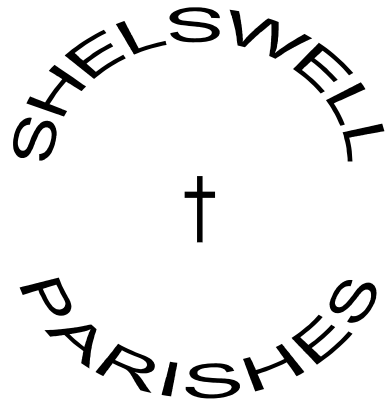


# Shelswell News

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



## 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, Fimmere, Buckingham MK18 4AT  
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### THE PARISHES ARE PART OF THE DEANERY OF BICESTER AND ISLIP AND THE DORCHESTER EPISCOPAL AREA OF THE DIOCESE OF OXFORD

#### HOLY TRINITY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, HETHE,

Mass: 4pm Saturday.

Weekday Mass: 9.30am Monday

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

Telephone: 01869 253277

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

#### SHELLOWELL NEWS

Published monthly. To subscribe, contact Mrs Becky Adams, Benefice Administrator, The Rectory, Water Stratford Road, Fimmere, Buckingham MK18 4AT Tel 01280 848192 Email [admin@shelswellparishes.info](mailto:admin@shelswellparishes.info)

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**Deadlines for the May 2024 edition of Shelswell News**

To Magazine Correspondents: **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April**

Correspondents to Editor: **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April at [editor@shelswellparishes.info](mailto:editor@shelswellparishes.info)**

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

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

**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

Thank you so much for your warm welcome into the Shelswell Benefice. As you probably know, my start here was severely disrupted by crashing my bike crossing the "Bainton Splash". As advised by a physiotherapist, that will be the last time I try to ford a stream on two wheels! The accident forced me into six weeks of convalescence, that coincided with Lent, the period when we reflect on the time Jesus spent in the wilderness following his baptism by John, and before starting his ministry in Galilee:

*At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.*  
Mark 1:12-13

Jesus needed to spend time away from the world, preparing for what was going to be an intense time of travelling, teaching, and healing. Regular "retreats" also became an integral part of his life pattern during his three years in Northern Israel.

At times my time at home did feel like being in the wilderness. In such circumstances it can be tempting to despair. But I was looked after by a loving wife, and many kind friends came to visit me – I certainly felt like I was attended by angels and not wild beasts! And I rapidly came to appreciate this new-found space in my life, space to relax (listening to my music back-catalogue!), sit in God's presence and reflect on what's next.

Isn't that something we all need to do? Modern life is that hectic, with so many priorities conflicting with each other, sometimes it can be hard to know how to plan or prepare for the future. Don't many of us feel over-faced, dissatisfied, and stressed out?

Perhaps surprisingly, the solution to this can be the opposite of what you might expect – rather than frantically dividing our time between planning and action, to take time out to rest, recharge our batteries and spend time with God. Those who do this regularly often find they have renewed energy, clarity of vision and motivation to get important things done.

Traditionally, Lent is a time of self-denial and reflection. But as that season comes to an end and we enter Easter, why not take forward a desire to create space in our lives to be kind to ourselves, that we might better love our neighbours?

### Prayer

*Loving Father,  
We thank you for the gift of life, and for this day.  
In the hustle and bustle of life, help us to set aside time:  
to rest,  
to focus our distracted senses on you,  
and to be restored in heart, soul and mind.  
As we bring our cares and worries to you,  
Give us a peace that surpasses all knowledge.  
In the name of your precious Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Amen.*



## BIBLE READINGS



Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter	Acts 4 v32-35 1 John 1 v1 – 2 v2 John 20 v19-end
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	Acts 3 v12-19 1 John 3 v1-7 Luke 24 v36b-48
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Acts 4 v5-12 1 John 3 v16-end John 10 v11-18
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Acts 8 v26-end 1 John 4 v7-end John 15 v1-8

### JOINT APCM

The parishes of the Shelswell Benefice will be holding one joint Annual Meeting again this year on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April in Stoke Lyne Parish Church starting at 7.30pm. Anyone from across our parishes is welcome to attend this meeting, but those on church electoral rolls are particularly encouraged to come along to hear about the work of the church over the last year and support the church officers. Only those on church electoral rolls are eligible to vote at the meeting. If you are not already on the electoral roll of your local church and would like to join then please contact Becky at The Rectory on 01280 848192 or email [admin@shelswellparishes.info](mailto:admin@shelswellparishes.info) Applications will need to be made by Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April so that the revised rolls can be published for the required period ahead of the meeting.

There will be other meetings locally to appoint Churchwardens. These are called 'Annual Meetings of Parishioners' or 'Vestry Meetings' and those which are still to take place are as follows:

Cottisford and Hardwick    Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April (following 9.15am service at Cottisford)

Finmere    Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April (following the 9.15am service)

Hethe    Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April (following the 9.15am service)

All meetings will be duly advertised via notices in church porches.

### MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION AND SOUP LUNCH Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April

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)

Craft and activities!

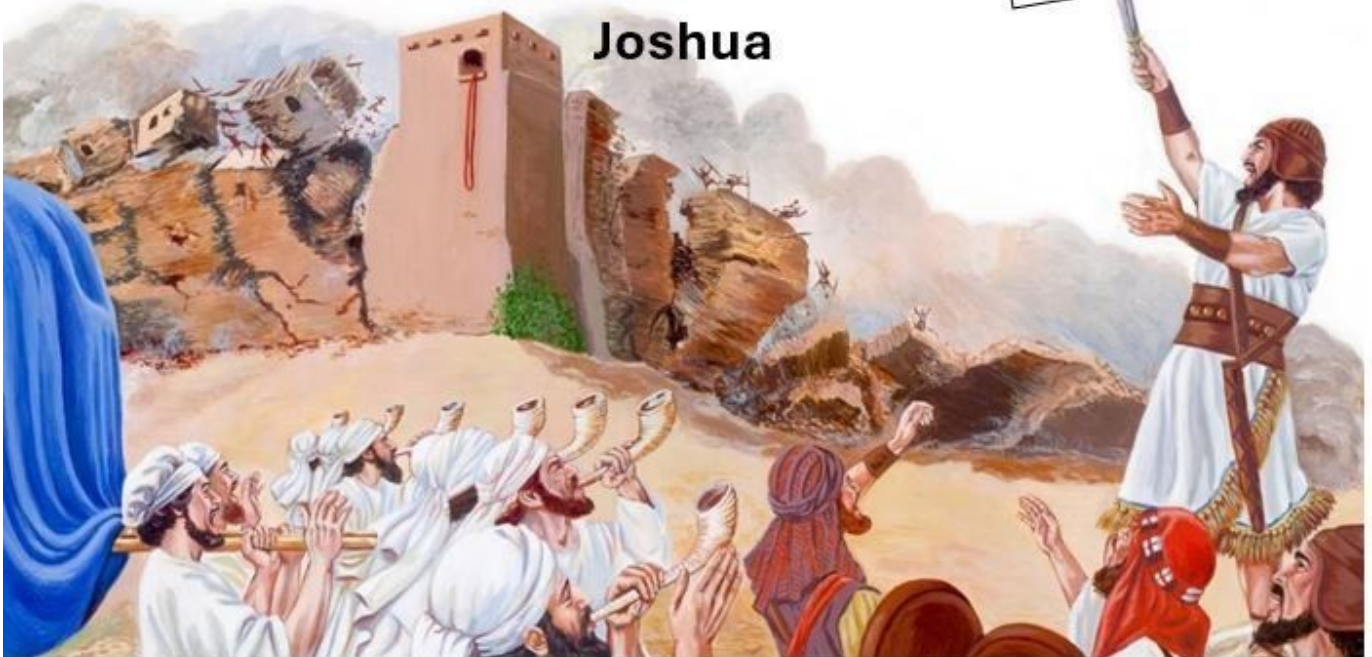
## Fun @ Four

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April  
4 – 5.30 pm  
Stoke Lyne Church

Prayer and praise!

Sandwiches and cake!

## Joshua



All welcome!

There is no charge for this event, but donations to cover costs are always appreciated.

### Public Switched Telephone Network withdrawal

Between now and 2025, most telephone providers such as BT, O2 or Virgin Media will be moving their customers from old analogue landlines to digital telephone services in preparation for taking the old telephone lines out of service. This means that landline services provided by home phones and some healthcare devices will no longer work and may need to be changed. For most people, the change is likely to be simply plugging the phone into a broadband router rather than the socket on the wall.

The old public switched telephone network does not require an electricity supply for a basic phone service, and its phone service is independent of both the electricity networks and the internet. Under the new arrangements, normal landline telephones will be connected to the internet, and will get a digital phone service via the internet.

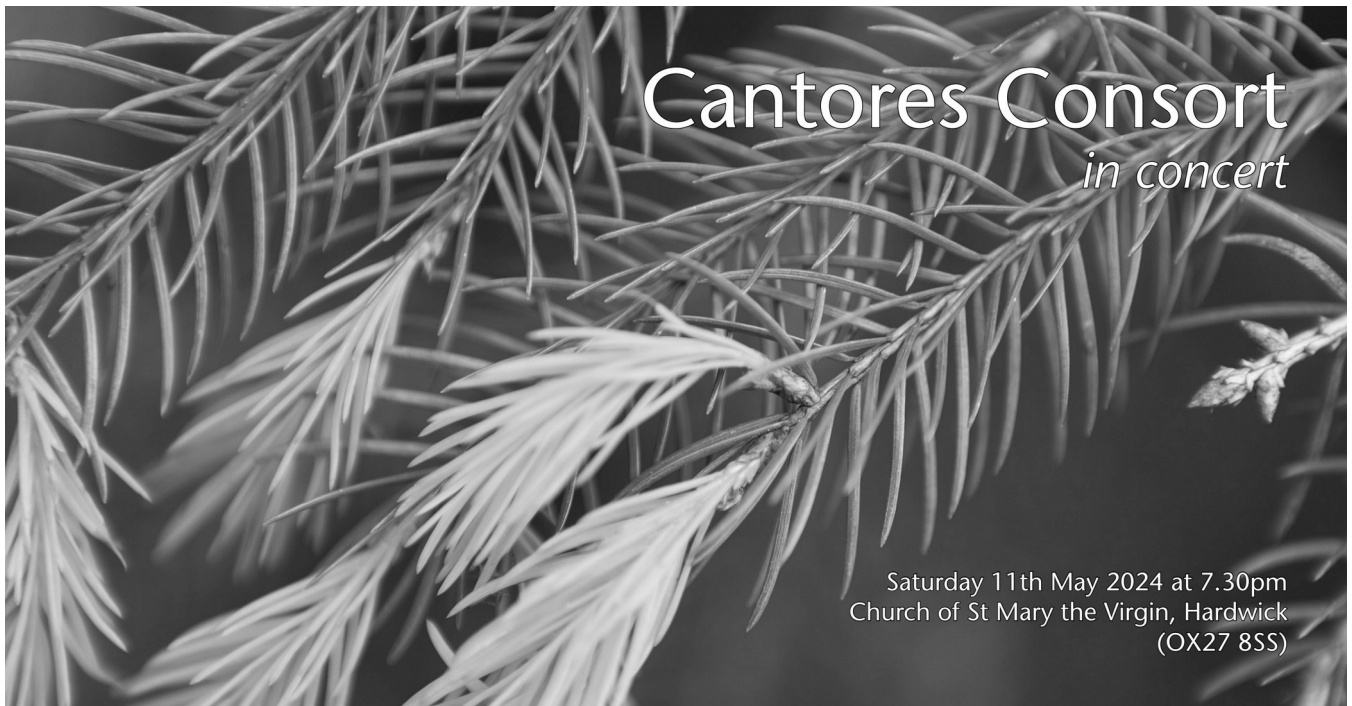
Internet telephony has been in use without problems for some years, with phones being plugged into a broadband router, and many people are already using internet telephony for their landline phones. However, it is important to note that it does require an electricity supply to power the router and is therefore vulnerable to power cuts.

For most residents, the change will be straightforward and telephone providers will advise their customers directly. It may be more involved if for example a customer

- depends on the phone and does not have a back up mobile in case of a power cut
- does not already have broadband internet
- has another telephone service-dependent device, for example a personal alarm or a healthcare device

More information is available from your telephone provider. Oxfordshire County Council also has a helpful information document at <https://oxfordshire.canto.global/v/communicationsportal> entitled "Public switched telephone network withdrawal"

## Hardwick Concert - Saturday 11th May at 7.30pm



Following last year's successful concert in the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Hardwick, Cantores Consort are returning in 2024. They are a group of five singers, singing unaccompanied music.

This year's programme, *Lovers Love the Spring*, includes music by William Byrd, Ralph Vaughan Williams and Kate Rusby as well as jazz standards and songs from Musicals featuring love and human relationships.

Concerts by Cantores Consort are always interesting, entertaining and great fun and we look forward immensely to hosting them.

***Refreshments will be provided and there will be a retiring collection for church funds, suggested donation £10 per person.***





# Stoke Lyne Craft Fair

**St Peter's Church, Stoke Lyne,  
OX27 8RU**


**Saturday 20 April  
12-4pm**

Locally made arts and crafts, refreshments,  
raffle and tombola



**In aid of  
The Hummingbird Centre and  
St Peter's Church**

If you are interested in a stall contact  
Ali - [alisonjanemiller@icloud.com](mailto:alisonjanemiller@icloud.com)/07762 719198 or  
Anoushka - [noosh105@gmail.com](mailto:noosh105@gmail.com)/07753 225279





## Lighthouse Shelswell 2024

**Save the date!**

**Jesus Rocks!**

Lighthouse Shelswell is a Christian based holiday club welcoming children of all faiths and none. It is loads of fun, with sport, craft, drama and music. This year's theme is 'Jesus Rocks' - it focuses on Peter and looks at the highs and lows of his friendship with Jesus.

Monday 29th July - Friday 2nd August  
in Finmere School  
for 4 – 11 year olds

Registration opens in May!

### Volunteer Registration is open – sign up now!

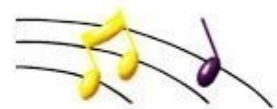
Lighthouse is facilitated by a great team of volunteers – adults and teenagers – but there is always room for more! There are lots of different roles including a Trustee, being an extra pair of hands in one of the children's groups, getting involved in the drama or sport, cleaning up and making coffee to keep the helpers going. Most of our volunteers keep coming back – I guess they must enjoy it!

If you would like to join us, go to <https://signmeup.org.uk/> and create an account – then you will be able to register as a volunteer.

If you would like to discuss it some more before doing this, then get in touch with me ([alicegoodall313@gmail.com](mailto:alicegoodall313@gmail.com) / 01280 848192). Alice Goodall



*Oh I do like to be at Lighthouse Shelswell!  
Really, it's the only place to be...*



## Shelswell-by-the-Sea – 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024

This took place at Finmere Village Hall. We met at 10.30 to tea/coffee cake and biscuits. There were tables set up to do different things such as crafts, jigsaw puzzles, newspapers etc. There were attendees from most of the villages in the Benefice and it is always nice to hear what is going on in other parishes. It was also nice to see our new Curate, Sam, there complete with walking stick after his nasty accident. Before lunch Liz gave an interesting talk on a book she had come across about the meaning of flowers.

A glass of sherry was given to those who wanted it. A delicious lunch consisting of a main course and a pudding was then served by the many voluntary helpers, with seconds if wished. On one of the days, we had a quiz prepared by Liz which got our brains going and we also had one of Marion's famous games which did likewise!







On the second day after lunch, we had a visit from Amanda who lives in Fringford. She had brought along some boxes with various items of historical interest to show us. Amanda works for Oxford Museums and goes out to schools etc. It was interesting to see some of the items she had brought along: there was a lot of needlework from the early 1900s, some of the more up to date patterns for dresses etc and lots of baby patterns a lot of us had used, costing 5d. If you want a pattern now it costs you £'s.

Everyone agreed it was a lovely two days.  
THANK YOU TO ALL THE MINISTRY TEAM  
AND VOLUNTEERS FOR COOKING AND  
HELPING IN ANY WAY TO MAKE THIS AN  
ENJOYABLE 2 DAYS!

Rena Andrews



**Reserve your places now!**  
**Shelswell Benefice Day**  
**Part of God's family**  
**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May**  
**10.45 am – 3 pm**  
**Church Farm, Stoke Lyne**

Come join us for a day of fun and fellowship as we celebrate being part of God's family in the Shelswell Benefice!

The day will be facilitated by Yvonne Morris, Discipleship Enabler for the Dorchester and Oxford Areas and a Children and Family Ministry specialist.

We will have a chance to explore some of the 'Space Makers' Contemplative Toolkit – a series of exercises based on ancient Christian practises to help us slow down and simply 'be'. Some of them are very similar to mindfulness - children at Finmere and Fringford Primary School will already have some experience of them. And in between those opportunities to be still, there will be glitter tubes to make, lunch to eat and people to get to know!

Whilst you can just turn up on the day, it would help us make sure we have enough food / chairs and materials if you are able to reserve your places in advance. Either use the QR code to book your tickets on Eventbrite, or return this little slip by post (The Rectory, Water Stratford Road, Finmere, Buckingham, MK18 4AT) or by email ([admin@shelswellparishes.info](mailto:admin@shelswellparishes.info))



Yes please, I would like to come to the Shelswell Benefice Day (please write the number of places you would like to reserve in the boxes below)

Adult       Child 0 – 4       Child 5 – 11       Child 12 - 18

Any particular needs, dietary or otherwise?

Your name \_\_\_\_\_ Your email \_\_\_\_\_

Your address \_\_\_\_\_

**An exhibition of drawings, paintings,  
sculpture, textiles and photography by  
Finmere artists**



**Art @  
St. Michael &  
All Angels**

**Showcasing art and artists of all ages and  
abilities in Finmere's**

**'Gallery in the Church'!**

**Open 10 - 4 Sat 11th & Sun 12th May**

**Do come along to support this community event!**

**Coffee, Tea & Cakes**

THE PHOENIX SINGERS  
with Trinity Camerata

St. Edburg's Church, Bicester

Mendelssohn's

# ELIJAH

Saturday April 20 at 7.30pm

Conducted by Justin Lavender

Soloists: Jean-Kristoff Bouton  
Georgie Malcolm  
Louise Crane  
Justin Jacobs

**Tickets: Adults £16, Students £5,  
Under 16 Free,**

**[www.wegottickets.com/Coles Books, Bicester](http://www.wegottickets.com/Coles Books, Bicester)  
On the door**

**[www.phoenixsingers.net](http://www.phoenixsingers.net)    [www.trinitycamerata.org](http://www.trinitycamerata.org)**

## NAI'S HOUSE

### MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (UNDER 30)

#### REACH OUT, WE'LL BE THERE.

#### OUR MISSION

To reduce suicide, self-harm and poor emotional and mental wellbeing in under 30's by providing suicide prevention and holistic mental health support to offer life-saving skills and strategies for now and the future, an increased sense of self and improved quality of life.

#### OUR ORGANISATION

Nai's House is a blended youth and wellbeing service that offers a new way to access and receive mental health support. Our approach is non-clinical, and it has been developed from the viewpoint of the service user. It is backed by research and incorporates many of the ideals that youth consultations and agencies have highlighted a need for. This means we can deliver a service that is flexible and informal in its approach.

#### OUR BELIEF

Prevention is the best approach to investing in the emotional and mental well-being of future generations and in reducing the number of deaths by suicide.

#### HOW WE HELP

We offer consistent, confidential support that is delivered in a non-clinical environment and is tailored to meet individual need.

#### OUR TEAM

Created and delivered by people powered by passion and by personal experiences, and motivated by the need to ensure that our future generation's well-being is properly invested in.

**CONTACT : 01869 242578      [hello@naishouse.org.uk](mailto:hello@naishouse.org.uk)**  
**NAI'S HOUSE, THE GARTH, LAUNTON ROAD, BICESTER, OX26 6PS**  
**[naishouse.org.uk](http://naishouse.org.uk)**



#### Knitting for Others

Firstly I would like to say thank you to everyone who has contributed to the wonderful collection of knitting that has now gone out to Ukraine. It is always much appreciated.

The knitting consisted of the following-

10 blankets

10 jumpers with matching hats

5 scarfs

9 knitted toys

5 pairs of bootees

12 jumpers

58 hats

I will continue to collect the knitted items. Feel free to drop them off at 2 Church Close, Fringford. I can be contacted on 01869 277404 if needed. If anyone has any spare double knitting wool, I can put it to good use.

Marion Crowther

## REGISTRY

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

### Funeral

*The obituary for Jean Alan Ward (Jim) (1932 – 2024) of Mixbury is in the Mixbury section of the magazine.*

### Baptisms

#### Oliver Robert Corbett

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024

St Mary the Virgin, Cottisford



It was lovely to be able to welcome Oliver and all his friends and family to Cottisford Church for his christening. Oliver is the first child of Mel and Tom Corbett and was just about four months old. He was wearing the same christening gown that Tom had been christened in, seemed to take the occasion very much in his stride, and was impeccably behaved.

Mel and Tom were married in Cottisford Church on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2021 – Alice the Rector was due to take the service but was struck down with covid and Yvonne the curate had to step into the breach. So on this occasion, Alice was really pleased not to have covid and to be able to christen Oliver! The family are now living in Fritwell, but wanted Oliver to be christened in Cottisford.

Oliver has lots of godparents – Huw Lloyd and Margaret Grecova, Brittany Allan, Richard Cadle and Frank Hancock. Brittany read our first reading from Isaiah 43: 1 – 3 a, reminding us how God has created us, knows us and calls us by name, and Huw read the second one from Matthew 18: 1 – 5 reminding us of how Jesus welcomed children and encourages us to do the same.

After the readings, we made baptingles to help us think more about baptism, and then we lit the candles and sang ‘He’s got the whole world in his hands’. During the service we also sang ‘Lord of all hopefulness’ and ‘One more step along the world I go.’ And we all wrote a prayer for Oliver which we put in a little box for him to read when he is older.

At the end of the service, Oliver was given his baptism candle by Huw, and also a Children’s Bible. We pray for Oliver that God will richly bless him throughout his life.



## Baptisms, continued

### Vogue Iris Gemma Lea

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2024

St Michael and All Angels, Fimmere

It was a very special Sunday service at Fimmere as we welcomed Vogue with her mum and dad Rhian and Dan and her godparents for her christening.



Vogue is five and a half, and a pupil at Fimmere School. Her mum was christened when she was about four years old and was pleased that she had some memories of the day. She wanted Vogue also to be able to remember her special day, and when she suggested to Vogue that she might want to be christened, Vogue thought it was an excellent idea. Vogue came to her christening wearing a very pretty dress, and for a bit of extra support Charlie the dog came along as well. He was very well behaved.

Vogue has four godparents: Karen Richardson, Sydney Richardson, Michael Anderson and Gemma McCauley.

The reading set for that Sunday just happened to be all about Jesus's baptism. In the reading we heard how Jesus heard God's voice saying 'you are my son and with you I am well pleased' and how God's spirit came down and rested on Jesus in the form of a dove. We thought about how when she was baptised it was as if God was saying to Vogue 'you are my Vogue, whom I love – with you I am well pleased' and how his spirit would come to be with her, always ready to help and guide her. Vogue took away an edible heart and a paper dove to remind her of this.

There were four hymns in the service – 'How great thou art' and 'O Jesus I have promised' chosen by Alice, and then 'He's got the whole world in his hands' and 'Lord of the Dance' chosen by Rhian and Dan.

At the end of the service, Vogue was given a baptism candle by Sylvia Nash, a long standing member of the congregation, and a children's Bible. And then there were some rather nice refreshments and a chance to chat.

We pray that this is the start of an amazing journey for Vogue in which she discovers more about God's love for her. We look forward to welcoming her, Rhian and Dan – and Charlie – to some more services.



## Tadhg John Keating

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024

St Mary and St Edburga, Stratton Audley

Tadhg (for the uninitiated, pronounced ‘tidge’ as in ‘tiger’ but without the ‘r’) was extraordinarily well behaved on the occasion of his christening on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February. Quite a few of his guests had travelled from Ireland especially for the occasion, and there were a good number of more local folk too. When Tadhg’s big sister Lottie was christened at St Mary and St Edburga’s, his mum and dad Lucy and John were living in Lambourn, but now much more conveniently they are in Finmere where Lottie goes to Finmere School and where Tadhg goes to the Little Lambs Toddler group. We also enjoy seeing them regularly at Fun @ Four.

Tadhg has two godparents, his uncle Neil Adams and one of his aunts, Hannah Keating. His great aunt Ruth read the Bible reading Matthew 18: 1 – 5 and Hannah read a poem ‘May you have stars to wish’. We all made baptingles to think about the meaning of baptism, and wrote a prayer for Tadhg for him to read when he is older.



May you have stars to wish on  
and mountains to climb.  
May you be happy, be curious  
and always be kind.  
May you go on adventures  
and make memories too.  
Be fearless and be brave.  
The world is waiting for you.

We sang three hymns, ‘Joyful, joyful, we adore thee’, ‘Sing hosanna’ and ‘Lord of the dance’ – the organ was played by Flora Skinner.

At the end of the service, Tadhg’s big sister Lottie held his baptism candle for him. Tadhg was given a little book of prayers, and Lottie very kindly agreed that she might perhaps read him some of these, as well as some of the stories from the Children’s Bible she was given at her christening.

After the service, and some photos, Tadhg and all his family and friends went off to the Littlemore Hotel in Bicester to celebrate.

We pray for God’s blessing on Tadhg and his family as he starts his christian journey – may he will grow up knowing God is always with him, ready to support and guide him come what may.



## Baptism of Francie Kathryn Stevens

and

### Thanksgiving for the marriage of Jessie and Jamie Stevens

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024

St Michael and All Angels, Fringford

It wasn't a very cold day, but the Rector couldn't work out how to switch the heating on until just before the service started, which meant it was a little chilly for the Stevens family's very special service. However given it was such a special occasion, no one minded too much.

There were two important things happening in the service. Firstly Francie Kathryn was being christened, and secondly Jessie and Jamie were giving thanks for their marriage. Jessie and Jamie have been together for ten years and married for 9, and they wanted to renew their marriage vows and ask God's blessing on their marriage.

The family live in Hucknall, Nottingham, near Jessie's mum, but Jamie's family live in Fringford. Both the older girls were christened in St Michael and All Angels, and it was lovely to welcome everyone back on this occasion.

Just three months old at the time of her baptism, Francie is Jessie and Jamie's third daughter. Her two big sisters Maisie Rae and Callie were looking very pretty in their lovely blue dresses and Francie was wearing the same christening robe and headband that they too had worn. Needless to say, family life is very hectic, and so very efficiently, Jessie had arranged the provisional date for her baptism and the thanksgiving before Francie was even born!

Francie has four godparent: Charlotte Allen, Kelly Freeman, Jacqueline Randtoul and Jamie Bowers. Indeed Kelly happens to be a godparent for all three girls.

During the course of the whole service there were three hymns: 'All things bright and beautiful', 'Great is thy faithfulness' and 'Jerusalem'. The organist was Pam Morgan.

We had two readings: 1 Corinthians 13 read by Jessie's grandad Bob Day, and 'If in the morning' read by Jamie's dad Bob Stevens. They had both read the same readings at Jamie and Jessie's wedding. In her talk, Alice reflected that the key theme of both readings was love, which was very applicable to baptism and the thanksgiving for Jessie and Jamie's marriage. She imagined how lovely it would be if the family returned to Fringford church in 50 years time, both to celebrate 60 years of Jessie and Jamie being together, and to talk about how important faith has been to the girls.



At the end of the service, Jessie and Jamie lit a marriage candle and said a prayer together, and the girls jointly lit a baptism candle for Francie. As they left the church, we gave them a big clap.

We pray that love will continue to grow and flourish in all their lives, that they continue to be there for one another, knowing that they are held by God who is always there for them.



## Club News

### SHELLOWELL WI



At our March meeting we held our AGM. Two of our current members stepped down and our thanks go to Sue and Christine who have both given up many hours to ensure that the Shelswell WI operates smoothly and efficiently. We then welcomed two new committee members and along the remaining three we hope to carry on the good work. After the official business cheese, wine and a quiz were enjoyed.

At the end of March Shelswell hosted the North Ploughly spring group meeting. Our speaker for the evening was Liz Woolley talking about Children and War - Experiences of the Second World War in Oxfordshire.

Future dates:

April 4 - Jane Finnerty - When Revolution Was the Only Solution

May 2 - Off site activity - TBC

June 6 - The History of The Privvy - Chris Bazeley

We are once again able to collect empty pill packets so please bring them along.

We always welcome new members. If you are interested, we meet on the first Thursday of the month in the village hall Fringford at 7.30pm. For more information contact Lesley Beagent on 07729 605670



### SHELLOWELL GARDEN CLUB



In February Don Witton gave a talk on Eurphorbias. This was most entertaining and full of good ideas for Spring flowers. Some of the ones of note included Bergenia 'Baby Doll' for a shady corner giving lovely pink flowers from April to May, Brunnera 'Hadspen Cream' has lovely cream variegation with small numerous blue flowers, loved by bees and pollinators. For a sunny border Erodium 'Spanish Eyes' has pink flowers and will flower if the soil is free draining.

Don told us about the best garden in Yorkshire - Breezy Knees - and the Plant Fair he runs in early May where he sells many of the plants he grows in his garden. This could be worth an outing.

For our March meeting we returned to Hethe village hall and welcomed Lucy Hartley. She spoke about **Climate Change and how it effects our gardens**. Lucy firstly highlighted the aspects of climate change including how the carbon cycle and water cycle work and are now changing. She showed impressive global maps indicating the increase in temperature from the 1950s to 2020s. Lucy suggested several actions for us as gardeners to enable us to adapt to the effects of climate change and increase the resilience of our gardens. Her two most important actions were to retain a patch of grass to grow wildflowers and to keep old/dead sticks, tree branches etc. and pile in a shady corner for wildlife and micro-organisms to thrive replenishing our soil and increasing biodiversity. Other suggestions were: - only use peat free compost, divide properties using hedges rather than fences (and after pruning, tuck the debris under the bottom of the hedge to decay and rot back into the soil (or possibly provide nesting areas for hedgehogs), avoid paving large areas and using pesticides, weed manually, grow plenty of pollinators, buy bare root plants and seeds, grow a green roof or even install solar panels. To keep our gardens growing we need to "embrace the concept of change".

On **April 9th** we will welcome Rob Jacobs who will talk about **Behind the scenes at Waterperry Gardens**.

Club membership fee is now **£15 per year**. This covers all speakers, zoom meetings in January and February as well as entry to the evening garden visits. The **visitor fee is now £5**, which will be refunded if the visitor decides to join the Club that evening. **Swallows Nursery** in Mixbury has kindly offered a discount to our members when you show your membership card.

*Shelswell Garden Club, continued*

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), or by Zoom in the winter months. Meetings and outings are open to members and visitors, friends and relatives. Plants are for sale at most meetings.

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)

## SHELLOWELL READING GROUP

The Reading Group meets on Thursday 21 March, 7.30 pm to discuss **Tomorrow, Tomorrow, Tomorrow** by **Gabrielle Zevin**. At the time of going to press, the meeting hadn't taken place – a review will follow in May's Shelswell News. February's book was *The Marriage Portrait* by Maggie O'Farrell.

The next date after this will be Wednesday 24 April, 7.30 pm at 3 Kennel Cottages. The book will be *The Long Call* by Ann Cleeves.

If you are interested in joining the reading group or would like more information, please contact Jane Birnage ([janebirnage@icloud.com](mailto:janebirnage@icloud.com) 07770 220605)



## SHELLOWELL POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP

Our theme for March was Stars. One of the most emotionally affecting poems, although not a sentimental one, was *Drummer Hodge* by Thomas Hardy. Set during the Boer War, it is about an earlier incarnation of Tommy Atkins dying and being buried in South Africa, where 'strange-eyed constellations' rule the sky above his grave. In the 1914-18 war, Julian Grenfell wrote *Into Battle* and saw the stars above the trenches as the soldiers' companions. The current conflict in Palestine and the horror of child casualties is the theme of *Starry Night Over Gaza* by Fatima Said. The National Anthem of America, *The Star-Spangled Banner*, by Francis Scott Key reminds us that, in the War of 1812, it was a symbol of victory over an enemy, and that each star represents a state.

Human stars - Marilyn Monroe and Vincent Van Gogh – and their tragic deaths, are the subjects in *Death of Marilyn Monroe* by Sharon Olds and *Starry Starry Night* by Maria Williams.

*Winter Stars* by Larry Levis describes a man in a troubled relationship with his father finding comfort in gazing up at the night sky. In *Sonnet 14* William Shakespeare links his lover's eyes with the stars whilst decrying the then-popular craze for astrology. In *The Sun Rising* John Donne scolds the sun, (which is a star!) for intruding on a happy relationship, and in *Orion* Adrienne Rich describes her bond with that constellation, whilst Sara Teasdale makes that same constellation a comforting and stable part of her world. William Barnes, on the other hand, in *A Winter Night*, gets no comfort from the stars in his isolation. Gerard Manley Hopkins exults in the beauty of the stars, which he links with Christ and his mother in *The Starlight Night*.

Poems which show the poet thinking deeply about the stars are *The Sun of the First Day* by Rabindranath Tagore, *To the Evening Star* by William Blake, *The Twelfth Night Star* by Bliss Carman, *The Star Sirius* by George Meredith, *Getting at Stars* by Simon Armitage and *On Looking Up by Chance at the Constellations* by Robert Frost. Other poems we read which ponder the subject of what the stars mean to humans are *Stars* by Emily Bronte, *Looking up at the Starry Sky Above Hargai* by Xi Chuan, *There are Stars* by Hannah Szenes and *Falling Star* by Masayo Koike. In *When I Heard the Learned Astronomer*, Walt Whitman prefers to just look at the stars rather than hearing scientific facts about them.

Finally, two poems for children which will be familiar to many are the anonymous *Star Wish* and *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star* by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century writer Jane Taylor.

If you would like to join us at our April meeting, contact me for date and theme. You will be made very welcome.

Judith Harvey (01869 811994 [judith.harvey@live.co.uk](mailto:judith.harvey@live.co.uk))

## 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 Flora Skinner Tel: 01869 277366  
 MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Judith Harvey, Lark Rise Cottage, Juniper Hill Email: [judith.harvey@live.co.uk](mailto:judith.harvey@live.co.uk)

#### SERVICES

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 10.45 am Pet Service  
 Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 9.15 am Holy Communion

#### COTTISFORD AND JUNIPER HILL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Snowdrop Sunday on 11 February was a fantastic success, it was good to see the church so full. Everyone seemed to enjoy a good chat along with tea, coffee, cake, a go on the tombola and purchasing from the plant stall. Thank you to those who both helped with the organisation and on the day. It even managed to stay dry and visitors were able to go outside and admire the snowdrops. With everyone's support we raised just over £400 to be split equally between the Social Committee, PCC and the Friends of Cottisford Church.

March 10 was Mothering Sunday and each house in the Parish received a primrose, we hope that they spread a little bit of joy to you all.

We hope to be holding a coffee morning at the end of April so keep an eye on for more information on social media and the village noticeboards.

If you would like to help at any of our events or hold a pop up pub or coffee morning contact Sandra [sandrambickmore@gmail.com](mailto:sandrambickmore@gmail.com)

### Finmere

#### St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: VACANT  
 TREASURER: Emma Brennan emma\_mary@hotmail.co.uk  
 PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Katherine Grimston, The Old Rectory, Finmere Tel: 01280 848364  
 MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Paul Nash Email: paan63@yahoo.co.uk Tel 01280 848268

#### Church Services

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 9.15 am Holy Communion  
 Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 8.00 am Holy Communion

#### Village Hall

The village hall has been fully renovated and is now available for hire. A number of facilities have been 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 are also available



Thanks to everyone who attended the Quiz night and to the organisers and the quiz masters. It was a successful evening with the hall filled to capacity.





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 9<sup>th</sup> April from 2 - 4 pm  
 Tea, coffee, cake & biscuits  
 All locals welcome, no charge

We would love to grow the numbers so  
 please bring a friend!

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...

**Other Finmere events for the diary:**

- Art Exhibition on the weekend 11/12<sup>th</sup>. May
- 'D-Day' 80<sup>th</sup> Commemorations on 6<sup>th</sup>. June
- 'Farther Afield' Service/Walk/Cricket/Picnic on 16<sup>th</sup>. June

**D-Day 80**

On the evening of 6<sup>th</sup> June, Finmere Parish Council will be lighting a beacon to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the events of D-Day. There will be military and wartime music together with short readings remembering the lives of some of those who sacrificed so much during the tumultuous wartime years. Please save the day!

If you have any family stories from D-Day (or wartime memories more generally) that you could share with us, or if you would be happy to read a short passage that has been pre-prepared, please let Jo know on 07974 740312 ([brooks.joanne@btinternet.com](mailto:brooks.joanne@btinternet.com)).

We would like to put together a collection of memorabilia from WWII. If you have any items that we could display, please let Katherine know on 07770 804025.

# Light lunch

in Finmere Village Hall  
4th Tuesday of the month  
**April 23rd**  
**12.30-2pm**

No charge but donations welcome



For more information, to ask for help with transport  
or to let us know about specific dietary needs  
contact Richard & Debbie Bloomfield (07765 874090)

Back by popular demand ...

# POP-UP PUB

April 12<sup>th</sup>  
7-10pm  
Finmere Church

Join us for an evening of good company and cheer

Provided ... punch (alcoholic and non-alcoholic)  
Hot snacks and nibbles  
Glasses

Please bring ... any other drinks you'd like!

Donations towards heating and refreshments  
gratefully received (card or cash)

For more information: Debbie and Richard 07765 874090

SAVE THE DATE

# FINMERE VILLAGE & SCHOOL FAIR

SATURDAY 13 JULY 2024 | 12-5PM

BEER TENT | RAFFLE | KIDS ENTERTAINER | AND MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED

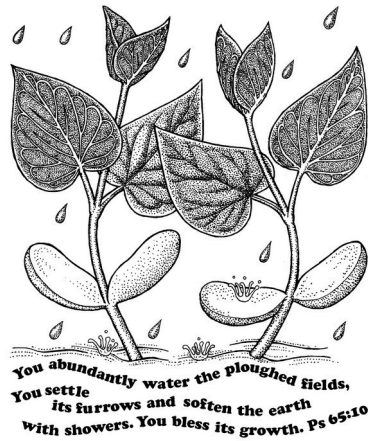
FOR MORE INFORMATION & SPONSORSHIP  
OPPORTUNITIES CONTACT

DEBBIE.BLOOMFIELD1@GMAIL.COM

### Allotments

Time to start preparing the ground for the sowing and planting of this year's bumper crops. ☺

The Poor's Plot continues to have a small waiting list for allotment plots, 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)

Finmere Poor's Plot – [www.myfinmere.com/poorsplot](http://www.myfinmere.com/poorsplot)

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)

## 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 7 April – at 10.45am, Morning Service
- Sunday 21 April – at 10.45am, Holy Communion
- Sunday 5 May – at 10.45am, Morning Service

To find out the times and places of other services on 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.

#### Events

##### Pudding Evening

Watch out for our pudding evening on Saturday 18 May. You'll be able to come and take away some delicious puddings for your evening meal. See the May edition of *Shelswell News* for more detail.



## Beer Festival

Looking ahead – the date of **the 2024 Fringford Beer Festival is Saturday 15 June.**

- Sponsor a barrel - £110. contact Simon Knight for details about sponsorship: 07598 104444 or email: [simon.knight@btinternet.com](mailto:simon.knight@btinternet.com)
- Do you like real cider? If so, would you like to be involved in the selection and buying of cider for this year's Beer Festival with a view to perhaps taking on responsibility for the cider next year? If you're interested please call Diana on 07710 259955 for a chat.



## Greetings Cards

Packs of greeting cards (6 cards for £3) available for purchase. They feature 6 photographs of the church both in and outside. Ring Christina McCullagh on 07867 515207,

## Fringford Church 100 Club

Numbers cost £3 a month (£36 annually) Payment by BACS, cheque or cash. Draw each month for 50% of the income divided amongst 3 winners: at the moment 1<sup>st</sup> prize £61, 2<sup>nd</sup> £37, 3<sup>rd</sup> £25. You can still sign up to the 100 Club. Contact Christina McCullagh to register - **07867 515207**. The draw takes place monthly at the Village Coffee Morning.

## Little Lambs Babies & Toddler Group

Every Wednesday during term time in Stratton Audley Church, 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)

## 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

Village Coffee Morning will take place on Monday 15 April. Drop by for a coffee/tea and a chat any time between 10.30am and 12 noon. It is in the Chinnery Room at the Village Hall. Contact Penny on 277310 if you want more information.

## 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:

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June

Sunday September 15<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday November 17<sup>th</sup>

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July  
August no Meeting  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October  
Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup>

Drop in Sessions are £2.00  
No need to book – just come and join us!

If you would like information, please email Irene [ireneethomas@btinternet.com](mailto:ireneethomas@btinternet.com)

## Regular Activities held in Fringford Village Hall

To find out more or book a place, please contact the hirer direct.	
Weekly Activities	Monthly Activities
<p style="text-align: center;">FS Dance Monday &amp; Wednesday (term time) After school classes BALLET • TAP • MODERN • STREET leah.fsd@gmail.com or 07885827592</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Village Coffee Morning All ages welcome Third Monday in the month - Chinnery Room Drop in anytime between 10.30 am and noon Penny Wood 01869 277310</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Puppy Stars Dog Training Tuesday evening – various classes  Contact Nick 07542 131400 www.puppystars.co.uk</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Parish Council Meeting All villagers welcome Third Monday in the month 7.45pm  Contact 01844 237766 or fringford.parishclerk@gmail.com</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Fringford Yoga Wednesday (term time) 9.30am – 11am Carolyn White 01869 277161</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bicester Sound Bath Meditation  First Sunday of the month from 7.45 pm Sonia - contact@holisticaxis.com Please text - 07709634847</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Just Puppies Puppy Training Wednesday evening – various classes  Contact Kerri 07720 891489 www.justpuppies.training</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Shelswell WI  First Thursday of the month 7.30pm  Contact Lesley Beagent on 07729605670</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Pilates Thursday at 10.00am natashaflowerspilates@gmail.com or 07545 525820</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mindfulness Meditation Monthly Sunday 11am to 12.30pm janerainey17@gmail.com or 07971 008337</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">My Baby Spa  Monday mornings Spa experience for babies up to 12 months and toddlers 1 – 4 years <a href="http://www.mybabyspa.co.uk">www.mybabyspa.co.uk</a> contact Danielle at contact@mybabyspa.co.uk</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fringford Sewcial Sew and Chat! Monthly Wednesday from 7pm Or Sunday from 3pm Contact Irene at ireneethomas@btinternet.com</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Village Hall Team Meeting Every 4 weeks – 7.00 pm  Open meetings – all welcome fringford.hall@gmail.com or 07936 879175</p>
<p>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. For any other queries please phone or text 07936 879175 or email: <a href="mailto:fringford.hall@gmail.com">fringford.hall@gmail.com</a></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 Flora Skinner	Tel: 01869 277366
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>	

### Church Services at Hardwick Church

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 9.15 am Holy Communion  
 Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 6.00 pm Evensong with the Shelswell Group Choir

**Hardwick church is open daily 10am to 4pm.**

Private prayer and quiet contemplation

View the architecture, memorials and stained glass windows

Please make use of this special space

### Pilgrim Pathways

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

### Hardwick Church guidebook

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

## Hethe St Edmund and St George

CHURCHWARDEN: Flora Skinner, Fox Hollow, 2 Hardwick Road, Hethe	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. 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.

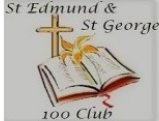
The Annual Meeting of Parishioners to elect our Church Wardens will take place after the Holy Communion Service on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), for the election of parochial representatives and the consideration of annual reports, will be held with other churches in the benefice on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, starting at 7.30pm, in Stoke Lyne Church. All members of Hethe Parish will be welcome at both meetings.

If you can contribute to the on-going availability of the church, 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/> or through the following QR Code:



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 (full details on the village website).



### St Edmund & St George 100 Club

Results of the 62<sup>nd</sup> draw held  
on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024

1<sup>st</sup> Prize No 29 Margaret John  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize No 30 John & Sue Schutz  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize No 52 Anne Mansfield

Many thanks to our members  
Hethe PCC

### HETHE COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

#### Hethe Community Coffee Morning in St Philip's Hall

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 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

#### 20 mph Speed Limit



The deadline for submitting comments on a 20mph speed limit through Hethe has now passed. Progress following the consultation phase will be posted on the village web site.

## Defibrillator

A defibrillator is now installed in the porch of St Edmund & St George Church. It is ready for use in an emergency. The following advice is from the British Heart Foundation:

- A defibrillator is a device that gives a jolt of energy to the heart. It helps get the heart beating again when someone is in cardiac arrest and their heart has stopped.
- Anyone can use a defibrillator. You do not need training. Once you turn it on, it will give clear step-by-step voice instructions. Many defibrillators also have visual prompts and images showing how to use it.
- The device checks the person's heart rhythm and will only tell you to give them a shock if it's needed. You cannot shock yourself or someone else accidentally.



To get access to the defibrillator, Dial 999 and give your location – i.e. St Edmund & St George Church, Hethe, OX27 8ES. The emergency call handler will give you an access code to open the cabinet. Press the green button to switch on the defibrillator and follow the instructions.

CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) training is being arranged by the Parish Council for anyone who wishes to learn more.

## Kick Wall

The council would welcome ideas from children on a kick wall being considered for the Playing Field.

For **Village Hall bookings**, please contact Flora, the Village Hall Booking Secretary, on 01869 277366 [fjskinner@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fjskinner@hotmail.co.uk). The photo shows the planned modernisations to the hall.



**The Stay & Play Group** contact is Kelly Woodford on 07716 981263. They meet on Friday mornings.

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

## Wanted – Green Defenders!



The countryside charity  
Oxfordshire

Campaigning to protect our rural county

CPRE Oxfordshire is a charity that is passionate about making the countryside, its villages and market towns better places for everyone to live, work and enjoy. They are recruiting “Green Defender” volunteers.

“Green Defenders will help us protect our countryside: their tasks may include investigating planning applications in their area, submitting responses, visiting development sites, and liaising with councils and conservation bodies. No specific qualifications are required, and this volunteer role is open to anyone over the age of 18. With a time commitment of just a couple of hours a week, with occasional meetings, applicants can make a difference from sitting at their computer.”

To register an interest: email [campaign@cprexon.org.uk](mailto:campaign@cprexon.org.uk) or telephone 01491 612079. To find out more visit their web site [www.cprexon.org.uk](http://www.cprexon.org.uk) or our village web site.

**Our village web site** (courtesy of the Parish Council): <https://www.hethe.org/>

**Facebook Pages:** Community Spirit of the Hethens - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/914036669040803>

Hethe Community - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/651105142605166>

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

## 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

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 9.15 am Family Service with Baptism

### MIXBURY CHURCH FLOWER ROTA 2024

The flower rota is being updated.

### MIXBURY CHURCH CLEANING ROTA 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.

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 & Sue Bosher
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	Gail Bellingham, Mel Soar & 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.

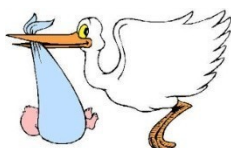
If you are interested in hosting a pub night please contact Tanya – email: [markandtanya@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:markandtanya@yahoo.co.uk).

## FAREWELL TO SUE AND BRUCE

After living in Mixbury for some considerable time Sue and Bruce (Badgers Wood) are moving to start a fresh chapter in their lives, we wish them well and thank Sue for all the cakes she has made over the years for the Fete and various other fund raising activities.

Sue was the Founder member of one of the Book Clubs in Mixbury (or Wine Club No. 2 as its fondly known) her lively contributions will be missed by her fellow members. Bruce worked hard on the Mixbury History Group on the history of the village with Sue until it was decided to archive the history artefacts and material in the Church – more to follow next month about the History Archive, History Open Day and the key holders. We now look forward to welcoming new residents to Badgers Wood.

## NEW ARRIVAL



Congratulations to Ella and Jev Pemberthy who have recently welcomed Lara Rose to the family a younger sister for Holly and Charlotte, who are very proud big sisters and so good with her.

## WELCOME TO MIXBURY

A huge Mixbury Welcome to Matthew and Kayleigh who have recently moved into No. 23, they are enjoying the great sense of community here and are looking forward to the summer meeting and socialising more with the neighbours. Matt runs a small business in Farthinghoe (details on Mixbury FB page) so they are ideally located here.

## HEDGE PLANTING ON OUR PLAYING FIELD

A wonderful band of volunteers turned out on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March to plant a hedge in the new playing field. Well done and thank you for your time. Mixbury is so lucky to have so many community minded residents.



### Hedge Planting continued...



### RAISING MONEY FOR RESTLESS

Amelia's been crafting again...making Easter baskets and raising money for Restless Development. Each basket was £5 and came with an Easter egg and chocolates. They were wrapped and packaged in a lovely Easter bag. Once empty the homemade basket can be used as a pencil pot or storage container. Well done Amelia – so creative !



## MESSAGE FROM SWALLOWS NURSERY

Dear Villagers,

Those of you who have visited us in recent months will have seen the continuing development at Swallows Nursery. We just wanted to update you on our current plans.

Firstly, we are expanding the number of plants we grow here at the Nursery, and we are pleased to say that this year we will be doubling our production of herbaceous perennials. We have placed two poly tunnels in the middle field for this purpose.

Other developments include moving our tree area into the middle field so that our customers can better see the range of trees that we have on offer. The trees will be supported by posts and lines, and are irrigated. We also have a new bare root section for hedging.

A lot of work has been done on the overgrown areas around the Nursery: Paul has kindly cut our beech hedge along the drive and car park with his tractor and flail, and we have called in arborists to do major trims of all other hedging around the Nursery.

You may well have noticed that we created a much larger car park last year. Further to this, we are expanding the car park again to ensure that we have good capacity for both cars and a bigger range of composts.

Our Show Gardens have been very popular with our customers, and we have plans for a new 'Retro' garden themed on 1970s and 1980s gardens, as well as an alpine garden using recycled horticultural machine parts... oh....and we are getting a real 250 year old cannon! All of this we hope will add interest to your visits.

We are in the process of updating the main barn to enable us to sell fertilizers, more composts and plant and pot related gardening essentials. However, we have no plans to sell other items, such as scented candles, as we do not plan on becoming a garden centre!

Those of you who have experienced our organic coffee will also know that we offer cakes but, again, we have no plans to offer chips any time soon!

Thank you for supporting us in finding accommodation for our co-worker from Ukraine.

Finally, I would welcome any questions that villagers may have regarding developments at the Nursery and look forward to seeing you soon.

Kind regards

Anna

**Swallows Nursery & Plant Centre Ltd**

Mixbury, Oxfordshire, NN13 5RR



(There is an announcement on Mixbury FB Page about Swallows stocking bedding plants)

## Obituary

### JEAN ALAN WARD (JIM) 1932 - 2024

Uncle Jim was born in Mixbury, along with his sister Mary, my mother. They lived with their mum and dad, John and Ruth, who for many decades kept the shop and post office.

Ruth was also born in the village, one of 12 surviving children born to Charles Chatwell. originally of Farthinghoe, Charles came to the village in the late 1800s to be gardener at the Rectory, and was later sexton and church warden. He died aged 86 and Jim would often relate how with failing sight, he was his "grandad's eyes", especially in the garden.

Charles' wife Mary originally came from Shalstone and died aged 39, worn out by so many pregnancies and trying to feed such a large family.

As a young boy Jim was tasked with helping in the church and carrying buckets of coke to try and heat the building for services.

He cycled to school in Brackley and, failing his exams for Magdalen, was not impressed when his father decided to pay towards his grammar school education. He always said he derived no benefit from it and was happy to leave and go to his first job, which was in a garage.

He did all the cleaning up jobs and filling cars with petrol and oil changes etc but swiftly became interested in mechanical work.

Although he should have done a spell of National Service due to his age, family legend suggests he didn't because he had flat feet and they didn't need him that badly!

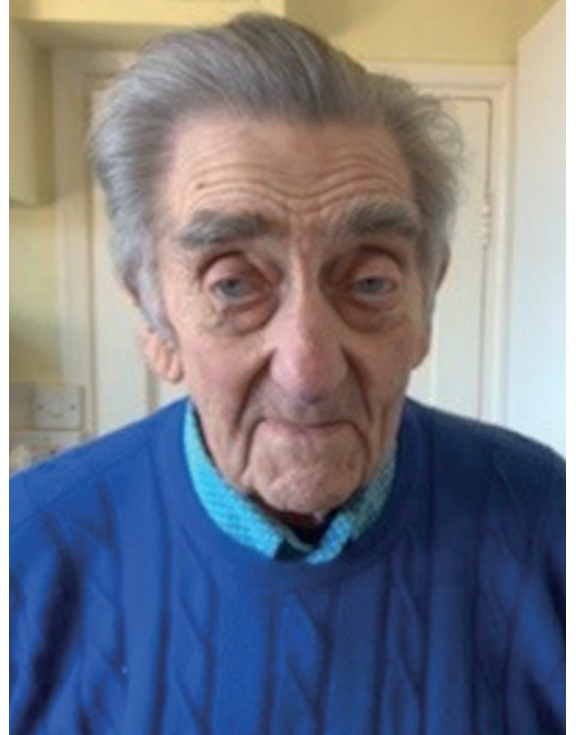


His best friend from childhood, Keith Merritt, should have been best man when Jim married Audrey, aged 20 and 23 respectively, but Keith was doing his National Service overseas and couldn't oblige.

After marrying they were able to rent the bungalow at the crossroads of the Buckingham Road and Featherbed Lane and eventually he got a job with Mr Hull's garage at Fimmere where they sold new cars and also did repair work..

After a time Jim earned more money by moving to the Army base at Bicester, where he worked on converting some surplus vehicles from WW2 for the expanding market in road haulage.

He spent several years in the early 1960's at Croughton base working with the USAF and received letters of commendation from the base commander for being able to turn his hand to any tasks required, training others and also being a skilled engine fitter. It was quite an interesting time to be involved with our most powerful allies and the height of the Cold War. Incidentally his father was involved with the civil emergency at the time and I remember the siren fitted to the wall in the post office.





The later sixties was probably when Jim got his own lorry and was contracted to collect and deliver loads around the area. He visited many farms and knew quite a lot of the farmers and with house building booming, he delivered many loads of bricks from Arncott.

Latterly he worked at Fimmere Mill for Midland Shires Farmers, again delivering animal feed stuff. He told me they came to him and said “you finish work at 12.00 on Wednesday”. It was his 65th birthday.

With plenty of spare time, even with quite a large garden and his parents to care for, he began working at Buckingham Garden Centre which he enjoyed. Later on he went to help Angela and Ben Collins at the Rectory and said he always seemed to be digging out ground elder. How ironic that 80 years earlier his grandfather was doing a similar job.

Losing his wife Audrey in 2017, after over 60 years of marriage, was tough. He missed her dreadfully having cared for her lovingly because of her arthritis.

Several years ago Jim had a mishap in his car and the police got in touch with the family and we realised that he needed some help. I was able to retire early and moved up in October 2022 to look after him, as it was felt he was not safe on his own..

He enjoyed going out in the car and looking around the lanes of his childhood and he still enjoyed his garden. He was a delight to know and made many new friends in that time as they came to see him and make his life easier, so that he could stay at home.

Many people soon felt as if they had known him a long time; he was so easy to get on with. He was a rather lovely chap.

Lorna Rolfe  
(Jim's niece)



### MIXBURY DIARY DATES

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER AND CHERWELL  
LOCAL ELECTIONS – 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2024**

**MIXBURY ALL SAINTS CHURCH IS THE POLLING STATION**

***Save the Date!***

***The Mixbury Village Big Lunch***

***Sunday 2nd June***

***More details to follow soon.....***

***If you would like to help me plan and organise this event please please  
let me know 😊👍***

***Tanya***

# Newton Purcell

## St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDENS: Ann von Maltzahn, Home Farm Shelswell Park	Tel 01280 848680
Stuart Hinton	Tel: 07593 784143
TREASURER: Fai Li	Tel: 07725 009838
PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Flora Skinner	Tel: 01869 277366
MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Ann von Maltzahn	Tel 01280 848680

### Services -

Please note that following our Easter service on March 31st there will be no service on Sunday 7th April.

### Strengthening Community Bonds -

As we embrace the changing seasons and the start of Spring, we invite each and every one of our small community to join us in fostering a more inclusive environment within our Parish. This is not only to encourage you to attend our monthly church services, but a heartfelt invitation to participate in the various events that we organise for our community.

### Worship Together:

Please join us for our monthly Sunday Service held on the first Sunday of every month. Whether you seek solace, guidance, or simply wish to connect with your community, our doors are open wide to welcome you.

### Engage in Community Events -

Beyond our church walls, there are opportunities to make a positive impact. From volunteering to help organise local events, to participating in fundraising, each strengthens the relationships in our community.

### Connect and Grow -

Our church is more than just a place of worship, it is an environment where friendships are forged and spirits are uplifted.

### Spread the Word -

As ambassadors of faith and goodwill, let us share the joy of community involvement with our friends and neighbours and invite them to join us, knowing that together we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

### Get Involved -

We welcome your ideas, talents and enthusiasm as we continue to strengthen our parish and the community we have around us.

### A Date for Your Diary -

#### Our Summer Fete - Saturday 22nd June

Plans are well underway for this and it promises to be a fun event not to be missed so please keep the date free and join us!

If you are able to help on the day, provide Tombola prizes or produce for stalls please contact either of the Churchwardens above in advance. They will be most grateful to hear from you.



# Stoke Lyne

## St Peter's

CHURCHWARDEN: Christopher Poole [CTP@oxford-educational.co.uk](mailto:CTP@oxford-educational.co.uk) Tel 01869 346020  
 TREASURER: Janey Poole [janey@oxford-educational.co.uk](mailto:janey@oxford-educational.co.uk) Tel 07810 120457  
 PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Emma Brown [emmabrown911@gmail.com](mailto:emmabrown911@gmail.com)  
 MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Rena Andrews [renaandrews820@gmail.com](mailto:renaandrews820@gmail.com) Tel: 01869 346653  
 PARISH ROOM BOOKINGS : Kelly and James Holden-White [kholdenwhite@aol.com](mailto:kholdenwhite@aol.com) Tel 01869 345211  
 WEBSITE [www.stokelyne.org](http://www.stokelyne.org)

### St Peter's Church Stoke Lyne Services

See back page for details.

### Flower Duty for April

Janey Poole

### Stoke Lyne 100 Club – March Results

The March results were not available at the time of this issue's submission deadline.

### Midweek Holy Communion and Soup lunch - Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 1200 hrs (Ash Wednesday )

February's Midweek Holy Communion was moved to celebrate Ash Wednesday. Liz welcomed all to the service with prayers. The reading was from the gospel of St John chapter 8 verses 1 to 11 and was read by Rena. This was the story of the woman accused of adultery who was brought before Jesus in the temple by the scribes and Pharisees as a test. He was pressed for his opinion and eventually replied "let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her". One by one her accusers went away until no one was left to condemn her. Jesus told her to go on her way and not sin again. Liz then gave a reflection on this story.

Imposition of ashes. We were invited to receive these blessed ashes by the signing of the cross on our foreheads with the ash.

We then had the service of Holy Communion after which we moved to the tables set for lunch. There was a choice of three soups with bread rolls followed by a choice of puddings and you could have seconds if you wished, followed by tea or coffee. This is a time when we catch up with people from other villages in the Benefice with lots of chatting and laughing.

THANK YOU TO THE MINISTRY TEAM FOR DOING THE COOKING AND ALSO THE VOLUNTEERS WHO HELP IN ANY WAY.

Rena Andrews

### Food for Thought – Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024

Ali Miller led the service assisted by Rena Andrews who helped with setting out the breakfast of croissants and various other breakfast items. After breakfast Ali began the service and opened by welcoming all to this very popular service and began with a hymn. The sermon was from John's gospel chapter 2 verses 13 – 22: when it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went to the temple in Jerusalem. In the temple courts He found men selling sheep, cattle and doves and others sitting at tables exchanging money. He was so angry he drove all from the temple, scattering the coins of the money changers. Jesus then said how dare you turn my father's house into a market, and added that if you destroy this house, I will rebuild it in 3 days.

*Food for Thought, continued*

The Jews replied that it took 46 years to build so how would he raise it in three days. The disciples then realised the temple was his body and he was prophesying the coming of his death and resurrection. Ali then asked us to discuss among us what the temple means to the Jews.

Prayers were then said to remember all known to you who are ill or who have been bereaved. Ali was thanked for leading the service, everyone there, helped to clear up.

Rena Andrews

**Mothering Sunday Posies**

Once again this year villagers opened their front doors to find a lovely Spring posy waiting for them, which brought forth expressions of thanks both on the village Facebook group and by village email. During the Covid lockdowns when we weren't allowed to travel to see loved ones, it was decided in 2021 to brighten lives by leaving a posy on the doorstep of every house in the village. These were very much appreciated and because of this we decided to carry on with it each year.



Photos (clockwise) by recipients Rena Andrews, Sarah Torrance, Brenda Hazel and Sarah-Jane Buckle

## Welcome

Welcome to Stephen and Angela Wright who have moved into 5, The Green. We hope that they will enjoy their time in Stoke Lyne.

## Stoke Lyne W.I. - Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Rena welcomed all to the meeting and introduced Hilary Dix who had come for the special meeting later. Members who were able were asked to stand for Jerusalem. Apologies were given and birthday cards were delivered to the two members who were unable to come to the meeting. Minutes were read and agreed. Feedback on the meal at the Paisley Pear, Brackley: all agreed there was a good choice on the menu to choose from, the service was excellent, and the food was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Correspondence and future events were given out.

Hilary Dix then took over the special meeting. All members had been notified to attend to vote on a resolution whether to "Suspend" Stoke Lyne W.I. or to carry on with falling numbers and rising costs. Hilary Dix is an OFWI advisor and conducted a secret ballot on the resolution, after which she said the vote was unanimous to "Suspend". It is a sad day for our W.I as we would have been celebrating 65 years in October. Hilary then went on to say what would happen to all our records assets etc.

We then had tea with a lovely buffet prepared by the committee, and it was nice to hear members reminiscing about the places they had been to, made possible through our W.I. The presentation of the competition Cup was also made by Hilary to the winner Mary Wilkins. Then she presented The Margaret Ackerman silver plate for handicrafts to Jackie Flynn for her beautiful cushion. Rena presented Hilary with flowers and an Easter Egg. It is not an enjoyable task for her when she has to suspend a W.I. She hoped we would continue to meet up socially from time to time.

The photograph with the banner was taken at the end of our meeting.

Rena Andrews  
President





Stoke Lyne Spring Clean  
 Saturday 6 April  
 10am  
 Bacon sandwiches for  
 helpers

We have plenty of jobs inside the church and in the churchyard, please come along and offer an hour or two of your time.

Please bring tools for cutting back branches and hedges (if you have them).



**St Peter's Church  
 Stoke Lyne presents  
 a Springtime Quiz.**

**April 6th 6.30pm**

**For a 7pm start.**

**£10 pp including a hot  
 meal.**

**Strictly 6 max per team**

**Please let me know you  
 are coming.**

**Ali Miller 07762 719198**

**[alisonjanemiller@icloud.com](mailto:alisonjanemiller@icloud.com)**

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

CHURCHWARDENS: Sarah Noujaim, 15 Cavendish Place, Stratton Audley      Tel 07941 273145  
Penny Oakey, Grange Farm, Godington      Tel 01869 278778

TREASURER: Fai Li      Tel 07725 009838

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER      Maxine Ling

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT:      Vacant (Stratton Audley),  
Sylvia List (Godington) editor@shelswellparishes.info

### Church Services

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 6.00 pm Godington Compline  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 10.45 am Stratton Audley Morning Service  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 9.15 am Stratton Audley Holy Communion

### THANKS

I would just like to pass on my very grateful thanks to all those who supported me so generously when George passed away at the end of last year. I received so many lovely cards and messages and, though I have tried to acknowledge as many as possible, I fear that I may not have been able to thank everyone personally. Please accept my heartfelt thanks; it was a real comfort to me to know that you were all thinking of me and to read your kind words about George. Thank you, also, to all those who helped to decorate the church with flowers for George's funeral. It was so much appreciated.

Viv Nicholson

### The Shed

Movement of The Shed's placement, no pun intended, is positive. Permission from the Diocese to put in under the trees on the south side has been requested and we are awaiting approval which can take time.... But hopefully not too long!

### Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Brilliant to hear we now have a couple of DoE students to help out and around the Church with the numerous tasks that need to be actioned. If any others wish to join the team, please call Sarah the church warden or Anthony Flack as you'd be more than welcome! There are also spaces for a "Skills" for bell ringing so call Becky & Jeremy 01869 277471 to join up.

### A Scribe is wanted!

We still need a magazine correspondent to gather news in the village from achievements at school, college or university or what you do that can help or offer the village community be it your skills or your company. If you can help out with one event a year that would be brilliant or if you want to give a demonstration of any crafts or workshops, we would love to hear from you!

### Fundraising Thanks



**A massive THANK YOU xx**

To

Tonks & Richard Howson

And their team!

Plus the Villagers

Who donated whilst partaking  
refreshments watching the rugby!!

**They raised £150!!**

for St's Mary & Edburga

### **Food Bank**

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! Especially appreciated are tinned goods, instant coffee and hot chocolate.

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)

### **STRATTON AUDLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

The programme for 2024 is as follows, commencing with a presentation in Church on April 26th which should be of interest to local villagers together with anyone interested in the work of Bletchley Park in WW2.

#### **STRATTON AUDLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**



#### **WIRELESS WAR SECRETS OF POUNDON & GODINGTON**

**(or HOW GODINGTON WON THE WAR)**

**April 26th at 7.30pm**

#### **Presentation by John Beaumont in the Church**

John will be giving a talk on the wireless station at Poundon and its activities (as far as they are known) during WW2. He was helped in this by the amazing memory of Norman Tew who lived in Godington during this period and by anecdotes from several others

There will be a charge of £5 per person, to include a glass of wine or soft drink.




On May 31st there will be a TOUR OF THE BATTLEFIELDS OF NASEBY led by Stephen Barker, which can accommodate 4 cars and a maximum of 19 people. This will be similar to the very successful car tour which the society took to Edge Hill and Cropredy Bridge in 2019, lasting for 2 hours and ending with lunch at a local pub. The cars will leave in convoy from Stratton at around 9am. Anyone interested in taking part should contact a member of the Local History Society.

10th September sees a return of the well-known local raconteur Charlie Ross who will be entertaining us with talks about his auctioneering life.

Dorothy Howarth

✝

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GODINGTON**



**The Church is open for private  
prayer and contemplation  
Saturday and Sunday  
10 am – 4 pm**



**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.**

## The Last Word

*Quotes, Jokes, Articles of interest and for younger Readers!*

Whenever I see a little church,  
I always pay a visit.  
So when at last I'm carried in,  
the Lord won't ask 'Who is it?'

*(Seen in a West Country church)*

### Cathedral Attendance Up Strongly in 2022

Attendance at Church of England cathedrals bounced back following the lockdown closures, according to recently released statistics for 2022.

Figures show that adult usual Sunday attendance rose 60% between 2021 and 2022 for the forty two Church of England mainland Cathedrals. A total of 28,200 people including children attended Sunday services every week, according to [Cathedral Statistics 2022](#).

In addition, there were also 584,000 attendances at 2,100 specially arranged services over the year, such as school services. The total reported attendance at Christmas services in our cathedrals for 2022 stood at 104,000.

# The Tale of the TWO BUILDERS



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE WAS ABOUT TWO MEN WHO BUILT THEIR OWN HOUSES

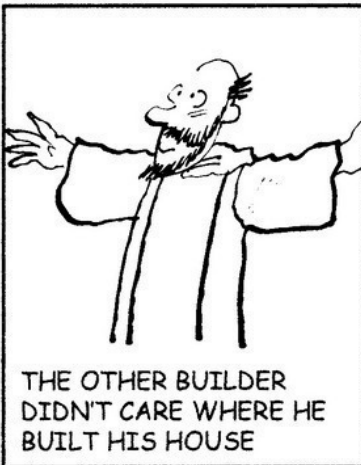


THE FIRST BUILDER SEARCHED HIGH AND LOW FOR A GOOD SOLID ROCK ON WHICH TO BUILD HIS HIS HOME.

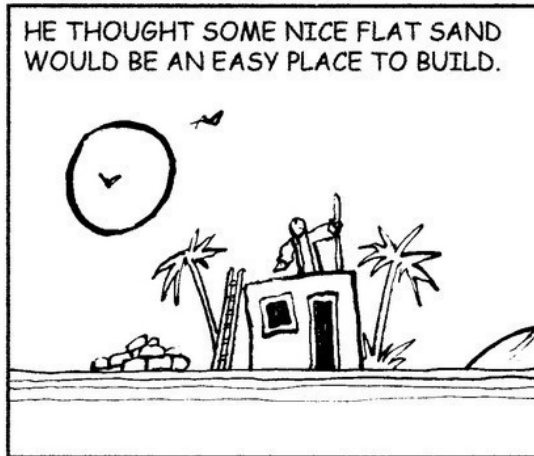
AT LONG, LONG LAST HE FOUND THE IDEAL SPOT.



SO HE BEGAN TO BUILD.



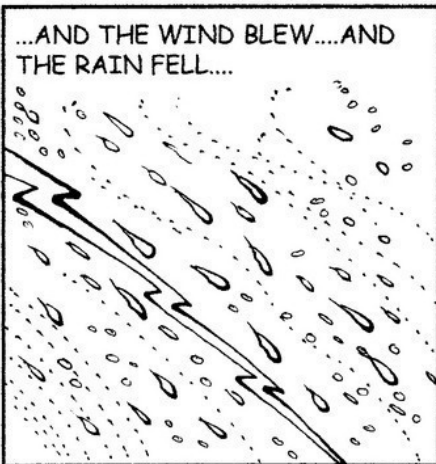
THE OTHER BUILDER DIDN'T CARE WHERE HE BUILT HIS HOUSE



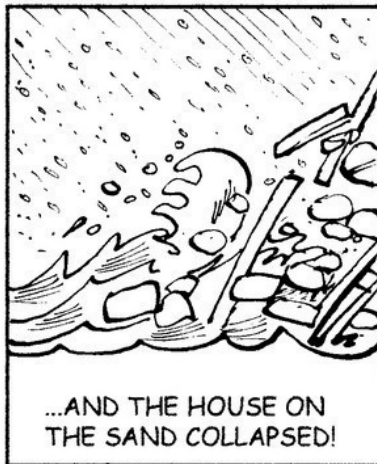
HE THOUGHT SOME NICE FLAT SAND WOULD BE AN EASY PLACE TO BUILD.



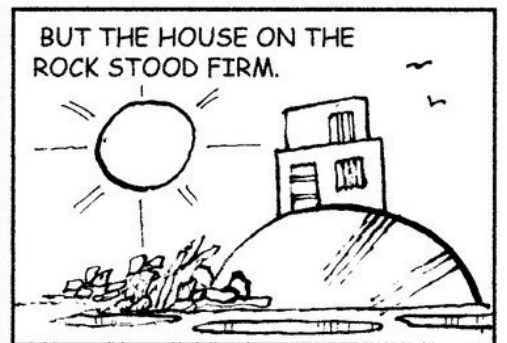
BUT ONE DAY THE STORM CAME....



...AND THE WIND BLEW...AND THE RAIN FELL...



...AND THE HOUSE ON THE SAND COLLAPSED!



BUT THE HOUSE ON THE ROCK STOOD FIRM.

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**admin@shelswellparishes.info**



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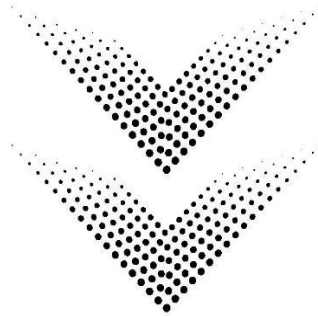
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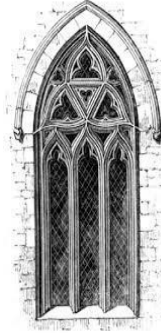
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**SHELSWELL GROUP SERVICES: APRIL - MAY 2024**  
 CW: 'Common Worship' modern language service    BCP: 'Book of Common Prayer' traditional language service

| DATE     | 7 <sup>th</sup> April<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter                                      | 14 <sup>th</sup> April<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter                              | 21 <sup>st</sup> April<br>4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter                                                          | 28 <sup>th</sup> April<br>5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter     | 5 <sup>th</sup> May<br>6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter                                                                     |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ALTAR    | White                                                                                          | White                                                                                   | White                                                                                                               | White                                                          | White                                                                                                                       |
| 8.00 am  |                                                                                                |                                                                                         |                                                                                                                     | Holy Communion (BCP)<br>FINMERE AG                             |                                                                                                                             |
| 9.15 am  | 9.15am<br>Holy Communion with hymns (CW)<br>HARDWICK CO                                        | Holy Communion with hymns (CW)<br>HETHE LW<br>Family Service with Baptism<br>MIXBURY AG | Holy Communion with hymns (CW)<br>FINMERE AG/John Alderdice                                                         | 9.15am<br>Holy Communion with hymns (CW)<br>STRATTON AUDLEY SM | 9.15am<br>Holy Communion with hymns (CW)<br>COTTISFORD SM<br>9.15am<br>Holy Communion with hymns (BCP)<br>NEWTON PURCELL AG |
| 10.45 am | 10am<br>'Food for Thought'<br>STOKE LYNE Lay-led<br>10.45am<br>Morning Service<br>FRINGFORD PV | Morning Service<br>STRATTON AUDLEY PV                                                   | 10.45am<br>Holy Communion with hymns (CW)<br>FRINGFORD SM/John Alderdice<br>10.45am<br>Pet Service<br>COTTISFORD AG | 10.45am<br>Holy Communion with hymns (CW)<br>STOKE LYNE AG     | 10.45am<br>Morning Service<br>FRINGFORD AG<br>10am<br>'Food for Thought'<br>STOKE LYNE Lay-led                              |
| 6.00 pm  | Compline<br>GODINGTON PV                                                                       | Evening Communion<br>STOKE LYNE AG                                                      | 4pm<br>'Fun at Four'<br>STOKE LYNE SM                                                                               | Evensong with the Shelswell Group Choir<br>HARDWICK PV         | Compline<br>STRATTON AUDLEY PV                                                                                              |

AG: Revd Alice Goodall    SM: Revd Sam Mortimer    CO: Revd Carolyn Oley    LW: Revd Liz Welters    PV: Mrs Penny Wood (LLM)

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April (12 noon)**  
**Midweek Holy Communion and Soup Lunch**  
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