

# *The Stonesfield Slate*



## **Stonesfield stumbles into 2020**

Stonesfield residents, friends and their dogs assembled at The Cross at 11.15 to set off on their New Year's day walk round Stonefield. This year the chosen route for the Stonesfield Stumble was up the Oxfordshire Way, off towards Ditchley and back via The Ridings.

The weather was dry, encouraging about 70 people to take part in this 90 minute meander. Along the way people chatted to old friends and met some new people as well.

Many chose to end their New Year's Day exercise by enjoying a drink and bacon sandwich at The White Horse. Our thanks to Marina & Nigel for feeding / watering us at the end.

Also we would like to thank Graham Rutson for reminding us of meeting time, setting the route and thereby maintaining the tradition of The Stonesfield Stumble.

Happy 2020 to everyone and we hope to see you on the 2021 Stonesfield Stumble.

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### **Note changes to deadlines & emails**

#### **Copy:**

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Please email copy to  
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#### **Advertising:**

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Advertisements to  
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Current and past copies of *The Slate* available at [www.stonesfield.online/slate/](http://www.stonesfield.online/slate/)

## Dates for your diary – February

1	Shoebox update	St James' Centre	2.30-4pm
3, 10, 24	Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	8.45-11.30am
7	Pantomime <i>Mother Goose</i>	Village Hall	7.30pm
8	Pantomime <i>Mother Goose</i>	Village Hall	2.30pm, 7.30pm
13	Bingo	SSSC	Eyes down 7.30 pm
17	Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	10-11.30am
6, 13, 20, 27.	Book Break	Stonesfield Library	12.30-2pm
10	Gardening Club AGM & talk	St James' Centre	7.30pm
12	Parish Council meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
12, 19, 26	English Country Dancing	Village Hall	8-10pm
13	Over 60s Club	Village Hall	2pm
18	Pancake Day + Treasure Box	St James' Centre	10am-12 noon
21	Treasure Box	St James' Centre	10.30am-12 noon
22	Race Night	SSSC	8pm
23	Meat draw and Quiz night	SSSC	7.30pm
29	<i>Slate</i> Celebration: 500th edition!	St James' Centre	10.30-12 noon
29	Ladies Night	SSSC	8pm

## March

1	Sports & Social Club AGM	SSSC	8pm
8	Village spring clean	outside SSSC	from 9am

# Greetings from new publishers

This is our first edition 'in charge' and we're very honoured to be publishing the *Slate*, now being delivered to houses in Stonesfield for the 499<sup>th</sup> time.

The March edition will be something special as it celebrates the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Slate*, so we will be relying on lots of others to help compile an

issue to show how much has changed since its inception in 1976.

We welcome any feedback, as well articles and photographs, so do get in touch

Diane & Paul Bates  
([slate-pub@stonesfield.online](mailto:slate-pub@stonesfield.online))

# Notices & news

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## **The Slate's 500th edition celebration**

Everyone is invited to a coffee morning on Saturday 29 February at the St James' Centre to celebrate the 500th edition of *The Stonesfield Slate*. From 10.30am until noon, you can browse through old copies of the *Slate* since its first publication in December 1976. At 11-ish there will be a brief presentation celebrating the 500th edition, thanking the retiring publishers the Havilands and all the volunteers, and welcoming the new publishers.

(If anyone wants to contribute some biscuits, cookies or other hand-held snacks, please bring them along on the day. They will be very welcome! Give me a ring so we know what to expect.)

Dale Morris (898210) for the Editorial Team

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## **Pancakes!**

...Also hot & cold drinks, cake stall, handmade gift stall, craft activities, raffle. Raising money for Stonesfield Pre-school and After-school Club. Come along! Tuesday 18 February, 10am until noon, St James' Centre.

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## **Vandalised vehicle**

Over the Christmas period we had an elderly, disabled friend staying with us. She is awaiting a knee replacement and so has restricted mobility. Unfortunately, overnight on 26 December her car, which was parked in the lay-by outside our property on the Ridings, was vandalised,

the rear windscreen being smashed in. This caused her considerable distress and inconvenience as she was due to drive to Cardiff that following morning to visit her sister who was very ill.

Our neighbours were wonderful, helping us to clear up, and the staff at the Stonesfield Garage immediately made the car safe. Many thanks to you all.

In this instance, and we are aware it is not the first example of this type of vandalism in the village, the victim was a retired Head Teacher who has spent her working life, and consequent retirement, working with and enhancing the lives of children and vulnerable adults.

So, if you are aware of who the culprit might be, maybe you could impress upon them that a car is easy, if expensive, to repair but the damage done to the confidence of the owner is rather more difficult to restore.

Margaret and Peter Hill

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## **Stonesfield Slate bundler needed**

One of the two people who put copies of *The Stonesfield Slate* into bundles and distribute them to the deliverers will be retiring from this job in the Spring. It takes a few hours every other month.

If you feel you could take this on please get in touch.

Tricia Astle (891731; [tricia@astle.net](mailto:tricia@astle.net))

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## **Save the date! Stonesfield's 2020 Spring Clean (litter pick)**

Litter pickers and gloves at the ready! This year's village spring clean will be on Sunday 8 March, from 9am, meeting at the Sports & Social Club.

Further information to follow in the March Slate, on NextDoor, and Facebook. We hope to follow the same productive format as in 2019, but just a few weeks earlier this year before the verges, hedgerows and undergrowth cover over the litter. Many thanks! Jess

Jess Huband (jesshuband@hotmail.co.uk)

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## **Christmas Shoebox Update**

In November we packed 75 shoeboxes with toys, toiletries, stationery items and other goodies for the Operation Christmas Child appeal.

Come along to the St James' Centre on Saturday 1 February from 2.30 to 4pm to find out where our shoeboxes went. There will be tea and cake and a Bring & Buy stall to help start our fundraising for next Christmas.

Muriel Barrett, Kate Harris, Kathleen Albert

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## **Retirement of the Rector - Revd Roy Turner**

After 11 years of faithful service to our Parishes of Stonesfield and Combe, Roy will be retiring in March, taking his last church services in both villages on Sunday 15 March. To mark Roy's retirement a special service of Evensong is planned for Sunday 1 March at 6pm at St Laurence Church, Combe, attended by the Bishop of Dorchester, Bishop Colin. Everyone is warmly invited to join us for this service.

The appointment of a new Rector has been approved by the Diocese, and arrangements will be in place for the running of the Church, the services and pastoral support of the village during the period before a new person arrives - details will be published in the April edition of the *Slate*.

We hope you will be able to join us for one of our morning services before Roy retires, or the special service of Evensong on 1 March, as we express our gratitude for Roy and Bev's friendship and care over the last 11 years, and wish them a joyful retirement.

In addition, everyone is most welcome to come to a farewell tea at the St James' Centre on Saturday 14 March, between 4pm and 6pm.

If you would like to contribute to a leaving gift for Roy and Bev, please contact one of our churchwardens for further details – thank you.

Churchwardens: Kate Harris (897871; kateharris58@yahoo.co.uk) & Neil Melrose (891566)

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## **From the Hobbs family**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the parents who turned up with their extremely well-behaved polite children to visit Santa and two of his reindeer on the land at Valhalla. A huge heartfelt thank you to all of the fantastic helpers - parents and children - who made the event a wonderful memorable evening.

From Gill, Dan and Derek. We hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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## Treasure Box at half term

The Treasure Box will open on Friday 21 February from 10.30am to 12 noon in the St James' Centre. There will be crafts and activities based on ideas from Christians in Zimbabwe. Some of the things we make will then be displayed at the World Day of Prayer at the Methodist Chapel on 6 March. All children, accompanied by an adult, are welcome. Any other adults are also welcome to come and join us.

There will also be an opportunity to take part in some Treasure Box activities in the back room of the St James' Centre on the Pre-school Pancake Morning on Tuesday 18 February. Please note that all children must be accompanied by an adult.

Muriel Barrett (891479)

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## Thanks

Thank you for the cards, gifts and good wishes I have received since my move to Stonesfield. Thank you Tina, Marion and Judy for your love and support along the way.

I am now settled into my new home, after 61 years in Long Hanborough, and I look forward to creating many memories in my new home, built onto Jane and Daniel's home.

I moved in on Sunday 15 December and feel happy, comfortable and relaxed, with a door to my family just a few steps away.

I have already enjoyed seeing friends from Stonesfield and Hanborough and want to say that the kettle will always be ready whenever anyone would like to visit.

Margaret Enoch (Sally & Jane's mum)

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## Woodstock Bookshop for Sale

I have decided after much thought to sell the bookshop. When I first opened it at the beginning of May 2008 I had no idea it would still be here, almost twelve years later; that the bookshop would have hosted so many talks by writers and poets I most admire, and been shortlisted three times for independent bookshop of the year. I had no plans to start a poetry festival that ran for eight consecutive years and featured most of the best poets writing today. Most important, I had no idea of the many kind and wonderful people I would meet as customers in the bookshop. They have been the reason for the bookshop's success and will be what I miss most when I shut the door for the last time.

The bookshop has become, as a regular customer wrote to me following last year's poetry festival, 'a Woodstock institution', and is doing well financially. If there is anyone reading this who thinks they would like to own an independent bookshop and is interested in taking it on, do contact me. I would like if possible to sell it as a going concern, so please tell friends and acquaintances about it too. If no one comes forward I will shut the shop in late spring or early summer. There was a report today saying that independent bookshops are flourishing, and that is certainly our experience. A new owner, with energy and vision, could carry the bookshop forward into the next decade and I hope that will happen.

Rachel Phipps (01993 812760;  
[www.woodstockbookshop.co.uk](http://www.woodstockbookshop.co.uk))

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## **Bird-Aid trip to Park Farm, Chipping Norton**

On 30 November fifteen of us paid a visit to Mike Kettlewell's farm, just outside Chipping Norton. Luckily for us the day turned from a foggy start to brilliant sunshine, though it stayed cold.

The point of the visit was to see what a difference regular feeding makes to our declining farmland birds. Park Farm has about 250 acres of mixed habitat: pasture, arable, woodland, a stream, and about 6km of hedgerow.

Mike has been putting out wheat grain, crushed barley, rapeseed, millet and linseed for the last 17 years! Currently he spreads 40 kilos a day.

How do you accurately count large flocks of birds? This was a new task for some of us. I have never before seen 50 or so linnets all at once, swirling up, commandeering a hedgerow tree, swirling again, settling on the ground to feast on the seed. We also saw yellowhammers, chaffinches, longtailed tits, great tits, robins, blackbirds, and of course the ubiquitous wood pigeons and rooks. Grateful thanks

to those who lugged their telescopes along and then generously shared them.

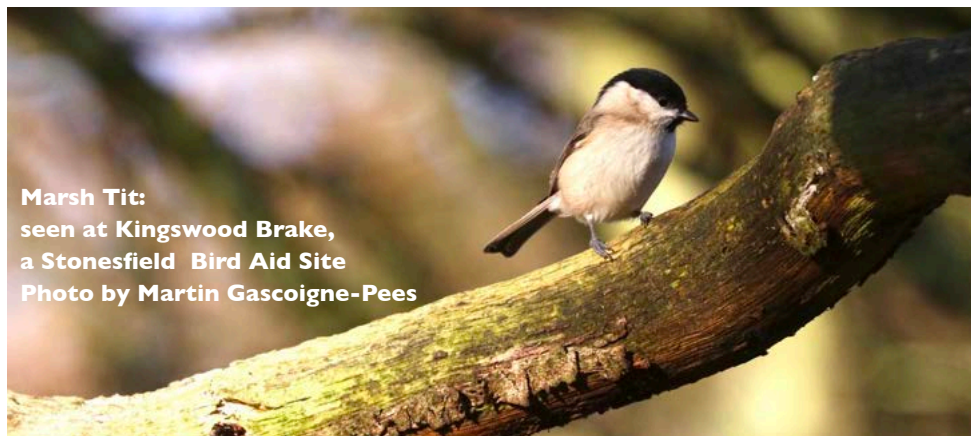
This commitment, continuous since 2002, to helping our diminishing wildlife impressed us all, and the results were there for us to see. Mike had wide margins along his field edges, mature hedges with unrestricted trees growing out of them, and plenty of woodland cover. All this on a working farm, from which he has to make a living.

Many thanks to him and to the organizers, chiefly Judy Anders, for an enjoyable and instructive trip. Where better to round it off than at the Old Shed café, Banbury Hill Farm, conveniently on the way home?

We attend to our respective feeding stations around Stonesfield with a greater understanding of the impact it is possible to make. One of them yielded this on a 30-minute survey done on one local site just after Christmas: over 100 birds made up of 10 different species, of which chaffinches and linnets made the largest groups, with yellowhammers coming third.

Val Phillips (891455)

**Marsh Tit:**  
seen at Kingswood Brake,  
a Stonesfield Bird Aid Site  
Photo by Martin Gascoigne-Pees



# Politics & local affairs

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## Stonesfield Parish Council

### Parish Matters

- The clerk is ordering replacement litter bins for Church Street and by the village shop. No date for replacement has been given yet.
- The clerk has contacted PYE Homes and Blenheim Estate to request that they install a grit bin and dog waste bin on the Charity Farm development. No further update at this time.
- The clerk has chased up the hedge cutting around the small village hall car park. This is planned for January 2020.
- The risers/steps at the Glebe [going from Brook Lane towards the Scout hut] are being replaced this month.
- The cows on the Common have now been moved; we will consider having them again later in the year.

### Spring Clean

Sunday 8 March is the proposed date for the annual village spring clean. The Parish Council will confirm this after the full council meeting on 15 January 2020.

### WODC Art / The Common

A proposal for this art project is being put together and we hope to have details to share with the village in the next month or two.

### Grants

The Stonesfield Players and the Church had grant awards approved at the last meeting.

## February Parish Council Meeting

12 February 2020, 7.30pm, Stonesfield Village Hall

### Update from SAFER: Cllr Heduan

- After a delay with delivery, and a missing battery charger, we now have the new Speed Indicating Device (SID), mounting kits and Android tablet.
- The tablet has been configured to connect with the SID so that parameters and thresholds can be set up to display speeds and pictorial messages.
- The SID was set up on the War Memorial island last week to test out the parameters above and check the radar trigger distance, which is considerably more than the previous device.
- Initial tests at the War Memorial indicate the SID will be very effective in communicating speed and messages to drivers to change behaviour. Several members of the public were impressed by the display.
- We aim to affix a rotating bracket to the sign post on the island to enable the SID to service 3 directions from that location. Bracket to be fixed this week.
- Training of the SAFER team will now commence to operate the SID.
- A schedule of survey dates will now be produced for the SAFER team.
- A reporting template will be designed to communicate speed survey data to the PC.
- A campaign to recruit new members to SAFER will also start shortly.

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## **West Oxon District Council District Digest**

There is not a great deal to report following the holiday break.

A Draft Council Plan is under review and should come up for approval in the next week or so. This should not be confused with the West Oxfordshire Council Local Plan which was ratified earlier last year. The review concerns primarily internal procedures and in particular the responsibilities of Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

A proposal to apply Council Tax discounts for those who meet the criteria for care leavers up to the age of 21, and those who meet extra criteria aged between 21 and 25, will be put to Council shortly.

An attempt to prevent and discourage fly tipping by using Householders Duty of Care is to be considered. The imposition of a Fixed Penalty notice of £400 will be enforced, with an early reduction of £200 if payment is made within 10 days of the date of the notice. The initial draft base budgets for 2020/2021 will be given consideration later this month.

On the planning front, applications continue to be received and an overstretched department is coping without too much difficulty or delay. New and relatively inexperienced planning officers seem to be finding their feet, helped and advised by one or two very experienced senior officers. However, enforcement of conditions attached to successful applications is still a matter of some concern.

The atrocious wet weather recently is concentrating the collective minds of both Thames Water and the Environment

Agency. They are each clearing drainage ditches and water courses to facilitate drainage without too much flooding. I hope that all our residents are successful in keeping the creeping waters at bay.

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

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## **New homes' energy performance**

WODC has welcomed Government plans to boost the energy performance of all new-build homes. The Council has responded positively to a consultation on key proposals forming part of the Future Homes Standard which is being drawn up to ensure significantly higher energy efficiency requirements being incorporated into new homes from 2025. The consultation proposes changes to building regulations covering conservation of fuel, power and ventilation which are designed to cut carbon emissions from new homes by up to 80 per cent compared to current standards.

But while welcoming the proposals, Cllr David Harvey, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, believes the new benchmarks should be introduced more quickly than 2025 and also disagrees with Government plans to amend the Planning and Energy Act to restrict local authorities' ability to set higher energy standards for dwellings. He said: "Local planning authorities have, historically, developed and adopted local energy standards and these have driven developers to design and build to higher standards than those set out in building regulations. The ability for a local planning authority to future-proof themselves in the event of changes to Government's proposals is also important; each area has its own economic, social and



environmental characteristics which local planning policies will capture and build on.” He added that a key example would be policies for the Oxfordshire Cotswolds Garden Village which will need to showcase new, innovative concepts and techniques for a truly sustainable development.

### **Use official waste carrier or face a fine**

Government legislation stipulates that only authorised collectors can be used to take away waste that is not being removed as part of normal household collections, e.g. old appliances, waste generated from a DIY project or a house clearance. Collection services are often advertised on social media sites but the operators may not have the correct authorisation. If residents fail to check their collector’s credentials, they themselves could face a fixed penalty notice of up to £400. The new fines have been introduced as an amendment to the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

### **Grants for community projects available**

Grant funding that supports the important work done by local community and voluntary groups in West Oxfordshire is now open for 2020-21 applications. The closing date for applications is **Friday 7 February 2020**.

Further information about the Community Revenue Grant is available at [www.westoxon.gov.uk/residents/leisure/community-leisure-grants/](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/residents/leisure/community-leisure-grants/)

## **Oxfordshire County Council**

### **Get help with home repairs**

There are services and funds available to help people (owners and private tenants) stay independent, safe and well in their homes, and Oxfordshire County Council has developed a referral service to help residents (or carers) access the right organisations in their area to get the help they need. The type of help that can be provided are services such as new boilers, repairs to boilers, loft or cavity wall insulation, access to a local and trustworthy repairs service and general advice on how to stay safe, well and affordably warm in your home.

For more information or to make a referral visit [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/homerepairs](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/homerepairs)

### **Oxfordshire money-saving**

Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire are providing free energy advice this winter to help people understand their energy costs and suggests alternative ways to make savings. Energy-saving advice sessions range from checking if you are eligible for the £140 Warm Home Discount, registering eligibility with the Priority Register for people in need, helping with supplier price comparisons and much more. On average, clients save £150 to £200 per year. Last year, we helped one family save over £3000.

Energy advice sessions are available over the phone or face-to-face in Citizens Advice Witney and Chipping Norton offices.

Call 01993 892057 or email [info@citizensadvicewestoxon.org.uk](mailto:info@citizensadvicewestoxon.org.uk) to make an appointment.  
[www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

# Education & culture

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## **Stonesfield Primary School**

A happy new year to you all. Our Spring term has got off to a flying start and our older pupils have been studying and writing a range of poems. We would love to share Zakk's poem inspired by the poetry of John Hegley.

### **A Poem is Not by Zakk (Year 4)**

A poem is not an Apple  
but it can be healthy.

A poem is not a Bandit  
but it can steal your attention

A poem is not a Cactus  
but it's prickling with excitement

A poem is not a Diamond  
but it can be very valuable

A poem is not an Envelope  
but you can receive a lot of excitement

A poem is not Fire  
but it can burn a hole in your heart

A poem is not a Gladiator  
but it will fight for your attention

A poem is not Hair  
but it might make yours stand on end

A poem is not an Injury  
and I'm glad it is not

A poem is not a Jab  
I'd faint if it was

A poem is not a Kangaroo  
but it will kick you to read it

A poem is not a Lolly pop  
if it was I'd be in the corner eating this very poem

A poem is not a Map  
but you can still get lost

A poem is not a Nun  
but it will pray for you to read it

A poem is not an Orchestra  
but it can be like a melody

A poem is not Popcorn  
but it might pop your mind

A poem is not a Question  
but it will give you answers

A poem is not a Rollercoaster  
but it can be thrilling

A poem is not a Sanctuary  
but it keeps other poems safe

A poem is not a Tornado  
but it whips away your attention

A poem is not Underground  
but it roots in your imagination

A poem is not a just Valuable  
it is priceless

A poem is not a Window  
but it shatters when you don't read it

A poem is not an X-ray  
but it looks to see if you've swallowed too much excitement

A poem is not a Yell  
but a whisper

A poem is not the Zodiac  
but it tells you the next part of the poem

From the headteacher & a pupil

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## Governor news and vacancies

The governors of Stonesfield School would like to congratulate the staff and pupils on the delightful Christmas events both in school and in St James's church. These occasions provide an unforgettable opportunity for parents to see their young children thoroughly enjoying creative group activity.

Sandy Hayes, co-chair of governors for the last three years, is resigning from the post in January as she has had a promotion in the National Health Service. We thank her for her energy and devotion to the school during a period of change, and wish her well in her challenging new post. Harry Holland has agreed to become co-chair with Susan Corrigan.

Succession planning is one important aspect of the work of the governing body, and as several of our longer serving governors are planning to step down soon we would like to begin recruiting new associate governors, preferably with skills in finance and in governance – possibly with experience in business, healthcare or education.

The school is a vibrant community at the heart of the village, and being a governor is a responsibility, but we are a friendly group

of people who find the time and energy to put into the running of our village school. If you are interested and have the necessary skills, please contact us. One available option is to become a non-voting governor for a trial period of one year.

All enquiries should be made to the administrator at Stonesfield School on 891687.

The Governing Body, Stonesfield Primary School

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## Mother Goose

Stonesfield Players would like to announce that pantomime time is fast approaching. *The Wonderful Story of Mother Goose* will be performed at the Stonesfield Village Hall on Friday 7 February at 7:30pm, as well as two performances on Saturday 8 February at 2pm and 7:30pm. This is a traditional pantomime for all ages so come along and enjoy a performance of song, dance, fun and laughter.

Tickets, costing £10 for adults and £8 for juniors up to the age of 16, can be purchased in the village store. Bookings can also be made online by emailing [andrew.tacon@outlook.com](mailto:andrew.tacon@outlook.com).

## FoSL: Friends of Stonesfield Library

Open to anyone who wants to help keep our village library open. We have been providing voluntary cover for half of the existing library hours (about 6 hours a week) since the library service was cut back.

For further details, or to join us, please contact Tony Scott on 01993 891380, [tonyandrachel.scott@virgin.net](mailto:tonyandrachel.scott@virgin.net)

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## News from Combe Community Cinema

Thanks to everyone who came along to *Enchanted April* in January - we had a packed house (we were delighted to see the Stonesfield contingent), and the film's sunny Italian setting made a perfect antidote for a gloomy January.

Our next screening, on Friday 7 February, is *Central Station (Central do Brasil)*, a 1998 film directed by Brazilian director Walter Salles. The film has excellent viewer reviews on Amazon, being described as 'gripping, haunting, beautifully photographed and acted'. The film's lead, Fernanda Montenegro - whose character's life is changed through a chance encounter - was nominated for an academy award and the film itself won top honours at the 1998 Berlin Film Festival. *Central do Brasil* is Cert. 15 and is in Portuguese, with subtitles. Running time 1 hour 50 mins. **Doors open at 7.30pm;** film starts at 8pm. Tickets on the door are £5 each, or are included if you have a Season Ticket. Please note: at the moment we can only accept cheques or cash.

Combe Hub, our venue (the former Methodist church next to the playing field) is easy to find and there is plenty of parking. Bringing a cushion is recommended, and to soften those chairs still further drinks will be on sale before the screening. Of course we would like to keep you informed of all our future film screenings, so please join our mailing list - just send an email to [combecommunitycinema@gmail.com](mailto:combecommunitycinema@gmail.com)

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## North Leigh History Society

Our next talk is on 4 February, when Alistair Lack will be telling us about the history of Lords, the home of cricket. This is a talk for all fans of cricket and not just those who regularly read their copy of Wisden. Polish up your knowledge of cricket history with us. Even if you are not a cricket fan, I can guarantee you will pick up some unsuspected snippets of history so do come and join us.

We meet in the Turner Hall, Church Road, North Leigh, OX29 6TX at 7.30pm. Visitors £4, Members free. Further details from Diana Power 01993 882301. If you wish to go on our mailing list contact Robert Kyte on [kyterobert@gmail.com](mailto:kyterobert@gmail.com).

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## Witney Music Society

The next concert in Witney Music Society's 2019-20 season will be given by Mark Taylor (flute) and Gabriella Jones (harp) who'll be playing works by composers including Piazzola, Bartok, Hamilton Harty and Ravi Shankar. The concert is at 7.30pm on Friday 14 February.

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 [www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk](http://www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk)

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## **The Oxfordshire Museum**

### **Exhibitions:**

#### **Eduardo Paolozzi: General Dynamic F.U.N.**

**Open until 9 February**

A series of fifty screen prints and photolithographs created between 1965 and 1970. Decency and Decorum in Production, 1970. © Trustees of the Paolozzi Foundation, Licensed by DACS 2019. A Hayward Gallery Touring exhibition from the Southbank Centre, London

#### **1980s Britain: Money Changes Everything**

**15 February–26 April**

Like no other decade, 1980s Britain was dominated by a single political figure. As the first woman to serve as a British prime minister, Margaret Thatcher vowed 'to move this country in a new direction'. It was an action-packed decade of new technology and momentous historic events that shaped our modern world.

### **February School Holiday Activities:**

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

*Wicked Wednesdays* Themed activity workshops suitable for age 7+, please check website for more details.

*TOM-ART Family fun drop-ins*, Tuesdays & Thursdays 2-4pm. Fun and creative activities for all ages. £2 per child £5 per family.

\* Children's activities are supported by The Friends of the Museum

### **Family History Search:**

Are you eager to find out more of your family history, but would like some guidance? Oxfordshire Family History Society has an advisor, available on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 1-4pm. Visit the library or phone 01993 814124 to book a free session.

## **STONESFIELD VOLUNTARY TRANSPORT SCHEME**

arranges car transport to doctors' and dentists' surgeries in Woodstock, Charlbury, Long Hanborough and Witney, and to Water Eaton Park & Ride (for buses to JR, Nuffield and Churchill Hospitals)

If you need a lift for a medical visit in FEBRUARY please ring

**Viv Kendall (891803) or Nigel Collier (891372)**

*Every effort will be made to find a volunteer driver for you, but please give as much notice as you can. This is a free service, but donations to costs are welcomed.*

# Clubs & societies

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## Allotments Association

In the incredibly wet spell of weather we have been having we have to remind ourselves that it's not always like this. We finally have water on the Churchfields allotments. It was in place only in time to help late plantings and sowings, but we will feel the full benefit of it next Spring.

In the next month we will be putting up a fence and gate between the bottom allotments on Churchfields and the Glebe [the area of land between Brook Lane and the Scout hut]. The fence is part of our constant battle against rabbits. Also, some people who are not allotment holders have started using this as a shortcut between the Glebe and Churchfields, some walking dogs and leaving dog mess on the allotments. There is not, and never has been, a footpath through the allotments, and before Churchfields B was opened up, the bottom of the main Churchfield allotments was fenced off. The gate we are going to put in will be securely padlocked but there will be access for allotment holders to have bulk deliveries made through the Glebe.

The rabbit problem is even more acute on the Woodstock Road site where the existing boundary fence is no longer fit for purpose. We are applying for a Blenheim Bursary to help us replace the fence. Unfortunately the cost and practicalities of bringing mains water onto this site means that we have to look at other ways of improving our water collecting capacity here. Many plots have installed their own

water tanks and part of the Blenheim application is for additional water tanks.

There is an allotment rule that we are not allowed to sell any of the produce from our allotments - but we can give it away. One of the facts of allotment life is that we often produce more than we can consume and we have Roy Turner's permission to put a permanent stall up in the St James car park where we and anyone else who has more than they can use from their gardens can make Stonesfield produce available to villagers who are not in a position to grow their own. Good food, zero food miles, free.

There are some free plots available on the Woodstock Road site. If you would like to have a plot, contact me and we will show you around.

Jon Gordon (898803; [jmg@couffin.co.uk](mailto:jmg@couffin.co.uk))

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## Climate Emergency Group

About 30 people came to our first meeting in December, and a similar number to our second meeting in January, though colds and flu meant some had to send apologies. There seems to be a keen interest in sharing ideas and information on how to reduce our individual carbon footprints: in December we had a really good session on running a greener Christmas (did you know you can rent a tree?!), and in January we tackled plastics and reducing food waste.

Notes from both these meetings are on the SUSTO page on the Stonesfield website, together with a very useful Information

Sheet on local shops which sell loose/  
unwrapped produce.

Our next meeting is on Monday 3 February at 7.30pm in the St James' Centre. Please bring £1 per adult for room hire. We will start with a check-in on plastics and household shopping; we'll then have a short session on the idea of a community garden and produce stall, to be followed up in March. Our main topic will be tree planting: a vital aspect of helping to remove planet-wrecking emissions from the atmosphere. Stonesfield could make a really valuable contribution if we get on board with offers to site, plant and take care of new trees. We have two experts coming to talk to us and help us go into action with the right species in the right places. Please come and take part: there is no obligation to speak or volunteer; just listening and absorbing and maybe sharing some of the things you hear with a friend or neighbour will be valuable. Maybe this is something you could get your family interested in?

Future topics include: buying an electric car; work environments; repair café; clothing exchange; switching to green energy; internet useage; pensions and banks. If you have a particular interest in or knowledge of any of these areas, please get in touch.

If not me, who? If not now, when?

Please drop me a line if you are not already on my mailing list, and I'll keep you updated with future meetings and initiatives.

Caroline Friend (caroline.v.friend@gmail.com)

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## **Stonesfield Gardening Club**

December saw us meeting up in St James' Centre for a pre-Christmas social event, with mulled wine and a gardening-themed quiz carefully put together by Gill Barrett to test our grey cells as well as our green fingers.

We hibernate in January, so no meeting then, but we are back this month with our AGM followed by a talk about the wildflowers on the Common by Genny Early and Gill Barrett. Do come along to St James' Centre on Monday 10 February at 7.30pm to hear what is growing on Stonesfield Common.

Diane Bates  
(diane@bateshome.co.uk)  
[www.stonesfieldgardening.info](http://www.stonesfieldgardening.info)

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## **Over 60s Club**

We met on election day 12 December for our Christmas Lunch. After lunch we were entertained by Tessa and Paul. An enjoyable afternoon, an excellent raffle with a cuppa and a mince pie before joining hands for our traditional 'Auld Lang Syne'. We are as always very grateful to everyone who helped in any way. Thank you all.

The January meeting found us back again to wish each other a Happy New Year. We tried an afternoon of games, and old favourites like snakes & ladders found their way out onto the tables. It was fun and quite a change.

We will meet again on 13/02/20 at the usual 2pm. Visitors always welcome. Hope to see you there. Best wishes,

Avis

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## Village Hall news

Despite the dark evenings and cold wet weather, the village hall is open with lots of classes throughout the week, and the return of the Stonesfield Players with their production of *Mother Goose* this month is a very exciting addition. Please take the opportunity to get your tickets before they sell out and support this community event.

We would love to hold a lot more events throughout the year and are always looking for new ideas, so if you would like to help, or are interested in holding an event yourself, please do get in touch on 01993 898918 or email [stonesfieldvh@gmail.com](mailto:stonesfieldvh@gmail.com)

Jacqueline Carthew, Secretary & Booking Clerk

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## Sports & Social Club

The first Bingo of 2020 will be held on 13 February, eyes down at 7.30pm. Saturday 22 Feb is the date of the Race Night, first race at 8pm. The next day, the 23rd, we are hosting the second quiz of the year with a 7.30pm start. This being a Leap year, 29 Feb is the date of our Ladies Night with special offers on Prosecco.

Finally a reminder of our AGM on 1 March starting at 8pm. Please come along and support your club and maybe even consider joining the committee - we need new members with lots of fresh ideas!

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## Stonesfield Folk Dancing Club

There is no Club Night on Wednesday 5 February as the Hall is being prepared for the Pantomime. The next dance night is on 12 February. We have the Quarry Turners playing and Peter Vallender calling the dances. Later in the month we have The Donkey House Band to play with Doreen Crewe and David Sandford calling. You can

be assured of a really good night out in excellent company and help us to keep the English Country Dancing Tradition alive. Our dances are much easier than those of the Scots and much more varied with more emphasis on having a real good time!

[stewart.nicholls@virgin.net](mailto:stewart.nicholls@virgin.net)

01295 730271)

[www.stonesfieldfolkdance.danceorg.uk](http://www.stonesfieldfolkdance.danceorg.uk)

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## Gluts & Gluttony Supper Club

The 31 January event marked the first birthday of the Gluts & Gluttony Monthly Supper Club - a feast from the veg patch on the last Friday of every month by food writer and veg grower, Kathy Slack.

To mark the occasion Kathy is giving all profits that day to Team Anna who are raising funds for Anna, a five-year-old girl from Chippy, to undergo treatment in the US for a rare type of bone cancer.

The supper club takes place at The Tea Set in Chipping Norton and features a 4-course menu created from whatever Kathy has in her veg patch. Its first year was a sell-out success and the club won the Young British Foodies award in the vegetable category.

You can see the full menu, details about the event and booking as well as more about Team Anna [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gluts-gluttony-seasonal-supper-club-31st-january-tickets-53185798154](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gluts-gluttony-seasonal-supper-club-31st-january-tickets-53185798154)

[www.goteamanna.org](http://www.goteamanna.org)

You can also see dates for the whole of 2020 here [www.glutsandgluttony.com/supperclubs/](http://www.glutsandgluttony.com/supperclubs/)

Kathy Slack (07805 262667)

Cook, Kitchen Gardener & Food Writer  
[glutsandgluttony.com](http://glutsandgluttony.com); [@gluts\\_gluttony](https://twitter.com/gluts_gluttony)



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## **Woodstock and District U3A**

### **No longer working full time?**

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For more information:

[www.u3asites.org.uk/woodstock](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/woodstock)

### **2020**

**4 Feb** Art and Art History,  
Elizabeth Rowe

**3 Mar** Music of Russia  
and its Composers,  
Professor Gerald Seaman

**7 Apr** *Shadows in Space*,  
Mary McIntyre FRAS

**5 May** AGM

**2 Jun** *Working for Auntie*,  
Christine Green

**7 July** Butterflies and Orchids of  
Upper Thames Valley,  
Malcolm Brownsword

# Sport

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## **Stonesfield Cricket Club**

Friday 31 January sees the 1st session of our Winter Indoor Net Training at Charlbury Community Centre sports hall. This time we have booked the whole facility, with four net lanes - providing ample segregated training room for U13s, U15s, 2nd XI and 1st XI players. We have ten consecutive weeks - all 1-hour sessions from 8 to 9pm - running right up to April. Cost is £2.50 per week, or £20 up front for the whole programme. All get to bat and bowl each session. New players very welcome.

Last year was a really positive one for our youth teams; U15s (school years 9 & 10) and U13s (years 6, 7 & 8), but WE NEED MORE PLAYERS! It's great fun, not 'too competitive', all kit is provided - and costs are absurdly cheap!

Always affable Pete Stringer is in charge of the U15 squad this season, contact him on 07904 430979 or [cockshootclose12@btinternet.com](mailto:cockshootclose12@btinternet.com). He'd love to see some new faces at indoor nets, as some of our best players are now 16 and join the 2nd XI squad outright.

I'm running U13s training again this season, starting at nets on 31 Jan. Do get in touch if your child wants to give it a go.

Stewart Moss (07866 278685;  
[stewmoss@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stewmoss@hotmail.co.uk))

## **Stonesfield Football Club**

Tradition dictates that there's no Slate in January so this month's report starts all the way back in mid-November where a Raffy Rice hat-trick saw off Minster Lovell in The Fred Ford (2-3). Not to be outdone, his wee brother Carry banged in 4 goals in the 7-2 rout at Milton in the league. This match was all the more remarkable given that Milton were 2 up at half-time! Milton must hate the sight of Stonesfield as they came visiting in The Junior Shield and were beaten again (3-1). Next our boys went to Spartans and a fabulous 7-0 win saw them jump to the top of the league where they remained over the Christmas break! It has been a long time since the club were top of the Premiership so it was nice to have a couple of weeks to savour it. A new year and a new decade saw old foes Milton return on league duty as our first-footers and this time they inflicted some damage with an equaliser in the last minute (2-2). To round things off for this month our boys travelled to Carterton and were beaten 3-0. A disappointing start to 2020 but they will be content with 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the league for the time being. Worth noting that our first goals of the new decade were both scored by Raffy Rice in the home draw with Milton.

If The Firsts have been flying high then The Reserves have been having a torrid time of it. Defeat in the Jack Busby at home to Carterton (1-4) was followed by two thumpings in the league at home to an excellent Aston side (2-7), followed by near-neighbours Wootton (1-5). They then

managed a draw with Witney Royals (3-3) in a hum-dinger of a game where young Ollie Laughton notched his first goal for the club! The usual pattern then ensued with away defeats either side of the Christmas break at Chipping Norton Town (2-1) and Wootton (3-1). Then came a huge shock: they finally won a home league game which was all the more remarkable as it was against 3<sup>rd</sup> placed FC Mills (3-1)! The win lifts them out of the relegation zone, just above Kingham All Blacks, on goal difference.

There's a ding-dong battle between the Rice brothers at the moment to see who can score more goals: first Raffy scores 3, then Carry scores 4 and in other games they notch two apiece, so you'd think that this month's Fredo award would be an easy one. It may be a tad harsh on Carry but the Fredo committee has taken the rather controversial decision to award this month's Fredo to young Ollie Laughton! It's not every day that you score your first goal in men's football for your home village team so, well done Ollie. Let's hope this is the first of many goals for Stonesfield and many Fredo Awards for you too!

Tom Flanigan (89|1979)

# Church news

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## Roman Catholic Worship

### Lost and Found

Think about the amount of time you have spent looking for keys, spectacles, documents; we all hate losing things. The death of a relative or close friend, or divorce are other terrible losses that may affect us for the rest of our lives. No matter how small or irrelevant, that lost item or person is gone from us, maybe never to be found or returned. We too may be lost with no sense of direction, living lives that are driven by external function rather than internal purpose. Jesus understood about the significance of lost things; in the Gospels there are many references to lost sheep, a lost coin or a lost son.

*Luke 15:6-7 "And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbours, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."*

*Luke 15:9-10 "And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."*

*Luke 15:31-32 "My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"*

Jesus was sent to find us so that we are never lost again. Jesus will give us purpose and direction, and will help guide us through life with a sense of sureness and certainty.

### Mass times

#### SUNDAYS

St Teresa's Charlbury: 9.15am

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

#### WEEKDAYS

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

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

**Fr Tony Joyce** can be contacted on:  
holyltrinityrcchippy@gmail.com or  
telephone (01608 642703)

For parish updates and any further information, contact Clive Dytor:  
chair.stteresaschurchcharlbury@gmail.com

Roman Catholic Community in Stonesfield

# Anglican Worship in the Parishes of Stonesfield with Combe Longa



Rector: The Revd Roy Turner  
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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

[first, from his **January** letter] ...I do love what I do through the week. I love the fact that God has entrusted me with the care of others and that the church supports me and my family to do it. I find it is a great privilege that I have been entrusted with and it never fails to gladden my heart. Of course there are times when one's heart is saddened through losing friends who pass on or leave to take up another challenge somewhere else and I lose contact with them, but even then I can rejoice that I have known the individuals and that they have a new future in God, either in Heaven or somewhere else on the planet.

Life is ever changing, don't you think? So it is with my own life. You may have heard that I am retiring shortly from my duties here in Stonesfield and Combe. My last services as your Rector will be on 15 March 2020. So can I be a little indulgent for a moment and tell you all that I have been wonderfully blessed in being part of the communities here in the benefice. Our prayers, Bev's and mine, are that whoever comes to serve you in the future will enjoy your friendship as much as we have; that the communities of Stonesfield and Combe will go on from strength to strength and that in a small way we have blessed you all by us serving you here.

## February 2020

I sometimes let you know about my friend J.J. John and what he has to say. I have just received another letter I thought you might like to read:

'In the middle of the long reign of Queen Victoria there was a British Member of Parliament who was a Christian committed to defending those who were the victims of society. He found himself grieved by the heavy loss of life amongst British merchant seamen – often a thousand deaths a year – largely caused by greedy owners overloading their vessels to the point where they easily sank. He knew of a simple invention that, if it was made compulsory, could prevent these 'coffin ships' from sailing and so, for ten long years, he battled in the Houses of Parliament for the law to be passed. He eventually won in 1876. His name was Samuel Plimsoll and the invention couldn't have been simpler: an official, very visible and permanent mark on the side of a ship indicated the maximum load that the ship could carry. If this mark – it soon became known as the 'Plimsoll line' – disappeared below the surface of the water, the ship was illegally loaded and must not sail. Because these were the days when 'Britannia ruled the waves' the Plimsoll line came to be used universally and, thanks to its

existence, an uncountable number of lives have been saved.'

Now the reason that Plimsoll came to mind is because I have just revised my book on the Ten Commandments and I find in them a comparable standard for our lives. What Plimsoll sought to apply to ships was a clear, enduring, life-saving way of setting limits that, even under pressure, must not be broken. The Ten Commandments do the same: they are, if you like, the Plimsoll line for our existence. If we ignore them or let them sink below the waves of life, then

being in some way drowned or shipwrecked is inevitable.

The Ten Commandments set out in ten clear clauses, few in words but infinitely wide in application, our Maker's limits for the great areas of our life. In these rules we find guidance on how we relate to God, how we are to use our time and how we relate to our families and to those we live amongst. Despite the fact that they were given in a culture profoundly different to any we live in today, the Commandments cover every aspect of human life. At one

## **Services for February**

### **Sunday 2 February** [Fourth Sunday before Lent]

8am Stonesfield Holy Communion [BCP/said]

9.30am Combe All Age Worship

11am Stonesfield All Age Worship

### **Sunday 9 February** [Third Sunday before Lent]

8am Stonesfield Holy Communion [BCP/said]

9.30am Combe Longa Matins [BCP/sung]

11am Stonesfield Parish Communion [CW/sung]

### **Sunday 16 February** [Second Sunday before Lent]

8am Stonesfield Holy Communion [BCP/said]

9.30am Combe Longa Parish Communion [CW/sung]

11am Stonesfield Communion Service for all ages

### **Sunday 23 February** [Sunday next before Lent]

8am Stonesfield Holy Communion [BCP/said]

9.30am Combe Parish Communion [CW/sung]

11am Stonesfield Parish Communion [CW/sung]

### **Wednesday 26 February** [Ash Wednesday]

7.30pm Stonesfield Holy Communion

### **Sunday 1 March [Lent 1]**

8am Stonesfield Holy Communion [BCP/said]

9.30am Combe Longa All Age Worship

11am Stonesfield All Age Worship

6pm Combe Longa Benefice Evensong

attended by Bishop Colin to say farewell to Roy and Bev

Mid-week Communion Service [said]

Wednesdays 9.30am at Stonesfield. Everyone is most welcome.

level, the Ten Commandments are the simplest and clearest of guides; yet at the same time they have a limitless depth and breadth in what they cover.

In fact, the Ten Commandments serve a double purpose. They serve as a judge: they set out the limits for how we should live and inevitably, given the inclination of human beings to do wrong, they force those who consider them seriously to acknowledge their guilt.

So although the Ten Commandments are often dismissed as harsh rules that constrain who we are, the irony is that in fact they are liberating. In them we see God saying in effect that if we operate within these guidelines, we will flourish as we are meant to.

Let those guidelines be our maxim for the year to come. As always, D.F.T.W.

Rev Roy

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## **Stonesfield Methodist Church**

### **Services for February**

2	11am	Mr Ian Prince
9	11am	The Rev'd Rose Westwood, Holy Communion
16	11am	Miss Mary Blow
23	11am	Mr Martin Hannant

### **Happy New Year!**

The new year may well be on its way but there are still plenty of opportunities for us all.

The opportunity for this Church is to reach out once more to the people of Stonesfield. We the members, though few in number, continue to search for new ways of welcoming the wider community into the Church. We wish it to remain and serve the village in 2020 and beyond. Have you any thoughts on this? If so, do get in touch. We would be so pleased to hear from you. We want to try to do 'all we can', just as John Wesley urges in his great prayer, before it's too late. Sunday services normally begin at 11am and everyone is very welcome.

May this leap year bring you great opportunities! St Paul writes in his letter to the Galatians 6:10a, "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people."

Kathleen Albert (891733)

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Now all is back to normal, so don't forget our Quiz Night every Wednesday (apart from the first Wednesday of each month). It starts at 8pm, it's £1 entry and it's a really fun evening and we'll make sure you're not home too late on a school night!

On the first Wednesday of each month we hold our popular Folk Night. It's a really informal evening for musicians, poets, singers and spectators so come along and join in from 8pm.

Tara is cooking up a storm in the kitchen and will be doing regular 'special' evenings such as Pie & a Pint Night, Curry Night which are always popular but she always has some lovely tasty 'Specials' on which change every week so pop in, if you haven't already, and have a bite to eat with us.

We will also be holding events throughout the year and to keep updated follow us on Facebook and Instagram or check out our website [whitehorsestonesfield.com](http://whitehorsestonesfield.com).

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