

The Stonesfield Slate

Issue No 477 February 2018



Dates for your diary – February

1,8,15,22	Book Break	Stonesfield Library	12.30–2pm
5,19,26	Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	8.45–10am
5,12,19,26	SJC Cuppa	St James' Centre	10–11.30am
7	Lunch Club coffee	St James' Centre	11am
8	Over 60s Darby & Joan	Village Hall	2pm
8	Parish Council meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
7,14,21,28	Folk Dancing	Village Hall	8–10pm
12	Gardening Club	St James' Centre	7.30pm
16	Treasure Box	St James' Centre	10.30–12noon
17	Ladies' Night	Sports & Social Club	7.30pm
24	Players Quiz Night	St James' Centre	7.30pm
24	Football Club Race Night	Sports & Social Club	8pm
25	Sports & Social Club AGM	Sports & Social Club	8pm



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**The deadline for copy
and advertisements
for the next issue is
15 February**

Please email copy to
slate@stonesfield.com
or hand it in at the village
shop (Suriya Express).
Advertisements to
sj@sjhaviland.co.uk

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*A scene from Ecce iucunda
Nativitas, given by the
Pastime Ensemble &
Players at St James's
church on 30 December, in
aid of Bridewell Gardens*

Notices

A heartfelt thank you!

Stonesfield Preschool staff and committee would like to say a huge thank you to Stonesfield Gardening club for their generous and unexpected donation to the preschool. We are so grateful, and this donation has allowed us to buy the children each a present from Father Christmas to have at their Christmas party. Thank you on behalf of all the preschool children!

Stonesfield Preschool

... and another!

Many thanks to all those who helped with and attended the wonderful concert given by the Pastime Ensemble and Players at St James's Church on 30 December. We raised £421 for Bridewell Gardens.

Becki Sherlaw-Johnson

Good Gourmet and The Back-Up Trust

A Happy New Year to all of our loyal customers. Thanks for making 2017 a great success and for your continued support. We would especially like to thank all those who donated generously during our Christmas Bistro period. We were able to donate £250 to the Back-Up Trust, a charity we were inspired to support after having seen Samuel and Ali Appleton make a moving and positive presentation on BBC's Children in Need. The Back-Up Trust make such a difference to so many people affected by spinal cord

injury and their families. Here's to a gourmet 2018.

Jaimie and Jacqui Lyel

Stonesfield Beer Festival 2018

As many of you know, the Stonesfield Beer Festival, *Septembeerfest*, is a great occasion, when the community comes together to listen to great music and sample the many craft beers and ciders on offer. Just as importantly, the festival raises money for charity. A range of charities have benefited and the 2016 festival raised over £15,000, which went to Back-Up, who support people after spinal cord injury and the John Radcliffe children's physiotherapy ward amongst others.

The organising committee is very much hoping to stage the event again this September, when the two main charities will be Dogs for Good, who provide assistance dogs to people with physical disabilities and children with autism, and Alzheimers Research UK.

Many people give their time and effort to support *Septembeerfest*, but in order to put it on we have to raise funds via sponsorship in the region of £10,000 to cover the larger necessary expenses such as the marquees, lighting and staging. We would love to hear from any local businesses or individuals who feel that they may be able to make a sponsorship donation. If you are interested please contact Andy Davis on 07814 695175 or at davis1798@hotmail.co.uk, or Sarah

Plumridge on 01993 891163 or at sarahbolivern@hotmail.co.uk

Treasure Box

The Half-term Treasure Box will open on Friday 16 February from 10.30am to 12noon in the St James' Centre. All children are welcome (adults too). Under 5s must be accompanied by an adult.

There will be games, songs and lots of things to make, inspired by the book *Eric Says Please*.

Details from Muriel Barrett (891479).

Talented performers wanted!

The Stonesfield Players present an April Review on Saturday 21 April, 7pm.

Saints, Dragons, Whispering Knights and Treacle Wells

To celebrate St George's Day and with a nod to Shakespeare's birthday, the Stonesfield Players are looking to our wonderfully talented villagers to perform small, 5 to 10 minutes pieces on the theme of myths and legends. This can be sung medieval songs; perhaps you could perform some poetry. Maybe a small group could put together a drama piece about St George and the Dragon. For the musicians out there perhaps a classical piece of music or even a modern take on something Shakespearean.

So we are looking for musicians, story tellers, actors, singers, poets and dancers to perform something of their own choosing to fill an evening of entertainment. The evening will be set to candlelight with a hot meal provided to

all that attend. We are aiming to create a warm and inviting atmosphere, to give all of our performers the best experience.

Open to everyone! Please contact Dave Rudge on davidrudge2002@yahoo.co.uk or 07814 142658 for more details and to register your interest/performance. There will be a very informal audition and then a rehearsal nearer the time to compile the show. I look forward to hearing from you. Deadline for performers is 28 February.

Dave, Players secretary

Get active in the New Year – Volunteer with the Wychwood Project

In 2017 volunteers helped us to plant over 1,500 trees, coppice woodland, lay hedges, repair dry stone walls, and monitor Barn Owls and flora to improve West Oxfordshire's habitats and landscape.

Wychwood Project volunteering is on offer every month. Why not come and join us to get some exercise and fresh air, meet some friendly fellow volunteers – and help the Wychwood Project.

Here's what's on in early 2018:

Saturday 3 and Thursday 15 February: Coppicing at Beevis Farm, Charlbury

Thursday 1 March: Hedge planting near Ascott-under-Wychwood

Saturday 3 March: Hedgelaying at the Saltway, Charlbury.

Thursday 15 March: Woodstock water meadows. Logs for Labour – tree work and possibly a bonfire, meet at the garages at the foot of Brook Hill (by the A44).

Drystone walling happens every Monday and Tuesday (weather permitting). You are welcome to join any day and stay as long as you wish. Or join our Bird Aid, Flora or Barn Owl Groups, who meet regularly to protect species across West Oxfordshire.

No experience is necessary for any of the tasks (full instruction is part of the day) but you should wear appropriate clothing for outdoor work, including stout boots and gloves. Activities run from 9.30am to 3pm unless otherwise stated.

For more information and to get involved with the Wychwood Project visit: www.wychwoodproject.org or www.facebook.com/WychwoodProject; phone: 07584 262437 (Mon. Wed. Thur.); email: info@wychwoodproject.org.uk

Stonesfield Lunch Club

Do come and join us at the Stonesfield Lunch Club for a cup of coffee or tea and



a chat at 11am on Wednesday 7 February at the St James' Centre.

Village Hall News

A fun and relaxed Ladies' Volleyball Group meet at Stonesfield Village Hall on

Thursdays 7–8pm and would love new members age 16+ to swell their numbers. The more the merrier! Please contact Penny Barrett for more information on 01993 898172

Is Smudge visiting you?

We are currently experiencing some problems with our cat, and wondered whether anyone could help.

Smudge lives at 63 Longore, Stonesfield. He is a large 3-year-old, black and white male cat who we rescued three years ago after he had been neglected and seriously injured in an accident and left with lasting injuries. Smudge has happily lived here since then; however he has recently been disappearing for days at a time.

We posted on the Stonesfield Facebook page to see if anyone had seen Smudge, and it turns out he is visiting a number of nearby houses. Whilst we are happy Smudge is in no danger, he now barely comes home, and when he does, he stays only for food and then leaves immediately.

It's sad not to see Smudge often as he is part of the family, and of course we need to know where he is for vet check-ups and general peace of mind. If Smudge is visiting you, please could you refrain from feeding him, and encourage him to come home.

Many thanks for your help in advance.

Ben and Jenna Sadler, (63 Longore; 01993 898 605 /07792 172 430)

Politics & local affairs

Combe Road Sewage Pumping Station

For some time we have had various problems with the Combe Road Sewage Pumping Station. These have resulted in overflowing sewage and emergency call-outs for the station to be pumped out and in very unpleasant and unacceptable conditions for neighbouring residents.

I have been asked by Stonesfield Parish Council to take these matters up with Thames Water but need more information, i.e. dates and times of overflow problems, dates the emergency tanker has had to be called out, dates of attendance of engineers on emergency call-outs etc. Supporting photographs would be a great help.

If anyone has such information I would be grateful if they could contact me and I will take the matter forward and present a formal complaint to Thames Water.

Councillor David Brown, Threeways, Woodstock Road (01993 898193; david.brown339@btinternet.com)

Sustainable Stonesfield

More than 80 people came to our public meeting on 15 January to get an update on Sustainable Stonesfield's activities during 2017.

We reported on the steps we had taken to challenge the three major development applications: CALA Homes and Pye Phase 2 on the Woodstock Road and North Farm on Farley Lane. We re-stated our

belief that there were no 'exceptional circumstances' that would justify putting any developments of more than 10 houses in the AONB. We described how we had made representations at the Inspector's hearings regarding the new Local Plan, and that this had caused him to require WODC to show cause as to why any such developments could be allowed. We are now waiting for the Inspector to report on the Local Plan and for WODC's decisions on the three applications.

We raised the topic of unsustainability due to inadequate infrastructure. The parlous state of our sewerage system was much discussed. The Parish Council is already taking this up: please respond to David Brown's request (on this page, above) for people to send him details and photographs of sewerage incidents so that he can make a case to Thames Water.

We also discussed the current congestion on our roads, which will only get worse. The junction with the A44 at Judd's garage is increasingly hazardous. We urge you to write to Oxfordshire County Council voicing your concerns, so that they take the matter seriously: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/contact-highways

Finally, please consider joining Sustainable Stonesfield to get emails and information. No fee, no hassle. There are already 170 members who have joined because they want to hear the latest news

and help if they can. Use the sign up form at: <http://eepurl.com/cJI4bj>

Have you discovered Nextdoor Stonesfield? A really useful networking programme that acts as a village notice board for news, events, recommendations and items for sale. Keep up with us there! <https://nextdoor.co.uk/>

STOP PRESS!

The day after our public meeting, the Planning Inspector reported his preliminary findings on the proposed West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031.

He has asked WODC to remove all the allocations of housing to the Burford-Charlbury AONB sub-area (this includes the CALA Woodstock Road site) from the plan, dismissing the justifications put forward by WODC for building in the AONB to meet district housing targets.

This does not mean that there will be no development in the AONB, even on the proposed sites, but it sends a clear message to WODC that it needs to revisit its approach to housing need and development in the AONB, and is a victory for all the organisations and individuals which have argued against WODC's previous approach.

Subject to this, the inspector has also concluded that the plan is sound for adoption.

The full text of the inspector's findings can be seen here: <http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/media/1724631/IN-029-Inspector's-Letter-to-the-Council-of-16118.pdf>

Caroline Friend, Sustainable Stonesfield

Parish Council Mobile Phone Mast

Work on installing the mast was due to take place on 15 January. Unfortunately, there has been an indefinite delay as Telefonica have been told that they are not in a position to proceed at the moment. This is very disappointing for the village and we hope to be able to keep you informed on any progress being made.

Severe Weather

SPC has a surplus supply of salt/grit stored by Roger Evins at Charity Farm. He has kindly offered to drop some of this off to householders if they contact him. This is not for personal use but can be spread on roads and pavements near your homes. The roadside salt bins should be replenished by OCC.

Sewage Overflow at Christmas

Following reports of tankers at the pumping station in Combe Road, SPS contacted Thames Water, who explained that a failed pump was responsible and had to be replaced. A similar occurrence had happened in July. There will be wet well cleansing soon to help with the unpleasant odours relating to this problem.

Thames Water request that users remember the 3Ps that should be flushed into the system. Anything else such as fat, oil, wet wipes, baby wipes, tissues etc. will cause blockages leading to pump failures.

The controversial chicane on Woodstock Road is going to be re-assessed by Highways.

Allotments

A full allotment and a half allotment are

still available. Please contact the Clerk if you are interested.

The Common

We have a grant from the new PYE development for arts projects in the village. This money is being held by WODC at present. We will work with them to put it to beneficial use. One of the projects is to design and erect pictorial information boards on the Common explaining the flora and fauna found on this special SSSI site. If anyone is interested in joining the working group, please contact the Clerk.

The next Parish Council Meeting is on Thursday 8 February, 7.30pm, Village Hall. All residents are invited to attend.

*Gill Hill, Parish Clerk
(stonesfieldpc@gmail.com)*

West Oxon District Council District Update

On the planning front, a very recent development is detailed in the *Sustainable Stonesfield* article above. The Inspector says that the allocation for our part of the District has been fulfilled and there is no need for further large developments in the AONB. My thanks and congratulations go to all in the village who have put pressure on the Inspector. Incidentally, WODC had already taken the decision before Christmas to recommend that the Cala proposal be refused.

I suspect that the proposal for 34 new homes at North Farm will appear on the agenda for February. I know that there is considerable opposition to this for several reasons, but the prospect of truly affordable units may have weight in the collective minds of the planning

committee. Blenheim and WODC have agreed to work in tandem to offer houses with a discount on the market valuation, which would make the cost approximately 40% cheaper than the usual 20% which the Government applies to 'affordable units' in the accepted scheme of such things. This partnership proposal will also be applied to the phase 2 of the Charity Farm development.

The large-scale developments in Long Hanborough are proceeding and will result in vastly increased traffic, especially at peak times on the A4095.

*Richard Bishop ((891414;
richard.bishop@westoxon.gov.uk)*

Missed bin collections

Residents can now report a missed bin collection direct to the depot via our new online form:

www.westoxon.gov.uk/missedbin

Sara Long, Communications Officer, WODC

Hanborough station

West Oxfordshire District Council have this week approved plans to improve Hanborough railway station. £10,000 will be put towards the installation of a modular station building, which will contain a new ticket office, waiting room and toilet. Operator Great Western Railway is also looking to house a small retail outlet in the building.

In the last 10 years, passenger numbers at Hanborough have more than trebled and there is a clear need to improve facilities at the station to meet that demand. I look forward to seeing this progress!

*Robert Courts, MP
(robert@robertcourts.co.uk)*

Education & culture

Stonesfield Library

Telephone: 01993 898187

Opening Hours:

Monday	2.30–7pm
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	10am–12noon
Thursday	2.30–5pm
Friday	Closed
Saturday	10am–12noon

Stonesfield School News

As part of letting you know what is happening with school governance, we shall be bringing you a termly update. Last term, as you can imagine, much of our focus was on Ofsted and on starting the Headteacher recruitment process.

School finance is an ongoing area which takes much of our attention. As you may have seen in the press, the amount of money we are given to run the school continues to reduce. School funding is currently based on how many children we have on the school roll; fewer children means less money. Although there is a new 'funding formula' coming, we do not yet know whether this will be positive for us. In managing our very tight budget, we review all spending every single month, down to the last pound.

On a more positive note, our Ofsted inspection report. We are absolutely thrilled with the outcome of 'Good' in all areas and for overall effectiveness. We congratulate all the staff for maintaining

consistently high standards and seeking every opportunity to improve the way they teach and deliver educational opportunities to the children. None of this can be done, of course, without the excellent leadership, drive, enthusiasm and vision we all get from Ms McGregor.

We are delighted and proud that the report reflects our lovely, hard-working, well-mannered children and our successful, warm and nurturing school that staff and governors work so hard to maintain.

Here are some highlights from the report. 'Stonesfield is a happy and welcoming school . . . Teachers have established good and warm relationships with their pupils . . . Staff value pupils and listen to them . . . Pupils are confident that teachers care for them . . . Teaching is lively and enthusiastic and engages pupils well . . . Teachers have high expectations of pupils' behaviour and the quality of their work . . . Teaching assistants are skilled and well trained . . . Pupils enjoy the broad curriculum which is enhanced by a wide range of trips, clubs and other events . . . Pupils feel safe and secure at school . . . Pupils know that their teachers listen to them and care about them, they feel valued . . . The behaviour of pupils is good . . . They are polite and courteous and show consideration for one another as they move around the school and at playtimes . . . The headteacher, senior leaders and governors are ambitious for the school . . . Governors offer strong

support to the school and are passionate about their roles.'

Gillian Clarke and Sandy Hayes, Co-chairs, Stonesfield School Governors

ChOC Film

On Sunday 11 February at 7pm the

opening entry in ChOC's new 'Classic Cinema' strand is the black-and-white masterpiece *Brief Encounter* (1945).

One of the great classics, with Celia Johnson and Trevor Howard. Memorial Hall, Charlbury. Doors and bar from 6.15pm. Admission: £5 / U15s £3.

Clubs & societies

Stonesfield Players Quiz Night

<i>Where?</i>	St James' Centre
<i>When?</i>	Saturday 24 Feb, 7.30pm
<i>What?</i>	A general knowledge quiz celebrating the world of quiz shows
<i>Who?</i>	You & your friends
<i>Format?</i>	Teams of up to 6 players
<i>How much?</i>	£3 per head, nibbles included plus cash bar
<i>Contact?</i>	Andrew Tacon (andrew.tacon@outlook.com) for any further detail

We very much look forward to seeing you on 24 February

Women's Institute

It is with much regret that I have to report the cessation of the Stonesfield Women's Institute. After surviving for ninety-five years, it was not possible to find members willing to take on the essential officer posts. After a ballot by members it was decided that the institute could not continue.

We hope that in the near future it will be possible to re-open. However, in the

meantime I would like to thank the many villagers who have given their support to an organisation which has offered friendship and the pursuit of a myriad activities to so many over the last ninety-five years.

Anne Bishop

Over 60s Darby & Joan Club

Although it was last year, I must mention our Christmas Lunch. I know we all agreed that changing from an evening meal to a lunchtime was worth a try, and I think we now all agree it was a good move. We had a wonderful time, the meal was delicious and we are grateful to David Woodfine – a good friend to the club, together with his friend and ours, Steve, for looking after us so well.

We would like to say thank you for the two generous donations given to the club, we are most grateful.

January saw us back again for our regular meeting. It was good to greet one another and to join in with a fun game, easy to play, and all you needed to do really was

decide which colour kiss you would like. As usual we had some enjoyable refreshments and a raffle.

We will meet again on 8 Feb. at 2pm and I will let you know if we are able to have our Annual Fish & Chip Lunch in March.

Look forward to seeing you.

Best wishes, Avis (898134)

Stonesfield Sports & Social Club

Ladies, come and celebrate Valentine's at 7.30pm on 17 February with a glass (or two!!!) of wine. Small bottles (including Prosecco) £2, large bottles £8.

AGM

The Club's AGM is on Sunday 25 February starting at 8pm. Everyone welcome. Nominations for committee members and/or Officers to Brian Clarke by 15 February, please.

Sky Sports and BT sports are now fully operational, so why not pop along and enjoy a drink while supporting your favourite team?

Stonesfield Gardening Club

Due to the snow, we cancelled our Christmas quiz at the last minute and did not meet in January, so we are looking forward to our first meeting of the year on Monday 12 February at 7.30pm in the St James' Centre (weather permitting!). Our speaker will be Rob Jacobs from Waterperry Gardens.

Membership renewals are now due at £8 per person or £15 per couple – please come along with the correct money in an envelope with your name, telephone number and email address, or a cheque

payable to 'Stonesfield Gardening Club' with your name, telephone number and email address on the reverse. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please contact our membership secretary; Jill Rowlinson (01993 891346).

Our topics for 2018 include: *Colour in a small garden; Iris or Clematis* – to be voted on by our members; *Late summer perennials; Garden design techniques*; organised trips to Spetchley in Worcestershire and some of the 'hidden gardens' of Burford.

Sybil Barton

(891590; sybil.a.barton@gmail.com)

Stonesfield Folk Dance Club

invites any readers who would like to learn and participate in traditional English Folk Dancing to join us at the Village Hall on Wednesday evenings from 8pm.

We are very lucky at Stonesfield in having two Resident Bands, and on Wednesday 7 February it will be the six musicians of the *Donkey House* band led by Frances White with Diana Triplow calling the dances. All our dances are walked through several times before being danced to music. Here's hoping to see you!

Stewart Nicholls

(www.stonesfieldfolkdance.danceorg.uk)

Witney Music Society

Witney Music Society's next concert will be given by oboist James Turnbull and pianist Libby Burgess. The concert is entitled *An Oboe's Journey – travelling across Europe through oboe repertoire* and will take place at High Street Methodist

Church, Witney at 7.30pm on Friday 9 February. Tickets (full price £12, senior concessions £11, under 18 £1) will be available at the door from 7pm.

More information, on 01993 702296 or visit www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk

Charlbury Refugee Action Group

Sun 4 Feb: Sunday Tea Concert: Kismet
Charlbury welcomes the much-loved, Oxford-based contemporary folk band

Sport

Stonesfield Football Club

The Football Club will be holding a Race Night on Saturday 24 February. First race starts at 8pm. All Welcome.

Brian Clarke (891770)

Stonesfield Cricket Club

Newly elected captains for this season are Jamie Burns (1st XI) and Dan Taylor (2nd XI). After a season of solid consolidation in 2017 both teams are looking to win things this summer . . .

Our 2018 campaign commences with winter indoor net practice. We have an hour session starting at 4pm on Sunday 18 February – using the splendid new sports hall facilities at Charlbury Community Centre, running each week until matches start in mid-April. All players old and new who want to play for Stonesfield are welcome (and any Aussies who've just moved into the village who can bowl at 90mph or hit centuries

Kismet to the Memorial Hall at 3pm. Tickets £10 (under 15s, £5) include free tea and cake! To reserve tickets, email charlburyrefugee@gmail.com, arrive by 2.45pm and pay on the door. Or call 01608 811378. All proceeds to Charlbury Refugee Action.

Saturday 10 Feb: Bring and Buy

All proceeds to Charlbury Refugee Action. Friends Meeting House, Market Street, 10–1pm. Teas, coffee, cakes. To donate items in advance, call 01608 811402.

would be nice); it's just £2 a week for those wanting to give it a go – everyone gets a turn in bat and everyone bowls! We welcome young players, who need to be at least 12 years old on 31 Aug 2017 (last year) to be eligible for adult cricket this season as an under 13 category player.

The Club is looking for a new kit sponsor for 2018. This will enable us to invest in some smart modern playing shirts – featuring the name of your company or organisation on the front! The club plays around 40 matches each summer all around Oxfordshire, so it's quite good exposure. In fact, some players are still wearing shirts funded by kit sponsors from a decade ago – so they've had pretty good value for money. The shirt sponsorship will likely cost around £600 to kit out the whole senior squad – please contact me ASAP for details if you're interested.

Stewart Moss (07866 278685)

Church news



Anglican Worship in the Parishes of Stonesfield with Combe Longa



Rector: The Revd Roy Turner
The Rectory, Stonesfield, Witney, Oxon, OX29 8PR
Telephone: 01993 898552 – Email: revroystonesfield@hotmail.co.uk

www.stonesfieldparishchurch.org

Stonesfield Churchwardens: Neil Melrose (891566) and Martine Smith-Huvers (898425)
Combe Longa Churchwardens: Julian Freeland (891223) and Andrew Hobson (891273)

BCP=Book of Common Prayer: CW=Common Worship

From your Parish Priest

Well here we are in Epiphany. It doesn't seem a minute since we were making our plans for Christmas. Epiphany, of course, is a Greek word meaning to reveal, show forth or to appear as a manifestation. The baby Jesus was revealed to the Wise Men or Kings as we sometimes call them. For me it's an important statement from God that the Immanuel, The Saviour, was to appear to every nation, not just the Jews.

It is traditional to think of the three kings representing the different categories of the gentile nations around the then known world; indicating that it was always God's intention that the whole world would know and benefit from Jesus being their Saviour too.

It really does represent good news and of course it is all recorded in the Gospels; the word gospel meaning 'good news'.

The arrival of the baby Jesus also ushered in a new way of relating to God. Instead of being under the Law which was contained in the Jewish writings and our Old Testament, we were now to consider ourselves to be under 'Grace'.

The difference was that under the Law of the Jews we were all condemned because none of us could keep it, we had all fallen short of its demands, even the Jews, even if you considered that you came under the rules as gentiles in the first place.

However, under the new system of 'Grace', that Jesus represented, not only was it extended to the Jews but to all humankind. So what is Grace, what does it mean?

Well under the Law of the Jews if you failed to keep it there were consequences. Some of those consequences included execution by stoning. Under Grace the consequences

of those failings by us were taken by Jesus on the cross. The way to gain from this Grace was to accept the judgement of the consequences of our failure and then confess them to receive the pardon that Jesus paid for on the cross. In other words: the Son of God paid the price and took the consequences so that we could be set free.

I think I have made a good decision not to forget what Epiphany means to me because it ushers in Grace and pardon not only for me but for us all.

I do hope I wasn't too wordy this time but if you have any questions or observations get in touch, you know where.

Oh and by the way, talking of Grace, if you have been following our family news concerning our youngest daughter's impending child's birth we had the arrival of our latest granddaughter on the 27 December. She weighed in at eight pounds thirteen and half ounces and after a lot of deliberation became 'Dulcie Grace'. Grace of course meaning favour, gift and kindness amongst other things. She certainly is a real gift of new life and is a wonderful new addition to the growing tally of grandchildren. That's five now . . . oh goodness.

See you soon and as always D.F.T.W

Rev Roy

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

Sunday 4 February [Second Sunday before Lent]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe Longa	All Age Worship
11am	Stonesfield	All Age Worship

Sunday 11 February [Sunday next before Lent]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe Longa	Matins [BCP/sung]
11am	Stonesfield	Parish Communion [CW/sung]

Ash Wednesday [14 February]

7.30pm	Stonesfield	Benefice Holy Communion [CW/sung]
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Sunday 18 February [Lent 1]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe Longa	Parish Communion [CW/sung]
11am	Stonesfield	Communion Service for all ages

Sunday 25 February [Lent 2]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe Longa	Parish Communion [CW/sung]
11am	Stonesfield	Parish Communion [CW/sung]

Sunday 4 March [Lent 3]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe Longa	Parish Communion [CW/sung]
11am	Stonesfield	Parish Communion [CW/sung]

Mid-week Communion Service [said]

Wednesdays 9.30am at Stonesfield. Everyone is most welcome

Stonesfield Methodist Church

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

Sun 4	11am	The Reverend Rose Westwood
Sun 4	11am	Revd Rose Westwood
Sun 11	11am	Andrew Maisey
Sun 18	11am	Ian Prince
Sun 25	11am	Jude Levermore

A Service for all People

On Friday 2 March at 2pm, the Women's World Day of Prayer Service will be celebrated here at the Methodist Church.

The Service has been prepared by Christian women of Suriname in South America. Its focus this year is upon the enormous responsibilities we all have to look after and preserve our planet for future generations.

Do come and be part of this beautifully planned and thought-provoking Service, its title is *All God's Creation is Very Good!*

Ladies, gentlemen, young people . . . all are very welcome indeed!

As always, readers are needed. Please get in touch soon if you would like to help or if you need transport on the day.

Kathleen (891733)

Roman Catholic Worship

St Teresa's Charlbury

Patience

We are told that 'patience is a virtue' but one with which many of us struggle.

In the Book of Exodus we are told that when Moses descended from Mount Sinai, God revealed Himself, declaring 'I am the Lord God, I am merciful and very patient with my people.' (Exodus 34:6) In this passage, we are reminded that God is infinitely forgiving and understanding of our human failings.

St Paul further says that the first attribute of love is patience: 'Love is patient' (1 Corinthians 13:4), (Ref: *Walk with Me*, December 2017/January 2018.) In other words, if we truly want to demonstrate our love for each other, we have to be able to show also that capacity for forgiveness, to be willing to see the other's view point and restrain our own quick judgements.

In Jesus Christ we have the perfect model of patience with His endless willingness to gently show His followers what He wanted them to do and in His perseverance through trial and suffering to death. Developing patience is an ideal New Year's resolution and one that is never too late to start practising.

MASS TIMES

SUNDAYS

St Teresa's, Charlbury: 9.15am

St Kenelm's, Enstone: 9am, second Sunday of every month

WEEKDAYS

St Teresa's, Charlbury: 9.30am, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, preceded by Morning Prayers at 9.15am

Confession: Confessions will be at 10am after morning Mass on Saturdays, and on request.

Father Tony Joyce can be contacted on: holytrinityrcchippy@gmail.com or telephone: 01608 642703.

For parish updates and any further information please see: <https://stteresaschurch-charlbury.com/> or

contact Clare Carswell, Chair, Parish Committee: chair.stteresaschurchcharlbury@gmail.com

Aid To The Church in Need (ACN)

From February 2018 Suze Mathews will be stepping down as Parish Representative for ACN due to other commitments and Mike Flanagan will be taking over as Parish Representative.

ACN Events

English Women Saints – date tbc

Visit to Stonor House – date tbc

For further information about the above please contact Suze Mathews, suzemathews899@btinternet.com, 01993 891720

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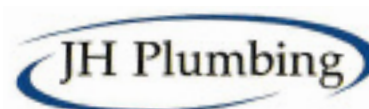
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Already the evenings are starting to get a little lighter and before you know it we will be firing up the BBQ once again.

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