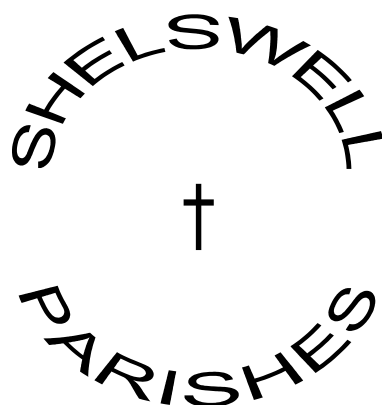


Shelswell News

The magazine of the Shelswell Group of Churches

Cottisford
Fringford
Hardwick
Mixbury
Stoke Lyne



Finmere
Godington
Hethe
Newton Purcell
Stratton Audley

**do not
fear***

**Genesis 15:1, Exodus 14:13, Joshua 1:9, Psalms 23, 46, 57, 91, Ezekiel, Matthew 1:20, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans....and many more*

October 2025

£1

SHELLOWELL BENEFICE MISSION STATEMENT

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

MINISTRY TEAM

RECTOR: Vacancy

BENEFICE ADMINISTRATOR: Mrs Becky Adams, c/o The Shelswell Benefice Office, 6 Chinalls Close, Finmere, Buckingham MK18 4BQ Tel: 07928 990569 Email admin@shelswellparishes.info Administrator's normal office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9.00 am – 1.00 pm

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BENEFICE TREASURER: Mr Philip Austin c/o The Shelswell Benefice Office, 6 Chinalls Close, Finmere, Buckingham MK18 4BQ or email philandpenni@live.com

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

HOLY TRINITY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, HETHE,

Mass: 4pm Saturday.

Weekday Mass: 9.30am Monday

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

Telephone: 01869 253277

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

SHELLOWELL NEWS

Published monthly. To subscribe, contact Mrs Becky Adams, Benefice Administrator, The Shelswell Benefice Office, 6 Chinalls Close, Finmere, Buckingham MK18 4BQ Email admin@shelswellparishes.info

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Deadlines for the November edition of Shelswell News

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

Correspondents to Editor: **Midday on Sunday 19th October at editor@shelswellparishes.info**

All articles must be submitted in WORD or LIBRE OFFICE in a format that can be COPIED AND PASTED PLEASE - Many thanks for your cooperation.

www.shelswellparishes.info

SHELLOWELL NEWS ARCHIVE. to look up previous issues of the Shelswell News. Please go to the Benefice website and look at the Archive. If the issue you want to refer to is not there please contact the Benefice office .

DO NOT FEAR

Sometimes it seems as though the news - mainstream and alternative - is very negative, constantly magnifying some new threat, some new reason to fear that the sky is going to fall on our heads. The stories are very convincing; they may be repeated for emphasis, citing video proof or science. An emotional response is provoked. Many of us who get our news via social media are particularly vulnerable as the algorithms serve up a stream of exaggerated tales and fearmongering to generate clicks and interest.



How should we as Christians respond to this? We want to be informed, but we do not want to be manipulated into fear or worry that will affect our mental health and perhaps distort our judgement, turning us away from God. Fortunately God has already given us some good advice. In fact, the same advice is given to us over a hundred separate times in the Bible; **do not be afraid**.

When we are scared we are easily manipulated to neglect doing good, maybe even to harm ourselves or others, or simply waste our time cowering in fear. Every tyranny in the age of mass media has begun by manipulating people's emotions.

So let's take advice from the Bible and resist falling prey to fear and worry. We do live in a turbulent time in history as the world shifts from being dominated by the US and its fiat dollar to becoming more multi-polar, and over the next months and years, there will be different people trying to scare and manipulate us as they struggle for power and influence. We can't change world events, but we can influence how we react to them.

Here is one of the most beautiful places where the Bible reminds us that trusting God protects us from falling prey to fear and manipulation:

Psalm 91

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.

A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.

Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.

Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;

No evil shall befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.

Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.



If the Bible tells us not to fear the dangers described in Psalm 91, how much more important is it not to allow ourselves to be brought down by what we see on a screen?

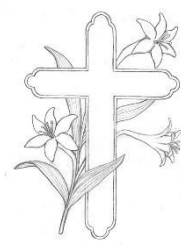
Sylvia List

BIBLE READINGS



Sunday 5 th October	16 th Sunday after Trinity	Habakkuk 1 v1-4 and 2 v1-4 2 Timothy 1 v1-14 Luke 17 v5-10
Sunday 12 th October	17 th Sunday after Trinity	2 Kings 5 v1-3 and 7-15c 2 Timothy 2 v8-15 Luke 17 v11-19
Sunday 19 th October	18 th Sunday after Trinity	Genesis 32 v22-31 2 Timothy 3 v14 – 4 v5 Luke 18 v1-8
Sunday 26 th October	Last Sunday after Trinity	Jeremiah 14 v7-10 and 19-end 2 Timothy 4 v6-8 and 16-18 Luke 18 v9-14
Sunday 2 nd November	All Saints Sunday	Daniel 7 v1-3 and 15-18 Ephesians 1 v11-end Luke 6 v20-31

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 2nd 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.

The Bereavement Journey

A Christian, seven-week course to help grieving people
Starts in our area at the Hummingbird Centre, Launton on 7th October 2025

For more details, contact Julie Trinder at the Bicester Area Team Ministry
01869 323458 or email office@stedburgschurch.org

**Come and join us for *Two Days of Leisure* in Stoke Lyne Church
on Monday 20th & Tuesday 21st October, 10.30 - 3.30
at Shelswell 'By the Sea'**



Enjoy ...

- Fun and Companionship

- Home cooked lunches and afternoon tea with waitress service!

- A choice of light-hearted and interesting activities, including:

jigsaws, papers to read, seated ball games, posy making, board games,
quizzes and puzzles, dominoes, plus a topical 'Thought for the Day'



Cost: £7 per day - Lifts can be provided



BOOKING FORM

Name: _____ Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email address: _____
(if applicable)

I would like to attend on: **20/10** Yes/No* **21/10** Yes/No*

I enclose cash, or a cheque made out to *Shelswell Group of Churches*

I would like a lift to get to Stoke Lyne, and home again: Yes/No*

delete as applicable

If you have any dietary requirements, please let the organisers know here:

Please give your completed Booking Form and payment to Penny Wood, 8 Crosslands,
Fringford, BICESTER OX27 8DF [Tel: 01869-277310] penelope.wood@btopenworld.com

LIGHT PARTY

Friday 31st October

3.30pm - 5.00pm in Fringford Church

for 5 to 12 year olds

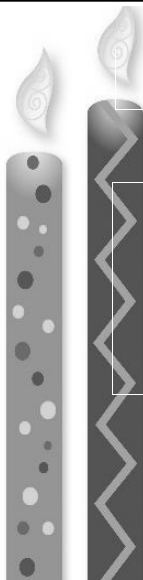
Parents welcome to stay

Come and Join our Celebration of Light

Fun & Games & Food

Everything free!

Organised by the Shelswell Group of Churches



Jazz in the Village

"Very cool music played in a magical atmosphere - this will appeal to jazz novices as well as hardcore enthusiasts." Three Weeks Magazine

from Scotland



Ian Millar
saxophone

Dominic Spencer
piano

"Beautiful soaring magic! I was blown away by your show, just breathtaking!"

"...expect warm, intelligent, reflective, human music..."



Accompanied
under 16s free

FRINGFORD VILLAGE HALL

The Green, Fringford OX27 8DY

Fri 24th Oct 8pm £15

Drinks & snacks will be on sale

ticket sales number- 07936 879175 fringford.hall@gmail.com



www.millarandspencer.co.uk

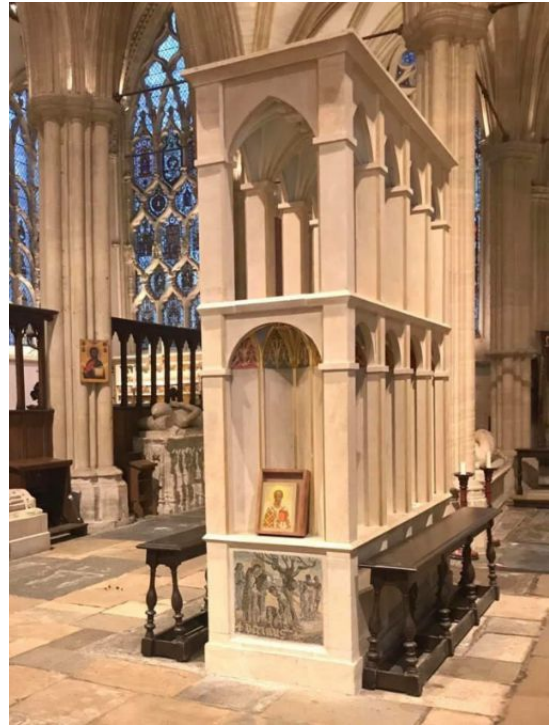
Midweek Communion Thursday 4th September 12.00 noon

Rev Liz began by welcoming all to the service and prayers.

The Gospel reading was from Mark chapter 6 verses 1 to 13 read by Rena Andrews. This passage is about shaking the dust from your feet. Jesus couldn't do many miracles in his hometown because of lack of faith. He changed course and went around teaching in other villages. He then sent his disciples to preach, heal and free people, instructing them to shake the dust from their feet if they didn't receive a welcome.

We then remembered St Birinus the first Bishop of Dorchester. Birinus was born mid-6th century in Northern Europe and ordained as a priest in Rome. He was called by God to be a missionary, was consecrated as a Bishop in Milan then sent to Britain by the Pope. He eventually found an open door to the kingdom of the West Saxons where he found them all to be pagans. Their king was one of his early converts.

His main focus for preaching was around Dorchester, Abingdon, Bicester, Thame and Aylesbury. He built and dedicated several churches in Dorchester and many other areas. He died in about 650 and was buried in Dorchester. His bones were moved to Winchester, then moved a couple of more times. In the 13th century the monks of Dorchester Abbey claimed to have the relics of Birinus. Whether true or not, Dorchester Abbey became a popular place of pilgrimage. A marble shrine was dedicated to St Birinus, but this was destroyed in 1536. Most of the intricately carved vaulting was found in a blocked up doorway in the 1870s. In 1960s this was incorporated in the reconstruction of the shrine in the South Aisle.



Shrine of St Birinus at Dorchester Cathedral, photo copyright sourozh.org

Reverend Liz then held a short service of Communion assisted by Ali Miller after which we moved to the tables set for lunch which consisted of a choice of soup with bread rolls, followed by a choice of desserts then tea or coffee. Thank you to all who provided the food and helped in any way. As Liz is on her own now doing the service, it was agreed we would help out with providing the food.

As usual we kept each other up to date about what is going on in the other villages.

Everyone is welcome.
Rena Andrews.



MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION AND SOUP LUNCH

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

There is no Midweek Communion in October!

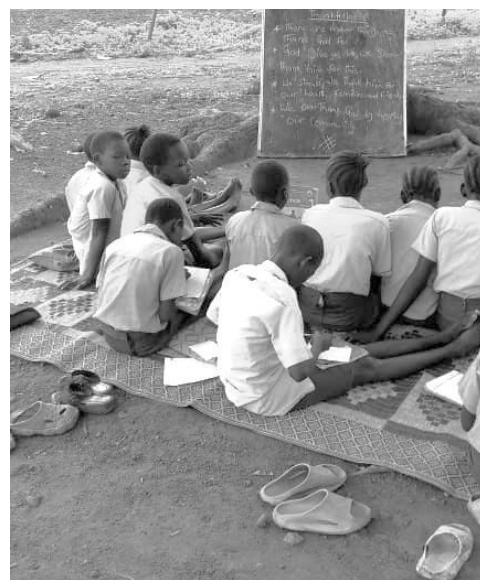
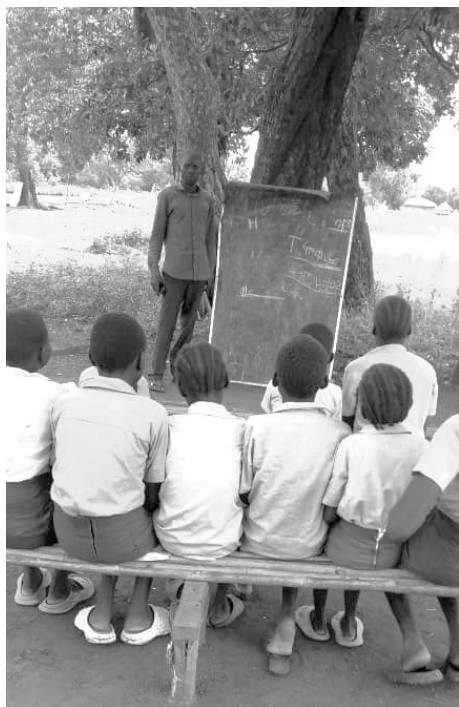
Stoke Lyne Church

If you would like a lift then please contact Becky on 07928 990569

Email admin@shelswellparishes.info



Some of the Students at Wulu Girls' Primary School, South Sudan



Many lessons take place outside as there are not enough classrooms. What happens when it rains?

Note the state of the blackboard inside a classroom in the picture above!

We continue to support the Teachers' Incentive Scheme at the School. A Soup Lunch for Wulu School will be held on **Saturday 22nd November, 12.30 – 2** in Stratton Audley Church.



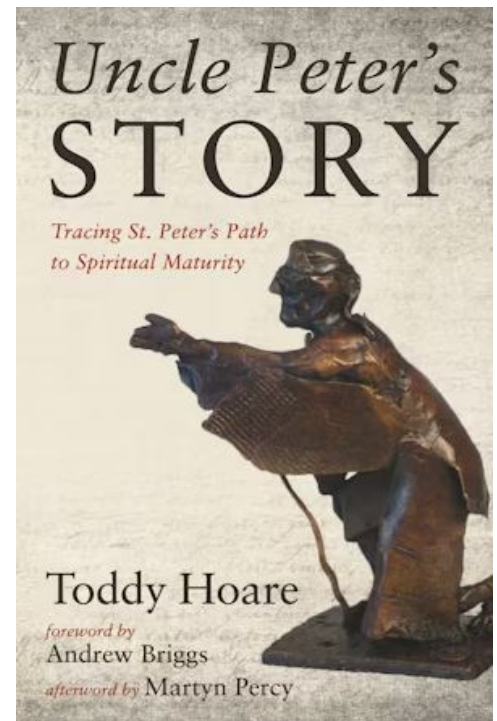
Uncle Peter's Story by Toddy Hoare (Resource Publications)

Many people will recognise the name of Toddy Hoare, as he has taken services in Shelswell Benefice in the past.

His new book *Uncle Peter's Story* aims to help the reader who is studying the Bible by illuminating the human story inside the divine. The short book (74 pages) presents Saint Peter of the Gospels as seen, heard, and recorded in the New Testament particularly by his nephew Saint Mark, who was also an eyewitness to Jesus' earthly ministry. Saint Peter was a key figure in the human response to Jesus as a person and as the risen Christ. He recognized who Jesus was and proclaimed it at Pentecost when Holy Spirit was poured out on all disciples. Yes, he had failings too, as the story reveals, but he overcame them and learned about the truth he was called to reveal.

Presented as a commentary mostly as if by Mark, this book aims to be an introduction to those new to reading the Bible, an aide-memoire to those more established in their Bible reading, and a stimulant to those preaching, teaching, and using Peter's story as a way into the Gospels or as food for prayer.

The author, Toddy Hoare, trained as a sculptor and was freelance for 3 years until recession in the mid-1970s made such a living impossible so he joined the 15/19th King's Royal Hussars to pay his debts, serving in Northern Ireland. Ordination followed and after a curacy in Guisborough, he was the curate-in-charge of the Hillside Parishes in North Yorkshire on the Moors near Thirsk for 25 years and chaplain to the Yorkshire Agricultural Society. When his wife, Liz, got a post teaching spiritual formation at Wycliffe Hall in Oxford, the family moved down to Wheatley where he returned to sculpture and helped out with services in the area.



Social Bridge comes to Bicester



The Bicester Bridge club has been active in the town for over 50 years with a weekly evening session, currently based at the Highfield Social Club in George Street.

While most of the current members play a competitive, fast paced game, it was felt that there are others who may prefer a more relaxed game and so the club are starting a new Afternoon Social Bridge, starting on Thursday 2nd October.

It will also be at the Highfield Club, with ample parking and not far from the town centre. Refreshments will be provided beforehand, with play starting at 2pm and finishing at 4pm.

A host will be available for anyone without a partner, and someone will also be there for advice, if needed. The cost will be £3 for a 12 board session, increasing to 18 boards when needed. Please note that to join our club, you also need to be a member of the Social Club. Payment will be free for the first month. If interested and would like more details, contact the secretary on 07749 953125 or email bridgebicester@gmail.com.

Give it a try; first month free!

REGISTRY

Marriage

Christopher BOYSON and Charlotte YOUNGHASBUND

9th August 2025

All Saints Church, Mixbury



Leaving the Church together

When Charlotte and Christopher married at All Saints Church Mixbury, it was a graduation of a ten year relationship turning into marriage. The following poem was read at the service:

LIFE IS BUT A GAME OF CRICKET

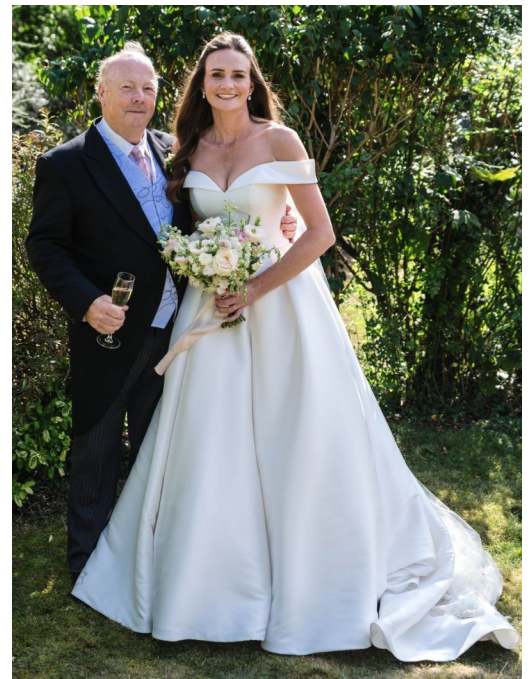
by Christopher Boyson

Life is but a game of cricket.
A pitch with turn and pace
You never know just what you will get,
or what you will have to face.

But in this match you've picked your team
A partner strong and true.
To bat, to bowl, to take the field,
And face what life will do.

So keep your stumps protected,
And guard your love with care.
And when the innings falter,
You will know your mate is there.

For love, like cricket, is not short-
It's patient, calm and kind.
It's not just runs or victories,
But the joy that you will find.



Charlotte with her uncle, Robert Hawes

We hope Charlotte and Christopher's marriage continues to be as happy as the first 10 years have been and we pray for God's blessing on them.

Baptism

James Peter George Steele

Sunday August 31st 2025

St Edmund & St George Church, Hethe

Father Alex kindly held a Christening In Hethe Church on Sunday August 31st to christen James Peter George Steele the son of Thomas & Caroline Steele (née McCorquodale)



Funeral

Peter George Allen

8th August 1951 - 24th June 2025

Peter George Allen of Hethe, died on 24 June. His funeral was held at St Edmund and St George Church, Hethe, on 30th July.

Peter, with his twin brother Brian, was born at Green Farm, Hethe on 8 August 1951. His parents were Gladys and Bert Allen, and his brothers and sisters were Jean, John, Margaret, Michael, Richard, and twin brother Brian.

Peter was brought up in Hethe, but over the years has lived in Buckingham and Bicester, before eventually returning home to Hethe. As a child he attended the village school, later going on to Highfield secondary school in Bicester. When he and his brother returned home from school each day they were expected to change their clothes and help out on the farm whenever there were chores to do.

Once Peter left school however, he never worked full time on the farm, though he would help occasionally and especially with the harvest. Instead, over the years, he had a number of jobs, for example working at the Arcnott Depot, or lorry driving. Indeed the last job he had before he had to retire on account of ill health was driving a concrete-making lorry.

Peter enjoyed a wide variety of activities – Barn Dances (though he never danced, but enjoyed a chat and a beer and watching others!), Wrestling, Country and Western music, nature programmes on TV (especially those presented by David Attenborough – he saw all of them!). He liked mowing the churchyard which he did until his Parkinson's prevented him from continuing.

Dogs were important to Peter; he always owned a Jack Russell, and was well known to all the Hethe dog walkers. He could be seen out with Junior even when he had to use a 'walker'.

Peter had a happy personality and smile. He was an honest man, and well liked in the village. Family was important to Peter; he loved Margaret's great grandson, "my old boy" as he called him, and he very much missed his twin brother Brian who died in 2013. He too will be greatly missed by his family and friends, but he is now at peace.





Club News

SHELSWELL WI



After our annual walk in August we returned to our usual meeting place at Fringford village hall. Our meeting was titled from High Street to High Fashion in Knitwear. What an interesting evening it was. Our speaker Anna Wheeler had us spellbound with her talent for machine knitting and her story of her career in textiles. She has worked for both the couture and High Street markets. Designing patterns on her knitting machines that were incredible. She now works for herself designing knitted fabrics and garments for her online shop, she also has items for sale in a shop in Burford. Her story was truly an inspiration.

In October we will be hearing about the work of the Thames Valley Air Ambulance, we have Jackie's mobile boutique and our Christmas meal in December. Plans for 2026 are also nearly complete.

Several of our members have also recently booked on to craft classes and trips arranged by Oxfordshire WI and we are very much looking forward to a willow weaving evening being run by the North Ploughly Group.

We welcome everyone to the WI, if you would like to know more or come and visit us at one of our monthly meeting you will find a very warm welcome. Fringford village hall on the first Thursday of the month at 7.30pm.

For 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

Our next meetings are:

* Wednesday 1st October, 7.30pm at Manor Grange, Cottisford. Book - Boy with the Top Knot by Sathnam Sanghera

* Wednesday 19th November - book and venue tbc.

Our September book was '**How Steeple Sinderby Wanderers Won the F.A. Cup**' by JL Carr.

This book was picked up in a bookstop in Bicester by one of our members who was drawn in by the romance of non league football. The author managed to put so much life into his characters and they all seemed so recognisable from village life. We enjoyed the way it built up to the crescendo of the final, then the next day everyone returned to their daily lives. It was a book that had made us laugh out loud

We thought it very cleverly written and quite sparsely, so that, for example, the narrator talks about "his trouble", but this is never expanded upon. The quirky touches included the fact that the narrator makes his living by writing the couplets for greeting cards. Characters are described with their idiosyncrasies, for example, Mr. Fangfoss with his two wives, and Biddy, the vicar's atheist sister who accuses people of not having a purpose, a theme that threads through.

We also felt the book had charm, lightness of touch and humour, reminding us somewhat of the Vicar of Dibley in the way different eccentric characters populated it. It had this ephemeral concept of the right people in the right place at the right time coming together to achieve wonders, then melting away to live their own lives.

In one sense, this book, and 'A Month in the Country' by the same author, had the same theme; a golden summer, a golden period where you can find yourself. Quintessentially English, we all found it surprising that no one had made a film of it!

The consensus was: a great little book full of gentle humour leaving you feeling that you had been right there.

Other books discussed :

Raising Hare by Chloe Dalton
 By any other name - Jodi Picoult
 Glyph - Ali Smith
 The Safe Keep - Yael van der Wouden
 The Escape - David Walsh and Pippa York
 Atmosphere - Taylor Jenkins Reid
 A House for Mr Biswas - V S Naipaul
 The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell - Robert Dugoni
 The Snow Hare - Paula Lichtarowicz



SHELLOW POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP

After our August break our September meeting was based on the topic of Clocks and Watches. The idea of timepieces marking a person's progress through life was one common to several of the poems, and metaphors to do with the brevity of life abounded.

Poems about physical clocks – whether alarms or grandfathers, were *The Old Clock by Eliza Cook (1818-89)*; *My Alarm Clock by Amos Russel Wells (1862-1933)*; *Sonnet 12 by Shakespeare*; an extract from *The Waste Land by T S Eliot (1883-1968)*; *A Clock Stopped by Emily Dickinson*; *The Old Clock on the Stairs by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-82)*; *My Grandfather's Clock by Henry Clay Work (1832-84)*; *Rock Around the Clock by Max C Freedman (1893-1962) and James E Myers (1919- 2001)*; *The Dumb Old Clock by Mary Stevenson (1896-1985)*; *A Watched Clock by Kathryn Evans (1969-)* and an anonymous poem *,Ticking Melodies*. In *Clocks by Sinead Morrissey (1972-)* they are symbolic of time passing painfully slowly in a bereaved household.

Poems about watches were *The Watch by Danusha Lameris (1971-)*; *Wristwatch by Ron Padgett (1942-)*; *The Watch by Francis Darwin Cornford (1886-1960)*; *Wrist Watch by Jeff Keyser (1956-98)* and *To My Pocket Watch by Christian Morgenstern (1871-1914)*.

A universal truth about the passage of time and our perception of it is found in what is, on the surface, the simplest of the poems we discussed : *The Clock Man by Shel Silverstein (1930-99)*.

All the above poems can be found online. Just enter into your search engine (eg Google) 'Text of poem.....by.....' to read the poem on screen.

Our October meeting is on Tuesday 14th October and the theme is poems about Paintings. If you would like to join the group, contact me on 01869 811994 or at judith.harvey@live.co.uk

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
 MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Sandra Bickmore, Thatch End, Juniper Hill

Tel 01280 848247
 Tel 01869 277690
 Tel: 01869 277366
sandrambickmore@gmail.com

SERVICES

Sunday 19th October 10.45 am Holy Communion (BCP)
 Sunday 2nd November 9.15 am Holy Communion (CW)

COTTISFORD AND JUNIPER HILL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We hope that everyone has enjoyed the summer. By the time you receive this we will have our fundraising evening for the church, with wine and nibbles. We will let you know how much was raised in next months issue.

We are looking forward now to setting some future activities, so watch this space. If you would like to help with any of our social events, contact Sandra at sandrambickmore@gmail.com

FLORA THOMPSON

During their summer break two of the residents of Juniper Hill visited the grave of our most well known resident Flora Thompson.

Flora is buried in Longcross Cemetary Dartmouth. Jeanette and Barry felt it only right to visit her grave and lay some flowers with a note to say that she has never been forgotten by the residents of Juniper Hill (where she was born) and Cottisford. Thank you both for doing such a lovely thing on our behalf.



Finnmere

St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: Barbara Cunningham, 'Woodlea' Finnere
 TREASURER: Peter Goss, 6 Stable Close Finnere
 PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Katherine Grimston, The Old Rectory, Finnere
 MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Paul Nash Email: paan63@yahoo.co.uk

Tel: 01280 847992
 Tel: 07941 322 840
 Tel: 01280 848364
 Tel 01280 848268

Church Services

Sunday 19th October 9.15 am Holy Communion (CW)
 Sunday 26th October 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
 Sunday 2nd November (All Saints) 4.00 pm Commemoration of the Departed

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.



New Church Treasurer

We are pleased to report that Peter Goss from Stable Close has very kindly agreed to take over as church treasurer following Emma Brennan's move away from the village last year. Peter has lived in Finmere for 18 years. He retired as Managing Director of Arena Pharmaceuticals Ltd last year. With a turnover of about £6 million, the company required an MD who had a good grasp of figures, so the affairs of the church shouldn't prove too much of a challenge!

Peter is happily married to Helen, with two children and four grandchildren (another on the way) so it looks like he will have plenty to do in retirement. He says that he is 'happy to help where I can'. Welcome aboard, Peter!



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 14th October 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...

FINMERE



POP UP PUB

FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Come catch up with friends and neighbours. Families welcome!

**Licensed bar
and food van on site!**

FINMERE VILLAGE HALL
6-10PM

Light lunch

Finmere Village Hall
4th Tuesday of the month
No charge but donations appreciated



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

Allotments

Historically, Michaelmas day (29th September) marks the Harvest, and rent day for farmers.

This year, for allotments, the harvest has been abundant and crops long lived. The pumpkins are a little vulnerable as they have ripened so early, but hopefully, will hang on until they are needed for carving.

We are pleased to have been joined on our site by a couple who have made a great start clearing a plot that has been uncultivated for the past couple of years. Once the cold, wet weather comes as it inevitably will, they will be pleased to have started.

There are a few plots available and Michaelmas is a perfect time to take the plunge. Interested, visit www.myfinmere.com/poorsplot and select the 'enquiry' link.

Jean (Allotment correspondent)



Some Finmere related links:

Finmere facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/finmereandlittletingewick/>
Shelswell Parishes website at – www.shelswellparishes.info/finmere
Finmere Parish Council website at – www.finmerepc.org
Village hall news at – www.myfinmere.com
Finmere Poor's Plot – www.myfinmere.com/poorsplot
Old Finmere history website – www.myfinmere.com/history
Finmere on Wikipedia - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finmereipedia>
Finmere Primary School - www.finmere.oxon.sch.uk

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 5 October – at 10.45am - Morning Service
- Sunday 12 October - at 9.15 am - Holy Communion
- Sunday 19 October – at 10.45am - Holy Communion
- Sunday 2 November – at 10.45am – Morning Service
- Sunday 2 November - at 4pm - 'Connect' Informal Worship at Hall Farm
- Sunday 9 November – at 10.45am – Remembrance Service

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...

The Local History evening planned for October has been postponed until the Spring.

Come and join us for *two days of leisure* in Stoke Lyne Church - on Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st October at Shelswell 'by the Sea'. [See the poster on page 5]

And then there will be our 'Light Party' – see below:





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:

October	Sunday 19th
November	Wednesday 19th
December	Sunday 14th

No need to book – just come and join us!

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



🌟 NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY 🌟

Fringford Village Hall - Tuesday 31 December 2025

ALL WELCOME!

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

Tickets:

🌟 £15 Single / Children under 14 years old FREE 🌟

Generously sponsored by Fringford Parish Council

🌟 Included with Ticket - light bites & glass of fizz upon arrival & midnight 🌟

DJ • Bar • Fringford Spirit

Ghurka Street Food Van 19:30 - 21:30

Theme - Black 🌟 Gold

Limited Availability - BOOK EARLY

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



Greetings Cards

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

Fringford Church 100 Club

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

Little Lambs Babies & Toddler Group

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

FRINGFORD VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

Village Coffee Mornings usually take place on the third Monday of each month. In October we will meet on Monday 20th. 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
Parish Council Meeting All villagers welcome Third Monday in the month 7.45pm Contact 01844 237766 or fringford.parishclerk@gmail.com	Just Puppies Puppy Training Tuesday evening, Sunday afternoon – various classes Contact Kerri 07720 891489 www.justpuppies.training
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
Pilates Thursday at 10.00am natashaflowerspilates@gmail.com or 07545 525820	Fringford Sewcial Sew and Chat! Monthly Wednesday from 7pm Or Sunday from 3pm Contact Irene at ireneethomas@btinternet.com
Mindfulness Meditation Monthly Sunday 11am to 12.30pm janerainey17@gmail.com or 07971 008337	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 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
 MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Veronica Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick
 WEBSITE: <http://hardwickvillage.btck.co.uk>

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

Church Services at Hardwick Church

Sunday 5th October 9.15 am Holy Communion

Sunday 26th October 4.00 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

Tel 01869 277366

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

Tel 01869 278166

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Flora Skinner as above

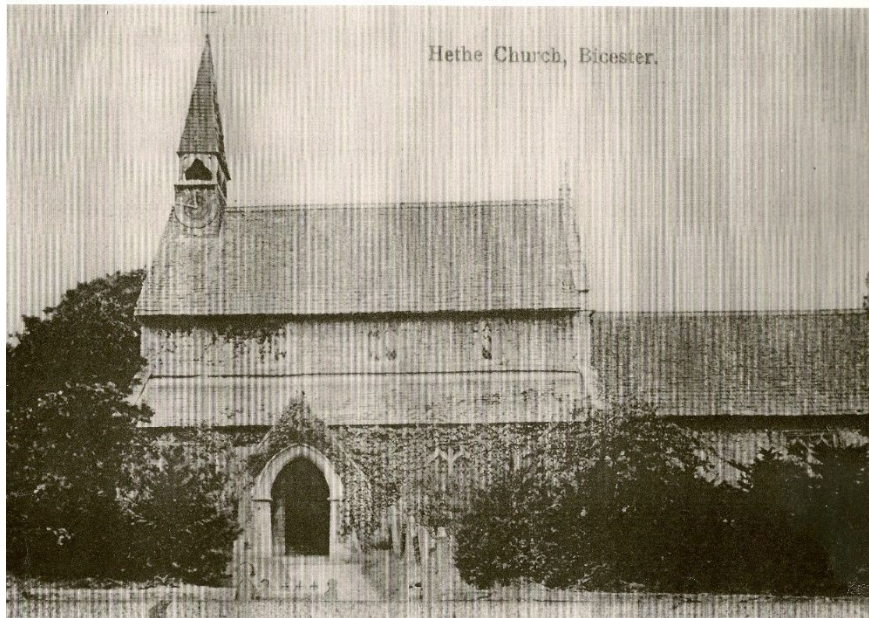
MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Mike Green as above

Tel 01869 278166

WEBSITE: www.hethe.org

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



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

Church Services and Events

At the time of preparing this news, repairs to the church were due to start on 16th September. This will involve installing scaffolding inside the church, and due to this and the nature of the work, the church will be closed. The amount of work required to repair the plaster over the Chancel Arch will not be evident until that work has commenced, therefore the works may take up to 31st October. During this time no services will be held in the building.

Whatever the situation, 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>.

“The church is a place where people come, whether regularly or just occasionally, to find refreshment, peace, inspiration and perhaps seeking answers to some of life's biggest questions.

“This space of sanctuary and sacredness, this nourishment of the soul, affects the health and wellbeing of the whole community.”

Extracted from “How Village Churches Thrive” published by Church House

Finances

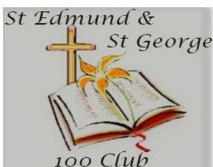
To contribute to either the churches general funds or to meet the cost of repairs, please consider giving a one-off or regular donation to the church. To give simply follow the link below or scan the QR code:

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/hethe-st-edmund-st-george-bicester/>, but please note that the Parish Giving website will be taken offline from 3pm Wednesday 13 October, remaining unavailable until a new system launches on Thursday 30 October. During this time, they will be unable to register or amend regular or one-off gifts.



Christmas Cards. There will be cards available this year featuring the church. Many thanks to Dean Overton for the idea and for creating the cards. We will let you know when they are available and where you can purchase them.

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



St Edmund & St George 100 Club

Results of the 80th draw held
on 31st August 2025

1st Prize No 37 Ben Wood
2nd Prize No 59 Perry Stuart
3rd Prize No 11 Jenny Cullen

Many thanks to our members
Hethe PCC

Next PCC meeting, Wednesday 15th October.

HETHE COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

Building repairs happening all over the place in Hethe!

St Philips Hall, Holy Trinity Church is getting a makeover – a larger kitchen and updated toilet facilities. While the building work is taking place, the hall is not available for use, and Hethe coffee morning will need to go to a temporary venue for October : 2 Hardwick Rd Hethe, OX27 8EY. The timing will need to change slightly, too, beginning half an hour later at 10.30am:

Hethe Community Coffee Morning

on the second Monday of the month, 10.30am - 12 noon

**Monday 13th October at
2 Hardwick Rd Hethe**

**Change of
time and
venue!**

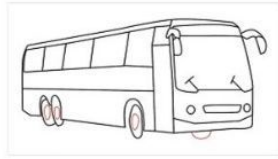


Friends, neighbours, dog walkers, pram pushers ...
an opportunity to meet during the daytime – there's great cake too!

Hethe and District Darby & Joan Club

meeting at Hethe Village Hall on the third Tuesday of the month, 2-4pm
and
holding a Bingo Night at Hethe Village Hall every third Saturday of the month, 7.30pm

SUMMER EVENTS



Membership £15 p.a.
New members welcome.

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

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

Parish Council. The next meeting of the council will take place on Tuesday 14th October, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The minutes from the last meeting are on the web site.

Pop-up Pub. Friday 3rd October 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, 13.42 and 15.42. Last bus departs Bicester at 17.50 to arrive in Hethe at 18.12. Note that this service does not operate on Bank Holidays.

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

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

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

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

Facebook Pages:

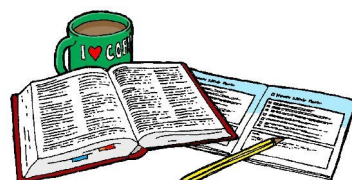
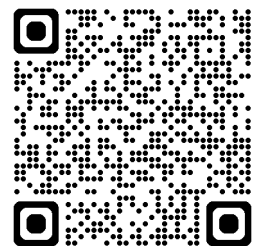
Community Spirit of the Hethens

Hethe Community

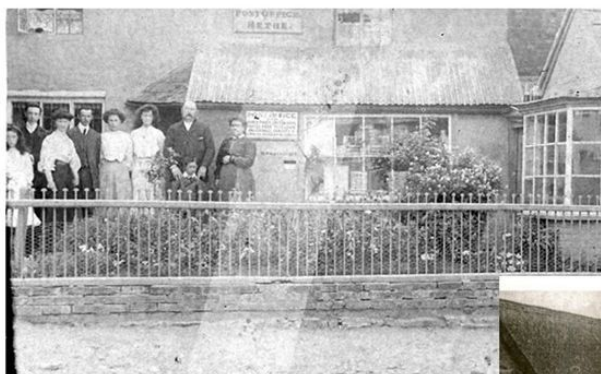
Hethe Allotments

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

Shelswell Lift Share WhatsApp Group – Contact Flora to join



Hethe Post Office



Early photos of Hethe Post Office



The “Old Shop” in Main Street, which was the village Post Office for many years, has now been sold. The Post Office was run by members of the local Morgan family, except for a period between 1869 and 1887 when the “receiver” was Miss Lucy Watts. Records show that Joseph Morgan was the “receiver” in 1891.

Joseph was the receiver/sub-postmaster up to 1920. He was born in 1855 in Hethe and was also a tailor (as were his male ancestors). In 1881 Joseph married Eliza Mary Frances who was born in 1861 in Juniper Hill. In 1881 they were living with her mother at the Fox Inn, Juniper Hill (her mother, Frances Harris, being the publican). Joseph and Eliza had ten children by 1911. Joseph died in 1921 and is buried in Hethe Churchyard. Eliza died in 1938.

In 1920, Miss Elizabeth Morgan became the sub-postmistress. In 1939 Fraser Edward Morgan was in charge and in 1967 Charles F Morgan up to its closure in 1974.

The earliest Hethe Parish record for the Morgan family is for the marriage in 1742 of Edward (a tailor from Fringford) to Joanna Hall. They lived in Hethe where their daughter Hannah was baptised in 1748, followed by Mary, Joseph, William, Joanna, Benjamin and Thomas. Unfortunately, there are entries for the burials of two of their children in Hethe Churchyard – in 1750 of Mary “a child” and in 1761 Thomas “an infant”.



Mixbury All Saints

CHURCHWARDENS: Martin Ayres, Northwell Farm, Finnere	Tel 07899 792552
Alec Howard, Middlestead, Mixbury	Tel 01280 848295
TREASURER: David Mitchell. 2 Town Farm, Mixbury	Tel 01280 847769
PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Anna Howard	Tel 01280 848295
MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Sue Goodman pasgoodman551@gmail.com	Tel 01280 848002

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

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 12th October 11.00 am Harvest Festival

MIXBURY CHURCH FLOWER ROTA 2025

	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.

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. – 7th and 21st October 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're likely to have a surplus after this year's display is complete. We propose making poppy brooches available free to village residents but donations would be appreciated to the Royal British Legion – please watch emails and the village facebook page for further announcements. The poppy brooches will most likely be left inside the church on the table with a donation box.

SAVE THE DATE!

Mixbury Christmas Bazaar
Wednesday 19th November 2025
6pm-9pm



Newton Purcell

St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDENS: Ann von Maltzahn, Home Farm Shelswell Park
 Stuart Hinton

TREASURER: Fai Li

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Flora Skinner

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Ann von Maltzahn

Tel 01280 848680

Tel: 07593 784143

Tel: 07725 009838

Tel: 01869 277366

Tel 01280 848680

Services:-

Please note there will be NO service on Sunday 5th October
 Sunday 19th October - Harvest Festival - 11.30 a.m.

OHCT Ride & Stride:-

A big thank you to all who took part and to those who gave up their time to welcome visitors.

Harvest Festival & Lunch:-

We look forward to welcoming all who are able to join us for our service of Harvest Thanksgiving or Lunch OR Both! The church service will be at 11.30 a.m. followed by the Lunch at 12.45 p.m.

If you would like to come to the Lunch please contact either of the Churchwardens above with numbers so we know how many to cater for and don't delay as it's always a very popular event!

St Michael & All Angels, Newton Purcell
Invite you to the

'HARVEST LUNCH'

In The Old School, Newton Purcell on
SUNDAY 19TH OCTOBER
At 12.45 p.m.

Please bring your own KNIFE, FORK & SPOON!

This will follow the Harvest Festival in the Church which starts at 11.30 a.m. and to which all are most welcome.

Tickets – £12.50

Children under 14 – half price

Please reply giving numbers to ann.maltzahn@yahoo.com or ring 01280 848680 by
Monday 13th October

If you can help with decorating the church please come along with your flowers and or produce at 10.00 a.m. on Saturday 18th October. If for any reason that time doesn't work for you, just leave your contributions in the porch. All will be gratefully received.

We also need offers of food for the Lunch. If you can make a salad, quiche or pudding just let us know so we can plan the menu.

Bonus Ball Lotto:-

Recent lucky winners have been Aileen Rymer and Rita Cross.

Thank you all for your continuing support for this vital part of our fund raising.

Appeal for a Rotary Mower:-

Just in case you missed our request in last months magazine we are still in need of a second hand mower in good condition to replace the one we have at the moment which is on its last legs! Please contact either of the Churchwardens with any offers.



Hall to Let:-

For details and to make your booking in our newly refurbished Old School please contact Jackie Le Fevre on 07544 985117 or email her - jackielefevre@btinternet.com

Date for Your Diary:-

The Christmas Concert - Friday 12th December. All details in next month's magazine.



Stoke Lyne St Peter's

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

Tel 01869 346020
kholdenwhite@aol.com

TREASURER: Janey Poole janey@oxford-educational.co.uk

Tel 07810 120457

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Emma Brown emmabrown911@gmail.com

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Rena Andrews renaandrews820@gmail.com

Tel: 01869 346653

PARISH ROOM BOOKINGS : Kelly and James Holden-White kholdenwhite@aol.com

Tel 01869 345211

WEBSITE www.stokelyne.org

St Peter's Church Stoke Lyne Services

Sunday 12th October 6.00 pm Evening Communion

Sunday 19th October 10.00 am 'Food for Thought' service

Sunday 26th October 10.45 am Holy Communion

Flower Duty for October

Janey Poole

Stoke Lyne 100 Club – September Results

1 st Prize	Membership No 56	Chris Lowe
2 nd Prize	Membership No 15	Ali Miller
3 rd Prize	Membership No 53	Nikki Popoola

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 janey@oxford-educational.co.uk

Many thanks for all your support.

Janey Poole

Treasurer

St Peter's Church PCC

A little bit extra on WW2 evacuees in Stoke Lyne

Please see p34 of the March 2025 issue on the Shelswell News archive for my original article on the subject (<http://www.shelswellparishes.info/documents/archive/2025/mar25.pdf>).

Usually when I search on Google for items on Stoke Lyne I put inverted commas round "Stoke Lyne" so that the whole phrase is searched for and not individual words. However, recently I deliberately tried misspellings of the second part of the village name to see what would come up and using the phrase "Stoke Lynn" I found a further testimony on the BBC "WW2 People's War" website from a former WW2 evacuee to the village which had used that spelling.

The evacuee's name was Audrey Meek (nee Crockford) and she was another one of the evacuees from Walthamstow, coincidentally with the same first name as the evacuee whose letter to the Rev. Ricky Yates was quoted in the original article. This is what she says:

"I was 4 years old in 1939 and was evacuated during the war, sent to a village called Stoke Lynn, near Bicester, Oxford. I was an only child and was sent to stay with an elderly couple. He was an army captain in the First World War and very strict. It was a small village, everyone knowing everyone. I went to school in

the village — 20 in the infants, 20 in the juniors, all in one building. It was a farming community and I used to collect the milk from the farm in a silver churn, it was still warm from the cow."

This got me thinking as to who the WW1 army captain might be and of course Sir Algernon Peyton, the 7th Baronet immediately came to mind. In 1939 he would have been 50 and his wife Joan 47. I would hardly call that "elderly" but I expect to a 4-year old 50 would seem pretty ancient! Sir Algernon certainly did serve in WW1, in the 11th Hussars, and at one point he was sent back to the UK to recover from wounds received in 1914. In February 1939 Sir Algernon's name appeared as "*Capt. Sir Algernon T. Peyton, Bt*" in the London Gazette on a list of Regular Army Reserve officers "*having attained the age limit of liability to recall, to cease to belong to the Res. Of Offrs.*" ie he was deemed too old for active service.

Unfortunately Audrey does not give any further information on the couple or where they lived. However, Judy, another evacuee quoted in the March 2025 article, indicated that Sir Algernon and his wife were living in "The Lodge" while Swift's House itself was home to an Order of Nuns evacuated from Cromer.

We get a picture of what Audrey and the other evacuees were escaping from in the rest of her testimony:

"In 1945 aged 10 I came home because we were told the war was over. I got a cab to Bicester and a train to London where my parents met me. There were houses with no roofs hit by bombs and caught fire — something I had not seen in Oxford. After about a week of being home a flying bomb dropped in our road, I was running for the shelter and was blown off my feet. My mother who was pregnant with my sister didn't get to the shelter. She was kept in hospital for a few days, luckily not badly hurt. A few months later we had a street party at the end of the war."

Audrey's account can be found at

<https://www.bbc.com/history/ww2peopleswar/stories/20/a7070320.shtml>

Brenda Hazel

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

CHURCHWARDENS: Sarah Noujaim, 15 Cavendish Place, Stratton Audley
Penny Oakey, Grange Farm, Godington

Tel 07941 273145

Tel 01869 278778

TREASURER: Fai Li

Tel 07725 009838

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Maxine Ling

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

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 5th October 3.00 pm A Celebration of Country Living at Godington

Sunday 12th October 10.45 am Morning Service at Stratton Audley

Sunday 26th October 9.15 am Holy Communion at Stratton Audley

Sunday 2nd November 6.00 pm Compline at Stratton Audley

Little Lambs Baby and Toddler Group

Stratton Audley Church, Wednesdays 10.00 - 11.30 am

(Term Time)

Come and join us! Play, music and stories – Tea, coffee and

snacks for adults and children – Meet new families

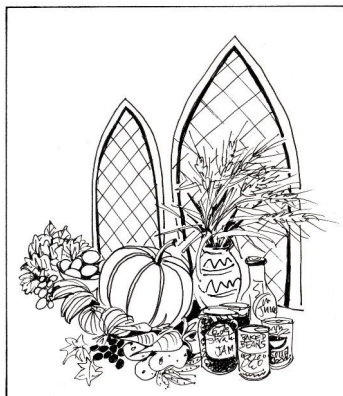
If you'd like more details or to be added to our regular email circulation then please email admin@shelswellparishes.info



A Celebration of Country Living

Holy Trinity Church, Godington

Sunday 5th October, 3 pm



**There will be a collection of food for Bicester Food Bank
followed by tea, cakes and a chance to catch up!**

Can you bake a cake for the tea? if so, please do let Penny Oakey know in advance

STRATTON AUDLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY WRECK OF THE CATARAQUI



Oxfordshire migrants lost in 1845 in Australia's worst shipwreck.

The migrant ship Cataraqui left for Melbourne with 369 passengers, a quarter from Oxfordshire with 42 from one village, Tackley. After a 106 day journey, just a day from port the ship was wrecked off King Island. All but nine lives lost.

A talk on this subject will be given in Church on Friday

3rd October 2025

at 7.30pm

by NEIL WILSON

Cost £5 per person to include a glass of wine or soft drink

The Last Word

"You serve a God who is greater than any enemy you will ever face." *John Hagee*

Corporal Desmond Doss of Hacksaw Ridge



Eighty years ago, on 12th October 1945, US Army combat medic Desmond Doss became the first conscientious objector in US history to receive a Medal of Honour for heroic actions. He saved the lives of 75 men during the Battle of Okinawa. The film *Hacksaw Ridge* told his story.

Doss was born in Virginia in 1919, and became a strong believer in the Bible, especially the Ten Commandments. As a devout Seventh Day Adventist and conscientious objector, he determined to join the Army after Pearl Harbour – his goal being to save as many lives as possible, and to kill no-one.

He enlisted in the medical corps and refused to carry a rifle, despite receiving some abuse at first from his fellow soldiers and officers.

He served in combat on the islands of Guam, Leyte, and Okinawa – but it was the last that was most remarkable, because the fighting took place on the top of a sheer 400ft cliff with booby traps and hidden machine gun nests. Doss refused to retreat with his battalion and kept on returning to the battlefield before lowering injured comrades down the cliff (known as Hacksaw Ridge). He thought he had saved 50 men – praying aloud each time “Lord, please help me get one more”. His comrades thought he had saved 100: the official report split the difference.

Of the 16 million Americans in uniform during World War Two, only 431 received the Congressional Medal of Honour. Before leaving the Army Doss had contracted tuberculosis, and eventually he had to have a lung and five ribs removed. He lived with one lung to the age of 87.

Local Carpenter Continues To Spread Disinformation Deemed Harmful By Religious Experts

Theology

May 1st, 2015 - babyinthe.com



From the Bethesda Broadcasting Corporation two thousand years ago...

The tale of the Tower Builder



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

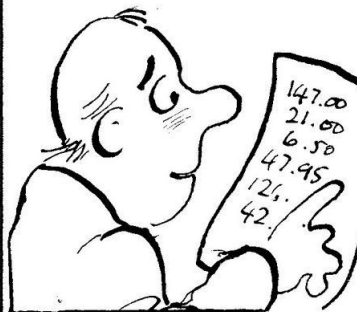


ON ONE OCCASION JESUS EXPLAINED HOW IT WOULDN'T ALWAYS BE EASY TO FOLLOW HIM.



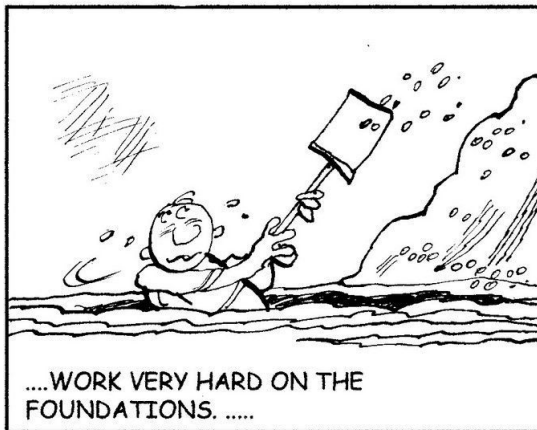
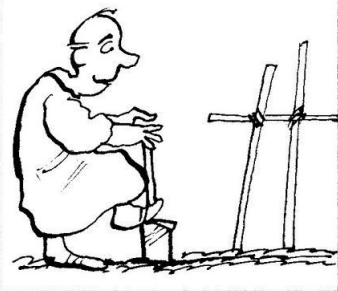
JESUS BEGAN, 'IF ONE OF YOU PLANS TO BUILD A TOWER....

...YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO WORK HOW MUCH IT WILL COST.



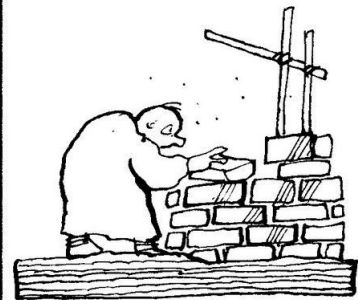
IF YOU DON'T DO THE SUMS....

...YOU MIGHT MAKE A START,

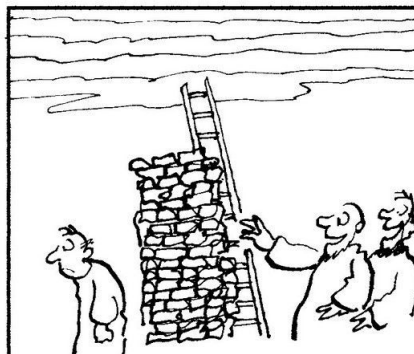


....WORK VERY HARD ON THE FOUNDATIONS.

...THEN START TO LAY THE BRICKS,....



...BUT SUDDENLY RUN OUT OF MONEY!!

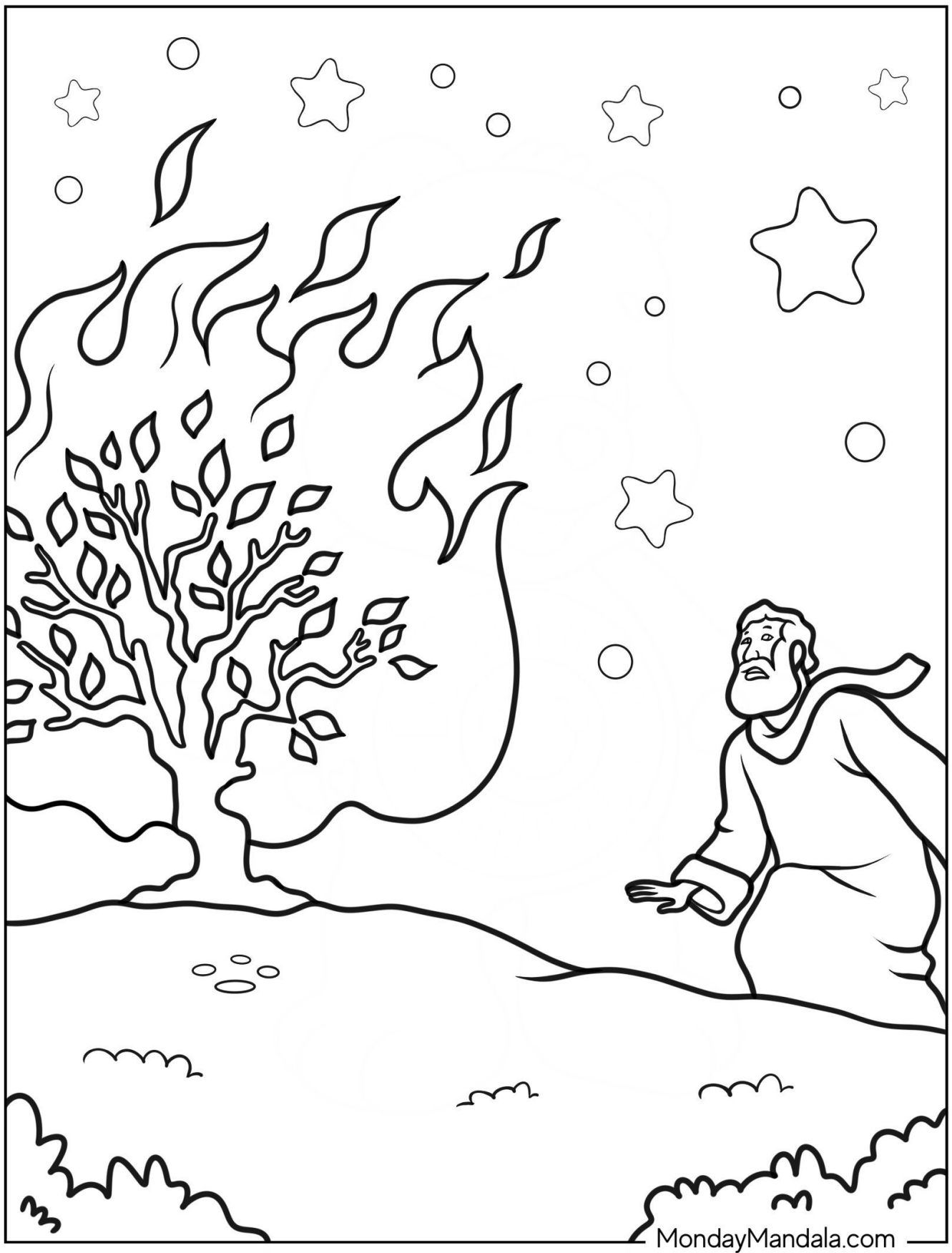


THEN PEOPLE WILL LAUGH AT YOU!



WE NEED TO REALISE THAT ALTHOUGH FOLLOWING JESUS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, IT'S ALSO A GREAT CHALLENGE.

Colouring in from Monday Mandala - Moses and the Burning Bush



Time to make your Will?

Have you been putting off writing or updating your Will? Next month the charity Will Aid's 'Make a Will Month' will offer you the opportunity to put your affairs in order, secure your loved ones' future and give to charities helping those in need.

Participating solicitors are inviting people to contact them to book appointments for November, when they will prepare basic Wills without charging their normal fee. All that they will ask in return is that clients consider making a voluntary donation to Will Aid. The suggested donation is just £120 for a single Will, or £200 for a pair of mirror Wills.

The money raised will be shared by nine UK charities: namely ActionAid, Age UK, British Red Cross, Christian Aid, Crisis, NSPCC, SCIAF (Scotland) and Trocaire (Northern Ireland).

As many as half of all UK adults in the UK don't have a Will. They have not made any legally valid provision for what they would like to happen after their death. This can lead to a great deal of stress and uncertainty, as well as financial hardship, for those left behind.

Even if you have a Will, it is important to keep it up to date. Experts recommend routinely reviewing a Will every three to five years, and making a new Will as soon as significant family changes occur.

More details at <https://www.willaid.org.uk/register>. Please book early as solicitors tend to fill their appointments very quickly.

The technology we always needed.



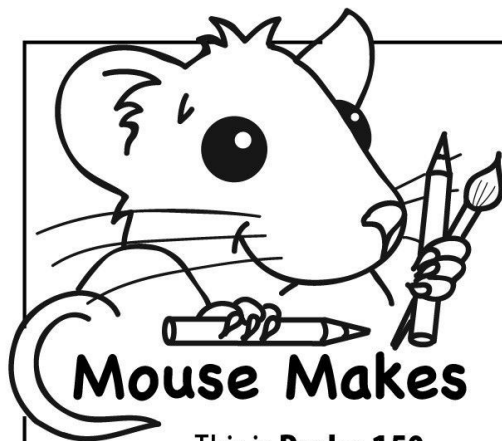
Plastic Carrier Bags

This year marks ten years since England introduced the 5p charge for single-use plastic carrier bags. The charge has had a dramatic effect – with a reduction of 98% in sales.

In 2014, 7.6 billion single-use plastic bags were sold in the UK. By 2023, 133 million single-use bags had been sold in the major supermarkets.

The average person in the UK now buys only about two single-use plastic bags per year.

News Items from Parish Pump



This is **Psalm 150**,
a song of praise to God,
it tells us why and how
to worship God.

*How do you praise and
worship God?*

Praise God in His Temple,
Praise Him in His mighty heavens.
Praise Him for His acts of power,
Praise Him for his surpassing greatness.

Praise Him
with the sounding trumpet,

Praise Him
with the harp and lyre,

Praise Him
with tambourine and dancing,

Praise Him
with the clash of cymbals,

Praise Him
with the resounding cymbals.

Let everything that has breath
PRAISE THE LORD!

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

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He Gave Us Eyes To See Them: Lucas Cranach's painting 'Adam and Eve'



'Adam and Eve' by Lukas Cranach (public domain)

Lucas Cranach, this month's artist, was born in 1472 in what is now Bavaria. He became a court painter to the Electors of Saxony until his death in 1553. Cranach was a close friend of Martin Luther, but also had Catholic patrons.

In this painting we are invited into the garden to look on all the beauty and wonder there. Among the animals we can see a hog, a lion (although Cranach would never have seen a lion in the flesh), a sheep, and a stag, a symbol of Christ. There are birds as well, including a pair of partridges, who traditionally represent the power of love, but also deceit. The roe deer drinking from the pool in the foreground is a reminder of Psalm 42 and the soul thirsting for God.

But dominating the scene is that moment of turning from God: there is a glorious tree, laden with fruit, and in front Adam and Eve, whose hands clutch an apple, while the serpent slithers down the trunk in a moment of triumph.

The painting is reminiscent of medieval tapestries and, like them, has a beguiling quality. All is beautiful and harmonious: it is Isaiah's vision of the lion lying down with the lamb amid the fruitfulness of nature and the oneness of creation. As we look on, we know that the defiance of God and the temptation to eat will lose this paradise. But we also know that creation will be redeemed by another fruit. Around Adam and Eve are the vine and grapes: they represent the Eucharist, the gift of Christ's body and blood.

The fruit of the tree in the painting leads to a fall from grace, but the fruit from that other tree, the vine, will redeem and lift humanity again to share in the bread and wine, the gifts of creation given at harvest and shared at every Holy Communion.

Revd Michael Burgess

'The Bereavement Journey' Course

A church-run bereavement course is having a “profound and wide-reaching impact on adults of all ages,” according to a recent independent evaluation.



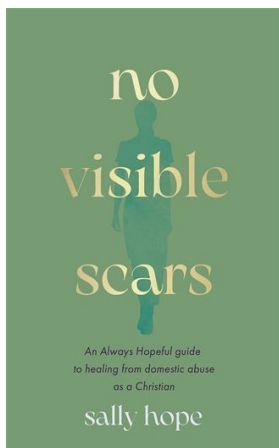
The Bereavement Journey, run by the Christian charity AtaLoss, is “addressing a national need for bereavement support”, and is “ideal for the significant majority — 85-90 per cent — of bereaved people who do not require or will not benefit from a clinical intervention”.

AtaLoss was founded in 2016 by the Revd Yvonne Tulloch, a former Canon for Mission at Coventry Cathedral, whose husband died suddenly in 2008. She says: “We are a society where people have grown up not expecting death and where we have lost the art of support.”

The course is made up of seven sessions of films and peer-group discussion. It will be run at the Humming-Bird Centre in Launton starting on 7th October this year. For details, contact Julie Trinder at St Edburges on 01869 323458 or email office@stedburgschurch.org.

AtaLoss's website, www.ataloss.org, contains a wealth of resources, information and help for people who have been bereaved in all kinds of different circumstances.

Book Reviews



No Visible Scars – An Always Hopeful Guide to Healing from Domestic Abuse as a Christian

By Sally Hope, SPCK, £12.99

One in four Christian women will experience domestic abuse. Survivors report that their churches are not adequately equipped to support them, and that secular domestic abuse services do not understand their faith.

So this book explores domestic abuse and the unique challenges that Christian women face. It seeks to help survivors find answers to commonly asked questions such as ‘Where is God in all this?’ and survivors will be helped to recognise that God is firmly on the side of the abused, He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds.

No Visible Scars is based on the ‘Always Hopeful’ recovery programme for groups of Christian women who have experienced domestic abuse.

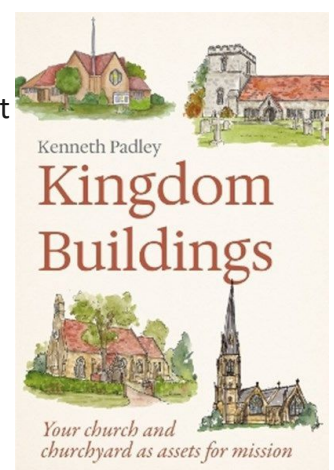
Kingdom Buildings – Your Church and Churchyard as Assets for Mission

By Kenneth Padley, Canterbury Press, £20

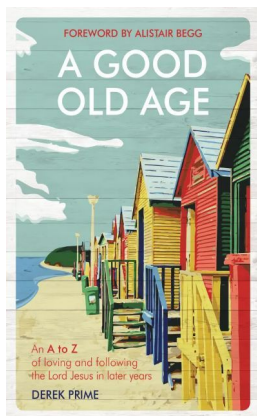
Kingdom Buildings reveals the overlooked potential of church buildings and grounds as tools for mission and growth. Too often seen as burdens, this practical and inspiring guide helps church communities rediscover them as gifts – spaces that can enrich both congregational life and the wider community.

Blending theology, ecclesiology and hands-on advice, the book shows how small, affordable changes can spark momentum and create lasting impact, while also guiding readers to make wise, long-term decisions for the good of future generations.

With thoughtful attention to issues such as accessibility and ecological stewardship – especially within the unique constraints of heritage sites – here is how you can care for your church building as faithful stewards and mission-minded hosts.



A Good Old Age – An A to Z of Loving and Following the Lord Jesus in Later Years
By Derek Prime, 10Publishing, £7.99



Old age often gets a bad press - grumpiness, aches and pains, loneliness, and isolation are a few of the things that are mentioned.

Pastor and Bible teacher, Derek Prime, writing in his 80s, shows us that there is another way to view old age. He guides us through 26 Christian priorities that we should hold to in later life.

With biblical wisdom and practical advice, Prime helps us to navigate the unique challenges and joys that old age can bring. This is a book to dip into, meditate on and read prayerfully as you let the truths it contains gently transform the way you live your old age.

And finally, something rather thought-provoking...

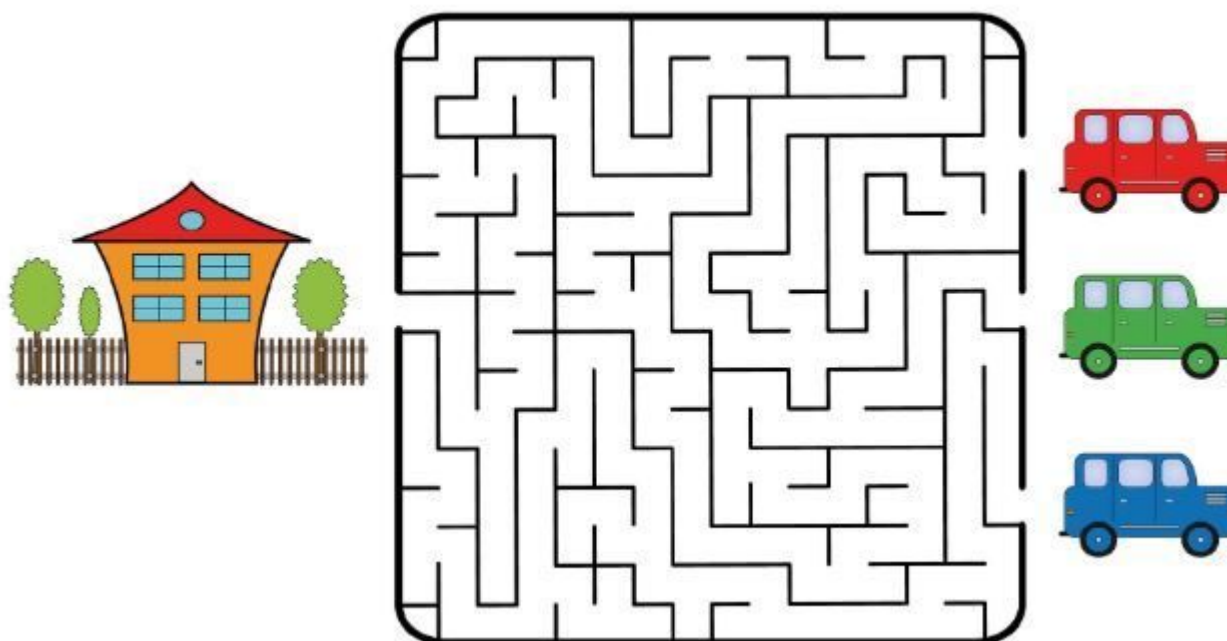
The Cloud, The Night, The Fire and the Song – With the Mystics in the School of Prayer
By Charlie Cleverly, Canterbury Press, £13.99

From climate upheaval and plagues to war and persecution, the great Christian mystics – John of the Cross, Julian of Norwich, Teresa of Avila, Francis of Assisi, and others – lived through deeply turbulent times. Yet out of these crucibles emerged profound spiritual insight and rich traditions of prayer.

This book draws on the vivid imagery these mystics used to navigate their spiritual landscapes – symbols that continue to speak into the confusion and weariness of our own day. It offers spiritual companionship for the journey of faith in our uncertain times.



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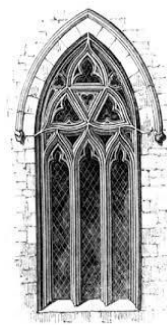
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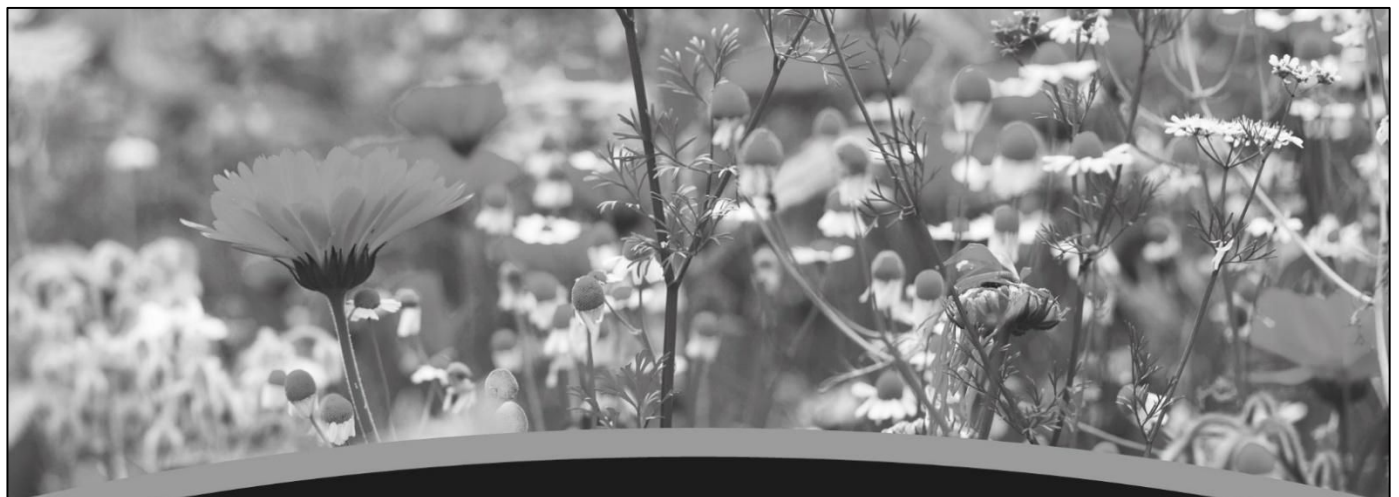


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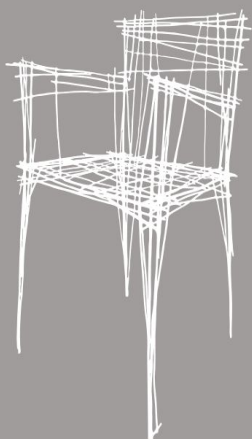
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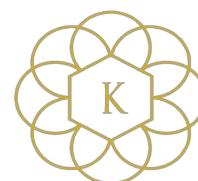


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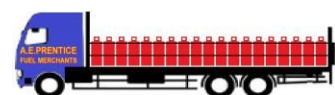
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# SHELSWELL GROUP SERVICES: OCTOBER 2025

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

| DATE     | 5 <sup>th</sup> October<br>16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity  | 12 <sup>th</sup> October<br>17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity                                                       | 19 <sup>th</sup> October<br>18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity                                                       | 26 <sup>th</sup> October<br>19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> November<br>All Saints Sunday                                                            |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ALTAR    | Green                                                             | Green                                                                                                                   | Green                                                                                                                   | Green                                                                | White                                                                                                    |
| 8.00 am  |                                                                   |                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                         | Holy Communion<br>(BCP)<br>FINMERE<br>AM                             |                                                                                                          |
| 9.15 am  | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>HARDWICK<br>AM               | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>FRINGFORD<br>(Change of venue from<br>Hethe due to works in<br>church there)<br>AM | 9.15am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>FINMERE<br>MK<br><br>10am<br>'Food for Thought'<br>STOKE LYNE<br>Lay-led | 9.15am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>STRATTON AUDLEY<br>AM | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>COTTISFORD<br>AM                                                    |
| 10.45 am | 10.45am<br>'Connect' Informal Worship<br>HETHE VILLAGE HALL<br>AM | 10.45am<br>Morning Service<br>STRATTON AUDLEY<br>DG                                                                     | 10.45am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (BCP)<br>COTTISFORD<br>LW                                                       | 9.30am<br>Morning Service<br>HETHE VILLAGE HALL<br>Lay led           | 10.45am<br>Morning Service<br>FRINGFORD<br>PW                                                            |
|          | 10.45am<br>Morning Service<br>FRINGFORD<br>PW                     | 11am<br>Harvest Festival<br>MIXBURY<br>PW                                                                               | 10.45am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>FRINGFORD<br>AM/John Alderdice                                          | 10.45am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>STOKE LYNE<br>LW     | 4pm<br>'Connect' Informal Worship<br>Hall Farm, Fringford<br>AM                                          |
| 6.00 pm  | 3pm<br>'A Celebration of<br>Country Living'<br>GODINGTON<br>PW    | Evening Communion<br>STOKE LYNE<br>AM                                                                                   | 11.30am<br>Harvest Festival<br>NEWTON PURCELL<br>PW                                                                     | 4pm<br>Evensong with<br>the Shelswell Group Choir<br>HARDWICK<br>PW  | 4pm<br>Commemoration of the<br>Departed<br>FINMERE<br>PW<br><br>6pm<br>Compline<br>STRATTON AUDLEY<br>PW |

DG: Revd Diana Glover MK: Revd Canon Michael Kingston AM: Revd Alex Mahlava CO: Revd Carolyn Oley LW: Revd Liz Welters PW: Mrs Penny Wood (LLM)