

# The Stonesfield Slate

Issue No 484 September 2018



## Dates for your diary – September

3,10,17,24	SJC Cuppa	St James' Centre	10–11.30am
5,12,19,26	Folk Dance Club	Village Hall	8–10pm
6,13,20,27	Book Break	Stonesfield Library	12.30–2pm
8	OHCT Ride & Stride	countrywide	10am–6pm
8	Race Night	Sports & Social Club	8pm
10,17,24	Monday Coffee	St. James' Centre	8.45–10am
10	Gardening Club	St James' Centre	7.30pm
12	Reading Awards	Village Hall	3.30–4.30pm
12	Parish Council meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
13	Over 60s Darby & Joan	Village Hall	2pm
15	Ladies' Night	Sports & Social Club	8pm
20	Bingo	Sports & Social Club	Eyes Down 7.30pm
22	Septembeerfest	Playing Field	12noon
29	Band Night	Sports & Social Club	8.30pm



Photo: Kiko Dominguez

## Publishers

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## Printer

Windrush Press, Witney

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

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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*Crowds at the Village  
Duck Race on 21 July  
(see p. 10)*

# Notices

## Barrie Hunt

Meryl, Terry, Vince and Julie wish to thank all relatives and friends for their messages of sympathy and offers of help following our sad loss of Barrie. A much loved and respected husband, Dad and Gramp. Born in the village in 1939, he was proud to be a Stonesfield man. Thank you all.

*Meryl Hunt (891466)*

## Les runs again

At 9.30am on Sunday 7 October Les Pearce of Combe Road will be on the Start Line of the Oxford Half Marathon.

Since Les has taken up running he has run several half marathons for charity and this one will be no exception. Money raised will go to help Helen & Douglas House, the hospice for children and young adults.

So for all you friends and neighbours who were keen to see him run again – and anyone else who would like to donate – this is the address:

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/les-tracy-pearce8](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/les-tracy-pearce8)

*Tracy Pearce*

## Stonesfield Septemberfest!

**Saturday 22 September, Midday till late**  
**Venue: Playing field (near Village Hall)**

The Septemberfest team have one amazing day planned!

- Decadent Champagne and Gin Tent.
- Vast selection of real ales in huge marquee.
- Fun activities to amuse the kids.
- Delicious selection of food outlets from burgers to exotic artisan. Come for lunch!
- Live bands throughout the day from folk to rock to jazz. The Original Rabbit Foot Spasm Band are playing early afternoon on the Marquee Stage. Other acts include: Blue Dayz, Henderson Hooper, Seven O'Clock Junkies, Deeper Cut, North Parade and The Village Idiots as well as some new young village talent.

All proceeds from the day will go to Alzheimer's Society UK and Back-Up.

See you there!

*Septemberfest Team*  
*bartlefilm@gmail.com*

## Septemberfest Helpers Needed!

If you'd like to get involved and help at Septemberfest we'd really love to hear from you. We urgently need:

- Helpers for the Friday (21 Sept) set-up day. 10am onwards. Even an hour of your time would be really appreciated.
- Helpers on the day of the festival, Saturday (22 Sept), to work a short shift behind the bar in the Champagne & Gin Tent or the Real Ale Marquee.
- Helpers to work a short shift on the main gate or just collect beer glasses.

- Clean-up crew on Sunday 23 Sept – 10am onwards – to help us clean up the site!

*Please contact Sarah (sarahbolivern@hotmail.co.uk) or Andy (davis1798@hotmail.co.uk)*

## To all Septemberfest goers!

Don't miss the opportunity for a Zumba wiggle and a giggle at the Septemberfest – and bring your kids for a kids' Zumba session in the Dance tent. It will be £3 per child for a 30-minute session, with proceeds going to Stonesfield Preschool. From 12 to 2pm there will also be plenty of other things to keep the kids amused while you enjoy the Beerfest – face painting, glitter tattoos, a tombola and a coconut shy, to name a few!

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday 22 September!

## Christmas Shoeboxes in Witney.

High Street Methodist Church Shoebox Team have decided to support the Teams4U Christmas Shoebox Appeal this year.

It is difficult to explain the impact that these shoebox gifts have because to us they are filled with everyday items, but hearing from our overseas partners that parents would not be able to provide even one item from a shoebox brings home the reality of the desperate circumstances that these children face on a daily basis.

Making a shoebox is so easy: Find an empty shoebox, wrap it in decorative paper (or pick up a covered shoebox at the Methodist Church), fill it with simple

gifts, add £2.50 donation (to cover transport and distribution costs), deliver it to High Street Methodist Church in Witney and give an impoverished child a Christmas to remember.

So go on, find that shoebox, stash it under your bed or in a cupboard and buy one item each week to put in it. You'll soon see it filling up and by November it will be ready to bring a child some untold joy.

*Please contact Marie Cotton on 01993 883197 for further information.*

You may also like to visit the Teams4U website at [www.teams4u.com](http://www.teams4u.com).

## What happened to Lawrence after Arabia?

In November the Stonesfield Players will be performing a new radio play, as if for a live recording, called *Shadow of the Desert* by David Lines.

T. E. Lawrence achieved international celebrity almost as soon as he returned from the desert. Thanks to his tireless work attempting to create an independent Arab state he also created enemies in the establishment.

Haunted by his experiences in the desert and considering Lawrence of Arabia to be a failure, Lawrence sought to escape the icon he had become.

The threat of another war growing, media harassment, politics, government agents, doomed relationships and a man who cannot escape his past contribute to a powerful play about personal freedom.

'The dreamers of the day are dangerous men . . .', T. E. Lawrence.

Directed by Becki Sherlaw-Johnson.

November 9 & 10 (including a matinee on the 10th) at St James' Centre. Tickets on sale from early October – look out for posters and the October *Slate*.

For more information contact Becki at [rebeccasj@btinternet.com](mailto:rebeccasj@btinternet.com) or David at [david\\_lines@btinternet.com](mailto:david_lines@btinternet.com).

## Woodstock surgery

### Flu clinics at Stonesfield

We can confirm that the Stonesfield flu clinic will be on Tuesday 9 October 2–2.30pm at the village hall.

Please advise the surgery beforehand if you wish to attend this clinic in order that we can provide the appropriate amount of vaccine.

### Saturday flu clinics at Woodstock surgery

22 September: this clinic is for patients aged 65 years and above only.

29 October: this clinic is for all patients who are eligible for NHS flu vaccines.

**This year's vaccines are age specific. Please telephone the surgery to make appointments for these clinics.**

Those eligible for a flu jab are:

- Anyone aged over 65 on 31 March 2019
- Anyone with a chronic condition, e.g. Diabetes, COPD, Heart, Liver, Neurological or Kidney disease
- Asthmatics who are on steroids
- Anyone who is immunosuppressed, e.g. had an organ transplant or is on chemotherapy

- Pregnant women
- Carers in receipt of a carer's allowance
- People in residential homes

To book an appointment at Woodstock Saturday flu clinics telephone 811452.

## Roadside flowers

This morning my neighbour, who uses a mobility scooter, stopped me in the street and asked if I could mention in the *Slate* something that has troubled him recently.

He said that while he loves to see the flowers that people have planted outside their garden walls, they can be a real problem to mobility scooter users who have to brush past them. He had just suffered a nasty bee sting, when the bee he had disturbed was stuck inside his open-necked shirt. He felt that if it had been a wasp, he could have been stung much more.

So while there is no question of asking for the plants to go, he asks: please could you possibly tie back the ones that lean into the road?

*Viv Kendall (891803)*

## Bridewell Organic Gardens – Community Afternoon

The Walled Garden and Vineyard at Wilcote (OX7 3DT) will be open on Friday 14 September from 2pm to 5pm. Suggested donation £4, children free.

Refreshments and plants will be for sale. For further information please call 01993 864530 or go to [www.bridewellgardens.org](http://www.bridewellgardens.org)

# Politics & local affairs

## Parish Council

First of all, we hope that you enjoyed the hot and sunny July and at the time of writing the continued good weather in August. Oh to be in England now that summer's here!

### Blenheim PYE Homes Phase 2

The land south of William Buckland Way Application 17/01966/FUL has been refused.

### Traffic congestion weekend of Countryfile Live and Wilderness

If you have any feedback on how the traffic flowed or not during the weekend of 2–5 August, please email the Clerk on [stonesfieldpc@gmail.com](mailto:stonesfieldpc@gmail.com).

### Sheep on the Common

We had a visit by some ninety uninvited sheep on the Common at the beginning of August. It took a while for them to be removed and taken to newer grazing. We do need sheep on the Common to eat the grass at certain times of the year. We would like to remind you to keep your dogs on the lead when sheep are grazing there. Also no vehicles are allowed on or around the Common at any time.

### Meeting with Robert Courts MP

The Chairman of SPC, David Brown, attended the evening with our MP, Robert Courts. He had a good discussion with him regarding the pumping station issues we have in Stonesfield. We are also starting to look at sewage pollution problems in the river Evenlode. We recommend that you do not swim in the

river nor let your dogs in it. There is to be a day's conference at WODC with Thames Water and the Environment Agency in October to research what can be done about this pollution problem.

## Change of date for Parish Council Meetings

We are changing the dates for SPC meetings to the **second Wednesday** of the month instead of Thursday.

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 12 September at the Village Hall. All residents are invited to attend.

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

## West Oxfordshire District Council District Jottings

All things come to those who wait!

Some good news at last on the Planning front. Early in August the application for 13 new houses, with 50% affordable, off the Combe Road in Stonesfield came before the committee.

This site is immediately below the site under construction at Charity Farm. The applicants were Pye Homes in conjunction with Blenheim Estates. The Stonesfield representative, Richard Morris, spoke eloquently and forcibly against the proposal. Overall result was: my proposal to refuse was unanimously accepted. Stonesfield already has two Rural Exception sites (Combe has one well established site) and a medium-sized



Cottsway development so it was easy to see that our two villages are not averse to accepting 'affordable' units.

Combe figured in the list of applications to be decided under delegated authority in an application to extend 2 Orchard Close with a two-storey side addition which received approval.

It was interesting that Thames Water had no objection to the Stonesfield application, especially as the water infrastructure serving Stonesfield had noticeably failed to prevent raw sewage spewing from the manholes down the Combe Road! This, as many of the new homes at Charity Farm are still unsold and therefore not contributing to the difficulties of the water board. Quite what will be said when the representatives of Thames Water and the Environment Agency are summoned to meet the District Council in October can only be imagined.

I hope you all have enjoyed the heat of an unusual English summer and are refreshed and ready for the fray of autumn and winter.

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

### **Animal Welfare Registration Law**

New welfare laws will mean that more people who run animal businesses will have to register with their local council.

Businesses looking after dogs away from

their homes during the day, people who keep animals for educational purposes and dog breeders who breed three or more litters of puppies in any 12-month period will all need to register before the new law comes in place on 1 October.

People affected need to contact West Oxfordshire District Council ahead of Government legislation, which will become law in just a few months' time.

On 1 October, these businesses will be covered by the 'The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018' and anyone who does not register could be guilty of an offence.

Please call 861000 or email  
ers.licensing@publicagroup.uk

*Carys Davies, Communications Manager  
WODC (861615/ 861000)*

### **Scooter safety checks**

West Oxfordshire District Council is organising free electric checks on mobility scooters. These are being carried out in Witney on 4 October and Chipping Norton on 18 October.

It is vital that scooters are well maintained and these free checks will help ensure that the machines are fit for purpose.

To book an appointment, call 861161. Pre-booked appointments are available only on a first-come, first-served basis.

## *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

Manager: Debbie Wilson

### **Friends of Stonesfield Library**

Children alert! Have you read your six books and qualified for a gold medal?

Are you ready for Wednesday 12 Sept? On that day we will host the annual Awards Ceremony for the National Summer Reading Scheme.

It will take place in the Village Hall Clubroom (next to the Library) from 3.30 to 4.30pm.

Our Chairman, Tony Scott, will present gold medals and certificates to all those children who have completed the challenge.

This year the theme is Mischief-Makers and celebrates eighty years of the *Beano*. Yes, Dennis the Menace, Roger the Dodger and Minnie the Minx are still going strong!

As well as the medal presentations there will be biscuits, cakes, soft drinks, and plenty of creative activities.

We will finish with a group photograph

of all those who read six library books through the holidays and achieved their gold medal.

The Adult Reading Challenge also runs until mid-September. There are free tickets to be won for Blenheim Palace, Cotswold Wildlife Park, Crocodile World, Wychwood Brewery, and many others.

Find out more from the Library.

*Val Phillips (891455)*

### **The Oxfordshire Museum**

The museum is in a large, 18th-century house in Woodstock, with ten permanent galleries and two touring galleries, a beautiful walled garden which is perfect for picnics, a Garden Café and a Museum Gift Shop. Admission is free and the town has free parking.

Exhibition: Ronny Loxton, *Wild Oxfordshire – A year of paintings from nature*, an exhibition of paintings drawn from nature and featuring the landscapes, birds and plants of the Oxfordshire countryside, 15 September–14 October.

Friends of The Oxfordshire Museum Lectures:

5 September: Veronica Thornloe from Blenheim Palace: *Conservation and Restoration at Blenheim Palace*.

3 October: Stephen Baker (Heritage Advisor): *Oxfordshire on the Home Front 1914–18*.

Talks are free for friends and £4 for

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visitors, all are welcome. Tel: 814106,  
Web: [oxfordshire.gov.uk/museums](http://oxfordshire.gov.uk/museums).

### **The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum (SOFO), Woodstock**

SOFO is planning a new 1930s–1970s Oxfordshire exhibition and is now appealing to the public for help filling new displays with local stories and mementos.

The new exhibit will link the home front and domestic experience more closely with the county's military history and tell the stories of the women and children living in close proximity to the various military bases and locations that feature so heavily in the area's history.

SOFO Museum would be delighted to hear from anyone that could help with this appeal by donating their own objects, photos and stories.

If you have small objects or photographs of domestic life in Oxfordshire from about 1930 to 1970 – perhaps baby clothes, toys, empty tins and packets or home items typical of each era, then SOFO would love to hear from you. Or perhaps you have diaries, letters or memorabilia from family members who lived through the Home Front in the Second World War, post-war National Service or the Cold War?

Please contact SOFO at:  
[oxfordshirehome@sofo.org.uk](mailto:oxfordshirehome@sofo.org.uk).  
Alternatively, stories and images can be uploaded to the SOFO website directly by going to:  
<http://www.sofo.org.uk/storiesofconflictcounty/>

### **Community Education at the Marlborough School, Woodstock**

Our new 2018–19 programme is now available. See the Marlborough School website for full course details of courses starting between September and July next year, with latest availability as places fill up. Brochures have been delivered to many local homes over summer. If you didn't get one, please download a copy from the website or phone the office and we'll send you one.

We offer daytime, evening and Saturday courses for adults during school term time, on many subjects, including arts and crafts, exercise and wellbeing, languages, cookery and music.

The office re-opens for phone bookings from Thursday 6 September and you can always enrol by email or post as well. We look forward to welcoming all our students – new and existing – to Marlborough School Community Education for the new term.

*Celia Clark, Coordinator (813592;  
[comed.4560@marlborough.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:comed.4560@marlborough.oxon.sch.uk);  
[www.marlborough.oxon.sch.uk/commed](http://www.marlborough.oxon.sch.uk/commed))*

### **Woodstock and District U3A**

Our monthly meetings are at Woodstock Community Centre, New Road, Woodstock OX20 1PB, 2pm. Visitors are welcome (£2)

Sept 4: Jerry Rendell, *Profiles of the Great War*

Oct 2: Hugh Granger, *A Lighter Look at Health and Safety*

For more information:  
[www.u3asites.org.uk/woodstock](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/woodstock) or please phone 01865 580688.

## *Clubs & societies*

### **Stonesfield Folk Dance Club**

Last month we had some lovely evening dancing to the music of the Donkey House Band, sometimes as many as nine musicians! The Club night, when we had Mike Coultard from Hungerford calling, was particularly well-attended with a programme of Contras & Playford Style dances. Mike is well known as the Artistic Director of Chippenham Folk Dance Weekend, one of the major festivals in the UK and we will certainly be asking him again.

In September we are meeting every Wednesday from 8 to 10pm in the Village Hall and we have some more well-known callers visiting. Des Thompson on 5 September is followed by Doug & Kate Eaton on 12 September, who come especially from Somerset to call for us, and Ted Morse, who is well-known to everyone in the folk dance world. So we should have another wonderful month of dancing – please do come along and join in the fun.

*Stewart Nicholls (01295 730271;  
[stewart.nicholls@virgin.net](mailto:stewart.nicholls@virgin.net);  
[www.stonesfieldfolkdance.danceorg.uk](http://www.stonesfieldfolkdance.danceorg.uk))*

### **Stonesfield Gardening Club**

Traditionally, the club has no meeting in August with so many people away on holiday, so nothing to report on that front.

The continuing dry weather has put a strain on many plants, but at least we don't need to mow the lawn. The trick is

to see what does well and keep notes for the future.

On a personal note, we visited East Ruston Old Vicarage in Norfolk recently and can thoroughly recommend it to anyone who finds themselves in that area. A fabulous garden, built up from scratch, with plenty of ideas for more modest gardens.

We next meet on 10 September, when Graham Pavey will talk to us about Garden Design Techniques. All visitors welcome!

*Diane Bates*

### **Stonesfield Allotments Association**

It has been a challenging year on the allotments this year. Rain and snow followed by no rain and a heatwave! Despite the weather some plots have been flourishing. A good example to the rest of us and shows what good planning can achieve!

There will be a few vacant plots at the end of the season. There is no waiting list for a plot at the moment. The cost of a full plot is approximately £20 per year and membership of the National Allotment Society is currently £3 per person. If you are interested in taking on a plot, please contact Bryony (see below) stating a preference – Churchfields, Woodstock Road or either.

*Bryony Mallows – Secretary SAA (891710;  
[bryonymallows@outlook.com](mailto:bryonymallows@outlook.com))*

### Over 60s Darby & Joan Club

We were pleased it was a little cooler when we met for our August meeting. Having greeted each other we settled down to listen to Herbie & Doey, who were with us again, and we enjoyed a relaxing afternoon of music with them. While this was happening a delicious Tea Party was being prepared for us and, needless to say, it was as good as it looked, as was the accompanying cuppa or two.

We will have a Bring and Buy at our meeting on 13 September. Names will be taken for the Autumn/Harvest Lunch in October and of course we will have our raffle and tea and cake.

Herbie and Doey were thanked as were all the helpers – what would we do without them?

Another happy day ended as usual with the raffle.

Enjoy the rest of the summer,

Best Wishes

Avis

### 1st Stonesfield Scout Group

This year's duck race was as popular as ever and even more successful in terms of raising valuable funds for equipment and activities. It was great to see so many families joining in the fun down by the river, enjoying the fabulous BBQ, homemade cakes, Pimms, hook-a-duck, raffle and brilliant sunshine!

A huge 'thank you' to everyone who came down to support us at the river, to all those who helped before, during and

after the event, and to everyone who sponsored the event with donations and amazing raffle prizes to make it the fabulous evening that it was. Our 'flock' of ducks will be back again next year, all eager to win!

Our Scout Group have had a hyper-active summer term, with two Beaver and Scout leaders gaining their 'nights away' camping permits on our weekend away in June, and all sections making the most of the hot weather to carry out a huge variety of water-based activities. We look forward to many more adventures this autumn, with several children moving up through the sections at the start of the academic year.

We have now also set up a small, but hopefully successful, fundraising committee to support the developments on the new scout hut, so watch this space for news of that. As always, if you, or anyone you know, would like to support the group, either with the children or behind the scenes on our Exec committee, fundraising or in any other way, don't hesitate to contact us at [info@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk](mailto:info@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk).

Even if you have an hour a month spare, we'd love to hear from you!

### Sports and Social Club

This month at the club:

8 September: *Cricket Club Race Night*, 8pm  
15 September: *Ladies' Night*, 8pm  
20 September: *Bingo – Eyes Down* at 7.30pm  
29 September: *Band Night – Jukes (Blues)*, 8.30pm

Brian Clark

### North Leigh History Society

4 September, *The English Civil War – Saints, Sinners and Soldiers*, a talk by Stephen Barker.

2 October, *The Ascot Martyrs*, a talk by Carol Anderson.

Meetings take place on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Turner Hall, Church Road, North Leigh, OX29 6TX. All welcome. Visitors £4, members free. Further details from Diana Power (01993 882301).

### Woodstock Natural History Society

This month's meeting is on Tuesday 11 September at 7.30pm in the Community Centre, New Road, Woodstock, OX20 1PB.

Darren Mann will give an illustrated talk entitled *Dung – A Story of Beetles, Birds and Bats*.

Visitors £2. All welcome.

Brian Jones (891710)



We now have a fully extended childcare provision running from Pre-School. Here is what is currently available:

#### Breakfast Club

Now Monday–Thursday, 8–8.50am (£5.50 per day)  
Cereal, toast and fruit juice included

#### Pre-School Sessions

9am–3pm daily for children aged 2–4 years (£15.50 per session)

#### After School Club

Monday–Thursday, 3.15–6pm (£15.50 per day)

If you would like registration forms for any of the above, please contact our administrator, Mrs Zena Rozee (tel. 01993 898012 or email: [stonesfieldpsad@outlook.com](mailto:stonesfieldpsad@outlook.com))



# Sport

## Stonesfield Cricket Club

The season threatens to be our best for years!

1st XI continue to win games and sit narrowly 5th in Div 1 of the OCA league. Better still, the team are through to the prestigious Airey Cup final for the first time. This follows an incredible semi-final win over Watlington in front of a large crowd at the Playing Field. Our lads appeared 'dead and buried' after batting first and slumping to 36 for 7! But courageous skipper Jamie Burns, with 47 not out, somehow guided us to 131. Then the Stoney bowlers tore into Watlington, soon all out for just 98! The final is on Bank Holiday Monday 27 Aug at Harwell, 'The Stones' being clear under-dogs against the formidable Witney Swifts team...let's all hope for an upset.

The 2nd XI have also hit form recently;

we thrashed Kidlington 3rd XI (and 13 year-old Tristan Stringer took his first adult league wicket), and then we played local rivals Charlbury 3rd XI 'off the park'! This game was memorable as we scored 252 for 8 wickets thanks to a huge partnership of 123 between Mark Hatton and yours truly. Mark finished up with 104 magnificent runs, myself with 63. Charlbury were hanging on at 79 for 5 when rain saved them from a certain heavy defeat.

A date for everyone's diary is 8pm Sat 8 Sept, when we have a fundraising Horse Racing Night at the Sports & Social Club – all are welcome. For those unfamiliar, it's great fun and well organised as simple races are watched on a big screen – with the opportunity to 'purchase' horses and of course stake a few pennies on the outcome. . .

*Stewart Moss (07866 278685)*

St James' Church, Stonesfield

## WELCOME TO NEW RESIDENTS and Harvest celebrations

Everyone – new residents and not-so-new – is warmly invited to tea!

**Saturday 6th October  
between 3.30pm - 5pm  
in St James' Centre**



Harvest Festival Service

**Sunday 7th October 11am** – a special service for all ages!

*Gifts of money for Send-a-Cow, or goods for the Foodbank, will be gratefully received at the service*

# 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](http://www.stonesfieldparishchurch.org)

Stonesfield Churchwardens: Neil Melrose (891566) and Kate Harris (898781)

Combe Longa Churchwarden: Andrew Hobson (891273)

BCP=Book of Common Prayer: CW=Common Worship

## From your Parish Priest

I would like you to read some of a letter from our friend Canon J. John, who has something to say about our society today. Read it and see what you think. It is only part of the letter because it runs to 1000 words and I usually only write 500:

Like many people – including, it seems, the surviving cast of Monty Python's Flying Circus – I was intrigued by the comment of the BBC's 'Controller of Comedy Commissioning' when, referring to Monty Python, he said of comedy writing: 'If you're going to assemble a team now, it's not going to be six Oxbridge white blokes. It's going to be a diverse range of people who reflect the modern world.' Sometimes it's the little things that tell you that things are getting dangerous and sound a warning. Our culture is changing and

all of us need to watch where we stand.

It would be very easy to identify this extraordinary statement as another example of 'Political Correctness Gone Mad'. For a start, here it's not so much Political Correctness as its clumsy sister, Positive Discrimination. (It's a sign of the times that having written the phrase clumsy sister I feel a need to both apologise for any offence given to defend myself against sexism and to deny gender stereotyping).

The fact is that I'm actually a great believer in what we can summarise as PC/PD – up to a point. I believe deeply in standing up for people who are discriminated against and for celebrating multiculturalism. [J. John is a Greek Cypriot – RR.] In fact the founder of my organisation took a lot of hostility for getting close to those people his society preferred to keep

safely at a distance: women, lepers, prostitutes and those of dubious religious and ethnic backgrounds. I have no doubt that some people found it amusing that, having hung around with the wrong sort of people, he ended up being hung up with them. But that's enough about the church and Jesus.

Well actually not quite, because you could make a serious case that the origins of both Political Correctness and Positive Discrimination lie in the Christian faith where the phrase *There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus* (Galatians 3:28 ) was being preached right at the start.

However, let me share five things with the way PC/PD culture is going that concern me.

First, it seeks to enforce by external rules what should flow from attitudes. There are two ways of changing morality: by external pressure or internal change. We need to change lives first not change morality.

Second, although it has long outgrown its roots within Christianity, PC/PD culture has become something of a religion itself. It has become that most dangerous of things: a morality without a deity; an organisation that dispenses guilt without grace and persecutes without pardon.

Third, the focus of PC/PD culture is negative rather than positive. It seems to encourage people to see themselves as victims needing compensation rather than those who should strive

against the obstacles to make it to the top. It emphasises what has been done to us, not what we should do for ourselves.

Fourth, PC/PD culture lends itself to abuse. There is no surer way of removing someone from office than by the low whisper that they are guilty of Culture-Crime. There's a chillness in the air, reminiscent of Stalinism at its worst, in which everybody in the public arena constantly frets that they are going to be summoned before some tribunal and asked to account for some careless phrase.

Fifth, PC/PD culture prioritises its values above such vital things as competence and ability. I don't care about the ethnic make-up of a surgical team about to operate on me; I just want them to be qualified and competent.

So I understand the Python's unhappiness about being humourless about such things. Mind you, they should be grateful. If memory serves me well their comedies majored in jokes about transgendered individuals, men with non-standard locomotive ability and the callous treatment of recently deceased parrots. They should be grateful that they have not yet been charged with Culture-Crime, been asked to apologise for their sins and ordered to seek re-education and sensitivity training. They may yet have to do so!

What do you think?

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

*Rev Roy*

## SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

### Sunday 2 September [Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity]

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

### Sunday 9 September [Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity]

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

### Sunday 16 September [Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity]

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

### Sunday 23 September [Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity]

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

### Sunday 30 September [Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
10am	Combe Longa	United Benefice Communion [CW/sung]

### Sunday 7 October [Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity]

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

### Mid-week Communion Service [said]

Wednesdays 9.30am at Stonesfield. Everyone is most welcome

## Stonesfield Methodist Church

## SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

Sun 2	11am	The Revd Rose Westwood Holy Communion Service
Sun 9	11am	The Revd Melanie Reed
Sun 16	11am	Eddie Fowler
Sun 23	11am	To be arranged
Sun 30	11am	Ian Prince

Very recently a wedding was held here at

the Methodist Church. It was an incredible privilege to be part of such a wonderful occasion. The Bride and Groom sparkled and everyone listened spellbound to the promises they made to each other. Family, close friends and others, like me, stood in love and admiration.

God's love shone through too, He who sees us through the happy times and the difficult ones.



The Bible reading, Colossians 3: 12-17, read by a very proud family member, spoke these words: *You must clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.*

Read the rest for yourself, there's much more. Such wisdom is there for each one of us.

You may like to come and join one of the services here this month, all are very welcome.

Kathleen Albért

### Roman Catholic Worship Legacy

*The bread that I will give, says the Lord, is my flesh for the life of the world, John 6:51.*

What will be your legacy? Lovely children, maybe a beautiful house or perhaps you will leave aspects of your creativity in books you have written or pictures you have painted. Maybe your legacy will be how you have influenced others over the years; all important and all give testament to how you lived your life. One form of legacy is that of our witness, through our behaviour, to the greatest legacy of them all: that of Jesus Christ's gift of Himself through Holy Communion. Thus when Jesus sacrificed

himself for us on the Cross, He didn't leave us alone, but gave us, in the Holy Bread, a part of Himself that nourishes us spiritually for ever. By our behaviour we demonstrate that we lead authentic lives as Christians, and surely that is a great achievement to leave behind us.

### 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 are at 10am after morning Mass on Saturdays, and on request.

**Father Tony Joyce** can be contacted on [holytrinityrcchippy@gmail.com](mailto:holytrinityrcchippy@gmail.com) or telephone (01608 642703).

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#### Still Life Drawing

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#### Still Life Drawing

6 weeks, starts Friday, 28 Sep, 10–12.30 pm, Combe Reading Room

#### Saturday Drawing Workshops

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