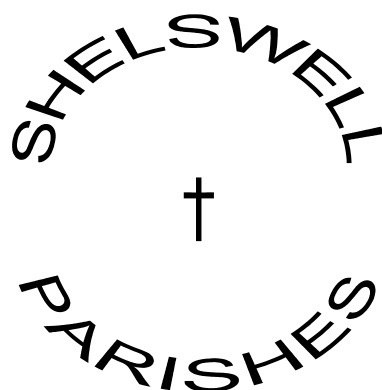


# Shelswell News

The magazine of the Shelswell Group of Churches

Cottisford  
Fringford  
Hardwick  
Mixbury  
Stoke Lyne



Finmere  
Godington  
Hethe  
Newton Purcell  
Stratton Audley



*New Year - New Hope*

*Fr Alex on coming closer to  
Jesus this year p.3*

*New Year Resolutions p.33*

*Farewell to Revd Sam as he starts  
a new job p.7*

## SHELLOWELL BENEFICE MISSION STATEMENT

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

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**THE PARISHES ARE PART OF THE DEANERY OF BICESTER AND ISLIP AND THE DORCHESTER EPISCOPAL AREA OF THE DIOCESE OF OXFORD**

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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 February edition of Shelswell News**

To Magazine Correspondents: **Midday on Friday 17th January**

Correspondents to Editor: **Midday on Sunday 19th January at [editor@shelswellparishes.info](mailto: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](http://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

### WALK WITH JESUS ( LUKE 19:1-10)

Life is lived in a futuristic way but with a lot of reference to the past. People prefer to stay with what they know rather than to imagine the future. Many of us can talk about Covid for example, because it affected or infected us in one way or the other. It is an experience that we know. But the old year is gone and the new has come. We are in a new year and we thank God for the gift of life and health. Let not the negative experiences of 2024 continue to affect us in 2025.

In the gospel of Luke 19:1-10, we are encouraged to leave our past, turn over a new page and walk with Jesus. The story of Zacchaeus is very relevant to those who want to choose Jesus as their master and Lord. Zacchaeus was a rich man; he was a tax collector and lived a better life than most of his fellow Jews although they were all under the Roman government. Although wealthy physically, Zacchaeus was very far away from salvation in the spirit.

Zacchaeus lived in Jericho and for a Jew, the further away you were from Jerusalem, the more unholy you became. But when Jesus was passing by Jericho, it seems Zacchaeus had heard of the miracles that Jesus had performed and wanted to have a glimpse of him.

Scholars suggest that because of his wealth, pride and way of life, Zacchaeus may have had no intention of talking to Jesus - he just wanted to see what Jesus was like from a distance. Since Zacchaeus was short, he had to find the highest point in Jericho and it turned out to be a tree. Rich people don't climb up trees but when Jesus comes into your life the impossible becomes possible.

The main issue about walking with Jesus is not climbing up the tree which Zacchaeus did, but swallowing one's pride and accepting to come down and listen to and walk with Jesus.

I don't know the kind of tree you were on in 2024 or are still on in this new year but Jesus is saying come down and let's walk together and your life will be great. Don't remain on a tree of hatred, malice, jealousy, gossiping, fear or not having faith - come down and meet Jesus.

We pray that leaders of Russia, Ukraine, Lebanon, Gaza and Israel silence the guns and come down to the table for peace.

May the Good Lord bless you in this new year and fulfil all your resolutions in 2025.

Fr Alex



## BIBLE READINGS



Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Epiphany	Isaiah 60 v1-6 Ephesians 3 v1-12 Matthew 2 v1-12
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	Baptism of Christ	Isaiah 43 v1-7 Acts 8 v14-17 Luke 3 v15-17 and 21-22
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany	Isaiah 62 v1-5 1 Corinthians 12 v1-11 John 2 v1-11
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany	Nehemiah 8 v1-3, 5-6, 8-10 1 Corinthians 12 v12-31a Luke 4 v14-21
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Presentation of Christ in the Temple	Malachi 3 v1-5 Hebrews 2 v14-end Luke 2 v22-40



### MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION AND SOUP LUNCH

Thursday 9th January

12 noon

Stoke Lyne Church

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



### ***Food For Thought***

*Why not join us at*

*Peter's Church,*

*Stoke Lyne*

*For breakfast and*

*Very informal worship*

*January the 5<sup>th</sup> 2025*

*From 10:00am with a short Lay Led service starting at  
10:30am*

*We will be celebrating The Feast of Epiphany*

*January the 5<sup>th</sup> 2025*

*Come along and find out more.*







### **Lighthouse Shelswell needs your help! We really do!**

**Lighthouse Shelswell hosted 60 children in 2024. At the moment we will only be able to take 30 children in 2025.**

**We need:**

**Two more age group leaders – 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.

Please contact Alice to discuss further or to register an interest!

#### **Administrator**

Are you good with emails and data bases? You would not need to attend the Lighthouse week, and would have little direct contact with children. Your task would be managing the applications from both volunteers and children via the Lighthouse data base. Most of the year there is little to do – your work would start in February and pick up pace as Lighthouse approaches. In the couple of weeks before Lighthouse, you might be doing about 15 minutes a day. (Alice has managed it to date, alongside her other duties, and if you are good with data bases, it would probably be much quicker!!).

Full training and support would be given from the Lighthouse organisation.

Alice Goodall

01280 848192

[alicegoodall313@gmail.com](mailto:alicegoodall313@gmail.com)



## PLOUGH SUNDAY

Come along to our special  
**Celebration of Rural Life**

Join us as we ask God to bless those involved  
in agriculture and the countryside.

11am

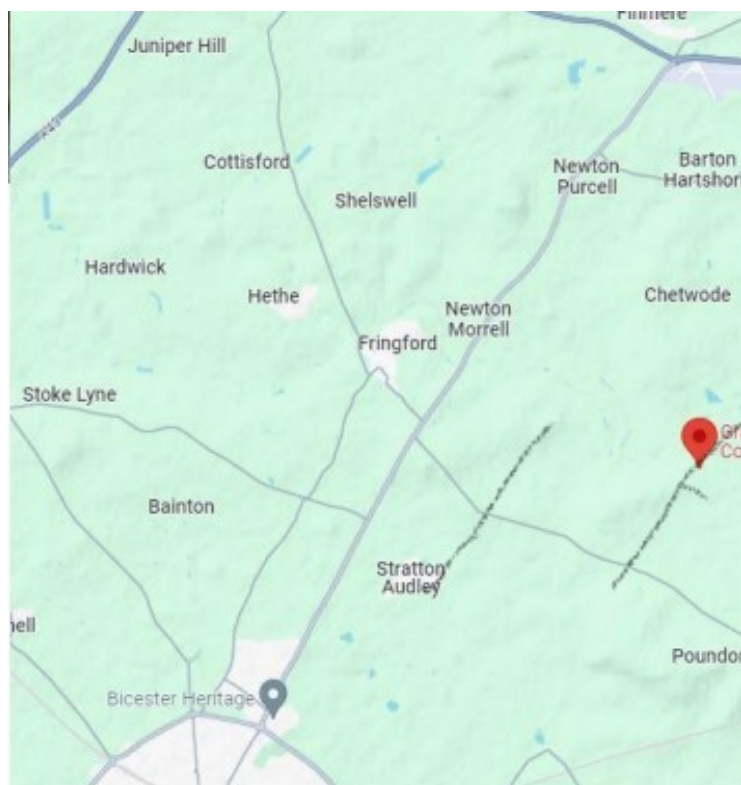
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Plenty of parking

Beer and pasties – of course!

**Grange Farm, Godington, OX27 9AF**

**by kind permission of Nigel and Penny Oakey**



## NEW YEAR - NEW BEGINNINGS!

### FAREWELL

As you may know, my time in Shelswell will need to come to an end in January, as I will move into the Bicester Team to take up a role as an Associate Minister.

Whilst naturally excited by what God has in store, I feel very sad to be leaving you, and am deeply grateful for your welcome and companionship during 2024.

Whether it be in sharing the joys of worship, the sorrows of bereavement, the fun of parties, Fun @ Four and Lighthouse, the companionship of and small groups, or the fellowship of Shelswell by the Sea, soup lunches or sharing a beer, it has been an absolute pleasure to journey alongside you for the last short year. There is not enough space to thank you all individually, but I will always remember your warmth and kindness, particularly during my convalescence from my cycling accident. Being with you has been truly life-giving!

I will miss you, but hopefully will see you from time to time, as I will still be in the Bicester and Islip deanery.

I pray that you will continue to flourish in the love of Jesus.

Sam Mortimer  
Curate

### 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:

<b>January</b>	<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>February</b>	<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>March</b>	<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b>

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](mailto:ireneethomas@btinternet.com)



## Update from Wulu

One of the first photographs that Bishop Zechariah sent us, when we first began to develop our link with the Wulu Diocese, was of him proudly standing by one of the rivers that run through the Wulu area. It is the rivers that in the past have enabled Wulu to be a fertile farming area. However in the last few years, it is the same rivers that have contributed to devastating flooding in the region which has ruined crops, destroyed homes and led to many families being displaced.



Floods have worsened over the past years as South Sudan is suffering increasingly from the consequences of climate change. Floods are affecting every year between 750,000 and more than one million people, forcing half of them to leave their homeland to higher grounds.

The problems in Wulu have been exacerbated by folk that have been displaced in nearby areas coming into Wulu, including many Dinka with their cattle. The cattle roam freely, including through people's 'gardens' which are not fenced, destroying crops that have survived the flooding. This has, not surprisingly, led to some localised conflict between the Beli people of Wulu and the Dinka from Rumbek, and in November, as the Beli fled the town, the Dinka destroyed homes, a market, a hotel and the windows, doors and desks of the girls' primary school.

Bishop Zechariah is doing his best to lead a community response. In September he hosted a meeting of local government officials and community leaders. They discussed two things:

- 1) what food and materials were needed to help people who had been displaced
- 2) how they might to address the conflicts arising between farmers and cattle keepers.

They came up with the following plan:



- Hold some community workshops to educate both farmers and cattle keepers about the impact of flooding and importance of collaboration.
- Train community leaders in conflict resolution techniques to facilitate discussion between conflicting parties.





- Conduct a mapping exercise to assess the impact of the flooding on both farmers and cattle keepers.
- Promote agroecological practices that enhance soil and water management, reducing vulnerability to flooding.

In October, as part of the mapping exercise, a committee visited the areas affected by the flooding and listed the worst affected households. The money we were able to send after our Harvest Home Celebration – about £320 - gave something to the 20 worst affected ones. This will have amounted to about £16 a family – not much when you have lost everything, especially when the prices in the market were rocketing. None the less they were grateful.

This is a photograph of one of the families. The woman is called Shayar Madding. Her husband died two years ago, and now her house and all their crops have been destroyed by the flooding. Shayar has been suffering from 'problems in her mind' due to the stress of worrying about her children and the flooding.



In November, Bishop Zechariah told us that the water in some areas was going down, although it still remained in others. There were still people who had nothing to eat and nowhere to sleep.

He had, though, managed to hold one workshop for both farmers and cattle keepers, and that this included local government officials and chiefs. He needed money to cover food and materials to run more workshops – we were able to send him a generous donation from two anonymous donors from the Shelswell Benefice which should enable this important work.

He also asked whether we might be able to help fund the repairs to the school. We are still awaiting a detailed proposal for this. Currently we still send a donation of about 600 USD every six months to cover the incentive payments offered to the teachers at the school, and judging from the names on the receipts he sends us every month, this is really helping teacher retention, which of course impacts hugely on the girls at the school. We would be reluctant to discontinue these donations unless Bishop Zechariah has found another way of supporting the incentive scheme, but we have asked him what he would like to do with the regular donation that we are able to send.

We will be holding a soup lunch to raise some money for Wulu on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February in Stratton Audley Church – do put the date in your diary and come along and support it. And do continue to hold Bishop Zechariah and the people of Wulu in your prayers.

Alice Goodall



Please join us for a **SOUP LUNCH**

*with cakes and hot drinks*

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February, 12.30 - 2pm**

**Stratton Audley Parish Church**



Donations invited towards the Incentive Scheme for teachers at the Girls' Primary School, Wulu, South Sudan. Any extra money raised will be sent to Bishop Zachariah to help replace doors, windows and desks at the school which were damaged during inter-communal fighting.

**All welcome**

### **Ten Golden Rules to prevent Fraud**

Sophie Pearce, a Police Community Support Officer based in Bicester and working with Thames Valley Police, came along to the last Shelswell by the Sea and talked with us about fraud. She gave us a very useful handout which is reproduced below.

**Remember these ten golden rules to help you prevent fraud and beat the scammers.**

- Be suspicious of all 'too good to be true' offers and deals. There are no guaranteed get-rich-quick schemes.
- Don't agree to offers or deals immediately. Insist on time to get independent or legal advice before making a decision.
- Don't hand over money or sign anything until you've checked someone's credentials and their company's.
- Never send money to anyone you don't know or trust, whether in the UK or abroad, or use methods of payment you're not comfortable with.
- Never give banking or personal details to anyone you don't know or trust. This information is valuable so make sure you protect it.
- Always log on to a website directly, rather than clicking on links in an email.
- Don't just rely on glowing testimonials. Find solid, independent evidence of a company's success.
- Always get independent or legal advice if an offer involves money, time or commitment.
- If you spot a scam or have been scammed, report it and get help.
- Don't be embarrassed about reporting a scam. Because the scammers are cunning and clever there's no shame in being deceived. By reporting it, you'll make it more difficult for them to deceive others.

### **Get help or report a scam**

If you think you've uncovered a scam, been targeted by a scam or fallen victim to fraudsters, contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or via the Action Fraud website: <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>



Call us on 101 if you know the suspect or they're still in the area.

Reporting crime, including fraud, is important. If you don't tell the authorities, how do they know it's happened and how can they do anything about it?

Remember that if you are a victim of a scam or an attempted scam, however minor, there may be hundreds or thousands of others in a similar position. Your information may form part of one big jigsaw and be vital to completing the picture.



## Exhibition of E. H. Shepard's work at the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum

In 2025, Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock will launch a brand-new exhibition of original artwork by E. H. Shepard, best known as the original illustrator for A. A. Milne's *Winnie-the-Pooh* and the 1931 edition of Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows*.

The collection of Shepard's work, including some of his children's illustrations alongside a wealth of his Great War sketches and comic art, come to the museum on loan from the University of Surrey Archives and The Shepard Trust - on show for the first time in Oxfordshire. Shepard served in France during the Great War and documented his experience in drawings and paintings.

The museum looks forward to welcoming visitors to the new exhibition from 18th January to 31st August 2025.

Exhibition organisers are asking visitors and local people to bring in their own Winnie-the-Pooh character teddy bears to go on show alongside the exhibition itself. Anyone interested in sharing their bear by loaning it to the museum for display alongside the exhibition, can get in touch by:

Email: [engagement@sofo.org.uk](mailto:engagement@sofo.org.uk)

Phone: 01993 810 210





Launton Village Players present their 38<sup>th</sup> pantomime



# Beauty and the Beast

A traditional family pantomime

**Wed 19<sup>th</sup> to Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2025**

In Cooper School Performance Hall, Bicester, OX26 4RS

**Family Discounts**  
available for all shows!

Scan here for tickets!



Date	Performance Times		Adult (18+)	Child (1-17)
Weds 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb		7:30pm	£12	£7
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10:30am*	2:30pm	£12	£7
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb		2:30pm 7:30pm	£14	£8
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb		2:30pm 7:30pm	£14	£8

Book by 31<sup>st</sup> Jan for any ticket to save 10%

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

Suitable for the whole family to enjoy!

Tickets on sale from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/lvp](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/lvp)  
(or call 07864 715708 for assistance)



All profits donated to The Hummingbird Centre

[www.launtonvillageplayers.org.uk](http://www.launtonvillageplayers.org.uk)

## REGISTRY

### Funeral

#### **Pamela Ann WARD**

19 March 1949 - 30 October 2024

St Michael & All Angels, Fringford

The funeral of Pamela Ward took place on 5 December. One of her sons, Alastair, delivered the Eulogy prepared by the family. An edited version follows:

“Pamela Ann Wild was born on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March, 1949, to Dennis and Honey Wild. Growing up in George Green, Slough, she shared a bedroom with her two younger sisters, Chris and Julie, while her their older brother Norm had a separate, if tiny, box room. I’m told they all rubbed along alright despite the cramped conditions! They had an old red vinyl Decca record player from Woolworths, on which they would play 45s of the Rolling Stones, the Beatles, Otis Redding, The Ronettes, surely among many others.

While there was a lot of music, what there wasn’t was heating or double glazing, and the place was freezing in the winter. They used to wear gloves and coats when they did their homework up there and had to lie when school asked them if they had somewhere warm and quiet with chairs and tables to do it in. Julie got double pneumonia as a child. Mum had to go to school by bike down country roads, because you had to live more than 3 miles away (as the crow flies) to get a free bus pass. She was brought home twice by people who'd found her in the ditch – fainted due to the cold weather. The winters were much harsher in those days. If the snow was too deep to go by bike? You had to walk.

I’m told that Norm and Julie were quite naughty at school, whereas Mum and Chris were studious, 'goodie two shoes'. But Mum’s school career got off to a rather rocky start. She came home from her first day at Langley Grammar in tears. The headmaster, Mr. Day, made her come up on stage at assembly in front of the whole school and said "This is Norman Wild's sister. Do NOT associate with her!"

Mum had a creativity and flair for fashion and clothing that seems to have begun in her teens and continued throughout her life. She was really good at needlework. She'd design her own dress patterns and make them up. Whether it was a multicoloured belt made of hexagonal suede offcuts as a present for Julie, a hand-sewn, patchwork fur jacket made using rabbit pelts, or an Audrey Hepburn-style cocktail dress of emerald green satin, made for some posh event or other, she was quite a trendsetter!

My aunts think she was the first person from George Green to go to uni. She studied a diploma in Business Communication in Birmingham. The rest of the siblings all went on to study later but she was the one that took the plunge! Their parents were proud though, quietly so.

After graduating from Birmingham with her diploma, Mum moved to London and began her career. As a teenager she’d worked summer jobs as a typist, and at the greyhound racetrack in Slough, manning the tote for a bit of pocket money. But now she immersed herself in the world of publishing, as an editor, first at the AA and later at Quiz Digest. In 1971, while working at the AA, she was on the phone to Julie while in the office when she suddenly burst into fits of giggles. Julie asked her what was going on and she said “Oh! My colleague is pushing me around on my wheeie chair all around the office!” This mischievous young man, curiously, happened to have been born a mere 9 days before her. His name was Ian Ward, and fans of the family might be aware that he turned out to have a certain significance in the rest of this story.

In time, her siblings all moved abroad, scattering across three continents. Mum, on the other hand, dated Ian for the next 8 years, travelling together to places as disparate as the Highlands, Finland and St Lucia, spending time with his family, and being driven around at breakneck speed in his prized Lotus Elan – at least until it broke down, as it frequently did.

They married in 1980 and set up home in Hampton, where they soon welcomed child number one, Bonnie, later that year. They must have been pleased with how she turned out, as they kept churning them out pretty consistently for the next 9 years: three boys followed, Jamie, Matthew and me, before they finally bookended the set with another girl, Sammy. Of course, the growing family meant a new home was needed, and so they upped sticks somewhere in the middle of all that and moved to where we are now, Fringford, to The Pump House. Even here, there were not *quite* enough bedrooms for everyone, prompting a musical beds situation where at any given time some combination of



children would be sharing the bunk beds passed down from Mum's own childhood. But it was more or less harmonious despite the chaotic dynamics of a 7-person family – and none of us got pneumonia at least!

Mum herself often, later, made reference to those days, revealing a different angle: the twice-daily, tri-county school runs; cooking 7 different dinners for 7 people, with one or more children on her hip; endless cycles of washing, drying and ironing... Things we all, of course, took for granted, though now realise were no small thing. Looking back, we all had pretty high expectations of her, in a role as housewife that perhaps very few women would consider it normal to take on today. We don't know if she wondered what her life might have been if she had explored other avenues: continuing her career, her life in London or spreading her wings like her siblings did.

When she managed to carve out some spare time away from being just 'mum', she devoted it to pursuits that brought her lifelong enjoyment. She took great care of her garden and just loved pottering around, or even lying flat out!, in the sunshine. Her other great hobby was tennis, which she took up at the age of 44 and absolutely adored. She was a keen and very active member of the Marsh Gibbon Tennis Club, continuing to play league matches well into her sixties, until her knees started to give her trouble. But even in the last year or two, when taken back to the court and with a racquet in her hand, she was back at it as if she'd never left.

Other interests bloomed in their own time. She went back to education, studying computing and taking Spanish GCSE. She took up the piano, and joined Brackley Jubilee Choir as an alto. This is not to mention dancing: ballroom, Latin and tap all had their turn, with yoga, pilates, pole fitness and skiing following in her fifties!

Just as the last of her five children went off to university, though, tragedy struck the family, as our Dad, Ian, became very ill in 2008. On the verge of putting behind her all of the child-rearing and administrative paperwork that had occupied so much of her life over the previous 30 years, Mum suddenly found herself plunged back into a care-giving role in a way no-one could have foreseen. At a time of incredible tensions and emotional turmoil, Mum trod a very tricky path, and yet still demonstrated her presence with an unwavering constancy.

Joy returned to her and our lives with the arrival, one by one, of her grandchildren. 3 boys and 3 girls will all be proud to have called her Granny. And I think my siblings with between one and three children each have a newfound appreciation and awe for anyone who can raise five and come out the other side!

She was an absolutely devoted grandmother to each one of the grandchildren. She was always on hand or volunteering for nappy changes, cuddles, bath times, middle-of-the-night cuddles, haircuts, early-morning cuddles. This love was repaid in spades, in particular from her eldest grandsons, Alexander and Theo. Alexander had a very jovial, jokey relationship with Granny, but was also very protective. We got a lot of ticking off for being mean to her! And he was very good at jollying her along. Theo has specially asked me to mention how they will miss their cuppas and shortbread in the mornings!

In more recent years Mum did manage to do some jet-setting around the world: aside from India, discovering a new lease of life from Canada to Australia, and of course making many trips to Spain with her companion Keith.

My nephew Theo has written a very special poem to his darling Granny. We'd just like to close by reading it out, as in six short lines he says everything that needs saying.

*Granny – From my heart to yours*

Dear Granny, dear Mum or Pam if you say  
We miss you so much, as you've passed away  
You are so bright and joyful and kind  
And have such a sweet-hearted mind  
We love you so much, don't forget that  
That will be, until the world cracks."



## Club News



### SHELSWELL WI



At the time of writing this our members have celebrated by going out for our annual Christmas meal. We had an enjoyable evening of food, laughter and chats with good friends.

Our January meeting is taking place on Thursday 9th a week later than normal. We are looking forward to an evening of Old Time American Music.

At our February meeting we will be hearing from Suzie Stathers - The History of Lace Making in the 1800's.

In March we will be holding our AGM.

We always welcome new members, for more information contact Lesley Beagent 07729 605670.



### SHELSWELL GARDEN CLUB



The magazine deadline was before our December meeting so a report will follow next month. Hopefully everyone will have enjoyed making a Christmas Gonk and eating the Christmas nibbles!

On **January 14th**, we have a Zoom meeting with Liz Zorab, an award-winning gardener, video creator, homesteader and best-selling author. On her farm, she grows vegetables, fruit and herbs, as well as flower gardening and she promotes living a more sustainable life. She will be talking to us about Gardening Mistakes and how to avoid them. For the first time, we will be showing the Zoom in Hethe village hall, for those who would like to chat and socialise rather than watch at home.

*Recently, secretary, Corrine Mitchell, was sad to report that the current committee have decided to step down from their positions in the summer of 2025. We hope that a new committee will form and take the Garden Club forward with renewed vigour and ideas. However, until then, we have a full programme of exciting talks and events for our members.*

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).



## SHELSWELL READING GROUP

Our November meeting took place at 1/2 Hethe cottages in front of a roaring fire. The book discussed was *The American Wife* by Curtis Sittenfeld and the general opinion was a positive one. We all enjoyed it - the odd person thought it was too long; others thought it could have fleshed out the White House chapters a bit more. I'm not sure any of us particularly liked Alice, but we did all agree that it was interesting walking in her shoes and discussing the themes it generated: race, class, ambition, family background, politics, strong women, responsibilities of positions of power, role of women at that time.....

Our next meetings are :

8 January 2025 - *The Mission House* by Carys David

17 February 2025 - *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver

If you would be interested in joining the Reading Group, please contact Jane Birnage ([janebirnage@icloud.com](mailto:janebirnage@icloud.com)) or 07770 220605



## SHELSWELL POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP

Our theme for December was Work and our searches turned up a clutch of interesting poems, some of them old favourites and others new to us.

There was a good variety of types of work. In *Digging* by Seamus Heaney (1939-2013), the poet compares his father's physical labour with a spade with his own poetic labours with a pen, whereas *Digging* by Edward Thomas (1878-1917) is purely about the physical labour and its sensory delights. The self-esteem of a farm labourer is raised by his elevation to tractor-driver by R S Thomas (1913-2000) in *Cynddylan on a Tractor*, whilst the sheer energy of an anonymous 15th century alliterative poem *The Blacksmiths* creates a vivid impression of the heat and clamour of a mediaeval smithy.

All the stages in the production of beer are gone through in *John Barleycorn* by Robert Burns (1759-96), a long riddle poem with many folk versions, whereas in *The Conference Call Chronicles*, another anonymous poem, the physical work done is in inverse proportion to the annoyance of trying to communicate effectively via Zoom in a modern company.

Philosophical ponderings on the topic of work are *Messenger* by Mary Oliver, (1935-2019); *My Father Teaches Me to Dream* by Jan Beatty, (1952-); *The Workforce* by James Tate, (1943-2015); *To Be Of Use* by Marge Piercy, (1936-); *Work* by Henry Van Dyke, (1852-1933) and *Hey Diddle Diddle* by Roald Dahl, (1916-90).

Very negative attitudes to work are shown in *Toads* by Philip Larkin, (1922-85); *Yonder See the Morning* by A E Housman, (1859-1936); *Work Without Hope* by Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834) and *The Song of the Shirt* by Thomas Hood, (1799-1845). More positive attitudes are found in Larkin's *Toads Revisited*; *Happy The Labourer* by Jane Austen, (1775-1819) and *Work...What are we set on earth for?* by Elizabeth Barrett Browning, (1806-61).

At the time of going to press the date and theme for our January 2025 meeting had not been decided, but if you are interested in joining the group you can get the details by contacting me on 01869 811994 or at [judith.harvey@live.co.uk](mailto:judith.harvey@live.co.uk) You will be made very welcome.

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 5th January 9.15 am Holy Communion (CW)  
 Sunday 19th January 10.45 am Holy Communion (BCP)

#### COTTISFORD AND JUNIPER HILL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Thank you to everyone who braved the terrible weather (and power cuts) and came to the pop up pub.  
 Thanks to our hosts Jane and David.

By the time you receive this Shelswell News we will have celebrated Christmas and will be saying goodbye to 2024. The Social Committee wish everyone best wishes for 2025 and we look forward to seeing you at our various events planned for the year ahead. These start with Snowdrop Sunday in February.

If you would like to help at an event or host a coffee morning or pop up pub contact Sandra on [sandrambickmore@gmail.com](mailto:sandrambickmore@gmail.com)

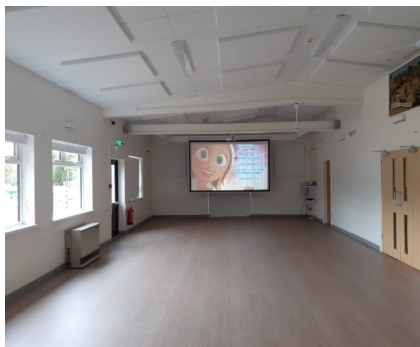
### Finmere St Michael and All Angels

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

#### Church Services

Sunday 19th January 9.15 am Holy Communion (CW)  
 Sunday 26th January 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
 Sunday 2nd February 10.45 am Connect informal worship at Finmere 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.myfinmere.com/villagehall](http://www.myfinmere.com/villagehall).





### Allotments

There's not much to be done on the wet soil this month but nevertheless the sight of both garlic and shallots poking up, is heartening. So for now, let's check the seed catalogues and make plans to avoid the mistakes we made last year! If you want to join in the fun and ensure your own "food security" just let us know!

Interested, visit [www.myfinmere.com/poorsplot](http://www.myfinmere.com/poorsplot) and select the 'enquiry' link.

*Jean (Allotment correspondent)*



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

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

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>. January, 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...

## Light lunch

Finmere Village Hall  
4th Tuesday of the month

**January 28th 12.30-2pm**

No charge but donations appreciated



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

## POP-UP PUB

**Friday 24 January  
7-10pm**

**Finmere Church**

Join us for an evening  
with a bit of a Scottish theme!

Hot toddies and hot spicy apple punch  
Scottish snacks and nibbles

Please bring any other drinks you'd like!

Donations gratefully received (card or cash)



## **SAVE THE DATE!**

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

We're planning a party to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. There'll be food and there'll be dancing, just as in 1945!

**Finmere Village Hall  
Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May**

Come celebrate with us.

Watch this space for more details and put the date in your diary now.

### **Some Finmere related links:**

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

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

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

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

Finmere Poor's Plot – [www.myfinmere.com/poorsplot](http://www.myfinmere.com/poorsplot)

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

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

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

## **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](http://www.fringford.info)

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

#### **Services**

- Sunday 5 January – at 10.45am - Morning Service
- Sunday 12 January – at 6.00pm - Holy Communion
- Sunday 19 January – at 10.45am – Holy Communion
- Sunday 26 January – at 11.00am – Plough Sunday Celebration at Grange Farm, Godington.

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](http://www.shelswellparishes.info), the noticeboard at the church, or ring the Benefice office (01280-848192). You will always be welcome in our other parishes.

#### **EVENTS**

- **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 1<sup>st</sup> prize £61, 2<sup>nd</sup> £37, 3<sup>rd</sup> £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](mailto:admin@shelswellparishes.info)

### FRINGFORD VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING



Village Coffee Mornings will take place on Monday 20 January and Monday 20 February. 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.

### SEWCIAL

The next session is on Sunday 26th January - please see advert on page 7



### Regular Activities held in Fringford Village Hall

To find out more or book a place, please contact the hirer direct.	
Weekly Activities	Monthly Activities
<p>FS Dance Monday &amp; Wednesday (term time) After school classes BALLET • TAP • MODERN • STREET leah.fsd@gmail.com or 07885827592</p>	<p>Village Coffee Morning All ages welcome Third Monday in the month - Chinnery Room Drop in anytime between 10.30 am and noon Penny Wood 01869 277310</p>
<p>Puppy Stars Dog Training Tuesday evening – various classes Contact Nick 07542 131400 <a href="http://www.puppystars.co.uk">www.puppystars.co.uk</a></p>	<p>Parish Council Meeting All villagers welcome Third Monday in the month 7.45pm Contact 01844 237766 or <a href="mailto:fringford.parishclerk@gmail.com">fringford.parishclerk@gmail.com</a></p>
<p>Fringford Yoga Wednesday (term time) 9.30am – 11am Carolyn White 01869 277161</p>	<p>Bicester Meditation Space &amp; Sound Bath First Sunday of the month from 6 -9 pm Sonia - <a href="mailto:contact@holisticaxis.com">contact@holisticaxis.com</a> Please text - 07709634847</p>
<p>Just Puppies Puppy Training Wednesday evening – various classes Contact Kerri 07720 891489 <a href="http://www.justpuppies.training">www.justpuppies.training</a></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 natashafloverspilates@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 <a href="http://www.mybabyspa.co.uk">www.mybabyspa.co.uk</a> 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 <a href="http://fringford.info">fringford.info</a>, village hall, how to book Here you will find all the information you will need to book on-line. For any other queries please phone or text 07936 879175 or email: <a href="mailto:fringford.hall@gmail.com">fringford.hall@gmail.com</a></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

**From 1<sup>st</sup> 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

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](http://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. The deadline for the next edition of the Shelswell News is on Page 2.

## ST EDMUND & ST GEORGE CHURCH

### Church Services and Events



The church is now 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. There will be no heating for the service at 8.00am on 26<sup>th</sup> January – lets hope for another mild morning!

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>.

Thank you to everyone who helped prepare the church for Christmas.

**Church Restoration.** We are working with our Church Architect to identify and specify the further work required to solve the damp problems in the church. We don't know at this stage what the cost will be of restoring the building, we also have an outstanding issue with the west window in the nave and we are heading for an in-year deficit (note that our gaining a Silver Eco Church Award has been at no cost to the church). If you can contribute to meeting the cost, please scan this QR Code:

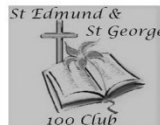


If you prefer to contribute to other church expenses, you may make a one-off gift through a single transaction or set up regular donations, using a debit or credit card, or Apple or Google Pay, using the secure Parish Giving (PGS) website - <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/home/> or through the following QR Code:



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

**100 Club.** There are still plenty of numbers if you wish to join! Please contact Mike or one of the other PCC members for an application form (full details on the village website).



## St Edmund & St George 100 Club

Results of the 70<sup>th</sup> draw held  
on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024

1<sup>st</sup> Prize No 11 Jenny Cullen  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize No 23 Lisa Soper  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize No 47 Ben & Ali Jones

Many thanks to our members  
Hethe PCC

The next PCC meeting is this month - Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January starting at 1.30pm. If you wish to raise any issues for consideration at the meeting, please inform one of the PCC members – Revd Alice, Flora Skinner, Pauline O’Gorman, Helen Pritchard, Helen Wood, June Nisbet or Mike Green.

## HETHE COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

### Hethe Community Coffee Morning in the Village Hall

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January from 10.00am to 12.00pm**

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



## Changes to Waste and Recycling Collections

The blue bin collection due on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> January will now take place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January. There will be no garden waste (brown bin) collection on that date – the next will be on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January.

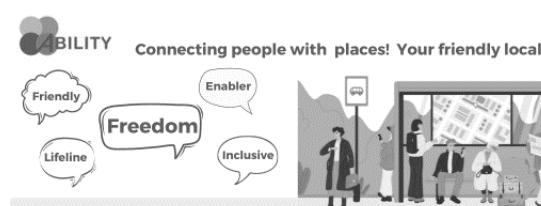
## Christmas tree recycling

The District Council will collect real Christmas trees during the recycling collection on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January. Any tree that is over 5ft tall must be cut in half. **Christmas trees will only be collected this week, therefore only leave your tree out next to your blue recycling bin on 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> January.**

- Leave your tree outside in a place that's not obstructing the footpaths. If you're subscribed to the garden waste subscription service, you can chop it up and put it in your brown bin.
- Please ensure that all decorations are removed from the trees before putting them out for collection. Broken fairy lights and other small electrical items will be taken away by the crews if placed in a standard-size carrier bag and left on top of any bin on collection day.

**Climate Action Groups.** If you would like to start the new year in a positive way, why not join a Climate Action Group to discuss and take action in and around Hethe. Please let us know if you are interested. Contact [hethenews@outlook.com](mailto:hethenews@outlook.com).

### 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.

**Parish Council.** The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The minutes from the last meeting in October 2024 are on the web site.

For **Village Hall bookings**, please contact Flora, the Village Hall Booking Secretary, on 01869 277366 [fjskinner@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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/>

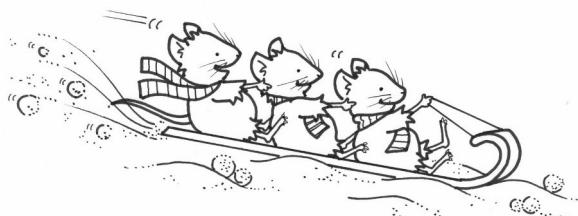
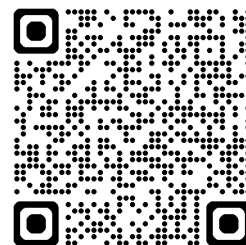
Shelswell Lift Share WhatsApp Group – Contact Flora to join.

### Festive wildlife detective



[www.wildlifewatch.org.uk](http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk)

Credits: Red-legged partridge, collared dove, pheasant and footprints in snow (c) Amy Lewis / Robin (c) Harry Hogg / Mistletoe (c) Susanna Bird / Greylag goose (c) Gillian Day / Mute swan (c) Neil Aldridge / Frosty landscape (c) David Walker / Red deer (c) Jon Hawkins



## 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 <a href="mailto:pasgoodman551@gmail.com">pasgoodman551@gmail.com</a>	Tel 01280 848002

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

### CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 12th January 9.15 am Mixbury Half Hour

### MIXBURY CHURCH FLOWER ROTA 2025

January	Sally Drummond-Hay
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.

JANUARY	Julie Mitchell and Helen Backon
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](mailto:markandtanya@yahoo.co.uk).



**MIXBURY CHRISTMAS TREE**

Mixbury's beautiful Christmas Tree was donated by Anna at Swallows Nursery – **thank you** Anna it's been several years since the village had a tree.

### MIXBURY PARISH MEETING

Mixbury Parish Meeting was held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at All Saints Church – it's a great way to find out what is going on within the Parish and also to meet fellow villagers.

### FOOD BANK

Thanks everyone. We have been very pleased to be able to help the food bank again this year, especially supporting them hugely in October, at Harvest Festival. Thank you to all who put in such a shift with the soup kitchen and for all those who donated.

James Tobin

***A Very Happy New Year to You All***



## 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 5th January - 9.15 Holy Communion

### Christmas Market:-

Enormous thanks to both Miranda Markham and Graham Perryman who organised this new event for us. It was a resounding success with a constant flow of visitors throughout the day. We would also like to thank all the stall holders, all who helped and of course all of you who came to support us on the day.

### The Royal British Legion:-

You will be pleased to hear that this years Poppy Day appeal in Newton Purcell raised £123.25. This included the Remembrance Day church collection. Thank you to all of you who gave so generously.

### Bonus Ball Lotto:-

Recent lucky winners were David & Carolyn Griffiths and Patrick Clarke.



## Stoke Lyne St Peter's

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WEBSITE <a href="http://www.stokelyne.org">www.stokelyne.org</a>	

### St Peter's Church Stoke Lyne Services

See back page for details.

### Flower Duty for January

Lisa Soper

## **Food for Thought – Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> December – Advent Sunday**

It had felt like a long time since our last FFT (October) and instead of animals to add to the event, we had the decorating of the tree, lighting of the Advent wreath and arranging of the nativity scene.

We explored our feelings about Advent with many of us saying that it felt special to have the 1<sup>st</sup> of December as a Sunday; the perfect way to begin the season.

Ali shared images and reflections on the ways in which Advent is reflected in the shops and our homes and brought a surprising array of Advent calendars, including one for a dog, a Fair Trade 'true Christmas' and finally, a beautiful example which reminded many of us of calendars from years gone by, which had 24 drawers, one for each day, each drawer containing a wooden nativity figure.

Our next FFT is 10am on 5<sup>th</sup> January, please come along to this popular service, with informal worship and breakfast.

Kelly Holden-White



## **Midweek Holy Communion and Soup Lunch – Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> December**

This is a short service of Communion, it is ideal for people across the Benefice who are unable to get to Sunday Communion, lifts can be arranged.

The service was led by Reverend Alice Goodall assisted by Reverend Liz Welter. Alice welcomed everyone to the service. First of all she spoke about the candles: there are 5 candles on an Advent wreath and these are known by different names, depending on where you live. There then was a discussion of what does Advent really mean? There were a few examples of what it means to you: something to look forward to? Advent calendars? or the coming of Jesus? Years ago, some churches didn't put flowers out, some places didn't eat bread. The reading was read by Ali. Prayers were said for innocent people in countries where there is warfare, famine, floods or any other disasters, also people in the villages nearby, people who are known to you and the leaders of countries at war to find a peaceful solution to end the killings. We then had communion with Alice leading assisted by Liz.

We then moved to the tables set for lunch which consisted of a choice of creamy vegetable soup or tomato soup with bread rolls after which was a choice of fruit crumble with custard, trifle with meringues, or soft fruit with cream. This was followed by tea or coffee and the usual chatter about Christmas, Christmas lights etc.

Thank you to the Clergy for setting up and serving lunch. Thank you also to Annette and Jan for providing the delicious Lunch and anyone else who helped in any way.

Rena Andrews.

## **Virtual Race Night – Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> November**

It was the first time in a very long time that we had held this event and, after a couple of rounds getting used to the format, everyone was beginning to find their form (some finding they were more successful than others!) We played with toy money with winnings up to £9,000 on one race.

We enjoyed an Italian-themed supper with lasagnes, potatoes and salad on offer, followed by delicious puddings. Thank you to Ali for bringing us together for the event and to everyone who helped by bringing food and contributing to the fun!

Kelly Holden-White

## A Look Back at the Post-Christmas Period in Stoke Lyne in Days Gone By

With the addition of a couple of extra transcriptions, the following piece contains extracts from a longer composition I wrote about Christmas and winter in the village and uploaded to the village Facebook group back in December 2020 (it is also available on the “Stoke Lyne Stories” website at: <https://stokelynestories.webador.co.uk/stoke-lyne-in-the-news>).

Just as in many places round the country, those less well off in the village depended on the charity of the local landed gentry to make things a little better at this time of year, namely the Peyton Baronets of Swift’s House. For example:

*Bicester Herald, 28<sup>th</sup> January 1910*

*STOKE LYNE. GIFT OF COAL. – Seven hundred weight of coal has been distributed to each cottager of Stoke Lyne, by the kindness of Sir Algernon Peyton, Bart.*

Such reports appeared regularly in the Bicester Herald in the pre-war years of the 1900s. And coal was not the only donation:

*Buckingham Advertiser, 7<sup>th</sup> February 1874:*

*“STRATTON AUDLEY. GIFTS TO THE POOR OF STRATTON AUDLEY AND STOKE LYNE BY LAURA LADY PEYTON. – The annual distribution of warm clothing and other comforts to the poor of Stratton Audley and Stoke Lyne, by Laura Lady Peyton took place a few days ago. We understand this estimable lady employs a sewing class of girls for the purpose of making clothing, etc., to be distributed to the poor. The kindness of the lady seems to be unlimited. The sick and infirm are benevolently supplied with such things as appear desirable to assist in their recovery and add to their comfort.”*

Entertainments were also sometimes laid on for the villagers:

*Bicester Herald, 19<sup>th</sup> January 1906*

*STOKE LYNE. THE VILLAGERS ENTERTAINED. – Through the kindness of Sir Algernon and Lady Peyton, excellent variety entertainments were given in the Schoolroom on Friday, Jan 5. There were two performances – one for the school children in the afternoon, and the other for the inhabitants of the village in the evening. The programme included conjuring, ventriloquism, selections on the gramophone, cinematograph pictures, and Punch-and-Judy show. Needless to state, the entertainments were greatly enjoyed by all. On the proposition of Mr. James, a vote of thanks was passed to Sir Algernon and Lady Peyton for their kindness.*

-o-O-o-

We might think that overindulging in alcoholic beverages at Christmas and New Year is a modern phenomenon but it looks like the January Bicester Petty Sessions were kept busy dealing with cases of “drunk and riotous” behaviour:

*Oxford Chronicle, 12 January 1861*

*“PETTY SESSIONS. Thomas Watts, of Stoke Lyne, was charged by Thomas Moulden with having been, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of December last, at the parish of Stoke Lyne, drunk and riotous in the public street. Convicted and fined 10s., costs 10s., and police 3s., or seven days’ imprisonment.”*  
*Joseph Gibbs, of Stoke Lyne, was charged by Thomas Moulden with having, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of December last, in the parish of Stoke Lyne, been drunk and riotous in the public street. Pleaded guilty, and fined £1, costs 10s., and police 3s., or 7 days’ imprisonment.*

-o-O-o-



Not all festive events took place before Christmas. For example, the Bicester Herald of 10 January 1890 reported on the Sunday School celebration. The Vicar was Robert Abercrombie Hamilton who was Vicar of Caversfield and Stoke between 1888 and 1891:

*“CHORAL SERVICE AND CHRISTMAS TREE AT STOKE LYNE. – Stoke Lyne Sunday school annual festival took place on Monday last, January 6. There was a choral celebration of the Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m., which was attended by the elder scholars. The music was Woodward in E Flat and was rendered very creditably by the children. The opening hymn was “Once only once” (H.A. & M.) The other hymns were 311 after Consecration Prayer and 324 at the end of the service.*

*At four p.m. the children had a Christmas tree in the school-room under the superintendence of Mrs. Hamilton, who was assiduous all the afternoon. The children and their parents were marshalled in the main room.*

*The Vicar commented on the work done during the year, and pointed out where improvement was required. He dwelt especially upon the point of attendance, saying that the scholars should be regular and punctual. The prizes were useful and good, and included prayer books, hymn books, and articles of clothing.*

*The scholars sang three carols from Chope’s collection, and then the doors were thrown open to the tree, which looked charming in its blaze of light and beauty. The Vicar and Mrs. Hamilton gave away the presents from it and seemed quite as delighted to give as the children were to receive. The proceedings were closed with three cheers for the Vicar and Mrs. Hamilton, a happy time having been spent.”*



Meanwhile, down at the Peyton Arms in January 1904, there seems to have been the equivalent of what today we might call an “Open Mic” night:

*Bicester Herald, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1904*  
*STOKE LYNE*

*SUPPER. – Mr. and Mrs. Denney, of the Peyton Arms, gave a supper recently, when a good number sat down to a capital spread. The chair was taken by Mr. G. Jeacock, who proposed the healths of Mr. and Mrs. Denney and family, and also thanked them for their kindness. A sing-song was afterwards held, when the following programme was gone through: Songs, “Under the same old flag,” Mr. R. Denney; “Are we to part like this, Bill,” Mr. W. Beasley; “Lowlands of Scotland,” Mr. J. Walton; “Private Soldier,” Mr. W. Hinton; “Ta-te-o” Mr. A. James; “Free and easy,” Mr. W. Jeacock; “Sailing,” Mr. W. Butler; “Hurrah for the Bicester,” Mr. T. White; “Blue-bells” Mr. C. Adams; “It’s nice to have a home of your own,” Mr. D. White; “The Navy,” Mr. C. Butler; “Sail away,” Mr. A. Golder; duet, Mr. R. Denney and Mr. W. Beasley; songs, “Slabdab,” Mr. A. James; “Good-bye, daddy,” Mr. W. Butler; “Sticking the sheep,” Mr. T. Whites; “Poor little Joe,” Mr. D. Jeacock; “Charming Juda McCarthy,” Mr. J. Humphries; “Dicky-bird,” Mr. C. Adams; “After the opera,” Mr. F. Butler; recitation, “The parson’s idol,” Mr. F. Butler.*

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

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### CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 5th January 6 pm Compline at Godington Church

Sunday 12th January 10.45 am Family Service at Stratton Audley Church

Sunday 26th January 11 am Plough Sunday Celebration at Grange Farm, Godington

Sunday 2nd February 6 pm Compline at Stratton Audley Church

### FOODBANK

Please don't forget the foodbank donation point in the church porch in Stratton Audley, supporting Bicester Foodbank! Thank you to everyone who donates. Particularly appreciated are tinned fruit, veg, soup and fish also coffee and hot chocolate. The Rector, Alice Goodall is a 'Local Referrer' and can refer you to the Bicester Foodbank if you are in need. Contact: Alice Goodall, The Rectory, Finmere 01280 848192 [alicegoodall313@gmail.com](mailto:alicegoodall313@gmail.com)



### 'Little Lambs' Baby and Toddler Group

Stratton Audley Church

Wednesdays 10am - 11.30am

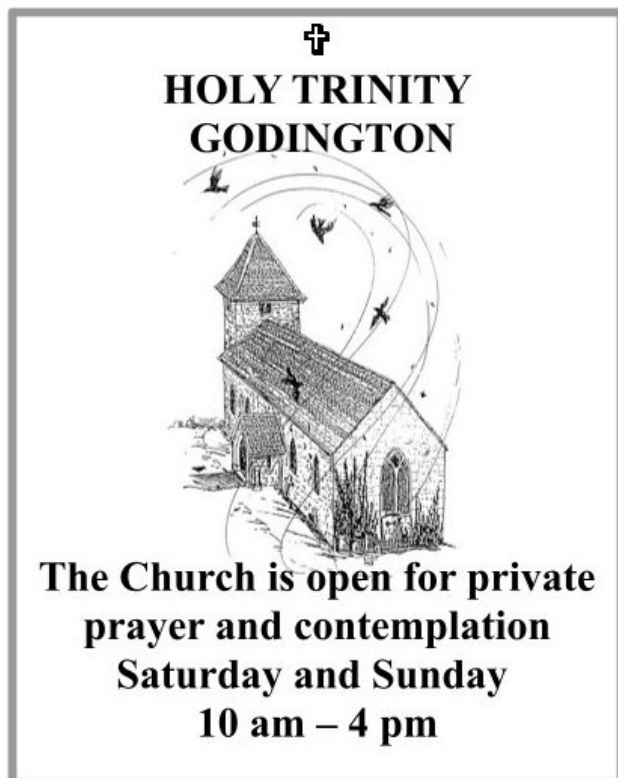
(Term Time)

Come & join us! Play, music and stories.

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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](mailto:admin@shelswellparishes.info)



# The Last Word

*For young and young at heart Readers!*

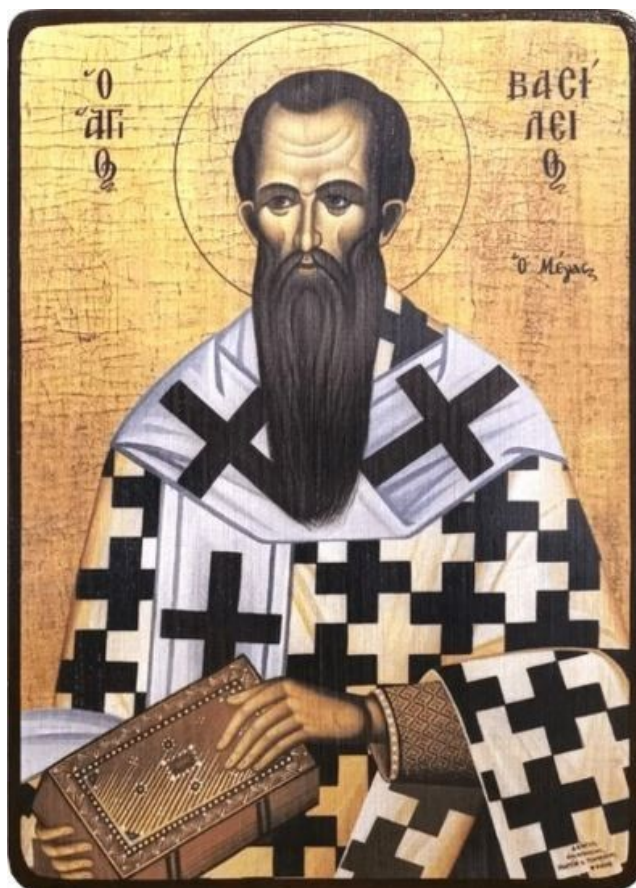
If this is God's world, there are no unimportant people. – *George Thomas*

## 2nd January - St Basil's day

Basil was most people's idea of the perfect diocesan bishop. He was a theologian of distinction, who as a monk devoted himself to much prayer and teaching. He leapt to the defence of the Church from the persecution of the Arian emperor Valens, but also appreciated great secular literature of the time, gave away his inheritance to the poor, knew how to run a soup kitchen, and counted thieves and prostitutes among his converts.

Basil (c330-79) came from a distinguished and pious family, and he had the best education available at Caesarea, Constantinople and Athens. He decided to become a monk with Gregory of Nazianzus, and settled as a hermit near Neo-Caesarea. He became bishop of Caesarea in 370, with 50 suffragan bishops to look after. It was the time of the great Arian heresy, and Basil would come to be seen as one of the great champions of the Church, defending it from secular encroachments.

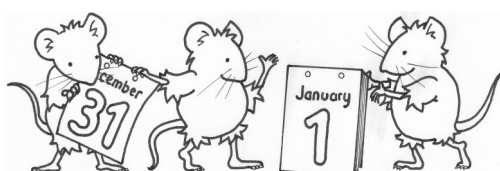
Basil loved his people and was known for his generosity and care for the poor, both through food and medical care. He was a great preacher – preaching both morning and evening to vast congregations, and organising services of psalms before daybreak.



He was interested in monastic legislation, and to this day, nearly all monks and nuns of the Greek Church follow his rule. His emphasis was on community life, liturgical prayer, and manual work, rather than on solitary asceticism. His rule allowed for almsgiving, hospitals and guesthouses. Basil also wrote some important works on the Holy Spirit.

He died at 49, worn out by austerities, hard work and disease. He was so loved that even strangers mourned his death, and in the centuries that followed, many artists painted pictures of him. His cult spread rapidly in the West, through Greek monks in Italy and through St Benedict admitting that his rule had been inspired by "our holy father Basil."

*If only we had a Saint Basil to become Archbishop of Canterbury today!*







## New Year Resolutions

Stop being grumpy

Organise my finances,  
pay off debt  
and save more

Clear all the junk  
out of my room

Work more

Work less

Have one internet free  
day per week

Go to church  
more often

What are your New Year resolutions for 2025? Sadly, one in four of us will give ours up by Epiphany, on 6<sup>th</sup> January. I can vouch for this - at the supermarket near my work, the salad is always sold out on the first work day of the New Year. On the second day, it is also sold out. By the third day, there is plenty of salad again...

Drink less alcohol

Regular, early  
bed time

Why so soon? According to behavioural scientists at University College London, we make our goals both too big and too vague. So, instead of resolving to 'lose a lot of weight', decide to 'lose three pounds in the next month'.

Give up some of my  
free time to help others

With success not far off, you will be motivated to keep going!

Be more patient with  
people around me

Another way to keep your New Year's Resolution is to involve a friend to aim for the same thing, so that you can support one another.

Use cash

But new habits are known to be hard to build. On average, it takes 66 days to form and embed a new healthy habit into your life. So be patient, keep going, and look for some success in mid-March!

Learn a new skill

Grow some of  
my own food

Your vision is your destination, and small, manageable goals are the motor that will get you there.

Phone or visit my  
parents regularly

Get fit

Give more to  
deserving causes

Give up teaching the  
cat to play poker

Pray every day

### My New Year Resolutions are...

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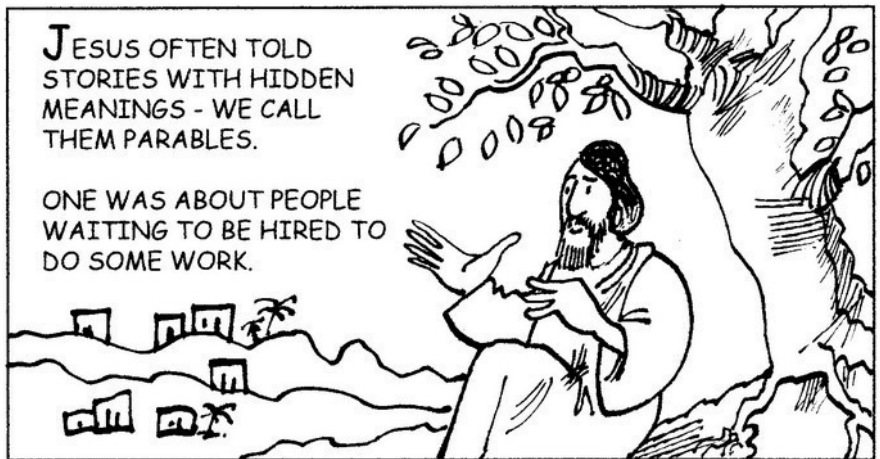
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# The Hired Workers



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS - WE CALL THEM PARABLES.

ONE WAS ABOUT PEOPLE WAITING TO BE HIRED TO DO SOME WORK.



A HOUSEHOLDER HIRED A GROUP OF WORKERS FROM THE MARKET PLACE, FIRST THING IN THE MORNING. HE AGREED UPON A FAIR WAGE.



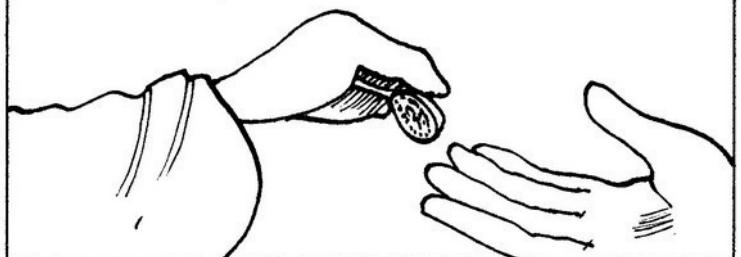
A BIT LATER ON THE HOUSEHOLDER RETURNED TO THE MARKET PLACE AND HIRED SOME MORE WORKERS.



HE RETURNED SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE DAY, EACH TIME HIRING MORE WORKERS. HE EVEN HIRED SOME PEOPLE JUST AS THE SUN WAS SETTING!



WHEN THE DAY WAS OVER THE HOUSEHOLDER BEGAN TO PAY THE WORKERS, STARTING WITH THOSE WHO HAD ONLY JUST ARRIVED. HE PAID EVERYONE THE SAME.

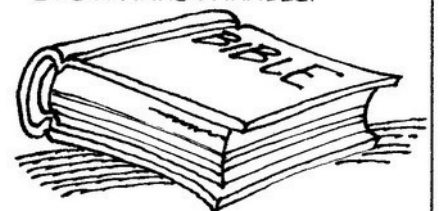


THIS UPSET THOSE WHO HAD WORKED ALL DAY. THEY THOUGHT THEY SHOULD GET MORE.



BUT THEY WERE BEING PAID WHAT THEY HAD AGREED AT THE START OF THE DAY.

JESUS CONCLUDED "SO THOSE WHO ARE LAST WILL BE FIRST, AND THOSE WHO ARE FIRST WILL BE LAST" - IT'S A HARD PARABLE!



see Matthew 20:1-16



## Archbishop of Canterbury speaks out on Assisted Dying

The Archbishop of Canterbury believes that legalising assisted dying could become a “slippery slope”.

Writing in the *Daily Mail* before the recent vote in Parliament, the Archbishop said: “I think this approach is both dangerous and sets us in a direction which is even more dangerous, and in every other place where it’s been done, has led to a slippery slope.

“The right to end your life could all too easily – all too accidentally – turn into a duty to do so.

“I worry that even the best intentions can lead to unintended consequences, and that the desire to help our neighbour could, unintentionally, open the door to yet more pain and suffering for those we are trying to help.”

Justin Welby has previously been vocal about the right to life being safeguarded for those with disabilities, saying his wife felt pressure to abort their daughter Ellie upon finding out she would have a disability. His daughter, who was born with dyspraxia, is now 32.

*From Parish Pump*



## The New Year

Poet: Unknown

Snow-wrapped and holly-decked it comes,  
To richest and to poorest homes.  
Twelve jeweled months all set with days  
Of priceless opportunities.

A silver moon, a golden sun,  
With diamond stars when day is done;  
Over all a sapphire sky  
Where pearly clouds go floating by.

## How Councils avoid Pothole Compensation Claims

Are there potholes on the roads near your home? *(I think that question is redundant - Ed.)*

If you don't report them to the Council, then it can use 'not knowing' as an excuse for not having to pay compensation to drivers whose vehicles are damaged.

We don't want to cast nasturtiums at Oxfordshire County Council, but Councils up and down Britain are doing just that. Recent RAC research has found that local authorities used this excuse to reject seven out of every 10 compensation claims in 2023.

This has prompted the RAC to urge drivers to report every pothole that they see, "either via the RAC's website or using the free Stan app which collects data on the state of UK roads," said Simon Williams, the motoring organisation's head of policy.

What is a pothole? A hole that must be at least 40mm deep, about the height of two 20p coins. They most commonly cause punctured tyres, damaged suspension and damaged tracking, according to Confused.com.

Potholes existed in biblical times, where they were also seen as a nuisance. Even St Luke's vision of a blessed future included roads where: "Every valley shall be filled in... the crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. (Luke 3:5)



Today they remain a plague for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians all over the world.

Baadal Nanjundaswamy, an artist from Mysore in Bangalore filmed himself dressed as an astronaut walking over the craters in his local roads in an attempt to get the authorities to fix them. His video (left) went viral!

Let's hope that the road in South Fermanagh has been repaired since this photo was taken (right).

The car of an unfortunate driver bounces in the air after hitting a pothole (below) in a still from a video posted on TikTok by a user called @overtime. Location unknown.



≡ **Belfast Telegraph**

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**Pothole deep enough to fit a person standing up raises safety concerns in south Fermanagh**





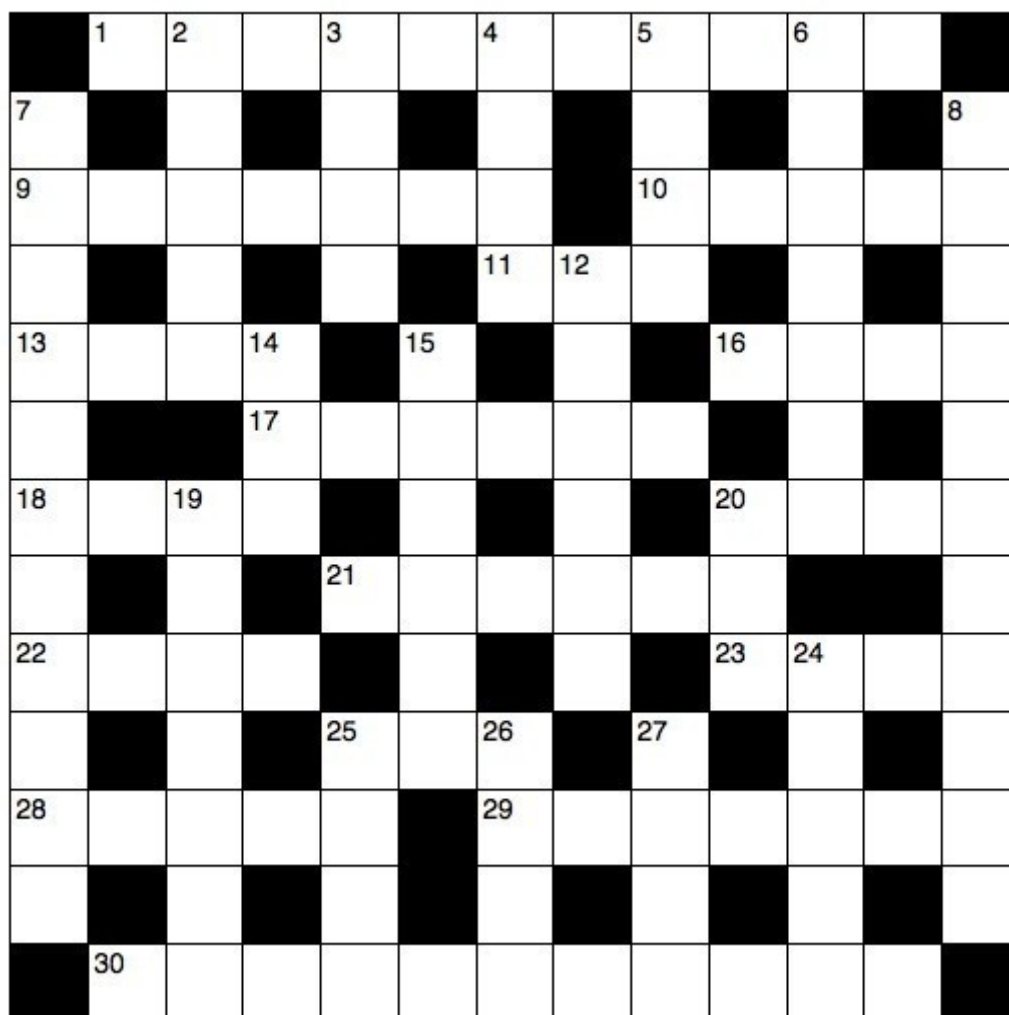
## CROSSWORD

### Across

- 1 Paul said the wrath of God 'is being revealed from heaven' against this (Romans 1:18) (11)  
 9 Go smite (anag.) (7)  
 10 'But — I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee' (Matthew 26:32) (5)  
 11 'Take and —; this is my body' (Matthew 26:26) (3) 13 Type (2 Thessalonians 2:10) (4)  
 16 'Woe to those who — iniquity' (Micah 2:1) (4)  
 17 'How shall we — if we ignore such a great salvation?' (Hebrews 2:3) (6)  
 18 Opposite of evens (4)  
 20 Previously cited (Latin) (4)  
 21 'There is surely — — of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife' (Genesis 20:11) (2,4)  
 22 The Thessalonians were warned to keep away from every brother who was this (2 Thessalonians 3:6) (4)  
 23 Beat (anag.) (4)  
 25 To trouble or afflict (Job 16:3) (3)  
 28 Part of a roof (1 Kings 7:9) (5)  
 29 Attain (Job 5:12) (7)  
 30 Insect noted for its gymnastic ability (Psalm 78:46) (11)

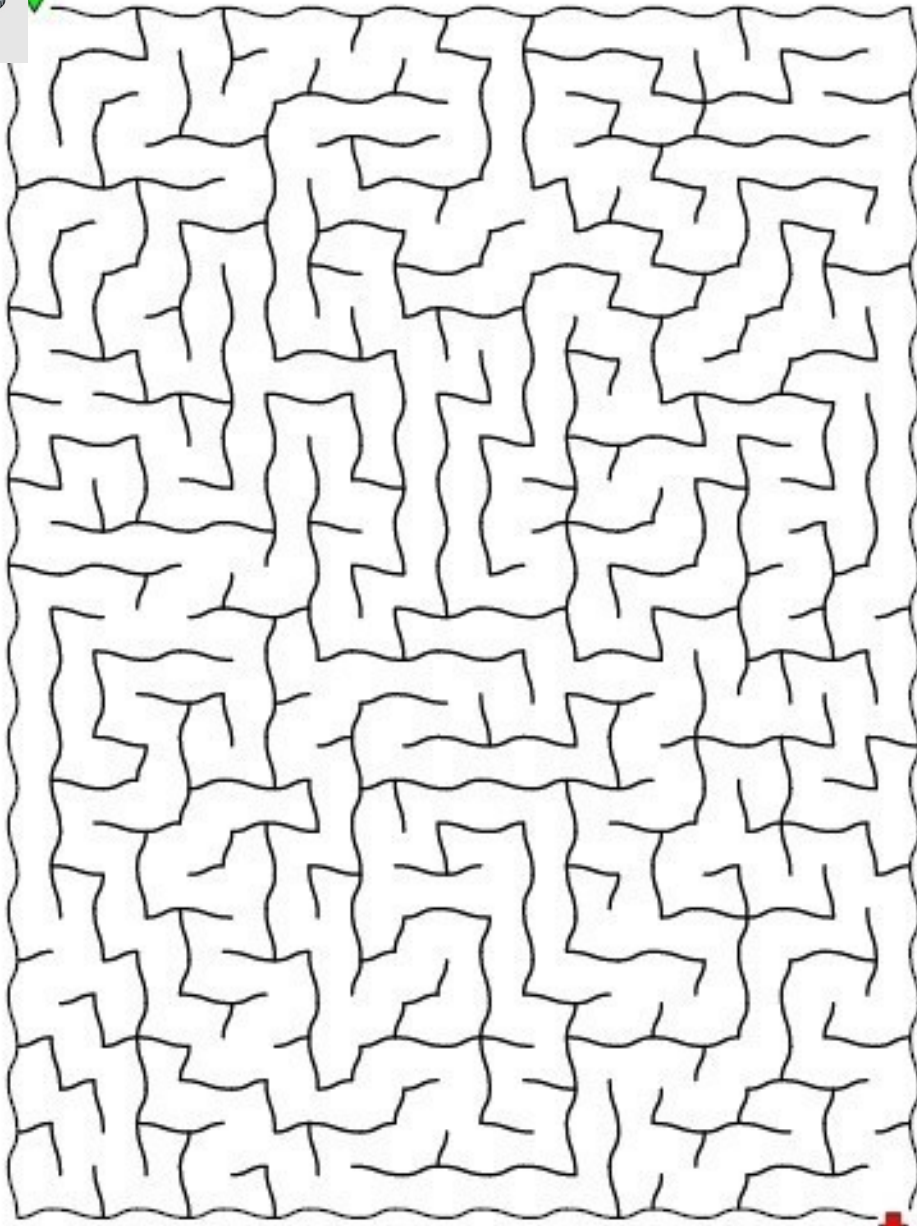
### Down

- 2 Smell (John 11:39) (5)  
 3 Lion's home (Jeremiah 25:38) (4)  
 4 'Jesus Christ is the — yesterday and today and for ever' (Hebrews 13:8) (4)  
 5 Tidy (4)  
 6 Made their home (Genesis 47:27) (7)  
 7 Their task was to carry the curtains of the tabernacle (Numbers 4:25–26) (11)  
 8 Timothy's was called Lois (2 Timothy 1:5) (11)  
 12 The Lover likened the fragrance of the Beloved's breath to these (Song of Songs 7:8) (6)  
 14 Times Educational Supplement (1,1,1)  
 15 Eight-tentacled sea creatures (6)  
 19 'And lead us not into temptation, but — us from the evil one' (Matthew 6:13) (7)  
 20 D.L. Moody's legendary song leader, — D. Sankey (3)  
 24 Rarely used musical note (5)  
 25 'Your will be done on earth — it — in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,2)  
 26 & 27 'The Lord Almighty will — them with a —, as when he struck down Midian at the rock of Oreb' (Isaiah 10:26) (4,4)



**MAZE**

Help the Gorilla find his silver coins!

**RIDDLES**

**Question 1:** What belongs to you but is mostly used by others?

**Question 2:** What kind of tree can you hold in your hand?

**Question 3:** I have no legs. I will never walk but always run. What am I?

**Question 4:** When things go wrong, what can you always count on?

*Answer 1: Your name. Answer 2: A palm tree. Answer 3: A river. Answer 4: Your fingers.*



**‘The Annunciation’ - by Domenico Veneziano**  
*The first in the series "God in the Arts" for 2025*



*Domenico Veneziano, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons*

Our first visit of 2025 is to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. Founded in 1816, it is a wonderful building in Trumpington Street that houses a wealth of art and antiquities.

Our painting this month is *The Annunciation* by Domenico Veneziano, who died in Florence in 1461. It is part of the Magnoli altarpiece, and other panels are on display in Washington and Berlin. The scene has been much loved of artists throughout the ages. We can read the account of Gabriel announcing the good news of motherhood to Mary in chapter two of St Luke's Gospel. In the simplicity and beauty of Veneziano's work, we see Gabriel kneeling with lilies, the traditional symbol of our Lady, who is standing on the far side of the canvas. It is early morning, but the two squares on the wall show the blackness of night. They stand either side of a garden where the door is closed.

An enclosed garden, like the lilies, is a medieval symbol of Mary. 'A garden locked is my sister, my bride, a garden locked, a fountain sealed' we read in the Song of Songs. We might think of the Garden of the Hesperides or the apple orchard of Avalon, or perhaps a monastic herbal garden. They are all images of fruitfulness and new life enclosed by walls. Mary receives the good news of Gabriel and responds with the words, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord.' Her words will open the garden door and lead her out into the new world of redemption, just as Genesis tells us how turning against God closed the garden door of Eden to Adam and Eve.

	G	O	D	L	E	S	S	N	E	S	S	
G		D		A		A		E		E		G
E	G	O	T	I	S	M		A	F	T	E	R
R		U		R		E	A	T		T		A
S	O	R	T		O		P		P	L	A	N
H			E	S	C	A	P	E		E		D
O	D	D	S		T		L		I	D	E	M
N		E		N	O	F	E	A	R			O
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T		I		A	I	L		W		R		H
E	A	V	E	S		A	C	H	I	E	V	E
S		E		I		S		I		V		R
	G	R	A	S	S	H	O	P	P	E	R	

The pathway from the portico and garden in Veneziano's painting will take Mary into a world where she will give birth to a son, Emmanuel. But that joy of motherhood will be coloured by a flight to Egypt and eventually the death of her Son. Then another garden will announce new and eternal life in the joy of the Resurrection. Here Mary's words will open that door in the garden. She will walk through, trusting in God and letting love guide her steps.

We begin this New Year with an invitation to open the door of our lives to God's guidance and love. That invitation begins with the good news of Emmanuel, God with us. Trusting in that gospel, we can open our lives, like the door of the garden, and travel in trust and love through all that the year will bring.

*Revd Michael Burgess*

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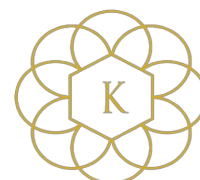


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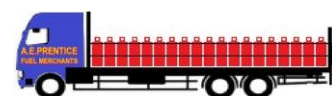
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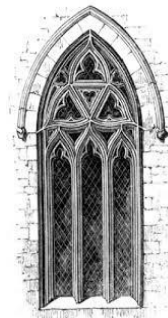
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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DATE                                                                                                                                                           | 5 <sup>th</sup> January<br>Epiphany                                  |                                                  |                                                                   |                                                                                  |                                                                              |
| ALTAR                                                                                                                                                          | White                                                                | 12 <sup>th</sup> January<br>Baptism of Christ    | White                                                             | 19 <sup>th</sup> January<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany                   | 26 <sup>th</sup> January<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany               |
| 8.00 am                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                      |                                                  |                                                                   | Holy Communion<br>(BCP)<br>FINMERE AG                                            | 2 <sup>nd</sup> February<br>Presentation of Christ in<br>the Temple<br>Green |
| 9.15 am                                                                                                                                                        | 9.15am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>COTTISFORD<br>AG      | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>HETHE<br>AM | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>and Baptism<br>FINMERE<br>AG |                                                                                  |                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                | 9.15am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (BCP)<br>NEWTON PURCELL<br>AM | Mixbury Half Hour<br>AG                          |                                                                   |                                                                                  |                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                | 10am<br>'Food for Thought'<br>STOKE LYNE<br>Lay-led                  |                                                  | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (BCP)<br>COTTISFORD<br>AM            |                                                                                  |                                                                              |
| 10.45 am                                                                                                                                                       | 10.45am<br>Morning Service<br>FRINGFORD<br>PW                        | Morning Service<br>STRATTON AUDLEY<br>PW         | 10.45am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>FRINGFORD<br>LV   |                                                                                  |                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      |                                                  |                                                                   | 11am<br>Plough Sunday<br>Celebration<br>at Grange Farm,<br>Godington<br>OX27 9AF | 10.45am<br>'Connect' Informal Worship<br>FINMERE VILLAGE HALL                |
| 6.00 pm                                                                                                                                                        | Compline<br>GODINGTON<br>AG                                          | Evening Communion<br>FRINGFORD<br>AG             | 4pm<br>'Fun at Four'<br>STOKE LYNE<br>AG                          |                                                                                  |                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      |                                                  |                                                                   |                                                                                  | 10.45am<br>Morning Service<br>FRINGFORD<br>AG                                |
|                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                      |                                                  |                                                                   |                                                                                  | Compline<br>STRATTON AUDLEY<br>PW                                            |
| AG: Revd Alice Goodall    AM: Revd Alex Mahlava    LV: Revd Liz Welters    PW: Mrs Penny Wood (LLM)                                                            |                                                                      |                                                  |                                                                   |                                                                                  |                                                                              |