



*Around  
Little  
Shelford*

*Spring 2026*

## Key Contacts

### All Saints Church

*www.allsaintslittleshelford.org*

**Rector** – Simon Scott

*07739 984323*

*simon.scott@allsaintslittleshelford.org*

**Curate** – Gideon Emmanuel

*gideon.emmanuel@allsaintslittleshelford.org*

**Youth and Children's Minister** – Richard Carding

*rich.carding@allsaintslittleshelford.org*

**Administration** – Beth Emmanuel

*847815 office@allsaintslittleshelford.org*

### Parish Council

*littleshelfordparish.gov.uk*

**Clerk** – Beckie Whitehouse

*07480 242390*

*littleshelfordparishclerk@gmail.com*

### Memorial Hall

**Chairman of Trustees** – Bill Davidson

*davidson.wg@btinternet.com*

**Bookings Clerk** – Sarah Haigh

*07568 084330 booking.lsmh@gmail.com*

### Independent Community Website

**Editor** – David Martin

*www.littleshelford.online*

*davidm1961@gmail.com*

### Newsletter Contributions

*newsletter@allsaintslittleshelford.org*

Contributions for the summer edition should be emailed to the address above (or delivered by hand to the Church Office in the North Building of the Churchyard) by **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026**. As space is limited, articles should be less than 340 words and adverts should fit within half an A5 page.

The photo on this edition's cover was taken by Brie Lurie. Please send photos for the front cover of the next edition, ideally of a Little Shelford scene in summer, to *newsletter@allsaintslittleshelford.org*

Dear friends,

We are getting ready to celebrate Easter at All Saints Church, where we mark with great excitement the occasion of Jesus Christ rising again from the dead, physically living, three days after his brutal execution on a Roman cross.

That triumph meant that on one occasion Jesus could claim boldly: '**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me**'. (Matthew 28:18).

When you claim to be in charge of every atom of the physical world and add on top of that every dimension of supernatural and spiritual reality, there isn't a whole lot left where Jesus thinks he isn't Lord!

I know that authority is often challenged today, because we have so often seen power falling into the wrong hands or abused, with the all the ensuing suffering that causes. But an absence of authority in the world is surely not the solution we all long for. What we need and want is authority **in the right hands** and authority **rightly exercised**. And I for one am happy that Jesus is the kind of Lord we can trust.

I'm writing at a time when peace and security in our world – and therefore to some extent in all our lives – is plummeting downwards in an alarming tail-spin. Much as happened four years ago when Russia invaded Ukraine or six years ago when the pandemic struck, our confidence has been upended again, this time by serious and widespread hostilities in the Middle East.

The unpredictable nature of human existence is just about the only predictable element in life. The surprising thing is that we are surprised, all over again, by the next set of circumstances coming round the corner at us, so unexpectedly.

Amidst all the uncertainty, the loving, wise authority of Jesus Christ is wonderful news. There may not be an instant answer – but because Jesus Christ is Lord of time and eternity there is hope.

It's my prayer for us all that that Easter message brings you hope and peace in uncertain times.

With love from,

Simon Scott

Rector of All Saints Church, Little Shelford

# What's on at All Saints

All Saints is a friendly, informal church family in the village of Little Shelford. We're always glad to have visitors, so whether you're investigating Christianity, looking for a church to settle into or just visiting the area, you are welcome to join us at a Sunday service.

Details of services and other activities may be found on the All Saints website. Go to [www.allsaintslittleshelford.org](http://www.allsaintslittleshelford.org) or scan this code:



The usual pattern of Sunday services is:

**9.30 am** - A family service where adults and children join together for the first half hour before children leave for their own teaching groups:

Minis and Creche (0-Reception), Kids (Year 1-4), Pathfinders (Year 5-8) and Deeper (Year 9+).

**11.00 am** - A quieter, more reflective service.

**6.00 pm** – A relaxed and informal service with contemporary songs.

During school holidays and at special times of the year (e.g., Christmas and Easter) the pattern of services and activities may change.

Please see the back cover for details of our Easter services.

## Regular Mid-week Activities

**Home Groups** meet for Bible study, prayer and fellowship on Monday and Wednesday evenings and Wednesday afternoon.

A **Church Prayer Meeting** replaces Home Groups once a month.

A **Women's Group** meets on Thursday mornings.

**All Saints Tots** meets on Wednesday mornings in the Village Hall.

To find out more contact the **Church Office:** 01223 847815, [office@allsaintslittleshelford.org](mailto:office@allsaintslittleshelford.org)

# GRANTA Medical Practices

## Easter Bank Holiday Opening Hours Across Sites

**ALL PRACTICES CLOSED ON**  
**Friday 3rd April 2026**  
**Monday 6th April 2026**

Enhanced Access pre-bookable appointments will be available at:

Royston Health Centre

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

### Prescription Ordering & Collection

Order on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April → Collect on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April

Order on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April → Collect on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April

While we are closed, contact NHS 111 for urgent medical advice  
For life-threatening emergencies, call 999.

Thank you and we wish you a lovely spring weekend.



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## Shelford School News

Spring seemed to arrive almost overnight as the children returned from their half-term break, bringing with it lighter mornings, warmer, drier days and a renewed sense of energy across the school.

In the last week of the half term, on a very rainy evening, parents and carers were welcomed into school for our consultation meetings. As always, pupils prepared thoughtful reflections on their progress to share with their teacher and family. It was a valuable opportunity to celebrate successes, look at the children's work in detail and talk together about next steps in learning. The pride the children take in sharing their achievements is always a highlight of the term.

Before the spring weather arrived, children from Year 3 and 4 took part in an indoor athletics competition. Two boys and two girls who took part will go on to represent the school at an inter-school competition at Sawston Village College. Meanwhile, children from Year 6 entered an inter-school challenge in English at Bellbird Primary School, coming third overall with a very high score. Well done!

Last half term we placed a special focus on mental wellbeing during Wellbeing Week, which was woven into the whole school timetable. Children took part in activities designed to support positive mental health, including mindfulness sessions, opportunities for quiet reflection, acts of kindness challenges and additional outdoor learning. Classes explored themes such as resilience, gratitude and friendship, and staff led discussions about practical ways to look after ourselves and one another. The week provided a valuable reminder that wellbeing sits at the heart of successful learning.

As part of their learning about Ancient Egypt, Year 4 travelled into Cambridge to visit the Fitzwilliam Museum, where they had the opportunity to visit a special exhibition - *Made in Ancient Egypt* - which is focused on craftspeople, and technology. They also took part in papyrus painting and heard all about mummification in Ancient Egypt. This is part of the wider school curriculum thread for this term: Environment – global and local.

Meanwhile Year 2 children led the annual Candlemas service at St Mary's Church, which they did with great confidence and care.

Children from Years 4, 5 and 6 once again had the unforgettable experience of performing at the Young Voices concert at the O2 Arena. Singing alongside thousands of other children, and a couple of special guests, in front of a packed audience is always a remarkable occasion. The months of rehearsals certainly paid off, and we are enormously grateful to the staff who made the trip possible, particularly Mrs Barlow and Mrs Bell.

World Book Day in early March brought colour and imagination to the school. As is tradition, the day began with a whole-school parade, with children proudly showcasing costumes inspired by favourite characters and stories. From much-loved classics to contemporary tales, it was a joyful celebration of reading and the creativity that books inspire.

Also designed to develop the children's literary spirit, we were delighted to hold our second poetry evening in February. Pupils involved in the debating and speaking club shared poems they have been learning, performing them with confidence, expression and humour! Several children chose to record their pieces for entry into the Poetry by Heart competition, and we wish the two entries chosen to represent the school every success.

With ongoing budget pressures and limited resources, the school continues to rely heavily on volunteer support and fundraising. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated and energetic PTA. Their events, including the recent Quiz Night, not only raise vital funds for the school but also bring the whole Shelford community together. Please do look out for details of forthcoming events, including the ever-popular Easter Egg Hunt.

As ever, the school year is racing by as we look ahead to the Easter holidays and the final term of the academic year. Thank you to all members of the school community – staff, volunteers, governors and families – who contribute so much to ensuring that our children experience a rich, supportive and inspiring education.

Hannah Mohamad  
Parent Governor

# Great Shelford Library News

## Library Events in March

**Craft & Chat** – Every Friday morning 10.30am -12pm. No need to book.

**Tea & Games** – Every Friday afternoon 2.00– 3.30pm. No need to book.

**Engage Talk:** – Green Energy Switch– Wednesday 25th March 2.00pm-3.30pm. A donation of £2 is appreciated. Please stay for a drink after the talk. Please pre-book in the library or via [Cambourne.library1@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Cambourne.library1@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

**Story, Rhyme & Duplo Time** – Every Tuesday at 10.30am. For children aged 0-4 years. Come and enjoy stories and rhymes led by our wonderful volunteers. This is a free drop-in event. Parents/carers please stay with your children.

**LEGO CLUB** – Monday’s 4.00-5.30pm. Suitable for ages 2-10. Parents/carers please stay with your children during all library activities.

**Children’s Games and Chess Club** – Tuesday’s 3.30-4.30pm. No need to book, just drop in to try your hand at chess or other games. Suitable for primary school aged children.

**Art Club** - Every Saturday morning 10.30am-12noon. Suitable for ages 4-10. Drop in event. £2 donation. Parents and carers must supervise their children at all times.

Telephone: 0345 045 5225

Email:

[Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

Web: [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk)



Great Shelford Library opening hours:			
Monday	3-7pm	Friday	10am-1pm, 2-6pm
Tuesday	10am-1pm and 2-5pm	Saturday	10am-1pm
Wednesday	10am-1pm	Sunday	Closed
Thursday	Closed		

## **News from your Parish Council**

Thank you to all those who attend the East West Rail Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> February.

EWR have taken away the following actions:

- Provide evidence of the work undertaken in relation to the underpass option.
- Investigate the feasibility of an AHB+ solution (automatic half barrier)
- Confirm the rationale for not selecting the stepped footbridge option, including who provided advice and what we asked of accessibility consultants.
- The most recent traffic modelling was conducted last summer; verify the timing of this work and the locations from which the data was collected.
- Provide rationale for not selecting roundabout solution on the southern end of new road connection (Shelford Road)
- Re-engage with the British Horse Society

Your Parish Council has also up to be part of the South Cambridgeshire Parishes Rail Group (SCPRG).

### **Elections**

Elections will be held on 7 May 2026 for all Councillors on South Cambridgeshire District Council as well as for all Town and Parish Councils in South Cambridgeshire.

Those wishing to stand as a candidate for district, town or parish council elections will need to complete a nomination form.

The nomination period opens on 30 March and closes on 9 April at 4pm. All nomination papers must be delivered by hand to the Elections department at South Cambridgeshire District Council during office hours (9am to 5.30pm). Nominations cannot be accepted by post.

Please consider standing for election as a Parish Councillor as we need more help.

For more information, please look up

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/elections/be-a-councillor>

## Website

Due to recent changes in legislation the Parish Council has a new website which is still a work in progress and is continually being updated <https://littleshelfordparish.gov.uk/>

## Annual Hedgerow Deep Clean Update – THANK YOU!

The Parish Council are pleased to report that on the weekend of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> February villagers turned out in force to help with the annual hedgerow deep clean along the roads approaching and in the village. Many thanks are due to the **24** volunteers who between Saturday and Sunday collected the rubbish. A total of 24 bags were collected and removed by the District Council the following Tuesday (see picture below).



Alarming, it once again became very clear during the litter pick on the approach roads to the Village, particularly Newton Road and Whittlesford Road, that the habit of drivers throwing cans, bottles and other food wrappers and waste out of car windows is becoming more and more rife.

The litter pick teams found over 200 cans and bottles (including several broken bottles) between the last house on Newton Road heading out of the village up to the point where Newton Road becomes Shelford Road and along the Whittlesford Road beyond Bradmere Lane.

It is illegal to throw litter out of motor vehicles or to drop litter while walking. Offenders could receive a £400 fixed penalty notice (FPN) or be taken to court and fined up to £2,500. Litter includes cigarette butts, crisp packets, cans, bottles and other discarded items – it is unsightly, attracts vermin, makes our hedgerows dangerous to animals and walkers and makes them look uncared for. It is also an offence to fly-tip and there have been many occurrences of this over the winter months. Some have been brazen, with fly tipping of mattresses in broad daylight!

If you witness fly tipping or illegal littering from vehicles you should note the registration number of the vehicle dropping litter or fly tipping

and if possible, obtain photographs and report it on the South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) website and/or the Police web site. Links are provided below. The SCDC web site can also be used to report fly tipping that has occurred and needs clearing where a photo of the fly tipped items should be provided. Our experience it that the District Council react quite quickly to clear reported fly tipping. They will also inspect the waste and when it is traceable seek to prosecute those responsible.

The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation and discuss with the relevant authorities whether steps could be taken to monitor the approach roads for short periods to try and catch what seem to be frequent offenders. Let Councillor David Jones know if you have any comments or suggestions: [david.jones@littleshelfordparish.gov.uk](mailto:david.jones@littleshelfordparish.gov.uk)

### **Web Sites for Reporting Fly Tipping and Littering (anti-social behaviour)**

<https://forms.scambs.gov.uk/REPORTAFLYTIP/whoareyou>

<https://www.cambs.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-v3/report-antisocial-behaviour/>

### **OASISS Reunin Lunch for Ukraine**

On **Saturday 7th March** almost 100 Ukrainian guests and OASISS hosts and supporters from across the Shelfords and Stapleford, came together in Little Shelford Village Hall. The event was initiated by the Ukrainians who wanted to mark the 4th Anniversary of when they first arrived in our villages, and to give their grateful thanks to the hosts and supporters who gave them sanctuary and helped them to settle.

The Ukrainian guests provided a spectacular array of their traditional dishes which were enjoyed by everyone. There was a display of photos and text from the last 4 years, showing the many events the Ukrainians have been a part of, and music was provided by Tom Dulieu and our own young Ukrainian guitarist, Alex. The lunch concluded with a fun quiz on traditional Ukrainian and British dishes.

The community group OASISS, continue to support the Ukrainians as they move on with their lives and thank everyone who has supported this initiative over the years. Contact: [openarmsgranta@email.com](mailto:openarmsgranta@email.com)

## 2G3S Update

**Dr Bike** continues to hold its volunteer-run weekly bike repair sessions at the Old Slaughterhouse in Stapleford, 3pm to 5.30pm every Tuesday. Children are welcome to come and learn how to look after their bikes and do simple maintenance and repairs, but please attend with them (for safeguarding reasons). For more information, contact [drbikestapleford@gmail.com](mailto:drbikestapleford@gmail.com). You can also book a time slot at that address, though this is not essential. The Saturday sessions will resume later in Spring.

You may have seen some 'Dr Bike' sessions advertised to run in a number of villages, the nearest to us being in Sawston on Thursday 9 April and Monday 1 June, at Mill Lane Pavilion car park, 11am to 3pm. These are run by Cambridgeshire County Council, not by us. They do the same thing, so please use them if it's more convenient for you. You'll need to book at [tinyurl.com/drbike2026](http://tinyurl.com/drbike2026).

**Repair Café:** the next one of these in our area is at Whittlesford URC on Saturday 25 April from 2pm-5pm. Booking is through the Cambridge Carbon Footprint website. We strongly urge you to book a slot in advance – at our last café at Great Shelford Free Church all slots were booked up before the day, and 'walk-ins' only got a repair done because there were a few 'no-shows'.

### Local news:

- Good news that Stapleford Parish Council is forming a Sustainability Working Group, to look at all sorts of ways to support biodiversity and reduce carbon emissions in the village. It will include an emergency response plan, to use in the event of flooding or wildfires (remember the one behind Gog Magog Way and Mingle Lane last summer?). We look forward to working with them.
- Swift boxes – you may remember I mentioned a local group was being set up to promote and enable these nesting boxes to be fitted in local villages. Shelford and Stapleford's turn has come, so please contact Helen Harwood on 840393, or email [helen\\_harwood\\_uk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:helen_harwood_uk@yahoo.co.uk) if you're interested. They also have nesting cups for house martins. Thanks are due to the relevant Parish Councils for funding these.

- Our MP, Pippa Heylings, had the opportunity to present a 10 Minute Bill to Parliament on 25 February. She is calling for UK chalk streams to be nominated as a UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site. As you probably know, 85% of the world's chalk streams are found in the UK, and a large number of these are found in East Anglia. If they were to get UNESCO designation they would be protected from over-abstraction and also sewage pollution by the water companies, both of which happen frequently at present.
- You will recall I discussed the National Emergency Briefings on Climate and Nature in previous articles. There is now a film made of these briefings, and there will be a showing and discussion in Cambridge on Saturday 18 April at 6pm at ARU. Tickets can be obtained on [bit.ly/pebcams](http://bit.ly/pebcams), and other local showings may be arranged in due course and will appear on that website.

**Food Waste Caddies** – you may have read in the South Cambs magazine that they are going to introduce free weekly collections of food waste from April. The Government has passed legislation to reduce emissions from food waste by tasking councils to collect it regularly. Food waste squanders energy and effort used in its production and produces methane as it rots if it's in landfill. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas. Whilst we have always been able to put our food waste in the green bins in South Cambs, this is composted, which is less effective than sending the food waste to a biodigester. The new bins will be able to take all food scraps, meat bones, eggshells, teabags, etc, and research suggests that separating out food waste results in a much better compliance rate. You will get a small caddy for the kitchen (no need to use a liner bag, save plastic. A paper bag will be OK if you prefer a liner), and a bigger one to put out for the refuse collectors. Here is something you can do to help the planet.

If you are interested in green matters and the environment at all levels (individual, local, national, international), send an email to [mail2G3S@gmail.com](mailto:mail2G3S@gmail.com) to sign up for our monthly newsletter, or to get more information about our meetings. We are a friendly group and welcome anyone who wants to come along to one of our events or to find out more about how we can live sustainably. Also see our Facebook page and our website [2g3s.staplefordvillage.org.uk/](http://2g3s.staplefordvillage.org.uk/).

Helen Hale

## Little Shelford Groups

Activity groups in grey. To include a group in this list or to change the contact details, please email [newsletter@allsaintslittleshelford.org](mailto:newsletter@allsaintslittleshelford.org).

<b>Group name</b>	<b>Contact details</b>
All Saints Tots	Polly Stanton 722509 <a href="http://www.allsaintslittleshelford.org">www.allsaintslittleshelford.org</a>
Badminton Club	James Newman 07717 394176 <a href="mailto:james@jamesnewman.org">james@jamesnewman.org</a> <a href="http://www.littleshelfordbadmintonclub.co.uk">www.littleshelfordbadmintonclub.co.uk</a>
Ballet East (ages 3-18)	Jo Thorndyke <a href="mailto:jothorndyke@hotmail.com">jothorndyke@hotmail.com</a>
Bowls Club	Ray Saich 842737 <a href="mailto:pandraisaich@gmail.com">pandraisaich@gmail.com</a>
Cricket Club	Chris Schofield 563276 <a href="mailto:chrisscofie@hotmail.com">chrisscofie@hotmail.com</a> <a href="http://www.littleshelfordcc.com">www.littleshelfordcc.com</a>
Good Neighbours Tea Parties	Judy Boothroyd 843313 <a href="mailto:judyboothroyd5@gmail.com">judyboothroyd5@gmail.com</a>
Local History Society	Ray Saich 842737 <a href="mailto:pandraisaich@gmail.com">pandraisaich@gmail.com</a>
Pantomime	Sarah Coppendale 842498 <a href="mailto:coppendales@btinternet.com">coppendales@btinternet.com</a>
Wildlife Group	Diana Haines 841415 <a href="mailto:dianahaines42@icloud.com">dianahaines42@icloud.com</a>
Physiopilates	<a href="mailto:cambridgephysiopilates@gmail.com">cambridgephysiopilates@gmail.com</a> 841968 <a href="http://www.physiopilates.org.uk">www.physiopilates.org.uk</a>
Pavillion Art Group	Penny Eames 07949 123023 <a href="mailto:pjcmagpie@gmail.com">pjcmagpie@gmail.com</a>
Shelford Bridge Club	Tony Cliff 0753273794 <a href="mailto:Anthony.r.cliff@gmail.com">Anthony.r.cliff@gmail.com</a>
Shelford Community Transport	John Dibnah 842054, Marjorie Smith 564922 Rosie Cranmer 513572, Gillian Northmore 504542
Shelford and Stapleford Strikers Football Club	Anthony Stevens 843703 <a href="mailto:disleystevens@aol.com">disleystevens@aol.com</a> <a href="http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/shelfordandstaplefordstrikers">www.pitchero.com/clubs/shelfordandstaplefordstrikers</a>

Sustainable Shelford Environmental 2G3S	Linda Whitebread <i>greengroupssss@gmail.com</i>
Shelford Twinning Association	Penny Pearl 842483/217554 <i>penny.pearl@btinternet.com</i> <i>shelfordtwinning.org.uk</i>
Shelford Garden Club	Helen Chubb 845032 <i>www.shelford.org/gardenpage.htm</i>
Shelfords and Stapleford Youth Initiative (SSYI)	Zac Britton <i>zac.britton@ssyi.club</i>
The Shelfords WI	Vanda Butler 561053 <i>vanda.butler@googlemail.com</i> <i>www.theshelfordswi.wordpress.com</i>
Shelford Community Orchard and Woodland Project (SCOWP)	Gill Davidson <i>davidson.wg@btinternet.com</i> Mike Darsley <i>mdgb59@gmail.com</i>

### Little Shelford Defibrillator

The Little Shelford defibrillator can be found attached to the wall of the rear kitchen extension at the **Side Quest Public House, 63 High Street**. When you open the defibrillator, the machine will talk to you and guide you through how to use it.

#### Waste and Recycling Bins Reminder

Tuesday	17 <sup>th</sup> March	Black bin
Tuesday	24 <sup>th</sup> March	Green & blue bins
Tuesday	31 <sup>st</sup> March	Black bin
Tuesday	7 <sup>th</sup> April	Green & blue bins
Tuesday	14 <sup>th</sup> April	Black bin
Tuesday	21 <sup>st</sup> April	Green & blue bins
Tuesday	28 <sup>th</sup> April	Black bin
Tuesday	5 <sup>th</sup> May	Green & blue bins
Tuesday	12 <sup>th</sup> May	Black bin
Tuesday	19 <sup>th</sup> May	Green & blue bins
Tuesday	26 <sup>th</sup> May	Black bin
Tuesday	2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Green & blue bins

## Little Shelford Memorial Hall Film Evening

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

There will be a Memorial Hall film evening with a showing of ***The Ballad of Wallis Island*** on Saturday 18 April 2026. Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start with a break for supper of pizza and salad.



***The Ballad of Wallis Island*** is a 2025 British comedy-drama film written by Tim Key and Tom Basden. Basden and Carey Mulligan star as a folk duo who reunite to perform for a wealthy fan (Tim Key) on a remote British island.

Tickets (£15 per person) will be available from Sarah Coppendale: (842498) [coppendales@btinternet.com](mailto:coppendales@btinternet.com) and Diana Haines (841415) [dianahaines42@icloud.com](mailto:dianahaines42@icloud.com). Please book by Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April so that sufficient food can be ordered.

## Bowls Club Taster Sessions

Little Shelford Bowls Club is looking for new members to join their bowls club this season. If you are interested, they are holding two open taster sessions on **Saturday, 25 April**, 2.30-5.00 pm and **Thursday, 30 April**, 6.30-8.00 pm. Our first year introductory membership is only £20. If you are a new starter, tuition and equipment can be provided. So please get in touch or just turn up.

For further information please contact: John Sherwell Tel: 01223 841012 [john.r.sherwell@btinternet.com](mailto:john.r.sherwell@btinternet.com)

## Little Shelford Pantomime – Auditions

Auditions will be held for *Robin Hood*, Little Shelford Pantomime 2027 on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026** at Little Shelford Memorial Hall between 11am and 3pm. Any child between the ages of 9 – 16 will be welcomed.

More information will follow in due course, but if you have any questions, please ring Sarah on 842498 or e-mail [coppendales@btinternet.com](mailto:coppendales@btinternet.com).



# The Little Shelford Safari Supper

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May**

This wonderful evening is fast approaching, and it would be great if you could fill in the sparkly new on-line form to tell us you can come!

For those who have not been before - we travel around for each course and get fed in the process. The evening will start with drinks together, then main courses and desserts in small groups before reconvening at the end of the evening. It's a great way to catch up with local people, as well as meet those recently moved to the village.

There are lots of opportunities for everyone to contribute in some way, and plenty of things to do for those who cannot host.

There is no need to come as a couple and dietary issues can be dealt with if known in advance.

Please use the QR code below to fill in the online form to tell us you are coming, any dietary requirements, and if / what you could host.



If you've any questions about the form or the evening itself please do get in touch by emailing: [littleshelfordsafarisupper@gmail.com](mailto:littleshelfordsafarisupper@gmail.com)

## Village Tea Parties

Held on the second Wednesday in the month, these informal gatherings are organised by volunteers providing home-made cakes, sandwiches, tea or coffee for the modest cost of £1.50 per person.

All Little Shelford residents and their relatives are most welcome, and we encourage newcomers to the village to come along to make new friends. Please pass the word around to anyone you know who may be interested.

In the summer months (April to October) the tea parties are held in the sports pavilion on the Wale recreation ground. In the winter (October to March) they are held in the village hall.

If you would like a lift or need more information, please contact Judy Boothroyd ([judyboothroyd5@gmail.com](mailto:judyboothroyd5@gmail.com)) or Christine Ruffles ([christineruffles@hotmail.com](mailto:christineruffles@hotmail.com))

***Dates of next tea parties in the sports pavilion*** from 2.30 to 4.30:  
8<sup>th</sup> April, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 10<sup>th</sup> June, 8<sup>th</sup> July

# Little Shelford Cricket Club Spring Update

## Annual General Meeting Summary

The AGM opened with a review of the previous season and reflections on the club's performance. While the team experienced some inconsistent results on the field, there were also many positives, particularly within the junior section. The Under-15 side enjoyed an excellent season and reached the national semi-finals, highlighting the strength of the club's youth development programme. Financially, the club remains in a reasonably healthy position. The treasurer reported a surplus from cricketing activities during the year, along with a balance carried forward from club events. These funds will help maintain financial reserves and support investment in equipment and facilities.

The club confirmed its officer appointments for the coming season, with Bernard Pearl continuing as club president, David Jones as Club Chairman, Chris Schofield as Club Captain and Ian Smith as Treasurer. Captaincy and vice-captaincy roles were also confirmed to ensure stability across the senior sides. Membership fees were reviewed and agreed for the year ahead, with adult membership set at £30 plus per match fee and junior membership remaining at £90.

Junior cricket continues to be central to the club's long-term plans. Two Under-15 teams will again compete this year, as well as an Under-13 team and the committee emphasised the importance of developing a clear pathway for younger players to progress into senior cricket. A social media campaign to recruit new girl and boy Junior players will be carried out in the Spring. Alex Harrison will take responsibility for managing online updates, including fixtures, match reports and short promotional videos to help raise awareness of the club and attract new members.

Finally, the chairman thanked the many volunteers who support the club, including coaches, grounds staff and committee members, and acknowledged the continued support of the sponsors, **the Side Quest and Tiffin Truck Restaurant** and the continuing support of Vice-Presidents.

## 2026 Season Plans and Events

The season will begin with a **pre-season social event on Friday 10 April from 6pm at the Side Quest pub**, designed to bring together players, families and supporters ahead of the new campaign. The event will give new or potential players a chance to meet the club and help build momentum for the season. All potential players are welcome.

The first cricket match of the year will be an **intra-club friendly match on Sunday 19 April at the Wale Recreation Ground**. This informal game will allow players to dust off the winter rust and help captains assess squad depth before competitive fixtures begin. There follows a **friendly match against Fen-Ditton on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April** followed by a full list of fixtures (see below home fixtures 2026 season).

### **Nets and Coaching on the Wale Recreation Ground**

From **Saturday 25 April**, the club plans to launch its **softball cricket sessions for 6 – 10 year old Boys and Girls**, aimed particularly at newer young players and those looking to learn the game. These sessions have proved popular in recent seasons and provide an accessible way for people to get involved.

**Adult nets begin on Wednesday 22 April at 6:00pm**, continuing weekly through the season. These sessions will provide preparation for league matches and give new recruits the opportunity to integrate with the squad.

**Junior cricket nets (11 years to 16 years)** remains a major focus. Junior training sessions are planned for Saturdays and Sundays at 10am.

*Final dates will be confirmed on our Facebook page once coordination with the football users of the ground has been completed.*

Improvements are also planned at the Wale ground, including new sightscreens and repairs to playing areas to ensure good playing conditions throughout the season. We thank SCDC for a Community Grant and matched funding from LSSRT for helping us to purchase the new sightscreens and to Neil Orpwood, club veteran, for organising this.

For information on nets and joining LSCC please contact Chris Schofield (Club Captain) [chrisschofield@littleshelfordcc.com](mailto:chrisschofield@littleshelfordcc.com) or for Junior Nets

then please contact Jamie Harrison [jjc.harrison@ntlworld.com](mailto:jjc.harrison@ntlworld.com) or Ian Reid [ian.reid620@ntlworld.com](mailto:ian.reid620@ntlworld.com) our Award Winning Junior Coaches and for Softball contact Neil Orpwood ([neilorpwood@msn.com](mailto:neilorpwood@msn.com)).

## **Festival of Cricket and Evening BBQ**

The season will conclude with a highlight for the whole village: the **Festival of Cricket and Club Barbecue on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September**. Rather than hosting a formal end-of-season dinner, the club has chosen to organise this outdoor event to celebrate the year's cricket with players, families and supporters.

It has been a great success in recent years and with the addition of the evening BBQ and entertainment this should be a great day. The festival is expected to include exhibition matches, junior cricket activities and a social barbecue, providing a relaxed and enjoyable way to bring the community together at the close of the season.

With strong junior participation, a busy training schedule and several social events planned, Little Shelford Cricket Club looks forward to an enjoyable and successful 2026 season both on and off the field. New players, supporters and VP's are always welcome to get involved.

## **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of LSCC**

A reminder, we have also started planning for our **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which is in 2027**. We plan to combine our celebrations of this amazing anniversary with the Village Weekend in that year. This has been discussed with LSEC and final agreement we hope will be reached to this plan soon. As a result, we expect the celebrations to take place over the weekend of **10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> September 2027**. Put it in your diary now as we expect some great events and celebrity participation!

Do remember you can view all our matches, results and player statistics, including friendlies and Junior Section games on our ECB Play-Cricket web site: <https://littleshelford.play-cricket.com/> and you can also follow us on Twitter [@LShelsCricket](https://twitter.com/LShelsCricket).

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## History Snippet

### The Finch Family – From the Black Country to Little Shelford

I enjoyed preparing for the Little Shelford Local History Society talk last month on the history of the Manor House, to be found down Manor Lane. The talk can be found on the village history website. One interesting point that emerged was the unexpected connection between the Black Country—where I was born—and Little Shelford. Further research revealed a fascinating story linking Dudley’s iron industry with one of the most important houses in our village.

### The Finch Family Story

The history of Little Shelford is closely intertwined with the story of the Finch family, whose rise from ironmasters in the Midlands to landowners in south Cambridgeshire reflects the social mobility of eighteenth-century England. Through trade, civic engagement and landownership, the Finches left a lasting mark on both Cambridgeshire and Little Shelford.

### William Finch II and the Manor of Little Shelford

William Finch’s son, also named William and often referred to as William Finch II, inherited the family fortune and expanded its influence.

He was active in public life and contributed £25 towards raising volunteers to oppose the Jacobite army during the 1745 rising. He also served as one of the commissioners responsible for repairing bridges in Cambridge.

Around this time William Finch II purchased the **Manor of Little Shelford** and undertook major rebuilding works on the Manor House.

The present Georgian house (picture right) was constructed between about **1746 and 1750**, incorporating elements of an earlier Jacobean building that had stood on the site. The house quickly became one of



the most important residences in the village and marked the family's transition from successful merchants to landed gentry. William Finch II also acquired other manorial interests in south Cambridgeshire, including estates in Cottenham and Swaffham Prior.

However, when William Finch II died in **1762**, he left no direct heirs.

## **The Finch Family**

The estate therefore passed through the female line. Samuel Ingle, a London linen draper, had married Elizabeth Finch, daughter of the original William Finch. Their son inherited the estate and adopted the surname **William Finch Finch** to preserve the Finch name associated with the property.

## **Rev. Henry Finch and the Manor House**

William Finch Finch died in **1826**, and the estate passed to his son **Reverend Henry Finch**. Although he became lord of the manor, Henry spent some of his life living in Cambridge rather than residing permanently in Little Shelford. He held several ecclesiastical livings and served as **Rector of Great Shelford and Little Shelford from 1806 to 1849**.

In **1814**, while living at Little Shelford Parsonage, Henry had already advertised the Manor House to let for fourteen years. The advertisement described the property as: *"a spacious substantial and elegant family residence... delightfully watered by a trout stream... within five miles of the University of Cambridge and fourteen miles of Newmarket."*

Rev. Henry Finch eventually sold the lordship of the manor and the Manor House in **1837**, although he continued to receive the great tithes from the parish until **1849**.

## **Elizabeth Finch and the Memory of the Earlier Manor**

Although the Finch family's direct ownership of the manor ended in the nineteenth century, their connection with the village continued.

One particularly interesting figure was **Elizabeth Finch**, Rev Henry Finch's Daughter who lived in the **Square House on Church Street** in Little Shelford. See her picture to the right from "A Record of Shelford Pava" by Fanny Wale. She possessed a painting of the earlier Jacobean Manor House that had stood on the site before the Georgian

rebuilding. The survival of this painting later helped historians understand the earlier architectural history of the house.

### A 20th-Century Connection

The Finch family connection even extended into the twentieth century. In **June 1954** the famous actor **Peter Finch** opened a fundraising fete for the fabric of All Saints Church in Little Shelford.



In his speech he remarked that through his ancestors he had close associations with the village. His great-great-grandfather, **Rev. Henry Finch**, had been Rector from 1806 to 1849, while other relatives had occupied the Manor House and other properties in the parish.

Peter Finch spoke movingly of the importance of preserving the parish church for future generations. Local resident Penny Buckle (now Saich) presented a bouquet to Mr Finch for his wife, who was unable to attend—an event that several villagers still remember.

### A Lasting Legacy

The Finch family’s legacy can still be seen today in both Cambridge and Little Shelford.

In Cambridge their iron business contributed to the development of the town’s infrastructure, including the manufacture of bridges across the River Cam. In Little Shelford their rebuilding of the Manor House created one of the most significant buildings in the village landscape.

Their story reflects the transformation of a successful industrial family into members of the landed gentry. Beginning as ironmasters in the Midlands, the Finches built a prosperous business in Cambridge, accumulated considerable wealth and eventually became owners of several rural manors in south Cambridgeshire.

If you have memories of the Manor House or members of the Finch Family, please do feel free to contact the author [davidjhjones@btinternet.com](mailto:davidjhjones@btinternet.com)

# **Easter at** *All Saints* LITTLE SHELFORD

**Maundy Thursday  
Communion Service**  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 8pm

**Good Friday Music and  
Meditation Service**  
with activities for younger  
children in the North Building  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 11am

**Easter Sunday Services**  
5<sup>th</sup> April at 9.30am, 11am  
and 6pm

**All are welcome!**