# SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

#### VOLUME 52 NO. 3

#### APRIL 2023



VILLAGE DIARY FOR APRIL				
Sat 1 <sup>st</sup>	Community Brunch (p. 10)	River Room	9:30-11:30	
Thur 6 <sup>th</sup>	WeCare2 (p. 11)	River Room	11:15-12:30	
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup>	Bridge Afternoon (p. 11)	River Room	14:00-17:00	
Thur 13 <sup>th</sup>	Community Café (p. 10)	River Room	10:30-12:00	
Thur 13 <sup>th</sup>	Together in Stitches (p. 10)	River Room	19:30-21:00	
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup>	Knit & Natter (p. 12)	River Room	14:00-16:00	
Tue 18 <sup>th</sup>	Sutton Courtenay WI (p. 11)	River Room	19:30	
Thur 20 <sup>th</sup>	WeCare2 (p. 11)	River Room	11:15-12:30	
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup>	Bridge Afternoon (p. 11)	River Room	14:00-17:00	
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Movie Matinee (p. 10)	River Room	16:00	
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup>	All Saints' Singers Quiz Night (p. 12)	Village Hall	19:00	
Thur 27 <sup>th</sup>	Community Café (p. 10)	River Room	10:30-12:00	
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup>	Pop-Up Coffee & Cake (p. 12)	Churchmere Road	10:00- 16:00	

Previous copies of SCN are available on the website under Archives at suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk

#### MAY 2023 SCN DEADLINE – WEDNESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2023

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 richardwebber777@gmail.com (Schools, Roads etc.) District Councillor: Richard Webber-as above (Planning, Waste etc.) Parish Council Chair: Rita Atkinson, 848694 ritaatkinson@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk Stay & Play Toddler Group: Facebook page: @SCstayandplay Friends of All Saints'-Chair: Sue Jenkins 07885 437454 Matrix Music School: 847264 The Abbev: 847401 Village Hall – SC: scvillagehallbookings@googlemail.com Cricket Club: drb71@hotmail.co.uk WI - Sutton Courtenay Val Melville 847612 Nordic Walking Group: Graham Wells 847322 Churchmere Carp Synd.: Andy Barrett 07717 662039 DAMASCUS Youth Project: 848694 SC Local History Society: John Talbot sclhs.org.uk enquiries@sclhs.org.uk Morna Whitlock, 848335 SCIDS (Drama Society): morna28whitlock@gmail.com All Saints Singers: Kathy Harrop-Griffiths, 848230 secretary@allsaintssingers.org www.allsaintssingers.org Sutton Courtenay Action: suttoncourtenayaction@gmail.com Non-urgent Police: 101 or policing team email: AbingdonOuterNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk Landfill Odours 0800 80 70 60 **Environment Agency:** 0800 71 46 14 Thames Water (leaks): Police Anonymous Hotline: 0800 555 111 Power Cuts: 105

#### Websites:

Parish Council: Oxfordshire CC: Village Hall:

Sutton Courtenay News: www.suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk www.suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk Vale of White Horse DC: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk www.oxfordshire.gov.uk suttoncourtenayvillagehall.co.uk

#### **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 Assistant Priest: The Reverend Rosie Bruce 07766 421773 rosie-bruce@hotmail.co.uk Associate Priest: The Reverend Phil Sutton 01235 635476 or 07507 378737 revphil@damascusparish.org.uk

Lay ministers: Jack Jarvis (831395) & Alex Landsbert (847443) Authorised preacher: Paul James (848129) Churchwarden: Hilary Otterburn (01235 834725) Pro-Warden: Alison Budd (01235 527853) Parish Office: 01235 847179 admin@damascusparish.org.uk

#### 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.

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.

Sutton Courtenay Village Hall has a new website suttoncourtenayvillagehall.co.uk from where you can access a trial online-booking system. Please use it to make your booking inquiry. Full instructions are given. Also, any feedback would be appreciated so that we can fully evaluate the system. If you have any difficulties booking or you want to speak to someone about a booking, please contact Rita 01235 848694 or email: scvillagehallbookings@googlemail.com

#### 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 emailed to 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

For distribution enquiries please contact Sue on 847158 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 but please contact the editors to discuss what other arrangements can be made for those unable to access the website.

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

#### SUTTON COURTENAY POST OFFICE

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.



For Services of Worship - Please see Page 8



#### Annual Electors' Meeting – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023

The Annual Electors' Meeting is not a council meeting but under the 1972 Local Government Act the Parish Council is responsible for hosting it. The meeting will be held

in the Village Hall starting at 7.15pm. The agenda includes a report from the Parish Council Chairman and gives the opportunity for any elector of the parish to raise matters. The agenda will be published on the Council's noticeboard and website. The monthly Council meeting will be held after the Annual Electors' Meeting.

#### Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council has now submitted the Neighbourhood Plan to the Vale of White Horse District Council and awaits the District Council's validation of the submission. Once validated, the Plan will be published on the District Council's website as part of a six week consultation.

#### Elections – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023 Parish Council elections

Sutton Courtenay Parish Council consists of 11 Councillors. Individuals who are on the electoral register, who live or work in the parish or within 3 miles of the parish can nominate themselves to be elected. If 11 or fewer people are nominated then they are appointed Councillors in an uncontested election. If 12 or more people are nominated by the 4<sup>th</sup> April deadline then an election will be called on 4<sup>th</sup> May and electors will be able to vote for their chosen Councillors.

#### **District Council elections**

The parish of Sutton Courtenay sits within the Sutton Courtenay Ward (which also includes Appleford). For this Ward only one Councillor seat is available and therefore it is normal that a contested election will be held. On  $4^{\rm th}$  May electors will be able to vote for their preferred candidate.

#### Photo ID

This year, when voting in person, you will need to provide photographic ID . See Page 7 for information.

#### **Recreation Ground - Cricket nets**

Following on from last year's work on improving the facilities at the Recreation Ground, the Parish Council is now looking for input from users of the cricket practice strips. The strips need new nets to be installed. Whilst the Council is discussing ideas with Sutton Courtenay Cricket Club it is keen to hear from families and individuals who use the strips or who would be interested in practicing there if new nets were installed. Please contact the Clerk to the Council whose details are at the end of the page.

#### RAF Brize Norton Airspace Change Proposal ACP-2022-040

At RAF Brize Norton, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) intends to redesign the current controlled airspace to the appropriate volume to support RAF Brize Norton's operations, release unrequired airspace and enable safe, efficient access for other air space users. The dimensions of the Controlled Airspace (CAS) surrounding RAF Brize Norton has been in place for over 40 years, with very few amendments. With the change of aircraft types now using the aerodrome, coupled with the criteria used to design the procedures, the current design is no longer appropriate for current arrival and departure profiles. Elements of these profiles regularly leave the protected confines of CAS. Military operations are not mandated to comply with Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Containment Policy however, the policy exists for sound rationale and the MOD wishes to conform to CAA guidelines as much as possible. The MOD wishes to contain redesigned and new procedures, thus future proofing operations at RAF Brize Norton; this modernisation also allows RAF Brize Norton to change with the Airspace Modernisation Strategy (AMS) and London Airspace Modernisation Programme (LAMP).

All the details of this airspace change proposal are available on the CAA's Airspace Change Portal:

https://airspacechange.caa.co.uk/ The identification number is ACP-2022-040.

- Feedback can be provided in the following ways:
- Email: BZN-TATCCS-ACP@mod.gov.uk
- Letter: ACP, ATC, Building 150, RAF Brize Norton, Carterton, Oxfordshire, OX18 3LX
- Microsoft Forms Link: which can be found by searching for – RAF Brize Norton: ACP-2022-040 Design Principles Feedback

Reponses regarding the draft Design Principles must be received by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

#### Parking on pavements & verges

The Council is receiving reports regarding inconsiderate parking on pavements, and vehicles causing damage to grass verges. Such action makes it very difficult for pedestrians, wheelchair users, those with pushchairs and the partially sighted to use the pavements, as the vehicles cause obstructions. The Parish Council is very sympathetic and supportive of the frustration and distress caused to residents. Motorists are asked to think carefully about where vehicles are parked in the village, and it requests that courtesy and respect to other villagers is shown.

#### Council meetings and contact details

Members of the public are welcome to attend Council meetings. The dates of next meetings are Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April, Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May and Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June at 7.15pm in Sutton Courtenay Village Hall.

The agenda for the meeting will be published on the Council's website www.suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk and on the noticeboard outside Hari & Esha News, High Street, Sutton Courtenay.

Chairman: Rita Atkinson. Councillors: David Butler, Robert Dalby, Eileen Daw, Teresa Field, Lyn Hodder, Father Morkos, Joanna O'Callaghan, Hugo Raworth, Jason Warwick and Antony Willott.

Correspondence should be sent to the Clerk, Miss J. Currie, Sutton Courtenay Parish Council, c/o 44 Harrington Close, Newbury, RG14 2RQ info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk 07495 123 353. Alternatively, you can contact Councillors directly, their email addresses are on the website.

#### SUTTON COURTENAY PRIMARY SCHOOL



# Working together for progress

This month it was lovely to see so many families in school for the parents' and carers' consultation evenings. I know staff enjoy these evenings when they get a chance to see families face to face

and talk about what helps each child to learn best. It is such a lovely chance to celebrate progress too. All children are so different and working together to understand them really does maximise our chances of seeing them do well. As well as sharing the results of



assessments, we are always keen to have families help at home too. For each child, this will look slightly different, because no two children are the same and no two families' circumstances are the same.



#### World Book Day 2<sup>nd</sup> March

This year, we held a non-uniform day with a collection for a charity called Book Aid International which distributes books around the world to those who need them most. You can find out more at:

#### www.worldbookday.com/bookaid/.

Lots of children (and staff!) chose to dress up as book characters, which made it even more special for those who love a bit of fancy dress! Children shared books together across classes, with older children reading to younger ones. You can see a film of our day at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=oUaa\_UtHRCM



#### An author came to school

We were very lucky to be able to welcome local author, **Naomi Joslyn**, to school. Her books feature a character called Molly McDrew, who travels around the world (and beyond) on her magic blanket. Naomi led a whole school assembly where she talked about

her experiences as a writer and in publishing. She explained to the children how she begins with her ideas and stories, and how she has to liaise closely with her illustrator and text



designer to make sure the books look just right on the page. Although the books are aimed at Key Stage 1 children, this made the talk relevant and interesting to the older children in school. She then read some of her stories to Kestrels and Kingfishers classes, and they had to join in the magic words to help the story along!

#### British Science Week 13th- 20th March

The theme was **Connections** and we worked with members of the local community to see how scientists have an impact on our lives.

Andrew Kaye is one of our Trustees and is a cloud physicist. He came to talk to us in assembly about how science is all about finding patterns and connections. Andrew made this come alive for the children by talking about the connections to science that we have as a community in our everyday lives, and about the connections that have come about as a result of his long career in science. He showed the children photographs from different stages of his career and talked to them about the varied aspects of his work.

We also had a visit from the Diamond Light Source, the UK's national synchrotron science facility, located at the Harwell Science and Innovation Campus in Oxfordshire just up the road from here. Year 5 and 6 children met Steve Collins, a physicist. Steve talked to the children about the concept of atoms and how everything in the world is made up of these tiny, connected structures.



Headteacher: Ms Rachel Hornsey Asst Headteachers: Lisa Knight & Louise Potter Office.3243@sutton-courtenay.oxon.sch.uk Telephone: 01235 848333

#### Elections

This month's contribution is as non-party political as I can make it. It confines itself to the elections process.

Spare a thought for the Councils, Council officers and residents who have some elections every year. West Oxfordshire elect one quarter of their councillors every year. In Cherwell, it is one third. Thankfully in SODC and VWHDC, it is an election every 4 years. County Elections happen in between, and again every 4 years. It's a complicated system and can often seem to be an irritant to busy, working people. Add national elections which can happen anytime, and it is not much wonder that many residents, already confused about what different councils actually do, are further confused over which elections are about to happen and who is standing for what. It does make one wonder if those countries that have all their elections on the same day in a fixed cycle might have it right. In these countries, the fixed day is often made a public holiday with the result that turnout is higher. Democracy is said to come at a cost, but the system of a fixed day for all elections is certainly more cost effective and raises the status of elections in most people's minds.

#### Election "purdah"

For six weeks leading up to Election Day, there is a period of purdah. In this period, Councils are run by officers rather than elected politicians. This ensures that only non-party political decisions and announcements can be made during purdah. Political leafleting can still go ahead (and does) in which each party makes its offer to the electorate and tries to explain why its opponents are wrong. There are rules about what can and cannot be said in leaflets and political organisers are adept at getting around them. However, the local District Office has powers to take action against those parties that transgress.

#### So please vote!

If democracy means going to vote, it is vitally important that people vote. If you feel that all politicians are born of Satan, try ordering them in the order in which you hate them and vote for the one(s) at the bottom of your list. If the country is to be governed by those whom most people want to govern them, please vote so there is some hope for the process.

**Gentle reminder on new rules** for voting at a polling station.

Remember to bring your photo ID with you as you will need to show this to the polling station staff before you vote (see Page 7). You do not need to bring your poll card with you to cast your ballot, however it may speed things up if you do.

There is no dress code when visiting the polling station and it is OK to wear garments that might obscure your face: for instance, hoodies or the niqab, however, please bear in mind that you will need to remove any face coverings so that staff can verify your identity as part of the requirements for Voter ID.

#### Thank you Sutton Courtenay and Appleford

There is so much going on at County level affecting our area, that I have reluctantly decided to step down from my position as your District Councillor in order to focus on County issues. I would like to thank all those who have supported me over the past four years- particularly over controversial planning applications. As your County Councillor, I will not be going away.

Richard Webber Cllr 07546571521 Richardwebber777@gmail.com

#### **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**



It's easier than you might think to get scammed when buying online

When you're buying online, how confident are you that you're dealing with a genuine seller and not a criminal? Or do you even think about it?

It can be tricky to tell the difference, because in many cases, online purchase fraud is committed NOT by opportunist scammers trying to make some extra money, but by highly skilled, professional organised crime groups with web designers, social media experts, call centres and accountants ... just like legit companies.

Many people believe that purchase scams are easy to spot, with poor spelling or grammar, dodgy logos or unusual website or email addresses or phone numbers. However, this is now rarely the case, with scammers going to great lengths to earn your trust before cheating you out of your money. It's upsetting at the best of times, but even worse when money's tight. And because they have no conscience, nobody's immune to their crimes, including you! Whether you're buying a car or a games console, trainers or a family pet, safeguard yourself and your money by following these top tips.

#### 1. Pay by card - if buying online

If you're buying online, always pay by card. Fraudsters will almost always encourage you to pay by bank transfer as for them, it's money in the bank which you can't get back. Genuine sellers let you pay by card.

#### 2. If you can, see the goods in person

Fraudsters take considerable time and effort to create profiles or sites to make you believe they're a genuine seller. So to avoid a scam, always see the item in person before paying for it.

#### 3. Look beyond the deal

It's natural to focus on the product and the price, but take a moment to think about the advertisement. Does it seem genuine? Does anything seem 'not quite seem right'? Is it easy to contact the seller to ask questions?

See:

www.getsafeonline.org/onlinebuying/?videoname=emily

#### ADYP



Our work on developing young people's agency and sense of community continues with the aim of changing the narrative and supporting them to feel more able to contribute and offer solutions to common dilemmas throughout the generations. At a parochial level – to have the confidence to see themselves as changemakers in their own communities. In our discussions with young people across the DAMASCUS communities we recognise and acknowledge that it is not the case that young people are "disengaged", nor are they devoid from community issues, but rather there are numerous barriers preventing them from taking direct action, that also restricts their ability to personalise such matters.

It was our conclusion then that we must begin with the "Individual". We must grow and develop their sense of agency, alongside their ability to name the world as they see it. For only once they name it, they can act on it. Here are some early comments from young people:

'I don't think I have the knowledge to make a difference right now, I don't think anyone would listen, but I would like to think I will have when I'm older.'

'The youth club is my community. I'm home schooled so coming here makes me feel more connected to the place I live.'

'Sutton Courtenay is a great place for young people to grow up but I think if more young people could feel the same we could really make a difference.

We are also pleased to welcome Jess and Daisy on to our team.

Tel: 01235 848694

- James Damascus, Jake Damascus
- James\_Damascus, Jake\_Damascus

YouTube-The Abingdon Damascus Youth Project—MIND GYM Website - www.damascusyouthproject.org.uk

#### **DAVID JOHNSTON MP**

Whether you live in Wantage, Didcot, Wallingford, Faringdon or any of the 64 villages I represent, my constituency-wide survey on local health services is currently open. It's just 8 questions long and should only take about 5 minutes – no more than 10 – and you can complete it until 17<sup>th</sup> April on my website: www.davidjohnston.org.uk/health.

Increasing our health services relative to the population growth we've had is one of the things I have campaigned on most since being elected 3 years ago — particularly the need for more GP surgeries. I've spoken about this in 19 debates in parliament and had numerous meetings with the local councils, local health leaders, ministers and local people about it. The more people who complete it, the stronger the message we can send.

I held a successful inaugural meeting of my Science and Technology Forum for the companies we have at Harwell, Milton Park and elsewhere which George Freeman, the Minister at the new Science Department, spoke. He and I are very keen to promote what is going on here as it is of both national and international significance – and we discussed some good ideas to do so. Watch this space!

I'll be holding an Apprenticeship Fair for local young people and employers across the constituency at Didcot Civic Hall on  $24^{th}$  April. I visit at least one school and at least one employer almost every week (and have been to approximately 600 organisations overall since being elected) and I hear regularly that young people don't know about the apprenticeships open to them and that employers struggle to recruit enough apprentices. I'm hopeful this fair will help.

My campaigning on behalf of the local AEAT Pensioners has been bearing fruit: the National Audit Office has published its report on the case following my request and Parliament's Public Accounts Committee recently held a hearing on it, with their own report to come.

A few highlights from many visits in the last month:

- It was good to be interviewed on Wallingford Radio which has been going great guns since it got its FM license. You can listen live on 107.3FM.
- I had a great visit to the new wedding dress shop in Wantage, About You Bridal, set up by Sharon to make the process of buying dresses, shoes and accessories as stress-free as possible. It's also home to Gallery Cakes, set up by Nicki, so that you can order your wedding cake too!
- It was very good to see The Place in the Corn Exchange in Faringdon, having seen the space when it was just an idea. It supports parents and their children under 5.
- I also met Keith and Sue to talk about the Faringdon Day Centre and will be back to visit that soon.
- And I'm pleased to say Michael Gove was very impressed with the Greencore Construction houses I took him to see in Southmoor.

If I can help with anything then do get in touch via: david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk

#### FROM THE EDITOR

#### Matt

We were very sad to hear the latest news about our fantastic postman, Matt, who is very unwell. An ever-cheerful figure wearing a red T-shirt and grey shorts in all weathers he was the one constant visitor for everyone on his round during all those months of lockdown, and sometimes he was the only visitor. Matt was missed whenever he went on holiday, and even more so since he has been unwell.

A Just Giving page has been set up for him and his family in which it states 'Matt, our Sutton Courtenay postman over many years, is sadly terminally ill. This collection is for Matt's family as a gesture of our thanks as a village.'

It is now well over £3500, and the editors have had a message from his daughter thanking those who have contributed: 'my dad and all of us, as a family, are absolutely speechless and it's touched our hearts from all the donations and lovely messages about him. He cannot message himself but he would want you and everyone to know how much that meant to him. He absolutely loved his job and the people around him....I saw how much (the lovely messages and people's kindness) lifted his spirits and made him feel so loved by everyone. Thank you.'

The page is:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jasoncraig?utm\_id+1&utm\_term=GQAMEW47Q

#### THE FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH



The Friends had their annual Quiz Night on 4<sup>th</sup> March in the Village Hall. It was a great success!

The winning team was the Foxy Brownies who went away with a splendid prize. Nearly £1000 was made for the charity and

will be used to maintain the fabric of our beautiful 12<sup>th</sup> century church, All Saints'.

The Friends would like to thank all those who joined them on the night and gave so generously to the charity. We would also like to thank our quizmaster and those who helped set up, serve and clear up.

#### **PHOTO ID FOR VOTING**

#### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

The editor has received three separate notifications, from the Parish Council, Citizens' Advice and Richard Webber, about the newly legislated need to bring photo ID with you when voting. To limit confusion the various bits of advice have been combined.

#### Bring photo ID when voting in local elections.

The government has introduced a requirement for voters to show a photo ID when voting at a polling station in local elections taking place in England. This will apply to residents of South Oxfordshire and Vale when they cast their ballots on **4 May 2023**.

Acceptable forms of photo ID include:

- Passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country
- Driving licence issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state (this includes a provisional driving licence)
- A Blue Badge
- Older Person's Bus Pass funded by the Government of the United Kingdom
- Disabled Person's Bus Pass funded by the Government of the United Kingdom
- Identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)

For a full list of acceptable photo IDs visit www.electoralcommission.org.uk website.

You will only need to show one form of photo ID. It needs to be an original and not a photocopy. You can still use your photo ID if it is out of date, so long as it looks like you.

People who have no photo ID can contact South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) for a free Voter Authority Certificate (VAC), which will enable them to go ahead and vote. The deadline for applying for a VAC is 5 pm on **25 April**. You can also apply for a VAC online at www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-

certificate, giving your name and address, date of birth and National Insurance number, and submitting a photo (similar specification to passport photos).

You can also vote by post, in which case no photo ID is needed. If you fill in a postal vote application form, this must arrive at SODC by 5 pm on **18 April**. Your ballot paper must reach its destination by 10 pm on 4 May.

More information is available from www.electoralcommission.org.uk or from Citizens Advice Adviceline on 0808 278 7907.

Or call the government helpline on 0800 328 0280.

#### ALL SAINTS' CHURCH



DAMASCUS Pavish Drayton | Appleford | Miton Sutton Courtenay | Steventon



From the Ministry Team

"Is it nothing to you?" (Lamentations 1:12)

In last month's March issue, Reverend Phil Sutton wrote about using the theme of "failure" in our parish services and study groups during the season of Lent. Reflecting on, thinking or talking about personal failure, is perhaps more difficult for us to do than talking about and remembering our successes. We would rather have the positives than the negatives in our daily lives. Yet everyday news broadcasts report on what is going wrong in the world, and the good news story, if there is one, is left to the final item. We hear so much of the negatives: of suffering, fear and poverty - of failures which are the negatives of life.

So often the question comes, why believe and trust in God, and Jesus too, if He seems to do nothing at all? Jesus shows us that God is getting involved and getting his hands dirty. Jesus was crucified and his hands were nailed to that horizontal crossbeam of the cross...the minus sign.

The events which we now know as Easter, and everything thereafter, is of the positives, the good news. The story of Easter does not end with the crucifixion on Good Friday, because on the third day came the resurrection. On that first day of the new week came a new start, a new creation. That is the heart of the good news. The negative of the crossbeam to the positive of resurrection: the sign of the cross.

"The end of the story is written by God, who knows what failure is and is not, and whose gracious love overwhelms our greatest failures....so take comfort in God's merciful and hope-filled judgement of each and every one". (Attributed to Justin Welby)

The Reverend Rosie Bruce

#### Services of Worship

1st Sunday: Family service at 11:00 am 2nd Sunday: Parish Eucharist at 11:00am +Junior Church 3rd Sunday: Morning Worship at 11:00am + Junior Church 4th Sunday: Parish Eucharist at 11:00am + Junior Church 5th Sunday: Special services across the Damascus Parish – please see church noticeboard for details St Peter's, Drayton St Peter & St Paul, Appleford St Blaise, Milton All Saints', Sutton Courtenay St Michael and All Angels, Steventon

A REMINDER The main Sunday service at All Saints' now starts at 11am.

#### CHURCH DIARY FOR APRIL

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> – 9:30-11:00 Community Brunch, River Room. Huge thanks to Beth and Mike Summers for running the brunches – they are proving to be very popular, do come along and taste for yourselves! Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> PALM SUNDAY – 10:30 Procession with the Donkey from Tullis Close to the church. 11:00 Family Service. Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> - 9:30am DAMASCUS PCC Standing Committee, River Room 13:00 Lunchtime Online Prayer (see poster for details) Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> - 13:00 Lunchtime Online Prayer (see poster for details) Wednesday 5th - 13:00 Lunchtime Online Prayer (see poster for details). 18:00 Confirmation Class, St Blaise, Milton. 19:30 Lent Group, River Room Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> MAUNDY THURSDAY 8:30 Preparing the Lamb Stew for Maundy Thursday Supper, River Room. 11.15-12.30 WeCare2 - a group for people with dementia and their carers, River Room. 19:00 Holy Communion, All Saints' Church. 19:45 Maundy Thursday Supper, River Room. Friday 7<sup>th</sup> GOOD FRIDAY 11:00 Family Service. 12 noon Holy Hour Saturday 8th HOLY SATURDAY – from 9:30 Spring Cleaning the Church Sunday 9th EASTER DAY - 11:00 Holy Communion with Easter Egg hunt for children Thursday 13th - 10.30-12 noon Community Café, River Room. 19:30 Together in Stitches, River Room Monday 17th - 14:00-16:00 Knit and Natter, River Room. 19:30 Sutton Courtenay Local Church Council, River Room **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> -** 11.15-12.30 WeCare2 – a group for people with dementia and their carers, River Room. Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> – 16:00 Movie Matinee, River Room Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> – 11am DAMASCUS Parish Confirmation Service at All Saints with Bishop Gavin, the Bishop of Dorchester, followed by lunch in the River Room – all welcome.

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> - 10:30-12 noon Community Cafe

#### ALL SAINTS' CHURCH



#### HOLY WEEK 2023 in Sutton Courtenay

**Palm Sunday – 2<sup>nd</sup> April** 10:30 Procession with Donkey from Tullis Close to All Saints'

Church

11:00 Family Service at All Saints' Church **Monday 3**<sup>rd</sup> **April** 

13:00 Lunchtime Prayer online (see advert for login) Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April

13:00 Lunchtime Prayer online (see advert for login) Wednesday 5th April

13:00 Lunchtime Prayer online (see advert for login) 19:30 – Final session of Lent Group – How to fail really well.

#### Thursday 6th April

13:00 Lunchtime Prayer online (see advert for login) 19:00 A Service of Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday followed by a Lamb Stew Supper in the River Room – please let the Parish Office know if you would like to come to the supper so that we can make sure there is enough food for you (01235 847179 or admin@damascusparish.org.uk)

#### Good Friday 7th April

11:00 Good Friday Family Service

11:00 Good Friday Holy Hour Service (a time of music, readings and reflection on the crucifixion)

13:00 Lunchtime Prayer online (see advert for login) Holy Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April



From 9:30 Spring Clean of the Church – all volunteers welcome as many hands make light work – refreshments provided.

13:00 Lunchtime Prayer online (see advert for login details)

#### EASTER DAY 9th April

11:00 Holy Communion with Easter Egg Hunt for the children





#### Holy Baptism

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

**Charlotte Elizabeth Rose PORTER** (5<sup>th</sup> March 2023) **James Wilfred Leo DANNATT** (12<sup>th</sup> March 2023)

#### **Holy Matrimony**

We send our best wishes and congratulations to the following who were married in All Saints' Church recently: **Briony Amber RAYMOND and Daniel Luke BINT** (3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023)

#### **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:

Steven Anthony RIDING of Appleford (Obituary p. 14)

And the following whose ashes were interred in the churchyard:

**Janet SPEAKMAN** (4<sup>th</sup> March 2023) **Graham PRITCHARD** (6<sup>th</sup> March 2023) **Keith Alan GOSBEE** (15<sup>th</sup> March 2023)



#### **COMMUNITY EVENTS**



Community Café in the River Room



Run by the church for the whole community Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 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 or make new ones. If you need transport to and from the River Room please 'phone the Parish Office on 01235 847179

#### **MOVIE MATINEES**

The next Movie Matinee in the River Room is on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2023 – 4pm** For a full programme to be sent to you please email: admin@damascusparish.org.uk or pick one up from the back of the church Entry is **free** and refreshments (to match the theme of each film) are available. Donations in aid of the Church Fabric Fund gratefully received.

# YOU ARE INVITED

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 9:30-11:30 - Community Brunch

and live stream ALL DAY of the Coronation Service in the River Room & the Church with tea & coffee



11:00 - All Age Songs of Praise for the Coronation

12:30–16:00 - BIG BYO Picnic on the Green

#### LOOK OUT FOR MORE DETAILS SOON!

If you would like to help in any way – putting up bunting and gazebos; setting up tables and chairs; making a cake; serving refreshments; putting everything away again etc. then please contact Helen at the parish office on 01235 847179.

Together in Stitches

Do you wish you could find time for craft projects? Would you like a fun evening, meeting likeminded people in Sutton Courtenay? If so, *Together in Stitches* is for you!



Bring your craft project, whatever that may be, and come and enjoy a chat (and possibly a glass of wine) Second Thursday in the month (7:30-9pm, River Room) (13<sup>th</sup> Apr, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 8<sup>th</sup> June, etc.) For more information 'phone 01235 847179 or just turn up!

#### NORDIC WALKING

Come to our Community Nordic Walking Teaching Centre for Oxfordshire where everything is FREE. This includes tuition, poles, and walks of different distances and routes each week.

Your posture improves immediately, and your limbs and joints are all supported as you discover a new way of walking. This is why people fall in love with Nordic Walking once they have tried it.

This is a community enterprise run by volunteers.

If interested, email me, Graham Wells, at graymar.wells@btopenworld.com for further details. Tuition is available every Wednesday and Friday all year round, from 09:30 for approximately an hour, at the Sutton Courtenay Recreation Ground (OX14 4AR). We have use of a Club House (thanks to the SC Football Club and volunteers) and an adjacent large free car park.

# THE WOMEN

## SUTTON COURTENAY WI



#### Spring forward ... and join us for some great new events and

activities! A visit from RNLI in April -Thames Valley Air Ambulance Unit in May A super 'historic' outdoor trip & experience in June and a great programme of events for the coming year Come and see, enjoy, join in! We meet every third Tuesday monthly in the River Room, Sutton Courtenay at 7.30 pm For details contact our secretary on 01235 847612



#### **BRIDGE AFTERNOONS**

Come and play bridge on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday afternoons in the River Room from 2-5pm with a cup of tea and a piece of cake - £5 Tables, cards and score cards all provided Just come along and we make up tables based on experience/choice. All standards of play welcome – from experienced players to those who are 'just in need of a refresher', 'very rusty' or learning.

Rubber or Chicago – you choose

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

# Wecare2

Wecare2 is a small group of people with dementia and, of course, their carers. We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month from 11:15 to 12:30 in the 'River Room' at All Saints' Church.

Our aim is to sing a little, socialise a little and have an "elevenses" together.

New members will always be welcome.

If interested either as a customer (transport can be arranged) or to help, please contact Alan & Morna Whitlock Brookfield, 30 Chapel Lane. Sutton Courtenay, OX14 4AN

morna28whitlock@gmail.com

01235 848335 or 07787 521039

We meet with the Covid guidelines.

RIVER ROOM 200 CLUB In Support of the All Saints' Community Space

The result of the monthly Draw on 14 March, was:

 $1^{st}$  - No. 44 (£45.00)  $2^{nd}$  - No. 75 (£22.00)  $3^{rd}$  - No. 81 (£10.00)

New members always welcome. Please see the information in All Saints' Church or email <u>landsbert@west-manor.co.uk</u>. The next draw will take place on Thursday April 13 - at the All Saints' Community Café in the River Room at 10.30 am.

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All enquiries: 01235 847179

## SUTTON COURTENAY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY ARCHIVE

An archive of material researched and collected by the History Society has been placed in a cupboard in the River Room at the Church. The lockable strongbox contains files, for example, on the history of the village, historic buildings and houses, descriptions of village life and the lives of its people and items of interest that should be preserved. The Society's website, sclhs.org.uk has details of the contents of the archive.

For access to the archive contact John Talbot, enquiries@sclhs.org.uk to arrange a visit to the River Room. John Talbot (Chairman of the History Society) has a key to the strongbox and a key has been deposited in the Parish Office.

## Pop up Coffee & Cake in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April 10am – 4pm.

Ameron, Churchmere Rd, Sutton Courtenay

Coffee & Cake, Dog Treats, Quizzes and Raffle

Sorry, no parking in lane, some parking at top of lane.

Mary Thompson





#### **NEWS FROM THE ABBEY**



April 1<sup>st</sup> is the start of a new lease of life for The Abbey thanks to an unprecedented collaboration between The Abbey trustees and a group of talented and dedicated supporters from the village.

Our Abbey Regeneration Group has had the benefit of professional managerial, organisational, technical, financial planning, building maintenance and personnel management website and IT skills, and creative professional design flair...all from local people. There are so many great people in Sutton Courtenay: so, a big thank you to you all.

Next month sees The Abbey open again and we welcome our first retreat/workshop group on April 1<sup>st</sup>. We are already getting bookings from old and new clients which is good news.

We extend a warm welcome to Nancy Winfield who has taken up the temporary post of site manager which means that we are well on the way to creating a new and experienced operational team.

The Garden Lodge (formerly known as the Guest House) will very soon be available to book on AirBnB. It has taken a tremendous amount of work to get it ready and it now looks and feels like a really good place to stay. Our plan is that the commercial income from lettings will help finance the charitable aims of The Abbey as a retreat centre. So please book a room when you have friends or relatives who need somewhere to stay the night. We also welcome enquiries from local community groups who would like to hire the Great Hall or any of our meeting rooms. Email admin@theabbey.uk.com if you are interested.

Don't forget...if you would like to be part of the Abbey volunteer support team, please do email volunteering@theabbey.uk.com.

Adrian Rance-McGregor adrianrancemcg@theabbey.uk.com www.theabbey.uk.com

#### **CITIZENS ADVICE**

citizens

advice

#### Citizens Advice recommends Internet-based financial calculators

As you read these paragraphs, multitudes of people in this country are taking stock of their financial positions and finding plenty of reasons for feeling glum. The near future looks bleak with higher and higher food bills, galloping gas and electricity charges, zooming mortgages. But worse comes if we give way to our mood and allow reasonable concerns to be clouded in uncontrollable fears, so it is important to be calm and objective about our situations. In this respect the "calculator" tool is a big help: it tells us very simply what our financial position is, giving an objective diagnosis, without judging us.

Citizens Advice recommends two calculators in particular. The first is a benefits calculator on the trusted Turn2us website. You might not have thought your finances were so bad that you needed to claim, but you could be eligible to receive benefits and you only need to answer a few simple questions. Go to benefits-calculator.turn2us.org.uk and find out.

The second is an energy calculator on the Citizens Advice website which will tell you the cost of using various electrical appliances. For this calculator you need to have some data ready – for instance, how much energy you are consuming and the unit price you pay. Visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk and search "consumer energy".

Another calculator that you might be interested in is one that gives you your own personal inflation rate – i.e. the effect of inflation on your own spending. This gives you an objective percentage figure which you can use to establish whether your bank balance is going to hover above or below zero. The calculator is on the Office for National Statistics website at www.ons.gov.uk

Whatever your problem is, volunteers at Citizens Advice are available to help. Call Adviceline on 0808 278 7907. There is much more information on www.citizensadvice.org.uk



#### **REST IN PEACE**

Steven Anthony RIDING of Appleford who died on 8th February 2023 was born in Bolton on 24th April 1960, where he spent his childhood. He met his wife Margaret in 1979 and they were married for 39 years. He started a degree in biochemistry, but very soon he became fascinated by programming and video games after his brother Allan bought an Atari 400 from Phil Morris, who would become Steve's business partner in the early 80s. He never did finish university, but it didn't matter because after finding success with his first game, Air Strike, it was clear he had realised his true vocation. He went on to become a successful game developer with a career spanning 40 years. He was a hardworking individual who was dedicated to his chosen profession and enjoyed networking with work colleagues around the world. He loved science and physics; F1; optimising fuel economy in his rental cars but music was his defining passion. He was an avid collector of records, and he spent many hours listening to his favourite albums at all volumes - particularly Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin. His love for music was infectious, and he instilled that same love in his children. His greatest joy in life was his family. He loved Margaret and his children unconditionally. He dedicated his life to ensuring their happiness and success, working incredibly long and challenging hours to provide for them. He doted on his grandchildren – Dylan, in particular, loved his Grandad because he was cheeky and let him play video games and he was good at telling bad jokes. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends who gathered from across the world in person and via zoom for his funeral which was held in All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Tributes were given by his son, Jamie and work colleague, Andrew; daughter Katie and his grandson Dylan - who also lit candles in his memory. The service was conducted by the Reverend Helen Kendrick.



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To find out more call DWP on 0800 731 0122 or visit www.gov.uk/attendance-allowance

At Age UK Oxfordshire we can offer advice and top tips for making an application. Please call 0345 450 1276 or visit www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/about-us/cost-of-living

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Book at www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk/2023-may-festival/box-office.php. For a postal booking form or further information please contact Festival Director Em Marshall-Luck at The English Music Festival, PO Box 123, Clunton, Craven Arms, Shropshire SY7 7BP or email em.marshall-luck@englishmusicfestival.org.uk.

26-29MAY2023 DORCHESTER - SUTTON COURTENAY - RADLEY www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk Printed by Artisan Print Solutions, Kingston Bagpuize <u>artisanprintsolutions.co.uk</u> from artwork supplied by Sutton Courtenay News

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