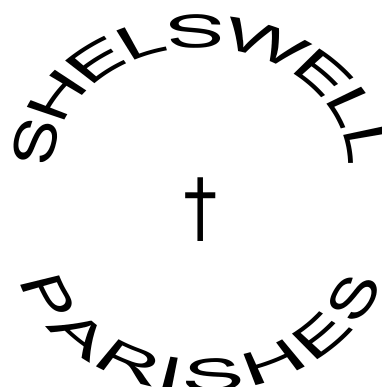


# Shelswell News

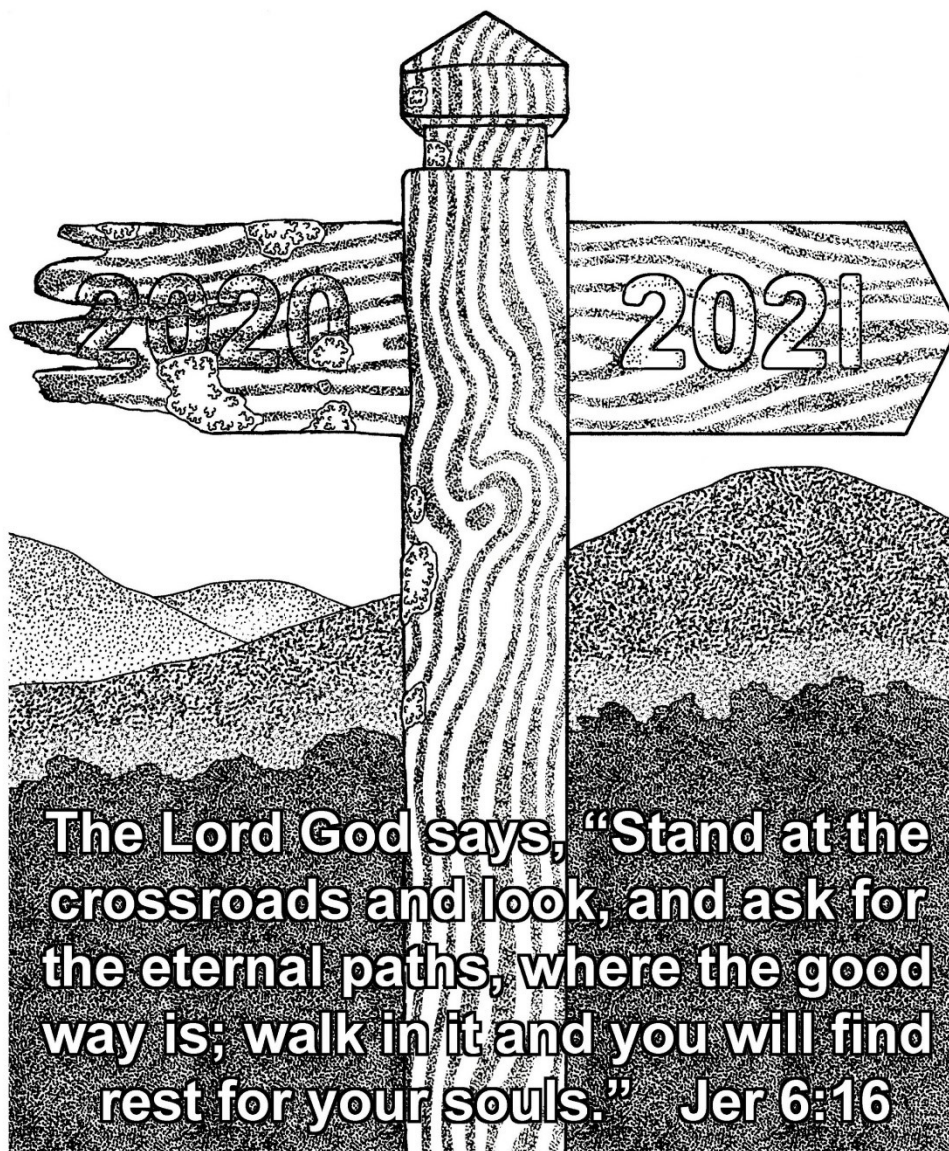
The magazine of the Shelswell Group of Churches

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Cottisford  
Fringford  
Hardwick  
Mixbury  
Stoke Lyne



Finnmere  
Godington  
Hethe  
Newton Purcell  
Stratton Audley



## 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.

### MINISTRY TEAM

**RECTOR:** The Reverend Alice Goodall, The Rectory, Water Stratford Road, Finmere, Buckingham MK18 4AT  
Telephone: 01280 848192 Email [rector@shelswellparishes.info](mailto:rector@shelswellparishes.info) **(Normal day off – Friday)**

**BENEFICE ADMINISTRATOR:** Mrs Becky Adams, c/o The Rectory (as above) Email [admin@shelswellparishes.info](mailto:admin@shelswellparishes.info)  
Administrator's normal office hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.00 am – 1.00 pm

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**THE PARISHES ARE PART OF THE DEANERY OF BICESTER AND ISLIP AND THE DORCHESTER  
EPISCOPAL AREA OF THE DIOCESE OF OXFORD**

### **HOLY TRINITY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, HETHE,**

Mass: 8 am on Sunday. Occasional 12 noon Traditional Latin Mass.

Weekday Mass: 9.30 am Monday and Friday

Priest: Very Rev. Canon John Batthula, Henley House, 12 The Causeway, Bicester, OX26 6AW.

Telephone: 01869 253277

Website: <http://www.holytrinityheth.co.uk/>

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Deadlines for the **February 2021** edition of Shelswell News

To Magazine Correspondents: **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Correspondents to Editor: **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021** at [editor@shelswellparishes.info](mailto:editor@shelswellparishes.info)

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

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

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## LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS



Day by day over the weeks before Christmas, more lights and decorations were going up in our villages: reindeer and lighted snowmen; lights in trees, on fences, on houses; even a projection of Father Christmas and his reindeer amidst the snowflakes. And of course, all those lovely decorated windows that are part of the Advent Windows initiative. It is fabulous to see – thank you, Shelswell villages!

Seeing all this, I found myself thinking of the verse from John's gospel that we often hear as part our Christmas Bible readings:

**'The light shines in the darkness  
and the darkness has not overcome it.'** (John 1:5)

The human spirit is irrepressible - even amidst all the restrictions that the pandemic has put imposed on us, even amidst the longings that many of us have for things to be different, there are the lights, flashing and flickering and shining out the message of Christmas! A witness to the fact that we will jolly well celebrate some how or other, even if we have to do it in a very different and much more limited fashion.

God has planted hope deep within us, and it takes an awful lot to overcome it. Of course Christians believe that hope, that light, to be embodied in the person of Jesus. Even though humanity has quite a few shortcomings and an amazing knack of messing things up, God has never given up on us, never abandoned us. Instead, God chose to become one of us, risked the fragility of human life amidst the dangers and diseases that were present in first century Palestine as much as they are today. And all to share God's light with us, to lighten our lives!

Some of you have spoken to me of the reality of **'God with us'** in the midst of the challenges that you have faced this year: knowing his spirit with you giving comfort and support, sensing his guiding hand as you have struggled with difficult choices, bringing you a lightness of being at times when things have felt overwhelming.

For Christians, our hope is not just a yearning or wish. It is based on God and God's faithfulness. It is based on the knowledge that God is utterly trustworthy. And so, as we face a very different Christmas and all the uncertainties of the New Year, we can do no better than to put our trust in God. I wish you a very Happy New Year! Alice

**'Let him who walks in the dark, who has no light,  
trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God.'** (Isaiah 50:10)



O God, our helper and defender,  
deliver us in our weakness,  
answer our longings  
and vindicate our faith,  
that we may see your glory  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



## A Reflection on the visit of the Wise Men.

### Where do we go from here?

Perhaps this was a question the Wise Men asked after seeing the infant Jesus. They had come from a distant land to Jerusalem. They had followed a star and expected to see a royal child. Now in Bethlehem, they saw things differently. No doubt, Mary and Joseph shared with these men their recent experiences and knew God was with them. Now the Magi had to have eyes of faith to recognise that this child was God in the flesh.



On 6<sup>th</sup> January many churches will celebrate Epiphany. On this day we remember the Eastern Men bringing their gifts to Jesus. The word 'epiphany' describes their 'revelation' or 'insight' that this was no ordinary baby. Who could they tell? Not King Herod. They had a dream warning them to return home a different way.

Their return to familiar surroundings was going to be different. They couldn't be silent about what they had experienced. Their lives were now changed. On returning home they faced new circumstances and challenges.

Doesn't this sound a bit familiar to us today? The Covid-19 pandemic has affected all of us in one way or another. Where do we go from here? We have celebrated our Lord's birth, but now we are returning to our previous activities. The festive break is over, and we are returning to changed, very difficult circumstances.

We go into a New Year that is so different from this time last year. While we might be downcast with all the upsets around us, there is one thing that has not changed.

It is almighty God! He is our rock. We can look to Him in this world of confusion and uncertainty. Perhaps, from now on, we shall be worshipping and serving Him in different ways. So, with the challenges that lie ahead, let's continually seek His guidance.

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding....and He will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6)*

*Lester Amann (Courtesy of 'Parish Pump' website)*

## BIBLE READINGS



Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Epiphany	Isaiah 60 v1-6 Ephesians 3 v1-12 Matthew 2 v1-12
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	The Baptism of Christ	Isaiah 42 v1-9 Acts 10 v34-43 Matthew 3 v13-end
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	2nd Sunday of Epiphany	Isaiah 49 v1-7 1 Corinthians 1 v1-9 John 1 v29-42
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany	Isaiah 9 v1-4 1 Corinthians 1 v10-18 Matthew 4 v12-23
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany	1 Kings 17 v8-16 1 Corinthians 1 v18-end John 2 v1-11



## *Snippets from the FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD Course*

During October and November, a group of Benefice villagers met via Zoom. We considered various aspects of food! This has focused on what we grow, farm, eat and buy, and how these issues relate to faith.

### **1. GROWING WELL**

We considered the difference growing your own food could make to individuals, families and allotment communities. Jen, who led the session, used the parable of the wheat and weeds and the parable of the mustard seed to help us reflect on how our faith provides all we need for our own religious growth, and the confidence that, as with our allotment produce, it will feed a part of us to contentment.

Jen said “I love sowing the tiny seeds, the ones that you have to care for and love, then plant out when they are starting to grow. These are some of the most satisfying things to watch grow. My allotment is a very serene, calming place for me to reflect on things, chat to God, pray for those less fortunate than me, and have peace in my life among the hustle and bustle of raising two 10-year-old boys!!”

#### *Did you know?*

- There are approximately 330,000 allotments in the UK.
- 16 species of earthworm are likely to be found in gardens in Britain.
- There are more microorganisms in one teaspoon of soil than there are people on earth. Microbes are important for keeping the soil full of nutrients.
- ‘Carrots improve eyesight in the dark’ was a myth put forward by the RAF during the Second World War to disguise advances in radar technology from the enemy

*Creator God, let your blessings fall upon our seeds and bulbs, our hands and tools, our soil, our gardens and our allotments. Bless our labour with rain and sunshine, that new life might spring up. May our efforts be to your glory – providing food for the hungry, beauty for our souls, and gardens for calm in our busy world. Amen.*

### **2. FARMING WELL**

We heard via video clips from two local farmers. Many changes had already taken place for them before the current pandemic. Brexit will have a huge impact on their farming lives. In October 2020 the government assigned £25 million in grants to help farmers to boost productivity through the latest technology.

Rosemary commented: “The countryside needs protecting sometimes from itself, because in certain areas bracken is overgrowing and preventing other grasses, crops and trees. We do need to widen our tastebuds to a wider range of items, such as goat/sheep and other milks. We need to keep food miles down and encourage communal gardens for vegetables etc, so they can be grown and sold locally.”

#### *Did you know?*

- British cows produce 30 litres of milk per day. That is enough milk to fill 6000 Olympic swimming pools in a year.
- British hens lay 10 billion eggs per year. These eggs are marked with the British Lion mark.
- British farmers have planted 30,000 kms of hedgerows to protect wildlife like birds and insects. This would stretch from London to Sydney Australia and back!
- British farmers breed approximately 90 different breeds of cattle.

*Lord, hear our prayer for all who work with you in tending and nurturing your creation: those who strive to adjust at this time of fast-paced change; those afraid for their future; those struggling to survive; all whose livelihood and existence is under threat. May they know your presence and be conscious of the help that you bring, and may they find hope for their future. Amen.*

**Next month – Eating Well and Buying Well ....**

Liz Welters

## Thoughts on Resolutions to 'Buy Well'

What things do you consider when you shop, apart from cost and convenience?

I am regularly driving past Supermarkets which makes it very convenient for me to enjoy the benefits of their lower cost courtesy of their conglomerate buying power. But these aren't my only considerations when I'm shopping, even when I make a trip to the Co-op, of which I am a member.

My own commitment to 'Buy Well' began small, and was the decision to eat less meat because my cats were eating more than my fair share of the ration, and to buy only meat products that I knew to be RSPCA certified. It was pure logic that moved me to decide to buy only free range eggs and I also became a life member of the Humane Slaughter Association whose motto is 'Caring beyond the Farm gate' - if you eat meat or fish, you should join too.

When Lily was born and I became part of the new mummies cohort, there was much talk about the long term health benefits from the 'purity' of organic food, but the organic movement is not only about ourselves; there are benefits also for the environment and I seek out organic fruit and veg when I'm at the Supermarket. It is more costly – but is that because the price of non-organic produce does not accurately reflect the overall 'cost' – in monetary terms but also in impacts on the environment – of its production? Indeed, should we rather be having a conversation about whether local organic farming, with its lower yields, is sustainable in the context of a world food market where producing enough for everyone is a major concern. Often the factors involved in your own decision making are less than straight forward; for example I have never ventured to join an organic box scheme because I was never entirely convinced that the carbon footprint produced by driving around the countryside to deliver those boxes was justifiable.

Environmental and ecological awareness is now 'fashionable' and 'carbon footprint' has become a part of modern parlance. The indignation of the younger generation at their forbears' plundering of the planet's resources is beginning to filter upwards. I have seen pictures of acres of rainforest laid bare, or given over to regimented rows of palm trees, so I check food labels for sustainable palm oil and I look for recycled paper products with a Forest Stewardship Council logo. I am a recent convert to bamboo paper products – especially anything in paper packaging. Fun advertising such as the 'Who gives a crap' campaign, which also promotes modern sanitation in developing countries, gets us thinking about the contradiction of seeking out 'sound' paper products only to take them home in a plastic wrap. Even certain Supermarkets are now committing to removing plastic wrapping from their own brand loo roll.

There is burgeoning public awareness of the environmental impact of our love affair with plastic, but that impact is not news. As a child I recall the excitement of taking your own container to the new Supermarket in order to fill it up with, for example, cornflakes from the big hopper. Waitrose has been bringing this system back, but they are not blazing a trail. Bodyshop has been offering a refill service for their no-animal-cruelty products for years, and now other suppliers are beginning to follow suit. We have a local initiative on our doorstep at Bicester Green where you can purchase domestic detergents by filling up your own containers in which take them home. And it's getting easier and easier to reduce your plastics consumption : bees wax wraps can replace cling film, paper bags are just as good for sandwiches as plastic ones, and it's time to retrieve the ancestral Tupperware collection from the back of the cupboard.

I made another 'Buy Well' decision in supporting our local Milkman: the height of convenience and a boon during lockdown, with a range of groceries and, of course, milk in glass bottles – an infinitely recyclable material. Cream, yogurt and juice in glass is also available and just recently, taking a leaf out of Bicester Green's book, household detergents in refillable glass bottles.

Environmental awareness is rising up the decision-making agenda, and I begin to wonder how far behind it lies the consideration of the wages and working conditions of growers and producers. Bringing this to the fore is among the aims of Fairtrade International, the world's largest Fairtrade system. It sets social, economic and environmental standards for the farmers, workers and companies within the scheme, and guarantees payment of the Fairtrade Minimum Price and an additional Fairtrade Premium to invest in business or community projects of the communities' choice. The Fairtrade Foundation is its UK member, established in 1992 by CAFOD, Christian Aid, Oxfam, Traidcraft, Global Justice Now, and the WI. Currently its membership includes some 18 social and faith organisations and discerning shoppers recognise its work through its licensing of the Fairtrade mark. You can find Fairtrade logo'd products on the shelves much more readily these days, and churches or other social organisations have been running their own local Fairtrade shops and stalls for many years.



I used to run one myself, touring Shelswell group services once a month and buying stock from Traidcraft. I still buy from them online – a way of shopping that many more of us have begun to engage with since last March – and I appreciate the care they go to with their catalogue in including articles on all their suppliers.

I am, perhaps, not your regular High Street shopper; I don't go 'window shopping', I enjoy buying second hand, I fit shopping trips in with another necessary journey. Having a local shop that I can walk or cycle to has been great over the years – Hardwick Farm Shop, Muddy Duck Farm Shop – but it is more costly; I can counter that by factoring in the time and cost to travel to a Supermarket to buy the equivalent product. However, that 'bottom line' is always there. And what if you can't travel to a Supermarket, particularly if you do not have access to the internet and can place an order to be delivered to your door?

It cannot be denied that the pursuit of 'buying well' - higher quality meat and fish, organic produce, using the Milkman, going Fair Trade – is, welfare and environmental considerations put aside, 'buying more expensively'. Principled shopping is all very well when you are not hungry with only a few pence in your pocket.

But how does 'buying well', with all these ethical considerations, fit with my Faith?

Genesis 1.28 and 29 tells us of God creating mankind to 'rule' over the earth. I believe that a good ruler nurtures and cares for their kingdom – environmentally and socially – and is conscious of their legacy. We should think of ourselves as 'stewards' rather than 'rulers', conscious of the implications of our decisions and actions. I find it very encouraging that many large companies now have these concerns on their own agenda, alongside traditional dividends to their shareholders. Such concerns are no longer solely in the realms of the hippy 'knit your own yogurt brigade' or Extinction Rebellion. As a Christian I try to live by Jesus' new commandment to 'love one another'. Fair trade is founded on Christian principles of justice, care and concern for fellow beings, and that is the closest that my 'buying well' can get me. As an individual I can't change the world, but through my behaviour I can change the bits that I interact with.

Flora Skinner

## Our link with Wulu, South Sudan

So what's been happening in Wulu all these months?

- the good news is that Wulu has not been affected as yet by the virus. Bishop Zachariah is praying for us and our protection.
- the oxen, purchased with our donations, have continued to thrive and the women continue to look after them very well. Joe and I braved a visit to the Amal Bank in Shepherds Bush in October and successfully transferred our next donation of 600 USD. (This was due in June, so rather delayed). This will enable a further two oxen to be purchased.
- although news of it was overshadowed by the pandemic, this year has seen devastating floods along the White Nile in South Sudan. Heavy rains caused the rivers to overflow their dykes and banks. Lakes State, which includes Wulu County, was one of the most badly affected, and many people were displaced temporarily from their homes. The women's crops were badly affected, but they are receiving some help with this. You can see the flood waters around the simsim crop in the photograph.
- Bishop Zachariah has been studying in St John's College, Wau and has just completed his exams. He has had papers on 'African Christian Theology' and 'Research Methodology' to name just two. He is looking forward to returning to Wulu for Christmas, assuming he is able to sort out travel arrangements.



- Philip Kau has had to resign from his post as Wulu Diocese Development Officer – because the Diocese is very new, it has little in the way of resources and is unable to pay its staff. He is now working for the Ministry of Health as an anaesthetist in the nearby town of Cueibet (nearby means probably about five hours of driving down the most horrendously potholed dirt roads). However he reports that he is happy, and he continues to support the Domoloto Women's Farming Project.
- In the April edition of the Shelswell News, I told you of the link that we were hoping to establish between the girls primary school in Wulu and the children at Finmere School. Sadly the pandemic brought this to a halt –the teachers have needed to put all their energies into working in a Covid safe way and as you are aware fund raising of any sort has been very difficult. Hopefully we can pick up this link in the New Year.
- we too have been able to do little in the way of fundraising for the ox plough project, but some very generous donations were received towards this at Harvest Time – thank you. If you would like to make a donation, either pop some cash or a cheque in an envelope marked 'Ox Plough Project' and pass it to a member of the ministry team, or contact Jeremy Coke Smyth for details about how to make an online donation ([jcs@pcsd.co.uk](mailto:jcs@pcsd.co.uk)) / 01869 278233)

Please do continue to hold Wulu, Bishop Zechariah, the women of the Domoloto Women's Farming Project and the Girls Primary School in your prayers.

Alice Goodall

## ZOOM SOCIAL

At present, we continue the **Zoom Coffee Morning on Tuesdays at 10.45 am**, and the quiz session on **Wednesdays, 1.30pm - a bit of a chat and a light hearted quiz**

Anyone is welcome to join in the sessions, A lovely way to keep connected and have a bit of a catch up!

For details of how to join, please contact Alice, Yvonne or Liz – we will send you the link to the meeting and if needs be, talk you through how to get onto Zoom.

And the good news is, we can have loads more people than 6 on Zoom, from as many households as you like!!

## SCHOOLS AND PLAYGROUPS CONTACT DETAILS

**FINMERE CHURCH of ENGLAND (VC) PRIMARY SCHOOL**, Mere Road, Finmere, Buckingham MK18 4AR  
 HEAD TEACHER Caroline Tucker Tel 01280 848459  
 Email: [office.3090@finmere.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3090@finmere.oxon.sch.uk)  
 Website: [www.finmere.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.finmere.oxon.sch.uk)

**FRINGFORD CHURCH of ENGLAND (VC) PRIMARY SCHOOL**, The Green, Fringford, Bicester, Oxon OX27 9DY  
 HEAD TEACHER Mr Franco Pastore Tel 01869 277397

### **FINMERE SCHOOL TODDLER GROUP**

Friday mornings term time from 9.00am – 11.00am in school.

Cost £1.00 per family Contact: Emily Chandler 01280 848459

### **SHELLOWELL and FRINGFORD PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP**

c/o Fringford Primary School, The Green, Fringford, Bicester, Oxon OX27 9DY

Contact: Mrs Shirley King Tel 01869 278687

### **HETHE STAY & PLAY GROUP**

Friday mornings term time from 10.00am – 11.45am at the Village Hall.

Cost £1.50 per child and £1 per additional sibling Contact: Rachel Richards 07949 298708

### **LITTLE LAMBS TODDLERS - STRATTON AUDLEY CHURCH**

Wednesday's 10am – 12 noon Term Time [jeniddoncfw@gmail.com](mailto:jeniddoncfw@gmail.com)





Muddy Church  
Wondering while Wandering

Light in the Darkness



Sunday 12th January 2020  
3 pm Stoke Lyne Churchyard

Muddy Church is open to all ages and stages of life!  
Come and enjoy time together exploring creation.

## Finmere C E Primary School

### Willow Class Nativity scene and Christmas portraits

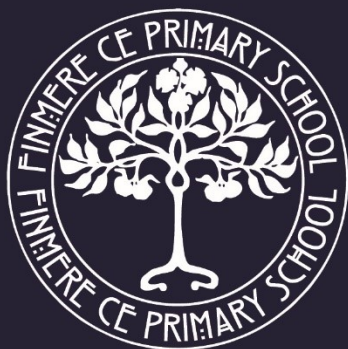
Children in Willow class enjoyed creating the Nativity scene figures as part of the Finmere Advent windows trail. The scene was displayed at Finmere Church on 24<sup>th</sup> December for the carol, See Him lying in a bed of straw (Calypso Carol).



### Primary school admissions – September 2021

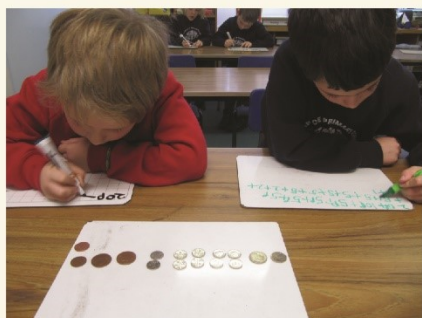
Whilst we are unable to hold any Open Days at the moment, we can still welcome visitors, in a planned and safe way. If you are interested in joining our school we'd love to hear from you. Please contact the school office on 01280 848459 or via [office.3090@finmere.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3090@finmere.oxon.sch.uk)





# Finmere C.E Primary School

*Challenging all to Shine*



- Village school setting with strong links to the wider community
  - Small class sizes
  - Wide ranging curriculum
- Wonderful outdoor surroundings
  - Wraparound care
  - Ofsted Good 2018
  - SIAMS Outstanding 2016
- Part of The Warriner Multi-Academy Trust
  - Welcoming children from Bicester, Buckingham and Brackley

**Please contact us to arrange a visit.**

**We look forward to welcoming you soon.**

@ office.3090@finmere.oxon.sch.uk

01280 848459

www.finmere.oxon.sch.uk

Mere Road, Finmere, MK18 4AR

@FinmereCEPrimary





Fringford C of E  
Primary School

## Open Mornings

If you are considering our school for your child next September - why not drop in and see us.

Please call or email the school office for more information and to book your visit.

**Ofsted Good 2017**  
**SIAMS Outstanding 2018**

Small Reception class

Beautiful outside space

Dedicated staff and well behaved pupils

Children welcome from all surrounding areas

01869 277397

office.3083@fringford.oxon.sch.uk

www.fringford.oxon.sch.uk





## Fringford School - Christingles

On Friday 11 December we celebrated Christingles. Each class walked down to the church for their own service in their class bubbles. The school council had prepared the oranges which were kindly donated by Mrs Harris and made each child their own Christingle bag filled with oranges, cocktail sticks, marshmallows and raisins.



Christingles originated in the Moravian Church in Germany in the mid 18th century when the ministers gave children a lighted candle with a red ribbon. Today Christingle services are held throughout the country and promoted by The Children's Society, which raises money to support children who are much less fortunate us.

We began by lighting our Advent Wreath and reading passages from the Bible from the North, South, East and West sections of the church and declared that:

**We come from the East.**

**We come from the West.**

**We come from the North.**

**We come from the South.**

**God invites us all**

**And no one is shut out.**



We then began to create our Christingles step by step, starting with the orange which represents the world that God created, the red ribbon representing Jesus love for us and his sacrifice, the cocktail sticks representing the seasons of the year and the generosity of God and finally the light, representing Jesus the Light of the World.

We listened to a variety of songs to help us reflect on the various parts of the Christingle and their meaning. We ended by turning off all the lights and enjoying a dance of celebration with our Christingles shining out!

## End of Term

We are fast approaching the end of term and we have a lot of excited children ready for the festive break! The children worked their socks off to put together their individual parts for our Christmas Production. I'm sure you'll agree – it's a wonderful way to start the festive period. This was swiftly followed by our Christingle Services and Christmas lunch.

As our families know only too well, it has been a particularly busy time for schools this term. We are especially grateful for all those acts of kindness our families have regularly shown us. Kathleen Dawe (Anna and Elsie's grandmother) recently gave the front of the school a makeover by planting the beautiful flowers we've all been admiring. Jeremy Richens brought his film-maker's eye to proceedings and saved our Christmas Production from poor lighting and wobbly camera work! FoFS have regularly surpassed even their impeccably high standards and raised truly astounding sums of money for the school. Their Christmas Raffle raised £1300 alone. Thank you to all our friends and families who regularly contribute to these events. FoFS's fundraising has recently made it possible for the school to commission the beautiful willow fence and gate to our new Forest School area. Staff are also extremely grateful to Nick and Jenni Blyton for the log stools in our Forest School.

Our Year 3 and 4 Choirs from Woodpecker Class, with the musical assistance of Mrs Dipple, participated in the Oxford University Music Society community virtual musical Advent calendar, who are raising money for Homeless Oxfordshire. More information can be found here

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/OUMS-Outreach> including the link to watch the videos.

Christmas wishes to all our friends and families,  
All at Fringford C of E Primary School





## REGISTRY

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

### Christenings

If you would like to talk about a christening, please do get in touch.

Alice (01280 848192 / [rector@shelswellparishes.info](mailto:rector@shelswellparishes.info))

### Marriages

#### Thomas Gwilym and Nicola Gloria Lepper

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2020

We all held our breath to see if Lockdown 2.0 would actually be lifted on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, or whether Tom and Nicola's wedding have to be postponed ... but thankfully all was well!

Tom and Nicola met at Buckingham Rugby Club – they both play rugby, but on this occasion Nicola was behind the bar. One thing led to another and they got engaged on Christmas day last year – Nicola had tonsillitis at the time but none the less said 'yes'. An essential quality for Nicola's intended had to be that they would be able to tolerate her father's jokes – Tom proved ideally suited, his jokes being of a similar quality!

Even the weather smiled on them as their immediate family and friends gathered at Finmere Church on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December. There were many more people that the couple had wanted to invite, and it must have been very difficult whittling the party down to 15. The bride's mother, Buzzy, had decorated the church beautifully, and all the candles were lit, including extra ones on the windowsills. Weddings during the pandemic present extra challenges, but Tom and Nicola had risen to these and everyone had matching deep red face coverings – very smart!

It had been rumoured that there was likely to be a late start to the ceremony – apparently the bride's father was late for his own wedding, and Nicola's sisters had followed in his footsteps – but in this case, the rumours proved ill-founded and everyone was on time. Nicola came into the church to Pachelbel's Canon in D. She had two bridesmaids – her good friend Hettie Dix and Tom's four year old daughter Alice. Sadly another bridesmaid had to be stood down in order to stay within the restricted numbers, but she came to the church gate to cheer Nicola on.

Nicola and Tom had chosen two hymns to listen to: 'One more step along the world I go' and 'Sing hosanna'. They had two passages from the Bible: 1 Corinthians 13, that wonderful passage about love, read by Nicola's sister Sophie, and Ruth 1: 16 – 17 read by Tom's sister Caitlyn. The signing of the register was witnessed by the Best Man, Tom's brother Liam Gwilym, and by Caitlyn, with Ellie Goulding's 'Your Song' playing in the background.

Unusually, the couple processed out to Dwayne Johnson singing 'You're Welcome' from the film 'Moana' – this was planned as a surprise for Alice – it is one of her favourite songs, and she loves to dance to it with her dad.

The wedding party enjoyed a sit down meal at Huntspill Farm, Shalstone (substantial enough to be accompanied by a drop of alcohol or two), before Nicola and Tom went off to Cornwall for the week. We wish them every happiness in their new life together.

#### Your Song

It's a little bit funny  
This feeling inside  
I'm not one of those who can  
Easily hide  
I don't have much money  
But boy if I did  
I'd buy a big house where  
We both could live.  
So excuse me forgetting  
But these things I do  
See I've forgotten if  
They're green or they're blue  
Anyway the thing is,  
What I really mean,  
Yours are the sweetest eyes  
I've ever seen  
And you can tell everybody  
This is your song  
It maybe quite simple but  
Now that it's done  
I hope you don't mind  
I hope you don't mind  
That I put down in words  
How wonderful life is  
Now you're in the world  
If I was a sculptor  
But then again no  
Or a girl who makes potions in  
A traveling show  
I know it's not much but  
It's the...

## Obituaries

### Michael John WILKINS 1945 - 2020

Mick died on 19<sup>th</sup> November, and his funeral took place in Fringford Church on 8<sup>th</sup> December. The family prepared the following tribute:

“Mick, as he preferred to be called, was born on 16<sup>th</sup> June 1945 at Barking Hospital during the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. In his early years he grew up with his adopted parents and siblings in Ilford. This being a preference to being sent as a child to Australia

During his teens he spent most of his time with his best friend John Willis who sadly, due to the Covid restrictions and distance, could not be here today. His stories of their childhood were colourful and depicted the little rascals that they were, especially their practical joking.

In his early years Mick chose to go into the Army and joined REME, the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. After serving his time, and back in Essex, he decided to work on the Buses. After a while, however, he felt the need to do something a bit more rewarding, and so he embarked on a career for almost 20 years as a Paramedic for the London Ambulance Service.

During this time, through working with Mick's son Derek, Sue was introduced to Mick and in 1987 they were happily married. They continued to live in London before moving to the Colchester area.

Mick and Sue enjoyed their dogs and spending holidays in the Norfolk area, in particular Great Yarmouth. One of Mick's greatest past times was his love of Radios. His 'Radio Shack', as he called it, was where he would spend hours in contact with various other Radio Callers across the Globe, and was often in deep conversations with many people at one time. Capping his excitement was the honour of being given his own Call Sign.

However, over the last few years Mick was not enjoying good health. He had diabetes, and breathing issues, and sadly lost both legs. He and Sue decided to move to Fringford a few years back so that they could be closer to Sue's family, and they were rewarded by having such good neighbours.

More recently, Mick's health was deteriorating; he was spending more time in hospital, and sadly on the 19<sup>th</sup> November he passed peacefully away.”

Mick will be greatly missed by Sue and all his family and friends.

### Joe WICKENS 1952 - 2020

Sadly, Joe died in the Horton Hospital on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. He had lived in Fringford all his life and was well known and liked. His funeral was held in Fringford Church on 10<sup>th</sup> December. Because of the Covid restrictions numbers attending had to be limited. But villagers lined the route of the hearse as it travelled down to the church, and after the funeral gathered on the cricket field (Joe had been a keen cricketer) to lay flowers and mark his passing.

At the Funeral Service, Joe's daughter Louisa paid a moving tribute to her father:

““Do not worry I will try not to make this tribute to dad as long as his speeches, because let us be honest when given the chance he would baffle on.

Dad was born and raised here in Fringford, with his brothers Mick, Ian, Ray, Kevin, Neil, Shaun, and his sister Carol. He would often tell me stories of what they would all get up to and how much they would wind up, or more to the point, he would wind up his dad. Dad always had a mischievous side, my favourite story of his was when nan had chickens and he was worried they would be cold so to help them he set the chickens on fire! When caught doing this he just stood there and said “pretty fi fi”. This would explain why dad let me play with the coal fire from a young age! My dad often spoke fondly of his brothers and was always proud of how close they all are as a family, he would do anything for any of them, as he knew they would do the same. Dad did have a favourite person though and I'm sorry to my uncles but that was his mum, he loved seeing her and would pop in every day, he got his baking and cooking skills from her.



Unfortunately, as much as he was always wearing a shirt and tie, he didn't get his ironing skills from her! The biggest thing dad got from her was her looks and my goodness didn't they look alike!! Dad had an amazing relationship with his nephews as they all loved sport like he did. He would watch their games and support from the side lines.... I have a special mention for Stuart as I know he valued your relationship and enjoyed every moment he had with you, you are a massive part to his life and I know how much he loves you mate.

From growing up in Fringford and playing sports dad developed great friendships that stood the test of time and I know how much he valued each and every friendship, so to all of his friends here today thank you for supporting him throughout the last 50+ years, I know how much he enjoyed seeing you all especially in the pub for a few pints!

As much as dad enjoyed socialising at the Butchers Arms he also worked very hard. He would work a full day as a spare part Co-ordinator then straight out onto the cricket field working to keep the ground the beautiful green I always remember, though to him this wasn't work it was his passion, and what kept him young. He would see me and my cousins and take us on the tractor with him and always let us drive! I remember this as the best thing in the world being underage driving a tractor. Now I still remember it that way but I also see that was dad's way of spending more time with us, which we all enjoyed.

I know I have only briefly touched on dad's life but at the age of 21 His life altered when he had his first daughter Lisa, he then went on to have me at 39. Now it's no secret that myself and my dad didn't talk for a while but we rebuilt our relationship and it was stronger than ever. He walked me down the aisle and we actually danced together for the first time as my dad's dancing was embarrassing! To the point he would get on the dancefloor and I'd walk off!! It didn't matter to my dad we hadn't spoken in a while he was just happy to have our relationship. He has three granddaughters Sophia, Grace and Rebecca who he would beam at with pride every time he saw them, he admired each of their traits and was so proud to be a grampy. My dad truly is my hero, yes. he is stubborn, and sometimes fiery but he's also funny, cheeky, loving and loyal and would always put others first before himself. Up until his last days he was making jokes and lapping up the attention from the nurses, until he was getting in trouble for having a fag out of the hospital ward window! But that is my dad, always doing life his way.

Again I want to thank each and every one of you who touched my dad's life with joy, and helped shape him into the man he was, and I know if these were normal circumstances we wouldn't be able to move for the amount of people he knew and who would of wanted to be here with us.

Dad you raised me to be strong and I'm certainly going to try.. This is the hardest thing in my life I've ever had to do and that's saying goodbye to you, but I love you dad, I love you more today than yesterday but less than tomorrow. “

## 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.



## SHELSWELL WALKERS

Please take your daily exercise but keep safe and keep recommended distances from others especially on 'busy' footpaths and rights of way.



## SHELSWELL GARDEN CLUB



On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December we held another Zoom club meeting with 17 members attending. Our speaker was Tony Russell. His career with plants and gardens began in 1978 when he joined the Forestry Commission in Snowdonia. He later moved to the Westonbirt Arboretum in Gloucestershire, where his work helped make Westonbirt the third most visited garden in UK (after Kew Gardens and the RHS Garden, Wisley). Tony left Westonbirt in 2003 and is now widely regarded as one of Britain's leading authorities on trees and shrubs. He has presented gardening, horticultural and countryside programmes for both TV and radio, including Gardeners Question Time as well as writing for numerous newspapers. He has now returned to live in Snowdonia and has recently written a book on the gardens of Wales.

His talk looked at the wonderful gardens of Wales. He took an interesting approach, asking us to think it was late spring, early summer and we were wandering around these gardens with him. He took us through seasonal, gardens supporting different constructions like castles or natural features like ravine gardens and gardens that reflected periods of history; Victorian and Georgian. He also explained why there was such a variety of plants able to grow in Wales. Not only because of the climate and influence of the Gulf Stream on this western seaboard but also the impact of south westerly gales and excessive moisture.

It was a fascinating, whirlwind tour of this area supported by beautiful photos. Members agreed that we had a lot to look forward to, planning to visit these gardens in the future.

The next Zoom meeting will take place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30 pm. Pip Bensley (a senior RHS judge) will be divulging secrets about the Chelsea Flower Show. 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.

The committee send you their best wishes for 2021!

## SHELSWELL POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP

We are still not able to meet, so here is a list sent in by individual members rather than poems discussed at a meeting. The poems recommended have themes of New Year, the month of January and its weather:

***To the New Year*** by W.S. Merwin; ***Good Riddance, But What Now?*** by Ogden Nash; ***Promise*** by Jackie Kay; ***London Snow*** by Robert Bridges; ***Ring Out, Wild Bells*** by Alfred Lord Tennyson; ***January 1939*** by Dylan Thomas; ***January Jumps About*** by George Barker; ***January Morning*** by William Carlos Williams; ***Orchard Trees, January*** by Richard Wilbur; ***New Year Exhilaration*** and ***New Year Song***, both by Ted Hughes, and ***Unprofitable Pieces of Land*** by Molly Holden.

If YOU would like to recommend any poems relating to **February**, they will be very welcome. Just send the title and poet's name to me by phone or via my email address, so that they reach me a day or so before the deadline printed at the front of the January Shelswell News. Judith Harvey

01869 811994 and [judith.harvey@live.co.uk](mailto:judith.harvey@live.co.uk)

## SHELLOWELL READING GROUP

Once again, Zoom and a well-wrapped outdoor meeting stood in for the more traditional event in December, so thanks to Jane Birnage for 'hosting' the session.

The book under discussion was 'Plot 29' by Allan Jenkins. As the author tends an allotment in London and a garden in Denmark he comes to terms with his childhood and his feelings of hurt and loss. As he tends his plants he gradually unravels the mystery of his parentage and mulls over the effects that foster parents and chaotic early lives had on him and his beloved brother. Gardening helps him to start healing and gives him very positive goals, so the book is much more than a 'misery memoir'. It's not an easy read, but one which raises lots of important issues.

Here are some books recommended by members of the group from their private reading:

Forty Rules of Love by Elif Shafak; No Picnic on Mount Kenya by Felice Benuzzi; The Autobiography of Andre Agassi; Outrun by Amy Liptrot; A Shepherd's Life by James Rebanks; How to be a Woman by Caitlin Moran; Lady in Waiting by Anne Glenconner; Cane Warriors by Alex Wheatle; The Dry by Jane Harper; The Man Who Saw Everything by Deborah Levy; The Shadow King by Maaza Mengiste; The Dutch House by Ann Patchett;

The next meeting is on January 14<sup>th</sup> at 7.30, and unless things have changed radically, will be a mixture of Zoom and outside session. The book chosen is 'Circe' by Madeline Miller and is based on Odysseus' voyages, the main character being the enchantress Circe, who turned his sailors into swine. Sounds interesting, and if it's as well-written as Pat Barker's retelling of the Troy story, it should be very good!

We realise that new members are unlikely to come along whilst the virus holds sway, but if you do want to join in, contact me on 01869 811994 or at [judith.harvey@live.co.uk](mailto:judith.harvey@live.co.uk)



## SHELLOWELL WI

As we head into the New Year, are you looking to widen your friendship circle, learn some new skills and be entertained by a range of interesting speakers? Then make 2021 the year you consider joining the Women's Institute. **Shelswell is a modern and forward thinking WI, our friendly members encompass a wide range of ages and professional backgrounds.**

Our meetings are held on the **first Thursday of the month at 8 pm**. We hope at some stage to be able to resume our usual meetings in the lovely venue of Fringford Village Hall, when some of the pandemic restrictions have eased. For now though, our monthly meetings will continue to be virtual ones.

Our December meeting was a **Festive Paper Crafting session** run over Zoom by **professional artist Leila Khasal from London**. Leila's session was practical and delightfully entertaining as Leila also shared with us some of her personal stories of family life during 2020. All on the call ended the evening with some pretty Christmas decorations plus some more really lovely crafting ideas to try out. This popular event was attended by 21 WI members including guests from some of our local WI's.

As usual, there was some protected time too for our Shelswell WI business and for our members to catch up with each other. The WI's democratic model means that every member has a say in our national campaigns and every resolution idea comes directly from the members themselves.

During the December meeting, members were asked to consider which one of the five resolutions that have reached the national shortlist they would like to put forward for 2021. The two most popular campaign ideas selected nationally will then be debated in detail at our National WI AGM at the Royal Albert Hall in the early summer of 2021.



The five resolutions we asked members to vote on were;

**A call to increase awareness of the subtle signs of ovarian cancer.**

**Stop women dying prematurely from coronary heart disease.**

**Tackling Racism and Inequality.**

**Protecting your nature space to create wildlife friendly communities.**

**Stop the destruction of peat bogs to tackle climate change.**

We also had a toast at the end of our meeting when we wished for a happy and healthy 2021 for all of our members and their families. It was a lively and fun evening.

Events coming up;

During our 7<sup>th</sup> **January** meeting, we will be **Learning how to play the Spoons with Percussionist Jo May** over Zoom. You can either join in our just watch, it sounds like a bit of a giggle. All members will need to join in are some spoons, although our speaker Jo has suggested plastic spoons may be gentler on the fingers.

**February 4<sup>th</sup> will be our AGM** via Zoom for members only, where we hope to have a guest speaker, details to follow.

**March 4<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm : Tangle Doodles with Graeme Gettings** via Zoom. We are privileged to have OFWI Trustee Graeme sharing her fabulous Tangle Doodles – all you'll need are some pens and paper to join in.

**April: 1<sup>st</sup> at 8pm Life as a Prison Officer with Pauline Martindale** – learn what really goes on inside with a humorous and informative talk from a very experienced speaker, again planned to be held via Zoom.

We have also been able to offer some daytime walks, always staying within government guidelines. These have been greatly enjoyed by all of those taking part. There is also our Shelswell Coffee Club, too which is temporarily more of a virtual coffee at present. One of our current national WI Campaigns is about alleviating loneliness so we are always looking for new ways to reach out to others.

For more information about Shelswell WI, please do contact our **President, Jane Lyons** on **07761 030276**.



### Nai's House

#### Suicide prevention and holistic mental health - for up to 30 year olds

Enormous thanks to Tanya Bezuidenhout for her kindness and generosity, who is letting us use KidzZone, [15/16 Crown Walk, Bicester, OX26 6HY](#), till they can once again open for business.

We will be open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for those with appointments and available for appointments outside these hours. Please contact us on 07437 497697 or contact email is [hello@naishouse.co.uk](mailto:hello@naishouse.co.uk) and appointments can be made via our Facebook page @naishousebicester.

Sadly we cannot offer a drop in service at the moment and parent support is now offered remotely.

In line with covid-19 guidance we would ask that all guests wear masks when visiting, we have masks, gloves and hand sanitiser if needed.

We will be closed for the festive season from 4pm 24th December and reopen at 12 noon 4th January

Nai's House is a Community Interest Company registered with Companies House: 11158730

Nai's House is a certified member of Social Enterprise UK

Registered Address: Stable Yard, Vicarage Road, Stony Stratford, MK11 1BN

## 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

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Judith Harvey, Lark Rise Cottage, Juniper Hill Email: [judith.harvey@live.co.uk](mailto:judith.harvey@live.co.uk)

### COTTISFORD AND JUNIPER HILL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Well, what a year we had in 2020! Our first planned event of the year, a coffee morning, had to be cancelled, and we went on from there.

If we need the snow plough to be called out this winter we know we have the money we raised on standby in the bank. Let's hope, though, that it can stay there.

Here's hoping we have a better year in 2021, vaccine permitting, and that we can reinstate group events in person.

A Happy New Year to All.

### ADVENT WINDOWS

Thank you to everyone who participated in Advent Windows in Cottisford and Hardwick. Based on Christmas cards, these creative and magical pictures which were displayed in various windows, brightened up the two villages. We all enjoyed looking out for the latest window to open every day. It was a thoroughly worthwhile and rewarding way of adding some warmth and colour to our rather grey days. Jane Birnage.

### The Parish Giving Scheme – Cottisford & Hardwick PCC

The pandemic hit church finances very hard in 2020. A reduced number of church services, that could only be held with limited numbers and our inability to hold fund-raising events has meant a significant drop in income.

However, the PCC for Cottisford and Hardwick must continue to find around £16,000 every year to cover the costs of clergy, buildings insurance, electricity, and other routine expenditure. It is worth bearing in mind, that the Church of England receives no funding from government or indeed any other sources. Each local church community is directly responsible for raising all its own funds.

Currently, the PCC relies on a relatively small number of individuals and organisations, who make regular, and often very generous donations. But we do need more people to help out. It would make such a difference if as many people as possible would commit to making a regular donation to the church. As little as £5, or even £10, a month would make a real difference.

The best way to do this is via the Parish Giving Scheme, which enables you to give by direct debit. It is very straight forward and simple to use. You can choose how much to give and how often – monthly, quarterly or yearly. If you are a UK taxpayer, the scheme automatically claims the gift aid on your donation, adding 25% to the value of your donation. For example, if you donate £10 a month, the church will receive an additional £2.50 from HMRC; if you donate £20 a month, the church will receive an additional £5. You can also choose to allow your donation to increase annually with inflation.

Please contact me if you wish to receive more information about the Parish Giving Scheme.

**David Barnes**

**Treasurer - Cottisford and Hardwick Parochial Church Council**

**Tel: 01869 277690**

**Email: [david.l.barnes@outlook.com](mailto:david.l.barnes@outlook.com)**

## Finmere St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: Vacancy

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

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

Tel 01280 847782

Tel 01280 848268

### Village Hall

The Village Hall is back open again, however all usage must be in line with current COVID guidelines.

Happy New Year



### Allotments

Happy New Year to all. Get planning for your new growing season. The Poor's Plot now has a 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](http://www.myfinmere.com/poorsplot)

Need some local help

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

Village facebook page

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

Shelswell Parishes website at – [www.shelswellparishes.info/finmere](http://www.shelswellparishes.info/finmere)

Finmere Parish Council website at – [www.finmerepc.org](http://www.finmerepc.org)

Village hall news at – [www.myfinmere.com](http://www.myfinmere.com)

Finmere Primary School - [www.finmere.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.finmere.oxon.sch.uk)



# Fringford

## St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: John Mayo, 10 Church Close, Fringford  
 TREASURER: Christina McCullagh, 5 Crosslands, Fringford  
 MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Penny Wood, 8 Crosslands, Fringford  
 VILLAGE HALL CORRESPONDENT: Christine Underwood  
 WEBSITE [www.fringford.info](http://www.fringford.info)

Tel 01869 278873  
 Tel 07867 515207  
 Tel 01869 277310  
 Tel 01869 278949

### ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, SERVICES & EVENTS

St Michael and All Angels is open every day for private prayer. Please take care to keep social distancing and observe good hygiene. For details of services throughout the Benefice in January see the back cover of this magazine, or the Church Notice Board.

Subject to Covid regulations, the services in Fringford will be as follows:

- 17<sup>TH</sup> January - Holy Communion at 10.00am

Please note that it will be necessary to book a place at any service – ring the Benefice Office on 01280-848192 or email [admin@shelswellchurches.info](mailto:admin@shelswellchurches.info) Also Masks must be worn, and singing is not permitted.

**‘Muddy Church’** for all ages on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January at 3.00pm in Stoke Lyne Churchyard – book your places by emailing [admin@shelswellparishes.info](mailto:admin@shelswellparishes.info) Wrap up warmly!

During January the Benefice is live streaming via Facebook a **Daily Reflective Service** at 5pm up to (and including) Epiphany on 6<sup>th</sup> January. If you would like advice on how to watch the service, please get in touch with Yvonne on 01869 278090.

### Fringford Advent Windows 2020

Many thanks to everyone who ‘opened’ a window. There is a wonderful variety, and it is fun walking around to see them all. They will probably still be open for a bit in January so do go and have a look. Pick up a Trail leaflet from the church porch, or from outside 8 Crosslands.

### Fund-raising Initiatives



#### For Sale – Bags of Kindling

5 Kilos - £5.00

3 kilos - £3.00

In aid of Fringford Church Restoration Fund.

Contact Simon Knight (email address: [simon.knight2@btinternet.com](mailto:simon.knight2@btinternet.com) or mobile: 07598 104444).

### 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 100 Club

After discussions, the plan now is for Fringford PCC and the Friends of Fringford School to combine their efforts to run a 100 Club. The profits would be shared equally between them. Please contact Christina McCullagh on 07867 515207 for further information.

**And hopefully - A Beer Festival on 19 June 2021**

## 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](mailto: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

Still not able to meet. Sorry! Soon, hopefully.

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](mailto:syeborg2009@yahoo.co.uk) or mobile; 07850 415189. Alternatively, contact Stuart on 07952 445468.

## Hardwick St Mary the Virgin

CHURCHWARDENS: John Curtis, Sycamore House, Hardwick

David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick

TREASURER: David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Veronica Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick

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

Tel 01869 277984

Tel 01869 277690

Tel 01869 277690

Tel 01869 277690

## HARDWICK CHURCH IS OPEN DAILY

From Sunday 1st November, St Mary's Church, Hardwick will be 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

## The Presentation Window

This month's piece describing one of the features of Hardwick church, looks at the Presentation Window. This stained-glass window is in the south wall of the chancel, adjacent to the altar. It depicts the scene described in Luke's gospel (Chapter 2 vs:22-39) in which, the baby Jesus is taken by his parents to the Temple in Jerusalem to be presented "to the Lord".

In accordance with Jewish custom, Jesus, as a first-born boy, was taken to be presented on the fortieth day after his birth; forty days being the required period of purification after giving birth for new mothers under Jewish law.

The window depicts Mary and Joseph looking on as the old man Simeon, a "just and devout" man, holds the baby Jesus in his arms. He believed that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. He then speaks the words of the canticle, now known as the *Nunc Dimittis*, which opens "Lord, now lettest thou thy servants depart in peace". The *Nunc Dimittis* is regularly used as part of the Anglican service of Evensong



This window is one of a pair in the chancel, on either side of the altar, dedicated to Henry Howard, the second Earl of Effingham. This one was installed by his children, after his death aged 82, in 1889 just ten years after the completion of the restoration and extension of Hardwick Church, that he paid for entirely from his own pocket.

The Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple is celebrated in both the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches, usually on or around 2<sup>nd</sup> February. The event was also reflected in the once-prevalent custom of churching new mothers forty days after the birth of a child.

The Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple is also known as Candlemas, when traditionally, candles would be brought to church to be blessed for their use for the rest of the year. Candles also remind us that Christ is the Light of the World, in the words of the Nunc Dimittis, “a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the Glory of thy people Israel”.

Hardwick church will be open every day 10am to 4pm, during the winter months, for private prayer and contemplation. Please do visit to view the Presentation window and the other stained-glass.

## ADVENT WINDOWS

Thank you to everyone who participated in Advent Windows in Cottisford and Hardwick. Based on Christmas cards, these creative and magical pictures which were displayed in various windows, brightened up the two villages. We all enjoyed looking out for the latest window to open every day. It was a thoroughly worthwhile and rewarding way of adding some warmth and colour to our rather grey days. Jane Birnage.



## **The Parish Giving Scheme – Cottisford & Hardwick PCC**

The pandemic hit church finances very hard in 2020. A reduced number of church services, that could only be held with limited numbers and our inability to hold fund-raising events has meant a significant drop in income.

However, the PCC for Cottisford and Hardwick must continue to find around £16,000 every year to cover the costs of clergy, buildings insurance, electricity, and other routine expenditure. It is worth bearing in mind, that the Church of England receives no funding from government or indeed any other sources. Each local church community is directly responsible for raising all its own funds. Currently, the PCC relies on a relatively small number of individuals and organisations, who make regular, and often very generous donations. But we do need more people to help out. It would make such a difference if as many people as possible would commit to making a regular donation to the church. As little as £5, or even £10, a month would make a real difference.

The best way to do this is via the Parish Giving Scheme, which enables you to give by direct debit. It is very straight forward and simple to use. You can choose how much to give and how often – monthly, quarterly or yearly. If you are a UK taxpayer, the scheme automatically claims the gift aid on your donation, adding 25% to the value of your donation. For example, if you donate £10 a month, the church will receive an additional £2.50 from HMRC; if you donate £20 a month, the church will receive an additional £5. You can also choose to allow your donation to increase annually with inflation.

Please contact me if you wish to receive more information about the Parish Giving Scheme.

**David Barnes**

**Treasurer - Cottisford and Hardwick Parochial Church Council**

**Tel: 01869 277690**

**Email: [david.l.barnes@outlook.com](mailto:david.l.barnes@outlook.com)**

### **CORONAVIRUS COMMUNITY SUPPORT FROM ST MARY'S CHURCH, HARDWICK**

The Rector, Ministry Team and church members in Hardwick are concerned to offer whatever help and support they can to those facing an anxious and difficult time in the continuing weeks ahead.

We are unable to offer medical advice or come into your home if this involves risk of infection to you or others, but otherwise we will do whatever we can to help.

Please call or email:

David Barnes (Churchwarden) 01869 277690 [david.l.barnes@outlook.com](mailto:david.l.barnes@outlook.com)

Revd Alice Goodall (Rector) 01280 848192 [rector@shelswellparishes.info](mailto:rector@shelswellparishes.info)

## **Hethe St Edmund and St George**

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

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

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Mike Green as above

WEBSITE: [www.hethe.org](http://www.hethe.org)

Tel 01869 277366

Tel 01869 278166

Tel 01869 278166

## **News from St Edmund & St George Church & Community Activity**

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.

Many thanks, Mike.

## ST EDMUND & ST GEORGE CHURCH



**Photo dated 1911**

### **Church Funds & Regular Giving**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to PCC funds to meet the running costs of the church and helped to fund the porch repairs in 2020. This year we look forward to repairing the window in the west end of the nave. This is believed to be the oldest window in the church and was originally in the chancel. The work will entail removal of the window for repair by specialists and refurbishment of the surrounding stonework. We will keep you informed of progress.

You may contribute regularly to general funds by direct debit through the Parish Giving Scheme - please 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.

For one-off and regular donations without setting up a direct debit we have an on-line giving page which can be accessed through our village web site under St Edmund & St George/Fund Raising.

For other ways of contributing to the running costs of the church, please contact [hethepccsecretary@outlook.com](mailto:hethepccsecretary@outlook.com).

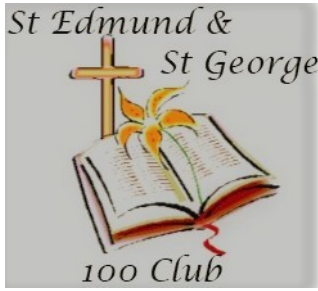
### **Church Open**

At the time of writing this article, the church was still open on Sundays from 10.00am to 6.00pm for private prayer and meditation. Sanitising spray and gel are available, and we ask that visitors respect social distancing regulations. Cushions, kneelers, hymn books and all items in the book club have been removed for hygiene reasons and, similarly, some areas of the building have been cordoned off. We ask that visitors respect these efforts to avoid any possibility of cross infection.

Again, at the time of writing this article, we cannot say when regular services will recommence in the church but will publicise them as soon as possible in the New Year.

Many thanks to Flora for the reorganisation within the church and regular cleaning.

## 100 Club



Draws are taking during the Shelswell Quiz on the second Wednesday of the month via Zoom.

There are still plenty of numbers if you wish to join!

Results of the 24<sup>th</sup> draw held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020

1st Prize No 29 Margaret John

2nd Prize No 17 Helen Wood

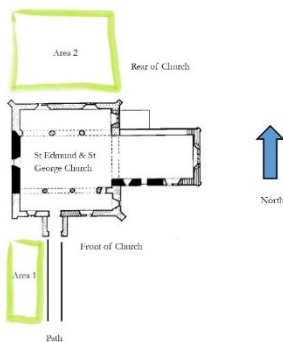
3rd Prize No 19 Mary McCorquodale

## Eco Church

Our aim is to turn part of the churchyard into a natural, flowery space, to encourage wildlife and make it more attractive and interesting for visitors. Our long-term vision is to preserve the churchyard as a special, sacred place, remembering that if we turn it entirely over to nature, we forget the work of past generations who cared for it and we could impede access to graves and for on-going burials.

### The Action Plan:

1. Write an accessible document on how to look after the churchyard for wildlife.
2. Seek advice from local wildlife trusts.
3. Map the site and start to fill in what we know and what we find out about plants, animals and built features.
4. Plan what we want to do and how we will manage the site. Talk to people and reach an agreement on management.
5. Inform people about the plans and invite them to become involved.
6. Review the plan. Is it working? Check to see how practical it is and how people feel about it.



The first area is the part of the graveyard at the front (south end) of the church to the west of the footpath. The second area is the part of the graveyard immediately behind the church (north end). Signs will be erected. It would be good to involve Muddy Church and local families/children making bug hotels, etc. If you would like to be involved in any way (practical, guidance or funding) please let us know.

### 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.

## HETHE COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

### Village Hall

With restrictions changing so often, please contact the booking secretary on [fjskinner@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fjskinner@hotmail.co.uk) for availability.

Remember to visit the village web site and Hethe Village Hall Facebook page to see the proposed changes to the hall.





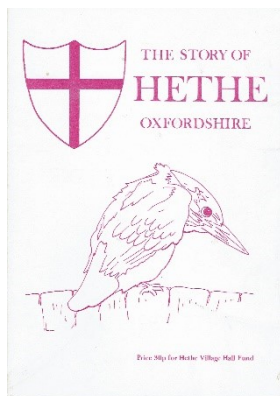
### Adventure Playground

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.

### 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. Thank you.

### Village History



The following is an extract from “The Story of Hethe” by John M Sergeant MA:

“Hethe owes its first beginnings to the lovely little brook, the haunt of moorhens and kingfishers, of otters and yellow irises, which flows through the middle of the parish to join a tributary of the Great Ouse which forms Hethe’s southern boundary, some two hundred yards west of Fringford Bridge. In the Middle Ages it was called Wundedbrook, but is now generally referred to as “Hethe Brook”. The rich alluvial soil along the valley of this brook afforded easy cultivation and invited settlement when the land on the hill top, where most of the village now stands, was still “heath”. In those days it was still virgin forest, used only for timber and pannage (pasture for pigs).

“We know there was considerable settlement in the area during the Bronze Age by the number of round barrows (burial mounds) which can still be traced in the fields by aerial photography. In 1975, which was a particularly good year for aerial photography, a number of new prehistoric sites were found in Hethe. Most notably the remains of a Bronze Age burial mound were located behind Hardwick Road.”

The Story of Hethe was printed 50 years ago. The acknowledgements featured “Mr Trevor Rowley MA, the Archaeologist, of Vine Cottage, Hethe, who directed the historical research; Mrs Linda Rowley who typed the manuscript; the Allen family, the Fathers family and Mansfield family of Hethe who provided many historical photographs and much valuable information; Miss Beryl Gammon and Miss Jacqueline Sergeant who executed the cover design of St George’s shield and the kingfisher on Hethe Bridge”.

As far as I know there are no spare copies of this publication in the village. If there is sufficient interest, we could consider a reprint.

It would be good to involve local families/children making bug hotels, etc. If you would like to be involved in any way (practical, guidance or funding) please let us know.

**Next PCC Meeting**                      **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.30pm.**

## Mixbury All Saints

CHURCHWARDENS: Martin Ayres, Northwell Farm, Finmere  
Alec Howard, Middlestead, Mixbury

TREASURER: David Mitchell. 2 Town Farm, Mixbury

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Sue Goodman pasgoodman551@gmail.com

Tel 07899 792552

Tel 01280 848295

Tel 01280 847769

Tel 01280 848002

### Church Services

The Church remains closed, but see details of services (actual and ‘online’) on the back page of the magazine.

## Pop Up Pub Nights in Mixbury

Pop Up Pub Nights are suspended whilst the coronavirus pandemic is ongoing.

## Mixbury Living Calendar

This year the Mixbury residents have been turning their homes into a Living Advent Calendar throughout the village and 24 households in Mixbury have made an illuminated display in a window, porch or front garden for all to see.

As with an Advent calendar, a new display appeared each evening somewhere in Mixbury from the 1<sup>st</sup> December to Christmas Eve and remained on display and illuminated for the duration of Advent.

## Happy New Year

Wishing you all a very happy, healthy New Year – don't forget to send all your news to the Magazine Correspondent so it can be included each month.

## Newton Purcell

### St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDENS: Ann von Maltzahn, Home Farm Shelswell Park  
Sophie Crofton, South Lodge, Shelswell Park

Tel 01280 848680

Tel 01869 277232

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

**07725009838**

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Ann von Maltzahn

Tel 01280 84868

## The Parish Giving Scheme -

We would like to thank all of you who have already joined our Parish Giving Scheme. For those of you who haven't already done so, it never too late! If you did not receive or might have mislaid the paperwork please contact either of the Churchwardens for details of this vital way of supporting your church.

## Bethlehem to Nazareth Sponsored Walk -

Thank you to all who volunteered to take part in this sponsored walk to raise funds for our Clock and Bells restoration fund and to those who have already sponsored them. Again, it's not too late to do so - just go to - [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/christian-lefevre-2](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/christian-lefevre-2)

We would like to wish all our readers a **Very Happy & hopefully Covid free New Year!**



## Stoke Lyne St Peter's

CHURCHWARDEN: Christopher Poole [CTP@oxford-educational.co.uk](mailto:CTP@oxford-educational.co.uk) Tel 01869 346020  
 Ali Miller [alisonjanemiller@icloud.com](mailto:alisonjanemiller@icloud.com) Tel 07762 719198  
 TREASURER: Janey Poole [janey@oxford-educational.co.uk](mailto:janey@oxford-educational.co.uk) Tel 07810 120457  
 MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Rena Andrews Email: [renacyanlion@btinternet.com](mailto:renacyanlion@btinternet.com)  
 PARISH ROOM BOOKINGS : Kelly and James Holden-White [kholdenwhite@aol.com](mailto:kholdenwhite@aol.com) Tel 01869345211  
 WEBSITE [www.stokelyne.org](http://www.stokelyne.org)

### St Peter's Church Services

By the time you receive the magazine we will have had two services: On Sunday 20th of December a service of Holy Communion at 10.00 and a Christmas Eve Midnight Service at 11.30 with communion.  
 The Church is still open for prayers and reflection on Saturdays and Sundays from 10.00 am till 4.00 pm

When walking round by the Church wall you can see all the daffodil bulbs coming up and soon the snowdrops will be popping up their little heads up

### Welcome

Stoke Lyne villagers would like to welcome two new families to the village,  
 Liam and Bethan have moved into Hillside Cottage at the bottom of the village,  
 Matt and Natasha have moved into number 1 St Peter's Close,

Stoke Lyne is a small and very friendly village, it is unfortunate that during this year's pandemic a lot of the events that usually take place have been cancelled but hopefully 2021 will see events start to take place again.

### Stoke Lyne W.I,

December is a month when we usually have a lot going on but sadly they were all cancelled as well. Our December meeting is always short with little business and the committee make a two course dinner with a selection of drinks chocolates, mince pies crackers etc and at the end each member has a little gift to take away. The committee decided that so that members don't feel forgotten it was decided to still give them a present, Anne Haynes one of our members made lovely little Dorothy bags filled with chocolates for each member, and the committee delivered them.

### 100 Club

Stoke Lyne PCC raises funds every year for the running of St Peter's Church. By joining the 100 Club you can help with this as well as having a chance to win cash prizes every month!

St Peter's 100 Club is run as a club and is open to all residents from the parish of Stoke Lyne and surrounding area, their family and friends. Numbers, which are not transferable, will cost £3.00 a month (£36.00 annually). You must be 16 or over to join.

Each month from the 13th January 2020 there will be a draw for 50% of the income. This amount shall be divided between 3 lucky winners. For example, if we have 100 members the income for that month will be £200 and 50% will be used as the prize fund i.e. £100 split into three prizes

\*The first prize will be £50 (if 100 members)

\*The second prize will be £30 (if 100 members)

\*The third prize will be £20 (if 100 members)

The more people who buy a subscription - the higher the prize money!

You may have more than one number a month.

### Interested?

Look out for more information coming through your letter box Or contact Ali Miller - [alisonjanemiller@icloud.com](mailto:alisonjanemiller@icloud.com) or 01869 346667



## THE STAINED GLASS AND ORGAN IN ST PETER'S CHURCH

In the August 2020 edition of Shelswell News a list of things to look out for in St Peter's Church was published.

The Buckingham Advertiser printed detailed reports on the stained glass and the organ at the time of their donation in 1873, transcriptions of which appear below. "Stratton Audley Hall" was the hunting residence of the late Sir Algernon William Peyton, 4<sup>th</sup> Baronet, who died in 1872. He and Laura had only been married two years when he died.

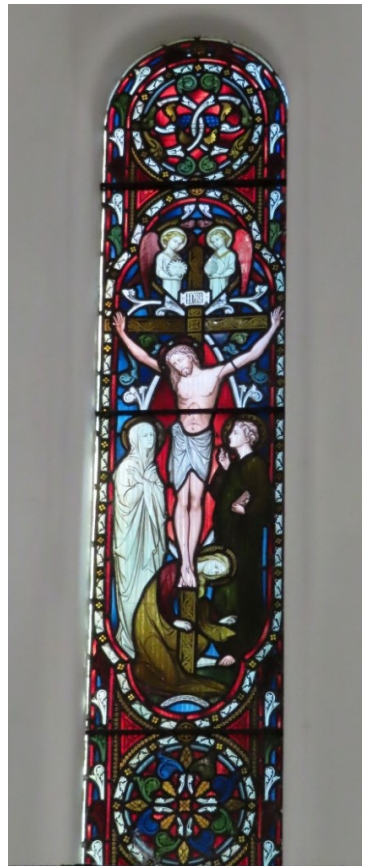
Buckingham Advertiser, 1 March 1873

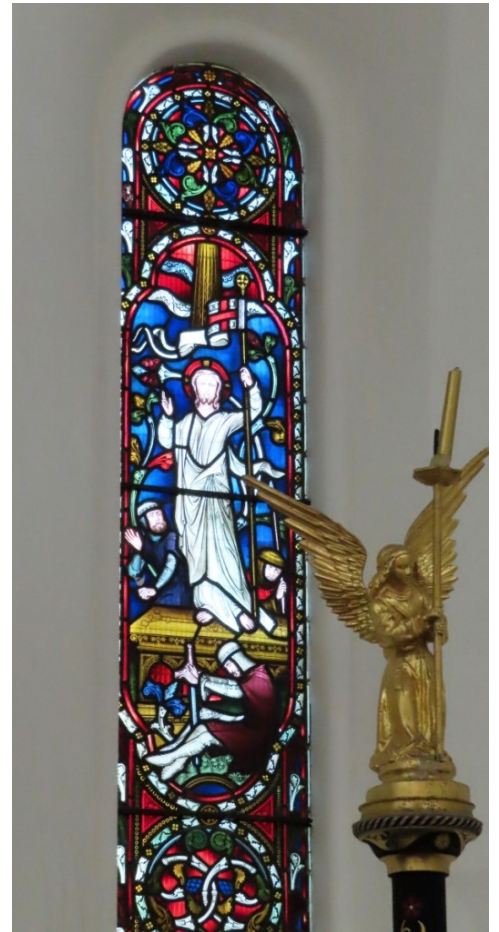
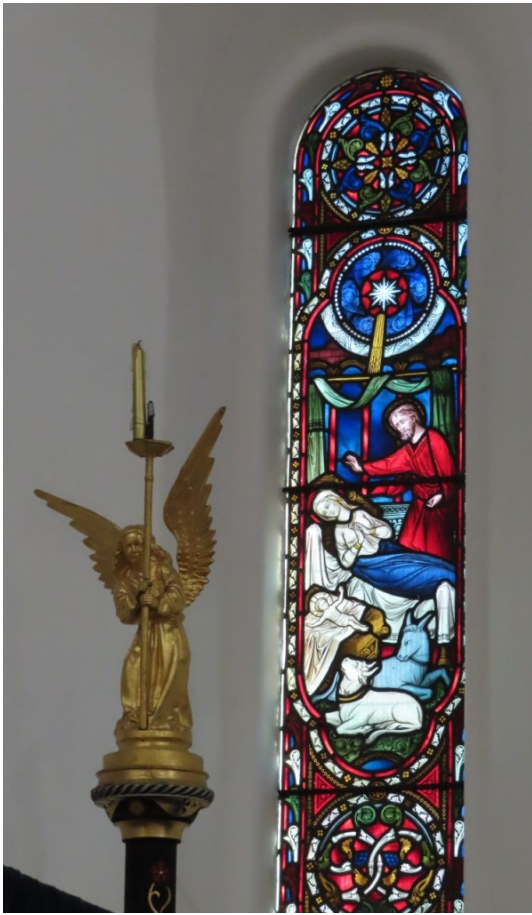
Laura Sarah Lady Peyton, of Stratton Audley, has presented a new organ to the Parish Church, Stoke Lyne. The instrument has twelve stops. The following inscription is on a brass plate: - "Presented by Laura Sarah Lady Peyton. Made by John Rogers, Fringford, 1872." It has two octaves of German pedals, and three composition pedals. The pipes are all in a general swell, except the front and bourdon. The whole inclosed in a handsome gothic oak case.

Buckingham Advertiser, 22 March 1873

**STOKE LYNE. – THE PARISH CHURCH.** – Stained glass windows have been recently erected in Stoke Lyne church. The east window of the chancel is filled with stained glass of a rich and elaborate character, in keeping with the very early date of the architecture of the building, by Messrs. Hardman and Co., of Birmingham. It consists of three lights with a circular wheel above. The lights are occupied with the following subjects: - In the dexter one the Nativity, in the centre the Crucifixion, and the sinister the Resurrection of our Lord. In the small circles forming the centre of the wheel is a bust figure of our Blessed Lord, and in the eight surrounding spaces are represented adoring angels. The south-east window of the chancel, consisting of one lancet headed light, has also been filled in an equally rich manner by the same firm. The subject of it is the Ascension of our Lord. The artist has divided the light into two main divisions or medallions of a form appropriate to the style of the architecture. In the top medallion is a figure of the ascending Saviour with attendant angels, whilst the bottom medallion is occupied by the apostles who are witnessing His ascent. Immediately above this medallion in small spandrels are angels addressing the apostles and asking them, "Why stand ye gazing up to heaven?" The other portions of the window are filled up with elaborate foliage. The east window is a present from Laura Sarah Lady Peyton, of Stratton Audley, who recently presented a new organ to the church. The south-east window is a present from Mr. Godfrey Fitzhugh, a cousin of the late Sir Algernon William Peyton, Bart.

Brenda Hazel







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

CHURCHWARDENS: Jenny List    Email [jennyalto@gmail.com](mailto:jennyalto@gmail.com)  
Vacancy

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

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Vacant

**Services: Please see back page for details**

### Advent Window Trail 2020

Have you seen the windows yet and worked out which Carol theme they each represent?

For those not getting out and about so much on these colder evenings, a photo of each window is being posted on the village Facebook page for all to view. Thank you all for your participation.

### Stratton Audley and Godington PCC – People to help.

If you would like to know more please contact either Alice or Becky.

### Crime at Christmas/New Year

This time of year is a bumper one for criminals so we all need to be extra vigilant. There have recently been a number of breaks-ins in various villages targeting caravans and motor homes, and one where a navy blue and silver horsebox was stolen from a livery stables in Launton Road on 6<sup>th</sup> Dec from behind locked gates. On a more minor level, an attractively decorated door wreath was stolen which was upsetting for the residents new to the village, so the message here is to make sure you secure your decorations as securely as you can.

As previously reported, the local police are increasing their village patrols and already making their presence felt. This is going to be a more regular feature and most welcome.

### Police warn about 'Royal Mail post' and 'DPD delivery' scam

POLICE have warned about another 'Royal Mail' and 'DPD' delivery scam.

Fraudsters are sending emails and texts saying they tried to deliver a parcel, but nobody was home and there wasn't a safe place to leave it.

Under no circumstances should you click on the link.

If you receive an unexpected email check the sender's email address – they can look genuine so look for minor details like an extra letter, number or full stop.

**Forward any emails you're not quite sure about to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service**

(SERS): [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

### Police Contacts

For non-urgent matters phone 101 or visit the website <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/>

The rural policing team can also be contacted via emailing at [bicesterruralnhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:bicesterruralnhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk).

For those wishing to remain anonymous, there is Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111 and also the website <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

**Obviously in the event of an emergency or where you believe a rapid response is necessary, you should phone 999 without hesitation.**

### EWR Local Disruption

Just another reminder that the road that leads to Marsh Gibbon is now closed for road improvements **until 15<sup>th</sup> January** and this includes the Christmas period. However it doesn't stop there, because a few weeks later there is another closure notice for the same road that runs from **11/02/2021 to 08/04/2021** which is for the bridge works.



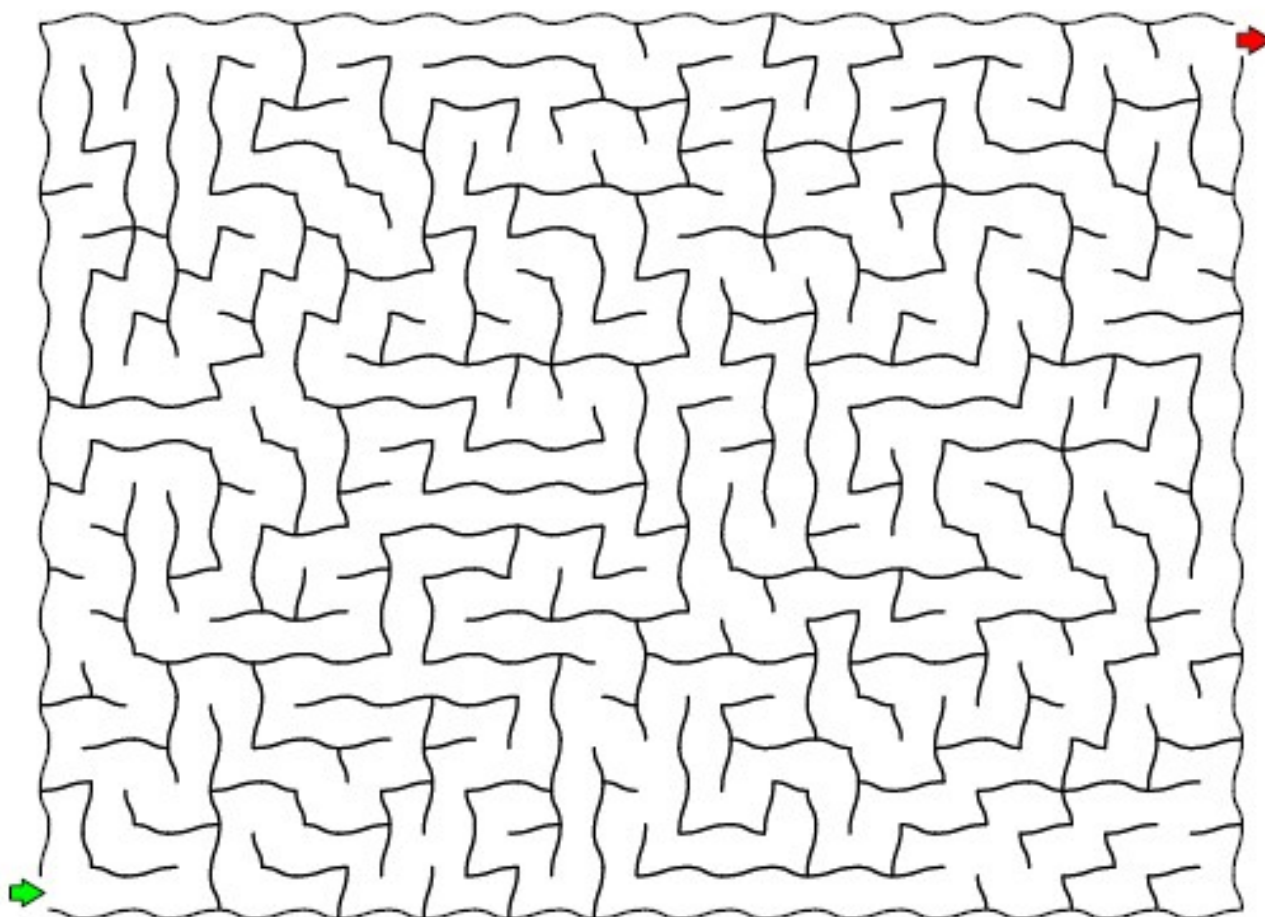
## Village Bus Service

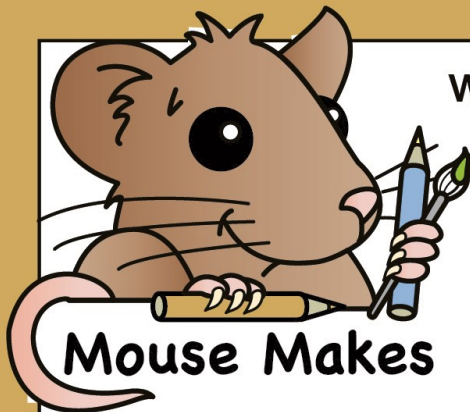
Stagecoach are making changes to the S5 service which runs through Launton and this has a knock-on effect to the once-a-day (weekday) service that runs through Stratton Audley. We may lose this service, although in order to preserve some form of public connectivity, one option under consideration at OCC is to provide a Comet community transport service which is bookable in advance.

Would everyone who uses the bus to travel into Bicester please make themselves known directly to John Honsinger so the requirement can be assessed. We know of a couple of people in Cherry Close who use it and are not on email, but if you know someone else please let us know.



## THE MAZE





**What happened after Jesus had been born in Bethlehem?**

**READ Matthew 2:1-12**

Who came from the East?

Why had they come?

What were they following?

Who was alarmed by their arrival?

Who had the prophet written about?

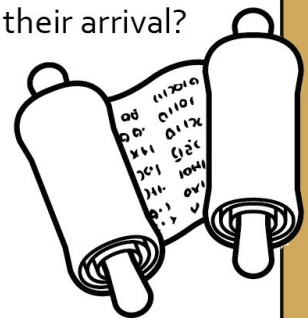
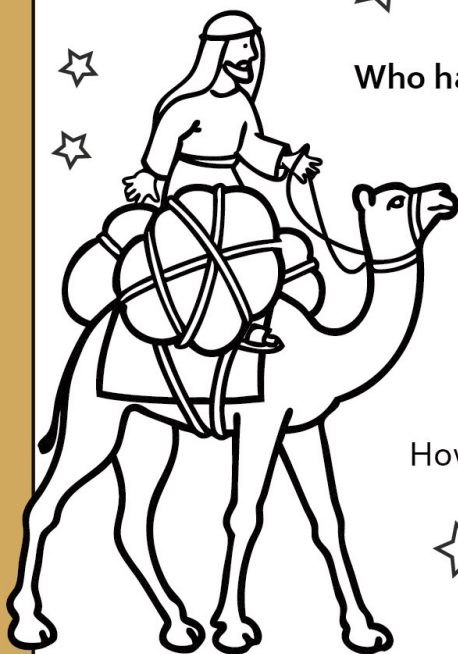
Where were they then sent?

What were they to look for?  
..... and why?

Where did the star lead them?

Who did they see? ..... What did they do?

How were they warned to go home another way?



**READ Matthew 2:13-23**

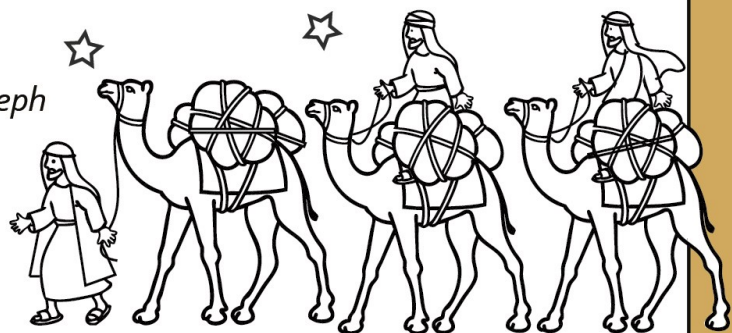
Who appeared to Joseph?

What was he told? .... Why? What did he do?

Who then became angry? .... and why? What horrible thing did he then do?

When Herod died where was Joseph told to take his family?

Where did Jesus finally grow up?



# Rotor Motor

## Lawn Mower Repairs & Servicing

Usual turnaround, within a week.

Collection can be arranged.

Please contact Robby: 07857 554072

robby@robbyprior.co.uk

**To advertise on these pages ring  
Becky Adams  
on 01280 848192  
(Tuesday, Thursday and Friday  
mornings 9am - 1pm)  
or email  
admin@shelswellparishes.info**

### **WWES ltd**

For ALL your Electrical needs

Over 40yrs experience means we can provide you with a service unparalleled locally.  
We can offer the following and more:

- Full Rewires to your property
- 18<sup>th</sup> Edition Mainsboard replacements
- Additional sockets, switches, lights, etc
- Electrical showers/cooker connections. Extractor fans
- Smoke and heat Detectors (hard wired and wireless)
- Garden electrics inc feature lighting, water features, decking lighting and security lighting
- CCTV and security installations.
- Testing and inspection services
- Charging points for your Electric vehicle

**We are NICEIC Domestic Installers**

**Tel: 01869 250135 Mobile: 07736063980**  
**Email: nick@wwesltd.co.uk**  
**www.facebook.com/wwesltd**

## Liz Clarke

### Mobile Hairdressing

Do you want to transform your style with a new hair colour and cut? Maybe you want to arrange haircuts for you and your children in the comfort of your home?

Liz Clarke lives in Stratton Audley, she has over 20 years hairdressing experience and offers flexible, mobile hairdressing services for the whole family.

For an appointment  
or chat about your needs call:

**07545 579037**





## Homeopathy and Homo Kinesiology (Food Allergy Testing)



“The most popular alternative medicine” World Health Organisation 2005

*Complimentary to other traditional medicines and therapies*

~~Homeopathic consultations by Kathryn Walker RsHom, registered practitioner with the British Society of Homeopaths. Please see website for more details.

~~Homo Kinesiology; muscle testing for food and other substance intolerances.

Call 07720 598959 for no obligation preliminary chat.

Email [info@kathrynwalker.org](mailto:info@kathrynwalker.org) <http://kathrynwalker.org>

Offering remote homeopathic consultations

### ‘Shelswell News’ Advertising Rates

If you would be interested in advertising in ‘Shelswell News’ please contact Becky Adams at the Benefice Office (01280 848192) on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday mornings between 9am and 1pm or email Becky on [admin@shelswellparishes.info](mailto:admin@shelswellparishes.info)

The current rates for advertisements are given below:

Size of Ad	Single Insertion	3 Editions	6 Editions	12 Editions
Whole Page	£32	£82	£150	£288
Half Page	£20	£46	£82	£150
¼ Page	£13	£36	£52	£92
⅛ Page	£9	£22	£36	£56

The approximate sizes of the adverts are:

1/8 page - landscape - 3.4" wide x 2.3" high

1/4 page - portrait - 3.4" wide x 4.8" high

1/2 page - landscape - 7" wide x 4.8" high

full page - portrait - 7" wide x 10" high

We do not reserve special positions within the advertising pages, but otherwise try to accommodate the needs of individual advertisers as far as possible.

The circulation of the magazine amounts to approximately 575 copies around the villages within our benefice.

Do be in touch if you think we can be of help to you in promoting your business.

## MIDDLE FARM, MIXBURY SELF-CATERING ACCOMMODATION

Contact Isobel Rymer, tel. 07834042516

[www.featherbedcourt.net](http://www.featherbedcourt.net)



Idyllic, peaceful country setting with plenty to see and do; all three spaces are unique and individual. Each space has a double bed, kitchen, shower room and seating areas inside and out and internet. Be it a business trip or for pleasure, there is plenty of walking and cycling straight from the farm, a perfect place to explore the Cotswolds and North Oxfordshire.

# VICTORIA PRENTIS MP

## MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

### Meet Victoria:

Victoria holds regular surgeries for constituents in supermarkets and her office, and visits pubs across North Oxfordshire as part of her Pub Tour. Please check the website or call Victoria's office for more information about upcoming dates.



### Victoria Online:



@victoriaprentis



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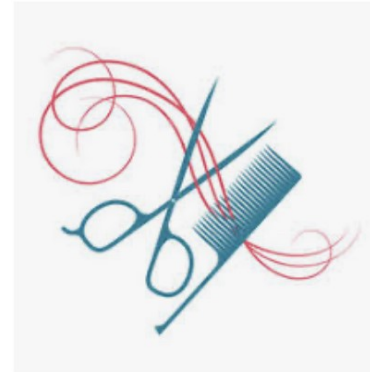
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**‘Live hopefully, love generously and pray earnestly’  
Worship in the Shelswell Benefice**

|                                 |                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January  | 10am Holy Communion (CW) Stratton Audley<br>4pm Evensong (said) with music Hardwick      |
| Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> January | 10am Holy Communion (CW) Stoke Lyne<br>11am Holy Communion (BCP) Cottisford              |
| Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> January | 10am Holy Communion (CW) Fringford<br>3pm ‘Muddy Christingle’ for all ages at Stoke Lyne |
| Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> January | 10am Holy Communion (CW) Finmere<br>6pm Compline Newton Purcell                          |
| Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> January | 10am Holy Communion (CW) Stoke Lyne                                                      |
| Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> February | 10am Holy Communion (CW) Hethe<br>4pm Evensong (said) with music Hardwick                |

### Guidelines – a summary

**We look forward to welcoming you to our services but ask that you follow the guidance given for the safety of yourself and others.**

1. Reserve your seat

Phone 01280 848192 or email [admin@shelswellparishes.info](mailto:admin@shelswellparishes.info)

Your reservation will be confirmed.

2. Wear a mask, unless you fall into one of the categories of people that are exempt.
3. Observe social distancing of 2 metres
4. Use the hand sanitiser when you arrive and before receiving communion
5. Listen to hymns, hum along, but don't sing
6. Follow directions given on about where to sit, receiving communion, and how to leave.

Please note that in the communion, you will receive bread only.

Full guidelines, together with details of how we are gradually reopening our churches for worship can be found on the website: [www.shelswellparishes.info](http://www.shelswellparishes.info)

### Live streamed services

The **Communion Services** at 10am on Sundays will be live streamed onto Facebook (Shelswell News Group) starting just before 10am and then uploaded onto YouTube (Shelswell Parishes). We will be continuing to live stream a **short reflective service** on weekdays (Monday – Thursday) onto Facebook (Shelswell News Group). **During Advent this will be at 5pm rather than midday.**

### Dial in services

Oxford Diocese: Church at home – Sundays at 10 am: For those unable to watch or listen online dial 01865 920930 and, once connected, dial 0 for the full version of the service, or dial 1 a short version of the service. Standard call rates apply. There will be a few seconds of silence before the service starts.



Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. It is a Church of England initiative in partnership with CONNECTIONS at Holy Trinity Claygate, and Faith in Later Life. The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.