

SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 52 No. 9

NOVEMBER 2023



An Autumn Crocus found on the path beside Sutton Pools

VILLAGE DIARY FOR NOVEMBER

Thur 2 & 16	WeCare2 (p. 10)	River Room	11:15-12:30
Fri 3	Have Your Say Meeting (p. 4)	Village Hall	9:00-11:00
Fri 3 & 17	Bridge Afternoon (p. 11)	River Room	14:00-17:00
Sat 4	Community Brunch (p. 10)	River Room	9:30-11:30
Sat 4	Table-Top Sale (p. 10)	River Room	13:00-16:00
Thur 9 & 23	Community Café (p. 9)	River Room	10:30-12:00
Thur 9	Together in Stitches (p. 11)	River Room	19:30-21:00
Tues 14	ADYP AGM (p. 4)	Village Hall	19:30
Sun 19	Music at Matrix – OXUS concert (p. 11)	Matrix	16:00
Mon 20	Knit & Natter (p. 11)	River Room	14:00-16:00
Mon 20	RSPB talk (p. 5)	River Room	19:30
Tues 21	WI (p. 11)	River Room	19:30
Sat 25	Churchyard Clean-up (p. 8)	All Saints'	9:30-12:00
Sat 25	Community Litter Pick (p. 3)	Village Hall	14:00
Sat 25	Movie Matinee (p. 10)	River Room	16:00
Sun 26 th	S.C.I.D.S. (p. 11)	Village Hall	15:00-17:00

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

DECEMBER 2023 SCN DEADLINE – WEDNESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER

N.B. There is no copy in January so please send us dates for January events by 15th November

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

VILLAGE CONTACTS

County Councillor: Richard Webber, 534001
(Schools, Roads etc.) richardwebber777@gmail.com
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](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
Cricket Club: drb71@hotmail.co.uk
WI - Sutton Courtenay Amanda Bell 520057
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
SCIDS (Drama Society): Morna Whitlock, 848335
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
Environment Agency: Landfill Odours 0800 80 70 60
Thames Water (leaks): 0800 71 46 14
Police Anonymous Hotline: 0800 555 111
Power Cuts: 105

Websites:

Sutton Courtenay News: www.suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk
Parish Council: www.suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk
Vale of White Horse DC: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk
Oxfordshire CC: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk
Village Hall: 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

For Services of Worship - Please see Page 8

VILLAGE HALL

Refurbishment

The building works are nearly complete and we fully expect all bookings for November to be honoured. At the time of writing the flooring is scheduled to be laid imminently, and the entrance works are being completed.

A huge "thank you" to all our users who have been inconvenienced during this very necessary refurbishment.

The Trustees.

Please look on the website: suttoncourtenayvillagehall.co.uk for further updates during November.

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.

POST OFFICE SERVICES

The nearest Post Office is at Milton, 11H Park Drive OX14 4RS and is open Monday to Friday from 8.00 to 17.15 with a final collection time of 16:45. It is closed on Saturday and Sunday. Further afield there are Post Offices in Didcot (in WH Smith, 188 The Broadway OX11 8RN) and in Abingdon (5-13 West St. Helen Street OX14 5BL) both of which are reasonably accessible by public transport.

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 outside the Football Clubhouse in the Recreation Ground. The third is outside the Fish on Appleford Road.





Community Litter Pick - Saturday 25th November 2023

Please join Parish Councillors on Saturday 25th November at 2pm for a Community Litter Pick. With the support of the Waste and Recycling Team at the Vale of White Horse District Council equipment will be provided and the waste will be collected by them after the event. Meet at the Village Hall to collect litter picks, rubbish bags and route maps. Refreshments will be provided at the end of the event.

24 hour Public Access Defibrillators

The Parish Council maintains 3 defibrillators in the village. They are located at Sutton Courtenay Tyres, The Fish Public House and most recently at the Recreation Ground on the side of the Football Clubhouse. The Parish Council is very grateful to those which allow a defibrillator to be positioned on their buildings as each cabinet requires a low wattage electrical supply to heat the cabinet, this ensures the battery pack in the defib unit retains its charge.

Each location is registered with the ambulance service. If you are ever in a situation when you need access to a defib, the 999 call handler will direct you to your nearest active unit and provide you with a code to open the cabinet.

Thanks also goes to Adrian Black who carries out regular checks of the units and arranges for replacement parts to be purchased and installed.

High Street Phone Box

Until recently the ex-BT phone box on the High Street housed a defibrillator. Having reviewed the locations of the units in the village the defib has been moved to the Recreation Ground.

The phone box, which was purchased by the Parish Council in 2020 for £1, is a KX300 model from the 1990s rather than the iconic red phone boxes of previous decades. Our model is three sided without a door which limits what it can be used for. If anyone has any ideas as to how the phone box can be used to benefit the community then please contact the Parish Council via the Clerk. (Contact details below.)

Councillor Vacancies

Sutton Courtenay Parish Council can have a maximum of 11 Councillors. Following the May 2023 election process there are 2 seats vacant, and the Council is looking to fill those seats by co-option.

Individuals who are on the electoral register and who live or work in the parish or within 3 miles of the parish can be considered for co-option. If you are interested in working in a small team to contribute to local life, taking forward projects which benefit people across the parish, then please contact the Clerk, Jennie Currie.

Please note the role is unpaid, as a minimum you would be expected to attend monthly meetings and check your Council email account at least once a week. You would be asked to take an active role in a couple of areas of the Council's work across recreational amenities, the cemetery, planning policy, community infrastructure (defibs, benches, bins), community events and representing the Parish Council at meetings with local charitable and commercial organisations.

Council meetings and contact details

Members of the public are welcome to attend Council meetings. The dates of the next meetings are Tuesday 7th November, Tuesday 5th December and Tuesday 9th January at 7.15pm. Meetings are normally held in the Committee Room at 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.

Councillors: Rita Atkinson (chairman), Robert Dalby (vice chairman), Teresa Field, Lyn Hodder, Father Morkos, Joanna O'Callaghan, Hugo Raworth, Jason Warwick and Fiona Wolveridge.

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.

POPPY APPEAL 2023



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. 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.

As part of the Royal British Legion 2023 appeal poppies and other items will be available at different places around the village from Thursday, 26 October to Sunday, 12 November and Alan Calver will have his stall at his gate during this period.

There will also be a special Pop Up Poppy Shop on Sunday 29 October in Costcutter in Bradstocks Way. Look out for posters.

100% of the money collected will go directly to the Royal British Legion.

Thank you for your support.

Poppy Appeal Organiser for Sutton Courtenay and Appleford
Poppyappealsca@gmail.com

My least favourite road?

There are some issues that just never seem to go away. The A415 between Abingdon and Marcham has been a concern for many years. Fairly straight, not very wide, very busy but with little housing on either side - there have been safety issues all that time involving pedestrians, cyclists, private cars and HGVs. It took far too long to get the road reduced from derestricted to 50mph. Increasing traffic levels and the narrowness of the shared pedestrian and cycle path on one side are increasing calls for a further reduction to 40mph.

The section of the A415 between the A34 and Abingdon Town centre is suffering from the same traffic increase. This leads to congestion all around the immediate area – congestion that affects bus timetabling and makes the delivery of a 4-way interchange at Lodge Hill ever more urgent.

It is the same A415 between Abingdon and Dorchester that is now ever more in the spotlight. The SODC local plan is for several thousand more homes at Culham. If, and when, the Didcot HIF1 Road is completed, it will deliver yet more traffic on this section of the A415.

One wonders what the congestion is going to be like during the construction of all these projects. Roll on autonomous cars and buses.

Drayton 20mph plans

20mph limits through our towns and villages are great for general health and a sense of well-being. As Drayton has discovered, the bus companies, understandably concerned about anything that interferes with their timetabling, have raised objections to some new 20mph zones. It has now been agreed that a new 20mph will be put in place in the High St and in the central section of Abingdon Rd., together with all the minor roads. Decisions on Stevenston Rd and the northern end of Abingdon Rd will be negotiated when the long-awaited Neighbourhood Plan improvements are delivered. Some good news here, as we expect a firm timetable of delivery for these improvements in the New Year.

Meanwhile, it will help the argument for increasing the 20mph zone throughout the whole village if more of us use our

bus services. The sight of endless queues of single occupancy cars on the Drayton Rd is depressing.

HIF1, Sutton Courtenay and Appleford

With the final decision now in the hands of Mr Gove, the Secretary of State, and in expectation that the needs of District Councils to protect their Local Plans will take precedence, it makes sense to prepare arguments for every possible mitigation to be in place to minimise the impact of the new road on local residents. Such mitigation must include measures to sort out the noise issues in Appleford and the odour issues in Sutton Courtenay.

Mill Rd Bridge Marcham.

As I write, a grand formal opening event is being planned. This is great news for Marcham but also Drayton residents, walkers and cyclists.

VAS (Vehicle Activated Signs)

The new signs are now in place on the B4016 together with mounting poles in various positions between Drayton and Sutton Courtenay. With Parish Councils' ability to move the signs between the poles, we hope to get around the issue of drivers ignoring the speed signs through over familiarity.

Party Political Conventions.

Now that the season of Political Conventions is over, it is becoming ever clearer that, whoever is in power at the next election, England is going to be building many more houses in the next few years. As one of the few parts of the country that is a net contributor to the national economy, we can expect continuous pressure to build more in our area. Hopefully, we can get the infrastructure that this housing will need. How we absorb this pressure, on top of the pressure from past lack of infrastructure provision and, of course, how we pay for it, will be the top major challenge for the new government.

Richard Webber Cllr

07546571521

Richardwebber777@gmail.com

ADYP

The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project
Registered Charity 1098966



You are warmly invited to the
Abingdon Damascus Youth Project
AGM

To be held on 14th November 2023 at 7.30pm,
In Sutton Courtenay Village Hall

All Welcome

THAMES VALLEY POLICE

Have Your Say Meeting



Luc Chappell, our Police Community Support Officer will be holding a meeting in the

Village Hall, Sutton Courtenay

On Friday 3rd November 9:00 – 11:00

This meeting is for local residents to discuss community issues, crime prevention advice and safeguarding advice.



I was really pleased with how my Pensioners' Fair in Wantage went. Lots of pensioners came and were able to get information and advice from a wide range of organisations that took stalls, including Vale Community Impact, Carers Oxfordshire, Thames Valley Police and Grove Day Centre. My thanks again to Driving Miss Daisy in Didcot for sponsoring it.

Last month, I officially opened Soha Housing's new building in Wallingford, Frances Curtis Court. It provides retirement living options and I was very impressed that they had managed to build it on time and on budget despite the pandemic. It was particularly nice that Frances Curtis's Grandson was able to be there for the event, too.

Andy Baker is a local hero in Didcot and I am proud to be a patron of his charity, Play2Give. It was great to be able to be at his 2023 Gatsby Ball last month, a really great event with 140 people in attendance. It celebrated his organisation having now raised more than £100,000 for Oxford Children's Hospital. Well done, Andy!

Two things for you and your families to participate in before next month. I have just launched my annual Christmas Card Competition for primary school children. It's open till the 13th November and entries need to be on an A4 page – the winning design will go on the front of my card!

I've also opened a survey asking what you think about the PM's proposal to increase the age you can buy cigarettes by a year every year so that a 14-year-old today is never able to buy one. Find details about both on www.david-johnston.org.uk. And do please sign my Grove Station Petition while you're there if you haven't!

It's been a very busy first few weeks as Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing. I've met with lots of individuals and charities that support work in the areas I'm now responsible for; helped to launch a new £70 million programme to improve the support children with special educational needs get; responded on behalf of the Government in a debate about the role of kinship carers (family members who take children in who can't live with their parents); hosted visits by Ministers from Sweden and the Netherlands to share ideas; and launched more of the Government's work to reform children's social care.

There've been plenty of visits, too – including to nurseries, a family hub, a children's home and the Seashell Trust, a charity that supports children with learning disabilities and autism. There's lots to do – the Special Educational Needs, Alternative Provision and Children's Social Care System are all being significantly reformed simultaneously and, at the same time, the Government is making the single largest investment in childcare ever – to dramatically increase the free hours of childcare parents can claim. This constituency will always be my primary focus but I'm very much enjoying my additional responsibilities so far.

As ever, if I can help with anything then do please get in touch via david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk



Interested in birds and birdwatching? The RSPB Vale of White Horse Local Group holds monthly talks from September to May in the River Room (by the Church), Sutton Courtenay and/or via Zoom in the darker months, on Mondays starting at 7.30 pm and finishing by 10pm. We also meet monthly at local birdwatching sites.

We welcome new members - membership is £15 for the season (whether or not you are an RSPB member) and includes a quarterly e-Newsletter and the programme of talks and trips. Non-members are also welcome to attend individual talks for a fee of £5. You can join at an in-person meeting or using the form on our website (under "Contacts"), which also includes details of our full programme: www.rspb-vwh.org.uk

In October we welcomed Michael Leach who gave us a talk based on his book "The Complete Owl". Michael covered barn owls, tawny owls, little owls and cat owls, discussing the specialised techniques that help them hunt. He also dispelled some owl myths, and revealed what an owl's life is really like. A highlight was the dramatic high speed photographs of owls in flight. Also in October we met at Little Wittenham, walking from Days Lock we looked for birds along the River Thames and in the scrapes created by the Earth Trust as part of the "River of Life" project.

Our next talks are:

Monday 20th November 2023 (hybrid - attend in person at the River Room or via Zoom): David Boag: The World of a Wildlife Photographer

David is an author and wildlife photographer who regularly lectures to groups and on cruise ships, and has spoken at RSPB and British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) conferences. His website is www.NaturalFocus.co.uk. At this meeting David will also judge the photo competition; the trophy will be awarded at the River Room.

Monday 18th December 2023 (Zoom only): Nicholas Watts: Farming and Wildlife

Nicholas has farmed at Vine House Farm since 1964. He was awarded an MBE for services to farming and conservation in 2006, and regularly collaborates with RSPB and BTO on conservation projects. The farm supplies bird seed to conservation organisations including the Wildlife Trusts.

Our next trip is:

Sunday 26th November 2023: Farmoor, meet 10am on site

WANTED

Someone to help deliver copies of the Sutton Courtenay News in the **Heritage Park** area. The task should take about an hour a week and can be split between 2 or more people. Please contact Lynette at ljsackell@aol.com.



Being thankful

Our school community gave generously to our food bank appeal as we celebrated harvest festival. Family members were invited to attend the collective worship, which was a lovely occasion when each class across the school was able to perform either a poem or a simple song to an audience. We encourage the children to be thankful each day for their food, not just at harvest time. We say a simple grace before eating: *For what we are about to receive, may we all be truly thankful.* This provides a ritual of gratitude in our day which can be said by children of all faiths and none. This season of the year is often one where we feel particularly thankful for the abundance in the natural world seen in gardens and farmers' fields. There are many ways to link this learning into our curriculum, through geographical understanding of climates, the science of plant reproduction, the ways societies have worked together to produce food across history, and the art of looking closely at the beauty of nature. We were very proud of the pumpkins and potatoes grown in the school garden this year!



A visit to the Abingdon Food Bank, written by 4 children from Falcons.

Our school collected food for the harvest festival. We delivered it to the Abingdon Food Bank. At the food bank there was lots of food to give to people who can't afford it. There was food, washing products, and also pet supplies. They give blankets to people who cannot afford their



heating. The staff gave us a tour. We found the experience to be a little shocking because it is surprising how many people need to rely on the services of the Food Bank.

The Great Pumpkin Raffle

We have eight beautiful big pumpkins that we have grown in our school garden, so we are going to have a **pumpkin raffle** before we break for half term. The tickets will be on sale priced 25p each.

All profits will go into resources for the school garden such as seeds, tools and compost. Our governing body members will be running the stall at our Parent and Family



Consultation evenings. Tea, coffee and cakes will also be on sale as we welcome everyone into school.

Abingdon School Cross Country

On Monday 2nd October we took 4 teams to Tilsley park to compete alongside another 10 schools.

We were extremely proud of all 24 competitors. Everyone completed the course, which is no easy feat, and we ended up with some very good individual placings, including Phoebe (Y4) coming 2nd in the Year 3/4 girls race, Harrison (Y6) coming 2nd and Dorian (Y5) coming 3rd in the Year 5/6 boys race. A very big well done to the 3 of them!



Mr Stoodley's Run

Our Year 4 teacher Mr Stoodley completed the Oxford half marathon on Sunday 15th October with a fantastic time of 1 hour, 34 minutes! As you can see, he completed the run in his school running vest, which is identical to the ones worn by the children when they compete. He has been working hard to raise sponsorship in aid of school sports equipment, and we are so far at a total of £900! We would love to get this to a round thousand so we would welcome donations large and small. **You can sponsor him on www.gofundme.com/**



Headteacher: Ms Rachel Hornsey

Asst Headteachers: Lisa Knight & Louise Potter

Office. 3243@sutton-courtenay.oxon.sch.uk

Telephone: 01235 848333

Sutton Courtenay (National Power) Trust

Financial Problems due to the Current Economic Crisis?

If you live in Sutton Courtenay and are experiencing financial problems arising from the current economic crisis, you may be eligible for a grant from the Sutton Courtenay (National Power) Trust. For further information please email clerk.scnpt@gmail.com or telephone 07476 026406

ALL ENQUIRIES AND APPLICATIONS WILL BE TREATED IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE



Being Here
Self-guided retreat at
The Abbey Sutton Courtenay



"Who acts in stillness finds stillness in his life."
Lao Tzu



Meditation, yoga, art/craft activity, singing/music, local walks, volunteering in the walled garden, spiritual guidance, gong bath, holistic therapies (sophrology, reflexology, swedish & thai massage), time for silence and reflection (fully catered, vegetarian)

6th to 11th November 2023

www.theabbey.uk.com
@theabbey Sutton Courtenay
The Abbey Sutton Courtenay
welcome@theabbey.uk.com



The Abbey
Cafe

JOIN US FOR TEA, COFFEE & CAKE!



EVERY SATURDAY
9:30AM TO 12PM



THE ABBEY SUTTON COURTENAY

ALL SAINTS' SINGERS



All Saints' Singers
Sutton Courtenay
Music Director Sebastian Thomson

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

HAYDN St. Nicholas Mass
CHILCOTT On Christmas Night
Plus Audience Participation Carols

Sunday 10th December 2023
7:30 pm
All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay

*Tickets £15 - to include programme - from:
chairman@allsaintssingers.org or 07870 506774,
Hari & Esha's in Sutton Courtenay or
the Bookstore, Bury Street, Abingdon or
from www.trybooking.com/uk/CSES

More information at allsaintssingers.org

THE PATRICK SALISBURY PRIZE 2023

The second winner of the Patrick Salisbury Prize for Musical Endeavour, Esme Nkum, was presented with her certificate and book token on Saturday 1st October at the Matrix Centre. The citation from her music teacher, Oliver Nicholls, reads: "Esme is an enthusiastic member of the music class, often volunteering to answer questions and demonstrate the answer. Her commitment to practising at home and sharing her achievements with friends makes her a deserving nominee. Keep it up, Esme!"



Esme Nkum, Sandra Knowles, chairman of All Saints' Singers, and Oliver Nicholls.

Congratulations Esme!



**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

November - the month of Remembrance - may be especially poignant this year as we witness the violent conflict in the Holy Land, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine grinds on, and trouble between Azerbaijan and Armenia continues. Millions of people's lives are being turned upside down, with no hope of peace and security in sight. It is indeed a time for Christians everywhere to pray for peace, based on justice and mercy. It also a time to remember the victims of natural disasters - this year alone, we have seen the Libyan flood; the Moroccan and Afghanistan earthquakes; the wildfires in Greece, Spain, Canada, and the USA.

In the season of Remembrance, which in the church covers All Souls', when we remember all those who have died; All Saints', when we remember and celebrate the lives of all the saints and, of course, Remembrance Sunday, when we consider those who have heroically given their lives in war.

However, Jesus calls all of us to a radical heroism in our daily lives: 'You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.' (Matt 5:43-45).

Love Your Enemies:

For most of us our 'enemies' are rarely life-threatening; they can simply be impatient, judgmental, self-righteous or just plain disagreeable! Whether the conflict is with a family or church member, work colleague or neighbour, our attitude toward them should be one of love. We will naturally want to retaliate, but Jesus commands us to love.

Pray for Your Persecutors:

It's only when we are ready to pray for someone whom we find difficult, that God can soften our attitude towards them. Like us, they are those in need of God's forgiveness and grace. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German pastor executed by the Nazis at the end of World War 2, wrote:

'This is the supreme demand. Through the medium of prayer, we go to our enemy, stand by his side, and plead for him to God. For if we pray for them, we are taking their distress and poverty, their guilt and perdition upon ourselves and pleading to God for them.'

Become More Like Jesus:

When we start loving our enemies and praying for our persecutors, we become more like Jesus Himself. He willingly laid down His life for us, prayed for His persecutors and gives us the power to love our enemies as He did.

At a time when we recognise that we all need heroes; how will we respond to this call to radical heroism in our own life?

The Reverend Helen Kendrick, Rector of the DAMASCUS Parish

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

CHURCH DIARY FOR NOVEMBER

Wednesday 1st – 19:30 A Christian Look at the Environment, River Room

Saturday 4th – 9:30-11:30 Community Brunch in the River Room

13:00-16:00 Table-Top Sale in the River Room (see advert for details)

Sunday 5th – 11:00 Family Service for All Saints Day, followed by soup and bread lunch in the River Room – all welcome!

15:00 All Souls' Service (see advert for details)

Monday 6th – 19:30 Baptism Preparation in the River Room for all families interested in a christening service.

Wednesday 8th – 19:30 A Christian Look at the Environment, River Room

Thursday 9th – 10:30-12 noon Community Café in the River Room. 19:30 Together in Stitches in the River Room.

Sunday 12th -REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – 11:00 Act of Remembrance at War Memorial on Village Green followed at 11.15 by Service of Remembrance in All Saints' Church

Monday 13th – 19:30 DAMASCUS PCC at St Blaise, Milton

Wednesday 15th - 19:30 A Christian Look at the Environment, River Room

Monday 20th – 14:00-16:00 Knit and Natter in the River Room

Thursday 23rd - 10:30-12 noon Community Café in the River Room.

Saturday 25th – 9:30-12 noon Sutton Courtenay Churchyard Clear up – please come and help if you can – refreshments provided.

16:00 Movie Matinee in the River Room

Monday 27th – 19:30 Sutton Courtenay LCC in the River Room

Wednesday 29th – 19:30 Part 1 of the DAMASCUS Parish Advent Course (see advert for details) via zoom

CHURCH DIARY FOR DECEMBER

Saturday 2nd - 9:30-11:30 Community Brunch in the River Room

Sunday 3rd – 11:00 Christingle Family Service – all welcome to come and celebrate with us and support the work of the Children's Society by making a Christingle!

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Holy Baptism

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

Layla Rose CHAN (24th September 2023)

Ever Archer Hunter HIGGS (15th October 2023)

A BIG HARVEST THANKS

to all those who came and supported our Harvest Thanksgiving Celebrations in October. A car load of food items was gratefully received for the work of the Abingdon Food Bank and £230.77 was raised for Farm Africa, with an additional £35 given to church funds at the Harvest Lunch in the River Room, an event which was greatly enjoyed by all who came. Thank you too, to all those who cooked and served food for the lunch, and washed and cleared away.

ALL SOULS' SERVICE

A Special Service of Naming and Remembering those who have died

3pm on Sunday 5th November

All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay.

Refreshments of tea, coffee and cake will be available afterwards in the River Room.

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 or admin@damascusparish.org.uk

CHRISTMAS CHOIR

If you would like to join the Christmas Choir to sing at our Christmas Services – particularly the Carol Service at 6pm on Sunday 17th December 2023 then please come along to the Tuesday evening Singing Saints at 19:30 – 21:00 in All Saints' Church. We can promise some musical joy (and a bit of hard work) and all are welcome! Or phone the parish office on 01235 847179 for more details.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

We are planning, once again, 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 do our best to ensure a hamper is delivered to them.

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

Please email the name and address of the person(s) you wish to nominate admin@damascusparish.org.uk or 'phone 01235 847179 by **Thursday 7th December**



THOSE WHO WAIT

Finding God in Disappointment, Doubt and Delay

Tanya Marlow

Wednesdays, 7:30pm - 9:00pm, during Advent

29th November, 6th, 13th, 20th December

On zoom

During this advent season, a time where we traditionally wait expectantly and prepare for the coming of Jesus, join us as we examine creative retellings of four bible heroes who waited impatiently; Sarah, Isalah, John the Baptist and Mary. We will find empathy for our disappointment and doubt. We find perspective and purpose in delay. Above all, we find God in the waiting.

Please contact the parish office for further information, 01235 847179, admin@damascusparish.org.uk

Community Café in the River Room



Run by the church for the whole community

Thursday 9th & 23rd November

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

DAMASCUS parish online prayer
Tuesdays, 7:45 - 8:15 am

A time to gather together online to praise our Father God, to listen to Jesus, and to join the Spirit in interceding for each other, our community, our country, our world.

Contact: Helen and Katie on DAMASCUSprayer@gmail.com.

Image by Freepik

"they raised their voices together in prayer to God... After they prayed" things began to happen!
Acts 4:24,31

Crafters Wanted to Create a Choir of Angels

When we hung sheep around the village during the pandemic, we never really imagined how popular it would be. Hunting for a crafted Christmas tree decoration the weekend before Christmas seems to have become a bit of a tradition, which many look forward to.

Last year people were stars and crocheted, knitted and sewed over 400 stars. This year we're looking for angels – any craft which will withstand being in a plastic bag overnight midwinter is welcome.



This year we're aiming to drop about 400 small angels around Sutton Courtenay and Appleford. If you can help instructions and patterns are available at the back of All Saints' Church.

Alternatively, phone 01235 847179 or email admin@damascusparish.org or contact us via our Facebook page and we'll get them to you.

Your angels would then need to be back in church by **Friday 8th December** so we can prepare them for the Angel Hunt.

MOVIE MATINEES

The next Movie Matinee in the River Room is on

Saturday 25th November 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. Voluntary Donations in aid of the Church Fabric Fund gratefully received.



To donate white elephant, gifts, toys, shoes, bags etc (no clothes, bulky items or electrical goods) contact
 Alex Landsbert 01235 847443 / Parish Office
 01235 847179

Table-Top Sale

Saturday 4th November
 1-4pm
 The River Room &
 All Saints' Church
 Sutton Courtenay
 OX14 4AE

Proceeds to
church funds



CHRISTMAS EVE TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION AND BONFIRE



The plan is to hold the Procession from outside the School to the Churchyard for the Carols around the Bonfire as usual this year. All being well, torches will be on sale in early December from local shops. But, in order to run this event safely, we need help from people prepared to act as stewards on the night. We are also in need of a qualified First Aider to be available during the event. If you are able to help we would love to hear from you – please contact the parish office on 01235 847179 or admin@damascusparish.org.uk

Community Brunch

SATURDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 9.30-11.30AM

Fancy getting to know a few more people in the village? Or just want to pop in for a post-walk snack? Why not come and join us for breakfast? Open to the whole community.

River Room, All Saints' Church

Free of charge, but donations welcome.

Organised by Beth and Mike Summers in collaboration with All Saints' Church.

Future dates: 02/12

RIVER ROOM 200 CLUB

In Support of the All Saints' Community Space

Winners at the Draw on 17 October were:

1st – No. 24 (£32.00)

2nd – No. 92 (£16.00)

3rd – No. 84 (£8.00)

New members always welcome. Please see the information in All Saints' Church or email

landsbert@west-manor.co.uk. The next draw will take place on Thursday 9th November at the All Saints' Community Café in the River Room at 10.30 am.



Friends of All Saints' Church

**Yuletide Evening with Supper and
Christmas Carols at:
The Abbey, Sutton Courtenay**

**Saturday 16th December 2023
6.30pm-8.30pm**

Tickets £12 adult £6 child

Please contact Sue Jenkins at SJenkins33@aol.com
or ring
07885 437454 for tickets



Together in Stitches

Do you wish you could find time for craft projects?
Would you like a fun evening, meeting like-minded
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)**

For more information 'phone 01235 847179
or just turn up!

S.C.I.D.S.

S.C.I.D.S. is on its way!

The story is ready! The team working!

"The Wizard of Oz"

All that is needed is a wonderful cast and backup
team. All are welcome, those who have been
before and those who are new to **S.C.I.D.S.** do
come along to the first meeting.

Aged between 7 and 107 years old - we need you.

Sunday 26th November 3pm until 5pm

Sutton Courtenay Village Hall

Watch the next Newsletter There will be lots
of fun, games, 'sign up' and tea, with **S.C.I.D.S.**
cakes of course! Make a note of the date and
come along.

Any queries do contact Sally on 01235 847707
or sallydubock@gmail.com



SUTTON COURTENAY WI



November

History of Hairdressing – presentation/talk

Lunch a month – Ardington

Christmas Market/shopping – Gloucester Quays

We always welcome new members

We meet every third Tuesday of the month in the
River Room, All Saints Church, Sutton Courtenay
at 7.30 pm

Contact us at ofwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

01869 331081



We care2

Would you enjoy a little singing, a little
company, some armchair exercises
oh!and a cup of coffee?

Do you care for someone who would enjoy this
kind of gentle social interaction?

Music and company do help to keep us in touch.

We care2 is a small group that meets on the 1st
and 3rd Thursday from 11.15 - 12.30
in the River Room at All Saints' Church.

Transport can easily be arranged.

For any more information please contact Morna
Whitlock on -

01235 848335 or morna28whitlock@gmail.co

KNIT AND NATTER



Afternoons of chat and craft

Come along with your own knitting / sewing / craft
and enjoy free refreshments and company.

Every 3rd Monday of the month 2:00 – 4:00pm
The River Room, All Saints' Church, OX14 4AE

Tel: 01235 847179 for more information

Dear Editor,

As residents may know, opposition to the HIF1 scheme now being considered by an inspector appointed by the Secretary of State is being mounted by local groups such as the Parish Councils Joint Committee (5 parishes), POETS, Oxfordshire Roads Action Alliance (ORAA), Friends of the Earth and the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) who have all agreed to collaborate.

Key dates

- Case Management Conference (online) 9 Nov 2023
- Statement of Case (deadline). 16 Nov 2023
- Proofs of Evidence. TBA
- Inquiry Start (22 days). 20 Feb 2024

Work must now begin if we are to make a case against this damaging scheme which, in addition to other concerns, is very likely to increase traffic through Sutton Courtenay. We will need professional representation and are looking for volunteers to help with local fund raising.

If readers think they will be impacted by the new road or wish to support us they should contact Sutton Courtenay Action Group.

Gregory O'Broin,
Appleford Parish Councillor

Sutton Courtenay Action Group: suttoncourtenayaction@gmail.com

THAMES VALLEY ALERT



The internet's unequalled choice, 24/7 convenience and flexibility are benefits that suit people of all ages, wherever they live or work and whatever their circumstances. Others, however, prefer to carry on doing things the traditional, offline way for many reasons, a major one being trust. We've all either experienced at first hand or heard about negative experiences including online fraud or abuse which are, unfortunately, all too commonplace.

In order to go online with safety and confidence, it's important to get to know who and what you can trust ... and who and what you can't. And it's vital that everybody who uses the internet can do so with safety and confidence – regardless of gender, ability, appearance, background or beliefs – by being able to trust others' behaviour and behaving responsibly themselves.

For more information about the internet and trust please read the latest advice here:

<https://www.getsafeonline.org/trust/>



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An OXUS audience can always expect to be entertained, engaged and intrigued. The performers will share insights into each piece they perform in this fascinating programme of musical interludes. As a guide, this concert is designed for adult concertgoers and children 7 years +.

Please join us for tea and cakes in our lovely reception area.

Tickets are £15 / £7 and available online with booking fee via our website or directly from our office without booking fee (cash).

BRIDGE AFTERNOONS

Come and play bridge on the 1st and 3rd Friday afternoons in the River Room from 2-5pm with a cup of tea and a piece of cake - £5

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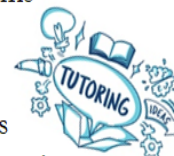
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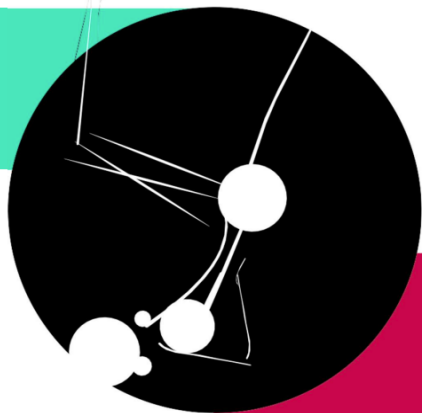


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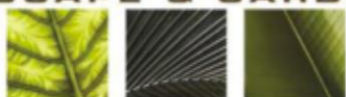
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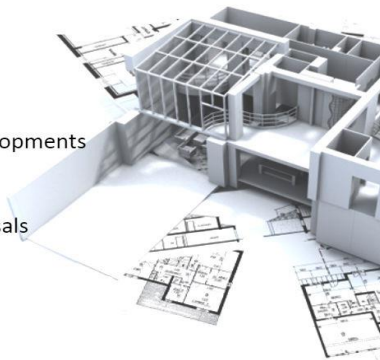


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