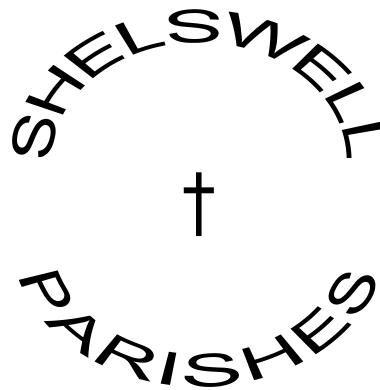


Shelswell News

The magazine of the Shelswell Group of Churches

Cottisford
Fringford
Hardwick
Mixbury
Stoke Lyne



Finmere
Godington
Hethe
Newton Purcell
Stratton Audley



SHELLOWELL BENEFICE MISSION STATEMENT

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

MINISTRY TEAM

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

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Telephone: 01869 278233 Email jcs@pcsd.co.uk

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

HOLY TRINITY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, HETHE,

Mass: 4 p.m Saturday.

Weekday Mass: 9.30 am Monday

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

Telephone: 01869 253277

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

SHELLOWELL NEWS

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

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Deadlines for the March 2022 edition of Shelswell News

To Magazine Correspondents: **Friday 11 February 2022**

Correspondents to Editor: **Sunday 13 February 2022** at editor@shelswellparishes.info

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

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

MINISTERS LETTER

“I think...

The first month of the new year has flown past. Not quite the start we would have wanted thanks to Omicron, but I feel like I'm getting used to planning for any and all eventualities.

I am in my final year of Curacy now – and only God knows what is ahead for me and for us as a family. But I'm trying not to think about that all the time! Your prayers, as always, would be appreciated.

As a Curate I spend a lot of time reading, thinking and reflecting! It is all part of my learning. But last year I also spent a lot of time thinking about thinking! It started with me getting **very** annoyed listening to politicians (particularly over in America) and wondering how on earth “the church” over there was so silent when facts were being distorted and people took lying to a new level – lies about the election, voting, the insurrection etc.

And that got me “thinking” about the voices I listen to and how much time I give to hear other points of view, and how one might get people to really consider the voices they listen to and what they hear – and to THINK about it! This led me to some online searching and I found some good debates to watch on YouTube. I watched one debate which was particularly inspiring. It was a fascinating discussion on many levels, but what was most interesting was the interaction between the audience and the speakers. It was obvious that



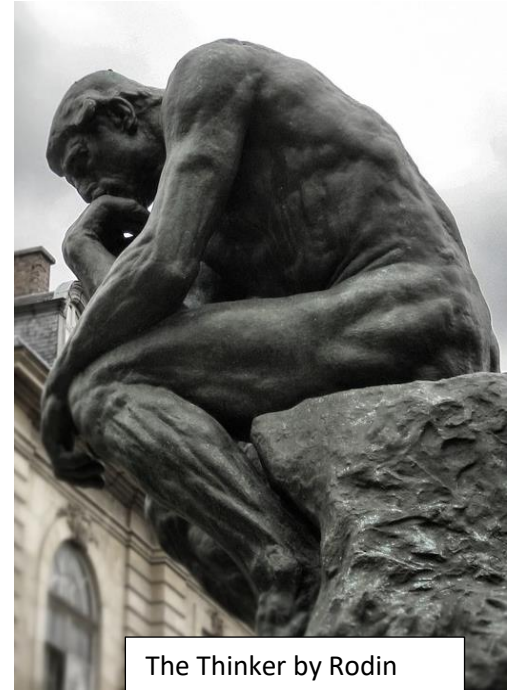
each speaker had their own supporters and every so often the audience would applaud, clearly demonstrating their bias or partisanship. What I found most fascinating was the response of one speaker – he kept shaking his head as the audience clapped and when he got the chance to speak, he held up his hand and challenged the audience to stop clapping and rather to listen carefully to what was being said and having listened to THINK. He said “Don’t treat this debate as a cheap competition – we are desperately trying to confront serious problems.” At the very end of the debate the moderator asked “What one thing do you hope that people will take away from this debate?” to which that first speaker responded “I hope that people leave this debate with a belief in the power of communication between people with different views” and

the second speaker said “I hope that we made at least some people think ... don’t take the easy way out, don’t just attach labels to ideologies because that is easy – THINK!”

As is often the case when one starts watching something on YouTube, I ended up going down a rabbit hole watching more videos on the topic. One rabbit hole led me to another and I came across a video by Jordan Peterson, a clinical psychologist, author and professor. In a video he was asked what he thought about God to which he responded

“I act as if God exists and I am terrified that He might.”

I wonder what *you* think Peterson might mean by that? What might *acting* as if God exists involve? Why would he be terrified to find that God exists? What might that statement tell us about Peterson’s image of God?



The Thinker by Rodin

As Christians we believe that God is a God of love who reaches out to each one of us. Judy Cannato describes it like this:

Being loved disarms us, brushes away our ego defences, and then exposes us not only to the other, but to ourselves. And it is from ourselves that we most often hide our gaze. . . . Everywhere the Holy One is shouting and whispering, "Let me love you." And all that is asked of us is to receive. In reality, that is our life's work. Nothing more and certainly nothing less.

The Holy One is shouting and whispering "Let me love You."

What do you think that might mean? Perhaps something to *think* about this year.

Revd Yvonne

All who are thirsty

All who are weak
Come to the fountain
Dip your heart in the stream of life
Let the pain and the sorrow
Be washed away
In the waves of His mercy
As deep cries out to deep

Come Lord Jesus come

Brenton Brown Glenn Robertson

BIBLE READINGS



Sunday 6 th February	4 th Sunday before Lent	Isaiah 6 v1-8 [9-end] 1 Corinthians 15 v1-11 Luke 5 v1-11
Sunday 13 th February	3 rd Sunday before Lent	Jeremiah 17 v5-10 1 Corinthians 15 v12-20 Luke 6 v17-26
Sunday 20 th February	2nd Sunday before Lent	Genesis 2 v4b-9 and 15-end Revelation 4 Luke 8 v22-25
Sunday 27 th February	Sunday next before Lent	Exodus 34 v29-end 2 Corinthians 3 v12 – 4 v2 Luke 9 v28-36 [37-43a]
Wednesday 2 nd March	Ash Wednesday	Joel 2 v1-2 and 12-17 <i>or</i> Isaiah 58 v1-12 2 Corinthians 5 v20b - 6 v10 Matthew 6 v1-6 and 16-21 <i>or</i> John 8 v1-11

Monthly Mid-Week Service of Holy Communion and Lunch

The next Service will be in **Stoke Lyne Church**
on **Thursday 3rd February** at **12 noon**, followed by Lunch.

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

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



In March, the Mid-week service and lunch will move to a Wednesday so that we can mark Ash Wednesday on Wednesday 2nd March and it will be held in Stratton Audley Church.

Thinking, reflecting, growing, developing

Lent 2022 – A series of four talks and suppers - all at Stoke Lyne.

7 pm – meet for a light supper (no need to book); 7.30 pm – talk

This year we are very fortunate in having a fabulous line up of speakers, people who are experts in their field talking on some important topics. Please do come along and invite others who may be interested.



Thursday 10th March – John Alderdice 'Pilgrimages to Holy Places'.

John Alderdice is a psychiatrist by profession, but as Leader of the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland, he played a significant role in the Talks on Northern Ireland including the negotiation of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement and was then the first Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly. Since 1996 he has sat as a Liberal Democrat life member of the House of Lords, and is currently Director of the Centre for the Resolution of Intractable Conflict, a Senior Research Fellow at Harris Manchester College (Oxford) and Presidente d'Honneur of Liberal International.

Lord Alderdice has spent a life-time working on understanding and addressing religious fundamentalism, radicalization, terrorism and violent political conflict in various parts of the world. More recently he has also been working on the problems of indigenous peoples and their conflicts with the incomers.

In February he will be travelling to Israel (COVID allowing) to work on the conflict over the Holy Places in Jerusalem

Thursday 17th March – Eva Grosman 'A St Patrick's Day Reflection on Peace-Building in Ireland'.

Eva is Co-founder and CEO of the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building, based on Belfast. Polish by background and a very thoughtful and committed Catholic Christian, she also curates TEDxStormont and is an Advisor to RISING Global Peace Forum in Coventry and Director for Public Affairs at the Centre for the Resolution of Intractable Conflict, Harris Manchester College, Oxford.



Thursday 24th March – Martin and Margot Hodson Climate Change: a Christian Response

Dr Martin J Hodson is a plant scientist and environmental biologist. He is Operations Director for the John Ray Initiative (JRI). Revd Margot R Hodson is JRI's Director of Theology and Education and vicar in the Shill Valley and Broadshire Benefice in Oxfordshire. She is on the boards of A Rocha UK and Grove Ethics Editorial Group. The Hodsons have numerous publications between them and regularly speak on the environment to Christian audiences.



Thursday 31st March – Melissa Morbeck
The power of God to change lives

Melissa Morbeck (Coke-Smyth) is CEO of The Corporate Alliance, as well as Global Director of Partnerships at The NO MORE Foundation. Her work in the field of Gender Based Violence includes work in domestic and sexual violence with multilaterals such as UN Women, The World Health Organisation, The IMF and World Bank Group. Her work with businesses responding to domestic abuse started in 1992, has included Google, Santander, The Body Shop, British Airways, Rio Tinto, and thousands of others, and ultimately led to a global movement for employers throughout the world to support employees and families affected by abuse.

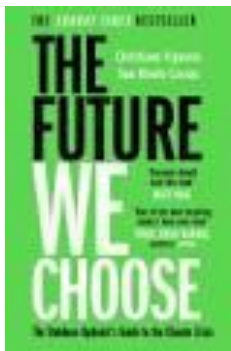


Melissa is an Advisor on Gender Based Violence, on the White House Gender Policy Council, as well as an Advisor on the International Labour Organisation Employer GBV Task Force. Melissa also supports individuals, families and employers on how to access public services and NGOs globally to save lives and keep people safe.

Melissa will share her personal experiences as a resilient survivor, how the grace of God has guided her life and work and how the season of lent is an opportunity to reflect on a life serving a higher purpose.

AFTER EASTER: CLIMATE CONCERN

A discussion group springing from 'The future we choose' by Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac



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

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

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

The focus of the group will be to think about practical and positive steps that we can take as individuals and as communities, and to encourage one another in doing this.

Contact me now to register your interest. alicegoodall313@gmail.com / 01280 848192

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

This group first met on 25 November. We then stopped as it was difficult to find dates. We have met twice in January and hope to hold the last meeting on 3rd February. The time is 7.30pm, and the venue is Northwell Farm, Finmere. Sessions are 'stand alone' so others can join at any time. Just come along, or for directions ring Penny on 01869-277310 [If Covid regulations require it, sessions will move to Zoom]

‘SHELLOW NEWS’ PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION.

We apologise for the late distribution recently. In order to try to resolve some of the problems we are bringing forward the dates for material to be submitted and the date the magazine goes to the printers. We will now need material to reach village correspondents on a **Friday** so that correspondents can send their final pieces to the editor by the **Sunday** evening (latest).

It would be really helpful if any items can be passed to your local Magazine correspondent as early as possible because strict deadlines will have to be maintained.

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS 2022 – JUST £10 FOR 12 ISSUES.

Thank you to all who have paid – to the bank, and cheque or cash to your distributor.

A reminder for others, bank payments should be made to:

Shelswell News,
Sort code 30-91-39
Account number 00283065

Please use the reference that was given on your renewal slip last month. If you don't have that, use your village name and your distributor's initials. Please email me at prfinmere@btinternet.com so that I can acknowledge your payment. Thank you for a few extra seconds of your time to help me to identify your distributor – it saves me about 15 minutes of cross referencing and additional emails per subscriber, and thank you for your continued support.

Phillip Rushforth – magazine treasurer – further details on the inside front cover.



WOMEN OF FAITH

The Akeman Lent
Lectures 2022

*A series of talks by some notable speakers
on women of faith across the ages.*

8 March	Old Testament women The Rev'd Clare Hayns, Chaplain of Christ Church, Oxford
15 March	Medieval women The Rev'd Dr Paula Clifford, retired academic and assistant priest, Akeman Benefice
22 March	New Testament women Dr Rebecca Dean, Lecturer in New Testament, Ripon College, Cuddesdon
29 March	Victorian women The Rev'd Mia Smith, Chaplain of Hertford College, Oxford
5 April	Twentieth Century women The Rev'd Dr Laura Biron-Scott, Vicar of Headington Quarry

Tuesdays in Lent
Kirtlington Church at 1930

Background Art:
© Micah Hayns

SHOW THE LOVE

#TheFightThatUnites

www.theclimatecoalition.org

'Show the Love' is a brilliant initiative of 'The Climate Coalition', the UK's largest group of people dedicated to action against climate change. Since 2015, people from across the UK have used the power of green hearts every February to ask politicians to tackle the climate crisis and protect what we love from its worst impacts.

The UK Government came out of the UN climate Summit with a big to-do list. During this coming February 2022, we are invited to all come together to make sure they deliver. Together we can show decision makers that the UK public wants to see real and rapid action to tackle the climate and nature crisis – for the love of our families, our homes, our livelihoods and our planet.

The UK still has presidency of COP26 until the next COP in Egypt in Nov 2022 and is legally responsible for taking the promises made forward.

So why not make, create, craft, wear or bake a Green Heart – do it by yourself, as a family, as a community group. Put photos of it on social media.

Use it to ask our MP, Victoria Prentis, to keep up the momentum on climate change.

Send your heart, or a photo of it to Victoria, along with an email or letter about what is important to you. Or you could use the postcard that will be available in our churches during February or on the Climate Coalition website.

In particular you might want to encourage her to lobby for:

- an end to all fossil fuel developments in UK. Did you know we already have enough fossil fuel to see us through the transition to renewable energy?
- the UK to take a lead in helping low lying countries to adapt to climate change by ensuring climate finance promises are delivered quickly and transparently. (Very sadly it is already too late for some countries such as Bangladesh to adapt. Millions of people will be on the move searching for a new home.)

Victoria can be contacted at Orchard House, Hopcraft Lane, Deddington, OX15 0TD, 01869 233 685, victoria.prentis.mp@parliament.uk

Together we can make a difference!

The Friends of Cottisford Church and
Cottisford and Juniper Hill Social Committee

Snowdrop Sunday

On Sunday 13th February 2022

At Cottisford Church

2 – 4 pm

Come along to this picturesque, historic churchyard
to see carpets of snowdrops and aconites in full bloom.

Visit the church where Flora Thomson ('Lark Rise to Candleford')
worshipped and the village where she went to school.

Lots to enjoy for the whole family!

Spring plants, including snowdrops, for sale.

Tea and delicious Homemade Cakes - £2.50

Tombola

History Display

Come and find out all about Cottisford and Juniper Hill

If you have any prizes for the Tombola or would like to
know more, please contact Jane Birnage
(07770 220605) or Eileen Torrance (07724 032554)

REGISTRY

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

Funerals

Peter John Silver 1947 to 2021

Peter Silver died on 25th November 2021. His funeral service took place in the church on the 13th December. Many people attended and the service very much reflected his personality and sense of humour.

His sister Gill told us something of Pete's life : “ Peter John Silver, born 26 October 1947 and died aged 74, taken from us far too soon. A brother, a father, a husband, grandfather, great grandfather, uncle and friend.

Nicknamed Crispie before birth, he was going to emerge as either Christine or Peter. But secrets on what was hoped for were revealed in our parent's diaries and letters they wrote whilst apart. I was amused by the letter Mum wrote to Dad whilst in the maternity hospital. She wrote “I'm so glad that you like the baby dear even if he is a boy. We can imagine he's a girl for a few months”. After Pete's initial wry expression, we both found this very funny and wondered if he was put in dresses for a while. It was, however, quickly followed with “it makes me so proud to see you come back from the nursery with such a proud expression on your face and kisses to Daddy from Peter”, so all was not lost and he was thankfully accepted as a boy.

Pete was the eldest of three. We spent our early days in Willesden before moving to Romford when Pete was about 9 and then Billericay for our teenage years, after which we all scattered around a bit. We had a lovely childhood with many happy memories of holidays in our caravan in Rye and of many fun parties.

Our brother Colin sadly died of the same dreadful disease as Pete in 2008 and our parents died in 2015 and 2016. Pete and I remained close and supported each other during these difficult years, having many family gatherings and camping trips during which Pete would amuse us all with his funny stories and knowledge. He had an excellent memory for all sorts of things and a sense of humour that had us laughing through all sorts of troubles and particularly whilst huddled inside his cosy motorhome before we all had to return to our freezing tents.

The three of us were quite different. Colin was always the ‘tinkerish’ one of the family, always taking things apart and not always getting them back together. I seemed to be the one that was always in trouble, but Pete seemed to be the one that was always the sensible one, never over-indulging as a teenager. He was artistic and confident, always particular about his possessions and woe betide if Colin or I ever spoilt anything of his, or even touched anything. This showed in later life with the care and attention he gave to everything he did.

Pete retired from the Gas Board aged 60 and this led on to his new career in photography and video work. It was his eye for detail and getting everything just right that made him the person he was, the creative photographic skills that he developed into a successful role both as a business and for friends and family. The group family photograph was always taken on every occasion we gathered. All of us posed and warned not to move or blink. He thoroughly enjoyed his video work and approached this with enthusiasm filming Steeleye Span, the Fire Brigade, fashion shows and much more.

Pete will be sadly missed by us all: by Christine, his children, Paul, Nicky and Sally, his grandchildren, great grandchildren, his extended family, his many good friends, colleagues and the community in which he lived.

I am sure that each one of you have special memories that you will cherish always and so this tribute is a very sad farewell to a much-loved man taken too soon, a very special uncle to Emma, James and Leanne and the fondest of farewells to my lovely, funny brother, my support and my life-long friend.”

Peter's wife Christine introduced the piece of music following Gill's tribute – ‘Jollity Farm’ by the Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band::

“Hello everyone. Well, Pete, here we are in church again, I'd rather be in a campervan. There's a lot been said about Pete's sense of humour lately, and this was what attracted me to him, 17 years ago. Pete's choice of music was always very varied and we were on a day trip early on in our relationship, when this next song came on the car radio. We were stopped at the time, and he gestured to the radio, “you know this one”, and when I glanced across at him he was singing along with all the words and the noises. Jokingly I said, “I think this should be our song, Pete”. Later tongue in cheek, we thought about having it for our funerals, however Pete changed his mind

about 5 years ago and thanks go to my son in law, the other Pete, for remembering that the music he wanted was 'Life is what you make it'. So he's getting that as well.

Although I would have wished it longer, I really enjoyed and I hope he did too, what we did make of our life together. So let's remember the laughs we had with Pete, join in if you wish, and let's everybody make a row, as we bid him farewell. Bub, bub Pete."

After the Address, we listened to the next piece of music which was introduced by John Dagnall a longstanding friend of Pete's:

"I'm not sure of the year Pete first came in to my life or what the project was we were working on at that time but I believe it was about 20 years ago.!

Pete was such a terrific person to have around; so generous with his knowledge and his time. When it came to filming or a photo shoot Pete was always the first person I would call. Working on projects with Steeleye Span, Gerard Kenny, Gilbert O Sullivan, Sir Terry Pratchett. We spent many hours driving up the motor way discussing so many things. Cameras, techniques of Editing, Music, families, Health, religion. I think Pete liked talking.

When he came to the studio his eyes would light up when I said "Cup of tea and a biscuit Pete?" The answer was always the same, "OOOH that would be nice, John." And the conversations would start again!

And then there was Billy's World Club -a kids You Tube channel using puppets.

I had to apologise many times to Pete for giving him cramp. "Any chance you can leave the Camera on a wide shot, Pete, and sit on the floor over here and stick your hand up the puppet to give it some movement?" "Eer I'll give it a go, John". Nothing seemed to phase Pete. But boy we did have a lot of laughs on this project while drinking yet more tea.

I will miss him so very much. I have a feeling Pete is still working some magic from heaven right now as on Billy's World Club channel the You Tube views have increased terrifically in the last two weeks. Thank you, Pete.

And now to the next piece of music . Pete filmed the video to this song and it's so beautifully shot. The song is by Steeleye Span and is called 'Somewhere Along The Road.'

Later, when we were gathered up at the village hall for refreshments after the service, John Fargin from the Parish Council spoke on behalf of the Village Hall Committee:

"Welcome to Fringford Village Hall. Peter was a key member of the small group of volunteers that runs this hall on behalf of the community. As you move around the hall today you will see many examples of the contribution Peter made to this hall and to this community in the 13 years or so he was involved. Peter digitised, edited, and catalogued all the historic images that form the Village History Display in the next room. Please, if you can, take time to have a look. On your way to the Chinnery Room you will see a fantastic drone image of the whole village that demonstrates that Peter was at the leading edge of all things photographic. He made videos for us, developed the first village website, and provided numerous images for the village magazine. Very significantly Peter gained funding for and set up some fabulous cinema equipment to form the Take 5 Cinema Club which was attended by many villagers over the years. The huge screen, equally huge speakers, the acoustic ceiling panels and even a pop-corn machine made the cinema experience very real. Peter would introduce his excellent, sometimes off-beat, film selections with his own, relaxed, warm, and humorous style and always get the evenings off to a great start. As the lead on Entertainment, Peter was at the heart of many village events - He even managed to somehow attract artists such as Gordon Gilltrap and Rick Kemp to our little village hall for fundraising evenings. Peter played an important part in the team and his expertise his relaxed, calm, style, and his sense of fun will all be sorely missed. Please join me in raising a toast to a great colleague, a committed and generous villager, and a great guy! To Pete.... "

Exciting announcement:



Shelswell
History Festival

joins with



Artists in the
Countryside

This year the Shelswell History Festival and 'Artists in the Countryside' have agreed to join forces and run alongside, each other guaranteeing an even more exciting weekend for you and all the family!

Put it in your diary now!

Saturday 16th July / Sunday 17th July 2022

As well as the opportunity to see some fabulous art work by local artists, there will be some wonderful classic cars and tractors, local history displays, some pipers, morris dancers, some wandering players, historical re-enactment groups, a variety of food and drink outlets, and who knows what else!

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



<http://shelswellhistoryfestival.org.uk/>

FRINGFORD C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Can you help?

The school is in need of a reliable handyman to catch up with general maintenance and small jobs. In addition, a small patio and fencing is required – has anyone the building skills to do this and possibly other small building works.

Please contact Claire McBride
Office Manager
Fringford C of E Primary School 01869 277397



December was a very busy and innovative month For Finnmere C of E Primary School!



To reduce the number of people congregating indoors – this year our Christmas Fair was instead transformed into an outdoor Christmas Market event. This was organised by the Friends of Finnere School Association (FoFSA) who raised the amazing sum of £1,200.00 and will be using the money to purchase additional iPads for Finnere School pupils. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated team of fundraisers and are thankful for all the hard work, time and effort they devote to supporting the school.

Later that month our school choir were delighted to be invited to the Finnere lights switch on service by Reverend Alice. The children sang superbly, led by The Head of School, Mrs Law and Mrs Carpenter, our reception class teacher.

Determined that our children and their families should still be able to share the school Christingle service together, we held it outside in the school playground this year. With lots of room for social distancing, some beautiful sunshine and lots of carol singing, we were able to spend time together as a whole school community and celebrate Jesus Christ as the light of the world.

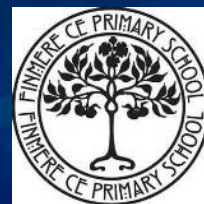


Finally, with the ending of the term, it was also time to say goodbye to our school administrator as she left to start her maternity leave. The new year has arrived with the wonderful news of his birth and that that both mother and child are well and settled at home.

From everyone here at Finnere C of E School, we wish you a safe and prosperous new year.



Finnere C of E Primary School is a member of the Warriner Multi Academy Trust, a charitable limited company registered in England and Wales. Company number 9696059.



Finmere CofE Primary School

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

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

Phone: 01280 848459





Sunday 20 February
Stoke Lyne Church
4 - 5.30pm

Join us for Crafts, Fun and Games
followed by tea,
sandwiches and cakes.

All Ages are welcome!

FUN@4

Fun @4 met in December for Christingles in Stratton Audley. We were unsure of how many people might join us due to it being so close to Christmas and people avoiding crowds. We set up family tables and there was lots to make and do. We made Christingles and lit our candles as part of our service and ended with tea, sandwiches and cake! Thank you to those who joined us – we sent the £56.00 collected to the Children's Society.

This month we celebrated Creation. We gathered in St Peter's, Stoke Lyne at 4pm.

Due to the current Omicron variant we took the decision to keep to family tables where everything was laid out for family fun! As the pictures show we had great fun creating dragonflies, painted butterflies, cupcake earths, bird feeders and motivational coasters. This was followed by time together singing, reading from the Bible and praying together.

The service ended with the usual tea, sandwiches and cake!



Fun @4 is a craft and activity based monthly service welcoming All Ages. Come as a family, come on your own and join in with God's family. If you enjoy craft, or sitting and chatting over a cup of tea, playing a few games then we would love you to join us.

If you would like to help with baking cakes or serving tea, or preparing crafts for these services, please do speak to Revd. Yvonne or email curate@shelswellparishes.info

The Anne Robson Trust

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

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

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

FREE NATIONAL HELPLINE (0808 801 0688)

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

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

| No one deserves to face dying alone |

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

Club news

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

KNIT FOR PEACE



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

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

SHELSWELL WALKERS

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





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



Come and join us on Thursday, February 3rd, at 7.30pm in Fringford Village Hall for an interesting talk by Alastair Lack: 'Travels with Aunties' (My life with the BBC World Service).

Alastair studied history at Oxford University, taught in India, worked in publishing in New York and then joined the BBC. An interesting evening awaits. As usual, the Meeting will start with some WI business, then the talk, followed by tea, cake and a catch up with members and guests.

January's meeting was very well attended and we have some new members, which is an excellent and encouraging start to the New Year. The talk was so topical, being on the history of masks. We were able to view many brought by Christine Farmer, who gave us the stories behind each, with many from Africa and Asia. We look forward to a full programme this year and will continue with the coffee club, where members meet up for a chat. The walking group has been meeting once a month and afterwards may have lunch together or just a coffee.

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

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



SHELSWELL GARDEN CLUB



At our **December 14th** meeting, we welcomed **Katherine Crouch**. She has been interested in gardening since childhood. In the early 90s she moved with her husband, to a bungalow in Somerset where they had to make front and back gardens from scratch. In the front they decided to just use plants and no hard landscaping but, in the back, there was an opportunity to terrace the sloping garden, making paths and seating areas using old railway sleepers. They made the best use of space and were accepted into the National Garden Scheme. In 1999 she entered the new Gardeners World '**Gardener of the Year**' competition, beating over 3000 entrants to the title! Her horticultural career then took off, she undertook a course on running your own business and since then she has been busy working as a garden designer as well as giving talks all over the country. In 2008, Gardener's World decided to have a '**Gardener of the Decade**' competition, calling back previous winners of the yearly competition. Five gardeners entered and yet again Katherine won becoming Gardener of the Decade. She met several well-known gardeners at this time including Alan Titchmarsh and Rachel de Thame.

For our first meeting of 2022 (via Zoom) on **January 11th**, we welcomed **Christine and Keith Hayward of Hart Canna Nursery**. They told their story of growing Cannas in their garden to growing them commercially in a 2-acre nursery with seven large polytunnels and becoming holders of National Collection of Cannas. They provide RHS gardens, Kew Gardens and exhibit at some of the national garden shows. In 2016 they received a gold medal at the Hampton Court Show. Using photos, they showed us several Cannas which are native to Central and South America. There are 3 types, grown for foliage, floral or water lovers. They generally require warm sultry positions, frost free and damp in winter, in containers or the ground. They are best bought as plants or rhizomes which should have shoots appearing.

At our next meeting on **February 8th**, we have invited **Michael Holland** with his favourite talk – **5 Plants that Changed the World**. Michael trained as an Ecologist and started his career at the Chelsea Physic Garden in London, latterly as Head of Education for over 17 years. He has taught tens of thousands of people, aged 2 to 92, about the natural world. His first book, 'I Ate Sunshine for Breakfast' was published in April 2020 providing an inspiring introduction to the wonderful world of plants and how they are relevant to our lives. The talk will look at some of the plants without which our planet would not be the same!

An email will be sent out before the meeting to give you the Zoom link, so if you do not receive the club emails, please give Corrine a call on 01869 247411 to be added to the email list.

SHELSWELL POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP

Our first meeting of 2022, on January 11th, looked at a number of poems associated with the theme of Travel. It was a good way of widening our horizons and looking forward to a time, hopefully not too far in the future, when travel should become easier than it has been for the past two years.

We began with 'The Golden Journey to Samarkand' by James Elroy Flecker, an extract from his verse drama, 'Hassan'. Next was 'The Song of Wandering Aengus', by WB Yeats, a poet of the Irish 'Celtic Twilight'. Edna St. Vincent Millay's 'Travel' sums up the feeling of wanderlust, as does Robert Louis Stevenson's own poem of that name. Rupert Brooke's 'Song of the Pilgrim' reflects his own restlessness and world-weariness, whereas John Masfield's 'Sea Fever' and 'Cargoes' are vibrant with interest in a varied and exciting world. Several extracts from Walt Whitman's 'Leaves of Grass' were full of optimism and vigour about the multi-faceted experiences he had enjoyed on his travels, whereas Tennyson's 'Ulysses' is a more sober, thoughtful contemplation of the urge for action. In 'The Nightmare Song' from Gilbert and Sullivan's 'Tolanthe', the travel is done in a nightmare. Laurence Binyon's poem 'Fetching the Wounded' recounts his travels as an ambulance driver during the First World War, and we were brought right up to date with an extract from Amanda Gorman's 'Back to the Past'.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday February 8th at 10.30 in Stoke Lyne, and the theme will be Springtime which, with global warming starts earlier every year!

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

SHELSWELL READING GROUP

The book discussed at the January meeting was 'If Beale Street Could Talk' by James Baldwin. This is a novel focusing on two young people living in New York in the 1970s. It is both harrowing in its documenting of racial prejudice and unfairness, and uplifting in its portrayal of family support and dogged stoicism. Not an easy read, but one which gets us to walk around in someone else's shoes and brings us face-to-face with the divisions which still exist in American society.

Our next book for discussion is 'The Martian' by Andy Weir and the meeting will be on Thursday Feb 10th at 7.30. in Cottisford. If you would like to join us, please contact Jane Birnage, our co-ordinator, on 01280 847455 or at janebirnage@icloud.com



THE SHELSWELL BENEFICE

The Tenth of the Village Articles

Mixbury



Mixbury has an unfortunate meaning, 'dunghill' or 'filthy place'. The parish includes the 'lost' hamlets of Fulwell, meaning 'foul stream' and Willaston, the 'tun of Wiglaf; the place-names indicate that all of them were Anglo-Saxon settlements. The village was never large and in 1662 there were only 34 and 21 householders in Mixbury and Fulwell listed for the hearth tax. By 1801 there were some 50 houses and a population of 304. In 1851 the peak population of 402 was reached. By 1951 it had shrunk to 184, when there were only 64 houses in the whole parish. By 2011 when Mixbury included Newton Purcell-with-Shelswell, the population had risen to 370. Its present neat and attractive appearance dates from the late-nineteenth century, since in 1874 the thatched and dilapidated cottages were replaced by order of the Court of Chancery with about 40 semi-detached houses. The old cottages were described as being 'huts...with here and there an upper room reached by a ladder'. Bishop Wilberforce noted the poverty and poor condition of the cottages and he blamed the old and non-resident squire, who owned the whole village and half the parish but did nothing for it. In 1803 the parish was the poorest in the hundred. It continued poor and neglected and in 1854 the children were still leaving school at eight or nine to work in the fields or to make lace.

The parish church of All Saints dates from the 12th century but the only Romanesque feature left is the south door. There was considerable rebuilding in the 14th century, when new windows were inserted in the north, east and south walls of the chancel. In addition the present tower was erected, the north aisle was built and a clerestory was added. In the 17th century many changes were made to the fabric, including a low roof over chancel and nave, and a large south porch. Later, W.J.Palmer (rector 1802-51) organised extensive repairs and an elaborate restoration, in spite of initial objections from the vestry. This work included a new carved altar, stained glass, tiles and panelling, and a smaller south porch. Palmer also rebuilt the rectory (enlarged in 1855) and built the school in 1838. In 1928 the school was reorganised as a junior school and seniors were sent to Fringford. In 1948 it was reorganised as an infants' school. In 1954 it was granted aided status but it closed in 1955.

Palmer was a member of a remarkable clerical family and locally he was highly regarded as a saintly rector. He made some close local connections, since he married Dorothy Roundell, sister of Henry Roundell, rector of Fringford 1814-52, while his sister married Charles Wood, curate of Fritwell. His eldest son, William, became a leader of the Oxford Movement and a pioneer in establishing friendly relations between the Greek and Anglican churches. He died a Catholic. His younger brother, Roundell Palmer (1812-95), had a distinguished political career, rising to Lord Chancellor and becoming Earl of Selborne in 1872. His son and grandson also had successful political careers, the 2nd Earl becoming first lord of Admiralty, 1900-5, establishing Osborne, Dartmouth and Royal Naval War College, and becoming high commissioner for South Africa, 1905-10.

Farming has been the main occupation of the villagers. In the 1850s the village also had a blacksmith, a baker, two shopkeepers and a carrier. By 1903 there was still a blacksmith and a shopkeeper, but by 1939 the only tradesman left was a shopkeeper. This decline certainly compares unfavourably with other villages in the benefice. The parish has been notable for its connection with medieval tournaments, since in 1194 the open ground between Brackley and Mixbury was made one of the licensed tournament grounds in England. There was also a castle at one time, and the earthworks opposite the old school are still clearly visible.

Martin Greenwood

CAN YOU WRITE AN ARTICLE OR HAVE ANY IDEAS FOR AN ARTICLE?

I have found Martin Greenwood's series of articles on Shelswell Parishes very interesting and hope you have too. This month's article on Mixbury is the final one in this series – and our grateful thanks goes to Martin for his research.

Going forward - could anyone contribute an article on the local area, hobby, activity, changes in lifestyle or ??? Ideally approximately one A4 sheet. It could be every two months, or different people giving us different topics and allocating them to different issues over a year.

Please do not be shy – contact me if you have ideas?

Editor: rosemary.farmery@btinternet.com

REPORTS FROM THE PARISHES

Cottisford and Juniper Hill

St Mary the Virgin

CHURCHWARDEN: Charles Jackson, Cottisford House, Cottisford

Tel 01280 848247

TREASURER David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick

Tel 01869 277690

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Vacancy

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

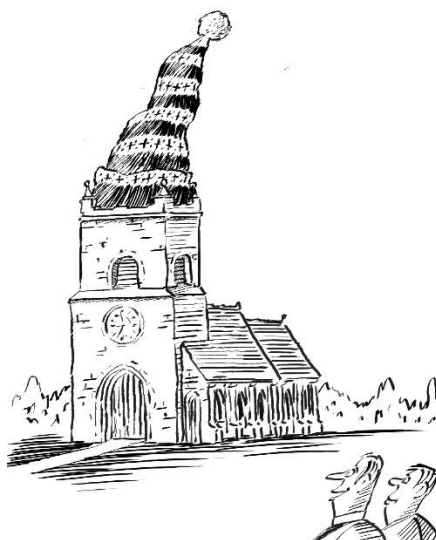
To donate to St Mary's, Cottisford just scan this code with your phone:



COTTISFORD AND JUNIPER HILL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

A good number of people turned up to decorate the church for the Carol Service and the following Christmas period, and the result was a welcoming, colourful and fragrant scene.

Looking ahead – The Friends of Cottisford Church and the Social Committee are hoping to hold the traditional Snowdrop Sunday between 2 and 4pm on Sunday 13th February. There will be spring plants for sale, a tombola and refreshments. See our poster in the General Section.



"The knitting circle are playing their part in our heating efficiency programme."

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

Tel 01280 847782

Tel 01280 848268

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



Thank you BROCC

(OK, so this should have been in last month's magazine...)



BROCC did us a fabulous concert in Finmere Church on 27th November 2021!

Jenny Blake and family came along. Jenny said:

'We had a great evening listening to Birmingham Repertory Opera Company's festive concert yesterday. I have to say given the weather I was less than enthusiastic about turning out but we decided it would do us good to have an evening out and I'm really glad we did.'

A fantastic performance of favourite Christmas carols with beautiful harmonies in the first half, wine and delicious nibbles in the interval and then a second half of light Christmas songs around the theme of a Christmas party. It was a real treat to hear all these well known carols and songs performed so brilliantly. Amazing voices, good fun and well worth venturing out on a cold evening. It really did make me feel it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Please pass on our thanks to the whole group – if they come this way again, we'd definitely love to see them again.'

Many thanks to **The Red Lion** for donating the wine, and to all those who donated raffle prizes and refreshments. And thanks to everyone who came out to enjoy it!

All in all, it raised about £365 for the church! Fabulous!



And thank you Finmere Carol Singers

And whilst we're on the subject of Christmas, huge thanks to Melina and Wallace and all who sang carols at the Red Lion on Wednesday 22nd December – they raised £185.84 for the church roof! And thanks to Tim and Susanna for hosting it!

Alice Goodall

Village Hall

Work continues with the planning of the recovery of the hall after the arson attack. Unfortunately, what had appeared to be a straight forward project entailing cleaning and repair, has been turned from a 'mole hill into a mountain' by the insurance company and their agents. Well done Phillip who is managing this on behalf of the hall management committee – may your patience and stoicism continue. With a bit of luck, the hall should be back in operation Easter(ish), or at least by the Queen's platinum jubilee.



Allotments

The Poor's Plot currently has a small waiting list for allotment plots in the village. There is a possibility that a few plots may become available shortly, so any aspiring allotment users should visit

www.myfinmere.com/poorsplot



Need some local help

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

Village facebook page

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

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

Finmere Parish Council website at – www.finmerepc.org

Village hall news at – www.myfinmere.com

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



Fringford St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: John Mayo, 10 Church Close, Fringford
 TREASURER: Christina McCullagh, 5 Crosslands, Fringford
 PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Penny Wood as below
 MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Penny Wood, 8 Crosslands, Fringford
 VILLAGE HALL CORRESPONDENT: Christine Underwood
 WEBSITE www.fringford.info

Tel 01869 278873
 Tel 07867 515207

Tel 01869 277310
 Tel 01869 278949



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

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, SERVICES & EVENTS

Services

- Sunday 6th February – 10.45 Morning Service
- Sunday 20th February – 10.45 Holy Communion

To find out the times and places of services on other Sundays, please look at the back of this magazine, check the noticeboard, our website www.shelswellparishes.info or ring the Benefice office (01280-848192). You will always be welcome in our other parishes.

Advent Windows

Thank you to everyone who decorated a window. It all looked lovely.

Carol Singing around the Village

Fourteen people joined in carol singing around the village on Thursday 16th December. We raised £221 for Nai's House, a local charity offering mental health support for young people. **Thank you** to everyone who sang, and all who generously supported the charity.

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

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

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

Kindling

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

Greetings Cards

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

Fringford Church 100 Club

The winners of the January draw were Judi Old £51; Sandra Meaney £31; and John Alderdice £20. You can still sign up to the 100 Club. Contact Christina McCullagh to register your involvement **ASAP, on 07867 515207**.

Fringford Church Book Exchange

The box for book exchange is in the church porch

Little Lambs Babies & Toddler Group

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

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

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
Wednesday 16 March at 7pm
Sunday 10 April at 3pm

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

Next dates are Sunday 13th February 3pm – 5pm and Wednesday 16th March 7pm – 9pm

SUPPORT DURING THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS, AND AFTERWARDS

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

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

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

FRINGFORD VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

The Coffee Morning will be on Monday 21st February, 10.30am to 12 noon. Now meeting in the Chinnery Room at the Village Hall. Do drop in. [The February Fringford Church 100 Club draw will take place that morning].

Penny Wood

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:



Christmas Services at Hardwick

The early magazine deadline for January, means we can only now report on the two Christmas Services held at Hardwick church.

The service of Lessons and Carols, held on 19th December, provided us with the ideal opportunity to usher in Christmas. Thanks are due to Penny Wood for taking the service; to the Shelswell Benefice Choir for leading the singing; and to all those who read the lessons. A special mention must go to Oliver Tapping, aged 7, for taking on a reading without warning and so having no practice.

The service of Holy Communion held on Christmas morning enabled us to celebrate Jesus' birth. Our thanks are due to Revd Alice Goodall for leading this service. Finally, thanks to Pam Morgan for playing the organ at both services. Hardwick has only a tiny congregation of regular worshippers. So, it was good to see our numbers significantly increase for both these services.

HARDWICK CHURCH IS OPEN DAILY

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

To keep you safe, please follow the guidelines below:

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

THANK YOU

Hethe St Edmund and St George

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

Tel 01869 277366
 Tel 01869 278166
 Tel 01869 278166

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

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

Many thanks, Mike.

ST EDMUND & ST GEORGE CHURCH

Church Services and Events



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

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

Lay Led Service

A new lay led service will be starting this month. It will take place at 9.30am on the 4th Sunday of alternate months. This modern service will focus on gratitude for the world around us and care for the environment. We want to use music, words and silence for praise and reflection. All are welcome and we encourage families to bring children - they can just be themselves.

Hethe Community Coffee Morning in St Philip's Hall



Tuesday 8th February 10-12 noon

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

Church Giving

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



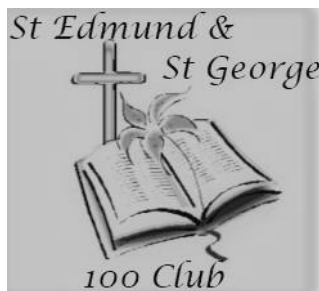
⇐ Scan here for regular giving by direct debit

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



or

100 Club Results



The 36th draw:

1st Prize No 44 Alfred Mansfield

2nd Prize No 27 Mary Morgan

3rd Prize No 8 Helen Pritchard Family

The 37th Draw:

1st Prize No 4 Helen Pritchard Family

2nd Prize No 3 Gary Skinner

3rd Prize No 46 Joy Robinson

There are still plenty of numbers if you wish to join! Please contact Mike or one of the other PCC members for an application form. The form and full details of the scheme are on the village website.

Church Cleaning and Flowers

Volunteers to clean the church and provide the church flowers: this month - Flora; March - Linda Cotton. Thank you to everyone who contributed towards decorating the church for Christmas. There were lots of positive comments on the star and Christmas tree outside the church.

HETHE COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

Village Hall

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



Hethe Lending Library

Thanks to Flora we now have a reorganised and professionally displayed range of books and CDs in the church. A wonderful opportunity to browse and borrow!

Mixbury All Saints

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

January	Sally Drummond-Hay
February	Melanie Soar
March	Emma Bray
April	Easter 17 th April – Everyone
May	Barbara Mortimer
June	Kate Darby
July	Sue Goodman
August	Helen Backon
September	Philippa Brown
	Harvest festival – everyone
October	Morag Westworth
November	Fi Bairstow
December	Carol service and Christmas - everyone
Reserve	Sam Lockwood

Garden Waste Collections are Changing

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

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

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

Mixbury Book Exchange – has moved!

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

Mixbury Pop Up Pub Nights

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

Here are the planned dates for the year. Please note we have no pub night in January as lots of people are still away, have party fatigue or doing Dry January! Please let me know which date you would like to host or give me a call if you have any questions:-

4th February - still requires a host at time of printing
 4th March
 1st April
 6th May
 3rd June – still requires a host at time of printing
 1st July
 5th August – still requires a host at time of printing
 2th September
 7th October
 4th November – still requires a host at time of printing
 2nd December

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

SAVE THE DATE – SUNDAY 5TH JUNE 2022 **QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE**

Just a quick note to say SAVE THE DATE!

On Sunday 5th June Mixbury will join in the fun to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. There will be new village bunting to make, music, dancing, children's competitions and much much more! More details to follow.

All Our Yesterdays – How special are archaeological “finds” today?

Recently we have been treated in this region to various announcements by HS2 of amazing heritage on the path of the HS2 track which is being built. The most prominent so far are:

1. A wooden Roman figure found in a ditch in Twyford, Buckinghamshire.
2. Iron Age and Roman settlements cheek by jowl at Chipping Warden, Northamptonshire.
3. The torsos and heads of some large Roman statues found near Stoke Mandeville, Buckinghamshire.

I'm sure that most of us would readily have foregone the experience of HS2 carving its way through our parishes, destroying the natural environment, communities and the homes and livelihoods that many people created. You would think that as someone who values history and heritage very highly that is difficult for me to write but, frankly, it is no contest. The destructive effects of HS2 greatly exceed the heritage gain, which would have been sitting safely under the ground anyway. However, we are where we are, and the heritage found should be valued for what it is and what it tells us about the period of history from whence it came – in the cases of 1 to 3 above, the Iron Age and Roman periods. In these cases, it really doesn't matter where these finds were. They give us more of an insight into times in history, in which we all have stake, rather than the place.

How widespread are archaeological finds, particularly in this region? In 2007 research published by Oxford University concluded that there were 1224 hillforts in England, of which 40 were in Oxfordshire. Archi UK, an organisation that has created a database of 190,000+ British archaeological sites, from pre-history to medieval times, has in January 2022 added a further 1000 GPS locations of Roman settlements, villas, buildings and occupation sites. The database carries over 250 records of sites, from pre-history to medieval times, within 10km of Mixbury, many of which will be in the area of Shelswell Benefice. Historic England say the Normans built 500 motte and bailey castles (nearly all made of wood), followed by those with a stone keep, in the first 20 years after

the Battle of Hastings, of which 90 remain in England today. (Mixbury has the earthworks of the Norman Beaumont Castle). It is thought that the Normans built over 7000 churches in England over the century following 1066, many of which form the bases of what exists today. And according to Oxford Archaeology, in 1974 there were 148 deserted villages in Oxfordshire: Mixbury's is at Fulwell. Added to this are the many pottery sherds, pieces of glass, coins and other artefacts which ordinary people find, sometimes in their back garden, and it is fair to say that we live in an archaeologically rich area. So, when you are walking around your parish it is a wonder you don't trip over one or more of these features! It is certainly very unlikely that you will be far from something of historical interest.

Of course, the plough has long-since buried or altered many of them, and others will be covered by modern buildings. Detectorists, archaeologists and serendipity have led to the discovery of some. In June this year Mixbury History Group hopes to mount archaeological investigations at what we think are key sites in the parish - to confirm the possible locations of Mixbury's Saxon church and the Saxon mills at Mixbury and Fulwell; to locate a Roman road which we think runs to the north and east of the village; to investigate the content and nature of Oseney Abbey's grange (after 1205), and Mixbury's manor houses from 1550 to 1750, all at Fulwell; and to investigate the "lumps and bumps" in a field to the west of the village. The success of the whole venture depends in the first instance on the success of an application we have made to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for resources to employ professional archaeologists. Keep your fingers crossed, please.

Having intimated earlier that it doesn't really matter in many cases where heritage finds are made, it does matter to the people who live there. In August 2022 we surveyed households in Mixbury so we could gauge their interest in history generally and interest in the work of the History Group in particular. Only 27% of adults frequently "consumed" history/heritage through, for example, books, films, visits to museums etc. This compared with 43% who had interacted one way or another with the History Group. But 88% of respondents agreed with the statement that "Knowing the parish's history gives me a sense of place", and 93% enjoyed "Learning about Mixbury's history and heritage. I suspect that most places, primed by History Tents and Newsletters, would come up with a similar result: I think we are all a bit parochial about where we live. But a wider understanding of history and heritage comes from looking at and valuing our neighbours' lots as well as our own.

Bruce Epps, for Mixbury History Group

Post Script: By the time this article appears, we will have had a presentation by the sector manager for Fusion, HS2's enabling arm, about the archaeology they have found in Mixbury. I will include an update about this in next month's Shelswell News.

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Services -

Please don't forget our change in service pattern.

The February service will be on **Sunday 6th February at 9.15 a.m.**

Bonus Ball Lotto -

Our recent lucky winners were Hugo von Maltzahn and Sophie Crofton.

Spring Churchyard Clear Up -

At our recent PCC meeting we fixed a date to do our annual Churchyard Clear Up - **Saturday 5th March** at **10.00 a.m.** We urge all who are able to help to come along for just a couple of hours so all will be tidy before the mowing starts and Easter!

A Date for Your Diary -

Easter Sunday this year falls on **Sunday 17th April** and our service will be at **10.45 a.m.** followed by refreshments, 'Buck's Fizz' and a special Easter Raffle.

Stoke Lyne St Peter's

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

Tel 01869 346020

Tel 07762 719198

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

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St Peter's Church Stoke Lyne Services

3 rd February	12.00 noon Shelswell Benefice Monthly Communion and Lunch
6 th February	10.00 am Food for Thought
13 th February	6.00 pm Evening Communion
20 th February	4.00 pm Fun at Four
27 nd February	10.45 am Holy Communion

Flower Duty for February

Sarah-Jane Buckle

Stoke Lyne 100 Club – January Results

1st Prize	No 60 Craig Mitchell
2nd Prize	No 55 Jane and Lucy
3rd Prize	No 6 Selina Davies

The 100 club has been running now since January 2021 and we have 52 members which is brilliant. I will be in contact with those who paid a yearly subscription last January in the hope that they will renew their membership for the coming year.

Thanking you all, once again, for your continued support.

Janey Poole

Treasurer St Peter's Church PCC

Tel: 01869 346020 janey@oxford-educational.co.uk

Stoke Lyne Carol Service – 23rd December

The new government ruling that had just come in meant that it was decided to hold the carol service outside as it was felt some people may not feel comfortable being inside.

Harriet and Caroline loaned us beautiful lights to be strung all round the Church and it looked really beautiful. Yvonne led an inspiring service with various members of the congregation doing readings, playing the music for the carols. This was followed up with mulled wine and mince pies. Everyone agreed it was an enjoyable evening.



L: Image from video by Janey, R: photo by Kelly

Stoke Lyne Advent Windows 2021

Nine households participated starting on 16th December. Here are four of the windows: clockwise from top left: Hark the Herald Angels Sing (Sarah-Jane), See Amid the Winter's Snow (Pippa), While Shepherd's Watched (Sammie) and O Little Town of Bethlehem (Selina).



Photos by the householders except top right ("See Amid") which was taken by Brenda.

Posada

In Advent Mary and Joseph travelled through Stoke Lyne starting at Church Farm and finishing in the Church on Christmas Eve. They managed the journey without help of an itinerary for they “knew their way round Stoke Lyne”. Many thanks to those who gave them lodgings for a night.

Pat Cherry

Christmas Day Holy Communion services

The Church was quite full for this service with families who were able getting together to celebrate Communion together. I know it was hard for some not being able to be with families over the Christmas period.

Food for thought – Sunday, 2nd January

We enjoyed having a light breakfast of croissants tea and coffee. It was a nice service with willing helpers to assist with the teas and coffees but unfortunately there was only half the normal attendance, so I don't know if people thought it wouldn't be on because of the holiday. Those who were there enjoyed the chat and joined in with how Christmas is celebrated in other countries. Flora very kindly played the organ for us.

Stoke Lyne W.I. - 13th January

We held our first meeting of the year Thursday the 13th of January at 1.00 pm. Rena welcomed all to the meeting and wished all a Happy New Year. After the singing of Jerusalem, Happy Birthday was sung to Mary Wilkins who celebrated her birthday that day.

We carried on the business and dates were given out of future events coming up and speakers.

As the meeting had a Scottish theme Rena was wearing a tartan sash which she said was the Mclean of Duart tartan which she was entitled to wear as she was a Mclean and pointed out her clan badge on the sash which said “Virtue my Honour”. She had also brought along one of her brother's kilts which was made to measure about 30 years ago costing £500. Members were asked to bring a Scottish food dish for the competition with the recipes. We had quite a selection from homemade bread, Cullen skink, Athol Brose, Scottish vegetable soup, scotch broth shortbread, Cranachan trifle, and some cakes.

The food went down very well and we finished with tea and coffee served by Jackie and Miriam.

The raffle was won by Miriam.

The meeting ended with the singing of the National Anthem

Stoke Lyne Welcome

The village would like to welcome the family who have recently moved into Winston Cottage in The Street: David Foster and Suzie with their children Leo and Fern and we wish them well and hope they will be very happy living in the village.

Pat Cherry

Spring is just around the corner



I know it may not feel like it in this icy weather, but when you walk round the Churchyard the signs are there. I know there are not many at the moment but the snowdrops and aconites are starting to push through and outside the church wall the daffodils are poking up their green shoots, shrubs in the gardens have started shooting out buds. Another sign is the birds starting to look for a mate and a nice place to build their nests.

One of the first snowdrops out in the churchyard, taken on 2nd January by Brenda

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

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Church Services in Stratton Audley

Sunday 6th February 6pm Compline

Sunday 13th February 10.45am Morning Service

Sunday 27th February 9.15am Holy Communion

Ash Wednesday 2nd March 12 noon Holy Communion and Soup Lunch

East West Rail Road Closure

Note that there is going to be a temporary road closure on the Stratton Park Road that leads to Poundon on Wednesday 2nd February 2022 between 09:30 and 16:00 hours.

Queens Platinum Jubilee – Join the Committee

A community-wide street party will be held to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee. National celebrations will take place from 2-5th June 2022 and we have pencilled in Sunday 5th June as our day of celebration. If you want to help or join the committee, please contact John Honsinger on 01869 278000 or 07801 816600 or email jhonsinger@btconnect.com.

Stratton Audley 100 club

The club is now up and running for the next 12 months, 158 subscriptions having been taken. Thank you villagers for your generosity and support. Special thanks to the amazing team who collected the subscriptions in the rain, wind and freezing cold. Viv, Jeremy, Sally, Angie, Margaret, Emma and Stewart. The profit this year amounted to £670 which will go towards buying a new noticeboard outside the Church. The draw takes place at coffee morning in the Red Lion on the first Wednesday in the month, results are posted on the village, pub and Church noticeboards and are published in the Shelswell News and the village newsletter. If you missed your collector and wish to join the “club” please get in touch with Maggie and, if you wish to know your allocated number please ask your collector. Good luck to you all.

100 club winners

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

£30	Michael McCabe (156)
£20	Dewhurst Family (118)
£10	Claire McCabe (155)
£10	Jeremy Parkin (24)

Shelswell History Festival advance notice Save-the-date

The Shelswell Benefice has decided to once again run the Shelswell History Festival and this is due to take place on Saturday 16th July 2022. They are looking for volunteers to help organise it and especially anyone with marketing expertise. Contact Alice Goodall by email alicegoodall313@gmail.com



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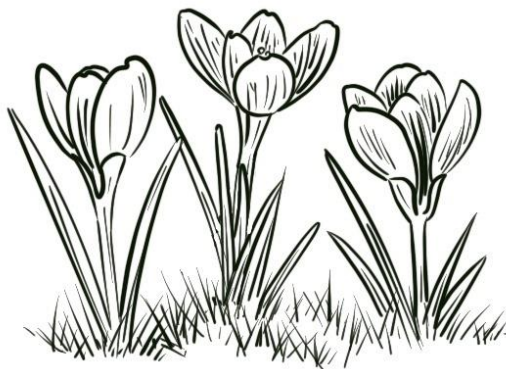
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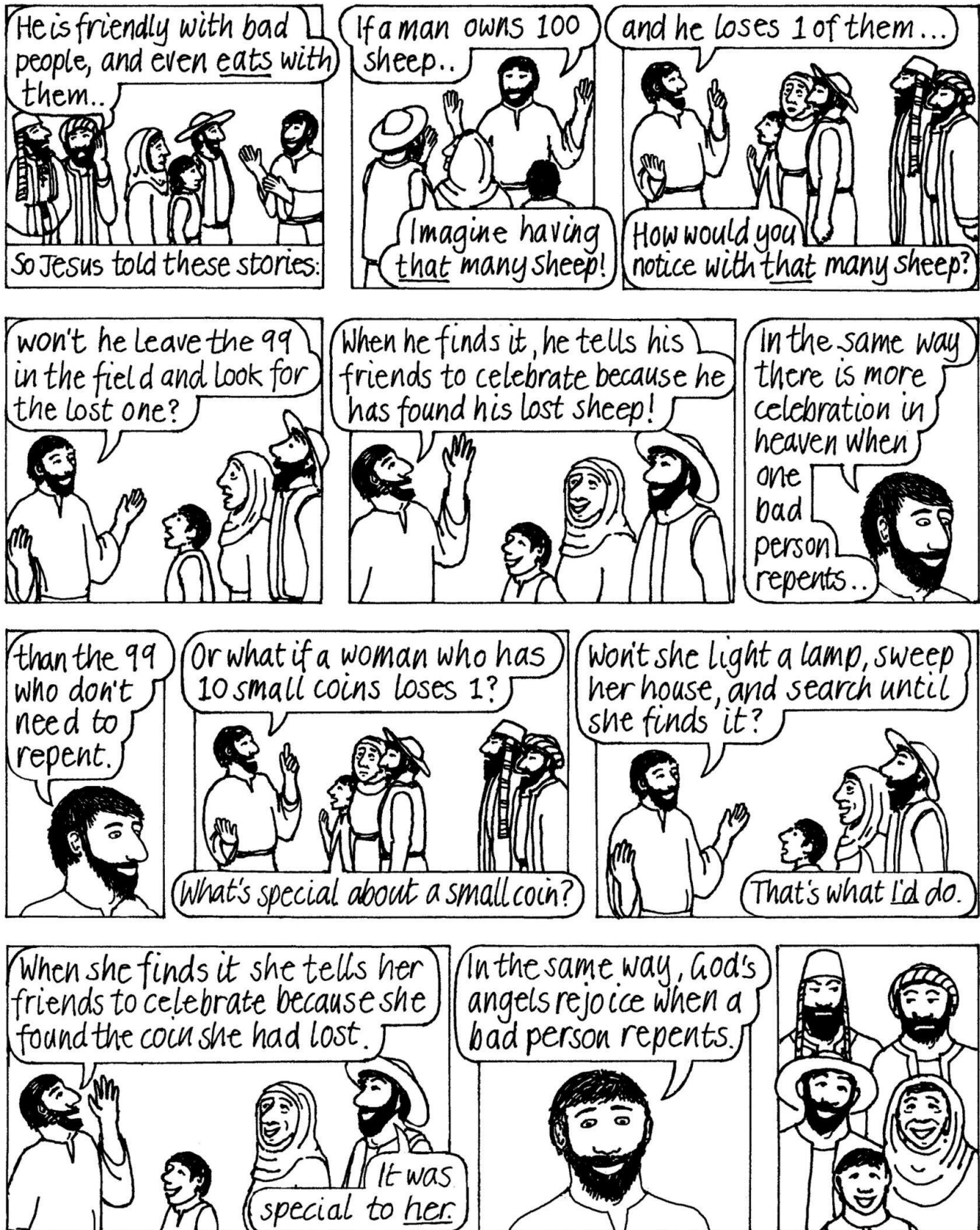


Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke chapter 15 verses 11-32

Jesus spent his time teaching everyone
who would listen, whatever they were. The
Pharisees and Law teachers watched Jesus.





A close-up photograph of a cluster of white snowdrops (Galanthus nivalis) growing in a forest. The flowers are bell-shaped with six petals and green centers, surrounded by green leaves and brown fallen leaves on the forest floor.

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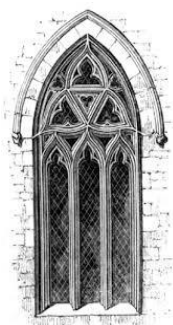
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