

The Stonesfield Slate

Issue No 489 March 2019



Dates for your diary – March

1	World Day of Prayer, Methodist Church	2pm
4,11,18,25	Monday Coffee St James' Centre	8.45–10am
4,11,18,25	SJC Coffee St James' Centre	10–11.30am
6,13,20,27	Country Dancing Village Hall	8–10pm
7	Bingo SSSC	Eyes Down 7.30pm
7,14,21,28	BookBreak Stonesfield Library	12.30–2pm
11	Players Drama Group Village Hall	8–9.30pm
11	Timothy Walker talk St James' Centre	7.30 pm
13	Parish Council meeting Village Hall	7.30pm
14	Over 60s Club Village Hall	2pm
16	Players Quiz St James' Centre	7.30 pm
16	Music Day Folk Dance Village Hall	5.30–7.30pm
16	Band Night Free Fall SSSC	9pm
24	Stonesfield Spring Clean Meet SSSC	9am
24	Ken Sheffield Folk Dance Village Hall	2.30–5.30pm
25	Players Drama Group Village Hall	8–9.30pm
29	Pop up Café SSSC	from 9.30am



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Editor for March

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

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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*Snowdrops heralding the
spring*

Notices

Charlbury Medical Centre Retirement

Dr Helen Bayliss retired from the Practice at the end of January 2019. All patients who had Dr Bayliss as their named GP will be allocated a different GP and will be notified who that will be in due course. As always, patients are free to request appointments with a GP of their choice.

I am sure that Dr Bayliss's former patients will join me in thanking her for her care over the past 30 years and we wish her a long and happy retirement.

Ann Warburton

Great Stonesfield Spring Clean Reminder!

Sunday 24 March, 9am–1pm, SSSC
Please meet at Stonesfield Sports & Social Club (SSSC) from 9am for a hot drink and quick safety briefing, before we spring clean (litter pick) the village.

Please wear/bring with you: Suitable litter picking clothes/footwear, a hi-vis jacket, hard-duty/gardening gloves, a reusable tea/coffee cup, and anything else you think may be useful for picking and moving rubbish.

Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

We look forward to seeing you there!
Thank you in advance for your support.

Jess Huband, jesshuband@hotmail.co.uk / 898065

Dog mess

I live on the new development in William Buckland Way and recently someone has been walking their dog on the green space there and leaving dog mess every time they do. The children play out there so it's really not very nice. It would be very much appreciated to remind dog owners to do the responsible thing and clean up their dogs' mess.

Kym Ayres

Save the date!

The ever-popular Village Idiots are to play Stonesfield Village Hall on Saturday 27 April. Proceeds to go to Friends of Stonesfield School. Please save the date, details of tickets sales to follow.

FoSS

Fawler Toads

Another year, another procession of toads, we hope

They may begin to plod their journey at the end of February or they may be later, in March. It will depend on the weather: they like damp, moonlit nights without frost or wind.

If you see toad warning notices on the road to Fawler, please drive extra slowly. Remember that toads crawl not leap, and their safety reaction is to crouch and stay still, making them easily squashed by heavy tyres. Watch the road carefully as toads are well camouflaged. If you see one, don't be

afraid to pick it up gently: it won't hurt you, it's not nasty. Place it on the verge on the south side, the telephone box side, of the road.

Some new kind volunteers have offered to join the toad patrollers this year. If anyone else wants to join us, please telephone me.

Hilary Stacey (891267)

Christmas Shoebox Update

Samaritans Purse has informed us that the 50 shoeboxes they received from Stonesfield for Operation Christmas Child were among the 69,470 boxes which were distributed to children in Romania in time for Christmas. (Altogether 511,200 shoeboxes were distributed world wide.)

Do take a look at the website to find out more: www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/romania.

And, as it's never too early to start thinking about Christmas, all are welcome to come and have Tea and Cake on Saturday 9 March from 2.30pm to 4pm in the St James' Centre. You will be able to find out more about Operation Christmas Child, and, if you wish, collect an empty shoebox to start filling for next Christmas. There will be a Bring and Buy stall and a cake stall. All proceeds from this will go to Samaritans Purse to help with their shipping charges.

Muriel Barrett, Kate Harris, Kathleen Albert

Wychwood Whittling Event 9 April

Whittle wizard wands, a wooden 'wol', or whatever you wish! Begin to learn the art

of whittling green wood with David Knight. Starting with knife safety, sharpening and moving on to basic cuts and techniques, this is a three-hour session designed to whet your appetite and get you started. Green wood selected from the local woodlands will be supplied, as will all the tools and any protective equipment you need. Advice will be on offer should you wish to buy knives and sharpening stones.

This day-long event is split into two sessions: morning and afternoon. As a pair consisting of an adult and a child (8+), choose which session you would rather attend. First come, first served.

The event is held at Combe Mill, Blenheim Palace Sawmills, Combe OX29 8ET. Tea room available as required.

Morning Session:	10.00–13.00
Afternoon Session:	13.30–17.00
Cost:	£30 per Pair

Booking essential. To book your place: www.wychwoodproject.org or phone:(07584 262437) or email: (info@wychwoodproject.org) or Facebook: (www.facebook.com/WychwoodProject)

Contact on the day Toby Swift (07891 134804)

Vacancy

Village Hall Chair Person Wanted

The main role of the chair is to chair meetings of the trustees board.

Responsibilities include:

- Becoming a Trustee and Acting as a figurehead for the charity.
- Leading on the development of the

board and ensuring its decisions are implemented.

- Attending four quarterly meetings per year.
- Leading meeting discussions, keeping to time and agenda.
- Overseeing Property Management by helping support the main managed roles.
- Liaising with Core group to take urgent action between board meetings, when it isn't possible or practical to hold a meeting.
- Ensuring that the Management Committee functions properly, and runs smoothly.

Previous experience desirable but not essential

Jacqueline Carthew, Secretary & Booking Clerk for Stonesfield Village Hall (898919); Mailing address: 2 Friends Close, Stonesfield OX29 8PH; facebook.com/stonesfieldvillagehall http://stonesfield.info/stonesfield-life/venues/village-hall.php

Gluts & Gluttony – new supper club in Chipping Norton

Food writer and cook Kathy Slack, founder of award-winning blog Gluts & Gluttony and formerly of Daylesford Cookery School, is launching a seasonal pop-up feast on the last Friday of every month (give or take) to showcase the harvests from her organic kitchen garden. The next session is on Friday 1 March.

The menu will be a feast of 4 courses with veg at the centre. It's not vegetarian, but veg is the star of the show, supported by seasonal ingredients from local

producers. On the night, guests are welcomed with a seasonal cocktail and nibbles at 7:30pm. At around 8ish, everyone sits down at the communal table to a meal piled high on sharing platters full of vibrant colours and flavours. Throughout the evening Kathy talks about the food – how it's grown and cooked – and guests leave around 10:30pm.

At The Tea Set Cafe, 24 High St, Chipping Norton, OX7, from 7:30 to 10:30pm. £50 per person including welcome cocktail and 4 courses. BYO. Booking essential. Online ticket sales via www.glutsandgluttony.eventbrite.co.uk or email kathy@glutsandgluttony.com

Kathy Slack

Parking on the High Street

On Tuesday 12 February at 8.45am the parking in the High Street leading up to the school entrance was chaos.

Even after numerous reminders from the school to parents, asking people to refrain from parking there, plus the PCSO being called in to attend on numerous occasions to deter people from doing so, this is still an unnecessary daily occurrence.

All of the tenants in the Rose and Crown properties are aware that there is no on-street parking owing to the problems that parking along this road can cause, but sadly we now have had property damaged by cars parking up on the verges where all the water meter accesses are.

To ensure that no more damage is done, we need to ask people to be more considerate when parking on High Street,



Photo: Jacqueline Carthew

and not to park outside the Rose and Crown properties.

Stonesfield Community Trust

Eco Colour on Cloth

A weekend of Eco Textile Workshops with Nikola Orpen M.A.

I went on one of Nikola's workshops three years ago when I was living in Stonesfield and was inspired to start dyeing. I even planted up our Churchfields allotment with flowers, which I dried and have since used to dye wools for knitting. I've also had a lot of fun learning to use shibori resist techniques to create indigo patterns on silk and other materials.

I'm enthusiastic and keen to share this wonderful creative craft – so I'm helping Nikola to set up a weekend of workshops

in April. Have a look at her website to see examples of the effects that can be achieved, even with no previous experience.

Saturday 6 April, 10.30–4.30 at St James' Centre Stonesfield

Eco Printing using flowers and leaves. Students will learn how to make beautiful prints and patterns on cloth and paper by capturing colours directly from nature using contact printing and steam.

Sunday 7 April, 10.30–4.30 at Fusion Arts, East Oxford:

Indigo and Shibori (Japanese resist) Students will learn how to make up an Organic Indigo Sugar Vat (no nasty chemicals) and using Japanese shibori techniques will create exquisite and unique samples on cloth.

£65 per day with all basic materials provided. There will also be an opportunity to purchase some 'special' cloth and plain silk scarves to dye. Refreshments are provided all day – please bring something for lunch to share. It is not necessary to attend both days but it will be more fulfilling if you do. Both courses are suitable for all levels.

A reservation is necessary, as courses tend to book up quickly. For more information and to secure your place with a £20 deposit per day please contact Nikola on textatelier2@gmail.com

Nikola's Facebook page is [Textatelier](https://www.facebook.com/textatelier). Nikola's website is www.textatelier.com

The details are not completely finalised yet, so please check Nikola's website for any changes.

Liz Roberts (01865 714491; elicitrob@gmail.com)

Our transport scheme's future assured

Our appeal in last month's *Slate* was successful, with another five villagers volunteering to help. Two of them came to our Annual General Meeting, where a special thanks was made on your behalf to Nigel Collier, who is taking a break as a volunteer before back surgery. He has given more than ten years of help to Stonesfielders, with close to 300 lifts to surgeries, dentists and oculists in the surrounding ten miles.

So welcome to new volunteers Vivienne Kendall, Brian Jones, Sarah Folley, Dave Webster and Laura Preston. You will see my name as the person to telephone in this month's *Slate* for the last time. Next month's lifts will be organised by Vivienne Kendall, and after that by Margaret and Peter Hill and other SVTS members.

The scheme was set up in late 2008, and has given over 770 lifts since it began. A special thanks is due to our Treasurer,

Gillian Clarke, and to Simon and Jenny Haviland for ensuring our publicity in the *Slate*.

Peter Clifton

The North Oxfordshire Community Foodbank

Many thanks to all those who donate food to the Foodbank. Please carry on the good work.

The Foodbank is a voluntary group formed by members of local Christian churches. It provides food parcels to people within our area. There is a schedule of drivers who take the food weekly to the processing centre in Kidlington.

Please bear the Foodbank in mind when you do your shopping. Food should be placed in one of the boxes under the table just inside the church, which is normally open during the day. Tinned or packaged food is welcome.

Simon Haviland (891614)

Politics & local affairs

Stonesfield Parish Council Report CALA Homes

A four-day hearing will take place from 2 April at WODC, Woodgreen, Witney.

The Common

Our grateful thanks go to Richard Morris for all his hard work in looking after the Common. A new fence with three badger gates has been built on the south side. A further fence bordering the 'cricket pitch' area is being considered to prevent sheep from straying.

Great British Tidy-up

Sunday 24 March from 9am to 1pm is the date for tidying up Stonesfield.

The Sports and Social Club have kindly offered free tea and coffee plus the use of their toilet facilities for volunteers. Our thanks go to Jess Huband for organising this event so efficiently.

District, Town and Parish Council Elections Thursday 2 May

The Parish Council will be looking for three new Councillors at these Elections. If you are interested in having a say on running Stonesfield please contact the Clerk.

Timetable of Main Statutory Dates:

Tuesday 26 March: Last day for publication of Notice of Election

Wednesday 3 April (4pm): Last day and time for delivery of nomination papers and consent to nomination by hand to WODC, Woodgreen, Witney.

Wednesday 3 April (4pm): Last day &

time for delivery of notice of withdrawal of candidature by hand to WODC, Woodgreen, Witney.

Thursday 4 April (4pm): Last day & time for publication of Statement of Persons Nominated.

Friday 12 April: Deadline for receipt of applications to be included in the register for electors for the election.

Monday 15 April (5pm): Deadline for receipt of applications to vote by post, or from existing postal or proxy voters wishing to change their arrangements.

Wednesday 24 April: Last day for publication of Notice of Poll.

Wednesday 24 April (5pm): Deadline for receipt of applications to vote by proxy.

Thursday 25 April: Last day for the appointment of counting and polling agents.

From Wednesday 24 April (5pm): period for receiving applications to vote by emergency proxy,

to Thursday 2 May (5pm): necessitated by health or employment reasons which occurred after the ordinary proxy application deadline.

Stonesfield Village Hall

A Chairman is required as well as more Committee Members. Please, are there any of you in the village who care enough to keep the Village Hall going?

Working Group for SAFER

A Working Group has been formed to

represent SPC with the needs to control traffic in Stonesfield.

Dog Waste Bins

Please make sure dog waste goes into the Dog Waste bins and not the normal waste bins.

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 13 March at the Village Hall. All members of the public are welcome.

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

Stonesfield Parish Council Elections

If there are more than 8 candidates willing to stand there will be a SPC election in May this year. If not, there will be no election and democracy suffers.

As a retiring Councillor I urge public-spirited residents to give a thought to giving a bit back to help keep our village of Stonesfield great. It is a smashing place to live as can be judged by the length of time people remain rooted here but it needs a bit of help to stay that way.

The term of office is just 4 years and although powers are limited with most of the decisions resting with District, there is still plenty to get your teeth into. It is not over-whelming; one meeting a month and a few projects and issues to resolve between meetings. If there is a good team, the burden can be shared so it doesn't become a chore.

If it is something that may appeal, why not have a chat with one of the present Councillors or the Parish Clerk. You will

need to get your skates on as applications have to be in fairly soon.

Wendy Gould

West Oxfordshire District Council District Report

Homelessness has been much in the news lately, so it is good news that the District Council has purchased a large house in Chipping Norton to help resolve the problem. The property has been converted into single room accommodation for those who have nowhere to rest. It will come on stream early this month.

In rather a shock announcement, the Environment Agency has issued a warning that no river in West Oxfordshire is fit for swimming. Not one attracts the 'clean water' certificate. Pollution from escaping effluent and run-off from roads and fields seems to be the main culprits. There is now a debate as to what department or council is responsible for erecting notices for the public. Watch this space.

The popular free parking strategy existing in West Oxfordshire is under review. There is a particular review taking place in Woodstock, where parking is notoriously difficult. Our District is alone in offering free parking and consequently is coming under some pressure from neighbouring areas. Again, watch this space.

The Council Budget for 2019/20 will come before the full Council later in February. Recommendations are that council tax at Band D will rise by £5. In spite of this, the tax levied in West Oxfordshire is still the second lowest in England. This without any reduction in

number or quality of services to our residents.

Parish, District and County elections are due in May. Please ensure that you are on the Electoral Roll and remember to use your vote when the time comes.

Don't hesitate to contact me if there is anything I can do to help.

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

Council tax premium set to rise for long-term empty properties

Councillors have backed Government plans to increase council tax for long-term empty properties in the District.

At a meeting in January, Cabinet members recommended that the Long Term Empty Property Premium, currently set at 50 per cent, be increased to 100 per cent from 1 April for properties that have been empty for two years or more. From 1 April 2020 properties empty for five years or more will incur a 200 per cent levy and from 1 April 2021 those empty for 10 years or more will have to pay a 300 per cent premium.

Exemptions would include members of the armed forces, properties that are genuinely for sale or let and annexes.

More information: 01993 861615 / 861616 or communications@westoxon.gov.uk

Councillors back business rates relief

Hundreds of retailers in West Oxfordshire are set to benefit from business rates relief. WODC's Cabinet has supported a Government scheme which will cut retailers' rates by a third provided they have a rateable value of £51,000 or less. It

is estimated that 353 businesses in the District will benefit from the discount.

Further details are on the council website – www.westoxon.gov.uk/businessrates

From our MP, Robert Courts

Work to extend platforms at stations along the Cotswold Line has been progressing in recent weeks. Most platforms on the Cotswold Line will be lengthened to accommodate seven of the 26-metre-long coaches, allowing doors to be opened on six coaches of nine-car and ten-car IET formations when they call at the station in both directions.

Safe Places' in West Oxfordshire

A number of shops and businesses in West Oxfordshire now offer a 'Safe Place' for vulnerable people (such as those with dementia, learning disabilities or mental health needs) when they feel lost, worried or threatened while they're out and about.

Those who might need to use a Safe Place carry a card with the details of their chosen contact, and businesses who have signed up to the scheme display an easily visible sticker in their front window. When a person shows the business their Safe Place card, the business or shop will get in touch with their chosen contact and keep the vulnerable person safe until they arrive.

Businesses interested in joining the scheme can contact either Jennifer Bennett at West Oxfordshire District Council on 01993 861000 or the Safe Places co-ordinator, Kathy Liddell on 01993 358347.

robert@robertcourts.co.uk

Education & culture

Stonesfield Primary School

Reflecting back over this first half-term of Spring, it's the weather that triggers memories and in the last two weeks alone it feels as though the village has experienced every season. It's a glorious spring afternoon as I write this month – the sun has burned off the icy fog which hung low over the village this morning. Outside my window I can hear squeals of delight from our Forest School area and beyond that the sight of children jogging around the school field completing their Daily Mile. A week ago the gale force winds halted our plans for venturing outdoors – an extremely rare occurrence. A week before that our school site was blanketed in snow.

Deciding whether to keep the school open on that Friday was in some ways the hardest decision I've had to make in my short time as headteacher. The safety of our children and staff will always be my number one priority. However in other ways the decision was straightforward: our dedicated staff were committed to making the journey and the main roads were open and the village was accessible. The site was safe under a blanket of fresh snow and paths were cleared and salt laid for the safety of pedestrians. Closing the school would have serious implications for working families with a knock-on effect of childcare on their employment. Our duty was to carry on as normal and give the children a day of education (with time for an inter-class snowman competition!).

My vision for education at Stonesfield is to immerse children in life's big ideas and give them the knowledge and skills to grapple with, critically comment on and respond to these themes. This term classes are exploring the human impact on the environment, for example, the effect of climate change on polar regions and wildlife conservation projects in our rainforests. As our citizens of the future, with responsibility for tomorrow's world, children at Stonesfield are taught to face challenges with empathy, compassion and a sense of moral justice and purpose. We want children to be able to express themselves and their opinions but always in a respectful way using the appropriate medium. In a technological world, with social media on our phones at our fingertips, the importance and responsibility of effective discourse should never be underestimated and as adults we have a duty to model this behaviour for the next generation.

Ben Trevail

The Stonesfield Players St Patrick's Day Quiz

Okay, we are a day early but on Saturday 16 March we are staging another quiz night.

Drawing our inspiration loosely from Patrick and all things green and saintly, and featuring our legendary musical round, we can promise you an uplifting evening of fun and fascinating facts.

Hope to see you there.

When? Saturday 16 March
Where? St James' Centre
Time? 7.30pm
Teams of up to 6 players

*For more information contact:
andrew.tacon@outlook.com"*

ChOC

Sunday, 10 March at 7.30pm: *The Children Act*, Cert. 12 / 103mins, starring Emma Thompson and Stanley Tucci. In the midst of a marital crisis, a High Court judge must decide if she should order a life-saving blood transfusion for a teen with cancer despite his family's refusal to accept medical treatment for religious reasons. Memorial Hall, Charlbury. Doors & licensed bar from 6.45pm. Admission: Adults, £5 / U15s, £3.

Witney Music Society

The final concert of Witney Music Society's 2018–19 season will be given by Elena Urioste (violin) and Tom Poster (piano), who'll be playing sonatas for violin and piano by Richard Strauss, Ravel and Grieg, plus four shorter works. The concert is at 7.30pm on Friday 8 March at High Street Methodist Church, Witney. Tickets (£12, under 19 £1) will be available at the door from 7pm.

For more information please telephone 01993 702296 or visit the Witney Music Society website www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk

Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock

Friends of The Oxfordshire Museum Talk, 6 March, 7.30pm: *Children's experience of the Second World War in Oxfordshire* by Liz

Woolley, Oxford University. Visitors £4

School Holiday Family Fun

TOM Tots: Tuesdays 10.30–11am. Music, stories and rhymes for the under 5s. £1 per child / £2.50 per family

Family fun drop-ins:

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 2–4pm. Fun and creative activities for all ages. £2 per child, £5 per family. Free activity packs and trails are available to add to your family's enjoyment.

Those were the Days Reminiscence Session

Meet on the first Friday of the month 2–3.30pm. Share memories and enjoy good company. £1 per person, tea and coffee.

Woodstock Library

A full library service in The Oxfordshire Museum includes books, public access internet, activities, printing and photocopying.

The Library is staffed on Tuesday 10am–1.30pm, Wednesday 10–5pm, Thursday & Friday 11am–5pm, Saturday 10am–1.30pm.

Self-service facilities are available during Museum opening hours.

Community Education at the Marlborough School, Woodstock

Please check availability on our website or call the office to book classes. Our tutors are very friendly and look forward to welcoming you.

Celia Clark, Coordinator, (01993 813592; comed.4560@marlborough.oxon.sch.uk www.marlborough.oxon.sch.uk/commed)

Clubs & societies

1st Stonesfield Scout Group

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Bingo in December with fantastic prize donations as well as to everyone who gave generously to Santa's Sleigh visit, in partnership with Witney Round Table. Both events raised an amazing amount of money, which will go towards local charities as well as our new hut and scouting activities and equipment for the year.

Our Beaver colony has been having lots of science fun with their Experiment badge, their Health and Fitness badge while also learning about maps and compasses. They have welcomed a new leader and a D of E volunteer this winter.

The Cub pack has been carrying out various activities under the cover of darkness, including a Full Moon hike, night games, Burns Night and various camp craft activities as they plan for their county Cub Fest Camp in July!

Our Scout troop bravely camped near Banbury at the end of January, enjoying a weekend of winter sports with North Oxfordshire scout troops. They have been working on their pioneering skills this winter while planning for our 5-day camp in Dorset in April is well underway. Scouts carried out 2 fund-raising days backpacking in Waitrose and Sainsbury's, which not only raised over half the cost of the camp, but also saw the scouts helping their local community as well as being great ambassadors for the scout movement.

We're always looking for volunteers to help with fund-raising, admin., weekly meetings or one-off events, so do contact us at info@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk if you would like to get involved.

1st Stonesfield Scout Group

Sports and Social Club

The club will again be holding a pop-up café on 29 March, 9.30am to noon, Call in for a cup of tea or coffee or just a chat.

Ladies: the SSSC are looking for Dart players to join their team. If interested contact Sam Tomlin on 07984 603325. Games will be played on Tuesday evenings.

Brian Clarke

Stonesfield Folk Dance Club

March is going to be a special month for us, with the Stonesfield Music Day for musicians wishing to learn the intricacies of playing for folk dancing. It is a surprisingly popular day with musicians travelling long distances to join us. The day concludes with a public dance between 5.30 and 7.30pm on Saturday 16 March and we look forward to welcoming Stonesfield residents.

Later in the month on Sunday 24th we hold a dance in aid of Parkinsons UK with The Donkey House Band playing the tunes and dances of Ken Sheffield. Ken was a long standing member of both The Donkey House Band and Stonesfield Folk Dance Club and one of the best

known choreographers of our day. So another dance not to be missed!

Our regular club nights are on Wednesday from 8 to 10pm and we welcome all ages with or without partners.

For more information about us see www.stonesfieldfolkdance.danceorg.uk Or telephone Stewart Nicholls 01295-730271 or email stewart.nicholls@virgin.net

Stonesfield Gardening Club

The club's meeting in February was our AGM and we were very pleased to see a good turnout of members. The Treasurer's report showed a healthy balance in our account, and we voted to donate £200 to New Yatt Riding for the Disabled, having already made a donation to Bridewell Garden earlier in 2018.

Once the formalities were complete, we were pleased to welcome Keith Wellsted, who has been gardening organically for a very long time and who talked to us about the Art and Science of composting. He stressed the importance of giving back to the soil when our flowers, fruit and vegetables take so much out of it. It all made perfect sense that we should nurture our soil, in whatever way we can.

Our March meeting will feature Timothy Walker giving a talk called 'In the not-so-bleak Midwinter' which will look at the opportunities for bringing winter interest to the garden.

Diane Bates (diane@bateshome.co.uk; <http://stonesfieldgardening.info>)

Stonesfield Over 60s Club

We met for our February meeting on

Valentines Day, the Fog had cleared and the Sun was shining. Apologies had been received from a few members who were unable to be with us. We were happy to welcome three visitors who had come along for the afternoon and they plan to be with us again next month. We also welcomed David and Celia Woodfine. David came to tell us about his early life and brought along some copies of his books. He was born in Lancashire and eventually came to Stonesfield. David has been a good friend to our club and for the past few years has arranged our Christmas parties with the help of his good friend Steve.

He was thanked for being with us and entertaining us with his lively tales, he hasn't caught the local accent – he still sounds like a Lancastrian. At the end of his talk we gave him the date for the December lunch this year. Something for us all to look forward to.

Names were taken for the Fish & Chip lunch on 14 March at 1pm, which will be followed by a sing-along with Tessa & Paul. If you were unable to add your name to the list for lunch please ring either Diana 891392 or me a.s.a.p and before 7 March.

Everyone over 60 welcome. Best wishes,
Avis (898134)

North Leigh History Society

5 March: *Researching Family History*. Talk by Jessica Feinstein.

Turner Hall, Church Road OX29 6TX at 7.30 pm. Everyone is welcome. Visitors £4, Members free. Further details from Diana Power 01993 882301.

Sport

Stonesfield Football Club

I was thinking the other day that, given the way The Firsts are playing, it was going to be a season-long ding-dong battle between the Rice brothers to see who can win the most Fredo Awards. It seemed, at least to me, that no sooner did one brother win the accolade than he was outdone by the other. Predictions and football are fickle bedfellows: I thought I'd got it sussed, when up popped Reece Bayliss to prove me wrong with a glorious hat-trick in the 4-1 drubbing of Hailey Res in the 2nd round of The Watts Junior Cup. Mind you, the bold Raffy Rice also got his name on the scoresheet! This season for our boys just keeps rolling along and they remain undefeated in the league. Young Carry Rice kept up the family tradition of scoring hat-tricks with three goals in the 8-1 mauling of Eynsham at home. A great home win against Middle Barton (4-0) soon followed, leaving our boys 5 points clear at the top with 2 games in hand over the chasing pack of Moreton, Milton, Chad and Middle Barton. I don't want to jinx things but for them I suspect it will be a forlorn chase!

The Reserves haven't played a match since mid-January due to an unfortunate mix of inclement weather and unusual fixture scheduling. Unfortunately, their inaction has allowed the other teams to overtake them at the top of the league and they now sit in 4th place. To be honest, given their innate ability to let in as many goals as they score, it is probably

a more realistic position of where they might finish come the end of the season, despite the fact they are three points off the top with a game in hand. Hope I'm wrong though and that they emerge as champions come the start of May!

If you've reached this far and been paying attention you'll realise that we have two contenders for this month's Fredo. Young Carry Rice had a chance until his lovely Mum, Ursula, pointed out that she thought a hat-trick to win a cup match trumped a hat-trick in an easy league game. So, with no intended disrespect to Eynsham, this month's Fredo Award goes to Reece Bayliss for gunning down Hailey Res in The Cup and (just for once) putting the Rice brothers in the shade!

Tom Flanigan (891979)

Stonesfield Cricket Club

At last we've started practicing ready for the spring – our 10 week programme of indoor nets has commenced. The first session at Charlbury Community Centre was attended by a healthy 20 players, with a good turn out of U-15 talent. These sessions continue through March and early April every Sunday at 4pm, just turn up with £2.

We still need School year 7 & 8 players to sign up for the Under-13 team. Training will be every Tuesday at the field, and we have some fun matches scheduled for Thursdays in May & June. Training is just £1 per week and all equipment is

provided! Do please contact me to get your child involved in the fun.

*Stewart Moss (07866 278685;
stewmoss@hotmail.co.uk)*

Stonesfield Tennis Club

As many of you will be aware, a major refurbishment of the courts took place in 2017 and we now have two dedicated courts with a superb all weather artificial grass surface.

The courts are open all year round and can be used in all conditions except when there is a heavy frost. Court bookings are made through our online booking system.

Club nights are Friday, when players of all abilities are welcome to join in to play a social game of tennis or two.

Our membership year runs from 1 April to 31 March and memberships are now due for the 2019/20 season. Membership fees have not changed for many years and we are keeping them at the same level for the coming season.

Your subscription also gives you automatic membership of the Stonesfield Sports and Social Club.

Membership fees:
Juniors (under 16) £9, Adults £30,
Families £65.

If you would like to join, please email Richard Morris – zen100314@zen.co.uk – with your name(s), address and telephone number, together with confirmation of the type of membership

you are applying for and how you will pay.

Payment options:

Direct bank transfer preferred
Account name: Stonesfield Tennis Club
Sort code: 09-01-55
Account number: 6722 8703
Include reference: STC2019

OR cheques made payable to Stonesfield Tennis Club OR cash.

If paying by cheque or cash please send to Richard Morris, STC Treasurer, Prospect Cottage, Church Street, Stonesfield (898210)

Bowls

Saturday 28 April and Sunday 6 May
Open Days at the Oxbrew Bowls Green, 74 Ticknell Piece Road, Charlbury, OX7 3TW, from 2pm.

Enjoy a game of skill, but which anyone of any age can play? Like being outdoors, in a friendly and welcoming atmosphere? Looking for a summer sport or social activity? Or just want to find out what happens at a bowls club? Then come along to an open day and roll up a few bowls. All ages welcome. No obligation, but you might enjoy it and want to play more!

All equipment provided – just turn up and bring a pair of flat-soled sports shoes or trainers. For more information email enquiries@charlburybowls.co.uk or checkout our website at www.charlburybowls.co.uk

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 Kate Harris (898781)
Combe Longa Churchwarden: Andrew Hobson (891273)

BCP=Book of Common Prayer: CW=Common Worship

For pastoral help please contact the Rector

From your Parish Priest

The scripture reading from Ecclesiastes chapter 3 concerns what some might think of as talking about the inevitable rhythm of life. For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. I was asked to speak on this very passage for dear Geoff Green's funeral on 15 February. Geoff was coming up to his 101st birthday in June and we all expected that he would go on for ever. Dear Geoff seemed to be given the gift of immortality.

He lived a life of service and tried to benefit everyone he came in contact with. The passing of time over his long life never seemed to diminish his resolve to live the best life he could. He never swerved from his Christian roots of doing the very best by everyone and it showed. He was a great blessing to us all. We shall all miss his presence and his love not only on the streets of Combe but lately at

the Richmond Village Retirement complex.

It felt for many of us that even though Geoff had lived a full and worthy life before us it seemed far too short.

However, as the scripture reading tells us in Ecclesiastes chapter 3 there is always a time for everything to be accomplished. It reads like this:

- 1 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:
- 2 a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- 3 a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,
- 4 a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,
- 5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain,

6 a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away,

7 a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,

8 a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

I have a feeling that dear Geoff had accomplished all his saviour expected of him and it was time to be called home. It was for Geoff a time for peace. I know for sure that he departed this life in full assurance as to where he was headed.

I look forward to seeing him again, in his full vigour once again along with many more saints in our heavenly home

promised to us in John 14: 1-6.

So as we enter into a time of Lent let's honour the saviour, as dear Geoff did, and seek out our special gift to the ones we come in contact with.

Let's make it always a time to encourage, to love and to be loved. Let's make it a time of celebrating the presence of Christ in our lives and live life to the full, because Lent always leads us to the glories of the resurrection on Easter Sunday morning.

Hope to see you soon and as always,
D.F.T.W.

Rev Roy

SERVICES FOR MARCH

Sunday 3 March [Sunday next before Lent]

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

Wednesday 6 March [Ash Wednesday]

7.30pm	Stonesfield	Holy Communion
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Sunday 10 March [First Sunday of Lent]

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

Sunday 17 March [Second Sunday of Lent]

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

Sunday 24 March [Third Sunday of Lent]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [CW/sung]
9.30am	Combe Longa	Parish Communion [BCP/said]
11am	Stonesfield	Parish Communion [CW/sung]
6pm	Combe Longa	Evensong

Sunday 31 March [Fourth Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday]

8am Stonesfield Holy Communion [CW/sung]
9.30am Combe Longa All Age Worship
11am Stonesfield All Age Worship

Sunday 7 April [Fifth Sunday of Lent]

8am Stonesfield Holy Communion [BCP/said]
10am Stonesfield United Benefice Communion followed by APCM at 11am

Mid-week Communion Service [said]

Wednesdays 9.30am at Stonesfield. Everyone is most welcome.

Stonesfield Methodist Church

SERVICES FOR MARCH

Sun 3 11am The Revd Rose Westwood
Holy Communion
Sun 10 11am Robin Gurney
Sun 17 11am The Revd Melanie Reed
Sun 24 11am Mary Blow
Sun 31 11am Penny Fowler

Oh dear! more concerns here.

A large wall crack has appeared inside the Church and we all wonder what has caused this to happen so suddenly. Could it be the extremely hot weather of last summer or should I be blaming some over-zealous singing!

What's the saying, 'life is full of ups and downs', and at this moment I think it is, but this lovely old prayer comes to mind, written by Julian of Norwich, a gracious lady who held fast to her Christian life in

the bleak fourteenth century. Her gentle words put things right.

He didn't say,
you will not be troubled.

He didn't say,
you will not be laboured.

He didn't say,
you will not be disquieted.

But He did say,
you will not be overcome.

Do join a Service here soon. We look forward to welcoming you!

Kathleen Albért

Roman Catholic Worship
The unexamined life

Be still and know that I am God (Psalm 46:10)

'The unexamined life is not worth living', a comment made by Socrates in his trial for impiety in Athens 399 BC. Socrates'

life was dedicated to seeking truth as wisdom about life: how and why we live it the way we do. Socrates taught all his life that we should 'know thy self'. In other words to understand, at a profound level, our motivations, our impulses and our desires in order to create mastery over ourselves and therefore to become responsible for our actions. For Christians, knowing ourselves and our strengths, help us to overcome the temptations of life with God's endless help '... and an endless array of consumer goods at times leave no room for God's voice to be heard' (Pope Francis in his third apostolic exhortation: *Gaudete et exultate* 29, 2018). In other words to understand ourselves, we need to listen attentively to God's voice giving us direction and 'feedback' about our behaviour. In stillness and quiet we can hear the Lord giving us love, support, help and guidance, directing us to become His better people. 'Lord, grant me the gift of a listening ear and the wisdom to hear your voice saying; This is the way; walk in it.' (Isaiah 30:18)

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 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

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IS SPRING ON THE WAY?

Finally the days are drawing out a bit and it's starting to feel like Spring is just around the corner. Here are some dates for your diary:

Thursday 28 February

Due to the popularity of our Pie & a Pint Night we will be holding another in February. Once again we'll have a selection of homemade pies served with chips or mash, peas and gravy washed down with a pint, small glass of wine or soft drink for just £10.95.

Wednesday 6 March

Our 'White Horse Wednesday' Folk Night is another popular evening amongst musicians, poets and spectators alike. It is a very informal evening and always great fun. It starts at 8pm but arrive early to make sure you get a seat. You can always have a bite to eat while you wait.

Sunday 31 March

Mother's Day is coming up, so why not treat your mum to a meal with us and we'll treat her to a little bottle of Prosecco.

AND don't forget our Quiz Nights, every Tuesday night from 8pm.

Bar opening hours

Tuesday–Thursday 5pm–Close
Friday 12noon–3pm
5pm–Close
Saturday 12noon–3pm
6pm–Close
Sunday 12noon–3pm

Food served

Tuesday–Thursday 6pm–9pm
Friday 12noon–2.30pm
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