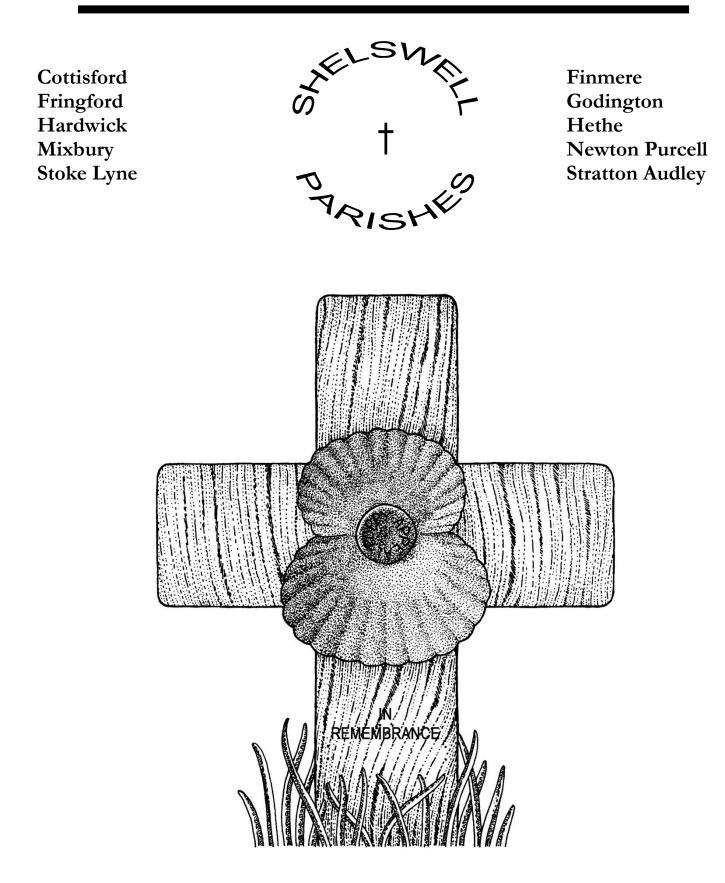
Shelswell News

The magazine of the Shelswell Group of Churches



SHELSWELL 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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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.holytrinityhethe.co.uk/

SHELSWELL NEWS

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

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Deadlines for the December2022 edition of Shelswell NewsTo Magazine Correspondents:Friday11 NovemberCorrespondents to Editor:Sunday13 Novemberat editor@shelswellparishes.info

All articles must be submitted in WORD in a format that can be COPIED AND PASTED PLEASE www.shelswellparishes.info Many thanks for your cooperation.

SHELSWELL 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 .

MINISTERS LETTER

Holding Fast

Jeremy Hunt announces that what is needed for growth is confidence and stability. Which makes a lot of sense, whether we are thinking about growth of the economy or personal growth. But on every front we seem to be surrounded by uncertainty. Uncertainty undermines our confidence. It makes it difficult for us to predict how things will go, and raises our anxieties about whether we will be able to manage in the future. We may start to question whether we will be able to look after our physical, mental and social wellbeing, and that of our families. The more uncertain we are about the answer to that question, the more stressed we are likely to become.





Admittedly here in the UK, even with the economic crisis, we are not having to face anything like the challenges of those in Ukraine or Pakistan or Somalia – or many other parts of the world. But none the less, whether it is worry about how to make ends meet and how to stay warm, or how things will go in a new job, or whether you will be able to find the right school for your child, or worry about an older relative, or wondering when a hospital appointment will come through – or several of these all at

once – so many people seem to be heavily burdened with uncertainty. And it takes its toll. When the uncertainty and stress pile up too much, we are more likely to become depressed and anxious, our thinking may be affected, our blood pressure may start to rise and we may find our physical health being affected.

There is lots of good advice online. For example, check out the section on dealing with uncertainty at <u>www.helpguide.org</u> – advice about good diet and exercise, about challenging unhelpful thinking patterns, and meditation. But one of the things I find most helpful is looking to the things that are bigger than me, more stable and more permanent.

Look to the natural world – there is nothing like standing on a mountain top to remind us that we are but a small part of the cosmos. The seasons come and go, regardless of what we humans are up to. And even when we have turned the planet into somewhere that will no longer support human life, I am encouraged by the return of plants and wildlife to Chenobyl to suspect that nature will spring back.

Look to our church buildings – most of them have been here for over 800 years. Congregations have grown and dwindled and grown again, communities have changed, personalities have come and gone, church wardens and ministers have come and gone, but the buildings are still there, pointing us towards God here in the midst of us.

And look to God – God who is broader and deeper and more permanent than anything our brains can imagine, who is broader and deeper than time and space itself. God, who knows us and cares for us, each of us. In psalm 62:2, the psalmist writes 'God alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken' Many people think the area around the **Chernobyl** nuclear plant is a place of post-apocalyptic desolation. But more than 30 years after one of the facility's reactors exploded, sparking the worst nuclear <u>accident</u> in human history, science tells us something very different.

Researchers have found the land surrounding the plant, which has been largely off limits to humans for three decades, has become a haven for wildlife, with lynx, bison, deer and other animals roaming through thick forests. This so-called Chernobyl Exclusion Zone (CEZ), which covers 2,800 square km of northern Ukraine, now represents the third-largest nature reserve in mainland Europe and has become an iconic – if accidental – experiment in rewilding.

https://www.unep.org/news-andstories/story/how-chernobyl-hasbecome-unexpected-haven-wildlife

I wonder what the things are that help to ground you in the midst of all the uncertainty? Take the time to ponder them, whatever they may be, and feel some of that stress ebb away.



Alice Goodall

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (Isaiah 40:10)





BIBLE READINGS

Sunday 6 th November	3 rd Sunday before Advent	Job 19 v23-27a 2 Thessalonians 2 v1-5 and 13-end Luke 20 v27-38			
Sunday 13 th November	2 nd Sunday before Advent Remembrance Sunday	Malachi 4 v1-2a 2 Thessalonians 3 v6-13 Luke 21 v5-19			
Other readings may be used for Remembrance Services					
Sunday 20 th November	Christ the King/ Sunday next before Advent	Jeremiah 23 v1-6 Colossians 1 v11-20 Luke 23 v33-43			
Sunday 27 th November	Advent Sunday	Isaiah 2 v1-5 Romans 13 v11-end Matthew 24 v36-44			

THANK YOU!



Rich, Mark and I would like to thank you all for your *VERY* generous gifts that were presented to us at our leaving service. It is going to be rather exciting choosing what or where we might go on our Gift Voucher Experience(s) and we do love our garden so they will be well used! The candle will have pride of place in my new study and the flowers have brightened my moving days!

Thank you too for all your good wishes, and for coming along to the service. It was lovely to have so many people from all the different parishes! I know that several people were unable to come along and some were away – thankyou too for your kind messages! I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Curate in the Shelswell Benefice and I take lots of learning experiences and very fond memories with me. I don't like to say Good bye, and as we don't live far away I hope that we will meet again!

Yvonne

THE FUTURE WE CHOOSE

.... will we go on hoarding electronic waste?

People are holding onto old charging cables, laptops, smartphones, and mobile phones despite not using them anymore. UK homes hold around 140 million charging cables, enough to go round the earth 5 times*. Why not have a clear out of e-waste before Christmas – but what to do with it?

If old tech goes to landfill, there's a risk of toxic substances from the components making their way into soi and water. Modern electronics are made using precious and finite materials such as gold, copper, lithium and cobalt. Disposing of old tech rather than recycling it means these valuable resources are lost.

You can send old mobile phones, laptops, tablets, games consoles and digital cameras to **OXFAM** free of charge. For details of how to do this visit: <u>https://onlineshop.oxfam.org.uk/donate-clothes</u> Items that can be refurbished will be put to good re-use. Duds are passed on to specialist recyclers who

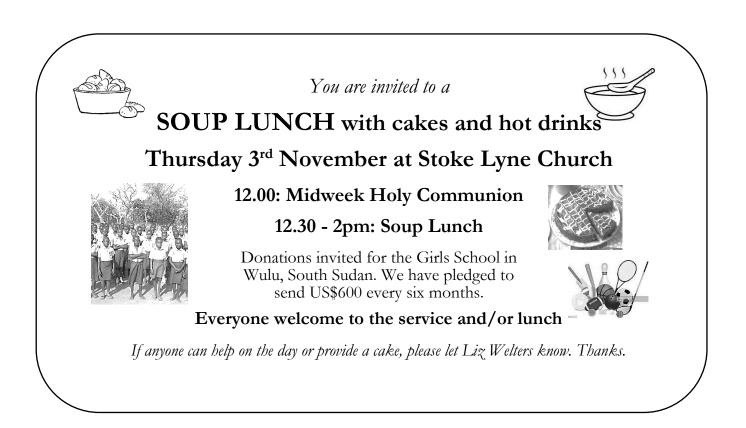
dismantle each part safely, including every bit from the battery, for re-use in the tech industry.

The **British Heart Foundation** offers a free collection service for *working* electronics. These may then be sold in their stores or online. See: <u>www.bhf.org.uk/shop/donating-goods/book-furniture-collection-near-me</u>

Items can also be taken to Household Waste Recycling Centres.

Recycling e-waste will help good causes and help the planet.

*https://www.okdo.com/blog/e-waste-crisis-in-the-uk-infographic/



Fun @ Four

Sunday 20th November 4 pm Stoke Lyne Church

Getting ready for Advent!

wreath making, advent candles, light trail, mince pie making...

Join us for craft, prayer and praise, and tea, cake and sandwiches. There is no charge for these activities.



DON'T GO HUNGRY!

As the economic crisis continues to bite, more people are finding that they are really struggling to make ends meet. We are doing what we can to help.

Thank you

to those churches who donated to the Foodbank in their Harvest services – Bicester Foodbank is experiencing a period of unprecedented demand on its services, and the gifts were very warmly received.

Foodbank Donation Points

can be found In the church porches in Cottisford, Finmere, Fringford, Hethe, Stoke Lyne and Stratton Audley. If you can, please support these with your donations of tinned and dried goods, toiletries, and so on. Urgently needed are tinned tomatoes, tinned fish, rice pudding, tinned meat, tinned fruit, and juice / squash. (They have plenty of cereal and pasta)

If you need to, you are very welcome to take whatever you need from the donation point, and any leftovers will be taken to the Bicester Foodbank on a regular basis.

Local referrers

can refer you to the Bicester Foodbank. They will need a few basic details from you, and then will be able to give you a referral number. You can then go into the Beacon in Bicester and collect a bag of food to keep you going for a few days, or you can phone them and they will be able to drop off a bag to you.

The local referrers are:

Cottisford and Hardwick: David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick, Hardwick. 01869 277690 david.l.barnes@outlook.com Finmere: Michelle Myers, 4 White Houses, Mere Road, Finmere 07927 393657 michelle.myers@hotmail.co.uk Fringford: Penny Wood, 8 Crosslands, Fringford, 01869 277310 penelope.wood@btopenworld.com Hethe: Helen Wood, Old Montague Barn, The Green, Hethe. 01869 278943 / 07999 853347 helenelizawood@hotmail.com Stoke Lyne: Kelly Holden White, 6 The Close, Stoke Lyne, Kholdenwhite@aol.com 07557108067

At the moment, for **Mixbury, Newton Purcell or Stratton Audley**, contact me Alice Goodall, The Rectory, Finmere. 01280 848192 <u>alicegoodall313@gmail.com</u>

Bicester Foodbank

The Beacon is situated in Wesley Lane, Bicester OX26 6JU (off Sheep Street – not the Market Square end but the other end!). As well as the bag of dried goods, you may be able to collect some fruit and vegetables and a meat voucher. Someone from Citizen's Advice is there on a Tuesday from 10 - 12 am, and there is a wellbeing café on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, 1 - 4 pm.

Together we can get through this!



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WULU?

Bishop Zechariah and Mama Monica were warmly greeted on their return – a meal was prepared in the Bishop's compound, and everyone wanted to hear about their travels to the UK.



Homecoming party



As they neared home, their car got stuck in the mud in Wulu Town. Several vehicles were stuck, including some very big lorries.

Since then, the rain has continued and some areas have experienced really bad flooding.

The Bishop's car stuck in the mud

Wulu is divided into four areas or payams, and the payam of Domoloto was badly affected by the flooding, particularly in three villages: Domoloto centre with 86 households, Makudo village with 68 households and Ngolukito village with 46 households. Many people from these villages found that their houses were washed away and their belongings destroyed. They are now living in a makeshift way on the verges of roads. Bishop Zechariah is trying to get financial support to provide them with some basic equipment: utensils (cups, saucepans, jerricans, plates), plastic sheeting to make shelters, blankets and soap.



The collapsed house of Moses Bilali, chair of Domoloto parish



Moses Bilali and family salvage what they can and move in with his father in law.



Some teenagers carry an older man to dry land

We donated money to the Women's Domoloto Farming Project for the oxen and ox ploughs. Sadly, much of this year's crops have been destroyed by the flood. The oxen have been moved to higher ground, but have wounds in their feet. They are being treated for these. Bishop Zechariah's own house was flooded, but he and his family have been able to move into the Bishop's compound which is on higher ground.



Cow trying to lick its poorly foot

Meanwhile, Bishop Zechariah has appointed a development officer to the Diocese, Martin Ngula Simon. That will be a real help to him. (The previous officer, Philip Wau, sent us all sorts of useful information, including interviews with two women involved in the Farming Project, but the Diocese was unable to pay him at that time.)

Using some of the money that was donated to him when he visited us, Bishop Zechariah has also set up an

incentive programme for the five teachers in the Wulu Girls' primary school. When he visited us, he talked of the difficulties caused by the Government's failure to



pay the teachers regularly, which needless to say didn't encourage the teachers to stay or to put much effort in to their work. He hopes that the incentives will

- encourage the teachers
- make them more committed to the school
- improve the quality of teaching and learning

He and the teachers are grateful for our support.

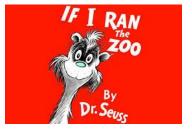
Do come to the soup lunch and support our link with Wulu!





Could you be the one?

Could you – or someone you know – be the person to lead the Shelswell History Festival into its next phase of development?



We've now held three festivals - 2017, 2019 and 2022 – and each time it has got better! Lots of people commented on the very positive atmosphere at this summer's Art and History Festival and have even suggested it should take place annually. We are confident that with the right leadership, this thing could grow and grow!

But this year, due to pressure of work, Alice is stepping down from her roles as Chair of the Trustees and Events Manager, and we need someone – or two people – to pick them up. It needs to be someone who can see the potential for the event, and is prepared to get stuck in and make it happen. And it needs to be someone who can inspire others to get on board!

If you would like to know more, get in touch with Alice for a chat (01280 848192 / <u>alicegoodall313@gmail.com</u>), and / or come along to the AGM.

This year's AGM will be on Tuesday 15th November at 7.30pm in Hethe Village Hall. All are welcome.

REGISTRY

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

the Shelswell benefice

Baptism

Fenella Rose Pring Hutchons

Saturday 8th October 2022 St Michael and All Angels, Fringford

The main door of the church was locked, and the guests had to detour across the churchyard to enter the church through the small door into the chancel. There was a violinist and a flutist, but the vicar had forgotten to bring the music for them to play. Some of the guests were late in arriving as a result of having been held up by protests in London. Various of the guests, particularly the very young and the very old, were missing there being facilities in the church. But eventually, all was sorted and, if a little later than scheduled, we were all ready for Fenella's christening.

Fenella is about ten months old, second child to Fiona and Jamie Hutchons and little sister to Ivy. The family moved into The Manor in Fringford in the first week of lockdown in March 2020. Jamie is a



property inspector and Fiona is a publisher. Both Jamie and Fiona valued the role that church played in their own upbringings and think it is important to have moments to be able to pause and reflect on things. They were keen that their children might also be introduced to matters of faith, giving them the option to make this a part of their own lives.

Fiona and Jamie had chosen three hymns for the christening: 'Guide me O thou great redeemer', 'One more step along the world I go' and 'Sing hosanna'. Fiona's dad read the Bible reading, Matthew 18: 1 - 5, the one where Jesus says 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me'. We made baptingles to help us think about baptism, and once we had lit the candles we sang our second hymn. Fenella's guests were invited to write their own prayer for her, and these were collected up for her to read when she is older. Fenella has four godparents: Leo Hammett, Cedric Butler, Catherine Bush and Alexandra Mooney. Ivy lit the baptism candle and held it for Fenella at the end of the service.

After the service the christening party returned to the Manor where the celebrations continued with a late lunch.

We pray for Fenella and her family that they will enjoy helping her to learn more about God's love and to find her own place in the church as she grows up.

Marriages

Timothy Michael Clarke and Melissa June Bailey

Saturday 3rd September 2022 All Saints Church, Mixbury

What a busy day it was for Mixbury! The world and his wife were going to Mixbury Fete, and all the rest were going to Tim and Melissa's wedding. It kept church warden Alec fully occupied ensuring everyone was parked in the correct field! Thankfully there was plenty of time once this task was completed for him to nip into church ready to ring the bells at the end of the service.

Tim and Melissa met online – Tim is a farmer in Knighton in Wales, and Melissa comes from a farming family in Mixbury. Their first date was at the Marching Hare in Broughton Hackett which is apparently half way between Knighton and Mixbury! They discovered that they shared similar interests including farming, gardening and walking. The relationship flourished and about six months later they were getting engaged. Tim knew that Melissa was a keeper when he took her to see the chicken shed, and she donned her wellies and was picking up the floor eggs.



Melissa entered the church to Pachebel's Canon in D major with her four bridesmaids Harriet, Kim, Debbie and Chloe and her niece and nephew as flower girl and page boy. Tim had two best men, Barry and Jacob. The couple had chosen three hymns for the service: 'Guide me, O thou great redeemer', 'We plough the fields and scatter' and 'One more step along the world I go'. There were two readings: 1 Corinthians 13, that well known hymn about love, read by Mark Cowley and Tim's favourite poem about his favourite place, 'Hereford is Heaven' by Geoffrey Bright, read by Anne Breakwell. The poem took us through the year, painting the changing picture of the countryside in Hereford. The signing of the marriage document was witnessed by Tim's stepfather Mark and Melissa's father Vernon. The retiring collection was divided between the church and Cancer Research.

The couple left the church to Handel's Water Music, passing under the traditional arch of pitchforks with the bells ringing, and after more

photographs the wedding party went back to Hall Farm for further celebrations. Melissa and Tim enjoyed a honeymoon in Italy before settling into their new life together in Knighton. We wish them every happiness in their marriage – may it be life long and life enhancing.

Jonathan James Walker and Tamsin Jayne Wooldridge Saturday 17th September 2022 St Michael and All Angels, Finmere



Just two verses from 'Hereford is Heaven' by Geoffrey Bright

As Summer dies and Autumn comes The green hills change to brown, And heather blooms on Wimble, And gorse on Bromyard Down; And in the valleys far below, The sheaves of golden corn, Are being carted to the barns, To wait the threshing morn.

When on the feast of Michaelmas The hills and sky are wed, The woods put on their wedding dress, Of brown and gold and red: And hedgerows don the traveller's joy, And fields the orchis gay, Then may I travel slowly down The road from Builth to Hay.

Jon and Tamsin live in Banbury and had arranged for their reception to be held at Stratton Court Barn. They wanted to be married in church, and we enjoyed welcoming them to our services as they set about establishing their qualifying connection. And we very much enjoyed welcoming them and all their guests, many of whom had travelled from Ireland for the occasion, to Finmere church for their marriage service.

Jon and Tamsin met online about 8 years ago when she was at law school and he was living in London. They would have got engaged sooner, but Jon bought a car instead! However between Christmas and New Year at the end of 2020 Jon finally popped the question – the restrictions of that post Christmas lockdown meant that options were limited, but under the guise of an evening of star gazing in the garden he managed to find the right romantic moment.

God, in the planning and purpose of life, Hallowed the union of husband and wife: This we embody where love is displayed, Rings are presented and promises made.

Jesus was found, at a similar feast, Taking the roles of both waiter and priest, Turning the worldly towards the divine, Tears into laughter and water to wine.

Therefore we pray that his spirit preside Over the wedding of bridegroom and bride, Fulfilling all that they've hoped will come true, Lighting with love all they dream of and do.

Praise then the Maker, the Spirit, the Son, Source of the love through which two are made one God's is the glory, the goodness and grace Seen in this marriage and known in this place. Tamsin entered the church with her three bridesmaids to Jeremiah Clarke's 'The Prince of Denmark's March'. The organ was being played by her uncle, Michael Wooldridge, who is one of England's top electronic and theatre organists. They had chosen three hymns: 'Lord of the dance', 'God, in the planning and purpose of life', and 'Be still, for the presence of the Lord'. There were two readings: 'The Art of Marriage' read by James Stockwell and 1 Corinthians 13 read by Jon's uncle Trevor Hobbs. The signing of the marriage document was witnessed by the two mums: Nicola Wooldridge and Cathryne Walker. There was a retiring collection divided between the church and the Rainbow Trust – a children's charity which supports families who have a child with a life threatening or terminal illness. The newly weds left the church, the bells ringing, to Mendelssohn's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

We wish them every happiness in the married life together.

Andrew Robert BAXTER and Rebecca Marie WHITE

Saturday 17th September 2022 St Michael and All Angels, Fringford

At 11 am on Saturday 17th September 2022 Andrew and Rebecca and their friends and family gathered in St Michael and All Angels, Fringford, to celebrate their Marriage. The White family had created a Tent village at their home in Fringford to accommodate their guests, and their home was also the venue for the wedding reception. This meant that most people did not have far to travel to the church on Saturday morning! The Bridesmaids and Groomsmen walked up to the church, while Rebecca and her dad John arrived in a jeep. They were piped up to the entrance of the church by the Piper who had been playing while the guests arrived.

Those who couldn't be with us for the ceremony, particularly those up in Scotland were able to join us on



Zoom. This included Andrew's grandma Beryl Baxter who had also kindly recorded our Bible reading (1 Corinthians 13: 1-8) for us to listen to. Aysha Marty Harris read an excerpt of the Ent and the Entwhistle's Wife by E.R.R. Tolkien.

The Hymns included *Love divine, all loves excelling, God is our strength and refuge* and *Jerusalem*. Andrew and Rebecca had asked that the collection go to the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal and St Michaels Church. Rebecca and her family have given much time and energy over the years in supporting the church fundraising activities. During the Signing of the Marriage Document the congregation listened to Theresa Holmes singing *A Thousand Years*.



Following their nuptials, the couple left the church to *Rule Britannia*, which was played first by Pam on the organ and continued by the piper outside.

Rebecca and Andrew were driven through the village to the wedding reception in a horse drawn carriage.

At 7pm the whole of Fringford Village shared in a very special Spitfire display which had been arranged as a surprise for the couple.

We wish Andrew and Rebecca God's richest blessing throughout their marriage together.

Shaun Harish Chande and Matilda Cooper Saturday 24th September 2022 St Mary and St Edburga's Church, Stratton Audley



Shaun and Tilly were married at Stratton Audley church by the Rev Adam Ford, the family's old school chaplain. They live in London where Shaun works in renewable energy investment and Tilly in marketing, but Tilly is the youngest daughter of Janet and Richard Cooper and grew up at Willaston, near Fringford. Her two older sisters, Daisy and Hester, were both married at Stratton Audley and Tilly was keen to follow suit. They had a wonderful celebration at home afterwards, lucky enough to enjoy the last of the September sunshine.

Our congratulations go to Shaun and Tilly, and we wish them every happiness for the future.

Obituaries

Stella Georgina Sirett (nee Bedding)

27th April 1929 – 6th January 2021

Stella Bedding was born in Stoke Lyne and lived there until she got married in 1954. She was christened and confirmed at St Peter's church, which she used to attend regularly, and her husband, Bert, still has a book of prayers that Stella was given when she was confirmed in 1943.

As a teenager, she hung out by the churchyard wall with the other teenagers, and there she met Bert. Bert had moved to Newton Purcell when he was 6 years old, and then to Newton Morrell, but one of his mates lived in Stoke Lyne – just a bike ride away. One of the things that the 'churchyard wall' gang would do was to go off to see the Curtis boys scrambling.



When Bert went off to Malaya during his 5 years of army service, he asked his mate

to see if Stella would like a pen friend. She said 'yes' and the two of them exchanged over 400 letters over the three years he was serving in the army. They fell in love through their words, and in 1954 on Bert's return, they were married at Stoke Lyne church and moved to Cotmore, and then onto Blake Road, Bicester. Finally in the mid-60s, they moved to Danes Road.

Stella worked as a typist, and then as a secretary for the Ministry of Defence. Bert was a painter and decorator, and also a carpenter – he was a very practical man who loved making things. Whilst living in Cotmore, she and Bert had a son Paul in 1958. And years later, the family expanded with the arrival of her two grandchildren, Joe and Elena.

Stella knew what she wanted in life, namely a husband and family, security, and a loving quiet life, and she was very content that she was able to enjoy this. She was a delightful person, full of fun and always good to her friends. She enjoyed knitting and crosswords and country and western music.



Stella remained in fairly good health until the last few months of her life. When she was 90 years old, she was still cooking Christmas dinner for the family. Sadly, she developed sepsis as a complication of gall bladder problems and died at Wyndham Hall Care Home in Launton on 6th January 2021. Her funeral was held at Oxford Crematorium on 18th January 2021, but Bert very much wanted her ashes to be returned to Stoke Lyne churchyard, where both her parents are buried. Her ashes were interred in a short ceremony on 15th September, and as part of this Bert read the following poem from one of his letters to Stella, sent on 20th May 1952 when he was serving in the 4th Queen's Own Hussars.

No letter that I write to you Says half the things I mean it to For how can words reveal a part Of all the loving in my heart No pen and ink can translate this The tender sweetness of a kiss Nor any word convey as much As just a smile, a look, a touch How weak our words that can but say I love and miss you more each day

Alfred Frank Gough

16th February 1937 – 29th August 2022

Alfred Frank Gough was born on 16th February 1937 at number 15 Newton Purcell, third child to Alfred and Kathleen Gough. He was one of five children with older sister Kathleen and older brother Fred, and younger brothers John and Tony. He had a strict childhood – at least, his children Pauline, Chris and Steve assume it was strict, as they still remember how strict Nanny Gough was when she was babysitting them. He went to Newton Purcell school and later did 2 years National Service with the army in Cypress – and in the years that followed would say 'I was there' whenever Cypress came on the telly.

He meet Sheila Horwood at Finmere when she played cricket for Finmere Ladies and he was playing a match too. Afterwards they no doubt when back to the Red Lion in Little Tingewick, which Sheila's parents ran. She was four years younger than him. They got married on 21st January 1961 at the Registry Office in Buckingham, and moved into number 13, where Chris and Steve still live. At the time, he was a builder's labourer and Sheila was a machine operator for a television manufacturer.

Pauline was born in 1961, Chris in 1963 and Steve in 1964. They had a strict childhood – they had to sit at the table to eat, and were not allowed to get down until told to. And they were expected to help out, like the time Frank took the boys to the football at Coventry in the afternoon, but first they had to help him top dress 30 acres of the cornfield in the morning. Every Sunday morning he took them swimming at Bicester Sports Centre – he swam a passable breaststroke – whilst Sheila was doing the Sunday roast, which Frank was very partial to. He'd finish his plate off and then get some more, a practice he kept up for most of his life. Frank and Sheila would get out some evenings, the children going to one house or another to be babysat – they enjoyed a dinner dance.

Frank was a man who took a pride in everything that he did in life. His main work was on the farm, which he did for 40 years, working with Barry and John Markham for most of his working life, moving to his last job at Midland Shire Farmers, now Countrywide, for four years. He loved drilling and hedge trimming, unless the drilling system wasn't working, which could leave him just a bit irate. He took a pride in getting the drilling straight, and would comment on how well or otherwise others were doing it. He loved mowing the grass for the sileage and hay. Generally, he just loved the outdoors.

Frank had a large vegetable patch, cultivating three allotments at the back of the house with his brother. He would dig a pit for his harvest to overwinter, and this kept the family going, together with a lot of rabbit, the occasional pigeon – Frank would sit under the tree and shoot them when they came to roost – together with the odd pheasant or bit of venison that somehow fell into his hands.

There were lots of tame rabbits, which the children would enjoy looking after until they disappeared into the pot or down to the butchers. He also kept cockerels which he'd fatten up, keep one for Christmas Day and another three to have during the rest of the year, and sell the others on to the butchers. This continued until the supermarkets became readily accessible. But Frank kept up the allotments until a few years ago, and then the boys got a seat for him so he could sit under the yew tree, have a smoke, and survey it all. Frank was a keen smoker – he did stop on a few occasions, but started to put weight on, and when it got so he couldn't do his trousers up he thought it best he start again. Which no one much minded, as he was very grumpy with everyone when not smoking.

Frank also enjoyed beating during the pheasant season – he helped out with 6 different shoots over 25 years or so, but his first choice was Tusmore Park. As he got older he used to pick up and tie up – he got on like a house on fire with Dick on the game cart. Frank never liked if he couldn't be outdoors, unless he was watching sports on telly. When he retired from Midland Shires, he took to walking round the fields with his dog, checking that all the jobs were being done right and coming back to report that they hadn't done this or that. He was interested in how farming was changing and in the big machinery. Gradually he was able to do less and less.

Frank was into sports. He played in the Finmere Cricket Team, and when he stopped playing, he took to scoring at Thornborough, which he did for ten years. And if he wasn't playing, he enjoyed watching the various local teams. He also loved dominoes and was part of the Buckingham Centre Point League which met on a Wednesday evening in the winter. He first played for Shelswell pub, and then for the Red Lion in Little Tingewick with his friends Alan and Trevor Jones, the Two Brewers in Thornborough and the pub in Gawcott. And he would play darts now and then.

Even as he was getting less able, Frank kept driving his car – he valued his independence. He'd go up to Tingewick post office to get his fags, until he decided they'd got too expensive, so then he drove into Buckingham to Tescos for them, and could never be convinced that he would be spending more on petrol to do that. Sadly he fell and broke his hip in Wilco's car park in Bicester. He was five weeks in the John Radcliffe in Oxford, before being moved to Buckingham Community Hospital for his last five days. He died in his sleep at about 10.30 in the evening of Monday, 29th August.

Frank's funeral was at St Michael and All Angels Church, Newton Purcell, on Thursday 29th September. He was carried into the church to the BBC Test Match Cricket theme music, and left to the Match of the Day theme music. He was laid to rest in the churchyard with his wife Sheila. He will be missed by many, and our thoughts are with Pauline, Chris, Steve and all the family at this difficult time.

Club News

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 13th 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



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



Our October meeting where we were due to discover all about Tudor customs at Harvest, had to be cancelled, but luckily a replacement for our meeting was found, in the form of Pam Newell, who told us about her visit(s) to Rome with the Ramblers. She had lots of pictures and was a very entertaining speaker. She took us around Rome, visiting some of the well-known sites and buildings, but also a good number of lesser-known haunts, with some very intriguing, and often morbid, stories to tell of their history. It certainly made us all realise that it is possible to visit Rome numerous times and still find lots of new places to explore.

There was a WI walk in September, where a few members ventured on a slightly longer walk than usual to Aldershot Farm, in Bicester. It was a walk that most had not done before, which always makes it interesting. Shelswell WI joined forces with Wendlebury WI on a wet and windy Friday, to run a stall at Bicester market. Although the weather could have been better, it was a good opportunity to meet and chat with other WI members that we did not know, and a way to inform people about the WI.

In November we are looking forward to learning more about the history of Origami and making some Christmas themed crafts. As always, we welcome new potential members, so why not come along to Fringford Village Hall on Thursday 3rd November at 7.30pm, give the Origami a go, and meet the friendly group of WI ladies there.

We are now organising our Christmas outing – a meal on December 1st, and our charity collection for Christmas, which this year will be items for the Bicester Food Bank, which seems appropriate at the present time.

Shelswell WI is part of the Oxfordshire Federation of WIs and of course the national body as well. Both Oxfordshire and the national WI offer a very wide range of resources for members, designed to educate and provide social interaction between members. There are many courses, both in person and on-line available for members, and always a range of visits to places, for the day or for a holiday. The magazines published by Oxfordshire – 'Oxfordshire Inspires' – and nationally – 'WI Life' – are both full of interesting, and informative articles, craft ideas, trips and news.

Coming Up:

November 3rd - History of Origami and Christmas activity with Peter Buchan-Symons

December 1st – Christmas Meal, Bure Farm, Bicester

We continue to collect empty foil pill cases and plastic bottle tops for recycling and Pathfinders.

For mor information on Shelswell WI, please contact the president Elaine Whittaker on 07917 453224



In September Paul Green gave a talk on 'Dark and Mysterious'. This was highly entertaining, and he came with lots of healthy plants and managed to sell a good number to the members.

He told us about interesting plants that had dark leaves and were suitable for a number of different locations in the garden. His talk was illustrated using the plants he had bought to sell. There were new species of Weigela e.g. 'black and white' and 'ebony and ivory'. He showed us some very large grasses, explaining how and when to cut them. His new varieties of Japanese Anemones, named after fairy tale heroines, were bought by several members. Given the drought we are experiencing, he suggested that more plants are drought tolerant than we think and not to be too hasty to dig them up! A good start to our gardening year.

In October, we welcomed Gary Leaver from Avondale Plant Nursery and Library, near Coventry. Gary gave us a talk on his selection of late flowering plants that he likes growing with tips for extending the flowering season of perennials. He also brought more plants! Luckily members enjoy buying plants and many were snapped up before the end of the night.

Next month, Secretary, Corrine, is talking about Soils and what we can do to improve the growing conditions for our plants. As she says – Improve the soil and the plants will improve too! If you have any questions that you would like answered, email them to her before the meeting on 8th November.

We welcome visitors to our club that meets at Hethe Village Hall at 7.30 pm on the second Tuesday of the month (apart from August). Meetings and outings are open to members and visitors, friends and relatives. Plants are for sale at most meetings and your membership card gives you a 5% discount at Preston Bissett Nursery. During winter months, some meetings may be held via Zoom. **Annual fee is only £10**!

For further information, call Sally Drummond Hay on 01280 848591 or Corrine Mitchell on 01869 247411 (corrinemitchell1966@gmail.com).

SHELSWELL POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP

Our October meeting was centred on the topic of Gold, an appropriate colour for an autumn month.

Three poems to do with gold mining were *The Spell of the Yukon by Robert Service, Abandoned Gold Mine by Hans Ostrom and Clementine, by Percy Montrose and Barker Bradford.*

The theme of precious metal was continued in *Mrs Midas by Carol Ann Duffy, Gold by Thomas Hood* and *All that glisters is not gold,* an extract from The Merchant of Venice by Shakespeare.

The colour as found in nature formed the subject of *Chrome Yellow by Jamie Mc Kendrick, Gold Leaves* by *GK Chesterton, Sea Poppies by Hilda Doolittle, Whinlands by Seamus Heaney, The Ragwort by John Clare, The Daffodils by William Wordsworth, Dandelions by Howard Nemerov, Nothing Gold Can Stay by Robert Frost* and *The Moon by Emily Dickinson.*

A lullaby which many will remember singing or having sung to them is *Golden Slumbers*, a traditional song adapted for use in a 1603 play *by Thomas Dekker*. The song *O*, *Dem Golden Slippers*, influenced by African-American spirituals, was written *by James A Bland*.

Finally, Roald Dahl's wickedly subversive retelling of the Goldilocks story in verse was much enjoyed as we read *Goldilocks and the Three Bears.*

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday November 8th at 10.30 am in Stoke Lyne, and the theme will be Soil. If you would like to join us please contact me on 01869 811994 or at <u>judith.harvey@live.co.uk</u> Judith Harvey

SHELSWELL READING GROUP

The book chosen for the October meeting was *The Island of Missing Trees by Elif Shafak, a British-Turkish writer.* It tells a story with echoes of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, about a pair of teenagers, one of Greek heritage and the other Turkish, who carry on an illicit relationship on the island of Cyprus, beneath the local taverna. War interrupts their idyll as the capital is reduced to rubble and both vanish from the scene. A fig tree plays an important part in the story, a tale which is full of love for the natural world and lets us see historical events through the lens of a love affair. Tangled secrets are teased out and we are left pondering the strength of nature and its relation to human life.

The next meeting will be in November, and if you would like to join the group, contact Jane Birnage (01280 847455/ janebirnage@icloud.com) for date and time and the title of the next book.

FIRST AID TRAINING

Available locally, at a significantly reduced cost

WHAT: Emergency First Aid at Work - through Qualsafe, regulated by Ofqual

Certificate valid for 3 years

WHERE: Fringford Village Hall

WHEN: 6 – 9pm on Tuesdays 15th and 29th November 2022

COST: £55 per person

Only 12 places available

Please contact Christina on 07867 515207 to book your place

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 Tel 01280 848247 Tel 01869 277690

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

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





REMEMBRANCE SERVICE St Mary the Virgin, Cottisford Sunday 13th November at 10.50am

COTTISFORD AND JUNIPER HILL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We hope to see you at the bonfire on Saturday November 5th in the playing field at Juniper Hill. It will start at 5.30pm and hot soup, sausages, rolls and cake will be on sale. Free sparklers will be handed out to children and the young at heart. Anyone able to help with collecting wood, stacking it and lighting the bonfire should contact Eileen Torrance on 01869 810537.

The Committee is looking for help with organising social events, if it is to continue to provide them for the residents of Cottisford and Juniper Hill.

For the last ten years we have organised communal events, but we now feel that we need more people to get involved, so that we can go on raising money for charities and local amenities. Hiring a snow plough, planting bulbs, providing seating in the playing field and planting trees to commemorate the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee are just some of the uses to which we have put the money raised.

The Committee will be offering hot soup and sausages for sale, and free sparklers on November 5th, and are happy to do so. We need help with some of the more physical tasks, though. If you can help with collecting and stacking material or lighting the bonfire, please contact Eileen Torrance at 01869 810537, or at torrance.eileen@gmail.com

The Committee were amongst those decorating the church for Harvest Festival in October and appreciated the help of all those who came along. On Saturday 10th December the Committee will also be helping to decorate the church for the Christmas season and it is likewise an excellent way of letting children be involved in an ancient tradition.

Finmere St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: Steven Myers, 4 White Houses, Mere Rd, Finmere TREASURER: Jacqueline Chelin, 19 Valley Road, Finmere PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Katherine Grimston, The Old Rectory, Finmere MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Paul Nash Email: paan63@yahoo.co.uk

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

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE St Michael and All Angels, Finmere Sunday 13th November at 9.15am

Village Hall

Since the arson attack last year, the hall has been completely re-decorated with a number of improved facilities added, including updated AV facilities with a new projector and large screen, new flooring and front and fire exit doors and enlarged storage spaces for regular users.

> The hall is now so clean and tidy that it has already been reserved for the date of the Coronation next year, so please

watch this space for details of the party. Of course we cannot reveal who has booked the hall on that date and the Palace, at the time of publication, has declined to comment.

For all bookings enquiries, please visit www.myfinmere.com/villagehall

Allotments

It is pretty well the end of the growing season and most allotment holders are digging, weeding and preparing for the winter months. Possibly also planning next years plantings. Also considering a 'no-dig' allotment (2) No-Dig Gardening Guide | BBC Gardeners World Magazine

A reminder to those allotment holders who have not yet paid their fees (\exists) **Come on – pay up!** 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

Some Finmere related links:

Finmere 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 Old Finmere history website - www.myfinmere.com/history Finmere on Wikipedia - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finmereipedia Finmere Primary School - www.finmere.oxon.sch.uk

The village hall is now fully back in use and many of the regular users have resumed their scheduled events.









Tel: 07875 102952

Tel: 01280 848364

Tel 01280 847782

Fringford St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: John Mayo, 10 Church Close, FringfordTREASURER:Christina McCullagh, 5 Crosslands, FringfordPARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICERPenny Wood as belowMAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Penny Wood, 8 Crosslands, FringfordVILLAGE HALL CORRESPONDENT: Christine UnderwoodWEBSITEwww.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.

- Sunday 6th November 10.45am Family Service
- Sunday 13th November 10.45am Remembrance Service
- Sunday 20th November 10.45 Holy Communion
- Sunday 4th December Family Service

Please check the back cover of this magazine, or the noticeboard at the church, 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.



Available locally, at a significantly reduced cost

WHAT: Emergency First Aid at Work - through Qualsafe, regulated by Ofqual

Certificate valid for 3 years

WHERE: Fringford Village Hall

WHEN: 6 – 9pm on Tuesdays 15th and 29th November 2022

COST: \pounds 55 per person

Only 12 places available

Please contact Christina on 07867 515207 to book your place



To find out more or book a place, please contact the hirer direct.				
Weekly Activities	Monthly Activities			
FS Dance	Village Coffee Morning			
Monday & Wednesday (term time) After school classes	All ages welcome Third Monday in the month - Chinnery Room			
BALLET • TAP • MODERN • STREET	Drop in anytime between 10.30 am and noon			
l <u>eah.fsd@gmail.com</u> or 07885827592	Penny Wood 01869 277310			
Puppy Stars	Parish Council Meeting			
Dog Training Tuesday evening – various classes	All villagers welcome Third Monday in the month 7.45pm			
Contact Nick 07542 131400 www.puppystars.co.uk	Contact 01844 237766 or fringford.parishclerk@gmail.com			
Fringford Yoga	Darby & Joan Club			
Wednesday (term time)	Third Tuesday of the month March to June, Oct			
9.30am – 11am	2.30pm – 4.30pm			
Carolyn White 01869 277161	Marian Golding 01869 278355			
Just Puppies	Shelswell WI			
Puppy Training Wednesday evening – various classes	First Thursday of the month 7.30pm			
Contact Kerri 07720 891489				
www.justpuppies.training	Contact Elaine Whittaker 07917 453224			
Sound Bath Meditation	Mindfulness Meditation			
Friday evening from 7.30pm	Monthly Sunday 11am to 12.30pm			
contact@holisticaxis.com	janerainey17@gmail.com or 07971 008337			
Village Hall Meeting	Fringford Sewcial			
Every 6 weeks – 7.30pm	Sew and Chat!			
Open meetings – all welcome	Alternate monthly Wednesday from 7pm & Sunday from 3pm			
Contact Helen 01869 278260	Contact Melissa at mamcs100@gmail.com			

For any other queries please phone or text 07936 879175 or email: <u>fringford.hall@gmail.com</u>

Fringford Church 100 Club

The winners of the September draw were: 1st Christine Garrett £55, 2nd Aileen Rymer £34, 3rd Jeremy Coke-Smyth £22. You can still sign up to the 100 Club. Contact Christina McCullagh to register your interest on 07867 515207. Draw takes place monthly at the Village Coffee Morning.

SUPPORT FROM FRINGFORD FRIENDS

- Support is always available from the Fringford Friends, Neighbourhood Support Group:
 - Telephone: 07704 756840
 - Email <u>neighbourhoodsupport@fringford.info</u>

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 November, 10.30am to 12 noon, in the Chinnery Room at the Village Hall. Do drop in. 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: <u>http://hardwickvillage.btck.co.uk</u>

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

Tel 01869 277690 Tel 01869 277690

Tel 01869 277690



St Mary's Hardwick Harvest Festival

Many thanks to those who kindly donated food and produce for the Hardwick Harvest Festival Service. These were delivered to Bicester Food Bank, to help them meet what they say is a desperate need. The proceeds from the collection taken at the service were also donated to Bicester Food Bank.



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

22

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 insights 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 \pounds 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 H	Tel 01869 277366				
TREASURER: Mike Green, Greenhill Cot	Tel 01869 278166				
PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER	Flora Skinner	as above			
MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT:	Mike Green	as above	Tel 01869 278166		
WEBSITE: www.hethe.org					

If you have any news or a 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 open every day for visits and private prayer.

At the time of going to press, the following had been agreed by the PCC:

- This year's Remembrance Service to be held on Sunday 13th November, starting at 9.15am in the church and followed by a procession to the War Memorial at 10.00am.
- An ecumenical carol service to be held on Sunday 18th December at 6.00pm in the Holy Trinity Church.
- The Christmas Day service starting at 9.15am.

Please note that we are hoping to heat the church for services throughout the winter, but this will depend on the cost of electricity. The PCC have agreed that the heating would not be turned on for lay-led services and this was trialled in October (the next being in February).

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 <u>hethepccsecretary@outlook.com</u>.





Scan here for regular giving by direct debit

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



Church cleaning and flower rota. Many thanks to our volunteers: Mary McCorquodale for cleaning this month with flowers by Anne Mansfield and Pauline in January 2023.

The PCC are considering the options for maintenance of the churchyard.

- a) The northern area of the churchyard.
 - The area immediately behind the church to be a managed area of wildflowers and grasses. The Autumn cut has been made and wildflowers sowed at no cost to PCC funds.
 - The area at the far end to be retained for composting and otherwise allowed to grow wild at no cost to PCC funds.
 - The area from the plum and holly trees which includes the newer, and some cared for graves and the garden of remembrance. To be maintained by regular grass cutting and the removal of grass. This year, we have paid $\pounds 300$ for an initial cut and rake. Subsequent cuts will cost $\pounds 150$ each. If we allow for six cuts a year this will cost $\pounds 900$ per annum. This year's payment has been met through a specific fund raising effort (a total donated of $\pounds 400$). Subsequent years will need new funding.
- b) The southern area of the churchyard to the front of the church building.
 - The area to the west of the path. To be a managed area of existing wildflowers (including orchids) and grasses. The Autumn cut has been made at no cost to PCC funds.
 - The area to the east of the path. Some considered this to look too untidy while others valued its contribution to biodiversity. The options are for this area to be a managed area of existing wildflowers and grasses or to continue the past practice of regular grass cutting which could be done by a volunteer rota at no, or minimum, cost or by paying a contractor to complete (estimated cost £900 per annum). If you support the latter and can volunteer to join a grass cutting rota, please let us know.

It is important to note that we will need to find new money to fund all grass cutting by a contractor. There is only $\pounds 100$ available from this year - there are no other PCC funds to meet this expenditure and we are struggling to find the money to pay for works in the church. Repairs to the west window and surrounding exterior stonework are now the number one priority in the church. The last quote for the stonework was $\pounds 12,500$. We have received a very generous offer to pay for the refurbishment of the stained glass. If you wish to contribute specifically to these repairs, please let us know.



There are still plenty of 100 Club 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.

The next PCC meeting Wednesday 11th January

Hethe Community Coffee Morning in the Village Hall

Monday 14th November from 10.00am to 12.00pm

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

The next **Parish Council** meeting will be held on Tuesday 24th January starting at 8.00pm 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 <u>fiskinner@hotmail.co.uk</u>.

Please note that the **Stay & Play Group** contact is Jess, email: <u>jessicablamb@yahoo.co.uk</u>.

Hethe Lending Library. There are a rich variety of fiction and non-fiction books, puzzles and CDs to browse and borrow, in St Edmund & St George Church.

Food for those in need. It was agreed that any food not taken from the donations in the church would be given every month to Bicester Food Bank. The PCC could be a "Referral Agency" for the issue of vouchers to those in need and a PCC member has volunteered to take on this role and her details are being passed to the Bicester Food Bank for consideration. Once confirmed, her role will be publicised locally with her contact details and a photo.

Lost property – Box in the church porch.

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 CORRESPNDENT: Sue Goodman pasgoodman551@gmail.com Tel 07899 792552 Tel 01280 848295 Tel 01280 847769 Tel 01280 848295 Tel 01280 848002

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





CHURCH SERVICES

The Service of Remembrance will take place in Mixbury on Sunday 13th November Meet at the war memorial at 10.50am

There will be no other service this month.

MIXBURY CHURCH FLOWER ROTA 2022

October November December Morag Westworth Fi Bairstow Carol Service and Christmas - everyone

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.

October	U	Emma Bray and Viv Williams
November		Alison Bailey, Pam Burrill and Jules Channon
December		Nicola Adams and Anna Howard

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

CHURCH UPDATE

Harvest Festival: Thank you to everyone who turned out to welcome the Bishop of Dorchester to our harvest festival service on Sunday. He got the full Mixbury experience as he joined a large crowd enjoying lunch in the sunshine courtesy of the soup kitchen in the shelter. Thank you to all those who organised the lunch and also to those who contributed to the delicious selection of soups, breads and brownies.





Iron Railings:

When we consulted the village earlier this summer about the railings, the overwhelming response was in favour of not replacing them and so we engaged with the church buildings authorities to understand what was possible. They were of the opinion that if we were not to replace the railings around the church, then they should be reerected, at some point in the future, somewhere else in the curtilage of the church, so that they would be preserved. This seemed like a sensible approach and so we have submitted a request to permanently remove the iron railings from around the church (please see notice on church board for details). As we continue to develop plans for the church and churchyard, we will look at options as to where they might best fit (any ideas on a postcard please).

Dates for the Diary:

Churchyard Autumn Tidy Up: Sunday 23rd. October 10.30 - 13.00 Remembrance Service: Sunday 13th. November 10.50 at the war memorial Christmas Bazaar: Thursday 1st. December 18.00 - 21.00

Alec Howard m. 07768 467463 <u>alec.howard@btinternet.com</u>

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

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELL DONE TO.....

Matt Wethey who ran the London Marathon and raised approximately £2570.00 for VICTA, a national charity, which is based in Milton Keynes, that provides support to children and young adults from 0 to 29 who are blind or partially sighted and their families. VICTA believes that everyone has the right to an independent and fulfilling life. VICTA's support, advice, grants and activities enable young people and their families to build skills, develop confidence and help each other toward a more positive future.

BOOK EXCHANGE

The books are now back in the Church after the fete the selection having been refreshed, please feel free to borrow a book or take one and replace with one of you own.

LITTER PICKING

A belated **THANK YOU** to Amelia and George Berry who have spent time during the holidays cleaning up our grass verges and hedgerows, great to have young people in the village so keen on the environment.

BONFIRE NIGHT – 6th NOVEMBER 2022

Mixbury Bonfire Night will be taking place on Sunday 6th November. Bonfire night is one of our great village traditions and myself and the rest of the team are really looking forward to hosting it once again :-) Many thanks to Frank for allowing us to use his field. If you are planning an autumn garden tidy up please feel free to drop off any burnable waste in the field, to the right of the gate, from Sunday 23rd October onwards. The timings on the day will be:

10.00am - build the bonfire (volunteers always very welcome!)

5.00pm - gates open, and a lovely selection of food and drink will be available

5.30pm - light the bonfire

6.00pm - fireworks display

Please make sure all your pets are inside and are safe and sound on the night.

The firework display is funded through donations, so please look out for a donation envelope which will be coming through your letterbox next week. The organising team will be doing a collection in the village on Tuesday 18th October between 5.30 and 6.30 pm. If we miss you on the night, please feel free to drop off any donations to Fuchsia Cottage (roughly opposite the postbox). Alternatively, you can make a donation via PayPal by following this link: <u>https://www.paypal.com/pools/c/8NFGR9ydSB</u>

Looking forward to seeing everyone on the 6th November! From Jon Berrie

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The Christmas bazaar will be back again this year on 1st December between 6-9pm.

Pop it in the diary and come along and enjoy a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie while doing some Christmas shopping. Look forward to seeing you there.

Nicola Adams

Newton Purcell St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDENS: Ann von Maltzahn, Home Farm Shelswell Park Vacant TREASURER: Fai Li PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Flora Skinner MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Ann von Maltzahn

Tel: 07725 009838 Tel: 01869 277366

Tel 01280 848680

Tel 01280 848680

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

Harvest Festival & Lunch -

Although it seems some time ago now, we would like to thank all those who helped with decorating the church to make it look really lovely for our service of thanksgiving. Our thanks also to Liz Welters who conducted the service and gave a thought-provoking address to all who had gathered to give their thanks.

As has become a tradition in Newton Purcell, we all then retired to The Old School for lunch which was as delicious as ever thanks to the generosity of everyone who contributed to 'the feast'! It was altogether a very happy day.

Autumn Churchyard Clear Up -

We hope you all have Saturday 12th November firmly in your diaries to come along to help with this. Just a couple of hours of your day starting at 10.00 a.m. with Bacon Butties to sustain you!

Remembrance Service – Sunday 13th November at 9.15am

Christmas Concert -

We are delighted to tell you THE PHOENIX SINGERS will be making a return performance to entertain us on the evening of Friday 9th December. This is always a very popular event so you should reserve your tickets well in advance by contacting Ann von Maltzahn either on 01280 848680 or ann_maltzahn@yahoo.com We look forward to welcoming you and your friends once again.

Hall to Let -

Looking for a venue for a Christmas Party? Our hall is available for hire at very competitive prices. For details please contact Jackie LeFevre on 07544985117 or jackielefevre@btinternet.com for details and to make your booking.

Stoke Lyne

St Peter's

CHURCHWARDENS: Christopher Poole CTP@oxford-educational.co.uk Tel 01869 346020 janey@oxford-educational.co.uk TREASURER: Janey Poole Tel 07810 120457 PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Emma Brown MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Rena Andrews Email: renacyanlion@btinternet.com PARISH ROOM BOOKINGS : Kelly and James Holden-White kholdenwhite@aol.com Tel 01869345211 WEBSITE <u>www.stokelyne.org</u>

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St Peter's Church Stoke Lyne Services See back page for details.

Flower Duty for November Rena Andrews







Stoke Lyne 100 Club - October Results

1st Prize	Membership No 11	Craig Mitchell	£36.75
2nd Prize	Membership No 12	Hugo Brown	£22.05
3rd Prize	Membership No 1	Jane Warde-Aldam	£14.70

Well done everyone and thank you so much for your support and spread the word so we can sell more memberships and increase the prize money.

Kind regards Janey Poole Treasurer St Peter's Church PCC

Midweek communion and soup lunch – Thursday, 6th October

This is a short service of communion followed by a soup and pudding lunch. Liz led the service assisted by Alice. Liz in her sermon spoke about the many different translations of the Bible all over the world and how they differ slightly in their wordings when translated. We then moved over for lunch served by Liz and Alice and had a choice of soups and puddings made by the Ministry team. This is a lovely friendly service for people to meet up and chat on various things on a variety of subjects. On behalf of the people who came to the service and lunch I would like to thank the Ministry team for their hard work putting it on as now that Yvonne has gone they are under more pressure.

Rena Andrews

Food for Thought -

An animal-themed service to mark the Feast of St Francis in Stoke Lyne - Sunday, 2nd October



This service was very fun (and a bit noisy!) The dogs were in fine voice as they sang along to the hymns and 'talked' to one another over breakfast. The humans were well-behaved and shared what they knew about animals from the Bible. Did you know that Balaam's donkey is the only place a talking animal is referred to? Images and information about St Francis were also shared and it was interesting to find out that he is thought to have been the first person to set up a manger scene including animals in the 1200s (perhaps this is why he is now known as Patron Saint of animals?)

An article from 1972, kept in Brenda's archives, was also shared. Judith Allen (formerly of Stoke Lyne) has been able to give the names of many of the people in the photograph as well as report that her tortoise Tommy (possibly in the basket in the photo) is still alive and well, even though he has proved to be a bit of an escape artist! Rena was also able to name those in the photo, including Joyce Stinton, Edie Miller, Eileen Leech, Betty Flowers and Linda Miller. We all hope the tradition of holding an animal service continues next year.



Tommy the Tortoise with Judith in October 2022.

Our next Food for Thought service will be Sunday 6th November at 10am.

Kelly Holden-White

Stoke Lyne W.I. - Post-script to September's meeting

Here is a photo of Stoke Lyne W.I.'s donations to the Bicester Food Bank at the September meeting (see October's magazine for the meeting report):





What a shock when I got home from our September meeting at 4.00 pm to hear that the Queen was seriously ill. I was listening to Huw Edwards and just before 6.30 he was going to give an update on the Queen and behind him the flag was going down to half mast over Windsor Castle and the most beautiful rainbow appeared. А book of condolence was opened in St Peter's church, and on behalf of Stoke Lyne W.I. I put a message of condolence in the book and placed a photo of the Queen with a card and a small vase of flowers on the Altar in the Lady Chapel. The Queen had been a member of Sandringham W.I. since she was a young girl.

Rena Andrews

Stoke Lyne W.I. – Thursday, 13th October

Rena welcomed all to the meeting and asked us to think of the families of both Queen Elizabeth and Miriam, who sadly passed away since our last meeting, when we sing "Jerusalem".

Apologies were given out and the minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The speaker we should have had unfortunately was unable to come as he and his wife had come down with Covid and had to isolate.

The usual business was discussed and dates of forthcoming events given out. The Group carol service will be on Thursday 8th December at 7.00 pm and hosted by the Heyfords W.I. Our next meeting will be Thursday,10th November at 11.00 am, and as we don't have a speaker for that day it was decided to do some more crafts. Anyone who doesn't want to do crafts should come at our usual meeting time of 1.00 p.m. Wreath making will be on Thursday 15th December 10.00 till 1.00 at Hethe Village Hall. The Christmas party meeting will be on Thursday 8th December at 11.30/12.00.at Hethe Village Hall.

Last year members were asked to donate some toiletries suitable for males and females to be given to the Salvation Army so they can be made up into gifts. We are going to do the same this year so members should bring them to the November meeting.

As we didn't have a speaker we had tea and cakes and a lot of chatter. The raffle was won by Anne. This being all the business the meeting closed with the National Anthem at 2.45 p.m.

Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride – 10th September 2022



Four villagers took part this year: Chris and Janey cycled together with Caroline and Harriet on a route taking in Hardwick, Hethe, Fringford, Godington and Stratton Audley. Caroline and Harriet's dog, Fennel, did not participate, but we thought that readers would enjoy seeing this photograph of her in her "chariot" taken on holiday in Devon after visiting an open garden with plants for sale – hence the floral adornments!

Shelswell by the Sea – Monday 3rd October-Wednesday, 5th October

At 10.30 the folks from across the parishes start to arrive and are greeted with tea/coffee and cake and a lot of chatter as some still feel very isolated and it is nice to meet up with friends. There are a variety of things you can do if you wish: some did jigsaw puzzles, others had a go at making autumn wreaths which were very effective. There were various games like Monopoly or a selection of newspapers and magazines to read. At 1.00 pm we sat down to a hot lunch with different options followed by choices of puddings. In the afternoon we had a game of indoor bowls. Everyone joined in with that. The bowls were made of rubber and seemed to be biased which caused a lot of laughter as the bowls didn't end where they were supposed to. Another day we had seated netball which is good for people who can't run about as you play while seated. Tea and cake again for those who wished. I would like to thank the Ministry team and their many helpers for the lovely food and the various activities provided.

Macmillan Coffee and Cake – Saturday, 8th October



The Macmillan coffee and cake afternoon was a delicious success, both in raising $\pounds 250$ for a very important cause and in bringing friends and neighbours together to eat cake and chat. The raffle prizes proved popular, with an Amazon Firestick, Echo Dot and gin selection among those to be chosen from. Thank you to everyone who made or bought cakes, donated raffle prizes and came along to support on the day. Kelly Holden-White

Remembrance

It's that time of year again when we remember those connected with the village who lost their lives in WW1 and WW2 (see announcement below for details of this year's Stoke Lyne's Service of Remembrance). The latest versions of the stories behind these men can currently be found at the link below on a website I am building: <u>https://stokelynestories.webador.co.uk/</u>

I first began putting these stories together in 2014 but each year I seem to discover some new fact which can be added to at least one of the entries. This year is no exception and my biggest find concerns Henry Peyton, one of our WW1 men. A book I found the text of online called "The History of the Rifle Brigade in The War of 1914-1918" by William M Seymour, published in 1936, contains this write-up of Henry which makes him sound quite a character:

On this day the Second Battalion had very heavy casualties, which, unhappily, included its young commanding officer, Lieut.-Colonel H. S. C. Peyton, M.C., who was mortally wounded and died on the day he completed a total of seven years' service. Henry Peyton was born in 1891, second son of Sir Algernon Peyton, Bart., of Swifts House, Oxfordshire. He was educated at St. Neots, Eversley and Eton (A.A. Somerville's). From there he went to the Royal Military College, Camberley, and in 1911 was gazetted to The Rifle Brigade and later that year was posted to the Second Battalion in India. He returned on leave from India in April, 1914. At the outbreak of War he joined the Third Battalion, and sailed for France with them. Except for a short period on the staff at Gallipoli, he remained with the Third Battalion until posted to the First Battalion after the disaster of 1st July, 1916. He commanded the First Battalion for a period which included the gas attack at Ypres in August of that year, when the Battalion was on the Yser Canal. Shortly after this, he gave up command to Lieut.-Colonel Fellowes, but remained as second-in-command of this Battalion until appointed to command the Second Battalion in February, 1918. Captain J. A. Davison writes: "Henry Peyton was just that type of regular officer which the Regiment produces and of which it is justly proud. It can, indeed, be said that he loved the Regiment and its associations above all. Born to the tradition of horses and hunting, he took up polo in India, and at the time of the War he had become quite a good player. When he went to France he soon became accustomed to his surroundings, and looked at life with that supreme confidence which was so much his characteristic. In the later days in France, the more appalling conditions became, the more cheerful was Henry, Indeed, he was the ideal companion at all times. His stories were ever the best that were told, and his oaths the most incongruous, and both did much to keep us cheerful. He had many unorthodox ideas, as was illustrated by the kit he wore in 'peace time' trench warfare. It consisted of an old rough, jacket with a web belt, old-fashioned baggy knickerbocker breeches, and stocking puttees with canvas anklets. He looked much more as if he were going out shooting than to the line. One of the points most worthy of note in connection with his service in France was his extremely happy association with his Commanding Officer in the First Battalion.

He was absolutely devoted to Ronnie Fellowes, and one can remember, shocked though one was, that he never referred to him except as 'Rosie.' He commanded the Battalion with credit when called upon to do so, and many a young officer in the back areas had cause to remember a reprimand at his hands. He ran a first-class Mess under adverse conditions, and the most charming of our visitors always seemed to be his guests. He had friends in all parts of France, who were frequently coming to look him up. Apart from his happy and charming personality, there was another side to him, one that he kept much to himself. It was his great love of his home and his devoted affection to his mother, to whom he wrote everyday from France."

Brenda Hazel



The return of the Stoke Lyne Quiz – open to teams of 4-8 from the Benefice.

It's been a while since we've held a quiz, but it's back by popular demand!

Saturday 19th November 7pm in St. Peter's, Stoke Lyne. A bar will be available for soft and alcoholic drinks to be bought.

 \pounds 7 per person, will include dinner and entry into the quiz, with a prize for the winning team.

Please call or email Kelly and James at <u>kholdenwhite@aol.com</u> or 07557108067. If you have not been able to make a team, let us know and we can find another pair or single person(s) to team up with.





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MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Vacant

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2022 Remembrance Day Service We Will Remember Them... The Remembrance Day Service will be held in St Mary and St Edburga, Stratton Audley on Sunday 13th November at 10.50am TARTA









Volunteers are called for to help cut down the brambles climbing over the walls of the Church/Hall paddock. If you want to help one Saturday morning, please contact Anthony as the more volunteers there are, the bigger the difference it makes.

If you are up to help several times a year with Churchyard maintenance, then please contact Anthony at <u>flack.wine_train@btinternet.com</u>.

Brown bins (always!) needed



The pile is slowly decreasing so we would like to make a final push to remove all the cut ivy out of the churchyard. You are more than welcome to come along and take, for free, any pieces of wood or kindling that you want that is in the pile by the gate into the Hall's church paddock and the small branches (ideal for kindling) to the right of the main gate inside the churchyard.

As this is the weekend before the brown bins are collected on Tuesday, it would be appreciated if you could volunteer one of your brown bins to help shift the piles of leaves, brambles, and small branches. It is our eco-friendly way of avoiding the use of cars driving back and forth to Ardley tip.



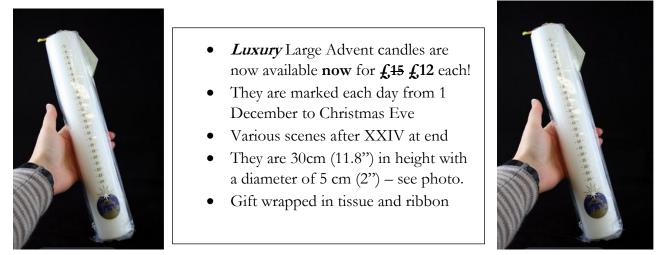
The flowers left after a wedding were quite spectacular and lasted several weeks. Once again, a **big** thank you again to all the lovely ladies who regularly present fresh flowers in the Church and who also keep the building clean and tidy, particularly before and after the weddings. We know who you all are! If you want to help flower arranging and cleaning, do contact Becky Adams at the Rectory office 01280 848192.

** There will be no fayre in November but the planning is in place for next year**

Shhh..... it's Christmas very soon and more to order from new supplier, at lower discounted prices!!

A discounted Advent candles order can now be ordered from Sarah Noujaim <u>mrsnouj@gmail.com</u> or Penny Oakey <u>penny@grangefarmcottages.co.uk</u> in time to give as gifts prior to 1st December with other items available in time for Christmas. Let Sarah or Penny know, in advance if possible, which gifts you would like, in November for the Advent numbered candles and up until 15th December for the Glass Jar Candles in time for Christmas.....

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Vacancies

Assistant to Church Wardens so far, a volunteer has been found, thank you Ciara!

A <u>Secretary to the Parochial Church Council for Stratton Audley & Godington</u> is needed to take the minutes (notes to you and me) of four meetings per annum. It is only four times a year so not onerous, and everyone will help if you have misheard anything!

<u>Further villagers to sign up to the PCC</u> and give their views and support on how their Village Church moves forward.

<u>Villagers</u> who would be willing to help submit grant funding applications to keep the Churches building in good order (repairs that crop up due to age...) particularly with the roof now and then deciding to demand attention. If several are applied for, then one or two at least should be secured.... Look at <u>https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/churchcare-grants/grants-fabric-repairs</u> as an example of what needs to be applied to and for.

<u>Anyone</u> willing to assist with some filming fund raising projects where just time at a computer/telephone is needed in the first instance and to be available on the day if the filming project is successful – you may have an advert for any product (within reason) or one of Downton's distant cousins of Maggie Smith's character visiting their local church with pretending it is in the South of France...

And finally, Everyone.... We are looking for people who would volunteer to run just one event annually so it wouldn't take over your life all year! It could be helping with one of the certain key services in the year such as Easter, or Remembrance Sunday, or the Carol Service and Christmas, sorting out fundraising ordering or for the community by running a fundraising sit-down dinner or concerts, or a knitting/crochet club, or a quarterly cinema club or anything you would enjoy organising in the village for any age group.

If willing to turn your hand to any of the above, contact Sarah or Penny on <u>mrsnouj@gmail.com</u> or <u>penny@grangefarmcottages.co.uk</u>

100 CLUB WINNERS

The Winners in the 100 club draw for the month of October 2022 are:

- $\pounds 30$ Julia Manley (89)
- £20 Glyn McKenna (132)
- £10 Shirtcliff Family (101)
- £10 Stallden Family (42)



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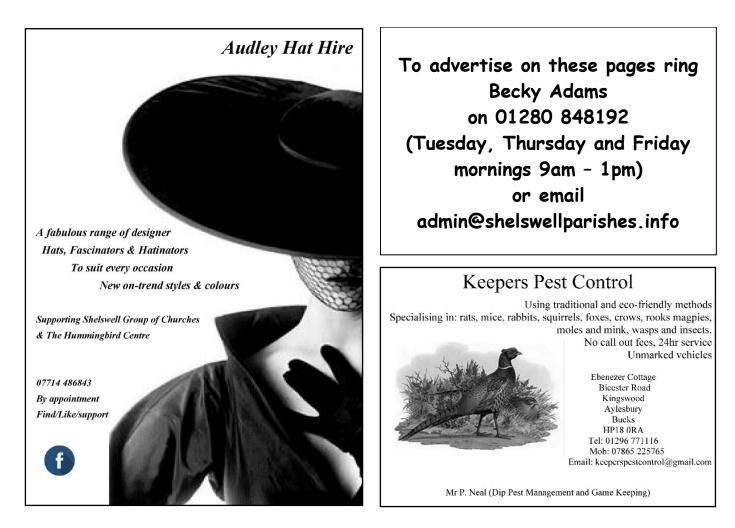
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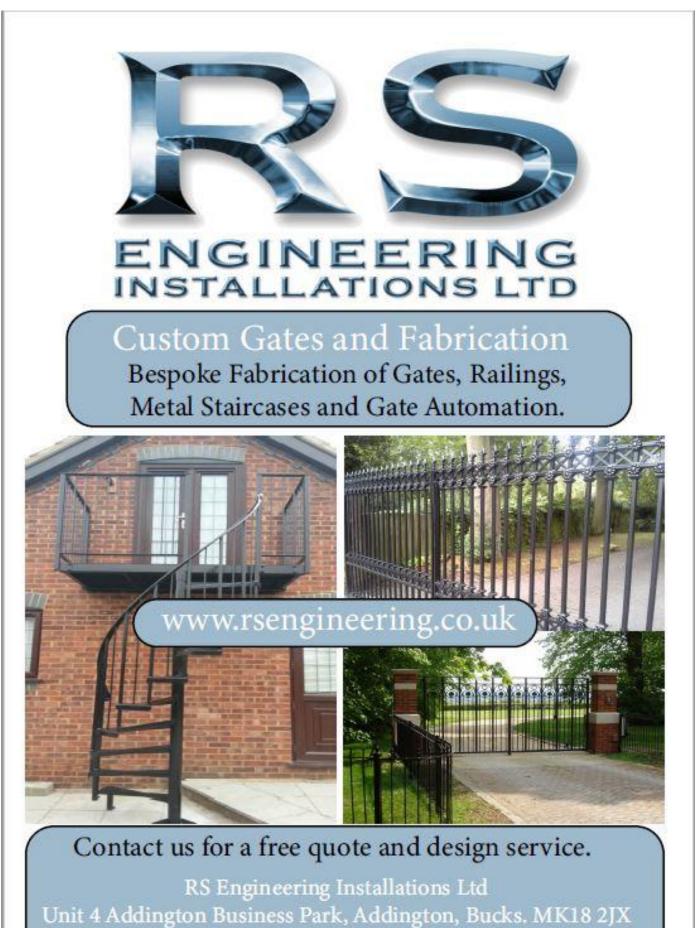
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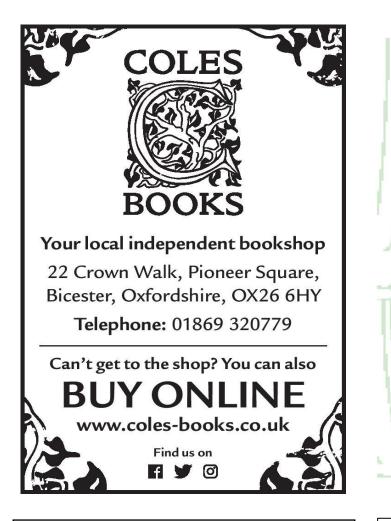
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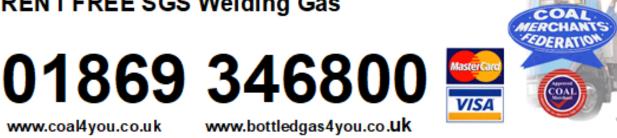
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DATE		6 th November 3 rd Sunday before Advent	13 th November Remembrance Sunday	20 th November Christ the King	27 th November 1 st Sunday of Advent		4 th December 2 nd Sunday of Advent
ALTAR	Thursday 3 rd November (12 noon) Midweek Holy Communion and Soup Lunch STOKE LYNE	Red	Red	Red	Purple	Thursday 1 st December (12 noon) Midweek Holy Communion and Soup Lunch STOKE LYNE	Purple
8.00 am					Holy Communion (BCP) HETHE AG		
9.15 am		9.15am Holy Communion with hymns (CW) HARDWICK LW 9.15am Holy Communion with hymns (BCP) NEWTON PURCELL AG	9.15am Remembrance Service FINMERE AG Remembrance Service HETHE VM Remembrance Service NEWTON PURCELL PW 10.45am Remembrance Service FRINGFORD PW Remembrance Service STOKE LYNE VM 10.50am Remembrance Service COTTISFORD LW	Holy Communion with hymns (CW) FINMERE AG	Holy Communion with hymns (CW) STRATTON AUDLEY LW Morning Prayer FINMERE PW		9.15am Holy Communion with hymns (CW) COTTISFORD LW 9.15am Holy Communion with hymns (BCP) NEWTON PURCELL A
10.45 am		9.15am Morning Prayer FINMERE Lay-led 10am 'Food for Thought' STOKE LYNE Lay-led		10.45am Holy Communion with hymns (CW) FRINGFORD VM	10.45am Holy Communion with hymns (CW) STOKE LYNE AG		9.15am Morning Prayer FINMERE Lay-led 10am 'Food for Thought' STOKE LYNE Lay-led
		10.45am Family Service FRINGFORD PW	Remembrance Service MIXBURY AG Remembrance Service STRATTON AUDLEY PSS	4pm 'Fun at Four' STOKE LYNE AG	4pm Reflective Service for Advent with the Shelswell Group Choir HARDWICK PW		10.45am Family Service FRINGFORD AG
6.00 pm		Compline GODINGTON PW					Compline STRATTON AUDLEY PW