

Stockey Woods success

Oxfordshire County Council has finally granted Stockey Woods 'Village Green' status. In 2016 Tricia Astle and others collected voluminous evidence from village residents and groups, including the Scouts and Primary School, showing how they had enjoyed the woods 'as of right' for many decades. She submitted the evidence and application. Blenheim Estate, the landowner, objected to the application, triggering an eight-day public inquiry. Tricia sought legal advice. After substantial legal submissions, Blenheim graciously withdrew its objection. Having considered yet further legal submissions and evidence, OCC approved the application on 24 February 2021.

Congratulations are due to Tricia in the first place, and Jim Astle and many others for supporting the campaign through to a successful conclusion.

What does village green status mean? It could be said that everything has changed and nothing has changed. The woods are still the property of Blenheim Estate who will continue to be responsible for managing the trees. Stonesfield residents can continue to use the woods as they always have. The difference is that those rights have now been enshrined in law in perpetuity.

It is really important that villagers respect the woods, which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) like the Common. To keep it beautiful, please follow these simple rules: no camping, fires or barbeques; no unauthorised motor vehicles; take litter home; keep dogs under control; pick up and take your dog poo home; do not damage trees or pick flowers.

David Brown, Stonesfield Parish Council
Richard Morris, Sustainable Stonesfield



A sharp eye for detail?

The Stonesfield Slate is seeking an additional editor to join the team.

If you have a sharp eye for detail then see page 8 for more information.

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Notices & news

Alan Parsons

Alan Parsons, the last of the eight children of Emily and Jim Parsons, died in early February. The Parsons family is well known in Stonesfield, all of the children being born and raised in the village and only one of the eight moved away. Our thoughts are with Alan and Grace's son, Roger.

Jenny Haviland

Robin Hartwell

Robin (Rob) was the epitome of a Cotswold country gentleman. He first came to Stonesfield in 1958 and quickly became a much-respected part of the fabric of the village.

He was a friendly and open-hearted man who always seemed to have time to spare for not only the village itself but also for all who lived here. Whenever there was a need to tidy up the village, or clip an errant hedge, take down a stray branch, tend any of the public tubs or wash a dirty sign, Rob could be seen doing just that.

He quickly recognised a need for a supporting hand; was a sympathetic friend and ever a good listener. Whatever the problem or difficulty, he had a solution, not just verbally but also often followed by practical help. And, of course, his outgoing and warm personality was not just for public consumption. He was a tremendous support to his family. Libby, as was Rob, was involved in many of the village causes and groups, including Parish Council Chair

and latterly Parish Clerk. It was in this role that I first came to know them both. She was an excellent clerk; I was very lucky indeed to have her knowledge and expertise in the work of the Council and the village. She was fully and ably supported by Rob. Whilst I was on the Council, their kitchen table, flanked by Libby and Rob, became a hub for difficult decisions and became the source of much animated discussion and excellent advice. Rob helped Libby with her work for Riding for the Disabled and as secretary to the Stonesfield Community Trust.

Rob always maintained an 'open door' policy at Broadlands, giving generously of his time and in more practical terms. Those in need or distress often found a refuge in their home. Some of the more unusual aspects of Rob's life were his delivery service to villagers of truck loads of manure, either to individual homes or to the allotments on Churchfields and Woodstock Road. He was recognised as the 'go to' person when deer or other wild animals were found injured on our roads. In times of heavy snowfall, Rob in his Land Rover facilitated the delivery of meals-on-wheels around the village and its surrounds.

Personally, I shall be forever grateful that I had the privilege of knowing both Rob and Libby. They were far more than colleagues - rather, dear friends. Many folk in the village will miss him and feel a sense of loss and emptiness in village life, but none as much as his immediate family. To his

children, Judy, Penny, Martin, Sarah and Richard; to his grandchildren, Tom, Millie, Alfie, Henry and Rory, the feeling that they have lost an immeasurably important facet of their lives must, surely, be tempered by the affection and pride they know is justified in the memories they have of Rob.

Richard Bishop

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The Little Easter Garden

We are celebrating Easter with a real/pretend little garden by the porch door to St James's Church, from Monday 29 March and onwards until well after Easter Day.

There are fruit-boxes filled with earth for plants and jam jars with water for posies. All are invited to join in and add whatever little plants you can spare, a stone for the little path and flowers to make it pretty. In one box there is a tomb made of Stonesfield slates and the stone guarding the entrance to it will be rolled away on Easter Sunday morning: 4 April.

Dear village friends, do take part as mini-gardeners! We have no bonnet parade this year in the Manor garden (boo-hoo!) so this is our socially-distanced gesture of love and fun. Please bring your contributions and your heart to it.

Charlotte Oakeshott and Alison Eastwood

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Scouting returns to Stonesfield

As we hope to see life return to normal, we are pleased to say that 1st Stonesfield Scouts are making plans to start up again after Easter in the week commencing Monday 19 April. The return will be dependent on a number of factors and each Section within the Group is planning on how they can meet safely and within the

Scout Association guidelines. If your son or daughter is involved in Beavers, Cubs or Scouts, then you should have received an email with more details from the Group Scout Leader, and we will keep you updated. If they are not involved, and wish to be, then please email us at gsl@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk.

Outside preparations for the return, we have been busy preparing to raise funds for the new Scout Hut. Additionally, a competition has been held for all Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to create a poster that shows the community what it means to them to be part of the Scout Group.

Finally, the Group needs you and your skills in order that we can continue to deliver a varied programme for our young people. The Beavers and Cubs Sections need Leaders. The Group, and Leaders particularly, would benefit from your time and administrative skills including checks, badge ordering and collection, as well as social media updates. Please contact Jonathan Hands at gsl@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk if you wish to be involved at any level.

Ben Whitworth, Chair, 1st Stonesfield Scouts

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Suriya Express shop hours

From the beginning of April, shop opening hours will revert to the usual arrangement:

Monday-Friday: 07.00 – 20.00

Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays:
08.00 – 20.00

The Post Office retains its usual hours:

Monday – Friday: 09.00 – 17.00;

Saturday: 09.00 – 13.00 and is closed on Sunday, although Mat and Rekha will be happy to serve you at any time during shop opening hours.

Road closures

Oxfordshire Highways (OCC) have granted Gigaclear a number of Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTRO) for road closures whilst laying fibre-optic broadband cables in Stonesfield.

Current TTROs are:

Laughton Hill: 18 May – 4 June

Pond Hill: 7 June – 14 June

Church Street: 15 June – 23 July

High Street: 26 July – 2 August

Peaks Lane: 3 August – 16 August

Boot Street: 17 August – 27 August

These are 24-hour per day closures although the notices state that access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for those frontages within the closure area, subject to the progress of the works.

More details of closures and diversions are posted on www.stonesfield.online/news when the notices are received from OCC by the Parish Clerk. By registering on www.stonesfield.online you receive automatic notification when new items are posted.

Gigaclear have also informed the Parish Council of works that will be affecting

Pond Hill: 18 March – 4 April

Busby Close: 22 March – 2 April

Longore: 5 April – 3 May

More information on road closures and other road works can be found on www.one.network/custom/oxfordshire/

Stonesfield Website Editor
webeditor@stonesfield.online

Broadband outage

In carrying out work at Pond Hill / Church Street junction on 18 March Gigaclear's contractors severed the fibre cable currently providing broadband to much of the west of Stonesfield.

Openreach arrived quickly and at one point had eight vehicles in the area. Due to issues feeding a new cable through the existing duct, services were not resumed until late the following day.

Gigaclear issued a statement: 'We are currently installing our ultrafast fibre broadband network in your community. Although it is very rare, we do occasionally disrupt an existing utility connection while digging our trenching for our network, as it is not always possible to locate the existing cable. This has happened in Stonesfield to a part of the Openreach network, and Openreach are currently on site working to rectify the situation as soon as possible. We apologise for any inconvenience caused. If anybody does have any questions, please contact our Network Build Care team at networkbuildcare@gigaclear.com or by calling 01865 591137.'



Village Hall news

In the hope that lockdown is soon to be eased, we are gearing up to re-open and offer the community the outlet for activities that I think we have all missed and need. It will be slightly different, as there will be restrictions in place for some time to come regarding numbers that can attend and the social distancing aspect, but we have had a year's worth of practising now to cope with what will probably be the 'new normal'.

This is an ideal time for people to think about what activities they have enjoyed doing in the Hall in the past and what they would like to do now and in the future. We are starting to book our classes and events so please do get in touch and let us know if you would like to start running an activity, or if there is a big event coming up that you think we would be able to accommodate.

If you have any questions or ideas, please contact Jacqueline at stonesfieldvh@gmail.com or leave a message on the booking line 898919.

Jacqueline Carthew, Secretary & Booking Clerk

Dog theft

The reported increase in dog theft over the last few years, fuelled by the pandemic, is clearly a worry for dog owners - but we are told by local police that it is not a problem that is increasing locally.

Don't be over-alarmed but follow this advice from the Warwickshire Police and the Blue Cross:

- Never leave dogs unattended in a garden or car, or tied up outside shops.
- Vary your walks, including times and routes.

- Ensure your dog is microchipped, your contact details are up-to-date and the dog has an ID tag with your name, address and phone number.

More advice is available at: bluecross.org.uk/pet-advice/protect-your-dog-against-theft.

Viv Kendall

Thank you, litter pickers!

To all of the Stonesfield and surrounds litter picking heroes, thank you! The response to my piece in the March issue of the *Slate* has been fantastic with the new Parish Council litter pickers regularly being booked and taken on litter picking walks (even jogs!) There have been some interesting finds

I also wanted to thank the litter pickers who habitually pick up litter every day, or every week, and have been doing so for months, even years. Thank you.

With our combined efforts, a huge amount of rubbish has been removed (and hopefully recycled) from our pavements, verges and hedgerows, not only making Stonesfield and its surrounds look tidier but, more importantly, helping our environment and the wildlife within it.

If you would like to book a litter picker, do please get in touch on 07970 107805 or at jesshuband@hotmail.co.uk. And if you ever spot an area which needs litter picking, do please let me know so that we can focus our efforts where needed as required.

Jess Huband

Hospital transport

We are delighted to begin offering voluntary transport for Stonesfield residents to the JR and Churchill Hospitals, the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre and the Horton Hospital in Banbury. For some time, we have felt that it would be much more helpful to take people all the way to the hospitals rather than to the Oxford Parkway Park & Ride as we did previously. We can now take that step.

As for all our more local journeys, full Covid-19 safety precautions will be observed.

We do welcome donations towards expenses for hospital visits, which are proportional with those for local trips. If appointments are expected to last longer than about two hours, we may need to send two drivers; one to take you and one to collect and bring you home.

Please contact me on the number below if we can help you.

Viv Kendall (891803)

Stonesfield Voluntary Transport Scheme

Stonesfield Library

Although Stonesfield Library remains closed for the moment and we have no information as to when it may be permitted to re-open, some other larger libraries in the county will be opening from 12 April. At the time of going to press, I have not been informed which of the main libraries will be opening initially; however, when I am notified, I will place the information on Nextdoor Stonesfield.

All I can say is that the library volunteers are very much looking forward to welcoming our customers into our library

as soon as we are able to do so. If you are interested in becoming a Friend of Stonesfield Library, we would be delighted – please contact me on the telephone number below for more information. Meanwhile, please stay safe.

Mike Pollitt (891856)

Becoming a Celebrant

Looking for ways in which I could make good use of time which had unexpectedly opened up, last autumn I trained to become a funeral celebrant.

You might not be familiar with the term... but some people nowadays choose to have a funeral that is not in church. These non-religious services often take place in a crematorium - my first funeral was in the new one at Tackley - or at a Natural Burial Ground (Tackley or Leafield), but in truth, they can take place anywhere you wish.

The celebrant is the civil priest. They work closely with a funeral director so that all the arrangements run smoothly on the day. They meet the family, hear all about the deceased, and then create a service that celebrates the deceased life, history, achievements and personality using music, poetry and bespoke prayers. The aim is to shape a spiritually uplifting and deeply personal tribute that fits into the all-too-brief allotted time. Compressing a life into 40 minutes can be a daunting and difficult process; with gentle guidance, it can become a creative and healing experience.

I have become acutely aware of the trust placed in the celebrant. A service created and conducted with respect, dignity, empathy and love is in fact a gift to the bereaved. It allows them to express their grief, to give thanks for the life of their

loved one, and to say a formal goodbye. Using a webcast, services can now be transmitted live to all those unable to attend. A funeral can be something the family is proud of: a memory they can treasure and share.

Caroline Friend

caroline.v.friend@gmail.com

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Combe Mill

During a year of a variety of lockdown regulations, the Mill has stood solid by the flowing (and sometimes overflowing) Evenlode, just waiting for humans to return in greater numbers.

The directors are now busy with the preparations for the 'Big Spring Clean' at the Mill. Now admittedly this is going to happen a bit later than normal and is a huge undertaking. It is not easy cleaning a stone building that is a hundred plus years old, with several engines, a forge and a water wheel on the ground floor. Then we have to think about getting the thousands of artefacts that are stored upstairs at the Mill looking their best. It is really good news that we can finally begin to talk about getting ready for the return of visitors.



My question this month is - would you like to be part of this volunteer team? We are looking to recruit across many areas in the Mill – not just those who are good with a duster or cloth. We need a whole range of

people to help us open the Mill from stewards to engineers, people who like mending and maintaining things, making tea and coffee, cutting cakes and sandwiches, people who can use computers, cameras, ticket office machines and social media, alongside many other skill areas. If you would enjoy welcoming exhibitors and visitors, both young and old, with a wide range of interests and needs, we would love to hear from you.

Coming soon will be 'Bring your Mate to the Mill Day' - we would love to make some more mates...

Tony Simmons

tourism@combemill.org

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Retiring Editor

One of our team has decided to 'retire' from her role as a *Slate* editor. Our grateful thanks go to Lynda Parkinson for her years of precise and conscientious editing – I think she has actually done two separate stints in that role. Thank you very much, Lynda - we greatly appreciate your good, reliable contribution to this village team effort.

The consequence of her stepping down is that we now need another editor! Lynda has been doing the autumn editions, working in mid-August, mid-September, and mid-October. A computer, typing skills, an internet connection, and a sharp eye for detail are needed. There may be some flexibility in which months are taken on, through negotiation with the other three editors.

For more details of what the task entails, please contact Dale in the first instance

Dale Morris (898210)

dale.morris@zen.co.uk

Politics & local affairs

Stonesfield Parish Council (SPC)

From the meeting held 3 March 2021

Elections: There are District and County Council elections in May. The Parish Council does not have elections this year.

White Horse Pub: Steve Callaghan provided the Clerk with a record of how the £4,000 grant which SPC gave the Community Pub Group had been expended. The pub has been purchased by Jon Bowers and not the Community Pub Group. Jon Bowers does intend to open as a public house. The pub has been subjected to vandalism which has flooded some areas and as a result security has had to be increased. SPC is impressed with the community's efforts to raise funds and looks forward to seeing the pub re-open.

Trees: Paul Orsi of the Sylva Foundation, which promotes sustainable forest management, gave a short presentation on trees to SPC. With regard to tree planting in Stonesfield, it is necessary to look at a short, medium and long-term plan including locations, maintenance and costs. SPC welcomes ideas surrounding these issues and, if any landowners wish to participate, they should get in touch with the Clerk (clerk@stonesfield.pc.uk)

Recycling Centre: According to WODC, Stonesfield's recycling facility will be removed; as yet SPC has not been advised when this will happen.

Defibrillator: A replacement battery has been purchased and a service has been booked. A service for the Pre-School's defibrillator is also being arranged.

Planning: 21/00414/HHD: The Parish Council resolved to have no objection to this application.

Village survey: It was agreed to try and move forward with a neighbourhood plan instead of a survey. The Parish Council will establish whether there is a dedicated officer at the District Council in this respect, and look into the situation regarding grants. The Neighbourhood Plan champions in the first instance will be Cllr Gould, Cllr McArdell and Cllr Powell.

Art Project: SPC has instructed Genny Early to commence on the bench art project for which funding is provided by WODC via S106. It is hoped to have the bench in place for the summer.

Litter picking/cycle signage: The Clerk conveyed Jess Huband's thanks to the Council for the cycle signs which are currently being installed. The Council reciprocated by thanking Jess for managing the litter picking exercise and equipment, and also thanked all the litter pickers who have helped to keep the village tidy.

Trespassing: Incidents of trespassing across Ollie Stobo's land continue. There are rules on how this land is to be managed and the trespass and damage is hampering this requirement. The Police are involved and the Blenheim Estate has repaired the

damage to fencing three times to date. The Parish Council has asked councillors to set an example and respect the land, and will meet with the Blenheim Estate and Ollie Stobo to see if a collective resolution to this problem can be found.

Date of next full Parish Council (public) meeting: Wednesday 7 April 2021 at 7pm (Zoom virtual meeting).

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Community and Co-Responders: South Central Ambulance Service

Stonesfield Parish Council would really like to see us have a community responder in our rural village. If you might be interested in this role, please read on for further information from South Central Ambulance Service.

Be a real lifesaver for your community: If you are physically fit, have access to a vehicle and want to make a life-saving difference to your community, please think about becoming a community responder. If you would like to help us in emergency situations, then become a Volunteer Community First Responder. You will be trained by SCAS to deal with medical emergencies, providing sometimes life-saving first aid to a patient in the crucial minutes before an ambulance arrives. After attending an initial five-day training course (spread over a couple of weekends and evenings) and an annual one-day refresher course, the commitment we ask of you is to make yourself available for at least 20 hours each month. You can choose the times to fit around your other commitments and you 'respond' from home or perhaps your workplace. We will provide you with all the training,

equipment and support you need to do something amazing for your community.

For more information, please call us on 01962 898090 or email at cfr@scas.nhs.uk advising where you are based.

St John's Ambulance also have a first responder programme; more information on this can be found at: www.sja.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer-opportunities/community-first-responders/

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Cycle to School Signs

New signage is now in place marking the route from Stonesfield to Woodstock for students cycling to The Marlborough School and using the approved route via the Blenheim Estate.

The 'School Cycle Route' signs were designed by SAFER. However a big thank you goes to OCC who provided the funding to manufacture the signs. The design went through an approval process with OCC Highways before permission was granted to erect the signs on the highway.

Cllr Michael Heduan MBE

SAFER (Parish Council Working Group)
m.heduan@stonesfieldpc.uk



Village Travel Network

SAFER, a working group of Stonesfield Parish Council, is helping establish the Village Travel Network in conjunction with other local communities. Road safety and sustainable travel are at the heart of the VTN project to help link communities together.

Planning for the VTN is now underway and a dedicated project team has been established made up of representatives from Bladon, Combe, Glympton, Hanborough, Stonesfield, Woodstock and Wootton.

The VTN initiative aims to create a network of safer walking, cycling and riding networks that link villages and communities together. Routes in the network will provide safer and more sustainable options for local communities that avoid busy roads, pollution and will enable recreational and well-being benefits.

Currently the team are planning the overall objectives for the project and producing a detailed project plan to deliver the VTN strategy and vision. Further updates will appear in the Slate as this project gets off the ground.

Cllr Michael Heduan MBE

SAFER (Parish Council Working Group)

www.stonesfield.online/safer/

m.heduan@stonesfieldpc.uk

From our District Councillor

The most immediate work of the District Council during the last few weeks has been consideration and confirmation of the budget for 2021/2022.

Resulting from the difficulties of the pandemic, it was felt necessary to undertake a re-forecast for all the proposals. Upon completion, this exercise was found to be surprisingly accurate in the altered situation.

In the event, Council has achieved a balanced and robust budget. It has managed to maintain in full all existing services to our residents and, importantly for our villages, retains all grant facilities in full. Additionally, Council has confirmed its support for the West Oxfordshire free parking arrangements across the district.

For the first time in several years, the budget was passed unanimously by all parties with their full and unequivocal support. Members of all parties were complimentary of the provisions contained in the proposals.

Grants to businesses in West Oxfordshire are now well over 85% completed with 1,307 grants amounting to over £7.1m. The last round of grants expired on 14 February whilst the next tranche of payments covering 16 February to 31 March will be paid as soon as possible with any new applicants being processed continually.

A full Council agreed a Climate Change Strategy for West Oxfordshire. This includes a robust carbon action plan which was originally proposed in October 2020 and is now reinforced by the Council's focus on climate action and defined by a framework for its delivery, its vision and priorities.

It was noted that the West Oxfordshire Plan for the delivery of new homes each year up to 2031 was well up to expectations with the annual quotas being met.

At its last meeting, Combe Parish Council asked me to give a brief over-view of the Salt Cross Garden Village proposals. In no particular order this covered: an integrated transport hub; links to Hanborough station; two new roundabouts onto the A40; a park-and-ride centre; electric vehicle charging points; 2,200 new homes with a mix of commercial and affordable prices; two new schools; a doctor's surgery; a business/science/technology park; a system of pedestrian and cycle paths; and a proposed cycle hire facility. The whole development will strive to be carbon-neutral utilising 100% renewable energy. This is a very potted and brief summary but it will give some substance to the generic ideals of the development. More details can be found on the WODC website.

With the Covid restrictions being loosened shortly, may I wish you all a safe, if only partial, return towards a more normal life. Spring is upon us – let us all try to enjoy it.

Cllr Richard Bishop (891414)
richard.bishop@westoxon.gov.uk
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**More news from West
Oxfordshire**

Local elections

WODC have issued the following guidance in respect of the local elections which take place on 6 May.

- Registering to vote: Anyone wishing to vote must be registered on the electoral register. The deadline to make an application is Monday 19 April. For more information and to register, please see: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.
- Postal voting: Those wishing to vote by post this year need to ensure that they apply before 20 April. A postal vote

application form can be requested from: www.westoxon.gov.uk/about-the-council/elections-and-voting/register-to-vote.

- Proxy voting: If a resident is unable to attend their polling station, they can nominate someone to be their proxy and cast their vote for them. The proxy must be a registered voter and able to attend the voter's own polling station. Applications for proxy voting need to be sent to the District Council no later than 5pm on Tuesday 27 April.

More information about the local elections for 2021 can be found at the WODC website: www.westoxon.gov.uk/about-the-council/elections-and-voting/current-and-future-elections/.

Climate Change Strategy

WODC has passed a new Climate Change Strategy. This has been developed following consultation with residents and businesses in 2020 and with the support of a cross-party working group and will provide a broad framework for how the Council's climate action priorities will be achieved over the next four years. The strategy sets out five key areas of focus which have been identified as having the most impact in tackling climate change:

- Protecting and restoring natural ecosystems
- Energy
- Active travel and low-carbon transport
- New development standards, and
- Education and engagement

WODC will report annually on progress made. A copy of the strategy can be found at: www.westoxon.gov.uk/environment/climate-action/climate-change-strategy.

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)

The County Council set the budget on 9 February with investments in key priority areas for residents despite all the challenges of the pandemic. There is £200,000 for the roll-out of 20mph speed limits for towns and villages which want to work with the Council and see this as a way to achieve safer streets. I have registered the request that all councils in the Woodstock division are part of the programme. There is also an additional £200,000 for drainage and vegetation clearance, targeting particular areas which are prone to flooding.

There is an investment of £1m long-term funding to expand the youth offer in Oxfordshire with an additional £500,000 one-off accelerator funding to develop sustainable long-term approaches and to help tackle the impact of the pandemic on young people.

There was a 1.99% increase to 'core' council tax along with a levy of 1% for adult social care. Given the level of uncertainties, including regarding Covid-19, we will continue to take a cautious and measured approach towards managing our budgets. We are very conscious that the need for extra funding must be balanced against the pressures on residents' incomes during the pandemic. This is not an easy time, financially or otherwise, for businesses, residents and families.

The road resurfacing programme will be starting soon with (hopefully) the better weather. There will be road closures as follows, although local access will be allowed:

12 – 15 April:

Woodstock Road, Stonesfield
Castle Road and Castle Street, Wootton

15 – 19 May:

A4095, Bladon

The reduction in the number of Covid-19 infections is welcome news as this results in fewer hospital admissions and reduces pressure on the NHS. The vaccination programme is being rolled out at pace and I want to thank those helping to ensure everybody gets a jab. Oxfordshire County Council is working with its partners to assist where required and will continue to help protect vulnerable residents across the county.

The road map set out by the Government gives us a view of the way forward which is welcome news. However, we must all continue to play our part by observing the guidelines so that life can return to what will be a new normal as quickly as possible.

Ian Hudspeth (07956 270318)

ian.hudspeth@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Education, culture & more

Stonesfield Pre-School

As I write this month's entry, the children are very busy in the garden. There has been rain overnight, a puddle sits in the middle of the garden and all I can hear is the sound of sheer enjoyment. A member of staff fills a tray with water, another fills spray bottles and I see one of our older children trying to work out how to transport water from the tray to an empty box - and he finally realises that all he needs is another child's jug. Friendships are beginning to form with the older children; we see this every year just as they are about to start big school. They walk across the garden; I can't hear what is said, but I can tell a deal has been made: 'my cup for your jug', all sorted, and both children appear happy with this exchange. The children love playing with water. They learn so much: filling, emptying, pouring, floating, sinking, and most of all child-led fun. Oh, and not to spray each other!

Term 4 proved to be very enjoyable; we continued with traditional tales, made Mother's Day cards and celebrated Easter. Our caterpillars arrived slightly earlier than usual. If you are wondering? Every year we receive five tiny, and I mean tiny, caterpillars. They grow by the day as they are very hungry and eat all the food they are given. They then turn into cocoons and we wait patiently for them to turn into five beautiful Painted Lady butterflies. So, this leads us nicely into next term's main theme of the life cycles of frogs, plants, birds and butterflies.

We have also been fortunate this term to have Grace Gleeson volunteering with us. Grace is studying Early Childhood Studies at Gloucester University and has spent several work placements with us over the past few years. She is a great help and the children love her. We wish Grace lots of luck for her final year.

In Term 5 we welcome five new children and their families and also a new staff member, Georgia Townsend, who will be starting on our return after Easter. She is a qualified Early Years Practitioner with several years' experience and has previously qualified and worked as a dental nurse.

Finally, on behalf of all the Pre-School Committee, the staff and the children, we would like to thank the Community Trust for their kind grant that has enabled us to buy two new iPads complete with cases and a much-needed canopy for the garden to create shade and shelter. Thank you very much.

Louise John

Stonesfield Primary School

It's been an absolute pleasure to welcome our children back to school this month. The school is buzzing and feels alive once more; our community is back together again. Children have been well supported emotionally with the transition back to school and it has been a delight to walk around the school and see the smiles and hear the laughter as children reconnect

with each other and remember the joy of learning alongside their friends.

Staff would like to say a huge thank you to parents, and in some instances grandparents and other family members, for the dedication shown in supporting children with home learning. The last few months have been immensely challenging for everyone, but the situation has reinforced the importance of a successful partnership between school and home to enable our children to blossom.

We know the huge impact 2020 had on our pupils – emotionally, socially, and academically, and staff were determined to ensure children received a great education through the most recent lockdown. Now school is fully open again, staff are working relentlessly to support pupils pastorally and getting everyone back on track on their journey to academic success. The future

looks bright, and working together as a community we can forge the path for our children's futures.

Ben Trevail, Headteacher

There are still opportunities to join our team of Governors working to give the children of Stonesfield (and some from neighbouring villages) the best possible educational experience. We are looking for a range of skills and experience, including financial, so we are open to discuss any possible offers.

If you are interested, or would like an informal chat, please email office.2353@stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk with your name and contact details and we will get right back to you.

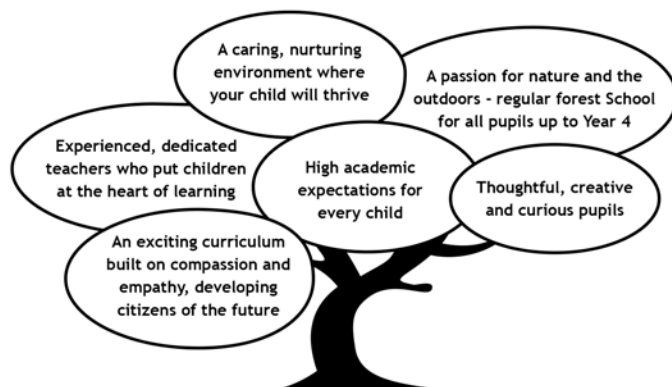
Sue Corrigan and Harry Holland, Co-Chairs

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

Oxfordshire Art Weeks, May 2021

Studios in our area are open from 1–9 May and, while some artists are displaying only virtually, it will be possible to visit some studios in a Covid-19 secure environment. The guide this year is a virtual one and can be found at www.artweeks.org.

There will be two sites in Stonesfield:

Site 31 – Grey Cat Studios on Woodlands Rise, will be open on 1,2, 8 and 9 May from 11am – 5pm with the carport gallery (outside and very popular at Christmas time) and with the opportunity to enter the studio itself one at a time or in family bubbles. This year exhibitors are Rachael Sherlaw-Johnson (painting), Jenny Lines (printmaking), Kerry Burniston (crafts), Rebecca Sherlaw-Johnson (painting and crafts) and some work by Ann Lowe (textiles).

Site 30 – Claire Fyfe-Jackson (designer jewellery) at Sarts Cottage, The Ridings, is open from 11am – 6pm all week.

Please wear masks and observe social distancing in line with prevailing guidelines.

Rebecca Sherlaw-Johnson

Counting adders

Are they extinct here or do we still have adders (*Vipera berus*) in Stonesfield? This is a plea for your past sightings.

A friend of mine, a keen herpetologist, published a photo of some adders he saw in Dorset in February. I was most surprised that they were out so early and mentioned that there had been sightings in Stonesfield over the last few years, usually near the scout hut if I recall correctly. This

really pricked up his ears as, being an ex-Charlbury resident, he had often sought them out but had never seen one in the area, and neither had a researcher from the Amphibian & Reptile Conservation Group.



Their view is that adders were ‘extinct’ around here. Readers may be interested to know that in the late 1960s residents were paid the sum of one shilling for each adder removed from the Baggs Bottom area so that the removal of slate waste to be used as hardcore on the new Southern Oxford by-pass could be carried out safely. Imagine the fuss today!

Do you know different? If so, please contact me regarding any sightings within, say, the last five years and I will pass them on with a view to further investigation, most probably in the Make the Adder Count Survey 2021. Please leave a message if there is no reply and I will return your call. Thank you in advance.

Graeme Cairns (898541)

Biodiversity survey at Blenheim

The Blenheim Estate has reported the interim results of a biodiversity survey of its ancient woodland which has been undertaken since 2016. The survey, led by botanist Aljos Farjon of Kew, reveals that the ancient High Park is home to more than 2,800 separate species.

Mr Farjon believes that this Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) may be one of the most important in England since the numbers of species discovered in the last four years already puts it on a par with locations which have been studied far more intensively.



Checking beetle traps in High Park, Blenheim

A total of 275 ancient oaks with a girth of five metres or more were recorded, which is the highest number of oaks of this size and age on any site in Europe. More than 60 different birds including goshawks, peregrine falcons, spotted flycatchers and redstarts have been recorded. Among the

19 mammals spotted are stoats, field voles, fallow deer, badgers and nine different bat species. The site is also home to at least 243 beetles, 600 species of moth, over 20 species of butterfly, 35 arachnids and 161 different ants, wasps and bees. One of the more unusual bee species is *osmia spinulosa* which nests in empty Roman snail shells. Among reptiles and amphibians are common lizards, slow worms, grass snakes, great crested newts and toads. In addition to the above, the area also supports 275 types of plants and flowers and 334 varieties of fungi.



Helix pomatia: Roman Snail

One of the reasons for High Park's rich biodiversity is the fact that it has remained virtually untouched for centuries and the site is still mostly closed to visitors. However, the public will soon have the opportunity to take home part of the ancient forest when oak saplings, which have been grown from tiny acorns collected in the woods, become available.

Further information is available from

Gemma Else

gelse@blenheimestate.com.

Local history: Cornbury Park

2 miles west of Stonesfield

The earliest mention of Cornbury is in the Domesday book, where it was recorded as being adjacent to Wychwood Forest. The park became included in Wychwood Forest as royal property, and a Keeper, normally a royal favourite, was appointed. He was responsible for the provision of royal hunting facilities and the supply of venison to the royal kitchen.

A house in Cornbury Park is mentioned in the Close Rolls of 1337, when the Exchequer was ordered to pay for: *'a stone wall about Cornbury Park, a post towards the King's forest there, a house called 'Logge' of stone and timber in that park, and a dike of wood forty feet broad by the circuit of the park, and two deer leaps in the park.'*

Almost every king and queen up to Charles I visited Cornbury Lodge, and it is connected with many major events of English history. The Rangership was granted to favoured courtiers, tenants including the Harcourts, Beauchamps and Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester.

The status of royal property was maintained until 1642 when Charles I gave Cornbury Park to Henry Danvers 'forever'. Danvers, the Earl of Danby, had occupied the property since 1615 and had built a new house there in the 1630s (the present south wing). Danby was greatly interested in gardening and in 1622 donated five acres of land to the University of Oxford to be laid out as a physic garden. Henry Danvers died at his house in Cornbury Park on 20 January 1644 and was buried in Dauntsey Church where there is a monument of white marble to his memory. Henry

Danvers never married and upon his death the barony of Danvers and the earldom of Danby became extinct.

Following the Restoration of the Stuart monarchy in 1660, the Rangership and the park were given to Edward Hyde, first Earl of Clarendon and Viscount Cornbury in 1661. He immediately embarked on a programme of alterations, including additions to the house, the design of the chapel, and extensive landscaping, including planting nearly 2000 trees in a single year.

In 1663 the large stable facing Charlbury was built. John Evelyn visited Cornbury in 1664 (the same year that his *Sylva* or a Discourse of Forest Trees was published) with Hugh May, who had designed the stables and was, in 1666, to build the east, or Clarendon, front. Evelyn advised Clarendon on the planting of the park during his 1664 visit. Edward Hyde also created one of the first ha-ha walls in England, where a terrace wall kept out the deer, but allowed an uninterrupted view across the park.



Cornbury Park entrance

The 2nd Earl of Clarendon inherited Cornbury from his father in 1674 and continued the interest in landscaping developed by his father. He had a stone bridge built over the Evenlode to form a new approach to the house from the north east side; prior to this the avenues suggest that the main approach was from the north west. However, by the end of the seventeenth century, he had run into serious financial problems and resorted to farming part of the park. The deer were removed, a large number of the trees were cut down, whole areas ploughed and sown with clover, intended for arable crops, whilst other areas were grazed. In 1700, the park was sold to his brother, Laurence Hyde, Earl of Rochester.

The estate remained in the Hyde family's ownership until 1751, when it was bought by the third Duke of Marlborough and was re-named Blandford Park. Although no grand scale alterations to the park were made during this period, some Victorian additions were made to the house during the nineteenth century. Cornbury Park was sold by Viscount Churchill in 1896.

In 1901, it was bought by Vernon John Watney who was a brewer and politician. In 1901-6, John Belcher, an English architect, and president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, removed the Victorian additions and altered the house further for Vernon Watney with the construction of a stairway across the terrace wall into the park, elaborate extensions to the gardens, and new gate lodges and entrance gates. Cornbury Park remained in the Watney family until 1966. Belcher's work was mostly demolished c. 1972.

Cornbury Park is currently the home of Robin Cayzer, 3rd Baron Rotherwick, a Conservative hereditary peer who runs it as a business. The estate includes some 1,700 acres of the most ancient forest in Britain today and is a protected environment for native wildlife, creating a unique habitat in one of the few private forests in England. It combines a variety of enterprises from commercial offices for small and medium-sized businesses in Oxfordshire, to residential house rentals as well as a limited number of public events.

The house and immediate ground are closed to the public but there are numerous public footpaths through the Park.

Paul Bates

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Farmers' Markets

A reminder that many of our local 'artisan' makers offer quality food and produce at farmers' markets. Currently the dates and times for our local markets are:

Charlbury:
2nd Saturday in the month
9.00am – 1.00pm

Chipping Norton:
3rd Saturday in the month
8.30am – 1.30pm

Witney:
4th Friday in the month
8.30am – 1.30pm

Woodstock:
1st and 3rd Saturdays in the month
8.30am – 1.00pm

Trisha Williams

Clubs, societies & sport

Stonesfield Allotments Association

Woodstock Road allotments

Contact: Louise John
louinpumbro@gmail.com

Churchfields allotments

There are currently three names on the waiting list at Churchfields.

Contact: John Sampson
john.sampson9@btinternet.com

Stonesfield Sports & Social Club

By the time you read this, we will be well on the way to re-opening the Club. As from 12 April, our opening times will be as follows:

Monday–Thursday: 4pm – 9pm

Friday: 4pm – 11pm

Saturday: 12 noon – 11pm

Sunday: 12 noon – 6pm

Drinks will be served from the kitchen window as we are restricted to outside only but marquee cover will be provided. The prevailing Covid-19 restrictions are to be observed including the rule of six people or a maximum of two households. Masks must be worn and toilet facilities will be accessible.

Brian Clarke (891770)

Lawn Bowls

Can't wait to get out and about? Come and try your hand at Lawn Bowls.

All are welcome to come along to Woodstock Bowls Club at Cadogan Park, Woodstock, OX20 1UW. Open evenings are held on Tuesdays from 12 April at 6pm, weather permitting. Open afternoons are held on Mondays and Fridays from 2pm.

All you need is a pair of soft-sole flat shoes and bowls will be provided.

For more information, please get in touch with me.

Brian Clarke (891770)

Stonesfield Playing Field Association: Tractor Fundraising update

As many of you will already have seen, we had a tremendous response to our crowdfunding appeal with around 70 individual donations from the local community. These, coupled with generous donations from Empire Homes, the Tennis Club and the Sports & Social Club helped us to achieve 50% of our overall target of £10,000 which then triggered the £5,000 matched funding offer from Sovereign Housing's Thriving Communities Fund. So, a massive thank you to everyone who supported the appeal.

Working with the Sports & Social Club, it was also possible to make an application to the Football Foundation for a substantial grant towards the cost of a new tractor.

The Football Foundation is a partnership between the Premier League, the Football Association and the Government. It is the UK's largest sports charity and exists to improve the experience of playing football for everyone by championing fair access to quality facilities. Again, as many people may have heard, this grant application has also been successful which is fantastic news.

Separately from the above, Stonesfield Community Trust and Stonesfield Strikers have pledged generous support towards the project and we have also received a grant from Cllr Ian Hudspeth's Priority Fund.

On the back of all this, an order for a brand-new tractor has now been placed and it should be with us around the end of April.

Andrew Tacon

Stonesfield Gardening Club

Our March meeting was a Zoom talk by Timothy Walker, who gave us a run-through of his career in horticulture and the plants that have meant most to him. It was an entertaining evening, with wonderful photographs of tempting looking plants and interesting planting schemes.



Timothy Walker: A tale of two wheelbarrows

Almost as much fun is, in Timothy's words, the 'chaotic energy' of Zoom participants as they gather at their computer, laptop or tablet. Some seasoned pros who take it all in their stride, some of us amazed it all works! But a great way to keep in touch.

This month we will hold our annual plant sale, using Sybil's front garden at Four Acres in Pond Hill. By then Covid-19 restrictions will have lifted enough for the Committee to feel confident in going ahead with this.

The proposed calendar for the rest of 2021 looks like this:

April 24 Saturday 8.30 – 11.00

Plant Sale – Four Acres, Pond Hill

May 10 Monday 19.30

Pots – Harriet Rycroft – Zoom talk

June 21 Monday evening

Village walk & social evening

July 12 Monday 19.30

Bridewell Organic Garden – Ruth Madder

September 9 Thursday evening

Visit to Bridewell Organic Garden

October 4 Monday 19.30

Propagation – Rob Jacobs

November 8 Monday 19.30

The Wychwood project – Neil Clennell

December 13 Monday 19.30

Christmas Social & Quiz

Restrictions permitting, from July evening meetings will be held at St James' Centre as before.

Diane Bates, Secretary

diane@bateshome.co.uk

www.stonesfieldgardening.info

Stonesfield Tennis Club

As many of you will doubtless be aware, following a major refurbishment of the courts a few years ago, we now have two dedicated courts with a superb all-weather artificial grass surface. The courts are open all year round and can be used in all conditions except when there is a heavy frost. Court bookings are made through our online booking system.

Our membership year runs from 1 April to 31 March and membership fees are now due for the 2021/22 season. Membership fees, which also include membership of the Stonesfield Sports & Social Club, are as follows:

Juniors (under 18 years):	£10
Adults:	£35
Families:	£65

Last year's members should already have received an invitation to renew their membership from the Clubspark system. However, if you have not received such an invitation, or if you are seeking to join for the first time, please email our new membership secretary, Hugh Galliers, at hgalliers@hotmail.com and he will help to get you set up.

Here's hoping for a lockdown-free season!

Andrew Tacon

Stonesfield Football Club

The football club were deeply shocked and saddened to hear of the untimely passing of Mickey Lewis recently, following a short illness. Mickey wasn't officially connected with the men's teams but all of the players who have come through from the Stonesfield Strikers were coached by Mickey at some point and, given Mickey's

infectious personality, it was impossible not to notice the very positive effect he had on children and adults alike. ALL of our teams benefitted from Mickey's presence and he will be a huge loss to all of us.

On behalf of Stonesfield Football Club I'd like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt condolences to his wife, Suzanne, and his son, Zach, as well as his family and friends. A thoroughly decent man who was loved by everyone associated with football in Stonesfield, we will miss him hugely.

At times like this it seems trivial to write about the resumption of football matches but, having had the privilege of knowing Mickey Lewis, I'm sure he'd want it no other way.

Given that the current lockdown has decimated the grassroots football calendar, it'll come as no surprise to learn that our leagues have been declared 'null and void' for the second season running. The W&D FA have decided to continue with the cup competitions and run them through April and early May as mini-leagues. Hence, The Firsts will play in The Senior Cup, and The Reserves in The Supplementary Cup, with games starting on Sat 3 April. At least our teams will be guaranteed a minimum of seven (Firsts) and five (Reserves) games between now and the end of the season. Let's hope they give a good account of themselves.

Tom Flanigan (891979)

Climate Emergency Group

During the last few months, we have had three Zoom meetings at which we have learnt about ways in which we can reduce our carbon footprint and help to protect the planet. Individual actions may not seem to add up to much, but they are nonetheless valid contributions to the global effort. They go some way to alleviating the sense of helplessness caused by the terrifying statistics. Our aim is simply to share information and suggestions that can help us all make a difference.

We had an excellent talk on electric cars from two expert village residents: we learnt about their pros and cons, costs and feasibility. Then there was a presentation from Charlbury-based Cosy Homes on how to make your central heating more efficient and carbon-neutral. In March, a member of Greenpeace gave us a very thought-provoking talk on the effect of food production on the planet. The practices of the giant meat producers in Brazil and the supertrawlers that raid the oceans were shocking, and the message to buy from small local producers (unless that involves a lengthy car journey!) was clear.

These meetings raise our awareness of the seriousness of the situation and the impact of our actions. If you would like to go on the mailing list so that you hear about the next meeting, please drop me a line. Every little helps.

Caroline Friend

caroline.v.friend@gmail.com



Great Tit: Martin Gascoigne-Pees

STONESFIELD VOLUNTARY TRANSPORT SCHEME

Volunteer drivers are available to take you for vaccination, other medical appointments and now also to the hospitals in Oxford and Banbury (see article on p 7).

If at all possible, we can usually provide a lift at short notice (for an appointment the same day), but this cannot be guaranteed.

Full COVID-19 precautions are in place to ensure your safety.

There is no charge but we do welcome a donation for expenses.

Please call Viv Kendall 01993 891803 to book transport.

Church news

Church of England Worship at St James the Great, Stonesfield

(Benefice of Stonesfield with Combe Longa)

www.stonesfieldparishchurch.org

For any enquiries or help, including pastoral support, arrangements for funerals etc, please contact either a churchwarden or the Area Dean:

Churchwardens: Lindsey Sellar and Rachel Severn

stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org

Area Dean: The Revd Jeremy Auld, Rector of Woodstock and Bladon (810749)

www.woodstockandbladon.com

Parish letter: Coming to Stonesfield and Combe

Rachel and I are delighted to be coming to live in Stonesfield in April, and I am very much looking forward to taking up the role of Rector for both parishes in the Benefice on 1 May. I have been ordained for over thirty years and am ready for a new stage in my ministry, and we are both ready to enjoy the life of the villages and the beautiful Oxfordshire countryside.

It feels like this is a move for which I have long been preparing. My father and stepmother moved to Wootton twenty-five years ago and every few weeks, whether travelling from London as a Curate, from Ross-on-Wye as a Team Vicar, from Oxford as a College Chaplain, or most recently from Westminster, I have passed

the sign for Stonesfield as I have driven into their village.

The first time I ventured into Stonesfield itself was one beautiful afternoon nearly twenty years ago, having been invited by friends in The Ridings to come for tea. It was not easy to find but well worth it when we arrived at an idyllic scene of hazy summer stillness where nature seems to hold its breath under the baking sun. Tea and cake, and lasting friendship helped confirm that Stonesfield is a special place. Some years later, another friend moved their sculpture studio to the saw mills tucked behind Combe Halt station. I met Martin Jennings when our daughters became best friends at primary school in Oxford. They were both members of the illustrious Summertown Stars U12/13/14 girls' football team, which scored high on enthusiasm but never got many actual goals, and I learnt a lot about the geography of Oxfordshire by driving to matches at the weekends. I briefly achieved a life goal of becoming a 'football dad', through our younger daughter's determination not to give up. Martin Jennings made a number of his nationally-acclaimed sculptures there - John Betjeman, Philip Larkin, Charles Dickens and Mary Seacole, who stands opposite Parliament. I loved watching him work there and our daughters loved spraying the mountainous clay figures with water to keep them workable. Sadly, Martin is no longer there but I have happy memories of his workshop.

When I came to visit the parishes in November, I remembered another visit too; this time, long ago, to the Reading Room in Combe on the invitation of the Women's Institute - I think to talk about the work of a College Chaplain. I arrived in the dark, but the impression of a very friendly welcome stays with me.

Having read both *The Stonesfield Slate* and the *Combe Courier* over the last few months, I am delighted to see how much activity there is in the villages, despite the effects of Covid-19 and lockdown. Arts, commerce, learning, sport, conservation, recreation and faith are interwoven in the life of a strong community, and there seems to be in both villages a precious balance of these things, on a scale which is big enough to be viable yet small enough to be personal, relational and human.

Churches across the country have struggled to cope with being closed for worship and with the challenges of opening safely. I know this has been extremely difficult for your churches too, especially without a Rector. I think you have all done so well to keep the churches very much alive in these months, and I know that many people have risen to the challenges and shown initiative, leadership as well as faith, and a spirit of generous service. Once we are all vaccinated and feeling confident to mix freely again, I hope that both Combe and Stonesfield churches will be places where a large proportion of the community come once again to worship God who gives so bountifully and to celebrate the life we share.

The weeks before I leave St Peter's Eaton Square will be busy. Last year the virus shutdown prevented us from celebrating Holy Week and Easter at all, and I

struggled to learn how to livestream services from my study. This year I hope for a moving Holy Week and joyful celebration of the resurrection at Easter, as Rachel and I prepare to move and I get ready to take up the role of Rector. I wish you all a very happy Easter, and look forward to meeting many of you in the coming weeks.

Revd Ralph Williamson

April Services

Maundy Thursday: 1 April

7.30pm Stonesfield Holy Communion

Good Friday: 2 April

2pm Combe Good Friday
Meditation

Easter Eve: Saturday 3 April

7.30pm Stonesfield Easter Ceremonies

Easter Day: Sunday 4 April

9.30am Combe Parish Communion

11am Stonesfield Parish Communion

Second Sunday of Easter: 11 April

9.30am Combe All Age Worship

11am Stonesfield All Age Worship

Third Sunday of Easter: 18 April

9.30am Combe Parish Communion

11am Stonesfield Parish Communion

Fourth Sunday of Easter: 25 April

9.30am Combe Parish Communion

11am Stonesfield Parish Communion

Stonesfield Methodist Church

Services for April:

4 April 11am Mr David Sarbutts
(Easter Sunday)

11 April No service

18 April 11am Mr Keith Crawford

25 April No service

The Church Minister, the Revd Rose Westwood, Superintendent of the West Oxfordshire Circuit, has moved to Chipping Norton. The new contact telephone number is 01608 644556.

Services have restarted and, although they are not yet held every Sunday, it is hoped that it won't be too long before they are. It's a great joy to worship in our Church once more.

Zoom services continue on the Sundays when there is no service at Church. Please get in touch if you would like details to join these services.

Kathleen Alb  rt (891733)

Roman Catholic Worship

What is Easter?

Many cultures and religions celebrate the coming of spring: the days lengthening and becoming warmer, trees showing their buds, flowers appearing and young animals are born. In England we have a pre-Christian tradition of celebrating spring, renewal and fertility. Bede tells us in his 'De temporum ratione' ('The Reckoning of Time'): 'Eostre was a goddess of spring or renewal and that's why her feast is attached to the vernal equinox,' thus giving us the word 'Easter'. The Jewish festival of Passover, which is the context for the 'Last Supper' as the prelude for the Crucifixion, celebrates and

commemorates the Israelites' escape from Egypt and their freedom to find their home (Israel). Our Christian holy feast of Easter too is both an act of commemoration: Christ dying on the Cross; and a celebration of our re-birth, renewal and freedom generated by Christ rising from the dead.

And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not. ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. ... know that you seek Jesus, who has been crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, just like he said. (Matthew 28:5-6).

Let's continue to enjoy our Easter eggs and chocolate bunnies, hot cross buns, giving flowers and eating lamb on Easter Sunday; all have profound religious roots, one way or another, but don't let's forget that deeper meaning of redemption and our own spiritual renewal.

Services during Holy Week



Palm Sunday: 9.15am Parish Mass

Holy Thursday: 7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday: 3pm Passion of the Lord;
7pm Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday: 7pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday: 9.15am Parish Mass

The times of all services are on St. Teresa's website: www.stteresaschurch-charlbury.com/

Confession by arrangement with Fr. Clive as below

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

For Parish updates, any further information and further support:

www.stteresaschurch-charlbury.com/ or
contact Fr. Clive Dytor at @ chair.
stteresaschurchcharlbury@gmail.com

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.

Roman Catholic Community in Stonesfield



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Katrina 01993 891131 / 07824357690

katrinamoss1979@icloud.com

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Mobile: 07533 806087

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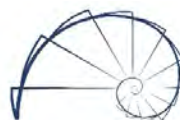
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