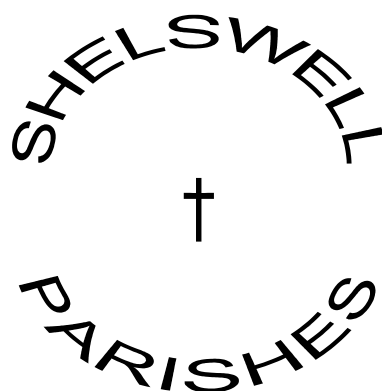


Shelswell News

The magazine of the Shelswell Group of Churches

Cottisford
Fringford
Hardwick
Mixbury
Stoke Lyne



Finnere
Godington
Hethe
Newton Purcell
Stratton Audley



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: Revd Dr Claire Maxim, The Rectory, Water Stratford Road, Finmere, Buckingham MK18 4AT Telephone 01296 256580 Email: rector@shelswellparishes.info

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ASSOCIATE MINISTER: The Reverend Liz Welters, 19 Scampton Close, Bicester OX26 4FF Telephone 01869 249481 Email lizwelters@yahoo.co.uk

LICENSED LAY MINISTER: Mrs Penny Wood, 8 Crosslands Fringford, Bicester, Oxon. OX27 8DF Telephone: 01869 277310 Email penelope.wood@btopenworld.com

BENEFICE TREASURER: Mr David Mitchell c/o The Shelswell Benefice Office, 6 Chinalls Close, Finmere, Buckingham MK18 4BQ

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

HOLY TRINITY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, HETHE,

Mass: 4pm Saturday.

Weekday Mass: 9.30am Monday

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

Telephone: 01869 253277

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

SHELLOWELL NEWS

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 16th October**

Correspondents to Editor: **Midday on Sunday 18th 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 contact the Benefice office.

MINISTER'S LETTER STANDING THE TEST OF TIME

On a recent trip to see relatives near Northampton we stopped to look at All Saints Church, Brixworth, the largest surviving Anglo-Saxon building in England. It was probably built around 750 to 850 by masons from Italy or Gaul with the help of local Saxon builders. Christian worship has been offered on this site for over 1300 years, at first in a wooden church before the huge stone one was erected.

The building started life as an abbey, later becoming a Parish Church. Some materials used in the building apparently came from Roman buildings in Leicester and Towcester. The architecture bears some similarities to Italian and Syrian buildings, with the eastern end of the church being a semi-circular apse rather than rectangular.



Like most Churches, All Saints, Brixworth has been modified through the ages, and the present-day church is smaller than the original, having lost its porticos - side chambers which came out from the north and south of the nave.



I was fascinated by the scale of the stone arches along the nave (*left*), which are mostly made from Roman bricks, set in mortar by Saxon workmen. The brickwork looks somewhat wonky and uneven, but the arches have definitely survived the test of time.

Many people, when they hear the word Church, think only of a building. The New Testament makes it clear that the Church of God is made up of people. The first letter of Peter refers to followers of Jesus as Living Stones.

"Come to Jesus Christ. He is the living stone people have rejected, but which God has chosen and highly honoured. And now you are living stones being used to build a spiritual house." 1 Peter 2.4-5a

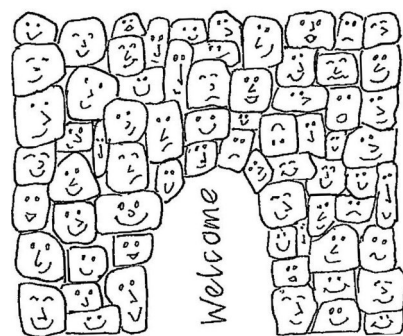
In God's house Christians rely on the support of the cornerstone and foundation stone, Christ Jesus. Each living stone, no matter how mismatched or ordinary it may seem, is part of the building and contributes to its strength and stability.

The centre of Christianity has shifted, with the church growing dramatically in the Global South - Africa, Asia, and Latin America - but declining in Western countries. Will church communities here stand the test of time or will church buildings become empty shells? The King James Bible renders living stones as *lively* stones, which reminds me that my faith needs to be lively, rather than just-about surviving. If our church communities are to stand the test of time, each stone needs to be in place and lively.

continued overleaf

As well as strengths, living stones have weaknesses and character traits that can make them grate against one another at times. So, the church community needs to open to the Holy Spirit to bind individual stones together, not as a holy huddle, but as an outward-looking community willing to welcome and build up new living stones.

William Temple, a former Archbishop of Canterbury, once said, *'The church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members.'*



Are you in place?

For the Church of living stones to stand the test of time, however wonky and imperfect it may look, we need to pray for the Holy Spirit to enliven our faith. Then we can join our talents, time and efforts to worship God, to encourage one another, and also to serve God in our communities and more widely.

Liz Welters, Associate Minister

BIBLE READINGS

Sunday 4 th October	18 th Sunday after Trinity	Isaiah 5 v1-7 Philippians 3 v4b-14 Matthew 21 v33-end
Sunday 11 th October	19 th Sunday after Trinity	Isaiah 25 v1-9 Philippians 4 v1-9 Matthew 22 v1-14
Sunday 18 th October	20 th Sunday after Trinity	Isaiah 45 v1-7 1 Thessalonians 1 v1-10 Matthew 22 v15-22
	or Luke the Evangelist	Isaiah 35 v3-6 or Acts 16 v6-12a 2 Timothy 4 v5-17 Luke 10 v1-9
Sunday 25 th October	Bible Sunday	Nehemiah 8 v1-4a [5-6] 8-12 Colossians 3 v12-17 Matthew 24 v30-35

(Note: Alternative readings may be used at Harvest celebrations)



MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION AND LIGHT LUNCH

Thursday 1st October

12 noon

Stoke Lyne Church



If you would like a lift, please contact Becky during office hours 07928 990569
admin@shelswellparishes.info

GOOD NEWS FOR WULU GIRLS' PRIMARY SCHOOL

After Alice Goodall spoke about South Sudan at Erdington Methodist Church (Erdington is on the edge of Birmingham), the Church decided to donate £670 to Wulu. This very generous amount will fund the incentives for **eleven** teachers at the School from October to December 2026. The teachers need these incentive payments because government pay is too little, arrives late or sometimes not at all.

We will continue fundraising in the Shelswell Benefice to pay the incentives for 11 teachers during 2027, starting with a Soup Lunch. Thanks to people who have contributed money directly to the Benefice account, earmarked for Wulu. It will be much appreciated by the teachers.



You are invited to a
SOUP LUNCH
with cakes and hot drinks

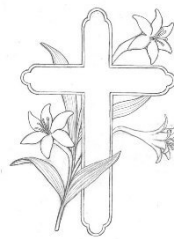


on **Saturday 24th October, 12.30-2pm**
 at **Stratton Audley Church**

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



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 1st November at 4pm in Fringford 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.

FROM REVD DR CLAIRE MAXIM

thank
you!

Dear new friends,

Thank you so much for your very warm welcome to the benefice. I've arrived safely in Finmere Rectory (which is lovely), and Lily the Rectory cat has approved her new home. She particularly appreciates the big hedges, and enjoys pretending that no-one can see her!

I was very touched by the magnificent hamper which was in the kitchen when I arrived. The contents are all very much appreciated by me (and by Lily too). I had a great time at my licensing service, thank you to everyone who worked so hard to provide bells, music, refreshments and such welcome to me and to my family and friends.

As I said then, do please keep telling me your name every time I see you, I promise I will learn eventually! I've loved meeting lots of you already, and I hope I'll be visible over the coming weeks in a community near you.

With love and prayers for us all
Claire

PS I know my telephone number of 01296 256580 looks odd for Finmere, but it is the number BT gave me, and it works!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT SERVICE



We have been following the Gospel of Matthew and hearing stories of healing, ministry and faith. In August we learnt more about the faith of the Canaanite woman and heard the message of how persistent faith can support you through challenging times and also when things are going well.

Come along to our informal service, which begins with breakfast at 10am (third Sunday of the month in St. Peter's, Stoke Lyne - the next service is on Sunday 18th October)

Kelly Holden-White
Image by fauxels from pexels.com

OUT OF THE BLUE



At Finmere Church

Followed by refreshments in
Finmere Village Hall

The UK's internationally acclaimed
lower voice A Capella group

Bestselling student show at the
Edinburgh Fringe (since 2006)



OCTOBER 17
18:00 - 19:00



@ootboxford

If you are unable to buy tickets £10 using the QR code
please contact Michelle Myers
michelle.myers@hotmail.co.uk or 07927 393657

SHELLOW-BY-THE_SEA

Come and join us for Two Days of Leisure

At The Old School, Newton Purcell

on Monday 12th & Tuesday 13th October 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, craft, board games, quizzes and puzzles, dominoes, plus a topical 'Thought for the Day'



Cost: £7 per day - Lifts can be provided

To register please contact Penny Wood,
01869 277310, penelope.wood@btopenworld.com

FAMOUS FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES?

Shelswell and the Bicester area have caught the attention of the national press several times recently - and the developments could change the character of life in the Benefice.

Stoke Lyne's Double Whammy

Stoke Lyne has been hit by proposed developments to the north and the south of the village. An application for 13 warehouses on land north of Stoke Lyne was refused by Cherwell District Council in January and then appealed. At the time of writing, a Public Inquiry is taking place at the Council Chamber in Banbury to decide Baynard Green's fate.



The proposed development, which is on the eastern edge of the Benefice, would be the height of an 8 storey building and cover land equivalent to 200 football pitches.

On the south side of the village, a proposed English history theme park to be developed by French company Puy du Fou at Bucknell has the backing of Visit Britain, Experience Oxfordshire and Blenheim Palace. Attractions would include 'themed' English villages as well as live events and the park expects to welcome 1.47 million guests a year between April and October from 2029 if planning permission is

granted; a decision is due by the end of October. Both applications can be viewed on Cherwell District Council's website.

Asylum-Seekers at Piddington



Meanwhile the proposed settlement of 1256 asylum-seeking men at the former military site near Piddington has drawn huge attention. The chairman of Piddington Parish Council, Tim McNally discovered that service-user documentation reportedly focuses on up to 3,510 men, leading to inaccurate press reports about the planning application (it is for 1256 male asylum seekers). Local reactions have ranged from a demonstration accusing opponents of the plan of being "far right" to women in the village who fear for their safety.

The Vicar of St Edburg's Church in Bicester, Reverend Peter Wright, preached a sermon on 5th July in which he acknowledged valid reasons to oppose the proposal. However, he also emphasised that any opposition to the project must be rooted in wisdom and compassion, not hostility, and that God's call to care for the newcomer, loving our neighbour as we love ourselves, remains core.

Food

Last but not least, as a rural benefice, the main output of the Shelwell Benefice has always been food.

Many food-producing acres have been lost recently to HS2 and to the proposed solar power station at Stratton Audley. Should the Baynards Green and Bucknell proposals succeed, over 450 more local acres will leave food production to be used for infrastructure to support a swelling population.

Britain faces food shortages within months, warn farmers

Poor harvest mean sector risks not having enough money to plant next year's crops

If food shortages last longer than a year or become global, people might start asking whether sacrificing agricultural land for infrastructure is the right decision. And that comes with a host of uncomfortable questions around capacity, and whether we are ready to pay the genuine cost for food produced by British farmers to high standards.

Sylvia List



CLUB NEWS



SHELLOW WI



We all thoroughly enjoyed our September speaker Neil Jacob from 3B's radio. Neil gave us a great insight into how the station had started, how it's running currently and its digital future, as soon to be found on DAB. It was good to know that there is a local radio station.

Our members also collected items for the Bicester Hygiene Bank over the meetings in August and September. They were greatly received.

We were also looking forward to our next walk at the end of the month around the village of Westbury.

In October we looking forward to welcoming Gillian Cane with A Girls Life in the Army. Gillian had visited us several times and is always informative and entertaining.

November is Christina McCulloch - Driving Ukraine.

Shelswell WI always welcome new members, for more information contact Sandra at sandrambickmore@gmail.com. As well as our own evenings and events our members regularly take part in both Oxfordshire and National events and trips.

SHELLOW 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:

- Monday 21st September, 7.30 pm at 1/2 Hethe Cottages, Cottisford
- Wednesday 21st October (Venue TBC)

As we had to postpone our August meeting, we will be discussing two books at September meeting (report will be in November issue). The books to be discussed will be 'Yesteryear' by Caro Claire Burke and 'Honour' by Elif Shafak



SHELLOW POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP

The theme for our September session was NEW THINGS, so we had a very wide remit.

Two poems about the ultra-newness of living creatures were **Hatching** by Elizabeth Jennings (1926-2001), which describes a baby bird making its escape from the egg, and **Prayer Before Birth** by Louis Macneice

(1907-63). Macneice wrote his poem during the Second World War and, in taking on the persona of an unborn child, appeals to be kept safe from all the ills that beset humanity.

The next poem we looked at was ***Born Yesterday*** by Philip Larkin (1922-85). Larkin wrote his poem to his friend Kingsley Amis's new daughter Sally. It is unusual in wishing for her ordinariness and normality. However, we are made to realise that happy normality is not always granted to us, and that what he wryly refers to as 'dull' actually means 'a skilled,/Vigilant/flexible/Unemphasised/enthralled/Catching of happiness'.

Roger McGough (extant) in ***First Day at School*** enters the head of a bewildered child starting the formal educational process and captures brilliantly the confusion and fear that are perhaps natural with understanding and humour. Caren Krutsinger (extant) in ***Parents Set the Tone*** and ***Mama Said*** writes about two unhappy children starting school. Their home life militates against their integration, and makes the reader remember how burdened the teacher can be with trying to make up for bad parenting.

Fond thoughts and preparations for her daughter's marriage are combined with nostalgia for the girl's childhood in the poem ***For a Daughter Who Leaves*** by Janice Mirikitani (extant). We feel that her new, daughterless life will be rather sad and lonely.

Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809-92) in ***Ring Out, Wild Bells*** wishes for the good of humankind in a New Year poem that can be described as representing Christian Socialism. Resolutions made at this time of year are frequently broken, as attested in ***Resolution***, a humorous poem by Brian Bilston (extant).

Changing one's life and the process of doing so are addressed in the poems ***For a New Beginning*** by John O'Donohue (1956-2008), by Mary Oliver (1935-2019) in ***The Journey*** and by Helen Steiner Rice (1956-2008) in ***New Beginnings***.

Poems which are about nature refreshing itself are ***Morning Poem*** by Mary Oliver (ibid); ***The New Moon*** by Sara Teasdale (1884-1933); ***In Time of Silver Rain*** by Langston Hughes (1901-67); ***Spring and All*** by William Carlos Williams (1883-1963); ***In the Midst of Death*** by Clive Sansom (1910-81) and an anonymous poem, ***Forever Beginning Anon.***

Two poems about new clothes and fashion are ***Shirt*** by Robert Pinsky (extant) and ***Couture*** by Mark Doty (extant). Both look below the outward show of clothing.

Finally, ***War Girls*** by Jessie Pope (1868-1941) is a bright and breezy poem about the girls who took men's places on the home front in the First World War. Serious poets like Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon and Robert Graves, disliked her positivity and cheery patriotism, but the poem tells us a lot about how these 'new women' did new things and found a different way of life.

In Time Of Silver Rain

By Langston Hughes

In time of silver rain
The earth puts forth new life
again,
Green grasses grow
And flowers lift their heads,
And over all the plain
The wonder spreads

Of Life,
Of Life,
Of life!

In time of silver rain
The butterflies lift silken wings
To catch a rainbow cry,
And trees put forth new leaves to
sing
In joy beneath the sky
As down the roadway
Passing boys and girls
Go singing, too,

In time of silver rain
When spring
And life
Are new.

If you would like to join the group for our October session, please contact me on 01869 811994 or at judith.harvey@live.co.uk

Judith Harvey

REPORTS FROM THE PARISHES

Cottisford and Juniper Hill

St Mary the Virgin

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TREASURER: David Barnes

Tel 01280 848247

Tel 07856822030

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Flora Skinner

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Sandra Bickmore, Thatch End, Juniper Hill

Tel: 01869 277366

sandrambickmore@gmail.com

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 18th October 10.45 am Harvest Service

Sunday 1st November 9.15 am Holy Communion

St Mary the Virgin Church, Cottisford

Harvest Service

Sunday 18th October at 10.45 am



Please bring donations of vegetables or non-perishable food to the church porch on the morning of Saturday 17th.

Many hands make light work so do come along on the Saturday morning at 10.30 am to help decorate the church too!

COTTISFORD AND JUNIPER HILL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

By the time this edition of the Shelswell News is out we will have had our Wine and Nibbles evening in aid of the church. We will let everyone know how much was raised next month.

On November 7 we celebrate bonfire night with our annual get together round the fire. We will have the usual soup, sausages and this year hot chocolate.

If you would like to help at any of our events or have any fundraising ideas please contact a member of the Social Committee.

Finmere

St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: Michelle Myers, 4 White Houses, Mere Road, 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

Tel: 07927 393657

Tel: 07941 322 840

Tel: 01280 848364

Tel 01280 848268

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 18th October 9.15 am Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday 25th October 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

Finmere 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



Allotments

Well, we have finally received some rain, albeit a little late for the main growing season. At least everything is looking a lot greener and unfortunately the weeds are now growing again. Guess it is now time to prepare for winter and the thought of digging over the plot reminds me of a previous plan to experiment with a 'no dig' policy, as promoted and demonstrated at the RHS allotments at Wisley.

I did experiment last autumn with placing layered newspaper over an area to suppress weeds and then layering mulch over the newspaper. Certainly helped with the Spring digging and it would be an interesting further experiment to place different newspaper titles over different areas to determine which title suppresses the most weeds!!



Interested in an allotment? - with all allotments now taken, our waiting list is now open again. Please visit www.myfinmere.com/poorsplot and select the enquiry link.

Jean

Some Finmere related links:

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

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

Finmere Parish Council website at – www.finmerepc.org

Village hall news at – www.myfinmere.com

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

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

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

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



Please come along and support Finmere's Tuesday Teas

If you are at home in the day, please pop into the Village Hall, 2nd Tuesday of the month

Tuesday 13th October
2 - 4 pm

Everyone welcome – no charge

We would love to grow the numbers so please bring a friend!

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

If anyone would like to help out, 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...

OUT OF THE BLUE

At Finmere Church
Followed by refreshments in
Finmere Village Hall

The UK's internationally acclaimed
lower voice A Capella group

Bestselling student show at the
Edinburgh Fringe (since 2006)

OCTOBER 17
18:00-19:00

@ootboxford

If you are unable to buy tickets £10 using the QR code
please contact Michelle Myers
michelle.myers@hotmail.co.uk or 07927 393657

THE (FINMERE) FIRKIN
the village pop up pub

**FIRST FRIDAY OF
EVERY MONTH**

**Come and catch up with friends and
neighbours. Families welcome!**

**Licensed bar
and food van**

FINMERE VILLAGE HALL
6-10PM

Fringford

St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: Max Todd 5, The Manor, Fringford
 TREASURER: Christina McCullagh, 5 Crosslands, Fringford
 PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Penny Wood, as below
 MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Penny Wood, 8 Crosslands, Fringford
 VILLAGE HALL CORRESPONDENT: Christine Underwood
 WEBSITE www.fringford.info

Tel 07936 760684
 Tel 07867 515207
 Tel 01869 277310
 Tel 01869 278949

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, SERVICES & EVENTS

SERVICES

- Sunday 4 October – 10.45am Morning Service
- Sunday 18 October – 10.45 Holy Communion

To find out the times and places of other services on Sundays, please check the back cover of the *Shelswell News*, the Benefice website www.shelswellparishes.info, the noticeboard at the church, or ring the Benefice office (07928 990569). You will always be welcome in our other parishes.

EVENTS

Many thanks to Simon Garrett for organising a very interesting and enjoyable **Spanish Wine-Tasting Evening** on Friday 4 September, and to those who helped on the evening – Christine Garrett, Christine Silver and Christina McCullagh.

The **Ride and Stride** for Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust took place on Saturday 12 September. We had only seven St/Riders to our church, but **thanks** to those who sat in the church to welcome the visitors: Alison Waters, Charles Hebditch and Sue, Carol Reader, Anne and Martin Greenwood, and Penny Wood.

LOOKING AHEAD – OPEN GARDENS

The PCC plan to run Open Gardens next year on 15 and 16 May. If you would be willing to open your garden, please let Penny Wood know [penelope.wood@btopenworld.com or ring 01869-277310].

MISCELLANEOUS

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 £71, 2nd £42, 3rd £28. 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 **usually** during holidays and half term. Just come along. If you need information in the meantime, email admin@shelswellparishes.info

FRINGFORD VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

Village Coffee Mornings usually take place on the third Monday of each month. In October we will meet on Monday 19th. Drop by for a coffee/tea and a chat any time between 10.30 am and 12 noon, 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 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	New! Table Tennis 4 All All welcome Monday evening 7 – 8.30pm Contact Tony Marshall tony.marshall18@gmail.com 07966522667
Just Puppies Puppy Training Tuesday evening, Sunday afternoon – various classes Contact Kerri 07720 891489 www.justpuppies.training	Fringford Yoga Wednesday morning 9.30am – 11am Carolyn White 07763 817078
Shelswell WI First Thursday of the month 7.30pm Contact Sandra Bickmore 07961 828571	Fringford Sewcial Sew and Chat! All welcome 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	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	

COME & JOIN US AT 'SEWCIAL'



We enjoy any type of craft and a natter
getting together to relax and enjoy each other's company.
Some of us knit, crochet, embroider, quilt, sew or create craft albums.

Please come and join us for tea and chat too, crafts not essential.

We get together once a month,
either on a Wednesday evening at 7 – 9pm or Sunday afternoon at 3 – 5pm
We meet in the Chinnery Room/Main hall at Fringford Village Hall.
Our next sessions for 2026 are:

Sunday October 18th
Wednesday November 18th Sunday December 13th
Sunday January 17th 2027

Everyone welcome - No need to book – just come and join us!
If you would like information, please email Irene ireneethomas@btinternet.com

Hardwick St Mary the Virgin

CHURCHWARDEN: David Barnes
TREASURER: David Barnes
PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Flora Skinner
MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Maddi Bindon, 8 Hardwick

Tel 07856822030
Tel 07856822030
Tel: 01869 277366
Tel 07769774144

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 4th October 9.15 am Holy Communion
Sunday 28th October 4.00 pm Evensong with the Shelswell Group Choir

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 (07856822030), 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 (07856822030), 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

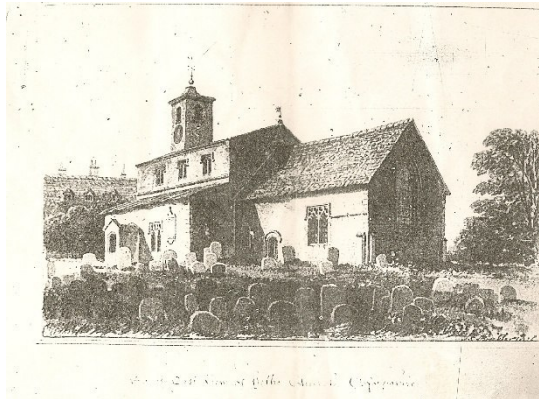
MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Mike Green as above

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.”

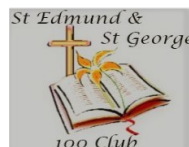
The above image shows our church before the alterations by G E Street which were completed in 1859. George Edmund Street (1824-1881) has been cited as one of the greatest architects of the 19th century. He published important books on gothic architecture in Italy and Spain following his tours of those countries. As well as restoring many churches his commissions included the building of new churches, and his work can be seen in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire.

Church Services and Events

The church is open all day for everyone to look around our historic place of worship and take time for quiet prayer and contemplation. The varied selection of books is easy to access, so please take a look and help yourself to any which you wish to read.

The five yearly inspection has been completed by our Church Architect and at the time of writing this article we were expecting the results.

Services are listed on the back page but 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>.



St Edmund & St George 100 Club

Results of the 94th draw

1st Prize No 1 Lily Skinner
2nd Prize No 54 Pauline O'Gorman
3rd Prize No 48 Ben & Ali Jones

Many thanks to our members,
Hethe PCC

Ride & Stride. Saturday 12th September.

Thank you to everyone who visited the church and those volunteers who greeted the visitors.

100 Club

Welcome to the new members of the 100 Club and congratulations to the winners in the last draw. If you would like to join, or request additional numbers, please contact Helen Pritchard.

PCC Meeting

The next regular PCC Meeting is on Wednesday 14th October starting at 1.30pm at Old Montague Barn, The Green.

A new opportunity - turn your daily shopping into everyday magic for our church with easyfundraising



You shop; brands donate to us. It will not cost you any extra.

1. Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk or scan the QR Code:
2. Sign up and search for St Edmund & St George Church Hethe
3. Your favourite brands donate to us whenever you shop with them.

Scan this QR Code if you wish to contribute to the cost of running and maintaining the church by a regular or one-off payment. Alternatively, there are copies of the Parish Giving Scheme Gift Form in the church or go to the Parish Giving web site at <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/hethe-st-edmund-st-george-bicester/>.



HETHE COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

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

Membership £15 p.a.
New members welcome.

Contact: Sheila Heydon 07455 185201

Hethe Community Coffee Morning in St Philip's Hall

Monday 12 October from 10.00am to 12.00pm

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



Parish Council. The next meeting of the council will take place on Tuesday 13th October, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The minutes from their last meeting in July are on the web site.

Pop-up Pub. Friday 2nd 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:

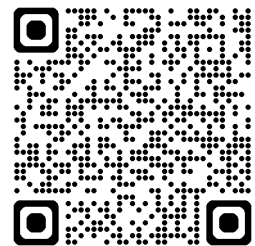
Our village web site (courtesy of the Parish Council): <https://www.hethe.org/>

Facebook Pages:

Community Spirit of the Hethens

Hethe Community

Hethe Allotments



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

TU-WIT-TU-WOO!



The Tawny Owl is probably our most familiar owl; children grow up learning that tawny owls say 'tu-wit-tu-woo' although this is not the call of one bird. The familiar call is a duet between the female who starts with the harsh 'kee-vik' which is then followed by the male with the deeper 'woo-hoooo'. At this time of year you may hear a lot of owl calls as the young are noisily driven from their natal territory by their parents. Each existing territory they pass through will elicit much calling, shrieking and hooting. This is a dangerous time for the young owls and many will die, driven from hunting grounds by resident birds before they reach their first year. Once they do find a suitable territory, which is likely to be only a few kilometres from their place of birth, they may remain in it all year round for the rest of their lives, making them one of our most sedentary birds.

Tawny owls are a bird of woodland, choosing to nest within chimney-like holes within large trees. As with many woodland species, churchyards can be good places for them, containing a range of habitats full of food as well as trees for nesting. We think of tawny owls as eating mice and voles but they have quite a varied diet, depending on what is available. They may eat small birds, rabbits, beetles, frogs and worms too.

Tawny owls do well in owl nest boxes and churchyards can be good places for these. If putting one up, keep well away from paths as owls can attack people walking too near their nests. The best place for one is within a tree with ivy or lots of branches as when the young are preparing to leave the nest they start 'branching' – climbing up and down the trunk using ivy and branches as footholds, sitting in neighbouring trees and generally starting to explore. During this time the parent birds are still feeding them, and a young owl found on the ground is probably not in trouble and shouldn't be picked up in case a nearby parent attacks.

So, listen out for the tawny owls and think of the two birds duetting each other. Please let us know if you have owls within your churchyard and if not, how about putting up a nest box in a large tree?

Extracted with permission from "Monthly Nature Notes" by Caring for God's Acre



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

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Sue Goodman

Tel 07899 792552

Tel 01280 848295

Tel 01280 847769

Tel 01280 848295

Tel 01280 848002

pasgoodman551@gmail.com

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.

All Saints' Church, Mixbury



HARVEST FESTIVAL



11 am
Sunday 11th October

- followed by Soup Kitchen at the Village Shelter -

MIXBURY CHURCH FLOWER ROTA

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.

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.



MIXBURY CHURCH CLEANING ROTA 2026

As ever, a big thank you to the team of cleaning volunteers who keep the church clean and tidy. We are still looking for someone new to step up and take on the admin for this necessary and important role.

This message goes out to the wider Mixbury community and not just those who currently give of their time. It would be particularly appropriate if someone new to the village and / or from the younger generation were to volunteer.

Anyone prepared to take on this role, please let the Churchwarden know. 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.

OCTOBER Emma Bray and Viv Williams
 NOVEMBER Alison Bailey, Pam Burrill and Jules Channon
 DECEMBER Gail Bellingham, Mel Soar & Sue Boshier

A DOUBLE CHRISTENING AT ALL SAINTS, MIXBURY

On a beautifully sunny 5th September, All Saints Church in Mixbury welcomed two very special new members of the congregation: Raffi Luke Walker Williams, aged four months, and his cousin Isabel Rho Williams, aged one, who were christened together in a joyful joint ceremony.

Raffi is the son of Barney and Hannah Williams, and Isabel ("Izzy") is the daughter of Barney's brother Charlie and his wife Megan. The two families came together, along with the children's godparents to celebrate this milestone, and for Izzy's grandparents, that meant a long journey indeed, travelling all the way from Fort Worth, Texas, to be there on the day.

For the Williams family, All Saints holds a particularly special place in their hearts. Barney and Charlie grew up in the house directly opposite the church, and over the years it has been there for every chapter of their story: Charlie and Megan's wedding, the funeral of the boys' father, and now the christening of the next

generation. As Barney put it, it felt like "a full cycle moment", a poignant reminder of how the church has been woven through the fabric of family life for so many years. Their mother, Viv, still lives in that same house opposite the church, and was once again an amazing host to the whole family and their guests.

After the ceremony, family and friends gathered for a lunch in the garden, with the church looking down over the celebrations. The spread was cooked by Harry's (Barney and Charlie's brother) girlfriend Verity, and included a wonderful slow-cooked lamb alongside an array of salads. A feast made all the better by the glorious sunshine. It was a day filled with warmth, laughter, and love. A fitting welcome for Raffi and Izzy into the life of All Saints, Mixbury, and a lovely reminder of just how much this small church means to the families it has watched over for generations.



AILEAN RYMER 1928 – 2026
BY SALLY DRUMMOND HAY

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Ailean Rymer was held in Mixbury Church on 21st August. It was a celebration of a long life, well lived and was attended by close on 400 friends and family. There are few people reaching the age of 98 whose services are attended by so many people - it was a testament to the regard in which she was held.

Ailean's extended family, the farming community, the hunting community and friends both local and from afar made the service a celebration of her life. She was one of five sisters, brought up in Wales with ponies and hunting as recorded in the poem 'Ponies' by John Betjeman, adapted by her daughter Annie. She married Dick Rymer of Middle Farm and her sisters followed her to Oxfordshire. They followed the farming, hunting life they had been brought up to, working incredibly hard but taking every opportunity to see friends and family.

Until the very day she died Ailean made sure her days were full and interesting. She loved to talk of the 'old days' and was always interested in other people. If there wasn't much on she would ring up a friend and ask them to pop in for a cup of coffee or a drink. Her door was always open and she will be missed by many.

Sons John and Peter Rymer gave moving tributes as did her grandchildren Olly and Hamish. Her granddaughter Lottie movingly sang 'For Good' from the musical Wicked. The service was taken by The Rev. George Frost and ended with Gareth Bow blowing 'Gone Away' on his horn.

Memories were shared after the service at Middle Farm where Peter and Isabelle laid on the wake.

MIXBURY FETE

The Fete was held in Castle Field on Saturday September 5th 2026 – well done to the Fete Team for all their hard work putting together another successful day.

The cake stall this year was wonderfully run by Lucy and Emma with lots of yummy cakes! A few photos from the day below: If you didn't visit Ann's craft stall you missed out on buying her beautifully made tote bags, dog walking bags, tissue holders and many more items. Photos below of Book Stall (first left), Ann and homemade craft stall (middle) and far right Fi with her homemade produce and plants.



HELLO AND GOODBYE

In early September Derek and Dave left the village for a new life further afield. It won't quite be the same without seeing them ride their beautiful horses up and down the village. Derek had lived in Mixbury since 1983 and both his children were born here.

But with every sad goodbye comes a big hello and welcome back to Mixbury for Jeremy Mortimer (photo below at the Fete). Jeremy is very pleased to be back here so don't forget to pop in and say hello.



BURGLARY

There was a recent burglary incident in the village when intruders gained entry to two properties. Thankfully, no one was physically harmed, although this was understandably a distressing incident for those involved.

The police are investigating and have been in the village carrying out enquiries. There is no further information available at this stage, and it would not be appropriate to speculate while those enquiries are ongoing.

In the meantime, it would be sensible for everyone to take the usual precautions: please make sure that doors, windows, garages and outbuildings are secure, and remain alert to anything unusual or suspicious. If

you see anything that you believe may be relevant or requires an immediate police response, please contact the police.

COLD CALLERS / "NOTTINGHAM KNOCKERS"

On a separate matter, residents should also be aware that cold callers, often referred to as "Nottingham Knockers", have recently been active in Evenley. The following information has been circulated to residents in Evenley and is equally relevant to us here in Mixbury:

"What are Nottingham Knockers? - Nottingham Knockers are typically young individuals who travel in teams, often originating from the Nottingham area, carrying large holdall bags filled with household items such as cleaning products, small clothing items, and kitchenware, which they sell at inflated prices. They often claim to be ex-convicts on rehabilitation schemes and may show fake ID cards to appear legitimate, though these cards have no legal validity.

Nottingham Knockers are not just salespeople; they are often linked to criminal activity. They may observe homes for vulnerabilities, noting details to sell to professional burglars. There are documented cases where households that purchased from them experienced burglaries shortly afterward. Some have even become violent, forcing entry to obtain money. Teams often maintain lists rating homes based on perceived success, indicating a systematic approach to targeting victims.

Safety Advice:

Use caution when approached by door-to-door sellers. Residents should verify identities through a spyhole or side window, ask for official identification, and avoid opening the door to unknown individuals. It is advised not to engage with them or make purchases, especially in cash, to reduce the risk of exploitation or burglary.

More information can be found on Google by typing "OPERATION REPEAT".

Please remain cautious about unexpected callers at your door. There is no obligation to engage with or purchase anything from a cold caller, and residents should feel entirely comfortable declining to open the door or ending a conversation.

We will circulate any further relevant information about today's incident if and when it becomes available.

Kind regards,
Mel Soar"

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 –

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.



POEMS OF THE MONTH
LAST AUGUST
BY TED HUGHES
(suggested by Pat Beveridge)

The sun finally tolerable.
 The sunflowers tired out, like old gardeners.
 Cabbage white butterflies eddying
 In the still pool of what is left to them.
 The buddleia's last cones of lilac intoxicant
 Crusted with Peacock butterflies and red Admirals.
 A raven, orbiting elm high, lazily,
 Two cronks to each circuit.
 Sky sprinkled with forked martins
 Swallows glittering their voices.
 Now a cooler push, rocking the mesh of soft-edged shadows.
 So we sit on the earth which is warmed
 And sweetened and ripened
 By the furnace
 On which the door is just about to close.

SEPTEMBER

We sit late, watching the dark slowly unfold:
 No clock counts this.
 When kisses are repeated and the arms hold
 There is no telling where time is.
 It is midsummer: the leaves hang big and still:
 Behind the eye a star,
 Under the silk of the wrist a sea, tell
 Time is nowhere.
 We stand; leaves have not timed the summer.
 No clock now needs
 Tell we have only what we remember:
 Minutes uproaring with our heads
 Like an unfortunate King's and his Queen's
 When the senseless mob rules;
 And quietly the trees casting their crowns
 Into the pools.

Ted Hughes (1930-1998)

**If anyone would like to put their favourite poem forward please email: Sue at
 pasgoodman551@gmail.com.**



Newton Purcell St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: Ann von Maltzahn, Home Farm Shelswell Park
CHURCHWARDEN: 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:-

Sunday 11th October - Harvest Festival - 11.30 a.m.

Village Fete & Dog Show:-

We were blessed with fine weather and this years event was very well supported with people coming from far and wide to enjoy all that was on offer.

Enormous thanks go to ALL who worked so hard with all the preparations and helping on the day!

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 11th OCTOBER

at 12.45 p.m.

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

Payable on the day.

Children under 14 - half price

Please bring your own knife, fork & spoon!

Please reply giving numbers to ann.maltzahn@yahoo.com or ring 01280 848680

OR Stuart Hinton on 07593 784143 by Monday 5th October

Bonus Ball Lotto:-

Recent lucky winners have been Fay Harris and Ann von Maltzahn.

Subscriptions to this vital part of our fundraising are now due for renewal so we hope that all who already take part will continue to do so and that more people will join in as we still have a few spare numbers!

A Date for your Diary:-

Christmas Concert - **Monday 14th December**

Stoke Lyne St Peter's

CHURCHWARDEN: Christopher Poole

CHURCHWARDEN: James Holden-White

TREASURER: Janey Poole

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Emma Brown

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Rena Andrews

PARISH ROOM BOOKINGS : Kelly and James Holden-White

Tel 01869 346020

CTP@oxford-educational.co.uk

kholdenwhite@aol.com

Tel 07810 120457

janey@oxford-educational.co.uk

emmabrown911@gmail.com

Tel: 01869 346653

renaandrews820@gmail.com

Tel 01869 345211

kholdenwhite@aol.com

Submissions for the Magazine: If anyone has any items for the magazine please email them to magazine correspondent Rena (renaandrews820@gmail.com) copied to her assistant Brenda (brendahazel104@gmail.com) . The deadline is the second or third Friday of the month depending on the way the days fall – see inside the front cover of each issue.

St Peter's Church Stoke Lyne Services

See back page for details. Please also see the general section at the front of the magazine for reports on the previous and details of the forthcoming "Food for Thought" and "Midweek Communion and Soup Lunch" services which usually take place each month at St Peter's Church on the third Sunday (Food for Thought) and the first Thursday (Midweek Communion and Soup Lunch).

Flower Duty for October

Janey Poole

Stoke Lyne 100 Club – August and September Results

August:

1 st Prize	Membership No 52	Rena Andrews
2 nd Prize	Membership No 23	Elaine Barnes
3 rd Prize	Membership No 31	Caroline Cooke

September:

1 st Prize	Membership No 2	Donita Read
2 nd Prize	Membership No 32	Kelly Holden-White
3 rd Prize	Membership No 10	Nick Barnes

Thank you to all for your continued support. New Members needed. Email janey@oxford-educational.co.uk. Only £3.00 per membership.

Janey Poole

Treasurer

St Peter's Church PCC

Open Mic Night – August 2026

A fantastic time was had by all at our second Open Mic Night of the year. Ped organised a fine selection of musicians and also played for us himself. Erin wowed us (as always) with her beautiful voice, with a special rendition of 'Jolene' by Dolly Parton. Thank you to everyone for their support, in particular Clive, who kindly donated some delicious pies and helped us to raise £450 which will be used for the upkeep of the church building and our valued community space.

Remember that if you would like to hire the Parish Room, it is available to Stoke Lyners for £15 per hour and is ideal for parties and family events.

Kelly Holden-White

A Look at the Stuchbury memorial inside the Church – Part 2 – Mary Stuchbury (nee Lepper)



John (subject of the "Look at" in the July edition of "Shelswell News") married Mary Lepper in Stratton Audley on 16th February 1808. The marriage bond for this marriage states that John was "of Stoke Lyne". She was baptised in Stratton Audley in 1786. Her parents were William and Ann Lepper. As well as being a farmer's wife she must have spent a considerable amount of time being pregnant/raising her large family (as well as the nine children buried in the churchyard there were at least 3 buried elsewhere). However, the censuses show that the family did employ at least one "house servant" to help her run the household.

After her husband's death, Mary took over the farm. She appeared on the Stoke Lyne entries in several trade directories (her surname rendered in a variety of spellings):

- 1847 Mrs Stuchfield, farmer, Fewcott (Kelly's)
- 1854 Mrs Mary Stuckbury, Farmer, Fewcott (Kelly's)
- 1863 Mrs Mary Stuchbury, farmer, Fewcott (Dutton's)

On the 1851 census she is listed at Baynard's Green as "Mary Stuchbury, Head, Widow, 64, Farmer of 314 acres employing 12 labourers, born Stratton Audley".

She was no doubt supported in this by several of her adult offspring who lived with her on the farm. Her status was much the same on the 1861 census where the farm is listed as at "Mary Stuchbury, Head, Widow, 74, Farmer of 330 acres employing 8 men & 6 boys, born Stratton Audley".

Burial records show that she was buried on 15th May 1869, aged 82, abode Baynard's Green Stoke Lyne. Vicar Cloudesley D B Marsham officiated. Unfortunately no identifiable gravestone for her was uncovered in the 2025 churchyard clean up.

The Bicester Herald of 14th May 1869 reported her death thus:

DIED: May 8, at Baynard's Green, Stoke Lyne, aged 82, Mary, widow of the late Mr. John Stuchbury, farmer and maltster.

Probate was granted on 15th June 1869 at Oxford to "John Stuchbury of Baynard's Green" "Maltster the Son and one of the Next of Kin of the Deceased he having been first sworn". "Effects under £200".

The stories of John and Mary's son John and the other eight children buried in our churchyard will be appear in future "Look ats".

Brenda Hazel

Stoke Lyne information:

Stoke Lyne Village Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/StokeLyneVillage>
 Village Email & WhatsApp Group: Contact: philelliot2002@yahoo.co.uk
 Stoke Lyne Diggers (Allotments): Contact: pippa.elliott@yahoo.co.uk
 Stoke Lyne Parish Council: <https://stokelyne.org/>
 Stoke Lyne Stories: <https://stokelynestories.webador.co.uk/>
 Victoria County History: <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/oxon/vol6/pp312-323>

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

CHURCHWARDEN: Sarah Noujaim, 15 Cavendish Place, Stratton Audley

CHURCHWARDEN: Penny Oakey, Grange Farm, Godington

TREASURER: Fai Li

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Maxine Ling

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Vacant (Stratton Audley)

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Sylvia List (Godington)

Tel 07941 273145

Tel 01869 278778

Tel 07725 009838

editor@shelswellparishes.info

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 4th October 6.00 pm Compline at Stratton Audley

Sunday 11th October 10.45 am Morning Service at Stratton Audley

Sunday 25th October 9.15 am Holy Communion at Stratton Audley

HOLY TRINITY, GODINGTON

The church is open for private prayer and contemplation every day 10 am - 4 pm.



'Little Lambs' Baby and Toddler Group

Stratton Audley Church
Wednesdays 10am - 11.30am
(Term Time)

Come & join us! Play, music and stories.
Tea, coffee and snacks for adults and
children
Meet new families from the local area.

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

The Last Word

"In 2 billion years our sun will burn out. Meaning that the UK government will have to finish HS2 in the dark. " - The Internet



1st OCTOBER - THE 7th EARL OF SHAFTESBURY, "THE POOR MAN'S EARL"

Think of Piccadilly Circus, and that small figure poised with bow and arrow. Most people think it is Eros, but it is not. It represents his brother Anteros, the god of selfless love and is a memorial to a great Christian Victorian social reformer.

Anthony Ashley Cooper, the 7th Earl of Shaftesbury (1801 – 1885) was a devout Christian who spent his life fighting to help ease the plight of lunatics, chimney sweeps, children in factories, women and children in the mines, opium addicts, and children without any education.

His own early life was loveless and bleak – his parents formal and frightening, his early schooldays a ‘horror’ of ‘cruelty and starvation’. The only love came from the family’s housekeeper, Maria Millis. A biographer wrote: ‘She provided for Ashley a model of Christian love that would form the basis for much of his later social activism and philanthropic work.’

After Christ Church Oxford, where he proved an outstanding scholar, Ashley turned to politics. In 1826, aged 25, he was elected as Tory MP for Woodstock. He was eager to serve on parliamentary committees; his great life’s work had begun.

Lunatics: In 1827 people suffering from psychosis were kept chained naked in straw, forced to sleep in their excrement. They were washed in freezing cold water, with one towel for 160 people and no soap. There was gross over-crowding and inedible food: asylums were places to die in.

Shaftesbury’s maiden speech in Parliament was in support of a Bill to improve conditions. He wrote: ‘By God’s blessing, my first effort has been for the advance of human happiness.’ The effort was to take years: from 1827 to 1884 he fought for a succession of Lunacy Acts.

Child Labour and Factory Reform. Again, reform was slow. Shaftesbury pushed for the Ten Hours Act from 1833 and finally got it through Parliament in 1847. No child under the age of 9 should work in the cotton or woollen industries, and no one under 18 must work more than ten hours a day. It was a start.

Miners. In 1842 he was instrumental in outlawing the employment of women and children in coal mines.

Climbing boys. Thousands of young boys forced to climb chimneys to sweep them from the inside were dying in terrible pain – scorched, blinded and suffocated by soot, or with cancer of the scrotum. Ashley fought for Bills in 1840, 1851, 1853, 1855, 1864 until finally the Chimney Sweepers Act 1875 closed the practise down.

Education reform: 1844 Ashley became president of the Ragged School Union that promoted education for poor children. He wrote that if it were to fail, ‘I should die of a broken heart’.

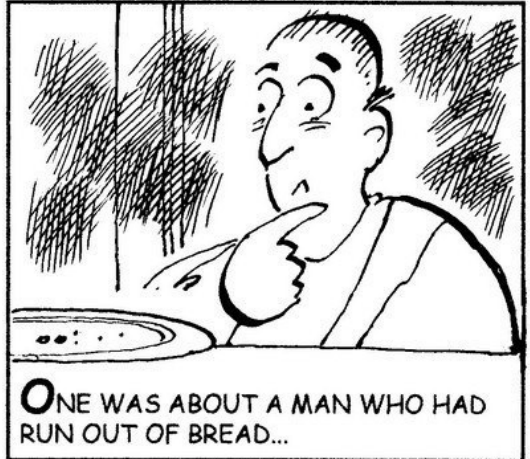


Lord Shaftesbury died aged 84 on 1st October 1885. His funeral service at Westminster Abbey on the morning of 8th October drew thousands of people: costermongers, flower-girls, boot-blacks, crossing sweepers, factory hands and many more. They waited for hours to see his coffin go by. One biographer wrote about him: ‘No man has in fact ever done more to lessen the extent of human misery, or to add to the sum total of human happiness.’

from Parish Pump

The
Tale of
The Friend
at
Midnight

JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE WAS ABOUT A MAN WHO HAD
RUN OUT OF BREAD...



...AND HE NEEDED PLENTY AS
A FRIEND WAS COMING TO STAY.

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS
MIDNIGHT...



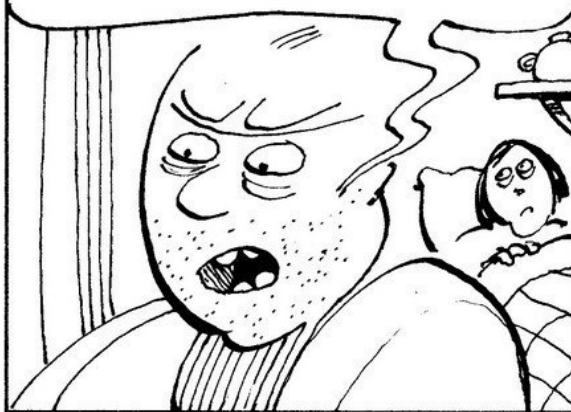
... HE WENT TO HIS NEIGHBOUR'S
HOUSE AND BANGED ON THE
DOOR - LOUDLY!



PLEASE WILL YOU LEND
ME THREE LOAVES?

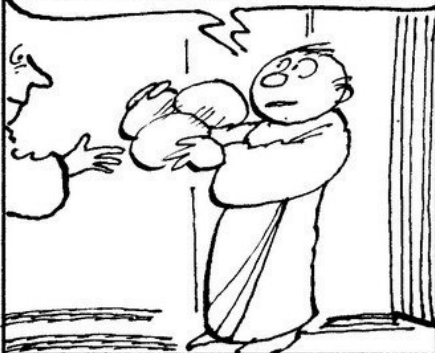


GO AWAY!! WE'RE ALL TRYING TO SLEEP!

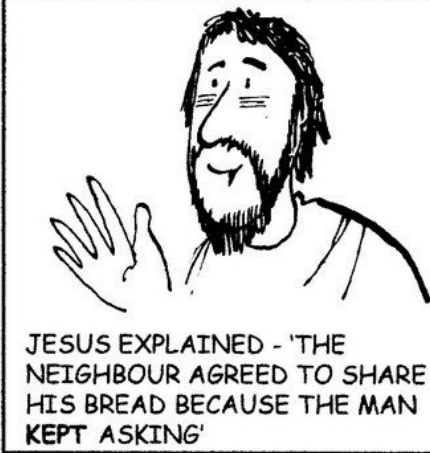


OH GO ON... PLEASE I
REALLY DO NEED SOME!

ALRIGHT THEN! BUT I'M
ONLY DOING THIS BECAUSE I
WANT SOME PEACE AND QUIET!



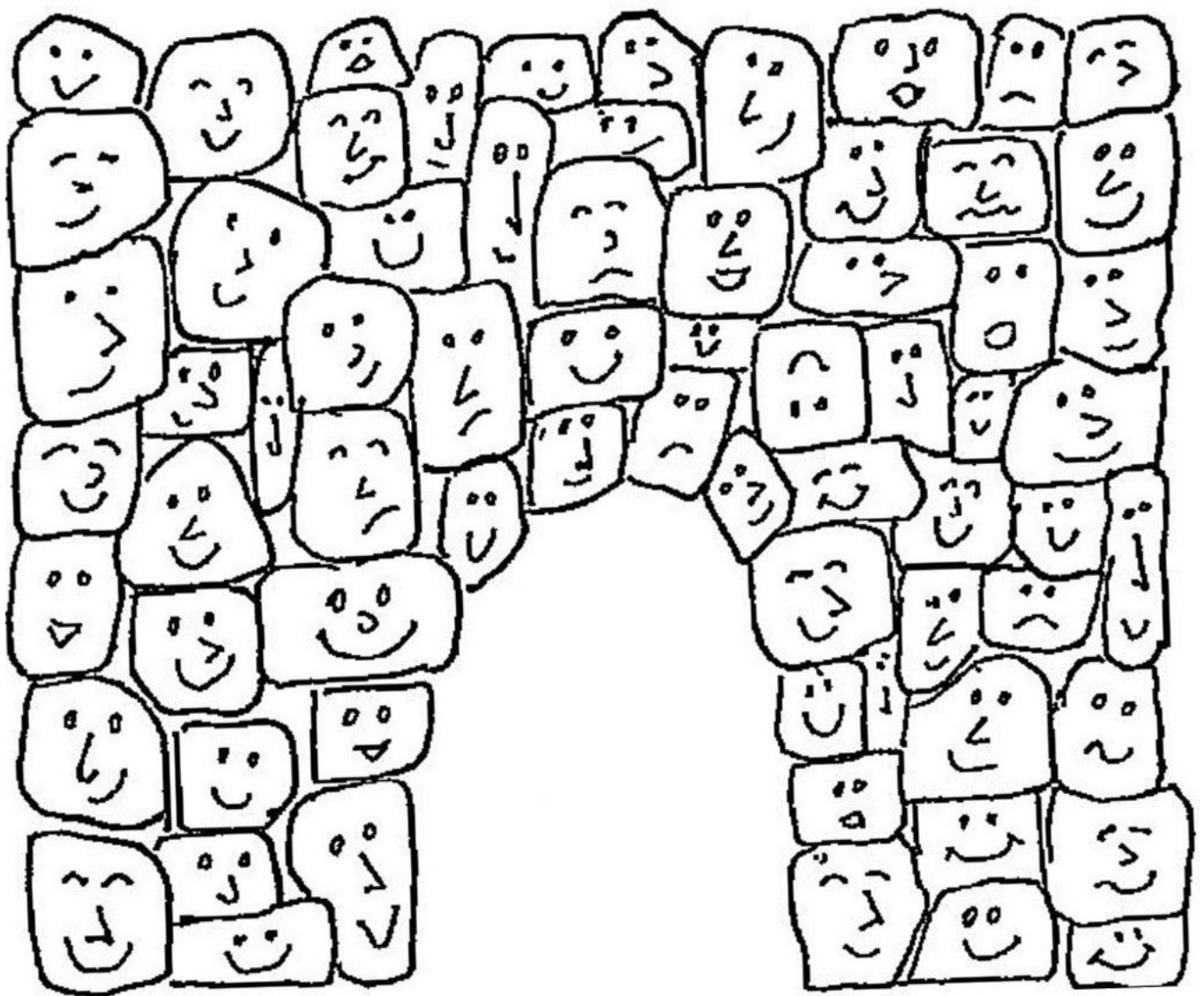
JESUS EXPLAINED - 'THE
NEIGHBOUR AGREED TO SHARE
HIS BREAD BECAUSE THE MAN
KEPT ASKING'



'DON'T BE AFRAID TO TALK
TO GOD. HE LONGS TO HEAR
OUR PRAYERS'.



COLOURING IN
Lively stones in God's Church *by Liz Walters*



The Church is not just a building - it is all of us. St Peter wrote "you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house" (1 Peter 2:4)

Which stone are you?

Add more stones for people you know.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

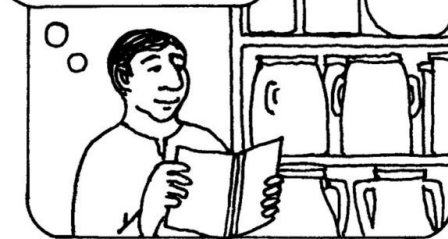
It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew 24:44-51, Luke 12:40-46

Jesus warned his disciples to be always
ready for his return at the end of time
by telling the story of two servants

The good servant



My master could be away
a long time; I will work as
if he was here.



When the servants came
for their food, he had it
ready



He made sure everyone
got their full amount.
every day



Then his master came back



I am putting you in
charge of everything I
have



The bad servant



My master could be away
a long time; I can do what
I want!



When the servants came
for their food, he chased
them away!



He had friends come
round, and they ate and
drank as much as they
liked.



Then his master came back



Jesus said

This is the
difference
between
those who
follow me and those
who only say they do.

DO THE BIBLE AND SCIENCE CONTRADICT ONE ANOTHER?

As students, parents and teachers are getting settled into the new school year, Dr Ruth Bancewicz, Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge offers a few thoughts on how science and the Bible fit together.

For the Christian, the Bible is God's Word to us; it tells us about His character and creative purposes, how He has related to people in the past, and His promises for the future.

Science is a specific way of studying the world, exploring the physical properties of things – a wonderful way to explore God's creation.

So if the Bible and science seem to be contradicting each other, have we made a mistake in interpreting one or the other?

Scientific methods are very good at answering certain types of questions like 'What size is it?', 'How fast does it travel?', 'What is it made of?'

But questions like 'What's it for?', 'How should I properly use it?', and 'What's it worth?' can't be answered by science. Some of the misunderstanding in discussions of science and religion come from not recognising the limits of science.

Biblical writers used words that were commonly used in their own cultures to record events, share truth and wisdom, and tell stories that convey deep truth about God's character. These words and way of recording things may be different from our own.

By trying to understand these ancient writers better, we will deepen our understanding of what they were saying and thus we can understand better how the Bible fits together with modern thinking, including science.

COULD SLEEP BE SPIRITUAL?



Sleeping man by Timur Weber

"Sleep is spiritual," is the claim made in a newly-published guide to discipleship, written by London-based Church of England vicar, Sarah Guinness.

'The Alternative Guide to Discipleship' places sleep firmly at the core of your growth in Christian spirituality.

The author writes, "Sleep is not wasted time. It is an opportunity for God to seal our dreams, and to deposit things and ideas in our hearts and minds.

Reverend Guinness, the Vicar of Brentford in West London, believes that sleep can be creative, an opportunity for God to speak to us, a place to be vulnerable and a practice run for our Christian lives.

She cites how Adam fell into a deep sleep, and wakes to find Eve, how God speaks to a sleeping Abram about His promises and seals a covenant with him, and how Jesus sleeps and then wakes with clarity to curse a fig tree and clear the temple.

In Mark 1, Jesus goes to bed, sleeps and awakes early to pray, and later in the day tells the disciples they need to move on to other towns. "It's as though Jesus goes to sleep, has a divine download and feels focused on His priorities."

It's in our dreams that God speaks to us most powerfully, she explains. "God, being God, can do far more in our sleeping than we can do in our waking. He uses dreams to get our attention.

"People talk about being woken in the night with a strong urge to pray for a person or a situation. Why? Because sleep isn't dead space when our bodies reboot. Sleep is spiritual."

More details in the Book Reviews below.

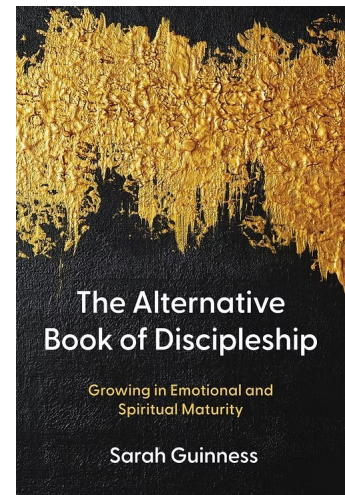
BOOK REVIEWS

The Alternative Book of Discipleship

By Sarah Guinness, Malcolm Down Publishing Ltd, £9.99

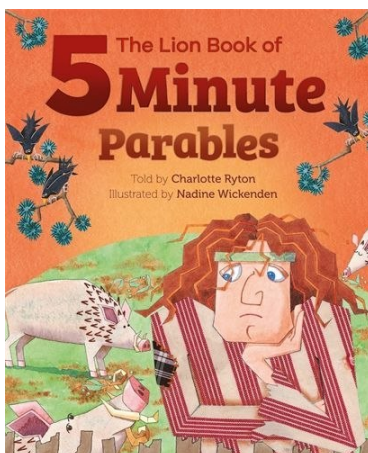
In 'The Alternative Book of Discipleship,' Reverend Sarah Guinness maps out a route to spiritual growth based on managing boundaries, embracing emotions, learning to play, surrendering outcomes, and other insights. It is founded on the author's experiences as a parish priest and, before that, 12 years as an occupational therapist.

With honesty and warmth, Sarah Guinness addresses the frustrations of faith, the challenge of surrendering control, and the necessity of doing our own internal work as we grow in emotional maturity and learn to love well.



The Lion Book of Five-Minute Parables

By Charlotte Ryton, Lion Cub Books, £9.99



This book brings 10 of the most beloved parables to life with warmth, faithfulness, and sincerity, all perfectly paced for just five minutes of reading.

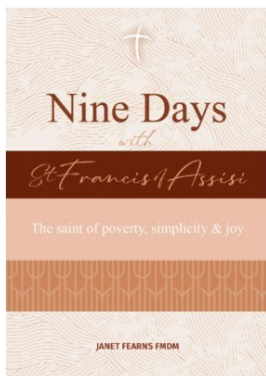
From lost coins to lavish feasts, these engaging retellings help children discover what it means to listen, forgive, and use their gifts wisely in ways they can truly understand.

Stories include: The Sower and the Seed, The Rich Fool, The Great Feast, The Lost Coin, The Prodigal Son, The Widow and the Judge, The Unforgiving Steward, The Workers in the Vineyard, The Foolish Bridesmaids, and The Three Servants.

continued overleaf

Nine Days with St Francis of Assisi

By Sr Janet Fearn FMDM, Redemptorist Publications, £3.95



St Francis of Assisi died 800 years ago on 4th October this year.

He made mistakes, but he never stopped looking for God and trying to be good. He walked through woodland, singing and playing a make-believe violin – and inspired people to live the Gospel message in poverty, humility, simplicity and joy.

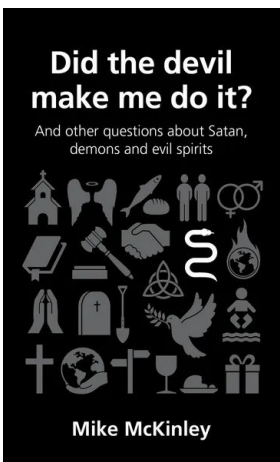
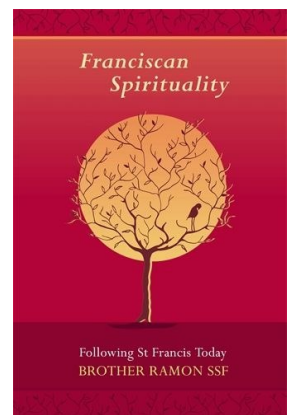
Towards the end of his life, blind and in constant pain, Francis praised God in *The Canticle of the Creatures*. He showed us that we don't need to be big and important to be loved by God.

Franciscan Spirituality – Following St Francis Today

By Brother Ramon SSF, SPCK, £16.99

Can ordinary men and women today, with families, jobs and other responsibilities, even think of following in the way of a 13th century friar?

Brother Ramon, an Anglican Franciscan friar, shows how Franciscan spirituality is marked by spontaneity and emotional freedom, openness to every human being and love for nature.



Did the devil make me do it? – and other questions about Satan, demons and evil spirits

By Mike McKinley, The Good Book Company/10Publishing, £4.22

When Jesus walked the earth, He cast out demons and had powerful encounters with the devil. But who exactly is the devil, and where did he come from? And what is he up to in the world today?

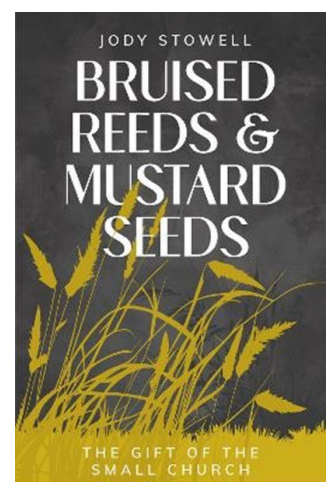
This short, readable book explains clearly and simply what the Bible says about Satan, demons and evil spirits.

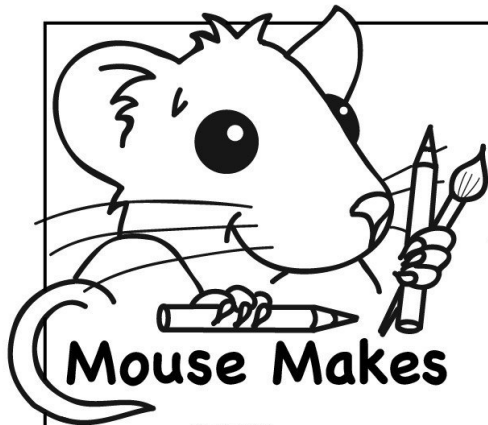
Bruised Reeds and Mustard Seeds – the Gift of the Small Church

By Jody Stowell, Canterbury Press, £12.99

Churches are often judged by their congregation size, and praised for expansion. A church with a small congregation can be seen as failing somehow. But could the true value of the smaller church be overlooked? What if there's a unique gift in these smaller communities?

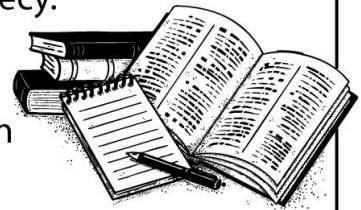
This book argues that within small churches lies a richness, resilience and spiritual depth that can be lost in the noise of larger communities. It is a call to rediscover the profound worth of smaller congregations and to recognise their vital place alongside their larger siblings.





The **Bible** is a collection of books, written by many different people who were helped and inspired by God. The **Bible** includes books of history, law, poetry and songs, wisdom, testimony, letters and prophecy.

The **Bible** encourages us, corrects us and teaches us about God and how we can be friends with Him.



2. Which book of the Bible has the shortest title?

1. How many books are there in the New Testament?

2



3

3. The Word of God is sharper than a two edged

Hebrews 4:12



B I B L E S U N D A Y

4. He was an Old Testament prophet that has a book named after him.

5. The first book of the Bible.



6. God's word is like?

A _____ and a _____
Psalm 119:105

8. The last book in the Bible.

5

8

6

7

9. The Old Testament book of poetry and songs.

9

10

11

12

11. The last book in the Old Testament.

10. Who wrote the third book of the New Testament?

13

14

7. What are the first four books of the New Testament known as?

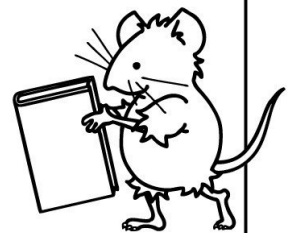
12. Which book tells the story of the spread of Christianity?

13. The Bible is also known as the

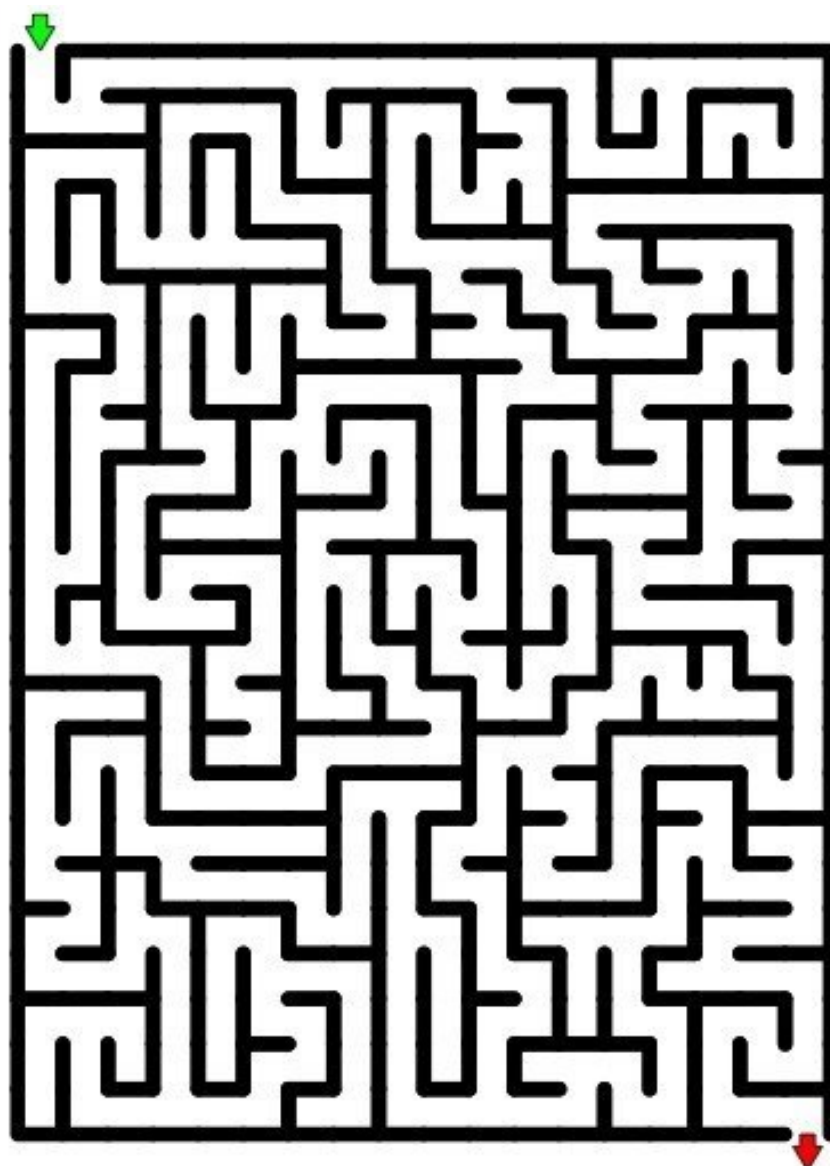
14. A book of the Bible named after a woman



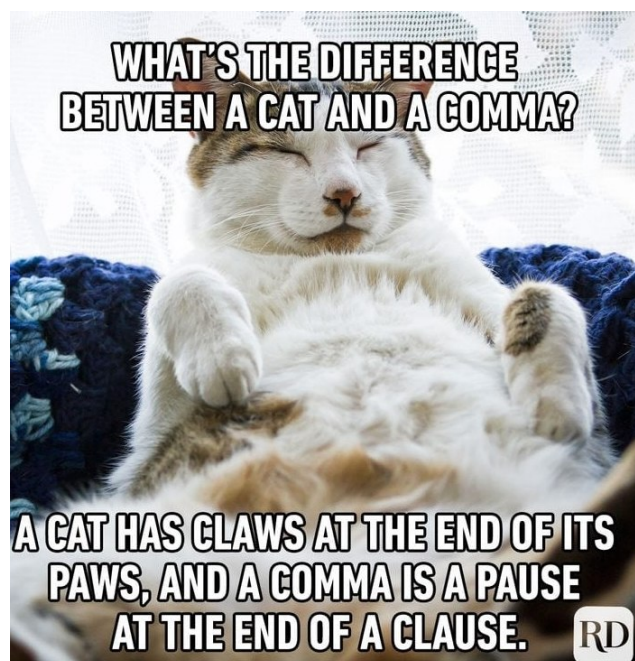
of God.
Hebrews 4:12



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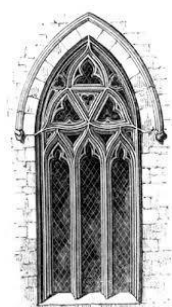
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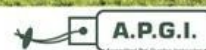
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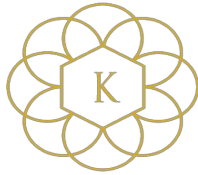
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**SHELSWELL GROUP SERVICES: OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2026**  
 CW: 'Common Worship' modern language service    BCP: 'Book of Common Prayer' traditional language service

| DATE     |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                             |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ALTAR    | 4 <sup>th</sup> October<br>18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity                             | 1 <sup>st</sup> October<br>19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity                                                                                        | 18 <sup>th</sup> October<br>7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity                                                                                                             | 25 <sup>th</sup> October<br>20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity/<br>Luke the Evangelist                                                                                                             | 1 <sup>st</sup> November<br>All Saints                                                                                                      |
| 8.00 am  | Green                                                                                        | Green                                                                                                                                                   | Green                                                                                                                                                                        | Green/Red<br>Holy Communion<br>(BCP)<br>FINMERE CM                                                                                                                                                    | White                                                                                                                                       |
| 9.15 am  | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>HARDWICK<br>CM                                          | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>HETHE<br>AM                                                                                                        | 9.15am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>FINMERE<br>CM/PW                                                                                                              | 9.15am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>STRATTON AUDLEY<br>AM                                                                                                                                  | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>COTTISFORD<br>CM                                                                                       |
| 10.45 am | 'Connect' Informal Worship<br>HETHE VILLAGE HALL<br>AM<br>Morning Service<br>FRINGFORD<br>CM | 10.45am<br>Morning Service<br>STRATTON AUDLEY<br>PW<br>11am<br>Harvest Festival<br>MIXBURY<br>CM<br>11.30am<br>Harvest Festival<br>NEWTON PURCELL<br>AM | 10am<br>'Food for Thought'<br>STOKE LYNE<br>Lay-led<br>10.45am<br>Harvest Festival<br>COTTISFORD<br>AM<br>10.45am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>FRINGFORD<br>CM/PW | 9.30am<br>Morning Service<br>HETHE VILLAGE HALL<br>Lay led<br>10.45am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>STOKE LYNE<br>LW<br>4pm<br>Evensong with<br>the Shelswell Group Choir<br>HARDWICK<br>PW | 'Connect' Informal Worship<br>Venue tbc<br>AM<br>Morning Service<br>FRINGFORD<br>PW<br>4pm<br>Commemoration of the<br>Departed<br>FRINGFORD |
| 6.00 pm  | Compline<br>STRATTON AUDLEY<br>PW                                                            | Evening Communion<br>STOKE LYNE<br>CM                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                             |

AM: Revd Alex Mahlava    CM: Revd Dr Claire Maxim    LW: Revd Liz Welters    PW: Mrs Penny Wood (LLM)