

# The Villager

May 2017 Volume 46 No 4

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

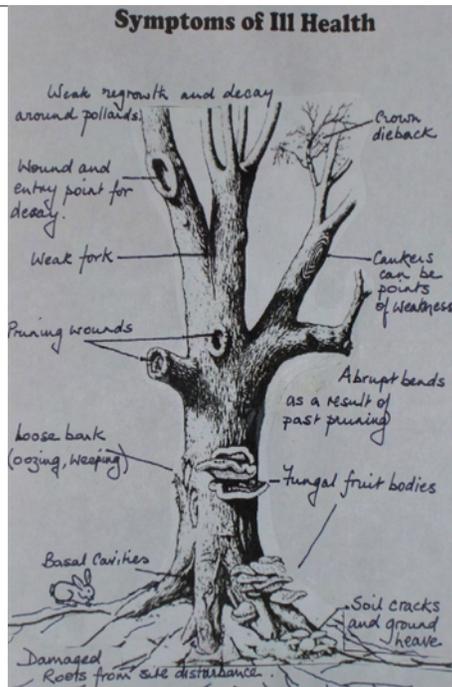
## INSPECTING YOUR TREES FOR DAMAGE

Trees are marvelously resilient and can resist attacks by fungi, predators and human activity. But if these are persistent or malicious, where perhaps deer eat the bark off the trunk, there is not much our poor tree can do. It begins to show signs of stress and may eventually die.

Provided an owner of a tree can show that he or she has "done what is reasonable" if faced with a claim for personal or property damage from a tree falling down, then any prosecution (for instance under the Occupiers Liability Act) will be less likely to succeed.

So to comply, what should we look for on a regular basis? Let's start by investigating the crown of each tree. A good example of the problem is a diseased field maple perched rather precariously opposite our house on the verge of the Tunworth Road. Its boughs are just beginning to come into leaf but clearly there is a whole area in its middle that is dead. Fortunately the hazard has been noted by Hampshire Highways and the tree is destined to be felled.

I have drawn a diagram to illustrate other problems such as decay and weakness. Tree roots are usually found in the top 2 ft (60 cms) of soil. These can extend a long way from the base and they need air as well as water. Their enemies for a relatively quick death are disease and "the man-with-the-digger" who carelessly cuts into them during excavation. Slower deaths usually come from chemicals and from builder's rubble that tends to compact the roots. Bonfires under trees should be avoided as the branches above will dry out and crack. The presence of a fungus does not automatically mean the tree is doomed. A fungus can live quite benignly in a tree, which sets up barrier zones to contain it. When fungal spores meet fresh air they then fruit. Autumn is the best time to see various polypores, honey fungus and beef steaks – that I am told are delicious when cooked and eaten with shallots! But if you have any concerns, the web site <https://www.forestry.gov.uk/pestsanddiseases> may provide an answer.



John Maclean  
Tree Warden Mapledurwell  
Jkmaclean1@btoopenworld.com

## Diary dates

### May

- 12 Up Nately Coffee Morning, Jackdaw Cottage
- 16 Newnham Parish Assembly, 6.45pm, Clubroom
- 17 Mapledurwell Annual Parish Assembly, 8pm, Village Hall
- 18 Maple Tea & Cake Gathering, 3.30pm, Manor Farm Barn
- 20 Greywell Annual Plant Sale and Coffee Morning, 10am-12.30pm

### June

- 9 Up Nately Coffee Morning, Queen's Lace
- 10 Safari Supper
- 11 Mapledurwell Treasure Hunt, 4pm-6pm
- 18 Newnham Open Gardens, 1.30pm-5pm

## 'Tallest Tree' quiz

In response to the "Tallest Tree" quiz in last month's edition, Lucy Mace advised she has been out with a stick and measured what she has always called the 'tallest tree in the village' at Mapledurwell House. We estimate that it comes to the grand height of 106 feet.

It is a Wellingtonia or Sequoiadendron giganteum (giant sequoia; also known as giant redwood).

Well done Lucy!

## Villager Contact Details

Editor: **Stephanie Webb 07789 860401 -**

**StephanieWebbVillager@gmail.com;**

Distribution: **Robin Howard - 07799 664454;**

Mapledurwell: **Lorna Cuthill 354651;**

Up Nately: **Liz Preece 762059;**

Newnham: **Sue Turner - clerk.newnham@parish.hants.gov.uk**

Greywell: **Jane Butler - janembutler5@gmail.com;**

Greywell Parish Clerk: **Julian Stanley - julian.stanley2@btinternet.com**

# Mapledurwell & Up Nately

## Up Nately Coffee Morning

The next coffee mornings will be on 12th May at Jackdaw Cottage, call Helen on 760110 and 9th June at Queen's Lace, call Claire on 760554.



## Tea & Cake Gathering

Maple's Tea & Cake gathering will be held on 18th May, 3.30pm, at Manor Farm Barn, Tunworth Road, and hosted by Sara & Nick Paterson. Please 'phone Sara on 479.814 if you would like to be included. All welcome.

## Spring Cleaning



Huge thanks to the ladies who helped to give St Stephen's Church in Up Nately a thorough Spring clean, vacuuming, sweeping, polishing, making the church look spic and span ready for Easter! Thank you Juliet for organising and willing hands Jane Roberson, Jane Cooper, Helen Price, Sherry South, Summer Cubitt and Liz Preece.

## Mapledurwell Treasure Hunt

By popular demand, another Mapledurwell Treasure Hunt will be held on **Sunday June 11th**, starting in the Church at 4.00pm and finishing at the Gamekeepers at 6.00pm.

Teams of any size accepted, with generous prizes for successful Hunters!

Please call Jane Stevens on 464235 to register your team.

## PARISH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

### New Applications

**17/01262/HSE** (31st March) The Old Orchard, Tunworth Road, Mapledurwell. Installation of two new sliding patio doors and formation of a new opening on the rear elevation.

**17/01154/HSE** (28th March) Brook Cottage, Frog Lane, Mapledurwell. Erection of single storey rear orangery.

### Applications pending

**17/00885/HSE** (13th March) Burrough Close, Greywell Road, Andwell. Erection of a two storey rear and side extension.

**17/00614/HSE** (15th March) Hillcrest, Tunworth Road, Mapledurwell. Erection of side and rear extensions, front and side porches, raised roof to provide additional accommodation, replacement chimney and replacement garage with home office/store above.

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

### Applications granted

**16/04585/RET** (12th April, reg 8th Dec) Pennybridge Farm, Greywell Road, Up Nately. Removal of condition 2 of 13/02230/RET to allow permanent retention of agricultural workers cabin.

**16/04369/LDEU** (31st March, reg 10th Feb) Southville, Greywell Road, Mapledurwell. Application for Certificate of Lawfulness for continued use of mobile home as a dwelling.

### Recent tree applications

**T/00142/17/TCA** (20th April) Sheraton, Tunworth Road, Mapledurwell. Fell one dying Prunus.

**T/00117/17/TCA** (27th March) Kolkinon House, Blaegrove Lane, Up Nately. T1 White Poplar – Pollard to the same height as the 9 smaller trees. T2 Lombardy Poplar – fell as it has a large wound at the base (fire damage). T3 Cherry – fell as it is dying & replace with similar species.

**T/00107/17/TCA** (20th March) Meadow Hill, Tunworth Road, Mapledurwell. T1/T2/T3 – apple trees - crown reduce by approx 2-4m all round to leave an approx height and spread of 3-5m.

**T/00105/17/TCA** (17th March) Lumarden, Tunworth Road. T1/T2 – crown reduce by approx 3m all round to an approx height and spread of 10m. Removed dead, dying diseased branches. T3 beech – crown thin by up to 10-15% by removing dead, dying, diseased branches and rubbing/crossing branches. T4 sycamore – fell. T5 cherry – crown reduce by approx 3m to previous points approx height and spread 5-6m.

**T/00081/17/TCA** (9th March) Grays Farm House, Tunworth Road. H1 Cypress hedge – reduce height by approx 1-2m to previous reduction points. T1 Holly and T2 Conifer – reduce height of both trees to approx 0.5-1m below cables and cut overhanging branches to clear adjacent property by up to 2m. T3 Elder – remove low branch back to stem overhanging oil container.

**T/00054/17/TCA** (16th Feb) Glebe House, Tunworth Road. Reduce height of Holly tree in front garden from approximately 40 feet to approximately 20 feet.

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### Next Parish Council meeting

**Wednesday 17th May**

Annual Parish Assembly, Village Hall, From 8pm

(preceded by the Parish Council AGM in the Committee Room). All residents of Mapledurwell, Up Nately and Andwell are warmly invited to attend.



## **POLICE UPDATE**

*Dear Residents*

*I am seeking any information concerning a further theft from a wood yard in Heather Row Lane, again CCTV images have been obtained and security measure increased. This theft took place about midnight on the night of April 8th 2017, I am further aware that at 12:12 PM the same day a cyclist was seen in this area and I ask that he come forward and please give me a call. Please also find below the pictures from the previous theft and I again ask if anyone has any knowledge of this man and who he is to please give me a call direct or Crime Stoppers on 0800.555111 – in both cases all calls are treated within strictest confidence.*



*May I also make you aware of a recent increase in burglary of houses within our and nearby area's. We had one in Dummer recently between 7.30 and 8.30 pm. I urge all residents to please remain vigilant and keep doors and windows secured when out and fitted alarms on and in good working order. I ask that this also be considered for outbuildings and sheds which also suffer at this time of year from opportunist theft.*

*If you need crime prevention advice please give me a call on my direct numbers.*

*The problem of illegal fly tipping continues with household and garden waste being dumped across our area, if you see any vehicles involved please give me a call and I will progress from there. As always all calls treated in strictest confidence.*

*Many thanks*

*Andy*

**Andrew Reid, Local Constable**

01256 389 050

Mob 07768 776 844

andrew.reid@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

### **Up Nately Safari Supper**

This popular event will take place this year on Saturday 10th June 2017. For those of you who have not participated before the idea is a series of dinner parties taking place around the village. Each course is held in a different house, therefore giving you an opportunity to meet lots of people as you move from house to house.

The event will commence at our house Linbern in Heather Lane, where everyone can enjoy some nibbles, drinks and a chat before we all move on to various houses for the next course.

We would welcome any volunteers who would be prepared to host a course (including drinks), usually for 6-8 people including yourselves.

The event is free for those hosting, however for guests there will be a small charge. Recently this money has been donated to charity.

Please contact Hazel Ivory on 01256-762648 or email [hazelivory@onetel.com](mailto:hazelivory@onetel.com) if you are interested in joining us, we look forward to hearing from you.

### **MAPLEDURWELL & UP NATELY VILLAGE HALL**



#### **HIRE THE VILLAGE HALL**

Contact Caretaker Jayne Norman  
on 474432

or check out the website at  
[www.mapledurwellvillagehall.com](http://www.mapledurwellvillagehall.com)

### **SHOW SUPPORT FOR WALID**

During our recent building work, we were lucky enough to have a wonderful apprentice working with Beach builders on our project. He could not have been more hard working, skilled and a real pleasure to have around the house.

In 2012 Walid fled Afghanistan after his grandfather was beheaded and he was threatened with the same fate. Since this time he has been educated and is working hard on his apprenticeship. He has also been westernised after living all of his formative teenage years here. Crazy, because he is now 18 the government has decided to send him back to Afghanistan where he now has no family or support and his life will certainly be in danger.

Please help support Walid. If you have any links to raise the profile of his case that would be incredible. You can also show support by following on facebook - Support Walid

Thanks - Claire and Doug (Hillside, Up Nately)



# Newnham & Nately Scures

**OBITUARY: Ian William Riley**  
4th December 1937 to 30th March 2017  
Sadly, Ian has passed away leaving his wife Daphne to whom he was married for 60 years, their four children, nine grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. Ian was serving in the RAF and stationed at Odiham when he met Daphne 61 years ago and he was a devoted husband and much loved family man from the age of 19.

Ian and Daphne moved to Waterend Park 20 years ago and have, in the past, been associated with the Waterend Social Club. Also, Ian was on the Waterend Park Residents Association Committee for many years, some of those as Chairman, and was always ready to stick up for the Residents' rights and fight their corner.

He was persuaded to join the Newnham, Nately Scures and Waterend Parish Council so that the Waterend residents were represented for the first time. He served as a Parish Councillor for eight years before ill health got the better of him. He had to give up bowls, which he loved, but recently was repairing watches for the local charity shops in Old Basing and Odiham.

Despite the gradual worsening of his health Ian kept cheerful, would do anything to help anybody and was one of the kindest most thoughtful people you could wish to meet. He will be sorely missed, not only by his wife and family, but also his many friends at Waterend Park.

Daphne would like to thank everyone for the lovely cards and letters she has received. She would also like to thank those who attended the funeral and for the £295 kindly donated to Frimley Charities Intensive Care Unit where Ian peacefully spent the last few days of his life.

## PARISH ASSEMBLY



**TUESDAY 16TH MAY**  
Newnham Clubroom  
From 6.45pm



All residents of Newnham, Nately Scures and Waterend are warmly invited for questions and discussion on issues affecting the Parish. Please join us with family and friends, all ages most welcome. Refreshments as always.

## NEWNHAM OPEN GARDENS

Sunday 18th June 1.30-5pm

Many thanks to those who have agreed to open their garden again this year.  
WE ARE STILL HOPING FOR MORE PEOPLE BRAVE ENOUGH TO HAVE A GO!

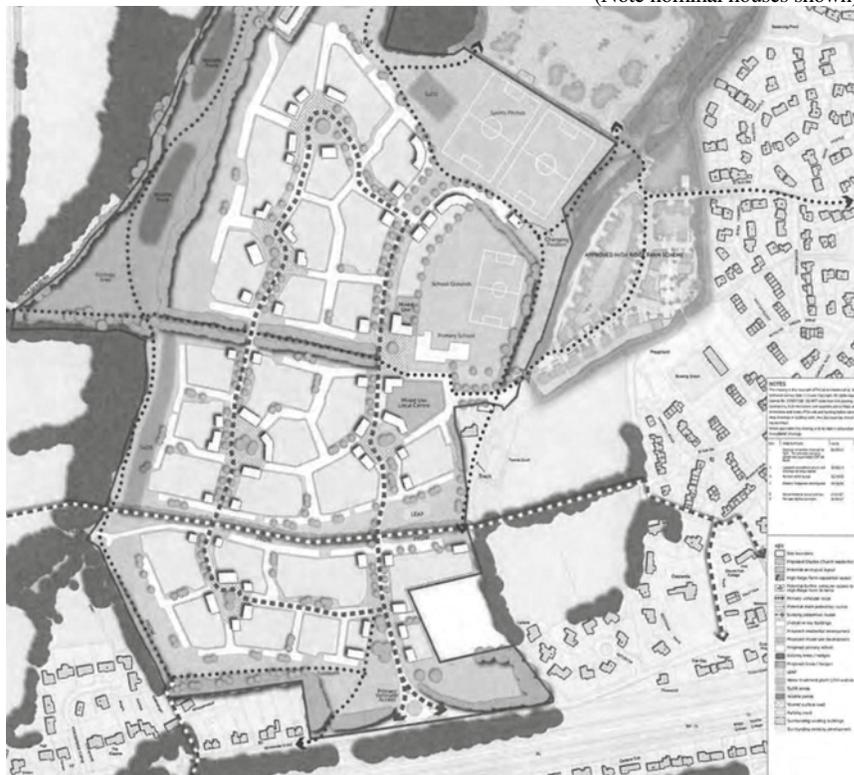
The cake stall is always a favourite for people visiting on the day, so we would be very grateful for cakes, brownies etc to sell. Please remember that we would like plants for the plant stall.

Any questions, give us call, Philippa (760139) or Jackie (762407)



## Owens Farm Hook 'Illustrative MasterPlan'

17/00857/EIA Owens Farm, Newnham Road. Request for a Scoping Opinion  
(Note nominal houses shown)



This application seeks approval for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) required for 'Land at Owen's Farm' prior to a full planning application being submitted.

This will be a speculative application as Hart's Draft Local Plan site selection is to be published for consultation on 26th April and at last draft did not include 'West of Hook' sites.

The *Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report* is on the Hart Website.

'1.1 This report sets out a proposed scope and content of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out on behalf of Wilbur Developments Ltd for a residential led development on land at Owens Farm, Hook. The application site is located to the West of Hook and extends to 31.15 hectares. The proposed development, which is shown on the 'Illustrative Masterplan', comprises approx 750 dwellings, a primary school, local centre, playing fields, sports pitches and ecological area, together with associated access roads, car parking, pedestrian and cycle links and public open space.'

<http://publicaccess.hart.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=OO6XILHZ0FR00>

# OLD HOUSE AT HOME

*Dear Friends of the Old House at Home*

Thank you for your continued support – and patience as so little apparently happened for so long. The latter it seems is partly down to us, the many responses submitted, and counter submissions by the Parish Council to every ‘Addendum’ submitted by Fluerets on behalf of Red Oak Taverns, so increasing the case officer’s work load. As the agreed case expiry date passed, Red Oak Taverns were able to pre-empt a decision and go straight to Appeal on grounds of non-determination.

However the case officer has confirmed his report will recommend refusal and the BDBC Planning Department will support this recommendation at Appeal. This clearly correct but fantastic outcome is due in large part to the level of local support for the pub and opposition to the change of use. We will need please to continue to demonstrate this level of engagement and concern to the Inspector.

## Public Hearing

So suddenly wheels are moving forward. Everyone, who previously responded to the planning application, received a letter giving notice of the Appeal. With thanks to those quick enough to support the request for a public hearing, a second letter confirmed this and the date for further submissions which is now midnight 16th May.

Dale Ingram who is ‘Planning for Pubs’ continues to represent the Parish ‘Council and has requested the hearing be held in the Clubroom. We should get to know the date a month in advance but the estimate is a Tuesday end of June to mid July. (NB this is an ‘informal hearing’ not a ‘public inquiry’.) The venue will be up to the Inspector but it would apparently be unusual to reject a request for a local hearing.

## CALL TO ALL TO MAKE FURTHER REPRESENTATION

The BDBC case officer will forward all the responses he originally received to the change of use application, including all Red Oak Taverns’ documents and his own report, to the Inspector by 16th May.

However, it is likely that Red Oak Taverns will seek to discredit the weight of previous opposition, given the time that has gone by. That this is now old news... people have lost interest, moved on... they’re no longer concerned about the pub etc...

**Please can everyone email the Inspector  
asap but before midnight on 16th May  
at [East2@pins.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:East2@pins.gsi.gov.uk)**

**Reference 3169774 The Old House at Home  
Newnham Green, Newnham, Hook RG27 9AH**

Responses may usefully include thoughts on issues such as:

- That the writer still stands by their earlier objection to the proposal
- that the writer is still not in favour of the proposal
- that the writer would definitely attend any hearing if held locally
- that the appeal hearing should be held in Newnham Clubroom
- that the Village needs its pub back
- that the Old House at Home is of great value to the community
- that the pub would be well supported by the community
- personal experiences directly connected to the pub.

Details of the Appeal can be found at the Planning Inspectorate website at <https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ViewCase.aspx?Caseid=3169774&CoID=0>



## Parish Planning Applications Applications pendings

17/00619/FUL (17th Feb) Land to the rear of Nately Place, Scures Hill. Six bedroomed detached dwelling with garage and revised access.

17/00224/FUL (1st Feb) Highview Business Park, The Barracks. Erection of one 2-bed, one 3-bed and two 4-bedroomed dwellings, with access and landscaping. Amended scheme to replace approved 16/00742/FUL.

16/03282/RET (Amended 20th Jan, reg 15th Sept) Manor Farm, Blackstocks Lane. Continued use as a working farm etc with ancillary tea rooms and associated car parking (retrospective).

16/04600/HSE (12th Dec) Well Cottage, Newnham Green. Single storey side extension and infill front extension, front and rear dormer windows plus rooflights.

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

16/00097/OUT (13th Jan 2016) Land Adjacent to Oakfield Farmhouse, Scures Hill. Outline application for three detached dwellings plus access.

## Appeals lodged

Appeal ref APP/H1705/W/17/3169774 (22nd March) The Old House At Home. Change of Use A4 Public House to C3 Residential Dwellinghouse.

## Hart Applications

16/02243/FUL Granted 15th Feb, reg 23rd Aug 2016) The Gate Of India, Oaklands, Hook Common. Change of use from Class A3 (Restaurant) to Class A5 (Hot Food Takeaway) and erection of a single storey extension to the rear with associated extraction and ventilation equipment.

17/00857/EIA Request for a Scoping Opinion under Regulation 13 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 (as amended 2015) Owens Farm Newnham Road, Hook. Up to 750 dwellings plus primary school.

# Greywell



## VILLAGE HALL

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

## Annual Plant Sale and Coffee Morning Saturday 20th May 10.00 am – 12.30 pm



- Plants
- Produce
- Tombola
- Raffle
- Refreshments

Donations of produce, plants and items for the tombola and raffle gratefully received

The hall will be open from 6-7pm on Friday the 19th May (and on the day) for donations – plants, produce and prizes (for the tombola and raffle). Alternatively please deliver to No 3 Dorchester Way

## St Mary's Greywell Dates for your diary

Thank you so much everyone who made St Mary's so clean and blooming for Easter and also who helped tidy up the churchyard.

This month Colourful Church is 11am on 14th May . Colour to be announced by email/poster. Watch out.

June's Green Service is the Pet Service at 4.30pm on 11th June. Bring your pet along for hymns and tea on the grass outside church. Inside if wet!



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## PARISH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

### New Applications

**17/00051/CON** Old Wharf House Hook Road Greywell Hook RG29 1BT. Discharge of conditions (materials), (windows glazing, doors), (vents) (conservation roof light) pursuant to 17/00050/HOU and 17/00051/LBC - Addition of bathroom to single-storey modern extension. Alterations to external brick wall at rear of existing modern extension and replacement of timber French doors. New conservation roof light to modern extension. Removal of modern plasterboard suspended ceiling.

### Applications Pending

**17/00710/LDC** Westwood House Hook Road Greywell Hook RG29 1BT. The Construction of four number dormers to the side elevations of the existing Chalet.

**17/00687/HOU** Old Chapel Deptford Lane Greywell Hook Hampshire RG29 1BS. Alterations to roof including the removal of flat roof at rear and the pitched roof at front to be raised and extended to cover the rear. Installation of 2no conservation roof lights.

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IAN

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# Church Notices

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

## Mid-Week Holy Communion

We next meet in the warm and welcoming home of Lady Nell at The Dower House in Greywell on Thursday 11th May at 11am. 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.

## CAMROSE DROP-IN CENTRE

It has been so encouraging during the weeks of Lent to take in, each week, a car boot full of tinned and dried foods, toiletries, blankets, sleeping bags and warm clothing for the homeless and needy people in Basingstoke. This generosity has come from our five Churches and Villages and we are most grateful.

The Camrose Drop-in Centre at the present time provides hot meals, and breakfast, twice a week for 30/35 people in Glebe Hall and of these people 20 are rough sleepers (sleeping on the streets) and a good number more are sofa-surfers. Basingstoke now has a greater number of rough sleepers than Winchester and this used not to be the case. Winchester now has a day drop-in centre and a night shelter and the night shelter is purely for "dry" homeless people.

We will now be supporting the Food Bank but please be encouraged to continue giving warm clothing and bedding for the homeless in Basingstoke. Thank you.

## Church Services

### May 7th

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

### May 14th

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

### May 21st

9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Mapledurwell
11.00am	Matins	Nately Scures

### May 25th Ascension Day

7.30pm	Benefice Service	South Warnborough
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(This service, originally planned for Greywell, will now be in South Warnborough as one of the first services after the arrival there of Rev. Mary-Beth Hawrish)

### May 28th Rogation

8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Newnham
9.30am	United Parish Rogation Walk	Up Nately
6.00pm	Evensong	Nately Scures

## Special Church Services in May

### 14th May Pet Service

Please come along to the Pet Service in Alan Hutton's barn in Mapledurwell at 9.30am. Lots of fun and room for everyone!

### 25th May Ascension Day

This church festival has become rather neglected over more recent years and yet it marks one of the most important moments in the Christian story. We celebrate as a Benefice with a service of Holy Communion at South Warnborough at 7.30pm. This will be one of the first services after the arrival there of Rev. Mary-Beth Hawrish. Everyone is very welcome.

### 28th May Rogation Sunday

We are having our United Parish Rogation walk around Up Nately on Sunday May 28th at 9.30. As we walk we shall ask God's blessing on all our villages – the families that live there, the farmers who work the fields around them and the life of the community in general. We shall begin and end in the church. All the family welcome – and dogs too if you want to combine dog walking and worship! It won't be too long a walk – but depending on the weather it might be a bit muddy in parts!

In addition that day, there will be a United Parish Holy Communion Service in Newnham at 8.30 and a United Parish Evensong with choir in Nately Scures at 6pm.

## Diary dates in May:

14th May Pet Service  
at Mapledurwell

25th May Benefice Service  
for Ascension Day at South  
Warnborough



## From Alan Hoar, Reader, North Hampshire Downs Benefice

At the end of this month we shall have another opportunity to worship together as a Benefice, this time on Thursday May 25th at St Andrews, South Warnborough at 7.30pm when we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension.

The Ascension reminds us of the story of Jesus on the mountainside bidding farewell to his disciples before, as the Acts of the Apostles puts it, he was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight. This does not make Jesus the first Spaceman who is now out of our reach but it does locate him with God – God who Jesus reveals to be not out there but at the very heart of life. At the same time, though, we still need the language of height to express how we feel about God.

When I speak about God I instinctively want to speak about someone who is above me in all kinds of ways: - Above me in power, above me in morality, above me in love. One who was not seen to be above us in those ways would not, could not be God to us.

It's important that we hold those three things; power, morality and love together in our thinking about God. For power unrestrained by morality and love is quite simply devilish. Power and morality without love can be harshly judgemental. Love without power and morality can lapse into a kind of vague benevolence along with which anything goes.

In what life do we see the perfect combination of power, morality and love if not in the life of Jesus the Christ? Christ in whose Ascension we celebrate the heavenly quality of a life which was affirmed as being the life of God through the events of the Crucifixion and Resurrection.

Christ who stands on the mountain and bids farewell to the disciples is wounded and the Ascension tells us that those wounds are taken into the very heart of God himself. If Jesus the Son of God coming to us affects our understanding of God then it is at least arguable that the taking up of Jesus the Son of Man into heaven affects the understanding of our humanity that is within God; so that, as it has been put, we have a friend in heaven. We all need friends who are above us in some way or another. Friends who whilst understanding us and loving us will not pander to our weaknesses or encourage us to wallow in our failings but rather help us to see ourselves as we can be and lift us up.

In Jesus God offers us his friendship, a friendship which never puts us down always lifts us up, does that through the Holy Spirit whose coming to us we celebrate next month at Pentecost.

Alan Hoar

### Need Help With Your Garden?

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Email [kcurtis612@btinternet.com](mailto:kcurtis612@btinternet.com)

Checkatrade membership number 230871

