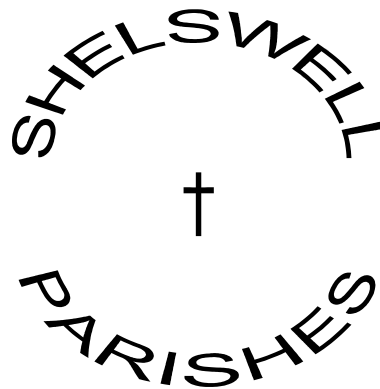


Shelswell News

The magazine of the Shelswell Group of Churches

Cottisford
Fringford
Hardwick
Mixbury
Stoke Lyne



Finnmere
Godington
Hethe
Newton Purcell
Stratton Audley



c. thecatholickid.com

EASTER

April 2025

£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 May edition of Shelswell News

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

Correspondents to Editor: **Midday on Sunday 13th April** 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 .

Saying Please, Sorry, Ouch, Wow

..... and Saying Nothing at All



Our small home group has been looking at a Lent Course from the Diocese of Lincoln entitled 'Teach us to Pray'. Prayer is a mystery that deepens with experience and understanding. The course explores prayer through the lens of some of the simplest things we learn to say: **please**; **sorry**; **ouch**; and **wow**.

A final session looks at the kind of prayer in which **nothing** at all is said.

Saying Please

The Bible encourages us to ask for things for ourselves, also for other people and situations. But few Christians would claim that every time they ask God for something in prayer, they receive exactly what they have requested! The most important insight comes from a phrase in the Lord's Prayer, 'thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven'. 'Please' prayers - petitions and intercessions - attempt to tune in to God and pray in accordance with God's will.



Saying Sorry



Scripture teaches that that no one is without sin, that we need to confess our sins to God, and that if we do confess our sins God will forgive us (1 John 1.8-9). During Lent the focus for Christians is on turning away from wrongdoing and seeking to follow Jesus more faithfully.

However, receiving God's forgiveness does not take away our responsibility to seek others' forgiveness for the wrong things we do to each other.

Saying Ouch

Sometimes the only thing we can bring to prayer is our pain. Expressing pain to God in prayer is sometimes called lamentation. Many of the Psalms come from a place of deep suffering and lamentation. On Good Friday we recall how Jesus took words from Psalm 22.1 as his own when he cried out on the cross, 'my God, why have you forsaken me?'



Saying Wow!



There are many encouragements in Scripture to praise God, for example, Psalm 150.2,6: 'Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!'

At Easter Christians praise God for the resurrection of Jesus, the ultimate reason for saying 'wow!'. Hymns are particularly important in praise and thanksgiving. St Augustine observed that music joins the prayer of the mind to the prayer of the heart. At Easter hymns are full of alleluias. (Alleluia means 'God be praised'.)

Saying Nothing

Some Christian groups practice silent prayer when they come together for worship. By contrast Anglican worship is 'word-centered' so it is sometimes a struggle to make space for silent contemplation. Contemplation involves stilling oneself to receive what God has to say and give, rather than over-filling prayers with words, so that God can't get a word in edgewise!



A helpful verse is Romans 8.26, 'The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.'

These brief highlights do not do the course justice. The full course can be found at:

<https://learn.lincoln.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Diocese-of-Lincoln-Lent-Course-2025.pdf>. It really is worth a look.

Liz Welters, Associate Minister

BIBLE READINGS



Sunday 6 th April	5 th Sunday of Lent	Isaiah 43 v16-21 Philippians 3 v4b-14 John 12 v1-8
Sunday 13 th April	Palm Sunday	Isaiah 50 v4-9a Philippians 2 v5-11 Luke 19 v28-40
Sunday 20 th April	Easter Day	Acts 10 v34-43 1 Corinthians 15 v19-26 John 20 v1-18 <i>or</i> Luke 24 v1-12
Sunday 27 th April	2 nd Sunday of Easter	Acts 5 v27-32 Revelation 1 v4-8 John 20 v19-31

MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION

AND SOUP LUNCH

Thursday 3rd April

12 noon

Stoke Lyne Church



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

Food for Thought - Sunday 16th March

Thank you to Ali for preparing our service, which provided us with plenty to think about on the second Sunday of Lent, as we prepare ourselves for Easter. We were encouraged to understand the words of Luke Chapter 13, where Jesus looks after his people as a hen looks after her chicks, and also how we need to be wary of foxes! We had a good discussion where examples from the news and our own lives were discussed.

There will be no Food for Thought service in April because the third Sunday is Easter Sunday. We look forward to our next service on the 17th of May at 10am. Please come along for breakfast from 10am and an informal service.

Kelly Holden-White

LENT STUDY SESSIONS

Wild Bright Hope - Wednesday evenings in Lent

Wednesday 2nd April
Wednesday 9th April
Wednesday 16th April



7.30 – 8.30 pm, at Finmere Rectory. Contact: Alice (01280 848192 / alicegoodall313@gmail.com)



"Who is my Neighbour?" Art and the Bible Story

Thursday 3rd April
Thursday 10th April.

Contact: Penny 01869-277310 or penelope.wood@btopenworld.com

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday 17th April

There are two celebrations of the Last Supper in the Benefice this year:

Holy Communion

11 am at Hethe

"Do this in remembrance of me"

Agape Meal - 7 pm at Stratton Audley

Come and join us as we share a meal together, celebrate the community we experience with each other, and recall the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his disciples.

An Agape is not a sacrament, like the Eucharist or Lord's Supper. But it stands in a long tradition of meals and shared fellowship: Jesus ate with his disciples, and fellowship meals were a regular feature in the early church.



Our Agape meal will include:

- readings, prayers and hymns
- sharing bread and wine
- a two course meal (definitely no need to eat before you come!)

It promises to be an excellent occasion: enjoyable and thought provoking.

DO COME ALONG – ALL VERY WELCOME!

No charge, but donations towards the cost of the meal most welcome.

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday 18th April



11 am
All-age Service - Walking with Jesus (see below)
STOKE LYNE

2pm
Last Hour on the Cross
COTTISFORD

6pm
Devotional Service with Shelswell Group Choir
HARDWICK

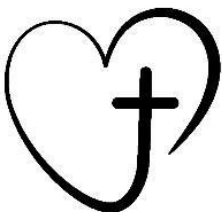
WALKING WITH JESUS

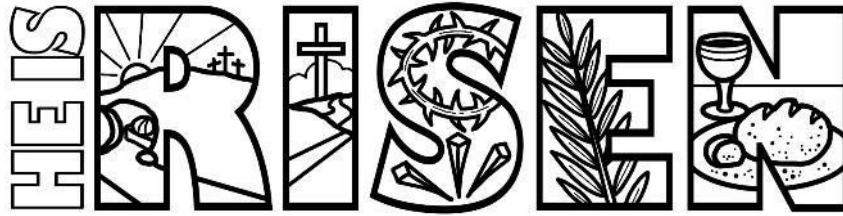
For the first time in forever and a day, there will not be a Children's Workshop on Good Friday. Instead there will be a service at 11 am in and around Stoke Lyne church aimed at children and their families to help us think about Good Friday.

Assuming it's not raining, we will start off in the churchyard thinking about what it must have been like to be in Jerusalem on Good Friday, and then we will move through some different activities, thinking about what happened to Jesus that day and why it matters to us.

The service will last about 40 minutes, and will end up with hot cross buns in the church. Because we couldn't do an event without food!

Please do come along. Alice





EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday 20th April

Holy Communion Services in all our churches -
check your village section or the back page to find the time for your church's service!

As the Easter story is rehearsed again this month, you may notice that there is one name that frequently occurs. It is that of the 'other' Mary – not the mother of Jesus, but Mary of Magdalene, who stood by her at the cross and became the first person actually to meet the risen Christ.

That's quite a record for a woman who, the Gospels tell us, had been delivered by Jesus from 'seven devils' – New Testament language for some dark and horrible affliction of body, mind or spirit. As a result, her devotion to Him was total and her grief at His death overwhelming.

So the two Marys stood together at the cross, the Blessed Virgin and the woman rescued from who knows what darkness and despair.

The second great moment for Mary Magdalene was as unexpected as it was momentous. She had gone with other women to the tomb of Jesus and found it empty. An angelic figure told them that Jesus was not there, He had risen – and the others drifted off.

But Mary stayed, reluctant to leave it like that. She became aware of a man nearby, whom she took to be the gardener. She explained to him that the body of 'her Lord' had been taken away and she didn't know where to find Him.

The man simply said her name 'Mary' and she instantly realised it *was* Jesus. She made to hug Him, but He told her not to touch Him because His resurrection was not yet complete. She was, however, to go to the disciples and tell them she had met Him. She did – but they wouldn't believe her.

Her words – 'I have seen the Lord' – echo down the centuries, the very beating heart of the Christian gospel.
from Parish Pump



Have you filled in a new electoral roll form? You need to do it before 4th April...

And don't forget to come along to the APCM and show your support!

JOINT ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

The parishes of the Shelswell Benefice will be holding one joint Annual Meeting this year on

Monday 28th April in Stoke Lyne Parish Church starting at 7.30pm.

Anyone from across our parishes is welcome to attend this meeting, but those on church electoral rolls are particularly encouraged to come along to hear about the work of the church over the last year and support the church officers.

PLEASE FILL IN A NEW ELECTORAL ROLL FORM!

This year, the electoral rolls have to be completely revised, and electoral rolls have to be completely revised this year so, even if you were on it already, you will need to rejoin. Forms are available in churches or please contact Becky at The Rectory on 01280 848192 or email admin@shelswellparishes.info Applications will need to be made by Friday 4th April so that the revised rolls can be published for the required period ahead of the meeting.

Joining the church electoral roll is an important way of showing your support for your local church, and means that you are eligible to vote at the APCM

ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS

The dates of the remaining Annual Parish Meetings where the Churchwardens are appointed are:

Fringford	Sunday 6 th April (following the 10.45 am service)
Hethe	Sunday 13 th April (following the 9.15am service)
Newton Purcell	Sunday 6 th April (following the 9.15am service)

All meetings are duly advertised via notices in church porches.

Midweek Communion

Wednesday, 5th March at St Peter's Church, Stoke Lyne

This service is usually on a Thursday but the date was changed to Wednesday for the March service to coincide with the beginning of Lent. Revd Liz Welters welcomed all to the service which she led assisted by Revd Alice Goodall.

She began with prayers for the Benefice and leaders around the world, for countries who have flooding, drought, or famine, or suffering oppression. We then thought about people we know who are grieving for the loss of a loved one, or some who are sick.

The Gospel reading was from Matthew chapter 6 read by Rena Andrews. Being the beginning of Lent it was about fasting. There are different kinds of fasting, what do you give up? Chocolate, cakes, biscuits, your favourite drink be it alcohol or soft drinks. Perhaps you will put your mobile phone away for a few days or switch off your favourite TV programme. This is also a time when some people decide to fast by going on a diet. Jesus fasted for 40 days and nights. A fast is relaxed on the 4th Sunday in Lent, known as Refreshment Sunday, or Mothering Sunday.

Because this was Ash Wednesday Liz had prepared the Ash for putting a cross on everyone's brow. We then had communion assisted by Alice after which we retired to tables set for lunch, to a choice of soups and bread rolls, followed by puddings and cakes tea/coffee.

Thank you to the Ministry team for the service, also for providing the food and anyone else involved in assisting.

Rena Andrews



Lighthouse Shelswell

Wonderful news! We now have enough group leaders to offer places to 60 children again this year! And we have a full team of teenage helpers! Thank you to everyone who has already signed up.

Volunteers' Registration

We could still do with some more adults to help the group leaders, assist with craft, sport and drama activities, and help with registration.

Please contact me if you want to discuss further, or go to the online form at <https://signmeup.org.uk/>

Children's Registration opens on 1st May – first come, first served.

Alice. (01280 848192 / alicegoodall313@gmail.com)



Spiritual Care for Older People



Seven people attended the course on 'Spiritual Care for Older People' at Emmanuel Church, Bicester which was ably facilitated by the Ksenija Jackson, the Deanery administrator. The eight sessions included Understanding the Ageing Journey, Good Communication, Dementia, Grief and Loss, and Self Care. These topics were covered through a mixture of videos, biblical reflections, discussion and role play – and homework.

A New Home and a New Life was a particularly enlightening session which looked at the adjustments people face as lose their independence and need to go into a care home or other unfamiliar setting.

Spiritual care is not necessarily focussed on organised religion, rather on what gives people hope and meaning now and into the future. Such things may include art, music and the natural environment. The importance of Spiritual Carers walking alongside and listening to older people was emphasised. The whole course was challenging, informative and enjoyable.

Liz Welters

Make a difference

The Girls Primary School in Wulu, South Sudan has five dedicated teachers. The money donated by us here in the Shelswell Benefice helps to give the teachers an incentive of 20 USD a month – currently £15.42 - to supplement the somewhat erratic pay they receive from the South Sudan Government.

This enables them to stay in their post, encourages them in their work, increases their commitment to the school and improves the quality of teaching and learning. And this helps Bishop Zechariah achieve his aim of improving the standard of girls' education in Wulu, with its impact on reducing rates of child marriage and enabling more children to receive an education regardless of gender.

Investing in girls' education transforms communities, countries and the entire world' (Unicef). It leads to a rise in national growth rates and declines in child marriage rates, child and maternal mortality. It contributes to more stable, resilient societies that give all individuals – including boys and men – the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

It is absolutely worth doing!

So this Lent, whether you have been inspired by Father Alex talking about the three pillars of Lent (prayer, fasting and almsgiving), whether you have been challenged by Liz to do a 'Daniel Fast' and donate the money you would have spent on rich luxury foods to a good cause, or whether you would just like to do what you can to help the young girls in Wulu, please think about making a donation to the Girls Primary School.

How to do this?

You could use the link or QR code below.

<https://givealittle.co/c/2sh1JFco3mNKcx5E1udYNs>



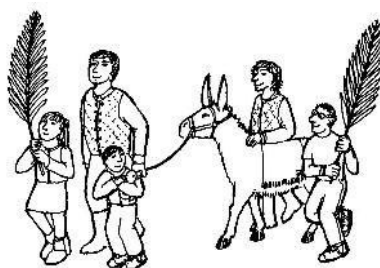
You could transfer your donation to the Benefice Bank Account with the reference 'Wulu'

(Bank – Lloyds, sort code 30-91-39, account number 00261525, account name Shelswell Group of Churches)

You could put some cash into a good old fashioned envelope marked 'Wulu' and hand it to one of the ministry team.

And thank you for helping to make a difference.

Alice



Bicester and Islip Deanery

Pilgrim Paths

Bicester Foraging Circular Walk

Saturday 3rd May, 3:00pm

Distance: 1 – 1.5 miles



You are warmly invited to join Bicester and Islip Deanery's first Pilgrim Paths foraging community walk.

This will be a Pilgrim Paths walk with a twist where we will be learning about the plants in our local area that God provides.

It will be a walk around the Bure Park Nature Reserve and some of the attached footpaths, stopping as we go to learn about some plants and their uses, as well as some more dangerous ones to look out for.

Meet at Emmanuel Church Bicester.

There will be tea and a period of reflection at the end of the walk.

Parking is available at the church

Further information from Nigel Walton:

BicIslip.PilgrimPaths@gmail.com

FIND US ON FACEBOOK at [BICESTER AND ISLIP DEANERY PILGRIM PATHS](#)

REGISTRY

Funerals

Michael COTTEE

19th March 1951 – 11th January 2025

St Michael and All Angels, Finmere

We were very lucky with the weather on Monday 24th February as we met to give thanks for the life of Mike Cottee. It was more or less dry before the service and when we went out into the churchyard, but whilst we were in the church it poured!

Several people have said to Jane what a cheerful chap Mike was. Even though with all his health problems he still did maintain a happy demeanour. As Jane observed, he even enjoyed Tony Blackburn's corny jokes on his Radio Two 1960's show!

Jane first met Mike on the Isle of Wight not long after he moved there for work in the Prison Service. He came from North Devon, a place of which he was very fond. Many of his family still live in the south west, and although it was difficult for them to travel to Finmere for the celebration of Mike's life, they were remembering Mike whilst the service was happening.



Mike and Jane were married in 1979 and after 8 years on the island, Mike went for promotion. He was sent to Grendon Underwood, about as far as you can get from the sea in the UK. We had not long got a black labrador puppy aged just 6 weeks. So they packed up everything and came to Finmere with William the dog.

After a few years, Mike got another promotion and moved to Woodhill, a brand new establishment in Milton Keynes. Jane recently learnt from a good friend of Mike's at Woodhill that he was a very popular officer. The job, though, was very stressful and took its toll on his health.

Mike eventually left the Prison Service after 28 years in total, and went on to a much less taxing job with the Office of National Statistics. He worked there for several years and met some very interesting people. He decided to retire just 10 years ago.

Mike loved his cars. Amongst the cars he bought was a MG Maestro in 1983 which was one of the first cars that spoke to you – it used to say, very politely, 'please fasten your seat belt' and 'handbrake on', and many other irritating reminders!

Mike was fantastic at DIY and decorating, and could turn his hand to most things. He also loved making bread and soups.

Mike died unexpectedly on 11th January, just 73 years old, a much loved and well respected man.

The funeral was held in Finmere Church. In recognition of Mike's love of cars, 'Geronimo's Cadillac' by The Feast of Fiddles was played at the start of the service – although Mike had sadly never owned a Cadillac. There were two hymns: 'Amazing grace' and 'Praise my soul the king of heaven'. Jane gave the obituary, and Mike's niece Melissa read the poem by Henry Scott-Holland 'Death is nothing at all'. Phillip Rushforth read the Bible Reading: Ecclesiastes 3: 1 – 8: 'for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven'. After the address given by Rev Alice Goodall and the prayers we went out into the churchyard to the music of The Chieftains.

After the service, everyone was invited to the Village Hall for refreshments and to share memories of Mike. He will be sadly missed by all his friends and family, and our thoughts and prayers are with Jane at this difficult time.



Marjorie Phyllis Davis
21st January 1926 – 25th January 2025
St Mary the Virgin, Hardwick

Marjorie Phyllis Davis was born on January 21st 1926 to Frederick and Lillian Thompson in Culworth near Brackley.

She was raised in a large family, consisting of five brothers and two sisters, her mother passing away when Marjorie was only 10 years old, which meant she had to help out an awful lot with the younger siblings at home. Life was pretty tough.



Her father remarried to Amy and together they had five more children, four boys and a girl. They left Culworth and moved to Hilton Road, Banbury. Whilst in Banbury, Marjorie became a seamstress and worked at Spencers, the corset factory.

During the war Marjorie was a woman's volunteer spending time as a firewatcher. Also she would stand on the station platform handing out tea to the soldiers coming in on the trains.

Marjorie met Ray in Banbury where he was lodging. They married at St Mary's church in Banbury on 22nd March 1952. After their wedding they lived at Tusmore Park where Ray found work as an Estate Carpenter and Maintenance man, staying there till well after their retirement.

Marjorie and Ray had three children, the late Leslie and Christopher, and their daughter Linda. They went on to have five grandchildren and nine great grandchildren which they enjoyed tremendously. Great times were had by all when the family got together for birthdays, BBQs and so on. Marjorie was immensely proud of all her family; their photos were on display in her sitting room, and she loved to relate who they all were and what they were up to.

Marjorie worked in the Market Gardens that were at Tusmore Park then, picking fruit and making up flower bouquets for sale at the Oxford covered market. When that closed down she worked in the Clock House at Tusmore for Tim and Cath Collins. Later when the estate was sold to Mr and Mrs Said, she worked in the big house. She was always busy. Even when the cricket was at Tusmore she cleaned and got the pavilion ready for the matches. Marjorie loved her life at Tusmore and always spoke very highly of both the Collins and Mr and Mrs Said. A familiar refrain for her was 'happy memories!'.

As a tribute to her brother, who died in the second world war, together with his friend and several of their friends, Marjorie spent 50 or more years collecting for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, walking round the estate with her tray of poppies and collecting box, which she enjoyed. In later years her good friend and neighbour Wendy would accompany her on her trips around the estate.

Another pastime was her membership with the Women's Institute, which was held in the early years at Tusmore in the Cricket Pavilion. Then it moved to Stoke Lyne. She made lots of good friends there, and they would go on bus trips and outings which she really enjoyed. It was fitting that the Bible Reading at her funeral, Ecclesiastes 3: 1 – 8, was read by Rena Andrews, the last chair of Stoke Lyne WI.

In later years in 2020, Marjorie got a little poorly and left Tusmore for the last time to go into Brackley Fields Care Home. She soon made herself at home there, making lots of new friends, enjoying all the activities and the quizzes, especially the singing! Her favourite was always All things Bright and Beautiful, which any of the staff will tell you she would burst into song with at any opportunity. She stayed there until her passing on 25th January. Her family are most grateful for the care and attention she received at Brackley Fields.

Marjorie was a woman of faith. She used to go to church in Stoke Lyne in earlier years, and for many years she cleaned the windows in Hardwick church. She enjoyed watching Songs of Praise and when at Brackley Fields helped organise a service of Holy Communion which she regularly attended. Her faith was reflected in the hymns: not just All things Bright and Beautiful, but also 'The Old Rugged Cross' and 'Morning has broken', and we also said Psalm 23 together: 'The Lord is my shepherd'.

continued overleaf

Marjorie was laid to rest in the churchyard at Hardwick with her husband Ray and next to so many of her friends from Tusmore. The sun was shining and the spring flowers were very evident, very fitting for someone who, in spite of going through some very tough times in life, generally managed to be so positive. A strong and resilient lady, and someone who was warm and sociable, it's a shame she didn't make her 100th birthday, but 99 is pretty good going, and she clearly lived a good and full life. She will be sadly missed by all her friends and family, and our thoughts and prayers are with them.



Phyllis Peggy White

26 August 1926 – 19 January 2025

St Michael & All Angels, Newton Purcell

Peggy was born in 1926, a year that marked both the birth of Queen Elizabeth II and a period of great change in the UK. She arrived as the fourth of eight children in a modest three-bedroom house on Chadwick Street in Terriers.

Peggy's early life was grounded in family, love and a strong sense of resilience. Her parents, Leslie and May were firm but kind and loving. Leslie, who carried the physical toll of having been gassed during the Great War, was someone Peggy adored and he always had a soft spot for her, affectionately nicknaming her 'Top'. May was an exceptional cook who (with great thanks from all who were fortunate enough to taste Peggy's cooking) passed her skills down to Peggy. Even with eight children in the house, life was a happy existence.

Peggy had a knack for responsibility from a young age, often helping to care for her siblings. She was close to her sister Doreen who worked at Harrison's stamp factory with her and she loved dancing - often heading out with her sister Beryll, full of energy and the spirit of the times.

During the second world war, Peggy's resilience was evident. She was at home in Terriers when a V1 rocket dropped behind the church, shattering all the windows in the house. Despite the carnage, Peggy remained unharmed - perhaps an early sign of her quiet strength.

Peggy was the mother of six children: Barry, Chris, Sandra, Gillian, Debbie and Heather. She met her husband to be, Gordon at school, though he didn't immediately impress her. That changed at a local dance, when one can only assume that Gordon wooed her with some exotic dance moves, and they realised they were far more compatible than she'd first thought. It wasn't long before Peggy was found perched in the sidecar of Gordon's motorcycle, embracing what we can only imagine was a mixture of romance and sheer terror. Gordon had actually been part of Peggy's life before they were even together - his family used to deliver firewood and coal to Peggy's house long before romance was on the cards. Perhaps fate was already at work, warming the home of his future wife before he even realised it.

Family was everything to Peggy. She was the centre of her household - a loving mother, a source of wisdom and an outstanding cook. Her culinary prowess became the stuff of legend from her world class scrambled eggs to her apple pies and roasts. Peggy was an exceptional knitter, providing lovingly crafted items for her family. She was also a good singer and her singing would fill the home each morning. She could hum along to every tune on the radio, making the start of each day a little brighter.

Peggy and Gordon's partnership continued for over 70 years and was marked with a congratulatory letter from the Queen herself. When Gordon sadly passed away, Peggy placed her hand on his coffin and said, "I'll see you soon," a moment that showed her deep love and dedication to Gordon. She went on to live for another eight years.

A brilliant listener, Peggy was a rare combination of grace, elegance and humour. She offered advice that was as practical as it was kind and she could turn even the smallest family gathering into an event. Her great-grandchildren fondly called her Super Nan and she had a knack for making everyone feel special, whether through her words, her cooking or her delightful quirks.

Peggy had a soft spot for scampi and chips and a deep love for the scent of lavender - a fragrance that perfectly captured her warmth and calming presence. She also had a rather alarming fondness for vinegar which she would

happily drink neat on occasion. This might explain her remarkable constitution. When many of her younger relatives spent a week in bed recovering from covid Peggy shrugged it off in a mere few hours at the age of 95.

Her sense of adventure never left her even in her later years. She conquered her fear of flying in her nineties, embarking on holidays to Las Palmas. When Heather fell ill in America, she didn't hesitate to cross the Atlantic to be by her side. She spent many months lovingly caring for her daughter before her untimely passing, and continued to nurture an incredible bond with Heather's partner and children Max, Mark and Beth in the years that followed.

In true Peggy fashion however, her determination to support her family led to some unexpected adventures - specifically with US customs. After unintentionally breaking visa regulations, Peggy in her seventies became something of a Public Enemy Number 1 in America - a wanted lady! She would regularly be subjected to lengthy interrogations. Clearly, the officials had mistaken her sweet and charming demeanor for something more sinister. But Nan didn't crack under the pressure and continued to smuggle Percy Pigs freely across the border for many years.

As we say goodbye, let us remember Peggy as she was, singing and humming cheerfully in her kitchen, expertly crafting her famous scrambled eggs, being an incredible listener and sharing her love with those around her. She taught us that family is everything, that laughter is essential and that life's challenges can always be shared with kindness, love and perhaps a dash of vinegar.

Peggy, may you rest in peace, reunited with Gordon, Heather and all the loved ones who went before you. We'll carry your warmth, humour and strength with us always.



Club News



SHELSWELL WI



The members of the Shelswell WI met on Thursday 6 March for their AGM. We welcomed Hilary Dix from Oxfordshire Federation as our Teller for the evening. The evening started with the official business, being led by Lesley with the minutes from the previous year and the Presidents report. Sandra followed with the yearly Treasurers report.

Lesley had already informed the members that it was her intention to step down from the committee and her role as President. One of our members Diane offered to join the committee and a vote followed for the role of President. The members elected Sandra who duly accepted the role.

Our thanks were given to the committee who had worked tirelessly over the past year, especially Lesley who had taken on both the roles of President and Secretary (no mean feat). Thanks also go to those members who have taken on other responsibilities to help lighten the load of the committee.

The evening concluded with Cheese, wine and games.

In April we look forward to hearing from Julia Sorrell and her talk Restoring A Home with Attitude.

May sees us meet at the Butchers Arms in Fringford for an evening of Aunt Sally.

Shelswell WI meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30 in Fringford Village hall.

For more information contact Sandra at sandrambickmore@gmail.com



SHELSWELL GARDEN CLUB



PLEASE NOTE: *Club Secretary, Corrine Mitchell, was sad to report that the current committee have decided to step down from their positions in the summer of 2025. We are all most grateful that this committee have worked tirelessly over many years providing us with speakers and outings for our enjoyment and to enhance our gardening skills.*

We still hope that a new committee will form and take the Garden Club forward with renewed vigour and ideas. Please do consider becoming a member of this new committee.

The Club will be forced to close if a committee cannot be formed.

On March 8th a full minibus of members visited Painswick Rococo Gardens. The weather was perfect and the Spring garden lovely.

On **April 8th** Duncan Coombs will be talking to us in Hethe Village Hall about 'Colour & Texture in the Garden'.

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). During winter months, some meetings may be held via Zoom. Meetings and outings are open to members and visitors. Your membership card gives you a discount at Swallows Nursery, Mixbury. 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.

SHELSWELL READING GROUP



The Shelswell Reading group is a great opportunity to read a variety of books, from best sellers, to classics and everything in between. If you are not sure about joining, why not come along for a meeting to meet the group and see what we are about. No need to have read the book for that month--just come along and meet all of us and listen in. If you are interested, please let Jane Birnage know - janebirnage@icloud.com 07770 220605

We welcomed a new member for our February meeting and had a thought-provoking discussion about *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver. The book is set in southern Appalachia—an area the author lives in and knows well. And at its heart, the book tells about the human side of the opioid crisis in America. Kingsolver uses Dickens's *David Copperfield* as inspiration to bring out the similar themes of poverty, resilience, dysfunctional families, in telling the story of Demon's life. We talked about how he copes with an addict for a mother, poor social service help, terrible fostering, his own addiction woes, and how he seemed to create his own family unit depending on his situation.

Some of the group felt the book was too long, dense, and it was hard to figure out the other characters because we were always with Demon's voice and his point of view. Overall, the book was judged to be a worthwhile read.

We will have read *Fresh Water for Flowers* by Valérie Perrin for March. An update on that book will be in the May issue.

Our April meeting is on Wednesday 30 April. Please get in touch with Jane for information about the book we are reading.

SHELSWELL POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP

The selection of poems gathered for March were based on the themes of Fog, Mist and Cloud, things of which we have had plentiful experience during the winter just ending!

Fog and its evil twin smog furnished the greatest number of poems. To W H Auden(1907-73), in *Thank You, Fog* it brought a welcome respite from the busy outside world, whereas in *The Fog-Sea* by George

Sterling(1869-1926), it envelops everything, muffling and obscuring. T S Eliot (1883-1968) uses fog as a symbol of unpleasantness in two poems with a London setting - *Morning at the Window* and *The Love-Song of J Alfred Prufrock*. In the poem *Winter Trees*, by Sylvia Plath (1932-63), the fog is part of a winter dawn, blotting out the trees. *Song for the Rainy Season* by Elizabeth Bishop (1911-1979) dwells at length on the attributes and effects of fog, as does *Oscar Wilde* (1854-1900) in *Symphony in Yellow* and *Forest Whisper*, an anonymous poem. Sara Teasdale (1884-1933) uses pathetic fallacy to unite the foggy weather with her misery in *Gray Fog*, and in *Brain Fog*, Sam Clemens, a contemporary poet, skilfully links the properties of fog with what is happening in his deteriorating brain. Similarly, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-82) makes fog a symbol of mental turmoil and fear in *The Beleaguered City*.

Smog, which is fog made poisonous by pollution, features in *Who Runs America?* By Allen Ginsberg (1926-97) and *The Ballad of Gresham College*, an anonymous poem written in response to a paper published by John Evelyn in the late 17th century in an attempt to persuade the king and parliament that coal fires were destroying the lives and properties of city dwellers.

Mist as a feature of the natural landscape makes frequent appearances in English poetry and in *The Ancient Mariner* by Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834) it is associated with the snow and ice of a polar region. In *Mist* by Henry David Thoreau (1817-62) it is indistinguishable from cloud and something that gives beauty to the countryside, an idea echoed in *A Flower is no Flower* by Bai Juyi (772-846).

The most famous poem about clouds must be *The Cloud* by Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822). It lists all the attributes and useful qualities of clouds. One of the most well-known opening lines must be 'I wandered lonely as a cloud ' from *The Daffodils* by William Wordsworth(1770-1850). Finally, Carol Ann Duffy, a contemporary poet, celebrates Luke Howard, known for his classification of clouds in *Luke Howard, Namer of Clouds*.

Because of the difficulty of finding days to meet that suit all of us, the Group has discontinued actual meetings, but will continue to send examples of poems on a theme to me so that readers of Shelswell News who have an interest in poetry can continue to participate in our enjoyment.

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

Friday 18th April (Good Friday) 2pm Last Hour on the Cross
 Sunday 20th April 9.15 am Easter Sunday Service of Holy Communion

COTTISFORD AND JUNIPER HILL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Following our first successful event of the year we raised just over £200. This has been split between the Social Committee, the Friends of the Church and the PCC. Thank you once again to all those who helped and attended.

Arrangements are currently in the pipeline for a Coffee Morning and Pop Up Pub, dates and information to follow soon.

Just a shout out to those who take the time to make our Parish look so beautiful, currently the daffodils are helping to brighten everyone's day. So THANK YOU.

If you would like to help at any of our events or even host a coffee morning or pop up pub contact Sandra on sandrambickmore@gmail.com

Finmere St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: Barbara Cunningham, 'Woodlea' Finmere,

TREASURER: Emma Brennan

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Katherine Grimston, The Old Rectory, Finmere

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Paul Nash Email: paan63@yahoo.co.uk

Tel: 01280 847992

emma_mary@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 01280 848364

Tel 01280 848268

Church Services

Sunday 6th April 10.45 am 'Connect' Informal Worship in Finmere Village Hall

Sunday 20th April 9.15 am Easter Sunday Service of Holy Communion

Village Hall



The village hall is available for hire. Facilities include AV system with a new projector and larger screen, plus sound system. Fitted kitchen, Meeting room, Patio doors onto the children's play area and enlarged storage spaces for regular users. WiFi facilities are available.

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



Allotments

We are so lucky to be in the sort of village where the local farmer brings a trailer full of manure for general use on the allotment plots. It was soon distributed, and plot holders enjoyed the chance to make a start for the new season during the beautiful weather we had at the beginning of the month.

It is much drier, though the soil still too cold for direct sowing of seeds. No doubt we all have windows full of seed trays now.

The really good news is of purple sprouting broccoli, which is just beginning to crop. Once started, it will be prolific at a time when so little fresh food is available in the garden.

Please do get in touch if allotment life appeals. Or, even if you are interested in seeing what's going on, just pop up to say hello. Interested, visit www.myfinmere.com/poorsplot and select the 'enquiry' link.

Jean (Allotment correspondent)





Please come along to support Finmere's
"Tuesday Teas"

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

Second Tuesday of the month, 2.00-4.00pm

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...

SAVE THE DATE

FINMERE SCHOOL & VILLAGE FAIR

Sunday 18 May, 2025

Finmere Village Hall & Playing Fields



Light lunch

Finmere Village Hall
4th Tuesday of the month

April 22nd 12.30-2pm

No charge but donations appreciated



**TO BOOK YOUR PLACE
PLEASE RING DEBBIE
07765 874090**

POP-UP PUB

Friday April 25th

**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)

BUYING THE RED LION, LITTLE TINGEWICK- BECOME AN INVESTOR!

**We are fundraising to buy
The Red Lion at Little Tingewick
as a community-owned, professionally-run pub
AND WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

- Look at our Business Plan & Share Offer to find out how you can be part of this exciting opportunity
www.redlionlittletingewick.co.uk
- Become a Member of the Red Lion Community Group (a community business society set up to manage the purchase) by buying shares in the pub (from £250)
- Join the mailing list to be sent updates on how the campaign is going
- Let us know if you have experience that may be useful (building, industry etc)

For more information please contact
Debbie Bloomfield (Secretary RLCG Limited)
M: 07765 874090
E: debbie.bloomfield1@gmail.com



	<h2 style="text-align: center;"><u>SAVE THE DATE!</u></h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Finmere never misses an opportunity to host celebrations of a momentous event!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">We're planning a party to mark the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. There'll be food and there'll be dancing, just as in 1945!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Finmere Village Hall Saturday 10th May</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Come celebrate with us. Visit https://alliesve80.com for more info</p>
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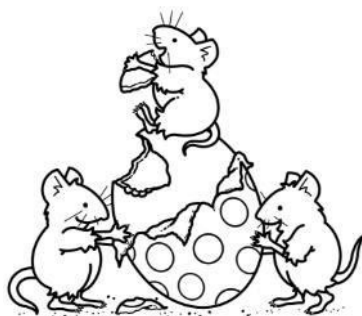
Victory in Europe 80th Anniversary Celebrations 10th May 2025

The AlliesVE80 celebration dinner and dancing party is now in full swing with tickets on sale. To purchase your ticket, use the QR code on the many posters or visit the website www.alliesVE80.com. It will be a wonderful community event full of fun and entertainment. Come and enjoy a very special party. Remember to bring and share your food and join with others on your table of ten. Don't worry if you are not a party, the organisers will include you on a table.

It is planned for the exhibition of World War 2 memorabilia to be open from 2-5 pm in the Village Hall and will be free during this period. So bring your family to see this wonderful collection of guns, Willys Jeeps and a unique colour film of the war. An opportunity not to be missed.

Some Finmere related links:

Finmere facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/finmereandlittletingewick/>
 Shelswell Parishes website at – www.shelswellparishes.info/finmere
 Finmere Parish Council website at – www.finmerepc.org
 Village hall news at – www.myfinmere.com
 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 April – at 10.45am - Morning Service
- Easter Day 20 April – 9.15am Holy Communion by Extension [**Note the time**]

On Maundy Thursday 17 April, there will be an Agape Meal at 7.00pm in Stratton Audley Church. On Good Friday 18 April there are several services available in the Benefice. For details please see the back page of this *Shelswell News*.

EVENTS

- **Saturday 19 April – at 9.30am** – time to decorate the church for Easter. All help welcomed, and gifts of flowers or greenery.
- **Easter Lilies:** If you would like to donate an Easter Lily in memory of a loved one (to be displayed over Easter in an arrangement in the font), the cost will be £5-00 a stem. Please contact Carol Reader on 277057 or carol.reader@btinternet.com
- **Open Gardens** – the PCC is planning to hold Open Gardens on the weekend of 17 and 18 May. Anyone interested in opening their garden then please contact Penny (277310)
- **Beer Festival** – note the date: it is Saturday 14 June.

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

FRINGFORD VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

Village Coffee Mornings usually take place on the third Monday of each month. However in April we will meet on Monday 28 April (because the third Monday is a Bank Holiday). 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.

Regular Activities held in Fringford Village Hall

To find out more or book a place, please contact the hirer direct.	
Weekly Activities	Monthly Activities
<p>FS Dance Monday & Wednesday (term time) After school classes BALLET • TAP • MODERN • STREET 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.parishclerk@gmail.com</p>
<p>Fringford Yoga Wednesday (term time) 9.30am – 11am Carolyn White 07763 817078</p>	<p>Bicester Meditation Space & Sound Bath First Sunday of the month from 6 -9 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 (Not December or August) Contact Sandra Bickmore 07961 828571</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>Village Hall Team Meeting Please contact for dates 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>	

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 2025 are:

April	Wednesday 16th
May	Sunday 18th
June	Wednesday 18th
July	Sunday 20th
August	No meeting
September	Wednesday 17th

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

Hardwick St Mary the Virgin

CHURCHWARDEN: David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick

TREASURER: David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Flora Skinner

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Veronica Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick

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

Tel 01869 277690

Tel 01869 277690

Tel: 01869 277366

Tel 01869 277690

Church Services at Hardwick Church

Sunday 6th April 9.15 am Holy Communion

Friday 18th April 6.00 pm Good Friday Devotional Service with the Shelswell Group Choir

Sunday 20th April 10.45 am Easter Sunday Service of Holy Communion

Sunday 27th April 6.00 pm Evensong with the Shelswell Group Choir

From 1st April

Hardwick Church will be open every day from 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

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

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Flora Skinner as above

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Mike Green as above

WEBSITE: www.hethe.org

Tel 01869 277366

Tel 01869 278166

Tel 01869 278166

ST EDMUND & ST GEORGE CHURCH



**“All churches need friends,
and they are out there ready to be made”**

Many thanks to those people who have started to give regularly to the church or who have increased what they currently give. It all helps to secure the future of the church.

We tend to forget the importance of the church within the community. The building is Grade 2 Listed and is sited within Hethe Conservation Area. There is also a Grade 2 Listed Headstone dated 1682 in the churchyard. The walls include some stonework from the original church built in the 12th Century and there are features of interest such as the many mass dials on the south wall, a stone face embedded in the stone in the east wall and two interesting stained glass windows including some medieval fragments.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship in our church and to become part of the church community. The church is open all day to anyone who wishes to visit, pray or just enjoy some peace and quiet.

Hethe, continued

We are also committed to being fully part of the community and taking our place in the building of good relationships with all who reside in the Parish. A varied collection of books is available in the church for anyone to borrow and food is donated and is available in the church for anyone in need.

To facilitate this work, it is important that the church building is maintained to as high a standard as is financially possible.

If you can contribute to the costs of running the church, or give a one-off payment to help to pay for repairs, please see Regular Giving below.

**Our church is cared for and managed by volunteers (with input from our Rector). We receive no government funding and rely on voluntary donations to meet our day-to-day running costs.
It is the responsibility of each parish to fund the running of their Church.**

Regular Giving

We would be grateful if you could consider giving a regular donation to the church to help keep the doors open. It needn't be too much – current donors give between £10 and £50 a month. There is a simple means of setting up a regular donation to the church through the Parish Giving Scheme – you decide how much, how often, when and whether you can allow gift aid to be claimed. Simply follow this link <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/home/>, enter Hethe and select St Edmund & St George Church; then select donate and follow the instructions on the screen. Alternatively, you can access the church page through this QR Code or phone the team who are responsible for the scheme on 0333 002 1271. This link can also be used to give a one-off donation.

**Church Services and Events**

There will be an Easter Sunday service in the church together with freebies by the church gate!

Remember that you will always be welcome at services in 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>.

Volunteers Wanted....**Church Spring Clean**

Join a happy team of volunteers to make the Church sparkle!

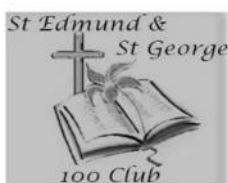


Saturday 12th April
At a time to suit yourself

Churchyard Tidy-up

Join a team of volunteers to clean up the Churchyard and get some free exercise!

Saturday 26th April
At a time to suit yourself



St Edmund & St George 100 Club

Results of the 74th draw held
on 23th February 2025

1st Prize No 3 Gary Skinner

2nd Prize No 58 Perry Stuart

3rd Prize No 23 Lisa Soper

Many thanks to our members
Hethe PCC

The Annual Parish Meeting to elect our Church Wardens will take place after the Holy Communion Service on Sunday 13th April. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), for the election of parochial representatives and the consideration of annual reports, will be held with other churches in the benefice on Monday 28th April, starting at 7.30pm, in Stoke Lyne Church. All members of Hethe Parish will be welcome at both meetings. The next regular PCC meeting is to be held on Wednesday 25th June.

St Edmund & St George Church Mega Raffle at Hethe Village Fete on Saturday 17th May



Many fantastic prizes, including
£100 in cash and a wine box



More prizes will be welcomed - to Flora or Mike or let us know
what and bring it along on the day



HETHE COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

Hethe Community Coffee Morning in St Philip's Hall

Monday 14th April from 10.00am to 12.00pm

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





EASTER FAYRE

Saturday April 5th

1 - 4pm

Hethe Village Hall

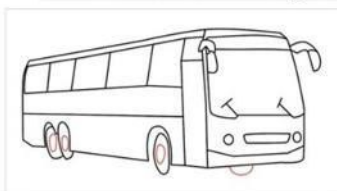
Tombola, Raffle and Craft Stalls

Proceeds to the Dogs Protection Trust.

Hethe and District Darby & Joan Club

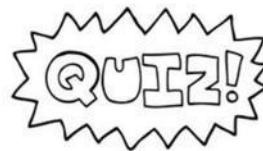
meeting at Hethe Village Hall on the third Tuesday of the month, 2-4pm

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 15th April in the Village Hall



Activities include
Demonstrations, Quizzes, Trips etc.

Membership £15 p.a.
- New members welcome.



... and Hethe and District Darby & Joan Club Bingo

at Hethe Village Hall on the third Saturday of the month,

Our next Bingo night is on Saturday 19th April

Eyes down at 7.30pm

BINGO					
12	25	41	51	63	
3	30	37	54	66	
7	21	FREE	56	74	
1	26	35	50	69	
10	17	45	47	64	

Parish Council. The Annual Meeting Of The Parish Council will take place on 20th May, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Pop-up Pub. Friday 4th April in the Village Hall, from 7.00 to 10.00pm. Everyone welcome. Bring your own drinks of choice, snacks and games!

New Bus Service



Monday to Saturday - pick up at Hethe War Memorial at 07.39, 10.54, 13.42 and 15.42. Last bus departs Bicester at 17.50 to arrive in Hethe at 18.12. Note that this service does not operate on Bank Holidays.

Hethe Village Fete

Saturday May 17th

at 2pm



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

The Hardwick Road Allotments. The contact for the allotments 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

Hethe Community

Hethe Allotments

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 20th April 9.15 am Easter Sunday Service of Holy Communion
[note the time!]

MIXBURY CHURCH FLOWER ROTA 2025

April	Easter – Everyone
May	Jane Marshall
June	Kate Darby
July	Sue Goodman
August	Helen Backon
September	Philippa Brown
	Harvest festival – everyone
October	Morag Westworth
November	Fi Bairstow
December	Carol service and Christmas - everyone
Reserve	Sam Lockwood

Thank you to everyone for doing church flowers. It's much appreciated.

If anyone wishes to be added or removed from the list, please get in touch with Eryl on 07840 464541.



MIXBURY CHURCH CLEANING ROTA 2025

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.

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

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

MIXBURY POP UP PUB NIGHTS

The Mixbury Pop Up Pub has been a tradition in the village for many years now and is a lovely way to socialise and make friends. The hosts provide the venue, glasses and a few nibbles and the guests arrive with their own drinks. If you are interested in hosting a pub night please contact Tanya – email: markandtanya@yahoo.co.uk.

SNOWDROPS



A small team of volunteers spent a happy afternoon in the sunshine planting snowdrops which had been lifted from beside the roads. They have been planted on the bank outside the Old Rectory wall. Next year they should reappear and make quite an impact in the middle of the village.

It's not too late to move snowdrops 'in the green' before they die down. There is no shortage of available bulbs. There are clumps of snowdrops beside the roads and in the bottom of the hedges. Anyone can lift them provided they are replanted somewhere in the village.

If you feel inspired to get planting it's not too late and will only enhance our pretty village. Contact Sally.

ALEC AYRES

Sadly, on the 29th January, Alec Ayres died at the Horton Hospital in Banbury. His funeral will be held at Barton Hartshorn for close friends and family.

Martin, Rosemary and the family would like to thank people for their kind thoughts and prayers.

LARK RISE BIKE RIDE

Sunday 1st June 2025

Come and enjoy a fantastic day of cycling through the lovely countryside of north Oxon and south Northants.

Choose from three route options: a 14 mile family friendly ride, a 25 mile route to suit riders of average fitness, and a 40 mile circuit to test those who like a challenge! All routes are on quiet lanes, tracks and bridleways.

Along the way, you'll find refreshment stops, with the first stop shared by all routes. The day concludes with a BBQ fundraiser upon your return to Mixbury.

Last June, we had a record number of riders, and this year, we may need to close registration if we exceed 230 participants! For more details and to sign up, visit:

<https://brainstrust.org.uk/lark-rise-bike-ride-2025/>

MIXBURY BOOK EXCHANGE

Looking for some spring reading, don't forget the Book Exchange Table in the Church (next to the organ/North Door). Please help yourself and possibly donate a book in the process. There is a good selection with some children's books too.

BACK IN TIME

In 1911, an inquest was held at Mixbury, concerning the death of "an aged single woman" called Hannah Maria Brown.

It transpired that Hannah had been living alone in a squalid cottage for about twelve years, but despite her landlord's numerous attempts to evict her (he wanted to demolish her home), she "could not bear the thought of leaving".

On the day of her death, the village postmistress went to check on her, as Hannah had not called in to collect her pension (which she did so religiously every Friday morning). After her repeated knocks and shouts went unanswered, the postmistress gained access to the property, and found Hannah lying dead on the floor beside her bed.

Dr Stathers of Brackley was summoned, and noted that the cottage was rife with vermin, and full of mould. He made a thorough examination of Hannah's body, and whilst she was clearly emaciated and filthy, there were no signs of foul play.

She only had one known living relative: a nephew, who lived at Oxford. Dr Stathers sent word to him of his aunt's death, but he refused to attend the inquest, nor her burial, as he was "far too busy".

The jury returned a verdict of "death by natural causes". The landlord made arrangements to have her cottage (along with several others that were in a similarly appalling state) demolished as soon as possible.

Hannah Maria Brown was given a pauper's funeral, and only the postmistress and a neighbour made the effort to see her laid to rest.

The photograph shows Mixbury circa the early 20th century.



From the : **The Bicesterian - Genealogy & Local History**



Save The Dates!

8th May 2025

**VE Day Celebrations in Castle Field, an event
for all the family!**

More details to follow!

8th June 2025

**The Big Lunch Picnic
More details to follow!**

Newton Purcell

St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDENS: Ann von Maltzahn, Home Farm Shelswell Park

Stuart Hinton

TREASURER: Fai Li

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Flora Skinner

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Ann von Maltzahn

Tel 01280 848680

Tel: 07593 784143

Tel: 07725 009838

Tel: 01869 277366

Tel 01280 848680

Services:-

Sunday 6th April - 9.15 a.m. Holy Communion

Sunday 20th April - EASTER SUNDAY - 10.45 a.m.

Churchyard Clear Up:-

This is now planned for **Saturday 12th April** from 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon. Please do come along to join the party armed with any bits of garden equipment you think you might need. You may even be lucky and get a hot drink & bacon buttie!

Easter Sunday:-

We look forward to welcoming all who are able to join us for our special Easter Sunday service on Sunday 20th April at 10.45 a.m. Once again there will be a fabulous Easter Raffle, Egg Hunt and Bucks Fizz!



Bonus Ball Lotto:-

Recent lucky winners have been Aileen Rymer and Annabelle von Maltzahn.

continued overleaf

The Summer Fete:-

This years Fete promises to be better than ever with something for all the family to enjoy so please save the date - **Saturday 7th June** - from Middy until 5.00 p.m. and come along.



In the meantime, we need all the help we can get to run the various stalls and attractions on the day so please contact Stuart - see below - as soon as possible.

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

Thursday 3rd April 12.00 noon Midweek Holy Communion

Sunday 13th April 6.00 pm Evening Communion

Friday 18th April 11.00 am Good Friday All Age Service; Walking with Jesus

Sunday 20th April 10.45 am EASTER Service of Holy Communion

Sunday 26th April 10.45 am Holy Communion

Flower Duty for April

Janey Poole

Stoke Lyne 100 Club - March Results

1 st Prize	Membership No 51	Adrian Taylor
2 nd Prize	Membership No 28	Jane Webb
3 rd Prize	Membership No 3	Margaret Dudley

Congratulations to all winners and good luck everyone next month. Please email me for membership janey@oxford-educational.co.uk

Churchyard Cleanup – Saturday, 8th March 2025

We were blessed with beautiful weather, blue sky and a warm breeze to set about spring clearing our churchyard.

A handful of volunteers worked hard to clear ivy, cut back overgrown and dangerously low hanging bows of trees, cleared the pathways and strimmed endlessly. Ivy had enveloped much of our perimeter gravestones and was intent on claiming many of our trees. We managed to expose some interesting gravestones in the process. Some serious tree surgery took place exposing areas to the rear of the church probably not seen for 100 years. The brambles were very well established.

A welcoming bacon roll with a cup of tea allowed us all a break in the sunshine. Refreshed, we all continued our work until lunchtime and with satisfied smiles we all returned to our own gardens to continue some more gardening!!!!!!

A special thank you to Robin and Adam who generously gave their time, although they don't reside in Stoke Lyne. They carried out some major tree surgery on our trees with only a bacon roll break at 11am. Huge thanks to them both.

Thank you so much to all those who gave up their Saturday morning to make our churchyard look so wonderful, and to the kind two who were busy on Saturday but gave up their Sunday morning instead amazing kindness. We now have a beautiful graveyard covered in daffodils and the remaining snowdrops, such a joy to see.

Janey Poole

Treasurer, St Peter's Church

See photos overleaf!



Stoke Lyne Annual Litter Pick – Saturday, 5th April, 10 am

Please come along to our village litter pick on Saturday 5th April at 10am. Meet outside the church, I will bring the bags and equipment from CDC.

Thank you to Elaine who organised this for years.
Kelly Holden-White

A Look at the Peyton Memorials Within the Church – Part 3: Sir Algernon William Peyton, 4th Baronet (1833-1872)

A rather impressive head and shoulders engraving of Sir Algernon, 4th Baronet, can be found at <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/nyp.33433066620539?urlappend=%3Bseq=70%3Bownerid=27021597764569381-74>. It comes from an edition of Baily's Magazine of Sports and Pastimes which was published in 1868-69 ie a couple of years after he became the 4th Baronet.



We can get a good account of Sir Algernon Peyton's life from his obituaries. The Oxford Journal of 30th March 1872 states: *"Sir Algernon after his education at Eton, entered the 1st Life Guards in 1851, became a Captain in 1856, and retired from the Army in 1869. He was a man of remarkable presence, and handsome physique; always temperate in his habits, gentle in his manners, graceful and considerate in his demeanour. As to his person, he was so fine a man that all who knew him will be disposed to exclaim, "We shall never look upon his like again." Whilst in the Guards he was long commended by the Colonel of the Regiment to the junior officers as an example for their conduct."*

The Banbury Guardian of 28th March 1872 reports that: *"in 1870 he became High Sheriff of Oxfordshire. In November of the same year he married Laura Sarah, youngest daughter of Daniel H. Webb, Esq., of Wykham Park."* An account of the wedding celebrations can be found in the Buckingham Express of 10th December 1870:

STOKE LYNE. MARRIAGE REJOICINGS. – On Friday last, November 25, upwards of 300 of the poor of Fewcott and Stoke Lyne were entertained a Stoke Lyne, at the cost of Sir. A. W. Peyton, Bart., and his lady, commemorative of their marriage, which took place on the previous day. As there was no available room in the village large enough to contain the whole of the guests at one time, there were four gatherings in the school-room, where an excellent hot dinner of meat, vegetables, puddings, and beer, was supplied to the guests. The dinner provision included about sixty excellent plum puddings, which were prepared at Stratton Audley Hall, Sir Algernon's hunting residence. The Rev. C. D. B. Marsham, vicar of Stoke Lyne, the Rev. H. Jocelyne, of Fewcott, Messrs. Stuchbury's and Godwin, and Mrs. Johns, housekeeper at Stratton Hall, attended to the comfort of the guests, who were suitably addressed by the Rev. C. D. B. Marsham. The healths of Sir Algernon and his lady were drank with enthusiasm; nor were the kind attentions of Mr. Marsham and his helpers unacknowledged. There was a dance in the evening.

The Oxford Journal also mentions that *"in addition to his being a magistrate of the county, Sir Algernon was a valuable officer in Lord Churchill's Regiment of Yeomanry Cavalry, being Captain of the Bicester Troop."* whilst the Bicester Herald observes: *"Sir Algernon kept up his establishment in liberal style. He had, nevertheless improvements in progress. He purchased additional property in Stoke Lyne, and thus added to the family estate; and he, in a very praiseworthy manner, added to, and improved, the cottage accommodation at Stoke Lyne. Additions to, and improvements at, Swifts House, were arranged for when, alas, Sir Algernon was taken from this transitory world."*

As well as his own works at Swift's House, he also subscribed to the 1868 refurbishment of St Peter's Church and in 1871 *"contributed handsome donations"* towards the building of a *"chapel of ease"* at Fewcott.

Like his predecessors Sir Algernon enjoyed equine pursuits. The Bicester Herald says: *"Sir Algernon will be much missed in hunt, sporting, and four-in-hand circles."* Whilst Bells Life of 30th March says: *"It is with much regret that we announce the death of Sir Algernon Peyton, Bart., Master of Bicester Hounds. This excellent and popular sportsman was in the prime of lifeAlthough a pretty constant attendant at some of the important race meetings of the year, Sir Algernon Peyton was less known as a patron of the Turf than for his prowess in the hunting field and on the box. As a whip, indeed he had few equals."*

Of the circumstances of his death and the inquest which followed the local press goes into great detail. Here are some extracts:

“On Monday he hunted with the Bicester Hounds, of which he was the master, the meet being at Oakley, in Buckinghamshire, and, on returning in the evening on horseback, accompanied by Colonel Gipps, in passing the King’s Arms, at Bicester, Mr. Praed, a member of the hunt, invited Sir. Algernon to his room in the hotel to partake of some tea. He dismounted and walked upstairs to the room, whereupon he complained of being “unwell,” and afterwards of being “faint.” He was duly ministered to, but, in a very short time, Sir Algernon breathed his last, to the consternation of those around him, and to the grief of a large neighbourhood”.

“The enquiry was held in a room adjoining the one where the deceased Baronet lay, and in which he died.” “The Jury then proceeded to the adjoining room to view the body. The late Sir Algernon lay on cushions on the floor.” It was concluded: “It now transpires that he had for some years been conscious of labouring under an insidious disease of the heart; and it was this which proved fatal to him with such awful suddenness, and at the early age of 39.” After the inquest his body was “removed from the King’s Arms Hotel, to the deceased’s late residence at Stratton Audley. Blinds were down, and the church bell was tolled as the melancholy conveyance passed along the street.”

There was a very full report on the funeral in the Bicester Herald: *“The body was deposited in a vault made for the occasion, in Stoke Lyne Church yard. It is by the side of the vault containing Sir Algernon’s father and mother. The funeral procession left the Manor House, at Stratton Audley, Sir Algernon’s hunting residence, at about noon, during the tolling of Stratton Audley Church bell. The route traversed by the funeral cortege was by Caversfield House, and by Swift’s House, and the family residence of the deceased, and thus over the family estate. The hearse was drawn by four horses. There were six mourning coaches On arriving at the cross roads between Swift’s House and Stoke Lyne there were a large number of private carriages, containing noblemen and gentlemen who had come to pay their last mark of respect to the deceased.*

When the mournful assemblage arrived within about 100 yards of the Church a procession was formed to the sacred edifice. Immediately following the coffin was Lady Peyton and the lady mourners. The gentlemen walked next. In addition to the mourners referred to above there were ladies and gentlemen of the locality and for miles around. There was scarcely an influential family in the district unrepresented. There were also tenants, agriculturists, tradesmen and others in mourning attire

Stoke Lyne Church, towards the recent restoration of which Sir Algernon had been a contributor, was full, and many persons were unable to obtain admittance. The lesson in the church was read by the Hon. and Rev. E. C. Byng, one of the clergymen, who officiated at the late Sir Algernon’s marriage. At the grave side the service was performed for the most part by the Rev. C. D. B. Marsham, vicar of Stoke Lyne, and, who also officiated at Sir Algernon’s marriage, & who was visibly affected. Before the coffin was lowered Lady Peyton lent over the coffin, as if in prayer, and placed a cross of flowers on the top; the other lady mourners and Cecil Haskey, Esq., also placed flowers on the coffin. After the coffin had been placed in the grave and the funeral service ended her Ladyship knelt for some seconds as if in prayer. The coffin, on which was placed Sir Algernon’s military sword, bore the following inscriptions: - “Sir Algernon William Peyton, fourth baronet, born 13th April 1833, died 25th March, 1872, aged 38 years.” At the grave side were many other sympathising mourners who had taken the opportunity of showing their respect to the memory of the deceased. The interesting and well-cared for church was draped with black. It has been calculated that there were nearly 100 conveyances and about 1,000 persons at Stoke Lyne, in connection with the funeral ...

In the evening a favourite charger, which the deceased rode when in the Life Guards, and a pony which he purchased for the Hon. and Rev. R. C. Byng to ride when they were at Eton together were shot and buried in the Park, near Swifts House.

On Sunday, the schoolmistress of Stoke Lyne and the whole of the scholars were in mourning.”

The same edition declared: “*Should there be no heir from Sir Algernon’s marriage the Baronetcy will descend to Colonel Thomas Peyton, aged 55, the eldest surviving son of the late Rev. Algernon Peyton, rector of Doddington, and cousin to Sir Algernon. Colonel Thomas Peyton is we understand with his regiment in India.*”

The Colonel did indeed inherit the estate. He donated the stained glass in the west window of St Peter’s church in Algernon’s memory whilst that in the east window as well as the organ were given by Sir Algernon’s widow Laura Sarah Lady Peyton in 1873 and the stained glass in the south-east window was given by his cousin Mr. Godfrey Fitzhugh.

Laura was much younger than Algernon and was only 22 when her husband died. She went on to remarry in 1878 Arthur Annesley the 11th Viscount Valentia. They lived at Bletchington Park. She died in 1933 aged 83 and is buried in St Giles churchyard, Bletchington. See <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/89464058/laura-sarah-annesley> for the grave details.

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 April 6.00 pm Compline at Stratton Audley

Sunday 13th April 10.45 am Morning Service at Stratton Audley

Thursday 17th April 7 pm Maundy Thursday Agape Meal at Stratton Audley

Sunday 20th April 10.45 am EASTER Sunday Service of Holy Communion at Stratton Audley

Sunday 20th April 10.45 am EASTER Sunday Service of Holy Communion at Godington

Sunday 27th April 9.15 am Holy Communion at Stratton Audley

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



'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.

HOMELESS HAT



Since Christmas, a hat has taken up residence in Godington Church. If this hat is yours, do pick it up from the church.

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!

"Each one sees what he carries in his heart" - *Johann von Goethe*



2nd April - St Hugh of Grenoble

Murky crimes committed by various church leaders, local shops in trouble, roads needing repair, and hospitals in a sorry state.... wanting to retire, but the law said no... it seems that Hugh of Grenoble was dealing with 21st century problems in the 11th century.

Born at Chateaufort in 1052 as the son of a knight, Hugh attended the cathedral school of Valence and became a canon. He was talented and learned, good looking – and yet shy. Hugh's parents' contacts and his privileged schooling earned him a good job early on as secretary to the Bishop of Die, who was also a papal legate. In 1080 Hugh was taken along to the Synod of Avignon, where the deplorable state of the diocese of Grenoble was reviewed. It was afflicted with widespread simony (the crime of selling church roles or forgiveness) and usury (moneylending), and bad behaviour by priests was rampant.

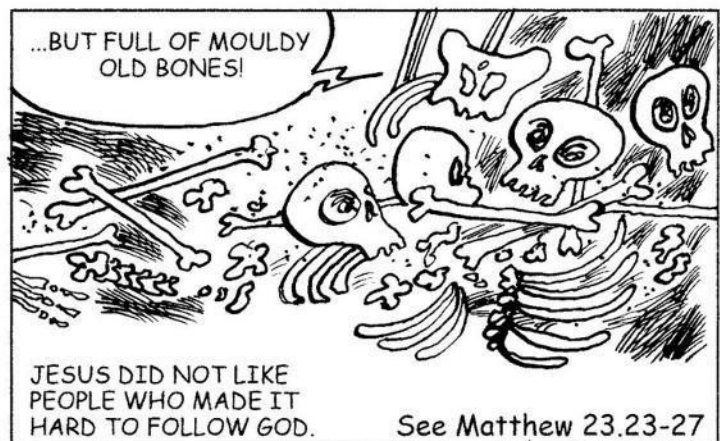
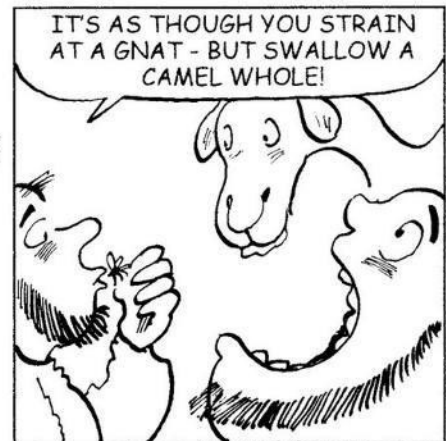
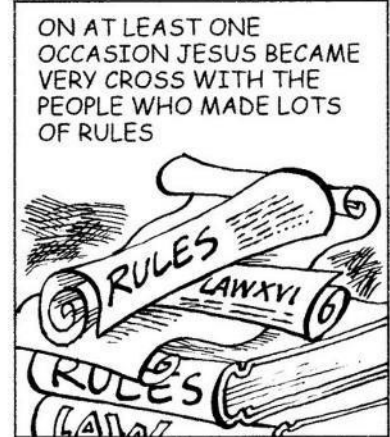


Hugh was outraged at what he heard – and was soon in a position to do something about it. He was made Bishop of Grenoble by Pope Gregory VII and went on to fight the excesses and sins of the clergy with notable success. He became virtual co-founder of the Carthusian order. The common people soon came to love him, for as well as reforming their churches and restoring their cathedral, he built a bridge, a marketplace and three hospitals.

In later years Hugh wanted to retire, but like many people today, was not able to do so: in his case the Pope would not let him. During the last few weeks of his life Hugh went back to basics: he seemed to forget everything but the Lord's Prayer and the Psalms. He was greatly loved, and so canonised only two years after his death in 1134.



"Some tough talking"

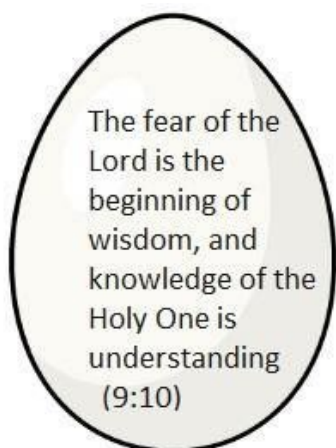


An Introduction to the Old Testament Book of Proverbs

The Book of Proverbs is an anthology of sayings ('*mishle*') that are generally attributed to Solomon (Proverbs 1:1), who uttered 3000 proverbs (1Kings 4:32).

The purpose of these oracles is '*for attaining wisdom and discipline*' (1:2). Solomon was concerned that people, especially the young, would understand '*the sayings and riddles of the wise.*' (1:3-6). His guiding principle is that '*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.*' (1:7).

To give an idea of the recurring themes in the book, here are a few examples:



Guarding Our Speech:



Marital faithfulness:

Fear of the Lord can be understood as "the continual awareness that our loving heavenly Father is watching and evaluating everything we think, say, and do"



May your fountain be blessed and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth' (5:15-20).



Work: 'Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!' (6:6-11).

Dangers of Strong Drink: 'Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise' (20:1).

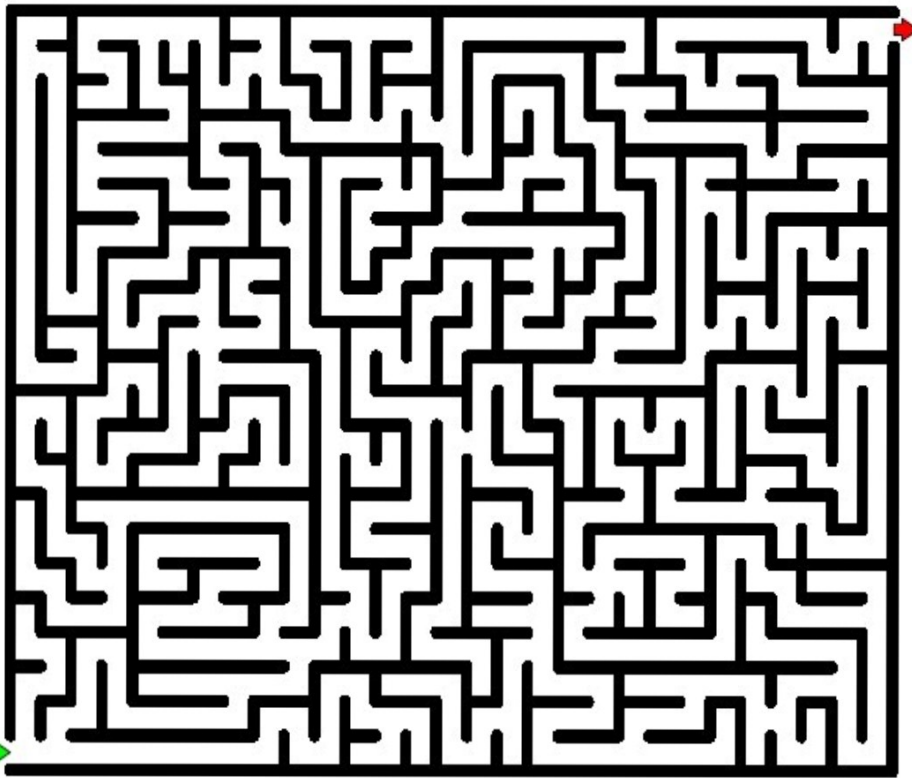


Justice and Honesty: 'The LORD abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are His delight' (11:1).

Proverbs reminds us that God is concerned with the way we live today.

from Parish Pump

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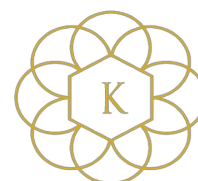


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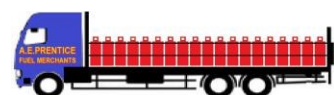
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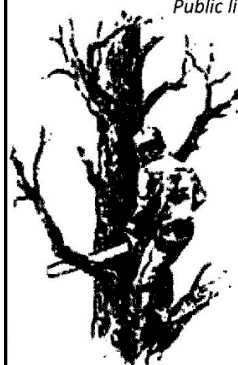
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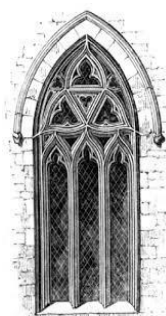
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| DATE             | Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April (12 noon)<br>Midweek Holy Communion and Soup Lunch<br>STOKE LYNE |                                                  |        | Holy Week                                                                 |                                                                | 20 <sup>th</sup> April<br>Easter Day                           | 27 <sup>th</sup> April<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter           |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ALTAR<br>8.00 am | 6 <sup>th</sup> April<br>Sunday of Lent                                                         | 13 <sup>th</sup> April<br>Palm Sunday            | Purple |                                                                           | White                                                          |                                                                | White                                                                |
|                  |                                                                                                 |                                                  |        |                                                                           |                                                                |                                                                |                                                                      |
|                  |                                                                                                 |                                                  |        |                                                                           |                                                                |                                                                |                                                                      |
| 9.15 am          | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>HARDWICK<br>AM                                             | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>HETHE<br>AG |        | Maundy Thursday<br>(White)                                                | 9.15am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>COTTISFORD AM   | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>FINMERE MK                | 9.15am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>STRATTON AUDLEY<br>AM |
|                  |                                                                                                 |                                                  |        |                                                                           |                                                                |                                                                |                                                                      |
| 9.15 am          | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (BCP)<br>NEWTON PURCELL<br>AG                                      |                                                  |        | 11am<br>Holy Communion (CW)<br>HETHE<br>AM                                | Holy Communion by Extension<br>with hymns (CW)<br>FRINGFORD PW | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>MIXBURY AG                | 9.30am<br>Morning Service<br>HETHE<br>Lay led                        |
|                  |                                                                                                 |                                                  |        |                                                                           |                                                                |                                                                |                                                                      |
| 10.45 am         | 'Connect' Informal Worship<br>FINMERE VILLAGE HALL<br>AM                                        | Morning Service<br>STRATTON AUDLEY<br>PW         |        | 7pm<br>Agape Meal<br>STRATTON AUDLEY                                      | 10.45am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>HARDWICK VM    | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>HETHE AM                  | 10.45am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>STOKE LYNE<br>CO     |
|                  |                                                                                                 |                                                  |        |                                                                           |                                                                |                                                                |                                                                      |
| 10.45 am         | Morning Service<br>FRINGFORD<br>AG                                                              |                                                  |        | Good Friday<br>(Hangings Removed)                                         | 11am<br>All-age Service<br>STOKE LYNE<br>AG                    | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>STOKE LYNE LW             |                                                                      |
|                  |                                                                                                 |                                                  |        |                                                                           |                                                                |                                                                |                                                                      |
| 6.00 pm          | Compline<br>STRATTON AUDLEY<br>AG                                                               | Evening Communion<br>STOKE LYNE<br>AG            |        | 2pm<br>Last Hour on the Cross<br>COTTISFORD<br>AM                         | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>STRATTON AUDLEY MK        | Holy Communion by Extension<br>with hymns (CW)<br>GODINGTON PW |                                                                      |
|                  |                                                                                                 |                                                  |        |                                                                           |                                                                |                                                                |                                                                      |
| 6.00 pm          |                                                                                                 |                                                  |        | 6pm<br>Devotional Service with<br>Shelswell Group Choir<br>HARDWICK<br>PW |                                                                |                                                                | Evensong with<br>the Shelswell Group Choir<br>HARDWICK<br>PW         |
|                  |                                                                                                 |                                                  |        |                                                                           |                                                                |                                                                |                                                                      |