Shelswell News

The magazine of the Shelswell Group of Churches

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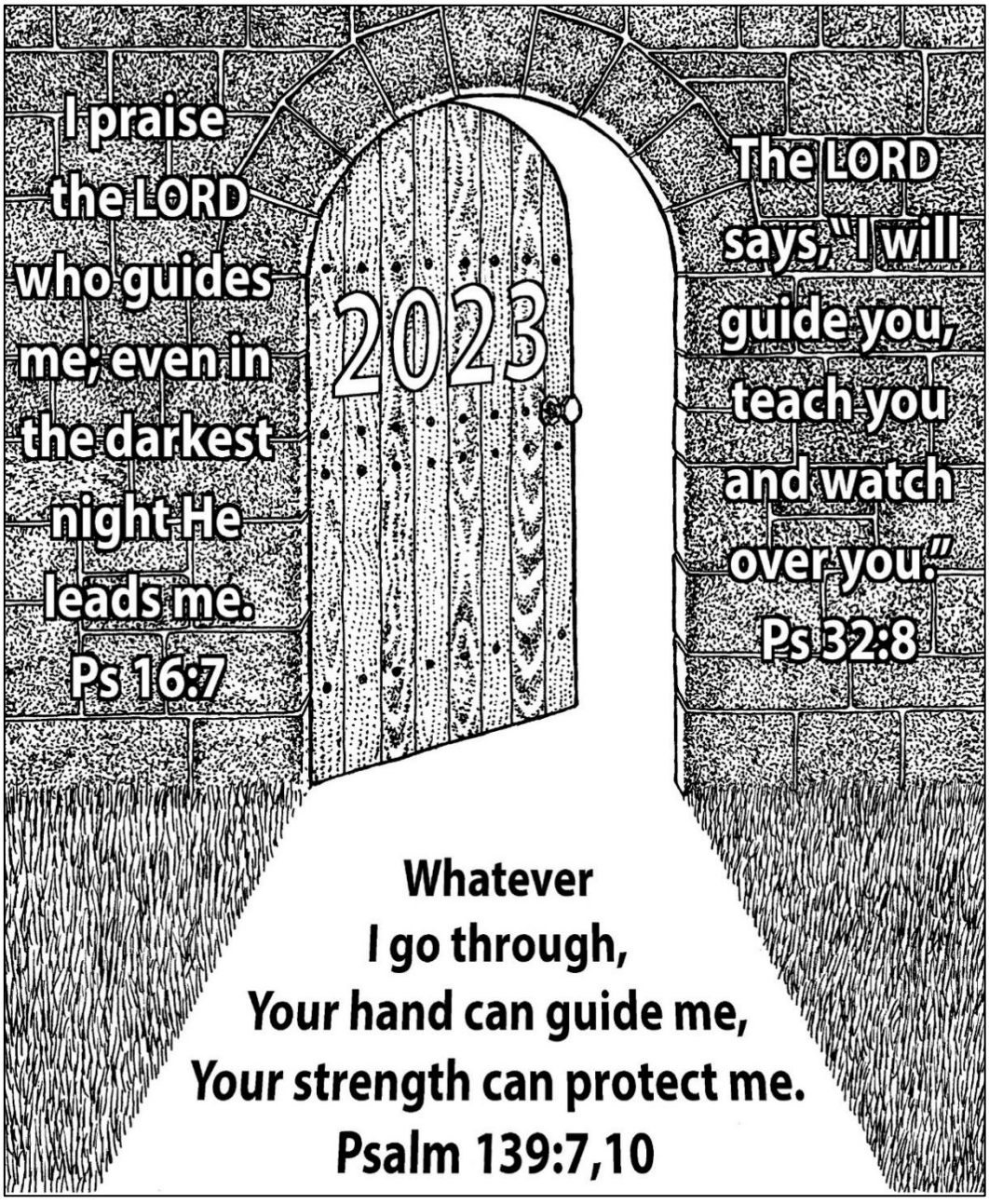

January 2023 **£1**

SHELSWELL BENEFICE MISSION STATEMENT

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

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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.holytrinityhethe.co.uk/

SHELSWELL NEWS

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Deadlines for the **February 2023** edition of Shelswell News
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Correspondents to Editor**: Sunday 15 January 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.

SHELSWELL 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 .

THE PRAYING HANDS

Albrecht Durer was born in the fifteenth century, near Nuremberg one of eighteen children. Albrecht's father, a goldsmith by profession, worked long hours and took any other odd jobs he could find in his neighbourhood merely to keep food on the table for his family.

Two of the children, Albrecht and Albert were talented artists. They both dreamt of pursuing their talent further, but they knew that their father would never be able to afford to send either of them to Nuremberg to study at the Academy.

So, the two boys worked out a plan. One would work in the nearby mines and support his brother with his earnings whilst the other would attend the academy. When that bother had finished his studies in four years they would swap. Albrecht won the toss of the coin and attended the academy whilst Albert went down into the mines and supported his brother during his studies with his earnings. Albrecht planned to swap in four years, either using income from sales of his artwork to support Albert, or by labouring in the mines.

Albert went down into the mines for the next four years and financed his brother, whose work at the academy was almost an immediate success. Albrecht's etchings, woodcuts, and his oils were often far better than those of most of his professors. By the time he graduated, he was beginning to earn considerable fees for his commissioned works.

After four years the young artist Albrecht returned to his village, ready to pay for his brother's time at the academy. The Durer family held a festive dinner to celebrate Albrecht's return. After the meal, Albrecht rose to drink a toast to his beloved brother thanking him for the years of sacrifice that had enabled Albrecht to fulfil his ambition. His closing words were, "And now, Albert, blessed brother of mine, now it is your turn. Now you can go to Nuremberg to pursue your dream, and I will take care of you."

Albert sat, tears streaming down his face. Shaking his lowered head from side to side, he sobbed and repeated, over and over: "No, no, no, no." Finally Albert rose, and holding his hands close to his right cheek, he said "No, brother. I cannot go to Nuremberg. It is too late for me. Look what four years in the mines have done to my hands! No, brother ... for me it is too late." The bones in every finger had been smashed at least once, and were now suffering from arthritis, the thumbs were bent and twisted. It was difficult even to hold the glass toasting his brother, much less make delicate lines on parchment or canvas with a pen or a brush.

Albrecht paid homage to his brother for all he had sacrificed and painstakingly sketched his brother's hands with palms together and thin fingers stretched skyward simply calling the drawing "Hands". The picture shows the crooked thumb and the gnarled hands that could not close due to the abuse the mines had wrought.

The world renamed his tribute of love "The Praying Hands". This story is an example of unconditional love and grace, and a reminder to us all that no one ever makes it alone, we all need someone!

(This article was taken from 'The Parish Window' – www.parishwindow.co.uk)

BIBLE READINGS

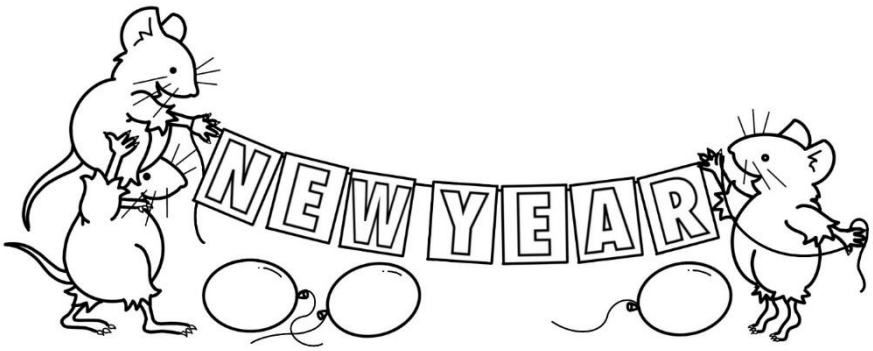
Sunday 1st January	2nd Sunday of Christmas	Isaiah 63 v7-9 Hebrews 2 v10-end Matthew 2 v13-end
Sunday 8th January	Epiphany	Isaiah 60 v1-6 Ephesians 3 v1-12 Matthew 2 v1-12
Sunday 15th January	2nd Sunday of Epiphany	Isaiah 49 v1-7 1 Corinthians 1 v1-9 John 1 v29-42
Sunday 22nd January	3rd Sunday of Epiphany	Isaiah 9 v1-4 1 Corinthians 1 v10-18 Matthew 4 v12-23
Sunday 29th January	4th Sunday of Epiphany	1 Kings 17 v8-16 1 Corinthians 1 v18-end John 2 v1-11

Monthly Mid-Week Service of Holy Communion and Lunch

The next Service will be in **Stoke Lyne Church**
on **Thursday 5th January** 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.

HELP – NEW BENEFICE TREASURER NEEDED!

We will shortly be needing a new treasurer for our group of churches. 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



'January brings the snow
Makes your feet and fingers glow'
(Flanders and Swann)

It may be January, it may be cold, but we do have Plough Sunday to look forward to! Look out your thermals and come and join the fun!

PLOUGH SUNDAY

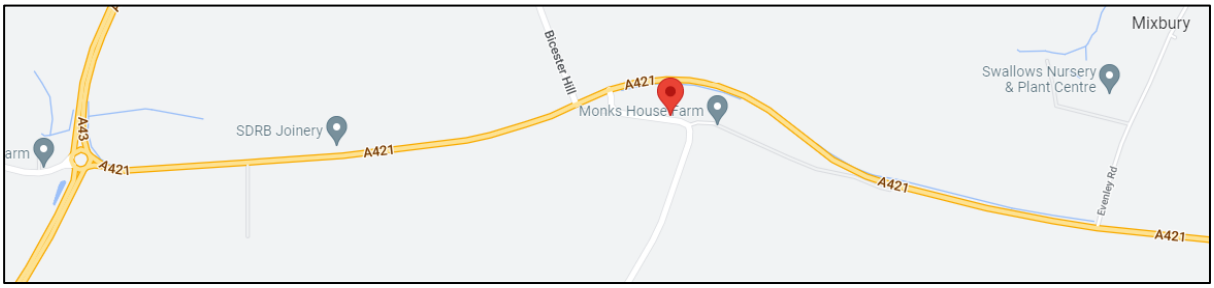
Come along to a special 'Plough Sunday'

Celebration of Rural Life

Join us as we ask God to bless those involved
in agriculture and the countryside.

11am
Sunday 29th January
Monks House Farm, Evenley, Brackley NN13 5SA
by kind permission of Robert Hawes

Speaker: Andrew Cotton, Agronomist



Plenty of parking in the yard.

Beer and pasties – of course!

The barn is well ventilated - wrap up warm!

Fun @ Four

4 – 5.30 pm

Sunday 15th January 2023

Stoke Lyne Church

Jesus calms the storm – and us!

Craft, prayer and praise, sandwiches and cake

All welcome!

There is no charge for these activities.

GOD IN THE SCIENCES
'SCIENCE AND MIRACLES'

We live in a world where we can expect the sun to rise tomorrow and the milk to pour out of the bottle when we tilt it over our cereal. But for God, the properties of matter and the biological processes that we know and read about in textbooks are simply the usual ways He works. If He chooses to do something unexpected to demonstrate something about His character, His relationship with us, and His purposes, then He will.

A group of 14 UK-based science Professors wrote to the Times in 1984, saying that "We gladly accept the Virgin Birth, the gospel miracles, and the Resurrection of Christ as historical events. We know that we are representative of many other scientists who are also Christians standing in the historical tradition of the churches." For the non-believer, I would suggest a thought experiment: if God exists, why should He be bound by the same laws of physics as us?

Professor Christine Done is an Astrophysicist at the University of Durham. In the book *True Scientists, True Faith* (Monarch, 2014) she writes: "Even when I was an atheist I used to get cross at discussions…on how all Jesus's miracles could be physically explained. To me, once you have believed in a God, a supernatural being, then it's obvious that supernatural stuff could happen, since any God who can make the physical universe and its laws can presumably suspend those laws in any time and way He chooses."

There are also miracles which appear to be a case of wonderful timing. The wind blew all night, and the Israelites crossed the Red Sea on dry land, for example. The biblical writers don't seem especially interested in distinguishing between wonders that seem to break the usual rules of how things happen and those that don't.

Many in Jesus' audiences were not won over by His wonders. Most of the people in the crowds who ate the food He produced out of nowhere were quite happy to turn on Him when the religious authorities decided He was dangerous. We can only make sense of something unexpected, such as an answer to prayer for healing, in the context of a growing relationship with God.

The exciting task for a Christian is to explain what this interaction looks like, and to demonstrate what 'your kingdom come' looks like in our
communities. God works through us in words, works *and* wonders.

From a series of articles written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, 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.

INCREASE TO ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

We do hope you have enjoyed receiving your copy of 'Shelswell News' every month over the past year. As usual, subscriptions fall due this month, and due to increases in our costs of production, we have had 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 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.

POPPY APPEAL 2022

Despite the very tough economic climate, the Shelswell villages surpassed themselves with generosity for this year's Poppy Appeal raising a stunning total of **£3,348.80**, which is the largest amount in the last 4 years

As always, huge thanks are due to the Village Collectors who go from door-to-door, in all weathers, spreading the word and rattling their tins; their supreme efforts raise the bulk of the donations (even without the advantage a card-reading machine, which we are negotiating for next year). Great thanks are also due to all those Churches in the Benefice who very generously donate their Remembrance Sunday Collections and to the PCCs and Parish Councils who purchase Wreaths (and also those who donate even if they do not purchase a new Wreath). My gratitude, also, to all the pubs and the barn shop who very kindly allow us to clog up their counters with Poppy Trays

Mainly, my enormous thanks to all those in the Benefice who give so generously for such a great cause as the Royal British Legion who do so much good work for retired and servicing members of His Majesty's Armed Forces

Hugo Brown

WHAT THE FOODBANK HAS BEEN DOING FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas toy shop - Bicester Foodbank has been offering 'toy shop' vouchers to everyone who used the foodbank between 1st and 16th December. Local primary schools were also given vouchers to distribute. It was run from the foodbank premises (The Beacon) by a team of volunteers. The voucher entitled the recipient to pick new toys, stocking fillers and tasty treats for their children.

Christmas roast hampers - Christmas roast hampers were to everyone who used the foodbank between 5th and 21st December. The hampers included everything needed for a Christmas roast dinner and a £10 Tesco voucher to buy items such as fresh meat. They also supported the Mehiel Foundation with their Christmas sacks, which contained the same items and were delivered directly to local schools.

Festive lunches - As part of their Open Doors Café, the Foodbank provided hot lunches on the first four Fridays in December at the Methodist Church for the whole community. They use a **pay-as-you-feel** model so that it is accessible to everyone. They have tended to welcome about 50 people each week.

A huge 'thank you'

Many thanks for all your donations to the Foodbank. If you don't know, we have set up Foodbank Donation Points in the church porch or just inside the door at Cottisford, Finmere, Fringford, Hethe, Stoke Lyne and Stratton Audley. The Foodbank need all the donations they can get at the moment, so, if you are able, keep them coming!

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

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.

NEWS FROM WULU

New appointment – Bishop Zechariah has recently appointed Martin Ngula Simon to be development officer for Wulu Diocese.

The previous development officer, Philip Wau, was a great asset to Bishop Zechariah and very helpful to us, sending us lots of helpful information when we were initially supporting the Ox Plough project. Unfortunately the Wulu Diocese was unable to pay him adequately at the time and he was forced to seek alternative employment. It is good that an alternative appointment has been made and we look forward to getting to know Martin. We wish him well in his new post.

Teachers Incentive Scheme - The Incentive Scheme set up by Bishop Zechariah for the five teachers in the Wulu girls primary school is now in its third month. Although the teachers are supposedly paid by the Government, this happens erratically, which doesn't encourage the staff to stay or to put much effort in to their work. The incentive scheme gives each teacher approximately £63 a month and will hopefully encourage them, make them more committed to the school and improve the quality of teaching and learning

Please pray for the five teachers: Barnabus, Pauline, Rebecca, John and Peter.

Lulu Oil production - Bishop Zechariah has also sent a series of videos of the Lulu oil workers in Wulu. The small plant is well established, but it is hoped to expand it so that it can provide employment and income for more women. Although the photos feature lots of men, the business is mainly run by women for women, enabling them to help themselves and one another.

The Lulu tree, better known to us as the Shea nut tree, grows very well in this region. The fruit are harvested, dried, and pressed or ground. Then the oil is extracted and clarified. Good equipment makes the task much easier, but the women have to be well trained in its use.

As several of the workers are members of the Mothers Union, Bishop Zechariah is contacting the Mothers Union in the UK to see if they may be able to help support an expansion of the project.

Lulu Tree

Shea nuts

Processing

Drying

The finished products

Scan this code to donate our Wulu project

November's Soup Lunch

Thanks to everyone who came to the soup lunch on Thursday 3rd November at Stoke Lyne – as well as enjoying some very tasty soups, your donations also raised a fantastic £301 for the Girls Primary School in Wulu – amazing!

We will make our next donation of 600 USD in early January.

As always, thank you for supporting our link with Wulu.

Alice Goodall

8.12.2022

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

New term starts on Wednesday 4th January

Little Lambs

Baby and Toddler group

Wednesdays (Term Time)
at 9.30am - 11.00am.

We meet
in Stratton Audley Church
for play, music and stories.
Tea, coffee and snacks
for Adults and Toddlers.

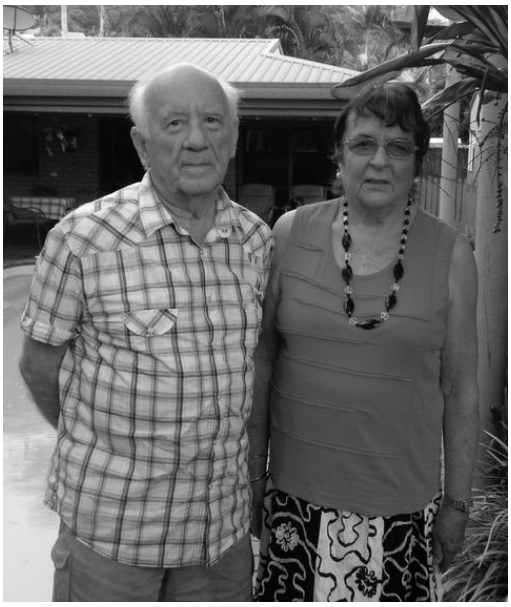
REGISTRY

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

Obituaries

John Charles Buckingham JP 22nd January 1924 - 18th May 2016

Faye Eona Buckingham 30th April 1930 - 21st September 2017



John was born on 22nd January 1924 at Tower Farm near Souldern. John was the 5th Child of Lovell and Blanche Ann Buckingham. They had nine children.

Faye was born on 30th April 1930 in the suburb of St Heliers in Auckland New Zealand. She was the eldest child of Albert John and Eona Valentine Clapcott. They had two children. Faye's father was a successful shirt and pyjama manufacturer in Auckland who had emigrated to New Zealand in 1924 to set up his business. Faye's mother Eona was an accomplished painter and pianist.

Around 1935 John's parents moved to Fringford and took up the tenancy at Hall Farm. This was the beginning of the family's long association with the village and surrounding area. They spent over 30 years at Hall Farm before retiring to Amberley cottage. John's brother Albert moved into the cottage next door on the Main Street of the village.

John, along with his elder brother Fred and sister Betty, passed their scholarship entrance exams to the grammar school. Initially they went to the grammar school in Banbury. The move to Fringford meant they had to enrol at the grammar school in Bicester. At the Grammar School John was famous for his cartoons. His exercise books were covered with sketches of Churchill and other cabinet ministers, Adolf Hitler and his cronies, John's teachers and other acquaintances.

At the beginning of World War 2 many children were evacuated to Fringford from London. John's father Lovell was made Billeting Officer for Fringford and the surrounding villages for the placement of all the evacuees into suitable homes.

At the same time John was asked to volunteer to be an Air Raid Warden in Fringford despite being still at school. He was given a uniform and worked alongside the local Home Guard. John's older brother Fred was also an Air Raid Warden at the time.

When John left school in 1941 he enlisted into the RAF, but he was deferred for a year and placed into the RAF Reserve. In the meantime he joined the Air Training Corps (ATC) at RAF Bicester where he had some basic training as a pilot. While John was waiting to be called up he also began training as a Public Health Inspector in Thame. John eventually enrolled into the RAF in June 1943. In 1947 he left the RAF to continue his training as a Health Inspector in Thame. He had his first job in Northern Ireland before applying to the colonial Office for a job in Fiji. He would spend the next 9 years in Fiji.

Faye grew up in Auckland in New Zealand. After primary school she was sent to the prestigious Waikato Diocesan Boarding School for Girls in Hamilton to complete her secondary school education. When she left school she wanted to go to Art School but she was persuaded to go to secretarial college.

In 1953 Faye went on holiday with a friend to Fiji where she met and later married John after a whirlwind romance in November 1953. Faye and John returned to Fringford on six months leave in the summer of 1954 and again in 1959 before settling down in England for the next 17 years. During this time John and Faye moved to Newport in South Wales, Witney and Romford in Essex and regularly visited Fringford with their children. John's younger brothers David and Alan were members of the Fringford cricket and football teams in the 1950's and 1960's.

In 1976 John was offered a position in Auckland in New Zealand where he worked until his retirement in 1989. Faye also worked for the City Council in Auckland in the Secretariat Department. She retired at the same time as John. In 1989 John was made a JP. He was also Chairman of the Westmere branch of the Labour Party. In 1995 they moved to the resort of Onemana on the Coromandel Peninsula, before finally moving to Cairns in Queensland in Australia in 2004 where they spent their remaining years.

Growing up, John was full of mischief and had a great sense of humour which he never lost. He also had a keen interest in politics and social justice. John was famous for his drawings and cartoons as well as his love of crosswords.

Faye was a devoted mother and a loving wife. She also had a wicked sense of humour and got on with almost anyone as she enjoyed the company of others. Both John and Faye loved going to opening nights at the theatre and the the various Art Societies they belonged to. Faye was an accomplished artist who loved painting landscapes and still lifes. Both Faye and John were members of their local art clubs in Romford, Auckland and Cairns. Faye was also very musical, being an accomplished pianist, like her mother.

Although they moved to New Zealand and Australia both John and Faye always had very fond memories of the times they spent in Fringford, they cherished and they never forgot the ties they had with John's family and the village. During their retirement they returned to visit Fringford, family and friends in the UK on several occasions.

Their funeral services were held in Cairns in Australia and their ashes were interred in a short ceremony at St Michael and All Angels Church Fringford on 26th November 2022 where John's parents and two of his sisters Betty and Mary and her husband David Daniels are buried.

Both Faye and John were loving parents, grandparents and great grandparents. They leave behind 6 children, 7 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

David Buckingham. 30/11/2022.

Club News

SHELSWELL WI

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

Most of our members put on their Christmas outfits for our 'meeting' on the first of December, which was a Christmas meal at the Bure Farm in Bicester. It was our first Christmas meal out since 2019, and it proved a happy and fun evening.

Two walks have been organised by members recently – one involved a bus ride into Summertown, and a walk along the canal into the centre of the city, with coffee, lunch and shopping, for those who wanted to indulge. Then on the 6th December a group met up and strolled through the festive illuminations in Garth Park, in Bicester. Not perhaps the biggest display but certainly the lights and music made us all to feel very festive.

Also at the start of December the North Ploughley WI Group held their annual Carol Concert, at Lower Heyford. This was another opportunity for members to get into the festive spirit of Christmas.

As you can see there is a lot going on if you are a member of the WI and want to get involved. Our monthly meetings next year will include a talk on Chocolate, advice on how to take better photos, a visit to Bicester Heritage Museum, as well as a talk about Woman of importance in Oxford, to give a few examples. So if you are interested in any of these things, or just a bit inquisitive why not make it a New Year's Resolution to try out the WI – we meet the first Thursday of the month, in Fringford Village Hall, and we are always delighted to welcome new members or visitors who want to find out if its for them or not. Our first meeting next year is on January 5th.

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. There are trips planned to Windsor and Montacute House in 2023, as well as courses ranching from Patchwork and Quilting to a 'Day of Dance' and a talk on inn signs! 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)

All meetings are in Fringford Village Hall starting at 7.30 pm

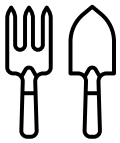
January 5th – Tea, Coffee and Chocolate: How we fell in love with caffeine with Melanie King

February 2nd Women in Oxford with Jane Dickinson

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

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

SHELSWELL GARDEN CLUB



This issue of the Shelswell News went to print before our meeting on 13 December. The evening was going to be a social event and competition.

We begin our programme again on 10th January when Terry Winters will tell the story of the development of the garden at Ordnance House.

In February (14th) Don Witton will give a talk on 'People, Plants, Pleasure and Passion.'

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 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

SHELSWELL POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP

At our December meeting we read and discussed poems on the theme of Family.

Frost at Midnight by Samuel Taylor Coleridge describes the poet sitting by the fire at night, with his baby son in a cradle beside him. Gazing at the fire, he thinks about what he wants for his son.

In ***Piano by D H Lawrence,*** the poet is moved to tears by the memory of sitting at his mother's feet as she played the piano, and memories play an important role in ***Family House by Gillian Clarke. Ruth Stone*** writes about how her family helped to make her the person she is in ***Pokeberries,*** and in ***One Sister have I in our house, Emily Dickinson*** writes about a sister lost in childhood. ***Christina Rossetti's*** poem ***Sister Maude*** is full of bitter sarcasm rather than family love. That links it with ***Life's Scars by Ella Wheeler Wilcox.***

Book Ends, and ***Long Distance,*** two poems by Tony Harrison, deal with the aftermath of his mother's death and ***Lines to my Grandfathers*** is about an earlier generation of his family. ***Hearts and Flowers by Roger Mc Gough*** is his portrait, full of humour but also compassion, of an eccentric aunt. Two other poems by him are ***Bye Bye Black Sheep,*** about his uncle, and ***Bars are Down,*** about his family's attitude to anyone outside their circle.

The Whole Duty of Children by Robert Louis Stevenson and ***The Children's Hour by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*** show great affection of their children.

In ***All in a Family Way,*** written in 1826, when Britain was paying off its debts incurred by the Napoleonic Wars, is a bitterly humorous diatribe about the political caste or 'family' which allows people to live in poverty through mismanagement of the country's finances.

Our January 2023 meeting is on Tuesday 17th at 10.30 am and the theme is Flowers. If you would like to join us, contact me on 01869 811994 or at judith.harvey@live.co.uk

Judith Harvey

SHELSWELL READING GROUP

The December choice was ***Memory Stones by Caroline Brothers,*** a book set in Argentina. It proved to be a divisive read. Some found it 'overwritten' and too full of descriptive language, whilst others enjoyed its colourful and lyrical style. It shone a light into some dark corners of South America's past and addressed questions about life and identity.

The book to be discussed at the meeting on Thursday 19th January is ***The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman.*** As part of the meeting, each member will talk about a classic novel they have enjoyed. The books are :

Villette by Charlotte Bronte
Watership Down by Richard Adams
Catcher in the Rye by J D Salinger
Orlando by Virginia Woolf
The House of Mirth by Edith Wharton
Vanity Fair by William Thackeray
The Graduate by Charles Webb

Other books discussed at the December meeting were:
The Great Gatsby by Scott Fitzgerald
Washington Square by Henry James
Madame Bovary by Gustave Flaubert
The Edwardians by Vita Sackville-West
The Mill on the Floss by George Eliot
Agnes Gray by Anne Bronte
The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck
Brave New World by Aldous Huxley
All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque
Another Country by James Baldwin
The Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton
North and South by Elizabeth Gaskell
The Sea, The Sea by Iris Murdoch
The Time Machine by H G Wells
How to Kill Your Family by Bella Mackie
Seven Moons of Maali Almeida by Shehan Karunatilaka
Reading Lolita in Tehran by Azar Nafisa
Burying the Typewriter by Carmen Bugen

FINMERE SCHOOL CHOIR

Finmere School choir were invited by the local community to sing at the village light switch-on and afterwards at the Church Service. It was a special evening and the children enjoyed the opportunity of singing in front of an audience. They sang beautifully and the event was well received by all who attended on such a chilly night.

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

noda
Be inspired by amateur theatre

Launton Village Players present
their 36th pantomime

LAUNTON VILLAGE PLAYERS
Registered Charity Number 1190149

Hickory Dickory Dock

A traditional family pantomime

Weds 15th to Sat 18th Feb 2023

Date	Performance Times			Adult (18+)	Child	Babes in arms
Weds 15th Feb			7:30pm	£10	£5	Free
Thurs 16th Feb	10:30am	2:30pm		£12	£6	Free
Fri 17th Feb		2:30pm	7:30pm	£14	£7	Free
Sat 18th Feb		2:30pm	7:30pm	£14	£7	Free

Family tickets available at discounted prices!

Tickets available from
www.ticketsource.co.uk/lvp
(or call 07864 715708 for cash/cheque purchases or assistance)

Written by Rod and Nikki Fine
Music by Steve Webber
Directed by Julia West

In Cooper School Performance Hall, Bicester, OX26 4RS

Suitable for the whole family to enjoy from age 0 to 100!

Scan here for tickets!

All profits will be donated to Nai's House, Bicester

www.launtonvillageplayers.org.uk

LAUNTON VILLAGE PLAYERS PANTOMIME

Launton Village Players are presenting "Hickory Dickory Dock", a traditional family panto over February half term in Cooper School Performance Hall, Bicester.

We have 7 performances spread over 4 days from Wednesday 15th to Saturday 19th February, with morning, afternoon and evening shows. Tickets are on sale now from www.ticketsource.co.uk/lvp, or by calling 07864 715708. Ticket prices start at just £5 and family discounts are available. Book before 1st January and get an extra 10% off with the code EARLYBIRD.

All profits will be donated to Nai's House – a Bicester charity who provide vital mental health support to young people and their families.

Our award winning panto is a family show and suitable for all ages, with plenty of magic, comedy and audience participation. There are free puzzle sheets and glowsticks for the children so they can join in the magic, and refreshments are available before and during the show.

Hickory Dickory Dock is a less well known story, but includes all the usual pantomime elements. When the magical clock stops working, our heroes must travel to the four corners of the world to find the missing parts, meeting magical characters along the way. Will the mice run up the clock and defeat the baddie?

Come and enjoy Bicester's biggest and most magical panto and find out!

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 HillEmail: judith.harvey@live.co.uk

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

COTTISFORD AND JUNIPER HILL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Activity will resume in the New Year, with Pub Pop-Up Nights and Snowdrop Sunday (Sunday 12th February) already on the books. If anyone in Juniper Hill or Cottisford is willing to host a pub night or a coffee morning, please get in touch with Sandra Bickmore on sandrambickmore@gmail.com

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:

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.

From the new year, WiFi facilities are available within the hall.

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

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 years 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 & EVENTS

Services

- Sunday 1 January – Morning Worship at 10.45am
- Sunday 15 January – Holy Communion at 10.45am

On Sunday 29th January there will be a Plough Sunday Service at Monks House. It is for everyone in the Benefice.

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

Events

Events that took place in December will be reported on in February, since at the time of writing they had not yet happened!

Looking ahead, however, the Church Restoration Fund-raising Committee met in November to begin making plans for the **Fringford Beer Festival**. Note the date – **Saturday 10th June 2023.**

- If you would like to sponsor a barrel, cost £100, please contact Simon Knight on 07598 104444.
- If you'd like to help in some way – put up tents in advance, serve on the bar, help prepare the site on the day, clear up afterwards – contact Penny Wood on 277310.

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

You can still sign up to the 100 Club. Contact Christina McCullagh to register your involvement **ASAP, on 07867 515207.**

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

FRINGFORD FRIENDS NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT GROUP

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 email **silvercb1@outlook.com**

FRINGFORD VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

The Coffee Morning will be on Monday 16th January, 10.30am to 12 noon, in the Chinnery Room at the Village Hall. Do drop in. The January Fringford Church 100 Club draw will take place that morning.

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
FS Dance Monday & Wednesday (term time) After school classes BALLET • TAP • MODERN • STREET leah.fsd@gmail.com or 07885827592	Village Coffee Morning All ages welcome Third Monday in the month - Chinnery Room Drop in anytime between 10.30 am and noon Penny Wood 01869 277310
Puppy Stars Dog Training Tuesday evening – various classes Contact Nick 07542 131400 www.puppystars.co.uk	Parish Council Meeting All villagers welcome Third Monday in the month 7.45pm Contact 01844 237766 or fringford.parishclerk@gmail.com
Fringford Yoga Wednesday (term time) 9.30am – 11am Carolyn White 01869 277161	Axis Sound Bath Meditation First Sunday of the month from 7.30pm contact@holisticaxis.com
Just Puppies Puppy Training Wednesday evening – various classes Contact Kerri 07720 891489 www.justpuppies.training	Shelswell WI First Thursday of the month 7.30pm Contact Elaine Whittaker 07917 453224
Pilates (starting January) Thursday at 10.00am natashaflowerspilates@gmail.com or 07545 525820	Mindfulness Meditation Monthly Sunday 11am to 12.30pm janerainey17@gmail.com or 07971 008337
Village Hall Meeting Every 6 weeks – 7.30pm Open meetings – all welcome Contact Helen 01869 278260	Fringford Sewcial Sew and Chat! Alternate monthly Wednesday from 7pm & Sunday from 3pm Contact Melissa at mamcs100@gmail.com

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

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: http://hardwickvillage.btck.co.uk

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

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

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 Tel 01869 277366
TREASURER: Mike Green, Greenhill Cottage, Main Street, Hethe Tel 01869 278166
PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Flora Skinner as above
MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Mike Green as above Tel 01869 278166
WEBSITE: www.hethe.org

Best wishes for the New Year.

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

Why not start off 2023 by attending one of our services! Everyone is welcome. See the back page for details. You will be welcome at services at any of our churches in the benefice, or if you are away from the village, you can find a nearby service through the web site https://www.achurchnearyou.com.

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

Churchyard Maintenance

No volunteers yet to help maintain the churchyard. If you can spare some time, please let us know.

How the parish pays to keep the church open and available….

Regular giving is still the best source of income for the church. Later this year there will be a feature in Parish Giving to make a one-off gift through a single transaction using a debit or credit card, or Apple or Google Pay, using the secure PGS website. I will let you know when this is available. In the meantime, there are the following options:

⇐ 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. Also, thanks to everyone who helped decorate the church for Christmas.

Next PCC meeting Wednesday 11th January. If you wish to raise any issues for consideration at the meeting, please inform one of the PCC members – Flora Skinner, Pauline O'Gorman, Helen Pritchard, Helen Wood, June Nisbet or Mike Green.

St Edmund & St George 100 Club

Results of the 46th draw held on Monday 14th November 2022

1st Prize No 6 Helen Pritchard Family
2nd Prize No 16 Helen Wood
3rd Prize No 8 Helen Pritchard Family

Results of the 47th draw held on Monday 14th November 2022

1st Prize No 33 Anne Mansfield
2nd Prize No 54 Pauline O'Gorman
3rd Prize No 43 Philip Mansfield

Many thanks to our members
Hethe PCC

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.

Community Tea Party on Sunday January 15th

Village Hall at 3pm

Come and meet neighbours and your three village organisations; find out about and have your say to the
Parish Council Village Hall Committee Church Council.

See what their plans are, tell them what you think and get involved!

A **warm** welcome, hot drink and cake awaits you …

HETHE COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

The next **Parish Council** meeting will be held this month - 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 fjskinner@hotmail.co.uk.

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

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.

Glass Recycling Bins – near the village hall.

Hethe Community Coffee Morning
in the Village Hall

Monday 9th January from 10.00am to 12.00pm

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

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 CORRESPNDENT: Sue Goodman pasgoodman551@gmail.com Tel 01280 848002

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

CHURCH SERVICES

Services will be on the third Sunday in the month at 9.15am.
This month Mixbury Half Hour will be on Sunday 15th January (9.15am) and there will be a special Plough Sunday Service at Monks House Farm, Mixbury on Sunday 29th January at 11am
(see details on Page 5)

MIXBURY CHURCH FLOWER ROTA 2023

January	Sally Drummond-Hay
February	Melanie Soar
March	Emma Bray
April	Easter 17th April – Everyone
May	Barbara Mortimer
June	Kate Darby
July	Sue Goodman
August	Helen Backon
September	Philippa Brown
	Harvest festival – everyone
October	Morag Westworth
November	Fi Bairstow
December	Carol service and Christmas - everyone

Reserve Sam Lockwood

MIXBURY CHURCH CLEANING ROTA (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.

JANUARY Julie Mitchell and Helen Backon
FEBRUARY Rebecca Ayres and Eryl Tobin
MARCH Giovanna Holdcroft and Tanya Howroyd
APRIL Emma Bray and Viv Williams
MAY Alison Bailey, Pam Burrill and Jules Channon
JUNE Nicola Adams and Anna Howard
JULY Julie Mitchell and Helen Backon
AUGUST Rebecca Ayres and Eryl Tobin
SEPTEMBER Giovanna Holdcroft and Tanya Howroyd
OCTOBER Emma Bray and Viv Williams
NOVEMBER Alison Bailey, Pam Burrill and Jules Channon
DECEMBER Nicola Adams, Anna Howard & Sue Bosher

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.

WELCOME TO MIXBURY

A warm Mixbury welcome to Mike, Annie and doggies who have recently moved to the village, we hope you will be very happy living here.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Many thanks to Nicola Adams for organising another successful evening, the church buzzed with chatter and warmth possibly due to the mulled wine and mince pies.

MIXBURY CHURCH - CHURCHYARD MOWING

Thank you to everyone who has been mowing in 2022. As always, it takes a huge effort to keep on top of the maintenance, but so important that we keep it all looking good for the benefit of our village, and visitors alike, to enjoy this beautiful, peaceful place. The work is greatly appreciated.

If anyone is interested in volunteering to do some mowing in 2023, please contact James Tobin, 21 Mixbury, on 07999 938669. I will approach the existing team on the rota shortly, to check who is able to mow again, but newcomers are very welcome!!

Once again, many thanks indeed. James Tobin
On behalf of Mixbury PCC

Newton Purcell
St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDENS:	Ann von Maltzahn, Home Farm Shelswell Park	Tel 01280 848680
	Vacant	
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 – There will be one service for the benefice on New Year's Day; a Morning Service at 10.45am in Fringford. The next service in Newton will be Holy Communion on Sunday 5th February at 9.15am.

Carols by Candlelight -
This year's concert was better than ever and we had a completely full house! Our huge thanks to The Phoenix Singers who had put together a wonderful programme and to all who came to enjoy the evening.

Bonus Ball Lotto -
Recent lucky winners have been Will & Jackie Le Fevre and Marion Golding.
Why not make a New Year's resolution to join in on this fun way of helping our church. All details from Ann von Maltzahn on 01280 848680 or ann_maltzahn@yahoo.com

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:

St Peter's Church Stoke Lyne Services

Sunday 8th January – Evening Communion (6pm)
Sunday 15th January – 'Fun @ 4' (4pm)
Sunday 22nd January – Holy Communion (10.45am)

Flower Duty for January

Lisa Soper

Stoke Lyne 100 Club - November and December Results

The winners of November's 100 Club draw are as follows:

1st Prize	Membership No 52	R Mandle	£36.75
2nd Prize	Membership No 60	Craig Mitchell	£22.05
3rd Prize	Membership No 41	Harriet Wye	£14.70

The winners of December's 100 Club draw are as follows:

1st Prize	Membership No. 20	Jeanette Smith	£36.75
2nd Prize	Membership No 23	Elaine Barnes	£22.05
3rd Prize	Membership No 19	Ali Miller	£14.70

Thank you everyone for supporting the 100 club. It would be great to have more members so the prize money can be increased. Please spread the word and contact me if you would like to join.

Kind regards
Janey Poole, Treasurer St Peter's Church PCC

St Peter's Church Service of Remembrance – Sunday, 13th November

Parishioners of St Peter's, Stoke Lyne enjoyed a sombre Service of Remembrance on Sunday 13th November, officiated by Reverend Vicky Mellor. We paused our family service for the Act of Remembrance to remember and pay respects to the fallen of WW1, WW2 and other conflicts since 1945. Rena read the names from our two memorials and the traditional readings were read, one by Bertie Buckle and the other by Ben Brown.

The Last Post and Reveille were played, timed perfectly to fall silent for two minutes at 11.00 am, as the church bells tolled.

The service was well attended with over 40 people in the congregation and a very generous collection of £181 was given. £90 has been donated to The British Legion and a further £50 donated by the PCC.

It is very important to take just a few moments to pause, remember and give thanks:

"When you go home tell them of us and say: For your tomorrow we gave our today"

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

Chris Poole, Church Warden

Stoke Lyne Quiz – Saturday, 19th November

The return of the Stoke Lyne Quiz Night was a big success, with seven teams and an age range of 12 years – a fair bit older than that! Emma and Hugo had prepared a quiz which was packed full of questions to challenge our teams, including a round on Eurovision and The Royal Family. We were also encouraged to use our picture memories to recognise flags, a round which proved to be the most difficult. Flora's team from Hethe were winners and enjoyed a shared 'drinkable' prize.

Janey and Harriet provided fantastic food and everyone had a great time. Thank you to everyone who came to support the event, raising money for the upkeep of our Church. We will begin planning another quiz for the New Year, along with other community events. If you have any ideas, or would like to organise an event, please do get in touch.

Kelly Holden-White (01869 345211 kholdenwhite@aol.com)

Midweek communion and soup lunch – Thursday, 1st December

The service was led by Liz assisted by Alice. This being the start of Advent, the service was about Advent. Janey had brought the Advent wreath she had made this was duly lit by Liz.

Advent is about building foundations, in whatever you do in life you need to have good foundations. For example you wouldn't build your house in sand or marsh or it would collapse and this is true in our everyday walk of life and relationships. Advent is also a time when we can help others even if it is just a phone call to say how are you or can I help you.

We then had communion after which we moved over to the tables set for lunch served by Alice and Liz. We had a choice of soups and rolls followed by puddings, and tea/coffee.

This is a lovely service to get people across the Benefice together to socialise as since the Covid lockdown some people are still unsure about meeting up.

There was lots of chatter and future events were given out. Thank you to the Ministry team for their hard work in arranging these services.

Rena Andrews

Stoke Lyne Christmas Fair – Saturday, 3rd December

Thank you to everyone who came and/or contributed to the Christmas Fair today. We made £540 which will be split between Stoke Lyne church and Oxford Homeless Pathways. What a nice way to start Christmas.

Pippa Elliot

Dear Pippa

On behalf of the PCC of St Peter's, thank you to you and your team for providing an excellent Christmas Fayre on Saturday and for the generous donation to church funds. The donation will go towards the continued provision of high-quality space for use by the whole community.

Best wishes
Christopher T Poole
Church Warden

Food for Thought – Sunday, 4th December

We were very pleased to welcome some of Flora's relatives from York and Jack and Rachel from Oxford, who are getting married in 2023, to our service this month.

As it was the second Sunday of Advent, our focus was John the Baptist and the way in which he prepared the way for Jesus. We discussed the importance of preparing ourselves to enjoy the Christmas for the important reasons and trying not to get stressed out about the things that don't really matter.

Our next Food for Thought service will be at 10am on the 5th of February 2023 as the first Sunday of January is New Year's Day. Please join us for breakfast and informal worship.

Kelly Holden-White

Stoke Lyne W.I. – Thursday, December 8th 2022

Members met at our usual venue, Hethe village hall, at 12.00 ready for lunch at 12.30 where they were greeted on arrival with hot mulled wine or fruit juice before sitting down at beautifully decorated tables.

Rena welcomed all to the meeting. One of our members was celebrating a special wedding anniversary: 61 years.

This year our lunch was completely different to all other years. In previous years, the committee have cooked a selection of hot dishes with several choices with all the trimmings but this year it was decided to give the committee a rest from cooking the main meal and have FISH and CHIPS instead followed by a selection of puddings, tea/coffee mince pies and chocolates.

We then did a short piece of business while Celia went to collect the fish and chips which had been ordered. Members were given dates of future events coming up. Eight members attended the Group Carol service in the evening at Lower Heyford.

The January meeting will be a lunch out at The Trigger Pond, Bucknell at 12.30. There will be no competition at that meeting.

The competition for the December meeting was a Christmas cracker and Dorothea and Celia were the joint winners. The free raffle was won by Celia.

Judith put copies of a Christmas Trivia Quiz round. It is amazing how you forget what the favourite toys were in certain years. Another one I didn't know was what postmen were called in Victorian England - the answer was robins, because the uniforms were red. I must say no one got anywhere near the total of 30. Rena thanked Judith for doing the quiz and making us work our brain.

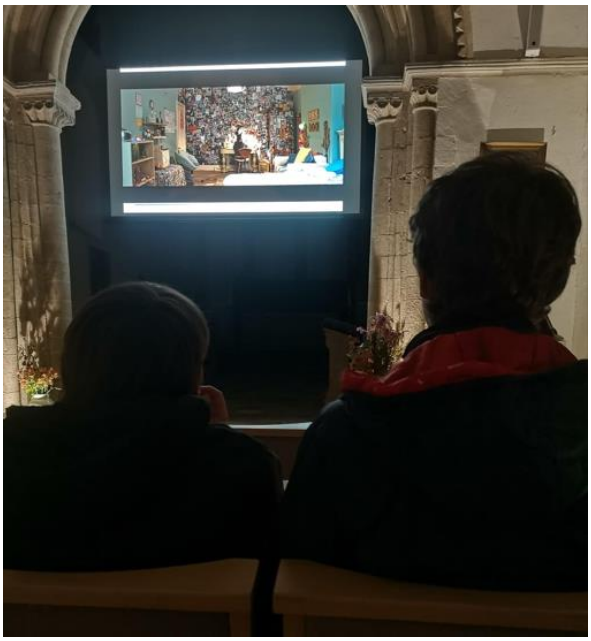
Sheila thanked the committee for providing all the puddings, chocolates etc and wished everyone joyous Seasons greetings.

Rena wished everyone a safe journey home and best wishes for the Festive season.

The meeting closed with the National Anthem and members being given a small gift upon departure

Rena Andrews

Film Night – 11th December



The first Stoke Lyne 'Film Night' was a showing of Paddington, along with tea, cake and ma'amalade sandwiches.

The big screen and projector provided a brilliant picture quality and a cosy atmosphere for what is a feel-good, family classic of our time.

We look forward to showing more films again soon. Let us know which films you would be interested in watching and which times/days you feel would best suit you and your families.

Kelly Holden-White
kholdenwhite@aol.com

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CHURCH SERVICES IN STRATTON AUDLEY

- **Morning Service on Sunday 8th January (10.45am)**
- **Holy Communion on Sunday 22nd January (9.15am)**
- **Plough Sunday Service at Monks House Farm, Mixbury on Sunday 29th January at 11am (see details on Page 5)**

CRAFT & CHRISTINGLE SUNDAY 4TH DECEMBER

Some of the village children had a creative and reflective time at the "Craft and Christingle" session at the church on Sunday 4th December (see photos below). There were a number of stations for card and ornament making as well as a Christmas prayer tree. The session included some tasty treats and ended with Christingles and a short worship time lead by Alice. Many thanks to Sophie Nelson for organising all the craft activities.

HISTORICAL VILLAGE INFORMATION ON DISPLAY IN THE CHURCH

The Shelswell History Festival in July took as its theme Trade and Transport and, although this seemed to have little to do with this village, the Local History Group produced information about the blacksmiths which were in Cherry Street (named after the blacksmith's family) the start of the postal service in this area (which was down to the Stevens family) and the existence of 33 lacemakers in the village in 1851, at a time when there were "12 Paupers receiving Parish Relief" - which is probably not unrelated.

In terms of "Transport", Stratton Audley is somewhat unique in being shown on a map of England of around 1690, amidst mainly large towns and cities, and it is believed that this may have been due to the existence of the Manor House where there could have been accommodation. This map is the first of the whole country and is based on the strip-maps of John Ogilby and, without a map such as this, it would be difficult to think in terms of "transport", hence a tenuous link to the festival's theme.

More information on these topics and the amazing life of John Ogilby are to be seen on the display boards which were used for the Festival and are still on display in the Church. It had been intended to take them down and put them into storage but the Church Warden is of the opinion that many people have taken an interest in them and suggested that they should be left on display for a little longer. If you know of someone who would be interested please let them know before they are put back into storage.

Dorothy Howarth

100 CLUB WINNERS

The winners in the 100 Club draw for the month of December 2022 are:

£60	Hook Family (110)
£40	Michael McCabe (156)
£20	Zoe Timmers (55)
£20	Maxine Ling (9)

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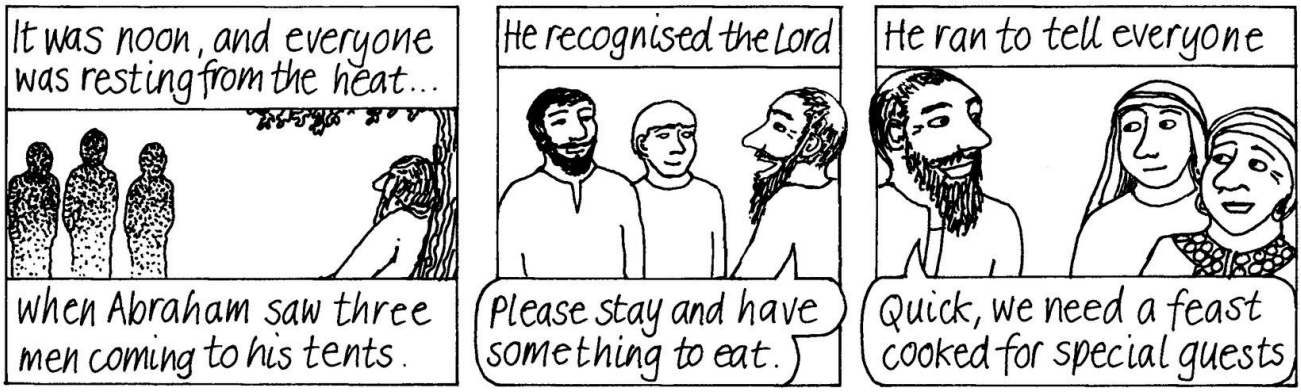

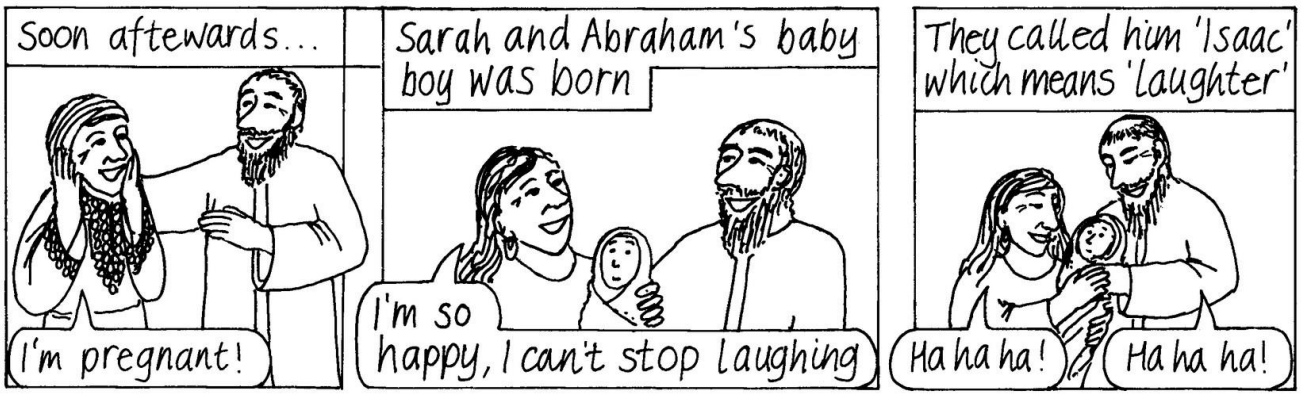

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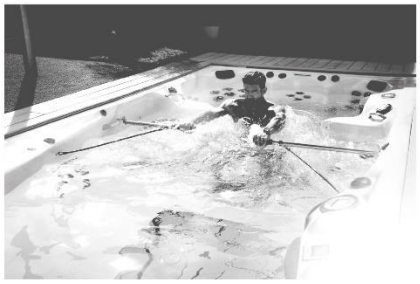

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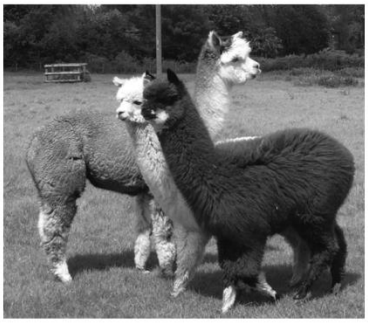

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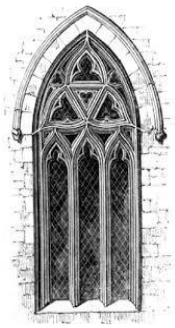

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SHELSWELL GROUP SERVICES: JANUARY 2023

CW: 'Common Worship' modern language service BCP: 'Book of Common Prayer' traditional language service

DATE	1st January 2nd Sunday of Christmas		8th January Epiphany	15th January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany	22nd January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany	29th January Presentation of Christ in the Temple
ALTAR	White		White	White	White	White
8.00 am					**Holy Communion (BCP)** **HETHE** AG	
9.15 am		**Thursday 5th January (12 noon)** **Midweek Holy Communion and Lunch** **STOKE LYNE**	**Holy Communion with hymns (CW)** **HETHE** LW **Morning Prayer** **FINMERE** Lay-led	**Holy Communion with hymns (CW)** **FINMERE** AG **Mixbury Half Hour** PW	**Holy Communion with hymns (CW)** **STRATTON AUDLEY** LW **Morning Prayer** **FINMERE** PW	
10.45 am	**10.45am** **Morning Service** FRINGFORD PW		**Holy Communion with hymns (BCP)** **COTTISFORD** AG **Morning Service** **STRATTON AUDLEY** PW	**10.45am** **Holy Communion with hymns (CW)** **FRINGFORD** MK **4pm** **'Fun at Four'** **STOKE LYNE** AG	**10.45am** **Holy Communion with hymns (CW)** **STOKE LYNE** AG **4pm** **Evensong with the Shelswell Group Choir** **HARDWICK** PW	**11am** **Benefice Service for Plough Sunday** at Monks House Farm, Mixbury NN13 5SA
6.00 pm			**Evening Communion** **STOKE LYNE** AG			

AG: Revd Alice Goodall MK: Revd Michael Kingston LW: Revd Liz Welters PW: Mrs Penny Wood (LLM)