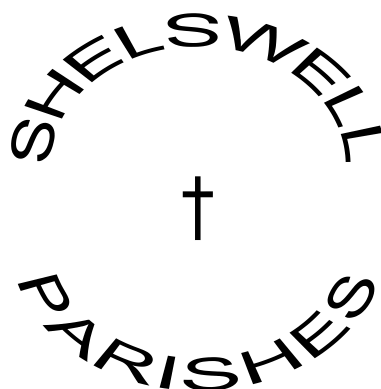


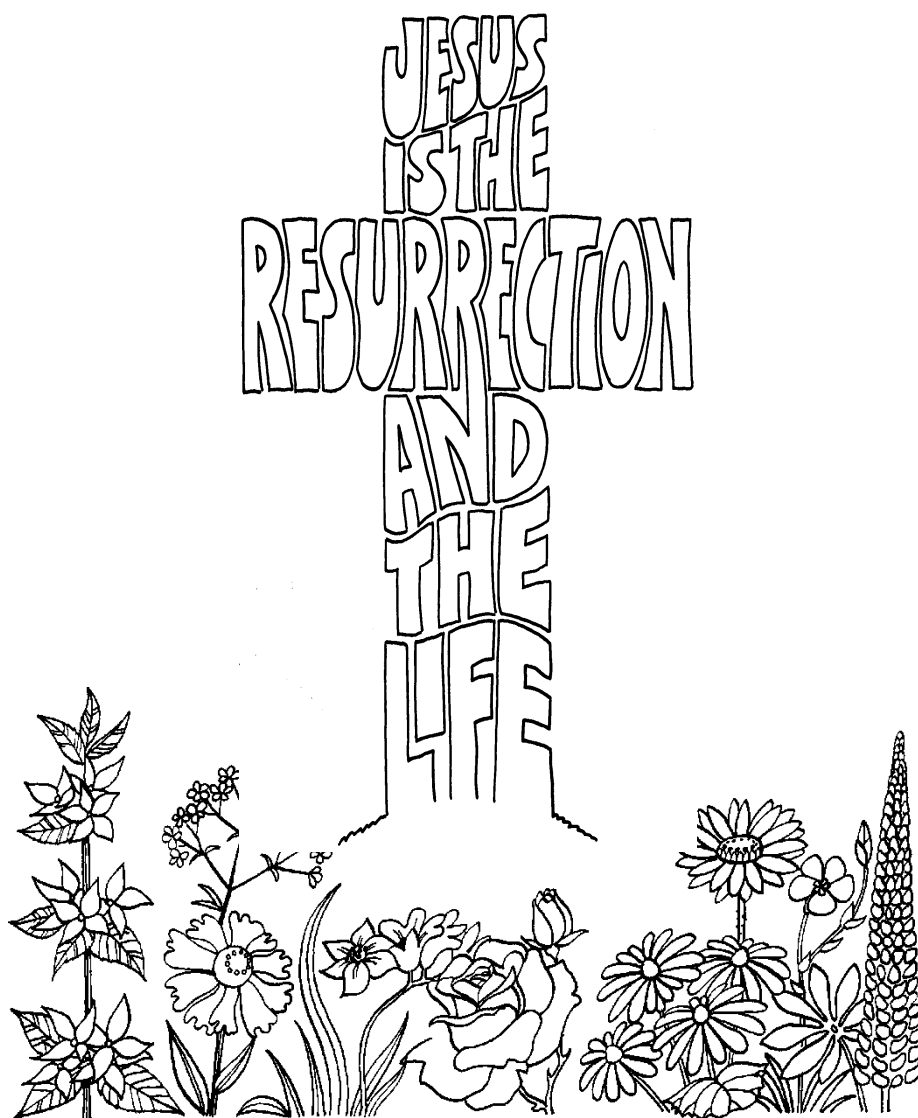
Shelswell News

The magazine of the Shelswell Group of Churches

Cottisford
Fringford
Hardwick
Mixbury
Stoke Lyne



Finnere
Godington
Hethe
Newton Purcell
Stratton Audley



SHELLOWELL BENEFICE MISSION STATEMENT

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

MINISTRY TEAM

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

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

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

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

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

BENEFICE TREASURER: Mr Jeremy Coke-Smyth, Yew Tree Cottage, Mansfield Yard, Fringford, Bicester OX27 8DN
Telephone: 01869 278233 Email jcs@pcsd.co.uk

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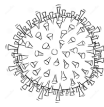
Deadlines for the **May 2022** edition of Shelswell News

To Magazine Correspondents: **Friday 8 April**

Correspondents to Editor: **Sunday 10 April** at editor@shelswellparishes.info

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

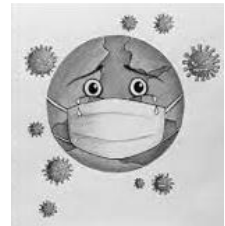
**PLEASE NOTE DEADLINE HAS BEEN CHANGED TO TRY TO HELP MAGAZINES GET TO
DISTRIBUTORS IN TIME Many thanks for your cooperation.**



MINISTERS LETTER Coronas and Crowns



As I write it seems hopeful that we will be able to go on holiday towards the end of March. This trip was first booked for March 2020, but of course the coronavirus put paid to that. During the last two difficult years the coronavirus, with all its variants, has hardly been out of the news. The coronavirus is so called because its outer layers are covered in spike proteins that surround them like a crown. (Corona is the Latin word for crown.) Coronaviruses use their spikes to invade human cells.



This year our thoughts turn to a very different type of crown, with much happier associations, as we look forward to the Platinum Jubilee celebrations for Her Majesty the Queen. Although she acceded to the throne in February 1952, her coronation was not until June 1953, to allow time for mourning the late King and for preparations to be made.



At her coronation the Queen wore the St Edward's Crown, which was made for the coronation of King Charles II in 1661 as a replacement for the medieval crown which was melted down at the end of the Civil War. The original was thought to date back to Edward the Confessor, the eleventh-century king. The solid gold frame, set with over 400 jewels, weighs almost 5lb, a reminder of the heavy responsibilities of state. At the end of the coronation, this crown is replaced by the Imperial State Crown, which weighs 2.2lb. The lighter crown is also worn for the State Opening of Parliament.



In mid-April the focus will be on yet another crown, the Crown of Thorns, or corona spinea, in Latin. In three of the Gospels the cruel crown of thorns is named as one of many instruments of torture used while Christ was being mocked during his trial on Good Friday. A symbol of royalty and majesty, a crown, was turned into something exceedingly painful and degrading. On the cross Jesus carried the weight of the evil which had invaded the world, stretching out his hands in love, forgiveness and healing.



The New Testament records that Jesus endured the cross and thought nothing of its shame because of the joy he knew would follow his suffering (Hebrews 12.2). His crucifixion was not the end of the story, for his love was too strong to be bound and held by death. Hebrews 2.7 says, 'He is now seated at the right hand of God's throne, crowned with glory and honour.' However, this symbolic language does not mean that Jesus is remote from us, far above our trials and sufferings. Jesus, the supreme example of a suffering servant, obedient to God's will, understands what we go through and is with us through all the testing times of life.



The coronavirus has brought many trials and tribulations. Throughout her life the Queen has set an example of faithful devoted service. For her the life of Jesus Christ is an inspiration and an anchor in her life, a role model of reconciliation and forgiveness.

And finally ... yet another sort of crown. In his New Testament letter St James says, *'Blessed is the person who keeps on going when times are hard. After they have come through hard times, this person will receive a crown. The crown is life itself. The Lord has promised it to those who love him.'* (James 1.12)

Liz Welters, Associate Minister

BIBLE READINGS



Sunday 3 rd April	5 th Sunday of Lent	Isaiah 43 v16-21 Philippians 3 v4b-14 John 12 v1-8
Sunday 10 th April	Palm Sunday	Isaiah 50 v4-9a Philippians 2 v5-11 Luke 19 v28-40
Sunday 17 th April	Easter Day	Acts 10 v34-43 1 Corinthians 15 v19-26 John 20 v1-18 <i>or</i> Luke 24 v1-12
Sunday 24 th April	2 nd Sunday of Easter	Acts 5 v27-32 Revelation 1 v4-8 John 20 v19-31



An evening with Bishop Steven

The Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft is visiting the Bicester and Islip Deanery on Thursday 7 April.

You are warmly invited to join Bishop Steven from
19:30 – 21:00 at:

Emmanuel Church
Barberry Place
Bicester
OX26 3HA

The evening will include a time of worship, a short reflection from Bishop Steven and an opportunity to ask questions.

There is no need to sign up, just come along. For more information email bicesterandislipdeanery@gmail.com or phone **01869 345396**

LENT LECTURES

Huge thanks to the speakers at our Lent Lectures! If you missed their talks, you can find them on the 'YouTube: Shelswell Parishes' channel. They are well worth listening to!

Thinking, reflecting, growing, developing

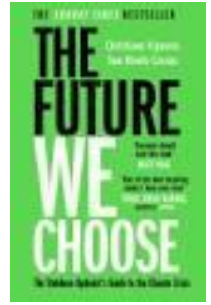
Climate Group

Thanks to those who have already expressed an interest in joining a group to think about issues of climate change and to support one another in making changes for the good. We will meet on Thursday 28th April, Thursday 12th May and Thursday 26th May, 7.30 – 9 pm, venue to be arranged.

Initially our discussions will be focussed on the book **'The future we choose'** by Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac, but I hope that this can be a springboard for considering what we can do, as individuals and as communities, that will make a difference for the future. We may go on and arrange further meetings to focus on particular issues such as Food, Farming, Power, Heating and so on.

Let me know if you would like to join us.

alicegoodall313@gmail.com / 01280 848192



Save the date

Benefice Service and BBQ at Evenley Wood Garden

Sunday 29th May

We are delighted to be able, once again, to meet for a service and BBQ in the wonderful surroundings of Evenley Wood Garden on Sunday 29th May. Further details to come, but put it in your diary / on your calendar / in your phone now!

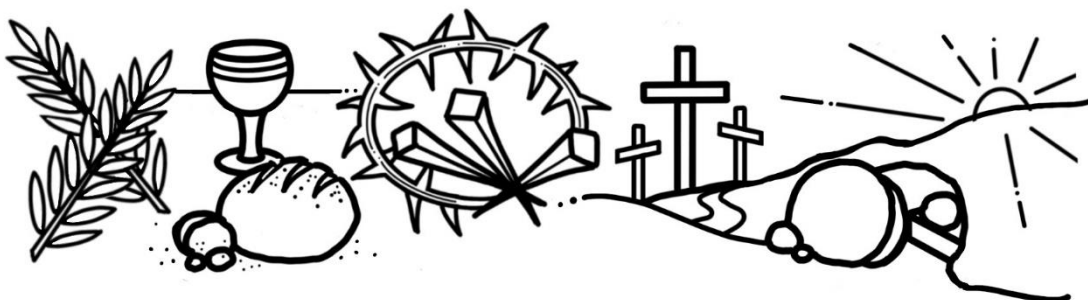


Evenley
Wood Garden



SHELLOWELL NEWS ARCHIVE.

Like to look up previous issues of the 'Shelswell News'? Please go to the Shelswell Benefice website www.shelswellparishes.info and look at the Archive. If the issue you want to refer to is not there, please contact Becky Adams at the Benefice office who may be able to help.





SPONSOR THE VICAR

Alice's Lent Running Challenge

9713 km from Shelswell to Wulu, South Sudan
 Can Alice run one hundredth of this over the course of Lent?
 97 km or about 60 miles? At the time of going to print, she had
 covered 42 km of the grand total, so still a little way to go!
 Any money raised will be divided between the Girls' Primary School in Wulu
 and the Shelswell History Festival to be held on 16th July.



Thank you to everyone who has sponsored her so far – if you haven't yet done so, but would like to donate, you can email Alice or message her to pledge money, or give her money in an envelope with 'Sponsor the vicar' written on it, or go to the Benefice website www.shelswellparishes.info where you will find the clickable QR code or scan the QR code above. All contributions gratefully received.

Bishop Zechariah has sent us some snippets of both the Ox plough Project and the Girls Primary School. You can watch them by typing 'YouTube: Shelswell Parishes' into your search engine, then clicking on the video you want to see. Alice has put subtitles on them.

JOINT APCM

The parishes of the Shelswell Benefice will be holding one joint Annual Meeting this year on Wednesday 27th April in Stratton Audley Parish Church starting at 7.30pm. Anyone from across our parishes is welcome to attend this meeting, but those on church electoral rolls are particularly encouraged to come along to hear about the work of the church over the last year and support the church officers. Only those on church electoral rolls are eligible to vote at the meeting. If you are not already on the electoral roll of your local church and would like to join then please contact Becky at The Rectory on 01280 848192 or email admin@shelswellparishes.info. Applications will need to be made by Friday 8th April so that the revised rolls can be published for the required period ahead of the meeting.

There will be other meetings locally to appoint Churchwardens. Some of these Annual Meetings of Parishioners or 'Vestry Meetings' have already been held, but those which are still to take place are as follows:

Cottisford and Hardwick	Sunday 10 th April (following the 10.45am service at Cottisford)
Hethe	Sunday 10 th April (following the 9.15am service)
Mixbury	Sunday 27 th March (following the 9.15am service)
Newton Purcell	Sunday 3 rd April (following the 9.15am service)
Stoke Lyne	Sunday 27 th March (following the 10.45am service)
Stratton Audley and Godington	Sunday 27 th March (following the 9.15am service)

All meetings are duly advertised via notices in church porches.

REGISTRY

This section will announce any recent baptisms, marriages and funerals within the Shelswell benefice.

Obituaries

Wilf Davis

8th May 1939 - 29th January 2022

Wilf Davis, who was, as far as we know, Finmere's oldest 'born and bred' villager, sadly died at the end of January aged 82 years after a short stay in hospital. At his funeral held in Finmere church on 3rd March, his nephew Keith gave the following tribute, which paints a great picture of Wilf and will bring a smile to the faces of those who knew him!

"You'll end up just like your Uncle Wilf" was something my late mother would often say to me if I was to come home from the pub worse for wear, stinking of cigarettes and alcohol.

Now it's fair to say Wilf liked his drink and he liked his fags. Most weekends he would put on his suit, splash on the Brut and off he'd go to the Red Lion – or the Kings Head - or probably both - unless he'd been temporarily barred from one of them. Uncle Wilf was a smart man. He would often look immaculate leaving the house to go to the pub. The same could not be said on his return a few hours later. He would often call into our house on the way home, swaying from side to side down the path, slumping himself down in the chair and then telling us the same thing over and over again whilst claiming he was talking sense.

Wilf only lived 5 doors away from me when I was growing up. He lived with my gran, and I spent a lot of time down there with them both. He was a joy to be around. He was kind and he always had time for me. Wilf enjoyed his gardening - he was a good gardener and I would help him on the large vegetable plot he had at the back of the house. He also kept bantams and I would help him look after them. He also introduced me to gambling - no wonder mum was worried! Saturday mornings we would study the papers to carefully pick out the losing horses and off he'd go on his bike to Buckingham to put a bet on. In his later years I would sometimes reminisce with him over these happy times and ask if he remembered them. He would pause, give that wry smile, and then tell me he remembered I was a nuisance.

Wilf had a wonderful dry sense of humour. He would nearly always make me smile, even when we had to call the ambulance for his last and final trip from the house. The senior medic said to him "we want to take you into hospital." Wilf replied "are you going to get me there okay? Who's driving?" The younger paramedic said that she was. Wilf opened his eyes wide and said "are you?" Then he gave that wry smile as he told her he may stay at home as he had suddenly started to feel better. The last day I spoke with him in hospital he questioned if he had tested positive for the Kroonenberg virus. Trust him to have named it after a strong lager. Or he could just have been winding me up - you never knew with Wilf.

Wilf lived in Finmere all his life. As far as I know he was born here. He was the youngest of three with my uncle Ray and my mother. He lost his father to cancer when Wilf was only in his early 20s and that must have been very hard for him.

He was very close to his mum and lived with her for the rest of her life. He was a wonderful loving son and took early retirement from M.S.F. Farmers, where he had worked for so many years. to help care for her.

A few years after her death in 2000 Wilf suffered a stroke which left him disabled and wheelchair bound. His wonderful carers looked after him for the remainder of his life, and I would like to thank them all on his behalf for everything they did for him. He didn't always like to let them know, but he really appreciated it.

Wilf was one of life's real characters. He lived his life how he wanted to live it and has left behind many happy memories. So as the bell rings one final time for last orders, I look up to my mum and say "ending up like Uncle Wilf is no bad thing". For he was a good kind man with a heart of gold, and he will be sadly missed by all who knew him.'

As well as the tribute, there were three hymns, All things bright and beautiful, For the beauty of the earth and The Lord's my shepherd, and we listened to the Bible Reading from Ecclesiastes, 'For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven'. Wilf was laid to rest in the churchyard before his family and friends went up to the Red Lion to toast him and share some more memories. Rest in peace, Wilf.



History and Arts Festival
Saturday 16th July and Sunday 17th July
 Newton Purcell (MK18 4AY)
 An exciting weekend for all the family!



The 'Artists in the Countryside' exhibition will run on both Saturday and Sunday and is a wonderful opportunity to see some fabulous art work by local artists!

The **Shelswell History Festival** will run from 10am – 6pm on Saturday 16th July and this year focuses on **Trade and Transport across the Ages** – come along and enjoy

Vintage cars, bicycles, tractors and other agricultural equipment
 Displays of traditional trades and crafts from bakery to ironmongery, weaving to stone masonry...
 Village History Displays,
 Roman, Saxon and WW2 Living History Groups
 pipers, players, Morris dancers
 tug of war, bowls, Aunt Sally,
 Ferrets and Bouncy Castle
 Lots to eat and drink.

Admission free - donations invited to go to Mind, The Woodland Trust, and the Shelswell Group of Churches.

To find out more, check out our websites:



<http://shelswellhistoryfestival.org.uk/>
<https://artinthecountryside.co.uk>

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Would you like to be part of this great day?

We would welcome more volunteers to help with:

- set up and clear away
- first aid
- traffic marshalling
- manning the raffle
- collecting donations

You may even get a complementary cup of tea and slice of cake!

Get in touch with me on 01280 848192 / alicegoodall313@gmail.com
 or via our website.

DO YOU HAVE A GENERATOR?

If you have a generator in good working order that we could borrow for the day, please do get in contact.





Shelswell History Festival presents

A Tour of Bicester Heritage

The historic former RAF site



On Friday 10th June 2022 from 10.30am to 12.30pm

Tickets £20 each

Payable via our website
www.shelswellhistoryfestival.org.uk

Limited number of tickets, so please book early!

All proceeds in aid of
Shelswell History Festival
Registered Charity No. 1171846

*By kind permission of the
Management of Bicester Heritage Ltd*

Fringford C of E Primary School

The children from Fringford Primary School have had a wonderful start to the month, celebrating World Book Day. All the children dressed up in characters from their chosen books.

Our older children participated in a Victorian Day by dressing up in Victorian clothes and experiencing a Victorian school day with a visit from a Victorian schoolteacher. They were taught handwriting using steel-nibbed pens and their maths lesson involved chanting times tables and solving number problems using old denominations of money. They also learned about corporal punishment in schools.



There are many pupils and families within the community who have been extremely keen to show their solidarity support for the humanitarian crisis currently affecting Ukraine. We decided to hold a non-uniform day and through our Just Giving page, we have raised over £1100.00 (with Gift Aid). If you would like to support our fundraising, please visit

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/fringford-primary-school5>

We have lots of exciting things coming up for the children, including a visit to Cotswold Wildlife Park, History of Science Museum (Oxford) as well as wearing Red for Red Nose Day.





Finmere C of E Primary School

The Christian Values which underpin all our learning are:
Kindness, Honesty and Perseverance.

Finmere C of E School is now working on an exciting project with the National Paralympic Heritage Trust and our pupils have been learning all about Finmere's important role in supporting our paralympic athletes. In a recent school assembly, some of the children were able to re enact Dr Guttman's story and hear about how his work eventually evolved into the Paralympic Games. The NPHT are continuously researching, and Finmere School will be working with them in the coming months to record Finmere's involvement in these historic games. Please see the following information to understand more and see if you too could contribute.

Stories from Finmere Project – A call for stories.

The Paralympic Games is a local story and one that depended for its success on the people living in the communities in this area. As we celebrate another Paralympic year, the National Paralympic Heritage Trust, want to recognise the historic community effort of local people by uncovering, recording and sharing the stories which brought the world one of the most significant sporting events ever created. They will be working with Finmere C of E Primary School and Finmere Parish Council to tell the story of -

The Finmere Show 1959-2015.

The NPHT are interested in if you have memories of when The Finmere Show became an annual fundraising event and played an instrumental role in enabling disabled sports men and women to compete for their country at the Paralympic Games. You may have photographs or stories that will help them develop a clearer picture of this unique community initiative.

If you have something to share, then please do contact the NPHT via the email address or telephone number below. They will be very pleased to talk to you. Thank you.

Email: admin@paralypicheritage.org.uk

Telephone: 01296 489929

We are looking forward to supporting this project and learning more about how the power and faith of community spirit was instrumental in enabling disabled sports women and men to compete for their country.



NPHT

**NATIONAL PARALYMPIC
HERITAGE TRUST**



“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” Matthew 18:20





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

We met in Stoke Lyne during storm Eunice for Fun@4. For those who were experiencing the power failure it was a welcome retreat! Our activities included creating a Graffiti wall, decorated heart biscuits, made bookmarks and more followed by a short time of worship and then sandwiches, tea and cake!



Our next service **will not** be on the third Sunday of April but will be on **Good Friday** where we will meet in the Fringford Village Hall at 10am for a Good Friday workshop.

We will end the time together with a walk down to the church for a short time of prayer and praise. **Everyone** is very welcome to join us, not just families! Contact Revd Yvonne for further details.



Shelswell Youth Group

We continue to meet with our new pattern – First Saturday joining with ECB Youth, Second and Fourth Friday evenings 7-9pm in Fringford and third Sunday it is Fun@4 in Stoke Lyne. On Saturday the 5th March we joined ECB at Rebound Revolution trampoline park.

Our most recent Friday evening was a Murder Mystery evening prepared by Issy – the Farewell Dinner Party. It was great fun and was enjoyed by all. At Fun@4 we will be preparing for Mothering Sunday making gifts – which is great when you're on a budget!!

After Easter we hope to start meeting up on the Green for outdoor games – all secondary pupils most welcome. Look out for further details!

Contact Revd Yvonne for more info.



Fun@4 team presents



Good Friday Workshop

15 April 2022

10 am to 11.45am

Fringford Village Hall

**followed by a walk to the church
for a short service for Good Friday.**



LIGHTHOUSE

New Volunteers welcome!



Holiday Club for 5 – 11s
Monday 25th July – Friday 29th July 2022
10 am – 3.30 pm
Finnere CE Primary School, Mere Road, Finnere, MK18 4AR

A Christian based holiday club
 welcoming children of all faiths and none.

Sport Craft Performing arts music

Save the date!
Children's registration opens in early May
- for more info check out
www.lighthousecentral.org

Recommended donation of £10 per day. Bursaries available.

If you would like to join our fantastic team of volunteers and help make this the best week of the summer holidays, then we'd love to have you! You could help behind the scenes, sorting out craft materials or keeping the volunteers supplied with coffee. You could help in one of the groups or with drama or sport. You could help with the songs at the beginning of the day. You could help every day or just a couple. Get in touch and we can talk about how we can make best use of your skills. Or go to the website <https://lighthousecentral.org/> and click on 'Get Involved' to find out more.

Alice Goodall 01280 848192 / alicegoodall313@gmail.com



Klosely Kvartet

a fresh faced, vibrant new quartet born out of Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance,
 embracing a myriad of musical traditions from jazz and folk to contemporary classical
present a short informal concert

3pm on Sunday April 24th

at

St Edmund & St George church, Hethe

Encores followed by tea and cake.

Entrance £5, proceeds towards church funds.

Club news

**Due to the current Coronavirus protective restrictions many events are cancelled for the time being:
Please watch this space.**

KNIT FOR PEACE



You may like to know that our last delivery to 'Knit for Peace' is already on its way to help the refugees from Ukraine.

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, just turn up. Dogs must be on leads. Tea or coffee after.



SHELSWELL WI

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



Come and join us for a Talk by Oxford based Crime writer Peter Tickler 'Blood on the Key Board' at 7.30pm in Fringford Village Hall, Thursday 7th April.

Peter is an established crime writer, with five novels already published. In the 1970s he was an undergraduate and has lived mostly in Oxford where his novels are set. 'Blood on the Cowley Road', 'Blood in Grandpont' and 'Dead in the Water' are some of his works.

We welcomed Beryl Mann - Group Advisor - to the AGM in March. An update on Denman WI College was given and Beryl explained about the ACWW - Associated Country Women of the World - and how their role is supported by the WI and various organisations around the world.

The new committee for 2022 was formed. Elaine Whitaker was voted in for a further year as President, with the rest of the committee comprising Veronica Barns, Lesley Beagent Sue Enevoldsen and Christine Underwood.

Carol Reader's decorated Easter Eggs were voted to go into the North Ploughley Group Meeting competition on the 23rd March, held in Stoke Lyne Church, which several members attended.

We are collecting empty foil pill cases which can be recycled - Super Drug in Bicester can take them - and plastic milk bottle tops for Pathfinders who train and provide assistance dogs (mostly German Shepherds at the moment)

Next two meetings:

May 5th Fringford History Walk.

June 9th Garden Party to Celebrate The Queen's Platinum Anniversary.

The members continue to meet up for coffee, when able. The March walk was a circular stroll through the historic side of Bicester and we explored some of the green spaces.

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



On 8th March Andrew Woodall gave us a fascinating insight into his career, from manufacturing stilts for picking tomatoes and keeping giant snails, working as head gardener at several locations to his current position at Broughton Grange.

Andrew touched on some of the challenges he has encountered during his career; interpreting someone else's vision, working with designers and to budgets, the aftermath of landscaping with modern machinery and living and working in Italy's daytime heat. Andrew has worked in several large gardens in the UK and Italy, where he was moving extremely expensive olive trees with a crane.

In 2006 Andrew became head gardener at Broughton Grange where he manages the 25-acre garden set within 400 acres of beautiful countryside near Banbury. It includes a gorgeous terraced walled garden designed by Tom Stuart-Smith with the lower terrace's low hedging representing the cells in ash, beech and oak leaves. The rest of the garden design is the work of the owner and Andrew. Andrew told us that time during lockdown was put to good use by digging out the box which had developed blight and replacing with nearly 5000 Euonymus 'Jean Hugues'. This took three weeks to place and plant in the lower terrace alone!

On Tuesday 10th May, the club's members will be visiting the garden for their evening visit. More details to follow.

At our next meeting on **April 12th at 7.30**, we shall welcome **Rosie Hardy**, of **Hardy Plants** with a selection of her best plants for us to discover and buy. Rosie was our last speaker in 2020 as lockdown was announced the following day. Hopefully this time round will be less memorable.

SHELLOW POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP

At our March meeting, held on Saint David's Day, 1st March, we had a large number of poems about the Moon to discuss.

'Full Moon and Little Frieda' by Ted Hughes recreates a moment when his toddler daughter was fascinated by the sight of the moon in the night sky. His wife, Sylvia Plath, in 'The Moon and the Yew Tree' and 'The Everlasting Monday' finds a much darker and threatening note when she observes the moon. Robert Graves, possibly remembering his experiences in the trenches in World War 1 is also very negative about it. In 'End of Another Home Holiday' by DH Lawrence, wandering in his mother's moonlit garden gives rise to his frustration at her possessiveness.

More positive notes are struck by 'Silver' by Walter De La Mare and 'Moonlit Apples' by John Drinkwater, who both describe the transfiguring effect of moonlight. In 'The Listeners' by De La Mare and 'The Highwayman' by Alfred Noyes there are poems full of danger, mystery and romance, loved by generations of schoolchildren.

Two sets of song lyrics by American singer-songwriters were 'The Moon and Saint Christopher' by Mary Chapin Carpenter and 'The Moonbeam Song' by Steve Forbert – both thoughtful and intriguing.

Other poems we collected were 'Shut Out That Moon' by Thomas Hardy; Yum Yum's Song from Gilbert and Sullivan's 'Mikado'; 'Hymn to Diana' by Ben Jonson; 'The Tower' by Robert Nichols, 'A Hymn to the Moon' by Mary Wortley Montagu, 'Paris by Moonlight' by Mary Ruffle Born, 'New Moon in January' by Ted Hughes, 'Moon Compasses' by Robert Frost and 'Night' by William Blake.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 12th April at 10.30 am, and the subject is Poems about Music.

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

Judith Harvey

SHELSWELL READING GROUP

At the meeting on March 7th at 7.30 the book chosen for discussion was 'We are not Them' by Christine Pride and Jo Piazza. Opinions differed on this work, which is about the mothers of the perpetrator and victim in a crime, and how they deal with their loss. Although it is a story whose pace is maintained, and deals with a difficult but relevant topic, the group felt that it did not really get under the skin of racial issues (one of the sons is black, the other white), and that some aspects of the plot felt forced. The friendship between the two women did not quite ring true for some readers. However, it is a book which has a very contemporary feel, and addresses some of the issues which bedevil urban society today, whether in America or Britain.

Other books read and enjoyed by members in the last month are:

The Sixteen Trees of the Somme by Lars Mytting

The Power by Naomi Alderman

A Single Gentleman by Christopher Isherwood

The Alienist by Caleb Carr

If you would like to join us for our April meeting, please contact Jane Birnage on 01280 847455 or at

janebirnage@icloud.com

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 13th April at 7.30**, in Cottisford, and the book is 'The Bell on the Lake' by Lars Mytting.



Sunday 1st May 2022 – 2pm

You are warmly invited to the launch of Bicester and Islip Deanery's first Pilgrim Path circular walk
from Hethe via Hardwick and Cottisford

Starting from St Edmund and St George, Hethe at 2pm Tea at Hethe village hall at around 4.30pm
Followed by a short service in St Edmund and St George

All welcome. Parking available at Hethe Village Hall
For further information please contact diana.glover@btinternet.com

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:



EASTER SERVICE

Sunday 17th April 9.15am Holy Communion for Easter Day at St Mary's Cottisford. All welcome.

COTTISFORD AND JUNIPER HILL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Our next Coffee Morning, in aid of buying trees for the Playing Field to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee, will be on Tuesday April 5th at Manor Grange, Cottisford, home of Jane and David Birnage. Refreshments will be £2.50 and there will be a raffle. Come along and enjoy Jane's beautiful garden whilst meeting up with friends and contributing to our tree project.

We are lighting a beacon in the playing field at Juniper Hill at 9.30 pm on Thursday 2nd June. The Social Committee will supply nibbles and soft drinks, but please bring your own wine/beer. Help us to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee in a sociable and enjoyable way.

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:



Finmere's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Please save the dates of Thursday 2nd and Saturday 4th of June to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee.

On 2nd June, the Parish Council will be joining those from across our nation and the Commonwealth in lighting a beacon-bonfire on the Playing Field at 9.45 pm. There will be a complimentary glass of fizz to raise a toast to Her Majesty, and thank her for her steadfast and long-standing service.

We will need help to build the bonfire, and perhaps to provide/serve refreshments at the event. Please contact any member of the Parish Council or Jo Brooks on 07974 740312 / brooks.joanne@btinternet.com if you can help in any way.

On the afternoon of 4th June, we hope to host a children's tea party with party games and perhaps a game of rounders. Later that evening, we are planning a "Picnic Supper" party, where people will bring their own picnic to an event with music, dancing, films and prizes for 1950s/Royal costumes (optional). More details will follow. We have a small group of volunteers organising the events on the 4th, but if you have any ideas or want to help in any way, we would be delighted to have your support. Please contact Illa Moss on 07749 692476 or Jo Brooks (as above).

Help us to... Plant a Tree for Jubilee

On Saturday 26th March, from 2 pm, we need your help to plant 100 trees (40 cm whips) to form a shelter belt on the western boundary of the Playing Field. Please bring your spade and join the event – there may be donuts?

The trees, all native hardwoods (Oak, Birch, Willow, Cherry and Rowan), have been granted by the Woodland Trust and they will form part of the Queen's Green Canopy. This is an initiative proposed by Prince Charles to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. They will also form a screen between the Playing Field and HS2, mitigating any visual or noise impacts from the new train line as well as providing wildlife habitat and sequestering carbon.

Alongside the small whips, we will be planting also a larger, more ornamental tree in commemoration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Mothering Sunday

On Sunday 27th March, a Mothering Sunday service will be held in Finmere Church at 9.15 am. Children will be encouraged to give their mums (or dads) a small posy of spring flowers that will be available in church, or later on the bench by the Cross Tree (if any remain). Refreshments of tea and cake will be served after the service.

Easter Day

On Sunday 17th April, an Easter service will be held in Finmere Church at 9.15 am. Bucks fizz and nibbles will be served after the service, and there will be an egg hunt for children and a church quiz/treasure hunt for "older" members of the congregation.

Village Hall

Last reported - The surveyors appointed (at the insistence of the insurance company) are shortly due to appoint the contractors that will carry out the renovation following the arson attack related damage, and with a bit of luck, the hall will be back in service by late spring.

Update – oops, spoke too soon ! Contractor to carry out the renovation should be appointed mid March and we are advised that total schedule for the work is likely to take up to 16 weeks in total. So new date for the hall to be back in service is mid / late July. We strongly suspect that the good villagers, who built the hall with their bare hands, likely took a shorter time to complete the entire job, than the insurance company will take to renovate and clean the hall after three delinquents tried to set fire to it, last November. No news from our police force as to the identity of the delinquents ☹️



Allotments



The storm and gales in March played havoc with the various sheds and greenhouses on the allotments. But the latest inspection reveals that all sheds now seem to be back in their original positions, even facing the right way up ☺ Spring is arriving, so everything is largely getting back to normal.



The Poor's Plot continues to have a small waiting list for allotment plots.

There is always 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/finmereandlittlettingewick/>

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 and Events

- Sunday 3 April - 10.45am Morning Service
- Good Friday 15 April – All Age Service at 12 noon (following Good Friday Workshop)
- Sunday 17 April – Easter Day – 10.45 Holy Communion

Please check the noticeboard at the church, or www.shelswellparishes.info or ring the Benefice office (01280-848192) to find out when and where other Holy Week services will be. Palm Sunday is on 10th April, Maundy Thursday is on 14th April, Good Friday on 15th April.

There will be a Good Friday Workshop for children in Fringford Village Hall on 15th April and it will be followed by a procession down to the church for a service at 12 noon (for more information see the General Section in this magazine or ring the Benefice Office (01280-848192).

Easter Lilies

If you would like to donate an Easter Lily in memory of a loved one, please contact Carol Reader either on email: carol.reader@btinternet.com or by telephone: 01869 277057. A stem will cost £5. The lilies will be on display in church over the Easter season.

Fringford Beer Festival in 2022

Looking ahead, the Church Restoration Fund-raising Committee is busy making plans for the Beer Festival. 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.
- Take advantage of the Early Bird special offer and get your tickets at Eventbrite. Either search Eventbrite Fringford Beer Festival or go to <https://fringford-beer-festival-2022.eventbrite.co.uk>
- Can you lend a gazebo for use at the festival? – contact Christina McCullagh on 07867 515207
- We need to cover £650 to provide a comprehensive and vital First Aid facility – sponsorship, or partial sponsorship would be extremely welcome – contact Christina McCullagh on 07867 515207

Colin Tilley will be running a Book Stall again in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association. If you have books to donate, Colin can store them (and collect them if that helps). Please message him, on 07966 275763, to arrange a time when you can drop off your books, or when he could pick them up from you.

Fringford Church 100 Club

The winners of the February draw were David Taylor £51; Robert Gue £31; and Phillippa Taylor £20. You can still sign up to the 100 Club. Contact Christina McCullagh to register your involvement **ASAP, on 07867 515207.**

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 25th April 10.30am to 12 noon. Now meeting in the Chinnery Room at the Village Hall. Do drop in. [The April Fringford Church 100 Club draw will take place that morning].

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.

COME & JOIN US AT SEWCIAL



We enjoy any type of craft and a natter getting together to relax and enjoy each other's company.

Some of us knit, crochet, embroider, quilt, sew or create craft albums.

We get together once a month either on a Wednesday evening or Sunday afternoon. Our next sessions are

Sunday 10 April at 3pm

Sessions are £2.00

Chinnery Room at Fringford Village Hall.

No need to book – just come and join us!

If you would like information, please email Melissa at mamcs100@gmail.com

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:



EASTER SERVICE

Sunday 17th April 10.45am Holy Communion for Easter Day at St Mary's Hardwick. All welcome.

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

DELIVERY FOR UKRAINE

Tomas de Vargas Machuca and Patrick Burke of Hardwick Manor would like to thank the residents of Hardwick for their kindness and generosity. On Friday 4th March we managed to fill two Hilux pick-up trucks with donations for the Ukraine effort. Donations included clothing, bedding, personal hygiene items, toys, games, medical supplies and a huge amount of dog and cat food. We also received a generous cash donation which was

spent on tinned food, jars of baby food, torches and batteries.

HERO-ERA (company co-owned by Tomas and Patrick) worked closely with the Polish Association in Banbury who are lucky enough to have strong links with the Mayor of Kyiv who has been advising on what is urgently required. All donations were sorted in Banbury and then sent to either Wroclaw where Polish soldiers take goods straight to Kyiv or on the Budomierz border to support people who cross the borders.

Thank you to you all, every donation makes a difference.

Find details of the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal at www.dec.org.uk

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 and much more.

Many thanks, Mike.

ST EDMUND & ST GEORGE CHURCH



Church Services and Events

The church is 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.

Our first service this month will be on Sunday the 10th, starting at 9.15am, and followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish (AMP) when the Church Wardens will be elected. If you wish to be considered for this role, please let us know. See the back page for details of other services. Our Easter Day service of Holy Communion will start at 9.15am and all are welcome. Hot Cross Buns and mini-Easter Eggs will be distributed by the PCC at Easter. Volunteers to provide and display flowers in the church for Easter Sunday will be very welcome.

Hethe Community Coffee Morning in St Philip's Hall at the Holy Trinity Church

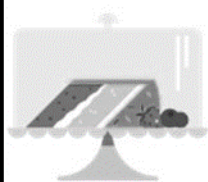
Tuesday 12th April 10.00am to 12.00pm

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

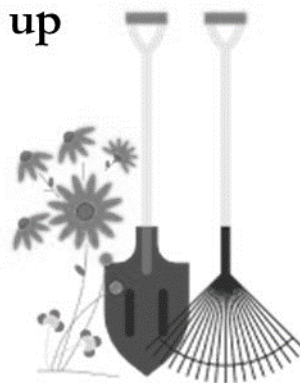


Church Spring Clean and church yard tidy up

Saturday April 9th



Come any time of the day and join in
Tea breaks (the important bit)
at 11am and 3pm



Many hands make light work!

Bicester and Islip Deanery Pilgrim Paths Project

**Launch event
Sunday 1st May 2022 – 2pm**



You are warmly invited to the launch of Bicester and Islip Deanery's first Pilgrim Path circular walk
from Hethe via Hardwick and Cottisford

Starting from St Edmund and St George, Hethe at 2pm Tea at Hethe village hall at around 4.30pm
Followed by a short service in St Edmund and St George

Parking is available at Hethe Village Hall, Hardwick Road OX27 8EY

All welcome

For further information please contact diana.glover@btinternet.com



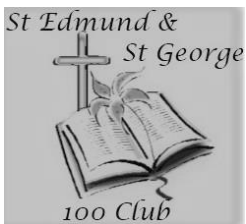
The PCC are looking at what we can do next to improve biodiversity in the churchyard and in so doing encourage wildlife. Current suggestions are to plant a hedge row, make a compost area and install a compost toilet. If you would like to be involved in any way in how the church and village can help to alleviate the effects of climate change, please let us know – hethenews@outlook.com.

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



⇐ Scan here for regular giving by direct debit

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



Results of the 38th 100 Club draw:

1st Prize No 16 Helen Wood

2nd Prize No 37 Ben Wood

3rd Prize No 2 Flora Skinner

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.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting Wednesday 27th April. A joint meeting with other parishes in the benefice. The venue is Stratton Audley Church.

HETHE COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

Village Hall

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



Hethe Lending Library

A rich variety of fiction and non-fiction books, puzzles and CDs to browse and borrow, in St Edmund & St George Church.

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:



EASTER SERVICE

Sunday 17th April 9.15am Holy Communion for Easter Day at All Saints', Mixbury. All welcome.

MIXBURY CHURCH FLOWER ROTA 2022

April	Easter 17 th April – Everyone
May	Barbara Mortimer
June	Kate Darby



MIXBURY CHURCH CLEANING ROTA (Revised 2022 – 2023)

Thank you to everyone who has agreed to go on this rota and to everyone who has cleaned and helped maintain the church throughout the past year – it is very much appreciated. With a special thanks to Emma from Church View cottages for taking the time to clean the church brass at the start of March - looks great!

JANUARY	Julie Mitchell and Helen Backon
FEBRUARY	Rebecca Ayres and Eryl Tobin
MARCH	Giovanna Holdcroft and Tanya Howroyd
APRIL	Emma Bray and Viv Williams
MAY	Alison Bailey, Pam Burrill and Jules Channon
JUNE	Nicola Adams and Anna Howard
JULY	Julie Mitchell and Helen Backon
AUGUST	Rebecca Ayres and Eryl Tobin
SEPTEMBER	Giovanna Holdcroft and Tanya Howroyd
OCTOBER	Emma Bray and Viv Williams
NOVEMBER	Alison Bailey, Pam Burrill and Jules Channon
DECEMBER	Nicola Adams and Anna Howard

If anyone else would like to help with cleaning, we would be very grateful for extra volunteers. This would help to lighten the load on otherwise busy people. The job only requires a couple of hours simple cleaning in your allotted month, and if you can find a partner or join a group of two to make groups of three, it can be a pleasant way to involve yourself in the village and familiarise yourself with our beautiful church. For more information please contact - Julie Mitchell on 01280 – 847769

POEM OF THE MONTH
“MAY” By Christina Rossetti

I cannot tell you how it was,
 But this I know: it came to pass,
 Upon a bright and sunny day
 When May was young; ah, pleasant May!
 As yet the poppies were not born
 Between the blades of tender corn;
 The last egg had not hatched as yet,
 Nor any bird foregone its mate.

I cannot tell you what it was,
 But this I know: it did but pass.
 It passed away with sunny May.
 Like all sweet things it passed away,
 And left me old, and cold, and gray.

MIXBURY POP UP PUB NIGHTS

The Mixbury Pop Up Pub has been a tradition in the village for many years now and is a lovely way to socialise and make friends. The hosts provide the venue, glasses and a few nibbles and the guests arrive with their own drinks.

Here are the planned dates for the year.

1st April	2 nd September
6th May	7 th October
3rd June	4 th November
1st July	2 nd December
5th August	

If you are interested in hosting a pub night please contact Tanya – email: markandtanya@yahoo.co.uk.

Fulwell: the life and death of a village and some general landscape history... was a talk given in Mixbury Church on Wednesday 2nd March by Deborah Hayter from the Continuing Education Department at Oxford University. A good number of villagers and people from the surrounding area (Fulwell, Westbury etc) attended this informative talk arranged by Bruce Epps. If you didn't make it to this talk watch out for future events about local history. **Bruce has sent the following report.**

The Archaeological Attractions of Fulwell

Thank you from Mixbury history Group to the 30 or so people who came along to All Saints Church on 2nd March to hear Deborah Hayter, a Continuing Education lecturer from Oxford University, give a talk about “Fulwell: the life and death of a village, and some general landscape history.”

Deborah set the scene by focussing in particular on how the land in “middle England” would have been used and settled from the Iron Age through to the period of “enclosures” in the 17th and 18th centuries. Cultivation would have followed the open-field system, under which the land in Mixbury had been divided into three large fields (Sandfield, Westfield and Middlefield: we don't know exactly where they were). Within the three fields, land was worked by the ridge and furrow system of agriculture, where it was parcelled up into “furlongs” – not, at that time, the measure of distance we know today, but “parcels” of land of variable sizes. Within each furlong, strips of land were allocated to individual people and in each of these strips he/she worked a ridge and furrow.

The open field system was formally replaced through Enclosure Acts (Mixbury's was 1730) which gave rise to the sort of fields which we see today, with hedges as boundaries, and which are often regular in shape. Where land was not suitable for cultivation, it could be used for grazing or managed woodland, and some land was set aside as pasture. This last use was to play an increasingly important part at Fulwell.

The earliest reference both she and the History group could find to Fulwell is in the 1086 Domesday Book. It had been a small Saxon settlement (about one quarter the acreage of Mixbury) before it was given to the Norman lord, Robert d'Oily after the Conquest. At that time, it had a mill, and a church – St Michael the Archangel – and there was a small village. Although conventional thinking is that the etymology of Fulwell is “foul well”, the History Group has been pondering for some time why the mill in such a small place is valued in Domesday at more than the two mills in Mixbury. One answer may be that its name could be derived from “fulling”, a process of scouring and thickening wool (Deborah shares this theory). In Roman times fulling was frequently conducted by people walking on the wool in tubs ankle deep in urine: by the Middle Ages fullers' earth had been introduced instead of the urine. If this was being done at Fulwell it would explain the disproportionate value of the mill there.

The History Group's own research has found that the next we hear of Fulwell is that in 1205 it passed into the hands of Oseney Abbey, an Augustinian House based in Oxford; the Abbey later acquired Mixbury. Oseney had a “large grange” at Fulwell, although we do not know whether they built it anew or re-used an earlier building. In the latter case, if it was stone, there is a good chance that it had been Roman, because the Saxons generally built with wood. The importance of Fulwell at that time is illustrated by two facts. First, for the tax of 1306, the grange accounted for nearly half the total assessment for Mixbury and Fulwell. Second, it was the headquarters of one of Oseney's “bailiwicks”, a grouping of several manors.

Throughout the 14th and 15th centuries wool became increasingly important to Oseney's business and by 1477 an account by its chief shepherd, about the sheep in the 10 manors he oversaw, showed that Fulwell had more wethers – castrated rams kept for wool – than any of the others. During this time Fulwell's population decreased as land-use was switched from arable to pasture to accommodate more sheep, and in 1435 it lost its independent parochial status; it was merged with Mixbury.

The next phase of development at Fulwell happened between 1549 and about 1760. Oseney Abbey was dissolved by Henry VIII as part of the abolition of the monasteries and Henry initially leased and then sold Mixbury and Fulwell to a man called John Wellesbourne. Wellesbourne built a manor house at Fulwell. The History Group has been puzzled by why he chose Fulwell for his manorial home, rather than the larger Mixbury which by that time had a substantial stone church; Beaumont Castle had effectively been disestablished although, in any event, it had never been built as a home for a Henrician gentleman. Deborah provided an answer. The new middle/upper classes of the day chose to distance themselves from the “hoi poloi” – the masses – and often located their houses to achieve this: at the top end of the scale such houses would have parkland around them. Wellesbourne was not in that category but he and his successors as lords of the manor, the Sills and Bathursts all chose Fulwell as their homes. It is highly likely that one of these built a water garden reportedly there, but we are not entirely sure where it is and what it looked like. These lords of the manor were buried at All Saints Church, where there are memorials to each of them. When Benjamin Bathurst died in 1667 the Mixbury estate was sold to the Batson family who had another estate at Horseheath, near Cambridge, and who are never recorded as having lived in Mixbury or Fulwell.

This article explains why the History Group have been planning, with the full support of the landowner, to undertake an archaeological dig at Fulwell. We are grateful to Deborah for filling in some of the gaps in our knowledge but there is still so much to discover, not least the location and nature of each of the facilities there. One of the people in the audience asked on Wednesday if we knew where the church was; we don't. How exciting it would be to find that underneath the manor houses and the grange lies a Roman farm or Villa! The National Lottery Heritage Fund has at this stage turned down our application for a grant to employ the archaeologists to do the investigation, but we are in the process of re-applying with a view to doing the dig in June 2023. Wish us luck.

DIARY DATESThursday 5th May 2022 – Local ElectionsSaturday 5th June 2022 – Queen's Platinum Jubilee

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 -**

Sunday 3rd April - 9.15 a.m.

EASTER Sunday 17th April 10.45 a.m.

Churchyard Spring Clear Up -

A BIG thank you to all who came along to help on March 5th and to those who provided the most welcome Bacon Butties and Hot Coffee.

The weather was kind and lot was achieved in just two hours. Many hands did make light work and we are now ready for the mowing season!

Bonus Ball Lotto -

Recent lucky winners have been David Francis, Michala Pederson, Hugo von Maltzahn and Jen Beaumont.

Easter Sunday -

Please make a special note in your diary for our service on Easter Sunday at 10.45 a.m. which will be followed by our Easter Raffle and Bucks Fizz!! We look forward to welcoming all who are able to be with us.

Stoke Lyne St Peter's

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

TREASURER: Janey Poole janey@oxford-educational.co.uk

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Emma Brown

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Rena Andrews Email: renacyanlion@btinternet.com

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

WEBSITE www.stokelyne.org

Tel 01869 346020

Tel 07762 719198

Tel 07810 120457

Tel 01869345211

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

**St Peter's Church Stoke Lyne Services**Sunday 17th April 10.45am Holy Communion for Easter Day

See back page for details of other services

Flower Duty for April

Janey Poole

Stoke Lyne 100 Club – March Results

1st Prize	Membership No 43	Faye Billingham	£36.50
2nd Prize	Membership No 12	Emma Brown	£21.90
3rd Prize	Membership No 1	Jane Warde-Aldam	£14.60

Congratulations everyone. Spread the word so we can increase the prize money for all
£36.00 per year or direct debit of £3.00 per month for one membership

Thank you everyone for your continued support.

Janey Poole

Treasurer St Peter's Church PCC

Tel: 01869 346020

janey@oxford-educational.co.uk

Food for thought – Sunday, 6th March

Our Food for Thought service in the sparkling clean church was focused on the theme of loneliness. We thought about how lonely Jesus had been during his time in the wilderness and considered how we could all support those around us who may be feeling lonely. If we could free up some time this Lent and show others some of this time by visiting them, doing some baking to share or just dropping them an email or a card, perhaps we can make some changes and relieve the loneliness of others.

Our next service will be on Sunday 3rd April with breakfast from 10am.

Kelly

Spring clean at St Peter's – Saturday, 5th March



St Peter's church welcomed a wonderful group of volunteers who spent their Saturday morning spring cleaning inside and outside; dusting, polishing, sweeping and washing floors, cutting and pruning, trimming and strimming. We were all treated to delicious bacon sandwiches and a hot coffee and tea, a welcome break as, although the rain kept away, the wind remained freezing.

A huge thank you to all those who gave up their time to help, you are all brilliant and I hope you all agree the result looks amazing.

Janey Poole

Treasurer St Peter's Church, Stoke Lyne

Stormy Weekend starting 18th February

Compared to the frightening devastation all over the country I think our village of Stoke Lyne was quite lucky apart from some fencing down and I know of one greenhouse on the allotments that had all its windows shattered and trees were down near Swift's House making it a very frightening weekend. A lot of the surrounding villages were without electricity for a while.

New Arrivals



We've had two new additions to the garden, our new piglets, Pookey and Lookey, are Oxford Sandy Blacks and really good fun to watch as they explore their new home. We went for boars again as they seem to be easier to handle and, contrary to popular belief, are actually 'cleaner' than the sows we have had before.

The sheep have also begun lambing and all is going well so far – no twins yet, but there's still time. Dink had triplets the past two years and she is looking very large again!
Kelly Holden-White

Annual litter pick 2022 – Saturday, 2nd April 9.30-12.30

This year's litter pick around our village and local roads will be on Saturday 2nd April at 9.30 until 12.30 approx. If you are able to help, please meet at the church gate at 9.30. Again, CDC will provide bags and several pairs of gloves, plus 6 picking sticks, although you may want to bring your own.
Elaine Barnes

Stoke Lyne W.I. – Thursday, 10th March

On 10th March we met at 1.00 at Hethe Village Hall where Rena welcomed all to the meeting and asked us to stand for the singing of Jerusalem. Business was discussed and members given dates for diaries of upcoming events. Beryl gave an update on next year's programme of speakers and competitions.

Rena introduced Louise Kelly our speaker who gave a talk about computer and telephone scams.

Passwords: are they secure? Don't use names or date of birth or names of family members or pets as these can all be easily traced. Always use a mixture of upper and lower case letters, numbers and symbols, the longer your password the more difficult it is to hack into. Her advice is don't write them down, try and find a way of remembering them, and don't share them. Always back up your work never leave your system open but always close it down and make sure you log out of websites such as Facebook and your email account when you have finished using them.

Landline phones: if you get one of those cold calls, ask for the telephone number of their head office and you will ring them. The line will usually go dead, or ask them where they got your number and again the line will usually go dead. I am sure many of you will have had a call saying someone has tried to take £640 from your account and please press a button to check if they are speaking to the right person. Never ever do that. Report it to your bank. BE AWARE THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD TRYING TO GET YOUR INFORMATION

Louise was thanked for a very enlightening talk on computer safety. Tea hostesses were Beryl assisted by Sheila and Celia. The competition of a decorated egg was won by Rena and the raffle won by Judith. The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

Stoke Lyne W.I. meet on the second Thursday of the month at Hethe Village Hall at 1.00 pm. There is no speaker for April as it is our annual meeting when we elect the new committee and present the competition cup to the member who has won the most points during the year.



Celebrate the arrival of Spring at our Spring Fair

Saturday, 9th April 2022

St Peter's Church, Stoke Lyne

1pm-4pm

Tea, coffee and cake

Raffle, Lucky dip and Easter egg hunt

Plants and cakes for sale



A LOOK AT STOKE WOOD

The wood can be reached from the “Old Stoke Lyne Lane” (off the B4100). It occupies 87.77 acres and is a designated Ancient Woodland Site. Stoke Wood was acquired by the Woodland Trust (henceforth referred to in this article as “WT”) with help from Cherwell District Council and an “anonymous donor” in 1993 when the Swift’s House estate was broken up into lots and sold.

Some of the WT literature implies that the wood had been part of the Peyton family’s Swift’s House estate from 1820. However, it was not until 1830 that Sir Thomas Mostyn sold Swift’s House to Sir Henry Peyton, and at that time Stoke Wood was not part of the estate as is apparent from the sale advertisement which appeared in the Oxford Journal of 17th April 1830 which in addition to the various buildings only mentions “*And about Sixty Acres of Grass and Arable Land*”, ie no woodland.

Was the wood therefore part of the land acquired when the next Sir Henry Peyton bought the “The Manor of Stoke Lyne” from Edward Campbell Stuart Cole on 1 December 1860? I contacted the Oxfordshire History Centre as they listed the conveyance in their online catalogue and they were able to confirm that my suspicions were correct. So prior to 1860 Stoke Wood was part of the Manor of Stoke Lyne but for how long? The online catalogue also lists a document which summarises the property/land held by the Manor (including that in other villages) in 1691, at the time of the Holts. Of this 250 acres were woodland so one presumes Stoke Wood was included in this.

This is the furthest I have been able to go back but in the 1990s, the wood had a very active volunteer warden, a retired engineer called Donald Robinson, who was able to delve deeper based on physical evidence. I have a copy of the report he compiled on the “Stoke Wood Woodbank” which totally encircles the wood with a length of 3,000 yards. Donald studied the trees and shrubs in the hedges and concluded that the bank which originally would have been head height probably dated from at least 1300. He then estimated how long it would have taken to build this bank using the work rate of railway navvies but allowing for a medieval diet with medieval tools and concluded it would have taken more than 10 man years to construct. It would have involved moving approximately 8,400 cu yards of soil and stone – equivalent to 500 lorry loads. It was built to demarcate the wood as a place to value to keep people (and animals) out as in those days woodland was more valuable than arable land, timber being needed for fuel and buildings.

Donald also found a series of internal smaller woodbanks which he speculated might indicate a sub-division of ownership but the WT website now says that it is believed they may be connected with an ancient burial chamber.

The WT say that the system of “coppice-with-standards” still evident in the wood on the east (Stoke Lyne) side today would have been practiced for centuries. “*This system was popular in the Midlands and provided strong timber from the oak standards and smaller poles from the regularly cut hazel and hornbeam coppice.*” However, in about 1950 the north side of the wood was felled and planted with blocks of conifers. This date is also when the WT state that the wood was run as a private shoot. The shoot was still going strong in 1985 and was featured in a two-page spread in the “Shooting and Times and Country Magazine” of 24-30 January that year. It is the long term plan of the WT to gradually remove the conifers and replace with native broadleaved trees but they do not envisage completing this until around 2050.

Looking back through the local press, I have found notices for the annual sale of timber and underwood from the wood going back to the 1790s. Here is an example of one of the sales notices from the Oxford Journal of 22nd March 1879:

STOKE LYNE, near BICESTER
Upwards of 300 excellent MAIDEN OAKS with Lop, Top, and Bark,
lotted and standing in the Big Wood, on the Stoke Lyne Estate.
 WILL BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
 By JONAS PAXTON, SON, & CASTLE.
On the premises, on Tuesday, April the 1st, 1879, at One
o’clock (by direction of Gen. Sir Thomas Peyton, Bart.).

Not surprisingly the nuts from the hazels were a source of temptation to the local population. Here's one of several "nutting" cases which were reported in the local press, this one from the Bicester Herald of 29th September 1865:

NUTTING ON THE ESTATE OF SIR HENRY PEYTON, BART.: William Nicholls, labourer, Stoke Lyne, was charged by Sergeant John Wharton with damaging growing underwood, to the amount of 1s., the property of Sir Henry Peyton, Bart. Nicholls pleaded guilty. Sergeant Wharton said – On Saturday, the 2nd of September, he heard some one in the wood, and saw the defendant nutting. Went and collared him, and took from him a peck of nuts. He had also much broken the boughs to enable him to gather the nuts. Sir Henry Peyton said he did not wish to be hard on him, but at the same time he must caution him not to be found there a second time, and to tell them at Fawcett, that if they go there they will be sure to be caught, when they will not get off so easily. The case would be dismissed on payment of the costs, 4s. Paid.

The wood was also a target for poachers. Here's an extract from the Oxford Times of 29th April 1869:

PETTY SESSIONS, APRIL, 21: TRESPASS. – Samuel James and Edmund Heydon, of Stoke Lyne, charged by Thomas Simons, with having on the 27th day of February last, at the parish of Stoke Lyne, unlawfully entered a certain wood the property of Sir Henry Peyton, Bart., about the hour of twelve at night, with a gun

The wood was also popular with the local hunt and featured in many newspapers accounts of their activities, a typical one being this extract from the Oxford Journal of 15th April 1891:

"THE BICESTER HOUNDS met on Tuesday, April 7, at Ardley. After doing very little in the morning round Middleton, they came back to draw Stoke Wood, a covert which is notable for the wonderful stoutness of its foxes, and on this day it maintained its reputation and covered itself with glory. A fox was away as soon as the hounds were in the covert. Leaving Swift's House on the left and Bainton on the right, they ran on fast to Waterloo Farm, over Stratton Park, through Stratton Copse, over the brook, where several came to grief"

In more recent times the wood was damaged in 1954 when an American B47 bomber plane crashed into the wood killing its crew. This is how it was reported in the Banbury Guardian of 11th February:

"U.S. AIRMEN KILLED AS STRATOJET CRASHES: Four American airmen were killed when their B.47 Stratojet, claimed to be the world's fastest atom bomb-carrying aircraft crashed in a wood near Upper Heyford as it was landing early on Monday morning. The plane, which belonged to the U.S. 22nd Bomber Wing, now on 90-day training in England, fell on Stoke Wood, a mile and half from the end of the run-way. Parts of the wood were set alight and fire brigades from Banbury, Bicester and Deddington were called to deal with the blaze. Debris was scattered over a wide area. Swift House, the home of Sir Algernon Peyton is near the scene of the crash. David Curtis, who was sleeping in the Lodge, was awakened by the crash and hurried to the scene. But the heat from the blazing plane was so fierce that he was unable to get anywhere near.

Back to the present: at this time of year one looks forward to seeing the seasonal succession of flowers appear in the wood. Species include bluebells, primroses, early purple orchid, wood anemone, yellow archangel and dog's mercury as well as adder's tongue fern. As the year progresses there are also butterflies to spot in the glades including less common species such as purple emperor, white admiral and silver-washed fritillary.

Trees of note include the remains of the ornamental avenue of Corsican pines which ran the length of the wood which will be retained as specimen trees. On the southern boundary bank stands a rare wild service or "Chequers" tree. There is also an ancient stool of coppiced hornbeam in the wood 5.5 metres in diameter which Donald discovered: *"This is the only hornbeam tree in the wood, it's a rarity in this area; this huge stool may one of the oldest living things in the wood."* It was also in Donald's time as warden that volunteers placed 10 owl nest boxes on trees in various locations round the wood to attract tawny owls.

Finally, the WT website summarises Stoke Wood thus:

"This delightful ancient wood contains a mix of native broadleaf and exotic conifers, carpets of bluebell in the spring and a wide variety of bird and butterfly species. With several open glades and a small meadow, it provides important habitats for invertebrates and its prominent position on an otherwise flat landscape makes it a landmark that can be seen for miles around."

Just how long in the face of nearby threatened warehousing planning applications it will remain a landmark that can be seen for miles is open to conjecture.

Brenda Hazel

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

CHURCHWARDENS: Sarah Noujaim, 15 Cavendish Place, Stratton Audley
Penny Oakey, Grange Farm, Godington

TREASURER: Fai Li

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Jackie Fox

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Vacant

Tel 07725 009838



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EASTER SERVICE

**Sunday 17th April 10.45am Holy Communion for Easter Day at Stratton Audley Parish Church.
See back page for details of other services.**

Audrey Wakefield

As many of you will know by now, Audrey Wakefield, a resident of Willows Lodge, died recently after a short period in hospital. She leaves behind a devoted husband Jeff, to whom she was married for 32 years, a devoted daughter, Fiona, and grandson George.

Audrey and Jeff moved to the village in 2006, and supported many of the village activities. Audrey was a highly accomplished violinist having studied at the Royal Manchester College of Music and was a member of the BBC Symphony Orchestra for most of her professional life. She was often involved in solo performances for BBC and it is where she met Jeff in 1980. Audrey always had a smile on her face and a sunny disposition and will be sadly missed by all those who knew her. Her funeral service took place on 22nd March.

Churchyard Mowing

We will shortly be drawing up a new mowing rota for Stratton Audley Churchyard to cover late March-late September this year. If anyone new would like to join in then do just contact Jeremy on 01869 277471 or email beckyandjeremy@aol.com It takes about an hour and a half to mow the area from the back of the war memorial round to the path at the back of the church and volunteers are only asked to mow once or twice during the season so it really isn't too onerous





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Queens Platinum Jubilee – Save the date

A community wide street party will be held to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee. National celebrations will take place from 2-5th June 2022 and we have pencilled in **Sunday 5th June** as our day of celebration. If you want to help or join the committee, please email Abbey Short Abbey.Short@olympia.london

Annual OPEN Meeting of the Parish - Save the Date - 6th April

The Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting for Stratton Audley will be held at St Mary and St Edburga Church on **Wednesday 6th April at 7.30pm**.

This is not to be confused with the Annual Parish Council Meeting but an OPEN meeting of the Parish. The Parish Council traditionally facilitates the meeting and creates a running order to include current matters known to be of interest to the community. However any relevant matters can be raised for discussion at the meeting by any member of the Parish.

Do try and come as the results of the village survey and recent speed checks will be presented.

Stratton Audley 100 club

The draw takes place at coffee morning in the Red Lion on the first Wednesday in the month

The winners in the 100 Club draw for the month of March 2022 are:

£30	Emma Fish (47)
£20	Hazel Somerville (34)
£10	Simon Goss(61)
£10	Honsinger family (130)

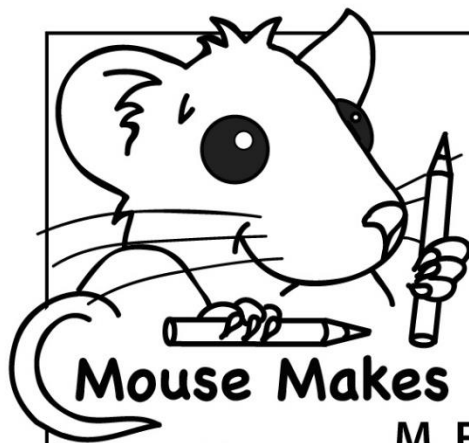
Defibrillator Training – Date to be confirmed

Nine people have so far asked to participate in Defibrillator training which will take place in the Church building on a Saturday morning (likely 10-12noon). The PC are arranging for South Central Ambulance to run the training session and there are still a few places remaining - date is yet to be confirmed.

Please email jhonsinger@btconnect.com if you want your name added to the list.

New residents may not be aware that there is a public defibrillator located in the Church Porch which is accessible at all times even when the church is locked at night. It is in a contained in a yellow metal box secured to the wall on the right hand side and ready for use at all times. The code is printed on the box for quick access but the general rule is to phone 999 so the emergency services can locate the position of the box. The moment the defibrillator box is opened you get automatic instructions so that most people can use it without fear of doing the wrong thing.

Parish Newsletter is regularly circulated by email. This keeps you up to date on charity fundraising for the Ukraine, EWR road works, and other items of village interest. Special events are being held in Stratton Audley Barn, and a view of Easter stock, also details of delicious food events at the Red Lion. Please support all local business. Please email jhonsinger@btconnect.com if you want your name added to the list.



Mouse Makes



Who betrayed Jesus?
Who denied Jesus?

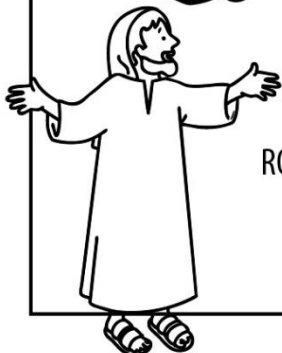
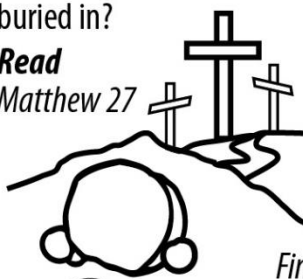
Read Matthew 26:17-75



What did the soldiers put
on Jesus at his crucifixion?
What time did Jesus die?
Whose tomb was Jesus
buried in?

Read

Matthew 27



HAPPY EASTER!

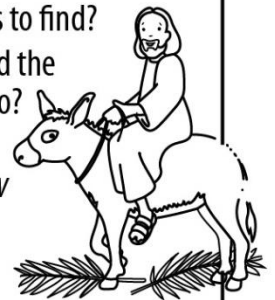
Jesus has risen!
Jesus is with us!
Jesus will come
again!



What did Jesus send the
disciples to find?

What did the
crowd do?

Read
Matthew
21:1-11



What did
Jesus do
at Passover?

Read Matthew 26:17-30

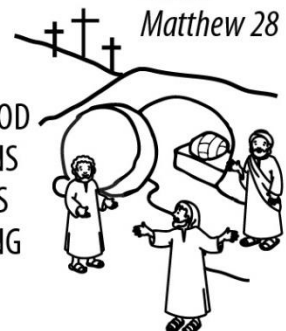


On the third day who
rolled away the stone
covering the tomb?

What had happened
to Jesus?

Read

Matthew 28



Find these words from the Easter story in the word search:

DONKEY • ROAD • BRANCHES • PALMS • KING • HOSANNA
PASSOVER • ROOM • BREAD • WINE • CUP • MEAL • BODY • BLOOD
KISS • MESSIAH • CHRIST • JESUS • CRUCIFY • CROWN • THORNS
ROBE • TREE • NAILS • CROSS • DARKNESS • QUAKE • DEATH • LOTS
TOMB • LINEN • STONE • BODY • BURY • THREE DAYS • MORNING
MARY • ANGEL • HEAVEN • GOD • RAISED • JOY • GO TELL
GOOD NEWS • PEACE • SPIRIT • SAVIOUR • PRAISE • EASTER

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W: www.strattoncourtbarn.co.uk



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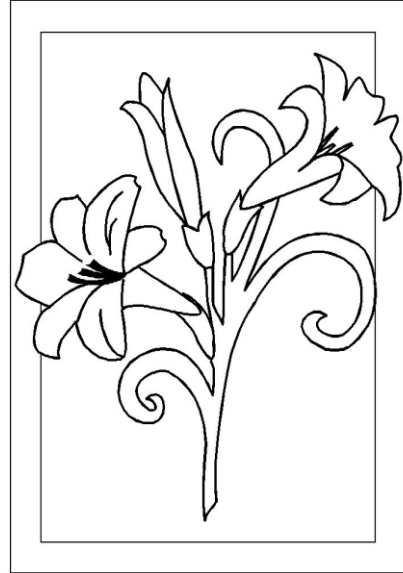
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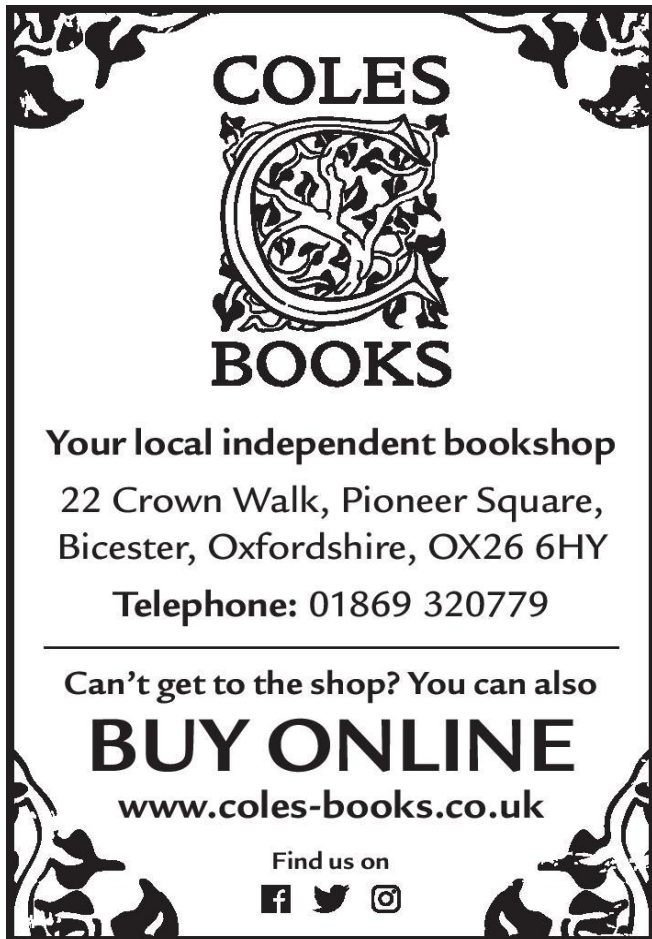
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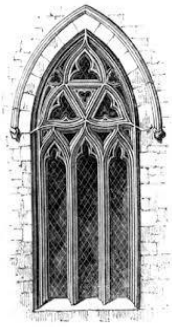
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