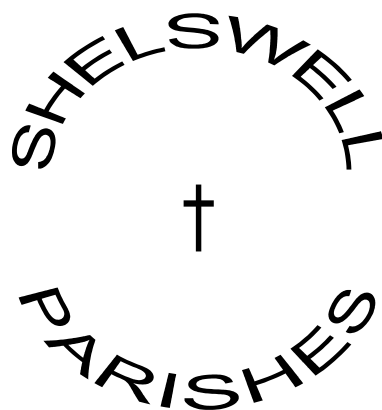


# Shelswell News

The magazine of the Shelswell Group of Churches

Cottisford  
Fringford  
Hardwick  
Mixbury  
Stoke Lyne



Finmere  
Godington  
Hethe  
Newton Purcell  
Stratton Audley



*St Edmund and St George Church, Hethe*

## SHELLOWELL BENEFICE MISSION STATEMENT

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

### MINISTRY TEAM

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

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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.holytrinityheth.co.uk/>

#### SHELLOWELL NEWS

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

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

To Magazine Correspondents: **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May**

Correspondents to Editor: **Midday on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May** 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)

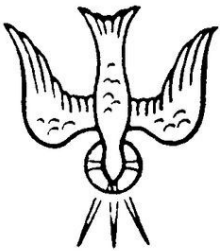
**SHELLOWELL NEWS ARCHIVE.** to look up previous issues of the Shelswell News. Please go to the Benefice website and look at the Archive. If the issue you want to refer to is not there please contact the Benefice office .

## Not just for Whitsun

Very occasionally, you may still hear people talking about the Spring Bank Holiday as the ‘Whitsun’ break. Until 1965, this national holiday took place on the Monday after Pentecost; but the inconvenience of its date, always 50 days after the moveable feast of Easter, finally argued for its replacement with a fixed ‘day off’. Our inherited cultural calendar understood the intimate connection between these two great feasts, which share an almost equal weight in the cycle of the Christian year.

Easter proclaims the resurrection of Christ from the grave, the transformation of humanity into something glorious after its passage through pain and death. It celebrates something fundamentally mysterious, defying explanation. The disciples are confounded by the risen Christ when they encounter him: as the gardener, the companion on the journey to Emmaus, or the stranger on the shoreline. Jesus is almost unrecognisable - until their eyes are opened, and they begin, fragmentarily, to understand. The risen Lord is no revived corpse. He is the flickering image of the human future, cast into the shadowy present of his friends for them to behold.

Fifty days after the resurrection, the disciples wait in the Upper Room. In the calendar of the Old Covenant, it is the Feast of Weeks, Shavuot, commemorating the gift of the Law on Sinai. The disciples hear the wind and behold the flames, and then find they are able to speak and be understood by many as they are filled by the Holy Spirit. They receive something far greater than the Law this Pentecost because God himself comes to inhabit them. He comes as the advocate, source of consolation and giver of gifts, who will speak the truth through them to all who will hear. He comes as love to dwell in their hearts, making sense of the mystery of the Christ they have encountered, and enabling them to share that mystery with others. Pentecost gives the disciples all they need to pass on what they have received from the Lord, so that others too may believe, and be transformed.



The gift of Pentecost is not just for Whitsun. It flickers in every natural gift and skill we possess. It rises to a flame in Baptism, in the sharing of the Eucharist and the life of Christian discipleship. To us it gives the ability, and the boldness, to pass on what we have received, and to live faithfully and lovingly in hope of the glory which is to come.

*This article by Revd Dr Dominic Keech is reprinted with permission from The Sign.*

**This year Pentecost (Whit Sunday) is 19<sup>th</sup> May.**

### Whirlwind Spirit

Whirlwind Spirit of God,  
Roar through our timidities and fears,  
Shake the foundations of our ill-placed securities,  
Sweep away the cobwebs of our apathy,  
Blow down the walls that separate us, one from another.

Then into all our empty spaces, breathe  
re-strengthened courage to challenge injustice,  
renewed belief in the urgency of our vocation,  
revitalised passion to change our lifestyles,  
re-dedication to speak only words that build and unite.

Let gentle breeze and still small voice  
become in us today  
mighty wind and loud proclamation.  
Make of us a Pentecost people!  
Amen.

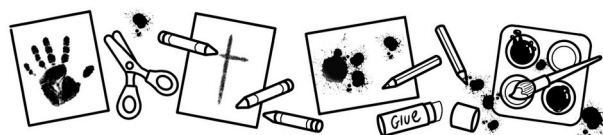
*Kathleen O'Brien/CAFOD*



## BIBLE READINGS



Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	6th Sunday of Easter	Acts 10 v44-end 1 John 5 v1-6 John 15 v9-17
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	7th Sunday of Easter	Acts 1 v15-17 and 21-end 1 John 5 v9-13 John 17 v6-19
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Pentecost	Acts 2 v1-21 Romans 8 v22-27 John 15 v26-27; 16 v4b-15
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Trinity Sunday	Isaiah 6 v1-8 Romans 8 v12-17 John 3 v1-17



**Fun @ Four**  
**is going on tour!**  
**Put these in your diary now!**

**In May:**

We are joining the **Shelswell Benefice Day** - Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May – 10.30 – 3 pm at Church Farm in Stoke Lyne – for more info, see the poster on page 7 - we hope that lots of families will come and join in the fun, so do register for this – use the QR code or let Becky know on 01280 848192 / [admin@shelswellparishes.info](mailto:admin@shelswellparishes.info)

**In June:**

We are joining in the **Big Green Week** – Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June in Hethe church and churchyard – 3 – 5 pm, followed by a short time of worship at 5 pm - all sorts of things to do and to think about! (see poster on page 26)

**Also in June:**

**Father afield** – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June, 11 am – 2 pm, Finmere Village Hall and Playing Field. We will be saying 'thank you' to God for fathers, doing a couple of dad – related crafts, enjoying a fun game of Finmere Footet ( or could perhaps be called Crickball) followed by a BBQ. Beer for grownups that would like it.

**There is no charge for any of these activities, but as always, donations appreciated.**

**Everyone is welcome!**





**MIDWEEK HOLY COMMUNION  
AND SOUP LUNCH**

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May (Ascension Day)**


**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)

## Hardwick Concert – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 7.30 pm



# Cantores Consort

*in concert*

Saturday 11th May 2024 at 7.30pm  
Church of St Mary the Virgin, Hardwick  
(OX27 8SS)

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.

***There will be a retiring collection for church funds, suggested donation £10 per person.***

***Refreshments will be provided and there is a retiring collection for church funds.***



**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**

**Don't forget to book your place!**  
**Shelswell Benefice Day**  
**Part of God's family**  
**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May**  
**10.45 am – 3 pm**  
**Church Farm, Stoke Lyne**  
**(with thanks to Caroline and Harriet)**



**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 \_\_\_\_\_



## Father Afield!



**11 am, Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June**  
**Finmere Playing Field**

Come and join us as we celebrate Fathers' Day with:

- Saying 'thank you' to God for fathers
- A game of Finmere Footet (or should that be crickball?)
- A 'dad' related craft or two
- BBQ and a drink (including beer from the Fringford Beer Festival – for grownups, obviously!)

Come dressed for the weather, but if it is atrocious, we will be in the Village Hall with wet weather alternatives!

### Everyone welcome

There is no charge for this event, but donations appreciated

## Shelswell by the Sea

For those you who are not aware, Shelswell by the Sea started over 10 years ago and is organised by the Ministry Team of the Shelswell Parish along with several volunteers. The aim is to bring the communities from the villages together, in particular older people but anyone is welcome to attend. It is put on around 3 times a year.

During the day there is plenty of opportunity to chat with one another and there is plenty of laughter. Newspapers are provided along with craft activities and a jigsaw puzzle. There is often an afternoon quiz, which is competitive, or a visiting speaker.

Each day an excellent meal is enjoyed together. The Ministry team and volunteers are excellent cooks. You are guaranteed never to go home hungry!

Lifts too and from the venue can be arranged. It would be wonderful to see new faces at the days so next time it is advertised please get in touch with the Ministry team to find out more. Please don't be afraid of attending on your own, you'll soon get chatting with others.

It would also be great to have a couple of new volunteers to assist with providing food and drinks during the day. Even if you are only able to commit one day that would be very much appreciated.

Alison Waters



**Great Big Green Week 2024**

**Sunday June 2<sup>nd</sup> 3 – 5pm**

**in and around St Edmund & St George Church, Hethe**

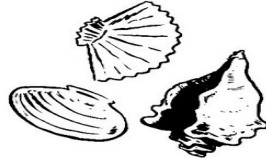
Further details in the Hethe Village section

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

**THE GREAT  
BIG GREEN  
WEEK** 

# 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 will be available in June from Penny Wood.  
[penelope.wood@btopenworld.com](mailto:penelope.wood@btopenworld.com)

## Lighthouse Shelswell 2024

Jesus Rocks!

**++ Children's registration opens soon ++**



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!

Go to <https://signmeup.org.uk/> to create an account and then register your children! Places are limited, so don't delay!!



**++ Volunteer Registration is open – sign up now ++**

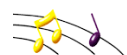


Lighthouse is facilitated by a great team of volunteers – adults and teenagers – but there is always room for more! There are lots of different roles including a Trustee, being an extra pair of hands in one of the children's groups, getting involved in the drama or sport, cleaning up and making coffee 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...*





## Experience Easter

We were delighted to welcome Fringford and Finmere Primary Schools to Fringford Church for Experience Easter. As the children went round the different 'stations' they reflected on the events of Holy Week and Easter Day. At the end, they were each given a palm cross and a small Easter Egg. Many thanks to Penny Wood, Meryl Daniell, Rebecca Ayres, Micah Davids-Austin, Rosemary Fiander, Joe Goodall, Sam Mortimer, and Mike and Sandra Kerford Byrnes for their help.



*Palm Sunday - Jesus enters Jerusalem*



*Easter Day - the empty tomb*



*Maundy Thursday - Jesus washes the disciples' feet*



*Good Friday - the Crucifixion*



*Maundy Thursday – the Last Supper*



*Maundy Thursday - the Garden of Gethsemane*



## Good Friday Workshop



*Sam the Curate donned his white coat for the science experiment – blowing up a balloon with yeast, sugar and water – and it worked!*

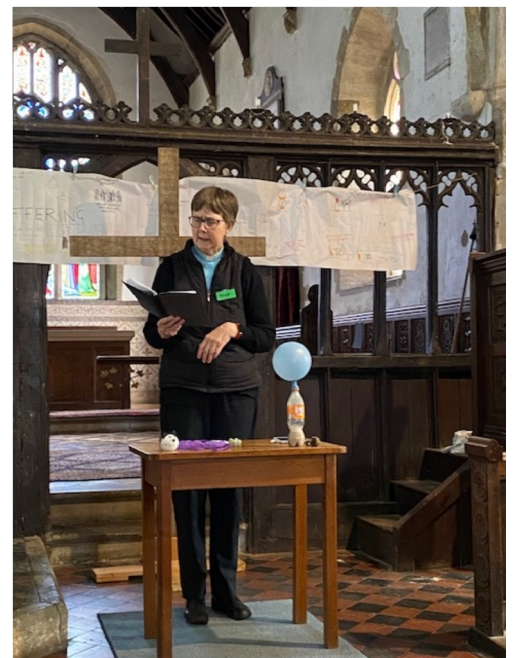


*We made 3 banners - suffering, waiting and celebrating*

*There were pom-pom chicks, stuffed rabbits and peg-leg donkeys*



*Our Easter prayer garden*



*And down to the church for our service. Thanks to Sam, Sophie and Melissa for all their help and to Corinne for playing at the service*

## REGISTRY

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

### Funeral

**Jean Diana Elizabeth Tingey**

10<sup>th</sup> February 1953 to 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024



Friends and relatives of Jean Tingey gathered in St Michael and All Angels Church, Fringford on 21<sup>st</sup> March for a service of love and thanksgiving for Jean's life.

Jean was born to Phyllis and Radosav Todorovic and lived in Stratton Audley Road, Fringford, before later moving to Bicester. She was married to Derek with whom she recently celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Both her parents are buried at Fringford, as are her maternal grandparents and her uncle, so the family was very comforted that she is now joining them to find her resting place there.

Jean had a real love of animals, having looked after everything from cats and dogs, including an aviary full of birds, to lizards, even an iguana! She took her faith in Jesus very seriously, having had many copies of the Bible at home. She had been baptised a few years ago and attended Lifehouse community church in Bicester. Several brothers and sisters from that fellowship joined us to say goodbye to Jean.

Her family encouraged everyone to wear an item of clothing in pink, which was Jean's favourite colour. This helped give a warm and joyful feel to the service, which opened with the song "Epiphany" by Taylor Swift and found the congregation in good voice as we sang the hymns "How Great Thou Art" and "All Things Bright and Beautiful". A touching tribute by Jean's daughter Karen was preceded by a recital of the David Harkins poem "She is Gone", which was read at the funeral of The Queen Mother in 2002.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Derek and his family at this difficult time.





## Club News



### SHELWELL WI



Since the last magazine we have enjoyed two meetings. The first was our spring group meeting. We were the hosts welcoming ladies from the North Ploughly group. We had a very interesting speaker Liz Woolley who spoke to us about the experiences of children during the war in Oxfordshire, a real insight into the lives of evacuees. This was followed by refreshments.

Following our group meeting our April meeting welcomed Jane Finnerty and her talk When Revolution Was The Only Solution. It was very interesting to find out about some of the not so well known personalities involved in the WI. We also heard from our President Lesley who fed back to us following her attendance at the Oxfordshire WI AGM.

In May we are hoping for a dry evening as we hope to be outside playing Aunt Sally and in June we have a speaker Chris Bazeley talking about the History of the Privvy.

New members are always welcome. We meet on the first Thursday of the month in Fringford village hall. For more information contact Lesley Beagent on 07729 605670



### SHELWELL GARDEN CLUB



On **April 9th** Rob Jacobs came to talk about '**Behind the scenes at Waterperry Gardens**'. His role he says is to 'manage all the processes.' Rob told us about the history of Waterperry. Interestingly it was an early supporter of women in horticulture, many of whom trained there and still do. They have exhibited frequently at the Chelsea Flower Show and won a number of medals. He described activities monthly through the year with lovely illustrations. Notably the lifting and dividing of their large perennial border during March which provides endless colour from May to August. In August and September apples are picked and they make around 30,000 bottles of apple juice per year.

On **May 14<sup>th</sup>** we are going for a **social evening** with a look around the garden of a member of the club and a plant swap. This is an evening for **members only**.

**June 11<sup>th</sup>** provides our second evening visit to a local garden, set in beautiful countryside. This evening is for **members only**.

In **July** we have our Summer Outing, to confirmed. Details to follow.

Our autumn evening visit (**10<sup>th</sup> 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.

*Continued on next page*

## 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

Our March meeting was held at West Cottage and the book was *Tomorrow, Tomorrow, Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zelvin. This book was absolutely loved by some and enjoyed more than they thought by others.

The gaming backdrop could have discouraged some readers, however in the end it proves a 'window into another world' for those not familiar with gaming. The characters of Sam and Sadie were believable, as was their on/off relationship and their journey through their teenage years to late twenties. We all felt that the ending was just right, and that there were parallels throughout the book to working through gaming levels and challenges. Some particular parts were loved – Marx's coma, the game created by Sam to connect with Sadie (and how that felt you were 'inside the game'...) Overall it was a book we enjoyed... which surprised some of us!

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 24th April, 7.30 pm at 3 Kennel Cottages, Cottisford and the book will be 'The Long Call' by Anne Cleeves. A review will be in the June issue.

The meeting after that will be Wednesday 22nd May, 7.30 pm 1/2 Hethe Cottages, Cottisford). Book to be decided, although 'The Murmur of Bees' by Sofia Segovia was discussed.

Other books discussed:

- Manhattan Girls – Gill Paul
- I Couldn't Love you More – Esther Freud
- Moon Palace – Paul Auster
- A Fine Balance – Rohinton Mistry
- White Tiger – Aravind Adiga
- Covenant of Water – Abraham Verghese
- Amsterdam – Ian McKewn
- Raj Quartet Books (Jewel in the Crown) – Paul Scott

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

At our April meeting we looked at a selection of poems about Fruit. We began with a classic – Keats's **Ode to Autumn**, with its hypnotic evocation of warmth and fertility; we went on to Eugenio de Andrade's **Fruit**, which glories in the sensuous appeal of fruit, through its scent, taste and evocative names. Pablo Neruda, in **A Lemon** finds the same delight in the subject, as does **O taste and See** by Denise Levertov.

In **Strawberries** by Edwin Morgan, the fruit he writes about is associated with love and happy memories, and in **The Orange**, being in love makes even an everyday fruit special. In Gary Soto's **Oranges**, he expresses a fond nostalgia for a time when, taking a girl out for the first time (at the age of twelve!) he bartered an orange for chocolate as a gift for her.

Darker notes were introduced in **The Pomegranate**, by Eavan Boland, when she compares her relationship with her daughter with that between Ceres and Proserpine, and by **Strange Fruit**, written by Lewis Allen and turned into an iconic song by Billie Holliday – a song in which the fruits hanging from the poplar trees are the bodies of lynched men – ‘a strange and bitter crop’.

Fruits of late summer and early autumn are celebrated in **Blackberries – for Jo**, by Katrina Porteous and **Blackberry Picking** by Seamus Heaney, both raising memories of childhood harvesting. In **Apples** by Laurie Lee, the author of ‘Cider with Rosie’ celebrates the fruit in all its manifestations and Robert Frost describes the hard work of getting in the fruit in **After Apple-Picking** and its place in the turning of the seasons on his farm in Vermont.

In **Summer Shower** by Emily Dickinson, rain enhances the orchard, but in **Goblin Market** by Christina Rossetti fruit in all its bounty is a sinister metaphor for drug addiction and is thought to be the poet's comment on the hold that medicines such as laudanum had on so many Victorian women. The complete poem is long, and we just looked at the list of thirty fruits offered to young girls by the goblins to tempt and enslave them. Dark stuff for a poem originally written by Rossetti for children!

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday May 7<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 and the theme will be Trees.

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

Judith Harvey

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> May 9.15 am Holy Communion (CW)

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May (Pentecost) 9.15 am Holy Communion (BCP)

#### COTTISFORD AND JUNIPER HILL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We are delighted to advise that Cottisford and Juniper Hill be holding an ‘Open Gardens’ event on Sunday 16th June between 2 pm and 5 pm. The gardens, opening for the first time, offer the magnificent herbaceous border of Cottisford House, a walled garden abundant with perennials, cottage gardens with magnificent views over open countryside and a newly designed garden... all with lots of ideas for your own garden. Parking will be available in both villages, and homemade teas will be served in Cottisford church. The entry fee will be £5 per person for all gardens (accompanied children under 16 free). Cash only please. All proceeds will go to charity. See poster overleaf!

If you would like to help at the above event please contact us on the e mail below. The Social Committee are also 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](mailto:sandrambickmore@gmail.com)



# Open Gardens!

## Cottisford and Juniper Hill

Sunday 16th June 2024, 2- 5 pm

£5 per person, under 16s free, cash only please

Home-made cakes and teas in the church

All proceeds to charity \*

The gardens, opening for the first time, offer the magnificent herbaceous border of Cottisford House, a walled garden abundant with perennials, cottage gardens with magnificent views over open countryside and a newly designed garden... all with lots of ideas for your own garden.



# Finmere

## St Michael and All Angels

CHURCHWARDEN: VACANT

TREASURER: Emma Brennan

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

MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Paul Nash Email: paan63@yahoo.co.uk

emma\_mary@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 01280 848364

Tel 01280 848268

### Church Services

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May (Pentecost) 9.15 am Holy Communion

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May (Trinity Sunday) 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 and large screen, new flooring and front and fire exit doors and enlarged storage spaces for regular users. WiFi facilities are also available



## 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 14<sup>th</sup> May 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:**

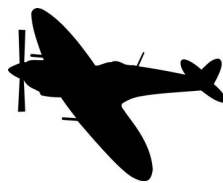
- Art Exhibition on the weekend 11/12<sup>th</sup>. May
- 'D-Day' 80<sup>th</sup> Commemorations on 6<sup>th</sup>.June
- 'Father Afield' Service/Walk/Cricket/Picnic on 16<sup>th</sup> June
- 'Finmere Village and School Fair, Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July

**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**

**May 21, June 25, July 23 ...**

**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)**



# POP-UP PUB

**Friday May 24, June 21, July 19**  
**7-10pm**  
**Finmere Church**

Join us for an evening of good company and cheer

**Provided ... punch (alcoholic and non-alcoholic), 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**

### 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)





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

It's great to have this in the village calendar and the school, sports club, church and Friends of Finmere are working together to create an event for the whole community.

**We need your help! Can you contribute to the Fair in any of these ways?**

**DONATE A RAFFLE AND / OR SILENT AUCTION PRIZE**

Do you have a hobby or profession which might enable you to contribute a prize —beauty treatment, golf lesson, celebration cake, evening babysit ... - the list is endless!

**BUY & SELL RAFFLE TICKETS**

These will be available in advance for you to buy, and to sell to work colleagues and friends

**GIVE DONATIONS FOR TOMBOLAS AND BOOK STALL**

Contributions for the bottle tombola, chocolate tombola and book stall are welcome!  
Look out for details of where contributions can be made.

**HELP ON THE DAY**

Could you help on a stall for an hour on the day?  
Or perhaps you've always wanted to run a coconut shy or other stall!

**HAVE A TABLE FOR YOUR OWN PRODUCE**

We're offering tables for crafters/producers to sell their own products—£10 a table

**PROVIDE SPONSORSHIP**

If you'd like to sponsor a stall or other element of the day then do get in touch.

**AND FINALLY ...come along with friends and family!!**

**PLEASE CONTACT DEBBIE IF YOU CAN HELP OR TO FIND OUT MORE**

**07765 874090**

**debbie.bloomfield1@gmail.com**



# 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 5 May – at 10.45am, Morning Service
- Sunday 12 May – at 9.45am Holy Communion in Stoke Lyne Church prior to our Benefice Away Day at Church Farm Stoke Lyne. Come and join in, all ages welcome, see details on page **xx**. No other services this Sunday.
- Pentecost Sunday 19 May – at 10.45am, Holy Communion
- Sunday 26 May – 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](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.

#### Thank You ....

To everyone who helped clean and decorate the church for Easter, it looked lovely.

#### Events



#### Pudding Evening - Don't Miss it - Saturday 18 May

Pick up a pudding, or two, from outside the Village Hall on Saturday 18 May from 6.00 to 7.00pm. There'll be a wide range of delicious puddings to choose from. Bring your own containers. Proceeds to church funds. [Anyone willing to contribute a pudding let Penny (01869-277310) or Christina (07867 515207) know.]

#### 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.

**AND – EVENTBRITE NOW OPEN** - Although entry to this event is free, purchasing an Early Bird ticket via Eventbrite will save you money in the beer/cider/perry tent. The £13 ticket (price maintained at 2022 level) includes: 2024 Fringford Beer Festival pint glass; 3 pints beer/cider; festival programme.

### 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 Mornings will take place on Monday 20 May and Monday 17 June. 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:

<b>May</b>	<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>July</b>	<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>August</b>	<b>No meeting</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup></b>



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](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>FS Dance Monday &amp; 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 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>Fringford Sewcial Sew and Chat! Monthly Wednesday from 7pm Or Sunday from 3pm Contact Irene at ireneethomas@btinternet.com</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 <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>	

## Fringford Rectors 1756-1898

*This is the first of a three part series on Fringford Rectors by Martin Greenwood*

The parish was particularly fortunate in its rectors from 1756, starting with the wealthy John Russell Greenhill (1756-1813). From 1814 to 1894, the parish benefited enormously from the personal wealth, intellectual ability and social standing of three 'regal rectors': Henry Roundell (1814-52), Henry De Salis (1852-73) and Cadwallader Coker (1873-94). The church was largely rebuilt in this period. The attractions of such a small rural parish are not immediately obvious. However, the Crown had taken over the advowson (the right to present the rector) in 1766 and by 1817 the annual tithes and stipends were some £431 (£37,750 today). In Fritwell by comparison, the vicars received less than £120 (£10,430 today). After these four wealthy rectors came the humble but popular Charles Thompson.

### The Revd John Russell Greenhill (1756-1813)

Greenhill was a cousin of the Russell family, who were descended from Oliver Cromwell and owned Chequers before it was given to the nation in 1912 for the use of our Prime Ministers. Greenhill himself had a large estate at Ellesborough, near Chequers. He was appointed rector in 1756 but was non-resident in Croydon with Charles Cotton his curate at least from 1764-66. From 1767-73 he lived in Fimere, before moving to Cottisford in 1773, where he leased Cottisford House from Eton College for a very extravagant price, £7,300 (£1.56 million today). The Fringford rectory was 'a mere thatched cottage, too small for his family'.

In 1779, he also became rector of Marsh Gibbon. Two of his manuscript diaries survive, covering the years 1780-87 and 1793-1800. They include his daily engagements and meticulous weather observations. These and other records show him to have been very social but also unusually conscientious in a period when there were many absentee and pluralist parsons who never visited their parishes. The diaries also give the reader an interesting insight into the daily life of an 18<sup>th</sup>-century parson in the 1780s and 1790s.

There seems to have been a set pattern of services in Fringford by the 1780s & 1790s, with 2 services on Sunday, a sermon in the morning, and communion services six times a year. In the 1790s, the morning congregation ranged from 45 to 72 and the number of communicants from 9 to 27. These are good figures by comparison with other local villages and Greenhill found them 'in general very good frequenters of the church.'

In 1796, 'an illness affected my voice in such a manner as to render me unable to read aloud ever since. 'I engaged with Mr Breeks to assist me and I am now fitting up my parsonage house for him, which I give him with the garden & £40 a year & surplice fees (wh. are trifling). I attend my own Ch. as regularly as when I did the duty myself- & the attendance on the sick I take entirely on myself.' 'In the Visitation Return of 1802, there were 'about 42 families and about 225 souls.'

In 1768, a small school was started by Dr Addington & Greenhill, teaching the catechism, reading and writing. In 1802 'A school is maintained for the instruction of youth of both sexes, in religion & reading, by the Chan'r of the Exchequer & myself jointly.' (i.e. Henry Addington, Prime Minister and Chancellor 1801-4). In 1808, a Dame school was supported by parental payments, except for 8 children paid for by Lord Sidmouth (formerly Henry Addington) and the Rector. In 1813, Greenhill died and was buried in the cenotaph at Ellesborough, Bucks. His only son, Sir Robert (1762-1836), was MP for Thirsk from 1807-31 and he was created Baron in 1832. He was also buried at Ellesborough.



*The Dame School by F G Cotman*

## **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 26<sup>th</sup> May (Trinity Sunday) 6.00 pm Evensong with the Shelswell Group Choir

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 9.15 am Holy Communion

### **Cantares Concert**

This takes place on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 pm in the church – please see the large advertisement on page 5.

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

Private prayer and quiet contemplation

View the architecture, memorials and stained glass windows

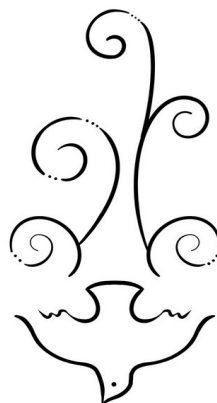
Please make use of this special space

### **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  
 TREASURER: Mike Green, Greenhill Cottage, Main Street, Hethe  
 PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER: Flora Skinner as above  
 MAGAZINE CORRESPONDENT: Mike Green as above  
 WEBSITE: [www.hethe.org](http://www.hethe.org)

Tel 01869 277366  
 Tel 01869 278166  
 Tel 01869 278166

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.

We were sad to hear that Thomas Peter (Gus) Anson passed away on 7<sup>th</sup> April. Both his sons were with him, and he was at home in his own bed, which they were all thankful for. There will be a very private family cremation, and then a service of thanksgiving in either the Great Barn at Aynho or Stratton Court Barn on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May in the afternoon - details to be confirmed. Gus was a good friend to our church and attended services regularly.

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).



Many thanks to Flora for volunteering to clean the church and provide flowers this month and for Jenny in June.



#### Churchyard tidy up

We will be meeting on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May between 2.00 and 5.00pm to tidy up the churchyard. If you can come along to help, please bring your own secateurs and gloves.



## Hethe Community Coffee Morning in the Village Hall

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May from 10.00am to 12.00pm

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



## Great Big Green Week 2024

Sunday June 2<sup>nd</sup> 3 – 5pm

in and around  
St Edmund & St George Church, Hethe

Lots of fun activities and workshops:

- recycling and sustainable repairs
- bee keeping
- quiz to test your environmental knowledge
- plant and animal id and survey
- make & install bug hotels, bird boxes & feeders
- making musical instruments to form a Band
- Swap Shop : plants, seeds, clothing, crafting etc
- Hethe's famous tea and cake all afternoon.

finishing with a short  
Songs of Praise Service at 5pm

Special guests Opus Sax Quartet and flautist  
Juliet Beadle

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



**THE GREAT  
BIG GREEN  
WEEK**

**Let's swap together for good**

## HETHE COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

### Parish Council

The AGM of the Parish Council is to be held on Tuesday 14 May, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. This is the meeting where elections to the various council posts takes place, the accounts are approved, and updates given on the progress of council matters.

There is now a video on the village web site explaining how to use the defibrillator.

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 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 the village 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>

Next Door - <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](mailto:pasgoodman551@gmail.com)

Tel 07899 792552

Tel 01280 848295

Tel 01280 847769

Tel 01280 848295

Tel 01280 848002

### CHURCH SERVICES

*There is no service on the second Sunday at Mixbury this month, but everyone is invited to the Shelswell Benefice Day in Stoke Lyne on that day (12<sup>th</sup> May).*

### 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.



*Mixbury Cleaning Rota, continued*

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).

**WELCOME TO MIXBURY**

A huge Mixbury Welcome to Stephen and Jane Marshall who have recently moved to here, we hope they will be very happy in the village.

**HAPPY 99<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY !**

There is a very special birthday in Mixbury on 8th May when Helen Phillips Will be 99 years young! Helen and her husband John have lived in Mixbury for around 50 years and been married for 74 years and on 28th November 2023 they received a very special card from King Charles and Queen Camilla. Helen tells me that she grew up in Devon on her parents farm and met John when he was on a cycling holiday and needed somewhere to camp - he camped on their farm. John and Helen later married and had two children, Linda and Nicholas, and now have 5 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

**LARK RISE BIKE RIDE SUNDAY 9TH JUNE 2024**

Once again we are pleased to be running this ride, in aid of **Brainstrust**, a vital support network for those with a brain tumour diagnosis, and their families.

Sponsored very kindly by **Swallows Nursery and Plant Centre**, the ride is also based at the nursery in Mixbury, North Oxfordshire, where parking is available on the day.

There are three circuits, all with the first drinks stop in common:- 14 miles for those with young children, 25 miles for the more adventurous and 40 miles for the fitter riders who like a bit of a challenge.

We stick to quiet lanes, tracks and bridleways to make for safer cycling, while taking in the gorgeous countryside of Oxon, Bucks and Northants. There is traffic calming at strategic points, along with full waymarking for riders. You can also download a gpx file for navigating.

Drinks at intervals en route and a BBQ (inc vegan food) on return to the nursery.

Do please join us by exploring [brainstrust.org.uk](https://brainstrust.org.uk) or directly: [brainstrust.org.uk/lark-rise-bike-ride-2024/](https://brainstrust.org.uk/lark-rise-bike-ride-2024/)

Hope to see you there! From The Lark Rise Team

Chris James Jon Steve Jez Lynn Charles

PS If you dont want to ride but could help on the day we would love to hear from you. Tel Chris on **07913 973180**, or James on **07999 938669** for more information

### **WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES EXTENDED OPEN HOURS**

Oxfordshire is to increase its recycling service to residents by extending the opening hours at all seven of its Household Waste Recycling Centres from next week.

The extended service will mean that from Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May, the centres at Alkerton, Ardley, Dix Pit, Drayton, Oakley Wood, Redbridge and Stanford in the Vale will now open at 8 am and close at the later time of 5 pm. This applies seven days a week. Please note the current 4 pm closing time is still applicable across the Bank Holiday weekends.

Please note that late-night opening on Thursdays and the acceptance of trailers and hire vans remains suspended for the time being. The revised service comes as Oxfordshire County Council continues its recovery phase from the COVID-19 emergency.

### **FOOTPATH UPDATE**

Mixbury to Evenley footpath is walkable again! Thanks to a local Oxfordshire volunteer team and support from the landowners, the 303/1 footpath is clear and usable again. For anyone not familiar with this route it starts at the bus stop in Mixbury and passes down the side of the garage of the house at the end of the gravel track. From there it passes diagonally to the right across a paddock, over two stiles, continuing diagonally across two fields (in which there are two more stiles to cross a small stream), keeping to the left of the barns. At the far side you exit over another stile from where you can cross the road and continue a traffic free walk to Evenley passing by Evenley Wood Gardens. (Information from Amanda French). NB. Please take care when crossing fields with livestock and keep dogs on leads.

### ***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***

### ***Mixbury History Open Day***

***15<sup>th</sup> June 2024***

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

***from the History Key Holders***

## Newton Purcell

JOIN US FOR OUR

# Summer Fete

**NEWTON PURCELL**  
 Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June  
 10am - 5pm

**FREE ENTRY**

**JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!**

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**Family Fun Day, All Welcome!**



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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 -

Sunday 5th May - 9.15 a.m. Holy Communion

### Easter Sunday -

We had a wonderful and well attended service on Easter Sunday morning followed by a great egg hunt! Our thanks go to Carolyn Oley who conducted the service, her husband John for playing the organ and all who provided flowers to decorate the church, eggs for the hunt and refreshments.

### Bonus Ball Lotto -

Our recent lucky winners were David & Carolyn Griffiths

### Summer Fete -

We are looking forward to our Summer Fete on Saturday 22nd June (see poster on previous page) and would welcome offers of help to run the stalls, tombola prizes, home made cakes, preserves, plants and produce.

If you're thinking of a spring clean why not send us any unwanted items in good condition for our bric-a-brac stall! We will be happy to collect.

## Stoke Lyne St Peter's

CHURCHWARDEN: Christopher Poole <a href="mailto:CTP@oxford-educational.co.uk">CTP@oxford-educational.co.uk</a>	Tel 01869 346020
TREASURER: Janey Poole <a href="mailto:janey@oxford-educational.co.uk">janey@oxford-educational.co.uk</a>	Tel 07810 120457
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PARISH ROOM BOOKINGS : Kelly and James Holden-White <a href="mailto:kholdenwhite@aol.com">kholdenwhite@aol.com</a>	Tel 01869 345211
WEBSITE <a href="http://www.stokelyne.org">www.stokelyne.org</a>	

### St Peter's Church Stoke Lyne Services

See back page for details.

### Flower Duty for May

Pippa Elliot

### Stoke Lyne Annual Litter Pick – Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> March

Huge thanks to those who helped out picking up litter around our roads and verges. As ever, much of that collected was clearly from passing traffic. At the time of writing, there is now a big pile of bags outside our house waiting for CDC to collect and dispose.

Thanks to Chris and Janey, Julie, Hugo, Linda, Sarah-Jane, Karen and Caroline and especially to Oscar Buckle who has been litter picking from the village towards the B4100 weekly over the last winter months as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award activities.

Well done!

Elaine Barnes

## St Peter's Church Springtime Quiz – 6<sup>th</sup> April

Ali provided a challenging yet fun quiz around the theme of 'spring'.

We had our knowledge of fruits, vegetables, road signs, Mother's day traditions, music, TV and general knowledge put to the test. Congratulations to the winning team (The Gardener's Arms) and huge thanks to Ali for putting the quiz together, as well as to those who helped with the catering.

Kelly Holden-White

## Food for Thought – Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> April

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 season of Eastertide and how this can be a 'low' period in terms of attendance and we may feel a lack of direction after the preparation for Easter. We discussed ways that we can turn this around to be a time when we can be thankful and, through being less greedy, we will not be needy (Acts 4:32-35).

Our next FFT service will be at 10am on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May, why not come along and try it?

Kelly Holden-White

## Stoke Lyne 100 Club –April Results

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	Membership No 60	Chris Lowe
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	Membership No 32	Craig Mitchell
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	Membership No 14	Kelly Holden-White

Stoke Lyne 100 Club raised £750.00 for St Peter's Church in the year ending December 2023. This means £750.00 was also awarded as prize money over the year. It would be great to increase both these figures in the coming year. Please tell your neighbours about this club. Email me for more details. [janey@oxford-educational.co.uk](mailto:janey@oxford-educational.co.uk)

Many thanks you all for your continued support.

Janey Poole

Treasurer

St Peter's Church PCC

## Film Night – Friday May 24<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm

Any questions, contact Kelly Holden-White [kholdenwhite@aol.com](mailto:kholdenwhite@aol.com)



Oppenheimer (15) is our next film, to be shown on our big screen in St Peter's Church at 6.30pm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May.

This film has won numerous awards and is a 'must see' whether you made it to the cinema or missed it!

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

## Benches

Two new benches have been placed in the village, one to replace the one outside Lower Farm, the other at the bottom of the playing field near the middle chestnut tree. Wild flower seeds have been sown in the corner.

## Tea and Cake for Mental Health Foundation – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May



**Wear It Green Day**

**JOIN OUR WEAR IT GREEN DAY EVENT!**

Come and join our event and raise funds and awareness to help create good mental health for all. All the money raised will go towards important research and fighting the stigma surrounding mental health.

Event **TEA AND CAKE**

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

When **Saturday, 18th May 2024, 2-4 pm**

Contact **Ali Miller, 07762719198, alisonjanemiller@icloud.com**

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for Adults and Toddlers.**

## **The Last Word**

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

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.” – *Anon*

### **19<sup>th</sup> May – Dunstan: the abbot who restored monastic life in England**

Dunstan (909-988 AD) stands out as an example of what just one person can achieve when they follow the call of God on their life.

Dunstan was born near Glastonbury, of a noble family with royal connections and church connections; his uncle was Archbishop of Canterbury. But in 935, at the age of 26, he was accused of ‘studying the vain poems of the pagans’ – and expelled from court. He nearly married, but instead made private monastic vows and was ordained a priest by Elphege, bishop of Winchester.

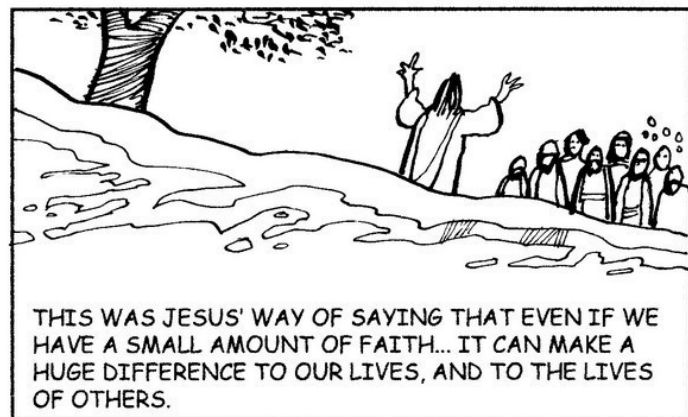
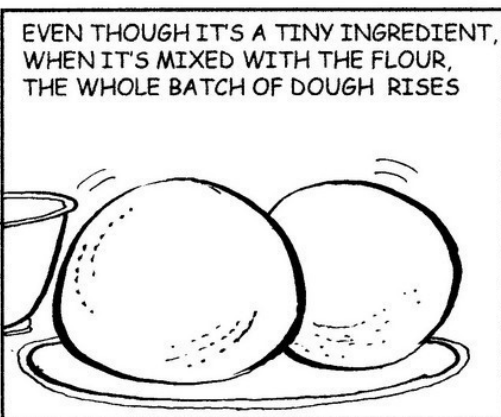
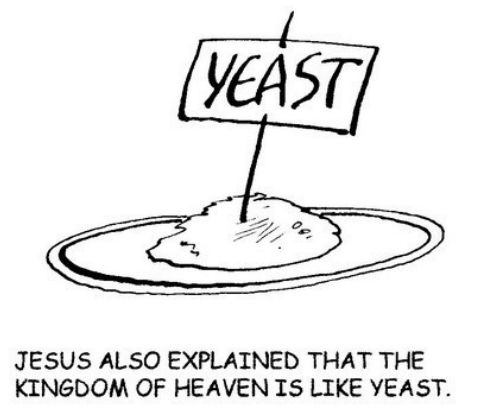
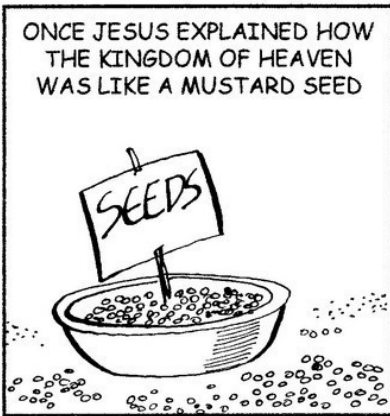
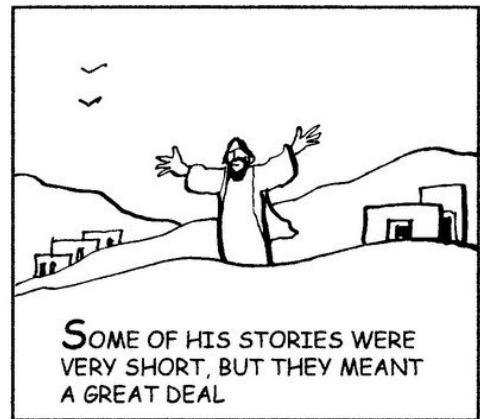
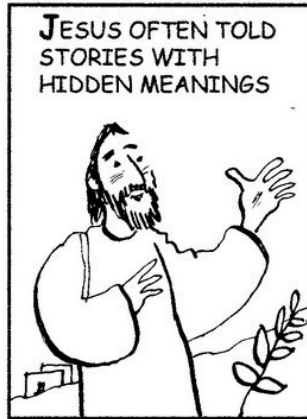
Dunstan began his priestly life by simply returning to Glastonbury and living as a hermit. He painted, embroidered and did metalwork. But when in 939 Edmund became king of Wessex, he recalled Dunstan and made him abbot of Glastonbury. The monastic life of the country was all but dead; the Danish invasions and the hostility of local magnates had seen to that. Dunstan set out to change all this, and went on to restore monastic life in England, under the Rule of St Benedict.

Down the years, Dunstan saw kings come and go: Edmund, Edred, Edgar, Edward. Under King Edgar Dunstan was made bishop of Worcester in 957, bishop of London in 959, and Archbishop of Canterbury in 960. Thus was born a fruitful collaboration between King and Archbishop which was to reform the Church in England. Monastic orders began to thrive once more. After the Conquest, the days of Dunstan would be looked back on as the ‘golden age’.

Dunstan was zealous for the faith. He taught, prayed, fasted, repaired churches, acted as judge, inspired national laws of the land, made sure taxes were paid, and encouraged his monks in their manuscripts and prayers. He remained active right to the end of his life: he preached three times on Ascension Day 988, and died two days later, on 19 May, aged nearly 80. They wrote of him: he was without doubt “chief of all the saints who rest at Christ Church” (Canterbury). It has been well said that the 10th century gave shape to English history, and Dunstan gave shape to the 10th century.





# The tale of the Mustard Seed & the tale of the Yeast



**Editor's Note:** The mustard tree referred to here is not our mustard-and-ress, but *Salvadora persica*, a tree that can reach 6 metres in height and grows across the Middle East. Its seeds and fruit are edible with a mustard flavour, and its twigs have antibacterial and antifungal properties and are traditionally chewed to clean one's teeth.

**May Colouring Page** from [eco-ags.blogspot.com](http://eco-ags.blogspot.com) - Add your own pictures or notes for the days!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 	31				



## DailyHope is on the line – again!

A free telephone line that provides spiritual support for older people has been relaunched. DailyHope offers music, prayers and reflections from the Church of England at the end of the phone.

While the internet and the telephone cannot replace gathering in person, the telephone line is helpful to many people who are unable to get out and about, either in the long term, or temporarily due to sickness or medical treatment. It was launched during the Covid pandemic, and temporarily suspended earlier this year due to lack of funding.

Now that additional funding has been secured, DailyHope has been relaunched with a drive to find new content and content-providers.

Broadcaster Pam Rhodes, an ambassador for Faith in Later Life, said: “DailyHope has brought Christian fellowship through the landline into the homes of so many, filling their hearts and souls with God’s presence and comfort through word, prayer and song.

“It’s no wonder that DailyHope has remained so popular – and the thought that this vital service may have been lost to those who value and rely upon it brought real despair. But now, we’re thankful to God that DailyHope has been saved. This is wonderful news.”

The DailyHope free telephone service is available on 0800 804 8044. Churches and Christians are being encouraged to publicise the telephone number widely.

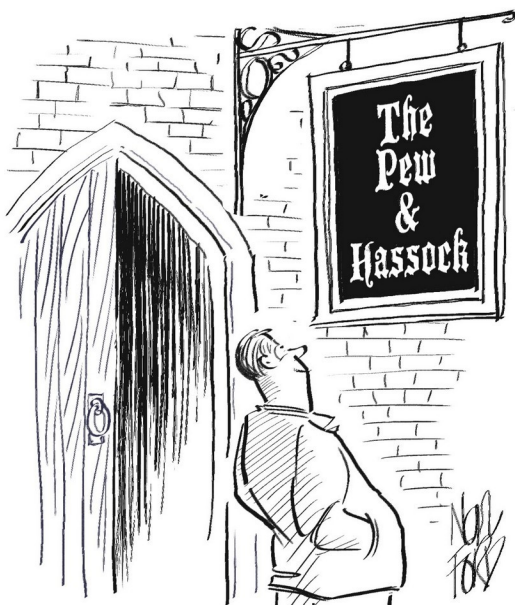
*Revd Peter Crumpler*

## Something to Ponder...

Stars may be seen from the bottom of a deep well, when they cannot be discerned from the top of a mountain. So are many things learned in adversity which the prosperous man dreams not of.



*C H Spurgeon*



### Walking out

“I hope you didn’t take it personally, Reverend,” said an embarrassed woman after a church service, “when my husband walked out during your sermon.”

“I did find it rather disconcerting,” the Vicar admitted.

“It’s not a reflection on you” insisted the churchgoer. “Ralph has been walking in his sleep ever since he was a child!”

Changing the name from 'St Mark's Parish Church', resulted in a big increase in the number of men attending services

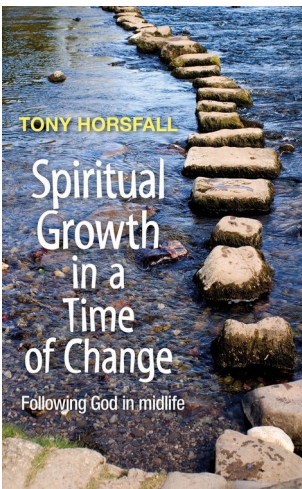
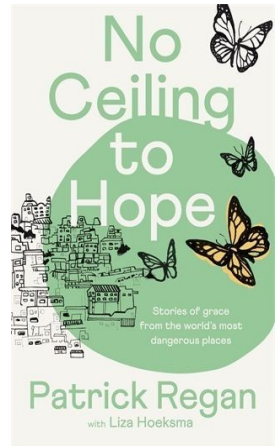


## Book Reviews

### **No Ceiling to Hope: Stories of grace from the world's most dangerous places** By Patrick Regan and Liza Hoeksma, SPCK, £10.99

Here are some real-life stories from across the world to show how Christians are helping the most vulnerable in society with God's love.

In Bolivia, Christians are backing education projects to help families to find a way out of poverty. In London, XLP is mentoring young people to turn aside from violence. In Los Angeles, a new future is being offered to gang girls. In high security prisons in the UK and US, the Spirit is turning lives around. In Belfast's Shankill Road area, a group of elderly ladies is cooking meals for men who sit all day in local pubs . . . The list is extensive, and inspiring. The common element is that, in all circumstances, Christ is offering hope.



### **Spiritual Growth in a Time of Change: Following God in midlife** By Tony Horsfall, BRF, £9.99

Our 40s and 50s are often times of personal change and emotional transition for our families, but they can also be important years for our spiritual lives.

Tony Horsfall addresses a number of 'midlife' issues – from facing up to the past, to renegotiating relationships – and explores how to navigate a spiritual journey through these years, leading to deeper faith and a closer walk with God.

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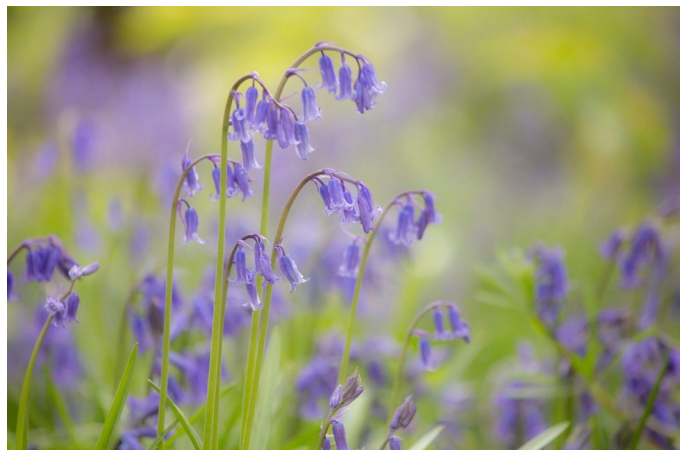
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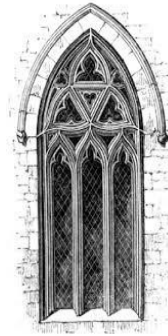
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**SHELLESWELL GROUP SERVICES: MAY - JUNE 2024**  
 CW: 'Common Worship' modern language service      BCP: 'Book of Common Prayer' traditional language service

| DATE     | 5 <sup>th</sup> May<br>6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter                                        | 12 <sup>th</sup> May<br>7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter                                                     | 19 <sup>th</sup> May<br>Pentecost                                                               | 26 <sup>th</sup> May<br>Trinity Sunday                                                | 2 <sup>nd</sup> June<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity                                   |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ALTAR    | White                                                                                          | White                                                                                                        | Red                                                                                             | White                                                                                 | Green                                                                                          |
| 8.00 am  |                                                                                                |                                                                                                              |                                                                                                 | Holy Communion (BCP)<br>HEITHE SM                                                     |                                                                                                |
| 9.15 am  | 9.15am<br>Holy Communion with hymns (CW)<br>COTTISFORD SM<br>NEWTON PURCELL AG                 | 9.45am<br>Short Holy Communion with hymns (CW)<br>STOKE LYNE LW                                              | Holy Communion with hymns (CW)<br>COTTISFORD AG<br>Holy Communion with hymns (CW)<br>FINMERE SM | Holy Communion with hymns (CW)<br>STRATTON AUDLEY CO<br>Morning Service<br>FINMERE SM | 9.15am<br>Holy Communion with hymns (BCP)<br>HARDWICK AG<br>NEWTON PURCELL SM                  |
| 10.45 am | 10am<br>'Food for Thought'<br>STOKE LYNE Lay-led<br>10.45am<br>Morning Service<br>FRINGFORD AG | to start our Shelswell Benefice Day which continues at Church Farm OX27 8RU<br>(see details on inside pages) | 10.45am<br>Holy Communion with hymns (CW)<br>FRINGFORD AG                                       | 10.45am<br>Holy Communion with hymns (CW)<br>STOKE LYNE AG                            | 10am<br>'Food for Thought'<br>STOKE LYNE Lay-led<br>10.45am<br>Morning Service<br>FRINGFORD PW |
| 6.00 pm  | Compline<br>STRATTON AUDLEY PW                                                                 |                                                                                                              |                                                                                                 | Evensong with the Shelswell Group Choir<br>HARDWICK PW                                | 3-5pm<br>Big Green Week Event<br>HEITHE<br>(see details on inside pages)                       |

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