



## Forward to school



**From the new Executive Head:** I hope you're all enjoying this beautiful summer weather. As I sit in my home office, listening to the joyful sounds of children playing in the local park and the gentle birdsong in my garden, I'm reminded of how important it is to find moments of peace and reflection – especially after a busy school term.

People often ask me what it's like to be a headteacher. They expect a sweeping answer – something about vision, strategy, leading learning, and driving standards. And yes, those things do matter. But here's the secret: they're not what keep me going.

What truly sustains me are the tiny triumphs – the small, unplanned, often fleeting moments that remind me why I do this strange, relentless, joyful job. These are the

moments that don't show up in a self-evaluation form or a data dashboard. They're the moments that no one outside school might notice, but they fill me up enough to return year after year.

Just the other day, while walking around Blenheim, a young girl appeared beside me. She looked up thoughtfully and said, with complete sincerity, 'I like your grey hair. Makes you look clever, and I can't wait for you to be our new headteacher at Stonesfield School.' Then she skipped off, completely unaware that she had made my day with just a few words.

It's these moments that make life beautiful.

Cont p17



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or contact the Editor by phone.

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## Dates for your diary: September

1,8,15,22,29	Postnatal Yoga	Village Hall	10-11.15am
1,4,8,11,15	Taekwondo	Village Hall	5.30-6.30pm
1,8,15,22,29	Bump & Me Yoga	Village Hall	7-8pm
1,8,15,22,29	HIIT Class	Village Hall	7-7.45pm
1,8,15,22,29	Monday Coffee	St James' Centre	10-11.30am
2,9,16,23,30	Zumba	Village Hall	7-8pm
3	Parish Council meeting	Primary School	7pm
3-30	P@TP: <i>Celebrating Stonesfield</i>	The White Horse	pub hours
3,10,17,24	Pilates	Village Hall	9.30-10.45am
3,10,17,24	HIIT Class	Village Hall	7-7.45pm
3,10,17,24	Folk Dancing	Village Hall	7.45-10pm
4,11,18,25	Upholstery Group	Village Hall	9.30am-12.30pm
4,11,18,25	Strength & Conditioning	Village Hall	7-7.45pm
5,12,19,26	Baby & Toddlers	Village Hall	10am-noon
5	Presentation of <i>Megalosaurus</i> poem	The White Horse	1.45-2pm
6	Stonesfield Players Social Play	Square Cottage (p23)	7.30pm
6	Repair and Community Café	Village Hall	10am-2pm
7	Afternoon Tea for Cystic Fibrosis	Combe Reading Room	2-5pm
8	Gardening Club Talk	St James' Centre	7.30pm
9,16,23,30	Stonesfield Social	Village Hall	5-6.30pm
11,18,25	Book Break	Stonesfield Library	12.30-2.00
13	Drop in Day	Methodist Ch	10.30am-12.30pm
13	Bike night	SSSC	2pm till late
16	Bingo	SSSC	eyes down 7pm
18,22,25,29	Taekwondo	Village Hall	5.30-6.30pm
20,21	Roman Villa Open Day	North Leigh	11am-5pm
25	<i>Thinking of taking part in ArtWeeks?</i> Zoom (p29)		7pm
26	Macmillan Coffee Morning	St James' Centre	8.45-11.45am
27	Music from <i>Country Resurrection</i>	SSSC	8pm
27	Men's Walk and Talk	St James' Centre (meet)	10am
27	Combe WI Coffee Morning	Combe Reading Room	10.30am

## October

3	Harvest Quiz Night	St James' Centre	6pm
29	FoSL Library Volunteers Meeting	SSSC	7pm



# Notices & news

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## John Clifford

We would like to thank everyone for their kind cards of sympathy after the sad passing of John on 12 June 2025, aged 95.

Heather Clifford & Family

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## Pictures @ The Pub

We hope everyone managed to view the exhibition by members of the Evenlode Textile Group. The members felt it was a great success and are delighted to have received some very appreciative comments about their work, along with invitations to exhibit their work at other venues.

As mentioned last month, we have now mounted our special exhibition *Celebrating Stonesfield* which will run until mid-October. The exhibits reflect the landscape, life and history of the village expressed through the arts including poetry, graphic design, photography, nature notes, books, paintings, prints, literary extracts, textile art and mixed media work.

Grateful thanks to all who have played a part in this show, whether creating new work topical to Stonesfield, loaning pieces from their collection or reproducing documents from the dim and distant past. The exhibition is all the richer for your efforts and could not have been achieved without you!

Trisha Williams for Pictures @ The Pub  
(triwynwil003@gmail.com)

Claire Renshaw for The White Horse  
Community Pub

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## Village Hall news

After a not so quiet summer, we are back in full swing with all our weekly classes and a couple of new ones. Welcome to Postnatal Yoga and Bump & Me Yoga both on Mondays in our Club Room, and Hannah Bathe Fitness is also expanding to include Circuits and Strength & Conditioning classes. September also sees the return of the Repair Café on the 6th.

Claire Renshaw (07359 338490)

Stonesfield Village Hall Booking

info@stonesfieldvillagehall.com

www.stonesfieldvillagehall.com

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## Harvest Quiz Night

### Friday 3 October

It is time for another evening of fun and good company! Come and join in our Harvest Quiz Night at St James' Centre at 6pm. Bring your family, friends, or come on your own - everyone is very welcome. Buffet supper at half time - all free of charge.

It would be helpful to have an indication of numbers, so if you know you would like to come, please contact me.

Lindsey Sellar, Churchwarden (898757)

stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org

## Baby sitting and dog walking

Any day except Saturdays. £10 per hour

**Tristan Lonsdale**

(Year 12 Marlborough School)

tol08@icloud.com 07858 587149



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## **Monday Coffee at St James' Centre**

Please note that our times of serving free coffee are changing from 1 September. We shall still begin at 10am but shall cease service at 11.30am. Monday Coffee is free to all, served by volunteers, and provided by Saint James the Great, Parish church of Stonesfield. Why not call in for coffee, conversation and friendship? We would love to meet you!

Margaret Hill

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## **Macmillan Coffee Morning Friday 26 September**

Please save the date for Stonesfield's 2025 Macmillan Coffee Morning, 8.45-11.45 at St James' Centre, High Street, OX29 8PU.

As always, there will be plenty of cake, tea, coffee, everyone's-a-winner bottle stall, good company, and this year, warm sausage rolls while stocks last!

We hope to see you there for another morning of fun and fundraising for this incredible cause. If you would like to donate a bottle or cake, please drop off at Wellswood, Churchfields or bring along as early as possible on the day.

Stonesfield Macmillan Coffee Morning Team

**MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**



## **Repair and Community Café**

**Saturday 6 September 10am-2pm**

We will be doing all our usual repairs this month including bicycle maintenance and repairs, furniture, fabric as well as sharpening and electrical appliances.

Let us know what you are bringing at [stonesfieldrepaircafe.com](http://stonesfieldrepaircafe.com) and remember to bring any accessories if necessary. For instance if you are bringing a CD player do not forget the power cable and a CD or a light bulb if you are bringing a lamp, otherwise we cannot see whether it works. For bikes, bring any spare parts which may be needed.

The Community Café will run in parallel providing a surprisingly wide range of delicious cakes and refreshments from 10am and a selection of soups and breads from 12noon. It is very friendly and sociable and a chance to chat with friends and get to know new people in the village. It all runs by donations and the proceeds go to help village causes.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Susan Rudlin and Mike Sofroniou  
07530 958111 (Mike)



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## Blooming Baskets!

If you have been near the local shop during the past few weeks, I am sure you will have noticed the beautiful tub and hanging baskets in the area.



This astonishing work has been created by our local horticulturalist, Zac Saifurrahman of Stonesfield Horticultural Services. The hanging baskets were commissioned by Cheryl at the hairdressers, and the huge tub was a special creation by Zac in memory of his mother – Christine Saifurrahman.



Thanks to him for brightening up the area so beautifully, and possibly you might like some of your own next year? (zac@sshort.co.uk). I just felt I had to show some appreciation as they are so beautiful.

Jean Carlyle

**Editor's comment:** I completely agree with you Jean! I met Zac watering the blooming baskets and could not resist taking some photos. Seeing such beauty cheered me up after a very difficult day.

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## Drop in day!

At the Methodist Church on Saturday 13 September, from 10.30am until 12.30pm. Coffees and teas, biscuits and good company will be served up to all who pop in. Come and help to raise funds for the Methodist World Relief and Development Fund. Donations will be very much appreciated.

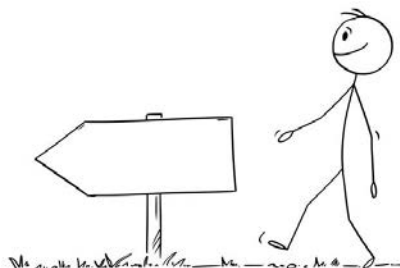
See you there!

Kathleen Albért (891733)

k.m.albert14@gmail.com

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## Men's Walk and Talk



Get outside.

Meet new people.

Talk about anything that's on your mind.

On the last Saturday of each month, the next dates are 27 September and 25 October.

Meet outside the St James' Centre at 10am for an easy walk of about an hour. No need to book, just turn up.

For more info text/call Neil: 07812 332653



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## Commemorating VJ Day



To commemorate the 80th anniversary of the ending of hostilities in World War Two, the letters V & J made from knitted poppies were displayed on Stonesfield War Memorial on VJ Day.

This is in remembrance of the sacrifices and deaths of combatants and civilians from all nations who were involved in the 'forgotten war in the Far East' and of the unprecedented loss of life in the actions that brought the conflict to an end.

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## Poppy display on the War Memorial for Remembrance Day

There has been a good response to the call for knitters and crocheters to contribute to the 80th anniversary display of crafted poppies around our War Memorial for Remembrance Day but we still have balls of wool to give to anyone who would like to get involved.

If you have any questions or would like to get involved in this community project, please get in touch with Lynn Stevenson on (01993) 891681 or Karen Ball on (01993) 898103.

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## Join our Team!

We would like to congratulate Steve Evins on recently finishing his Electrical Apprenticeship with us. He is now moving on and we wish him the best with his next venture.

We are now looking for our next team member. Steve came to us with a background in sales and business communications, so it is never too late to have a change of career. If this sounds like you and you would like to know more then please get in touch for an informal chat.

Simon & Cheryl Hitchcox (222444)  
Oxford Electrical Installations Ltd  
[simon@oxelec.co.uk](mailto:simon@oxelec.co.uk)



## 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.

**Please call or email to book transport in September:**  
**Amanda Peters**  
**01993 891947 or [stonesfieldvts@gmail.com](mailto:stonesfieldvts@gmail.com)**



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## Stonesfield Social Suppers- extra help needed

The weekly suppers continue to provide delicious, healthy, free food to all the community on Tuesdays between 5 and 7pm at the Village Hall and we will be back on 16 September.

We have a wonderful team and are so grateful to those who give up their time to be neighbours, supporting neighbours. We are needing a few more people to join our friendly team of volunteers, once a month or once every two months would be ideal.

**Cooks** - We are a little light on cooks so if this is your forte, please get in touch. We have two savoury cooks per session so you do not have to cook as much as you might think. Our team leaders will always guide and look after you. We can talk you through how it all works, we supply and deliver ingredients to you from the food waste hub, suggest menu options, reimburse any expenses and guarantee a fun and friendly welcome to the team!

**Crafts** - Children are well catered for at the suppers, and as well as being a great place to try new foods and play with friends, there is always a fun craft activity.

We need a couple more 'crafties' to add to our team... once a month or every two months would be very much appreciated.

**Setting up** - half an hour of your time at 3.30 once a month on a Tuesday to help set up the tables and chairs. It involves a bit of lifting so usually a team of us do it together.

If you think any of the above might be of interest to you we would be very grateful to have some extra people on board, please contact Lindsey for more information [stonesfieldsuppers@gmail.com](mailto:stonesfieldsuppers@gmail.com)

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## Afternoon tea in Combe

The annual charity afternoon tea in the garden of Combe Reading Room will be in aid of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, and will be held on Sunday 7 September from 2 to 5pm. The Trust is a charity that is close to our hearts as our daughter is a sufferer.

We will be serving cream teas and homemade cakes, and there will be a gift stall, featuring beautiful and unique hand-crafted items.

As usual we will be holding a raffle and will have some brilliant prizes. If you are not able to be there on the day but would like the opportunity to take part and support our charity, please email Libby on [libby@windowdesigninteriors.co.uk](mailto:libby@windowdesigninteriors.co.uk) to purchase raffle tickets; £5 for a book.

Libby Hanks (07958 595668)



ENGLISH HERITAGE  
NORTH LEIGH ROMAN VILLA

## Mosaic Open Days

**Saturday May 17 & Sunday May 18**  
11am - 5pm

**Saturday June 21 & Sunday June 22**  
11am - 5pm

**Saturday July 19 & Sunday July 20**  
**Saturday July 26 & Sunday July 27**  
11am - 5pm

**Saturday August 2 & Sunday August 3**  
**Saturday August 16 & Sunday August 17**  
**Saturday August 30 & Sunday August 31**  
11am - 5pm

**Saturday September 20 & Sunday September 21**  
11am - 5pm

Join our volunteers at North Leigh Roman Villa for a great chance to see the impressive mosaic close up!

*Step into England's story*



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## Combe Community Cinema



On Friday 26 September, Combe Community Cinema at The Hub, Park Road is showing Thelma.

Not to be confused with Thelma and Louise, this 2024 surprise hit comedy features June Squibb (aged 94) in the leading role as a pensioner who is scammed out of \$10,000 and sets out to get her money back. The journey, 'a Tom Cruise-inspired action arc, if the obstacles were stairs and the gadgets hearing aids', is a delight to behold. For her performance June won the Critics' Choice Super Award for Best Actress in an Action Movie.

As usual, the film will be shown with subtitles.

Doors open at 7.30 for 8pm start and our 'Cine-bar' will be serving soft drinks, wine and a selection of beers. Come and meet friends for a chat, a drink or two and an enjoyable film night. £5 per ticket on the door, cash and card payment accepted.

Our sponsors have included the WE Lawrence Trust, the John Lewis Partnership, West Oxfordshire District Council, Blenheim and Coach House Vets.

Combecommunitycinema@gmail.com

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## Combe Mill: 21 September - Crafts and Skills Event

We have invited crafters from the local area including Oxford Guild of Weavers Spinners & Dyers; they will be bringing their big wheel, needle felting, lace bobbins and children's clothes, de-coupage and much more. Special attraction is the Swindon Classic Car Club.

Come along and browse our mini market stalls with lots on offer (Christmas presents perhaps). Bring the children, there is lots to do in the tinkering area. See Al's Owls up close and follow the Millie trail to win a Millie Badge.

Combe Mill, a late 19th Century Restored Water Mill on Blenheim Palace Estate by the River Evenlode, all machinery running 'in steam' and volunteers will be on hand with lots of interesting information. Come along and see the Blacksmiths in the forge, you might just be able to make a poker. Children too.

Our tea room will be open, BBQ, gift shop, raffle and tombola.

Ever thought of volunteering at Combe Mill? Come to a steaming event where you will see where you have an interest and can join the team.

Dogs on leads are most welcome and parking free.

Adults £9.00, seniors £7.50, accompanied children FREE open 10.30am to 4.30pm.



We are also open every Wednesday for self-guided tours with volunteers around.

Adults £5.00 seniors £4.00 Accompanied children free.

Tea room is open if you would like to call in for refreshments, cream tea, cake, ham roll, coffee and soft drinks.

Combe Mill

Blenheim Palace Sawmills, Combe OX29 8ET

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## **Combe Women's Institute**

We are an enthusiastic group of women from Combe and Stonesfield with an exciting programme of speakers, outings and activities in line with the Women's Institute main principles of encouraging friendship, tolerance, learning and community spirit.

We look forward to starting our new programme of events on Monday September 8 when our speaker Jenny Olivier will be introducing us to Letterpress printing.

Our recently formed sub-group – WIWAC (Women's Institute Walk and Cake) meet monthly with interesting walks planned around favourite tea and cake cafés.

WI membership is open to all women over the age of 18. The subscription is now £38.25 which lasts until March 2026. If you are not sure that the WI is for you then come along and try us out. Guests are limited to 3 meetings a year and charged £6 per meeting.

Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month in the Reading Room, Combe from 7.30-9.30pm.

Our fundraising coffee morning is on Saturday 27 September from 10.30am at the Reading Room. Please come along and sample some traditional WI baking. Money raised will be used to help fund our speakers and events throughout the year.

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

Julia Sharpe, Secretary Combe WI (891058)  
combewi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk



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## School Bus Blues

It's another Monday morning and I've got those school bus blues.

One child's looking for their bag, another's lost their shoes,

The third one's in her bedroom slowly brushing through her hair

And likely half her uniform's still lying on her chair.

I'm standing at the window and I'm calling "Here's the bus!"

But I don't hear their running feet, just "Mum, don't make a fuss"

But – it's coming up the Combe Road and it's coming up to eight

And if they don't come down right now they're bound to be too late.

The first comes running past me - "Hey, put on your cagoule!"

But from the scowl she's giving me, I've said something uncool.

The second one's not running (though wearing running shoes) –

Just trailing down the garden path like they have time to lose.

And now here comes the last one of my happy band,

Her socks stuffed in her pocket and a slice of toast in hand.

At last I shut the front door, put the kettle on and sigh.

Tomorrow is another day and maybe I can try

To get them moving earlier with some sort of sneaky ruse -

Oh, how I hate the mornings and those school bus blues!

Nicky Holland Feb 2023

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## Do you have a story to share?

We hope you have enjoyed the news, history, nature, other articles and photographs which have appeared in *The Slate*.

We're hoping to find more Stonesfield residents who will contribute their own articles, poems, drawings or photographs to publish throughout the year.

If you have a story to tell, or anything to share, please send it to us.

The Editor

[editor@stonesfieldslate.uk](mailto:editor@stonesfieldslate.uk)



# Politics & local affairs

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## **Stonesfield Parish Council**

The next full Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 3 September 2025 at 7pm, to be held at Stonesfield Primary School.

Kay Linnington

Clerk, Stonesfield Parish Council

[clerk@stonesfieldpc.uk](mailto:clerk@stonesfieldpc.uk)

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## **More from West Oxfordshire**

### **Drink Driving Warning**

Police are reminding all motorists of the serious dangers of drink driving. It is a serious and preventable danger, even small amounts of alcohol can affect your ability to drive safely, putting yourself and others at risk.

We urge everyone to make responsible choices - never drive under the influence. Keep yourself and others safe by planning ahead and finding a sober way home. Use a designated driver, or arrange alternative transport.

### **WODC's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule**

West Oxfordshire District Council has secured approval for its Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule, marking a significant milestone in its efforts to ensure that new development is supported by the infrastructure communities need to thrive.

Following a public hearing held on Tuesday 10 June 2025, the final report from the independent examiner has approved the Council's Draft Charging

Schedule, subject to one modification: a reduction in the proposed rate for larger residential developments of 250 or more homes, from £225 per square metre to £150 per square metre (excluding strategic development areas).

CIL is a proposed fixed charge on certain types of new development—including new homes and extensions - calculated based on the size of the proposed development. When implemented, it will work alongside existing Section 106 (S106) planning obligations to help fund the key infrastructure required to support development across the district, such as roads, schools, green spaces and community facilities.

The Charging Schedule was developed in 2024 and underwent an eight-week public consultation during August and September. It was formally submitted for examination in March 2025, with the public hearing taking place in June.

With the Examiner's final report now received, the Council will move to formally adopt the schedule, with implementation to follow in due course. Once in place, CIL will enhance the Council's ability to secure and deliver the infrastructure needed to support sustainable growth across the district.



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## **From our MP**

If you need help or have a query, please feel free to email me and we will be in touch.

Calum Miller MP

[calum.miller.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:calum.miller.mp@parliament.uk)

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## **Police and community support**

For information or advice on security concerns, please call 101 or contact [woodstockNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:woodstockNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

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## **Funding boost to tackle and prevent serious violence**

Matthew Barber (Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley) has awarded £1.8m of Home Office funding to local partners to help tackle serious violence in the Thames Valley. Serious violence and knife enabled crime is falling in the Thames Valley, but further work is taking place to prevent it. The funding, made up of two grants, the Serious Violence Duty Grant and the Violence Reduction Unit Grant will be administered by the PCC to local partners to support Thames Valley communities.

Matthew said: ‘There is no single solution to preventing serious violence. Its impact on individuals and communities can be devastating and we continue to work collaboratively as part of the Violence Prevention Partnership to try to address root causes and support those most at risk. The funding awarded to partners across the Thames Valley aims to deliver against our shared goal to reduce violence in our communities and stop our young people being drawn into offending.’

‘Funding will extend the delivery of some existing projects as well as test new approaches. I am pleased that the majority of councils have accepted funding to implement new Focused Diversion activity for young people in their areas, the output and learning from which will be shared across the Thames Valley to help inform future activity.’

For further details on the funding announcement, please visit our website: [www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/news/funding-boost-to-tackle-prevent-serious-violence/](http://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/news/funding-boost-to-tackle-prevent-serious-violence/)

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## **Neighbourhood Watch**

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

Deanna Asplundh

Stonesfield Neighbourhood Watch  
Coordinator

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## **Security Alert: Rise in Tool Thefts from Sheds and Vans**

There has been a noticeable increase in thefts from sheds and tradespeople’s vans in the local area. Thieves are targeting tools, power equipment, and valuable items - often causing significant financial loss and disruption to people’s livelihoods. These crimes often happen overnight, but some occur during the day, especially when vans are left unattended on job sites or driveways. Sheds, garages, and outbuildings are also common targets,



particularly if they are poorly secured or out of sight.

### **How to Protect Your Van:**

**Remove Tools Overnight:** We understand that removing tools from your van overnight is not always convenient, especially after a long day or if you are back on the road early the next morning. However, it remains one of the most effective ways to prevent theft. Wherever possible, take valuable tools out of your van at the end of each day. Store them indoors or in a secure, alarmed outbuilding.

**Install Additional Locks:** Factory locks can be bypassed quickly. Install aftermarket deadlocks or slam locks on van doors for added protection.

**Use a Van Vault or Lockable Tool Chest:** Secure tools inside the van with a heavy-duty internal storage unit that is bolted to the floor.

**Alarm and Immobiliser:** Ensure your van has a working alarm system and immobiliser. Consider a GPS tracker so the vehicle can be located if stolen.

**Park Smart:** When possible, park your van in a well-lit, secure area, preferably backed up against a wall or garage to restrict access to the rear doors.

**Display Signage:** Stickers saying 'No tools left in van overnight' may deter opportunist thieves.

### **How to Protect Your Shed or Outbuilding:**

**Reinforce Doors and Hinges:** Fit strong hasp and staple locks with padlocks (ideally closed-shackle types). Use security screws or coach bolts for hinges to prevent tampering.

### **Upgrade Your Locking System:**

Consider installing a shed alarm, motion-sensor lighting, or even a Wi-Fi-enabled camera to monitor the area.

**Anchor Tools and Machinery:** Use chains and ground anchors to secure larger equipment or power tools within the shed or garage.

**Frosted Windows or Curtains:** Keep tools out of sight by covering windows or installing opaque film.

**Keep Inventory and Mark Tools:** Maintain a record of serial numbers, and mark your tools with your postcode or a unique identifier using UV pen, etching, or paint. This increases the chance of recovery if stolen.

It is important to note that police are often unable to return stolen tools to their rightful owners unless the items are clearly marked or can be identified by a unique serial number. Unfortunately, when unmarked tools are recovered, they're almost impossible to trace back to an individual, even if we strongly suspect they've been stolen.

We strongly encourage all tradespeople and residents to:

- Record serial numbers of tools and equipment where possible.
- Mark tools with your postcode and initials using a UV pen, permanent marker, engraving tool, or forensic marking kits (like SmartWater or SelectaDNA).
- Photograph your tools as an additional reference for proof of ownership.

Taking these simple steps increases the chances of recovery and prosecution if your



tools are stolen. It also helps the police return items to the rightful owner.

By taking these precautions, you can significantly reduce the risk of becoming a victim of theft. Criminals tend to look for easy opportunities—visible tools, weak locks, and dark, isolated areas—so anything you do to increase difficulty and visibility can make a real difference.



*Making the most of each and every moment*

We have a fully extended childcare provision running from Pre-School.

Here is what is currently available:

### **Breakfast Club**

Monday to Friday; 7.30 – 8.50am

(£7.55 per session) Cereal, toast and fruit juice included

### **Pre-School Sessions**

9am – 3pm daily for children aged 2–4 years (£20.60 per session)

### **After School Club**

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday; 3.15 – 6pm

(£19.20 per session)

If you would like registration forms for any of the above,  
please contact our administrator, Mrs Zena Rozee  
(tel. 01993 898012 or email: [stonesfieldpsad@outlook.com](mailto:stonesfieldpsad@outlook.com))



# Education, culture & more

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## **Stonesfield Library**

Note our new phone number:

01865 815181

Opening hours:

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

Val Phillips (891455)

Friends of Stonesfield Library

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## **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 to:  
[homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:homelibraryservice@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Deborah Wilson (01865 815181)

Library Manager

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## **Story Garden: Adventures in Nature & the Great Outdoors!**



Have you read your 6 books during the Summer holidays? Not yet? Do not worry there is still time to complete the challenge.

The Summer Reading Challenge finishes on Saturday 6 September.

All successful 'finishers' receive an envelope with a certificate, a medal and some puzzles and pictures to colour. Make sure you get yours!

Finishers are eligible to enter the Stonesfield Library prize draw.

Please note: There is always a librarian in the library on Mondays 2.30 – 7.00 pm.

Bryony Mallows - Volunteer, Stonesfield Library



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## Forward to school (cont)

Last week, I met up with our new leadership team for a planning day, and it gave me a real spring in my step. We had a productive time – discussing school improvement, drafting new policies, planning professional development for staff, updating the staff handbook, and scheduling enrichment days for the year ahead.

We're eagerly awaiting the completion of building works in mid-August so we can get into school and spruce things up (we're fairly certain we'll fill a second skip before term starts!). We're also in the midst of planning our open days for prospective parents – keep an eye out for posters around the village.

We look forward to sharing more of our progress in the next issue of *The Slate*. Until then, enjoy the sunshine and the simple joys of summer

Kim Rogers, Executive Headteacher, and the Stonesfield School Team

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## Book Break

### Another year of reading

We read five novellas in Book Break this year, most just over a hundred pages in length – perfect for reading aloud! We started with *Reunion* by the German writer and painter, Fred Uhlman. One of the many remarkable features of this novel is that Uhlman wrote it in English; difficult to believe given the elegance of the prose. Set in Stuttgart in 1932 and with a focus upon the friendship between two sixteen-year-old school students, it's a fast, compelling read with a powerful twist at the end. Unnoticed on its initial publication in 1972, it was recognised as a masterpiece when it was republished in 2015.

A wonderful contrast in place and tone was *Summer* by Edith Wharton which we read next. *Summer* is one of Wharton's lesser known novels, but the one she considered to be her best. As in her longer novels, the heroine is trapped in society's roles as defined in early twentieth century New England. The book had a controversial reception on first publication in 1917 with its emphasis on the sexual awakening of its heroine.

2025 marked the 75th anniversary of the death of George Orwell, so our next read was *Animal Farm*, a very familiar book that most of us had never read! It really was an unsettling read with its focus on the ways in which those in power seek absolute power, on corruption, and on the manipulation of truth. Not surprisingly, much of our discussion centred upon how much the book resonated with contemporary world politics.



It was somewhat of a relief to turn to *84 Charing Cross Road* by Helene Hanff, which consists solely of letters written between an American writer, Helene Hanff and Frank Doel, a British bookseller and employee at Marks and Co., an actual bookshop on Charing Cross Road. Their correspondence leads to a long-distance friendship followed by the publication of this remarkably popular book and the release of an equally popular film. It is impossible not to enjoy the book's humour, its heart-warming story of friendship and celebration of reading.

Our final read before the summer break was *Clear* by Carys Davies. Set on an island between the Shetlands and Norway, the novel's focus is the unlikely bond between a Scottish minister and the last inhabitant of the island, neither of whom understands the other's language. Through the minister's process of observation and careful documentation, they gradually build a shared understanding. Reading this novel aloud enabled us to appreciate its beautifully crafted writing and economy of language. Although some of us found the ending rushed, it was a most satisfying book to read.

In September, we intend to read *Cold Comfort Farm* by Stella Gibbons, in preparation for the much-anticipated production by the Stonesfield Players!

Wendy Lynch

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## Permitted Development

I am often asked by people who are thinking about extending their property whether they need planning permission because the extension that they are considering falls within the limits of Permitted Development.

Permitted development covers the enlargement or alteration of a dwelling, but only if the property is not listed or in a conservation area, national park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, or Site of Special Scientific Interest. It also applies only to houses—not flats, maisonettes, or other buildings. Additional restrictions, such as Article 4 directions, may also apply to specific properties. Front extensions do not fall within permitted development, though some side extensions may. Verandas, balconies and raised platforms require planning permission, although Juliet balconies (with no platform or external access) are normally permitted development.

Permitted development rights have specific criteria that can be complex. Single-storey rear extensions must not extend beyond the original house's rear wall by more than 3 metres for semi-detached or terraced houses, or 4 metres for detached houses. 'Original house' means as first built or as it stood on 1 July 1948. Previous owners may have already built extensions affecting these limits. In 2015, planning legislation increased these limits to 6 metres and 8 metres respectively.

While formal planning approval is not needed if your extension complies with Permitted Development limits, you do need confirmation from the local planning authority that the proposed work is indeed permitted development. For extensions up



to 3 metres (semi-detached/terraced) or 4 metres (detached), a Lawful Development: Proposed Use application is required. For extensions under 2015 legislation, a Prior Approval: Larger Home Extension application is needed, which will include neighbour consultation. In both cases, the local authority must be notified before development commences, with supporting plans and elevations.

If the local planning authority decides work does not fall within permitted development limits, a Householder Planning Application is required. If an extension is built without a Lawful Development Certificate or Prior Approval Notification, the authority can require a Householder Planning Application. Without planning approval for built extensions, and if appeals are dismissed, the authority can issue Planning Enforcement Notices requiring demolition at the householder's expense.

Permitted development isn't just extensions—it includes solar panels, roof alterations like dormers, chimney alterations or replacements, outbuildings, swimming pools and LPG or oil containers.

As you can see, permitted development isn't as straightforward as it appears. The technical guidance runs to 50 pages!

Jan Liberadzki BA Arch (Hons), MSc  
[www.jlda.co.uk](http://www.jlda.co.uk)

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## Nature notes: Summer Fun!



Wildlife in our area is in abundance this summer and Theresa Jozwin sent us this beautiful picture of wildlife in action on 24 July - too good not to share a smile! - 'This family of starlings are having such fun in our cool bird bath'.

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## From Wild Oxfordshire... Rivers & Flooding

**Evenlode Catchment Partnership -**  
'Restoring the Evenlode catchment for the benefit of all'

The Evenlode Catchment Partnership (ECP) is a dynamic collaboration of over 20 organisations and countless individuals, united by a shared commitment to improving the water environments within the Evenlode catchment which covers the northwest of Oxfordshire. Since our establishment in 2014, the ECP has been dedicated to enhancing water quality, improving flood management, enriching biodiversity, and fostering greater community engagement with our rivers.

Wild Oxfordshire hosts the ECP and leads the natural flood management (NFM), river restoration and wetland creation projects. Changes in land management and river engineering have had a big impact on our wildlife and biodiversity. Natural flood



meadow habitat is rare in the Evenlode catchment due to changes to arable farming and past dredging activities, whilst weirs and other barriers block the passage of fish and reduce their access to spawning grounds.

As temperatures rise with climate change in the UK, extreme rainfall days are likely to increase. Recent large-scale flood events in the Cotswolds hit the national headlines, but behind the scenes the ECP delivered one of the first effective lowland NFM projects, demonstrating that NFM on a landscape scale works! Following Storm Bert (Nov 2024) our NFM interventions prevented flooding for all 12 homes at risk in Milton-under-Wychwood.

### **Field corner bunds in action**

In 2018, natural flood management measures were installed on a farm above Milton-under-Wychwood to reduce flood risk in the village below. The first photo shows a group of people standing in the bottom of a field bund on 24 October 2024.



The second photo shows the same field bund in action on 25 November 2024, following Storm Bert. The water is around 2m deep at its maximum and the bund is holding back around 1700m<sup>3</sup> flood water. On this occasion, the houses along the Littlestock Brook in Milton-under-Wychwood did not flood.



Through regular monitoring of our NFM scheme on the Littlestock Brook, it has been thrilling to learn that not only does this project reduce flooding, but it brings multiple benefits including increased biodiversity.

Landowners can also help by increasing the organic matter in their soil which will increase the capacity of the soil to retain water. Many of the landowners along the floodplain are now reverting their arable fields to grass. This will have multiple benefits including sequestering carbon, reducing erosion of soils and keeping nutrients on farms.

The ECP's work has gained recognition for its impact, with coverage in outlets such as New Scientist on our water quality citizen science work. We have used our river restoration and natural flood management projects as models for learning and best practice. Together, we are making a lasting difference to the health of the Evenlode's rivers and the communities that depend on them.

Our mission is to create a thriving, sustainable water environment that benefits both wildlife and local communities. Find out more by watching our videos and exploring our website at [www.evenlodecatchment.org.uk](http://www.evenlodecatchment.org.uk)

Ann Berkeley, Evenlode Catchment Partnership  
Project Manager  
[www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk)



# Clubs, societies & sport

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## **Stonesfield Sports and Social Club**

Wow what an amazing month we have had! The highlight was celebrating the club's 30th anniversary. A huge thank you to everyone who was involved and supported the full weekend; we had lots of people donating their time and talents. Sybil and Will Barton helping organising the patios and jumping on the BBQ, Carly Benfield being our DJ on Friday night (after the raffle that ended up with over 40 prizes!), Kieran doing the kids disco on Sunday, Them Combe Boys serenading us on Sunday afternoon, Select Flame pizza for keeping us fed, not to mention family and friends helping with everything from litter picking to jumping on the till.

A special thank you to the Village Idiots for reducing their fee so we could afford to have them entertain you all at the big birthday bash, and a lovely idea of a donation to the Cecily's Fund charity in Andrew Tacon's name, with our thoughts from SSSC and The Village Idiots.

We are getting close to the new season changeover for pool and darts, if you are interested in joining a team now is the time to pop in and meet them.

Upcoming September dates:

Sat 13 - Bike night, 2pm till late

Tue 16 - Bingo, eyes down 7pm

Sat 27 - Music from Country Resurrection,  
8pm

Sam Tomlin, SSSC

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## **Stonesfield Cricket Club**

With a third of the season left both of the club's teams are still in with a chance of promotion. The 1st XI sit in second place, winning three, losing one and drawing one of their last games. Tom Gubbins took 6-23 in a 10 wicket win over Dorchester and 4-30 in a 74 run win at Challow after Tim Wyatt (65) and Sam Hibberd (51) had helped Stonesfield set 204 to win. An outstanding performance against second place Horspath saw Stonesfield win by 174 runs. George Redknap (48), Tim Wyatt (42) and Andy Oliver (47) saw Stonesfield post 220 before Dan Farrant (8-31) reduced Horspath to 48 all out.

The 2nd XI have turned in some indifferent performances winning 1, losing 1 and drawing 2. A heavy defeat against leaders Ascot-under-Wychwood was a major blow to any championship hopes. A poor batting display setting just 69 including 34 from Raffy Rice was never going to test AUW who strolled to a 6 wicket win. Marston St Lawrence made their first ever visit to Field Close and a fine bowling display from Liam Hatton (5-21) saw the visitors bowled out for a below par 66. A quick fire 32 from Richard Walker saw The Stones secure the win at 67-4. The Stones were unable to press home their advantage against Cropredy and Freeland having to settle for 'winning draws' in both games. Stonesfield posted 134-9 on a difficult wicket at Freeland with Jordan Newman's 36 rescuing Stonesfield. In reply, despite Liam Hatton's 4-23



Freeland batted out the overs at 102-8. Another indifferent batting display against bottom club Cropredy saw The Stones limp to 127-9 with Fred Holloway hitting 36. Cropredy were happy to settle for the draw reaching 109-7 at the close with Dan Sherbourne the pick of the bowlers taking 3-21 in 13 overs.

The 2nd XI missed the opportunity to reach the final of the Keith Crump Cup with a 23 run defeat against Marston St Lawrence. The Stones contributed to their own downfall and despite missing several key players they did well to restrict MSL to 143-7 in their 33 overs but 36 extras and three dropped catches contributing another 25 runs made a significant difference. The Stones again pressed the self-destruct button in their reply with two needless run outs and despite 34 from Mike Phipps the innings petered out reaching 120-9 at the end of the allocated overs.

David Burns (07554 92035)

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## **Stonesfield Gardening Club**

No August meeting to report on, but we are now looking forward to our autumn schedule.

We start with a talk on carnivorous plants from committee member Lauren Daly, who works at the Oxford Botanic Garden. That will be on Monday 8 September at 7.30 in the St James' Centre.

In October we have a return visit from Mandy Bradshaw with her wonderful photographs, this time showing us four seasons in the Cotswolds. Another returning visitor is Harriet Rycroft in November, showing us how to create beautiful pots for winter interest. Her talks

are always very much enjoyed so make sure you come along.

We finish the year with our usual Social and Quiz, this year hosted by Lauren with her education officer hat on!

If you would like to come along to try membership, we only charge £5 for the rest of the year and you could easily recoup this with your 10% discount at various garden centres locally!

In the meantime, all this hot weather has meant that plants are running to seed, so how about going round your garden and collecting some to increase your stock of plants? It is always said that the best seeds are the ones that are used to growing in your conditions.

Cut off fully ripened seed heads from plants and pop into a paper bag. These can then be shaken onto a piece of paper once you have a flat surface available, and the seeds gently funnelled into a labelled envelope or paper bag.

Most perennials need sowing as soon as possible, as they would naturally if they had been allowed to fall to the ground, but can be kept in a cold, dry place if needed for sowing later.

Happy gardening.

Diane Bates

Secretary Stonesfield Gardening Club

[www.stonesfieldgardening.info](http://www.stonesfieldgardening.info)



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## **Stonesfield Players**

Join the Stonesfield Players for a social play reading on Saturday 6 September at 7.30pm at the Binnian's house, Square Cottage, The Ridings, Stonesfield. We will be reading *Inspector Drake and the Perfekt Crime* by David Tristram, a slapstick whodunnit which is more Clouseau than Poirot.

Expect a whirlwind of farce, plot twists, and glorious nonsense. If you like your detectives clueless, your suspects suspicious, and lots of laughs, then please do come along. Open to all, regulars and newcomers, we would love to see you there.

Bring drink and nibbles.

thestonesfieldplayers@gmail.com.

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## **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.

Julie Curran (07973 730907)

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## **The Megalosaurus Society**

We have had a busy and dinosaur-rich summer! In mid-July a talk from Dr Emma Nicholls with extra insight from Dr Duncan Murdock – lead researchers on the dinosaur trackways at Ardley – took us behind the scenes of the excavation that was featured on the BBC's series Digging for Britain earlier in the year. Two weeks later we took a group of 19 to visit the trackways in person. One of the most telling comments from members was how lucky we were to see the trails of footprints after they have been buried for 168 million years, during the extremely short window of time they will be visible before they are re-covered.



The display panel featuring Simon Armitage's poem *Megalosaurus* has finally arrived and all are welcome to attend its presentation to the village, on Friday 5 September at 1.45-2pm in the garden at The White Horse. Professor Paul Smith, who commissioned the poem for the



*Breaking Ground* exhibition at Oxford University Museum of Natural History, and Dr Emma Nicholls, who curated the exhibition, will be welcoming the beast home to Stonesfield.

We take this opportunity to express our thanks to everyone who has donated to the Poem Project or contributed time and expertise in many different ways, enabling this new landmark to be created for the village.

The next event in our programme, on Monday 29 September, is a round-table discussion between families involved in Stonesfield's glove-making industry and will be led by Russell Shearer. This discussion will be recorded and reproduced in a booklet for participants and the Society in order that we can preserve this important part of Stonesfield's history.

The Committee has also been busy arranging talks, visits and events for 2026 and will soon be in a position to let members know of the proposed programme for next year.

If you are interested in joining the Society or would like more information, please get in touch with us at: [megsoc25@gmail.com](mailto:megsoc25@gmail.com).

Viv Kendall and Trisha Williams

### **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](mailto:kateharris58@yahoo.co.uk)



# Church news

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## **Church of England Worship at St James the Great, Stonesfield**

### **(Benefice of Stonesfield with Combe Longa)**

[www.stonesfieldparishchurch.org](http://www.stonesfieldparishchurch.org)

**Rector:** Revd Ralph Williamson,  
[rector@scbenefice.org](mailto:rector@scbenefice.org), 01993 891872

**Churchwarden:** Lindsey Sellar  
[stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org](mailto:stonesfield@stonesfieldparishchurch.org)

**St James' Centre bookings:**  
[sjcsbookings@gmail.com](mailto:sjcsbookings@gmail.com)

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

### **From the Rector – Creation Sunday**

Around the world, many churches will be celebrating the wonder of Creation on 7 September and considering the theme of Creation in the weeks afterwards, which are called the Season of Creation. This practice was inspired by a tradition of the Eastern Orthodox Churches, then embraced by the World Council of Churches in 2008.

The first Sunday of September is a day to repent of our sinful and wanton destruction of nature, God's gift of creation. It is a day to pray for changes in human behaviour, for the healing of the natural world, and for our relationship to it. It honours God as Creator and commemorates the creation of all that exists, from the smallest particles to the greatest wonders of the cosmos. 1700 years ago, the Christian Church held a Council at

Nicaea, which proclaimed the trinitarian God to be 'the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth', Christ 'through whom all things were made', and the Holy Spirit, 'the giver of life'. Our dependence on God's gift of the created order is reflected many times in the Bible too. The Bible's story of humanity begins in a beautiful garden called Eden. The last Book of the Bible is Revelation, which speaks about the heavenly city of Jerusalem. This New Jerusalem is not concrete, steel and glass, but has nature at its heart. So the Bible's very last chapter begins by describing, 'the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations'.

Creation Sunday is a moment to thank and praise God our Creator. In Stonesfield and Combe on Sunday 7 September we will share All Age Worship services at 9.30am in Combe and 11am in Stonesfield, and invite everybody attending to bring something reflecting the natural world which has inspired them this year. Please join us!

Revd Ralph Williamson - Rector



**Church services**

**Sunday 7 September [Trinity 12-  
Creation Sunday]**

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

**Sunday 14 September [Trinity 13]**

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

**Sunday 21 September [Trinity 14]**

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

**Sunday 28 September [Trinity 15]**

8am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am	Stonesfield	Parish Communion (note earlier time)
11am	Combe	Parish Communion (note later time)

**Wednesdays**

9.30am	Stonesfield	Holy Communion (every week)
11am	Combe	Morning Prayer (3rd), Holy Communion (17th)

**Roman Catholic Worship**

**The Nicene Creed**

In 313 CE with the Edict of Milan the Emperor Constantine released Christianity from taxation, thus in effect not only ending persecution of Christians, but giving Christianity a quasi-official status. However, there was not unanimity among the faithful about what exactly they believed; in particular the Trinity and the nature of Jesus in relation to His Father was fruitful ground for competing beliefs. In particular Arianism saw Jesus as created, and therefore less than the Father, and therefore could not be a creator himself.

Constantine saw that religious unity also supported political unity, particularly important as the Roman Empire was under significant external pressure in 3rd century CE to which the response was to have two imperial curia for administrative convenience. Therefore any serious religious dissent needed to be overcome quickly with a universal message. Accordingly, Constantine convened an ecumenical council at Nicea, to settle the matter in May of 325. Some 318 bishops came from all over the regions of Eastern Christendom with some from the West, but Arianism was less of a religious or political problem in Eastern Christendom.

We see the Nicene Creed as a prayer to be recited at Holy Mass and other services, but that was not its original purpose; it was a statement of belief for the ecclesiastical hierarchy. In particular, the Creed established for all Christians that Jesus Christ although Son was ‘consubstantial with the Father’ in Greek homoousious (of the same substance) and indeed possessed



the same Divinity as God the Father and was not merely just His creation.

We owe a particular debt to St Athanasius, who as a subdeacon and secretary to Bishop Alexander of Alexandria, defended Christ's Divinity against Arius at the Council of Nicea. Fortunately, thanks to St. Athanasius' insistence on upholding the truth about Christ being truly God, by the time the Council of Constantinople was convened by Emperor Theodosius I in 381, Arianism was dying out as acceptance of Christ's divinity, and the doctrine of the Trinity became universal.

Strictly speaking the Creed is technically called the Niceo-Constantinopolitan Creed, named after the Council of Constantinople which confirmed the work of the Council of Nicea, and includes more of a reference to the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. The Creed confirmed, as the Gospels taught us, that Jesus Christ existed and has always existed with His Father and the Holy Spirit outside of time in an eternity that we can only glimpse.

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with  
the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.  
Amen

### **Holy Mass at St Theresa's, Charlbury**

Sunday 9.15 am

Wednesdays and Fridays 9.15 am

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

Roman Catholic Community in Stonesfield



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## **Stonesfield Methodist Church**

### **Services for September**

Sunday 7 11am The Reverend Stephen Bywaters

Holy Communion  
Service

Sunday 14 11am To be arranged

Sunday 21 11am Martin Hannant

Sunday 28 11am The Reverend Andrew Biggs - Harvest Service with food bank donations

### **Drop in day!**

Here on Saturday 13 September from 10.30am until 12.30pm. Coffees, teas and a biscuit or two will be waiting, do come and help our fundraising for the Methodist World Relief and Development fund. Donations will be very much appreciated.

Also on 13 September, there will be a warm welcome to any Riders and Striders taking part in the Annual Historic Churches Event!

### **Farewell**

Some may say the Service at Charlbury Methodist Church on the 20 July, was a sad occasion. The closure of any Church is sad, but the sun shone with joy and thankfulness on that day. Members and friends gathered to say their goodbyes to a beautiful building, honouring its importance over two hundred years and remembering all those who dedicated themselves to the glorious service it gave to the Community and beyond.

Now the future beckons with House fellowships, United Services and a growing closeness to their umbrella Church at Chipping Norton.

God's walk with the Charlbury folk powers on and we journey alongside them.

And we know that in all things, God works for the good of those who love Him.

Romans 8:28a

Come to a Service soon.

Kathleen Albért (891733)

k.m.albert14@gmail.com



We are based in Combe, Oxfordshire, but also have offices in London and the Thames Valley.

We provide specialist advice on Wills, inheritance tax planning, probates, powers of attorney and generally protecting your assets. Our tax specialists are also here to help with your personal tax compliance.



We are always happy to offer a free initial chat.

For more information, please call our Combe office on 01865 987781, visit [www.theburnsidepartnership.com](http://www.theburnsidepartnership.com) or email [anna.boucher@theburnsidepartnership.com](mailto:anna.boucher@theburnsidepartnership.com)



*"The team is superbly put together, showing professionalism and personality in equal measure"*  
Legal 500, 2024

## Why not take part in Artweeks 2026?

### Artweeks is:

- Nonselective, not-for-profit artists' organisation
- Open to all artists & craft makers living or working in Oxfordshire
- For the keen enthusiast to the professional, for charities & community groups.
- Selling or non selling exhibitions

### Offer a venue to Artweeks artists 2026:

- Do you have display space you could offer for a few days next May?
- A wall or a room?
- Increase footfall to your business or just to help a local artist.



### IF YES:

- contact [artweeks@artweeks.org](mailto:artweeks@artweeks.org) for a chat and more details.

- List yourself or your venue on our 'find a venue page'

[www.artweeks.org/artists/find-a-venue](http://www.artweeks.org/artists/find-a-venue)

Email to request link to our free 'Thinking of Taking Part in Artweeks' session on Zoom 7pm on Wed 24<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

Exhibition entries taken from October – **ALL completed entry details & payment must be received NO LATER than 31<sup>st</sup> December.**



## JUNIOR TAE KWON-DO

The Korean art of Self-Defence

Develop your children's self-confidence, concentration and help them to learn respect for themselves and others.

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\*\***

ITF registered international instructor  
James Kumar CRB vetted

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



Bespoke massage treatment and products using essential oils for women and children from my relaxing aromatherapy room in Stonesfield

- Parking
- evening appointment
- personal service
- loyalty scheme

For help with anxiety/depression/sleep problems and hormonal issues

Contact Lucy Martin 07552 653000

Lavenderend8@gmail.com

ITEC qualified, CThA insured

## Stonesfield Tennis Club

The club was established over 100 years ago with membership open to all at very competitive subscription rates.

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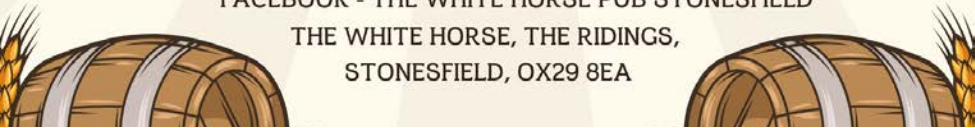
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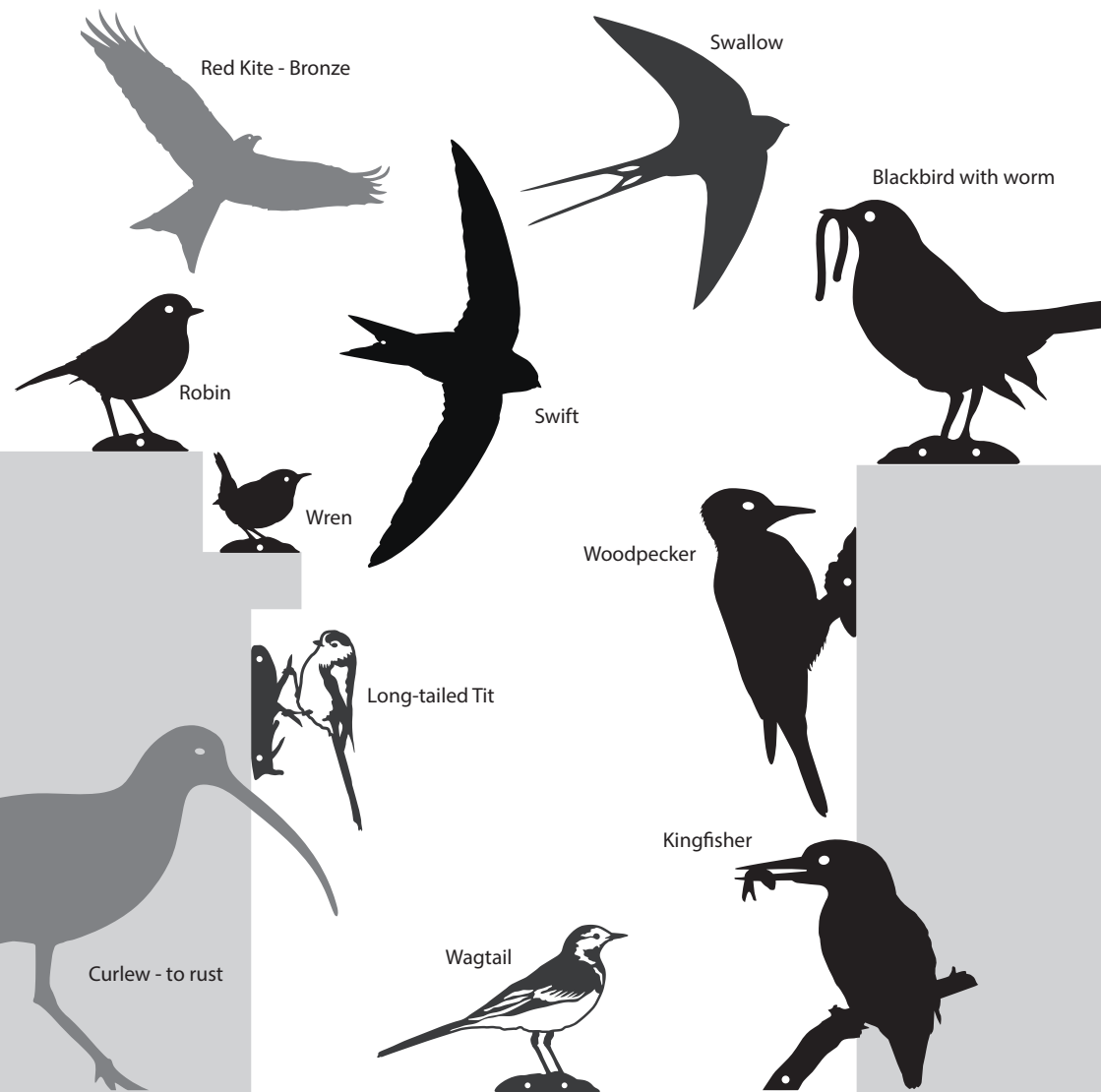
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