



Be happy but be careful...

As we enter June, the prospects for return to a nearly-normal life are very much better than for well over a year. What a joy it has been since mid-May when we were allowed to do so many of the things that had been forbidden for so long – meeting up to six family members and friends indoors (no longer having to brave the rain and the cold), eat and drink indoors in pubs and restaurants, stay overnight and best of all – HUG!

Foreign holidays are also possible, subject to varying quarantine requirements on return, according to whether travel is to countries classified as green, amber or red.

At the time of writing, the number of COVID cases, hospitalisations and deaths has been falling steadily – vaccinations and the social

distancing measures have been working. In West Oxfordshire the levels have been especially low.

That is, until the emergence of the concerning Indian variant, which appears to be more transmissible. It seems likely that 'Freedom Day', the end of social distancing planned for 21 June, may be threatened. The plan is that from that day there will be no limits on how many people we can meet, indoors or outdoors, although we may still be wearing masks in some public places.

By the time you read this, we will be clearer on whether the restrictions will go later in June. In the meantime, enjoy our new freedom, but please don't stop being careful.

Look at www.stonesfield.online for the latest regulations and for help with Covid issues.

Dates for your diary – June

2	Parish Council meeting	See Page 11	7pm
4,11,25	Andrew Crawford Cup cricket	Playing field	6.15pm
7,14,21,28	Monday coffee	St James' Centre	8.45-11.30
8	Sew & Chat Group	St James' Centre	10am-12 noon
21	Gardening Club walk (members only)	The Cross	6pm
26	Pop-up pub	Place and time to be confirmed	
27	First steaming event of 2021	Combe Mill	10.30am-16.30pm
27	SSSC AGM	SSSC	7pm

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The editor and the publishers reserve the right to edit, shorten or omit any article submitted.

Important reminder to contributors – and let's have more!

See below for details of how and when to supply contributions for inclusion in the *Slate*.

And while we're on the subject – the *Slate* welcomes articles on village history, local people and places, things of general rural interest, poems... pictures too (photos or drawings). We'll do our best to include them but space is limited so sometimes decisions are needed. Remember that images will only appear in black and white.

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Notices & news

Doreen Martin remembered

It is with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Doreen Martin.

Doreen was well known in the village as someone always ready to give a hand wherever there was a need.

When Lunch Club began some twenty years ago, Doreen became a regular helper. Her sense of humour and her limitless fund of stories would keep everyone entertained whenever she was 'on duty'. As time went on she made a seamless move from helper to member, although sometimes finding the change in roles hard to accept, still lending a hand tidying up or putting chairs away. Doreen had a smile for everyone and was always positive even when life was difficult and will be remembered by everyone who knew her for her caring and entertaining personality.

Our thoughts go out to Jane and her family and many friends at this sad time.

Anne Bishop

Stonesfield Pre-School and Day Care

We are pleased to announce our 100 Club winners for the May draw:

1st Prize - Hayley Brooks £25.00

2nd Prize - Beth Robinson £10.00

Congratulations to you both.

Zena Rozee, Pre-School Administrator
stonesfieldpsad@outlook.com

Richard Bishop

Reading Richard's final report as District Councillor in last month's Slate, a debt of gratitude is due from the residents of Stonesfield and Combe for his steadfastness and commitment.

Anyone who has participated in local government work will know that as well as being intensely interesting and fulfilling - as Richard said - it can on occasions be thankless and uncomfortable.

To stick with it for 23 years is commendable and on behalf of the residents, Richard, we thank you.

Wendy Gould

Ian Hudspeth

The Parish Clerk and Councillors would like to thank Cllr Ian Hudspeth for all that he has done for our village in his capacity as Leader of the OCC / County Councillor role.

The change in person in this role will almost certainly impact us in the short term as Councillor Hudspeth was very engaged with us as a village and extremely approachable for both councillors and members of the public.

We look forward to meeting whoever takes on the challenge of leading the Council, but send thanks to Cllr Hudspeth for all he has done and his support over the last 10 years.

Karen East, Parish Clerk
clerk@stonesfieldpc.uk

Pop-up pub!

We had an idea... while patiently waiting for the community's last pub to reopen, we'll host a pop-up pub at a location in the village to be announced.

We're still working on the finer details, but wanted to get the date in your diary – Saturday 26 June. The Social Club have kindly agreed to loan us their portable bar and we'll be passing on any profits raised by the event to the Scouts fundraising campaign. Please do keep an eye on our website where we will publish the rest of the information as soon as it becomes available. We're looking forward to raising a pint with you all.

Susan Rudlin

Stonesfield Community Pub Group

www.backthewhitehorse.com/news

Stonesfield Village Hall News

Plea for a Chairperson! It's been three years now since we had a chairman at the helm of the Village Hall Committee, so please contact me if you think you can help, or know of anyone else who may be interested.

We are embarking on exciting times with the hall reopening, and we do have a lot of improvements that we want to make, in addition to turning it into the community hub that's needed, with a community run cafe alongside it. Although our little committee group has kept things going, to be bigger and better we would love more help, so please step up and join us.

A big thank you to everyone who came out and ran or supported the polling day. It was a little bit different this year, with cardboard polling booths and plastic

screens, but I have been told that there was a good attendance and everyone behaved themselves! Well done to all of you.

At last we can see some normality, with our doors tentatively opening up again to weekly classes including:

- Taekwondo, Mondays and Wednesdays at 5.30-6.30pm (James Kumar 07788 583965)
- Gatehouse Pilates, Wednesdays 9.30-10.30am from 26 May (Anita Loxton 07774 505739)
- Pilates, Tuesdays 2-3pm from 8 June (Clare Nuttall 07477 209900)

Hopefully Zumba and Folk dancing will be allowed back at the next reprieve, which is 21 June.

We are aware that Baby and Toddler Group is struggling for someone to take over its running, so hopefully that will be a facility that we can offer again soon.

We still have some space if you are interested in starting a group, so please do let us know if we can be of any help.

Jacqueline Carthew (898919)

Secretary & Booking Clerk for Stonesfield Village Hall

stonesfieldvh@gmail.com

facebook.com/stonesfieldvillagehall

Monday coffee

We are very pleased to say that Monday Coffee has started up again after a fourteen-month gap! We are in the St. James' Centre from 8.45am until 11.30am every Monday morning during term time, and starting slightly later at 10am in the holidays (but not open on Bank Holiday Mondays). We'll look forward to seeing you there!

Bina and Muriel

Stonesfield Sew and Chat Group

We will be starting up again on 8 June, meeting on the second Tuesday of each month in St James' Centre between 10am and 12 noon. Refreshments are provided and we bring our own project to work on. This could be any form of stitching or textile work, knitting, beading etc or just ideas for a future project! It's an opportunity to meet people who have similar interests. Maybe you have started a new craft/hobby in the last year and would like guidance or ideas; there's a great chance someone in the group will have the skills and experience to help. We look forward to meeting you.

Future dates are: 8 June, 13 July, 10 August, 14 September.

Due to the current situation we will be following Government COVID-19 secure guidelines. Unfortunately this means we need to be informed if you are going to attend, so we can ensure social distancing can be followed. We also ask you to bring your own mug.

Ann Lowe (898837)
annjlowe@aol.com

Stonesfield fly is back again!

Just a reminder to watch out for the dreaded little black fly (also known as the Blandford fly) which has been about since mid-May. Last summer it lingered here for longer than the usual three weeks or so, and given the amount of rain we have had (it loves damp), it may do so again. Its bites can swell painfully and last for a week or more, sometimes needing a trip to the doctor. So take care and cover up, especially near the river and in the evening in the garden.

Viv Kendall (891803)

National Garden Scheme – Gardens open for charity

The National Garden Scheme doesn't just open beautiful gardens for charity – it is passionate about the physical and mental health benefits of gardens too. NGS also supports charities doing amazing work in gardens and health, and grants bursaries to help community gardening projects.

To find out if there's a garden open near you or for more information go to www.ngs.org.uk

Gigachaos



Gigaclear closed Laughton Hill on 19 May for three weeks.

See www.stonesfield.online for details of more village road closures.

Mental Health Awareness

There are things we can all do to look after our mental wellbeing. Every Mind Matters is a campaign to get you started with a free NHS online plan, showing simple steps to help manage anxiety, sleep better and boost your mood.

Alternatively Mental Health Foundation has chosen nature as this year's theme encouraging us to experience, share and talk about nature to improve feelings of isolation, prevent distress and protect our mental health. More information is on www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/.

Harvest @ Home - Free growing kits

This is a community action partnership with the main goal of helping people get started to grow their own produce at home, and supporting local community harvesting and produce groups. Support on offer includes:

- indoor & outdoor starter kits
- tools & equipment
- resource guides
- donation drives

Harvest @ Home is free to users. To find out more information and to sign up please go to www.cherwellllarder.wixsite.com/harvest.

Witney Talking News

Witney Talking News is a free service designed especially for people who are blind or visually impaired. We record items from the Witney Gazette and other local news publications, which are posted out to our listeners, weekly, on a memory stick. These can be listened to on a special player

which we can provide. Sticks are then posted back to us (free of charge) for recording again the following week. This is a great way for blind or visually impaired people to keep in touch with local news and events across the district.

If you know someone who could benefit from this service, or would like to join us for reading, admin or packing sticks for despatch, we would be delighted to hear from you. We record every Thursday evening at High Street Methodist Church in Witney. If you would like to contact us go to www.wtn.org.uk or call 01993 444986.

Nigel James (881711)

CCTV

Passing on advice from Thames Valley Police:

If your CCTV captures images beyond your property boundary, then your use of the system is subject to the data protection laws. As the CCTV user, you are a data controller, which means you need to comply with your legal obligations under the data protection laws.

You can still capture images, but you need to demonstrate that you are doing so in ways that comply with the data protection laws and uphold the rights of the people whose images you are capturing.

If you are capturing images beyond your property boundary, you should have a clear and justifiable reason for why you need to do so and should be able to explain that. You should also write down why you think capturing the images is more important than invading the privacy of your neighbours and passers-by.

You will also need to:

- Let people know you are using CCTV by putting up signs saying that recording is taking place, and why
- Ensure you don't capture more footage than you need to achieve your purpose
- Ensure the security of the footage you capture and make sure nobody can watch it without good reason
- Only keep the footage for as long as you need it – delete it regularly, and when it is no longer needed
- Ensure the CCTV system is only operated in ways you intend and can't be misused for other reasons.

The Information Commissioner's Office helpline (0303 123 1113) is available for data protection queries, including advice on the use of CCTV. See also www.commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn01803/.

Deanna Blakeway Asplundh
Neighbourhood Watch

Front counter changes

Thames Valley Police has indicated that several of its front counters are to close from 30 August, including its HQ South in Kidlington, and Witney. These counters have already been closed since March 2020 due to the pandemic, although Kidlington reopened following an initial closure.

Most of the other front counters will be retained, including Oxford and Banbury.

Police and community support

For information or advice on security concerns, please call 101 or contact woodstockNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Blenheim Palace

Two new exhibitions featuring Churchill's lifelong association with Blenheim are due to open in June as part of a £1.9m investment programme. As well as being his birthplace as grandson of the 7th Duke of Marlborough, Blenheim is where he proposed to his wife Clementine, and he returned there often. A new waxwork of Churchill has been created for the Greatest Briton exhibition by sculptor Jethro Crabb.



Churchill was also an accomplished horseman and took part in the British army's last cavalry charge at the Battle of Omdurman. His equestrian interests will be reflected in a series of displays in the Palace's stable block, which is open to the public for the first time, including the family's saddles and tack, a carriage and a model of Churchill's first pony, Rob Roy which he rode in 1882 at the age of seven.

White Horse Pub 'one'

The email address for Jon Bowers, the new owner, is **whitehorsepub1@gmail.com**.

This was published in March's edition but due to the font used by the Slate the 1 (number one) could have looked like a lower case 'L'.

We apologise for any confusion.

The Publishers

Untreated sewage in the river Evenlode!

The water operating companies routinely dispose of untreated sewage into our rivers to avoid overload of their inadequate sewer systems with excessive volumes of rain water. This takes place with ever increasing frequency as the intensity of rainstorms rises due to the climate change. At its worst the rivers burst flooding the immediate areas with sewage, as has been observed many times this winter in the Lower Windrush and Evenlode Valleys.

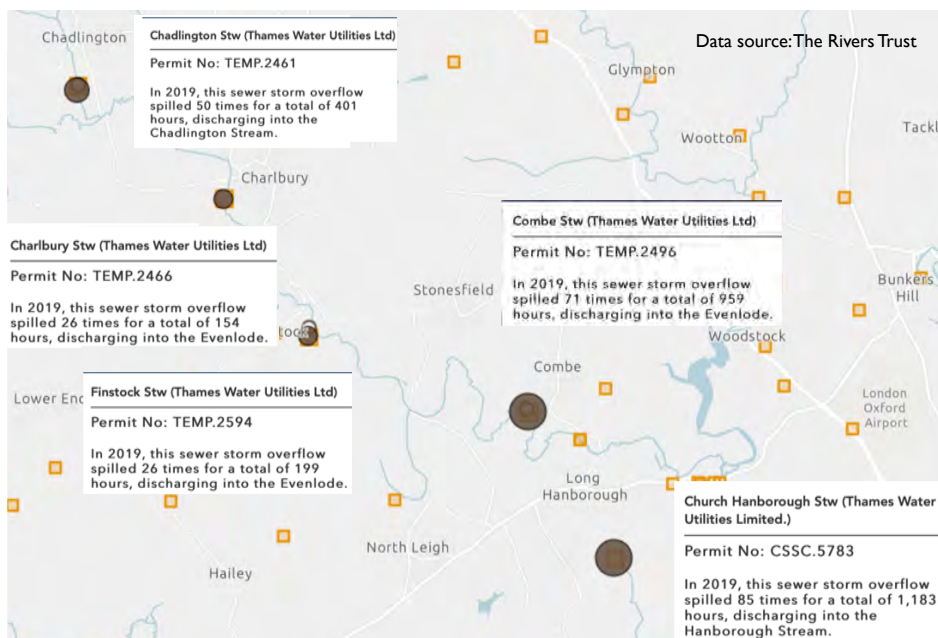
Nine sewage treatment stations run by Thames Water Utilities Ltd (in Moreton in Marsh, Broadwell, Bledington, Milton under Wychwood, Chadlington, Charlbury, Finstock, Combe, and Church Hanborough) all discharge raw sewage into the Evenlode river. In 2019, those immediately close to our villages, Combe and Church Hanborough, spilled raw sewage 71 and 81 times respectively. The

environmental charities under the umbrella of the Rivers Trust advise people to avoid entering the water immediately downstream of these discharges, particularly after a rainfall.

Apart from the adverse effects on human health, sewage pollution in rivers may have substantial ecological consequences. Yet Thames Water Utilities and the local authorities have been giving their go-ahead to developments of hundreds of new houses in our area without plans for any appropriate infrastructure investments to the sewerage system. This is a massive problem.

If you are concerned with this issue you can write to our MP, Robert Courts at robert.courts.mp@parliament.uk. For more information visit The Rivers Trust or Fresh Water Watch websites.

Dr Lidia Arciszewska, Church Hanborough
lidia.arciszewska@me.com



Combe Mill is OPEN!

We are delighted to tell you that as from 19 May we are fully open to visitors.

On Wednesdays from now until October we are welcoming visitors for self-guided tours and tea room visits. Come and enjoy the charm of sitting by the river and walk round to chat to our volunteers working in the exhibition areas they care for. If you would like to bring a group of people, please contact us to arrange in advance and reserve your date.

27 June – our first steaming event will be for members and anyone who is interested in volunteering, in any area of Mill work. Please do drop in and see what the various groups of volunteers get up to on a steaming Sunday. We would love more volunteers to sign up and contribute to the work for the remainder of 2021.

18 July – our first steaming day for visitors. After such a long time with no visitors, we really need your support to keep the Mill running. We have the 'We're Good to Go' badge issued by Visit England, so visit with confidence.

Please contact us if you require any more information, or check out the website for details regarding pricing and opening hours. We are also looking forward to welcoming people back to the Mill.

Tony Simmons

tourism@combemill.org

www.combemill.org

Stonesfield Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Neighbourhood Watch Week 2021 (5-11 June) is an opportunity to build on existing and new neighbourly relationships formed throughout the pandemic. Neighbourhood Watch has developed a range of resources and activities designed to help understanding of community needs, crime prevention, and more. Go to www.ourwatch.org.uk/nweek for details.



Garden Club work party

Stonesfield Gardening Club members have been working at the War Memorial, taking on the planting so carefully tended until now by Sarah Brown.



www.stonesfieldgardeningclub.info

Politics & local affairs

Our new Councillors

Andy Graham – County Council



Andy Graham was born in 1954 in Birmingham and his early childhood was spent in Smethwick. He went to St. Hubert's School on the Birmingham New Road, where he recalls hitting 4 rounders and being held aloft by his team after winning the competition.

His sporting aspirations led to him representing Warwickshire in cross country competitions before giving way to his artistic endeavours, becoming a member of the National Youth Theatre. He then qualified as a drama teacher, inspiring young pupils in Wednesfield and is also a qualified youth worker.

He became a professional actor at the Birmingham Rep and Belgrade Theatre in Coventry, along with other touring companies. As director of the internationally acclaimed Snap Theatre for 26 years, he co-wrote the successful stage adaptations of *My Beautiful Laundrette*, *Maurice*, *Sense and Sensibility*, along with many others.

Andy moved to Oxfordshire in 2014, and in 2015 was elected to the West Oxfordshire District Council to represent Charlbury and Finstock. In May 2021 he was elected as Oxfordshire County Councillor for the Woodstock and Bladon Division, which includes Stonesfield.

andy.graham@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Mathew Parkinson – District Council



Mathew was born in 1988 and grew up in Stonesfield, where his parents still live. He attended the primary school and then went on to the Marlborough School in Woodstock.

While at secondary school he enjoyed all sorts of sports. He played for football teams in the area including Yarnton, Charlbury, Chesterton and AFC Marlborough (of which he was later Chairman for several years). Mathew enjoys playing tennis too and tries to play at the Stonesfield courts as much as possible.

Mathew moved to Woodstock ten years ago with his fiancée and stepson. He is

currently head chef at the Star Inn in Woodstock and has previously worked in hospitality in the area for the likes of Blenheim Palace and Soho Farmhouse.

He has been a Woodstock Town Councillor for about 3 years now, and Mayor for the last year.

mathew.parkinson@westoxon.gov.uk

Stonesfield Parish Council (SPC)

From the meeting held 5 May 2021

Cllr Phil McArdell has been elected as Chair and Cllr David Brown as Vice Chair.

Planning applications:

Application no: 21/00921/HHD (Mr M Ward) Proposal: Demolition of existing store and outbuildings and erection of one and a half storey and single storey side extension. Location: Silver Birches Woodstock Road Stonesfield. No objection

Application no: 21/01404/HHD (Mr Mark Brewer) Proposal: Erection of two storey front extension. Location: Beehives 17A Busby Close Stonesfield. No objection

Application no: 21/01156/HHD (Mr Simon Warr) Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension and alterations to replace existing rear dormer with larger dormer window. Location: Home Close High Street Stonesfield. No objection

Application no: 21/00738/FUL (Mr Terry Barlow) Proposal: Erection of two dwellings. Location: 19 Combe Road Stonesfield. No objection but comments regarding parking have been noted to planning.

Council Meetings: Face-to-face meetings may resume if we can hire a room large enough. The Council would need the village hall main room for this to comply with regulations and allow for members of the public to attend. We may continue with a combination of face-to-face and remote meetings for now.

We can confirm the defibrillator positioned at the Village Hall is currently working.

Gigaclear are offering one community building to be linked for super-fast broadband free of charge. The village primary school would like to receive this. Councillors had no objection to this and the clerk has requested this through Gigaclear. It will hugely benefit the school and many of our families.

Thank you to all of those who attended the Annual Parish Meeting – it was great to see so many faces. Draft minutes will be posted on the website so you can read reports from all of the groups that attended. Groups are welcome to all meetings, along with members of the public.

Councillor Richard Bishop attended his last meeting as District Councillor. The clerk and councillors would like to thank Cllr Bishop for everything he has done over the years for the village.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 2 June 2021 at 7pm - details will be posted on www.stonesfield.online/category/meetings/.

Karen East, Parish Clerk
clerk@stonesfieldpc.uk

News from West Oxfordshire

Strategic plan for Oxfordshire

In late April the District Council gave its backing to the Strategic Vision for Oxfordshire, which includes ambitious plans for carbon reduction, physical and mental health, housing and education.

The plan was developed by the Oxfordshire Growth Board, comprising the six Oxfordshire Councils and key strategic partners. It is described as a major commitment to building a more sustainable, biodiverse, economically prosperous and inclusive county by 2050.

Better bin collection services

Waste collection services in West Oxfordshire should soon be improved following the Council's investment in new software for the drivers' cabs of refuse, recycling, food and garden waste vehicles.

The new system will reduce the number of missed collections and enable crews to record any issues and meet special collection requirements for individual properties. GPS technology will allow drivers to follow collection routes, reducing the need for local knowledge and reducing delays.

Salt Cross Garden Village

Hearings will begin on 28 June on the Area Action Plan relating to the development of Salt Cross garden village near Eynsham, under the chairmanship of an inspector appointed by the Secretary of State Robert Jenrick.

The two-week hearing will examine whether current and future housing needs are being met, transport infrastructure, the potential for net zero carbon development

and policies around the Salt Cross science and technology park.

Once adopted, the Area Action Plan will become statutory.

From our former County Councillor

In his annual report for 2021, Cllr Hudspeth writes:

I'm sure nobody could have imagined the year that we have had, the pandemic has completely changed the way we all are working and living. We are in a situation where we must learn to live with COVID as we approach a new normal.

My thanks go to all Oxfordshire County Council staff who have worked incredibly hard over the last year as well as being flexible to ensure we provide services for the vulnerable in Oxfordshire. I would also like to thank all the community groups that were created to assist locally which helped all services to be delivered.

Oxfordshire County Council has worked hard with all partners including West Oxfordshire District Council and the NHS to support residents during these difficult times. Last year when there were problems with getting personal protective equipment, we purchased £2 million which we then distributed to our care providers particularly the smaller organisations who struggled to get bulk discounts or even just a delivery. We also provided every school with a pack of PPE before they reopened and have been working with all schools to assist them to be COVID secure. I want to say a big thank you to all teaching staff as they have continued to provide education whether that be online or in the classroom

to continue teaching for key worker and vulnerable children.

We have received extra funding from central government to assist during the crisis which meant we made some in year budget adjustments in September to enable us to deliver a balanced budget by the year end. There were some savings due to not using office space and travel which we will look at for future budgets.

The Council set its budget 9 February with £400,000 extra funding for drainage/vegetation clearance and 20 mph speed limits in villages that want them. The heavy winter rainfall has highlighted some areas that require additional work to keep the drains clear. It's important to coordinate the work with WODC to ensure the kerbs are clear otherwise the rain simply pushes the detritus into the drains. The additional funding for 20 mph speed limits will be to work with Parish Councils that see a lower limit as part of the solution to improve road safety.

In other key points of the budget, allocations have been made for youth support, linked health and care services, assessed care for adults with physical disabilities, homeless people, rehabilitation services for users of drugs and alcohol, innovative community projects to improve health and wellbeing, children's services, digital exclusion, services for addressing domestic violence, and apprenticeships.

The budget provides for a 1.99% rise in basic council tax, plus an extra 1% specifically for investment in adult social care, making a total of 2.99%. We recognised that this year has been difficult financially for some residents and we wanted to keep the tax increase as low as possible.

Given the circumstances I think we produced a good budget that provides investment for the future along with safeguarding current services.

There was good news for West Oxfordshire residents as they benefit from a funding deal with Homes England for £102m from the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) dedicated to providing a significant upgrade to the A40 west of Oxford. This is in addition to the Local Growth Fund of £35 million which will deliver the westbound bus lane along with the Eynsham Park and Ride.

Congratulations to all those involved in saving The White House pub in Bladon which is now owned by the community and reopened. It has been stop/start with the restrictions and I look forward to the complete reopening in summer. The work carried out has been fantastic and the new team are brilliant, working hard to produce good food.

In Stonesfield the same process was followed with The White Horse which is listed as a community asset. The funds were raised which was brilliant news, but the pub was sold to another bidder. I hope that at some point the community scheme can buy the pub; if the community spirit is anything like that of Bladon it'll be a success. This is just the start and we all must remember to support our pubs if they are to survive and become sustainable particularly during the winter months. I try to support all the pubs in the division but my wife, Carolyn, thinks it's just an excuse for me to have a pint or glass of wine.

The recent reduction in the number of COVID-19 infections is welcome news as is the consequent reduction in the number of hospital admissions which reduces the

pressure on the NHS. The vaccination programme is being rolled out at pace and again, I want to thank those helping to ensure everybody gets a jab as soon as possible. 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.

Stay safe and I wish you a better 2021 to come.

Ian Hudspeth (07956 270318)

Other news from the County

CPRE and the Oxfordshire Plan 2050

CPRE, the countryside charity (formerly The Campaign to Protect Rural England) is working to encourage public engagement in planning the future of Oxfordshire through influencing the Oxfordshire Plan 2050. This plan is within the framework of the Strategic Vision for Oxfordshire, and is to be drawn up by the four District Councils, Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council. It will define the development strategy for the next thirty years, including the quality and quantity of housing, and the broad locations for growth. CPRE argues that waiting until actual planning applications come forward is too late and it is far better to become involved and to inform local representatives at the time policy is being formed.

The next round of public consultation on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 is due in summer 2021. In future, the 2050 Plan, rather than the District or City Local Plans, will identify housing and development targets. CPRE holds that the county's rural character should be the fundamental starting point from which decisions about the future development should be made. Further information is on www.tinyurl.com/sm5dw2dk

From our MP – Robert Courts

Robert Courts has recently spent time with EE discussing their plans to improve the mobile communications signal in rural West Oxfordshire.

A £1 billion deal was agreed between Government and the phone industry in 2020 that will mean poor mobile coverage in parts of West Oxfordshire and elsewhere will be a thing of the past by 2025.

Robert Courts has pledged to take concerns directly to all the major providers and invites people to contact him with issues in this area, particularly by completing the survey on www.robertcourts.co.uk/mobilesurvey to let him know how the mobile signal is in our area.

Robert Courts

robert.courts.mp@parliament.uk

Education, culture & more

Stonesfield Primary School

The month of May was marked by Mental Health Awareness Week. Even before the pandemic, cuts to wider services have resulted in schools being left to support pupils with their social and emotional needs, often with a lack of training. The pandemic has exacerbated this situation greatly with children being affected by the stark reality of the last fifteen months: bereavement, increased anxiety, and limited / restricted social and physical interactions. Although Stonesfield is a small, rural school with limited resources I am proud of the emotional and pastoral support we offer our pupils. Our provision for mental health aligns with our relentless drive to achieve excellent academic outcomes and having high expectations for all our pupils.

The theme of this year's Mental Health Awareness Week was 'Connecting with Nature'. As one of only two schools in Oxfordshire to be a recognised Forest School provider, thanks to Sarah Walker, our Forest School leader, children here are lucky to have the 'full fat' experience. All our pupils up to Year 6 have regular Forest School sessions; witnessing children thrive in this environment is one of the many pleasures of my job. Last week children were thrilled to tell me of their discoveries in the pond: newts, dragonfly larvae, and a grass snake. Connecting with nature works wonders for our mental health, but our children are also learning to care about our environment and issues of sustainability.

With children like ours the future is in good hands.

Forest School is only one tree in our mental health woodland. At the start of the year children completed a survey which identified barriers to good mental health, including sleep. Teachers used PSHE Association resources (personal, social, health and economic) to address this issue and promote the importance of a good bedtime routine, including reading and a lack of screen time. The survey also identified pupils who would benefit from further support. These children have had the benefit of working with Evolve and Dare2Dream, two companies who specialise in bespoke social and emotional wellbeing programmes.

Over the coming months I will share the journey we have been on to improve standards in English and Maths. I am proud to be able to offer children in the village (and from further afield) the dream ticket: a winning combination of a great curriculum and high standards in English and Maths, along with a truly nurturing environment. It's been a challenging year, but our pupils are blossoming.

Ben Treveil, Head teacher

Head.2353@stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk

Stonesfield Library

Opening hours: Monday 2 - 4pm;
Wednesday and Thursday 10am – 12noon.

Mike Pollitt (891856)

The Barn Walk

Down the road
Past Mike and Rita's
Petunias,
And though I'm not a flower man
Her dedication impresses,

Then still a steep lane
And crossing the road
Past Ros's,
And up the dirt track,
With Abba's song
Triggered every time by
Waterloo Barn on my right,

Though fallen now,
As was Napoleon,
Too much to contend with,
And resources too small.

Then at the top
A view of the world of
Stonesfield,
And wonderful skies
And partridges screeching
At ponies,

And Jim cleans the car
With tales of his grandchild,
And Jess passes by with her babe,
And kids in the Primary School
Scream with delight
On the slide that once was
Our Gracie's.

And home again
With coffee and toast
An added treat,
And Sandy Denny,
And Who Knows
Where the Time Goes?
Not I.

Ian Keenan

Anchovies

Trisha Williams' letter of May on La Salada Nissarda is a welcome addition to *The Slate*. The 1972 cook book is the original edition of *La cuisine du comté de Nice*, which is said to have been dictated to the unpleasant Jacques Médecin by his grandmother. I came across this work in pursuit of my amateur interest in food additives and offer a comment that augments the notoriety of the family.

The 1972 edition contains two perilous recipes in which fish are preserved in salt: 288: Li amploua où saou (Les anchois au sel) [anchovies!] and 289: Lou pissala (La purée de poissons salés). Astonishingly, the salt was coloured with 3 grams of 'cinabre' per kilo of salt. Cinabre is described as a 'colorant rouge naturel' called senori in Niçois (the dialect of Nice).

Cinnabar is in fact the poisonous mercury sulfide. It is used to make the bright red pigment vermillion. It was long applied as a cosmetic rouge, although its toxicity was recognised by the Romans. It has been used in China to make beautiful lacquerware, in which cinnabar is mixed with a resin before it is carved.

How many people were poisoned as a result of Médecin's book and to what degree is unclear; his death in Uruguay was said to be the consequence of a heart attack.

Of course, Ms Williams' recipe is delicious and nowadays safe to eat ... but perhaps check the label on the anchovies.

Hagan Bayley

Nature Notes

The cuckoo flower and the spider

Settling into a rhythm along one of our paths, I notice the path is widened from the increased footfall during lockdown. Walking is an exercise for mind and body.

Waiting to cross the river there is a slight movement of soil on the bank at the water's edge, one of our moles is digging. I wonder if moles can swim?

Nearing the Roman Villa I see, at first glance, the hedgerow appears to be full of the pale pink and mauve flowers of the cuckoo flower (lady's smock). Cuckoo flower is named for the coincidence of flower and the first cuckoos arriving for the summer. In 1994 a recording in Kidlington had the first flower on 27 April and the first cuckoo calling on 28 April.

Popping my glasses on I am surprised to see that the blackthorn flowers have fallen onto gossamer spider threads. I am reminded that this winter's sloes have been perfect for sloe gin. The gossamer threads are the key for small spiders flying (known as ballooning), which can take a spider a few metres or whisk it up into the sky and away on the wind. Darwin reported them at sea and they have been found up to three miles high. Lift-off is helped by the earth's electrical field and the static electricity that hairs are prone to. The small spiders can lift off without any wind. The walk round the Roman villa is rather mundane compared to the adventures and risks that the dwarf weaver spider takes.

Back by the river I see cuckoo flowers, but I haven't heard a cuckoo yet.

John Sampson

Swifts

Screaming parties of swifts are for me the sound of summer in the village. Their fast, agile acrobatic screaming flights as they skim rooftops and buildings is a spectacular sight. When I say fast, common swifts have been recorded in level flight at 69.3 mph. Impressive.

They spend winter in Equatorial and Southern Africa and are with us for just three months, generally arriving in Stonesfield in early May. They feed and drink on the wing and can also mate and sleep on the wing. Normally two or three eggs are laid and on hatching the young have reasonable fat reserves. They can become semi torpid, surviving for several days if the adults have to move a long distance to find food.

Unfortunately the decline in UK swift numbers has been dramatic. Between 1995 and 2016 we have lost over half of our breeding swifts, and here's where we can help. They nest in holes, almost exclusively in pre-1944 buildings. Modern buildings do not really provide natural sites. It's encouraging to see that some people in the village have provided nest sites for them. They cause no problems and are clean. Indeed you may already have them and not know. All the information needed can be found at swift-conservation.org

The common swift – a bird worth helping? I believe it is.

Paul Wren

Garden wildlife and bird scarers

Our house and garden are, I hope, a haven for wildlife – we have a colony of swift bricks, sparrow nest boxes, house martin nests, along with blue tits, blackbirds, goldfinch and robins nesting, several

hedgehogs visiting, and frogs and toads in the pond.

Unfortunately two ultrasonic bird scarers were recently installed close by and this has caused distress to wildlife, birds, bats, pets and humans alike. We have had the robins abandon their nest with the loss of their three young, and a sparrow doing the same.

These ultrasonic devices emit what is marketed as a non-audible sound which will scare birds from the area. This, however, is not confined to the property where they are fitted but has affected at least five properties. The sound is audible to some adults, including my husband, children, young adults and persons using hearing aids. This is also causing distress to one of our dogs when he is out in our garden. It emits 90+ decibels, which is not only extremely uncomfortable to those who can hear it, but will cause harm to hearing if listened to for a prolonged period.

I write to ask people to think seriously if they are considering purchasing one of these devices.

The croaking of frogs in a spring pond, a bumbling hedgehog rooting in the undergrowth, the beautiful songbirds, chattering of sparrows raising their young and the graceful beauty of soaring swifts, house martins and swallows returning from incredible journeys to raise their young and then disappearing all to soon back to warmer climes, are all things that should be cherished and encouraged.

All of these birds and other creatures are struggling and it is our duty to try and give a helping hand, even on the smallest scale, and not make it more difficult for them. Feeding the hedgehogs and birds, planting

to encourage insects and helping with nesting sites (which in the case of swifts are disappearing fast) is something that we can all do.

Again we say please, please think seriously before buying one of these devices.

Patrick and Amanda Miller

Back on the map – Ruddy Well

Take a walk up the ridings towards Callow Farm and you will come to a track on the left called Ruddy Lane. If you follow the lane, you will be walking back along the Old Salt Way from Chipping Norton to London. Just before you break out into the fields, look left and you can make out an entrance: it is where the footpath takes you to a place called Ruddy Well. The footpath sign has disappeared and the footpath overgrown. The circular walk is no more, but if you pick your way through the undergrowth you will end up at Ruddy Well.

It's not a well, of course, but it was a place where the water collected from the springs all around it. When we had all the rain earlier in the year it was a rush of running water but now with its dams broken, it is barely damp!

It was a popular place to walk and picnic, and in spring it still blooms with planted daffodils. Ruddy Well is a point on the Stonesfield Parish boundary and it was from here, in 1897, that water was piped down the valley to the Tap, to become the source of Stonesfield's first public water supply.

This special place was here before Stonesfield existed; before the Romans built their villas here.

In the past, water was as important as life itself and from time immemorial Ruddy Well was an important watering hole. The ancient tribes in this area believed in gods that lived in the springs and wells, and they would leave offerings to them there. Maybe the gods are still here?

If you are here when the daffodils are out and the sun is out and you can hear a trickle of water, you may be able to connect to that old magic? Close your eyes. Good luck!

Graham Rutson (898230)



Swift : Paul Wren (see page 17)

Stonesfield Pre-School & Daycare

Making the most of each and every moment

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

Breakfast Club

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 7.30 – 8.50am (£6.00 per session)
Cereal, toast and fruit juice included

Pre-School Sessions

9am – 3pm daily for children aged 2–4 years (£17.00 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)

Clubs, societies & sport

Stonesfield Scouts

Sections: Beavers started meeting again on 23 April with small groups on alternate weeks; after over a year it was good to be back. So far, we have used maps and clues to find hidden dragons in the woods, and we have used clay and natural materials along with our imaginations to create clay creatures.

Cubs have been enjoying being back together again. We're thankful to have Stockey Bottom and the surrounding woodland on our doorstep to spread out into and ensure we maintain our social distancing! We've been honing our fire-making skills (handy for keeping the midges at bay this time of year!) and are looking forward to coming together as one group again soon.

The Scout Section is now meeting weekly and making the most of the light evenings. We're brushing up on our pioneering and camp craft skills, ready for a summer camp as soon as regulations allow.

Hut & Fundraising Team: Things are progressing well with the hut. A full planning application will be submitted to WODC within the next month, after getting positive feedback from WODC in the pre-planning stage.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our public consultation. We had responses from 78 people, with an overwhelming majority (97.4%) supportive of the new hut.

We asked people to share concerns and suggest how we could make the hut more of a community asset. The suggestions were many and fantastic; it would appear there are lots of people who would like a cup of tea in the woods, access to a community fire pit, and a hub to learn about nature or host wildlife groups. Thank you for all your suggestions: we won't be able to deliver on all of them, but we will try to incorporate as many as we can.

Fortunately, no surprising concerns were raised. As a team, we are already thinking ahead about how to minimise car parking problems, how the build needs to be less impactful on our neighbours than the demolition of the old hut was, and how we will deter vandals.

Our expectation is that the majority of the funding will come through grants; the team has been working hard to pull together all the information we need to apply to national and local grant organisations. With (fingers crossed) warmer weather coming and some relaxation of the COVID rules, the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts will be getting involved with fundraising activities, and will be out and about selling cakes, bricks and ducks – watch this space! Many thanks to Patrick Wilmore and the Alfred Lodge in Woodstock for their very kind donation.

We are looking for help to raise funds, so please get in contact with the team at fundraising@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk if you are happy to get involved or have any queries.

Poster competition winners!

Congratulations to Chloe Gwilym, Lyra Lacey, Gabi Orsi and Jasmine Hands for their fantastic entries in the poster competition. We can't wait to see how their designs will look on the hoarding boards around the site!

Events: The annual duck race is planned for 17 July, and we are looking for volunteers to help with this great event. Please get in touch with chairman@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk if you think you can lend a hand. This is our largest fundraising event of the year, and we cannot do it without you!

Stonesfield Scouts

chairman@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk

Stonesfield Gardening Club

In April we held our annual plant sale and raised the magnificent sum of £900 – our best ever! The committee will meet shortly to decide which local charity should benefit from some of this, as we'd rather it was doing good than sitting in our bank account.



Our May meeting was held under pandemic restrictions, so we opted for a Zoom meeting with our speaker Harriet Rycroft. Her topic was A Year in Pots, talking about her very obvious love for and expertise on the subject. She showed us some lovely slides of her own courtyard

filled with them (some 300 in total!) as well as some very dramatic displays from the time she was employed by Whichford Pottery to fill their sales area. Along with the tempting photographs she also demonstrated the planting of an unusual container for all-year-round interest and was able to offer advice to members to make the most of their own displays.

We are planning for a return to normality with a walk round some village gardens on 21 June, followed by a sociable glass of wine in the final garden. This will be a good opportunity for us all to get together again and will give new members a chance to meet us all properly. If you are new to the village and are thinking of joining the club, this would be a good time!

Diane Bates, Secretary

diane@bateshome.co.uk

www.stonesfieldgardening.info

Stonesfield Football Club

That's another football season lost to COVID, but thankfully the powers that be had the good sense to play the cup competitions as league sections. So how did our boys finish up?

It was a tale of missed opportunity for The Firsts, who had put themselves in a brilliant position to finish in second place and qualify for the semi-finals of The Senior Cup. A fabulous 7-1 (my favourite scoreline!) away win at Witney Royals, where Raffy Rice scored four, was followed by an 8-1 thrashing of Carterton with the Rice boys running riot (Cary got three and Raffy got two!). That set up the next game for our boys at home to Milton, where a simple win would see them qualify. However, with our lads 1-0 up, fate conspired against them as they missed a

penalty (no names, no pack drill) and defensive blunders then gifted the points to Milton who ran out 3-1 winners. Our boys then finished the season with a 4-2 home win against Wootton, that saw the ever-green veteran Nick Higgs score two penalties. The Milton game was their Achilles heel, but it was good to finish the campaign with a win.

The Reserves knew that with no chance of qualifying for the semi-finals of The Supplementary Cup, the only thing to aim for was regaining a bit of pride in their final four games. In fairness I think they did salvage something from their cup campaign, with two wins and two losses to finish their season. They went to Hook Norton and lost 4-0, then recorded a shock 1-0 win at home to FC Mills! Next they were on the wrong side of an eight-goal thriller away at Aston (5-3). Finally their pride was restored, with a thoroughly deserved 3-0 away win at Chipping Norton Town. Nice to see our Reserves finally get a couple of wins under their belts!

No prize coconut for guessing who gets the final Fredo Award for this season. Raffy Rice with four goals against Witney Royals was almost eclipsed by his wee brother Cary, who got three against Carterton, but I think that would've been a harsh decision. Fredo awards are not uncommon in the Rice household and once again it goes to Raffy, with the recommendation that sharing with Cary might be the polite thing to do!

If summer 2021 ever arrives, then the field is free for the cricket club to strut their stuff. Hopefully we'll be back in late September for a COVID-free football season that manages to go the distance.

Take care everyone and stay safe. Oh, and have a great summer!

Tom Flanigan (891979)

.....

Stonesfield Sports and Social Club

By the time you read this pubs, clubs and restaurants will be allowed to serve indoors. We look forward to welcoming you back inside, albeit with some remaining government COVID guidelines in place:

- table service only
- you must scan the NHS QR code on entering or add your details to the list provided
- hand sanitiser is to be used
- masks are to be worn, except when seated
- there is a maximum of six people to a table

And just a reminder that the SSSC AGM will be held on Sunday 4 July at 7.00pm.

Look forward to seeing you all soon.

Brian Clarke (89177)

.....

Stonesfield Cricket Club – The Andrew Crawford cup

Stonesfield Cricket Club will be holding a Friday night tournament throughout the summer, remembering our friend and team-mate Andrew Crawford. All games will be at the playing field and will start at 6.15pm. The Social Club will be open and food available for purchase provided by our new sponsor, The Duke of Marlborough.

After months of lockdown look to be coming to an end, all are welcome to come along and support the club.

Quarter finals:

Friday 4 June - Hanborough vs Wolvercote

Friday 11 June - Combe vs Eynsham

Friday 25 June - Stonesfield vs Oxon & Bletch Nondescripts

Friday 9 July – Kidlington vs Marsh Gibbon

Semi-finals:

Friday 16 July and Friday 23rd July

Final:

Friday 6 August

Games called off for rain will be re-arranged for the following Wednesday.

George Redknap (07825 234558)

Chairman Stonesfield Cricket Club

Neighbourhood Watch network is a charity registered in England & Wales, CIO no. 1173349



PROTECT YOUR POOCH

Dog theft is on the rise and we are urging the public to keep their dogs SECURE, IN SIGHT and SEARCHABLE, and to help make pet theft a SPECIFIC OFFENCE.

Keep them:

- 1. SECURE** (pets are easily stolen from unsecured gardens if left unattended)
- 2. IN SIGHT** (when out and about keep them close and practice good recall)
- 3. SEARCHABLE** (to support quicker recovery if they go missing keep them microchipped, tagged and up to date photos)

AND HELP MAKE PET THEFT
A SPECIFIC OFFENCE

Find out more on all of the above and more at
ourwatch.org.uk/ProtectYourPooch



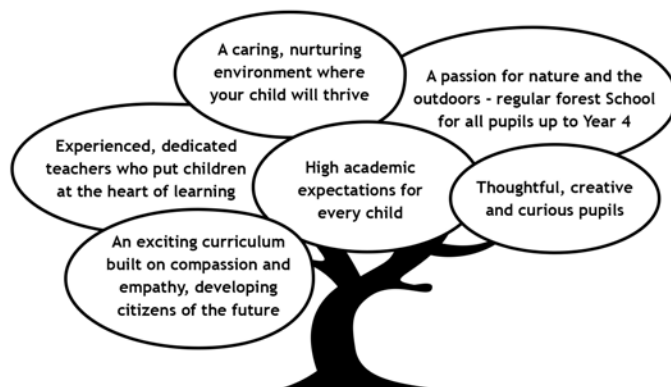
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Stonesfield Primary School has places in all year groups - we would love to show you around.



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

Church news

Church of England Worship at St James the Great, Stonesfield

(Benefice of Stonesfield with Combe Longa)

www.stonesfieldparishchurch.org

Rector: Rev Ralph Williamson,
rector@scbenefice.org, 01993 891872

Churchwardens: Lindsey Sellar and Rachel Severn
stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org

For any enquiries or help, including pastoral support, please do contact us.

From the Rector

June is always a beautiful month, unless you are one of the unhappy (but soon to be rewarded) people taking examinations at school, college or university. The early mornings are still fresh, the evenings long, plants and trees are at their most verdant and all seems well in the world. I spent last June in London, and the beauty of nature in London's parks made the lockdown almost bearable. I can hardly wait to see the beauty of Stonesfield and Combe in the weeks ahead. The month, and the rural life of 17th century England in these weeks, is beautifully described by Nicholas Breton (d.1626), a prolific Elizabethan poet, in his "Fantasticks". While the Church of England was struggling over how Catholic or Reformed it was to be, he painted the month like this:

*IT is now Iune, and the Hay-makers are
mustered to make an army for the field,*

*where not alwayes in order, they march
under the Bagge and the Bottle, when
betwixt the Forke and the Rake, there is
séene great force of armes: Now doth the
broad Oke comfort the weary Laborer,
while vnder his shady Boughes he sits
singing to his bread and cheese: the •ay-
cocke is the Poore mans Lodging, and the
fresh Riuer is his gracious Neighbour:
Now the Faulcon and the Tassell try their
wings at the Partridge, and the fat Bucke
fils the great pasty: the trees are all in
their rich aray: but the séely Shéep is
turned out of his coat: the Roses and swéet
Herbes put the Distiller to his cunning,
while the gréene apples on the trée are
ready for the great bellied wiues: Now
begins the Hare to gather vp her heeles,
and the Foxe looks about him, for feare of
the Hound: the Hooke and the Sickle are
making ready for haruest: the Medow
grounds gape for raine, and the Corne in
the eare begins to harden: the little Lads
make Pipes of the straw, and they that
cannot dance, will yet bee hopiping: the
Ayre now groweth somewhat warme, and
the coole winds are very comfortable: the
Sayler now makes merry passage, and the
nimble Foot-man runnes with pleasure: In
briefe, I thus conclude, I hold it a sweet
season, the senses perfume, and the spirits
comfort. Farewell.*

In the church, although the weeks move around with the date of Easter, the month of June sees our return to 'ordinary time.' Following the great drama of Lent, Easter, and Pentecost, which are capped by Trinity Sunday a week after Whitsun, (this year on

30 May), we go back to dressing the church (and the clergy) in green. As this month we celebrate the gradual unlocking after such difficult times, we look forward to singing joyful and familiar hymns together and sharing simple hospitality again after our services and social events. The month of June always ends with the Feast of Peter and Paul, and at 'Petertide' new deacons and priests are ordained. One of the roles which I look forward to in the benefice and this Diocese is the work of 'Vocations Officer', helping people to explore the call of God in their lives in many different ways, including those who will take the path to ordination. For me, it will be a particularly joyful Petertide this year, as I will be celebrating thirty years of priesthood too. I wish you all a joyful June, and hope you can join us in church.

Rev Ralph Williamson, Rector

June Services

Sunday 6 June [Trinity 1]

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

Sunday 13 June [Trinity 2]

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

Sunday 20 June [Trinity 3]

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

Sunday 27 June [Trinity 4]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe	Parish Communion
10am	Stonesfield	Parish Communion, followed by Annual Parochial Church Meeting at 11am

Wednesdays

9.30am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion (every week)
11am	Combe	Morning Prayer (9th and 23rd June)

Stonesfield Methodist Church

Services for June

6 June	11am	Mr Martin Hannant
13 June	11am	Mr Richard Bowler
20 June	11am	Reverend Rose Westwood (Holy Communion Service)
27 June	11am	Reverend Hilary Ewing

To contact the Church Minister, The Reverend Rose Westwood, phone 01608 644556 or email rose.westwood@methodist.org.uk.

Kathleen Alb  rt (891733)

Roman Catholic Worship

How do we know....?

How do we know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God? We know because He demonstrated to us, unequivocally, that He rose from the dead, and walked among His disciples and Apostles. We further know because He told us in the seven great 'I am' statements who He was and what His purpose was. In each of these statements, found in the Gospel of St John, Jesus is also echoing the Old Testament. In each of the statements, Jesus is using language

and metaphors that would be wholly understood by his audience.

1. I am the Bread of Life. Jesus is offering himself as ‘the staff of life’ to sustain us now and forever. *John 6:22-59, especially verses 28-35.*

2. I am the Light of the World. Jesus is the guiding light of hope in our dark lives. *John 8:12-30.* See also *John 1:4-5; 3:19-21; 9:5; 12:35-36).*

3. I am the door or gate. Jesus states that He is the entrance to the life eternal beyond this worldly life. *John 10:1-18*

4. I am the Good Shepherd. Jesus tells us that he will care for us always, relieving us of our burdens, even if it requires His death. He will guide us to our eternal home. *John 10:1-18*

5. I am the resurrection, and the life. In this powerful statement Jesus tells us clearly that He is divine. *John 11:17-27*

6. I am the way, the truth, and the life. Here we are told that Jesus is the only way, the only truth and only path to life eternal. *John 14:6*

7. I am the true vine. Using the well-known Old Testament metaphor of a vine as Israel, Jesus is telling us that He is the new Promised Land. *John 15:1-6*

In each of these statements Jesus is showing us how to believe in Him and what great gifts He is offering; all we have to do is believe and follow Him.

Holy Mass

Sunday Mass is at 9.15am. Please book in advance as places are strictly limited. Social distancing is maintained and masks must be worn.

Weekday Mass times

Monday, Tuesday 9.30am

Wednesday 7pm, followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday 9.30am

Friday 9.30am, followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

There is no need to book – all are welcome and social distancing is strictly enforced.

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.

Confession by arrangement with Fr Clive Dytor, who may be contacted on

holyltrinityrechippy@gmail.com or 01608 642703.

For Parish updates, any further information and further support, contact www.stteresaschurch-charlbury.com/ or Fr Clive Dytor at chair. stteresaschurchcharlbury@gmail.com.

Roman Catholic Community in Stonesfield

STONESFIELD VOLUNTARY TRANSPORT SCHEME

Volunteer drivers are available to take you for vaccination, other medical appointments and also to the hospitals in Oxford and Banbury.

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 a lift in June.

Do you want to advertise?

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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Katrina 01993 891131 / 07824357690

katrinamoss1979@icloud.com

BROCANTE, VINTAGE & COLLECTABLES

7th - 9th June

Stonesfield

Selling because of house move.
Appointment only, due to Covid.

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We've piloted a new Social Prescription Programme

We have been working closely with Aspire, an Oxfordshire-based charity supporting disadvantaged individuals, to trial a programme of walks and mindfulness activities on the Estate. The project is aimed at addressing the mental distress, social isolation and physical inactivity caused by lockdown and increasing the participants' wellbeing and through social activities connected to nature and the great outdoors.

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