

Notices

INVITATION Andy & Jane invite all Cross & Stable members and friends (i.e. you all!) to a BBQ lunch on **Sunday, 23 July** at 1A Atterbrook, Bradwell MK13 9EY – in the garden, or squeezed into the house if wet. We hope you can come. "We'll be providing a simple lunch for all. You don't need to bring anything, though we won't refuse bring and share contributions if you like to bring anything!"

Sunday 23 July 6.00 pm Celebration Evensong at Willen Church for the Feast of Mary Magdalene with choir 'Quorum' and guest preacher the Rev. Steve Barnes.

Friday Family Tots restarts 8th Sept

Monday 24 July Refurbishment of toilets begins.

Saturday 29 July 2.00 – 5.00 pm Bradwell Church invites members of Cross & Stable Church to join them at a Cream Tea Afternoon at St Lawrence Church.

Wednesday 9 August 2.45 pm Service Neath House. Future dates: Mon 9 October.

Sunday 20 August 6 pm Tree Cathedral Service at Newlands (nr. Gullivers Land)

Monday 21 August 2.45 pm Service at Highclere. Also 2 October.

Thursday Home Bible Study re-starting on 7th September.

Friday Family Tots restarts 8th Sept

Saturday 9 September. End of Summer Open Day at Cross & Stable Church: Details later!. Tea and Coffee and Cake from 10am-12noon.

Starting **Sunday 24 September** 7.00 – 9.00 pm "THE CALL" - "a monthly prayer gathering for the city of Milton Keynes" at Christ the Cornerstone. Further dates: 29 Oct; 26 Nov.

MESSY CHURCH – a Partnership enterprise? Saturday 30th September

We are exploring the way forward. Christ Church are planning to hold a Messy Church on Sat. 21st October as part of their 'Coffee & Cake' morning. Before that, we hope to run a Messy Church at Cross & Stable on a Harvest theme on Saturday 30 September 3.30 - 5.00 pm. But first we need a team and are looking for 8 people minimum (half from C & S, half from the Partnership). Please let Andy know if you'd like to experience Messy Church and lend a hand. You don't have to have any experience or expertise.

Prayer Pointers

For our members and friends: Jeremy Radford, Peter & Dina Davis, Mike & Pru McConnell, Dan Cavanagh.

For the sick: Neville Brine. Becca Page, Shirley, Phyllis, Doreen, Shelly and Martina.

R.I.P. We are sad to hear that **Cyril Wilson** died in hospital on the 16th July after a long illness. His funeral service will be at the Willow Chapel, Crownhill Crematorium on Friday 4th August at 11 am.

prayer

On Sundays during Trinity
- from now until December -
we shall offer a favourite prayer
each week.

If you have a favourite
you would like included
please let Gwen know.

*Father
Holy is your being
Done is your desiring
Our bread provide us
Our debts forgive us
From trials free us
From evil rescue us
Amen*

THE CROSS AND STABLE

23rd July - Sixth Sunday after Trinity

The Esther Story

Set in Persia in the 4th century

An historical novella explaining the origin of the festival of Purim
The only book in the Bible that does not mention God!

- 1: Queen Vashti is dethroned
- 2: Mordecai adopted his cousin Esther as his daughter
- 3: Jewess Esther becomes Queen
- 4: Mordecai discover a plot
- 5: Courtier Haman conspires to kill all Jews
- 6: Mordecai asks Esther to help
- 7: She hesitates and then agrees
- 8: Haman prepares gallows for Mordecai
- 9: At a banquet all is revealed
- 10: The King honours Mordecai
- 11: Haman is hanged instead of Modecai
- 12: The Jews are saved

Next Sunday - Seventh Sunday after Trinity - 30th July
11 am Sunday Communion - Peter Green
Andy's Summer Theme - Jesus & the Great Outdoors

Cross and Stable is part of Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership
Church of England • Baptist Union • Methodist Church • United Reformed Church

Collect

Creator God,
you made us all in your image:
may we discern you in all that we see,
and serve you in all that we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

Esther 5 & 8:1-8

Esther's request to the king

On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the palace, in front of the king's hall. The king was sitting on his royal throne in the hall, facing the entrance. When he saw Queen Esther standing in the court, he was pleased with her and held out to her the gold sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther approached and touched the tip of the sceptre.

Then the king asked, 'What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given you.'

'If it pleases the king,' replied Esther, 'let the king, together with Haman, come today to a banquet I have prepared for him.'

'Bring Haman at once,' the king said, 'so that we may do what Esther asks.'

So the king and Haman went to the banquet Esther had prepared. As they were drinking wine, the king again asked Esther, 'Now what is your petition? It will be given you. And what is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted.'

Esther replied, 'My petition and my request is this: If the king regards me with favour and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfil my request, let the king and Haman come tomorrow to the banquet I will prepare for them. Then I will answer the king's question.'

Haman's rage against Mordecai

Haman went out that day happy and in high spirits. But when he saw Mordecai at the king's gate and observed that he neither rose nor showed fear in his presence, he was filled with rage against Mordecai. Nevertheless, Haman restrained himself and went home.

Calling together his friends and Zeresh, his wife, Haman boasted to them about his vast wealth, his many sons, and all the ways the king had honoured him and how he had elevated him above the other nobles and officials. 'And that's not all,' Haman added. 'I'm the only person Queen Esther invited to accompany the king to the banquet she gave. And she has invited me along with the king tomorrow. But

all this gives me no satisfaction as long as I see that Jew Mordecai sitting at the king's gate.'

His wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, 'Have a pole set up, reaching to a height of fifty cubits, and ask the king in the morning to have Mordecai impaled on it. Then go with the king to the banquet and enjoy yourself.' This suggestion delighted Haman, and he had the pole set up.

Esther 8:1-8

The king's edict on behalf of the Jews

That same day King Xerxes gave Queen Esther the estate of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came into the presence of the king, for Esther had told how he was related to her. The king took off his signet ring, which he had reclaimed from Haman, and presented it to Mordecai. And Esther appointed him over Haman's estate.

Esther again pleaded with the king, falling at his feet and weeping. She begged him to put an end to the evil plan of Haman the Agagite, which he had devised against the Jews. Then the king extended the gold sceptre to Esther and she arose and stood before him.

'If it pleases the king,' she said, 'and if he regards me with favour and thinks it the right thing to

do, and if he is pleased with me, let an order be written overruling the dispatches that Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, devised and wrote to destroy the Jews in all the king's provinces. For how can I bear to see disaster fall on my people? How can I bear to see the destruction of my family?'

King Xerxes replied to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, 'Because Haman attacked the Jews, I have given his estate to Esther, and they have impaled him on the pole he set up. Now write another decree in the king's name on behalf of the Jews as seems best to you, and seal it with the king's signet ring – for no document written in the king's name and sealed with his ring can be revoked.'

Matthew 5:43-48

Hear the Gospel according to Matthew

Glory to Christ our Saviour

Love for enemies

'You have heard that it was said, "Love your neighbour and hate your enemy." But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. will reward you.

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Please pray for:

- People off on holiday, for refreshment and safe travel.
- The users of the Centre and for the toilet refurbishment programme starting Monday.
- Those who preach and lead worship, and for Helen undertaking training.
- Plans for Messy Church, and for recruiting a team.
- Politicians and world leaders to work together for the common good.

Flowerpots for free

4 good condition 17 inch pot flowerpots free to good home. Ask Richard

Contacts

Vicar- Andy Jowitt

Tel: 01908 320 850. Day off - Tuesday

Notice Sheet - Gwen Green

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Websites

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

www.stantonbury.net

Cross & Stable

www.crossandstable.weebly.com

TODAY

INVITATION Andy & Jane

invite all Cross & Stable members and friends (i.e. you all!) to a BBQ lunch on **Sunday,**

23 July at 1A Atterbrook, Bradwell MK13 9EY – in the garden, or squeezed into the house if wet. We hope you can come. "We'll be providing a simple lunch for all. You don't need to bring anything, though we won't refuse bring and share contributions if you like to bring anything!"