

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

Six thriving and growing churches, making Christ known in our area of Milton Keynes.



August 2022 Newsletter

Welcome to August's edition of the Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership Newsletter

Partnership Events

Partnership Pilgrimage

On Saturday 2nd July we held our annual parish pilgrimage walking round the six churches in our Partnership. We started at St James, moving in an anticlockwise direction on to Bradwell Church where we had a coffee break. Cross and Stable provided us with the facilities to enjoy our sandwiches. We went on to Willen Church, St Andrew's and ended at Christ Church where tea and cakes were a welcome conclusion

to our 10 mile walk. At each church we paused to hear something about the church and its current life, and to pray together. The weather after we'd arrived at our with us, some joining and time spent walking and bonds we have across David Lewis for opened up and gave



was kind, the rain holding off until final stop. There were about 25 leaving as they were able. The talking helped to strengthen the the Partnership. Our thanks to organising and to those who hospitality at each place.

Paul Smith - and thanks to Adrian Prisk for the photos.

Partnership News

Appointment of Vision Enabler and retirement of David Lewis

The meeting with Gill Lovell took place without Tim Norwood, who is unfortunately poorly at the moment. Could we all say a prayer for his speedy recovery. This discussion on next steps for SEP has not led to much progress. As I write, there is still no answer from the Diocese on the widening of the advert to include lay persons and the next meeting between Gill and Paul Smith and CPAS for support with the advertising process isn't until 24th August. It is likely that we will not see a replacement for David for around twelve months.

Some of the past Standing Committee and others from the Leadership Team met on 14th July to look again at possible next steps, but we are waiting for the current ministry to develop acceptable suggestions for a new structure for the SEP as, like many other Partnerships in England, it is lay ministers who may be the most valuable pastoral care and spiritual leadership in the future.

Nicola Martyn-Beck

In August we welcome back Nicola from her sabbatical and it was good to see her during one of my visits to the six churches in the Parish. Thank you for welcoming me in your church and I will visit again soon.

Safeguarding

Chairs, please ensure your church's DBSs are up to date and display your Safeguarding contact list in a prominent place in your church. Thank you.

Citizens: MK's 2022 Discerning Assembly

We contribute to the Citizens MK work and Stephanie Laing has been reaching out to each of our 6 churches to look at what we want to do to make links, i.e., some ideas from Bradwell were that two churches could make links and then that link could become wider. Stephanie is planning a Discerning Assembly on 3 December at Christ the Cornerstone, please book on Eventbrite.

Charitable Incorporated Organisation CIO

Thank you to those who have put their Trustee registration forms forward and congratulations on being elected. Adrian Prisk is on the verge of completing this registration and then the funds from SEP will be moved over, and we can get on with something else.

The next biggest task ahead of the Council is to agree and approve the Operating Procedures for the new CIO. Diana Stammers, of Bradwell Church, has advised to start with the leadership of the Partnership, especially when we need this information for any recruitment.

Chairs, please could you meet as a Church Council before SEC meets on 15th September so that your SEC Representatives and Deanery Synod Representatives bring all the most recent queries and news to the Partnership. Thank you.

Thank you, John, and everyone for such positive feedback to this Partnership Newsletter. Sharron secchair22@gmail.com

Our Church Services and Events for August

Bradwell Church, St Lawrence

Sunday 7th at 10:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by Rev Esther Squire

Sunday 14th at 10:30 **Communion Service**

Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith

Sunday 21st at 10:30 **All Age Worship**

Led by Helen Rouse

Sunday 28th at 10:30 **Communion Service**

Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith



Services are frequently live-streamed on Facebook using the link:
<https://www.facebook.com/BradwellChurchMK>

Christ Church, Stantonbury

Sunday 7th at 10:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by Rev David Lewis

Sunday 14th at 10:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by Maggie Prisk

Sunday 21st at 10:30 **Communion Service**

Led by Rev David Lewis

Sunday 28th at 10:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by Rev David Lewis



All Sunday services are Livestreamed to Christ Church's Facebook page, using the link below. You don't need to belong to Facebook in order to follow the service.

Streaming starts from 10.25am

<https://www.facebook.com/christchurchmk/>

There is also a Christ Church website at www.christchurchmk.org.uk which has the service details on it and which is updated each week

Saturday 20th at 09:30 **Coffee and cake morning**

all donations received go to Christ Church coffee money charity.

Cross and Stable, Down's Barn

Sunday 7th at 11:00 **Signed Communion Service**

Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith

Sunday 14th at 11:00 **Communion Service**

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 21st at 11:00 **Morning Worship**

Led by Stephen Fletcher

Sunday 28th at 11:00 **Communion Service**

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe



Services are live-streamed on Zoom: Meeting ID: 859 2224 8518 Passcode: 830413

us02web.zoom.us/j/85922248518?pwd=Tm4vd00wancwVk52cCtqNm5tMWRZdz09

The link is normally published on www.stantonbury.net on a Saturday

Chatterbox every Wednesday from 10:30 am to 12:30pm. All Welcome - tea - coffee - cakes - meet and chat. Come and meet others

St Andrews', Great Linford

Sunday 7th at 10:00 **Open Door**

Led by Rev Peter Dudeney

Sunday 14th at 10:00 **Communion Service**

Led by Rev Prof John Beazley

Sunday 21st at 10:00 **Communion Service**

Led by Rev Canon Chuks Iwuagwu

Sunday 28th at 10:00 **Communion Service**

Led by Colin Taylor LLP (communion by extension)

Sunday Evening Prayer at 5:00 on Zoom



Morning Services are live-streamed on Facebook using this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/StAndrewsGL>

August Teas - Sundays 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th between 14:00 and 16:00

Afternoon refreshments including home-made cakes plus an opportunity to join a guided walk in Great Linford Manor Park.

St James', New Bradwell

Sunday 7th at 10:00 Communion Service

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 14th at 10:00 Open Door Service - Holiday at Home

Led by The Open Door Team

Sunday 21st at 10:00 Communion Service

Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith

Sunday 28th at 10:00 Methodist Communion Service

Led by Rev Nicola Martyn-Beck



Every Saturday from 10:00 to 12:00 St James' hosts a Coffee Morning and every Thursday from 14:00 to 16:30 there is a drop-in Café.

Visit St James' website at www.stjamesnewbradwell.org.uk for more information.

Sunday 21st at 15:00 Outdoor Band Concert

After the success of last year's concert, Bradwell Silver Band are keen to repeat the experience, so come along and support both them and St James'.

St Mary Magdalene, Willen

Sunday 7th at 09:30 All Age Worship

Led by Margaret Moakes

Sunday 14th at 09:30 Communion Service and Baptism

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 21st at 08:30 Communion Service

Led by Rev Steve Barnes

Sunday 21st at 09:30 Communion Service

Led by Rev Steve Barnes

Sunday 28th at 09:30 Communion Service

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe



Monday 8th at 10.00 Funeral of Fr Frank Green, SSM

Every Monday at 1:30 Willen Choir rehearse and at 7:30 Quorum rehearse.

Every Saturday 10:00-12:00 Volunteer Gardening at St Mary Magdalene Church.

Join volunteers as they continue with the restoration.

New faces welcome!

Monthly T.T.T.T.

Third Tuesday Twelve Thirty – There will be no lunchtime concert in August.

Future Events

5 WAYS CAFÉ at ST ANDREWS CHURCH (in partnership with The Parks Trust and the Friends of Great Linford Manor Park)

11:00–13:00 on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month.

A dementia friendly community café offering a cuppa and a chat and the option of joining an accessible guided walk around Great Linford Manor Park and the village.

Visits from care homes, walking groups and other dementia support clubs can be accommodated. To discuss, please contact events@theparkstrust.com or call **01908 233600**. Wheelchair ramp and accessible toilet available.

Also in the 5 Ways Café on the 4th Tuesday of each month, free textiles workshops with local artist, Jane Charles. Learn new skills and contribute to a community project organised by the Friends

Saturday 3rd September

09:30 – 12:00 SEP Prayer Morning

At **Christ Church**, come when you can, stay as long as you like.

On the half hour 5 minutes of led reflection and Prayer.

Coffee, tea, cold drinks and snacks available.

BECOMING KINGDOM PEOPLE

Our prayer will centre on how we take Jesus into our communities, and our local and global concerns especially climate change and the cost of living crisis.

Prayer options: interactive Prayer stations, making collage working together or individually, chatting and sharing stories, praying with scripture.

Please take this opportunity to pray and listen to God's leading.

Thursday 15th September

17:30 SEC Meeting

Venue tba

Friday 16th to Sunday 18th September

Heritage Weekend at St Andrews

Refreshments, displays and guided history walks in the Manor Park.

Further information at theparkstrust.com

Saturday 8th October

13:00 St Andrews Harvest Lunch

Ploughman's, dessert & coffee with musical entertainment from 'Cross Roots' band and singers

Tickets from greatlinford@gmail.com

Saturday 8th October

Time tba Barn Dance at St James

Featuring the 'Barnestompers'

Further details to follow.

Saturday 22nd October

19:30 Band Concert

Bradwell Silver Band play their Autumn Concert at St James.

Further details to follow.

Monday 31st October

17:00-19:00 'Glow in the Dark Party'

St James alternative to Halloween

Other Items

News from Diocese of Oxford

Call for Participation in Focus groups on Artificial Intelligence and Faith

Project: As part of the 2022 UCL Grand Challenges, focus groups this summer will discuss the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence. Specifically, the organisers want to hear from underrepresented groups in the AI ethics debate, i.e., different groups of faith in the UK.

Call: The organisers are looking for participants to join a 90-minute group discussion with around six other participants to discuss questions of AI, Ethics and Faith, and how to build trust in AI.

Incentive: A £20 Amazon voucher will be released upon full attendance of the focus group.

Sign up: Please register your interest via Organisers: Jakob and Jas, University College London (ai.ethics.ucl@gmail.com)

Pray for the Lambeth Conference 26th July – 8th August.

Please remember the bishops of the Anglican Communion meeting for two weeks. The bishops meet every ten years and gather from all over the world. You can find out more at <https://www.lambethconference.org/>

A download of the prayer guide is also available:

<https://www.lambethconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Lambeth-Conference-Prayer-Guide-2022-ENG.pdf>

COVID: increase in cases. National church guidance

The guidance is clear that we should continue to offer Holy Communion in both kinds, but it is important that no pressure is placed on individual members of congregation to receive the sacrament if they feel unable to do so.

Yellow Braces 2022

Young people from Milton Keynes, Sandhurst and everywhere in between gathered for fun and friendship at the diocesan youth weekend, this year held at Adventure Plus in Clanfield.

Discipleship gap year in the diocese

Are you or do you know someone aged 18-24? Are they considering a gap year? Join the Discipleship Training Centre this September, where you can find out more about the DY Year by hearing from some past Trainees: <https://youtu.be/3o9qJ9PqnEk>

News from the Regional Central Baptist Union

As you may have seen, Baptists Together featured in BBC Songs of Praise - with interviews with General Secretary Lynn Green and other Baptists around the country. If you missed the programme, it is still available to view on BBC iPlayer.

23rd August is the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

News from the Methodist Circuit

Greenbelt Festival 2022 – Volunteers wanted! Plans are well under way for Greenbelt Festival 2022 which takes place at Boughton Estate near Kettering, 26th – 29th August 2022. They are still looking for volunteers for a number of their teams. They offer their volunteers free access to the festival, along with meal vouchers, free camping and showers and other extras. Volunteers need to be aged 16 or over – there is no upper age limit

News from The United Reformed Church

The United Reformed Church is proud to reveal that all its 13 Synods have divested from fossil fuels. The achievement comes after North Western and the East Midlands Synods joined 35 faith institutions from seven countries in announcing their divestment from fossil fuel companies.

Churches Together

This hasn't properly started yet, but their website www.ctmk.church has a daily prayer.

I hope that you found this newsletter interesting and useful and that the Future Events section was worth adding. If there is anything you think would make it better or find any glaring omissions, please let your Church newsletter editor, Sharron or myself know.

We would still like to make this a monthly newsletter so the deadline for information to go into September's issue is Thursday 25th August.

John Porter notices@stjamesnewbradwell.org.uk

Finally if you would like an item (no more than 1½ pages please) included for the last word just send it to meet the above email above before the deadline.

So the last word this month goes to St James resident poet:

In last month's newsletter there was a piece written about our churchyard and about the recent Open Door service we held there. Our resident poet "The Bradwell Bard" has written many poems linked to St James including this one about the churchyard. He read it at our Churchyard Open Door service and we'd like to share it with you here. We hope you enjoy reading it.

A Year in the Life of St. James Churchyard.

By the Bradwell Bard.

Welcome to our churchyard, please take a stroll around,
Pause for prayer and contemplate, listen to nature's sounds.

A peaceful calm oasis in the middle of the town
A space to enjoy some peace, as life goes on around.

And why not take a break and give yourself a treat,
Please take some time, sit down, relax on Phyl's and Percy's seat

Our churchyard path's a favourite stroll up to the Co-op store,
For locals like to stop to chat 'bout this, and that, and more!

The churchyard's always changing, as seasons come and go,
From summer warmth to winter chill that blankets it with snow.

The daffodils in springtime, their glorious yellow flowers,
Light up our lovely churchyard, right through those April showers.

With blossoms all around us, it's springtime at its best,
And blackbirds singing in the trees they are busy making nests.

From Yew, Lilac and Holly, to Scots Pines growing tall,
There's trees here in abundance, our churchyard has them all.

In summer we are out there, enjoying the fresh air,
For "Open Door" and picnics, and for our summer fair.

It's great to hold an "Open Door" outside amongst the trees,
With sounds of joyful singing floating gently on the breeze.

Our summer fair has everything, live music, teas and stalls,
From fancy goods to face painting there's something here for all.

Our churchyard bees are busy, gathering their nectar for their honey,
Please give our Bees the space they need especially when it's sunny.

Our mower team is busy, they keep the grass in trim,
They make sure all the cuttings, are put in the green bin.

For spotting local wildlife, the churchyard's a great spot,
From nesting birds to squirrels, it really has the lot.

To home our creepy crawlies, we've made some bug hotels,
We hope they'll like to stay in them where all is safe and well.

As Autumn evenings lengthen and stormy winds do blow,
It is time for all the young ones, to gather here for "Glow".

The leaves are changing colour now and soon they'll start to tumble,
We've had a lovely year and so we really shouldn't grumble.

Our churchyard's year is closing now with cold and frosty nights,
But soon our snowdrops will appear, oh what a glorious sight.

We thank God for our churchyard, a place that's held so dear,
As nature journeys onwards, into another year.

Graham Crisp