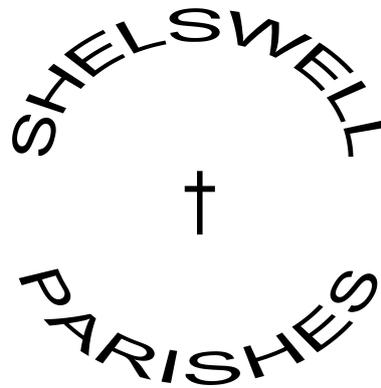


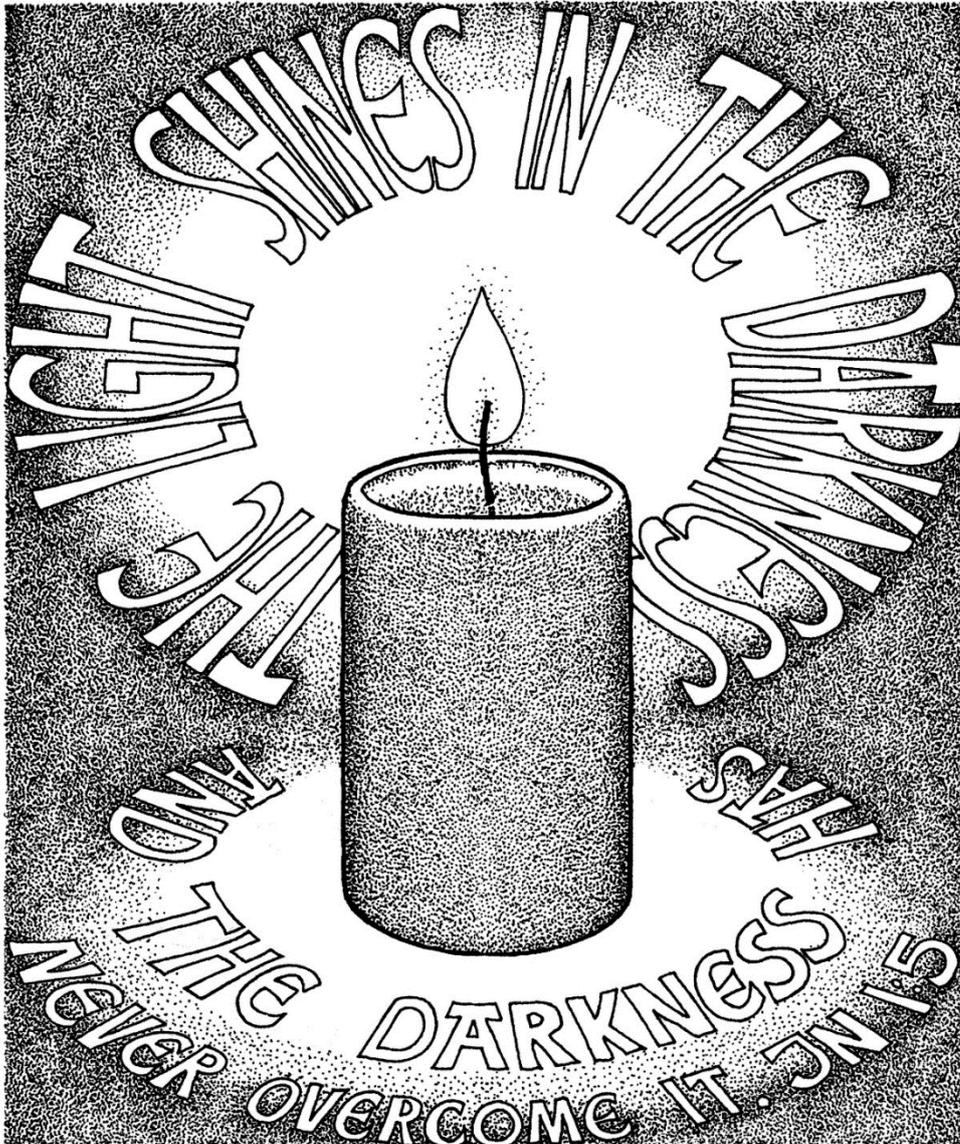
Shelswell News

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.

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

HOLY TRINITY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, HETHE,

Mass: 4 p.m Saturday.

Weekday Mass: 9.30 am Monday

Priest: Very Rev. Canon John Batthula, Henley House, 12 The Causeway, Bicester, OX26 6AW.

Telephone: 01869 253277

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

SHELLOWELL NEWS

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Deadlines for the **January 2022** edition of Shelswell News

To Magazine Correspondents: **Tuesday 7 December 2021**

Correspondents to Editor: **Thursday 9 December 2021** at editor@shelswellparishes.info

All articles must be submitted in WORD in a format that can be copied and pasted PLEASE

www.shelswellparishes.info

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ShelswellNews/>

Minister's Letter

“Oh, hush the noise, ye men of strife And hear the angels sing.”

During December many people attend a local Carol Service, or perhaps the more traditional Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, or listen to one via the radio or TV. The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols (customarily held on or near Christmas Eve) from Kings College, Cambridge, was introduced on Christmas Eve 1918 to offer solace to people who were distressed, exhausted, injured and, in many cases, bereaved at the end of the First World War. The deviser of the service was The Rev. Eric Milner-White, a graduate of King's College, Cambridge, who was appointed chaplain at the college in 1912, four years after his ordination as a priest. When the First World war broke out in 1914, he volunteered as a military chaplain, and witnessed the horrors of trench warfare on the Western front. Decorated for courage under fire in combat, he was released after what he called “a battle of special horror” in early 1918 and returned to King's College, where he was appointed Dean. When the war ended, only 6 weeks before Christmas Eve in 1918, Milner-White set out to create a special Christmastide service “as a gift to the city of Cambridge” that would serve two purposes. First, he wanted to grieve the loss of young men from the city, and especially from his own college, and second, he wanted to create a service through which the simple beauty of Christian worship would shine and attract those who had lost their faith in the horrors of the war, whether serving in it or watching it take place. Eric Milner-White believed that the simple beauty of Christianity offered hope to an increasingly secular culture without hope.

In our time we may not have faced a world war, nonetheless there have been continuous wars abroad in which people from our own country have fought and suffered, and for more than a year we all have faced the challenge of the pandemic which has caused many people world-wide to experience loss, grief, anxiety, loneliness and fear. Carol services, and indeed school nativities, have always evoked poignancy, as well as pleasure. As we watch, listen, and sing the familiar words many, if only for a moment, are touched, moved even to consider what the story might mean for them. These simple services offer an expression of hope that despite the mess that humans have made of our world, God has a plan of redemption for it.

“For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

The story of salvation, the message that God is ‘with’ his world not outside it, is conveyed to us through words and music – no ‘arguments’, just story. This is the mystery that is Christmas: “and they shall name him Emmanuel which means “ ‘God is with us’ ”.



BIBLE READINGS



Sunday 5 th December	2 nd Sunday of Advent	Malachi 3 v1-4 Philippians 1 v3-11 Luke 3 v1-6
Sunday 12 th December	3 rd Sunday of Advent	Zephaniah 3 v14-end Philippians 4 v4-7 Luke 3 v7-18
Sunday 19 th December	4 th Sunday of Advent	Micah 5 v2-5a Hebrews 10 v5-10 Luke 1 v39-45 [46-55]
Saturday 25 th December (and at Midnight Services on Christmas Eve)	Christmas Day	Isaiah 9 v2-7 Titus 2 v11-14 Luke 2 v1-14 [15-20]
		or Isaiah 62 v6-end Titus 3 v4-7 Luke 2 v[1-7] 8-20
		or Isaiah 52 v7-10 Hebrews 1 v1-4 [5-12] John 1 v1-14

Monthly Mid-Week Service of Holy Communion and Lunch

The next Service, with a Reflection for Advent, will be in **Stoke Lyne Church** on **Thursday 2nd December** at **12 noon**, followed by Lunch.

We do hope you will be able to come for worship, food and fellowship.

If you would like a lift or more information, please contact Liz, Yvonne or Alice.



It's Christingle Time



GROUP MEETING TO LOOK AT 'INSPIRED BY ART ADVENT THEMES'

This group first met on 25 November and is meeting again on 9 December at 7.30pm at Northwell Farm, Finmere. There will be a couple more sessions in January. People can join at any time. Just come along, or for directions ring Penny on 01869-277310

CHRISTMAS CRIB SERVICE



On Christmas Eve all are welcome to the
Shelswell Benefice Crib Service

at **4pm in Stratton Audley Parish Church.**

Bringing the Christmas story to life for young children.

Your children are encouraged to come in costume if they would like to.

The collection taken at the service will be shared between the local church and the Children's Society to help children and young people in distress.

Do come along and join in this wonderful start to Christmas!

'SHELLOWELL BY THE SEA' – CHRISTMAS PARTY

We are running a Christmas Party for older people with tea, activities and carols.

In Hethe Village Hall, from 3.00pm to 5.00pm on Wednesday 15th December.

If you'd like to attend **RSVP by 12th Dec** to Penny Wood - Tel: 01869 277310

Email: penelope.wood@btopenworld.com

Please tell Penny if you would like a lift to & from the party and if you have any dietary requirements.



By popular demand...

From January you will notice some further tweaks to the service pattern:

1. We have returned to the old (pre-pandemic) service times of 9.15 am and 10.45 am
2. We have added a couple of extra services to the rota.

It now looks like this:

	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday
8.00 am				Alternating Finmere / Hethe BCP Communion
9.15 am	Newton Purcell BCP Holy Communion	Hethe Holy Communion	Finmere Holy Communion	Stratton Audley Holy Communion
	Alternating Cottisford / Hardwick Communion		Mixbury Mixbury Half Hour (or maybe a tiny bit more)	Alternating Finmere /Hethe Morning prayer
10 am	Stoke Lyne Food for thought			
10.45 am	Fringford Morning service	Stratton Morning service Cottisford BCP Communion	Fringford Holy Communion	Stoke Lyne Communion
4 or 6 pm	6 pm Alternating Stratton Audley / Godington Compline	6 pm Alternating Stoke Lyne / Fringford Evening Communion	4 pm Fun at Four Stoke Lyne	4pm or 6 pm Hardwick Evensong

We will continue to hold the midweek Communion and Soup Lunch at 12 noon on the first Thursday of the month at Stoke Lyne, and of course there may be additional services on special occasions.

Please alert people who don't take the magazine but may want to come to a service.

Needless to say, this may all be disrupted by Covid – we will wait and see!

POPPY APPEAL 2021

After the challenges of last year, I am delighted to report that Fringford District raised a magnificent total of **£2,868.22** for this year's Poppy Appeal. Huge thanks are owed to those who knock on doors, Church congregations for donating their Remembrance Sunday collections, all those establishments who permit us to leave tins on their counters and Parish Councils / Parochial Church Councils for donating towards Wreaths even if, in some cases, they do not actually take delivery of a new one. Thank you all very much for raising such a significant sum which will enable the Royal British Legion to carry on with their vital work

Hugo Brown

Poppy Appeal Organiser for Fringford District

Thinking, reflecting, growing, developing – dates for next year’s diary

Lent 2022 – a series of four Lent talks and suppers

(Covid allowing)

Thursday 10th March – John Alderdice will talk on ‘Faith in a post pandemic world’. John has been a member of the House of Lords Select Committee on ‘Life in the Post Pandemic World’, which will complete its report by the end of this year.

Thursday 17th March and Thursday 24th March – still being finalised

Thursday 31st March – Melissa Morbeck will talk on ‘the power of God to change lives’. Melissa heads up the Corporate Alliance Against Domestic Violence (CAADV), encouraging businesses to wake up to the issue of domestic violence and consider how they can support employees who are victims.

Please put these dates in your diary!

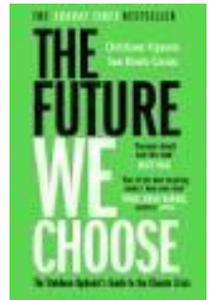
Thinking, reflecting, growing, developing – might you be interested in...

A discussion group based on ‘The future we choose’ by Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac

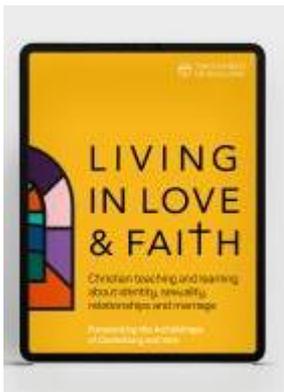
‘A cautionary but optimistic book about the world’s changing climate and the fate of humanity, from Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac—who led negotiations for the United Nations during the historic Paris Agreement of 2015.

The authors outline two possible scenarios for our planet. In one, they describe what life on Earth will be like by 2050 if we fail to meet the Paris Agreement’s climate targets. In the other, they lay out what it will be like to live in a regenerative world that has net-zero emissions. They argue for confronting the climate crisis head-on, with determination and optimism. *The Future We Choose* presents our options and tells us what governments, corporations, and each of us can, and must, do to fend off disaster.’

I have found this book an inspiring and challenging read – rather than just feeling overwhelmed by the climate crisis, I am now fired up to do my bit!



A discussion group exploring ‘Living in Love and Faith’



How do questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ? What does it mean to live in love and faith together as a Church?

‘Living in Love and Faith’ is a Church of England initiative that has come about because ‘there are disagreements among us about same sex relationships and the Christian understanding of marriage as the Church of England has received it. There are also disagreements about pastoral practice in relation to gender identity, sexuality and relationships ore generally.’

LLF invites us all to join in a process of listening and learning together, and be part of the process of discovering Christ’s call to the Church today. There is a mass of resources on the LLF site: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith/living-love-and-faith-learning-hub>, but might you value being part of a five session course exploring these issues further?

Contact me now to register your interest in either group.

alicegoodall313@gmail.com / 01280 848192

REGISTRY

This section will announce any baptisms, marriages and funerals that have recently taken place within the Shelswell benefice

Marriages

Daniel George CARR and Hannah Rose CORRY

On Saturday the 23 October 2021 Dan and Hannah were married in St Michael and All Angels, Finmere.



Hannah and Dan met in 2017 via the dating app Bumble. Dan is an engineer and Hannah a dietician who both work in Oxford. They come from a very close knit family and have *lots* of friends, most of whom came along and filled the church to share in their wedding day. Hannah and Dan organised for the string quartet The Rosettes to play before, during and after the service, and Hannah entered the church to them playing *Can't help falling in love with you*.

The couple chose to sing *Shine Jesus Shine* and *Lord of the Dance* during the service and the Shelswell Choir helped to lead our singing.

The readings included 1 Corinthians 13 and the poem More. The witnesses were

William Corry and Kate Maher.

It was a very emotional service, with tissues needed for happy tears!

Both Dan and Hannah recognise that they have been blessed to have been brought up in very loving homes where they witnessed love at work in their parents long and happy marriages. We wish Dan and Hannah a very happy, life-long marriage together too!



James Evan MORRIS and Victoria Jane ASPINALL

Saturday 23rd October 2021 Cottisford



Cottisford Churchyard was full of James and Vicky's family and friends, all there to celebrate their wedding. It was a nice day and they were enjoying catching up with one another, but eventually they were persuaded to take their seats and were all in place before the bride arrived.

James and Vicky currently live in Sulgrave, but James grew up in Juniper, the youngest children of David and Jean Morris. Jean ran The Fox at the time, whilst David was working as a teacher and agriculturalist. James and Vicky have been together for over 10 years but during lockdown they decided they would like to get married. Partly they had discovered that they quite enjoyed being stuck in the house together and partly lockdown got many of us reflecting on what it is that really matter.

James and Vicky work well as a couple; they know when to give each other room and when to offer support. Both come from large close families and appreciate how important those family relationships are to each of them. And they have fun together and

can make each other smile. Both are in demanding jobs, James as a Composite supervisor, and Vicky as the manager of a team that works with adults with learning disabilities. In addition, although they don't have enough time for them, they have lots of leisure interests. Vicky enjoys gardening and sewing. James is a bit of an adrenaline junkie whenever he gets the opportunity – he did succeed in persuading Vicky to have a go at an Olympic bobsleigh course. And he enjoys the social side of sports such as cricket, fishing and shooting.

Vicky was walked down the aisle by her dad Graham. Vicky and James had chosen two hymns: 'Morning has broken' and 'Lord of all hopefulness'. They had two readings 1 Corinthians 13 read by Vicky's sister Helen, and 'The Art of Marriage' read by her nephew William. The organist was Pam Morgan.

We pray that their marriage will be life long and life enhancing, a blessing to both them and their families.

Andrew GREEN and Jane Louisa McCLAY

Wednesday 10th November, Hethe

So on this occasion, the bride beat the vicar into the church. The bride and groom, both looking lovely, with their two witnesses, Pablo and Janine, had enjoyed a leisurely walk up to Hethe church and had got there in very good time. The vicar, however, having been to a meeting in the church just a short while before, had been taking advantage of the brief break in proceedings to enjoy a cup of tea and slice of pumpkin chocolate cake with the organist. The parties met at the church gate, and proceeded into the church together.

The church looked very lovely with some beautiful flower arrangements by Stephen Wheeler. It was an intimate and wonderfully relaxed service. Flora Skinner played the couple in and out of the church, as well as during the signing of the marriage document. She also read the first reading: 1 Corinthians 13, and Janine, one of the witnesses, read the other: an excerpt from 'The Art of Marriage' by Wilfred Arlan Peterson. And then Andrew and Jane made their vows to one another in front of their witnesses and signed the marriage document.

Andrew and Jane first met 14 years ago through friends. There was a chemistry between them and within just a couple of weeks they were forming a very solid friendship. They moved into their cottage in Hethe four years ago – tucked away from the world unless you know where to find them!

They work for the same company - Andrew as a recruitment manager and Jane as a global compliance administrator. During the pandemic, much of their work has been from home, which has suited them fine. Between them, they have a wide range of interests. They both enjoy watching films, being outdoors and visiting historical sites. Jane also enjoys music, concerts, theatre and meeting friends at the pub. Andrew is passionate about rugby and formula one, Star Wars and gardening. He has two sheds! Since being in Hethe he has helped keep the village pond in good order. They are soon to have another call upon their time in the imminent arrival of baby Green.

In a year's time, Andrew and Jane plan to renew their marriage vows and have a major celebration with all their family and friends. They may even combine this with a christening...

We wish them every happiness in their married life together.



Funerals

Jacqueline Morrow

Please see Hethe section for Tribute. A full obituary will appear in the January edition following Jacqueline's funeral.

Teresa Salazar de Buckle

24th April 1931 - 26th December 2019

Teresa Salazar De Buckle, whose eldest son and family live in Stoke Lyne, died on Boxing Day 2019 in Vienna, where she had lived for the previous 35 years. It had been planned to hold a memorial service for her on 21st March 2020, but then Covid intervened. But finally, on Sunday 7th November, the family were able to gather at Stoke Lyne church to remember and reflect and to lay her mortal remains to rest in the churchyard.

Teresa was born in Bogotá, Colombia, on 24th April 1931, the second daughter of Manuela Manrique de Salazar and a prominent Liberal politician Julio Roberto Salazar Ferro. She enjoyed a privileged and very active childhood. She was an excellent rider and determined to excel at everything she did. She attended an elite Catholic school for girls at which she gained many accolades and top academic prizes. She was also popular amongst her siblings, cousins and beyond.



After graduating from school Teresa attended the National University of Colombia to read Chemistry and obtained a first-class degree in inorganic chemistry. Her first employment was at the Icollantas tyre factory (a subsidiary of B F Goodridge) in Bogotá, undertaking quality control work as a newly graduated chemist. She used to relate how she had to climb to the top of the enormous articulated tankers to take samples for analysis before the factory could accept the delivery of chemicals. She went on to gain a Masters of Science in Chemistry at Washington State College in 1955, after which she returned to Bogotá and joined the Institute of Applied Research where she worked between 1955 and 1961.

In 1961 Teresa gained a scholarship to attend the University of Sheffield where she caught the full attention of a handsome young Englishman as, in his words, 'she glided into the lecture'. That young man was Alan Buckle, with whom Teresa developed a friendship through which they found they had many shared interests: literature, music and in particular good food. They maintained contact after Teresa's departure in 1962, later meeting in Chicago, where Teresa's sister was working. It was there that they agreed to marry - Teresa always said that she turned down many proposals but that Alan's was the best and most persistent. After their wedding on 22nd December 1963 they settled in Bogotá. Paul was eventually born in 1969, followed by James in 1972, and Teresa was immensely proud of them. The family enjoyed an active family and social life, maintaining close contact with the mass of cousins, aunts, uncles and family friends in Bogotá. In 1978, Teresa moved to take up a post with the Andean Pact, which was headquartered in Lima, Peru. The children followed, joined a little later by Alan. Paul and James enjoyed cycling to see friends, visiting the beach and the club swimming pool. As a family they travelled extensively in Peru and later to the very end of the Pan-American highway in Southern Chile and to Paraguay. Alan then found employment with UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organisation) based in Vienna, and In December 1982 James and Paul joined him there, followed by Teresa in late 1984, who had also gained a post with UNIDO.

During Teresa's professional life, she travelled to and delivered development programmes in most, if not all of South America, Australia, Indonesia, Jamaica, Dominica, Cuba, Europe, Malawi, Kenya, Egypt, Morocco, Tunis, Israel and Iran. Her travels did not cease when she retired in 1991, as she continued to undertake a series of consultancy contracts with UNIDO. None the less, she and Alan maintained a busy social life. Indeed neighbours were known to have complained of the noise of singing and guitar playing emanating from their flat from time to time – in Austria it is the law that noise must not disturb neighbours after 11:00 sharp. She and Alan were also members of discussion groups and she was well known in many of the local cafés and restaurants in central Vienna.

In 2013, Teresa had her first severe stroke, after which she began to deteriorate and became more dependent on others, particularly Alan, who diligently continued to look after her until August 2019 when she was moved to a care home. Her health continued to deteriorate, and on Boxing day 2019 she died holding Paul's hand.

Teresa's many qualities included elegance, patience and grace. She was a woman who savoured every moment and lived life to the full, someone with a profound sense of justice which propelled her to do what she could to make the world a better place. She was also someone who was never happier than when surrounded by friends and in particular her family, so it was very appropriate that after the service, her family moved to the back of the church to enjoy a wonderful meal, a glass or two of wine and exchanged news and memories. And although she is very much missed by her family, it is clear that they carry her spirit with them.

SHELLOWELL HISTORY FESTIVAL



Trade and Transport across the Ages Saturday 16th July 2022 Save the date!

If you would like to help or are interested in finding out more please email Mike at shelswellhistory@outlook.com or Alice Goodall at rector@shelswellparishes.info



YOUTH GROUP



We continue to meet for Youth Group in Fringford – alternate Fridays. We meet for fun and friendship, playing a variety of games. We have enjoyed various board games, video games – even saw Billy score an amazing Strike on the Mario Party 9 minigame Goomba Bowling! The whole of Fringford probably heard our cheers!

For our most recent session we had a great time playing cards and then enjoyed dipping fruit and other treats in a chocolate fountain given to us by Julie! And because it was the 5th November we had indoor sparklers too!

For our next session we are planning an escape room!

All secondary school age teens most welcome to join us. Please contact Revd Yvonne for more information.



FINMERE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Remembrance service at Finmere C of E Primary School.

The children have been thinking about Remembrance Day and the significance of the poppies. The older children have taken this further and looked at the different coloured poppies and what they each represent. The service at the church was led by Reverend Alice and was a fitting tribute to the Service men and women we are remembering. We were so proud of our Year 6 readers at the Remembrance service. They all spoke with such clarity and confidence and we were most impressed with everyone's sensible and respectful behaviour.



Finmere C of E Primary School were particularly proud of one of the students in Maple Class who led the remembrance procession in Brackley alongside Councillor Fiona Baker, the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education.

FRINGFORD CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Fringford School

Harvest Service

Just before half term the children from Fringford school came down to St Michael's for their Harvest service. During the service we played Count Down using the letters S T R V E A H – creating 2, 3,4,5,6 and even a 7 letter word! We all took part in telling the story of the seed that was sown in the field that grew in the world that God made and then traced all the people who have a part to play in the production of the bread we eat. We enjoyed singing Harvest hymns and the children donated *LOTS* of food which Revd Yvonne took to the Bicester Food Bank. The Food Bank were most appreciative especially since the school had checked which items they needed most that week!



CLUB NEWS

**Due to the current Coronavirus protective restrictions many events are cancelled for the time being:
Please watch this space.**

KNIT FOR PEACE



The photo shows a very small selection of the items knitted for knit for peace. The charity would like to say a big thank you to everyone who made a contribution. The amount of knitting that Marion passed on was fantastic.

Any further contributions to be left at 2 Church Close, Fringford. Please ring Marion Crowther on 01869 277404 prior to dropping anything off.

SHELLOW WALKERS



The December walk will be on the second Sunday of the month, 12th December at 10am. We will meet at Whitelands Way sports centre for a walk around Kingsmere. New walkers are welcome, please just turn up. Dogs must be on leads. Tea or coffee after.



SHELLOWELL WI

If you're going to join, then join in - a warm welcome awaits.

The members of Shelswell WI wish all the readers of Shelswell News a merry Christmas and a happy new year.



Come and join us in the new year on January 6th at 7.30pm, in Fringford Village hall, for an interesting talk by Christine Farmer on the amazing history of masks. The evening will start with some WI business, then the talk followed by tea, cake and a catch with members and guests.

Our December meeting on Tuesday 2nd at 7.30pm, in Fringford Village hall, will be a Christmas get together with some festive food, wine, soft drinks, raffle, quiz and entertainment.

The benefits of being a member of Shelswell WI. We are part of a national membership organisation, receiving the monthly newsletter and Oxfordshire Inspires magazine and the bi-monthly WI Life magazine. Also, to attend group meetings, access the 'my WI' website, make new friends, gain knowledge, take part in new activities, as well as campaigning, and access to the Shelswell coffee club and Facebook page. And to take part in the monthly walks.

For more information on Shelswell WI, please contact President Elaine Whittaker 07917 453224 or Nicky Lane 07814 796171.



SHELLOWELL GARDEN CLUB



Stella Exley of Hare Spring Cottage Plants provided a splendid talk entitled '**All I wanted to do was grow plants**' on 9th November.

Stella shared her journey with us, from enthusiastic 8-year-old, gardening with her Grandfather George to the owner of an independent specialist nursery. As a child Stella would plant lots of seeds and helped her grandfather with his prize Chrysanthemums on his allotment. She worked in local government for some time but always continued to grow plants and vegetables. Later, she moved to Devon, started Horticultural college and opened her first nursery. She concentrated on growing hardy perennials and her passion for Camassias developed. She then moved back to her home county of Yorkshire and rented Hare Spring Cottage and some attached land. This area was quite inhospitable and challenging with neighbouring moorland, sheep and woodland. During the winter of 2016/2017 the nursery was relocated to northwest of York.

She is the National Collection Holder of Camassia, Sidalcea and Uvularia plants. She regularly exhibits at shows including the Harrogate Show and RHS shows and holds an RHS Gold Medal for the nursery. Her love of Camassias has provided her fame with all leading gardeners. She is now breeding Camassias and growing rare species. She grows approx. 55,000 Camassias yearly.

At our December 14th meeting, **Katherine Crouch** will be talking about **Gardening with Ornamental Grasses**, a subject which divides some gardeners but if done correctly, can really add to the appeal of a garden. A gardener since the age of 8, she won BBC Gardener of the year in 1999, won BBC Gardener of the Decade in 2008, started her own Garden Design company in 2000, winning Gold at Chelsea Flower Show in 2013. She now designs gardens in the Southwest and gives talks to Garden Clubs.

An email will be sent out before the meeting to give you the Zoom link, so if you do not receive the club emails, please give Corrine a call on 01869 247411 to be added to the email list.

Please Note: Our first meeting of 2022 (via Zoom) will be on January 11th, when Christine Hayward (Holder of National Collection of Cannas) will talk about growing Cannas.

SHELLOWELL POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP

At our November meeting we read and discussed poems connected with the month of November and its associated signs of the Zodiac (Scorpio and Sagittarius).

The 14th century *Agincourt Carol*, an anonymous hymn celebrating the victory of the English over the French under Henry V, linked the archery which led to victory with the sign of Sagittarius, and *The Ballad of Agincourt*, by *Michael Drayton* in the 16th century, looked back to the same event. To link with the Gunpowder Plot of November 1605 we had the traditional children's *Guy Fawkes Day Poem*. The poem *Gunpowder Plot* by *Vernon Scannell* linked a peacetime bonfire with a war brought vividly to mind for one of the adults there.

Three poems on the subject of Thanksgiving, which is held on a Thursday in late November in America, were *The New England Boy's Song About Thanksgiving Day* by *Lydia Maria Child*, *Fire Dreams* by *Carl Sandburg* and *One Day There Is of the Series* by *Emily Dickinson*.

Staying with historical events linked to this time of year we had *The Death of President John F. Kennedy* by *Richard Brautigan* and *We Desert Rats* by *Jack Allen*, a bitterly humorous poem about life in the desert around the time of the Battle of El Alamein.

An extract from *Wild Peaches* by *Eleanor Wylie*, the haiku *November Night* by *Adelaide Crapsey* and *At Day-Close in November*, by *Thomas Hardy*, along with *Ted Hughes's* poem *November, My November Guest* by *Robert Frost*, *November Graveyard* by *Sylvia Plath*, *There's Nothing Like the Sun* by *Philip Edward Thomas* and *November* by *Thomas Hood* all evoked the feelings and atmosphere we often associate with this dark and often bleak time of the year.

As a rousing finale we had *September Song* by *Maxwell Anderson and Kurt Weill* – a song full of the sadness of autumn – and it does mention November!

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday December 7th at 10.30 pm, when we will conclude our study of Zodiac-linked poems and pick a series of themes for 2022.

If you would like to join us please contact me on 01869 811994 or at judith.harvey@live.co.uk

Judith Harvey

SHELLOWELL READING GROUP

Our book for November was *The Midnight Library* by *Matt Haig*, an unusual story of a suicidal girl's exploration, via a magical library of books, of all the lives she could have led. Magic realism is not to everyone's taste, but the unfolding story makes us think about our own lives, the choices we make and the potential for doing things differently. It ends on an optimistic note, with the girl, *Nora*, recovering the will to live and appreciate what she has.

Our next meeting will be on December 9th at 7.30 in Cottisford and the book is *Islands of Mercy* by *Rose Tremain*. Looking ahead, our January 2022 meeting will be on Thursday 13th, the title to be announced in the Shelwell News for that month. If you would like to join us, please contact *Jane Birnage* on 01820 847455 or at janebirnage@icloud.com

THE SHELSWELL BENEFICE

The Eighth of the Village Articles

Finmere

Finmere is an Anglo-Saxon name that means either 'pool frequented by woodpeckers' or 'boggy areas with a pond'; there is no doubt which residents prefer. The Temple family first bought land in Finmere in 1602 and by 1753 they owned most of the parish. In 1822 Richard Temple was created the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos. Although the Dukes were greedy and eventually bankrupted themselves, they managed Finmere well. It was let to tenant farmers and managed from Stowe by estate stewards. In 1848, after the bankruptcy of the Dukes, the manor was sold, some of it to Merton College. There was a mill in the village recorded at Domesday and the village continued to have one until early in the 19th century when the Duke had it demolished.

Poverty was a severe problem in the parish. In 1765 21 families qualified for relief and in 1826 most of the village was receiving poor relief. There seems to have been a steady growth in population from the late 17th century until a peak of 399 in 1851. By 1931 it had fallen to 187, owing to the lack of local employment and a decline in agricultural workers. In 1951 the population was still only 265 but by 2011 it had increased to 466, most rapidly in the 1970s when Chinnals Close and many other houses were built. There were seven farmers in 1851 and the same number in the 1920s, when five of them held farms over 150 acres.

The first evidence of a church dates from the 12th century. The earliest surviving parts of the present St Michael and All Angels Church are the north wall of the chancel and the Gothic windows in the chancel and the south wall of the nave. By 1664 the church was 'in decay and ready to fall'. Various repairs were carried out in the 18th century but the great restoration was begun in 1856. The south and east walls of the chancel, the south wall of the nave and the chancel arch were rebuilt. A new nave roof was then erected, a north aisle was built, the western gallery (dating from the 1760s) was removed, and new seating was provided. A vestry was added in 1868 and the south porch rebuilt in 1876. The church tower has an historic turret clock which was installed in 1697. It was altered in 1858 and reinstalled in 1859 by William Bayliss, the village carpenter, who also installed the Fringford church clock in 1876.

Finmere, like Mixbury, benefited from the good works of the saintly rector, W.J. Palmer (1814-52), the father of Roundell Palmer, Lord Selbourne, and William Palmer, theologian and archaeologist. They also benefited earlier from William Cleaver (rector 1783-87), who instituted eight celebrations of Holy Communion, introduced musical instruments into church services, and patronised a resident schoolmaster.

In 1824 the Duke of Buckingham built a National School for the village. In 1926 it was reorganised as a junior school, with senior pupils going to Fringford. The school closed in 1948, the infants being transferred to Mixbury. However, a new school was opened in 1959 and, along with Fringford, is the only one still active in the benefice. The historic houses in the village include the old rectory (dating from 1867), now a private house, Finmere Place; Finmere House, built in 1600 and re-fronted in 1739, and Lepper's House, built in 1638 and rebuilt in 1879. The Finmere for Buckingham station, south of the village opposite the old Shelswell Arms, was built in 1899 as part of the Grand Central Line. British Rail closed the station in 1963 and this section of the line was closed in 1966. The RAF Finmere airfield, south of the village and Tingewick, was commissioned in July 1942, as a Bomber Command operational training unit. It was closed in the 1950s and the site is now best known for the Finmere Sunday Market.

Martin Greenwood

REPORTS FROM THE PARISHES

Cottisford and Juniper Hill St Mary the Virgin

CHURCHWARDEN: Charles Jackson, Cottisford House, Cottisford

Tel 01280 848247

TREASURER David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick

Tel 01869 277690

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Vacancy

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Judith Harvey, Lark Rise Cottage, Juniper Hill Email: judith.harvey@live.co.uk

To donate to St Mary's, Cottisford just scan this code with your phone:



COTTISFORD AND JUNIPER HILL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The bonfire on Saturday 6th of November was, again, a great success, and was well-attended.

Four types of soup, hot dogs and cake helped keep out the cold and rather than one guy, we had several, made by children from the two villages. The food and sparklers were free, but donations amounted to over £120.

Thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make the evening a success – by organising the bonfire itself, supplying and working on refreshments, and coming along on the night.

We are hoping, later this month, to make a start on planting a small patch of woodland in the playing field, using young trees and saplings donated by residents.

At Cottisford Church

A Carol Service

Sunday 12th December at 11 am

**Come and join us for a festive service of carols and readings
for all the family. *Everyone welcome!***

***Please book your place by calling Alice on 01280 848192 or
email alicegoodall313@gmail.com***

Decorating the Church Party!

Saturday 11th December, 10.30am

***Come along with the family and help us make our Church look
even more beautiful for Christmas!***

fppt.com

Finmere

St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: Vacancy

TREASURER: Jacqueline Chelin, 19 Valley Road, Finmere, Buckingham MK18 4BG

Tel 01280 847782

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Katherine Grimston

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

Tel 01280 848268

To donate to St Michael & All Angels', Finmere just scan this code with your phone:



Village Hall

The work at the hall is in its final stages and bookings are now being taken.

New storage areas have been added and the meeting room refurbished. In addition, a set of patio doors have been installed on the west facing end, leading onto a newly created patio area, facing the existing children's play area and creating an ideal environment for children's parties.



However, as mentioned last month, the hall has temporarily been put out of action due to some fire and smoke damage following an arson attack. It is now hoped that the hall will be back in use early in the new year.

Allotments

The Poor's Plot currently has a small waiting list for allotment plots in the village.

There is a possibility that a few plots may become available shortly, so any aspiring allotment users should visit

www.myfinmere.com/poorsplot



Dates for the Diary

Finmere School Christmas Market – Saturday 4th December

Finmere Carol Service with switching ON of the tree lights – Friday 10th December.

Need some local help

<http://www.shelswellparishes.info/documents/corona/communitynetworks.pdf>

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

Fringford

St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: John Mayo, 10 Church Close, 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 01869 278873
 Tel 07867 515207
 Tel 01869 277310
 Tel 01869 278949

To donate to St Michael & All Angels', Fringford just scan this code with your phone:



ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, SERVICES & EVENTS

Services

- Sunday 19th December – 11.00 Holy Communion
- Tuesday 21st December – 6.00pm Carol Service
- Christmas Eve 24th December: 4.00pm Crib Service in Stratton Audley Church
11.30pm Holy Communion in Fringford Church
- Christmas Day 25th December: 11.00 Family Service in Fringford Church

To find out the times and places of services on other Sundays, please look at the back of this magazine, check the noticeboard, or our website www.shelswellparishes.info or Facebook page [*Shelswell News*], or ring the Benefice office (01280-848192). You will always be welcome in our other parishes.

Carol Singing around the Village in aid of Nai's House

Members of the Parochial Church Council will be going carol singing around the village on Thursday 16th December. Come and join us; meet at 6.00pm by the church gate. We'll be collecting for Nai's House (Charity Number: 1192238). This charity – with a local base in Bicester - provides immediate, confidential, flexible and easy to access holistic mental health support in a non-clinical setting for children and young adults.

Advent Windows 2021 - 'Christmas Spirit'

Following last year's successful event, we thought we'd suggest having one again this year. The theme will be 'Christmas Spirit'. How it works....

- 24 volunteers agree to decorate a street-facing window (an 'advent window') on the theme 'Christmas Spirit'. [Or maybe an outdoor display] Each window [or display] is assigned a date on which to 'open'.
- A new window 'opens' (appears and is lit) each day from 1st to 24th December
- The window is then 'opened' every day from 5.00pm on its opening date until 31 December.
- A Trail leaflet is created and we have an advent window trail around Fringford that anyone can walk and enjoy, at any time throughout the month.

It's not too late to take part - email penelope.wood@btopenworld.com (or ring 277310) to give your address and the 'title' of your window. Trail Leaflets will be available outside 8 Crosslands.

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

The November winners were: 1st Christina McCullagh; 2nd Carol Reader; and 3rd Adrian Thwaites. You can still sign up to the 100 Club. Contact Christina McCullagh to register your involvement **ASAP, on 07867 515207.**

Fringford Church Book Exchange

The box for book exchange is in the church porch

Little Lambs Babies & Toddler Group is back!!!



Every Wednesday during term time in Stratton Audley Church, from 10.00 to 11.30am. [Not during holidays and half term.] Just come along, but if you need information in the meantime, email admin@shelswellparishes.info




Mingle and Jingle
6.30 till 9.00pm
Wednesday 15th December 2021
at Waterloo Farm OX27 8RH
In aid of Fringford Church Funds

Dress Festive Tickets £10
To include first drink & nibbles
Plus - Silent Auction. "Ssssh!"
To book tickets contact:
Phillippa Taylor on 07703276742

SUPPORT DURING THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS, AND AFTERWARDS

Support is always available from the **Fringford Friends, Neighbourhood Support Group** :

- Telephone: 07704 756840
- Email neighbourhoodsupport@fringford.info

To join Fringford's **What's App Group** ring or email Christine Underwood: 07961 972388 or christine@avalon23.plus.com



FRINGFORD VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

The Coffee Morning will be on Monday 20th December, 10.30am to 12 noon in the church.
The December Fringford Church 100 Club draw will take place that morning.

Penny Wood

Hardwick

St Mary the Virgin

CHURCHWARDEN: David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick
 TREASURER: David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick
 PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Vacancy
 MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Veronica Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick
 WEBSITE: <http://hardwickvillage.btck.co.uk>

Tel 01869 277690
 Tel 01869 277690

Tel 01869 277690



To donate to St Mary's, Hardwick just scan this code with your phone:

HARDWICK CHURCH IS OPEN DAILY

St Mary's Church, Hardwick is open for private prayer and reflection every day between 10 am until 4 pm.

To keep you safe, please follow the guidelines below:

- Please maintain social distancing if more than one person is on the church at any time.
- Please use the hand sanitizing gel provided on entering and leaving the church.
- Please feel free to use the prayer cards and sheets. If you do, please DO NOT return them to the table but take them with you. More will be provided for others.

THANK YOU

CHRISTMAS IN HARDWICK



There will be two celebrations of Christmas in St Mary's Church, Hardwick:
 Our **Carol Service** on Sunday 19th December at 4 pm, followed by refreshments
 A service of **Holy Communion** on Christmas Day at 9.30 am



All welcome – please join us for these festive events.



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

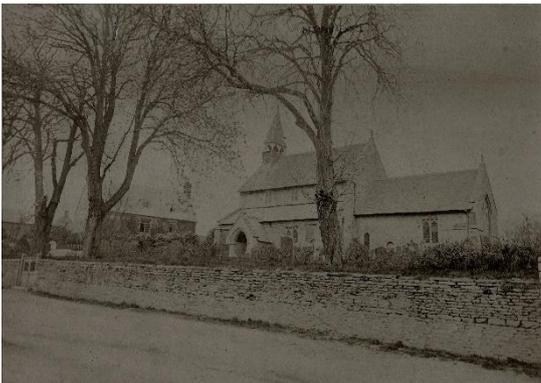
If you have any news or a local event to publicise, please send the details to me, where possible with a photo, and if suitable I will add them to next month's news and include them on the village web site. The deadline for this publication is on Page 2.

The village web site contains up to date information affecting the village - planning applications, agreed PCC minutes and notices of meetings, HS2 and other road works and much more.

Many thanks, Mike.

ST EDMUND & ST GEORGE CHURCH

Church Services and Events



The church is now open every day for visitors and private prayer. Please take care, think of others and continue to follow any guidance on how to safely access and use the church.

You are all welcome to join us for our **Carol Service on Monday 20th December** starting at 7.30pm and followed by refreshments at the church.

**At the heart
of Christmas**



The popular **Service of Morning Prayer** is to be held on Sunday 5th December (9.30am) and **Holy Communion by Extension** on Christmas Day, also starting at 9.30am. Please see the back page for further details and other services.

Hethe Community Coffee Morning in St Philip's Hall at the Holy Trinity Church

TUESDAY 14th December 10-12 noon
with a raffle and the 100 Club draw



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

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



Looking ahead to the New Year: between January 18th and 25th Hethe will celebrate its own two churches during this week of unity, coming together on the afternoon of Saturday 22nd January. Mark the date in your new diaries while plans are made - more details to follow.

Church Cleaning and Flowers

Thank you to Helen Wood for volunteering to clean the church this month.

The Advent Ring will be supplied again this year by Sandra Green. There will be no flowers during Advent, but we can put in greenery and the Christmas tree before the Carol Service. Everyone's help will be very welcome in providing Christmas flowers.

Church Giving

Thinking about changing the insurance cover on your home? If you take out a policy with Ecclesiastical, our church insurance company, they will donate £130 to our church.

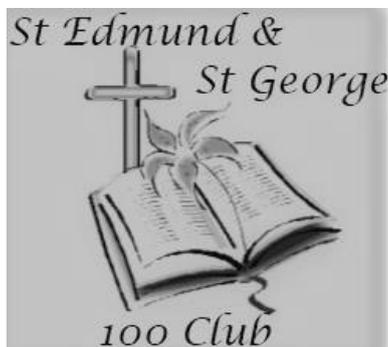
If you wish to contribute to the running costs of the church, please see the village web site or contact hethepccsecretary@outlook.com.

Eco Church



We are looking for someone to lead in how we make the church and churchyard more environmentally friendly. We have already made a start but a volunteer to manage this would be the best way forward for the church and the village. St Edmund & St George Church is registered under Eco Church which is the award scheme for churches in England and Wales who want to demonstrate that they can manage their church to help conserve the natural environment. Areas to be covered could include worship and teaching; buildings; land; lifestyle and community; and global issues. Volunteers do not have to be an active worshipper in the church - applications from anyone will be considered.

100 Club



The results of the 35th draw held on Monday 8th November 2021

- 1st Prize No 4 Helen Pritchard Family
- 2nd Prize No 17 Helen Wood
- 3rd Prize No 3 Gary Skinner

The next draw will be held on Tuesday 14th December (at the coffee morning in St Philip's Hall). There are still plenty of numbers if you wish to join! Please contact Mike or one of the other PCC members for an application form. The form and full details of the scheme are on the village website.

Thank you to our Volunteers

Many thanks to the volunteers who work so hard to make our church a special place in the community. They undertake varied roles from helping to maintain the churchyard, to church cleaning, to providing flowers, to being members of the PCC – all are thanked for their contributions. And an extra thank you to Flora and Pauline for providing much of the village news over the past twelve months.



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Advent Day of Prayer, at the Holy Trinity Church, on Monday 6th December.

The day will begin with a Mass at 9.30am and will end with a service of Benediction at 4.00pm. In between times the church will be open for prayer and quiet contemplation. Refreshments will be on hand in St Philip's Hall throughout the day.



HETHE COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

Village Hall

Please contact the booking secretary on fj Skinner@hotmail.co.uk for availability.



Adventure Playground

The playground on the village playing field off the Hardwick Road was open at the time of writing this article. Please follow any instructions on the gates concerning bringing your own wipes and taking litter home.

Hethe Lending Library

Hethe's Lending Library will be moving from the bus stop back into the church to protect it from the weather over the winter months. It has also been gifted a wonderful collection of classical CDs which are in the church already. Come and browse!

Recycling

The bottle bank is open and is being monitored and emptied.

There are three glass recycling banks available for clear, green and brown bottles on the driveway approaching the Village Hall.

Jacqueline Morrow

We were sad to hear of the death of Jacqueline (Jackie) Morrow. She will be missed in the village as she was an integral part of village life and provided much encouragement and support to others. Our thoughts are with Paul and their sons Niall and Conor.

Jackie was diagnosed with cancer on 19th October and died at home on 12th November, only 24 days after the initial diagnosis.

She always showed an active interest in Hethe, never reluctant to give her opinion on any change which affected the appearance of the village - always with a ready sense of humour! She was Hethe Parish Clerk for several years with responsibilities which included the finances of the parish, managing all correspondence and documentation, acting as secretary for meetings and processing planning applications.

Jackie often helped in the village and liked to take part in social events. She excelled at the quizzes and was always a lot of fun. She was key to the production of the Kingfisher News at one time by setting out the page ready for printing. The Kingfisher News was a free publication delivered to all homes in the village before the village web site was available.



Hethe's Christmas Shop



Opens 27th

November

10am-7pm

**Mon to Sun*

Vine Cottage, Main Street, Hethe, OX27 8HD

Fresh Christmas Trees, Potted Trees

Tree Decorations, Wreaths

Small Gifts, Candles, Fresh flowers

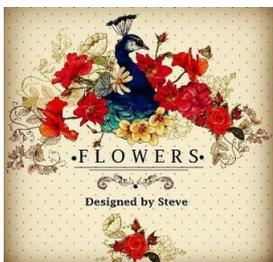
Fresh Garlands, Door scaping, Festive flower displays

Whatever you need call us

Please contact Steve on 07929 611 553

Flowersdesignedbysteve.co.uk

★ Due to prior engagements certain days maybe closed, please check above website



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 pasgoodman551@gmail.com

Tel 07899 792552
Tel 01280 848295
Tel 01280 847769
Tel 01280 848295
Tel 01280 848002

To donate to All Saints', Mixbury just scan this code with your phone:



Church Services - Services are usually on the third Sunday in the month at 9.30am
but this month we have the special **Outdoor Nativity Service on Sunday 19th December at 4pm**
and a service of **Holy Communion on Christmas Day at 11am.**

Mixbury Church flower rota 2021

December Carol service and Christmas - everyone Reserve Sam Lockwood
Easter Barbara, Sam, Melanie, Morag, Sue Goodman, Helen, Sally, Kate

Remembrance Sunday



A large gathering of Mixbury residents attended the laying of a poppy wreath at the War Memorial in the Churchyard on 14th November. The following were remembered from the First World War: Edward Blencowe, Gordon Hancock, Leslie Paxton and Robert Strickland, From the Second World War: John Aldsworth and Robert Dunkley. Tilly Howard read out the following poem by Anna Howard honouring Mixbury's First and Second World War deceased.

The War Memorial

In the corner of our church yard
Stands an old stone cross,
Its bright white marble greyed with age
A testament to loss.

Next time you find you're passing
Pause a while and read the names,
Of boys who gave their lives for us,
Who died unknown to fame.

Edward Blencowe, Robert Paxton
Mixbury lads, like some of you.
They walked our lanes, our fields, our woods.
Our homes were their homes too

James Dunkley, John Strickland
They were brothers, fathers, sons
They loved, they lived; their lives cut short
By shell or gas or gun.

A hundred years have come and gone
It's easy to forget
The awful sacrifice they paid
We all live in their debt

In the corner of our church yard
Stands an old stone cross.
Its bright white marble greyed with age
A testament to loss.

Anna Howard 2018

Mixbury Book Exchange – has moved!

The books have now been moved to a table next to the organ in the church. The books have been kindly donated by one of Mixbury's Book Clubs and a few individuals, these are for the villagers to exchange a book with one they have read and replace with one of their own. Now the pandemic restrictions have eased we are no longer wrapping books in clear plastic, but there is a bottle of hand sanitiser next to them for your convenience. There are a good selection of children's books now available too. Please only leave books that are in good condition, now that the books are inside the church we can accept a few more – do not leave books in the bus shelter thank you.

Bonfire

Once again Johnathan Berrie and his team did Mixbury proud with a spectacular firework display, thanks to Frank and Maggs Jackson for the use of their field.

Churchyard Mowing



Thank you very much to all those who helped mow the churchyard and all those who helped to keep it so tidy, particularly after the work that was done round the church and the turfing and reseeded.

Robert Drummond-Hay

Mixbury Calendars For Sale

Mixbury History Group has produced calendars for 2022!

These are high quality kitchen calendars with plenty of space for writing in birthdays, commitments and much more. The twelve interesting photographs of Mixbury range from 4 years ago to 100 years ago. The group is selling them at cost price for just £5.00 each: cash please!

They are available from:

Pat Beveridge, Mouse's End, 18 Mixbury - 01280 847 720

Sue and Phil Goodman, Sycamore House, Frank's Lane - 01280 848 002

Sue and Bruce, Badgers' Wood, 4 Evenley Road - 01280 848 672

Call in or call first! If you are unable to get to one of us, we will be happy to arrange to take a calendar round to you.

Mixbury History Group Calendar 2023

Following the success of the 2022 calendar I am looking for photographs from past events in Mixbury i.e. 2002 Jubilee Celebrations, the Rose Queen, Barn dances, Bonfire Nights, Fete's VE Day Celebrations, wine club nights, book club group photographs, T Towels with local children's art work, harvest time – basically any event that has taken place in Mixbury and the best 12 photos will be in the for 2023 calendar. Please email photos to: pasgoodman551@gmail.com – thank you from Sue Goodman.

Pop Up Pub Night

The next host is Alison Timms at 8pm 3rd December 2021. (7 Slade Hill, Mixbury)

Welcome

Welcome to Thomas and Britta who have recently moved into Mixbury also Pepe the dog!
We hope you will be very happy here.

Mixbury's Outdoor Nativity

It's back!

Sunday, 19th December

4:00pm

“An extraordinary Christmas Service”

With rousing hymns and familiar readings, Mixbury's carol service returns.

Join us at 4:00pm on Sunday 19th December. Details are yet to be finalised, but most or all of the service will take place outside with the Christmas story unfolding in the gathering dusk.

Over the last 17 years, the 'live' Nativity has become an integral part of our service. However, this year, **we really do we need your help** for it to happen!

We need cast - young and old (yes – that does mean grown-ups too).

As always, friends and family are more than welcome to join in

These are the roles that need filling:

- A baby J – we promise to look after him/her and keep them warm. This would be the 16th Mixbury baby to take the role!
- Mary
- Joseph
- Angel Gabriel
- Innkeeper
- Several Shepherds (any age WE will have REAL SHEEP)
- A host of angels (any age and very small cherubs welcome too)
- King 1
- King 2
- King 3

We're also looking for readers.

As always, the service will conclude with warming glass of mulled wine and mince pies.

Please contact Tanya Howroyd, **asap**, if you, your family or your friends would like to take part in this magical Mixbury tradition.

All Our Yesterdays by Bruce Epps

Whatever happened to the Earl of Mixbury, and why were the Victorian houses in Mixbury village built?

The Earl of Mixbury is a title that could have been, but never was. The Victorian houses in Mixbury should have been built much earlier than they were and only came about because of an unusual twist of fate.

Roundell Palmer was born in 1812, the son of the Reverend W J Palmer, rector of Mixbury between 1802 and 1851. He grew up and went to school in Mixbury. In his “Memorials: Part 1 - Family and Personal 1766-1865” (published in 1896-1898) he speaks very warmly about his family and the parish.

He went to Trinity, Oxford where he won the Chancellor's Latin verse and essay prize. After Oxford he entered conveyancing chambers. He was called to the Bar (became a barrister) at Lincoln's Inn in 1837 and began to practice at the Chancery Bar. At the age of 37 he took silk, the highest level of barrister. By that time, he had already been an MP for Plymouth for two years.

In 1861 he was appointed Solicitor-General, becoming Attorney-General in 1863. In 1872 he became Gladstone's Lord Chancellor, and he was created a Baron. Disraeli, on becoming Prime Minister in 1874, removed him but, on taking power again in 1880, Gladstone appointed him to the same position. In 1882 Roundell Palmer was created Earl of Selbourne. Roundell was an important and influential figure in government and the law.

However, he never forgot his childhood home. In his Memorials he was to write, “My affection for Mixbury had often, while my father was alive, made me entertain in imagination the idea of purchasing [the castle site] and building a house on Castle Hill.” When he found out that Stanlake Ricketts Batson, the then Lord of the Manor

– “but who had no house there and seldom came near the place” – was willing to sell his share of the Mixbury, he made an offer for the castle site. “I therefore offered Mr Batson a price which was more than the fair market value, but this he would not take.” Perhaps Mr Batson was unable to overlook Roundell’s father’s criticism of him as an absentee landlord (he had another manor in Cambridgeshire) who neglected the village’s housing stock and its inhabitants, and who had lobbied Bishop Wilberforce of Oxford to intervene on behalf of the tenants: S R Batson ignored Bishop Wilberforce as well.

Unable to come to Mixbury on his terms, Roundell moved to Selbourne in Hampshire where he set up his home. When he was made an earl in 1882, he took the title Earl of Selbourne. If he had bought the Beaumont Castle site and built his home there, he would presumably have become “Earl of Mixbury”!

There are two postscripts to this tale. First, Roundell’s father and mother died in 1853 and 1867 respectively and were buried in Mixbury churchyard next to the west wall with the rectory. But both of their gravestones, and others of his family buried there, have an earl’s coronet, in relief, on them. This could only have been done after 1882: it is a sign of his enduring love for his family.

Second, S R Batson – the absentee landlord - died in 1871 and his son, Stanlake Henry Batson, inherited his father’s estate in Mixbury; but, as fate would have it, he was a minor. He was only 12 years old and could not legally run his Mixbury inheritance. His father had in his Will put that responsibility in the hands of his mother, Gertrude, with guardians appointed to look after S H B’s interests. In 1872 a court case was instituted in the boy’s name by the guardians, against his mother – the case is recorded as Batson v Batson. It was presented to the Court of Chancery which, amongst other things, had jurisdiction over the guardianship of infants. I suspect, (but will not know more until I can inspect the Court papers held in the National Archives at Kew) that the guardians felt S H B’s mother was not looking after Mixbury in the boy’s interests.

Whatever, in 1874 the Court determined that the old houses in Mixbury in the Batson portfolio be demolished and replaced with new buildings – the ones you can see today at the south end of the village. When he became of age it seems that young S H Batson inherited the new village! So Roundell’s father’s desire to address the condition of the housing stock was at last fulfilled, 20 years after his father’s death. The co-incidence, of course, is that the Courts between 1872 and 1874 were overseen by the Lord Chancellor – Roundell Palmer.

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Services - Please note that as from January 2022 there will be a slight change to our service pattern. Our service of Communion & Hymns will now be at **9.15 a.m.** on the **1st Sunday** of each month. For this month, please see the detail on the back page.

Remembrance Sunday -

We were very happy to welcome a good number of people to our service of Remembrance on Sunday 14th November and thank them for giving so generously to the collection which has been handed directly to The Royal British Legion to help them continue their amazing work.

Bonus Ball Lotto -

Our recent lucky winner was Fay Harris.

Christmas Concert -

We are delighted to be able to welcome back The Phoenix Singers for this years Christmas Concert on **Friday 10th December**. Doors will open **at 7.15 p.m.** for a **7.30 p.m.** start and tickets remain £10 each payable on the door. As ever there will be Festive refreshments and a Special Secret Santa.

This is always a very popular event so please contact either of the Churchwardens to make your reservation in advance!

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St Peter's Church Stoke Lyne Services

2nd December	Shelswell Benefice Monthly Communion and Lunch 12.00 noon
5th December	Food for Thought 10.00am
12th December	Evening Communion 6.00pm
23rd December	Carol Service 6.30pm
25th December	Christmas Day 11.00am Holy Communion

December 2nd Shelswell Benefice Monthly Communion and Lunch

Shelswell Benefice
Monthly Communion and lunch
First Thursday at 12pm



Join us for Communion followed
by a Soup lunch
in St Peter's Church, Stoke Lyne.
If you need help with transport please get in
touch.

Flower Duty for December

All who can help to decorate the church for Christmas.

Stoke Lyne 100 Club – November Results

November 100 Club results are as follows:

1st Prize No 51 Adrian Taylor

2nd Prize No 58 Harry Poole

3rd Prize No 15 Harriet Wy

Thank you everyone for your amazing support each month. Spread the word as we have a few membership numbers left. The more we sell the bigger the prize each month.

Stoke Lyne 100 Club

Janey Poole Treasurer St Peter's Church PCC janey@oxford-educational.co.uk

Shelswell Benefice Monthly Communion and Soup Lunch – 4th November

This was a lovely idea to get people together mid-week. Liz officiated at the communion after which we had a lovely lunch of soup and dessert served by all the clergy. There was lovely cheery banter going on.

Thank you to all who provided the food and helped in any way, it was a super day.

Food For Thought - 7th November

We enjoyed croissants and coffee whilst talking about modern-day saints and more 'traditional' saints. It was a lovely opportunity to catch up with neighbours and friends from across the Benefice and to meet some new people too.

Our next short, informal service with breakfast will be on Sunday 5th December at 10.00 in St. Peter's Church, Stoke Lyne. If you have any themes that you would like to see included please email kholdenwhite@aol.com.

It would be lovely to see you.

Stoke Lyne W.I. – 11th November

We met on Thursday 11th November at 1.00 in Hethe village hall. Rena introduced our speaker Muriel Pilkington who was going to speak about the Mitfords. She proceeded to give us the history of the Mitford family going back generations. The main part of her talk was all about the Mitford sisters when they were brought up in the Cotswolds and she went on to tell us all about their childhood through to their deaths. Muriel is an excellent speaker and enjoyable to listen to.

We then went on to do the business, tea was served by Sheila and Carol, dates were given of future events coming up. The competition of a beauty tip was won by Rena and the raffle was won by Miriam.

THE W.I. GROUP CAROL SERVICE IS ON THURSDAY **9TH DECEMBER** 7.00 PM AT ST PETER'S CHURCH, STOKE LYNE, WITH REFRESHMENTS AFTER. ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

Remembrance Service – 14th November

The service started at 10.45, with Reverend Liz Welters officiating, then at the appropriate time we turned to face the two war memorials for the Act of Remembrance. The names from both memorials were read out and wreaths laid. We then had two minutes' silence as the clock struck the 11th hour after which we carried on with the service. Liz gave a wonderful tribute to all who had lost their lives and are still losing lives through violence and hoped for peace everywhere.

Refreshments were served after the service by Janey and Harriet.

Welcome to Stoke Lyne's Newest Arrival!

Welcome to Poppy Jaime Taylor, Richard and Lindsey's baby daughter, born in October.

We wish all the family well.

Please keep in your thoughts all those who are known to you who are unwell.

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PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Jackie Fox

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Services in Stratton Audley:

Sunday 5th December Compline at 6pm

Sunday 12th December Carol Service at 6pm

Sunday 19th December 'Fun at Four' Christingle Service at 4pm

Christmas Eve Crib Service at 4pm

Christmas Day Holy Communion at 11am

Christmas Carol Services



The Stratton Audley village Christmas Carol Service will be held in church on Sunday 12th December at 6pm. All are welcome to come and share in this lovely way to start our Christmas celebrations.

There will be a Carol Service in Holy Trinity, Godington on Friday 17th December at 7pm. This is always a lovely occasion, drawing the community together in the beautiful little church.

Stratton Audley Church Clock

As many of you will have noticed the church clock and chimes stopped working a few weeks ago. It turned out to be mainly an electrical fault requiring a new capacitor and it was fixed in time for the Remembrance Day service. Thanks go to Roger Cross and Jeremy Adams.

Order a bottle of Nocino – all funds go to the Church building

David Young is taking orders for people who want their very own bottle of Nocino walnut liqueur in time for some relaxing autumn and Christmas cheer.

To order a bottle, please rsvp to david@betteroutliers.com. All donations go directly to maintaining the church building and anyone pre-ordering is invited to go into the church and see their liqueur develop - the process to make Nocino takes 40 - 60 days and needs someone to gently shake the Nocino kilners/vat jars every 2-3 days.

Bicester Motion 'Wilderness Quarter'

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION DAY Sunday 5th December 2021

Bicester Motion intends to submit outline plans for The Wilderness Quarter in the first half of 2022 which aim to provide a deliverable solution to restore the former Stratton Audley Quarry, by creating a space for visitors to unwind in nature.

We are told that the proposal for the Wilderness Quarter has two core components which will be connected to the wider Bicester Motion site. These components are:

- A Reserve which will provide a place for the local community to explore nature along a discovery trail as well as areas to relax on the Northern Lake edge
- The Southern lakes will provide Eco-lodges for visitors to Oxfordshire and Bicester Motion.

Bicester Motion has decided that the best way to introduce the Wilderness Quarter and engage with the local community is to hold a consultation day on-site with three separate sessions. In order to attend, you will need to email them hq@bicestermotion.com confirming your first and second choice from the three available session timings. See attached PDF on this subject.

It's Christingle Time

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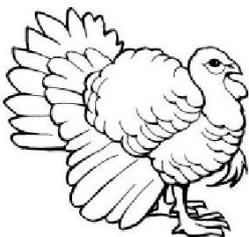
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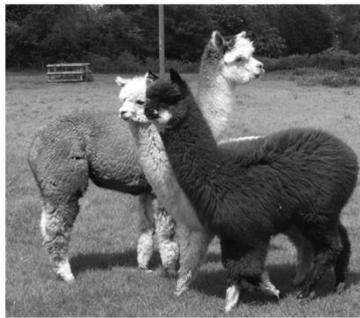
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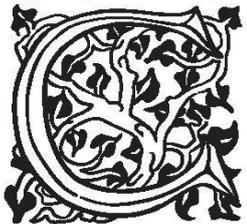
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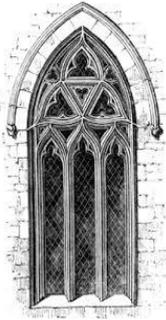
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| SHELLOWELL GROUP SERVICES: DECEMBER 2021                                                                                        |                                                                                               |                                                                                                            |                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| CW: 'Common Worship' modern language service    BCP: 'Book of Common Prayer' traditional language service                       |                                                                                               |                                                                                                            |                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       |  |
| DATE                                                                                                                            |                                                                                               | 5 <sup>th</sup> December<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent                                               | 12 <sup>th</sup> December<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent                 | 19 <sup>th</sup> December<br>4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent                                                                                                                                                                           | 24 <sup>th</sup> December<br>Christmas Eve                                                                                                                                        | 25 <sup>th</sup> December<br>Christmas Day                                                                                                                                            |  |
| ALTAR                                                                                                                           |                                                                                               | Purple                                                                                                     | Purple                                                                        | Purple                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | White                                                                                                                                                                             | White                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |
| 8.15 am                                                                                                                         | Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December (12 noon)<br>Midweek Holy Communion and Lunch<br>STOKE LYNE |                                                                                                            |                                                                               | Holy Communion<br>(BCP)<br>FINMERE AG                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                   | 9.30am<br>Holy Communion<br>HARDWICK AG                                                                                                                                               |  |
| 9.30 am                                                                                                                         |                                                                                               | 9.30am<br>Morning Prayer<br>HETHE<br>PW                                                                    | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>NEWTON PURCELL<br>YM                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 4pm<br>Crib Service<br>STRATTON AUDLEY<br>PW/AG                                                                                                                                   | 9.30am<br>Holy Communion by<br>Extension<br>HETHE PW<br><br>9.30am<br>Holy Communion<br>NEWTON PURCELL YM                                                                             |  |
| 11.00 am                                                                                                                        |                                                                                               | 10am<br>'Food for Thought'<br>STOKE LYNE<br><br>11am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>FINMERE<br>AG | Carol Service<br>COTTISFORD<br>LW                                             | 11am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>FRINGFORD<br>LW<br><br>4pm<br>'Fun at Four'<br>Christingle Service<br>STRATTON AUDLEY YM<br><br>4pm<br>Carol Service<br>HARDWICK PW<br><br>4pm<br>Nativity and Carol Service<br>MIXBURY AG | 10pm<br>Early Midnight<br>Communion (CW)<br>FINMERE AG<br><br>11.30pm<br>Midnight Communion<br>COTTISFORD YM<br><br>11.30pm<br>Midnight Communion by<br>Extension<br>FRINGFORD PW | 11am<br>Family Service<br>FRINGFORD PW<br><br>11am<br>Holy Communion<br>MIXBURY MG<br><br>11am<br>Holy Communion<br>STOKE LYNE YM<br><br>11am<br>Holy Communion<br>STRATTON AUDLEY AG |  |
| 6.00 pm                                                                                                                         |                                                                                               | Compline<br>STRATTON AUDLEY<br>YM                                                                          | Evening Communion<br>STOKE LYNE AG<br><br>Carol Service<br>STRATTON AUDLEY PW |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       |  |
|                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                               |                                                                                                            |                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                       |  |
| AG: Revd Alice Goodall    MG: Revd Michael Greig    YM: Revd Yvonne Mullins    LW: Revd Liz Welters    PW: Mrs Penny Wood (LLM) |                                                                                               |                                                                                                            |                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                   | There will be no<br>services on Sunday<br>26 <sup>th</sup> December                                                                                                                   |  |

#### Weekday Carol Services

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December: Finmere Carol Service (7.15pm at the tree and 7.30pm in church) AG  
Newton Purcell Carol Concert (7.30pm)

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December Godington Carol Service (7pm) AG

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December Hethe Ecumenical Carol Service at the Parish Church of St Edmund & St George (7.30pm) FS/Deacon Nick

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December Fringford Carol Service (6pm) PW

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December Stoke Lyne Carol Service (6.30pm) YM