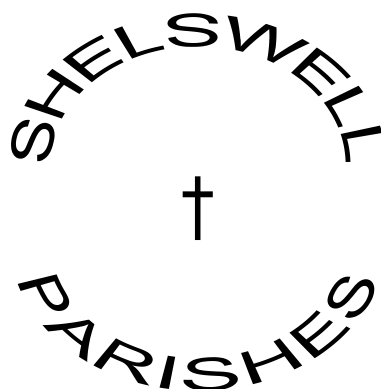


# Shelswell News

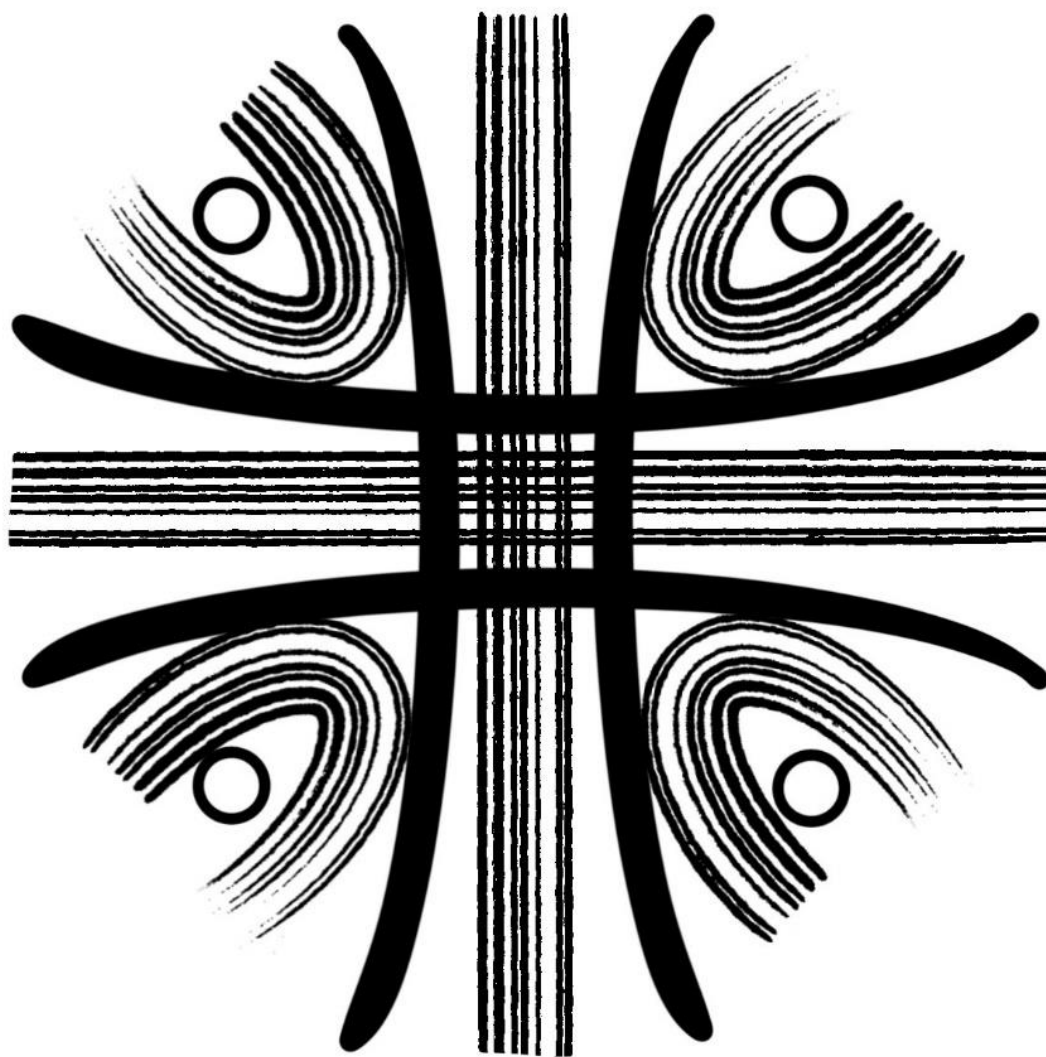
The magazine of the Shelswell Group of Churches

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Cottisford  
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August 2022

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## SHELLOWELL BENEFICE MISSION STATEMENT

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

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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

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

To Magazine Correspondents: **Friday August 12**

Correspondents to Editor: **Sunday August 14** at [editor@shelswellparishes.info](mailto:editor@shelswellparishes.info)

**All articles must be submitted in WORD in a format that can be COPIED AND PASTED PLEASE**

[www.shelswellparishes.info](http://www.shelswellparishes.info)

Many thanks for your cooperation.

**SHELLOWELL NEWS ARCHIVE.** to look up previous issues of the Shelswell News. Please go to the Benefice website and look at the Archive. If the issue you want to refer to is not there please contact the Benefice office .

## MINISTER'S LETTER

### Is Life but a Weaving?

Last November my very dear, close friend of more than 50 years died suddenly, without warning. Receiving the news was such a shock. Displayed at her funeral and thanksgiving service were some examples of her beautiful, colourful creative work – knitting, crochet, tapestry, felting and weaving. For her, the more intricate the pattern the better!

To honour her memory, I thought I would have a go at something creative. I realised too late that the first needlepoint I sent for did not have the picture printed on the canvas. Too complicated for me, so that was set aside. I settled on two pre-printed canvases with butterflies for one daughter and dragonflies for the other. They didn't turn out too badly but, as the undersides were such a mess, I attached a backing very firmly to each one.

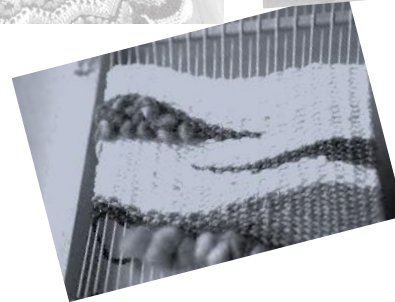
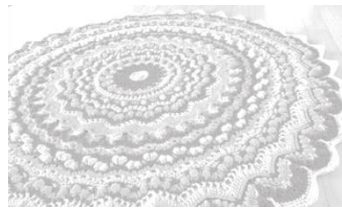
The poem 'Life is but a Weaving' by Corrie ten Boom came to mind.

My life is but a weaving  
Between my God and me.  
I cannot choose the colours  
He weaveth steadily.

Oft' times He weaveth sorrow;  
And I in foolish pride  
Forget He sees the upper  
And I the underside.

Not 'til the loom is silent  
And the shuttles cease to fly  
Will God unroll the canvas  
And reveal the reason why.

The dark threads are as needful  
In the weaver's skillful hand  
As the threads of gold and silver  
In the pattern He has planned.



He knows, He loves, He cares;  
Nothing this truth can dim.  
He gives the very best to those  
Who leave the choice to Him.

This poem reminds us that it is as though we look at life from the underside side of the tapestry. Often our lives do not seem to follow the pattern we were expecting. We sometimes find it hard to discern the overall picture from the loose threads, criss-crosses and tangled knots we see. Only occasionally, as God's light shines through, do we get a glimpse of the design he is weaving from the darks and lights of our lives.

For my birthday in Spring last year, my friend gave me a card with a simple weaving on the front, in vibrant orange and yellow. There was no sign of any loose ends. Eight months later, she was no longer with us – a bright thread had been broken. I keep this weaving to remind me that this friend was so good at keeping her family and friends united, and that we who are left must endeavour to keep the remaining threads together.

How good are we at supporting those for whom some of the threads of life have become knotted, twisted or broken?

Life is like a tapestry, our lives and relationships tightly woven.

Since we are so interconnected, it makes sense to weave our words  
and actions with love, kindness, trust, honesty and forgiveness.

Because we all share the same tapestry. We share the same world.

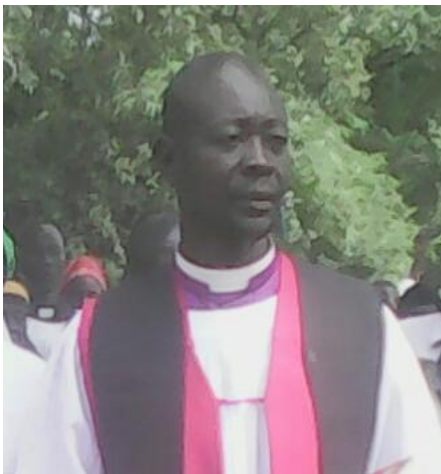
*David Hamilton*

## BIBLE READINGS



Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> August	8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	Genesis 15 v1-6 Hebrews 11 v1-3 and 8-16 Luke 12 v32-40
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> August	9 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	Jeremiah 23 v23-29 Hebrews 11 v29 – 12 v2 Luke 12 v49-56
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> August	10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	Isaiah 58 v9b-end Hebrews 12 v18-end Luke 13 v10-17
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> August	11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	Proverbs 25 v6-7 Hebrews 13 v1-8 and 15-16 Luke 14 v1 and 7-14

**Come and meet Bishop Zechariah**  
**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August**  
**7 pm for supper (no charge)**  
**7.30 pm for brief presentation, questions and answers**  
**St Peter's Church, Stoke Lyne**



We are delighted to be able to welcome Bishop Zechariah and his wife Mama Nyikon Abuou from Wulu Diocese in South Sudan to the Shelswell Benefice in the week of 8<sup>th</sup> August. Over the past three years, we have sent regular donations to the ox plough project, enabling the Women's Farming Project in Wulu to farm more land and grow more crops, and we have just started to support the Girls' Primary School in Wulu. So it will be great to meet Bishop Zechariah and hear first-hand more about the projects and their impact.

Bishop Zechariah will be in the UK the previous week to attend the Lambeth Conference, and we are grateful to the Diocese of Salisbury, who have a link with the Anglican Church in South Sudan and facilitate the Bishops and their spouses staying on for a week to visit supporting parishes.

As well as showing them around the Benefice, we would like to invite you to come along on the evening of Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August to share a meal with Bishop Zechariah and his wife and to hear a little from him about the Diocese of Wulu.

Some of the questions we have are:

- what difference has the Ox Plough project made?
- how has Covid affected Wulu?
- how is climate change impacting on life in Wulu, with reference to factors like increases in flooding, influx of internally displaced people and so on.

Please let me know your particular questions so I can add them to the list.

It would be helpful for catering purposes if you can let me know that you hope to be at the meal – email me on [alicegoodall313@gmail.com](mailto:alicegoodall313@gmail.com)

Hope to see you there!

Alice

## THE FUTURE WE CHOOSE ....

.... How will we care for the world we love?

Worldwide we see rising temperatures, increasingly violent storms, raging wildfires, widespread droughts and floods, mass migration, loss of biodiversity, ice sheets melting, sea levels rising. Thinking about such issues can be overwhelming.

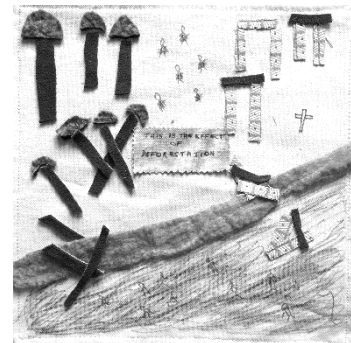
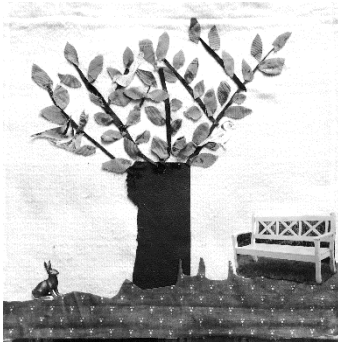
At 'Shelswell by the Sea' a guided meditation helped people to focus on one special thing that is in danger because of climate change. Something they love and would like to help.

Responses included:

- Flowers (roses); Animals (lambs); Birds (robins); Insects (bees); Plants
- Sea - plastic waste; Stop using plastic; Erosion of cliffs; Erosion of the east coast.
- Loss of four distinct seasons; Fruit - no pears on tree for third year running.
- Overconsumption using up the earth's precious resources.
- Amazon Rainforest; Elephants; Polar Bears; Save the hedgehogs.
- Bishop Zechariah's garden devastated by a flood.
- Leave the verges uncut for as long as possible for insects; Stop cutting down trees;
- Trees and flowers got several mentions, as did bees.
- "We farm extensively without chemicals on the pasture, encouraging wildflowers. We planted a wood for carbon footprint. We rear lambs, treating them as necessary for any problems."



Some people thought of an image to illustrate their response and, using scraps of material and other odds and ends, 13 striking pictures on fabric panels were produced. *Such creativity!*



THIS IS THE EFFECT OF DEFORESTATION

*Look out for these panels, which will be displayed in Benefice Churches soon.*

The inspiration for this activity was the **Loving Earth Project**, an international community venture which helps people engage creatively with environmental issues.

To see more panels, visit <https://lovingearth-project.uk/test-gallery/>

Many of these were displayed at COP26 in Glasgow last November.

*God our Creator, create in us a new heart, a new understanding, a new way of living.*

*God our Redeemer, open our eyes to see the dangers that lie ahead because of climate change.*

*God our Sustainer, equip and energise us to hold fast to the changes we need to make.*

*Help us to find better ways to live in harmony with our fragile planet and give us the will to use its riches for the good and welfare of all. Amen.*



## NAI'S HOUSE UPDATE

On Saturday 2nd July Nai's House was delighted to hold their first #BeNice festival, to bring together the local community to say thank you for their continued support and generosity.

This festival did not just happen and a lot of planning and hard work went into the organisation of this event.

Thanks must go firstly to my wonderful team of volunteers who worked tirelessly to make the festival what it was, in particular Megan Manning, Martha Bohan, Dan Cooper and Roz Edwards, and also to our fantastic team of friends who worked so hard on the day, big shout out to Pete Rhone for a being there from start to finish.

Thank you to Bicester Town Mayor, Alex Thrupp for supporting our festival, Bicester Town Council for letting us use Garth Park, Metcalf Security Group for keeping everyone safe and Distinct Solutions for the loan of audio equipment.

Thanks also to all the amazing stallholders, artists, skaters, performers, musicians, singers, DJ's and MC's who helped us make the festival what it was.

And finally, thank you to all the people who came along and made it such a success.

Unfortunately the weather was not obliging but it did not stop the crowd from having a great time and coming out in force to watch the demonstrations given by Bicester ECU Cheerleaders, The Just Dance Company and Lions Kickboxing. Workshops were offered by Community Albums and Caroline's little yogi's and &Sister yoga at the Glitter Den. A range of music to suit all tastes was provided all day on the bandstand, headlined by Daze and followed by a number of local acts such as Grace Healy, Kit Goff and Danny Morrell to name but a few, and more dancing was had by people of all ages at DJ Richie's all day mix in the silent disco.

The festival ended with a bang thanks to K-Netic, AC MC and The Unit!

Many happy, new memories were created!

We look forward to holding this free event every year as a thank you to the people of Bicester for their continued support.

Please remember, Nai's House is a suicide prevention and holistic youth mental health charity. We can only succeed with your help as we are not funded by the government and rely on donations to keep going.



## REGISTRY

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

### Baptisms

#### **Alexander William Pieter van der Merwe**

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June – St Michael and All Angels, Fringford



A large crowd of Alexander's family and friends gathered outside the gates of St Michael and All Angels, Fringford, waiting for his arrival. Alexander was born in February this year, first child of Danyelle Prpa and Tom van der Merwe. Although Danyelle, Tom and Alexander live in Bicester now, Danyelle's family have a long association with Fringford. Danyelle and Tom were married there, as were her parents and grandparents, and Alexander was the fifth generation to be baptised in the church. Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June was Fathers' Day, which had added significance as both Danyelle and her sister had been christened on Mothers' Days.

As well as it being a family tradition, Danyelle and Tom's top three reasons for wanting Alexander christened included their desire to mark the start of a journey of faith for him and wanting him to belong to the church – specifically Fringford church!

The christening took place as part of Fringford's communion service on that day, and it was lovely to see the church so full of people. Danyelle and Tom had chosen 'All things bright and beautiful' to be one of the hymns. Unfortunately, Pam Morgan, who was due to play the organ, had covid, so we had to make do with a speaker. There were four godparents: Tim Middleton, who was Tom's best friend from school, Jamie Prpa and Emily Blake,

who were both cousins of Danyelle, and Ana Djuradjevic who was a family friend. The sermon was given by Penny Wood, who had also spoken at Danyelle and Tom's wedding. And Alexander behaved beautifully throughout.

After the christening, everyone went off to the Village Hall for further celebrations.

We pray that God will richly bless Alexander and his family, and that he will grow up knowing just how much God loves him.

#### **Vernon James Elliott Bailey**

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July – All Saints, Mixbury

It was a lovely sunny afternoon as James' family and friends gathered in Mixbury church for his christening. James, the second child of Harriet and Jon Bailey, made his appearance in the world at the end of February 2021, nine days later than expected. Both his parents work in farming, and Harriet was back at work after just a week. Although known as James, James's first name, like that of his father and grandfather, was Vernon, which is a Bailey family tradition.

The reading that Jon and Harriet had chosen for the service was Isaiah 43: 1 – 3 with the wonderful line 'I have called you by name, you are mine' and the reminder that God knows and loves each one of us and travels with us through our lives. To help us think about baptism, all the children and a few of the young at heart made baptingles. We lit these and sang 'He's got the whole world in his hands'.



Jon and Harriet had chosen two other hymns: 'All things bright and beautiful' and 'Sing hosanna'. Corinne Handley played the organ – she had chosen a medley of songs that she thought the children might have known from school to play before the service.

James had five godparents: Alex and Nicola Butcher, Emily Brooks, Joe Brodie and Graham Knight. Big sister Jessica helped out throughout, joining in with signing James's forehead with the sign of the cross, testing the temperature of the water in the font and holding his baptism candle for him at the end of the service.

After the service, everyone went back to the house for drinks and a selection of amazing cakes, and there was much splashing in the paddling pool with considerable enjoyment by all the children.

We pray for James as he sets off on his journey of faith – may he know God's blessings in his life.



## Marriages

### Edward Hugo Francis **RUSS** and Amber Alice **IBBOTSON-GUE**

On Saturday 2 July 1pm Edward (Teddy) Hugo Francis **RUSS** and Amber Alice **IBBOTSON-GUE** were married in St Michael and All Angels Church, Fringford. Teddy and Amber live in Berkhamsted and Amber's parents Robert and Nicola live in Fringford and they hosted the Wedding Reception in their garden. Teddy's day began with the stress of a flat car battery and the need to make alternate plans for the transportation of the Bridesmaids! But he and his Best Men made it to the church in perfect time and were ready to welcome all the guests as they arrived.



Amber and Robert made the short journey from the house to the church together and were joined by all the Maid of Honour and Bridesmaids at the church gate. Beautiful fresh flowers adorned the wooden arch and windows and all the whole church smelled wonderful! Barbara Krajewska entertained the gathering congregation on violin and provided both Entrance and Recessional music during the service.





The church was filled with family and friends and the service was a wonderful time of celebration. Amber and Teddy had chosen various readings which were read by family and friends. Oli Dugmore read *Love's Labour's Lost*, Act 4 Scene 3, Julie Russ read the poem *If*. Due to the minor complication of some church cleaning and the rescue of a Natterer's bat earlier in the morning, Ria Harrison's readings were misplaced, but with a Bible and the wonders of phone technology, she carried on regardless! Teddy and Amber had chosen several hymns including *Lord of all Hopefulness* and for this hymn Chrystia Reynolds sang the first verse solo for us.

Teddy and Amber left the church in Rob's car and most of the congregation walked up to the Green and into Nicola and Robert's garden. It wasn't too long after that that the heavens opened, but thankfully it was just a short downpour and the party could go ahead well into the night!

We wish Amber and Teddy much joy and happiness in the years ahead and pray God blessing upon them both throughout their married life.



## Funerals

### Margaret Doak

8<sup>th</sup> November 1961 – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022

A Service of Love and Thanksgiving for the life of Margaret Doak was held at North Oxfordshire Crematorium on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June.



Margaret's family, the Seatons, are an old Mixbury family. She met her husband Glenn at the speedway in Oxford, and they took to each other straight away. They were married 42 years and have lived in their current house in Bicester for 30 years

Margaret initially worked as an administrator in the Gas Board showroom in Bicester, before moving to Cowley where her role was sorting out the vehicles. She stopped work when their sons were born, but when they were old enough she got a job with the Tourist Board at Bicester Village, which she thoroughly enjoyed until the funding was withdrawn. It then became the information centre for Bicester Village. Although she continued to enjoy meeting people, the job had changed, so when her old manager invited her to apply for a post working as a planner back with the Gas Board, now the Southern Gas Network, she jumped at it.

Glenn and Margaret had two sons, Callum, now 28 and serving in the Grenadier Guards up in Harrogate, and Alister, now 26 and following in his mum's footsteps working as a planner in the Gas Trade.

Margaret loved time with friends and loved organising – she used to organise quizzes, events for Red Nose Day and for Christmas, and so on. One of her real passions was the theatre – and she had organised many a trip to a show. For Glenn's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday she organised for them to see 'From Far Away' - in New York. At the last show she and Glenn had gone to, they enjoyed watching the performance from a box. She enjoyed holidays, in particular cruising – Glenn hadn't been keen initially, but Margaret persuaded him to give it a try, and he loved it. For their 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary, Margaret organised for them to go to Venice.

Four weeks before her death, Margaret had been busy booking a hotel in Leeds and was looking forward to going to watch the cricket at Headington, her last mothers' day gift from Callum. The next day she had a minor stroke. It was then that it was discovered that she had advanced liver cancer. Her health quickly deteriorated, and she passed away on 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

At her funeral, we entered the chapel to the theme from The Mission, which was one of Margaret's favourite films. Glenn had chosen two hymns: 'Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us' and 'The Lord's my Shepherd'. Margaret's son, Callum, gave a moving tribute, speaking without notes. A good friend, Patrick Barton-Blencowe, read the poem 'God's Garden'. We left the chapel to The Swans 'Darling, you're the best thing'. We then went across to the Churchill Pavilion for refreshments and the opportunity to exchange memories of Margaret.

Our prayers are with Glenn, Callum and Alister at this sad time.

### **Michael Robert Barnes (known as Mick)**

25<sup>th</sup> April 1937 to 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022

Mick Barnes was born in London. His mum was one of the 6 Upston children who lived in Stratton Audley. She worked at Claridges, and Mick was brought up by Granny and Gramp in Stratton Audley. He lived in Stratton until his national service. It was in Stratton that he met Shirley in the Red Lion. After a brief spell of office work, which she hated, she was happily working as a groom for the Goslings in Stratton Audley, and the Red Lion was where they all went on a Friday night. She was 17 and he was 18 ½.



Mick's national service with the RAF took him to Cypress for two years. When he returned, he decided to look Shirley up, arriving on the doorstep of her mother's house in Great Brickhill near Woburn Sands. He had bought himself a rather nice second hand Opel car, and it wasn't long before Shirley was persuaded to get in it. Romance ensued, and they were married in Great Brickhill Church on 30<sup>th</sup> November 58 years ago. They moved into their house in Bicester which Mick had built. On 6<sup>th</sup> September the following year, their daughter Mandy was born, followed 19 months later by their son Paul.

Mick was a self employed carpenter and joiner. (He served his apprenticeship at the same time as Tony Wilkins from Fringford). A hard worker, and with an eye to growing the business, he never wanted to spend money on his own property, much preferring to mend or sort something himself. He enjoyed teaching his children and grandchildren to do the same. If any of them spotted an old pram wheel in the hedge when they were out, for example, the car would be stopped and the wheel collected for the children to use in making a go cart. He was a lovely dad and grandad, and was dearly loved by Mandy and Paul, and his grandsons Jack and Harry.

Mick was a keen sportsman. He loved cricket and played for Fringford Cricket Club for many years, the family going along to encourage him every weekend. In the photograph, he is receiving the cup on behalf of Fringford Cricket Club after they had won the final down at Bicester Cricket Pitch. He picked up the trophy that day as he had got 96 runs. Sadly, he had to stop playing after he developed a serious back problem, so then he took up golf. This took him and Shirley to Portugal and Spain on a couple of occasions – he played golf and she went riding. And in latter years he took up bowling at Piddington Village Hall which he continued until the pandemic.



About 5 months ago, Mick had a stroke, and although he was working hard to pick up from that, he was knocked back by a further stroke some while later. For the last couple of months of his life he was cared for at Cherwood House, passing away on 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

Mick was laid to rest in Stratton Audley, which was his wish, and there was a service of thanksgiving for his life on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July in the church. There were two hymns: 'The Lord's my shepherd' and 'Lord of all hopefulness'. Tributes were given by Mandy, Paul, Jack and Harry, and a tribute from an old friend, George Rawlings was read by Derek Joy. There were two poems, 'Count your garden by the flowers' which Helen Barnes read, and 'What the bird said early in the year' by C.S. Lewis. Shirley had seen the poem on a plaque when visiting Oxford, and had been so struck by it that she copied it down. The poem speaks of how, even though our earthly bodies decay and life is characterised by a circularity and unfulfilled promises, we hold fast to the Christian hope of eternal life lived out in the splendour of God's glory.

Our prayers are with the Barnes family at this time.

#### What the Bird Said Early in the Year - C.S. Lewis

I heard in Addison's Walk a bird sing clear:  
This year the summer will come true. This year. This year.

Winds will not strip the blossom from the apple trees  
This year, nor want of rain destroy the peas.

This year time's nature will no more defeat you,  
Nor all the promised moments in their passing cheat you.

This time they will not lead you round and back  
To Autumn, one year older, by the well-worn track.

This year, this year, as all these flowers foretell,  
We shall escape the circle and undo the spell.

Often deceived, yet open once again your heart,  
Quick, quick, quick, quick! – the gates are drawn apart.

#### Frances Jean Stirling Stokes

9<sup>th</sup> May 1924 – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Frances Stokes was born in Edinburgh and although she spent many years in the south she always took the opportunity to return to the town of her birth. She was the third child to Thomas and Mary Campbell with two older siblings, Alastair and Katharine, and her younger brother Tom to whom she was very close. She recalled the times when they would sneak into her father's car and go down to the fish market with him – and have tea and bacon rolls after – and of their holidays in West Linton travelling there by pony and trap – idyllic days.

Frances enjoyed her upbringing in Edinburgh with, in particular, two lifelong friends: Wendy, who lived a few houses down Mansion House Road, and Irene who in their teens went on cycling holidays together. They remained friends their entire lives. She attended St Trinians School which was within walking distance of her home. When war came, St Trinians moved out to the country and she then attended Watsons College. After school she took a course for young Edinburgh ladies at Athol Crescent and then went on to become a nursery teacher.

Life was lively and she enjoyed a good social life. Then in 1945 she was taking the sea air with her friend Wendy on a beach in Fife when two young Naval Officers happened along. It was love at first sight for them both as Sub-Lieutenant Donald Packham courted Miss Frances Campbell and they were married in the Barclay Church in Edinburgh on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1947. Being the wife of a naval pilot meant a disruptive start to married life as Don was flying from bases all around Scotland. In May 1948 however they moved to Cornwall where he was based at RNAS Culdrose. There Frances made lifelong friendships with Patricia Ferguson and Mary Price - whose husbands were also naval pilots. There seemed to be many happy days at the beach and after their first child David was born in October 1948 lots of pram pushing expeditions. A few years later Frances gave birth to Christopher. Unfortunately he died of cot death at three months. A tragedy but one she overcame and carried on in her role as naval wife.





Life in the navy meant moves were inevitable and the next port of call was Fareham, Hampshire. It was there in May 1954 that Mary Ann was born. Again new friendships were made and married life with two children kept her very busy. On one occasion the cousins Norma and Michael visited and there was a water fight with boys outside the house with a hose and girls inside the house with buckets. Fun times!!

In 1956 Don was posted onto HMS Illustrious for an 18 month spell at sea. So Frances took the opportunity to move back to her beloved Edinburgh for the period to be back amongst her family and friends there. When Don came ashore it was back south to Somerset. Frances was never fazed with moving and soon new friendships were formed on the naval base at Yeovilton. However after 18 months Don suffered from shingles with the result he lost most of the sight in one eye. So he took the opportunity to leave the navy and Frances took the opportunity to move the family back to Edinburgh.

During the sixties, apart from a brief spell in Broughty Ferry, The family were based in Edinburgh where old friendships were rekindled and new friends made. Holidays in Elie and on Mull and life was settled. Until a job opportunity arose in High Wycombe and they moved south again to Longwick in 1972. Frances soon made new friends within the area and there were many times sipping gin and tonics in the garden and Friday evenings in the pub - two doors down. Frances always welcomed people into her house and often a lunch planned for four would be stretched to feed many more. She also enjoyed talking to the children's friends and hearing their stories and giving advice!

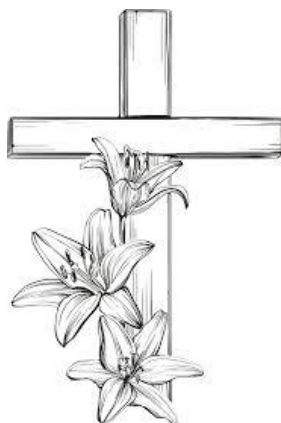
Longwick was a long settled period for Frances when a second tragedy struck with the death of her beloved Don in March 1990 from cancer. After 43 years of marriage this was a terrible loss but Frances came through this period, moved to Long Crendon and with the support of her friends and family rebuilt her life.

It was at one of her drinks parties that John Stokes, who she had known from Longwick days, came into her life. They were both living alone and decided to marry. So yet another move in 1996, this time to Stratton Audley.

Again Frances made many new friends and was active with her bridge and entertaining whenever she found an opportunity. She and John enjoyed holidaying abroad and in this country and visiting their families. Then John passed away in June 2003. Life carried on but then in 2008 Mary Ann was diagnosed with cancer. For the final few months of Mary Ann's life Frances cared for her until she passed away in March 2009. Mary Ann's death hit her hard, however never one to dwell on life's tragedies she continued to live an active life. She had her grandchildren to keep her young at heart, with their weddings, and then along came her 7 great-grandchildren. Family was always important to her and she loved being with them whenever she could.

The last two years have been challenging for us all with Covid 19 but for Frances it was particularly difficult. She was blessed with many friends as well as family who made great efforts to visit her when they could and this was much appreciated. In May she celebrated her 98th birthday in the grounds of Cherwood House with family and special friends Jonny and Nicki.

Frances passed away on 5<sup>th</sup> June. Her funeral took place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July at North Oxfordshire Crematorium. After a very good lunch in the courtyard at the Red Lion -which Frances would have enjoyed - a service of thanksgiving was held in St Mary and St Edburga, Stratton Audley. The church was packed and lots of people from the village came to say their 'goodbyes'. Frances enjoyed her life to the full and enriched the lives so many. It is clear that she will be missed by all who knew her and she will remain long in their memories.



## **FRINGFORD C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL - VANDALISM**

Recently, there has been a sharp increase in incidents of damage to school property. The increased costs to the school of having to replace damaged equipment diverts money away from funding the essential resources our pupils need to learn. This term alone, our school alarm system was triggered when a classroom window was forced open, the newly erected fence between the play park wall and the farm has been dismantled and we have had to replace a number of pieces of school play equipment.

In attempt to curb these incidents we have had to take the decision to install CCTV. The CCTV will only be operational outside of school hours. That is, after school, weekends and holidays. During these times, the school grounds are out of bounds to all members of the public.

## **FRINGFORD SCHOOL – GOVERNOR VACANCY**

Would you like to be involved in the strategic planning for Fringford School and have some time to spare? The twelve member Governing Body is the accountable part of this successful school and we are seeking someone, ideally with no current links to the school, to add independence to its decision-making.

The Full Governing Body meets six times a year. In addition, other duties may include membership of the Resources Committee (dealing with Finance, Personnel and Premises) which meets three times together with undertaking monitoring visits to the school.

No experience of education is necessary but a willingness to undertake governance course would give you valuable insights into the role of a School Governor. Also, undertaking safeguarding training is essential and appointment will be dependent on a DBS check.

The role is very fulfilling and interesting and for further information, please contact the school on 01869 277397.

## **GOING OFF TO ‘UNI’**

This month thousands of young people will be preparing themselves for the exciting prospect of going off to what they all call ‘Uni’ in the autumn. Parents, grandparents and godparents will enjoy a mixture of pride and apprehension. This is a major step in life: leaving home, making new friends, study without compulsion and the heady gift of ‘freedom’. Amazingly, the vast majority of students survive it and love it.

As for parents, there are a few basic rules that it is well to adopt. Firstly, don’t get too involved in the choice of university. Modern students are a savvy bunch. They actually do talk to their teachers, and they know their way around the internet and social media. It’s highly likely that they will correctly identify the ‘right’ course and place for themselves.

Secondly, be available (on the end of a phone) but leave them space to make the odd silly mistake. Make sure they carry on their person the number of a reliable taxi service, for that occasion when they find themselves in the early hours and far from their digs. Thirdly, don’t worry about their being ‘lonely’. The average student makes a friend or two in the first ten minutes of arriving in their digs – and sometimes it’s for life!

Look forward to their coming home for the odd weekend, probably with some washing, but don’t regret it when they go back. In fact, enjoy the experience at second-hand. And lastly, there’s a lot to be said for a little daily prayer for them.

*Taken from the Parish Pump website (providing resources for parish magazines)*

# FINMERE PRE-SCHOOL

At Finmere C of E Primary School

**COME AND JOIN US!**

Finmere school is excited to announce the opening of our pre-school from September 2022. We are welcoming children who are 3 and older.

Please do contact us to arrange a visit.

01280 848459

office.3090@finmere.oxon.sch.uk

## SESSIONS AND FUNDING

- We will be accepting 15 and 30 hour funding.
- We will have morning, afternoon or all day sessions available.
- Indoor and extensive outdoor areas.
- Run by a qualified teacher.
- Welcoming children from Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire.

[WWW.FINMERE.OXON.SCH.UK](http://WWW.FINMERE.OXON.SCH.UK)



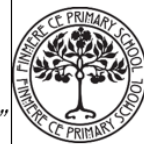


July  
2022

# Finmere C of E Primary School

Our school values are Kindness, Honesty and Perseverance.

*"Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord."*  
Hebrews 12:14



## Enrichment of play times and PE at Finmere C of E School

Finmere School have been busy unpacking lots of exciting new resources for our pupils! Our wonderful TAs have been working hard over playtimes this week to enable the children to make use of all the fantastic equipment we've recently purchased. I think you can see just how much the children are enjoying themselves with all the new activities they can now participate in, to be increasingly active during breaktimes. Funding has enabled us to purchase these games together with the replacement of some much-needed equipment and are already proving to be a huge asset to the school. The aim has been to enhance playtimes and first impressions are that we have succeeded. There have been some long games of chess, competitive four in a row and limbo which appears to have become a (low) high jump! The children have demonstrated the school values of kindness, perseverance and honesty in their teamwork and turn taking this week and we are incredibly proud of them.



## SHELLOW BY THE SEA

The Benefice 'Holiday at Home' was held in Hethe Village Hall on 4 and 5 July. Twelve people took part and there were seven helpers setting up and preparing food. Activities: Always available are: Newspapers to read, board games, a jigsaw puzzle. Some people bring their own crafts to do while chatting. Quizzes Are popular.

This time we had a go at making some panels for the '**Loving Earth Project: Caring for the World we Love**'. The idea is that people think of one person, place, animal, thing etc, they care about which will be harmed by climate change, and any action they might take. There is a guided meditation to help people focus on a particular thing. They then try to interpret their idea on a 30 cm square panel of fabric (Liz Welters has prepared some of these). See website below for examples of panels which went to the COP26 conference in Glasgow last year. Some are very simple, some much more elaborate. <http://lovingearth-project.uk/test-gallery/>. Veronica Barnes kindly came in the afternoons to help with this activity.

The jigsaw addicts for once struggled to complete a jigsaw: it was of the London Underground. In the end one person took it home to see if they could finish it given more time.

On Monday afternoon we had a talk from a representative of the Paralympic Heritage Trust in Aylesbury about a project going on in Finmere School about the Finmere Horse Show as was. They are working with the children from school to collect and record stories about the horse show which used to raise money for Stoke Mandeville. They are hoping to find people who might remember the show and could tell them stories about it. *[Anyone who'd like to contribute a memory or a photograph – let Alice know]*.

Then on 6 July five of us paid a visit to the Bell Plantation near Towcester, visited the shops chickens and reptiles, and enjoyed a long, lazy, lunch in the restaurant.

Looking forward, the next SBTS will probably be in October.

## Club News

**Coronavirus protective restrictions may apply and arrangements may be changed.**

### KNIT FOR PEACE

Knit for Peace recently issued an email saying they would like to change how they distribute knitting, as they have been gathering knitted donations at their head office only to send them out to various charities. They would like to trial connecting knitters to local charities in their own area where donations can be made directly. This would be more environmentally friendly.

This has come at the right time for me as until now I have been able to take our knitting to Hemel Hempstead where my sister lived, who was then able to transport them to London. My sister has now moved so I am unable to do this. However, by chance I was put in touch with Penni Davids-Austin who lives in Hall Farm, Fringford, and who works closely with several local charities who distribute knitting to needy people abroad and at home. Penni came to my home and was impressed with all the knitting we have done.

I would like to thank all the kind people who over the years have done some amazing knitting contributing to alleviate suffering in the world.

Best wishes, Marion Crowther

Editors note: Marion has worked very hard over the years for this Charity and a Thank you is definitely in order.

## 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.**

**We meet in the Chinnery Room at Fringford Village Hall.**

**Our next sessions are**

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 3– 5pm**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 7 – 9pm**

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 3- 5pm**

**Sessions are £2.00**

**No need to book – just come and join us!**

**If you would like information, please email Melissa at [mamcs100@gmail.com](mailto:mamcs100@gmail.com)**

## SHELSWELL WALKERS



The August walk will be on Sunday 14th August 10am meeting by the village hall in Fringford. The walk will be for around 2 hours. 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.**



In July we were led in what was, for most members, a new activity in the form of Seated Zumba. Our instructor was Thea Rogers, who had designed the activities to suit people of all levels of fitness, which meant everyone was able to join in as much (or as little) as they wanted. It was great fun and a reminder of both the physical and mental benefits of exercise.

Traditionally in August we organise a walk and, as always, visitors are very welcome to come along and join in, with plenty of opportunity to talk to members and find out more about the WI. This year we are meeting on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August at the Langford Village car park, in Bicester (postcode OX26 6XX), at 7p.m.. There will be a choice of walk, either a circular route taking in Graven Hill, to see the developments taking place there, which has featured in two C4 documentaries with Kevin M'Cloud, or a shorter circular route around Langford Park, including 'Stonehenge' and one or two of the lakes in the area. Both walks will last about an hour, and finish back at the car park, which is next to the Nightingale pub for anyone who would like to enjoy some refreshments.



Despite the pace of life picking up again over the past few months, members continue to value the ad hoc coffee mornings held from time to time, and the walks which Nicky has been regularly organising which are always very popular. Thank you for introducing us to so many interesting places around Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, Nicky.

The WI has maintained the vast majority of its activities and publications during the past couple of years, giving us some sense of continuity, which has been missing in so many other spheres of life. It gives members the opportunity to discover, and be involved in a wide range of activities, with like-minded people. The monthly 'Oxfordshire Inspires', and bi-monthly 'WI Life' magazines provide a wide range of stimulating articles and ideas, for all members. In addition there are many courses available on line through the 'MY WI' website, which are very popular, and frequent trips and holidays organised for members. Shelswell WI also continues to organise its own varied programme of meetings, held on the first Thursday of each month in Fringford Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Coming Up:

August 4<sup>th</sup> – Walk. Starting at Langford Village Centre (OX26 6XX) at 7p.m..

September 1<sup>st</sup> – Burlesque history and dance with Lauren from Attitude Dance school

We continue to collect empty foil pill cases and plastic bottle tops for recycling and Pathfinders. For more information on Shelswell WI, please contact the president Elaine Whittaker on 07917 453224



## **SHELLOW GARDEN CLUB**



Our June evening visit to the hidden, secret garden at Abbots House in Winslow was fascinating. Entry was by a gate at the side of the house, parts of which date back to the 1500's, into a small courtyard where Jane Rennie, the owner for 30 odd years, waited.

She explained that the small outhouse is used annually to make cider. The garden consisted of various areas leading from the courtyard with so much interest in all. She had constructed a small pond with falling water at the top of the lawn with lots of candelabra primulas, and aquatic plants which lead you up to an orchard, and natural garden, with a unique herd of cows busily grazing! There was a fabulous swimming pool area and a wonderful walled garden with an abundance of produce all growing and intermingled in the centre with other planting, and really interesting shrubs and plants including a host of spectacular Echium buzzing vibrantly with a mass of bees.

Jane had an old wash tub filled with some spectacular carnivorous plants that we learnt were hardy! Jane showed photos of the beginnings of the garden and it was pretty much a blank canvas, the years of toil, sweat and dedication were very evident, and they have produced a fabulous garden, a shabby chic retreat, a feast of colour, textures and a gem around every corner. Up there with the best of our visits!

The Club has their summer outing on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July to Avon Dassett then we have August off before starting again in September with Paul Green and his wonderful 'Dark and Mysterious' plants and talk. See you there at Hethe village hall on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm.



## SHELSWELL POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP

Look away now if you are a staunch teetotaler.....

Our July meeting dealt with the topic of Drink in poetry and ranged from water to absinthe.

*A Drink of Water* by **Jeffrey Harrison** and *Gunga Din* by **Rudyard Kipling** are both about far more than water, whilst *A Nice Cup of Tea*, as sung by **Binnie Hale** in the 1930s and *The Tea Lover's Week* by **Joanna Miller** celebrate the cup that cheers but does not inebriate.

Moving on to stronger stuff – *In the Tavern*, from **Carl Orff's Carmina Burana**; *Ode on a Danish Lager* by **Roger Mc Gough**; *The Glass of Beer* by **James Stephens**; *Terence, this is Stupid Stuff* from **AE Housman's A Shropshire Lad**; *Lines on Ale* by **Edgar Allen Poe**, and the anonymous *Drunk* all have a take on drinking. The anonymous popular wartime song *He Grabbed Me*, has something in common with Anglo-Saxon riddles, in that invites the hearer to interpret it and get it wrong! It is redolent of alcohol-fuelled rugby suppers and other all-male get-togethers in a less politically-correct age.

As for wine – **Arthur Rimbaud** in *Novel*, **Dorothy Parker** in *Inventory*, **Charles Baudelaire** in *The Soul of Wine* and **Francis Saltus Saltus** in *Chateau Margaux* have much to say.

And spirits? *My Papa's Waltz* by **Theodore Roethke** and *A Recipe for Whisky* by **Ron Butlin** deal with whisky, whilst *Sloe Gin* by **Seamus Heaney** and *The Absinthe Drinker* by **Arthur Symons** are self-explanatory.

*To Cecilia* by **Ben Jonson** rates alcohol and the nectar of the gods as worth less than the intoxication of his love for Cecilia.

Regrets, hangovers and a stern Scottish lecture about the damage alcohol can do were contained in *The Wild Rover as sung by The Chieftains*, *Melting into the Foreground* by **Roger Mc Gough** and the passionately serious but accidentally hilarious *The Demon Drink* by **William Topaz Mc Gonagall**.

When this magazine went to press the date and theme of the August meeting had not been decided, but if you would like to join us, please contact me on 01869 811994 or at [judith.harvey@live.co.uk](mailto:judith.harvey@live.co.uk)  
Judith Harvey

## SHELSWELL READING GROUP



The July book was *Klara and the Sun* by **Kazuo Ishiguro**. It is narrated by Klara, the solar-powered Artificial Friend of a sickly and lonely child, Josie. Set in the dystopian future in the American prairies, it deals with the harnessing of technology to enhance human life and the gradual humanisation of a robot. Klara has insight and an inner life but does not understand the world as a human would. There are echoes of Ishiguro's earlier novels, *The Remains of the Day* and *Never Let Me Go*. It is extremely involving and makes the reader ponder what it is to be human.

When this magazine went to press the date and book for August had not been chosen but if you would like to join the group, please contact Jane Birnage on 01280 847455 or at [janebirnage@icloud.com](mailto:janebirnage@icloud.com)

## REPORTS FROM THE PARISHES

### Cottisford and Juniper Hill St Mary the Virgin

CHURCHWARDEN: Charles Jackson, Cottisford House, Cottisford

TREASURER David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Vacancy

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Judith Harvey, Lark Rise Cottage, Juniper Hill Email: [judith.harvey@live.co.uk](mailto:judith.harvey@live.co.uk)

Tel 01280 848247

Tel 01869 277690

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



### COTTISFORD AND JUNIPER HILL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Don't forget to bring a picnic to the playing field at Juniper Hill on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September (2-4pm). The Committee will provide hot and cold soft drinks.

There will be a prize quiz (voluntary!) on the year 1953 (Coronation Year), a tombola and lots of children's games. We are looking for a volunteer to organise these, and we are gathering equipment – so if you have any bats, balls or other outdoor-games stuff you no longer need, please let Jane Birnage, Rachel Prior or Sally Evans know if you live in Cottisford and Judith Harvey, Gillian Groom or Eileen Torrance know for Juniper Hill. If you are willing to organise the games and medal-distribution (to everyone who participated), we'd like to know as soon as possible, please.

If you have something for the tombola stall, it will be very welcome. Please contact one of the people named above.

Let's hope for lovely weather, but the marquees will be going up in case it is wet or boiling hot!

### Finmere St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: Vacancy

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

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Katherine Grimston

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Paul Nash Email: [paan63@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:paan63@yahoo.co.uk)

Tel 01280 847782

Tel 01280 848268

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



### Village Hall

The village hall is now back open for use and bookings and many of the regular users have now resumed their scheduled events. We will shortly be posting a new set of pictures detailing the many improvements that been implemented during the renovation process

For enquiries, please visit [www.myfinmere.com/villagehall](http://www.myfinmere.com/villagehall)





## Allotments

The allotments are now a hive of activity with courgette, bean, onion and many other vegetable plants maturing. Allotment fees will shortly become due and at the current rate of £20 / year, represent very good value.

The Poor's Plot continues to have a small waiting list for allotment plots and there is always a possibility that a few plots may become available shortly, so any aspiring allotment users should visit

[www.myfinmere.com/poorsplot](http://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](http://www.shelswellparishes.info/finmere)

Finmere Parish Council website at – [www.finmerepc.org](http://www.finmerepc.org)

Village hall news at – [www.myfinmere.com](http://www.myfinmere.com)

Finmere Primary School - [www.finmere.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.finmere.oxon.sch.uk)

## Fringford St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: John Mayo, 10 Church Close, Fringford

Tel 01869 278873

TREASURER: Christina McCullagh, 5 Crosslands, Fringford

Tel 07867 515207

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Penny Wood as below

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Penny Wood, 8 Crosslands, Fringford

Tel 01869 277310

VILLAGE HALL CORRESPONDENT: Christine Underwood

Tel 01869 278949

WEBSITE [www.fringford.info](http://www.fringford.info)

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



### St Michael & All Angels, Services & Events

- Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August – 10.45 Family Service
- Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August - 10.45am Holy Communion
- Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September – 10.45am Family Service

Please check the back cover of this magazine, or the noticeboard at the church, or Facebook page [*Shelswell News*], or ring the Benefice office (01280-848192) to find out when and where services are on Sundays when there is not one in Fringford.

### Fringford Beer Festival in 2022

The thirteenth Beer Festival took place as planned on 18 June. The week before, the weather was wonderful; the Friday before, was the hottest day of the year so far; and on the Saturday it rained! Nothing daunted, the crowds turned out. There was a great selection of beers and ciders sourced both locally and from all over the country. All the cider sold out; 70% of the beer was drunk. Nearly all the glasses were sold. The dancers bravely danced in the rain, the musicians sang and played on [until the electrics were at risk at about 10.00pm, and they had to stop].

Most of the proceeds from this event go to Fringford Church Restoration Fund. We estimate the Festival made around £5000 for the Fund. A great outcome. Amongst the other groups participating in the day and raising funds for their organisations were; 'All About Ali' - fund-raising for Research into Motor Neurone Disease, Fringford Cricket Club, Friends of Fringford School, and Shelswell and Fringford Playgroup. There was also a variety of commercial food outlets.

Nothing would happen were it not for the work of the Committee who has put together this event, the beer and cider/perry selectors, the musicians and dancers, the stall and activity organisers, Fringford Cricket Club, Les Harris' Classic Cars, the Butcher's Arms, cricket taster sessions organised by Oxfordshire Cricket, and of course our generous sponsors – of glasses Webmart, and Puratos; of First Aid – Richard Bowden; of generator – David Taylor; and of barrels of beer and cider too many to mention. **Thank you**, one and all!

And finally, warm thanks to all those kind people who came and helped put up tents, and then came and helped take them down. That help was greatly appreciated. You were a great team.  
So – here's looking forward to 2023 .....

### Future Events

- Saturday 1 October – A Church clean up – inside
- Sunday 2 October – Harvest Festival at 10.45am
- Saturday 26 November – A Thanksgiving Meal in the Village Hall *[to be confirmed]*

### Fringford Church 100 Club

The winners of the June draw were: 1<sup>st</sup> Sally Cullen £52, 2<sup>nd</sup> Linda Rooker £32, 3<sup>rd</sup> Russell King £22. You can still sign up to the 100 Club. Contact Christina McCullagh to register your interest **ASAP, on 07867 515207**. Draw takes place monthly at the Village Coffee Morning.

Penny Wood

### 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](mailto:neighbourhoodsupport@fringford.info)

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

### FRINGFORD VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING



The Coffee Morning will be on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August, 10.30am to 12 noon. Now meeting in the Chinnery Room at the Village Hall. Do drop in. [The Fringford Church 100 Club draw will take place that morning].

Penny Wood

## Regular Activities held in Fringford Village Hall

Details of regular activities taking place in Fringford Village Hall. To find out more or book a place, please contact the hirer direct.	
Weekly Activities	Monthly Activities
<p style="text-align: center;">FS Dance Monday &amp; Wednesday (term time) After school classes BALLET • TAP • MODERN • STREET</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="mailto:leah.fsd@gmail.com">leah.fsd@gmail.com</a> or 07885827592</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Village Coffee Morning All ages welcome Third Monday in the month - Chinnery Room Drop in anytime between 10.30 am and noon</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Penny Wood 01869 277310</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Puppy Stars Dog Training Tuesday from 6pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contact Nick 07542 131400 <a href="http://www.puppystars.co.uk">www.puppystars.co.uk</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Parish Council Meeting All villagers welcome Third Monday in the month 7.45pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contact 01844 237766 or <a href="mailto:fringford.parishclerk@gmail.com">fringford.parishclerk@gmail.com</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Fringford Yoga Wednesday (term time) 9.30am – 11am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Carolyn White 01869 277161</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Darby &amp; Joan Club Third Tuesday of the month March to June 2.30pm – 4.30pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Marian Golding 01869 278355</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Just Puppies Puppy Training Wednesday from 7pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contact Kerri 07720 891489 <a href="http://www.justpuppies.training">www.justpuppies.training</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Shelswell WI</p> <p style="text-align: center;">First Thursday of the month 7.30pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contact Elaine Whittaker 07917 453224</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sound Bath Meditation Friday from 6.30pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="mailto:contact@holisticaxis.com">contact@holisticaxis.com</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mindfulness Meditation Monthly Sunday 11am to 12.30pm Next dates 22/5 and 12/6</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="mailto:janerainey17@gmail.com">janerainey17@gmail.com</a> or 07971 008337</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Fringford Sewcial Sew and Chat!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Alternate monthly Wednesday from 7pm &amp; Sunday from 3pm - next dates: 19/6 &amp; 13/7 Contact Melissa at <a href="mailto:mamcs100@gmail.com">mamcs100@gmail.com</a></p>

To book the hall for your own event, please go to [fringford.info](http://fringford.info), village hall, how to book Here you will find all the information you will need to book on-line.

For any other queries please phone or text 07936 879175  
or email: [fringford.hall@gmail.com](mailto:fringford.hall@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:



### HARDWICK CHURCH IS OPEN DAILY

Visit

#### Hardwick Church

Open Daily: 10 am – 4 pm

Available for :

- Private prayer and quiet contemplation
- Viewing the architecture, memorials and stained-glass windows
- **Please make use of this special space**
- 

### Hardwick Church New Guidebook



The new 2022 guidebook for Hardwick church and the parish of Hardwick with Tusmore is now available. This 44-page booklet has over 20 colour photos and provides a fascinating insight into the features and history of Hardwick church, the village and the Tusmore Estate. You can collect a copy from the church or contact David Barnes (01869 277690), who can send one to you. We ask that you make a minimum donation of £5 to church funds.

### Pilgrim Pathways

Why not walk the Hethe to Hardwick to Cottisford to Hethe “Pilgrim Pathway”. This is the first of what will be a network of walks between local religious sites being organised by the Bicester and Islip Deanery. This 4 mile circular route takes in the C of E churches of each of these villages as well as Holy Trinity, Hethe's RC church. You can start and end your walk at any point on the route, which takes in some glorious North Oxfordshire countryside. Pick up a free brochure outlining the route from any of the three C of E churches or contact David Barnes (01869 277690), who can send one to 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](http://www.hethe.org)

Tel 01869 277366  
 Tel 01869 278166  
 Tel 01869 278166

If you have any news or a village 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.

Many thanks, Mike.

### ST EDMUND & ST GEORGE CHURCH

#### Church Services and Events



The church is now open every day for visits and private prayer. See the back page for details of services.

There is now a box of free food in the church for anyone in need.

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](mailto:hethepccsecretary@outlook.com).



⇐ Scan here for regular giving by direct debit

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



#### Hethe Community Coffee Morning in St Philip's Hall

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August 10.00am to 12.00pm**

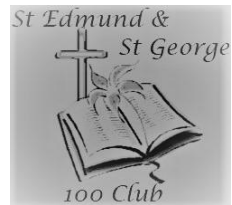
***Friends, neighbours, dog walkers, pram pushers:  
an opportunity to meet during the daytime – there's great  
cake too!***



Due to a number of different circumstances most of the churchyard is now growing wild! We have received some positive feedback and some complaints. We are seeking an affordable solution to cut and keep mown the area at the back of the church, to the north of the plum and holly trees.

If you would like to be involved in any way in how the church can help to protect wildlife and alleviate the effects of climate change, while maintaining safe access to graves, please email [hethenews@outlook.com](mailto:hethenews@outlook.com).

June's 100 Club results:      1<sup>st</sup> Prize No 3 Gary Skinner  
                                          2<sup>nd</sup> Prize No 4 Helen Pritchard Family  
                                          3<sup>rd</sup> Prize No 44 Alfred Mansfield



There are still plenty of numbers in the 100 Club 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.

Next PCC meeting Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September.

### HETHE COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at 8.00pm on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October and we would encourage anyone with an interest in what is happening in the village to attend.



Village Hall Bookings: Please contact the village hall booking secretary [fjskinner@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fjskinner@hotmail.co.uk).

Please note that the Stay & Play Group contact is Jess, email: [jessicablamb@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jessicablamb@yahoo.co.uk).

## 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](mailto: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

August	Helen Backon
September	Philippa Brown
	Harvest festival – everyone
October	Melanie Soar

### 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.

AUGUST	Rebecca Ayres and Eryl Tobin
SEPTEMBER	Giovanna Holdcroft and Tanya Howroyd
OCTOBER	Emma Bray and Viv Williams

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



## 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. Next: 5<sup>th</sup> August 2022

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

## FAREWELL TO THE SWALLOWS



Mixbury has to make a fond farewell to Chris and Gitta Swallow, after living in Mixbury and running Swallows Nursery since the 1990's Chris and Gitta are moving to Cumbria. We wish them luck in their new life and thank them for everything they have done for the village over the years. Goodbye and good luck Chris, Gitta, Nick and Nats.

A message from Chris Swallow:

“Dear friends, customers, suppliers and all who have contacted us:

### New ownership April 2022

Many of you will know that we are retiring from the nursery but remain in contact in an advisory capacity. We are heading to the hills of Cumbria where a new life for us will begin.

Since starting back in the nineties, Swallows has been a family run nursery, with everyone from children to grandparents getting involved. But without you, our customers, there would not have been a business and we wish to thank you all for your support over the years.

We are passing the flag to Anna Allen who has taken over the business. We urge you to keep coming to the nursery or sending your enquiries as usual. You will shortly receive an introductory email from her.

Any business with the nursery up to March 31 remains with Swallows Nursery Ltd and we will endeavour to complete any outstanding as soon as possible. Contact remains through our email address below but at some point soon we will forward a new address to use.

Wishing everyone all the best.

Chris and Gitta Swallow

22 Main St., Mixbury, Brackley,

NN13 5RR

T.01280 848611

07913 973 180

Email [swallchjo@gmail.com](mailto:swallchjo@gmail.com)

Swallows Nursery Is Now Under New Management: Mixbury wishes Anna and the Team all the best for the future: (Swallows have a Facebook page too).

*Opening Hours: Monday-Friday 9am to 5pm*

*Saturday 10am to 4pm, Sunday 10am to 2pm*

## MIXBURY FACEBOOK PAGE

***Mixbury Now has a Facebook page: Search for “Mixbury Community Group”***

## MIXBURY FETE

**3<sup>rd</sup> September 2022**

**Venue: Mixbury Hall**

## BUILDERS, BOILERS AND BONES – BY REBECCA AYRES

‘Found any bodies today?’ I would ask Martin when he got in from work in the winter of 2020.

‘Not today’ he would answer, slightly wistfully.

Both he and the archaeologist, who had been assigned the job of monitoring the excavation of a drainage trench Martin was digging around the perimeter of the church, seemed intent upon finding bones and would look longingly into the trench, scouring the soil that had probably remained undisturbed since the nineteenth century.

The Reverend W J Palmer, to whom Mixbury’s communion silver is dedicated, set about restoring All Saints church in about 1807/8 by replacing the old pews with the present oak ones, and continued up to the middle of the century, restoring amongst other things the chancel, and the roof. It is him we can thank for the beautiful painted script above the arch, it was he who provided the altar and all the panelling we now see behind it (including the hidden cupboard in which the Mixbury hoard was recently discovered). And according to the archives, it was also he who rebuilt the south Porch and repaired the south wall where Martin finally made a discovery.

As he was digging around the base of the buttress on the south side of the church, he found what looked like a small stove, originally cast iron but now much rusted and rotten away. This had been built into the base of the buttress itself. Further investigation showed it was indeed a small stove with a flue ducted up through the buttress, providing heat to the alabaster pulpit on the other side of the wall inside the church. The complicated and intriguing set-up appears to have been a somewhat indulgent mechanism by which the resident vicar could keep his feet warm during long sermons on cold winter mornings. In fact, one has to wonder whether he ever left his cosy pulpit during a service. And while he was inside the church enjoying the warmth, some poor parishioner had to stoke the fire, by hand, before, and possibly during the service, from outside in the cold.

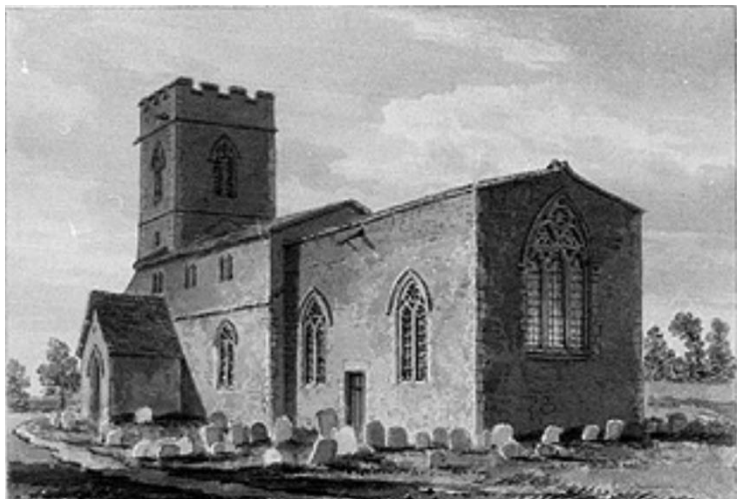
Jim Ward, a long-time resident of Mixbury, remembers a similar situation when he was young, where a coke-fired stove was positioned just inside Mixbury church’s North door and was fed through the door from the outside. Although in that situation a slightly more egalitarian warmth was probably achieved.

The discovery of this little stove does seem to provide an answer to the question many a churchyard clearance volunteer has voiced, “why the railings?”. As we have struggled in and out of the little gates, fighting with the mass of vegetation within, it always seemed an odd decision by our forebears to fence off a small area of ground which would hold the damp against the walls and provide an unopposed bed for ground-elder and bind weed. However, if the railings acted as a barrier behind which the stove and the coke were protected, one may well see their point.

The railings are not apparent in the 1825 drawing of the church, so they appear to have been installed at some point, possibly during or shortly after Palmers grand restoration project, in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. But the appearance of the alabaster pulpit (a gift from Archdeacon Palmer), the building of the buttress and its integral heating system, and possibly the erecting of the protective railings, may well have occurred simultaneously as part of the south wall repairs.

The archaeologist and other church specialists have since admired and cogitated over the railings and the stove and seem to be in agreement that the lack of remains or monuments in the area suggest that the railings had a practical rather than a spiritual purpose. And while they will not be missed by the churchyard volunteers, they are obviously of historical importance and the DAC have proposed that they are repurposed in some other area of the churchyard, a solution that I cannot help thinking would have pleased the innovative and resourceful Reverend Palmer.

“Any bodies today?”





“Yes!” Martin finally replied one afternoon.

A fully articulated skeleton was exposed in an area of ground in front of the tower where the soak-away was being dug. Both Martin and the archaeologist were ecstatic. I smiled indulgently. I mean, how surprised can you be to find a body if you have spent three months digging in a graveyard? But it made them happy and it is something to tell the grandchildren.

Footnote: All remains that were discovered during these works were treated with the utmost respect and were reinterred according to protocol.

## **All Our Yesterdays By Bruce Epps**

This is the second part of the article started last month, about the life of Frances Harris (nee Tew) in Mixbury in the first half of the 20th century, as told by her. Frances was 100 years old when in 2007 she consented to be interviewed. The third, final, part will follow next month.

When I was a child, we lived in the house at the end of the village by the pump. The blacksmith lived opposite and his wife kept a little shop in her living room. The pillar box was outside by her front door. The counter was a scrubbed kitchen table. She kept everything from a loaf of bread, a reel of cotton, writing pens and pencils - it was all pen and ink in those days. There wasn't a baker in my time, but I understand there had been one before. Next to our house, No. 5 which was a normal cottage, the house had an enormous window with a counter, and a little room and a kitchen at the back. That was the butchers, I think. And the next one had a big window too. Butchers! Bakers! I don't know where the candlestick makers was!!

We couldn't get much food stuff in the village. The bakers came from far and wide on a horse and covered cart to bring the bread. One came from Tingewick. The one we had came from Syresham. If you gave him fat and fruit he would make a lovely dough cake. Our ovens were limiting. You had to be careful if you ran out - you had deliveries twice a week - the times I've gone out and listened for the one coming along from Tingewick with the horses feet clapping along the road, otherwise we would have to wait until the one came along from Syresham. Or until New Year's Day when we all had a loaf of bread each as part of the charity.

If we wanted to get to Brackley we walked. There was no other way. It was three miles all by fields, across footpaths, past the Hall and through the park until you got to the main Oxford Road and then up to the shops. We couldn't carry much because it was heavy. We got our main groceries by writing out a list on Friday for the Co-op. We would put a 10s note in the list. On Saturday morning the carrier would come through with your parcel: sugar, tea, butter, cheese, whatever. That was your week's groceries. If you ran out of anything you hoped for the best and hoped the village shop would have a bit of butter or a box of tea. My father grew plenty of vegetables. I don't know what we would have done without that. We lived quite well with veg. Most people kept a pig at the bottom of the garden, and a few chickens. If you grew your pig for pork you would sell it to the butcher in Brackley and he would take it away. You were allowed to have one for the home; you got the butcher to do that, then you would hang the big pieces of salted bacon in the house, wherever there was space, often in the living room where it was dry and warm, and the fire preserved it. It couldn't be too cold. People would come in and say, 'that's your best pictures, these two!' Every so often you would cut a lump off. We used to play in the field behind the houses, in the field with the bumps in it. Those bumps we were told were from the Battle of Annals (Hanwell), and the farm was called that too. We were always allowed to do what we liked in that field. It was always meadowland, although sometimes we might see a few sheep. We played cricket; football; we would paddle in the brook - anything. We used to skip in the middle of the road. The boys had hoops and tops which they used to spin along. There was no traffic. We used to hear the sound of the clop clop of the baker's horse.

The castle site was almost sacred. We weren't told much about it at school, only that it was Beaumont Castle. If we had good behaviour all week we could go at playtime and play on the castle land on Friday afternoon. We would play up and down the moat and on the central piece that was flat. But we weren't ever allowed to roam. The boys couldn't go around the hedgerows birds nesting. I don't know who it belonged to, but it was treated with the utmost respect. There were all sorts of stories about treasure in the tower and such. No-one went there during the week. When we heard later that there was a pony grazing there, and then after that some building was going on we felt awful! Indignant! Fancy!



## Newton Purcell St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDENS: Ann von Maltzahn, Home Farm Shelswell Park Tel 01280 848680  
Vacant  
TREASURER: Fai Li Tel: 07725 009838  
PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Vacant  
MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Ann von Maltzahn Tel 01280 848680

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



### Services -

Sunday 7th August - 9.15 a.m.

We very much enjoy welcoming all of you who regularly attend our monthly communion service in St Michael & All Angels, Newton Purcell.

Without your commitment we would not be able to maintain regular services in our church. This is particularly important to prevent the bigger services at Christmas, Easter, Harvest and Remembrance Sunday from disappearing from our services calendar.

Please continue to support us and encourage others to come to our friendly monthly service which is held on the first Sunday of every month at 9.15 a.m.

The service usually lasts about 45 minutes and is a wonderful way to take a break from our everyday world, enjoy some 'me' time and to reflect on how we might enrich our own lives through others.

We would really like to see all those who subscribe to this parish magazine attend services - currently only 10% do so!!

ALL are welcome so make a note in your diary for Sunday 7th August at 9.15 a.m.

### Bonus Ball Lotto -

Our recent lucky winners have been Michala Pederson and Carolyn Markham.

It's that time of year again when subscriptions for most of you will be due for renewal.

Reminders will be sent and we very much hope you will continue to support this vital part of our fund raising which is earmarked for Special Projects rather than day to day running expenses.

If you haven't taken part before but would like to do so, please contact Ann von Maltzahn on the number above. It's really very simple - for just £1.00 each week you will have the chance of a weekly cash prize!

### Art & History Festival -

At the time of writing we are all looking forward to this year's Art & History Festival which will be fully reported in next month's magazine.

## Stoke Lyne St Peter's

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

See back page for details.

## Flower Duty for August

Donnie Read

## Stoke Lyne 100 Club – July Results

1st Prize	Membership No	18	Pippa Elliott	£36.75
2nd Prize	Membership No	34	Alison Miller	£22.05
3rd Prize	Membership No	05	Emma Brown	£14.70

Thank you everyone for your continued support with this club. Spread the word to more members so we can increase the prize money in the future.

Kind regards Janey Poole Treasurer St Peter's Church PCC

## St Peter's Day Celebration – Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> June



For St. Peter's Day this year, we enjoyed a bring-and-share BBQ with friends and neighbours from the village. It began a little windy, but the sun broke through and allowed us to relax and chat, as a few people got 'warmed up' on the football pitch. A five-a-side game was played with a range of age groups being represented. I was pleased to stay in goal as others ran about attacking and defending over a very wide pitch! The final score was 8-7 to the JJDD team (it composed of two James's and two Dan's, hence the name).

The goal posts are here to stay and have been greeted with enthusiasm by many people. We hope that they will encourage people to exercise and have fun with more village football matches in the future.

Kelly Holden-White.

## North Ploughly W.I group walk – Saturday, 25th June

The walk was organised by the Heyford W. I. Who were the hosts. We met at the King George 5th playing field which was donated by King George to be used as a sporting ground for the community in perpetuity.

There was a choice of a short or a long walk. Before setting off we had tea and a biscuit. I did the short walk led by a member of the Heyfords W.I. named Jill, who gave us a lot of the history of Lower Heyford. We started off by the canal bridge which was adjacent to the field and Jill told us some facts about the canal and how they used to carry coal from the Midlands and also took a lot of foodstuff from the farmers and various others. As we walked up the hill various points of interest were pointed out such as the old post office and shop and one of the old public houses now closed, until we ended up in the village square Jill pointed out the old school now a house and the schoolhouse.

We then meandered to the Church and had a look round and for "Emmerdale" fans the actor who played "Sandy" is buried there. Across from the church is the old vicarage a large dwelling not now used by the Church. It was sold off like a lot of the Church vicarages and is now a "Bed and Breakfast" and has been featured on a TV programme "Four in a Bed". We all thanked Jill for giving us some history on her lovely village.

We made our way back to the Hall in the field for a superb buffet lunch served by Heyford members with 3 or 4 choices of main course and a selection of puddings followed by tea or coffee and a raffle.

Rena Andrews

### **Food for Thought – Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July**



We started off with a lovely breakfast of croissants with butter and lovely homemade damson jam, tea/coffee with lots of chatter after which Rena led the service with Harriet and Caroline. The enjoyable thing about this service is everyone joins in with setting up and clearing away. Kelly had made out the service sheets with the theme “Doubting Thomas” and some questions for discussion which gave rise to some interesting answer about doubting. Harriet led us in prayers and this ended a lovely service and it was so nice to see Jane Warde Aldam there.

Rena Andrews

### **Shelswell by the Sea – Monday, 4th July – Wednesday, 6th July**



We met at Hethe village Hall with tea or coffee and biscuits to start. Liz gave us a little talk on meditation and then asked us what would we miss because of climate change, flooding, droughts etc. There were lots of different things we would miss, examples were bees, butterflies and clean air.

Liz had sewn some squares and we were asked to decorate these squares depicting what damage climate change was doing to the world. There were some beautifully decorated squares all different. Because of deforestation there is severe flooding, then we have droughts, loss of insects and that has a knock on effect on birds and animals who depend on them. These squares are going to be sewn together to be made into banners and if we have enough hopefully we will be able to put one in every church.

People were doing different things at separate tables, be it jigsaw puzzles, dominos, scrabble to name but a few or just keeping up with the newspapers. Thank you to all the clergy and their helpers for putting the three days together with something for everyone, with 2 course lunches and tea and cake every day.

Rena Andrews

### **Midweek communion and lunch – Thursday, 7th July**

This is always a lovely short communion service and this week Yvonne presided over it, with Liz. This was followed by a 2 course lunch tea/coffee. We were fewer in numbers this month because of ill health or lack of transport.



## Stoke Lyne W.I. – Jubilee Lunch - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June

Here are the photos (taken by Celia) to go with the report which appeared in last month's magazine.



## Remembering the “CATARAQUI” victims of Stoke Lyne

This month it is the 177<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tragic shipwreck of the emigrant ship the “Catarqui” which was taking five inhabitants of Stoke Lyne out to a new life in Australia under the “assisted passage scheme” which encouraged migration to that country: on the UK side there would be fewer poor people to be a burden on their parishes and on the Australian there was a need for skilled labourers and single women. It is thought that this advertisement in the local press relates to the ill-fated voyage:

*Oxford Journal, 15<sup>th</sup> March 1845*

**FREE PASSAGE TO AUSTRALIA.**

*TO Sail on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March, for Port Philip, a first-class Vessel, A1, 800 tons burthen, with full poop, and every accommodation to secure the health and comfort of the passengers, and will carry an experienced surgeon. For terms of passage apply to William Smith and Sons, Liverpool, or Wm. Hatton, Kingston, near Tetsworth.*

*N.B. Farm labourers, female domestic or far servants, and shepherds, with a few smiths, carpenters and wheelwrights, masons and bricklayers, may obtain a free passage by applying as above.*

There were 369 passengers on the ship, a quarter of whom came from Oxfordshire. Only 1 emigrant and 8 crewmen survived the shipwreck which occurred on 4<sup>th</sup> August on the rocks off King Island at the entrance to the Bass Strait between Tasmania and Australia. Although the shipwreck happened in August the full account of the disaster did not appear in the British press until February of the following year. Here are some extracts:

*Bucks Gazette, 14<sup>th</sup> February 1846*

**DREADFUL SHIPWRECK AND LOSS OF LIFE**

*The following particulars of the loss of the Catarqui emigrant-ship are condensed from the Port Phillip and Hobart Town paper received at Lloyd's Thursday morning .... The following particulars are from Mr. Guthrie, the chief mate, who with his eight fellow-survivors, reached the shore almost in a state of nudity, having of course lost everything they possessed: -*

*The Cataragui, Captain C. W. Finlay, sailed from Liverpool on the 20<sup>th</sup> April, with 369 emigrants, and a crew, including two doctors... of 46 souls .... About 120 of the passengers were married, with families, and in all 73 children. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August, at 7 o'clock in the evening, the ship was hove to, and continued lying until 4 a.m. of the 4<sup>th</sup>. At half-past 4, it being quite dark, and raining, hard, blowing a fearful gale, and the sea running mountains high, the ship struck on a reef, situated on the west coast of King's Island, at the entrance of Bass Straits. No opportunity had offered for taking an observation to enable the captain to ascertain the ship's course for four days prior to the ship striking, and from the dead reckoning kept it was presumed that the vessel was in 141 deg. 22 min. E. longitude, and 39 deg. 17 Min S., which would make her between 60 and 70 miles from King's Island. Immediately the ship struck she was sounded, and 4 feet of water was in the hold. The scene of confusion and misery that ensued at this awful period it is impossible to describe. All the passengers attempted to rush upon deck, and many succeed in doing so, until the ladders were knocked down by the workings of the vessel, when the shrieks of men, women, and children from below were terrific, calling on the watch on deck to assist them. The crew, to a man, came on deck the moment the ship struck, and were instantly employed in handing up the passengers. Up to the time the vessel began breaking up, it is supposed that between 300 and 400 were got on deck by the extraordinary exertions of the crew. At this time the sea was breaking over the ship on the larboard side, sweeping the decks, every sea taking away more or fewer of the passengers. About 5 a.m. the ship careened right over on her larboard side, washed away boats, bulwark, spars, and a part of the cuddy, and literally sweeping the decks. At this critical period the captain gave orders to cut away the masts, hoping the vessel would right, to enable the crew to get on deck the passengers left below. Everything was done that could, under the circumstances, be done to get the vessel upright, but all to no purpose. The passengers below were now all drowned, the ship being full of water, and the captain gave those on deck directions to cling to that part of the wreck then above water, until daylight, hoping that the spars could be of some service in making a breakwater under her lee, and thus enable the survivors to get on shore in the morning. When day broke we found the stern of the vessel washed in, and numerous dead bodies floating around the ship, some hanging upon the rocks. Several of the passengers and crew (about 200 altogether,) were still holding on to the vessel — the sea breaking over her, and every wave washing some of them away. About 4 o'clock in the afternoon the vessel parted amidships, at the fore part of the main rigging, when immediately some 70 or 100 were launched into the tumultuous and remorseless waves! The survivors ran ridge lines along the side of the wreck to enable them to hold on. The remains of the upper deck now began to break up and wash away. A buoy was now made, and floated towards the shore, but it could not be got nearer than 20 yards from the shore, owing to its getting entangled with sea-weed on the rocks, and there was no one on shore to catch it and secure it on the sand. The fury of the waves continued unabated, and about 5 o'clock the wreck parted by the fore-rigging, and so many souls were submerged in the water, that only 70 survivors were left crowded on the fore-castle, who were then lashed to the wreck. The sea continued breaking over them, the winds raging, and raining heavy all night, and thus the poor creatures continued. Numbers died and fell overboard, or sank, and were drowned at the places where they were lashed. When day broke, the following morning, it was discovered only about 30 were left alive. The sea was now making a clean breach into the fore-castle, the deck of which was rapidly breaking up. About this time, while numbers were helplessly clinging to the bows, and continued dropping off without the possibility of succour, the captain attempted to reach the shore, but was unable, and with some assistance, regained the wreck. The lashings of the survivors were now undone; in order to give them the last chance of life .... Mr. Guthrie was now driven to a detached part of the wreck, but soon found it impossible to live with such a sea breaking over, and seizing a piece of plank under his arm, leaped into the water, and was carried over the reef, and got on shore. He found a passenger who had got on shore during the night, and one of the crew, John Robinson, plunged into the water when he saw the mate ashore, and, partly swimming, and, partly diving, reached land. Five other seamen followed, and landed, dreadfully exhausted. Almost immediately after the vessel totally disappeared: thus, out of 423 souls on board, only 9 were saved! .... They had neither food nor drink from the time the vessel struck (Sunday), to Tuesday afternoon, when they found one small tin of preserved fowl; after which they went and laid down in the bush, having got a wet blanket out of the water for their own covering, and being almost destitute of clothes. The beach was strewn with pieces of the wreck, and portions of dead corpses in horrible profusion. After a vain search for water, and without finding any other survivor, they slept that night on the beach.*

They managed to survive on the island with the help of a party of sealers living there but as the sealers' boat was also wrecked it was not until 9<sup>th</sup> September that they were rescued from the island.

So who were the 5 emigrants from Stoke Lyne? The passenger list includes the following:

Loveridge, John, 21, Stoke Lyne, farm labourer (one of 23 unmarried males)  
 Loveridge, Mary Anne, 27, Stoke Lyne, domestic servant (one of 33 unmarried females)  
 Watts, George, 27, Stockline, labourer  
 Watts, Elizabeth, 25, Stockline, wife  
 Watts, Richard, infant, Stockline, son

At first I thought that Mary Ann and John might be siblings but the records show otherwise. Mary Ann was baptised at Stoke Lyne on 4 January 1818, the daughter of Thomas and Rose Loveridge. Thomas's occupation is given as labourer. John was baptised a few years later on 16 February 1823, the son of Martha Loveridge. No father is named. I have not been able to find any more details out about Martha, other than that in September 1823 a Martha Loveridge married a Robert Mallet at Stoke Lyne. In 1841 a Martha Mallett aged 40 is living on her own in Banbury which would give her a date of birth of 1801. I've not been able to identify either John or Mary Ann on the 1841 census. It is possible that Martha was an older sister of Mary Anne as Thomas and Rose were baptising offspring from 1799 onwards (thus making Mary Anne John's aunt) but I have not found the records to prove this.

In the case of the Watts family, George was baptised at Stoke Lyne in March 1817, the son of labourer Richard and Elizabeth Watts nee Finch. They married at Stoke Lyne in November 1844. On the 1841 census Elizabeth is with her parental family in Fritwell while George, is an "ag lab" living with his mother in Stoke Lyne. Their son, Richard, was baptised at Stoke Lyne on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1845.

From within our Benefice seven people (including three children) from Fringford also perished in the shipwreck.

Brenda Hazel



## MUSIC IN QUIET PLACES

St Peter's Church, Stoke Lyne

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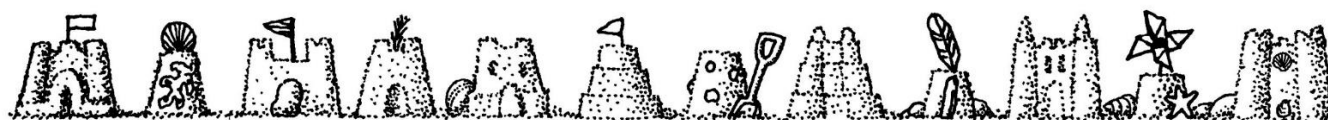
The program will include the Dvořák String Quartet in F Major Op. 96 "The American" and Mozart String Quintet in D major K. 575.

**Tickets:** Early bird before 31st July £6.50 each  
otherwise £8.00 each

**For payment details and booking, contact:**

Janey Poole – [janey@oxford-educational.co.uk](mailto:janey@oxford-educational.co.uk)

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**Services:** - Please see back page

**Children are welcome;** the church has a small table and benches with a good supply of paper/crayons for young children during services.

**‘Little Lambs’** baby and toddler group continues in Stratton Audley Church every Wednesday in term time (9.30am – 11am) There may be some meeting during the summer. If you would like details, then contact Alice on 01280 848192 or [rector@shelswellparishes.info](mailto:rector@shelswellparishes.info)

### 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 months of June and July 2022 are:

June 2022:

£30	Elizabeth Gosling (75)
£20	Long Family (144)
£10	Dewhurst Family (118)
£10	West Family (82)

July 2022:

£30	Jenkinson family (100)
£20	Ken Leach (151)
£10	Leigh-Wood family (161)
£10	Pam Morgan (78)





## Last call for

### Stratton Audley 2022 Boules Cup Competition

**Fri 5th August 6pm for 6.30pm start at  
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*Kind Courtesy of Emma & Mark ter Haar*

**Entry £15 per person, £10 under 16, £5 children under 5  
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- Please bring a Boules set with you (if you have one!)
- Don't worry if you're on your own, a partner will be found for you to pair up with!
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Tickets to competition & catering, please contact Emma at  
**emmaterhaar@yahoo.co.uk or 07867 783938**

All ticket proceeds will go to Stratton Audley Church (all food and drink very generously sponsored by Emma & Mark ter Haar)

Non-participants very welcome to come along for fun but still £15/10/5 per head for food and drinks



**Saturday 10th September 2022 – sign up!**

<https://ohct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/>



Hard copy Sponsorship forms are in the SA Church porch  
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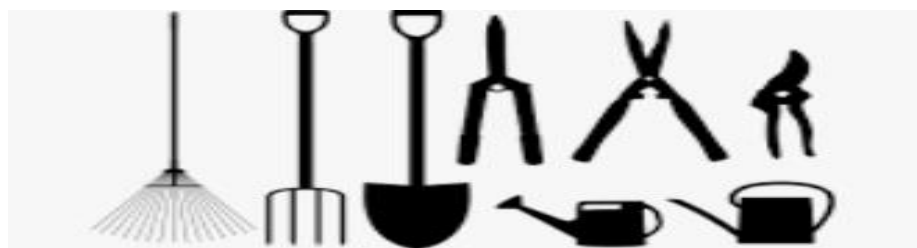
and **remember** to add the church you are raising money for as  
either Stratton Audley : St Mary & St Edburga or Godington : Holy Trinity.

## Churchyard tidy up

Thanks once again go to those who volunteer to mow and tidy the churchyard but we also need further volunteers to help several times in the year to clear ivy, prune trees and remove unwanted saplings popping up.

There are many brambles needing to be cut down and clearing on the west side so the graves underneath may be seen. Ideally you can bring any of the following: secateurs, pruning saws, rakes, forks, spades, a chainsaw, manual saws or a strimmer (electric types can plug in so do bring a heavy-duty extension lead).

If you are up to join other volunteers several times a year, please contact Anthony at [flack.wine\\_train@btinternet.com](mailto:flack.wine_train@btinternet.com).



## Bicester Heritage October Scramble

Tickets for the next Scramble meeting, set to be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October, are on sale now. Once again, local residents have discounted tickets allocated to them at 50% off, accessible via the sales agents

- <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/>

Promocode: BristolBoxkit

**Support our local businesses** -Please look at the facebook pages for Stratton Audley Barn delicacies, just the weather for lovely ice creams, and the Red Lion - Watch out for their fun activities.

### 'Shelswell News' Advertising Rates

If you would be interested in advertising in 'Shelswell News' please contact Becky Adams at the Benefice Office on 01280 848192 or email [admin@shelswellparishes.info](mailto:admin@shelswellparishes.info)

The current rates for advertisements are given below

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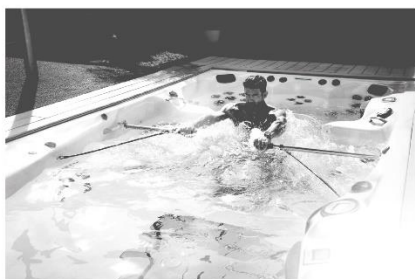


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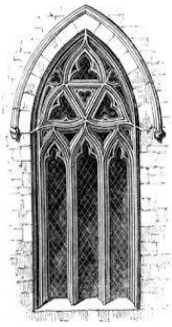
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