

The Villager



IT'S HARVEST TIME!
Please come and join us
for our Harvest Services

September 2024 Volume 54 No 8

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

ANOTHER NPPF CONSULTATION!

Consultation to 11.45pm on 24 September

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-reforms-to-the-national-planning-policy-framework-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system

On its web page, the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government gives guidance; an outline of its proposed changes to the NPPF and its reasoning, and a table of all the questions posed.

Please take time to have a look and respond on issues of interest to you. The notes below relate to present concerns for the BDBC Local Plan Update.

1. HEADLINE IS THE NEW STANDARD METHOD

The previous Government's Standard Housing Assessment Method was based on demographics and an 'affordability ratio'. The affordability ratio was much criticised as artificially inflating figures (approx by a third for BDBC) and being flawed in concept.

Labour's new Standard Method is based on current housing stock and a stronger 'affordability uplift' which gives BDBC a housing allocation (on one calculation) of 1,137 instead of 828 homes per annum over a Local Plan period 2021-2040.

See the Government website Consultation guidance: [Chapter 4 A new standard method for assessing housing needs.](#)

Question 16 asks: Do you agree that using the workplace-based median house price to median earnings ratio... to adjust the standard method's baseline, is appropriate?

Question 17: Do you agree that affordability is given an appropriate weighting within the proposed standard method?

A criticism of the premise that increasing housing figures will lead to building more houses – which will cause prices to fall – is that this can't be realistic in a housing market where developers manage supply to ensure profit margins.

Responsibility of Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) doesn't extend to the onsite delivery process. Buildout rates are controlled – and sites with planning approval may be banked – to suit market conditions, not to meet housing targets. These issues should surely be acknowledged when formulating Policies intent on increasing numbers.

2. TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR EMERGING LOCAL PLANS

Proposals relate to the stage of Plan preparation.

The key date, the cut-off date, is one month after publication of the new NPPF.

Plans at Examination by this date will continue under the 2023 NPPF version they were submitted under.

Plans at Regulation 19 (pre-submission Draft Plan consultation) by this date – can proceed under the Dec 2023 NPPF – IF – the gap between their annual housing provision figure and New Standard Method figure is less than 200 dwellings per annum.

All other emerging Plans should be prepared according to new NPPF and new Standard Method housing figures, effectively back to the drawing board.

See [NPPF Draft Text for Consultation: Annex 1: 'For the purposes of plan-making' new Para 226.](#) See also the Government website Consultation

continued on page 3

15 September, 5pm: St Swithun's Nately Scures
22 September, 11am; St Stephen's Up Nately
06 October, 9am; St Mary's Mapledurwell
06 October, 11am; St Mary's Greywell
13 October, 4pm; St Nicholas' Newnham.

These services will be an opportunity to give thanks for the work of the farmers in our area and to consider how we can each take better care of the beautiful land we live from and on.

As always, any food produce given as a gift during the services will be passed on either to a local foodbank or to Camrose in Basingstoke, which is a drop-in centre primarily aimed at helping homeless and vulnerable people.

The Camrose Centre offers breakfast and a hot lunch, table tennis and 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. All donations will be gratefully received.

Greywell Hill Estate LOGS

SEASONED HARDWOOD LOGS
(ALL SOURCED FROM ESTATE TIMBER)

Cut when dry in the summer
and stored in a barn

Delivered in a farm trailer 2.5 cu m (90 cu ft)
and tipped – £350, or

Tractor bucketful 1cu m (35 cu ft)
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and tipped – £150

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

Wiggle Waggs And Washes



07301019919



WiggleWaggsWashes@outlook.com



www.wigglewaggsandwashes.godaddysites.com



@wigglewaggsandwashes

Sherfield-on-Loddon Garden Centre, Wildmoor Lane, Hook, RG27 0HL

Mapledurwell & Up Nately

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ALL WELCOME

New date of Thursday 26th September, 7pm, Village Hall.

This to enable visit from Council Leader Cllr Paul Harvey and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Cllr Andy Konieczko.

Councillors will engage in an hour of discussion on topical BDBC issues. Everyone is invited to join the discussion and ask questions.

The (brief) Parish Council meeting proper will start from c815pm.

NOTES FROM THE JULY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Review of Parish Assembly

A positive event with attendance c35; issues discussed included resurfacing tennis courts, and damage to verges in Frog Lane. A presentation from the Canal Society was appreciated by all.

To consider speaker for next year.

Draft minutes provisionally agreed by the Parish Council, for formal approval at the 2025 Parish Assembly.

Up Nately Pond Working group

A successful day with a group of c15 Up Nately villagers cutting back and tidying. The Kiln Bridge – canal road bridge – also cleaned and cleared of soil at road edges and parapet. Thanks to all involved.

Frog Lane Waterside developer will make good the verges once the work on site completed.

Local Green Space (LGS) promotion by the Canal Society for the Open Space land at Canal Reach:

To clarify: 'LGS designation does not in itself confer any rights of public access over what exists at present.'

The Parish Council supports the Canal Society's application based on the site's local heritage significance and value for wildlife.

Local Plan Update Reg 18 BDBC on 15 July published all responses:

<https://consult.basingstoke.gov.uk/node/17/submissions>

The Parish Council response included Local Green Space applications for Up Nately Green and the Frog Lane Chalk Stream; also for a designated Gap from Mapledurwell to the M3, south of Greywell Road. (LGS applications for the two Pond areas submitted to the 2020 'Issues & Options' Consultation.)

Reg 19 Draft Plan to be published for consultation in the New Year – to be on track for submission June 2025.

Playground Bark pit timber edging to be repaired; new bark ordered as part of bulk delivery to BDBC playgrounds.

Playground gate to be removed, for repair if possible or to be replaced.

Playground cleaning

Seeking to engage Community Payback team.

Tennis court resurfacing

Options range from c£5K for resin-bound patching and repainting, to £50K for full surface replacement. Parish Council has sufficient funds for the former (via CIL – Community Infrastructure Levy); to investigate grant funding for the latter.

Chineham Tigers Youth league season to start on weekend 07/08 September. Noted the pitch continues to be well kept and Martin Gosling does a good job with maintenance.

Parish Council Biodiversity Strategy – Basic premise:

- 1 To minimise environmental harm created by Parish Council activity.
- 2 To promote environmental improvement and biodiversity gain within Parish Council remit.
- 3 To consider benefit of Parish Council activities versus environmental impact (including carbon output), considering
 - fuel / energy use
 - sourcing products
 - use of chemicals including sprays and wood preservatives
 - community benefit / acceptance.

Focus for actions

- 4 To consider land management within the Parish Council remit
- 5 To consider specific areas / projects for biodiversity gain
- 6 To engage with Hants & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) and the Hants Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC).

Public rights of way Hants County Council Countryside Services have discontinued their proactive 'priority footpath cutting service'. County work instead 'will involve a combination of programmed works and responsive measures to address reported issues'.

Please report any problems on public footpaths via the HCC website.



THE REGALETTES

a new comedy by
Kate Bramley
with songs and music by
Jez Lowe
and design by
Chloe Fundak



www.badappletheatre.co.uk



SUNDAY 6TH OCTOBER AT 6.30PM
(doors open from 6pm)

Mapledurwell & Up Nately Village Hall

Tickets: £23 to include a welcome drink

TICKETS: PLEASE EMAIL
suesmart2001@yahoo.com

ST STEPHEN'S UP NATELY

Sunday 22 September, 11am
HARVEST FESTIVAL
with refreshments



ST MARY'S MAPLEDURWELL

Sunday 06 October, 9am
HARVEST THANSGLIVING
followed by Harvest Breakfast

PARISH ALLOTMENTS

The Parish Council has nine allotment plots at its site at Frog Lane, Mapledurwell.

All plots are currently taken but if you are interested for the future please register your interest – this will also help with forward planning for the allotment site.

Contact Colin Robertson
colin.mandunpcc@gmail.com

or Susan Turner
clerk.mapledurwellupnately@gmail.com

VILLAGER CONTACT DETAILS Editor Susan Turner 07515 777060 su.newnham@gmail.com

Distribution & Mapledurwell News Lorna Cuthill 354651 **Up Nately News** Liz Preece 762059

Church Benefice www.moretolife.church **PLEASE CONTRIBUTE STORIES AND PHOTOS**

PARISH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

24/01821/HSE (Validated 08 Aug) Silver Birches, Wood Lane (of Heather Lane) Up Nately. Erection of a single storey extension to the side of the property and extension of terrace to rear of building.

24/01354/FUL (Validated 24 June) The Gamekeepers. Hardstanding to provide access to the cesspit for the pump-out lorry and to enable the dray lorry to make deliveries clear of the highway; also to serve as additional parking; plus four no. low-level, bat-friendly downlighters within landscaped margin. (Reduced scheme to 21/01777/RET)

24/01259/GPDMA (Validated 10 June) Riverview House, London Road. Application for prior approval to convert of existing building into eight flats

24/01141/HSE (Granted 30 July) Sakantha, Frog Lane. Replacement front fence and guttering. Replacement windows and doors. Removal of fence and gate to passageway and infill with brickwork to match existing and small window. (Part retrospective)

24/01063/ROC (Validated 09 May) Riverview House, London Road. Variation of Con 1 of 22/02416/FUL to allow design alterations.

24/00756/FUL (Pending 16 April) Land North of Parrotts, Greywell Road. Four detached dwellings, with garages and associated vehicular access, parking, amenity space and landscaping.

23/02103/FUL (Pending 18 August) Land Adjacent to Twine Rose Cottage, Heather Lane. Demolition of outbuilding; erection of new dwelling with garage.

22/02210/RET (Pending 05 Aug 2022) Priory Farmhouse. Variation of Con 2 of 15/04301/FUL for continued use Class E children's nursery to 2032.

PARISH TREE APPLICATIONS

T/00388/24/TCA (Validated 06 Aug) Arlings, Tunworth Road. T1 Norway Maple, remove green revision growth; T2 Ash-leaf Maple, reduce and reshape by 2m; T3 Lawson Cypress, fell to ground level; T4 False Acacia, shorten lower limb restricting access on public footpath.

T/00364/24/TCA (Validated 29 July) The Old School House, Greywell Road, Up Nately. T1&2 Ash, fell to ground level; T3 Oak fell to ground level; T4&5 Willows pollard to 1-2m; T6 Sycamore fell to ground level; T7 dead Elm fell to ground level; T9-12 Ash fell to ground level.

T/00311/24/TCA (Withdrawn 31 July) Crossways Nursing Home, Up Nately. Fell Cypress tree to ground level.

PLANNING APPEALS

24/00027/REF Appeal Lodged (08 Jul 2024) Brockwell Paddock And Stable, Andwell Lane. Erection of three dwellings and provision of landscaping.

MAPLEDURWELL & UP NATELY PARISH TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Hi all... Quite a few of us have been playing tennis on a Monday / Tuesday (everyone welcome to join in!!) and thought it might be fun to have a tournament, to be held on

**Recreation ground tennis courts
Sunday 29 September
at 10am**

You don't have to have a partner as we will all be playing with each other and against each other. We are also planning on having some food afterwards.

If you would like to play please let me know in advance ideally by Whatsapp. If you're not playing, it would be lovely to have some supporters to watch.

Di Lewis 07864 269119

TUNWORTH ROAD BALANCING POND

The balancing pond part-way up the hill on Tunworth Road (as it leads South-west from the Village) was dug some years ago by HCC Highways to take surface water runoff.

Over three days (02-04 September) Highways re-dug the 'pond' as part of their planned maintenance programme.



The 'pond' should work in conjunction with the system of deep grips over a half-mile stretch higher up the road – which also need digging out and regular maintenance.

Photo taken 36 hours later following overnight rain illustrates how the balancing pond on its own can't cope.



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ANOTHER NPPF CONSULATION

[guidance Ch 12 The future of planning policy and plan making.](#)

[New NPPF publication date](#) expected to be summer / autumn 2025. www.adpltd.co.uk/our-knowledge/local-plan-reform-in-the-nppf

[For the BDBC Local Plan Update](#) the best outcome (critical for BDBC) would be to continue to adoption with its current Housing Strategy in place.

The BDBC Reg 19 (pre-submission Draft Plan) is due to be published for consultation in January 2025. But (taking the proposed stepped trajectory out of the equation for the time being) there is a c300 homes per annum difference between the old and new Standard Method figures.

[Question 103 says: 'Do you agree with the proposed transitional arrangements? Are there any alternatives you think we should consider?'](#)

Plans at Reg 19 are several years in the making and have an evidence base and deliverable Spatial Housing Strategy in place and consulted on.

There would seem a strong argument that all Reg 19 Plans should be allowed to go forward without change to their numbers. This would make best use of work, cost, time already spent and cause less disruption.

LPAs with a shortfall of greater than 200 in their annual figures may otherwise feel forced to add new sites at short notice – or effectively have to start the process again with a new call for sites and so delay submission.

Neither of these scenarios seem likely to boost short-term housing delivery; the new Standard Method figures will in any case be planned for in preparation for the Five-year review.

A similar argument could be put forward for all Plans having reached Reg 18 and with a Spatial Strategy fulfilling their current housing figure.

Rather than supporting a Plan-led approach, the proposed transitional arrangements are a recipe for many LPAs to be years more without a Local Plan. Any short term increase then in housing numbers is likely to be a result of speculative applications.

3. THE FIVE-YEAR HOUSING LAND SUPPLY

The housing land supply policy intends that Local Planning Authorities have a constant supply of identifiable and deliverable housing land sufficient to meet their Local Plan housing figures.

The problem is that the penalties for falling behind the required land supply provision are damaging to the LPA and advantageous for developers. Yet once planning permission is granted, the housing delivery process is subject

continued next page

Newnham & Nately Scures

ST SWITHUN'S NATELY SCURES

Sunday 15 September, 5pm
HARVEST FESTIVAL EVENSONG
followed by English Wines
and Cheeses



ST NICHOLAS' NEWNHAM

Sunday 13 October, 4pm
HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE
Followed by refreshments



HARVEST SUPPER

**All residents of Newnham
and Nately Scures
are warmly invited to the
Harvest Supper 2024 on
Friday 11 October, 7pm
to be held at Manor Farm
Barn, Crown Lane, Newnham**

Entry is free but you are asked to contribute a dish (main, side, or dessert) and bring a place setting (plate, cutlery, dessert bowl or plate). Drinks and glasses will be available for a suggested donation. There will also be a raffle with proceeds in aid of St Nicholas'.

To reserve your place please contact trudy@rankinfamily.com
07975 957960.

Places are limited so will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

NEWNHAM LITTER PICK

The next Newnham Litter Pick will be on **Sunday 3rd November**. Please meet at the benches on the Green at 11.30am. Thank you!



CLUBROOM HIRE Wifi available
For availability please see <https://newnhamclubroom.org.uk/>
To book tel 07802 972722 or email bookings@newnhamclubroom.org.uk
Coming soon – Air Ambulance clothes recycling station will be placed in the Clubroom car park (probably the end of September).

NEWNHAM COMMUNITY'S



August winners are
£100 Kate & Marcus Jefferson (23)
£50 - Lisa and Chris Bingham (6)
£25 - Anonymous (43)
Thanks to Tatjana for making the draw
Best wishes, Carolyn Bell

PARISH PLANNING APPLICATIONS

24/00882/LBC (Pending 16 April)
Nightingale Cottage, Heather Row.
Demolition of south entrance porch, changes to fenestration; erection of new porch with access ramp in revised position. Alterations to conservatory, replace glass roof with tiled roof. Various internal / external alterations.

24/00712/FUL (Pending 26 March)
Land East Of Naishes Barn) Erection of agricultural barn with hard surface apron and extended access track. Scheduled for DC meeting 09 October.

23/02722/FUL (Pending 02 Nov) Land East Of Keepers, London Road. Three new detached dwellings with new access, parking, drainage, landscaping.

PARISH TREE APPLICATIONS

T/00417/24/TCA (Validated 19 Aug)
Elm Cottage, Ridge Lane. Fell 1 dead/dying Norway Maple.

T/00347/24/TCA (Approved 27 Aug)
Crown Lodge application including St Nicholas' Churchyard. T1 Magnolia: fell; T2 Apple: fell; T3 Norway maple: fell [Crown Lodge trees]. T4 Ash: fell; T5 Horse Chestnut: fell [Trees in the Churchyard].

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ANOTHER NPPF CONSULTATION

to many variables including developer and landowner decision making. On this basis the answers to the question below would be 'NO'.

Q 7 asks: Do you agree that all LPAs should be required to continually demonstrate five years of specific, deliverable sites for decision making purposes, regardless of plan status?

One set of (positive) changes made in the Dec 2023 NPPF was to reduce land supply requirements in some circumstances; there is a strong argument that this supports Local Plan-making and planned (as opposed to unplanned) development.

See NPPF current paras 77 and 226.

Particularly positive for BDBC was the provision requiring only a four-year housing supply where Emerging Plans had reached Reg 18 Consultation and were able to show sufficient planned sites to meet their housing allocation. (BDBC land supply for a while has been just over four years.)

The NPPF Draft Text for Consultation reverses all the Dec 2023 provisions to reduce land supply requirements; tracked changes mark them for deletion.

If an LPA is unable to show sufficient housing land supply, the penalty is a weakening of its Local Plan housing policies (which are deemed to be out of date). Planning decisions default to the NPPF's presumption in favour of development; the LPA's ability to defend its planned Housing Strategy is undermined; its vulnerability is much greater to unplanned housing on green fields attractive to developers.

The Dec 2023 land supply provisions aimed to support Plan-led development. The Consultation proposals encourage opportunities for a cycle of speculative applications – negating the value of an arduous process of Plan-making – taking up more Planning Officer and Inspectorate resources, while allocated housing land can be banked.

4. STRENGTHENING... THE PRESUMPTION IN FAVOUR OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

To consider these proposals in light of the need to support a Plan-led approach and questions regarding housing delivery as raised above.

Please take some time to consider the Proposals on the Government website. Plus in addition to the above, for eg on social housing; character, density and removing urban uplift; removing references to 'beauty'; green energy; support for key growth industries; proposals for brownfield and agricultural land.

Please respond online or via email to PlanningPolicyConsultation@communities.gov.uk

Susan Tuner, Editor

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Parish Assembly planned for 30 September has, with apologies to all, been postponed.

This instead will be a standard Parish Council meeting: Monday 30 Sept 7pm at the Iron Bull, all welcome.

NOTES FROM JULY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Public session discussed a complaint received from local resident re condition of road surface of **Heather Row**: mud and detritus on road due to logging work.

Background: This is an adopted Highway – 'Road Number 02104778; Road Class U, Unclass Adopted Metalled'. Resident has approached County and Landowner and found no willingness to clean the road.

Points of view put forward:

- 1 Muddy road condition not fair on other road users – vehicles and pedestrians – the lane is well used by pedestrians – walkers and joggers.
- 2 Pedestrians enjoy using the lane because it is in the countryside. The countryside is a working environment. Where mud on the road is a safety concern it is very important. Where a single lane track turns into an unmetalled byway (BOAT – byway open to all traffic) a requirement to constantly clean the surface might not be proportionate.

Discussion comments:

- The road is left in a poor state.
- Landowner is generally responsible for cleaning vehicles brought onto a public road.
- Due to nature of the road, no road safety issue.
- Unlikely HCC will make it a maintenance priority.
- Parish Council has no powers in this regard, other than to request Parish Lengthsmen to clean the road.

Agreed this not best use of Lengthsman time; no other action the Parish Council can usefully take.

Public session discussed complaints from residents and VCC members that **Newnham Green** verges and ditches not maintained as they would wish.

Background: The Parish Council has a rolling five-year licence to maintain Newnham Green. Verges and sightlines are County responsibility, though HCC will now only make one annual cut. The Parish Council via the Parish Lengthsman scheme has this year cut sightlines at the Green crossroads and strimmed a second time following the County cut.

Discussion comments:

- Sight lines are still poor from Ridge Lane looking right to Newnham Lane.
- Green verges look unkempt with weeds including Ragwort – it gives a poor impression to visitors.
- Brambles are growing in ditches.
- Ditch clearing focusses on function – on sections that take most water and where the road has potential to flood – this includes keeping grips clear.
- Green ditches originally dug to restrict access, not for drainage; the ditch on the Tylney Lane (higher) side of the main green takes little water; the camber of the road pushes water to the other side.
- Registered as Village Green; also a designated SINC (Site of importance for Nature Conservation).
- Ditches make important wildlife habitats & corridors.
- Ragwort every year is pulled, bagged and removed, well before seeding.
- The Parish Council has a statutory duty to 'conserve' biodiversity (Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006) and to 'conserve and enhance' biodiversity (Environment Act 2021).

Agreed – All vegetation to be kept low in vicinity of crossroads towards Newnham Lane to maintain sightlines; to achieve a more managed appearance.

SWIFTS: SPECTACULAR VISITORS TO OUR PARISHES WHO NEED OUR HELP



Tim Norriss, Trustee of Hampshire Swifts
www.hampshireswifts.co.uk

Now late summer, the skies of our parishes grow quieter. Nearly all the Swifts that hurtle overhead in early summer, thrilling and exhilarating us with their speed and screams, leave the UK in early August. It will be May before they return from Africa.

Swifts are supreme flyers, perfectly adapted to a life in the air. They sleep, feed and mate on the wing. They land only to breed. When a Swift chick fledges, it will spend the next three to four years in constant flight. Swifts do not land on the ground or perch on buildings, trees or cables. They have short legs and small feet with sharp claws perfect for clinging to vertical surfaces, but unsuitable for perching.

Swifts eat flying insects which are most numerous between May and August. This limits how long Swifts can spend in the UK as they need huge numbers of insects to feed their chicks. Unlike Swallows and House Martins which can have two or three broods during the summer, Swifts have just a single brood of usually two young.

2,000 years ago, Swifts nested in holes in trees or in cliffs. Now that is rare, Swifts depend entirely on buildings for nest sites. They look for small gaps high up where they can access a flat space, such as under tiles or eaves.

Modern building techniques mean that houses built in the last 30 or so years rarely have any gaps, so most Swifts nest in older buildings. Thousands of nest sites are lost each year when buildings are demolished, or renovated, or when plastic soffits and fascias are installed. Swifts are faithful to their nest site, so once a pair find a site, they will return to it every year. If they find

their nest site destroyed or inaccessible, they may not breed that year unless a new nest site is available close by. Swifts are in catastrophic decline. In 27 years from 1994 their population has declined by 62% in the UK and by 70% in the South East, including Hampshire. Loss of nest sites is the overwhelming major factor. House Sparrows and Starlings are also experiencing steep declines. They too rely on buildings for nest sites. Preserving existing nest sites and providing new sites is crucial to reverse the decline of Swifts in the UK; 1,000s of new sites are needed to halt the decline.

Hampshire Swifts is a charity set up in 2016 with the aim of stopping the downward trend of this special bird and increasing their numbers. We give advice on all matters related to Swifts. We supply and install swift boxes – £40 for a single box, £75 for a double box. We advise on creating permanent homes for Swifts using Swift bricks. We work to persuade local councils and developers to install Swift bricks in new homes at an average rate of one per dwelling.

How can you help Swifts? Preserve existing nest sites, put up nest boxes, encourage others and write to your local councillors about the importance of making the installation of Swift bricks in new developments a condition of planning approval.

Kevin Curtis

Carpenter & Joiner



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Church Notices

'Journeying together, we worship God and serve the community'
www.united-parish.org.uk
<https://www.moretolife.church>

From the Parish Registers

Interment of Ashes: John and Patricia Rowlinson at St Swithun's Nately Scures on July 29th

Baptism: Maximilian (Max) Jaggs at St Nicholas' Newnham on August 18th



From the Benefice Ministry Team

Happy Rentrée!

In French speaking parts of the world the autumn is often described as *la rentrée*. It's the time when everyone returns home from their holidays. Across Europe, August is usually a very different month, the pace slows dramatically and many businesses close down completely. *La rentrée* marks the Autumn return home. The return to the normal routine of school

or work or retirement. In the life of any church family, September feels like a time of 'returning', and by Harvest Sunday the church is in the full swing of the autumn programme.

For the North Hampshire Downs Benefice, these last couple of years have been about returning to normal after the difficult years of Covid. For me it has been really wonderful to witness the renewed joy and energy and purpose within the churches. Although there is a huge amount of work to do, we are very much a Benefice stepping into our stride with a growing confidence and hope.

One mark of the Covid years, has been that key individuals, couples or families, who were once at the very centre of Church life, drift away a little. They are still part of the family, still active; but a little less present – and both they and the wider Church family are spiritually the poorer for it. This has been just as true for us as it has been for many other churches.

My prayer for this autumn, is that all of us, including those who may have drifted away from the centre of Church, will hear God's call to return. That we all might be part of a whole Church family *rentrée*, as we restart our journey with God all together. Please don't miss your moment!

If you are not yet part of a home group why not join one this Autumn? Why not start attending a prayer group? Or try out a Church service that you have never attended before? There are lots of ways of renewing our faith or re-starting church. Why not have a chat with one of the clergy? We have a very exciting Autumn in front of us. Happy Rentrée.

Revd Gillian Wilton, Vicar, Long Sutton & South Warnborough

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

North Hants Downs Mothers' Union

Mary Sumner, the founder of the Mothers' Union, is remembered each year on 09 August. Mary had a vision of a fellowship of women, irrespective of class, supporting each other and strengthening their communities. This was quite a radical step in 1876!

This community emphasis can still be seen as members tackle some of the most challenging issues that they and their neighbours face. As a Christian membership charity, we demonstrate our faith in action. We work towards ending poverty, ending inequality, ending injustice. Members work at grassroots level in 84 countries around the world. They bring hope and practical support to millions of people every year through parenting, literacy and community development programmes.

Our branch works with the Vine Church in Odiham to run the Sunflower Café supporting those living with dementia and their carers, and members also help with the Child Contact Centre in Popley to allow estrange parents to meet with their children in a safe and welcoming environment.

We will meet together on Monday 02 September at 7:30pm for a bring and share supper. We are very grateful to the RAF Padre for allowing us to meet at the Chaplaincy Centre at RAF Odiham.

If you would like more information about the activities of the Mothers' Union, please contact me:

Sue Murphy, 01252 845011 or email suemurphymubbranch@outlook.com

CONFIRMATION

A STEP OF FAITH.

Later this year in November a group of adults and young people from across our 12 Parishes will be confirmed at Winchester Cathedral. Confirmation is a special church service in which a person confirms the promises that were made when they were baptized. If you were baptized at a Christening when you were a child, your parents and godparents made these promises on your behalf. As a young person or adult, you may be ready to affirm these promises and commit your life to following Jesus Christ.

At a Confirmation service, you make these promises for yourself. Your friends and family as well as the local Christian community will be there to promise to support and pray for you. The Bishop will lay their hands on your head and ask God's Holy Spirit to give you the strength and commitment to live God's way for the rest of your life.

If you would like to consider, with a view to being Confirmed this year or next do please be in touch with your local vicar or Rev Simon Butler on simon@moretolife.church 01256 861706.

CHURCH SERVICES SEPTEMBER INTO OCTOBER

Sunday 15 Sept 9am St Mary's Greywell, CW Holy Communion
11am St Mary's Mapledurwell, Informal Service
5pm St Swithun's Nately Scures, Harvest Festival Evensong

Sunday 22 Sept 10am St Nicholas' Newnham, BCP Holy Communion
11am St Stephen's Up Nately, Harvest Festival

Sunday 29 Sept 9.30am All Saints' Odiham
Benefice CW Holy Communion (with Bishop David)
11am All Saints' Odiham
Benefice Informal Service (with Bishop David)

Sunday 06 Oct 9am St Mary's Mapledurwell, Harvest Festival
11am St Mary's Greywell, Harvest Festival

are you curious
about faith?



Alpha is a series of interactive sessions to discuss the Christian faith in an informal and friendly environment. All welcome and it's free. Come to an intro evening and see what you think. QR code for more information or contact the Church Office 01256 703791 admin@moretolife.church

more+

THE TABLE

SHARING GOD'S LOVE THROUGH FREE MEALS

The project known as The Table was set up nearly two years ago by More to Life churches. Since then more than 400 meals have been served those lonely or struggling with the cost of living. The Table provides a two-course meal, but also a chance to share food and fellowship and to show God's love in a practical way across the community. It takes place twice a month at North Warnborough Village Hall and has made a huge difference to many of those who go along as well as to the team who volunteer their help and cooking skills.

Stacy is a single parent with three children who are 10, 11 and 15 years old. She says: 'We haven't got a lot of money and all our bills have gone up so places like this really help. It means I have an extra meal to feed the children. We've also met a lot of new people we wouldn't normally meet. My children love interacting with the older generation and the older people love seeing the children; to have adult conversations is nice for me too. God tells his church to help the community, but this does much more than that, it gives you something to look forward to.'

The Table has grown in popularity from four guests attending the first event, to up to 45 people now coming along for the meal and the chance to meet others. It not only helps with the cost of living pressures but gives vital company and support to those feeling lonely and isolated.



'It's not just providing food for people; we're now forming a community and so it's got quite a different feel to it. We've also intentionally blurred the lines between those on the team and attendees. So, we have people who would initially be recipients, who are cooking or washing up, and people who are part of the team are really benefiting from mixing with other people and being in community. It's a real mix across all the different age groups and socio-economic backgrounds.

'We're also aware that people are longing to connect with people. We have our children's and youth groups and our groups for the older generation, but this brings all those different groups together. We've got a particular heart for people who are vulnerable, those who are financially struggling, who need free meals, people who are lonely – but people can come for whatever reason. It's been exciting to see how people look out for each other and often meet up for coffee outside of this situation.' Revd Matt Bianchi

Brian attends with his nine-year-old son James who has autism. 'I work a lot of hours including Sunday mornings and my wife works into Sunday evening. Bills are going up; everything is really tight and having a SEN child costs more too. It's lovely to get a nice meal and they give me a box of food to take away for my wife, so she has a hot meal when she gets home and doesn't have to worry about cooking. James likes to come and play with the other children and that's great. It helps in so many ways.'



A team of 12 volunteers is made up of those cooking, serving and setting up and clearing away. The Table was initially started with a charitable giving donation by a Basingstoke-based security firm who ran the project for the first three months. It's now funded through money set aside by All Saints' Odiham and a grant from Odiham Consolidated Charities.

The volunteers come from different churches within the benefice and some from outside of the church. Anna Rigby and Katharine Richardson both became involved in The Table after taking part in an Alpha course. Anna said: 'We both go to church regularly now and we go to different churches within our benefice, so I feel like I've met lots of new people, which is lovely. I see this as another part of the church family really, working together, trying to support people that are having a tough time in their lives, whether they are single mums and struggling to make ends meet or they're very lonely. We've got a real mix at The Table, and they gel together, even though they're very different and I think people really look forward to it. You might think this is quite an affluent area but there is a need. It's an eye-opener to me about the spread of people that it helps. It's putting your faith into action and it feels like the Spirit is here with us.'

Katharine added: 'It's lovely to be involved in something in the community. I came back to the church after a period when things had gone wrong in my life. Being part of this group has helped to put my life back together. I'm with friends and meeting people and we see it make a difference... Church is about being out there and trying to make a little bit of difference when the world can be so tough''.

A prayer is said before the meal and sometimes there's a short talk about faith. A number of people who come to The Table recently joined an Alpha course and some have attended Bible study groups. It's one of a number of community projects for More to Life Church including youth and children's work, weekly assemblies in primary schools and lunchtime clubs in secondary schools, work with Ukrainian families, a food bank and coffee morning with social prescribers.

Rev Matt said: 'For me, it's essential the Church is at the heart of this and in the community, because I think the one unique thing that we have as a Church, as opposed to any other social organisation, is the grace of Jesus and how that is a blessing that nobody else can give. It helps the community to see that the Church cares and helps the Church by serving and meeting people they wouldn't normally encounter. It's been quite an important barrier-breaking initiative.

'We've seen people, who normally would be a bit more closed off, being open and honest, and we're having deep conversations with people about their situations in life. Really sad situations are being shared and I've had the opportunity to pray with one or two people who've asked for it. So, it's been quite exciting. It's how we not only get people to connect with church, but how we get church into places it's not currently in. It's vital, and it's the call of Jesus to "as you go make disciples, so go everywhere and impact the community wherever you go"''

FREE TREES FROM BDBC AND THE HAMPSHIRE TREE PARTNERSHIP 'TREE-MENDOUS GIVEAWAY'

www.basingstoke.gov.uk/tree-mendous-giveaway

Two free trees per household are offered via this joint initiative – these are whips (20-40cm). Species on offer are:

Gelder rose (*viburnum opulus*); Wayfaring tree (*viburnum lantana*); Blackthorn (*prunus sipinosa*); Hazel (*corylus avellana*); Elder (*sambucus nigra*); Hawthorn (*crataegus laevigata*); Crab apple (*malus sylvestris*); Field maple (*acer campestre*); Bird cherry (*prunus padus*); Rowan (*sorbus aucuparia*); Spindle (*euonymus europaeus*).

Applications are via the BDBC website as the link above. The offer is open until 10th November or until stocks run out.

Tree whips will be available for collection from the Beresford Centre, Wade Road RG24 8FA on Saturday 30 November between 10am and 2pm.

HANTS & IOW RIDE+STRIDE

SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

for Churches

<https://hihct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/>

The Ride+Stride day is an opportunity to discover the rich heritage of our historic church buildings, see beautiful countryside, get some exercise and have fun with friends and family. Sponsorship money raised will be used for repairs to the churches and chapels.

<https://hihct.org.uk/taking-part/>

All five of our local churches will be open and all are intending to offer refreshments. St Mary's Mapledurwell has a composting toilet in the churchyard, St Swithun's has use of the Miller's Ark facilities.



The Table
FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

North Warnborough Village Hall

UPCOMING DATES:

15th September
29th September
27th October
10th November

From 5PM

Please contact Matt to book
matt@moretolife.church

CROSS BARN ODIHAM FILM / THEATRE

www.thecross-barn.org.uk/whatson.shtml

September
Fri 20th Film *The Fall Guy* (2024)

Fri 27th Film
Vindication Swim (2024)

Doors open 1900;
Start times:
Films 19.45.

Tickets: Film £7

Whitewater Health

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP UPDATE Sept 2024

Avoid queues and save time by communicating with the Practice electronically – two apps are recommended:

1. The NHS App provides a simple and secure way to access a range of NHS services. You can order repeat prescriptions and nominate a pharmacy for collection; book and manage appointments; view your GP health record. Download the NHS App via Google Play or Apple Store.

2. The NHS Healthier Together App is for use with children /under 18s. If your child is unwell and you are unsure where you need to go or if you can manage at home, the app will guide you through your decision making. Once registered, patients under 18 can be assessed at any time and receive immediate advice, with direct communication with the Practice. You can register online and/or download the app via: www.what0-18.nhs.uk

News from the Practice – The Autumn/Winter COVID and flu vaccinations will be starting in September and October and eligible patients will be contacted to make an appointment.

PPG Contact Details email Whitewaterppg@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/WhitewaterPPG

u3a learn, laugh, live ODIHAM DISTRICT

AN ACTIVE AUGUST

Like many families, the extended family of the u3a also take a holiday in August... or do we? In fact, August is the month when we hold two events for our 730 members, providing an opportunity to come together and socialise.

Our Annual Picnic is now into its second year. Taking place at Odiham and Greywell Cricket Club, it coincides with the RAF Families Day – our cheeky way of enjoying a free air display! This year was well-attended and unlike last year, the weather did not impede the planes zooming overhead.

However, the pinnacle event of our year is our Members' Open Day, which is open to members and non-members. Returning to its usual venue at Robert May's School, the rooms were filled with the same level of enthusiasm and excitement you would expect to find on the first day of school!

It was very busy with more than 55 activity groups exhibiting what makes their group special. Perhaps the highlight of the day was a sing-along inspired by our Simply Singing group's version of 'these are a few of our favourite things' entitled *Favourite u3a Things* and finishing with words that encapsulate our u3a; *'When the day seems rather empty, and the heart seems sad, You simply remember your own u3A, And then life's not quite....so bad!'*

And so to September... we return to our usual busy weekly calendar of activities... during an average u3a week there are c30 different activities timetabled. This provides plenty of choice for our members to stay active while learning, laughing and living! To see the full programme of our Monthly Meetings and timetabled activities, please visit our website.

www.odihamu3a.org.uk



North Warnborough & District Garden Club

Thurs 26 Sept 2.10pm
N Warnborough Village Hall
Speaker 2.30pm Rosy Hardy on
Autumn-flowering Perennials.
Visitors welcome www.nwdgc.org.uk



AFTER SCHOOL CLUB
3RD TUESDAY EVERY MONTH 3.00 - 4.45PM
COME AND JOIN US FOR CRAFTS, GAMES AND TEA!

YOUTH GROUPS
EVERYONE WELCOME!

more+ All Saints Church
Wednesdays Years 4 - 8
Thursdays Years 7 - 11
6 - 7.30PM in church