

Stoke Orchard & Tredington Newsletter



March 2026



Courage, discipline and motivation

We are well into Lent by now, and I wonder if you've given up on or taken up anything? A few years ago I gave up on drinking diet coke, and have to admit that it's slipped back in by now – but I only allow myself 1 glass a day. And I use the excuse that I don't drink coffee and only herbal tea, so... my caffeine fix needs to come from somewhere, right?! Maybe the fact that I really do not want to give that up means I really should... but there we are.

I have, however, taken something up. I may have found a way to say morning prayer most days, but evening prayer or compline are very hit and miss. As I was having a look over all my books, and especially the ones I am always still hoping to read one day, I found a book called 'Daysprings. Meditations for the weekdays of Advent, Lent, and Easter.' And starting on Ash Wednesday, it gives the allocated readings for the day plus a short reflection. Perfect! Evening prayer or compline are now firmly in my diary. That doesn't necessarily mean all that much, but at least the chances of it happening are much bigger than just thinking that I should / could / might do it!

In Lent we try to find ways to feel closer to Jesus, as we walk with him to the cross. That takes courage and discipline and motivation. These aren't easy weeks, and the events as told in the Bible are disturbing and distressing. All the more reasons to find in ourself the courage and discipline to not walk away or look the other way, but to stay and reflect on these events.

Being human, we all lose courage and discipline at times. We don't need to berate ourself for that. But when we notice, we can gently remind ourself of what it is we want to give up or take up, and return to doing that as soon as we can. Perfection is not needed, but trying to do our best is.

What are you trying to give up or take up? And how is it going?

Peace and blessings to you all,

Ilse

Church services – March

Sunday 1st Mar 9.30am • Morning worship at Tredington

Sunday 8th Mar 9.30am • Holy Communion at Stoke Orchard

Sunday 15th Mar 9.30am • Holy Communion at Tredington – Mothering Sunday

Sunday 22nd Mar 9.30am • Holy Communion at Stoke Orchard

Sunday 29th Mar 10am • Benefice Communion at Forthampton



Stoke Orchard & Tredington Parish Council



Parish Councillors from May 16th 2025 are:-

Cllr Alan Macdonald (Chairman) • Councillor Sue Shorrock (Vice chair),
Cllr Andrew Troughton • Cllr James Gilder • Cllr Tim Jukes
Cllr Graham Ferguson • Cllr George Fairbairn

Contact Details - through the Clerk: Mrs Michelle Hinde

Email: clerk@stokeorchardandtredington-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of Past Meetings are to be found on the Parish Council Website.

Notice of Stoke Orchard and Tredington Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Wednesday March 4th, 2026 at 7pm at the Community Centre, Stoke Orchard and will be held according to standard Parish Council Meeting regulations. The Council will continue the Clerks special Powers Facility invoked for Covid Regulations for the foreseeable future.

www.stokeorchardandtredington.org.uk



Dear Resident,

By now, thankfully we are seeing the lighter mornings and evenings heralding dear old Spring. It's a bit like coming out of hibernation. As usual, the supermarkets trundled out their Easter eggs immediately after Christmas and it all seems to add to the breakneck speed of society these days. Still soon be Summer eh! 😊

- As you may have seen, the Cotswold Oak developer has been meeting their obligations to install pedestrian access to the rest of the village from their small estate on the corner of the Old Spot Road. Extra street lighting has been provided, hopefully allowing better illumination to this end of the village and to this bend. We have written to them and received assurances, that the mess they have created on the village green will be levelled and reseeded. I'd like to record thanks here to Graham Mudway, who for many years has mowed the strips of land at this corner and helped make this entrance to our village look tidy and cared for.
- The shop has now been open for a couple of months and I do hope it is providing everything you need. A reminder that, in order to achieve more comprehensive Post Office facilities, it would be great if the parcel drop-off facility could be used as much as possible.
- We met with the National Grid at their request. A bank of electric vehicle charging points is being installed at the Old Spot pub. The power 'feed' for these comes across the land by the MUGA and pump track and will need to be 'beefed' up. A larger pylon with more wires was touted but we have secured an agreement to have the cables buried underground, which will be safer and less visually impactful in this area.

- We are still trying to arrange a meeting with the Junction 10 team, Highways and TBC to ensure that the mitigation scheme planned through Stoke Orchard is delivered as efficiently and effectively as possible.
- An extraordinary council meeting was held and the works to clear the ditch on Stoke Road were approved. We are waiting on a date when this can be done but it should mean less surface water on this stretch of road.
- Additionally, the plans to replace the community centre's doors were voted in and this should be done by Summer. It will mean better security for the hall as well as much more convenient, hirer-friendly, access options too.
- Busy meeting, as plans to add a hatchway from the meeting room to the hall kitchen were also approved. This will allow more interactive options for this room and hopefully contribute to its hire ability. We hope to fit better flooring and to examine soundproofing measures too. Thanks as always go to volunteer Gordon Webber for removing and re-installing the kitchen cupboards in an expert fashion! 😊
- The solar company Ilos have submitted a 'screening' application to TBC regarding their proposed construction plans etc for the site they wish to build on, in the fields along Mill Lane. The Council is submitting a response addressing their points, including our concerns surrounding possible heavy construction traffic using Mill Lane as access, especially so close to our historic Stoke Orchard church.
- A reminder also that the hall has been designated a 'warm space'. Details can be had from Nikki as to when and what facilities are available.

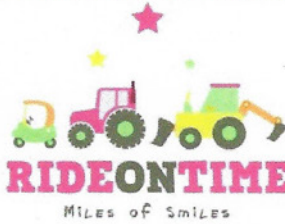
Have a good month all !!

Recycling & Waste Collection Dates for March 2026 - Stoke Orchard & Tredington

BLUE	Thursday 5th	Thursday 19th	Thursday 2nd Apr
GREEN	Thursday 12th	Thursday 26th	Friday 10th Apr

Vicar	Revd Ilse Ferwerda	01452 780880	apperleypriest@gmail.com
Assistant Priest	Rev. Kay Mundy	01452 780634	therevkaymundy@gmail.com
Church Warden	Tessa Mills	01684 216563	
Reader and Young People's Church	Mrs Vivienne Troughton, Tredington	01684 293540	
Tredington Primary School	Head Mrs Emily Watton	01684 293617	Head.TPS.glatrust.org.uk
Tredington Church Hall/ Village Hall	Frank Juckes	01684 292143	tredingtonvillagehall@gmail.com
Stoke Orchard Community Centre Bookings	Nikki Clegg	01242 680941	info@stokeorchard.org

West Oxfordshire & Cotswolds



Play Sessions



Party Hire/ Events

Early Years

Road

Safety Visits



www.rideontimehire.com/oxon-cotswolds

VILLAGE LIFE

In the fold of fields where soft winds run,
Beneath a mild Gloucestershire sun,
Lies our villages calm and bright—
A patchwork quilt of green and light.

By hedgerow lanes and orchard rows,
Where quiet as a heartbeat flows,
The village gathers, warm and sure,
Within our community centre door.

There cups are poured and stories told,
Of winters past and summers gold;
A laughter-lit and welcoming art—
The steady pulse, the village heart.

The old stone walls of St James' Church
stand,
Mediaeval faith in careful hand;
Its tower keeps a patient gaze
Across the centuries' shifting haze.

Within, the hush of oak and prayer,
Of candle-glow on ancient air;
Footsteps echo, soft and slow,
Where generations come and go.

And not far off, in memory's sky,
The Glider Pilots do still fly—
Young men who rode the silent wing
Where night and danger met in spring.

No engines roared to mark their course,
Just courage, canvas, will, and force;
They came on wind through darkened air
And wrote D-Day history boldly there.

From Old Rowley's quiet, watchful eaves
Another tale the village weaves—
Of Amy Johnson, brave and bright,
Who chased the dawn in fragile flight.

She once called these calm fields home,
Though far across the world she'd roam;
Yet still her spirit seems to rise
Where larks ascend through Cotswold
skies.

So Stoke Orchard & Tredington,
rooted, strong,
With living hall and ancient song,
With winged regiments and daring past—
You hold your stories deep and fast.

Villages small in map and span,
Yet wide in heart, and sky, and plan;
Where stone and fellowship agree,
And history breathes in community.

Litter Pick Morning

Sunday 29th March • 9.30am

Meet at the community centre, all equipment provided, help us look after where we live.



The Village Cuppa

Thursdays from 10am – 12pm



Warm up with a cuppa, enjoy the paper, try a jigsaw or simply stop by for a chat.

Everyone welcome, we would love to see you!

Spring is finally here and the gardens start to awaken, and our little feathered friends return to the garden



Being in the countryside, there are a lot of hedgerows and places birds can nest but giving them a helping hand is always rewarding, from providing food or putting up nesting boxes in your garden.

Here's a little spring guide, especially useful if you are keen to help preserve the wildlife in the area.

1. Put up nest boxes (Early spring is perfect)

Different birds need different boxes:

- Blue tits & great tits - 25-28mm entrance hole
- House sparrows - Terrace-style box (they nest in groups)
- Robins & wrens - Open-front box (hidden in shrubs)

TIPS:

- Face box between north and east (avoid strong sun/rain).



- Place at least 2m high (except robin boxes - lower in dense cover).
- Don't disturb

2. Provide the right spring food

Spring feeding helps tired parents raise chicks.

Best foods in spring:

- Sunflower hearts (no husk mess)
- Soaked mealworms (great for robins & blackbirds)
- Suet/fat balls (high energy)
- Peanut granules (not whole peanuts during breeding season)

AVOID:

- Bread
- Dry mealworms (can dehydrate chicks)
- Large whole peanuts (choking risk)

Clean feeders weekly to prevent disease.

3. Fresh water is essential

Birds need water for:

- Drinking
- Bathing (keeps feathers healthy)
- Feeding chicks

Keep it shallow (add stones for smaller birds).

Change water daily in warm weather.



Londis



We're pleased to say that we now have fresh bakery products arriving in the shop, so do pop in and take a look. Your continued support really makes a difference and helps keep our village shop going for everyone.

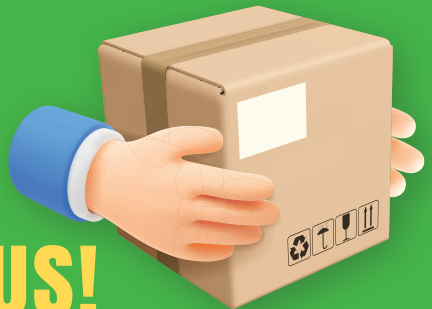


With spring on the way, we'll soon have a selection of plants and flowers available to buy in store, along with compost to help you get started in the garden for the season ahead.

Thank you for continuing to use and support your local shop – it really does help us keep the doors open for the whole community.

DON'T FORGET TO DROP YOUR PARCELS WITH US!

You can now drop off your Royal Mail return parcels while doing your shopping.



Royal Mail



OPENING HOURS
Monday – Saturday: 7:00am – 8:00pm
Sunday: 8:00am – 7:00pm





Tredington & Stoke Orchard News for March 2026

TREDINGTON & STOKE ORCHARD WI enjoyed a Beetle drive at our February meeting, but on **Tuesday March 10th at 7.30pm in Tredington Village Hall** we are looking forward to hearing **Kate Peake** speak on **"Gloucestershire in Bloom"**. Visitors & new members are always very welcome.

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TREDINGTON & STOKE ORCHARD GARDENING CLUB next meet on **Wednesday March 25th at 11am** when we visit the **walled garden at Croome Park** (pictured above) to see the daffodils. There will be car sharing for this visit. We are to meet at 11am for a tour of the venue. Please contact Bob if your name is not already on his list & you would like to come. 07967 701454.

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TREDINGTON VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE held a successful & happy "Afternoon Tea & Cake Whist" in February when sixteen people attended. Our next meeting will be on **Thursday March 12th from 2-4pm in Tredington Village Hall**. Tickets are £5 ,but if you would like to come please contact Paddy on 01684 294053 to help with catering.



REQUEST FOR HELP AND DONATIONS

TRUSSELL TRUST TEWKESBURY shopping list for food bank. As we are able to shop at places like Bookers, a monetary donation would be much appreciated right now. BACS details are as follows:

Tewkesbury Foodbank, sort code 30-91-87, account no 52870560

HALL NEWS – March

March is an exciting month at the Community Centre, with plenty happening and some long awaited improvements finally under way. Renovation work on the meeting room has begun, including the installation of a new serving hatch to make the space more flexible and useful for a wider range of activities.

This winter, we were fortunate to receive two grants:

- **Tewkesbury Borough Council - Warm Spaces Fund**
- **Asda - Better Together Fund**

As a not for profit organisation, every penny goes straight back into the hall and the community. Thanks to your support and the events we run throughout the year, we've been able to open **The Village Cuppa** through the winter and we're delighted that it will continue all year round. We also plan to purchase new games for our monthly Pub Nights for everyone to enjoy.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Volunteers are essential to making our events possible. If you can spare even a small amount of time we would be so grateful and it's also a great way to get to know others within the community too.



The Village Cuppa

Our pop up tearoom is open **every Thursday, 10am-12pm**.

It's a warm, friendly space where everyone is welcome – whether you'd like to enjoy a drink, meet neighbours, read the paper, help with the community jigsaw, or simply sit and knit.

We'd love to expand the sessions to more mornings or afternoons, and we welcome your suggestions on how you'd like the space to be used. This is your community centre, and together we can shape it into something even more special.

PUB NIGHTS

Last Friday of every month - 7pm

This month is Quiz Night, complete with a much requested Sports Round.

Teams of up to six are welcome. To book a table, email info@stokeorchard.org

A food van will also be joining us too.



Stoke Orchard Community Centre



MONDAY

ZUMBA 9.30-10.30am

Michele.darnell@btinternet.com

**AFTERSCHOOL SPORTS CLUB -
MULTISPORTS** 4-5pm

Community Sports foundation

For more information contact Rich, email
communitysportsfoundation@outlook.com

CHILL DANCE ACADEMY 6-7pm

Chloe 07972 350896

TUESDAY

19TH MARCH

U3A ART APPRECIATION GROUP

2-4pm

PILATES BY CHARLOTTE 9.30-10.30am

Pilatesbycharlotte@gmail.com

CHILL DANCE 4.30-6.15pm

Chloe 07972 350896

TRED TRAINING Kettles 6.30pm

Hog Pilates 7.20pm

tredtraining@outlook.com

CHILL DANCE 8pm • Chloe 07972 350896

WEDNESDAY

4TH MARCH

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

STOKE ORCHARD BABY AND

TODDLER GROUP 9.30-11am

THURSDAY

5TH MARCH

FOR THE LITTLE ONES - RIDE ON TIME

10.30-11.30am • To book email

cotswolds@rideontimehire.com

5TH MARCH

U3A SCIENCE GROUP

2-4pm

CHILL DANCE 5.45-6.45pm

Chloe 07972 350896

THE VILLAGE CUPPA 10am-12pm

Every Thursday in the meeting room,
enjoy a nice cuppa in our pop up tearoom.

FRIDAY

6TH MARCH

YOGA REJUVENATE

6.30-8.30pm • To book email

sadiehawson@gmail.com

27TH MARCH

QUIZ NIGHT

7pm

GRAVITY FITNESS - PILATES

9.30-10.30am • *gravityfitness@live.co.uk*

GRAVITY FITNESS - BOOTCAMP

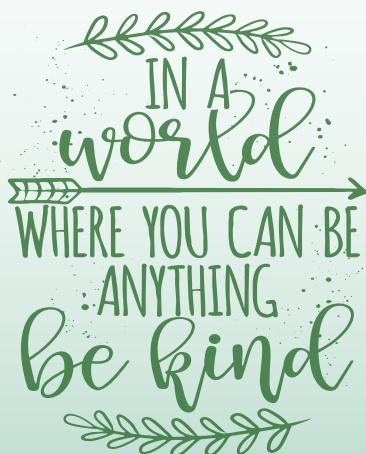
12.30-1.15pm • *gravityfitness@live.co.uk*

SUNDAY

TRED TRAINING Kettle Bell HIIT 9am

Body Weight HIIT 9.30am

tredtraining@outlook.com



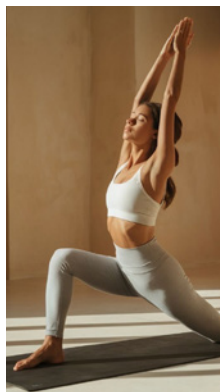
GRAVITY FITNESS



THE FITNESS ATTIC

It was great to see so many people from the community attend our launch night and we have a special opening offer...

**20% OFF
MEMBERSHIP
FOR 2 MONTHS**
for all residents of Stoke
Orchard and Tredington



Weekly Class SCHEDULE

MON	9.30-10.20am Reformer 10.30-11.20am Reformer 12.30-1.20pm Reformer 5.45-6.20pm Box *** 6.30-7.15pm Kettlebells *** 7.30-8.15pm Body Pump ***
TUES	9.30-10.15am Strong 12.30-1.00pm Barre 5.45-6.15pm Arms & Abs *** 6.15-7.10pm Reformer 6.30-7.15pm Clubbercise*** 7.20-8.05pm Mat Pilates***
WED	12.30-1.15pm Gentle Yoga 6.00-6.45pm Spin*** 6.00-6.50pm Reformer 7.00-7.50pm Reformer
*** Classes @ Tewkesbury Sports Centre	
THURS	9.30-10.20am Reformer 10.30-11.20am Reformer 12.30-1.15pm Strong 5.30-6.10pm Kettlebells*** 6.20-7.10pm Body Pump*** 7.30-8.15pm Mat Pilates
FRI	9.30-10.15am Mat Pilates 12.30-1.15pm Bootcamp 6.00-6.45pm Barre 7.00-7.50pm Reformer
SAT	8.00-8.30am Spin*** 8.30- 9.20am Reformer 8.45-9.30am Bootcamp ***
SUN	Pop Up Classes Monthly 7.00-8.00pm
***Classes @ Tewkesbury Sports Centre	

Book Now
www.gravityfitness.org

Join in the fun!

Quiz Night

Friday 27th March 2026

**Stoke Orchard
Community Centre**

7.00pm – 10.00pm

**Tickets £2.50/ person
Maximum of 6 people in a team**

**To book a table contact
Nikki 07437533132
Email info@stokeorchard.org**

Pay Bar • All your favourite rounds!

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local!*



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down the road!*

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