



Issue No 523 April 2022

CSW volunteers needed



Following successful implementation of the 20mph speed limit, SAFER, the Parish Council road safety working group, is recruiting volunteers to join its Community Speed Watch (CSW) team. We are looking for individuals to help run speed surveys in the village as part of our efforts to keep local roads safe, reinforce the new limit and change driver behaviour. You would be part of a team supporting an important initiative that will directly influence speed reduction and help enforce the lower speed limit.

Under the direction of Thames Valley Police (TVP), local CSW teams across West Oxfordshire villages regularly run local surveys to remind drivers of the speed limit and to report excessive speeding direct to TVP who will then make contact with the driver.

Matthew Barber, Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley, said: *'I want to embed Community Speed Watch as a core part of Thames Valley's response to road safety. The work that the volunteers of*

this scheme do is vital to the wider strategy to keep everyone safe on our roads.'

As a CSW volunteer, you would receive full training, be issued with personal protective equipment (PPE) and be covered by Stonesfield Parish Council's insurance. You would be part of a team running speed surveys in the village. We will build on the existing SAFER initiative and restart the regular surveys that took place prior to Covid-19 restrictions. Our aim is to relaunch CSW surveys after Easter and we will be running regular sessions across the village. As a volunteer, we would ask for 2-3 hours of your time on a monthly basis.

If you are interested in becoming a CSW volunteer, please contact SAFER via www.stonesfield.online/safer/. If you have any questions about becoming a volunteer, please contact me at the email address below.

Cllr Michael J Heduan MBE
Stonesfield Parish Council
m.heduan@stonesfieldpc.uk

Do you want to send in an article but have no email?

Just call the editor (see below) who can arrange to collect your handwritten copy.

Disclaimer

The Stonesfield Slate is a village amenity, produced and distributed by volunteers. It cannot be held responsible for any of the views expressed in its pages nor does it endorse any of the products or services advertised.

Articles are solely the responsibility of the writers and their opinions do not necessarily accord with those of the editors or publishers.

Whilst we strive to ensure all information is correct, we are not responsible for anything that happens as a result of you using the information. If you find any errors or omissions then please contact the Publisher and we will endeavour to correct them.

Dates for your diary are always subject to change. Please check with event organisers.

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

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All advertisements must be paid for in advance.

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Dates for your diary

April

1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Baby & Toddler Group	Village Hall	10am-12 noon
2	Community Café	Village Hall	9.30am-2pm
2	Afternoon Tea	Methodist Church	2-5pm
4, 7, 11, 14, 18,	Taekwondo	Village Hall	5.30-6.30pm
4, 25	Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	8.45-11.30am
5, 12, 19, 26	Zumba	Village Hall	7-8pm
5, 12, 19, 26	Strong Nation HITT Class	Village Hall	8.15-9.15pm
5, 19	Carers' Café	Village Hall	10am-12 noon
6	Parish Council meeting	St James' Centre	7pm
6, 13, 20, 27	Gatehouse Pilates	Village Hall	9.30-10.30am
6, 13, 20, 27	Hanna Bathe HITT Class	Village Hall	7.15-9.15pm
6, 13, 20, 27	Folk Dancing	Village Hall	7.45-10pm
7, 14, 21, 28	Hanna Bathe HITT Class	Village Hall	7.15-8.15pm
11	Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	10-11.30am
13	North Leigh Roman Villa Open Day		10am-3pm
17	STEM Steaming Sunday	Combe Mill	10am-4pm
21	Community Pub Committee AGM	Village Hall	8pm
21, 25, 28	Taekwondo	Village Hall	5.30-6.30pm
23	Gardening Club Plant Sale	Pond Hill	8.30-11am
23	Folk Dance Club 'Day of Dance'	Village Hall	10am-5pm
27	Book Break	Stonesfield Library	12.30-2.00pm
30	Bridewell Gardens Plant sale		11am-4pm

Notices & news

Stonesfield Community Café: raising funds for local and international causes

March Community Café

Thank you **very** much to all of the bakers, volunteers, tea/coffee drinkers, cake eaters, owl-lovers and bric-a-brac shoppers who kindly supported the March Community Café at the Village Hall. An amazing £850 was raised for Chrissie's Owls and Stonesfield Owl Rescue! Chrissie says *'Thank you so much to everyone who gave up their time on Saturday (5 March). The money raised will help pay for food for the owls, which is £300 per month, and also I can now get some wood to renew some of the owl housing and repair the fence.'*

April Community Café

Many Stonesfield residents have been asking how, as a community, we can support the people of Ukraine. Therefore, the next Community Café (Saturday 2 April at the Village Hall) will be in aid of the DEC's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. This will be an extended Café (9.30am-2pm), offering tea, coffee and cake in the morning, followed by a Ukrainian inspired lunch!

In addition to the Café, there will be a table-top sale in the main hall, a raffle/tombola in the foyer and children's story-telling in the Library. We are hoping that this will be the most successful Community Café fundraiser yet!

If you would like to volunteer for this event - we will need help, please, with setting-up, baking cakes, working in the Café, staffing the raffle/tombola stall, breaking down/ tidying away etc. - please get in touch with Jess Huband (contact details below). If you would like a table-top in the hall, please message Claire Jeeves at clairejeeves@yahoo.co.uk. Any questions, please ask. Thank you for your support!

Jess Huband (07970 107805)

jesshuband@hotmail.co.uk

Contributions to The Slate

The editorial team and publishers are conscious that not everyone has access to email and/or a computer. If you are in this situation and would like to submit something for publication, please get in touch with the Editor in order to make alternative arrangements. We are happy to collect something handwritten from you or to take it down over the phone. The Editor's name and contact number appears on page 2 of each issue.

Healthwatch Oxfordshire: call for Trustees

Healthwatch Oxfordshire is the independent champion for people who use health and social care services across the county. We are here to find out what matters to people and help make sure their views shape the services they need.

If you care about the way local health and care services are run and can spare some

time to help get the right services to the people who really need them, please think about joining us as a Trustee. This is a voluntary role and a really exciting opportunity to make a difference. To find out more about the role and how to apply, please see www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk/new/becomeatrustee or telephone 01865 520520.

Vicky Tilley

Community Involvement Officer

Aid for Ukraine

WODC opened a donation centre on 9 March to enable residents to bring supplies to support the people of Ukraine.

Donations may be delivered to Carterton Leisure Centre where staff are on hand to coordinate deliveries. The collection point is signposted on site and is open 6am-10pm Monday-Friday and 7am-5pm Saturday and Sunday.



There is an urgent need for the following: dried food (long-life items only); bottled water; first aid supplies; toiletries and sanitary items; warm clothes and underwear; sleeping bags (but not duvets or pillows); children's toys. People are urged to only bring items which appear on

this list as these are deemed to be 'much needed' by organisations on the ground.

If wished, monetary donations may be made to the National Disaster Emergency Committee appeal at www.dec.org.uk. Funds are being distributed to a number of large charities which are supporting the people of Ukraine.

Old photographs of Stonesfield: call for help!

Do you have any old photographs of Stonesfield and its people tucked away in a box somewhere? The Stonesfield Slate and the Stonesfield Village website (www.stonesfield.online) would like to enlist your help.

First for the Slate – we are preparing a special feature for the June Slate, to coincide with the Platinum Jubilee, and we want to include photographs of Stonesfield as it was in 1952 when the Queen came to the throne, and in the next year at the Coronation. We'd like to see pictures of any day-to-day activities or special events, or just places in the village as they were then. We need these by the start of May.

And then we need your help for the website, which already has a gallery of pictures of Stonesfield today. We'd like to add a historical archive to it; of people, places, events going back as far as we can. This will be a lasting record of our village, which has such a special history with its unusual mining and gloving traditions.

If you have photos you would be able to share with the village, we will ask your permission to include them in the Slate and/or on the website. They can be in black and white or colour, and preferably should have good contrast rather than

muted shades. We can work with prints or digital photos.

If you'd like to take part, please either contact Viv Kendall for collection of prints, or call in with prints or email digital photos to Paul and Diane Bates (contact details on page 2). It would be helpful if you could include your name, address and phone number and a note of what's in the photos if it's not obvious. We will scan the prints and make sure they are returned to you.

We can't guarantee to use them all, but will do our best! We very much hope you are able to be part of this project, to celebrate the Jubilee and in the longer term to preserve a collection showing the history of our village.

Viv Kendall (891803)

Slate Editor for June

Bridewell Gardens

Bridewell Gardens provides a mental health recovery service for West Oxfordshire, supporting people who have experienced severe and enduring mental illness. Bridewell is a creative and inspiring walled garden and vineyard where people



Bridewell chickens on a bench

can find hope in recovery, gardening and working with nature. We look forward to sharing our beautiful gardens with you this year.

We will be holding our plant sale on Saturday 30 April where you can browse a wide variety of perennial plants for sale in our stock bed avenue. Plants will be for sale in the vineyard; the walled garden will not be open during the plant sale.



Open Day stall

The entire site will be open to the public during our Open Days (11am-4pm) on: Sunday 15 May, Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 June, and Sunday 11 September when there will be a pop-up café in the garden for tea and cake. Plants will be for sale as well as home-produced jams and chutneys, juice and our organic sparkling wine. Make a day of it, bring a picnic blanket and relax in the vineyard with friends and family. Dogs on leads are very welcome.

No booking is required and we suggest a donation of £5 per person.

Rachel Green

rachel@bridewellgardens.org

www.bridewellgardens.co.uk

The Walled Garden, Wilcote OX7 3DT

Stonesfield Pre-School & Day Care: 100 Club

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

1st prize of £25: no. 18 Hannah Crowe

2nd prize of £10: no. 28 Keith Comley

Congratulations to you both.

Zena Rozee

Pre-School Administrator

stonesfieldpsad@outlook.com

Churchfields allotments

We may have the smallest allotment in Oxfordshire! We are pleased that a new allotment has been agreed for one of our neighbours; measuring 30' x 8', it must be the smallest allotment in Oxfordshire.



Plants are stirring on the allotments and we hope to have produce soon (early rhubarb) for the stall. Please remember that the area underneath the stall is for recycled flower pots and not other plastic waste. We have reduced our waiting list and so, if you would like to be added, please do get in touch.

John Sampson

johnsamps9@btinternet.com

Platinum Jubilee celebration for 2022 and beyond

How's this for an idea? And it is just an idea; I'd love to hear from others, far more creative than I am!

This June sees HM The Queen celebrate her Platinum Jubilee. To mark this occasion, I had the idea of creating a Jubilee Circular Walk in and around our lovely village. It would be a lasting, permanent reminder that the current residents of Stonesfield embraced its sense of occasion. I'm sure many of us will celebrate the long weekend in some way, but it would be great to do something that we can all continue to enjoy long after the dancing and fun has stopped!

The walk could be either 2 or 3.5 miles with benches placed strategically around the route: somewhere to sit and rest, or to watch the world go by and chat with passers-by.

The shorter route, which is about 1.8 miles, would be:

Starting at the Church:

- The heart of the village. We already have a bench here, but we could add a plaque marking the start of the walk.
- Next, down Church Street and Brook Lane:
- A bench could be placed at the top of the climb down to the river for people to sit, relax and enjoy the stunning view over the valley. It would need landowner approval.
- Down the hill towards the river, turn right and through the woods, coming out onto Witney Lane. Turn right, and back up Loughton Hill:

- Next resting place is the Tap. There is already a bench here and we could highlight the importance of the Tap for Stonesfield by including it in the Jubilee Walk.
- Up to the White Horse:
- Stop off to eat your picnic under the tree on the 'Green Triangle'. It would be great to have a circular bench around the tree for people to rest. Maybe a planter here too, on the corner of the green, facing Pond Hill.
- Continue down the hill, turn left into Longore, and follow the road round to Greenfield Road. Turn right onto the Woodstock Road, pass the war memorial and return to the Church.

For those who would like a longer walk, a loop can be added after coming through the woods. Once you have been along Witney Lane to Laughton Hill, go straight across the road and up the track towards Charlbury. Turn right at the top and continue along the Ridgeway for about a mile. Turn right and head along the footpath towards The Ridings. Turn right to come back into the village as far as The White Horse and re-join the walk at this point. This extra loop makes the walk about 3.5 miles.

At each resting point perhaps there could be a plaque with a QR code linked to the Stonesfield website to uncover local historical information.

The concept has been warmly received by the Parish Council. However, to create this lasting circular walk there would be some costs involved. It would be good to hear from any local companies or individuals who would be happy to help with sponsorship. Offers of help designing

maps, creating QR codes, and writing the stories would all be very much appreciated. Or perhaps this has got your creative juices flowing and you can build on the idea?!

It would be wonderful to create something for future generations to enjoy for years to come. Hopefully it would be something that people of all ages could enjoy and those from within the community as well as further afield would be encouraged to take advantage of it.

Please get in touch with me at the email address below with any comments, suggestions and offers of help. Thanks!

Julie Grime

julie.grime1@gmail.com

Afternoon Tea at the Methodist Church

... with Easter in mind! Do come and enjoy cakes, cream teas and beverages on Saturday 2 April, 2-5pm. There will be assorted stalls and produce too, and a very warm welcome indeed! If you have any unwanted items to donate to the stalls, they would be greatly appreciated, and if you need help with transport on the day, just get in touch.

Kathleen Albért (891733)

Stonesfield diary – a reminder

A reminder that the village website now has a diary of events, accessible from the village website home page (www.stonesfield.online), which allows everyone to see what is proposed / confirmed months in advance.

This calendar is open to all Stonesfield clubs and societies to record their events or activities in Stonesfield. So far very few

have taken up the opportunity. As an inaccurate diary is worse than none, if take-up remains poor the diary will have to be removed.

If your club/society wishes to be able to show its events or activities, then please contact webeditor@stonesfield.online. You will then be given a link so you can always update the diary yourself.

webeditor@stonesfield.online

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Treasure Box: Easter activities

This year there will be two parts to the Treasure Box Easter Trail. The first part will consist of a few fun outdoor activities for you to do with your family during the first week of the Easter holidays. You will then be ready for the second part which will be on Good Friday, 15 April, when we will all come together for a short Easter Trail with clues and things to find. At the end of the trail there will be an Easter Egg hunt. The activities will help you find out about the Easter Story.

All families are welcome. If you want to take part, please let me know. You will then receive details for the first part and more information on the Good Friday trail.

Muriel Barrett (891479)

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Village Hall news

In a month where we have so many exciting things to update you on, we do, sadly, have to bring your attention to some repeated damage at the Village Hall. We were really disappointed to see that two weeks after having the downpipe outside the library repaired, it has been broken yet again! We would really appreciate it if, when people are using the Village Hall car park, they are more vigilant when

manoeuvring their vehicles so that we don't have to keep wasting money repeatedly carrying out the same repairs. Please drive safely around the car parking area, especially when it's busy as it is also the entry road to the play area and the playing fields. Thank you.

On a happier note, we want to say A Big Thank You for the overwhelming response we have received regarding the support for the Community Cafés on the first Saturday of each month. The next one is scheduled for Saturday 2 April in aid of the Ukraine relief effort.

Stonesfield Folk Dance Club continues to meet 8-10pm on Wednesdays in the Village Hall and welcomes new members. Usually there is a live band with guest callers and the cost is £2.50 per person which includes refreshments. Singles and couples are most welcome.

This month the Folk Dance Club is hosting 'A Day of Dance' on Saturday 23 April 10am-5pm. Deo Volente and Fran Bulpit are the musicians for the traditional English folk dancing which will be led by Victoria Yeomans and her father, Nigel Close. Walk throughs are performed prior to each dance and the calling will continue during the dances so it is easy and fun to join. The day is split in two so it is possible to come for a morning or afternoon at a cost of £8; the full day finishes at 5pm and costs £15. Tickets are available on the door.

The Baby & Toddlers Group has now moved into the Main Hall on a Friday, so there is plenty more room for you and your little ones to enjoy the space, toys and socialisation that this class has to offer. If you are looking for a way to meet new people with your little ones in a relaxed and informal setting, please do pop along.

There is also an opportunity for local volunteers to help with making coffees and teas during the sessions so if you would like to help a long-running established group, Sarah would love to hear from you at stonesfieldbabyandtoddlers@gmail.com

Finally, we would like to welcome the Carers Café into the Village Hall! The Café will be open on the first and third Tuesday of each month between 10am and 12pm.

Thank you for your continued support.

Jacqueline Carthew (898919)

Secretary & Booking Clerk for Stonesfield Village Hall

stonesfieldvh@gmail.com

facebook.com/stonesfieldvillagehall



Queen's Green Canopy

News of the Queen's Green Canopy tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, (www.queensgreencanopy.org/about-us/), got the residents at 21, 22, 23 and 26 Longore talking about what might be possible near us. We came up with the idea of planting fruit trees (apple, pear and plum) on the small green outside our bungalows and registering them on the

Jubilee map. We discussed this with the Parish Council which has given the go ahead. By the time you read this, we hope to have been able to buy the trees and have them in the ground - it's a bit tight as we need to check where all the services run, dig the holes and get them in before the end of March. We will be watering the trees through the summer to get them established and come autumn will put some bulbs in around their bases. Our hope is that for years to come the village will be able to enjoy the spring blossom, the autumn colour and the fruit.

Susan Rudlin

Call for wedding dresses!

During June there will be various events in Stonesfield to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. One of the events is a display of wedding dresses in St James' Church.

We are very keen to have a wide range of dresses 'through the decades' on display. Do you still have your wedding dress or know of someone who does? Would you be happy to have it on display in the Church (which will be staffed)? We would love to know a little about your dress, your wedding day and, if possible, have a photograph that could be displayed with it. The display can also include photographs of any weddings which were held in St James' Church. Would you like to provide a photo of your wedding?

Please get in touch - we would love to hear from you (by the end of April if possible).

Sarah Plumridge (891163)

bolivern@icloud.com

Lindsey Sellar

stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org

Stonesfield Primary School summer fete

Stonesfield Primary School are holding a summer fete on 21 May (12-4pm) and we would love the community to get involved. We are really looking forward to welcoming everyone, adults and children alike, for a great summer's day out.

If you are interested in having a stall, advertising in the programme, or sponsorship, please contact us at the email address below. We will be holding a raffle too, so if you are able to donate a raffle prize it would be hugely appreciated. We would also be grateful for donations of any unwanted gifts and bottles for the tombola.

We always need volunteers: keen bakers can donate cakes, scones, cupcakes etc.; people to run stalls on the day, coconut shy, beat the goalie, books, tombola, bar and BBQ to name but a few.

For any fete enquiries, donations or volunteering, please email fosschair@hotmail.com. Thank you.

Minnie Stuart

North Leigh Roman Villa

The Villa's beautiful 4th century mosaic will be open to the public for one day during the Easter holidays – Wednesday 13 April, 10am-3pm – as it undergoes cleaning and conservation supervised by specialist English Heritage staff.

In a new venture for this site and its team of volunteers, there will be an Easter holiday weekday opening of the mosaic which once graced the villa's impressive winter dining room. The site is free to enter and everyone is welcome to come along. Conservators and volunteers will be on

hand to answer questions about the whole site. There is no need to book.

For more details about openings and access to the site (which can be arduous for those with mobility issues), please visit: www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/north-leigh-roman-villa/ You may follow us on Twitter: @villa_north

To join Friends of North Leigh Roman Villa or arrange a special opening, please email: [nlrvols@gmail.com](mailto:nlrsvols@gmail.com)

The North Leigh Roman Villa Volunteers

Woodstock Bowls Club

On behalf of Woodstock Bowls Club, I would like to thank the Alfred Lodge for their kind donation.

Bowls is a great form of gentle exercise for people of all ages. Woodstock Bowls Club welcomes you to give it a go – all you need is a pair of flat-soled shoes. If interested, please contact me.

Brian Clarke (891163)
bjnc@tiscali.co.uk

New bins!



Politics & local affairs

Stonesfield Parish Council (SPC)

From the meeting held on 2 March

County Council and District Council updates

Bus services will be retained in their current form, initially for the first six months of the financial year from April. Usage is down and so the service needs to be used more in order to keep this service beyond the six-month period. Oxford is one of the first cities in the UK to have approximately 100 electric buses; this news was welcomed. A bus lane will be introduced south of Woodstock in order to fast-track buses into Oxford. The Clerk asked if Cllr Andy Graham (OCC) would share any transport plans with the Parish Council; these would be published on the website when available. It was noted that Charlbury runs a car share scheme which Stonesfield residents are welcome to join.

Queen's Jubilee/Green Canopy

It was suggested that a circular Jubilee Walk be created around the village with the provision of benches and information plaques (and possibly QR codes) at various points along the walk. This suggestion was welcomed by the Council and is being considered.

Councillors resolved to permit the planting of three fruit trees on Longore and will contribute 50% towards the cost.

A request was made that the village should remember and honour its war heroes; this

was supported by the Council and details and information would be placed on the Parish Council website. Cllr Graham suggested that this may be something which could be included in a future exhibition at The Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock (The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum.)

Financial matters

Councillors resolved to approve the grant request of £500 for the Stonesfield Repair Café and wished the organisers well with this venture.

Planning applications

There were no objections to the following applications:

22/00384/HHD Glebe Cottage, The Ridings (Mr Richard Froggatt)

22/00385/HHD 24 Greenfield Crescent (Mr Richard Noonan)

22/00329/HHD Green Furlong, Churchfields (Mrs Emma Theodorou)

Parish Council vacancy

The vacancy for a new councillor has been advertised and WODC will handle the initial stages of this process.

General information

The Parish Council audit will start in April. The financial year ends on 31 March.

The Annual Parish Council meeting will take place on 18 May, as will the standard

Parish Council meeting in order to avoid election dates. This is to be confirmed.

Date of next meeting

The next full Council meeting will be held on 6 April 2022 at the St James' Centre at 7pm. Councillors requested that the meeting be held face to face but it would be preferable for lateral flow tests to be undertaken before the meeting.

Karen East, Parish Clerk
clerk@stonesfieldpc.uk

Notice: vacancy for parish councillor at Stonesfield Parish Council

Stonesfield Parish Council can confirm there will be a by-election this year to fill the existing vacancy for a parish councillor. Election packs for prospective candidates who are interested in becoming a councillor are available from the West Oxfordshire District Council electoral team (01993 861000).

Anyone wishing to be considered as a councillor at this election should complete the election pack and *hand deliver* it to WODC between 28 March and 5 April, no later than 4pm.

There will be a ballot on 5 May in the Village Hall if the election is contested. If the election is not contested (ie. there are no further candidates applying for the position) then the candidate who has applied will be elected as a councillor.

Karen East, Parish Clerk
clerk@stonesfieldpc.uk

Oxfordshire County Council

From our County Councillor

Budget: The Oxfordshire County Council budget was passed in February and its focus is to increase investment to support some of the most vulnerable residents in our county including SEND provision, adult social care, and youth and children's services. Other priorities to receive boosts are climate emergency, buses, traffic enforcement and road safety. The budget also addresses some major projects including replacement of the Kennington Bridge and projects in the Didcot area.

Bus services: Bus services continue to be under financial strain with passenger numbers down on pre-pandemic levels. Following calls on the Government to extend pandemic grants, additional funding was announced. However, bus companies will still face a potential cliff edge in six months' time unless passenger numbers begin to rise or the Government steps in again.

Bid to electrify buses: OCC has made an ambitious bid to electrify the fleet of buses in Oxford in cooperation with the bus companies. If successful, the bid could see 159 electric buses operating in the Oxford area which would avoid the emission of 9,200 tonnes of carbon each year (the equivalent of about 6,000 cars.)

Oxford Zero Emissions Zone (ZEZ) pilot scheme launches: A pilot scheme to test out the technology that will be used for the Zero Emissions Zone has begun in a small area of central Oxford. The full ZEZ will come into force in 2023, subject to a public consultation.

Standing in solidarity: On 8 March, there was an uplifting gathering of some

100 people in Woodstock as the community came together to stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine. There was a minute's silence for those who have lost their lives and loved ones, a rapturous minute's applause to show appreciation and some inspired speeches. I was proud that people turned out from neighbouring villages including Bladon, Stonesfield, Tackley and Combe, to demonstrate the need for action on this humanitarian catastrophe. Olena Seminog from Ukraine, an Oxford academic, gave an impassioned plea for medical supplies and Cllr Elizabeth Poskitt spoke, on this International Women's Day, of the courage of women. The evening finished with pledges of temporary homes being offered by people and donations of money to Save the Children and the Red Cross. Every bit counts. If anyone is willing to help with accommodation, please email: ukraine.support@westoxon.gov.uk.

Andy Graham

andy.graham@oxfordshire.gov.uk

News from West Oxfordshire

Energy Bills Rebate Scheme: West Oxfordshire District Council has received guidance from the Government on how to administer the Energy Bills Rebate Scheme. By the time this issue of *The Slate* has been distributed, residents should have received their Council Tax bills containing more information on how the rebate scheme works.

Sustainability groups round-up

The Stonesfield Climate Emergency Group was started in 2019. At monthly meetings we shared information and tips on how to

address climate change in our own homes. This group has proved to be the catalyst for further community action. Several new initiatives have started to take shape: they all welcome new members.

The Food Group is looking at growing and sharing food, learning how to bake bread, addressing food poverty and reducing food waste. We meet on zoom at 7pm fortnightly on a Tuesday; next meetings are 29 March and 12 April. On Saturday 2 April we are supporting the Community Café in the Village Hall (coffee and cake from 9.30) by offering a lunch (11.30am-2pm) of soup and bread on a Ukrainian theme: all funds go to Ukraine relief. Contact: juliecurrano@gmail.com

The Environment Group has been finding out more about the work of the Evenlode Catchment Partnership and how we can improve our river. We also aim to address biodiversity, dark skies, litter picking, and wildlife corridors, and have ambitious plans for tree planting, possibly as part of the Queen's Green Canopy campaign for Her Majesty's Jubilee. It meets on zoom at 8pm fortnightly on a Tuesday; next meetings are 29 March and 12 April. Contact: juliecurrano@gmail.com



The Library of Things We want to encourage lending to save unnecessary buying. There is a database on the village website (www.stonesfield.online/library-of-things/) showing items that people are willing to lend out, along with the owner's contact details. Garden tools, kitchen equipment, cots, baby stuff, gazebos, projectors ... can you add to it? Contact

dale.morris@zen.co.uk with items you are willing to lend.

The Repair Café People share their skills to repair items which would otherwise go to landfill. The project has just been awarded a grant by the Parish Council and the first event should take place in June – watch this space for dates. Get in touch if you'd like to join the team of repairers (electrical, physical, IT, sewing). Contact: mikesofroniou@gmail.com

Climate Emergency Group No meetings are planned for April while these new groups launch and SUSTO works on the Neighbourhood Plan. Ideas for educational talks are welcomed. Contact caroline.v.friend@gmail.com to go on the mailing list.

Sustainable Stonesfield This group pre-dates the Climate Emergency Group. It was set up in 2017 to review planning applications which the members considered threatened to engulf the village. They won a notable victory over CALA Homes, preventing a large development on the Woodstock Road. They also secured village green status for Stocky Woods, thereby protecting in perpetuity our right to walk freely through the woods. Their current project is the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan – see their article in this issue.

Caroline Friend

Caroline.v.friend@gmail.com

.....

Neighbourhood Watch

Think WIDEN burglary prevention campaign: Research by Neighbourhood Watch shows that two thirds of people worry about their home being broken into yet there are simple proven measures that

everyone can take to reduce their chances of becoming a victim of burglary by up to 50%. The Think WIDEN campaign was launched in March to highlight simple measures which can be undertaken in any home on a variety of budgets. NW's belief is that neighbours keeping any eye out for each other is key to reducing burglary and its WIDE acronym has been extended to WIDEN:

W for Windows: Keep windows locked

I for Interior: Put inside lights on a timer/ smart bulb

D for Doors: Double or deadlock your doors

E for Exterior: Put outside lights on a sensor

N for Neighbours: Keep an eye out for your neighbours

More information on WIDEN can be found at www.ourwatch.org.uk/thinkwiden.

Neighbourhood Watch has begun to hear about scams using the crisis in Ukraine to extort or scam money. Please be mindful of this and check the origins of requests to support the crisis. If any scams are discovered, they may be reported on the website's 'reporting scams' webpage.

Information on Neighbourhood Watch is available at: www.ourwatch.org.uk/ Anyone interested in joining the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme may find details and register at: www.member-registration.neighbourhoodalert.co.uk/30/ Join. Clicking on 'Join a scheme' and selecting 'Stonesfield' will complete the request.

Deanna Asplundh

Stonesfield Neighbourhood Watch
Coordinator

Stonesfield Neighbourhood Plan

By the time copies of *The Slate* land on everyone’s doormats, the village meeting on 28 March will have taken place and, we hope, as many residents of the village as possible will have completed and submitted the initial survey questions.

At the time of writing, it is too early to give feedback from the meeting. However, for anyone who may have missed the event, it was an opportunity to say a little more about what a Neighbourhood Plan is, to explain the process and the next steps, and answer questions. Previous copies of *The Slate* have outlined why the Parish Council, in conjunction with Sustainable Stonesfield, are looking to do this.

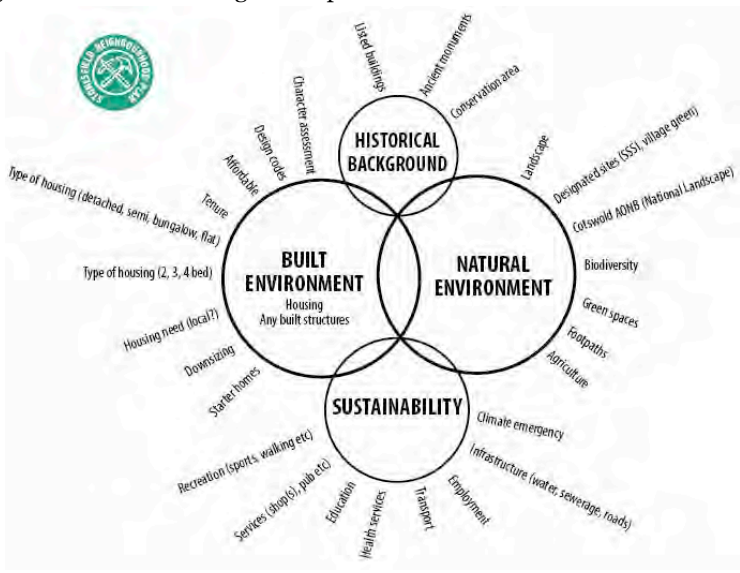
Many thanks to all those who attended the meeting and to those who completed the survey. We will publish the results of both on the website and in a future issue of *The Slate*. Your participation is crucial to the success of the project. To those who didn’t manage to attend the meeting or complete

the survey, please don't feel you can't get involved. We should be delighted to have your help, however much or little, and in whatever aspect of the work; see below for more information on this.

Ultimately, the Plan will capture how people in the village would like to shape Stonesfield for the future so that important future decisions on planning and services will reflect this. We need lots of input and help to put the plan together. We have tried to capture this input in the diagram below.

We need help with all these areas so if you have any prior knowledge or experience or just an enthusiasm for any of them, we’d love you to step forward and work alongside others with the same interest. To get involved, please contact us and let us know what your interest is. We can’t do it without your help! Please contact sustainable.stonesfield@gmail.com

Philippa Lowe



Education, culture & more

Stonesfield Pre-School

Spring is in the air and during last term we can say that we have had so much fun and learnt so much. The caterpillars arrived safely, five this year! And true to form they were very hungry and grew and grew and have now been released safely into the surrounding countryside.

It's amazing to experience, with the children, how much can be learnt in our garden alone, even though it is really small! It's surprising what they notice and find. We are so lucky to be able to spot the different birds that rest in the big trees and the bugs that hide in the greenery and the new flowers that seem to appear quite happily year after year (Even though they spend most of the time out of the ground!) During this term we have also been able to use the Forest School area at the Primary School. There the children have been making log bridges, mud pies and creating drums out of natural resources.

We didn't forget to celebrate Mother's Day or Easter, making lots of lovely gifts and crafts. On the 1 April (and after two years of Covid restrictions) we will have taken part in the return of our Easter Bonnet Parade and Egg hunt where we will join in with the reception children at the Primary School.

Louise John, Pre School Manager

stonesfieldps@outlook.com

Zena Rozee, Pre School administrator

stonesfieldpsad@outlook.com

Nature notes: Springing into song

From March to late June our feathered alarm clocks are at it again, establishing a territory and singing to attract a mate. The lengthening daylight switches male songbirds into breeding mode; many birds only live for a year or two so a good performance at the dawn chorus is essential. The dawn chorus peaks in early May.

Choose a day when the air is cool and still – bird song has been shown to carry twenty times further. The chorus is best in the half hour before and after sunrise - wrap up warm. For the birds this is not a good time to feed and the darkness gives some protection from predators – so karaoke starts the day!

Early birds are usually our local natives: the robin, blackbird, song thrush and dunnock. Smaller birds join in once the cool of the night has eased: the sparrow, great tit and wren. Wrens have the loudest sounds for size of any bird; listen out for the trill which is always in the wren's song.



Blackbird nest: Fabrizio Frigeni



As this issue of *The Slate* comes through your door, the natives should be joined by the warblers returning from winter in warmer parts of the world. First to arrive should be the chiff-chaff by mid-March, joined soon after by the blackcap and willow warbler, and by the time garden warblers arrive I invariably have to revise the songs they sing. If only they behaved like the robins, standing on a branch and singing as you pass close by.

As the light and warmth strengthen, food becomes easier to find, hungry birds move off and the chorus diminishes. The fittest best-fed males produce the strongest songs and are more likely to attract a mate.

The first day of May is 'dawn chorus day' and it is worth looking out for organised events. Time and space with nature strengthens our mental wellbeing – much needed at this moment with the horror being inflicted on our European friends in Ukraine.

John Sampson
johnsampson9@btinternet.com

Encouraging wildlife in your garden

We felt we wanted to take some steps to restore the wildlife that had been disturbed when our house was built and we wanted to give something back. Hopefully we've made some improvements and perhaps you might like some of these ideas.

We have installed two bat boxes in the oak tree, put up a double house martin hotel on the front of the house and three swallow cups in the barns. We now have a robin box and a tit box in the trees behind the house, and I've pushed a couple of old flower pots into the hedge ivy; they are popular for nesting.

We already had some owl boxes but will be adapting them to make them more suitable for barn owls. Soon we will have three boxes for swifts as well, with swift calls on a speaker to attract them. I have yet to see how that will work!



The bird feeders are very busy and it's entertaining to watch the various squabbles that ensue. Chaffinch, goldfinch, siskin, greenfinch, great tits and blue tits, robin, blackbird, sparrows, thrush, starling, green and spotted woodpecker

occasionally as well. Plus, all the corvids, pigeons etc.

We've planted another 30 metres of mixed native hedging – this really encourages a wide range of birds, butterflies and other insects. For flowers and berries, we have planted a large cotoneaster, a sweet chestnut and crab apple trees.

We also leave an area of grass untouched and last year I planted lots of moon daisies. They looked lovely along with the clover and lots of other wild plants, and the bees loved them. The area also attracts a wide range of insects which are very beneficial in lots of ways.



The pond has a good clump of frog spawn and we disturbed a sleeping newt when we moved some blocks the other day, and gently rehomed it. The log piles are starting to decay nicely, giving a great home for insects and worms if the wren activity is anything to go by. I also feed the birds in the field with Farmland Bird Aid.

Busy times, but well worth it. Who needs the telly! Roll on the spring and the return of the swallows, swifts and house martins.

Karen Ball (898103)



FoSL: Friends of Stonesfield Library

Open to anyone who wants to help keep our village library open.

We have been providing voluntary cover for half of the existing library hours (about 6 hours a week) since the library service was cut back.

For further details, or to join us, please contact Mike Pollitt

01993 891856,
mikepollitt@btopenworld.com

North Leigh History Society

On 5 April Steve Parrinder will be giving a talk to North Leigh History Society about Eynsham Abbey. The abbey has more than a thousand years of history as it was founded in 1005. Although the abbey buildings have long since disappeared, the effect of the abbey on the modern village can still be seen. Do come and find out about its long history.

Our talk on 3 May will be by Anthony Wragg who will be telling us about the Wars of the Roses.

We meet in North Leigh Memorial Hall (OX29 6SA) at 7.30pm. Members may attend free of charge and visitors are charged £4. Further details are available from Diana Power (01993 882301) or Robert Kyte (kyterobert@gmail.com or 01993 880368)

Angela Kyte

Stonesfield Library

The Library (tel. 898187) is now operating at its pre-COVID opening hours:

Monday 2.30-7pm

Wednesday 10am-12 noon

Thursday 2.30-5pm

Saturday 10am-12 noon.

Val Phillips (891455)

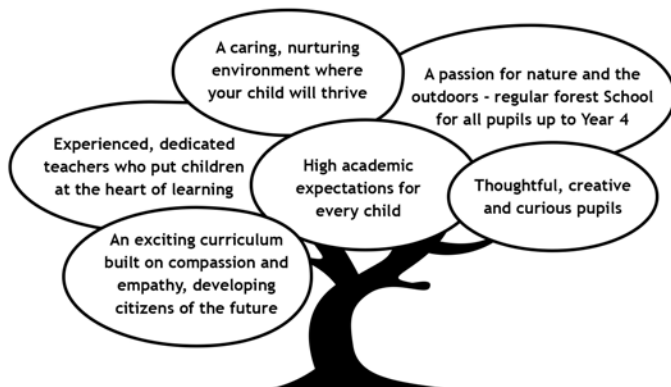
Friends of Stonesfield Library

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

STEM Steaming Sunday at Combe Mill - 17 April

Why not spend part of the Easter weekend at Combe Mill where we have something for the whole family?

The focus for April will be STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) when we will have a range of exhibits showing how these subjects are central to what the Mill does. There will be plenty of hands-on exhibits and the expert band of volunteers will be there to talk about a whole range of items on show.

We love guests who are full of questions and the curious will be fully entertained. Of course, we have steam and water power fully covered but this is your chance to find out how things work and there will be many 'have a go' opportunities. Alongside our well-loved Millie-the-Cat trail, there

will be an Easter Egg trail and a Find-the-Object trail with prizes to be won.

The riverside Tea Room will be open with its range of lovely food and drink, including cream teas as well as our tempting BBQ offerings. Enjoy the lovely riverside site where dogs are welcome as part of your family group.

We are also open on Wednesdays, although not 'in steam'; you can just come to the Tea Room or pay for a Mill visit as well and have a longer chat with our volunteers as they go about their work. They will be happy to tell you what they have been up to over the winter to keep the Mill in tiptop condition.

Tony Simmons (891851)

Bell Tower at Combe Mill



Stonesfield Tennis Club

The club was established over 50 years ago with membership open to all at very competitive subscription rates. The two astro-turf tennis courts were re-laid in 2018 and are in excellent condition with plenty of court availability.

Phone: 07795 441986
(Andrew Tacon; Chairman)

Website:
[https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/
StonesfieldTennisClub](https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/StonesfieldTennisClub)

Email: stonesfieldtc@gmail.com
Facebook: [@stonesfieldtennisclub](https://www.facebook.com/@stonesfieldtennisclub)
Instagram: [@stonesfieldtennis](https://www.instagram.com/@stonesfieldtennis)

Clubs, societies & sport

Stonesfield Tennis Club

With the weather improving, now is a great time to either get yourself back into tennis or make the commitment to start something new!

While many memberships are annually renewed or due on April 1, you can join at any time and receive a 12-month membership from the date of joining. See the links from our website or drop us a message.

Our new Committee has had its inaugural meeting and has started planning for the upcoming season with a range of new social tournaments and coaching opportunities.

If you are interested in playing (or learning to play!), membership is open to all at very competitive subscription rates. The two astro-turf tennis courts were re-laid in 2018 and are in excellent condition with plenty of court availability. In addition, club members receive automatic membership of the adjacent Stonesfield Sports and Social Club.

Please contact us for further details or see details on our website or social media pages.

Andrew Tacon, Chairman (07795 441986)
www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/
StonesfieldTennisClub
Facebook: @stonesfieldtennisclub
Instagram: @stonesfieldtennis

Rob Suriano
stonesfieldtc@gmail.com

Stonesfield Football Club

The football TV pundits are always telling us that the difference between the best teams in any league is littered with what they call 'fine margins'. It's a cliché, which just happens to be true, as our boys in The Firsts are finding out. They've now played Hailey three times in as many months and the fine margins have gone against them each time. With the league title in their own hands, Hailey came to Stonesfield and once again got a vital win in a pulsating five-goal thriller (3-2). The result all but leaves their league title hopes in tatters and Hailey sitting proudly in top spot. Mind you, their league form leading up to the game was hardly convincing as our boys took four points from a draw with Milton (1-1) and a win at Spartans (2-1). Let's hope they can get on the right side of those 'fine margins' and at least finish up as best of the rest in the league.

Do the vagaries of the 'fine margins' have it in for The Reserves too? Their season has been shaped by harsh lessons and a lack of old heads in the team rather than any tough luck stories, but it's hard not to conclude that they don't like playing at home! They've only won twice at home so far this season, and that unenviable record hasn't changed: Faringdon Town 'B' came visiting and waltzed off with the three points in a 3-2 win and the visit of Freeland didn't do our boys any favours as the visitors scored 7 (seven) without reply. At least that brave band of hardy souls who

faithfully follow our boys get to see loads of goals!

It gives me no pleasure to announce that history has been made in the land of The Fredo Award ... it's never been withheld for two months, until now! So, maybe that's the challenge our boys need for the next month Three months without a Fredo Award It can't happen, can it? Come on boys, step up to the plate, let's see some football heroics for the sake of Fredo!

Tom Flanigan (891979)

1st Stonesfield Scouts: update

The Group's Sections have been busy over the last few months. The Scout Section has had a mixture of activities in the Village Hall and old hut site, including map reading and cooking on open fires, in preparation for a weekend away at the start of April. The camp weekend has been organised by the senior Scouts, from the meal choices, to the activities during camp. All Scouts recently attended a climbing session at Far Peaks and will complete further elements of the climbing badge during camp.

The Cubs Section have recently made their own rope and friendship bands, and celebrated Chinese New Year by making and eating dumplings together. The Cubs learned first aid and are working towards their scientist and athlete badges. This half term the Cubs will be gaining an understanding of the issues refugees face and holding a fundraiser in aid of this cause.

After a couple of cancellations due to Covid in early January, the Beavers Section finally got going and have been working on their health and fitness badge and

emergency aid badge. Suet feeders for the birds have been made, and Beavers learned about water poverty around the world and tried to make water filters. The Beavers also made pancakes, sang songs, and played lots of games. The Oxfordshire Lowland Rescue are visiting soon and a night hike and big bonfire are on the programme before Easter.

Jonathan Hands, Group Scout Leader,
1st Stonesfield Scout Group

Scouts Fundraising

The 1st Stonesfield Scout Group Fundraising Team has three more grant applications in progress, with two more identified with May deadlines, so please keep your fingers crossed for us!

Buy a Brick - If you want to get involved and support the building of a new hut, why not buy a brick? We will be thanking individual families in due course, but thank you for all your support; we have raised just over £2,800 so far! If you would like to buy a brick online, please go to www.stonesfield-scouts.org.uk/build-the-scout-hut/buy-a-brick/

Just Giving - The Group has raised £1,000 (with Gift Aid) via our Just Giving page. We are touched to read your messages of support and many thanks to Jane and Ronnie van der Ploeg, Stuart Walton, Marc Monsarrat, Veronica Oakeshott, Vaughan and Laurel Pendred, Jill Gillingwater, David and Linsey Thornton, and Mike Smith.

1st Stonesfield Scouts Fundraising Team:
Sophie Gwilym, Simon Lacey, John Hounsell
and Rhian Griffiths

Stonesfield Gardening Club

In the middle of March, we finally managed to get together in person to hold our AGM and to welcome our first speaker of 2022.

The meeting was very well attended (probably due to the promise of a glass of wine!) and we rattled through the business part of the meeting in double quick time. We were very pleased to welcome new members to the fold and Eileen Heduan as a new member to the Committee. Wendy Gould, Helen Taylor, Jill Rowlinson, Suzy Boardman, Trisha Williams, Gaye Olesen and Paul and Diane Bates make up the team.

We have a really good mixed programme for the rest of the year and are looking forward to being able to fulfil this properly.

Timothy Walker came to give us a talk on pruning, delivered in his usual knock-about style. The first section of the talk was encouraging us to leave plants alone to get on with it themselves, then he moved on to tell us to get the professionals in if it involved a chain saw – sound advice. After that, he took us through the timing of pruning depending on our plant and recommended checking in with the experts in the form of a pruning guide as we can't be expected to remember everything. As he says, if the worst happens and you kill a

plant by pruning, you have created a planting opportunity!

The next time we will be together is for our Plant Sale on Saturday 23 April in the front garden of Four Acres in Pond Hill. All members are encouraged to grow something to sell as well as coming along to buy – let's hope we can do as well as we did in 2021.



While we're on the subject of planting, the Village Hall Committee think it would be a really nice idea for villagers to plant a container of red, white and blue plants for display in their gardens to celebrate the Jubilee this summer. You might also like to sow sunflowers, the national flower of Ukraine, as an emblem of hope over despair – and the birds and insects will love them!

Diane Bates
Secretary Stonesfield Gardening Club
www.stonesfieldgardening.info

STONESFIELD VOLUNTARY TRANSPORT SCHEME

Our volunteer drivers are available to take you to local medical appointments or to the hospitals in Oxford and Banbury.

We make no charge but welcome a donation towards expenses.

COVID safety precautions are still in place.

Please call Viv Kendall on 01993 891803 to book transport in April.

Sunflowers: Jirasin Yossri



Grow your support for Ukraine

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: Easter People

This year Easter falls squarely in the middle of April, and after the challenges of Covid over the last two years, we are looking forward to a Holy Week and Easter which are as normal as possible. Not that there is anything 'normal' about Easter. The death and resurrection of Jesus, which we remember and celebrate at Easter, has always been impossible for some people to understand, while for others it has been transformative, changing the way we understand ourselves, the way we relate to others, the way we act in our community, and our relationship with God.

Our faith is an Easter faith, and we are an Easter people. Each Sunday we celebrate the resurrection. Every communion service retells the story of Jesus' death. Without the events which we remember at Easter, Jesus would have been just another ethical teacher. Judaism, like other religious

systems, had already done a good job of explaining how human beings should live together. Respect for others and the care of the vulnerable, including strangers and foreigners, was clearly taught in the Jewish scriptures, and God was rightly understood to be a creator who was both just and compassionate.

Jesus was not the first or the last innocent human being to be killed. Human history, past and present, is filled with such cruelty, and the war in Ukraine has reminded us all of humanity's terrifying capacity for violence and murder on a massive scale. Christians did not claim that the human suffering of Jesus was unique. They believed that he was an innocent man being killed, but also that he was God, who had willingly entered into our human experience of rejection, violence, and death. We ask, 'Where was God? ... when our child died? ... when my brother was killed by a knife? ... when my mother died so young? ... when innocent people were robbed of life by bombs and missiles in Ukrainian hospitals or shelters?' The Christian answer to that question, the big religious question, is that by sharing our death on the cross he is present in all our suffering, in all our loss, in all our desolation. God with us.

We might be comforted to know that God cared enough to suffer with us. But the first Christians believed that something extraordinary happened next. They dared to suggest that the same Jesus, who had shared our death, had been raised to life

again - to a new life for eternity. They saw him, believed that God had raised him from the dead, and were baptised so that they could share his eternal life. The Easter faith is a resurrection faith which believes emphatically in new life, in light out of darkness and life out of death. We are familiar with the death and life cycles of the natural world, where winter changes into spring. But Christians made Jesus' 'life coming out of death' the heart of their faith, declaring that, as God shared our death in Jesus, so those who are baptised into him will share his life for eternity.

Ever since, belief in the resurrection of Jesus has empowered Christians to work for resurrection everywhere, and to live sacrificially, so that healing, new life, and transformation may come for others. A great many of the people who make such a difference in the world are motivated not by self-interest, but by their Easter faith. So please join to stand with all who suffer, and to celebrate the victory of life over death, in church this Easter. Choose life! Come to church!

Revd Ralph Williamson

Services

Sunday 3 April (Fifth Sunday of Lent)

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe	Parish Communion
10am	Stonesfield	Parish Communion followed by APCM at 11am

Sunday 10 April (Palm Sunday)

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

Maundy Thursday (14 April)

7.30pm	Stonesfield	Holy Communion
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Good Friday (15 April)

2pm	Combe	Good Friday Meditation
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Easter Eve (16 April)

7.30pm	Stonesfield	Easter Ceremonies
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Easter Day (17 April)

6am	Combe	Dawn service
8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe	Parish Communion
11am	Stonesfield	Parish Communion

Sunday 24 April (Second Sunday of Easter)

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe	Parish Communion followed by APCM at 10.30am
11am	Stonesfield	Parish Communion

Mondays

8.45am - 11.30am	Monday Coffee in St James' Centre (not 18 April)
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Tuesdays

8.45am - 10am	Coffee and biscuits in the Reading Room, Combe (5 and 26 April)
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Wednesdays

9.30am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion (6, 13 and 27 April)
11am	Combe	Morning Prayer (13 and 27 April)

Stonesfield Methodist Church

Thank you W.D.P. supporters! Your kind donations have been sent to help the important work of the Charity.

What will I remember the most from this year's World Day of Prayer? It must be the moments when I listened to The Lord's Prayer spoken in Welsh. It's a beautiful language and significant to a service striving to unite the world, and to hold close the words of Jesus.

The message reached out to all humanity, it brought harrowing thoughts of Ukraine and more, places where people are suffering so bitterly. Thoughts too, of ourselves, the grieving onlookers seeing shattered lives and hearts broken. The message didn't end there, it moved on, with an outburst of hope, God's hope. Hope that evil can and will be overcome by the goodness of most people.

Come to join a Service here soon; all are very welcome.

Services in April

Sunday 3	11am	The Revd Rose Westwood
Sunday 10	11am	Martin Hannant
Sunday 17	11am	Ian Prince - Easter Sunday Service
Sunday 24	11am	The Revd Stephen Bywaters - Holy Communion Service

Kathleen Albért (891733)

Roman Catholic Worship

The journey from Lent to Easter

If Lent is the beginning of a journey that leads to Easter and our salvation, and thence to God, how do you prepare for that journey? For Catholics, that preparation is prayer, abstinence and almsgiving. In other words, we try to focus on our relationship with God through prayer; abstinence as self-denial helps us move away from the material to the spiritual and brings us closer to Jesus in his 40 days of fasting. And alms-giving is important as it brings us to God through generosity of heart and spirit. However, as we journey on our pilgrimage to Easter, we are often tempted away from our aspirations, but as St Paul said in 1 Corinthians 10:13: *'No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful and will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but will provide you the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it'*.

Julian of Norwich, that wise and understanding woman wrote; *'God did not say: you will not be troubled or that you will not be tempted or that you will not be distressed. But he did say: you will overcome'*. We might struggle on the journey, wonder if it's worthwhile and sometimes wish we hadn't started at all, but Psalm 137 (138) reassures us that: *'On the day I called, you answered me, O Lord.'*

Holy Mass

Sunday Mass at 9.15am.

Weekday Mass times:

Monday and Tuesday at 9.30am

Wednesday at 7pm followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday at 9.30am

Friday at 9.30am followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

For times of confession, see the weekly newsletter on: stteresaschurch-charlbury.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.

The Synodal Pathway

The Holy Father has called for the Synodal Process to begin in the Dioceses of the world on 17 October 2021. The Holy Father highlights the importance of 'mutual listening' and that this will be at the heart of the synodal process throughout the Church and beyond the boundaries of the Church.

For further information about the Synodal Pathway and how St Teresa's is approaching this, please visit our website (see below).

Easter services

Holy Thursday	7.30am	Mass of the Last Supper
Good Friday.	3pm	Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday	8pm	Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday	9.15am	Mass of Easter Morning

Aid to The Church in Need (UK) Ukraine Emergency Appeal

St Teresa's Charlbury is supporting ACN's appeal to raise funds to support various religious denominations' priests and members of religious congregations in continuing their mission. If you wish to know more or donate, please contact Suze Mathews (01993 891720 or email suzemathews899@btinternet.com).

Please check St. Teresa's website for details of Confession times etc:
www.stteresaschurch-charlbury.com/

Fr. Tony Joyce may be contacted on holytrinityrchippy@gmail.com or 01608 642703

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

Roman Catholic Community in Stonesfield

New Church thought

Like so many, I feel powerless anguish seeing the awful things happening in Ukraine. Its citizens show immense courage; its attackers make evil manifest. What on earth can any individual in the UK do to help?

We can raise funds, offer safety, simply wear the colours of the Ukrainian flag to show support. But I'm also trying to raise my thinking to a higher level; I do believe God is in charge, despite appearances – his main concern is for the *spiritual* growth of each human being. Tragically, there will always be wars, because there will always be hugely self-centred individuals wanting to dominate others. Spiritual freedom means that a person can choose to follow evil. Sadly, truth is one of the first casualties of war.

Can my small efforts to be a better person help the world? Like ripples spreading out from a pebble dropped into still water.... perhaps. So I tell myself, 'Try to do what is right, honest, and fair in my own life, and maybe that will do a little to improve the world. Be a source of healing and kindness. Be mentally strong. Don't leave space for evil to get in – open your soul to heaven, not to hell.'

Dale Morris



Easter: Priscilla Du Preez

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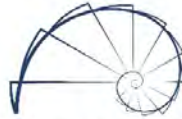
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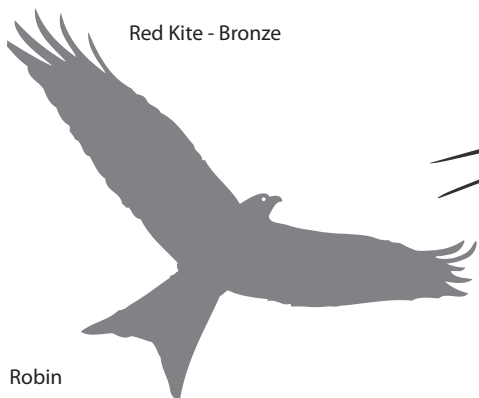
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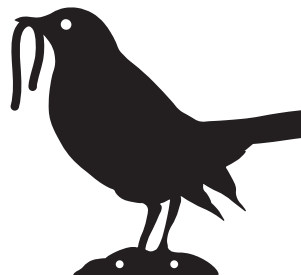
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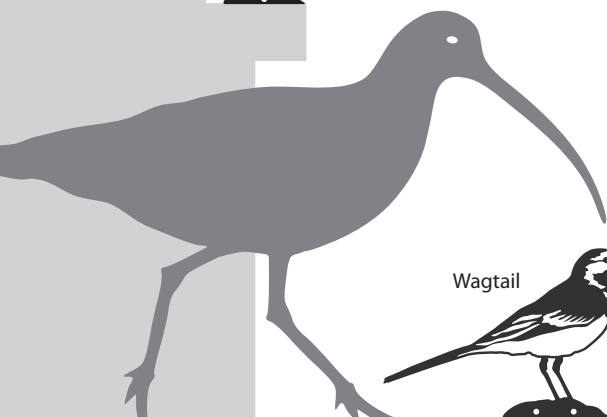
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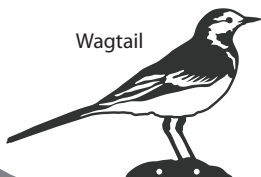
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