

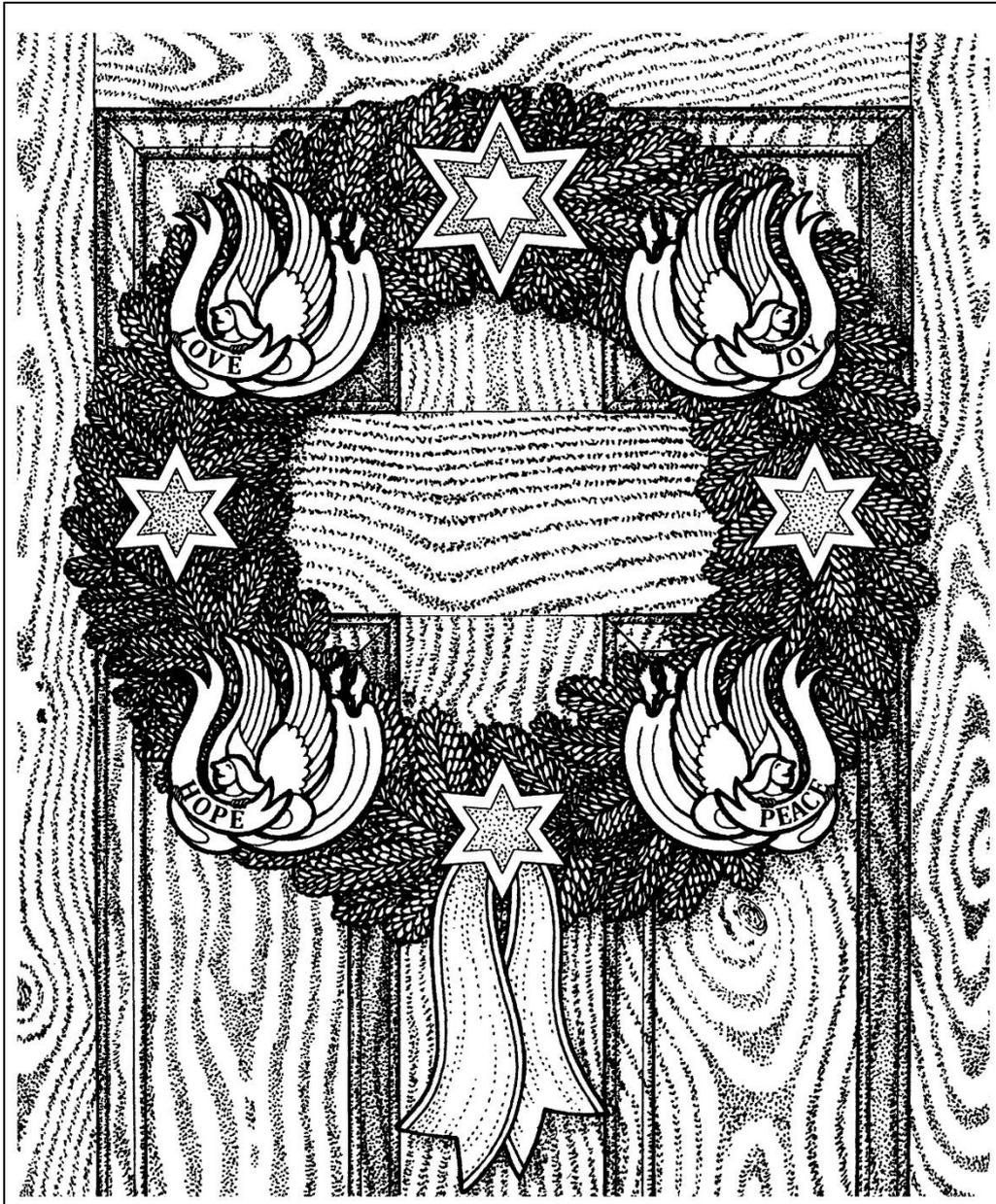
Shelswell News

The magazine of the Shelswell Group of Churches

Cottisford
Fringford
Hardwick
Mixbury
Stoke Lyne



Finnere
Godington
Hethe
Newton Purcell
Stratton Audley



SHELLOWELL BENEFICE MISSION STATEMENT

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

MINISTRY TEAM

RECTOR: The Reverend Alice Goodall, The Rectory, Water Stratford Road, Finmere, Buckingham MK18 4AT
Telephone: 01280 848192 Email rector@shelswellparishes.info **(Normal day off – Friday)**

BENEFICE ADMINISTRATOR: Mrs Becky Adams, c/o The Rectory (as above) Email admin@shelswellparishes.info
Administrator's normal office hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.00 am – 1.00 pm

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 Jeremy Coke-Smyth, Yew Tree Cottage, Mansfield Yard, Fringford, Bicester OX27 8DN
Telephone: 01869 278233 Email jcs@pcsd.co.uk

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.holytrinityhethes.co.uk/>

SHELLOWELL NEWS

Published monthly. To subscribe, contact Mrs Becky Adams, Benefice Administrator, The Rectory, Water Stratford Road, Finmere, Buckingham MK18 4AT Tel 01280 848192 Email admin@shelswellparishes.info

EDITORIAL ENQUIRIES: Rosemary Farmery, 17 Cavendish Place, Stratton Audley, Bicester OX27 9BN
Telephone: 01869 277402 Email editor@shelswellparishes.info

ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES: Mrs Becky Adams, Benefice Administrator, The Rectory, Water Stratford Road, Finmere, Buckingham MK18 4AT Tel 01280 848192 Email admin@shelswellparishes.info

SHELLOWELL NEWS TREASURER: Phillip Rushforth, 7 Chinalls Close, Finmere, Buckingham, MK18 4BQ
Tel: 01280 848534 Email prfinmere@btinternet.com

Deadlines for the January 2022 edition of Shelswell News

To Magazine Correspondents: **Friday 2 December**

Correspondents to Editor: **Sunday 4 December** at editor@shelswellparishes.info

All articles must be submitted in WORD in a format that can be COPIED AND PASTED PLEASE
www.shelswellparishes.info

Many thanks for your cooperation.

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

MINISTERS LETTER

Advent is Coming

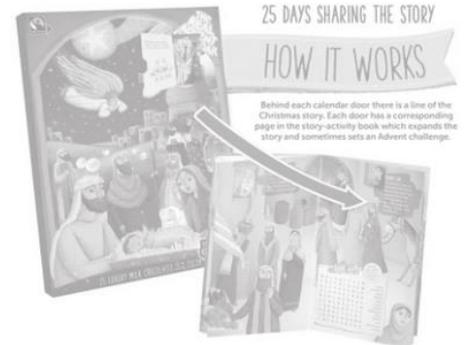


Advertisers urge us to **'Enjoy a daily treat with a luxury Advent Calendar'**.

What will be behind the doors in the approach to Christmas - beauty products, perfume, booze, toys, chocolates, or even cheese?

From the early nineteenth century German Protestant Christians counted down to Christmas rather more simply, by marking 24 chalk lines on a door or wall and rubbing one off each day in December. It is widely held that Gerhard Lang, a German printer, produced the first printed Advent calendar in 1908. He is said to have got the idea from a tradition in his childhood, where his mother attached 24 little biscuits to cardboard squares to help him mark off the days in Advent.

Advent calendars featuring chocolate were first made in 1958 but, surprisingly, did not catch on immediately. It was not until the 1980s that their popularity increased. These days, along with luxury Advent Calendars, traditional ones, religious ones and eco-friendly ones (no glitter), there is a 'Real Advent Calendar' (with fair trade chocolate) designed to tell the Christmas story to youngsters.



What is the Real Advent? Is it more than just a count-down to Christmas?

No one is sure when Advent was first celebrated, but it dates back to at least 567 when monks were ordered to fast during December in the lead up to Christmas. No luxury treats for them!

In churches Advent starts on the Sunday nearest the feast day of St. Andrew (November 30). This year it begins on 27th November. Advent only starts on 1st December when Christmas Day is on a Wednesday.

Christians use the four Sundays and days of Advent to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas. Advent means 'coming' in Latin. This is the coming of Jesus into the world.



Followers of Jesus think about three meanings of 'coming' in Advent.

- The first happened around 2000 years ago when Jesus came into the world as a baby; as God-with-us (Emmanuel).
- The second happens as Jesus comes into our lives, day by day.
- The third will happen in the future when Jesus comes to us as King and Judge, not as a baby.

The first coming many people know about, the third most people don't like to think about! This Advent, with so much chaos in the world, perhaps we should concentrate on the second meaning - the coming of Jesus into our everyday lives. God, in Christian belief, is everywhere. He is close at hand, present in life and in work, not just in extraordinary ways.

How can we be alert to his presence? Perhaps by finding time to notice and thank God for the little joys in our lives, the small ways he blesses us every day; or by being more aware of God's creation, whether walking in woodlands or caring for a houseplant on the windowsill. The peace and love of Jesus can be experienced through other people, sometimes the most unexpected people.

If we allow ourselves moments of stillness throughout Advent, taking the time to be aware of God's presence, we will discover that he can be found even in the most surprising places.

"The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord."

Henri Nouwen

BIBLE READINGS



Sunday 4 th December	2 nd Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 11 v1-10 Romans 15 v4-13 Matthew 3 v1-12
Sunday 11 th December	3 rd Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 35 v1-10 James 5 v7-10 Matthew 11 v2-11
Sunday 18 th December	4 th Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 7 v10-16 Romans 1 v1-7 Matthew 1 v18-end
Sunday 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 v6-12 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
Sunday 1 st January	The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus	Numbers 6 v22-end Galatians 4 v4-7 Luke 2 v15-21

SUNDAY 1ST JANUARY

There will be only one service in the benefice on Sunday 1st January and this will be a Morning Service in Fringford Parish Church at 10.45am

Monthly Mid-Week Service of Holy Communion and Lunch

The next Service will be in **Stoke Lyne Church** on **Thursday 1st 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 or Alice.



WHY THE WORLD WAS READY FOR CHRISTMAS

Have you ever wondered why Jesus was born when he was? The Bible tells us that “when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son...” The Jewish people had been waiting for their Messiah for centuries. Why did God send Him precisely when He did?

Many biblical scholars believe that the ‘time had fully come’ for Jesus because of the politics of the time. The Roman Empire’s sheer size and dominance had achieved something unique in world history: the opportunity for travel from Bethlehem to Berwick on Tweed without ever crossing into ‘enemy territory’ or needing a ‘passport’. For the first time ever, it was possible for ‘common’ people to travel wide and far, and quickly spread news and ideas. And all you needed were two languages - Greek to the east of Rome, and Latin to the west and north. You could set sail from Joppa (Tel Aviv) and head for any port on the Med. And the Roman roads ran straight and true throughout the empire.

So the Roman Empire achieved something it never intended: it helped spread news of Christianity far and wide for 400 years. After that, the Empire crumbled, and the borders shut down. Not until the 19th century would people again roam so freely. The time for Jesus to be born, and for news of Him to be able to travel, had indeed ‘fully come’

With thanks to the ‘Parish Pump’ website – providing resources for parish magazines.

THE MAN WHO MARRIED MARY

The traditional Nativity scene on our Christmas cards has Mary with the Holy Babe. Around her are the shepherds and Magi. We may also see stable animals, angels and a star! While Joseph is often included, his presence seems to be of minor importance. After all, we praise God for Jesus with our familiar Christmas carols, mentioning angels, shepherds, Wise men and Mary but the name of Joseph is absent! Why is Joseph given a low profile? For he is a man to be remembered.

Joseph was a resident of Nazareth. He worked as a carpenter and his skills would have included making furniture, repairing buildings and crafting agricultural tools. Although Joseph had an honourable profession, he would not have been a man of great wealth.

The gospel writers Matthew and Luke give Joseph a few brief mentions. After the birth of Jesus, Joseph and Mary go to the temple in Jerusalem to dedicate the Baby to God. Afterwards, they flee into Egypt to escape the wrath of Herod and much later return to Nazareth. Twelve years later, Mary and Joseph go with Jesus to Jerusalem for the Passover feast. Here they lose Jesus, and find Him in the Temple talking with religious leaders!

Apart from these verses, the New Testament is silent about the rest of Joseph’s life. However, we do know that Joseph was father to other children by Mary. His four sons are named and they had at least two daughters. (See Matthew 13:55)

And we also know that Joseph was someone who quietly and humbly took on the awesome role in caring for the early life of the Son of God. Joseph would have taught Jesus many things – not just the skills of a labourer, but the lore of the countryside which was evident in our Lord’s teaching. Jesus grew up within a loving family and described God as ‘Father’, knowing also the good fatherly qualities of Joseph.

In the Christmas story, Joseph is placed into a situation that brought him misunderstanding and suspicion. But Joseph remained faithful in the knowledge that as long as God had spoken, the opinion of others mattered little. Before Jesus began His ministry it is believed that Joseph died. It is likely Jesus took on many of His father’s responsibilities before He left home.

In the eyes of the world, Joseph was a nobody. He was not a man of valour, fame and fortune. But he was the one who had parental responsibility for the greatest person who has ever lived!

It is sad that we often equate ordinariness with ineffectiveness. Down the ages, God has used many ordinary people to accomplish great things. God continues to use ordinary people. Like Joseph, we need to know that doing God’s will is the most important thing in life. May we, this Christmas, respond to God’s call to us and please Him in all that we do.

By Lester Amann (of the ‘Parish Pump’ team)

The Shelswell Group of Parishes
 'Shelswell by the Sea' Team

Invite you to a

Christmas Party

3-5pm at Stoke Lyne Church (Note venue)
 on Wednesday 21st December 2022

With festive food and drink, activities and carols

Lifts can be arranged.

RSVP Penny Wood 01869 277310

penelope.wood@btopenworld.com

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!



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CRAFTS AND CHISTINGLE

Stratton Audley Church
on the afternoon of Sunday 4th December

Lots of things to make and seasonal refreshments.

Christingles to help us think about the true meaning of Christmas amidst all the excitement
Donations invited in aid of 'The Children's Society'.

Plans are still taking shape so for further details or to book a place just contact:
Sophie sophiejnelson@hotmail.com or Becky beckyandjeremy@aol.com

REGISTRY

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

Obituaries

Jean Puffitt

15th July 1936 - 12th September 2022

Jean was born on 25th July 1936. Her family – Mum, Dad and brothers, all lived in Hethe.

She met her husband Stan, through friends, at the Fox and Hounds Pub in Ardley where one of her brothers sometimes played the piano. She and Stan married in 1955 and lived in Hethe, at Hethe Brede cottages, for a number of years. They had one son, Andrew. Sadly, Andrew died six years ago – a bitter blow for Stan and Jean.

After Andrew started school, Jean went to work at the Bicester Depot. She remained there for 30 years, mainly involved with sorting and packing equipment.

In 1987 Jean and Stan moved to Ardley and have lived there ever since. Jean and Stan were a very close couple, content with each other's company. When Stan died, just over two years ago in March 2021, Jean missed him greatly.

When she was not working Jean loved cooking – providing 'proper' dinners. She loved baking too. She got great enjoyment out of going shopping, particularly in London, and would take the train up there for the day with a friend to do some serious purchasing. She was also a great collector - mainly of ornaments and pictures.

Jean was a loving grandmother, and will be greatly missed by her grandson Bradley. Her funeral service took place on 7th October at Oxford Crematorium. Her ashes will be buried in Hethe Churchyard on 9th December.

INCREASE TO ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

We do hope you have enjoyed receiving your copy of 'Shelswell News' over the past year. As usual, subscriptions will be due in the New Year, but we just wanted to give you notice that, due to increases in our costs of production, we will have to increase the subscription to £12 for the year. This is the first increase for five years but printing the magazine has become considerably more expensive this year so, unfortunately, we are unable to hold the price at the same level any longer. We do hope you will stay with us and continue to enjoy your local magazine delivered through your door every month.

HELP FOR THE HUNGRY!

As the economic crisis continues to bite, more people are finding that they are really struggling to make ends meet and Bicester Foodbank is experiencing a period of unprecedented demand on its services. We are doing what we can to help.

Foodbank Donation Points

can be found in the church porches in Cottisford, Finmere, Fringford, Hardwick Hethe, Stoke Lyne and Stratton Audley.

If you can, please support these with your donations of tinned and dried goods, toiletries, and so on. Urgently needed are tinned tomatoes, tinned fish, rice pudding, tinned meat, tinned fruit, and juice / squash. (They have plenty of cereal and pasta)

If you need to, you are very welcome to take whatever you need from the donation point, and any leftovers will be taken to the Bicester Foodbank on a regular basis.

Local referrers

can refer you to the Bicester Foodbank. They will need a few basic details from you, and then will be able to give you a referral number. You can then go into the Beacon in Bicester and collect a bag of food to keep you going for a few days, or you can phone them and they will be able to drop off a bag to you.

The local referrers are:

Cottisford and Hardwick: David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick, Hardwick.

01869 277690 david.l.barnes@outlook.com

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

07927 393657 michelle.myers@hotmail.co.uk

Fringford: Penny Wood, 8 Crosslands, Fringford,

01869 277310 penelope.wood@btopenworld.com

Hethe: Helen Wood, Old Montague Barn, The Green, Hethe.

01869 278943 / 07999 853347 helenelizawood@hotmail.com

Stoke Lyne: Kelly Holden White, 6 The Close, Stoke Lyne,

Kholdenwhite@aol.com 07557108067

At the moment, for **Mixbury, Newton Purcell or Stratton Audley**, contact me

Alice Goodall, The Rectory, Finmere.

01280 848192 alicegoodall313@gmail.com

Bicester Foodbank

The Beacon is situated in Wesley Lane, Bicester OX26 6JU (off Sheep Street – not the Market Square end but the other end!). As well as the bag of dried goods, you may be able to collect some fruit and vegetables and a meat voucher. Someone from Citizen's Advice is there on a Tuesday from 10 – 12 am, and there is a wellbeing café on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, 1 – 4 pm.

Together we can get through this!



FINMERE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL & PRE-SCHOOL



PLACES AVAILABLE

SEPTEMBER 2023

AGES 3 -11

Contact the school office to arrange a visit
01280 848459

office.3090@finmere.oxon.sch.uk

WWW.FINMERE.OXON.SCH.UK

HELP – NEW BENEFICE TREASURER NEEDED!



We will be needing a new treasurer for our group of churches in the New Year. Could this be you? Most of the transactions can be dealt with electronically and our current systems seem to be working smoothly so it should be fairly straightforward for someone new to step in and take over. Meetings of Benefice Council take place about four times a year and at other times liaison with the Rector and Benefice Administrator is mainly by email. If you would be interested to find out more about the role, then do contact Alice for a chat on 01280 848192 or rector@shelswellparishes.info

FOSTER CARERS NEEDED IN OXFORDSHIRE

Love - that's what fostering is all about. As Oxfordshire foster carer, Sue, says: 'these kids don't want money, they don't want things - they just want love and attention, and they want your time'.

Oxfordshire County Council's fostering team is looking for people with big hearts to become foster carers. So, if you've got love to give, they'd love to hear from you!

Find out more about fostering – oxfordshire.gov.uk/fostering
or contact Naomi Cooper
naomi.cooper@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Club News



SHELLOW WI

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



At the beginning of November, we had an interesting and enjoyable talk on Origami. Many of us had tried Origami at some point in our lives, but it was fascinating to learn a bit about its history, and to realise that the practice of folding paper into recognisable shapes is also the foundation for engineers designing things like the James Webb Space telescope! Our speaker – Peter Buchan-Symons clearly knew his stuff and made the talk very interesting. He then talked us through the folds needed to make a Christmas stocking and a Christmas tree, and everyone managed to create their own recognisable version of the two Christmas themed shapes.

During October a small group walked around Marsh Gibbon, and learnt about the village, before enjoying refreshments at the United Reformed Church, in the village. We have a walk planned in Oxford, in November, and some members are going to meet up to do the Garth Park Christmas Lights Trail in December.

We were delighted to win a competition run by North Ploughley WI Group, which was judged at the group meeting held in Dun's Tew, in October. The competition was for a piece of jewellery made from recycled materials, and Lesley, had produced a necklace using small beads, that had been attached to a garment originally, and pieces of old maps rolled into cone shapes and attached around the necklace. It was quite stunning and had clearly taken a long time to create. The cup awarded is quite impressive too. Now we must try and ensure someone in the group can maintain the winning streak in the next competition, due to be judged at the next group meeting, in March!

Along with the 'Christmas' walk in December, we have booked our Christmas meal for December 1st – our 'normal' meeting day, with most members signing up, so we will be making sure we are getting into the Christmas spirit and hopefully making up for the limited events of the past couple of years. Members brought a large selection of predominately food items to the November meeting which have now been delivered to Bicester Food Bank - the charity Shelswell WI decided to support this Christmas.

Shelswell WI is part of the Oxfordshire Federation of WIs and of course the national body as well. Both Oxfordshire and the national WI offer a very wide range of resources for members, designed to educate and provide social interaction between members. There are many courses, both in person and on-line available for members, and always a range of day visits, or holidays. The magazines published by Oxfordshire – 'Oxfordshire Inspires' – and nationally – 'WI Life' – are both full of interesting, and informative articles, craft ideas, trips and news.

Coming Up: (Why not try a meeting in 2023 – our membership is growing and newcomers are always welcome)

December 1st – Christmas Meal, Bure Farm, Bicester

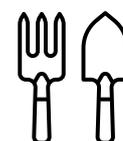
January 5th – Tea, Coffee and Chocolate: How we fell in love with caffeine with Melanie King

We continue to collect empty foil pill cases and plastic bottle tops for recycling and Pathfinders.

For mor information on Shelswell WI, please contact the president Elaine Whittaker on 07917 453224



SHELLOW GARDEN CLUB



The 8th November was the AGM with a run through of finances from our Treasurer and re-election of the Committee. For the main meeting, Secretary Corrine talked about Soils and what we can do to improve the growing conditions for our plants. In her presentation she explained the layers that make up soil in our gardens and how to manage local conditions to create the best soil we can for our plants, trees and vegetables. Most importantly is the need to retain moisture, nutrients, helpful bacteria, and creepy crawlies in the soil. We also learnt how to create our own leaf mould, compost and liquid feed from within our own garden. Members were also shown a special anaerobic digestion container!! Members left inspired to be a bit less tidy in the garden letting nature take its course and to recycle food and garden waste within their own gardens.

Our next meeting is Tuesday 13th December and will be a Social Evening combined with a festive practical session with nibbles and chat.

And for the first meeting of 2023 on the 10th January, Terry Winters, owner and creator of the amazing RHS award winning Ordnance House, will be Zooming to tell the story of the garden's development.

We welcome visitors to our club that meets at Hethe Village Hall at 7.30 pm on the second Tuesday of the month (apart from August). Meetings and outings are open to members and visitors, friends and relatives. Plants are for sale at most meetings and your membership card gives you a 5% discount at Preston Bissett Nursery and Swallows Nursery in Mixbury. During the winter months, some meetings are held via Zoom. Annual fee is only £10!

For further information, call Sally Drummond-Hay on 01280 848591 or Corrine Mitchell on 01869 247411 or email shelswellgardenclub@gmail.com

SHELLOWELL POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP

Our November meeting was based around the theme of Soil – an unusual but productive topic! We began with a wryly humorous poem, *Soil* by **Roger McGough**, which charts the poet's changing relationship with soil.

While the Earth Remains by **John Bell**, from the Iona Community, looks at humanity's damaging of God's creation. **Adam Horovitz**, in his poem *The Soil Never Sleeps* emphasises the fundamental nature of what is beneath our feet, and the poem *Muddy* by **@redpenblackpen** does the same in a witty little verse.

Five poems by Irish poets about the land and digging it - *Digging*, *The Other Side*, *Follower* and *At a Potato Digging* by **Seamus Heaney** and *Stony Grey Soil* by **Patrick Kavanagh** - are all about far more than soil, and give us glimpses of the life and history of Ireland, whilst the poems *Your Love I'll Ever Bear* by **Besma Dziri**, *The Elements of San Joaquin* by **Gary Soto**, *The Soil Soliloquy* by **Taniya Kundu**, *The Mother Soil* by **Chan Mongol** and *Gardening* by **Rhina P. Espailat** take us to other countries.

George Szirtes' poem *Soil*, makes us see, smell and feel the soil, as does *Digging* by **Edward Thomas**, and in *China, Blue and White*, by **Linda France** the soil contains bits of our past.

As an intriguing addition to poems specifically about soil we read and discussed a poem brought to our attention by Linda Mustill. (Thanks, Linda!). Although it is not directly about soil, it is very much about a particular bit of Earth and the peace it offered in a world torn by the First World War. It is *Fringford Brook* by **Violet Jacob**, an aristocratic Scottish writer of poems, short stories and novels. She obviously spent some time in Fringford either during or just after the war, in which she lost her only child at the Battle of the Somme in 1916.

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

SHELLOWELL READING GROUP

There was no November meeting, but the book chosen for December was *The Memory Stones* by **Caroline Brothers**. It is set in Argentina in 1976 and describes the violent coup by a military junta.

It follows the suffering of one particular family, whose central character is Graciela, a nineteen-year-old, newly-engaged girl who is abducted by the authorities. Her family disintegrates, with arbitrary arrests, flights to Europe and constant fear scattering them. Graciela's mother and grandmother engage in a gruelling quest to find out what has happened to her, and the book pays tribute to the thousands of families who fought to establish the fate of their missing sons and daughters, 'The Disappeared'.

The characters are admirably delineated and the language rich and engaging. Although it is a story in which brutality and fear play a large part, it is also about how the human spirit, dogged and enduring, can sometimes overcome all obstacles.

The book the members will be reading over Christmas is *The Thursday Murder Club* by **Richard Osman**. The January book will be a classic novel, yet to be chosen. If you read and enjoyed last month's book – *The Island of Missing Trees* by **Elif Shafak** – other novels written by this author and recommended by members of the group are *Honour*, *Forty Rules of Love* and *The Architect's Apprentice*.

If you would like to join the group, please contact Jane Birnage on 01280 847455 or at janebirnage@icloud.com



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:



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

4pm Sunday 11th December – Carol Service

10pm Christmas Eve Early 'Midnight' Communion

All are warmly welcomed to come and join in these special services in our beautiful parish church.

COTTISFORD AND JUNIPER HILL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Well, the rain didn't keep people away on Bonfire Night! A good number gathered in the playing field at Juniper Hill for the lighting of the fire at 5.30 on the 5th. The choice of four soups, with hot dogs and cake proved very popular and a profit of over £85 was made. It wasn't only the children who enjoyed the free sparklers, and there was much catching up with news and chat around the fire. Thanks to all those who helped in the building of the fire and to the providers of food.

The Social Committee will help with refreshments at the Carol Service in Cottisford Church on Sunday 11th December, and with decorating the church the day before. Please come along with any flowers and foliage from 10.30 on Saturday the 10th and bring your children to help decorate the Christmas tree.

If we have any heavy snowfalls over the winter, and you live in Cottisford or Juniper Hill, please remember that we have a limited Snowplough Fund which means we can call on a local farmer to 'dig us out' a couple of times if the roads leading to the A43 are impassable.

Finmere

St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: Steven Myers, 4 White Houses, Mere Rd, Finmere

Tel: 07875 102952

TREASURER: Jacqueline Chelin, 19 Valley Road, Finmere

Tel 01280 847782

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

Tel: 01280 848364

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:



Carol Service – Friday 9th December. Meet at 7.15pm at the Cross Tree Junction for the big switch-on of the Christmas lights followed by the Carol Service at 7.30pm in church.

**Christmas Eve - Early 'Midnight' Communion at 10.00 p.m.
All welcome.**

Weekly Services Continuing in December

You may remember that we have been trialling a weekly Sunday service – every Sunday and always at 9.15am so no problem with remembering when the services are taking place.

On the first two Sundays in the month the service is led by a member of the congregation (lay led), and on the second two Sundays by one of the Ministry Team. There will be an exception on Christmas Day (which is on a Sunday this year) as we will be having our Early ‘Midnight’ Communion service on Christmas Eve instead.

Village Hall

The village hall is now fully back in use and many of the regular users have resumed their scheduled events.



Since the arson attack last year, the hall has been completely re-decorated with a number of improved facilities added, including updated AV facilities with a new projector and large screen, new flooring and front and fire exit doors and enlarged storage spaces for regular users. The hall is now so clean and tidy that it has already been reserved for the date of the Coronation next year, so please watch this space for details of the party. Of course we cannot reveal who has booked the hall on that date and the Palace, at the time of publication, has declined to comment. 😊



For all bookings enquiries, please visit www.myfinmere.com/villagehall

On offer – The Village Hall has a number of surplus large toys (Ball Pool with packs of 60mm plastic multicoloured balls, Soft interlocking floor tiles and similar items) that that are looking for a new home. If any playgroups, similar organisations or indeed anyone else is interested in collecting them (**for free**), please email villagehall@myfinmere.com

Allotments

It is pretty well the end of the growing season and most allotment holders are digging, weeding and preparing for the winter months. Possibly also planning next year’s plantings. Also considering a ‘no-dig’ allotment 😊 [No-Dig Gardening Guide | BBC Gardeners World Magazine](#)

A reminder to those allotment holders who have not yet paid their fees 😞 **Come on – pay up!** The Poor’s Plot continues to have a small waiting list for allotment plots and there is always a possibility that a few plots may become available shortly, so any aspiring allotment users should visit www.myfinmere.com/poorsplot



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
 Old Finmere history website – www.myfinmere.com/history
 Finmere on Wikipedia - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finmereipedia>
 Finmere Primary School - www.finmere.oxon.sch.uk

Fringford

St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: John Mayo, 10 Church Close, Fringford
 Tel 01869 278873
 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



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

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

SERVICES

- Sunday 4th December – 10.45am Family Service
- Sunday 11th December – 6.00pm Holy Communion
- Sunday 18th December – 4.00pm Carol Service, with refreshments to follow
- Saturday 24th December - 11.30pm Midnight Communion
- Sunday 25th December, Christmas Day – 9.30am Family Service
- Sunday 1st January – 10.45am New Year's Day Service

We look forward to welcoming you to our Christmas Services and events.

Please check the back cover of this magazine, our website www.shelswellparishes.info or the noticeboard at the church or ring the Benefice office (01280-848192) to find out about all the services across the benefice.

EVENTS -

COME ALONG TO






Mingle and Jingle

6.30 till 9.00pm
 At Waterloo Farm OX27 8RH
 In aid of Fringford Church Funds
FRIDAY 16th DECEMBER
 Dress - Festive Tickets £10
 To include first drink & nibbles

*To book tickets contact:
 Phillippa Taylor on 07703276742*




Carol Service on Sunday 18th December at 4.00pm



Do you have a favourite Carol? Would you be willing to introduce it at the Carol Service and say what it means to you? Or write your thoughts down for someone else to read? Let Penny know as soon as possible as there's a limit to the number of carols in the service, so first come first served. [Penny Wood 8 Crosslands; or penelope.wood@btopenworld.com]

Carol Singing around the village on Tuesday 20th December



In aid of Nai's House, a local charity offering mental health support for young people.
We'll meet at 6.30pm outside 8 Crosslands.

Saturday 24th December

Cleaning and decorating the Church for Christmas. Meet at 9.30am.
Gifts of Flowers and foliage would be most welcome.



Fringford Church 100 Club

The winners of the October draw were:

1st prize: No.25 £55 Ady Measday; 2nd prize: No.31 £34 Kevin Tobin; 3rd prize: No.10 £22 Robert Gue.

You can still sign up to the 100 Club. Contact Christina McCullagh to register your interest **on 07867 515207**.
Draw takes place monthly at the Village Coffee Morning.

SUPPORT FROM FRINGFORD FRIENDS

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 19th December, 10.30am to 12 noon, in the Chinnery Room at the Village Hall. Do drop in.
Penny Wood

Regular Activities held in Fringford Village Hall

Details of regular activities taking place in Fringford Village Hall. To find out more or book a place, please contact the hirer direct.	
Weekly Activities	Monthly Activities
<p style="text-align: center;">FS Dance Monday & Wednesday (term time) After school classes BALLET • TAP • MODERN • STREET</p> <p style="text-align: center;">leah.fsd@gmail.com or 07885827592</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Village Coffee Morning All ages welcome Third Monday in the month - Chinnery Room Drop in anytime between 10.30 am and noon</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Penny Wood 01869 277310</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Puppy Stars Dog Training Tuesday evening – various classes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contact Nick 07542 131400 www.puppystars.co.uk</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Parish Council Meeting All villagers welcome Third Monday in the month 7.45pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contact 01844 237766 or fringford.parishclerk@gmail.com</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Fringford Yoga Wednesday (term time) 9.30am – 11am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Carolyn White 01869 277161</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Darby & Joan Club Third Tuesday of the month March to June, Oct 2.30pm – 4.30pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Marian Golding 01869 278355</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Just Puppies Puppy Training Wednesday evening – various classes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contact Kerri 07720 891489 www.justpuppies.training</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Shelswell WI</p> <p style="text-align: center;">First Thursday of the month 7.30pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contact Elaine Whittaker 07917 453224</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Axis Sound Bath Meditation First Sunday of the month from 7.30pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">contact@holisticaxis.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mindfulness Meditation Monthly Sunday 11am to 12.30pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">janerainey17@gmail.com or 07971 008337</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Village Hall Meeting Every 6 weeks – 7.30pm Open meetings – all welcome</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contact Helen 01869 278260</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fringford Sewcial Sew and Chat! Alternate monthly Wednesday from 7pm & Sunday from 3pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contact Melissa at mamcs100@gmail.com</p>
<p>To book the hall for your own event, please go to 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</p>	

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:



CHRISTMAS IN HARDWICK



There will be two celebrations of Christmas in St Mary's Church, Hardwick:
 Our **Carol Service** on Sunday 18th December at 4 pm, followed by refreshments
 A service of **Holy Communion** on Christmas Day at 10.45am



All welcome – please join us for these festive events.



Donations for Bicester Foodbank

Hardwick church now has a collection box for donations of tinned and dry foods for Bicester Foodbank, a charity that makes food available to local people in crisis. There is currently a desperate need for more donations of food for the growing numbers of people in real need. This can only get worse over the next few months. So, please help by placing your donations in the collection box in the church porch. This will be checked regularly, and donations delivered directly to the Foodbank.

Hardwick Church New Guidebook

The new 2022 guidebook for Hardwick church and the parish of Hardwick with Tusmore is now available. This 44-page booklet has over 20 colour photos and provides a fascinating insights into the features and history of Hardwick church, the village and the Tusmore Estate. You can collect a copy from the church or contact David Barnes (01869 277690), who can send one to you. We ask that you make a minimum donation of £5 to church funds.

Pilgrim Pathways

Why not walk the Hethe to Hardwick to Cottisford to Hethe "Pilgrim Pathway". This is the first of what will be a network of walks between local religious sites being organised by the Bicester and Islip Deanery. 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 three C of E churches or contact David Barnes (01869 277690), who can send one to you.

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

Happy Christmas to everyone, very best wishes for the New Year and many thanks to the volunteers who have worked so hard this year to make our church a special place in the community. The volunteers 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.



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. The deadline for this publication is on Page 2.



ST EDMUND & ST GEORGE CHURCH

Church Services and Events

We hope that you will be able to attend our services in December. Everyone is welcome.

Sunday 11th December – Holy Communion at 9.15am

Sunday 18th December – Ecumenical Carol Service at Holy Trinity R. C. Church at 6pm

Christmas Day – Holy Communion at 9.15am

The church is open every day for visits and private prayer.

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

This space of sanctuary and sacredness, this nourishment of the soul, affects the health and wellbeing of the whole community.” *Extracted from “How Village Churches Thrive” published by Church House.*

Churchyard Maintenance

After much deliberation and considering the views of local people, the PCC have agreed the following:

1. The northern area of the churchyard:
 - a. The area immediately behind the church to be a managed area of wildflowers and grasses. The Autumn cut has been made this year and wildflowers sowed at no cost to PCC funds.
 - b. The area at the far end to be retained for composting and otherwise allowed to grow wild. No cost to PCC funds.
 - c. The area from the plum and holly trees which includes the newer, and some cared for graves and the garden of remembrance, to be maintained by regular grass cutting and the removal of grass. This year, we have paid £300 for an initial cut and rake. Subsequent cuts will cost £150 each. If we allow for six cuts a year this will cost £900 per annum. This year’s payment has been met through a specific fund raising effort (a total donated of £400). Subsequent years will need new funding.

2. The southern area of the churchyard to the front of the church building:
 - a. The area to the west of the path to be a managed area of existing wildflowers (including orchids) and grasses. The Autumn cut has been made. No cost to PCC funds.
 - b. The southern area of the churchyard to the east of the path as an area of existing and newly sowed wildflowers and grasses with an annual cut and rake in September, with the proviso that we consider an earlier cut and rake if everything looks too dead or untidy.

If volunteers come forward to help maintain the churchyard, we will reconsider the options.

How we pay for all of this....

We would like to take the opportunity to thank the seventeen people who contribute regularly to church funds through Parish Giving and the six who contribute through Planned Giving, including the anonymous person who joined Parish Giving in November. We know how difficult it is for so many people in these times of high energy costs and general inflation increasing our everyday expenses. The church is also affected, the heating is a very old electric system, and at the time of writing we are yet to hear what our electricity will cost over winter.

In 2023 we will need to raise additional funds to fully cover running costs, to maintain the churchyard (as detailed above) and repair the stained glass and its stone surround in the west window of the nave. If you wish to contribute to this work or the running costs of the church, please see the village web site, use one of the QR Codes below or contact hethepccsecretary@outlook.com.



⇐ Scan here for regular giving by direct debit



Scan here for one-off and regular giving by credit or debit card ⇒



⇐ Scan here to contribute specifically to the fund raising for the west window repairs

Church cleaning and flower rota. Many thanks to Pauline O’Gorman for offering to clean and provide flowers this month.

100 Club. October and November’s draw results will be published next month. 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.

Next PCC meeting Wednesday 11th January.





**HETHE COFFEE MORNING
MONDAY DECEMBER 12TH**



10-12 noon at St Philips Hall, Holy Trinity

Our last meeting before Christmas, happening on Monday morning December 12th, at St Philips Hall.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE



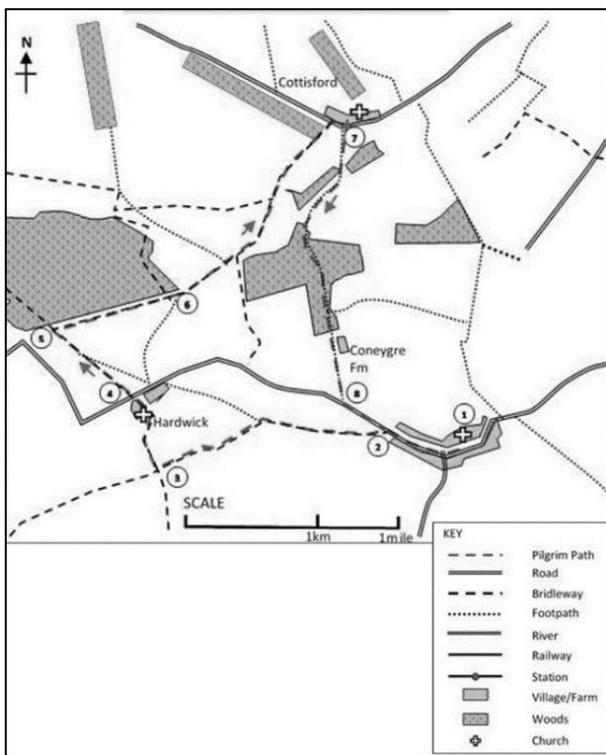
HETHE COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

The next **Parish Council** meeting will be held on Tuesday 24th January starting at 8.00pm and we would encourage anyone with an interest in what is happening in the village to attend. The latest approved minutes are on the web site. Items being addressed include the Community Park, Recreation Ground, EV Charging Points, the Conservation Area and Climate Change.



Village Hall Bookings: Please contact the village hall booking secretary fj Skinner@hotmail.co.uk.

Please note that the **Stay & Play Group** contact is Jess, email: jessicablamb@yahoo.co.uk.



Circular Walk from Hethe

We are grateful to the Bicester & Islip Deanery who have produced a leaflet covering the circular walk which so many completed earlier this year. Printed copies are available in St Edmund & St George Church.



Hethe Lending Library. There are a rich variety of fiction and non-fiction books, puzzles and CDs to browse and borrow, in St Edmund & St George Church.

Food for those in need. Any food not taken from the donations in the church will be given every month to Bicester Food Bank. Helen Wood is authorised to issue a referral number for Bicester Food Bank to those in need. You will find her at Old Montague Barn, The Green, telephone 01869 278400 or 07999 853347.

Lost property – Box in the church porch.

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

Carol Service and Children's Nativity at 4pm 18th December 2022
Christmas Day Holy Communion Service at 10.45am 25th December 2022

MIXBURY CHURCH FLOWER ROTA 2022

December Carol Service and Christmas - everyone

MIXBURY CHURCH CLEANING ROTA (Revised 2022 – 2023)



Thank you to everyone who has agreed to go on this rota and to everyone who has cleaned and helped maintain the church throughout the past year – it is very much appreciated.

December Nicola Adams and Anna Howard

If anyone else would like to help with cleaning, we would be very grateful for extra volunteers. This would help to lighten the load on otherwise busy people. The job only requires a couple of hours simple cleaning in your allotted month, and if you can find a partner or join a group of two to make groups of three, it can be a pleasant way to involve yourself in the village and familiarise yourself with our beautiful church. For more information please contact - Julie Mitchell on 01280 – 847769.

MIXBURY POP UP PUB NIGHTS

The Mixbury Pop Up Pub has been a tradition in the village for many years now and is a lovely way to socialise and make friends. The hosts provide the venue, glasses and a few nibbles and the guests arrive with their own drinks.

If you are interested in hosting a pub night please contact Tanya – email: markandtanya@yahoo.co.uk.

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.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY (FROM PAT BEVERIDGE)



It was a mild, misty November morning when Mixbury residents congregated by the Memorial in the churchyard to pay their respects to the fallen of both World Wars, and to all of those who have given their lives in the service of their country. The stillness was broken only by quiet, reflective words, the haunting notes of 'The Last Post', and the church bells indicating the hour. The churchyard was brightened by the late Autumn leaf colour and the vibrant blood red of the poppies, while the sun, unsuccessfully, endeavoured to break through the mist. A beautiful few moments. There followed a service in Mixbury Church.

May they all Rest In Peace.

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.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The Christmas bazaar will be back again this year on 1st December between 6-9pm. Pop it in the diary and come along and enjoy a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie while doing some Christmas shopping. Look forward to seeing you there. Nicola Adams

*Happy Christmas and New Year to You All - thank you for your contributions during the year.
From the Magazine Correspondent.*

Newton Purcell

St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDENS: Ann von Maltzahn, Home Farm Shelswell Park Vacant	Tel 01280 848680
TREASURER: Fai Li	Tel: 07725 009838
PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Flora Skinner	Tel: 01869 277366
MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Ann von Maltzahn	Tel 01280 848680

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



Services -

Christmas Day - Sunday 25th December - 9.15 a.m. - Communion

Churchyard Clear Up -

A BIG thank you to all who came along to help with our Autumn clear up. In just 2 hours we achieved a lot and anyone driving past the church will notice most of the ivy hanging over the churchyard wall has now gone. We hope to fix another date soon to continue the good work.

With the mowing season almost coming to an end, our grateful thanks go once again to James Pearce who continues to keep everything looking so neat and tidy for us.

Bonus Ball Lotto -

Recent lucky winners have been Will & Jackie LeFevre - twice!

We thank all of you who have renewed your subscriptions for the coming year and also send a gentle reminder to those of you who haven't quite done so yet!

If anyone would like to join in and have the chance of a weekly cash prize please contact Ann von Maltzahn for details.

Christmas Concert -

We look forward to welcoming all who are able to join us for this years 'Carols by Candlelight'. Tickets remain at £10 each which is payable on the door but it would be helpful if you could contact Ann von Maltzahn - ann_maltzahn@yahoo.com - in advance so we have an idea of numbers.

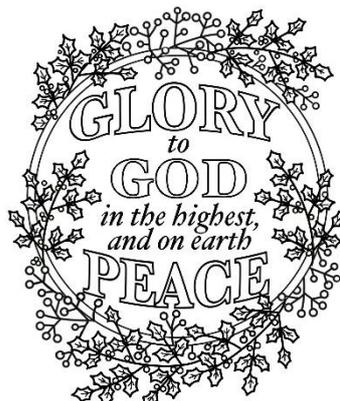
The evening will include mulled wine, mince pies and a 'Secret Santa' so if you have anything hiding in your cupboard that you could wrap and bring along it would be much appreciated.

Hall to Let -

Do you need a venue for a last minute Christmas party? Our hall is available for hire at very competitive rates.

Please contact Jackie LeFevre on 07544 985117 or jackielefevre@btinternet.com for details and to make your booking.

We wish all our readers a VERY HAPPY & PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS.





The Phoenix Singers

St. Michael's and All Angels Church
Newton Purcell

**CAROLS
BY
CANDLELIGHT**

Friday December 9th 2022

7.30pm

Doors open at 7.15pm

A Celebration of Christmas

with Music and Readings

Musical Director
Peter McMullin

Stoke Lyne St Peter's

CHURCHWARDEN: Christopher Poole CTP@oxford-educational.co.uk Tel 01869 346020
 TREASURER: Janey Poole janey@oxford-educational.co.uk Tel 07810 120457
 PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Emma Brown
 MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Rena Andrews Email: renacyanlion@btinternet.com
 PARISH ROOM BOOKINGS : Kelly and James Holden-White kholdenwhite@aol.com Tel 01869 345211
 WEBSITE www.stokelyne.org

To donate to St Peter's, Stoke Lyne just scan this code with your phone:



Services

4th December 'Food for Thought' 10am

Friday 23rd December Come along and enjoy the Carol Service (Outdoors) starting at 6pm
 Refreshments to follow.

Christmas Day 11am Family Communion – All welcome

Flower Duty for December

Janey Poole

Stoke Lyne 100 Club – November Results

Results not available by magazine deadline.

Midweek Communion and Lunch– Thursday, 3rd November at 1200

The communion service was led by Alice assisted by Liz, because the service was also to help raise funds for the Girls School in Wulu South Sudan. Alice gave a talk on the school and how the girls are learning to speak English and being educated. The children all looked so happy. She also put a video on the overhead screen showing the school and the girls singing which was very interesting.

We then moved over to the tables set out for lunch for which we had choices of soups followed by cakes and tea/coffee.

This is a lovely informal service and so nice to meet friends and chat. It is a way of getting some people together who are still unsure about socialising. Thank you to the Ministry Team and all who cooked the food and helped serve it.

Rena Andrews

Food for Thought – Sunday, 6th November

Thank you to Ali for a delicious breakfast and to everyone for the chatter and contemplation. When life is busy, it is good to find a time and place to stop and think. We talked about saints of different kinds; those in The Bible, those who have been canonised or sainted by The Church and those people we know or have known who have had a saintly presence in our lives.

Our next Food for Thought Service will be on Sunday 4th December with breakfast from 10am. Our theme will be Advent and preparation for Christmas.

Kelly Holden-White

Stoke Lyne W. I. Committee Meeting – Wednesday, 2nd November

The committee met on Wednesday 2nd November at Mary's house and after the business Rena presented Carol on behalf of all the Stoke Lyne members, with a beautiful handmade silver necklace. Carol is moving from the area to be nearer family. Carol has been a member of Stoke Lyne W.I. for 20 years, having joined when Souldern W.I. closed. She has been involved in the committee most of that time in different posts. Carol is moving the day before our next regular meeting and that is why we had to make the presentation at the committee meeting. We wish Carol a happy life in her new home and will keep in touch.

Rena Andrews

North Ploughley W.I. Group Meeting – 20th October 2022

The group meeting was held in the Alice Marshal Hall at Middle Barton at 7.30 pm. The meeting was chaired by Linda Mustil the new group Convenor who is a member of Shelswell W.I.. Members were asked to stand to sing Jerusalem. The group consists of 6 W.I.s and 5 members of Stoke Lyne W.I. attended the meeting. After the business, Linda introduced the entertainment for the evening: Three Pressed Men. This is a folk group who tour all round Oxfordshire and surrounding counties. They have a wide selection of musical instruments including hammer dulcimer, guitars, accordians and I have never seen such an assortment of concertinas starting from very tiny to very large. The group were very entertaining using all of these instruments, and singing folk songs that all told a story, some funny and made us laugh and some quite sad but true to life.

Refreshments were then served with tea and coffee and a selection of lovely cakes. The raffle was then drawn and the competition of a piece of jewellery made from recycled material judged. The winner of the competition was Shelswell W.I. who had made a beautiful necklace of old map pages rolled up into cornet shapes and varnished which was very ingenious. Date and hosts for the Spring Group Meeting were given. The host W.I. were thanked and members stood for the National Anthem.

Rena Andrews

Stoke Lyne W.I. – Thursday, 10th November

Members met at 11.00 am to have a crafting session making items to sell at the Stoke Lyne Village Christmas Fair. All the members agreed it was nice to do that occasionally as it gives us more time to chat. At 12.30 we had a break for lunch and we then got down to starting the meeting with the singing of Jerusalem. Apologies were read out. Judith read the records of the last meeting and all agreed it was a true record. Matters arising: the Shelswell History Festival had refunded the cash for the vouchers given to the volunteers to receive tea and cake from the W.I. tent. Correspondence: various communications from O.F.W.I. about different forthcoming events. Feedback was given on the Group Meeting (see above). We had a discussion about a trip out next year and various ideas were put forward. The Committee will research costs etc to find out which ones would be viable for our members. Upcoming events reminders:

3rd December, 3.30-5.30 - Stoke Lyne Village Christmas Fair: items needed to sell.

8th December, 12 for 12.30 until 3 pm – Christmas Party. Competition: a Christmas Cracker at Hethe Village Hall

8th December, 7 pm – Group Christmas Carol Concert at Heyford village Church

15th December, 10 am until 1 pm – Wreath making at Hethe Village Hall

This being all the business, members stood to sing the National Anthem.

Rena Andrews



STOKE LYNE CHRISTMAS FAIR



**SATURDAY
3RD
DECEMBER
3.30PM
TO
5.30PM**

**THE PARISH ROOM, ST PETER'S CHURCH, STOKE LYNE
REFRESHMENTS, STALLS, RAFFLE & TOMBOLA**

**Raffle prizes & chocolate tombola donations:-
Elaine Barnes 01869 346029 or Pippa Elliot 01869 346606**

Fundraising for the Parish Room improvements & Oxford Homeless Pathways (Night Shelter)

The institution by the Bishop of Buckingham and the Induction and Installation by the Associate Archdeacon of Buckingham of the Revd Yvonne Mullins as Rector at The Benefice of Five Parishes (Newton Longville, Mursley, Swanbourne, Little Horwood, and Drayton Parslow) – 26th October 2022

I attended this very moving service at 7.30pm on 26th October at St Nicholas Church in Little Horwood. Yvonne had been Curate of the Shelswell Benefice for about 4 years and was extremely well liked. She brought lots of new ideas to the Benefice, especially during Lockdown when she taught people how to do Zoom including having quizzes so that they could socialise without meeting in person. She and her family were an asset to the Benefice and will be much missed. I hope Yvonne and her family will be very happy in their new location.

Rena Andrews

Follow up to Hugo's history of "The Old Rectory" in the February 2021 issue of Shelswell News

Since Hugo wrote his piece for February 2021's edition of Shelswell News I have come across further snippets of information which, when put together, fill in some of the gaps between the infamous William Bryant's residency and when the Warde-Aldam family lived there. Whilst most readers now will know the story of William Bryant and his daughter, perhaps what is not so widely known is that at one point during Bryant's tenure the Rectory was a boys' boarding school housing 13 boys. However, it will come as no surprise to learn that it did not end well! His partner in this endeavour, Brathwaite Arnett, who had moved his school to the rectory from Kent, took Bryant to court for threatening behaviour. Basically they fell out over money: Bryant had spent more on repairs to the building than Arnett had agreed to pay. The case appeared at the Bicester Petty Sessions and was reported on in detail in the Bicester Herald of 7th December 1906. Bryant was bound over in the sum of £100 to keep the peace for six months. I have not been able to determine how long the school continued after this.

After William Bryant's suicide, it seems that the parishioners' religious needs were looked after by the Rev. Henry Marshall Leathley but it is not clear whether or not he resided at the Rectory:

Bicester Herald, 16th July 1915

STOKE LYNE.

PRESENTATION. – The cessation of the Rev. H. M. Leathley's duties at Stoke Lyne Church is viewed with much regret by his parishioners. In proof of this a house-to-house collection has been organised, with the result that the villages have presented Mr. Leathley with an oak salad bowl and servers, also a silver and glass tobacco jar, as a token on their appreciation of his work amongst them during the last eight months.

His successor was the Rev. Godfrey Armytage Littledale. The same edition of the paper reported:

PRESENTATION TO THE REV. G. A. LITTLEDALE. – After residing in the parish for almost 30 years, the Rev. G. A. Littledale leaves Chipping Norton this week to take up his new duties as Vicar of Stoke Lyne. On Saturday evening a large company of parishioners, representative not only of Churchpeople but other denominations in Chipping Norton, assembled on the Vicarage lawn for the purpose of making the late vicar a presentation and to wish him "Good-bye," and, at the same time, to express to Mr. and Mrs. Littledale and the family the best wishes for their future happiness. The gifts comprised a pony and views of Chipping Norton and the Church. The somewhat unusual form which the gift took was the result of the recipient's expressed wish. In his new sphere in a large and scattered parish a pony and trap would naturally be of great service to him. At the Vicar's suggestion or request this desire was realised. The pony was brought on the lawn and handed to the care of Mr. Littledale by Major Daly, who made the presentation.

The Rev. Littledale remained in post until 1929. The Rev. Charles Derek Harbord was briefly vicar in 1929 and was succeeded by the Rev. Cecil Spencer who according to his entry in the 1932 edition of Crockfords resided at the Vicarage. He died in 1937 and is buried in our churchyard. By way of confirmation, his address on the burials register was given as "The Vicarage, Stoke Lyne".

Was this when the vicarage was sold off by the Church? On the 1939 register a Mrs Edith Madeline Donovan was living there and according to the Stoke Lyne Invasion Committee War Book shared by Brian Curtis on the village Facebook group she appears to have taken an active part in Stoke Lyne's war effort as her name pops up several times under different sections: she is a member of the Invasion Committee under the category "Civil Defence" with the address of "Old Vicarage" and telephone number "Fritwell 12".

Further on in the booklet it is revealed that there are 8 wardens in the Civil Defence team and the “Report and Control Centre” is the Vicarage. In the “Transport” section she is listed as owner of a “motor vehicle”. According newspaper reports of her son Diarmuid’s death in WW2 (he was fatally wounded at Amiens) her husband, Richard, was a Squadron Leader in the RAF based at GHQ Cairo. However, on Diarmuid’s CWGC entry Richard is described as “Captain”. This is because Richard had two military careers. He was commissioned in the army 1913. During WW1 he mostly served in West Africa and after a number of years as acting Captain was promoted to Captain in 1925. He retired in 1933. In 1939 he makes an appearance in “The Air Force List” under RAF Bicester described as “Asst. Adjt.” “R. B. Donovan Capt. (ret.)” and in 1940 the London Gazette announced that Capt. Richard Brian DONOVAN (77217) (R.A.R.O.) had been made Flight Lieutenant (acting Squadron Leader (unpaid). “R.A.R.O” standing for “Regular Army Reserve of Officers”).

I’ve found “R B Donovan” at the Old Rectory in both the 1946 and 1949 phone books so the Donovans lived there for about 10 years. The next family to take up residence was the Sheppard family. (See the October 2022 edition of Shelswell News for their story). The Banbury Guardian of 21st July 1949 advertised a sale by auction of the Donovans’ “Household Furniture and Effects” and “Outdoor Effects” “by direction of Captain Donovan who is leaving”.

Between the Sheppards and the Warde-Aldams there was at least one other occupant, an Edward John Willes who seems to have been a would-be property developer! He was “squire” of Newbold Comyn and according to the Warwickshire local press wanted to turn his house there into flats. I’ve found him at the Old Rectory in both the 1963 and 1964 phone books but in the latter he is also listed at a farm near Shipston-on-Stour where he remained until his death in 1978.

Brenda Hazel

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Do you enjoy Christmas Tree decoration?



The Christmas tree will be erected in church on Saturday 26th November and we would like to invite anyone who enjoys a bit of tree decoration to come along to add decorations at a time to suit yourselves from Saturday onwards. There will be some in church, but you are also welcome to bring other things to add. Bring your children to join in the fun. The church is always open during daylight hours. If you have any queries then please contact Debbie on deborahmoroney@aol.com

Events for the Diary in December



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CRAFTS AND CHISTINGLE

Stratton Audley Church
on the afternoon of Sunday 4th December

Lots of things to make and seasonal refreshments.
Christingles to help us think about the true meaning of Christmas amidst all the excitement
Donations invited in aid of 'The Children's Society'.

Plans are still taking shape so for further details or to book a place just contact:
Sophie sophiejnelson@hotmail.com or Becky beckyandjeremy@aol.com

Stratton Audley Village Carol Service Sunday 18th December 6pm



The Church looks forward to seeing many families at the Carol Service on 18th December where mulled wine and mince pies/stöllen will be served



Godington Carol Service

Friday 23rd December at 7pm

Come and join this magical start to the Christmas weekend.

Christmas Eve Crib Service at 4pm



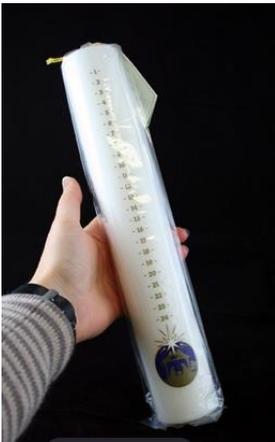


Christmas Day Holy Communion at 10.45am

Christmas is in a few weeks.....

A discounted Advent candles order can now be placed with Sarah mrsnouj@gmail.com or Penny penny@grangefarmcottages.co.uk Let Sarah or Penny know, in advance if possible, which gifts you would like asap for the Advent numbered candles and up until **22nd December** for the Glass Jar Candles just in time for Christmas.....

Luxury Large Advent Candle



- **Luxury** Large Advent candles are now available **now** for ~~£15~~ **£12** each!
- They are marked each day from 1 December to Christmas Eve
- Various scenes after XXIV at end
- They are 30cm (11.8") in height with a diameter of 5 cm (2") – see photo.



Slim Advent Candle (more than 10cm width of the *Luxury* candle)



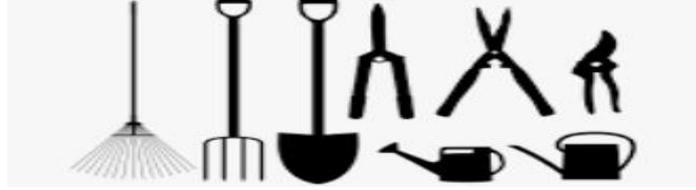
Luxury Glass Jar Candles – Joy, Wonder, Joy and Peace A Perfect Gift



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- Gift wrapped in tissue and ribbon
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Churchyard tidy up & mowing rotas



Volunteers are called for to help cut down the brambles climbing over the walls of the Church/Hall paddock. If you want to help one Saturday morning, please contact Anthony Flack as the more volunteers there are, the bigger the difference it makes - flack.wine_train@btinternet.com .

Brown bins (always!) needed



Please come along and take, for free, any pieces of wood or kindling that you want that is in the pile by the gate into the Hall's church paddock and the small branches (ideal for kindling) to the right of the main gate inside the churchyard.



Flowers & Cleaning Rota



A continuous big thank you again to all the lovely ladies who regularly present fresh flowers in the Church and who also keep the building clean and tidy, particularly before and after the weddings. We know who you all are! If you want to help flower arranging and cleaning, do contact Becky Adams at the Rectory office 01280 848192.

Vacancies

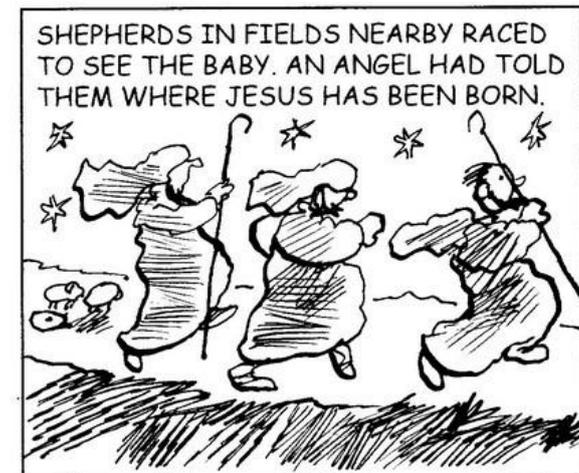
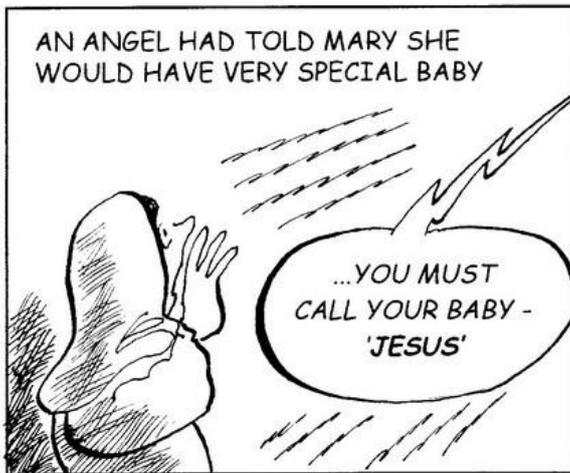
A Secretary to the Parochial Church Council for Stratton Audley & Godington (waiting a villager) is needed to take the minutes of four meetings per annum. It is only four times a year so not onerous, and everyone will help if you have misheard anything!

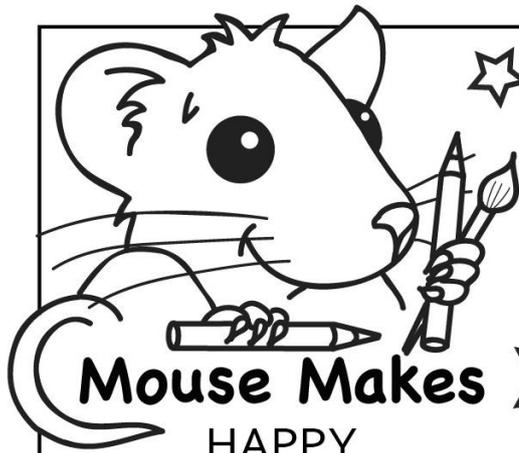
Further villagers to sign up to the PCC and give their views and support on how their Village Church moves forward.

And finally, Everyone.... We are looking for people who would volunteer to run just **one event** annually so it wouldn't take over your life all year! It could be helping with one of the certain key services in the year such as Easter, or Remembrance Sunday, or the Carol Service and Christmas, sorting out fundraising ordering or for the community by running a fundraising sit-down dinner or concerts, or a knitting/crochet club, or a quarterly cinema club or anything you would enjoy organising in the village for any age group.

If willing to turn your hand to any of the above, contact Sarah or Penny on mrsnouj@gmail.com or penny@grangefarmcottages.co.uk

The First Christmas





Mouse Makes

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Read the Christmas story in **Luke 2:1-21**.

Answer the questions, colour the picture and colour one star each day until Christmas.

Where was Mary's baby born?
Why were Joseph and Mary there?

What did Mary dress her baby in?

Where did Mary lay her baby and why?

Why were the shepherds afraid?

What good news did the angel tell?

G
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E T D E

What did the shepherds do after they had seen the baby?

Who appeared praising God, what did they say?



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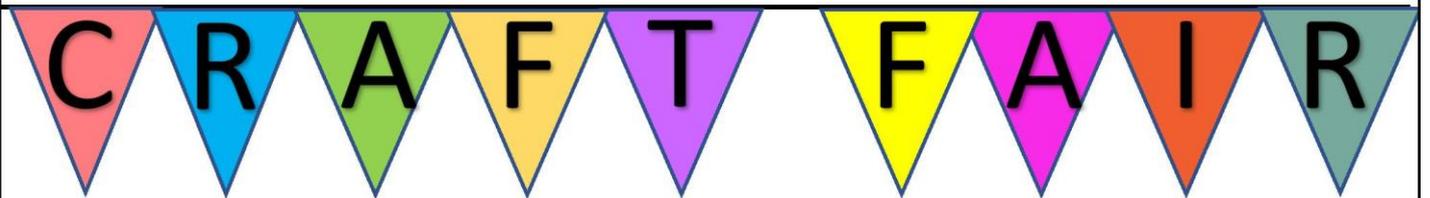
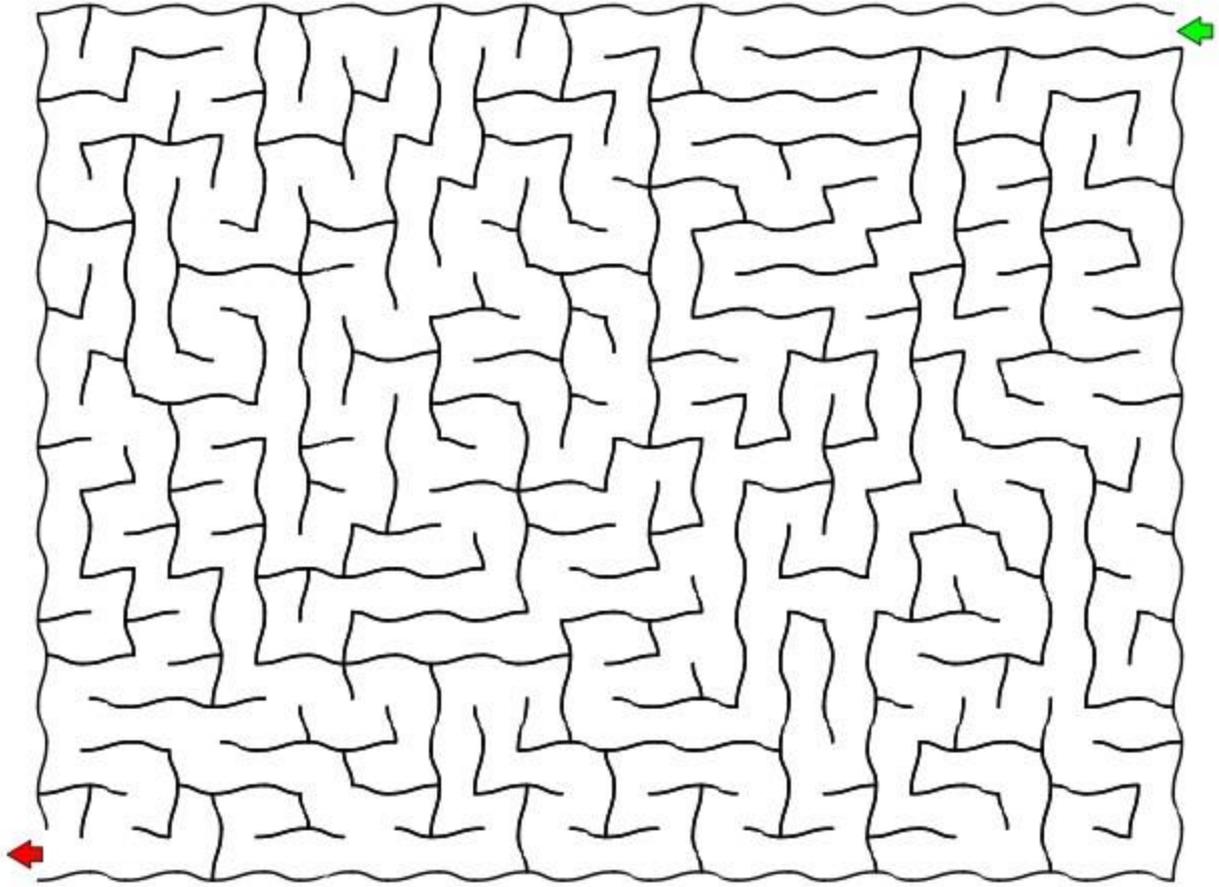
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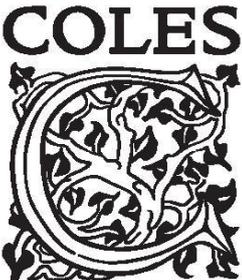
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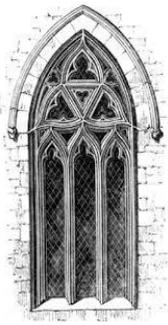
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| <b>SHELLOWELL GROUP SERVICES: DECEMBER 2022</b>                                                                                 |                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CW: 'Common Worship' modern language service    BCP: 'Book of Common Prayer' traditional language service                       |                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                        |
| DATE                                                                                                                            | Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> December (12 noon)<br>Midweek Holy Communion and Lunch<br>STOKE LYNE                | 4 <sup>th</sup> December<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent                                                                                                                                            | 11 <sup>th</sup> December<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent                                                                                       | 18 <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                                                                                                                                                  |
| 8.00 am                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                        |
| 9.15 am                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                              | <p>9.15am<br/>Holy Communion<br/>with hymns (CW)<br/>COTTISFORD LW</p> <p>9.15am<br/>Holy Communion<br/>with hymns (BCP)<br/>NEWTON PURCELL AG</p> <p>9.15am<br/>Morning Prayer<br/>FINMERE Lay-led</p> | <p>Holy Communion<br/>with hymns (CW)<br/>HETHE<br/>AG</p> <p>Morning Prayer<br/>FINMERE<br/>Lay-led</p>                                            | <p>Holy Communion<br/>with hymns (CW)<br/>FINMERE<br/>AG</p>                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>9.15am<br/>Holy Communion<br/>HETHE AG</p> <p>9.15am<br/>Holy Communion<br/>NEWTON PURCELL LW</p> <p>9.30am<br/>Family Service<br/>FRINGFORD PW</p> |
| 10.45 am                                                                                                                        | <p>10am<br/>'Food for Thought'<br/>STOKE LYNE Lay-led</p> <p>10.45am<br/>Family Service<br/>FRINGFORD AG</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p>4pm<br/>Carol Service<br/>FRINGFORD PW</p> <p>4pm<br/>Carol Service<br/>HARDWICK LW</p> <p>4pm<br/>Nativity and Carol Service<br/>MIXBURY AG</p> | <p>4pm<br/>Crib Service<br/>STRATTON AUDLEY<br/>PW/AG</p> <p>10pm<br/>Early Midnight<br/>Communion (CW)<br/>FINMERE AG</p> <p>10pm<br/>Midnight Communion<br/>COTTISFORD MK</p> | <p>10.45am<br/>Holy Communion<br/>HARDWICK AG</p> <p>10.45am<br/>Holy Communion by<br/>Extension<br/>MIXBURY PW</p> <p>10.45am<br/>Holy Communion<br/>STRATTON AUDLEY LW</p> |                                                                                                                                                        |
| 6.00 pm                                                                                                                         | <p>Compline<br/>STRATTON AUDLEY<br/>PW</p>                                                                   | <p>4pm<br/>Carol Service<br/>COTTISFORD<br/>PW</p> <p>6pm<br/>Evening Communion<br/>FRINGFORD AG</p>                                                                                                    | <p>6pm<br/>Ecumenical Carol Service<br/>HOLY TRINITY, HETHE<br/>PW</p> <p>6pm<br/>Carol Service<br/>STRATTON AUDLEY AG</p>                          | <p>11.30pm<br/>Midnight Communion by<br/>Extension<br/>FRINGFORD PW</p>                                                                                                         | <p>11am<br/>Holy Communion<br/>STOKE LYNE LBS</p>                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                        |
| Rev Lex Bradley-Stow    AG: Revd Alice Goodall    MK: Revd Michael Kingston    LW: Revd Liz Welters    PW: Mrs Penny Wood (LLM) |                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                        |

#### Weekday Carol Services

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December:    Finmere Carol Service (7.15pm at the tree and 7.30pm in church) PW  
 Newton Purcell Carol Concert (7.30pm)

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December    Stoke Lyne Outdoor Carol Service (6pm) AG  
 Godington Carol Service (7pm) LW