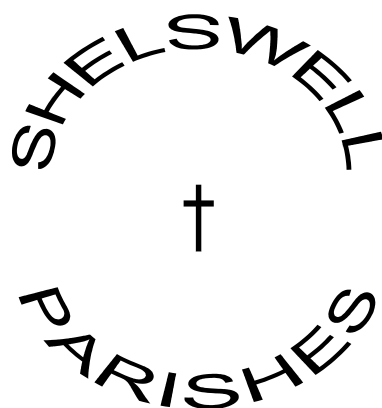


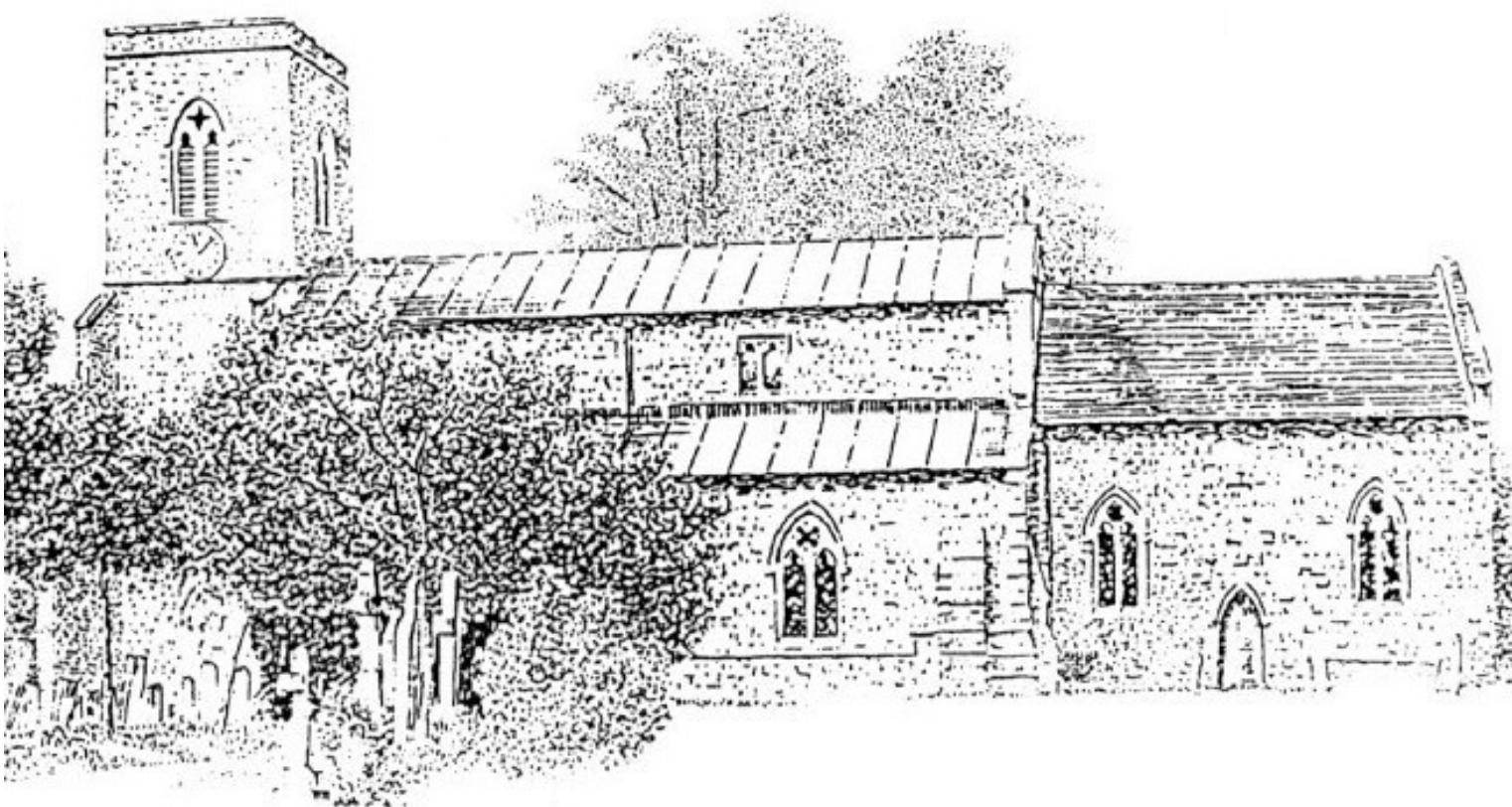
Shelswell News

The magazine of the Shelswell Group of Churches

Cottisford
Fringford
Hardwick
Mixbury
Stoke Lyne



Finnmere
Godington
Hethe
Newton Purcell
Stratton Audley



St Michael and all Angels, Fringford

February 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: The Reverend Alice Goodall, The Rectory, Water Stratford Road, Finmere, Buckingham MK18 4AT
Telephone: 01280 848192 Email rector@shelswellparishes.info **(Normal day off – Friday)**

BENEFICE ADMINISTRATOR: Mrs Becky Adams, c/o The Rectory (as above) Email admin@shelswellparishes.info
Administrator's normal office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9.00 am – 1.00 pm

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Telephone: 07957 905969 Email: amahlava@gmail.com

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BENEFICE TREASURER: Mr Philip Austin c/o The Rectory or email philandpenni@live.com

**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 March edition of Shelswell News

To Magazine Correspondents: **Midday on Friday 14th February**

Correspondents to Editor: **Midday on Sunday 16th February 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.**

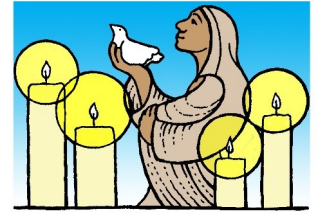
www.shelswellparishes.info

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 .

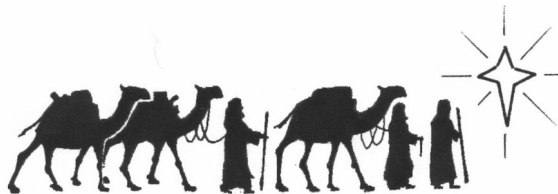
Minister's Letter

Almost as soon as Boxing Day is over the Christmas lights have been turned off, the decorations have been put away in their boxes, and bare Christmas trees lie forlornly on the roadside waiting for the local authority to take them away for recycling.

Yet ecclesiastically speaking the season for rejoicing lasts for 40 days and only ends on 2 February when we celebrate the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. This day is often called Candlemas because traditionally, during the church service, the congregation would process around the church holding candles representing the baby Christ “a light to the Gentiles and the glory of his people Israel”.



Soon after Christmas, on 6 January, comes the feast of the Epiphany which marks the visit of the wise men to the baby Jesus. Where churches have a nativity crib set up, the figures of the wise men often do not get placed in the crib until 6 January. Instead, they can be seen in different places in the church, slowly making their way to the stable.



Epiphany tide is a time rich in symbolism – we too are on a faith journey; we too have been led by a ‘star’ – whatever vision or dream that prompts us to seek God; we too wander in a world fraught with sorrow and danger wondering whether we have taken the right path, or not.

“In this season of Epiphany”, says the introduction to the Epiphany Carol Service for Church choirs across the Thames Valley, which was held on 18 January in Christ Church Cathedral, and which members of the Shelswell Choir attended -

“we celebrate the glory of God made visible in Jesus, the child of Bethlehem born to be God with us. The three Magi, guided by a star to worship the holy child, represent God drawing every nation into the family of grace. Yet this is a story in which the gift of God is rejected as well as accepted: the Magi who come from lands far away to worship Christ are juxtaposed with Herod, who seeks to cling to his own power through slaughter.

Our celebration of the Epiphany is of the revelation of God in Christ, who provokes both faith and hostility; and of the love of God, which can never be destroyed. As we consider both the pain and the joy of the Epiphany story, we know that our lives are also composed of intermingled pain and joy, and yet in these very ordinary and very human lives, God can be revealed”.

This is probably my favorite season of the year because everything speaks of the mystery of God - the hymns, the carols, the readings; and of the challenge of faith - “we are called to trust that in a world peopled by tyrants, God remains with us; in a world suffused by evil, God’s healing is at work”. Amen, let it be so.

Penny Wood



BIBLE READINGS



Sunday 2 nd February	Presentation of Christ in the Temple	Malachi 3 v1-5 Hebrews 2 v14-end Luke 2 v22-40
Sunday 9 th February	4 th Sunday before Lent	Isaiah 6 v1-8 [9-end] 1 Corinthians 15 v1-11 Luke 5 v1-11
Sunday 16 th February	3 rd Sunday before Lent	Jeremiah 17 v5-10 1 Corinthians 15 v12-20 Luke 6 v17-26
Sunday 23 rd February	2 nd Sunday before Lent	Genesis 2 v4b-9 and 15-end Revelation 4 Luke 8 v22-25
Sunday 2 nd March	Sunday next before Lent	Exodus 34 v29-end 2 Corinthians 3 v12 – 4 v2 Luke 9 v28-36 [37-43a]

MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION

AND SOUP LUNCH

Thursday 6th February

12 noon

Stoke Lyne Church



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

Midweek Communion on 9th January at Stoke Lyne

A smaller group than usual braved the cold to make it to the first Midweek Communion of the New Year, where Revd Liz Welters presided. The Gospel reading was from Luke chapter 4 where Jesus unrolled the scroll in the synagogue at Nazareth and quoted from the Prophet Isaiah:

'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

Jesus told his hearers *'Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.'*

The intercessions included people in any sort of poverty.

After the service there was plenty of warming soup and stew to choose from on a very cold day! This was followed by hot crumble and custard, and fresh fruit.

In February the service will be back in its usual slot – the first Thursday of the month.

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

Snowdrop Sunday

Sunday 16th February 2025

Cottisford Church

2 – 4 pm

**Come along to this picturesque, historic churchyard
to see carpets of snowdrops and aconites in full bloom.**

Visit the church where Flora Thomson ('Lark Rise to Candleford') worshipped and
the village where she went to school.

Lots to enjoy for the whole family!

Spring plants, including snowdrops, for sale.

Tea and delicious Homemade Cakes - £2.50

Tombola

If you have any prizes for the Tombola,
would like to help on the day or would like to know more,
please contact Jane Birnage (07770 220605)
or Eileen Torrance (07724 032554)

Do you work from home and miss socialising with your colleagues?

Many people in our villages work from home nowadays, perhaps because they are connected remotely to their office, or because they are self-employed. Others are retired and may be alone.

While few people miss long commutes, working from home can be quite isolating. People have to work harder at communicating with colleagues via text app, email or phone. The jokes between desks, cigarette break conversations or shared lunch breaks are missing.



Light lunch
 Finmere Village Hall
 4th Tuesday of the month
February 25th 12.30-2pm
 No charge but donations appreciated

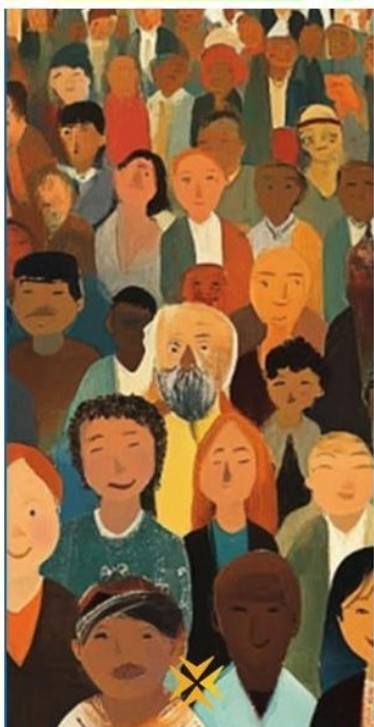


**TO BOOK YOUR PLACE
 PLEASE RING DEBBIE
 07765 874090**

Why not come along to one of the two shared workday lunches held in the Shelswell Benefice every month for a regular break, spiritual refreshment or just the opportunity to socialise and meet other isolated local home workers?

On the first Thursday of the month (6th February this month), Midweek Communion at Stoke Lyne Church starts at 12.00 pm followed by a light lunch.

On the fourth Tuesday of the month (25th February this month), the Finmere Light Lunch is held in Finmere Village Hall from 12:30 - 2:00 pm - there is a regular advert in the Finmere section of Shelswell News.



Fun @ Four

Sunday 16th February

4 – 5.30 pm

Stoke Lyne Church

Learning to live together

Craft and activities, prayer and praise,
 and for our tea, foods from around the world!

All welcome!

There is no charge, but donations are always welcome.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT AT STOKE LYNE

Moving from the first Sunday in the month to the third Sunday.

The regular 'Food for Thought' informal service in Stoke Lyne has become quite a popular format both with Stoke Lyne locals and some from other parishes. There's a shared breakfast with a bit of discussion on something topical and often an activity as well. The service has usually been held on the first Sunday of each month, but from February onwards it will be moving to the **third** Sunday in the month so as not to conflict with the 'Connect' service taking place in Finmere on the first Sunday. If you haven't been before, then come along and give it a try.

The February date will be **Sunday 16th February** and then in March it will be **Sunday 16th March**, both at the usual time of 10am.

Food for Thought

Theme: "The Beatitudes" from "The Sermon on the Mount"



Sunday 16th February 10 am

Stoke Lyne Church

SHELSWELL BENEFICE CHOIR

'Small but beautiful' might describe us – well, we can but hope! Meeting on a Tuesday evening from 7.30 to 8.30pm to practice, singing Evensong once a month, and at Benefice services when they occur. We would welcome new members. Contact Penny, or Becky at the Benefice office. [Contact details inside the front cover]. And here are some of us inside the Chapter Room at Christ Church Cathedral where we took part in the Epiphany Carol service on 18 January. A wonderful day!



Lent 2025

What's going to be happening?

Ash Wednesday – 5th March

12 noon – Communion with Imposition of Ashes
followed by Soup Lunch
Stoke Lyne Church

7.30 pm – Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes

Study Groups

As a change to the Lent Lectures, we have two different study groups:

Wild Bright Hope – Reflections of Faith (The Big Church Read 2025)

This is a transformative Lent book featuring 12 dynamic voices, each exploring the power of hope. Each chapter is paired with a video from its author, providing deeper insight. Themes include unity, peace, hope in politics, and hope in suffering, inspiring readers to confront challenges with renewed faith. Through stories and reflections, *Wild Bright Hope* encourages a hopeful outlook and invites readers to actively contribute to God's Kingdom. See the introductory video at <https://thebigchurchread.co.uk/>

There will be six meetings on Wednesday evenings in Lent: 12th March, 19th March, 26th March, 2nd April and 9th April, and 16th April, 7.30 – 8.30 pm, at Finmere Rectory.

IMPORTANT: If you might be interested in coming along, please let Alice know (01280 848192 / alicegoodall313@gmail.com) so she can order you a book.



"Who is my Neighbour?" Art and the Bible Story - a resource for Lent created by St Martin-in-the-Fields in association with The National Gallery. There will be five sessions, on Thursdays: 13 March, 20 March, 27 March, 3 April, 10 April, Venue yet to be decided.

Interested? Please let Penny know on 01869-277310 or penelope.wood@btopenworld.com

Details of Holy Week and Easter to follow!

SHELSWELL-BY-THE-SEA CHRISTMAS PARTY 18th DECEMBER 2024

The party was held at Fringford Village Hall from 3.00pm till 5.00pm.

The hall and tables were brightly decorated. On arrival you were greeted with a mulled fruit drink or fruit juice. Each place was set out with a cracker and a cardboard cut-out of a picture of baubles, trees etc and coloured pens were provided to colour these in. They all looked very pretty when finished.

As we were doing this, plates of food started to arrive as well as tea or coffee. There were lots of mini sandwiches with a wonderful variety of various fillings to suit all allergies, the plates just kept coming, mini sausage rolls, mini glazed sausages, pork pies quiche. More plates came round with cakes of all description including Christmas cake. While we were still eating, Liz had prepared a quiz to get the old brain cells working. This was followed by jelly with fruit and cream - it is not only children who like jelly and cream!

We sang Christmas Carols accompanied by Corrine on the organ.

I would like to say a big thank you to Penny Wood and her team for organising the party, to all who provided the food, to all the helpers involved on the day setting up and clearing away and to the drivers for ferrying people to the party. I apologise if I have missed anyone out. Thank you for a lovely afternoon.

Rena Andrews

DONATIONS SPRING 2025

Please help us to help Ukrainians unable to leave their country, or displaced, or without power and heat, or all of these, all whilst trying to support those who are trying to defend their country.

- BEDDING, BLANKETS, SLEEPING BAGS
- CAMPING/COOKING GEAR
- THERMAL CLOTHING
- DRIED AND TINNED FOOD
- INCONTINENCE PRODUCTS
- ANDRIOD TABLETS/LAPTOPS
- TOILETRIES AND WET WIPES
- ANY MILITARY KIT
- GENERATORS OF ALL TYPES
- POWER BANKS/STATIONS
- HOSPITAL/MEDICAL
- FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

**Drop off at
Costcutter
Launton or
message via
Facebook
LCNWells to drop
off in Marsh
Gibbon**

- ALL MOBILITY EQUIPMENT
- CANDLES/WAX
- GOOD CONDITION TOWELS
- HAND/FOOT WARMERS
- FOOT POWDER
- ANTISEPTIC CREAMS
- ALL HAND TOOLS
- CHAINSAWS/NAILGUNS
- SHOVELS/SPADES
- ANGLE GRINDERS AND DISCS
- NAILS, SCREWS, FIXINGS

As always, if you have any questions,
please ask info@helpukrainebamk.uk
Facebook Help Ukraine BAMK UK

BAMK^{UK}

Lighthouse Shelswell



Save the date!

Holiday Club for 4– 11s

Monday 28th July – Friday 1st August 2025

10 am– 3.30 pm

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

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

Sport

Craft

Performing arts

music

for more info check out www.lighthousecentral.org

Recommended donation of £10 per day. Bursaries available.

Volunteers' Registration opens on 1st February - go to the online form at <https://signmeup.org.uk/>

There are all sorts of roles that you could help with – for example, assisting with a group of children, helping with sport or drama activities, helping with registration at the start of the day.

We are also pleased to welcome some teenagers (12 plus) as volunteers.

Age Group Leaders

We need a couple of extra **age group leaders** – without them we will only be able to offer 30 places this year. It is an ideal opportunity for a teacher / teaching assistant (whether currently working, taking a break or retired)

With the help of an adult helper and a couple of teenage helpers, you would lead a group of about 15 children of similar age (4 – 5s, 6 – 7s, 8 – 9s, 10 plus) throughout the week as they enjoy thinking about some stories from the Bible, doing some craft and drama. The Lighthouse organisation provides detailed guidance to the different sessions each day, though you would probably need to tweak these for your particular group. There would be good support in doing this from the other age group leaders.

Some experience of working with children in some capacity would be enormously helpful!

As well as the week itself, you will need to attend one planning session with the other leaders, and a training session on a Sunday afternoon shortly before the Lighthouse week. Anything else will be done by email.

Thank you very much to the person who has expressed an interest in picking up the role of administrator

For further information on any of the above, please do get in touch.

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

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

noda
Be inspired by amateur theatre

Launton Village Players present their 38th pantomime

LAUNTON
VILLAGE PLAYERS



Beauty and the Beast

A traditional family pantomime

Wed 19th to Sat 22nd Feb 2025

Date	Performance Times			Adult (18+)	Child (1-17)
Weds 19 th Feb			7:30pm	£12	£7
Thurs 20 th Feb	10:30am*	2:30pm		£12	£7
Fri 21 st Feb		2:30pm	7:30pm	£14	£8
Sat 22 nd 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 on sale from Friday 11th October

from **www.ticketsource.co.uk/lvp**

(or call 07864 715708 for assistance)

**Family
Discounts
available for
all shows!**

Scan
here
for
tickets!



All profits donated to The Hummingbird Centre

www.launtonvillageplayers.org.uk



Club News

SHELSWELL WI



The members of the Shelswell WI welcomed 2025 with a toe tapping evening learning about the history of Old Time American Music. We were joined by Maureen and Alan Pridgeon. Alan gave us a history of how the genre developed in American interspersed with some lovely tunes played by them on the banjo and tenor guitar. It was inspirational to hear that Maureen had only taken up playing the guitar during covid and now plays regularly in a group with Alan celebrating Old Time American Music. It was an extremely cold evening to start the year but we were all so glad that we had braved the cold.

In February we are welcoming Suzy Stathers who will be talking about Lace Making in the local area we follow this in March with our AGM.

As well as our own meetings WI members also have access to county and national events. This includes courses, day trips and holidays. As well as an online forum providing access to a huge variety of online courses, tutorials and talks.

We meet on the first Thursday of the month in Fringford village hall at 7.30pm

If you would like more information contact Lesley Beagent on 07729 605670



SHELSWELL GARDEN CLUB



At our December meeting, we enjoyed a visit from Juliette (a local flower arranger) who demonstrated making a floral Christmas gonk. Additionally, we enjoyed mulled wine and nibbles to celebrate Christmas. Happy to say some of our members had a go at making gonks!

On **January 14th**, we had a Zoom meeting with Liz Zorab, an award-winning gardener, video creator, homesteader and best-selling author. She shared her worst mistakes in gardening, which seemed to be shared with many of the members. Planting things too close together, forgetting to allow for bad weather and planting tender things too early, forgetting what she planted and where and many more. It is always good to find that we aren't the only ones who do these things and yet we still all manage to have wonderful gardens to enjoy.

Next month, on **February 11th** Adam Pasco, a very good speaker, will talk about 'Growing the Best glorious Plants'. Creating a garden with colour and interest right through the year starts with choosing the best plants. In this illustrated talk (on **Zoom**), Adam introduces a wide range of glorious plants that are guaranteed to succeed, whether growing them in flower borders, shady corners, or patio pots and baskets. He shares a wealth of practical tips and ideas for choosing and growing plants that really perform, plus ideas on successful colour continuity and planting combinations.

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.

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

SHELLOWELL READING GROUP

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

At our January Meeting we had a good discussion on *The Mission House* by Carys Davies.

We all agreed that it was not an easy book to figure out. We found it difficult to get into as the author slowly teased out details. It was very much a character-driven book - the characters were quite naive (especially Hilary Byrd) and somewhat annoying at times! They seemed to be unaware of the historical events/unrest that were happening around them in India at that time, being in a safe haven up in the hills, and at the mission house (itself a character, and especially the room where Byrd slept).

The relationships amongst the characters (Byrd and Priscilla, the Padre and Priscilla, Priscilla and Ravi) were full of misunderstandings and lost hope. The ending was unclear why Byrd sacrificed himself. The whole story felt unpredictable, although there were some sweet moments between Ravi and Priscilla as their relationship developed over their mutual love of American country music.

Other books discussed as possible ideas for future choices:

- J. L. Carr, *A Month in the Country*
- Pat Barker, *The Voyage Home* and *The Women of Troy*
- Isabel Colegate, *The Shooting Party*
- F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*

Next meeting is Monday 17 February: *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver

Date for March is Monday 24th March - possible book will be *Tell Me Everything*, the new one by Elizabeth Strout.

Jane Birnage



SHELLOWELL POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP

The January meeting was cancelled due to illness. The next Poetry Group meeting will be on February 4th and the theme will be 'Fear.'

Judith Harvey



REPORTS FROM THE PARISHES

Cottisford and Juniper Hill St Mary the Virgin

CHURCHWARDEN: Charles Jackson, Cottisford House, Cottisford Tel 01280 848247
 TREASURER David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick Tel 01869 277690
 PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Flora Skinner Tel: 01869 277366
 MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Sandra Bickmore, Thatch End, Juniper Hill (sandrambickmore@gmail.com)

SERVICES

Sunday 16th February 10.45 am Holy Communion (BCP)
 Sunday 2nd March 9.15 am Holy Communion (CW)

JUNIPER HILL AND COTTISFORD SOCIAL COMMITTEE



Snowdrop Sunday 16 February 2 - 4pm Cottisford Church

The Social Committee would like to welcome you all to our annual Snowdrop Sunday celebration. Come and join us for tea, coffee and homemade cake as we celebrate the first event of 2025. The church will be warm and welcoming and the snowdrops will be showing off in abundance the first few have already started their display as I am writing this. We will also have some plants for sale.

We look forward to 2025 with coffee mornings, pop up pubs and other events.

If you would like to help at any of these please let us know by contacting Sandra on sandrambickmore@gmail.com

Finnmere St Michael and All Angels

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

Church Services

Sunday 2nd February 10.45 am 'Connect' Informal Worship at Finnmere Village Hall
 Sunday 16th February 9.15 am Holy Communion (CW)
 Sunday 23rd February 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
 Sunday 2nd March 10.45 am 'Connect' Informal Worship at Finnmere 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 bookings enquiries, please visit www.myfinnere.com/villagehall.



Allotments

At last the dismal, grey days gave way to extreme frost and sunshine in early January, and though difficult for those trying to de ice the car, it was absolutely perfect for the garlic. This needs a cold spell in order to thrive. In addition, the frost makes even the most unkempt allotment, look positively beautiful. The birds have struggled of course, and both blackcaps and redwings could be seen on the site foraging.



It won't be long before we can start the season but seeing seed potatoes for sale reminds me that we can easily have May frosts in this area so perhaps hold off on those purchases for now.

There are one or two plots available and plenty of support to be given for anyone who wants to have a go. What about sharing with a friend, though of course you do have to be willing to share the produce! Interested, visit www.myfinmere.com/poorsplot and select the 'enquiry' link.

Jean (Allotment correspondent)

Heart Defibrillators

There are now 2 Heart Defibrillators in the village. One is located outside the school and the second is on the wall of the village hall in the hall carpark. A defibrillator is a potentially life saving device that delivers a high energy shock to the heart of someone who is in cardiac arrest.

The second of two training sessions, designed to educate villagers as to the use and operation of a defibrillator, will take place at the village hall on Saturday 15th. commencing at 10.30am. The session, which takes approx.. 1.5hrs is open to all.

It makes considerable sense to understand the operation of a heart defibrillator.



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. February, 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...



**POP-UP
PUB**

**Friday February 21st
7-10pm
Finmere Church**

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

Light lunch

Finmere Village Hall
4th Tuesday of the month
February 25th 12.30-2pm
No charge but donations appreciated



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



80

VE DAY

80TH ANNIVERSARY

A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

SAVE THE DATE!

Finmere never misses an opportunity
to host celebrations of a momentous event!

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!

Finmere Village Hall
Saturday 10th May

Come celebrate with us.
Visit <https://alliesve80.com>
for more info

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 2 February - 10.45am Morning Service
- Sunday 16 February - 10.45am – Holy Communion
- Sunday 2 March – 10.45am Morning Service
- Sunday 9 March – 6.00pm Holy Communion
- Sunday 21 March – 10.45am Holy Communion.

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

EVENTS

- **Lent Groups** – see the information in the ‘General’ section
- **Open Gardens** – the PCC is thinking about a suitable date on which to hold an ‘Open Gardens’ event. Anyone interested in opening their garden 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 will take place on Monday 17 February, Monday 17 March, and Monday 14 April [a week early because the third Monday in April 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.

CAROL SINGING ROUND THE VILLAGE IN DECEMBER

£179.25 was raised for Nai's House. Many thanks to all who sang and all who donated.

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:

February	Wednesday 19th
March	Sunday 17th
April	Wednesday 16th
May	Sunday 18th
June	Wednesday 18th

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

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
Puppy Stars Dog Training Tuesday evening – various classes Contact Nick 07542 131400 www.puppystars.co.uk	Parish Council Meeting All villagers welcome Third Monday in the month 7.45pm Contact 01844 237766 or fringford.parishclerk@gmail.com
Fringford Yoga Wednesday (term time) 9.30am – 11am Carolyn White 01869 277161	Bicester Meditation Space & Sound Bath First Sunday of the month from 6 -9 pm Sonia - contact@holisticaxis.com Please text - 07709634847

<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 Lesley Beagent on 07729605670</p>
<p>Pilates Thursday at 10.00am natashaflowerspilates@gmail.com or 07545 525820</p>	<p>Mindfulness Meditation Monthly Sunday 11am to 12.30pm janerainey17@gmail.com or 07971 008337</p>
<p>My Baby Spa Monday mornings Spa experience for babies and toddlers 1 – 4 years www.mybabyspa.co.uk contact Danielle at contact@mybabyspa.co.uk</p>	<p>Fringford Sewcial Sew and Chat! Monthly Wednesday from 7pm Or Sunday from 3pm Contact Irene at ireneethomas@btinternet.com</p>
<p>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>	

Hardwick St Mary the Virgin

CHURCHWARDEN: David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick

Tel 01869 277690

TREASURER: David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick

Tel 01869 277690

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Flora Skinner

Tel: 01869 277366

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Veronica Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick

Tel 01869 277690

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

Church Services at Hardwick Church

Sunday 2nd February 9.15 am Holy Communion

Sunday 23rd February 4 pm Evensong with the Shelswell Group Choir

From 1st November during the winter months

Hardwick Church will be open on Saturdays & Sundays 10am to 4pm.

Private prayer and quiet contemplation

View the architecture, memorials and stained-glass windows

Please make use of this special space

Pilgrim Pathways

Why not walk the Hethe to Hardwick to Cottisford to Hethe “Pilgrim Pathway”. This 4-mile circular route takes in the C of E churches of each of these villages as well as Holy Trinity, Hethe’s RC church. You can start and end your walk at any point on the route, which takes in some glorious North Oxfordshire countryside. Pick up a free brochure outlining the route from any of the churches or contact David Barnes (01869 277690), who can send you one.

Hardwick Church guidebook

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

Hethe St Edmund and St George

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

Tel 01869 277366

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

Tel 01869 278166

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Flora Skinner as above

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Mike Green as above

Tel 01869 278166

WEBSITE: www.hethe.org

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 9th February 9.15 am Holy Communion

Sunday 23rd February 9.30 am Morning Service

ST EDMUND & ST GEORGE CHURCH

The beauty and tranquillity of St Edmund & St George Church has been a greatly valued part of our village for over 900 years. It is a welcome setting for church services, weddings, baptisms and funerals for those from the village and further afield. The church is the oldest building in Hethe, is Grade 2 listed and represents our village heritage.



Over the last few decades, local communities have become responsible for the upkeep of their local church, and Hethe is no different. The church would not be what it is today without the generous support it has received from local people. This support has preserved its beauty, maintained it in good condition, and enabled the church to meet the needs of those who visit it.

The congregation is small – there were an average of seven of us at regular services last year. We would love to see more if you were able to come along! As a small congregation, we are not able to give the amount of money needed to keep the church open – last year we had to pay out over £3,000 more than our income.

We are grateful to those people in Hethe who currently give regularly to the church, but we have lost several donors in the past four years and the cost of keeping the church open is rising every year.

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.



Some urgent repairs were completed last Autumn to stop water entering the building from the roof. There is more work required which will enable us to fully open the church, further prevent water ingress from inadequate drainage and take away water which drains into the north aisle from the churchyard. If you would prefer to make a one-off payment towards these repairs, the Parish Giving Scheme has an option to make a single payment, or you can send a payment to the Treasurer or direct to the PCC Bank Account (note that this changed last year – new details from the Treasurer). See above for the phone number and address of the Treasurer or email hethepccsecretary@outlook.com.

The PCC will be looking at more ways to raise funds this year and we will let you know the details as they are agreed. If you wish to support or hold an event, please let us know.

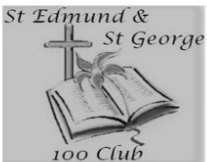
Church Services and Events

The church is open for visits and private prayer, except for the eastern end of the nave and the chancel which will not be accessible until further notice (apart from limited access during services). Unfortunately the church is not a “warm space”, except during the service on the second Sunday of each month, so please dress appropriately. The lay led service on 23rd February will be held in a “warm space” – the village hall!



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>.

The next regular PCC meeting is to be held on Wednesday 25th June, but before then all parishioners are invited to the Annual Meeting (APCM) on the evening of Monday 28th April. Further details to come.



St Edmund &
St George
100 Club

St Edmund & St George 100 Club

Results of the 71 st draw held on 22 nd December 2024	Results of the 72 nd draw held on 22 nd December 2024
1 st Prize No 15 Pauline O'Gorman	1 st Prize No 48 Ben & Ali Jones
2 nd Prize No 14 Hamish McCorquodale	2 nd Prize No 53 Anne Mansfield
3 rd Prize No 30 John & Sue Schutz	3 rd Prize No 56 Bill Mansfield

Many thanks to our members
Hethe PCC

HETHE COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

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

Refuse/Recycling. Don't forget to renew your licence for collection of the brown garden waste bins.

The 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 Community Coffee Morning in St Philip's Hall

Monday 10th February from 10.00am to 12.00pm

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



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

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

The Hardwick Road Allotments. 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:

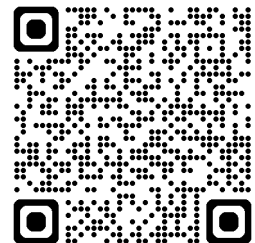
Community Spirit of the Hethens

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	Tel 07899 792552
Alec Howard, Middlestead, Mixbury	Tel 01280 848295
TREASURER: David Mitchell. 2 Town Farm, Mixbury	Tel 01280 847769
PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Anna Howard	Tel 01280 848295
MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Sue Goodman pasgoodman551@gmail.com	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 9th February 9.15 am Mixbury Half Hour

MIXBURY CHURCH FLOWER ROTA 2025

February	Melanie Soar
March	Emma Bray
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.

FEBRUARY Rebecca Ayres and Eryl Tobin
 MARCH Giovanna Holdcroft and Tanya Howroyd
 APRIL Emma Bray and Viv Williams
 MAY Alison Bailey, Pam Burrill and Jules Channon
 JUNE Nicola Adams 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 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.

MIXBURY CHRISTMAS TREE

Mixbury's beautiful Christmas Tree which was donated by Anna at Swallows Nursery was decorated by Santa's little helpers – lots of chocolates! Thank you, what kind little helpers.



THE NATIVITY (From Anna Howard)

An icy north wind did little to put off the 200 or so villagers, plus friends and family, who turned up to this year's Carol Service and Nativity on Sunday, 22nd December.

The church was absolutely packed and it really was standing room only. As usual, it all began inside with rousing carols and Christmas readings, and this year also saw the return of the wonderful Mixbury singers.

While the congregation sang, the cast waited patiently for their turn in the spotlight, quietly cooking under their multiple layers of warm clothing, ready for their move outside. As the onlookers lined the path, first to arrive were the three kings who had followed their star (hanging off a fishing rod) in search of Bethlehem. Next, we watched as Mary and Joseph (supported by Mouse, the pony, in her role as the donkey) made their way towards the stable. The shepherds, who had been guarding their flock beside a brazier in the churchyard were joined by, quite literally, a host of tinsel wearing angels some of whom were hardly more than cherubs, who led them all across the road to join the little family. That moment in the stable, with all the cast in place, is always a magical one!

An absolutely enormous thank you to all the children who took part, to the readers, the Mixbury singers, Corrine - our organist, the 'behind the scenes' gang and to everyone who simply turned up to support this year's Nativity. It is such a wonderful Mixbury event and it couldn't happen without you all.

RAISING FUNDS FOR RESTLESS



George and Amelia Berrie once again have been crafting and made lots of Christmas goody bags for humans and animals raising an incredible £200 for the charity Restless. Well done George and Amelia !

POPPIES



Need something to keep you occupied during these long cold nights! Mixbury's Poppy Installation needs you! The crochet workshop before Christmas was enjoyable and those that came were motivated (if not tied in knots at times). If you need help getting started just let me know, we have people available. The photo is of poppies handed in over Christmas. Happy crafting! Not forgetting 2025 will be the 80th anniversary year of the end of WW2 and it would be fantastic if Mixbury can get this display up and running in memory of all those who served in both World Wars. (Sue Goodman)

LOCAL HISTORY

Shadrack Bannister - Taken from The Bicesterian – Genealogy and Local History

Shadrach Bannister was born at Mixbury in 1800 - the son of Edward Bannister and Mary Bannister, née Loveridge.

In 1826, Shadrach married Susannah Wright, with whom he had 11 children.

Following Susannah's death in 1866, Shadrach moved briefly to Ventnor, on the Isle of Wight (roughly 125 miles away). There, he met a widow called Hannah Trent, née Cosh, and the couple married in 1867. Sadly, their marriage would be short-lived; Hannah died at their home on St Catherine's Street, Ventnor, in 1879.

Very shortly after losing his second wife, Shadrach returned to Mixbury, presumably to be closer to his children. He ultimately died at Brackley Workhouse on 15th July 1879, at the respectable age of 80. His cause of death was cited as being 'chronic bronchitis'.

The image depicts Ventnor, Isle of Wight c.1837. I've visited myself, and it really is a lovely part of the world, so it was a shame that Shadrach wasn't able to remain there. It is possible that he was not entitled to receive Poor Relief due to not being a 'native' of Ventnor, and that he was therefore forced to return, in order to receive medical treatment at the Brackley Workhouse infirmary.



KIRSTY WYATT

I wanted to introduce myself to you, If you haven't already met me or seen my post on the Mixbury Facebook page. Myself and my family have lived at Costwold House for 5 years now (time has flown by). I have recently made the leap to work from home doing Beauty therapy treatments.

I have kicked the kids out of their play room to turn it in to a cosy treatment room. (Please note it became a unused dumping ground, they are not hard done by). I have been doing Beauty for over 19 years and in that time I have trained in many different treatments and product ranges working within the spa industry. I then went on and managed two spas within hotels. After having our last child I decided to come out of Spa Management and go back to what I enjoyed, doing treatments for people again. The last three years I have been working within a friend's salon in Bicester and now from home.

I have been very lucky to have had majority of my clients move over to home but sadly have lost a few. Which has meant that I am able to take on new clients.

The treatments I offer include waxing, eyelash tint, facials, massages, nail and foot pedicures. If you are interested in any treatments and want more information then please don't hesitate to email or message via text or WhatsApp.

My contact details are:

At Costwold House

Telephone: 07939 281283

Email: kwyattbeauty@gmail.com

Social Media:

Facebook- <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61566407840645>

Instagram-<https://www.instagram.com/kwyattbeauty?igsh=Z3d5bjdqdjNkcG05>

I am offering a Mixbury Members discount of 10% off your treatments every time you see me and if you do recommend me to a friend who lives outside of the village they will received 10% off their first treatment with me. I do hope to see you for some pampering.

NEW PARISH MAGAZINE DELIVERER

Amanda Henderson (email: azl15@icloud.com) has taken over delivering the Parish Magazine for the Evenley end of Mixbury (bus shelter downwards). Nicola Adams has stepped down after doing an amazing job of delivering the magazine come whatever weather for a number of years. A huge thank you to Nicola for all her hard work and thank you Amanda for taking on this role.

Newton Purcell St Michael and All Angels

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

Services:-

Sunday 2nd February - 9.15 a.m. Holy Communion

Carols by Candlelight:-

Too late to report on this event in the January magazine but very worthy of a mention this month. Once again The Phoenix Singers entertained us quite splendidly and we cannot thank them enough for giving up their time to do so.

The church was full to bursting and all who came have said how very much they enjoyed the entire evening.

Our thanks to all of you who came, those who helped decorate the church, provided Secret Santa gifts plus the mulled wine and mince pies!

Bonus Ball Lotto:-

Our recent lucky winner was Claire Abernethy.

If you would like to have a chance of a weekly cash prize and help our church please contact Ann von Maltzahn on the number above or by email ann_maltzahn@yahoo.com She would love to hear from you.

Stoke Lyne St Peter's

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

St Peter's Church Stoke Lyne Services

See back page for details.

Flower Duty for February

Sarah-Jane Buckle

Stoke Lyne 100 Club - January Results

Here are the results for the 100 Club January draw.

1st Prize Membership No 39 Matt O'Brien

Stoke Lyne, continued

2 nd Prize	Membership No 32	Kelly Holden-White
3 rd Prize	Membership No 27	James Lewis

A big thank you to all who support the Stoke Lyne 100 Club. New members are always welcome, the more members the bigger the prizes. For more details email janey@oxford-educational.co.uk

Janey Poole
Treasurer
St Peter's Church PCC

Food for Thought – Sunday, 5th January 2025

The January “Food for Thought” was unfortunately cancelled due to inclement weather.

The day of the month this service falls on is changing in February. The following notice also appears in the general section of this magazine:

“The regular ‘Food for Thought’ informal service in Stoke Lyne has become quite a popular format both with Stoke Lyne locals and some from other parishes. There’s a shared breakfast with a bit of discussion on something topical and often an activity as well. The service has usually been held on the first Sunday of each month, but from February onwards it will be moving to the third Sunday in the month so as not to conflict with the ‘Connect’ service taking place in Finmere on the first Sunday. If you haven’t been before, then come along and give it a try.

The February date will be **Sunday 16th February** and then in March it will be **Sunday 16th March**, both at the usual time of 10am.”

An Afternoon of Christmas Cheer – Saturday, 14th December 2024

Stoke Lyne kicked off their Christmas celebrations with a bubbling afternoon of festivities at an afternoon of Christmas Cheer held in St Peter's Church. We were welcomed into a twinkling, fairy lit church by a brilliant group of carol singers organised by our wonderful Pam Morgan. ‘Choir extraordinaire’ were made up of The Phoenix Choir, Shelswell Choir and other visiting choristers. Such a beautiful start to the afternoon, thank you Pam and all the choirs for giving us your time and starting our afternoon off so wonderfully.

The seasonal jollity continued with Chris's Beer and spicy sausage roll stall. This year we were able to offer gluten free spicy sausage rolls as well as our traditional wheat inclusive spicy yummys. Interesting that the men all went for the latter when asked which one they would like, would they have been able to taste the difference???

Whilst Harriet, Caroline and Jane kept the teas, spiced apple juice and mulled wine flowing along with the hugest display of cakes and mince pies (the aroma from their stall was the best). Emma, was kept busy with her beautiful luxury raffle. Two amazing champagne hampers and a snuggly hot chocolate hamper, a beauty and haircut voucher were among brilliant prizes.

Whilst the crowds gathered Ali and Lisa managed to keep a Christmas themed tombola running throughout. Wonderful surprises kept everyone happy.

Other activities included throwing beanbags in Santa's beard, hooping Rudolph's Antlers, guessing the weight of the Christmas cake, lovingly baked and fed with brandy over the months beforehand by Janey.

Congratulations to the winner, Scott Houston, we hope you enjoyed the cake. Guessing the number of festive sweets in the jar, won by Nick Barnes, brush your teeth carefully Nick and hoping you shared the sweets with Elaine!

The best Christmas jumper was won by Alistair Houston who proudly flashed Rudolph's nose on his jumper. Thank you to everyone who wore their festive jumpers and who showed no disappointment at Alistair's conquest. Thanks also to Hugo who, spicy gluten 'inclusive' sausage roll in hand, judged the jumpers with great thought.

The afternoon closed with Steve Wright kindly taking the lead on the organ to accompany carols sung by us all; a loud, festive finale to a wonderfully happy event. It was so good to see the smiles on everyone's faces at the end of a very jolly afternoon of Traditional Christmas Cheer.

Thank you to all for your support and a happy healthy 2025 to you all.

Janey Poole
Treasurer
St Peter's Church

Carol service – Friday, 22nd December 2024 at 6pm



Well done to Emma, Chris, Janey and all others who were involved. The Church looked beautiful with all the lovely lights strung up and the Christmas tree in the Chancel also decorated. Reverend Alex welcomed everyone to the service. He prayed for Nations across the world that there would be peace, also for the sick and bereaved across our Benefice. The service was well attended, super singing and readings.

We retired to the rear of the church for refreshments of mulled wine and various other drinks, and mince pies, enjoyed by all. It was especially satisfying to see familiar faces who had travelled from outside the village on such a cold blustery night to return to our church to join us in our Carol service and mingle and chat.

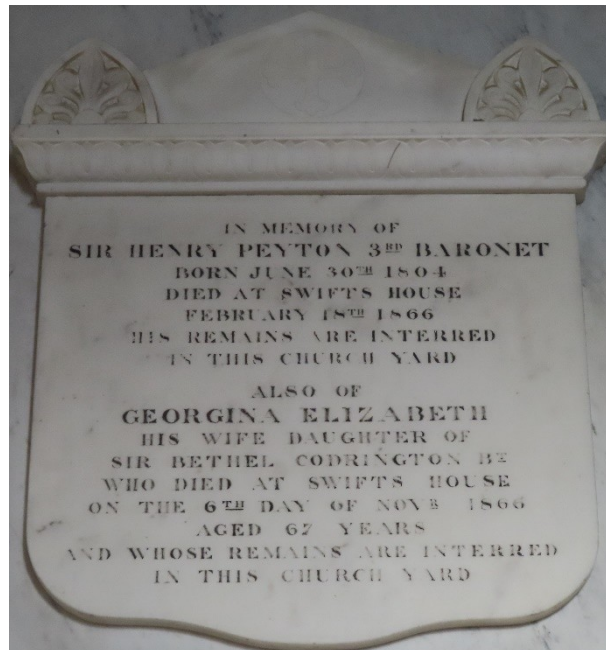
Thank you, Kelly, James, Rena and Chris for your input in preparing this piece for the magazine.

Photo by Kelly Holden-White



A LOOK AT THE PEYTON MEMORIALS WITHIN THE CHURCH – PART 2, SIR HENRY PEYTON, 3RD BARONET (1804-1866) AND HIS WIFE GEORGINA ELIZABETH

For Part 1 which was about the 2nd Baronet and his wife, please see the October 2024 edition of “Shelswell News”.



This Sir Henry was born in Grafton Street in London, now a very desirable address (properties there were said to be the most expensive in the country in 2019 fetching about £700 million).

Oracle and the Daily Advertiser, 4th July 1804

BIRTHS

Saturday morning, at his house in Grafton-street, the Lady of Sir Henry Peyton, Bart. of a son.

He was educated at Harrow followed by Christ Church, Oxford and it was here where he acquired the nickname “Young Peyton”. After university he became an officer in the 1st Life Guards but left after his marriage on 18th April 1827 to Miss Georgina Codrington, of Dodington, in Gloucestershire – not be confused with the Doddington in Cambridgeshire with which the Peytons were associated. Georgina was the second of three daughters of Sir Christopher Bethell-Codrington and was baptised at Dodington in 1799. She also had two younger brothers. Wikipedia says this of her family home: “*The house was built by James Wyatt for Christopher Bethell Codrington (of the Codrington baronets). The family had made their fortune from sugar plantations in the Caribbean and were significant owners of slaves. It remained in the Codrington family until 1980; it is now owned by the British businessman James Dyson*”.

At some point before his marriage Henry must have set up his own household in Stratton Audley as the 1827 marriage entry describes him as being “of the parish of Stratton Audley”. However, Henry and Georgina were at Tusmore for the birth of their first son, Henry, in 1828 as his baptism entry in the Hardwick cum Tusmore parish register gives their abode as “Tusmore”. The Oxford Journal of 9th August 1828 reported the birth as follows:

BIRTHS. – On Tuesday last, at Tusmore, the Lady of Henry Peyton, Esq. of a son.

In Pigot’s 1830 Directory of Oxfordshire he is listed as living at Stratton Audley whilst his father is at Tusmore.

Peyton Henry, esq. Stratton Audley

Peyton Sir Henry, bart. Tusmore

Sir Thomas Mostyn was still listed at Swift's House.

The family then relocated to Woodstock as their second son, Algernon William, was baptised there on 14th May 1833. Both sons were baptised again at St Georges, Hanover Square, London on 1st July 1833. Henry and Georgina's residence is given as "Grosvenor Place" and father's occupation "Esquire".

He was elected M.P. for Woodstock on 25th July 1837 for the Conservatives but he resigned on 11th May 1838 when he accepted the "Chiltern Hundreds". He appears to have returned to Stratton Audley as the next family event I have noted is the death of their eldest son there in 1841. He is commemorated by a plaque in Stratton Audley Church. The inscription reads:

Near this spot are interred the earthly remains of Henry Peyton son of Henry Peyton Esq^{re} and grandson of Sir Henry Peyton Bart^o who died on the 23 of October 1841 at the early age of 13 years. By his amiable disposition he had endeared himself to all who knew him and as he lived beloved so he died lamented.

According to the Oxford University and City Herald of 30th October 1841 he died "*after a few days' illness, at Stratton Hall*". Henry's occupation on the burial record is given as "Gentleman and a Magistrate in the County of Oxford". I was unable to locate the family on the 1841 census but for the 1851 census Henry and Georgina have moved again and are to be found at Middleton Stoney together with 6 live-in servants. Henry was already there by 1849 as he is listed there on the county Game List as having obtained a Game Certificate for that year. They were still there when his father "Old Sir Henry" the 2nd Baronet died in 1854 as the Oxford Journal of 4th March 1854 in their obituary states "*.... He is succeeded in his title and estates by his son, Henry Peyton, Esq., of Middleton Stoney.*" He would therefore have been aged 50 when he became 3rd Baronet. I have not discovered when he moved into Swift's House other than his being listed at that location on the Oxfordshire Game List published in the Oxford Chronicle and Reading Gazette of 22nd September 1855. I could not pinpoint Henry and Georgina on the 1861 census. They are not listed at Swift's House, only a staff of 9 servants appear.

Henry continued to be a local magistrate after he became baronet, his name appearing as "Sir Henry Peyton, Bart" as an officiating magistrate in press reports of the Bicester Division Petty Sessions. Prior to that he was listed as either "Henry Peyton, Esq." or "H. Peyton, Esq". His obituary in the Bicester Herald of 23rd February 1866 states that additionally he "*was chairman of the guardians of the Bicester Union, and of the Bicester Highway Board.*"

As far as Stoke Lyne is concerned, he was the Peyton who bought "The Manor of Stoke Lyne" in 1860 from Mr Cole in whose hands it then was. He and his wife seem to have taken the welfare of their new tenants seriously. For example, Jackson's Oxford Journal of 9th February 1861 reported:

"SEASONABLE BENEVOLENCE. – During the late severe weather Sir Henry and Lady Peyton have kindly distributed blankets to 80 houses in the parish of Stoke Lyne, and have also given 4 cwt. of coal to every person in the village in receipt of parochial relief."

He was also involved in the establishment of the village school as reported in an article in Bicester Herald of 23rd September 1864 which states "*The site for the school was very liberally given by Sir Henry Peyton, Bart*".

Like his father Sir Henry enjoyed equine pursuits. The obituary for him Bells Life in London and Sport of 24th February 1866 says this:

"Young Peyton" was more distinguished as a horseman, either over a country or a course. He could do a bit of coaching, too, and drove until lately a very neat pair of short-tailed phaeton horses about town; was a capital companion, and thoroughly enjoyed a good story, as no one perhaps

every enjoyed life more. But the pace told, and it was rather a sad sight to notice him stealing away from the sale of Mr. Drake's Hounds, when his own son took the country, evidently even then unequal to the fatigues of the day. He had, moreover, become very short sighted, and latterly quite unable to take part in those pursuits in which he had once so signally excelled."

These are the circumstances of Sir Henry's death as reported in the Bicester Herald of 23rd February 1866:

"The illness which led to Sir Henry's death arose from a disaster on the 23rd. of January, on which day he, when in a chair, and about to towel himself, after having a bath, overbalanced, and fell, whereby his thigh was broken. Professional aid was obtained and the limb strapped up, but the shock to the system was so serious that human aid proved unavailing, and Sir Henry who had been for some days unconscious, died on Sunday afternoon at about 2 o'clock. His remains were on Thursday interred in the family valut, in Stoke churchyard. Sir Henry is succeeded in the title and estates by his son Algernon, a captain of the Life Guards."

Details of his will appeared in the Illustrated London News of 7th April 1866

The will of Sir Henry Peyton, Bart., of Swift's House, Bicester, Oxon, was proved in London, on the 23rd ult., by the son, Sir Algernon William Peyton, Bart. (Captain 1st Life Guards), the sole executor. The personality was sworn under £16,000. Sir Henry, who was an only child, succeeded to the title and estates on the death of his father, in 1854, having married, in 1827, Georgiana Elizabeth, daughter of Sir C. B. Codrington, Bart., who, he states, is amply provided for by marriage settlement. Sir Henry executed his will Jan. 11, 1861, and died Feb. 18, 1866, at the age of sixty-two. He has bequeathed the whole of his estates, real and personal, to his son, the present Baronet, with the exception of an immediate legacy of £500 to his relict.

The relict, of course, was Georgina but she died only a few months later as reported in the Bicester Herald of 23rd November 1866:

FUNERAL OF THE LATE LADY PEYTON. – The remains of the late Georgina Elizabeth Peyton, widow of the late Sir Henry Peyton, Bart., of Swift's House, Bicester, were interred on the 10th inst., in the family vault in Stoke Lyne Churchyard. Captain Sir Algernon W. Peyton, Bart., Captain Codrington, H. Hunter, Esq, and G. Fitzhugh, Esq., attended the funeral.

Brenda Hazel

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

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 2nd February 6.00 pm Stratton Audley Compline

Sunday 9th February 10.45 am Stratton Audley Morning Service

Sunday 23rd February 9.15 am Stratton Audley Holy Communion

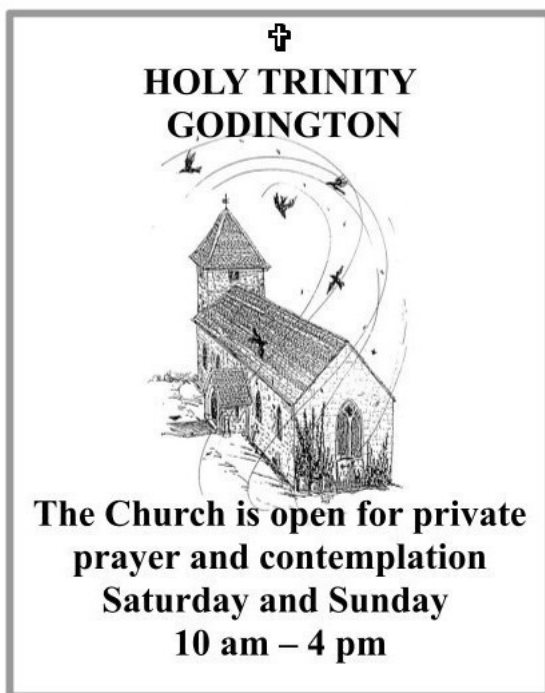
Sunday 2nd March 6.00 pm Godington Compline

RICHARD LIST

Richard List died on 26th December 2024 aged 90 years. Born in Guildford, Surrey, he had lived in Godington since 1970. Private cremation.

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



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The Last Word

For young and young at heart Readers!

An apple a day, if well aimed, keeps the doctor away. (P.G. Wodehouse)

1st February - Seiriol, the Saint of Puffin Island

You can find traces of old saints in most corners of the British Isles, but Seiriol is one of the only two saints connected to Anglesey, and certainly the **ONLY** saint connected to Puffin Island.

It was back in the 6th century that this gentle abbot first settled in Penmon, and built a little church. His ruined beehive cell still survives there today, as does the well from which he drew water, both for his own use, and also for baptising local people.



Like many other Celtic saints, Seiriol would have travelled by sea. So he felt comfortable near the coast on Anglesey, on low-lying land. Although he lived as a simple hermit, Seiriol soon attracted followers, and eventually he decided to establish a small monastery. He chose to build it on nearby Ynys Seiriol, now called Puffin Island.

That little monastery on Puffin Island saw some scary action in 632, when Edwin of Northumbria was chasing the Welsh king, Cadwallon, and ended up besieging him on the island. Cadwallon was finally conquered, and history moved on, but the monastic ruins of Seiriol's little monastery are still there today.

Seiriol seems to have been a purely local saint who never attracted a very great number of followers. The only known dedications to him are at Penmon and Puffin Island. But Seiriol's life and work are still a testimony today. He is a gentle and encouraging reminder of what an impact even a simple local Christian can achieve, by simply being faithful to Jesus Christ in the place where he is.

from Parish Pump

just-shower-thoughts

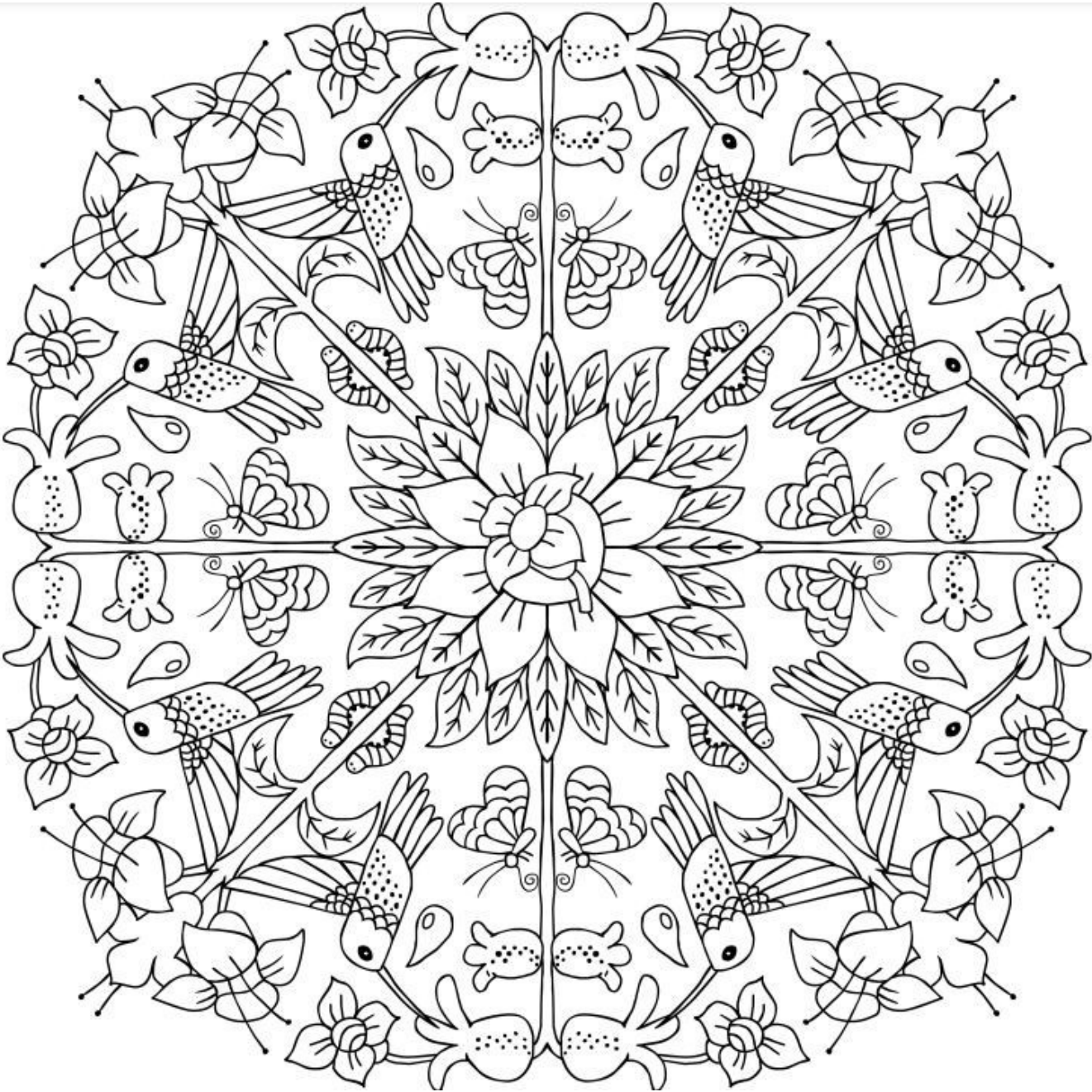
When people talk about traveling to the past, they worry about radically changing the present by doing something small, but barely anyone in the present really thinks that they can radically change the future by doing something small.



...are you late with your 'Vicar's Letter' again, dear?

(This would never happen in Shelswell.
The editor doesn't own a shotgun.)

Colouring in from Monday Mandala by Hamdi R



The parable of the Shrewd Manager



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE JESUS TOLD A STORY ABOUT A RICH MAN...

...AND HIS SERVANT, WHO MANAGED THE RICH MAN'S PROPERTY.

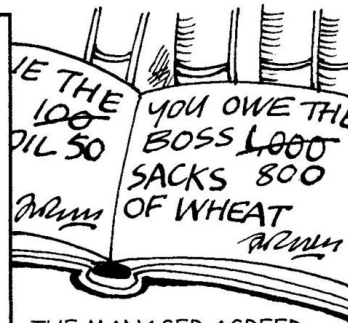


THE RICH MAN HAD HEARD THAT THE MANAGER HAS BEEN WASTING MONEY.

SO HE CALLED THE MANGER TO ACCOUNT FOR HIMSELF!



OH NO! I AM GOING TO GET THE SACK!!

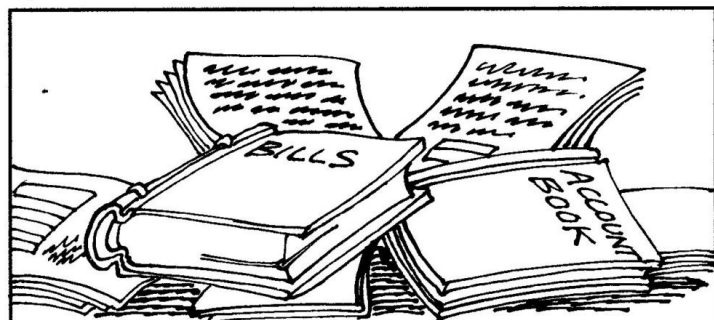
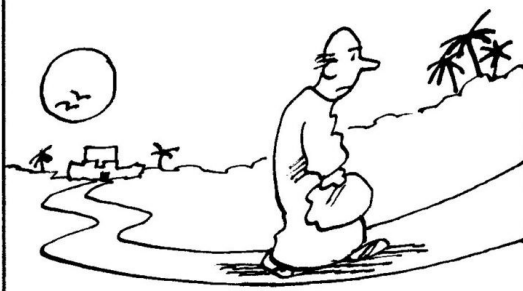


THE MANAGER AGREED TO LET THE RICH MAN'S TRADERS FIDDLE THEIR BOOKS!



SO THEY ALTERED THEIR DEBTS - AND STAYED FRIENDS WITH THE MANAGER.

JESUS EXPLAINED THAT THE MANAGER HAD BEEN WISE IN MANAGING HIS FUTURE... EVEN THOUGH HE WAS BEING DISHONEST.



JESUS WAS TRYING TO ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE TO THINK ABOUT THEIR OWN FUTURES TOO. BUT IT'S A HARD PARABLE TO UNDERSTAND!

Disturb us, Lord

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves,
 When our dreams have come true
 Because we have dreamed too little,
 When we arrived safely
 Because we sailed too close to the shore.
 Disturb us, Lord, when
 With the abundance of things we possess
 We have lost our thirst
 For the waters of life;
 Having fallen in love with life,
 We have ceased to dream of eternity
 And in our efforts to build a new earth,
 We have allowed our vision
 Of the new Heaven to dim.
 Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
 To venture on wider seas
 Where storms will show Your mastery;
 Where losing sight of land,
 We shall find the stars.
 We ask You to push back
 The horizons of our hopes;
 And to push into the future
 In strength, courage, hope, and love.

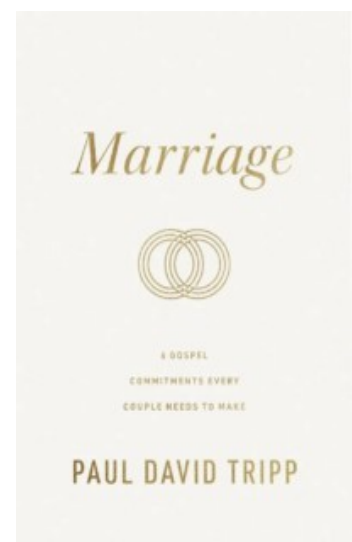
Attributed to Sir Francis Drake, 16th Century

Book Reviews

Marriage – 6 Gospel Commitments Every Couple Needs to Make **By Paul Tripp, 10Publishing, £17.15**

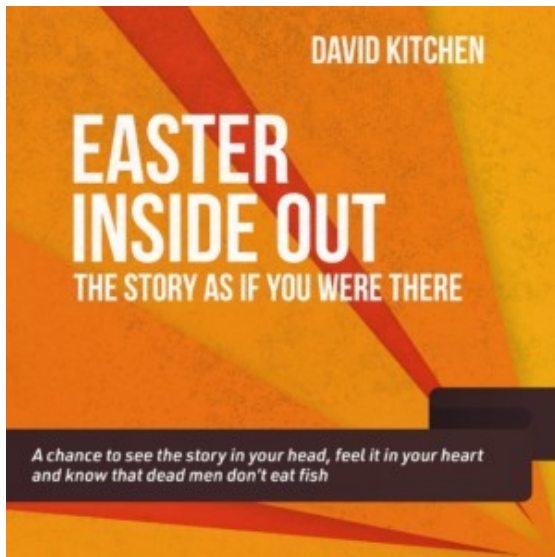
When two people say “I do,” they begin the journey of a lifetime—and they expect that journey to be perfect. Expectations of the perfect marriage are sure to fade away in the struggles of everyday life, but many are shocked when their marriage morphs into something they didn’t intend it to be. A long-term, gospel-centred marriage needs to be grounded in something sturdier than romance.

In this rebranded edition of *What Did You Expect?*, popular author and pastor Paul David Tripp encourages couples to make six commitments to one another; commitments such as practicing forgiveness, appreciating differences, and actively working toward a relationship that is built on trust. Through each chapter, Tripp encourages readers to be motivated by grace as they strive to make Jesus Christ the centre of their marriages.



Easter Inside Out – the story as if you were there

By David Kitchen, BRF, £12.99



Step into the Easter story... Acclaimed storyteller David Kitchen reimagines the Easter narrative through a varied cast of characters, from Mary Magdalene to Caiaphas. If you want to understand who might have been where and doing what as the Easter story unfolds, this book gives you answers. It also lets you sense what it could have been like to be one of those involved in the twists and turns of one of the most extraordinary stories in the whole of history.

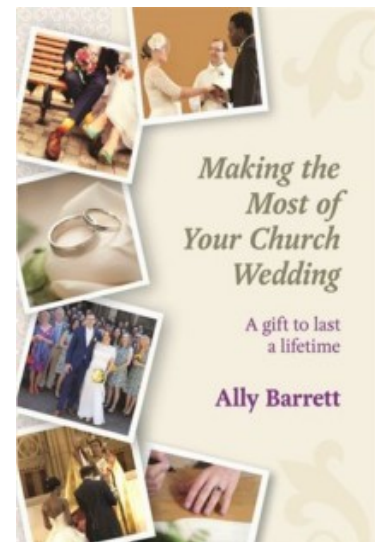
Making the Most of Your Church Wedding

By Ally Barrett, SPCK, £5.99

From author and vicar, Ally Barrett, *Making the Most of Your Church Wedding* is a short, attractive, full-colour guide to the Anglican wedding service aimed at couples planning a church wedding.

This church wedding handbook is an essential title for anyone planning a church wedding, from couples to clergy. It uses the words and the actions of the Anglican marriage service to enable couples to explore the big questions of life, relationships, commitment, God, family and more. Ideal for use in Christian wedding planning, this visual and informative book contains questions and activities to help you achieve the perfect church wedding and its lead up.

From information and guidance on choosing readings, making The Vows and the Blessing of the marriage, this helpful guide will help couples plan and prepare for their church wedding.



I just replaced
the can of air
freshener in the
church bathroom
with an air horn.
And now we
wait...

My First Sermon

This month's painting is *My First Sermon* by John Everett Millais. It hangs in the Guildhall Art Gallery in London. The Gallery was only completed in 1999, having replaced a building that was destroyed in the blitz of 1941. It has over 4000 works, many of them from the Victorian and Pre-Raphaelite period.

Among them is this painting by Millais which depicts Effie, his 5-year-old daughter sitting in Kingston Church. She is dressed properly and sensibly for the occasion with feathered hat, muff and a cloak of vivid red. Her mother's prayer book and gloves are by her side. Effie is listening with great concentration.



When the painting was exhibited in 1863, it was a great success. In the following year Millais produced *My Second Sermon* – a very different occasion, for Effie has now fallen asleep with her hat by her side.

Millais was often criticised for his sentimental portraits of children. But in 1864 the Archbishop of Canterbury, Charles Longley, praised this second painting for reminding us of 'the evil of lengthy sermons and drowsy discourses.'

As we look at Effie alert one Sunday, asleep the next, we can smile. But we might also ask how we respond to the Word that comes to us through the medium of words in the weekly sermon. The preacher has the daunting task of using this everyday coinage of words to draw us into that mysterious, life-giving realm of the Word, Jesus. The words spoken must make a straight path for the Lord to reach each human heart.

The two paintings of Millais depict the reality and fragility of this endeavour. Sometimes our attention is engaged; at others, drowsiness closes our eyes and

even our hearts to the good news of salvation. On occasions the sermon sows seeds, which can bear fruit. At other times, all kinds of factors mitigate against the sermon's success.

Let us pray that as listener or as preacher, we may be aware of the dynamic power of the Word, which, as Karl Rahner wrote, calls us '**out of the little house of our homely, close-hugged truths into the strangeness of the mystery of God that is our real home.**'

Revd Michael Burgess

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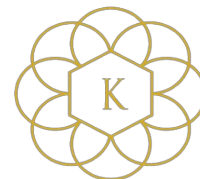


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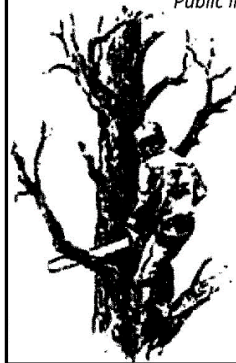
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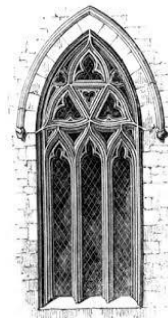
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**SHEL SWELL GROUP SERVICES: FEBRUARY – MARCH 2025**  
 CW: 'Common Worship' modern language service    BCP: 'Book of Common Prayer' traditional language service

| DATE     | 2 <sup>nd</sup> February<br>Presentation of Christ in<br>the Temple                                                   |                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                         |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ALTAR    | White                                                                                                                 | 9 <sup>th</sup> February<br>4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday before Lent                  | 16 <sup>th</sup> February<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Lent                                                                          | 23 <sup>rd</sup> February<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent                                                                             | 2 <sup>nd</sup> March<br>Sunday next before Lent                                                                        |
| 8.00 am  |                                                                                                                       | Green                                                                           | Green                                                                                                                                    | Green<br>Holy Communion<br>(BCP)<br>FINMERE AG                                                                                              | Green                                                                                                                   |
| 9.15 am  | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>HARDWICK<br>AM<br><br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (BCP)<br>NEWTON PURCELL<br>AG | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>HETHE<br>AG<br><br>Mixbury Half Hour<br>AM | 9.15am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>FINMERE<br>AM<br><br>10am<br>'Food for Thought'<br>STOKE LYNE<br>Lay-led                  | 9.15am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>STRATTON AUDLEY<br>AM<br><br>9.30am<br>Morning Service<br>HETHE<br>Lay led                   | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>COTTISFORD<br>AG<br><br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (BCP)<br>NEWTON PURCELL<br>AM |
| 10.45 am | 'Connect' Informal Worship<br>FINMERE VILLAGE HALL<br>AM<br><br>Morning Service<br>FRINGFORD<br>AG                    | Morning Service<br>STRATTON AUDLEY<br>PW                                        | 10.45am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (BCP)<br>COTTISFORD<br>AG<br><br>10.45am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>FRINGFORD<br>CO | 10.45am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>STOKE LYNE<br>LW<br><br>4pm<br>Evensong with<br>the Shelswell Group Choir<br>HARDWICK<br>PW | 'Connect' Informal Worship<br>FINMERE VILLAGE HALL<br>AM<br><br>Morning Service<br>FRINGFORD<br>PW                      |
| 6.00 pm  | Compline<br>STRATTON AUDLEY<br>PW                                                                                     | Evening Communion<br>STOKE LYNE<br>AG                                           | 4pm<br>'Fun at Four'<br>STOKE LYNE<br>AG                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                             | Compline<br>GODINGTON<br>PW                                                                                             |

AG: Revd Alice Goodall    AM: Revd Alex Mahlava    CO: Revd Carolyn Oley    LW: Revd Liz Walters    PW: Mrs Penny Wood (LLM)