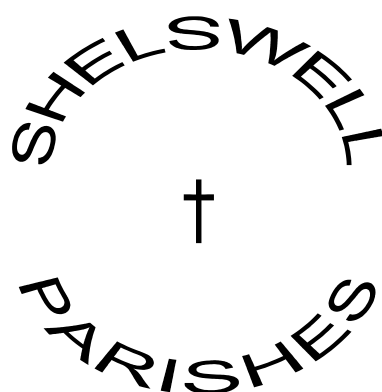


Shelswell News

The magazine of the Shelswell Group of Churches

Cottisford
Fringford
Hardwick
Mixbury
Stoke Lyne



Finmere
Godington
Hethe
Newton Purcell
Stratton Audley



New Beginnings by Alice the Rector p. 3

Could you learn Bell-ringing or sing in a Choir? See p. 7

*50 years of service; celebrating the
ministry of Penny Wood p. 9*

St Peter's Church, Stoke Lyne

October 2024

£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.

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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: Father Craig Davies, 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 November 2024 edition of Shelswell News

To Magazine Correspondents: **Midday on Friday 11th October**

Correspondents to Editor: **Midday on Sunday 13th October at editor@shelswellparishes.info**

All articles must be submitted in WORD or LIBRE OFFICE in a format that can be COPIED AND PASTED PLEASE - Many thanks for your cooperation.

www.shelswellparishes.info

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 .

New beginnings

"While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease"
Genesis 8:22

October. Already? Perhaps it is my age, but it does indeed seem as if the seasons are spinning around more and more quickly. And so, yes, we are already planning for Christmas! But I guess that is one of the few things we can be certain of - that as long as the earth remains one day will follow another. Sometimes the passing of time makes me feel gloomy – the days slipping away and with them all the hopes and dreams that they held. But in reality each new day is a gift of possibilities. a new beginning.

At the moment I seem to be surrounded by new beginnings – my daughter starting a new job, a grandchild on the horizon. In our schools we have been presenting the new children with a schultute to say a warm welcome from the church family. And various households are filled with the mixed feelings of sending their 'children' off to university or to a new job in another part of the country. In church there have been christenings and weddings – special occasions that mark new beginnings, new stages in life.

And alongside that, there have been some losses of long standing members of the community, with all the pain that entails for the family. But these too are new beginnings – for the person that has died, Christians believe this is a new beginning of moving nearer to God in eternal life, and for those that are left behind, the new beginning of working out how to move forward, how to form a new life without that person being there in the same way that they have been.

In our school assemblies and in Fun @ Four we have also been focussing on new beginnings. They are a time for looking back and giving thanks for all that has been good, and looking forward and putting the next steps into God's hands. Because new beginnings, whether positive or sad ones, can be rather daunting. All the 'what ifs', and the 'can I do this?' can be overwhelming. Thankfully we only ever have to go one step at a time, but as we go, it can be comforting to know that we travel with God. The Bible verse Deuteronomy 31:8 states, "The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid or be dismayed". A good thing to remember at the start of each day as we face its possibilities!

Whatever new challenges you are facing in your life at the moment, may you be aware of God going with you.

Alice

PS I found this poem on the internet. I rather liked it and hope you will too.

Blessing for Peace | Christine Evangelou

"I hope that the darkest nights of your soul
 Give way to the glorious days of your spirit.
 I hope that through the shadows
 Of those heart eclipses born of solitary evenings
 A new life is born, and a change is set forth.
 I hope that you grant yourself the celestial passport
 Your spirit has been yearning for
 As you sweep into the deepest valleys of your soul
 So you can gather the strength to soar to the highest mountain peaks
 Breathing in the angelic essence of you
 Fully, unashamedly, and unconditionally.
 I hope that you find the beat of your heart
 In every flower, every meadow, every delight that your eyes can truly see.
 For it is within that beauty that your spirit lives -
 A conscious connection, a godly reflection
 Of all natural, ethereal, fountains and springs.
 I hope that you can see beyond the clouds
 To the sunlight that is waiting to peek its way through.
 Remember, the blanket of sky that keeps you warm at night
 Is one of a silver, shimmering starry view.
 It is where you are held, always loved and at peace -
 A lustrous artwork of angels to whisper their magic as your heart speaks"



BIBLE READINGS



Sunday 6 th October	19 th Sunday after Trinity	Genesis 2 v18-24 Hebrews 1 v1-4 and 2 v5-12 Mark 10 v2-16
Sunday 13 th October	20 th Sunday after Trinity	Amos 5 v6,7 and 10-15 Hebrews 4 v12-end Mark 10 v17-31
Sunday 20 th October	21 st Sunday after Trinity	Isaiah 53 v4-end Hebrews 5 v1-10 Mark 10 v35-45
Sunday 27 th October	Bible Sunday	Isaiah 55 v1-11 2 Timothy 3 v14 – 4 v5 John 5 v36b-end
Sunday 3 rd November	All Saints Sunday	Isaiah 25 v6-9 Revelation 21 v1-6a John 11 v32-44

(Note: Alternative readings may be used at the various Harvest Festivals which take place this month. These will be advised individually by those taking the services)

Fun @ Four

Sunday 20th October
4 – 5.30 pm
Stoke Lyne Church

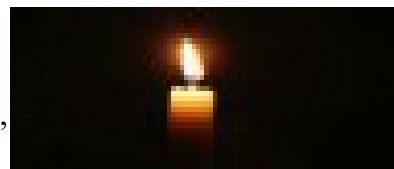
Care for our world

Activities and craft, prayer and praise, sandwiches and cake

No charge, though donations welcome.

Light Party on Thursday 31st October

Calling all 5 to 11 year olds, and parents – come to this year's Light Party which is to be held in Fringford Church from 3.30pm to 5.00pm, Thursday 31st October. Food, fun and games!



Service for Our Pets

Your Pet(s) would like to invite you to take them to St Peter's church, Stoke Lyne for Breakfast and total mayhem! Followed by short act of informal worship celebrating St Francis as well as our pets and other animals

Hope to see you at 10.00 on Sunday 6th October



Contact Ali:-alisonjanemiller@icloud.com

Or Kelly:-kholdenwhite@aol.com for more information

Midweek Holy Communion



MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION

AND SOUP LUNCH

Thursday 3rd October

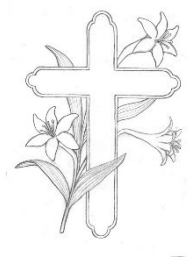
12 noon

Stoke Lyne Church

If you would like a lift then please contact Alice on 01280 848192 or
rector@shelswellparishes.info



SERVICE TO COMMEMORATE THE DEPARTED



Each year, near to All Saints' Day, we hold a special service to commemorate all those who have died, particularly those for whom we have taken funerals in the benefice over the last couple of years. This year the service will be on:

Sunday 27th October at 4pm in Stoke Lyne Church

We will shortly be issuing personal invitations to all the families we have met in the course of taking funerals in the past two years, but we would like, through the magazine, to take the opportunity to invite any others who have lost loved ones, however long ago, or who would like to attend for any other reason. It is a quiet, reflective service, and will include the opportunity to light a candle to remember a loved one. Many people have said that they find the service helpful, and we hope that this year's service will again prove useful.

If you would like a loved one remembered by name in the service, then please let any member of Ministry Team know.

Bicester Local History Society - Autumn 2024 Meetings

- 21st October 2024
Bicester Shops & Shopping
Bob Hessian

Bob's talk, illustrated with old photos of Bicester town centre, will explain how shopping in the town has changed over the years and the challenges that retailers now face.

- 18th November 2024
Trench Humour in the First World War
Stephen Barker

Soldiers often turned to humour to alleviate the stress of life in the trenches. Jokes, puns, and satirical songs were a part of the soldiers' oral culture. Much of the humour was lost on those outside the soldiers' group, but it resonated with the soldiers and allowed them to cope with the strain of service and combat. This presentation takes a light-hearted look at trench humour in slang and through tunes, cartoons, satirical journals, concert parties and in many other ways.

- 15th December 2024
Christmas Music & Song Through the Ages

All meetings take place at The Clifton Centre, Ashdene Road, Bicester, OX26 2BH start at 7.30 p.m. and are open to non-members for an entry fee of £5.00. Details of all the meetings can be found on the Bicester Local History Society website at <https://www.blhs.org.uk/>

LEARN TO RING THE BELLS



Of church bell ringing the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers writes - “For centuries church bells have sounded, calling people to worship, in celebration of special occasions, in remembrance and to mark special events. In the very early days, the bells were “chimed” to make a sound but the ringers had little control over the order in which the bells sounded and therefore the “music” they played.

The origins of what we call **change ringing** lie in the sixteenth century when church bells began to be hung with a full wheel enabling the bell to swing in a full circle and back again. This gave ringers control of their bell, which allowed sets of bells (rings) to be rung in a continuously changing pattern. Music is created by moving bells up and down the ringing order to a defined sequence known as a method.

Bellringing is a team activity that stimulates the brain and helps keep you fit... it also makes a glorious sound! Many consider ringing to be their contribution to church life, others do it for the pure pleasure it brings.

There is an opportunity to learn this skill at Stratton Audley Church. Interested? Contact Jeremy Adams, the Tower Captain, to arrange to have a go. [07851 434978] Learners of all ages are always welcome.



SHELLOWELL BENEFICE CHOIR

We would welcome new members! All voices.

We practice once a week on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm for one hour. We sing Evensong on the fourth Sunday of the month in one of the Benefice Churches at 6.00pm [or 4.00pm in the winter months]. Otherwise, we sing at occasional Benefice services. If you like to sing do consider giving it a try. For more information contact Penny.

[01869-277310 or penelope.wood@btopenworld.com]

NEW "MYBUS" TICKET - One ticket to travel all over Oxfordshire by bus

The MyBus Oxfordshire ticket provides one day or one week's unlimited travel on nearly all local bus services in the county. Whether you want to make your journey to work easier, or explore Oxfordshire, the MyBus ticket presents a simple, joined up and good value bus travel solution for Oxfordshire residents. Prices start at £3.50 a day or £14.50 a week for under-19s, and £6.50 a day or £25 a week for adults. Find out more: <https://www.mybusoxfordshire.org.uk/mybus-oxfordshire-tickets>

Shelswell Youth Group

11 – 18 years old?

Interested in matters of faith?

How to live as a Christian in your day to day life?

How to make sense of things?



You are invited to come along and join this new group -
a place to explore the Bible further, share thoughts and ideas, pray together and support one another.

Friday 11th October

6.30 – 8 pm

10 c St Michael's Close, Fringford, OX27 8DW
(home of Father Alex and his family)

In this first session, you can help decide what we will focus on, how often we should meet, what the group should be called, and other really important things like what sort of biscuits we should have!

For more information, contact Rev Sam Mortimer (curate@shelswellparishes.info) or Father Alex (amahlava@gmail.com).

P.S. If you are interested in being part of the group, but can't do Friday evenings, let us know when you could do.



A celebration of 50 years in ministry!



Save the date!
Sunday 3rd November
11 am
Waterloo Farm, Fringford

A special service followed by a celebratory lunch!
All invited.

Guest speaker: Rev Dr Helen Paynter

50 years ago on Sunday 3rd November 1974 Penny Wood, aged 28 at the time, was licensed as a lay reader, now called a locally licensed minister (LLM).

Since then, Penny has served faithfully, and for the last 44 years or so has been here in the Shelswell Benefice. As part of her ministry, she has led services week by week, conducted funerals, organised the Children's Holiday Week, the Shelswell Benefice Choir, and Shelswell by the Sea, served on Fringford PCC and generally contributed to church and village life.

This is a remarkable achievement and something that needs to be celebrated! This is just what we plan to do on the 50th anniversary of her licensing.

The speaker at the service will be Revd Dr Helen Paynter who is Director of Theological Education, Tutor in Biblical Studies, and Executive Director of the Centre for the Study of Bible and Violence at the Bristol Baptist College. She has many interests, including interest in the Old Testament and biblical violence. Penny wanted us to invite her to preach at this service, having watched her YouTube series 'Tour of the Bible' during lockdown. Helen was delighted to be able to come and help mark this anniversary.

Anyone who would like to help us celebrate Penny and her ministry is invited to come along and join us for the service and lunch!

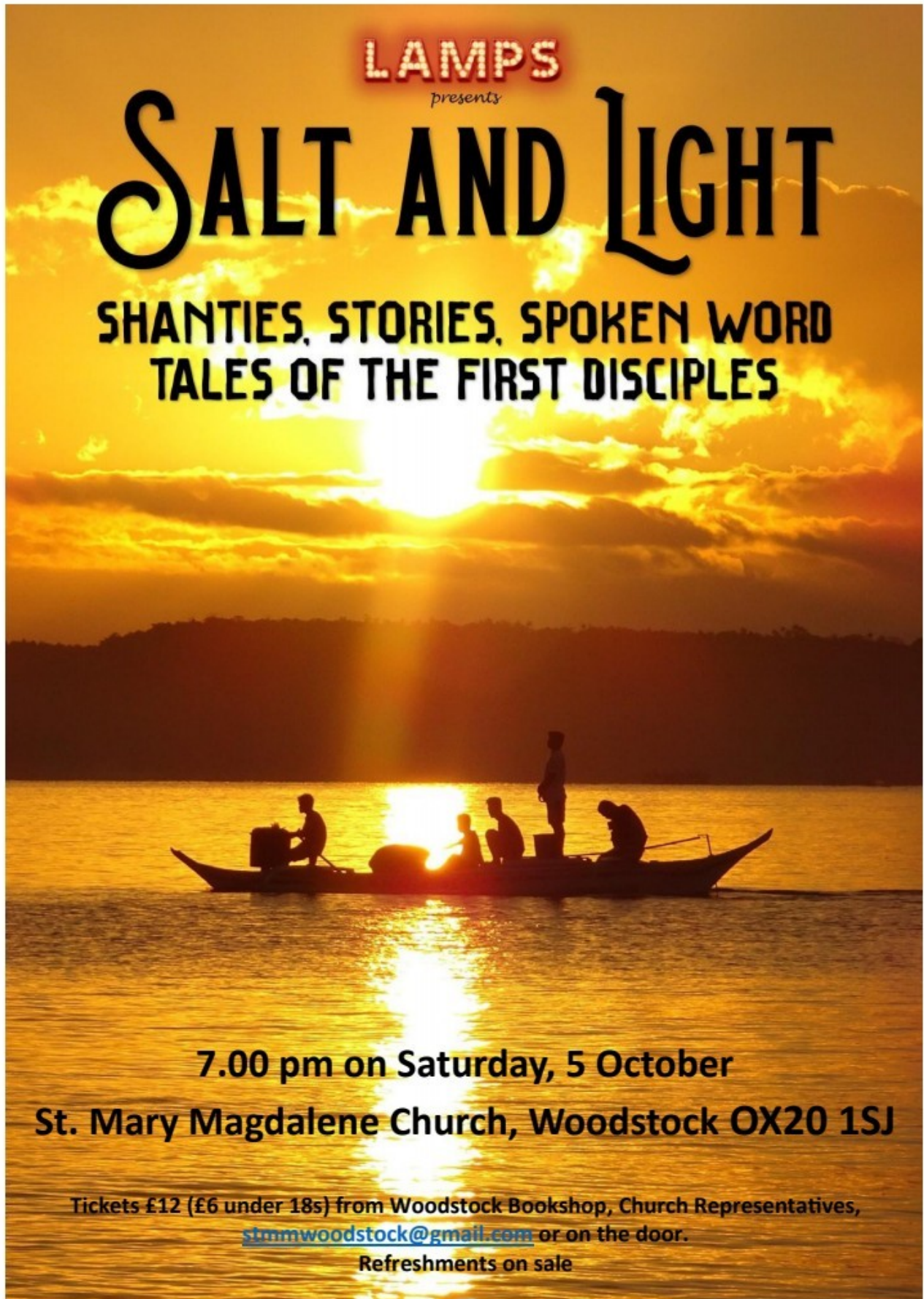
“Connect” Informal Service held on 8th September at Finmere Village Hall

As an experiment, the Shelswell parishes ran an informal service designed for everyone, including those new to church or looking for a fresh start. Twenty-eight people attended and we sang worship songs by writers including Rend Collective (Build Your Kingdom Here) and Matt Redman (10,000 Reasons). The talk was based on Jeremiah 29:1-14 and Romans 8:18-28, with an illustration showing how a single piece of a jigsaw puzzle can be confusing, but its role becomes clear when fitted into the bigger picture. Its message was that God has a plan and a place for us even if we feel lost at the moment. The hall was filled with lively conversation after the service.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this service happen. After our positive first experience, we are planning a follow-up, on Sunday 8th December at 4:00 pm again in Finmere Village Hall.

Sam Mortimer



The background of the poster is a photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright, golden glow that reflects on the water. Several silhouetted figures are in a small boat on the water, positioned in the lower middle of the frame. The sky is filled with soft, golden clouds.

LAMPS
presents

SALT AND LIGHT

**SHANTIES, STORIES, SPOKEN WORD
TALES OF THE FIRST DISCIPLES**

7.00 pm on Saturday, 5 October
St. Mary Magdalene Church, Woodstock OX20 1SJ

Tickets £12 (£6 under 18s) from Woodstock Bookshop, Church Representatives,
stmmwoodstock@gmail.com or on the door.
Refreshments on sale

Confirmation Service

Monday 19th August 2024

Confirmation is a special church service in which a person confirms the promises that were made when they were baptized and makes a public commitment to following Jesus Christ. The bishop lays their hands on the heads of the candidates and ask God's Holy Spirit to give them the strength and commitment to live God's way for the rest of their lives.

It was wonderful to see our five candidates being confirmed by Bishop Gavin, the Bishop of Dorchester on the evening of Monday 19th August. All the candidates had spent several months preparing for their confirmation through regular sessions with Alice or Sam to find out more about their faith and to develop sustainable habits of prayer, bible reading and church attendance.

All the candidates were well supported at the service by family and friends and by other folk from the Shelswell Benefice. The Shelswell Choir gave a good lead to our singing - the hymns 'Dear Lord and father of mankind', 'Who am I?' and 'Lord of all hopefulness' had been chosen by the candidates. Sharon Jones read the first reading (Psalm 78: 1 – 8), and Daniel Holden White and Maisie Bowl read the second reading (Matthew 19: 16 – 30). Max and Jayne Todd led the intercessions.

After the service, the newly confirmed had lots of photos taken of them, and we all shared in some excellent refreshments. Maisie had made a special cake for the occasion which was exceptionally good!

Many congratulations to Daniel, Sharon, Maisie, Jayne and Max for making this important step. Our prayers are with them as they continue on their Christian journey, and we look forward to them playing a full part in our church communities.



Benefice Harvest Home Celebration

Sunday 15th September at Elm Farm, Stratton Audley

What a marvellous harvest celebration it was!

We held our service in the barn at Elm Farm, which was decorated with milk containers filled with oat, wheat and barley, and apples on the windowsills. Given the day was lovely and sunny, it wasn't even particularly chilly! The Shelswell Benefice Choir led the singing of the hymns and sang the anthem 'While the earth remains'. Our two readings were read by Julie Adams (Joel 2: 21 – 27) and Simeon Goss (1 Timothy 2: 1 – 7). Father Alex preached about how farmers were doing God's will ('till the earth and care for it' – Genesis 2: 15) and about how in spite of all that we may do, at the end of the day it is God that gives the rain and the sun and causes the seed to germinate. Penny Wood led the intercessions. And various people brought forward symbols of the harvest as we thanked God for his goodness in providing them.

There were donations of tins and packets towards Bicester Foodbank, and during our last hymn, 'We plough the fields and scatter', a collection was taken to be divided between Yellow Wellies Farm Safety Foundation and Flood Relief in Wulu, South Sudan.

After the service, chairs were moved and tables put up, glasses of very good cider were distributed (thanks to Diana Jones for organising this), and we all tucked in to some very delicious hotpots and casseroles – all the food was made from British produce, much of it locally sourced. The meat for most of the hotpots was very generously donated by Green Farm Meats and the bread to accompany them came from Nash's bakery. And after seconds or thirds of all that, there were puddings – crumbles, fruit pies, stewed fruit, rice pudding, custard or cream. Thanks to everyone who contributed a hotpot or pudding – they were all amazing.



Yellow Wellies Farm Safety Foundation

UK farmers are among the best in the world, but farming remains one of our country's most hazardous industries; Farming accounts for 1% of workers but 18% of all worker fatalities (HSE). Yellow Wellies wants to ensure that the next generation of farmers is resilient and equipped with smart strategies and specific skills to live well and farm well. They tackle issues like health and safety, and mental health through various national campaigns and the provision of useful resources.

Wulu Flooding Relief

Once again, Wulu is experiencing significant problems with flooding. This is exacerbated by a large number of people coming into the area to escape worse conditions or conflict elsewhere.

South Sudan ranks seventh in the world for people's vulnerability to river floods. It is a situation that because of climate change is only going to get worse. Wulu is particularly prone to flooding because of the rivers that run through it. Flooding destroys homes and crops, and the lack of access to clean water and sanitation raise the risk of disease.

Bishop Zechariah is doing what he can to support those in the Diocese who have lost most. We will send him a donation to assist with this. He will use this to buy tarpaulins, cooking pots, blankets and soap.



Many thanks to Simon and Carolyn Goss for hosting our Harvest Home Celebration, and for the huge amount of work they put into making it happen, and to everyone who contributed in so many different ways!

REGISTRY

Marriages

John Matthew KEATING and Lucy Isobel ADAMS

St Mary and St Edburga's, Stratton Audley

Wednesday 28th August 2024

With just over a month to go before they left England to start a new life in France, Lucy and Johnny decided that they would like to get married. Lucy grew up in Stratton Audley and many in the village will remember her riding ponies alongside her Dad, Jeremy, and enjoying the freedom of a village childhood with her best friend, Millie. Johnny came over from Ireland to work in racing and it was their shared interest in horses which brought them together. They first met when working together on a racing yard near Marlborough back in 2016 and have enjoyed many adventures together, including six months in Australia just before the Covid pandemic.

On their return from Australia, they settled into new jobs in West Berkshire and soon started a family. Their two children, Lottie (now 4) and Tadhg (11 months) were both baptised in Stratton Audley and the family have lived at Widmore Farm on the Shelswell Estate since last November, with Lottie attending Fimmere School. Although they have enjoyed living locally, a job in France came up earlier in the summer and this looked like an opportunity that would be too good to miss. So, plans were made for the move to France and then came the decision to get married. Fortunately, all the pieces fell into place and the date was set (the same date that Lucy's maternal grandparents were married back in 1948). Originally the plan was for a very small ceremony with just a handful of immediate family present, but it seemed right that friends and supporters from the village should be included, albeit at very short notice. And so it was that a very happy couple made their vows surrounded by the church family in which Lucy had grown up. Millie had helped Lucy choose her fitted, white lace dress and Amanda Reynolds from the village had styled Lucy's hair to perfection. Lottie wore a wonderful dress of rainbow-coloured sequins and carried a miniature version of her Mum's bouquet of cream roses.

The couple had chosen a reading from Ecclesiastes 4 verses 9-12 which was read by Jeremy:

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.



The address from Alice drew out the crucial support that Lucy and Johnny are to each other and the importance of weaving God into their relationship. As a visual aid illustrating this 'threefold cord', she invited Lucy to plait together three coloured ribbons, creating a beautiful reminder of the Bible passage. The music the couple had chosen was very individual to them with 'Wildfire' by Seafret as Lucy came into the church, 'Better Half of Me' by Tom Walker during the signing of the registers and the joyful Irish dance music, 'An Irish Party in Third Class' by Gaelic Storm, as they came out. Grateful thanks to Roger Cross for his help with the music.

The bells were rung enthusiastically by regular Stratton ringers, Jeremy, Debbie, Janet and Julie, joined by John Phipps. And following the service everyone shared bubbly and nibbles in church, with extra cupcakes and 'tiffin' supplied by Angela Cross and Annette Jones. A special version of a wedding cake had been commissioned by Penny Wood and baked by Flora Skinner – chocolate enhanced with Guinness!

The family are enormously grateful to all the people who helped and supported them to make Lucy and Johnny's wedding such a very special day.

Charles Philip Douglas WILLIAMS and Claudia Megan FELTON

Saturday 14th September

All Saints Church, Mixbury

The churchyard was looking lovely. Flowers were adorning the pew ends and the altar, and all the guests were gathered in the chancel for Charlie and Megan's first wedding. In a month or so, there will be a second much bigger wedding spanning several days in Texas, which is where Megan hails from. But on this lovely sunny autumn day, just their very close family and friends were in attendance – and a group of villagers at the gate to cheer them on.

Charlie and his two brothers grew up in Mixbury where his mum Viv Williams still lives. He now lives in London where he and Megan met by chance in May 2021. We were still at that time living with facemasks and covid measures. He and some close friends stopped at the Pear Tree Café in Battersea Park, where one of his friends recognised someone he knew, who was there with Megan. They combined tables and got talking. Megan was wearing a very eye-catching purple cowboy jacket complete with fringe, which she had not worn before or since. Whether it was that or something else, she made an impression on Charlie. It took a few weeks for him to persuade her out on a date, this time at Soho House, but they hit it off and embarked many more covid-safe dates. And the rest is history.

Megan arrived at the church, looking gorgeous, with her father Rob in a very shiny Austin 10 decorated with sunflowers on the boot. She entered the church



on her dad's arm following on behind her mother Rhonda and godmother Leslie MacLean to 'Pachelbel's Canon' played by Flora Skinner.

I didn't fall in love with you. I walked into love with you, with my eyes wide open, choosing to take every step along the way. I do believe in fate and destiny, but I also believe we are only fated to do the things that we'd choose anyway. And I'd choose you; in a hundred lifetimes, in a hundred worlds, in any version of reality, I'd find you and I'd choose you.

Kiersten White

Charlie and Megan had chosen two hymns, 'Lord of all hopefulness' and 'Guide me O thou great redeemer', and even though there was only a small group of guests, they managed to fill the church with sound. Rory Ross-Russell read the Bible reading from Song of Solomon chapter 2: 10 – 13 and 8: 6 – 7, and Leslie MacLean read the second reading, 'The Chaos of Stars'. The signing of the marriage document was witnessed by both their mums, Viv and Rhonda. Whilst we were doing the signing, everyone listened to 'Oh what a world' by Kacey Musgraves.

At the end of the service, the newly wedded couple left the church to 'Into the mystic' by Van Morrison. The bells were being rung by the Howard family, and there was confetti throwing and photographs, after which the wedding party went on to Mixbury Hall for further celebrations.

After their quintessentially English village wedding, we hope Charlie and Megan enjoy their second wedding in Texas! We pray that God will richly bless their marriage and wish them every happiness in their life together.

Erratum

In the report on Peter Cross and Natalie Richard's wedding that appeared in last month's Shelswell News, I wrote that Angela Cross had been born in Bicester. This is not actually the case – she was born in Bicester, but was christened in Stratton Audley church. Apologies.

Alice

Funerals

Jane Claire Warde-Aldam

22nd April 1928 – 24th July 2024

A memorial service was held for Jane on Thursday 29th August at St Peter's church, Stoke Lyne. A full report will appear in October's Shelswell News.

Club News



SHELSWELL WI



Following our last two meetings which were away from our usual venue, it was good to be back together again and meeting in Fringford village hall.

We caught up with some essential business and followed with a very interesting talk from Gillian Cane entitled the miracle of Bletchley Park. Although the vast majority of our members had visited Bletchley, there weren't many of us who knew the facts that Gillian spoke about. Who knew that by the end of WW2 nearly 10 000 people worked for the wider Bletchley Park organisation. Sobering also to think that the family and friends of those that worked there had no idea of the work that they were doing.

In October we are looking forward to welcoming Sue Kendall a former Mastermind contestant. We also have our North Plough Group meeting on 24 October being held by Tews and Barton where we shall be very interested to find out about Autumn in the Garden a talk by Richard Preston.

Shelswell WI always welcome new members, if you would like to join us we meet on the first Thursday of the month in Fringford village hall 7.30pm

For more information contact Lesley Beagent 07729 605670



SHELSWELL GARDEN CLUB



On the evening of **September 10th**, 11 intrepid garden club members braved the drizzle, turning to pouring rain and cold to visit The Grange, Chalgrove, (NGS garden).

This amazing garden is set in 11 acres against the backdrop of an Oxfordshire Manor House. Despite the weather we spent an hour walking through the various areas with the owner who told us how she had developed the garden. There were herbaceous borders, still flowering and a field which was turned into a prairie with the most beautiful grasses that shone through the gloom. The wildflower meadow had mostly 'gone over' but you could see the expanse of it. A spectacular feature was the lake with a planted island, bridges and gazebo. A brook runs through the garden leading to a further pond. There was a grass labyrinth, dried riverbed, an old orchard and partly walled kitchen garden with a variety of very large herbs! We were encouraged to have a walk around without our guide to find other 'nooks and crannies'. We then retired to the summer house for coffee, tea and cake; providing energy for the return journey (which pleasingly was dry!)

For the rest of 2024 we have the following events (all of these are in Hethe Village Hall):

8th Oct. Sue Bedwell will be talking about a subject to be decided. Sue has been a regular speaker at the club and has a wonderful garden in Bletchington.

12th Nov. AGM and talk from Corrine Mitchell – 'Propagation and other bits and pieces.' A mixture of useful information to help grow plants well followed by some less-well known techniques for plant propagation.

10th Dec. Christmas party with nibbles and quiz, with prizes.

Shelswell Garden Club, continued

We welcome visitors to our club and meet 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. Your membership card gives you a discount at Swallows Nursery, Mixbury. During winter months, some meetings may be held via Zoom. Club membership fee is now **£15 per year**. This covers all speakers, zoom meetings, as well as entry to some evening garden visits. The **visitor fee is now £5**, which will be refunded if the visitor decides to join the Club that evening.

For further information, call Sally Drummond Hay on 01280 848591 or Corrine Mitchell on 01869 247411 (shelswellgardenclub@gmail.com). Membership is £15 a year and visitors £5.



SHELLOWELL READING GROUP

Our August book was *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins which proved to be a great choice as it provided lots of talking points. As well as being a great, if sometimes harrowing, story, it also highlighted the plight of migrants in any country and gave another perspective on why people flee their home countries to find a safe place. It made us all think what would we do faced with the same challenges.. The characters were well drawn (we loved the sisters), and the kindness of others on their journey was a great salve to the harrowing nature of their flight.

Our next book club meetings are:

Wednesday 18th September, 7.30 pm	3 Kennel Cottages, Cottisford
Wednesday 16th October, 7.30 pm	West Cottage, Cottisford
Wednesday 20th November, 7.30 pm	Venue TBC

Our next book is the sequel to the *Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* – which is **All the Broken Places, by John Boyne.**

Other books discussed were:

The Women - Crystal Hannah
 The Sleepwalkers – Scarlett Thomas
 Maurice and Maralyn – Sophie Elmhirst
 The Beesting – Paul Murray
 Books by Deborah Moggach
 Blue Sister – Coco Mellors (author of *Cleopatra* and *Frankenstein*)
 Killers of the Flower Moon – David Grann
 The Round House – Louise Erdrich

If you are interested in joining the reading group or would like more information, please contact Jane Birnage (janebirnage@icloud.com 07770 220605)

SHELSWELL POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP

Our September meeting focused on the topic of Buildings and ranged from the purely descriptive to the symbolic.

The Homes of England by Felicia Dorothea Hemans (1793-1835) gives an idealised picture of homes both grand and humble – but all, we are asked to believe, inhabited by a splendid race. The poet's rosy-eyed patriotism made it a target for Noel Coward (1899-1973), whose song *The Stately Homes of England* has fun at the expense of Britain's aristocratic dwellings. It shares features with a poem by U A Fanthorpe (1929-2209) - *My Brother's House*, and *Architectural Masks* by Thomas Hardy (1840-1928).

Scaffolding by Seamus Heaney (1939-2013) and *The Props Assist the House* by Emily Davidson (1830-86) both use metaphor, though in different ways, with Heaney likening the building of a house to the building of a marriage and Dickinson using personification to give a house a character.

The Ballad of Reading Gaol, by Oscar Wilde (1853-1900), with its bleak description of a merciless penal system, and U A Fanthorpe's *Princetown*, an understated but powerful description of Dartmoor Prison, are two poems addressing the misery in such institutions.

The Palace of Art by Tennyson (1809-92) is typical of a mid-Victorian Gothic Revival attempt to encompass all art and human experience, but with a sting in the tail when the poet confesses his self-absorption and over-reliance on aesthetics to bring him joy. Louis MacNeice (1907-63) in *The British Museum Reading Room* describes an institution and its habits in four verses where Tennyson would doubtless have used forty-four! Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834), in his opium-fuelled poem *Kubla Khan*, creates an other-world setting for an actual historical character.

An Anglo-Saxon poem *The Ruin*, written circa 960 AD, muses sadly on the glory that was Roman civilisation in Britain, describing the abandoned town of Bath, which the poet's people avoided. In *Pisa's Leaning Tower*, Herman Melville (1819-91) personifies the tourist attraction's appearance as being that of a 'would-be suicide'.

In *Belvoir Castle* Letitia Elizabeth Landon (1802-38) both criticises one of its inhabitants, a poet, for not really understanding the human joy and misery the castle has seen, but forgives her, too, as she is, after, all, a person with special gifts. In *A Spellbound Palace*, Thomas Hardy reminds us of Hampton Court Palace's association with Henry VIII and Thomas Cromwell, two harsh and overbearing men. Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish (1941-2008), in *In Jerusalem*, describes the city as a magical place, steeped in history but also in conflict, and ends on a note of defiant optimism.

The poem *Skyscraper* is a tour-de-force by Carl Sandburg (1878-1967). On a more mundane level is *The Shed* by Martin Silvester, an enthusiastic, amateur, living poet. In *Water Picture* by May Swenson (1913-89) the world and its buildings are turned upside down by reflection in a pond.

Four interesting poems about churches are *In a Church of Padua* by Herman Melville, who describes a Confessional Box; *Crowland Abbey* by H E Clarke (1852-1912) about a building steeped in history but now lonely and a ruin; *Churchgoing* by an agnostic Philip Larkin (1922-85); and *'Soothing and Awful'* by U A Fanthorpe, who gently mocks the English awkwardness with religion.

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

Judith Harvey



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 Flora Skinner Tel: 01869 277366
 MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Sandra Bickmore, Thatch End, Juniper Hill (sandrambickmore@gmail.com)

SERVICES

Sunday 20th October 10:45 am Harvest Festival

COTTISFORD AND JUNIPER HILL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

If you have visited the recreation field in the last month you may have noticed a new bench sited near the Jubilee tree. Some of you may remember that the field was used for the local football team Juniper FC. Unfortunately earlier this year the team lost one of their legends Tim "Gossy" Gosling. Family and friends wanted a place to sit and recall the happy times that "Gossy" spent there playing his favourite game. They hope that everyone visiting the field will take a moment to remember not only Tim but their own loved ones no longer with us.

Harvest Festival. Our Harvest Festival service will be held at Cottisford Church on Sunday 20th October at 10.45pm, with refreshments (tea, coffee, cakes) following the service. If you would like to come and decorate the church for the service, we are meeting at 10.30 am on Saturday 19th October at the church.

Bonfire Night. Our annual Bonfire night will be held on Saturday 2nd November, 5.30 – 7.30pm. As last year's bonfire night was cancelled, we have a huge bonfire, and will be serving homemade soup and hot dogs to keep everyone warm, and free sparklers for some fun!

Church Cleaning and Flower Rota. We are looking for some additional volunteers to help keep our lovely church looking clean and welcoming. We have a cleaning rota staffed by generous volunteers from our villagers but would really value some additional help for one month (we each take one or two months a year). It involves keeping the church dusted and vacuumed each week (for your month), and ensuring there are fresh flowers on the alter. If you are able to help, please contact janebirnage@icloud.com

Finnmere St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: Barbara Cunningham, 'Woodlea' Finnmere, Tel: 01280 847992
 TREASURER: Emma Brennan emma_mary@hotmail.co.uk
 PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Katherine Grimston, The Old Rectory, Finnmere Tel: 01280 848364
 MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Paul Nash Email: paan63@yahoo.co.uk Tel 01280 848268

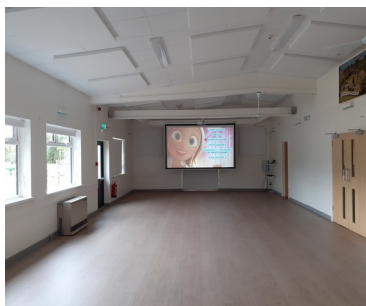
Church Services

Sunday 20th October 9.15 am Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday 28th October 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

Village Hall

The village hall has been fully renovated and is now available for hire. A number of facilities have been added, including updated AV facilities with a new projector with larger screen, new flooring and front and fire exit doors and enlarged storage spaces for regular users.



WiFi facilities are also now available.

Patio doors have been installed, leading onto a hard standing, adjacent to the children's play area, making the hall ideal for children's & adults' events alike. For all hall bookings enquiries, please visit www.myfinmere.com/villagehall



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 & catch-up...

Tuesday 8th October 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...

Join us for a
Light lunch
in Finmere Village Hall
4th Tuesday of the month
October 22, November 26
12.30-2pm
No charge but donations welcome



For more information, ask for help with transport or to let us know about specific dietary needs contact Richard & Debbie Bloomfield (07765 874090)

Back by popular demand ...

POP-UP PUB

Friday October 11th
Friday November 15th
7-10pm
Finmere Church

Join us for an evening of good company and cheer

Provided ... punch (alcoholic and non-alcoholic)
Hot snacks and nibbles
Glasses

Please bring ... any other drinks you'd like!

Donations towards heating and refreshments gratefully received (card or cash)

Allotments

We have had a good clear up at the allotment site and as a result, the Poor's Plot now has a number of additional plots available for hire. Cost is a modest £20 / year – due end Sept.

Interested, visit www.myfinmere.com/poorsplot and select the 'enquiry' link.

Some Finmere related links:

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

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

Finmere Parish Council website at – www.finmerepc.org

Village hall news at – www.myfinmere.com

Finmere Poor's Plot – www.myfinmere.com/poorsplot

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	

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, SERVICES & EVENTS

Services

Sunday 6 October – at 10.45am, Morning Service

Sunday 20 October – at 10.45am, Holy Communion

Sunday 27 October – at 6.00pm, Service in Stoke Lyne Church, “Commemoration of the Departed”

To find out the times and places of other services on Sundays, please check the back cover of this magazine, the Benefice 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

Ride and Stride in Aid of Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust [OHCT] - Saturday 14 September.

Many thanks to the volunteers who sat in the church to welcome riders/striders. We received seven visitors, the most novel being a father and daughter from Mixbury who were doing the Ride on electric skate boards!



Light Party on Thursday 31st October

Calling all 5 to 11 year olds, and parents – come to the Light Party which is to be held in Fringford Church from 3.30pm to 5.00pm, on Thursday 31st October. Food, fun and games!

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

Numbers cost £3 a month (£36 annually) Payment by BACS, cheque or cash. Draw each month for 50% of the income divided amongst 3 winners: at the moment 1st prize £61, 2nd £37, 3rd £25. You can still sign up to the 100 Club. Contact Christina McCullagh to register - **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. Times are: from 10.00am to 11.30am. **Note the change of time!!** [Not during holidays and half term.] Just come along. If you need information in the meantime, email admin@shelswellparishes.info

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 Morning will take place on Monday 21 October. Drop by for a coffee/tea and a chat any time between 10.30am and 12 noon. It is in the Chinnery Room at the Village Hall. Contact Penny on 277310 if you want more information.

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 items/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 for 2024 are:

October	Wednesday 16th
November	Sunday 17th
December	Sunday 15th

Sessions are £2.00 drop in

No need to book – just come and join us!

If you would like information, please email Irene ireneethomas@btinternet.com

Sarah Rennison (née Butler) (1850-1933), a Fringford letter-carrier
by Martin Greenwood

Sarah Rennison was the daughter of Richard Butler, a cordwainer (shoemaker) and Rhoda Butler, born in Fringford in 1850. The Butlers had twelve children, of whom four died in infancy and four sons emigrated to Australia - Henry, Joseph, Charles and Thomas. Their stories are for another day.

Sarah had her share of problems to contend with. She met her husband, William Rennison, in London where she was working as a cook in the 1870s while he was a valet in the same area. She had a daughter, Nellie (b. 1873), but her son William (b. 1874), died aged two. By 1881 Nellie was living with her grandmother Rhoda in Fringford. Sarah did not marry William Rennison until 1882, shortly after the birth of another son, also called William. By 1891 she was back in Fringford working as a dressmaker with William (then 8) and a lodger, her cousin Charles Tame (45), who was blind. Her husband seems to have disappeared and the only subsequent trace of him was in the 1911 census where he turns up as a visitor in Ireland.

There were further misfortunes for Sarah, as Nellie's husband Harry Osborne became mentally ill and he was taken away, together with his daughter Ivy who died at the age of 19. He must have died soon afterwards.

By 1898, a letter from Kezia Whitton who was running the Post Office and the Old Forge indicates that Sarah had become a letter-carrier, probably to replace Flora Thompson (née Timms). She would certainly have known Flora (who left Fringford in 1897) as she was living only a few steps from the Forge in her father's old house on Main Street (the left hand part of The Cottage). In 1916 she wrote, 'I'm afraid I do not keep it as well as he had used to. It is too hard work. Most of the women and children are gone to get crabs. They can get 1/- per bushel for the government to use the acid in making shells in Birmingham. I don't go as I have to reserve my strength to carry the letters and parcels in the morning. They told me this morning that I looked like a red Indian in my big boots and gaiters, waterproof skirt and my red face.'

She was also like Mrs Gubbins in *Lark Rise*. In the early 1920s, she was living in south-end cottage at Church Farm House. This was when her photograph was taken in the back garden and it shows a very strong and determined lady. In the late 1920s, she returned to The Cottage.



By 1910, Ellen Price had taken over the Post Office, which she ran from Pringle Cottage on Rectory Lane and Sarah worked for her. There was a nice incident in 1916 after she received a present from her brother Thomas in Australia. She had to go round to Ellen Price to get the money. 'I cried and could scarcely walk home and then when I had the notes in my hand I could not count them. I did no more work for the rest of the day and I have felt in a dream ever since.' This gift must have been a few pounds at a time when labourers' pay was 10/- a week.

We do not know how long she continued to do the letter-round but it must have been well into the 1920s. In her last letter of 25th July 1932, when she was clearly not very well and preparing to leave Fringford, she

comments, 'I want to be quiet and help myself as long as I can. I am leaving no debts. I pay for everything as I have it. I am selling off and giving away. I seem to have collected such a lot.'

This is very much in the *Lark Rise* tradition of 'Pay your own way', 'Look after yourself', 'Don't flinch' and 'avoid the House (workhouse) and dependence on parish relief.' As feelings of deference weakened (slowly), both Kezia and Sarah followed 'the mid-Victorians' cult of independence and self-help' epitomized of course in Samuel Smiles's best selling book of that title in 1859. This went hand in hand with the desire for a reputation of respectability, as witness Sarah's pleasure in her letter of 1919 where she mentions that 'I have made myself a Black necklace. I wear it when I am dressed up in the summer and I shall be 70 next April and I shall be a lady at last.'

In 1932 she moved to live with her son William and his wife Beatrice in Somerford Heynes near Cirencester, where she died in 1933.

Regular Activities held in Fringford Village Hall *(continued overleaf)*

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 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 Penny Wood 01869 277310</p>
<p>Puppy Stars Dog Training Tuesday evening – various classes Contact Nick 07542 131400 www.puppystars.co.uk</p>	<p>Parish Council Meeting All villagers welcome Third Monday in the month 7.45pm Contact 01844 237766 or fringford.pariahclerk@gmail.com</p>
<p>Fringford Yoga Wednesday (term time) 9.30am – 11am Carolyn White 01869 277161</p>	<p>Bicester Sound Bath Meditation First Sunday of the month from 7.45 pm Sonia - contact@holisticaxis.com Please text - 07709634847</p>
<p>Just Puppies Puppy Training Wednesday evening – various classes Contact Kerri 07720 891489 www.justpuppies.training</p>	<p>Shelswell WI First Thursday of the month 7.30pm Contact Lesley Beagent on 07729605670</p>
<p>Pilates Thursday at 10.00am natashaflowerspilates@gmail.com or 07545 525820</p>	<p>Mindfulness Meditation Monthly Sunday 11am to 12.30pm janerainey17@gmail.com or 07971 008337</p>

<p>My Baby Spa Monday mornings Spa experience for babies and toddlers 1 – 4 years www.mybabyspa.co.uk contact Danielle at contact@mybabyspa.co.uk</p>	<p>Fringford Sewcial Sew and Chat! Monthly Wednesday from 7pm Or Sunday from 3pm Contact Irene at ireneethomas@btinternet.com</p>
<p>Tai Chi for Well Being Tuesday 1pm Contact taichi@3rd-i-wellness.co.uk or 07596 527783 www.3rd-i-Wellness.co.uk</p>	<p>Village Hall Team Meeting Every 4 weeks – 7.00 pm Open meetings – all welcome fringford.hall@gmail.com or 07936 879175</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>	

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 Flora Skinner

Tel: 01869 277366

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Veronica Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick

Tel 01869 277690

WEBSITE: <http://hardwickvillage.btck.co.uk>

Church Services at Hardwick Church

Sunday 6th October 9.15 am Holy Communion

Hardwick church is open daily 10am to 4pm.

Private prayer and quiet contemplation

View the architecture, memorials and stained glass windows

Please make use of this special space

Pilgrim Pathways

Why not walk the Hethe to Hardwick to Cottisford to Hethe “Pilgrim Pathway”. 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 churches or contact David Barnes (01869 277690), who can send you one.

Hardwick Church guidebook

The guidebook for Hardwick church and the parish of Hardwick with Tusmore is available to collect from the church or contact David Barnes (01869 277690), who can send one to you. 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. We ask that you make a minimum donation of £5 to church funds.

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 the next edition of the Shelswell News is on Page 2.

ST EDMUND & ST GEORGE CHURCH

Church Services and Events



Although the water damage to the church has now been inspected and works started, for the safety of all visitors we have decided to leave it closed (except for services).

Please refer to the village web site for the latest news.

Remember that you will always be welcome at services at any of our churches in the benefice, or if you are away from the village, you can find a nearby service through the web site <https://www.achurchnearyou.com>.

Church Restoration. We don't know at this stage what the cost will be of restoring the church. In addition to the water damage, we also have an outstanding issue with the west window in the nave and an overheating organ. We are already heading for an in-year deficit. If you can contribute to meeting the cost, please follow this link <https://givealittle.co/c/7e54ff18-4263-4c70-a015-af4d5d2337f0> or scan this QR Code:



If you prefer to contribute to other church expenses, 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/> or through the following QR Code (note that our gaining a Silver Eco Church Award has been at no cost to the church):



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

100 Club. 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 (full details on the village website).

Thank you to everyone who took part in Ride & Stride in September and our team of PCC members who welcomed visitors to the church.



The next PCC meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th October.

HETHE COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

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

Monday 14th October from 10.00am to 12.00pm

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



Heating & Safety

In winter, electric blankets can reduce the need for heating. Oxfordshire's Fire and Rescue Service offers free electric blanket testing to all Oxfordshire residents. To request a test call 01865 895999 and select option 3.

Wild Oxfordshire

Wild Oxfordshire is “seeking to create a more natural, resilient, and biodiverse Oxfordshire for the benefit of all!”. They “help catalyse change by identifying conservation needs and supporting nature recovery action across the County. We collaborate with numerous individuals, communities and organisations; offering expertly curated and inspiring information, bespoke advice, and nature-based solutions.”

For more information visit their web site <https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/>.

Replenish Oxfordshire



A message from Replenish:

“Towards the end of the summer growing season, your plants may need a boost to keep them flowering and fruiting into autumn. Liquid feeds, sometimes known as 'teas', are ideal for this, as the nutrients in them are readily available to plants. They are particularly useful for hungry plants like courgettes and tomatoes, or if you are growing in pots or bags.

“It's easy to make your own by soaking the leaves of specific plants in water. This is where the term 'tea' comes from as they need to 'brew' for the nutrients to leach into the water. The downside is that they smell really bad - you definitely won't mistake them for your favourite cuppa.”

Climate Action Groups

If you would like to join a Climate Action Group to discuss and take action in and around Hethe, please let us know. Contact hethenews@outlook.com.

New Bus Service



Monday to Saturday - pick up at Hethe War Memorial at 07.39, 10.54, 1342 and 15.42. Last bus departs Bicester at 17.50 to arrive in Hethe at 18.12.

Parish Council. The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be held on Tuesday 15th October, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting on 16 April and the council meeting on 9 July are now available through the web site.

Recycle your blister packs Cherwell District Council recently launched a trial of blister pack recycling across the district. If you have empty blister packs you can recycle them in the handy TerraCycle® Zero Waste Boxes™ located in Banbury library on Marlborough Road, **Bicester library on Wesley Lane** and Kidlington library on Oxford Road.

This is an easy way to dispose of this difficult to recycle packaging, as it will be sent to TerraCycle® where they will sort it and turn into raw materials that can be reused instead of it going to landfill or incineration.

For **Village Hall bookings**, please contact Flora, the Village Hall Booking Secretary, on 01869 277366 fjskinner@hotmail.co.uk.

The Stay & Play Group contact is 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.

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>

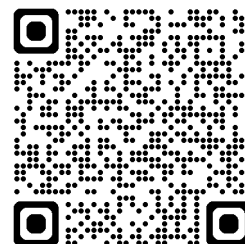
Hethe Community -

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/651105142605166>

Hethe Allotments - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/7922785481121889>

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

Shelswell Lift Share WhatsApp Group – Contact Flora to join



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

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 or telephone: 01280 848002.

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 13th October 11.00 am Harvest Festival

MIXBURY CHURCH FLOWER ROTA 2024 Up and Running Again

January	Sally Drummond-Hay
February	Melanie Soar
March	Emma Bray
April	Easter 17 th April – Everyone
May	Jane Marshall
June	Kate Darby
July	Sue Goodman
August	Helen Backon

Mixbury Church Flower Rota, continued

September	Philippa Brown Harvest festival – everyone
October	Morag Westworth
November	Fi Bairstow
December	Carol service and Christmas - everyone
Reserve	Sam Lockwood

**MIXBURY CHURCH CLEANING ROTA 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.

OCTOBER Emma Bray and Viv Williams
 NOVEMBER Alison Bailey, Pam Burrill and Jules Channon
 DECEMBER Gail Bellingham, Mel Soar & Sue Boshier

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.

SAVE THE DATE

Mixbury Soup Kitchen - Sunday 13th October 2024 – 12.30pm

By popular demand, the Soup Kitchen returns to Mixbury in October! This year, all proceeds will be in aid of The Brackley Food Bank.

Mixbury village has kindly supported the Food Bank throughout the past year via its food donations in the church, and in further support of those who are in crisis we are proud to be able to raise funds for the charity by running this year's kitchen.

Please come along and enjoy a selection of wonderful home made soups, and a selection of breads. As in recent years this will be held at the Mixbury village shelter, opposite the church gate. Please note, this event follows Harvest Festival in the church at 11.00am. During the service representatives of the Food Bank have very kindly agreed to give a short presentation to tell us about their work. We are very grateful to them for giving their time to come and talk to us. Please come along and join in.



Rumour has it – that Swallows Nursery will be stocking Christmas Trees this year.



MIXBURY FETE 2024



Another outstanding fete was held on 31st August, thanks to Nigel and Gemma Harris letting us use their beautiful grounds for this once yearly occasion. Weather was good and a huge crowd of people attended but we are so sorry that many people from the Benefice were unable to gain access due to the turnout from other areas, we hope to sort this so it does not happen next year. If you were able to support the Fete, thank you!



WELCOME TO THE VILLAGE

If you have recently moved to the village – WELCOME!



Newton Purcell St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDENS: Ann von Maltzahn, Home Farm Shelswell Park	Tel 01280 848680
Stuart Hinton	Tel: 07593 784143
TREASURER: Fai Li	Tel: 07725 009838
PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Flora Skinner	Tel: 01869 277366
MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Ann von Maltzahn	Tel 01280 848680

Services :-

Please note there will be NO service on Sunday 6th October
Sunday 13th October - Harvest Thanksgiving - 11.30 a.m.

Bonus Ball Lotto :-

Recent lucky winners were Nancy Crofton and Fay Harris.

OHCT Ride & Stride :-

As advertised, our church was open for this annual event and we would like to thank all who gave up some of their time to welcome visitors throughout the day.

Harvest Festival & Lunch :-

We are looking forward to this years Harvest Celebrations and time is running out for you to reserve your place for the Lunch. Please contact either of the Church wardens to avoid disappointment!

St Michael & All Angels, Newton Purcell

Invite you to the

HARVEST LUNCH

In The Old School, Newton Purcell on

SUNDAY 13th OCTOBER

At 12.45 p.m.

Please bring your own KNIFE FORK & SPOON!

*This will follow the Harvest Festival in the Church which starts at
11.30 a.m. and to which all are most welcome.*

Tickets - £12.50

Children under 14 - half price

*Please reply giving numbers to ann_maltzahn@yahoo.com
or ring 01280 848680 by Monday 7th October*

Newton Purcell, continued

We will be decorating the church on Friday 11th October from 10.00 a.m. and if anyone would like to bring flowers or produce and help with the decoration it would be much appreciated. Just contact Ann v Maltzahn with your offers of help or if you are busy that day please leave any contributions in the church porch.

We would also be grateful for offers of help with the Lunch. If you could make a salad or fruit crumble/pie please let us know. All offers will be most welcome.

A Date for Your Diary :-

The Phoenix Singers are kindly returning again this year to entertain us at our Christmas Concert on **Friday 13th December**. More details later but save the date!

Stoke Lyne St Peter's

CHURCHWARDEN:	Christopher Poole CTP@oxford-educational.co.uk Alison Miller alisonjanemiller@icloud.com	Tel 01869 346020 Tel 07762 719198
TREASURER:	Janey Poole janey@oxford-educational.co.uk	Tel 07810 120457
PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER	Emma Brown emmabrown911@gmail.com	
MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT:	Rena Andrews renaandrews820@gmail.com	Tel: 01869 346653
PARISH ROOM BOOKINGS :	Kelly and James Holden-White kholdenwhite@aol.com	Tel 01869 345211
	WEBSITE www.stokelyne.org	

St Peter's Church Stoke Lyne Services

See back page for details, and the advertisement on page 5 for the Pet Service on Sunday 6th October.

Flower Duty for October

Janey Poole

Food for Thought – Sunday, 1st September, 10 am.

This is a popular service and usually well attended. The tables were set with a breakfast of warm croissants with butter and jam, tea and coffee or a soft drink, courtesy of Harriet and Ali. This is a lovely service where we can share with friends and have a short informal service. When we had finished breakfast, Ali had set up the overhead screen to give a talk which was about feeding the five thousand with 5 loaves and 2 fish. This is the only miracle, aside from the resurrection, recorded in all four gospels. Ali had prepared a humorous display on the overhead screen, as well as printed sheets with highlighted passages to be read by volunteers. There was then a discussion about how they managed to feed them. The story is popular with children as it teaches them the importance of sharing, making the most of what you have and putting your trust in faith.

Prayers were read and we were asked to pray for the families recently bereaved including in this village the family of Jane Warde-Aldam, also anyone known to those present, as well as people who are ill or incapacitated in any way. We then sung the hymn “Dear Lord and Father of Mankind” accompanied by Flora on the organ. Thank you to Harriet and Ali for preparing the food and the service and also to Flora for playing the organ and everyone who helped to clear up.

See separate notice for the 6th October “Food for Thought”.

Rena Andrews

Midweek Communion – Thursday, 5th September, Midday

This is a lovely short service of communion, very useful for those who are unable to get to the Sunday communion. Liz led the service assisted by Alice who welcomed all. The gospel reading was from Luke Chapter 4, verses 38-44, read by Rena.

Liz began with a little story about a curate taking a school assembly. He held above his head the large red covered children's bible he had been reading from. He asked the children what they would say to Jesus if he were to walk into the hall that morning. A boy on the front row thought for a moment and then raised his hand and said loudly "I'd give 'im that there book, vicar, I'd say "Jesus – this is your life." That caused some laughter.

The verses 38 to 44 contains examples of Jesus healing as he teaches in Capernaum. These events included exorcising demons and curing the sick of diseases by laying his hand on them. The people demanded he stay and continue. However, he rebuked them and said he had to go to other towns because this is why he had been sent, and he kept preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

This was followed by the communion service assisted by Liz ending with prayers. We then moved over to the tables set for lunch of soup and bread rolls, with seconds if you wished, followed by blackberry crumble with custard and tea or coffee to finish. During lunch there was lots of chatting, catching up with friends and hearing about events coming up.

Thank you to Alice and Liz for providing the food and everyone else who was involved in setting up and clearing away.

Rena Andrews

Memorial Service for Jane Warde-Aldam – Thursday, 29th August 2024 at 2.30 pm

This was a lovely service, well attended by lots of family and friends. The church was beautifully decorated with many flowers. Inside the order of service were photos of two landscapes Jane had painted of favourite places: one was in Scotland and one in Cornwall. The Rev Alice Goodall presided over the service. Various tributes were read by family members, as well as a poem written by Jane after the death of her husband, Christopher. Following the service everyone was invited to the Old Stables for refreshments and to share memories of Jane in her sunny garden.

There will be a fuller account of Jane's life in next month's magazine.

Rena Andrews

Stoke Lyne 100 Club – September Results

1 st Prize	Membership No 19	Alison Miller
2 nd Prize	Membership No 30	Nikki Popoola
3 rd Prize	Membership No 8	Craig Mitchell

Congratulations to all and spread the word for any newcomers who wish to join the 100 club for £3.00 per membership or even if current members want to increase the chances of winning each month by purchasing more membership numbers. There is no limit to the amount of membership numbers each person can hold. Contact me at janey@oxford-educational.co.uk for details on how to join.

Thank you to all members for their continued support. We need more members to increase the prize money. Please email me @ janey@oxford-educational.co.uk

Janey Poole

Treasurer

St Peter's Church PCC

A trip to Weymouth – 20th August

In August I joined a trip to Weymouth with the Hethe and District Derby and Joan Club. The journey down was really interesting as I was amazed at the size of the fields compared with around Stoke Lyne and also all the lovely different shades of green in the hedgerows, with lots of coloured berries on them. We arrived in Weymouth to brilliant sunshine and a very busy promenade, with lots of people on the beach and in the sea, also a fairground with rides for children and different amusements.

I joined up with three of my Stoke Lyne W.I. friends plus one other.



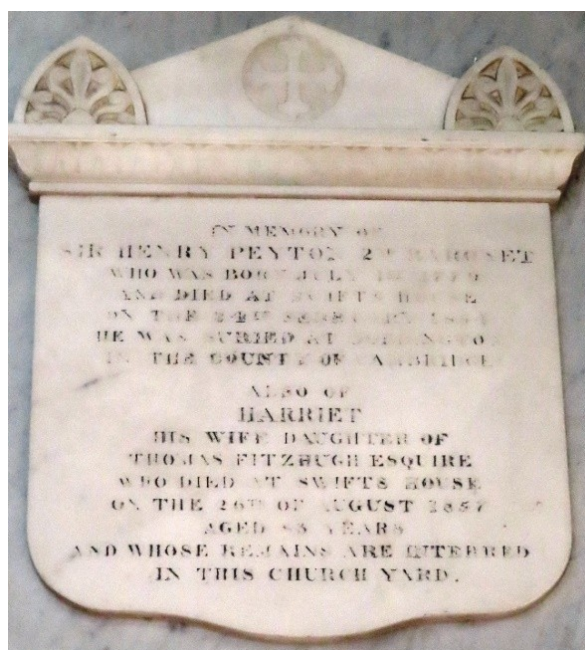
Photo taken by Sarah. L to R: Anne, Sheila, Rena and Annie.

There are lots of things to see and do in Weymouth: a walk to the harbour to see the lovely boats etc or a walk up the pedestrian lanes. We had a leisurely lunch and later lovely ☕. It was a really enjoyable day out with friends.

Rena Andrews

A LOOK AT THE PEYTON MEMORIALS WITHIN THE CHURCH – PART 1 SIR HENRY, 2ND BARONET (1779-1854) AND HIS WIFE HARRIET (1774-1857)

Like the other Peyton memorials this one is located on the chancel wall. It is the oldest of the memorials and commemorates the Henry who bought Swift's House from Sir Thomas Mostyn in 1830. His son was also called Henry so the Henry I'm writing about this month was often referred to as "Old Sir Henry".



Sir Henry's connection with this part of the world goes back to before he acquired Swift's House as prior to that he lived at Tusmore House and before that at Bucknell Manor. He would have been renting/leasing these houses from the Fermor and Trotman families who owned them. His entry in Dodd's "The Peerage and Baronetage and Knightage of Great Britain and Ireland" just gives his final residences, namely Swift's House, his London address of 19, Grosvenor Place, and the family seat at Doddington in Cambridgeshire.

I am unsure of the precise dates he resided at either Bucknell or Tusmore but the annual Oxfordshire "Game Duty" lists printed in the local press give some clues. The first year I found him listed at Bucknell was in 1807 and the last in 1815. I didn't find him on the list in 1816 but from 1817 onwards he appeared at Tusmore. He remained at Tusmore until Swift's House came on the market whereupon he made arrangements to dispose of some his own furniture and livestock:

Oxford Journal, 18th September 1830
TUSMORE HOUSE
Near BRACKLEY, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY T. PARRY

Without reserve, On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the 28th, 29th and 30th days of September, 1830, on the premises, at Tusmore House. – All the valuable LIVE and DEAD STOCK, with part of the neat HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, of Sir Henry Peyton, Bart. who is leaving his residence; comprising 10 Alderney and Yorkshire dairy cows in calf, sturks, and yearlings, 14 meaty cows and working oxen; upwards of 600 breeding ewes, theaves, shearhogs, and lambs, and 6 exceeding well bred rams; 7 superior cart mares and geldings, and 1 sucker; a valuable grey harness mare, by Don Cossack, 6 years old; a superior grey mare (accustomed to carry a lady); a grey gelding, good hunter and harness mare; a bay gelding, by Pioneer, out of a Grouse mare, a capital hunter; and a bay mare, 6 years old, by Pollyger; 120 pigs, of various descriptions, and a two-year-old Suffolk boar; a pair of beautiful black swans from New Holland, and a pair of white swans, poultry, &c, &c; - upwards of 120 tons of exceeding good hay, to be taken off the premises; 12 large ricks of wheat, barley, oats, beans, and peas; also a number of waggons, carts, ploughs, harrows, rolls, drills, and all kinds of implements in husbandry, &c.

The Household Furniture comprises mahogany fluted four-post, tent, and other bedsteads, with furnitures; fine feather beds, wool and hair mattresses, blankets, counterpanes, mahogany and satin wood dining and other tables, chairs, sofas; 2 grand piano fortes, by BROADWOOD; mahogany chest with drawers, swing glasses, Brussels carpets, &c.

The Sheep Stock are exceedingly well bred, in good condition, perfectly clean and sound, and well worth the attention of the public."

What was it that attracted Sir Henry to this area? Well, the same as that which attracted Sir Thomas Mostyn, namely that it was prime hunting country. In a feature on "Sir Thomas Mostyn's Country" by "Nimrod" (the *nom de plume* of the sports writer Charles James Apperley) printed in the Oxford University and City Herald, 4th May 1822, Old Sir Henry is described thus:

...Sir Henry Peyton, as I before observed, resides at Tusmore Park, in the centre of Sir Thomas's country, and goes as well as ever he did in his life. When riding to hounds, however, he does not shew that animation and pleasure that Lord Jersey appears to feel when things go right; but the moment the hounds are away, he presses down his hat over his face, and with a look which seems to imply, Go along, my boys – the faster the better – he is to be stopped by nothing that any other man can get over, and he is particularly quick at getting out of a crowd. Fence, brook, and timber are all the same to him, and he has a remarkably good eye to hounds.

He is also an every day rider; and certainly one of the pleasantest men in England to ride over a country with; for, so far from having a grain of jealousy about him. He will give a man every

assistance in his power, and seems pleased when he sees another going as well as himself. The Oxford men swear by him. He has long been their favourite pilot, though he has landed many of them, not exactly in "the haven where they would be." He is very good at a brook, but at times dangerous to follow for those who cannot swim.

Sir Henry's performances on the road are well known. – He is a first rate coachman, and like Camillus of old, ne er drives any but grey horses, of which he has generally ten in his stable, although a fashionable morning paper was so kind as to inform us the other day, that he was "taking the lead in Oxfordshire with his four bays." In his hunting stable, Sir Henry is well horsed, though his number seldom exceeds five. He is too good a judge to keep more than his country requires; and as he does not go from home to hunt, he seldom gets more than four days in the week, with the exception of now and then a day with the Duke of Grafton at Whistley-wood, or one or two other places. His hunters are very perfect, for he will have them so. He is a capital horseman, and, taking him in harness and out, no man can do more with a horse than he can ..."

It is as a coachman that Sir Henry is perhaps best known. Most of the press obituaries mention that he was a member of the "Four-in-Hand Club" in his younger days. It was he who began the collection of 87 whips which were on display in the "whip room" at Swift's House. You can read about the collection in an article in the Windsor Magazine of 1898 which is available online at:

<https://www.victorianvoices.net/ARTICLES/Windsor/Windsor1898B/W1898B-Whips.pdf>

The article states that he was mentioned in Thackeray's "The Four Georges" and also in the first verse of the popular song "The Tantivy Trot":

*"HERE'S to the heroes of four-in-hand fame,
Harrison, Peyton, and Ward, sir;"*

It also mentions that he was known as "*the father of coaching*," and was responsible for designing thumb ferrules for whips which at first were looked down upon until King George IV gave him a specially commissioned whip sporting such a mount -whereupon they became fashionable!

The cause of death was not specified in Sir Henry's obituaries other than it was after a "long illness". They also state that he served briefly as an MP for Cambridgeshire. The Cambridge Chronicle and Journal of 11th March 1854: gave a detailed account of the funeral:

"We stated last week that the funeral of the late Baronet took place at Doddington on the 3rd. He had expressed a wish that it should be unostentatious; and the same consistent propriety marked its commencement, as well as its close. It left Swift's House at an early hour for Bicester, where the shops were closed, it directly proceeded by the London and North-Western Railway to Peterborough, and arrived at the Wimblington station, on the Easter Counties line, exactly at a quarter to four, where a hearse and four, mourning coach and four, and a mourning coach and pair awaited its approach. The arrangements at the station were admirable, and the procession was soon arranged.

Eight of Sir Henry's most respectable tenants preceded the hearse on horseback, followed by the first mourning coach, in which were the present Baronet; his son, Algernon; his uncle, the Rector of Doddington; and Mr. Dawson, of Bicester, the medical attendant of the family. In the second coach followed Mr. Peach, for nearly forty years the upper servant of the late Sir Henry; Mr. Hitchman, of Bicester, who conducted the funeral,

At the parish church of Doddingtonthe corpse was met at the churchyard gates by the Rev. D. C. Horton, the senior curate and intimate friend of the rector, and Mr. Calver, his medical attendant. During the reading of the very appropriate psalms and the lesson, the body was placed in the nave, and then deposited in the vault at the extreme end of the large chancel, and the grave service concluded, the whole of which was read in the most impressive manner, and at its close the relatives and tenantry, the under-bearers and all connected with the ceremony, retired to the rector's house;

and the assemblage of people, computed at 1,200, passed through the door into the chancel, and departed through the chancel door.

It is impossible to speak too highly of the order and propriety that prevailed, and the respect and solemnity observed throughout ...”

Whilst I have not been able to find any portraits of Sir Henry online, he is depicted in an oil painting held by the National Trust at Calke Abbey in Derbyshire. The painting is called “*Changing Horses, the Exeter to London Mail Sir Henry Paton Bt leading the Horse*”, and is dated 1821 by William Henry Davis c1786-1865. You can see it here: <https://www.nationaltrustimages.org.uk/image/986802>

There is much less information available online about Sir Henry’s wife, Harriet. She was baptised in 1774 in London, the daughter of Thomas and Mary Fitzhugh. She married her first husband, James Bradshaw in 1792. James died aged 49 in 1797. Harriet and James produced one son, also called James, baptised in 1793. He became a Tory MP and in 1825 he married the celebrated singer and actress Miss Anna Maria Tree. Harriet married Sir Henry on 7th July 1803 at St George’s, Hanover-square in London. Their first son, Henry (who later became 3rd Baronet) was born in 1803. They had a second son, Algernon in 1805 and, it would appear, a third – see the report below from the Oxford University and City Herald of 21st February 1807:

On Tuesday last died, after a few days illness, Master E. Peyton, youngest son of Sir H. Petyon, Bart. at Bucknell, near Bicester, in this county.

Unfortunately I could not find any further information on either of these additional children. Reports of Harriet’s death were brief and to the point:

Banbury Advertiser, 3rd September 1857
DEATHS

Aug. 26, at Swift’s House, near Bicester, the Dowager Lady Peyton, aged 83 years.

She had suffered a fall at the end of July:

Bicester Herald of 15th August 1857:

THE VENERABLE DOWAGER LADY PEYTON, OF SWIFT’S HOUSE, BICESTER, slipped from a chair on the 29th ult., and fractured her left thigh. The sufferer, who is in her 84th year, is, we are sorry to hear, in a precarious state.

Finally, I was rather taken with this newspaper story mentioning Harriet, which to me conjured up images from portrayals of Jane Austen novels (coincidentally 1817 was the year Jane Austen died):

Northampton Mercury, 22nd March 1817
COTTESFORD RACE BALL.

ON THURSDAY the 27th of MARCH, 1817, there will be a DRESS BALL, at the CROWN INN, BRACKLEY, under the Direction of three Ladies, Patronesses, Mrs PIERREPONT, Evenley Hall. Lady PEYTON, Tusmore. Mrs. WILLES, Astrop House.

No person will be admitted, but with a Ticket from one of the Patronesses. Gentlemen’s Tickets, One Guinea; Ladies’ Tickets, Half a Guinea; Tea, Supper, and Music included Dancing to commence at Half-past Nine o’Clock. All Persons wishing for tickets, must apply before the 20th Instant.

Brenda Hazel

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

CHURCHWARDENS: Sarah Noujaim, 15 Cavendish Place, Stratton Audley
Penny Oakey, Grange Farm, Godington

Tel 07941 273145

Tel 01869 278778

TREASURER: Fai Li

Tel 07725 009838

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Maxine Ling

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Vacant (Stratton Audley); Sylvia List (Godington) editor@shelswellparishes.info

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 6th October 6.00 pm Compline, Stratton Audley

Sunday 13th October 10.45 am Morning Service, Stratton Audley

Sunday 27th October 9.15 am Holy Communion, Stratton Audley

Godington Church is open as usual for private prayer from 10 am - 4 pm Saturday and Sunday

LITTLE LAMBS BABY & TODDLER GROUP - NOW HALF AN HOUR LATER!

Little Lambs meets every Wednesday during termtime from 10.00am to 11.30am (**note the change of time!**) in Stratton Audley Church.

FOODBANK

Please don't forget the foodbank donation point in the church porch in Stratton Audley, supporting Bicester Foodbank! Thank you to everyone who donates. Particularly appreciated are tinned fruit, veg, soup and fish also coffee and hot chocolate. The Rector, Alice Goodall is 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

COFFEE, CAKE & CHAT

The Coffee, Cake and Chat was a huge success in Stratton Audley on Saturday 14th September. The aim of getting villagers together, whose paths do not usually cross worked well. It was lovely to see people engaging with each other across several tables...



...to raise an extraordinary £136.00! Thank you!

Huge thanks go to the marvellous bakers (eat your heart out Bake-off!) Becky Adams, Barbara Papenfus, Annette Jones, Dorothy Howarth, Jane Markham, Lindsey Smith, Penny Oakey and Nicky Lane. Thanks also, Stephanie and Stewart Hopkins for helping to put the church back to normal!

Sarah Noujaim



"It's either an appeal to youth culture or we can't afford to service the boiler for the Winter season"



'Little Lambs' Baby and Toddler Group

Stratton Audley Church

Wednesdays 10am - 11.30am

(Term Time)

Come & join us! Play, music and stories.
Tea, coffee and snacks for adults and children

Meet new families from the local area.

If you'd like more details or to be added to our regular email circulation then please email admin@shelswellparishes.info

The Last Word

For young and young at heart Readers!

"Before you marry a person, you should at least make them use a computer with a slow internet connection to find out who they really are."

(Will Ferrell)



Care for Creation

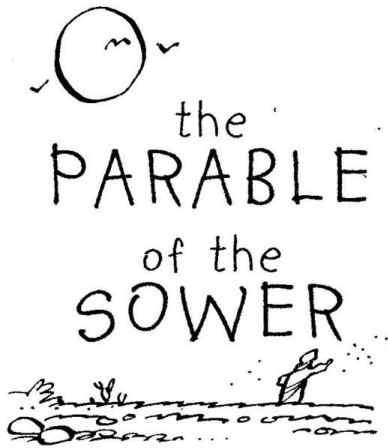
António Guterres (United Nations Secretary-General) has said that we're at 'Code red for humanity: the alarm bells are deafening, and the evidence is irrefutable: greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel burning and deforestation are choking our planet and putting billions of people at immediate risk.'

At this time of Creationtide, how are we as Christians to respond to these climate concerns?

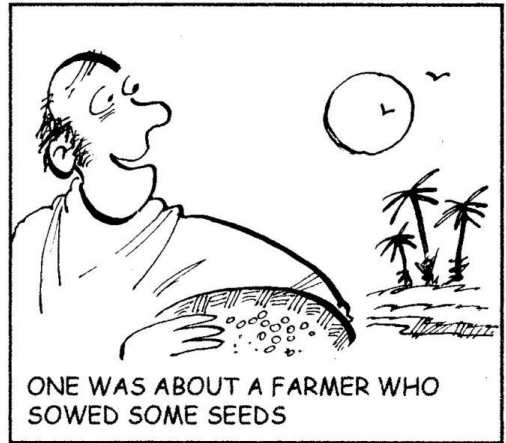
- (a) Join Extinction Rebellion - you've got to do something
- (b) There is no Planet B. God only gave us one planet. Limit yourself to no more than five new garments a year and give up as many oil based products as you can
- (c) Pay a voluntary fee to bury some carbon in the ground to offset your air ticket for the trip of a lifetime to New Zealand - we've all got to do our bit.
- (d) Read both sides of the debate and make up your own mind whether the evidence is irrefutable or not.
- (e) You don't know much about carbon but you recognise scaremongering when you see it; turn off the television and go out into nature to appreciate God's beautiful creation
- (f) Put your arms around a tree and say sorry

Which are you?

(adapted from an article in Parish Pump)



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



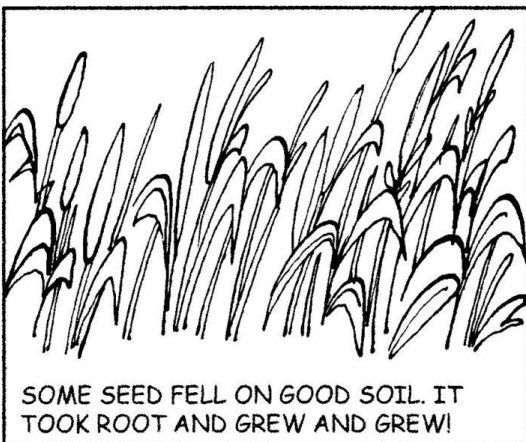
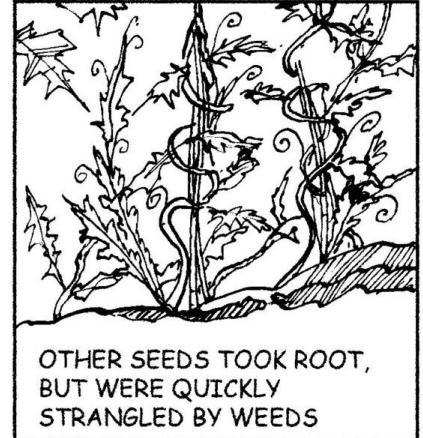
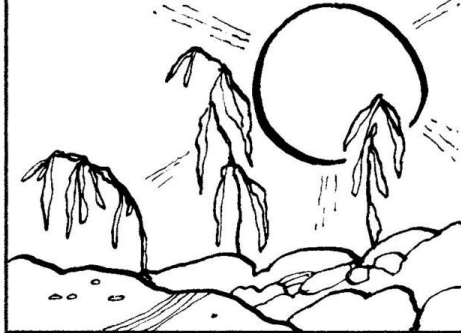
MOST FARMERS DIDN'T BURY THEIR
SEEDS IN THE GROUND. INSTEAD THEY
THREW THEM IN THE AIR!



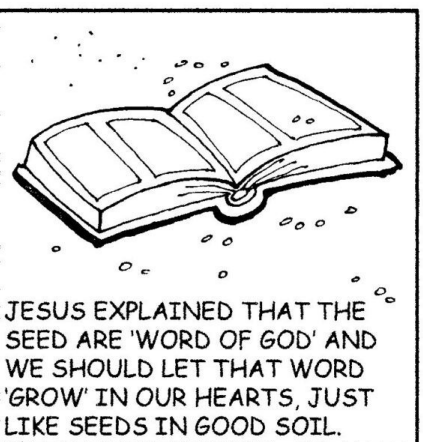
THE FARMER HOPED THEY WOULD TAKE ROOT JUST
WHERE THEY LANDED

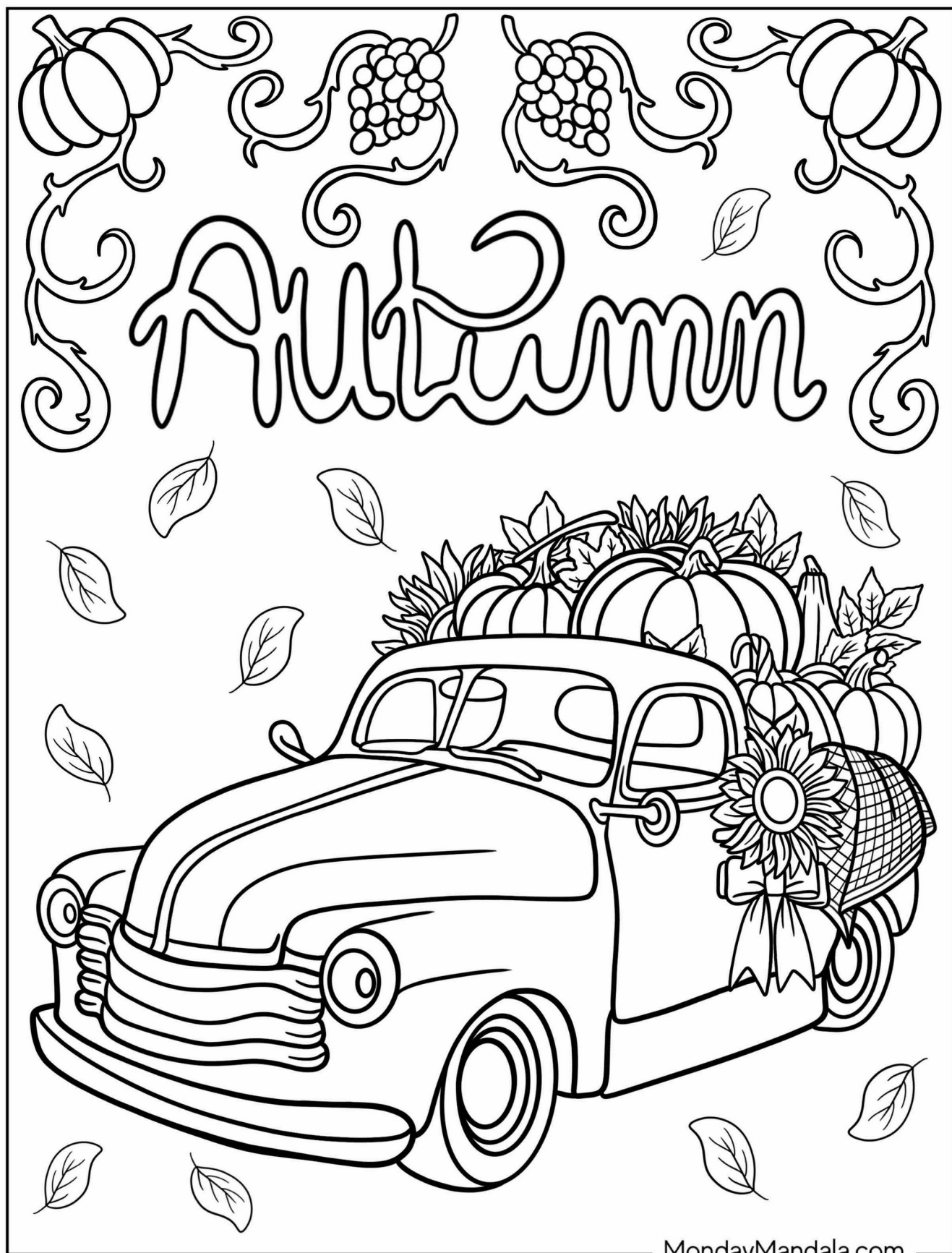


SOME SEED FELL ON ROCKS, BUT
THE PLANTS DIED WHEN THE HOT
SUN SHONE DOWN



SOON THERE WAS A
FINE FIELD OF
WHEAT!





Book Review

Living in a Dangerous World – Moving from Fear to Faith

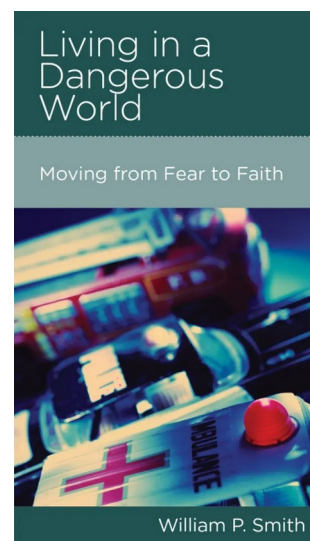
By William P Smith, New Growth Press, £2.30

Everyone is afraid of something. But excessive fear harms our ability to follow God, as we spend more effort trying to address our fear than in listening to God.

Fear makes people easier to manipulate as fearful people become less rational. In an age of mass media - television, radio, newspapers, internet - there is no shortage of people ready to stoke and feed off the fears of others.

So in order to come closer to God, we must recognise and conquer fears.

The author argues that our faith should change our strategies for dealing with fear. He offers practical guidance on how to exchange fear for faith by learning to find security in our relationship with an all-sufficient, unchanging God.



The Names we love to give our Homes

Many people name their homes, and there is certainly a dizzying variety of names out there. But now a new study has found that nearly all the most common property names have something to do with nature. And in Britain, the most popular house name of all is short and sweet: 'The Cottage'. Next in line? 'Rose Cottage'.



Sketch by Prawny via Pixabay

Other popular house names include Ivy Cottage, Garden Cottage, Orchard Cottage, Yew Tree Cottage, The Barn, The Stables, Orchard House, The Lodge and The Granary.

Dr Lynn Robson, Fellow in English at Regent's Park College, Oxford said the trend seems "to reflect a nostalgia for a rural past." She may be right, but there is no doubt that 'Rose Cottage' rolls off the tongue far more easily than for example 'Bus Stop House' or 'Tarmac Driveway Cottage'. If it is a new building, the neighbours will call it 'The New House' for at least forty years anyway!

The survey was carried out by Admiral Home Insurance.





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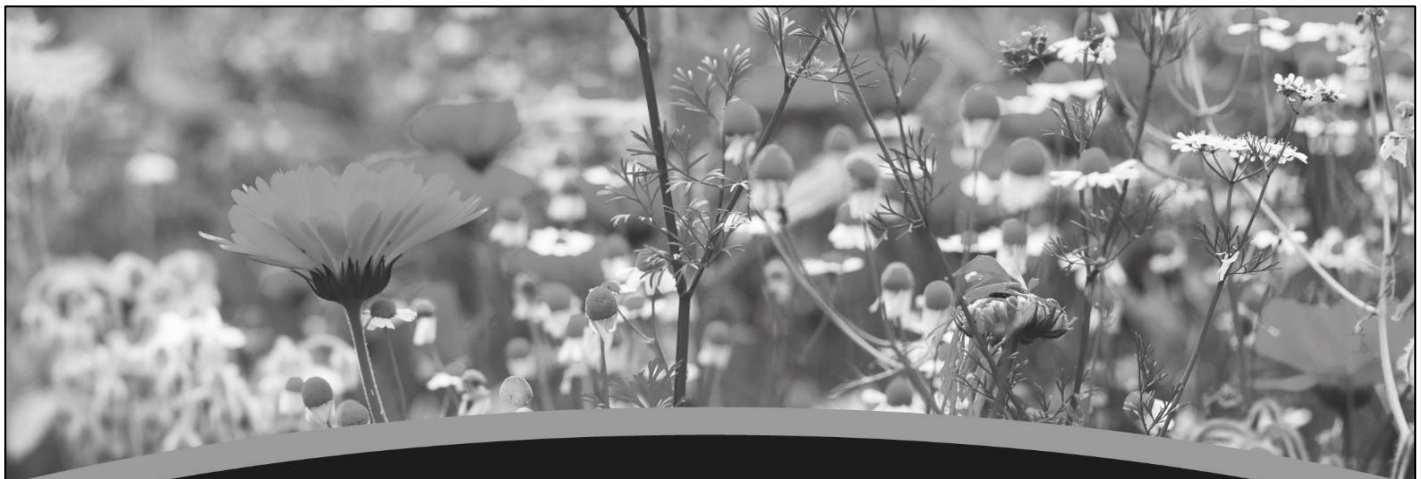
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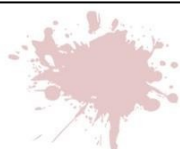
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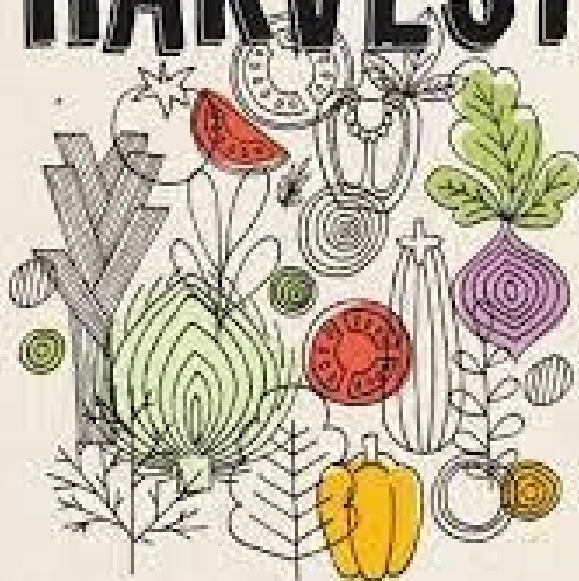
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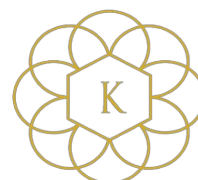


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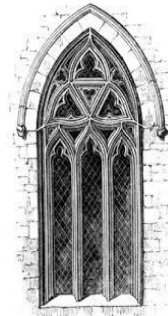
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**SHELSWELL GROUP SERVICES: OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2024**  
 CW: 'Common Worship modern language service    BCP: 'Book of Common Prayer' traditional language service

| DATE     | 6 <sup>th</sup> October<br>19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity   | 13 <sup>th</sup> October<br>20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity | 20 <sup>th</sup> October<br>21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity | 27 <sup>th</sup> October<br>Last Sunday after Trinity                | 3 <sup>rd</sup> November<br>All Saints' Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ALTAR    | Green                                                              | Green                                                             | Green                                                             | Green                                                                | White                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 8.00 am  |                                                                    |                                                                   |                                                                   | Holy Communion<br>(BCP)<br>FINMERE AG                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 9.15 am  | 9.15am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>HARDWICK<br>AG      | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>HETHE<br>AG                  | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>FINMERE<br>AM                | 9.15am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>STRATTON AUDLEY<br>SM | 11am<br><br>Celebration Service of<br>Holy Communion marking the<br>50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Penny's<br>licensing as a Lay Reader<br><br>Guest Speaker:<br>Rev'd Dr Helen Paynter of<br>Bristol Baptist College<br><br>Lunch to follow<br>Waterloo Farm<br>Fringford<br>OX27 8RH |
| 10.45 am | 10am<br>'Food for Thought'<br>Pet Service<br>STOKE LYNE<br>Lay-led | Morning Service<br>STRATTON AUDLEY<br>SM                          | 10.45am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>FRINGFORD<br>LV   | 9.30am<br>Morning Service<br>HETHE<br>Lay led                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|          | 10.45am<br>Morning Service<br>FRINGFORD<br>AM                      | 11am<br>Harvest Festival<br>MIXBURY<br>PV                         | 10.45am<br>Harvest Festival<br>COTTISFORD<br>SM                   | 10.45am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>STOKE LYNE<br>AM     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 6.00 pm  | Compline<br>STRATTON AUDLEY<br>PV                                  | Evening Communion<br>STOKE LYNE<br>AM                             | 4pm<br>'Fun at Four'<br>STOKE LYNE<br>AG                          | 'Commemoration of the<br>Departed'<br>STOKE LYNE<br>PV/AG            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

AG: Revd Alice Goodall    AM: Revd Alex Mahlava    SM: Revd Sam Mortimer    LV: Revd Liz Walters    PV: Mrs Penny Wood (LLM)