



Issue No 524 May 2022



A tribute to the River Evenlode

Designed by Stonesfield based artists Genny Early and Tony Davis, the artwork represents a willow leaf and the winding stretch of the River Evenlode, from Fawler Mill through to Combe, and features lines from 'The Evenlode', a poem by Hilaire Belloc:

*The tender Evenlode that makes
Her meadows hush to hear the sound
Of waters mingling in the brakes*

The public art project was commissioned by Stonesfield Parish Council and funded by S106 developer contributions to improve social infrastructure.

Genny said: 'It has been a pleasure to work on this public art project with Stonesfield Parish Council. With so much focus on the health of our rivers at present, this is a fantastic opportunity to draw attention to the beautiful River Evenlode, not only the river itself but the surrounding valley, and the fantastic ongoing work that groups such as the Evenlode Catchment Partnership are

doing to restore the health of our rivers and surrounding floodplains and wetlands. We hope both Stonesfield residents and passers-by from further afield will take a moment to enjoy the bench.'

The bench was laser cut and welded by Precision Sheet Engineering of East End, less than three miles from where the artwork has been installed, making this a truly local art project.

Positioned at the bottom of Brook Lane, at the top of the 'Stonesfield Steps' which lead down to the River Evenlode, it is close to where the first fossil bones to be identified as those of a dinosaur were discovered by William Buckland in the early 19th century. Later named 'Megalosaurus', the fossils found in Stonesfield can be viewed in the Oxford Museum of Natural History.

If you have any questions or feedback on the bench, please contact Simon Powell, Councillor, Stonesfield Parish Council, via the Clerk on clerk@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.

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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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Deadline for next issue 15 May

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Printer

Windrush Press, Witney

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Advertising:

Deadline for next issue 10 May

Advertisements to
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Dates for your diary: May

2, 5, 9, 12, 16	Taekwondo	Village Hall	5.30-6.30pm
3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Zumba	Village Hall	7-8pm
3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Strong Nation HITT Class	Village Hall	8.15-9.15pm
3, 17	Carers' Café	Village Hall	10am-12 noon
4, 11, 18, 25	Gatehouse Pilates	Village Hall	9.30-10.30am
4, 11, 18, 25	Hanna Bathe HITT Class	Village Hall	7.15-9.15pm
4, 11, 18, 25	West Oxon Community Choir	St James' Centre	7.30-9.30pm
4, 11, 18, 25	Folk Dancing	Village Hall	7.45-10pm
5, 12, 19, 26	Book Break	Stonesfield Library	12.30-2pm
5, 12, 19, 26	Hanna Bathe HITT Class	Village Hall	7.15-8.15pm
5, 12, 19, 26	Little Squirrels Sensory Play	Village Hall	9.30-10.30am
6, 13, 20, 27	Baby & Toddler Group	Village Hall	10am-12 noon
7	Community Café for Pre-School	Village Hall	9am-12 noon
9, 16, 23	Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	8.45-11.30am
9	Stonesfield Gardening Club	St James' Centre	7.30pm
12	Stonesfield Players: play reading	Old Bakery	7.30pm
12	Back the White Horse AGM	Village Hall	8pm
14	Pink Ribbon Walk	Blenheim Palace & environs	
14	Ladies' Breakfast	St James' Centre	8.45am for 9am
15	Open Day	Bridewell Gardens	11am-4pm
18	Parish Council / Annual Meeting	St James' Centre	7pm/7.30pm
19, 23, 26, 30	Taekwondo	Village Hall	5.30-6.30pm
21	Summer Fete	Primary School	12-4pm
21, 22, 28, 29	Art Weeks Open Studios	Grey Cat Studio	11am-5pm
23	Neighbourhood Plan	Village Hall	8pm
26	Stonesfield Players : AGM	St James' Centre	8pm
30	Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	10-11.30am
June 3, 4	Wedding dresses display	St James' Church	10am-5pm
June 5	Jubilee tea and cake	St James' Centre	3.30pm
June 5	Platinum Jubilee celebration service	St James's Church	5pm

Notices & news

Michael Bull, R.I.P

It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to our husband and father, Michael, on 17 March. However, we were able to look after him at home with the support of our wonderful NHS nurses, out-of-hours doctors and care teams, and friends and neighbours. We would also like to express our special thanks to the paramedics team.

Michael was well known for his spontaneous acts of kindness and generosity to man and beast, and his tireless provision of barbecued food at many village events over the years. He will be greatly missed by all those who knew him.

Linda and Joseph Bull

Thank you from Mike Fletcher

Mike would like to thank everyone for all the cards and good wishes he received for his 90th birthday. He first came to Stonesfield when he was 15 years old to court Joan, his wife. Sadly, Joan passed away almost seven years ago but he still says how lucky he is to live in a place like Stonesfield with Jim the dog. Many thanks.

Jill Hunt

Back the White Horse AGM – revised date

Our AGM will now take place at 8pm on Thursday 12 May at the Village Hall.

Pete Smyth pete@backthewhitehorse.com

Annual Parish Meeting

There will be an Annual Parish Meeting for Stonesfield Parish Council on 18 May at 7.30pm at the St James' Centre. Please let the Clerk know if you plan to attend and wish to speak in order that time can be allocated: clerk@stonesfieldpc.uk

April Community Café and table-top sale: Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who supported the Stonesfield Community Café and table-top sale on Saturday 2 April. At the time of writing, with some further donations promised, the sum of £1,585 has been raised for the DEC's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.



In addition, three to four boxes of refugee aid were collected, scheduled to leave Charlbury for a Romanian distribution hub on 14 April, and the Food Group's (see pages 5 & 23) delicious Ukrainian-inspired lunch prevented 20kg of unwanted food entering landfill. Our thanks to the Oxford Food Hub for donating £50 worth of food and flowers to the event.

Many thanks again.

Jess Huband, Claire Jeeves and Julie Curran

Stonesfield's Food Group

The group looks at growing and sharing food, learning how to bake bread, addressing food poverty and reducing food waste. They meet on zoom at 7pm fortnightly on a Tuesday; its next meeting is on Tuesday 10 May. Contact Julie Curran for more info: juliecurrano@gmail.com

Aid for Ukraine

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

Methodist Church Afternoon Tea



This is a Big Thank You to everyone who supported and made our Afternoon Tea event a great success. Many thanks again!

Paul Albért

Bridewell Gardens

A reminder that Bridewell Gardens hopes to share its beautiful gardens with you over the coming months.

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 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 a donation of £5 per person is suggested.

Rachel Green

rachel@bridewellgardens.org

www.bridewellgardens.co.uk

Bridewell Gardens, The Walled Garden,
Wilcote OX7 3DT

Witney Talking News

Witney Talking News, the free talking news service for those who are visually impaired, is desperately short of male voices. We record items from the Witney Gazette on a Thursday evening in Witney and are looking for more male voices to record with our team. The commitment is for approximately 1½ hours of your time once every four-six weeks. If you would like further information, or you would like to volunteer, please call me.

Nigel James (881711).

Ladies' Breakfast

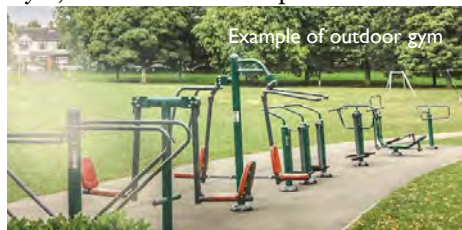
There will be a Ladies' Breakfast in the St James' Centre on Saturday 14 May at 8.45am for 9am. Come and enjoy some time together with others over a delicious breakfast, followed by a short, inspirational talk. Our speaker will be Rachel Chai.

Rachel works for The Branch Trust, a community project in Chipping Norton supporting children, young people and adults. She has been singing and writing songs for many years and is often heard at local folk clubs and events. She is also part of the worship team at St Mary's Church. She will be sharing a little of her story through her songs with the theme 'A new song, a grateful heart'.

Tickets cost £5 and are available from Bina Farrow (891293), Kathleen Alb  rt (891733) or Muriel Barrett (891479).

Outdoor gymnasium on its way!

Exciting news from the Stonesfield Playing Field Committee (SPFC) - by the time this edition of *The Slate* hits your door mat, we should have commenced the ground works and fencing for the new outdoor gymnasium. The building works should cause minimum disruption to the immediate community. The Committee has secured the £20,000 funding for the gymnasium through community grants and has agreed a contract with Sunshine Gym, an outdoor fitness specialist.



The new gym is for everyone - adults and children - and is multi-ability and multi-generational. It will be positioned between the Village Hall and the children's play area and we look forward to opening it to all our residents very soon.

Fiona Dangerfield (07814 112437)

Secretary to SPFC

Breast Cancer Now - Pink Ribbon Walk 2022

Classic Challenge has advised a Pink Ribbon Walk event will take place on Saturday 14 May 2022, starting and finishing in the grounds of Blenheim Palace. The event was cancelled for 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic and the 2022 event is, of course, subject to continuous review.



Money raised from the Pink Ribbon Walk series continues to make a huge difference in developing services for those whose lives are affected by breast cancer and into critical research into the disease. None of this would be possible without local community support of the event.

This year the routes have been modified so that more of the route lies within the grounds of Blenheim Park. However, residents' attention is drawn to the 20-mile route option which will pass through the southern side of Stonesfield.

As always, public access footpaths and bridleways will be used wherever possible and, in any location where permitted paths or private land are used, the organisers will be in direct contact with the landowner. A route manager will coordinate all staff including marshals and guides on foot and on bikes, as well as roving medics to ensure that all goes smoothly on the day. Road junctions will be marshalled and signposted with warnings for both drivers and walkers.

Please visit www.brestcancernow.org for further information about the walk.

Jubilee events at St James the Great Church

Wedding dresses through the decades: There will be a celebratory display of wedding dresses and photographs from the decades of the Queen's reign on Friday and Saturday, 3 and 4 June, 10am-5pm at the Church. All welcome!

Celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee:

There will be a service of celebration on Sunday 5 June at 5pm at the Church, preceded by Jubilee tea and cake from 3.30pm in the St James' Centre. Everyone is warmly invited – do join us!

Platinum Jubilee celebrations

Events will take place throughout the month of June and a full programme will appear in next month's issue of *The Slate*. Here is advance notice of what is planned for the first few days:

2 June: Lighting of a gas beacon – details to be confirmed.

3 June: Evening bingo followed by Them Combe Boys at 9pm, Sports & Social Club.

4 June: Jubilee Community Café, 10am-2pm, with a Jubilee-themed cake competition. (Cakes are to be brought to the café for 10am on the day.)

4 June: The Village Idiots at 9pm, Sports & Social Club.

Claire Renshaw, Stonesfield Jubilee Team
stonesfieldjubilee@gmail.com

Village Hall news

A big thanks yet again to all who turned out in support of the Ukraine Relief Café and table top sale in April. The Community Cafes run on the first Saturday of each month. The next one is scheduled for Saturday 7 May in aid of Stonesfield Pre-School.

After a successful trial session in March, we were pleased to welcome Little Squirrels Sensory Play sessions. They are on site every Thursday, 9.30-10.30am, for little ones from birth to five years of age.

Taekwondo is open to new starters from the age of five. Go along for a trial session and if you sign up the first month is free! It is running on Mondays and Thursdays at 5.30pm. Please contact James Kumar for further information on 07788 583965 or contact jameskumar@hotmail.co.uk

We are still keen to organise defibrillator training for anyone who would like to learn how to use the equipment safely. Please contact me to let me know if this is of interest.

Thank you for your continued support.

Jacqueline Carthew (898919)
Bookings Clerk & Secretary
stonesfieldvh@gmail.com
facebook.com/stonesfieldvillagehall

Stonesfield Primary School summer fete

Stonesfield Primary School is holding its summer fete on 21 May (12-4pm) and we are looking forward to welcoming everyone, adults and children alike, for a great summer's day out.

It is not too late to donate a prize for the raffle or tombola and if you are able to do so it would be hugely appreciated.

Additionally, we always need volunteers: keen bakers who can donate cakes, scones, cupcakes etc. and people who can run stalls on the day or assist with the bar and the BBQ.

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

Minnie Stuart

Combe Mill

Barn Engines Steaming Day: 15 May

Come to the Mill and step back in time to see how we used to work on the land.

Speak to the visiting exhibitors and learn about how barn engines were designed to carry out many routine jobs around a property. We will be open 10.30am-5pm.

The BBQ will be fired up and early breakfast/brunch available including our delicious selection of sausages and burgers.

Additionally, the tea room will be offering a selection of refreshments, cake and cream teas.

By visiting the Mill, you are helping to ensure it continues to educate and delight visitors. Remember you can buy a ticket on the day or an annual pass to come to a whole season's worth of activities.

Tony Simmons (891851)

Stonesfield Primary School - an opportunity to support your community

A village school is the heart of the community in many ways. In Stonesfield we are fortunate to have a small but vibrant primary school which aims to offer the children of the village and surrounds the best possible education for each and every child. We are inclusive, friendly and ambitious. We are looking for new governors who want to be part of building the future of the School.

If you would be interested in joining us, we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch with our Co-Chairs, Harry Holland and Sue Corrigan, and we will arrange to have a conversation. Please email in the first instance to:

scorrigan@stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk or:
hholland2353@stonesfield.oxon.sch.uk

Sue Corrigan

STONESFIELD VOLUNTARY TRANSPORT SCHEME

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

COVID safety precautions are still in place.

Please call Amanda Peters (891947) or Viv Kendall (891803) to book transport in May.

If you leave a message, don't forget to leave your phone number!

Politics & local affairs

Stonesfield Parish Council

From the meeting held on 6 April 2022

Welcome to our new Councillor

Councillors welcomed the new Councillor, Eleanor Bailey, to the meeting. Eleanor was elected as the only standing candidate for the one vacancy. We look forward to working with Eleanor and hope that everyone will welcome her.

Parish news

Ben Whitworth from the Scouts joined the meeting. The scouts may organise a gas beacon from The Glebe and plant a tree on the green. The Parish Council has no objection to this.

John Sampson would like to apply to The Woodland Trust for tree grants to enable more planting in the parish. The Parish Council is in support of this but locations will need to be agreed.

The siting of benches on the proposed circular walk was discussed. Further discussion is needed but generally Councillors are in support of the concept.

The new bench commissioned via Art Project funding has been installed at Brook Lane (page 10). Councillors placed on record their thanks to Genny Early and Tony Davis for their excellent work.

Potholes: Residents are reminded that they may report problems of potholes on Fix My Street. Anyone may use this facility to report problems which are then registered directly with Oxfordshire County Council.

Planning, District and County Council matters

Pavement outside village shop: the pavement outside the shop needs to be dropped; County Councillor, Andy Graham, is assisting with this.

1 Farley Lane: WODC's Planning Department is checking whether planning conditions have been met; District Councillor, Mathew Parkinson is working on this matter.

Waste disposal: it was noted that there are problems with waste collection/disposal by WODC. Many workers have been absent due to the pandemic and WODC is also struggling to recruit staff.

Planning application: 22/00765/HHD: Cotswold Cottage, Peaks Lane, Stonesfield. There was no objection to this application.

Financial Matters

Following its grant request, the Parish Council agreed to grant the Stonesfield Scouts the sum of £1,000.

Following a grant request, the Parish Council agreed to grant Citizens Advice the sum of £250.

Legal

SPC is proceeding with the necessary legal requirements in order to claim the old lock-up as a Parish Council asset. There is no confirmed ownership at Land Registry and the Council is instructing solicitors. It is felt that this would be a great asset to the village.



New bench, commissioned via Art Project funding, installed at Brook Lane

Platinum Jubilee celebrations

SPC is commissioning a photo (drone image) of the village.

Next Meetings

Annual Parish Meeting: 18 May at 7.30pm

Standard Parish Meeting: 18 May at 7pm
to precede the annual meeting.

Both meetings will be held at St James' Centre.

Other Parish Council matters

Garden waste disposal

Residents are reminded that disposal of garden waste should be via composting, through the garden waste scheme that WODC offers, or through official waste channels. Disposing of garden waste over your boundary on to public, council or land not owned by you (without permission) is considered fly tipping and is not permitted. Please clear your garden waste carefully and in the most environmentally friendly way that you can. You may renew or sign up to garden waste collections at:
www.westoxon.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/

Litter/dog waste bin renewal scheme

WODC is undertaking a bin evaluation exercise in the whole district. At the time of writing the outstanding works for Stonesfield are:

- for the old dog waste bin at Stonesfield Common to be replaced with a new dual bin.
- for a new dual bin to be installed on Woodstock Road opposite Combe Road.

However, this work should have been completed by the time this issue of *The Slate* is published.

SPC has noted that the dog waste bin on the High Street near the Rose & Crown properties (the closest one to the primary school) was removed a few weeks ago and not replaced, and that the oldest and rustiest bin in the village outside the shop and hairdresser has been left in situ. The Parish Council has asked for new dual bins to be placed at both sites, at its own expense if necessary.

WODC no longer installs bins in what are predominantly residential areas and residents are encouraged to take litter and bagged dog waste home for disposal in their wheelie bins. There are now no bins in the High Street, Boot Street or Peaks Lane; however, new dual bins have been installed in Church Street, on the green on Pond Hill and at the top of The Ridings.

SPC received complaints that bins have been removed from the bus stops on Woodstock Road, The Ridings and Laughton Hill and WODC has advised that bins are now only installed at busy town centre bus stops.

SPC will monitor bin usage and continue to liaise with WODC on this matter.

Karen East, Clerk

clerk@stonesfieldpc.uk

Do you cut grass verges?

Wootton Parish Council is seeking a new contractor to cut the grass verges.

Cutting is usually 5 times per year between early May and mid-October. There are no large areas and the only equipment required is a good strimmer and a lawn mower.

Please contact me by email for further details including a map of the area.

Frances.bates@btinternet.com

Oxfordshire County Council

From our County Councillor

Gulley emptying: I am pleased to let you know that I have arranged for Stonesfield to be placed on the gulley emptying schedule which takes place in the next few months so blocked drains should be sorted out very soon.

Zero Emission Buses: I am delighted to share with you the news that Oxfordshire's £32.8m Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) bid to the Department for Transport (DfT) was successful.

Along with £6m from the Council and £43.7m from bus companies Go Ahead and Stagecoach, the DfT funding will deliver 159 electric buses and the infrastructure to charge them in a package worth £82.5m.

The electric buses will be rolled out over approximately nine months, starting from summer 2023 and will be used on bus routes operating wholly within the Oxford Smart Zone, an area covering all of Oxford and stretching from Kidlington in the north to Sandford in the south, and from Cumnor in the west to Wheatley in the east. They will save an estimated 9,200 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions each year - the equivalent of taking more than 6,000 cars off the road - and will mean that approximately 70% of bus miles driven in the Smart Zone area will be operated by electric buses.

The funding is a major boost to the Council's wider plans for transport decarbonisation and cleaner air in the county, and is directly linked to our proposals for traffic filters, a larger zero emission zone and a workplace parking levy in Oxford. Public consultation on these linked schemes will take place in

summer 2022 and will help shape the final plans before a Cabinet decision in the autumn.

The proposed traffic filters in particular will help deliver bus journey time savings of at least 10% in the city, which are required to enable the bus operators to make their £43.7m investment for ZEBRA. Therefore DfT's funding will not be transferred to the County Council until after the Cabinet makes its decision on the traffic filters in the autumn.

Parking area at Pendle Court: I am pleased to advise that the issues of the parking bays in front of the village shop and hairdresser and the general state of disrepair in this area are being addressed. The shop owner has agreed to respond positively to requests for the works to be carried out once costs have been assessed. The highway will also be repaired.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone over the course of the Jubilee celebrations.

Cllr Andy Graham

andy.graham@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Watch

OCC's Trading Standards Service is warning residents to be cautious of cold callers offering to do driveway, landscaping or roofing work. Consumers are also frequently targeted via leaflet drops and fake profiles online. Many traders will be booked up, so the advice is to be wary of traders who can start work the following day and who push for a quick agreement to use their services. Always make sure you receive a final total cost in writing before agreeing to the commencement of any work. Oxfordshire residents can check the Local Authority's Buy with Confidence

scheme for local traders who have been vetted and approved by Trading Standards. If anyone believes that they have been the victim of a rogue trader and wants advice, they should contact the Citizens Advice National Consumer Service on 0800 144 8848 or via its website at Citizens Advice.

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.ourwatch.org.uk/join. Clicking on 'Join a scheme' and selecting 'Stonesfield' will complete the request.

Deanna Asplundh

Stonesfield Neighbourhood Watch
Coordinator

Neighbourhood Plan

There was a grand turn-out for the public meeting on 28 March in the village hall, where we explained the point and scope of the Neighbourhood Plan. The text of our presentation and also a transcript of the Q&A (revealing what people really wanted to know!) is on the village website under 'N Plan' www.stonesfield.online. There you will also find the results of our March survey, with some fascinating comments on what people love about our village, what they want to protect and what they'd like to change.

Our next meeting - Monday 23 May at 8 pm in the village hall - is with the volunteers who have stepped forward to help us create the summer survey. We will be discussing the various subject areas to be covered in the Plan, and what questions to ask in the survey. We want your answers to give us evidence to back up the policies

that we put in the Plan. There will also need to be research into national and local policy guidelines, by which we are bound.

If you would like to join the team, please get in touch. All skills and interests are welcome: maybe you are passionate about safeguarding our green spaces, or writing about the history of the village, or protecting our built environment? Drop me a line.

Caroline Friend

sustainable.stonesfield@gmail.com



Education, culture & more

The Dene: a wild flower meadow restoration project

Wild flower meadows are one of the rarest habitats in the UK - we have lost 97% of our wild flower meadows since the 1930s. To help offset this the field known as The



Dene, at the bottom of Laughton Hill, has been leased from Blenheim for an initial period of five years with the aim of restoring the biodiversity of this 1.4 acres of grassland, to bring back the wild flowers, butterflies, bees and other invertebrates.

Wild flowers grow best in low-nutrient soil so the initial aim is to reduce the enrichment of the soil. Traditionally, meadows are 'shut up' in the spring to allow the hay to grow with no grazing animals, followed by a mid-summer hay cut which removes nutrients. The subsequent grass growth is grazed by cattle, horses or sheep known as 'aftermath grazing'. There may be seeds in the existing seedbank that will be allowed to flourish by reducing the vigorous grasses, cow parsley and nettles. Additional species will be brought in by using local green hay.

The bottom of the field is marshy and prone to flooding, so may support wetland species such as bugle, meadowsweet, ragged robin, meadow buttercup, great burnet and devil's bit scabious. The drier sides of the valley could support some of the limestone plants seen on Stonesfield Common (Site of Special Scientific Interest) such as birdsfoot trefoil, knapweeds, scabious, quaking grass, wild thyme and salad burnet. Some unmown and ungrazed edges will be left around the field to provide good habitat for invertebrates, refuge for reptiles and amphibians, and scrub areas for nesting birds.



If you are interested in getting involved or would like to learn more, please contact me.

Genny Early
gennyearly@gmail.com

Genny Early is currently doing an MSc in Conservation Ecology at Oxford Brookes University and is involved in coordinating the Wychwood Flora Group and Farmland Bird Aid Network.

I'm a reader...

The Friends of Stonesfield Library (FoSL) thought it might be interesting to interview visitors to Stonesfield Library to share some of the library love and give this vital village facility more of the attention it deserves.

Ottilie (aged three) moved to Stonesfield last September with her family. She visits the Library once a week after Pre-School, with her mum, Alex, and younger sister, Fifi. Ottilie is half Australian and half British.

'I like unicorns', she says candidly, 'but I've not seen a real one yet'. While she's waiting to encounter the real thing, she visits the Library to find 'stories about unicorns' and 'ballet', another favourite subject.

Recently, Ottilie has been reading '*The Great Heffalump Hunt*' by Giles Andreae, a younger readers' picture book which riffs on the classic episode in A A Milne's '*Winnie-the-Pooh*'. An inspiring tale, it pushes the old maxim that it is better to travel hopefully than to arrive, since Pooh and Piglet never do catch a heffalump. It also reminds us that falling asleep when you're supposed to be concentrating often ends in disaster too.

Ottilie also enjoys the Ella Bella Ballerina series. Mum, Alex, unaccountably prefers Virginia Woolf, even though she never wrote about ballerinas, heffalumps or unicorns. Ottilie's sister, Fifi, who is 18 months old, also loves books, especially balancing them on her head. Ottilie highly recommends the books in the village library and prefers to borrow 'lots'.

Eleanor Bailey

Friends of Stonesfield Library

The Stonesfield Players

Play reading: We will be getting together to read a play – please bring drink and nibbles – on Thursday 12 May at The Old Bakery, Boot Street, at 7.30pm.

Newcomers are welcome. For more information please contact rebeccasj@btinternet.com

Annual General Meeting: Join us on Thursday 26 May at 8pm at the St James' Centre for our AGM. New members welcome.

Safari Supper: A welcome return to this popular social event on 11 June. If you are able to host or simply want to take part, please contact ros_mengech@yahoo.co.uk. Booking is essential and tickets cost £15.

Becki Sherlaw-Johnson

North Leigh History Society

For our meeting on Tuesday 3 May, Anthony Wagg will be taking us back to the 15th century and the long series of battles known to us now as the Wars of the Roses. The struggle between the Royal Plantagenet houses of York and Lancaster resulted in 30 years of civil war and ended with the rise of the Tudors, when Henry Tudor defeated the last Plantagenet king, Richard of York, at Bosworth Field to become King Henry VII.

The names of the battles are still resonant today. Do come and find out more.

We meet at 7.30 pm in North Leigh Memorial Hall, OX29 6SS. The charge for members is £18 per year and for visitors a charge of £4 per talk. Further details are available from Robert Kyte at kyterobert@gmail.com or 880368 or Diana Power on 882301.

Angela Kyte

Oxfordshire Art Weeks at Grey Cat Studio

Oxfordshire Art Weeks dates for our area this year are 21-29 May.

Grey Cat Studio will be open on 21-22 May and 28-29 May from 11am to 5pm.

Grey Cat artists and crafts people this year are Kerry Burniston (painting and crafts), Jenny Lines (printmaking), Rachael Sherlaw-Johnson (paintings) and Rebecca Sherlaw-Johnson (paintings and crafts). Come and have a look round and a chat.

Further information about what's on during Art Weeks is available on the website at www.artweeks.org.

Becki Sherlaw-Johnson

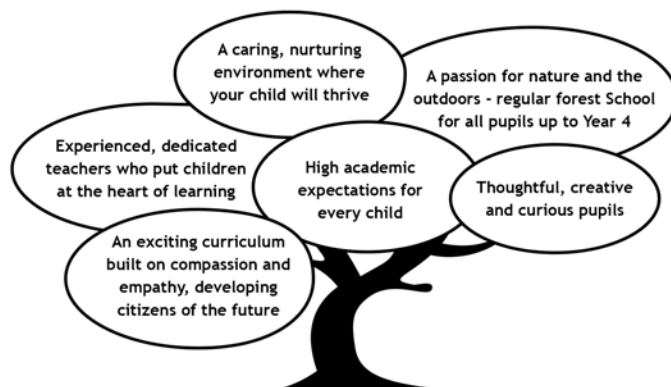


Stonesfield Primary School

Learning together to achieve our best.



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



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

Tel: 01993 891687

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

Stonesfield Library

Hello from all the volunteers at your library!

This month we hope to recommence the jigsaw swap box so if you would like to swap your jigsaw puzzle, please bring it along to the Library; you do not need to be a library member to swap a jigsaw, but we would be delighted if you would like to join. Only complete jigsaws, please, and do ensure that the box lid is secure!

Have you considered downloading some bestselling eBooks and eAudio titles to your computer or portable device - or perhaps to an elderly friend's device? There's a great choice of fiction and non-fiction titles for adults and children, all of which can be borrowed for free with your library card. There are no late fines and with a great choice of titles there's something for everyone. And you don't even need to walk to the Library! Borrow up to ten titles from both OverDrive and BorrowBox for up to three weeks. Only library members with active accounts can access this service. Are you considering a trip away – well, how about downloading a guidebook to help you find things to do or locate points of interest whilst on holiday?

The Library's opening times are:

Monday	2.30-7pm
Wednesday	10am-12pm
Thursday	2.30-5pm
Saturday	10am-12pm

We look forward to seeing you.

Mike Pollitt (891856)

Chairman, Friends of Stonesfield Library



Our Library

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

Eynsham Hall

4 miles south of Stonesfield

Eynsham Hall is a Grade II listed mansion near North Leigh. Its park lies between the villages of Freeland and North Leigh, bounded to the north-west by the Witney to Woodstock road, to the west by a track called Wood Lane, and otherwise by agricultural land.

In 1005 Aethelmaer gave an estate comprising the whole of Eynsham to his newly founded abbey there. After the Conquest, the abbey's lands were used to endow the bishopric of Dorchester, later transferred to Lincoln, and in 1086 Eynsham Manor was held by the Bishop of Lincoln. The abbey held the estate undisturbed until 1538 when it was dissolved.

Ownership of the land then changed hands many times until Henry Perrott of North Leigh acquired the mortgage in 1717 and the freehold in 1719. He died in 1740 and his daughters sold Eynsham to James Lacy in 1763. James Lacy, a co-patentee with David Garrick of the Drury Lane Theatre, built the original house in around the 1770s and after his death the Hall was sold to Robert Langford, a London auctioneer and newspaper proprietor. The Act of 1781 empowered Robert Langford to enclose the 472 acres of park from the heath. When Robert Langford died in 1785, the estate passed to his brother-in-law, James Duberley, whose family lived there until 1799.

The estate was subsequently owned by the Revd John Robinson, formerly Archdeacon of Armagh, until 1805 when it was bought by Sir Thomas Parker, fifth Earl of Macclesfield, as a dower house for his

mother, the Dowager Countess. In 1843 the house was enlarged, with an additional upper floor being designed by the renowned English architect Sir Charles Barry, remembered for his role in rebuilding the Palace of Westminster. Following the Dowager's death in 1862, the estate was sold to Sir Thomas Bazley MP, a prominent Lancashire cotton manufacturer.

James Mason, who took up residence in 1866, was a mining engineer and had made his fortune from copper in Portugal. An amateur scientist of some distinction, Mason bought the estate with the intention of pursuing agricultural experiments and increased the size of the estate to 10,000 acres by buying land from the Harcourt family. Robert Marnock was called in to advise on planting and the lake was added in 1866, providing a water supply to the house. A fourth floor was added to designs by Owen Jones in the 1870s.

After James Mason's death in 1903, his wife Lady Evelyn and son James Francis took over the Hall. James Francis had business interests in mining as well as a passion for steam locomotives. As a director of the Great Western Railway, several of the locomotives built by the company were named after Eynsham Hall. Lady Evelyn, the daughter of the Earl of Crawford, was a renowned socialite, visionary and philanthropist and was hugely influential in the decision in 1904 to demolish the Georgian house, which had begun to look old-fashioned.

It was rebuilt as a Jacobean style mansion in 1906-08 by Ernest George, president of the Royal Institute of British Architects. The three-storey limestone building is laid out in an 'H' plan. His interiors for the Hall

were in Jacobean style complete with oak panelling, stone fireplaces salvaged from French châteaux and plasterwork ceilings in the Inigo Jones style. The impressive dog-leg staircase was crafted by master wood carver, James Webb whose trademark was to place a halfpenny, alongside his initials, into a joint in the woodwork. The house and estate had its own electric generating station, waterworks and gas plant, and a private telephone system linked the house to various outbuildings around the estate. The Hall remained a family home and venue for hunting parties between 1908 and 1914.

With the onset of World War I, like many great houses of the day, the house was used to assist in the war effort. During World War II a section was used as a maternity ward for expectant mothers evacuated from London. Referred to as the ‘flak shack’, the Hall was also used for rest and relaxation (R & R) by US Army Air Corps officers. Aircrew could, at least once during their tour, have a week away from the horrors of war, after which it was

hoped they would return to their units refreshed. On arrival they were provided with civilian clothes with uniforms only required for evening dinner. The American Red Cross ran the R & R programme and recreational activities included reading, bridge, snooker and table tennis.

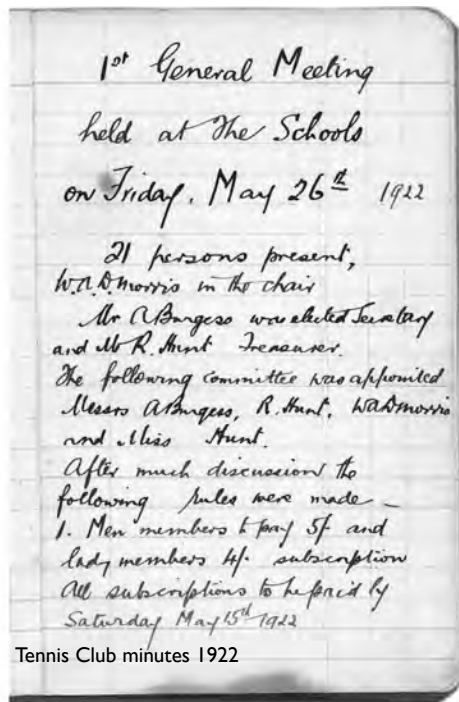
From 1946 the Hall was a District Police Training Academy for most of the forces in south east England. Thousands of police constable recruits passed through the Hall’s doors where they received basic training over a period of 12 weeks. In 1981 the Hall became a conference and training centre and, although the top floor has been altered, the major rooms on the other floors and nearly all the original features remain unchanged.

Cathedral Group acquired Eynsham Hall in 2005 and invested over £3m refurbishing the 135-room property. In 2018 the Hall was sold to Enismore, the owners of Gleneagles golf and spa resort in Scotland, and is currently closed for refurbishment works which are scheduled for completion in 2022.



Clubs, societies & sport

Stonesfield Tennis Club is 100 years old!



Tennis Club minutes 1922

The very first meeting of the Tennis Club was held at 'The Schools' on 26 May 1922. Twenty-one people were there – about the same number as attended its recent AGM in February 2022. Annual membership back then cost 5s for men, 4s for women. To begin with the Club used the court at the Manor (the Rectory at that time); I remember playing there myself in the late 1970s. A wonderful village tournament was held there in 1979, masterminded by Brian Hodgson and lasting two weeks with matches every evening – a sort of swan

song to the Manor's court before serious fundraising took place to build proper courts elsewhere in the village. People came round with their deck chairs to watch the matches, with loads of children running up and down the Manor's drive beneath the beech trees.

The two tarmac courts up on the Playing Field were built in 1981, largely with volunteer labour from Stonesfield. They cost £8,500 with various grants and loans.



After several ups and downs in membership, resulting in a special appeal for more in *The Slate*, sufficient members had signed up that the Club felt a third court should be added to the original two. When this happened in 1998, the cost was almost £30,000 and a National Lottery grant was needed to boost the Club's own funds. (On Club nights during peak membership, you had to keep your place in the queue with a named clothes peg clipped to the fence!)

All three courts were resurfaced about five years ago with good artificial turf. The third court is now a multi-use games area

(which can still be used as a tennis court for tournaments). Coaching sessions are offered to adults and to children, and several seasonal tournaments are on offer to members. Each court has a bench for catching your breath or holding racquet covers, water bottles, sweaters. Discussions are underway about further improvements. The fortunes of the Tennis Club have been through peaks and troughs over the last century, but it's very pleasing that Stonesfield does have an active club with excellent courts to play on. Happy centenary to the Tennis Club!

Dale Morris

.....

Stonesfield Football Club

The 'end of season' woes have continued to plague the Firsts with their recent indifferent form compounded by successive league defeats at the hands of their three local rivals. First, it was joy for Hanborough as they came visiting and plundered all three points in a smash and grab win (1-0). Our boys then travelled to Enstone, more in hope than expectation, and were on the receiving end of a 3-1 defeat. Finally, it was Charlbury's turn to pile on the misery when they came visiting and were soon on their merry way with the three points tucked safely in their kit bag, following a miserable 2-1 win. You'd be forgiven for thinking that gloom and doom were dripping from the page like a Stephen King horror tale. However, with their league dreams in tatters, it is to our boys' credit that they took on Enstone in the Senior Cup and gained revenge for the league defeat with a spectacular 4-0 win to skip and jump, like an Easter Bunny, into the semi-finals! Good luck to our boys against Milton as it would be a fitting finale to a decent season if they could make the

Cup Final and have a tilt at winning silverware.

This season each monthly report on the Reserves has been a mixed bag of results and this month is no different. They started with a great win at home in the league against Carterton Town (3-1) then slumped to a surprising defeat, again at home, to Kingham AB (2-0). Is Supplementary Cup glory a possibility for our boys? As the saying goes, 'You have to be in it to win it' and they kept the dream alive by knocking out Carterton Town on their own turf, with a Duncan Shearer strike putting our boys into the next round (1-0). This has been a tough season for the Reserves, but they've managed to keep their heads above water and we'd all be delighted to see them progress in the Supplementary Cup.

Could it be a third *Slate* in a row without the Fredo Award being won? With doom and gloom in abundance it was a very close thing, but in the end both Nathan Dorran and Duncan Shearer were in contention as both kept the Rice dynasty at bay, with their exploits against Enstone and Carterton Town in the cups. Nathan Dorran scored a double against Enstone in the Senior Cup, his first goals for the club, and the Fredo Committee felt that this feat was worthy of the Award. Hail! Hail! Nathan Dorran, step forward, sir - this month's Fredo is yours and richly deserved.

Tom Flanigan (891979)

Stonesfield Scouts

Cubs Update

The Cubs undertook activities to get them thinking about the issues refugees face - what it might be like to have to leave our homes suddenly and how it might feel to make ourselves understood in another language. With this in mind, the Cubs decided that their skipathon fundraiser should be in aid of helping other young people rather than raising funds for the scout hut which had been our original intention.

The Cubs put in a great effort at their skipathon – some of them were new to skipping but they all managed to keep going with various skipping activities for a whole hour. With generous sponsorship from their family and friends, they managed to raise £631 for their chosen charity, Save the Children.

This term we are hoping to get back outside, explore our local area and brush up on our navigation skills. We are also aiming to give the Cubs a more active role in organising their activities.

Events

The 1st Stonesfield Duck Race will be held on 16 July 2022 and we plan to be taking part in the Jubilee Beacon Celebration in June. More detail on these events will be shared on our public Facebook page at facebook.com/stonesfieldscouts and in *The Slate*.

Fundraising

Grants: We have five grant applications submitted and out for approval. All toes and fingers crossed.

Buy a Brick: We have sold 39 bricks raising over £2,500! Thanks to the Witney Tacon

Clan and our other anonymous donors who supported us this month. If you would like to buy a brick online, please go to www.stonesfield-scouts.org.uk/build-the-scout-hut/build-a-brick

Just Giving: We have raised £1,264 (with Gift Aid) via our Just Giving page. We are touched to read your messages of support. The Group would like to thank all the people and families that have donated through Just Giving and bought a brick for the new hut. We would particularly like to thank the following families; Lacey, Osman, Searle, Hughes, Ford, Cook, Anders, Ball, Sutton, Richards, Rowles and Betterton, White, and also The Woodstock Chiropractor and our anonymous donors.

Sophie Gwilym, Simon Lacey, John Hounsell, Rhian Griffiths

Stonesfield Scouts fundraising team

Sustainability groups round up

The Environment Group

We are focusing on two areas: improving the condition of the river and tree planting. We had two excellent and enlightening talks in the last month. The first was given by Ash Smith from the Windrush Against Sewage Pollution group (WASP) and the second from the Ilkley Clean Water group which was the first in the country to gain bathing status for its river; this status has also just been given to Port Meadow in Oxford following a successful campaign. We are working with other river groups to inform our own plans for improving the Evenlode. Our plans for tree planting are coming along well; more to report over the next few months. There is much to do, so please get in touch if you would like to join us. juliecurrano@gmail.com.

The Food Group

As can be seen from the Community Café report, there was a great response to the Ukrainian-inspired lunch in the Village Hall. Thanks to all who made it happen and all who came to support it, it felt like a really good village event. We recently visited The Climatarian Kitchen in Kidlington, which is a food surplus café with the motto “Eat to save the Earth”. The Kitchen is doing fantastic work and is well worth a visit at www.facebook.com/ClimatarianKitchen/. Our next event will be alongside the Repair Café on 2 July. If you, or someone you know, has issues round getting enough to eat, accessing the right foods for a healthy diet, lacking the skills to cook healthy meals, or affording fuel to cook, please let us know, we may be able to help. Contact juliecurrano@gmail.com

The Repair Café

The Repair Cafe is holding its first event in conjunction with the Community Café on Saturday 2 July in the Village Hall, 9.30am-12.30pm. Further reminders will follow. If you would like to be a repairer, then please contact mikesofroniou@gmail.com

The Library of Things

We're up and running, and our first client wrote this: 'Marvellous to be able to borrow instead of buying a cot for a visiting grandchild last week. This Library of Things is a brilliant idea!' Go to www.stonesfield.online to see what's there: a strimmer, a shredder, a child's bike seat, a pasta-making machine and much, much more. If you want to borrow, contact the lender. If you'd like to add an item, contact dale.morris@zen.co.uk

Caroline Friend

Caroline.v.friend@gmail.com

West Oxfordshire Community Choir

West Oxfordshire Community Choir has enjoyed a wonderful start to 2022. After such a long time, the choir was finally able to return to the rehearsal room and enjoy some fantastic nights of singing. I for one couldn't be happier to be back leading the group once more but even more wonderful has been welcoming new members to the choir.

WOC Choir is open to local West Oxfordshire residents of all singing ability and experience levels. We don't work from sheet music so music reading is not a requirement. The choir focuses on improving vocal technique, confidence and vocal range but most of all on singing for fun!

It's a well-known fact that singing can improve mental health but did you know that it can improve physical health too? Research has shown that singing can lower stress, boost immunity and lung function, enhance memory and help people to cope with emotional and physical pain. With all that benefit and a truly lovely bunch of choir members to welcome you, what have you got to lose?

Our new term starts on Wednesday 27 April and runs through to July. Don't worry if you've missed the first week or two of term. New members are welcome at any point; however joining towards the start of a term is recommended. (Tenors and basses would be particularly welcome this term.)

The choir meets every Wednesday evening from 7:30-9:30pm at the St James' Centre. Membership is charged at £5 per week with the full term's payment being

required at the start of the term. (The first night for all new members is a free trial so no payment is required). Learning tracks and lyrics are included in the membership fee as well as refreshments and yummy goodies on a weekly basis.

For further details or choir information, please contact me. I look forward to meeting you.

Laura Rudge

Choir Director

wocchoir@yahoo.co.uk



Wildflowers: Stockey Bottom

Stonesfield Gardening Club

Our main focus in April is our plant sale, scheduled for 23 April this year, so taking place too late for inclusion in this month's edition of *The Slate*. At the time of writing, we are hoping that it will be as successful as last year's sale which raised a large amount that we could donate to local charities. This event also encourages members to get planting their seeds early, so that they have spares for the sale, as well as dividing perennials and taking cuttings.

No one should rest on their efforts though as we have booked a stall at the School Fete on 21 May and will be offering plants for sale then. We would be very grateful if members could donate plants for then, particularly sunflowers which we thought would be a nice idea. A good tip if you don't want very tall sunflowers is that pinching out the growing tips when small gives a bushier plant with more blooms – so I'm told!

Our May offering is a talk by Harriet Rycroft on *Summer Luxuriance in Pots* which will be held on Monday 9 May at 7.30 pm in the St James' Centre. We are looking forward to meeting her in person having had a very successful Zoom meeting with her last year!

Diane Bates

Secretary Stonesfield Gardening Club

www.stonesfieldgardening.info

Church news

Roman Catholic Worship

The Cross



Crucifixion is a cruel way to die: the Romans chose it as their preferred method of execution for criminals and other miscreants. Thus, the cross - this symbol of pain, humiliation and punishment, has become a world-wide symbol of the triumph of love, renewal and salvation.

St Rose of Lima said '*Apart from the cross, there is no other ladder by which we may get to heaven*'; in other words, by believing in Jesus' sacrifice of suffering and death on the cross, we are able to achieve redemption and forgiveness of our sins. Jesus freely chose to lay down his life and take it up again for our sakes. The cross has become a universal symbol of Christianity, always recalling that sacrifice long ago made for us. However, the cross raises a personal question for us about how far we are willing to embrace Jesus' sacrifice: *I want to know Christ... I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death* (Philippians 3:10). And are we willing, as St. Paul writes: *And by that will (that is the will of*

Jesus as a human being, not the will of God), we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all (Hebrews 10:10). Just as Jesus willingly chose his awful death, we too may make choices about how far we believe and accept the power of his death and resurrection for us.

Holy Mass

Sunday Mass at 9.15am.

Weekday Mass times:

Monday and Tuesday at 9.30am

Wednesday at 7pm

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).

St Teresa's Charlbury is supporting **ACN's Emergency Appeal for Ukraine** 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).

Further information

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

Fr. Tony Joyce may be contacted on holytrinityrcchippy@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

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

The month of May always makes me think of poetry, because as a schoolboy I memorised a long prose poem by Shakespeare which begins with the line, 'As it fell upon a day in the merry month of May.' After a few more tussles with literature my teenage enthusiasm went in other directions. But Shakespeare's poem stayed with me, and I can still recite it after 46 years, mostly because it is not really a poem about May, but about friendship. I do not often pause to consider a poem, as I might pause to admire a view. But one poet whose writing has the power to move me is John Clare, 'the Northamptonshire Peasant Poet', who died at the age of 71 in May 1864, and who wrestled throughout his life not only with words, but also with poverty, responsibility, addiction and serious mental illness. An agricultural labourer as a child, he grew up malnourished and became a potboy at a pub in Peterborough, then a gardener, a militiaman, and a lime burner, before admitting the defeat of poverty and accepting parish relief. He sold his first poems in an attempt to save his parents

from eviction. His poems speak of rural beauty but his own life was a picture of rural despair.

Like many people then and now, Clare had a mixed relationship with religion. He avoided church in his youth, was critical of its failures, but also remained fiercely loyal to the Church of England, and was helped a great deal by the clergy he knew. In those days the church extracted taxes, called church rates, from anyone occupying land or a house in the parish, and these were deeply resented, especially by nonconformists, before the rates were made voluntary in 1868. The rates were used to pay for the repair of the church, for the conduct of services and for church staff. But in those days the church was very often the hub of the community. It generally provided the village school, welfare provision, a meeting space and social events, as well as the essential rituals of birth, marriage and death.

The countryside around us is still beautiful, and our hearts still leap at the sight of bejewelled nature in May. But there is still a lot of difficulty too in our rural communities, and this year life will become much harder for a great many people as fuel costs rise, inflation bites, and wages or pensions stay low for many. Despite the enormous changes to our society over the last 200 years, and the wonderful provisions of the welfare state, NHS and universal education which Christians of all denominations fought for, the parish church has remained at the heart of the community in most towns and villages. As shops, pubs, trains and buses, and many schools, have disappeared, the structure of the parish system and the dedication of those who worship and support their local church has often played a vital role in

protecting our sense of community, asserting our spiritual nature, inspiring us to a higher morality, and demonstrating a practice of care. As May multiplies its glories around us, I commend to you your village church and pray that it will ever remain a place of worship and a beacon of resurrection hope for the whole community.

Revd Ralph Williamson, Rector

Home Pictures in May

*The sunshine bathes in clouds of many hues
And morning's feet are gemmed with early dews,
Warm daffodils about the garden beds
Peep through their pale slim leaves their golden heads,
Sweet earthly nuns of Spring; the gosling broods
In coats of sunny green about the road
Waddle in extasy; and in rich moods
The old hen leads her flickering chicks abroad,
Oft scuttling 'neath her wings to see the kite
Hang wavering o'er them in the spring's blue light.
The sparrows round their new nests chirp with glee
And sweet the robin Spring's young luxury shares
Tootling its song in feathery gooseberry tree
While watching worms the gardener's spade unbars.*

John Clare

Services

Sunday 1 May (Third Sunday of Easter)

8am Stonesfield Holy Communion
[BCP/said]

9.30am Combe All Age Worship

11am Stonesfield All Age Worship

Sunday 8 May (Fourth Sunday of Easter)

8am Stonesfield Holy Communion
[BCP/said]

9.30am Combe Parish Communion

11am Stonesfield Parish Communion

Sunday 15 May (Fifth Sunday of Easter)

8am Stonesfield Holy Communion
[BCP/said]

9.30am Combe Parish Communion

11am Stonesfield Parish Communion

5pm Combe Evensong

Sunday 22 May (Sixth Sunday of Easter)

8am Stonesfield Holy Communion
[BCP/said]

9.30am Combe Parish Communion

11am Stonesfield Parish Communion

Sunday 29 May (Seventh Sunday of Easter)

8am Stonesfield Holy Communion
[BCP/said]

10am Combe United Benefice
Communion

Sunday 5 June (Pentecost)

8am Stonesfield Holy Communion
[BCP/said]

9.30am Combe All Age Worship

11am Stonesfield All Age Worship

5pm Stonesfield Service of
celebration for the
Queen's Platinum
Jubilee

with Jubilee tea & cake from 3.30pm in St
James' Centre

Mondays

8.45-11.30am Monday Coffee in
St James' Centre

Tuesdays

8.45-10am Coffee and biscuits
Reading Room, Combe

Wednesdays

9.30am Stonesfield Holy Communion

11am Combe Morning Prayer
(11th & 25th)

Stonesfield Methodist Church

Services for May

Sunday 1	11am	Andrew Maisey
Sunday 8	10.30am	United Service at Charlbury Methodist Church (No service at Stonesfield)
Sunday 15	11am	The Revd Jason Cooke
Sunday 22	11am	The Revd James Skinner

Holy Communion Service

Sunday 29	11am	Mary Blow
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'The Evenlode' by Gordon Ottewell is my recent reading pleasure; from its source to the moment it joins the great Thames, a river that winds its way for thirty odd miles, much of it through the splendid Cotswold valley. A glorious journey to be enjoyed often, especially the most wonderful stretch close by, when only a brief hour can be spared. It's quite like the Christian journey, with its twists and turns, and constant reliability. For me, it's the sheer warmth of knowing forever it's nearby, even when the world is all at sea! *Come near to God and He will come near to you.* (James 4; 8)

Come and join a service; all are very welcome.

Kathleen Albért (891733)



Methodist Church, Stonesfield

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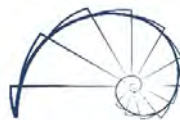
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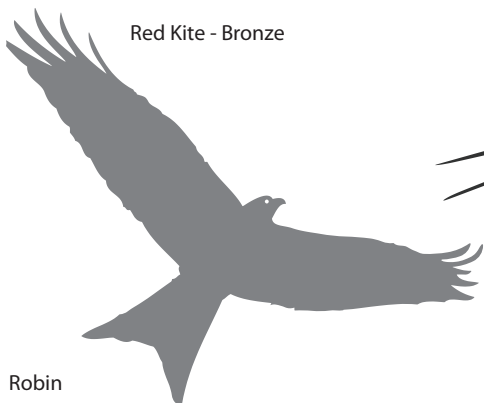
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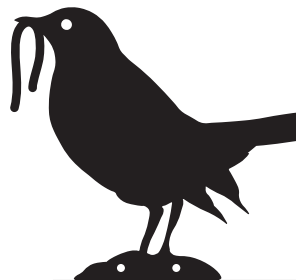
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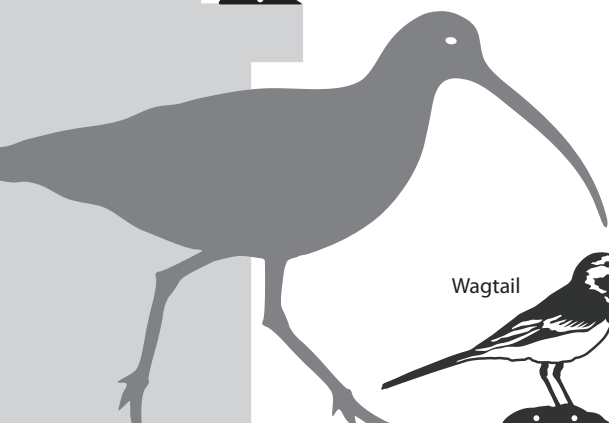
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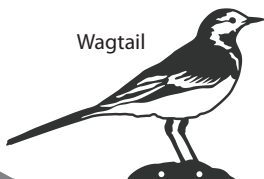
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