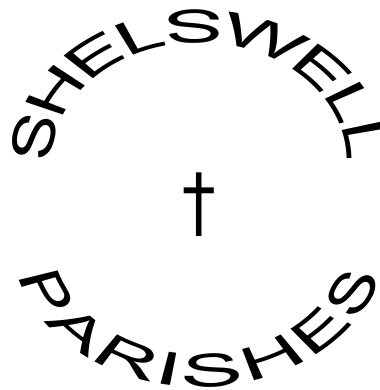


# Shelswell News

The magazine of the Shelswell Group of Churches

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Cottisford  
Fringford  
Hardwick  
Mixbury  
Stoke Lyne



Finmere  
Godington  
Hethe  
Newton Purcell  
Stratton Audley



St Michael and All Angels, Newton Purcell

August 2023

£1

## SHELLOWELL BENEFICE MISSION STATEMENT

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

### MINISTRY TEAM

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

**BENEFICE ADMINISTRATOR:** Mrs Becky Adams, c/o The Rectory (as above) Email [admin@shelswellparishes.info](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.holytrinityheth.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](mailto:admin@shelswellparishes.info)

**EDITORIAL OR ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES:** Mrs Becky Adams, Benefice Administrator, The Rectory, Water Stratford Road, Finmere, Buckingham MK18 4AT Tel 01280 848192 Email [admin@shelswellparishes.info](mailto:admin@shelswellparishes.info)

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

**Deadlines** for the **September 2023** edition of Shelswell News

To Magazine Correspondents: **Friday 11 August**

Correspondents to Editor: **Sunday 13 August** at [editor@shelswellparishes.info](mailto:editor@shelswellparishes.info)

**All articles must be submitted in WORD in a format that can be COPIED AND PASTED PLEASE**

[www.shelswellparishes.info](http://www.shelswellparishes.info)

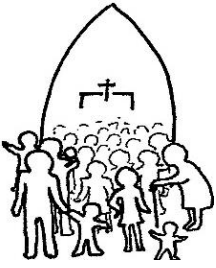
Many thanks for your cooperation.

**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 .

## MINISTER'S LETTER

### Do you enjoy church?

*An article by Revd Sarah Lawrence*



As a minister, part of me thinks people should enjoy church; we put enough work into making it engaging and stimulating. I think of the late nights preparing sermons with interesting stories and funny analogies. When I am preparing a service, I think carefully to make sure it engages people on different levels.



But then I stop for a moment and ask myself, do I enjoy church? It may seem like an odd question: I am a priest, of course I do! But if I'm honest, my experiences of churchgoing have had highs and lows with much monotony and routine in between. The truth is, I don't go to enjoy myself; I go because there is something deep inside me compelled to seek God, something which has been bitten by the bug of knowing him. Most of the time I guess my churchgoing is pretty unremarkable, it's not often that I come away deeply moved or elated, or even disturbed or challenged. But it happens enough to keep me coming, keep me seeking.

C S Lewis talks of a sense of being drawn by these glimpses of something beyond. His book *The Pilgrim's Regress* follows the spiritual quest of John, compelled to leave his stifling home in search of something better. He is drawn by a sense of longing he experienced as a child when he glimpsed a far-away island. It made him realise that there is something beyond the narrow confines of the life he had known. This glimpse of the divine is what keeps drawing me back to church.

I have had glimpses of the divine in charismatic services, carried away in worship, speaking in tongues, hands in the air; and I have had these glimpses kneeling before the blessed sacrament in silent contemplation, as the scent of incense wafts by and spirals up to heaven. But the outward things are not where joy is found. These same outward things can seem profound and beautiful to one person at one time, yet at another they can appear ridiculous or boring. Ultimately the thing that really matters in church, encountering God, is something which only comes from God. The Spirit is not a caged bird, she comes and goes at will, all we can do is open to her.



People may come to church if they enjoy it and for that it is worth all those late nights and careful thought to make services engaging. But it is only the deep joy encountering God which will really draw people from the heart to seek him. People may love church services, they may hate them, they may be bored by them, but ultimately they will keep coming because the heart that seeks God will seek everywhere and anywhere.



*This is an edited article from magnet magazine ([www.ourmagnet.co.uk](http://www.ourmagnet.co.uk)) which was published in The Sign in 2019.*

#### A Prayer by Bishop Thomas Ken (1637-1711)

O God, make the door of this Church wide enough  
to receive all who need human love and fellowship,  
and a heavenly Father's care;  
and narrow enough to shut out  
all envy, pride and hate.  
Make its threshold smooth enough  
to be no stumbling-block to children,  
or to straying feet,  
but rugged enough  
to turn back the tempter's power:  
make it a gateway to thine eternal kingdom.  
Amen



## BIBLE READINGS



|                                |                                       |  |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> August  | The Transfiguration of our Lord       | Daniel 7 v9-10 and 13-14<br>2 Peter 1 v 16-19<br>Luke 9 v28-36                   |
| Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> August | 10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity | 1 Kings 19 v 9 – 18<br>Romans 10 v 5 – 15<br>Matthew 14 v 22 – 33                |
| Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> August | 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity | Isaiah 56 v1 and 6 – 8<br>Romans 11 v 1 – 2a and 29 – 32<br>Matthew 15 v 21 – 28 |
| Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> August | 12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity | Isaiah 51 v 1 – 6<br>Romans 12 v 1 – 8<br>Matthew 16 v 13 – 20                   |

### MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION AND SOUP LUNCH Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August

12 noon

Stoke Lyne Church

If you would like a lift then please contact Alice on 01280 848192 or  
[rector@shelswellparishes.info](mailto:rector@shelswellparishes.info)

### NEW MAGAZINE EDITOR NEEDED



We would love to hear from anyone interested in taking over the role of 'Shelswell News' editor. All the advertising is handled from the Benefice Office so you do not need to deal with this, and you would rarely need to draft any material yourself. Your role would be to receive the material from parish correspondents and the representatives of clubs and societies (by email) and collate this to fit the page layout of the magazine. New ideas for articles, features or series are always welcome. For an informal chat about what might be involved please call Alice on 01280 848192.

The Shelswell Group of Parishes



## CREAM TEAS for TREES

*A Great Big Green Week Event*

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August, 3-5pm**  
in Stratton Audley Church



Enjoy scrumptious cream teas and cakes while finding out more about:

- **Woodland Trust's ATLANTIC RAINFOREST APPEAL**  
to restore this incredibly rare British habitat. It is thought to be  
more under threat than tropical rainforests.



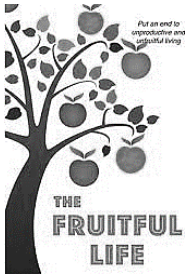
and

- **Tree Aid's GREAT GREEN WALL APPEAL**  
to plant trees and restore lands across the Sahel region of Africa  
to help reverse the devastating impacts of climate change.



- **TREE PLANTING** - how we can help to provide more tree-cover locally.

**DONATIONS** for Teas will go to the **Woodland Trust's** Atlantic Rainforest  
Restoration Appeal and **Tree Aid's** Great Green Wall Appeal.



Shelswell Group of Parishes

Please join us for an

## Outdoor Service

surrounded by the beauty of nature at

## Evenley Wood Garden

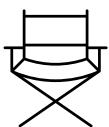
Evenley, Northants, NN13 5SH

## Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August, 11am

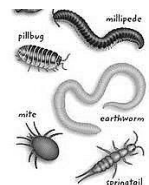
**followed by a barbecue** (food provided)

Please bring a chair/picnic rug, plate, bowl & cutlery

Donations to the Wulu Girls School, South Sudan



What makes  
for good soil  
- in the  
environment  
and in our  
lives?





## A Harvest Home Celebration – save the date!

**11 am - Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September - Waterloo Farm, Fringford**



On the morning of the harvest home dinner everybody prepared themselves for a tremendous feast, some to the extent of going without breakfast, that the appetite might not be impaired. And what a feast it was! Such a bustling in the farm-house kitchen for days beforehand; such boiling of hams and roasting of sirloins; such a stacking of plum puddings; such a tapping of eighteen-gallon casks and baking of plum loaves. By noon the whole parish had assembled, the workers and their wives and children to feast and the sprinkling of the better-to-do to help with the serving. Long tables were laid out of doors in the shade of a barn, and soon after twelve o'clock the cottagers sat down to the good cheer, with the farmer carving at the principal table, his wife with her tea urn at another, the daughters of the house and their friends circling the tables with vegetable dishes and beer jugs, and the grandchildren, in their stiff, white, embroidered frocks, dashing hither and thither to see that everybody had what they required. As a background there was the rickyard with its new yellow stacks and, over all, the mellow sunshine of late summer.

*from Lark Rise to Candleford – Flora Thompson*

After the Plough Sunday service in January, which saw 100 people gathering at Monks House Farm, several people said 'why don't you do something like this at Harvest?'. And so we are doing just that, because it is all so much more fun when there are more of us gathered together!

David and Phillippa Taylor have very kindly agreed to host a Harvest Festival and Harvest lunch in their party barn and everyone is invited! We are still working out the details, but there will be something for everyone, young and old. The harvest lunch will feature locally sourced produce, which I am confident will be absolutely delicious, and some local beer!



Some of the churches are also holding their own harvest festival and you are very welcome to go to those as well!

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October:

11.30 am Newton Purcell

4 pm Cottisford

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October

11 am Mixbury

5 pm Finmere

and Godington – to be arranged.

We have so much to be thankful for, and those harvest hymns are great to sing!

More details next month, but for now, put the date in your diary!!



## GOD IN THE SCIENCES

*By Dr Ruth M Banciewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.*

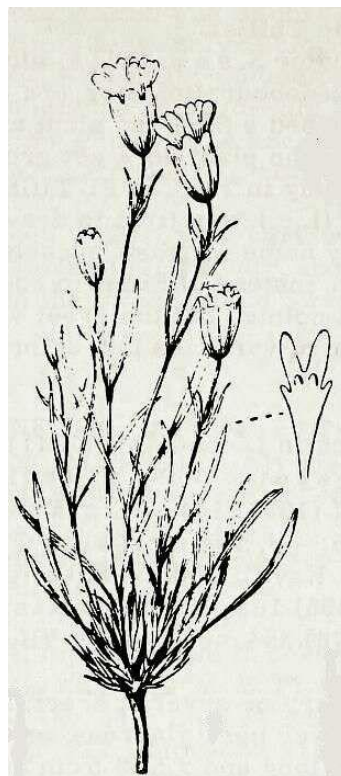
### Parable: The Strength of a Seed

At this time of year, we enjoy the fruits of our gardens, fields and hedgerows: vegetables ripen, crops are harvested, and berries begin to show bright among the leaves. Much of this growth started with a few seeds in spring: the miracle of life coming from small dead-looking things. There is a league table of long-lived seeds. The winners so far are from the narrow-leafed campion, buried by squirrels in the Siberian permafrost over 30,000 years ago. When those seeds finally germinated, they became healthy plants that flowered and produced seeds of their own.

The Bible contains many links between seeds and spiritual growth, and the parable of the sower is the most famous (in Matthew 13). A person may hear or experience something of God which has the potential to germinate into a life of following Him, resulting in the fruit of others coming to know God too. But things can happen that snatch that seed away, killing it before it has finished germinating, or choking its growth.

What about the knowledge of God that gets trampled, churned too deep in the mire of life to receive the warmth and light it needs to develop into faith? Buried seeds don't always die, but they can lie dormant, remaining alive but inactive until the earth is turned over. The possibility of that moment of connecting with something divine, scrap of knowledge, or snatch of conversation resulting in a changed life may seem infinitesimally small, but it's not zero. The seed may be incredibly tough, just waiting for a chance to grow.

The Gospel narrative plays on the fact that it took a long time for the disciples to understand the full implications of Jesus' teaching: a germination process that took many of them three or more years. They could have been discouraged, but Jesus was not. I don't think it's too much of a stretch to draw out of the parable of the sower to include the observation that it can take a long time, sometimes decades, for people to work their way through the various barriers, sticking points, and phases of forgetfulness that may keep them from following through on their spiritual experience. When we finally receive – or are open to – the encouragement, challenge, or experience that helps our faith in Christ grow, we can experience the rich fruit of a transformed life.



## Club News



### SHELSWELL WI



For our July meeting we had a visit from Ashley Foster who works in the film industry as an animal handler and trainer. Ashley along with help from his assistants and also his dogs gave us a very interesting evening. We were able to see practical demonstrations from the dogs and watched a short film on how they trained other animals.

Our July walk was through Kingsmere green spaces and although slightly soggy was enjoyed by those who attended.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 3 August. This is our annual walk, and this year is around Evenley.

As WI members we also have access to both the Oxford and National Federations of WI's both of which offer their members a wide range of trips, activities and learning opportunities.

If you would like to join us, we usually meet on the first Thursday of the month in Fringford Village Hall at 7.30pm.

For more information please contact Lesley Beagent on 07729605670



### SHELSWELL GARDEN CLUB



The Shelswell Garden Club Summer Outing took place on Sunday 2nd July and everyone had a lovely time. We travelled by minibus to a farm shop for coffee/refreshments then on to Teasels, Wilsford, near Amesbury. This was an amazing garden, on the banks of the River Avon. It seems a lot of money had been spent on it and it showed. The Filly poppies were beautiful.

Then it was on to the village of West Dean, near Salisbury. There were 12 gardens to visit - many with teas and cakes - how did we cope! Ordnance House was the main garden to visit. This was an attractive garden. However, some members felt it would have benefitted from some thinning out of plants to show the intended design more clearly. We all loved the small white rose, 'Little White Pet', which was used in many different areas and was good at linking all of these. Apparently, it flowers for months and is easy to propagate.

There were lots of interesting ideas in most of the gardens and the cakes were delicious. One member did plan to have a cake and tea in every garden but even she gave up after the second...there's only so much cake you can eat!

In August we take a break but will be back on **September 12<sup>th</sup>** with John Lee of Froggery Cottage talking about Penstemons. Hopefully he'll be bringing some to sell!

We welcome visitors to our club that normally 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 discounts at Preston Bissett Nursery and Swallows Nursery in Mixbury. *During winter months, some meetings may be 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](mailto:shelswellgardenclub@gmail.com)



## SHELSWELL READING GROUP

The novel chosen for the July meeting was *Home Fire* by **Kamila Shamsie**. Based loosely on Sophocles' play *Antigone*, it poses hard questions about family loyalty, obedience to the law and moral priorities.

If you would like to join the group for the August or September meeting, please contact Jane Birnage on 01280 847 455 or at [janebirnage@icloud.com](mailto:janebirnage@icloud.com)

## SHELSWELL POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP

At our July meeting we looked at various aspects of freedom found in poems. We began the session with *In the Same Boat* by **H. Crawford**. Written in the early years of the 20th century, it is a (seemingly light-hearted but in fact bitter and resentful) protest by a poet bemoaning the fact that women were not allowed to vote, just like prisoners, lunatics and babies. This was followed by the poem *The Tolpuddle Martyrs*, written by one of their number, George Loveless whilst he was in the courtroom awaiting judgement.

*The Flower of Liberty* by **Oliver Wendell Holmes** is a joyful celebration of the freeing of slaves in America during the Civil War. We actually sang the Union song *The Battle Cry of Freedom* by **George F. Root**, lifting the roof with the chorus, and then looked at the copycat version sung by troops of the Confederacy. *The Ragged Old Flag* by **Johnny Cash** examines southern pride and details all the wars soldiers from the southern states have fought in.

*Land of Hope and Glory* by **A C Benson** was set to music by Elgar and is an iconic anthem, as is *Rule, Britannia*, written for inclusion in the masque *Alfred* by **James Thompson** and set to music by Thomas Arne.

*Sagittarius*, (the nom de plume of a writer for the Spectator), wrote a sharply witty description of the Labour Party in 1945 then 1947, making fun of the public's fear of red revolution and how it was calmed by the respectability and good breeding of the Labour Cabinet. It is an extract from the longer work *Lest Cowards Flinch*. In his poem *England Autumn 1938*, **ASJ Tessimond** balances what he sees as the glories and grave faults of a country which had not fallen under the control of repressive ideologies such as Communism and Fascism.

*The Retreat from Dunkirk* by **B G Bonallack** gives a matter-of-fact account of that episode in the Second World War which is moving when we remember that the men on the beaches were escaping back to a free country in order to fight another day. In *Armistice Day 1918* Robert Graves caustically compares the jingoistic joy and licentious behaviour of a civilian crowd with the sacrifice made by the dead soldiers who fought for their freedom. *Partition Day 1947* by **W H Auden** sums up the debacle caused by India gaining its freedom from the British Empire so precipitately and without due care and attention from its former rulers. The South African anthem *Nkosi Sikelele Afrika* has verses in four different languages – Xhosa, Sesutu, Afrikaans and English – and is used to wonderful effect, set to music, in the film *Cry Freedom*.

Three poems about personal and artistic freedom, and its costs, are *Freedom is a Lonely Word* by **Sun Wenbo**; *Me and Bobby McGhee* by **Kris Kristofferson** and **Janis Joplin**; and *Caged Bird* by **Maya Angelou**.

The loss of freedom suffered by zoo animals is addressed by two poets. *The Jaguar and Lioness Asleep* are by **Ted Hughes** and **Babette Deutsch** respectively.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday August 8<sup>th</sup> and the theme is Desert Island Poems. Each member will bring three much-loved poems to read and discuss.

If you would like to join us please contact me on 01869 811994 or at [judith.harvey@live.co.uk](mailto:judith.harvey@live.co.uk)

Judith Harvey

SAVE THE DATE

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**

Chetwode Church

**‘Opera della Luna’**

Presents an evening of musical entertainment  
with

Paddy Marshall and Jeff Clarke

More info in the September magazine.





**We're looking for more foster carers in Oxfordshire to provide a safe and secure home to a child when they are unable to live with their parents. It may be for a short period of time, or they may stay with a foster family long term.**

Our foster carers receive:

- A welcome payment of £1,500, to help the transition to foster carer.
- Generous fees, paid in addition to the child's allowance.
- Dedicated social worker support.
- Access to professionals involved with the child, support groups and specialised training.

Make an enquiry here: <https://service.oxfordshire.gov.uk/fosteringenquiry>

Michelle and William Hunter from Oxford are new to fostering. Michelle said: "There are so many reasons to choose Oxfordshire County Council to begin your fostering journey.

"The council gave us lots of help, including having access to a social worker and a host of other support services. We feel part of a fostering community, making a positive difference to local children by helping them reach their full potential.

"Our advice to anyone thinking of fostering is to take your time to research and really think about it. There are lots of foster carers who would love to answer your questions, offering a realistic perspective of what fostering is like."

### **Would you consider being a foster parent?**

We understand you will have some questions, [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/children-education-and-families/fostering](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/children-education-and-families/fostering)

## **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](mailto:judith.harvey@live.co.uk)

### **COTTISFORD AND JUNIPER HILL SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

By the time that this edition has hit the doormat we will have had the first Pop up Pub of the summer. Many thanks if you attended, we have another arranged for August and we look forward to seeing you there.

September 3rd sees our annual Tea in the Field and on 1<sup>st</sup> October we will be celebrating Harvest Festival in church at 4pm.

If you would like to host a Pop-up Pub or Coffee morning contact Sandra at [sandrambickmore@gmail.com](mailto:sandrambickmore@gmail.com)

## Finmere St Michael and All Angels

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

TREASURER: Jacqueline Chelin, 19 Valley Road, Finmere

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

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Paul Nash Email: [paan63@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:paan63@yahoo.co.uk)

Tel: 07875 102952

Tel 01280 847782

Tel: 01280 848364

Tel 01280 848268

### VILLAGE HALL

The village hall is now fully back in use and most 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.

WiFi facilities have also been added.



For all bookings enquiries, please visit [www.myfinmere.com/villagehall](http://www.myfinmere.com/villagehall)

Don't forget the monthly Tea & Cakes at the hall on the second Tuesday of each month.

### Allotments

It is a hive of activity up at the Finmere allotments. Whilst it was good to see a bit of rain recently, maybe we (and many others) could have done with a little more gentle downpour.

Everything is now growing in earnest (unfortunately, including the weeds).

Not sure how the RHS recommended 'no-dig' allotment' 😊 .... [No-Dig Gardening Guide | BBC Gardeners World Magazine](#), really works, since there still seems to be a lot of digging involved to keep the weeds, especially the thistles, at bay, to say nothing of the rabbits !



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](http://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](http://www.shelswellparishes.info/finmere)

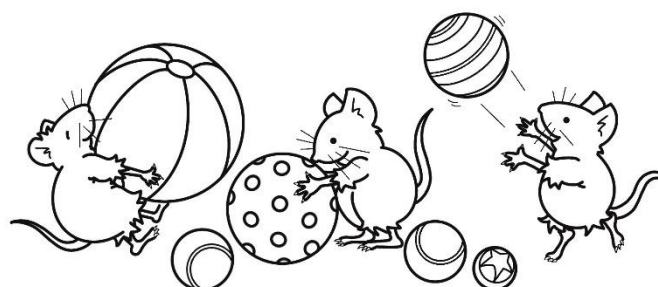
Finmere Parish Council website at – [www.finmerepc.org](http://www.finmerepc.org)

Village hall news at – [www.myfinmere.com](http://www.myfinmere.com)

Old Finmere history website – [www.myfinmere.com/history](http://www.myfinmere.com/history)

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

Finmere Primary School - [www.finmere.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.finmere.oxon.sch.uk)





Please come along to support Finmere's

## "Tuesday Teas"

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

Tuesday 8 August from 2 - 4 pm  
Tea, coffee, cake & biscuits  
All locals welcome, no charge

We would love to grow the numbers attending so if you have any suggestions that we can try, please let us know!

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

If anyone would like to help with "Tuesday Teas",  
we need help serving refreshments, setting out tables, providing lifts and BAKING CAKES!

Your baking costs can be reimbursed  
No need to volunteer every month; just help when you can...



## Fringford St Michael and All Angels

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| CHURCHWARDEN: 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 <a href="http://www.fringford.info">www.fringford.info</a> |                  |

### ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, SERVICES & EVENTS

#### Services

- Sunday 6 August – at 10.45am – Morning Service
- Sunday 13 August – 6.00pm Holy Communion
- Sunday 20 August - 10.45am - Holy Communion

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

*See the General Section for various activities taking place in the Benefice during August.*

#### 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 100 Club winners in July were not known at the copy deadline for this magazine.

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

#### Little Lambs Babies & Toddler Group

Every Wednesday during term time in Stratton Audley Church, from 9.30am to 11.00am.

[Not during holidays and half term.] Just come along, but if you need information in the meantime, email [admin@shelswellparishes.info](mailto:admin@shelswellparishes.info)

**NOTE: One or two more people are needed to help at sessions – offering refreshments to the mums/carers, chatting, preparing for the ‘snack time’, and helping Liz (the organiser) to tidy up at the end. Time involvement is about two and a half hours, on one or two mornings a term. You would need to have a DBS check. Please consider volunteering, and contact Penny [01869-277310]**

#### FRINGFORD FRIENDS NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT GROUP

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

- Telephone: 07704 756840
- Email [neighbourhoodsupport@fringford.info](mailto:neighbourhoodsupport@fringford.info)

To join Fringford's **What's App Group** ring or email Christine Underwood: 07961 972388 or email [silvercb1@outlook.com](mailto:silvercb1@outlook.com)



**FRINGFORD VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING** will take place on Monday 21 August from 10.30am to 12 noon, in the Chinnery Room at the Village Hall. Just drop by any time for a coffee and a chat.

## COME & JOIN US AT 'SEWCIAL'



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

We get together once a month,  
either on a Wednesday evening at 7 – 9pm  
or Sunday afternoon at 3 – 5pm

We meet in the Chinnery Room at Fringford Village Hall.

Our next sessions are:

Sunday 17 September  
Wednesday 11 October  
Sunday 19 November  
Wednesday 13 December

Sessions are £2.00

No need to book – just come and join us!  
If you would like information, please email Melissa at [mamcs100@gmail.com](mailto:mamcs100@gmail.com)

## SAVE THE DATE – JAZZ IN THE VILLAGE HALL, 28 OCTOBER 2023

The Village Hall will be hosting a Jazz Night on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2023. More information and details on how to purchase tickets to follow in the coming months.

## Regular Activities held in Fringford Village Hall

| To find out more or book a place, please contact the hirer direct.   |  |
|--|--|
| Weekly Activities  | Monthly Activities   |
| <b>FS Dance</b><br>Monday & Wednesday (term time)<br>After school classes<br>BALLET • TAP • MODERN • STREET<br>leah.fsd@gmail.com or 07885827592   | <b>Village Coffee Morning</b><br>All ages welcome<br>Third Monday in the month - Chinnery Room<br>Drop in anytime between 10.30 am and noon<br>Penny Wood 01869 277310                   |
| <b>Puppy Stars</b><br>Dog Training<br>Tuesday evening – various classes<br>Contact Nick 07542 131400 www.puppystars.co.uk  | <b>Parish Council Meeting</b><br>All villagers welcome<br>Third Monday in the month 7.45pm<br>Contact 01844 237766 or<br>fringford.parishclerk@gmail.com                                 |
| <b>Fringford Yoga</b><br>Wednesday (term time)<br>9.30am – 11am<br>Carolyn White 01869 277161  | <b>Bicester Sound Bath Meditation</b><br>First Sunday of the month from 7.45 pm<br>Sonia - contact@holisticaxis.com<br>Please text - 07709634847   |
| <b>Just Puppies</b><br>Puppy Training<br>Wednesday evening – various classes<br>Contact Kerri 07720 891489<br>www.justpuppies.training   | <b>Shelswell WI</b><br>First Thursday of the month 7.30pm<br>Contact Lesley Beagent on 07729605670   |
| <b>Pilates</b><br>Thursday at 10.00am<br>natashaflowerspilates@gmail.com<br>or 07545 525820  | <b>Mindfulness Meditation</b><br>Monthly Sunday 11am to 12.30pm<br>janerainey17@gmail.com or 07971 008337  |
| <b>My Baby Spa</b><br>Monday mornings<br>Spa experience for babies up to 12 months<br>and toddlers 1 – 4 years<br><a href="http://www.mybabyspa.co.uk">www.mybabyspa.co.uk</a><br>contact Danielle at<br>contact@mybabyspa.co.uk   | <b>Fringford Sewcial<br/>Sew and Chat!</b><br>Alternate monthly Wednesday from 7pm<br>& Sunday from 3pm<br>Contact Melissa at <a href="mailto:mamcs100@gmail.com">mamcs100@gmail.com</a> |
|  | <b>Village Hall Team Meeting</b><br>Every 4 weeks – 7.30pm<br>Open meetings – all welcome<br><a href="mailto:fringford.hall@gmail.com">fringford.hall@gmail.com</a> or 07936 879175      |
| <p><b>To book the hall for your own event, please go to <a href="http://fringford.info">fringford.info</a>, village hall, how to book Here you will find all the information you will need to book on-line.</b></p> <p><b>For any other queries please phone or text 07936 879175 or email: <a href="mailto:fringford.hall@gmail.com">fringford.hall@gmail.com</a></b></p> |  |

## Hardwick St Mary the Virgin

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| CHURCHWARDEN: David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick                               | Tel 01869 277690 |
| TREASURER: David Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick                                  | Tel 01869 277690 |
| PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Vacancy   |                  |
| MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Veronica Barnes, Honeysuckle Cottage, 11 Hardwick                  | Tel 01869 277690 |
| WEBSITE: <a href="http://hardwickvillage.btck.co.uk">http://hardwickvillage.btck.co.uk</a> |                  |

### 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 insight 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.

### HARDWICK CHURCH IS OPEN DAILY

Visit **Hardwick Church**

Open Daily: 10 am – 4 pm

Available for:

Private prayer and quiet contemplation

Viewing the architecture, memorials and stained-glass windows

**Please make use of this special space**

## Hethe St Edmund and St George

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| CHURCHWARDEN: Flora Skinner, Fox Hollow, 2 Hardwick Road, Hethe | Tel 01869 277366 |
| TREASURER: Mike Green, Greenhill Cottage, Main Street, Hethe    | Tel 01869 278166 |
| PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Flora Skinner as above             |                  |
| MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Mike Green as above                     | Tel 01869 278166 |
| WEBSITE: <a href="http://www.hethe.org">www.hethe.org</a>       |                  |

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 the next edition of the Shelswell News is on Page 2.

## ST EDMUND & ST GEORGE CHURCH

### Church Services and Events

See the back page for details of services in our church. You will be welcome at of these services and in other churches in the benefice, or if you are away from Shelswell area, you can find a nearby service through the web site <https://www.achurchnearyou.com>.



any  
the

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

Some of our PCC members will be providing food for the benefice wide service and BBQ at Evenley Wood on 20<sup>th</sup> August, so please come along if you can.

Arrangements have been made through the Parish Council for the northern area of the churchyard, which includes the newer graves and garden of remembrance, to be cut regularly. We are grateful to Andrew Cotton for mowing this area earlier in the year.



Many thanks to Jenny Cullen for volunteering to clean the church and provide flowers this month.



We know that most Hethe parishioners value the church as a historic building, a venue for those special lifetime events (such as baptisms and weddings) and the churchyard is a refuge for wildlife in the heart of the village. The visitors book in the church also shows that it is appreciated by visitors from far and wide. We were planning this year to repair the stained glass and surrounding stonework in the west window, followed by replastering and decoration, but unfortunately, we now have a damp problem which needs more urgent attention. The church is funded by the parish, therefore if you can contribute to this work and to ensure that it remains open and available, you may make a one-off gift through a single transaction or set up regular donations, using a debit or credit card, or Apple or Google Pay, using the secure Parish Giving (PGS) website - <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/home/>.



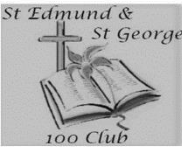
⇐ Scan here to make a one-off donation or to set up regular giving by direct debit

**100 Club.** The club offers members an opportunity to contribute to church

funds, while having the chance to win a cash prize from the monthly draws. 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.

Watch out for a talk on bats and a social evening later this year - not on the same day!

If you are concerned by the lack of gates at the end of the church path, they have not been stolen! They were removed to enable a thorough cleaning of the path and their fate is under consideration.



### St Edmund & St George 100 Club

Results of the 54<sup>th</sup> draw held  
on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023

1<sup>st</sup> Prize No 7 Helen Pritchard Family  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize No 3 Gary Skinner  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize No 58 Perry Stuart

Many thanks to our members  
Hethe PCC



## HETHE COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

Please note that from August the Coffee Mornings in St Philip's Hall will be held on a Monday.

**Hethe Community Coffee Morning**

**in Hethe Village Hall**

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August from 10.00am to 12.00pm**

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



**Parish Council.** Please note that all meetings are held in the Village Hall starting at 8.00pm and that Planning Meetings will be called as required. The next full council meeting will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> October.



**The Village Hall Management Committee are proud to announce that they now have Full Fibre Broadband inclusive of the hire fee.** For bookings, please contact Flora, the village hall booking secretary [fjskinner@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fjskinner@hotmail.co.uk).

The **Stay & Play Group** contact is Jess, email: [jessicablamb@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jessicablamb@yahoo.co.uk).

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

### Interesting facts...Woad

A tithe record dated 1610, shows that woad was grown in Cottisford and Hethe. A Master Edward Ewere and Sir William Cope “both had wode growing in Hethe which amounted to more than all the wode grown in Cottisford”. The Cope family owned Hanwell Castle (near Banbury) and first acquired the Shelswell Estate in 1595 selling it in the 1680s. The Shelswell Estate at that time included Hospital Farm which was originally owned in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century by St Bartholomew's Hospital (London) and was amalgamated into Montague Farm in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. This was the probable location for the growing of woad.



Woad is a native of the Mediterranean and belongs to the family Cruciferae (the brassicas), as do broccoli, cabbage and rape seed. The neon yellow flowers, which appear in May, have a wonderful fragrance and attract plenty of bees. Grown in Europe since the Stone Age it has a long association with East Anglia, notably with Boudicca and the Iceni tribe who it is said used woad to colour their faces before going into battle. Woad is also believed to be antiseptic, and it may have been used to help heal battle wounds.

## Mixbury All Saints

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

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

### CHURCH SERVICES

**Services will be on the Second Sunday in the month at 9.15am.**

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

### MIXBURY CHURCH FLOWER ROTA 2023

If anyone would like to be added to the rota or removed, please contact Eryl Tobin on 07840 464541 or 848466. Thank you to all those who decorate our church with beautiful flowers. It's always appreciated.

|           |                             |
|-----------|-----------------------------|
| August    | Helen Backon                |
| September | Philippa brown              |
|           | Harvest Festival – Everyone |
| October   | Morag Westworth             |



### MIXBURY CHURCH CLEANING ROTA (Revised 2023 - 2024)

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to go on this rota in order to clean and to help maintain the church throughout the year. Your hard work is very much appreciated.

|           |                                      |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| August    | Rebecca Ayres and Eryl Tobin         |
| September | Giovanna Holdcroft and Tanya Howroyd |

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](mailto:markandtanya@yahoo.co.uk).

## BOOKS

Don't forget there are lots of books in the Church for villagers to borrow and exchange – straight ahead when you go in the door located just in front of the North Door.

## NEW HOME



A big Mixbury welcome to Becca, Farley and Oona the dog who have recently moved in to the village. We hope you will be very happy here.

## *Save The Date!*

*Mixbury Fete Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2023*

*At Mixbury Hall, courtesy of Gemma and Nigel Harris  
(thank you) more information to follow soon.....*

## 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

### Services -

Sunday 6th August - 9.15 a.m. Holy Communion

### Bonus Ball Lotto -

Our recent lucky winner was Peggy White.

### Harvest Festival & Lunch -

We are hoping to have our service of Harvest Thanksgiving followed by the very popular Harvest Lunch in early October. Please look out for the exact date in next month's magazine!

## Stoke Lyne St Peter's

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| CHURCHWARDEN: Christopher Poole <a href="mailto:CTP@oxford-educational.co.uk">CTP@oxford-educational.co.uk</a>     | Tel 01869 346020  |
| TREASURER: Janey Poole <a href="mailto:janey@oxford-educational.co.uk">janey@oxford-educational.co.uk</a>          | Tel 07810 120457  |
| PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Emma Brown <a href="mailto:emmabrown911@gmail.com">emmabrown911@gmail.com</a>          |                   |
| MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Rena Andrews <a href="mailto:renacyanlion@btinternet.com">renacyanlion@btinternet.com</a>  | Tel: 01869 346653 |
| PARISH ROOM BOOKINGS : Kelly and James Holden-White <a href="mailto:kholdenwhite@aol.com">kholdenwhite@aol.com</a> | Tel 01869 345211  |
| WEBSITE <a href="http://www.stokelyne.org">www.stokelyne.org</a>   |                   |

### St Peter's Church Stoke Lyne Services

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August – 'Food for Thought' at 10am  
 Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August – Benefice Service in Evenley Wood Garden at 11am (See page 5)  
 Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August – Holy Communion (10.45am)

### Flower Duty for August

Donita Read

### Midweek Holy Communion with soup lunch – Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> July

This is a lovely shortened communion service. Alice led the service assisted by Liz and the sermon by Alice was from an article in Pathfinder. The congregation is made up of people from across the Benefice who like this midday service.

After the service we moved to the tables set up for lunch of bread rolls and soup followed by pudding. There was lots of chat catching up with current events and news from other villages. Shelswell-by-the-Sea was going to be on Monday and Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> July and on the latter an outing was planned to visit Rev Yvonne Mullins who used to be our curate.

Thank you to Alice and Liz for preparing and cooking lunch and also to everyone who helped in any way.

Rena Andrews

### Food for Thought – Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July

We enjoyed a shared breakfast with lots of chat about our busy summer season (so far) and many of us have already been away on exciting holidays or have some to come. Congratulations to Amanda and Scott on their upcoming 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary and we loved hearing about their special holiday to celebrate this milestone.

Flora played one of our favourite hymns 'Seek Ye First' and we talked about what we can do more of (and less of). Most of the conversation revolved around the good things we see in our villages and towns and we considered how we could be more of a part of these things and to 'gossip the good'.

Our next service will be at 10am on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August with breakfast and short informal worship. Why not come along and try it?

Kelly Holden-White

### Stoke Lyne 100 Club – July Results

Results not available at the time of the magazine deadline.

## Film events in St. Peter's Church, Stoke Lyne– July

Our film events proved popular this month, with a small gathering of children and parents for our 'Strike Day' showing of Home Alone. The popcorn went down well and we look forward to 'Matilda' on 11<sup>th</sup> August at 1.30pm.

Our 12+ film was 'Top Gun Maverick' and was well attended, and again, the popcorn went down well! The film was fantastic and the cinema experience was enjoyed by all with the new sound system bringing the aviation antics of 'Maverick' to life. We look forward to seeing many of you on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August at 6.30pm for 'James Bond: No Time to Die'. Entrance is just £3 (including popcorn and soft drink) if you book ahead (contact Kelly [kholdenwhite@aol.com](mailto:kholdenwhite@aol.com)) Cash or chip and pin payment available on the night, or pay ahead using the bank details:

Parish Meeting Room Stoke Lyne  
40-10-16  
11165968  
HSBC

Kelly Holden-White

## Stoke Lyne W.I. – Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> July

Report to follow in next month's magazine as the July meeting was beyond this month's magazine deadline.

## A look at the other Holt Memorials in the Church (a follow up to last month's piece on William Holt's memorial)

Ralph Holt's memorial can be found on the wall above the organ. It is very difficult to get an unobstructed view of it without taking your chances on the steps up to the tower.

According to the Holt family tree in J. C. Blomfield 's section on Stoke Lyne in the "History of the Present Deanery of Bicester," series, published in 1894, Ralph was the son of Thomas Holt and Susan Petty. He was the great x 2 grandson of William Holt whose memorial is to the left of the altar which was discussed in the July issue of Shelswell News.

The 2017 edition of "The Buildings of England" describes it as: "*Large tablet of grey marble, with Composite columns and swan-neck pediment*". I had to google what was meant by these descriptive terms. A Composite column is "*a Roman-designed column style that combines characteristics of the ancient Greek-era Ionic and the Corinthian columns. Composite columns have highly decorated capitals (tops)*" while a swan-neck pediment is: "*a broken pediment, the outline of which consists of a pair of S-curves tangent to the cornice level at the ends of the pediment, rising to a pair of scrolls on either side of the centre, where a finial often rises between the scrolls.*"

The inscription on the tablet reads: *To the Memory of Ralph Holt Esq Lord of this manor who died Aug y 22nd 1702 in ye 65th year of his age. By his first wife Susanna, daughter of John Risley Esq. He had one daughter Susanna. By his second wife Susanna daughter of Francis Dodsworth Esq he had 7 children. Charles (who erected this monument), Elizabeth, Mary, William, Susanna, Thomas & Frances.*





Ralph married his first wife, **Susanna Risley**, on 26th September 1659 at Chetwode. Their marriage did not last long: she died on 19<sup>th</sup> March 1660, aged about 20, perhaps as a result of complications arising from giving birth to their child Susannah. Susanna (Senior) is commemorated in St Mary and St Nicholas Church in Chetwode – an image of the memorial tablet can be found on the FindaGrave website:

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/229747853/susan-holt>.

The inscription reads: *“Here lyeth expecting a joyful Resurrection, the body of Susan, one of the daughters of Thomas Risley, of Chetwode, Esq., late the wife of Ralph Holt, of Stoke Lyne, in the County of Oxford, Esqr, who departed this mortal life the 19<sup>th</sup> of March, 1660, leaving behind her an only daughter.”*

His second wife **Susanna Dodsworth** is buried in the St Peter’s church and commemorated on a stone slab behind the altar:

Blomfield points out that it has been *“removed from its original position”*. He states that Ralph and Susanna married in Buckingham in 1664. From the Stoke Lyne burials register Susanna was buried on 16<sup>th</sup> January 1677. She would have been aged about 34 having been baptised in Whaddon on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1643.

According to the Victoria County History Ralph Holt became High Sheriff of Oxfordshire in 1678 (the appointment was listed in the London Gazette for November of that year), and held the manor until his death in 1702. He was succeeded by his son Charles, the last of the male line of the family, who probably held the manor until his death in 1731. Blomfield offers this account of Ralph: *“In the public strife of his early life he was a staunch Royalist. A story is current that having done some good service to Charles II, the King offered to bestow upon him a baronetcy or knighthood, as a mark of royal favour. But he declined the proffered honour, only asking that he might be allowed to wear his coat of arms on a bird’s breast”*. This was discussed in my article *“Coles, Hawks and Stoke Lyne Manor House”*, which was published in the July 2021 issue of Shelswell News.



Ralph’s sister **Susannah Holt** is also commemorated in the church on a slab in the floor of the chancel. She married the Rev. Edmund Major of Cowley. As the inscription says, she died on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1704.

You will see from the photographs that both Susanna Holt née Dodsworth and Susanna Major née Holt have the same set of symbols in the shields depicted on their memorial slabs but on opposite sides, namely three diagonal “fleurs-de-lis of the field” which can also be found in William Holt’s “achievement” by the altar. These seem to date back to the Holts of Gristlehurst near Bury in Lancashire from whom Blomfield states that William’s father Robert was descended. Wikipedia in an article entitled “Women in Heraldry” explains:

*When married, a woman has the option of uniting her arms with those of her husband in what are called marital arms; their arms are impaled, meaning they are placed side by side in the same shield, with those of the man on the dexter (left, as seen from the front) and those of his wife on the sinister (right, as seen from the front).*



If you click on the link provided above to look at the image of the memorial to Ralph’s first wife in Chetwode church you will see that her arms, too, have the three diagonal “fleurs-de-lis” on the same side as those of his second wife’s.

Susanna/Susannah seems to have been a popular female name of the time. The “Behind the Name” website gives this account of the name: *“From ‘Sousanna’, the Greek form of the Hebrew name ‘Shoshannah’. This was derived from the Hebrew word ‘shoshan’ meaning ‘lily’ ... In the Old Testament Apocrypha this is the name of a woman falsely accused of adultery. The prophet Daniel clears her name by tricking her accusers, who end up being condemned themselves. It also occurs in the New Testament belonging to a woman who ministers to Jesus.”* It adds: *“As an English name, it was occasionally used during the Middle Ages in honour of the Old Testament heroine. It did not become common until after the Protestant Reformation, at which time it was often spelled Susan.”*

While I was researching this article I discovered that the wall memorial to Ralph Holt (d. 1702) had been wrongly described as “Wall memorial to Susannah Holt d.1704” on the “National Heritage List for England” (NHLE) entry for St Peter’s church which appears on the “Historic England” website. As this listing is often cited by other websites I decided to email them to point out the error, supplying photographic evidence to back up my claim, and was surprised how quickly they responded and corrected the entry - so if anyone spots anything amiss with any entry anywhere on the NHLE, it is not “set in stone” and can be amended.

Brenda Hazel  
Photos by the author

**Stoke Lyne Film events – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August 1.30pm (kid’s film)  
and 6.30pm (+12 film)**  
in St Peter’s Church on our big screen and with our new sound system.



It’ll be around the midpoint in the school summer holidays, and might feel like a good time to enjoy a film! ‘Matilda’ the movie will be playing at 1.30pm.

AND, after the success of Top Gun Maverick, we’ve selected James Bond ‘No Time to Die’ (12) as our next film.

**£3 each (or £10 for a family) if booked in advance, price is including a soft drink and popcorn.**

**£5 each (£15 for a family) on the door.**

There will be a bar available in the evening.

Please send Kelly an email to say you are coming [kholdenwhite@aol.com](mailto:kholdenwhite@aol.com)

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

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

Tel 07941 273145


Tel 01869 278778

TREASURER: Fai Li

Tel 07725 009838

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Maxine Ling

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Vacant



# BOULES NIGHT!

## Stratton Audley 2023 Boules Cup Competition

*Book now! limited to 60 places this year! (To end in daylight!)*

### Sat 19<sup>th</sup> August 4pm for 4.30pm start


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

**Entry £20 18yrs+, £15 11-17yrs, £5 11-5yrs** cash or card on day  
includes supper and refreshments (Wine, Lager, Softies)

- Please bring a Boules set with you (if you have one!)
- Don't worry if you're on your own, a partner will be found for you!
- Play with your partner or child(ren) or mix up with friends or make new friends!
- Play to win prestigious "Stratton Audley Boules cup", Or,
- The "SA Plate"! The competition for those knocked out in round one.
- New shortened games to finish finals without car headlights!
- Hurry to book your place on the knockout competition board!

**Book Tickets for Competition & Catering to  
Emma at [emmaterhaar@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:emmaterhaar@yahoo.co.uk) or 07867 783938**

All proceeds are for the Church Fabric Fund of Stratton Audley Church  
(all food and drink very generously sponsored by Emma & Mark Ter Haar)



Non-participants very welcome  
for fun & a donation of  
£20/15/5 as above entry fees

## FOODBANK DONATIONS STILL REQUIRED

The foodbank donation point in the church porch in Stratton Audley, supporting Bicester Foodbank, is still in place and will remain so for the foreseeable future. Thank you very much to all those who have dropped donations into the box - please keep them coming! Urgently needed items are listed below. Please note that the Rector, Alice Goodall is now a 'Local Referrer' and can refer anyone who is in need to the Bicester Foodbank. Contact: Alice Goodall, The Rectory, Finmere 01280 848192 [alicegoodall313@gmail.com](mailto:alicegoodall313@gmail.com)

### URGENTLY NEEDED FOOD ITEMS

- TINNED RICE PUDDING
- TINNED MEAT MEALS
- TINNED SOUPS
- TINNED VEGETARIAN-SUITABLE MEALS

### WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF

- BREAKFAST CEREALS
- PASTA
- TEA BAGS
- TINNED SPAGHETTI
- BAKED BEANS

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Matthew chapter 13: 24-30, 36-43

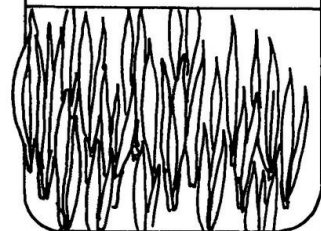
Jesus told this story to help explain  
what his Kingdom, the Kingdom of  
Heaven, is like. . .

A farmer's workers sowed  
good wheat seed in his field.

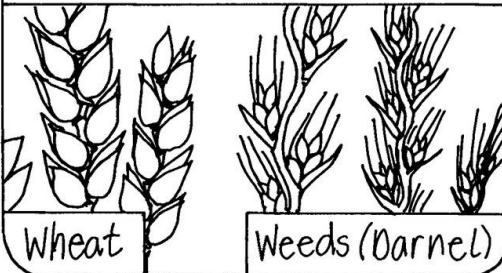


At night an enemy came  
and scattered weed seeds

When the seeds  
sprouted they  
looked the same



When the plants grew bigger  
the workers spotted the weeds



Wheat

Weeds (Darnel)

They asked the farmer



How did this happen?

An enemy did this



We'll pull  
up the weeds!

No, you might pull up  
some wheat with them.  
Wait until harvest time



You will be able to sort them  
out, and put the wheat in the  
barn ... and burn the weeds



People asked



What does  
this story mean?

The field is the world  
and the good seeds are  
the good people

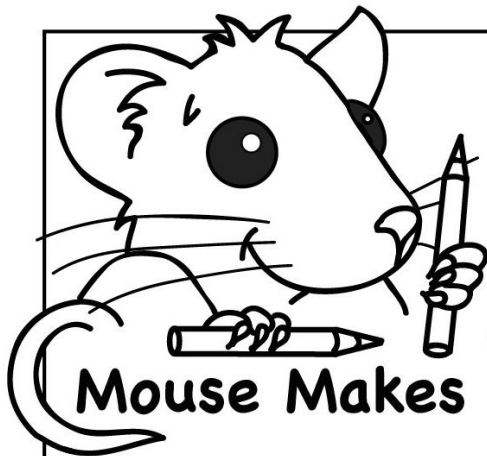


The weed seeds  
are the evil people. At the end  
of time they will be separated.

The angels will bring  
the good people to me  
in heaven.







## Mouse Makes

After Jesus miraculously fed 5,000+ people from two fish and five loaves, he sent his disciples off in a boat across the Sea of Galilee before going up a mountain by himself.

Later in the night, as the boat was being blown and buffeted by the wind, Jesus came miraculously walking on the water towards them...

Read the story in: *Matthew 14: 22-27,*  
*Mark 6:45-56 or John 6:16-21*

**What did Jesus do when he went up on the mountain?**

\_\_\_\_\_

*Matthew 14:23*

**What was the boat struggling against?**

The \_\_\_\_\_ and  
the \_\_\_\_\_

*Matthew 14:24*



**What did Jesus say to his disciples?**  
Do not be

\_\_\_\_\_

*Matthew 14:27*

**What did the disciples think Jesus was when they saw him walking on the sea?**

A \_\_\_\_\_

*Matthew 14:26*

**Who walked out on the water to Jesus?**

\_\_\_\_\_

*Matthew 14:29*

**What did Jesus say to Peter?**

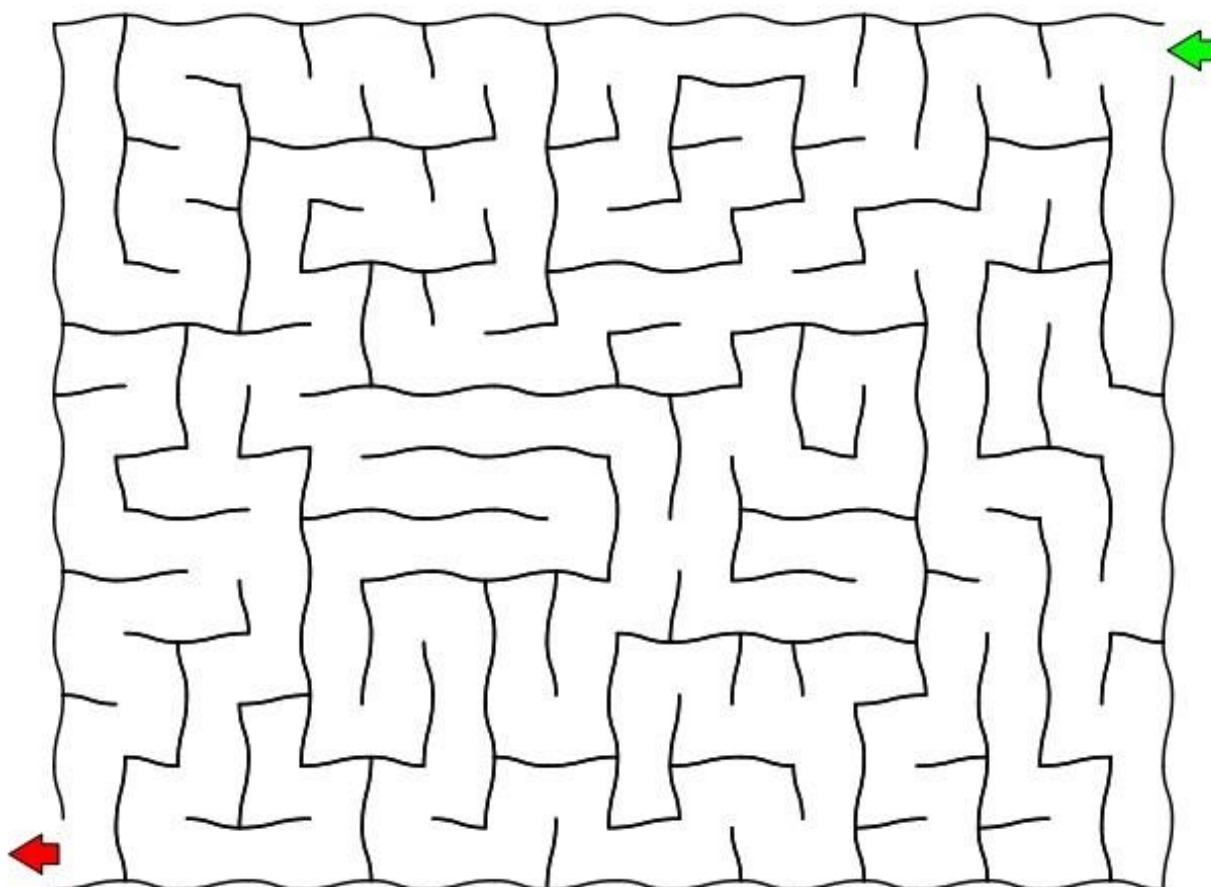
Oh you of little \_\_\_\_\_  
why do you \_\_\_\_\_

*Matthew 14:31*

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D I S C I P L E S A V E E U W A V E S  
G G H E T E R R I F I E D N D T E S U  
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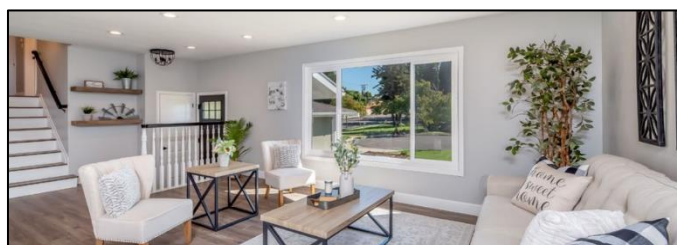
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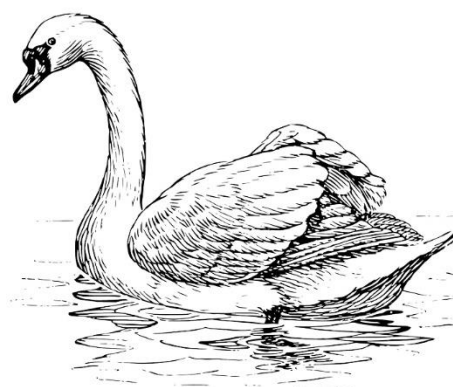


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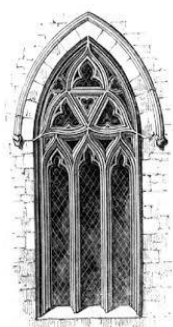
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