

SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 49 No. 2

APRIL 2020



A VERY BIG THANK YOU

- * To the distributors who have volunteered to get the April edition of Sutton Courtenay News to each house in the village. If for some reason you know of someone in the village who has not received a copy and would like to receive one please contact the Editors. The current edition and previous editions are on line on our website
suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk
- * To all those who are volunteering to help others (see page 4 for some of them). We know that there are more of you in the village but we don't know your names.
- * To Burgreys, Costcutters, Changes and all the other local businesses who helping those who are self isolating. Apologies for not mentioning you all by name.

At the time of going to print we are intending printing an edition in May and delivering a copy to every house in the village, as usual, but as things seem to change on an almost daily basis it might not possible to do so. Should this happen the Editors will make such alternative arrangements as are possible. We will make every effort to let people know what is happening by putting notices up on the notice boards, in the shops, the garages, and contacting your distributor and posting on the website. An online edition will be posted on the website. If you have any questions please email us or telephone one of us.

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

VILLAGE CONTACTS

County Councillor: (Schools, Roads etc.)	Richard Webber, 534001 richardwebber777@gmail.com
District Councillor: (Planning, Waste etc.)	Richard Webber—as above
Parish Council Chairman	Michael Jenkins, 847174 msjenkins@msn.com
Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Adrian Rouse, 07730 313384 adrian.j.rouse@gmail.com
Brownies	Mary steventonrainbows@gmail.com
Stay & Play Toddler Group	Facebook page: @SCstayandplay
Chairman, Friends of SC Parish Church	Fred Cubbage, 848768
Matrix Music School	847264
The Abbey	847401
Crickets Club	drb71@hotmail.co.uk
Sutton Courtenay WI	Val Melville 847612
Nordic Walking Group	Graham Wells 847322
Churchmere Carp Syndicate	Roger Rance 847241
DAMASCUS Youth Project	848694
Sutton Courtenay Local History Society	Mary Thompson 848527 marydthompson@outlook.com www.sclhs.org.uk
SCIDS (Drama Society)	Morna Whitlock, 848335 morna28whitlock@gmail.com
All Saints Singers	Steve Fisher 07812 037530 allsaintssingers.org
Sutton Courtenay Action	suttoncourtenayaction@gmail.com
Sutton Courtenay Forum	suttoncourtenayforum@gmail.com
Neighbourhood Watch	07762 597118 nhwsuttoncourtenay@outlook.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
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

SUTTON COURTENAY POST OFFICE

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

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 08.00 – 18.00
Wed: 08.00 – 17.00
Sat: 08.30 – 13.00
Sun: 09.00 – 12.00



SUTTON COURTENAY DEFIBRILLATOR



THE VILLAGE HAS TWO DEFIBRILLATORS. ONE IS LOCATED OUTSIDE THE FRONT ROLLER DOORS OF SUTTON COURTENAY TYRES ON THE HIGH STREET. THE OTHER IS



ANOTHER ONE IS OUTSIDE THE FISH, APPLEFORD ROAD.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

The Ministry Team

Rector: The Reverend Helen Kendrick
The Rectory, 3 Tullis Close, Sutton Courtenay, OX14 4BD
Tel: 01235 848297, e-mail: rector@damascusparish.org.uk

Assistant Curate: The Reverend Karen Hyde
Tel: 07526 985395, e-mail: curate@damascusparish.org.uk

Associate Priest: The Reverend Rosie Bruce
Tel: 07766 421773, rosie-bruce@hotmail.co.uk

Associate Priest: The Reverend Phil Sutton
01235 526114 or 07507 378737, revphil@damascusparish.org.uk

Associate Priest: The Reverend Meg Heywood
Tel: 01235 537100, revmeg@damascusparish.org.uk

Lay Ministers: Tim Budd (527853), Jack Jarvis (831395) & Alex Landsbert (847443)

Authorised Preacher: Paul James (848129)

Churchwardens: Nicola Turner (01235 833938) or Hilary Otterburn (01235 834725)

Services of Worship

CURRENTLY NOT TAKING PLACE SEE PAGES 8 & 9

1st Sunday: Family Service at 10.30am
2nd Sunday: Parish Eucharist at 10.30am (with Junior Church)
3rd Sunday: Morning Worship at 10.30am (with Junior Church)
4th Sunday: Parish Eucharist at 10.30am (with Junior Church)
5th Sunday: Special services across the DAMASCUS Parish – please see church noticeboard for details

Wednesdays: BCP Holy Communion at 9.45am



SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS CONTACTS

Sutton Courtenay News is produced by the editorial team, the members of which are Diane Armstrong (07553 801032), Clare Pennicott (07778 284193) and Bernie Jones (07761 375991). Bernie also deals with all advertising.

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

All contributions for the next edition should be e-mailed to editor@suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk or taken to Burgrey Stores before the copy date entered in the Diary above. To have any contribution published you must provide your name & contact details to the editors.

To advertise, email advertising@suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk or telephone 07761 375991

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

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



Annual Parish Meeting of Electors

The Annual Parish Meeting of Electors will be taking place before the formal Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 7th

April 2020 at 7pm in the Village Hall. Agendas will be published prior to the meeting on both the noticeboard outside Burgrey Stores and also on the Council's website.

Council Meeting held on 3rd March 2020

We do apologise to any members of the public who attended the meeting on the 3rd March 2020 which began late due to the Council not being quorate. To be quorate the Council has to have 1/3 of its total number of Councillors present. This is the total number of possible Councillors, not the number currently on the Council. Sutton Courtenay can have 11 Members but currently has only 8, this means that this situation may arise more often going forward. Should you wish to become a member of the Council, please contact the clerk on the contact details at the foot of this article for more information.

Roadworks High Street and Drayton Road

The roadworks on the High Street are now underway and controlled by traffic lights. We have now received notification of the Road Closure Notice applied for by the contractors who will be doing the work for Thames Water in relation to the closure of Drayton Road. The earliest that the road can be closed is 11th May. We have received confirmation from Thames Water that the works will not start until the conclusion of the High Street works and their anticipated start date is 25th May 2020. This date is provisional due to a number of factors and we will let you know, via the newsletter and the website, if we are advised anything different. We have also requested "businesses/village open as usual" signage at either end of the diversion to assist the local businesses.

Footpath along Church Road

The Parish Council are aware of issues relating to condition of the footpath along Church Road. The Parish Council are not able to deal with such issues as ultimately this is Oxfordshire County Council's responsibility. Please be assured that this has been reported to Oxfordshire County Council and we continue to chase until we have a substantive response from them.

Footpath between Churchmere and All Saint's Church

The Rights of Way Officer from Oxfordshire County Council and a team from the Vale Path Volunteers were out on Monday 9th March and cleared the footpath which runs between Churchmere and All Saint's Church (including an overhanging branch held up only by the ivy around it) leaving it much more accessible for walkers. We thank them for doing this work. Pictures of some of the work being undertaken are available on the Parish Council website should you wish to view the same.

Agendas for Parish Council Meetings

The Agenda for Parish Council meetings is published on the Parish Council website and on the Noticeboard outside Burgrey Stores at least 3 clear working days before the meeting takes place. The Parish Council are also willing to email or post these to residents if you if you would wish (there is a charge for copies which are posted to cover printing and postage costs). Should you wish this, please contact the Clerk at the details below.

Church Parking

Please note the following amendment to the notice regarding parking for the church which was in last month's newsletter article. The notice in the February edition may have implied access for local residents to park within the Abbey grounds at any time, this is not the case.

In the event of a large wedding or funeral, additional parking may be possible, with prior notification inside the gates of The Abbey. This is dependent on events being held at The Abbey and also the weather – the grass is unsafe to park on if very wet.

Planning Permissions

The following planning permissions were considered:-

P20/V0308/HH – single side storey extension 90 Bradstocks Way. Comments: Council has no objection.

P20/V0402/FUL - Rebuild the north gate pier of the west gate and increase the width of the gateway. All Saint's Church.

Comments: Council has no objection.

P20/V0395/HH – Retrospective application for planning permission for a close board boundary fence at the rear of a listed building 4-5 The Green. Comments: Council has no objection.

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 7th April 2020 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall Frilsham Street

Please check Noticeboard outside Burgrey Stores or the Parish Council website in case arrangements change.

Clerk: Helen Savery, 10 Sovereign Place, Wallingford, OX10 9GF Email: info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk Tel: 01235 364211

SUTTON COURTENAY (NATIONAL POWER) TRUST

This Trust was established with a donation from what was National Power (now RWE nPower). The endowment sum is invested, and a small amount of interest is generated. The Charity will be meeting in the Spring and will consider grant applications.

If there is any local organisation or individual who would like to be considered for a small grant, then please contact the Clerk to the Trustees whose details appear below. Please state the purpose for the grant, the amount required, and, if an organisation, supply a copy of the latest accounts, together with income and expenditure figures, or if an individual please supply proof of need and bank statements.

Clerk to the Trustees: Mrs. L. Martin, 90 Howard Cornish Road, Marcham, Oxon OX13 6PU Tel: 01865 391833



SUTTON COURTENAY HELP DUE TO CORONAVIRUS

“HELLO CAN I HELP” LEAFLET

Some volunteers in Sutton Courtenay have been distributing the 'Hello I Can Help' leaflets for those self isolating. Should you or anyone you know need any help, then please contact the person named on your leaflet, or for further help & advice please contact:-

Sian Rayner - 07702 543297

Sally Brooke-Taylor - 07733 328488

Please also look at the Facebook page that provides useful information,
Sutton Courtenay Help due to Coronavirus'

HELP WITH DOG WALKING

Helen Gates is offering to coordinate possible volunteers who are willing to dog walk for elderly people who do not wish to go out in the coming weeks. Her email address is helenmudie121@gmail.com

SUTTON COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL



The Village Hall is situated in Hobbyhorse Lane, Sutton Courtenay, OX14 4BB. Our hall is a community facility managed by volunteers (trustees) for everyone in the community. It is the focus of many groups from the village and the surrounding area who meet weekly or monthly for a variety of activities.

It could be the perfect venue for your large family gathering, party, group dining, formal occasion, client gathering or committee meeting. We can also make arrangements for conference meetings for local businesses.

It is an excellent venue for children's parties as the main hall can easily accommodate a Bouncy Castle. The hall has sound equipment, and the bar area facilities include a fridge and a large urn. Crockery can be hired or you can bring your own.

In addition there is a kitchen and a smaller hall/meeting room. There is ample onsite parking. Behind the village hall is a tennis court which can be used free of charge.

Community hire charges for the main hall are £16 p/h but if you want to use the hall on a regular basis, the rates are negotiable.

We encourage you to come and look round prior to booking.



The village hall will be closed till such time as the government's guidance on social distancing measures is lifted to help reduce the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). Many one-off hirers have cancelled / postponed bookings. All regular bookings have cancelled for similar reason of social distancing. If you have a booking and you have not been contacted please let me know. Meanwhile stay safe.

Rita Atkinson, Secretary: 01235 848694 or scvillagehallbookings@googlemail.com

ABINGDON DAMASCUS YOUTH PROJECT

The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project
Registered Charity 1098966



We understand that this is a very difficult time for everyone in light of the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Many of our young people are concerned about schooling and keeping in touch with friends and not being able to play out. We are here to support you through these difficult times. You can call us for advice and support through our social media accounts and we are working hard to develop new ways of support that can reach all young people in need. We will keep you updated as we do that. Call us for a chat if you are feeling stressed. Meanwhile stay safe during this time. Please use social media safely. If in doubt ask. Due to requirements for social distancing we have had to cancel our weekly youth drop-in sessions.

It has been great to see the community pulling together and we are investigating if we can support the wider community.

Facebook: Roxy Damascus

Instagram: Roxy Damascus

mobile: 07875649008

landline 01235 848694



On Wednesday 18th March we were told that school would close indefinitely as a result of the Covid19 virus crisis.

The events of the last week have been a roller coaster. Only last week we held a parents' evening and as I chatted to parents about the outbreak, we speculated over whether we might close a week early for Easter. In the event, things have moved incredibly fast, sometimes changing hourly. We are hoping to remain open in a very reduced capacity to provide childcare for key workers, but as I am writing this, on Thursday 19th March, we are still awaiting details of how this will look and who will be eligible.

One thing is certain – this week has really shown the spirit of the school. The whole school community has come together to support each other. Teachers, support staff and admin staff have been working around the clock, completing their day jobs as usual and then working late into the evening preparing packs of work and training in how to use online platforms to set work. One of the problems is that we do not know how long this situation will last, and we must prepare for the worst case scenario which is that we may not be back in school until September.

Packs of work are now filled and ready to go, and the children have had a chance to practice with the new ways of working. We can only now step into the unknown and learn as we go.

A Skype Call To South Korea



Falcons Class Skyped Ms Park's niece who has been studying in South Korea. They were able to ask questions

about how the lockdown has been, and how the country is slowly returning to normal again now. It was re-assuring for them to hear that most practical problems could be solved and that the situation will not go on forever. It is important for the children to see that this crisis connects all of us, all over the world.



Around School

With so many staff away, everyone had to be really flexible. Some classes were combined, and some had different adults working with them. However, as you can see, we still had lots of fun. We are all going to miss each other!



Headteacher **Mrs Rachel Hornsey**
Assistant Headteachers **Lisa Knight and Louise Potter**
office.3243@sutton-courtenay.oxon.sch.uk
Telephone 01235 848333

SUTTON COURTENAY STAY & PLAY GROUP



All parents, grandparents and other carers - please bring your babies and toddlers to join us for play and chat on a Friday morning (term time only)

Day and Time — Friday Morning, 0900-1030

Venue — Sutton Courtenay Primary School

Price — 1st visit free. Thereafter £1 per family (includes coffee & tea for grown ups but no snacks for the little ones)

Please note there is no parking available in the school car park.

Please park on the street outside

ALTERATIONS DUE TO CORONAVIRUS

Please keep an eye on our Facebook page (@SCstayandplay) to find out the latest news!

CHURCHMERE POOL CARP SYNDICATE



After bleating and moaning about how low the water in the lake was, we have had to close off most of the banks due to flooding, and this after closing half of the site because of high winds. This is nothing compared to what

many people are facing, corona virus isolation, houses washed out and jobs at risk, extremely sad, but it puts the height of water at the lake into perspective.

Some hardy souls have ventured out but consequently, angling wise, there is very little to report, the fish are moving about and are seen, but showing little interest in anglers offerings, things will improve.

A tree has fallen in on the far west corner, we are waiting for the water to subside before making a decision on whether to remove it or not.

The good news is the swans are back after a small vacation, also the grebes have paired up again.

It is now the end of the syndicates membership year, it is hoped that many members of the past year will rejoin.

Roger

SC NORDIC WALKING GROUP

Suffering from back, knee, hip, shoulder pain, and perhaps loneliness, depression, want some weight loss, then please spend 10 minutes watching DONALD SILVERBERG ON YOUTUBE "NORDIC WALKING AND PAIN" TO SEE WHAT THE SIMPLE AND INEXPENSIVE ANSWER MIGHT BE. He is a MEDICAL WORLD EXPERT. No more costly time at clinics just be in the fresh air, rediscover a younger you, pain reduced, having fun with like minded company. Your posture and gait improved within minutes.

If wishing to give it a try please contact Annalie.Thomasson@southandvale.gov.uk of Go Active Gold to book onto a FREE three week course, and if you wish to continue afterwards a FREE wellness walk once a week is available in Sutton Courtenay on the recreation ground. Poles are supplied for the course, Decathlon adjustable Nordic Walking poles, which are suitable for any member of the family, can be purchased at cost- £20 from the local British Nordic Walking Instructor.



SUTTON COURTENAY WI

WANTED

Are you having a clear out?

We would like your books, any thing at all: paperbacks, hard covers, childrens ... ready for our big book sale later on this year. Or any old clean duvets for us to make dog beds to take to the dogs home. Contact Margaret Hamilton Sutton Courtenay WI: 07711331385 . I can collect.

Thank you



MILTON HILL BOWLING CLUB



Milton Hill Bowling Club, Potash Lane, Milton Hill

Coronavirus update: following the advice from Bowls England and our County Association the start of the bowling season has been delayed until further notice in order to protect our members and the wider community. The club postponed our EGM and annual Open Day and now the annual dinner will take place on a warm summer evening yet to be announced.

Bowls is a sport that can be played long after the body gives up on more energetic pastimes so some of our members fall into the 'at risk' group. Nevertheless we shall continue with the upkeep of the green to ensure we are ready to resume play as soon as we get the all clear from advisors who know more about it than we do.

Derek, derekrees@msn.com or 01235 834105.

RECYCLING CENTRES WILL BE CLOSED for two days during April to carry out a deep clean. Closing dates:

Drayton (Abingdon) - Tues 28th & Wed 29th April 2020

Oakley Wood

(Wallingford) - Tues 31st March & Wed 1st April 2020

Stanford (Faringdon) Tues 21st & Wed 22nd April 2020

Full details can be found at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wasteclosure including details of your nearest site during closures. Thank you in advance for your patience.

For those residents with van or trailer permits, please note these can be used at any of our centres.

GET YOUR WASTE TO THE RIGHT PLACE



Type in your postcode and the name of any item to find out whether it can be reused, repaired, donated, recycled, if it needs to go into a specific bin or can be disposed of at a Household

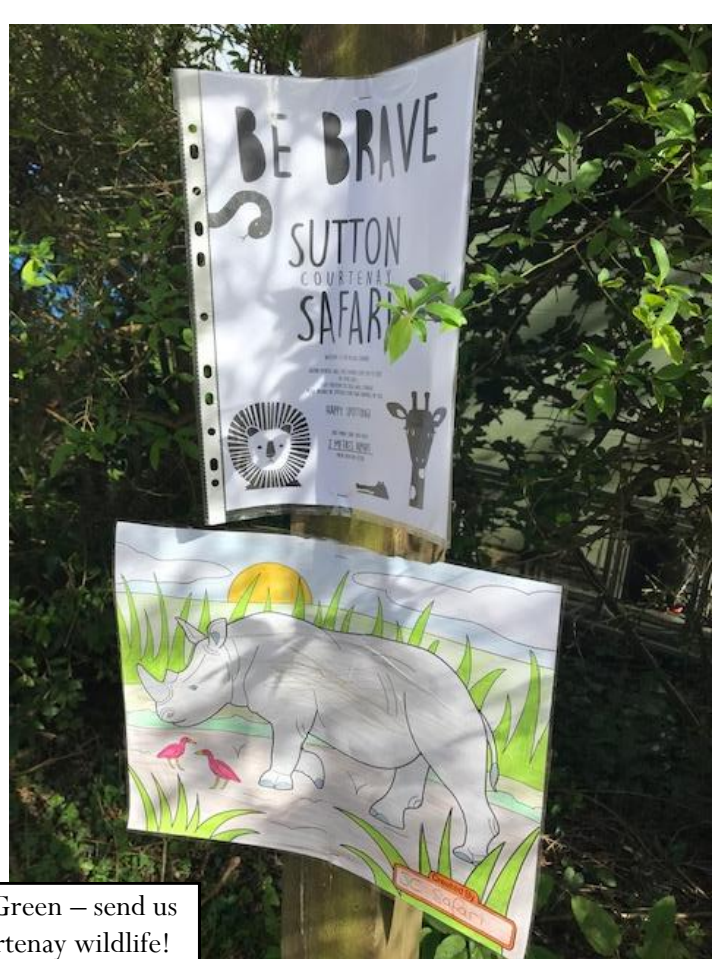
Waste Recycling Centre - oxfordshire.gov.uk/wastewizard

SUTTON COURTENAY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



The Locality-funded work on development of policies and completion of open space assessments is in progress and due to be completed by early April. The Steering Group will then move to the next stage of reviewing all data and assessments to build in to the Neighbourhood Plan document.

Further gaps will be identified and where appropriate funding for the additional work will be sought. Due to government guidelines on social distancing, the Steering Group has suspended meetings. Alternative means of communication are being and investigated. Documents will be uploaded on to the parish council website. Any queries please contact Joanna O'Callaghan at oatlands32@btinternet.com



Spotted by the Editors near The Green – send us your photographs of Sutton Courtenay wildlife!
As the poster says, remember to stay 2 metres away from other people.



Those of you who walk along Churchmere Road to the Millenium Common will have passed the “watering hole” for our four legged friends provided courtesy of Shirley & Roger. Shirley changes the caption regularly but would like some new ideas. Please send your suggestions to editor@suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk and we will forward them to Shirley and she will write up some of her favourites over the coming months.





The DAMASCUS Parish
Drayton | Appleford | Milton
Sutton Courtenay | Stevenon

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

From the Ministry Team...

To the Cross and Out the Other Side

Writing this in mid-March, I don't think it has ever seemed more difficult to project myself forward into the coming month than it is at this moment. As I write, the country is gearing up to cope with the threat of COVID-19, but we are all still to some extent unsure of what the reality will be like.

For the first time in over 1500 years public worship has been suspended across the country - baptisms (except emergencies) have been cancelled and it is unclear at the time of writing what it is to happen for weddings and funerals. Schools are closing. Around the country, medical staff, businesses and individuals are having to make difficult decisions about how to behave in this new and uncertain environment.

But our churches all remain open for private prayer during daylight hours and we are trying to put into place suitable measures to keep people safe and to work out ways that we can help those in our villages who may become ill and need to self-isolate. Cards have been delivered to every house in the parish.

So the first thing to say is that, whether or not we can gather together for worship, the promise of Easter is that after the hard and painful road to the Cross which we remember in Holy Week and especially on Good Friday, there is new life and resurrection round the corner. That has been true over the millennia since Jesus first willingly came into our world of disease and suffering and trod that road for us, showing that absolutely nothing the world throws at us can separate us from the love of God.

Fear, like everything in our human makeup, can be a gift from God when used in the right way, to avoid danger, but it can also lead us astray if we let it get hold of us. So the answer is not to deny our reasonable feelings of fear but to ask God to help us keep them in proportion, to use them rightly, and to give us the gift of love that is the only antidote.

If you find yourself needing to self-isolate (a new phase with which we are all becoming very familiar) or keep socially distant, either because of infection or to avoid infection, remember that if you need to talk about your fears or ask for help in practical ways, you can phone or email me or any of the other members of the ministry team. One thing we can all do is to pray for each other and keep in touch with vulnerable friends and neighbours by phone and email, while respecting their need to keep separate.

May we know that God is with us and all those whom we love as we walk this difficult road together.

The Reverend Helen Kendrick
Rector of the DAMASCUS Parish

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE DAMASCUS PARISH

With immediate effect all public acts of worship in the Church of England have been suspended until further notice.

However, the churches across the DAMASCUS Parish will remain open during daylight hours for private prayer and the Ministry Team will be saying the daily offices of Morning and Evening Prayer on your behalf.

Although we cannot worship collectively we can still pray for one another. Please let us know of any specific prayer requests.

For updates please see our website www.damascusparish.org.uk or the All Saints' Church Sutton Courtenay Facebook page or our church noticeboards.

Most importantly, please let us know if you are self-isolating and need help of any kind so that prayer and practical support can be offered in a safe way.

Please contact any of us if you need help of any kind – or advice on weddings, funerals and baptisms.

With love and prayers, Helen, Phil and Meg
and the Ministry Team of the DAMASCUS Parish

The Rev'd Helen Kendrick (01235 848297)
rector@damascusparish.org.uk or
admin@damascusparish.org.uk

The Rev'd Phil Sutton (07507378737)
revphil@damascusparish.org.uk

The Rev'd Meg Heywood (01235 537100)
revmeg@damascusparish.org.uk

Churchwardens: Nicola Turner (01235 833938) or
Hilary Otterburn (01235 834725)



Holy Baptism

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

15th March 2020

Emma Sarah Louise WILLOUGHBY
Florence Elizabeth Mary STANWAY

For any questions about baptisms, weddings or funerals please contact the Reverend Helen Kendrick on 01235 848297 or email:
rector@damascusparish.org.uk

CHURCH DIARY

All Services and events at church have been suspended until further notice. This includes ALL Easter Services and the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parochial Meeting.

Prayers for this time



(with thanks to the Diocese of Bath & Wells)

Loving God, we pray for all those who are suffering because of the coronavirus, may they know your healing power.

When we are afraid for ourselves and our loved ones,
give us your strength and courage.

When we feel alone and isolated,
reassure us with a sense of your presence.

Give wisdom to those in authority
and may our community work together
for the good of all.

We give thanks for those who care for others
and ask you to bless them in all they do.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, healer and physician.

Amen

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need
as if we were caring for you.

In this time of anxiety,
give us strength to comfort the fearful,
to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated of our love,
and your love,
for your name's sake. Amen.

You Stay - We Pray

All church services have had to be suspended for the foreseeable future due to the threat of Covid-19 – but our churches will remain open in daylight hours for private prayer.

The DAMASCUS Ministry Team will say the Daily Offices (Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer) each day. If you wish to have a copy of these Daily Offices for your own use at home, please call the Rector on 01235 848297 or

e-mail on admin@damascusparish.org.uk At this time the Team will be praying for the whole village, for anyone in especial need, and remembering in particular those who have been asked to remain at home alone.

Many more of us will actually be in our homes full-time, so the Team will pray for peace and security for everyone. In the usual rota, the Rector and Ministry Team will concentrate their prayers on the following roads and people:

Sunday 29 March to Saturday 4 April – Spring Field Way, Tyrrells Way

Sunday 5 April to Saturday 11 April – Partridge Close, Rye Gardens, Southfield Drive

Sunday 12 April EASTER DAY to Saturday 18 April – The Nursery, Town Close

Sunday 19 April to Saturday 25 April 2020 all churches in The DAMASCUS Parish

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

and The DAMASCUS Ministerial Team Helen Kendrick, Meg Heywood, Phil Sutton, Karen Hyde, Rosie Bruce, Jack Jarvis, Tim Budd, Alex Landsbert

Sunday 26 April to Saturday 2 May Abingdon Road, All Saints' Lane, Brook Street

CHURCHYARD ENTRANCE

While many large vehicles had miraculously negotiated the narrow churchyard entrance, many will be aware that a building sub-contractor knocked a gate post last autumn to make it unstable. It was therefore dismantled. The builders could have quickly reinstated the gate post (at no cost to the Church) but it was decided that this is an opportunity to widen the entrance. This will make it suitable for emergency vehicles for the first time. The decision has meant that planning permission to rebuild the post and widen the original gates has had to be sought: permission from the Diocese might also be necessary. The former should be known in April.

The Church regret the length of time that this has taken but the delay is in the long term interest of better access to the building in the future.

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

A leap year* and 29th February proved to be good day for more people to engage in the Friends' Quiz Night than for a few years. Around £600 was raised to add to the charity's funds. The latter is used to fund a variety of special projects as well as more routine work to ensure that the exceptional Church is in a sound condition for future generations. The rest of the year's programme may be in limbo, like all other organisations, but if you wish to find out further information 'phone 848768. If you interested in being a future quizmaster please call the same number.

*When researching his questions, quiz master Fred Cabbage found out that "In the years that are divisible by 100, but not by 400, do not contain a leap day. Thus 1700, 1800 and 1900 did not contain a leap day; neither will 2100, 2200, 2300. Conversely, 1600 and 2000 did and 2400 will."



Scam phone calls

- Neighbourhood Watch in the NAG5 area has received numerous reports of phone calls claiming that 'loft lagging' fitted recently has been found to cause condensation, and has been declared substandard by the government. These calls appear to be opportunist and come from local numbers.
- A recent call to a NAG5 resident asked if he was still receiving scam phone calls. When he said that he was he was asked to confirm his name and address so that the caller could be sure the details were correct. Once the victim had done so he was asked to provide his banking details so that a direct debit could be set up to help prevent scam calls. Fortunately he realised it was a scam.

Reporting incidents to the police

The police stand a greater chance of catching offenders within the first hour following a crime or offence. If you wish to make an immediate report please call 101 as soon as possible, enabling the report to be logged and quickly passed on to any officer(s) who are in the vicinity. Please note that the police are aware of issues or crimes only if they're reported and officially logged. **Always call 999 if you suspect a crime is about to be committed, or if there is one in progress.**

Burglaries

- There has been an increase in daytime burglaries in Abingdon. If you're suspicious about a vehicle which might be associated with break-ins, please take the registration number and call 101 to report it to the police, who will check the details against their database. **Always call 999 if you suspect a crime is about to be committed, or if there is one in progress.**

- Ensuring windows, doors, side gates, sheds and garages are locked helps to deter break-ins. Clearly marking mowers, tools and garden equipment with your postcode makes them less desirable to thieves.

Cyclists

Some cyclists are cycling on footpaths in the dark, without lights. This is potentially very dangerous to both cyclists and pedestrians. Cyclists should use marked cycle paths or cycle on the road.

Doorstep sellers

A reminder that if residents don't buy from doorstep sellers it will dissuade them from returning. Refuse to buy politely but firmly and close the door. Call 101 if you feel threatened.

Parking

Inconsiderate parking at drop-off and pick-up times near schools is ongoing. Please do not put the safety of your child, or other children, at risk by obstructing dropped kerbs with vehicles.

Coronavirus (Covid-19)

Neighbours who are self-isolating, or who are staying at home to protect their health, may be feeling very alone. A simple phone call and/or an offer to help with shopping might make all the difference.

To contact the police about non-emergencies please use the online reporting tool on the Thames Valley Police website at: <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk>. You will be contacted within 24 hours.

If you don't have online access please call 101 for non-emergencies.

Call 999 in the case of emergency.

Contact NAG5 by calling 01235 848694 or e-mail neighbourhoodactiongroup5@hotmail.com

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Water, water everywhere

(but not enough to drink if Thames Water are to be believed).

Over the past 30 years, Thames Water (TW) have been arguing that, in the near future, we are going to be desperately short of water and much the best solution is a giant reservoir between Steventon, East Hanney, Drayton and Marcham. Indeed, if their predictions had been correct, we would have been facing severe drought many years ago.

To be fair (and I am struggling here), the population and global warming have been increasing steadily throughout that time and TW can argue that we need to be looking at the evidence of need yet again. But with TW's history of poor and somewhat alarmist predictions, it must be right to question their latest evidence via a public enquiry. There is evidence and science on both sides of the argument - evidence and science that needs to be argued in public.

With repeated Environment Agency flood warnings in recent months, and as I look out at muddy paths, sodden ground, full rivers and streams, with full and apparently merging lakes

replacing gravel pits, drought hardly seems an immediate threat. TW and their reservoir surely have something to prove.

I confess I am not an angler or a sailor, but I can see that the recreational benefits of the reservoir are tempting. The potential nature conservation opportunity is also appealing - assuming that security issues do not forbid access to the reservoir area.

However, the overriding issue for me is undoubtedly the carbon output of building Europe's largest above ground reservoir over more than 10 years. Our chances of hitting our ambition to be Carbon neutral by 2050 would be very small if TW was to have its way. Add in large scale housing and road development and the chances are nil.

That is why I remain implacably opposed to the reservoir - at least until TW have demonstrated for the first time in 30 years that the case for need is overwhelming and there is no better solution.

Richard Webber Cllr richardwebber777@gmail.com

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26TH ABINGDON SUTTON COURTENAY

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Hello from Beavers, Cubs & Scouts!

Time flies by and here we are again with an update from The Hut. As the second part of the term is closing upon us, we are playing catch up on various badges and also it was Pancake time!

We all enjoy Shrove Tuesday because every child likes pancakes. All our sections took part in this activity and everyone, even the smallest ones, made their own pancake.

We learnt how water travels up through the plants using capillary action, finished the model of our Solar system, and we made some awesome miniature catapults. The catapults were so effective, we decided we will make them on a bigger scale later on!



Few words from our members

"I love coming to Scouts because you get to try so many new things" Henry

"I came to Scouts because I started in

Brownies then I moved to be an assistant to Cubs and now I am a Scout! It's really fun and the activities are entertaining. We learn new fun stuff by crafting, holding, glueing and arts! We all help each other." Lily-Jeanne

"I come to Scouts because the activities are fun and I learn new things and because I have friends there." Aidan

COVID-19

Following the latest advice from the Government, the Scout Association has requested that all meetings and events are cancelled. Therefore, unfortunately, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts will be not running until further notice.

However, we would like to keep you up-to-date with information from the Scouting movement and we are looking for past members of 26th Sutton Courtenay Scouts who would like to share memories and photos. Please, contact us on the email below.

Come and Join us

If you would like your child to join any of our sections (once the restrictions are lifted), email us for more information on 26thAbingdon@gmail.com

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

CHURCH STREET FOOTPATH

While I immediately acknowledge that there are far more important matters in the world since I raised my concern about the prevailing condition of the Church Street footpath, I wish to correct some misunderstanding about my objective. Since we moved to the Village the path has not been considered "fit for purpose" for more years than it has been in a safe, acceptable condition. This is not right for such a key pedestrian link in a Village. I respect that it is classed as an ancient causeway and as such it should be properly maintained (and in a manner which should be less than temporary). When I learnt about apparent inactivity by Oxfordshire County Council from the Parish Council I thought that it was about time that I should raise awareness through the press. It is not right that anyone should be concerned of falling over while walking the footpath. As reported in the press, I am aware of three who have and it is a relief that the consequences were not serious. When I move from the Village I would hope that that it should be a better place to live in. I have possibly been waiting too long for proper attention to this link between so many houses and three pubs and the church. We shouldn't feel obliged to use our cars after a bad spell of weather. If you feel the same as myself, please let's see some (permanent) solution!

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- Soup of the day £5.00
- Beetroot cured gravad lax with mixed leaves salad £5.50
- Crispy duck salad, cucumber, spring onion and hoi sin sauce £6.25
- Smoked cod's roe pate with toast £6.50
- Tomato, basil, roasted peppers and mozzarella salad with basil oil and balsamic dressing (V) £5.75
- Smoked chicken & prawns mayonnaise salad £6.50

Mains

- Seared scallops with leek risotto, salad, parmesan and balsamic vinegar £19.50
- Grilled chicken breast with mushroom sauce £10.25
- Battered fillet of cod with lime & coriander mayonnaise and French fries £12.00
- Seared venison steak with port wine sauce £18.50
- Fillet of halibut with crayfish sauce £17.95
- Leek and pea risotto with garlic, salad, parmesan and balsamic vinegar £9.95(V)
- Fillet of stonebass with gingerbread crust and pistachio sauce £14.95
- Breaded halloumi burger with French fries £10.50 (V)

Side dishes

- French fries £2.60
- Lemon rice £2.70
- Mixed vegetables £2.50
- New potato £2.60
- Mixed leaves salad £2.50
- Mash potato £2.60

Desserts

- Lemon cheesecake with raspberry coulis £5.50
- Chocolate delice with custard £5.50
- Warm banana bread with toffee sauce £5.50
- Hot treacle sponge with custard £5.50
- Selection of French and English cheeses with biscuits £7.50
- Bottle of House White or Red £15.00



All menu items are subject to change according to availability.

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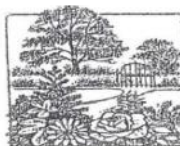
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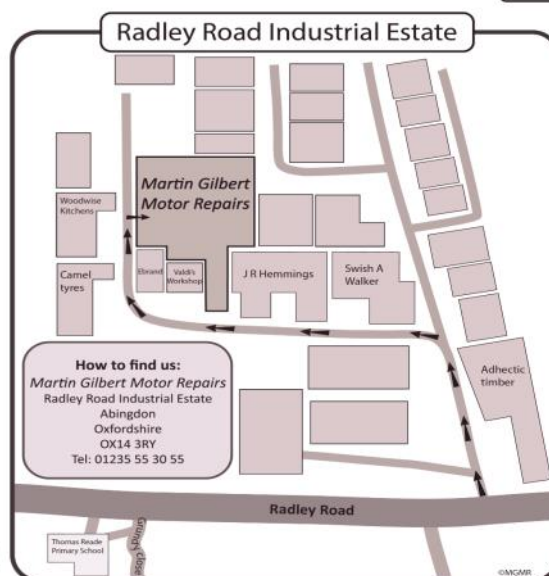
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