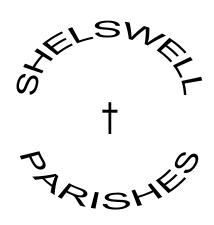
Shelswell News

The magazine of the Shelswell Group of Churches

Cottisford Fringford Hardwick Mixbury Stoke Lyne



Finmere
Godington
Hethe
Newton Purcell
Stratton Audley



June in Shelswell -

Benefice Service + Barbecue at Evenley Wood Garden p.10

Fr Alex on Miracles and Marriage p.3

Fete, Dog Show, Tractors, Classic cars, Art Exhibition – all happening at Newton Purcell p.5-6

Food, Beer and Music in the street at Stratton Audley Village Festival p.7

Over fifty Real Ales, Ciders and Perrys at Fringford Beer Festival p.9

and much, much more!

SHELSWELL BENEFICE MISSION STATEMENT

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

MINISTRY TEAM

RECTOR: The Reverend Alice Goodall, The Rectory, Water Stratford Road, Finmere, Buckingham MK18 4AT Telephone: 01280 848192 Email rector@shelswellparishes.info

(Normal day off – Friday)

BENEFICE ADMINISTRATOR: Mrs Becky Adams, c/o The Rectory (as above) Email

admin@shelswellparishes.info

Administrator's normal office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9.00 am – 1.00 pm

ASSOCIATE MINISTER: The Reverend Alex Mahlava, 10c St Michael's Close, Fringford, Bicester OX27 8DW

Telephone: 07957 905969 Email: amahlava@gmail.com

ASSOCIATE MINISTER: The Reverend Liz Welters, 19 Scampton Close, Bicester OX26 4FF

Telephone 01869 249481 Email <u>lizwelters@yahoo.co.uk</u>

LICENSED LAY MINISTER: Mrs Penny Wood, 8 Crosslands Fringford, Bicester, Oxon. OX27 8DF

Telephone: 01869 277310 Email penelope.wood@btopenworld.com

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

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

HOLY TRINITY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, HETHE,

Mass: 4pm Saturday.

Weekday Mass: 9.30am Monday

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

Telephone: 01869 253277

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

SHELSWELL NEWS

Published monthly. To subscribe, contact Mrs Becky Adams, Benefice Administrator, The Rectory, Water Stratford Road, Finmere, Buckingham MK18 4AT Tel 01280 848192 Email admin@shelswellparishes.info

ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES: Mrs Becky Adams, Benefice Administrator, The Rectory,

Water Stratford Road, Finmere, Buckingham MK18 4AT Tel 01280 848192 Email admin@shelswellparishes.info

EDITORIAL ENQUIRIES: Sylvia List, Tel: +49 8061 9391479 Email editor@shelswellparishes.info

SHELSWELL NEWS TREASURER: Phillip Rushforth, 7 Chinalls Close, Finmere, Buckingham, MK18 4BQ Tel: 01280 848534 Email <u>prfinmere@btinternet.com</u>

Deadlines for the July 2025 edition of Shelswell News

To Magazine Correspondents: Midday on Friday 13th June

Correspondents to Editor: Midday on Sunday 15th June 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

SHELSWELL 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.

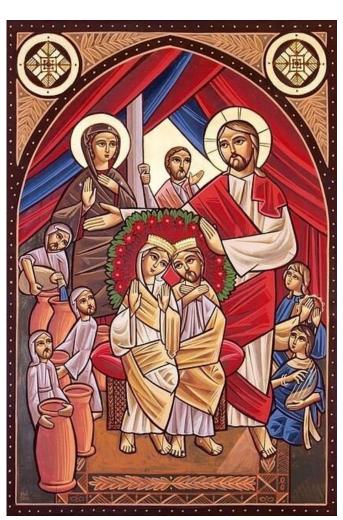
Ministers Letter MARRIAGE AND THE WEDDING AT CANA IN GALILEE (JOHN 2:1-11)

In ancient Judaism, wine represented a blessing and joy, and was associated with life, God's blessing, and the Kingdom of God. It was a symbol of fertility and renewal, as grapes and vines were important agricultural staples in ancient Israel.

The Church has seven sacraments, and marriage is one of them. In John 2:1-11, we read that Jesus was invited at the wedding at Cana in Galilee. In fact, he went with twelve of his Apostles and we also hear that his mother was present. Most ancient Jewish scholars say that a proper Jewish wedding would run for about a According to the Gospel of John, Jesus and the Apostles arrived on the third day. Probably the twelve, being strong man and most of them being fisherman, joined in and drank all the wine, and it quickly ran out. Remember this was the third day and the wedding was supposed to run for eight days. In most cases in the weddings at



which I have officiated, people will not remember how handsome the man was or how beautiful the woman was - instead they remember how much wine or beer they drank on the particular day. If Jesus had not intervened, the wedding at Cana was going to be disappointment and a talk of the village for a long time.



There were other weddings during the same week, that is why the gospel of John says Cana in Galilee, so that we focus on this one. Jesus was particularly invited to this one because it was a special wedding. In fact, it was a wedding of a poor couple but Jesus did not focus on that. Being the third day, and the wine having run out, people could have easily left the venue to go to other weddings out of Cana, but we read that everyone remained at the wedding. Eventually we know that people were instructed by Mary the mother of Jesus to do as Jesus would say and Jesus blessed the water and it became wine, and joy, blessings, the Kingdom of God and everything was restored at the wedding.

Now my dear friends let us draw parallels between marriage in general and the wedding at Cana in Galilee. Just like at the wedding, in marriage a lot of things can change or run out and to whom can we turn? Men and women take vows on their wedding day that they will love each other in poverty and in plenty, in sickness and in health, but in many cases we see divorce or fighting if there is no more money or good health or if the husband or wife develops a pot belly.

This means the wine in marriage will have run out just like it did at Cana. Blessed were the people at Cana for they depended on Jesus. Is there still wine in your marriage? If not where did it go? It is time to ask Jesus

to restore joy, peace and happiness in our marriages because Jesus is the same yesterday, today and in the near and far future.

Stay blessed and enjoy your marriage and ask Jesus to replenish it if love, money, peace and blessings have run out in your marriage.

In the name of Jesus.

Fr Alex Mahlava

BIBLE READINGS



Sunday 1st June 7th Sunday of Easter Acts 16 v16-34

Revelation 22 v12-14, 16-17 & 20-21

John 17 v20-end

Sunday 8th June Pentecost Acts 2 v1-21

Romans 8 v14-17 John 14 v8-17 [25-27]

Sunday 15th June Trinity Sunday Proverbs 8 v1-4 and 22-31

Romans 5 v1-5 John 16 v12-15

Sunday 22nd June 1st Sunday after Trinity Isaiah 65 v1-9

Galatians 3 v23-end Luke 8 v26-39

Sunday 29th June 2nd Sunday after Trinity 1 Kings 19 v15-16 and 19-end

Galatians 5 v1 and 13-25

Luke 9 v51-end

Volunteer Opportunities

Benefice Treasurer



We are looking for someone who might take on the role of Benefice Treasurer. Is this something you might be able to do, or do you know someone who might like to take it on?

Most of the transactions can be dealt with electronically and our current systems seem to be working smoothly so it should be fairly straightforward for someone new to step in and take over.

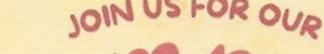
Meetings of Benefice Council take place about four times a year and at other times liaison with the Rector and Benefice Administrator is mainly by email. For an informal chat about what would be involved, call Alice on 01280 848192.

Little Lambs - Helper



'Little Lambs' Baby and Toddler Group 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.





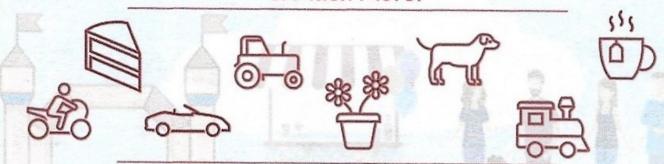
JOIN US FOR OUR

NEWTON PURCELL

Saturday 7th June Midday - 5pm

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!

Tractors & Stationary Engines · Classic Cars & Motorbikes · Fun Dog Show · Lawn Games · Variety of Stalls · Tombola · & Much More!



Family Fun Day, All Welcome!

Art Exhibition in Newton Purcell Village Hall

6 June 2025
Newton Purcell Village Hall
PRIVATE VIEW
6pm - 9pm

ARTISTS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

An exhibition featuring local artists celebrating the British countryside https://artinthecountryside.co.uk



Artists in the Countryside

The exhibition continues on 7th June - why not drop in while visiting Newton Purcell Village Fete?

More details on page 32.



MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION AND SOUP LUNCH

Thursday 5th June

12 noon

Stoke Lyne Church



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

Come as you are, grow together



Connect Informal Worship

Sunday 1st June 10.45 am with breakfast Finmere Village Hall No matter where you are on your journey, there is a place for you here.





SATURDAY 7TH JUNE

Join us for the return of our vibrant village street festival. Meander through a tempting avenue of local stalls selling a variety of their crafts, gifts & artisan food. Follow the delicious aromas from an array of food trucks, tuck into one of our many craft beers & soak up the entertainment from our live band or enjoy a touch of nostalgia from our morris dancers. With so much to enjoy, we'll keep your whole family entertained all day!

Pentecost (Whitsun) - Sunday 8th June



"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth" Acts 1:8

Fifty days after Easter, the remaining followers of Jesus were gathered together in a room in Jerusalem, still nervous of being arrested. But suddenly they had a collective experience - they described it in terms of wind and fire, a great surge of spiritual energy and confidence.

Afraid no longer, they burst out on to the streets where crowds were gathering for the Jewish festival of Firstfruits. Led by Peter they began to tell them about Jesus and His resurrection. As they did so, although many of the people in the crowd were foreigners who spoke other languages, everyone heard them in their own tongue. As a result of Peter's words and the extraordinary spectacle, some 3000 people believed and were baptised in the name of Jesus and that was the start of the Church.

We all get tired and battle weary sometimes. The disciples of Jesus had just been through a three-year long roller coaster adventure with Jesus that had culminated in His death, resurrection and ascension into heaven.

The range of emotions would have been hugely taxing in the days leading up to Pentecost, as they remembered Jesus weeping in the garden of Gethsemane, betrayed by Judas, brutally beaten and crucified, and then dead and buried. Then there had been the shock and awe of finding out that He was alive again! But then He had left them again, to return to His Father. By the time the day of Pentecost arrived, the disciples would indeed have welcomed some fresh spiritual fire!

For us today, many of us have felt emotionally drained with the uncertainties caused by Covid 19, the worry of prices rising at an alarming rate, huge social and constitutional changes and now the pain and uncertainty of various current and threatened wars.

So, what better day than Pentecost, Sunday 8th June this year, to pray for fresh spiritual fire for each of us? As we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and birth of the Church, let us thank God that He will never leave us or forsake us.

Pentecost services in the Benefice

Holy Communion with hymns 9.15 am St Edmund & St George Church, Hethe

Mixbury Half Hour 9.15 am All Saints Church, Mixbury

Morning Service 10.45 am St Mary & St Edburga Church, Stratton Audley

Evening Communion 6.00 pm St Peter's Church, Stoke Lyne

16th ANNUAL

FRINGFORD BEER & CIDER FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 14 JUNE 2025 12pm to 11pm

FREE ENTRY

- Over 50 Real Ales and Ciders
 - Activities for Children
 - Live Entertainment
 - Food & Craft Stalls

Fringford Cricket Ground, OX27 8EB

what three words: ///muted.verges.continues

Earlybird discount available at 'eventbrite Fringford Beer Festival'





Outdoor service at Evenley Wood Gardens (NN13 SSL)

11 am Sunday 15th June Trinity Sunday

Come and celebrate God's wonderful creation with worship in the glorious setting of the gardens, and then enjoy lunch together!

No charge, although donations invited towards the Primary School in Wulu.

Bring something to sit on, along with a plate, bowl and cutlery. Dress for the weather. And yes, there are toilets!



We will provide barbecued sausages / burgers, rolls and cold drinks. Hot drinks can be bought in the café.

Offers to bring a salad or pudding greatly appreciated – please contact Becky on admin@shelswellparishes.info / 01280 848192



Food for Thought 18th May

Ali led a thought-provoking service where we thought about Jesus' example of washing his disciples feet in service and what this might mean for us. We are shown how to love one another as we would like to be loved and to act more like Jesus; the Servant King.

Ali had come prepared with washing basins and towels, but we all felt a little uncertain about getting our feet out! We may try this in future and follow Jesus' example. Watch this space!

There will be no Food for Thought service in June - do come along to the outdoor service at Evenley Wood Gardens on 15th June instead!

Connect service – Stoke Lyne 4th May 2025



We came together for informal worship in a different venue this month, with lots to share and celebrate. Penni led us in a discussion around Genesis 1:26-31, a passage so familiar but with so much more to be understood – thank you Penni.

Micah and Joel (Penni and Phil's children) had sent videos from their travels and we were interested to hear about what they have been up to. Penni and Phil treated us to a delicious breakfast, inspired by the food that Joel was preparing for breakfast as head chef on the Doulos Hope.

Our next Connect service will be in Finmere Village Hall on Sunday 1st June. Come along for informal worship from 1045-11.30 and then tea and cake with friends old and new until 11.45.

Welcome



to an evening of Italian mayhem and madness with the film 'The Italian Job' PG



Good food and lots of it

(Let us know if you have any dietary needs)

Alcohol and soft drinks available Only £15 pp

Saturday 21st June 6 for 6.30pm until 10 - 10.30 pm

> St Peter's Church, Stoke Lyne OX27 8SB

Please let us know you are coming <u>alisonjanemiller@icloud.com</u>, 07762719198

Summer Live Music coming up in our Churches

Free Spiritual Refreshment

Why not take advantage of the long evenings to attend the beautiful service of Evensong with the Shelswell Group Choir?





The Saxophone Quartet Opus Sax led by Lily Skinner are performing twice in the Benefice in July:-



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

Wine and nibbles included - free entry but donations requested.

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

In aid of the Church
Five pounds cash on the door - to be followed by Hethe's famous tea and cakes!
See village entries for more details

Cream Tea for Wulu

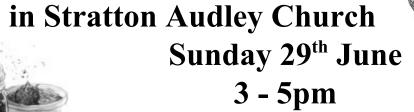
Shelswell Group of Parishes

Come and enjoy delicious



CREAM TEAS

with tea, coffee and cakes



Donations to the Girls' Primary School in Wulu, South Sudan

Plus latest updates received from Bishop Zachariah
If you can make a cake for this event, please let Liz Welters know

FINMERE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL





One family rooted in love, growing and enabling all to flourish (Mark 4 1:20)

Celebrating 80 Years of VE Day

Finmere School had a wonderful day celebrating 80 years of VE Day on 8th May. Our children were invited to come to school dressed in red, white and blue and had a 'street party' style lunch on the playground.

During lunch we were delighted to be joined by Susie and Stitch who provided our entertainment in the form of war songs accompanied by the guitar

Lunch was followed by some traditional games such as hopscotch, snakes and ladders (a giant human version) and 4 square which the children had such fun playing.

At the end of the school day, parents were invited to our VE Day 'gallery' which was a display of VE related items that the children had produced at home and tasty rock cakes were enjoyed.













REGISTRY

Marriage Isabel Mary Horwood and James Roger Blake St Michael and All Angels, Finmere Thursday 17th April 2025

So it was the Thursday before Easter, Maundy Thursday, and normally Rev Alice would have been going to the special Chrism Mass in Christ Church Cathedral or taking a Maundy Thursday service in the Benefice. But not this year, because 17th April was when Jamie and Issy first met and they had set their hearts on getting married on the same day.

Issy and Jamie live in Finmere. Jamie has lived here all his life, and Issy since about 2016. But despite living in the same village, they had no awareness of each other until they met on a dating app in October 2020. There is even a photo of one of Issy's brothers sat opposite Jamie's parents at a Burns Night Supper.

Wedding poem by Whitney Hanson Poetry

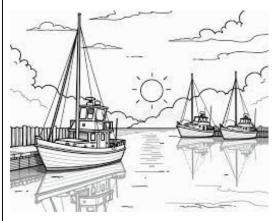
They say that sometimes love starts with a spark.
And that might be true, but if I were to wish you a love, I wouldn't wish fire for you.
You see, fire is powerful.
It burns bright and then it's gone.

It's beautiful and warm, but it doesn't last long. so instead of wishing you a love that burns, I wish you a love like a river twists and turns.

It changes and it flows, It is powerful and free. But it consistently finds its way back to the sea.

And so like the water, I hope your love is ever growing, ever changing.

I hope your love is powerful and free, And may you always find each other, Like a river finds the sea.



Anyway, Jamie had spotted Issy's photo on the dating app, which he liked. They had

discovered they lived in the same place and got talking.

You may remember there was a covid lockdown at that time, so there were months of daily messaging before that first meeting on 17th April 2021 – which took place in Buckingham Garden Centre. They were sitting outside in the sun. Coffee became lunch and four hours later Jamie had sunburn. Things progressed and on 16th December 2023, whilst on a visit to Bruges to see the Christmas markets, Jamie proposed in front of the biggest Christmas Tree he could find and Issy said 'yes'. (Jamie is not a planner by nature but had started to plan this event back in August. He went to some lengths to get an engagement ring, but then had to use one lent by the jeweller as the actual one had got stuck in the post).

Issy entered the church on the arm of her mum Tracy Jones as Pachabel's Canon was played on the organ by Corinne Handsley. (Corinne had taught Jamie piano when he was a boy, so he was determined she should play at his wedding!). The pair had chosen three hymns: 'All things bright and beautiful', 'Lord of the dance', and 'Sing hosanna', which turned out to be the same three hymns that Issy's mum Tracy and her stepdad Glyn had had when they got married in Finmere Church in 2017.

There were two readings – Ecclesiastes 4: 9 - 12 read by Issy's grandad Reg Hunt and 'Wedding Poem' by Whitney Hanson read by Jamie's mum Jenny. In her talk, Alice reminded everyone that one of the stories we remember on Maundy Thursday is of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples as an example of how we should serve one another, which seemed a good picture for marriage.



The couple left the church to Mendelssohn's Wedding March, stopping half way down the aisle for a rather dramatic kiss. There were bells and confetti, and a retiring collection which was divided between the church and Marie Curie Cancer Care, in memory of Jamie's nan Bonnie Dyson. And then Issy and Jamie roared off in a Porsche 356a Speedster to Winters Tale Country Barn in Steeple Claydon for the wedding reception, followed by all their guests.

We pray that God will richly bless their marriage and that it will be life long, life enhancing and a blessing to those around them.



Thanksgiving for marriage Eleanor Grace and Pablo Giovani Palafox-Harris St Mary and St Edburga, Stratton Audley Saturday 26th April 2025

When Ellie and Gio got married, on 3rd September 2023 in St Margaret's Church, Oxford, Gio's family were not able to attend, although they watched the live stream of the ceremony. So part of the plan was always that after a year or so, they would have s service of thanksgiving where they could renew their vows and where Gio's family and all their friends could come along.

Gio's family live in Mexico. He is the eldest of five siblings. He came to the Uk in 2016 to do a PhD in



Civil Engineering at Birmingham University. At the same time Ellie, whose parents live in Northamptonshire, was embarking on a Masters in Philosphy, although they didn't cross paths at that time. They actually met via a dating app in February 2021 during the third covid lockdown. They had to think creatively over their first date because of all the restrictions at the time, and ended up going on a dog walk with Ellie's English Setter, which suited them quite well. By this time, Gio was working as the University of Oxford as the Head of Executive Education at the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment (SSEE) and Ellie had embarked on a PhD in the Philosophy of Mental Health. They discovered that they got on very well. They both loved dogs and nature and enjoyed the outdoors. They both enjoyed travel, cooking and music. They had similar goals in life. And conversations were never boring.

'La Felicidad' ('Happiness') by Manuel Acuña

A blue sky full of stars shining in immensity; a bird in love singing in the forest; for atmosphere the aromas of the garden and the orange blossom; next to us the water sprouting from the spring our hearts close, our lips much more, you rising to heaven and me following you there that is love, my life, That is happiness!

So fast forward to Saturday 26th April and the service of thanksgiving - the sun was shining and there were some really lovely flowers in the church, and Ellie and Gio's guests began to arrive and take their places. Gio had three best men. Ellie's three sisters were her bridesmaids, along with her best friend from her childhood. Ellie's family is very musical and one of her sisters, Georgia, had composed a piece specially for the wedding service in Oxford. However when she was performing it, Ellie and Gio were signing the marriage document so didn't really take it in. So they asked Georgia to perform it at this service too.

Ellie and Gio entered the church together to 'Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring' played by Pam Morgan on the organ. They had chosen two hymns, 'Come to a wedding, Come to a blessing' and 'For the beauty of the earth'. There were two readings. The first, Song of Solomon 2: 10-13, was read in English by Ross Johnston and then in Spanish by Luis Montero. The second was a poem 'La Felicidad' ('Happiness') which was read by one of Gio's sisters, Fatima. Gio had provided his family with an order of service

translated into Spanish, and Rev Alice invited everyone to join in the responses to the prayers and in the Lord's prayer in whichever language they were most comfortable. (She tried to welcome Gio's family and explain this in very clumsy Spanish, but as she had used Google Translate as the source of the translation, who knows what she actually said!).

Towards the end of the service, Ellie and Gio lit a candle from the Easter Candle and said a prayer of commitment together. Then after the final blessing, they left the church to the 'Prince of Denmark's March' played on the organ, the bells rang out, photos were taken and confetti was thrown. Then they and their guests went on to the reception at Stratton Court Barn.

We hope that Ellie and Gio's marriage continues to be as happy as the first 17 months have been, and we pray for God's blessing on them.

Club News

SHELSWELL WI





As in previous years May sees the ladies of the Shelswell WI meet away from our usual venue. Following last year's fun learning how to play Aunt Sally, we decided to return to the game to see if we had improved. We were once again welcomed by the local Aunt Sally team and I am pleased to say that there were more direct hits than last year. The sun was shining and it was a beautiful evening to then retire for a drink sitting outside the Butchers Arms. Our thanks once again go to the Aunt Sally team for such an entertaining evening.

June sees us celebrate 35 years of Shelswell WI our coral anniversary. To celebrate we are having a special evening with Maria Brown and her Indian block printing demonstration. Members will also have the chance to try block printing for themselves.

In July we welcome back Stuart Cummins, whose talk is titled Left a Bit, Right a Bit.

Also on June 4 we have the chance to watch the National AGM, this year it is virtual. However, the village hall has been booked and we will be able to watch proceedings together on the big screen.

WI members are also able to participate in county and national events. Several of our members have recently enjoyed holidays, days out, courses and talks.

If you would like to come and see what we offer we meet on the first Thursday of each month, 7.30pm in Fringford village hall.

For more information contact Sandra Bickmore at sandrambickmore@gmail.com



SHELSWELL GARDEN CLUB



It is with sadness that members had their final meeting of the Shelswell Garden Club at Waterperry Gardens. We enjoyed a delicious Afternoon Tea, followed by walks around the beautiful gardens with friends. A lovely way to end 30 years.

Our thanks go to the committee. We have certainly had fun! (The WhatsApp group will remain active for all those who wish to hear about the occasional garden visit. Contact Corrine Mitchell if you wish to be added.)

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 dates are

- Tuesday 3rd June, 7.30 pm at Penny's
- Tuesday 1st July, 7.30pm, venue TBC

Our last meeting, held on Wednesday 7th May discussed both None of this is True by Lisa Jewel and The Shepherd's Life by James Rebanks. Of the two books we read, The Shepherd's Life was the winner. We loved the insight into sheep farming and this ancient industry that continues today. We have learnt so much about sheep and will never think they all look the same again! We also loved reading about the family relationships, the hardships overcome, the descriptions of the fells and the hard work of being a shepherd. Whilst at time he was a little brusque and unlikeable, it was unflinchingly honest and a compelling read. Highly recommended – Thanks Doune!

None of this is True by Lisa Jewel was not quite as universally liked. Some of us really loved it, and it was an easy read/romp of a book, but we found it to be somewhat unbelievable at times (maybe the point?). We didn't like many / any of the characters and really didn't believe that Alice would have taken on Josie.... We would have run a mile from her! Some of us found the NETFLIX interjections distracting, and whilst it did what it said it would, ie, we were never sure who was telling the truth (but it certainly wasn't Josie), we felt 'manipulated' at times. It did provide discussions however, so thank you Robyn for the recommendation!

Our next book is The Women by Kristin Hannah.

Other books discussed were:

Tell me Everything Elizabeth Strout

The Women of Troy trilogy - we have read Silence of the Girls, and some of us are reading the second in

the trilogy (The Women of Troy). Pat Barker.
All the Colours of the Dark Chris Whittaker.



SHELSWELL POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP

A short poem about this month is <u>All in June</u> by W H Davies - author of Autobiography of a Supertramp. It sums up with great economy the changeable nature of the month (like many other months in this part of the world). The feeling of cold and needing to warm up engendered by the first verse is abruptly countered by the positive vocabulary (rich, thousands, gold-dust) of verse 2 and the comic image of the bees in the third verse completes the pen-portrait of June.

The group met in late April and each member contributed a poem they had enjoyed to the session. The poems were *When Great Trees Fall* by Maya Angelou, which seemed particularly appropriate so soon after the death of Pope Francis; *Aunt Jennifer's Tigers* by Adrienne Rich (b 1951) and *Flight* by Sarah Wardle (b 1969) - two poems about women dealing with their fears and frustrations; *Nothing* by James Fenton (b 1949) - a sad but brave poem about unrequited love; *The Seed Shop* by Muriel

All in June by William Henry Davies

A week ago I had a fire
To warm my feet, my hands and face;
Cold winds, that never make a friend,
Crept in and out of every place.

Today the fields are rich in grass, And buttercups in thousands grow; I'll show the world where I have been--With gold-dust seen on either shoe.

Till to my garden back I come, Where bumble-bees for hours and hours Sit on their soft, fat, velvet bums, To wriggle out of hollow flowers.

Stuart (1885-1967), about the wonderful potential of seeds and, for a bit of comic relief, *Growltiger's Last*Stand by T S Eliot, a poem which has much in it for both child and adult, although the casual xenophobia rampant when it was written would surely prohibit its publication today!

If you would like to join the group please contact me on 01865 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
TREASURER David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick
PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Flora Skinner

Tel 01869 277690 Tel: 01869 277366

Tel 01280 848247

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Sandra Bickmore, Thatch End, Juniper Hill (sandrambickmore@gmail.com)

SERVICES

Sunday 15th June 11am Benefice Service at Evenley Wood Garden with Barbeque to follow Sunday 29th June 10.45am Benefice Service of Holy Communion Stoke Lyne

COTTISFORD AND JUNIPER HILL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

To mark VE Day, members of the Social Committee decorated Cottisford Church with red, white and blue flowers. The church looked beautiful, a fitting tribute to those who lost their lives during World War 2. Thank you to those who helped and donated flowers from their gardens.

On Saturday Sandra and Brian hosted the first of this year's pop up pubs. The evening was a great success and well attended. It was nice to be able to enjoy the outside if a little chilly. Thank you to Sandra and Brian for hosting and also to all those who came. Watch this space for further pop up pub dates. June 20 sees us in the church for an evening of wine and nibbles. More information to follow. It's always great to get together, so if you would like to host a pop up pub or coffee morning we would love to hear from you.

Finmere St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: Barbara Cunningham, 'Woodlea' Finmere,

TREASURER: Emma Brennan

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Katherine Grimston, The Old Rectory, Finmere MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Paul Nash Email: paan63@yahoo.co.uk

Tel: 01280 847992 emma_mary@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 01280 848364 Tel 01280 848268

Church Services

Sunday 1st June 10.45 am 'Connect' Informal Worship Finmere Village Hall Sunday 22nd June 8.00 am Holy Communion

Village Hall



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

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



Allotments

May brings with it the long awaited warmer nights, and so at last, we are able to put out tender plants such as runner beans, squash and courgettes.

Not only do we have warmer weather now, but also we now have a water supply, which makes it so much easier for plot holders to keep young plants alive in dry weather. This will make Finmere allotments a much more attractive proposition for anyone thinking it might be a project for the future. Details of who to contact

are below.



Finally, the most positive of all news is that our latest tenant is just 13 years old, and doing so well - potatoes, onions, strawberries all growing successfully.

Interested, visit <u>www.myfinmere.com/poorsplot</u> and select the 'enquiry' link. *Jean (Allotment correspondent)*

Finmere Tuesday Teas



2nd Tuesday of the month, 2.00 - 4.00 pm

If you are at home in the day, please pop into the Village Hall for a cuppa and a catch-up...
All locals welcome, no charge

If you need a lift, please contact Jo 07974 740312 or Katherine 07770 804025

If anyone would like to help out 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 out when you can





Some Finmere related links:

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

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

Finmere Parish Council website at – www.finmerepc.org

Village hall news at – www.myfinmere.com

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

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

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

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

Fringford St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: John Mayo, 10 Church Close, Fringford Tel 01869 278873
TREASURER: Christina McCullagh, 5 Crosslands, Fringford Tel 07867 515207

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Penny Wood ,as below

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Penny Wood, 8 Crosslands, Fringford Tel 01869 277310 VILLAGE HALL CORRESPONDENT: Christine Underwood Tel 01869 278949

WEBSITE www.fringford.info

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, SERVICES & EVENTS

Services

- Sunday 1 June at 10.45am Morning Service
- Sunday 15 June = at 11.00am Benefice Service in **Evenley Wood Garden**, followed by a BBQ.
- Sunday 23 June at 6.00pm Evensong in Hardwick Church
- Sunday 29 June 10.45am Benefice Service of Holy Communion at Stoke Lyne Church

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 10 May. Thanks to Adrian Thwaites who got us all organised, and to everyone who came to help, and to Melissa for providing coffee and cake.

Open Gardens

At the time of writing the Open Gardens event is under way. Nine gardens are open, and the church has some flower arrangements and paintings by local artists on display. There is also information displayed about the building itself, to guide visitors as they walk around. Many thanks to the gardeners, the artists and to everyone who kindly donated cakes for teas, or time helping to sell programmes, or to oversee parking, or to serve teas, or to prepare information about the church.

NEXT EVENTS



Fringford Beer, Cider & Perry Festival on Saturday 14th June, up on the Cricket Field. Still time to sponsor a barrel – contact Simon Knight <u>simon.knight2@btinternet.com</u> There'll be food and entertainment and, hopefully, good weather! See full page advert on page 8.

Opus Sax Concert in the church on 5 July at 7.00 pm – see poster overleaf.

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.



$^{\mathsf{opu}}\mathsf{S}_{\mathsf{ax}}$

Saxophone quartet

led by Lily Skinner



Programme to be announced

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.



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 advert on page 4 – could you help?]

FRINGFORD VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

Village Coffee Mornings usually take place on the third Monday of each month. In June we will meet on Monday 16th. 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.

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 Village Hall Team Meeti	Fringford Sewcial Sew and Chat! Monthly Wednesday from 7pm Or Sunday from 3pm Contact Irene at ireneethomas@btinternet.com ng - Please contact for dates	

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:

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

No need to book – just come and join us! If you would like information, please email Irene <u>ireneethomas@btinternet.com</u>

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
Tel 01869 277690
Tel: 01869 277690

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

Church Services at St Mary the Virgin

Sunday 1st June 9.15 am Holy Communion Sunday 15th June 11am Benefice Service at Evenley Wood Garden with Barbeque to follow Sunday 22nd June 6.00 pm Evensong with the Shelswell Group Choir

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

Private prayer and quiet contemplation
View the architecture, memorials and stained-glass windows
Please make use of this special space

Pilgrim Pathways

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

Hardwick Church guidebook

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

Hethe St Edmund and St George

CHURCHWARDEN: Flora Skinner, Fox Hollow, 2 Hardwick Road, Hethe TREASURER: Mike Green, Greenhill Cottage, Main Street, Hethe PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Flora Skinner as above

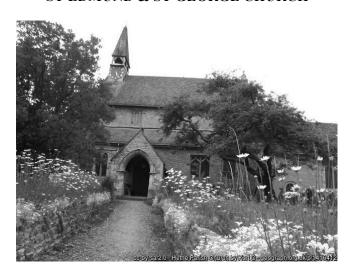
MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT:

Flora Skinner as above
Mike Green as above
WEBSITE: www.hethe.org

Tel 01869 277366 Tel 01869 278166

Tel 01869 278166

ST EDMUND & ST GEORGE CHURCH



"All churches need friends, and they are out there ready to be made"

Church Services and Events

See the back page for details. 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.

Please remember the open village meeting to be held on 24th June to discuss the future of the church (details below). It looks increasingly likely that our church will close in the next two years. We are truly grateful to all of you who have supported the church through the years, but regular income is falling while expenditure increases. Last year we had a deficit of over £3,000. It is sad that a church that has existed for over 800 years will cease to be used during our lifetimes. If, like most of us villagers, you care for the village, its appearance and heritage, it is essential that you attend this meeting to join in the discussion. In addition to members of the church, we will have representatives present from the Oxford Diocese who will be able to advise on finance and church closures.

The church is currently open every day for visits and private prayer but will be closed when internal repairs are started as these will require internal scaffolding.

We were blessed with a dry afternoon for the village fete in May and it was very well attended by village people and more from further afield. Many thanks to all of the church members for their generous donations to prizes for the raffle, and the Twisted Tree Brewery, Tusmore, and COGGES Heritage Trust for their contributions. And a special thankyou to everyone who helped with the raffle on the day which raised over £400 for church funds.

Note that a facility from the National Churches Trust, called "The House of Good: Local", has calculated an annual value for our church of £44,593 based on the support it provides for local people.



The future of your church is in is in your hands:

Community Meeting at the Village Hall on Tuesday June 24th.

Watch for an invitation coming through your post box in the next couple of weeks ...

Finances

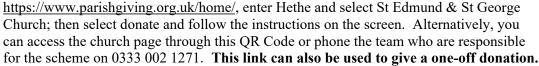
We have been allocated a grant through the Oxford Diocese towards the cost of the most urgent works required to the church building, to remove and replace failed plaster at high-level within the Nave (above the Chancel Arch) and install box gutters over the tiles of the Aisle roofs at the east end, to better manage the water coming off the high roofs. We have also received some generous donations towards this work to enable it to be started, but we would be grateful for any extra contributions. Please see the details below and note that it is regular giving which will enable the chuch to be kept open into the future.

Our church is cared for and managed by volunteers (with input from our Rector). We receive no government funding and rely on voluntary donations to meet our day-to-day running costs.

It is the responsibility of each parish to fund the running of their Church.

Regular Giving

We would be grateful if you could consider giving a regular donation to the church to help keep the doors open. It needn't be too much – current donors give between £10 and £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







St Edmund & St George 100 Club

Results of the 76th draw held on 11th May 2025

1st Prize No 8 Helen Pritchard 2nd Prize No 28 David Morgan 3rd Prize No 51 Lisa Soper

Many thanks to our members Hethe PCC The next PCC meeting is to be held on Wednesday 25th June.

HETHE COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

Hethe Community Coffee Morning in St Philip's Hall

Monday 9th June from 10.00am to 12.00pm

Friends, neighbours, dog walkers, pram pushers: an opportunity to meet during the daytime - there's great







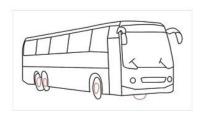


Hethe and District Darby & Joan Club

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 next meeting of the council will take place on Tuesday 8th July, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Pop-up Pub. Friday 6th June 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, 1342 and 15.42. Last bus departs Bicester at 17.50 to arrive in Hethe at 18.12. Note that this service does not operate on Bank Holidays.

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

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

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

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

Community Spirit of the Hethens

Hethe Community

Hethe Allotments

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

Shelswell Lift Share WhatsApp Group – Contact Flora to join



Mixbury All Saints

CHURCHWARDENS: Martin Ayres, Northwell Farm, Finmere

Alec Howard, Middlestead, Mixbury

Tel 07899 792552

TREASURER: David Mitchell. 2 Town Farm, Mixbury

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Anna Howard

MAGAZINE CORRESPNDENT: Sue Goodman pasgoodman551@gmail.com

Tel 01280 848295

Tel 01280 848295

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 8th June 9.15 am Mixbury Half Hour Sunday 15th June 11 am Benefice Service at Evenley Wood Garden with Barbeque to follow

MIXBURY CHURCH FLOWER ROTA 2025

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.

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

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

MIXBURY POP UP PUB NIGHTS

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

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: 3rd June 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.....!

VE DAY CELEBRATIONS

There was a wonderful evening for reflection held on Thursday 8th May in the churchyard, which had been mown for this special time. Caroline Wethey did the village proud by arranging cheese, wine, music and war time speeches. A beacon was lit at 8pm by Mr Dunkley – the nephew of Robert Dunkley who is in the only Commonwealth War Grave in the Churchyard. Mr Stuart Dunkley told us how his uncle, only 20, lost his life. Robert Dunkley lived at Town Farm, Mixbury.

Halifax LV865 at Snaith airfield

During the morning of 17th September 1944 this 51 Squadron aircraft was to have flown an operational flight attack German positions in the Boulogne area. At 07:28hrs as it picked up speed on the runway at Snaith one of the engines failed. Because of there being maximum power being applied to the two engines on the other side of the aircraft and only half that on that the other side a swung developed, the pilot decided to abort take off but could not stop aircraft before it ran off the runway area and into the bomb dump. It collided with a fusing hut and caught fire. Sadly one member of the crew was killed as a result of the accident while two others received minor injuries.

Air Gunner - Sgt Robert Henry Dunkley RAFVR (1608128), aged 20, of Northampton. Buried Mixbury Churchyard, Oxfordshire - photo, right.

Pilot - F/O Bernard Mark Twilley RAFVR (151201). Injured.

Navigator - Sgt Richard Holden RAFVR (1671139). Injured.



Flight Engineer - Sgt Roy Challinor Hitchen RAFVR (2203456).

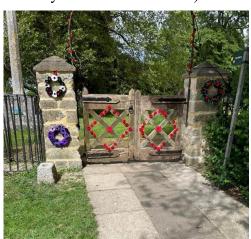
Bomb Aimer - P/O Carl Winston Cassini RAFVR (154240).

Wireless Operator / Air Gunner - F/Sgt Roberts Hall RAFVR (1457899).

Air Gunner - Sgt L G Morris.

The churchyard has had a marvellous display of poppies to mark VE Day – well done to the all the villagers who have knitted/crochet or handmade poppies contributing to the display. We are so lucky to have a goodhearted community in Mixbury – thank you from the poppy team. As well as the poppies we now have a "soldier" (above, left). The next poppy display will be in November to mark Remembrance Day (Remembrance Sunday 9th November and Remembrance Day Tuesday 11th November 2025).





The stones (below, right) were hand painted by Jen Birch of Mixbury.









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

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Flora Skinner

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Ann von Maltzahn

Tel: 07725 009838

Tel: 01725 009838

Tel: 01869 277366

Services:-

Sunday 1st June - 9.15 a.m. Holy Communion

Bonus Ball Lotto:-

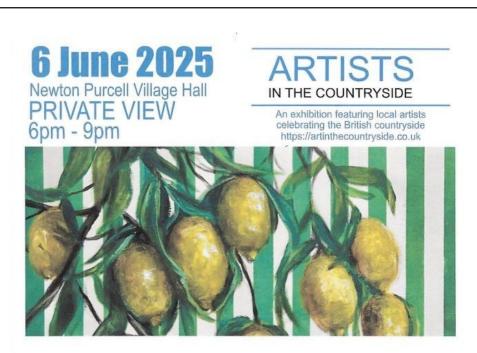
Recent lucky winners have been Stuart Hinton, Annabelle von Maltzahn and Ryan Parouty.

Hall to Let:-

Are you looking for a venue for meetings or a party? Look no further - our newly refurbished Old School is available for hire.

Please contact Jackie Le Fevre on 07544 985117 or jackielefevre@btinternet.com for details and to make your booking.

Artists in the Countryside:-



Artists in the Countryside

Your Invitation to the Private View

Here comes the Summer and this year we have some newcomers exhibiting at Artists in the Countryside.

Please join friends, artists and art lovers for an early view of the exhibition in the lovely setting of the newly refurbished Old School in Newton Purcell for a glass of Prosecco, roasted asparagus and fun.

I'm exhibiting and selling a wide range of affordable oil paintings and limited edition cards alongside wonderful local artists.

Friends and family are welcome.

The Old School, Newton Purcell 6 pm - 9 pm Friday June 6th

If you can't make the Private View, the exhibition continues on Saturday June 7th to coincide with the Village Fete, Dog and Classic Car show starting at midday.

As usual we are raising money for St Michael and All Angels Church - Tickets will be 10 pounds payable on the door. Really hope you can make it!

THE SUMMER FETE:-

We are looking forward to welcoming all of you to this years Fete which promises to have something for all the family and a great day out!



Stoke Lyne St Peter's

CHURCHWARDEN: Christopher Poole CTP@oxford-educational.co.uk
Alison Miller alisonjanemiller@icloud.com

Tel 01869 346020
Tel 07762 719198
TREASURER: Janey Poole janey@oxford-educational.co.uk
Tel 07810 120457
PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Emma Brown emmabrown911@gmail.com
MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Rena Andrews renaandrews820@gmail.com
PARISH ROOM BOOKINGS: Kelly and James Holden-White kholdenwhite@aol.com
Tel: 01869 346653
Tel 01869 345211

WEBSITE www.stokelyne.org

St Peter's Church Stoke Lyne Services

Thursday 5th June 12:00 Midweek Holy Communion and Soup Lunch Sunday 8th June (Pentecost) 6.00 pm Holy Communion Sunday 15th June 11 am Benefice Service at Evenley Wood Garden with Barbeque to follow Sunday 22nd June 10.45 am Holy Communion Sunday 29th June (St Peter and St Paul) 10.45 am Benefice Service of Holy Communion

Flower Duty for June

Emma Brown

Stoke Lyne 100 Club – Results for May 2025

1 st Prize	Membership No 20	Jeanette Smith
2 nd Prize	Membership No 3	Margaret Dudley
3 rd Prize	Membership No 51	Adrian Taylor

As always thank you to all members of the Stoke Lyne 100 Club. We do really appreciate your support. For detail on how to join at £3.00 per month please email janey@oxford-educational.co.uk

Janey Poole Treasurer, St Peter's Church PCC

Stoke Lyne Community Speedwatch

You may be aware that a Community Speedwatch group has been set up for Stoke Lyne and we would wish to include surrounding areas. The group has now obtained equipment and has been running a number of sessions over the last 3 months. The objectives of the initiative are to increase awareness of speeding and reduce speeding, to obtain data for Thames Valley police so that they can communicate with drivers and where necessary target this area with the formal speed reduction programmes which may include the police attending and setting up formal speed traps.

The support we receive and the impact we have on speeding drivers is directly proportional to the amount of data we are able to collect. At present we only have 6 operators in the village and we would benefit greatly if we could increase this to 12 with the aim of being able to increase the number of sessions and also vary

the times and locations at which we run these sessions - perhaps beyond the Stoke Lyne boundaries? At present, for example, we are struggling to get 3 operators together to run an afternoon / early evening session during rush hour, when we know there are drivers speeding through the village.

Results to date for Stoke Lyne are that the group has arranged and run 4 speedwatch sessions. We have been able to collect consistent data for Thames Valley Police to contact over 80 drivers who have failed to observe the 20MPH speed limit on the top road (The Green and Stratton Audley Road in Stoke Lyne). On Friday 16th May we recorded our highest speed of 48 MPH and over 60% of the vehicles traveling through the village that morning were exceeding 30 MPH in a 20 MPH zone.

We hope that some of you will be able to assist in the future and or contact me for information on how to create your own group. If you are interested in helping and undertaking the training to operate / run sessions, please email me directly at: stokelynecsw@gmail.com.

WEARit GREEN
DAY

In aid of

#WearltGreen

#WearltGreen

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 St July 2025

WHERE St Peters Church, Troke Lyne

WHEN 1D - 12 Oy21 858

CONTACT Alli Alisoniane millegalicland. Con

O7162119198

MENTALHEALTH.ORG.UK

Italian Night

Good food, great company and the film "The Italian Job" on Saturday 21st June 6.00 pm - please see full page ad on page 11.

A Look at the Peyton Memorials within the church – Part 4, Major General Sir Thomas Peyton, 5th Baronet (1817-1888)



See the April 2025 issue for the story of Sir Thomas's predecessor, 4th Baronet Algernon William Peyton, who died suddenly in 1872. Because Sir Algernon and his wife had no offspring the baronetcy passed to Thomas, his first cousin once-removed. Thomas was the son of the Rev. Algernon Peyton, Rector of Doddington, Cambridgeshire. The Rev. Algernon was brother of the second baronet Sir Henry (who was featured in the October 2024 "Look at").

An article in Baily's Magazine of Sports and Pastimes v. 41 (July 1883-Jan. 1884) gives this account of his life before he became baronet:

"Sir Thomas was born in 1817; was educated at Eton, and after a short stay at a private tutor's proceeded to Cambridge, where, though he was not perhaps the most zealous of students, he developed the hereditary taste for the art of driving for which his family have of late years been so noted. From the time, indeed, that he was strong enough to hold the reins, the then young Mr. Peyton aspired to be a proficient. He drove every coach that ran into or out of Cambridge Mr. Peyton did not remain long at Cambridge, but in 1838 proceeded to India, and remained there, with the exception of brief visits to England on leave, until 1872. He saw a good deal of service during that time, going through the first China war, and being Assistant Quartermaster-General at Hyderabad all through the Mutiny. On the sudden death of his popular and deeply-regretted cousin, Sir Algernon Peyton, Master of the Bicester Hounds, General Peyton succeeded to the title, and left India for good in April, 1872."

It also mentions the continuance of his passion for coaching when back in the UK: "A member of both Four-in-Hand and Coaching Clubs, at the meets of which it is rare that we miss the brown-and-yellow coach and the Peyton greys, Sir Thomas has always taken an interest in the road coaches, and for three seasons, 1879, 1880, 1881, was one of the partners in "The Windsor Coach," with Colonel Greenhall and Mr. H. Bailey, driving it regularly four days a week for a great portion of the time. This year he has taken two days a week on "The Dorking."

A painting of him at the reins of his private coach with his four greys can be seen at: https://www.alamy.com/coach-and-four-horses-of-sir-thomas-peyton-london-1880s-color-lithograph-image61087071.html

Sir Thomas maintained a residence in London (47 Grosvenor Street) to which he and his wife would travel "for the season" with "the coach and four greys". He had married in India, where his children were also born (I plan to say more about his wife and children in a future article). The family appeared on the guest lists of local society events as well as hosting functions at their own home or concerts in the village school room. An example of the is former would be the "Garden and Lawn Tennis Party" in September 1883 when "About 200 ladies and gentlemen were present".

However, they also put on entertainments for their tenants and villagers. For example the Oxfordshire Telegraph of 16th October 1878 reported: "AT SWIFT'S HOUSE. STOKE LYNE, on Tuesday, October 8, the elder inhabitants and widows of Stoke Lyne, were kindly and hospitably entertained at an abundant spread by Major-General Sir Thomas Peyton and Lady Peyton. Invitations were kindly given by Miss Peyton a few days before, and at three p.m., on October 8, a conveyance might be seen traversing the village to convey those of the invited who were unable to walk, to the scene of the festivities. On arriving at Swift's House they were kindly welcomed by Lady Peyton and led to the housekeeper's room for a rest before viewing the gardens, over which they were conducted by Miss Peyton – Lady Peyton and Viscountess Valentia joining the party afterwards. On the announcement being made that tea was ready the party adjourned to the hall of the mansion, where creature comforts were purveyed by Lady Peyton, Viscountess Valentia, Miss Peyton and other ladies. Thanks having been returned by the Rev. C. D. B. Marsham another walk was proposed for the women who cared to go, and an inspection was made of the greenhouses and conservatory, while the men enjoyed a pipe and a chat. Before separating the guests were liberally regaled with cake and wine, and the healths of Sir Thomas and Lady Peyton were drunk. And after thanking Sir Thomas and Lady Peyton for their kindness, the grateful recipients departed for their homes, having spent a most enjoyable afternoon."

The greenhouses and conservatory would certainly have been worth a visit: in 1885 at the Bicester Agricultural and Horticultural Association Show "Major-General Sir Thomas Peyton, Bart., secured premier position for flowering stove or greenhouse plants with an exceedingly beautiful quarter, in which the bougainvillea glabra and the eucharis amazonica came out conspicuously for beauty of bloom."



Sir Thomas Peyton, 5th Baronet (c) National Portrait Gallery

In 1875 Sir Thomas gave the stained glass in the west window of St Peter's church "in grateful and affectionate remembrance" of his predecessor, his cousin, Sir Algernon. That was the year he persuaded the local Turnpike Trust by means of a land swap and an offer to defray the cost "to construct a new length of road, near Swift's house, in a straight line, instead of the present one".

He held shooting parties at Stoke Wood. In December 1884, for example, he and his guests "brought down 444 head of game". Sir Thomas of course employed a game keeper to protect his game against poachers in March 1880 "gave his tenants, and their friends, a day's rabbit shooting in Stoke woods" when he also "provided refreshments for the company. About 90 rabbits were killed on the occasion" and he was also reported as giving gifts of game at Christmas.

In 1884 he made land available for the villagers to rent for allotments "at 30s. per acre, inclusive of rates". He was also one of the patrons of the new Stoke Lyne football club in 1884 causing the press to comment "Stoke Lyne appears to be alive to sports and pastimes, and is the first village in which a football club has been launched in this neighbourhood."

Stoke Lyne's 1887 Jubilee celebrations (in conjunction with Fewcott, Bainton and Caversfield) took place "in

the park connected with Swift's House. As to the situation, convenience and beauty no better place could have been selected, and the kindness of Sir Thomas Peyton in this respect was, we believe, thoroughly

appreciated A handsome motto was conspicuous, bearing in black letters on a white ground "God save the Quen," and at the side were the letters "V.R." A festoon of greenery ran down the centre of the tent, and portraits of Her Majesty and numerous flags completed the adornment. It is computed that about 200 sat down to the dinner, which was given to all the working men and youths in the villages named The repast was excellent in quality, unlimited in quantity, and heartily partaken of. Some of the cooking was done at the House Later in the afternoon the women and children were regaled with an excellent tea, about 300 sitting down There were other amusements in plenty, including cricket, cocoa-nut throwing, roundabouts, a good show, and other things, and not a few availed themselves of the kind permission given to have a look over the grounds and gardens of Swift's House. There was a very pretty triumphal arch at the chief entrance to that portion of the park where the festivities were held. It was decorated with various kinds of flags and was the work of Mr. Parrott, gardener at Swift's House."

It was with leftover funds from these celebrations that Stoke Lyne's Reading Room was set up. "STOKE LYNE has now a reading room. It is open each evening, except Sunday. The plus fund in connection with the Jubilee Festivities, has, we understand, been utilised for news room purposes, and Sir Thomas Peyton, Bart., has granted the use of a cottage to be used as the village literary institute." This was in the part of the village known as "Piccadilly" and appeared as such on the 1901 census and was pulled down in 1906.

Sir Thomas was known to be in poor health for some time before he died and there were several newspaper stories in January and February 1888 expressing concern for his "enfeebled state". The following extracts come from the Bicester Herald of 24th February 1888: "We have to record the death, at the age of 70, of Major-General Sir Thomas Peyton, Bart., J. P., who expired at his country seat, Swift's House, Stoke Lyne, Bicester, on Saturday evening last, February 18. Sir Thomas had been in failing health for some time. On boxing-day he drove to the meet of the Bicester hounds, and, complaining of the cold, he took to the house, and has had to remain indoors ever since. Mr. Drinkwater, of Bicester, and occasionally Sir Henry Acland of Oxford, have been in attendance upon the hon. baronet He was a magistrate for Oxfordshire, but of late years his presence at the Bicester bench has been very rare. The deceased served the office of high sheriff in 1881, and was the patron of six livings. Sir Thomas was generally regarded as a kind and considerate landlord, but it will be with coaching that his name will be more particularly associated. A member of both the Coaching and Four-in-Hand Clubs, he for some time drove the Windsor and occasionally the Dorking Coach, and never missed, when health permitted, the meets of the latter club. At local gatherings connected with sport of various kinds – whether hunting, athletic, or cricket – Sir Thomas with his yellow coach and light greys was usually present."

The Banbury Guardian paints a vivid picture of the weather on the day of the funeral: "The day was intensely cold, and the heavy snow of the preceding days had, in some parts completely blocked up the roads, and in several places it was necessary to cut away the snow to allow the cortege to pass, and thus a great number were prevented from paying their last tribute of respect."

The following extract comes from the Bicester Herald: "The cortege was met at the gate of the churchyard by the Rev. C. D. B. Marsham, vicar, and the Rev. J. H. Moore. Mr. Marsham read the opening sentences of the burial service, and the coffin was borne into the church by ten of the men employed on the estate, viz., John Coggins, Hickman, J. Golder, W. James, T. White, Joseph James, Thomas James, B. Golder, E. Coggins and W. Jeacock. Mr. Marsham rendered the burial service in the church, with the exception of the lesson, which was read by the Rev. J. H. Moore. The family seats were draped with black. At the grave the service was resumed by the Rev. C. D. B. Marsham, who read the closing sentences in an impressive manner. The coffin was of polished oak, with brass mountings, with the inscription "Major-General Sir Thomas Peyton, 5th Baronet. Born, 9th July 1817, died 18th February, 1888." The coffin and inner shell were supplied by Mr. J. B. Layton, and the outer leaden shell was made by Mr. T. Smith, Sheep-street, Bicester. The corpse was placed in a new family vault erected by Messrs. Grimsley and Son, Bicester, by the side of the former vault containing members of the Peyton family."

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

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 1st June 6.00 pm Compline, St Mary & St Edburga, Stratton Audley Sunday 8th June 10.45 am Morning Service, St Mary & St Edburga, Stratton Audley Sunday 15th June 11 am Benefice Service at Evenley Wood Garden with Barbeque to follow Sunday 22nd June 9.15 am Holy Communion, St Mary & St Edburga, Stratton Audley

STRATTON AUDLEY VILLAGE FESTIVAL

Saturday 7th June - see full page poster on page 7.

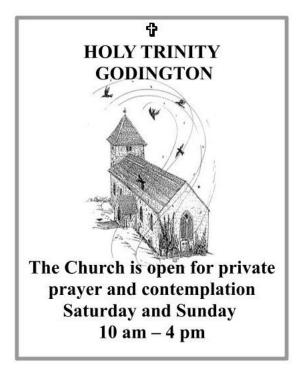
FOODBANK

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.

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The Last Word

The last ten years of life are the best, because we are freest from illusions and fullest of experience.

- Benjamin Jowett

APOLOGY

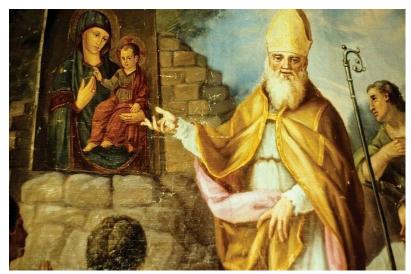
In last month's magazine, one of the images pasted from the internet contained in small print a crude word which slipped past the proof-reading but was legible in the printed magazine. This was not intentional of course - please accept my sincere apologies for offence caused.

Sylvia List

25th June - St Maximus of Turin

Maximus, the first Bishop of Turin, led a tumultuous life in fighting evil. He had seen violence and suffering when in 397 he witnessed the martyrdom of Sisinnius, Martyrius and Alexander, three missionary bishops in Italy.

The following year, 398, great trouble came to Northern Italy when it was swept by barbarian incursions. Turin soon filled up with soldiers and refugees seeking safety. Maximus challenged the wealth landowners of the city to use their 1 estates and houses to help relieve the suffering of those in need rather than



hoarding their wealth. He also told people not to seek profit from the unrest, but instead to use wealth to redeem prisoners of war.

All in all, Maximus of Turin risked his own life to act as guardian of the city. One historian has recorded that he "governed his flock wisely and successfully" during those terrible days of invasion, widespread panic and death. It is thought that Maximus consecrated St Patrick as Bishop, on Patrick's return journey from Rome to Ireland.

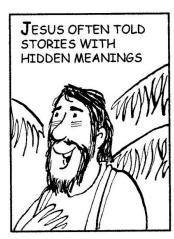
Remarkably, more than one hundred of Maximus' sermons still survive. They reveal him to have been a passionate evangelist, standing up to rural paganism, and stressing the importance of Christians knowing their faith. His writings and sermons did much to help the spread and consolidation of Christianity in Northern Italy. The sermons were translated by Boniface Ramsey and published in the "Ancient Christian Writers" series in 1989. They address themes that are just as relevant today as they were in Maximus's time. *from the Parish Pump*

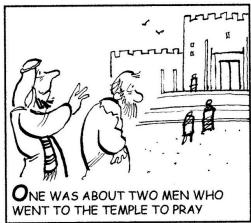
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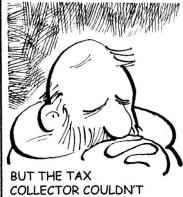
THE OTHER WAS A TAX COLLECTOR. (NOT A POPULAR MAN IN JESUS' DAY!).

















EVEN RAISE HIS HEAD

JESUS EXPLAINED -'DON'T BE PROUD WHEN YOU PRAY - INSTEAD BE HUMBLE'.

Colouring In - a Pentecost Dove





Father's Day - What we most value in our Fathers



England and Wales.

Father's Day is 15th June – a day to honour and appreciate our fathers and father figures, such as grandfathers, stepfathers and fathers-in-law. Many of us will make a special effort to see them on the day.

No two fathers are alike, of course, but various polls across the internet reve some interesting similarities of what people have most valued in their dad.

These traits include: being dependable, approachable, protective, patient, affectionate, honest, willing to listen, compassionate, and having spent time with them when they were young.

That's quite a list! People whose fathers had even some of those strengths have a lot to be thankful for.

Thankfully, our Father in Heaven certainly has all those traits. Jesus tells us that the Father is totally dependable and protective of us, longs for us to turn to Him, is full of compassion and love and we are to call Him 'Abba' - which translates to "Dad!"

from Parish Pump

sprayed my car with rust remover





Eight Crimes a Day are committed against UK Churches

On average, at least eight crimes a day have been committed against churches in the UK, over the past three years (2022 to 2024) reports the Countryside Alliance.

When the Countryside Alliance made Freedom of Information (FOI) requests to the UK's 45 territorial police forces, it found that there had been 9,148 records of theft, burglary, criminal damage, vandalism and assault from January 2022 to December 2024. This means that, on average, at least eight crimes took place at churches every single day over the three-year period.

179 lead and metal thefts were recorded, along with 3,758 other thefts and burglaries, 3,237 incidents of criminal damage, vandalism and arson, and 1,974 cases of violence. The worst-hit areas were West Yorkshire, (1,121 crimes recorded), followed by Kent (655) and Greater Manchester (642).

Mo Metcalf-Fisher, Director of External Affairs at the Countryside Alliance, said: "Horrific attacks on churches and places of worship continue to happen all across the country. Criminals treat them as easy targets, brazenly stealing from and causing criminal damage to these focal points of our communities." The Countryside Alliance calls on the Government to promote the Places of Worship Protective Security Scheme, provided free of charge by the Home Office to protect places of worship in

Assistant Chief Constable Rachel Nolan, National Police Chiefs' Council Lead for Heritage Crime said: "We are committed to tackling this issue and our heritage crime officers will continue to work with partners to reduce offending and raise awareness about the long-lasting damage heritage crime can have. (*what partners? Ed.*) We ask everyone to report anything suspicious online, via 101 or anonymously via Crimestoppers, and have some great Heritage Watch schemes across the country people can join."

He gave us eyes to see them: El Greco's 'The Tears of St Peter'



The Tears of St Peter by El Greco /Wikimedia Commons

In the 19th century John Bowes, the 10th Earl of Strathmore, built a museum in the French style, with landscaped gardens, at Barnard Castle in Teesdale. He bequeathed it 800 paintings, including a previously unknown Van Dyck.

But visitors to the Bowes Museum often make a beeline for its amazing 18th century silver swan automaton. As the music plays, there is the illusion of flowing water: the swan preens itself, bends down and catches a fish in the water. It is a thrill and a joy to watch. At the other extreme and striking a different mood and emotion is El Greco's painting of 1580: 'The Tears of St Peter.' It was reluctantly purchased in 1869 for a price less than that paid for the monkey puzzle tree in the grounds outside.

The gospels tell us that St Peter wept bitterly when he heard the cock crow, as he had denied knowing Jesus three times. El Greco shows the saint, his eyes welling with those tears of betrayal, kneeling and turning to heaven for forgiveness. The sky is overcast, reflecting the sad scene below, and we can see ivy growing as a sign of the constancy so lacking in Peter's life.

At the Last Supper he had been the opposite:

ready to follow, brave and generous with his words. But Peter leaves Jesus to drink the cup of sorrow alone in Gethsemane. In the courtyard of the high priest, warming himself by the fire, he utters that threefold denial. This was the lowest moment in his life, when instead of being solid rock, he showed that he was merely shifting sand.

And then the wonder and glory of Easter. We glimpse it in the background of the painting with the angel and Mary Magdalene at the tomb. And we know that everything changes for Peter by the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Like the silver swan in the Bowes Museum looking for fish, the disciples have returned to their old way of life.

But it is the risen Lord who directs them to a marvellous catch, and the charcoal fire of betrayal in the courtyard is now the charcoal fire of breakfast, a new day, and a new way of life for Peter. No denial now he answers the three questions of our Lord positively and realises that he is loved by Jesus in his failure and weakness. It might have seemed the end for Peter in the courtyard, but the risen Lord comes to tell him 'I make all things new' and that includes you.

Peter is often known as the stumbling saint. Here, in El Greco's painting, he has stumbled and fallen to his knees in prayer. We celebrate St Peter at the end of this month. As we look at him, we know ourselves to be as weak and fearful. But the Lord comes to us as He comes to Peter. He lifts us up and puts us back on our feet again. With Peter, we know Him as our crucified and risen Lord.

from the series "God in the Arts" by the Revd. Michael Burgess

Nays and Ayes

The new vicar had some exciting ideas for the future. At the Parish meeting she presented her vision with great energy and passion. The Chairman of the PCC then called for a vote. All 12 committee members voted "NO"; only the vicar voted "YES."

The vicar was crestfallen, but just at that moment the clouds darkened, thunder rolled, and a streak of lightning burst through the window and struck the table at which they were sitting, throwing the vicar and all the PCC members to the ground.

As they all got up and dusted themselves off the Chairman of the PCC said, "Well, that's 12 votes to two then."

Riddles (answers below)

- 1. How many months have 28 days?
- 2. What building has the most stories?
- 3. Which letter of the alphabet has the best eyesight?
- 4. What has a head and tail but no body?
- 5. What is at the end of a rainbow?
- 6. What word is spelled wrong in the dictionary?

1. All of them 2. A library 3. C 4. A coin 5. The letter 'w' 6. 'Wrong'





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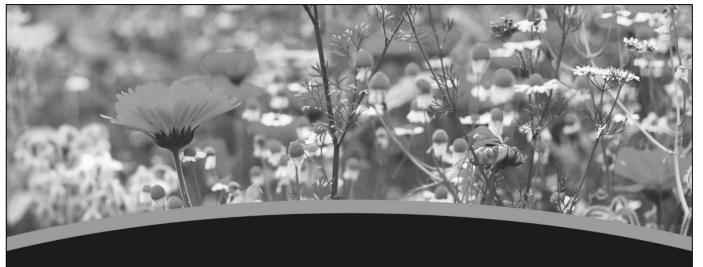
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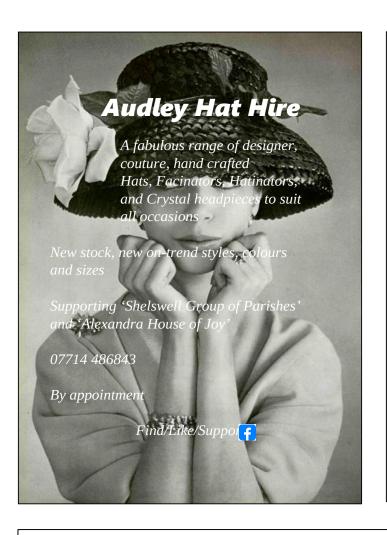




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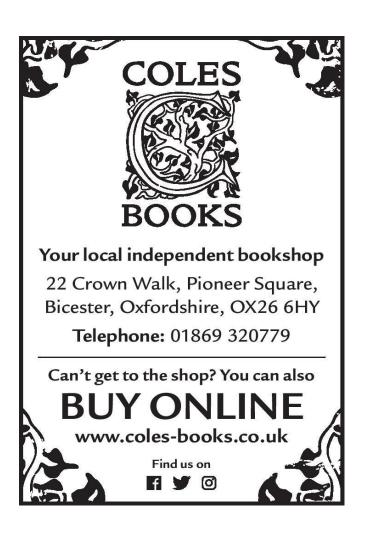
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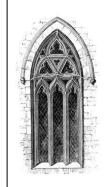
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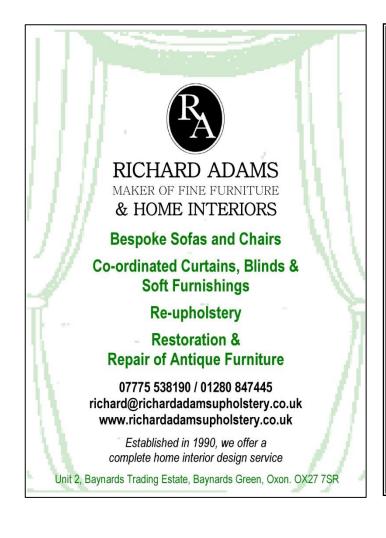


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	6.00 pm	10.45 am	9.15 am	8.00 am	ALTAR	DATE	
AG:	Compline STRATTON AUDLEY PW	'Connect' Informal Worship FINMERE VILLAGE HALL AM Morning Service FRINGFORD PW	Holy Communion with hymns (CW) HARDWICK AM Holy Communion with hymns (BCP) NEWTON PURCELL AG		White	1 st June 7 th Sunday of Easter	O., :MO
AG: Revd Alice Goodall	Thursday 5 th June (12 noon) Midweek Holy Communion and Soup Lunch STOKE LYNE						
oodall AM: Revd Alex Mahlava	Evening Communion STOKE LYNE AG	Morning Service STRATTON AUDLEY PW	Holy Communion with hymns (CW) HETHE AG Mixbury Half Hour		Red	8 th June Pentecost	SHELSWELL GRO
LW: Revd Liz Welters	11am Benefice Service at Evenley Wood Garden with Barbeque to follow AG/LW				White	15 th June Trinity	SHELSWELL GROUP SERVICES: JUNE 2025 language service BCP: 'Book of Common Prayer' traditional language service
PW: Mrs Penny Wood (LLM)	Evensong with the Shelswell Group Choir HARDWICK PW	Morning Service HETHE Lay led 10.45am Holy Communion with hymns (CW) STOKE LYNE LW	9.15am Holy Communion with hymns (CW) STRATTON AUDLEY AG/AM 9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) FINMERE AG	Green	22 nd June 1 st Sunday after Trinity	traditional language service
		Holy Communion STOKE LYNE AM/PW		Red/Green	29 th June Peter and Paul, Apostles/ 2 nd Sunday after Trinity		