## **Shelswell News**

### The magazine of the Shelswell Group of Churches

Cottisford Fringford Hardwick Mixbury Stoke Lyne



Finmere
Godington
Hethe
Newton Purcell
Stratton Audley



Remembering the Fallen – Services in the Benefice on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November, back page

On Remembrance; Letter from Rev Liz, p.3

A new Archbishop, half of Anglicans split off and the King goes to Rome – Church News p.9

Also this month; Stir Up Sunday and the beginning of Advent!

October 2025

Detail from The Field of Passchendaele 1917 by Paul Nash

#### 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:** Vacancy

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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/

#### **SHELSWELL NEWS**

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Correspondents to Editor: Midday on Sunday 16th November 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.

#### MINISTER'S LETTER

#### Remember, Remember .... November is a natural time for Remembering.

**All Saints and All Souls.** The  $1^{st}$  of the month is All Saints' Day, also known as All Hallows' Day, an opportunity for the Church to remember saints and martyrs throughout Christian history. Hallowed means holy and the night before All Saints' Day became known as All Hallows' Eve, or Halloween. November  $2^{nd}$  is All Souls' Day, a day set aside to remember those 'ordinary saints' whose faithful lives have deeply touched our own, people who let God's light shine through them and who have left us with treasured memories. The Benefice holds a service each year on the Sunday nearest to November  $2^{nd}$  to remember loved ones departed.





**Remember, Remember the Fifth of November.** When I was growing up in East Sussex, no one locally marked Halloween. The big event in November was bonfire night with the excitement of building a big bonfire, saving up pocket money to buy fireworks, fashioning a guy from old clothes, then waiting impatiently for darkness to fall on 5<sup>th</sup>. As we shared the fun and festive food with friends and neighbours we only had a hazy idea we were marking the failure of 'the gunpowder treason and plot' of 1605.

Remembrance Day. In 1919, King George V asked the nation to mark 11<sup>th</sup> November, the first anniversary of the Armistice, with a time of silence and reflection at 11am. He said: 'It is my desire and hope that at the hour when the Armistice came into force .... there may be, for the brief space of two minutes, a complete suspension of all our normal activities. The hush is not solely an act of remembrance; it is also a moment of dedication, when those who still live undertake to be worthy of those who died, & an affirmation of unusual national unity'. In 1939 the Act of Remembrance was moved to nearest Sunday so that it did not interfere with war efforts. At services across the Benefice, we continue to remember those who died in world wars and conflicts past and present, along with those who continue to suffer, and also to pray for world peace.

Memory Loss. Sadly, some people are no longer able to remember clearly, perhaps because of living with dementia or as a result of an injury. I volunteer for a few hours each week at Forget Me Not Bicester where the staff enable people with memory loss to live as fully as possible in the present, through varied activities including music and dancing, art and crafts, dominoes and board games. I often recall a helpful thing I was once told - that people may not remember what was said to them or done to them, but they will remember how it made them feel, whether happy or sad, comfortable or cross.

**Remembering in the Bible.** In the Old Testament the Israelites were repeatedly commanded to remember God's deeds and laws, for example, 'Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm.'



The Psalms often call upon people to remember God's works and character. Psalm 77:11 says, 'I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord; I will remember your wonders of old'. Remembering God's past faithfulness helps to build up faith in the present and to give assurance for the future.

New Testament writers emphasise the importance of remembering the teachings and works of Jesus. At the Last Supper Jesus shared bread and wine with his disciples saying, 'Do this in remembrance of me'. Central to Church worship is the Eucharist, or Holy Communion, which is celebrated by Christians around the world as a memorial of Jesus' death and resurrection.

November, a month of remembering, may bring sad or happy memories. Jesus told his followers, 'Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.' He is only a prayer away from us too.

A reminder to treat people with dignity at all times.



#### **BIBLE READINGS**



Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November All Saints Sunday Daniel 7 v1-3 and 15-18

Ephesians 1 v11-end

Luke 6 v20-31

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Advent/ Job 19 v23-27a

Remembrance Sunday 2 Thessalonians 2 v1-5 and 13-end

Luke 20 v27-38

Other readings may be used for Remembrance Services

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent Malachi 4 v1-2a

2 Thessalonians 3 v6-13

Luke 21 v5-19

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November Christ the King/ Jeremiah 23 v1-6

Sunday next before Advent Colossians 1 v11-20

Luke 23 v33-43

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November Advent Sunday Isaiah 2 v1-5

Romans 13 v11-end Matthew 24 v36-44

#### SERVICE TO COMMEMORATE THE DEPARTED



Each year, near to All Saints' Day, we hold a special service to commemorate all those who have died, particularly those for whom we have taken funerals in the benefice over the last couple of years. This year the service will be on:

#### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 4pm in Finmere Church

We will shortly be issuing personal invitations to all the families we have met in the course of taking funerals in the past two years, but we would like, through the magazine, to take the opportunity to invite any others who have lost loved ones, however long ago, or who would like to attend for any other reason. It is a quiet reflective service, and will include the opportunity to light a candle to remember a loved one. Many people have said that they find the service helpful, and we hope that this year's service will again prove useful.

If you would like a loved one remembered by name in the service then please let any member of Ministry Team know.

# Th

## MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION AND SOUP LUNCH

The next service will be on Thursday 6th November
12 noon

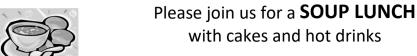


**Stoke Lyne Church** 

If you would like a lift then please contact Becky on 07928 990569 Email admin@shelswellparishes.info

#### ADVENT IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER...





on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 12.30 - 2pm at Stratton Audley Church

Donations invited towards the Incentive Scheme for Teachers at the Girls' Primary School, Wulu, South Sudan

**Everyone Welcome** 



#### SUNDAY 23rd NOVEMBER IS 'STIR UP' SUNDAY

#### **Collect for the Day:**

"Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people, that they, bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be richly rewarded: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen "

On Christ the King Sunday we pray that God will stir up our wills, so that we can better decide to do what is right rather than being distracted by impulses or feelings.

The last Sunday before Advent, informally known as Stir Up Sunday is also traditionally when Christmas cakes and puddings are made in good time to mature for Christmas day.

Every family has their own traditions - it may be each child taking a turn stirring the pudding mixture and making a wish, and at the last minute a silver coin being slipped in for one lucky member of the family to find in their portion on Christmas day. Or it may be a last minute dash to the supermarket, or a search on the internet for a baker or pudding maker that can deliver in time.

My family makes a fruitcake for Christmas on Stir Up Sunday, but our Christmas pudding is a light, spicy, fruity suet pudding that we make on Christmas day - sacrilege to those who like to mature their pudding for up to a year!

Whatever your family traditions, Stir Up Sunday, the last Sunday of the church year, is a chance to stir ourselves up and start planning for Advent and Christmas - spiritually and practically.



On Sunday 23rd November this year there are services in Hethe, Stratton Audley, Finmere, Stoke Lyne as well as the 4pm sung Evensong at Hardwick.

Stoke Lyne's first 'NovemberVest' (a twist on OktoberFest) is set for the 29<sup>th</sup> of November from 12pm in St. Peter's Church, Stoke Lyne.

You can look forward to sampling some of the home brews of our keen villagers (and some from further afield)

Come along for German-themed food, music and a range of home brews!



#### JOINT HARVEST FESTIVAL ON SUNDAY 28th OCTOBER

Around 65 people gathered in a barn at Tile House Farm, Finmere, to give thanks to God for this year's harvest. Although it was a wet start to the day, the sun shone brightly during and after the service. In her talk the Revd Celia Parkes, Agricultural Chaplain for Brackley Deanery, shared her love of sheep and reminded us that we are all God's sheep - known and loved by him. During the service symbols of the Harvest, including grains and seeds, vegetables and fruits, flowers and herbs, and bread and wine were brought forward and there were also some donations for the food bank.

The well-known harvest hymns were sung heartily, and Fr Alex led the congregation in the intercessions, especially remembering farmers and the Wulu Diocese. A collection was taken which amounted to £366.69. This will be shared equally between the Yellow Wellies, a charity which supports the mental health of farming families, and The Girls Primary School in Wulu, South Sudan.

A splendid harvest lunch followed giving people time to catch up with each other. A huge thank you to Peter and Buzzy Lepper for hosting the event this year, to those who provided a variety of tasty casseroles and mouth-watering puddings, and to all who contributed in many different ways.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise him, all creatures here below, praise him above, ye heavenly host, praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

#### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT on 21st SEPTEMBER**



We gathered around the breakfast table, to an array of different foods to choose from: a choice of croissants, cereal, toast, tea cakes, with various jams and marmalades, also tea or coffee. Once selected you made your way to the table where the service would be held. There were various leaflets to read and also puzzle sheets you could do till the service began.

Ali then started the service with prayers for UN world peace day and those in personal conflict and strife. We shared a short time of silence, respecting those who have been affected by unrest around the world at this time.

Ali had put her talk for the day on the overhead screen, this was about the apostle Matthew.

Matthew was a tax collector prior to a calling from Jesus, he was also known to be the author of the Gospel of Matthew. He was born in Capernaum, Galilee on the Feast day 21st September. He was the Patron saint of accountants; Salerno, Italy; bankers; Osorno, Chile; tax collectors; perfumers; and civil servants.

St Matthew the apostle was also the protector of engineers and butchers. He died around 68 AD in Ethiopia or Persia (Iran), cause of death uncertain: either he became a martyr for his faith or he died peacefully in his sleep. There was a discussion among us on various parts of his history.

Thank you to Flora for playing the organ for the hymns. We ended the service with the Lord's Prayer. Thank you Ali for leading the service. Thank you also to Jan and Jackie for doing the breakfast.

November's "Food for Thought" will be at 10.00 am at St Peter's Church, Stoke Lyne on Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup>.

Rena Andrews

Next **Food for Thought** 10.00 am Sunday 16th November St Peter's Church, Stoke Lyne



#### Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm

Entry £10 per person

Come in teams of up to six people – or just turn up to join in the fun!

Raffle and Hot buffet at half time – bring your own drinks.

## SARAH MULLALLY NEW ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY



Dame Sarah Mullally, the Bishop of London has been appointed as the new Archbishop of Canterbury. The role had been vacant for nearly a year following the resignation of Justin Welby.

Born in 1962, Dame Sarah qualified as a nurse in 1984 and spent twenty years working in the NHS, rising to the position of Chief Nursing Officer and Director of Patient Experience for the English National Health Service.

In 2004, she left nursing to pursue a full time career as a minister. By 2015 she had been promoted to Bishop of Crediton, and in 2017 she was appointed Bishop of London.

The first woman to hold the post of Archbishop of Canterbury, Dame Sarah is seen as a theological liberal. While she has expressed support for liberal causes like gay marriage and abortion, she has stopped short of campaigning for changes to Church of England doctrine.

In June this year, she publicly opposed decriminalising abortion up to full term, and has been particularly vocal against assisted dying, including a strong speech in the House of Lords.

Dame Sarah will take up her appointment in March 2026.

#### SOUTHERN DISCOMFORT; GAFCON SPLITS OFF

The Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON) announced on 16th October that it no longer recognises the authority of the Archbishop of Canterbury or of the Church of England.

GAFCON is a communion of Anglican churches largely based in the Global South and representing just over half of all Anglicans. Founded in 2008, it has reflected for seventeen years the widening division between western liberalism and more traditional churches in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The movement has now been re-named The Global Anglican Communion. Its leader, the Rwandan Archbishop Laurent Mbanda stated, "We have not left the Anglican Communion; we are the Anglican Communion."

GAFCON's declaration can be read on its website at gafcon.org under the heading "The Future Has Arrived."

## HOME FROM HOME IN ROME FOR KING CHARLES

At the time of writing, the King and Queen are about to embark on a state visit to the Vatican with the joint themes of Christian unity and care for the planet.

Charles, the Head of the Church of England, will attend a service taken by Pope Leo and the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, in the Sistine Chapel. The King will be honoured by the Vatican at a ceremony at the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls, which maintains historical ties with the British Crown. Charles will be named "Royal Confrater of Saint Paul."

According to Vatican News, "A specially designed chair bearing King Charles's coat of arms and the Latin inscription *Ut unum sint* ("That they may be one" – John 17:21) will be used during the ceremony. The chair will remain in the Basilica's apse and will be available for use by the King and his successors on future visits. "

#### from Launton Village Players

#### AFFORDABLE, LOCAL, LIVE THEATRE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY? OH YES IT IS!

Launton Village Players are proud to announce their 2026 panto: "Treasure Island", written by Rod and Nikki Fine, directed by Julia West, with music by Steve Webber. Please see advert below for details of the performances during February half term.

Tickets go on sale 1st November 2025 from <a href="www.ticketsource.co.uk/lvp">www.ticketsource.co.uk/lvp</a>. Tickets cost £7-£14 but family discounts are available for all shows. Book before 30<sup>th</sup> November and use the code EARLYBIRD to get a 10% discount!

This is a family show, suitable for all ages and includes all the traditional pantomime elements, with plenty of magic, comedy and audience participation. Will the wicked Captain Hook get his hands on the long lost treasure? Our heroes will need your help to make sure good triumphs over evil!

All profits will be donated to Dementia Oxfordshire and Dementia Active, two charities who provide activities, support and opportunities for those diagnosed with dementia, and their families and carers in the local area.



#### REGISTRY

#### **Marriages**

#### **Charles Richard TREDWELL and Mary Anna AYRES**

All Saints, Mixbury Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025

The church was looking beautiful, all clean and polished for the occasion. The bride's mother Rebecca had done her bit with arranging the flowers, which looked lovely, and most of the guests had taken their seats. Outside, folk from the village had gathered across the road - the forecast was for showers, but as we were waiting for the bride to arrive, there was blue sky and fluffy white clouds. The bride and her father had been driven from Northwell Farm in an open topped car, probably grateful that the journey had not been too far, given the slight nip in the breeze.

Charlie and Mary have known each other for about 7 years – they met through mutual friends and those first meetings went well – so well, in fact, that when Charlie went off just 8 weeks later to spend six months travelling around New Zealand and Australia, Mary arranged to go out and join him for a month, and they went off exploring in a tiny camper van. They got engaged last November, when they had both returned to New Zealand for a cousin's wedding.



Mary is a talented artist – her picture of Mixbury Church was on the front of the orders of service.



For the last two years, the couple have been living in Bicester in a house which they have renovated with the help of Mary's dad Martin and are now enjoying sorting out the garden with Mary's mum's help. But although they are living in Bicester, Mary has a long attachment to Mixbury church. She grew up visiting her grandparents who lived in the village, her parents Rebecca and Martin were married in All Saints Church, and she and her sisters were christened there. Charlie's parents live in Westbury, and both he and his dad have played for the Westbury Cricket Team.

Once the bridal party was all assembled, Mary entered the church on her father's arm to Pachelbel's Canon in D Major, played by Corinne Handsley on the organ. She was followed by her six bridesmaids.

Mary and Charlie had chosen three hymns: 'Lord of all hopefulness', 'Seek ye first the kingdom of God', and 'Jerusalem'. There were two readings: 1 Corinthians 13 which was read by Mary's sister Ellen and the Wedding Poem by Whitney Hanson which was read by Charlie's sister Sophie. During the signing of the marriage document, which was witnessed by the best man Charlie Gulliver and the maid of honour Lito Michaelidou, the congregation listened to John Rutter's 'The Lord Bless You and Keep You' based on Numbers 6: 24 – 26. After the final blessing, Charlie and Mary processed out of the church to Handel's The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba,

followed by a rendition of the Beetles 'All you need is love' played on the organ. The bells were rung, confetti was thrown and lots of photos were taken, and then the wedding party departed for Northwell Farm where celebrations continued. Our prayers are with Charlie and Mary as they embark on married life – may their marriage be life long, life enhancing, and a blessing to them and all who know them.

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

#### **Jack TAYLOR and Anastasia BROWN**

St Mary and St Edburga, Stratton Audley Saturday 30th August 2025

On Saturday 30th August the wedding took place of Jack Taylor and Anastasia Brown, daughter of Hugo and Emma Brown of Stoke Lyne.

The couple were married by the bridegroom's uncle, the Revd. William Taylor and Father Alex led the prayers. We wish Anastasia and Jack a long and happy married life together.



#### **Baptism**

#### Freddie George Wilbur WAKEFIELD

St Peter's, Stoke Lyne Saturday 11th October 2025



On Saturday 11th October, Freddie Wakefield was baptised by Fr Alex at St Peter's Church, Stoke Lyne. Freddie is the son of Camilla and Henry Wakefield and the grandson of Hugo and Emma Brown of Stoke Lyne.

Jesus was himself baptised by John the Baptist at River Jordan and commanded his diciples to baptise with water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Water is a sign of life and cleansing and baptism is the sacrament of initiation into the Christian family. The pouring of water is an outward sign of inward grace.

As Freddie received baptism we pray he grows in spirit and stature and under the protection of the Lord.



#### **Club News**







At our October meeting we welcomed Dave Gilbert a volunteer who speaks on behalf of the Thames Valley Air Ambulance. It was a very informative evening, and Dave explained a lot of interesting facts and figures many of which we were not aware of.

We also enjoyed our monthly walk organised by Lesley around Weston on the Green and are looking forward to October's walk on 29th around Wendlebury.

In November we will be having an evening with Jackie's Mobile Boutique, Jackie will be advising us on how to pack a Capsule Wardrobe.

In December we are off for our festive meal. We return in January 2026 a week later than usual on Thursday 8 January. Our wonderful programme organiser Jane has completed next year's itinerary which will be shared shortly.

Our members enjoy a varied programme but altogether at our Shelswell meeting but also with other local groups, as part of the Oxfordshire Federation and also nationally. If you would like to come and and see what we do everyone is always welcome.

We meet on the first Thursday of the month 7.30pm in Fringford Village Hall, a warm welcome awaits.

If you would like more information contact Sandra Bickmore at sandrambickmore@gmail.com.

#### 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

Next Book Club Meetings:

- Wednesday 19th November. 7.30 pm at The Stone Barn, Cottisford Next Book Birnam Wood Eleanor Catton
- Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January, 7.30 pm at 1/2 Hethe Cottages, Cottisford

The Boy with the Top Knot by Sathnam Sangheera provided great discussion points. Despite a couple of us who had not yet finished the book, we agreed it was a fascinating insight into the Sikh culture as well as Schizophrenia, and also a coming of age book. It proved both touching, at times heartbreaking, and yet able to see the funny side of life. It had some of us laughing out loud at times, and resonated greatly with those of us growing up in the 80's. The reconciling of the author's life in London with the Sikh culture and traditional values held by his parents and family in Wolverhampton provided a great discussion about conflicts – of culture, women's role in society and the pull of family. The uncovering of family secrets and

the discovery of family history gave us all great insights into the Sikh culture. The book highlights why we shouldn't lie in our families and how devastating it can be. His point is that in generation after generation there was something amiss in his father's family and if each succeeding generation had not lied to one another then maybe he, the father, would have got treatment and his mother would not have suffered the violent attacks she suffered.

Other books discussed:

- A Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet, by David Mitchell (brilliant--long, historical about the Dutch traders in 1699/1700 trying to open up Japan to the West)
- Butter, by Asako Yuzuk
- An Artist of the Floating World, by Kazuo Ishiguro (beautifully written about Japan and its build-up
  of militarism before and after WWII told from an artist's point of view)
- Orbital, by Samantha Harvey (can see why this won the Booker--fascinating story about how the International Space Station astronauts view the Earth)
- The Golden Hour, by Kate Lord Brown (set in Egypt and Beirut--two women's friendship--trying to find Nefertiti's tomb in 1939)--published this year, so not sure if in paperback yet.
- Whale Fall, by Elizabeth O'Connor (lovely book about a woman on a remote island off coast of Wales, 1938. Mainlanders arrive and disrupt her life.
- The Nightingale, by Kristin Hannah (much better than The Women--French sisters during WWII doing their bit for the Resistance)
- Intermezzo, by Sally Rooney
- The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny Kiran Desai's new book
- The Luminaries Eleanor Catton -
- The Rehearsal Eleanor Catton, a short novel about the ripple effects of a teacher who embarked on an affair with a young student
- The City and its Uncertain Walls Haruki Murakami
- Iron Curtain a love story, by Vesna Goldsworthy
- The Finest Hotel in Kabul Lyse Doucet

#### SHELSWELL POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP

Our October meeting focused on poems about paintings - the technical term for that being *ekphrastic* poetry. (Who knew? Not I!)

The first one we discussed was *The Disquieting Muses by Sylvia Plath (1932-63)* She describes how the figures in the paintings of Georgio De Chirico haunted her dreams like some evil godmother figures and implies that they were responsible for her fragile mental state. *Jason Reynolds (extant)* in *Charwoman Interrupted Again* addresses the plight of a black charwoman he saw in a photo from the 1930s and makes it clear that the portrait of her tells the viewer a lot about her place in society.

Musee des Beaux Arts by W H Auden (1907-73) and Landscape with Fall of Icarus by William Carlos Williams (1883-1963) both focus on the painting by Breughel, and the latter poet does the same for another of Breughel's paintings in Hunters in the Snow.

Anne Sexton (1928-74) in The Starry Night muses on the phantasmagoric power of Vincent Van Gogh's well-known work, while in Cezanne's Ports, Allen Ginsberg (1926-97) imagines what lies beyond the borders of Cezanne's paintings of the Mediterranean. For Elizabeth Jennings (1926-2001) in Rembrandt's Late Self- Portraits, those works show his weary self-knowledge.

The poem *My Last Duchess by Robert Browning (1812-89)* shows the poet imagining the dark story behind the portrait of a beautiful woman, and *Mourning Picture by Adrienne Rich (1929-2012)* speaks in the voice of a dead girl captured in a family portrait.

The artist's model's point of view is expressed in 3 poems – Standing Female Nude by Carol Anne Duffy (b 1955), Not My Best Side by U A Fanthorpe (1929-2009) and Toxic Beauty by Favour Ono (extant). The motivation behind his art is cynically expressed by the artist attached to a religious community in Fra Lippo Lippi by Robert Browning (1812-89) and in Stealing the Scream by Monica Youn (extant) we move beyond cynicism to the theft of an artwork.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday November 11<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 and the theme will be The Spoken Word. If you would like to join us, please contact me on 01869 811994 or at <a href="mailto:judith.harvey@live.co.uk">judith.harvey@live.co.uk</a>

Judith Harvey



#### REPORTS FROM THE PARISHES

## Cottisford and Juniper Hill St Mary the Virgin

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PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Flora Skinner Tel: 01869 277366

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

#### SERVICES

Sunday 2nd November 9.15 am Holy Communion (CW) Sunday 9th November 10.50 am Remembrance Service Sunday 16th November 10.45 am Holy Communion (BCP)

#### COTTISFORD AND JUNIPER HILL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Thank you everyone who came to the fundraising evening in September. An enjoyable evening was had by all and more than £300 was raised for the church. Our thanks go to everyone who made it such an enjoyable event.

Our next will be on Saturday 1 November. Our annual bonfire will be held on the recreation field from 5.30 to 7.30pm. Pop along to enjoy the bonfire, soup, sausages, sparklers and glow sticks.

On Tuesday 9 December we will be holding a festive coffee morning at Manor Grange Cottisford from 10.30-12.30.

Our annual Carol Service will be taking place on Sunday 21 December at 4.30pm.

We also have two dates already for 2026!!!

- Snowdrop Sunday 8 February
- Open Gardens Sunday 14 June

As always if you would like to help at any of the above events please contact a member of the Social Committee.

#### **Finmere**

#### St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: Barbara Cunningham, 'Woodlea' Finmere

TREASURER: Peter Goss, 6 Stable Close Finmere

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

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

#### **CHURCH SERVICES**

Sunday 2nd November 4 pm Commemoration of the Departed

Sunday 9th November 9.15 am Remembrance Service

Sunday 16th November 9.15 am Holy Communion

Sunday 23rd November 9.15 am Morning Service

Sunday 30th November 10.45 am Readings, Hymns and Reflections for Advent with Shelswell Group Choir

#### **VILLAGE HALL**



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



Tel: 01280 847992

Tel: 07941 322 840

Tel: 01280 848364

Tel 01280 848268

#### **ALLOTMENTS**

A reminder to all allotment holders that annual fees are now due. We have a few plots available and this is a good time to dig over to allow the winter frosts to break up the soil in preparation for next year's planting.



Also time to get next year's garlic bulbs into the ground, since they quite like a little bit of cold weather.

Interested, visit <a href="https://www.myfinmere.com/poorsplot">www.myfinmere.com/poorsplot</a> 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 – <u>www.shelswellparishes.info/finmere</u>

Finmere Parish Council website at – www.finmerepc.org

Village hall news at – www.myfinmere.com

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

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

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

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



Please come along to support Finmere's

## "Tuesday Teas"

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

### Tuesday 11th November from 2 - 4 pm

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

If you need transport, please contact Jo (07974 740312) or Katherine (07770 804025)

If anyone would like to help with "Tuesday Teas", we need help serving refreshments, setting out tables, providing lifts and BAKING CAKES! Your baking costs can be reimbursed. No need to volunteer every month; just help when you can...





### Fringford

#### St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: Max Todd 5, The Manor, Fringford Tel 07936 760684

TREASURER: Christina McCullagh, 5 Crosslands, Fringford Tel 07867 515207

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Penny Wood ,as below

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Penny Wood, 8 Crosslands, Fringford Tel 01869 277310

VILLAGE HALL CORRESPONDENT: Christine Underwood Tel 01869 278949

WEBSITE www.fringford.info

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

#### **SERVICES**

- Sunday 2 November at 10.45am Morning Service
- Sunday 2 November at 4.00pm **in Finmere Church** service for the Commemoration of the departed
- Sunday 9 November at 10.45am Remembrance Service
- Sunday 16 November at 10.45am Holy Communion (CW)
- Sunday 23rd November at 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
- Sunday 30 November Advent Sunday at 10.45 in Finmere Church Readings Music and Reflections for Advent.

Sunday 30 November – Advent Sunday - 6.00pm - in Fringford Church – Holy Communion

If you would like the name of a loved one remembered at the service for the Commemoration of the departed, please write their name on the list which is on the table just inside the door in Fringford Church.

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

#### **EVENTS**

#### Looking Ahead ......

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

The 2026 Fringford Beer Festival in aid of Fringford Church Restoration Fund will be held on Saturday 13 June.

#### **Greetings Cards**

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

#### Fringford Church 100 Club

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

#### **Little Lambs Babies & Toddler Group**

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

#### FRINGFORD VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

Village Coffee Mornings usually take place on the third Monday of each month. In November we will meet on Monday 17<sup>th</sup>. 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.



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:

November Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>

No need to book – just come and join us!

If you would like information, please email Irene <a href="mailto:ireneethomas@btinternet.com">ireneethomas@btinternet.com</a>



**☆** Ticket Details: **☆**Doors Open at 19:30 / Last Spin on the Dance Floor 00:30 1 January 2026!

Theme - Black Gold

Book now: Helenrobins5@gmail.com; mamcs100@gmail.com

#### **REGULAR ACTIVITIES HELD IN FRINGFORD VILLAGE HALL**

Weekly Activities Monthly Activities				
FS Dance	Village Coffee Morning			
Monday & Wednesday (term time) After school classes BALLET • TAP • MODERN • STREET leah.fsd@gmail.com or 07885827592	All ages welcome Third Monday in the month - Chinnery Room Drop in anytime between 10.30 am and noon Penny Wood 01869 277310			
Parish Council Meeting	Just Puppies  Puppy Training  Tuesday evening, Sunday afternoon – various classes  Contact Kerri 07720 891489  www.justpuppies.training			
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	Shelswell WI  First Thursday of the month 7.30pm (Not December or August) Contact Sandra Bickmore 07961 828571  Fringford Sewcial Sew and Chat!  Monthly Wednesday from 7pm Or Sunday from 3pm Contact Irene at ireneethomas@btinternet.com			
Pilates  Thursday at 10.00am  natashaflowerspilates@gmail.com  or 07545 525820				
Mindfulness Meditation	Village Hall Team Meeting			
Monthly Sunday 11am to 12.30pm janerainey17@gmail.com or 07971 008337	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 www.fringford.info/village hall, how to book Here you will find all the information you will need to book on-line.

For any other queries please phone or text 07936 879175

or email: fringford.hall@gmail.com

## Hardwick St Mary the Virgin

CHURCHWARDEN: David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick TREASURER: David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Flora Skinner

 ${\sf MAGAZINE\ CORRESPONDENT:\ Veronica\ Barnes,\ Honeysuckle\ Cottage,\ 11\ Hardwick}$ 

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

Tel 01869 277690 Tel: 01869 277366 Tel 01869 277690

Tel 01869 277690

## PLEASE NOTE CHANGES TO TIMINGS RELATED TO HARDWICK CHURCH FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2025

Evensong at Hardwick (Sunday 23rd November this month) will now start at 4 pm.

#### Hardwick Church will be open on Saturdays and Sundays from 10am to 4pm

Private prayer and quiet contemplation

View the architecture, memorials and stained-glass windows

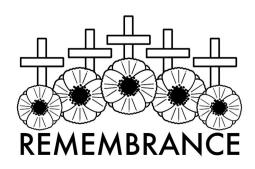
Please make use of this special space

#### **Pilgrim Pathways**

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

#### **Hardwick Church guidebook**

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



## Hethe St Edmund and St George

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

WEBSITE: www.hethe.org

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

#### ST EDMUND & ST GEORGE CHURCH



#### **Church Services and Events**

At the time of preparing this news, repairs to the church had started and were expected to be completed in November. The church will therefore remain closed, and no services will be held in the building until December.

**The Remembrance Service.** This year there will be a streetside service by the war memorial at 10.45am followed by the Act of Remembrance and wreath laying at 11am.

Remember that you will always be welcome at services in any of the other churches in the benefice, or if you are away from the village, you can find a nearby service through the web site https://www.achurchnearyou.com.

Ride & Stride. Many thanks to Anne Mansfield, Helen Pritchard and

June Nisbet for greeting Ride & Striders to our church on 13<sup>th</sup> September.

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



Tel 01869 278166

Many thanks to our members
Hethe PCC

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize No Nicky Burford 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize No Bill Mansfield

#### **Parish Giving**



We now have a supply of the new Parish Giving Scheme Gift Forms. They are currently with Mike and will be placed in the church when it reopens, but the quickest method to set up giving is still through the link below or by scanning the QR code:

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

"It is a Win Win proposition which helps our Treasurer and church as a whole and is easy and straightforward to operate"



Christmas Cards featuring the church. Hopefully you will have let Dean Overton know the number of cards you would like this year. If not, there will be some available to purchase at the Farm Shop or in the church.

This month we remember the death of St Edmund on 20<sup>th</sup> November 869.

Our church is dedicated to St Edmund and St George, the original and current patron saints of England. St Edmund (also known as Edmund the Martyr or Edmund of East Anglia) was the Anglo-Saxon King of East Anglia from about 855 until his death at the hands of the invading Vikings. By tradition he met his death after he refused the invaders demand that he renounce Christ.

St Edmund is the patron of Kings, pandemics, the Roman Catholic diocese of East Anglia, Douai Abbey, wolves, torture victims, and protection from the plague.



The photo is taken of the front of the "Chapel of St Edmund, King and Martyr" in Exeter Cathedral.



Next PCC meeting, Wednesday 21st January.

#### **HETHE COMMUNITY ACTIVITY**

## Hethe Community Coffee Morning in the Village Hall

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November from 10.00am to 12.00pm

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

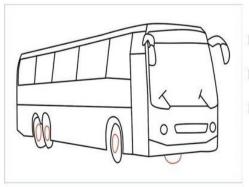




#### Hethe and District Darby & Joan Club

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



November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting Hethe Village Hall 2pm

Nov 25th Coach Moreton in Marsh & Broadway

December 2<sup>nd</sup> Christmas Party - members only

Membership £15 p.a.

New members welcome.

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

**Pop-up Pub.** Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November in the Village Hall, from 7.00 to 10.00pm. Everyone welcome. Bring your own drinks of choice, snacks and games!

#### **Local Bus Service**



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

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

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

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

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

Facebook Pages:

Community Spirit of the Hethens

**Hethe Community** 

**Hethe Allotments** 

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



#### 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

CORRESPNDENT: 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: <a href="mailto:pasgoodman551@gmail.com">pasgoodman551@gmail.com</a> or telephone: 01280 848002.

#### **CHURCH SERVICES**

Sunday 9th November 10.50 am Remembrance Service

#### **MIXBURY CHURCH FLOWER ROTA 2025**

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.

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. –4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November 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.....!

#### **BOOK EXCHANGE**

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



#### POPPIES FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Thanks to the amazing work of our poppy producers, we have a surplus now this year's requirements for our display is complete. Poppy Brooches are now available (free) and can be found in the Church, any donations will be given to the Royal British Legion.

#### SOUP KITCHEN 12<sup>™</sup> October 2025

Our Harvest Service was held on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2025 and this was followed by soup and bread served in the bus shelter. Anna, Fi and Rebecca presided over a choice of delicious hot soup and home made bread very fitting for a rather chilly lunchtime. It was a very sociable hour and thanks are due to the organisers and everyone who contributed. Fi's flowers made a wonderful splash of colour on a grey day. There was a collection for The Farming Community Network – who provide pastoral and practical support for the farming community. Thank you all.

#### OXFORD HALF MARATHON Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Well done to Matt Wethey (right) and Stephen Goodman (left) for taking part and completing the Oxford Half Marathon – a slightly chilly day but they both finished with good times.





## MIXBURY PARISH MEETING 16<sup>TH</sup> October 2025

The above meeting was held in the Church at 7pm, with a good attendance from the village. The Minutes of the last meeting had been distributed, by email previously. An HS2 update was given by Alec Howard and Traffic Calming was also discussed. Everyone is welcome at these meetings so please come along.

## MIXBURY BONFIRE 2<sup>ND</sup> November 2025

One of our great village traditions, the Mixbury Bonfire Night, will be held on Sunday 2nd of November in Castle Field.

If you are planning an autumn garden tidy-up, the gates to the field will be unlocked on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th of October, and again on Saturday 1st of November. Please leave any burnable waste in the designated/fenced area on East side of the field.

The timings on the day will be:

10.00am - build the bonfire (volunteers are always very welcome!)

5.00pm - gates open, and a lovely selection of food and drink will be available (card and cash)

5.30pm - light the bonfire

6.00pm - fireworks display (please make sure all your pets are inside and are safe and sound on the night)

The display is funded through donations, so please look out for a donation envelope coming through your letterbox. We will be doing a collection in the village on Tuesday 14th October, between 5.30 and 6.30pm. If we miss you on the night, please feel free to drop off any donations to Fuchsia Cottage (roughly opposite the postbox). Alternatively, you can donate via PayPal by following this

link: <a href="https://www.paypal.com/pool/9iUKj0JE8F?sr=ue">https://www.paypal.com/pool/9iUKj0JE8F?sr=ue</a>

#### Mixbury bonfire, Continued

If you would like to get involved, we would be very grateful for some additional help:-) We are looking for volunteers to help with the food and bar, a couple of stewards to keep everyone safely behind the fence, and a team to help clear the field of any debris the day after the display. Please drop me an email at jaberrie@gmail.com if you are keen to help.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on the 2nd November! Thanks Job Berrie

#### SAVE THE DATES!



Mixbury Christmas Bazaar Wednesday 19th November 2025 6pm-9pm (advert page 5)

**Mixbury Carols and Nativity** Sunday 21st December 2025 4pm - all welcome

### **Newton Purcell** St Michael and All Angels

Ann von Maltzahn, Home Farm Shelswell Park **CHURCHWARDENS:** 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

#### **SFRVICES**

Please note there will be NO service on Sunday 2nd November Sunday 9th November - Remembrance Service - 9.15 a.m.

#### HARVEST FESTIVAL AND LUNCH

Once again our church looked lovely with all the flowers and produce so kindly given for decoration. It was wonderful to welcome so many who came to join this service of thanksgiving and our thanks go to Penny Wood for conducting the service so thoughtfully.

The collection will this year be sent to the Farming Community Network which gives vital support to farmers in these difficult and uncertain times.

Following the service we retired to The Old School for a feast of a lunch! A BIG thank you to all who provided the delicious food and helped to organise the event once again.

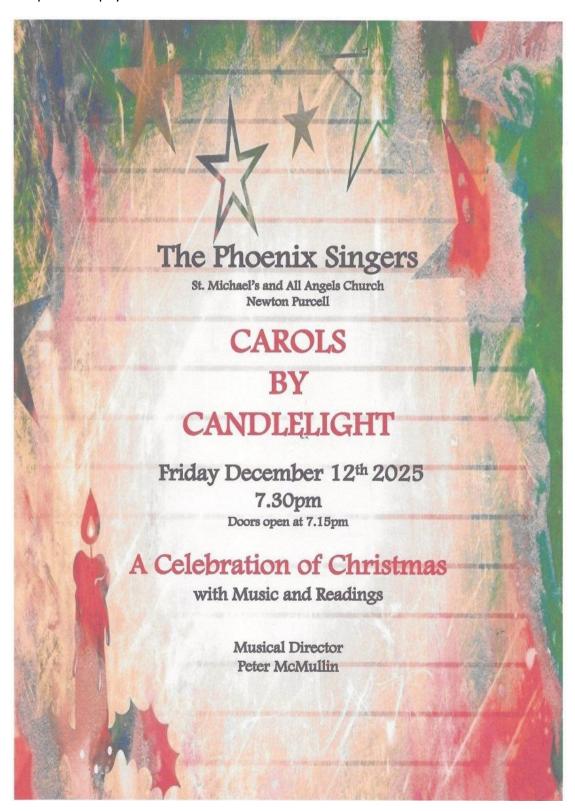
#### **BONUS BALL LOTTO**

Recent lucky winner have been Fleur Harris, Louis von Maltzahn and Jen Beaumont. Thank you to all of you who have renewed your subscriptions.

#### **CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**

By popular request The Phoenix Singers have kindly agreed to entertain us once more on Friday 12th December. There will be the usual festive refreshments and a Secret Santa. If you are able to provide gift wrapped gifts for Santa please let us know.

This is always hugely well attended so reserve your seat in good time to avoid disappointment! Tickets remain at £10 per head payable on the door.



TREASURER:

#### **Stoke Lyne** St Peter's

CHURCHWARDEN: Christopher Poole CTP@oxford-educational.co.uk

James Holden-White

kholdenwhite@aol.com

Tel 01869 346020

Tel 07810 120457 Janey Poole janey@oxford-educational.co.uk

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Emma Brown emmabrown911@gmail.com

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Rena Andrews renaandrews820@gmail.com Tel: 01869 346653 PARISH ROOM BOOKINGS: Kelly and James Holden-White kholdenwhite@aol.com Tel 01869 345211

#### ST PETER'S CHURCH STOKE LYNE SERVICES

Sunday 9th November 10.45 am Remembrance Service Sunday 16th November 10.00 am Food for Thought Service Sunday 23rd November 10.45 am Holy Communion

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning We will remember them."



## St Peter's Church Stoke Lyne

## SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2025

10.45am

#### FLOWER DUTY FOR NOVEMBER

#### Rena Andrews

#### STOKE LYNE 100 CLUB - OCTOBER RESULTS

1 <sup>st</sup>	Prize	Membership No 4	Pam Adams
$2^{\text{nd}}$	Prize	Membership No 6	Faye Billingham
$3^{\text{rd}}$	Prize	Membership No 58	Harriet Wye

Congratulations to the winners. Please join our 100 club so we can increase the prize money to you all. £3.00 per membership per month. Contact <a href="mailto:janey@oxford-educational.co.uk">janey@oxford-educational.co.uk</a> Many thanks for all your support.

Janey Poole

Treasurer, St Peter's Church PCC

#### **OPEN MIC NIGHT - SATURDAY 15th NOVEMBER**

After the success of August's Open Mic Night, another is planned for Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November. From 7pm, please come along to St Peter's Church, Stoke Lyne, for live music. You can come along and sing/perform or spectate and there will be a bar with food and drink too.

Contact Ped on 07926 590035 if you are interested in performing on the night.

#### NOVEMBERVEST! STOKE LYNE - SATURDAY 29th NOVEMBER



Stoke Lyne's first homebrew event 'Novembervest' is at the planning stage.

You can look forward to sampling some of the home brews of our keen villagers (and some from further afield)

Date: Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November from 12pm

The venue: St Peter's Church, Stoke Lyne.

Come along for some German-themed beer and food!

#### AUTUMN CRAFT FAIR - SATURDAY 27th SEPTEMBER

The church looked lovely when you entered, with small tables dressed with Macmillan tablecloths and flowers. The refreshment table was overloaded with delicious cakes of all description, suitable for all allergies, as well as mini sausage rolls. The ladies were kept very busy at the refreshment table, selling cakes, and different drinks. There were a variety of stalls from local artisans, ranging from handmade soaps, gonks (made by a local from Stoke Lyne), cushions galore, knitted toys, fudge (made by a young entrepreneur), with many other stalls. There was a raffle with lots of lovely prizes, and also a tombola with lots of prizes to win. Both went down well with the customers. The number of people attending were

fewer in numbers than normal, but all enjoyed the day.

Thank you to all who donated cakes and drinks and other items of food for the refreshment table, prizes for the raffle and tombola.

The money raised was £300. This was shared equally between the Macmillan cancer charity and the upkeep of the church. They each received £150. A big thank you to all who helped in any way to set up tables, man the stalls and put away at the end.

Rena Andrews

#### A LOOK AT STOKE LYNE'S "MEMORIAL HALL"



Photo of the Memorial Hall (building on left) from Pauline Bishop's archive (descendant of Stoke Lyne's Beasley family) via David Woodhead who dates the photo to c. 1930

As November is the month for Remembrance Day I thought it fitting to take a look at Stoke Lyne's Memorial Hall. Information on the hall is hard to come by because the local Bicester newspapers which would have reported on its construction and eventual demise are not yet available on the British Newspaper Archive/FindMyPast websites. The Memorial Hall was situated where St Peter's Close now is. In the above image beyond the Memorial Hall is the school and beyond that Forge Cottage and to its right outbuildings belonging to the Forge with the church tower on the right. The image is perhaps a bit misleading as it makes it look like the hall is almost attached to the school but it was actually quite close to where 1 St Peter's Close now is. See the zoomable aerial view from 29<sup>th</sup> June 1961 showing the location of the Memorial Hall in relation to the school (after its 1960-61 rebuild and extension) on Oxfordshire County Council's "Heritage Search" website at

https://heritagesearch.oxfordshire.gov.uk/images/POX0451708.

The first mention I've found for the hall is in a report in the Oxfordshire Weekly News of 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1925 about the opening of Bletchington Village Hall by the Dowager Lady Peyton at which she "told of the remarkable success of the village hall which she had built at Stoke Lyne." The question next arises, for whom was it a memorial? It seems most likely that it was in memory of all those from Stoke Lyne killed in WW1 as many communities across the country created memorial halls for the benefit of the local populace which would honour those who had lost their lives. However, it is also conceivable that it may have been in memory of the Dowager Lady Peyton's husband who died as a result of surgery in 1916 or that she just had her son in mind, namely Henry SC Peyton who was killed in France in 1918.

A search on the "Heritage Search" website revealed that the Oxfordshire History Centre held the minute book of the Stoke Lyne Memorial Hall Committee 1919-1967 which implies that those were the years the Hall was in operation. Not being in a position to visit in person I requested scans of the first and last set of minutes in the book in the hope that they would reveal more.

The first page of the book in which handwritten minutes were made is dated 29/04/19 and set out the proposed rules of the "Club". The President was the Dowager Lady Peyton and Permanent Chairman Sir A. Peyton, Bart. There were 12 rules starting with the makeup of the Committee "The Committee of Management shall consist of Chairman, Hon. Secretary and 12 other members, of whom 4 shall be woman". Five to form a quorum". Other rules included that the club was to be for the use of those over 14 and those who wish to join were to subscribe 1d a week, to be paid half-yearly in advance if living in the village and 3d a week if from elsewhere. The club opening times would be from 1.30 to 9 pm daily including Sundays. The Committee had the power to let or lend the hall for entertainments, lectures etc when an admission charge would be payable. There would be an annual meeting of subscribers at which Committee members for the following year.

The next entry states that the rules were confirmed at a meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> February [in I assume 1920] attended by R. Adams, Lady Peyton, Rev. G. A. Littledale, Mrs Littledale, E. Hillesden, H. Curtis (spelled as "Curtice") and A. Damant. [Lady Peyton, H. Curtis and A. Damant had all lost sons in WW1]. All the names listed accepted the invitation to join the committee until January 1921. In addition the following were then elected to the committee: L. Hickman, H. Beasley, A. Taylor, Miss Cole. E. Hillesdon was appointed Hon. Sec and was instructed to hire "a woman caretaker at a salary of not more than £10 yearly" and to nominate two persons as stewards to assist him in his duties, to be approved by the Committee. Sir Algernon signed his name at the bottom and wrote the date 14/02/20.

So who were these first Committee members? The Dowager Lady Peyton was Ida, the widow of the 6<sup>th</sup> Baronet, Sir Algernon Francis; Sir Algernon was their son Sir Algernon Thomas, the 7<sup>th</sup> Baronet; Rupert Adams farmed at Lower Farm; Allan Damant was "farm bailiff" for the Peytons at Swift's House; Harry Curtis farmed at Church Farm; Godfrey Armytage Littledale was vicar of Stoke Lyne between 1915 and 1928; Edward Hillsdon was the son of the village blacksmith and later married Mary Cole who was headmistress at Stoke Lyne School; Harry Beasley worked for Rupert Adams; Albert Taylor was the son-in-law of the publican at the Peyton Arms and Lewis Hickman was a farm labourer working for Sir Algernon and at one time was secretary to the Stoke Lyne Friendly Society.

To what use was the Memorial Hall put? We know from the Stoke Lyne "war book" held by Brian Curtis that the Memorial Hall was where the Home Guard met during WW2. Occasionally the Hall is mentioned in the Banbury Guardian. For example in 1952 the Ardley and Fewcott WI held their New Year party in the Hall. In 1961 the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food gave a "cordial invitation" "to all farmers, farm workers and others interested" to attend a programme of films and slides, followed by questions and discussion on "Farm Safety" "Accidents can be avoided". In 1963 the Bicester and Warden Hill Hunt Supporters Club put on a film show of the previous year's Badminton Horse Trials and in 1966 a "Donkey Derby" was held comprising 6 races with "well known jockeys taking part" "In aid of village hall funds". Rena Andrews kindly let me scan two programmes for the annual "Stoke Lyne Women's Institute Produce Show", 1960 and 1961. This was a very serious affair with classes in flowers, fruit and vegetables, cookery and produce, needlework, children's section and in 1961 the "best dressed wooden spoon".

What memories do people have of the Hall? Eileen Leach says her wedding reception was the last event to be held there in October 1967 and adds "in my younger years we had youth club, parties, games evenings, all sorts in there, I remember the floor was sloping and bit dodgy, was sad when it went" and "also remember when I was at school there, the awful dentist used the hall to do teeth, terrible man!!!"

The photo at the start of this piece provoked a very early childhood memory from Rachel Thompson who lived at Holt's Ground "We used to stand looking over the wall into the playground. The ground was higher on our side of the wall so we could see over. I remember watching the demolition."

Pete (Pedro) Collins recalls "As children we used the village hall for all sorts of things. There was a full size snooker table and a table tennis table. Bingo and whist drives were held there on a regular basis. Of course the odd wedding reception and party." He adds "It was eventually condemned. It was neglected and also the main material used for its construction was asbestos."

Pam Adams remembers helping with the whist drives at which Barbara Collins and Joyce Stinton would make the tea and coffee. Her role was then to deliver them to the players at their tables.

It is thought that the following photograph might be taken inside the memorial hall. Two of the ladies pictured 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> from the right have been identified as Joan Andrews and Promissa Marsden and it has been suggested that the lady 4<sup>th</sup> from left is Norah Curtis.



To find out more about its demise I looked to the last set of minutes in the book. They were dated 28/1/68. Those present at the committee meeting, held at the Rectory, were Mrs Wheatcroft, Mrs Adams, Mrs Stinton, Mr Miller and Mr Warde-Aldam. Mr Sheppard was in the chair. They had raised about £100 during the year and they had about £500 invested. However, the Friday night club had been cancelled as there were not enough volunteers to take charge. The committee meeting was immediately followed by the annual general meeting, also at the Rectory. "only four members of the village apart from the committee attended". Mrs. Adams suggested that there be a future meeting to be held in the village hall inviting everyone to discuss the future of the hall and the date of 11th March was chosen. Mr Beazley "wondered if it would be a good idea to have someone to investigate, to see if the Hall was safe". "Mr Sheppard then announced that he would like to resign from the committee but he was willing to help if maybe another D. Derby was arranged as he had offered the loan of his field." Mr Miller also resigned. Mr Wheatcroft was proposed on the committee as was Miss Saville, Mr Beazley and Mrs Beazley. Mrs Collins, Mrs Wheatcroft, Mrs Adams, Mrs Stinton and Mr W-Aldam were elected en bloc. Various names were then suggested as suitable people for co-opting on to the committee and the words "this concluded the meeting" were the very last ones written in the book.

A quick note on those final committee members: most of the surnames will be known to present-day villagers. "Mrs Adams" is of course Pam Adams. She, too, remembers that the hall did indeed contain asbestos but being a busy farmer's wife with two young children she was not closely involved with its day-

to-day running or its eventual demise. Of those no longer with us, Mr Sheppard was featured in the October 2022 edition of Shelswell News and Mr and Mrs Beazley were mentioned in the March 2025 issue.

\*\*Brenda Hazel\*\*

#### STOKE LYNE ON THE INTERNET

Stoke Lyne Village Facebook group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/StokeLyneVillage

Stoke Lyne Parish Council: <a href="https://stokelyne.org/">https://stokelyne.org/</a>

Stoke Lyne Stories: <a href="https://stokelynestories.webador.co.uk/">https://stokelynestories.webador.co.uk/</a>

Victoria County History: https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/oxon/vol6/pp312-323

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Tel 07725 009838

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Maxine Ling

TREASURER: Fai Li

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

#### **CHURCH SERVICES**

Sunday 2nd November 6.00 pm Compline, Stratton Audley Sunday 9th November 10.45 am Remembrance Service, Stratton Audley Sunday 23rd November 9.15 am Holy Communion, Stratton Audley

#### **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.





## '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

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Return order form to Sarah at <a href="mrsnouj@gmail.com">mrsnouj@gmail.com</a> and candles can be delivered free within Benefice area.

This space could be full of more local information and goings on from Stratton Audley if someone would kindly step up to be the Village Correspondent! Requires a couple of hours a month of your time·

Please have a word with Sylvia List (editor@shelswellparishes·info)

### The Last Word

For young and young at heart Readers!

Q: What do you get if you divide the circumference of a pumpkin by its diameter?

A: Pumpkin π Sorry. I'll see myself out. This is Nico, our cat. This is NOT our house



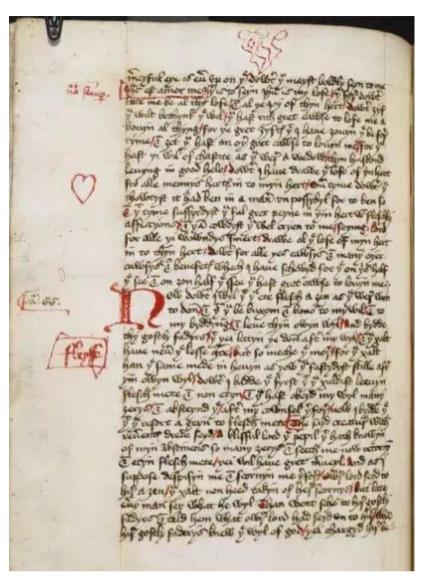
#### 9th NOVEMBER - MARGERY KEMPE

Margery Kempe was born in 1373, the daughter of a wealthy businessman in King's Lynn. She married John Kempe and had 14 children. Unable to read or write, she described herself as "not lettrid."

Margery Kempe was far from the usual 'saint' of the Late Medieval Ages. She was not a recluse or a nun. She was known to be very emotional, and at times, very rude - which often got her into trouble with local clergy.

Margery began her spiritual pilgrimage with depression – probably brought on by the birth of her first child. She was so ill that she had been forcibly locked away in a room by her spiritual director, when she saw a vision of Jesus. He said to her: "Daughter why have you forsaken Me? I never forsook you." Margery was then reassured that her depressive guilt and fear were misplaced, and that Jesus was actually welcoming her into a personal relationship with Himself.

From there, her relationship with Christ grew and she found in Him a fulfilment she could find nowhere else. She began to speak publicly and was several times forced to defend herself against charges of heresy. Between 1413 and 1417 she went on pilgrimages to Jerusalem and to Spain.



A page from the Book of Margery Kempe (British Library, public domain)

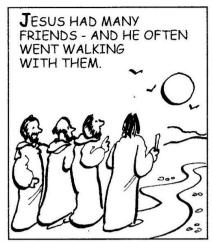
In 1436 Margery dictated her famous book, 'The Book of Margery Kempe'. Thought to be the first published autobiography, for centuries only edited bits of it were passed on for people to read. Then in 1934 a complete manuscript was found, and it led to a re-evaluation of Margery herself.

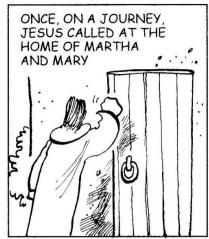
After years of being remembered as a devout mystic, Margery emerged as a more complete, more human woman from these pages. She loved clothes. She envied other people. She sometimes had fantasies, and sometimes few scruples. But she was also honest in her search for truth.

She has been called 'the embodiment of an honest soul on a quest for God.' She died in 1440, aged 67, a good age in those days.

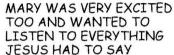
A very deaf elderly man was finally fitted out with a hearing aid that really worked. A month later his doctor called him in for a check-up. "Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again." The old man replied, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!"

## Words and Actions







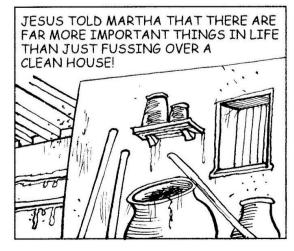


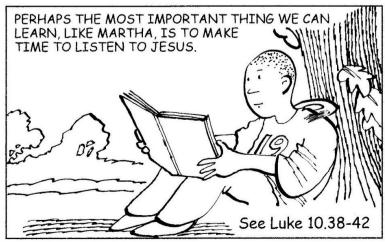


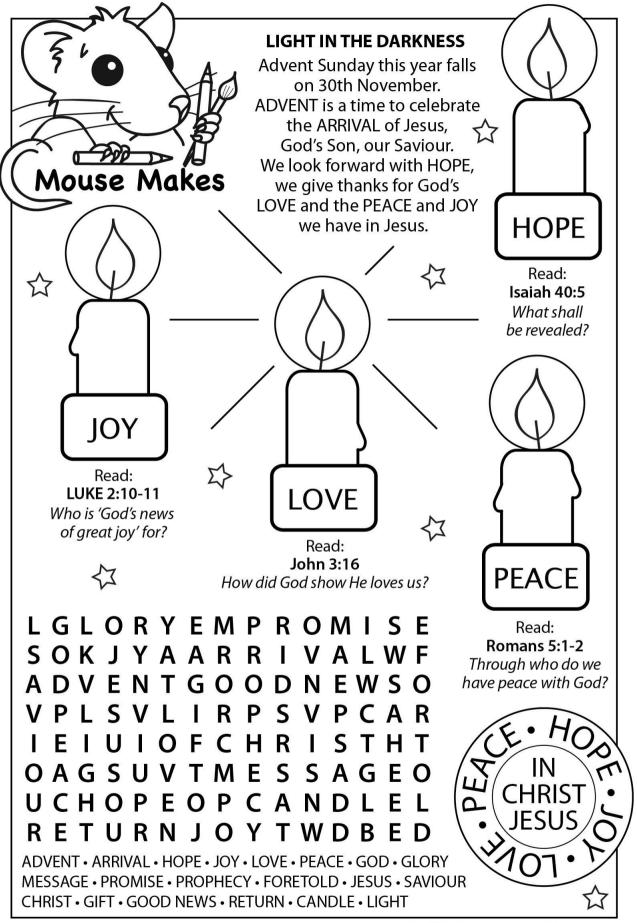




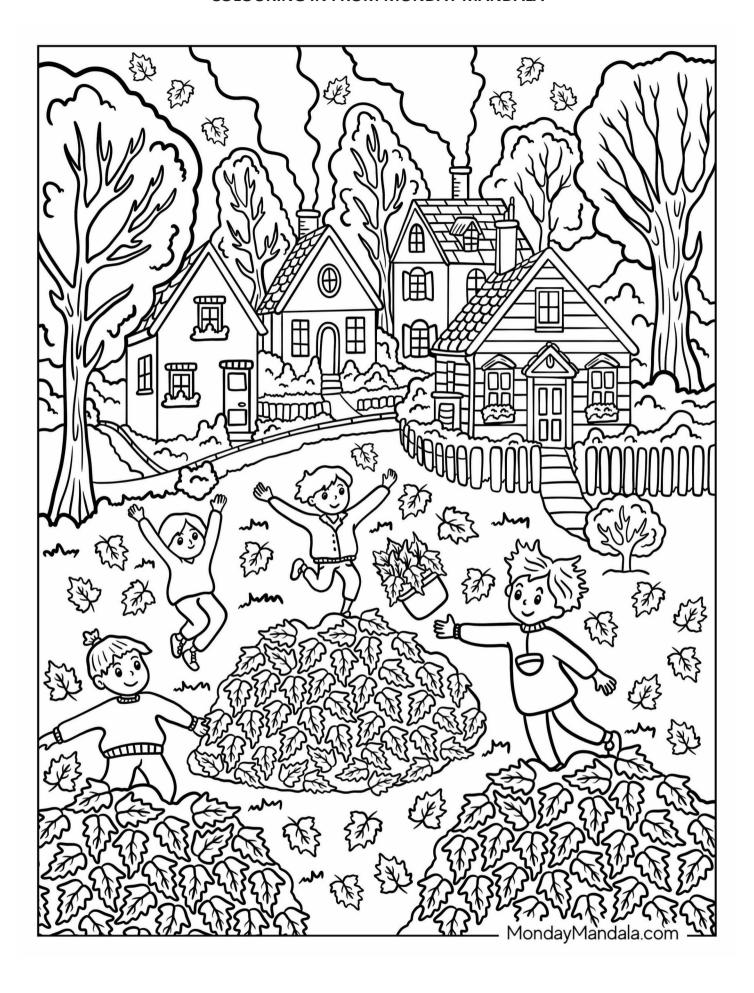








### **COLOURING IN FROM MONDAY MANDALA**



#### POPE SUPPORTS MINISTRY OF EXORCISTS

Pope Leo X told the recent International Association of Exorcists conference in Rome that their ministry was both "delicate" and yet "most necessary".

The Pope urged the 300 priests and exorcist assistants present "to live it both as a ministry of liberation and of consolation, accompanying the faithful truly possessed by the evil one with prayer and the invocation of Christ's effective presence, so that . . . the Lord may grant victory over Satan".

from Parish Pump

me: ah, now I will drift gently off to dreamland. refrigerator: I SHALL MAKE US SOME ICE CUBES





#### **BE CAREFUL ON COUNTRY ROADS**

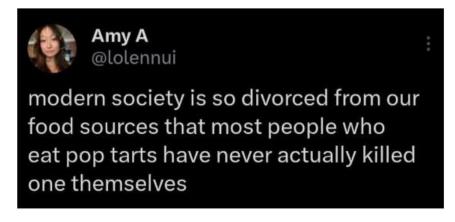
Shelswell Benefice residents will not be surprised to learn that traffic collisions on rural roads are around four times more likely to result in a fatality than collisions in towns.

Such is the finding of the NFU Mutual Rural Road Safety Report 2024. It found that in 2023, one in every 32 collisions on rural highways resulted in a death, compared to one in every 122 on urban roads.

Overall, more than 18 people died on rural roads each week in 2023.

Hazards that motorists may face include blind corners, narrow roads, poor road quality, poor visibility, cyclists, pedestrians, horses, mud and debris, loose livestock, agricultural vehicles, unexpected road or field entrances, impatient drivers and Sat-Navs sending people down unsuitable roads.

Readers will no doubt be able to add more from their own experience!



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### **Windows 10 - Support Ending October 2025**

Microsoft has officially ended support for Windows 10 (14th Oct 2025). They announced it in April 2023. You might have seen pop-ups about it next to your clock on your computer screen. For the first time, Microsoft has introduced enhanced system requirements, which means that you'll need a 'new' laptop or base unit (tower), instead of just buying the new operating system. Therefore, computers are rapidly becoming more expensive and stocks are running low (in the mid-market range).

Microsoft has said that nearly 54 people per second fall victim to cyber attacks around the world (not just Coop, Harrods, M&S etc). Therefore, without security updates, Windows 10 will become increasingly vulnerable to malware, ransomware and viruses. Windows 10 computers will be prime targets for cyberattacks since attackers will know that security holes will never be patched. Even if you use third-party antivirus software, it won't be enough to protect you from system-level vulnerabilities.

Feel free to contact me should you require some support moving forwards. Selecting the right amount of RAM and hard drive capacity, or avoiding the worst processors can save time, money and stress.

#### **Contact:**

Andrew Urquhart
Anything I.T. Services
Tel: 07748842471

Email: anyitservices@yahoo.co.uk

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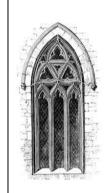
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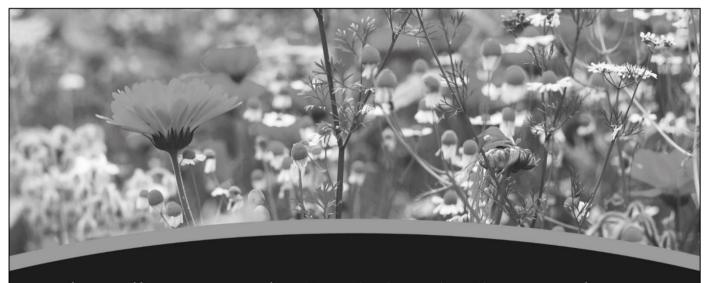
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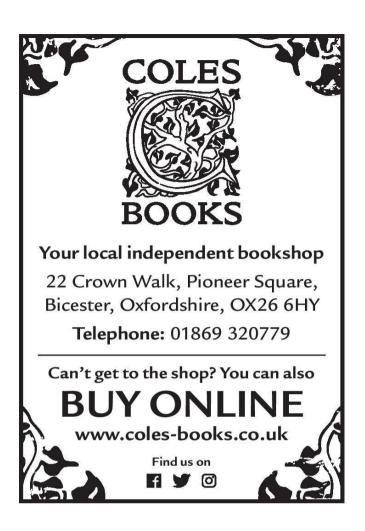
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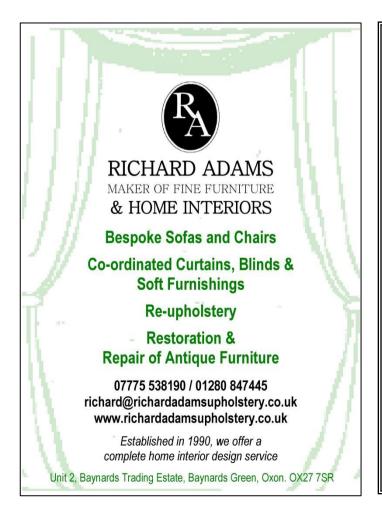




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AM	PW			6pm Compline STRATTON AUDLEY	6.00 pm
6pm Evening Communion FRINGFORD	4pm Evensong with the Shelswell Group Choir	with hymns (CW) FRINGFORD AM/John Alderdice	Remembrance Service COTTISFORD VM Remembrance Service MIXBURY LW	4pm Commemoration of the Departed FINMERE PW	
	with hymns (CW) STOKE LYNE DG	With nymns (BCF) COTTISFORD LW  10.45am	Remembrance Service STRATTON AUDLEY CO	4pm 'Connect' Informal Worship Hall Farm, Fringford AM	10.45 am
Hymns and Reflections for Advent with Shelswell Group Choir FINMERE	10.45am Holy Communion	10.45am Holy Communion	HETHE WAR MEMORIAL Flora Skinner Remembrance Service STOKE LYNE AM	10.45am Morning Service FRINGFORD PW	
10.45am	Morning Service FINMERE PW	10am 'Food for Thought' STOKE LYNE Lay-led	TO.45am  Remembrance Service  FRINGFORD PW  Short Service and Act of Remembrance		
	Holy Communion with hymns (CW) STRATTON AUDLEY AM	9.15am Holy Communion with hymns (CW) FINMERE AM/John Alderdice	9.15am Remembrance Service FINMERE VM Remembrance Service NEWTON PURCELL AM	Holy Communion with hymns (CW) COTTISFORD	9.15 am
	Holy Communion (BCP) FRINGFORD AM				8.00 am
Purple	Green	Red	Red	White	ALTAR
30 <sup>th</sup> November Advent Sunday	23 <sup>rd</sup> November Christ the King	16 <sup>th</sup> November 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent	9 <sup>th</sup> November Remembrance Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> November All Saints Sunday	DATE
service	RVICES: NOVEMBER 2025 BCP: 'Book of Common Prayer' traditional language service	SE	SHELSWELL GROUP CW: 'Common Worship' modern language service	CW: 'Commor	