

# SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 50 No. 8

OCTOBER 2021



## The Halloween Issue

There are TEN 'spooky' images within these pages...  
Dare to find them all!

### VILLAGE DIARY

Church Diary - see pages 8 - 11

Upcoming Events – page 13

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Previous copies of SCN are available on the website under Archives  
at [suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk](http://suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk)

**NOVEMBER 2021 SCN DEADLINE – WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021**

Unless otherwise stated the Sutton Courtenay News copy deadline is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

## VILLAGE CONTACTS

County Councillor: Richard Webber, 534001  
(Schools, Roads etc.) [richardwebber777@gmail.com](mailto:richardwebber777@gmail.com)  
District Councillor: Richard Webber—as above  
(Planning, Waste etc.)  
Parish Council Chair: Eileen Daw  
[eileendaw@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:eileendaw@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk)  
Beavers, Cubs & Scouts: [26thAbingdon@gmail.com](mailto:26thAbingdon@gmail.com)  
Stay & Play Toddler Group: Facebook page: [@SCstayandplay](https://www.facebook.com/@SCstayandplay)  
Friends of All Saints'-Chair: Sue Jenkins 07885 437454  
Matrix Music School: 847264  
The Abbey: 847401  
Village Hall – SC: [scvillagehallbookings@googlemail.com](mailto:scvillagehallbookings@googlemail.com)  
Cricket Club: [drb71@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:drb71@hotmail.co.uk)  
WI - Sutton Courtenay Val Melville 847612  
Nordic Walking Group: Graham Wells 847322  
Churchmere Carp Synd.: Roger Rance 847241  
DAMASCUS Youth Project: 848694  
SC Local History Society: Mary Thompson 848527  
[sclhs.org.uk](http://sclhs.org.uk)  
[marydthompson@outlook.com](mailto:marydthompson@outlook.com)  
SCIDS (Drama Society): Morna Whitlock, 848335  
[morna28whitlock@gmail.com](mailto:morna28whitlock@gmail.com)  
All Saints Singers: Kathy Harrop-Griffiths, 848230  
[secretary@allsaintssingers.org](mailto:secretary@allsaintssingers.org)  
[www.allsaintssingers.org](http://www.allsaintssingers.org)  
Sutton Courtenay Action: [suttoncourtenayaction@gmail.com](mailto:suttoncourtenayaction@gmail.com)  
Non-urgent Police: 101 or policing team email:  
[AbingdonOuterNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:AbingdonOuterNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)  
Environment Agency: Landfill Odours 0800 80 70 60  
Thames Water (leaks): 0800 71 46 14  
Power Cuts: 105

### Websites:

Sutton Courtenay News: [www.suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk](http://www.suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk)  
Parish Council: [www.suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk](http://www.suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk)  
Vale of White Horse DC: [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk)  
Oxfordshire CC: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## SUTTON COURTENAY POST OFFICE

A wide range of key Post Office products & services are available at Hari & Esha News in the High Street.

The opening hours are:

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 08:00 -18:00  
Wed: 08:00 - 17:00  
Sat: 08:30 - 13:00  
Sun: 09:00 - 12:00

## SUTTON COURTENAY DEFIBRILLATORS



The village has three defibrillators.

One is located outside the front roller doors of Sutton Courtenay Tyres on the High Street. The second is in the old BT phone booth opposite the

Nursery on the High Street.

The third is outside the Fish, Appleford Road.



## ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

### The Ministry Team

Rector: The Reverend Helen Kendrick  
The Rectory, 3, Tullis Close, Sutton Courtenay, OX14 4BD  
01235 848297 [rector@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:rector@damascusparish.org.uk)  
Assistant Priest: The Reverend Rosie Bruce  
07766 421773 [rosie-bruce@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rosie-bruce@hotmail.co.uk)  
Associate Priest: The Reverend Phil Sutton 01235 526114  
or 07507 378737 [revphil@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:revphil@damascusparish.org.uk)  
Associate Priest: The Reverend Meg Heywood  
01235 537110 [revmeg@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:revmeg@damascusparish.org.uk)  
Lay ministers: Tim Budd (527853), Jack Jarvis (831395) &  
Alex Landsbert (847443)  
Authorised preacher: Paul James (848129)  
Churchwardens: Nicola Turner (01235 833938)  
or Hilary Otterburn (01235 834725)

For Services of Worship - Please see Page 8

## VILLAGE HALL

The village hall is a registered charity available for hire for community related recreational activities. It is located in Hobbyhorse Lane (OX14 4BB). It has a large main hall, a smaller meeting room and kitchen. There are regular activities that take place on some weekday evenings. To find out more or book the hall please contact the Secretary to the Village Hall Management Committee Rita Atkinson on 01235 848694, email [scvillagehallbookings@googlemail.com](mailto:scvillagehallbookings@googlemail.com).

Hire charges vary depending on the nature of the use of the hall. The maximum hire charge for the main hall is £16 per hour. Commercial bookings and regular hire are negotiated separately. Visits prior to hire are welcomed.

In accordance with government rules to prevent, and protect against, the spread of the coronavirus, the Village Hall Management Trustees have prepared risk assessments, guidance & new conditions of hire for users. These are under constant review as the government guidance changes. Please get in touch to check if your activity is permitted under the regulations.

## SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS CONTACTS

Sutton Courtenay News is published by the editorial team, the members of which are: Katherine Harrop-Griffiths (07946 474238), Kathy Whittaker and Bernie Jones (07761 375991). Bernie deals with all the advertising.

Sutton Courtenay News is printed with support from the Sutton Courtenay Parish Council.

All contributions for the next edition should be e-mailed to [editor@suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk](mailto:editor@suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk), taken to Sutton Courtenay Tyres petrol station shop or posted in the mailbox on the outside the garden door of Cross Trees, 1 Church Street before the copy deadline. To have any contribution published you must provide your name & contact details to the editors.

To advertise, telephone 07761 375991 or email [advertising@suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk](mailto:advertising@suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk)

For distribution enquiries please contact Sue on 847158 or Shirley on 847241 or any of the editors.

The Editors have been contacted by people outside the village who would like to continue receiving a copy of Sutton Courtenay News. It can be viewed on-line at [suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk](http://suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk) but please contact the editors to discuss what other arrangements can be made for those unable to access the website.



## Recreation Ground

The Parish Council has instructed a landscape architect to draft plans for the proposed redevelopment of the recreation ground. We are in receipt of an initial, very rough, costing proposal and plans, and the Recreational Amenities working party are now looking at turning these into more developed plans which will be shared with all residents in due course.

The working party is also looking at the possibility of further recreational facilities in other areas of the village. Again, this is in the very early stages and further details will be provided in the future.

## Working Parties

The Council has a number of working parties to focus on certain projects or elements of Council procedures. The benefit of these being working parties is that non-councillors can be members. If you have an interest in, or are passionate about, any of the Council's current projects, or could bring expertise to the groups, please consider joining them. Please inform the Clerk, and she will arrange for the relevant Chairperson of the working party to contact you. Current working parties include Recreational Amenities, Cemetery upgrade and upkeep, Footpaths and Landfill Restoration and Arts Trail.

## District Council Statement of Community Involvement – Public consultation.

The District Council has prepared a statement of Community Involvement. Working with South Oxfordshire District Council, the Vale of the White Horse District Council wishes to prepare a document which sets out how it will consult on planning applications and planning policy, with the aim of making it as easy as possible for everyone to get involved in the planning process. The Council therefore seeks comments from all residents on the draft of the document. Should you wish to have your say, please do comment on the same. For further details, a link to the draft statement and the online comment form can all be found on the District Council's website at:

<https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/planning-and-development/local-plan-and-planning-policies/statement-of-community-involvement/>.

The closing dates for comments is midnight on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

## Facebook page

The Parish Council is launching a Parish Council Facebook Page. This can be found by searching "Sutton Courtenay Parish Council" on Facebook. Please note that while information will be shared on Facebook, information will still be shared in this article in the Sutton Courtenay News, on the noticeboard and on the website in the same way as now.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is due to take place on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021, in the Village Hall, commencing at 7.15pm. Further information will be published on the Noticeboard outside Hari and Esha Stores on the High Street, on the website and can be requested via the clerk using the contact details below.

## Grants

The Council is able to make grants to charities and organisations which provide free services that aid the residents of the village. Applications are considered annually with this year's deadline being Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Please do contact the clerk for further information if required.

Clerk to Council: Helen Savery, 10 Sovereign Place, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 9GF.

Email: [info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk)

Tel: 01235 364211

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

A very early draft of the Neighbourhood Plan has gone to both the Parish Council and the Vale of White Horse District Council for initial comments. Once comments are received and any changes implemented, the formal consultation draft will be handed over to the Parish Council for consultation with all Sutton Courtenay residents and other statutory consultees. We hope this will come to fruition by mid November.

Updates can be found on [www.suttoncourtenay.pc.gov.uk](http://www.suttoncourtenay.pc.gov.uk) and residents are always welcome to feed in their thoughts by emailing Joanna O'Callaghan at [otlands32@btinternet.com](mailto:otlands32@btinternet.com)





## New Beginnings

How lovely to begin the school year with such lovely weather – there was a real sense of optimism in the air as we enjoyed the Indian summer days earlier in the first week of term. The children have made a fantastic start back to school, beginning the year with a real sense of focus and purpose. They are enthusiastic and keen to do well. This week was a very special one because we were able to hold our **first whole school assembly in the hall** for eighteen months! The children sat beautifully, showing understanding of the routines and rituals around our time together. Those who did not wish to pray were respectful and joined in with the reflective times. We were all very proud of them.

### Our school uniform

With the approach of the COP 26 Climate Conference, we are looking at lots of ways we can help to take responsibility for our beautiful planet. The clothing industry is a terrible polluter, generating around ten times more greenhouse gases than the whole of the motor industry! Our approach to uniform is in line with our school values.

Children should be **ready** for active playtimes and lessons including PE, at all times in the school day. We aim to reduce lost learning time in changing or searching for lost belongings.



Uniform is about **respect**. We foster our collective identity and we look smart to show respect for our school community.

We take **responsibility** for the impact of our uniform. We try to reduce cost and waste wherever we can. This sends clear messages to children about the need to take care of their things and of their environment, reducing unnecessary clutter and waste of resources.

We have reduced the need for children to have multiple pairs of shoes by making black trainers our uniform, and we have simplified our PE kit down to a single pair of shorts! This is not only cost effective and better for the planet, it also reduces lost learning time in changing and stress for children and families with lost belongings. Sometimes the best solutions are the simplest.

### A creative education

After an 18 month break, choir begins again for **Key Stage 2 children**. This is something we really missed last year. We are hoping to be part of the Ridgeway Christmas Concert again this year, where the children get a chance to perform to a large audience. Choir happens at lunchtime on Wednesdays. This is so that we can be inclusive and everyone gets a chance to join; because of younger siblings, after school commitments and parents' working hours, after-school clubs are difficult for some to attend.

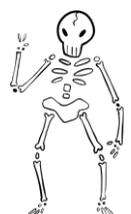
We are also looking forward to a fabulous musical week, beginning 20<sup>th</sup> September. Each class from Years 1-6 will enjoy a music workshop with a specialist, studying a range of instruments from drums and beatbox to voice. The children will also be treated to two performances from a guitarist and a blues group.



Meanwhile, the Art curriculum has got off to a good start. In the Reception class, our new starters have been practicing mixing paint colours to get their skin tone just right for their self-portraits. Higher up the school, children have been investigating various media in response to observations of local flora.



Headteacher: Ms Rachel Hornsey  
 Asst. Headteachers: Lisa Knight and Louise Potter  
[office.3243@sutton-courtenay.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3243@sutton-courtenay.oxon.sch.uk)  
 Tel: 01235 848333



# ABINGDON DAMASCUS YOUTH PROJECT

## The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project

Registered Charity 1098966



Youth & Community Acting Together

It has been a lovely start to our Autumnal sessions on the Recreation Ground and the group has been keeping our Youth Ambassadors nice and busy with as many games of football as they could fit in! It's been great to watch them and see their skills get better each week – there are some budding future stars in the village!

For those that aren't as sports crazy as some of the others in the group, we have been playing lots of games, under the gazebo, focussing on communication. The team has also been talking about mental health and body image with a few activities exploring how to support each other. It has been a return to school for many, with lots of our older young people heading off to college or sixth form, and some of our younger members finding their feet in secondary school! We have been exploring our experiences and, as mentioned before, looking at how we can support others within school!

The Mayor of Abingdon has adopted us as one of her charities for 2021/22. The annual ADYP Awards Ceremony was held at the Unicorn Theatre in Abingdon with the Mayor presenting many of our young people with certificates of achievement for youth leadership and community support of the elderly. The young people of Sutton Courtenay made a great impression on the very important people in attendance! A huge well done to those who won an award, and a big thank you for all those who showed up to support them too!

Our sessions will be moving indoors to the Village Hall from October as the evenings draw in. Keep your eyes open on social media for the posters and updates!

Please note we will be in attendance at the Mayor's Charities' Event on Saturday 23rd October from 10am to 4pm in Abingdon Market Square. If you are in town, do stop by and say hello.

The ADYP Team – Roxy Elford, Jake Fleetwood and James Quartermain, Emily Astley-Madge

Do contact any of us on: [jamesq.ycat@gmail.com](mailto:jamesq.ycat@gmail.com), [jakef.ycat@gmail.com](mailto:jakef.ycat@gmail.com), [roxy.ycat@gmail.com](mailto:roxy.ycat@gmail.com), [emily.adyp@gmail.com](mailto:emily.adyp@gmail.com)

Tel: 01235 848694 or 07875649008



Jake Damascus, Roxy Damascus,  
James Damascus, Emily Damascus



Jake\_Damascus; James\_Damascus:  
Roxy\_Damascus; Emily\_Damascus

YouTube – The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project – MIND GYM

Website – [www.damascusyouthproject.org.uk](http://www.damascusyouthproject.org.uk)



## No Easy Answers

I believe we have all noticed the increasing amounts of traffic on our local roads since lockdown ended. This together with increasing numbers of reports on speeding – particularly those coming to our villages from elsewhere has made me want to focus on roads and speeding this month.

Some of the things I have learned over the last 16 years on these issues include the following:

1. The majority of excess speeding is carried out by locals and the residents themselves. This may well be that they know their roads best and believe they know where they can safely put their foot down.
2. The regular hold-ups themselves lead to frustration and the temptation to speed to make up time.
3. The police rightly, in my view, deem that their major focus should be on keeping down crime.
4. The available police resource for enforcing minor driving offences (the sort that many of us have committed) is therefore limited. It may be that minor infringement will be taken over by local councils in future, just as roadside parking has been.
5. There is an increasing dependence on voluntary support for trying to encourage us all to drive more slowly and with more care. “Speed watch”, Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAGS) and other initiatives do make a difference. For those who would like to get involved, details are in all Parish magazines and newsletters.
6. There are various speed reduction measures that have been tried over the years. These include:
  - i) speed bumps – expensive to install, noisy and can damage vehicle suspensions.
  - ii) Vehicle Activated Signs – smiley faces etc. – cheaper, but plenty of evidence of a reducing impact as time goes on.
  - iii) Speed Cameras – again expensive to man and maintain – many taken down after a few months as a result of public anger and only have an effect over a short distance.
  - iv) Raised tables as per Drayton - but these need to have adequate warning signs and colouration for best impact
  - v) Chicanes and build outs. Reasonably affordable and increasingly used. Some evidence of excess speeding being caused by the chicane itself.
  - iv) Improved road design, taking into account visibility and driver perception.
7. There are no easy answers and each area probably needs its own specific solution.

So, what can be done?

Speeding and traffic behaviour on the B4106 between Drayton and Sutton Courtenay is an issue all down its length. Noise and building damage issues exist in both villages. Congestion at busy times of the day causes much aggravation not just to the through traffic, but also to vehicles exiting on to the road. The road has a known poor safety record because of accidents. The proposed build out/chicane at the edge of Sutton Courtenay – if agreed after the full, public consultation will, it is hoped, reduce the average speed – hopefully to well below 30mph. The new HIF Road between Didcot and the Thames, we are told, will reduce the overall volume of traffic on all the roads between our villages – certainly for 10 years. We have to hope the Highway Officers are right.

The A415 between Abingdon and Marcham is also experiencing increasing traffic volumes. The reduction to 50mph has helped, but there must be a question of the road becoming more suitable for a 40mph limit. Work has been commissioned to find options for a redesign of the Frilford crossroads – possibly with dedicated bus and cycle lanes and even, yes, the long promised bypass.

But ultimately, the only long-term solutions are to encourage people out of cars and to walk and cycle wherever possible, and to provide regular, reliable public transport where that is not feasible. At present cycling on our local roads is a risky business, whilst walking on many of the roads is even worse. Buses are too infrequent, and many villages have no service.

HGV traffic is another big problem.

It may be that, in the future, computers will be able to drive more safely than humans – but not yet.

With the police, Local Councils and Central Government all under budgetary restraint, there is no alternative but to be inventive where possible, and as patient as possible – particularly behind the wheel.

Richard Webber Cllr

01235 534001

Richardwebber777@gmail.com





I am writing this after the first full week of parliament's return, when all MPs have been present. While I had been going down to London Monday-Thursday once it was permitted again, some MPs have not been physically in the House of Commons for nearly 18 months. All of us who were attending physically had been subject to a socially distanced chamber with only a fraction of MPs allowed in, and all committee meetings on Zoom.

The place is now transformed, with much more atmosphere; proper debates where people can 'intervene on' (interrupt to politely make a counterpoint) each other; and I, for one, felt our first Education Committee meeting was much more focussed and better for being able to put ministers and their officials under scrutiny. Virtual parliament is better than no parliament, but a lot is lost.

With the exception of a few days in Yorkshire and a couple of days in Norfolk, I spent most of recess at home in Didcot. There were some great events just before we returned. One was the Longworth Church Fete, which had a good turnout and good weather, a very competitive dog show and classics like a tombola and coconut shy. Another was a tea party at the Almshouse of Robert Stiles in Wantage, to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Almshouse Association. Almshouses have existed in the UK for more than 1000 years and provide low-cost housing to the local community. They have something in common with fetes in that both are run by volunteers. And, as with the return of parliament, they give a taste of what's been missed through Covid.

I know that the pressure on GP services continues to be a bugbear. Over the summer, I met with both the Wantage surgeries and chaired a larger meeting of the Didcot surgeries, Clinical Commissioning Group, Patient Participation Group reps and the District Council in Didcot.

The long-overdue expansion of the Health Centre in Mably Way, Wantage has just had a step forward after a meeting of the CCG: the business case has been approved and the planning application has been submitted. In Didcot, there is both the particular short-term need presented by the new houses at sites such as Great Western Park, and a longer-term need given the expected population growth. In broad terms there's agreement about what we need. My job is to do all I can to try and ensure we get it.

Other recent meetings of note were with some residents of Appleford and some residents of Sutton Courtenay. The Appleford meeting was specifically about the location of the

relief road and the desire of the group to see it moved 200m to where Oxfordshire County Council were originally going to put it. I think there is a compelling case for this and have contacted the County Council with the points the group wanted raised. The Sutton Courtenay meeting was a broader one about the development that has taken place and promised improvements that have still not arrived – at my request, they're giving me a task list of things they'd like me to do!

A final mention for a couple of charities. Adrian is an ambassador for the Stroke Association and runs a group in Grove. He can deliver free of charge presentations to groups of any age about the risk factors for having a stroke. The other is Root and Branch, near Shrivenham, which runs outdoor activities for those with mental health difficulties. I visited this month and they need volunteer blacksmiths/metal workers to help run classes for those that use the service. Do get in touch if you can help – or indeed, as ever, if you'd like to contact me about anything else: [david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk)



Steam engines, Sutton Courtenay 11 September 2021  
Photo by C Pennicott





The  
**DAMASCUS**  
Parish  
Drayton | Appleford | Milton  
Sutton Courtenay | Steventon

St Peter's, Drayton  
St Peter & St Paul, Appleford  
St Blaise, Milton  
All Saints', Sutton Courtenay  
St Michael and All Angels, Steventon

From the Ministry Team...

## Charitable Giving @ Harvest

"Charity begins at home". This I was taught by my grandmother many, many years ago; which is fine, obviously, if you have a home. At the time of writing this letter to you, we have seen this in action with an outpouring of donations and help to those fleeing from Afghanistan. As well as spontaneous and generous responses to one-off appeals, there are fundraising events all year round with a wide variety of ways to give charitably.

Traditionally, charitable giving was highlighted at harvest time - a time to share in the bountiful crops. This goes back at least 3,000 years and can be read about in the laws given for farming in the books of Leviticus and Deuteronomy.

*"When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the LORD your God. (Leviticus 19:9-10)*

The three points are

- to leave the margins of grain fields un-harvested, the width of the margins is decided by the owner.
- Don't pick up anything that has fallen to the ground.
- Harvest vines only once, leaving the later ripening ones.

These three things are to be left for the poor, the orphans and widows and also the resident foreigners, as they didn't own land and depended on their own labour for food. This is so that everyone then has the benefit of God's provision.

Times have changed, yes, but we still have the serious issues of food poverty, child poverty, refugees and the homeless. Charitable giving has changed, but the principle of "give because you can and not because you must" is still with us.

We ought to consider ourselves fortunate that we are where we are, and so whatever you give, give gratefully.  
Reverend Rosie Bruce

For Announcements, Please See Page 17

## CHURCH DIARY FOR OCTOBER

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>** – 10:30 Harvest Festival Family Service & Harvest Lunch

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup>** – 19:30 Baptism Preparation for all families interested in a Christening Service, St Peter's Church Room, Drayton – please contact [rector@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:rector@damascusparish.org.uk) if you wish to attend.

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>** – 10:30-12:00 Community Café in the River Room

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup>** – 19:30 DAMASCUS PCC Meeting in the River Room

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>** – 4pm Movie Matinee in the River Room (see advert for details)

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>** – 3.30pm Syrinx Concert (see advert for details)

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>** - 10:30-12:00 Community Café in the River Room

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>** – 10:30 DAMASCUS Parish Service to celebrate the Festival of All Saints @ All Saints' Church – followed by refreshments in the River Room and then at 3pm – Service of Naming and Remembering for All Souls' followed by refreshments in the River Room

## CHURCH DIARY FOR NOVEMBER

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup>** - 19:30 Baptism Preparation for all families interested in a Christening Service in the River Room, All Saints' Church, SC – please contact [rector@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:rector@damascusparish.org.uk) if you wish to attend.

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>** – 1-5pm Church Jumble Sale in the Village Hall (see advert for more details)

### Services of Worship

1st Sunday: Family service at 10:30 am

2nd Sunday: Parish Eucharist @ 10:30am + Junior Church

3rd Sunday: Morning Worship @ 10:30am + Junior Church

4th Sunday: Parish Eucharist @ 10:30am + Junior Church

5th Sunday: Special services across the Damascus Parish

– please see church noticeboard for details.

Wednesdays: BCP Holy Communion at 9:45 am

## Community Café in the River Room



**Run by the church for the whole community**

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October &**

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October**

**from 10:30-12:00**

all welcome!

Why not drop by for coffee or tea & delicious homemade cake & conversation and to browse the books or jigsaw puzzles on offer?

Open to all – a good place to meet with friends. If you need transport to and from the church, please 'phone the Parish Office on 01235 847179

## MOVIE MATINEES ARE BACK!

Through the Autumn and Winter months we will be running a series of films in the River Room – raising money for church funds through donations.

For a full programme to be sent to you please email: [admin@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:admin@damascusparish.org.uk) or pick one up from the back of the church

## Changes to the Ministry Team

In July we said farewell to the Reverend Karen Hyde, who had served as an Assistant Curate in the DAMASCUS Parish since 2017. We were sad to see her go, and grateful for her years of ministry with us, and we wish her well in her new ministry as Chaplain at St Helen's and St Katherine's School in Abingdon.

Tim Budd, who has served for many years as a Licensed Lay Minister, whilst not fully retiring, is taking a step back from his commitments in the parish. Again, we are very grateful for his ministry among us and wish him well as he celebrated a milestone birthday in September.

## ALL SOULS' SERVICE

Naming and Remembering  
those who have died

3pm on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October

All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay

This year we are holding our service in the afternoon at the earlier time of 3pm and refreshments of tea and coffee and cake will be available afterwards in the River Room.

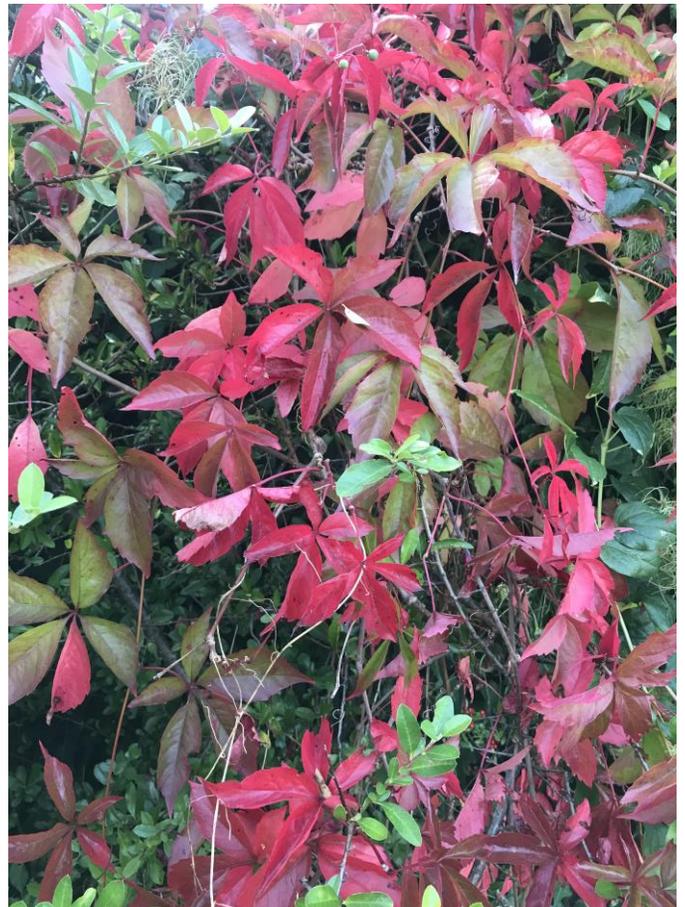
The service will be livestreamed – please contact us if you would like the link sent to you.

Invitations will be sent to the next of kin of all those we have conducted a funeral for over the past two years.

But if you wish us to remember someone else, regardless of when or where they died, please add their name to the list at the back of church or let us know at the parish office.

If you need transport to and from the service, or have any other questions, please contact the Parish Office on 01235 847179

[admin@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:admin@damascusparish.org.uk)



## CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Thanks once again to a very generous anonymous donation, from someone who simply wants to give back to the community, we are planning to make up Christmas Hampers for distribution around Sutton Courtenay in the week before Christmas.

If you know of an individual, a couple or a family who would appreciate a gift of a hamper then please let us know their name and address and we will ensure a hamper is delivered to them in the week before Christmas.

The aim of the hampers is simply to spread the love of Christmas around the community.

Please email [admin@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:admin@damascusparish.org.uk) or 'phone 01235 847179 by 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

## KNITTERS NEEDED FOR HEARTS OF ALL COLOURS!

A HUGE thank you to all the many knitters who responded to last year's Christmas Knitting Challenge – we ended up with a flock of 300 sheep who were used to help tell the Christmas Story at the Open Air Crib Service!

This year the challenge is to knit (or crochet a heart (of any colour) with wool, ribbon or string attached so that we can hang them up. If you would like to take part in this challenge you can contact us for a pattern or use one of your own. Just ring 01235 847179 or email [admin@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:admin@damascusparish.org.uk) and we can deliver a knitting pattern to you.

The completed hearts will need to be delivered to the Parish Office at All Saints' Church by **SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER.**

You can use any old wool of any colour, and if you need supplies let us know and we will get you some.  
Thank you!

*Look out for the Hearts around the village from the morning of Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December.*

**At the heart  
of Christmas** 

## Can you help secure the Future of the Christmas Eve Procession?

Thank you for the donations already received - there is still a long way to go!

For over twenty-five years All Saints' Church has run, organised and insured the Torchlight Procession through the Village culminating in carols around the bonfire in the Churchyard (apart from 2019 when it was held on the Village Green because of our building work and 2020 when it had to be cancelled because of the Covid-19 restrictions).

For the majority of those years, we had the amazing support of Colin and Adrian Whitehead and family who provided all the lights, sound and power to make the event run as smoothly and safely as possible. We are immensely grateful for all they provided for so many years. But they retired in 2019 and we then had to employ someone to provide all the equipment and set up and dismantle it at the end. This cost just under £700. Unfortunately, the church cannot afford this level of expenditure and unless we have financial support, we will not be able to run the event.

As you will know we do a bucket collection every year but all the money raised from that goes to a nominated charity. We are extremely reluctant to reduce the amount we give to charity in order to cover costs, therefore we are looking to the wider community for support.

Over the years thousands of you have enjoyed taking part and we hope you want it to continue for future generations. So, if you would like to contribute towards the financial costs then please send a donation:

- By bank transfer

The DAMASCUS PCC  
CAF Bank Limited Account  
40-52-40  
00031419  
Reference – SC Torch

- Or by cheque payable to The DAMASCUS PCC and sending it to the DAMASCUS Parish Office, All Saints' Church, The Green, Sutton Courtenay, OX14 4AE. Please mark the envelope 'SCTorch'



**SYRINX RETURNS!**

*For a fundraising concert in All Saints' Church*  
**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

3.30pm Tea and Cakes, 4:00pm Concert Begins  
TICKETS £10 per person (to include tea and cake)  
On sale via [rector@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:rector@damascusparish.org.uk) or by  
'phoning the Parish Office on 847179 or from Hari  
& Esha Stores



Simon Salisbury – Flute  
Rachel Porter – Oboe  
Peter Foster – Clarinet  
Benj Colyer – Horn  
Bill Fox – Bassoon

Syrinx is a Wind quintet based in Oxfordshire. Repertoire includes classical wind ensemble music and contemporary music in serious and popular styles. Since our establishment in 2001, we have provided music for many concerts and charity events in the south of England and the Midlands.

The name Syrinx means pan-pipe or flute in ancient Greek, and comes from a legend about the origins of the flute.

This will be the second time Syrinx have performed in All Saints' Church, although in the past, some of the players have been regular members of the orchestra that accompanied the All Saints' Singers.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

All Saints' Church has crockery, cutlery and glasses etc available for parties and events, in exchange for a donation to church funds.

Please contact the Parish Office  
01235 847179 if you are interested.

**BARGAINS GALORE!**

*Jumble Sale*

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>  
November  
1 - 5pm  
Sutton  
Courtenay  
Village Hall**  
With tea & coffee  
available

**QUALITY BRIC-A-BRAC  
CLOTHES – TOYS – BOOKS etc etc**

Donations on the day  
between 11:00-12:00  
or to arrange collection beforehand  
please contact  
01235 847179  
Or email [rector@damascusparish.org.uk](mailto:rector@damascusparish.org.uk)

RAISING MONEY FOR THE  
CHURCH GENERAL FUND



**HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE 10:30am  
and Harvest Lunch 12:15  
SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER**

As we celebrate all the gifts we have received we are mindful of the needs of others. Please bring tinned goods and dried food for the Abingdon Food Bank or cash donations for Farm Africa.

This year the Foodbank is in particular need of: Tins of salmon, tuna, mackerel, sardines and pilchards; Tinned vegetables – potatoes, carrots, garden peas, mixed veg; Pulses including chick peas and kidney beans; Tins of meat – curry, chilli, stew, corned beef and tinned ham; Jars or packets of instant coffee; Tinned peaches, pears, mandarins, pineapple and fruit cocktail; Long-life sponge puddings and tins of rice pudding; Peanut butter, jam, marmalade, chocolate spread and honey.

Our service this year will be followed by a **Harvest Lunch** (Cottage Pies, Apple Pies & Crumbles) in the River Room at 12:15

Please sign the list at the back of church if you would like to come so we know for how many to cater.

If you can help with the cooking,  
there will be another list to sign too!



SUTTON COURTENAY WI



**THIS YEAR**

**We've celebrated 100 years of SCWI**



**- achievement, education, friendship -- and much more!**

**Our September talk is 'Magistrates in the Community'.**

**In October we'll welcome autumn with a tasty Harvest Supper,**

**and in November Paul Dalby will show us how he carves**

**some wonderful wooden ducks.**

**We meet every third Tuesday of the month in the**

**River Room, Sutton Courtenay at 7.30 pm**

**If you wish to join us, please contact our Secretary on 847612**



Do you live with, or care for someone living with Dementia?

**WeCare2**

WeCare2 hopes to be a group where we can meet, greet and singalong one morning a fortnight in the 'River Room' at All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay from 10.45am to 12 noon on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month.

We will start as soon as we have customers, so please get in touch to let me know if you would join us:

Morna Whitlock morna28whitlock@gmail.com

01235 848335

Brookfield, 30 Chapel Lane.

Sutton Courtenay, OX14 4AN

We shall be guided by Covid19 advice to stay safe.



**Citizens Advice needs volunteer advisers**

There comes a time for all of us when we face problems that are too stressful or complicated to sort out alone. Last year – one of the most difficult - our 90 advisers advised 9,000 clients on over 20,000 problems. We helped four in five resolve their debt, benefits, employment and housing problems. Many of these were caused by the Covid-19 crisis.

We now need more advisers as we move into the pandemic recovery phase.

Our main offices are in Abingdon, Didcot, Henley and Thame. Since March 2020 our volunteers and staff have been advising the public from home on our Adviceline service. Recently we partially re-opened our offices, in part to train new advisers.

What will you get out of it? You will join a friendly team, meet new people, develop your skills and make a real difference to people's lives.

You'll need to have good listening and interpersonal skills, a willingness to learn and be confident with computers. Full training will be provided.

Henley adviser Amanda says: "I am proud to volunteer with Citizens Advice because they offer crucial support to those that need it most, and my colleagues, both volunteers and employees, make volunteering a pleasure."

If you have eight hours a week to spare for the next two years or more and are looking for a satisfying and stimulating volunteer role in your local community, please contact us at:

[www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/volunteer/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/volunteer/)

**RIVER ROOM 200 CLUB**

**In Support of the All Saints' Community Space**

Winners at the Draw on September 9 were:

**1<sup>st</sup> – No. 86 (£42.00)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> – No. 79 (£21.00)**

**3<sup>rd</sup> – No. 50 (£8.00)**

New members always welcome.

Please see the information in All Saints' Church or email [landsbert@west-manor.co.uk](mailto:landsbert@west-manor.co.uk)

The next draw will take place on Thursday October 14<sup>th</sup> at the All Saints' Community Café in the River Room at 10.30 am.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### This year marks the centenary of the Royal British Legion

The Royal British Legion was set up in 1921 to support the service men of World War 1 and their families. The first ever Poppy Appeal was held that year. The money raised was used to help veterans with employment and housing, provide emergency aid payments and food parcels to families, and create a dedicated TB hospital.

Today, the Royal British Legion continues to provide support to serving and ex-serving personnel in many ways. This includes helping those with life changing injuries following conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, and supporting veterans living with dementia. It also provides support with getting back into employment and, more recently, helping families impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

To mark the centenary there will be a **Pop-up Poppy Shop** on the village green on **Sunday 7 November 10am-2pm**. It will have Poppy Appeal items for sale (100% of the money made will go directly to the Royal British Legion) and will be manned by 2 veterans from the village and the local Poppy Appeal Organiser. There will also be 'a hook a duck' for the younger crowd. Please come and support the Poppy Appeal.

Alan Calver will also be marking the centenary by displaying 100 poppies on his gate, alongside posters which explain the history of the Royal British Legion and Remembrance.

### THE FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS'



### Advance Notice

The Friends of All Saints' are planning a Yuletide Evening at the Abbey on 11<sup>th</sup> December. Details will appear in the November issue. Please keep a space in your diary.

Sue Jenkins  
Chairman



### S.C.I.D.S.

#### The Real Legend of Robin Hood

'The Team' are set to go, we need a cast, backstage crew, musicians and all the rest.  
Everyone from aged 8 to 80 is welcomed.

The day to sign up to this extravaganza is .....  
Sunday November 21<sup>st</sup> 2021-from 3.30 until 5.00 pm  
in Sutton Courtenay Village Hall  
Rehearsals will start on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022

From then until towards the end of March your winter Sunday afternoons can be spent preparing a pantomime for Sutton Courtenay to enjoy.

Whether you have joined us before or are new to S.C.I.D.S do come along.

Any information needed  
please contact Morna Whitlock on -  
morna28whitlock@gmail.com or 01235848335

#### In The Eye of The Storm

The Story of the Lanfranc Air Disaster.

*An Illustrated Talk by Tim Budd*

Saturday 2 October 2021 at 19:00.

*The River Room, All Saints' Sutton Courtenay*

Entry Free - Donations to Church Funds and Norwegian Red Cross

In 1961, my family and I found ourselves at the centre of the National News. A plane crashed near Stavanger in Norway killing a school party of 36 boys and 2 teachers. My Father was the one of the teachers.



*Shattered fuselage of Papa Mike. (The National Archives of Norway.)*

I will tell you the true story behind this disaster, the events before and after the crash and the people who were involved in Croydon and in Norway.

It is fascinating and, at some points, an unbelievable tale.  
An interesting evening is guaranteed.

## ALAN ON THE MOVE

### Walking a Weekend Marathon in aid of SOFEA – *Enabling the Transformation of Young People's Lives*

Before I start, I would like to say thank you to God for giving us perfect weather for both of my half-marathon walks on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

A big thank you also to all those who contributed to the charity. So far, we have raised over £1600, and donations are still coming in.

Now for the real workers:

Firstly, I want to thank Reverend Helen, for setting up the 'Just Giving' page and handling the money side when it came in by cheque or cash.

And the Team: to Jok, my mentor, leader and bag carrier who brought water and food and ensured that my well-being was OK. Not forgetting the rest of the Team: Peter Walker, his son Stuart (Saturday) and daughter Julie (Sunday). And of course, Peter's wife, Sue, who drove to various parts of the walk just in case of any physical problems i.e. me not making it! And there is Mick, who kept behind me, ensuring I didn't lag behind too much. Also, Tesco, who kindly provided water and snacks to keep me going. Last, but by no means least, my good friends Alan and Jess on the High Street, who gave my dog, Duke, a weekend holiday (though I understand that he let me down by eating somebody's breakfast on Saturday morning).

If you haven't yet donated but would like to, it's not too late! Just go to:

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/alanonthemoveagain](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/alanonthemoveagain)

Thank you all,  
Alan Calver



On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 09:00 a small team of supporters joined Alan at the Village Hall to guide him on his 1<sup>st</sup> half marathon walk. The weather was kind to us, as were the ground conditions. We completed the walk in 6 hours then went home for a well-deserved rest. On Sunday morning we again met at 09:00 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> leg. Alan was in good spirits but admitted he was not as fresh as on the Saturday. We kept a good eye on him through the day, expecting him to slow as the weather started to warm. Luckily some clouds came over and moderated the temperature for us. Alan battled on at his pace with stops to chat to other walkers and riders who gave words of encouragement to him. We were quite surprised when we looked at the time as we approached the Village Hall end point that Alan had smashed the Saturday record time by 30 minutes! We had a celebration beer and Alan was presented a Gold Medal for his effort.

I'd like to give a big thank you to the supporters, route planners and fellow walkers who helped Alan complete his mission.

Well done, Alan!

Mick Furby



## NORDIC WALKING

I am sorry to inform readers that the Sutton Courtenay Group is full and if anyone is interested in learning how to Nordic Walk they must now apply to have their names placed on a waiting list. Please contact Annalie at [active.communities@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:active.communities@southandvale.gov.uk)

Places will be on a first come basis.

We have, at present, 59 members. About 20 to 30 attend each week and you might have seen them walking through the village in small groups. To cater for all abilities, we have three separate walks every Wednesday and Friday, starting from the village Recreational Ground, Old Wallingford Way, currently at 10 am.

This group is the only Nordic Walking Group in the County of Oxfordshire that offers free tuition and free led walks.

A Nordic Walking group in Wantage is being set up at present, and I am positive that the Instructor, Diane, would welcome new people to learn with her.

Thanks, Graham

## CHURCHMERE CARP SYNDICATE

Generally, fishingwise, it has been a quiet time with only a few anglers and very little happening, until the last two days (12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> September). This is when the fish went on the munch with most anglers having multiple catches. So, those who were here had bonanza days.

We had a super work party with many targets realised, much weed removed, the track side hedge row tidied, and internal shrubs and hedges trimmed. A big thank you to all members that were able to attend. Then a special wov to Dave, who again showed his prowess on the barbecue; it was truly brilliant!

Now heading into Autumn, we have a critical time for dedicated carp anglers. This is when the big girls show off their size and muscle, and on the warmer days they will be parading along the top of the water frustrating the anglers.

Roger Rance



Before

&

After





**GOOD NEWS**

After several months of lockdown, Zoom meetings and the uncertain future of our group we are happy to announce that we will resume our meetings in the hut. Yes, we have a new volunteer for our group who made this possible and we are excited to welcome our Beavers & Cubs back.

Unfortunately, we cannot resume the Scout section (11+) yet but we hope they will be able to restart soon too.

**NEW MEMBERS WELCOME**

If you have a girl or boy who would like to join the Beavers or Cubs section, get in touch for information about our group and time of our meeting.

**MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Do you remember your youth and time when you were Scout or Cub or Beaver yourself? Did you want to be one but there was no local group in your village? Do you have children yourself who want to join Beavers or Cubs? Or are you simply looking for something to enhance your CV? Or simply want to do something meaningful in your spare time?

**DID YOU SAY “MAYBE” OR “YES”?**

Great! We would like to hear from you! Please get in touch for a little chat to find out how you could help. There are many ways you can help us make our group successful: occasional helper, assistant leader, section leader or perhaps something on the administrative side.

**Contact**

Email us for more information [26thAbingdon@gmail.com](mailto:26thAbingdon@gmail.com).

(Please note we respond to every email we receive if you cannot find our response please check your spam folder or give us a few extra days.)

2	6	7	8					5
		1		3	2			
		3				8		
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			2				6	
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5					9	6	8	2

By Sudokuweb.org

**Vegetables**

C E E E S R E G N I G C  
 E O T A T O P Y Z I A U  
 O O N I O N B R B U L C  
 C D S T M K E E L C H U  
 I S O Y A C B I U S C M  
 L C S M T I F W P A L B  
 O N O K O L K I B E W E  
 C G S U O R N B N C N R  
 C K H W R A A N A A I A  
 O T E A C G E T E R K D  
 R R N G E F E A B R P I  
 B C E L E R Y T G O M S  
 P E A S W E D E T T U H  
 R K O T U R N I P E P A

- GINGER
- POTATOE
- BROCCOLI
- CAULIFLOWER
- CELERY
- PEA
- SWEDE
- TURNIP
- COURGETTE
- PUMPKIN
- CARROT
- KALE
- CABBAGE
- GARLIC
- CUCUMBER
- TOMATO
- RADISH
- SPINACH
- ONION
- FENNEL
- BEAN
- LEEK



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Holy Baptism

We send our best wishes and congratulations to the following who were welcomed into the family of the church through baptism:

Archie Eric Anthony WEBB (22<sup>nd</sup> August 2021)

### Holy Matrimony

We send our best wishes and congratulations to the following who were married in All Saints' Church recently:

Adam Lawrence STEVENS & Alexandra Georgia LEWINGTON (29<sup>th</sup> August 2021)

Thomas Phillip PORTER & Sophie Elizabeth CLEVELAND (31<sup>st</sup> August 2021)

Lennox Freeland SMITH & Camille Adele Rose LECOEUICHE (11<sup>th</sup> September 2021)

### Rest in Peace

We send our condolences and the assurance of our prayers to the family and friends of the following people who died recently:

**Tina Louise DENTON** who died in Wales on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021 was born on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1968. She was buried in her beloved home in Wales but a Memorial Service was held in All Saints' Church on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2021 for her wider family and many friends – several of whom joined in the service via Zoom. Sutton Courtenay was such an important part of her life it seemed appropriate to hold a service in the place where she and Steve were married, where they worshipped together and where they brought their son Beau for baptism. Tributes from two friends in Australia, and from Steve and Beau were heard during the service. We heard about her lifelong love of adventure and travel and also about her ongoing battle with ill-health. Despite the challenges she faced during her life Tina travelled extensively all over the world – but particularly to Australia and to Africa – which involved a year-long adventure travelling 36,500 miles the length of the continent in a Land Rover. She was happily married to Steve in 2006 and they went on to have (against the medical odds) their beloved son Beau. Tina used to regularly bring Beau to our Small Saints Baby and Toddler Group in the church. Beau remembered his Mum in these words, “She was a great Mum, real kind and bought lovely gifts like a giant Connect 4. She also gave lovely kisses and hugs.” What better way for Tina to be remembered as someone who lived a life of love and showed us how to do the same. Tina was a unique and extraordinary woman – full of love, life and vitality and someone who strived to make the most of each moment. Above all, Tina was remembered as someone who loved and embraced life. She will be greatly missed by Steve, Beau, her family and her many friends across the world. *The service was conducted by the Reverend Helen Kendrick*

### Burial of Ashes

Michael LIVERSIDGE (15<sup>th</sup> September 2021)

### CLERK OF WORKS – VACANCY

After many years of caring for the fabric of the church, David McKenzie has retired as our Clerk of Works. We are extremely grateful for all he has done – both practical tasks and coordinating minor and major works.

If anyone is interested in this voluntary position – helping to look after the fabric of a Grade 1 Listed Medieval Church - then please contact the Pro-Warden, Alison Budd, on 01235 527853 or email: [alison@pbudd.me](mailto:alison@pbudd.me) to find out more.

It is interesting and varied work – involving liaising with craftsmen and contractors; coordinating the maintenance programme through the year and carrying out some practical tasks as necessary.



### VOLUNTEER DISTRIBUTOR NEEDED FOR PART OF THE HIGH STREET

Audrey has delivered SCN to houses along part of the High Street for many years. Audrey is moving to Scotland later in the year so, sadly for us, it will be a bit far for her to come back to deliver SCN!

We would like to thank Audrey for delivering SCN over the years and we wish her well in her new home.

Please could we have a volunteer to take over Audrey's deliveries? For more information, please contact Clare on 847566 or email [scmail836@gmail.com](mailto:scmail836@gmail.com)

Many thanks,

The Sutton Courtenay News Editorial Team

**Shame on you**

The Editors have received a letter from ‘Angry’ who describes finding human faecal matter on a public footpath adjacent to the church in Sutton Courtenay along with a lot of lavatory paper. This is completely unacceptable behaviour. They make the further comment that we should protect Nature, not defile it.

Name (& scary photos) supplied

**Litter Picking in the Village**

My six year old daughter Sophie was worried about the impact of litter on the animals around the Millennium Common at the end of Churchmere Road. She asked to go out litter picking which we did and, sadly, we filled a bag up in half an hour.

We are very proud of Sophie and wanted to share a photo of her efforts in case it inspires others to clean up the village.

Many thanks,

Name supplied

(Editor; Well done Sophie! You are an inspiration to all of us.)



**Do You Enjoy Playing Cribbage?**

The team based at The Railway at Culham is looking for new members before we start playing again after the long break due to Covid. We usually play on a Monday evening in the summer and a Wednesday evening in the winter. We are in the Abingdon Cribbage League which means we play at different pubs every other week. If you would like to join us or would like to know more, please contact me, Melanie Jefferies on either [itsmelaniej@gmail.com](mailto:itsmelaniej@gmail.com) or 01235 847361.

**PLAY BRIDGE IN THE RIVER ROOM**

On 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday afternoons in the River Room, starting 1<sup>st</sup> October 2-5pm.

With a cup of tea and piece of cake - £5.

Tables, cards & score cards provided.



## RIDE & STRIDE 2021

It was with trepidation that I set out on the morning of 11<sup>th</sup> September with my trusty bike to do Ride & Stride and earn some sponsorship money to support our church and Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust. The trepidation was because I am not particularly fit, nor particularly young, and had no idea if I could do what I planned, which was cycling to Oxford, visiting at least 20 churches and then, biggest hurdle of the lot, cycling home again to Sutton Courtenay.

I spent some time planning my routes – there was the aspirational route, the practical route, and contingency plans. The contingency plans included taking enough money to come back by train and finding the bike rack so that my husband could come and pick me up in the car at any point en route! As it happens, I managed the practical route and left out those few churches which would have been an added bonus (aspirational) but would have certainly broken this camel's back.

All Saints' Church was my starting point and then I went by the Hanson Way to Oxford via St. Helen's and St. Nicolas in Abingdon and St. James in Radley. It was a glorious September day, sunny and fresh with early signs of autumn amongst the foliage at the side of the track. It felt good to be alive and I flew along, full of enthusiasm. Part of the route goes along the Thames and then under the ring road. I did not then hit the roads of Oxford but chose the visit three beautiful and ancient churches on the outskirts; St. Laurence, South Hinksey, St. Lawrence, North Hinksey and St. Margaret's Binsey. This, as it happens, was a brilliant plan because I saw the countryside around Oxford uncluttered by cars, other bikes, shoppers or tourists. The first church in South Hinksey was closed but I then had a dramatic ride along the Devil's Backbone to New Hinksey followed by a ride across the Grandpont Nature Park to North Hinksey. After St Margaret's I cycled through part of Port Meadow and then entered the streets of Oxford visiting many churches in the centre, some of which will be known to everyone – Christ Church Cathedral, St Aldate's, St Giles, St Mary Magdalen, and others which were less well known but no less worth visiting.



St Mary the Virgin, Iffley

Not all were open, but those that were offered a pleasant welcome. The centre of Oxford was busy, and one had to secure one's bike before leaving it rather than just propping it up against the nearest suitable structure (church wall, bike rack or tombstone) and leaving it. That made the whole business more troublesome.

The other problem with the city churches was finding them when the postcodes given applied to the admin offices in the next street rather than the church building sought. Although I had paper maps and printed directions, I would have been totally lost without my mobile phone with Googlemap and compass, and other Ride & Striders who had made the same mistakes and recognised a lost fellow!

Having done as many churches as I could face in Oxford itself, I rode out to Cowley determined to see Bartlemas Chapel. I stopped off at St Mary and St John where I received great hospitality and met up with Fred Cabbage and family, also Riding & Striding. I then found Bartlemas Chapel and can highly recommend this gem. Very old, simple and beautiful – if only I had had the time to stay longer, but the evening was fast approaching and I was very tired.

My last stop was arguably the most breath-taking of the lot – St Mary the Virgin in Iffley. With magnificent Norman arches and windows, it had a feeling of great age and overwhelming peace. Utterly lovely!

I did manage to get home by myself and on my bike, and went straight to bed totally exhausted – 35 miles and 25 churches – I didn't think I had it in me!

Thank you to everyone who sponsored me. I hope some of you will give this a try next year – you don't have to be very fit, nor young – just determined to enjoy a day out seeing interesting buildings and meeting nice people while helping to keep our historic churches in good shape.

Kathy Harrop-Griffiths



St Margaret's Church, Binsey

## CHURCH STREET PATH IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Thank you for supporting the Church Street path improvement project. I am pleased to say the project was finished today, a day earlier than scheduled. 28 circa 1 tonne bags of gravel were spread along circa 750m of path by some very hard-working volunteers. Huge thanks to all of the volunteers and to those people that used their contacts to help find even more volunteers especially Robin Draper. Special thanks to Simon Dodd, the Kubota operator and to Emily Madge for finding him, and to Paul Allen for lending us his tractor and for clearing away the huge pile of cleared foliage and other material.

I am sure everyone using the paths will be grateful for the improvements. The project was completed ahead of schedule.

Some items/tools that were left behind have been stored in the shed at the George, who should also be thanked for being so accommodating and offering everyone that helped today free refreshment.

Simon Lazare



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[artisanprintsolutions.co.uk](http://artisanprintsolutions.co.uk) from artwork supplied by Sutton Courtenay News

### CLASSIFIED SERVICES DIRECTORY



## SUTTON COURTENAY HANDYMAN

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## The Sutton Courtenay Bootcamp

Fridays, 6.30pm @  
The Village Hall

FREE TASTER  
SESSIONS

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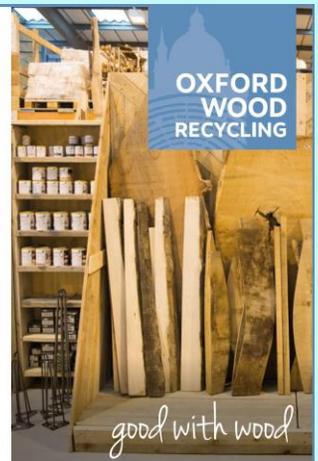
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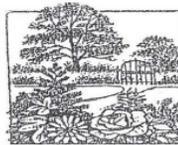
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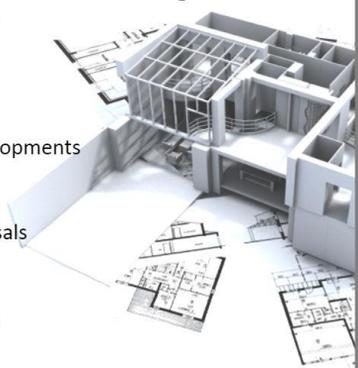


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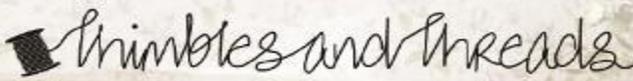


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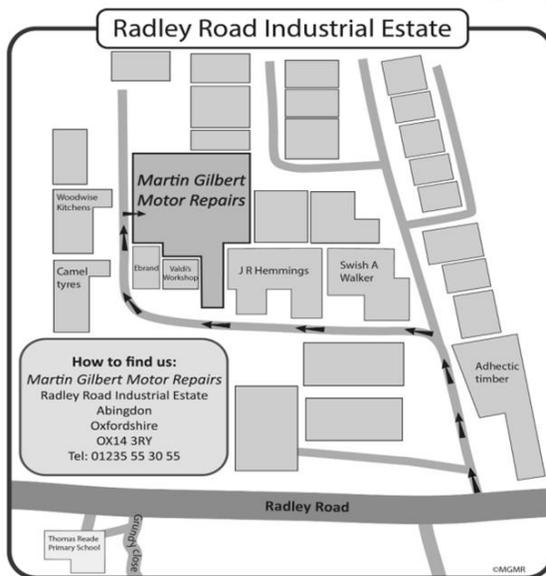
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