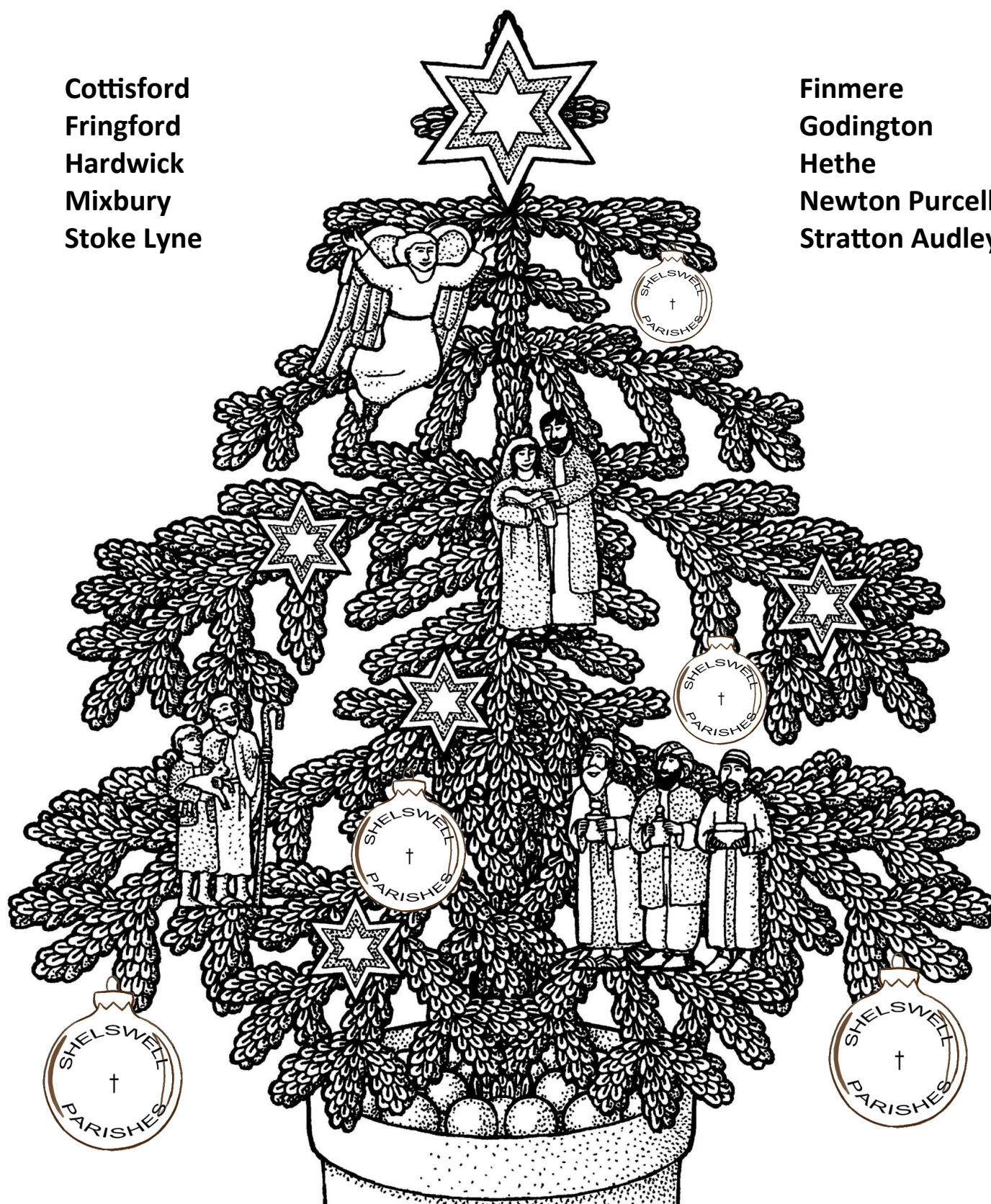


Shelswell News

The magazine of the Shelswell Group of Churches

Cottisford
Fringford
Hardwick
Mixbury
Stoke Lyne

Finnere
Godington
Hethe
Newton Purcell
Stratton Audley



What do you want for Christmas? Peace on Earth, writes Penny Wood (page 3)

December 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.

MINISTRY TEAM

RECTOR: Vacancy

BENEFICE ADMINISTRATOR: Mrs Becky Adams, c/o The Shelswell Benefice Office, 6 Chinalls Close, Finmere, Buckingham MK18 4BQ Tel: 07928 990569 Email admin@shelswellparishes.info Administrator's normal office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9.00 am – 1.00 pm

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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 January 2026 edition of Shelswell News

To Magazine Correspondents: **Midday on Friday 12th December**

Correspondents to Editor: **Midday on Sunday 14th December 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 .

MINISTER'S LETTER

“Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace among people” Luke 2 ¹⁴

‘Peace’ was the word that jumped into my mind when I first thought about this Minister’s Letter. It has been such a year of nation against nation, war within nations, sectarianism, racism, argument, accusation, disaffection, hatred, not to mention natural disasters the list is endless and because of it thousands, possibly millions, of lives disrupted and damaged. And in case we are tempted to think that it is nothing to do with us, we need to remember there are plenty of little local or domestic animosities and unkindnesses that build up a store of unforgiven resentment and broken relationships, and that often we are party to these.

So it is ‘Peace’ that I want for Christmas. The peace that for one glorious moment is foretold in Luke’s Gospel when a ‘multitude of the heavenly host’ appear to the shepherds outside Bethlehem praising God and saying:

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among people”

And why? Because “to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord”. This is the child who grows up to turn the world’s ways of thinking upside down; to assert as all important the love of God, and of one’s neighbour as oneself; to say “love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you”; and to teach that status, wealth, power, getting your own back, are worthless. This is the child who grows up to say “Blessed are the peace makers for they will be called children of God”. This is the child often called the ‘Prince of Peace’.

So where is this ‘peace’ the birth of the child heralded? Well, he did not take away **our** responsibility to make peace. Instead he showed us a way to bring it about; he showed through his death and resurrection that the price of peace is self-giving, but also leads to new life.

Peace making is not easy or straightforward. It will not come without sacrifice. Therefore, often, it does not come.


This Christmas pray for peace, pray for peace makers, pray to be a peace maker;

O God of many names,
Lover of all nations:
we pray for peace;
In our hearts;
In our homes;
In our nations;
In our world;
The peace of your will;
The peace of our need,
Through Jesus our Lord. Amen

And, as the Carol says, may the days hasten on –

When, with the ever circling years
Shall come the age of gold;
When Peace shall over all the earth,
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world give back the song,
Which now the angels sing.

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday 7 th December	2 nd Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 11 v1-10 Romans 15 v4-13 Matthew 3 v1-12
Sunday 14 th December	3 rd Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 35 v1-10 James 5 v7-10 Matthew 11 v2-11
Sunday 21 st December	4 th Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 7 v10-16 Romans 1 v1-7 Matthew 1 v18-end
Thursday 25 th December (and at Midnight Services on Christmas Eve)	Christmas Day	Isaiah 9 v2-7 Titus 2 v11-14 Luke 2 v1-14 [15-20]
		or Isaiah 62 v6-12 Titus 3 v4-7 Luke 2 v[1-7] 8-20
		or Isaiah 52 v7-10 Hebrews 1 v1-4 [5-12] John 1 v1-14
Sunday 28 th December	The Holy Innocents	Jeremiah 31 v15-17 1 Corinthians 1 v26-29 Matthew 2 v13-18

A REQUEST IN ADVANCE FROM THE MAGAZINE TREASURER

Thank you for subscribing to our Benefice magazine and for paying your subscriptions direct to the bank.

I do need to ask about 25% (that's over 100) of you, to PLEASE use your reference that will come with the reminder next month.

There are 10 villages, well over 450 subscribers and many name duplications. It has sometimes taken a couple of weeks to decide whether Jones has paid, or was it that Jones and similar (apologies to all of the Jones subscribers). Even house names are duplicated!

The reference is there to show which village you are in, and which of the 38 wonderful distributors looks after your magazine delivery. If your bank account name differs from your name, can you please tell me by email.

As times move onwards, our bank account is still classed as a Charity account, BUT, we now have to pay for each cheque that is deposited, even though I use the app and scan the cheques. I therefore ask you where possible, to please pay direct to the bank. If that is not possible, I do understand that cheques or cash are still a default method for many, and your distributor will still be able to pass your payments to me.

Happy Christmas!

Philip Rushforth



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN SHELSWELL

Normal Sunday services are also taking place - see village entries or back page



Friday 5th December 7.30 pm	Carol Service at Finmere Church
Sunday 14th December 4.00 pm	Carol Service at Hardwick Church
Sunday 14th December 6.00 pm	Ecumenical Carol Service at Hethe Catholic Church
Saturday 20th December 4.00 pm	Carol Service at Fringford Church
Sunday 21st December 4.00 pm	Nativity and Carol Service at Mixbury Church
Sunday 21st December 4.30 pm	Carol Service at Cottisford Church
Sunday 21st December 6.00 pm	Carol Service at Stoke Lyne Church
Sunday 21st December 6.00 pm	Carol Service at Stratton Audley Church
Monday 22nd December 7.00 pm	Carol Service at Godington Church

CHRISTMAS CRIB SERVICE



On Christmas Eve all are welcome to the

Shelswell Benefice Crib Service

at 4pm in Stratton Audley Parish Church.

Bringing the Christmas story to life for young children.

Your children are encouraged to come in costume if they would like to.

The collection taken at the service will be shared between the local church and the Children's Society to help children and young people in distress.

Do come along and join in this wonderful start to Christmas!

Christmas Eve 9.30 pm	Early Midnight Communion at Cottisford Church
Christmas Eve 10.00 pm	Early Midnight Communion at Finmere Church
Christmas Eve 11.30 pm	Midnight Communion at Fringford Church
Christmas Day 9.00 am	Holy Communion at Hardwick Church
Christmas Day 9.15 am	Holy Communion at Hethe Church
Christmas Day 9.15 am	Holy Communion at Mixbury Church
Christmas Day 9.15 am	Holy Communion by Extension at Newton Purcell Church
Christmas Day 10.45 am	Family Service at Fringford Church
Christmas Day 10.45 am	Family Communion at Stoke Lyne Church
Christmas Day 10.45 am	Holy Communion at Stratton Audley Church
Boxing Day Well-earned rest for the clergy! Thank you for putting on so many services for us.	



MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION AND SOUP LUNCH

The next service will be on Thursday 4th December

12 noon

Stoke Lyne Church

If you would like a lift then please contact Becky on 07928 990569

Email admin@shelswellparishes.info

STOKE LYNE CHRISTMAS QUIZ



Queries? Contact: alisonjanemiller@icloud.com



The Phoenix Singers

St. Michael's and All Angels Church
Newton Purcell

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Friday December 12th 2025

7.30pm

Doors open at 7.15pm

A Celebration of Christmas

with Music and Readings

Musical Director
Peter McMullin

Tickets £10

Payable on the Door

'SHELLOW BY THE SEA' – CHRISTMAS PARTY

We are running a Christmas Party for older people with tea, activities and carols.
In Newton Purcell Church Hall, from 3.00pm to 5.00pm on
Wednesday 10th December.



If you'd like to attend **RSVP by 5th Dec** to Penny Wood - Tel: 01869 277310

Email: penelope.wood@btopenworld.com

Please tell Penny if you would like a lift to & from the party
and if you have any dietary requirements.

SHELLOW-BY-THE-SEA - 20th and 21st October



As I entered the church on Day 1 of October's Shellsby-by-the-Sea it was lovely and warm. There were 2 long tables set up with different crafts, papers to read jigsaw puzzles etc. We were greeted with tea/coffee with biscuits or cake. Some ladies had brought along their own crafts to do. It was nice catching up with news from other churches.

We then had a lady named Alison Sauvain, who lives in Fringford, come along from the Oxford Museum who was going to talk about the Fifties. She had brought along a box called "hands on". She started off by passing round the treasures of the box from the Fifties. Most of us grew up in that era so it took us back in time. Who remembers National dried milk in a tall tin or Cow and Gate milk in a red tin, cod liver oil, cod liver oil malt? (I loved that, but my wee

sister hated it). You were also given orange juice all free. My mother had twins, they used to give her 5 shillings for the second child but nothing for the first child.

There were lots of baby patterns in the box costing 3d and now they cost about £3. She passed round magazines which contained adverts for prams. In those days the prams were coach built and it was lovely dressing your pram with lovely quilts, frilly pillows, nighties etc. Those prams were more comfortable for the babies, but I know time has moved on to make it easier to transport your baby.

She passed round photos of Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation. Not many people had TV in those days and if they did, they were probably 12 inch screens in black and white. In my town the owner of the local picture house opened it up for all the school children to go and watch the Coronation as it was history in the making.





vintagesewingpatterncompany.com

Shelswell-by-the-Sea continued

There were photos of the lovely dresses which you wore a stiff petticoat underneath to make the dress stick out. Can you remember how you stiffened them? I remember my mother drawing a line up the back of her leg because she couldn't afford stockings, but of course that could have been the late Forties.

Alison told us most of the contents of the box came from people handing them in because perhaps they were clearing a house where the parents had died and they didn't want to throw them away as they are part of our history. The Oxford Museum takes boxes with all different subjects to schools and clubs to show the history of our country. This was a fascinating talk from Alison and gave us a lot of fun remembering our younger days, where times were hard but happy.

While they were setting up for lunch Liz handed out a quiz to get the old brain cells working. It was all about Autumn. Afterwards she gave us a food for thought story about St Christopher who is widely known as the patron saint of travellers,

who according to legend carried the Christ Child across a river. He is also associated with a wide variety of patronage including motorists, sailors and athletes. Historic sources indicate he was a martyr killed under Roman Emperors in the third or 4th Century.

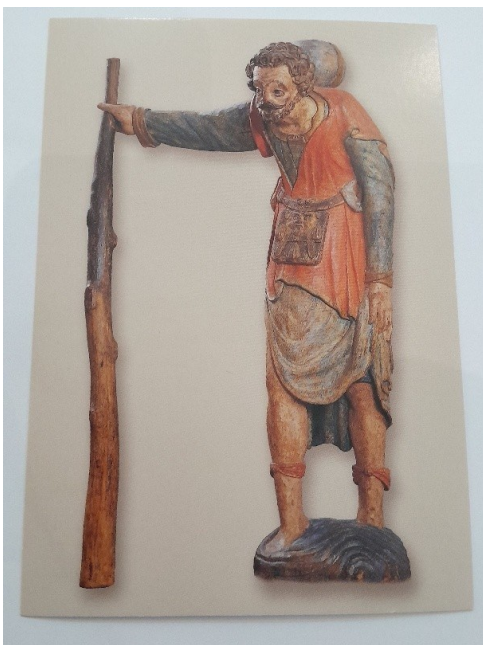
She then read out two poems with lovely words in their verses. In Psalm 90 it says the days of our life are 70 years - what do you think that would equate to this time?

Lunch was then served with three choices of the main meal to choose from accompanied by water or flavoured drinks on the table, followed by a choice of three lovely desserts. After lunch we had another quiz on food and drink and TV detectives and lots more chat.



On Day 2, some people tried their hand at making an autumn wreath and they looked lovely and all a bit different. Others helped on the jigsaw puzzle. There was tea/coffee as you entered with biscuits or cake, and another quiz, and then lunch with a different choice of three main courses and puddings.

Penny gave us a talk on her holiday to Estonia. She said it is a beautiful country with very friendly people and while there she visited many churches. When she visited St Mary's Cathedral in Toomkirik, she heard the history of the sculpture which initially supported the pulpit of St Nicholas church in Tallinn. The magnificent pulpit, commissioned from the Tallini woodcarver Tobias Heintze's workshop, was destroyed during the March bombing in 1944 and this sculpture is the only surviving fragment.



We then had more tea and cake followed by seated netball. Thank you to all the team for preparing the food, and all the helpers who assisted in making this a very enjoyable two days.

Rena Andrews

FRINGFORD SCHOOL SUCCESS

Over the last months, Fringford School has had much to celebrate in recognition of it being a good school. The SIAMS inspection undertaken by the diocese in September states –

- Fringford Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church School and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish
- Pupils and adults flourish because they are welcomed, known and valued as individuals
- Caring leadership drives a strong culture of nurturing which fosters high aspirations across the school community and a strong emphasis on mental health and wellbeing support, empowering pupils to thrive
- A strong sense of responsibility to one another and to the environment permeates through this small rural school ... creates a school community who live well together, sharing in each other's successes and challenges
- Teachers and staff provide highly inclusive support for pupils with SEND as well as those who are vulnerable.

There was also recognition in the school's reading culture seen in the high number of pupils accessing reading initiatives outside school – the summer reading challenge and the national reading aloud challenge. Fringford was placed 11th overall in the latter challenge and 1st in Oxfordshire.



Fringford School achieved excellent outcomes across Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 summer assessments. These results demonstrate the exceptional quality of education pupils receive and the dedication of the whole staff team. The results place the school

among the highest performing primary schools in Oxfordshire.

Well done to all the staff and pupils of the school.

Meryl Daniell, Chair of Governors

GLASS ACT

Bottles to go in Blue Bins

From Thursday, 1 January 2026 Cherwell District Council residents will be able to dispose of their glass in the blue recycling bin. It ends over 30 years of residents taking their glass to bottle banks.

Councillor Ian Middleton, Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services, said: "The collection of glass from the kerbside is one of the most requested changes to our recycling service.

"This change will make it faster and more convenient for residents to recycle whilst reducing the problems associated with bottle banks. The reality is that these have attracted litter and fly-tipping.

"So not only are we making glass recycling easier for our residents, we're also planning to remove over 100 bottle banks to keep the district tidy and help prevent fly-tipping.

"The added benefit of introducing this service just after the holiday season is that all those bottles of festive cheer will be easier than ever to dispose of, once they're empty of course!"

Glass collected from our blue bins will be separated from other dry recycling by machines at a sorting centre. The large pieces will be sorted by colour for further processing, whilst smaller pieces are used for road aggregate or shot blasting material.



Launton Village Players present their 39th pantomime



Treasure Island

A traditional family pantomime

Wed 18th to Sat 21st Feb 2026

Date	Performance Times			Adult (18+)	Child (1-17)
Weds 18 th Feb			7:30pm	£12	£7
Thurs 19 th Feb	10:30am*	2:30pm		£12	£7
Fri 20 th Feb		2:30pm	7:30pm	£14	£8
Sat 21 st Feb		2:30pm	7:30pm	£14	£8

***Relaxed Performance**
Thursday
at 10:30am

In Cooper School Performance Hall, Bicester, OX26 4RS

Suitable for the whole family to enjoy!

Tickets available from
www.ticketsource.co.uk/lvp
(or call 07864 715708 for assistance)

Family Discounts
available for
all shows!

Scan
here
for
tickets!



Book by
30th November
and use the code
EARLYBIRD
to save 10%

All profits donated to:
Dementia Active and
Dementia Oxfordshire

www.launtonvillageplayers.org.uk



MIDWEEK COMMUNION on 6th NOVEMBER

Reverend Liz began the service on Thursday 6th November with a warm welcome and prayers for the world, the country and our local area.

The parable of the lost sheep (Luke 15 chapter 15 verses 1 – 15) was read by Rena. This parable is particularly relevant to the story of anti-slavery campaigner John Newton (1725 - 1807), the subject of Liz's talk.

Newton's mother, a devout Christian died when he was 7 years old. His father captained a merchant ship and from age 11 the young Newton accompanied his father. At 18 years old he was pressed into service with the Royal Navy and when he attempted to desert, he was released from the Royal Navy and sent aboard a slave vessel, as an easy way of life. Newton had almost abandoned faith. He saw no conflict between his faith and the slave trade.



The Parable of the Lost Sheep



Shelswell News
wishes all our readers
a merry Christmas
and a
happy and peaceful
New Year 2026



However, Newton later became an Anglican clergyman and served as a curate at a church in Olney, Bucks. He preached tirelessly to his large, poor congregation and wrote many hymns, the best known of which was "Amazing Grace". In 1780 he left Olney to serve at a church in London, and as his faith matured he repented of his involvement in the slave trade and helped Wilberforce found the Anti-Slavery Society in 1787.

Newton wrote a graphic account of his experiences aboard slave ships in a pamphlet entitled "Thoughts Upon the African Slave Trade". He continued to preach until his death and died nine months after Parliament abolished the slave trade in the British Empire.

After the service we moved to the tables set for lunch and a choice of broccoli and Stilton or parsnip soups, with rolls or bread, and seconds for those who wished. This was followed by a scrumptious trifle or apricot dessert and tea or coffee.

Thanks to Liz for leading the service and those who provided the food and helped setting up.

This is a Benefice-wide midweek communion service so please come along - everyone is welcome, you don't need to be a church goer. We provide a short communion service for those unable to attend a long service, or just come along for the lunch and meet other people, you will be made very welcome.

The next midweek communion will be on Thursday, 4th December at 12.00 at St Peter's Church, Stoke Lyne.

Rena Andrews

REGISTRY

Oscar Felix Astley
All Saints, Mixbury
Saturday 30th August 2025



On Saturday 30th August, Oscar Felix Astley was christened in the lovely All Saints, Mixbury by Father Alex. His parents, Andrew and Joanna were married in Mixbury in 2021 and his sister Molly was christened there in 2023 - and conveniently his Aunt and Uncle were married there this summer so Uncle Robert Hawes had the Monks House garden all ready for another party!



Pam Morgan played the organ and Oscar's big sister Molly and her cousins took a break from colouring in the children's corner during Lord of the Dance to have a bop and do some roly polys up the aisle!

Oscar's godparents include Ellie Astley, Neville Cairns and Barney Dillow. There were visitors from Lancashire, Yorkshire and Tipperary who all loved the friendly service in Mixbury.

The service was followed by a barbeque at Monks House Farm and Oscar changed out of his dress to don his party clothes and enjoy some cake!

Thank you to the team at Mixbury and Father Alex for a very special day.



Funeral

Jane Mary Singleton

6th March 1939 - 3rd September 2025

Jane was born in 1939 at Chester to mother Mary, née Brown of Piddington and Marsh Gibbon and father, Robert Danson from Chester. Jane was launched into the Islip society by sharing her pram with Jonnie Acton and progressed from her stuffed doggie toddler walking aid to become a slip of a girl with two long plaits.

Jane left home at 17 in 1956 to train as a nurse and at 19 had completed two years' training at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital. She earned less than £10 a month but still saved to buy a bicycle. Later she moved jobs, and hospital wards were in wooden huts. The pushbike became a Vespa scooter which took her safely to Italy and being a member of the Medical Ringers, gave her access in London to some interesting churches.



In late 1965 she was nursing in Boston USA but after 9 months was back in London, staying with her aunt Mercy Brown in Islip when on leave. By 1968 she was a Ward Sister at the old Cowley Hospital and was interviewed on BBC 2 'Man Alive' about the state of geriatric care in the health service. The book 'Sans Everything' had named several failing hospitals and a subsequent White Paper had not helped, but Jane got a result with threatened bed closures being averted as volunteers came in from the Red Cross to assist at ward 3.

Jane moved to 2 Folly Cottages, Fringford in 1972 despite advice not to. All was not quite to her professional requirements. No loo or kitchen and the privy was at the bottom of the garden! A grant for these (the same amount as she paid for the house) must have silenced her critics. She changed to Health Visitor, registering in 1972 with a diploma from the Oxford Poly in 1973. After a collision wrote off her Reliant Robin she bought a Citroen 2CV - ideal when visiting round Banbury and the then less sociable areas of Bretch Hill. Jane's attitude to non appearance at a baby check clinic was to visit the offender. She always received the respect due to her.

Her life was full of surprises. When away for a weekend she was worried that Pippin her cat would require additional food so phoned her neighbour to check. A book by Martin Greenwood about Fringford village discreetly documents on a budding romance. I quote, *'Numbers 2 and 3 have romance attached to them, as they were made into one after Chris Singleton from No 3 married Jane from No 2 in the late 1970s. This caused some confusion for the milkman' !!*

They were married on the 25th May 1979 and the honeymoon started in the Mermaid Inn, Rye, Sussex for a few days, enough to pop along to Deal to tell Chris's parents the good news before the honeymoon proper which was to Florence camping with a beautiful view over to the Duomo. Back in England Jane helped Chris with his bell ringing. Jane still rang until May 1981, a month before daughter Elinor was born. She definitely didn't want to let the bell ringers down though one or two looked apprehensive as the doorway was restricted with long narrow spiral stairs to the ground floor.

Travel was always important to her, but she added the dimension of friends by making room for a companion for Elinor. They included Jessie Wood, Ed Burns, deprived children from London, and Laura Duff who accompanied them to Italy for the wedding of Chris' nephew Ben. Then she managed well at motorcycle camping weekends riding the family Triumph before health and safety stopped these fun antics. However, her tolerance was tested one night when Chris returned late from the marquee and somehow forgot that a Lilo shared with your partner would catapult them skywards by the sudden

compression of the vacant side. All ended happily with Chris swapping with Elinor for a bit of respite in a tiny tent, though the episode was talked about the next morning.

Aunt Mercy enjoyed holidays in Tunisia and Morocco with Jane to supply her special needs. Jane had promised to care for her and Fringford family routines were inclusive despite her protests of being 'so unworthy'. Jane knew the importance of family and was a natural carer, so supported Mercy to keep her safe and comfortable at home.

Plan International was her favourite charity. In retirement this wasn't enough. A visit to Mali was more like something from Dr. Livingstone's mission trekking into Africa. She was received at the village in the Kita Kourou district like the queen, with a bustling crowd of noisy children led by her sponsored girl following her from the well to the school, and back via allotments donkeys, chickens and goats to the village elders where food was noisily but respectfully served (men first) and gifts exchanged. Earrings for Jane and a sack of seeds for the village. Then back to Bamaco 4½ hours by road described as rough, time consuming and sometimes perilous. Not one to pass up an opportunity, Timbuktu was next on the agenda, but the possibility of the Taliban being nearby scuppered a trip from here into the Sahara for a Tuareg music concert.

Jane was a true all-rounder. She had allotments by the Fringford bridge and in the manor, taught recorders at Fringford school for 15 years, played on the tuba in Marsh Gibbon silver band, was clerk on the parish council, made sure of a ready supply of mince pies and sherry for the carol singers in Main Street, organised the orchestra for the family crib service at Christmas, took a group of children painting on glass at holiday week, looked after her aunt Mercy in Stratton Audley and had the final accolade of being made redundant from her cleaning job at 82, when Laura Ashley closed all its stores..... So sad to be finally stopped by vascular dementia, an illness that in its early stages, takes away everything most treasured.



Rest in peace Jane, you certainly set us a good example and will be missed by many.

Club News



SHELSWELL WI



Everyone enjoyed our November meeting when we welcomed Jackie's Mobile Boutique. Some of our lovely ladies were models for the evening, so a big thanks to them.

We are looking forward to December when we are gathering for our Christmas meal at the Butchers Arms.

We are meeting one week later in January on Thursday 8, where we will be hearing from our committee about the resolution options for 2026.

Following on in February our guest will be Neil Jacobs from the 3B's Community

We meet monthly on the first Thursday of the month in Fringford Village hall. New members are always welcome for more information contact Sandra at sandrambickmore@gmail.com

SHELLOWELL READING GROUP

Our report for November will appear next month. Meanwhile, the Shellsowell 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

SHELLOWELL POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP

Our November meeting focused on The Spoken Word and we read a range of poems using direct speech, dramatic monologues and ponderings on why and how we use the spoken word.

We began with a poem entitled *On Talking by Khalil Gibran (1883-1931)*. His work found huge popularity in Britain and America in the 1920s, and in this example he explores the social and psychological basis of speech. *Ella Wheeler Wilcox (1850-1919)*, in *Conversation*, analyses the differences between male and female talk and decides that neither sex addresses the true meaning of our existence. His love of and social need for conversation is described by *Robert Frost (1874-1963)* in *A Time to Talk*.

1805 by Robert Graves

At Viscount Nelson's lavish funeral,
While the mob milled and yelled about St Paul's,
A General chatted with an Admiral:
"One of your colleagues, Sir, remarked today
That Nelson's exit, though to be lamented,
Falls not inopportunely, in it's way"
"He was a thorn in our flesh", came the reply-
"The mot bird-witted, unaccountable,
Odd little runt that ever I did spy".
"One arm, one peeper, vain as Pretty Poll,
A meddler too, in foreign politics
And gave his heart in pawn to a plain moll.
"He would dare lecture us Sea Lords, and then
Would treat his ratings as though men of honour
And play leap-frog with his midshipmen!
We tried to box him down, but up he popped,
And when he banged Napoleon on the Nile
Became too much the hero to be dropped.
"You've heard that Copenhagen 'blind eye' story?
We'd tied him to Nurse Parker's apron- strings-
By G-d, he snipped them through and snatched the glory!"
"Yet", cried the General, 'sic-and-twenty sail
Captured or sunk by him off Trafalgar-
That writes a handsome finis to the tale"
"Handsome enough. The seas are England's now.
That fellow's foibles need no longer plague us
He died most creditably, I'll allow."
"And Sir, the secret of his victories?"
"By his unServicelike, familiar ways, Sir,
He made the whole Fleet love him, damn his eyes!"

In the play *Romeo and Juliet*, by *William Shakespeare (1564-1616)* the blank verse of Romeo's soliloquy as he stands beneath Juliet's balcony is an example of dramatic soliloquy, in which the audience hears a character's thoughts spoken aloud. A tale with a happier ending is to be found in *The Eve of St Agnes by John Keats (1795-1821)*, a story with many similarities to Shakespeare's play, where Keats uses direct speech to heighten the drama and immediacy of the poem. In *Porphyria's Lover by Robert Browning (1812-89)*, on the other hand, a killer tells an unidentified and speechless listener how he strangled the woman he loved in order to keep her to himself.

Another poem based on a crime is *Danny Deevee by Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)* and the use of direct speech between the soldiers assembled to witness their comrade's disgrace adds to the drama and pathos of the piece.

Another of the armed forces is represented in *1805 by Robert Graves (1895-1985)*, in which a General and an Admiral discuss the reasons for Nelson's

fame as they attend his funeral in Westminster Abbey, and the Admiral says, "He made the whole fleet love him, damn his eyes!"

At an earlier battle, in the tenth century, a Saxon army tried to fight off a marauding Viking horde in Essex, only to be defeated. Their leader's bravery is praised by a loyal retainer, Byrhtwold, and memorialised in the anonymous poem ***The Battle of Maldon***. He addresses the few men left alive with stirring encouragements to fight on which find echoes in Winston Churchill's wartime speeches.

Siegfried Sassoon (1886-1967) had lost any respect for the leaders of the British army during the First World War by the time he wrote ***The General***, and in 7 devastating lines which include two of direct speech, he nailed the incompetence which brought about so much needless slaughter.

Three poems which use dialect or colloquial speech to paint a picture are ***Flood*** and ***The Queen's English***, both by the recently-deceased ***Tony Harrison (1937-2025)*** and an extract from ***The Waste Land*** by ***T S Eliot (1883-1968)***. In the first two the poet's father's Yorkshire dialect is used by Harrison to give us a vivid impression of the man, and in the third, Eliot 'overhears' a conversation between two women in a pub at closing time.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 9th December at 10.30 and the topic is Puddings (including Christmas ones, no doubt!) If you would like to join us, please contact me on 01869 811994 or at judith.harvey@live.co.uk



REPORTS FROM THE PARISHES

Cottisford and Juniper Hill

St Mary the Virgin

CHURCHWARDEN: Charles Jackson, Cottisford House, Cottisford

Tel 01280 848247

TREASURER: David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick

Tel 01869 277690

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Flora Skinner

Tel: 01869 277366

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Sandra Bickmore, Thatch End, Juniper Hill

sandrambickmore@gmail.com

SERVICES

Sunday 21st December 4.30 pm Carol Service (see below)

Christmas Eve 9.30 pm Early Midnight Communion

COTTISFORD AND JUNIPER HILL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Thank you to all those who attended the bonfire, we had a great time. We raised nearly £90. As usual our thanks also go to all those who made it happen.

We have several events coming up.

9th December a festive Coffee Morning 10.30-12.30 at the Grange Cottisford. Everyone welcome come and enjoy a coffee and a chat.

21st December 4.30 pm Christmas Carol service at Cottisford Church. All welcome, there will be refreshments afterwards.

Looking forward to 2026 our first event will be Snowdrop Sunday on 8 February. If you would like to help at any of our events please contact Sandra at sandrambickmore@gmail.com

Finmere

St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: Barbara Cunningham, 'Woodlea' Finmere

TREASURER: Peter Goss, 6 Stable Close Finmere

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

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

Tel: 01280 847992

Tel: 07941 322 840

Tel: 01280 848364

Tel 01280 848268

CHURCH SERVICES

Friday 5th December 7.30 pm Carol Service (see below)

Sunday 7th December 10.45 am Connect Informal Worship, Finmere Village Hall

Sunday 21st December 9.15 am Holy Communion

Christmas Eve 10 pm Early Midnight Communion



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Christmas Lights 'switch on' ceremony will take place on Friday 5th. Dec. at 7.15pm., followed by the Carol Service in the church at 7.30. Mince pies and a drink will be offered after the Carol Service at the monthly 'Pop-up-Pub' at the village hall.



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 booking enquiries, please visit

www.myfinmere.com/villagehall.



ALLOTMENTS

It's a relatively quiet time at the allotments, though lots of tidying to mark the end of the main growing season. There was a fabulous bonfire at the start of November, after all the plot holders added their old bits of organic materials to one big fire and celebrated the occasion with a few burgers and sausages. We are now keeping an eye on those sprouts for December.



Mild weather in the autumn means the birds have plenty to eat going into the winter, and we won't have long to wait for the redwings and field fares to reappear.

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

Jean (Allotment correspondent)

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



Please come along to support Finmere's

"Tuesday Teas"

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

Tuesday 11th November from 2 - 4 pm

Tea, coffee, cake & biscuits...All locals welcome, no charge

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...

FINMERE



POP UP PUB

**FIRST FRIDAY OF
EVERY MONTH**

**Come catch up with friends and
neighbours. Families welcome!**

**Licensed bar
and food van on site!**

FINMERE VILLAGE HALL

6-10PM

Light lunch

Finmere Village Hall

4th Tuesday of the month

No charge but donations appreciated



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

Fringford

St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: Max Todd 5, The Manor, Fringford
 TREASURER: Christina McCullagh, 5 Crosslands, Fringford
 PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Penny Wood ,as below
 MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Penny Wood, 8 Crosslands, Fringford
 VILLAGE HALL CORRESPONDENT: Christine Underwood
 WEBSITE www.fringford.info

Tel 07936 760684
 Tel 07867 515207

 Tel 01869 277310
 Tel 01869 278949

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, SERVICES & EVENTS

SERVICES

- Sunday 7 December – at 10.45am – Morning Service
- Saturday 20 December – at 4.00pm – Carol Service
- Wednesday 24 December – at 4.00pm in Stratton Audley Church – Crib Service
- Wednesday 24 December – at 11.30pm – Midnight Communion
- Thursday 25 December – at 10.45am – Family Service
- Sunday 28 December – at 10.45am – Morning Service [for all the Benefice]

There is a variety of services available in the Benefice, if there is not one in Fringford Church. You will always be welcome in our other churches. For details of those services please see the back cover of this *Shelswell News*.

EVENTS

Looking Ahead

Join us for Carol Singing round the village in aid of the Hummingbird Centre, on Thursday 18 December. Meet up at 6.30pm in the Village Hall car park.

Help us prepare the church for Christmas on the morning of Christmas Eve. All help welcomed - meet in church at 9.30am – gifts of greenery and flowers will be much appreciated

The 2026 Fringford Beer Festival in aid of Fringford Church Restoration Fund will be on Saturday 13 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 . [**Volunteers still needed to help at Little Lambs – could you help?**]

FRINGFORD VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING - third Monday in the month

In December we will meet on Monday 15th. Drop by for a coffee/tea and a chat any time between 10.30 am and 12 noon in the Chinnery Room at the Village Hall. Contact Penny on 277310 for more information.

COME & JOIN US AT 'SEWCIAL'



We enjoy any type of craft and a natter getting together to relax and enjoy each other's company. Some of us knit, crochet, embroider, quilt, sew or create craft albums. You are also welcome to join us for tea and chat, crafts not essential.

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 2026 are:

Sunday January 18th
Sunday March 22nd
Sunday May 17th
Sunday July 19th
Wednesday September 16th
Wednesday November 18th
Sunday January 17th 2027

Wednesday February 18th
Wednesday April 15th
Wednesday June 17th
August no meeting
Sunday October 18th
Sunday December 13th

Everyone welcome

No need to book – just come and join us!

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

REGULAR ACTIVITIES HELD IN FRINGFORD VILLAGE HALL

To find out more or book a place, please contact the hirer direct.	
Weekly Activities	Monthly Activities
FS Dance Monday & Wednesday (term time) After school classes BALLET • TAP • MODERN • STREET leah.fsd@gmail.com or 07885827592	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
Parish Council Meeting All villagers welcome Third Monday in the month 7.45pm Contact 01844 237766 or fringford.parishclerk@gmail.com	Just Puppies Puppy Training Tuesday evening, Sunday afternoon – various classes Contact Kerri 07720 891489 www.justpuppies.training
Fringford Yoga Wednesday morning 9.30am – 11am Carolyn White 07763 817078	Shelswell WI First Thursday of the month 7.30pm (Not December or August) Contact Sandra Bickmore 07961 828571

Fringford Village Hall, continued

<p>Pilates</p> <p>Thursday at 10.00am natashaflowerspilates@gmail.com or 07545 525820</p>	<p>Fringford Sewcial</p> <p>Sew and Chat! All welcome Monthly Wednesday from 7pm Or Sunday from 3pm Contact Irene at ireneethomas@btinternet.com</p>
<p>Mindfulness Meditation</p> <p>Monthly Sunday 11am to 12.30pm janerainey17@gmail.com or 07971 008337</p>	<p>Village Hall Team Meeting</p> <p>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 www.fringford.info/village hall, how to book Here you will find all the information you will need to book on-line. For any other queries please phone or text 07936 879175 or email: fringford.hall@gmail.com</p>	

Hardwick St Mary the Virgin

CHURCHWARDEN: David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick

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

Sunday 7th December 9.15 am Holy Communion

Sunday 14th December 4.00 pm Carol Service

Christmas Day 9.00 am Holy Communion

WISHING EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS!



Hardwick Church will be open on Saturdays and Sundays 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

If you have any news or a village event to publicise, please send the details to me, where possible with a photo, and if suitable I will add them to next month's news and include them on the village web site.

Happy Christmas to everyone, very best wishes for the New Year and many thanks to the volunteers who have worked so hard this year to make our church a special place in the community. The volunteers undertake varied roles from helping to maintain the churchyard, to church cleaning, to providing flowers, to being members of the PCC – all are thanked for their contributions.

ST EDMUND & ST GEORGE CHURCH



Church Services and Events

At the time of preparing this news, the restoration of the area over the Chancel Arch should have been completed, although it will take some time for the volunteers to finish making the building useable. Our aim is for the church to be open for Christmas services, except for Morning Prayers on Sunday 21st December at 9.30am, which will be held in the village hall.

Remember that you will always be welcome at services in any of the other 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>.

Thank you to Dean for the above photo which is featured on this year's Christmas Card.

Remembrance Service. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the collection of £134 at the Remembrance Service, all of which has been given to the Royal British Legion.

100 Club. If you would like to join the 100 Club, Helen Pritchard is the contact.

PARISH GIVING

“What we've learned is that churches are more vulnerable than ever, but they are still playing a vital role at the heart of local communities. One in ten churches need urgent repairs to their roofs and guttering in the next 12 months, and only two-thirds believe their church will ‘definitely’ be open in five years’ time.”

From the National Churches Trust Survey “Yours for Good”



Some areas of the church (particularly in the north aisle) need to dry out before replastering and painting. We are also due the five yearly inspection by our Church Architect, and we have concerns about the roof as well as the west window in the nave. Therefore, if you can contribute to further works on the church, please consider Parish Giving. We have a supply of the new Parish Giving Scheme Gift Forms, which will be available in the church, but the quickest method to set up giving is through the link below or by scanning the new QR code:

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/hethe-st-edmund-st-george-bicester/>.

Next PCC meeting, Wednesday 21st January.

HETHE COMMUNITY ACTIVITY



Hethe Community Coffee Morning in St Philip's Hall

Monday 8th December from 10.00am to 12.00pm

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



Hethe and District Darby & Joan Club

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

holding a Bingo Night at Hethe Village Hall every third Saturday of the month, 7.30pm

Membership £15 p.a.
New members welcome.

December 2nd Christmas Party - members only



Recycling. With effect from 1 January 2026, glass jars and bottles will be collected in the blue recycle bins. Check the village or Cherwell District Council web site for details of collections over the Christmas period.

Parish Council. The next meeting of the council will take place on Tuesday 20th January 2026, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Planning meetings will continue to be called as required.

Pop-up Pub. Friday 5th December in the Village Hall, from 7.00 to 10.00pm. Everyone welcome. Bring your own drinks of choice, snacks and games!

Local Bus Service



Monday to Saturday - pick up at Hethe War Memorial at 07.39, 10.54, 1342 and 15.42. Last bus departs Bicester at 17.50 to arrive in Hethe at 18.12. Note that this service does not operate on Bank Holidays.

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/>

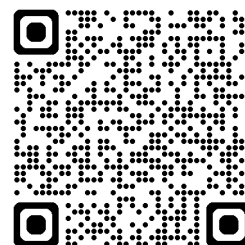
Facebook Pages:

Community Spirit of the Hethens

Hethe Community

Hethe Allotments

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



ON A SEASONAL NOTE....MISTLETOE



In Britain most mistletoe is found in the south and west Midlands, with particularly good populations in Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, Gwent and Somerset. There is mistletoe elsewhere, but it is only regionally abundant in that core area of the south-west midlands.

Change may be happening though – new evidence from the last 20 years suggests that mistletoe is spreading faster than it used to. This is particularly noticeable in eastern areas, where established but seemingly static

mistletoe populations are now spreading. Is this change due to climate or to birds? It could be subtle hints of climate change – computer modelling does suggest that mistletoe will head east with climate change. Or it could be something else. One possibility is better spread of the seeds by Blackcaps, a bird that is particularly efficient at spreading mistletoe. British Blackcaps migrate for the winter, so they do not usually

affect mistletoe here, but recently continental Blackcaps have started overwintering in Britain, with many thousands now spending their winters here and feeding on mistletoe and then spreading it.

Kissing beneath the mistletoe is a very old tradition indeed and although part of Christmas revels, mistletoe is rarely allowed inside a church because of its strong pagan associations. It is well known as the most sacred plant of the Druids, the priestly clan of the Celts.



If you have a young fruit tree in your churchyard, garden or elsewhere, how about encouraging mistletoe by smearing some berries onto the bark after Christmas is over. The thin bark of a young trees is easier for the mistletoe to penetrate and establish.

*"Nature Notes for your December Magazine" from
Caring for God's Acre*

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

Tel 07899 792552
Tel 01280 848295
Tel 01280 847769
Tel 01280 848295
Tel 01280 848002
pasgoodman551@gmail.com

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 21st December 4.00 pm Nativity and Carol Service
Christmas Day 9.15 am Holy Communion

MIXBURY CHURCH FLOWER ROTA 2025

December : Carol service and Christmas - everyone

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.

DECEMBER Gail Bellingham, Mel Soar & Sue Boshier

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

MIXBURY POP UP PUB NIGHTS

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



It may be of interest to the regular “Mixbury Pop Up Pub Nighters” that next year this event will be 25 years old.

The original “Wine Club” was started by Jackie and Andy Lees who used to live in the village – after moving to Mixbury from a similar type of village where there was no pub or village hall they and their neighbours started a “Wine Club” held once a month. So when Jackie and Andy moved to Mixbury they did not waste any time in getting a Mixbury version going and boldly invited the whole village to the first “Wine Club” at their house. Sadly after a few years Jackie and Andy moved to Studland, Dorset to run a post office but the tradition they started continues now called “Pub Night”.

So perhaps we should think of a suitable way of celebrating “Pub Nights” 25th! – and a question, how many people remember and were present at the first ever meeting?

MIXBURY KNIT AND NATTER

Courtesy of Anna at Swallows Nursery Mixbury Knit and Natter now meets fortnightly in the coffee shop at the Nursery. 2-4pm. 2ND and 16th December 2025 then start again 6th January 2026.

All welcome – and you don’t have to knit or crochet, just come along and chat! Swallows not only sell lovely plants but coffee and cake too.....!

BOOK EXCHANGE

Looking for something to read during the summer – there is a large collection of second hand books in the church for villagers to borrow and replace with any book they may have read.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 9th November 2025

There was a short Remembrance service in the Churchyard next to the Memorial and the poem overleaf was read out by Robert Drummond Hay. Amelia Berry also read a few lines from the order of service representing the younger generation. A recording of the last post was played.

Still Here In Flanders

Remember me yet though a hundred years gone
Still here in Flanders while the world has moved on
Nobody left who had spoken my name
Still here in Flanders, still just the same

Still just nineteen as I was when I left
Still cursing war and the violence and theft
Theft of the lives of young men such as I
Still here in Flanders and still don't know why

They buried me here for 'twas here that I fell
Amongst all the mud and the bullet and shell
No going home for us heroes of war
Still here in Flanders on this foreign shore

Rows of white crosses remember our lives
No more our mothers or lovers or wives
Strangers now come to see where we lay
Still here in Flanders to this very day

Poppies now grow where the battle once raged
Each one recalling a life never aged
Remember me yet though a hundred years gone
Still here in Flanders while the world has moved on

Chris Ross 2018

Thinking of the young men who were born/lived in Mixbury and served in WW1 and WW2 the Poppy Team has researched the following information – with thanks to Ann Gardner who gave her time up to do so. This information will be stored in the Mixbury History Archive.

World War I

Edward Henry Blencowe

Private 10695, 5th Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Died of wounds 24 June 1915. Aged 21. Born and resident Mixbury, Oxon, enlisted Oxford. Son of Thomas and Hannah Blencowe, of Mixbury, Brackley, Northants. On the 1911 Census he was living with his parents and older brother Mark in Mixbury and was a farm labourer. Buried in BAILLEUL COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION, NORD, Nord, France. Plot I. Row D. Grave 42.

Leslie Hamilton Paxton

Acting Sergeant 10674, 5th Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Killed in action 12 July 1915. In 1901 when he was 5 he was living with his grandparents in Mixbury under the name of Leslie Hamilton.

Born and resident Brackley, Northants, enlisted Coventry. Buried in POELCAPELLE BRITISH CEMETERY West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Plot LVII. Row D. Grave 12.

Reginald Strickland

Second Lieutenant, 3rd Battalion attached 2nd Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Died on service 25 December 1915. Aged 23. Son of Elizabeth Strickland, of Mixbury, Brackley, Northants,

and the late William Strickland. Buried in BETHUNE TOWN CEMETERY, Pas de Calais, France. Plot II. Row L. Grave 5.

World War II

John Richard St Leger Aldworth (his father owned Mixbury Hall)

Major 117163, 2nd Battalion, Royal Ulster Rifles. Killed in action 10 June 1944. Aged 29. Son of Maj. J. C. O. Aldworth and Mrs. L. S. C. Aldworth; husband of Margaret Jean Aldworth. Buried in LA DELIVRANDE WAR CEMETERY, DOUVRES, Calvados, France. Plot IX. Row D. Grave 2. He is also mentioned on the War Memorial at Hartley Wintney, Hampshire as his father owned property there too. We have more interesting information on John and his family which I will put on separately.

Robert Henry Dunkley (Commonwealth Grave in All Saints Churchyard, Mixbury)

Sergeant (Air Gunner) 1608128, 51 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. Killed in action in a Halifax III, serial number LV865, flying out of Snaith, Yorkshire, when the aircraft swung off the runway and crashed into a hut on take-off at Snaith when setting off on a raid on Boulogne, the rest of the crew survived, 17 September 1944. Aged 20. Born 6 March 1924. Son of John Geoffrey and Alice Mary Dunkley, of Northampton. In the 1939 Register he was single, helping on farm, resident with his parents at Town Farm, Mixbury, Ploughley R.D., Oxfordshire. Buried in MIXBURY (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD, Oxfordshire.

World War 1 – Survivors

Wilfred Gordon Hancock

He was born 1893 in Brackley, Northamptonshire. On the 1901 Census he was living with his grandparents, Henry and Mary Gaskin in Mixbury, along with his siblings Freda, Herbert and Mabel.

On the 1911 Census he was living with his grandmother Mary Gaskin, and his siblings Freda and Harry in Mixbury and he is a Farm Labourer.

He signed up on 27th August 1914, and was a chauffeur before he enlisted. He was a Sergeant in the OBLI and was discharged from the army on 14th April 1916 due to a gunshot wound in his left arm at Ypres. He married a nurse, Lilian Howarth in 1917 in Mitford, Norfolk. There were no children from the marriage. He died on 17th October 1918 in Luton, Bedfordshire. His name is on a headstone in All Saints Churchyard, Mixbury.

NB. His widow ran the Cottage Hospital in Brackley in 1921.

The following young men were born in Mixbury, were living in Mixbury on the 1911 Census and served in WW1:- (survivors)

William Bannister, born 1899, Private in D.C.L.I. Was living in Aylesbury on the 1921 Census. Died 1977.

Charles Archer Chatwell, born 1896, Sapper in Royal Engineers. Unable to find on the 1921 Census, but living in Leicester in 1939. Died 1976.

David Chapman, born 1892, Sapper in Royal Engineers. Was living in Brackley in 1921.

Fred Chapman, born 1895, Private in 7th E. Surreys. Taken P.O.W. in Cambrai, France in 1917. Was living in Mixbury in 1921. Died 1964.

Harry William Chimes, born 1899. Private in Lancashire Fusiliers. Was living in Preston Brook, Warrington, Cheshire in 1921. Died 1984.

Oliver Cook, born 1893. Sergeant in 5th OBLI. Taken P.O.W. to Germany 21/3/18 – 17/12/18, after being wounded in the stomach. Fought at Ypres, Arras and the Somme. Returned to Mixbury after being demobbed. Was living in Teversal, Mansfield, Notts in 1921. Died 1978.

Reginald Geary Heydon, born 1894. Private in OBLI, but discharged 6/10/16. Returned to live in Mixbury. Died 1971.

The following young men were born in Mixbury, but living elsewhere on the 1911 Census:-

James Henry Chimes, born 1891. Was living in Blackwell, Derbyshire in 1911. L/Cpl in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment. Was living in Upper Langwith, Notts in 1921. Died 1959.

Frank Louis Chimes, born 1893. Was visiting his brother in Blackwell, Derbyshire in 1911. Gunner in Royal Garrison Artillery. Unable to find in 1921. Died 1986.

Hubert Gerald Hancock, born 1895. Was living in Bicester in 1911. Was living in Fringford when he joined the Army Service Corps. Served in Salonika 23/10/16 – 04/06/18. Suffered from malaria. Was living in Bicester in 1921. Died 1981.

Alfred Robert Paxton, born 1891. Was living in Fulwell in 1911. Private in Royal Bucks Cyclist Regt. Was living in Little Hallingbury, Herts in 1921. Died 1953.

Frederick Thomas Paxton, born 1892. Was living in Fulwell in 1911. Bombardier in Royal Artillery. Killed at the Somme. Memorial Becourt Military Cemetery I.U.35. Died 30/07/1916.

The following young men were born elsewhere, but living in Mixbury in 1911:-

John (Jack) George, born 1894 in Croughton. Private in OBLI. Was granted a commission on 28/05/18, 2nd Lieutenant OBLI. Was living in Mixbury in 1921. Died 1959.

Harry Holton, born 1890 in Tingewick. Private 5th Battalion OBLI. Killed in Ypres on 25/09/1915. Remembered on memorial in Tingewick Cemetery.

Frederick James Holton, born 1895 in Tingewick, Gunner in Royal Garrison Artillery. Killed in France on 30/08/1918. Remembered on memorial in Tingewick Cemetery and Bellacourt Military Cemetery, Riviere, France 111.G.5.

Richard Stephen/Stevens, born 1893 in Cottisford. Sgt in 2nd OBLI. Was living in Brackley in 1921.

Charles Oliver Strickland, born 1898 in Normanby, Yorkshire. L/Cpl in OBL. Was living in Mixbury in 1921.



NEWS FROM SWALLOWS NURSERY

This Saturday 15th November, we are launching our Specialty Coffee service at Swallows Nursery & Plant Centre. Our Specialty Coffee service is available Wednesday through Sundays, while you can still come and enjoy our regular coffee on Mondays and Tuesdays.

We have been tasting coffees from around the world and settled on a house blend that we love - and hope you will too. We are very lucky to have expert baristas who make a truly excellent cup of coffee, and also many types of teas and hot chocolates. We should like to offer double reward stamps on your hot Specialty drinks until the end of November.

In addition, we are offering a new range of delicious cakes following Nordic recipes, along with some old favourites.

As you may know, we have been working hard to upgrade the seating area. The new wood burner is proving particularly popular. And as usual, you will receive the same warm welcome from everyone here.

Finally, we are gauging interest from those in Mixbury regarding provision of fresh sourdough bread and pastries from a top Oxfordshire artisan bakery. Do get in touch if this is something of interest to you.

With best regards from everyone here,
Anna

***Christmas Trees soon available from
Swallows Nursery***

Mixbury History Archive
Open Day
Spring 2026 - Date to be confirmed

Newton Purcell
St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: Ann von Maltzahn, Home Farm Shelswell Park

CHURCHWARDEN: 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 7th December - 9.15 a.m. Holy Communion

Thursday 25th December - 9.15 a.m. Christmas Day - Holy Communion

Churchyard Maintenance:-

We would like to thank James Pearce once again for keeping our churchyard looking so neat and tidy throughout the year.

Our grateful thanks also to Debs & Martin Moroney who have very generously given us their mower after our appeal to replace our existing one which was on its last legs!

Carols by Candlelight:-

See full page advert on page 7

We look forward to welcoming all who are able to come to this years concert.

Always a very popular event so we suggest you reserve your seat in good time by contacting either of the Churchwardens.

The 'Secret Santa' needs help with wrapped gifts so please either bring them with you on the evening or get them to us in advance.

The church will be decorated for the event on Wednesday 10th December from 10.00 a.m. onwards. Please come along if you have a little time to help with this.

We wish all our readers a HAPPY & PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS and a prosperous New Year.



Stoke Lyne St Peter's

CHURCHWARDEN: Christopher Poole
CHURCHWARDEN: James Holden-White

TREASURER: Janey Poole

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Emma Brown

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Rena Andrews

PARISH ROOM BOOKINGS : Kelly and James Holden-White

Tel 01869 346020 CTP@oxford-educational.co.uk
kholdenwhite@aol.com

Tel 07810 120457 janey@oxford-educational.co.uk
emmabrown911@gmail.com

Tel: 01869 346653 renaandrews820@gmail.com

Tel 01869 345211 kholdenwhite@aol.com

CHURCH SERVICES

Thursday 4th December 12.00 noon Midweek Holy Communion

Sunday 14th December 6.00 pm Evening Communion

Sunday 21st December 6.00 pm Carol Service - see poster

Christmas Day 10.45 am Family Communion

FLOWER DUTY FOR DECEMBER

Janey Poole

STOKE LYNE 100 CLUB - NOVEMBER RESULTS

1 st Prize	Membership No 33	Chris Lowe
2 nd Prize	Membership No 12	Hugo Brown
3 rd Prize	Membership No 57	Mick the Hat

Congratulations to the winners. Please join our 100 club so we can increase the prize money to you all.

£3.00 per membership per month. Contact janey@oxford-educational.co.uk

Many thanks for all your support.

Janey Poole, Treasurer

St Peter's Church PCC

AUTUMN LEAVES



As I was delivering the Shelswell News Magazine, I was amazed at the beautiful colours of the trees: light green, dark green, deep red and also the different coloured berries around. There was one house I passed which had a lovely display of pumpkins out. The leaves that covered the ground took me back many years to my youth to a beautiful love song called "Autumn Leaves". The first line of the lyrics went "The falling leaves drift by the window, the autumn leaves of red and gold." Nat King Cole used to sing it. [you can hear it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gnp58oepHUQ>]

Rena Andrews, Photos: Brenda Hazel



FAMILY CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

ST PETER'S CHURCH,
STOKE LYNE

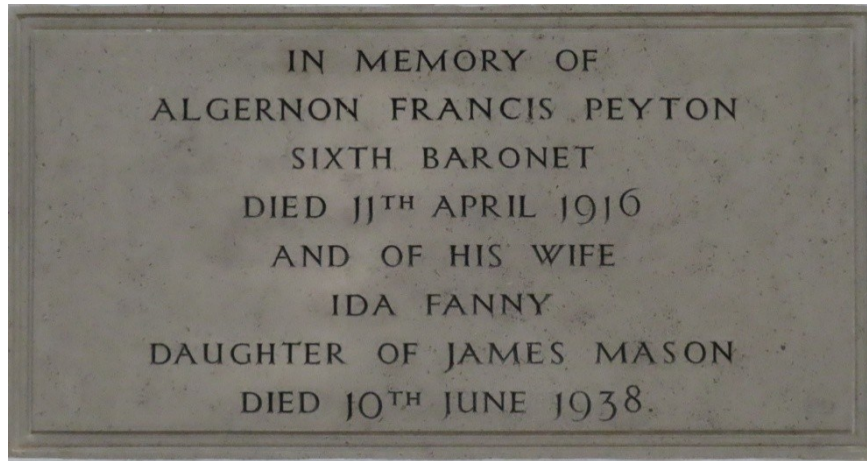
21st December • 6.00pm

Children's nativity

Followed by refreshments
including sparkling wine & nibbles

Contact janey@oxford-educational.co.uk
if you have a child who would like a
part in the nativity - one-year-
olds upwards!

A LOOK AT THE PEYTON MEMORIALS WITHIN THE CHURCH
Part 6 Sir Algernon Francis, 6th Baronet (1855-1916)



A photograph of Sir Algernon and his son Algernon Thomas Peyton, both in the uniform of the 11th Hussars can be found on the Oxfordshire History Centre website at:

<https://heritagesearch.oxfordshire.gov.uk/images/POX0050679>

His death was announced in the Bicester Advertiser of 14th April 1916:

***“DEATH OF SIR ALGERNON PEYTON
 A GREAT LOSS TO BICESTER DISTRICT***

It is with deep regret – and we use the phrase in no conventional manner – that we have record the death of Sir Algernon Francis Peyton, of Swifts House, Bicester, which took place at the Acland Nursing Home, Oxford, on Tuesday night. Deceased has been ill for a considerable period, but his death took place quite unexpectedly. An operation was regarded necessary on Saturday, and this was considered successful by the doctors. On Tuesday, however, Sir Algernon relapsed and passed away about 10.30 p.m. This sad event removed another well-known and widely-respected figure in the Bicester district.”

The Bucks Herald and other newspapers revealed that the operation was for appendicitis. As with his predecessor his obituaries give us a good idea of his life.

The Bicester Herald continued: *“Sir Algernon led a busy and useful career. He was the eldest son of the late Sir Thomas Peyton, Bart., and was born on November 24, 1855. He married in 1888 Ida Fanny, third daughter of Mr. James Mason, of Eynsham Hall, Oxon. In the same year he succeeded to the title and took possession of the Swifts House (Oxfordshire) and Doddington Manor (Cambridgeshire) estates. In 1912 Sir Algernon decided to sell the Doddington estates, which were purchased by a Sir John Peyton from Queen Elizabeth in 1601, and which had remained in unbroken possession of the Peyton family throughout the long period between those dates ... More about his wife Ida and their wedding will appear in a separate “Look at”).*

Of his children the Bicester Herald stated: *“Sir Algernon’s two sons, Capt. Algernon Thos. and Capt. Harry Peyton, are serving in the Army and have done good service at the Front. The former (the elder, who succeeds his father) was born in 1889.”* It does not mention his daughter, Dorothy who was the youngest of the three children.

A few months after his father’s death, the younger son, Harry (Henry Sydney Charles to give him his full forenames) was killed in action and is commemorated on the plaque in St Peter’s church (See the November 2022 issue of Shelswell News on the archive page of the Benefice website for more information).

As for the family's traditional enjoyment of equine pursuits, the Bicester Herald pointed out that *"Sir Algernon was a keen lover of sport and was a pillar of strength to the Bicester Hunt. He often acted as field master."* Sir Algernon was a keen polo player in his younger days and played for the 11th Hussars as evidenced by this report in the Morning Advertiser of 21st June 1883 headed *"POLO AT THE HURLINGHAM CLUB"* *"... The second game was between the 5th Lancers and 11th Hussars, and this was by far the fastest and most exciting contest. Mr. Algernon Peyton, the captain of the 11th Hussars, made the opening stroke, and sent the ball flying with great force up the ground, but it was well stopped and returnedMr. Algernon Peyton, who was the life and soul of the 11th Hussars party, played in splendid form, but had very hard luck, as just when he had a capital chance of making a goal his stick broke, and in consequence he failed to score."* Shortly after Sir Algernon became baronet "Rusticus" of the Bicester Herald, 13th April 1888 had this to say: *"SIR ALGERNON FRANCIS PEYTON, BART., handles the "ribbons" admirably when seated on the box of his coach and driving his team of greys, with Lady Peyton by his side. The yellow coach and four greys, with the owner on the driving box, and his lady to his left, reminds me of the coaching traditions of the family, and shows that they are not to be abandoned."*

Regarding his military career the Bicester Herald obituary stated: *"He was a good soldier, and a retired captain of the 11th Hussars, also holding the rank of Hon. Lieut.-Colonel of the Imperial Yeomanry. Since the commencement of the War he had taken an intense interest in local recruiting and had addressed various recruiting meetings in Bicester. By his death many patriotic institutions have lost an ardent supporter."*

Of his role in village life, the same report states: *"Sir Algernon owned the whole of the village of Stoke Lyne, and was a popular lord of the manor. His death recalls the difference between the former vicar, Rev. W. Bryant, and Sir Algernon. It was alleged that the vicar had insulted the Peyton family and a boycott resulted, no one attending the village church. The whole story is fresh in the public memory."* The story of the Rev. William Bryant has been covered in detail by David Woodhead in his book *"The Stoke Lyne Tragedy"* (available for purchase on ebay) so I won't go into it here.

He provided entertainments for the village such as the one below reported in the Bicester Herald of 31st January 1896 (before the rift with Bryant): *"An entertainment was provided by Sir Algernon and Lady Peyton, free to all the village, on Wednesday, Jan. 29th. Mr. Stormont, of London, gave a full two hours amusement in the schoolroom with his very clever sleight of hand tricks to a crowded and appreciative audience. Sir. A. and Lady Peyton were very pleased to be present, and appeared to enjoy themselves very much. At the close of the entertainment the Rev. W. Bryant proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Sir A. and Lady Peyton for their kindness, which was well received. Afterwards, by kind permission of Sir A. and Lady Peyton, the room was cleared and the merry dance was kept up till midnight, to the strains of Mr. F. Butler's band."*

He also supported the village Reading Room his father had created. The Bicester Herald of 1st May 1896 noted: *"DANCE. – The winding up of the winter season of the reading-room – which has been successfully carried on during the winter months – took the form of a dance in the schoolroom on Friday evening, April 17. The dance, which was participated in by about 20 couples, was thoroughly enjoyed, and was brought to a close about one o'clock. Mr. C. Gardner acted as M.C., and the music was supplied by Messrs. Butler and Brain. Before the company separated, three hearty cheers were given for Sir Algernon and Lady Peyton, who very kindly supplied the reading-room with a number of games."*

He was Trustee of the village Friendly Society as well as an honorary member and paid a very generous subscription (way above that of the other honorary members) and attended their annual festival in July on a number of occasions at which he would usually make a speech of encouragement to the Society in its aims. He was also a churchwarden at St Peter's Church.

In the wider community the Bicester Herald obituary pointed out: *"The late Baronet was appointed J.P. in April, 1888, and also held the office of high sheriff of Oxfordshire. He was until recently a familiar figure on the Bicester Bench, where his cheery presence and counsel will be sadly missed."*

The same publication dated 21st April reported in detail on the funeral: *"Unmistakable signs of regret and sorrow were evinced at the obsequies of the late Sir Algernon Peyton, Bart., which took place at Stoke Lyne Parish Church on Friday afternoon, and representatives from all parts of the country were present to show their last respects to one universally loved and deeply mourned. The remains, which were encased in an elm shell, with an outer covering of polished oak with brass furniture, had been placed in the chancel of the little church, and were covered with a massive purple pall. The time announced for the service to begin was two o'clock, but long before this hour large numbers of people congregated in the church and in the precincts of the churchyard. The service was of a most impressive character, and was conducted by the Vicar of Stoke Lyne (Rev. G. A. Littledale), assisted by the Revs. W. H. Draper (Middleton Stoney), S. Cooper (Heyford), W. Leathley, and W. Partridge (Fewcott). The hymn "Now the labourer's task is o'er" was sung, and as the cortege proceeded to the graveside the organist (Miss Denny) played "O Rest in the Lord." The committal prayers were read by the Rev. G. A. Littledale. The coffin was reverently lowered into an entrance prepared to the vault which contains the remains of Sir Algernon's ancestors. On the breastplate was inscribed: "Algernon Francis Peyton, Bart; born November, 1855; died April, 1916". The grave was nicely lined with moss and spring flowers, and on one side were arranged the letters "R.I.P." worked in primroses. The scene round the grave was a memorable one. Many of the villagers to whom the late Baronet was a real friend, were present and evidently moved by their loss."*

Brenda Hazel

Stoke Lyne on the internet:

Stoke Lyne Village Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/StokeLyneVillage>
 Stoke Lyne Parish Council: <https://stokelyne.org/>
 Stoke Lyne Stories: <https://stokelynestories.webador.co.uk/>
 Victoria County History: <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/oxon/vol6/pp312-323>

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

CHURCHWARDEN: Sarah Noujaim, 15 Cavendish Place, Stratton Audley

Tel 07941 273145

CHURCHWARDEN: Penny Oakey, Grange Farm, Godington

Tel 01869 278778

TREASURER: Fai Li

Tel 07725 009838

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Maxine Ling

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Vacant (Stratton Audley)

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Sylvia List (Godington)

editor@shelswellparishes.info

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 7th December 6.00 pm Compline at Godington

Sunday 14th December 10.45 am Morning Service at Stratton Audley

See next page for Christmas services....

St Mary & St Edburga 2025 Carol Service, Stratton Audley



Sun 21st Dec 6pm, All welcome!

Followed by mulled wine, soft drinks, mince pies and Stollen



Godington Carol Service

Monday 22nd December at 7pm



Christmas Eve Crib Service at 4pm Stratton Audley Church



**Holy Communion at
10.45am
Stratton Audley Church**

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE



Many thanks to the over 55 people who turned out for the Remembrance Day Service on Sunday 9th November, **You** raised over £271! **Thank you**

Thanks to Dickon who laid the wreath on behalf of the Stratton Audley, Cressie who read at the memorial, Anthony who called out the names and gave a reading, to Angela for the super refreshments and to Roger for ensuring the Last Post, silence and Reveille all played seamlessly. The service was officiated by Rev'd Carolyn Oley whilst a collection of £271 was raised for the Royal British Legion. Thank you everyone.

FOODBANK AT CHRISTMAS

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. Please contact Becky on 07928 990569 (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9.00 am – 1.00 pm) or by email admin@shelswellparishes.info if you are in need or for more information.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM HOLY TRINITY GODINGTON



**The Church is open for private
prayer and contemplation
every day 10am – 6pm summer
10 am – 4pm winter**



'Little Lambs' Baby and Toddler Group

Stratton Audley Church
Wednesdays 10am - 11.30am
(Term Time)

**Come & join us! Play, music and stories.
Tea, coffee and snacks for adults and
children
Meet new families from the local area.**

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

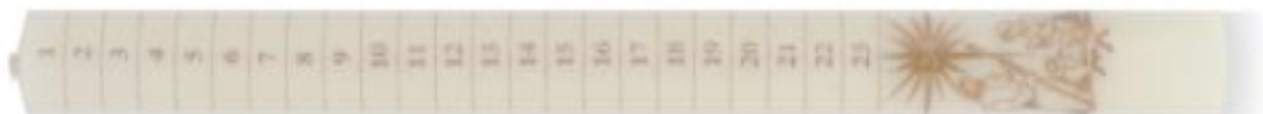


STRATTON AUDLEY FLOWERS AND CLEANING ROTA

The Remembrance Sunday poppies by the altar were beautiful so a big thank you to all the lovely ladies who regularly present flowers in the Church and who also keep the building clean and tidy, particularly before and after events. We know who you all are!

If you want to help with flower arranging and cleaning, do contact Becky Adams on the ministry mobile +44 7903 576141.

ADVENT CANDLES FOR 2025



- ❖ **Slim** Advent candle **£7 each**
- ❖ 12" height x 7/8" width - Gold on Ivory, Numbered, Nativity Scene
- ❖ Non-scented

Luxury Glass Jar Candles – Joy, Wonder and Peace A Perfect Gift



Once finished, the glass jar can be reused with a tea light in it, or your own choice of candle that fits.

All non-scented; 7cm diameter, 8cm high

Peace candle, Wonder candle and Joy candle at **£8** per one candle jar

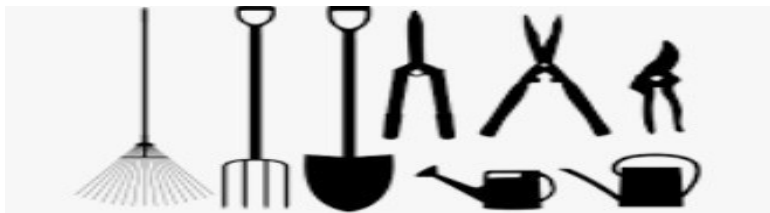
Free advent candle if you buy three luxury glass jar candles! (popular choice)

Order Form

Name	Address	Slim 12"x7/8" £7 each	Votive Joy £8 each	Votive Wonder £8 each	Votive Peace £8 each	Total

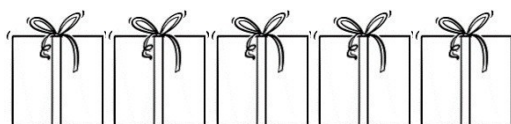
Return order form to Sarah at mrsnouj@gmail.com and candles can be delivered free within Benefice area.

STRATTON AUDLEY CHURCHYARD TIDY UP AND MOWING CREWS



Thanks to all the lads and lassies who regularly volunteer to maintain the churchyard. It is noticeable it is a cared for place, proven by the increased number of people tending graves. If you want to help one Saturday morning, please contact Anthony as the more volunteers there are, the bigger the difference it makes.

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



AND FINALLY, EVERYONE.....

We are looking for people who would volunteer to run just **one event** annually so it wouldn't take over your life all year! It could be helping with one of the key services in the year such as Easter, Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, the Carol Service and Christmas.

Equally, we need people to help sorting out a fundraising Tea and Cake Day, a wine tasting talk, Gin night or by running a fundraising sit-down dinner or concerts, a knitting/crochet club, a quarterly cinema club or anything you would enjoy organising in Stratton Audley for any age group. Please contact Sarah Noujaim (details at the start of this section) if you can help.



Season's Greetings
from Stratton Audley Church
See you again in 2026!



The Last Word

"Bagpipes are the missing link between music and noise" - E. E. Kruger

Government statistics show that people are getting stronger.

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and
a happy
and peaceful
New Year



wishing you
a merry
Christmas

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so that the card stands up.
Shelswell Benefice 2025

To



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Sunday 10-1

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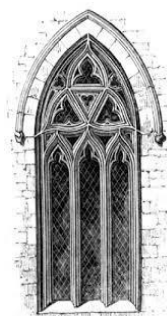
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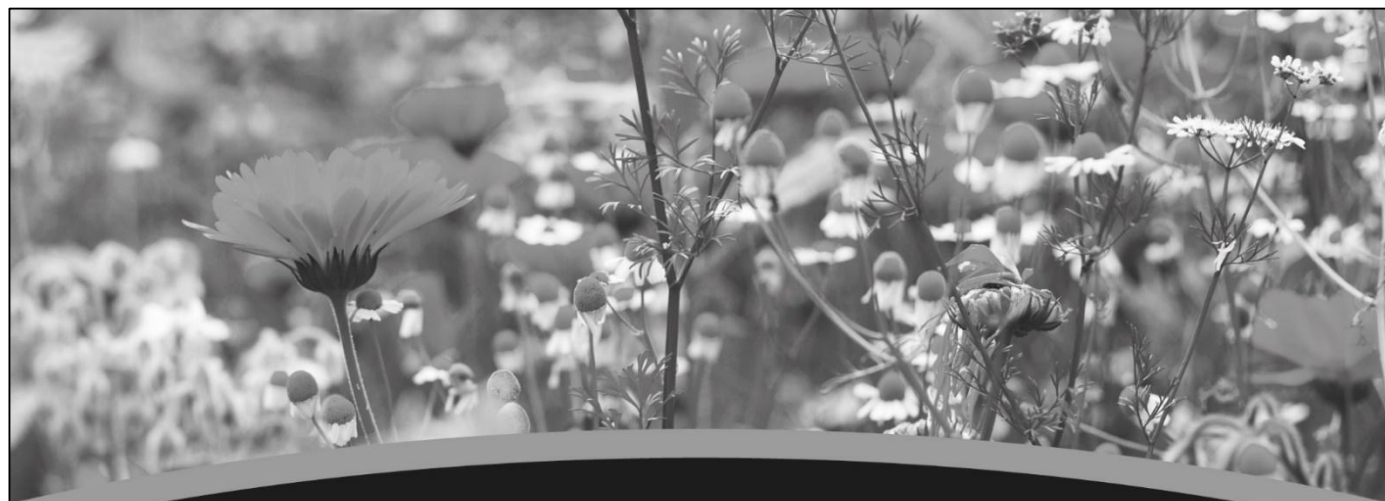
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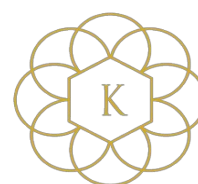
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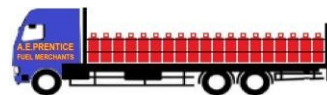
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| CW: 'Common Worship' modern language service    BCP: 'Book of Common Prayer' traditional language service                                                 |                                                                          |                                                                              |                                                                            |                                                                          |                                                               |
| DATE                                                                                                                                                      | 7 <sup>th</sup> December<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent             | 14 <sup>th</sup> December<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent                | 21 <sup>st</sup> December<br>4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent              | 24 <sup>th</sup> December<br>Christmas Eve                               | 25 <sup>th</sup> December<br>Christmas Day                    |
| ALTAR                                                                                                                                                     | Purple                                                                   | Purple                                                                       | Purple                                                                     | White                                                                    | White                                                         |
| 8.00 am                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                          |                                                                              |                                                                            |                                                                          | White                                                         |
| 9.15 am                                                                                                                                                   | 9.15am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>HARDWICK LV               |                                                                              | 9.15am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>FINMERE AM                  |                                                                          | 9am<br>Holy Communion<br>HARDWICK GM                          |
|                                                                                                                                                           | 9.15am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (BCP)<br>NEWTON PURCELL AM        |                                                                              | 9.30am<br>Morning Service<br>HETHE VILLAGE HALL<br>Lay led                 |                                                                          | 9.15am<br>Holy Communion<br>HETHE LV                          |
|                                                                                                                                                           | 10.45am<br>'Connect' Informal Worship<br>FINMERE VILLAGE HALL<br>AM      | 10.45am<br>Morning Service<br>STRATTON AUDLEY AM                             | 10am<br>'Food for Thought'<br>STOKE LYNE<br>Lay-led                        | 4pm<br>Crib Service<br>STRATTON AUDLEY<br>PW                             | 9.15am<br>Holy Communion by<br>Extension<br>NEWTON PURCELL PW |
| 10.45 am                                                                                                                                                  | 10.45am<br>Morning Service<br>FRINGFORD PW                               |                                                                              | Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> December<br>4pm<br>Carol Service<br>FRINGFORD PW | Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December<br>7pm<br>Carol Service<br>GODINGTON PW | 10.45am<br>Family Service<br>FRINGFORD PW                     |
|                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                          | 4pm<br>Carol Service<br>HARDWICK<br>PW                                       | 4pm<br>Nativity and Carol Service<br>MIXBURY AM                            | 9.30pm<br>Early Midnight<br>Communion (CW)<br>COTTISFORD CO              | 10.45am<br>Family Communion<br>STOKE LYNE LV                  |
|                                                                                                                                                           | Compline<br>GODINGTON<br>PW                                              | 6pm<br>Ecumenical Carol Service<br>HOLY TRINITY, HETHE<br>Fr Craig Davies/PW | 4.30pm<br>Carol Service<br>COTTISFORD PW                                   | 10pm<br>Early Midnight<br>Communion (CW)<br>FINMERE MK                   | 10.45am<br>Holy Communion<br>STRATTON AUDLEY AM               |
| 6.00 pm                                                                                                                                                   | Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December<br>7.30pm<br>Carol Service<br>FINMERE PW | 6pm<br>Evening Communion<br>STOKE LYNE AM                                    | 6pm<br>Carol Service<br>STOKE LYNE LV                                      | 11.30pm<br>Midnight Communion<br>(CW)<br>FRINGFORD AM                    |                                                               |
| Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December (12 noon)<br>Midweek Holy Communion and Lunch<br>STOKE LYNE                                                             |                                                                          |                                                                              |                                                                            |                                                                          |                                                               |
| MK: Revd Michael Kingston    AM: Revd Alex Mahlava    GM: Revd Gareth Miller    CO: Revd Carolyn Oley    LW: Revd Liz Welters    PW: Mrs Penny Wood (LLM) |                                                                          |                                                                              |                                                                            |                                                                          |                                                               |