



Issue No 552 Nov 2024

Calling our Community Champions!



Some of the boxes donated in 2023

We're so very sorry to mention Christmas before Bonfire Night! We seem to start earlier each year, but trust us, it is necessary. We are very aware how difficult things still are this year, with interest rates still high, increases in fuel costs and cuts to fuel allowances affecting many, including households in Stonesfield. So, the pub committee are running the 'Reverse Advent Calendar' initiative again, along with our wider community, to help.

It has been very well received over the last four years and has been simply brilliant to be able to be very generous on your behalf so that no one went without. Any one of us might need support from our village at some point, so we're hoping to encourage as many of you as possible to be community champions again this year.

It's easy to get involved: simply wrap an empty box - ideally in festive paper - leaving the top open. Then use the advent calendar as a shopping list, adding to the box as you go. It's okay to freestyle (they say variety is the spice of life!). Everything helps and is always gratefully received, but please don't include foods and drinks containing nuts or alcohol, and remember food may have to be served cold.

If, as in previous years, we are overwhelmed by your generosity, we may pass any excess parcels to Stonefield Mutual Aid for distribution in January, so long shelf dates on everything would be ideal.

Continued on pages 4 & 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.

Do you want to advertise?

An advertisement in *The Stonesfield Slate* starts from as little as **£3 per month**.

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Any new advertisements, or changes to existing advertisements, should be emailed to **slate-ads@stonesfield.online** **by 10th of the month**.

All advertisements must be **paid for in advance**.

Disclaimer

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

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

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

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

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Current and past copies of the *Slate* are available at www.stonesfield.online

Dates for your diary: November**more details inside**

1	Halloween Party with Sunfly	SSSC	8.30pm
1,8,15,22,29	Seniors Café	The White Horse	3-4pm
1-24	Pictures @ The Pub: Three Artists	The White Horse	pub hours
2	Stonesfield Players' Community Café	Village Hall	10am-12noon
2	Oxfordshire Museum Family Day	Woodstock	12noon-5pm
4,7,11,14,25,28	Taekwondo	Village Hall	5.30-6.30pm
4,11,18,25	Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	10am-12noon
4,11,25	Ladies Only Fitness Group	Village Hall	7-8pm
5	North Leigh History Society talk	NL Memorial Hall	7.30pm
5,12,19,26	Zumba	Village Hall	7-8pm
5,12,19,26	Strong Nation HIIT	Village Hall	8.15 - 9.15pm
5,19	Dominoes	SSSC	8pm
6	Scout Group AGM	Village Hall	6-8pm
6	Parish Council Meeting	Primary School	7pm
6,7,13,14,27,28	Hannah Bathe HIIT Class	Village Hall	7-7.45pm
6,13,27	Gatehouse Pilates	Village Hall	9.30-10.30am
6,13,27	Folk dancing	Village Hall	7:45-10pm
6,20	Quiz nights	SSSC	8pm
7,14,21,28	Book Break	Stonesfield Library	12.30-2pm
7,14,21,28	Thursday Craft Shop	SSSC	6-8pm
7,14,28	Upholstery Class	Village Hall	9.30-12pm
8	Witney Music Soc concert	Methodist Church	7.30pm
8,15,29	Baby & Toddler Group	Village Hall	10-12pm
11	Gardening Club talk	St James' Centre	7.30pm
11	Combe WI	Combe Reading Room	7.30pm
11,25	Drama Club	Village Hall	8-9.30pm
12,26	Stonesfield Social	Village Hall	5-6.30pm
12,26	Board Games Night	The White Horse	7.30pm
16	Methodist Bazaar	St James' Centre	2-4pm
19	Folk Music Session	The White Horse	7.30 for 8pm
21,22,23	Stonesfield Players: Three comedies	Village Hall	8pm
22	The Holdover	Combe Cinema	7.30 for 8pm
25	V Hall Committee Meeting & AGM	Village Hall	6.45-8pm
27	Bingo	SSSC	7.30pm
30	Live music with Mudflap	SSSC	8.30pm

Stonesfield Reverse Advent Calendar

with Stonesfield Community Pub Limited

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Will you be a Stonesfield Community hero?	18 Nov Tea / coffee	19 Nov Toilet rolls	20 Nov Festive biscuits	21 Nov Cereal	22 Nov Tinned potatoes	23 Nov Hot chocolate
24 Nov Gravy granules	25 Nov Tinned fruit	26 Nov UHT milk	27 Nov Crackers	28 Nov Tinned veg	29 Nov Hand soap	30 Nov Tinned hot meal
1 Dec Tinned soup	2 Dec Selection box	3 Dec Tinned custard	4 Dec Baked beans	5 Dec Cake slices	6 Dec Pastin'sauce	7 Dec Hot pudding
8 Dec Tinned meat	9 Dec Tinned fruit	10 Dec Tinned fish	11 Dec Instant mash	12 Dec Jar of jam	13 Dec Long-life juice	14 Dec Festive snacks
15 Dec Parcel delivery	16 Dec Parcel delivery	17 Dec Parcel delivery	18 Dec Parcel delivery	19 Dec Parcel delivery	20 Dec Parcel delivery	21 Dec Parcel delivery

Thank you! It's a difficult time of year for many and your generosity will have made a difference to someone else's Christmas.

We hope you enjoy the festive season.



Notices & news

Calling our Community Champions (from p1)

Those eagle-eyed amongst you will spot that the calendar (p4) starts in November. The parcels distributed via the school and pre-school need to be handed over well before the end of term, so the earlier you can start the better.

Next BIG ask – please could you deliver your completed parcel to The White Horse (7 December onwards), as Craig has very kindly said he will make space to collect them.

We'd love to know if you're taking part so we have a feel for how many parcels may be heading our way, so do drop us a line to susan@backthewhitehorse.com. Likewise, if you are unable to deliver the parcel, please let us know and we'll endeavour to make arrangements for its collection.

And finally, if you need some extra support this Christmas, please look out for the list of who you can contact in the December *Slate*.

Susan Rudlin

Vice Chair

Stonesfield Community Pub Ltd

November Community Café

The Stonesfield Players are running the next Community Café at the Village Hall on Saturday 2 November. Come and join us from 10am till 12 noon for delicious cakes, tea and coffee. Enjoy a relaxing morning and a chance, if you're interested, to find out more about The Stonesfield Players, our Drama Club and the next production. We look forward to seeing you there.

Nicky Holland

Pictures @ The Pub

The current exhibition of work by Claire Brooks (landscape photography), Kerry Burniston (paintings, works on slate and papercraft) and Robin Letchford (watercolours and prints) continues until Sunday 24 November.

Our Midwinter Show will feature work by artists from Stonesfield and neighbouring villages who will offer a variety of 'wall art' for the festive season including smaller pieces, prints and multiples. This opens on Wednesday 27 November and will run until mid-January. We hope to see you there!

Trisha Williams for Pictures @ The Pub
trwynwil003@gmail.com

Claire Renshaw for The White Horse

Village Hall news

This is the final notification for the AGM of the Village Hall Committee that will be on Monday, 25 November at 6.45pm. We have a lovely committee, full of ideas to improve the hall and add to our list of activities, so if you are interested in the community, there is still time to get involved and join us. It's only four meetings a year so requires very little commitment, and we love what new people can bring to our group – all are welcome, so please do get in touch.

We are pleased to announce that the Stonesfield Players have kindly volunteered to run the Community Café on Saturday 2 November. Please go along and support them, as they are also putting on another not-to-be-missed production this month on Thursday 21, Friday 22 and Saturday 23 November, as well as running the Drama Club sessions every other Monday, so we need to show them our appreciation. They are a very busy group at the heart of our community so we are really thankful that they have offered to put on a café for the benefit of the village, and what better way to escape the wet cold weather on a Saturday than with a hot drink and refreshments made for you?

We are also happy to report that Stonesfield Social has made a return in October and will be running at the Village Hall every second and fourth Tuesday, from 5pm to 6.30pm.

Please do get in touch If you want to start a weekly group, or a new activity, and we will try to accommodate you.

Jacqueline Carthew (898919)
Secretary for Stonesfield Village Hall
stonesfieldvh@gmail.com

Bazaar!

It's Methodist Bazaar time! Do come and join this afternoon event at St. James' Centre on Saturday 16 November from 2-4pm. Great stalls will be waiting for you; drinks and cakes too! Donations are always appreciated.

Hope to see you there, all are very welcome.

Kathleen Albért (891733)

Sports & Social Club

With so much happening it's hard to know where to start, so let's start with our new website, www.Stonesfieldsocial.com. Keep up to date with the blog, find our contact details, and keep track of all our events; especially the late notice ones that miss the *Slate*. Let us know if you'd like to be signed up to the newsletter.

Half term is fast approaching and we have lots to keep you and the family busy: children's movie morning, Halloween party, bingo, music from Sunfly as well as our normal regular events including football, pool, dominoes and quiz nights. And remember the pizza van, every Friday at 5.30pm.

Do you want to start your Christmas shopping, or are you a local crafter looking to hold a stall? Through November and December we are going to open space in the club to run a Thursday night pop-up craft shop, for our crafters and village groups to hold stalls. We are looking to have three or four tables a week between 6-8 pm, hopefully making a calm and enjoyable space as well as giving time to talk to stall holders, and order some unique gifts.

We are also looking to book our band dates for next year. We are especially keen to promote our local artists, so please get in touch whether you're just starting out or are old regulars. And we are always happy to support any other event or fundraising ideas.

Save these dates for December:

Saturday 21 December: music from the brilliant Dirty Earth Band from 8.30pm.

Tuesday 31 December: New Year's Eve party from 8pm.

Dates to be confirmed:

- Christmas bingo
- Giant Christmas draw and meat raffle
- Children's party and movie morning,

Thank you for your ongoing support!

From all at SSSC

SSSC in October

- 30 Children's fancy dress party noon-2pm
- 30 Bingo 7.30pm
- 31 Children's movie morning 11am-1pm
- 31 Trick or treaters welcome from 5pm

Repair Café – Advance notice

The next Repair and Community Café will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 7 December 10 am-2 pm.

The repair team can fix, assess and advise on anything you have which doesn't work. Have the moths been eating your jumpers? Have you ripped your jeans without it being a fashion statement? Does that chair wobble every time you sit down? Is your vacuum cleaner gathering dust? Does your computer keep crashing? Then bring them to us.

While you're here and waiting, do stop by the café for tea, coffee, cake or lunch. The community café is open to all on a pay-what-you-feel basis; you don't have to bring an item to repair if you just want to enjoy the food. Lunch is served noon till 2pm, or earlier if we run out.

Muriel Barrett will be joining us in December. She crochets the most beautiful woollen hats from wool remnants that would make a brilliant Christmas present and will be available for you to purchase. Do pop along to see what's available. Muriel is also very happy to teach anyone to crochet, so feel free to bring your hook and wool along too.

Mike Sofroniou

mikesofroniou@gmail.com

White Horse folk returns



Tuesday 15 October was another fantastic evening at the White Horse with the second Folk Night of 2024.

A dozen singers and musicians from Stonesfield, Combe and elsewhere entertained the large audience for over 2 hours.

If you missed it then please come to the next one on Tuesday 19 November (it's every third Tuesday of each month) at 7.30 pm for an 8pm start.

We are delighted to have you there if you want to join in or just listen.

Festive Family Concert – Advance notice

Sunday 15 December 3 pm in St James the Great Church, Stonesfield.

Presented by JARISEL, there will be music and songs from the Ukrainian, Celtic, French, Klezmer, Greek and Latin American traditions... plus a few carols and surprises! Suitable for age seven upwards.

JARISEL is a group of Oxford musicians with a growing reputation. In June 2023 they presented a wonderful concert here to celebrate the church's 800th anniversary. They were recently joined by Natalia, a refugee from Ukraine, whose renditions of Ukrainian songs are heartfelt and beautiful. The music vibrates with colour and imagination, and a variety of instruments (cello, accordion, keyboard, violin, Hardanger fiddle, bodhran, ukulele) as well as vocals.

Tickets are £10; children are free (but everyone needs a ticket) – available from 15 November: either at the church after the 11am service on Sundays, by emailing stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org, by phone to 898757, or on the door if still available.

Lindsey Sellar

Macmillan coffee morning

Thank you to everyone who helped, baked, donated and enjoyed Stonesfield's 2024 Macmillan Coffee Morning, held at St James' Centre on Friday 27 September. Your kindness and generosity raised £1319.50, including online donations, plus Gift Aid contributions, all helping continue to make a big difference for those living with cancer in the UK.

- £44 could pay for 100 copies of 'The Cancer Guide'.
- A £200 Macmillan Grant could help with extra costs that living with cancer can bring.
- £483 could help run the Macmillan Online Community Forum for those affected by cancer.

We had the pleasure this year of being joined by Stonesfield Toddler Group: thank you, Hannah & Topaze, for reaching out and we sincerely hope you will all be at next year's event! Thank you, Ruth, for again accommodating our event at St James' Centre.

Please make a note of next year's date: Friday 26 September 2025. We hope to see you all again, new start time 8.30 - 11am, St James' Centre, to include warm sausage rolls!

Thank you again.



Jane & Stonesfield Macmillan Coffee Morning team

New hair salon coming



As many of you will have already seen, shop 3 at Pendle Court is now under new ownership. The shop will be a hair salon, with a view to adding nail and beauty treatments to the services provided. It is undergoing a full refurbishment and modernisation as the building has been empty and neglected for some time. We hope that everyone will approve of and appreciate the changes we are making, and we apologise in advance for any disruption that may occur during the process.

We are excited to make this area of the village an attractive and useful addition for the local community, and we hope that once open you will come along to take advantage of another village amenity being brought back to good use.

We are in search of reliable and professional stylists, nail technicians and beauty therapists within the hair and beauty industry to join the team on a chair and room rental basis. Experience and an existing client base (that you are looking to expand) are preferable but not essential. If this is you, or you know someone who may be interested, please get in touch for further details.

We hope to see you there soon.

Cheryl & Simon Hitchcox
07884 412534
chitchcox@hotmail.com

Three one-act comedies

The Stonesfield Players' autumn production takes place at the Village Hall on 21, 22 & 23 November at 8pm. This time we are performing three one-act comedies by David Tristram.

Peas

Have you ever joined an online dating agency? Remember those nerve-wracking first dates? The awkward drink in a pub? How bad can it be, after all perhaps you've found Mr or Miss Right? Disco dancing Daisy and celebrity look-a-like Gerry are about to find out. Will they be like peas in a pod or will it turn out to be a total mismatch?

Carrot

A manufacturing company needs to modernise and streamline, or go under. How can the new managing director persuade his shop floor union rep to come on-side with the necessary cutbacks? What carrots can he produce that will induce this long-standing and much respected member of staff to see things his way, and will the staunch union man fall for them?

Late Entry

Sarah Raymond is an actress, with a mission to win a drama festival with her monologue and finally hold a prize in her hands. But will the adjudicator be impressed by her acting? Can she convince him that she is the best in show? Can she overcome her unreliable props, dodgy accents and costume failures to shine above all the rest and deliver that winning speech?

Tickets are £12 and are available from Andrew.tacon@outlook.com, 07795 441986 or from Suriya Express.

The Megalosaurus Society

We were delighted that so many enthusiastic prospective members attended an exploratory meeting of the proposed new local history society on Saturday 5 October.

We summarised the year's events which have led to us being invited by the Oxford University Museum of Natural History to form a society to partner with the Museum's local interests. We also explained the name had been chosen as the Society will owe its existence to the bicentenary celebrations and because Stonesfield is the most significant site in the world as the origin of the first scientifically described dinosaur – Megalosaurus – and also important for a wider range of other Jurassic fossils. The Museum is delighted with the choice of name and will provide us with speakers from time to time.

We invited the views of those present on the frequency of meetings, a wide range of local history topics of interest as well as dinosaurs, membership, and opportunities for fundraising. Over the next month or two, a Committee will be formed comprising Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and other volunteers who will be involved in membership, fundraising, selecting speakers and establishing an annual programme of events.

The Society's year will run from January to December with membership fees (£15 per calendar year) payable in January. In the first instance, we are planning to hold six meetings per year which will be a combination of talks and visits. Meetings will take place on the last Wednesday of the months of January, March, May, July, September and November.

Please get in touch if you are interested in joining the Society or if you'd be able to help us in some capacity. We would love to hear from you!

Viv Kendall (viviennekendall@gmail.com)

Trisha Williams (triywnwil003@gmail.com)

St James' Centre – available for hire

A reminder that St James' Centre (opposite the school) is available for hire – a perfect venue for Christmas events, family gatherings, children's parties, meetings, workshops, fitness groups, fundraising ventures etc.

The Centre offers two light, spacious rooms, with a well-equipped kitchen and beautiful garden. If you would like to have a look round, need further information or wish to book, please email me.

Ruth Sellar

St James' Centre Bookings Administrator
sjcsbookings@gmail.com

Witney Music Society

The next concert in Witney Music Society's new season will be a recital by award-winning pianist Ignas Maknickas. His programme includes works by Schubert, Bortkiewicz and Chopin. The concert is at 7.30 pm on Friday 8 November at High Street Methodist Church, Witney. Tickets (£18, £1 for under 19s) will be available at the door from 7pm or in advance online.

For more information, please phone 01993 898020 or visit the Witney Music Society website: www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk.

Cheers to local food and drink !

Eating locally has a host of positive economic, social and environmental effects; supporting local food businesses leads to strong local economies.



Barley harvesting

Spring barley grown in the fields around Stonesfield is crafted into single malt whisky, with the addition of only two other ingredients: water and yeast. The barley is sown in early spring and harvested in August, by Michael and Philip Green and the team at Akeman Street farm. It then goes to Warminster for craft hand malting, and then onto the Cotswold Distillery near us, which crafts the Cotswolds Single Malt Whisky.

You can hear Michael talk about the barley and why the local limestone soil and climate produces a good barley crop on Youtube at www.m.youtube.com/watch?v=Vt2uJj62kqM

Genny Early

The Holdovers

The Holdovers (subtitled) will be shown on Friday 22 November at Combe Community Cinema, The Hub, Park Road (next to the playing field) on Friday 22 November.

Set in late 1970 and early 1971, it stars a compelling Paul Giamatti as a strict Classics teacher at a New England boarding school who is forced to chaperone a handful of students with nowhere to go over the Christmas break.

‘A captivating blend of comedy and drama that beautifully explores the complexities of human relationships’, this is director Alexander Payne’s finest directoral outing since *Sideways* (2004), with a great 70s soundtrack.

Doors and bar open 7.30pm, screening starts at 8.00 pm. Tickets are £5 on the door.

North Leigh History Society

On 5 November Professor David Griffiths will be talking to us about ‘The Vikings’ in North Leigh Memorial Hall, OX29 6SA at 7.30 pm. Doors open at 7pm).

All are welcome: members pay £20 per year and visitors £4 per talk. Further details are available from Diana Power 882301 or Robert Kyte kyterobert@gmail.com or 880368.

A poster for a fireworks event at The White Horse. The background is blue with colorful fireworks at the top and bottom. The text is white and yellow. It lists the date as Saturday 2nd November from 5.30pm onwards, and lists various food and drink items like burgers, jacket potato, and mulled wine. It also mentions fireworks around 7pm and live music after the fireworks from The Vodka Shots.

FIREWORKS @ THE WHITE HORSE
FOOD, DRINKS & FIREWORKS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
SATURDAY 2ND NOVEMBER
FROM 5.30PM ONWARDS
BURGERS FROM THE BBQ
JACKET POTATO WITH A CHOICE OF FILLINGS (cheese, beans, chilli or chicken curry)
SWEET POTATO WEDGES & BBQ SAUCE
TOMATO SOUP
BONFIRE PEAS
MULLED WINE
HOT CHOCOLATE AND MORE...
FIREWORKS AROUND 7PM
SPARKLERS FOR THE CHILDREN
LIVE MUSIC AFTER THE FIREWORKS FROM
THE VODKA SHOTS
PLAYING BLUESY COOL VIBES

Combe Women's Institute

Jane Abbott is the speaker for our next meeting on Monday 11 November. Her talk, entitled 'A different time and place', is about how Christmas is celebrated in other parts of the world. Jane is an entertaining speaker and we're hoping that she'll get us all in to the Christmas mood.

Members are reminded that our Christmas Charity this year will be the Witney and West Oxfordshire Food Bank. There will be a collection box at the November and December meetings for donations of 'ambient food' – i.e. mince pies, chocolates, nice biscuits, Christmas puddings and any other extra treats.

Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month in the Reading Room, Combe from 7.30-9.30pm. Membership is open to all women over the age of 18. Subscription until the end of the March 2025 is now just £24.00. Guests are charged £5 per meeting (max 3 meetings a year as a guest).

Please call or email me if you would like further information about the WI.

Julia Sharpe (891058)

Secretary Combe WI

combewi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Combe Mill Christmas Fayre

The annual Christmas Fayre will be held at Combe Mill on Sunday 1 December from 11am-4pm. Book a slot at combemill.co.uk for a story and a present for the children from Santa, and browse the Christmas Market stalls for a gift. Also on site will be a barbecue, mulled wine and chestnuts, raffle, tombola and gift shop, and the tea room will be open.

Combe Mill's blacksmiths will be in the forge (and their wrought iron items make great gifts) but the Mill machinery will not be running in steam.

Combe Mill is a late 19th Century restored water mill on the Blenheim Palace Estate, by the River Evenlode.

Dogs on leads are most welcome – entry and car parking are free. Combe Mill cannot be held liable for attractions that cancel.

Combe Mill, OX29 8ET

www.combemill.co.uk

Thames Valley Police meets Neighbourhood Watch



Members of the Thames Valley Neighbourhood Watch Association recently met TVP Superintendent John Batty, Head of Community Policing Command for TVP.

Central to their discussion was the growing relationship between the two organisations with the aim of building safer and stronger communities. The Police view the NHW schemes as key partners in sharing crime prevention messages and keeping people aware of crime in their areas.

Police and community support

Scams and keeping safe

Here are ten golden rules from the Police to prevent fraud:

1. Be suspicious of all offers and deals that are too good to be true.
2. Don't agree to offers or deals immediately - insist on time to get independent or legal advice before making a decision.
3. Don't hand over money or sign anything until you've checked someone's credentials and their company's.
4. Never send money to anyone you don't know or trust, whether in the UK or abroad, or use methods of payment you're not comfortable with.
5. Never give banking or personal details to anyone you don't know or trust. This information is valuable so make sure you protect it.
6. Always log on to a website directly rather than clicking on links in an email.
7. Don't just rely on glowing testimonials. Find solid, independent evidence of a company's success.
8. Always get independent or legal advice if any offer involves money, time or commitment.
9. If you spot a scam or have been scammed, report it and get help.
10. Don't be embarrassed about reporting a scam. Because the scammers are cunning and clever, there is no shame in being deceived. By reporting it, you'll make it more difficult for them to deceive others.

If you think you've uncovered a scam, been targeted by a scam or fallen victim to fraudsters contact Action Fraud on 03001232040 or at Action Fraud website. Call the Police on 101 if you know the suspect or they're still in the area.

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

Woodstock Neighbourhood Police Team

Pension Credit

You may have noticed from last month's *Slate* that many people over the state pension age who are eligible for this additional credit are not applying for it.

You can get more information, and advice as to whether you may be eligible, from West Oxfordshire District Council:

- Paul Ledden – Resident Support Worker – 01993 861077 or email community.support@westoxon.gov.uk
- Sarah Whitcombe – Disabled facilities grants (and blanket testing) Sarah.Whitcombe@publicagroup.uk

Age UK offers information on Pension Credit in its Factsheet 48, which you can see here: www.ageuk.org.uk/globalassets/age-uk/documents/factsheets/fs48_pension_credit_fcs.pdf

Age UK also has a Benefits Calculator to help you find out which benefits you could be entitled to: www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/money-legal/benefits-entitlements/benefits-calculator/ and a free phone number for advice: 0800 678 1602, which is open 8am-7pm, every day of the year.

Politics & local affairs

Stonesfield Parish Council

Decided at the meeting held on 2 October:

Parish Councillor Vacancies: There are two vacancies on the Council, and option to fill them will take place at the Council meeting on 6 November 2024. The Closing date for applications is 30 October 2024. Interested applicants should write to the Clerk at clerk@stonesfieldpc.uk, expressing their interest and giving a little detail about themselves. They must attend the meeting to be considered by vote.

Planning: Councillors discussed two applications, detailed below.

1. Permission in principle for the construction of one dwelling:

Land South of Evenlode Edge Brook Lane
Stonesfield Oxfordshire

Ref. No: 24/02390/PIP – Council objects with the following comment:

The Parish Council objects to the application for the following reasons:

- The proposal is contrary to policy BC1 of the WOLP 2031 which states that proposals for development should be consistent with the strategy which includes conservation and enhancement of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). To grant permission for the proposal would set a precedent for building on the AONB. Any additional building in this area will spread the built environment into the AONB.

- The Stonesfield Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group carried out a survey to inform the plan which included the allocation of this area as green space – 569 residents responded of which 89% agreed or slightly agreed with the designation as green space because of the views over Bagg’s Bottom and the Evenlode Valley. The emerging Neighbourhood Plan should be taken into consideration.
- The area is also a part of the Upper Thames Tributary and an environmentally sensitive area.
- A proposal to build on this area (1980s/1990s) was turned down by both the parish and district councils.

2. Installation of 2 rear AC units, replace existing white PVC cladding to wood composite, change colour of window/door frames and soffits, replace existing white guttering for galvanised steel:

Pendle Court Pond Hill Stonesfield
Oxfordshire OX29 8QN

Ref. No: 24/02178/FUL - Approve

Neighbourhood Plan: SUSTO is looking for new volunteers; the current SUSTO members on the NP Steering Group will be seeing the Neighbourhood Plan through to its completion but are eager for new members to start.

Currently four sections of the Plan had been drafted, and a further 3 would be circulated shortly. There are 30 policies in the Plan, with 26 written, the remaining 4

are connected to the Village Character Assessment. The draft for this has now been received and the volunteers involved with writing those policies are looking at it.

The local green spaces are being considered; each one is being assessed using the Cotswold District Council toolkit. This is a lengthy process, taking circa 45 minutes per green space.

When all the PC members have read the draft and fed back in January, the aim is to get the plan signed off at the 4 Feb 2025 Parish Council meeting, triggering the Regulation 14 process. All administration of setting up, facilitating and processing feedback of the Regulation 14 consultation must come back to the PC. This will require more hours required for the Clerk.

The proposed Reg 14 start date is 14 Feb 2025, for a minimum of 6 weeks' public consultation. This will include hosting an exhibition with the highlights and summary of the draft, and refreshments.

All the above is subject to the West Oxfordshire District's Local Plan (2031). It was confirmed that the drafted plan conforms with the current Local Plan and will consider any changes in the new Local Plan (2041). Cllr Genny Early noted that WODC have notified an update on the timetable of the plan in November 24.

The Common: Pollarding of willows will be done around March - April 2025. There are 12 in total, six were pollarded last year.

Fencing around the alder trees before cattle arrive – this is currently delayed due to flooding.

Communication: Cllr Jess Huband has opened up communications with Blenheim Palace and she will be having regular

meetings with Merilyn Davies of the Palace, where she will voice residents' concerns directly. Any responses received will be reported back to residents.

Next Council Meeting: 6 November 2024 at 7pm in Stonesfield Primary School.

Cherie Carruthers

Locum Clerk and RFO, Stonesfield Parish Council

rfo@stonesfieldpc.uk

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Stonesfield Neighbourhood Plan

The Steering Group has been working hard over the last couple of months, building key policies and aims into the body of the Plan. These are based on the results of the survey we carried out last year, and will reflect your opinions and priorities as expressed in the answers to those questions. But they must conform to local and national planning policies, and we have been at pains to make sure they do.

One of the challenges we face is ensuring they conform to the policies laid down in the Local Plan. The current Local Plan is nearing the end of its term (2031), and WODC is working on its new Plan that will be in force until 2041. When WODC has a draft Local Plan for 2041, they will submit it for public consultation, probably early in 2025. We will check the policies we have drafted in our Neighbourhood Plan to see if they conform with the new Local Plan. If they don't, we will have to re-draft them.

Subject to the above, we expect our draft Neighbourhood Plan to be available for the public to read in early 2025. It goes first of all to the Parish Council for their approval, and then to the whole village for public

consultation, probably as a display in the village hall over a couple of days, with a copy of the full Plan available online and as a hard copy in the library.

Caroline Friend
info@stonesfieldplan.com

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From our District Councillor

Climate Action Fund Scheme

4 November Deadline

West Oxfordshire District Council has launched its new Climate Action Fund grant scheme, designed to help small and medium-sized businesses in the district to reduce their carbon footprint and become more climate resilient. Supported by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF), the scheme offers financial backing for capital projects that promote sustainability.

The scheme offers grants ranging from £10,000 to £20,000 for capital projects that promote sustainability, cut energy use, reduce costs, and deliver lasting environmental benefits, such as making buildings more energy efficient or installing renewable energy systems like solar panels.

The Climate Action Fund is open to small and medium-sized businesses across West Oxfordshire, including those from the farming and agricultural sectors. Eligible projects must focus on capital improvements that promote sustainability. Examples include:

- Retrofitting buildings for improved energy efficiency, such as insulation, low-carbon heating, and smart energy controls.

- Installing renewable energy systems, including solar panels and battery storage.
- Supporting the transition to electric vehicles through the installation of EV chargers.
- Purchasing equipment to enhance waste reduction and recycling efforts.
- Implementing green infrastructure like living walls, green roofs, or water conservation systems.

Applications for the scheme are open, and businesses are encouraged to submit their proposals by Monday 4 November 2024, with all successful projects to be completed by 28 February 2025. For more information, including guidance on eligibility and how to apply, visit www.westoxon.gov.uk/business-and-licensing/business-support-and-advice/finance-and-funding/

Genny Early
genny.early@westoxon.gov.uk

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News from West Oxfordshire

Air quality

Air quality in West Oxfordshire has improved significantly since 2005 when air quality management areas were declared for Witney and Chipping Norton. The District Council has now approved a new air quality action plan setting out current and future measures for the Council and its partners. This will include plans to improve access to walking, cycling and public transport in those towns where nitrogen dioxide levels were historically high – all measures to improve public health. The Plan will also investigate installing sensors to detect fine particulate pollutants in the air, which are increasingly

linked to respiratory and heart conditions. Air pollution particularly affects children and older people.

The Covid pandemic resulted in a significant fall in the level of nitrogen dioxide concentration, due to the sharp decrease in car use. Since restrictions were lifted toward the end of 2021, nitrogen dioxide concentrations rose but not to pre-pandemic levels. The continuing downward trend is thought to be due partly to people continuing to work from home, and partly to the increasing uptake of low-emission and ultra-low-emission vehicles.

From our County Council

Trading Standards warning

In the wake of flooding and wind damage to properties, Oxfordshire County Council's trading standards team has warned people not to agree to offers of building work, home repairs or maintenance that come from a cold call.

They advise not to be afraid to say no, not to be pressurised into a quick decision and to check with others if the work really is required and what would be a fair price. People should also check first whether their insurance covers emergency assistance as most insurance companies will appoint their own tradespeople to carry out the work. If it is not covered by insurance, it might be tempting to hire the first person who offers to fix flood damage, but still it is strongly recommended to avoid door-to-door offers and to get alternative quotes from reputable traders. Cold callers may offer low prices but are likely to demand more money later, and can even be offering to do work that is completely unnecessary.

To find local traders who have been vetted and approved by trading standards, go to www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk. For gas work look at www.gassaferegister.co.uk and for electrical work go to www.electricalcompetentperson.co.uk. If you have any concerns about cold calling or potential scams, or want some pre-contract advice, contact the Citizens Advice National Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133 or citizensadvice.org.uk.

From our MP



I have been your new MP for Bicester and Woodstock for just over three months now, and it has been both busy and challenging! Like any new job, there is a lot to learn. Unlike most new jobs, you start from scratch. Thank you to everyone who has shown forbearance as I have set up an office and recruited a team so that we can aim to offer a high standard of support to our community. I am holding weekly surgeries in locations across the constituency, so if there are issues you want to raise with me, please do get in touch.

I have been focused on using every opportunity to raise issues in Parliament that I know are important to residents in the constituency. For example, raising sewage dumping in Combe at Prime Minister's Questions or voting to oppose

the removal of the winter fuel allowance and voting to remove the two-child benefit cap.

I have made sure that every second I get in Parliament is used to fight for issues that you tell me you care about the most. As promised in my campaign, there are some key issues I am particularly working on. I have regularly campaigned against the closure of the London Road rail crossing and have writing to the rail minister asking for further clarification; I have consistently opposed the reopening and expansion of Campsfield House, writing to the Home Secretary that she engage with local residents and I have opposed Botley West Solar Plant due to the sheer scale and lack of engagement with constituents. In Kidlington, I am keeping a close eye on the plans for the proposed Oxford United stadium progress to ensure the club delivers detailed proposals that address the concerns of residents.



It has been a pleasure to attend a variety of events across the constituency, including speaking at Bicester Pride, dropping in at Woodstock's Mock Mayor event, watching Kidlington in their FA cup tie and meeting with local campaign groups to discuss water quality in the River Evenlode.

I have also held a dozen successful constituency drop-ins, where it was a pleasure to discuss a wide variety of issues with residents in many venues across the constituency. I plan to continue this so keep an eye out for any future dates near you!

And finally, if you need help or have a query, please feel free to email me at calum.miller.mp@parliament.uk and we will be in touch. It has been an honour to serve you and our community so far, and I look forward to continuing working together to advance the interests of an amazing area.

Calum Miller

calum.miller.mp@parliament.uk

Education, culture & more

Stonesfield Library

The Library (telephone 898187) is open as follows:

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

Val Phillips. (891455)

Friends of Stonesfield Library

Home Library Service

The Home Library Service is free and there is no charge for requests or late returns. To register for this service or for further information, telephone your local library or the Home Library Service on 01865 810259, or email homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Deborah Wilson (898187)

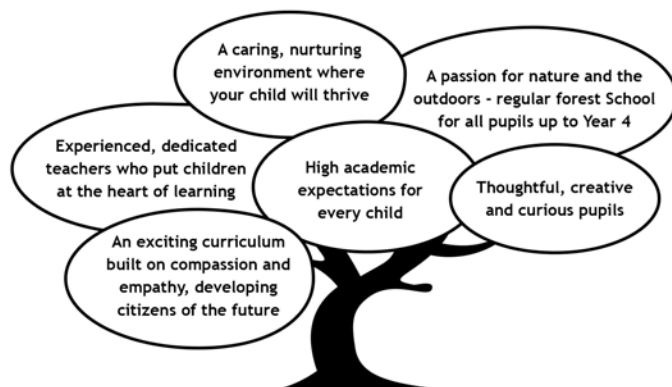
Library Manager

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, please contact the school office.

Tel: 01993 891687

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

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

Nature notes

A successful swift season

While swift colony success can vary both locally and nationally, this year was a very good year for Stonesfield at least, with a minimum of 18 nests located. These varied from established breeders to first-time prospectors that claimed sites for next year.



Swift looking out of swift brick

Both boxes and bricks were also looked at with the birds not entering, which is all part of the process.



One of the swift boxes put up by Paul Wren

On the outskirts of the village there is a very good chance of a colony forming with at least two of the ten nest sites taken quickly and plenty of swift activity. These were all the owners' own work and it shows what can be done with a provided call and effort – a brilliant achievement.

Pleasingly there are over 50 nest sites installed in the village now, so they've plenty to choose from. With swift conservation, the starting point is retaining what nest sites we have and building from there. In the last few years in Stonesfield we've done that.



Migrating swifts

Swifts should now be around the Congo basin area starting their winter where they can range widely, visiting several countries. It will seem like a long wait for their return to Stonesfield in early May.

Paul Wren

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, if you need them.

Please call or email to book transport in November:

Amanda Peters 01993 891947 or stonesfieldvts@gmail.com

Clubs, societies & sport

Stonesfield Scouts

1st Stonesfield Scout Group has been busy these autumn months. Alongside our usual evenings of fire-making, camp craft and nature walks, we have also been on a very successful group camp to Youlbury Scout Camp. Thirty-four young people camped in the cool evenings and took part in archery, zip wires, crate stacking and a host of other activities. The Cubs taught the Scouts and Beavers how to make key ring fobs, and the Scouts led the younger members of the group on tracking and orienteering. It was particularly nice to see the scout 'families' where the different aged members of the group were mixed together, with the older ones looking after the younger ones. The orienteering was a highlight as they all came back! The nights were a little chilly, but the fires and songs warmed us up. We would like to thank all the parents and carers of those who came to help set up and clear the camp, as well as for cooking for everyone.

The Hut keeps on going up, but various issues with the weather and materials have caused progress to slow a little. That said, at the time of writing, we have the makings of a roof and we look set to be out of the wet sometime in the New Year. Keep your eyes peeled for a DIY SOS weekend (or two).

We are really grateful for lots of ongoing community support, but a special mention has to go to the Stonesfield Community Trust for their generous donation of £5000. It is so great to have the backing of

local groups and societies. As we get further along, we will look for other opportunities to share this wonderful resource. If you know of any company or charity who may want to help us out, please send them our way.



Finally, we are preparing for Christmas! Santa and his sleigh will be in the village on Thursday 12th December, followed by our Xmas Bingo on Friday 13 December. Please keep these dates free and join us for some festive fun.

If you are interested in learning a new skill, being trained in an outdoor activity or helping out with our wonderful group then please get in contact with us. Go to stonesfield-scouts.org.uk for all the details.

Ben Whitworth

Stonesfield Gardening Club

One of the many Harcourt peacocks



Last month we had a club visit to Harcourt Arboretum, outpost of the Oxford Botanic Garden. Lauren Baker, educational officer, who also happens to be a club committee member, took us on a 2 hour walk round the arboretum, chatting about all the wonderful trees and fungi to be seen at this time of the year.



Lauren showing us a Wollemi Pine

The Wollemi Pines were of great interest, as they are known as 'fossil species'. Once thought extinct, a few of these trees were found in a valley in Australia in the 1980s, so seeds and cones were sent abroad to botanic gardens to ensure that more were grown. The ones at Harcourt come from Westonbirt Arboretum and are doing well; one large specimen and a new introduction of six more, very healthy looking trees.

The autumn colours were just beginning to show when we were there, and we made note to go back in the spring for the

bluebells, and in June for the wildflower meadow. A lovely place to visit, and not far away.

Our meeting on Monday 11 November at 7.30 in the St James' Centre will be a talk on 'A Bulb for Every Month of the Year' by Adam Kirkland. He promises that he will bring along bulbs for sale, so a good chance to get in supplies.

Happy gardening

Diane Bates

Secretary Stonesfield Gardening Club

www.stonesfieldgardening.info

Stonesfield Community Orchard

What a meadow we have.



Wild Basil on the meadow

This photo (check it out in colour on the village website) has a wild basil in flower with numerous different flowers and grasses surrounding it. No wonder we have agreed with The Trust for Oxfordshire

Environment and Wild Oxfordshire that it is better not to plant trees on the site and that we should manage the site for the current flora and wildlife. They are generously supporting us to develop a five-year management plan for the site and hopefully the surrounding glebe land. We are really pleased that we have someone from the village who has joined us for work experience as we start the detailed work and a particular focus will be on the glow-worms and their management within the site.

You guessed it. We are looking for a new site for the orchard trees.

Does anyone have a site or know of a site that could have a community orchard?

Ideally the grafted trees, that are all doing well, should be planted this year but they can wait a year while we find a site.

John Sampson

John.sampson9@btinternet.com

Stonesfield Food Group

Emergency Food help

One of the aims of the Food Group is to support Stonesfield residents who are struggling to afford nourishing food. We are able to do this using the funds raised by the Community Cafés run alongside the Repair Café, and through other generous donations.

We are currently able to offer food parcels or emergency supermarket vouchers. If you, or someone you know, could benefit, contact Kate Harris, on 01993 898781 or via email at kateharris58@yahoo.co.uk.

If you are able to, you can support the food parcel initiative by donating tinned meat pies, hotdogs, meatballs, chicken, or ham.

They can be left in the brown box on the doorstep of 6 Brook Lane.

Seniors' Café

This friendly and welcoming event is now running every Tuesday at the pub, 3-4pm, with free tea, coffee and cake. Craig and Barbara are really enjoying being able to host this regular slot at The White Horse and look forward to seeing you there. Remember this is open to any 'Senior' in the village – we'd love to see you there!

The Stonesfield Social

This is now taking place every fortnight at the Village Hall on alternate Tuesdays. The remaining dates for this year are as follows: 5, 19 November, 3 December. Doors open at 5pm and we serve until 6.30pm. There will be a hot home-cooked first course (meat or veggie) and a pudding. We also try to rustle up a salad or some crudités and fruit to get your five a day!

Everyone is most welcome; we are grant- and community-funded so we do not need to charge! Our social seating means there is always someone new to dine with and your families, neighbours and friends are all very welcome. There's always someone you know there.

We run a creative craft activity for our younger guests – check out our Facebook page for giant caterpillars and hedgehogs... We source as much of our food free of charge from the Oxford Food Hub, so we are saving all this delicious food from going to waste and doing good for the planet at the same time.

At this point we think we may run a takeaway service on the weeks we are not sitting down to eat...probably through

December and January but again, check our Facebook page for details.

If you would like to join our team and help in the kitchen with serving, clearing, washing up etc (lots of banter!), or take a turn at cooking (advice, training, support etc all available), please get in touch; write to us at hatsoffstudios2@gmail.com.

Julie Curran (07973 730907)

Stonesfield Environment Group

We are holding our AGM and regular meeting on 6 November. There is a full agenda to cover tree planting, water and riverfly sampling, our river campaign and plans for the year ahead. It's a great opportunity to come and hear what we are doing and get involved as much or as little as you like.

Let me know if you would like to attend.

Julie Curran
Juliecurran0@gmail.com

Stonesfield Football Club

The season is now well under way and both our teams are hurtling into games and doing well. So, no messing about this month, let's get straight into it! The Firsts are now in fourth place, on 7 points from 3 games, having won both league games this month. There was an easy win away at Tower Hill (0-6) then a fabulous win (2-1) at home against local rivals Charlbury, with spectacular goals from Jack Newman and Louis O'Keefe, sending the home fans to the Social Club bar in a jubilant mood at the end. They then travelled to Hatherop, in The Fred Ford Trophy, and progressed to the second round (0-3) following a bad tempered, unpleasant affair with a home

player red-carded and 4 of our boys seeing yellow. All things considered; our lads can be reasonably happy at their start to the current campaign.

A reasonably good month for the Reserves sees them sitting in fifth place in the league, with 8 points from 5 games. A disappointing draw away at Leafield (2-2), was followed by a great win at home, in a nine-goal thriller (6-3), against Eynsham. The away loss which followed against a very strong and experienced Charlbury team (5-1) was disappointing, but no disgrace. The boys then bounced back in brilliant fashion, winning against Uffington Utd (4-2). The Reserves now have a good foundation to build on, and I think they'll have another good season.

Last month the Fredo Committee had been crying out for a hero to emerge from the pack, and while there have been spectacular single and double goal efforts, nobody has surpassed young Marko Babic's four-goal extravaganza against Eynsham for the Reserves. A stunning performance and a worthy winner of the season's first Fredo Award. It's always great to see one of the youngsters produce the goods in a big match – so step forward Marko, the Fredo is all yours!

Tom Flanigan (891979)

Church news

Church of England Worship at St James the Great, Stonesfield

(Benefice of Stonesfield with Combe Longa)

www.stonesfieldparishchurch.org

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

Churchwarden: Lindsey Sellar
stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org

St James' Centre bookings:
sjcsbookings@gmail.com

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

From the Rector - Past and Present

This month begins dramatically for the church with the Feast of All Saints on the First of November. Once known as 'All Hallows' it follows the Eve of All Hallows, which has become the secular Halloween. All Saints recognises that the church is made up not only of people who are alive and worship God today, but also of people who have followed the way of Christ in the past, and are now part of the church in heaven (however we might understand it). Celebrations of the lives of those who had been martyred for their faith in times of persecution took place from the 4th century onwards, usually around Easter. But churches in Britain celebrated the lives of 'the faithful departed' on the first day of November, and in the 9th Century this date was adopted by Pope Gregory IV for the whole of the Western church. For me, All

Saints Day, which we celebrate here as All Saints Sunday (on 3 November this year), is a chance to recognise the preciousness of all human life. Those whom the church officially calls 'saints' offer us a beacon of inspiration and encouragement, as they lived out Christ's command to 'love one another, as I have loved you'. But they also serve as a reminder of the love, faith and generosity of people today.

If you were to make a list of saints today, who would you include? As a young man I was inspired by learning about 20th Century 'saints', and I have been moved by the memorial to ten 'Modern Martyrs' in Westminster Abbey. This includes Maximilian Kolbe who offered his own life to save a fellow prisoner in the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp; Manche Masemola, a young woman murdered for her faith by her own parents in South Africa; Dr Martin Luther King, the murdered US civil rights leader; Esther John, a young woman in Pakistan who lost her life for her faith; and Oscar Romero, the Archbishop of El Salvador, assassinated at the altar in a hospital chapel for his work on behalf of the poor.

Not all saints are martyrs, and not all Christians feel (or look) saintly, but God calls each of us to live out the command to love. In my work I meet so many people who do exactly that, and this month we remember both the living and the departed who have made God's love present for us and for others. Services to remember the departed, those whom we love but see no

longer, are held at St Laurence, Combe, at 5pm on 3 November, and St James the Great, Stonesfield, at 5pm on 10 November. Services to remember those who gave their lives in two world wars are held on Remembrance Sunday, 10 November at 10am in each church, and 10.45am at our War Memorials. Services to celebrate the love of God and the life which we share today are held every week, and everyone is always welcome.

Revd Ralph Williamson - Rector

Church services

Sunday 3 November [All Saints]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Combe	All Age Worship
11am	Stonesfield	All Age Worship
5pm	Combe	Thanksgiving service for the departed

Sunday 10 November [Remembrance Sunday]

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
10am	Combe	Remembrance Service followed by War Memorial at 10.45am
10am	Stonesfield	Remembrance Service followed by War Memorial at 10.45am
5pm	Stonesfield	Thanksgiving service for the departed

Sunday 17 November [Second Sunday before Advent]

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

Sunday 24 November [Christ the King]

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

Sunday 1st December [Advent Sunday]

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

Come and enjoy making a Christingle (with orange, candle, red ribbon and sweets), as we look forward to Christmas!

Wednesdays

9.30am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion (every week)
11am	Combe	Morning Prayer (6,20 November)

Roman Catholic Worship

On being humble

We are encouraged to be confident, assertive, to 'speak up for oneself', to 'speak one's mind', to 'say what you think': all positive behaviours that may support us through life. But what about humility, the quality of demonstrating humbleness? We are told that humility is 'the feeling or attitude that you have no special importance that makes you better than others; lack of pride' (Google Word Search), which in our age of self-promotion seems unappealing. Especially when you consider that humble is seen as 'having or showing a modest or low estimate of one's importance'; in other words: not worth noticing.

However, there is another perspective we could consider, that as modelled by Jesus:

'Have this mind among yourselves, which was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.'

Philippians 5: 2-8

Matthew 23: 2-7 tells us 'Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted'.

With Christmas now not so far away and with Advent nearly upon us, it's a powerful time to think about that Son of God who chose to be born in a stable and to lead a humble life, with the ultimate humiliation of dying a criminal's death. We could re-evaluate what humility can mean to us now in our modern lives, and how, without

abnegating ourselves, we can rethink the meaning of humility in our lives by how we value others.

Holy Mass

Sunday 9.15am

Wednesday and Friday 9.15am

St Teresa's Christmas Carol Service:
Sunday 15 December, 3pm St Teresa's Church, Charlbury

For Parish updates, more information and further support, please go to www.stteresaschurch-charlbury.com/ or contact Fr. Clive Dytor, Parish Priest: fr.clive.dytor@rcaob.org.uk.

Roman Catholic Community in Stonesfield

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Stonesfield Methodist Church

Services for November

Sun 3	11am	Richard Bowler
Sun 10	10.45am	Village Remembrance Service at the Memorial
Sun 17	11am	The Reverend Stephen Bywaters Holy Communion Service
Sun 24	11am	David Sarbutts

Are you a film buff?

I love my trips to the cinema; recently though, one proved disturbing. It was the true story of a female photographer, capturing scenes of the worst kind during World War II. What the girl saw affected her very much and she fought to share her photos worldwide, seeking swift compassionate action.

Help did come: together with God's hope, numbers of good caring people came forward to do all they could for the dejected, crushed survivors, with no thought of themselves. More dear folk are needed in the same way today, as damaged parts of our world grow.

November is a time of remembrance for so many, past and present.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.’
Matthew 5:6

Come to a service soon

Kathleen Albért (891733)
k.m.albert14@gmail.com

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STONESFIELD LUNCH CLUB

Stonesfield Lunch Club meets every Weds 11 till 2 (for members) at the St James' Centre.

Lunch Club provides a social occasion, friendship and support for our more mature residents along with refreshments, activities and a freshly cooked 2-course meal each week.

Volunteers are always welcomed for many roles and this is a lovely way to be involved in village life. Contact me if you would like more information on becoming a member or in volunteering.

Kate Harris 01993 898781 or kateharris58@yahoo.co.uk

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New lessons developed to be fun and informative for ages 5-17.

Stonesfield Village Hall

Mon and Thur: 5.30-6.30pm

****Come and try a complimentary session****

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James Kumar CRB vetted

Further information, contact James
01865 772883 07788 583 965
Jameskumar@hotmail.co.uk

Stonesfield Tennis Club

The club was established over 100 years ago with membership open to all at very competitive subscription rates. The two astro-turf tennis courts were re-laid in 2018 and are in excellent condition with plenty of court availability.

Phone: 07795 441986
(Andrew Tacon; Chairman)

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

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

Hannah Bathe Fitness

Ladies only Fitness classes

Stonesfield Village Hall

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 7pm

**Basic level of fitness needed,
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- Looking to improve your outside space but stuck for ideas on how to make the most of it?
- Want somewhere to entertain?
- A space for your children to play?
- Or maybe you just need a quiet place to relax, a calming, scented corner, just for you?



I can provide a full garden design, planting plans or a simple garden report - some ideas of how you could best use your outdoor space and the types of plants that you like and would suit the environment.

CONTACT LORRAINE:

lorraine@cotswoldgardendesigner.co.uk
 07516262560
www.cotswoldgardendesigner.co.uk



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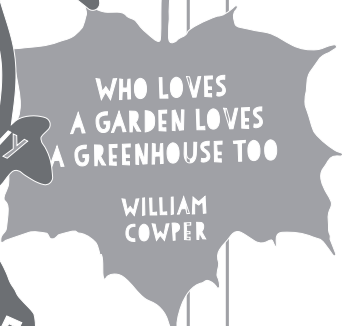
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