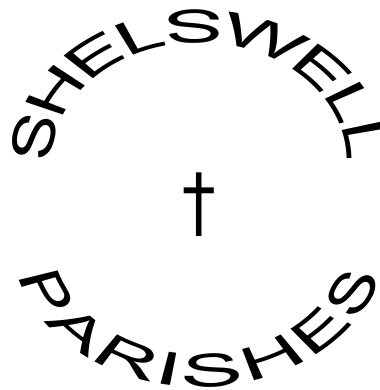


# Shelswell News

The magazine of the Shelswell Group of Churches

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Cottisford  
Fringford  
Hardwick  
Mixbury  
Stoke Lyne



Finnmere  
Godington  
Hethe  
Newton Purcell  
Stratton Audley



## SHELLOWELL BENEFICE MISSION STATEMENT

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

### MINISTRY TEAM

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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: 4pm Saturday.

Weekday Mass: 9.30am Monday

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

Telephone: 01869 253277

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

### SHELLOWELL NEWS

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**Deadlines** for the **October 2023** edition of Shelswell News

To Magazine Correspondents: **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September**

Correspondents to Editor: **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September** at [editor@shelswellparishes.info](mailto:editor@shelswellparishes.info)

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

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

Many thanks for your cooperation.

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

## MINISTER'S LETTER

### ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

September 12<sup>th</sup> is National Encouragement Day – probably not a lot of people know that!

At a recent Home Group study, we looked at Barnabas, a follower of Jesus. He was originally named Joseph, but the Apostles gave him the nick-name Barnabas, which means 'Son of Encouragement' or 'Son of Consolation'.



After Jesus' resurrection, the early Christians shared everything they had. One encouraging thing Barnabas did was to sell a field he owned and give the money to the Apostles to use to help any needy people among the believers.

After St Paul was converted on the road to Damascus, Barnabas introduced him to the Apostles. They were naturally frightened of Paul who had been vehemently persecuting Christians and they couldn't believe he was a changed man. However, Barnabas encouraged them to accept Paul by telling them how Paul had been preaching boldly in the name of Jesus.

ST. BARNABAS



Barnabas and Paul spent a whole year in Antioch encouraging and building up the newly established church there. On various missionary journeys Barnabas was an encouraging companion to Paul.

When church leaders in Jerusalem were debating whether Gentile believers should be made to adopt Jewish customs, Barnabas and Paul spoke up in favour of the Gentile Christians. They thought that things should not be made too difficult for them. The leaders then decided not to impose too many restrictions on Gentiles who came to faith in Jesus.

St Luke records that Barnabas was '*a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and many people were brought to the Lord*' (Acts 11.24). Legend claims that Barnabas was martyred at Salamis (the principal city of ancient Cyprus) in 61. 'Son of Encouragement' – what a great nickname and epitaph to have!

The word translated encouragement in the New Testament is used to describe giving comfort, but it also involves urging, strengthening, giving courage. Throughout the Bible there are instructions to encourage one another, eg 1 Thessalonians 5:11:

**'Encourage one another and help one another, just as you are now doing.'**

The right words can help reinvigorate us, strengthen us for what lies ahead, and remind us to keep trying. Encouragement lifts us up when we are down or feel we have failed. It can be like a gentle push forward when we've run out of steam. Without encouragement, we can easily become dejected or overwhelmed.



Encouragement is free. It doesn't cost anything to say a few pleasant words to someone. Even a smile or saying hello to a stranger could make a difference to them. Of course, encouragement should not be hollow or patronising, but sincere and heartfelt, using words that build up rather than put people down.

**'Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.'**

Proverbs 16:24



Let every day be a day of encouragement, not just September 12<sup>th</sup>. Say a cheery word, or a word of praise, or send a card or call or text someone who may be feeling down or struggling. Sincerely say thank you at every opportunity.

And let's pause to give thanks for people who have been an encouragement to us in our journey through life.

*Liz Welters, Associate Minister*

## BIBLE READINGS



Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	Jeremiah 15 v15-21 Romans 12 v9-end Matthew 16 v21-end
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	Ezekiel 33 v7-11 Romans 13 v8-end Matthew 18 v15-20
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	Genesis 50 v15-21 Romans 14 v1-12 Matthew 18 v21-35
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	Jonah 3 v10 – 4 v11 Philippians 1 v21-end Matthew 20 v1-16
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	Ezekiel 18 v1-4 and 25-end Philippians 2 v1-13 Matthew 21 v23-32

(Note: Alternative readings may be used at Harvest celebrations)

### MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION AND SOUP LUNCH Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September

12 noon

Stoke Lyne Church

If you would like a lift then please contact Alice on 01280 848192 or  
[rector@shelswellparishes.info](mailto:rector@shelswellparishes.info)

### NEW MAGAZINE EDITOR NEEDED



We would love to hear from anyone interested in taking over the role of 'Shelswell News' editor. All the advertising is handled from the Benefice Office so you do not need to deal with this, and you would rarely need to draft any material yourself. Your role would be to receive the material from parish correspondents and the representatives of clubs and societies (by email) and collate this to fit the page layout of the magazine. New ideas for articles, features or series are always welcome. For an informal chat about what might be involved please call Alice on 01280 848192.



# A Harvest Home Celebration

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September**

**11am**

**Waterloo Farm, Fringford**

**Harvest Festival followed by a wonderful harvest lunch!**

**Speaker: Leanne Sinclair**

**from the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution**

*(a big thank you to Phillippa and David Taylor for hosting)*



There is no charge for the lunch and no need to book - it would give us an idea of how many to cater for if you could let us know that you plan to come by emailing [admin@shelswellparishes.info](mailto:admin@shelswellparishes.info) or phoning 01280 848192, but even if you don't do that, you can still stay for lunch!!

Any donations given will be divided between RAB and the Wulu Diocese's recent appeal for money to buy food.

There will also be harvest festivals in some of the churches in the benefice:

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October:

11.30 am Newton Purcell

4 pm Cottisford

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October

11 am Mixbury

5 pm Finmere

and Godington – to be arranged.



## CREAM TEAS FOR TREES – A HUGE THANK YOU

Grateful thanks to all who provided scones and cakes and helped at this happy event on 6<sup>th</sup> August, which was organised by people from Shelswell Benefice. Around 50 people attended and generous donations for teas amounted to an amazing £500.



Whilst eating people watched informative videos about the Great Green Wall and the Atlantic Rainforest.



£250 has been sent to Tree Aid's Great Green Wall Appeal to fight the encroaching desert by helping communities across the Sahel region of Africa to grow trees and vegetation and to restore land. The money will help towards supporting activities such as soil and water conservation and providing business skills to maximise people's income from tree products.

Azumah, who lives in Ghana, says, "I get fruit and nuts from shea trees which my wife can turn into shea butter and sell for an income. We use the income for our children's schooling."

*"I am thrilled to hear that the event went well. Thank you for your generous donation in support of Tree Aid."*

Clare Hanley-Theare, Tree Aid

The Woodland Trust's Atlantic Rainforest Appeal has also received £250. This will go towards their work of protecting, enhancing and restoring temperate rainforests scattered along the west coast of Britain. These places of outstanding biodiversity provide habitats for plants and animals, some of which are found nowhere else in the world.



*"Thank you for your incredibly kind and generous donation. Please do pass on our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in raising these funds – we sincerely appreciate it."* Nikki Carr, Woodland Trust

## KNITTING FOR OTHERS



You may remember from a previous article in the magazine that 'Knit for Peace' are no longer accepting knitting for distribution. They have asked that the knitting goes to local organisations for onward distribution.

Locally (Fringford) we are fortunate to have Penni, who has wide connections to various charities. She is kindly taking our knitting so that it can be sent to people in need. We have received the following acknowledgment -

Dear knitting group

Just to say a huge thank you for all amazing hand knitted items.

All had been delivered to us by Penni and Phil.

Everything delivered was brand new, hand knitted, great helpful stuff.

Many thanks again for all your help and support in this difficult time for all Ukrainians.

Best regards

Vera Lyshak, Chairperson of Bicester Ukrainian Community Support Group

Knitted items have also gone to Bicester Churches Action for refugees and Operation Mercy, an international organisation who distribute goods to every country.

Your support for 'Knitting for Others' is very much appreciated.

Marion Crowther 01869 277404





We did have lots of fun! 47 children, 14 adult helpers and six teenage helpers – singing, baking, whacky races, water games, drama, crazy science experiments, craft and so much more...all whilst we were thinking and learning about how God is always with us.

A very big thank you to all the helpers and to all the parents for bringing their children along day by day! Next year's dates will be **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August**





## Little Lambs finish the term with a teddy bears' picnic - and ice cream!

Thank you, Liz, for organising it! Little Lambs starts again on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 9.30 – 11 am.  
Look forward to seeing you again then!



### Fun @ Four

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023

4 – 5.30 ish

Stoke Lyne Church

The story Jesus told about the sheep and the goats



Activities and crafts, prayer and praise, sandwiches and cake,  
including a special visit from two goats and Lucky the lamb!

**All welcome!**

## FOOD SHORTAGE IN WULU



You may remember from last November's Shelswell by the Sea that there was very bad flooding in September 2022 in Wulu – people lost their homes and belongings, and crops were destroyed. Bishop Zechariah responded by trying to get a grant for a hardship fund – he wanted to some basic equipment: utensils (cups, saucepans, jerricans, plates), plastic sheeting to make shelters, blankets and soap.

Now though, because of the crops being destroyed, people have been really struggling to find enough food. Bishop Zechariah has told us that those who have relatives who work in the Government are able to get some food through them, and people who own lots of cows have had something to eat (presumably the cows). There is food in the market but the prices are very high. Bishop Zechariah was not able to afford the flour brought in from Uganda. Food is no longer provided by the UN Food Programme - their input was discontinued with the advent of the war in Ukraine.

Bishop Zechariah had not told us directly about the food shortage, but it emerged when he was communicating about the crops he is trying to grow. He has planted them, but they need weeding. Church people will happily help with this, but they would either expect payment or alternatively that he would provide them with a good meal afterwards. Even a few weeks ago, when people from the parish of Machar-jele came and helped out, he was able to give them a meal afterwards, but now he does not have food to be able to do this. When we asked him directly, he said yes, he and his family were hungry, as were many people in the Diocese. Some of the crops will soon be ready to harvest, but he said it was difficult to see how they could get through till then.



We want to help them out, so we decided to make a collection over a couple of weeks specifically to enable Bishop Zechariah to buy food for people within the Diocese, himself included. At the time of going to press, we had only just started this, but your generosity had meant we were able to send an initial donation of £585 which will go quite a long way in Wulu.

## GIRLS' PRIMARY SCHOOL

At the end of July, we made a further donation of £500 / approx. 630 USD towards the teachers' incentive scheme. You may recall that in South Sudan, teachers are supposed to be paid by the Government, but this frequently doesn't happen. The incentive scheme aims to

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

Currently five teachers are receiving an incentive of 25 USD each month, a total of 125 USD, which is not quite covered by our donation.

Bishop Zecharia has also sent us some information about a 3-day training event that was held for the eight teachers in May. The purpose of this was to enable them to be able to provide inclusive and quality learning opportunities in a safe and protective environment.



Some of the topics covered included:

- good teaching methods
  - lesson planning (reasons for planning, what happens when you do not plan, difference between lesson planning and lesson preparation)
  - techniques of identifying low learners in class
  - classroom language and management
- The training highlighted a need for further training:



pupils to learn if they are to progress into higher education)

- most of the teachers had a low level of education themselves, which was contributing to poor teaching. (Due to the disruption to education generally during the civil war, it is likely that few of the teachers finished primary education.)
- although the pupils are encouraged to speak English, this was not often happening because most of the teachers could not themselves speak English. (South Sudan has over 60 indigenous languages, but English is the official language in South Sudan. It is important for

Bishop Zechariah has sent us a proposal asking us to fund a further five-day training programme for the teachers. This would cost just 326 USD / £260. We have a further year to run with the teachers' incentive programme, and will be continuing to raise money for that, but if you or someone you know would be up for sponsoring the teacher training, please do let me know.

Alice Goodall





## REGISTRY

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

### Baptisms

#### Arthur Robert Willmore

23<sup>rd</sup> July 2023

St Michael and All Saints, Fringford

It was lovely to welcome Arthur and his family and friends to Fringford Church on the afternoon of Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Arthur is the second child of Jess and Adam who now live in Fringford. Jess works as a student support manager at Buckingham Uni, and Adam is now a Business Unit Manager. Arthur's big sister Clemmie was christened when she was slightly less than 4 months old in Stratton Audley when the family lived there. However, what with one thing and another, Arthur's christening was delayed a bit, so he had just celebrated his second birthday. This meant he was now of an age to have his own opinions on things, and Arthur was really not sure about the whole idea of being christened as you can see from the photo below! He did, however, enjoy making a baptingles, or at least eating the sweets from it. And he was reasonably impressed by the party that followed.



It was a lovely service. Jess and Adam had chosen two hymns: Lord of all hopefulness and Guide me O thou great Redeemer, although we also snuck in 'He's got the whole world in his hands' which we sang when we had lit the baptingles. Jess's sister Sophie read the Bible reading from Ephesians 3 and Adam's brother Jake read 'If' by Rudyard Kipling. After the baptism, we all wrote our prayers for Arthur which were placed in a box for him to read in the future. Arthur has four godparents: Timothy Bailey, Rob Burrows, Holly Washington and Angela Bertram. He was presented with a small prayer book for children, and Clemmie held his baptism candle for him.

After the service, the christening party went back to the family's house on the Green for some refreshment, with a view to going on to enjoy the fair in due course.

We pray that Arthur will grow up to 'comprehend what is the breadth and length and height and depth and to know the love of Christ that surpasses all knowledge, that he may be filled with all the fullness of God' (Ephesians 3: 18 -19)

### Marriages

#### James Matthew Hawed and Charlotte Jayne Mansfield

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July

St Edmund and St George, Hethe

Although the forecast had been a bit ambivalent, it was not raining! The string trio were ensconced in the side aisle of the church. All the guests were in their places, and outside a few villagers stood to welcome Charlotte as she walked from her parents' house to the church.

Charlotte lived in Hethe for 13 years until fairly recently, daughter of Bill and Jayne Mansfield. She and James currently live in Bicester, where James works as a Mechanical Operations Manager and Charlotte as an Incomes Teams Leader for Oxford City Council. They met 4 ½ years ago through a mutual friend Jules – James had been assuming that Jules' friend 'Char' was male and was a little surprised – but in a very good way – when Charlotte walked in. Not long after, they met again at a party that Jules was having, and then there was a first date at Woburn Safari Park. Things progressed, and on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2021 James proposed. This was supposed to happen in Amsterdam, but that trip got cancelled due to Covid, so Cheddar Gorge had to do instead.

Charlotte came into the church on her father's arm to Etta James 'At Last'. She had one bridesmaid and two maids of honour. James had one best man and two ushers. There had been some consideration given to including Charlotte's pet rabbit Marble, but Charlotte and James decided it would be just too busy and noisy. There were two hymns: Jerusalem and 'Give me joy in my heart'. The Bible reading was from Song of Solomon, and Alexandra Graham read the poem 'On your wedding day'. The retiring collection was divided between the church and 'Target Ovarian Cancer' in loving memory of James' mum Sue who very sadly died three years ago.

After photos and confetti, the wedding party made their way to Stratton Court Barn and the celebrations continued. We pray that God will richly bless their marriage together.



### **James Lewis Barlow and Lauren Beth Gosling**

14<sup>th</sup> July 2023

St Michael and All Angels, Fringford



The rain was pouring down. It had done for the rehearsal, and now it was going for it in earnest. Not just a passing shower but steady persistent torrents. However nothing was going to daunt the spirits of those gathered together for James and Lauren's wedding! She was escorted from the car under a canopy of umbrellas, and the confetti still got thrown after the service.

Lauren walked down the aisle on her father's arm to Hans Zimmer's Maestro. She was accompanied by her sister Ellie who was the maid of honour and little Monty, who did a great job of carrying the cushion bearing the rings to the front of the church. James's brother Alex was his best man, and he had two groomsmen Casper and Sam. Sammy the dog, a very important part of James and Lauren's family, did come to the rehearsal, but it was thought there would be too much excitement at the event itself so he had to stay at home.

Lauren and James met online some nine years ago when they were both at university in Sheffield. Lauren was studying Politics and Philosophy and James was studying accounting. It was James's last year, and he was due to move down to Northampton for work, but, in spite of the long distance between them, the relationship thrived and in May last year James proposed whilst they were on holiday in Italy. Currently

they live in Bow Brickhill. Lauren works in market research and James is an accountant.



Lauren and James had chosen three hymns for their wedding: 'We pledge to one another, Come to a wedding, and One more step along the world I go.' These were accompanied by Pam Morgan on the organ. There were two readings: Colossians 3: 12 – 17 read by Gill Whiley and 'In my Life' by John Lennon and Paul McCartney read by Mike Jones and Jack Carlile. The maid of honour and the best man witnessed the signing of the marriage document as we listened to Neil Young's 'Harvest Moon' and Labi Siffre's 'Watch me'. The retiring collection was divided between the church and Alzheimer's Research UK.

We pray that Lauren and James's marriage will be lifelong and very happy, and we look forward to seeing them again when they pop along to a service in Fringford.

## Funerals

### **William David Willington Smith**

23<sup>rd</sup> July 1932 - 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023



Finmere Church was well and truly full for the service of thanksgiving for David's long and very full life. Even the family were squashed into not quite enough space at the front of the church.

David was born in 1932, a year after his brother Anthony, in the Swan and Castle Hotel, Buckingham, now known as Villiers, his parents sold the hotel to buy G&CA Bennet, wine merchants based at number 1 West Street, Buckingham, then having the benefit of cellars, gardens and stables. Soon after his seventh birthday he remembered the gravity of listening, with his parents, on the radio, to the declaration of war. David remembered an air raid warning, where he was duly ushered into the family cellars (which were fully stocked with wine) and were acting as a public air raid shelter. There was a low rumbling sound, followed by a loud bang, causing much consternation to all gathered there. The air raid warden, Mr. Downer the chemist, popped his head in, to inform them, not to worry, it was just a lorry passing by and backfiring at Cannon Corner!

From boyhood David was a keen and natural horseman, and from his early teens would leave early in the morning to hack miles to meets of the Grafton Hunt. He regularly used to help Roland

Hirons, a renowned farmer and cattle dealer from Preston Bissett, and on his pony would drive stock from there to Buckingham market, a common occurrence in those days, though not without difficulties, on one occasion filling Tom Lambourne's Barbers shop in Market Hill with sheep. Aged 14 he rode to relatives in Wendover, staying in a barn overnight on the way there, and back. Herrings the Saddlers lent him a military saddle and riding cape, and on entering the municipal gardens in Aylesbury, the uniformed park-keeper spotted him from a distance, shouting "You can't ride through here", but as he approached more closely and on eyeing him up and down, he said "Are you with the military?" ... "Yes," replied David... "oh, that's all right then, carry on."

David boarded at Bloxham school, and he embraced school life, and made lifelong friends. He was a good cross-country runner, played in the rugby team and was an exceptional boxer, the headmaster taking him to the finals of the public school's boxing championships, which he won at his weight.

David's father died when he was 14. Soon after his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, national service call-up papers arrived. The story is that they were filled out at the bar of the White Hart Hotel. On answering the question of preferred regiment, someone entered The Seaforth Highlanders, a Scottish regiment, based at Fort George, Inverness, as far from Buckingham as could be! Training was rigorous, David, though, did well, and on finishing his training was offered the opportunity of officer training and he was commissioned into the Northamptonshire Regiment and soon seconded to the Royal West African Frontier Force, Sierra Leone. The next two and a half years were spent in Freetown, where he enjoyed life as a young officer. David said he would have liked a career in the army, but having voluntarily served an extra year or so he felt his duty was to return home, and join his brother Anthony to take on the running of the family business, which had run down since their father's death, so the boys set about re-building the business, and enjoying bachelor life.

He hunted again with the Grafton, and the picture of David is from that time, and was taken in the yard at 1 West Street. He was the last person to keep horses in the town. David also played rugby for Buckingham at this time.

David met Beryl at a Grafton hunt party held in Brackley town hall, and they married in 1955, a marriage that was to last 68 years. They lived for a short while at Shalstone, where James was born, and then moved to the Old Bakehouse in Thornborough, living in a caravan whilst they renovated the dilapidated property. Guy, and then Rupert soon arrived. Due to changes in the retail world in the mid 1960's David and Anthony decided to sell the wine business which they had so enjoyed.

David then concentrated on property development, however his real desire was to farm and so Lower End Farm, Thornborough, was purchased, the family living in a caravan again whilst David oversaw the building of a new home, which became Stonelands Farm. David very much instigated an upbringing for the boys that was a mixture of Swallows and Amazons and army cadet force. 'To receive our pocket money on a Saturday morning we had to march up to father's desk, smartly present our paybook, have it signed, receive our half crown, salute, and march promptly away,' quote his sons! One neighbouring farmer remarked to David that he was surprised how he managed a fair-sized flock of sheep without any sheepdogs. David replying "I don't need sheepdogs, you see those three boys, when I say run, they run!" (And they did!)

David kept horses at the farm, breeding foals, breaking in ponies to ride and drive. He hunted regularly with the Whaddon Chase, shot regularly with the Thornborough shoot syndicate and was a keen supporter of the Stowe Beagles, of which he was a founding member, and supported them until very recently. He liked his trips to watch England play rugby at Twickenham and throughout his life enjoyed a day at the races, in particular the Cheltenham Festival and was a long-term member of Towcester Race Course. David had a strong sense of public service and supported a wide breadth of local organisations throughout his lifetime.

After leaving the farm, the family then spent some very happy years living at Bridge House, Lillingstone Lovell. After another property venture, retirement was planned, and the farmhouse of Field House Farm, Buckingham was purchased for that purpose. David and Beryl decided to delay retirement though, and instead established a children's day nursery, David saying that it was more profitable farming babies than sheep! After a few years the business was sold.

Retirement then brought them to Finmere and more adventures, travelling to South Africa every year for the next near on quarter of a century with other trips to Europe and Australia in between. During these years his 5 grandchildren were all born, Harriet, Bethany, Edward, Emma and Rosie, in whose progress he took much interest. He now found more time to spend on his love of woodwork, enjoying the time spent in his workshop making furniture and repairing items. David's greatest pleasure, which was a constant throughout his life, was good company, food and wine, and he was fortunate to have many and varied friends, entertaining frequently and generously all their married life, still managing a bash on his 90th birthday last summer.

If life is a game, David's family believe he played it with all his ability and energy, and played it well, setting a fine example for all following on behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with David's family at this difficult time.



# Club News



## SHELSWELL WI



Our August meeting by tradition is our annual walk and this year took place in Evenley. August had started pretty wet and in fact a few showers had threatened in the afternoon. However, we were lucky and the sun came out and we all stayed dry. In fact we had some lovely views across the fields as the sun started to set and we even managed to sit outside in the garden of the Red Lion afterwards for a drink.

The same luck stayed with us for our August monthly walk as it was warm and sunny. We enjoyed a lovely walk starting at the Whitelands Sports Centre, through the nature reserve and around Chesterton before returning to Whitelands for a well deserved coffee.

Coming up we have we have

Sept - Object's in a Victorian House, a talk by Stuart Cummings

Oct - a visit from Beautifully Different Brackley

Nov - Memories, making the most of your possessions by Jane Fletcher

Our meetings take place on the first Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in the village hall Fringford. There are also opportunities to take part in events run by other local groups, Oxfordshire WI and the national team.

If you would like to come along or for more information please contact Lesley Beagent 07729605670



## SHELSWELL GARDEN CLUB



Towards the end of July, we held our annual Plant Sale in a local member's beautiful garden. We were very grateful that she allowed us to use the garden for the sale, which was deemed a lovely event and very successful.

Our first autumn meeting will take place at 7.30 on **September 12<sup>th</sup>** in Hethe Village Hall. **John Lee** of **Frogger Nursery**, Market Harborough, will be coming with some of his penstemon collection and other plants. He will be telling us how best to grow these lovely plants. Hopefully he'll be bringing some to sell!

On **October 10<sup>th</sup>**, **John Gibson**, an RHS Daffodil Society speaker and judge with many years' experience of growing bulbs, will be discussing daffodils, tulips, hyacinths and other bulbs, propagation, their planting requirements and growing conditions.

On **November 14<sup>th</sup>**, we will have our AGM followed by a talk from Corrine Mitchell, our Club secretary, about **Propagation and Other Odds and Ends**. If anyone has a question they would like answered or something they would like explained, please send to Corrine beforehand.

On **December 12<sup>th</sup>** - **Christmas Celebrations!** We will be celebrating the festive season with a fun, practical session with Christmas refreshments by the committee.

Club membership has remained at £10 for many years. All related club costs have been increasing and therefore the committee has decided that as of this membership year (starting September 2023) our membership fee will increase to **£15 per year**. This covers all speakers, zoom meetings in January and February as well as entry to the evening garden visits.

We are also increasing the **visitor fee to £5**, which will be refunded if the visitor decides to join the Club that evening. **Swallows Nursery** in Mixbury has kindly offered a discount to our members when you show your membership card.

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. The annual fee is now £15 and visitors fee £5.

For further information, call Sally Drummond Hay on 01280 848591 or Corrine Mitchell on 01869 247411 or email [shelswellgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:shelswellgardenclub@gmail.com)

## SHELLOWELL READING GROUP

Our book for August was *Mary Anne* by Daphne du Maurier. We have not yet chosen our book for September, when we are meeting on Wednesday 20th, but contact me for the title if you would like to join us. 01280 847455 or [janebirnage@icloud.com](mailto:janebirnage@icloud.com)

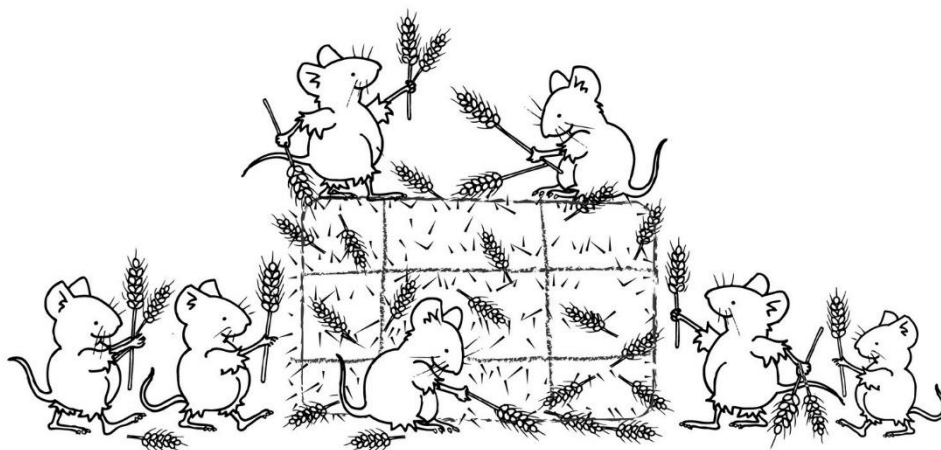
Jane Birnage

## SHELLOWELL POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP

Our August meeting looked at 'desert island poems' and we all chose 3 poems that mean a lot to us. The poems we read and discussed were : an extract from *Lancelot* by Chretien de Troyes (1160-91); the descriptions of *the Knight and the Squire* from *The Prologue to the Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer (c1340-1400); *London* by William Blake (1757-1827); *The Daffodils* by William Wordsworth (1770-1850); *Ode to Autumn* by John Keats (1795-1821); *The Tyger*, also by Blake; an extract from *The song of Hiawatha* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-82); *Ulysses* by Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809-92); *Crossing the Bar*, also by Tennyson; *In an Artist's Studio* by Christina Rossetti (1830-94); *The Lobster Quadrille* by Lewis Carroll (1832-98); *The New Colossus* by Emma Lazarus (1849-87); *My Shadow* by Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-94); *Macavity* by T S Eliot (1888-1965) and *The Heron* by Joyce Kilmer (1894-1932)

Our next meeting is on Tuesday September 10<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 at The Old Stables in Stoke Lyne and the theme is Clothing. If you would like to join us, please contact me on 01869 811994 or at [judith.harvey@live.co.uk](mailto:judith.harvey@live.co.uk)

Judith Harvey





**'OPERA DELLA LUNA'**  
**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**  
**Chetwode Church**

**The Man in the Moon is a  
Lady**

An evening of (mostly silly) songs.

With

**LOUISE CRANE**  
**ANTHONY FLAUM**  
**JEFF CLARKE**

7pm for 7.30pm

Tickets £20 to include refreshments

**From David Baker**  
**Tel: 07974 574380**





## 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](mailto:judith.harvey@live.co.uk)

#### COTTISFORD AND JUNIPER HILL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Thank you to everyone who attended our pop up pubs. We have held two, both have been well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Our next pop up will take place on 21 October.

Our annual Picnic on the Field will be on Sunday 3 September 2.30 - 4.30. Please bring a plate of food to share. We will provide tea, coffee and squash. There will be a quiz, children's games and a tombola.

Our Harvest Festival will take place on Sunday 1 October at 4pm. We will be decorating the church on Saturday 30 September at 10.30, come and join us. We would love some garden greenery/produce. We will also be collecting items for the Bicester Food Bank.

For more information on both of the above please see the posters in this edition of the Shelswell News

Saturday 4 November 5.30pm will be Our Bonfire Night celebration, more details in next months magazine.

If you would like to hold a pop up pub or coffee morning please contact Sandra at [sandrambickmore@gmail.com](mailto:sandrambickmore@gmail.com)



#### St Mary the Virgin Church Cottisford Service with Harvest Hymns

**Sunday 1st October at 4pm**

**All welcome! Please stay after the service for tea/coffee and cake!**

We would welcome contributions to the Bicester foodbank, please see the list below of contributions that are most required at this time.

- **Tinned** soups, fruit, vegetables, meat and fish.
- Biscuits
- Tea & coffee
- UHT milk
- Toiletries e.g. toothpaste, soap, shower gel, shampoo.





## Decoration of Cottisford Church for Harvest Service

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30am**

Children and families welcome to join us in decorating the church in preparation for the Harvest Service.

We would be grateful for any wheat, fruit, vegetable and flower donations to help with our decorations! Please could these be left in the church before 10am on 30<sup>th</sup> September.

Cottisford and Juniper Hill Social Committee

invite you to

## *Picnic in the Field*

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

2.30 pm – 4.30 pm

The Playing Field  
Juniper Hill

*All welcome!*

*Quiz!*

*Childrens  
games!*



Please bring a plate of food to share. Coffee, tea and squash provided, but do bring a bottle if you fancy a glass of wine or beer on what we hope will be a warm late summer afternoon.

**We'll be putting up the marquee on the Saturday morning (2<sup>nd</sup> September) from 10.30 am - any help would be very welcome!**

There will be a tombola so donations of prizes would be very welcome. Please contact Sally Evans (3 Hethe Road Cottages, Cottisford, [sally334@btinternet.com](mailto:sally334@btinternet.com)) or Sandra Bickmore (Thatch End, Juniper Hill, [sandrambickmore@gmail.com](mailto:sandrambickmore@gmail.com))

## 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

### VILLAGE HALL

The village hall is now fully back in use and most 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.

WiFi facilities have also been added.



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

Don't forget the monthly Tea & Cakes at the hall on the second Tuesday of each month.

### Allotments

It is a hive of activity up at the Finmere allotments. Whilst it was good to see a bit of rain recently, maybe we (and many others) could have done with a little more gentle downpour.

Everything is now growing in earnest (unfortunately, including the weeds).

Not sure how the RHS recommended 'no-dig' allotment' 😊 .... [No-Dig Gardening Guide | BBC Gardeners World Magazine](#), really works, since there still seems to be a lot of digging involved to keep the weeds, especially the thistles, at bay, to say nothing of the rabbits !



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

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

### Some Finmere related links:

Finmere facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/finmereandlittlettingewick/>

Shelswell Parishes website at – [www.shelswellparishes.info/finmere](http://www.shelswellparishes.info/finmere)

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

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

Old Finmere history website – [www.myfinmere.com/history](http://www.myfinmere.com/history)

Finmere on Wikipedia - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finmereipedia>

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



Please come along to support Finmere's

## "Tuesday Teas"

If you are at home in the day, please pop into the Village Hall for a cuppa & a catch-up...

Tuesday 12 September from 2 - 4 pm

Tea, coffee, cake & biscuits

All locals welcome, no charge

We would love to grow the numbers so  
please bring a friend!

If you need transport, please contact  
Jo (07974 740312) or Katherine (07770 804025)

If anyone would like to help with "Tuesday Teas",  
we need help serving refreshments, setting out tables, providing lifts and  
**BAKING CAKES!**

Your baking costs can be reimbursed  
No need to volunteer every month; just help when you can...



# 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 <a href="http://www.fringford.info">www.fringford.info</a>	

### ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, SERVICES & EVENTS

#### Services

- Sunday 3 September - Morning Service (10.45am)
- Sunday 17 September - Family Service with Baptism (10.45am)
- Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September - Harvest Home Celebration at Waterloo Farm, Fringford (11am) See Page 5

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

#### Greetings Cards

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

#### Fringford Church 100 Club

The 100 Club winners in July were not known at the copy deadline for this magazine.

You can still sign up to the 100 Club. Contact Christina McCullagh to register your involvement 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](mailto:admin@shelswellparishes.info)

#### OHCT Ride and Stride - Saturday 9th September 10 am-6 pm

The church will be open for cyclists and walkers with squash and biscuits available.

I have sponsor forms available for anyone who would like to take part and hope to cycle myself (sponsorship welcome!) Money raised is halved between our church and the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust (OHCT). This is an important charity to support and has helped us in the past when work has been needed on our beautiful church.

Penny Wood

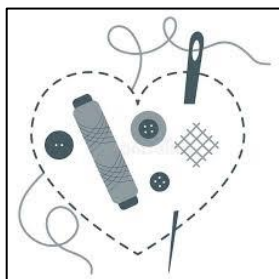
#### FRINGFORD FRIENDS NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT GROUP

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

- Telephone: 07704 756840
- Email [neighbourhoodsupport@fringford.info](mailto:neighbourhoodsupport@fringford.info)

To join Fringford's **What's App Group** ring or email Christine Underwood: 07961 972388 or email [silvercb1@outlook.com](mailto:silvercb1@outlook.com)





## 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 at 7 – 9pm  
or Sunday afternoon at 3 – 5pm

We meet in the Chinnery Room at Fringford Village Hall.

Our next sessions are:

Sunday 17 September    Wednesday 11 October    Sunday 19 November    Wednesday 13 December

Sessions are £2.00

No need to book – just come and join us!

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

## FRINGFORD VILLAGE HALL

Presents

# A Night of Jazz

With

## Ian Millar & Dominic Spencer

### saxophone & piano duo from Scotland

*The UK's hardest working jazz group!*



Ian and Dominic are unique in the UK Jazz community taking their blend of melodic jazz standards and original compositions to rural communities all over the UK. They use programmable lighting and table lights to create a wonderful intimate atmosphere for the music.

They tell stories of their travels in their Tour Bus – an old, converted Yorkshire Ambulance, in an entertaining evening of creative music and enthusiastic joy.

*"Very cool music played in a magical atmosphere - this will appeal to jazz novices as well as hardcore enthusiasts."*  
~Three Weeks Magazine

**FRINGFORD VILLAGE HALL**  
**The Green, Fringford OX27 8DY**  
**Saturday 28th October @ 8pm**  
**Tickets: £12**  
**Licensed bar**

**For ticket sales call 07936 879175 or email**  
**[fringford.hall@gmail.com](mailto:fringford.hall@gmail.com)**



# **Fringford Autumn Fayre Dog Show and Produce Show 2023**

**SATURDAY SEPT 9<sup>th</sup> – 1-5pm**

**On the village green and at the village hall**

All the usual attractions including:

- Fun dog show
- Home-made and home-grown produce competition
- Bar and BBQ
- Candleford café
- Glitter tattoos, kids games
- Lucky darts, tombola, bric-a-brac,
- Blacksmithing and weaving displays

Categories for the home-grown show and competition:

- Biggest vegetable
- Best looking vegetable
- Most Wonky vegetable
- Pickles or Chutneys
- Jam or Preserve or Marmalade
- Home-made cake
- Home-made flavoured spirits
- Vase of home-grown flowers



## Regular Activities held in Fringford Village Hall

To find out more or book a place, please contact the hirer direct.	
Weekly Activities	Monthly Activities
<b>FS Dance</b> Monday & Wednesday (term time) After school classes Ballet • Tap • Modern • Street leah.fsd@gmail.com or 07885827592	<b>Village Coffee Morning</b> All ages welcome Third Monday in the month - Chinnery Room Drop in anytime between 10.30 am and noon Penny Wood 01869 277310
<b>Puppy Stars</b> Dog Training Tuesday evening – various classes Contact Nick 07542 131400 www.puppystars.co.uk	<b>Parish Council Meeting</b> All villagers welcome Third Monday in the month 7.45pm Contact 01844 237766 or fringford.parishclerk@gmail.com
<b>Fringford Yoga</b> Wednesday (term time) 9.30am – 11am Carolyn White 01869 277161	<b>Bicester Sound Bath Meditation</b> First Sunday of the month from 7.45 pm Sonia - contact@holisticaxis.com Please text - 07709634847
<b>Just Puppies</b> Puppy Training Wednesday evening – various classes Contact Kerri 07720 891489 www.justpuppies.training	<b>Shelswell WI</b> First Thursday of the month 7.30pm Contact Lesley Beagent on 07729605670
<b>Pilates</b> Thursday at 10.00am natashaflowerspilates@gmail.com or 07545 525820	<b>Mindfulness Meditation</b> Monthly Sunday 11am to 12.30pm janerainey17@gmail.com or 07971 008337
<b>My Baby Spa</b> Monday mornings Spa experience for babies up to 12 months and toddlers 1 – 4 years <a href="http://www.mybabyspa.co.uk">www.mybabyspa.co.uk</a> contact Danielle at contact@mybabyspa.co.uk	<b>Fringford Sewcial Sew and Chat!</b> Alternate monthly Wednesday from 7pm & Sunday from 3pm Contact Melissa at <a href="mailto:mamcs100@gmail.com">mamcs100@gmail.com</a>
	<b>Village Hall Team Meeting</b> Every 4 weeks – 7.30pm Open meetings – all welcome <a href="mailto:fringford.hall@gmail.com">fringford.hall@gmail.com</a> or 07936 879175
<p><b>To book the hall for your own event, please go to <a href="http://fringford.info">fringford.info</a>, village hall, how to book Here you will find all the information you will need to book on-line.</b></p> <p><b>For any other queries please phone or text 07936 879175 or email: <a href="mailto:fringford.hall@gmail.com">fringford.hall@gmail.com</a></b></p>	

## Hardwick St Mary the Virgin

CHURCHWARDEN: David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick	Tel 01869 277690
TREASURER: David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick	Tel 01869 277690
PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Vacancy	
MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Veronica Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick	Tel 01869 277690
WEBSITE: <a href="http://hardwickvillage.btck.co.uk">http://hardwickvillage.btck.co.uk</a>	

### Hardwick Church New Guidebook

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

### Pilgrim Pathways

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

### 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**

## 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: <a href="http://www.hethe.org">www.hethe.org</a>	

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 the next edition of the Shelswell News 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 of these services and in other churches in the benefice, or if you are away from Shelswell area, you can find a nearby service through the web site <https://www.achurchnearyou.com>.



any  
the

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

**Ride & Stride** takes place this month on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> and we will be welcoming Ride & Striders to St Edmund & St George Church again this year. If you are not walking, running or cycling between churches, you could welcome participants to our church sometime between 10.00am and 6.00pm. Please let me know if you would like to be involved – [hethepccsecretary@outlook.com](mailto:hethepccsecretary@outlook.com). Sponsorship forms will be available in the church and on-line at [www.ohct.org.uk/ride-stride](http://www.ohct.org.uk/ride-stride).

“As ever Ride & Stride is a wonderful way to enjoy getting out and about safely as well as raising much-needed funds to support grant applications from churches and chapels across the country”.

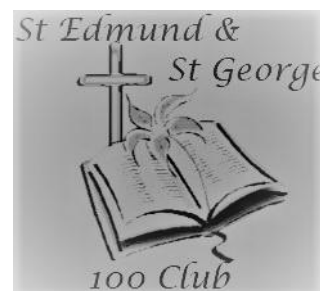
We know that most Hethe parishioners value the church as a historic building, a venue for those special lifetime events (such as baptisms and weddings) and the churchyard is a refuge for wildlife in the heart of the village. The visitors book in the church also shows that it is appreciated by visitors from far and wide. We were planning this year to repair the stained glass and surrounding stonework in the west window, followed by replastering and decoration, but unfortunately, we now have a damp problem which needs more urgent attention. The church is funded by the parish, therefore if you can contribute to this work and to ensure that it remains open and available, you may make a one-off gift through a single transaction or set up regular donations, using a debit or credit card, or Apple or Google Pay, using the secure Parish Giving (PGS) website - <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/home/>.



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

**100 Club.** The club offers members an opportunity to contribute to church funds, while having the chance to win a cash prize from the monthly draws. 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.



### HETHE COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

Hopefully you will all have seen Flora's "Whats on in Hethe" circular. Anyway, the following is a reminder of events starting again this month in the Village Hall:

Line Dancing on Wednesday during the day and Friday evening - contact Lucie Nichol on 07818 065063

Yoga on Thursday evenings – contact Bronwen Morgan on 07756 334445

The Stay and Play Group – see below

The Garden Club on the second Tuesday of each month – contact Corrine Mitchell on 01869 247411

Stoke Lyne WI on the second Thursday of each month – contact Sheila Haydon email

[sheila1620haydon@gmail.com](mailto:sheila1620haydon@gmail.com)



## Hethe Community Coffee Morning's Macmillan Fund Raiser

**Monday September 11<sup>th</sup> 10-12 noon  
at the Village Hall**

Cake & Produce Stall, Games and Raffle



**Parish Council.** Please note that all future meetings of the council will start at 7.30pm. The next full council meeting will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> October. The minutes from this year's AGM of the Parish and the July meeting are on the web site. The July meeting included items as diverse as a kick wall for children and electric vehicle charging points.

**Welcome Pack.** We are producing a Welcome Pack, specifically for people new to the village but hopefully of interest to all villagers. If you would like something in particular to be included, please send details to [mgreen@hethe.org](mailto:mgreen@hethe.org).



**The Village Hall Management Committee are proud to announce that they now have Full Fibre Broadband inclusive of the hire fee.** For bookings, please contact Flora, the village hall booking secretary [fjskinner@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fjskinner@hotmail.co.uk).

The **Stay & Play Group** contact is now Kelly Woodford on 07716 981263. They meet on Friday mornings.

**The Hardwick Road Allotments.** Please note that the contact for the allotments off the Hardwick Road is Yvonne Thomas, 3 Wilson Way, Caversfield, OX27 8FB, tel 243536 or 07773065890. The agents are Carter Jonas for the Oxford Diocese.

## Mixbury All Saints

CHURCHWARDENS: Martin Ayres, Northwell Farm, Finmere

Alec Howard, Middlestead, Mixbury

TREASURER: David Mitchell. 2 Town Farm, Mixbury

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Anna Howard

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Sue Goodman [pasgoodman551@gmail.com](mailto:pasgoodman551@gmail.com)

Tel 07899 792552

Tel 01280 848295

Tel 01280 847769

Tel 01280 848295

Tel 01280 848002

If you have any news articles for the Parish Magazine please do not forget to let your Magazine Correspondent know in good time – deadline dates are normally found on the inside cover of the Shelswell News. Sue Goodman; email: [pasgoodman551@gmail.com](mailto:pasgoodman551@gmail.com) or telephone: 01280 848002.

## CHURCH SERVICES

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



### MIXBURY CHURCH FLOWER ROTA 2023

If anyone would like to be added to the rota or removed, please contact Eryl Tobin on 07840 464541 or 848466. Thank you to all those who decorate our church with beautiful flowers. It's always appreciated.

September	Philippa Brown Harvest Festival – Everyone
October	Morag Westworth
November	Fi Bairstow
December	Carol service and Christmas - 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.

September	Giovanna Holdcroft and Tanya Howroyd
October	Morag Westworth

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](mailto:markandtanya@yahoo.co.uk).

### Books

Don't forget there are lots of books in the Church for villagers to borrow and exchange – straight ahead when you go in the door located just in front of the North Door.



### SUMMER FLOWERS IN MIXBURY

A huge THANK YOU to the “watering teams” for maintaining all the beautiful flower displays around the entrances to the village and bus shelter – you certainly have brightened up the summer for us.

### Good Luck

.....to all young children about to start school this September, slightly older children moving up to high school and secondary education, also young adults off to University very soon. Mixbury wishes you all good luck in your future education and career choices.

## ***Save The Date!***



***Mixbury Fete Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2023***  
***At Mixbury Hall, courtesy of Gemma and Nigel Harris***

## **Newton Purcell** **St Michael and All Angels**

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Tel: 07725 009838

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Flora Skinner

Tel: 01869 277366

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Ann von Maltzahn

Tel 01280 848680

### **Services –**

Sunday 3rd September - 9.15 a.m. Holy Communion

### **Harvest Festival & Lunch -**

This year's service of Harvest Thanksgiving will be held on Sunday 1st October at 11.30 a.m. Please let us know if you have flowers or produce or both and are able to come along to help decorate the church.

The Lunch will follow at 12.45 p.m. in The Old School. Always a popular event so please contact Ann von Maltzahn well in advance to secure your booking!

### **Ride & Stride-**

The Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust 'Ride & Stride' event will take place on Saturday 9th September. Please see details of how to take part, get sponsorship and help the church or chapel of your choice either on the OHCT website or elsewhere in this month's magazine.



## Stoke Lyne St Peter's

CHURCHWARDEN: Christopher Poole <a href="mailto:CTP@oxford-educational.co.uk">CTP@oxford-educational.co.uk</a>	Tel 01869 346020
TREASURER: Janey Poole <a href="mailto:janey@oxford-educational.co.uk">janey@oxford-educational.co.uk</a>	Tel 07810 120457
PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Emma Brown <a href="mailto:emmabrown911@gmail.com">emmabrown911@gmail.com</a>	
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PARISH ROOM BOOKINGS : Kelly and James Holden-White <a href="mailto:kholdenwhite@aol.com">kholdenwhite@aol.com</a>	Tel 01869 345211
WEBSITE <a href="http://www.stokelyne.org">www.stokelyne.org</a>	

### St Peter's Church Stoke Lyne Services

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – 'Food for Thought' (10am)  
 Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September – Midweek Holy Communion and Soup Lunch (12 noon)  
 Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September – Evening Communion (6pm)  
 Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September – 'Fun at Four' (4pm)  
 Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September – Harvest Home Celebration at Waterloo Farm, Fringford (11am) See Page 5

### Flower Duty for September

Caroline Cooke

### Midweek Holy Communion with soup lunch – Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August at 12 noon

We had a nice gathering from across the Benefice to the service which Liz led, assisted by Alice. The reading was from Mathew's Gospel chapter 13 verses 47 to 52 about the parable of the net. This was accompanied by a lovely picture of the fishermen pulling in their nets. The nets were like a huge funnel which couldn't separate the good fish from the ones that were no good. The fishermen hauled in the huge net by hand and then sat down and collected the good fish in baskets but threw the bad away. This is true in every walk of life now: there is good and bad all around us, we nurture the good and try to show the bad the error of their ways.

After the service we made our way to the tables set for lunch which was comprised of a choice of different soups, bread rolls followed by trifle followed by tea or coffee. There were lots of different conversations going on and forthcoming events listed.

Thank you to the clergy for all their hard work putting this service with lunch together and also to the voluntary helpers.

Please come along and give it a try, lifts can be arranged.

Rena Andrews

### Food for Thought – Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> August at 10 am

Because of holidays we didn't have our usual numbers at this service. To begin we had a lovely breakfast of warm croissants with butter, jam etc and Flora had also made a marzipan and plum slice, so all in all we had an enjoyable breakfast. The usual word search and crosswords were on the table.

Ali Miller took the service which was about the transfiguration of Jesus. After Jesus came out of the water where he had been baptised, he next appeared on a mountain peak glowing with light with a voice announcing to all this is truly the son of God light of the world. We then had discussions between us as to whether anyone had ever experienced something of this nature ie feeling a light on them that they couldn't explain. We then had prayers where all were involved.

Rena Andrews



## Stoke Lyne 100 Club – July and August Results

The results of the July Stoke Lyne 100 Club were as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	Membership No: 2	Donnie Read
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	Membership No 14	Chris Lowe
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	Membership No 39	Matt O'Brien

and August's winners are:

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	Membership No: 5	Emma Brown	£30.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	Membership No 23	Elaine Barnes	£18.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	Membership No 1	Jane Warde Aldam	£12.00

We desperately need some fresh members in the 100 Club since we have a few people who have moved away or not renewed memberships. The 100 Club benefits church running costs as well as your pocket if you win. Costs are £3.00 per membership per month, not even a cup of coffee at Costa these days but much help when a church roof is leaking!!!!!!

Many thanks once again to all those who already support this club and dig deep to those who may support it in the future.

Janey Poole  
Treasurer  
St Peter's Church PCC

## Film events in St. Peter's Church, Stoke Lyne – 11<sup>th</sup> August

Thank you to those who came along to support our film events this month.

A small group enjoyed the daytime film 'Matilda' and we giggled at the antics of Miss Truchbull (played by Pam Ferris). A larger audience attended the evening film 'James Bond: No Time to Die'. It was a long film but was hugely enjoyable, packed with action and emotion.

If you have a film request, please get in touch with Kelly at [kholdenwhite@aol.com](mailto:kholdenwhite@aol.com).

Kelly Holden-White

## September's Film in St. Peter's Church, Stoke Lyne – 8<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30 pm

September's film event will be 'The Edge' (15) and will be shown on Friday 8th September at 6.30pm. £3 per ticket (includes soft drink and popcorn) if you let me know in advance and £5 on the door.

[Kholdenwhite@aol.com](mailto:Kholdenwhite@aol.com) or [kholdenwhite@icloud.com](mailto:kholdenwhite@icloud.com).

Kelly Holden-White

## OHCT Ride and Stride - Saturday 9th September 10 am-6 pm

St Peter's will be open for cyclists and walkers with squash, biscuits (and toilets) available.

I have sponsor forms available for anyone who would like to take part and plan to cycle myself (sponsorship welcome!) Money raised is halved between our church and the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust (OHCT). This is an important charity to support and has helped us in the past when work has been needed on our beautiful church.

Kelly Holden-White

### Stoke Lyne W. I. Meeting - Thursday, July 13th at 1 pm

The meeting started with our speaker, Arthur Evans (former Deputy Headteacher) on the theme of 'Teachers are only human'. He regaled us with stories of his school days, the various teachers he encountered, all memorable - from too strict or too lenient, through to encouraging and inspirational. He then took us through his journey from a shy introverted young boy from a small Shropshire village, to becoming a teacher and eventually making his home in Buckinghamshire.

We carried on having an informal chat with him as we enjoyed a delicious tea prepared by Anne and Pauline.

The business of the meeting followed, with a reminder of future events. The competition for a limerick was won by Judith, and the raffle by Margaret. We all look forward to our Summer get together in August, when we are meeting up for a meal at the Trigger Pond in Bucknell.

Judith Allen

### Stoke Lyne W.I. – 10<sup>th</sup> August 10<sup>th</sup> – at “The Trigger Pond”, Bucknell

Our W.I. don't normally meet in August as this was when we used to arrange a coach trip, but after Covid and because we are so few in numbers it became unviable to hire a coach because of the expense so we decided at committee to have a meal at “The Trigger Pond” in Bucknell to socialise and partners were invited along as well.

When we arrived the women were shown to the conservatory where a long table was set up for us, and the men were shown to a table in the bar. After the first course was served and there was a lull, Rena said one of our members had a birthday and presented Ruth with a card signed by all the members and we sang “Happy Birthday”. Everyone enjoyed the meal that they had chosen and it was so nice to see everyone enjoying themselves and chatting away with lots of laughter reminiscing about the holidays we had in Cornwall for quite a few years and some of the walks we did in this area round Souldern, Heyford to Steeple Aston across flooded fields. We were all a lot younger and fitter in those days.

I must congratulate the staff at “The Trigger Pond” for their excellent service.

Rena Andrews

### Stoke Lyne W.I. – forthcoming September meeting details

The September meeting will be at Hethe Village Hall Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 1.00 pm. The guest speaker will be Dave Clack who will give a talk on his work within MI5.

For the competition, please bring along something coloured Orange.

Tea hostesses will be Judith and Sheila.

Rena Andrews

### “A Look at” some of the “Lost” Memorials of St Peter’s Church

Following on from my recent articles about various memorials still visible inside the church, I thought I would take a look at some of the memorials which the “Victoria County History” website says “*could not be traced in 1956*”.

One of these belongs to **George Fletcher**, vicar (d. 1734). The Rev. J. C. Blomfield in his 1894 “History of the Deanery of Bicester”, says this of George:

*George Fletcher, M.A., presented by Charles Holt, Esq. Instituted Feb. 19, 1705, cler. fil., Corpus Christi Coll., Oxford. Matriculated, July 15, 1693; B.A., 1697; M.A., 1700. His name appears at the bottom of each page of the Church Registers, which he carefully kept throughout his incumbency. Children were born to him in 1707, 1710, and 1715. In 1725 he was preferred to the Rectory of Somerton, in this Deanery, and in 1730 to that of Rousham, but he continued his residence at Stoke. In 1726 his wife died, and was buried at Stoke.*

The Stoke Lyne burial register records: "George Ffletcher, Vicar, was buried August ye 11th, 1734 Affidavit made ye same day." but Blomfield does not give us details of any memorial stone or inscription but presumably there was one as we still have a slab visible in the floor upon which his wife was commemorated.

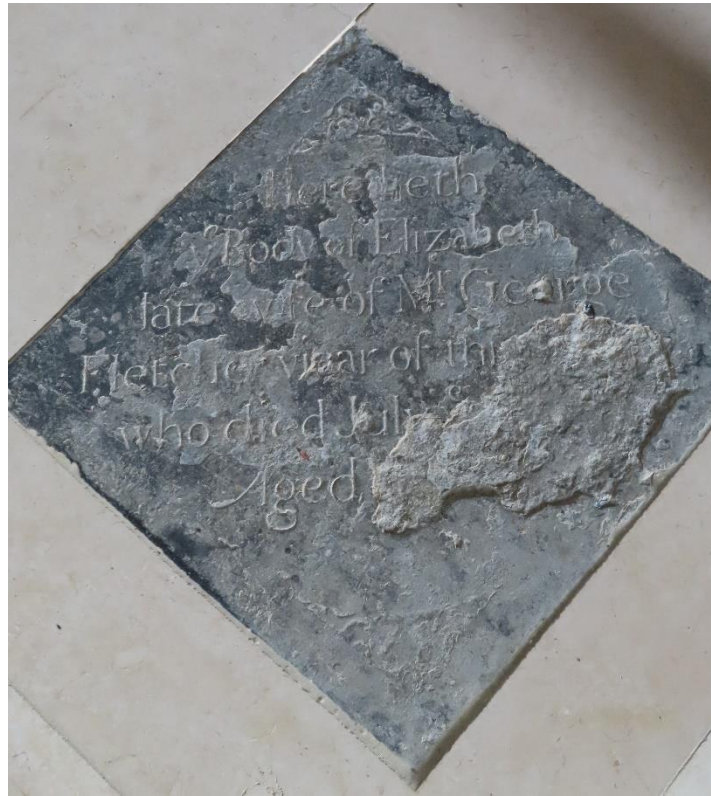


Photo by the author

Her burial record states: "*Elizabeth wife of Mr George Fletcher was buried July ye 6<sup>th</sup> 1726. Affidavit made ye same day*".

Also named as having lost memorials are **Charnell Pettie** and his wife **Eleanor**. At first sight Charnell seems a very unusual first name and even more so to modern eyes when you look up its origins. Various baby name websites indicate that it comes from the French and means "burial place". Some also cite the Latin word "carnarium" (of/pertaining to the flesh), from where we get so many modern words like carnage, carnivore, carnal. Charnell's family came from Tetsworth in Oxfordshire. His daughter, Susan, married Thomas Holt, the father of the Ralph and Susannah Holt whose memorials were discussed in the August issue of "Shelswell News".

Blomfield says that Charnell "*came to reside at Stoke immediately after the marriage of his daughter with Thomas Holt, as quasi-guardian of the young people, who were both minors under age. He was resident here in 1634, for in that year he proved his descent at the Herald's Visitation, describing himself as "of Stoke," and he continued his residence after his son-in-law's death as guardian to his grandson*" (ie Ralph Holt).

The memorial inscriptions for Charnell and Eleanor s were printed in "*The Visitations of the County of Oxford Vol 5*" by William Henry Turner published in 1871 and are also quoted in Blomfield's book.

Charnell's inscription was described as being "*on a white freestone*".

*February the 14, 1661.*  
*Here lyes the body of Charnell Pettie, Esqr. aged 82.*  
*The righteous shall bee in everlasting Remembrance. Ps. 112.v.6.*  
*They who threescore years in one bed lay*  
*Doe here rest sweetly in one bed of clay.*

While his wife's inscription was on another stone:

*March 7, 1662.*  
*Here lyeth the body of Elionor, the wife of Charnell Pettie Esqr. aged 85.*  
*Those that sleep in Jesus shall God bring with him. Thes. 4.V.14.*



So these two definitely seem to have disappeared. Additionally, according to Blomfield, Charnell's second son George was buried at Stoke Lyne in about 1643 aged 24, and his first son Christopher was buried in 1651 in the north aisle whilst Christopher's wife Dorothy was buried in the chancel near the door.

Another memorial the Victoria County History says could not be traced is that of **Charles Holt** whose burial is recorded in the parish register on 13<sup>th</sup> December 1731. He was the son of the Ralph Holt mentioned above. Blomfield says of him:

*"Charles Holt was 37 years of age when he succeeded to his patrimony. This he soon contrived to dispossess himself of. He never resided at Stoke, but was buried here. At the time appointed for his funeral a great storm arose, which delayed for a long time the interment of his corpse, and thereupon much was said, and more doubtless was thought, in the village and neighbourhood of this strange coincidence. No memorial was placed over his grave. He left no will; his niece, Susannah, administered his estate. The family then appears to have become extinct in the male line."*

John Dunkin in *"The History and Antiquities of the Hundreds of Bullington and Ploughley Vol II"* published in 1823 is a bit more forthcoming on what the villagers thought and why:

*"Charles Holt, his eldest son and heir, died unmarried about 1740, and at the hour appointed for his funeral, there happened such a tremendous storm, that it was with difficulty the corpse could be taken for interment into the church, notwithstanding the mansion was so near. The superstitious villagers attributed it to the agency of the devil, in consequence of the man's wicked life, who it appears had been somewhat faulty among the lasses."*

[NB. "the mansion" would have been the manor house which is believed to have been located to the south of the church. It was demolished in the early 1800s]. Therefore, according to Blomfield's comments above, rather than the memorial having disappeared, it appears to never have existed in the first place!

Brenda Hazel



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MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Vacant

### CREAM TEAS

Many thanks to all those who supported the Cream Teas in church on 6<sup>th</sup> August. An amazing £500 was raised and has been sent on to the two tree appeals that we were raising money for - the Great Green Wall and the Atlantic Rainforest Appeal. Thank you for your generosity!

### COFFEE MORNING

Because of the closure of the pub, the coffee morning has moved to the Church. The sessions will now be held every **Tuesday** (rather than Wednesday) because 'Little Lambs' will be starting their new term on Wednesday 6th September. So the first coffee morning in September will be on Tuesday 5th September and then every Tuesday thereafter at 11 a.m. till about 12 noon. The price will be £3 for cups of tea, coffee and biscuits. All are very welcome, pop in and meet the neighbours, have a friendly chat and make new friends.

Why not take a minute or two to browse the bookshelves situated near the Church kitchen area? The books are there to borrow - there is an honesty box on the windowsill for any donations which would be very much appreciated.

## FOODBANK DONATIONS STILL REQUIRED

The foodbank donation point in the church porch in Stratton Audley, supporting Bicester Foodbank, is still in place and will remain so for the foreseeable future. Thank you very much to all those who have dropped donations into the box - please keep them coming! Urgently needed items are listed below. Please note that the Rector, Alice Goodall is now a 'Local Referrer' and can refer anyone who is in need to the Bicester Foodbank. Contact: Alice Goodall, The Rectory, Finmere 01280 848192 [alicegoodall313@gmail.com](mailto:alicegoodall313@gmail.com)

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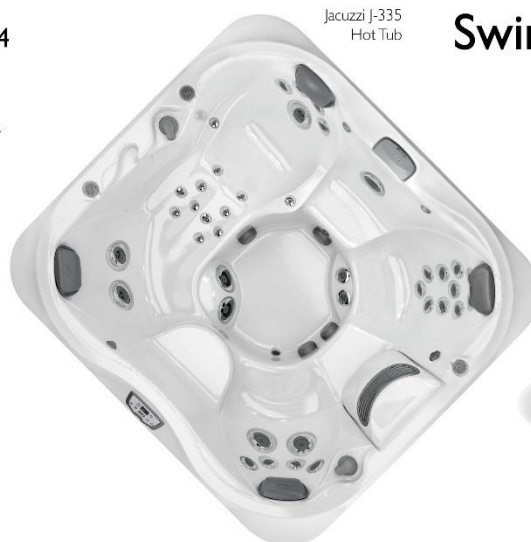
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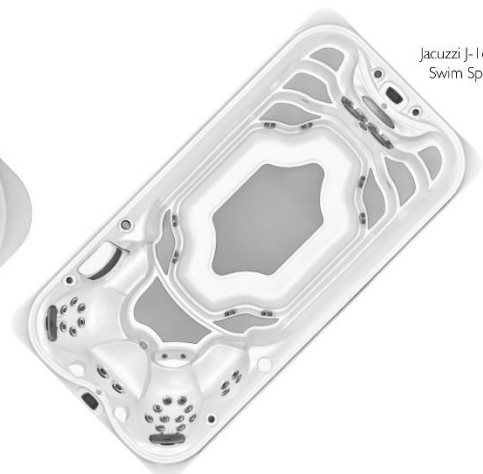
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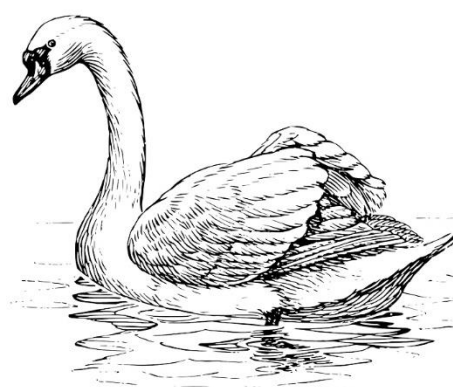
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