



On Thursday evenings, in harmony with the hundreds of thousands of members of the public who come out of their houses to clap in support of the NHS and other key workers during the period of lockdown, the residents of The Ridings have had the opportunity to thank their own local hero, Dr Ian of the Eynsham practice. For a brief period everyone waves to their neighbours up and down The Ridings before, at the sound of the horn, commencing clapping at 8pm. After the event there is the opportunity for suitably distanced conversation with neighbours – a welcome opportunity after all the isolation. A small example of community spirit in what is still a very worrying time.

On VE Day an impromptu, socially-distanced street party gave neighbours another

opportunity to meet, converse, remember and enjoy the sunshine. The relatively new tranquillity of The Ridings was interrupted by traffic which had been diverted from an accident on the A44. However, this did not spoil our enjoyment of the day and the amazing weather.

Frank Huddleston



Important note

In view of the current Coronavirus COVID-19 advice, any events are liable to change or cancellation. We strongly suggest you check with the organisers of all events.

For this reason we have not included a diary in June's *Slate*. The diary will return when restrictions on gatherings have been lifted.

The information on Covid-19 was up to date at time of printing but is liable to change. Please follow the latest government advice, available on www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response

For more links to useful phone numbers / websites about Covid-19 and how to look after yourself and the community go to www.stonesfield.online

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The *Slate* is funded by the advertisers you find on these pages. To ensure they keep going you are asked to support them where possible. As well as ensuring we have a thriving community you will be helping continuation of *The Stonesfield Slate*

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Coronavirus updates

South Oxfordshire Food & Education Academy

SOFEA is a scheme which works with food producers to take surplus food that would otherwise be destined for food waste and distribute it through a membership scheme. Members usually pay a fee to receive approximately £30 in value of fresh, frozen and dry goods per week. These parcels are delivered direct to the door and will continue until the crisis is over or the member withdraws from the scheme. Due to the current crisis, these parcels are now free to anyone who wants one. This is not 'charity': it is saving food that would otherwise be wasted. The quality is very high and of the same standard you would buy in the shops.

On request I can provide a form, or it can be downloaded from www.sofea.uk.com and emailed to thechippylarder@gmail.com. To receive a parcel on a Friday, the form needs to be submitted by Tuesday at 5pm. The service is entirely confidential. I will be the delivery driver and will not disclose who receives a parcel. Please share this with anyone who you think may benefit. I was really impressed with the offer and would recommend it to everyone.

David Baldwin (07957 497513)
d.baldwin@stonesfieldpc.uk

Some other phone numbers to call for help

West Oxfordshire District Council:	01993 861000
Oxfordshire County Council:	01865 792422
Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire:	03444 111 444
Age UK Oxon Free Telephone Support:	01865 411288
Witney and West Oxfordshire Foodbank:	01993 890000
Volunteer Link-Up:	01993 776277
Samaritans:	116 123
Talking Space:	01865 901222
Mind UK:	01865 247788
Shelter:	0808 800 4444
Debt Advice (Stepchange):	0800 138 1111
Crime Stoppers:	0800 555 111
Action Fraud:	0300 123 2040
Mental health line (24hr)	01865 904 997 (adults) 01865 904 998 (children and young people)

Find more information at www.stonesfield.online/covid-19-information/

Notices & news

Important reminder to contributors

Please note that contributions for inclusion in the *Slate* should be emailed to slate@stonesfield.online. This replaces the old website address which will shortly cease to operate. For residents without access to email, handwritten copy may be left at the village shop (in an envelope marked 'Stonesfield Slate'); if using this facility, please let the Editor know – his/her telephone number is listed on page 2 of the *Slate*.

Slate Editor

Optimistic news

It seems that everyone is yearning for some good news to balance each day's sombre accounts of the impacts of Covid-19. Well, nobody can stop an infant who is clamouring to come into the world!

You may have had a baby (or two...) in the last nine months or so and are missing the admiring coos and smiles that passers-by would usually offer. If so, the *Slate* would be delighted to learn of your baby's arrival, and to welcome a brand new resident of

Stonesfield. Please send date of birth and gender, plus a name if you wish, to the Editor (slate@stonesfield.online) – we will gladly publish your happy news.

Dale Morris, some-time editor (898210)

Parish Church Gift Day 2020

The annual Gift Day for the Parish Church will be held on Saturday 27 June.

Thank you to everyone for your generous donations last year, enabling us to run church services, social gatherings such as Monday coffee, children's activities, maintain our beautiful 13th century building, and pay our contribution to the Diocese (our Parish Share).

In recent months, of course, the church building itself has needed to stay closed, and some activities have been temporarily paused, but this period may serve to highlight that the church and its space for worship, prayer and family life events, does indeed matter – and we do want it 'to be there' in the future. A Gift Day provides everyone with an opportunity to show their

STONESFIELD VOLUNTARY TRANSPORT SCHEME

As you know, we have had to suspend our service of voluntary transport to medical appointments because of the Government requirements for social distancing and to protect both our clients and our drivers.

However, if you are in need of transport for medical reasons and are unable to find this from your own household, there are one or two other possibilities that may be able to help.

For further information please phone Viv Kendall on 01993 891803.

support in a tangible way – to ensure that it is ‘there’ for us all.

There are several ways in which you can give:

- Online – visit
www.stonesfieldparishchurch.org/
- Use the QR Code:



- Bank transfer – Bank details:
Barclays Bank, Witney
Account Name:
Parochial Church Council of Stonesfield
Account Number: 30686921
Sort Code: 20-97-48
- Cheque made payable to ‘Stonesfield PCC’
- Cash

Cheques and cash can be given in person in the church porch on 27 June, between 10am and 1pm (we look forward to saying ‘hello’ at a safe distance!) or delivered to Keith Bellew (10 Wootton End). If easier, please telephone our churchwarden Kate Harris (898781), and she will be pleased to collect from your home.

Thank you so much for your support.

On behalf of the Parochial Church Council

Village Hall News

It’s been a very odd few months with us all in lockdown and with no clubs running, which is very sad as prior to all this happening we were planning on building the hall’s usage by putting on a lot more community events!

We were also eagerly anticipating our new doors being fitted, and giving back the lock that Andy Tacon kindly lent to us (sorry Andy!), and yet here we are, months later, and no further forward. The doors are made and ready, but just stuck with the manufacturer at the moment.

We don’t expect things to change very much over the next few months. In the meantime, we will be looking into risk assessments for when the hall re-opens, as well as urging all classes to do the same prior to returning.

Stay safe!

Jacqueline Carthew
Secretary & Booking Clerk for Stonesfield Village Hall (898919)
stonesfieldvh@gmail.com
facebook.com/stonesfieldvillagehall

The Woodstock Bookshop

Rachel Phipps at the Woodstock Bookshop advises that she is now able to order books, although the shop itself remains closed for the time being. Her distributors have re-opened and are able to supply again, albeit with a slightly slower delivery service. Rachel will be in the shop on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 2-4pm, for enquiries and collections. If you wish to place an order, please telephone at the above times (812760) or email info@woodstockbookshop.co.uk. You will

be notified when your books have arrived and payment may be made over the telephone. Rachel is able to deliver orders locally, including Stonesfield, to those who are unable to collect. The shop will re-open as soon as it is feasible to do so and – welcome news for regular customers – Rachel intends to continue the business for the foreseeable future.

Many thanks for the VE Day Virtual Lunch

From Jayne Clapton: A big thank you to the Stonesfield Mutual Aid Group, the Lunch Club and everyone else involved in the celebration lunch. It was so kind and thoughtful and I really enjoyed someone else's cooking for a change. I loved the soap plus messages and pictures from the school children. Thank you, Charlie – hope you enjoyed your garden picnic. I sent a picture of my goodies to my family who were so pleased with your lovely thoughts. Thank you all again.

From Frank and Jean Hall: Jean and I would like to thank everyone who contributed to our lovely VE day lunch on 8 May, delivering a delicious homemade meal and a goodie bag with letters from the children. We will do our best to reply! We would also like to thank our neighbours who gave us such a surprise when we answered the door by standing along our drive to say thank you to me with a round of applause. We were both really touched by everyone's kindness. Thank you.

From Margaret Whitelaw: I would like to give a huge thank you to all concerned with the super lunch delivered to me on VE Day. What a variety! Nothing was forgotten, even to the soap and hand-wash. It was much appreciated and thoroughly enjoyed.

I especially liked reading the individual letter which had been written by a Stonesfield school pupil – in my case, very many thanks to Henry.

Lockdown Stonesfield – Part I

The *Slate* asked Stonesfield residents what the lockdown has meant for them. This month we look at the thoughts of the retired members of our community, the healthcare professionals and volunteers.

Several of the retired people who have commented have been coping with ongoing health problems and some with the virus itself. One gentleman in isolation needed to go to hospital which he found very worrying, but 'the doctors and nurses were good'.

Loss of independence and free movement were for most the hardest to bear: 'not being able to shop for myself, I was so appreciative of the people who helped me.' 'Kind friends were hugely helpful but I was very unhappy about depending on them.' Another said: 'I have become dependent upon others for the most ordinary things. I don't want to ask other people as they may come into contact with the virus on my behalf.' Some felt helpless: 'if someone who is dear to me becomes ill, I can do very little to help... this breeds constant low-level anxiety.' 'Most of all,' said another: 'I miss the freedom to move around.' But others found that help with food shopping and prescriptions meant that: 'nothing has been particularly difficult.'

Our retired people all greatly miss seeing their families and friends, and several mentioned the Lunch Club. Family visits have been curtailed: 'only chatting through the window with my son'. 'We miss the buzz of the children coming out of school

and fun times with our grandson.’ Some miss the church, coffee with friends, trips to the garden centre and grandchildren coming for Sunday tea. One lady whose family live far away says she ‘always has that gnawing gap, knowing that they are [now] unable to meet whenever they are near.’

But Stonesfield people have given great moral support: ‘the amount of calls we received when my husband was ill was humbling, and most comforting when things were unpredictable and very scary.’ Also ‘the extreme consideration and kindness of friends has been beyond wonderful. More people feel inclined to chat...there’s a general feeling of kindness, humour and warmth.’ Those who needed medical help praised the skill and kindness of the doctors and nurses.

Many remarked on the quietness: ‘It has been lovely and quiet sitting in the garden and hearing the birds, with no planes going over.’ Some found the extra free time helpful in ‘reflecting on our priorities.’ Others have found new activities like using Skype or Zoom.

Turning to those doctors, nurses and volunteers... ‘In intensive care, our workload has increased considerably but it’s manageable. We have to wear PPE for hours, which is unpleasant, communication is difficult, and examining patients is harder.’ ‘In our GP surgeries, much of the work with patients is now done by phone. To see patients I have to use PPE, and distancing from patients is difficult.’

‘As a community nurse I visit patients at home. PPE forms a barrier to the power of touch, communication and comfort that is

a very important part of our job. Mentally it is very difficult and stressful.’

Another said: ‘I have increased my hours since the start of the pandemic so I’m definitely more tired. Working in intensive care, we are used to having to adapt quickly. The PPE is uncomfortable, hot and dehydrating but it is keeping us safe. Initially it was stressful ensuring I was also keeping my own family safe.’

And in the community: ‘Such a sudden change to the normal rhythms of life was initially a huge challenge, especially with the requirement to shut the church which would normally be a central place of comfort and support during a crisis.’

The healthcare workers miss family, friends, freedom, holidays, travel and sport. One missed ‘my family’s routine’ – a telling reference to life as it was before the crisis. And one said ‘I really miss hugs most of all!’

For doctors in both hospitals and GP surgeries the pandemic has given a chance to ‘have a fresh think about what we do and how best to keep patients alive. It is not often a new disease appears.’ ‘The lockdown has been a force to innovate and modernise the way we [GPs] see and treat patients.’

Praise has been generous: ‘Our nursing staff have been genuinely magnificent – they have risen to the occasion superbly...’ and ‘volunteers have been very impressive, making laundry bags and delivering medications.’ Gifts of food and messages of support have come ‘both from patients who have recovered, and from relatives of patients who sadly have not. This has all re-affirmed my faith in human nature.’ However, they point out: ‘we are doing

what we were trained for. We get slightly embarrassed about being called heroes.'

Other good things: 'the garden has never looked better' and 'it has given us more time, especially as a family; we feel more connected with the kids. The roads are quiet. Simple things give great pleasure.'

Some final thoughts: 'It's made me think how health is the most important thing, that we all take for granted, and how material things are so much less important'; 'I am proud to be a nurse and proud of the NHS, always have been; I'm just pleased others now appreciate it and I really hope it continues.' And 'the way that people have reached out, wanting to help care for each other in any way that they can, has been amazing and beautiful.'

'If we learn something positive from this it would be that people matter most of all. Our cars and possessions are meaningless if we cannot share our lives with those we love most. I hope we are now more aware that for many elderly, disabled and disadvantaged people, this isolation is the way that they live most days.'

Next month we will share the thoughts of families with children, young adults and working people. Our huge thanks to everyone in Stonesfield who has contributed insightful and thought-provoking ideas to this project.

Viv Kendall

More please

The *Slate* is made possible by articles contributed by Stonesfield residents. We would like as many contributors as possible. Are you able to contribute? For example:

Sports / activity groups: What is planned for the coming months? What has been achieved?

History: Does your house have an interesting story? Do you have some Stonesfield history to share?

Art / music / drama: Do you have a line drawing or poem you want to share? What activities have taken / are due to take place?

If you have something to share, please send an article to the Editor at slate@stonesfield.online or deliver it to the village shop (in an envelope marked 'Stonesfield Slate').

Slate Publisher



Politics & local affairs

Stonesfield Parish Council

Resignation and appointment of councillors: The Parish Council would like to announce that Claire Walton has resigned as a councillor with immediate effect. We would like to thank Claire for her short-term work as a councillor; she will be missed. We are extremely pleased to welcome back Wendy Gould to the Parish Council. Many of you will know Wendy as she served for a long term as a councillor. She will be an asset to the Parish Council, bringing back her knowledge to the forefront of working with us.

Covid-19 Grant Fund: The Parish Council has a Covid-19 Grant Fund in place. Voluntary organisations and charities that would like to apply for emergency grants may request an application form from the Clerk: clerk@stonesfieldpc.uk. In order to be considered, applications must be returned to the Clerk no later than the Monday prior to a meeting of the Council. We are delighted to confirm that we have provided grants to the Community Mutual Fund and Chrissie's Owls.

Council Meetings: For the foreseeable future, all meetings of the Parish Council will be held via Zoom. Members of the public are welcome to join these meetings; joining details will be published on the website and the meeting agenda. There is no cost associated with joining the meeting as a member of the public. The Annual Parish Council meeting has been postponed.

Finance and Audit: The Parish Council has appointed auditors for its annual return and review. Details will be published once this is complete.

Grass-cutting and bins: Grass-cutting and the emptying of bins continues as usual throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

Public art: The Parish Council is working with Tony Davis and Genny Early from A Blackbird Sang in Stonesfield to come up with a public art design for the village. More details will follow in due course. If anyone would like to see the type of work Tony and Genny produce, their website is www.ablackbirdsang.com. The Parish Council is looking forward to seeing a creative piece of work in the village for everyone to enjoy as soon as we can (this year).

Karen East, Clerk to the Parish
clerk@stonesfieldpc.uk

Stonesfield Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

For information see www.facebook.com/StonesfieldNHW/

If you are interested in joining our scheme, please follow this link and ensure you click 'Join a scheme' then select 'Stonesfield' to complete your request: www.member-registration.neighbourhoodalert.co.uk/30/Join.

Deanna Blakeway Asplundh

From our District Councillor, West Oxfordshire District Council

The collective minds at District have concentrated on preserving all services and facilities/grants during this very uncertain time. Although the unexpected costs of dealing with the fall-out of Covid-19 have been high, there is hope that the emergency funding from the Chancellor will go some way towards offsetting this.

District has produced a detailed document for procedures for 'virtual' meetings - very necessary and welcomed by all councillors after a disorganised and disruptive practice session. Applying the protocol at a full council meeting resulted in a meeting which went out to the public without leaving red faces on the members.

WODC has appointed a full-time Chief Finance Officer/Deputy Chief Executive to work in conjunction with the other councils in the partnership. The Planning Committees reconvene later this month with Uplands meeting on the first Monday in June. Special arrangements for the distribution of views and plans will be made. These meetings will, in conjunction with all council meetings, be open to the public through the streaming technology.

All councillors extend to their residents their best wishes and hopes for their safe and healthy passage through the troubled waters which surround us all.

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

Other advice from WODC

Bulky waste collections: The bulky waste collection service is recommencing in order to help residents dispose of larger items. Whilst still subject to some restrictions, residents will be able to arrange for the collection of up to three items per household including furniture, white goods and larger electrical items. Currently beds, sofas, mattresses and carpets are excluded but the service is subject to ongoing review. Further information and booking details are available at www.westoxon.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/getting-rid-of-large-items.

Bonfires: WODC has seen a major increase in complaints about bonfires in recent weeks and is calling on residents to be more considerate to their neighbours. Bonfires pose a particular risk to people with respiratory conditions, those who are shielding themselves or those who have contracted the virus. Bonfires and drifting smoke are also a nuisance for neighbours who wish to spend time in their gardens or have their windows open.

Revised S3 bus timetable

Following government guidelines advising against unnecessary travel and social contact, a revised S3 bus timetable has been in operation since Monday 23 March. Temporary timetables are being introduced across Stagecoach services and will apply until further notice. This new timetable means there are five buses a day to and from Oxford at approximately two-hour intervals. All timetables can be found at www.stagecoachbus.com.

From our County Councillor, Oxfordshire County Council

Community support during the pandemic: These are unprecedented times and the world has changed. However I'm pleased to see that the community spirit is up and running across the Woodstock division with the groups that have been created to help and support our vulnerable residents. The groups are working well with the District and County Councils. If you have any concerns regarding residents who may need to be on the NHS shielded list, please contact us on 01865 897820 or shield@oxfordshire.gov.uk. At this time we all need to come together to work for the benefit of all residents, especially the vulnerable. With that in mind, I have weekly conference call meetings with the other Oxfordshire Leaders to ensure we all are working together and not duplicating work.

PPE: There have been issues with national distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). To assist this process, on 9 April Oxfordshire County Council received and despatched nearly 63,000 pieces of PPE kit to 69 providers across the county. In addition, we placed an order of over £1 million for additional stock and are working with two local West Oxfordshire companies who are supplying PPE.

Testing: All farmers and members of their households who are showing symptoms of coronavirus will now be able to get tested. Testing has been extended to all essential workers in the country which includes those involved in food production and processing as well as veterinary staff. Essential workers can book an appointment on the Government's website and can then choose to visit one of more

than 30 drive-through testing sites or receive a home testing kit. A new testing site has been set up at Thornhill Park & Ride to assist in the testing process. There are three additional mobile testing stations in Banbury, Bicester and Chipping Norton. All tests need to be booked in advance. For more information, see: www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested.

Road repair programme: The first phase of this year's £32m road repair programme - surface dressing - has just finished. This technique improves the road surface and provides waterproofing which extends the life of the road. In the last month the team have resurfaced an area equivalent to 80 Wembley football pitches (600,000m²) and improved 110 miles of road.

Ian Hudspeth (07956 270318)
ian.hudspeth@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Drawing: Diana Letchford

Education, culture & more

Stonesfield Library

Although the Library is closed until further notice, the Friends of Stonesfield Library received this message from James Hazelwood, Senior Officer of Oxford Library Services: 'Be assured no customers will incur overdue fines during this closure - and any outstanding reservations will be rolled over.'

We should be grateful if you would share this information via any local networks you have, as we are receiving a large volume of calls from concerned borrowers.

Please follow us (Oxfordshire Libraries) on Facebook and/or Twitter for updates.'

Stonesfield Primary School

From the Headmaster:

The Government has requested schools to plan for the wider opening from 1 June, to children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, while continuing to provide education to vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers. The last week has undoubtedly been the most difficult during my time as headteacher: digesting government guidance, consulting with staff, governors and parents, and finding the solution to children's right to education in a safe environment.

Staff all want children to return to school and we recognise the implications for learning lost during this time. However, our priority must be to maintain the

highest standards of safety, reduce the possible risk of transmission, and protect the health of our pupils and staff. After a full and thorough risk assessment, this safety-first approach means that we are unable to offer a full-time place to eligible children from 1 June. If the Government gives schools the green light to open, and at the time of writing this seems uncertain, our children will return part-time. This arrangement will be under constant review, and we all desire our school to be back to normality in September.

Our parents have done an incredible job over the last couple of months: ensuring children are safe and happy during these difficult times, maintaining a learning routine, while juggling the demands of work and family life. I would also like to thank the brilliant staff at Stonesfield Primary School. I've always known how dedicated they are to our children but they have gone above and beyond the call of duty during lockdown, often working around the clock to support home learning, while being on the rota to keep school open to eligible children; all while trying to maintain a sense of normality for their own families at home.

Finally, we have places in all year groups from September 2020. If you are new to the village or keen for your children to attend their local school then please get in touch for a tour and more information.

Ben Trevail, Headteacher

And from the School Governors:

On behalf of the Governors, we would like to say thank you to parents of children at the school for continuing to work with the school during these really trying times. We have all found ourselves taking on new roles during lockdown, and home-schooling has been a new challenge and a learning experience for everyone.

We would also like to publicly thank teachers and other staff at the school for their commitment during this period. Many teachers have had to juggle providing home schooling with teaching those children who are continuing to attend school every day, as well as home schooling and looking after their own children at home. We really appreciate their efforts.

We are now entering a new phase as schools move towards re-opening, and this is currently unknown territory for us all. First priority will be to manage the return as safely as possible. By the time you read this, plans should be in place and we will be cautiously re-opening to some year groups. Please watch out for further information from school on developments as we assess and refine our procedures during the first weeks.

Finally, we would like to send best wishes to everyone and urge everyone to keep safe.

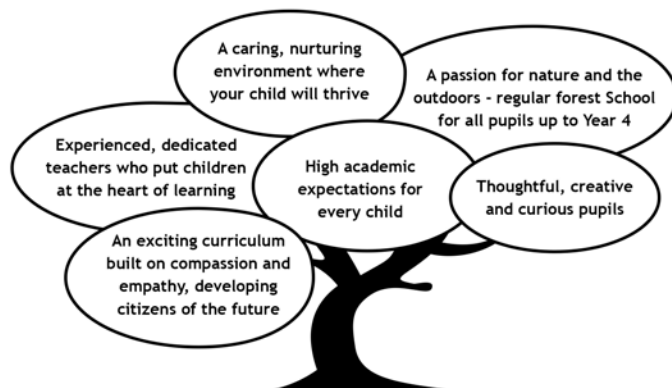
Harry Holland and Sue Corrigan
Joint Chairs of Governors
Stonesfield Primary School

Stonesfield Primary School

Learning together to achieve our best.



Looking for a friendly, inclusive, local school for your child?
Stonesfield Primary School has places in all year groups - we would love to show you around.



To arrange a tour with the headteacher, Mr Ben Trevail, please contact the school office.

Tel: 01993 891687

Office email: office.2353@stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk
Headteacher email: head.2353@stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk

Stonesfield Pre-school

Hello again from the Pre-school! We hope everyone is coping with the situation we all find ourselves in. If anyone in the village needs any help with errands, no matter how small, please let the Pre-school know as one of our staff team will be able to help. Please email stonesfieldps@outlook.com.

I have been particularly busy over the last four weeks keeping in contact with some of our pre-school children via Skype and Zoom. We have been sharing stories, singing songs and sharing our favourite toys.... I'm told, 'Wait there, Lizzie'; I sit and wait patiently at my laptop until 'someone' reappears with... a giraffe, bus, baby shark to name but a few of the toys I've been shown! We know that nothing can possibly replace the children being at pre-school, exploring, playing and running around outside with their friends. However, these virtual sessions have continued that all important connection with pre-school for the children and I will carry on with our fun sessions for the foreseeable future until we are back up and running normally again. If you have a young child at home and would like to book a virtual Lizzie pre-school session, please contact me on the pre-school email above. Also, if you are interested in your child starting pre-school and would like a virtual chat, we are more than happy to organise this with you.

During this difficult time, we are providing for all the parents of young children (not just those currently at pre-school) an interesting selection of activities through short video clips and photos on our Stonesfield Pre-school Facebook page. Please take a look as there may be something there your little one will enjoy -

Thomasina reading a story, Hannah introducing her chicks or Sarah's talking horse!

The Government has just announced that from Monday 1 June we may be able to open our doors again, which is really good news, so fingers crossed and we will let you know how everything is progressing in July.

We want to make sure that the wrap-around care we provide, After-School Club and Breakfast Club, meets the needs of the families of pre-school and primary school children. We have sent out a survey to help us address this and hope to make the necessary changes in September that will benefit all families.

Last, but not least, we would like to introduce you to a new pre-school family: they were found in the water tray storage box outside in the pre-school garden... There is always a silver lining when times are tough!

Lizzie Wharton, Manager





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

Breakfast Club

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 8–8.50am (£5.50 per session)
Cereal, toast and fruit juice included

Pre-School Sessions

9am–3pm daily for children aged 2–4 years (£16.00 per session)

After School Club

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 3.15–6pm (£16.00 per session)

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

Nature Notes

A favourite run or walk is through Stockey Bottom woods, across Stonesfield Common, and along the lane towards East End. At the bottom of the hill by Ashford Mill, a footpath meanders through Whitehill Wood by the River Evenlode back towards Stonesfield. Otter spraint has been found at the bridge on prominent rocks indicating it's part of otter territory, although I've not yet seen one. Cricket bat willow sets were recently planted along the river's edge, a future harvest in 15–20 years to make English cricket bats; in the shorter term the trees will create habitat for birds and insects, and the roots will reduce river bank erosion.

Further along the path, remnants of ancient woodland begin. Before the canopy of leaves closed over, celandines and the elusive Yellow Star of Bethlehem gleamed

in occasional patches alongside the trodden path. Slightly later on, wood anemones, and occasional dotted bluebells flowered among emerging wild garlic leaves, creating a colourful mosaic forest carpet. Now the wild garlic is in full flower – a carpet of spiky white florets. The leaves can be eaten raw, or blanched and used in place of spinach, for delicious soup or pesto. The flowers are also edible – perfect added raw to salads. The second half of the Latin name, *Allium ursinum*, refers to the fact that brown bears loved to eat the bulb, giving rise to two of its common names – bear's leek and bear garlic. A massive mossy five-stemmed ash tree bears witness to coppicing a century or more ago.

As the track winds through the woods, snagging roots cross the path; I need to keep a watch on where I place my feet, not just the possible sight of otters. A white

egret rises unmissable from the water,
evidence that the river, despite the
turbidity, is clearly still sustaining fish for
the herons and otters. As the woodland
changes, passing into nettles by the railway
bridge, through a tightly knotted tunnel of
blackthorn, petals from the blackthorn
blossom speckle the path. Later, the path
opens out again and you can glimpse the
huge oak set back, surely several centuries
old. Further on, the flowering crab-apple
hums with bumblebees, scenting the air,
before the path meets the gate, entering
the broad, familiar expanse of the
Evenlode flood meadow below Stonesfield.

Genny Early



Drawing: Genny Early
www.ablackbirdsang.com

Covid Related

*Buttercups gild the hillsides,
Hedgerows are clotted with may;
Swallows swoop and dart for flies -
Where are you these days?*

The pavement's twenty-four floors down,
They've yet to mend the lift.
The baby cries, his father frowns -
Fresh air would be a gift.

*Pools of bluebells lie under the trees,
Cowslips mark the way;
Wild garlic taints the spring-time breeze -
How are you feeling today?*

I'm worried sick. He's got no work,
We're behind with the rent, and I'm scared.
If this doesn't end soon, he'll go berserk,
And who will find out how I've fared?

*Skylarks batter a looming sky
The rain clouds are black and blue.
An icy wind cuts through like a knife -
And how, my dear, are you?*

If we stayed at home and washed our
hands
They said we wouldn't die.
It seems to me, from where I stand,
That was a downright lie.

Caroline Friend,
May 2020

Our Ella

We hear the sound of the river flowing fast
after the autumn rains

Meandering and changing the path while
washing muddy banks away

Altering the walk we know of old.

A dog, inquisitive in every step, licks the
brown water while balancing precariously
on the slippery bank to quench her thirst.

It's the only other sound we can hear and
we see it's our Ella.

No need for spoken words, an exchange of
eye contact between us

Warns her this is not the time for
swimming.

The clouds have formed an unusual shape,
beautiful in their own eerie way and so low

We feel almost able to reach up to touch
their softness,

But the moment is broken as a squirrel
rushes past at full speed with a dog in
earnest pursuit,

It sits at the base of the tree, disappointed
the game is over, and we can see it's our
Ella.

We slide carefully along the banks in single
file, walking slowly as mud cakes around
our boots,

No need for conversation, only
concentration, and I lag behind stepping
between broken branches on a damp
carpet of golden leaves.

The trees are almost bare, but the ground
is strewn with red, yellow and amber
colours while the weak sun gently lights
them as if they were still living.

I feel a gentle 'nip' at my ankle, I am being
warned that I'm separating from my pack
and I need to hurry,

Looking down I see it is our Ella.

The field is grassy and safer underfoot; the
sheep are grazing and the dog obediently
on her lead although quivering with
excitement

She would love to run, a ewe stamps her
foot in warning, and we walk quickly past.

The late afternoon temperature has
dropped and the sun hides behind the trees
as we pass through the woods,

The breeze gives a blush to our cheeks and
a hot cold feeling engulfs us as we stride
quickly towards home.

The dog pulls at her lead and tries her best
to prolong the walk, she is reluctant for it
to end, her eyes meet ours, we are almost
home, Ella.

Later, curtains are drawn shutting out the
rain and the dark and the fire glows
inviting us to enjoy her warmth and the
moment,

The cats lazily droop themselves over the
sofas and the evening begins.

I reflect on the day, we are quiet in each
other's company, relaxing and feeling
healthy after our walk.

A warm meal is almost ready in the oven
and the wine tastes good,

I feel a soft warm body snugly wrapped
around my feet as a damp tongue licks my
hand in appreciation; I look into her face
and her deep brown eyes look into mine,
We all seem to smile, she is our Ella.

Diana Letchford

May 2020

The Alltfechan Giant

Once upon a time there was a giant who lived in a barn on a hillside. His name was Joe, and the hillside was called Alltfechan. He was a friendly giant, content to potter round his hillside and enjoy the view from his barn.



Down in the valley below was the village of Pont-Faen. The people who lived there were quite happy to have a giant up the hill, as long as he didn't bother them. He never ate their sheep (he was vegan) and even their dogs weren't scared of him, so they lived contentedly alongside each other.

There was only one problem about Joe the Giant. When he was making his tea in the morning, which he did every morning without fail, just before pouring his oat milk into the steaming mug, he had this really annoying habit of hurling the teabag out of the barn window, and it always landed in the same place: just down the hill, on top of the hydrangeas in Richard and Ann's garden. You might think that

this wouldn't really matter – one little teabag landing on a hydrangea plant.

The problem was, being a giant, he had giant teabags, so they really were quite big, and they piled up quickly. Richard and Ann were very tolerant people, but one day they'd had enough. Their healthiest, most beautiful hydrangea plant had got squashed.

Richard stomped up the hill and called 'Joe, I need a word'. Joe the Giant stirred himself in his enormous armchair, pulled on his sheepskin slippers and peered round the door of the barn. 'What can I do for you, Richard?' he said politely, his rumbling voice echoing around the hillside. 'It's your teabags... It's got to stop'.

'My teabags? What do you mean, what's wrong with my teabags?' 'You keep chucking them out of the window, and they always land in the same place: on my hydrangeas. Please could you stop doing it?' Joe rubbed his chin for a moment, a slightly forlorn look settling on his creased, friendly face. Then he sniffed and said, 'You know, Richard, I didn't even realise I was doing that. Ever so inconsiderate. Won't happen again. Promise.'

And with that, he sniffed again (he hated upsetting people), pulled his head back inside the barn, and went back to sitting by his wood-burning stove, where he picked up his knitting and went off to sleep.

The next morning, as he stirred his tea, and was just about to reach for the jug of oat milk, he muttered to himself, 'I must not throw my teabag out of the window, I must not throw my teabag out of the window'. But then he was so taken up by the beautiful view across the valley, which he never tired of, especially on a sunny

morning, that without thinking he flicked the teaspoon and the giant teabag flew out of the window. Splot, he heard it landing in Richard and Ann's garden. 'Oh no. I've done it again.'



At that moment, Richard and Ann were looking out of the window of their sitting room, and heard the 'splot' of the teabag landing on the hydrangea. Richard marched out of the house and then stood, stock still, in amazement: beautiful streaks of blue had appeared on his previously pink hydrangea. They were, indeed, in the process of turning blue.

Richard scratched his head, puzzled, wondering how this could have happened. At that moment, Judith and Rose, from the Mill next door, walked past. Richard told them about the blue-streaked hydrangeas. 'You know, that reminds me of when I was a little girl', said Judith. 'We always used to put our tealeaves on the hydrangea plants when we were emptying the teapot. It was a job I really liked doing. Very satisfying. And after a while, they changed from pink to blue.'

Richard brightened up. 'You know what, I think I rather like them turning blue. It's rather interesting. Maybe it's not such a bad thing. Joe chucking his teabags out of the window. What do you think, Ann?' Ann had just come out of the door to see what was going on. 'I think it's lovely. And Joe isn't really doing any harm. It's a bit of a shame when the hydrangeas get squashed, but they do seem to be all right in the end.'

So from that day on, nobody minded that Joe the Giant threw his teabags out of the window of his barn on the hill at Alltfechan. And everybody who walked past Richard and Ann's house admired their lovely blue hydrangeas.

Story by Judith Hooper

Illustrations by Sonja Burniston



Local history: Rousham

9 miles NE of Stonesfield

In the 1630s Sir Robert Dormer bought the manor of Rousham. He immediately began construction of the present house but work was halted by the start of the English Civil War. The Dormers were a Royalist family and the house was attacked by Parliamentary soldiers. In 1649 the estate was inherited by Robert Dormer's son, also Robert. He left the house much as his father had created it, only repairing the damage of the Civil War. However, he did more to restore the family fortunes by marrying twice, each time to an

heiress. His second wife was the daughter of Sir Charles Cottrell, a high-ranking courtier of Charles II.

Colonel Robert Dormer-Cottrell, the grandson of the house's builder, inherited Rousham in 1719 and began the huge transformation of the gardens to its current appearance. Initially he employed Charles Bridgeman to lay out the gardens in the new and more naturalistic style that was becoming popular. Bridgeman's layout of the garden was completed circa 1737. Rousham was then inherited by the Colonel's brother, General James Dormer (1679–1741), who called in William Kent to further enhance and develop the garden that Bridgeman created. This Kent did with considerable success over the next four years.

On the death of James Dormer in 1741 the estate passed to his first cousin Sir Clement Cottrell-Dormer (1686–1758). At this time Kent also embellished the house itself, with crenellations and two wings containing a drawing room and a library. The interiors were altered a century later but the hall, the principal room of the house, has survived alteration by successive generations unchanged, and remains as completed in the 17th century.

Kent's exterior work is today almost as built, but in 1876 the original octagonal paned glazing was replaced with innovative large sheets of plate glass, during a heavy-handed restoration of the house by the architect James Piers St Aubyn. The house contains fine collections of Jacobean and 18th-century furniture, paintings and statuary, all displayed in a domestic setting.

Its landscape garden is the work of William Kent (1685–1748). Rousham represents the first phase of English landscape design and remains almost as Kent left it, one of the few gardens of this date to have escaped alteration, with many features which delighted eighteenth century visitors to Rousham still in situ, such as the ponds and cascades in Venus's Vale, the Cold Bath, and seven arched Praeneste, Townsend's Building, the Temple of the Mill, and, on the skyline, a sham ruin known as the 'Eyecatcher'.

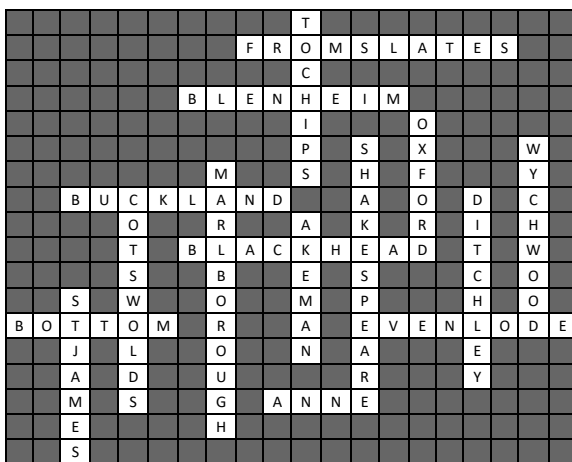
The walled garden with its herbaceous borders, small parterre, pigeon house and espalier apple trees is a sight to see. A fine herd of rare Long-Horn cattle are to be seen in the park.

Rousham House is the home of Charles Cottrell-Dormer and his wife.

www.rousham.org

[www.flickr:rousham](https://www.flickr.com/photos/rousham/)

May Crossword Answers



Clubs & societies

Stonesfield Gardening Club

The Gardening Club held its plant sale under very different conditions this year. There was huge pent-up demand in the village, especially for vegetables as well as for bedding plants to decorate the War Memorial. However, due to social-distancing requirements, we could not hold our usual stalls in Sybil's garden. A list was sent out, orders taken and plants collected or delivered while 'keeping to the rules'.

As the weather had been so good our growers had excelled themselves. We raised the magnificent sum of £285 to send to Bridewell Organic Garden to help with its work in mental health and a further £355 went to local food banks.

The committee has cancelled the walk round village gardens due to take place this month but hopes to be able to do it in September instead.

In the meantime there is plenty to do in the garden and, even more importantly, time to enjoy it. Here are some tips from the National Trust about making your garden more enjoyable for wildlife as well.

- Allow some of your grass to grow a bit longer if you have space. Daisies and white clover are great for nectar.
- Put up bird boxes. It is too late for this year's broods but look for high, sheltered spots for a box which the birds can inspect ready for use next year.
- Grow climbers. Ivy is a great year-round provider of food, pollen and shelter for

birds and insects, while clematis and some roses are good for wildlife too.

- Build an insect hotel. This can be just a pile of old wood, twigs and rocks left in a corner of your garden – maybe your children can have a go at this.
- Create a pond. This can be a major undertaking if you have room and energy to spare, but it can also be achieved with just an old sink or a buried bucket. Make sure that wildlife can climb out by providing stones or twigs at the edge.
- Make a compost heap. Ours is full of slow worms!
- Leave a gap in your fence so that hedgehogs and frogs can commute around the village.
- Grow flowers. Good for us and good for wildlife!
- Don't be too tidy! Nettles, daisies and buttercups are important food sources for insects.

Diane Bates (898841)
diane@bateshome.co.uk
www.stonesfieldgardening.info

Book Break Online

We continue to maintain our connection through an online version of Book Break, making use of some very helpful resources that may be of interest to others. For those of you who enjoy short stories, you may want to read an uplifting story called *The Verger* by Somerset Maugham.

(www.teachingenglish.org.uk/sites/teacheng/files/MaughamTheVerger0.pdf)

or, for those of you who have ever struggled to learn to play the piano, a humorous tale by David Nicholls, *Every Good Boy*. www.theguardian.com/books/2011/jul/22/david-nicholls-short-story.

Enjoy your reading!

Wendy Lynch

The (Virtual) Lunch Club

At very short notice, it was suggested that we put on a special lunch to mark VE Day for our Lunch Club members, to be sponsored by Stonesfield Mutual Aid Group. This quickly expanded to include other residents who we felt might appreciate it and so we ended up cooking for 25 people!

Nigel Villiers, who has cooked for us in the past, offered to do the main course, Aaron Deemer made freshly-baked sourdough bread, and Sarah Plumridge, Claire Charles and Mary Hughes made the desserts. To make it extra special, we hand-decorated goodie bags which included sweets, soap, wartime recipes and hand-written letters from the local children. Deliveries were made by Rachel Sofroniou and Sybil Barton, who were joined by Cllr Dave Baldwin and Sarah Walker from the Scouts. The organisers received many 'phone calls from members the next

morning expressing thanks and gratitude for doing something that cheered them up no end.



Pictured is Jayne Clapton receiving her 'virtual lunch'. Jayne has been one of our volunteer helpers for many years but now finds herself in the group which must self-isolate. Our grateful thanks go to many others in the community who stepped up to help put on this event.

Kate Harris, Lunch Club Chairman (898781)
kateharris58@yahoo.co.uk

Sport

Stonesfield Football Club

You may be questioning, with flaming June upon us, why on earth I'm doing a football report this month when we all know that there hasn't been any football since the season was closed down at the start of March. Of course, it is a reasonable question.

I am delighted to say though, that some of the folks in The Firsts, Reserves and Ladies Teams have not been sitting on their couches eating copious amounts of banana bread (delicious though it is!) washed down with equally copious amounts of scalding tea or something stronger. No, they've taken the government's rules to heart and decided to use their one piece of daily exercise to help raise much-needed funds for our local NHS. They've been running a virtual (sort of) collective Land's End to John O'Groats by adding up each other's mileage on our local roads. By two weeks their collective total found them at the northern tip of Britain, so they just decided to continue and run back to Land's End (1704 miles)! At the time of writing they were running back to Stonesfield to clock-up 1968 miles. Rumour has it that they intend to complete 2,000 miles by the time this goes to print! They've been featured on Witney Radio, in the Oxford Mail and The Witney Gazette. If you want to help them raise more money for Our Local NHS they have a Just Giving page where their current total (mid-May) was/is over £1500! The link to the page is: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stonesfieldcfcrunfor NHS.

Of course, it is possible that the page could be closed when you read this, but Mike Phipps is more than happy to receive more donations. If you would like to donate then please contact him on 07814 497310.

So the final Fredo Award is obviously a collective one for all those who took part in The Great Stonesfield Run for Our NHS and they are: Adam Holmes, Nick Higgs, Laura Higgs, Mike Phipps, Tom Wilson, Ryan Hunt, Raffy Rice, Carry Rice, Jack Barker, Will Barker, Jordan Newman, Dave Bartle, Ben Lucas, Nick Clarke and last, but by no means least the old codger himself, Mr Mick Phipps! The football club is proud of each and every one of you, so take a bow and enjoy your Fredo, it has been earned the hard way!

Finally, I was saddened to read in last month's *Slate*, of the passing of Simon Haviland. Simon was a great friend of Stonesfield and made a huge contribution to the success of the *Slate*. Although he had no interest in football at all, along with Jenny, he always did his best to make sure that the Football Club report got its place in the *Slate*. Sometimes he needed changes to make room for other things, but he was always thoughtful and insightful with suggestions whenever that happened. It is clear from Dale Morris's lovely tribute that he will be missed by all in our village. On behalf of the Football Club I would like to express our sincere condolences to his wife, Jenny and to his family.

Tom Flanigan (891979)

Church news

Church of England Worship at St James the Great, Stonesfield

(Benefice of Stonesfield with Combe Longa)

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, all church services have been cancelled for the time being and the church building itself is closed. Should any restrictions be lifted, this will be advised on the church porch noticeboard and the church website: www.stonesfieldparishchurch.org.

For any enquiries or help, including pastoral support, arrangements for funerals and so on, please contact a churchwarden: Kate Harris (898781) Neil Melrose (891566) or email: stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org

Parish letter:

How are we each changing to cope alongside COVID-19? Some of us will have been digging in the garden, others may have been cooking creatively, or doing online art classes.

I'm trying to figure out what's important to me these days. I'm digging beneath the surface of my everyday life to 'plant' new (for me) ideas. Caring for the natural world feels urgent, at the top of my list. So no more weedkiller on the paths – I'll pull up what I can. It's a question of balance in God's precious world.

We are finding ways to be more creative. We are feeling the need to keep in closer touch with each other when actual touch is

impossible. When community is difficult, we're learning how important it is to our sense of wellbeing and rootedness.

Around the country we're still waiting for permission to open our church buildings for the community. Whether you're personally 'into' organised religion or not, the ancient St James's Church building is a spiritual hub of the village. It must, and will, be opened up again in a controlled way. And I pray for that soon.

It has been miserable not being allowed to wander in to the church to drop in some foodstuffs or a note for a prayer. (Our splendid shop has been very supportive, and now has one of the Foodbank boxes). Apart from the central issue of having no regular church services of worship, many of us, taking a walk by, may have missed not being able just to step into the church to sit for a while.

Have you perhaps wondered over these last months: 'Where is other evidence of the church then?'

The St James's community has not been idle. The evidence is 'underground'. During lockdown there's been a wonderful selection of services online or on the telephone which any listener or viewer can choose from, daily and for Sundays (see below). In Stonesfield there is constant prayer for those suffering, and thanksgiving for dedicated work; there is a group involved in pastoral care, checking up on those we know about who may need help for one reason or another. All the

challenges around living alongside the coronavirus need a new creative approach. Many Stonesfield dwellers are practising this kind of pastoral Christianity without naming it. That's because it's not uniquely Christian. It's love of humanity, but centuries of Christian culture have made this self-giving easier for all of us to practise intentionally. Christians add to this uniquely, by calling for inspiration through Jesus, because Jesus has so manifestly suffered and triumphed over the world's wickedness and the fear of death. He did it once for all peoples, all times. This conviction adds to the village community's strength.

As we go into summer it's the Christian season for celebrating the creative work of the Spirit of God – the season of inspiration. In the dreadful company of COVID-19, this season now inspires us to care in a deeper way about each other, to communicate more personally, more sensitively, and to feel ourselves more at home between death and life. In this way we are all open to receive God's Peace and actually laugh with life, and feel the strength of this inner peace.

At the same time there is the wonder of our plants growing, our seeds coming up, our new happy ways of feeling closer (although apart), our times of quietness alone becoming deeper and more fulfilling (because cared for). I think this very precious feeling is called 'Joy'. It's there for us all, particularly in this month of growing.

Charlotte Oakeshott (Licensed Lay Minister)

There are many services on the radio, television, online or telephone, including:

Diocesan Live Stream service Sundays at 10am:

www.oxford.anglican.org/livestream. Also available by telephone from 11am: 01865 920930; standard call rates apply.

Daily Hope: Music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England – available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044; free of charge.



Drawing: Rachael Sherlaw-Johnson

Roman Catholic Worship

The God who speaks - 2020 has its focus on the Bible and 'The God Who Speaks'

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came into being, not one thing came into being except through him.' (John 11-3)

The three great Abrahamic religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam are also known as the Religions of the Book. All three religions have as their authority texts which are seen as divinely inspired to guide, instruct and inform our relationship with God.

Scripture is at the centre of everything for Christians everywhere. The word of God shapes our prayer and worship in all its forms. The Bible shows us how to understand the world, how we are called to live and relate to each other – and the Gospels in particular offer us a 'Design for Living'.

2020 is the 10th anniversary of Verbum Domini – Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The Word of the Lord' and the 1,600th anniversary of St Jerome's death (he who wrote the Vulgate Bible, variations of which all Christians use today). This anniversary has inspired the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to dedicate 2020 as a year of focus on the Bible and 'The God Who Speaks'. 'Today Jesus speaks those same words to you: 'Take heart, I am here with you, allow me to enter and your life will change'. That is why the Lord gives you his word, so that you can receive it like a love letter'. Pope Francis

The God who Speaks Prayer:

*Living God,
You walk alongside us
and speak to us throughout the Scriptures
Your Son, Jesus Christ, listens to our
hopes and fears
and shows us how to live for one another.
Send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts
and minds
so that we may be your witnesses
throughout the world.
Amen*

St. Teresa's will be closed until further notice due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Holy Mass is being live streamed on Sundays at a number of different churches:

Blackfriars, Oxford, 9.30am

St. Aloysius, The Oxford Oratory,
Monday–Saturday 8am (EF Low Mass);
6pm (English Low Mass with sermon)
Sunday 8am (EF Low Mass with sermon);
11am (Latin Sung Mass with sermon);
5:30pm (Vespers & Benediction)

Prayers of spiritual communion:

*O my divine Jesus, how great is my desire
to receive your sacred body! Oh, come
now into my soul, at least, by a spiritual
communion! O Jesus, my divine Saviour,
save me. O my God, hiding myself with a
humble confidence in your dear wounds, I
give up my soul into your divine hands.
Oh, receive it into the bosom of your
mercy. Amen.*

Parish pilgrimage (to be confirmed):
Saturday 18 July to St. Chad's Cathedral,
Birmingham on the occasion of Deacon
Dytor's ordination. For further
information, please contact Suze Mathews
(891720) or email
suzemathews899@btinternet.com

Fr Tony Joyce can be contacted
at: holytrinityrechippy@gmail.com or
01608 642703

For parish updates, any further
information or support:
www.stteresaschurch-charlbury.com_or
contact Clive Dytor at:
chair.stteresaschurchcharlbury@
gmail.com

Roman Catholic Community in Stonesfield
– Keep praying

Suze Mathews (891720)

Stonesfield Methodist Church

Sadly there are no services planned for
June. So much has changed during these
past months. Looking at the unchanged
can be very comforting indeed.

Spring time this year has been as glorious
as ever and my daily exercise is a great joy.
Wild flowers, lambs, busy birds and every
shade of green stretching across the
countryside – what could be more
uplifting!

This House of God is unchanged. It just
waits, waits for one day soon when voices
will be heard and fellowship shared once
more. Hallelujah!

*I have said these things to you, that in me
you may have peace*

*In the world you will have tribulation. But
take heart; I have overcome the world.*
(John 16:33)

Kathleen Albért (891733)

New Church thought

In March I spoke about teamwork and
building a community. It's awe-inspiring
how well Stonesfield has been doing that
since this pandemic arrived!

But the daily reports of new deaths from
the virus are sobering, and utterly
heartbreaking for those whose loved ones
have died. So far, I have not had to go
through that. I do find deep reassurance in
the many New Church teachings about the
process of dying and the person waking in
the spiritual world a few days later, still
alive and just as human as ever. Here is
just one paragraph, from Swedenborg's
book *Heaven & Hell*:

“When someone's body can no longer
perform its functions in the natural world
in response to the thoughts and affections
of its spirit ... , then we say that the
individual has died. This happens when the
lungs' breathing and the heart's systolic
motion have ceased. The person, though,
has not died at all. We are only separated
from the physical nature that was useful to
us in the world. The essential person is
actually still alive ... because we are not
people because of our bodies but because
of our spirits. After all, it is the spirit within
us that thinks, and thought and affection
together make us the people we are. ...
When we die we simply move from one
world into another.”

Dale Morris (898210)

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For boxed ads please email **slate-ads@stonesfield.online** for full details of availability, sizes, requirements and cost. Line ads: £2.00 per 30 words.

Advertisements should be emailed to **slate-ads@stonesfield.online** by 10th of the month.

Line ads can also be delivered by hand to Diane & Paul Bates, Waterloo Barn, Laughton Hill, Stonesfield, OX29 8DY.

All advertisements must be paid for in advance.

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BLENHEIM

We are thinking of our community
during this challenging time and hope
you are all keeping safe and well.

There are currently a number of local groups in our
community doing vital work to support those in the most
need at this uncertain time.

We are proud to be doing what we can to offer support
alongside these fantastic organisations and groups of
extraordinary local people.

We've been able to contribute the use of one of our vans
and donated office space, bottled water and 15,000
chocolate bunnies to those in need.

We hope we can **#stayconnected** with you by sending
weekly e-newsletters full of recommendations and
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It is with sadness that Nigel and I have decided to leave The White Horse. The last few weeks has put things into perspective and it feels like the right thing for us to do as a family.

We'd like to thank everyone who has supported us over the last three and a half years. We have some great memories to take with us.

We hope that we might get to enjoy a drink with you from the other side of the bar in the not too distant future.

Hope you're all well. Stay safe!

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