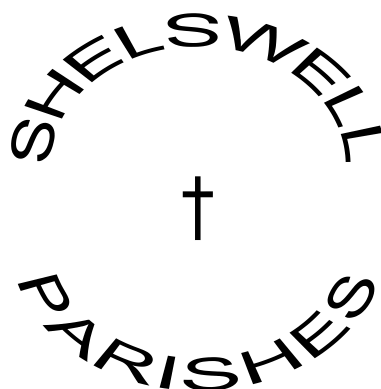


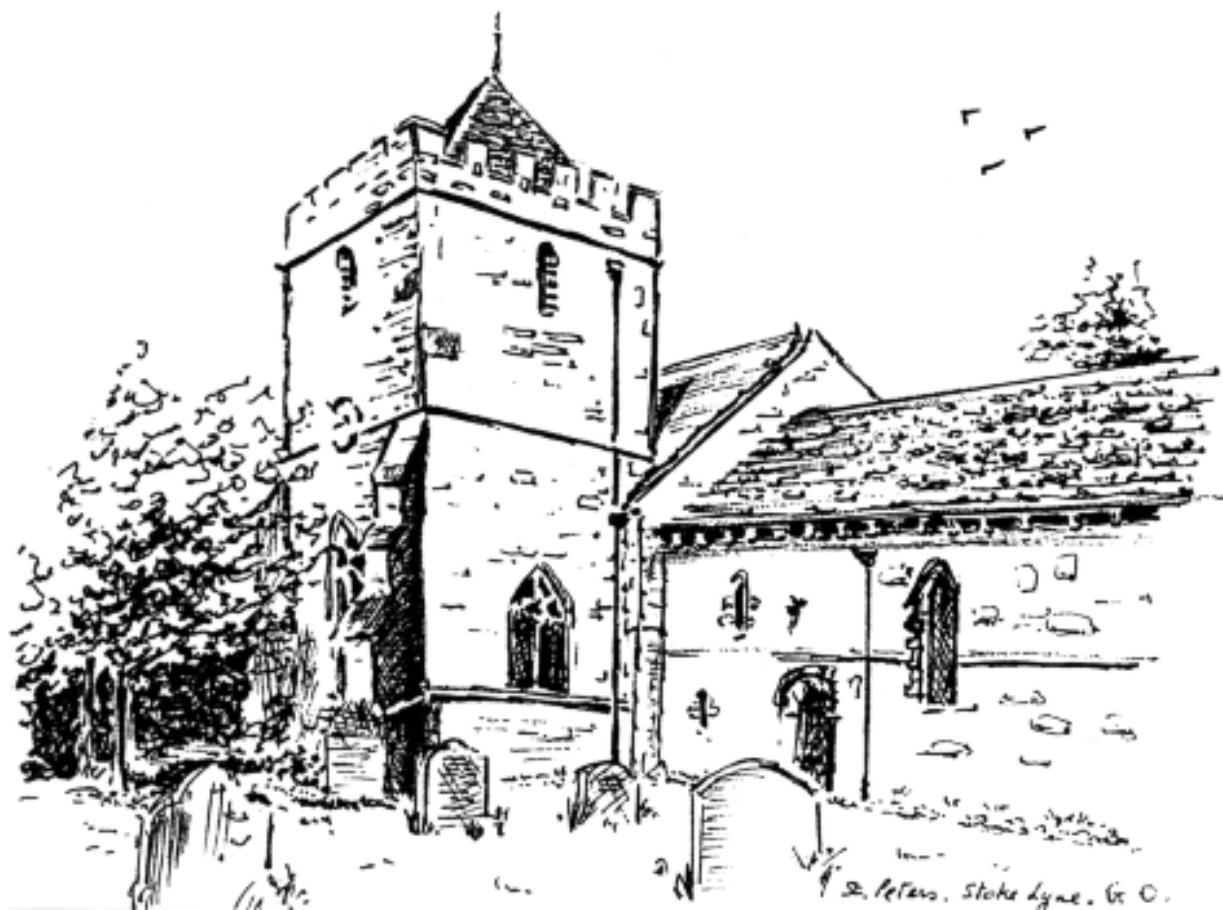
Shelswell News

The magazine of the Shelswell Group of Churches

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June 2021

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SHELLOWELL BENEFICE MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

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Ministers Letter

Will you walk a little faster – or slower...

When I was at school, my English teacher encouraged us to learn one of the speeches from Macbeth: ‘Out, out, brief candle! Life’s but a walking shadow...’. She said there would be times in life when it was useful to be able to declaim it, and indeed I have enjoyed doing so on many an occasion. I have to work really hard to memorise things, but, as well as Macbeth’s speech, I used to be able to recite all eighteen verses of Lewis Carroll’s ‘The Walrus and the Carpenter’. I only ever managed the first four lines of the Mock Turtle’s Song: “Will you walk a little faster?” said a whiting to a snail. “There’s a porpoise close behind us, and he’s treading on my tail.” Oh, and the chorus – Will you, won’t you, will you, won’t you, will you join the dance?”

I have found myself thinking of the Mock Turtle’s Song on several occasions as I have tried to navigate my way down a busy street whilst trying to stay socially distanced from other people. At times it feels very much like a dance. It is funny how we have all learnt a whole new set of social skills during the pandemic – we can veer our way down the pavement, stepping out into the road to allow space for each other. We can queue in a socially distanced way, more or less. We can sound out whether someone is happy to have you in their house or not. And I reckon I can judge a 2 metre gap almost to the centimetre, having had to measure it out so many times to sort out seating in our churches.



As we continue down the Government road map, the situation gets more complicated – partly because several of the ‘rules’ are now guidance rather than being mandatory. When meeting with family and friends, it is now up to us to “make a personal choice on whether to keep your distance from them, but you should still be cautious.” And we can travel to amber listed countries, but are advised that holidays abroad are not for this year. It is much harder to negotiate with others around social situations when the rules are ‘you can, but perhaps you shouldn’t’.

Some verses from the Bible about honouring one another:

Be devoted to one another in love.
Honour one another above yourselves.
(Romans 12:10)

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32)

With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, (Ephesians 4:2)

And it is, of course, further complicated by each of us coming at things from our own particular angle, influenced by factors like whether we have had one or two doses of the vaccine, whether we or our loved ones have particular health needs that make us more vulnerable, whether we are more cautious by nature or just have been yearning for contact with others – that hug, a pint in the pub with friends or a meal out.

The big challenge facing us all is learning how to respect one another’s choices, how to give each other the room that each of us needs, how to allow each other to move at the speed that is right for each of us. Rather than denigrating one another for being too cautious or not cautious enough, we need to learn to honour one another and support each other’s positions. Not a bad lesson for life generally!

Alice Goodall





BIBLE READINGS

Sunday 6 th June	1 st Sunday after Trinity	Genesis 3 v8-15 2 Corinthians 4 v13 – 5 v1 Mark 3 v20-end
Sunday 13 th June	2 nd Sunday after Trinity	Ezekiel 17 v22-end 2 Corinthians 5 v6-10 [11-13] 14-17 Mark 4 v26-34
Sunday 20 th June	3 rd Sunday after Trinity	Job 38 v1-11 2 Corinthians 6 v1-13 Mark 4 v35-end
Sunday 27 th June	4 th Sunday after Trinity	Lamentations 3 v22-33 2 Corinthians 8 v7-end Mark 5 v21- end

Rector's report 2020 (just in case you weren't at one of our APCMs to hear it!)

We started 2020 with great hopes – we'd had a lovely Plough Sunday service at Waterloo farm, with the help of John Alderdice we'd organised a great series of Lent suppers and talks, each church had its own plans for great events across the year, we were looking forward to launching our first Lighthouse children's holiday club in the summer –and then Covid struck.

And instead, we had home working, redundancies and furlough, home schooling, and frequently changing reams of Covid regulations. And closed churches, online services, zoom meetings, zoom quizzes and socials, interspersed with very peculiar services with facemasks and no singing and not being able to do the things we so enjoy like chatting with one another and enjoying a cup of coffee and a slice of cake.

But here we are, over a year later, and I would like to say three particular 'thank you's and a sorry.

Firstly, thank you for continuing to be people of faith, for continuing to trust God and do your best to follow Jesus. It has been a joy to me to see that, through your attendance at services whether online and on site, through prayers you have led, through comments you have made.

Secondly thank you to all of you for being so adaptable. An especial thank you to those who courageously got out your smart phones and contributed readings and intercessions to our online services.

Thirdly, thank you for all the care you have shown to others during the pandemic – to those of you that were on the list of people to contact, those who did shopping, collected prescriptions, rang or appeared on a doorstep to check someone was alright, and so on and so on.

And sorry - sorry to those who we failed to connect well with and support, particularly earlier on in the pandemic when government guidance was that we should stay at home and church guidance was that we shouldn't even post things to folks. I know that particularly for those who were not able to engage with zoom or live streaming you must have felt very cut off and maybe that we didn't care. We did, and were holding you in our prayers, but at that stage were struggling to know how best to connect with you.

Now is a good time to reflect on what we have learnt and how we can continue to benefit from those lessons. Some of the things I have heard people mention are:

1. the benefits of technology – who here had heard of Zoom in January 2020? And yet Zoom, Facetime, Facebook, YouTube, Teams – all these have helped many of us to keep in contact with one another and with family and friends

2. whilst some have worked twice as hard as ever, for many there have been periods of having more time, noticing the changing of the seasons and enjoying the wonders of nature – and seeing how the natural world has thrived with less interference from humankind.
3. realising afresh the importance of family and friends and of contact

For church, what are the lessons we have learnt?

1. Last year after lockdown one we sent out a survey – thanks to those who contributed their thoughts. One of the strong suggestions was that we continue to have fewer services across the benefice and maintain more of a benefice feel. We are aware there is a real tension here, as we enjoy being back in our church buildings and want to restart all the things that were there before. But let's go slowly with that and take time to evaluate.
2. we would like to move towards all of us – including the ministry team - feeling less burdened and burnt out. Our faith should be a source of great joy for us – but church responsibilities can turn it into a great weight and a drain. Again let's take our time in considering what activities to resurrect and what to let go off – we don't often get an opportunity like this!
3. we would like to continue to use technology where this is helpful – we know there are people who have particularly valued the live streamed services, particularly those who because of disability, caring responsibilities or work patterns struggle to get to an onsite service on a Sunday. And many of our meetings have actually worked well via Zoom, and we have been able to stay warm at home during the winter months, avoid travelling in the dark.
4. we need to think about how we rebuild our church communities. What would help you to continue to support one another in the task of being Christ's presence in the world? Even if there is not a service run by the ministry team on a Sunday, do you want to meet together anyway? What about groups where you can study together, pray together, support one another? And how can we help those who have not been in church for over a year now venture in once again?
5. most importantly, we need to think about how the church building and community can continue to be a blessing to the wider community – just for the sake of communicating God's love, rather than to get money in or bottoms on seats. 'Things like 'Advent Windows' and flowers delivered to households on Mothering Sunday have been hugely appreciated. What else can we do that acts out God's love for each person in our villages?

We are not back to normal, whatever that might be, yet. We don't know whether there will be further lockdowns, though we hope not. We don't know when we might be able to meet in church without masks and sing. But amidst the ongoing uncertainty, there is much to think about. Please do get in contact with your thoughts.

Alice Goodall



I've got a good idea...

For Christians, their relationship with God is an important and precious thing. Discovering that they are loved by God can be liberating and empowering. It is something that they want others to know about and to be able to share in. We tend to think that people will go to a church to discover God. But the reality is that it is often not church services but the experience of getting to know people of faith that causes others to wonder if there is something in Christianity after all. Not in church but in the places that we spend the rest of our time. Not doing specifically 'holy' things but doing whatever we do, enjoying whatever we enjoy. Not with the clergy, but with people like you!

Do you have a good idea? Something that might:

start to build a community?

be a way of blessing those around you?

be fun?

be a spiritual space that people could engage with?

be a space where people could discover more about the Christian faith?

Here are some ideas that others have had:

- someone spent a lot of time in their favourite café so they decided to be there every Thursday at 3 pm to pray for and connect with people in that space
- someone used to be a tattoo artist. They decided to talk to the owner of a tattoo parlour and see if she and a friend could meet there and host spiritual conversations for anyone who was interested.
- someone liked to run with friends. They decided to make a Facebook page and invite others to join them.
- someone decided to ask one or two people to help her make a list of folk to invite to their first prayer walk for racial peace

Or maybe you can think of how to add an extra dimension to something you are already involved in. At the end of a coffee morning you might put some lighted candles on a table and invite anyone who wanted to stay behind for 15 minutes to listen to some spiritual music, hear a short passage from scripture, reflect silently and listen to some prayers. You create a time for spiritual reflection.

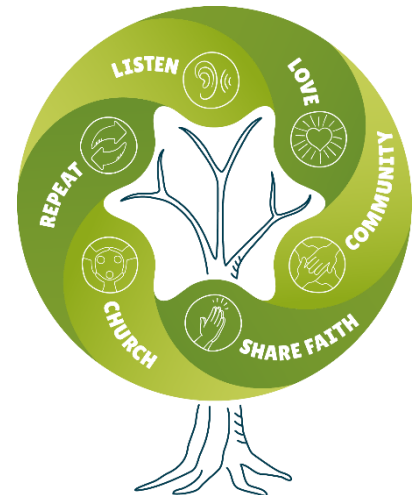
If you have a germ of an idea, or even a fairly robust seedling that you have been growing, maybe the **Greenhouse Project** could help you grow it further.

Greenhouse is a Church of England initiative designed to connect teams of people – mostly non-clergy - with others who are also finding new ways to share the Good News with their community and grow a fresh expression of church that enables them to grow in their faith. It offers support and resources, a six monthly gathering to exchange ideas and encourage one another, and even Zoom based coaching.

If you have an idea, then talk to me about whether Greenhouse may be helpful to you.

Alice

01280 848192 / rector@shelswellparishes.com



REGISTRY

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

Obituaries

Barbara Anne Taylor 19th September 1947 - 25th April 2021

Barbara was born in London, the second daughter of Jack and Marjorie Clarke. Growing up in Hillingdon in Middlesex, she had a happy post-war childhood. Her sister Jean was a lot older than she was, and married to a senior record label executive, and as a teenager, Barbara would often tag along with her on nights out. She got to see some amazing bands in their infancy, The Beatles for instance, playing live in small and often intimate venues. Her greatest claim to fame was being invited to the birthday party of Sir Cliff Richard. She was given a slice of Cliff's birthday cake to take home, which she saved, neatly wrapped up in a napkin and safely stowed under her pillow until it was well past its best.

In 1972, Jean took Barbara to a wine festival in Germany, where she met John. Barbara was unhappily married at the time, so when handsome, sophisticated and smooth-talking John made a move, Barbara didn't reject his advances. After a secret, long-distance courtship they married in January 1976. Barbara and John were married for almost 45 years.

Their daughter Suzy was born in March 1979 and was promptly named after Barbara's favourite Leonard Cohen song. Parenthood could have seen Barbara and John hibernate away like many young families do. But no! Suzy became the ultimate good times accessory. Another excuse to party! In June 1981, Peter was born - and Suzy starting plotting ways in which she could push him off a canal boat and into the canal. She only had to wait two or three years to achieve her ambition.

Suzy and Peter reflect that they had very happy childhoods filled with fun, laughter and adventure, and that they grew up in the most wonderful family home. Barbara and John worked tirelessly to give them the best opportunities in life. John's career in IT saw him away from his family for weeks at a time. During these times Barbara would pick up the slack at home, ensuring the children were happy, loved, well-fed, well-rested, educated, enriched, active and popular. She was their taxi, chef, nurse, maid, and confidant. And she did all of this whilst working full-time. Barbara was the true unsung hero of the family.

Barbara had an impressive career. After leaving home, she took up a position as Nurse in Newcastle General. She really enjoyed nursing and didn't seem at all put off by the flow of casualties following serious motorbike accidents on the motorway nearby. However her friend Nancy fancied a new challenge – midwifery. She completed two sets of application forms – one for each of them – and forced Barbara into signing. Fortuitously, Barbara loved being a Midwife and said it was by far her most rewarding job.

After Midwifery, Barbara became a District Nurse. She would often forget to lock her bike up, and working worked in a deprived area would often return to find that it had been stolen. One day, the Police received a tip off and on forcing open an old storage container found no less than SIX of Barbara's bikes inside. When the children were very young, Barbara stepped back from full-time work and became a Health Visitor. But a few years later, she returned to full-time work, becoming a lecturer in a Further Education college. She quickly climbed the ranks, eventually becoming Head of Faculty at Berkshire College of Agriculture

Even after retiring, Barbara couldn't just sit around at home all day, so she joined the Board of Governors at Finmere Primary School, and quickly became Chair of Governors. She also worked as a volunteer with Relate, and she and John took on fund raising to support Helen and Douglas House. And as for the dinner parties ... these were legendary and Barbara and John were known as excellent and generous hosts.

12th November saw us gathered at Banbury Crematorium for John's funeral, and it was with great sadness that just six months later we were back there for Barbara's. Thankfully on this occasion, Suzy was able to return from New Zealand and got to spend some time with her mother before she died and could be present at the funeral.

Barbara loved life. She was a great wife, a great friend, a great colleague, a great neighbour, and will be hugely missed. Our thoughts are with Peter and Suzy and all her friends and family at this time.

Gone, But Not Forgotten

Don't think of her as gone away
Her journey's just begun,
Life holds so many facets
This earth is only one.

Just think of her as resting
From the sorrows and the tears,
In a place of warmth and comfort
Where there are no days and years.

Think how she must be wishing
That we could know today
How nothing but our sadness
Can really pass away.

And think of her as living
In the hearts of those she touched.
For nothing loved is ever lost
And she was loved so much.

Sylvia Jackson 3rd October 1923 – 15th April 2021

Sylvia was born in Kenilworth, Warwickshire to William Kerr, an Ulsterman, and Hetty May, daughter of Francis Hanson who was a Coventry merchant of Danish decent. She had two older sisters, Shelagh and Greta, and an older brother Geoffrey.

Her father had served in the army throughout the First World War and shortly after Sylvia was born he secured a job in Rawalpindi, North India. Sylvia recalled riding ponies with her sister Shelah on the 'Pindi maidan. The children returned to England with their mother for school. Sylvia followed her sisters to Kings High School for Girls, Warwick and used to cycle to school from Kenilworth.

The headmistress was the noted educationalist and author Miss VEL Doorly. Sylvia was presented with one of her books, which the family still have, by Anthony Eden as a prize for good work. She played cricket, hockey and tennis for the school and was selected for the Warwickshire County Swimming Team. Much to her father's disappointment, she refused to hunt, although she did enjoy long cross country rides.

War had broken out when Sylvia left school and she volunteered to join the Wrens. After initial training on the Firth of Clyde, she was posted to Northern Ireland where she perfected her skills in monitoring and recording ship to shore wireless messages. She then volunteered for overseas service and was posted to South Africa where she served at a wireless station near the Simonstown Naval Base. After the grimness of the blitz and wartime rationing she enjoyed the weather, the tennis and the swimming at the Cape.

On leaving the Navy with the rank of Leading Wren, Sylvia went to Art School in Leamington Spa. From there, she shared a flat in London with two girls from Kenilworth and worked as a dressmaker for a leading fashion house. After several years, she accepted an invitation from her father to join him and her sister Shelagh in Madras, now Chennai. After commanding a remount depot during the war, William Kerr had reinvented himself as a successful racehorse trainer. Sylvia enjoyed the social life and played competitive tennis so well that she was Ladies Tennis Champion of South India. But this life was not to last long. She met Louis when she was at a function with her sister. As he made his appearance, Shelagh turned to her and said 'That is a gorgeous beast'. With such an introduction, the romance prospered and very soon they were engaged.

They married on 3rd March 1951 in Madras. Soon after the wedding Sylvia had to return to England to nurse her mother who was very ill. Hetty died shortly after Sylvia's first child Sarah was born in March 1952. Sylvia and Sarah re-joined Louis in Cawnpore, where he was managing the Gillanders Arbuthnot business there. Charles and Andrew were born in July 1953 and November 1955 respectively. While in Cawnpore, Sylvia became the Ladies Tennis Champion of Uttar Pradesh. This was no mean feat as with over 200 million inhabitants in 2011, Uttar Pradesh is the most populous state in India.

After a short stage in Delhi, the family moved to a house between the cantonment and the canal in Lahore. With a husband and three small children, Sylvia had less time for sport, but still managed to find the time to play some very competitive golf. After several years in Lahore, Louis was appointed joint managing director of Gillanders, based in Calcutta. By now, the children were at school in the UK, so Sylvia had more time to devote to sport and charitable work. She won several golf prizes at the Tollygunge and Calcutta Golf Clubs and was active in fundraising for the Kalimpong Homes and the Mother Teresa charity.

In 1970, Sylvia and Louis returned to Scotland, where Louis successfully reinvented himself a Lecturer in the Economics Department of the Aberdeen College of Commerce. They lived happily there for 18 years. Sylvia still got plenty of exercise from tending her garden and walking on Deeside. She became famous in the family for the speed with which she advanced, particularly uphill. She also listened to a lot of classical music and took up art again. While her main medium was watercolour, she also experimented with other forms including modelling in clay.

In 1988 on his retirement, Sylvia and Louis moved to Fairwarp in Sussex where they enjoyed both village life and walking in the Ashdown Forest and on the South Downs. They visited Scotland every year, staying at Douneside, the house on Deeside owned by the MacRobert Trust, from which they would sally forth to see friends and relations. In 2007, with their health declining, Louis and Sylvia took up an invitation to live at Cottisford House, in the cottage at the end of the drive. Charles and Frances enjoyed having them so close and seeing them nearly every day. When Sylvia was widowed in 2009, she moved to the old groom's cottage in the stable block. She helped in the garden and walked every day, although not quite as rapidly as before. She also enjoyed hearing the afternoon bugle calls from the base in Croughton, as they reminded her of the bugle calls she heard in the past from the cantonments at Rawalpindi and Lahore.

Seven years ago, declining health and increasing memory loss prompted her to move from Cottisford into care homes, first at Bloxham and then at Chacombe, where she passed away. Throughout her long life she was always kind and helpful, generous with the time and constantly putting others before herself. She was modest about her athletic and artistic talents. Hers was a life well lived.

Sylvia's funeral took place on Monday 10th May in Cottisford Church, where she was laid to rest with Louis in the churchyard. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this time.

Reuben Cooper 4th March 1929 - 23rd April 2021

Reuben was born in Bardney, Lincolnshire. His family moved to South Creak, Norfolk, where he went to school. On leaving school he joined the Norfolk Regiment and was sent to Malaya. In Malaya Reuben got fed up with being lost and found someone to teach him map reading. He became a very successful leading scout. He was also very good runner, representing his unit and winning medals. But he was not so good at taking orders! On one occasion he found himself at the top of the flag pole. He said it would have been better for him if he'd come down straight away. His punishment was to lose 2 weeks' pay. However his friends had a collection for him and he didn't lose any money at all. He was a brave and fearless soldier.

Before he went, he met 14 year old Wendy and asked her to write to him. They were married in 1955 and settled in Foulden, Norfolk, where he became gamekeeper to Lord Amherst of Hackney. They had two children: Rosina and Rod.

Reuben had great success with training gun dogs, especially Trigger. He took him on a shoot and the next morning, when he went to feed his dogs Trigger was missing. Reuben realised he hadn't brought him home. He raced back to where he'd left him and the dog was still there, with frost on his fur. The most obedient dog!

The family moved to Tusmore Park in 1970 where Reuben took up the position of Head Gamekeeper for Mr Collins.

The family can tell all sorts of stories about Reuben. Like the time that he was putting up a release pen with Rod. It was a very hot and sunny day. Reuben took off his shirt and had a string vest underneath. When he eventually took off his vest he had an interesting pattern on his chest! Or the occasion when he had fallen asleep in his armchair by the fire. Rod came in and saw smoke coming from behind his father's head. He shouted and Reuben shot out of the chair. A spark from the fire had landed on the back of the chair and was smouldering. It had burnt quite a large hole. Or the time Reuben and Rod took the ferret to catch rabbits. Reuben had bought a new collar and tracker to find the ferret underground. Each time it beeped Rod had dug a hole in order to retrieve the ferret. Many beeps and holes a later Reuben realised it was the overhead cables were interfering with the tracker. No one can remember whether they found the ferret or a rabbit!

Reuben was a great dad. One really cold winter the lake at Tusmore had frozen over. Reuben thought it would be a good idea for them all to walk across it. Rosina wasn't quite so sure but he persuaded her and they were absolutely fine. Rosina also remembers how she once got stuck up a tree. Someone had called her dad who came and said 'How did you get up there?' She told him. 'Then do the same backwards' he advised, which worked. He was always ready to go and collect Rosina from a disco if she didn't have a lift home, never complaining when the phone went and he had to get out of bed.

Reuben loved being a grandad to Emma and Sarah, Daniel, Matthew, William and Callum, and great grandad to. Emma called him Den den, as did every child who came after, and he loved it. He loved playing with the children - only Reuben would hitch a sledge to the Land Rover and tow his grandchildren around the park in the snow.

Tusmore Park was sold to Mr Said and Reuben continued in the job he loved until he retired. He loved to go for a walk and bump into people for a chat. He had time for everyone but most important to him was his family. He loved nothing more than spending time with them. He never wanted presents – he always said he had everything he needed in his family.

I'm sitting here, shedding a tear,
Wishing somehow that you were near.
I close my eyes and think of you
And for just a moment, you slip in to view.
Now you're not here for me to touch,
My memories are precious and mean so much.
I have no doubt that you are safe
For you have moved to a brighter place.
You will have been welcomed with open arms
Into a place so loving and calm.
There is even a seat reserved with you in mind
A reward for the love you gave and the life you
left behind.
I know that someday I'll see you again,
I'll think of you often and love you 'til then.

On the day of his funeral, Thursday 13th May, 57 people lined the drive at Tusmore to pay their respects, including lots of the old beaters and their dogs. And at the gate to Tusmore Park, a gun salute was fired over the hearse. And other people stood outside Hardwick Church. The service included three hymns: 'All things bright and beautiful' and 'The old rugged cross' which we listened to. There were readings of Ecclesiastes 3: 1 – 8 (For everything there is a season...) and the 23rd psalm, and Reuben's daughter in law read a poem 'I'm sitting here,

shedding a tear'. Reuben was laid to rest in the churchyard, next to his old neighbour Ray Davis and close to other old colleagues from Tusmore.

A devoted husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather, he will be very much missed, and we hold his family in our prayers at this time.

Mafalda Medori 21st September 1933 - 4th April 2021

Mafalda was born in San Donato in Italy to a large family (5 sisters and 3 brothers) in 1933. She had a hard childhood in wartime Italy. Following the war, with limited work available, Mafalda was the first of her family to emigrate to London in search of employment. She was just a teenager at the time, and arrived in the UK without a single penny to her name and only speaking Italian! She told her sons of having to work double and triple shifts in hospitals and factories, saving every penny she could to send back to her parents in Italy to help them survive and thrive as a family. In the end she succeeded in buying her parents' house so they could live rent free. She was a strong willed, fearless and determined woman!

She met Ernesto, her husband to be, at a party organised by her late sister Antonietta in Banbury. Sometime later they fell in love and married. At that point 'Nesto was a farmer and Mafalda a hairdresser, setting up a salon and business in Buckingham where she worked until this year.

Ernesto and Mafalda had two boys: Lido and David. The boys grew up in the small village of Whaddon. Although very busy running her salon she surrounded the boys with love and endless support. At times this was challenging work! David relates how he used to run riot late at night with his friends and she would literally trawl the streets to get him back home safe and sound. At one time he created additional stress for her by making his own farm of rotten eggs to throw at cars but breaking half in the house stinking the whole place out for days!

The family moved from Whaddon to Juniper Hill when 'Nesto retired. Mum continued to support and encourage her sons, enabling them to believe in themselves. David ended up going to university, Mafalda helping finance his studies. He would regularly come back home every couple of weeks for 3 reasons: to see his mum and dad, to eat the best food, and take a huge food parcels back with him. The family home was often full of friends from close and far away. Mafalda was the most accommodating, warm, friendly and loving person and her cooking became part of the ritual and local legend for anyone who knew her. Lido followed in his mother's footsteps and joined her in working in the salon; they worked together for over 40 years.

Over more recent years Mafalda would travel with David and Lido and their families to Italy every year. She loved to go back on every single occasion to both San Donato and Civitanova (Nesto's family). This was an annual highlight. She even went skiing with David, Lido and the family although they didn't let her ski as that could have been problematic!

'Nesto died about 4 years ago, which left a gaping loss for Mafalda. She would talk about him fondly, reciting more stories than you can imagine and missed him dearly. For the last few years, she tended to stay with David and the family over the winters. She loved that and especially being able to spend quality time with her granddaughters Natalia and Annabella. Lido would pick her up every day to go back to her house to Juniper or to the salon for work. She spent lockdown with Lido.

In February, Mafalda was taken into hospital following a collapse where it was found she had advanced cancer. Thankfully she was able to return to David's home for the last two weeks of her life. She passed away with her family around her on 4th April.

The funeral was held on Thursday 29th April at Cottisford Church, and although numbers were limited her immediate family were able to be present. The service started rather fittingly with Pavorotti singing 'Nessum Dorma'. Her grandson Luca read psalm 121, and her granddaughter Natalia read the poem 'The day God took you home'. Both David and Lido gave moving tributes to their mum. We listened to two hymns: 'The Lord's my shepherd', 'Abide with me' and 'Amazing Grace'. Mafalda was laid to rest in the churchyard with Nesto. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep your going out and your
coming in
from this time on and forevermore.



Toddler Group

We're back!!!

From 9th June

Stratton Audley Church

Wednesdays 10am - 11am (Term Time)

Max 15 people & booking is a must*

Bring your own tea or coffee.

Sanitised toys and social spacing.

Come & join us! Stories, music & toys

*Email jeniddoncfw@gmail.com or admin@shelswellparishes.info



Children and Families

Hello all, Jen here, I hope that you have all been embracing the changing weather and watching the new life from spring! How wonderful it was to have such lovely weather in April, then the much needed rain in May, and plants coming to life all around us, bringing positivity again.

We are still emerging from lockdown and beginning to get into routines again, so this is a challenge for us in a good and more positive way. I hope that we have all been thinking about the “new normal” things in our lives once again and how our children and families are coping with this. My own boys have been enjoying seeing friends and family, although we’re still being cautious as well as the pandemic is still around us. We have been enjoying being outside with our dear friends and families, and BBQs have been a main stay each week as well, which is wonderful. The lighter evenings have been a blessing and we’re all loving the summer arriving too. Wellies and Wiggles has now ended with the restarting of Little Lambs as well. Come and join us each week during term time Wednesday morning at 10am in Stratton Audley Church.

Growing with God has been being filmed and I hope that Incey has finally finished knitting her stripey tights! It’s been a very exciting time planning and sowing and watching things begin to grow, so I hope you’ll join us for that as it goes out on YouTube and Facebook. If you’ve not seen it yet, please do come and find us on either, Growing With God on YouTube or Facebook, and download and watch the fun!

So join me in our Prayer Corner in The Potting Shed for some fun prayers and thoughts. Lets Grow Together. MUDDY CHURCH has been fantastic and with the easing for lockdown rules it has been wonderful to be with you all again. Preparing for Junes Good Shepherd theme is very exciting and I hope you will come along to Stoke Lyne on **Sunday 20th June at 3pm for some more fun as well. We look forward to welcoming you all to the fun!**

I look forward to seeing more of you as we move forwards into summer and families’ and children’s fun times! God bless you all, Jen X

Join me in our short prayer once again that we could say with our children;

Once upon a time...

Lord Jesus, you are always ready to share your story with us.

As we go out into the week ahead, may we all have ears to hear so that we might grow.

Amen.



Muddy Church
Wondering while Wandering

Sunday 20 June 2021
3pm

Stoke Lyne Churchyard

The Good Shepherd

Find our lost sheep

Sheep related Crafts

Fun for All Ages

June Word Search:

S	S	S	E	I	L	I	M	A	F
P	L	H	N	S	E	A	W	W	L
G	O	T	U	F	E	T	W	F	O
O	O	I	S	U	M	M	E	R	V
D	P	A	S	U	N	H	A	T	E
D	D	F	U	N	O	O	J	A	C
L	M	A	E	R	C	E	C	I	T
O	V	E	F	L	O	W	E	R	S

SUMMER
FLOWERS
FAITH

FUN
SUNHAT
LOVE

SUN
ICECREAM
FAMILIES

GOD
POOL
SEA



Holiday Club for 5-11's

Monday July 26th to Friday July 30th
10.00 a.m. - 3.30 p.m.

Finnmere CE Primary School, Mere Road, Finnmere, MK18 4AR

A Christian based holiday club

welcoming children of all faiths and none.

Sport

Craft

Performing arts

music

**For more information and to book a place for your child,
 or to volunteer go to <https://lighthousecentral.org>**

Q Find my Lighthouse - Shelswell

Recommended donation of £10 per day, bursaries available.

Finnmere Church of England School

Lots of learning

We continue to enjoy being back together at school and have engaged in some imaginative learning for our whole school topic this term, Tales of the Riverbank.

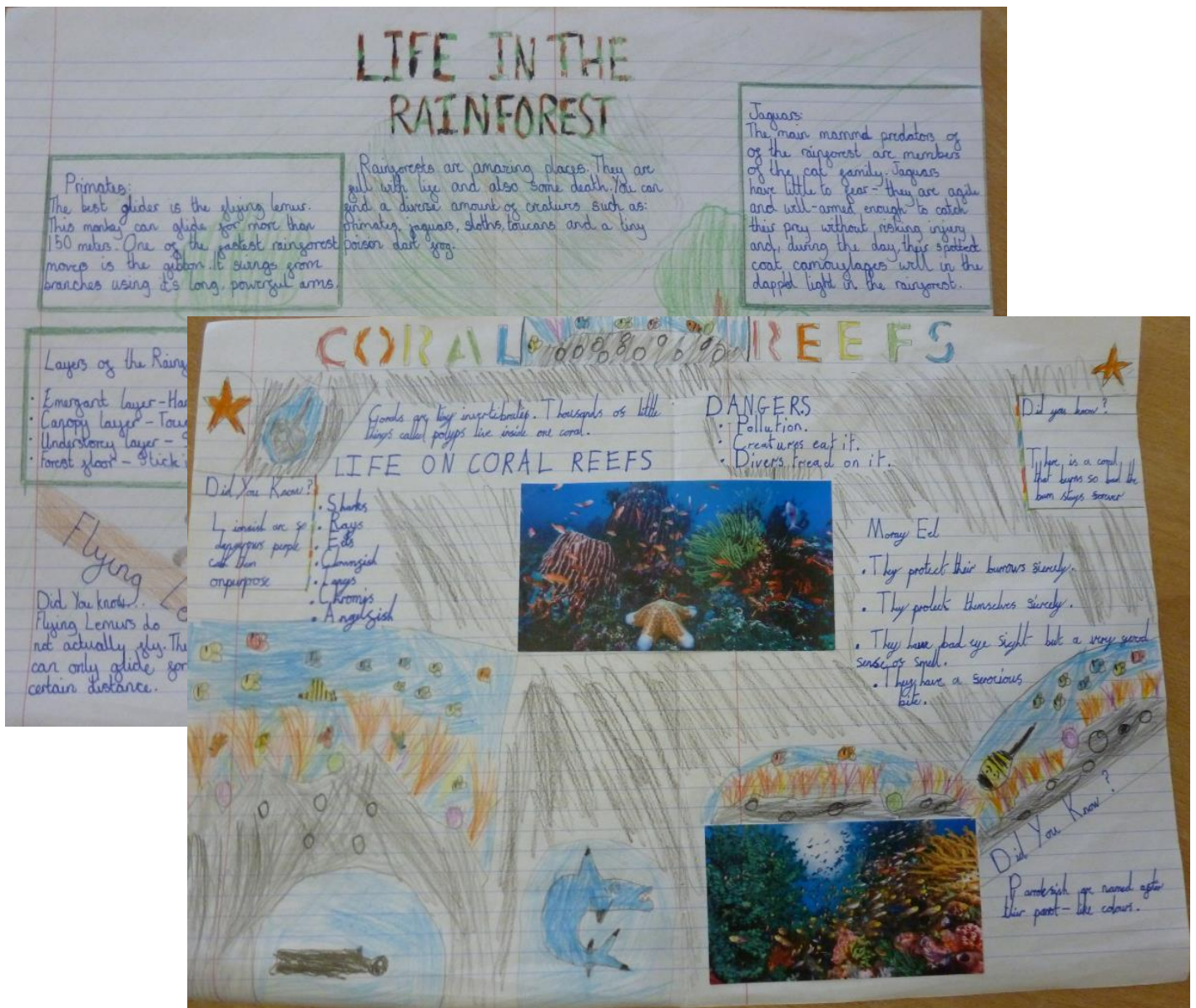
Foundation Stage children have attended a Ten Town banquet in the role play area to practice number formation, sorting skills and 3d shape recognition.



Maple class have been learning about time and clocks during their maths lessons.



Redwood class have produced some fantastic double-page projects on a variety of subjects.





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



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 11th May we held another Zoom meeting. Our speaker was Camilla Phelps. She trained as a garden designer and has worked for the last 20 years in London mainly, where she had plenty experience of small gardens. She is also a writer, contributing to a number of magazines and books on horticulture, gardens, and growing food.

Camilla gave a lovely, illustrated talk on 'Making the most of small gardens'. She referred to the beautiful garden of Sissinghurst which is a large plot comprising many smaller 'garden rooms'. She gave us tips about gardening in small spaces including using the art of illusion with mirrors and using brightly painted walls as a backdrop. She recommended using every inch of space, putting pots on steps and lots of climbing plants on fences. She also suggested that being bold and using large plants in small spaces can trick the eye making the garden look lush and green and always make room for trees. Miniature gardens such as a collection of Alpines or Succulents on a small table also enhance the space.

For our next Zoom meeting on **June 8th at 7.30** we will welcome **Mandy Bradshaw** who is a garden writer. She lives and writes in the Cotswolds. She will be giving her illustrated talk; **Beyond the Garden Gate** - her guide to some of the best Cotswold gardens; a look at around a dozen gardens and the stories behind their creation which hopefully will give us plenty of ideas of places to visit this summer.

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 Club committee have arranged for our club to visit **The Old Rectory**, Albury, near Thame, OX9 2LP. We had planned to visit last year but had to cancel due to lockdown. The owner, Mrs Moo Nowell-Smith, has agreed to open her wonderful garden on the evening of **Tuesday 15th June at 7pm** for the Shelswell Garden Club. The garden is a lovely mix of borders, open spaces, shrubs and trees and a lake to walk round. It has a productive area and Moo's son-in-law is a sculpture and there are some of his amazing structures around the garden.

There will be refreshments available, cake, tea or coffee or homemade apple juice or elderflower cordial. The cost of the visit is £5 for members and £10 for visitors attending with members. The price includes refreshments. Corrine will send details of how to get to the garden nearer the time but we would encourage car sharing as the lane to the property is narrow and there is not a huge amount of space to park. Please let Corrine know if you plan to go as we need to inform the owner of numbers for refreshments.

The committee accepts that some people may not be happy to visit gardens yet and that is up to each member to decide. But for those who want to start visiting again, this should be an ideal time and garden to start with. If you have any questions, just ask. There will still be a speaker on the usual club night as above. This visit is in addition to the talk.



SHELLOWELL WI

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



May's meeting was at the new time of 7.30pm, 'Mother's Ruin – The Story of Gin', by Mildred Freeman, The Lady Historian. Mildred sat in her parlour, all dressed up, and entertained us with tales of the history of gin and how it was given to sailors to help with malaria and vitamin deficiency! Once more we were delighted to welcome via Zoom the WI's of Duns Tew, Weston on the Green and Wendlebury, as well as our own members. We are thrilled to have 28 members re-join after such a difficult year, the past and present Committee thank them for such loyalty, support and kindness.

Each month a Shelswell WI walk takes place. The May walk took in the Bure Park Nature , before walking around Elmsbrook 'The Eco Town' with its interesting homes and wild life areas. Members have also been meeting up for a coffee and chat weather permitting.

On Thursday June 3rd at 7.30pm, we will be meeting on Fringford Village Green. Our speaker will be Fraser Liversage, who will tell us about the medical detection dogs who are helping the NHS save lives and how the dogs support people with life threatening health conditions on a daily basis. Afterwards, there will be time to catch up and have a chat as this will be our first face to face meeting. This is what we do best, being together in person; a quote from the past OFWI Chair, Catherine Blaxhall.

Linda Mustill has been a Shelswell member for many years, is a past President and has held other roles. She has retired recently from her post as Oxfordshire Federation Secretary and we know she will be missed in 'The Office'. Linda has been so loyal and knowledgeable and during this last challenging year has been a rock to the federation, as well as Shelswell. We are proud to have Linda as a Shelswell member and wish her a happy retirement. Come August, Linda will be taking the members on a walk around Fringford sharing The Flora Thompson Story.

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

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

SHELLOW POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP

After enjoying outdoor meetings discussing poems focussing on the months of April and May (see April and May editions of Shellsell News) we decided, for our June meeting, to have a break from seasonality and look at some poems which are about poetry itself.

Two extracts from Alexander Pope's *Essay on Criticism* initiated our session, followed by *Ars Poetica* by Archibald MacLeish; *Poetry* by Pablo Neruda; Shakespeare's *Sonnet 130*; *Introduction to Poetry* by Billy Collins; *The Thought Fox* by Ted Hughes; *Digging* by Seamus Heaney; *Miracle on St. David's Day* by Gillian Clarke; *In my Craft or Sullen Art* by Dylan Thomas; *We are the Music Makers* by Arthur O'Shaughnessy - and, in case we were taking our subject too seriously - the heroically bad *Tribute to Dr. Murison* by William Topaz McGonagall.

If you would like to join us for our June/July meeting, it will be held at The Old Stables, Stoke Lyne on **Tuesday 6th July OR July 13th**, beginning at 10.30. Date to be confirmed please contact me for details.

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

SHELLOW READING GROUP

Our May meeting was held in the garden of one of our Fringford members, and we discussed the novel *Our Fathers* by Rebecca Waite. The book addresses the issue of domestic violence in a shocking and heart-rending tale of life on a remote Scottish island. It is not an 'easy read', but is full of insight and compassion for people caught up in awful events. The group found many issues to discuss and would recommend it, although it is not an easy read.

Our June meeting will be on Thursday 10th June at 7.30 pm, and the venue will be Lark Rise Cottage in Juniper Hill. The title we have chosen for June is *The Pursuit of Love* by Nancy Mitford – to provide us with some light relief! .If you would like to join the group, please contact me on 01869 811994 or at judith.harvey@live.co.uk

SHELLOW BY THE SEA

It's been a long time since we could meet up. However, all being well, we hope to start in a small way with a one day 'holiday' on Wednesday 4th August. Look out for more details in future editions of the *Shellsell News*.
Penny Wood

SUICIDE PREVENTION & MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

If you are needing help as a parent or young person or know
someone who is struggling please contact us on:

EMAIL: HELLO@NAISHOUSE.CO.UK

PHONE/MESSAGE: 07437 497697

FB: [@NAISHOUSEBICESTER](https://www.facebook.com/NAISHOUSEBICESTER)

WWW.NAISHOUSE.CO.UK



Charity Number #1192238

Finnmere's Summer Fair

Sunday 4th July

Release from Lock-down; a time to come together again as a community

BBQ ☺ Bar ☺ Bouncy Castle ☺ Ice Cream ☺ Games
☺ Tractors
And lots more

Church Service on Playing Field at 11 a.m.
 with Fair to follow

Finnmere Quiz

Still time to get your entry in

Closing date Sun 20 June

£5 entry fee

Question sheets available from the Church or the
 Red Lion

Funds raised will go towards repairs to our Church Roof.



The Grand Hethe FLEA MARKET

Saturday June 26th

at 2pm

on the playing field

Bric-a-brac galore - something for everyone!
kitchen ware, garden ware, tools, DIY, toys, games, books,
CDs, DVDs, decorative items, jewellery
Come and browse, and buy a ticket at the Church Raffle.



Teas in the hall

Coronavirus information for this event

Outdoor markets currently permitted

Village Hall Toilets – one way system for entry and exit

Village Hall Teas – one way system for entry and exit;
take away;

seated area outdoors, indoors according to current
regulations to be updated on 21.06.21

up to date on 17th May 2021

THE SHELSWELL BENEFICE

The Second of the Village articles

Hardwick

This small parish of 385 acres was united with Tusmore in 1932 to form the modern parish of Hardwick-with-Tusmore. The name means a sheep farm or perhaps a cattle farm. In the 14th century the village of Tusmore was depopulated by the Black Death. The church of St Mary has a late 12th- or early 13th-century south doorway. The chancel is 14th-century, with three original windows. The nave is mainly 15th-century, although it was largely rebuilt in 1878-9, when the 2nd Earl of Effingham undertook a thorough restoration and enlargement of the church. The south aisle, porch and bell-turret were added and a new altar, font, pulpit, and lectern were provided. An organ was added in 1900.

The manor-house, now called Manor Farm, was built between 1580 and 1643, when Sir Richard Fermor, was lord of the manor. He came to live at Tusmore c.1625 and it was he who united the two estates of Hardwick and Tusmore. His son, Henry Fermor, built a new house and added the domestic chapel, or possibly it was the existing medieval chapel which attracted the Catholic family to the house. The family kept a resident chaplain and Tusmore was probably a centre for local Catholics from the late 16th century until 1810, when the house was let. There was a priest's hiding-hole with a trap door concealed by a window seat.

The Fermors naturally favoured tenants of their faith and a high proportion of the population of Hardwick were generally Catholic. In 1810 the chapel furniture was moved to the Old Manor House (now Manor Farm) in Hardwick, where a chapel was made in the barrel-vaulted attic, which ran the whole length of the house. Members of the Collingridge family, whom we will also meet in Godington, lived here from 1793 to 1812 and local Catholics were gathering here about once a month. In 1810 Father Samuel Corbishley took charge of the Mission and, until his death in 1830, he served a flock of some 350. Immediately after his death, the manor house was closed to Catholics and Father Alfred McGuire was appointed. He lived in Hethe, and with strong local support, particularly from the Collingridge family, built a new chapel, Holy Trinity, which was opened on 22 May 1832. It continues to prosper, in partnership with Adderbury, and celebrated its 175th anniversary in 2007.

In 1857 Henry Howard, the 2nd Earl of Effingham, purchased Tusmore and Hardwick. He made significant alterations to the house and it was then that Albert Timms, Flora Thompson's father, 'helped to finish rebuilding that house'. The Earl also pulled down the dilapidated old cottages in Hardwick and built new semi-detached ones, most of them in 1869-70. In 1929 Tusmore was bought by Vivian Hugh Smith, afterwards Lord Bicester, who remodelled the house, adding formal gardens. In 1961 his son, Randal, demolished the house. For a variety of reasons the new design was not a success, and it was later described by the architect as 'a deeply dispiriting house', particularly because the exterior stone turned a horrible orange colour. In 1987 the estate was sold to Wafic Said, the main sponsor of the Said Business School in Oxford. He demolished the house and built the new Tusmore Park, 'the finest Classical house built in Britain since the Second World War, and perhaps the grandest since Manderston in Berwickshire, in the Edwardian age.'

In 1870 the Earl of Effingham financed the building of a school, and continued to maintain it, although it was never recognised as a public elementary school. It had 24 pupils in 1887 but it closed c.1895-1903 and the children were sent to the schools at Hethe and Cottisford. The peak population was 98 in 1821. By 1931 the joint population of Hardwick-with-Tusmore was only 119. In 1932, the two were merged as a civil partnership. In 2001, there was a merger of the parishes of Cottisford and Hardwick-with-Tusmore.

Martin Greenwood

Bicester Motion Scramble – Discount Resident Vouchers

The next Scramble is to be held on 5th/6th of June and neighbourhood discounted tickets are still available for Sunday 6th June. When purchasing you will need to put FlyingBrevets into the promo code box which will immediately allocate a 50% discount. You will be required to input your OX27 or OX26 postcode and this will be checked. <https://bicesterheritage.co.uk/tickets/october-scramble-tickets/>
 Passes previously purchased for the January and April scrambles are still valid.

REPORTS FROM THE PARISHES

Cottisford and Juniper Hill St Mary the Virgin

CHURCHWARDEN: Charles Jackson, Cottisford House, Cottisford

TREASURER David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Meryl Daniel

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

Tel 01280 848247

Tel 01869 277690

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



COTTISFORD AND JUNIPER HILL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

A reminder : We are holding our first social event since the lockdown with Picnic in the Field on Sunday July 4th 2021, from 2-4 pm. Bring your own picnic, but the Social Committee will provide hot and cold soft drinks, paper plates and cups, chairs and tables. There will be a tombola, and we will be grateful for contributions to the prizes. All from the Shelswell Benefice villages, their friends, neighbours and relatives are very welcome.

Finmere St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: Vacancy

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

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Katherine Grimston

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

Tel 01280 847782

Tel 01280 848268

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



Village Hall

The hall is currently open for bookings and we now have small number of regular users re-booking. It is stressed that all users must comply with all current COVID guidelines, which include a mandatory the use of the hall QR code.

Please note that building work is scheduled at the hall for the months of July/August



Allotments

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



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

Finmere Parish Council website at – www.finmerepc.org

Village hall news at – www.myfinmere.com

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

Fringford St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: John Mayo, 10 Church Close, Fringford

TREASURER: Christina McCullagh, 5 Crosslands, Fringford

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Penny Wood as below

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Penny Wood, 8 Crosslands, Fringford

VILLAGE HALL CORRESPONDENT: Christine Underwood

WEBSITE www.fringford.info

Tel 01869 278873

Tel 07867 515207

Tel 01869 277310

Tel 01869 278949

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



ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, SERVICES & EVENTS

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

Services in Fringford will be:

- 13th June – 6.00pm Evening Communion
- 20th June – 11.00am Holy Communion
- 18th July – 11.00am Holy Communion

A short reflective service is live streamed every week day, but check the Facebook page for the time.

Muddy Church

For all ages, at 3.00pm on 20th June, and 18th July, usually in Stoke Lyne Churchyard. But contact Revd Yvonne Mullins for more information: ring 01869-278090 or email: curate@shelswellparishes.info

Baby Lambs/Little Lambs

Wednesdays Stratton Audley Church from 10.00am to 10.45 am (Term Time). For more information contact Jen Iddon [Children & Families Worker] via jeniddoncfw@gmail.com

ZOOM Socials

Under review – to find out if they are still running in June contact the Rector on 01280-848192, or email alicegoodall313@gmail.com

Fund-raising Initiatives

The **Pudding Evening** in April was a great success. At least 20 puddings were on offer! It raised £515 for the Church Restoration Fund. Very many thanks to everyone who supported the event.

Open Gardens – This Month

Will take place on 26th and 27th June. Would you be willing to open your garden? Or make a cake for the Teas? Please contact Penny on 01869-277310 or email: penelope.wood@btopenworld.com

Greetings Cards

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

Fringford Church 100 Club

The second draw took place in May:

1 st Prize	£48	Les Fagg
2 nd Prize	£29	Jane Campbell
3 rd Prize	£19	Helen & Philip Robins

You can still sign up. Next draw will be in June (at the Village Coffee morning, see below). Contact Christina McCullagh to register your involvement **ASAP, on 07867 515207.**

Fringford Church Book Exchange

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

Penny Wood

SUPPORT DURING THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

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

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

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

FRINGFORD VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

The Coffee Mornings have started again. Usually on the third Monday of the month – join us on Monday 21st June. 10.30am to 12 noon. But **please note** that we will be meeting at the Butcher's Arms, using the coffee shop there. If fine we can sit outside; if not, we can be inside. Look forward to seeing everyone.

Penny Wood

THE BUTCHER'S ARMS

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

Hardwick St Mary the Virgin

CHURCHWARDEN: David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick

Tel 01869 277690

TREASURER: David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick

Tel 01869 277690

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Meryl Daniel

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Veronica Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick

Tel 01869 277690

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

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



St. Mary's Church, Hardwick – Re-opens

Hardwick church is now open again every day 10am to 4pm. Please do go in and use this special space for private prayer, quiet contemplation or to admire its architecture, monuments and stained-glass windows.

The Great Houses of Tusmore

St Mary's church, Hardwick is the church for the parish of Hardwick-cum-Tusmore, and so serves Tusmore, as well as Hardwick village. There was a settlement at Tusmore in Saxon times, but the village fell victim to the Black Death in the 14th century and was abandoned by 1358. Sir Roger de Cotesford was granted permission to enclose the lands, thereby creating Tusmore Park. Presumably, he also built a manor house but no record of it remains. Records do show that the Fermor family, who became lords of the manor in 1606, had a large house by 1665 but now only the dovecote survives from that time. Its grounds also contained a Roman Catholic chapel, ornamental gardens and a fishpond. William Fermor had this house demolished in 1758 to make way for what would become Tusmore's first great house.



Tusmore's first Great House (completed in 1779)

Designed by architect Robert Mylne and completed in 1799, this was a house on the grand scale. The east and west fronts had seven bays, each dominated by large pediments, supported by four Ionic columns. The south and north fronts had five bays, each with large plain pediments capping slightly projected centre bays. The house was built of local stone, mostly from Fritwell. The interior plasterwork, in the style of Robert Adam, was said to be particularly fine. Mylne also laid out the gardens and landscaped the park, which included a lake and an ornamental Temple of Peace.

Later owners did make some alterations. In 1857, the second Earl of Effingham had an office wing built on the site of the chapel, which had burnt down in 1837. These offices were subsequently demolished in 1929 by Vivian Smith, the first Baron Bicester. He also made significant changes to the gardens and grounds. However, it was Vivian's son, Randal, the second Baron Bicester, who, apparently wanting something smaller, ordered Tusmore's first great house to be demolished in 1960. This act was lamented by famous architectural writers, Sherwood and Pevsner, as *"a great loss to a county in which important houses of the last quarter of the 18th century are few"*. All that was left, were the stables, converted into a separate house, the terrace and gardens. By 1964, Randal had built a new neo-Georgian style house, one third the size of its predecessor, to the design of architect, Claude Phillimore. This was criticised as lacking the scale required for its magnificent location.

After becoming the new owner in the late 1990s, businessman Wafic Said, set about creating a second great house for Tusmore. After an architectural competition, a new Palladian style house was built in 2000, to the design of Sir William Whitfield of Whitfield Lockwood Architects. The portico provides a dramatic entrance and is dominated by six monumental Ionic columns. It has a two-storey entrance front and a three-storey garden front. In the centre of the house is a three-storey circular staircase hall. Reputed to have cost around £30 million, this house is now considered to be a fitting replacement for the first great house on the site, being awarded the prize for the "best modern house in the classical tradition" in 2004.



Tusmore's second Great House (completed in 2000)

If you go walking over the Tusmore Estate, please keep to the footpaths, which are well-marked, and, for the safety of the livestock, please keep your dog on a lead at all times.

Hethe St Edmund and St George

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

Tel 01869 277366

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

Tel 01869 278166

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Flora Skinner as above

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Mike Green as above

Tel 01869 278166

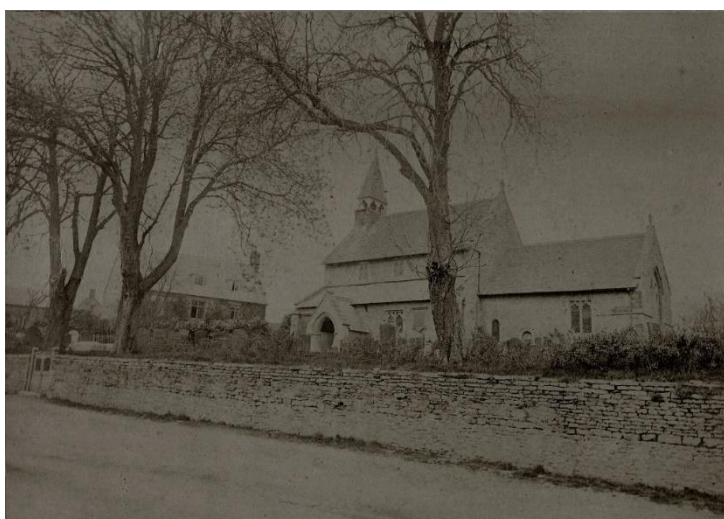
WEBSITE: www.hethe.org

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

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

Many thanks, Mike.

ST EDMUND & ST GEORGE CHURCH



Church Services and Access

At the time of writing this article the church was opening for private prayer on Sundays from 10.00am to 4.00pm and we had completed the first services under the new service pattern. Many thanks to Flora for getting the church ready.

Our next service is Morning Prayers on 6th June, starting at 9.30am.

The next Holy Communion will be on 18th July.

Please follow the guidance on how to safely access and use the building.

Church Repairs & Redecoration

We are fund raising for the refurbishment of the church to enable its full reopening and to ensure that it is a safe, welcoming and comfortable space and to encourage more people into the building. The refurbishment includes conservation repairs to the west window in the nave, redecoration and some replastering and replacing the notice board by the church gate. If you wish to give a donation specifically towards this work, please use the on-line giving page - details below.

The PCC have outline plans and have completed some preparatory work towards opening part of the church for more widespread use. This will be a free, open, space for individuals to meet and talk, which could be used for specific groups of people, such as a reading group, and a space for quiet meditation and prayer. The church could then be more easily used for events to draw people together after being isolated for so long. The events could include concerts, painting and photograph displays. In the future we plan to have water installed which will enable us to provide kitchen and toilet facilities.

You may have noticed that some stone has fallen away from the front and some concrete slabs have slipped off the roof of the porch. The contractor for last year's work has been informed (the concrete slabs were not part of that work).

The rain and winds in May caused some damage to the tree immediately east of the porch. Many thanks to Gary for turning out so quickly to remove the branches from the path and making the rest of the tree safe.

Church Funds & Regular Giving



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

You now have the option to set up a contribution on-line. You will find a donation button on our Parish Giving page. You may use the link <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/>, type in OX27 8ES and then select our church or scan the code below.

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



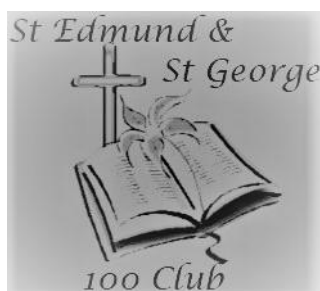
On-Line Giving Page

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



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

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!

The results of the May draw:

1st Prize No 52 Anne Mansfield

2nd Prize No 43 Philip Mansfield

3rd Prize No 17 Helen Wood

Next Draw Wednesday 9th June

Safeguarding

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

Hethe PCC members are receiving basic safeguarding awareness training.

Eco Church



Thanks to Tamsin for continuing to take photos of the flora and fauna in the churchyard. The above is one of many photos taken in April. You can see it in colour on the web site - <https://www.hethe.org/st-edmunds-st-georges-church/the-climate-emergency/>.

If you would like to be involved in the maintenance of the churchyard, please let us know.

Our aim is to turn the indicated areas into natural, flowery spaces, to encourage wildlife and make them 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.

Thank you to our Volunteers

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



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

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

HETHE COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

Village Hall

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

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



Adventure Playground



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

Book Share

Following the success of the Cottisford “Bus Stop Book Exchange”, some of the books which have not been available in the church during lockdown have been moved into the bus shelter on the Bainton Road. The idea is that you borrow one or two books and return them when read. All free of charge.

Recycling

The bottle bank is still open and is being monitored and emptied.

There are three glass recycling banks available for clear, green and brown bottles on the driveway approaching the Village Hall.

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



The Grand Hethe
FLEA MARKET
Saturday June 26th
at 2pm
on the playing field

Bric-a-brac galore - something for everyone!
 kitchen ware, garden ware, tools, DIY, toys, games, books,
 CDs, DVDs, decorative items, jewellery
 Come and browse, and buy a ticket at the Church Raffle.



Teas in the hall

Coronavirus information for this event up to date on 17th May 2021

Outdoor markets currently permitted

Village Hall Toilets – one way system for entry and exit

Village Hall Teas – one way system for entry and exit;

take away;

seated area outdoors, indoors according to current
 regulations to be updated on 21.06.21

St Edmund & St George Graves

As a first step in continuing to identify the graves in St Edmund & St George churchyard, I have looked at the listed memorial which is interesting, not only because it is listed, but also because it reminds us of families who were, and some still are, property owners who lived and worked in the village for many years - the Whiteheads and Mansfields.

The memorial can be found on the right of the path leading to the church. It is a tombstone erected by John "Whithead" to commemorate the burial of his wife Friswed in 1682. The tombstone is Grade 2 Listed and described as being "Ironstone. Winged cherub's head and Ionic columns in rustic style. Inscription to Friswed, wife of John Whithead".



The name Friswed was probably derived from Frithuswith, although better known as Frideswide, the patron Saint of Oxford (who lived from 680 to 727).

John was a member of the "Whitehead" family and owned property in Hethe. He died in 1683.

In this period in our history, the Bideford Witch Trials in 1682 resulted in the last ever hangings for witchcraft in England. The Great Frost of 1683–84 was a frost across England, reported as the worst in its history. During the Frost, the surface of the River Thames was reported as frozen to the depth of one foot (0.30 m). King Charles II was the monarch up to 1685. He was succeeded by his brother, the Catholic James Stuart, Duke of York, who became King James II of England. He was king up to "the Glorious Revolution" in 1688.

John and Friswed's descendants remained in Hethe and there are records for another John (born 1691), James (born 1696) and Elizabeth (born 1700). The younger John was a carpenter in Hethe who had at least three children all of whom benefited from the proceeds of their father's will dated 1731. They were listed in the UK Poll Books for 1754 in "Heath" as "Freeholders of Oxfordshire" within the Ploughley Hundred:

James Whitehead - Buried in Hethe 24th November 1756

Robert Whitehead - Buried in Hethe 15th August 1757

John Whitehead - Buried in Hethe 3rd July 1765

The above John was a Wheelwright whose will stated that all of his property in Hethe would be sold to William Mansfield for £280 on, or before, 10th October 1765 (the year of his death), the proceeds to be divided between his four daughters and one son. The recipient of part of these proceeds, together with his household effects and a cottage in Tingewick, was his daughter Mary. The last record of the family found in the village records is for Mary who was buried in Hethe on 19th November 1782.

The surname Whitehead was recorded in a number of spellings including Whithead, Whitehed, Whithed, and Whitsed. It is derived from the Olde English word "hwit" meaning white, plus "heafod", a head, combined to form a descriptive nickname for someone with white hair.

Mixbury All Saints

CHURCHWARDENS: Martin Ayres, Northwell Farm, Finmere

Alec Howard, Middlestead, Mixbury

TREASURER: David Mitchell. 2 Town Farm, Mixbury

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Anna Howard

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Sue Goodman pasgoodman551@gmail.com

Tel 07899 792552

Tel 01280 848295

Tel 01280 847769

Tel 01280 848002

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



Church Services

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

Provisional Mixbury Church flower rota 2021

May	Sally Drummond-Hay
	Barbara Mortimer
June	Kate Darby
July	Sue Goodman
August	Helen Backon
September	Morag Westworth and Philippa Brown
	Harvest festival – everyone
October	Melanie Soar
November	Fi Bairstow
December	Carol service and Christmas - everyone
Reserve	Sam Lockwood
Easter	Barbara, Sam, Melanie, Morag, Sue Goodman, Helen, Sally, Kate

Joan Knibbs 17.11.1928 – 25.03.2021



Joan Elsie Dunn was born in Lewisham on Saturday the 17th of November 1928 to her parents William and Alice. She was brought up at the family home in Bromley alongside her 3 older brothers, and two sisters.

The second World War was a time of change for the family. Joan's father William, who was a master plasterer, went to live at Buckingham Palace to fix any damage that was caused during the bombings and Joan and her younger sister were evacuated to live with their Aunt in High Wycombe.

In the early 1940's, Joan joined the Women's Land Army and she had her first experience of rural life.

She had always been very good at art, from her early school days. She applied to Disney for work as an animator, sadly not being successful and after a few years she secured work for various companies as an artist making lamps, plates and other hardware, painting, drawing and animating and she was happy in her work.

In 1952, Joan felt that it was time for a career change and wanting to follow in her own mother's footsteps, and went to The Preliminary Training School at North Middlesex Hospital to train to become a nurse, gaining her qualifications and also training to become a midwife.

By the end of 1957 and with a new career path planned in life, Joan found her travel legs and spent the next 3 years working in NZ and Australia.

Joan returned to England by Christmas 1960 and took up work as a District Nurse for Oxfordshire Health Department, based in Bicester, Oxfordshire. She was both a district nurse and a midwife, dealing with both the young and the old, seeing a full variety of life during her work.

When one of her colleagues was away, Joan was asked to go and visit a new patient, an elderly lady, Maud Knibbs, who lived at 39 Mixbury. Joan went along and during her visits she met Maud's son who was caring for her, Dennis Knibbs, who was a farmer. Along with his Father, the Knibbs farmed Home Farm Mixbury and latterly Hanwell Farm. Joan and Dennis struck up a friendship, started courting and it was a happy day when they married in Bicester in 1965.

They both briefly lived in Brackley, whilst farming at Hanwell Farm in Mixbury. With the arrival of daughter Helen in 1967 and their son Doug who came along in 1969 to complete the family. To allow room for the increasing family and after the unfortunate passing of Dennis's father, Dennis & Joan converted the 2 cottages 38 & 39 Mixbury.

After working hard as a nurse and midwife for many years, Joan retired from Brackley Cottage Hospital in the late 1980's and at this point she had the chance to take up some of her old hobbies.

She always loved gardening and it was a real passion of hers, even more so after retirement. She would also organise a Mixbury open garden day each year where people could come and have a look around.

After not having so much time for her art interests while working and raising her family, in retirement this became a real focus of Joan's life. She started painting and drawing again, she made sculptures out of all mediums, clay, bronze, wire - she would turn her hand to anything - and she was really rather good at everything that she tried. Her friendship groups became based around her interests, she joined and became secretary of the Brackley Art Society and a key member to the Bicester sculpture group. She was always up for creating more and trying something new.

She would gift her artwork to friends and family and many pieces were on display in her home and she would undertake commissions for people, such as portraits of their pets or of their homes.

It was a really difficult time for Joan and all her family when Dennis became unwell and sadly passed away in 2004.

Joan had had problems with her hearing from quite a young age, It was a really happy day and a great decision in 2006 when Tiffin from "Hearing Dog's" moved in with Joan and they so became inseparable.

Joan remained in the family home in Mixbury for a number of years. Around 12 years ago Joan and Tiffin made the move to be near her family, eventually moving into their new home in Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire.

Joan was admitted to hospital just a few weeks ago. It was with great sadness that Joan slipped peacefully away early on the 25th March 2021.

Joan was quite an incredible lady. Everything that she tried, she was good at. She was a great artist, nurse, midwife, and gardener as well as being a much loved daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandma and friend to many.

She will be greatly missed but her memory will live on in the many beautiful works of art that she leaves behind and all of your happy memories of her will be kept safely in your hearts and your minds, forever.

(from: *Doug Knibbs*)

News from the Mixbury History Group

We are delighted to report that our History Group has just been awarded registered charitable status by the Charity Commission.

In the coming months we will be exploring with Mixbury parishioners the role they can play in this enterprise; and we want to look at how we can find common historical ground with neighbouring parishes – including those in the Shelswell Benefice. We want to tease out matters of common interest. As examples, Martin Greenwood wrote in April about the origins of Shelswell Benefice, of which we are all a part. Did you know that in 1291, eight of the ten churches in the Benefice were not run by the established Church? They were managed by religious houses - in fact seven of them were Augustinian! And, of course, the A421 Toll Road runs from Mixbury through Finmere to Tingewick.

If you are interested in the history of the wider area you live in, watch this space!

Bruce Epps, Mixbury History Group. bruceepps49@gmail.co.uk

An experiment in time, with Mixbury Young People From Bruce Epps, for Mixbury History Group

Mixbury has always valued it's young people. In the C19th this was evident by W.J. Palmer's investment in the school and attack on child labour. In the first half of the 20th century, we are mindful of the prominent place children were given in the May Day celebrations, when a bower of flowers, in which sat the chosen village dolls, were wheeled around the village. For some years now, under the expert guidance of Anna Howard - on one occasion with a lamb clinging to her leg (or was it a child in sheep's clothing) - the Nativity and Carol Service has been focused on the involvement of children and when possible after the service there was a party for the village's children, although this had to be held in Evenley Village Hall because there is no adequate community space in Mixbury. So we thought in 2017 that we would try to engage children in Mixbury's history project.

For the overall project we had drawn up a Time Line pointing out a few national or international events which had taken place in each period of history, so we could put Mixbury into a much wider context: for each period we then tried to identify what had gone on in Mixbury. Some of the national and international events were inventions, the earliest one shown being a simple potter's wheel from the Near East, dating to about 5,000 BC. When we came to the C19th and C20th, there were hundreds of inventions to choose from! So, for the C20th, we asked young people aged 5 -10, who came to a consultation meeting about Mixbury's history display for the fete, to pick their top five on each page of a pre -prepared list of C20th inventions. There were four pages, resulting in a list of 20 items from each person. We then used these lists to identify those inventions which got the most votes overall.

The table which follows is the composite for those inventions which received votes from half the children or more. The one which perhaps is most surprising is to find penicillin at the very top. On reflection, most if not all of the young people taking part had probably taken it, and their adults, and the doctor, would have stressed how important it was to make them better by completing a whole course. There are clearly a lot of things in the table to do with computers, but that is to be expected. The purpose of some of the inventions was explained to the young people by accompanying adults: although the adults did not make the final decisions, that would probably explain how the electrostatic motor; the integrated circuit; random access memory and the Theory of Relativity got included! Perhaps the surprise for a relatively low place goes to television.

Overall the young people who took part showed great maturity and thoughtfulness. It was reassuring though, to see that the Teddy Bear; Bouncing Putty; Lego; the Hula Hoop and Karaoke machines all got a vote from someone or other! We will repeat the exercise 5 years on, in 2022, perhaps with a new category of inventions in the first 20 years of the 20th century. Will the class of '22 recognise and value the same things as the class of '17? As a final thought, perhaps we could extend the exercise to the whole of the Benefice!!!

All young people voted for	Penicillin The Internet
Slightly fewer voted for	The Airplane Worldwide web
Two thirds voted for	Traffic lights The computer Microwave oven Random Access Memory Integrated circuits Mobile phone
Half voted for	Radio/wireless The Electrostatic motor Windscreen wipers The Theory of Relativity Television Transistor Hand held calculator Personal computers



**A very warm Mixbury welcome to
Lynn Hockaday and Phil Jenkins.
We hope you will be very happy
living in our lovely village.**

Mixbury Book Exchange

There is a large plastic box in the bus shelter with books kindly donated by one of Mixbury's Book Clubs and a few individuals, these are for the villagers to exchange a book with one they have read and replace with one of their own. If you are leaving a book whilst the pandemic is on please wrap it in clear plastic labelled with the date it is placed in the box as after 72 hours any possible germs should have gone. Please only leave books that are in good condition and do not use it to get rid of a large quantity of unwanted books. If all goes well perhaps when the church is re-opened the Mixbury Book Exchange can be transferred there. We could do with some teenager and younger childrens books being donated.

Save the date:

***Mixbury Fete: 4th September 2021
- (Covid restrictions allowing!)***

Newton Purcell St Michael and All Angels

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

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

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



Artists in the Countryside -

We are delighted that this event will be possible again this year and look forward to welcoming all who are able to come.

Please note however that with restrictions still in place it is important to book your place for all visits so we can adhere to government safety guidelines.

ARTISTS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE



Saturday and Sunday 5th & 6th June 2021

Free exhibition and open to all throughout the weekend.
10am till 4.30pm

The Old School, Newton Purcell

with tea and homemade cakes!

Please book your place for all visits via Eventbrite
 as it numbers will be restricted.



Tickets also available for the Private View

**for Friday 4th June
 6pm till 9pm**

Tickets will be £10

PLUS we'll have a wonderful selection of local artists
PLUS lots of lovely affordable art, sculpture, photography and
 cards.

As usual the preview night will feature Markham Asparagus
 and a glass of Provencal rosé.

Payment on the door for Preview Event with a previously booked
 ticket. Credit cards now accepted.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

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

Experienced Childcare required near Hethe for the month of August.

Please email ann_maltzahn@yahoo.com for details

Stoke Lyne St Peter's

CHURCHWARDEN: Christopher Poole CTP@oxford-educational.co.uk

Ali Miller alisonjanemiller@icloud.com

Tel 01869 346020

Tel 07762 719198

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

Tel 01869345211

WEBSITE www.stokelyne.org

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



Services :

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

Please remember those who have recently been bereaved and anyone you know who is ill or unable to get out.

I sometimes find it difficult to get information for the magazine, I can always rely on my friend Brenda to find a good article of interest. Please if you have something of interest or an event you want to publicise please let me know. Rena Andrews

Memories – Rena Andrews

I have put together some memories of my childhood.

I was born in 1937 one of four two boys and two girls, in a small mining town in Ayrshire Scotland. The main employment was coal mining or dairy farming, .

I had a wonderful childhood, we didn't have much money as miners in those days didn't have big wages and I think it was the same for farm workers, but at least they got paid in kind with food from the farms so that helped them. I went to school age 5 and left age 15 as that was the school leaving age at that time unless you went on to grammar school.

We children played out in the steets as the only car we ever saw was the doctor, so there was no fear of being run over, mostly we went down the glen to the burn and paddled in the water or guddled for beardies, sometimes the bigger children would get some big stones and make a ring and build a fire in it, if we had potatoes we would put them in the fire to cook, they would be black when they came out so you just peeled them and they were lovely to eat, while the potatoes were cooking the bigger children would fill some billy cans with water from the burn stand them on the rocks by the fire till they boiled drop some tea leaves in (no tea bags in those days), sometimes mother would bring our dinner down in a big pan and heat it up on the fire. We used to be out all day long finding things to do, like digging up groundnuts or gathering bluebells and primroses, the bigger children used to go bird nesting.

Mobile shopping when we were young were Clydesdale horse and cart. These beautiful giants would pull the bakery cart with fresh bread scones, teabread and cakes, the milk cart where you took out your enamel milk can or jug to be filled, and the greengrocers with all the vegetables. They used to always stop by our gate and the carter would put a nose bag over the horses head with food in it, then he would start serving and we could pat these huge gentle giants.

Christmas time my father used to make a lot of our toys, the boys would have a fort and one would have a cowboy outfit and the other an Indian outfit, he made me a cradle and my sister had a cot, he also made us huge cloth dolls, we both had nurse outfits. Christmas morning you would see the children out with what Santa had brought them, little girls with their dollies in prams and dressed in a uniform of some sort.

Summer holidays we had 6 weeks, Some of the neighbours organised a day trip to the seaside by bus we would have streamers hanging out of the windows of the bus, when we got there we would get into our bathing suits and go into the sea or make sandcastles in the sand, the adults would take it in turn looking after the little ones. Lunch was supplied in a paper bag with a sandwich a sausage roll and a piece of cake and a drink. They then organised races. It was a wonderful day out.

Our granddad worked on the farms so most of our summer holiday we were sent to grannies that was great fun, playing in the hay loft or getting the cows in to be milked or gathering the hens eggs, the one thing we didn't like was an outside dry toilet as we had always had a bathroom in the house where you pulled a chain and everything went away.

Where we lived there was a railway station close by, and the troop trains used to stop for the train to get filled up with water, the locals knew the time it stopped so the women in our street took pots of tea and out of their rations made lots of egg and corned beef sandwiches and cakes and scones, (strange coincidence I had in conversation with Cecil James from Ardley, and when he knew where I came from he told me about the troop train he was on stopping at Cumnock and all these women bringing them tea and sandwiches and cakes. When I think my mother could have been one of them)

The one thing that sticks in my mind is going down to the big park with my mother to the swimming pool and seeing all these men carrying old furniture trees and lots of wood and building a huge bonfire it must have been as big as a house, a few days later we could hear pipe bands playing then there was a big procession of people carrying huge torches I think they called it a torchlight parade I had never seen anything like it, when they lit the bonfire there was fireworks lighting up the sky. I think it was to celebrate the end of the war I was 8 years old then and there were lots of people dancing in the streets all over the town

I am glad I grew up in the years I did as times were hard but happy, life today seems to be more stressful.

Stoke Lyne W.I.

We haven't had a proper meeting since last August when we had an open air meeting in the garden of the Muddy Duck, some of us met up in September for a walk at Bure Park and then lunch in the pub there, it was arranged those who were walking would meet at 11.00 and those unable to do the walk would meet at 12.30 where we would all join up for lunch.

Today 12 of us met at Stratton Audley barn cafe at lunchtime. Some had lunch, others had a snack or cake with a drink. While we were there the heavens opened two or three times with torrential downpours, luckily we were in a huge marquee type enclosure with tables socially distanced apart. There was lots of flooding on some of the roads home. Everyone said how nice it was to meet up, even though we keep in contact by telephone it is not the same as meeting face to face. The next time we meet will be in a members garden in June for a picnic tea..

STOKE LYNE 100 CLUB

We are delighted to announce the May results for our Stoke Lyne 100 Club

1 st Draw No 28	Jane Webb
2 nd Draw No 60	Craig Mitchell
3 rd Draw No 10	Nick Barnes

Membership numbers are still available from janey@oxford-educational.co.uk Tel 01869 346020.

Thank you to all who support this club and good luck to all in the June draw!

Bainton Monument

Yesterday I was delighted to meet Virginia Price, the Great Great Grand daughter of Sir Thomas Mostyn who had come to see the monument at Bainton for the first time.



Sir Thomas Mostyn Bart MP of Bainton Manor, was the Master of the Bicester Foxhounds from 1800-1830. In 1812 he erected an obelisk at Bainton in memory of his favourite foxhound "Lady".

Lady was a pampered favourite of Sir Thomas's, being allowed the run of the entire house. She used to follow Sir Mostyn's coach all the way from Bicester to his family home of Mostyn Hall in North Wales

During one of his visits, he asked the kennel man to be sure to keep Lady shut in , as she was due to have puppies and he did not want her to travel back to Wales with him. A few days later, however, Lady got out and disappeared. Sometime later she arrived at Rhewl Mostyn, North Wales tired and hungry, having given birth to her puppies. After feeding her she was followed some miles to where she had left her puppies safely nestling in a bed of bracken in a shallow ditch. They were saved and carried back home.

Lady was very important to the bloodline history of subsequent foxhounds and many breeders recognise her immense importance. Lady had nine litters all together.

Coming home from hunting one day, the dog Lady, fell dead. Sir Thomas decreed that the monument be erected on the very spot where she fell.

Julie Adams

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Stratton Audley and Godington PCC If you would like to know more please contact either Alice or Becky.

Magazine Correspondent please contact the Editor direct if you have any news for inclusion.



The Church of St. Mary & St. Edburga

Church Services

The church is once again open during the day for private prayer and reflection. It is no longer necessary to book for services, though masks and hand sanitising will still be required and social distancing will be strictly observed. Please see back page.

Are you interested in assisting with the future of our Church, please contact Alice, our Rector, to find out more?

Red Lion

Delighted to announce the reopening of the Red Lion with the new Manager – Gus Evans. For further information and details of staffing requirements please contact gusrevans@gmail.com or dilliedarling@gmail.com. The Re-opening went well, and we look forward to it being a very active asset to the village again. Congratulations to John, Dillie and all the volunteers and others that have made this possible.

Stratton Audley Barn

The Barn gift shop is now open as well as the café from Tuesday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm. Offering outside seating in the open or in the marquee for breakfast, lunch, coffee, cake and home-made ice cream. Booking for lunch is recommended. All of these activities are conducted under the latest Government guidance for social distancing. More information on www.strattonaudleybarn.co.uk or Facebook Stratton Audley Barn .

New Parish Councillors Wanted – Could this be You?

We need new people on the Parish Council to broaden our demographics to reflect those of the community as a whole. Surely there must be one or two people, perhaps new in the village, who are willing to put their names forward? We recognise that everyone is busy or has other commitments but it is not a particularly arduous job if enough people share the responsibilities.

New FREE Bus Service Exclusively for the village

Please don't forget to try the free bus service into Bicester which is now in operation two times a week on Tuesday and Thursday.

If we want to keep the service it is important that it is used regularly so please spread the word particularly to your neighbours who may not receive this newsletter.

Pick up in Stratton Audley

10:46 – Bus Stop Adjacent to Glen Close

10:49 – Bus Stop Bicester Road

Drop off

11:00 – Sainsburys, Bicester

Pick Up in Bicester

1:00 – Sainsburys, Bicester

Drop Off

1:10 – Opposite Bus Stop Bicester Road

1:14 – Opposite Bus Stop Adjacent to Glen Close

Resurfacing of Launton Road

The major resurfacing works that were postponed last year have now been scheduled in for August (provisionally 9/8/21). The works to Launton Road & Church Street will result in the closure of the roads except for access and this will be done in sections.

OCC are very aware of the dangerous state of parts of the Launton Road and interim interventions will be required before August. Fixmystreet is still the best way for all of us to report any matter (not just potholes) to do with Highways <https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

VICTORIA PRENTIS MP

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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.

Contact Victoria:

Constituency:

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✉ Orchard House
Hopcraft Lane
Deddington
OX15 0TD

Westminster:

☎ 020 7219 8756
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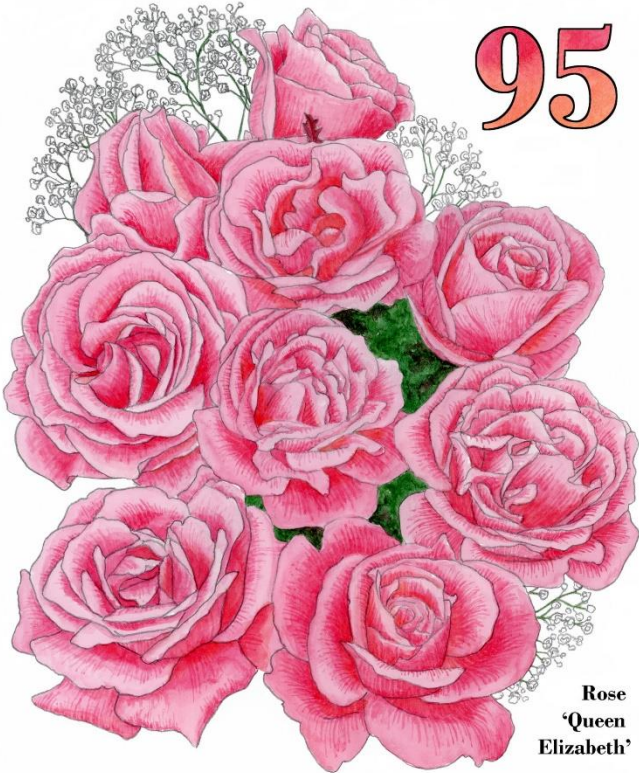
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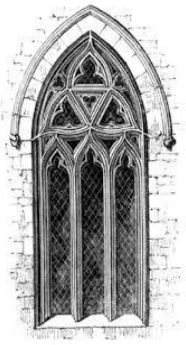
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## SERVICES IN JUNE

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

|                              |         |                                        |                 |       |
|------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> May  | 11am    | Benefice Service<br>of Holy Communion* | Stoke Lyne      | YM/PW |
| Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> June  | 9.30am  | Morning Prayer                         | Hethe           | AG    |
|                              | 11am    | Holy Communion*                        | Finmere         | YM    |
|                              | 6pm     | Compline                               | Stratton Audley | PW    |
| Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> June | 9.30am  | Holy Communion                         | Newton Purcell  | YM    |
|                              | 11am    | Holy Communion (BCP)*                  | Cottisford      | LW    |
|                              | 6pm     | Evening Communion                      | Fringford       | YM    |
| Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> June | 8.15 am | BCP Communion                          | Finmere         | AG    |
|                              | 9.30 am | Mixbury 45                             | Mixbury         | PW    |
|                              | 11 am   | Holy Communion *                       | Fringford       | YM    |
|                              | 3 pm    | Muddy Church                           | Stoke Lyne      | AG/JI |
| Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> June | 9.30 am | Holy Communion                         | Stratton Audley | YM    |
|                              | 11 am   | Holy Communion*                        | Stoke Lyne      | LW    |
|                              | 6 pm    | Evensong                               | Hardwick        | PW    |
| Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> July  | 9.30am  | Morning Prayer                         | Hethe           | AG    |
|                              | 11am    | Holy Communion*                        | Finmere         | AG    |
|                              | 6pm     | Compline                               | Godington       | YM    |

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

