

The Villager

October 2016 Volume 45 No 9

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



The United Parish of Newnham with Nately Scures with Mapledurwell with Up Nately with Greywell

AN INVITATION TO ALL WOMEN OF THE UNITED PARISH

Please join us for our second women's breakfast at
Mapledurwell & Up Nately Village Hall on

Saturday 22nd October from 8:30 to 10:00 am

Come and share breakfast with us and meet our local MP Maria Miller who has kindly agreed to join us and to talk about life in Westminster as a female MP, as well as the other main causes which Maria champions, especially where these relate to women and family.

To help us plan our catering please let us know that you are coming by emailing: joyce.roberts60@gmail.com or telephone 01256 762003 and please leave a message if there is no answer.



DOG IDENTIFICATION IN THE UK



The Control of Dogs Order 1992 states that 'any dog in a public place should wear the name and address of the owner either inscribed on the collar or a name plate or disc attached to it'. With effect from 6th April 2016, it is a legal requirement in England, Scotland and Wales for dogs to be microchipped. Note: After 6th April 2016, all puppies must be microchipped by the time they are 8 weeks old. To find out more visit www.gcds.org.uk



Side 1
Complies with the law



Side 1
Complies with the law



Side 2
Note: Side 2 information is optional but highly recommended by the Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme

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Diary dates

October

- 1 Ceilidh, Greywell Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 8 Rowan Lodge 5th Birthday celebration
- 14 Up Nately Coffee Morning, 10-12 at Eastrop Cottage
- 15 Newnham Litter Pick, 10am, Church Path
- 19 Maple Tea & Cake Gathering, 3pm, Crosswater Cottage
- 22 United Parish, 2nd Woman's Breakfast, Mapledurwell & Up Nately Village Hall 8.30am-10am.
- 27 North Warnborough & District Gardening Club, 2.10pm, North Warnborough Village Hall
- 29 Upton Grey Autumn Festival, Hoddington Arms

November

- 9 Mapledurwell & Up Nately Parish Council Meeting, 8pm, Mapledurwell & Up Nately Village Hall
- 22 Newnham Parish Council Meeting, 7pm, Clubroom

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Mapledurwell & Up Nately

Next Up Nately Coffee Morning

Please join us on 14th October 10-12, at Eastrop Cottage, phone Liz for more information. All welcome!



Maple Tea & Cake Gathering

Please come and join us for afternoon tea on Wednesday 19th October, at 3pm, hosted by Hilary and David Ellison at Crosswater Cottage, Frog Lane. All welcome but please call Hilary or David on 01256 478810 if you are coming.

A warm welcome

We welcome Sherry, Scot and Louie and also Sherry's father Brian, they have moved into 2 Blaegrove cottages. Sherry and Scot are planning their wedding in St Mary's Mapledurwell in December, we wish them happiness!

Bungalow for Sale

Ann Lywood has sadly had to move into a nursing home near her sister Jean after 45 years in the parish. Her two bedroomed, shared ownership bungalow at Oaktree Cottages is now up for sale. The 70% share is £206,000 and the remaining 30% is charged at £115.59 per month. Priority will be given to applicants with connections to the parish.

Please contact Pam Howard at English Rural Housing on 01483 540873 to view and to apply or look at the website www.englishrural.org.uk for further details. See ad on opposite page.

Home Help

Further to the above, Mita, Ann's home help, 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.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Next Parish Council meeting

Wednesday 9th November, 8pm, Village Hall Committee Room. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

PARISH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

New Application

T/00357/16/TCA (13th September) Hillcrest, Tunworth Road, Mapledurwell. Blue Atlas Cedar – reduce/reshape by approx 1.5m leaving a finished height of 13m.

T/00346/16/TCA (6th September) The Farm, Tunworth Road, Mapledurwell. Fell four large trees.

16/03056/ADV (22nd August 2016) Unit 1, The Hatch Industrial Park, Greywell Road, Mapledurwell. Display of internally illuminated letter sign to south elevation.

16/03055/LBC (22nd August 2016) Slades Bridge, Heather Lane, Up Nately. Application by Lee Jenkins for Hampshire County Council (ETE Department Capital House 48-52 Andover Road Winchester.) General repairs to Slades bridge over Basingstoke Canal. To include repointing of brickwork, replacement of missing bricks, removal of vegetation, mortaring up of cracks, repainting of patress plates, repainting of parapet handrail.

Applications Pending

16/02839/HSE (3rd August 2016) Am Brunnen, Tunworth Road, Mapledurwell. Single storey side extension, replacement balcony, and alterations to doors and fenestration.

16/02766/HSE (1st August 2016) Hungry Lodge, Down Lane, Mapledurwell. Proposed extension to existing ancillary accommodation, conversion of shed to be included within ancillary accommodation and new window and door to front elevation.

16/02691/HSE (25th July 2016). Hungry Lodge. New front porch, single storey front extension, a single storey rear extension and for tile hanging to be added to side elevation.



Mapledurwell Regatta

We were delighted this year to see so many new comers to the 2016 Mapledurwell Regatta. Their children arrived with homemade boats in hand looking very excited, parents arrived looking somewhat bemused not really

knowing what to expect. Having grown up in the village, I take it for granted that every 2nd Sunday in September fathers are up until all hours building keels and gluing masts and rigging. The next day (rain or shine) the village gathers for the children to launch those magnificent creations onto a slightly muddy pond! It made me realise what a wonderful tradition it is.

This Sunday was no exception. We were blessed with lovely sunshine and a little bit of breeze, perfect conditions for floating plastic bottles. The pond was looking beautiful this year and many thanks to those who came out the weekend before to help clear out the weeds. John Maclean announced each race with his usual flamboyant style and the air was filled with laughter and cheering as the boats sailed across the water (thanks to the late night gluing!) As the wind fell John began a rendition of 'Blow the Man Down', the crowd joined in and the wind blew again.

We saw some wonderful creations this year; The Squash Buckler, a fantastic fruit and veg entry and Rory's vinegar and bicarb torpedo must not be forgotten. But the magic of the Regatta is that everyone's a winner. Thank you to Andy the Policeman for giving out the prizes for us, to John for his wonderful commentary, to all who contributed delicious treats for us to enjoy in the post-race gathering and to anyone else who helped on this happy afternoon; see you next year!



For Sale

**2 Bedroom Bungalow Shared Ownership Property
Oaktree Cottages, Mapledurwell**

70% share for £206,500 Monthly Charge of £115.59 p.m
No Monthly Rent



This 2 bedroom bungalow is situated on a small development built in association with Murpledurwell Parish Council. The accommodation consists of entrance hall, sitting room, kitchen/breakfast room, bathroom, two bedrooms and benefits from its own garden and parking. Local connection criteria applies.

Please contact Pam Howard of English Rural on 01483 540873 to view & to apply or look at our website www.englishrural.org.uk for further details.

Anne Lywood

Anne came to live in Addison's Farmhouse in 1975 with her sister Margaret Grasham and nephews Christopher and Anthony until they went to Wiltshire in 1998 and she moved to Oaktree Cottages. She very quickly immersed herself in village life. A keen churchgoer she was Church Warden for many years and was joint Chair on the Odiham Deanery Synod.

Her many other activities included Parish Councillor, Chair of the Basingstoke Field Society for twenty years and member of the Basingstoke Soroptimists. Closer to home she was Tree Warden, organising the planting of the trees along the boundary of the motorway and the playing field and the protection of the trees at Five Lanes End. During her time as Footpaths Officer she produced a very informative booklet on the local walks and footpaths.

Now, after so many active years, aged 90, she has gone to live near her sister Jean in Suffolk. She will be much missed by all her friends and neighbours in Mapledurwell and we wish her well in her retirement.



POLICE UPDATE

Dear Residents

I am appealing for witnesses to an incident that occurred at about 5.40pm on Sunday September 11th 2016 at Laurel House, The Hollies, Mapledurwell between two residents. I ask if anyone saw or heard anything or can assist in any way to please contact me direct or call 101 and ask for Basingstoke CID, all calls treated in strictest confidence or call crime stoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

I am also seeking any information concerning a stable being broken into overnight of the 27th/28th September 2016 at a house on the edge of Newnham village in Crown Lane towards Old Basing. If you were in that area and saw anything suspicious please give me a call direct as always all calls treated in strictest confidence.

On September 1st we had a gang of 'tarmacers' in our area offering to sell tarmac at a cheap price, we are aware that a black Land Rover registration DA13 VSZ was calling on houses in Ellisfield and in Herriard they were engaged until stopped by a local neighbour. I urge all residents to seriously consider buying things from cold callers at your door, if you want what they have to offer I advise you to contact Hampshire Trading Standards on 01962833620 or check their booklet 'Buy With Confidence' where every company listed has been vetted by the Trading Standards and so you will not be conned to pay more for a job than is required.

As the evenings are now drawing in may I remind you to consider leaving lights on when you go out in the evenings, ideally use timers if away overnight. May I also remind all residents to not leave their car keys on display, recently in the Basingstoke area we have seen homes broken into where the keys to high performance cars have been found and the cars have been stolen, this is an area of concern and there have been several burglaries in the North Hampshire area, including in Hook of this type. Please keep your car keys safe and homes safe and secure. If you need any crime prevention advice please give me a call direct.

Many thanks as always

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

Due to the appalling weather, it was necessary to cancel the Village Rounders Match on Saturday 10th September.

The children's Christmas Party will take place on Sunday 3rd December - details to follow in November's issue.

The committee is very sorry that the Race Night has had to be cancelled and would like to thank those who did offer to help; unfortunately, by then, time was not on our side.

For the time being, we have decided to take a short 'sabbatical' from arranging events but hope that in the new year we will be able to regroup. If anyone feels that they would be willing to help, please contact Julie Viney at jules@cresswood.net.

And finally, a 'Thank You' for supporting the events in 2016. You have helped raise over £900 towards the upkeep of the Village Hall.

Newnham & Nately Scures

Newnham Clubroom is for hire



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

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Next Parish Council meeting

Tuesday 22nd November, 7pm Clubroom. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

Parish Lengthsman

From September, Jason Ebury of Premier Grounds and Garden Maintenance is Lengthsman to Newnham Parish and also Mapledurwell & Up Nately. He has a small team working for him, all of whom will be identifiable by 'Premier Grounds and Garden Maintenance' T-shirts or sweatshirts and all the vehicles are sign-written with same.

Newnham Green Ponds

The moorhens at the main pond bred successfully again this year. There will be further pond working parties this winter. A survey in by CA Ecology based in Rotherwick judged the ponds to be in healthy condition for wildlife.



Sunflower Cafe

For people with dementia and their carers
All Welcome



At the Old School
London Road Odiham RG29 1AJ
Every Wednesday 2pm—4pm
from September 7th



For more information please contact: Elaine
Email: sunflowercafe@outlook.com
Phone: 07553881474



PARISH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

New Application

16/03302/HSE (5th September 2016) Cromwells, The Barracks, Newnham. Erection of a 2.4 metre high fence along western boundary to replace existing.

Applications pending

16/02772/LDPO (2nd August 2016) 6 Kingsbridge End, Old School Road, Newnham. Certificate of Lawfulness for Proposed Operation to change hip roof to gable for loft conversion using materials to match.

16/02771/HSE (2nd August 2016) 6 Kingsbridge End. Erection of lean-to side extension.

16/02480/FUL (5th July 2016) Oakfield Farm Court, Scures Hill. New detached house and garage (amended design to that approved under planning permission 13/01460/FUL).

16/02187/FUL (16th June) Natley Scures House, Scures Hill. Three x four-bedroomed dwellings and garages including new access onto the A30, and associated landscaping. 16/01446/HSE and 16/01447/LBC (23rd May) Newnham Green Farm, Tylney Lane. Two storey side extension and a two storey rear extension, following demolition of parts of existing building.

16/01315/FUL The Old House At Home, Tylney Lane, Newnham. Change of Use A4 Public House to C3 Residential Dwellinghouse. (Agreed determination date 7th October.)

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

North Warnborough & District Garden Club

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 27th October in the North Warnborough Village Hall at 2:10 PM for a 2:30 PM start. Our speaker will be Tim Woodland talking about "Spring Bulbs".

The competitions for October are:

1. A Collection of Sedums in a Flower Pot.
2. A Vase of Mixed Michaelmas Daises.

We are a friendly Club whose members share an enthusiasm for gardens and gardening, and visitors are welcome to join us. During the growing season, we always have a plant stall starting at 2:10 PM. For further information, please telephone 01252 843848.

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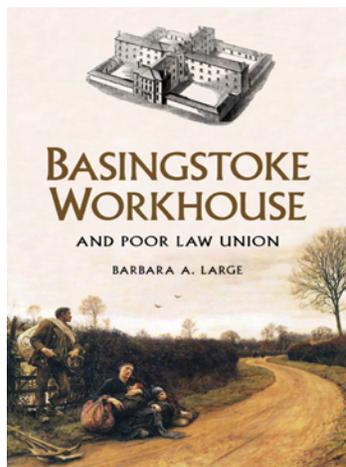
Email kcurtis612@btinternet.com

Checkatrade membership number 230871

Local History

The parishes in our area were part of the Basingstoke Poor Law Union set up in 1835, which was responsible for the care of the poor in the area and the running of Basingstoke Workhouse until its demise in 1930.

Basingstoke Workhouse and Poor Law Union is published on 5 September by The History Press, and will be in local bookshops soon.



Newnham Autumn Litter Pick



A big welcome to anyone who would like to clean up the Village on our bi-annual Litter Pick, starting at 10am on Saturday 15th October at Church Path. Any queries, please phone John Broughton 762490.

Grants available for first-time central heating in Hampshire

Through Hitting the Cold Spots, Hampshire County Council and the Environment Centre (tEC) can help with the cost of installing first-time gas central heating in qualifying homes.

To qualify for assistance under this scheme you need to:

- own your own home, or rent from a private landlord,
- have no central heating system in the home,
- live in a home that is expensive to heat (to be confirmed by an energy performance survey), and
- be on a low income*.

We are currently looking for eligible properties and households, so please contact the Environment Centre (tEC) for more information or to check eligibility, on Freephone 0800 804 8601 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm) or email staywarm@environmentcentre.com. We are seeking final numbers, encouraging people to sign-up immediately with applications closing mid-October to ensure works are completed by the deadline.

*Terms and conditions apply.

STATEMENT OF PERSONS NOMINATED

Borough of Basingstoke & Deane

Election of a Borough Councillor

The following is a statement of the persons nominated for election as a Borough Councillor for the Basing Ward

Name of Candidate	Home Address	Description (if any)	Name of Proposer	Reason why no longer nominated*
GASKELL Paul	Rose Cottage, The Barracks, Newnham, Hook, Hants, RG27 9NW	The Conservative Party Candidate	James Holder	
LILLEKER Richard Mark	2 Little Basing, Basingstoke, RG24 8AX	Liberal Democrats	Alan J Read	
TOAL Andrew James	6 Blackberry Walk, Lychpit, Basingstoke, RG24 8SN	Labour Party	Donald J Bennett	

*Decision of the Returning Officer that the nomination is invalid or other reason why a person nominated no longer stands nominated.

The persons above against whose name no entry is made in the last column have been and stand validly nominated.

Rowan Lodge Village Article ~ For October 2016



On October 5TH Rowan Lodge will officially be 5 years old!!

October is here and we would like to inform everyone about the activities we have planned at Rowan over the coming month.

Lots to look forward to in October, singer Stefano will be with us on Saturday 1st at 2pm for an afternoon of sing-a-long and from 12 noon on Saturday 8th we will be having our 5th Birthday Celebration party!! Rowan is delighted to let you all know that we are starting our coffee mornings again, everyone is welcome to drop in for Coffee and Cakes with our residents from 11am, any donations will be greatly appreciated to our resident's fund, to help support these mornings in the future.



Of course October would not be complete without a night of spooks on the 31st!! Come along if you dare!!!

Add meaning to your menu

Share great food and memorable moments at your next dinner party. You'll be raising money to help our nurses care for people when it matters most.

Host a Dinner Down Memory Lane this October

Sign up at mariecurie.org.uk/dinner

Marie Curie
Care and support through terminal illness

Greywell



VILLAGE HALL

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

St Mary's, Greywell

Saturday 1st October morning Church decorating. Gifts of flowers and produce most welcome.

Evening Ceilidh. 7.30pm Village Hall. Contact Rhona Blagden – 07799 813821.

Sunday 2nd October Harvest Festival 11am St Mary's. All welcome to say Thank you. All please bring harvest gifts for the Mead children's home in Odiham and also children please bring jars of flowers.

Sunday 9th October Harvest Lunch, 12.30pm Greywell Village Hall-Adults £5 children free. Please get in touch with Nick K 704771 to reserve your place and let us know of dietary requirements.

Sunday 23rd Family Service.

Ceilidh

Saturday 1st October
Greywell Village Hall - 7.30pm



Come and join us for an evening of Dancing and Reeling, Scottish Fayre (including delicious McCaskie Scotch Pies amongst other treats from north of the border)

No previous experience required....'Caller' booked to lead the dancing and provide the music.

£15 per head - Tickets available from Rhona Blagden on gilesandrhona@greywell.eclipse.co.uk

Proceeds in aid of St Mary's Church, Greywell

PARISH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

New Applications

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

16/02340/LBC Old Wharf House Hook Road Greywell Hook RG29 1BT. Removal of downstairs WC (not original) and reinstate external door to form original entrance hall.

Application Granted

16/02126/FUL Havoc House 5 Dorchester Way Greywell Hook Hampshire RG29 1BX. Change of use of the land and building to additional accomodation.

Opinion Issued

16/01626/PREAPP Southfields The Street Greywell Hook Hampshire RG29 1BZ. Follow up pre-application for works to ground floor rear extension, additional porch structure to rear, alterations to terrace and landscaping at rear, 1st floor extension to master bathroom and 1st floor alterations to guest bathroom.

UPTON GREY AUTUMN FESTIVAL – Saturday, 29th October

Upton Grey is holding its fifth Autumn Festival at the Hoddington Arms (The Hodd).

A unique, family oriented, event that all local villages are invited to participate in.

As Halloween is close, The Hodd is being especially Halloween themed this year and everybody is encouraged to come along in their Halloween outfits and judged for a magnum of champagne first prize after the evenings dining.

Free car parking in Church Meadow, RG25 2RA.

Starting at 2pm (prize giving at 4pm) in the back garden of the Hoddington Arms we have local produce to taste and buy. Conkers, apple bobbing, snail races, pumpkin bowling, kids Halloween fancy dress and silent disco competitions, bouncey castle, guy fawkes, giant pumpkins, gourds, autumn paintings and displays, autumn photos and lots more.

Newlyn's Farm Shop will be providing a fresh BBQ throughout the afternoon and drinks will be available from the Hodd Bar.

You can help add to the success of the afternoon by providing entries for the festival – for example, autumn photos and carved pumpkins are easy.

At 6 pm gather at The Hodd for mulled wine, church bell ringing, Jack O'Lantern procession, bonfire and professional firework display. Then back to the Hodd for the pre bookable 2 course Festival Menu (£10 only), bands and then Silent Disco in the heated marquee. Post bonfire drinks can be pre ordered and ready for your return.

Don't forget, be brave, and come along in your evening Halloween outfits to win a magnum of champagne as first prize.

Entry to both events is free for all kids, for adults it's £1 on the gate in the afternoon, £5 advance tickets (£10 on the day) for the bonfire etc. (tickets from the Hodd, the Shop or Roger Clark). It's too good to miss – www.uptongreyautumnfestival.co.uk for all contact, festival and competition entry details.

It's an excellent reason to invite your friends or family down for the day or weekend for a unique and highly entertaining autumn event and what's more all proceeds go to the excellent charity, St. Michael's Hospice who help man the afternoon's events.

Church Notices

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

From the Parish Registers...

Funeral Service

September 7th at Basingstoke Crematorium, Peggy Barnes (formerly of Up Nately)

May she rest in peace

Weddings

August 22nd at St. Nicholas' Newnham, Tim Higgins and Lilia Borissova

September 3rd at St. Nicholas' Newnham, Geraint Davies and Emma Nicholson

September 17th at St. Mary's Greywell, Hamish Annandale and Claire Barnes

We wish them every happiness in their life together

Mid-Week Holy Communion

We next meet in the warm and welcoming home of Lady Nell at The Dower House in Greywell on 27th October 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

United Parish service on 30th October

We have just one service in the United Parish on 30 October, a Festival of Light service with Holy Communion at 4 pm in Nately Scures. Our new Benefice Rector, Simon Butler will join us. Please do come along to be part of this very special service, and stay on for refreshments afterwards.

Diary Dates for October:

1st 1pm wedding at Mapledurwell

23rd 11am baptism at Greywell

Church Services

October 2nd

8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Nately Scures
9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Mapledurwell
11.00am	Harvest	Greywell
4.30pm	Harvest	Newnham

October 9th

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

October 16th

8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Greywell
9.30am	Holy Communion (CW)	Mapledurwell
11.00am	Matins	Nately Scures

October 23rd

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

October 30th

4.00pm	United Parish Service (Festival of Light Service with Holy Communion)	Nately Scures
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Special Church Services in October

It's Harvest time!

Please come and join us for our Harvest services which this month are in Newnham and Greywell (see Church Services on this page for details). As always any food produce given as a gift during the services will be passed on to Camrose in Basingstoke, which is a drop-in centre primarily aimed at helping homeless and vulnerable people. It offers breakfast and a hot lunch, table tennis & games, advice on housing, employment, drugs and alcohol issues, telephone and computer facilities to assist with job applications, etc. and training in a variety of topics.

Adult Confirmation Preparation

At baptism, usually as babies when of course we're unable to speak for ourselves, parents and godparents promise to walk with us in the way of faith and are entrusted with our growth in faith. At confirmation we can speak for ourselves as we say yes to Jesus' call to follow him on our journey through life. Once confirmed we're then able to share fully in the Eucharist, which for many Christians is the most important act of worship. This is when, in communion with others, we repeat the action Jesus performed with his disciples on the night before he died. As the Eucharistic prayer says: "We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. Though we are many, we are one body because we all share in one bread", and we do this together in community as the people of Christ to remember him and all that he did for us and means to us still today.

If you would like to join a group of adults preparing for confirmation at the Cathedral on Saturday, 19th November, then please let Revd Linda know on linda.scard@btinternet.com or 01256 704 835. The group will meet three times on Tuesdays, 25 October and 1 and 8 November at Adams Farm, North Warnborough.

From a Churchwarden (and mother of a young farmer)

Dear Friends,

I am lucky to have married into a farming family and we now care for three beautiful little farms in Old Basing. I thank God every day for the privilege of being a custodian of His most beautiful land. Over the next couple of weeks our villages will celebrate their Harvest Festivals and there is something very basic and satisfying that Mother Nature has once again "brought forth its increase". But let me share with you that harvest for any farmer or grower is a time of huge pressure and can be quite stressful. It starts in late May for the livestock farmers who battle with the rain and cold to make hay and forage crops which is their harvest. Moving onto the vegetable and fruit farmers who struggle with the risk of too much or too little rain and sunshine. And then the arable farmers who apart from battling with the elements, also have to worry if the price for which they sell their grain will actually cover the input costs. This is why we see the smaller holdings and dairy units going out of business. This country seems to have got the balance of subsidies whilst trying to retain cheap food totally wrong. Yet despite all of this we have the highest standards of crop and animal husbandry in the world. Our new generation of young farmers are totally dedicated to food production and farming in a sustainable countryside. They have also totally embraced modern technology with precision machinery at every stage of the growing cycle and chemicals and fertilisers that do not damage the land for future generations.

The Old Testament had a lot to say about the fruitfulness of the earth, about rich and heavy crops being gathered in, connecting us to God through his bounteous gifts which feed us both literally and spiritually. The Gospels continue the theme. Jesus talked about corn, and the bread made from it, about grapes and the wine made from them, about olives and olive oil, about figs, honey and other good things; about the seasons, weather and the time of harvest. Jesus linked the spiritual and practical in simple and memorable stories and acts, not the least being the sharing of bread as a symbol of his continuing presence with us all.

So where are we heading? The weekend before last I walked our five churches as part of the Ride & Stride fund raising day which was a very wet day. My route took me from Greywell to Mapledurwell via Up Nately and then back to Newnham finishing at my base at Nately Scures. On foot one realises that we have some of the most twisting and winding roads in Britain. Over the years the way we think about our relationship with God and how we relate to His grace and bounty towards us also seems to have taken some twists and turns yet all the while gradually helping us to make progress, eventually getting us to where we need to be.

Please be mindful when shopping, look for the Red Tractor or Fairtrade symbol, and keep those farmers and growers in mind. We are the tools in the hand of the Master Gardener and He wants us to do incredible work in our church and bring about a bumper crop!

With my love

Monica

Monica Wardrop



The United Parish of Newnham with Nately Scures with Mapledurwell with Up Nately with Greywell

Food Bank Initiative Update

You will recall that we advertised the need to help the food banks in Basingstoke and Hook some months ago. This has received very good support from our five churches (although we could always do with more!), but we have recently been told by the food bank that the following items are of urgent need, namely:

Long Life Milk, Long Life Fruit Juice, Tinned Meat (minced beef, ham and chicken), Tinned Tomatoes, Jars of Cooking Sauce, Tinned Fruit, Rice Pudding, Jams, Peanut Butter and Marmite, Crackers and Crisp Breads, Toilet Rolls, Shampoo, Shower Gel, Toothpaste, and Baby Nappies (sizes 4, 5,6)

Obviously any contributions are welcome, but the above are a priority.

If anyone wants to discuss further, please feel free to contact Michael Van der Gucht (michael.vandergucht@gmail.com) or Monica Wardrop (monica.wardrop@xerox.com), who can help further.

Your continued support would be much appreciated!



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