



Time to refresh and renew



Dead ash on Woodstock Road : John Sampson

This seventieth year of Queen Elizabeth II's reign began with the joyous celebration of her Platinum Jubilee and now we mark her passing.

Over the year Stonesfield Tree Group have been steadily planning to refresh and renew the trees on the Stonesfield Straight (Woodstock Road).

We are fortunate to be part of the 'Queen's Green Canopy' initiative with trees arriving from the woodland trust in late October. The choice of trees has fluctuated as we consider the hot dry summer and look to the future. Trees will also come from a Blenheim bursary, a grant from Stonesfield Community Trust, a grant from the Big Green Week and trees that many of you have been growing in the village (astonishingly so

far over 80 trees). Some of these trees will be planted on the Stonesfield Straight.

With all our applications and discussions (landowners, farmers, Highways, Parish Council and throughout the village) we have been clear that the tree planting is part of the 'Queen's Green Canopy' and celebrates Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

With your help and support the Stonesfield tree group plan to plant 70 trees to refresh and renew the trees on the Stonesfield Straight this November.

We wish the 70 trees to mark and celebrate the 70 year reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Continues on page 5

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:

October

1	BTWH Beer Festival	Sports & Social Club	12pm
2	Harvest Festival	St. James's Church	11am
3,6,10,13,17	Taekwondo	Village Hall	5.30-6.30pm
3	Village Hall Committee & AGM	Village Hall	5.30-7pm
3	Gardening Club	St. James' Centre	7.30pm
3,10,17,31	Monday Coffee	St. James' Centre	8.45-11.30am
4,18	Carers Café	Village Hall	10-12noon
4	Pre School AGM	Zoom	7.30pm
4,11,18,25	Zumba	Village Hall	7-8pm
4,11,18,25	Zumba Strong	Village Hall	8.15-9.15pm
5	Parish Council Meeting	St James' Centre	7pm
5,12,19,26	Gatehouse Pilates	Village Hall	9.30-10.30am
5,6,12,13	Hanna Bathe HIIT Class	Village Hall	7-8pm
5,12,19,26	Folkdancing	Village Hall	7.45-10pm
6,13,20,27	Book Break	Stonesfield Library	12.30-2pm
7,14,21,28	Baby & Toddlers Group	Village Hall	10-12noon
10	Combe WI	Combe Reading Room	7.30-9.30pm
11	Environment Group	TBC	8pm
14	Witney Music Society	High St Methodist Church	7.30pm
15	Ladies' Breakfast	St. James' Centre	8.45-10.30am
16	Steaming Sunday	Combe Mill	10.30 - 5pm
16	POP-UP White Horse	Village Hall	4-7pm
19,20,26,27	Hanna Bathe HIIT Class	Village Hall	7-8pm
20, 24,27, 31	Taekwondo	Village Hall	5.30-6.30pm
24	Monday Coffee	St. James' Centre	10-11.30am
24	Treasure Box	Village Hall	2-4pm
29	Shoe Box Drop-off	Methodist Church	2-4pm

November

10	St. James' Free Supper	St. James' Centre	5-7pm
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Notices & news

Tony Yardy

It is with sadness that we share that Tony passed away peacefully at home on the 20 July, after battling with cancer for a year. He lived his whole adult life in Stonesfield and has made so many wonderful friends here over the years. We would like to thank you all for your kind messages and cards, it has been truly humbling to hear how much Tony was thought of within the village and wider, and to know he will be greatly missed by all his family, friends and neighbours. We would like to thank everyone for their kind donations, a total of £704.60 was donated to the Lawrence Home Nursing Team.

Our sincere thanks

Joan, Tracy, Emma and Johanna

Derrick Millard

June, Elizabeth and Alistair would like to thank all those who sent messages of sympathy and condolences for the loss of Derrick who passed away on 12 July.

Derrick's funeral took place at Stonesfield Methodist Chapel on 22 August and we would like to thank all that attended.

June Millard

Tony Taylor



Tony Taylor at 2022 Open Gardens

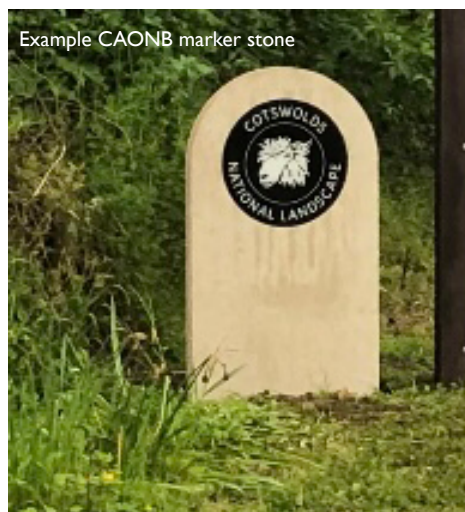
I have known Tony and his wife Helen for over 50 years when many young couples moved to Stonesfield following a house building boom. This common bond framed friendships as we all settled down to ease into village life and start our families.

The friendship has remained strong, and his recent loss is so sad, another of our old gang gone ahead. We will miss you Tony, you were a pal.

Wendy Gould

Time to refresh and renew (cont)

As well as the trees we have had agreements and permission for a marker stone for the Stonesfield Straight. The boundary of the Cotswold area of outstanding national beauty (CAONB) crosses the straight at the Blenheim end and Stonesfield is in the CAONB. The stone will be on the left side just after the Coombe turn as you come towards Stonesfield. This is being generously funded by Stonesfield residents.



Our longer-term plan is to plant a tree for everyone in the village. Current thoughts include:

- Planting trees around the local walks.
- Finding a site for a village orchard.
- Planting a 'Tiny Forest' - the first of these UK forests is in Witney. There is a potential site with plans at an early stage. Extending a local wood. We have an agreement with the landowner, as and when we have the trees available.
- Working with highways to see if we can do 'natural regeneration' which would be

a first for highways. The site is within in the Parish boundary off the Charlbury Road (B4437).

- Supporting those who would like to grow trees from seed and helping anyone with tree and hedge planting.



We have a meeting arranged for **Thursday 29 September at 7pm** at the St James' Centre. We hope volunteers can come to the meeting to see plans, discuss and ask questions, hear about health and safety plans. There will be refreshments and hopefully a short talk from one of the local experts. This meeting is part of the national 'Big Green Week' and has been supported by Oxfordshire County Council.

A tree planting weekend is pencilled in for the **19/20 November**. We have preparatory work to do in October and early November and we are looking for help and support. We are steadily collecting names and can take details at the meeting on 29 September or please email me.

John Sampson

John.sampson9@btinternet.com

www.stonesfield.online/stonesfield-tree-group/

St James's Church, Stonesfield

Harvest Festival

Do come to celebrate Harvest at our special

All Age service!

Sunday 2nd October

11am

***followed by a bring-and-share lunch for
everyone***

*Gifts of money for the charity Ripple Effect (new name for
Send-a-Cow), or goods for the Foodbank, will be gratefully
received at the service*

there with her owls. We would also like to thank Amity Installation Services, Chris Brooks Electrics, Johnny Berry Sound System and Brandon Tool Hire who all gave their equipment and services free of charge, which helped the day run smoothly thank you all. Thanks to all our Little Helpers who went round with buckets collecting donations for the charities advised in previous issues of the *Stonesfield Slate*.

Next year's event is hoped to be held on Saturday 8 July - perhaps not such a hot day. Thank you all once again and we hope to see you all there next year.

Andy Gillam, Fred Dore, George Williams and Roger Evins

Ladies' Breakfast

Come along to the St. James' Centre at 9am on Saturday 15 October and enjoy a delicious breakfast followed by a short, inspirational talk. Amanda Ford, from Combe, will be our speaker. She will be sharing her journey through the adoption process and what she has learned about God's faithfulness from this experience. Tickets cost £5.

More details from Bina Farrow, Kathleen Albert, Suzy Boardman or Muriel Barrett.

Charity Motorbike Day

The organisers would like to thank everyone who attended this event on Saturday 13 August. It was one of the hottest days of the year so unfortunately many who were coming did not make it. Those who did, however, enjoyed themselves.

We owe a big thank you to our bands - Them Combe Boys, Deadly Silence, Midlife Crisis and The Jolly Rogers who were all great. The bar was run by Simon & Adel Bridgeman, Copperpot Catering supplied some wonderful food and Nigel of Scoops Ice Cream kept us all cool and Chrissie was

Village Hall News

Autumn is now upon us and there is something so lovely about the darker nights and the different events that it brings with it.

Community Café – We don't have a Community Café in October as we have the Beer Festival instead, but we have a space for anyone who wants to run one on 5 November to raise funds for their charity! It's a great opportunity to get some money before Christmas, so let me know if you are interested.

Thank you to all who supported the Repair Café in September. We had a very busy Community Café. More than 60 people came through the doors for teas, coffees and cakes and a fantastic pay-as-you-fee lunch, and over £300 was raised. Next Community Café run by the Stonesfield Community Food Group will be in December, alongside the Repair Café again.

“Many thanks to the Repair Café team, I travelled from Witney on Saturday to visit you and found it was very well organised and friendly. Also, a big shout out to the Community Café team who were also fantastic, producing delicious food from surplus in the supply chain. The pea and mint soup and savoury scone were amazing, restaurant quality, served with such care and joy. Stonesfield are a very friendly bunch, thanks for making me feel so welcome and for making a big difference to the community!” Lucy x.

Pop Up Pub and Mini Beer Festival -

Taking the place of the Community Café on 1 October we have the “Back The White Horse Beer Festival” running from 12pm. As well as 11 real Ales and 3 traditional Ciders to try, refreshments will be in the form of a BBQ run by the Scouts, or Pizza by Sartorellis.

***Re-scheduled* The Pop-Up White Horse** at The Village Hall will take place on Sunday 16 October 4-7pm. For one night only, the Village Hall will take on the role of the village pub – the bar will be open, thanks to the fantastic support from the team at the Stonesfield Sports and Social Club, Stonesfield Scouts will be firing up the BBQ, and all are welcome! Live Music at 5pm from fiddle and guitar duo - Judith Henderson (Hooper) and Nick Hooper. Original tunes and tunes by contemporary folk musicians. They have been playing together since 2001 and are based in Stonesfield.

Come and join us, support our campaign to buy and reopen The White Horse. Shares available to buy now, go to:
www.backthewhitehorse.com

Thank you to all who attended the
Stonesfield Folk Dance Group Day of

Dance in September. The Double Anniversary was a triumph with perhaps their highest attendance, circa 85 dancers! They were so lucky to have had such good weather for the Official 50th Anniversary. Please don't forget to support such a longstanding group at their weekly meeting on Wednesdays from 8pm.

We have our **AGM** at 5.30pm on Monday 3 October, so if you would like to get involved in any capacity, please do come along and join us, all welcome.

Sadly, as **Halloween** falls on Monday this year, we aren't going to be able to do a big Halloween event as we can't inconvenience our regular groups, however, we are still happy to do maps for houses taking part if that's what people would like – please get in touch and let me know if you would like to go on a map for a Halloween trail!

We are looking for stall holders selling gifts, arts and crafts and festive goodies for our annual **Christmas Fayre** on Sunday 4 December. If you would like a stall or know someone who would please contact me.

Jacqueline Carthew (898919)

Secretary and Booking Clerk
stonesfieldvh@gmail.com

facebook.com/stonesfieldvillagehall

Treasure Box

Half term Treasure Box will be on Monday 24 October from 2.15-3.45pm in the Village Hall. There will be games, crafts and activities based on the story of the Good Samaritan. All children are welcome and must be accompanied by an adult.

More details from Muriel Barrett (891479).

Cows on the Common

Five whitebred short horn cows and their calves will come to the Common by the end of October. Grazing the Common with cows in the winter is an essential part of our management agreement with Natural England to preserve this Site of Special Scientific Interest. Earlier in the year some of the willows along the riverbank were pollarded. Pollarding is a normal practice for controlling willows that can grow quite tall and then break in strong winds. We also planted 15 Alder trees on the riverbank, most of which have survived the exceptionally hot summer. Alders are very well suited to wet ground and won't need ongoing management like the willows.

Richard Morris

Combe Women's Institute

We started the meeting with a minute's silence to remember the Queen and give thanks that she was a loyal and dedicated member of the WI for 80 years, who never failed to show her support for the WI throughout her time as Queen. We thank her for her dedication, service and fellowship.

Following a brief business meeting, Emma Hamer, a local Oxfordshire farmer, gave an interesting and enjoyable talk on why farming matters and how producing food and caring for the environment go hand in hand. Emma and her husband own a 200-acre farm which is half arable and half livestock working a regenerative system. Emma highlighted some of the issues challenging farming today including fly-tipping, sheep worrying, hare coursing, illegal butchery poaching and climate change. She urged us all to eat local produce and items marked with the red

tractor. On a lighter note, she shared pictures of wildflowers, crops, farm machinery and animals - both wild and domestic - which were much enjoyed.

WI meetings are held in the Reading Room from 7.30-9.30pm on the second Monday of each month. The Women's Institute is an organisation open to women over the age of 18. It's an organisation based on the ideals of fellowship, truth, tolerance and justice. Its main objectives are to advance the education of women in all areas including local, national and international issues of political and social importance, music, drama and other cultural subjects, crafts, science and health and social care welfare and to promote sustainable development for everyone's benefit. All of this whilst having a good time and enjoying the companionship of friends.

Guests can attend up to 3 meeting per year and are charged £4 to attend plus £1 for refreshments and a raffle ticket. Membership until the end of March 2023 is now just £22.

Our next meeting is on Monday 10 October when Shaun Todd will be talking about the traditions of Afternoon Tea and what we might not know. If you are interested in knowing more about the WI, then please come along to one of our meetings to help you decide whether you'd like to join. Our sincere thanks go to Rob and Christine Smith for their help with preparing, printing and distributing our September 2022 – July 2023 programme of events. If you didn't receive a copy and would like one, please let me know – or better still come to our coffee morning on 1 October.

Julia Sharpe (891058) Secretary Combe W.I.
sharpe315@btinternet.com

Combe Mill

Steaming Sunday – 16 October 'Wood Crafts'

The last steaming Sunday of the year will be a great one - with a fantastic deal - Kids go Free. There will be many wood specialists on hand to show you a range of skills, wood carving, Elizabethan bowl turning, pole lathes, spoon carving, green woodworking.

There will be the normal range of refreshments on offer - hot and cold, gift shop, tombola and a selection of market stalls. Dogs welcome as usual.

Save the date in your diary for the Christmas Market - 4 December - our last fundraiser of the year - we would love to see you there.

Mill receives award



Combe Mill industrial heritage museum is pleased to have been presented with the Engineering Heritage Award of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. The Awards recognise pioneering engineering artefacts, locations, collections and landmarks and celebrate the contribution of mechanical engineering to our past and

present. The award was presented at Combe Mill by John Wood MBE, past President of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and Chairman of the Engineering Heritage Committee, on Sunday 21 August 2022.

According to the award citation "The mill is a fine example of a Victorian English Estate workshop and saw mill. Restored by the Combe Mill Society volunteers, 1969-2012, it includes a beam engine and waterwheel interpreting the links between the landscape and the social, technological and infrastructure changes that produced today's mill."

Steve Foster, chairman of Combe Mill Society said, "Combe Mill is delighted and honoured to receive the Engineering Heritage Award. A dedicated stream of volunteers has worked hard to restore, preserve and demonstrate the historic mill, its people and its place in the local community for over 50 years and this award is a tribute to all their efforts."

Great News - SEPTEMBERFEST will return!

Septemberfest will return on **Saturday 9 September 2023**. Put it in your calendar now!

But... we do need to raise enough money to fund this fantastic village event, so if you're a business owner (or just extremely wealthy) and would like to be a sponsor - big or small - please email: bartlefilm@gmail.com - all money raised goes to charity (no organiser takes a fee). It's going to be one amazing day!

Chris Bartle
Bartlefilm@gmail.com

Contented Dementia Trust

I have experience of following the Contented Dementia Trust's vision for lifelong well-being for people with dementia. And I know that it works. This charity is now offering on-line introductory presentations and workshops for friends and family which are available to book from the website:

www.contenteddementiastrust.org. You may have come across the Oliver James book *Contented Dementia*, described as 'a revolutionary new way of treating dementia ... brings amazing benefits for patients and carers alike' and published in 2008. The workshops have been carefully crafted and developed to bring further insight making the concepts more accessible and practical. The Trust has also produced a booklet *Contented Dementia Trust, The SPECIAL Method* which explains this unique approach. I have left copies in the Stonesfield Library. Online workshop: Thursday 20 October, 10am-12.30pm.

Lindsey Thornton

North Leigh History Society

At our meeting on Tuesday 4 October, Tom Crook will be giving a talk entitled 'The history of political corruption'. Politicians have always held a great deal of power and influence, and as such have always been attractive targets for those seeking to influence and manipulate society, and some have used this to their own advantage. Tom Crook will be showing us how this has played out throughout the history of modern Britain. Do come along and explore this fascinating and relevant topic with us.

We meet in North Leigh Memorial Hall, OX29 6SA and all our meetings start at

7.30pm. Members free, visitors £4. Further details are available from Diana Power (882301) or Robert Kyte at kyterobert@gmail.com We look forward to seeing you soon.

Witney Music Society

The 2022-23 series of Witney Music Society concerts starts in October.

Details of all the concerts are on the Witney Music Society website and in its new brochure, copies of which may be obtained via the website or from the library and other locations throughout Witney.

The opening concert of the new season will be given by the award-winning Consone Quartet who'll be performing works for string quartet by Haydn, Mozart and Mendelssohn. The concert is at 7.30pm on Friday 14 October at High Street Methodist Church, Witney.

Tickets (£15, £1 for under 19s) will be available at the door from 7pm or in advance online. For more information, please telephone 01993 898020 or visit the Witney Music Society website: www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk

Mary Lou Scott

HONEY PATCH
Cotswolds



LOCAL HONEY

£6 per jar

Please contact Gaye on 07990530386
Or email honeypatchcotswolds@yahoo.com

Politics & local affairs

Stonesfield Neighbourhood Plan

Creating the village survey has proved more challenging than we thought! The survey is our tool for gathering information from everyone in the village on aspects of our community life that are governed by planning policy. The process of drafting first attempts with our teams of volunteers took some time, weeding out the questions we didn't need, and adding what was missing.

We are now working on wording the questions so that the answers give us information which can be logged and analysed. We can't invite essays: they can't be turned into numerical results. Most of the questions have to elicit either a yes/no answer or a fact (a number or a date, for instance). And we have to make it clear whether the questions are to be answered by every individual in the household, or by one person representing the household. The survey has to read well, engage your attention, and take no more than 30 minutes to complete.

We want to get this survey absolutely watertight, so we are giving ourselves a bit more time. We are using a professional survey writer (who is kindly donating their time) to help pull it together. We want to avoid distributing it in the run up to Christmas, so we have decided to delay its delivery until February 2023. This will not affect the overall timetable for writing the Neighbourhood Plan, which we will aim to complete by 2024/5.

Meanwhile, a group of enthusiastic sleuths has started work on the character assessment of the village. This describes the history and the distinct appearance and feel of the built village and forms an introduction to the Neighbourhood Plan. It is a factual description and is not dependent on answers to the survey. You can find an article by Susan Rudlin (below) asking people to send her interesting facts, stories or anecdotes about their houses. Whether you live in a flat or a house, whether it was built last year or in 1690, if it has a special view or a family connection or is in some way remarkable for its history, we'd like to hear about it - and we'd be happy to write it up for you. Ways to send your contribution are outline in Susan article (below).

Caroline Friend
np@stonesfieldpc.uk

Stonesfield's Character

If you're like me you read our article in last month's Slate and put it to one side thinking you'd do it later, but promptly forgot. Well, it's not too late to get involved, we're collecting your stories until the end of the year while the rest of the Neighbourhood Plan team are working on the survey.

Whether you're young or old, been here all your life or just moved in...please do take a moment to tell us any interesting stories about your home. It might have a special story behind its name, an interesting building history – this might be as much

from the nineteen-seventies as from the earlier eras. Are there interesting views from a particular spot by your property? Is there an interesting family history link? Basically, anything that interests you, interests us. You can share as little or as much as you like. Anonymously or, if you want the glory, with your name up in lights. You can email us at np@stonesfieldpc.uk, you can fill in a survey at: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/StonesfieldCharacter - or use the QR code. We can come to you if you can't face writing it all down or you'd like to show us something for a possible photograph. If you don't have access to the Internet, you can fill out and detach the form on page 14 and hand it in at the shop.

Please do get in touch.

Susan Rudlin

np@stonesfieldpc.uk

West Oxfordshire District Council

Some of you may have not been aware of my major heart surgery which took place at the Heart Centre in Oxford following an angiogram the week prior which gave little options but for an open heart by-pass intervention.

It has been an extremely difficult time for my closest dearest friends, family and close ones.

I am on the road to recovery and though I should not be working at all, I thought you needed to know the reason for my not responding to you of late.

I am not therefore likely to be at parish meetings until at least October and there is unlikely to be a report either but you know I will be there supporting your causes in the background. The road to recovery is under way.

Andrew Graham



Do you need help?

Do you sometimes need help with bits of shopping, or have an errand to run ? Or perhaps you'd like company and a chat sometimes.

If I can help you, you'll probably be helping me !

Contact Marilyn: 01993 891465

Neighbourhood Watch

'Are you okay?'

Street harassment is on the rise and is often not an isolated incident. We know the long-term impact can harm mental health and change people's behaviour. Victims often feel guilty, ashamed, and blame themselves.

Witnessing street harassment and not safely intervening sends the message to those experiencing it that it's okay and society normalises it. Ongoing acceptance of street harassment contributes to a toxic culture. We want to change this, but we need your help.

Neighbourhood Watch are launching a campaign that targets bystanders (those who witness street harassment), be those Neighbourhood Watch members or not. The campaign encourages those who see someone being harassed in public to ask the victim if they are okay when they feel safe doing so. Those three little words let them know that they stand by them, and that street harassment is never okay.

This simple action is a delay technique and part of the 5Ds of bystander intervention developed by Right to Be. By asking, 'Are you okay?' we become active bystanders and send the message that harassment is not okay. There are further actions that

people can take, but our campaign focuses on the simplest step everyone can take.

Deborah Waller,
Head of Communications and Digital
Neighbourhood Watch Network, Central
Support Team



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 (01993 891803) to book transport in October.

My home's history

Your name:

Your address:

How should we contact you?

Tell us points of interest about

- Your house / garden

- Views from your house / garden

- Your street

- You or other people who've lived in the house

Do you have photos?

Yes

No

Do you want us to visit?

Yes

No



Education, culture & more

Stonesfield Pre School

By the time you read this entry we will have returned to Pre School refreshed after a lovely hot summer. Everyone has been busy including the children who are full of lovely tales about all the lovely things they have been up to over the 6-week break, the family holidays they have been on, the days out, who they have seen. All the children appear to be really happy to be back playing with their Pre School friends.

This first term has been all about settling and finding your feet, returning to routines, and making new friends. We have welcomed four new families this term and these children have settled well. Grace Gleeson has joined our staff team and we welcome her.

Please join our 100 club, registration forms for 2022/2023 are now available.

Annual cost is £6.00 with 6 draws a year.
1st prize £25.00

2nd prize £10.00

Forms are available from Pre School or please contact Zena Rozee – 898012 or stonesfieldpsad@outlook.com

Stonesfield Pre School is a charity, and we are committee run. Tuesday 4 October 7.30 pm sees our next AGM. We rely on having a committee to enable us to run legally. All existing committee members, staff and parents will all receive a Zoom link. If you would like any further information, please contact

Louise John stonesfieldps@outlook.com

Zena Rozee stonesfieldpsad@outlook.com

Stonesfield Primary School

Pennies for the pond!

We need your help!

Stonesfield Primary School's pond is in desperate need of some TLC. The pond has served our children for many years for exploring, catching critters, expanding their knowledge of nature, and generally getting mucky and having fun. The pond is a huge part of our school's curriculum promoting outdoor learning, and it encourages children to be physically active.

Social and emotional development are at the forefront of 'Forest School' learning. It is designed to be child-led, encouraging children to learn through visual stimuli, sounds, smells and tastes. Forest Schools focus on the social, emotional, physical and intellectual development of their learners, enhancing their curiosity of the world.

So what we are hoping for is the support of our fantastic community to make donations to help fund this project to regenerate the pond! You can donate in person at the school or the village shop, or by contacting:

carly_grace1@hotmail.co.uk or

tashaday13.td@gmail.com

Stonesfield Primary School

Stonesfield Library

The library is open as follows:

Monday 2.30 - 7pm

Wednesday 10am - 12 noon

Thursday 2.30 - 5pm

Saturday 10am - 12 noon

Stonesfield Library telephone: 898187

Summer Reading Challenge 2022



Celebrating the Challenge: Richard Morris

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the Summer Reading Challenge!

After a gap of two years, it was lovely to celebrate the participants' achievements 'in person' in the Village Hall on Thursday 15 September. Mike Pollitt, Chairman of the Friends, presented an envelope containing an inscribed certificate and a medal to those children who had completed the Challenge. Following the presentation, a group photo was taken outside the Library.

This year's theme was *Gadgeteers*. Each participant collected a poster on registering for the Challenge. Over a period of six weeks participants read six books of their choice and collected stickers; codes on the stickers unlocked the content on the Summer Reading Challenge website which

had lots of activities to keep children busy over the summer holidays!

Children, their families and the Friends of Stonesfield Library enjoyed refreshments after the presentations.

Many thanks to Oxfordshire Library Service and FoSL members who assisted with the Challenge over the summer, and to the Friends who organised the Celebration and provided the afternoon tea.

Bryony Mallows

on behalf of the Friends of Stonesfield Library

I'm a Reader...

Eleanor Bailey, 52

In, as they say, 'a change to the schedule', this, written during national mourning for HM the Queen, draws a thin but respectful link between me, the Queen and libraries.

My age now, 52, is the year that the Queen came to the throne. 52 was the age the Queen was the year after the 1977 Silver Jubilee when I was seven years old, and excited about the party at school, with promise of cakes with red, white and blue icing. I then caught a terrible cold and missed the whole thing. I sat at home, sniffing, feeling sorry for myself and reading.

Libraries, like the Queen, were always in my life. Walking the twenty minutes down the busy road to the library, a red hexagonal brick building in a small park, was a Saturday ritual. I still have a revealing notebook from back then. It contains, for example, several summer holiday checklists. In the 1982 list - alongside 'vests, anorack (sic), caguoule (sic), scarfe (sic), wooly (sic) hat, big mac* (sic)' (like The Queen, our August breaks

were always spent up North, in the hills, in the rain) – lists ‘Books’ first, and at the top of ‘Books’ in special green ink are my new holiday ‘library books’:

i) *A Billion for Boris*, about a boy who fixes his broken TV except that it now plays tomorrow’s programmes, enabling Boris to make a fortune on horse races. Hilarity and disaster ensue.

ii) *Frankenstein’s Aunt*, a bossy and cigar smoking aunt of Frankenstein turns up at his castle, to sort him out, and deals with Dracula and a werewolf while she’s at it. Hilarity and disaster ensue.

iii) *A Wrinkle in Time*, classic sci-fi novel, where a family of genius social misfits travel through time and space to rescue their missing father, who is trapped in a glass cube, on a distant planet, for reasons I forget. Disaster averted.

The library loomed so large in our imagination, that there is even a pretend letter about a library fine, made up by my older brother, randomly written in this notebook.

‘Dear sir/madam:

Your books, *Crustaceans in the South China Sea* and, *How to make a bed in 27,000 easily learnt lessons*, were due back on Jan 11 651 B.C. and have accumulated a fine of £27,657,973,189,257,360.27. Please go to John O’Groats Library to pay it as soon as possible.

(Illegible Scrawl)

Chief Librarian.’

The library, like The Queen, has been constant in our lives and has had to adapt to changing times. Stonesfield library is

small (like The Queen) but a loyal servant of its people. While I have taken many books out of Stonesfield library, I also have a Reader’s Pass to the British Library, near King’s Cross, the world’s largest, according to number of items held (170-200 million). The Queen opened the new building in 1998 and said it was ‘entirely fitting that it should be a library,’ that was the biggest UK public building of the twentieth century. Congratulating everybody involved, the Queen said the project, which took ten years longer than planned, was a ‘labour of love, (which), must have seemed, at times, endless’, which on reflection, might have also described her own reign.

*waterproof coat, not burger.

Eleanor Bailey

FoSL: Friends of Stonesfield Library

Do you enjoy reading? Could you spare a couple of hours a month? Come and join the library team. A great volunteering opportunity!

**For further details contact Mike Pollitt
Tel: 891856**

Stonesfield's shops – as they were once

Before Mat and Reike ran our village shop there was Sri, and before him Derrick – but who can remember where Stonesfield people shopped locally before that? Mid-last century, when far fewer households had their own transport, Stonesfield had many more shops than it does now, catering for most of people's needs. We asked around for memories; this is what we found but the time when each shop was there is not entirely clear. Perhaps you can help tell us more?

In the 1890s, Pond Hill House was the home of Thomas Osborne, the butcher and his wife Elizabeth ran the butcher's shop. When Thomas died, Elizabeth and her children moved to Boot Street, where her daughter Lizzie ran the Post Office at the front, and the grocery shop with its four great pillars at the side of the building was in Elizabeth's care. (We will look at Stonesfield's post offices in a future article – there have been many!) As well as groceries, the shop provided fabrics, hardware and other general goods. The Boot Street shop had previously been run by the Ivings family; head of the family Walter Ivings also repaired and sold bicycles.



Elizabeth Osborne and her daughter Lizzie at the Boot Street shop

Close by, at the top of Well Lane, was the Old Bakery which was run by Harold 'Baker' Barrett and his wife Doris. The bread baked there was delivered to village houses in a van. Before them the bakery was run by a Mr Devonshire (known as 'Devi') and at Christmas, several households were able to have their own turkey or goose cooked in the oven. In the 1900s Boot Street also had another bakery, behind Boot Cottage, run by the Hunt family. And yet another bakery was run by Eric and Gwen Hanks at the corner of Church Street and Woodstock Road. Those who have been here a long time still know the junction as Hanks' corner.



Baker Harold Barrett

Where High Street meets the Cross was a grocery shop in the 1930s, run by Tilly and Alf Hopkins from the building now called Cross Tree House. After the end of the Second World War, they moved to new premises in Churchfields where for many years their niece, Marion Hall, ran the Post Office and, with her Aunt Tilly, the shop. For those who don't remember that, the post box is still in the front wall next to the road. A little further along Churchfields the building which is now Doggett's House

used at that time to be Bill the Butcher's shop. Before him, George Clarke had been the butcher, and later the house belonged to Mrs Iris Price – hence the name of the new road at the side – Iris Lane.



Marion Hall and her aunt Tilly Hopkins in the Churchfields shop



Bill the butcher

The Cross had another shop selling sweets and also general grocery, in the house now called Long Bees. It was originally owned by Mrs Miriam Shearer, and later in the 1930s, run by her daughter Amy with her husband Les Huckins. A similar shop at the time was in the outer part of Dene Edge on Laughton Hill; later this became a fish and chip shop and was run by John Bishop. But that wasn't the only source of fish and chips – Alec Harris cooked and sold them from his ageing bus: children bought chips for three old pence, or a bag of batter scraps, known in Stonesfield as scrumps. And from the late 1940s to 1996, a little general store was open at the top of Peaks

Lane – called News and Things, and then for a short time, News and Booze.

So Stonesfield residents had quite a range of shops to meet their needs. Perhaps the strangest of them is the bicycle parts shop run by Charlie ('Dinky') Dore (a rather small man), in what is now Appletree Cottage, Churchfields. People tell of a window in the wall through which could be seen tyres, puncture outfits and other bicycle-related goods. He used to sell paraffin; one lady says that the shop always smelt of paraffin and boiled potatoes. But Charlie did more: he was also a skilled wheelwright and made cartwheels, and he was Stonesfield's undertaker. He is thought to have taken over this business from Walter Ivings of Boot Street mentioned earlier. Lizzie Osborne from the Post Office was said to line the coffins with silk.

Many thanks to Anne Baston, Marion Hall and Debbie Harris; much more information is in *Stonesfield – From Slates to Chips*. Please do let us know if we have made mistakes. Our thanks also go to all those residents who provided photos from their collections.

Viv Kendall (891803)

Historic Stonesfield

Do have a look at our village website www.stonesfield.online - where you will find an updated and expanded display of photos of Stonesfield in days gone by. If you have more that you would like to share with the village, do get in touch with the Viv Kendall (contact details above).

webeditor@stonesfield.online

Local History: From the Oxford Journal - Saturday 27 October 1855

‘STONESFIELD. SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL IN FOREIGN PARTS. The annual meeting of this Society was held in the Church School Room, on Wednesday evening, the Rev. F. Robinson, Rector of Stonesfield, was in the Chair, and the Rev. Dr. Newman, Dean of Graham's Town, Cape of Good Hope, and the Rev. L. A. Sharpe, Rector of Tackley, attended as a Deputation from the Parent Society.

The Chairman, after having commenced the proceedings with prayer, in a short address explained the objects of the Society and concluded by calling upon Dr. Newman to address the meeting.

The Rev. Gentleman having expressed his satisfaction at seeing so large an assembly present, (the room being very full), entered into very lengthy details as to the origin of the Society, and proceeded to show that it was far better to send abroad the Gospel of Peace than the sword of war, proving that while one frequently saved body and soul, the other, alas! too often destroyed both in hell. The Rev. Doctor's address was listened to with almost breathless silence; he concluded by relating an anecdote of the great Duke of Wellington, who, when asked by some person whether he (the Duke) thought missionaries did any good, asked, what are your marching orders? Whereupon his inquirer, after some hesitation, said he did not know. Why, said the Duke, ‘Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.’


The meeting was afterwards addressed by the Rev. L. A. Sharpe, who spoke of the great good the Society had done by sending

out Chaplains to the seat of war, and concluded by strongly urging its claims upon his hearers.

The doxology was then sung, and, after the Apostolic benediction had been pronounced, the meeting separated.

A collection was made at the door, which, we are glad to hear, was of a liberal kind.’

Douglas Rudlin



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 1926 - 2022

The Mall, September 2022

Clubs, societies & sport

Stonesfield Gardening Club



The Gardening Club visited Bourton House Garden near Moreton-in-Marsh in the middle of September. We arranged a wonderfully warm autumn day and were met by the head gardener Jacky Rae who told us a bit about the garden before letting us explore on our own. It is a three-acre garden surrounding the beautiful 18th century manor house and arranged in such a way that it seems so much bigger. Turn a corner and another 'room' opens up, another view, another discrete planting area and colour scheme.

The garden (and the village) have the advantage of various springs that provide much needed water and we were all astonished to learn that the lush green lawns have not been watered at all.

For those who were not free to join us on the trip it is highly recommended, especially at this time of the year as the half hardy perennials that they specialise in are looking their best.

October sees us back at St. James' Centre for our meeting. This time it is a week earlier on October 3 and will be a visit from Rosy Hardy, coming to talk to us about late summer perennials.

Diane Bates

Secretary Stonesfield Gardening Club

www.stonesfieldgardening.info

1st Stonesfield Scouts

Events

The 1st Stonesfield Scout Group will be firing up the grill and hosting a BBQ with the Back The White Horse Community Trust Beerfest on 1 October. This will be at the Village Hall and Playing Fields from 12pm. We are also cooking up a BBQ on 16 Oct, with the Back The White Horse team for a pop-up pub.

A huge thank you to all the parents, family and friends who donated cakes, bakes, biscuits and flapjacks for the Elsevier staff day. A huge thank you to Elsevier and Rhian, as the 1st Stonesfield Group made £500 that Elsevier have matched, totalling a donation of £1,000 towards our Scout Hut build!

Scouts Section Update

On our first weekend back in September, we started with a training camp for the team who are going to CPCW (County Patrol Camping Weekend) competition in October. This month two of our Scouts have moved on to the Hanborough-Freeland Explorer Scouts for 14-18 year

olds, and we welcome several new members moving up from Cubs.

Cubs Section Update

Cubs will be out and about this autumn exploring and navigating our local area, enjoying seasonal produce and sailing homemade rafts along the river.

The 1st Stonesfield Scouts

Jonathan Hands – Group Scout Leader:
gsl@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk

Ben Whitworth – Chair: chair@stonesfield-scouts.org.uk

Stonesfield Tennis Club

As Summer draws to a close so too does the Wychwood League. This is a competition that runs over the Summer involving six clubs: Stonesfield, Ramsden, Charlbury, Chipping Campden, Bourton-on-the-Water and Moreton-in-Marsh. Some clubs were struggling to raise sides which meant not all fixtures were fulfilled and, possibly for the first time ever, a match was postponed because of the heat. Nevertheless, it was a good competition with three clubs challenging strongly for the title for most of the season but ultimately Chipping Campden ran out clear winners of the league with Stonesfield achieving a very creditable second place.

On 11 September four of these clubs gathered at Stonesfield for a very enjoyable end of season one day tournament. The weather was kind and overall standard of tennis good, but no one could match the strength of the two pairs from Moreton-in-Marsh who won over 70% of their games to take the trophy.

That's it for this year regarding matches but we have a great all-weather surface on the courts which means they are playable

throughout the winter so members shouldn't be thinking of hanging up their rackets until the spring.

Andrew Tacon

Stonesfield Sustainability Groups

The Food Group

It has been another busy month for the Food Group! We had a very successful Community Café alongside the Repair Café on 10 September and a trip out to FarmEd to meet with the Kitchen Garden People in Shipton-under-Wychwood.



Fabulous home baking

The Community Café is a real fixture in the month, and well worth a visit, we had real coffee, teas and fantastic home baking in the late morning and then delicious and nutritious soups and breads and savoury scones following by pudding at lunch time. Our aims are so complementary to the Repair Café that we are going to work alongside them at their quarterly events, so watch out for December, March and June dates. We served over 60 very happy customers and raised over £300 which will be going towards relieving food hardship in the village. Many thanks go to helpers Kim, Helen and Claire and to our trusty dishwasher who is becoming a bit of a fixture in his own right!!

Our trip to the Kitchen Garden People was fascinating, as they say themselves " We

Picnic area at the Kitchen Garden People



are the antidote to food miles; hyperlocal salad, fruit and veg, grown following organic principles for great taste and zero waste". We had a tour round the site, saw their 4-year rotation system in action, tasted salad leaves, magnificent tomatoes, spicy broccoli and apples. Dan (Stonesfield's own!) explained how their box system works on a share of produce scheme rather than a set amount through the year as other schemes do. They also supply the café at FarmEd so if you want to try their produce before you buy there is your chance!! Many thanks again to Dan for the tour and do have a look at their volunteer opportunities on Thursdays and Fridays check out their website: www.thekitchengardenpeople.org

The Food Group is starting up again for the year ahead, we have 12 members but would love some more, we are meeting monthly with the first one of the year scheduled for the 27 September, please drop me a line if you would like to get involved in any capacity!! Juliecurrano@gmail.com

Julie Curran

The Environment Group

We are starting to meet again after the summer break to plan our activities for the year ahead. Our two initial aims have been to investigate the health of the river and

organise replanting of the Stonesfield Straight.

Our team of volunteers have been out water sampling on a monthly basis and inputting our information into the Evenlode Catchment Partnership dataset. You will remember last month's infographic on the river showing that over 70% of the water measurements taken along the Evenlode show high levels of phosphates and nitrates which indicates poor water quality. Another grim graphic to have a look at is the interactive sewage map - www.theriverstrust.org/sewage-map - this shows how many spills of untreated sewage there have been into our rivers. Our nearest treatment works are Charlbury, Finstock and Combe. Last year there were 91 sewer storm overflows at these works, resulting in untreated wastewater being released into the Evenlode for a total of 1,115 hours. These spills take place when the sewage system is overwhelmed and are necessary to prevent wastewater backing up into peoples' home and businesses, water companies are issued permits for these spills to enable management of the system. The recent (2021) Government report into the environmental performance of the 9 water and sewage companies in England is scathing, reporting that the performance 'was the worst we have seen for many years' with our own Thames Water rated 2-star out of 4-stars signifying they require 'significant improvement'. What can we do? We are working with the Evenlode Catchment Partnership and Windrush Against Sewage Pollution to understand the condition of our river and take action. If you would like to feel like you are doing something, then come to join us.

Our plans for tree planting are gathering great momentum as you can see on this month's front page of the *Stonesfield Slate* and as part of Big Green week.

We have also been thinking about energy costs as we head into winter. A number of us are keen to explore additional insulation options, wall, roof and loft. Statistics vary but savings on energy bills can be very significant.

We will be contacting contractors in the space to understand how we might improve our energy efficiency. If you are a contractor who does this kind of work, please get in touch. Equally if you are interested in joining us to understand what changes you can make, please do get in touch as we may have more options if we are a sizeable group.

We are starting to meet again, our next meeting will be 11 October, let me know if you want to come along - all welcome.

Julie Curran

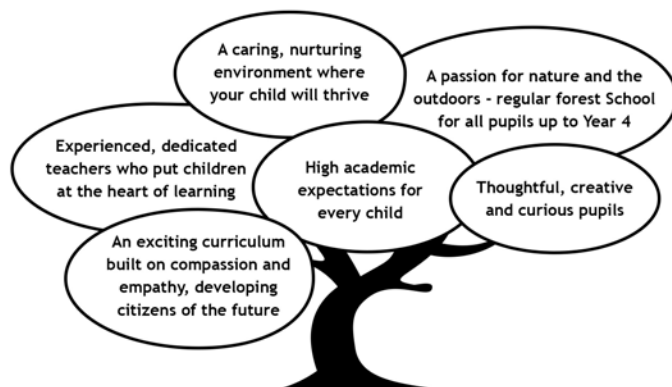
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Tel: 01993 891687

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

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

Church news

Church of England Worship at St James the Great, Stonesfield

(Benefice of Stonesfield with Combe Longa)

www.stonesfieldparishchurch.org

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

Churchwarden: Lindsey Sellar
stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org

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

From the Rector:

Change and Changelessness

As the seasons change and late summer turns to autumn, we wonder, as people always have done, what sort of winter lies ahead. A cold one? One with much needed rains? Or a mild one perhaps? This year we also wonder more than ever about the economic uncertainties: will there be power cuts too, and will our finances hold up? Will the government plans to address the energy crisis protect our business, school, savings, jobs, our children's future, our hopes? There is much uncertainty. There have been big changes in our country this year. A new Prime Minister and a new Cabinet was followed by the death of our much-loved Queen, and a new King on the throne to come to terms with. The future feels so uncertain, and after the turmoil of Covid in the last couple of years and the challenges facing the world, there is little sense of stability.

From a Christian perspective, the life and death and resurrection of Jesus remind us that life can be unpredictable, even for the Son of God. A crowd shouting, 'Hosanna', can quickly become a mob yelling, 'Crucify him'. At the same time, resurrection can also follow tragedy and suffering. Christian faith has at its heart the experience of that man, in whose death and resurrection we see our own lives too. We face many difficulties, but we also hope for the resurrection - the practical resurrection of peace where there was war, and the flowering of justice where there was wrong, as well as a personal resurrection to the eternity of God.

But whatever our experience upon the ever-changing sea of human life, Christian faith asks us to trust in the changelessness of God. More than this, we not only trust in the unchanging being of God, but also draw strength from the unchanging nature of God - which is creativity, love, faithfulness and justice. We trust in a Creator whose holy and eternal being does not change, and whose actions towards us are always consistent and true. Whatever we and our human race have done, God's love towards us will not change. Our prayer, our worship and our support for one another in the fellowship of the church connect us deeply to the unchanging nature of the Holy One, come what may. This autumn and winter, whatever may happen in the wider world, in this country or in our own lives, I commend to you the opportunity to pray, and to join with others in worship too. Whether at the Harvest

Festival service and lunch, Remembrance Sunday, or later services for Advent and Christmas, I welcome you to renew your connection to the changelessness of God.

Rev Ralph Williamson, Rector

Services in October

For the latest information please go to www.stonesfieldparishchurch.org

Sunday 2 October [Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity]

8am Stonesfield Holy Communion [BCP/said]

9.30am Combe All Age Worship

11am Stonesfield Harvest Festival (followed by Bring-and-Share lunch)

Sunday 9 October [Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity]

8am Stonesfield Holy Communion [BCP/said]

11am Combe Harvest Festival

11am Stonesfield Parish Communion

Sunday 16 October [Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity]

8am Stonesfield Holy Communion [BCP/said]

9.30am Combe Parish Communion

11am Stonesfield Parish Communion

Sunday 23 October [Last Sunday after Trinity]

8am Stonesfield Holy Communion [BCP/said]

9.30am Combe Parish Communion

11am Stonesfield Parish Communion

Sunday 30 October [All Saints' Day]

8am Stonesfield Holy Communion [BCP/said]

10am Combe United Benefice Communion

Mondays

8.45-11.30am Monday Coffee in St James' Centre

Tuesdays

8.45-10am Coffee and biscuits in the Reading Room, Combe

Wednesdays

9.30am Stonesfield Holy Communion

11am Combe Morning Prayer (12,26 October)

Date for your November diary:

Thursday 10 November

5-7pm, St James' Centre

Free supper - everyone welcome!

More details next month

Roman Catholic Worship

On judgement (spiritual discernment)

The pope understands that making judgements that stand the test of time, are universally recognised and accepted is ‘demanding’ work of making sound judgments, which, he said, “requires knowledge, experience, emotion, and the will.” Pope Francis goes on to say, “God invites us to evaluate and choose: He created us free and wants us to exercise our freedom. For this reason, discernment is demanding, we have often had this experience: choosing something that seemed good to us and yet was not. Or knowing what our true good was and not choosing it.”

The pope explained that humans, unlike animals, can be unwilling to make the right choices. “The Bible shows this from its very first pages,” he said. “God gives man a precise instruction: if you want to live, if you want to enjoy life, remember that you are a creature, that you are not the criterion of good and evil, and that the choices you make will have a consequence, for you, for others and for the world (cf. Genesis 2:16–17); you can make the earth a magnificent garden or you can make it a desert of death.”

Pope Francis underlined that discernment is ‘indispensable for living.’ He said that it requires both self-knowledge and a filial relationship with God. “Discernment is an important act that concerns everyone, because choices are an essential part of life. One chooses food, clothing, a course of study, a job, a relationship. In all of these, a life project is realized, and so is our relationship with God.”

The pope noted that “great choices can arise from circumstances that at first sight seem secondary, but turn out to be decisive”. He pointed to the example of when Andrew and John first met Jesus and responded to his call, “Come and see.” “Years later, the Evangelist will continue to remember that encounter that changed him forever, and he will even remember the time: ‘It was about four o’clock in the afternoon’ (John 1:39). It is the hour when time and the eternal met in his life”.

We all have decisions to make based on how we formulate our judgements; what’s important is the criteria we use: our spiritual and ethical values, how our conscience directs us and what previous choices we’ve made and how we use our discernment.

Catholic News Agency, Rome, 31 August 2022

Holy Mass

Sunday Mass 9.15am

Weekday Mass times

Monday/Tuesday: 9.30am

Wednesday: 7pm

Thursday: 9.30am

Friday: 9.30am (followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament)

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

The Synodal Pathway

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 progress to date, please see St. Teresa’s website – address 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 to continue 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 can be contacted on: holytrinityrchippy@gmail.com or 01608 642703

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

Roman Catholic Community in Stonesfield

New Church thought

Queen Elizabeth II’s long reign has been honoured by peoples and nations around the world, and rightly so.

In a chapel talk from 2002, Rev W.E.Orthwein mentions some of the things that the late Queen was admired for.

‘Responsibility means responsibility to God and our fellow human beings. Love of the Lord and love of the neighbor -- those two great commandments of the Lord’s Word -- define the essence of our responsibility.

... The very word ‘virtue’ has an old-fashioned ring to it these days. We’re more comfortable talking about ‘values’ now -- a much more malleable, less demanding concept. To our sophisticated ears, the very names of the traditional human virtues sound quaint: Piety. Humility. Courage. Chastity. Honesty. Patriotism. Patience. Industry. Thrift. Self-reliance, and also a willingness to cooperate with others for the benefit of the whole community.’

Though ‘thrift’ and ‘self-reliance’ were not very relevant, I think the Queen exemplified the rest of those qualities.

Thank you, Your Majesty, for everything. ‘Well done, thou good and faithful servant.’

Dale Morris

Stonesfield Methodist Church

Services for October

2 Oct	11am	Eddie Fowler Harvest Service
9 Oct	11am	Ian Prince
16 Oct	11am	The Reverend James Skinner
23 Oct	11am	Keith Crawford
30 Oct	11am	Kath Skinner

Queen Elizabeth II

Feelings of great sadness have gripped us all since the death of our beloved Queen. The enormity of her achievements, her legacy of constantly loving and caring, will forever inspire us and never be forgotten. We thank her deeply.

May she rest in God’s Peace and all those who mourn be comforted.

God bless King Charles III.

Shoe Boxes please!

With the world in such disorder, our emotions are pulled in every direction, and we are constantly reminded of the great need of so many people around the globe.

This month the children's Shoe Box Appeal begins in earnest. A fun filled shoe box brings joy to a life disrupted and insecure, it shows a child that it's thought of and cared about very much.

On Saturday 29 October, at the Methodist Church, between 2-4pm, filled Shoe Boxes can be dropped off, and also any individual items to help fill boxes. Each shoe box needs a special leaflet which includes a label to attach to the box, ideas to fill it and an envelope requesting a small donation towards travel costs.

Boxes and leaflets are available at High St. Methodist Church, Witney, where a Service to bless the box givers and receivers will be held on Monday 14 November at 6 pm. I also have boxes and leaflets available, just get in touch.

The crowds asked him "What then should we do?" He answered, "Whoever has two shirts must share with the one who has none, and whoever has food must do the same."

Luke 3:10-11

Come to a Service soon.

Kathleen Albért (891733)

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(Andrew Tacon; Chairman)

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

Email: stonesfieldtc@gmail.com
Facebook: [@stonesfieldtennisclub](https://www.facebook.com/stonesfieldtennisclub)
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Jameskumar@hotmail.co.uk



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- Want somewhere to entertain?
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BLenheim

In April 2022, we began the first dredge of Queen Pool in over 100 years, removing enough silt over nine months to fill Wembley Stadium to the top! Dredging is the removal of silt from bodies of water. Silt is fine grains of rock, smaller than sand, that build up over time: the water is currently only 30cm deep when it should be around two metres to support the existent ecosystem and the creatures who depend on it. The project is using a wet dredge technique. We have three diggers set on a floating platform which moves slowly across the full surface of the lake, dredging over the course of about nine months. Along with the diggers are six hoppers which go backwards and forwards, bringing the silt from the platform to land. (We had a local competition to name our Hoppers with names such as ‘Reg who likes to Dredge’ and ‘Mallard’ being selected). The removed silt is being relocated up to Great Park, where we are creating a landform (a hill or mound) over 16ha. This land will then be returned to grassland.



BLenheim ESTATE

We’re incredibly excited to announce that we have started a new app project with Natural England, the University of Oxford, Oxfordshire County Council, the Ramblers, Greenspace Hack and Editions Systeme D to explore opportunities for crowdsourcing measurements of path quality.

The app is currently in testing so we are looking for members of the public to use it when they are out and about on walks in the countryside!

Download the app: Path Surveyor (only available on iOS)

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