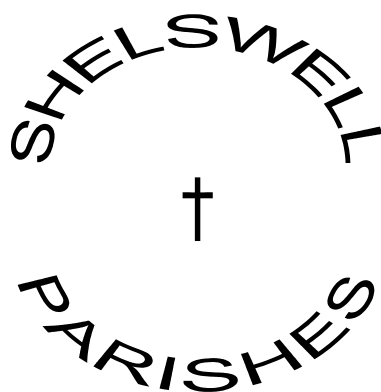


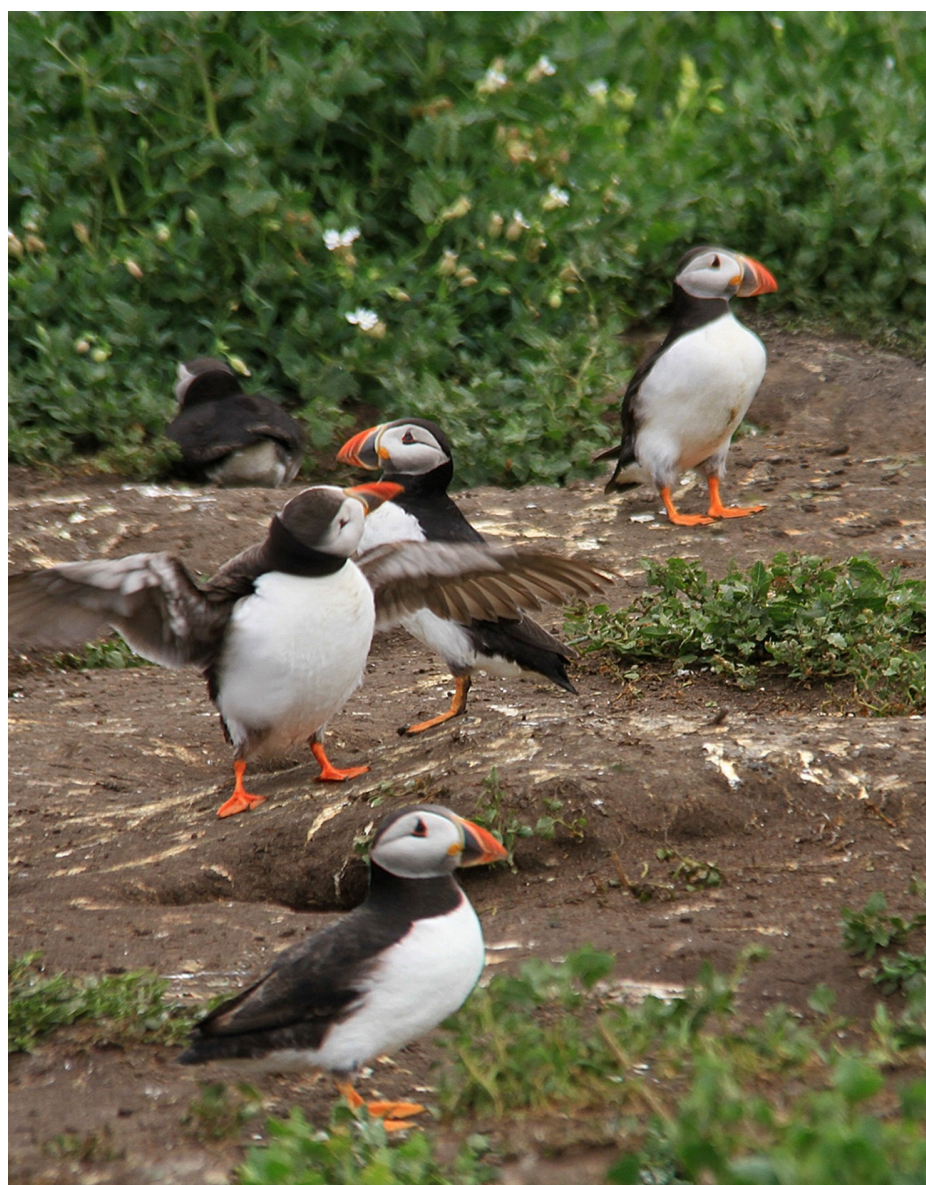
Shelswell News

The magazine of the Shelswell Group of Churches

Cottisford
Fringford
Hardwick
Mixbury
Stoke Lyne



Finmere
Godington
Hethe
Newton Purcell
Stratton Audley



Puffins on Farne Island

Live Music in the Benefice
this month:

Sung Evensong
p.9

Opus Sax at Fringford and
at Hethe
p.6

Young men and women are
turning to Christianity and
it doesn't look how you
might expect
p.36

Holiday Time in July!
**Mightier than the waves
of the sea is His love for
you**
Psalm 94

SHELLOWELL BENEFICE MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

HOLY TRINITY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, HETHE,

Mass: 4pm Saturday.

Weekday Mass: 9.30am Monday

Priest: Father Craig Davies, Henley House, 12 The Causeway, Bicester, OX26 6AW.

Telephone: 01869 253277

Website: <http://www.holytrinityhethe.co.uk/>

SHELLOWELL NEWS

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Deadlines for the **August** edition of Shelswell News

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

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

A letter from the Joint Council's Lay Chair, Flora Skinner

Trinity Sunday Service at Evenley Wood Gardens, June 15th 2025

'the inter-connectedness of everything'

We were blessed with fine weather once again for our visit to Evenley Wood Gardens (many thanks for their hosting us!) to enjoy worship and sharing a BBQ together in the woods.

We had all brought chairs - though we didn't spend the whole service sitting in them.

Liz began by outlining the inter-connectedness of the Holy Trinity and, in parallel, our inter-connectedness with the wonder of Creation. Genesis reminds us that Adam was put into the garden of Eden to 'work it and take care of it' and we each took a label to identify ourselves as 'sunshine', 'air', 'water', 'tree', 'plant', 'animal' etc. so that we could then form a circle and connect to each other using wool until we had formed an intricate web in the centre. Liz showed how easy it is for this to begin to breakdown by cutting a few strands ... and the web began to fall away.



Liz read Alice's Reflection which recounted her experience of doing some school assemblies on the Trinity : a quiz where the children had to say whether some bible stories featured Father, Son or Holy Spirit and it turned out that there were all sorts of right answers - Father, Son and Holy Spirit are so interconnected. And God created a world that works similarly - all interconnected, a carefully balanced system that keeps itself going, renews itself. No one creature, no one plant lives in isolation. God entrusted the earth to us and asked

us to care for it, but in the last couple of centuries we have managed to destabilise many of those wonderfully balanced natural cycles.

We heard words from Pope Francis : *"Peace, justice and the preservation of creation are three absolutely interconnected themes, which cannot be separated and treated individually."*

The Choir sang to us about new beginnings, and then we were out of our chairs again to seek from among the trees the pieces of a big prayer jigsaw to link together as we said each prayer :

We took home a dibber marked with the Triquetra of the Holy Trinity and coated with mustard and cress seeds to plant in a windowsill pot, a symbol of new tomorrows – but not before we had written on them our own personal pledges to make one small positive change to help in the restoration and preservation of Creation.

The morning finished with a meat and veggie BBQ tended by Gary Skinner, along with our bring and share salads and desserts, and much relaxed fellowship in the afternoon sunshine.

The last word is also from Pope Francis:

"Everything is interconnected, and this invites us to develop a spirituality of that global solidarity which flows from the mystery of the Trinity."



BIBLE READINGS



Sunday 6 th July	3 rd Sunday after Trinity	Isaiah 66 v10-14 Galatians 6 v[1-6] 7-16 Luke 10 v1-11 and 16-20
Sunday 13 th July	4 th Sunday after Trinity	Deuteronomy 30 v9-14 Colossians 1 v1-14 Luke 10 v25-37
Sunday 20 th July	5 th Sunday after Trinity	Genesis 18 v1-10a Colossians 1 v15-28 Luke 10 v38-end
Sunday 27 th July	6 th Sunday after Trinity	Genesis 18 v20-32 Colossians 2 v6-15 [16-19] Luke 11 v1-13
Sunday 3 rd August	7 th Sunday after Trinity	Ecclesiastes 1 v2, 12-14 & 2 v18-23 Colossians 3 v1-11 Luke 12 v13-21



Midweek Holy Communion and Soup Lunch- Thursday 5th June at 12.00

Reverend Liz Welters led the service assisted by the Rector Reverend. Alice Goodall.

Liz began by welcoming all to the service and prayers. The Gospel reading, Matthew chapter 9. Verses 35-38, was read by Rena.

Liz, then went on to talk about St Boniface, Apostle of Germany, Martyr 754. He was born in Crediton, Devon, around 675, named Wynfrith, meaning ' friend of peace '. He took the name Boniface, meaning " good deeds " when he entered the monastery in Exeter. He was ordained as a priest and became a missionary to Frisia in Northern Europe - the region of the Netherlands and Germany, along the North Sea's coast. He was consecrated as a Bishop in 722AD. Ten years later, he was made Archbishop of Mainz. He appointed various missionary bishops to encourage the evangelisation of Central Europe. He wrote to the people in England asking for their prayers and help in the conversion of those people 'who are of one blood and bone with you'. When he was nearly eighty, Boniface handed over the Archbishopric to a disciple and went back to missionary work in Frisia. While waiting for some new Christians to arrive for confirmation, a mob attacked and killed him and his companions. Boniface has been credited as having a deeper influence on European history than any other English man. He was a gifted scholar, teacher and poet, remembered for his courage, affection, loyalty, foresight and determination.

After the short service of communion, we then moved over to the tables set for lunch, and enjoyed a choice of soups followed by a choice of 2 desserts then tea or coffee.

We would like to say a big thankyou to the Ministry team for providing the lunch and others involved in any way.

This service is for anyone in the Benefice, especially those who are not able to join in the normal Communion service. Please come along and enjoy the company of friends. If you need a lift, that can be arranged

Rena Andrews.



MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION AND SOUP LUNCH

Thursday 3rd July

12 noon

Stoke Lyne Church



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

WEAR it GREEN DAY

#WearItGreen

In aid of
MENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION

JOIN OUR WEAR IT GREEN DAY EVENT!

Come and join our event and raise funds and awareness to help create good mental health for all. All the money raised will go towards important research and fighting the stigma surrounding mental health.

EVENT	Coffee Morning 5 th July 2025
WHERE	St Peters Church, Stoke Lyne
WHEN	10-12 0X27 8SB
CONTACT	Ali alisonjane miller@icloud.com 07762119198

FR Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR Registered Charity No. England 801130, Scotland SC039714. Company Registration No. 2350846.

MENTALHEALTH.ORG.UK



opuSax



Saxophone quartet

led by Lily Skinner

Programme to include music by Bach, Astor Piazzolla, Eugene Bozza and many others

St Michael and All Angels Church, Fringford
Saturday July 5th at 7pm

Wine and nibbles included.

Donations requested – proceeds to support the Quartet – young musicians starting out.



and

St Edmund & St George Church, Hethe
Sunday July 6th at 3pm

*Hethe's famous tea and cakes afterwards -
 proceeds to the church*

Tickets 5 pounds on the door, payment by cash please.

Connect with
friends old and
new



No matter where you
are on
your journey, there is a
place
for you here.



An informal service
from 10.45, with tea,
coffee and cake at
11.30



‘CONNECT’
Sunday
6th July
10.45-12.00

Finmere Village Hall



Come and sing
(or listen to others sing)



Come as you
are, grow
together



LITTLE LAMBS BABIES & TODDLER GROUP – HELPERS NEEDED – PLEASE CONSIDER OFFERING TO HELP

Two or three new volunteers needed in term time to help the Children and Families Worker at Little Lambs which is held in Stratton Audley Church - making refreshments, chatting to Mums and Carers, clearing up at the end. 9.45am to approximately 12 noon on Wednesdays. Usually no more than twice a term. You would need to have a DBS check, which we would arrange. Interested? Please contact Penny on 01869-277310 or penelope.wood@btopenworld.com.

Shelswell By The Sea



A break from routine
run by the Shelswell Group of Churches.

**14th & 15th July 2025 in
Hethe Village Hall,
from 10.30am to 3.30pm.**

Cost: £7.00 a day (includes all meals)

Give yourself time to chat, read newspapers, play board games, do a jigsaw, have a go at a quiz, play Boccia Coffee, lunch and tea provided.

We can arrange lifts to and from Hethe.
[The Village Hall has disabled access and toilet]

Pick up a Booking Form in one of our churches, or ring or email Penny Wood [01869-277310]
penelope.wood@btopenworld.com

GIRLS' EDUCATION IN SOUTH SUDAN – Why is it so important?

As a Benefice we are privileged to be able to support Bishop Zachariah's desire to see girls' education improved. We are continuing to contribute to the Teachers' Incentive Scheme at the Girls' Primary School, Wulu.

According to UNICEF over 70% of all school-age children in South Sudan are out-of-school. The largest group of out-of-school children is girls.

If girls stay in school the risk of child marriage and early pregnancy is lower. Girls who receive an education are more likely to have smaller families and lead healthy, productive lives. A child born to an educated mother has a 50% higher chance of survival.

<https://www.unicef.org/education/girls-education>



Primary Education in South Sudan is intended for children aged 6 to 13 years and lasts for eight years. The curriculum includes National Language, English, Mathematics, Religious Education, Science, Social Studies, The Arts, and Physical Education.

The education system struggles with issues of limited resources, poverty, conflict, and a lack of infrastructure. According to the World Bank, more than half of the South Sudanese people live below the poverty line. South Sudan has one of the lowest literacy rates in the world, particularly for girls and women.

Investing in girls' education enables girls to participate in the decisions that most affect them, and build better futures for themselves, their families and their communities.

Nelson Mandela said, 'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.'

A report of the Cream Teas on 29th June will be in next month's newsletter.

Sunday 27th July
6.00 pm St Mary the Virgin Church, Hardwick

EVENSONG with the Shelswell Group Choir



Stoke Lyne presents... a sensational Summer Quiz!



Date: 21st July 2025

Venue: St Peter's Church, Stoke Lyne OX27 8RU

Time: 6.30 pm for 7 pm start

Cost: 15 pounds per person in advance

to include a light supper

- Bar Available -

Contact:

Jan pentondragon@gmail.com

Ali alisonjanemiller@icloud.com





Launton Village Players present



HEROES and VILLAINS

A family variety show, celebrating the
goodies and baddies of the Entertainment World!

Saturday 12th July
at 1:30pm* and 6pm

Sunday 13th July
at 2:30pm

*** Relaxed
Performance**
Sat 12th July
at 1:30pm

The Big Shed Theatre,
Hare Leys Farm,
Launton, OX26 5AB

Adults £12, Child £6

Scan
here
for
tickets!



Tickets available from 1st May from:
www.ticketsource.co.uk/lvp or 07864 715708
(booking fees apply)

All profits donated to the LVP Stage Block Fund

www.launtonvillageplayers.org.uk

REGISTRY

Obituaries

CLIVE BIRCH

22 December 1931- 29 April 2025

Interment of Ashes at St Michael and All Angels, Finmere

Thursday 5th June 2025

Clive Birch was born in Edgware. The family firm was Birch Bros Ltd, who established the Plymouth/Exeter - London stagecoach in 1793. He grew up in Hampstead - and spent summers in Cornwall, where he heard Chamberlain announce war on Germany. He missed University as it was unaffordable and opted for a year's National Service in the RAF. Destined for the family company, but with a desire to be a wordsmith, he rebelled and moved back to the north.

A teaboy at the *Stretford and Urmston Telegraph*, with an ambition to become editor by 24, he learnt his trade the hard way. He graduated to junior reporter on the *Stockport Express*, then left to join the *Kent and Sussex Courier* as district reporter, moving to the *Hemel Hempstead Gazette* just as the new town was emerging, as chief reporter. He then joined the *Bucks Examiner*, becoming editor in 1956 – at 24.

In 1966 he was appointed publishing manager of Electrical Press, which included the *Shooting Times*, *Yachtsman*, *Dogs' Life*. Headhunted by Lord Thomson, he became editor as well as director of the *Illustrated London News*.

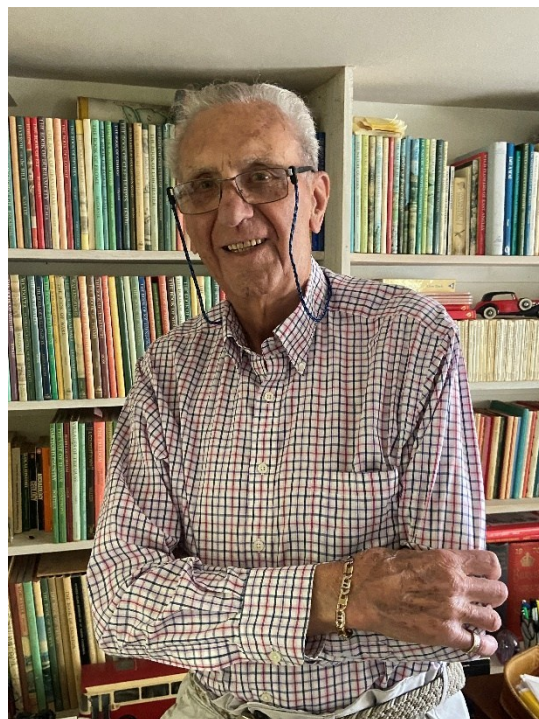
In 1972, he restored his 1695 farmhouse and delved into its past. This led in 1974 to his writing and publishing *The Book of Chesham*. Clive then founded the Barracuda Collection, becoming an independent book publisher, which he remained for over forty years. There followed over 500 nationwide titles, and more than 700 editions, including wildlife, sport, transport and military records, and the Nature of Britain natural history series. The Town Books emerged and it was the *Observer* which captured Clive in the phrase 'Man about Towns'. His own titles included Chesham, Aylesbury, co-authored Amersham and Beaconsfield, and the City of London, and ten largely pictorial studies on Chalfont St Giles, Chesham, The Chilterns, Chorleywood and Chenies, Milton Keynes, the Missendens, Buckingham, and The Vale of Aylesbury.

In 1984 Clive was Master of the Worshipful Company of Carmen in the City of London. He was awarded the Princess Royal Gold Medal in 2008 for services to Carmen, and in 2019 he received the Carmen's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Clive served on the education committee of the then Royal Society for Nature Conservation, moved to Radclive Hall near Buckingham, was first chairman of the Buckingham Chamber of Trade, a Governor and Vice Chairman of the Royal Latin Grammar School, and in 1984 founded the Buckingham Heritage Trust, restoring the town's key landmark Old Gaol, running the 13th century Chantry Chapel for the National Trust, and creating a North Bucks Museum and Tourist Centre. The Trust raised around £750k, of which Clive personally raised nearly half, conceiving a state of the art glass roof over the Gaol's yard.

Clive reduced his publishing activities at 68 and concentrated on writing. His later books included *Carr & Carman* – a history of London's transport – and his World War II novel, *A Decent Man*, based on the odyssey of a lifetime Polish friend. He also wrote and published 11 transport design yearbooks for the Royal College of Art, London. In 2021 he was commissioned to author the history of another City Livery company – *Wheels and Wheelwrights*, published in 2022. At 92 he wrote and published *A World of Wheels* – the four century story of Birch Bros, his family's pioneering bus, cab and mail coach firm.

He is survived by his wife of over forty years, Carolyn, four children, two step-children, nine grandchildren and ten great grandchildren. Our thoughts and prayers are with Carolyn and the family at this time.



Ruth Mary Rolfe (nee Ward) and Francis Harry Rolfe

5.9.1936 – 1.5.2025 and 27.1.1925 – 4.8.2023

A Service of Thanksgiving held at All Saints, Mixbury
Monday 9th June 2025

Frank died in 2023 and Mary on 1st May this year, and whilst their funerals were held in St Peters Church, Lewtrenchard, where Mary was church warden for many years, there were a number of people who were unable to attend these, so their eldest daughter Lorna asked whether there might be a small service of thanksgiving for their lives more locally. And so it was that about 20 folk met in Mixbury Church on Monday 9th June, and afterwards for refreshments and to share memories at The Swallows Nursery.

Mary and Frank met in Mixbury 70 years ago. Frank was



brought up in Bucknell and came to Glebe Farm, Mixbury.

Rumour has it that he first met Mary when walking his young bull on a pole up through the village. Her parents kept the village shop and post office.

Mary's friend Joan says that she and Mary had a very happy childhood in the village - it gave them freedom and friendship which has lasted a lifetime. They were very small children at the start of the Second World War and were fascinated by the ammunition dumps on the top road and also the many aircraft that often flew over the village.

After leaving Brackley School, Mary went to Banbury, where she lodged from Monday to Friday, and learnt to be a telephonist. She would sometimes go to provide temporary cover in a different town such as Aylesbury, where she would stay with extended family.

Marrying in Mixbury Church in 1956, Frank and Mary first of all had a cottage in the Main Street before getting the Rectory Bungalow where Mary's grandfather had also lived when he was gardener at the Rectory and church warden of the church.

Lorna was born in 1957, Alan two years later, and Alison in 1966. They enjoyed the support of having both Frank and Mary's parents in the village, as well as an aunt and uncle. Lorna looks back on their childhood days as full of fun and mischief – and sunshine. Frank's sister Jane captured early cine movie footage of Frank picking mushrooms in the cow field and of the children and cousins crawling through a tunnel of bales. The highlight came later at Christmas, accompanied by much laughter, when all the family got together to watch the film reversed and Frank putting the mushrooms back in the soil and the children coming out of the bales backwards.

Other memories that Lorna has of their childhood include an epic battle where uncles and cousins down at Fulwell were trying to get a large pike out of the water without any of the children falling in. When friends came, the children were told to go out and play but not to go down to the brook – which was of course exactly where they were found some time later, swinging on the low branches of the willow trees. Then there was building a camp in the bamboo which

The Dash by Linda Ellis

(this poem was read as part of the service of thanksgiving)

I read of a man who stood to speak
At the funeral of a friend.
He referred to the dates on the tombstone
From the beginning...to the end.

He noted that first came the date of birth
And spoke the following date with tears,
But he said what mattered most of all
Was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time
That they spent alive on earth.
And now only those who loved them
Know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own,
The cars...the house...the cash.
What matters is how we live and love
And how we spend our dash.

So, think about this long and hard.
Are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left
That can still be rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough
To consider what's true and real
And always try to understand
The way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger
And show appreciation more
And love the people in our lives
Like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect
And more often wear a smile,
Remembering this special dash
Might only last a little while

So, when your eulogy is being read
With your life's actions to rehash...
Would you be proud of the things they say
About how you spent YOUR dash?

had been part of the old Rectory Garden, pets, bikes, football games and cricket, listening to the test match on the radio in the cowshed – especially when England were playing Australia.

If the children were out in the village after they should be, a kind neighbour would remind them that Mary would be looking for them because it was tea time. Even after a busy day of getting up at 6.30 am to milk the cows, Frank would always have a kick around with a football or be ready to bowl his lethal googly.

Mary and Frank provided a loving and caring family and taught their children respect and to think of others, and this has been reflected in their children's choice of careers.

They moved to Devon in 1980 to work on a larger farm, although there were frequent visits back to Mixbury to visit family and friends until ill health and frailty made it too difficult to travel.

Our thoughts are with Lorna, Alison and Alan and with all who miss Frank and Mary.



Club News



SHELSWELL WI



June saw the members of the Shelswell WI return to Fringford village hall to celebrate their 35th anniversary. Our speaker for the evening was Marea Brown who runs Art of Jaipur. Marea explained how she had set up her Indian block printing business and followed with a demonstration before the members had a chance to try for themselves. Great fun was had by all as we first had a practice before printing our own tote bags. There was much chat and laughter as we swapped ideas and techniques. We followed this with a celebratory cake cut by our longest standing member Nicky.

July sees us welcome back Stuart Cummings, this time with his talk Left a Bit Right a Bit. In August we will be going for our annual walk.

If you would like more information about the WI or would like to join us please contact Sandra Bickmore at sandrambickmore@gmail.com. We meeting on the first Thursday of the month in the village hall Fringford.

SHELSWELL READING GROUP

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

Our next meetings are:

1. Monday 7th July, 7.30 pm – at 3 Kennel Cottages, Cottisford. Next Book – 'Tell me Everything' by Elizabeth Strout
2. Monday 4th August, 7.30 pm – at 1/2 Hethe Cottages, Cottisford
3. TBC. Monday 1st September, 7.30 pm – at Manor Grange, Cottisford

Reading Group, continued

Our June book was *The Women* by Kristen Hannah which got mixed reviews. Whilst we all thought it was a good read and had a great plot, there were concerns that it was a little too predictable at times, and the coincidences became a little annoying. We all felt it was a good insight into nursing during the Vietnam War, and we were all shocked by the treatment of returning veterans back in the USA.

We felt most characters were well drawn, and the Frankie's relationship with her parents was credible. We were also shocked by the premise, held by veterans and public alike, that 'there were no women in Vietnam', which indicated to us that the role of nurses was not valued at the time, even though they saw equal atrocities. We certainly were able to get inside Frankie's head and felt her decline into depression...

and we felt that the first section was a real insight into nursing under fire (comparisons to 'Mash', and the situation in Gaza right now).

The Ice-Cart

by Wilfrid Wilson Gibson

Perched on my city office-stool
I watched with envy while a cool
And lucky carter handled ice ...
And I was wandering in a trice
Far from the grey and grimy heat
Of that intolerable street
O'er sapphire berg and emerald floe
Beneath the still cold ruby glow
Of everlasting Polar night,
Bewildered by the queer half-light,
Until I stumbled unawares
Upon a creek where big white bears
Plunged headlong down with flourished heels
And floundered after shining seals
Through shivering seas of blinding blue.
And, as I watched them, ere I knew
I'd stripped and I was swimming too
Among the seal-pack, young and hale,
And thrusting on with threshing tail,
With twist and twirl and sudden leap
Through crackling ice and salty deep,
Diving and doubling with my kind
Until at last we left behind
Those big white blundering bulks of death,
And lay at length with panting breath
Upon a far untravelled floe
Beneath a gentle drift of snow —
Snow drifting gently fine and white
Out of the endless Polar night,
Falling and falling evermore
Upon that far untravelled shore
Till I was buried fathoms deep
Beneath that cold white drifting sleep —
Sleep drifting deep,
Deep drifting sleep. ...

The carter cracked a sudden whip:
I clutched my stool with startled grip,
Awakening to the grimy heat
Of that intolerable street.

Some of us felt it would be good to get the viewpoint of the other women, or indeed the Vietnam women and the children borne to American GI's ('Dust of life'). Some of us felt the book was not very well written (compared with writers such as John Steinbeck) however we acknowledged that she was a good story teller (rather like Jodie Picoult – she was well researched, wrote a good story, but ...)

Other books discussed:

Together on Sunday -Valerie Perrin (author of *Water for Flowers*)

All the Colours of the Dark – Chris Whitaker

Extraordinary Life of Same Hell – Robert Dugoni

Lessons – Ian McEwan



SHELSWELL POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP

This month's poem (left) is *The Ice Cart* by Wilfrid William Gibson (1878-1962). It seems an appropriate poem for July, which can be hot and sweaty, although it so often disappoints.

In the poem the writer is sitting in a stuffy office when an ice-cart passes by. This was obviously written in the days before refrigeration was common, but anyone who has sweated their way round Paris in August, say, recognises the experience described.

The daydream of polar regions briefly releases the poet from the present, but it is brought to an abrupt end as the cart moves on. He comes back to the reality

of “the grimy heat/Of that intolerable street”, but in the meantime Gibson has brought down the reader’s temperature by several degrees!

At our May get-together the group brought poems they had enjoyed and read them out. We began with Gillian Clarke (b1937). Her ***Miracle on St David’s Day*** is an account of how hearing poetry unlocked the memory of Wordsworth’s ***The Daffodils*** for an old man in a psychiatric hospital.

Next we had ***Storage*** by Mary Oliver (1935-2019) - a musing on how accumulated possessions can encumber us, and very relevant to two of our number, who are moving house in the near future. Emily Dickinson (1830-86) wrote ***Summer Shower***, a choice which reflected a member’s wishful thinking in a long period of drought. Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-94) wrote ***From a Railway Train***, a poem which reminded us of what is for many, nowadays, an increasingly rare way of travelling.

The poem ***An Indiscriminate Act of Kindness*** by Foy Vance (b1974) tells the story of a modern Good Samaritan and is full of humanity. Finally we had the lyrics to 4 songs of disillusion and protest : ***The Green Fields of France*** by Eric Bogle (b 1976); ***Between the Wars*** by Billy Bragg (b 1957); ***This Land is Your Land*** by Woody Guthrie (1912-67) and ***The Night they Drove Old Dixie Down*** by Robbie Robertson (1943-2023). You can find live recordings of all 4 songs on YouTube.

Our June meeting was too late to figure in this edition of Shelswell News but will be reported in the August one. If you would like to join the group contact me on 01869 811994 or at judith.harvey@live.co.uk

Judith Harvey

REPORTS FROM THE PARISHES

Cottisford and Juniper Hill

St Mary the Virgin

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

SERVICES

Sunday 20th July 10.45 am Holy Communion

JUNIPER HILL AND COTTISFORD SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Social Committee will be arranging another pop up pub and coffee morning soon , so watch this space for the dates.

Thank you to all those people who keep both Juniper Hill and Cottisford looking so neat and tidy at this time of year, our communities are very grateful.

If you would like to help at any of our events or hold a pop up pub or coffee morning please contact a member of the Social Committee.



Finmere

St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: Barbara Cunningham, 'Woodlea' Finmere,

TREASURER: Emma Brennan

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

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

Tel: 01280 847992

emma_mary@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 01280 848364 MAGAZINE

Tel 01280 848268

Church Services

Sunday 6th July 10.45 am Connect informal worship, Finmere Village Hall

Sunday 20th July 9.15 am Holy Communion

Sunday 27th July 9.15 am Morning Service

Village Hall



The village hall is available for hire. Facilities include AV system with a new projector and larger screen, plus sound system. Fitted kitchen, Meeting room, Patio doors onto the children's play area and enlarged storage spaces for regular users. WiFi facilities are available. For all hall bookings enquiries, please visit www.myfinmere.com/villagehall.



Allotments

Well, the exceptionally dry May gave way to a few days of rain at the start of June, seemingly enabling crops to double their growth overnight. The allotments are full, which is a time we all look forward to. The strawberries are particularly good this year, but then all the fruit seems to be doing well after a wet winter and warm spring.



The first potatoes have been dug, the birds have fledged and all's right with the world.

Having an allotment can change your life !

Contact below for a plot and start planning now.

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

Jean, Allotment Correspondent

Some Finmere related links:

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

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

Finmere Parish Council website at – www.finmerepc.org

Village hall news at – www.myfinmere.com

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

Old Finmere history website – www.myfinmere.com/history

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

Finmere Primary School - www.finmere.oxon.sch.uk



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

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

Tuesday 8 July from 2 - 4 pm

Tea, coffee, cake & biscuits

All locals welcome, no charge

Please note: there will be no Tuesday Teas in August but we will resume on 9th September

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
No charge but donations appreciated



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

Friday 4th. July



Pop Up Pub

Fringford

St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN:	John Mayo, 10 Church Close, Fringford	Tel 01869 278873
TREASURER:	Christina McCullagh, 5 Crosslands, Fringford	Tel 07867 515207
PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER	Penny Wood ,as below	
MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT:	Penny Wood, 8 Crosslands, Fringford	Tel 01869 277310
VILLAGE HALL CORRESPONDENT:	Christine Underwood	Tel 01869 278949
WEBSITE	www.fringford.info	

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, SERVICES & EVENTS

Services

- Sunday 6 July – at 10.45am - Morning Service
- Sunday 13 July - at 6.00pm Holy Communion.
- Sunday 20 July – at 10.45am Holy Communion

There is a variety of services available in the Benefice. For details of those services please see the back cover of this *Shelswell News*.

EVENTS

Churchyard Clear up

There was another great churchyard clear up on 8 June. Thanks to Adrian Thwaites who got it organised, and to everyone who came to help. The churchyard is looking very good.

Open Gardens

The Open Gardens event on 17/18 May raised £920.00. Thank you to everyone who made it possible.

Fringford Beer, Cider & Perry Festival on Saturday 14th June has just happened as I write this so we won't know the financial outcome for a while yet. However, there seemed to be more people than ever, the weather was kind to us (just two brief showers of rain), the cider was all drunk, and much of the beer, and everyone seemed to be having a good time. **Many thanks** to the planning committee, to Andrew Davison and Diana Jones who select the beers and ciders respectively, and to all the many people who helped, putting up and taking down tents, serving on the bar, selling glasses and tokens, clearing up.....

Opus Sax Concert in the church on **5 July** at 7.00pm – see poster. You may have heard them at the Beer Festival and they are well worth hearing again!

Greetings Cards

Packs of greeting cards (6 cards for £3) available for purchase. They feature 6 photographs of the church both in and outside. Ring Christina McCullagh on 07867 515207.

Fringford Church 100 Club

Numbers cost £3 a month (£36 annually) Payment by BACS, cheque or cash. Draw each month for 50% of the income divided amongst 3 winners: at the moment 1st prize £61, 2nd £37, 3rd £25. You can still sign up to the 100 Club. Contact Christina McCullagh to register - **07867 515207**. The draw takes place monthly at the Village Coffee Morning.

Little Lambs Babies & Toddler Group

Every Wednesday during term time in Stratton Audley Church. Times are: from 10.00am to 11.30am. [**Not** during holidays and half term.] Just come along. If you need information in the meantime, email admin@shelswellparishes.info . [**Volunteers still needed to help at Little Lambs – see General Section – could you help?**]

FRINGFORD VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

Village Coffee Mornings usually take place on the third Monday of each month. In July we will meet on Monday 21st. Drop by for a coffee/tea and a chat any time between 10.30 am and 12 noon. It is in the Chinnery Room at the Village Hall. Contact Penny on 277310 if you want more information



opu Sax



Saxophone quartet

led by Lily Skinner

Programme to include music by Bach, Astor Piazzolla, Eugene Bozza and many others

St Michael and All Angels Church, Fringford
Saturday July 5th at 7pm
Wine and nibbles included.

Donations requested – proceeds to support the Quartet – young musicians starting out.



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 07763 817078	Bicester Meditation Space & Sound Bath First Sunday of the month from 6 -9 pm Sonia - contact@holisticaxis.com Please text - 07709634847
Just Puppies Puppy Training Wednesday evening – various classes Contact Kerri 07720 891489 www.justpuppies.training	Shelswell WI First Thursday of the month 7.30pm (Not December or August) Contact Sandra Bickmore 07961 828571
Pilates Thursday at 10.00am natashaflowerspilates@gmail.com or 07545 525820	Mindfulness Meditation Monthly Sunday 11am to 12.30pm janerainey17@gmail.com or 07971 008337
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	Fringford Sewcial Sew and Chat! Monthly Wednesday from 7pm Or Sunday from 3pm Contact Irene at ireneethomas@btinternet.com
Village Hall Team Meeting Please contact for dates Open meetings – all welcome fringford.hall@gmail.com or 07936 879175	
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	

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 any sort of craft.

You are also welcome to drop in for a tea or coffee and a chat, crafts not essential

We get together once a month, either on a Wednesday evening at 7 – 9pm
or Sunday afternoon at 3 – 5pm
In the Chinnery Room at Fringford Village Hall.

Our next sessions for 2025 are:

July	Sunday 20th
August	No meeting
September	Wednesday 17th
October	Sunday 19th
November	Wednesday 19th
December	Sunday 14th

No need to book – just come and join us!

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

Hardwick

St Mary the Virgin

CHURCHWARDEN: David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick
TREASURER: David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick
PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Flora Skinner
MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Veronica Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick
WEBSITE: <http://hardwickvillage.btck.co.uk>

Tel 01869 277690
Tel 01869 277690
Tel: 01869 277366
Tel 01869 277690

Church Services

Sunday 27th July 6.00 pm Evensong with the Shelswell Group Choir
Sunday 3rd August 9.15 am Holy Communion

Hardwick Church will be open every day from 10am to 4pm.

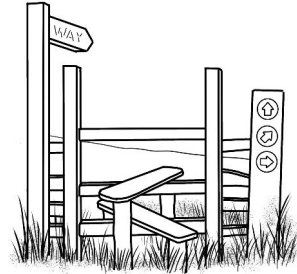
Private prayer and quiet contemplation

View the architecture, memorials and stained-glass windows

Please make use of this special space

Pilgrim Pathways

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



Hardwick Church guidebook

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

Hethe

St Edmund and St George

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

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 and Events

Sunday 13th July 9.15 am Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday 27th July 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

Remember that you will always be welcome at services in any of our churches in the benefice (see back page), or if you are away from the village, you can find a nearby service through the web site

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com>.

Don't forget the concert to be held in the church on 6th July led by our own Lily Skinner – details overleaf.

The news for this edition had to be with the editor before the open village meeting held on 24th June, but we are grateful for early feedback from many parishioners including Ben Jones, Bill Mansfield and Robin Jacoby. I will give a full report in the August news. We are also grateful for a welcome donation from Phillip Mansfield.

The church is currently open every day for visits and private prayer but will be closed when internal repairs are started in August.



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

Finances

Whatever the outcome of the village meeting in June, the church will need contributions to its running costs for the foreseeable future. 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 £70 a month. There is a simple means of setting up a regular donation to the church through the Parish Giving Scheme – you decide how much, how often, when and whether you can allow gift aid to be claimed. Simply follow this link

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/home/>, enter Hethe and select St Edmund & St George Church; then select donate and follow the instructions on the screen.

Alternatively, you can access the church page through this QR Code or phone the team who are responsible for the scheme on 0333 002 1271. **This link can also be used to give a one-off donation.**



HETHE COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

Hethe Community Coffee Morning in the Village Hall

Monday 14th July from 10.00am to 12.00pm

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

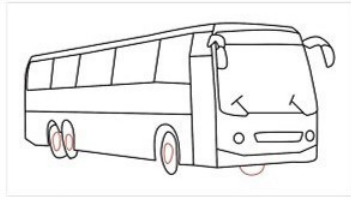


Hethe and District Darby & Joan Club

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

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

SUMMER EVENTS



Membership £15 p.a.
New members welcome.

May 20th Coach to Webbs Wychbold
June 17th Coach to Welwyn garden city
July 15th Coach Mystery Tour
August 19th Coach to Eastbourne
September 16th Coach to Worcester

October 21st AGM Hethe Village Hall 2pm
November 18th meeting Hethe Village Hall 2pm
Nov 25th Coach Moreton in Marsh & Broadway
December 2nd Christmas Party members only.

Parish Council. The minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th March are on the village web site. The next meeting of the council will take place on Tuesday 8th July, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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

New Bus Service



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

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

The Hardwick Road Allotments. The contact for the allotments is Yvonne Thomas, 3 Wilson Way, Caversfield, OX27 8FB, tel 243536 or 07773065890. The agents are Carter Jonas for the Oxford Diocese.

Keep up to date with what is happening in the village through:

Our village web site (courtesy of the Parish Council): <https://www.hethe.org/>

Facebook Pages:

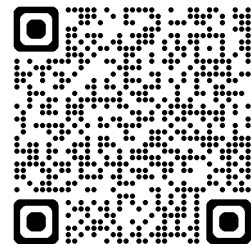
Community Spirit of the Hethens

Hethe Community

Hethe Allotments

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

Shelswell Lift Share WhatsApp Group – Contact Flora to join





opu Sax



SAXOPHONE QUARTET

led by Lily Skinner

Back again for another informal programme of
classical, jazz and contemporary music

St Edmund & St George Church, Hethe

Sunday July 6th at 3pm

Tickets on the door £5 - payment by cash,
please.

Hethe's famous tea and cake afterwards.
Proceeds to St Edmund & St George Church.



Mixbury All Saints

CHURCHWARDENS: Martin Ayres, Northwell Farm, Finmere

Alec Howard, Middlestead, Mixbury

TREASURER: David Mitchell. 2 Town Farm, Mixbury

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Anna Howard

CORRESPONDENT: Sue Goodman pasgoodman551@gmail.com

Tel 07899 792552

Tel 01280 848295

Tel 01280 847769

Tel 01280 848295 MAGAZINE

Tel 01280 848002

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

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 13th July 9.15 am Mixbury Half Hour

MIXBURY CHURCH FLOWER ROTA 2025

July	Sue Goodman
August	Helen Backon

Mixbury Flower Rota, continued

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.

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

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

MIXBURY POP UP PUB NIGHTS

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

MIXBURY KNIT AND NATTER

Courtesy of Anna at Swallows Nursery Mixbury Knit and Natter now meets fortnightly in the coffee shop at the Nursery. 2-4pm. Next date: 8th and 22nd July 2025. All welcome – and you don't have to knit or crochet, just come along and chat! Swallows not only sell lovely plants but coffee and cake too.....!

MIXBURY FETE

Dear Villagers,

After five amazing years of the our wonderful fete it has been decided, like Glastonbury, to take a break this summer. We are incredibly lucky to have Nigel & Gemma's generosity in hosting the fete, which gives us the extra funds towards the purchase of the field, community projects (such as the swift boxes and the village planters), and continues to contribute to many local charities.

As a result of these super successful fetes, we find ourselves in a financially secure position with enough funds to support the church, community and castle field projects in the short term. Therefore the need for such a spectacular fete, and that level of fundraising is not there this year. However, that does not mean it won't be in the future!

Whilst we will not be having a fete this year, it would be nice to still have a village get together at some point so if anyone has any fun ideas we would love to hear them! Don't forget we also have, Harvest Festival & Soup Kitchen, a bonfire party in November and Nativity & Carol Service in December and of course our wonderful pub nights!

If you'd like to be involved in any of these events then please let us know. Of course our fabulous Mixbury Church Fete will return in 2026 for fun, frolics and fundraising!

The Mixbury Fete Team

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

A meeting was held in the Church with a member of Thames Valley Police being present and it was decided that the way forward was to join the National Neighbourhood Watch scheme. The admin side of this is in progress and we hope the Mixbury Association will fund necessary signage for the village. Progress will be updated as soon as possible.

THE BIG LUNCH

8TH June 2025

A successfully attended "Big Lunch" was held on the above date in Castle Field, a little chilly but plenty of villagers there who had fun.

BOTTLE BANK

The bottle bank was emptied recently and I have spoken at length with Cherwell DC. The bottle bank is on a monthly cycle for emptying. This did not happen on this occasion because of equipment failure.

I have negotiated a fortnightly emptying cycle in case a similar situation arises in the future. Looking ahead to March next year, Cherwell DC tell me that the bottle bank will be removed as we transition to kerbside collection of glass.

Details are still being worked. Meanwhile, please do not leave glass at the bottle bank site if the bins are full. Thank you for your patience.

Nige Gorman
Chair
Mixbury Parish Meeting
07729 875571

POPPIES

The team have had a well earned break from knitting, crocheting, seeing poppies in their sleep BUT now back to production. We hope you liked the small display we did for 8th May but would like to expand the with a few different ideas ready for November. All help appreciated and that can either be sewing on to nets, coming up with ideas, supplying wool not just production of the little red things.

If you have any completed poppies please pass to a member of the team: Sue Goodman, Pat Beveridge, Viv Knight, Ann Gardner, Sally Drummond Hay, Kirsty Wyatt, or come along to one of the Knit and Natter sessions where they can be handed in. We would like to thank everyone who has helped us so far – without you it would not have been possible!

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 6th July - 9.15 a.m. Holy Communion

Artists in the Countryside & Our Summer Fete:-

Once again these combined events were a great success with people coming from far and wide to both enjoy the art and all the attractions the Fete had to offer.

We would like to thank all the artists who exhibited their work and all worked so very hard to put on both the Art Exhibition and Fete. THANK YOU!!

Bonus Ball Lotto:-

Our recent lucky winner was David Francis.

Church Flower Rota & Cleaning:-

We need to review our Flower Rota as some people now sadly are unable to join in. If you think you might have time to occasionally help with a few simple flowers on the alter for our monthly services and keep the Church clean and tidy please contact Ann von Maltzahn.

Hall to Let:-

Our newly refurbished and well equipped Old School is now available to hire. Please contact Jackie Le Fevre on 07544 985117 or jackielefevre@btinternet.com for details and to make your booking.

We also need help to keep it clean and tidy so again please contact Ann von Maltzahn if you think you might be able to join in on a rota for this.

Stoke Lyne

St Peter's

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

Tel 01869 346020
 Tel 07762 719198
 Tel 07810 120457
 Tel: 01869 346653
 Tel 01869 345211

St Peter's Church Stoke Lyne Services

Thursday 3rd July 12.00 noon Holy Communion
 Sunday 20th July 10.00 am Food for Thought
 Sunday 27th July 10.45 am Holy Communion
 Sunday 3rd August 10.45 am Connect Informal Worship

Flower Duty for July

Julie Adams

Forthcoming Events in Stoke Lyne

5th July Wear It Green Coffee Morning
 21st July Summer Quiz
 2nd August Open Mic Night

Please see separate advertisements for more information.

Stoke Lyne 100 Club – June Results

Results for the Stoke Lyne 100 Club are as follows:

1 st Prize	Hope Poole	Membership No 29	£30
2 nd Prize	Caroline Cooke	Membership No 31	£18
3 rd Prize	Harriet Wye	Membership No 58	£12

Please email janey@oxford-educational.co.uk to join this club. It's so easy, £3.00 per membership per month. The more that join the bigger the prize money so encourage new members.

Janey Poole
 Treasurer
 St Peter's Church PCC



The Marriage of Benjamin George Adams to Barley Rose Calcutt

The marriage of Benjamin George Adams to Barley Rose Calcutt took place on Saturday 10th May at the church of St Peter & St Paul at Deddington at 2pm.

Ben is the eldest son of Robert & Julie Adams of Lower Farm, Stoke Lyne and lives in The Old Stone Barn. Barley is the youngest daughter of Jim and Leah Calcutt of College Farm, Hempton.

The couple were blessed with a gorgeous sunny day. The bride arrived to the church in a John Deere tractor driven by her father. Her three sisters and two school friends were bridesmaids. The service was held by Padre Matthew Dietz, a close family friend. The Deddington Church Choir sang and the Bell Ringers rang!

The couple left the church by tractor to the wedding reception held at College Farm, Hempton and a large gathering of over 200 guests attended.

Their honeymoon was spent with a week in the Seychelles and they are now travelling for a month in Peru and Costa Rica.



Both Ben and Barley have degrees from Harper Adams University, where they met. After travelling for 14 months Ben has worked as a farm business consultant for four years but he now wishes to take over the family farm business.

We wish them a long and happy life together.

Julie Adams

The Parish Room

The Parish Room (part of St Peter's Church, Stoke Lyne) has been used for many different purposes. As a community room, this proudly serves as a hub for a wide range of events, from the quirky excitement of ferret racing to the friendly competition of quiz nights, it's a place of laughter and connection. The same space has also hosted elegant classical concerts, open mic nights showcasing local talent, charity events, Christmas fayres and heartfelt wedding receptions and family parties filled with joy and celebration. This versatile venue brings people together across generations and interests, proving that no matter the occasion—big or small—it's the sense of community that truly fills the room and makes it special.



Photos of the Parish Room in use for the village party in aid of Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee - June 2022 and a classical music recording – July 2024.

On a slightly less positive note, the Parish Room has been used less frequently in recent months and the all important funds that are raised through hire are dwindling. Those of you who have been in recently will have noticed roof and ceiling repairs which won't pay for themselves and the daily running costs (electricity, gas, water) continue as we all know!

We charge £15 per hour for Stoke Lyne villagers and £18 per hour for all others hiring. The audio and sound system offer the opportunity to show films or slideshows and hold meetings or similar events. Hire includes the fully equipped kitchen and toilet facilities. Please get in touch with Kelly and James if you would like to hire the facility: kholdenwhite@icloud.com

If you would like to make a regular donation, or a one off gift to the church (this is a different account to the Parish Room), please use this link <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/stoke-lyne-st-peter-bicester/> or use the QR code



Kelly Holden-White

Stoke Lyne Village Playground

Almost 16 years ago, we were successful in gaining a grant of £25,000 from Viridor, allowing us to find a company to design and build a playground. This has been a cherished space for laughter, play and community memories but has needed repairs (last year this included a whole new swing and timbers on the climbing frame) to keep it above board when it comes to ROSPA inspections. Worn by years of joyful use, it now stands a bit tired and in need of refurbishment.



I went back to Viridor to see if a refurbishment fund was available and was given £5,000, only to find that this is now managed by Valencia (not Viridor) and that this would be the final 'pot' of money available to us. The quotes I have received are in the vicinity of £60,000, so there is a way to go! I am seeking funding from a number of bodies, but if you have any ideas, please get in touch (kholdenwhite@icloud.com) With funding, care and support, it can be renewed to continue inspiring imagination, fun, and friendship for generations to come.

Kelly Holden-White

Stoke Lyne Open Mic Night

St Peter's Church, Stoke Lyne

7-11 pm Saturday 2nd August

All artists welcome, if you're interested please contact Ped on 07926 590035

You can just turn up on the night to perform or spectate!
Food and bar will be available



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

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 6th July 6.00 pm Compline at Godington

Sunday 13th July 10.45 am Morning Service at Stratton Audley

Sunday 27th July 9.15 am Holy Communion at Stratton Audley

Sunday 3rd August 6.00 pm Compline at Stratton Audley

LITTLE LAMBS BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Little Lambs meets every Wednesday during termtime from 10.00am to 11.30am in Stratton Audley Church. A helper is still sought - could that be you? please see the advert on page 7.



FOODBANK

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

'Little Lambs' Baby and Toddler Group

Stratton Audley Church

Wednesdays 10am - 11.30am

(Term Time)

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

Meet new families from the local area.

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

The Last Word

You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.

— John Bunyan



22nd July – St Mary Magdalene

Later this month Christians all over the world will commemorate probably the most unlikely saint in the Bible, Mary Magdalene. Mary came from a fishing village on the shores of the Sea of Galilee called Magdala. All we are told about her past is that after Jesus cast ‘seven devils’ out of her she started to follow Him. On that slender if intriguing evidence she has become the patron saint of ‘fallen women’.

Some see her as the woman ‘who was a sinner’ who washed Christ’s feet with her tears at a respectable dinner party. Of that person Jesus remarked that ‘she had been forgiven much’ and consequently ‘loved much’.

Whether she was that woman or not, the description perfectly fits her. Mary stood with the mother of Jesus and St John at the foot of the cross, and went later to the tomb only to find it empty. After she had encountered the risen Jesus, who revealed himself to her with one word, "Mary" she was the one who carried the news of the resurrection to the other disciples.



Aerial photo of the site of Magdala by the Sea of Galilee, showing archaeological work

Photo by AVRAM GRAICER

Her popularity is shown in the fact that 187 ancient churches in Britain are dedicated to her, and a college at both Oxford and Cambridge. Whatever the details of her story, we cherish it because it shows that having a ‘past’ is no reason not to have a future.

The doctor and the ill person

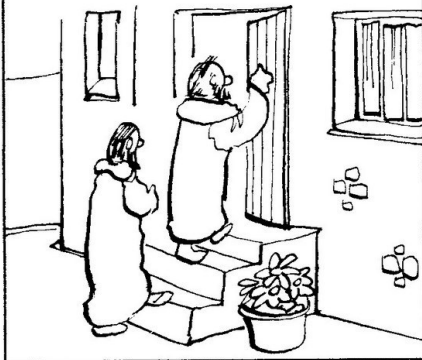


JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ON ONE OCCASION JESUS CALLED MATTHEW - A TAX COLLECTOR TO BE HIS FOLLOWER.

JESUS EVEN WENT TO MATTHEW'S HOME.



THIS SET PEOPLE'S TONGUES WAGGING. THEY THOUGHT JESUS WAS LETTING THE SIDE DOWN!

BUT JESUS EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO TALK TO **EVERYONE!**

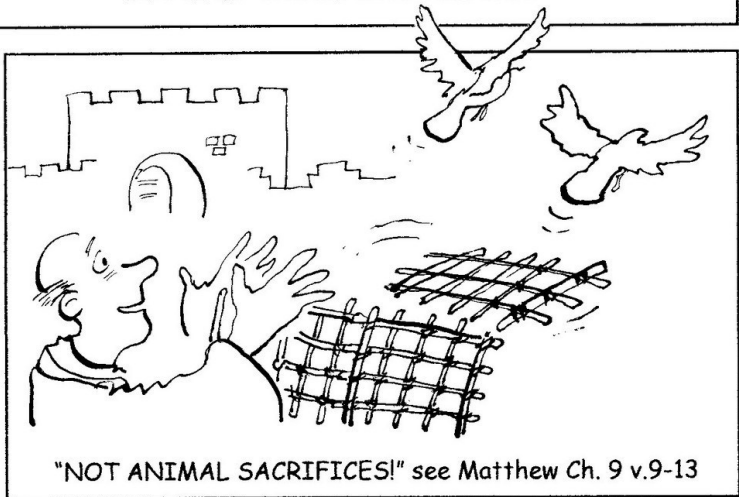


"PEOPLE WHO ARE WELL DO NOT NEED A DOCTOR"



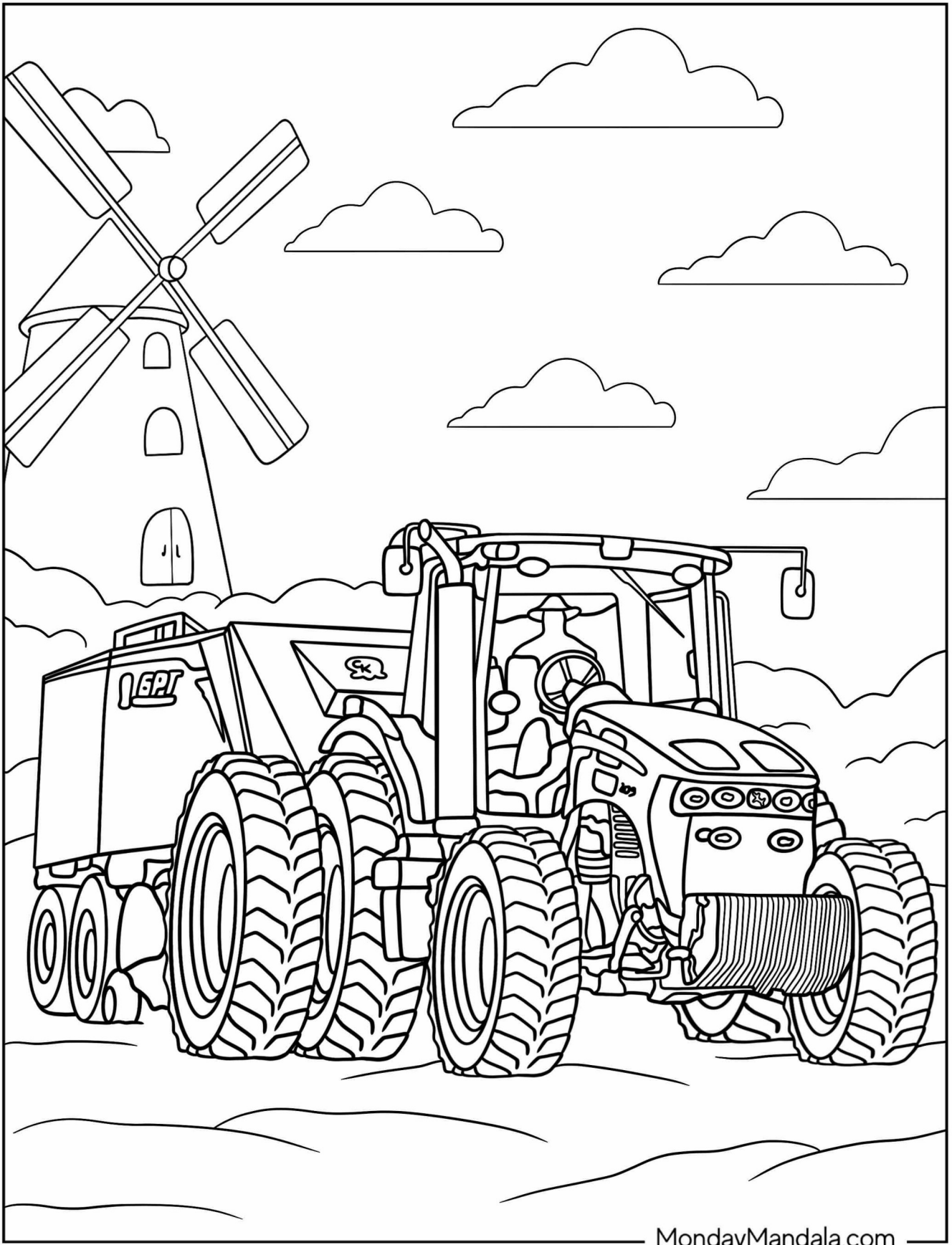
"BUT ONLY THOSE WHO ARE SICK"

"IT IS KINDNESS THAT GOD WANTS"



"NOT ANIMAL SACRIFICES!" see Matthew Ch. 9 v.9-13

Colouring in from Monday Mandala



Generation Z are turning to Christianity. Let's meet them

When I casually mentioned to my elder daughter that a record 19 000 people took part in the 43rd annual Paris-Chartres three day pilgrimage at Pentecost, I was surprised by her reply.

"My friend Veronica went on that last year." The average age of the pilgrims was twenty years old.

Intrigued, I asked my younger daughter (21) whether she too was aware of a burgeoning spirituality among her friends.

"Oh yes," she said, looking up from her phone. "Gen Z is really spiritual, Mum."

In a recent national online Church of England service, Generation Z Christians (born from about 2000-2020) spoke about the "noticeable" increase in faith among their age group and what first drew them to become Christians.

Two students, Tegan and Gus, had begun their journey to faith because of a simple invitation to attend a church service. For Tegan, it was a conversation with a friend at brunch which sparked her curiosity. For Gus, he needed to call into the church to borrow a camera for a university project.

"The first couple of times I came back just because I wanted to chat to the people – like it was a nice place to be," Gus explains. "And from that community I noticed Jesus in them and that's what I really wanted at the end of it."

Tegan agrees: "I started noticing that they had something that I didn't and it's why I started going to the Alpha course and learned all about Jesus and who He was and what it meant for me."

***"I started noticing
they had something
I didn't"***

Gus admits he had previously struggled with his poor mental health. "Looking back at it now, I see Jesus in those moments, but now I interact with Jesus in those moments," he says. "He's actively helping me through those things now."

Tegan speaks of the death of her mother since she became a Christian. "I think that is where I've known Jesus's love the strongest – in my grief. I think grief is really dark and I don't know if I would have been able to do it without Jesus. I think He's been my strength through that and also my comfort."

"And I think people can see it within you, right? Like they see, wow, you have this sort of peace or joy that, is almost *unreasonable*, like that you couldn't have from anything but Jesus."

Both also speak about their own sense of growing interest in faith in their generation.

Welcome to Chartres Pilgrimage

For ALL questions please send you
hello@reginamagazine.com.

The dates for the 2025 Paris-Chartres Pilgrimage will be June 7, 8, 9.

The pilgrimage will begin the morning of **Saturday, June 7**, the Vigil of Pentecost, and conclude in the afternoon of **Monday, June 9**, Pentecost Monday. There will be a Solemn Pontifical Mass at the Cathedral of Chartres. The pilgrimage will begin with Mass at Notre-Dame de Chartres. The pilgrimage will conclude with Mass at the Solemnity of Pentecost (Whitsunday — June 8), Solemn Pontifical Mass at the Cathedral of Chartres. The concluding Mass will be celebrated in the countryside. The concluding Mass will be celebrated in the countryside.

The walking route covers approximately 60 miles over 3 days, beginning in Paris and ending at the Cathedral Notre-Dame de Chartres. There will be an opportunity to sing and pray in both English, French, and Latin. On the French have the venerable custom of singing the Rosary in French. The pilgrimage will be led by a priest with over 16,000 pilgrims making the journey together with par...

Part of the advert from chartres-pilgrimage.com

"I have noticed since being in a church myself lots more people joining that have never even heard the name of Jesus or don't know much about Him and seeing other people come to Him is just so exciting," says Tegan.

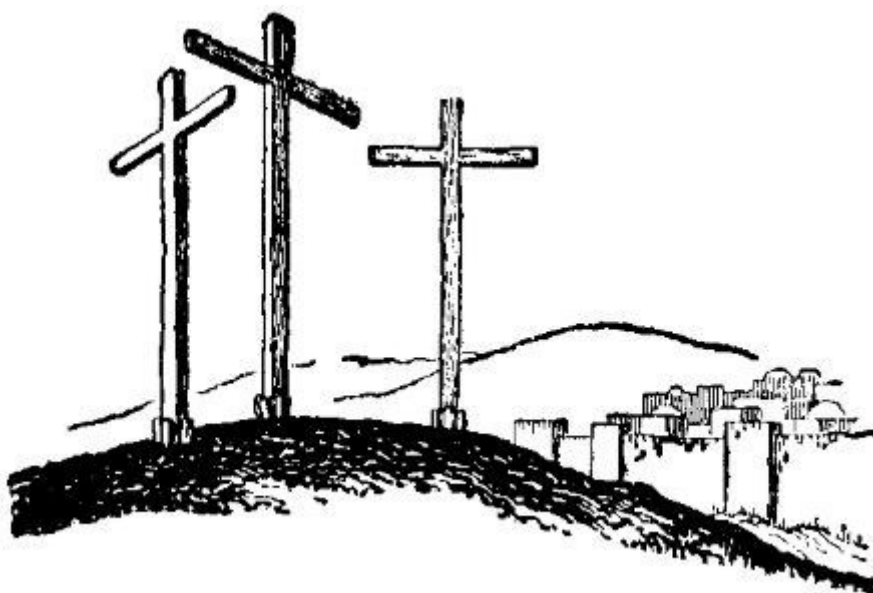
Gus adds: "The amount of people each year has definitely been increasing. It's noticeable each time the new year comes up it's 'oh we've got even more people now' it's just so encouraging."

Christians from older generations will be used to the idea that they are odd swimmers against the tide, who somehow must have turned to God because they couldn't get a boyfriend or girlfriend, which is how society seems to have viewed us for a long time now!

For years, the Church has tried to reach out to young people by making Christianity ever more casual or politically involved or by hosting secular events like golf or rock bands that they think will attract young people in churches.

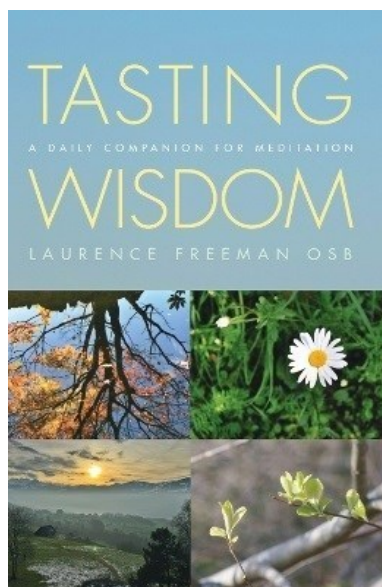
Yet all this time, church attendance has continued to decline, despite the Church abandoning so much that was deemed to be putting young people off and embracing so much that was assumed by older people to be relevant to the young.

So let's not miss this organic rising wave of Gen Z Christianity. The Church of England establishment must not assume that Gen Z wants Christianity-lite or compromises in faith - for example, my daughter says that her young Catholic city friends in Vienna love attending Latin Mass!



While we probably won't be seeing a Latin Mass in our churches in the Benefice any time soon, we can have full confidence that Gen Z can and will tackle the hardest challenges of faith.

Adapted from an article in Parish Pump



Book Review

Tasting Wisdom – A daily companion for meditation
By Laurence Freeman, Canterbury Press. £14.99

Every day for more than a decade, members of the World Community for Christian Meditation worldwide receive a brief reflection, Daily Wisdom, from Laurence Freeman, a Benedictine monk and leader of the community.

In just a few sentences, each day readers can orientate themselves to a more reflective and less reactive approach to the challenges of the coming day and living wisely and well in a restless, noisy world.

This collection of daily meditations will last the whole year, and offers wisdom to begin, end or punctuate the day.

He gave us eyes to see them: John Martin's 'Manfred on the Jungfrau'

In July we start looking with eager longing to holidays, a chance to get away from it all – to rest and recharge the batteries of life. Holidays are also a time to explore, to visit new places and different landscapes.

This month's artist, John Martin (born 1789), had a gift for creating paintings that express the epic quality of landscape. The Art Gallery in Birmingham is home to his watercolour of 1837, 'Manfred on the Jungfrau.' Almost 5 feet by 3 feet (1.5 by 0.9 metres), it captures the rugged, imposing glory of the Jungfrau mountain in the Bernese Alps in Switzerland. Nowadays a railway takes tourists to the summit but in the 1800s climbers had to navigate glaciers, high passes and steep precipices to reach this spot.



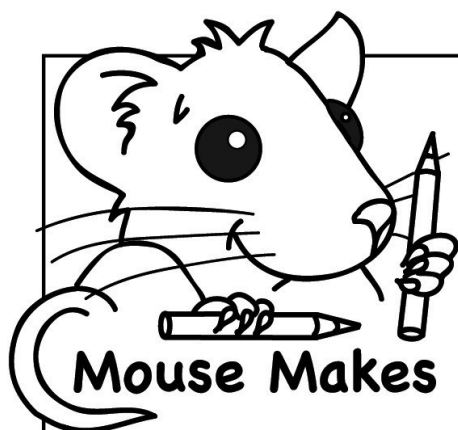
Manfred on the Jungfrau by John Martin (Wikimedia Commons)

John Martin captures the grandeur of all this in his painting of snow and sky, crags and torrents, mountains and pine trees. Against that immensity we see two figures, insignificant in the grand landscape. One is Manfred and the other, a mysterious hunter who leads him to safety. The painting was inspired by the Romantic poet Lord Byron's drama 'Manfred' in which a Swiss nobleman, tortured by guilt contemplates suicide.

As we look at this painting, we see reflections of beauty spots that we might visit on our holidays or days out. Such beauty, such glory, evoke for us those feelings of wonder and awe that inspired John Martin.

Manfred sees life in its true perspective as he gazes on the majestic scenery of the Alps. Holidays help us to put life into perspective. Away from the pressure of responsibility and duty, we often realise what is essential in our lives and with those around. We behold the majesty and glory of creation; we see this world as the handiwork of God; and we ask ourselves how we might make our way through it and be always alert to its mystery and its beauty.

Revd. Michael Burgess



"Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray..." And He said to them, "When you pray, say..."



Our _____
in _____,
hallowed be your
_____, your
_____ come,
your _____ be done,
on _____ as it is in
_____.

Give us today our daily
_____.
_____ us our
S _____ as we forgive
those who sin against us.
Lead us not into

_____ but _____
us from _____.

For the kingdom,
the _____ and
the _____ are
yours now and forever.
Amen

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



Fill in the missing words of the Lord's Prayer then find them and these extra words in the word search:

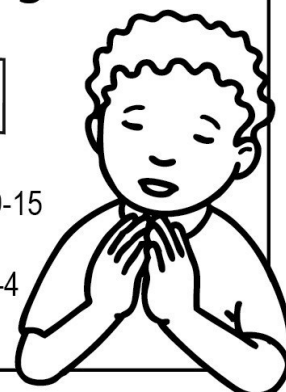
LORD'S PRAYER
DISCIPLES
JESUS
GOD
WORLD
NEEDS
FORGIVENESS
TRESPASSES
PROTECTION
REPENTANCE



The versions of **The Lord's Prayer** we say today come from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.
Which version do you use in your church?



Read
Matthew 6:9-15
and
Luke 11:1-4



Book Review

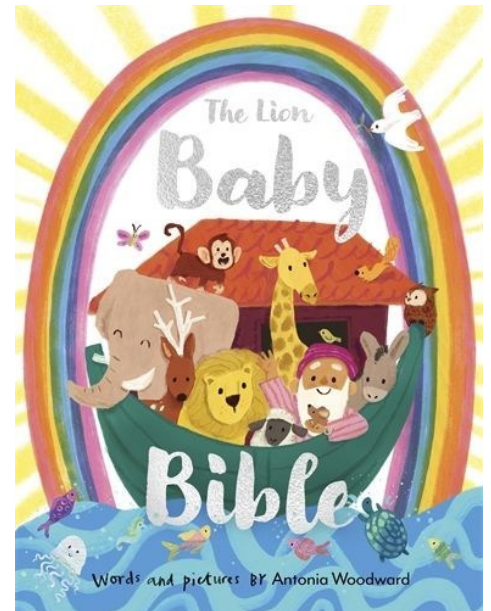
The Lion Baby Bible

By Antonia Woodward, SPCK, £11.99

This beautifully illustrated first children's Bible for the very young (0 to 2-year-olds) would make the ideal gift for a newborn baby as a Christening, Dedication, or Baptism present.

The Lion Baby Bible includes 45 stories from the Old and New Testaments. Each story is simply and beautifully retold in a very few words, with a biblical truth about God's love for the world and our special relationship as His children.

This book will help you to share precious moments with your young child, as you enjoy showing them the illustrations, and introducing key events, people, and Jesus' teaching from the Bible.



Colouring in from Monday Mandala



It has keys, but no locks. It has space, but no room.
You can enter, but can't go inside.

What is it? (answer below)

Modern Life...

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using ChatGPT to
pass med school so
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Answer: a keyboard



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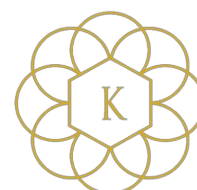
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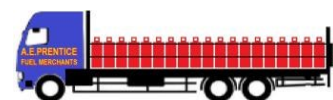
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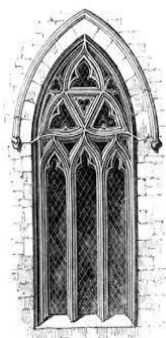
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CW: 'Common Worship' modern language service      BCP: 'Book of Common Prayer' traditional language service

| DATE     | Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July (12 noon)<br>Midweek Holy Communion and Soup Lunch<br>STOKE LYNE                                         |                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                       |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ALTAR    | 6 <sup>th</sup> July<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Trinity                                                                           | 13 <sup>th</sup> July<br>4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity                   | 20 <sup>th</sup> July<br>5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity                                                                            | 27 <sup>th</sup> July<br>6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity                                      | 3 <sup>rd</sup> August<br>7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity                                                        |
| 8.00 am  | Green                                                                                                                                  | Green                                                                           | Green                                                                                                                                    | Green<br>Holy Communion<br>(BCP)<br>HETHE AM                                                       | Green                                                                                                                 |
| 9.15 am  | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>COTTISFORD<br>AG/John Alderdice<br><br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (BCP)<br>NEWTON PURCELL<br>AM | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>HETHE<br>AM<br><br>Mixbury Half Hour<br>AG | 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                  | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>STRATTON AUDLEY<br>AG<br><br>Morning Service<br>FINMERE<br>PW | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>HARDWICK<br>AG<br><br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (BCP)<br>NEWTON PURCELL<br>LW |
| 10.45 am | 'Connect' Informal Worship<br>FINMERE VILLAGE HALL<br>AM<br><br>Morning Service<br>FRINGFORD<br>PW/John Alderdice                      | 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>LW | 10.45am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>STOKE LYNE<br>AM                                   | 'Connect' Informal Worship<br>STOKE LYNE CHURCH<br>AM<br><br>Morning Service<br>FRINGFORD<br>PW                       |
| 6.00 pm  | Compline<br>GODINGTON<br>PW                                                                                                            | Evening Communion<br>FRINGFORD<br>AG                                            |                                                                                                                                          | Evensong with<br>the Shelswell Group Choir<br>HARDWICK<br>PW                                       | Compline<br>STRATTON AUDLEY<br>AG                                                                                     |

AG: Revd Alice Goodall AM: Revd Alex Mahtava LW: Revd Liz Welters PW: Mrs Penny Wood (LLM)