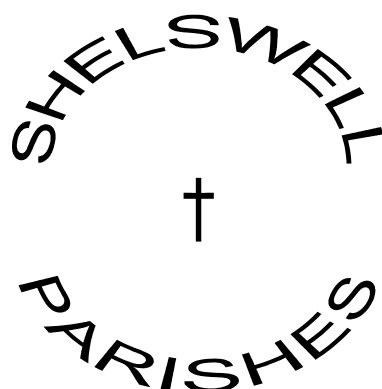


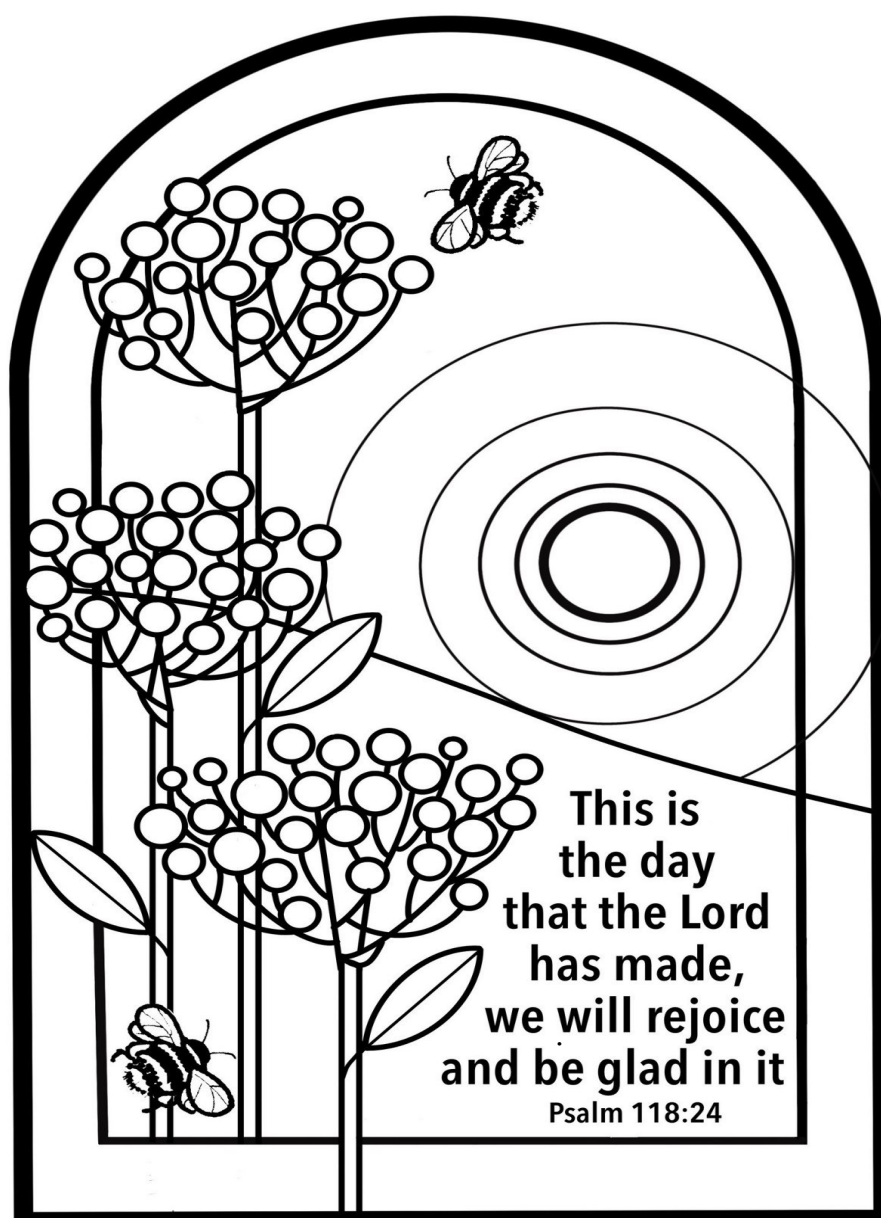
Shelswell News

The magazine of the Shelswell Group of Churches

Cottisford
Fringford
Hardwick
Mixbury
Stoke Lyne



Finmere
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: 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

ASSOCIATE MINISTER: The Reverend Alex Mahlava, 10c St Michael's Close, Fringford, Bicester OX27 8DW Telephone: 07957 905969 Email: amahlava@gmail.com

ASSOCIATE MINISTER: The Reverend Liz Welters, 19 Scampton Close, Bicester OX26 4FF Telephone 01869 249481 Email 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.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 **August** edition of Shelswell News

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

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

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

www.shelswellparishes.info

SHELLOWELL NEWS ARCHIVE. to look up previous issues of the Shelswell News please contact the Benefice office.

Ministers Letter

ROCKS AND LIVING STONES

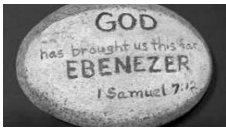
On Trinity Sunday, 31st May, over thirty people gathered for an open-air service in the beautiful setting of Evenley Wood Garden. The theme, God is my Rock, was taken from Psalm 62:

*'Truly God is my rock and my salvation;
He is my fortress, I shall never be shaken.'*

Although there are many references to rocks in the Bible, just three rock-related readings were chosen.

- **Memorial Stones** - Joshua 4.4-9

Penny explained that when the Israelites crossed the river Jordan, Joshua commanded 12 men, one from each tribe, to pick up a stone from the middle of the Jordan. These stones were set up like a cairn to remind the people how God cut off the flow of the river so they could safely cross over.



- **Ebenezer** (which means 'stone of help') - 1 Samuel 7.7-12

Fr Alex told how stones featured in victories in Israel's history, including David slaying Goliath with a single stone. Samuel set up an Ebenezer stone after the Philistines were defeated and said, 'Thus far the Lord has helped us'.

- **Living Stones** - 1 Peter 2.4-6. Liz talked about Jesus being the chosen and precious foundation stone of the church and how we are living stones being built up into a spiritual household. Sometimes this is an uncomfortable process as we try to fit together and as we are shaped to become more like Jesus.

Scribing Stones

Stones were handed out and people wrote on them words which were on their hearts and minds.

Later these stones were carefully built into a cairn on the solid foundation stone, representing Jesus.



Living Stone Plants (Lithops) As a reminder of the occasion, each person was given a small living stone plant to take home, along with their scribed stone. Lithops comes from a Greek word meaning 'stone face' – the plants resemble stones so that grazing herbivores don't eat them.

continued overleaf



If carefully nurtured, Living Stone plants should grow and eventually produce daisy-like flowers.

We pray that, with right conditions, our lives, our churches and our Benefice will grow and flourish. During the service three hymns, including 'Rock of Ages', were sung and prayers were led by Fr Alex. The following blessing ended the worship.

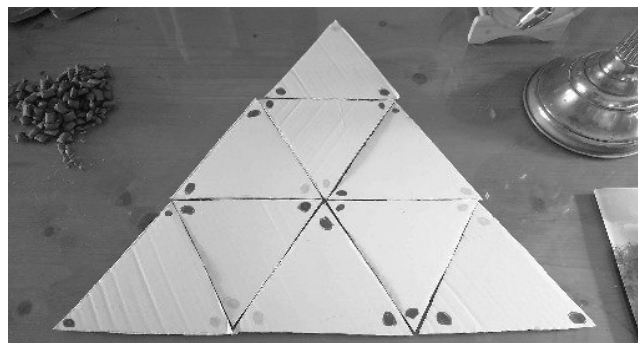
May God keep you in all your days.

May Christ shield you in all your ways.

May the Spirit bring you healing and peace.

*May God the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from you
and pour upon you blessing and light. Amen.*

Warm fellowship and plenty of delicious food followed the service.



Over lunch some people attempted the Trinity Triangle Challenge to link up 9 triangles into one big triangle. It doesn't look much of a challenge in black and white, but the red, blue and green coloured dots all had to be in the correct places.

A collection was taken for the Teachers' Incentive Scheme at Wulu Girls Primary School, South Sudan. Due to the congregation's generosity this amounted to **£263.33**, which will be a tremendous help to the school.

We were blessed by the weather and by coming together as a Benefice. Grateful thanks go to all who helped to make this a memorable occasion, and especially to Evenley Wood Garden for allowing us to use the venue.

A final rocky note: The bedrock at Evenley Wood Garden includes beds of mudstone, limestone and sandstone. The sandstone creates a band of acid soil in an otherwise predominantly alkaline area, which allows rhododendrons, camellias, and magnolias to thrive there.

Liz Welters, Associate Minister



MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION AND ~~SOUP~~ LIGHT HOT WEATHER FOOD LUNCH

The next service will be on Thursday 2nd July

12 noon

Stoke Lyne Church

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

Email admin@shelswellparishes.info





BIBLE READINGS

Sunday 5 th July	5 th Sunday after Trinity	Zechariah 9 v9-12 Romans 7 v15-25a Matthew 11 v16-19 & 25-end
Sunday 12 th July	6 th Sunday after Trinity	Isaiah 55 v10-13 Romans 8 v1-11 Matthew 13 v1-9 and 18-23
Sunday 19 th July	7 th Sunday after Trinity	Isaiah 44 v6-8 Romans 8 v12-25 Matthew 13 v24-30 and 36-43
Sunday 26 th July	8 th Sunday after Trinity	1 Kings 3 v5-12 Romans 8 v26-end Matthew 13 v31-33 and 44-52

Shelswell Group of Parishes



We are holding another delicious

CREAM TEA

with tea, coffee and cakes



in Stratton Audley Church
on Sunday 5th July
3 - 5pm



In aid of the Girls' Primary School in Wulu, South Sudan

Plus latest news from the school

Donations for the Teachers Incentive Scheme at the School welcomed

PLEASE JOIN US *(If you can make a cake for this event, please let Liz Welters know)*

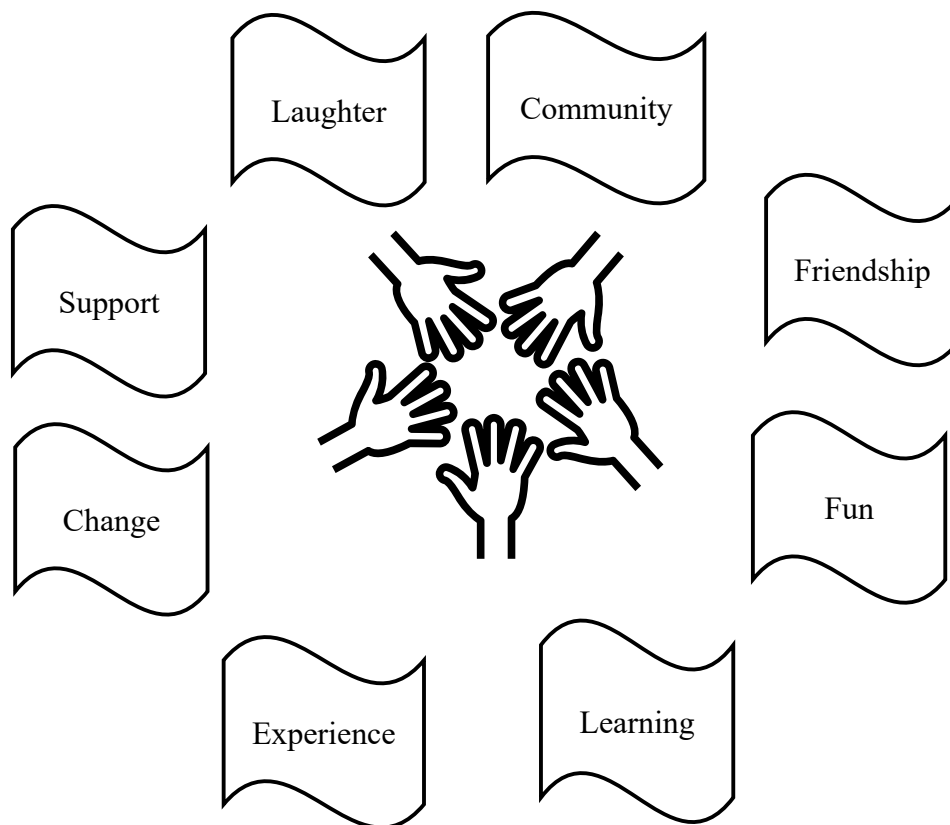
WELCOME, REVEREND DR CLAIRE MAXIM, OUR NEW RECTOR!

Most people will already be aware that Reverend Dr Claire Maxim has been appointed as the next Rector of the Shelswell Benefice. She is currently Priest in Charge of North Tyne and Redesdale Benefice in the Scottish border area.

Revd Claire says, "I am very much looking forward to taking up the role of Rector of the Shelswell Benefice and to getting to know the people at the heart of its churches, schools and communities. I am excited to join in with what God is already doing among you, and to discern together what the future may hold.

At the time of writing, the appointment has just been announced and more details such as when Revd Claire will take up her new role are yet to be confirmed. She will be moving to the Benefice together with Lily the Rectory cat over the summer. We wish them a successful move and look forward to meeting them.

Shelswell WI @ Fringford

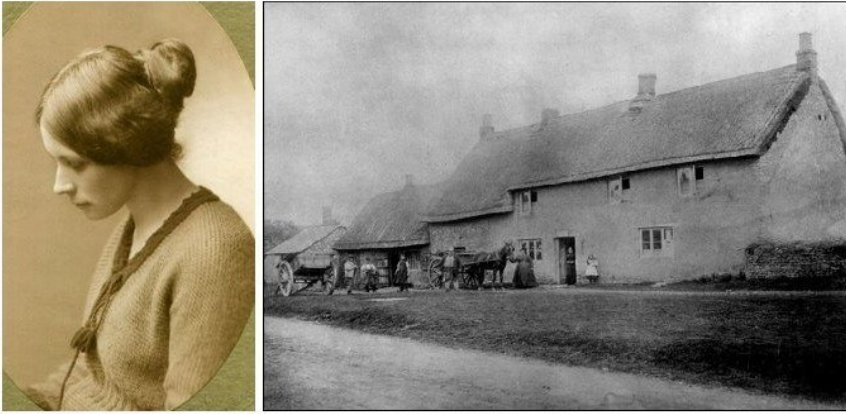


Open Evening Thursday 2nd July 7.30pm
Fringford Village Hall

Shelswell WI are holding an Open Evening on Thursday 4 July 7.30pm in Fringford Village Hall. We will be hearing from our speaker for the evening Analiza Jones who will be speaking to us about Shell Craft from the Philippines.

There will also be the opportunity to find out more about the Woman's Institute both locally and at national level. Come along and experience an evening of fun and friendship.

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



'FLORA'S FRINGFORD' SATURDAY 19th September

**A day celebrating 150 years of Flora Thompson,
famous local author of *Lark Rise to Candleford***

Flora Thompson was born in 1876 in nearby Juniper Hill. In 1891 aged 14, she came to Fringford and worked as an assistant at the village Post Office.

After writing articles and short stories for many decades, she published *Lark Rise* in 1939 followed by *Over to Candleford*, and in 1943, towards the end of her life, completed *Candleford Green*.

This event will mark her anniversary with an exhibition, photographic display, videos, lace making and spinning & weaving demonstrations, and a guided historical walk.

Visit the beautiful village church for a rare opportunity to view the processional banner of the Fringford Oddfellows Friendly Society.

Free event with donations welcome.

**Exhibition &
photographic display**

**1.00 Guided walk
"meeting" the real
residents who
inspired 'Candleford
Green' characters**

**Short films & Audio
Visuals to view**

**3.00 Q&A with local
author and historian
Martin Greenwood**

**Candleford Café for
tea & cake**

FRINGFORD VILLAGE HALL

The Green
Fringford
OX27 8DY

Saturday 19th September

11am to 4pm

FLORA THOMPSON 150th ANNIVERSARY

Martin Greenwood looks at two more Fringford families that Flora Thompson knew during her time in the village, the Prices and Mansfields.

JOHN PRICE (1828-97) AND FAMILY

John Price, with his wife Eleanor, moved to the village in 1852, to be the publican at the Butchers Arms. By 1863 at the latest, they had moved to Pringle Cottage on Rectory Lane, where the family lived until 1953.

The Prices were plumbers, painters and glaziers. By a stroke of good fortune, the owners of Pringle Cottage passed me some old ledgers which they had found in the rafters. These proved to be some of the business records of the Price family from 1869 to 1917. John's business card from the 1890s has survived, showing him 'Established 40 Years' (right).



He continued to run the business until his death in 1897, helped by his sons, John (b.1853), William (b.1856) and Francis (c.1861), and later by Ernest (b.1870). In the 1870s, John junior married Matilda Mansfield, daughter of George Mansfield, owner of the grocery and butcher's shop. This united two of the most successful families in the village and it must have been the wedding of the year, but sadly John died in 1887. After John Senior's death in 1897, Eleanor continued to run the business until her own death in 1901.

After that the business was run as Price Brothers by Francis and Ernest. Ernest married Ellen Norman, who was a parlour maid at the Rectory, probably about 1903. In 1910, they took over the village sub-post office. Ellen continued to run it until 1953 with help from her daughter-in-law, Elsie.

There is a revealing reference to Ellen in Mr Corfe's handover letter to his successor as head master in 1944, as 'a most intelligent lady – delightful to talk to.' There is also a nice reference to her in one of Sarah Rennison's letters, written about 1916, after she had been given some money by her brother, Thomas. 'The Post Mistress is very good to me.... I can trust her not to tell anyone about my good fortune.' Locally, she was also remembered fondly as someone who would talk to anyone.



Ernest Price in 1903 by Beales and Co of Banbury

Trade directories indicate that the business ran as Price Bros until Frank Price retired, in or about 1931. At this point the trade directory records Ernest as a plumber on his own and he was still listed in 1939. The brothers both died in 1945. They had certainly enjoyed a long and successful partnership and it is fitting that they are buried side-by-side just inside the gate to the churchyard.

The story of the Price family and their business has been richly illuminated by the discovery of these ledgers. They are a rare find and reveal some fascinating information about the extent and nature of a local business in late Victorian times and well into the twentieth century.

JOHN (1831-86) AND MARY MANSFIELD (1828-1914), GROCERS

In 1851, George Mansfield, age 47, is listed as carrier, shopkeeper and carriage manufacturer. This illustrates how men were often able to 'multi-task' in Victorian times, but his wife, Ann, would have run the shop while he combined the carrier's job with building carriages. By 1861, he was listed as a 'proprietor of houses' and his son, John, had taken over the carrier's business.

After George's death in 1866, John and his wife, Mary, took over the shop in Mansfield Yard, and John was listed as a butcher and grocer. After John's death in 1886, his widow, Mary, continued as a grocer, at least until 1911 when she was 83; she died in 1914. Their son, Frederick, went to Courteenhall Grammar School with the Whitton boys.

The shop sign was 'Mansfield, Grocer and Licensed Dealers in Tobacco'. Flora Thompson refers to it as Tarman's run by 'a burly giant in a very white apron. Mary is described by Flora as 'what was called then "a little pennicking bit of a woman", small and fair. She was a generous open-handed creature who gave liberally to every good cause. The poor had cause to bless her, for their credit there in bad times was unlimited, and many families had a standing debt on her books that both debtor and creditor knew could never be paid.'

Flora Thompson also comments 'This family was not liked by all; some said they had ideas above their station in life, chiefly because the children were sent to boarding school; but practically everyone dealt at their shop, for not only was it the only grocery establishment of any size in the place, but the goods sold there could be relied upon.'



Photograph anoted "Great Grandma Mansfield of Fringford with her youngest son Frederick George in her trap with Tommy the pony. Her daughter Mary is standing in their cottage garden, the groom is in love with Mary."

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Friday 10th July at 6:30pm

Saturday 11th July at 2pm and 6:30pm

Sunday 12th July at 10:30am* and 3pm

* Relaxed Performance

All profits donated to Friends of Launton Parish Hall

MIDWEEK COMMUNION AND LUNCH - THURSDAY 4th JUNE

We set up the tables ready for lunch before the service started. Reverend Liz Welters began, by welcoming everyone to this service, followed by opening prayers for people across the world where there is war and devastation, thousands are being made homeless because of the different disasters flooding, drought, and bombings etc. Prayers were said for King Charles and our Government, also for all the villages in the Shelswell Benefice.

The Gospel reading was from Mark 12. verses 28-34 read by Rena. Liz then gave a reflection on the Gospel reading. The most important commandment Jesus said was "Love God" and the second one "Love your neighbour as yourself. Treat others with the respect, care, dignity, honesty and kindness you would want." Liz then began the Communion service followed by prayers for those who have been bereaved, are ill and people known to us.

We then moved over for a lovely lunch consisting of various green salads, cheeses, ham, bread, boiled eggs, pie, potato salads, chutneys etc. This was followed by trifle, or lemon tart with cream.

We were given a card with the next Shelswell-by-the-Sea dates on it. It is always nice to meet up and hear what other events are happening across the Benefice. Thank you to Liz for keeping this service going. Thank you also to everyone for providing the delicious lunch.

The next Midweek Communion will be on the first Thursday of July, 12 noon at St Peter's Church, Stoke Lyne.

Rena Andrews

FROM BATTLEFIELDS TO BLOOMS at the SOLDIERS OF OXFORDSHIRE MUSEUM

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock, will be unveiling a flower show this summer for the very first time. The show, entitled *From Battlefields to Blooms*, will run from Thursday 9 July to Sunday 12 July 2026. It will feature arrangements by Bladon & Woodstock, Oxford, and Abingdon flower clubs.

Members of the three local clubs have spent time planning in the museum galleries, using the spaces in new and creative ways that complement stories featured in SOFO's permanent exhibitions.

The stunning work of the featured flower clubs has previously been seen in displays at Dorchester Abbey and Abingdon's 2019 *Fashion in Flowers* show. The arrangements on display in the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum galleries will follow themes such as *Dig for Victory*, *Botanical Remedies* and *Lives Lost in the Trenches*

In return for a small donation, armed forces ancestors or loved ones can be featured in a special *In Memoriam* flower display. More details are on the website at www.sofa.org.uk/battlefieldstoblooms

The flower show opens with a special collaborative fundraiser for the Museum and SSAFA, the armed forces charity. Entitled "Bubbles and Blooms", it will feature live performance by The Waterloo Band and Bugles of The Rifles. The event takes place from 6.30pm to 8pm, Thursday 9 July 2026, with tickets available from the museum website now, bit.ly/bubblesandblooms



THE OPEN DOORS CAFE



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Turning surplus food into
tasty meals

**All welcome
every Friday**

12:00–1:30pm

Pay as you feel – run by volunteers

MENU

OPEN DOORS

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with salad and bread
- Red beans and sausage
with salad and bread
- Banana loaf -
- Tea or coffee -

If you have a food allergy, intolerance, or coeliac disease, please speak to us about the ingredients in your food and drink before you order.



📍 Methodist Church, Sheep Street, Bicester, OX26 6JQ

✉ hello@bicesteropendoors.org.uk

f <https://www.facebook.com/OpenDoorsCafe>

🌐 <https://bicesteropendoors.org.uk>



Club News



SHELSWELL WI



Our June meeting day was a very busy day with our National AGM during the day and our usual meeting happening in the evening. With the AGM being virtual once again Linda organised a watch party in the village hall. WI members from across both the North and South Ploughly groups gathered to watch the days proceedings. Both resolutions were passed which means the resolutions for 2026/27 will be Accessible Public Toilets and Womans Homelessness. During the afternoon members enjoyed the day's speakers; Ann Boden founder of the Starling Bank and Professor Michele Dougherty CBE FRS FRAS, both thoroughly enjoyable and inspirational.

At our meeting in the evening we enjoyed a speaker Christine Farmer who had appeared on one of the early series of the Repair Shop. Christine's talk was very entertaining and it was interesting to find out what goes on behind the scenes of the show.

Shelswell WI were also represented at the very popular Fringford Beer Festival. It was a very enjoyable day, the weather was just right and not a drop of rain in sight. Our members had collected and filled various jars with all sorts of goodies and we raised just over £100. It was really lovely to be part of what was a very successful day all round.

In July we are having an open meeting, everyone is welcome. Our Speaker is Analiza Jones - Shellcraft of the Philippines. There will be the opportunity to find out more about the WI events, activities and other opportunities. The meeting starts at 7.30pm and there will be tea/coffee and refreshments.

In August we will be meeting in the village hall and our speaker will be Janine Kilroe whose talk is British Piers: An Illustrated Story of Their History and Future.

If you are interested in joining our very friendly Shelswell WI please contact Sandra at sandrambickmore@gmail.com for more information.

Shelswell WI meetings take place monthly on the first Thursday of the month in Fringford Village Hall at 7.30pm

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 22 July, 7.30 pm (Venue TBC)
- Wednesday 26 August, 7.30 pm (Venue TBC)

Our next book is **'Open' by Andre Agassi.**

'A Thousand Ships' by Natalie Haynes was loved by those of us familiar with the Greek classical stories, however for others, the book appeared 'bitty', and the characters did not appear to be very well fleshed out. We loved the stories told from the women's point of view and recognised the connection with the plight of women in war torn areas in the current age. Some of us loved the stories of the gods and deities, finding them funny and clever. It was felt that the women came together as 'every woman' rather than characters in their own right. Altogether an interesting book, but not as good as other Natalie Haynes books.

Shelswell Reading Group, continued

Other books discussed:

Stephen Fry – Myths series
 Circe – Madeline Miller
 Song of Achilles – Madeline Miller
 Middlemarch – George Elliot
 Age of Innocence – Edith Wharton
 The Easter Parade – Richard Yates
 Revolutionary Road – Richard Yates
 Books by Wallace Stegner
 Books by Philip Roth
 Books by F Scott Fitzgerald
 Agrippa – Robert Harris
 Bleak House – Charles Dickens
 Brighton Rock – Graham Greene
 Outrageous – Sherwood Dobson
 Flashlight – Susan Choi
 Dominion – Addie E Citchens
 Mercy Step – Marcia Hutchinson
 Heart of the Lover – Lily King
 Kingfisher – Rosie Kelly
 Flesh – David Szalay
 Hooked / Butter / Yellow Face – Asako Yuzuki

TV

Waiting for the Out – BBC Iplayer
 Falling – Channel 4



SHELLOW POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP

Our June meeting had the theme of Patriotism.

We started with ***Hearts of Oak***, by William Royce (1711-79). Written in the *annus mirabilis* of 1759, when Britain had a series of victories on land and sea during the Seven Years War with France, it celebrated the Royal Navy with ideas also expressed in the Proms favourite Rule Britannia. The American Revolution was commemorated by Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-82) in ***Concord Hymn*** and the ongoing rub of feeling between America and Britain which followed it is illustrated by Emily Dickinson (1830-86) in ***My Country's Wardrobe***.

Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832), writing during the Napoleonic Wars, expressed his belief that no true man could be unpatriotic in the short poem ***Patriotism***. At the beginning of the revolution which resulted in these wars, a poem by the French poet Rouget de L'isle (1760-1836) became ***La Marseillaise***.

The American Civil War of 1861-5 divided North and South. In ***Barbara Frietchie*** by John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-92) an old Unionist lady's bold defiance of marauding southern troops earns her the respect and mercy of the Confederate general 'Stonewall' Jackson. Whether or not it was a factual account or a bit of Union propaganda is uncertain, but it made an excellent little moral tale for the schoolroom! A year before the outbreak of the Civil War Walt Whitman (1819-92) celebrated the richness and diversity of American life just before its peace was shattered, in ***I Hear America Singing***.

Back in England the poem which made its way into thousands of Victorian schoolrooms was ***The Charge of the Light Brigade*** by Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809-92), in which a gallant band of cavalrymen sacrificed themselves to the fog of war and their leaders' incompetence during the Crimean War of 1853-6. Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936) wrote ***The Last of the Light Brigade***, bitterly criticising the British public for showing less patriotic support for the old soldiers than was their due.

In 1845, a homesick exile from England, the poet Robert Browning (1812-89), wrote ***Home Thoughts from Abroad***, a poem which is full of the beauties of an English spring, and which many people find more truly patriotic than many jingoistic rants. Another poem which evokes the special beauties of the poet's homeland is ***My Country*** by the Australian poet Dorothea Mackellar, (1885-1968).

The New Colossus by Emma Lazarus ((1849-87) celebrated her country's welcoming of refugees from impoverished and war-torn areas of Europe as symbolised by the Statue of Liberty.

Two poems associated with Britain in the First World War are ***The Soldier*** by Rupert Brooke (1887-1915) and ***I Vow to Thee my Country*** by Cecil Spring-Rice (1859-1918). The latter poem, was used at the consecration of the Cenotaph in 1921 after being set to music by Gustav Holst. In America Edgar Guest (1881-1959) did his bit towards persuading his country to join The Allies in their fight against The Central Powers by writing ***A Time for Deeds***, implying that the proud patriotism of Americans meant nothing if they would not help the oppressed of other lands.

The Dilemma by J C Squire (1884-1958)

God heard the embattled nations sing and shout

"Gott strafe England!" and "God save the King!"

God this, God that, and God the other thing –

"Good God!" said God, "I've got my work cut out."

Criticism of certain aspects of a country are not the same as treason, and many poets have a deep love of their country's positive values. In 1940, having experienced the worst of the American Depression, Woody Guthrie (1912-67) wrote ***This Land is Your Land***, pointing out the evils of capitalism whilst praising the glories of the land itself. Claude McKay (1889-1948) voices his fears for the country he both loves and hates in ***America***, as does Langston Hughes (1901-67) in ***Let America Be America Again***. On the other hand, Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961) in ***To Good Guys Dead*** is full of bitterness at being deceived by words like patriotism and democracy.

On the verge of the Second World War, in 1939, Ross Parker and Hughie Charles, two popular songwriters, created a rousing patriotic song, ***There'll Always Be an England***.

The Falklands War of April-June 1982 has not been widely memorialised in verse, but ***Ode to Tumbledown***, written by a REME Armourer attached to The Scots Guards, tells the story of the final, battle against the Argentinian army and the eight men who died.

If you would like to join us for our July 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

CHURCHWARDEN: Charles Jackson, Cottisford House, Cottisford

TREASURER: David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Flora Skinner

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CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 5th July 9.15 am Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday 19th July 10.45 am Holy Communion (BCP)

COTTISFORD AND JUNIPER HILL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

June 14th saw eight gardens open in Cottisford and Juniper Hill, welcoming visitors from far and wide.

The weather in the preceding week was not the best and saw gardeners battling wind, rain and some unseasonably cold weather. However, they succeeded in overcoming the elements and opened their gardens on what turned out to be a lovely afternoon.

It was so lovely to hear the buzz not just of the bees and insects but the conversations from the gardens as people enjoyed sights of all the very different gardens that we had on show. Huge thanks goes to the gardeners who opened, the cake makers who baked, the refreshment sellers who served, the car park attendants who parked and Jane who organised the day from beginning to end.

The afternoon raised just over £1200 from the sale of tickets and refreshments, this will be split between the PCC, Friends of Cottisford Church and the Social Committee. The Social Committee looks forward to organising the next event and we will let you know soon when and where this will be.

Sandra Bickmore

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 19th July 9.15 am Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday 26th July 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday 2nd August 10.45 am 'Connect' Informal Worship Finmere Village Hall

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, who ever performed the rain dance, they did a good job. With a forecast for the return of some warmer weather, we look forward to seeing the bean plants commence their climb of the trellis and the picking of the first courgettes and peas - rabbits permitting of course!

It is looking like a good season for gooseberries and there is a lot of blossom on the blackberry bushes. Tomatoes are also coming along nicely. We also welcome some more new allotment holders to the group.

We do still have one plot available at the incredibly low cost of £20 p.a., so if interested, please visit www.myfinmere.com/poorsplot and select the enquiry link.

Jean



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**

Some Finmere related links:

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

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

Finmere Parish Council website at – www.finmerepc.org

Village hall news at – www.myfinmere.com

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

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

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

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



Please come along to support Finmere's

"Tuesday Teas"

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

Tuesday 14th July from 2 - 4 pm

Tea, coffee, cake & biscuits

All locals welcome, no charge

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

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

Fringford

St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: Max Todd 5, The Manor, Fringford

Tel 07936 760684

TREASURER: Christina McCullagh, 5 Crosslands, Fringford

Tel 07867 515207

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Penny Wood, as below

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Penny Wood, 8 Crosslands, Fringford

Tel 01869 277310

VILLAGE HALL CORRESPONDENT: Christine Underwood

Tel 01869 278949

WEBSITE www.fringford.info

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, SERVICES & EVENTS

CHURCH SERVICES

- Sunday 5 July – 10.45am Morning Prayer
- Sunday 12 July – Evening Communion
- Sunday 19 July - 10.45am 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. [Note: The Benefice Office has moved to 6 Chinalls Close, Finmere MK18 4BQ]

The **2026 Fringford Beer Festival** in aid of Fringford Church Restoration Fund has just happened. We were blessed with perfect weather (after a worrying week of wind and rain), the sun shone, the music played, and there was tremendous support for the event. Both Cider and Beer ran out before closing time. Very

many thanks are due to those who sponsored the event, to everyone who came to enjoy the day, and to the Planning Committee pictured here below after the 'clear up'



We won't know until next month, after bills have been paid, how much was raised for the Church Restoration Fund.

FUTURE EVENTS

Cream Teas for Wulu – on **Sunday 5 July** treat yourself to a cream tea, between 3.00pm and 5.00pm in Stratton Audley Church. The money raised is supporting the teachers in Wulu Girls Primary School.

Look out for "Flora Day" on **Saturday 19th September** when there will be events in Fringford Village Hall and Cottisford Church to mark 150 years since the birth of Flora Thompson. See poster in 'General' Section.

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** during holidays and half term.] Just come along. If you need information in the meantime, email admin@shelswellparishes.info . [**Volunteers always 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 July we will meet on Monday 20th. 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	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
Pilates Thursday at 10.00am natashaflowerspilates@gmail.com or 07545 525820	Fringford Sewcial Sew and Chat! All welcome Monthly Wednesday from 7pm Or Sunday from 3pm Contact Irene at ireneethomas@btinternet.com
Village Hall Team Meeting Please contact for dates Open meetings – all welcome fringford.hall@gmail.com or 07936 879175	
To book the hall for your own event, please go to 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

TREASURER: David Barnes

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Flora Skinner

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Maddi Bindon, 8 Hardwick

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

Tel 07856822030

Tel 07856822030

Tel: 01869 277366

Tel 07769774144

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 26th July 6.00 pm Evensong with the Shelswell Group Choir

Sunday 2nd August 9.15 am Holy Communion (CW)

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

Private prayer and quiet contemplation

Viewing the architecture, memorials and stained-glass windows

Please make use of this special space

Evensong at Hardwick on the last Sunday of the month will start at 6 pm.

Pilgrim Pathways

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

Hardwick Church guidebook

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



Hethe

St Edmund and St George

CHURCHWARDEN: Flora Skinner, Fox Hollow, 2 Hardwick Road, Hethe
 TREASURER: Mike Green, Greenhill Cottage, Main Street, Hethe
 PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Flora Skinner as above
 MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Mike Green as above
 WEBSITE: www.hethe.org

Tel 01869 277366
 Tel 01869 278166
 Tel 01869 278166

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

Good news - the church is now open for everyone to look around our historic place of worship and take time for quiet prayer and contemplation. The varied selection of books is now easier 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 awaiting 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>.



CHURCHYARD TIDY-UP

**Join a team of volunteers to clean up the
churchyard and get some free exercise!**

Saturday 4th July starting at 2.00pm

Bring your own tools







COMING SOON

NOTE THE DATE – SATURDAY

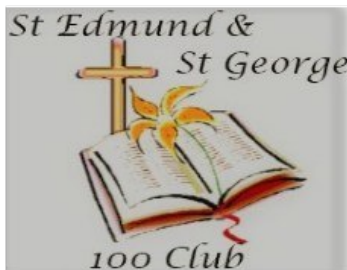
12TH SEPTEMBER

Our church will be greeting those taking part, so we hope to see you then -
there could be cake available to sustain you on your travels!

If you would like to take the opportunity to help the church, we need volunteers to meet and greet, in hourly sessions

Please let Mike know if you are available

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



St Edmund & St George

100 Club

Results of the 91st draw held
on 10th June 2026

1st Prize No 57 Frazer Morgan
2nd Prize No 28 David Morgan
3rd Prize No 52 Anne Mansfield

Many thanks to our members
Hethe PCC

If you would like to join the 100 Club, or request additional numbers, please contact Helen Pritchard.



Our QR Code if you wish to contribute to the cost of running and maintaining the church. 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 Community Coffee Morning in the Village Hall

Monday 13th July from 10.00am to 12.00pm

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



Note - there will be no coffee morning in August.

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

Parish Council. The next meeting of the council will take place on Tuesday 14th July, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The minutes from May's Annual Meeting of Hethe Parish are on the web site.

Pop-up Pub. Friday 3rd July 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/>

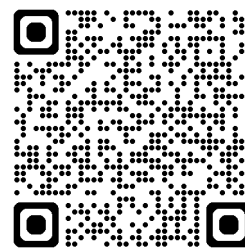
Facebook Pages:

Community Spirit of the Hethens

Hethe Community

Hethe Allotments

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



Flowers of the meadow, Part II - Time to Make Hay



For those of us who love wildflowers, painful decisions are needed in July and August as this is the time to cut our wildflower meadows, whether in the churchyard or elsewhere. Meadows are left to grow long for 3 to 4 months during the spring and summer and then cut with scythe or strimmer and raked up. The difficulty arises in that there are always lovely flowers still there when the cut comes, and it is hard to cut them down.

To help with this dilemma, remember that we are copying traditional hay-making, which takes place when grass is still green, vigorous and full of nutrients for stock to eat, but also when the weather is likely to be dry enough to make hay successfully.

But what about the seeds, dropping to the ground for next year's flowers? If we cut down flowers, maybe there won't be seeds? Actually, most species within a traditional meadow are perennial, so they continue to grow from year to year regardless of seeding. This explains why the wildflowers persist in short mown grass in churchyards, providing the grass cuttings are removed so the soil doesn't become too rich for them.

An exception to this is Yellow Rattle which is an annual so grows each year anew from seed. This flowers early and drops its seed in June or early July so won't be lost from the sward by cutting from mid-July onwards.

If you can't bear to cut down late flowering species such as scabious, then leave these patches for later, but do aim to have other meadow areas cut, raked and ready for the autumn fungi by mid-August if you can.



Flower-rich churchyard grassland

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.

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 12th July 9.15 am Mixbury Half Hour

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.

July	Sue Goodman
August	Helen Backon
September	Philippa Brown
	Harvest festival – everyone
October	Morag Westworth
November	Fi Bairstow
December	Carol service and Christmas - everyone
Reserve	Sam Lockwood

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.

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

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 – markandtanya@yahoo.co.uk.

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.

MIXBURY DROP IN TEA/COFFEE/CHAT

Courtesy of Anna at Swallows Nursery Mixbury Ladies can now meet every Tuesday in the coffee shop at the Nursery. 2- 4pm.

All welcome – and you don't have to knit or crochet, just come along and chat! You will find us next to the wood burner! Swallows not only sell lovely plants but coffee and cake too.....!

BARBARA MORTIMER

3RD June 1948 – 2nd May 2026

Sadly, together with Barbara's family and friends many villagers attended her funeral service in All Saints Church on Wednesday 3rd June 2026. Barbara along with husband Jeremy lived in Mixbury for several years before moving in July 2024. The church had been beautifully decorated with lots of bright fresh flowers – the colours of yellow, orange and bright pink.

Barbara really threw herself into village life and took on roles of Village Clerk, Parish Magazine Correspondent as well as being a member of one of the Book Club's. I was lucky to be in "Book Club" with Barbara and have many memories of the fun evenings at her house where food was always laid on the focaccia bread freshly baked for us. On one occasion Barbara made us all booklets of Robert Frost poems (her selected book choice for that month) – she took great care in binding the booklets with ribbon, so thoughtful, I still have my copy to cherish and dip in and out to read the poems at times. So not surprisingly one of Robert Frost's poems was read out at the funeral service and is my selected poem of the month.

At the time of leaving Barbara wrote a brilliant, witty memoir of living here and I am repeating it just to remind people of her wonderful, whimsical sense of humour. Barbara never liked dogs, cats or many animals when she first moved here but they ended up keeping chickens and one in particular lived in her kitchen! Jeremy still intends to return to Mixbury and a warm welcome back awaits him.

Sue Goodman

BYE BYE, MIXBURY

From Barbara and Jeremy Mortimer (first printed July 2024)

We loved the look of Mixbury as soon as we set eyes on it. There's no doubt it is a beautiful village. But we realised it was a bit different a few days after moving in when we saw a teenage boy sailing down the middle of the road on a skateboard carrying a large Windsor chair. People were very welcoming. I was

invited straight away to a bread baking afternoon and met some lovely neighbours. People asked us, are you going to get a log burner? No, probably not. We had one within weeks. Are you going to keep chickens? No. Definitely not. No. And the rest is history.

It was obvious that children and young people had an idyllic life here. There was the toddler sitting on top of a fat pony surrounded by family and friends walking down Church Lane, and in the opposite direction a girl whizzing along on a bicycle with both arms outstretched. Then there was the crocodile of small boys led by a couple of teenagers carrying a football, off for a match. Not to be confused with the procession of kids dressed-up as actual crocodiles stumbling along the pavement early one Sunday morning, obviously returning from a lizard themed sleepover.

They take part in everything, helping build the bonfire, doing readings in church, performing in the Nativity Play (here's some gold for you, Jesus) and the older ones mowing the churchyard grass, building walls and working on farms.

One day, waiting for a bus (remember those?) I noticed a man sitting in a cross-country vehicle with the logo of a local airfield. A Mum came out of a house and called out to him "I'm sorry to keep you waiting, but I've told them they aren't going anywhere until they've gutted that fish." This is my all-time favourite quote that you wouldn't hear anywhere but Mixbury. What were they off to do? A bit of aircraft maintenance probably. Anyway, they are all "hands on" (apart from the girl on the bicycle, obviously).

The grown-ups delight in eccentricity. Where we lived before there was a postbox at the end of the road and I always felt I had to be dressed for "going out" to post something. In Mixbury I felt I could almost go to the postbox in my dressing gown. I mentioned this to a neighbour and she said she had actually done this. It's not just Windsor chairs that get moved about. We pushed a piano from our house to a neighbour's and then a couple of years later, on to another neighbour. The favourite method of moving things is in a wheelbarrow, down the middle of the road (and you look slightly surprised if a car comes along and you have to move aside). Quite often the cargo is horse poo of course, but it can be plants from the nursery, the tools you need for a job somewhere in the village, things you are giving to someone for something, or a carton of bottles of beer (that was me). Sometimes it's just an empty wheelbarrow.

Once I was pushing a wheelbarrow full of wood for the bonfire down the road when in the distance I saw a shovel loader approaching. I couldn't see who was in the cab, but they had seen me and guessed what I was about. It came right up to me and lowered its mouth like a kindly dinosaur. I tipped the wood into it and off it went.

In the early days of HS2 there was a wonderful Ealing Comedy moment. News went round that a survey of footpath use was being carried out. People knocked on doors: "get up there quickly". It was wonderful – a long trail of footpath users - on foot, on bikes, on ponies and, who knows, pogo sticks. All to no avail of course but great fun. There are so many other things I could mention, being cured of my fear of dogs and cats (by immersion therapy!), and really enjoying the tendency to be slightly scruffy (if you accidentally look a bit smart, people ask if you are going somewhere nice).

Best of all is the general sociability. If you go out for a walk it can often be more talk than walk. There's a "hello" or a smile for everyone – a habit that is hard to shake off if you find yourself in London or Birmingham. And of course there have always been wonderful people who provide support for anyone who needs it, and that really came to the fore during Covid.

It will be difficult to go but we will come to the fete as ex-Mixburyites do, and keep in touch. We will wipe the mud from our boots (Mixbury mud, unless I am mistaken, Watson) and find our feet in a new village.

A poem for July and in remembrance of Barbara Mortimer.

The Road Not Taken By Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

THE BIG LUNCH - 7TH June 2026

The Big Lunch was held in Castle Field on a warm dry Sunday – huge thanks to Jane and Gail for organising and all the people who made bunting specially for this event. There was plenty of food, wonderful neighbourly atmosphere and dancing! It was so nice to see many families with young children playing and running around Castle Field. Roll on next year.



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 5th July - 9.15 a.m. Holy Communion

Artists in the Countryside:-

This years 'Artists in the Countryside' proved to be a tremendous success, showcasing a wonderful mix of talented local artists alongside several new exhibitors. The exhibition opened with a very well attended private view on Friday evening, creating a lively atmosphere and a fantastic opportunity for visitors to meet the artists and enjoy the work on display.

The celebrations continued on Saturday in glorious weather, with artists and children alike taking part in the much enjoyed 'Countryside Artist of the Year' competition. The standard of entries was exceptionally high, with many imaginative and talented pieces submitted, making judging no easy task. Special thanks go to the event sponsors, Mike and Miranda Markham, together with MHC Car Sales and Richard Markham, and to John Colegrave for kindly donating the delicious asparagus, which was greatly enjoyed. Finally, sincere thanks go to Graham Perryman of Dragonfly Framing for his hard work in organising the event and helping to make it such a success.



Plein Air Painting at Art in the Countryside



Art in the Countryside Exhibition in the Old School

A huge thank you goes to everyone who exhibited, attended and supported this much loved community event, helping to make it another memorable occasion.

Bonus Ball Lotto:-

Recent lucky winners were Aileen Rymer and Gillian Francis.

Hall to Let:-

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

Church Cleaning Rota:-

We appeal to anyone who might be able to join our rota to keep the Church clean and tidy. Please contact Ann von Maltzahn on the number above with your offers of help. 'Many hands make light work'!

Summer Fete:-

If you haven't already saved the date - **Saturday 12th September** - please do so now! More details nearer the time.

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 July

Julie Adams

Stoke Lyne 100 Club – June Results

The results of the 100 Club for May are as follows

First Prize	Nikki Popoola	Membership No 45
Second Prize	Caroline Cooke	Membership No 13
Third Prize	Pippa Elliott	Membership No 18

It would be great to increase the prize money. Please get in touch to join the Stoke Lyne 100 Club. £3.00 per month per membership. Janey@oxford-educational.co.uk

Janey Poole

Treasurer

St Peter's Church PCC

"Wear It Green" Event – 30th May 2026



'Wear It Green' bunting outside the church



Best 'Wear It Green' outfit



Left: Tombola and raffle tables

Right: Welcome to St Peter's

The event was hosted by Ali Miller as part of Mental Health Week, the aim of which was to raise vital funds for research and to break the stigma that surrounds mental health.

The church looked lovely on entering with some decorations and brightly coloured tablecloths with a posy of flowers on each one. On the tea table there was an assortment of luscious cakes suitable for all allergies, also scones with jam, cream and strawberries, mini savouries of sausages and sausage rolls. It all looked very inviting, with a choice of tea/coffee or cold drinks. The raffle and tombola tables displayed a good assortment of prizes to win. The winner of the best "Wear it Green" outfit was Rena Andrews, who received a rosette and a box of chocolates.

Thank you to everyone who donated cakes, prizes for the raffle and tombola. Thank you to everyone who manned the stalls, helped to set everything up, and put all away at the end, too many to name individually. Thank you to Dexter Thompson and Martin Miller for being available to put the heavy tables up and take them down at the end.

Thank you to Ali Miller for hosting this worthwhile event. The money raised was £250 which was a good amount in view of the fact that not as many people attended as expected.

Rena Andrews



A Look at the Stuchbury memorial inside the Church

Part 1 – John Stuchbury



The memorial states that John and Mary Stuchbury and nine of their children were “interred in this churchyard” in the nineteenth century. During the annual churchyard cleanup in 2025 a number of the Stuchbury gravestones were uncovered. At some point in the past they had been moved to just inside the north wall of the churchyard and over the years ivy had spread from the wall to engulf them. Here is John’s gravestone from 1845:



So who were John and Mary Stuchbury and where did they live? The earliest occurrence of the surname in Stoke Lyne is in the very difficult to read 1594 will of a John Stuchbury of Fewcott (then part of Stoke Lyne). Next we have Thomas Stuchbury and Henry Stuchbury who are both listed on the from 1662 and 1665 Hearth Tax records with 3 hearths each. I have not been able to plot a line of descent down from these first documented local Stuchbury men to our John as the surviving Stoke Lyne parish registers do not begin

until 1665. The last occurrence of the name Stuchbury in the Stoke Lyne parish records is the burial of the last one of the nine in 1893 so the name has been associated with Stoke Lyne for nearly 300 years.

John and Mary's abode is variously described as being in "Stoke Lyne", "Fewcott," "Baynard's Green" or "Fritwell" in church baptismal records for their children. Eight baptisms took place at Stoke Lyne church, four at Fritwell, two at Ardley and their first child at Stratton Audley (Mary's home village). Perhaps they owned/leased farmland in all these locations at various times. The censuses place them at Baynard's Green but do not give a farm name.

On the 1841 census John Stuchbury is listed as a farmer living in "Fewcott Hamlet". He was aged 55 which gives him an estimated year of birth of 1786. However, if he died in 1845 aged 63 then the estimated year of birth was 1782 (in those days everything was a bit approximate). For the question whether born in Oxfordshire "N" for no has been written.

So where could he have been born? The "N" rules out all the locations where their children's baptisms took place.

I have discovered a baptism for a John Stuchbury in Caversfield in 1782, parents John and Mary which could be our John. First of all, the date corresponds with the estimated date of birth from his age at burial. Next, Caversfield is now in Oxfordshire but back in 1782 Caversfield was an "exclave" of Buckinghamshire ie a bit of Buckinghamshire entirely surrounded by Oxfordshire. It was not until 1844 that it became part of Oxfordshire ie after the 1841 census when it was still in Buckinghamshire.

The Ancestry website has images of the Buckinghamshire Napoleonic Register – the "Posse Comitatus" of 1798. The Amersham Museum website describes what this was: "*The Posse Comitatus, or civil power, was a survey of all men capable of acting in a military capacity who were neither Quakers, nor clergymen nor already serving in a military unit. Men between the ages of 15 and 60 were included. In addition, the number of horses, wagons and carts available were surveyed. It was prepared to assess the potential availability of military preparedness in the event of invasion by France.*" Under Caversfield it names John Stuchbury – farmer, John Stuchbury Jnr – farmer's son, and Thomas Stuchbury – farmer's son. If John Stuchbury was born in 1782, he would have been 16 in 1798 and old enough to appear on the register.

A few pages further on in the Caversfield church register is a baptism for a Mary Stuchbury, daughter of John and Mary Stuchbury on 6th July 1796 - so she must be a sister. As she was quite a few years younger than John it has been easier to follow Mary's life through the records. In 1813 in Stoke Lyne it looks like she married Richard Austin Adams (great x 2 grandfather of Robert at Lower Farm). If we look at the 1871 census her birth place is described as Bucks, Bainton. I therefore assume that the location where Mary and John's parents farmed straddled/was close to the border between Bainton and Caversfield.

There is a catalogue entry on the Heritage Search website for the will of a "*John Stuchbury, the Elder of Bayers Green, Stoke Lyne, Common Brewer. The will was dated 30 Sep 1822. In it, Stuchbury leaves his property at Bayers Green and Fewcot to his son John, subject to the payment of various legacies.*" I assume that the senior John is the one who used to farm at Bainton/Caversfield and the son is "our" John who must have followed in his father's footsteps as he gives his occupation as "maltster" for several of his offspring's baptisms.

He appears to have downsized his brewing business in 1833:

Oxford Journal, 26th October 1833
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY J. CLEMENTS,

Without the least reserve, on Tuesday next, October the 29th, 1833, - A small BREWERY PLANT, the property of Mr. Stutchbury, of Baynard's Green, near Bicester, Oxon, who has declined the brewing business; comprising an excellent 250-gallon brewing copper, with brass top, grate, &c; also a capital 7-quarter mash tub, with a false bottom; two 12 by 6 feet coolers; an excellent oak under-back, one 648-gallong working tub, one 468-gallon ditto, and several small tubs; two wort pumps, and one beer ditto; with out 80 feet of lead piping; three 640-gallon casks, three 936-gallon ditto; one 1008-gallon ditto, one 360-gallon ditto; and five 120-gallon casks. Also about one hundred 36-gallon ditto, together with a quantity of 18 and 9-gallon ditto, in lots."

His death was reported in several local papers:

Bucks Advertiser and Aylesbury News, 1st November 1845

DIED: On Friday last, at Baynard's Green, in the parish of Stoke Lyne, Mr. John Stuchbery, farmer, aged 63.

Burial records show that John Stuchbury, abode Fewcott, was buried in our churchyard on 29th October 1845 aged 63. The Revd. Charles Marsham officiated. The stories of his wife, Mary, and their nine children buried in the churchyard will be the subject of 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>

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Tel 07941 273145

CHURCHWARDEN: Penny Oakey, Grange Farm, Godington

Tel 01869 278778

TREASURER: Fai Li

Tel 07725 009838

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Maxine Ling

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Vacant (Stratton Audley)

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Sylvia List (Godington)

editor@shelswellparishes.info

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Sunday 5th July 6.00 pm Compline at Godington

Sunday 12th July 10.45 am Morning Service at Stratton Audley

Sunday 26th July 9.15 am Holy Communion at Stratton Audley

Sunday 2nd August 6.00 pm Compline at Stratton Audley

FOODBANK

If you can afford an extra grocery item for the Bicester Foodbank, please leave it at the foodbank donation point in the church porch in Stratton Audley. Thank you to everyone who donates. Particularly appreciated are tinned fruit, veg, soup and fish also coffee and hot chocolate. If you are in need or would like more information, please contact Becky on 07928 990569 (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9.00 am – 1.00 pm) or by email admin@shelswellparishes.info



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At Stratton Audley Park, Courtesy of Emma & Mark ter Haar

Entry £15 for 16yrs+, £10 for 12-15yrs, £5 for 6-10yrs

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Please bring a Boules set with you (if you have one!)

- Don't worry if you're on your own, a partner will be found for you!
- If you cannot bring a Boules set on the day, check if spares still available...
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- Shortened games to finish finals without car headlights and in time for tea...!
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Emma at emmaterhaar@yahoo.co.uk

In the event of inclement weather, the boules will be cancelled at short notice + all bookings notified by email

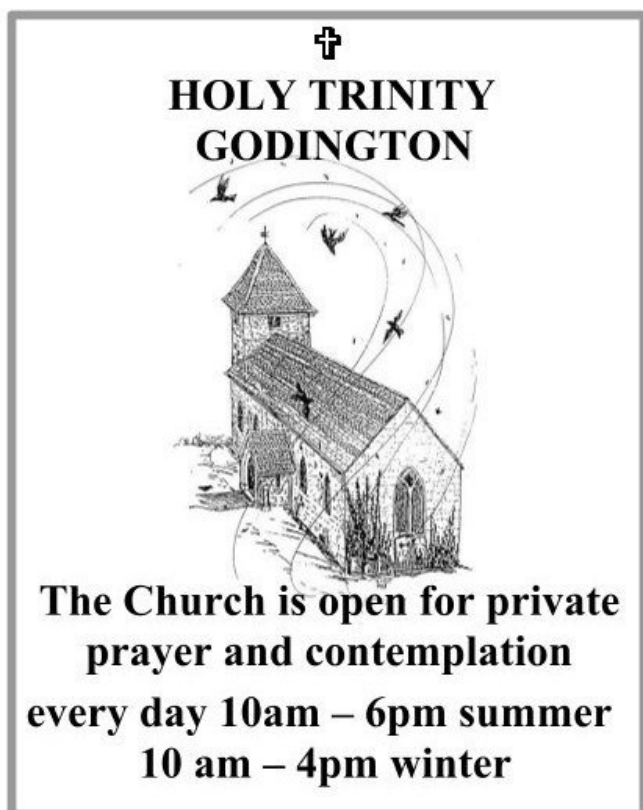


All food and drink very generously sponsored by Emma & Mark Ter Haar!

All proceeds are for St Mary & St Edburga in Stratton Audley

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"Whoever put the S in fast food was a marketing genius" - *Wisdom of the Internet*

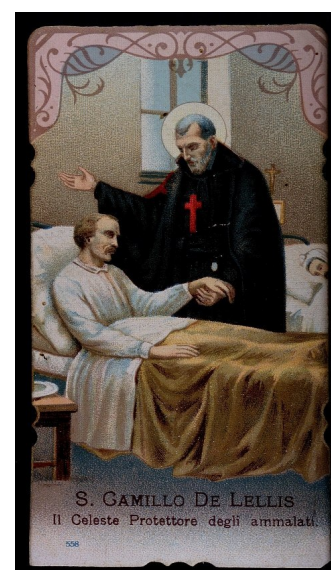
14th JULY - ST CAMILLUS DE LELLIS

Born in 1550, Camillus was a soldier and a gambler who was discharged from the Venetian army with an incurable leg wound. After a profound religious conversion, he tried to join the Capuchins, but was refused because of his poor health. Camillus then dedicated himself to the care of the sick.

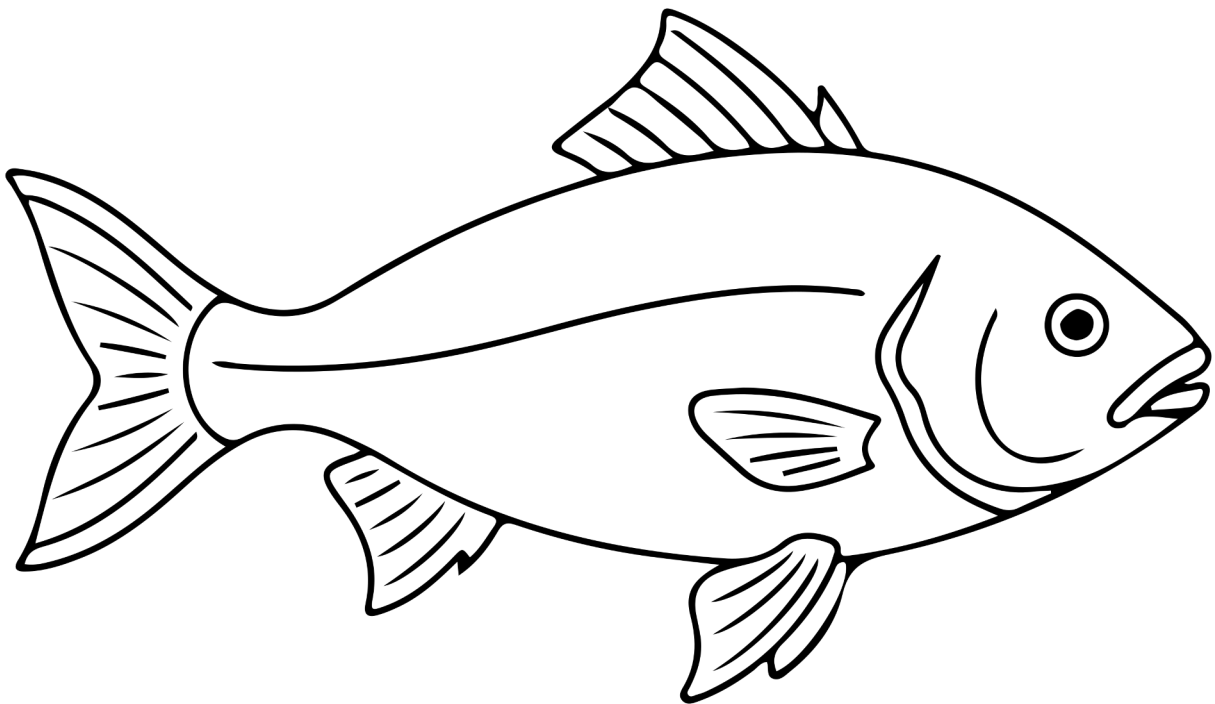
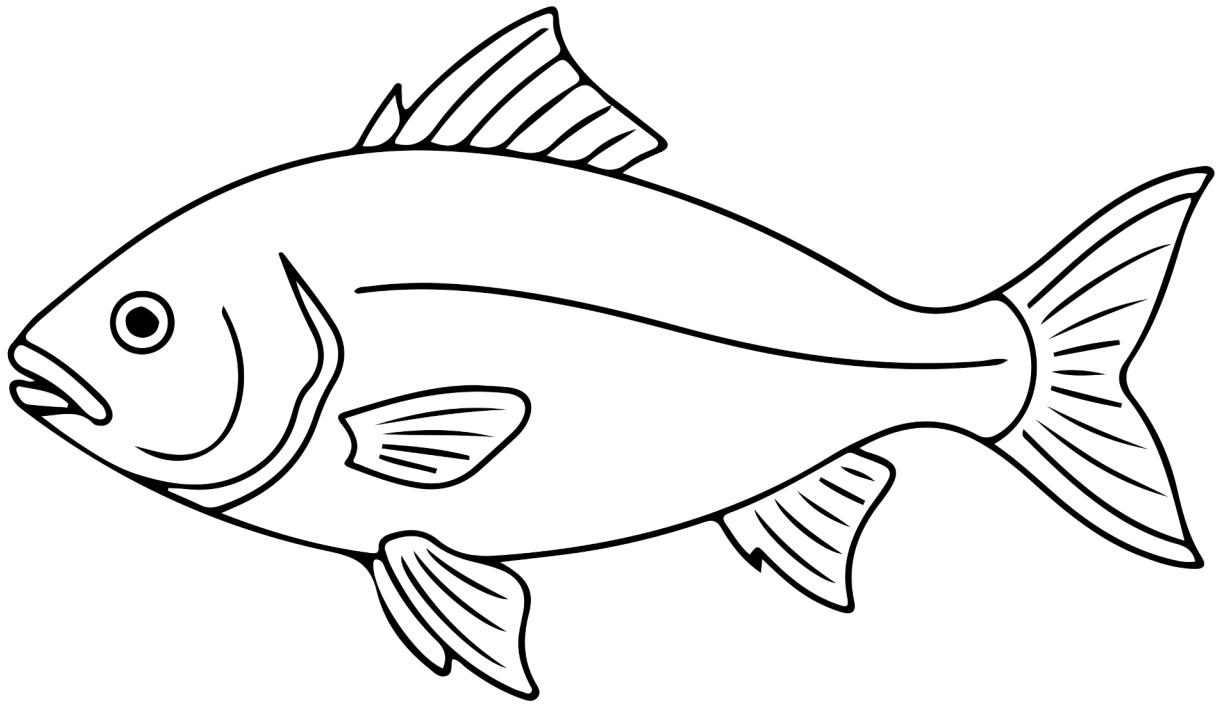
In 1584 he was ordained to the priesthood, and a few years later, he founded a religious congregation, the Order of Clerks Regular, Ministers of the Infirm (also known as Camillians), devoted to the care of the sick and dying.

The Order includes the vow "to serve the sick, even with danger to one's own life." In Camillus's time, they treated and ministered to many plague victims.

Camillus died in 1614 aged 64, and was canonised in 1746. His order of Camillians is still going strong today. Their website is at camillians.org.



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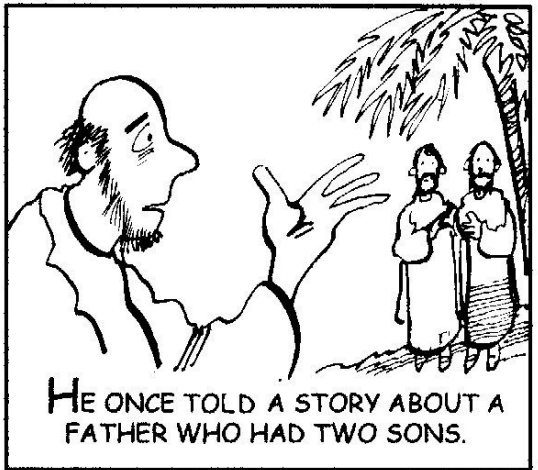
The tale of the Two Sons



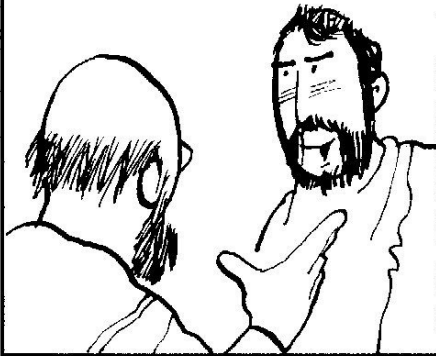
JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



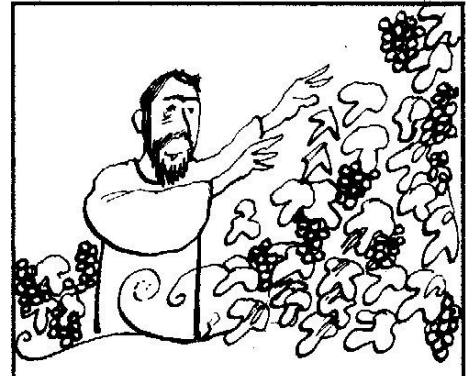
HE ONCE TOLD A STORY ABOUT A
FATHER WHO HAD TWO SONS.



THE FATHER WENT TO HIS
OLDER SON AND ASKED HIM
TO WORK IN THE VINEYARD



'NO I WON'T' SAID THE
OLDER SON...



...BUT THEN HE CHANGED HIS
MIND AND WENT AND HELPED.

THE FATHER THEN WENT TO HIS
YOUNGER SON AND ASKED HIM TO
HELP IN THE VINEYARD TOO.



'OF COURSE I WILL!' SAID THE YOUNGER SON. BUT
HE PROMPTLY FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT....

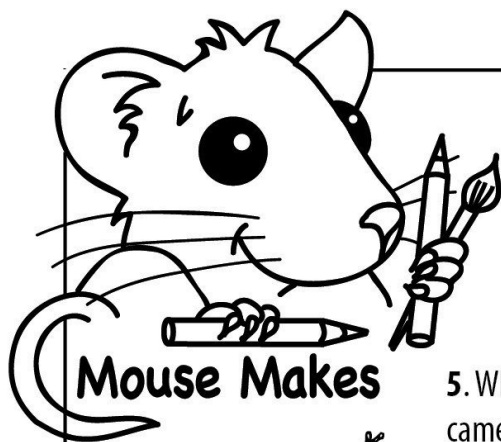
...AND DIDN'T DO A STROKE OF WORK!



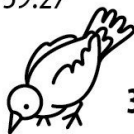
'WHICH ONE DID WHAT HIS FATHER
WANTED?' ASKED JESUS...



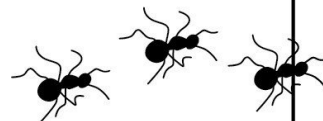
'WHICH DO YOU THINK IT WAS?



1. What bird makes
it's nest on high?
Job 39:27



2. What ate the seeds along the path?
Matthew 13:4



3. The hair of which animal
was used to make curtains?
Exodus 36:14

4. What insect
can we learn from?
Proverbs 6:6

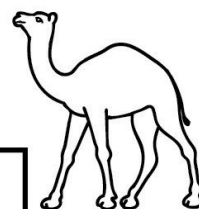
7. Which animal
was Jesus
compared to?
John 1:29



5. What plague
came out of the
River Nile?
Exodus 8:6



6. What animal would
go through the eye
of a needle easier
than a rich person?
Luke 18:25



8. What bird did Noah release
from the ark first?
Genesis 8:7



9 across.

In what creature's mouth
was a coin found?
Matthew 17:27



9 down.

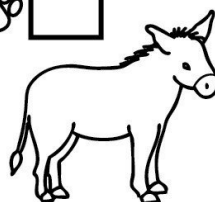
What lives
in holes?
Matthew 8:20



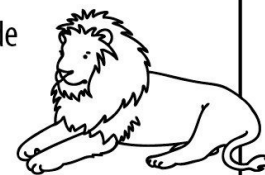
12. Which bird
did the
Holy Spirit
appear as?
Luke 3:22



13. Which animal
did Jesus ride on?
Matthew 21:7



14. What bird did God provide
for food in the wilderness?
Exodus 16:13



15. What insects did John eat in the wilderness?
Matthew 3:4



16. Which animal is the
"mightiest among beasts"?
Proverbs 30:30



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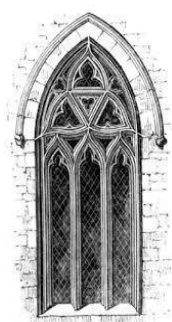
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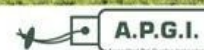
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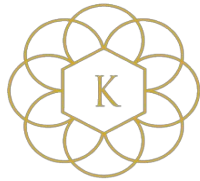
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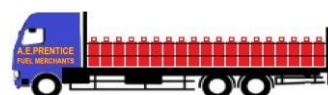
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| SHELSWELL GROUP SERVICES: JULY 2026                                                                       |                                                                                                                     |                                                                             |                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                |                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CW: 'Common Worship' modern language service    BCP: 'Book of Common Prayer' traditional language service |                                                                                                                     |                                                                             |                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                |                                                                                                                   |
| DATE                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                     |                                                                             |                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                |                                                                                                                   |
| ALTAR                                                                                                     | 5 <sup>th</sup> July<br>5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity                                                        | 12 <sup>th</sup> July<br>6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity               | 19 <sup>th</sup> July<br>7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity                                                                        | 26 <sup>th</sup> July<br>8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity                                  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> August<br>9 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity                                                    |
| 8.00 am                                                                                                   | Green                                                                                                               | Green                                                                       | Green                                                                                                                                | Green<br>Holy Communion<br>(BCP)<br>FINMERE AM                                                 | Green                                                                                                             |
| 9.15 am                                                                                                   | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>COTTISFORD<br>AM<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (BCP)<br>NEWTON PURCELL<br>LW | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>HETHE<br>AM<br>Mixbury Half Hour<br>PW | 9.15am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>FINMERE<br>AM<br>10am<br>'Food for Thought'<br>STOKE LYNE<br>Lay-led                  | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>STRATTON AUDLEY<br>AM<br>Morning Service<br>FINMERE<br>PW | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>HARDWICK<br>LW<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (BCP)<br>NEWTON PURCELL<br>AM |
| 10.45 am                                                                                                  | 'Connect' Informal Worship<br>HETHE VILLAGE HALL<br>AM<br>Morning Service<br>FRINGFORD<br>PW                        | Morning Service<br>STRATTON AUDLEY<br>PW                                    | 10.45am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (BCP)<br>COTTISFORD<br>LW<br>10.45am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>FRINGFORD<br>AM | 10.45am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>STOKE LYNE<br>CO                               | 'Connect' Informal Worship<br>FINMERE VILLAGE HALL<br>AM<br>Morning Service<br>FRINGFORD<br>PW                    |
| 6.00 pm                                                                                                   | Compline<br>GODINGTON<br>PW                                                                                         | Evening Communion<br>FRINGFORD<br>AM                                        |                                                                                                                                      | Evensong with<br>the Shelswell Group Choir<br>HARDWICK<br>PW                                   | Compline<br>STRATTON AUDLEY<br>PW                                                                                 |
| AM: Revd Alex Mahlava    CO: Revd Carolyn Oley    LW: Revd Liz Walters    PW: Mrs Penny Wood (LLM)        |                                                                                                                     |                                                                             |                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                |                                                                                                                   |