

# *The Stonesfield Slate*

Issue No 497 November 2019



## **Dates for your diary – November**

2	Quiz Night Fundraiser	SSSC	8pm
4, 11, 18, 25	Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	8.45–11.30am
6, 13, 20, 27	Country Dancing	Village Hall	8–10pm
7, 14, 21, 28	Book Break	Stonesfield Library	12.30–2pm
9	Players Quiz Night	St James' Centre	7.30pm
11	Royal British Legion	War Memorial	11am
11	Gardening Club	St James' Centre	7.30pm
13	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
14	Over 60's Bingo	Village Hall	2pm
14	Bingo	SSSC	Eyes down 7.30pm
16	Methodist Church Bazaar	St James' Centre	2–4pm
17	Alzheimer's Fundraiser	SSSC	12noon

## **Dates for your diary – December**

5	Christmas Bingo	SSSC	Eyes down 7.30pm
6	Scout Bingo	Village Hall	6.30pm
7	Christmas Market	Combe Mill	11am–4pm
7&8	Artists' Christmas Show	Grey Cat Studio	11am–5pm



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

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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*North Leigh Roman Villa's  
mosaic house was  
opened on 14 and 15  
September as part of  
English Heritage's Open  
Days weekend (see p.5)*

# Notices

## New publishers for the *Slate*

This issue of the *Slate* is the last that we will put together. After almost fifteen years we are handing the publishing over to Paul and Diane Bates. We know the *Slate* will be in competent hands and we hope they enjoy their tenure as much as we have enjoyed ours.

We would like to thank all those who offered to help keep the *Slate* going and we are grateful to Richard Morris, who produced the October issue and will do the next (December/January). And we thank all those who give of their time to keep the show on the road – the contributors, editors, bundlers and deliverers – and our loyal advertisers.

*Simon and Jenny Haviland*

## We Will Remember Them

Please join the Royal British Legion and others at the War Memorial on Monday 11 November at 11am.

## Thanks

I would like to thank everyone for all the kind messages, cards, and gifts you sent and gave to me for my very special birthday.

*Judy Oliver*

## Friends of Stonesfield School

A huge thank you to everyone who came to the village fete last month and made the day such a big success. Not only was

a fun time had, over £2,000 was raised for the school!! Thank you to all of the following:

\* Stonesfield Scout Group for the loan of their marquee and other equipment, and for supporting the fete with the climbing wall.

\* Stonesfield Sports and Social Club for the loan of their marquee.

\* Cathy Taylor for organising the BBQ – again!

\* All the bakers for their delicious contributions to the tea tent.

\* The Governors for running the Candy Floss stall, thank you for getting so sticky!

\* Henderson:Hooper, L'amusette, Mr Kumar's Taekwondo group, and Marina Seekers for providing the entertainment.

\* Claire and Chris Davies for organising and running the art tent.

\* Rob Suriano for organising and running the excellent 'learn to cycle' sessions.

\* Hannah Francis Ball for organising and running the children's disco.

\* Rich Jones for formatting the programme and to all the local businesses who advertised within it.

\* To all the stall holders and thank you to all of the volunteers who helped with set-up and breakdown, or completed a stint on the Bar, BBQ, Tea Tent, Jolly Jars & Tombola, Candy Floss, Bouncy Castle,



and Show Tent, THANK YOU! The Fete would not run without you

*FoSS*

### **Stonesfield Players Quiz Night Saturday 9 November**

The Players are pleased to present another of their popular quiz nights. This time it's the 'Six weeks to Christmas Quiz' with a range of seasonal and other questions loosely linked to this theme.

The quiz will be held in the St James' Centre starting at 7.30pm with a £3 entry fee payable on the door. Free nibbles, plus a cash bar.

Looking forward to seeing many of you on 9 November. For further information, please contact Andrew Tacon.

*Andrew Tacon (01993 891217,  
Andrew.tacon@outlook.com)*

### **Bazaar Time!**

The Methodist Church Bazaar will be held on Saturday 16 November, from 2 to 4pm at St James' Centre. There will be gift stalls, cakes, raffles, cream teas, and even more! If you have any items you wish to donate, please do, they will be greatly appreciated.

Do come and support the Bazaar! Should you need transport on the day, just get in touch.

*Kathleen Alb  rt (01993 891733)*

### **Village Hall News**

After a quiet start to the autumn, we would like to extend a big welcome back to Beavers, who will be back inside for the winter from this month onwards.

We need to have a think about how we are going to move forward with the hall,

as in January it will be two years since we last had a chairman in place on our committee. We have a lovely group of trustees who are a great support, but we do need someone to steer the group.

The village hall has been a busy addition to the community for a long while, with lots of regular activities running every week. However, there is potential for it to be a lot more, with exciting events and functions running more regularly, if only we could free up some time to plan and organise them.

Many hands make light work, join us and let's see what we can achieve!

*Jacqueline Carthew, Secretary & Booking Clerk for Stonesfield Village Hall  
(facebook.com/stonesfieldvillagehall;  
stonesfield.info/stonesfield-  
life/venues/village-hall.php)*

### **Stonesfield Community Trust**

Sadly, despite our constant notices over the last year, offering to do a Community Christmas Lunch at the Village Hall on Christmas Day, there has been very little interest from anyone wishing to attend. As a result, we have decided that we will not go ahead with our plans for this year. We are hoping, on a positive note, that this is because most of our lovely community will be with friends and family on Christmas Day, so there is no requirement for such an event at this time. However, we may look at it again if we feel that there is a need in the future.

We would also like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to all the lovely people who volunteered to assist us, as although there were no

takers for the lunch itself, there were a lot of kind offers to help.

*Jacqueline Carthew (07896847722 or  
jacquelinecarthew@gmail.com)*

### **Christmas Market at the Mill**

**7 December 11am–4pm**

Enjoy some stress-free shopping at our wide range of visiting stalls, at a traditional Christmas Market. Join in with the carol singing and enjoy seasonal refreshments in our tearoom, including hot chestnuts, mulled wine sponsored by our neighbours, The Burnside Partnership solicitors. This is our last fundraiser of the year and we would really value your support. You could be the lucky winner of some fabulous prizes by buying raffle tickets for our grand draw.

The restoration work at Combe Mill continues over winter and, as always, our volunteer team will be ready for all your questions about the Mill. Catch up with the latest developments and ask us about volunteering at the Mill. Free entry and free parking for all. Dogs are welcome as usual.

Here are some dates for your diary for next year:

15 March 2020 – first steaming day of the new season.

19 April 2020 – ‘Combe Mill at War’ – A trip back to the 1940s home front.  
(Booking required)

Keep up to date with news and events by visiting our website:  
<https://www.combemill.co.uk/>

*Tony Simmons (01993 891851)*



## Local Artists' Christmas Show

Grey Cat Studios is opening its doors once again for this very popular Christmas show on 7 and 8 December, given by six local artists: Rachael, Rebecca and Griselda Sherlaw-Johnson, Kerry Burniston, Jenny Lines, and Ann Lowe. A chance to look at new work, enjoy a chat and some refreshment, and select unique Christmas gifts from a broad selection of paintings, prints, textiles, jewellery, and crafts.

The studio is open between 11am and 5pm on both days. Grey Cat Studio, Woodlands Rise, Stonesfield.

*Becki Sherlaw-Johnson*

## Shared Lives Scheme

The Shared Lives Scheme matches people who need additional support to be independent and live on their own with carers and their families. Sharing a family's life means people who need support can choose to become part of an ordinary household, instead of staying in residential care or being looked after by a team of support workers.

Could you open your home to someone who needs your help and support, whether it's for occasional stays or full-time? Become a Shared Lives Carer in a paid, home-based role. For more information go to [oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlives](http://oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlives)

*Lucy Bates, Marketing Officer,  
Communications Team, Corporate Services,  
Oxfordshire County Council (07393  
001248 or [LucyA.Bates@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:LucyA.Bates@oxfordshire.gov.uk))*

## North Leigh Roman Villa

North Leigh Roman Villa's mosaic house was opened on 14 and 15 September as part of English Heritage's Open Days weekend. The warm, late summer weather meant that over 400 people enjoyed the beauty of the second and third century AD North Leigh site in glorious sunshine. A new group of volunteers from a range of neighbouring villages, working with English Heritage, staffed the open days. Their plan is to begin a regular pattern of openings for the mosaic in summer 2020.

The first open days by North Leigh Roman Villa Volunteers proved very encouraging. Visitors were delighted to see the mosaic, sometimes for the first time up close, sometimes having waited many years to do so. The open days doubled the numbers of people wishing to volunteer at the site, and raised to over 50 the number of 'Friends' of the villa who left a contact email in order to stay informed about future openings and events on site. Donations to improve the site for visitors raised £126. All told a brilliant result on a lovely weekend.

To become a 'Friend' of North Leigh Roman Villa and be kept informed of future openings, please contact Matthew Lee on [52woodlinn@gmail.com](mailto:52woodlinn@gmail.com).

*Matthew Lee*

## Thank you for your patience

A little note to say thank you to the gracious families on The Ridings and Cockshoot Close who showed great patience with the very large truck and the crew as we moved back into our lovely house. Singapore was warm, but

the Stonesfield welcome home was even warmer.

*Janet Kettels and James Richmond*

### **Oxfordshire Performers Club**

If you are learning an instrument, it can be quite difficult to find occasions where you can perform. Every six weeks or so, there are informal concerts where any adult amateur musician, who has a piece of music to offer can perform, without the pressures of a formal concert.

The sessions are really friendly and relaxed: those of us who have chosen to play at a particular session perform to each other, friends and family, followed by an excellent socialising session fuelled with tea and cake. For more experienced players, it is also a useful forum for trying out pieces before performing them in public.

If you enjoy playing an instrument at an amateur level and want to meet other musicians, please get in touch at [www.oxfordshireperformerclub.co.uk](http://www.oxfordshireperformerclub.co.uk)

*Rosie Barker*

### **Concert in St Mary's Church, North Leigh**

The Friends of St Mary's North Leigh are holding a concert in the church on

Friday 15 November at 7pm. There will be a varied programme of music to appeal to all. The venue will be warm and welcoming with great acoustics and a perfect ambience for the music.

The concert features an organ recital by Mr Gabriele Damiani, former Organ Scholar of Westminster Cathedral and the Chapel Organist at St Edward's School in Oxford. It will include works by Bach, Clarke, Torelli, and Walond with some pieces involving organ-trumpet duets. Our trumpet player will be Mr Richard Powell, also of St Edward's School.

There will also be three well-known pieces by the Evenlode Saxophone Quartet, and some choral items by St Mary's choir. We hope that this will provide an entertaining and varied programme of music to appeal to all tastes.

Wine, fruit juice, and nibbles will be for sale at the interval, and tickets will be available at the door, costing £5.

Please do come along and enjoy an evening of fine music, while helping to raise funds to maintain the fabric of our beautiful historic church for the benefit of future generations. For further details:

Harry St John ([hetstjohn@gmail.com](mailto:hetstjohn@gmail.com))  
<https://www.northleighchurch.org/friendsofstmmarys.htm>)

# Politics & local affairs

## **Stonesfield Parish Council (SPC) SAFER Working Group – Report from Cllr M Heduan**

Community Speed Watch (CSW) Surveys continue in Stonesfield, all of which have been well supported by the SAFER team. Whilst no vehicles have been recorded travelling at 36mph or above, residents have shown overwhelming support for what SAFER is doing. The sight of the SAFER team in their Hi-Viz jackets seems to have a beneficial calming effect on Stonesfield traffic.

### **A44 junction with B4437**

A meeting took place at the Duke of Marlborough pub on 25 September. Present were Cllr Ian Hudspeth, Linda Bull, Patrick Willmore, Lindsey Thornton, and Cllr Mick Heduan. The concerns of Stonesfield residents were explained to Cllr Hudspeth, with examples of the anecdotal comments from *NextDoor*.

### **Transport Hub**

A meeting has been requested with Blenheim Estates to better understand the so-called 'Transport Hub' for the Blenheim Estate.

### **Dog fouling**

There are continuing reports of dog fouling on the playing fields and around the village. Please can people be reminded to clear up after your dogs. Fines can be imposed and people will be reported if seen. The dog warden has been made aware.

### **Sustainable Stonesfield / CALA Appeal**

Our solicitor explained that the process

for the appeal is that a single judge in the High Court looks at the papers and acts as a sifting mechanism. It is confirmed that he has rejected the grounds of appeal. It is open to CALA to serve notice that they wish, nonetheless, to go to the full court to argue the matter in open court. At this stage we have no further update.

### **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

Cllr David Brown advised that there are calls for the AONB to be a National Park. However, an MP wants the AONB to be reviewed as he feels it is too big a meaning for the AONB. No confirmed updates, but something that we will continue to monitor.

### **Allotments**

Allotment holders have been contacted for their annual payments. There are still allotment spaces available.

### **Next meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting is on Wednesday 13 November at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

*Parish Clerk (clerk@stonesfieldpc.uk)*

## **West Oxfordshire District Council**

There have been some interesting developments at District recently. Firstly, a new post at Cabinet level has been created with the portfolio holder being responsible for developing a strategy for Climate Change. David Harvey becomes the new cabinet member. As this is a vitally important and relevant area, his

work will help to bring West Oxfordshire into the forefront of a global and national debate.

Council has also developed an amended Council Plan for the ensuing years. It concentrates on several aspects of life in the Oxfordshire Cotswolds, including the provision of necessary housing of types to suit a wide range of residents. The plan takes to heart the depressing fact that a prospective house purchaser on the average wage for Oxfordshire would need to spend more than 60% of his wage to purchase a single-bed flat. Consequently, there is a real need to make 'affordable' properties much more affordable than is possible under the national scheme of a reduction of 20% on the market value. Blenheim Estates have gone some way towards this goal, but much more needs to be done. 'Pods' for example, for single people or couples?

Electric vehicle charging points are included in the plan. District has designated three areas and has put them out to tender. So far there are at least two firms interested in each of the areas. It is interesting to note that an average charging point attracts installation costs of around £5,000.

The notion of re-classifying the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty as the Cotswold National Park is receiving a very mixed response. Farmers in the area are unconvinced of the benefits and fear the effects of a widespread increase in visitors, both pedestrian and vehicular. Others, too, find it difficult to appreciate the potential advantages.

By the time you read this, our 'Water Day' will be over. The two main institutions concerned, Thames Water and the Environment Agency, will once again have been subjected to the ire of West Oxford's residents. I guess they will once again have promised to do better and more to improve our water quality and our waste disposal. Am I really optimistic? Well . . .

Also, hopefully, the long-awaited Brexit solutions may be announced. Again, are we confident? . . . ! They say 'All things come to those who wait.' We have waited, but will we receive?

*Richard Bishop (01993 891414;  
richard.bishop@westoxon.gov.uk)*

### **From our County Councillor Woodstock Library**

Oxfordshire County Council is committed to keeping a library facility within Woodstock and options need to be considered. Whilst the current size of the temporary facility is not as large as previously, the opening hours have increased by nearly 50%, giving more opportunity for residents to use the library. There have been some innovative local co-locations in Charlbury and Wood Green in Banbury, which have increased the library hours even more. I think it's worth visiting either or both of those libraries to see what can be achieved by co-location with other facilities.

*Cllr Ian Hudspeth (07956 270318  
Ian.hudspeth@oxfordshire.gov.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

**Manager: Debbie Wilson**

## Summer fete

Firstly, I'd like to say a tremendous thank you to the Friends of Stonesfield School (FoSS) for organising a fantastic summer fete last month. I know how much time, effort, and energy was spent by a dedicated team of parents to organise and run the event. And what an event it was! A lot of fingers were crossed, the rain held off (apart from the torrential rain during the setting up the night before!) and the village came out in force. Many thanks to everyone in the village who came, supported, and made the fete the friendly, community event we were all hoping for. The excellent news is that the fete raised over £2,000. At a time when school budgets are at crisis point, every extra funding makes a real difference to the opportunities we can provide our children. At the FoSS AGM last week it was agreed how funds would be spent:

- Interactive touchscreen board for a classroom
- Sensory resources for pupils with special educational needs

- Early reading books specifically targeting phonics phases being taught in class
- Resources to enable high quality learning experiences in our Year 1/2 class

## Invitation to new parents

If your child is due to start school in September 2020, we would love to invite you to have a tour of our friendly, nurturing, and inclusive school. Our children enjoy a wonderful start to their school life and you are welcome to spend some time in our Reception class with your child. Please contact the school office to make an appointment: [office.2353@stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.2353@stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk) or phone 01993 891687.

We also have places in all year groups and would love to welcome your child to Stonesfield.

## Parent governors

We currently have vacancies for two parent governors. Being a school governor can be extremely rewarding by supporting the school with its strategic development. If you are a parent of a child at our school and are interested or would like more information, please contact Sandy Hayes, Co-chair of governors: [shayes2353@stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:shayes2353@stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk)

*Ben Trevail, Headteacher*

## The Oxfordshire Museum Exhibition

Until 10 November: *An Earthly Paradise: William Morris and the Thames*

Last chance to see this intriguing exhibition exploring Morris' close relationship with the River, in particular the inspiration it provided for his textile designs. The exhibition features original designs and printed fabrics on loan from the V&A and other collections. Also featured are rarely seen personal items including Morris' glasses, pipe, and fishing equipment.

#### **Exhibition lecture:**

#### **9 November 2.30pm: *William Morris: A Life in 10 Objects***

William Morris was one of the most prolific and influential figures in British design history. Morris' designs and political beliefs continue to be relevant and inspirational today. In this lecture, Ainsley Vinall, of the William Morris Gallery, London, charts Morris' life and work through ten key objects, focusing on what they can tell us about his art, his ideas, and his enduring global significance.

Tickets £8 are available from the Museum. Unfortunately, we are unable to take payment by phone, but tickets can be reserved in advance. Telephone 01993 814106.

#### **The Oxfordshire Craft Guild – Christmas Selling Exhibition**

**16 November – 29 December**

Featuring many of the county's leading contemporary craft designers and makers – the perfect place to find that special Christmas gift!

#### **Friends of The Oxfordshire Museum: monthly lecture**

6 November: Roy Cox, Estates Manager, Blenheim Palace, talks about the Palace lake dredge and bridge repair.

Lecturers are free for Friends or £4 for visitors. Doors open 7pm. Lectures start at 7.30pm

#### **Reminiscence sessions: *Those were the days, do you remember . . . ?***

A monthly group for people to meet and reminisce about the past and share memories.

Friday 1 November: *Shops and shopping – How our High streets have changed, what are the shops you miss?*

The Coach House, 2–3.30pm, £1 per person includes tea & coffee. Further details telephone 01865 300639

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

Our new 2019–20 programme is now available! See the Marlborough School website for full details of courses, with latest availability. We have lots of new workshops like watercolour techniques, archery, wet felting introduction, etc.

We have a wide range of weekly courses available as well, such as, book club or Reiki and our friendly classes are a great way to meet people and pick up a new skill or indulge an existing one. We hope we can welcome you soon.

You can enrol by email, post or phone. We look forward to welcoming all our students – new and existing – to Marlborough School Community Education.

comed.4560@marlborough.oxon.sch.uk  
www.marlborough.oxon.sch.uk/commed  
or (01993 813592)

# Clubs & societies

## Stonesfield Sports & Social Club

A big thank you to all those who supported the Macmillan Coffee Day – an amazing £360 was raised. Also thanks to Veronica Hall for manning the fort, and to those who made or donated cakes.

The club is holding two fundraising events during November. On 2 November, we are holding a Quiz night, starting at 8pm, to raise funds for treatment for Shania Phipps who has Hypophosphatasia. On 17 November, there is a sponsored Head Shave for the Alzheimer's Society United against Dementia starting at 12noon. There will be bacon buns and a raffle. Please come along and support both events. Non-members welcome.

On 14 November, there will be Bingo! Eyes down at 7.30pm.

*Brian Clarke, Sports and Social Club*

## Stonesfield Gardening Club

October's meeting was a real treat, with Chrissie Harper from the village's 'Chrissie's Owls' talking to us about her bird sanctuary charity. She brought with her two delightful animals. A barn owl who flew silently across the room to collect her supper and swallow it whole, and a Canadian Horned owl who sat gazing at us from his perch on Chrissie's arm, occasionally showing us his huge wings and cooing gently into her ear. We heard about her trips out at night to rescue owls and her method of



*A Canadian Horned Owl shown at the Gardening Club by Chrissie Harper of Chrissie's Owls*

rehabilitating them back into the wild. It was all very interesting.

This month's meeting will be a talk by Rob Jacobs of Waterperry Garden on 11 November at 7.30pm at the St James' Centre.

*Diane Bates (diane@bateshome.co.uk stonesfieldgardening.info)*

## Stonesfield Folk Dance Club

We continue to meet every Wednesday evening and on 6 November we welcome Diana Triplow to call the dances. Diana will be calling mainly Playford or Playford Style Dances from the 17th century to date. These are the dances you may see in a Jane Austen TV Drama. The following week we welcome Ted Morse to

call with John Graham and The Quarry Turners. Ted is sought-after nationally as a caller, and he will call a mixed programme of dances to maybe include some squares and more lively Contra Dances. On Wednesday 20 November, we have an exciting new caller, Carolinne White, with The Donkey House Band. Then on the 27 November, we have Doreen Crewe calling with The Quarry Turners playing.

Please come along and join us, no need to bring a partner. For further information see [www.stonesfieldfolkdance.danceorg.uk](http://www.stonesfieldfolkdance.danceorg.uk) or visit Facebook.

*Stewart Nicholls (01295 730271 or [stewart.nicholls@virgin.net](mailto:stewart.nicholls@virgin.net))*

### **Stonesfield Over 60's Club**

Our October meeting began with the autumn/harvest lunch with jacket potatoes, etc. After the main meal, we did our best to understand some Yorkshire dialect as per Alan Titchmarsh. Of the 50, some were reasonably easy to understand, others not so. Nevertheless we had fun trying. As usual there were a few notices. The Bring and Buy in order to raise a little extra for our funds was quite amazing and a 'big thank you' goes to everyone. On 14 November, we will have our Annual Bingo at 2pm. Names will be taken for the Christmas party on the 12 December.

*Avis*

### **1st Stonesfield Scout Group Amazing people wanted!**

The Scout Movement is frequently in the national news. While this is often in a positive light, with ambassadors like Bear Grylls or the Duchess of Cambridge, last

month, sadly, it was the shortage of adult volunteers in scouting at an all-time high, which featured in the headlines.

In Stonesfield, we are very fortunate to have a lively scout group of 70 young people, with a Beaver, Cub, and Scout section in the village, as well as several local Explorer units nearby. Our catchment area is huge, however, covering Woodstock, Combe, and several other surrounding villages – our waiting list clearly reflects this.

The first section of the 1st Stonesfield Scout Group was registered in 1948, and since then, the group has grown and provided decades of amazing experiences for many young people, some of whom still live in the village and are now taking part again as adults.

Just as important as working with the young people at their weekly meetings, camps, and activities, is all the work that goes on behind the scenes. This work is done by the Scout Executive Committee, which comprises a GSL (Group Scout Leader – whose role is to manage and support the group and its leaders to ensure it runs effectively), a chairperson, a treasurer, a secretary, and various other roles, including section representatives, a fundraising committee, and event organisers, without whom the group would not function.

In recent years, membership of our Exec has diminished, and the section leaders have gradually taken on much of the running of events, in addition to the weekly meetings.

We no longer have a GSL, our treasurer is due to leave at the next AGM, and the scout hut is about to be demolished,



requiring a team of people to manage the new build as well as to fundraise for it. And as if that weren't enough, section leaders are covering the recent departure of the Cub leaders between them. All of these roles are essential to the future of the group – without them the group will close!

If you would like to be part of this lively, exciting group of adults and young people, if you have the skills or experience for a particular task or role, or you just have some free time to help in any way, and above all, if you have an interest in working for or with the young people in our village, please get in touch.

Scouting is a way of life, a different outlook – come and join us!

*1st Stonesfield Scout Group  
(info@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk)*

## Witney Music Society

Award-winning double bass player, Toby Hughes and pianist, Daniel King Smith, will give the second concert of the new season. Works by composers including Bottesini, Schumann, Desenclos, and Brahms.

The concert is at 7.30pm on Friday 8 November at High Street Methodist Church, Witney.

Tickets (£12, £1 for under 19s) will be available at the door from 7pm or in advance online or in person from Greenway Antiques or Rapture in Witney. For more information, please telephone 01993 702296 or visit the Witney Music Society website [www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk](http://www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk)

*Jean Richards, Programme Secretary*

## Combe ADVENTures - Thursdays in Advent 8 pm

**For everyone – Stonesfield, and Combe and beyond!**

### **Bach & Blankets | 28 November | Combe Hub**

Advent is a time to sharpen your senses and start listening. Let J S Bach's cantata BWV 61 help you prepare for this special season – come to be quiet and just listen. Please bring a blanket or cushion to get comfy.

### **Babies & Beginnings | 5 December | Combe Church**

Advent is a time of waiting. This evening will help to remind ourselves who we are waiting for, and find some new depth of what Christmas is all about.

### **Mulled wine & MOTs | 12 December | Combe Church**

Advent is a time of preparation and an opportunity to have a closer look at our lives – a personal MOT – followed by mulled wine.

### **Mr Larrybee's Lighthouse & other stories | 19 December | Reading Room**

Advent is a time to enjoy and share with others. Come and hear this special story to get you into the spirit.

# Sport

## Stonesfield Football Club

The massed ranks of the splendid Stonesfield support were in raptures recently, when Chairman Brian Clarke announced, at the 11th hour of transfer deadline day, that he had signed the former Stoney hero, Nick Higgs, to don the Stoney blue shirt once again and the dynamic midfield maestro hasn't disappointed on his return. A home debut in The Fred Ford Cup saw Nick cement victory (2-0) against a stubborn Siege FC (from Div 2) with the second goal, after young Carry Rice had given our boys the lead. Nick will add some hard graft and a veteran's vision to the guile and pace of the Rice boys up front. It's early days, but those Rice boys look up for it this season and if their first home league victory against Spartans is anything to go by they could be sensational in the Premiership this season. Spartans, with title aspirations themselves, were ruthlessly put to the sword as Carry(1) and Raffy(2) paved the way in a fabulous 4-1 win. Not to be outdone, James Little scored an absolute beauty, leaving the home support purring with a mixture of anticipation and excitement at the prospects for the season ahead.

The Reserves made a fantastic winning start to their first campaign in Div 3 for many, many years with a 5-1 opening day win away at FC Mills. A Raffy Rice pen followed by goals from Shaun Kemp, Lewis Day and a couple from Liam Harris completed the rout! The next two games are, maybe, a better barometer of how

our boys will fare this season with narrow defeats away at Kingham (3-2) and at home to Chadlington (2-1). In the later match they took the lead before they conceded two goals to a Chad side that went up as champions last season and the lessons are clear: they have to defend better and turn those defeats by the odd goal, into draws or even wins. Having said that I think it is clear that they are up for the challenge this season and are competing well. League survival is the name of the game for our Reserves and I am quietly confident they'll do that when May comes round next year.

No history lesson this month as The Fredo has been won! The Rice boys have been scoring for fun, but it is maybe a sign of their success that they've been over-looked this month in favour of the old-timer Nick Higgs. With his handsome twin watching on, jealously, from the sidelines, Nick put in a masterly performance to ease our Firsts to victory over Siege in the cup. Typical of Nick, he talked up the team's performance rather than dwell on his own magnificent, selfless, contribution and for that alone he deserves the first Fredo of the season. Step forward our returning hero, The Fredo has your name (maybe, even your face) on it!

*Tom Flanigan (01993 891979))*

## Stonesfield Cricket Club

We recently concluded the 2019 season with our usual Awards Presentation

Dinner, again at the White Horse.  
Winners were as follows:

Andrew Crawford Clubman of the Year –  
Stewart Moss

1st XI Players Player – Dan Farrant

1st XI Batsman – Jamie Burns

1st XI Bowler – Tom Gubbins

1st XI Champagne Moment – George  
Redknap v Marsh Gibbon

1st XI Duck – Dan Farrant

1st XI Bucket – Tim Wyatt

2nd XI Players' Player – Dan Taylor

2nd XI Batsman – Stewart Moss

2nd XI Bowler – Dan Taylor

2nd XI Champagne Moment – Pete Searle  
v Chippy Norton 2nds

2nd XI Duck – Liam Hatton

2nd XI Bucket – Michael Franklin

Ben Redknap Young Player of the Season  
– Josh Davies

Fantasy Cricket Champion – Ben Hayes

Bat Raffle Winner – Ben & Sam Tomlin

### **Stonesfield Tennis Club**

The tennis club enjoyed an active spring and summer with membership higher than it has been for many years.

On the coaching front we arranged a 6-

week programme with separate sessions for three junior groups and an adults' session. The adult and youngest junior sessions were fully subscribed, but we could have done with greater numbers in the other two sessions. However, the feedback was that everyone who took part enjoyed the programme. The plan is to run something similar next year, so watch out for further information on this in the new year.

On the match front, we once again participated in the Wychwood League with home and away matches against the other four clubs in the league, Ramsden, Charlbury, Bourton-on-the-Water, and Chipping Campden. Competition for the lower positions was tight with only 5 points separating four teams, but the clear winners this year were Chipping Campden, some 40 points ahead of second place.

Unfortunately, our end-of-season Wychwood League one-day tournament coincided with the break in the fine September weather and heavy rain caused it to be abandoned part way through.

Although summer is officially over, the courts remain open and available to play throughout the autumn and winter and there's plenty of capacity, so no excuses to not keep playing!

*Andrew Tacon*  
([Andrew.tacon@outlook.com](mailto:Andrew.tacon@outlook.com))

# 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

*For pastoral help please contact the Rector*

### From your Parish Priest

I sometimes share with you letters sent to me by an old friend, the Reverend Canon J. John. He sent me this letter a few days ago and I would like to share with you an abridged version because his letter was 1,000 words long and I only have 500.

The subject of his letter was to encourage us all about keeping the faith. He set out ten priorities that you and I could practice in our lives. They were:

#### 1 Prioritise God and His word

He said it sounds old fashioned, but there are no short cuts with regard to connecting with God in our lives. He and his wife Killy read scripture together in the morning and then last thing at night. His idea is that God is the vine and we are the branches and we need to keep connected

#### 2 Prioritise Godly thinking.

It tells us in the book of Matthew to love the Lord your God with all your heart. (Matt 22: 36–37). I take this to mean that we are to love God with our emotions, wills, and our intellects. The intellect is easily neglected. In the past it used to be that part of being a believer in Jesus was to immerse yourself in Christian truth, to read books, to discuss theology, and to critically evaluate what you thought and did in the light of the Bible.

#### 3 Prioritise Godly living.

Those who leave the Christian faith often say that they did so on the basis of reasoned arguments. But it nevertheless seems noteworthy that those who proclaim their departure from Christianity's beliefs have often parted company with its morality and quite frequently beforehand. Be careful how you live!



**4 Prioritise spiritual participation.**

There are those who love to target Christians who have lost connection with God's people. Many individuals who pride themselves on being spiritual lone wolves are no more than lost sheep: a fact fatally brought home to them when the jaws of a genuine wolf close around them. Stay deeply and regularly involved with God's people. Remain in the flock!

**5 Prioritise the positives.**

It is said that a piece of grit in an oyster can produce a pearl, but my advice is don't bank on it. Many of these sad stories from those leaving the faith are full of difficulties, anger, and negative attitudes. One well-trodden pathway into

the wilderness involves becoming someone who is always complaining and always against something. One of the easiest ways to justify your departure from any organisation, including the church, is to convince yourself that it is somehow unworthy of your commitment. Stay positive!

That last remark I know is difficult at this time of political unrest, but it is, for all of that, the best way to travel.

Dear J. John has five more priorities that I will share with you, perhaps next time, but for now stay safe, grounded in love, and of course, D.F.T.W. See you soon.

*Rev Roy*

**SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER****Sunday 3 November [Fourth Sunday before Advent]**

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe Longa	All Age Worship
11am	Stonesfield	All Age Worship
5pm	Combe Longa	Service of Remembrance for the recently departed

**Sunday 10 November [Remembrance Sunday]**

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
10am	Combe Longa	Remembrance Service followed by service at War Memorial (10.45am)
10am	Stonesfield	Remembrance Service followed by service at War Memorial (10.45am)
5pm	Stonesfield	Service of Remembrance for loved ones who are no longer with us

**Sunday 17 November [Second Sunday before Advent]**

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

**Sunday 24 November [Christ the King]**

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

**Sunday 1 December [Advent Sunday]**

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

**Mid-week Communion Service [said]**

Wednesdays 9.30am at Stonesfield; everyone is most welcome

**Stonesfield Methodist Church****SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER**

Sun 3	11am	Rev'd Rose Westwood Holy Communion
Sun 10	10am	Remembrance Service at the Parish Church
	11am	At the War Memorial
Sun 17	11am	Eddie Fowler
Sun 24	11am	Rev'd Charles Harris

**Roman Catholic Worship****What makes a saint?**

It was much in the news in October that Cardinal John Henry Newman was canonised by Pope Francis on Sunday 13 October, the first English person to be canonised in 43 years. While St John Henry is most well known for his theological teaching and educational commitment, it was his compassion for the sick, the imprisoned, and the

desperately needy in which he tried to imitate Christ which made him outstanding. To be formally canonised, the potential saint must have demonstrated a 'life of heroic virtue'. The Church further refines that phrase 'heroic virtue' by adding that they 'lived in fidelity to God's grace', that is, recognising the primacy of Christ's teachings. Many saints struggled along the way, often leading lives of chaos and distance from God: St Augustine of Hippo, St Francis of Assisi, and St Ignatius of Loyola are examples of saints who seemed surprised by their own later inclinations to turn towards God and away from their previous lives. Saints put God and others at the centre of their lives rather than themselves, often giving service to those most in need like Saint Teresa of Calcutta. We can all aim to be saints: by helping others, by being compassionate, being generous to those in need, and, like St John Henry and countless other named saints, we too can strive to imitate Christ.

## 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 Clive Dytor, Chair, Parish  
Committee: chair.stteresaschurch  
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*Roman Catholic Community in Stonesfield*

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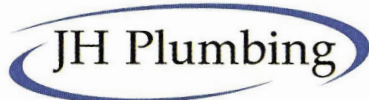
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We will be ringing in the New Year as usual and hope you will celebrate with us. This year's theme will be Movies and Music, so you can dress up as your favourite movie star or rock star. There will be music and dancing from 9pm till 12pm then we will bring in the New Year to the chimes of Big Ben. The restaurant will be open for food from 6pm to 8pm.

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