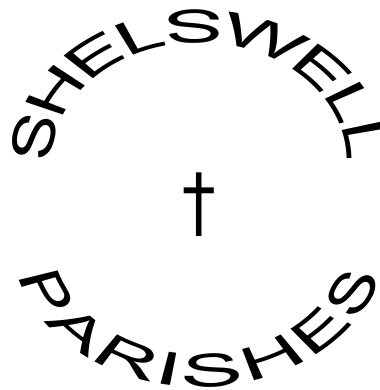


Shelswell News

The magazine of the Shelswell Group of Churches

Cottisford
Fringford
Hardwick
Mixbury
Stoke Lyne



Finnere
Godington
Hethe
Newton Purcell
Stratton Audley



All Saints', Mixbury

February 2023

£1

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, Finmere, Buckingham MK18 4AT
Telephone: 01280 848192 Email rector@shelswellparishes.info (Normal day off – Friday)

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

HOLY TRINITY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, HETHE,

Mass: 4 p.m Saturday.

Weekday Mass: 9.30 am Monday

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

Telephone: 01869 253277

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

SHELLOWELL NEWS

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

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Deadlines for the March 2023 edition of Shelswell News

To Magazine Correspondents: **Friday 10 February**

Correspondents to Editor: **Sunday 12 February** at 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.

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

MINISTER'S LETTER

Traditionally, the 40 days of Lent have been a time when Christians fasted, spent time in prayer, studied the Bible or other spiritual books, didn't eat meat, and examined their consciences with a view to coming closer to God, or perhaps it would be truer to say 'letting God come closer to them'. But nowadays people give up chocolate, or alcohol, or take up some exercise programme, the aim being, I suppose, to improve personal well-being, or just lose weight.

How about going back to the 'old ways' this Lent? Could we risk engaging in one of the old traditions? Could we plan, and commit, to a prayer time, or a Bible reading time (accompanied by some helpful notes which anyone in the Ministry Team could get for you), or follow the Diocese's 'Come and See' programme. What does that last involve? Here's what the Diocese says:

"We send you a short email each day, Monday to Saturday. And on Sundays during Lent you receive a short video from Bishop Steven exploring the theme for Come and See that year in a bit more detail. Each email begins with a short passage of text from the Bible. If you've never opened a Bible before, please don't worry, just go with the flow as you settle in to the journey.

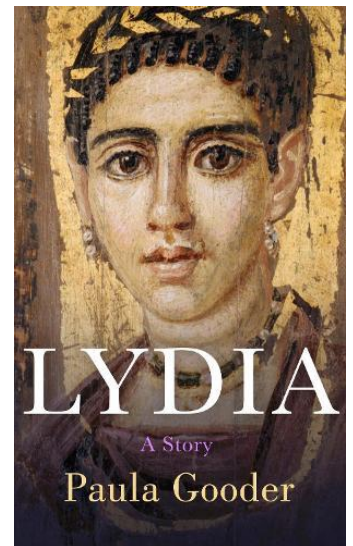
There is a separate weekly email for children and families, and separate materials for teachers, and children, youth and family leaders too. Children and schools materials include films from our school chaplains, and access to some of the contemplative practices from our Space Makers toolkit."

All you need to do is go onto the website: <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see/> and register.

If, however, you would rather do some activity together with other people, you might like to join me in the current 'Big Church Read' which is a novel Lydia by Paula Gooder [Canon Chancellor at St Paul's Cathedral, London, and New Testament scholar]. You can find out about the Big Church Read on <https://thebigchurchread.co.uk> But here's what they say about Lydia.

"Journey with Paula Gooder as she tells Lydia's story – who she was, the life she lived and her first-century faith – and in doing so opens up Paul's letter to the Philippians, giving a sense of the cultural and historical pressures that shaped Paul's thinking, and the faith of the early church.

Written in the gripping style of Gerd Theissen's The Shadow of the Galilean, and similarly rigorously researched, this is a book for everyone and anyone who wants to engage more deeply and imaginatively with Paul's theology – from one of the UK's foremost New Testament scholars."



We would meet in a group to do this. Perhaps on a weekday evening, but dates and venue to be discussed. Unfortunately, the book is not in paperback until October. It can be bought for £12-99, or even cheaper if one searches for second hand copies. If you would like to be part of a group reading and discussing Lydia get in touch with me **as soon as possible**, so I can see who is interested and we can plan dates and a venue.

We are also offering a series of Lent lectures which will be on four Thursday evenings in Lent starting on Thursday 2nd March. See page 9 for more information. We will have the details of the speakers in next month's magazine but perhaps you might like to put the dates in your calendar now. Those that have come along to the Lent Lectures previously will know that they have been really interesting and inspirational, and the opportunity to meet and chat with others over supper beforehand is always very good too!

Don't miss out on the opportunities that Lent brings us.

Penny Wood

BIBLE READINGS



Sunday 5 th February	3 rd Sunday before Lent	Isaiah 58 v1-9a [9b-12] 1 Corinthians 2 v1-12 [13-end] Matthew 5 v13-20
Sunday 12 th February	2 nd Sunday before Lent	Genesis 1 v1 – 2 v3 Romans 8 v18-25 Matthew 6 v25-end
Sunday 19 th February	Sunday next before Lent	Exodus 24 v12-end 2 Peter 1 v16-end Matthew 17 v1-9
Wednesday 22 nd February	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
Sunday 26 th February	1 st Sunday of Lent	Genesis 2 v15-17 & 3 v1-7 Romans 5 v12-19 Matthew 4 v1-11

Monthly Mid-Week Service of Holy Communion and Lunch



The next Service will be in **Stoke Lyne Church**
on **Thursday 2nd 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 or Alice.



CHRISTMAS 2022 was lots of fun!

Carol services, Christmas fayres, Christingles, Christmas parties, the Crib service....
sadly I only took a couple of photos!



Some of the participants in the Crib Service on Christmas Eve at Stratton Audley – they did brilliantly!



Making Christmas wreaths at Fun @ Four



A rather sleepy little lamb gets a special cuddle with Mary and baby Jesus at the crib service

Many thanks to everyone who helped with all the various services and activities!

Alice

Fun @ Four

4 – 5.30 pm

Sunday 19th February

Stoke Lyne Church

Jesus in the wilderness – and pancakes!



Activities, prayer and praise, sandwiches and cake (and pancakes)

All welcome!

There is no charge for these activities.

HELP – NEW BENEFICE TREASURER NEEDED!



We will shortly be needing a new treasurer for our group of churches. Could this be you? Most of the transactions can be dealt with electronically and our current systems seem to be working smoothly so it should be fairly straightforward for someone new to step in and take over. Meetings of Benefice Council take place about four times a year and at other times liaison with the Rector and Benefice Administrator is mainly by email. If you would be interested to find out more about the role, then do contact Alice for a chat on 01280 848192 or rector@shelswellparishes.info

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

Many thanks for all your donations to the Foodbank which will have made a real difference to people who were struggling over Christmas. If you are able, please keep being generous – this time of year can seem very bleak, even when feeding your family isn't a challenge.

As before, you can find our Foodbank Donation Points in the church porch or just inside the door at Cottisford, Finmere, Fringford, Hardwick, Hethe, Stoke Lyne and Stratton Audley.

Urgently needed are tinned tomatoes, tinned fish, rice pudding, tinned meat, tinned fruit, and tea bags. (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

Mixbury, Newton Purcell or Stratton Audley, contact me
Alice Goodall, The Rectory, Finmere.
01280 848192 alicegoodall313@gmail.com

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!

NEWS FROM WULU

Christmas wishes

Bishop Zechariah sent us best wishes for Christmas from himself and the church communities in Wulu.

Martin Ngula Simon

I asked Martin Ngula Simon, recently appointed development officer for Wulu Diocese, to tell us something about himself. He wrote:

I am South Sudanese by nationality. I hold a Diploma in Social Science awarded by the Department of Public Administration in 2014.

I work for different institutions in the government at State level and I also serve different NGOs in different capacities.

I accepted the work with Bishop Zechariah without any reservations as I would like to help him achieve the development of our Diocese. I ask God to God to guide me so that when I move on from this position to other assignments I am able to leave something small in the Diocese in regards to development.

The following are my roles as Diocesan Development Officer:

1. Promote pioneering ministry in the parishes and church communities and be available as a point of contact to the diocese
2. Plan and develop a regular program to introduce the principal of pioneering ministry. This includes writing a proposal.
3. Enable lay pioneer ministry to thrive and grow.
4. Change life for the better and grow the spiritual heart of our church

We will encourage and support our parishes and church school as we aim to:

1. Make disciples of Christ
2. Grow our church
3. Equip people for lifelong learning and promote the transformation of our society.



Sanitary pads

We have received a report outlining the successful distribution of sanitary kits, including sanitary pads and two bars of soap, to 30 adolescent girls at the Girls Primary School in Wulu using money we have donated. There is a need to distribute kits to more girls, but a poor exchange rate of US dollars to South Sudanese pounds, combined with inflation in South Sudan, meant this was all that could be afforded. None the less, the school is very grateful for our contribution.



They would like to be able to distribute new packs to girls that need them each term, and also would like to be able to put up fencing around the school to stop people just randomly walking into the school premises, but Bishop Zechariah has asked if our donations can go towards maintaining the teachers' incentive programme.

Most recent donation

We sent the equivalent of 600 USD (349,447.43 South Sudanese Pounds) to Bishop Zechariah in early January. The school have recruited two more teachers starting this January, so our donation should enable Bishop Zechariah to continue to give each teacher 10,000 SSP every month for the next five months.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Alice

Lent 2023

In the first 300-400 years of Christianity, many faithful women and men recognized the fruitfulness of setting aside chunks of time surrounding major Christian holidays. Christians from Jewish and Gentile roots adapted this practice from the rhythms of festivals that God laid out in the Old Testament. Followers of Jesus began to contextualize this in order to help themselves fully prepare for and then enter into the most important annual celebrations like Christmas and Easter.

Lent was set aside as a time for Christians to contemplate Jesus' work on the cross in preparation for a massive celebration on Easter. People would fast as an act of recognition of their sin and also as a means of preparing for the Spirit to have more access to work in their lives.

The same opportunity is available to us today during Lent. It's a time to reflect on our sinful nature and our fragile humanity so that when Easter comes we are able to more fully appreciate and celebrate Jesus' victory over sin and death on the cross.' (Matt Meyer, <https://intervarsity.org/blog/why-observe-lent>)

Plan your Lent now – come and be a part of the services and activities below, or think about some devotional reading material.

Services

Ash Wednesday – 22nd February

Holy Communion - 12 noon Stoke Lyne – followed by soup lunch – all welcome

Holy Communion – 7.30 pm Fringford

Maundy Thursday – 6th April

12 noon Communion and Soup Lunch

7.30 pm Agape Meal

Good Friday – 7th April

12.15 pm All Age Service

2.00 pm Last Hour on the Cross

6 pm Devotional Service with Shelswell Group Choir

Lent Lectures

Thursday evenings at Stoke Lyne church – meet at 7 pm to share a light supper, followed at 7.30 pm by a talk

Thursday 2nd March

Thursday 9th March

Thursday 16th March

Thursday 23rd March

Details of speakers to follow but put the dates in your calendar now! Those that have come along to the Lent Lectures previously will know that they have been really interesting and inspirational, and the opportunity to meet and chat with others over supper before is always very good too!

Some LENT RESOURCES for Groups and Individual Use

‘Opening our Hearts to God’ - Free booklet from Tearfund

Contains bite-sized reflections, prayers and poems, plus stories about the work that Tearfund’s church partners are doing around the world. For use in personal reflection or in group study. Also available as daily emails sent to your inbox. Visit: www.tearfund.org/campaigns/lent-devotional

‘The Kingdom of God is Justice and Peace’ - Lent Study Guide from Embrace the Middle East, £2

In a world crippled by injustice - both here and in the Middle East - journey through the Egyptian Coptic observance of Lent over seven weeks. Reimagine Jesus' reign of justice and peace as proclaimed in the gospels. Includes: scriptural reflections; prayer and worship ideas; leaders guide for small groups.

‘Dust and Glory: A Lent journey of faith, failure and forgiveness’ – from The Church of England

Booklet offers a daily Bible reading, a short reflection, a practical challenge, and a prayer linked to the week’s theme. It encourages us to take a fresh look at the frustrations and failings that every day brings, to seek to learn from them and to grow closer to God through them. Reflections also be available via email. Visit:

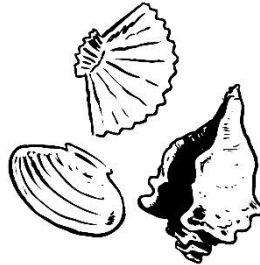
www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/dustandglory-resources-lent-2023

If you would like a booklet, or to join a group, please let one of the Ministry Team know.

‘Shelswell By The Sea’

A break from routine

run by the Shelswell Group of Churches



**27 & 28 February 2023
in Hethe Village Hall,
from 10.30am to 3.30pm**

Cost: £7.00 a day (includes all meals)

Give yourself time to chat, read newspapers, play board games, or do a jigsaw.

Coffee, lunch and tea provided. We can give lifts to and from Hethe.

Pick up a Booking Form in one of our churches, or ring or email Penny Wood [01869-277310] penelope.wood@btopenworld.com

HETHE & DISTRICT DERBY & JOAN CLUB

Please note the meeting date has changed from Tuesday 21 March to Thursday 16 March.

It will be at 2.30pm in Fringford Village Hall.

For further information contact Tony Marshall on 07966 522667.

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

Snowdrop Sunday

On Sunday 12th February 2023

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 Sally Evans
(07803 952940) or Eileen Torrance (07724 032554)



Save the date!

Holiday Club for 5 – 11s

Monday 24th July – Friday 28th July 2023

10 am – 3.30 pm

Finnmere CE Primary School, Mere Road, Finnmere, MK18 4AR

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

Sport

Craft

Performing arts

music

for more info check out
www.lighthousecentral.org

Recommended donation of £10 per day. Bursaries available.



Little Lambs Baby and Toddler group

**Wednesdays (Term Time)
at 9.30am - 11.00am.**

**We meet
in Stratton Audley Church
for play, music and stories.
Tea, coffee and snacks
for Adults and Toddlers.**

**Note: No meeting on Wednesday 15th Feb as
it will be half term**

REGISTRY

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

Baptisms

Eleanor Ruby CULLEN

Sunday 18th December 2022

It was a very cold day. Hethe Church was not exactly warm and snug. The baptism party were sat in their pews waiting for the vicar. There had been a misunderstanding about the starting time for Eleanor's christening, but never mind, by about 12.15 everything was sorted and ready for the off. Sensibly Eleanor and her family had all come dressed for cold churches, so no one got frostbite.

Eleanor is now over three years old. We began to plan her christening on 2nd March 2020. It was initially due to be in May 2020 – but then Covid happened and it sadly had to be postponed – several times – until the threat of covid was reduced and Eleanor's mum's parents were able to travel from Portugal.

So finally, on Sunday 18th December, Eleanor's special service could take place. Everyone was there, including her parents, both sets of grandparents and her godparents. We sang one hymn: All things bright and beautiful. Eleanor's dad's mum, Jenny Cullen, read our Bible passage, Matthew 7. 24 – 27, about the wise and foolish builders – a good reading for a baptism, reminding us of the importance of building our lives with God at the centre. Then we thought a little bit about baptism with the help of Peppa Pig. Eleanor's big sister Isabella was able to help her with the tricky task of identifying Peppa Pig's various friends, and Isabella also held Eleanor's baptism candle for her at the end of the service.

Eleanor has two special godparents: Sandra Hartwell and her uncle Pedro.

After the service, everyone went back to Jenny and Alan's house for a celebratory glass of bubbly and a wonderful spread.

We pray that Eleanor's baptism may be for her the start of a wonderful journey of discovering just how much God loves her and of learning to love him back.



Club News



SHELSWELL WI

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



The first meeting of the new year saw another good turn out and the talk given by Melanie King on 'Tea, Coffee and Chocolate: How we fell in love with caffeine', proved very interesting and informative. Some of the supposed consequences of consuming caffeine, according to the wise people of the past two or three centuries, were quite alarming and the modern day concern over potential hazards of the sugar content seem insignificant compared to the beliefs of yesteryear! Certainly, Melanie did not put us off consuming caffeine, although it seems like consuming too much has always been seen as potentially harmful to our health

Some members are unable to make our monthly walks during the week, so it was decided that our January walk would take place on a Saturday: We joined with one of Bicester's regular 'health walks', on the 14th January, with several members joining in.

January is a time when we often like to keep wrapped up indoors, so it was encouraging to see members turn in the evening and to join a walk. We have a talk on 'Women of Oxford' to look forward to in February, so if you are prepared to venture out why not come along on Thursday 2nd February to Fringford Village Hall at 7.30pm. There will be a warm welcome for anyone who attends, and we would love to see some new faces. At the February meeting the membership will be voting for a resolution, which each year the national WI choose to have as a campaigning issue. This year the resolutions include Save our water – every drop counts; Women to women – turning over a new leaf in the lives of women tea workers; Online gambling harm; time for action; and clean rivers for people and wildlife. As a WI member you are able to vote for what will be the main campaigning issue for the following year

As always there is a lot going on, and members can join in with as much or little as they choose. Shelswell WI is part of the Oxfordshire Federation of WIs and 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 day visits, or holidays. There are trips planned to Windsor and Montacute House in 2023, as well as courses ranging from Patchwork and Quilting to a 'Day of Dance' and a talk on inn signs! 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: (Why not try a meeting in 2023 – our membership is growing, and newcomers are always welcome)

All meetings are in Fringford Village Hall starting at 7.30 pm

February 2nd Women in Oxford with Jane Dickinson

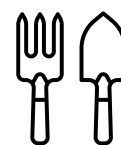
March 2nd is our AGM and there will be wine and cheese and a quiz during the evening.

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

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



SHELSWELL GARDEN CLUB



Unfortunately, our December 'festive' meeting was cancelled due to the bad weather.

Our 2023 programme began on 10th January with an illustrated talk from Terry Winters. This meeting was via Zoom. About 18 members logged in for this fascinating 'journey' through the development of the garden at Ordnance House.

After years of working in the hectic world of advertising, Terry decided to devote his time to developing this wonderful garden. He was inspired by Dan Pearson's design programmes and other looking at existing gardens. Ordnance House Garden was non-existent when he and his wife moved there. Since then, he has changed the "blank canvas" into interconnecting gardens and vistas. A series of excellent photos showed us these gardens highlighting some of the outstanding planting including topiary lollipops of Privet, Viburnum and Portuguese Laurel, Alliums and Lavender (in shades of white, blue and purple), Oriental poppies and Clematis to name but a few!

He won an RHS Gold Medal for the best Back Garden in the "My Chelsea Garden" competition and last year was seen in Episode 15 of Gardeners World.

Terry's belief is that "A garden should be a place to relax and enhance your life". For those of us watching and listening it was an inspirational evening.

On February 14th at 7.30, Don Witton will give a talk on 'People, Plants, Pleasure and Passion.' This will again be on **Zoom**.

We welcome visitors to our club that normally 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 and Swallows Nursery in Mixbury. *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 or email shelswellgardenclub@gmail.com

SHELLOW POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP

At our January meeting, on the 17th, we read the following poems – all on the subject of Flowers, both actual and metaphorical.

In *Tulips*, **Sylvia Plath**, lying in hospital, feels watched and oppressed by the flowers' vitality, whereas **EJ Scovell** admires tulips even as they decay and **Ella Wheeler Wilcox** celebrates colour and scent in *Red Carnations*.

The Sick Rose by **William Blake**, *One Perfect Rose* by **Dorothy Parker** and *To the Virgins to Make Much of Time* by **Robert Herrick** all use roses as symbols. Both **Anne Sexton** in *Red Roses* and **Fred D. Aguiar** in *A Gift of a Rose* use them to symbolise terrible violence.

A song from **Gilbert and Sullivan's** *The Mikado*, *The Flowers that Bloom in the Spring*, is light-hearted, but the Scottish song lyrics *The Flowers of the Forest* is a heart-wrenching lament for the young men slain at The Battle of Flodden.

Wintry flora is represented by the old carol *The Holly and the Ivy*, *The Christmas Life* by **Wendy Cope**, *Holly* by **A R Ammons**, *Brother Ivy* by **Denise Levertov** and *To the Ivy* by **John Clare**. A flower which spans late winter and early spring is the snowdrop, praised by William Wordsworth in *To A Snowdrop*.

A flower which can be found in flower even in the hardest winter is gorse, and **Chris Orsman** writes about its combination of beauty and ugliness.

In *The Last Chrysanthemum*, **Thomas Hardy** finds the flower to be an anomaly blooming so late in the year, and **Mark Van Doren**, in *After Long Drought*, writes of the changing of the seasons.

Leaving Early by **Sylvia Plath** makes flowers in vases the witnesses to a thwarted love affair.

Two poems about poppies – *Big Poppy* by **Ted Hughes** and *Sonnet to the Poppy* by **Anna Seward** personify the flowers as young women, no better than they ought to be.

Other poems for discussion were *Amaryllis -Pride*, an anonymous piece and *The Flower* by **Alfred Lord Tennyson**.

If you would like to join us in March, please contact me for date and topic on 01869 811994 or at judith.harvey@live.co.uk

Judith Harvey

FINMERE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL & PRE-SCHOOL



PLACES AVAILABLE

SEPTEMBER 2023

AGES 3 -11

Contact the school office to arrange a visit

01280 848459

office.3090@finmere.oxon.sch.uk

WWW.FINMERE.OXON.SCH.UK

Launton Village Players present
their 36th pantomime



Hickory Dickory Dock

A traditional family pantomime

Weds 15th to Sat 18th Feb 2023

Date	Performance Times			Adult (18+)	Child	Babes in arms
Weds 15 th Feb			7:30pm	£10	£5	Free
Thurs 16 th Feb	10:30am	2:30pm		£12	£6	Free
Fri 17 th Feb		2:30pm	7:30pm	£14	£7	Free
Sat 18 th Feb		2:30pm	7:30pm	£14	£7	Free

Family tickets available at discounted prices!

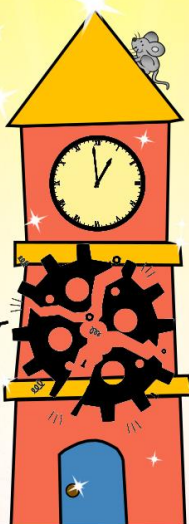
Tickets available from
www.ticketsource.co.uk/lvp

(or call 07864 715708 for cash/cheque purchases or assistance)

Written by Rod and Nikki Fine
Music by Steve Webber
Directed by Julia West

In Cooper School Performance
Hall, Bicester, OX26 4RS

Suitable for the whole family
to enjoy from age 0 to 100!



Scan
here
for
tickets!



All profits will be donated to
Nai's House, Bicester

www.launtonvillageplayers.org.uk

LAUNTON VILLAGE PLAYERS PANTOMIME

Launton Village Players are presenting “Hickory Dickory Dock”, a traditional family panto over February half term in Cooper School Performance Hall, Bicester.

We have 7 performances spread over 4 days from Wednesday 15th to Saturday 19th February, with morning, afternoon and evening shows. Tickets are on sale now from www.ticketsource.co.uk/lvp, or by calling 07864 715708. Ticket prices start at just £5 and family discounts are available. Book before 1st January and get an extra 10% off with the code EARLYBIRD.

All profits will be donated to Nai’s House – a Bicester charity who provide vital mental health support to young people and their families.

Our award winning panto is a family show and suitable for all ages, with plenty of magic, comedy and audience participation. There are free puzzle sheets and glowsticks for the children so they can join in the magic, and refreshments are available before and during the show.

Hickory Dickory Dock is a less well known story, but includes all the usual pantomime elements. When the magical clock stops working, our heroes must travel to the four corners of the world to find the missing parts, meeting magical characters along the way. Will the mice run up the clock and defeat the baddie?

Come and enjoy Bicester’s biggest and most magical panto and find out!

REPORTS FROM THE PARISHES

Cottisford and Juniper Hill St Mary the Virgin

CHURCHWARDEN: Charles Jackson, Cottisford House, Cottisford

Tel 01280 848247

TREASURER David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick

Tel 01869 277690

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Vacancy

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

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



COTTISFORD AND JUNIPER HILL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Carol Service was held on Sunday 11th December in Cottisford Church. Everyone enjoyed the carols and readings with the crib scene being built bit by bit during the service. Thank you to those members of the Social Committee who helped with the refreshments afterwards and all those who helped on the Saturday to decorate the hall and the tree.

Our next event is Snowdrop Sunday on 12th February. Following last year’s successful day we look forward to seeing you all. Please see the advert further on in the magazine for all the information.

Everyone on the Social Committee and from the Parish of Cottisford and Juniper Hill would like to pass on our heartfelt thanks to Judith, who has recently decided to stand down from the Social Committee. Judith has been one of the driving forces behind the Social Committee for the last ten years, helping to raise funds and organise the activities that bring the Parish together. Although we will miss her at our committee meetings we know that we are sure to see her at future Parish events.

If you would like to host one of our pop-up pub nights or coffee mornings please contact Sandra Bickmore at sandrabickmore@gmail.com

THE FRIENDS OF COTTISFORD CHURCH

As another year begins, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the ladies on the Flower Rota, who always keep our church beautifully clean and filled with flowers. A big thank you, therefore, to Eileen Torrance, Gillian Groom, Frances Jackson, Norma Atkins, Karen Ireland, Sally Evans and Jane Birnage.

If you would like to help out and become part of the team, please let me know on 07770 260605 or at janebirnage@icloud.com. It only takes a couple of hours in a volunteer's designated month, but it makes a big difference to how our church looks and feels and enhances a building at the heart of the community.

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

Tel: 07875 102952

Tel 01280 847782

Tel: 01280 848364

Tel 01280 848268

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



Village Hall

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

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.



From the new year, WiFi facilities are available within the hall.



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 😊 [No-Dig Gardening Guide](#) | [BBC Gardeners World Magazine](#)



A reminder to those allotment holders who have not yet paid their fees 😞 **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

Poppy Day Collection

Collections in the village were as follows:

Finmere Village	£392.59
Finmere School	£29.39
Red Lion	£32.37

Thank you everyone

Jackie Ridgway

Some Finmere related links:

Finmere facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/finmereandlittlettingewick/>
 Shelswell Parishes website at – www.shelswellparishes.info/finmere
 Finmere Parish Council website at – www.finmerepc.org
 Village hall news at – www.myfinmere.com
 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

Fringford St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: John Mayo, 10 Church Close, Fringford	Tel 01869 278873
TREASURER: Christina McCullagh, 5 Crosslands, Fringford	Tel 07867 515207
PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Penny Wood as below	
MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Penny Wood, 8 Crosslands, Fringford	Tel 01869 277310
VILLAGE HALL CORRESPONDENT: Christine Underwood	Tel 01869 278949
WEBSITE www.fringford.info	

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

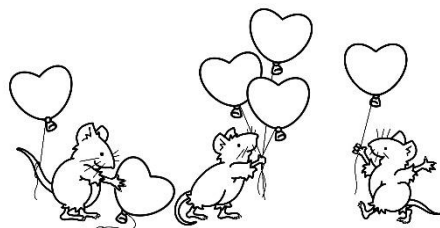


ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, SERVICES & EVENTS

Services

- Sunday 5 February – Family Service at 10.45am
- Sunday 12 February – Holy Communion at 6.00pm
- Sunday 19 February – Holy Communion at 10.45am
- Wednesday 22 February – Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. There will be a 12.00 noon service of Holy Communion followed by a simple lunch in Stoke Lyne Church, and a 7.30pm service of Holy Communion, with the choir, in Fringford Church.

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



Events

At St Michael & All Angels Church
Fringford

CONCERT

AT 7.00PM
ON WEDNESDAY 15 FEBRUARY

Come and support your local young talented musicians. They will perform classical favourites alongside their teachers.

The programme will include works by Mozart, Bach and Beethoven, performed on a variety of instruments from the clarinet to organ. Programme to last 1 hour.

Tickets £5 on the door, includes an interval glass of wine.

Or in advance from Penny Wood [penelope.wood@btopenworld.com]



Open Gardens

The PCC is planning to hold 'Open Gardens' over the weekend of 13/14 May. The gardens are usually open from 1.00pm to 6.00pm. There are flower arrangements in the church, and there could be an exhibition of paintings if there are some local artists who would like the opportunity to exhibit their work?

Anyone interested in opening their garden this year, or exhibiting art work, please contact Penny on 01869-277310.

Fringford Beer Festival.

Planning for this event is well under way. Note the date – **Saturday 10th June 2023.**

- If you would like to sponsor a barrel, cost £100, please contact Simon Knight on 07598 104444.
- If you'd like to 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.

Carol Singing around the village in aid of Nai's House, a local charity offering mental health support for young people, took place on Tuesday 20th December. £117 was raised. Thank you very much everyone who came singing, and everyone who donated to the charity. And thank you to everyone who supported the **'Mingle and Jingle'** evening at Waterloo Farm on 16 December, and were so generous. The evening raised £300 for church funds. Special thanks to Phillippa and David Taylor who were wonderful hosts.

Greetings Cards

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

Fringford Church 100 Club

You can still sign up to the 100 Club. Contact Christina McCullagh to register your involvement **ASAP**, on **07867 515207**. The draw takes place monthly at the Village Coffee Morning.

Little Lambs Babies & Toddler Group

Every Wednesday during term time in Stratton Audley Church, from 9.30am to 11.00am.

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

Regular Activities held in Fringford Village Hall

Details of regular activities taking place in Fringford Village Hall. To find out more or book a place, please contact the hirer direct.	
Weekly Activities	Monthly Activities
<p>FS Dance Monday & Wednesday (term time) After school classes BALLET • TAP • MODERN • STREET</p> <p>leah.fsd@gmail.com or 07885827592</p>	<p>Village Coffee Morning All ages welcome Third Monday in the month - Chinnery Room Drop in anytime between 10.30 am and noon</p> <p>Penny Wood 01869 277310</p>
<p>Puppy Stars Dog Training Tuesday evening – various classes</p> <p>Contact Nick 07542 131400 www.puppystars.co.uk</p>	<p>Parish Council Meeting All villagers welcome Third Monday in the month 7.45pm</p> <p>Contact 01844 237766 or fringford.parishclerk@gmail.com</p>
<p>Fringford Yoga Wednesday (term time) 9.30am – 11am</p> <p>Carolyn White 01869 277161</p>	<p>Axis Sound Bath Meditation First Sunday of the month from 7.30pm</p> <p>contact@holisticaxis.com</p>
<p>Just Puppies Puppy Training Wednesday evening – various classes</p> <p>Contact Kerri 07720 891489 www.justpuppies.training</p>	<p>Shelswell WI</p> <p>First Thursday of the month 7.30pm</p> <p>Contact Elaine Whittaker 07917 453224</p>
<p>Pilates (starting January) Thursday at 10.00am</p> <p>natashaflowerspilates@gmail.com or 07545 525820</p>	<p>Mindfulness Meditation Monthly Sunday 11am to 12.30pm</p> <p>janerainey17@gmail.com or 07971 008337</p>
<p>Village Hall Meeting Every 6 weeks – 7.30pm</p> <p>Open meetings – all welcome</p> <p>Contact Helen 01869 278260</p>	<p>Fringford Sewcial Sew and Chat!</p> <p>Alternate monthly Wednesday from 7pm & Sunday from 3pm</p> <p>Contact Melissa at mamcs100@gmail.com</p>
<p>To book the hall for your own event, please go to fringford.info, village hall, how to book Here you will find all the information you will need to book on-line. For any other queries please phone or text 07936 879175 or email: fringford.hall@gmail.com</p>	

FRINGFORD FRIENDS NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT GROUP

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 email silvercb1@outlook.com

FRINGFORD VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

Village Coffee Mornings will take place on Monday 20 February, and Monday 20 March from 10.30am to 12 noon, in the Chinnery Room at the Village Hall. Just drop by any time during the morning. Contact Penny on 277310 if you want more information.

HETHE & DISTRICT DERBY & JOAN CLUB

Please note the meeting date has changed from Tuesday 21 March to Thursday 16 March.

It will be at 2.30pm in Fringford Village Hall.

For further information contact Tony Marshall on 07966 522667.

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 AT HARDWICK

Two services were held at St. Mary's Hardwick during the Christmas period. The annual Carol Service on 18th December saw the Christmas story re-told through familiar Bible readings and the singing of well-known carols. Our thanks to the various readers and Revd Liz Welters for leading this service. The Holy Communion Service, held on Christmas morning, was particularly well attended with some the large family groups, which was great to see. Our thanks to Revd Alice Goodall for presiding (and performing conjuring tricks!)

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

DONATIONS FOR BICESTER FOODBANK

Hardwick church now has a collection box for donations of tinned and dry foods for Bicester Foodbank, a charity that makes food available to local people in crisis. There is currently a desperate need for more donations of food for the growing numbers of people in real need. This can only get worse over the next few months. So, please help by placing your donations in the collection box in the church porch. This will be checked regularly, and donations delivered directly to the Foodbank.

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 £5 to church funds.

PILGRIM PATHWAYS

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

Hethe St Edmund and St George

CHURCHWARDEN: Flora Skinner, Fox Hollow, 2 Hardwick Road, Hethe

Tel 01869 277366

TREASURER: Mike Green, Greenhill Cottage, Main Street, Hethe

Tel 01869 278166

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Flora Skinner as above

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Mike Green as above

Tel 01869 278166

WEBSITE: www.hethe.org

If you have any news or a 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.

ST EDMUND & ST GEORGE CHURCH

Church Services and Events



See the back page for details of services in our church. You will be welcome at any of these services and in other churches in the benefice, or if you are away from the Shelswell area, you can find a nearby service through the web site <https://www.achurchnearyou.com>.

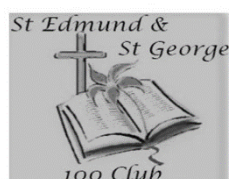
The church is open every day for visits and private prayer.

How the parish pays to keep the church open and available....Regular giving is the best source of income for the church. There is now a feature in Parish Giving to make a one-off gift through a single transaction using a debit or credit card, or Apple or Google Pay, using the secure PGS website. If you wish to give specifically to maintain the rear part of the churchyard, please pass your donation to Flora or Mike or use one of the QR codes below.



← Scan here to make a one-off donation or to set up regular giving by direct debit

Scan here to contribute specifically to the fund raising for the west window repairs by credit or debit card



St Edmund & St George 100 Club

Results of the 48th draw held
on Wednesday 11th January 2023

1st Prize No 5 Helen Pritchard Family
2nd Prize No 1 Lily Skinner
3rd Prize No 32 Anne Mansfield

Results of the 49th draw held
on Wednesday 11th January 2023

1st Prize No 23 Lisa Soper
2nd Prize No 49 Ali Miller
3rd Prize No 31 John & Sue Schutz

Many thanks to our members
Hethe PCC

There are still plenty of numbers if you wish to join!

Please contact Mike or one of the other PCC members for an application form. The form and full details of the scheme are on the village website.

Annual Church Meetings. The Annual Meeting of Parishioners (AMP) will take place after the Holy Communion service on Sunday 12th March. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be held with other churches in the benefice on Monday 24th April, starting at 7.30pm, in Stratton Audley Church.

Next PCC meeting Wednesday 21st June. If you wish to raise any issues for consideration at or before the meeting, please inform one of the PCC members – Flora Skinner, Pauline O’Gorman, Helen Pritchard, Helen Wood, June Nisbet or Mike Green.

HETHE COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

Coffee Mornings. Please note that the coffee mornings this year are continuing to alternate between the village hall (on the second Monday of the month from January) and St Philip’s Hall (on the second Tuesday of the month from February).

Hethe Community Coffee Morning in St Philip's Hall

Tuesday 14th February 10.00am to 12.00pm

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



Parish Council. We look forward to receiving news from the council following their January meeting.



Village Hall Bookings: Please contact the village hall booking secretary fjskinner@hotmail.co.uk.

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

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. Any food not taken from the donations in the church will be given every month to Bicester Food Bank. Helen Wood is authorised to issue a referral number for Bicester Food Bank to those in need. You will find her at Old Montague Barn, The Green, telephone 01869 278400 or 07999 853347.

Lost property – Box in the church porch.

Bins – Glass recycling bins are located near the village hall. Weekly bin collections should be returning to normal following the changes over the Christmas/New Year period. Remember to renew the licences for any brown (garden waste) bins.

All Parishes now have a government web site. This is ours - <https://hethe.parish.uk/>

Keep up to date with what is happening in the village through:

Our village web site (courtesy of the Parish Council): <https://www.hethe.org/>

Facebook Pages:

Community Spirit of the Hethens - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/914036669040803>

Hethe Community - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/651105142605166>

Next Door - <https://nextdoor.co.uk/>

Photos of Hethe & District. Photos are always welcome for this publication and the village web site. The following is one of three amazing photos from David Sykes. It looks even better in colour on the web site!



Mixbury All Saints

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

Tel 07899 792552
 Tel 01280 848295
 Tel 01280 847769
 Tel 01280 848295
 Tel 01280 848002

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



CHURCH SERVICES

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

MIXBURY CHURCH FLOWER ROTA 2023

February	Melanie Soar
March	Emma Bray
April	Easter 17 th April – Everyone

MIXBURY CHURCH CLEANING ROTA (Revised 2023 - 2024)



Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to go on this rota in order to clean and to help maintain the church throughout the year. Your hard work is very much appreciated.

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

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

MIXBURY POP UP PUB NIGHTS

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

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

GARDEN WASTE BIN SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

If you pay for your garden waste bins to be emptied don't forget to renew your subscriptions. Details below: Subscriptions are due to expire on 28th February 2023, if you miss the date for renewing the bin men will not collect your garden waste until you have a valid subscription.

The charge for each garden waste subscription for 1st March 2023 to 29th February 2024 is shown below:

Subscribe between 1st December 2022 and 28th February 2023 and the first subscription costs £39, and additional subscriptions cost £33 each.

Subscribe after 1st March 2023 and the first subscription costs £43, and additional subscriptions at £33 each.

Please see the full terms and conditions on Cherwell's website: <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/garden-waste-collection-service-terms-and-conditions>

The easiest way to renew your garden waste subscriptions is by visiting the website: <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/payable-garden-waste-collection>

Alternatively, if you can't renew online, please call the Customer Service Team on 01295 227003. If you are calling us to renew your subscriptions, please ensure that you have read the Terms and Conditions before calling.

If you renew your garden waste subscriptions they will send you new stickers for the garden waste bins. Please be advised that your welcome pack, containing new stickers, will be delivered to you within 28 days.

Newton Purcell St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDENS: Ann von Maltzahn, Home Farm Shelswell Park
Vacant

Tel 01280 848680

TREASURER: Fai Li

Tel: 07725 009838

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Flora Skinner

Tel: 01869 277366

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Ann von Maltzahn

Tel 01280 848680

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



Services -

Sunday 5th February - 9.15 Holy Communion

Flower Rota -

Our thanks to all who are already on our flower and cleaning rota. We do however need a few more volunteers so if you think you could help please contact Ann von Maltzahn on 01280 848680 or

ann_maltzahn@yahoo.com

Bonus Ball Lotto -

Our recent lucky winner has been Jen Beaumont - twice!

We still have quite a few unallocated numbers so why not contact Ann von Maltzahn for details and your chance of a weekly cash prize.

Stoke Lyne St Peter's

CHURCHWARDEN: Christopher Poole CTP@oxford-educational.co.uk

Tel 01869 346020

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

Tel 07810 120457

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Emma Brown

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

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

Tel 01869 345211

WEBSITE www.stokelyne.org



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

St Peter's Church Stoke Lyne Services

Sunday 5th February – 'Food for Thought' at 10am

Sunday 19th February – 'Fun @ 4' (4pm)

Sunday 26th February – Holy Communion (10.45am)

Flower Duty for February

Sarah Jane Buckle

Midweek Holy Communion and Soup Lunch – Thursday, 5th January

The communion service was led by Alice assisted by Liz. Alice gave a sermon related to the reading that had been read. She spoke about a young African girl who was given the middle name of Olympia by her father when she was born, hoping she would go on and do great things, but unfortunately for her she developed Polio as a child and became paralysed from the waist down. As she got older her disability didn't hold her back from doing things and she overcame her disability by becoming a wheelchair athlete and she went on to become a gold medal Olympian at one of the Olympic games. The moral of the story is if you are determined you can overcome with help to get through life and make it work for you. I think her father named her well.

After communion we moved over to the tables set for lunch of a lovely soup and rolls followed by a choice of puddings with plenty of seconds and lots of chatter.

This is a lovely way of getting people out to socialise after being stuck indoors.

Rena Andrews

Food for Thought

There was no "Food for Thought" in January.

Our next Food for Thought service will be at 10am on the 5th of February. Please join us for breakfast and informal worship.

Kelly Holden-White

Stoke Lyne W.I. – Thursday, 12th January 2023

We had a change of venue for this meeting: instead of our usual meeting place at Hethe Village Hall, we met at the Trigger Pond, Bucknell, for lunch. Husbands could attend too but they sat separately from us so while they were shown to a table in the bar area, we ladies were shown to a long table in the conservatory.

The only business we had to discuss was that we had two birthdays: Mary and Celia. Because they are both on the Committee they were given their cards then and we sang Happy Birthday to them.

We had a delightful lunch: some had starters, and a main meal, others had a main meal and dessert. Everyone enjoyed their meal and it was so nicely presented. The staff were very attentive as well getting drinks for us. There was lots of chatter going on getting up to date with each other as some hadn't seen each other since the December meeting

The next meeting in February will be at our usual venue, Hethe Village Hall at 1.00 pm. The speaker should be someone coming to speak about the Air Ambulance service and what they do but this still to be confirmed as they don't make up their programme till about three weeks before. The competition is a medical or first aid tip. Tea hostesses will be Celia and Sally.

Rena Andrews

St Peter's Church Christmas Decorations

Thank you to Kelly and her band of budding young interior designers for decorating the church this year.



Shelswell By The Sea Christmas Party - Wednesday 21st December 2022

On arrival guests were met with hot mulled wine, soft drinks or a choice of other wines. The tables looked very festive with crackers, table decorations and candles.

After everyone had arrived and was seated, the party was started off with a game of pass the parcel and when the music stopped the first layer of paper was taken off and the parcel was supposed to carry on again. It was passed to Rena who started to unwrap the parcel before the music started this caused a lot of laughter as it happened three times. Rena said she hadn't played that game for over 40 years and forgot the rules.

Lots of refreshments were brought out with a wonderful selection of sandwiches with many different fillings made to suit people with different allergies and vegetarian or vegan so that everyone was catered for. Lots of sausages and other savouries also made their way round the tables.

There were so many plates of cakes of so many varieties it was a difficult choice what to have, after which they came round with jelly. Tea or coffee was served to those who wanted it.

Liz then passed a Christmas quiz round to get the brains working. I could hear some saying "I know the answer but my brain won't let it out". I have heard a lot of people saying that since the Lockdown, they haven't been socialising and therefore their brains have gone stale which is why you should do quizzes or word games to stimulate the brain.

Liz then passed carol sheets round and we had a session of carol singing that everyone seemed to enjoy.

Sylvia Barnes from Finmere gave a wonderful vote of thanks to the Ministry team and also to all the volunteers who made cakes and sandwiches and anyone else who helped in any way to make an enjoyable afternoon.

Alice wished all a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Rena Andrews.

Stoke Lyne 100 Club – January Results

A happy and healthy 2023 to everyone.

I would like to take this opportunity to re-introduce the Stoke Lyne 100 club.

Since a few members have left the village our membership numbers have fallen slightly and therefore the prize money has been reduced. I am trying to recruit new members and as such would ask that anyone who wants to join for £3.00 per month per membership (the more memberships you buy the better chance you have of winning). Please get in touch via email and I can forward the necessary details.

The winners for this month are as follows:

1st Prize	Membership No. 18	Pippa Elliot
2nd Prize	Membership No. 17	Ben Brown
3rd Prize	Membership No. 28	Jane Webb and Lucy Knill

Thank you to all those who support this Club and help towards the running costs of our Church building.

Janey Poole

Treasurer

St Peter's Church PCC

janey@oxford-educational.co.uk

Christmas Day Service – Sunday, 25th December 2022

Stoke Lyne held their Christmas Day Communion Service at 11am. It was taken by Lex Bradley who comes from the Cherwell Valley Benefice. We had a wonderful turnout with almost 50 of us in church of every age group! There was a very happy atmosphere, and we all sang some very well-loved carols including Hark the Herald and O Little Town of Bethlehem. It was lovely to see the church so full of friends celebrating Christmas together.

Emma Brown

Come along and try your luck at Stoke Lyne's first Bingo Night!

Saturday 11th March 7pm in St. Peter's Church, Stoke Lyne.

£7 entrance to include entry into each round of bingo and dinner.

Chilli (meat or Veggie), jacket potatoes and salads with a bar to buy alcoholic or soft drinks.

Book ahead to help us know how many to expect (pay on the night or ask Kelly for the Church bank details to transfer)

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THANK YOU FROM ST PETER'S CHURCH

Thank you so much to all those households who have donated to St Peter's Church throughout 2022, every amount means so much to keeping our beautiful church open and running. Like you all, our overheads have increased enormously, so we really appreciate your help.

Thank you to all members of the Stoke Lyne 100 Club, to everyone who attends every fund-raising effort and to newcomers like Anoushka who gave her doors away for a donation to the Church.

Thank you and a healthy and happy 2023 to you all.

Janey Poole

Treasurer St Peter's Church Stoke Lyne

JUST THOUGHTS

Growing old has its pains and pleasures. Not now for jumping out of bed eager for the day's events or seeing the world in black and white, but seeing life in shades of grey, in a more tolerant way, which has been shaped by experience good or bad but by slowly raising one's body to stand erect.

Giving more time to stand back to view the day's tasks, giving thanks for every common task still completed in spite of less able limbs and memory. A gentle sit down perhaps to dose (only for a short while please note.)

Thanking God for visits and help from family and friends and having time to listen to them and perhaps very occasionally to help.

Remembering all happy times and perhaps sharing them.

Growing old has its pains and pleasures.

Pat Cherry

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CHURCH SERVICES IN STRATTON AUDLEY & GODINGTON

- Compline in Holy Trinity Godington on Sunday 5th February (6pm)
- Morning Service in Stratton Audley on Sunday 12th February (10.45am)
- Holy Communion in Stratton Audley on Sunday 26th February (9.15am)



Little Lambs Baby and Toddler group

**Wednesdays (Term Time)
at 9.30am - 11.00am.**

**We meet
in Stratton Audley Church
for play, music and stories.
Tea, coffee and snacks
for Adults and Toddlers.**

**Note: No meeting on Wednesday 15th February
as it will be half term**

FOODBANK DONATION IN CHURCH PORCH!

Thank you very much to all those who have dropped donations into the box in the church porch to support 'Help For the Hungry' – Please keep them coming! Urgently needed are tinned tomatoes, tinned fish, rice pudding, tinned meat, tinned fruit, and juice/squash. Additionally dried goods & plus toiletries (They have plenty of cereal and pasta). Likewise if you are in need please help yourself to any of the goods and note that the Rector, Alice Goodall is now a 'Local Referrer' and can refer anyone who in need to the Bicester Foodbank. Contact: Alice Goodall, The Rectory, Finmere 01280 848192 alicegoodall313@gmail.com .

STRATTON AUDLEY BARN

The Barn is open again and there is lots of new Spring stock to browse. The opening hours have now reverted to the pre-Covid days so the Barn is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10am-4pm daily with lunches served 12-2pm. Bookings recommended.

FISH & CHIPS VAN IN THE VILLAGE ON SATURDAYS

For those new in the community, a Howe's Fish and Chip van comes to the village every Saturday lunchtime from 1.30pm to 2pm. You will hear a bell (like a school bell) and the first stop is in Cherry Street. The van then drives along Cavendish Place and stops again at the junction with Mill Road.

BICESTER HERITAGE APRIL SCRAMBLE

Sale of tickets for the April 8th Scramble are now live. Once again, local residents can buy discounted tickets at 50% off. The promo code is: **BristolBoxkite**

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT IDEAS

The Parish Council recently reported on the Village Improvement Fund. When the last analysis was made available in 2019 there was some £1600 remaining in the fund, although this figure was depleted further and as a result the Parish Council agreed to allocate a further £5000 to this fund. Please see the latest Parish Council Minutes for further information on the Stratton Audley website <https://strattonaudley.org/>

At every Annual Meeting of the Parish, people are reminded to come forward with ideas, hopefully ones that they can help implement, whether it is for something physical to improve the look of the village, organising an event or the setting up of a service for residents. All you have to do is attend a Parish Council meeting and put forward your idea.

THINGS TO DO IN FEBRUARY ...

'Snowdrop Sunday' in Cottisford on Sunday 12th Feb (2-4pm) A lovely afternoon out (See page 11)

Launton Village Players present their 36th pantomime 'Hickory Dickory Dock' Wednesday 15th – Saturday 18th Feb in Cooper School Performance Hall. See page 17. All profits to Nai's House.

Shrove Tuesday – 21st February. Pancake Day!



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday 22nd February. The Ministry Team are offering various ways that you might like to mark Lent this year. Details on Pages 3 and 9.

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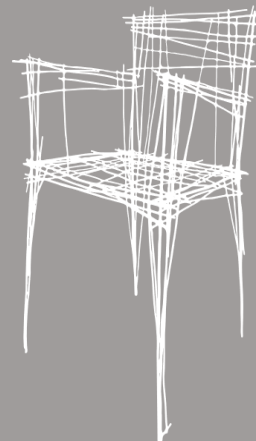
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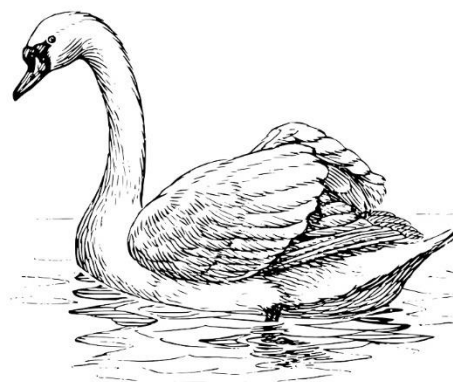
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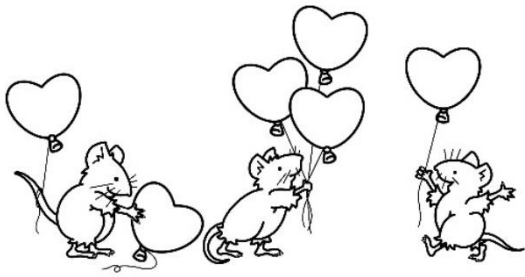
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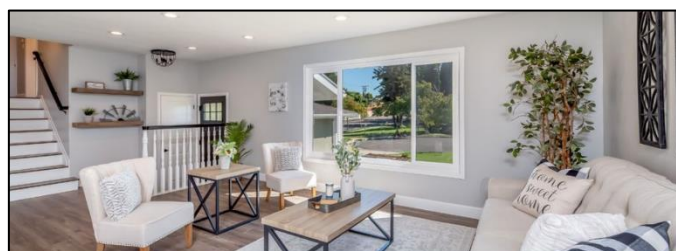
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