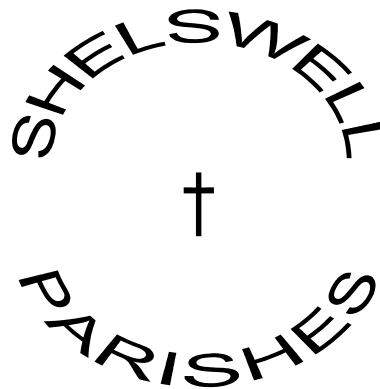


Shelswell News

The magazine of the Shelswell Group of Churches

Cottisford
Fringford
Hardwick
Mixbury
Stoke Lyne



Finmere
Godington
Hethe
Newton Purcell
Stratton Audley



St Mary and St Edburga Church,
Stratton Audley

“O Still Small Voice of Calm”
Minister’s Letter from Rev. Sam p.3

“They aren't going anywhere until they've gutted that fish!”
Bye Bye Mixbury - Barbara and Jeremy Mortimer p.27

SHELLOWELL BENEFICE MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

HOLY TRINITY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, HETHE,

Mass: 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

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Deadlines for the August 2024 edition of Shelswell News

To Magazine Correspondents: **Midday on Friday 12th July**

Correspondents to Editor: **Sunday 14th July at 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

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

O still, small voice of calm

Sarah and I have just returned from a refreshing – bracing even – holiday in the Highlands of Scotland. One of the highlights of the Lodge we were staying at was a hot tub. The initial shock getting into water at 38°C when the air was at 11 degrees was rapidly replaced by an invigorating warmth. But what really struck us was when we stopped talking: how quiet it was. No cars, no jets on a nearby flightpath, no background hubbub. Just a silence that was almost magical.

It made me wonder; do you sometimes find that life is so full of noise that you can hardly hear yourself think? Are you ever so inundated with “incoming” communications from multiple channels like TV, radio, social media, email, junk mail, news apps, and podcasts that you lose sight of the answers you are looking for? Or do you find that the noise can come from within as you struggle to fulfil your dreams?

The prophet Elijah experienced a similar thing when he ran away from King Ahab and his wife Jezebel and hid in a cave at mount Horeb:

The Lord said, ‘Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.’

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind.

After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake.

After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire.

And after the fire came a gentle whisper.

1 Kings 19:11-12

Elijah was feeling like a total failure, that he was the only prophet of the Lord God left. His mind would have been in absolute turmoil. The point God was making to him was to tune out all the noise in his head, notably the fear of an evil royal family, to be still and listen to his wisdom breaking through.

This story reminds us of the value of quietness in a noisy world. Taking time to reflect and meditate helps us filter out the cacophony to find meaningful insights and truths. And it reminds us to be open to the idea that God can work through the seemingly insignificant. Not all answers come from the loudest or most obvious sources. Why not spend some time purposefully listening out for God’s voice in the ordinary events of life? It can also be life-giving to others when we are the source of quiet encouragements, “seeding” them gently into people’s lives.

Finally, as you read this, I expect polling day in the UK general election will be almost upon us. I hope you will be able to filter out the noise from a loud campaign and vote for the party you most trust to address the priorities God may be laying on your heart.

Prayer (based on Psalm 46)

Lord, our refuge and strength,

In the face of earthquakes, tsunamis,

And nations in uproar,

Help us to be still and know that you are God.

Lead us to the river of gladness

And the holy place where you dwell.

Lift your voice so that we can hear you,

Bringing peace in our lives, our nation, and our world.

Amen.

Sam Mortimer, Curate

BIBLE READINGS



Sunday 7 th July	6 th Sunday after Trinity	Ezekiel 2 v1-5 2 Corinthians 12 v2-10 Mark 6 v1-13
Sunday 14 th July	7 th Sunday after Trinity	Amos 7 v7-15 Ephesians 1 v3-14 Mark 6 v14-29
Sunday 21 st July	8 th Sunday after Trinity	Jeremiah 23 v1-6 Ephesians 2 v11-end Mark 6 v30-34 and 53-end
Sunday 28 th July	9 th Sunday after Trinity	2 Kings 4 v42-end Ephesians 3 v14-end John 6 v1-21

MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION AND SOUP LUNCH Thursday 4th July

12 noon

Newton Purcell Church

(Note different venue from usual !)

If you would like a lift then please contact Alice on 01280 848192 or
rector@shelswellparishes.info



There is no Fun @ Four in July as we have Lighthouse training on that day, but in August:

Fun @ Four – Ice-cream Sunday

Sunday 18th August

4 pm – 5.30 pm

Stoke Lyne Church

with all the usual fun and activities, worship, and sandwiches and cake.
There is no charge for any of these activities, but donations appreciated.

Everyone is welcome!

Shelswell By The Sea

A break from routine
run by the Shelswell Group of Churches



Coming up again on 8 & 9 July in Hethe Village Hall,
from 10.30am to 3.30pm. Cost: £7.00 a day (includes all meals).

Booking Forms are available now from Penny Wood.

penelope.wood@btopenworld.com

Shelswell Group of Parishes

Come and enjoy delicious



with tea, coffee and cakes

in **Stratton Audley Church**

Sunday 14th July, 3 - 5pm



Donations to the Girl's Primary
School in Wulu, South Sudan



Updates from Wulu will be sent by Bishop Zachariah





FINMERE VILLAGE & SCHOOL FAIR

SATURDAY 13 JULY 12—5 PM

Finmere CofE School, Mere Road, Flm mere MK18 4AR

ROLL UP FOR INCREDIBLE RAFFLE PRIZES! (Draw @ 4.30pm)

Hot Air Balloon Flight for 2, Fortnum & Mason Hamper, Mercedes goodies, S4A Golden Ticket, Bletchley Park Family Ticket, OUFC Tickets, L'oreal Perfume, Truffles Gift Set, Dartington Crystal Glasses, Peter Rabbit Gift Set ... and more!

A SILENT AUCTION FOR AMAZING PRIZES INCLUDING

Afternoon Tea @ The Dorchester plus voucher for travel & spending money,
Stowaway Festival Family Tickets, One Hour Vocal Coaching with Sheridan Coldstream,

Come along with friends and family to enjoy!

Sports Day Events 12.45-1pm

Children's entertainer 2-3.30pm

Raffle & silent auction prize draws 4.30pm

**Lots to eat & drink: beer tent, tea & cakes, curry, hot dogs,
and much, much more!**

**Live music, tombolas, face painting, craft stalls, plant stall, bookstall,
Crazy Sand, coconut shy, hook-a-duck, flip-a-frog, tractors and more!**

Funds raised through this event will support the school and the wider community of Finmere
For further information contact Debbie Bloomfield 07765 874090 or debbie.bloomfield1@gmail.com

Call for Volunteer - Poppy Appeal Organiser

After 10 years, it is with great regret that I will need to hand over the baton of "Poppy Appeal Organiser for Fringford District" to another volunteer. My timetable, increasingly in London and Kent, no longer allows me to continue

If you are interested in taking on this very important, but also very satisfying, role please contact Hugo Brown on hmhb10@gmail.com



Hugo Brown

Fringford Big Boot

ORGANISED BY FRINGFORD SCHOOL COUNCIL

Sunday 14th July 2024

10AM - 2PM

Is that junk in your trunk? Or, are you going to...

£10 A CAR



FRINGFORD'S

BIG BOOT

CAR BOOT SALE and FAMILY FUN DAY!

For enquires and to reserve your pitch:
01869 277397
office3083@fringford.oxon.sch.uk

All proceeds will go towards
Enrichment Activities



at Fringford Cricket Club

ICE CREAMS • BOUNCY CASTLE • RAFFLE

Bicester and Islip Deanery

Pilgrim Paths

Otmoor Circular Walk



Sunday 14th July, 2:30pm

Distance: 3 miles

You are warmly invited to join Bicester and Islip Deanery's sixth Pilgrim Paths walk.

Meet at St. Mary's Church, Charlton-on-Otmoor.
There will be refreshments and a short service at St. Mary's Church at the end of the walk.

On-street parking is available within Charlton-on-Otmoor.

Further information from the Pilgrim Paths Team:

bicislip.pilgrimpaths@gmail.com

Follow us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1310223859871650>

**SAVE THE DATE FOR FUTURE WALKS:
Sunday 8th September (Fritwell)**

Twyford Village Stores and Coffee Shop

Twyford Village Stores was launched as a community-owned village store and coffee shop in 2007. We try to use local produce and suppliers where we can; honey, jams chutneys, cakes, local butchery, bread, eggs etc and also have a few small locally made cards and gifts. We currently face a number of challenges; heavily increased overheads, lower customer visits and decreased spending. To continue, we need to provide a service and store that is viable and needed. We would like your views so we can try to achieve that.

How should the shop develop? Are you a local producer who could sell via our shop? Do you want to buy locally sourced produce? Do you regularly go out for morning coffee? Let us know at <https://tinyurl.com/TVSsvy> or pop round and tell us in person! The survey can be completed online or printed out and returned to the shop. We look forward to hearing from you.

Great Big Green Week Event

'We can play our part' in caring for creation and minimising our human impact

God answered our prayers on the afternoon of Sunday 2nd June, by giving us a gloriously sunny afternoon on "Environment Sunday", when we gathered in the Hethe churchyard for "Great Big Green Week", where 60 people joined us for a range of workshops and activities focused on caring for the earth's ecosystem.



We made pan-pipes out of bamboo, kalimbas out of lolly sticks, and guitars out of PET drink bottles. We furnished a bug hotel and built bird and bat boxes, or bought them from local charity Bicester Green who joined us for the afternoon. We coloured pictures of wildlife, and swapped plants, seeds and various other items. We discovered the wide diverse of plants in the church yard, and learned how the nearby Ardley recycling centre produces useful plastics, buildings and energy from the things we throw away.

All this took place to the harmonious musical backdrop provided by the talented Opus Sax Quartet and flautist Juliet Beadle. Hethe's legendary tea and cake sustained us through all the energetic activity. A great time was had by all.

The grass in front of the church was full of people as we gathered in the sunshine for worship led by the Opus Sax Quartet, and to reflect on Genesis 2:15 – "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

We considered how this garden can symbolise the whole of the earth God created, which is "very good". "Working and caring for it" means not to "improve" what God made, but to fulfil the potential he embedded in it. When we do this, it is as if the physical world is an instrument, and we "play" it to make "music". So, when we make a work of art, or a construct beautiful building, or bake a cake – or produce and play a musical instrument, it glorifies God, and makes a sweet sound to his ears. Conversely, polluting lakes and rivers, waging war, or destroying the habitats of vulnerable creatures is like making a discordant cacophony to God. We were challenged to contemplate how we can play our own part in living harmoniously with the planet God gave us as a home.



Thank you so much to the Hethe team for hosting us, and serving delicious refreshments all afternoon, and to everyone who worked so hard to put on a fun event and tidy up afterwards.

Shelswell Parishes are organising a visit to Ardley recycling unit customer centre. They can accommodate parties of up to 20. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult, and in a visiting party, up to 15 people aged 12 and above can take a tour of the incinerator unit itself. If you are interested, please contact Sam Mortimer (rev.sam.mortimer@gmail.com) or give your name by phone or email to the church office.

Sam Mortimer



Buzz into Town on the BICESTER BEE

Buzzing around Bicester



ABILITY
0300 772 9701

Breaking news!!

More buses for rural areas - buzzing around Bicester. ABILITY to commence three new timetabled services in the Bicester area - "Connecting People with Places".

The new **Bicester Bee** service will commence at 07:22 from **Finmere** on 1st July 2024, financially supported by **Oxfordshire County Council**.



ABILITY – **"Your local bus service"** will begin operating around parishes in the rural areas of Oxfordshire connecting into **Bicester**, giving access to local services and Fares are will be introduced at an amazing **£2 per journey!**

- Operating on a timetable 6 days a week, Monday to Saturday.
- Regular services into Bicester Town and Langford Medical Centre.
- Fares are payable by, Cash, Contactless, or by Concessionary Bus Passes.
- The bus service is open to all.

Timetables are on our website and visible at each bus stop.

82: Finmere, Mixbury, Cottisford, Hethe, Fringford, Stratton Audley, Caversfield
81: Caversfield, Stoke Lyne, Souldern, Somerton, Fritwell, Fewcott, Ardley, Bucknell
108: Bicester, Langford Medical Centre

admin@abilitycic.org.uk
www.abilitycic.org.uk



REGISTRY

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

Service of blessing

James Andrew Charles Jell and Paola Patino Tapia

Saturday 25th May 2024

St Peter’s Church, Stoke Lyne

Jamie and Paola met in November 2020 through an online language app. Jamie was interested in learning Italian – although it turned out it was Spanish he needed to be focussing on, as one of the people he met was Paola who was living in Mexico City. They exchanged a few messages – and then a lot more, sometimes messaging for hours at a time. Eventually, after much planning and several delays due to unforeseen events, Paola came to Bicester to visit Jamie in January 2023.

As soon as they saw each other, they just clicked – they felt comfortable in one another’s company, comfortable just doing the everyday things like going for a drive, preparing food, chatting, going to pick up a coffee. Jamie said “I have never experienced such companionship - I didn’t realise what I was missing!” And long before the end of Paola’s first visit they were already planning her next and talking about the future.

Eventually plans were made for their wedding – the fiancée visa was obtained, Paola’s relatives in Mexico booked their plane tickets, friends and family in the UK were invited. And on the morning of Saturday 25th May everyone was gathered outside the registry office in Garth Park to see the arrival of the pair in Jamie’s friend Dan’s battered old Land Rover.



Ruth 1:16-17
But Ruth said, “Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die – there will I be buried.

After the ceremony and more photos, everyone made their way to Stoke Lyne Church for a short service of blessing. Google translate did a pretty good job at the service and the wedding reception that followed.

Paola’s Mexican relatives had all helped prepare the church for the reception. Her aunt had brought decorations for the tables all the way from Mexico, and they looked lovely. There was a bit of a delay as the van bringing the food got lost, needing multiple phone calls to finally guide it to the church, but no one seemed to mind, just enjoying the opportunity to catch up with people they hadn’t seen for a long time as well

as making new friends. And after the food, the Mexican contingent did their best to persuade the UK contingent to get up and dance! Jamie and Paola look forward to visiting her family in Mexico City next year for further wedding celebrations – and I gather that the Mexicans really know how to party!

Our prayers are with Jamie and Paola as they begin married life- may their marriage be life long and life enhancing, a blessing to them and their family and friends.



Club News



SHELLOWELL WI



Shelwell WI welcomed Chris Bazeley to our June meeting. Giving his talk -The History of the Privvy. It was a light hearted talk, enjoyed by everyone. We are now looking out for buildings which may have once been a privvy.

Lesley, our President, attended the National Federation of Women's Institutes' AGM in London in June and was able to let us know that this year's resolution **Dental Health Matters** had been voted for unanimously. It was clear to see that apart from the travelling Lesley had thoroughly enjoyed her day, especially the singing of Jerusalem by the 5000+ attendees.

Our meeting in July will take place in Juniper Hill, Meryl has kindly offered the use of her garden as we are unable to use the hall due to the election. Meryl will be giving a short talk about the real Lark Rise, followed by a brief tour of the hamlet. We hope to rebook the Blood Bikers early next year.

In August we will have our annual evening walk (more details to follow), before returning to the hall in September.

Selwell WI always welcome new members, if you would like to join us contact Lesley Beagent on 07729 605670. We meet on the first Thursday of the month 7.30pm in Fringford Village Hall.



SHELLOWELL GARDEN CLUB



What a fabulous garden we enjoyed in June. We were welcomed to a private garden, by the owner, who encouraged us to explore the 17 acres. His passion for the unusual was evident and we were regularly asking the name of one plant or another. It was nice that he was thrilled to have so many happy, inquisitive gardeners in his garden. A lovely chap! One of the conifers that we all admired was a little 'frilly' thing called the Japanese Umbrella pine. Also, a beautiful, scented Philadelphus stopped us all in our tracks. Cuttings were taken, with permission, and are now in the greenhouse. There were lakes, paddocks, shady corners, large kitchen garden and views across a wildflower meadow. Something for everyone!

Our July trip has been arranged for a mini-bus sized group to Woodcote Villa and Coton Manor on 13th July. Our autumn evening visit (**10th September**) is to The Grange, Chalgrove, (NGS garden) 11 acres of gardens including herbaceous borders and a large expanse of prairie with many grasses and a wildflower meadow. There is a lake with bridges and a planted island, a dry riverbed and a labyrinth. A brook runs through the garden with a further pond, arboretum, old orchard and partly walled vegetable garden. 1 Berrick Road, Chalgrove, OX44 7RQ. 7pm start.

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.

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 shelwellgardenclub@gmail.com

SHELWELL READING GROUP

The book for our May meeting was *The Murmur of Bees* by Sofia Sergovia, which was universally enjoyed. A slow start for some, the book gathered pace in the second half. The magic realism was handled with a light touch, the characters well developed, and for most, it was an immersive family story set in a country we didn't know much about. It was felt that the translation from the original language was well done, and everyone loved Simonopo!

Other books discussed were :

- *Precious Bane* – Mary Webb
- *Long Island* – Colm Tolbin (still in hardback)
- *Secret Life of Bees* – Sue Monk Kidd
- *The Snow Child* – Eowyn Ivey



Our next book club meetings are:

Wednesday 19th June, 7.30 pm at 3 Kennel Cottages, Cottisford

Wednesday 17th July, 7.30 pm at 1/2 Hethe Cottages, Cottisford

Our next book will be *Brooklyn* by Colm Tolbin.

Jane Birnage

SHELWELL POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP

At our June meeting we looked at poems on the theme of Anger, and found that we were mining a rich seam of creativity. We began with an extract from Milton's *Paradise Lost*, in which God expresses his anger with the serpent, Adam and Eve. As a contrast we then read the poem *When We Two Parted*, a very personal poem by Lord Byron in which he mixes bleak unhappiness with condemnation of his former lover for her reputation as a serial adulterer.

in *A Poison Tree* William Blake writes about the dangers of internalising anger one feels with another person, whereas in *London* and *Auguries of Innocence* he expresses his anger at oppression, the condition of the poor and human cruelty to animals.

A humorous poem by Irish poet James Stephens, *Righteous Anger*, expresses towering rage at being denied free beer at an inn, but Claude McKay, a poet of the Harlem Renaissance, has a very genuine reason for his anger, which was fed by the gulf between black and white people in the first half of the 20th century in America. His poem *The White House* is full of bitterness but also the resolution to behave better than those who oppress him.

In *The Anti-Suffragists*, Charlotte Perkins Gilman fulminates about women who would not support the organisations calling for their sex to have the vote, and her anger is far more evident than that behind Wilfred Owen's poem *Anthem for Doomed Youth*. His, however, is all the more powerful for its restraint. He was disgusted at the waste of young lives in the First World War and contrasts the dignity of a conventional civilian funeral with the lack of it where soldiers were dying in their thousands.

In *Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night* Dylan Thomas transfers the anger he feels at his father's death to his feelings about death itself. He prefers rage to quiet acceptance and was obviously very deeply affected by the loss of his parent. Ted Hughes, on the other hand, in *The Minotaur* relates the story of a row between, one assumes, himself and his wife, fellow-poet Sylvia Plath. One would like to hear her account of the same incident, in which Hughes says she was 'demented' over a matter he implies was trivial!

More general poems on the subject of anger were *This Morning I Pray for my Enemies* by Joy Harjo, *And 2 Morrow* by Tupac Shakur, *Righteous Wrath* by Henry Van Dyke and *Anger* by Charles and Mary Lamb. *Stop Me!* By AR Wells calls on his better qualities to cool his anger and Lucy Maud Montgomery in *To My Enemy* thanks someone who has angered her for giving her something to fight for!

Our July meeting will be on 9th and the theme will be Water, in all its forms. If you would like to join us please contact me on 01869 811994 or at 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

SERVICES

Sunday 7th July 9.15 am Holy Communion (CW)
 Sunday 21st July 9.15 am Holy Communion (BCP)

COTTISFORD AND JUNIPER HILL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

A write-up of the Open Gardens on Sunday 16th June will be in next month's magazine. Meanwhile, the Social Committee are organising dates for a coffee morning and pop up pubs so look out for these dates, coming soon.

If you are able to help at any of our events please contact Sandra at sandrambickmore@gmail.com

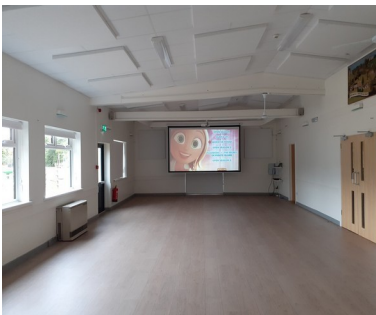
Finmere St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: Barbara Cunningham, 'Woodlea' Finmere, Tel: 01280 847992
 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 21st July 9.15 am Holy Communion
 Sunday 28th July 9.15 am Morning Service

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 with larger screen, new flooring and front and fire exit doors and enlarged storage spaces for regular users. WiFi facilities are also now available.



Patio doors have been installed, leading onto a hard standing, adjacent to the children's play area, making the hall ideal for children's & adults events alike.

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



Sorry folks...
In July, there will be no
Tuesday Teas

Instead, please come along to the
Village Fair

on Saturday 13th July, at the school playing field.
See the advertisement on page 6!

We will be serving tea and cakes from 1-5 pm

If anyone could help with baking cakes or serving at the Fair,
please contact Jo (07974 704312) or Alice (01280 848192)
Your baking costs can be reimbursed

If you need transport, please contact Jo

Allotments

We have had a good clear up at the allotment site and as a result, the Poor's Plot now has a number of additional plots available for hire. Cost is a modest £20 / year.

Interested, visit www.myfinmere.com/poorsplot and select the 'enquiry' link.



[Art @ StMichael's](#)



Earlier this year Michelle and I put the call out to Finmere creatives of all ages and abilities to take part in an exhibition in a 'Gallery in the Church' this May. It seemed to be a popular suggestion as the initial response was very encouraging, and as the weeks ticked by more and more painters, sculptors, potters, jewellers, photographers and textile whizzes submitted entry forms. Despite quite a few prospective exhibitors being worried that their work wasn't of a high enough standard, being reluctant to submit their pieces, everyone who saw the calibre and variety of the work in the completed display was stunned.

The pupils of Finmere school created a thought provoking display on the theme of 'Natural Disasters' with models and paintings of tornados, wildfires, a tsunami and even a volcano. Before the official opening the children had a sneak preview of the finished exhibition and it was fascinating that their favourite pieces were virtually all different, their choices showing how individual our tastes in art can be, a theme which continued to be echoed by the many visitors throughout the duration of the show. The sun shone all weekend allowing tea and a huge variety of delicious cakes from the Tuesday Teas bakers to be served at tables in the church yard.

It was a true community event with many hands pulling together to erect boards, put up lights and display work, and take it all down again. The most frequent comment from visitors was that it was astounding that there was so much talent in Finmere! But for me it was the personal statements that we wheedled out of contributors that was so gratifying - why people paint, sew, sculpt. The overwhelming impression is just how much pleasure people get from being creative - the concentration that is required is fully absorbing, it is truly therapeutic. Being creative it is good for you!

Thank you to everyone involved for making [Art@St.Michael's](#) such a success, and especially to the Rector for loaning us a fabulous gallery space.

Cindy Jansz

Finmere Pop-Up Pub



POP-UP PUB

**Friday 19 July
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 refreshments
gratefully received (card or cash)**

For more information: Debbie and Richard 07765 874090

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

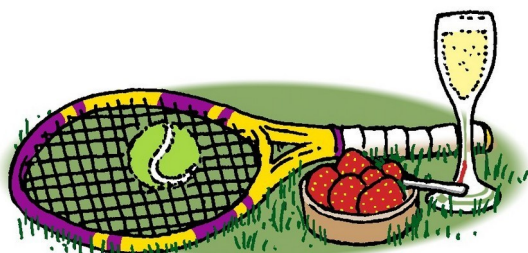
Village hall news at – www.myfinmere.com

Finmere Poor's Plot – www.myfinmere.com/poorsplot

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



Finmere Light Lunches

**All locals invited to a free
Light lunch**

in the Village Hall

**Every 4th Tuesday of the month,
Continuing through the summer!**

July 23rd 12.30-2pm



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

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	

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS, SERVICES & EVENTS

Services

- ❖ Sunday 7 July – at 10.45am, Morning Service
- ❖ Sunday 21 July – at 10.45am, Holy Communion
- ❖ Sunday 28 July – 6.00pm Evensong in Hardwick Church with the Shelswell Benefice Choir.

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, the noticeboard at the church, or ring the Benefice office (01280-848192). You will always be welcome in our other parishes.

Beer Festival

Fringford Beer Festival took place just before this edition of Shelswell News was produced. Despite the 'on and off' showers it was a great day – a full write-up will be in the August edition.

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 1st prize £61, 2nd £37, 3rd £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

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

Village Coffee Morning will take place on Monday 15 July. 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 items/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 for 2024 are:

July	Sunday 21st
August	No meeting
September	Sunday 15th
October	Wednesday 16th
November	Sunday 17th
December	Sunday 15th

Sessions are £2.00 drop in

No need to book – just come and join us!

If you would like information, please email Irene 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>FS Dance Monday & Wednesday (term time) After school classes BALLET • TAP • MODERN • STREET leah.fsd@gmail.com or 07885827592</p>	<p>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>Puppy Stars Dog Training Tuesday evening – various classes Contact Nick 07542 131400 www.puppystars.co.uk</p>	<p>Parish Council Meeting All villagers welcome Third Monday in the month 7.45pm Contact 01844 237766 or fringford.parishclerk@gmail.com</p>
<p>Fringford Yoga Wednesday (term time) 9.30am – 11am Carolyn White 01869 277161</p>	<p>Bicester Sound Bath Meditation First Sunday of the month from 7.45 pm Sonia - contact@holisticaxis.com Please text - 07709634847</p>
<p>Just Puppies Puppy Training Wednesday evening – various classes Contact Kerri 07720 891489 www.justpuppies.training</p>	<p>Shelswell WI First Thursday of the month 7.30pm Contact Lesley Beagent on 07729605670</p>
<p>Pilates Thursday at 10.00am natashaflowerspilates@gmail.com or 07545 525820</p>	<p>Mindfulness Meditation Monthly Sunday 11am to 12.30pm janerainey17@gmail.com or 07971 008337</p>
<p>My Baby Spa Monday mornings Spa experience for babies and toddlers 1 – 4 years www.mybabyspa.co.uk contact Danielle at contact@mybabyspa.co.uk</p>	<p>Fringford Sewcial Sew and Chat! Monthly Wednesday from 7pm Or Sunday from 3pm Contact Irene at ireneethomas@btinternet.com</p>
<p>Tai Chi for Well Being Starts Tuesday 4th June from 1pm Contact taichi@3rd-i-wellness.co.uk or 07596 527783 www.3rd-i-Wellness.co.uk</p>	<p>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 fringford.info, village hall, how to book Here you will find all the information you will need to book on-line. For any other queries please phone or text 07936 879175 or email: fringford.hall@gmail.com</p>	

Fringford Rectors 1756-1898

This is the third and final part of a three part series on Fringford Rectors by Martin Greenwood

The Revd Cadwallader Coker (1873-94)

Coker was a member of a large, wealthy and distinguished Bicester family, the owners of Bicester Hall. Many of them are commemorated in St Edburg's Church there. 'He was 'a clergyman of the old type' who preached to his poorer parishioners contentment with their divinely appointed lot in life and submission to the established order of earthly things.'

By the 1890s weekly communion was celebrated but attendance was variable and it decreased significantly in the 1880s. In 1899, however, the rector described it as 'very satisfactory'. In 1876, Coker built the Old School House on land leased from Lord Sidmouth, owner of Hall Farm. To the west of the church, there is a memorial to the Revd Coker and members of his family,

including his grandson, Lewis, who died in 1879, aged 19, at Ekowe in South Africa. He was serving as a midshipman in the Naval Brigade on HMS *Active* in the Anglo-Zulu Wars.



Fringford Old School Photo by Des Blenkinsopp from geograph.org.uk

He and his wife both died in April 1894. In the north aisle, the second window was dedicated in 1898 to Cadwallader Coker and his family. Two members of his family who died in the Great War are recorded on plaques below the window.

The Revd Charles Thompson (1894-98)

In 1894, following these four well-connected rectors, democracy came to Fringford with a vengeance, with the arrival of Charles Thompson. He was married but did not have any children, although Flora Thompson gives him two daughters in *Lark Rise to Candleford*; this gives her the freedom to discuss children in the community. However, her description of the new rector sounds very authentic.

'Dignity did not enter into his composition. He would run out to post a letter..in his shirt-sleeves' and he had a charming way of relieving any old woman of her load, like a faggot of sticks or a clothes-basket of washing.

Some missed Mr Coulsdon (Coker) 'He was a gentleman if ever there was one!' Others liked Mr Delafield (Thompson) because he was 'not proud and stuck up', and he soon won the 'reputation of the best preacher in the neighbourhood - some said in the county.' As a parishioner was heard to say 'A sermon like that makes you feel two inches taller.'

On summer Sunday evenings the church was often so well filled that late-comers had to stand in the aisle. Oh that it could be so today! 'By the majority, judgement was suspended, "You've got to summer and winter a man before you can pretend to know him" was an old country maxim much quoted at the time.'

After he left Fringford in 1898, he became Vicar of Belgrave with Birstall in Leicestershire. In 1905, he was made Rector of Daventry and Rural Dean in 1906. He died in St Albans in 1916, aged 60.

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

Church Services at Hardwick Church

Sunday 28th July 6.00 pm Evensong with the Shelswell Group Choir
 Sunday 4th August 9.15 am Holy Communion

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: www.hethe.org	

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

Saturday 14th July 9.15 am Holy Communion (CW)
 Saturday 28th July 8:00 am Holy Communion (BCP)





We are pleased to share that the church has now achieved an Eco Church Silver Award. Thanks to everyone who supported the caring for creation approach at services, initiatives in and around the church, and the Great Big Green Week event on 2nd June. More details about Eco Church at ecochurch.arocha.org.uk or through this QR Code....



The church is still closed while we try and resolve the issues which caused water to enter the building and a section of plaster to fall from above the Chancel Arch. But, having assessed the risks, we have continued to hold services in the south aisle of the church while members of the PCC are present. Please refer to the village web site for the latest news.

Remember that you will always 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>.

There has been a recent accident to someone caring for relatives' graves, so please take care when walking around the churchyard, keeping to the mown paths wherever possible. A team of volunteers met on 18th May to tidy up the churchyard, including mowing paths, making them wider and laying woodchip where necessary. The headstones were all inspected on 1st June and found to be safe, If you find anything of concern, please let our Church Warden, Flora, know soonest (her contact details are above).

We don't know at this stage what the cost will be of restoring the church (we also have an outstanding issue with the west window in the nave), but we are already heading for an in-year deficit. If you can contribute to this "Restoration Fund", please follow this link <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/7e54ff18-4263-4c70-a015-af4d5d2337f0> or scan this QR Code:



If you prefer to contribute to other church expenses, 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).

The next PCC meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th July.

HETHE COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

Great Big Green Week 2024
Sunday June 2nd 3 – 5pm
in and around St Edmund & St George Church, Hethe



'We can all play our part'
in caring for creation and
minimising our human impact.



Thank you to everyone who helped to organise and run the event in and around the church on Sunday 2nd June for Environment Sunday as a lead up to the Great Big Green Week. There is a full write-up on page 9.

Hethe Community Coffee Morning in the Village Hall

Monday 8th July from 10.00am to 12.00pm

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



New Bus Service

New bus services start on Monday 1st July to many villages to the north of Bicester operated by Ability CIC with financial support from Oxfordshire County Council. Hethe will be served by Service 82.

82

Bicester Town Centre - Bicester Town Centre

Mondays to Fridays

Bicester Town Centre, Pioneer Square (Stand 1)	dep	13:20	15:20	17:50
Bicester, opp Bicester North Station		13:22	15:22	17:52
Bicester, opp Buckingham Crescent		13:23	15:23	17:53
Caversfield, Caversfield Turn (NE-bound)		13:25	15:25	17:55
Caversfield, Skimmingdish Lane HAR (NW-bound)		13:26	15:26	17:56
Caversfield, adj Wilson Way		13:27	15:27	17:57
Stratton Audley, West Cottages (NE-bound)		13:31	15:31	18:01
Stratton Audley, opp Glen Close		13:31	15:31	18:01
Fringford, adj Wise Crescent		13:36	15:36	18:06
Hethe, o/s Town Well		13:42	15:42	18:12
Cottisford, Crossroads (N-bound)		13:45	15:45	18:15
Mixbury, opp All Saints Church		13:52	15:52	18:22
Finmere, opp Chinnalls Close		13:59	15:59	18:29
Newton Purcell, o/s Shelswell Inn		14:02	16:02	
Caversfield, Caversfield Turn (SW-bound)		14:13	16:13	
Bicester, adj Buckingham Crescent		14:15	16:15	
Bicester, o/s Bicester North Station		14:15	16:15	
Bicester Town Centre, Pioneer Square (Stand 1)	arr	14:16	16:16	

Notes

[Req]

[Req] some places only served by arrangement with driver

Compiled from data for the period Mon 01-Jul-2024 to Sun 07-Jul-2024. Times not in bold are estimated by using the distance between the stop

Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be held on Tuesday 9th July, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. As Peter Ward has ceased to be a Council Member there is a vacancy which will be filled by co-option.

For **Village Hall bookings**, please contact Flora, the Village Hall Booking Secretary, on 01869 277366 fjskinner@hotmail.co.uk.

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.

Keep up to date with what is happening in Hethe through:

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

Facebook Pages:

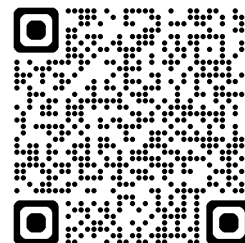
Community Spirit of the Hethens -

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/914036669040803>

Hethe Community -

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/651105142605166>

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



Mixbury All Saints

CHURCHWARDENS: Martin Ayres, Northwell Farm, Finmere

Alec Howard, Middlestead, Mixbury

TREASURER: David Mitchell. 2 Town Farm, Mixbury

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Anna Howard

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Sue Goodman pasgoodman551@gmail.com

Tel 07899 792552

Tel 01280 848295

Tel 01280 847769

Tel 01280 848295

Tel 01280 848002

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.

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 14th July 9.15 am Mixbury Half Hour

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.

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 Boshier

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.

BIG LUNCH 2ND JUNE 2024



The sun shines upon the righteous – and, indeed it did! After a week of cold and inclement weather, the day of The Big Lunch was warm and sunny, with endless blue skies! The week thereafter returned to the unseasonal temperatures of the week before.

This moment marked the culmination of the herculean effort, which was afforded by those who engineered the purchase and subsequent preparation of this field for the children of Mixbury, in time for this special event. What just reward! The success of this incredible journey was bathed in warmth, laughter, music and friendship, with food to be shared and company to be enjoyed. The children ran free in the sunshine. They played ball games and rode tricycles, developed friendships and made memories, all in the safety of their own six acre patch of Mixbury Magic.

Huge thanks goes to all those involved in the purchase and preparation of the land, and the organisation of such a successful village event, on Sunday 2nd June. How remarkable our community is!





A gentle reminder that the Playing Field is for children so please if you walk your dog around please clear up any deposits by the dog(s), and that obviously goes for any where in the village. We do have a dog poo bin near the bus shelter and hope to get one near the playing field soon, so there is no excuse!

MIXBURY PARISH MEETING

The above was held in the Church on 23rd May 2024 and attended by a small number of villagers, it's a great way to find out what is happening in the village so please come along to the next meeting normally in November.

BANKING

As we now have no banks in Brackley it may be useful for people to know that Barclays mobile bank will be outside the Town hall in Brackley, every other Tuesday, starting 4th June.

You can also pay in cash, cheques, withdraw cheques and check your balance over the counter at Evenley Post Office at any time.

BYE BYE BARBARA AND JEREMY

Very sadly Barbara and Jeremy are downsizing and off to live nearer family in another part of Oxfordshire, but Barbara has written her "memoir" of living in Mixbury, below. On a personal note I took over the Parish Magazine from Barbara (a hard act to follow) and she was also the Secretary to the Parish Meeting for a while as well as being a brilliant member of Book Club, so many witty reviews and chatty evenings we have all shared – a fond farewell Barbara we will miss you and Jeremy, but good luck for the future.

BYE BYE MIXBURY **From Barbara and Jeremy Mortimer**

We loved the look of Mixbury as soon as we set eyes on it. There's no doubt it is a beautiful village. But we realised it was a bit different a few days after moving in when we saw a teenage boy sailing down the middle of the road on a skateboard carrying a large Windsor chair.

People were very welcoming. I was invited straight away to a bread baking afternoon and met some lovely neighbours. People asked us, are you going to get a log burner? "No, probably not." We had one within weeks. Are you going to keep chickens? "No. Definitely not. No." And the rest is history.

It was obvious that children and young people had an idyllic life here. There was the toddler sitting on top of a fat pony surrounded by family and friends walking down Church Lane, and in the opposite direction a girl whizzing along on a bicycle with both arms outstretched. Then there was the crocodile of small boys led by a couple of teenagers carrying a football, off for a match. Not to be confused with the procession of kids dressed-up as actual crocodiles stumbling along the pavement early one Sunday morning, obviously returning from a lizard themed sleepover. They take part in everything, helping build the bonfire, doing readings in church, performing in the Nativity Play (here's some gold for you, Jesus) and the older ones mowing the churchyard grass, building walls and working on farms.

One day, waiting for a bus (remember those?) I noticed a man sitting in a cross-country vehicle with the logo of a local airfield. A Mum came out of a house and called out to him "I'm sorry to keep you waiting, but I've told them they aren't going anywhere until they've gutted that fish." This is my all-time favourite quote that you wouldn't hear anywhere but Mixbury. What were they off to do? A bit of aircraft maintenance probably. Anyway, they are all "hands on" (apart from the girl on the bicycle, obviously).

The grown-ups delight in eccentricity. Where we lived before there was a postbox at the end of the road and I always felt I had to be dressed for "going out" to post something. In Mixbury I felt I could almost go to the postbox in my dressing gown. I mentioned this to a neighbour and she said she had actually done this. It's not just Windsor chairs that get moved about. We pushed a piano from our house to a neighbour's and then a couple of years later, on to another neighbour.

The favourite method of moving things is in a wheelbarrow, down the middle of the road (and you look slightly surprised if a car comes along and you have to move aside). Quite often the cargo is horse poo of course, but it can be plants from the nursery, the tools you need for a job somewhere in the village, things you are giving to someone for something, or a carton of bottles of beer (that was me). Sometimes it's just an empty wheelbarrow. Once I was pushing a wheelbarrow full of wood for the bonfire down the road when in the distance I saw a shovel loader approaching. I couldn't see who was in the cab, but they had seen me and guessed what I was about. It came right up to me and lowered its mouth like a kindly dinosaur. I tipped the wood into it and off it went.

In the early days of HS2 there was a wonderful Ealing Comedy moment. News went round that a survey of footpath use was being carried out. People knocked on doors: "get up there quickly". It was wonderful – a long trail of footpath users - on foot, on bikes, on ponies and, who knows, pogo sticks. All to no avail of course but great fun. There are so many other things I could mention, being cured of my fear of dogs and cats (by immersion therapy!), and really enjoying the tendency to be slightly scruffy (if you accidentally look a bit smart, people ask if you are going somewhere nice).

Best of all is the general sociability. If you go out for a walk it can often be more talk than walk. There's a "hello" or a smile for everyone – a habit that is hard to shake off if you find yourself in London or Birmingham. And of course there have always been wonderful people who provide support for anyone who needs it, and that really came to the fore during Covid.

It will be difficult to go but we will come to the fete as ex-Mixburyites do, and keep in touch. We will wipe the mud from our boots (Mixbury mud, unless I am mistaken, Watson) and find our feet in a new village.

Barbara and Jeremy Mortimer 38-39.

HELEN PHILLIPS

Very sadly after celebrating her 99th birthday in May Helen has passed away – sending our condolences and thoughts to John and the family.



MIXBURY HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY ARCHIVE OPEN DAY

The New History Team held their first successful Open Day on Saturday 15th June 2024 – the event was well attended with past and present residents of the village – old and young. Thank you to all the lovely people who made cakes, brownies etc. All greatly appreciated and if you didn't make this Open Day there will be others in the future.

MIXBURY BOOK EXCHANGE

Looking for some summer reading, don't forget the Book Exchange Table in the Church (next to the organ/ North Door). Please help yourself and possibly donate a book in the process. There is a good selection with some children's books too.

Save The Date

Mixbury Village Fete – 31st August 2024



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 -

Thursday 4th July 12.00 noon – Midweek Holy Communion and Soup Lunch
Sunday 7th July - 9.15 a.m. - Holy Communion

Bonus Ball Lotto:-

Our recent lucky winner was Ryan Parouty.

Summer Fete:-

At the time of writing we are looking forward to our Fete on Saturday 22nd June which we will report on fully in next months magazine.

Dates for Your Diary:-

Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust Ride & Stride - Saturday 14th September.

Christmas Concert - The Phoenix Singers have very kindly agreed to entertain us once more in December. The exact date and details to be published later.

Stoke Lyne

St Peter's

CHURCHWARDEN: Christopher Poole CTP@oxford-educational.co.uk
 TREASURER: Janey Poole janey@oxford-educational.co.uk
 PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Emma Brown emmabrown911@gmail.com
 MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Rena Andrews renaandrews820@gmail.com
 PARISH ROOM BOOKINGS : Kelly and James Holden-White kholdenwhite@aol.com
 WEBSITE www.stokelyne.org

Tel 01869 346020

Tel 07810 120457

Tel: 01869 346653

Tel 01869 345211

St Peter's Church Stoke Lyne Services

See back page for details.

Flower Duty for July

Julie Adams

Food for Thought – Sunday, 2nd June

The first Sunday of the month in St. Peter's, Stoke Lyne at 10am is our popular Food for Thought service.

This is the chance to share breakfast with friends with a **short, informal reflection and discussion. Croissants, tea, coffee, juice provided.**



This month we considered the Sabbath, traditionally a Saturday in the Jewish faith. We talked about how Sunday has changed over the years and each shared our memories of times when shops weren't open, a family walk and time for relaxation were prioritised. We decided to try and observe our Sabbath as a day which is different to all the others. If we truly rested and took time for contemplation, would we feel more prepared for the week ahead?

Our next FFT service will be at 10am on Sunday 7th July, why not come along and try it?

Film Night – Friday July 12th 6.30pm



'Mission Impossible - Dead Reckoning' (12a) is our next film, to be shown on our big screen in St Peter's Church at 6.30pm on Friday 12th July

£3 entry (includes popcorn and a soft drink) Other refreshments will be available.

School's Out – Saturday 13th July



Open Mic Night - Saturday 27th July

St Peter's Church, Stoke Lyne

7-11 pm Saturday 27th July

All artists welcome, if you're interested please contact Ped on

07926 590035

You can just turn up on the night to perform or spectate!

Food and bar will be available



Stoke Lyne 100 Club –May and June Results

The results of the June 100 club are as follows:

1 st Prize	Membership No 11	Craig Mitchell	£30.00
2 nd Prize	Membership No 27	James Lewis	£18.00
3 rd Prize	Membership No 39	Matt O'Brien	£13.20

The results were not published for last month although the prize winners were informed so just to let you know last month's winners were:

1 st Prize	Membership No 5	Faye Billingham	£30.00
2 nd Prize	Membership No 1	Jane Warde-Aldam	£18.00
3 rd Prize	Membership No 18	Pippa Elliot	£13.20

Thank you to all who support the Stoke Lyne 100 Club.

Janey Poole
Treasurer
St Peter's Church PCC

Wear it Green Day Tea and Cake for the Mental Health Foundation - Saturday, 18th May

Ali would like to thank all those who turned up to support this worthy cause. There was a lovely array of beautiful cakes and scones to tempt the taste buds. Ali would also like to thank all the helpers who set up beforehand and assisted in clearing up afterwards, as well as everyone who made cakes and helped served tea/coffee, cold drinks etc.

This was a very pleasant afternoon for a worthwhile cause. The event raised £260 for the Mental Health Foundation.

Rena Andrews

A look at the "lost" North Aisle of St Peter's Church

In the September 2023 issue of Shelswell News I looked at some of the "lost" memorials of St Peter's and mentioned that Christopher Pettie was buried in the "north aisle". So what became of this aisle? It no longer exists as such but its easternmost "bay" survives today in the form of the meeting room/small chapel, which appears like a north transept, being located opposite the south transept at the base of the tower.



According to Blomfield's (1894) History of the Present Deanery of Bicester: *“There was formerly a north aisle, of the same length as the nave, standing as late as 1651, within which Mr. Christopher Pettie and his wife were buried in that year.”*

The Stoke Lyne entry in the 2017 edition of *“The Buildings of England – Oxfordshire North and West”* states that the remaining east bay of the north aisle was reconstructed by Henry Woodyer in his 1868-69 restoration:

“He also added the N vestry, and reconstructed the E bay of the early C13 three-bay N aisle (demolished at some unknown date)”.

The entry goes on to state: *“The rest of this aisle was reconstructed as a kitchen etc., and the nave partly reordered, in 1991-93 by BBG Architects of Woodstock. The nave N wall was retained with its reset Norman window and doorway with chamfered jambs and patterned lintel.”*

I wasn't sure what was meant by *“chamfered”* but the book helpfully has a glossary which describes a chamfer thus: *“surface formed by cutting off a square edge or corner”* and if you look at the jambs (*“vertical sides of an opening”*) in the top left photo below taken from just inside the door on the kitchen area side you can see that effect as well the lintel (*“horizontal beam or stone bridging an opening”*).

W.Hobart Bird in a 1932 book entitled *“Old Oxfordshire Churches: A Concise Guide”* describes the lintel thus: *“sculptured lintel of a former Norman doorway with a diaper ornament of diamond form, also the Norman jambs”* The word *“diaper”* conjures up mental images of nappies but in architecture it means *“repetitive surface decoration of lozenges or squares flat or in relief”*.



The doorway is underneath the *“hood-mould”* (*“projecting moulding above an arch or lintel to throw off water.”*) of one of the filled in arches from the lost North aisle, visible on the kitchen side (Left hand photo above).

Hobart Bird also mentions the window above the door which he describes as *“A small Early English lancet (which is rebated)”* (Right hand photo above).

(continued overleaf)



As you can see in the left hand photo above, there is a second blocked arch about which he adds: “*Within the other blocked arch appears an original round-head Norman light, also rebated.*”

Unfortunately we can’t see that window from the kitchen area side because of the loft, but it is clearly visible from the body of the church (right hand photo above).

Brenda Hazel

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PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Maxine Ling

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

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 7th July Godington 6.00 pm Compline
Sunday 14th July Stratton Audley 10.45 am Morning Service
Sunday 28th July Stratton Audley 9.15 am Holy Communion

CREAM TEA FOR WULU

Don’t forget the Cream Tea in aid of the Girls’ Primary School in Wulu on Sunday 14th July from 3pm to 5 pm in Stratton Audley Church! See main advertisement on page 5. Stratton Audley’s cake fundraiser for the church will be in September on the same day as Ride & Stride.

GODINGTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting was held in the church on 11th June.

Updates were given on the proposed solar power station bordering the parish. Grace Conway-Murray, our new Councillor on Cherwell District Council (CDC) who is helping Stratton Audley and Godington to oppose the power station application, was present.

The repairs to Holy Trinity Church that were recommended in the quinquennial inspection report from 2021 were discussed. The meeting is open to all residents of the village - contact godingtonparishmtg@btinternet.com for more information.

✠
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 GODINGTON**



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 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.**

FOODBANK DONATIONS STILL REQUIRED

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

URGENTLY NEEDED FOOD ITEMS

- TINNED FRUIT
- TINNED VEGETABLES, TOMATOES
- TINNED SOUP
- TINNED FISH
- INSTANT COFFEE
- HOT CHOCOLATE

WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF

- BREAKFAST CEREALS
- PASTA
- TINNED SPAGHETTI
- BAKED BEANS



STRATTON AUDLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Following the successful talk in May by John Beaumont, about the Poundon and Godington Listening Stations, we are delighted to announce that there will be a talk in September by that noted, local raconteur Charlie Ross, see advert overleaf. We anticipate that this will be well supported and recommend that you apply for tickets in good time.

Local History Village Walk – Saturday 17th August

We also propose to hold another of the village walks which proved very successful 5/6 years ago. There are many new people in the village who know little of its history who will find this most enjoyable and informative. Sally Rowe will lead the walk on 17th August at 2.30pm, commencing from the Pound, and it is anticipated that it will take approximately 1-hour.

Continued overleaf

STRATTON AUDLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



THE RECOLLECTIONS OF AN ANTIQUE AUCTIONEER

Entertaining talk in Church on

Tuesday 10th SEPTEMBER

at 7.30pm

by **CHARLIE ROSS**

followed by light refreshments

Cost £10 per person

(or £8 in advance. Contact Sally on 0757 0011 800 by 20th August)

The Last Word

For young and young at heart Readers!

“The scientific theory I like best is that the rings of Saturn are composed entirely of lost airline luggage.”

Anon

15th July – Saint Swithun (Swithin)

St Swithun was an Anglo-Saxon priest who was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.

During his life Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door where rain and the steps of passers-by would fall on his grave. If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years!

However, it was decided in the 960s to move Swithun. Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun's bones in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral.

On that day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened, and there was unusually heavy rain for some days. Thus started the legend of St Swithun's day

“St Swithun's Day if thou dost rain
For forty days it will remain
St Swithun's Day if thou be fair
For forty days 'twill rain nae mair”



Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation and restored in 1962. There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England.

Is God calling you to serve on the Diocesan Synod?

It may not sound like the most exciting of vocations, but your contribution may all the same be of real, substantial help to our churches. Our Diocesan Synod represents Church of England churches in the Diocese of Oxford. Members of the Diocesan Synod may vote on important matters such as budgets, clergy numbers or amalgamating parishes into larger units.

Diocesan Synod elections are underway this month, and people of many different backgrounds and ages are being encouraged to stand for election.

Members of Diocesan Synod are elected for three years. Responsibilities include attending three to four meetings a year, usually on a Saturday. Anyone can stand for election though, slightly confusingly, only members of the Bicester and Islip Deanery Synod may vote!

Could this be something that would interest you?

There is a link to the nomination form for the Oxford Diocesan Synod election here (near the bottom of the page)

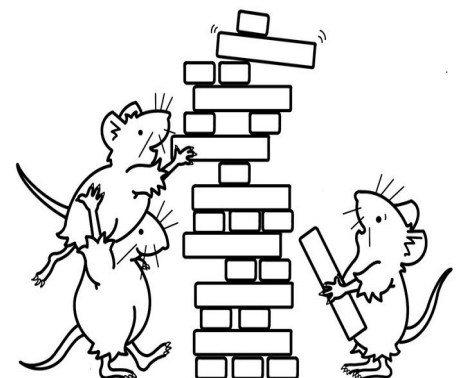
<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/who-we-are/how-we-are-governed/diocesan-synod/>

The Diocese of Oxford produces an information leaflet about Diocesan Synod elections that is linked on the same page. Another guide to Diocesan Synod elections that some people might find easier to understand, can be found at <https://www.savetheparish.com/the-diocesan-synod/>

(“Save The Parish” is an independent pressure group formed in 2021 to safeguard England's parish structure, including our church communities and buildings.)

Quote

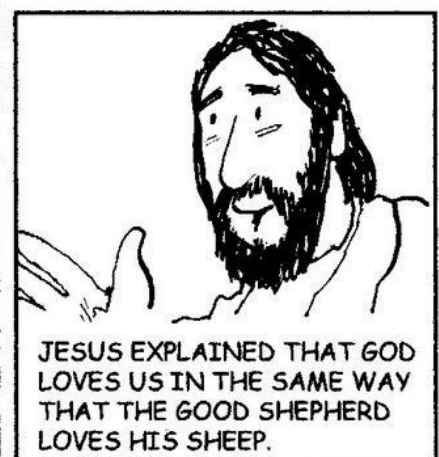
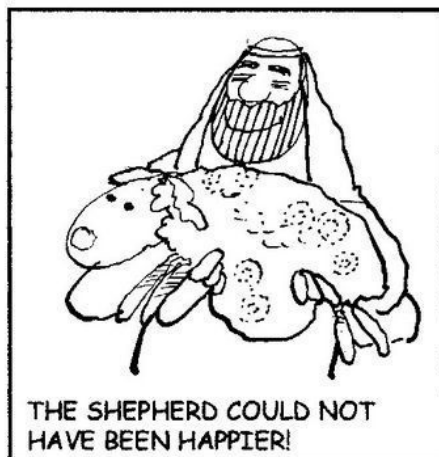
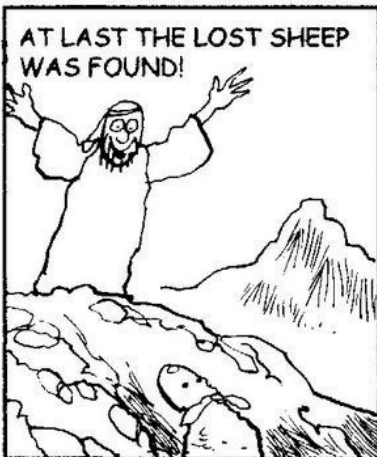
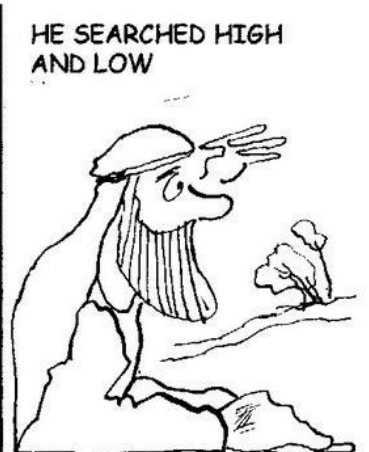
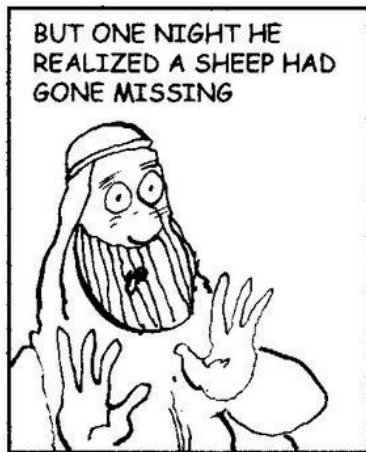
“The Church which is married to the Spirit of its Age will be a widow in the next. – Dean W R Inge”



The tale of the Lost Sheep



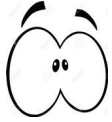
Baa!
Baa!



What is the point of temptation?

'Happy is the man who doesn't give in and do wrong when he is tempted, for afterwards he will get ... his reward....' James 1:12

Temptation becomes a stepping stone rather than a stumbling block, when you realise that it's *just as much an opportunity to do the right thing, as the wrong thing*. Temptation just gives you the choice!



It's helpful to remember that God develops the fruit of the Spirit in us by allowing circumstances in which we're tempted – to express the exact opposite quality! For instance, He teaches us to love by bringing unlovely people into our lives. It takes no character to love people who are lovely and loving you. God teaches us joy in the midst of sorrow by causing us to turn to Him for comfort and strength, when all our other supports are gone.

He develops peace within us, not by making things go the way we planned, but by allowing times of chaos and confusion. Peace comes when we choose to trust God in situations where we're tempted to worry or be afraid.

Likewise, patience is developed through circumstances in which we're forced to wait and are tempted to be angry or have a short fuse.



You can't claim to be good, if you've never been tempted to be bad; or be faithful if you've never had the opportunity to be unfaithful. Integrity is built through defeating dishonesty; humility grows as you refuse to give place to pride; endurance develops as you reject the temptation to give up. The truth is that each time you defeat a temptation, you become more like Jesus.

Adapted from: UCB, The Word for Today.

Book Reviews

Antigone Kingsley: Don't Judge Me

By Marina Magdalena, Marylebone House, £8.99

When Antigone Kingsley (Tig) and her sister Ismene are invited to join their French cousin Amelie at a holiday camp in Switzerland, adventures and big trouble follow.

Aimed at girls aged 9 upwards



Have No Fear – being salt and light even when it's costly

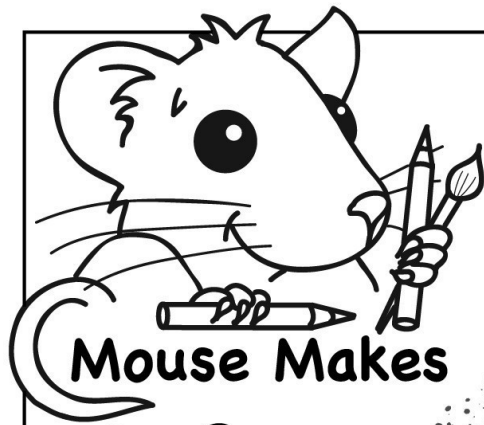
By John Lennox, 10Publishing, £3.99



Christians are under increasing pressure to be silent. We're led to believe that, at best, our beliefs are outdated, and at worst they are dangerous. Silenced by fear, it's all too easy to keep quiet.

But our Christian faith was never meant to be private. Jesus' followers are instructed to be deliberately and willingly different, seeking to share the life-changing good news they've heard with everyone whatever the cost. We might feel that we fall very short of this confident evangelistic lifestyle, but John Lennox shows us that any one of us can become an effective gospel witness.

Using examples from the Bible and from his own life, John explains practically how we can winsomely share Jesus with our friends, despite our fears. He argues that it is possible to stand up to the pressure society places on us, and in so doing we'll find our Christian life grows in strength and joy.



How many days did the Lord tell Joshua to march around the city of Jerico?

Joshua 6:3



What did the priests carry that were made from rams' horns?

Joshua 6:4

What was carried along behind the priests?

The _____
Joshua 6:4



On the seventh day how many times did they march around Jerico?

Joshua 6:6

Who was saved from Jerico along with her family?

Joshua 6:17

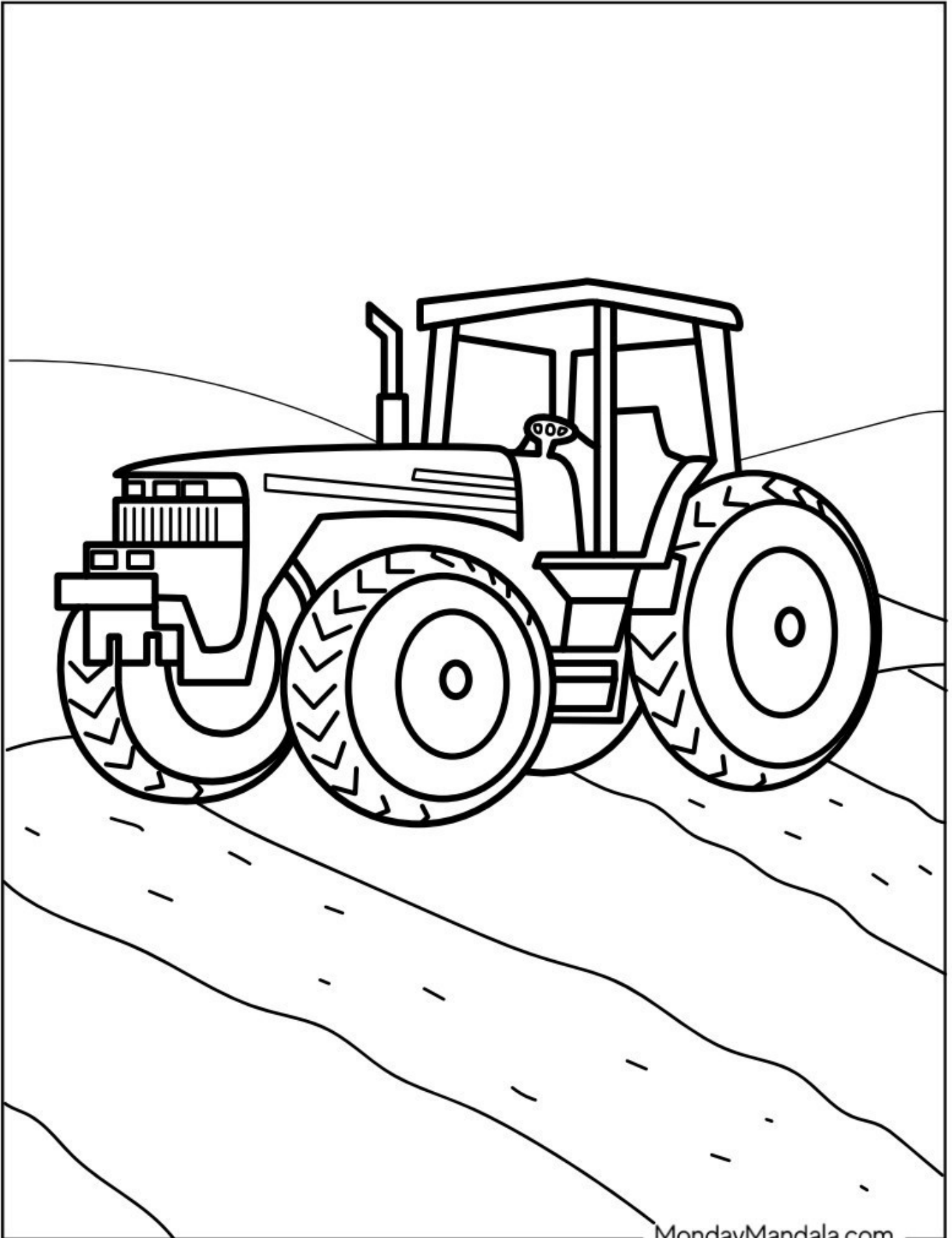


READ
the story
in Joshua
5:13-6:27

DAY S A W A L K
A J O S H U A R K E
S E V E N I O F L A T W
Y N T R F X U E L B O I
I P R I E S T S O U N D
A A U C L I S W R R C A
R I M O L K I B D N E W
O S P S C A M P H O R N
U R E C G U A R D B K
N A T I F I R E X L I
D E S T R U C T I O N
E L R Y R A H A B W G

JERICO • LORD • JOSHUA • ISRAEL • KING • PRIESTS • GUARD
CAMP • MARCH • AROUND • DAYS • WALK • ONCE • BLOW • HORN • SOUND
DAWN • SHOUT • CITY • WALL • FELL • FLAT • FIRE • BURN • DESTRUCTION

Find the question answers in the word search too!



Eric Liddell and the 1924 Olympic Games

The 2024 Paris Olympics (26 July – 11 August) will soon be here. It was 100 years ago this summer, also at the Paris Olympics, that a young science student at Edinburgh University, Eric Liddell, ran an astonishing race that caught the imagination of millions worldwide.

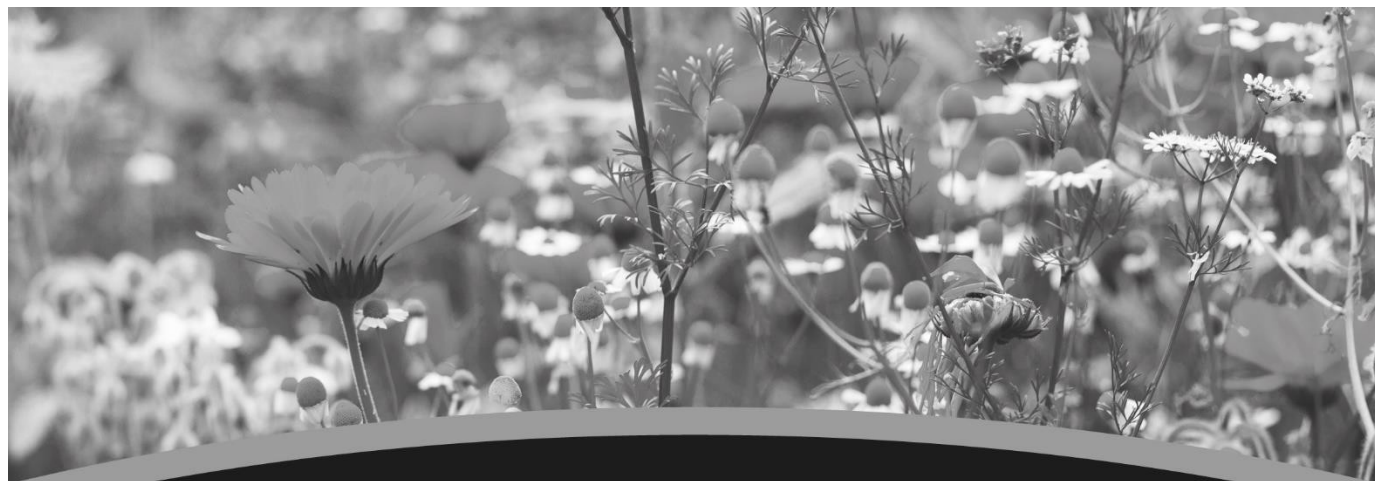
Liddell had been born in China in 1902, to Scottish missionaries there. Early on, he had made a deep commitment to Jesus Christ, and sensed he was being called to spend his life in serving others. But Liddell was also an outstanding sportsman, playing rugby for Scotland before settling on athletics.

When he was chosen for the Paris Olympics, he expected to run his preferred 100m. But then came the news that the race would be run on a Sunday, and Liddell refused. He felt that he would be disrespecting God to run on a Sunday. Quickly, he trained for the 200m and 400m races instead. He took bronze at the 200m, but no one expected much from him at the 400m. However, he won and even broke the world record in the process.

After the Olympics, Liddell felt God calling him to his life's work. He went back to China, to teach in a Christian college. As the Second World War loomed, he sent his wife and children home, but stayed on himself. By 1943 Liddell was confined to a brutal prison camp, where he shone among the fellow prisoners – encouraging them, teaching Bible classes, and praying for both his fellow inmates and the prison wardens. Deeply malnourished, his health failed and in 1945, just months before the war ended, he died, aged only 43.

In 1981 his story was made into the Oscar-winning film *Chariots of Fire*.

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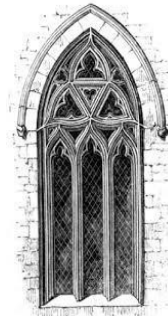
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**SHELLEWELL GROUP SERVICES: JULY - AUGUST 2024**  
 CW: 'Common Worship' modern language service    BCP: 'Book of Common Prayer' traditional language service

| DATE     | 7 <sup>th</sup> July<br>6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity         | 14 <sup>th</sup> July<br>7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity | 21 <sup>st</sup> July<br>8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity   | 28 <sup>th</sup> July<br>9 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity    | 4 <sup>th</sup> August<br>10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity      |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ALTAR    | Green                                                                | Green                                                         | Green                                                           | Green                                                            | Green                                                                |
| 8.00 am  |                                                                      |                                                               |                                                                 |                                                                  |                                                                      |
| 9.15 am  | 9.15am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>COTTISFORD<br>SM      | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>HETHE<br>AM/AG           | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (BCP)<br>COTTISFORD<br>AG          | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>STRATTON AUDLEY<br>CO       | 9.15am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>HARDWICK<br>AM        |
|          | 9.15am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (BCP)<br>NEWTON PURCELL<br>LW | Mixbury Half Hour<br>MIXBURY<br>SM                            | Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>FINMERE<br>SM              | Morning Service<br>FINMERE<br>AM                                 | 9.15am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (BCP)<br>NEWTON PURCELL<br>AG |
| 10.45 am | 10am<br>'Food for Thought'<br>STOKE LYNE<br>Lay-led                  |                                                               |                                                                 |                                                                  | 10am<br>'Food for Thought'<br>STOKE LYNE<br>Lay-led                  |
|          | 10.45am<br>Morning Service<br>FRINGFORD<br>PW                        | Morning Service<br>STRATTON AUDLEY<br>PW                      | 10.45am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>FRINGFORD<br>AM | 10.45am<br>Holy Communion<br>with hymns (CW)<br>STOKE LYNE<br>SM | 10.45am<br>Morning Service<br>FRINGFORD<br>AG                        |
| 6.00 pm  | Compline<br>GODINGTON<br>SM                                          | Evening Communion<br>STOKE LYNE<br>AG                         |                                                                 | Evensong with<br>the Shelswell Group Choir<br>HARDWICK<br>PW     | Compline<br>STRATTON AUDLEY<br>PW                                    |

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