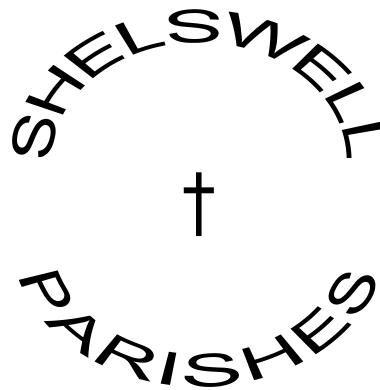


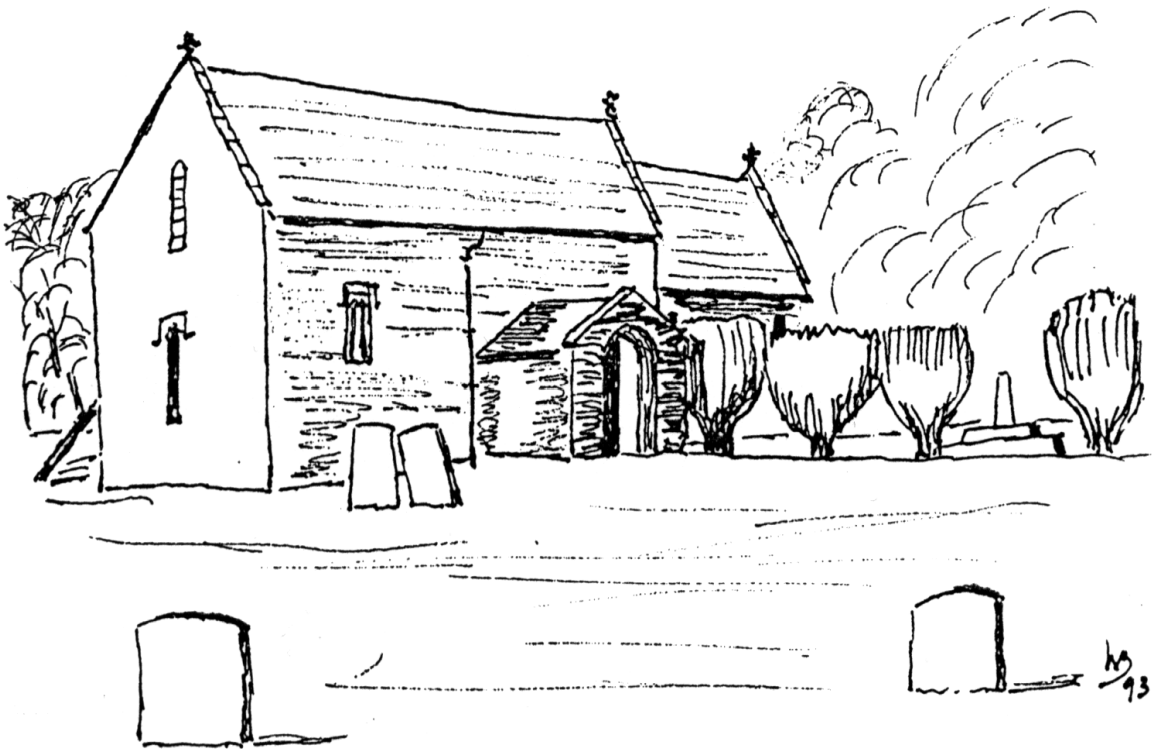
Shelswell News

The magazine of the Shelswell Group of Churches

Cottisford
Fringford
Hardwick
Mixbury
Stoke Lyne



Finmere
Godington
Hethe
Newton Purcell
Stratton Audley



St Mary's, Cottisford

We celebrate The Blessed Virgin Mary on Sunday 15th August

August 2021

£1

SHELLOWELL BENEFICE MISSION STATEMENT

The Shelswell Family of Churches aims to bring people closer to God and to show the love of Jesus Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit to everyone.

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Telephone: 01869 253277

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All articles must be submitted in **WORD** in a format that can be copied and pasted **PLEASE**

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Ministers Letter

Whether a holiday is good, bad, or indifferent, with luck it will provide at least one unexpected surprise that gives a thought-provoking memory to take home. My summer holiday in County Durham did not let me down in this respect. I didn't expect a visit to Castle Auckland, the former home of the Prince Bishops of Durham, to offer more than a pleasant hour or so wandering through the rooms followed by a walk in the surrounding Deer Park. However, on entering the former dining room, the surprise struck. The walls are hung with 13 large life size (in a seven foot frame) rectangular paintings. I thought at first that they had a 'Russian' feel to them, but on reading the information provided on a touch screen, discovered that they were a set of paintings by Francisco de Zurbarans, a Spanish painter (1598 to 1664). The set of paintings is entitled "Jacob and his Twelve Sons". It is based on the 'Blessings of Jacob', in chapter 49 of the book Genesis. Each man is painted wearing the headgear of his station and carrying some emblem of his office as described in the Genesis passage.

It is not just the paintings themselves which have such an impact but the story behind their purchase. Robert McManners (Chairman of Bishop Auckland Civic Society)* writes of them: "brought there by Bishop Richard Trevor, it is no accident that these images have silently pleaded their case from the walls of the Long Dining Room for the last two and a half centuries – a case for religious, ethnic and social tolerance as relevant today as it was then. Their significance lies not just in the quality of the art but in the prominent visual statement that is being made by their display."

The background to the purchase of the paintings by the then Bishop of Durham was this. In 1755 a Bill was passed in Parliament to allow the integration of immigrant Jews through naturalisation. It was an unpopular Bill but one which Bishop Trevor promoted. Two years later it was repealed and this event may have led to Trevor's purchase of the Zurbarans paintings thus enabling him to continue publicly to demonstrate his stance. He was able to buy them all, except for the picture of Benjamin (on which he was out-bid). Nothing daunted, he commissioned (at considerable cost) a portrait artist, Arthur Pond, to paint an exact copy so that he would have a complete set to hang. The Bishop also arranged for the re-design of the Long Dining Room so that it would become a fitting place for the display of the paintings.

Good to know that in 1755 one of the most influential and powerful Bishops of the Church took a stand and was prepared to 'put his money where his mouth was'! Sad to think that in our day there is as great a need as in 1755 for religious, ethnic and social tolerance. We naturally fear, are suspicious of, 'difference', those 'not like us', however many times we may have heard the exhortation to "put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature", or read the words of the letter to the Colossians, (Chapter 3, verse 11) "Here there is no Greek or Jew, no circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and in all". It is said that "familiarity breed contempt"; it's all too easy to take for granted that one **has** "put to death one's earthly nature", **is** un-prejudiced. Thank goodness for unexpected holiday surprises to jolt one into questioning assumptions!



Penny Wood
Licenced Lay Minister

**Zurbarans at Auckland Castle by Robert McManners OBE*

BIBLE READINGS

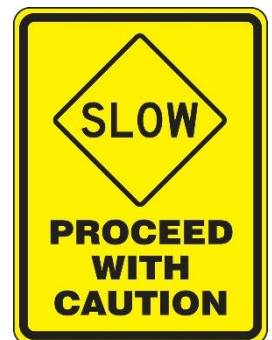


Sunday 1 st August	9 th Sunday after Trinity	Exodus 16 v2-4 and 9-15 Ephesians 4 v1-16 John 6 v24-35
Sunday 8 th August	10 th Sunday after Trinity	1 Kings 19 v4-8 Ephesians 4 v25 – 5 v2 John 6 v35 and 41-51
Sunday 15 th August	The Blessed Virgin Mary	Isaiah 61 v10-end or Revelation 11 v19 – 12 v6, 10 Galatians 4 v4-7 Luke 1 v46-55
Sunday 22 nd August	12 th Sunday after Trinity	Joshua 24 v1,2a and 14-18 Ephesians 6 v10-20 John 6 v56-69
Sunday 29 th August	13 th Sunday after Trinity	Deuteronomy 4 v1,2 & 6-9 James 1 v17-end Mark 7 v1-8,14,15 & 21-23

One more step along the road we go...

So it is 19th July – ‘freedom day’ and the end, at least for a moment, of lots of the restrictions that we have all lived with over the last 16 months. But in Cherwell, 481 people have tested positive in the last seven days, an increase of 174 over the previous week. And whilst thankfully there have been no Covid related deaths in that same period, 27 people were admitted to hospital, an increase of 8 on the previous week.

So whilst we are making some small changes within our church services, we are not throwing caution to the wind! Underlying our decisions is a concern to keep us all as safe as we sensibly can.



Hymns: we will start to sing these within our services, with the exception of Cottisford where we will continue to listen to hymns and, when weather permits, sing our final hymn outside.

Hand sanitiser: we will continue to offer this at the door and before communion

Masks: the ministry team will wear masks inside the church, except when sat in their seats or leading worship. We would encourage you to wear a mask when entering and leaving the building, but you may, if you would like, take it off once seated. (Or keep it on, your preference).

Social distancing: when inside the church, we would encourage you to ensure 1 – 2 metres between you and any one else that you are not on close terms with, both when seated and when moving around the church or talking with others.

Communion: for the time being we will continue as we have been doing. So communion will be brought to you in your seats. We will not yet be reintroducing the common cup but will receive bread only. The person presiding will wear a mask both to prepare the table and to distribute the bread. The bread will remain covered during the prayer of consecration.

Sharing the peace: for the time being, we will continue to share the peace non verbally - by waving, nodding, smiling, bowing – but not by shaking hands or hugging.

Refreshments: these can now be served at the end of a service, outdoors if it is at all possible. We will ask that the person preparing them does so after sanitising their hands and whilst wearing a mask. Cups and plates will be thoroughly washed afterwards, and where a church does not have proper facilities, they will be taken home so that this can happen.

And with all of this, please be very sensitive to others who may be feeling much less confident about the lifting of restrictions than you. They may not tell you directly that you feel too close to them, so you will need to use your best observational skills – someone stepping or leaning away from you is a sure sign!!

And if you are one of those feeling less confident, please take whatever measures you feel you need to. Most of us are not very good at saying ‘I’m sorry, would you mind moving a little further away’, but there is no shame in doing so! Neither is there any shame in wearing your mask throughout the service, not taking part in the singing, or not accepting any refreshments.

And of course, it may all change.

Alice



Children and Families Worker Post

After much consideration, we have sadly decided to make our ‘Children and Families Worker’ post redundant. This reflects that many of our parishes are under more pressure financially as a result of the pandemic. Most have been unable to hold any fund-raising events for well over a year, and the limited numbers at services and at weddings and funerals have meant smaller than usual plate collections.

Additionally, the Children And Families Worker has been unable to carry out many of the activities that would normally be their ‘bread and butter’ – the weekly visits to Fringford Pre-school, the monthly ‘Funday Schools’ at Finmere and Fringford Primary Schools, Messy Church and the Shelswell Family Service have all been ‘on hold’ and it is not known when we will be able to restart them. Our Children and Families Worker has been faithfully producing a weekly online offering for younger children: ‘Wellies and Wiggles’, but as we continue to emerge from the pandemic, fewer people appear to be engaging in the online activities, so this does not seem a good long-term use of resources.

Making the post redundant will enable us to slightly reduce the contributions that parishes need to make to the Benefice, which will be welcomed. We hope that members of the Ministry Team, with the assistance of volunteers, can continue to run Little Lambs and Muddy Church (or something similar). And at some point in the future, maybe we will be able to reinstitute the post, but not for the time being.

So very sadly Jen Capron Iddon stepped down from the role on 12th July. She has held the post from 1st September 2019, and it is really unfortunate that she had only been with us a short while when we went into lockdown. Bringing with her lots of relevant experience, Jen has always approached her work with enthusiasm, and has contributed lots of good ideas in the planning of our children’s work. During lockdown, she set to and adapted to producing ‘Wellies and Wiggles’, and was hoping to launch another online offering: ‘Growing with God’, live streamed from her allotment with the help of Incy, the rather friendly spider she had created.

Jen is not saying 'goodbye' to the Benefice though. She feels that she and her boys found their spiritual home with us. So I am pleased to say that she plans to continue to be involved in Muddy Church and various other activities. I am also delighted that she is one of those who will be confirmed at Fringford Church by Bishop Gavin on Sunday 5th September.

So thank you, Jen, for all you have contributed to the Benefice as Children and Families Worker, and we are really glad that you and the boys are going to continue to be friends of the Benefice.

Alice Goodall

REGISTRY

This section will announce any baptisms, marriages and funerals that have recently taken place within the Shelswell benefice

Baptisms

Benedict Henry Ptolemy THOMPSON
Saturday 26th June at St Mary the Virgin, Cottisford

It was a lovely sunny day and Cottisford church had been beautifully decorated by Benedict's paternal grandmother as people gathered for his christening. Given Covid restrictions, and the additional challenge of socially distanced seating, the number of guests were limited, but none the less, Cottisford church managed to accommodate Benedict, his parents, paternal grandparents and even one great granddad, together with the godparents and their families. Very sadly, Victoria's parents had come down with a tummy bug and were unable to attend, and her granddad was also poorly. We would have like to live stream the service for them, but this was Cottisford where it is impossible to get a decent phone signal within the church, so we recorded it instead. It was particularly sad as Victoria's father had been going to read the Bible reading, but Victoria's aunt Liz Wilson very adequately stepped into the breach.

Victoria, Ed and Benedict live in Juniper Hill. Victoria works as a consultant in palliative medicine and although also having trained as a medic, Ed decided he would rather deal with the ills of the soil and now works as an agronomist. Benedict Henry Ptolemy (aka Tolly or Piglet or Ben or ...) arrived in the world just as the first lockdown did. Which made for a very challenging first few months of life for him and his parents. However they seem to have come through this well, and Benedict is thoroughly enjoying life and is very interested in everything going on.

Pam Morgan played the organ both before and after the service. And although we couldn't sing, we listened to recordings of St Martin's Voices singing Morning has broken and 'Lord of all hopefulness'. Victoria and Ed had chosen the reading from Isaiah 43. Benedict took it all in, and particularly liked being presented with his baptism candle.

The christening party returned to Juniper for a lovely lunch (pig roast and salads) socially distanced in the sunshine in their beautiful garden. And of course there was a christening cake.

If it had not been for Covid regulations, Victoria and Ed would have had Benedict baptised in a service with the local church community present. So it was lovely that they brought Benedict to church on Sunday 11th July where he was officially welcomed by those present. And as at his baptism, he behaved perfectly!

We hope that Benedict will continue to enjoy his involvement with the local church, and that as he grows, he will learn for himself just how God loves him.

Isaiah 43: 1 – 5a

But now, this is what the Lord says –

he who created you, Jacob,

he who formed you, Israel:

'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters,

I will be with you;

and when you pass through the rivers,

they will not sweep over you.

When you walk through the fire,

you will not be burned;

the flames will not set you ablaze.

³For I am the Lord your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour;

Violet Alice Loveday **HARMAN** **Sunday 27th June at St Mary the Virgin, Hardwick**

Violet Alice Loveday is the first child of Alex Harman and Hester Carro, first grandchild of Charlotte and Charlie Harman who moved to Bainton Manor about five years ago, and indeed first grandchild for Hester's parents too. Alex and Hester live in London, where Hester works for the Department of Health on Children's Social Care policy (but during the pandemic from home on Covid related stuff) and Alex is launching a football entertainment business. Violet made her entrance into the world in the middle of lockdown in January this year, but in spite of the all the strangeness and challenges that that might have given her parents, she appeared to be thriving and was thoroughly enjoying her special day as family and close friends gathered to witness her being christened at St Mary the Virgin, Hardwick.

The guests first met for drinks and nibbles on a sunny terrace at the Manor before travelling the short distance to the church in Hardwick. None were lost in transit, and although numbers were limited, Hardwick church managed to accommodate all 30 of the party, even with social distancing.

Alex and Hester had chosen some lovely music for the service which they had also had at their wedding. At the start, we listened to Palestrina's Sicut Cervus. During the service we heard recordings of St Martin's Voices performing Lord of all hopefulness and Dear Lord and Father of mankind. And then at the end Thomas Tallis's 'If you love me'.

Hester's brother Ralph read a passage from Isaiah 43 ('I have called you by name, you are mine'). Her sister Caro read a poem by Christina Rossetti: 'I know a baby', and Alex's sister Alice read the passage from Mark 10 where Jesus welcomes the little children.

Violet has four godparents: Laetitia East and Selina Helenius, old school friends of Hesters, and Eden Cottee-Jones and Conor Cahill, friends of Alex from school and university. Having godparents for Violet was one of the reasons that Alex and Hester wanted her to be christened. Their own godparents have been important figures in their lives, and they hope that Violet's godparents will be special people in her life, providing both practical and spiritual guidance.

If you want to see Violet in her beautiful christening gown, then you will find a couple of photographs on our website: one on the Hardwick page and one in the baptisms section. Thank you to Hester and Alex for agreeing that we could share them!

After the christening and some photographs, the christening party returned to the Manor for a celebratory lunch.

We pray that Violet will grow up knowing just how much she is loved by her family, her godparents and most of all by God.

I know a baby, such a baby –
 Round blue eyes and cheeks of pink,
 Such an elbow furrowed with dimples,
 Such a wrist where creases sink.
 'Cuddle and love me, cuddle and love me,'
 Crows the mouth of coral pink:
 Oh, the bald head, and oh, the sweet lips,
 And, of, the sleepy eyes that wink!

Christina Rossetti



Enya Maisie RODAS**Saturday 10th July at St Michael and All Angels, Finmere**

Do I love you
to the moon and back?
No I love you
more than that
I love you to the desert sands
the mountains, stars
the planets and
I love you to the deepest sea
and deeper still
through history
Before beyond I love you then
I love you now
I'll love you when
The sun's gone out
the moon's gone home
and all the stars are fully grown
When I no longer say these words
I'll give them to the wind, the birds
so that they will still be heard
I love you

Another gorgeous day as folk arrived at Finmere Church for Enya's christening! Enya is the first child of Ellie and Harry Rodas. Although they now live in Buckingham, where Ellie works as a support worker and Harry as a warehouse shift manager, Ellie grew up in Finmere, went to Finmere school and was a member of the church choir. She and Harry were married in Finmere Church in October 2018. So it was lovely to welcome them back for Enya's christening.

Enya was born in August last year, and like so many who have become new parents during the pandemic, Ellie and Harry had to manage all the challenges that babies present with very limited support. Thankfully Ellie's parents Helen and Graham Butcher were bubbled with them and were immensely helpful. And certainly Enya seemed to be thriving! She was named 'Enya' partly because her parents just loved the name, but also after the singer – Ellie's mum loved Enya and Ellie grew up listening to her. And in turn Ellie used to play Enya when she was at uni and was feeling homesick. 'Maisie' was after her great grandmother.

Ellie and Harry had thought carefully about getting Enya christened. They wanted to be able to give thanks for her arrival and to ask for God's blessing on her life, and they also wanted to continue the family tradition of having babies christened. But additionally, church had been an important part of both their childhoods, and they want it to be an

important part of Enya's childhood too. They want her to know that she is part of something bigger in the world, and look forward to taking her along to church and to sharing Bible stories with her.

Enya has three godparents: Hazel Cochrane, who is Ellie's best friend from childhood, Rebecca James who is one of Ellie's cousins, and Daniel Berlouis who is one of Harry's best friends. As part of the service, we listened to recordings of The Lord of the Dance, Lord of all hopefulness, and Sing Hosanna. There were three readings: Ellie read a poem 'I loved you from the very start', Rebecca read Mark 10: 13 – 16 about Jesus welcoming the little children, and we also had a beautiful poem 'Love you more' – a lovely picture of a parent's love for a child and of God's love for each one of us.

After the service, the christening party went back to Helen and Graham's house in Chinalls Close to celebrate.

We pray for God's blessing on Enya and her family, and look forward to watching her grow in faith over the years to come.

Kimberley Banks and William Michael Banks**10 July St Marys Cottisford**

On Saturday 10th July Gemma and Michael Banks from Juniper brought Kimberley (5yrs old) and William (5 ½ months old) to St Mary's Church, Cottisford for their Baptisms.

Given the Covid restrictions, and social distancing in a small church, it was a small family service with just Godparents, Grandparents and the Banks family in attendance. Baby William looked very smart in his waistcoat and tie, as did Kimberley in her special Christening dress.

Our reading was from Acts 8, read beautifully by Kimberley and Michael's oldest sister. It was the account of Philip and the baptism of the Ethiopian. We thought about all the symbols of baptism before the family all got involved in the signing of the children with the Oil of Chrism. Godfather Jamie filled the font for us as Michael held Kimberley and Gemma held William as they were baptised. The children were then given their Baptism candles by their older sisters, Isobel and Jennifer, and they were given a Bible and Prayer book on behalf of the Benefice. After the service the family went home to celebrate with their wider family.

Marriages

Ajay Gopal THAMMAN and Rosie Elizabeth Jean STEELE 16th July 2021 at Stratton Audley

Rosie and Ajay met through the dating app Bumble, the same app that both their sisters met their partners too! After three weeks they met for their first date at Tom Kerridge's restaurant in Marlow, and love blossomed. That was over three years ago, and on 6th May 2019 Ajay organised the most perfect proposal of marriage – he took Rosie on a walk to a spot in the Cotswolds where they had been before, and enticed her off the path to 'look at the view', where she found he had organised the perfect picnic with blankets, rose petals, lanterns, bunting, champagne and fairy lights (having previously got permission from both her dad and the landowner). Rosie and Ajay live in London, where she works as a primary school teacher and he works as a GP. We were delighted that they wanted to be married in Stratton Audley, and enjoyed having them join us for services regularly so that they could establish the necessary connection. They had planned to get married on 17th July last year, but with all the Covid restrictions decided to postpone to this year. There were still a few restrictions in place but by 16th July we were (just) able to accommodate their 97 guests, seated in household bubbles, and whilst we were not allowed to sing, Ajay and Rosie got round that by inviting soloist Poppy Nichols to sing instead. Poppy lives in Bicester and is just about to leave Cooper School, and gave beautiful renditions of 'Morning has broken', 'Lord of the dance', 'Lord of all hopefulness' and Elton John's 'Your song'

Ajay and Rosie had chosen three readings: Rosie's sister Katie read the passage from Ruth 1: 16 – 17 ('your people shall be my people...'); Ajay's sister Kavita read 'Lessons in Love and Marriage' by Hindu Yogi and author, Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, and Laura Bennet, one of the bridesmaids, read William Shakespeare's Sonnet 116.

There was a retiring collection which was divided between Stratton Audley church and, in memory of Rosie's brother Ben, the charity Cardiac Risk in the Young which aims to prevent young sudden cardiac deaths through awareness, screening and research and which offers support to affected families.

Ruth 1:16-17

But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. ¹⁷Where you die, I will die— there will I be buried. May the LORD do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!"

Both Rosie and Ajay come from large close-knit families. Rosie's parents have been married for 45 years, and Ajay's for 40 years. And both families contain a wonderful mix of cultures. Rosie's family lived for many years in France, as a result of which she speaks French fluently. And her Welsh grandmother's husband and family come from Belize in Central America. Ajay's dad is a Hindu from North India and his mum comes from Nairobi in Kenya. And one of Ajay's brothers has moved to California where he has taken on his wife's Jewish faith. And Rosie and Ajay are continuing this tradition of blended families.

The couple left the church to the sound of the bells and to much confetti before going on to their reception which was being held at Bruern Abbey School in Chesterton where Rosie's mum Sue works. And as if organising one wedding wasn't enough, they were also having a Hindu ceremony the next day on Saturday 17th July!

We wish them every happiness in their new life together!



Charlie LUDLOW and Lucy MITCHELL
22nd May at All Saints Mixbury

On Saturday the 22 May 2021 at 1.30pm after a week of very turbulent and changeable weather, the sun came out to celebrate as Charlie and Lucy tied the knot in All Saints, Mixbury.

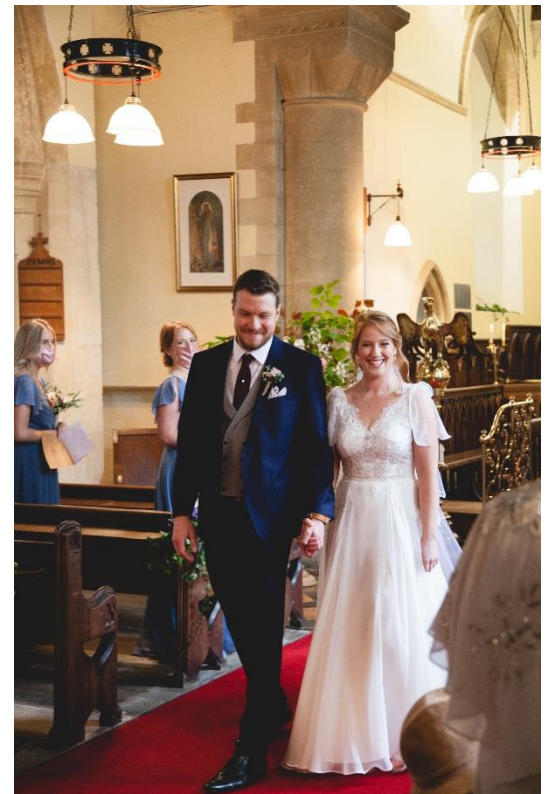
Charlie and Lucy met at university in Coventry where they were studying Physiotherapy. They live in Mottingham and have spent a lot of time renovating their flat together. When they booked their wedding back in January 2020 they had planned to have about 70 guests but the impact of COVID 19 and the constantly changing Government Guidelines, meant that early on they took the decision to plan for a very small wedding and avoid the stress of waiting for Lock Down levels and guest limits to change.

Lucy's bridesmaids were Lauren Thornback, Susannah Mitchell and Connie Ludlow and Charlie's Best Man was Jack Dutton. David Mitchel walked Lucy down the aisle to an acoustic version of *You're my best friend*. The Hymns during the service included Jerusalem, Make me a channel of your peace and Morning has Broken.

Charlie and Lucy were the first couple in the Benefice to sign a Marriage Document – the old Marriage registers are no more, and Marriage certificates are now applied for online. Mums Julie and Jane were their witnesses.

The bride and groom left the church to Aretha Franklin's *You send me*. Bells were rung by Alec and Anna Howard and many villagers were out in the street to congratulate the couple.

The family had a small reception at Evenley Woods. We wish Charlie and Lucy every happiness in their life together.



Obituaries

Yvonne 'Bonnie' Dyson
4th May 1932 – 7th June 2021

Bonnie was born in Liverpool and nicknamed after her grandfather's racehorse Bonnie Bright Eyes - the nickname lasted 89 years as did the bright eyes!

Bonnie had an unsettled childhood - the family moved several times, she spent the war years on an isolated farm on the Isle of Anglesey, followed by a move to Gt Yarmouth after the war, all of which left her with a strong desire which shaped her adult life to make friends and put down roots.

Bonnie met her husband Peter at the sailing club in 1952. It wasn't a whirlwind romance although Bonnie knew that Peter was the one! They married in 1959. There is a well worn phrase in the family - "It took me longer than I thought!" It applied to almost everything Peter did but thankfully Bonnie had endless patience.

They both had the same goal in life - to put down solid roots and live the stable and settled life they had both longed for as children. In 1961 they moved into the bungalow Peter had designed, and created a happy and settled life for their two children, Jenny and John.

By 2011 and having managed on her own for nearly 10 years, Bonnie realised that it was becoming too much for her and made the move to Finmere to join Jenny and her family. She found leaving her friends in Norfolk really hard but she was welcomed into the local community and church and made firm friends in the Tingewick table tennis club too.

Crossing the Bar

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea,
But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.
Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;
For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar.

Alfred Lord Tennyson

Bonnie always said she hadn't achieved a great deal in life, although she was very proud of her family. However she had quite a few achievements under her belt: during the 50s, she was responsible for training all new switchboard operators joining the post office across East Anglia; she played Table Tennis at County level: she toured Denmark with the Pakefield Singers choir and led the Gardening Club at John Lewis, Norwich when they won an award for their exhibit at the Chelsea Flower show.

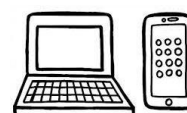
Bonnie loved music, gardening, sailing of course - and she loved people - she was gentle, kind and generous of spirit, offering support and constant loyalty. She had a light-hearted outlook on life and a good sense of humour. Her greatest love was her family and her grandchildren - at times in recent years she found living with the interests of two teenage boys a bit of a challenge but she loved all her grandchildren with a passion and found her time with John's daughters offered her a different outlook on life more in keeping with her own, which gave her a special bond with them too.

Bonnie died peacefully on 7th June after just a few days in hospital. Her funeral was held at Aylesbury Vale Crematorium on Thursday 1st July. John and Jenny had chosen some lovely readings and poems. We listened to a recording of 'You raise me up' sung by The Treorchy Male Voice Choir, and 'The Swan' from Saint-Saens' Carnival of Animals performed by Sheku Kanneh-Mason - a piece which Bonnie was delighted to have learnt to play herself on the piano and which reminded her of evenings moored in quiet corners of the Norfolk Broads with Peter, watching the swans, moorhens and grebes. The readings included 'If I should go before the rest of you' by Joyce Grenfell, Ecclesiastes 3: 1 - 8 ('To everything there is a season...'), Alfred Lord Tennyson's 'Crossing the Bar' and 'The Peace of Wild Things' by Wendell Berry.

Bonnie was a lovely kind person and we will miss her. Our prayers are with her family at this difficult time.

Old Laptops, Tablets and Phones Wanted!

The team at Bicester Green are looking for donations of laptops and devices (tablets & phones) that are not too old to be reconfigured, but which you no longer need. They will wipe and reconfigure them, then pass them on to those in the area who need to get online.



Bicester Green been appointed as a hub in the 'Getting Oxfordshire Online' programme, giving new life to old laptops and tackling digital exclusion. For more information visit oxfordshire.org/laptops

Bicester Green, The Yard, The Garth, Launton Road, Bicester OX26 6PS. www.bicestergreen.org.uk

LITTLE LAMBS



This term's final session of Little Lambs was held in July. However, plans are afoot for next term and therefore please watch this space, or contact admin@shelswellparishes.info.

MUDDY CHURCH

Further details of future events will be published in next months magazine or contact admin@shelswellparishes.info

AN OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN AN ANTIQUE MUSICAL INSTRUMENT!

There is an old, unused, Mason & Hamlin American Organ in the church of St Edmund & St George, Hethe, which we have permission to sell. The instrument was originally sold in London by the wholesale agent Metzler & Co. The Style number is 338.

Mason & Hamlin began in America in 1854 with the aim of "making the world's finest musical instrument". Could this be it?



All offers will be considered. Please contact Flora or Mike – contact details in the Hethe section of this newsletter.

Fringford Primary School Fundraising Update

In school, the children have had a busy time. As well as their normal lessons, they have been:

- Celebrating World Maths Day
- Engaging in a sponsored sporting event during a visit from an Olympic athlete
- Watching the solar eclipse with the help of special safety glasses
- Taking part in Mental Health awareness week by a virtual visit from the Life Bus
- Running, jumping and racing in KS1 and KS2 Sports Days
- Making natural sculptures from stone, sticks and leaves during Art week
- Baking in KS2 classes to hold their own “free from” cake sale for all children

Extracurricular activities are still much reduced due to Covid, however children can take part within class bubbles in Rock Steady music bands, Nature Club (who have grown and cooked their own potatoes), football club run by Jamie Cassidy and Happy and Whole (singing, mindfulness and performance).

The fundraising team continue to work hard to plan activities that can be run in a Covid safe way. Our **Summer Raffle** was a great success and raised a total of £808, being supported well by our 74 families and the kind villagers of Fringford. Money from the raffle will be used to support projects such as continuing to develop the library, helping to supply educational resources and to fund much missed trips and visits in the coming academic year.

We are very grateful for the lovely prizes donated by Flowers by Steve of Hethe, Laura’s Little Book Corner, Jamie Cassidy Football Coaching and Trinity Cabbages and Condoms restaurant in Bicester, Waddesdon Manor, Cotswold Wildlife Park. Also, many thanks to Simon, Breez and Alex at the wonderful Butcher’s Arms Pub, who supported us by selling raffle tickets.

It has been a hard time for fundraising, and we are delighted to have been selected for the **Tesco Community Grant (Blue token) scheme at Tesco, Bicester from July 12th until September 30th**. Our grant application is for developing a **Sensory Garden and Forest School**, “our projects will enable the stimulating and nurturing environments in which each child is encouraged to enjoy learning and develop a lively and enquiring mind.”

The more blue tokens we get in the voting boxes, the better our chance of securing the grant for this lovely project. So, **if you shop in the Bicester Tesco stores; look out for our box, ask for a blue token to vote and please ask your friends, family, colleagues, and neighbours to support us too!**

- **Tesco Superstore, Lakeview Drive, Bicester, OX26 1DE (by Bicester Village)**
- **Langford Bicester Tesco Express OX2 6 XX**
- **Bowmont Square Bicester Tesco Express OX26 2NL**
- **Southwold Bicester, Tesco Express OX26 3YQ**
- **Hart Place, Bicester Tesco Express OX26 4FR**

I hope you enjoyed reading this news update, many thanks again for your support of our village school.
Claire Bradford for FoFS (Friends of Fringford School)

FoFS.Fringford.School@gmail.com

FINMERE SCHOOL

Art Week

We are very thankful to a friend of our school, local artist, Keith Jansz who kindly funded an art week for the children to work alongside Creating Art artist, Emily Cooling to produce some beautiful murals to be displayed on the side of the school. The tree murals were inspired by the names of our classes, Willow, Maple and Redwood.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and we are sure that the murals will be admired by all visitors to the school, for many years to come.



Race For Life

On Friday 9th July, we completed our Race For Life event. The children ran sponsored laps around the school field and did amazingly well, we were very proud of their efforts. We have raised over £245 so far for Cancer Research.



WE NEED YOU!



Do you have a keen interest in the history of our community? Did you know that the parishes of Shelswell are depicted in the Larkrise to Candelford Historical novels?

Did you visit and enjoy the last Shelswell Festival 2019?

The next Festival is planned for July 2022 and we are looking to recruit new members to help plan this exciting community event that brings together all the villages in Shelswell.

To find out more about the Festival have a look at our website [New Shelswell History Festival – The Shelswell History Festival is an event offering talks and demonstrations](#)

If you can help or are interested in finding out more please email Mike at shelswellhistory@outlook.com or Alice Goodall at rector@shelswellparishes.info the next Planning Meeting is on Monday 27 September at 7.30 p.m. Venue to be confirmed



Club News

**Due to the current Coronavirus protective restrictions many events are cancelled for the time being:
Please watch this space.**

KNIT FOR PEACE



The photo shows a very small selection of the items knitted for knit for peace. The charity would like to say a big thank you to everyone who made a contribution. The amount of knitting that Marion passed on was fantastic.

Any further contributions to be left at 2 Church Close, Fringford. Please ring Marion Crowther on 01869 277404 prior to dropping anything off.

SHELLOW WALKERS

At the time of writing no decision has been made regarding the walk this month. Please contact one of the members. Dogs must be on leads.





On Tuesday 13th July we held a Zoom meeting with Pip Beasley. She is a renowned florist and has worked in Floristry for many years. She is a Senior RHS judge and is leading the Winchester Flower Festival later this year.

Her talk was entitled 'Garden Snippets' and concentrated on garden plants and flowers for using as cut flowers and arrangements as well as how to look after them, and an array of plants, trees and shrubs that you might just like in your garden. The talk was beautifully illustrated. Pip showed us many varieties of colourful Cornus as well as Spring plants which can be used in arrangements such as Cyclamen, Hellebores and Heuchera. She suggested using several shrubs for using in arrangements such as Pittosporum, Skimmia, and Hebe. The climbers she recommended were Passion Flowers, Honeysuckle and Jasmine (although she warned it could be a 'thug'). She suggested growing annuals such as Poppies, Calendula and Allium and felt that Roses are always welcome. These are just a few of her numerous suggestions!

Another hint was to look in charity shops for vases! She approved of using sachets that are attached to bunches of cut flowers and using 'Quick Dip' to keep cut flowers fresh.

She had some wise words around buying just what you need or growing it yourself and suggested that a regular monthly visit to nurseries is a good way of seeing what is growing at that time. She left us with "grow what you love and what you want to see".

We did look for a garden to visit but instead have something a little different next month. We will be zooming with **Ben Cross** as he walks us round his Nursery which specialises in **Alstroemeria**. His nursery is Crossland's Nursery, and he is passionate about the importance of British Flowers. It should be interesting! That is **Tuesday 10th August at 7.30pm**.

An email will be sent out before the meeting to give you the Zoom link, so if you do not receive the club emails, please give Corrine a call on 01869 247411 to be added to the email list.

In addition, please put the date **Saturday 11th September** in your diaries as we will be holding our **Plant Sale and Coffee Morning** in the garden of member, Fi Bairstow, in Mixbury. Fi lives opposite Swallows Nursery and is the first house on the right as you enter the village off the A421 (Finmere to Croughton Road). It will start at **10am till noon** and we are looking for plants to sell as per usual. Fi has done lots in her garden and it is well worth a visit. It will be a lovely opportunity for us to meet in a beautiful, safe environment while bagging a few bargains.



SHELSWELL WI

If you're going to join, then join in - a warm welcome awaits



Our Thursday, 5th August, meeting at 7.00pm at the Village Hall (please note early start time) will be a Summers Evening walk around Fringford Village .

Future programme: Hopefully in Fringford Village Hall.

2nd September - Therapixe is a range of holistic and complementary therapies designed to relax, unwind, energise and invigorate.

7th October-The Greek Project: Women of Salonika.

4th November- British Bakels - a talk

2nd December- A Christmas Celebration with details to follow.

It was a perfect evening in June for a summer's picnic, with a fun quiz and sale of beads, handbags and scarves. A good chance of a catch up for the membership after months of zooming. The backdrop of the sun setting against Christina's camper van with the WI bunting and lights just made the evening so lovely with plenty of conversation and laughter.

June's walk was postponed due to heavy rain but we were able to do it in July, truly a perfect summer's morning taking in part of Langford Village, before walking under the main road A41 to Graven Hill with its fine self build homes, custom new homes, apartments and affordable housing. There plans for a primary school, a pre-school nursery and a community centre, as well as shops, a pub, and, maybe, a new Medical Centre. We walked into a small wood along a wooden board walk and noted many bird boxes in the trees.

The benefits of being part of Shelswell WI are to be part of a national membership organisation, receiving the monthly newsletter and Oxfordshire Inspires magazine and the bi-monthly WI Life magazine. Also, to attend group meetings, access the 'my WI' website, make new friends, gain new knowledge, take part in new activities, as well as campaigning, and access to the Shelswell coffee club and Facebook page. And to take part in the monthly walks.

For more information on Shelswell WI, please contact President Elaine Whittaker 07917 453224 or Nicky Lane 07814 796171.

SHELLOW POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP

Our July meeting was held on a beautiful morning and we had a wealth of poems covering the signs of Cancer and Leo, the two zodiac symbols for the month.

We started with a rhyme about rubies and went on to the poem *Diving for Pearls* by *Donall Dempsey*, two pieces about the birthstones connected with July.

They were followed by three poems about crabs – *Crab* by *Sharon Olds*, *Null* by *David Dabydeen* and *Crab* by *Angus Calder*.

Poems focusing on the natural world in high summer were *July* by *John Clare*, *The Brook* by *Alfred Lord Tennyson*, *Adlestrop* by *Edward Thomas*, *Cut Grass* by *Philip Larkin*, *The Way Through the Woods* by *Rudyard Kipling*, *Thistles* by *Ted Hughes*, *July* by *Boris Pasternak* and *Fishing on the Susquehanna* in *July* by *Billy Collins*.

Dover Beach by *Matthew Arnold* evoked a summer night when the sound of the sea suggested to the poet the problems of the world and its loss of faith.

An anonymous poem *Leo* was about the qualities of the lion and the final piece was a delightful extract from the mediaeval poem *Robyn Hode and the Monke*, about summer in the greenwood.

We have a break in August, so our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 14th September** at 10.30 in Stoke Lyne. We will look at poems covering September and its two zodiac signs of Virgo and Libra.

If you would like to join us please contact me on 01869 811994 or at judith.harvey@live.co.uk

Judith Harvey



SHELSWELL READING GROUP

Our July meeting was held in a member's garden (until the rain drove us inside!) and we discussed the novel *Hamnet* by **Maggie O'Farrell**.

This takes the little that is known about Shakespeare's family life and the death of his son Hamnet and skilfully weaves a work of fiction, using known facts and the writer's imagination. It is an unbearably moving work which paints vivid pictures of 16th century Stratford, the London theatre and relationships in an extended family and we highly recommend it. Spoiler alert – it was the plague wot dunnit.....

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 12th August at 7.30** in Cottisford and the book is *Where the Crawdads Sing* by **Delia Owens**. Contact me for more details on 01869 811994 or at judith.harvey@live.co.uk

Judith Harvey

SHELSWELL BY THE SEA

It's been a long time since we could meet up. We are starting with a one day 'holiday' on Wednesday 4th August in Hethe Village Hall. Ring Penny (01869-277310) for an Application Form, or contact the Benefice Office.

Penny Wood

Have you heard of the ABILITY BUS?



Ability is your local community bus service operating across North Oxfordshire and the Cherwell District. Our mission is to tackle social isolation and loneliness by offering regular and affordable transport to residents living in isolated rural areas. Anyone with a valid bus pass can travel with us completely free of charge.

From Friday 16th July we will begin operating two regular routes into Bicester every Friday to accommodate market day. We can also drop direct at the main supermarkets in Bicester, including Sainsbury's and Tesco. We will be covering the same villages as the Comet Bus, which is no longer running, plus more.

To use the bus, you must be registered with us, so please give us a call on 01327 604123 or visit our website.

Our social trips are also very popular with our members, who enjoy a good day out and a chance to chat and meet new people! Popular destinations include Burford Wildlife Centre, Oxford City, Bicester Village, and more!

We offer a range of different membership options from Bronze through to Gold, depending on the level of assistance you need. Gold membership is only £36 for the year and will give you all the support you need, including a door-to-door service, help carrying your shopping, and priority booking for trips. A Bronze membership is completely free and provides pickup from a bus stop with minimum support.

Lockdown has been a tough period for us and our members, but it's great to see people starting to venture out again. We hope to see you out and about on our buses very soon!

Please give us a call on **01327 604123** or visit our website at www.abilitycic.org.uk to find out more.

- The Ability Team

Come and enjoy a delicious



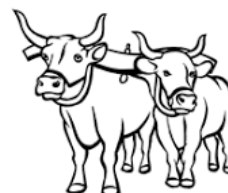
Cream Tea

at **Hethe Village Hall**
on **Saturday 28th August**

3 - 5pm



**Donations to the Ox Plough
Project in Wulu Diocese
South Sudan**



Plus update on the Ox Plough Project

Shelswell Group of Parishes

THE SHELSWELL BENEFICE

The Fourth of the Village Articles Fringford

Fringford is an ancient site and seems to have been inhabited for most of the past two thousand years. The name is thought to mean ‘ford of the people of Fera’, a Saxon tribe or family group, who were here well before the Norman Conquest.

In recent years evidence has been found of Saxon and medieval settlements in Farriers Close. St Michael’s and all Angels Church stands on the site of an early wooden building but the earliest part of the present church dates from the early 12th century. The church was largely rebuilt in the 19th century, when the village was dominated by a series of well-connected, wealthy rectors, who made substantial contributions to the church and parish.

Late 19th-century Fringford is forever associated with Flora Thompson, who worked in the village Post Office from 1891 to 1897, after she had left school in Cottisford. In her trilogy *Lark Rise to Candleford* she largely bases Candleford Green on her memories of Fringford in those years. The TV series (2008-10) based on the trilogy contributed to a significant rise in the number of visitors to all three Lark Rise villages, Juniper Hill, Cottisford and Fringford. In 2010 a plaque was put up in Fringford church to commemorate Flora’s time in the village.

In the 18th and 19th centuries the village was dominated by the Trotman and Harrison families, the squires of Shelswell. In 1844 it was reported that ‘Nearly if not the whole of Fringford is the property of JHS Harrison Esq.’ Shelswell House was abandoned in the 1960s and finally pulled down in the late 1970s.

In the 17th century the population was about 130 but by 1801 it was 252. It reached its peak of 479 in 1871, but by 1901 had fallen to 335. In 1951 there were still only 331 inhabitants. Since then the population has nearly doubled to 602 in 2011.

As with other villages in the benefice, the population was largely dependent on agriculture. In the 19th century there were seven farmers and up to 1939 this level remained much the same. Today the only large-scale farmer is David Taylor at Waterloo Farm, who, unlike his father and grandfather, farms some 2,000 acres with just two helpers and some very large machinery.

The Old School was built as a National (i.e. Church of England) School in 1866 by the rector, Henry de Salis, on land leased from John Dewar-Harrison. This was the site of the 16th-century North Manor and later of the parish Poor House. After the school transferred to the new site in 1973, the building was used as a Victorian Study Centre. It was sold in 2004 and converted to a private house. The school continues to flourish with over 100 pupils and in 2003 the Shelswell Playgroup relocated from the Old School to a new building on the school site.

The classic setting of a medieval village grouped round the Green survives. The surrounding farmhouses, Laurels, Green and Hall Farms, all date from the 16th century or earlier. Hall Farm was owned for some 400 years by the Addington family, and was only sold very recently. Dr Anthony Addington (1713-90) was doctor to William Pitt the Elder (The Earl of Chatham) and to George III during his ‘madness’. He was the only doctor to predict the king’s recovery from what is now known to have been porphyria. His son, Henry (1757-1844) became Speaker and later Prime Minister (1801-4) and the first Lord Sidmouth. The village still has a thriving pub, the Butchers Arms, and a lovely cricket ground. A number of 17th- and 18th-century buildings survive, including the impressive Old Rectory, the Old Forge, and the Old Bake House with the former village pond. There are also two rows of 17th-century thatched cottages on Main Street.

You can read more in my book *‘The Real Candleford Green, The Story of a Lark Rise Village’*.

Martin Greenwood

FREE Nurturing Course for Parents

- Parent with confidence with caring strategies.
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"As well as making new friends our family home is a happier place. I feel I understand my children more and I am a much

calmer mum and have more confidence".



Programme Available

- Thursday Mornings
- 9.30-11.30am
- St Edburg's School, Kingsmere

- Sessions 1-6

16th, 24th, 30th September
7th, 14th and 21st October

- Half term Break

- Sessions 7-8

4th and 11th November

A great start for pregnant couples and parents of babies and young children to five years.

Contact: Amanda Houston
Course Tutor

shinefamilylearningtutor1@gmail.com
ASAP to reserve your place.



WWW.HENRY.ORG.UK



REPORTS FROM THE PARISHES

Cottisford and Juniper Hill St Mary the Virgin

CHURCHWARDEN: Charles Jackson, Cottisford House, Cottisford

Tel 01280 848247

TREASURER David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick

Tel 01869 277690

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Meryl Daniel

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Judith Harvey, Lark Rise Cottage, Juniper Hill Email: judith.harvey@live.co.uk

To donate to St Mary's, Cottisford just scan this code with your phone:



COTTISFORD AND JUNIPER HILL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Having postponed our annual event on the playing field in Juniper Hill we have set a new date for Picnic in the Field, and that is **Sunday September 5th**. Bring your own picnic, but we will provide hot and cold drinks, tables and chairs, crockery and a marquee for shade/shelter.

There is ample parking in the field.

There will be a tombola and a September-themed prize quiz. Bring your friends and relatives to our first social occasion for what seems like ages!

Newcomers to our village and hamlet now receive a Welcome sheet, with some information about the area, useful numbers and groups they might like to join. If you know of someone who has recently moved into Cottisford or Juniper Hill and has not yet received a sheet, please let one of the Committee members know. We are Judith Harvey, Juniper Hill, 01869 811994; Rachel Prior, Cottisford, 07837 782551; Eileen Torrance, Juniper Hill, 01869 810537; Jane Birnage, Cottisford, 01280 847455; Gillian Groom, Juniper Hill, 01869 810593; Sally Evans, Cottisford, 01280 847250.

Finmere St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: Vacancy

TREASURER: Jacqueline Chelin, 19 Valley Road, Finmere, Buckingham MK18 4BG

Tel 01280 847782

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Katherine Grimston

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Paul Nash Email: paan63@yahoo.co.uk

Tel 01280 848268

To donate to St Michael & All Angels', Finmere just scan this code with your phone:



Village Hall

The hall is currently undergoing some building work, with a planned extension to the storage areas, plus an addition of a garage to house the field mower.

Normal bookings are being taken for September onwards.



Allotments

The Poor's Plot currently has a small waiting list for allotment plots in the village.

There is a possibility that a few plots may become available shortly, so any aspiring allotment users should visit

www.myfinmere.com/poorsplot



Need some local help

<http://www.shelswellparishes.info/documents/corona/communitynetworks.pdf>

Village facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/finmereandlittlettingewick/>

Dates for the diary

Finmere Fete – Sunday 29th August



Shelswell Parishes website at – www.shelswellparishes.info/finmere

Finmere Parish Council website at – www.finmerepc.org

Village hall news at – www.myfinmere.com

Finmere Primary School - www.finmere.oxon.sch.uk

Fringford St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: John Mayo, 10 Church Close, Fringford
 TREASURER: Christina McCullagh, 5 Crosslands, Fringford
 PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Penny Wood as below
 MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Penny Wood, 8 Crosslands, Fringford
 VILLAGE HALL CORRESPONDENT: Christine Underwood
 WEBSITE www.fringford.info

Tel 01869 278873
 Tel 07867 515207

Tel 01869 277310
 Tel 01869 278949



To donate to St Michael & All Angels', Fringford just scan this code with your phone:

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, SERVICES & EVENTS

St Michael and All Angels is now open again every day for private prayer. Worship in our church buildings is happening again. No need to book. Masks must still be worn and singing is not permitted, though things may change. The Service pattern in the Benefice has changed. To find out times and places of Sunday services see the back of this magazine, check the noticeboard, or Facebook page [*Shelswell News*], or ring the Benefice office (01280-848192).

Services in Fringford will be:

- 8th August – 6.00pm Evening Communion
- 15th August – 11.00am Family Service with Baptism

A short reflective service is live-streamed every Thursday at midday.

Looking forward to September, there is to be a Confirmation service in St Michaels at 11.00am on 5 September, led by the Bishop of Dorchester. Three of the candidates to be confirmed are from Fringford: Sue Earle, Charlotte Talmage, and Phillippa Taylor. We wish them every blessing as they take this significant step on their Christian journey.

Muddy Church

There will be no Muddy Church in August. Contact Revd Yvonne Mullins for information about future 'Muddy Church' events: Ring 01869-278090 or email: curate@shelswellparishes.info

Little Lambs Babies & Toddler Group is back!!!

But closed for the summer holidays, and back in September. If you need information in the meantime, email admin@shelswellparishes.info

Open Gardens took place on 26th and 27th June. There were 173 tickets sold, and the event raised £1,483. It was a great success thanks to everyone who opened their garden, or made cakes, or put up a display in the church, or exhibited paintings, or helped on the day.

Fringford Church 100 Club

100 club June winners were:

- 1st Fay Harris £48
- 2nd Penny Wood £29
- 3rd Nikki Powell £19

The July draw has not happened at the time of writing, and the August one will take place at the Village Coffee Morning on 16th August, in Matilda's Coffee Shop at the Bitchers Arms. You can still sign up to the 100 Club. Contact Christina McCullagh to register your involvement **ASAP, on 07867 515207.**

Greetings Cards

Packs of greeting cards (6 cards for £3) available for purchase. They feature 6 photographs of the church both in and outside. Ring Christina McCullagh on 07867 515207.

Fringford Church Book Exchange

The box for book exchange is in the porch [Leave one, take one, please don't overload!]. But remember the virus can stay on items such as books or games for 72 hours, so please put the book you donate into a plastic bag and write on the bag the date you put it into the box. That way, anyone wanting to read the book knows when the 72 hours is up and the book can be read. Thank you.

Penny Wood

SUPPORT DURING THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

On-going support is still available. If you need some help, please don't hesitate to contact **Fringford Friends, Neighbourhood Support Group** :

- Telephone: 07704 756840
- Email neighbourhoodsupport@fringford.info

To join the **What's App Mutual Support Group** ring or email 'Fringford Friends' use the contact details above.

FRINGFORD VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

The Coffee Mornings have started again. Usually on the third Monday of the month – join us on Monday 16 August, 10.30am to 12 noon. But **please note** that we will be meeting at Matilda's coffee shop in the Butcher's Arms; get your own coffee and cake. If fine we can sit outside; if not, we can be inside. Look forward to seeing everyone.

Penny Wood

THE BUTCHER'S ARMS

To find out the latest news at the Butcher's Arms contact Simon via email: syeborg2009@yahoo.co.uk or mobile; 07850 415189. Alternatively, contact Stuart on 07952 445468.

Hardwick

St Mary the Virgin

CHURCHWARDEN: David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick

Tel 01869 277690

TREASURER: David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick

Tel 01869 277690

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Meryl Daniel

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Veronica Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick

Tel 01869 277690

WEBSITE: <http://hardwickvillage.btck.co.uk>

To donate to St Mary's, Hardwick just scan this code with your phone:



St. Mary's Church, Hardwick – IS OPEN DAILY

St Mary's Church, Hardwick is now open for private prayer and reflection every day between 10 am until 4 pm. To keep you safe, please follow the guidelines below:

- Please maintain social distancing if more than one person is on the church at any time.
- Please use the hand sanitizing gel provided on entering and leaving the church.
- Please feel free to use the prayer cards and sheets. If you do, please DO NOT return them to the table but take them with you. More will be provided for others.

THANK YOU

Tusmore's Lady Doctor

In one corner of Hardwick's churchyard there is a group of graves of members of the Smith family, the Lords Bicester, who owned the Tusmore Estate for much of the twentieth century. Recently, whilst cutting back vegetation and turf that was overgrowing one of these, I came across this inscription:

*In loving memory of
Honor Mildred Vivian Smith
Physician
OBE FRCP MRCS
Youngest daughter of the First Baron Bicester
13 November 1908 – 18 January 1995
And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never*

Whilst I had heard something about the family, I knew nothing about Honor Smith. So, I determined to find out more about a woman who had evidently been Tusmore's very own Lady Doctor. Women doctors were unusual enough at that time but as the letters *OBE FRCP MRCS* inscribed on her gravestone indicate, this was a doctor who stood out not just because of her gender or privileged background, but as one who had clearly achieved much in her life, having been awarded an OBE and becoming a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons.



As noted in the inscription, Honor's father was Vivian Hugh Smith, who became the First Baron Bicester in 1938. He was a prominent City of London banker and had purchased the Tusmore Estate in 1929. Honor's mother was Lady Sybil Mary McDonnell, daughter of the sixth Earl of Antrim. Honor was the sixth of the couple's seven children. She was educated at home, which was not unusual for girls of her social class at that time. More unusually, when she was 17, her governess encouraged her to enter for matriculation at London University. For the next few years, Honor's life continued as expected, being presented at Court, travelling and, most importantly for her, hunting, a passion which she had inherited from her father. Aged 25, she had the chance to become Master of Hounds of the Bicester Hunt. Instead, she opted to become a medical student. This choice was seemingly influenced by her mother's close friend, Lady Barrett, who was Dean of the London School of Medicine for Women. She received a BSc in 1937 and qualified as a doctor in 1941, graduating from the Royal Free Hospital as MBBS.

Honor's first job after qualifying was at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital in London. She then moved to Oxford to work on nerve injuries. She remained in Oxford for the rest of her professional life, next working under the famous neurosurgeon, Sir Hugh Cairns at the Radcliffe Infirmary from 1943. Here she started her lifelong body of research on meningitis, publishing many original papers. She became a consultant neurologist and established a unit for tuberculous meningitis at the Churchill Hospital, which became world famous. It is worth remembering that in the 1940s tuberculosis was a killer disease, and tuberculous meningitis was universally fatal. She held the post of Reader in Clinical Medicine at Oxford University from 1954-1961.

In 1959, she travelled to Morocco at the request of the World Health Organization to investigate an outbreak of paralysis that was discovered to be caused by contaminated cooking oil. She was appointed Honorary Consultant Neurologist to the Army's specialist neurology unit, Wheatley Military Hospital, and for her work there, she was appointed OBE in 1962.

Honor Smith was known not only for her kindness and generosity, but also for her lively, entertaining and erudite talk. She was, by all accounts, very good company and the delight of her circle. She was able to indulge her passion for hunting throughout her life. As a medical student she regularly took Wednesdays off for hunting. When a hospital consultant, she was often found in full hunting kit, when seeing patients on a Saturday. From 1950, she was a Fellow of St Hugh's College, which duties included being Garden Steward. She was also linked with Chelsea Physic Garden. After retiring in 1971, she went to live in Herefordshire, where she created a fine garden out of a wilderness. In retirement, she was also able to indulge her love of other country pursuits, especially fishing. She caught her last salmon, aged 80, at the Hirsell, the Berwickshire seat of Lord Hume, Sir Alec Douglas-Hume, the former Prime Minister. She realized, she said, that her heart was failing when she could no longer land a large fish.

She died, aged 86, having lived a full life, in the words of the hymn inscribed on her gravestone, "all the length of days". As her obituary on the Royal College of Physician's website notes, "Honor Smith will be remembered for her generous hospitality and gusto for lively conversation, as well as for her major contributions to the care of patients with meningitis."

Hethe St Edmund and St George

CHURCHWARDEN: Flora Skinner, Fox Hollow, 2 Hardwick Road, Hethe

Tel 01869 277366

TREASURER: Mike Green, Greenhill Cottage, Main Street, Hethe

Tel 01869 278166

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Flora Skinner as above

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Mike Green as above

Tel 01869 278166

WEBSITE: www.hethe.org

If you have any news or a local event to publicise, please send the details to me, where possible with a photo, and if suitable I will add them to next month's news and include them on the village web site. The deadline for this publication is on Page 2.

The village web site contains up to date information affecting the village - planning applications, agreed PCC minutes and notices of meetings, HS2 and other road works, grants and advice on COVID-19 related matters and much more.

Many thanks, Mike.

ST EDMUND & ST GEORGE CHURCH



Church Services and Events

At the time of writing this article the church was opening for private prayer on Saturday and Sunday from 10.00am to 4.00pm. When you read this, and dependent on any restrictions or works, the church should be open all week during daylight hours.

- Sunday 1st August. Morning Prayers starting at 9.30am with refreshments after the service.
- Sunday 8th August. Baptism.
- Saturday 21st August. Wedding.
- Sunday 22nd August 3.00 to 5.00pm. Cream Teas “On the Verge” - i.e., on the roadside verge outside the church!
- Saturday 28th August 3.00 to 5.00pm. Cream Teas to raise funds for South Sudan (in the village hall).
- Saturday 11th September - Ride & Stride - details below.
- Sunday 19th September. Harvest Festival - details below.

Hethe Community Coffee Morning is back
on the second Monday of the month, 10 -12 noon

Monday 9th August at the Village Hall
with the 100 Club's draw



Friends, neighbours, dog walkers, pram pushers : an opportunity to meet during the daytime – there's great cake too!



Hethe Community Coffee Morning's
Macmillan Fund Raiser
Monday September 13th 10-12 noon
at the Village Hall

Cake & Produce Stall, Games and Raffle
plus the Hethe 100 Club draw.

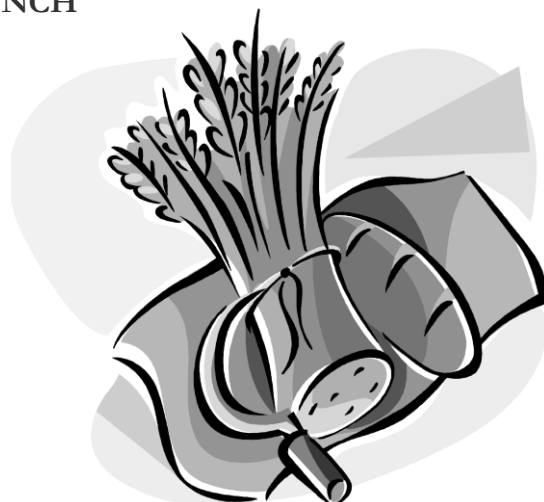
HARVEST FESTIVAL and PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH

Sunday September 19th
at 11am

A family service in contemporary language.

Gifts of produce can be brought to the church to be placed at the altar during the service, and will be donated to Bicester Food Bank.

Ploughman's Harvest Lunch at the church after the service.



Altar Flowers

1st August - Iris Alder
 5th September - Ann Mansfield
 19th September - Tasmin Overton
 3rd October - Pauline Allen

Please continue to follow any guidance on how to safely access and use the church.

Church Repairs & Redecoration

The current objective is to have the nave redecorated this month and some of the porch repairs completed. This is all dependent on having sufficient funds and then scheduling our contractors. If you wish to give a donation specifically towards this work, please use the on-line giving page, contact a PCC member or send a message to hethepccsecretary@outlook.com.

Church Giving

Many thanks to everyone who donated prizes and helped on the day with the raffle at the Flea Market in July. The raffle raised a much needed £166 for church funds

Ride and Stride 2021



This year's Ride & Stride will take place on
Saturday 11th September
 and our church will be open for Rider Striders to book in.
 Sponsorship forms will be available in the church.

See the OHCT web site for up-to-date details -
<https://ohct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/>.

Parish Giving



You may contribute regularly to general funds by direct debit through the Parish Giving Scheme. Through this scheme the church receives 100% of your gift and you will have options for your contribution to be gift aided and inflation proofed. If you can choose either or both options, it will maximise your contribution and allow your PCC to plan more confidently into the future.



You now have the option to set up a contribution on-line, by clicking this QR-Code or by using the link <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/>, type in OX27 8ES and then select our church.

Alternatively, phone 0333 002 1271. This line is open Monday to Friday, between 9.00am and 5.00pm. You will need to have your bank account details, our church/parish name (Hethe St Edmund & St George) and our PGS parish code (270627041) to hand.

Our On-Line Giving Page

For one-off and regular donations without setting up a direct debit we have an on-line giving page which can be accessed by scanning this code or through our village web site under www.hethe.org/st-edmunds-st-georges-church/fund-raising/. There is no up-front cost for this service, but we pay 1.95% per transaction.



For other ways of contributing to the running costs of the church, please contact hethepccsecretary@outlook.com.

Eco Church

The “wild areas” are due to be cut in early September and then raked over. Before then, a “bug hunt” is being organised in the churchyard to include the building of “insect hotels”. Further details to come, but if you would like to be involved, please let us know.

We are also looking into the possibility of installing a waterless composting toilet for the church.

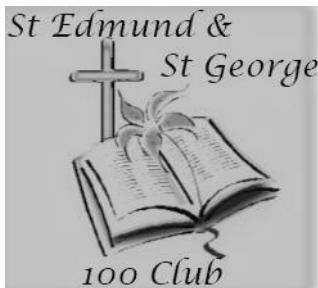
British Native Flowers to watch out for in the Churchyard in July and August (thanks Pauline):

Buttercup - Common Red Poppy - Shepherds Purse - Red Clover - Bramble - Goose Grass - Daisy - Ox-eye
Daisy - common Yarrow - Long rooted cats-ear - Field Bindweed - Self-heal - Red Dead-nettle - Plantain.

Church (Late) Spring Clean

The church was due to be given a thorough cleaning at the end of July. Many thanks to everyone who helped.

100 Club



Draws are taking during the Shelswell Quiz on the second Wednesday of the month via Zoom but should switch to the monthly coffee morning soon. There are still plenty of numbers if you wish to join!

The results of the July draw:

- 1st Prize No 2 Flora Skinner
- 2nd Prize No 6 Helen Pritchard & Family
- 3rd Prize No 36 Ben Wood

Next Draw Monday 9th August (at the coffee morning).

Thank you to our Volunteers

Many thanks to the volunteers who work so hard to make our church a special place in the community. They undertake varied roles from helping to maintain the churchyard, to church cleaning, to providing flowers, to being members of the PCC – all are thanked for their contributions.



St Edmund & St George Web Pages:
www.hethe.org/st-edmunds-st-georges-church/

The church is also on the web sites “A Church Near You” and “Explore Churches”.

Next PCC meeting Monday 4th October.

Safeguarding

The Parish of Hethe is committed to the safeguarding of children, young people and adults. We follow the House of Bishops guidance and policies and have our own Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO), Flora Skinner. The Diocese of Oxford's safeguarding pages contain vital links and information including contacts for the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (DSA) who advises our PSO. If you are concerned that a child or adult has been harmed or may be at risk of harm, please contact the DSA. If you have immediate concerns about the safety of someone, please contact the police and your local authority Children or Adults Services.

Hethe PCC members are receiving basic safeguarding awareness training.

HETHE COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

Village Hall

With restrictions changing so often, please contact the booking secretary on fjskinner@hotmail.co.uk for availability.

The Cherwell District Council Planning Authority have granted planning permission for the makeover of the hall.



Adventure Playground



The playground on the village playing field off the Hardwick Road was open at the time of writing this article. Please follow the instructions on the gates concerning bringing your own wipes and taking litter home.

Book Club

Hopefully, following the July Spring Clean, books will be available in the church.

New Community Bus Service

This was due to start on 16th July for a four-week trial. It will pick people up in Hethe and take them to Bicester on a Friday morning. Times are dependent on usage. **Anyone wishing to use the service must book with the operator, ABILITY, telephone 01327 604123, web site <https://abilitycic.org.uk>.**

Recycling

The bottle bank is still open and is being monitored and emptied. There are three glass recycling banks available for clear, green and brown bottles on the driveway approaching the Village Hall.

Please dispose of your glass responsibly – **DO NOT LITTER** - take metal/plastic tops and plastic bags/cardboard boxes away with you to dispose of or to recycle at home. It is an offence to leave bottles, or anything else, anywhere but inside the containers. Thank you.



Come and enjoy a delicious **CREAM TEA**



at **Hethe Village Hall**
on **Saturday 28th August**

3 - 5pm

Donations to the Ox Plough Project in Wulu Diocese
South Sudan, plus an update on the Project



The Parochial Church Council



In keeping with our graveyard theme, the images above remind us of some of those in past years who have supported and helped to manage St Edmund & St George Church and Hethe Parish. The first memorial is for Isobel (Margaret) and Raymond Allen who lived in what was then “Caberfeidh” and is now the Old Stone House. The second and third images are of a seat donated in memory of Robert Morton Saner who lived in Hethe Cottage (originally Hospital Farmhouse). Robert received an MBE in the 1942 Honours for his service in the Indian Civil Service as Under-Secretary to the Government of India in the Defence Department. He later received an OBE followed by a CBE in the 1962 Honours for his service as Counsellor for Her Majesty's Embassy, Buenos Aires.

At the time that Mr and Mrs Allen and Mr Morton Saner were members of the PCC there were a total of 13 members. Meetings were often held in member's houses - the meeting of 3rd February 1987 was held in Hethe Cottage.

Do you know that Parochial Church Councils (PCCs), originally known as the Vestry, are the oldest form of local governance? They evolved from Anglo Saxon meetings of selected local people who would administer the law in their parish - both civil and ecclesiastical. They later took responsibility for supporting the poorest local people. In the early 19th Century, it is said that they “spent not far short of one-fifth of the budget of the national government itself”! If only that were true for today's PCCs!

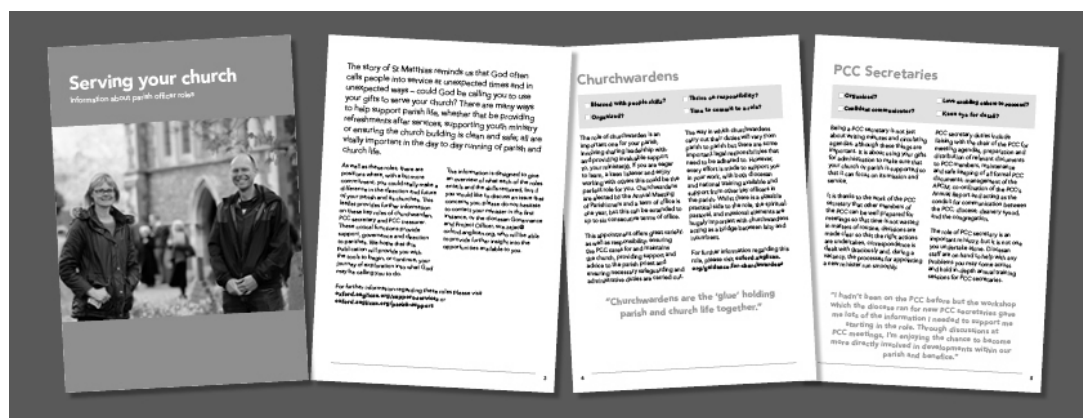
According to Wikipedia the vestry committee were responsible for “the maintenance of the church and its services, the keeping of the peace, the repression of vagrancy, the relief of destitution, the mending of roads, the suppression of nuisances, the destruction of vermin, the furnishing of soldiers and sailors, even to some extent the enforcement of religious and moral discipline”.

PCCs are now recognised as charities responsible for supporting the local clergy in the running and management of the ecclesiastical parish. Civil responsibilities are shared by the District and Parish Councils.

Our current PCC is chaired by the Revd Alice, Flora is the Church Warden, Helen Pritchard the Deanery Synod Representative, Mike the Secretary and Treasurer. There are three other members - Pauline O'Gorman, Helen Wood and June Nisbet. Six short of the membership in 1987!

The roles of PCC church warden, secretary and treasurer are vital for the successful running of our church and parish and, following over a year of unprecedented disruption, there are opportunities to serve as a second churchwarden or take over as secretary or treasurer.

Please let one of the PCC members know if you are interested in becoming a PCC member and/or taking on any of these roles.



Mixbury All Saints

CHURCHWARDENS: Martin Ayres, Northwell Farm, Finmere

Alec Howard, Middlestead, Mixbury

TREASURER: David Mitchell. 2 Town Farm, Mixbury

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Anna Howard

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Sue Goodman pasgoodman551@gmail.com

Tel 07899 792552

Tel 01280 848295

Tel 01280 847769

Tel 01280 848002

To donate to All Saints', Mixbury just scan this code with your phone:



Church Services

Services will be on the third Sunday in the month at 9.30am.

Mixbury Church flower rota 2021

May	Sally Drummond-Hay Barbara Mortimer
June	Kate Darby
July	Sue Goodman
August	Helen Backon
September	Morag Westworth and Philippa Brown Harvest festival – everyone

October	Melanie Soar
November	Fi Bairstow
December	Carol service and Christmas - everyone

Reserve Sam Lockwood

Easter Barbara, Sam, Melanie, Morag, Sue Goodman, Helen, Sally, Kate

All Our Yesterdays: Parish Connections, and Original History Sources **by Bruce Epps**

It is very interesting to see reports from other parishes in the Benefice about various aspects of their history: to be able to read about their big houses, important and characterful families and the development of their villages. Each appears unique and yet as parishes we have a lot of “common history” which links some or most, if not all of us. In how many parishes would we find reference to the Norman lords d’Oilly and d’Ivry? How many would find Augustinian monks in their history, or Magdalen College as a land-owner? And how many would find response to the same “briefs” issued via churches (a kind of state and church sponsored charity appeal system) between the Reformation and 1826? There is a lot more that binds us historically together than the somewhat artificial boundary of Shelswell Benefice! This is a subject to which I would like to return in a future article.

In the meanwhile, I want to be parochial. Much of the general history of our parishes comes from two or three standard texts – British History Online (there is a website for most parishes or villages); and the Reverend J C’s Blomfield’s texts about the history of the Deanery of Bicester, and the History of Fringford, Hethe, Mixbury, Newton Purcell and Shelswell. These draw on a wide range of original material and make extensive references to their sources. At times I am slow on the uptake, and I had not thought how BHO or Blomfield had chosen their information from this deep pool of resources. My eyes were opened to what is, in fact, available when my wife, Sue, came across one such source in the Ancestry UK records for Mixbury. The document is the Parish Book, and it is one of a series of things that held at Oxford History Centre which I had intended to view when I had time: now it is online. I thought it was just a record of baptisms, marriages, and burials, but it contains much more.

Sue is still wading through the copperplate script at the front of it but has already come across some matters we have not seen elsewhere. First, we learnt that the Lord of the Manor in 1762, Benjamin Bathurst MP, had a vault built for his family at All Saints church. He was told that he needed a faculty to do so, but went ahead anyway with the rector, Mr Alt, turning a blind eye. There is no record of what the diocese thought. Seven years later there is a record of Mrs Bathurst paying a total of £2 for three “burials” in the vault. We will be exploring with the PCC where this facility might be.

Second, we came across a reference to a windmill in the parish in the late 17th century. Domesday (1086) says there were two mills in Mixbury, one at Willaston (then part of the manor), and the other where we think we know the location, on a stream to the west of the village. But these, we had thought, were water-powered. The earliest references to windmills in Britain are in the late 12th century. Was there a third, probably later, mill powered by the wind?

Third, we found that from 1662 there are records of payments from All Saints church to various causes, referred to as “briefs” (mentioned in the first paragraph above). The causes included;

- Repairs of a church in Gloucestershire 1s 3d
- Redemption of captives 1692 (probably taken by Barbary pirates) 4s 3d
- “collected on a brief for the Vaudois April 19 1699 the sum of £1 15s” (The Vaudois were a group of people in Southern France who were persecuted for rejecting Roman Catholicism.)
- “For affording a bridge in Southampton.”

This seemed a strange mix of “causes”, although a little googling soon threw some light as to where they came from. After the English Reformation, a variety of national measures under the general heading of Poor Laws sought to alleviate the plight of poor and destitute people in local communities, supplemented by local charitable donations. But Christians had a wider conception of where charity was needed than just those who lived nearby, a mantra which still applies today. From the Reformation, people could apply to the monarch requesting him or her to authorise an appeal for donations for a “good cause”, not uncommonly rebuilding a damaged or burnt-out church. If approved, the appeal, or brief, would be read out in churches within a particular county or area. When the collection was taken some would be allocated to the brief. The system was abandoned in 1828 when initiatives such as fire insurance became more available. Interestingly, when Kings Sutton nearly totally burnt to the ground in 1785, the initiative to compensate the victims was organised locally, not by a brief, although the appeal for help went far and wide: Mixbury contributed just over £4. Information about the Kings Sutton fire disaster and the following appeal comes from the British Newspaper Archive, another (nearly) primary source.

So, it seems its worth looking for primary sources, if you can. The oft-used general reference texts are good, but they miss some of the colour with which we can fill in a richer picture of our histories.

Mixbury Book Exchange – has moved!

The book box has now re-located to the porch just inside the church. The books have been kindly donated by one of Mixbury's Book Clubs and a few individuals, these are for the villagers to exchange a book with one they have read and replace with one of their own. If you are leaving a book whilst the pandemic is on please wrap it in clear plastic labelled with the date it is placed in the box as after 72 hours any possible germs should have gone. Please only leave books that are in good condition, now that the books are inside the church we can accept a few more.



A warm Mixbury welcome to Vivienne, Franchesca and pet dogs Grouse and Fallow – also a belated welcome to Charlie, Mandy, Jessica, Bethan and their three spaniels. We hope you will all be very happy living here.

Mixbury History Group are planning history related children's activities during the Summer Holidays – please watch out for further news.

Pop Up Pub Nights in Mixbury ARE BACK!

Pub nights are traditionally held on the first Friday of each month (except January) and are a great way to meet people in the village. The hosts normally provide nibbles and you take along your own drink, be it tea, coffee or something stronger. Opening hours from 8pm – please contact Tanya Howroyd for further information (01280) 847521: For address of each host please contact Tanya.

6th August - Tanya & Mark

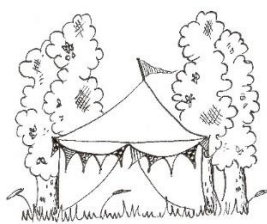
3rd September - Alec & Anna

1st October - Alison Timms

5th November - Rob & Sarah

3rd December - Matt & Caroline

Save the date: Mixbury Fete: 4th September 2021



(Covid restrictions allowing!)

Newton Purcell St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDENS: Ann von Maltzahn, Home Farm Shelswell Park
 Roger Cross The Limes, Newton Purcell, Buckingham
 TREASURER: Fai Li, 4 St. Peter's Close, Stoke Lyne, Bicester, OX27 8RB
 PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Roger Cross as above
 MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Ann von Maltzahn

Tel 01280 848680
 Tel. 01280 847471
 Tel: 07725 009838
 Tel 01280 848680

To donate to St Michael & All Angels', Newton Purcell just scan this code with your phone:



Bonus Ball Lotto -

A big thank you to all of you who have taken part in this over the past year and a reminder that subscriptions are now due for renewal.

For those of you who haven't joined in on this very worthwhile and fun way of helping us with fundraising there are still several unallocated numbers available.

For just £1.00 each week you can have a chance of a weekly cash prize and all monies raised go towards our special projects such as the restoration of our clock and bells rather than day to day running costs.

For full details please contact Ann von Maltzahn on the number above.

A Thank You –

A better late than never thank you to the Bicester Hunt with Whaddon Chase for their generous donation following their sponsored ride across the parish and Shelswell Park at the end of May! This too will go towards our special projects fund.

Harvest Festival & Lunch -

Depending on restrictions in place at the time, it is hoped we will be able to have our Harvest Festival plus the ever popular Lunch on **Sunday 10th October** so please keep the date free. More details nearer the time!

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

We very much hope to be able to have our Christmas Concert again this year and it is provisionally booked for **Friday 10th December** so please save the date!

Stoke Lyne St Peter's

CHURCHWARDEN: Christopher Poole CTP@oxford-educational.co.uk
 Ali Miller alisonjanemiller@icloud.com

Tel 01869 346020
 Tel 07762 719198
 Tel 07810 120457

TREASURER: Janey Poole janey@oxford-educational.co.uk

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Emma Brown

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Rena Andrews Email: renacyanlion@btinternet.com

PARISH ROOM BOOKINGS : Kelly and James Holden-White kholdenwhite@aol.com

Tel 01869345211

WEBSITE www.stokelyne.org

To donate to St Peter's, Stoke Lyne just scan this code with your phone:



Services :

Please see the back page of the magazines for dates and times of services of services

Stoke Lyne 100 Club

Hi All

The 100 club draw for July are as follows (yes, I know, where did June go?)

1st Draw No 18	Pippa Elliot
2nd draw No 22	Anastasia Brown
3rd draw No 14	Chris Lowe

The total prize money this month is £70.50 split 50%/30%/20%

Anyone wishing to join the club please let me know as we have approx 20 membership numbers left.

Many thanks once again for your continued support

Kind Regards

Janey Poole Treasurer St Peter's Church PCC

New Community Bus Service

Please see the information in the general part of the magazine kindly put in by Rosemary our editor with information received from Dan Green (Ability)

Memories of my childhood during the war

I was asked by Rena if I could do a piece for the Magazine of some childhood memories.

I will start at the beginning of the war,- age 11, I could not understand why all the traffic lights had been reduced to a little cross. It turned out that this was because it reduced the risk of incendiary bombs. Our house had wire netting frames over all the windows so that broken glass could not fall into the house.

Very shortly after this a man arrived with a pile of gas masks with which to fit us, They made a very funny noise when you breathed out, which my brother Hugh – 18 months old found totally satisfactory. I had a sister, Felicity- 8 years younger and a brother born at the start of the war. I was very proud of being allowed to pump air into his special carry cot when there was an air raid alarm.

We lived in the path of the German bombers although they always went on to London where I occasionally saw some of the appalling damage the bombs had done as they were still digging people out of the rubble the next day.

Our house had a double peaked roof with a gulley where we kept stirrup pumps up there in case of an incendiary bomb landing on the roof. We had an enormously long ladder up there so one could quickly get up before a fire started.

Half way up the ladder was a bedroom window which was perfect access into the house for Mr Rumble our large ginger cat. One evening we came home to find an anxious silhouette against the night sky and an indignant meowing, Someone had closed the bedroom window and Mr Rumble could not get in. There was a trap door in our bathroom through which the roof could be reached. We arranged that my mother would wait at the bottom of the ladder to receive Mr Rumble and I would climb up and fetch him. I meanwhile went up the ladder and was graciously received by Mr Rumble until he realised he was going to be handed through a hole in the roof, where upon he made furious attempts to abort the whole thing. It did not help that my Mum broke into hopeless giggles. Mr Rumble eventually calmed and all was successfully achieved.

Jane Warde-Aldam

Thank you Jane

Rena

Allotments

The allotments are looking good, it is nice to walk round and see how all the vegetables are coming along, there are a few that haven't had as much done this year. It could be work commitments or ill health hopefully they will flourish next year.

Stoke Lyne W.I.

August is the month we usually have a coach trip but because of all the restrictions it wasn't going to be viable, we arranged to meet instead at Bure farm pub and have lunch as a get together and keep members updated on future meetings and events. Members who wanted a walk before lunch met an hour earlier and had a walk round the nature reserve.

We had a lovely lunch today at Bure farm pub and a few of us did a walk round the nature reserve it was very hot so we cut the walk a bit shorter than we would normally have walked.

Food for Thought is back!

The first Sunday of the month in St. Peter's, Stoke Lyne at 10am from
Sunday 3rd October

We are pleased to be able to bring back one of our most popular services. This is the chance to share breakfast with friends with a short, informal reflection and discussion.

Croissants, tea, coffee, juice provided.

We look forward to seeing you soon.



Something new....

Sports on the playing field with tea in the Parish Room afterwards on the third Sunday of the month, starting on Sunday 19th September at 4.30pm.

Beginning with volleyball on Stoke Lyne playing field with tea and cake in St. Peter's afterwards - let us know which other sports you'd like included on later dates.

Suitable for all ages and abilities!

Any questions, contact Kelly Holden-White
kholdenwhite@aol.com

Stratton Audley and Godington St Mary and St Edburga; Holy Trinity

CHURCHWARDENS: Vacancy

TREASURER: Fai Li, 4 St. Peter's Close, Stoke Lyne, Bicester, OX27 8RB Tel 07725 009838

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Jackie Fox

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Vacant

To donate to St Mary and St Edburga, Stratton Audley just scan this code with your phone:

To donate to Holy Trinity, Godington just scan this code with your phone:



Services: Please see back page for details

Stratton Audley and Godington PCC If you would like to know more please contact either Alice or Becky.
Magazine Correspondent please contact the Editor direct if you have any news for inclusion.



The Church of St. Mary & St. Edburga **Church Services**

The church is once again open during the day for private prayer and reflection. Please see the current guidelines in Alice's article – One more step ... Please see back page for details of services.

The Return of the Coffee Morning at the Red Lion

Tea, coffee, biscuits, cake £2.50 in The Red Lion every Wednesday morning at 11.00-12noon - mugs of tea, coffee, biscuits £2.50

A warm welcome awaits everyone so do pop along even if you have never been before.

Also, plants for sale in the courtyard garden, 50p each in aid of the Church.

Red Lion

check the website for future events or facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/redlionstrattonaudley/>

Nocino Drinks a great success!

A big thank you to everyone who came to the Nocino drinks in the church gardens on Saturday July 3rd. Together, we raised close to £800! David has started taking pre-orders for people who want their very own bottle of Nocino walnut liqueur in time for a relaxing autumn and Christmas.

To order a bottle, please rsvp to david@betteroutliers.com . All donations go directly to maintaining the church buildings and anyone pre-ordering is invited to go into the church and see their liqueur develop - the process to make Nocino takes 40 - 60 days and needs someone to gently shake the Nocino kilners/vat jars every 2-3 days.

Many people in the village enjoyed having their vanilla ice cream (from Stratton Audley Barn) with Nocino and basil leaves - think of an Italian affogato and you have one very enjoyable way to mark the summer.



The Big Bash!



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A RICH MAN WHO DECIDED TO HAVE A PARTY

HE SENT OUT LOTS OF INVITATIONS

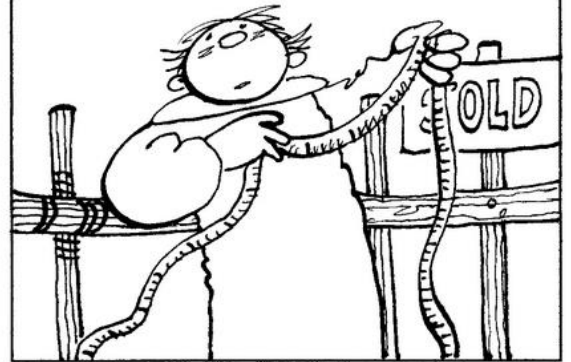


OH!
NO!!

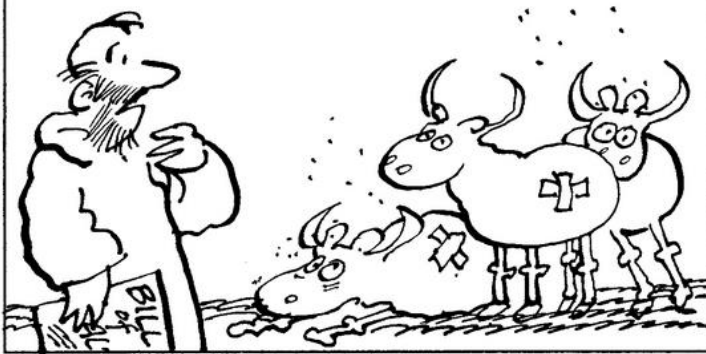


BUT PEOPLE STARTED MAKING EXCUSES

ONE MAN SAID HE HAD BOUGHT A FIELD, BUT NEEDED TO MEASURE IT



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE NEEDED TO TEST DRIVE THE OXEN HE HAS JUST PAID FOR



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE HAD JUST GOT MARRIED - AND HIS WIFE WOULDN'T LET HIM OUT!



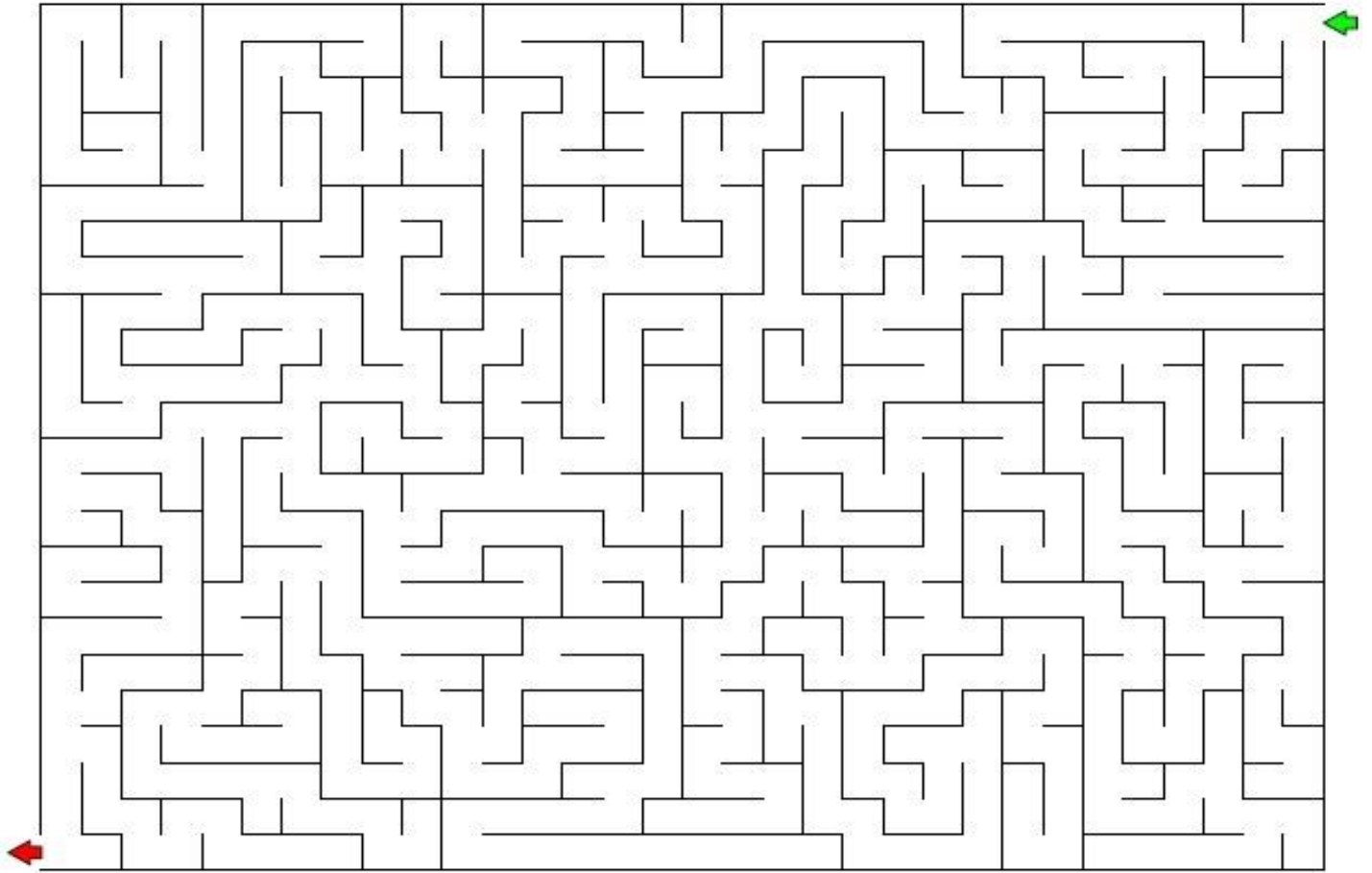
SO THE RICH MAN INVITED ALL THE POOR AND NEEDY INSTEAD.



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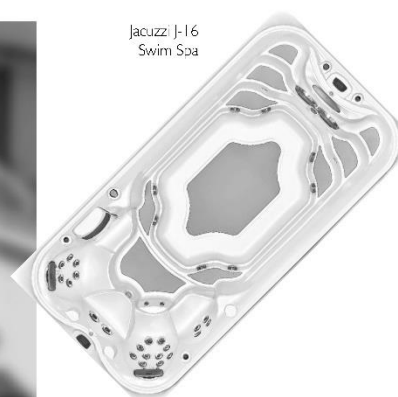
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Contact Victoria:

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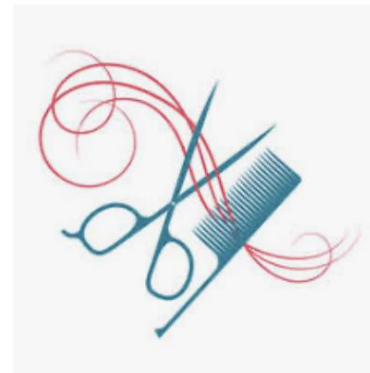
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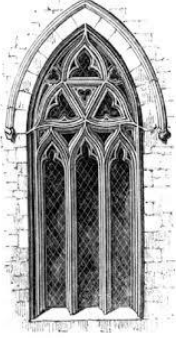
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## SERVICES IN AUGUST

You no longer need to book your seat, although we will keep a record of your presence at the service for 'track and trace' purposes.

|                                |         |                               |                 |       |
|--------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> August  | 9.30am  | Morning Prayer                | Hethe           | AG    |
|                                | 11am    | Holy Communion*               | Finmere         | YM/PW |
|                                | 6pm     | Compline                      | Stratton Audley | YM    |
| Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> August  | 9.30am  | Holy Communion                | Newton Purcell  | AG    |
|                                | 11am    | Holy Communion (BCP)*         | Cottisford      | YM    |
|                                | 6pm     | Evening Communion             | Fringford       | AG    |
| Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> August | 8.15 am | BCP Communion                 | Finmere         | YM    |
|                                | 9.30 am | Mixbury Half Hour             | Mixbury         | PW    |
|                                | 11 am   | Family Service with Baptism * | Fringford       | YM    |
| Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> August | 9.30 am | Holy Communion                | Stratton Audley | AG    |
|                                | 11 am   | Holy Communion*               | Stoke Lyne      | AG    |
|                                | 6 pm    | Evensong                      | Hardwick        | LW    |
| Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> August | 9.30am  | Morning Prayer                | Hethe           | PW    |
|                                | 11am    | Holy Communion*               | Finmere         | AG    |
|                                | 6pm     | Compline                      | Godington       | PW    |

\* Services marked with an asterix will be livestreamed on Facebook (Shelswell News Group) and You Tube (Shelswell News channel).



St Mary the Virgin, Hardwick-cum-Tusmore