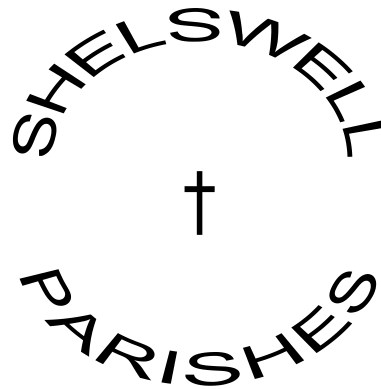


Shelswell News

The magazine of the Shelswell Group of Churches

Cottisford
Fringford
Hardwick
Mixbury
Stoke Lyne



Finmere
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.

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

HOLY TRINITY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, HETHE,

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

Weekday Mass: 9.30 am Monday and Friday

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

Telephone: 01869 253277

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

SHELLOWELL NEWS

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

To Magazine Correspondents: **Tuesday 18 May 2021**

Correspondents to Editor: **Thursday 20 May 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

Come and Eat

I write this message the day after pubs opened for outdoor hospitality – a day which began with snow falling in the morning and ended with lovely warm sunshine and folk visiting our local village pub!

One of the things we have learned through Lock Down is just how much we appreciate being able to meet together to share hospitality. As we meet over drinks or a meal, we have time to catch up, to share our news and to listen to one another. In our Benefice we have used Zoom to have online coffee mornings and quizzes – these have helped us keep in touch and we always begin by finding out how everyone is, sharing what has been going on and listening to any concerns people might have. We have shared the good news of the vaccine roll out, as each age group and each village has been reached. We have offered each other support.

During Lent our Benefice used Bishop Steven's sermons *Come and See* for our online Benefice services. He ended his series encouraging us to be thinking about how we would move from being an online community, back to one where we can once again meet up in our churches to share the Eucharist together – how we would move from "Come and see" to "Come and Eat".

This call to share hospitality reminded me of a book I had read a few years ago called *Surprise the World* by Michael Frost. It is a small book in which Michael explores the 5 habits for Missional People. The first two habits he suggests are *Bless* and *Eat*.

We have seen evidence of people looking for ways to *bless* others throughout Lock Down – people volunteering to help with shopping, delivering medicines, baking treats, dropping off bars of chocolates, writing letters or notes of encouragement, phone calls etc. Blessing others involves offering words of encouragement and affirmation, acts of kindness, doing a good turn and giving gifts (perhaps a birthday present but also random gifts just to show someone you care). I hope that most people reading this can attest to either being on the receiving end of such blessings or of being an initiator of them!

The second habit Michael Frost suggests is *eating together*. Eating together was a central Christian practice for the early church. They did not only meet to celebrate communion together, to break bread and share wine sacramentally, but they also met to share "ordinary food" as part of an *agape* meal. Accounts of Jesus' earthly ministry and the early church place meals at the very centre of sharing life together. The Apostle Paul relied on people welcoming him and his co-leaders into their homes; and through these opportunities Paul developed strong relationships.



Now that we are back to meeting in our churches we are able to celebrate communion through word and sacrament. We have the opportunity to explore God's word and to break bread together. As Christians we believe that Jesus is present with us always, but there is something very special and life affirming about being able to meet and break bread together – something we have really missed during the pandemic. Communion creates community. Christ living in us brings us together in new ways. We have all had to be very cautious about meeting up, keeping to government guidelines and there may well be some folk who are hesitant about coming into our church building just yet, but would like to receive Communion at home – if that is you *please* do get in touch with the Benefice office or email curate@shelswellparishes.info and we will arrange that.

Michael Frost goes further as regards hospitality and encourages us to meet up with three people each week to eat together – not necessarily to eat a full meal but for a coffee, a sundowner, a walk – a chance to be together! Now that is a challenge I think we would all look forward achieving. The pandemic has taught us that time spent with each other is something money cannot buy. I hope that in the coming year we will find lots of opportunities to share hospitality in our gardens, our homes, our churches and in our villages!

Revd. Yvonne Mullins

BIBLE READINGS



Sunday 2 nd May	5 th Sunday of Easter	Acts 8 v26-end 1 John 4 v7-end John 15 v1-8
Sunday 9 th May	6 th Sunday of Easter	Acts 10 v44-end 1 John 5 v1-6 John 15 v9-17
Sunday 16 th May	7 th Sunday of Easter	Acts 1 v15-17 and 21-end 1 John 5 v9-13 John 17 v6-19
Sunday 23 rd May	Pentecost	Acts 2 v1-21 Romans 8 v22-27 John 15 v26, 27; 16 v4b-15
Sunday 30 th May	Trinity Sunday	Isaiah 6 v1-8 Romans 8 v12-17 John 3 v1-17

ANNUAL MEETINGS REMINDER OF DATES

We will be aiming to hold the meetings in May and June. We hope that all the meetings will be held in person but should the Government's road map get delayed or there be a local surge in cases, then they would be via Zoom. The dates are::

Cottisford and Hardwick - Tuesday 25th May 7.30 pm

Finmere – Wednesday 12th May 7.30 pm

Fringford – Wednesday 19th May 7.30 pm

Hethe – Monday 24th May 7.30 pm

Mixbury – Wednesday 2nd June 7.30 pm

Newton Purcell – Monday 17th May 7.00 pm

Stratton Audley – Wednesday 23rd June 7.30 pm

Stoke Lyne – Monday 10th May 7.00 pm

SHELSWELL BY THE SEA

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

.Penny Wood



Sunday 16 May 2021
At 3pm
Stoke Lyne Churchyard
Join us as we explore ...

Muddy Church
Wondering while Wandering

The wind blows
wherever it pleases.
**You hear its sound, but cannot tell where it comes from
or where it is going. John 3:8**

**Muddy Church is an All Age Group - welcoming all ages and stages of life!
Fun for everyone!**




Calling All “Baby Lambs”



If you have a baby who isn't yet mobile, then come and join in 'Baby Lambs' at Stratton Audley Church from 10am – 10.45am (Term Time) Contact Jen Iddon via jeniddoncfw@gmail.com

Jen who organises it says:

- We need to stay in our own bubbles
- Bring our own drinks and snacks
- Bring your own baby mat / toys
- Any toys must be kept in our own bubbles
- We cannot mix (hence babies not toddlers)
- Max 15 people, but just turn up as we're not expecting many to start with
- Story, Chats and Prayers.

We look forward to meeting you in the coming weeks.

REGISTRY

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

Obituaries

Michael Joseph Aldworth
27 July 1932 – 4 March 2021

A tribute by his son Nick

Dad was only ever one thing, the simple Biddenden lad. There was a constant narrative in his life, it was a desire for a simple, quiet life where not being reliant on other people was a quality that grew out of the need to be self sufficient because of global depressions and war. Despite the harrowing events of WW2 and the loss of his much-loved older brother, John, to a German bomb, his was a happy and stable childhood, full of freedoms that young children should have. He had a caring and loving family and still does.

In a time when men of his age were still legally required to serve in the armed forces and knowing that he wanted to be a police officer, off he went to the Royal Military Police. He loved his time in the military, spending the best part of 3 years in Germany. If I'm honest, I think he spent 3 years on some sort of permanent Oktoberfest excursion. I'm not aware of him ever arresting anybody in the army but am strangely aware of him being blown up by friendly fire, drinking far too much and making friends for life. He also developed a life-long love for bratwurst and even in his last weeks of life was a fiend for a German sausage. I think his time in the army taught him that it's politicians that create war and conflict because I never once heard him speak ill of Germans or Germany even though his brother had been killed by 'the enemy'. Dad was a man who held no grudges and no hatred for anyone....something else he carried throughout his life.

His European beer tour came to an end in 1955 when he joined Kent Constabulary, two years later, while on duty, met his wife for life, Pam, and 4 years later welcomed his beautiful daughter Jane into the world. I came 5 years after that.

Dad's natural way with people made him a great cop. Long before people started to create labels such as neighbourhood policing, dad remembered the old adage of Robert Peel that "the People are the Police and the Police are the People". Dad was one of those cops who knew everybody in the places that he worked and treated the good the bad and the ugly with impartiality and respect. It was a simple formula that meant it was given back to him.

The happiest days of his career were when he was the boss of Whitstable and Herne Bay, two neighbouring towns on the North Kent coast. As the local chief of police, he was a civic dignitary and invited to lots of community events that he loved. The Angling Club annual dinner was usually followed by boxes of fresh fish and crabs being delivered to our front door! In this day and age that would probably be seen as inappropriately receiving gifts but in those days, if people liked you, they gave you things. People loved Dad. He was a very active member of the bowls club...so active that at times his office might as well have been at the club. If the boss couldn't be found in the police station, the troops knew where to look.

One of the first things dad did when he became the boss was to twin with the German police department in Dortmund (where he had served in the army) and turned some underutilised office space in the Herne Bay police station, into a bar. You can take the boy out of Germany but not the German out of the boy! Many happy exchanges evolved out of this twinning and many happy social events out of the bar.

Dad retired in 1985 and his leaving party was attended by hundreds of people, not one of them of greater rank or station than himself. The police station handyman, a veteran of WW2, came up to me in the middle of the party and said 'wonderful man your dad, best boss I've ever had, always looks after people'. I think if you'd ever offered dad reward or recognition, he'd have turned them down in favour of such a simple accolade. That's all he wanted to do, look after people and little did he know that within only a couple of years that would become his main purpose in life for several years to follow.

Mum and Dad's life changed when my sister Jane became ill. Their courage, love and forbearance across several years of her illness were inspirational. They showed that no matter how old you are, your kids are still your kids, and the instinct to protect them is the strongest of all life forces. I only saw glimpses of their suffering from a distance but as the years progressed, before and after her death, I came to realise just how incredible mum and dad had been.

Mum and Dads life changed again when Timothy was born and although they became ever more frail, Dad loved every second of the 9 years he enjoyed as Grandad. Timothy loved every second of being his grandchild and the two of them enjoyed a love and friendship that was lovely to watch.

In his later years Dad, again, had to throw himself in to caring as mum became progressively more poorly. It wasn't until after she died that I came to realise just how much of himself he had put into looking after her, how much physical effort it had been and how much mental pressure was exerted upon him. It is little surprise therefore that after Mum died, after their 63 years of marriage, that he started a quite rapid decline in his own health. Across that time, he was supported by kind neighbours and a lovely team of nurses and carers who collectively visited him several times a day.

His last days in the hospice were spent surrounded by calmness and love. Timothy went to see grandad in the last few days of his life and even though Dad was heavily sedated and incredibly weak, he managed to reach out, grab Timothy and draw him in for a huge hug. The strength and resilience that hug took to give was out of all proportion to the act itself. It was in fact dad's last physical act before he slipped into several days of unconsciousness. It was a final act of love, proving how powerful that emotion is.

Dad was without pain for the first time in over a year. He had the chance to say goodbye to the people he most loved and he died holding my hand, with the taste of whisky on his lips. It was the death that he wanted.

Sylvia Margaret Quantick 13th February 1938 – 3rd March 2021

Sylvia Beale was born in the house next to the church in Finmere, and used to play in the garden adjoining the churchyard. Indeed, she also played in the churchyard until being told that it was disrespectful. So there was a sense of life having gone full circle as we met in the churchyard on Wednesday 24th March to lay her to rest with husband Peter just the other side of the hedge from her childhood home.

Sylvia went to the old school in Finmere, just down the hill from her house, and then on to Fringford, and secondary school in Bicester. Her first job was at the Arncott depot where she met Peter who was in the army at the time. Peter saw her struggling with something and said 'do you need help with that?' Always determined to do what she could, Sylvia responded firmly 'No thanks'. However, he was not discouraged, riding his bike over to Finmere every night to visit her, and they were married in 1964 in Finmere Church. When first married they lived in a freezing caravan up near the old Kings Head pub, then went to live with his parents in Southampton for a short while. But the Beales were well rooted in Finmere, having been there for several generations, and Sylvia loved the village, so as soon as an opportunity arose, they were back to live in 2 Top Gardens. They had one daughter, Sam, who was born in Aylesbury Hospital. When Sam was 7 or 8 years old, they moved to 4 White Houses where they stayed until Peter died and Sylvia went into Hamilton House.

Sylvia was plagued with health problems throughout her life. As a baby she had a mastoid bone removed from the back of her skull in hospital. Aged 10 years, she had a bad accident, running down through the scrub land that is now where the Rectory is, straight into a van in the road. (One of her brother's said that she was running away from the policeman's son – but that's another story.) She was in a coma for a week, and remained in hospital for a long spell. As a teenager she began to experience disabling arthritis. Problems continued throughout adulthood. And her stay in Hamilton House was precipitated by her tripping over the step of the house, causing major injury to herself.

The extraordinary thing about Sylvia is that in spite of this she never complained and never became inward looking. She somehow drew on an inner strength, was always interested in others, always had a smile. A quiet person by nature, she never gossiped. Her health difficulties made work difficult, but she did what she could. She used to make all Sam's clothes when she was a child, helped at Finmere school, and enjoyed her garden. And when they were able to, she and Peter enjoyed some wonderful holidays visiting Sam in America – highlights for her included visiting Nasa in Florida where she was delighted to see real rockets, visiting Elvis's house in Nashville Memphis, and travelling on a steam boat down the Mississippi. But she also enjoyed Greece and Majorca. And she loved her grandsons – Sam says she'd always harboured a wish that she'd had some boys, so it was a delight when the grandsons turned up.

Sylvia died on 3rd March after contracting Covid. Her funeral could only be attended by close family, and very sadly Sam was not able to be physically present because of the travelling restrictions around Covid. However the service was live streamed, and Sam and many others were able to join in that way. It featured some of Sylvia's favourite music: 'No matter what' (Boyzone), 'Morning has broken' (Cat Stevens), 'Jesus, it's me again' (Charley Pride), and 'The Living Years' (Mike and the Mechanics). And delight of delights, Boxcar Willie's whistle as Sylvia's willow coffin was lowered. And the sun shone.

Sylvia was a kind, courageous and generous person – we are the poorer for her passing. We hold Sam and her family in our prayers over this difficult time.

Your Light

To the woman of strength who never whined gossiped, complained or lived a day in fear-
 Who gave out wisdom, loved, laughed and listened to all throughout many a year-
 With her pain most high and her body all broken, still never did we hear, a negative spoken.
 Strength and courage came from where who knows? She kept on with determination and hope.
 Enjoying, watched life around her unfold.
 But time did come, her body no longer could cope, Her light recently had started to fade.
 She knew now time to let go- that everything would be alright. Her work here was now done.
 Goodnight from me, I'm proud to call you my Mum.
Written by Sam about her mum

Edward John Winnington-Ingram

20th April 1926 – 17th March 2021

Villagers lined the road outside Cottisford Church at 12 noon on Friday 9th April to pay their respects to John WI (as he was so often referred to). Covid restrictions and the size of Cottisford Church meant that only close family were able to attend John's funeral service, although the family hope to have a memorial service later in the year in Kings Sutton church which will hopefully be open to more people.

John was born at Chirbury, Shropshire, son of the Rev. Edward Francis Winnington-Ingram [1883-1963], and his wife the former Gladys Winifred Armstrong [1903-1995]. The family moved to Wistanstow, Shropshire in his later childhood.

He went to Winchester House Preparatory School, Brackley, then Shrewsbury School. In 1944, John joined the Royal Navy and was sent on a 6 month Naval short course at Keble College, Oxford (although then located in Wadham as Keble College had been taken over by the War Office). Joining the Navy full time in early 1945, John was commissioned as Sub Lieut R.N.V.R. Later in 1945, entirely due to a school certificate credit in Classical Greek, John was sent, in very junior capacity, to the Naval Mission in Athens because he could read the street signs! The great benefit of a brief classical education!

Having served in Greece for nearly a year, followed by a brief spell in Malta, John was demobilised and returned to Keble College, Oxford in October 1947, where he took shortened honours in English Literature (Good 3rd!) in 1949. In September 1949 he joined Associated Newspapers as a management trainee. Over a period of forty years, he held a series of appointments including General Manager of the Manchester office where he set up joint printing with the Guardian (then an innovation!). He was appointed Main Board Director and General Manager of Associated Newspapers in 1971. During his tenure, John helped launch and was first MD of the Mail on Sunday and became Managing Director of Associated Newspapers Group in 1985. In this role, John oversaw the move of the printing plant from Fleet Street to Surrey Docks and the Editorial and Commercial side from Fleet Street to Kensington. John retired in 1989 and became a Non-Executive Director of the NAAFI for 6 years (1986 – 1992). Later, he worked with the Oxford Diocese helping with their publications.

In 1953, John married his first wife, Shirley – they had two sons, Nick, born in 1957, and Gerald, born in 1960. After becoming divorced in 1968, he got married again in 1973 to Linda, and gained two step children, Ben and Becky.

John and Linda moved to Old Manor Farm in Cottisford in 1985. John was very fond of Cottisford and its church, and tried to help where he could. John loved to relate how soon after their arrival, he was almost immediately given ‘field promotion’ to church warden in order to prevent the Diocese, with the assistance of the Rector, attempting to sell St Fergus Cottage. Needless to say, the Diocese did not succeed, and St Fergus is still owned by the ME Whyte Trust and remains a great help to the finances of both Cottisford church and village. John served as church warden for about 25 years, and then continued as a faithful member of the PCC until just a few weeks before his death on 17th March. He also played a key role in the Friends of Cottisford Church.

During his retirement John became deeply interested in Byzantium history and culture and with Charles Hebditch he visited the Holy Mountain, Mount Athos and a number of monasteries in Egypt, Greece and elsewhere, visits that were both historically and spiritually rewarding. There were also numerous visits to the family cottage in Ireland spent with his sons and grandchildren.

With typical forethought and efficiency, John had left clear instructions for his funeral. There was Mozart for both entering and leaving the church. Amongst his choice of hymns John was insistent that we had ‘Abide with me’, and although we could only listen to the other hymns within the church, this one we sang by the graveside. (Nick’s wife Joanna sang the first verse in Hungarian!). And John’s view of life was reflected in the lovely poem by Elizabeth Craven, ‘I thank thee God that I have lived.’ and in his choice of Psalm 121.

I thank thee God, that I have lived - Elizabeth Craven

I thank thee God, that I have lived in this great world and known its many joys:

The songs of birds, the strongest sweet scent of hay,

And cooling breezes in the secret dusk;

The flaming sunsets at the close of day,

Hills and the lovely, heather-covered moors;

Music at night, and the moonlight on the sea,

The beat of waves upon the rocky shore

And wild white spray, flung high in ecstasy;

The faithful eyes of dogs, and treasured books,

The love of kin and fellowship of friends

And all that makes life dear and beautiful.

I thank Thee too, that there has come to me a little sorrow and sometimes defeat,

A little heartache and the loneliness that comes with parting and the words ‘Good-bye’;

Dawn breaking after weary hours of pain,

When I discovered that night’s gloom must yield and morning light break through to me again.

Because of these and other blessings poured unasked upon my wondering head,

Because I know that there is yet to come an even richer and more glorious life,

And most of all, because Thine only Son once sacrificed life’s loveliness for me,

I thank Thee, God, that I have lived.

John lived life fully and well. Throughout his 35 years in Cottisford, he always appeared robust and indefatigable, a solid presence that conveyed calm and contentment. He will be greatly missed, and our thoughts and prayers are with Linda and with his sons at this difficult time.

Baptism

Timothy James Ayling



A polite reminder to never upset Alice Goodall!! Thus read the caption to this photo posted by Tim Ayling, landlord of the Red Lion, onto the Finmere and Little Tingewick Facebook Page!

So just what was going on in Finmere Church on Easter Day? Was Tim, as someone else had wondered, apple bobbing? Why was the Rector apparently trying to drown him?

The truth was that Tim was being baptised, something that had been in his mind for some years now. And what better day than Easter Day, a day resounding with resurrection joy, new beginnings and new hope. And this year, particularly poignant as the congregation returned to worship for the first time since Christmas.

So although we were still sat socially distanced, and still had to wear our face coverings (although Tim was exempt whilst being baptised), and still couldn't sing, it was a wonderful occasion. Tim was accompanied by his fiancée Susanna, his dad, and his dad's partner Viv who was Tim's sponsor. And yes, the font was

almost filled to the brim with water that did turn out to be extraordinarily cold.

Tim and Susanna have been a real asset to Finmere village since Tim moved into the Red Lion in September 2018. Tim has worked hard to ensure that the pub is warm and vibrant, with all sorts of happenings, a real part of village life. Through lockdowns, he and Susanna have worked tirelessly, repeatedly adapting to revisions in Covid regulations, embracing roles as shop and take away, with an eye to offering support where it has been needed. Added to which, Tim has also become a Parish Councillor.

It takes courage to become baptised as an adult, reflecting as it does a conscious decision by the individual to take that step of affirming their faith in a very public way. We are delighted to welcome Tim into the church community, and our prayers are with him as he embarks on this new stage in his journey of faith

BAPTISMS AND CONFIRMATION

On the Way

Would you like to take that courageous step of becoming baptised or confirmed?

In baptism, the candidate affirms their belief in God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They publicly announce their decision to reject all that is evil and separates us from God, and instead to live a life in which Christ is Saviour and Lord. Through baptism they are welcomed into the church.

When a baby is brought to baptism, the parents and godparents make those declarations on the child's behalf.

When an adult comes to baptism, they make them for themselves.

Confirmation provides the opportunity for someone baptised as a baby to renew their baptism promises for themselves. It is a way of declaring to the world that this faith is one that we are embracing for ourselves.

Both baptism and confirmation are a statement of intent. Clearly living a life of faith is a lifetime endeavour, and one where repeatedly we acknowledge that we have got it wrong and need to start again. But Christians believe that in baptism and confirmation we are somehow joined to Christ in a deep way and gifted with his Holy Spirit. So as we persevere with trying to live as a follower of Christ, we have the help of his presence in our lives to guide, assist and strengthen us.

At 11 am on Sunday 5th September, Sue Bushell, Charlotte Talmage, Philippa Taylor and Jen Capron-Iddon will be being confirmed at Fringford Church. **There is still time for you to join them if you would like to affirm the place of faith in your life.** If you would like to talk about this further, then phone or email me.

Alice Goodall 01280 848192 / rector@shelswellparishes.info



YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY

WE'VE LAUNCHED A LOTTERY

Buy your tickets now to help our fundraising

- Tickets cost just £1
- All profits go to our school
- Local cash prize every week
- Chance to win the £25,000 jackpot!
- Drawn every Saturday at 8pm First draw Saturday 24th April

To start supporting, visit:
yourschoollottery.co.uk
 and search for: **Finmere Primary**

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older



Fringford C of E
Primary School

Open Mornings

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

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

Ofsted Good 2017
SIAMS Outstanding 2018

Small Reception class

Beautiful outside space

Dedicated staff and well behaved pupils

Children welcome from all surrounding areas

01869 277397

office.3083@fringford.oxon.sch.uk

www.fringford.oxon.sch.uk



Fringford School

The Outside *Easter Experience*



This year due to Covid restrictions we did the Outside Easter Experience in class bubbles. We tend to talk about the events of Easter when we are in church, in our homes, in school – when we are inside, but most of Jesus' life and ministry took place outside.

The children were invited to imagine going back 2000 years to the events after the Last Supper until the first Easter morning. There were five interactive stations set out in the churchyard in at St Michael and All Angels, Fringford and we had guides who lead the children through the Easter story from the Garden of Gethsemane, to the Courtyard, to Golgotha and then then the Garden tomb.



Each station also had a reflective activity. We ended at the empty tomb and planted some wild seeds which reminded us of how life can burst out of seeds and produce new plants.

We ended talking about how our hollow Easter eggs can remind us of the empty tomb on that first Easter Day.

CLUB NEWS

Due to the current Coronavirus protective restrictions many events are cancelled for the time being:

Please watch this space.

KNIT FOR PEACE



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

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

SHELSWELL WALKERS

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





SHELSWELL GARDEN CLUB



On Tuesday 13th April we held another Zoom meeting. Our speaker was Adam Pasco who gave a talk entitled 'Spring into action and get set for summer'. Adam has been a Gardening Consultant and Journalist for over 30 years. He was editor on Gardeners World Magazine for 22 years.

Adam's presentation was stunning. He illustrated his hints, tips and ideas based on his own beautiful garden. We were able to enjoy his wisdom and photos of plants to aspire to grow ourselves and also 'How to...' video clips. His information was too vast to include here but some of his headline tips for this time of year are below.

- Lift and divide perennial plants and mulch around them and feed them, put in supports before tall plants grow
- Buy plants with a long flowering season
- Look after Spring bulbs by dead-heading, watering and feeding
- Sow summer bedding bulbs e.g., Gladioli and think about autumn plants e.g., Nerines
- Grow seeds including herbs and vegetables

He recommended some of the latest plants to buy, including 'Beacon' Impatiens, Nasturtium 'Baby Rose' and Petunia 'Thumbelina Priscilla'.

We were again joined by members from Marsh Gibbon Horticultural Society and Tingewick and Water Stratford Horticultural Society.

Our next Zoom meeting will take place on **Tuesday 11th May at 7.30 pm**. Camilla Phelps will talk about Small Garden Design Solutions. She has written about horticulture, gardens, and growing food in various magazines including Gardens Illustrated, Amateur Gardening, House & Garden, The English Garden.

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

Many poets, from a range of countries, have written poems about the beauties of the month of May. John Milton, author of Paradise Lost wrote lyrically of the delights of the month in his short poem ***Song of a May Morning***. Keats' ***Ode to a Nightingale*** was written when, ill with tuberculosis in 1819, and having already lost a brother to the disease, the poet found solace in the song of the elusive bird. Ted Hughes, ex-Poet Laureate, wrote about a birds we also associate with the month in the poem ***Swifts***, and in ***The Trees*** Philip Larkin took trees as a subject in order to explore how nature renews itself each year. Gerard Manley Hopkins, a Jesuit priest as well as a poet, wrote ***May Magnificat***, connecting the month with the Virgin Mary, and ***Spring***, in which he explores how the spring can renew the spirit. In ***The Old Vicarage, Grantchester***, Rupert Brooke humorously expressed nostalgia for an English May whilst living in Germany.

May 2nd is World Laughter Day, and three poems about laughter are ***A Child's Laughter*** by Algernon Charles Swinburne, ***Your Laughter*** by Pablo Neruda, and ***Butterfly Laughter*** by Katherine Mansfield.

Dunkirk 1940, by Dorothy Emily Stevenson commemorates the evacuation that brought so many troops back to Britain against all the odds and which began in late May.

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

SHELLOWELL READING GROUP

Our April book was 'The Tenant of Wildfell Hall' by Anne Bronte. The least well-known of the Bronte sisters, she shocked many of the reading public of her time with her frank exploration of domestic abuse and a woman's place in early Victorian society when the book was published in 1848. It is thought by many critics that the portrait of Helen's dissolute husband was based on her brother Patrick's slide into alcoholism and opium abuse. The group found it an interesting read, with its tackling of evils which are still with us, but found few really engaging characters, apart, perhaps from Helen's wise and realistic aunt.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 12th May at 7.30 pm, hopefully in the garden of Lark Rise Cottage, Juniper Hill, and the book chosen for discussion is ***Our Father*** by Rebecca Wait. If you would like to join us, please contact me on 01869 811994 or at judith.harvey@live.co.uk

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



SHELLOWELL WI

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



Our new WI year started in April. The speaker was Pauline Martindale, a former prison officer, who told us tales from behind closed doors and showed the human side of prison life. Pauline was posted to Holloway prison in 1984. She was firm and fair with the women and spoke of the daily routine and how the garden was tended beautifully. We were happy once more to see members from Langford and Launton WI's on the Zoom talk.

Thursday, May 4th, at the new time of 7.30pm, will be 'Mother's Ruin – The Story of Gin'.

Join Mildred Freeman, The Lady Historian, to discover the wonderful and downright naughty history of glorious gin. Starting in the early 1100's and travelling through to our modern gin revolution allows Mildred to regale you with tales of bravery, plague, royalty, law, fuddled Georgians and intoxicated sailors! (With one or two Music hall songs thrown in for good measure) And, of course pour, a large G&T to get in the mood before the start!



Shelswell WI have talented members. Christine Underwood who has been a member for many years, and is the Treasurer, won the Oxfordshire Federation 'The Year of the Hat Competition 2021' with a beautiful hat and was awarded a gold medal.

We plan to meet outside, if possible, during June, July and August. So after a long day at home or work switch off and join in the conversation, try walking netball, floral art or gardening and find out about culture and science. The Oxfordshire Federation has over 4,000 members.

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

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

LOCKDOWN PROJECT: FIND A GRAVE (www.findagrave.com)

Brenda Hazels article last month primarily was about St Peter's Stoke Lyne.(page 20)

However she gave information regarding other parishes in the Shelswell benefice.

Are other Parishes doing a similar project?

Please let me know.

Editor

MYSTERIOUS ROADSIDE LITTER

Over the last month there has appeared alongside the lanes around Stoke Lyne, Fringford, Hardwick, Hethe, Cottisford and Juniper, loops of white nylon twine - all knotted in a specific manner and dropped on the verges about 100 metres or so apart (though not on footpaths or bridleways, nor in village centres). See photograph.



Several local riders/walkers and cyclists have noticed these and have been picking them up - but they re-appear after a few days!

This is littering and an offence, however innocent the original intention might be. Around 70 loops have been picked up to date. Many of our villages recently had their annual litter pick and so this is unwelcome, especially as the twine will not degrade and is a danger to wildlife too.

If you can shed any light on this please contact your local parish council who have been informed, and if you happen to know who is dropping the twine loops, ***please ask them to stop now!***

NEW AND IMPROVED CARERS SERVICE IN OXFORDSHIRE

Action for Carers and Rethink Mental Illness have once again won the contract to deliver the Carers Oxfordshire service from Health and Social Care. They will be continuing to provide all the same excellent support that local carers have come to expect from Carers Oxfordshire along with some crucial improvements to the service.

"It used to be that people would have to go to the council to continue the process of accessing the support that they were entitled to after being referred to us," says Kay Francis, Head of Service for Carers Oxfordshire. "Carers told me they were often disheartened and that it was clunky and time consuming for carers, who already have so much on their plate.

"But I'm pleased to announce that from April 1st Carers Oxfordshire now have the responsibility for the entire support process, meaning that we will be able to provide a more personalised service, focused on support that's right for the carer. We know that this will result in real tangible improvement for carers looking for the support they need."

Another key change is that Carers Oxfordshire is now able to give support to parent carers, **those who are aged 18 and over and care for a disabled child**. And the service can now offer their bespoke and award-winning training package, [*A Carers Journey*](#) which gives all carers that practical help when they need it

Preventing Gaps in Support

"As we slowly ease out of lockdown, there is a lot of apprehension from carers, many of whom are caring for people on the clinically extremely vulnerable list," says Kay Francis. "And it is scary, especially when there is so much uncertainty around dates, new strains and just what this 'new normal' will look like. But by continuing to deliver the service we have ensured that there won't be any gaps in support for carers at this difficult time.

"We also want to reassure carers that we understand their apprehension, but we are here to support them every step of the way for as long as they need us."

For over ten years, carers have been reaching out to Carers Oxfordshire for advice, information and for a reliable partner on their caring journey.

“A key feature of our service that I am particularly proud of is, that many of our staff have been carers or are currently carers themselves, meaning they understand the highs and lows of caring,” says Kay Francis. “They know that caring can be stressful and lonely while also being incredibly fulfilling and life affirming. Many of our carers say to us, ‘I wouldn’t have it any other way, I just need that bit more support’ and that is why we exist.”

Who are Carers Oxfordshire?

Carers Oxfordshire is a free service for all unpaid adult carers in Oxfordshire.

Their goals are to:

- Help people recognise their role as a vitally important carer so that they can access the support they are entitled to.
- Make the caring journey easier by enabling carers to navigate what can be a confusing system.
- Work with carers to help them find ways to care for themselves as they care for someone else.
- Encourage and champion all carers in their caring role.

To find out more call the Carers Oxfordshire team on 01235 424 715 or email carersinfo@carersoxfordshire.org.uk.

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.

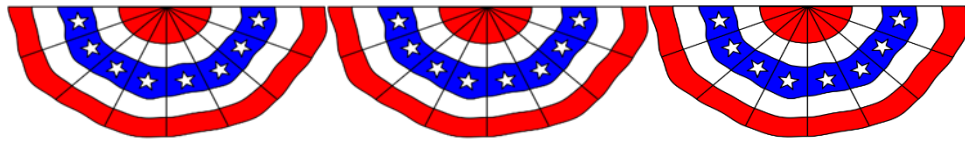
If you are needing help as a young person or parent, or know someone who is struggling, please call or text on 07437 497697 or email on hello@naishouse.org.uk

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



Save the date - Sunday 4th July!

A time to celebrate Independence, not only in
the US but also here at

Finmere's Summer Fair

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

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

Volunteers and enquiries, please contact
Jacky Horwood on 07534 498197
Tracy Jones on tracylyn11@outlook.com

Winners of the Finmere Quiz will also be presented on the day

So, before all restrictions are lifted, get out and about to see if you can find the answers and post your entry at the Rectory
on Water Stratford Road

Funds to go towards urgent repairs on the Church Roof – help us to retain our amazing Medieval Building; a vital part of
the history of our village

Finmere Village Quiz

How well do you know your village?

Try your hand at the following 35 questions; 22 written, 12 photographic, and a Tie Breaker.

The answer to each is a location in either Finmere or Little Tingewick.

Write your answers on the quiz sheet together with your name and telephone number, and return it to The Rectory,
Water Stratford Road, Finmere by Sunday 20th June.

The quiz is open to all – individuals, families, old and young, and you do not need to live in Finmere. The winner(s) will be able to choose a prize from the following: Chafor wine, chocolate assortment, or a bouquet of English flowers from Buzzy@Flowers Naturally. The winner will be announced at the Summer Fair on Sunday 4th July. Additional quiz sheets (with colour photos) are available on the Finmere Facebook page or there are hard copies in the church porch and at the Red Lion.

Entry Fee £5

Payment can be made by the following methods (pls tick):

By Bank transfer to Finmere PCC, Sort Code: 30-91-39;

00041975 (use ref "Quiz" & your initials)

By Scanning the QR code opposite, or

By Cash: place in an envelope with your completed quiz sheet



Account number:

All proceeds in aid of urgent roof repairs to preserve our beautiful church!

Name: _____

Telephone number: _____

Q1. In which house might you find "Winnie, the Pooh", or "Paddington" living?

Q2. A place for a gig, or perhaps a wagon or a carriage?

Q3. Please Sir, where will it tell me how many miles to see a fine lady upon a white horse?

Q4. This one's not in the Lake District, but you could try Mere Road?

Q5. Not Roman but very educational art, nonetheless?

Q6. The pride of Little Tingewick with his crimson flowing mane?

Q7. Plenty of greys, but sadly, the reds seem long gone?

Q8. Where in the village can E I I R be found twice?

Q9. Where might you find very regal doves?

Q10. What are the names and addresses on both village pumps?

Q11. Where can you find a kind offer to "Rest a while & smile"?

Q12. Which cottage evokes an Oxford College?

Q13. Where's the bird of prey on the moorland?

Q14. Small fragments of stone, wood, or similar material?

Q15. After passing Ledbury, where might you find a male goose, a flight of doves, a magnolia tree, signs of rabbits and the End?

Q16. Where in the open air can you read the quotation from Prov:XII:1 "Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge; but he that hateth reproof is brutish"?

Q17. Where would romance be found in the Churchyard?

Q18. Stands the church clock at...? And is there honey still for tea? (Rupert Brooke)

Q19. Where is the bench that was donated by the Beavers and the Cubs?

Q20. Green, brown and clear, use them again if you leave them here?

Q21. What are the dates on the Bill Banfield/Philip Willison memorial seat?

Q22. Where green-fingered folk gather to toil in the soil?

Picture Questions

(Photos on next page reproduced by kind permission of Mike Kirby):

Where are each of the photographs taken?

- P1. _____
- P2. _____
- P3. _____
- P4. _____
- P5. _____
- P6. _____
- P7. _____
- P8. _____
- P9. _____
- P10. _____
- P11. _____
- P12. _____

Tie Breaker Question:

How many Commemorative Trees does the village have? What do they commemorate and where are they?





Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9



Photo 10



Photo 11



Photo 12

With thanks to Anita Bilbo for sharing her considerable local knowledge.

THE SHELSWELL BENEFICE

The First of the Village articles

Cottisford

The village is now forever associated with Flora Thompson's *Lark Rise to Candleford* in which she calls it Fordlow. It lies on the banks of the Crowell stream, where there was once a ford; hence the name Cotts-ford. The old village lay mainly to the west of the ford, with St Mary's Church, the manor-house (now Cottisford House), the Rectory and College Farm. By 1306, Cottisford House was a grange in the hands of the Norman Abbey of Bec, administered by the Prior of Ogbourne; it included a granary, dovecote and numerous fish-ponds to the south of the road. In 1441 it passed to Eton College, who retained it until they sold it to Edwards Rousby in 1885. The churchyard used to be closed in by cottages on three sides but these were removed in the late 1820s by William Turner, the tenant of Cottisford House, when he was laying out pleasure grounds. He did build new cottages in the Warren on the north side of the village to re-house the occupants of these cottages but this place was deserted by 1910 and today there is no trace of it.

The main house to the east of the ford is Manor Farm, which dates back to the 14th century. The village school, with a cottage for the schoolmistress, was built on the corner of the road to Hethe in 1857-8 by Charles Harrison, the first resident rector (1853-96). Flora Thompson describes her days there in fascinating detail, including the summer treat of tea at Cottisford House. By 1904, the school was 'in every way inadequate' and the teacher's cottage fit to be condemned, and significant improvements were made. In 1929 the school was reorganised as a

junior school and the senior pupils were transferred to Fringford. The school was finally closed in 1968 and the senior pupils transferred to Finmere. In 1869 the 3rd Earl of Effingham of Tusmore built a row of six semi-detached model cottages opposite the school for 'the shepherd, the blacksmith, and other superior farm-workers'. He built some similar ones in neighbouring Hardwick.

The church of St Mary dates from the 13th century. By 1860 it was 'very dilapidated' and a thorough restoration was undertaken. The square-headed windows were 'gothicised', the small belfry was taken down, and a new font and altar were installed. At the same time the parishioners were re-seated on the north and south sides of the nave with open sittings; previously the pew seatings were by rank, 'nicely graded' as Flora Thompson described them. She also has a very moving description of the brass War Memorial above her family pew with the name of her much-loved brother, Edwin Timms, who was killed in Flanders. He is among the exceptional number of eleven from the parish who were killed. Dissent has never been strong here, although there is mention in *Lark Rise* of a small group of Methodists meeting in a cottage in the hamlet of Juniper Hill in the 1880's. The hamlet has always been part of the parish of Cottisford.

Juniper Hill, where Flora Thompson grew up, dates from 1754, when two cottages were built for the poor, as Cottisford tried to remove the poor from their village. The hamlet mainly developed in the 19th century to the point where half the parish were living there. Most of the cottages were built on lands ceded as 'squatters' rights'. In 1853, there was furious opposition by the 'Juniper Hill Mob' to enclosure, which was not completed until 1856. The 'Fox Inn' came into being between 1852 and 1864 and figures in *Lark Rise* as 'The Waggon and Horses'. The village was dominated by agriculture in the 18th and 19th centuries. In 1801 the population was only 106, rising to a peak of 269 in 1871. By 1901 it had fallen to 175. In 1931, there was a merger of the parishes of Cottisford with Hardwick-with-Tusmore but the joint population in 1951 was only 154 and in 2011 just 216.

You can read more about Cottisford in two excellent books by Ted and Joan Flaxman: *Cottisford Revisited* (1999) and *The Real Lark Rise Parish* (2009); also in *More Tales from Lark Rise* by Betty Timms, Flora's sister.

Martin Greenwood

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 ..

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 janebirnage@icloud.com

COTTISFORD AND JUNIPER HILL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

At an outdoor, socially-distanced meeting (Hooray!) we decided that we will have our usual summer event with a slight difference this year. On Sunday 4th July we will be holding a Picnic in the Field event, from 2-4pm. Bring your own picnic, rugs, etc. We will provide hot and cold soft drinks, paper cups and plates. There will be a Tombola, and we will be grateful for prizes for it. All from the Shelswell Benefice, their friends and relations are welcome. The Picnic will be in the playing field at Juniper Hill, and there is ample parking in the field itself. Hope to see you there!

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

Finmere Village Quiz and details of the 4th July celebrations are in the general section.

All Welcome to enter and attend.

Village Hall

The hall has re-opened from 12th. April and we now have small number of regular users re-booking. It is stressed that all users must comply with all current COVID guidelines, which include a mandatory the use of the hall QR code.



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

St Michael and All Angels is now open daily. Services in the church have started again. **NO NEED TO BOOK NOW.** On Sunday 16th May Fringford will have a service of Holy Communion at 11.00am. On the other Sundays of May there are services elsewhere in the Benefice. You are welcome to attend any of them. Please see the back page of this magazine for details.

Muddy Church in May

For all ages: come and join in the fun at 3.00pm on Sunday 16th May at Stoke Lyne. Contact Revd Yvonne Mullins for more information: ring 01869-278090 or email: curate@shelswellparishes.info

ZOOM Socials Still Continuing

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.

Open Gardens

The dates are 26 and 27 June. If you'd be willing to open your garden, please contact Penny on 01869-277310 or email: penelope.wood@btopenworld.com

Fringford Church 100 Club

The first draw took place in April:

1st Prize £47 Martin Greenwood
2nd Prize £28 Adrian Thwaites
3rd Prize £19 Amanda Page

You can still sign up. Next draw will be in May Contact Christina McCullagh to register your involvement **ASAP, on 07867 515207.**

Fringford Church Book Exchange

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

Penny Wood

SUPPORT DURING THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

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

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

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

FRINGFORD VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

We will be able to have a Coffee Morning this month, on Monday 17th May, 10.30am to 12 noon. But **please note** that we will be meeting at the Butcher's Arms, using the coffee shop there. If fine we can sit outside; if not, we can be inside. Look forward to seeing everyone.

Penny Wood

THE BUTCHER'S ARMS

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

Hardwick

St Mary the Virgin

CHURCHWARDENS: John Curtis, Sycamore House, Hardwick	Tel 01869 277984
David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick	Tel 01869 277690
TREASURER: David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick	Tel 01869 277690
PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Meryl Daniel	
MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Veronica Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick	Tel 01869 277690
WEBSITE: http://hardwickvillage.btck.co.uk	

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

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

The fourth Earl of Effingham: the man who was buried twice

Henry Alexander Gordon Howard, owner of the Tusmore Estate from 1898 until his death in 1927 was the fourth Earl of Effingham. He had succeeded his father, also Henry, as Earl. His grandfather, Henry Howard, the second Earl, had purchased Tusmore in 1857. As an Earl, Henry Howard was a member of the House of Lords. He belonged to the Liberal Unionist party, which was formed by former Liberals who opposed Irish Home rule. He also served as Deputy Lieutenant of the West Riding of Yorkshire. He was a supporter of the church, paying for the installation of a new organ in Hardwick church in 1901, which is still in service today.



Henry Alexander Gordon Howard, the fourth Earl of Effingham (1866 - 1927)

The fourth Earl was, apparently a man who loved country life and country pursuits. Although, it seems he was not so keen to share the land he loved most with others, judging by the notice he placed in the Bicester Herald on 21st March 1900. This read: "The Earl of Effingham desires to give Notice that on the 25th March ('Lady Day') he will take in hand the whole of Hardwick, Hethe, the Fox Covert, and Linney Close, all lately in the occupations Mrs Hiorns, of the Manor House, Hardwick, and on that date the whole of the above ground will be CLOSED to the Public and be converted to a game preserve. All persons found trespassing off the road will be prosecuted according to the law and all dogs shot. No person will be permitted on any pretext whatsoever, to exercise horses on the above ground or to disturb its rides and brackets as the whole ground must now be considered private." Apparently, he loved Tusmore so much that he never wanted to leave, giving instructions in his will that he was to be buried there. Accordingly, after his death in May 1927, his mortal remains were interred under the lawn outside Tusmore House. However, presumably unbeknown to Henry, his cousin Gordon Howard, put Tusmore Estate up for sale immediately on becoming fifth Earl, after Henry's demise. The Estate was duly purchased by Vivian Hugh Smith, a merchant banker, who later became the first Baron Bicester in 1938. The new owner of Tusmore was not happy to have also purchased the mortal remains of the late fourth Earl under his lawn.

So, after obtaining a Home Secretary's Licence, he had the body exhumed and reinterred in Hardwick churchyard on 25th February 1929. Thus, the Reverend S. M. Statham officiated at two burials for the same man. His second grave, to the north side of Hardwick church, is marked with a headstone in the form of a cross. The inscription, however, does not record his posthumous journey from Tusmore to his final resting place.

Hethe St Edmund and St George

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

Tel 01869 277366

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

Tel 01869 278166

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Flora Skinner as above

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Mike Green as above

Tel 01869 278166

WEBSITE: www.hethe.org

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

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

Many thanks, Mike.

ST EDMUND & ST GEORGE CHURCH



Church Services and Access

At the time of writing this article the church was opening for private prayer on Sundays from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Many thanks to Flora for getting the church ready.

Everyone who attended our first service of the year on Easter Sunday was very appreciative. Pauline commented:

“Once again good to be in our own Church with the sun shining and it was lovely to welcome back the Revd Vicky to take the service. Thank you to all the flower arrangers giving a spring-like appearance with the pretty fresh arrangements.”

In the revised service pattern effective from 18th April there should be one definite service in our church every month, with a second service alternating between our church and Finmere. The definite service is due to be on the 1st Sunday of every month starting at 9.30am and the alternating service on the 3rd Sunday of every month starting at 8.15am. See the back page for the actual dates for May.

The PCC are considering the options for providing other opportunities for worship in Hethe. All parishioners are welcome to attend services in other villages (perhaps getting there through car share or rambles) or we could introduce something different in our village such as lay lead services or a contemplation/meditation group. The PCC would welcome your opinion and ideas.

Please read the notices in the church for guidance on how to safely access the building.



Thanks are due to PCC members Helen Pritchard for the sweet pea seedlings given away on Mothering Sunday, to Flora for the hot cross buns and Easter eggs for the children and Pauline for the knitted “chickens” complete with chocolate eggs. Oh, and to Flora for the extra special mini vegan chocolate eggs for yours truly!

Church Repairs & Redecoration

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

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

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

Church Funds & Regular Giving



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

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



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

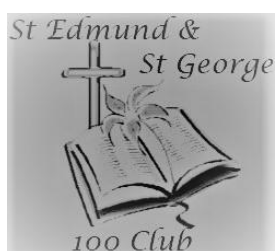
On-Line Giving Page

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



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

100 Club



Draws are taking during the Shelswell Quiz on the second Wednesday of the month via Zoom. There are still plenty of numbers if you wish to join!

The results of the April draw:

1st Prize No 23 Lisa Soper

2nd Prize No 47 Ben & Ali Jones

3rd Prize No 4 Helen Pritchard & Family

Next Draw Wednesday 12th May

Safeguarding

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

Eco Church



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

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

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

Thank you to our Volunteers

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



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

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

HETHE COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

Village Hall

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

A decision on plans for the makeover of the hall was due to be taken by the District Council on 28th April.



Adventure Playground



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

Book Share

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

Recycling

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

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

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



May Day



A May Day procession opposite Hethe School in the Bainton Road. Taken before 1973 when the school was closed.

May Day marks the time of year when it should be warmer and there are more flowers and trees in leaf. Pagans celebrate the festival of Beltane on this day for “the return of life and fertility to the world”.

Perhaps due to the pagan associations of the festival, the Christian Church and State tried on a number of occasions to stop it! In the sixteenth century riots followed when May Day celebrations were banned, and fourteen rioters were hanged. Following the Civil

War, maypole dancing was described as “a heathenish vanity generally abused to superstition and wickedness” and it was declared illegal.

In common with other villages, Hethe celebrated May Day, as the photo above shows, and in addition to the crowning of a May Queen would traditionally have Morris dancing and dancing around a Maypole.

Hethe at one time had its own Morris Dancing team. We were fortunate to have Brackley Morris dance for us at the 2019 Shelswell History Festival on Hethe's Playing Field.

Morris dancing is thought to have originated in Court settings in the 15th Century although its origins may be much earlier. It was taken up more widely up to the advent of the social changes due to the industrial revolution. In the 20th Century it saw a revival with the addition of some women teams.



We hope to book Brackley Morris again for the planned 2022 Shelswell Festival. The current intention is to hold the festival on Park Lodge Ground, Shelswell Estate (the site of the 2017 Festival) on 16th July 2022.

Mixbury All Saints

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

TREASURER: David Mitchell. 2 Town Farm, Mixbury

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Anna Howard

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Sue Goodman pasgoodman551@gmail.com

Tel 07899 792552

Tel 01280 848295

Tel 01280 847769

Tel 01280 848002

Church Services

The Church was beautifully decorated for Easter Sunday and thanks are sent to the "flower arrangers" by Sally Drummond Hay: "Thank you very much for all the lovely flowers you helped to decorate the church with for Easter. It looked amazing and was the finishing touch to all the restoration work, cleaning and polishing that had been going on in the church.

It was lovely having so many new volunteers contributing, thank you. Festivals are always a joint effort with everyone whether or not they are on the rota helping, and it is a lovely church to decorate. We were so lucky the sun shone, the church was as full as we were allowed and even if unable to sing our favourite hymns lovely to be back together for Easter."



Easter Activities

There were lots of activities taking place during Easter in Mixbury – to name a few there was the Hot Cross Bun Bake off, Easter Egg hunt in which many villagers decorated their gardens, gates and windows with Easter decorations not forgetting the opening of the church for Easter Sunday. Unfortunately the photos will be in black and white but Fi Bairstow's window was outstanding in colour.



Forthcoming Weddings



Our beautiful church will be used for two forthcoming weddings in May – many congratulations firstly to Lucy Mitchell and Charlie Ludlow on the 22nd May then Frank Jackson and Maggs Venn on 29th May; wishing them all many years of happiness together and hopefully a lovely sunny day for each wedding. After many months of closure and covid 19 restrictions it is really wonderful to have some normality back.

Welcome to Mixbury

Angela Lomax has recently moved to Mixbury and runs a pet sitting service that may be of interest to the pet owners in the village. Angela says:

“I have run my own house and pet sitting business for the past 7 years. My address is 2 Church View, Mixbury. Email is angela1lomax1@googlemail.com Tel. 07970 442 340

I usually stay at people's homes to take care of their pets in their own surroundings and for security of having someone stay at the property whilst people are away, usually on holiday. As you can imagine last year was a difficult year for me due to Covid and I hope things will look up this year and beyond.

I am very reliable and trustworthy and have experience of many breeds of dogs and other animals including sheep, ducks, chickens. I travel countryside and have even worked in Spain looking after rescued donkeys and greyhounds.

I have excellent references from previous clients and look forward to working for new ones in this area.

I look forward to meeting new people here and helping out when needed.

Best regards Angela”

Church Cleaning

Dear Mixbury,

I hope that you all were able to enjoy such a beautiful day on Easter Sunday. Following such a long wet and, dare I say, COVID winter, Easter Sunday was made all the more memorable with the sun shining down on us. Again, a huge thank you to all of you who volunteered your time and immense efforts to deep clean and prepare our church for re-opening for Easter Service following the extensive masonry work. Without this team work, it could not have been achieved. The church did look wonderful, particularly the stunning refurbished stained-glass East window with the sun shining through and also the beautiful flower arrangement contributions from many of you. It was certainly a moment for all of us to be proud of.

I would like to take this opportunity to reach out to Mixbury once more to request for new volunteers to join the merry band of people who are currently on the regular monthly cleaning rota. Thank you to all current helpers for your hard work. Again, this is a case of the more the merrier! Due to the movement of people both in and out of the village the list on the rota is in danger of becoming depleted and needs annual review and to be refreshed.

I would also like to thank Rebecca Ayres who has requested that she stand down from organising the rota which she has done for several years, as have many of us including myself when I first moved to the village 23 years ago. Inevitably, over time, the organisers eventually get tired and need new people with more energy and maybe fresh ideas to take over. Many people in this village get involved in one way or another with helping in many activities, which all contributes to the village community spirit and I do hope that we can all benefit from seeing new people coming forward for future years to come.

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA ORGANISER -Vacancy:-

Being Rota organiser is a relatively easy, yet important task. Currently the Annual/ monthly rolling rota is pinned up in the church porch and each volunteer normally receives a copy. All that is needed is for someone to review this each year and to hopefully add more volunteers moving forward. Currently there are 12 volunteers working in pairs which means taking a turn twice per year. However, wouldn't it be lovely to have groups of 3 as we did in 'The big church clean up'? This would make the job less arduous. Ideally, if sufficient numbers came forward, we may be able to in the future reduce the number of sessions per person to once per year. However, this may not be possible given the population of Mixbury.

CHURCH CLEANING VOLUNTEERS – NEW RECRUITS ALWAYS NEEDED:-

Most volunteers work either with a friend or someone they know or maybe, if new, they want to get to know people better in the village. On the month/s that you are rostered for, it is entirely up to you and your cleaning partner/s to arrange a suitable time/day that suits. The task in hand usually takes 2 hours or so – brushing, hoovering, dusting and mopping. I sometimes take a flask of coffee so that we can also enjoy a natter!

I look forward to hearing from you regarding both of these important roles.

Kind regards,

Julie Mitchell (On behalf of Mixbury PCC (Parochial Church Council))

All Our YesterdaysLinking Warren Farm to the Coneygarths of the Middle Ages

This piece of writing describes the history and construction of Warrens, or Coneygarths, from a country-wide perspective, then focuses in on what we know of the warren at Warren Farm. At a future time, we will be, thanks to permission from the owners, be delving more into the history of the actual farm: the history of the buildings; who lived there etc.

We are familiar with the term 'rabbit warren' and rightly assume that this is a name given to an area where there is or was a colony of rabbits. Warren Farm was just that, and indeed, there are very many rabbits in that area in 2021.

Today the rabbit can be regarded as prolific, destructive and of little value, but through much of its history the rabbit was a rare and highly prized commodity. Believed to be indigenous during a previous interglacial period, the rabbit was considered extinct until deliberately (re)introduced via France in the 11th and 12th centuries. The animal was much sought after to provide a constant supply of both meat and fur. In addition to rabbit meat being part of a staple diet, the rabbit's fur was used **as** clothing as well as **on** clothing and, although neither the most fashionable nor valuable, it became very popular in the 13th century.

Warrens, 'Coneygarths' or 'Conygrees', as in the Middle Ages the adult term for a rabbit was a 'coney', were created as areas of land that were set aside for the breeding and management of this valuable commodity, and were, in effect, artificial rabbit warrens. As the rabbits initially found the English climate inhospitable, they needed careful rearing and cossetting inside specially created warrens. For the next five centuries, most of England's rabbit population lived protected within these specially built areas.

Warrens usually comprised several purpose-built breeding places known as pillow mounds, or rabbit buries, which were intended to centralise the colony and make catching the animals easier, whether using nets, ferrets or dogs. The mounds were usually surrounded by ditches and contained underlying channels or were situated on sloping ground to facilitate drainage. The interior of the mound is thought to have contained nesting places constructed of stone slabs or cut into the underlying subsoil or bedrock. Warrens were enclosed by a bank, hedge or wall intended to contain and protect the stock. They were built and managed by Warren keepers, or Warreners. Larger warrens included living quarters for the Warrener who kept charge of the site. These dwellings were called Lodges, mostly dating from the 14th century, and were substantial buildings to house the Warreners, and allow surveillance of the land in case of poachers. Being a warrener must have been a lonely life. William Shakespeare (1564-1616) wrote in 'Much Ado About Nothing', a reference to Benedick, describing Count Claudio as 'As melancholy as a lodge in a warren'.

Poaching was very common, and it is thought that many ordinary people living in the vicinity of warrens secured a reasonable supply of rabbits illegally, either for domestic consumption or for distribution through the black market. The incidence of poaching increased rapidly from the mid-14th century, reflecting both the growth in rabbits and of poaching itself. It became a sufficiently serious and lucrative business for poachers to organize themselves into gangs, representing a deliberate and carefully planned pooling of knowledge and resources, including the use of arms. The value of a rabbit, was equivalent to the wage of almost two days' unskilled labour.

Rabbits were worth four or five times as much as chickens and were considered a luxury. In 1395, for a feast held at Merton College, Oxford, it is recorded that rabbits were bought at 6d. and 8d. a couple and transported, at the cost of ½d. each, from Bushey to Oxford. The meat was considered a delicacy and therefore was mainly reserved for rich men's tables. A recipe collection from about 1390 lists various rabbit recipes prepared and cooked for King Richard II, and in 1525 there is an inventory for a high- status wedding which includes an entry for '21 dozen conies'. As was noted in the 17th century:

'no host could be deemed a good housekeeper that hath not plenty of these at all times to furnish his table'.

Throughout the Middle Ages the right to hunt and kill any beast or game was a special privilege granted by the king, so that all hunting was carefully controlled and restricted. Hunting in the extensive royal forests was the privilege of the king alone, but outside these areas the Crown was prepared to sell exclusive hunting rights by means of a charter of '**free-warren**'. In effect, the recipient of this charter was granted the sole right to kill the beasts of warren, which basically consisted of the pheasant, partridge, hare and rabbit, within a specified area. Hence the right to keep and kill rabbits was the exclusive privilege of the owner of free-warren and it was therefore illegal for anybody else to attempt to do so. Free-warren was consequently a valuable privilege, jealously guarded by its owner.

Warrens gradually spread in popularity so that by the 16th and 17th centuries they were a common feature on most manors and estates throughout the country. In the 18th century rabbits finally broke out and colonised a much wider area and through numbers devalued its worth. Warrens further declined due to 19th and 20th century changes in agricultural practice, and the onset of myxomatosis. From an historical point of view, warrens are important for their associations with other classes of monument, including various forms of settlement, deer parks, field systems and fishponds.

Moving on to local information about warrens and in particular Warren Farm. There were several warrens in the vicinity of Mixbury. These are recorded in some detail in 'British History Online' (BHO); listed under the information on villages such as Cottisford, Hethe and Finmere.

In John Ogilby's maps (1675) on the Turnpike road that is now the A421, between Finmere and Cottisford, just before the Cottisford turn, there is described 'a great coney warren'. This may have been referring to Cottisford warren, or Mixbury warren, or the two may have been managed as one.

Recorded in BHO in Mixbury, 'a valuable part of the manor was the rabbit warren at Warren Farm. The Abbot of Oseney had been granted free warren at Mixbury in 1268. In 1279 the 'warren' was recorded under the heading of the abbey's grange in Fulwell, but the Mixbury rabbit warren was certainly meant. In 1535 it was being farmed for £8 a year, and it was probably the first large inclosure in the township'.

The reason that the Mixbury Warren Farm rabbit warren was listed under Fulwell was because Oseney Abbey's Grange was in Fulwell and at that time The Abbey was using Fulwell as the administrative Headquarters for

Finmere and Mixbury combined. When Sir John Wellesbourne, Lord of the Manor, got the lease on Mixbury, Fulwell, and the Oseney lands in Newton Purcell in 1541, Warren Farm was included in the arrangement.

In other information about Mixbury and Warren Farm, we know that Timothy Hart, the rector from 1664, negotiated with parishioners that he would receive cash instead of tithes as the tithes had previously been unforthcoming. However, the arrangement was concluded on the promise that he would receive '30 couple' of rabbits yearly. The clergy was as important as the Lord of the Manor in days of old. In the 1730 Enclosure Act it states that 'The Warren would belong to Benjamin Bathurst, MP, Lord of the Manor of Mixbury and Fulwell. It decrees that the Rector of Mixbury would get 20 pairs of rabbits each year. However, as part of the same Act of Parliament, the Lord of the Manor had to build a wall to keep the rabbits in, in order to stop them getting into the Rectory Garden and eating the crops!

Most recently, in the Conservation Appraisal report, 2017, to reflect the instruction above, 'there was a medieval warren in the parish of Mixbury, which was granted with particular hunting rights. This was originally marked with an earthen wall and was later demarcated by a stone boundary following the enclosure of the parish ---'

It is interesting to note that there was a resurgence of rabbit keeping – not this time in warrens but at home, in both urban and rural areas – during WWII. Once again, the rabbit became a valued commodity. It was encouraged by the government and although many families were apparently squeamish about what was involved, as rationing became tighter the fact that rabbits were 'off the ration' was a big attraction.

"One day the farmer thought, 'I could increase those rabbits: make them part of my farm—their meat, their skins. He put out food for the rabbits, but not too near the warren. For his purpose they had to become accustomed to going about in the fields and the wood. And then he snared them—not too many: as many as he wanted and not as many as would frighten them all away or destroy the warren. They grew big and strong and healthy, for he saw to it that they had all of the best, particularly in winter, and nothing to fear—except the running knot in the hedge gap and the wood path. So they lived as he wanted them to live and all the time there were a few who disappeared. The rabbits became strange in many ways, different from other rabbits. They knew well enough what was happening. But even to themselves they pretended that all was well, for the food was good, they were protected, they had nothing to fear but the one fear; and that struck here and there, never enough at a time to drive them away.'" Litcharts.com/watership-down quotes

With acknowledgement to: bahs.org.uk: The Rabbit and the Medieval East Anglian Economy. Mark Bailey; British History Online; british-history.ca.uk; Conservation Appraisal August 2017

Mixbury Book Exchange

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

Flower Boxes:

The lovely planters have a few flowers in to start off with.



Save the date:

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

Newton Purcell St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDENS: Ann von Maltzahn, Home Farm Shelswell Park	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 Sophie Crofton as above	
MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Ann von Maltzahn	Tel 01280 84868

Easter Sunday -

It was wonderful to be able to have a service again and with the required 'spacing' of those attending we were full! The church also looked lovely with spring flowers and our thanks go to all who helped with the decorating.

Private Prayer -

The church will now be open again every Sunday from 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. for anyone wishing to go in for a moment of private prayer.

Bonus Ball Lotto -

Recent lucky winners have been Michala Pederson, Roger & Angela Cross and Peggy White.

Art in the Countryside -

We very much hope to be able to hold this popular event again this year and plans are already under way. Please note the provisional dates of 5th & 6th of June in your diaries.

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	

Services:

Please see the back of the magazine for intimation of services

Holy Week

Thank you to the 'Shelswell by the Sea' team for the lovely bag of goodies delivered to me, with lots of things in it to enjoy during Holy week. Thank you to all who helped to prepare the bags and deliver them it was very much appreciated.

The Church was open to all during the four days of Easter weekend. We had a very uplifting and lovely Easter Day service led by Liz. It was so nice to see the Church full to the capacity we are allowed.

The things we miss are not being able to sing and chat over a cup of tea/coffee after the service.

Flowers

The daffodils outside the wall of the Church graveyard have been really beautiful, also in the playing field and all round different parts of the village verges, trees are putting on their lovely blossoms and as you go into the playing there is a carpet of cowslips I don't think I have ever seen so many.

Stoke Lyne 100 Club

The total prize money for the Stoke Lyne 100 Club this month is now a staggering £70.50 split between three winners.

1st prize Membership Number 15
2nd Prize Membership Number 3
3rd Prize Membership Number 30

Alison Miller
Margaret Dudley
Nikki Popoola

The balance of the proceeds are being put towards the costs involved in the repair of the Church clock that, I am sure, you will all want to see working again.

Anyone wishing to join please email or message me for details. It is only £3.00 per month for one membership and there are no limits to how many memberships you can buy.

Thank you again and good luck everyone next month.

Regards
Janey Poole
Treasurer,
St Peter's Church PCC.

The Clock strikes

With great pleasure, I can confirm that St Peter's Church clock is now fully repaired and was commissioned at 2.00 pm today. The scaffolding will be removed tomorrow.



Thanks must be given to a small number of generous residents of Stoke Lyne who have donated funds to this project. Without their kind support, the repair of the clock would not have been possible. The clock is now in extremely good working order and we will be our gift to future generations of this village as they grow and appreciate its welcome presence daily in our village.

Since we are currently celebrating Easter, the season of rebirth, hope and transformation the recommissioning of our clock is a poignant reminder that time and life continues. Hopefully, we are moving into safer times as a family, a village and a community.

Although a significant amount has been donated we are still short of the total costs involved in the clock repair so please donate anything possible via our QR code below (download the QR app) by bank transfer (acct No 01832174 Sort Code 51 70 15) or by cheque made out to St Peters Church Stoke Lyne PCC.

Thank you for your support and I hope you all enjoy the working clock once more.

Scan here with your QR app to donate:



Christopher T Poole
Church Warden

ANTI-TANK PMPLE



At the entrance to the playing field, opposite Forge cottage, you may have noticed a block of concrete that has been exposed. Well it is a bit of village history as it is an anti tank obstacle or pimple

During the war the Home Guard set up road blocks and anti-tank trap/ blockades at road junctions and on important sites such as bridges over canals. Yes, they are now just forgotten lumps of concrete, some of which have found a new role. But they were an important part of what would be our defence against invasion – which during the early part of the war was considered inevitable.

THE 1868 RENOVATION OF ST PETER'S CHURCH



Part of our daily lockdown walk has been round the churchyard (particularly attractive this spring with all the bulbs). One day I just happened to glance at the guttering and noticed that all the leader heads on the downpipes were decorated and embellished with the date 1868. I vaguely remembered reading somewhere that this was the year major renovations were undertaken so I decided to find out more.

The Oxford Chronicle and Berks and Bucks Gazette of 2 May 1868 reports that: “STOKE LYNE CHURCH. – The church, which is in a rather dilapidated condition, is about to be restored. The expenses are estimated at upwards of £1000, a portion of which is promised, and a subscription is already in progress. We hope in a short time to hear that the works re commenced.” To give you some idea of the “dilapidation” the Victoria County Histories website goes into a bit more detail “the chancel walls and roof were in need of repair, the floors were uneven, and the walls green with damp.” It doesn’t exactly sound the sort of place you would want to visit.

However, as in more modern times, it seems there were a few months yet to wait until the builders finally arrived. I’ve not found any reports of work being underway until the Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, and Northamptonshire Telegraph issue of 25th November 1868 which states: “STOKE LYNE. – The restoration of Stoke Lyne Church is in progress. Public services were on Sunday last, in consequence of the church alterations, held in the school-room.”

How long did it take? It wasn’t until May of the following year that the Bishop of Oxford visited and a report of the re-opening was published in the local press. The Buckingham Express of 8 May 1869 and the Oxford Journal both carry this report: “STOKE LYNE. – The parish church at this village has recently been restored, and was opened on Tuesday last by the Bishop of Oxford, who preached an impressive sermon from 2nd Chronicles, xv. 8. The church comprises a chancel, nave, and embattled tower (containing three bells) and is of mixed architecture. A new porch on the south side, and a vestry on the north have been added in the

restoration, and inside the church open sittings of pitch pine have taken the place of the high-backed pews and there is a new oak pulpit and stalls, the materials for which were presented by the Rev. W. C. Risley, of Deddington. The room is formed of stained wood, and the passage in the church are paved with tiles – 6-inch Burslems in the nave and Minton's in the chancel. An exceedingly pretty Reredos has also been added. H. Woodyer, Esq., is the architect. Mr. G. Redfern is clerk to the works, and Mr. C. Chappell, of Tring, the contractor. The total cost was £2,100, which is nearly all raised, the collection on the day of opening amounted to over £125."

Since then there have been several more church renovations and refurbishments, most recently of course in 2019. But what dates or initials can be seen on other buildings or objects around the village and what do they represent?

Brenda Hazel

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



Church Services

The churches are once again open during the day for private prayer and reflection. In Stratton Audley the church is open every day, whilst in Godington the church is open at weekends only.

Compline

A service of Compline (Night Prayer) will be held in Holy Trinity, Godington on Sunday 2nd May at 6pm.

Ascension Day Service

There will be a service of Holy Communion on Ascension Day (Thursday 13th May) at 6pm in the evening in Stratton Audley. All are welcome from across the benefice. There is no longer any need to book for services.

Holy Communion on Sunday 23rd May

The next service in Stratton Audley will be 9.30am Holy Communion on Sunday 23rd May. It will no longer be necessary to book for services, though masks and hand sanitising will still be required, and social distancing will be strictly observed.

Church Yard Spring Clean

The spring clean of the church yard last Saturday was a great success with eight volunteers helping to trim branches and clearing brambles and other debris, plus a big special Thank You to Emma McCabe who kindly helped her father remove ivy from the gravestones. Thanks also go to Richard Howson and his right-hand man Royston for removing all the debris this week.

Calling All “Baby Lambs”



If you have a baby who isn't yet mobile, then come and join in 'Baby Lambs' at Stratton Audley Church from 10am – 10.45am (Term Time) Contact Jen Iddon via jeniddoncfw@gmail.com

Jen, our Children and Families Worker, who organizes it says:

- We need to stay in our own bubbles
- Bring our own drinks and snacks
- Bring your own baby mat / toys
- Any toys must be kept in our own bubbles
- We cannot mix (hence babies not toddlers)
- Max 15 people, but just turn up as we're not expecting many to start with
- Story, Chats and Prayers.

We look forward to meeting you in the coming weeks.

Bicester Motion Scramble – Discount Resident Vouchers

The next Scramble is to be held on 5th/6th of June and neighbourhood discounted tickets are still available for Sunday 6th June. When purchasing you will need to put FlyingBrevets into the promo code box which will immediately allocate a 50% discount. You will be required to input your OX27 or OX26 postcode and this will be checked.

<https://bicesterheritage.co.uk/tickets/october-scramble-tickets/>

Passes previously purchased for the January and April scrambles are still valid.



'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
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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

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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.

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E: enquiries@strattoncourtbarnc.co.uk

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



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Victoria Online:



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Contact Victoria:

Constituency:

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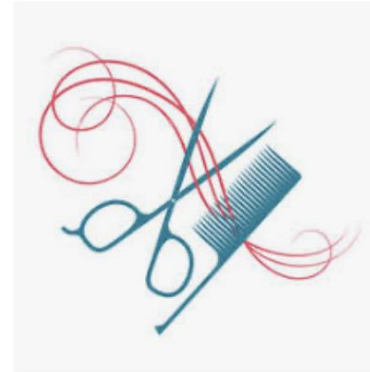
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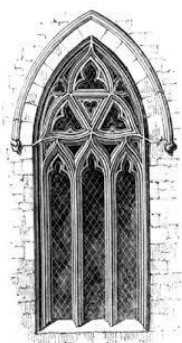
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## SERVICES IN MAY

Our new pattern of services will run until the end of September when it will be reviewed.

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

|                               |         |                                        |                 |       |
|-------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May    | 9.30am  | Morning Prayer                         | Hethe           | PW    |
|                               | 11am    | Holy Communion*                        | Finmere         | AG    |
|                               | 6pm     | Compline                               | Godington       | LW    |
| Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> May    | 9.30am  | Holy Communion                         | Newton Purcell  | YM    |
|                               | 11am    | Holy Communion (BCP)*                  | Cottisford      | AG    |
|                               | 6pm     | Evening Communion                      | Stoke Lyne      | AG    |
| Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> May | 6pm     | Holy Communion for<br>Ascension Day    | Stratton Audley | AG/YM |
| Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> May   | 8.15 am | BCP Communion                          | Hethe           | YM    |
|                               | 9.30 am | Mixbury 45                             | Mixbury         | PW    |
|                               | 11 am   | Holy Communion *                       | Fringford       | AG    |
|                               | 3 pm    | Muddy Church                           | Stoke Lyne      | YM/JI |
| Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May   | 9.30 am | Holy Communion                         | Stratton Audley | LW    |
|                               | 11 am   | Holy Communion*                        | Stoke Lyne      | AG    |
|                               | 6 pm    | Evensong                               | Hardwick        | PW    |
| Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> May   | 11am    | Benefice Service<br>of Holy Communion* | Stoke Lyne      | YM/PW |

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

