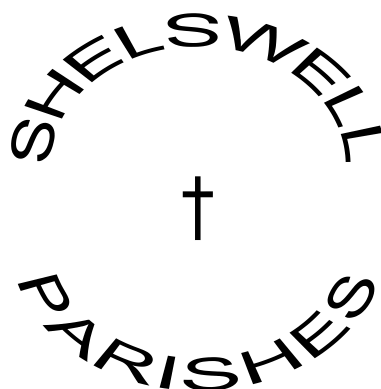


Shelswell News

The magazine of the Shelswell Group of Churches

Cottisford
Fringford
Hardwick
Mixbury
Stoke Lyne



Finmere
Godington
Hethe
Newton Purcell
Stratton Audley

Heavenly Father,
Jesus was revealed
as Your Beloved Son
at His baptism.



May we acknowledge
Him as our Lord
and know ourselves to be
Your Beloved Children;
through Jesus Christ
our Saviour.

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: 4 p.m Saturday.

Weekday Mass: 9.30 am Monday

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

Telephone: 01869 253277

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

SHELLOWELL NEWS

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

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Deadlines for the **February 2022** edition of Shelswell News

To Magazine Correspondents: **Tuesday 18 January 2022**

Correspondents to Editor: **Thursday 20 January 2022** at editor@shelswellparishes.info

All articles must be submitted in WORD in a format that can be copied and pasted PLEASE
www.shelswellparishes.info

Some Thoughts and Prayers for the New Year (in Place of a Minister's Letter)

A Year of Time - Steven B. Cloud

Even though thinking on the subject of time may prove discomforting, it is not a bad idea - especially at the beginning of a new year.

As we look into 2022, we look at a block of time. We see 12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days, 8,760 hours, 525,600 minutes, 31,536,000 seconds. And all is a gift from God. We have done nothing to deserve it, earn it, or purchased it. Like the air we breathe, time comes to us as a part of life.

The gift of time is not ours alone. It is given equally to each person. Rich and poor, educated and ignorant, strong and weak - every man, woman and child has the same twenty-four hours every day.

Another important thing about time is that you cannot stop it. There is no way to slow it down, turn it off, or adjust it. Time marches on.

And you cannot bring back time. Once it is gone, it is gone. Yesterday is lost forever. If yesterday is lost, tomorrow is uncertain. We may look ahead at a full year's block of time, but we really have no guarantee that we will experience any of it.

Obviously, time is one of our most precious possessions. We can waste it. We can worry over it. We can spend it on ourselves. Or, as good stewards, we can invest it in the kingdom of God.

The new year is full of time. As the seconds tick away, will you be tossing time out the window, or will you make every minute count?



This New Year - Eleanor Roosevelt, Jan. 1, 1937

I wish for those I love this New Year an opportunity to earn sufficient, to have that which they need for their own and to give that which they desire to others, to bring in to the lives of those about them some measure of joy, to know the satisfaction of work well done, of recreation earned and therefore savoured, to end the year a little wiser, a little kinder and therefore a little happier.

To Start a New Year - Anonymous

A new year is unfolding—like a blossom with petals curled tightly concealing the beauty within.

Lord, let this year be filled with the things that are truly good - with the comfort of warmth in our relationships, with the strength to help those who need our help, and the humility and openness to accept help from others.

As we make our resolutions for the year ahead, let us go forward with great hope that all things can be possible - with Your help and guidance.

Dear Lord, please give me...

A few friends who understand me and remain my friends;
A work to do which has real value,
without which the world would be the poorer;
A mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail be not blazed;
An understanding heart; a sense of humour;
Time for quiet, silent meditation; a feeling of the presence of God;
The patience to wait for the coming of these things,
With the wisdom to recognize them when they come. Amen.



A New Year's Prayer

May God make your year a happy one!

Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain, but by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;

Not by making your path easy, but by making you sturdy to travel any path;

Not by taking hardships from you, but by taking fear from your heart;

Not by granting you unbroken sunshine, but by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;

Not by making your life always pleasant, but by showing you when people and their causes need you most, and by making you anxious to be there to help.

God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

BIBLE READINGS



Sunday 2 nd January	Epiphany	Isaiah 60 v1-6 Ephesians 3 v1-12 Matthew 2 v1-12
Sunday 9 th January	Baptism of Christ	Isaiah 43 v1-7 Acts 8 v14-17 Luke 3 v15-17 and 21-22
Sunday 16 th January	2 nd Sunday of Epiphany	Isaiah 62 v1-5 1 Corinthians 12 v1-11 John 2 v1-11
Sunday 23 rd January	3 rd Sunday of Epiphany	Nehemiah 8 v1-3, 5-6, 8-10 1 Corinthians 12 v12-31a Luke 4 v14-21
Sunday 30 th January	Presentation of Christ in the Temple	Malachi 3 v1-5 Hebrews 2 v14-end Luke 2 v22-40

Celebrate The Epiphany

at the Mid-Week Service of Holy Communion and Lunch

The Service, with a Reflection for **Epiphany**, will be in **Stoke Lyne Church** on **Thursday 6th January 2022 at 12 noon** followed by Lunch.

We do hope you will be able to come for worship, food and fellowship.

If you would like a lift or more information, please contact Liz, Yvonne or Alice.



GROUP MEETING TO LOOK AT 'INSPIRED BY ART ADVENT THEMES'

This group first met on 25 November. We then stopped as it was difficult to find dates. The plan is to continue in January and become a 'post Advent' Advent Group! We will meet again on Thursday 20th and Thursday 27th January at 7.30pm at Northwell Farm, Finmere. There will be one further date in February but we'll discuss that at the next meeting. Sessions are 'stand alone' so others can join at any time. Just come along, or for directions ring Penny on 01869-277310 [If Covid regulations require it, sessions will move to Zoom]

APOLOGIES FOR THE LATE ARRIVAL OF YOUR MAGAZINE RECENTLY

We are sorry that both the November and December editions of 'Shelswell News' reached you after the start of the month. Unfortunately, there have been delays at the printers, due in part to Covid and members of staff having to isolate. We are hopeful that this edition should reach you before the start of January, but please don't assume that your local distributor is responsible for delays in delivery. We are enormously grateful to our network of distributors. It would be a great help to them if you can pay your annual subscriptions promptly this month, either by cash or cheque or by bank transfer. Many thanks

Thinking, reflecting, growing, developing – dates for next year’s diary

Lent 2022 – a series of four Lent talks and suppers (Covid allowing)

Thursday 10th March – John Alderdice will talk on ‘Faith in a post pandemic world’. John has been a member of the House of Lords Select Committee on ‘Life in the Post Pandemic World’, which will complete its report by the end of this year.

Thursday 17th March and Thursday 24th March – still being finalised

Thursday 31st March – Melissa Morbeck will talk on ‘the power of God to change lives’. Melissa heads up the Corporate Alliance Against Domestic Violence (CAADV), encouraging businesses to wake up to the issue of domestic violence and consider how they can support employees who are victims.

Please put these dates in your diary!

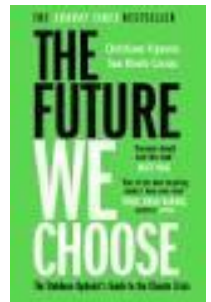
Thinking, reflecting, growing, developing – might you be interested in

A discussion group based on ‘The future we choose’ by Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac

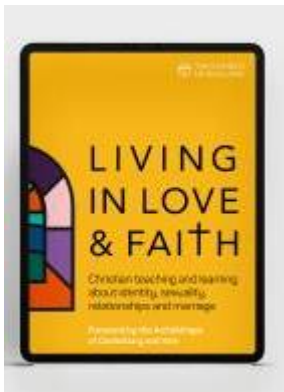
‘A cautionary but optimistic book about the world’s changing climate and the fate of humanity, from Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac—who led negotiations for the United Nations during the historic Paris Agreement of 2015.

The authors outline two possible scenarios for our planet. In one, they describe what life on Earth will be like by 2050 if we fail to meet the Paris Agreement’s climate targets. In the other, they lay out what it will be like to live in a regenerative world that has net-zero emissions. They argue for confronting the climate crisis head-on, with determination and optimism. *The Future We Choose* presents our options and tells us what governments, corporations, and each of us can, and must, do to fend off disaster.’

I have found this book an inspiring and challenging read – rather than just feeling overwhelmed by the climate crisis, I am now fired up to do my bit!



A discussion group exploring ‘Living in Love and Faith’



How do questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ? What does it mean to live in love and faith together as a Church?

‘Living in Love and Faith’ is a Church of England initiative that has come about because ‘there are disagreements among us about same sex relationships and the Christian understanding of marriage as the Church of England has received it. There are also disagreements about pastoral practice in relation to gender identity, sexuality and relationships ore generally.’

LLF invites us all to join in a process of listening and learning together, and be part of the process of discovering Christ’s call to the Church today. There is a mass of resources on the LLF site: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith/living-love-and-faith-learning-hub>, but might you value being part of a five session course exploring these issues further?

Contact me now to register your interest in either group.

alicegoodall313@gmail.com / 01280 848192



We are crossing our fingers and hoping that we will be able to hold our Plough Sunday service at the end of January.

Look out your thermals – but rest assured, whatever the temperature you will get a warm welcome and the pasties will be hot!

PLOUGH SUNDAY



Come along to a special 'Plough Sunday'
Celebration of Rural Life

Join us as we ask God to bless those involved
in agriculture and the countryside.

10.45am

Sunday 30th January

Finmere Grounds Farm,

Water Stratford Road, Finmere, MK18 4AT

by kind permission of Jo and Jonnie Brooks

Plenty of parking in the yard.

Beer and pasties – of course!

The barn is well ventilated - wrap up warm!



REGISTRY

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

Baptisms

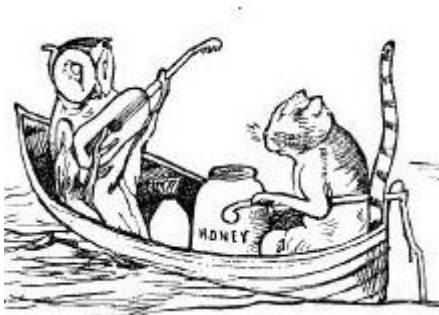
Jago Alan Eric LEIGH-WOOD Jago was christened at St Mary and St Edburga, Stratton Audley on Saturday 27th November.

Jago had been into the church on a number of occasions as part of the Little Lambs group. At 16 months old, he had a lively interest in wanting to explore the building and join some of the other children in doing some colouring, though was less taken with the baptism itself!

Jago is the second child of Janine and Dickon who live in the village. Janine runs a catering business with her brother, and Dickon juggles being a sustainability consultant with doing a lot of building work on their cottage.

The service got off to a bit of a late start, partly because the two godfathers, travelling together, had been misinformed as to the start time – however they were with us by the time they were needed! Jago's godparents are Olivia Lee, Andora Whitfield, Joby Rimmer and Steve Doble. Olivia lives in the States, and the date of the christening was arranged for that weekend so she could be present. Andora used to live in the States but now lives in Scotland!

As part of the service, Jago's big sister Cressida, who is 6 years old, stood in the pulpit and sang 'The Owl and the Pussycat' – she had done a lot of practising and did brilliantly. One of Jago's cousins read 'If' by Rudyard Kipling, and one of his godparents, Joby Rimmer, read part of psalm 139. We sang three hymns: One more step along the world I go, Lord of the Dance, and Sing Hosanna. And everyone was invited to write their own prayer for Jago's journey through life, which were collected, put in a small suitcase and given to the family to keep.



After the service everyone went back to the family home and the celebrations continued. It was the first time that Janine and Dickon had been able to collect all their friends and family together since the start of the pandemic, so there was a lot of catching up to do – as well as enjoying a glass of something and tucking into the rather good spread.

Undeterred by the traumatic experience of having water poured over his head by the vicar – which he was definitely not pleased with - Jago happily returned to Little Lambs ten days later. We look forward to welcoming him and his family to many more services and events in the coming years.

Funerals

Jacqueline Morrow 12 February 1955 to 12th November 2021

Jacqueline was born in Belfast, her family's home just two miles away from Paul Morrow's family home. They attended the same grammar school, and for some subjects, the same class. Their first date, aged 16, was on 3rd December 1971. Jacqueline didn't actually make the first move, but she made it quite clear to Paul that if he were to ask her out, she would say yes.

In October 1973 Paul left to study at Leeds University. They soon decided a long-distance relationship was not for them, and finding work in Leeds, Jacqueline joined him there in January 1974. Paul's first job after graduation was in Stockport so they were back to a weekend relationship for a year until they got married on 4th August 1978, aged 23.



Eight months after they married, Paul made one of only two life changing decisions without consulting Jacqueline. Having heard that he successfully gained a more senior post with Unigate Dairies, which would involve them moving to London, Paul immediately phoned the estate agent and put their house on the market. Jacqueline came home from work to find a “for sale” sign in the front garden. Her reaction ensured that it would be another 24 years before Paul made another large decision without consulting her

Shortly after moving to London, they bought a house in Crawley, Sussex. The next five years saw them sitting beside each other every day as they drove to and from London where Jacqueline also worked as an office manager. After nine years living the ‘double income no kids’ lifestyle, they agreed to start a family. After miscarrying, Paul and Jacqueline decided that daily commuting to London for a fairly stressful job was not wise and she stood down from paid work. Their first son, Niall, was born in Crawley in 1987, and Conor came along in 1992, by which time they had moved to Southport in Merseyside. For the next 20 years Jacqueline devoted herself to raising their two sons and supporting Paul in his career. In due course she returned to work as a teaching assistant, firstly in Launton primary school and then in the English Department of Bicester Community College.

In 1994, Paul joined Bakels, and the family needed to move again. Paul was busy planning the relocation of Bakels from Slough to Bicester, so it was down to Jacqueline to choose the house they were to live in. This was their fifth home in 15 years. The boys were seven and two. The evening they moved Jacqueline told Paul “you can now go wherever you wish, but I am staying here” and there she stayed, and there she died.

2003 was Paul and Jacqueline’s 25th wedding anniversary, and the year Paul made the second big decision without consulting Jacqueline. Whilst in Malta on business, Paul visited the construction site for an interesting sounding development. He immediately put in an offer on the one remaining apartment available for sale. On returning home, he told Jacqueline that they were buying an apartment in Malta, an island she had never visited. Initially she was less than enthusiastic, but when she saw the apartment for herself, she was smitten. They spent a lot of very happy times there over the following 17 years.

Jacqueline and Paul both enjoyed their year as Master and Mistress Baker for the Worshipful Company of Bakers. More than once, after she had attended - and clearly had a very good time - at an event organised by the City Consorts Group, Paul had to tell her to leave her car at the train station and wait for him to pick her up.

This year Jacqueline and Paul spent their 43rd wedding anniversary in August in Northern Ireland, where Jacqueline was able to catch up with her brother. In September, they spent two weeks in Malta. Although Jacqueline was complaining about gall stones, they were able to eat and drink in their favourite restaurants and have dinner with friends, not knowing what the coming weeks would bring. On returning, Jacqueline saw the consultant who arranged for a gall bladder operation. On further investigation it was found that she had cancer. Her condition deteriorated quickly and she died at home on 12th November - just 24 days after her diagnosis.

Her funeral was held on Friday 3rd December at Banbury Crematorium. Those present included family and friends from Northern Ireland and various parts of England as well as from locally, colleagues of Jacqueline’s from her time as a teaching assistant, Liverymen of the Worshipful Company of Bakers and colleagues of Paul’s. Paul and Niall both gave tributes to Jacqueline, Keith Houlston read ‘That’ll do’ by Randy Newman, and Jacqueline’s brother Michael Artt read Ecclesiastes 3: 1 – 8 (For everything there is a season...)

As Paul said, he and Jacqueline lived several lifetimes in their 50 years together. A forthright person with a good sense of humour, she played a full part in village life and will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with Paul and her sons.





Trade and Transport across the Ages Saturday 16th July 2022 Save the date!

If you would like to help or are interested in finding out more
please email Mike at shelswellhistory@outlook.com
or Alice Goodall at rector@shelswellparishes.info



CHURCH CARBON FOOTPRINT TOOL DATA UPDATE

One in 14 Church of England churches are now reporting ‘net zero’ carbon emissions, according to the latest data from the Energy Footprint Toolkit (EFT).

The number of churches edged upwards from four per cent to seven per cent between 2019 and 2020.

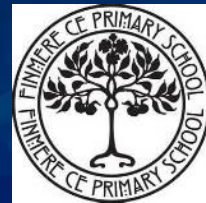
General Synod has committed the Church to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030. The scope of this aim was detailed in 2020, and the EFT enables measuring the emissions of all buildings in scope.

Dr John Thompson, Bishop of Selby and chair of the Net Zero Carbon Sub-committee group, said:

“The rise in numbers of net zero churches reflects that more and more parishes are utilising pre-approved renewable suppliers and addressing the big and small measures which can be taken to reduce carbon impacts.

“This is a positive early step in our ambitious journey to a wholly net zero carbon Church by 2030.

Among the churches with net zero carbon, just under 80 per cent were using wholly renewable electricity tariffs.



Finmere CofE Primary School

We have places in reception for September 2022
Please contact the school office to make an appointment
to visit our wonderful school and meet the staff and
children.

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

Phone: 01280 848459



FUN @ 4

Sunday 16 January 2022

Stoke Lyne Church

4 - 5.30pm

God's Creation - Love your World!



Craft activities
Fun and Games
Tea, sandwiches and cake.

THE ANNE ROBSON TRUST

The Anne Robson Trust is a pre-bereavement charity that passionately believes that **No one deserves to die alone**. We work alongside NHS hospitals to train Butterfly Volunteers, who sit with end-of-life patients in order to provide company and comfort to people in their last days and hours of life. However, due to COVID restrictions the volunteers were forced to withdraw from the hospitals, and in response to this, we decided to set up a free, **National Helpline** so that we could continue to offer comfort and support where needed. As restrictions have lifted the volunteers are gradually starting to return to hospitals and in addition the introduction of the helpline is showing to be a valuable resource for anyone in the community to access support from the comfort of their own home.

The helpline is for anyone who is struggling to cope with a **terminal diagnosis or the imminent death of someone they care about**. Whether they are family members, friends, neighbours, work colleagues, or even a member of the care staff who may just need someone to talk to; we understand the pressures of working and caring for people who are end of life. We are fully committed to ensuring that people facing end of life and their families have access to as many layers of support as possible.

The Anne Robson Trust is funded entirely by donations from their supporters.

Free national helpline

(0808 801 0688)

offers vital support, advice, and a 'listening ear' to those facing the end of their life, or the loss of a loved one.

We believe having somewhere to turn to can be a lifeline to many people when they need help.

| No one deserves to face dying alone |

To find out more about this Appeal, and to make a donation please visit the #TimeToTalk campaign page here: <https://annerobsontrust.org.uk/christmas-helpline-campaign/>

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 contact the walking group direct for next venue. New walkers are welcome, please just turn up. Dogs must be on leads.
Tea or coffee after.



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

The members of Shelswell WI wish all the readers of Shelswell News a Happy and Healthy New Year.



Oxfordshire Federation of Women's Institute has 122 WI's with over 3,800 members, so why not make a New Year's resolution to join Shelswell in 2020. We offer friendship, fun, education, new opportunities and experiences, and a chance to be part of an organisation that can really make a difference, both locally and nationally.

The Oxfordshire Federation of Women's Institute, Public Affairs Committee, have produced a short list of Resolutions for the members to review and vote on. This year some very interesting subjects are on offer:

Fit for purpose – fit for girls. Discussing clothing ranges for girls; design, quality and coverage.

Appropriate sentencing of non - violent women offenders.

Equality in law for the menopause.

Women and Girls with ASD and ADHD – under identified, under diagnosed, misdiagnosed and under supported.

Tackling digital exclusion.

We shall be discussing and reviewing the above at a Meeting in the New Year and voting on those we wish to select.

Come and join us on January 6th at 7.30pm, in Fringford Village Hall, for an interesting talk by Christine Farmer - Masquerade, on the amazing history of masks. The evening will start with some WI business, then the talk, followed by tea, cake and a catch up with members and guests.

The rest of the programme is as follows for 2022:

3rd February – Travels with Auntie – My Life in the BBC World Service – Alastair Lack.

3rd March – AGM with Beryl Mann giving a WI update.

7th April – Blood on the Keyboard – an interactive fun session creating a crime novel – Peter Tickler.

5th May – Fringford Historical Walk – we will be guided by a Shelswell Member.

9th June – (please note change of date) Platinum Celebration 'Garden' Party.

7th July – Seated Zumba and resistance training with Thea Rogers.

4th August – Summer Evening Walk followed by a pub stop.

1st September – Burlesque – history and dance with Lauren from Attitude Dance School.

Our December meeting was a very enjoyable Christmas get together, with entertainment by an amazing Ukulele group, who played a mix of old pop songs and Christmas carols. Light refreshments and wine were on offer, as well as a fun quiz and raffle.

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

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



SHELLOW GARDEN CLUB



This edition of the Shelswell News went to print before our December meeting. Therefore a report will be found in the February 2022 edition.

Our first meeting of 2022 (via Zoom) will be on January 11th, when Christine Hayward (Holder of National Collection of Cannas) will talk about growing Cannas.

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.

SHELLOW POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP

At our December meeting we concluded our theme of poems connected with the Zodiac with the signs Sagittarius and Capricorn.

We began with the poems *Capricorn* by Alastair Walker and *The Goat and I* by Robert Service.

Ode to Winter, by Gillian Clarke, the lyrics of the song *Autumn Leaves*, *London Snow* by Robert Bridges, Shakespeare's *Blow, blow, thou winter wind*, *Christmas Carol* by Ted Hughes and *A Robin* by Walter De la Mare conjured up the season and its weather.

The Major-General's Song from Gilbert and Sullivan's comic opera The Pirates of Penzance was included as a humorous reminder that the first public performance of the work was on 30th December 1879, and the words of *The Skye Boat Song* commemorated the escape of Bonnie Prince Charlie from Benbecula to Skye in December 1746, when he was fleeing from government troops after the failure of the 1745 Jacobite rebellion.

Three works linked with the religious aspects of the time of year were - the words of the 15th century German hymn *Lo, how a rose e'er blooming*, *The Journey of the Magi* by T.S. Eliot and *Song for a Winter Birth* by Vernon Scannell.

The session ended with *19th Christmas Poem*, by Wendy Cope – a secular poet's account of her publisher's seasonal demands, set to the rhythms of the old traditional rhyme, Christmas is Coming.

In January 2022 we will be starting on a whole new year of various themes. The first one will be Travel. Our meeting will be on Tuesday January 13th in Stoke Lyne and will begin at 10.30.

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

Judith Harvey

SHELLOWELL READING GROUP

Our December meeting, in Cottisford, focused on the novel *Islands of Mercy*, by Rose Tremain. Its settings, in Victorian Bath, London and Borneo, allow Tremain to address a host of issues relevant to the mid-19th century. The state of medicine, imperialism, curiosity about other lands and cultures, Darwinism, lesbian love and the position of women, are all dealt with via portraits of a vividly-realised cast of characters. These include a society doctor and his daughter, her would-be husband, his plant-collector brother and a female painter.

There was a lot to discuss, and some thought that the plot was too wide-ranging, whilst others enjoyed the sweep of subjects brought under Tremain's microscope. Anyone with an interest in 19th-century history should find it very rewarding.

Our first meeting of 2022 will be on Thursday January 13th, at 7.30. For the book title and venue, anyone who would like to join us should contact our convenor, Jane Birnage, on

01280 847455 or at janebirnage@icloud.com

*A piece from 'The Parish Pump' (online resource for parish magazine editors)
David Pickup, a solicitor, considers the year ahead.*

A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION FROM MICAH

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression...? He has shown you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you: To act justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:7-8)

I quite like olive oil; not the Popeye character but the cooking ingredient. Although I am not sure what I would do with even one river of oil, and I have nowhere to put a ram.

Still, this is one of my favourite Bible passages, and it is an ideal one for lawyers. It sums up in a very simple but helpful way what true religion should be. That makes it a good verse to start the year. The message is simple: God does not want empty promises or lip service, but our real devotion, from our heart.

What does it mean for us?

Do justly - Be honest and open in our dealings with others this year. Be dependable. We should say when things are going wrong and be appreciative when they go well. Be fair in our dealings, whether at home or at work or in church. Keep confidences and never pass on gossip.

Love mercy - Give people the benefit of doubt, do not take advantage of others and do not always criticise or complain. Accept apologies and explanations where we can, and be generous.

Walk humbly - Quietly get on with things. Do not make a big show of what we do.

Lastly, we are *required* to do these things. They are not options or choices but requirements. Like many requirements in the Bible, they are simple to understand, but not always simple to do. Happy New Year.

THE SHELSWELL BENEFICE

The Ninth of the Village Articles

Newton Purcell



Newton Purcell, 'the new tun', takes its second name from the Purcell family, who were lords of the manor for four centuries all through the Middle Ages. Its hamlet, Newton Morrell, was probably called after the Morrells, who held land in Buckinghamshire. In 1677 the manor was bought by Edward Trotman, who also acquired the village of Shelswell. It was he and his son, Fiennes, who built Shelswell House and laid out Shelswell Park, which then 'took its place among the finest gentlemen's seats in the country'. In 1782, the Trotmans sold both villages to Gilbert Harrison. His descendant, Anne, Baroness von Maltzahn, owns them today, although the 'lost village' of Shelswell had finally disappeared in the early 1600s, and Shelswell House was pulled down in the late 1970s. The civil parish of Shelswell was united with Newton Purcell in 1932.

The Purcell family built the original church of St Michael in the 13th century, and the south west doorway, with its fine carving in the tympanum, survives from this period. Most of the ancient features were destroyed when John Harrison had the church repaired and 'beautified' in 1813. A restoration in 1875-6 funded by Edward Slater-Harrison amounted to a rebuilding, leaving only the foundations of the original walls. The present doorway was moved from the north to the south side. The old pews and the gallery were removed, and the bell gable, vestry and south porch were built. At the same time, a 'heart stone', now on the north wall of the chancel, was discovered. When a man died on a Crusade and his body could not be brought home, the heart was sometimes removed and buried in the wall of his parish church. The stone is inscribed 'Hic jacet ..', 'here lies'. If we could read the name, it might be that of Ralph Purcell, who was lord of the manor in the days of Richard the Lionheart.

The most famous rector was Griff Lloyd (1805-42), who had another parish in Cheshire but would always come here for the hunting season. He was licenced by his bishop to live with Sir Thomas Mostyn, at Swift's House, Stoke Lyne, to 'look after his cousin's hounds and his morals' and he never allowed his duties to clash with hunting days! Every Sunday morning he rode to church in white breeches and top boots. On one occasion he was so keen to be off to Newmarket he forgot to remove his preacher's bands and to everyone's amusement appeared in them on the race course. Griff, who appeared in Punch cartoons, was nationally famous as 'The Hunting Parson' or more popularly as 'The Black Whipper-In'. There is almost no record of dissenters in the parish. Mention should also be made of John Meade, who succeeded Griff as rector in 1843. He resided for some 40 years and 'exercised a faithful and fruitful care of souls'. He built the rectory, completely restored the church and built the village school.

In 1738 there were just 12 houses. By 1801 the population was 93, rising to a peak of 143 in 1821. Thereafter there was a steady decline. In 1911, when Shelswell was included, there were 172 inhabitants. In 2001 the population was only 103 and by 2011 it had been merged with Mixbury. In 1899 a station called Finmere was built across from the Shelswell Arms. This closed in the 1960s but the route of the HS2 is planned to come this way. Agriculture has been almost the sole occupation of the villagers and most of them have lived in tied cottages and worked on the Shelswell estate. There have been four or five farms in the parish for most of the last 150 years. The National School was built in 1873 on land given by J.H.Slater-Harrison, and enlarged in 1898. It was reorganised as junior school in 1929, when the older children were sent to Fringford. In 1952 it was given aided status but it closed in 1957. Children went to Fringford for one year and then to the new Finmere school.

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: Vacancy

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

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



COTTISFORD AND JUNIPER HILL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The planned refreshments in the churchyard after the Carol Service were cancelled, in light of the ongoing problems caused by the Covid pandemic. Let us hope that by this time next year we will be back to normal. The Social Committee is inviting anyone interested in helping with community events to get in touch. We would really welcome help with planning and organising various things, such as Picnic in the Field in the summer, and the November Bonfire. We have not yet planted any of the waiting saplings we want to add to the trees in the playing field, and will probably wait until February now. If you can wield a spade and are interested in enhancing our environment, please get in touch with one of the committee:

Eileen Torrance 01869 810537

Rachel Prior 07837 82551

Gillian Groom 01869 810593

Jane Birnage 01280 847455

Judith Harvey 01869 811994

Sally Evans 01280 847250

Finmere St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: Vacancy

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

Tel 01280 847782

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Katherine Grimston

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

Tel 01280 848268

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



Allotments

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

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

www.myfinmere.com/poorsplot



Village Hall

The work at the hall is in its final stages and bookings are now being taken.

New storage areas have been added and the meeting room refurbished. In addition, a set of patio doors have been installed on the west facing end, leading onto a newly created patio area, facing the existing children's play area and creating an ideal environment for children's parties.



However, as mentioned last month, the hall has temporarily been put out of action due to some fire and smoke damage following an arson attack. It is now hoped that the hall will be back in use early in the new year.

Need some local help?

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

Village Facebook page

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

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

Finmere Parish Council website at – www.finmerepc.org

Village hall news at – www.myfinmere.com

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

Fringford St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: John Mayo, 10 Church Close, Fringford

TREASURER: Christina McCullagh, 5 Crosslands, Fringford

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Penny Wood as below

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Penny Wood, 8 Crosslands, Fringford

VILLAGE HALL CORRESPONDENT: Christine Underwood

WEBSITE www.fringford.info

Tel 01869 278873

Tel 07867 515207

Tel 01869 277310

Tel 01869 278949

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



ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, SERVICES & EVENTS

Services

- Sunday 2nd January – 10.45am Morning Service marking the Epiphany
- Sunday 9th January – 6.00pm Evening Communion
- Sunday 16th January – 10.45am Holy Communion

On Sunday 30th January there will be a Plough Sunday Service at Grounds Farm, Finmere. It is for everyone in the Benefice.

To find out the times and places of services on other Sundays, please look at the back of this magazine, check the noticeboard, or Facebook page [*Shelswell News*], or ring the Benefice office (01280-848192). You will always be welcome in our other parishes.

Events

Events that took place in December will be reported on in February, since at the time of writing they had not yet happened!

Looking ahead, however, the Church Restoration Fund-raising Committee met at the end of November to begin making plans for the **Fringford Beer Festival in 2022**. All being well, this will take place on 18 June on the cricket field next to the Butcher's Arms.

- If you would like to sponsor a barrel, cost £100, please contact Simon Knight on 07598 104444.
- If you can help in some way – put up tents in advance, serve on the bar, help prepare the site on the day, clear up afterwards – contact Penny Wood on 277310.

Kindling

To purchase bags of kindling, in aid of the Church Restoration Fund, contact Simon Knight on mobile: 07598 104444.

Greetings Cards

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

Fringford Church 100 Club

You can still sign up to the 100 Club. Contact Christina McCullagh to register your involvement **ASAP**, on 07867 515207.

Fringford Church Book Exchange

The box for book exchange is in the church porch

Little Lambs Babies & Toddler Group

Every Wednesday during term time in Stratton Audley Church, from 10.00 to 11.30am.

[Not during holidays and half term.] Just come along, but if you need information in the meantime, email admin@shelswellparishes.info

SUPPORT DURING THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS, AND AFTERWARDS

Support is always available from the **Fringford Friends, Neighbourhood Support Group** :

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

To join Fringford's **What's App Group** ring or email Christine Underwood: 07961 972388 or christine@avalon23.plus.com

FRINGFORD VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

The Coffee Morning will be on Monday 17th January, 10.30am to 12 noon.

NOTE: FROM JANUARY WE WILL BE MEETING ONCE MORE IN THE CHINNERY ROOM, AT THE VILLAGE HALL.

Do drop in.

The January Fringford Church 100 Club draw will take place that morning.

FRINGFORD VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall team are pleased to confirm that during these challenging times, we are still taking booking requests. We would just ask you to provide as much information as you can about your event so we can advise you correctly about capacity and other Covid requirements.

We use a system called Hallmaster which enables you to use a quick and easy process to view availability, create an account and make a booking request. To access the system, please go to www.fringford.info, navigate your way to the village hall tab and then booking information. Here you will find all the information you need regarding availability, hire rates and Terms and Conditions. On the first page of the system, you can also view photos of the facilities to get a feel for the venue if you haven't seen it before.

If you are not able to go on-line or have any other queries, please do not hesitate to contact us either by email fringford.hall@gmail.com or mobile 07936 879175

We look forward to hearing from you and wish you all a very Happy New Year!

Fringford Village Hall Committee

THE BUTCHER'S ARMS

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

Hardwick St Mary the Virgin

CHURCHWARDEN: David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick

TREASURER: David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Vacancy

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Veronica Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick

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

Tel 01869 277690

Tel 01869 277690

Tel 01869 277690

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



HARDWICK CHURCH IS OPEN DAILY

St Mary's Church, Hardwick is open for private prayer and reflection every day between 10 am until 4 pm.

To keep you safe, please follow the guidelines below:

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

THANK YOU



Hethe

St Edmund and St George

CHURCHWARDEN: Flora Skinner, Fox Hollow, 2 Hardwick Road, Hethe
 TREASURER: Mike Green, Greenhill Cottage, Main Street, Hethe
 PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Flora Skinner as above
 MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Mike Green as above
 WEBSITE: www.hethe.org

Tel 01869 277366
 Tel 01869 278166
 Tel 01869 278166

Happy New Year to all our readers.

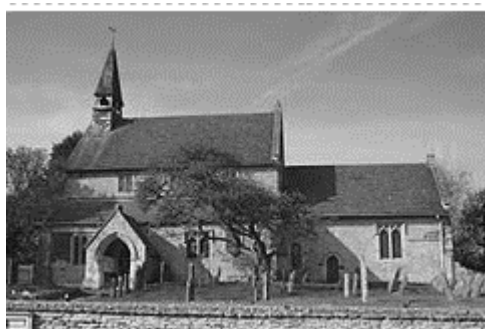
If you have any news or a local event to publicise, please send the details to me, where possible with a photo, and if suitable I will add them to next month's news and include them on the village web site. The deadline for this publication is on Page 2.

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 and much more.

Many thanks, Mike.

ST EDMUND & ST GEORGE CHURCH

Church Services and Events



The church is now open every day for visitors and private prayer. Please take care, think of others and continue to follow any guidance on how to safely access and use the church.

Please see the back page for the revised pattern of services and note that at the time of writing, masks should be worn throughout services (unless giving readings).

We are looking at introducing a lay lead service this year. If you wish to get involved or contribute in any way, please let us know.

We were able to meet last year for an Act of Remembrance which took place in Hethe on Sunday 14th November. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the collection, which totalled £170 and was taken for the Royal British Legion at the service. Thanks also to Gus for reading the names of those who died in both World Wars.

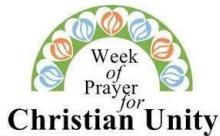
Hethe Community Coffee Morning in the Village Hall



Monday 10th January 10-12 noon
 with the 100 Club draw

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

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



Between January 18th and 25th Hethe will celebrate its own two churches during this week of unity, coming together on the afternoon of Saturday 22nd January with a 4.00pm Service at the Holy Trinity Church followed by Afternoon Tea at St Philips Hall.

Eco Church



We are looking for someone to lead in how we make the church and churchyard more environmentally friendly. We have already made a start but a volunteer to manage this would be the best way forward for the church and the village. St Edmund & St George Church is registered under Eco Church which is the award scheme for churches in England and Wales who want to demonstrate that they can manage their church to help conserve the natural environment. Areas to be covered could include worship and teaching; buildings; land; lifestyle and community; and global issues. Volunteers do not have to be an active worshipper in the church - applications from anyone will be considered.

Church Giving

Thinking about changing the insurance cover on your home? If you take out a policy with Ecclesiastical, our church insurance company, they will donate £130 to our church.

If you wish to contribute to the running costs of the church, please see the village web site or contact hethepccsecretary@outlook.com.



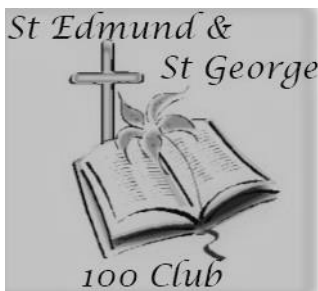
⇐ Scan here for regular giving by direct debit

Scan here for one-off and regular giving by credit debit card



or

100 Club



The 36th draw was due to take place after the deadline for this publication, therefore the results will be in the February edition.

The next draw will be held on Monday 10th January (at the coffee morning in the village hall). There are still plenty of numbers if you wish to join! Please contact Mike or one of the other PCC members for an application form. The form and full details of the scheme are on the village website.

Church Cleaning and Flowers

Thank you to Helen Pritchard for volunteering to clean the church and Pauline for providing the flowers this month.

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. And an extra thank you to Gary Skinner for completing several maintenance tasks around the church, Peter Allen for mowing the grass and Helen Pritchard for strimming and Sheila King for scything the wild areas of the churchyard.

HETHE COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

Village Hall

Please contact the booking secretary
fskinner@hotmail.co.uk for availability.



Adventure Playground

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

Ardley United under 15 sides are using the football pitch in Hethe and would welcome any boys who want to join the team (they have places in most age ranges).

Hethe Lending Library

Hethe's Lending Library is now available in St Edmund & St George Church. As well as an amazing range of books for all ages, it has also been gifted a wonderful collection of classical CDs. Come and browse!

Recycling



The bottle bank is 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.

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 848295

Tel 01280 848002

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



Church Services

Services will be on the third Sunday in the month at 9.15am.

Mixbury Church flower rota 2022

Please see next month's magazine.

A Happy New Year To You All and

Thank you to everyone for their contributions to the Parish Magazine Article for Mixbury during 2021

Garden Waste Collections are Changing

Between September 2021 and January 2022 Cherwell District Council will be delivering a free 23 litre silver outdoor caddy to all households in the district.

They will let us know when to expect our caddy delivery by putting a bin hanger on one of our bins a week before delivery. Once received, please start to use your caddy for food waste instead of the brown bin. They will also supply a roll of compostable caddy liners to help us get started. The food waste caddy will be collected weekly.

From February 2022 garden waste collections will change to a paid-for opt-in service at a cost of £40 per year. We will be able to sign up from December 2021 and those registering before 1st February 2022 will be charged a reduced rate of £36. From February please do not put food waste in your brown garden waste bin, use your outdoor food waste caddy. Further information can be found on the Cherwell District Council recycling website along with a bin collection calendar.

Mixbury Book Exchange – has moved!

The books have now been moved to a table next to the organ in the church. The books have been kindly donated by one of Mixbury's Book Clubs and a few individuals, these are for the villagers to exchange a book with one they have read and replace with one of their own. Now the pandemic restrictions have eased we are no longer wrapping books in clear plastic, but there is a bottle of hand sanitiser next to them for your convenience. There is a good selection of children's books now available too. Please only leave books that are in good condition, now that the books are inside the church we can accept a few more – do not leave books in the bus shelter thank you.

All Our Yesterdays What's in a name?

When I was researching content for the 2018 draft of "Mixbury: Its History and Archaeology", I came across the name "Mixbury" in two unexpected ways. First, a horse called Mixbury ran in the Derby in 1832. It was owned by the then Lord of the Manor, Stanlake Ricketts Batson. Sadly, Mixbury could only get into the "also ran" category. Mr Batson, as far as we know, never lived in Mixbury. His main estate was at Horseheath near Cambridge, which was equipped with a racecourse!

The second discovery was that Clarks – the shoe people – made a type of shopping bag called "Mixbury Vine". When I asked their Customer Care department why they had chosen to call their shopping bag after a small village in farthest Oxfordshire, they replied as follows: "Historically all of our leather bags have names that begin with the letter "I" and any non-leather bags have names that begin with the letter "M" In terms of inspiration, we use flowers, islands, and places. It is pure coincidence that this name was picked." I have not yet got as far as asking the Japanese company, "Mikke Japan", where their inspiration came from to name a white cotton sashiko pattern kit (sold online), "Mixbury" At least we know where "Mixbury Soap" comes from. It's made by Lucy in the village!

There are, of course, several books about the origins of place names. In the 1980s Margaret Gelling, known for her extensive studies of English place names, wrote the definitive "Signposts to the Past". She supported the origins of Mixbury as coming from the Anglo-Saxon "míxen" – a dung heap – and "burgh" – a fortification: together, a fortification by a dung heap. We know where the fortification was, the site of Beaumont Castle; we're still trying to find the dung heap! In the last couple of years some villagers have suggested that there may have been confusion at the time of the Domesday Book (1086) over the translation of the word "míxen".

Mixbury in Domesday is written in Norman French as “Misseberie”, which apparently suggests a meaning of “marsh”, so we would be in the fortification in the marshes. That could be possible, because even now, after heavy rain we know that the stream to the west and north of the village can spill over into adjacent land, and some 19th century maps show part of the area as marshy. There is still work to be done here.

The name Mixbury seems to have found its way into people’s hearts. Charles Edward Kayler, Lord of the Manor from 1903 to some-time in the 1920s, built Mixbury Hall about 1902: as far as we know it was the first time since the mid-16th century that the parish’s manor house was located in the village – hitherto it was at Fulwell. His first wife Hilda was buried in All Saints’ churchyard in 1914, next to the grave of their son Charles who died in 1907. When he sold his share of Mixbury he moved to Devon and there, in Torquay, he named his new house “Mixbury”.

Even further afield, a branch of the Blencowe family, descended from Eleanor Hargrave Blencowe who was married to Joseph Painter – one of the 19th century movers and shakers in the parish – lived in the 1960s and 1970s at “Mixbury” in Tumbarumba in Australia. According to the “Blencowe Families’ Association Newsletter” of February 2018, the first member of this branch of the family migrated from Brackley in the 19th century. As the Newsletter says, “To name the family home “Mixbury”, shows a possible closer emotional attachment to that place than to Brackley”.

We know of three other places which have had houses bearing the name “Mixbury”. Two of them, found on the current Post Office postcode website, are in Weybridge, and Ramsdell, Tadley. The third is an address of “Mixbury, Goring-on-Thames, Oxon”, which is embossed (twice) on flyleaves of a 1932 book called “A Rabbit in the Air”. Discovering the attachment of the owners of these properties to Mixbury will, though, have to wait for another time.

Bruce Epps

Mixbury Calendars For Sale

Mixbury History Group has produced calendars for 2022!

These are high quality kitchen calendars with plenty of space for writing in birthdays, commitments and much more. The twelve interesting photographs of Mixbury range from 4 years ago to 100 years ago. The group is selling them at cost price for just £5.00 each: cash please!

They are available from:

Pat Beveridge, Mouse's End, 18 Mixbury - 01280 847 720

Sue and Phil Goodman, Sycamore House, Frank's Lane - 01280 848 002

Sue and Bruce, Badgers' Wood, 4 Evenley Road - 01280 848 672

Call in or call first! If you are unable to get to one of us, we will be happy to arrange to take a calendar round to you.

Mixbury History Group Calendar 2023

Following the success of the 2022 calendar I am looking for photographs from past events in Mixbury i.e. 2002 Jubilee Celebrations, the Rose Queen, Barn dances, Bonfire Nights, Fete’s VE Day Celebrations, wine club nights, book club group photographs, T Towels with local children’s art work, harvest time – basically any event that has taken place in Mixbury and the best 12 photos will be in the for 2023 calendar. Please email photos to: pasgoodman551@gmail.com – thank you from Sue Goodman.

Newton Purcell St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDENS: Ann von Maltzahn, Home Farm Shelswell Park
 Roger Cross, The Limes, Newton Purcell, Buckingham
 TREASURER: Fai Li
 PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Roger Cross as above
 MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Ann von Maltzahn

Tel 01280 848680
 Tel. 01280 847471
 Tel: 07725 009838

Tel 01280 848680

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



Services -

Please note a correction from last month's magazine. There will be no service in Newton Purcell on Sunday 2nd January. The new service pattern of 9.15 a.m. on the first Sunday of each month will start in February.

Carols by Candlelight -

Despite renewed precautions our concert went ahead as planned on Friday 10th December. It was wonderful to welcome back The Phoenix Singers who had put together a brilliant programme and entertained us quite splendidly.

Our grateful thanks to them, to all who came to enjoy the evening and to everyone who provided refreshments, Secret Santa gifts and decorated the church so beautifully.

It was altogether a very happy and successful evening!

Stoke Lyne St Peter's

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

Tel 01869 346020

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

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



St Peter's Church Stoke Lyne Services

2 nd January	Food for Thought 10.00
6 th January	Shelswell Benefice Monthly Communion and Lunch 12.00
16 th January	'Fun at Four' 16.00.
23 rd January	Holy Communion 10.45

Please also check the back page of the magazine.

Flower Duty for January

Lisa Soper

Masquerade Ball – 20th November

The church was turned into a beautiful theatre with a wonderful evening of music from the shows presented by St Ages Theatrical Group.

There was a good selection of masks of all descriptions worn.

It was nonstop music with a break for a buffet meal and time to refresh your glasses from the well-stocked bar. After which the music continued and to finish the evening there was a little bit of dancing. This was an evening of enjoyment. Well done to St Ages for putting the show on.



Photo from Sarah-Jane Buckle

Stoke Lyne 100 Club – December Results

December 100 Club results are as follows:

1st Prize	No 18 Pippa Elliot
2nd Prize	No 53 Nikki Popoola
3rd Prize	No 35 R Mandle

Thanks everyone for your continued support to the 100 club. Spread the word so we can attract more members and increase our prize money.

Stoke Lyne 100 Club

Janey Poole

Treasurer

St Peter's Church PCC

janey@oxford-educational.co.uk

Shelswell Benefice Monthly Midweek Communion and Soup Lunch – 2nd December

This was another lovely communion service followed by lunch of soup and pudding followed by tea/coffee and plenty of lively chatter catching up on events all served by the Ministry team.

Stoke Lyne Christmas Fair – 4th December

This was well attended with the smell of mulled wine greeting you as you entered the church. There were lots of stalls with an array of all sorts of items to buy: freshly baked bread, Stoke Lyne Honey, crafts of all descriptions, and a refreshment table where you could buy mulled wine, tea and coffee with a selection of mince pies cakes sausage rolls etc. The raffle had some wonderful prizes with quite a few hampers made up from the donations given.

The Christmas Fair raised just over £550 to be split between Homeless Oxford Charity and the Church. Thank you to all who attended and especially to all the helpers for giving their time and for all who donated prizes etc.



Photos from Sarah-Jane Buckle

Food For Thought – 5th December

We started off having a light breakfast of croissants with butter and jam tea/coffee.

The service was led by Kelly and assisted by Rena. The service was about Advent and what it meant to everyone and there was a good discussion with lots of participation from the group.

Stoke Lyne W.I. - 8th December

We met at Souldern Village Hall at 6pm for our annual Christmas celebration dinner cooked and served by the committee. The tables looked splendid with all the trimmings and candles on them. On arrival members were met with a choice of mulled wine or fruit juice which went down well.

We had a short meeting of business so members could put dates in their diaries of events coming up starting with the Group Carol service on 9th December.

We then had dinner of a selection of casseroles, chilli, sweet and sour chicken and a sweet potato and lentil vegetarian dish. This was followed by a wonderful selection of puddings followed by tea/coffee and mince pies.

The competition was a seasonal flower arrangement all displayed on the tables and was won by Anne and the free raffle was won by Jeanette.

Everyone agreed they had a lovely evening.

Rena wished everyone a Happy Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year.



W.I. Group Carol Service – 9th December

This was a lovely carol service with 45 W.I. members from the different institutes in our group.

Liz Welters led our Carol service. Liz didn't know much about the W.I. so she did some research and was amazed at all the good things they have done and continue to do. She also gave us some food for thought about how we can help in our everyday life to help others in need. We were then led in prayers.

We then started the service of carols and readings. One of our members, Judith, played the organ. We had to wear masks even when singing and I was amazed how lovely and loud the singing was even through the mask. When doing a reading you could take the mask off.

Liz gave the final blessing and thanked all for attending.

Rena also thanked Liz for doing the service and Judith for playing the organ and all who had turned up.

Everyone said how lovely the service was and it was a treat to meet up as we hadn't met up as a group since the carol service in December 2019.

The collection raised an amazing £120 which was to help with buying food to be cooked for the homeless in Banbury

Refreshments were served by members of Stoke Lyne W.I. who hosted the service.

Please keep in your thoughts all those who are known to you who are unwell.

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Services:

Sunday 9th January
Sunday 23rd January
Sunday 30th January

Morning Service at 10.45am
Holy Communion at 9.15am

Plough Sunday 'Celebration of Rural Life' at

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CAROL SERVICE

The Carol Service took place as planned on Sunday 12th December. Despite the worsening Covid situation, we felt we could go ahead safely with a few precautions in place. Everyone had to wear a mask throughout the service, but nonetheless we managed some hearty singing of the familiar Christmas Carols. We are very grateful to Penny Wood for leading the service and to our readers, Elspeth, Simeon, Jeremy, Annette, Pippa and Anthony. The Shelswell Choir were in attendance and contributed two choir pieces; the well-known 'Gabriel's Message' and the less familiar 'Wise men, they came to look for wisdom' with words by Christopher Idle and music by Georg Neumark. Although we could not offer refreshments in the usual way, it was possible to distribute some mince pies and festive mini-stollens to people as they left the church.

THANK YOU!

A massive thank you to all the volunteers who have supported the Church, by all means – from fundraising activities to flower arranging, cleaning, churchyard tidy-ups and help of all kinds at events and services.

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS!

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

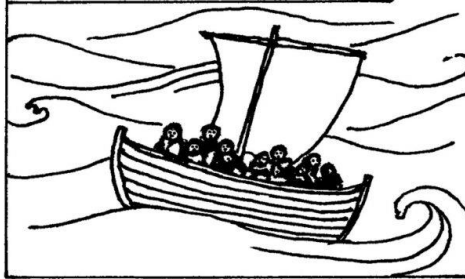
It can be read in the Bible in
Mt 14:13-22, Mk 6:45-52, Jn 5:16-21

After Jesus had fed the crowd, he sent his disciples off in their boat and the crowd away. He went up the mountain to pray.

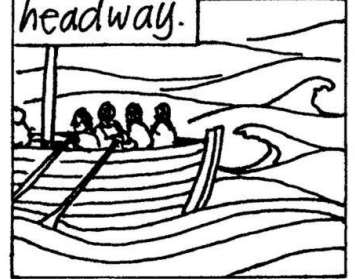
Jesus spent the evening
with his father God.



A strong wind started to
toss the boat around.



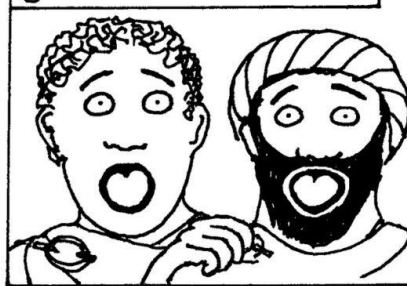
They tried rowing
but could make no
headway.



Not long before morning they
saw someone walking past
them on the water.



They thought it was a
ghost and screamed!



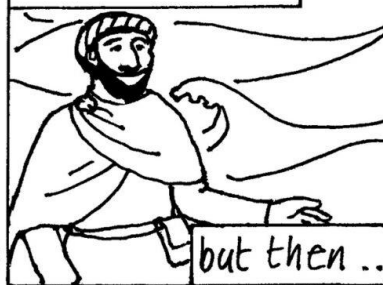
Don't be afraid! It's me,
Jesus.



Lord, if it's really you,
tell me to come to you!



Peter started walking
towards Jesus..



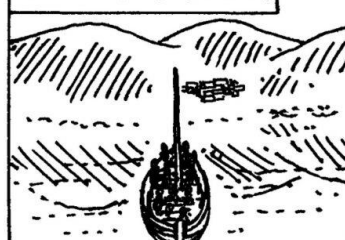
he saw how strong the wind
was and took fright. He
began to sink!



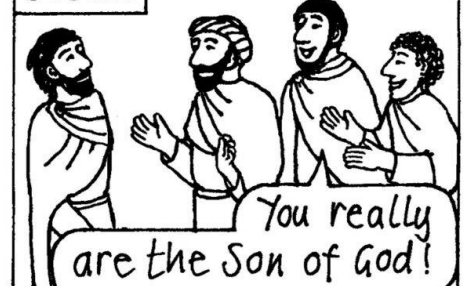
Jesus pulled Peter up.

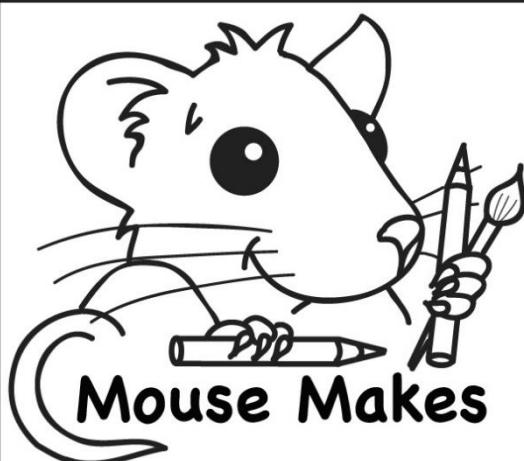


As Jesus and Peter
got into the boat the
wind died down.



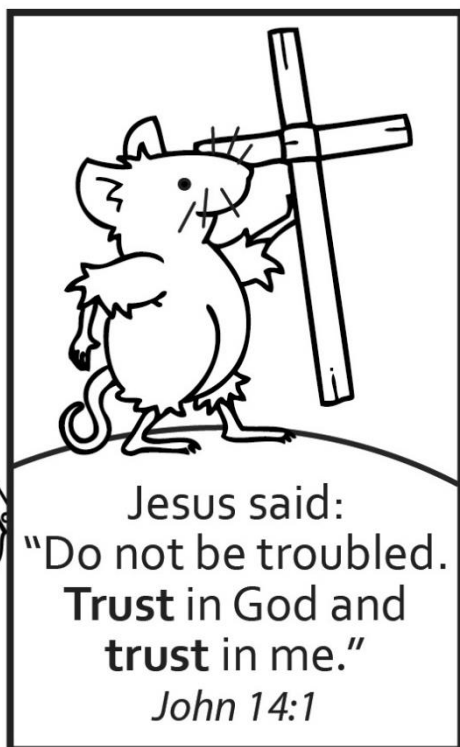
The disciples worshipped
Jesus.





But I **trust**
in you,
O Lord;
I say,
"**You are
my God.**"

Psalm 31:14



Cut out and colour these cards to
help you to remember to trust in God.

When I am afraid
I will **trust** you,
I praise God for
His word,
I **trust** God, so
I am not afraid.

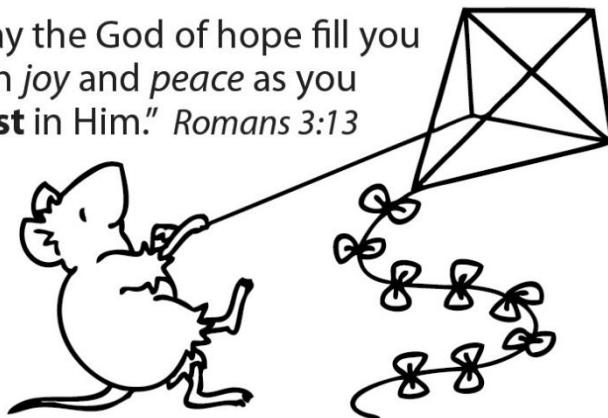
Psalm 56:3-4



*The Lord is good,
a refuge in times
of trouble.
He cares for those
who **trust** in Him.*

Nahum 1:7

"May the God of hope fill you
with *joy and peace* as you
trust in Him." *Romans 3:13*

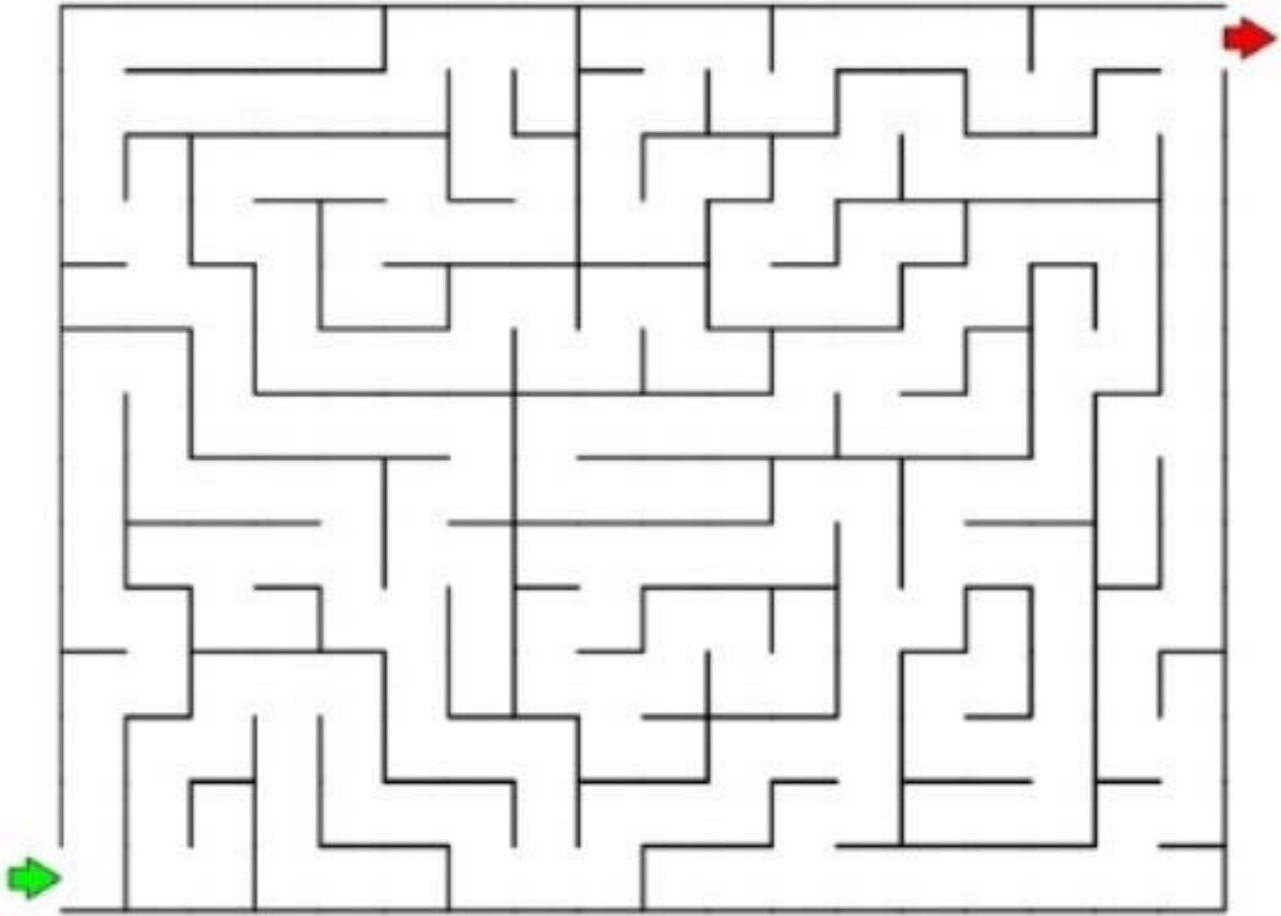


Trust in the Lord with
*all your heart and
lean not on your own
understanding.
In all your ways **submit**
to Him and He will make
your paths straight.*

Proverbs 3:5-6



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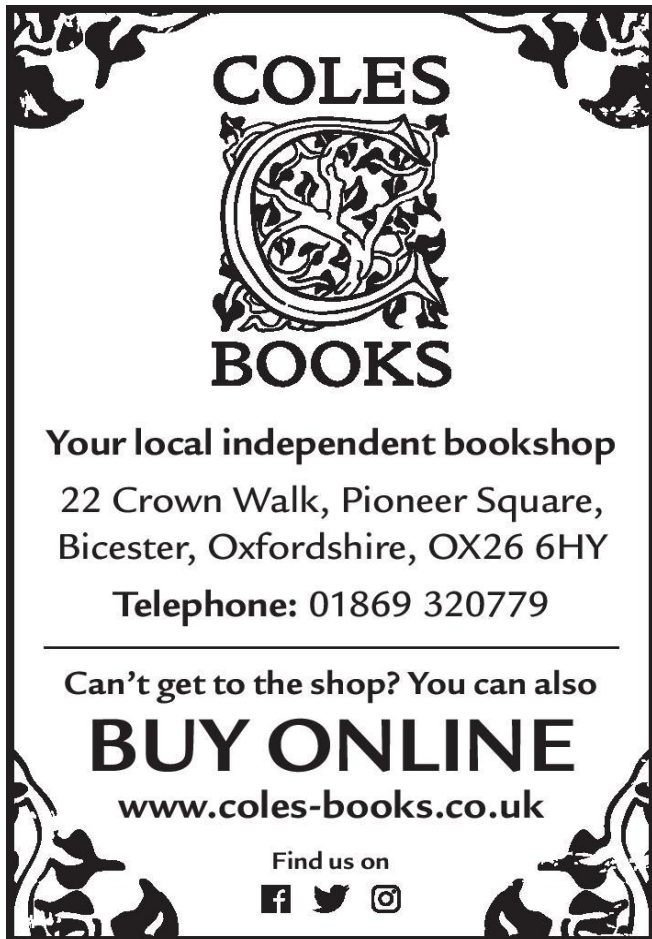
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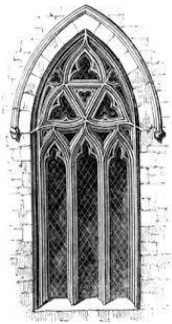
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