Christ "stirring up" each one of us that the two can come together. It's also traditional for our puddings to contain 13 ingredients, representing Christ and his twelve disciples. I'm afraid I go to a well known grocer to buy my puddings these days. I'll have to remember to count the number of ingredients listed on the box!

During Advent, the four Sundays before Christmas, we have some lovely services to help us prepare to celebrate our Lord's birth and to the joy of spending time with our families and others who are special to us. Whether it be at a Christingle or Carol Service, the Crib Service or Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, or at a service on Christmas Day itself, I look forward to sharing these special moments with you. I'm sure we'll all be looking out for those in our villages who may no longer have families to bring them a bit of Christmas cheer. This can be a time of sad memories or loneliness for some, even when there are lots of other people around.

Going back to traditions, another of course is to make resolutions on New Year's Day. I've long given up on that as so often my resolutions involved calories in versus calories out! As this is a time when the fridge is stuffed with delicious leftovers, I usually managed from about midnight on New Year's Eve to less than 24 hours later! These days I wait until Epiphany on 6 January, twelve days after Christmas when tradition has it that the Three Wise Men arrived in Bethlehem to see the baby Jesus. By then the fridge has emptied itself and I have chance more on my side Other than in church on a Sunday, we don't celebrate Epiphany much in this country anymore, but it's still very much an important festival in Europe. In Spain for example, children often receive their presents at Epiphany, when the Wise Men brought their gifts to Jesus, rather than at Christmas. I don't think I'm going to suggest that to my grandchildren!

We'll see what 2017 brings. I pray that it will be a happy and healthy year for you and your families. I pray also that this Christmas something about the significance of the infant Jesus, his life and his ministry may reveal itself to each one of us, either for the first time or afresh, and that we can all face the joys and the challenges of 2017 knowing the inner peace and joy of a life lived in Christ.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and many blessing for the New Year.

With my love

Linda

Revd Linda Scard

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