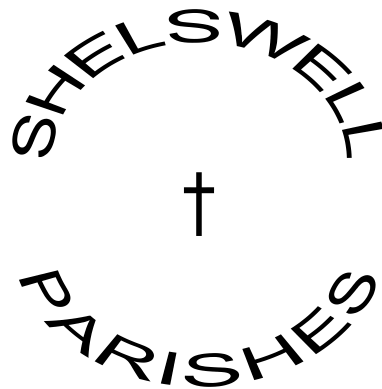


Shelswell News

The magazine of the Shelswell Group of Churches

Cottisford
Fringford
Hardwick
Mixbury
Stoke Lyne



Finnmere
Godington
Hethe
Newton Purcell
Stratton Audley



SHELLOWELL BENEFICE MISSION STATEMENT

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

MINISTRY TEAM

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

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

CURATE: Revd Yvonne Mullins, 10c St Michael's Close, Fringford, Bicester OX27 8D
Telephone 01869 278090 Email curate@shelswellparishes.info

ASSOCIATE MINISTER: The Reverend Liz Welters, 19 Scampton Close, Bicester OX26 4FF
Telephone 01869 249481 Email lizwelters@yahoo.co.uk

LICENSED LAY MINISTER: Mrs Penny Wood, 8 Crosslands Fringford, Bicester, Oxon. OX27 8DF
Telephone: 01869 277310 Email penelope.wood@btopenworld.com

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WORKER: Jen Iddon Telephone: 07368 240878 Email: jeniddoncfw@gmail.com

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS – See details in individual parish sections

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

HOLY TRINITY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, HETHE,

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

Weekday Mass: 9.30 am Monday and Friday

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

Telephone: 01869 253277 Website: <http://www.holytrinityhethe.co.uk/>

SHELLOWELL NEWS

Published monthly. To subscribe, contact Mrs Becky Adams, Benefice Administrator, The Rectory, Water Stratford Road, Finmere, Buckingham MK18 4AT Tel 01280 848192 Email admin@shelswellparishes.info

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

To Magazine Correspondents: **Wednesday 17 March 2021**

Correspondents to Editor: **Thursday 18 March 2021** at editor@shelswellparishes.info

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

www.shelswellparishes.info

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

Ministers Letter

There is No Cure for Curiosity

According to an old saying, 'The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity'

Have you ever felt like asking a question during a sermon? What are you talking about? Could you explain that more clearly? A sermon is not the best setting for questioning. The disciples of Jesus asked him questions, not in the middle of him talking to the crowds, but when they had time and space for an explanation. Jesus also asked questions of the disciples.

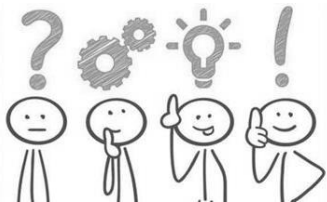
When I was in Waddesdon I placed an 'Any Questions?' box in Church. People put in questions they would probably not ask out loud. Although these were anonymous, I could usually guess who the most searching ones came from! From time to time I would attempt to answer the queries during a service



In another setting, a not-so-young person would come up to me regularly after a service. I soon realised that he was intent on asking me a question, probably one I would not be able answer off the cuff! Often my response had to be, 'I'll find out and let you know'.

'Is it alright to ask questions?' This query came from a senior police officer who joined a Home Group I was running in Autumn 1999. He was re-exploring faith after the birth of his child, having been brought up in a strict denomination where questioning was certainly not allowed. As his responsibilities included monitoring the movements of Apocalyptic Sects (easier to write than to say) in the run up to the Millennium, and we happened to be studying the Book of Revelation, it made for fascinating and fruitful discussions.

Home Groups are good places to ask questions, but such groups do not suit everyone, even when we are able to meet together in person. However, there are lots of opportunities on Zoom or for private study this Lent. We know from the 'Food, Glorious Food' course that Zoom is a format which can work well, giving people opportunities to learn, ask questions and share knowledge.



'Curiosity must be outgrown or endured. A child is born with its mouth in position to utter the word "Why?" and when, at some later date, it is punished for asking too many questions, it thinks up enough additional questions during its punishment to make the Encyclopaedia Britannica look sick.'

Boston Sunday Post, August 1, 1915

Are you feeling bored? Have you outgrown the curiosity about faith you once had? Are you enduring questions about Christian belief, without having a chance to voice them? Lent is the time to let loose your curiosity and explore. If you haven't already done so, do Zoom in to one of the courses on offer, or study at home. There's:

Inspired to Follow, produced by St Martin in the Fields and The National Gallery. How can art enlighten our Christian journey?

Come and See, from the Oxford Diocese. How can we question and explore the Christian faith afresh?

Pilgrim Journeys: The Creeds, 40 days of Reflections by Bishop Steven Croft. How can we reflect on and respond to the statements in the Creeds? Booklet or daily emails available.

There's also: **Inspired by Hope**, from Embrace the Middle East. How do Christians in the Middle East still have hope, despite all they are facing? How can we learn from them? For a booklet, please contact me or see <https://shop.embraceme.org/collections/church-resources/products/lent-study-guide-2021>

I think questions are vital to our growth as Christians. They help us develop in our understanding of who God is, who we are, and what it means to live out what we believe. Of course, not all questions have easy, pat answers. Sometimes we have to *live* our questions for while, in the company of God and others, before we find our peace.

Liz Welters (Associate Minister)

Spring is just around the corner ... isn't it?

I have noticed how often I am saying to myself that spring is just around the corner, and indeed how often I keep saying it to other people and writing it in emails. So I have decided to collect some evidence of this. Paul Buckle from Stoke Lyne send me the cartoon below, which made me laugh anyway. And here are some stories that reminded me of just how wonderful people can be and of the difference it can make:

- a couple contacted me, wanting to donate £250 to a family that was struggling as a result of the virus. After lots of consultations, the money was dropped off at a school in Bicester. Originally it was to provide meals for children over half term, but that day the Government announced that schools would have money for this. However, at just the moment when the money arrived, a mum was in floods of tears in the school office, not knowing how she could feed her children or pay the rent. A loving caring mum, life had just dealt her one curved ball after another and in spite of her very best efforts, she had run out of money. The school decided on the spur of the moment to reallocate the money to her – and then she was in floods of tears because she couldn't believe that someone could be so generous. That act of kindness transformed her life that day.
- an older lady told me about how one particular villager has helped keep her going during lockdown by doing her shopping, driving her to appointments, and generally being really generous with his time. Additionally she had been cheered each week to discover gifts of cake left in her porch by a mystery baker – she had to take to spying in order to discover who this wonderful person was.
- as I have been into different churches around the Benefice to film for our Sunday services, I have been struck by the care that people have taken to put flowers there, or make sure the linen is in good order or change the altar frontal so that it is the right one for the season. And others who are using lockdown to tackle some of those maintenance jobs that help to keep the church buildings in good order. Such care.

What tales do you have to encourage us all? Do share them! Send them to me or directly to the editor – let's share some good cheer!

Alice Goodall



COME AND SEE

John 1: 35 – 42

The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!”

When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?”

They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”

“Come,” he replied, “and you will see.”

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.

What’s going on in this passage from John’s gospel?

Well, first we see that John spots Jesus, and points him out. He points him out in a way which intrigues those who are with him. They become curious, and walk behind Jesus, perhaps looking nonchalant, perhaps not really wanting to be seen, until Jesus turns round and asks them a direct question – what are you looking for? Not who are you looking for. What.

They seem caught off guard. Perhaps they haven’t really thought about what they are looking for. So they reply with another question Rabbi, where are you staying? They don’t want Jesus to disappear; they want to be able to find him when they feel ready.

And what they get is a direct invitation, Come and See. The rest, as they say, is history. Today more than 1/3 of the world’s population, about 2.1 billion people are Christians. It all started here. And this is how it continues.

We know that 1 in 5 of our online congregations were not regular worshippers before COVID. What were they looking for when they dipped into, or joined online congregations?

Some may have been looking for entertainment for their kids; some may have been looking for somewhere to belong, a sense of community in lockdown; some may have been looking for assurance – as life became less certain and end of life started to loom larger. Some may have been curious, and had the time and the possibility to explore, to dip their toe in. Some may have been looking for answers or a roadmap as they tried to make sense of what was, and is, happening to the world.

All around us, people are searching for meaning, and their search can take many forms, some try meditation; some try drugs; many try religion in different forms. And a good number have tried our online congregations, or hovered around the fringes of our church communities for some time.

Jesus says, Come and see, come and explore, let me help you to understand how all this fits together. There was nothing coercive about the way he engaged with them - only a gentle, gracious invitation to come and see, to hang out and find out more.

This invitation connects with some kind of desire, some kind of unmet need, a sense of longing. We need to encourage and equip all of God’s people to notice what God is up to and who with. So...why not come and see?

You can register to find out more here: oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see



BIBLE READINGS



Sunday 7 th March	3rd Sunday of Lent	Exodus 20 v1-17 1 Corinthians 1 v18-25 John 2 v13-22
Sunday 14 th March	4th Sunday of Lent/ Mothering Sunday	Numbers 21 v4-9 Ephesians 2 v1-10 John 3 v14-21
(Alternative readings may be used for Mothering Sunday)		
Sunday 21 st March	5th Sunday of Lent	Jeremiah 31 v31-34 Hebrews 5 v5-10 John 12 v20-33
Sunday 28 th March	Palm Sunday	Isaiah 50 v4-9a Philippians 2 v5-11 Mark 11 v1-11 or John 12 v12-16

ZOOM SOCIAL

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

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

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

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

MUDDY CHURCH

For all ages. Contact Revd Yvonne Mullins to find out what is happening in March: ring 01869-278090 or email: curate@shelswellparishes.info

COVID-19 Support

- General information can be found at: www.cherwell.gov.uk/homepage/133/coronavirus-covid-19
- **Age UK:** Supporting older people –01865 411 288
- **Community Connect:** Supporting wellness in the home & anxiety – 0300 004 04 01
- **Oxfordshire Mind:** Supporting mental health – 01865 247 788
- **Citizens Advice:** 0300 330 9037
- **NHS Advice Line:** 111 – www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

Where can I get help with shopping etc?

If you need help with shopping, collecting prescriptions, getting stamps from the Post Office or whatever, whether during lockdown or over the coming months, then please email or phone one of us.
We will do our best to assist!

Cottisford: Jane Birnage 01280 847455 / 07770 220605 janebirnage@icloud.com
Sally Evans 01280 847250 / 07803 952940 sally334@btinternet.com

Finmere: Alice Goodall 01280 848192 alicegoodall313@gmail.com
Anne Hughes 01280 847014 bronygraig12@hotmail.com
Illa Moss 07749 692476. mossski@msn.com
with the help of a large pool of volunteers!

Fringford: Friends Neighbourhood Support Group 07704 756840 neighbourhoodsupport@fringford.info
You can also use the **What's App Mutual Support Group** – details of this via the Fringford Friends as above.

Godington: Helen List list.helen@gmail.com (or phone via the Benefice Office 01280 848192)

Hardwick: David Barnes (Churchwarden) 01869 277690 david.l.barnes@outlook.com

Hethe: Flora Skinner 01896 277366 fskinner@hotmail.co.uk

Juniper: Meryl Daniell 01869 811017 meryldaniell@hotmail.com

Mixbury: Tanya Howroyd 01280 847521
Eryl Tobin 01280 848466

Newton Purcell: Angela Cross 01280 847471 / 07803 721754 angela5258@btinternet.com
Gail Merry 01280847818 / 07738415785 acclaim.builders@tiscali.co.uk

Stratton Audley

Zone 1 South (Blue)
Primary Contact: John Honsinger 01869 278 000 jhonsinger@btconnect.com
Secondary Contact: Adam Willmore_078143 89 493 adam.jess@btinternet.com
Zone 2 North (green)
Primary Contact: Anthony Flack 07976 067 994 flack.wine_train@btinternet.com
Secondary Contact: Mike Gore 07443 469705 mike.gore.handyman@btconnect.com
Zone 3 - North East incl The Park and outer areas (yellow)
Primary Contact: Stewart Hopkins 07933 966 652 stewarthopkins1812@btinternet.com
Secondary Contact: Maxine Ling 07833 462 876 Maxine.ling@btinternet.com
Zone 4 South East (pink)
Primary Contact: Alex Smith 07970 993 099 alex_smith@tmifoods.co.uk
Secondary Contact: Jeremy and Becky Adams 07851 434 978 beckyandjeremy@aol.com
Zone 5 - The Manor (Grey)
Primary Contact: Kathryn Walker 07720 598 959 strattonaudley.kw@gmail.com
Secondary Contact: Jim Mathis 07720 549 081 mathisj4@googlemail.com

Stoke Lyne

Chris Poole 01869 346020 ctp@oxford-educational.co.uk
Emma Brown 01869 345293 emmabrown911@gmail.com
Selina Davies headteacher@whaddon.bucks.sch.uk
Kelly Holden-White 01869 345211 Kholdenwhite@aol.com

ANNUAL MEETINGS, ELECTORAL ROLLS AND OTHER EXCITING THINGS!

Why bother with annual meetings?

Like all charities we are required to hold Annual Meetings to review the previous year and to elect the leadership team for the next year. Our usual Annual Meetings are actually made up of two separate parts; the “Annual Meeting of Parishioners” and the “Annual Parochial Church Meeting”.

1) At the **Annual Meeting of Parishioners**, residents (church attenders or not) and non-residents who are on the parish electoral roll, elect the Church Wardens. Church Wardens are officers of the bishop and their role is to actively represent the congregation and to co-operate with the Rector. They also have specific responsibilities connected to the fabric of the building and its contents but these responsibilities are often shared with the Parochial Church Council (PCC). Those wishing to stand for the role of Church Warden need to be proposed and seconded by other residents or those on the parish electoral roll and the nomination forms need to be with the Rector before the meeting commences. Each parish is entitled to two church wardens – we have empty posts in Finmere, Fringford, Hethe, and Stratton Audley

2) **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** everyone resident in our parishes, or on our electoral rolls, is very welcome to come along to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, although only those on the church electoral roll can vote. **If you would like to come to the APCM but will need transport then please do get in touch and we will see**

Due to the pandemic, the deadline for APCMs has been extended to the end of July, but we will be aiming to hold the meetings in May and June. They may be held in person or via Zoom. Several of these dates are to be confirmed, but currently:

Cottisford and Hardwick – Tuesday 25th May (7.30pm) To be confirmed.

Finmere – Wednesday 12th May (7.30pm)

Fringford – Wednesday 19th May (7.30pm)

Hethe – Monday 24th May (7.30pm) To be confirmed.

Mixbury – Wednesday 2nd June (7.30pm) To be confirmed.

Newton Purcell – Monday 17th May (7pm)

Stoke Lyne – Monday 10th May (7pm)

Stratton Audley – Wednesday 23rd June (7.30pm) To be confirmed.

Why sign up for the electoral roll?

The church electoral roll is different from the Government’s electoral register. It entitles you to vote at the APCM and to stand for the PCC. But it is also an expression of support for that church.

To be eligible to be on the electoral roll, you need either to be resident in the parish or attend church at least once a month (or would have done if not prevented by the pandemic, illness etc).

If you are not on the church electoral roll, why not sign up to it now!

Why not stand for election for the PCC?

Most of our PCCs would welcome new members. Stratton Audley, in particular, is desperate for some! As a member of the PCC you share in the leadership of the church with the Rector, and being on the PCC provides a good opportunity to help shape the church and its activities. It involves attending 4 -8 meetings a year.

If you have any queries on the above then do not hesitate to contact either myself or Becky Adams on 01280 848192.

Alice Goodall

REGISTRY

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

Funerals

Frank O'Neill - Please see Stratton Audley section.

SCHOOLS AND PLAYGROUPS CONTACT DETAILS

FINMERE CHURCH of ENGLAND (VC) PRIMARY SCHOOL, Mere Road, Finmere, Buckingham MK18 4AR

HEAD TEACHER Caroline Tucker Tel 01280 848459

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

Website: www.finmere.oxon.sch.uk

FRINGFORD CHURCH of ENGLAND (VC) PRIMARY SCHOOL, The Green, Fringford, Bicester, Oxon OX27 9DY

HEAD TEACHER Mr Franco Pastore Tel 01869 277397

FINMERE SCHOOL TODDLER GROUP

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

Cost £1.00 per family Contact: Emily Chandler 01280 848459

SHELLOWELL and FRINGFORD PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

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

Contact: Mrs Shirley King Tel 01869 278687

HETHE STAY & PLAY GROUP

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

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

LITTLE LAMBS TODDLERS - STRATTON AUDLEY CHURCH

Wednesday's 10am – 12 noon Term Time jeniddoncfw@gmail.com



Finmere C E Primary School

Primary school admissions – September 2021

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



Finmere C.E Primary School

Challenging all to Shine



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

Please contact us to arrange a visit.

We look forward to welcoming you soon.

📧 office.3090@finmere.oxon.sch.uk

☎ 01280 848459

🌐 www.finmere.oxon.sch.uk

📍 Mere Road, Finmere, MK18 4AR

📱 @FinmereCEPrimary





Fringford C of E
Primary School

Open Mornings

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

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

Ofsted Good 2017
SIAMS Outstanding 2018

Small Reception class

Beautiful outside space

Dedicated staff and well behaved pupils

Children welcome from all surrounding areas

01869 277397

office.3083@fringford.oxon.sch.uk

www.fringford.oxon.sch.uk



Census Sunday 21st March 2021 Government Explanatory Note



Is it compulsory to complete the Census?

The answer is **yes**; completing the questionnaire is compulsory.

Who benefits from the Census?

Everyone benefits from the census. The information you give helps decide how services are planned and funded in your local area.

This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, housing or new bus routes.

When can I complete the questionnaire?

Please fill in the form on **Sunday 21 March 2021**, or as soon as you can afterwards. This is so we can count the whole population on the same day.

You can complete it early, providing you are confident that the make-up of your household won't change between when you fill it in and Census Day.

If you're away from home on Sunday 21 March 2021, you can fill in your household form before you go or as soon as you can afterwards. You can also use your access code to complete online while you're away.

Will the Census be digital only?

Although this census will be 'digital-first', meaning that we aim for the majority of census returns to be completed online, paper questionnaires will be available to anyone who requires them.

Nearer to census time, households will receive a letter with instructions for completing the questionnaire online, or for requesting a paper questionnaire through the post.

Additionally, the Good Things Foundation are working with the Office for National Statistics to support people without internet access or online skills to complete the census.

Census Support Centres will offer face to face support to those who need it, or provide remote support, in areas where COVID-19 restrictions limit the access or availability of a face to face service.

Will you really be able to provide Assisted Digital in-person support?

Support will be available for those who need help to complete the census online and by phone, including providing paper questionnaires for those who need them.

People will also be able complete the census over the phone with help from trained staff via our free phone contact centre.

Given the latest COVID-19 situation and lockdown, are you going ahead with the census?

We have planned and built a flexible operation which can adapt to the changing circumstances of the pandemic. We have continued to review and adapt our plans to ensure our staff and the public can be kept safe, and everyone can be safely counted.

Bee Friendly Gardening Tips

There are lots of ways that you can make your garden friendly for wildlife.

Roselle Chapman from Wild Oxfordshire shares some of her top tips here listen from 5 minutes 30 seconds) or read the attached.

https://pennypost.org.uk/2020/12/wildlife-friendly-gardening-tips/?fbclid=IwAR2Mr_n35twGCux42gX9A7TQ7DY5X2Os9ibaRbJqaOgaZ1IhguwURmp1TM0

Gardening for bees and other pollinators

Bee facts

250 species of bees in the UK
 224 wild solitary bees
 25 wild bumble bees
 One domesticated honey bee

Trees you can plant this winter to help pollinators

Male grey willow (sallow) *Salix cinerea*
 Goat willow *Salix caprea*
 Small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata*
 Service trees: *Sorbus torminalis*, *Sorbus domestica*
 Apple *Malus* sp - any, fruit bearing, or ornamental
 Cherry Plum - *Prunus cerasifera*
 Wild Hawthorn - *Crataegus monogyna/laevigata*

Gardening tips

Leave the dead plant stems over winter. Hollow stems may be used by bees for over wintering.]
 Provide flowers throughout the year – some bees emerge as early as February.
 Buy organic to ensure bulbs and plants haven't been treated with neonicotinoids.
 Have a flowering lawn.
 Provide a source of water for bees.
 Leave a patch of bare earth – mason bees gather mud to build egg cells.
 Include a variety flower shapes – different species have different tongue lengths..

More information can be found:

<https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/communities/resources/>



NAI'S HOUSE



My name is Cyndy Lee and I would like to let the residents of Fringford and the surrounding villages know a little more about Nai's House.

In February 2017 my granddaughter Dené took her own life.

Dené used to live in the village with her mum and went to the nursery and Fringford School.

As a family we were heartbroken and devastated by her death, as were her friends. Sadly, like so many, the help Dené received from overstretched and under resourced statutory services was of little help.

My daughter, Gem, concluded that it was not right that people couldn't get the help they needed, and felt that no other family should have to go through the trauma of losing a child due to a lack of appropriate suicide prevention and mental and emotional support services.

Using her professional and personal experience, my daughter created and delivered Nai's House.

Nai's House is a unique, volunteer-led registered charity in Bicester that provides suicide prevention and mental health support for people in the community aged up to 30. It is a free service and relies on grants from funding bodies and donations from the public in order to stay open and deliver services.

Our holistic approach helps our guests discover individualised skills and methods to better manage their mental health and increase long term emotional wellbeing. For some of our guests that may be through our 1-2-1 Supporters or our Counsellors, but for others it can just be about providing a safe space for creative and physical activities such as meditation; yoga; art; and rage release.

If you are needing help as a young person or parent, or know someone who is struggling, please call or text on 07437 497697 or email on hello@naishouse.org.uk

Or visit our facebook page: @NaishouseBicester Instagram page @naishouseoxon Twitter: @naishouse

Nai's House are pleased to announce that you can now donate to us when shopping on Amazon.

To set this up you will need to register on smile.amazon.co.uk and select Nai's House cio as your chosen charity. Each time you shop through smile.amazon.co.uk 0.5% of your total purchase cost will be donated to Nai's House.

Nai's House is a charitable incorporated organisation registered with the charity commission on 9th November 2020.

Charity number: 1192238

Operating address: 15-16 Crown Walk, Bicester, Oxfordshire, OX26 6HY

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

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



We welcomed Tamsin Westhorpe to our meeting via Zoom on Tuesday 9th February. Her horticultural career so far has included working alongside her great uncle at Burford House Gardens, working in garden centres and large communal parks, writing for various garden magazines and national newspapers and creating podcasts! She is also a RHS Chelsea Flower Show Judge and speaker at home and abroad.

Her talk was about 'Preparing for Spring'. This was based around Stockton Bury Gardens in Herefordshire, where she is director and gardener. The 4 acre garden was created over 45 years and is at the heart of the family working farm. It was originally one of the Bury farms of the Benedictine Priory in Leominster.

Tamsin took us on a tour of the garden with a selection of beautiful photos. We saw the Dovecote, the Dingle where an old quarry was transformed into a large pond, the Auricula theatre, a variety of trees surrounded by beds of perennials and orchards. At Stockton Bury they start preparing for spring as soon as the garden closes in September and it takes 6 months to complete! She suggested a number of tasks that we should be doing now! These included sowing seeds (under cover), repotting shrubs, weeding in the garden and pruning. She gave us tips about growing the best tulips. Tamsin also showed us a selection of her favourite plants for the spring garden including a field of Fritillarias.

At the end of the meeting, we saw some of the photos taken of members visiting the garden in 2019.

Our next Zoom meeting will take place on **Tuesday 9th March at 7.30 pm**. Alan Sargent will talk about **'Confessions of a Gardener!'** Alan is a writer and landscape gardener. He has been building gardens for 50 years and is now Britain's leading garden management consultant.

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.

SHELSWELL POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP

Thank you to everyone who suggested the titles of poems to do with the month of March.

The 4th of March is World Book Day, and we have three poems about books and what they mean to us: *There is no Frigate Like a Book* by *Emily Dickinson*; *Notes on the Art of Poetry* by *Dylan Thomas* and *Good Books* by *Edgar Albert Guest*.

In his poem *The First Sight of Spring* by *John Clare*, the 19th century Northamptonshire poet, a deep love for and close observation of the natural world is evident, as are those of *Swinburne* in *March; Houseman*, in his poem also entitled *March*, and *Spring Quiet* by *Christina Rossetti*.

Their poetry influenced that of *Ted Hughes*, and his poem *March Morning Unlike Others* shows that vivid poetry about the natural world is alive and well.

Jonathan Swift, author of *Gulliver's Travels*, wrote a poem, marking the birthday of the woman he loved, entitled *Stella's Birthday March 13th 1727*, and, two and a half centuries later, *Richard Wilbur* wrote *March 26th 1974*, in celebration of the 100th birthday of the poet Robert Frost.

Another American poet, *Elizabeth Bishop*, wrote *The End of March*, a poem in which a cold, windy walk along a beach is a mixture of vivid description and musings about her life. *Amy Levy*, in *A March Day in London*, examines how a cold and bleak day in that city mirrors her own unhappiness, but it ends, as does March, with hope for better things to come.

The classic *The Daffodils* by *William Wordsworth* is perhaps the best-known March poem, but have you read *Miracle on St David's Day* by *Gillian Clarke*? It recounts how Wordsworth's poem unlocked the voice of a man who had been silent for many years.

If you have any suggestions for poems connected in some way with the month of April, please send them to me at judith.harvey@live.co.uk or phone me on 01869 811994. Judith Harvey

SHELSWELL READING GROUP

Our February 11th meeting focused on *The Other Bennet Sister* by *Janice Hadlow*. Taking *Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice* as a jumping-off point it imagines what the life of the middle Bennet sister, Mary, might have been like. Whereas we learn very little about her in the original novel, Hadlow invents a whole back story and develops her as a character in her own right. The author uses what Austen writes about her and adds to it, creating a much more rounded character and using her researches into early 19th century literature, music, social conditions and the twin themes of sense and sensibility and what they could lead to. It did not prove to be a popular read with the group, and we agreed that it's best not to mess with a classic! Some of the group also read *The Missing Sister*, by *Jennifer Paynter*, an Australian novelist, who does the same as Hadlow. It was interesting to see what the two authors did with the same basic story, Mary ending up in New South Wales in Paynter's version of her life.

The book for March is *Bel Canto* by *Ann Pratchett* a book with a South American setting and the date for the March Zoom meeting is Wednesday March 10th at 7.30pm. If you would like to join in please contact me for details on 01869 811994 or at judith.harvey@live.co.uk. Hopefully, it will not be too long before we can start meeting again in the flesh!

In the meantime, here are some recommendations from individual members of the group:

Where the Crawdads Sing by *Delia Owens*

The Morning Gift by *Eva Ibbotson*

The Post-Birthday World by *Lionel Shriver*

The Shadow King by *Maaza Mengiste*

A Long Petal of the Sea by *Isabel Allende*

News of the World by *Paulette Giles*

The Company Daughters by *Samantha Rajaram*

Judith Harvey



SHELLOW WI

Please join members of Shelswell WI on **Thursday, 4th March**, at 8pm for zooming. **Graeme Gettings with 'Tangle Doodles'** will be our Speaker. Please be ready with paper and pens for a fun interactive evening.

April's speaker: **'Life as a Prison Officer'** with Pauline Martindale should be very interesting and afterwards there will be an informal catch up time for members.

February's Meeting was the AGM. We were fortunate to have Bicester Town Councillor Richard Mould, who gave us an update on the town centre's development plans. It has been a challenging time for the Council, with many empty shops.

For the talk by Councillor Mould we were joined by our neighbouring Langford Village, Launton and Wendlebury WI's, who were interested to hear the presentation. Afterwards, Shelswell continued in private, saying a huge thank you to Jane the President, Lesley the Treasure and Hazel for all their hard work over the last few years and who have stepped down from the Committee.

We have **a new Committee**:

Elaine Whittaker - President, Sylvia Friend - Secretary, Christine Underwood - Treasurer, Veronica Barnes - Programme Secretary, with Meryl Daniell and Nicky Lane as general members.

We are committed to keeping going in this difficult time until we can meet again in person. We have some amazing plans for the summer months, when hopefully we will be able at least to meet outdoors. The benefits of being part of Shelswell WI is to be part of a national membership organisation, receiving the monthly newsletter, the monthly news and views magazine and the bi-monthly WI Life magazine. Also, attend group meetings, access mywi website, make new friends, gain new knowledge, take part in new activities, take part in campaigning, access to Shelswell coffee club and face book page.

For more information on Shelswell WI, please contact President Elaine Whittaker 07917 453224 or Nicky Lane 07814796717.

REPORTS FROM THE PARISHES

Cottisford and Juniper Hill

St Mary the Virgin

CHURCHWARDEN:	Charles Jackson, Cottisford House, Cottisford	Tel 01280 848247
TREASURER	David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick	Tel 01869 277690
PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER	Meryl Daniel	
MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT:	Judith Harvey, Lark Rise Cottage, Juniper Hill	Email: judith.harvey@live.co.uk

THE FRIENDS OF COTTISFORD CHURCH

Thank you to all the people who support the work of The Friends. Your continued interest and financial contributions are very much appreciated.

Despite the problems posed by the Coronavirus, we have made good progress during the past year with our proposed improvements to Saint Mary's. We believe that these improvements will ensure that the church remains at the heart of the village, both in terms of worship and as a community space.

We welcome new members to our organisation, and if you would like to become a member of The Friends of Cottisford Church, please contact me on 01280 847455 or at janebirmage@icloud.com

COTTISFORD AND JUNIPER HILL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We cannot yet organise any face-to-face events, but we hope that, with the rollout of the vaccine, it will not be too long before we can. In the meantime, the extra bulbs we planted and distributed around Cottisford and Juniper Hill last autumn should cheer us all and enhance our enjoyment of the spring.

THE BOOK EXCHANGE

We are delighted to see that the 'Bus Stop Book Exchange' at the Cottisford crossroads is proving very popular with villagers and visitors alike. There is hardly an hour that goes by without someone dropping off a book, browsing, or taking one home. It is providing a great deal of comfort and support to our community and beyond in these difficult times.

We would like to thank everyone for the great book donations and continued enthusiastic use of the book exchange. Please continue to take one or two books and drop them back when they have been read.

We have had a couple of incidents where a large number of books have been taken at one visit, which goes against the spirit of the scheme. We want everyone to use it, not abuse it, please.

Happy Reading!

Jane Birnage

Finmere St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: Vacancy

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

Tel 01280 847782

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Katherine Grimston

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

Tel 01280 848268

COVID and lockdown compliant holiday



A villager has proposed the following recipe for a lockdown compliant holiday break.

Day 1. Rise early, dress in suitable loose-fitting clothes (Shellsuit if possible) and drive to the edge of the village. Stop and check for passports, return home and collect passports. Drive around the village for a little while. Return home and sit in the lounge on suitable camping style chairs and eat a lukewarm pre-cooked meal on a plastic tray., accompanied by a plastic glass of warm wine. Remain in chair and view an old film on a suitable small screen device and then try to sleep, with face mask and still in chair. Play solitaire on small screen device and then watch the film again. For added realism, your partner / spouse may wish to periodically kick the back of your chair. At bedtime, turn heating to maximum, especially in the bedroom and switch on a fan in the room.

Day 2. Rise late, dress in Shorts, Hawaiian shirt, flip flops and have a buffet breakfast. Buffet must include a bowl of apples and oranges. Place an apple and orange in a napkin, place on pocket and lay on the sofa. Take a vitamin D tablet, put on sunglasses and hat and read a book (book must be in paperback form since you omitted to pack the charger for your small screen device, which has now lost power due to all the games of solitaire played on day 1). Late morning, mix Pina Colada, take pic of Pina Colada with phone and post to Facebook. Whomever mixed the Pina Colada must, for the duration of this holiday experience, be called Jose or Juanita (preferably mispronounced). Partake of another (well, you are on holiday) Pina Colada. Have a buffet lunch accompanied by one

glass of wine. Retire for a post lunch snooze then return to sofa and continue reading. In late afternoon, have another Pina Colada and retire to shower and dress for dinner. Have another Pina Colada, followed by a 3 course dinner with more wine, preferably decanted into a jug. Finish with more drinks, preferably from that bottle that has been lurking in the back of the cupboard for the last 5 years. Dance around the lounge to the CD that you once purchased on a previous holiday and has never been listened to since. Retire to bed as gracefully as possible.

Day 3. Repeat day 1 in reverse, but stay dressed in shorts, Hawaiian shirt and flip flops. Turn heating down and comment on temperature. Put passports back in a safe place.

Ingredients / shopping list: paperback reading material (Dan Brown et al), pre-cooked pasta dish (preferably past sell by date), vitamin D tablets (over priced in most stores), rough wine (available everywhere)

Upmarket variant entails ordering food for Day 2 from the Red Lion, but must be delivered. Also place sand from garage in a washing up bowl and place feet on sand whilst reading book. Book could also be '50 shades of grey' available from all good charity shops, most of whom have an entire shelf dedicated to that genre.

Anon of Finmere

Village Hall

Unfortunately, the Village Hall is now closed for the duration of the lockdown. We hope to be open again in the spring, or when government guidelines allow.



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	Tel 01869 278873
TREASURER: Christina McCullagh, 5 Crosslands, Fringford	Tel 07867 515207
PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Penny Wood as below	
MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Penny Wood, 8 Crosslands, Fringford	Tel 01869 277310
VILLAGE HALL CORRESPONDENT: Christine Underwood	Tel 01869 278949
WEBSITE www.fringford.info	

Services & Events

Please see the back of the Magazine and check the church noticeboard for up-to-date news.

Zoom Lent Groups:

During Lent the Benefice is running various courses/study opportunities. If something interests you, join in. You would be most welcome.

1. Inspired to Follow – produced by St Martin in the Fields with the National Gallery – explore the theme of ‘Who is my neighbour?’ through paintings

7.30 pm on Wed 17/2, Thurs 25/2, Wed 3/3, Thurs 11/3, 18/3 and 25/3.

More details from Penny Wood Penelope.wood@btopenworld.com

2. Come and See – an opportunity to explore the Christian faith – this Zoom group will reflect on Bishop Steven’s talks. Tuesdays, 4 – 5 pm, starting 23rd February. More details from Alice Goodall rector@shelswellparishes.info

In Fringford we are planning to mark Mothering Sunday (14 March) in some ‘Covid safe’ way. Planning is in train. Watch out for posters/flyers round the village.

There will be activities going on in Holy Week, which begins on Sunday 28th March, so do check the Church notice board. Hopefully we will be able to celebrate Easter inside our church.

Muddy Church

For all ages. Contact Revd Yvonne Mullins to find out what is happening in March: ring 01869-278090 or email: curate@shelswellparishes.info

Zoom Socials

Coffee & Chat – Tuesdays at 10.45am

Quiz time - Wednesdays at 1.30pm.

You would be most welcome to join in; to get the ‘zoom’ details contact the Rector on 01280-848192, or email alicegoodall313@gmail.com

Fund-raising Initiatives

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.

All being well, the PCC is planning to hold **Open Gardens** on the weekend beginning Saturday 29th May, [If you’d be willing to open your garden, please contact Penny on 01869-277310 or email: penelope.wood@btopenworld.com]

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

Fringford 100 Club

In the spirit of cooperation and good sense, the plan is now for Fringford PCC and the Friends of Fringford School to combine their efforts to run a 100 Club. The profits would be shared equally between them. By joining the 100 Club you would help towards improving facilities in both the church and the school as well as having a chance to win money prizes every month. If we are able to recruit 100 members (50 from the village and 50 from the school) paying £3 per month (£36 annually), the income for that month would be £300. 50% could be used for prize money (£75, £50 and £25), 25% would go to the church and 25% to the school. We are thinking about starting as soon as possible in 2021, once schools return to normal. I have already had 16 expressions of interest from villagers and plan to start canvassing in the New Year. Any queries or if you would like to put your name down, **please contact Christina McCullagh on 07867 515207.**

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

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

Penny Wood

THE BUTCHER'S ARMS

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

Hardwick

St Mary the Virgin

CHURCHWARDENS: John Curtis, Sycamore House, Hardwick

David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick

TREASURER: David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Meryl Daniel

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Veronica Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick

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

Tel 01869 277984

Tel 01869 277690

Tel 01869 277690

Tel 01869 277690

CORONAVIRUS COMMUNITY SUPPORT FROM ST MARY'S CHURCH, HARDWICK

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

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

Please call or email:

David Barnes (Churchwarden) 01869 277690 david.l.barnes@outlook.com

Revd Alice Goodall (Rector) 01280 848192 rector@shelswellparishes.info

Finding Mary in St Mary's

Most churches are dedicated to a particular saint or saints. However, in many cases, other than a name on a notice board, it is not always obvious who the patron saint of a church is. For mediaeval churches, like all those in the Shelswell Benefice, this is likely to be because all visual representation of saints, such as statues, paintings, murals, and stained glass windows, were removed or destroyed during the Reformation.

Hardwick church is dedicated to St Mary, the mother of Jesus. In this regard Hardwick is not unusual as Mary is the most popular dedication in England, with over 2,000 of the country's more than 16,000 Anglican churches also being dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. This is not that surprising, as mediaeval England had a strong attachment to the Virgin Mary. For example, King Edward the Confessor, who reigned from 1042-1066, referred to England as "Mary's Dowry". There were also many pilgrimage sites dedicated to the Virgin, most famously Walsingham in Norfolk.

So, this month's short piece on the features of Hardwick church, considers the question, where is Mary in St Mary's? How much evidence is there of Hardwick's patron saint in the church? It turns out that there is plenty.

The first and most obvious example is that of the statue of a "Madonna and Child" (i.e. Mary holding the infant Jesus) placed in an alcove immediately above the south porch, which provides every day access to the church. Such a clearly visible representation would be unlikely to have survived the puritan iconoclasts, so it should be no surprise to discover that the statue was added when much of the church was rebuilt in late Victorian times, when the influence of the Anglo-Catholic, Oxford Movement was particularly strong.

There are also plenty of representations of Mary inside the church, as all but one of the stained glass windows show representations of the Virgin:

The Te Deum Window, at the west end of the church includes two depictions of Mary. The middle centre panel shows the crucifixion scene, with Mary at the foot of the cross. Below this is a nativity scene in which the three kings are shown presenting their gifts to the baby Jesus, who is being held in the arms of his mother, Mary.

The Jesse Tree Window, located at the east end of the church, behind the altar, illustrates the ancestry of Our Lord. He is shown at its centre, as an infant being held by his mother. The fact that both these mediaeval windows survived the destructive forces of the Reformation is, perhaps, testimony to the lack of animosity between Catholics and Protestants in this part of North Oxfordshire. No doubt Hardwick church was given some additional protection due to its location on Tusmore land, which was at that time held by the staunchly Catholic Fermor family, who were known to employ many of their fellow Catholics on their estate. The other three stained glass windows featuring Mary were installed during the restoration of 1877-79 under the protestant, Earl Howard.

The Visitation Window, in the north wall of the nave depicts Mary visiting her cousin Elizabeth, pregnant at the time with John the Baptist. Elizabeth tells Mary that she is “Blessed amongst women” when she learns that Mary is pregnant with Jesus.

The Annunciation Window, which is in the north wall of the chancel, shows Mary being told by the Angel Gabriel that she is “highly favoured” as she will bear the son of God.

The Presentation Window, in the south wall of the chancel, depicts the baby Jesus being presented to the Lord at the Temple in Jerusalem, forty days after his birth in accordance with Jewish custom for a first-born son. Mary is shown looking on, as the old man Simeon, holding the baby in his arms, declares “Lord, now lettest thou thy servants depart in peace”.

The depictions of Mary shown in these windows include many of the most important events from her life as recorded in the Bible. They can leave no doubt about her importance to this church. Please do visit Hardwick when you are next able to do so, where you too will be able to discover St. Mary in the church that is dedicated to her.

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

News from St Edmund & St George Church & Community Activity

If you have any news or a local event to publicise, please send the details to me, where possible with a photo, and if suitable I will add them to next month's news and include them on the village web site. The deadline for this publication is on Page 2. Please note that I have no control over the acceptance or placement of advertisements, please contact the Benefice Administrator for advice.

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 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”.

ST EDMUND & ST GEORGE CHURCH



Church Access

At the time of writing this article the church was closed due to the high rates of COVID-19 infection. For the latest information about opening and services, please look at the village or Sheshwell Benefice web site.

Plans are being made to safely re-open the church when conditions allow. Please read the notices in the church for guidance.

Church Repairs & Redecoration

We have applied for a grant to help towards the following:

- Window Repairs. Conservation of the stained-glass window in the west wall of the nave, allowing for re-leading where necessary and including repairs to the stonework. Restoration, repairs and lead treatment to other windows.
- Redecoration. Cleaning of walls, replastering where necessary and repainting.
- Replacement Notice Board. Removal and replacement of the existing notice board at the gate to the church path.

We have already received one very generous donation towards the cost of the window repairs. We will keep you informed of progress.

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.

With effect from 1st March, you will 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.



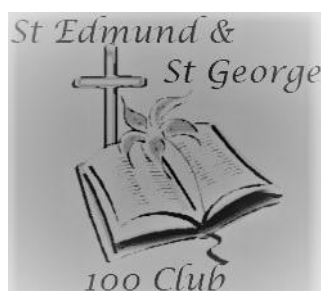
Alternatively, phone 0333 002 1271. This line is open Monday to Friday, between 9.00am and 5.00pm. You will need to have your bank account details, our church/parish name (Hethe St Edmund & St George) and our PGS parish code (270627041) to hand.

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 February draw:
 1st Prize No 30 John & Sue Schutz
 2nd Prize No 50 Nicky Beddall
 3rd Prize No 45 Alfred Mansfield

Next Draw Wednesday 10th March

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



A representative of “Wild Oxfordshire” should be visiting the churchyard this month to advise us on how best to proceed with turning part of it into a “wild” area.

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.

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

Prayer

Creator of our common home,
 You fill the earth and sea and sky with life
 Forgive us our neglect of your creation
 The choking waste of our pollution
 The damage done by careless habits
 And our indifference to future generations.
 Help us to amend our lives
 To refuse more plastic if we can't reuse it
 To lift our voice for lasting change
 And to live well and gently on the earth
 To the glory of your Son, the living Word
 Through whom you made this fragile world.

Amen

Rt Revd Steven Croft

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.



• F L O W E R S •

Designed by Steve



www.flowersdesignedbysteve.co.uk
07929 611 553
Facebook: Flowers.designedbySteve



Mothers Day

Sunday 14th March 2021

Send your Mum the perfect gift from
flowers designed by Steve

Small Hatbox £35
Medium Hatbox £45
Large Hatbox £55
X Large Hatbox £65

Choose your Mums favourite flower colours
Delivery on Sunday 14th to your Mum (extra £5)

Collection available from me, with social distancing
Please contact me for more details

We only get one Mum, so treat her well x

HETHE COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

Village Hall

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

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



Adventure Playground



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

Recycling

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

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

Please dispose of your glass responsibly – DO NOT LITTER - take metal/plastic tops and plastic bags/cardboard boxes away with you to dispose of or to recycle at home. **If banks full do not leave glass in boxes but please take away and try another day. Broken glass is dangerous to villagers and animals.**

Thank you





Hethe 1982 Edwardian Spring Festival

Hethe was closed to all traffic except ponies and traps while the Edwardian Spring Fair was held. The fair was a revival of the old village day held in Hethe until the late 1920s.

The day began with a procession through the village and the crowning of the May Queen (13 year-old Jane Gough) and continued with maypole and country dancing, children's sports, a cross-country run, wellie throwing and a tug-of-war across the brook. In the evening there was a barbecue at the Whitmore Arms (now known as the Muddy Duck) and disco in the village hall across the road.

The streets were lined with craft stalls, games, sideshows and swing boats on the Village Green. Exhibitions of photographs, lace and artwork were held in the village hall.

It was a very warm day for villagers to be dressed as Edwardians with their plumed hats and long elegant dresses with stiff, high-necked collars!

Jane Mansfield commented:

"We chose the Edwardian period because the older people in the village remember Hethe as it was in those days and still have the costumes. They have been able to tell us a great deal about the old days and have loaned photographs for an exhibition."

There were also "toffs" in top hat and tails and various country folk from milk maids to barmen wearing belts, braces, bowler hats and gaudy waistcoats.

Flags and bunting decorated many cottages.

Ian Robinson commented:

"We have had fetes before, but they have always been run-of-the-mill things and this year we wanted to do something different which people could dress up for."

"The village centre is almost the same as it was shortly after the turn of the century. The only thing which has altered is the roofs. Now we have less thatching."

The festival made £1,475 profit. This was put towards renovating the village hall, which was then in Hethe House, and the building fund for a new hall.

From **Pauline O'Gorman**

"Today I have eaten a CAMEL !!

"This was to remind me of Epiphany. It was a ginger biscuit containing spices from the East which is where the Three Kings (Magi) travelled from to witness the birth of a King (Jesus). This biscuit was in a Goody Bag lovingly and thoughtfully put together by the organizers of Shelswell by the Sea led by members of the Ministry team. It was the third of three goody bags, one for each lockdown. The theme one a holiday cruise; second Mad Hatters Tea party and third Epiphany, all loaded with delicious cakes & biscuits, puzzles, games and Liz's quiz's - "Food for Body, Mind and Brain". Hope everyone else receiving these Goody Bags enjoyed them as much as me.

"I would also like to mention the Service at Stoke Lyne on the Sunday before Christmas. It was a lovely service and we were given two delicious homemade mince-pies in a gift bag to take home as we left. Thankyou Stoke Lyne. And our own Christmas Day Service in Hethe was very much appreciated and enjoyed with the sun beaming through the stained glass windows onto the Christmas tree and Sandra's lovely, very simple, arrangement. This was our first Service since March and was like coming home."

Mixbury All Saints

CHURCHWARDENS: Martin Ayres, Northwell Farm, Finmere	Tel 07899 792552
Alec Howard, Middlestead, Mixbury	Tel 01280 848295
TREASURER: David Mitchell. 2 Town Farm, Mixbury	Tel 01280 847769
PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Anna Howard	
MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Sue Goodman pasgoodman551@gmail.com	Tel 01280 848002

Church Services

The Church remains closed, please see details of on-line services on the back page of the magazine.

Pop Up Pub Nights in Mixbury

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

Mixbury Covid Response Team

In light of the latest lockdown news, we just wanted to remind everyone that our Covid-19 Mixbury Response Team is still set up to help anyone in the village. We know many of you have your shopping slots booked which is great, but please do not hesitate to ask if you need anything picking up. The same goes for any medications and prescriptions.

We are in the depths of winter too so if you need help shovelling snow (if we get any), moving in firewood or you have an emergency then please ask for help.

Please just ask either by sending me an email or phoning one of the numbers below. The people listed are just the first point of contact - we have a happy team of people up and down the village who are there to help.

Tanya Howroyd 01280 847521
 Siusai McCarthy-Wyper 01280 847035
 Eryl Tobin 01280 848466
 Alice Goodall 01280 848192

If you don't get a response from the first person you try, then please try one of the others.

from: Tanya Howroyd

All Our Yesterdays How the Vestry Governed the Parish

A Vestry was a committee for the secular and ecclesiastical government of a parish, which originally met in the vestry or sacristy of the parish church, and consequently became known as the "Vestry". From the 16th century, for several centuries the Vestries were the sole de facto local government, where they presided over communal fundraising and expenditure, with local Established Church chairmanship, in most cases the parish priest being the best-educated of the inhabitants. Their initial power derived from local custom and relationships between lords of manors, magistrates and the clergy - so they each developed in different ways - and it was occasionally ratified by the common law, or asserted by statute such as the Elizabethan Poor Law. Indeed, for some 250 years after this particular piece of legislation the management of the country's Poor Laws lay at the heart of the Vestry's business although, as we shall see, it exercised several other functions. At the high point of their powers, before the 1834 reform of the Poor Law arrangements which created workhouses, the Vestries are estimated to have spent not far short of one fifth of the budget of the British Government.

As the complexity of society increased under the Tudors - increased trade, enclosure and depopulation of rural areas, the growth of towns, the dissolution of the monasteries etc. - Vestries became increasingly important. As well as raising and administering local funds they became responsible for appointing parish officials, such as the clerk, the overseers of the poor, churchwardens, constables and surveyors of the highways.

Some places appointed a parish scavenger whose job it was to make sure that any "waste" in a parish was used for civic purposes (e.g. rubble from a collapsed building left at the side of a road could be used to fill holes in the roads), but we can find no record of one appointed in Mixbury. After the 1834 Poor Law Act the Vestry nominated a representative (guardian) to the local Board which ran the workhouse which served the parish - in our case, Brackley.

So, from a Vestry meeting on March 23rd 1847 we hear "At a meeting held this day present the Undersigned it was agreed that John Watts and John Painter be appointed Overseers, John Wood Guardian, John Watts Churchwarden, John Painter and William Barnes Surveyors of the Highways, and Robert Paxton and John Woods Constables for the Ensuing year - Signed; John Painter, William Barnes, R. Paxton, G. Sadler, John Wood." I suspect Mr Sadler didn't get a "job" because he was not a significant landholder, which in this case included farmers who leased the land directly from the lord of the manor.

Prior to the start of the 19th century the Vestry in Mixbury were drawn from these people, notably the principal farming families, although from 1818/1819 Vestries were required by law to include representatives of the whole community. This was something of a hollow gesture because the great majority of the parishioners worked for the farmers and landowners anyway, and would have had to follow the lead of their employers/landlords. However, as the local rates were paid according to an assessment of the rateable value of property held, it was the farmers/landowners who paid, although the cost was probably passed on to tenants through rents. To illustrate the influence of this small number of families, for the Mixbury rate levy of 1849, John Painter paid 43% of the total raised in the parish. From time to time the Vestry was reminded of its public duty. For several years in the 1840s it refused to raise funds to repair All Saints church, and only did so after Bishop Wilberforce wrote a letter reminding it of its legal responsibilities.

The information about Mixbury Vestry is from records held by Oxford History Centre, an invaluable source for anyone wanting to research their own parish. The Centre also holds the accounts for Mixbury's overseers of the poor between 1733 and 1756. The funds the Vestry managed were not just used to purchase goods to alleviate the effects of poverty, such as a 1735 payment for 36 faggots of wood, later payments for "sope" and bread and butter, or shirts for a boy: but were also used to provide what are regarded today as social or public services e.g. weekly payments of 1 shilling to named villagers (subsequently these appear as one week's "pay"), attendance at a childbirth, and nursing a "bastard" child. Mixbury was mostly a poor village. In 1803 the poor rate was assessed at 8 shillings in the £ (each property was valued at a certain number of £s) whereas the average poor rate in Oxfordshire at the time was about 4 shillings

Secular and ecclesiastical aspects of the Vestry were separated towards the end of the 19th century as public service took over the former, culminating in the 1894 Local Government Act. The governance of the Church of England was formally separated from the State in 1919, largely due to lobbying by the Church to remove what it saw as inertia in central Government in dealing with ecclesiastical matters, and a growth in the numbers of non-conformist and Roman Catholic Members of Parliament. Local ecclesiastical duties were taken on 3 years later by the new Parochial Church Councils, which we still have today. A link to the whole community remains through the right for any member of a parish to attend and speak at a PCC's annual meeting. One unfortunate effect of the separation is that it left the Church with no tax base. PCCs have to rely on gifts, grants and the church collection, and the value of this has diminished over time: contrary to public opinion, the Church is not cash rich. The launch of the Parish Giving Scheme by several parishes in the Shelswell News in January, although prompted by loss of income due to coronavirus, actually seeks to address a structural issue originating almost 100 years ago.

By Bruce Epps

Pot Holes

If you see any sizeable pot holes around the village please complete the on-line report (with a photo if possible) to :<https://www.fixmystreet.com>, part of Oxfordshire County Council.

Newton Purcell St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDENS: Ann von Maltzahn, Home Farm Shelswell Park	Tel 01280 848680
Sophie Crofton, South Lodge, Shelswell Park	Tel 01869 277232
TREASURER: Fai Li, 4 St. Peter's Close, Stoke Lyne, Bicester, OX27 8RB	Tel 07725 009838
PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Sphie Crofton as above	
MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Ann von Maltzahn	Tel 01280 84868

Bonus Ball Lotto -

Our most recent lucky winner was Sophie Crofton.

It's never too late to join and 'you have to be in it to win it'. For just £1.00 each week you too could have a chance of a weekly cash prize. Please contact Ann von Maltzahn for full details.

Newton Purcell with Shelswell -

Historically Newton Purcell and Shelswell were two distinct parishes with their own churches. The church at Shelswell, dedicated to St Ebba, stood in the field in front of Home Farm but sadly fell into a ruinous state in the 17th century and the remains were finally demolished at the end of that century. Passers by today will see no trace of it.

In 1850 the ecclesiastical parishes of Newton Purcell and Shelswell were united and today our church is St Michael & All Angel's in Newton Purcell. Originally a wooden building built by the English settlers in the 12th century, it was rebuilt in the Gothic style on the Norman foundations during the 19th century and still contains many of its particularly fine original features.

Introducing the QR Code System -

Like all churches over the past year, with little or no possibility of generating income to maintain our special buildings or indeed meet our financial commitments, we have decided to introduce a QR code system with the Codes strategically placed on public rights of way across the parish. We very much hope that all those who pass by and have enjoyed being in our wonderful countryside will wish to voluntarily contribute to help us in our endeavours.

Stoke Lyne St Peter's

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

St Peter's Church Services

Please see back page for details of services

Churchyard

The snowdrops are plentiful now especially at the back of the churchyard, and the daffodils round the outside wall by the gate should be blooming by the time you receive your March magazine

Snow fall

We had various photos that people in the village had taken.

The children and parents had a lovely time in the snow sledging and making snow men all very different and there was even a snow house one family had made, down the lane a photograph was taken of the lovely horse called Ella licking the snow from the wall that runs alongside the lane. A selection of photos below please don't be disappointed if your photo isn't there they are all on Facebook.



The Surprise in the Snow

The snow we had this week reminded me of "a dark and stormy night". It had been snowing nonstop all day and ice was everywhere, when into the yard in amongst all the sheep dropping lambs everywhere appeared a cowboy on a chestnut horse.

I thought for a moment it was an apparition but no he spoke in an American accent "Do you have any room for a horse and man who are freezing cold?"

Now the family and Ray Green had been going all day nonstop, trying to keep frozen lambs alive and every corner was filled, even my horses had to be turned out in the field with rugs on in what was 4/6 inches deep snow by then.

"We cannot go any further the roads are icy if I could sleep on a mat by your fire and horse has his rug, but needs some hay please"

I cannot remember his name but he was dressed in a tartan fleece jacket, jeans, chaps and Stetson hat, all covered with a rain poncho just like in the films.

It seems the horse, a chestnut stallion, was a full brother to Kris who won the Derby the previous year and this young man had spent all his savings on him and a passage to America, the idea being to use him at stud, but to ride him from Newmarket to Southampton was not a good idea. He was heading for the Ridgeway as it does head towards the south.

However he spent the night on the mat by the fire and the next day we got in touch with the British Horse Society man who lived at Weston on the Green. A lady turned up with a horse box and took them somewhere, but we never heard what happened – he had to catch a boat at Southampton and was running out of time.

I hope he caught the boat!

Stoke Lyne W.I.

There isn't a lot to report other than we keep in touch by telephone making sure all are okay and members are hoping it won't be too long till we can meet up again even if it is just for a tea/coffee.

We are still doing any business that needs to be done by email and writing to members who don't have internet etc.

I joined Shelswell W.I. on Zoom at their February meeting, the speaker was Councillor Richard Mould giving an update on plans for Bicester Centre.

Rena Andrews



Shelswell by the Sea

January when nearly all the festive fare had gone, I had a surprise knock at the door on a cold evening, when I opened the door one of James and Kelly's daughters was there with a goodie bag and dad, James was in the background.

It was like Christmas all over again looking to see what was in the bag. There were little cakes, home made shortbread biscuits, fudge, different sweet bars, these were all individually wrapped in glass paper. We had puzzle books and quizzes, and a hyacinth bulb already potted up that has brought me a lot of pleasure waiting to see what colour it was going to be, mine was a dark purple but in the photo below it looks more like pink.

Thank you to all the team and volunteers for doing this.

Rena Andrews

THE LACEMAKERS OF STOKE LYNE

To modern minds lacemaking might sound like a nice little hobby to dabble in during a bit of spare time in winter whilst sitting comfortably in a well-lit warm room perhaps listening to some of our favourite music or in the summer sitting in a sunny garden. The reality in the 19thC was far removed from this cosy pre-conception as I discovered when I first researched this occupation after discovering that I had a great x 2 grandmother who was a lacemaker in Northamptonshire.

The 1841 census did not reliably record women's occupations, so I will start with the 1851 census in which Stoke Lyne had 37 lacemakers, all female, and their ages ranging from 8 to 46 Here's the age breakdown: 1 aged 8, 21 aged 10-19, 11 aged 20-29, 2 aged 31-39 and two aged 40-49. The list of surnames includes some familiar Stoke Lyne ones: Golder, Denny, Heydon, Simons, Watts, Hickman, Butler, French, Coggins etc.

In an article on the Pitt Rivers Museum website Dr Nicolette Makovicky, of Wolfson College states that Bicester was the centre of lace making in Oxfordshire. She explains that "pillow lace is made with linen threads that are wound onto wooden or bone bobbins. The bobbins are hung by pins fixed through a pre-punched parchment into the pillow, which guide the lacemaker while she plaits the threads together to make the lace."

"Lace-makers worked at home, getting in as much as ten hours of lacemaking, as well as running the household. Lace was made through a so-called "putting-out system", meaning that lace dealers would supply lace makers with patterns and thread and then come back to buy the finished lace off the women, deducting the price the price of thread. Lace makers often worked for more than one dealer, but ultimately dealers had the upper hand in deciding how much a lace maker could get for her efforts. The existence of a lace maker and her family was often hand-to-mouth and many young women preferred to go into service, rather than make lace."

Another website, that of The Cowper and Newton Museum at Olney, points out that: “Children of labourers were taught to make lace from an early age and many attended “lace schools”: workshops often overcrowded and badly ventilated, where children as young as six were expected to work for as much as eight hours a day. By the age of fifteen, girls were expected to spend at least twelve hours of their day at the pillow. Children were urged on to compete amongst each other and were taught “tells” – chants that were meant to keep up the momentum of the work.” It adds “the long hours of work took at toll not only on children’s general education, but also on their health. Aching backs, headaches and failing eyesight were all side effects of spending too long making lace in dark crowded cottages.”

The Oxfordshire Museums service has in its collection some bobbins from a Mary Ann Butler of Stoke Lyne. Unfortunately I have not received permission to use any of the images I found of her bobbins online, so to illustrate this piece I’ve used a photograph I took in 2012 of some very similar bobbins on display at the Museum of Rural Life at Waterperry Gardens.



The bobbins end with a ring of beads called a “spangle” which could be personalised with the lacemaker’s own decorations such as beads from a favourite necklace, shells, military buttons or coins. As well as being decorative they also served to stop the bobbins rolling off the pillow.

There were 35 lacemakers in Stoke Lyne on the 1861 census. Their ages are: 13 aged 10-19, 16 aged 10-29, 1 aged 30-39, 4 aged 40-49 and 2 aged 60-69.

In 1871 there were 33 lacemakers: 3 aged 10-19, 9 aged 21-29, 10 aged 30-31, 6 aged 40-49, 2 aged 50-59, 3 aged 60-69.

However by the time of the 1881 census there were only 3 lacemakers (aged 47, 60 and 76) and in 1891 just one aged 57.

A contributory factor to this decrease was the Education Act of 1870 which provided free compulsory education for all children up to the age 13. In Stoke Lyne Sir Henry Peyton opened a school for the village children on 12 September 1864 and this seems to have impacted on the ages of the lacemakers by the time of the 1871 census. However, during the 19thC machine-made lace gradually replaced the hand-made as improving technology made it increasingly difficult to tell the two apart.

The most famous lacemaker locally, of course, was the character of “Queenie” in Flora Thompson’s semi-autobiographical story “Lark Rise to Candleford”.

“Queenie at her lace-making was a constant attraction to the children. They loved to see the bobbins tossed hither and thither, at random it seemed to them, every bobbin weighted with its bunch of bright beads and every bunch with its own story, which they had heard so many times that they knew it by heart, how this bunch had been part of a blue bead necklace worn by her little sister who had died at five years old, and this other one had belonged to her mother, and that black one had been found, after she was dead, in a work-box belonging to a woman who was reputed to have been a witch.

'There had been a time, it appeared, when lace-making was a regular industry in the hamlet. Queenie, in her childhood, had been 'brought up to the pillow', sitting among the women at eight years old and learning to fling her bobbins with the best of them. They would gather in one cottage in winter for warmth, she said, each one bringing her faggot or shovel of coals for the fire, and there they would sit all day, working, gossiping, singing old songs, and telling old tales till it was time to run home and put on the pots for their husbands' suppers. These were the older women and the young unmarried girls; the women with little children did what lace-making they could at home. In very cold winter weather the lace-makers would have a small earthen pot with a lid, called a 'pipkin', containing hot embers, at which they warmed their hands and feet and sometimes sat upon.'

Brenda Hazel

STOKE LYNE 100 CLUB

We are delighted to announce the February results for our recently established Stoke Lyne 100 Club

1 st Draw No 22	Anastasia Brown
2 nd Draw No 31	Caroline Cooke
3 rd Draw No 2	Donita Read

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

It's 'at a distance' fun for all

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

CHURCHWARDENS: Jenny List Email jennyalto@gmail.com
Vacancy

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

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Jackie Fox

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Vacant

Services: Please see back page for details

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

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



The Church of St. Mary & St. Edburga

The Grade 1 listed church has vestiges of Saxon and Norman design, but predominantly owes its current style to the 13th., 14th., and 15th. centuries.

It is wonderfully light and airy inside, having plain diamond glass over the majority of the windows, with only small areas of medieval glass still in place at the heads of the oldest lancet windows. There is a legend that the remainder of the stained glass was taken down for protection at the time of the Reformation and buried somewhere around the village, but nothing has so far been discovered.

Within the church, there is a plain medieval font, a beautiful Jacobean pulpit and an enormous 17th. century baroque monument to a member of the Borlase family, who built the manor in 1545.

Frank O'Neill

For those who have not already heard the sad news, the O'Neill family have asked us to circulate a note letting everyone know that Frank, our very own publican, passed away on Sunday 31 January. He succumbed to Covid-19 following a short period in hospital and after battling health problems over the last few years.

He was a pillar of our community and often the life and soul of the party! It is difficult to come to terms with the fact that he will no longer be seen and heard around the village and in the Red Lion.

We offer our sincere condolences to his whole family at this truly most difficult of times.

He will be greatly missed.

John Honsinger

Interest in a Village Allotment

Investigations are on-going and . more people have expressed interest bringing the total to 14.

However the immediate issue remains finding a suitable parcel of land. If you are a land owner and have any suggestions, please get in touch.

Walking Routes

Are you fed-up with doing the same old walks? John Harris, who has collated and created many walking routes throughout Oxfordshire, has advised us of his website www.walkinginengland.co.uk/oxfordshire where you will find hundreds of walks **to download and print, free**. It also has books of walks, plus contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more.

East West Rail Local Update

The Bicester Road that leads to Marsh Gibbon from the crossroads at Billy Evans farm remains closed and the latest information is that it will not open until 12 March as the removal of the bridge and other works have been rolled together.

EWK have also issued a new closure notice for the Bicester Road at Launton (the main road from Launton to Bicester) which will now be closed for some two months from 08/02/2021 to 01/04/2021 for bridge replacement works.

Looking further ahead, Station Road from the crossroads at Billy Evans leading to Launton, will be closed for nearly a year from 03 March 2021 to 22 April 2022 to build the new road and bridge.

The safety report on the new junction at Stratton Audley Park Road and the A4421 has not yet been published and EWK are therefore unable to comment at this stage.

EWK have published their winter News update and this can be accessed by clicking on this link: [EWK2 Project Newsletter - Winter 2020/2021](#)

Dial a Ride Service

Comet operate a dial-a-ride service for those that require transport for medical or essential shopping. There is a cost of 75p per mile which works out at under £5 for a round trip into Bicester, which is cheaper than a taxi both ways. The service operates Monday to Friday between the hours of 10am and 2pm. Should anyone require further information or wish to make a booking please contact the **Comet team** on **01865 323201**.

Litter Picking

It is a great time to get out and do a bit of litter picking on the verges of the roads leading to and from the village. The Parish Council usually undertake a litter pick in the Spring, but with the vegetation suppressed at the moment a lot of discarded cans, paper and cardboard is visible particularly on the Stoke Lyne and Bicester Roads.

The Parish Council has some litter picking sticks, large waste bags and even some hi-vis jackets for anyone who fancies breaking into their daily walks. Please let John Honsinger know if you can help and would like some equipment.

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'Shelswell News' Advertising Rates

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

The current rates for advertisements are given below:

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

The approximate sizes of the adverts are:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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www.gilbertsplumbing.co.uk



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Planning a wedding or event? We would love to hear all about it! Please do get in touch on:

T: 07807 645048 (Karin)

E: enquiries@strattoncourtbarn.co.uk

W: www.strattoncourtbarn.co.uk

We are currently recruiting for various seasonal roles within the venue. Please contact Karin if you would like to find out more.



MIDDLE FARM, MIXBURY SELF-CATERING ACCOMMODATION

Contact Isobel Rymer, tel. 07834042516

www.featherbedcourt.net



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VICTORIA PRENTIS MP

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

Meet Victoria:

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



Victoria Online:



@victoriaprentis



@victoria_prentis



/victoriaprentis

www.victoriaprentis.com

Contact Victoria:

Constituency:

01869 233685
Orchard House
Hopcraft Lane
Deddington
OX15 0TD

Westminster:

020 7219 8756
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

victoria.prentis.mp
[@parliament.uk](https://twitter.com/parliament.uk)

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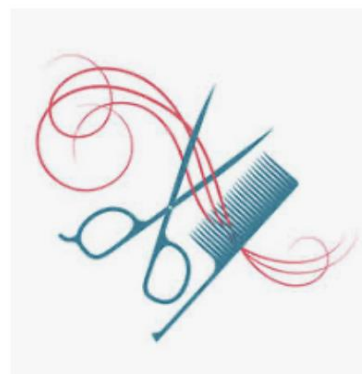
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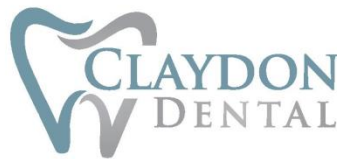
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## Worship during Lockdown 3.0

Once again, it is difficult at the time of press to predict what will be happening with our services in March. We are continuing to keep our services online until the end of February, when we will review again in the light of local rates. Some of our church buildings hope to start to open for private prayer one day a week in the near future. We are currently sending a weekly email to all those who are on the churches' electoral rolls to let people know what is happening each Sunday – if you would like to receive a copy of it, please contact us: [admin@shelswellparishes.info](mailto:admin@shelswellparishes.info)

### Option A: if churches remain closed for worship

1. **an online service of Holy Communion at 10 am each Sunday** (and whilst we are meeting only online, we are pre-recording these in an effort to avoid some of the technical glitches)
2. **live streamed reflections** Monday to Thursday at 12 noon on Facebook (Shelswell News) – during Lent these are following Bishop Steven's 'Pilgrim Journeys: the Creeds'

### Option B: if safe to restart worship in our church buildings

|                                                   |                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> March                      | 10 am Holy Communion (CW) Hethe<br>4 pm Said Evensong with music Hardwick      |
| Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> March<br>Mothering Sunday | 10 am Holy Communion (CW) Stoke Lyne<br>11 am Holy Communion (BCP) Cottisford  |
| Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> March                     | 10 am Holy Communion (CW) Fringford<br>3 pm Muddy Church Stoke Lyne churchyard |
| Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> March<br>Palm Sunday      | 10 am Holy Communion Finmere<br>6 pm Compline Newton Purcell                   |

We will aim to live stream the 10 am service each Sunday (or post a pre-recorded service).

### Easter Day Services

Our hope is that we will be able to hold **Easter Day services** in most of our churches but watch this space!

### And meanwhile:

#### Zoom Socials – all welcome:

3. Zoom coffee morning on Tuesdays at 10.45 am – link from the Benefice office
4. Zoom quiz on Wednesdays at 1.30 pm.- link from the Benefice office

#### Zoom Lent Groups:

3. Inspired to Follow – produced by St Martin in the Fields with the National Gallery – explore the theme of 'Who is my neighbour?' through paintings  
7.30 pm on Wed 17/2, Thurs 25/2, Wed 3/3, Thurs 11/3, 18/3 and 25/3.  
More details from Penny Wood [Penelope.wood@btopenworld.com](mailto:Penelope.wood@btopenworld.com)
4. Come and See – an opportunity to explore the Christian faith – this Zoom group will reflect on Bishop Steven's talks. Tuesdays, 4 – 5 pm, starting 23<sup>rd</sup> February. More details from Alice Goodall [rector@shelswellparishes.info](mailto:rector@shelswellparishes.info)