

SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

VOLUME 49 No. 5

JUNE 2020



HARWELL ROAD VE DAY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Photographs from Yvonne Blakeman and
Neil & Tracey Griffin



SEE PAGE 6



SPOTTED IN THE VILLAGE



FROM THE EDITORS - LIMITED EDITION SUTTON COURTENAY NEWS

Again, unfortunately, the Covid 19 restrictions have prevented the delivery of this month's edition to every house in the village. We hope that next month we will be able to deliver as usual. We have been able to have printed a limited number of copies of this month's edition for individual collection from various points in the village. This month's edition is also available on line at

www.suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk

We are able to deliver to a number of people in the village who are not able to collect a copy.

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 <i>richardwebber777@gmail.com</i>
District Councillor: (Planning, Waste etc.)	Richard Webber—as above
Parish Council Chairman	Michael Jenkins, 847174 <i>msjenkins@msn.com</i>
Beavers, Cubs and Scouts	Adrian Rouse, 07730 313384 <i>adrian.j.rouse@gmail.com</i>
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Stay & Play Toddler Group	Facebook page: <i>@SCstayandplay</i>
Chairman, Friends of SC Parish Church	Fred Cubbage, 848768
Matrix Music School	847264
The Abbey	847401
Cricknet Club	<i>drb71@hotmail.co.uk</i>
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 <i>marydthompson@outlook.com</i> <i>www.sclhs.org.uk</i>
SCIDS (Drama Society)	Morna Whitlock, 848335 <i>morna28whitlock@gmail.com</i>
All Saints Singers	Steve Fisher 07812 037530 <i>allsaintssingers.org</i>
Sutton Courtenay Action	<i>suttoncourtenayaction@gmail.com</i>
Sutton Courtenay Forum	<i>suttoncourtenayforum@gmail.com</i>
Neighbourhood Watch	07762 597118 <i>nhwsuttoncourtenay@outlook.com</i>
Non-urgent Police	101 or policing team email <i>AbingdonOuterNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk</i>
Environment Agency:	Landfill Odours 0800 80 70 60
Thames Water (leaks):	0800 71 46 14
Power Cuts:	105
Websites:	
Sutton Courtenay News	<i>www.suttoncourtenaynews.co.uk</i>
Parish Council	<i>www.suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk</i>
Vale of White Horse DC	<i>www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk</i>
Oxfordshire CC	<i>www.oxfordshire.gov.uk</i>

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](mailto: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](mailto: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.



Sutton Courtenay Support Group is here with volunteers able to help should people still require any support with collecting shopping and prescriptions. There are also emergency food parcels should anyone find that they are in immediate need due to corona virus. Please contact Emily Madge on 07707779642 or email suttoncourtenayc19@gmail.com

SC VILLAGE HALL

Your Village Hall

The Trustees are starting to consider the next phase of refurbishment and improvements to the village hall. The survey results for the Village Neighbourhood Plan indicated that this amenity is valued and needed, but needs improvement to accommodate the needs of a growing village.



Please let us know your views on the enhancements needed by emailing me, Mary Warrington by the **30 June 20**, with your thoughts to contrary63@gmail.com. Or you can send by post to: Mary Warrington, 63 Milton Road, Sutton Courtenay, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 4BP. This will help us define and cost the packages of work required.

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 scvillagegallbookings@gmail.com

DAVID JOHNSTON MP



I hope you are all safe and well. It has been easier than I expected to adjust to 'virtual parliament', in which 50 MPs can be present in the House of Commons at any one time and up to 120 of us can join by video link. Back in March, I was not sure it would happen at all given the reservations some of my colleagues had, and yet here we are in May with it working pretty smoothly.

Having been concerned that it would feel strange to give speeches from my desk, I have now done so to speak in the Domestic Abuse, Agriculture and Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination Bill debates, alongside questioning several Cabinet ministers on behalf of constituents.

Virtual parliament has certain advantages, not least the fact that the day before debates, the Speaker publishes a call list which shows exactly who will be called and in what order. This is in contrast to how things you usually proceed in the House of Commons, when you can be in there for several hours bobbing up and down and not be called at all! You can also wear jeans on your bottom half as the camera can't see below your shoulders!

That said, like everyone else currently working we're all keen to

.....continued

be back around our colleagues. Whilst some people suggest that the current period will change how everyone works forever more, I'm not so sure. Having had friends move to other countries and being reasonably used to speaking to them by video, it's not the same as being in the same room and I think most people want the interactions that come face to face.

MPs were advised to remain in their constituencies for lockdown if they could, so my partner and I have been in our home in the Didcot area, which we got in February. It has been good to spend an extended period here rather than just the Friday-Sunday period each week and she and I consider ourselves very lucky to have a garden and to be able to take walks around the beautiful environment we now live in.

Where we can, we've been getting out to help the organisations in our community that have played such a vital role during this crisis – from Sofea to the Ray Collins Trust – and remain full of admiration for the many ways they've been helping people during this period. Do visit www.oxfordshireallin.org to find one near you.

David Johnstone OBE MP

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

0207 219 3858 david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk

COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Many residents of Sutton Courtenay and Appleford will be aware of some of the great work that has been going on in our villages with the elderly and the vulnerable since the pandemic hit us. With a team of more than 60 volunteers under the command of Emily and Judy, all those needing help with food and medicine deliveries have been getting it.

Rachael (head teacher) and her staff have been working tirelessly with the young, while the Damascus Youth project have been on the streets helping our teenagers and young adults. Rev Helen and her Church team have not stopped for many weeks.

We have been having regular online meetings between all the various bodies to spot any loopholes and develop our efforts in line with Government guidance.

Both villages should be proud of the way they responded to the crisis.

Government Business Grants

Government have provided VWHDC with a pot of money to help businesses through the crisis. Several local businesses have already benefitted but there are some who have yet to apply and some the Vale may not even know about. Even if a business was unsuccessful last month, the advice is to try again as Government have changed the eligibility rules.

Urgent Appeal

The school has been working hard with children some of whom have no access to a PC. Online teaching and learning is particularly difficult with only a mobile phone. The school needs to purchase up to 60 Chrome Books (£231 each) which these children could use. The school would own them and loan them out as required. Thanks to donations already received, up to 10 have already been funded, but there is still some way to go. If residents would like to contribute please contact the Chair of Governors, Rita Atkinson. ritaatkinson@googlemail.com

Richard Webber Cllr

Sutton Courtenay and Appleford



Parish Council Meetings

Under emergency legislation passed by the Government, which is provisionally in place until May 2021, the Council can hold

meetings virtually. The first full Parish Council Meeting held virtually took place on 5th May 2020. Agendas for meetings are posted on the website a few days before and emailed to those people who are on our email distribution list. The public participation section of the meeting continues and, should you wish to participate in a meeting or just listen in, login details for the meeting can be obtained from the Clerk prior to the meeting. Please email the clerk on the details at the foot of the article for details. Should you wish to be added to the agenda distribution list, please email the same address with your request.

Planning Appeal – Appleford Road

It was mentioned in the last newsletter that a Planning Appeal has been lodged in relation to the proposed development at Appleford Road. Various meetings of the Council have now taken place and at an emergency meeting of the Council held, virtually, on 30th April 2020 it was agreed that the Council would instruct a Planning Consultant to prepare and make a statement on behalf of the Council at the Planning Appeal Inquiry. The date for this has provisionally been set for October but we await final confirmation of the date (and venue) given the current restrictions in place. The Council would ask that if you have any substantive suggestions of data/information which may be useful to be included in the statement please let the Clerk know and these will be considered. Should you wish to see the minutes of the meetings, all meeting minutes can be found on the Parish Council website or you can contact the Clerk.

COVID 19 UPDATE

Non Medical Facemasks – A group of volunteers to produce non-medical facemasks is being organized. If you are able to assist with this, please contact Simon Lazare on simon_lazare@icloud.com or 0772 1160875. Delivery of material and collection of completed masks can be arranged if you are unable to leave your home. Information on how to make face masks can be provided and there are useful links on the Parish Council website.

Restrictions

At the time of writing, we remain under tight Covid-19 isolation regulations. Here is an update on any Parish Council owned land which remains under restrictions:-

Cemetery - The Parish Council made the decision, following government guidance, not to close the cemetery to people wishing to visit memorials during this time. This is on the basis that social distancing is observed at all times and no large groups visit at the same time. Any burials which are taking place during this period are carried out following the current government regulations overseen by the officiate and funeral directors.

Recreation Ground – The recreation ground as a whole has remained open. However, following government instructions,

the children's play area, basketball area and skate park were closed at the end of March. The basket ball area has now re-opened for use by families or by a family with one member of another family provided that social distancing is observed. **The play area remains closed.** No safety inspections are being carried out on it during this period of closure.

The Village Hall – The Village Hall remains closed at this time.

Daily exercise

With the government relaxing rules on exercise, it is envisaged that many more people will be out and about around the village. The Parish Council request that the following be noted:

- Many of the footpaths around Sutton Courtenay are narrow. Please consider whether there is an alternative footpath you could use which may be quieter and allow for social distancing. If not, please be courteous to other users who may be going in the other direction.
- The speed limit throughout the majority of the village is 30mph or slower. Although the roads are, generally, quieter, there are also more people walking and cycling. Please obey the speed limits throughout the village.
- Please pick up your dog mess when walking your dog.

Useful contact details

Sutton Courtenay has a Neighbourhood Watch Group. The Group maintain a Facebook page which is updated at least daily with information about fraud, scams, alerts from the police, Action Fraud, Neighbourhood Watch Network and more. They have expanded the page to include information and updates relating to Covid -19. The Facebook page is called Neighbourhood Watch in Sutton Courtenay or you can email on nhwsuttoncourtenay@outlook.com.

Reports indicate that there is a rise in cases of domestic abuse during this period. If you are, or somebody else is in immediate danger, please call 999. If not in immediate danger, you can contact the local Neighbourhood Policing Team. There are many groups who can assist if you are a victim of domestic abuse. Two of these are:

National Domestic Abuse Helpline (run by refuge): Freephone 0808 200 0247 or visit the website at www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk

Victim Support: call free on 0333 256 7911 or visit the website at www.victimsupport.org.uk

Next Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting is due to take place on Tuesday 2nd June 2020. We are currently not required to display the agenda on the Village Noticeboard, so please look out for updates and the meeting agendas on the parish council website at www.suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk or contact the clerk.

Contact details

The Clerk (Helen Savery) can be contacted by email at info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk, by phone on 01235 364211 or by post at 10 Sovereign Place, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 9GF.

For details of meeting with Thames Water please see Page 6



Keeping Busy in School!

While we have been away from school, Mr Greenough the school caretaker has been his usual creative self. We were recently given a set of rechargeable keyboards which were bought with

money from the music department at Ridegway Education Trust. Mr Dingley, the head of music, is passionate that every child should learn to read simple music using a tuned instrument while they are at primary school. The keyboards will be used during whole class music lessons.

We needed a storage solution and one day I joked with Mr Greenough that they should go in a cart designed like a barrel organ. Of course that got him thinking and the finished creation has now arrived, complete with a dancing monkey operated by working cams the children can turn a handle to operate.



The trolley represents all I love so much about the school – a community of people who are innovative and creative and are able to spark children’s imagination. It will not only inspire music but also design technology!

Over the next couple of weeks, we will be preparing for the return of the children with a thorough clean. For some areas of the school, this will involve redecoration. Mr Greenough is already very busy with the toilets in Robins and the cloakrooms by Falcons, where he is preparing the walls and doors before giving them a fresh coat of paint. It isn’t nearly such a pleasant job as making a music cart, but that’s life and he is still smiling!



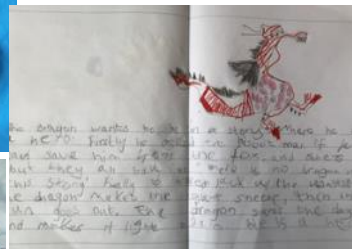
Learning at Home

Meanwhile, the majority of children are learning at home. We have successfully set up programmes where teachers can set work and interact with children online using the Google Classroom, and we are delighted with the way the parents and carers have responded to this. It has been inspiring for us all to learn and grow together in ways to make our teaching most effective with a bespoke curriculum, and to see the children’s comments and the photographs they send in of their work, some of which you can see below. Their confidence has really grown.

We anticipate having to work in this way for most groups of children for some time to enable social distancing.

Unfortunately, we are finding that some families are more disadvantaged than others. Many have to share one laptop

between them which means taking turns to access work. Often their technology is old or unfit for purpose, and many are reliant on using a small phone screen for their work. This is far from ideal, and so we have launched an appeal for more Chromebooks, please see below.



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

Chromebook Appeal for our Village School



Would you be able to support the education of our village children in this particularly difficult time?

Most of the children who attend our school are now learning at home online, and it is likely to be

this way for some time to come. Many are disadvantaged by lack of technology at home.

Our aim is to add 60 Chromebooks (basic laptops) to our technology resources to loan out and use in school – we are asking for your support to help meet this challenge.

You might be surprised by how little one costs. For **£231** you would be able to donate a Chromebook to the school and know that you are giving a real boost to a child’s education now and having an impact for years to come.

Donations can be made to the charity Friends of Sutton Courtenay School (registered charity no. 1165543) via the below bank details:

Friends of Sutton Courtenay School
 Barclays
 Sort Code 20-01-09
 Account No 50888508

If you would like to discuss your donation, please do not hesitate to contact Headteacher Rachel Hornsey via the address above or 07985 584938

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WITH THAMES WATER

Thames Water Works

The Parish Council had a conversation with Thames Water and their contractors on 19th May with regards to the imminent works in Sutton Courtenay.

The works on High Street are suspended indefinitely, not only due to Covid-19 but also to high water levels which would need to be lower before work could commence. They would hope that these may be carried out in the late summer/early autumn if we have a dry summer, if not, the works will be re-scheduled or next year.

The works on Drayton Road, involving a full road closure, is due to commence during week commencing 15th June. Thames Water will be providing posted leaflets through the doors of properties affected prior to the closure but details are as follows:

The works will be completed in two sections with one section being completed prior to the next starting. Access to properties in the closed area, including properties on Ginge Brook and Chapel Lane, will be via the section which is NOT being worked on at the time. Pedestrian access will be available at all times. An area wide enough to allow disabled access, pushchairs

and cyclists pushing their bikes to pass through will be fenced off. To enable social distancing, passing places in the fencing will be available. The fencing is transparent and therefore pedestrians will be able to see people approaching.

With regards to vehicular access, a diversion route will be signed. Thames Water appreciate that some drivers will not follow the diversion and may therefore use the village as a diversion. The Parish Council have requested that "no through route for vehicles over 7.5T" signage be put in place to deter lorries with no business in the village not to use the village as a diversion route. The contractors are requesting approval of this from Oxfordshire County Council. The Parish Council have also requested "businesses open as usual" signs to assist local businesses during the closure.

The Parish Council will be having a further meeting with Thames Water prior to commencement of the work and will post any updates on the website so please do keep an eye out.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do contact the clerk who will forward your enquiry onto Thames Water.

Helen Savery info@suttoncourtenay-pc.gov.uk

CHURCHMERE POOL



Over the last couple of months some villagers have joined in our fun of making name suggestions by the dog drinking bowl in Churchmere Road. We and many passers by have had a smile or giggle at the names.

We have quite a list now and we are working through them. Thank you for your suggestion and we look forward to seeing you, and your four legged friends on the way to the common.

The fish are in fine fettle, no one fishing of course, but anglers have been visiting and feeding the fish with any amount of fishy delicacies which the swans have also been pleased to consume. The swans have hatched at last bringing forth 3 cygnets, the Canada geese have not been so successful due to the bully boy antics of the male swan, he has been a pest, the moor hens have gone about their business in their usual quiet manner, unlike the querulous coots.

Lilies and yellow iris are now bursting into flower, and with the better weather the lake is looking a picture.

But back to fish and fishing, there was a very short spawning and with a snap of cold weather it abruptly stopped, which is a worry as some of the bigger girls could become spawn bound and just die, so fingers crossed.

When Shirley and I first came to the village there was a large terrapin in the lake, after the re shaping of the lake by the then syndicate he went missing, then all of a sudden we have four, I believe they have moved here during this years floods, one of them we have found a good home for.

Membership is pretty much full, though the flow has been very fractured which has caused some confusion and frustration, mainly due to Covid 19, but it's all settled down now. The government started fishing on 6 May, we decided to delay angling until 30 May in case there should be a late re start to spawning.

Shirley and Roger Rance

SC NORDIC WALKING GROUP

Hope that we will be able to restart our walks as soon as it is safe. Not sure how social distancing will work but we will manage. Hopefully we can continue our courses, which were fully booked for two whole months with Go Active Gold, when we had to postpone.

Please remember that there is walking, and then there is skilled walking AKA Nordic Walking. Keep safe.

LONG WITTENHAM PRE SCHOOL



Long Wittenham Pre- School

Spaces Available for September

- ★ A friendly village Pre-School for children aged 2 To 4 Years
- ★ Qualified, dedicated and experienced staff
- ★ Government funding accepted
- ★ Breakfast Club & Lunch Club
- ★ Ofsted Good rating



Contact us:

sally@longwittenhampreschool.co.uk

01865 407 417

www.longwittenhampreschool.co.uk

We provide fun, friendship, and challenge

Hello from Beavers, Cubs & Scouts!

Although all public Scouts activities have been suspended, we are committed to providing some continuation of our program in this strange time.

During the lockdown we have joined #CampAtHome - a virtual camp organised by Northumberland Scouts. During the whole of April, our members and some of their family members continued the scouting activities at home and camped in their gardens, lounges, bathrooms or under stairs. As a result, we all spent over 135 nights camping at home. Please see photos on the cover page of this issue.

World Record for Virtual camping

On 30th April, Scouts and friends from all around the world took part in setting the new world record. On that night, we joined over 95,000 other Scouts, Guides and friend from 68 countries across the world!

#TheGreatIndoors

As you can see we're keeping ourselves busy and if you are looking for ideas for indoor activities, take advantage of #TheGreatIndoors where you can find many ideas for indoor activities.

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

Marquee hire

Our Scouts group has marquee to hire locally (once the condition allow us). Our marquee can be set either as 40'x20' or smaller size 20'20'. For information about the hire please use the contact above.



The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project

Registered Charity 1098966



Adaptable Youth Interventions

“Children, after all, are not just adults-in-the-making. They are people whose current needs and rights and experiences must be taken seriously” Alfie Kohn

We have been on a huge learning curve during lockdown. Our online engagement in Sutton Courtenay, in particular, has been super interesting with regular group calls and several one-to-one supporting conversations.

We conducted a Covid19 lockdown response survey of young people. Not unsurprisingly, the absence of meeting up with friends was the most concerning to them followed by worry over coping with home schooling.

We have adapted our delivery so that young people have an online social space to engage comfortably and learn skills through fun activities.

- Escape Room has interesting English and Maths puzzles to solve

- Gaming sessions are opportunities to work on leadership roles and team building skills

We have launched a coffee, cake and chat for parents on Zoom and are delivering workshops on 'Growing up in the 21st Century' and Introduction to Young People's Mental Health with more to follow.

As the lockdown restrictions are eased, we will be out walking the streets to safely engage with, and be there for young people who need us in these tough times.

Finally, if you are worried about a young person or need any support, please contact one of the youth workers. This has been a very difficult time for many young people and for some of them, seeing a friend is what is getting them through the days. We are actively encouraging them to observe social distancing.

The ADYP Team – Roxy Elford, Jake Fleetwood and James Quartermain

Do contact any of us on jamesq.ycat@gmail.com, jakef.ycat@gmail.com, roxy.ycat@gmail.com

Tel: 01235 848694 or 07875649008

Jake Damascus, Roxy Damascus, James Damascus

Jake.adyp; James.adyp; Roxy Damascus

YouTube - The Abingdon Damascus Youth Project

Website - www.damascusyouthproject.org.uk



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...

At this time of global pandemic, we live with stark reality of death and life.

Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones (37:1-14) was given when God's people were in exile in Babylon. They felt dead, being separated from home, from all that was safe and familiar, and from God. The vision answers God's question: 'can these bones live?'

In the strange times we are living through we can also feel cut off from God, facing the loss of jobs, businesses, homes or health and with church communities unable to meet physically together in church buildings. This vision assures us that God has power over death and can breathe new life into what is hopeless.

And we have already begun to experience new life. When we were told that we could no longer worship in our church buildings everything felt hopeless, then we discovered a whole new world of using Zoom, Facebook and Youtube in order to offer something new and hopeful. Churches all over the world are discovering how to live stream or pre-record their services and we are discovering new ways of connecting with one another using new technology and rediscovering the telephone to reconnect with others. Community spirit is being revived as neighbours look after one another with simple acts of kind conversations at a safe physical distance. And then there were the physical distanced tea parties held to celebrate VE Day in streets up and down the land, not to mention the weekly coming together to clap for all carers and key workers to show appreciation. New life indeed!

When Ezekiel is told to 'prophesy to the bones' (4), God brings them back to life: the bones come together and are covered with muscles and skin, and then filled with God's breath to bring new life, by the life of His Spirit.

The Covid-19 virus robs people of their life by suffocation, so that they can't breathe. Our hope beyond the pandemic is that the gift of God's Spirit will bring new life to our lives, our communities, our churches and world. Life will certainly look very different in the future, but we can be assured that God is with us and that we are safe in his hands.

'I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.' (14).

The Reverend Helen Kendrick
Rector of the DAMASCUS Parish
indness

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who responded so generously with gifts of food and money for the community food parcels being coordinated by Emily Madge and the Sutton Covid-19 Group. Your kindness has helped many local families through a very difficult time.

YOU STAY – WE PRAY!

All Saints' Church (part of The DAMASCUS Parish) prays on a weekly basis for all Sutton Courtenay residents who live and work in each road. In a 26-week Rota, everywhere is prayed for twice in each calendar year. As roads are of different lengths, some will be prayed for twice (on consecutive weeks) and some for three weeks. As the Church is not open at this time due to the Covid-19 pandemic, please use this monthly Rota in .S.C. News.

Sunday 24 May to Saturday 6 June – Barretts Way, Churchmere Road

Sunday 7 June to Saturday 13 June – Bradstocks Way

Sunday 14 June to Saturday 20 June – Bradstocks Way

Sunday 21 June to Saturday 27 June – Bradstocks Way

Sunday 28 June to Saturday 4 July – Church Street, Mill Lane

Progress on the River Room

Our builders are now back on site, after a three-week lockdown, and are making as much progress as they can to finish the work, whilst maintaining safe physical distancing and following all health and safety protocols regarding Covid-19. The floor is down, the kitchen is installed and functioning; the plumbing is being completed and the external landscaping is underway. Hopefully they will be finished within the next month but our fundraising still continues and we will let you know when we are allowed to mark the Grand Opening of the River Room. Watch this space!

Community Café via Zoom

Currently every Thursday
from 10:30-11:30

all welcome but you will have to make
your own coffee / tea!

Please email

rector@damascusparish.org.uk

to be added to the mailing list to receive
the link each week – or find it on the
weekly church notice sheet.

For any questions about baptisms, weddings or funerals
please contact the Reverend Helen Kendrick on 01235
848297 or email:

rector@damascusparish.org.uk

Important message from the Damascus Parish

At the time of writing (mid-May) all services and events at church are still suspended until further notice and our buildings remain shut and locked. We are waiting for the government to issue further guidance on how and when to re-open our buildings so for now worship and church at home still continues. Each week the DAMASCUS Ministry Team are taking it in turns to produce a homily – in written, audio and video format – which can be accessed either via our weekly mailing or the website, or via the All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay website. We pray that Worshipping at Home whilst we are apart is keeping us together. For updates please see our website:

www.damascusparish.org.uk or the All Saints' Church Sutton Courtenay Facebook page.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to be added to our mailing list please contact Alison Bampton, our administrator:

admin@damascusparish.org.uk

(In order for us to keep contact details on our database each person must fill out a GDPR form if they have not already done so. This can be completed and returned via e-mail. You can ask to be removed at any time).

Most importantly, please let us know if you 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

10am Friday, 19th June 2020

RAISING MONEY FOR 'NHS CHARITIES TOGETHER'

(at the time of going to print £712 had been raised – please help Alan reach his target of a £1,000!)



Alan Calver, 82 (nearly 83), a long-time resident of Sutton Courtenay (pictured left with his scarecrow from last year's scarecrow trail) is preparing to walk 21km (half a marathon) to raise money for 'NHS Charities Together'.

Inspired by Captain Tom to 'do his bit', Alan is planning to complete the equivalent of half a marathon.

Please sponsor him to raise £1,000 for the NHS Charities.

You can donate via the Just Giving website to the "Alan's Sutton Courtenay Amble for the NHS" page. or by cheque, payable to 'NHS Charities Together' and sent to The Reverend Helen Kendrick, The Rectory, 3 Tullis Close, Sutton Courtenay, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 4BD

Stewardship and Giving

We realise that these are challenging times for many people but, as stewards and custodians of the churches in the DAMASCUS Parish we are having to consider the impact this pandemic is having on our finances.

Thanks to the generosity and thoughtfulness of many, a large part of our income comes in planned giving which gives us great stability.

However, there is no doubt that our income will be seriously affected by the church closures and not being able to run fundraising activities.

If you normally give through the Sunday collection plate please would you consider:

a) continuing to put to one side the amount you would normally donate and bring it to church when we reopen for public worship
b) set up a direct debit by joining the Parish Giving Scheme - forms can be emailed through to you - please contact the Stewardship Officer -

David King stewardship@damascusparish.org.uk

c) make a one-off bank transfer using these details

The DAMASCUS PCC

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d) writing a cheque payable to The DAMASCUS PCC and sending it to the DAMASCUS Parish Office, The Rectory, 3 Tullis Close, Sutton Courtenay, OX14 4BD. Thank you.

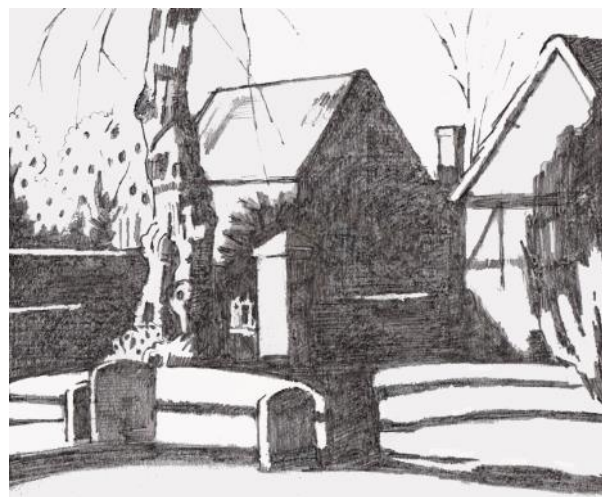
REST IN PEACE

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

Muriel Greenway

Alan Charles Rogers

Due to the current restrictions we are only permitted to hold short graveside committals or committals in crematorium. We are hoping that in due course we will be able to hold full memorial services in church for those have died during this crisis and their obituaries will then be published.





This information was correct at the time of writing in mid May

'SUTTON COURTENAY DUE TO CORONAVIRUS' COVID VOLUNTEER GROUP

These volunteers now cover all areas of the village and offer help with shopping, medication collection, dog walking, posting letters or a phone call for a chat. If you'd like their assistance please contact the group's Co-ordinator, Emily Madge, on 07707 779642 or e-mail suttoncourtenayc19@gmail.com

When the volunteer comes to your door they will have either a driving licence or a passport as proof of identity. Please make sure that you check it carefully.

They will observe social distancing at all times and will never enter your home nor ask for a donation or charge for helping you. The volunteers do not wear any type of uniform.

ABIMED'S PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION AND DELIVERY SERVICE

This community service is available to all residents in Appleford, Drayton and Sutton Courtenay. Call 01865 818351 between 9am and 4pm Monday to Saturday once you know your medicines are ready to be collected - please don't wait until it's urgent. Deliveries are on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays. The number of pharmacies included in the service has increased. Information below has been copied from the AbiMeds website <https://abimeds.org>

Please note that AbiMeds doesn't handle cards or cash so if you have to pay for your medicines (i.e. you are not exempt and you don't have a Prescription Prepayment Certificate) then you will need to arrange prepayment with the pharmacy. Some pharmacies take card payment over the phone, shown below. If that is not possible, sadly we cannot help you, but can direct you to other groups who may be able to.

- Avicenna – fully operational
Take card payment over phone, 01235 520 059
- Boots – fully operational
Take card payment over phone, 01235 520 056
- Jhoots – fully operational
Take card payment over phone, 01235 521 456
- Lloyds Peachcroft – fully operational
Do not take card payment over phone
- Marcham Road Health Clinic – not operational. They say there's minimal demand but we'll help out if it's urgent. They do deliveries if you do not live close by but, if you do, prescriptions are mostly sent to in-town pharmacies such as Boots.
- North Abingdon (Long Furlong) – fully operational
Do not take card payment over phone
- Reynolds Way – fully operational
Take card payment over phone, 01235 535 397
- Tesco – not yet operational but hopefully by 14th May 2020

SCAMS AND FRAUD

TV Licensing scam

E-mails telling recipients that their direct debit to TV Licensing has failed and that they need to pay to avoid prosecution have been circulating for quite some time.

These scam emails have recently been amended to tell victims that they qualify for a 'COVID 19 Personalised Offer' of six months free of charge. The e-mails contain links to genuine looking sites and aim to steal personal and financial information.

You should never provide this sort of information in response to any form of unsolicited communication, nor should you click on any links in e-mails or texts.

Coronavirus-related fraud and scams

Criminals continue to exploit Coronavirus. Uninvited phone calls, e-mails, texts and visitors on the doorstep may not be genuine, despite appearances. Criminals are often very convincing and persuasive. NEVER provide personal or financial information no matter how convinced you may be that it's a genuine request. Financial institutions, the police, local authority and other businesses will never ask for your information in this way.

There's also a concern that fraudsters may pose as volunteers or claim that they've been asked to call by someone well-known in the village. Please exercise caution and call the person who's said to have requested the contact. Use an independent source for the contact details and, if it's a phone call you've received, make the call on a different phone if possible

'Sextortion' scams

- So called because the victim receives an e-mail claiming that they have been filmed watching porn on their computer, and quoting a password that the recipient uses or has used in the past. Payment is demanded in bitcoin. It's thought that the passwords quoted were obtained through old data breaches. If you receive one of these e-mails don't click on any links and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk.
- Visit haveibeenpwned.com to check if any of your accounts have been involved in a data breach. If they have you should change the password.
- You should change your passwords regularly. Always use a different password for each account, which should be between 8 and 12 characters and use at least one upper case character, one numeral and one symbol such as *, !, #. If you write them down keep the information in a secure location.

Suspicious Email Reporting Service

This new service has been launched by the National Cyber Security Centre and the police. In the first two weeks 160,000 reports were received, leading to more than 1,400 links to bogus websites being removed. If you receive a suspicious email please forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk Further information is available at www.actionfraud.police.uk/news/cyber-experts-shine-light-on-online-scams-as-british-public-flag-over-160000-suspect-emails

If you'd like to report a different type of scam or fraud, or have been a victim, please contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or use the online reporting tool on the website at www.actionfraud.police.uk

If you'd like to report a different type of scam or fraud, or have been a victim, please contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or use the online reporting tool on the website at www.actionfraud.police.uk

DISPOSAL OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND REFUSE

- Textiles, batteries and small electrical items kerbside collections have restarted.
- Bulky waste collections have resumed. There are a limited number of bookings which can only be made online at www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/your-recycling-and-waste-collections/bulky-household
- Garden waste brown bins can be ordered online at www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/garden-waste. The current cost is £49 per annum. They are emptied fortnightly on the same day as green recycling bins.
- Household recycling centres reopened on 18 May for essential use. Essential use means waste that cannot be stored at home, or would cause harm to health if stored. Opening hours will be limited to 8am to 4pm, social distancing measures will be introduced and the size and number of vehicles will be limited. This is likely to result in local traffic restrictions around each site to prevent queues blocking the road network. Full details can be found here www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/coronavirus/HWRCReopeningFAQs.pdf
- If you have, or a member of your household has, Coronavirus please ensure that any personal items such as tissues, disposable cloths, face masks etc are put into a rubbish bag, then into a second rubbish bag which should be tied securely. The bag should then be stored away from other waste for a minimum of 72 hours before being placed in your bin.
- Bin emptying is mostly running as normal. Vale advises that changes may occur as a result of staff being off sick or

self-isolating. If your bin hasn't been emptied please leave it out for three days (including weekends). If it still hasn't been emptied please take it in and put it out again on the normal collection day.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (NHW)

There are Neighbourhood Watch groups or 'schemes' around the village, with Co-ordinators acting as contact points for those who need help or advice. If you're not a Neighbourhood Watch member, don't live in a street which has a scheme or can't contact your NHW Co-ordinator and need help and support - or know someone who does - please contact Sutton Courtenay Area Co-ordinator for NHW, Bridget Haffenden, on 07762 597118 or e-mail nhwsuttoncourtenay@outlook.com

The Neighbourhood Watch in Sutton Courtenay Facebook page is providing a wide range of Coronavirus-related information in addition to the usual content, and is updated daily.

www.facebook.com/neighbourhood.watch.in.sutton.courtenay

CONTACTING THE POLICE DURING THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

The police request that you only call 999 in an emergency and 101 if it's urgent.

If possible please use their online services at www.thamesvalley.police.uk

Please only contact the police about breaches of the 'stay at home' measures if you feel there's a significant issue or serious breach of the restrictions

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

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- Smoked chicken & prawns mayonnaise salad £5.50
- Warm goat's cheese & onion chutney in filo pastry with walnuts and salad £5.25
 - White sandwich baguettes £6.00
- (crispy duck, chicken & prawn mayo, brie & bacon)
 - Butternut squash soup £5.00
- Venison and dry fruit terrine with red onion compote, brown bread and salad £4.25
 - Caramelized onion tartlet topped with mozzarella and salad £4.95 (V)
 - Beetroot cured gravad lax with mixed leaves salad £5.50
 - Crispy duck salad, cucumber, spring onion and hoi sin sauce £6.25
- Tomato, basil, roasted peppers and mozzarella salad with basil oil and balsamic dressing (V) £5.75

Mains

- Beef and bacon burger with red onion, lettuce, tomato, cheese & French fries £12.95
 - Cottage pie with mixed leaves salad or mixed vegetables £11.25
 - Grilled chicken breast with mushroom sauce £11.50
- Battered fillet of cod with lime & coriander mayonnaise and French fries £12.00
 - Venison steak with creamed cabbage and port wine sauce £15.50
 - Gressingham duck breast with orange sauce £14.95
- Fillet of stonebass with shrimps, pink peppercorn and chive butter sauce £13.50
- Leek, pea & wild garlic risotto with salad, parmesan and balsamic vinegar £9.95(V)
 - Breaded halloumi burger with French fries £10.50 (V)
- Caesar salad with battered tiger prawns, crutons and parmesan £11.50

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

All menu items are subject to change
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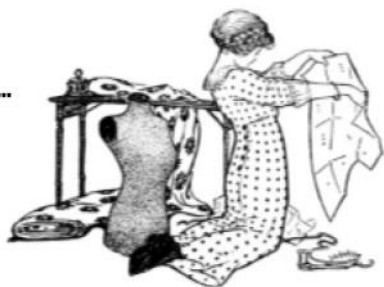
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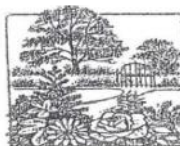
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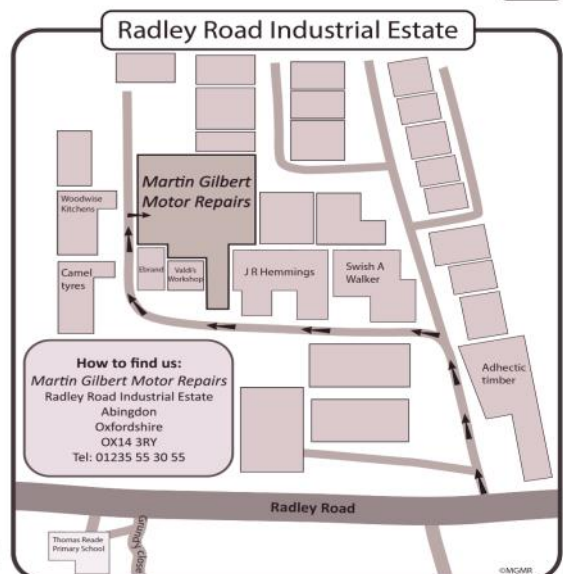
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