

The Stonesfield Slate

Issue No 382 June 2009



Dates for your Diary

June

2	Darts Competition	Black Head	7.30pm sharp
4	Craft Club	St James' Centre	7.30pm
5	Curry Night	Black Head	from 8pm
7	Bridewell Organic Gardens Open Day		
8	Gardening Club	Village Hall	7.30pm
9	Ladies' Cinema Night	Black Head	from 8pm
11	Darby & Joan	Village Hall	2pm
11	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
13	Garage(s) Sale	Combe	10.30-3.30pm
17	Stonesfield Society	Village Hall	8pm
18	Bingo	Village Hall	7.30pm
19	Curry Night	Black Head	from 8pm
13	Women's Institute	Village Hall	7.30pm
24	Quiz Night	Black Head	8pm
27	PTA Fete	Stonesfield School	1-3.30pm
27	Swing and Jazz Evening	Combe church	7.30pm

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Editors for this month

Colin & Gillian Clarke

Editors for July

Colin & Gillian Clarke
(898902)

Printer

Information Press

**The deadline for copy
and advertisements
for the next issue is
15 June**

Copy can be put in the
Slate box at the Post
Office or sent by email to
slate@stonesfield.com
Advertisements to
sj@sjhaviland.co.uk

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*Christian Aid sale and
coffee morning at the St
James' Centre on 16 May*



Notices & thanks

Thank you

We would like to thank all the people who so kindly welcomed our new baby daughter, Hattie Hunt, to Stonesfield with gifts and cards. She is very lucky to be living in such a friendly village, and the support was amazing at such a life-changing time! Hattie is enjoying the woods and the river already, but is not yet walking after only 4 weeks.

Matthew & Hazel Hunt

Missing tree

Where oh where has my favourite tree gone? I can't be the only person who loves – or should I say loved – the glorious tree near the North Leigh turn at the top of the hill. It stood in a field by the edge of the road, and I was so looking forward to seeing it deck itself in its spring glory. But no! On 17 April I came into the village from Charlbury and thought I must somehow have missed it. However on 22

April I returned home using that route, just so I could gaze on my tree. No tree! I'm sure I am not the only person to feel uplifted by the sight of it – Summer or Winter – so please let us know what has happened to it and why!

Carol Hardcastle, The Ridings

Reels & jigs . . .

Anyone out there care to learn/share/enjoy some reels and jigs, perhaps leading to a regular local session? Refreshments provided. Tuesdays, 7.30pm, 3 Friends Close.

Claire (898027)

Ringing of bells

Visitors from St Luke's in Bristol will be ringing our bells on Saturday 20 June between 3.30 and 4pm.

Lindsey Thornton

Andrew A. Adams FCCA

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Politics & local affairs

Parish Council

The May meeting commenced with the election of a Chairman and Vice Chairman for the coming year. Both Richard Bishop and John Simpson respectively were confirmed in their posts. Council was thanked for its expression of confidence, and was assured that both Richard and John would continue to work for the good of the village and its Parish Council.

Two members of the public were present, Mrs Susan Sulley and Mr Cliff Godfrey. Mrs Sulley thanked John Simpson for his success in resiting the Portaloo from outside her windows to a position in the Council's section of the car park at the Village Hall. County Highways workmen had arrived to repair/replace the footpaths on Greenfield Road and sections of Longore.

Council agreed that a quotation for fencing on the Common should be accepted. This had proved to be necessary if the grant from English Nature were to be continued. It was noted that the work to clear the scrub from the Common had been completed. The Chairman reported that the Parochial Church Council had put in hand the repairs to the wall of the new graveyard on Churchfields.

Neither Gillian Oldfield nor Sue Haffenden had much to report as both Councils were waiting the results of the Local Elections to be held on 4 June, and were at present in recess.

There were no planning applications to come before Council this month.

Planning Decisions

Sandon House, Churchfields – permitted.

Ridgeways, Church Street – permitted.

Winterbourne, St James Court – permitted subject to the agreement of neighbours re access (a privately owned road).

Home Close, High Street – after appeal, refused.

There was discussion regarding the provision of allotment space within or without the village. This matter is ongoing and will be reported more fully at a later date.

The Chairman led the Council in its appreciation for all the work, interest and commitment which Sue Haffenden had given to the people of Stonesfield during her time as our County Councillor. Sue is retiring in June on medical grounds and Council wished her all the very best for the future and hoped that she would continue to visit the village from time to time to join in some of our functions. Her presence and her contributions will be much missed.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 11 June at 7.30pm in the Committee Room of the Village Hall.

Richard Bishop, Chairman (891414)

District Digest

District dogs

Dog thieves are targeting working dogs in rural areas, particularly spaniels, terriers and labradors. There is an email-based free service in the Thames Valley Police Area called Dogwatch. Information is circulated regarding stolen dogs to all members, Police HQ, Beat Officers, Dog Wardens and re-homing centres. If any owner is interested, contact Dogwatch, Ewelme Park, Nettlebed, Henley-on-Thames RG9 6DZ, or telephone 01491 641668. Should your dog stray or be stolen, the best way to enable it to be returned to you is to ensure it is micro-chipped and wears a collar with an identification label attached to it.

No doubt all dog owners are aware that the one thing that really annoys neighbours is a constantly barking dog. This usually happens when the owner is away from the house, and the dog is aware of the owner's return and stops before the owner is actually in earshot, so the neighbours' complaints are not believed! Training classes can help you with this problem. If this problem is not remedied, the District Council can take action against this 'environmental nuisance'.

If you are aware of an area which could benefit from an additional dog-poo bin, please contact your Parish Council. The District will then arrange for the bin to be installed and for it to be emptied at regular intervals. If you forget to 'Scoop the poop', a fixed penalty charge of £50 could be issued.

Gillian Oldfield (891565) and Charles Cottrell-Dormer (01869 347110), Your District Councillors

Make it a safe night out

A scheme which aims to reduce alcohol-related violent crime and disorder was re-launched in West Oxfordshire on Tuesday 28 April.

'West Oxfordshire Nightsafe' involves close working between the Safer Communities Partnership and local licensees to focus on safety and responsible drinking in the night-time economy. Licensees are invited to join the scheme for free by signing up to a charter which includes running responsible drinks promotions and ensuring staff are trained on managing alcohol misuse.

The re-launch was held to refresh the scheme and widen it out to include late night restaurants, takeaways and local taxi companies. Attendees were given presentations on the existing scheme, violent crime and crime reduction, drugs awareness and licensing issues. Membership packs included premises or taxi stickers to display, the charter, posters and leaflets.

'Nightsafe operates across the district so we encourage all licensed premises to sign up and help us ensure that people have a safe and enjoyable evening out in our towns.'

Many initiatives have been introduced under Nightsafe which include:

- The use of Spikeys – stoppers which go into bottled drinks so that they cannot be spiked. Over 13,000 were distributed to licensed premises.
- Displaying posters that promote responsible drinking and anti-drugs messages.

- The 'Wasted Nights' and 'Too Wasted' DVDs – packages used in secondary schools to educate pupils about the consequences of excessive alcohol, covering criminal damage, the effect on communities and personal safety.
- The use of polycarbonate glasses – some premises have voluntarily chosen to use this almost unbreakable plastic rather than glass.

Danielle Hilton, Partnership Communications Officer (861640, email 07967 393546)

Carys Davies, District Council Press Office (861615, email 07771 965360)

Thames Valley Police Authority Annual Delivery Plan 2008/09/ Final Outturn Report

Members have been scrutinising the performance of the Force against the delivery plan throughout the year.

They congratulated the Force in achieving 12 of 16 headline objectives contained in it.

Areas of success included:

- Increasing the number of Special Constables to 310
- An 85 per cent arrest rate in domestic violence incidents

- Answering 90 per cent of 999 calls within 10 seconds
- Answering 90 per cent of non-emergency calls within 40 seconds
- Disrupted 35 organised crime groups over the past 12 months
- Making efficiency savings of 3.3 per cent

Targets not met included:

- Serious acquisitive crime reduced by 1 per cent, not 5 per cent.
- Increasing the percentage of sanction detections for serious violent and sex offences to 38 per cent.

Roads Policing Department Monitoring Report

Members questioned Head of Roads Policing in Thames Valley, Supt Mick Doyle, about the impact of the Safe Drive Stay Alive events, in which Thames Valley students learn of the hazards of driving without care. He was also asked about the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition technology, and roads policing priorities. They heard seatbelts, speeding and mobile phone use are all considered priorities. 400 people a year die in the UK as a result of not wearing seatbelts. 175 neighbourhoods in Thames Valley have named speeding in their area as a priority.

Education & culture

Stonesfield Library

Telephone: 01993 898187

Opening Hours:

Monday	2.30pm–7pm
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	10am–12noon
Thursday	2.30pm–5pm
Friday	Closed
Saturday	10am–12noon

The library service has now introduced a new scheme for Reading Groups. The Oxfordshire Libraries Reading Group Service can help:

1. If you'd like to set up a reading group
2. If you'd like to join a reading group
3. Or if you're already in a reading group

The service offers a reading group pack which contains information on setting up and running a reading group, a reading list of book titles, free membership to borrow a book set (up to 12 copies of a title), free reservations for book sets and a 10 week loan period. To find out more you can either visit me at the library or visit the website, www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries, or email readinggroups@oxfordshire.gov.uk

The week of 25–31 May was National Family Week. If you missed any of the activities held at the library that week, why not pop in and see what else is happening during the summer.

If you would like any more information, please do not hesitate to contact me, Lucy, at the library.

PTA

With over twelve stalls from various village clubs and organisations already booked, this year's fête promises to be our best supported ever! There will be further attractions, including a climbing wall, bouncy castle, Chrissie's Owls and Stonesfield Silver Band's 'accidentals'. The PTA will provide the refreshments, including a barbecue, bar, teas and cakes. Put the date in your diaries now – Saturday 27 June from 1 to 3.30pm. It will be great fun for the whole family.

Kate Shearer (891623)

Marlborough Community Learning

Marlborough School and the Woodstock Partnership Primaries are busy organising a programme of courses and workshops for adults, families and children. Our autumn brochure will be in shops, Post Offices and libraries when it becomes available in August.

If you would like a copy please telephone 01993 813592 or email: comed.4560@marlborough.oxon.sch.uk

Information is also available on the Marlborough School website www.marlborough.oxon.sch.uk

We also run a School's Out programme for every school holiday (apart from Bank holidays).

Financial support is available for this, please contact: Fiona Williams at

Marlborough School or your child's Headteacher, Family Support Worker or Health Visitor for more information.

Costs: £15 per day/£70 per week or family ticket (up to 4 children from the same family) £40 per day/£160 per week. Eligible for those in receipt of Working Tax Credit. We accept childcare vouchers please ring for information.

SCHOOL'S OUT HOLIDAY ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

Monday 20 July to Friday 28 August

School of Rock 11+
Arts and Craft 6+
Sports Activities and more! 6+
Be a DJ! 6+
Stained Glass 11+
Mosaics/Ceramics/Pottery/Textiles 6+
Survival! 8+
Theatre 6+
Customise Your Clothing 10+
Kayaking 11+

9.30am–3.30pm with an optional Chill Out 8.30–9.30am or 3.30–5pm (there is an additional charge of £2.50 per child per session for the morning Chill Out session and £5 for the afternoon)

Book your places now to avoid disappointment

The Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock Friends of the Oxfordshire Museum Evening Lecture

Wednesday 3 June: Annual Meeting, followed by *The Soldiers of Oxfordshire*, Major Hugh Babington-Smith, 7.30pm in the Coach House. Friends free, visitors

welcome £2. (Friends take preference if lecture is oversubscribed, so why not join us today?)

Finds Identification Service

On the first Wednesday of each month, Anni Byard, Finds Liaison Officer, will be in the Learning Centre between 2 and 4pm. Bring your archaeological finds for identification (01993 814103).

New Dinosaur Garden

The new garden, now open, contains Dinosaur footprints found at Ardley Quarry, plus a full-size replica Megalosaur, set in a walled garden with lush Jurassic plants.

Museum Coffee Shop and Garden. Tea and coffee, light snacks and lunches.

Museum Opening Hours

Tuesday–Saturday 10am–5pm, Sundays 2–5pm. Closed on Mondays. Free admission.

For further information please telephone 01993 811456.

The Woodstock Bookshop

Thursday 4 June at 7.30pm: James Harpur will be reading from his fourth collection of poetry *The Dark Age* (winner of the 2009 Michael Hartnett award, published by Anvil). Tuesday 16 June at 7.30pm: two very talented local authors, Francesca Kay and Mark Mills, discuss their novels. Francesca's first novel, *An Equal Stillness*, tells the story of an artist. It was read on Radio 4 and is shortlisted for the Orange First Fiction Award. Mark Mills' last novel, *The Savage Garden*, was selected by Richard & Judy for one of their Summer Reads and his latest, *The Information Officer*, has just been published. This

evening is part of Independent Booksellers' week, a week of events in independent bookshops throughout the country. The bookshop is also hosting a launch for Helen Peacocke's new book on Sunday 21 June at 4.30pm, *Paws Under the Table, 40 dog-friendly pubs and walks from Oxford to the Cotswolds* – a much-needed guide to local dog-friendly pubs featuring, among others, The Turf Tavern and The Woodstock Arms. Meet at the shop, with dogs if you like. Helen (and her dog, Pythius-Peacocke) will tell us briefly about the book, then off for a short walk finishing at The Woodstock Arms, where you will be treated to free nibbles with your drinks.

Family event: *Alice at the Woodstock Museum*, Sunday 28 June at 3pm. Adam Guillain, storyteller extraordinary, will retell the story of Alice in Wonderland. This event is suitable for people of all ages and will take place in the Coach House at the museum (we will move to the garden of the museum if it is fine enough, but meet in the Coach house). Places are £2 per child, payable on entry, but must be booked in advance through the bookshop.

Please ring or email the bookshop to book places (01993 812760, info@woodstockbookshop.co.uk)

Rachel Phipps, *The Woodstock Bookshop*

Clubs & societies

Stonesfield Society

Our final meeting before the summer break is on Wednesday 17 June at 8pm in the Village Hall Clubroom. John Banbury will give an illustrated talk about the development of hospitals in Oxfordshire, titled *From Feverish Foundations*. There will be a raffle and tea or coffee. Everyone welcome.

Jennifer Powell (891303)

Stonesfield Scout Group

The 12th Annual Duck Race will take place on the River Evenlode from Sandy Bay to the bridge on Friday 10 July 2009. The BBQ will start at 6.30pm with the race starting at 7.30pm. Please come along and support your local Scout group by buying a numbered duck and watching it race. Ducks cost £1 and will be available from any Stonesfield Beaver, Cub or Scout from early June, so please come along, have some refreshments and enjoy the spectacle of over 1000 ducks racing down the river.

Ian Hedges (891194) and Zena Rozee (891725)

Stonesfield Craft Club

The Craft Club met on Thursday 7 May at 7.30pm in the St James' Centre. This month's topic was beaded spirelli cards.

Karen showed everyone how easy it is to make these cards by threading 50 beads, 25 each of two different colours, alternately on to a needle and thread,

then winding the thread around a spirelli card (a piece of card with a punched-out hole in the centre and scalloped edges) leaving two beads on the front card with every wind. When the winding is complete, the beads are then manoeuvred into their final position so that they don't slip all over the place. Everyone made at least two cards each.

Once again, the members were fascinated by how easy it was to make cards that look so effective. We all had another fun-filled evening. There were twelve of us at the session including one new member, to whom we gave a very warm welcome. Our next meeting will be on 4 June at 7.30pm in the St James' Centre, and we would be very pleased to see anyone who would like to join us in making cards using another craft technique.

Debbie Faulkner

Stonesfield Gardening Club

Luckily the rain held off for the plant sale, which was a great success. A big thank you to all the contributors both for plants and custom. Following on from Alex Taylor's very informative presentation, Bridewell Organic Gardens Open Day on Sunday 7 June should not be missed. At the Village Hall on 8 June at 7.30pm Sandra Davies will be presenting Hanging Baskets and Cuttings. Raffle and refreshments. Open to all. Visitors £2.

Wendy Gould (898091)



The Black Head

Stonesfield



YOUR PUB NEEDS YOU!

Events Calendar

CHURCH STREET, STONESFIELD

<p>Quiz Night Next Quiz 24 June. Last Wednesday of each month. Maximum six to a team, £2 per player entrance fee. Rollover Bonus Prize to be won!! Plus free food.</p>	<p>Ladies Cinema Night Tuesday 9 June from 8pm. This month's film: 'Bridget Jones's Diary.' Free glass of champagne if BIG PANTS are worn (preferably over your clothing!) £6 per person.</p>	<p>Curry Nights Fridays 5 & 19 June from 8pm. Choose from a selection of fine curries & accompaniments. Buffet style, £6 per person.</p>
<p>Next Darts Competition Continues Tuesday 2 June, 7.30pm sharp: 'The Black Head Cup.' Call or pop in for details to get on the Darts Ladder.</p>	<p>Saturday Set Breakfast Full English Breakfast served from 10am till 12noon every Saturday.</p>	<p>Aunt Sally League Every Thursday evening for practices or matches.</p>

And Don't Forget – Traditional Roast served Sundays 12.30pm–4pm. Booking advised!

Tel: 01993 891387

Opening hours from 18 May: **Monday 4–11pm, Tuesday to Friday 12noon–2pm/4–11pm, Saturday 10am–11pm, Sunday 12noon–9pm**

N.B. Lunches & evening meals (excluding events, Breakfast & Sunday Roast) suspended until further notice

Baby & Toddler Group

Every Thursday morning at St James' Centre, 10–11.30am. Toys, equipment, crafts and singing for babies and toddlers aged 0–2.5 years. Friendly meeting place for parents, grandparents and carers. £1 per family per session includes a drink and a biscuit. Health Visitor-run Baby Clinic every 1st Thursday of the month.

*Contacts: Ruth (891475), Elize (898681)
Lisa (898419), Suzi (891886)*

Women's Institute

(visitors always welcome)

The meeting commenced with the singing of *Jerusalem*, after which business was dealt with. It was unanimously agreed that our lunch outing to the Wychwood Golf Club had been most enjoyable. A card, to be sent to Estelle who was unable to be with us, was signed by everyone present. Final arrangements were made for the group meeting at Woodstock. The competition for a favourite vase was won jointly by Jayne Clapton and Jill Rowlinson. Jill Prickett introduced the speaker, Brian Lowe, who drew the Denman Bursary for us, the lucky winner being the president, Avis Ushaw.

Brian's subject was *The Oxford of C. S. Lewis*. Clive Sinclair Lewis, who preferred to be called Jack, was born into a well-educated, middle-class family in Ireland in 1898. His mother died when he was only eight years old, leaving him and his brother to be brought up by his father. In 1917, at the age of 19, he was awarded a scholarship to University College, Oxford, where he began his career as an undergraduate. Jack was a staunch

atheist, but in those days it was obligatory for students to go to chapel, and he had no choice but to do so. He was at University College for three years and graduated with a First in English, a First in Latin and Greek, and a First in Philosophy.

Jack then went to Keble College where he trained as an officer cadet, having decided to join the Army. It was at Keble that he met Paddy Moore, a fellow Irishman, who also had only one parent, his mother, and a sister, Janey. They made a pact that should either Jack or Paddy be killed, the survivor would look after the other's family. Paddy was killed and Jack installed his mother and sister in a house in Windmill Road, Headington.

The war ended and in 1921 Jack got a job at Magdalen College as a Tutor and soon became a Fellow. Jack's father died in 1929, and 1930 was a turning point in Jack's life. He bought a house called 'The Kilns' with views over Shotover, and he lived there with Paddy's mother and sister.

During his time at Magdalen, Jack had met J. R. R. Tolkien, a Tutor at Merton and an ardent Catholic, and it was under his influence that Jack moved away from atheism and became a committed Anglican. Jack's reputation began to grow, and he often spoke in the University Church, frequently preaching the University sermon. Both he and Tolkien preached in the Examination Schools. They were also both members of the Inklings, a group of literary friends, who met in The Eagle and Child in St. Giles, to drink beer and to discuss and read their works. Women were strictly

not allowed, though Dorothy L. Sayers would dearly have loved to join.

Jack left Magdalen in 1954 and went to Magdalene, Cambridge. By this time he had become very famous and had met and fallen in love with Joy Gresham, an American author and divorcee with two sons. Jack installed her in a house in Headington. They married in a Registry Office in 1956, and Jack commuted weekly to Cambridge by train. Then Joy became ill with cancer and Jack gave up Cambridge to nurse her. She died in 1960. Jack died in 1963 on the day that Kennedy was assassinated, just one week short of his 65th birthday.

Jill Prickett thanked the speaker. At the next meeting on 23 June, John Owen will be telling us about RNLI. Please come along as a guest for the evening if you would like to hear more.

Brenda Oliver (891330)

Over 60s Club 'Darby & Joan'

The April meeting began with the AGM. The report for the year was read and the financial statement issued for all to see. Thanks were recorded to Derrick Millard, who is standing down as Treasurer after two years, and also to June who has helped him. A list of the proposed programme for the next 12 months was issued to all members present. Others are available. The 'A' Team for the coming year has a new Treasurer and one new member, Doreen Biddulph. The 'A' Team also serves as the committee. They were thanked for all they do throughout the year; without them the club could not exist. I am really grateful for all the help they give me. Thank you all. I believe we have a really good club, and if

there are any over 60s out there who would like to pay us a visit, then you would be most welcome.

The annual meeting over, we welcomed our speaker George Hedges, a retired policeman, who talked to us about his very interesting and enjoyable 45 years in the Police Force. After he retired in 2002, intending to relax with his reading and fishing etc., he heard about Respite Care for Oxfordshire Sick Youngsters (ROSY). He felt he had to do something to help, and is now the Chairman. He and his committee members give their services absolutely free to raise funds for this really worthwhile project. George had said that he would not talk about his life in the Police, but he now does so, provided a donation is made to ROSY. In order that he could come to our meeting, his wife was running the Oxford Market stall, which he does once a fortnight to bring in more funds. At my request he had brought along some items for sale, such as new pictures, cards and key rings. He was delighted with the response to this, and together with some donations he collected £115. The Club also gave a donation. He has asked that everyone is thanked for their generosity.

Names and deposits were collected for the outing on Tuesday 7 July, when we will travel to Windsor by coach to catch a boat to Maidenhead, where the coach will pick us up for the journey home. There are still some places. In June we will have a fun afternoon with Beetle etc. We ended our meeting with tea, cakes and, of course, the raffle. It was another good afternoon. Thank you all. I hope to see you on 11 June.

Avis Ushaw (898134)

Charities & good causes

British Red Cross Collection 2009

Thank you so much for your generous contributions in Stonesfield for the Red Cross House-to-House Collection this year. Also a big thank you to all the collectors who worked so hard. The total is £634.08.

Daphne Dent (898261)

St Laurence Church, Combe: Swing and Jazz Evening

In aid of church funds, the PCC is organising a Swing and Jazz Evening in the church on Saturday 27 June, commencing at 7.30pm. The evening will feature a 6-piece band called Boulevard Swing Jazz, plus a female vocalist, and will play numbers by Ella Fitzgerald, Count Basie, Gershwin and others. During the interval a complimentary glass of wine or a soft drink will be served, included in the price of the ticket, which costs £10 and can be purchased from either Paul Downer at the Cock Inn or Carrie Freeland at Green Close, Combe.

The PCC hope that you will support this event.

Roger Henman.

Garage(s) Sale

Households in Combe will be holding Garage Sales/Table-top Sales outside their own houses (similar to those held in Bampton/Clanfield & Ducklington) on Saturday 13 June (10.30 to 3.30pm).

Maps of the village showing participating households will be on sale at the Reading Room on the Green. Refreshments will also be available all day, and there will be a BBQ running from approx mid-day. All profits from pitch fees and sales of village maps will be used to purchase a bench in memory of Rosemary Sanchez, from Combe, who died so tragically last year. Donations can also be made on the day towards the bench fund, either at the Reading Room, or at my Garage Sale (my address is 26 Stonesfield Road and my telephone number is 01993 891445 if you'd like to contact me). Many thanks for reading this, and we look forward to seeing you around our village on 13 June.

Pat Popplestone

London 10km Run

I have been lucky enough, for the second year running, to be allocated a place in the London 10km run on Sunday 12 July. Although this year I will not be the youngest runner (minimum age 15), I will still be at the lower end of the age spectrum of the 25,000 runners. I will be running to raise money and awareness for the Foundation for Sudden Infant Deaths (formerly the Cot Death Research); hopefully this may prevent other families from going through the heartache we had to. As many of you will know, my niece died from a 'cot death' seven years ago. If you would like to sponsor me, and any amount however big or small would be greatly appreciated, you can donate by either making a visit

to my Justgiving website page (www.justgiving.com/markminchin90), where donations are given direct to FSID, or by phoning me at home on 01993 891597 (54 Akeman Street, Combe). I will let you know how I get on later in the year!

Mark Minchin (aged 16 yrs)

Christian Aid Week 2009

Thank you to everyone who supported Christian Aid Week. A magnificent total of £2,179.42 has been raised so far (at the time of writing, a few more donations are still arriving). This sum includes £510.05 from the sale/coffee morning – this was a very enjoyable and successful event.

Lindsey Sellar

Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust Ride or Stride

This year's bike ride will be on **Saturday 12 September** between 10am and 6pm. If you have a bicycle, why not make a note of the date and seek sponsorship for the number of churches you visit on the day? The money raised goes towards the repair of our beautiful churches. This is a marvellous opportunity to bicycle through lovely countryside and explore some of our wonderful churches. Please contact me for further details. Sponsorship forms will be available in both churches in the village, or from me, at Peakes House, Peaks Lane, from July.

Simon Haviland, Parish Organiser (891614)

GARAGE SALE

even though we don't have a garage

Prospect Cottage, Church Street
Saturday 6 June, 10.00 to 4.00

Everything priced to go with all profits going to Cecily's Fund

This is just a selection of things for sale:

Ladies bicycle, car ramps, axle stands, a couple of amplifiers, Wharfedale speakers, Sony cassette player, Technics CD player, bric-a-brac pot luck boxes, books galore, National Geographic magazines, cast iron garden seat ends, cane roller blinds, Habitat arm chair with broken spring, LaCie computer monitor, more books, Apple laser printer, Merry Tiller rotovator, and much much more.

Sport

Stonesfield Football Club

After the heroics of last term, when The First Team finished second in the league and put silverware in the trophy cabinet, this season promised so much. Hopes and aspirations are tenuous possessions at the best of times, and, especially at the start of a football season; they are prone to evaporation as the weeks pass. So it proved for our lads as with each passing week they witnessed league and cup success drift away. They even flirted with relegation at one point as the end of the campaign approached. Those fears were dispelled with a draw (1–1) at home to Adderbury Park and a win against Eynsham (4–2) in the final home game of the season. These were much needed results because they also lost (6–1) at Garsington (who went on to win the league), lost (3–0) at arch-rivals Enstone, and finally ended the season with a whimper, being defeated (6–2) at Horspath. Clearly, it hasn't been a vintage season, but it is only fair to point out they suffered a plethora of serious injuries to key players that threatened to derail them completely, and Steve Brookes has to take great credit for facing these setbacks full on and steering the team to safety. So under these circumstances, success (after a season of mediocrity) was retaining their premiership status.

The problems that beset The First Team clearly had repercussions for The Reserves and they have to take some credit for keeping their season going and finishing in mid-table. Despite losing (2–1) at home to Fritwell Res. they finished on a high with a great win (6–2) against Long Crendon Res., and ended the season with a hugely satisfying win (3–0) against arch-rivals, Enstone Res. Over the season The Reserves have once again fulfilled their rightful role within the club as they've backed up The Firsts with their best players at crucial stages. Andy Teasdale and his boys can be justly proud of themselves, as they too have contributed to keeping The First Team in The Premier League.

Finally, a special mention for those hardy souls who have supported our teams through thick and thin this season: you've suffered the searing September heat, the wind and rain of autumn, the freezing ice and snow of winter as well as some dreadful, dreadful football to cheer on your heroes for little or no reward. You know who you are and the players and management of this football club salute you. Thank you. Your support is appreciated by all concerned.

Tom Flanigan (891979)

Church news



Anglican Worship in the Parishes of Stonesfield with Combe Longa

Priest-in-Charge: The Revd Roy Turner
The Rectory, Stonesfield, Witney, Oxon, OX29 8PR
Telephone: 01993 898552 – Email: r.turner131@btinternet.com



Stonesfield Churchwardens: Martine Smith-Huvers (898425) & David Gambier (898464)
Combe Longa Churchwardens: Bill Andrewes (891376) & Julian Freeland (891223)

[S]=Stonesfield, [C]=Combe Longa, [SJC]=St James' Centre, BCP=Book of Common Prayer, CW=Common Worship, Order One: in Stonesfield Modern English, in Combe Longa Traditional English.

All Age Worship is worship for the family, of all ages.

From your Parish Priest

Most people in this country would probably admit that the Ten Commandments are important. Yet they are almost totally unknown. A recent survey of 1200 people aged 15–35 found that most of those polled could name no more than two of the ten Commandments – and they weren't too happy about some of the others when they were told about them.

The reason for the interest is, I think, pretty plain. When you look at almost all social trends, Britain is in deep decline. We are being confronted with a rise in crime, family breakdown, personal debt (*particularly in this financial crunch that we currently find ourselves in*), drug abuse (*not to mention of course the most recent crisis facing our MPs*). We certainly live in a generation that has lost its fixed standards, and whose leaders seem to have lost their way too. 'Our society isn't

just a ship that has slipped loose of its moorings; it is a ship that has lost its compass and rudder too.' So says J. John in his book *Ten*. For a society desperately adrift, the book detailing 'The ten best ways to live your life' is for me a must-read, and a book worth applying to put shape back into our lives and our society.

J. John goes on to say; 'I believe that these ancient rules are stamped – like embossed numerals on a watch dial – on to every conscience of every man and woman. They are part of what we are as human beings, and when we hear them, we recognise them in our inner beings. It's about time we started to take God and his word seriously.' Those are quotes from the preface of J. John's book and you can see that he is very passionate about the way he feels God has designed us, and the way He would want to help us find a rudder again to get to where we should be in our lives. Starting in June,

our sermon theme in church on Sunday mornings will be based on J. John's book, and we will be meeting at the Rectory midweek to study this subject a bit more in depth. We all need help to try and put into context what is really valuable in our lives, and I am looking forward to joining my friends in Stonesfield and Combe, as we reason and learn together about what really matters and how God has given us a clear pattern of what amounts to, I guess, the meaning of life.

By the way, why don't you check out our new web-sites on www.stonesfieldchurch.com and www.combechurch.com? There's a way to drop me a line or an email through the web-site if you would like to join in on the discussion. If not, just check out the web-site to see the new addition at the Rectory. It's Bertie our new Golden Retriever puppy!

Rev Roy

Sunday 7 June [Trinity Sunday]

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

Sunday 14 June [First Sunday after Trinity]

8am Stonesfield Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am Combe Longa United Village Service with the Methodists [CW/sung]
11am Stonesfield Parish Communion [CW/sung]

Sunday 21 June [Second Sunday after Trinity]

8am Stonesfield Holy Communion [BCP/said]
9.30am Combe Longa Matins [BCP/sung]
11am Stonesfield Morning Prayer [CW/sung] *with Scramblers and Explorers*

Sunday 28 June [Third Sunday after Trinity]

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

Sunday 5 July [Fourth Sunday after Trinity]

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

Midweek Communion Services

Commencing in June, midweek services of Holy Communion (said) will be held as follows:

- **Wednesdays** 10.30am at Combe Longa
- **Thursdays** 10.30am at Stonesfield

Everyone is most welcome.

Stonesfield Methodist Church

Dear Friends,

I ordered some new rose bushes a few weeks ago. I've always loved roses, especially those bred by a company called David Austin. They are called 'English Roses' and have all the attributes of old-fashioned roses, shape and perfume, with modern rose vigour and health. I used to live quite close to their nursery and a visit was always a treat.

I pretended that they were a present for Val but the reality is that they were really for me. Anyway, having ordered them I settled down to await their arrival. The trouble was they didn't, arrive that is. I was starting to get a bit worried as they were bare root plants and I knew that the season for them was nearly over. I duly sent off an email to enquire where my roses were, only to receive a reply that my order had been lost, but that my roses would arrive within a few days. They didn't!! Another email, apologies given, an offer to not charge me for one of the roses, and then finally they arrived.

I was very disappointed with the quality of the bushes. Late in the season, I thought, and not much stock left from which to choose. One rose in particular looked a particularly poor specimen. I planted them with not much enthusiasm and the very poor one was left in water for a few days until I decided that perhaps it was worth a try.

I suspect you know what's coming next. That rose has proved most vigorous and I've just checked and can report eleven strong shoots. I now cannot wait for the glorious flowers that will appear this summer.

I was thinking that it was just the same for the disciples after the resurrection. They were a pretty poor lot. But then we might have been as well. They have seen Jesus die. All their hopes dashed and they exist in fear. Even when the risen Jesus comes to them they are still unsure, frightened and wondering.

But from this group comes the most remarkable transformation. After Pentecost, they are changed to confident, powerful and remarkable people. From such unpromising material springs the Church of Christ

We too are members of that Church. Some might think us unpromising material, but with the power of the Gospel of Jesus coursing through our veins great things can happen through us as well.

You're welcome to come and look at the roses this summer. Just make sure that you flower for Jesus.

*Love,
Richard*

*Richard Donoghue, Methodist Minister
(01993 703178,
richard.donoghue@methodist.org.uk)*

SERVICES FOR JUNE

Sunday 7 June

11am Revd Richard Donoghue, Holy Communion

Sunday 14 June

11am Mr David Sarbutts

Sunday 21 June

11am Mr Andrew Maisey

Sunday 28 June

11am Ms Anne Welch

Roman Catholic Worship

St Teresa's Charlbury

Sunday Mass 11am
Holydays 9.30am
7.30pm

St Kenelm's Church Enstone

Sunday Mass 9am

Canon David Evans (01608 810576)

New Church thought

The internet is an amazing tool. Every day, just a sentence or two chosen from Swedenborg's many theological books

arrives in my email inbox. It's a service called Daily Inspiration, and it lifts my thinking (however briefly) to a higher level. Even more, a single click on the link attached to it can take me, at a whoosh, to people, places, and events across the world. The internet transcends the restrictions of time and space: that ability makes me think almost every day about the spiritual world, where 'thought brings presence'. Nowadays, that can very nearly happen in this world too. Amazing!

Dale Morris (898210)

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Tel: 01993 891313 Email: hoopergreg2@googlemail.com

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