

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

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



October 2022 Newsletter

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

Pastoral Piece

Grieving Queen Elizabeth II.

Many I've been in conversation with in the last few days have expressed surprise at the depth of their grief over the death of the Queen. They have been caught unawares, as I have, at the sudden rising of tears or a lump in the throat. This seems surprising especially if we've perhaps only ever seen her majesty via the media, or only caught a fleeting glimpse of her, maybe much earlier in life. One explanation, which I think may well be true, is that she has been the nations' mother or grandmother figure. We have taken her into our hearts. Another helpful explanation is that the Queen's death has sparked off our own more personal griefs – the loss of our own mother, or close loved ones. There is a resonance in our feelings, reawakening a grief which we thought had perhaps subsided, been resolved. One thought I've not heard expressed but which has occurred to me, is that the Queen has always been there for most of us for our whole lives. Her presence has been obvious on TV for so many state occasions as well as reports of visits to communities and charities across the nation and world. She addressed us at Christmas. Her image is on our everyday transactions – on banknotes, coins and stamps. So why is it a surprise that she is also present in our grief? Perhaps because we did not anticipate that. But if, like any other loved one, we grieve when someone who has been significant for us when they die, then the same is true of the Queen. Just like them, we transfer the Queen's living presence from life into the realm of our grieving – our keenly felt awareness of her absence. As she herself has so wisely said, "Grief is the price we pay for love."

Something else which I've noticed is the prevalence of the sentiment "rest in peace" when leaving messages for the Queen. That is good and is an expression of acceptance that the Queen has died. She has worked hard all her long life and reign, keeping her promise to serve her people. She deserves a rest! But I've also noticed the absence of what follows "RIP" for Christians: RIG – rise in glory. For Christians resurrection is the ultimate hope, the proper response to death. So perhaps we can use this time as an opportunity to ask ourselves whether we really believe that RIG follows RIP. We need to grieve, and the official period of mourning allows us as a nation the space to register our loss. But just as in one breath we say "The Queen is dead! Long live the King!", as Christians we also say of her and others whom we love: "May she/he rest in peace and rise in glory!"

Rev Dr. Paul Smith

Partnership Events

Past

Heritage Week 9 – 18 September

The decision made by the national body of Heritage Open Days to remain open after the death of the Queen on 8th September proved to be a welcome one. Many people came to St Mary Magdalene church to sit quietly and then sign the Book of Condolences. I will ask the Leadership Team what the congregations want to do with these books from each church.

Current

David Lewis's final service will be at Christ Church, Stantonbury on 2nd October 2022 and his retirement lunch will be at 12:30 on 15th October. The Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership wish him well and thank him for his support and Baptist faith in showing us how to worship.

Sunday 23rd October

12:30 SEP Church Meeting

This will take place at Christ Church Stantonbury and is open to members of all 6 churches in the Partnership. Please come if you are able.

Partnership News

NEW – energy bill relief scheme for churches

This week, the government announced a package of support to help with rising energy bills this winter. Under the Energy Bill Relief Scheme wholesale prices are expected to be fixed for all non-domestic energy customers, including churches.

Energy prices will be capped at £211 per MWh for electricity and £75 per MWh for gas for six months from 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023. Churches do not need to contact their suppliers or apply to the government scheme; the support will automatically be applied to bills.

The six church newsletter editors and all the attendees of the SEP Council have received a document showing a draft of what future ministry in the partnership could look like. Would all congregations please look at this and then make your opinions known to the church council. If you can make it, please come along to the SEP Church (all six of them) meeting to discuss the future of our ministry in SEP, on Sunday 23rd October at 12:30 at Christ Church in Stantonbury. Thank you to them for offering their church to hold this meeting.

Chairs of each congregation, please could you meet as a Church Council before 23rd October so that your SEC Representatives and Deanery Synod Representatives can bring all the most recent queries and news to the Church Meeting to be held at Christ Church on that day. Thank you.

COVID 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.

Thank you, John, for editing and publishing this leaflet so well. I hope it is possible for individual congregational newsletters to be less filled with dates of services and regular occurrences and more news.

Warm blessings, Sharron, Chair of SEP secchair22@gmail.com

CIO registration:

The application has been submitted and is being processed by the Charity Commission. We anticipate registration within the next few weeks. This means that we will be a proper registered charity for the first time since the 'Stantonbury Ecumenical Parish' was formed in 1982. The Baptist Pension Scheme is no longer in deficit which means there is no debt to pay following David Lewis's retirement or on change to the CIO.

Adrian Prisk *Treasurer SEC*

Our Churches Services and Events

Bradwell Church, St Lawrence

Sunday 2nd at 10:30 Morning Worship

Led by Mike Morris

Sunday 9th at 10:30 Communion Service

Led by Rev Tim Norwood

Sunday 16th at 10:30 All Age Worship

Led by Rev Esther Squire

Sunday 23rd at 10:30 Communion Service

Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith

Sunday 30th 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 2nd at 10:30 Morning Worship

Led by Rev David Lewis

Sunday 9th at 10:30 Morning Worship

Led by Helen Rouse

Sunday 16th at 10:30 Communion Service

Led by Maggie Prisk

Sunday 23rd at 10:30 Morning Worship

Led by Rev Peter Ballantine

Sunday 30th at 10:30 Morning Worship

Led by Rev Jenny Boxwell



Continued overleaf

All Sunday services are live-streamed 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 10.25 <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 15th at 09:30 Coffee and cake morning

all donations received go to Christ Church coffee money charity.

Morning Drop-In every Wednesday 10.00 – 11.30.

This has returned to Christ Church, refreshments available

Cross and Stable, Downs Barn

Sunday 2nd at 11:00 Signed Communion Service

Led by Rev Peter Green

Sunday 9th at 11:00 Communion Service

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 16th at 11:00 Morning Worship

Led by Stephen Fletcher

Sunday 23rd at 11:00 Communion Service

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 30th at 11:00 Songs of Praise

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe



Services are live-streamed on Zoom with the link normally being published on www.stantonbury.net on a Saturday

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

St. Andrews', Great Linford

Sunday 2nd at 10:00 Open Door with Baptism

Led by Rev Canon Chuks Iwuagwu

Wednesday 5th at 10:00 1st Wednesday Communion

Led by Rev Prof John Beazley

Sunday 9th at 10:00 Harvest Communion Service

Led by Rev Canon Chuks Iwuagwu

Sunday 16th at 10:00 Communion Service

Led by Rev Peter Dudeney

Sunday 23rd at 10:00 Extended Communion Service

Led by Colin Taylor

Sunday 30th at 10:00 Communion Service

Led by Rev Canon Chuks Iwuagwu

Sunday 30th at 18:00 All Souls Communion Service

Led by Rev Canon Chuks Iwuagwu

Sunday Evening Prayer at 5:00 on Zoom every week

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

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

1st Wednesday Communion each month followed at 10:30 by refreshments and fellowship and the chance to join a lively discussion

Morning Worship every Wednesday at 08:30 in Church. All are welcome to attend in church or on our Facebook page.



St. James', New Bradwell

Sunday 2nd at 10:00 Harvest Communion Service

Led by Rev Duncan Barnes

Sunday 9th at 10:00 Open Door Service

Led by The Open Door Team

Sunday 16th at 10:00 Communion Service

Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith

Sunday 23rd at 10:00 Methodist Communion Service

Led by Rev Nicola Martyn-Beck

Sunday 30th at 10:00 Extended Communion Service

Led by Helen Rouse



The services on 2nd and 8th will be live-streamed to St James Facebook page.

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.

St. Mary Magdalene, Willen

Sunday 2nd at 09:30 All Age Worship

Led by Margaret Moakes

Sunday 9th at 09:30 Communion Service

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 16th at 09:30 Communion Service

Led by Fr Jonathan Ewer

Sunday 23rd at 09:30 Communion Service

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 30th at 10:30 Morning Worship

Led by Stephen Fletcher



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 – a lunchtime concert by MOTIF, a duo playing 60's music.

Refreshments available. No entry fee but donations welcome.

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 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 and need to be purchased by 2nd October at the latest. £7 adults/£5 children.

Saturday 8th October

19:00 to 21:00 Barn Dance at St. James'

Featuring the 'Barnestompers'

Come along to join in, or just enjoy the atmosphere. Bring your own nibbles and drinks.

Tickets are free and can be booked online at:

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/barn-dance-tickets-410446836537?fbclid=IwAR1Zo144vsDKGxLkqb28vf4seQjEP4OFYlt5wl7c_m4Jzrc1KJWKBvl2mzA

Saturday 22nd October

19:30 Band Concert

Bradwell Silver Band play their Autumn Concert at St. James'.

Further details to follow.

Wednesday 26th October

13.00 – 15.00 A History of Wolverton Railway Works

Did you know that the railway Works at Wolverton was built in 1838 and is now the oldest continuously operating standard gauge railway works in the world ?

These and many more interesting facts about the Works will be revealed in a presentation by Phil Marsh at New Bradwell Community Centre as above. Admission is free. This is being hosted by the New Bradwell over 50's club.

Because a similar presentation was due to have been held at St. James church in early 2020 but fell victim to the pandemic, it has been decided to open the presentation to a wider all age audience and for this reason Phil Marsh has kindly waived his fees. Phil started work with British Rail in 1973, taking on many managerial roles and is now a railway consultant, journalist, author, T.V and radio broadcaster for informed comments on railway matters.

If you would like to join us for the event, please would you let me know in advance by calling Graham Crisp on 01908 315752 or by email :- grahamc90@gmail.com

Monday 31st October

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

St. James' alternative to Halloween

Saturday 5th November

Time tba Friends in Tune

A classical concert from St. James'.

Further details to follow.

Saturday 26th November

Time tba St. James' Christmas Fayre

Further details to follow.

External Ecumenical News

News from Diocese of Oxford

'The four bishops have written to all licensed clergy, LLMs and church officers in the diocese to thank them for responding so well in the days following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.'

New Dwelling passage for 2022/3

Each year a Bible passage is selected as a focus for study and sharing what scripture is saying to us. The passage for this year is John 1:1-18.

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.'

Black History Month begins in October, celebrating the history and influence of black culture in the UK. A portrait and video exhibition will be touring the diocese throughout the month, featuring black African and Caribbean clergy from across the diocese sharing their inspiring stories of faith and resilience. Look out for the adverts.

News from the Regional Central Baptist Union

Saturday 1st October

14.30 Induction of Baptist RMs

The induction of all four new Regional Ministers will take place at Christ The King, Milton Keynes.

Wednesday 19th October

19:00 - 21:00 The Sam Sharpe Lecture 2022,

'Bringing Down the House', at The Maths Institute, Oxford and online. The Sam Sharpe lectures seek to broaden and advance the legacy of Sam Sharpe by exploring subjects in mission, race, class, and injustice.

The Sam Sharpe Project, in partnership with the University of Oxford, presents this year's 10th anniversary lecture being delivered by Professor Kehinde Andrews. Apply via the Baptist Together website. Both in person and online are free

One World Week begins on 23rd October

OWW reviews the outcomes of COP 26 and encourage OWW supporters to continue campaigning alongside other organisations on the subject of Climate Change, and to work with local communities to understand what they can do.

News from the Methodist Circuit

MK Circuit Virtual Choir The Choir came into existence in lockdown and their first project was “*Shine, Jesus shine*” for Rev Dawn Saunders’ farewell service. Since then, they have recorded a variety of songs for circuit special occasions, notably the recognition and commissioning of John Careford and Paulette Tedd as local preachers, and the circuit virtual carol services. The singers come from around and beyond Milton Keynes. Their latest challenge was recording *Everyone Welcome* for the visit of the President of Conference to Queensway Methodist Church, Bletchley on 13th March 2022. If you would like further information about the choir, please contact Julie Gillam, email j.d.gillam.12@gmail.com

News from The United Reformed Church

Pakistan Flood Victims



Since June 2022, Monsoon rains in Pakistan have caused flash floods devastating communities and washing away roads, homes, and crops. More than 33 million people have been affected and at least 1,136 killed. The Revd Memona Shahbaz, a United Reformed Church Minister from Pakistan, offers this prayer:

Our loving, merciful and compassionate father, we acknowledge that you are creator of this universe, and everything is in your control. “You are our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” *Psalms 46:1* At this time of trouble in Pakistan, we pray for all Pakistani people who are victims of the devastating flood. Especially we pray for,

- those who have lost their loved ones, livelihood, livestock and homes
- Pakistani government, local charities, churches, and individuals who are trying to help all
- All countries who are standing in solidarity and helping Pakistan at this challenging time

Help everyone and send your peace and comfort in this chaotic situation. We ask this in Jesus precious name. Amen

Churches Together

The charity is now registered as a CIO and the 3 initial trustees have met. Two further trustees have now been recruited so we now have a spread of Anglican, URC, Baptist (non-LEP), Roman Catholic and Salvation Army. We hope eventually to have 9 – 12. The next stage will be to recruit churches and other organisations to join. As an initial focus there will be a series of events held in the ‘Week of Prayer for Christian Unity’

(January 18th – 25th 2023). One of the events will be a ‘Question and answer session’ at Christ Church on Tuesday 24th January to talk about the organisation.

Adrian Prisk *Treasurer SEC*

Other Items

Free spectacular to celebrate Milton Keynes’ city status

A free festival is being held in the heart of Milton Keynes this October, culminating in a spectacular public event on 8 October to celebrate Milton Keynes becoming a city. The City of Codes & Light Festival organised by Milton Keynes Islamic Arts and Culture (MKIAC) in partnership with local cultural institutions including Milton Keynes City Council, will present a memorable festival finale from 6pm on Saturday 8th October.

Starting Tuesday 4th October, the wider festival promises to deliver a captivating blend of media, music and movement, with special light shows organised by award-winning visual projection companies at venues across MK including Bletchley Park. The festival leads up to the grand finale, which includes:

- Live music and performances on stage at Station Square – with a laser show providing the backdrop to thrilling music from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Ibiza Orchestra.
- A ‘digital light parade’ combining high-impact drumming with kaleidoscopic lighting design, where artists from two of the UK’s most in-demand street theatre companies, Cirque Bijou and Worldbeaters, will lead spectators on a spellbinding parade starting at Church of Christ the Cornerstone (where people can first enjoy a projection by Limbic Cinema called ‘Radiance’) and ending at the Station Square main stage for the rest of the evening’s entertainment.

Anouar Kassim MBE, Founder and Director of MKIAC said, “Thanks to the Arts Council England and Milton Keynes Council, we can celebrate MK’s innovation and technological history as well as our newly acquired city status. This festival brings diverse communities together, so we are incredibly proud to have the responsibility of celebrating such a fantastic achievement. We cannot wait to welcome everyone to the multiple exciting events taking place throughout the first week of October and we would like to encourage all members of the community to join us. It promises to be a celebration like no other.”

Leader of Milton Keynes Council, Cllr Pete Marland, said, “In our bid for city status presented to Queen Elizabeth II, we described Milton Keynes as a ‘mosaic of communities united by a love of where we live’. This spectacular parade and light show will be an opportunity for everyone to unite in celebration of our becoming a city, and to enjoy a brilliant evening of free music and entertainment. The MKIAC have staged fantastic events in previous years, and we are working with them to create an even bigger festival finale as a special way to remember this historic year.” There will be

- an environmental and wellbeing discussion at Milton Keynes College
- An illuminating light projection at Bletchley Park
- A concert at Church of Christ the Cornerstone by Aashiq Al-Rasul, a music ensemble delivering the fundamentals of tolerance and harmony through the universal language of rhythm and melody.

Read the full schedule for the City of Codes and Light Festival (4 - 8 October) at <http://www.mkiac.org/project/the-city-of-codes-light-festival-2022/>

Join us at Christ the Cornerstone to welcome The Coat of Hopes to the City of Milton Keynes on 22nd/23rd October 2022

Saturday, 22nd October:

4.30pm to 5.15 The Coat will lead a walk of witness through the shopping centres starting and finishing at the Church

7.00pm A talk by Barbara Keal, the artist behind the creation of the Coat of Hopes, about the coat and its pilgrimage from Newhaven to Glasgow to COP 26 last year. There will be an opportunity for local patch-makers to tell their stories with time to explore “*Where am I going and what is my purpose within the climate crisis*” and to make a fresh commitment to Care for Creation.

Sunday, 23rd October 10.00am HARVEST Thanksgiving Worship on the theme of HOPE, featuring the Coat. The Coat will be on display at the church until **29 October**.



The Church of Christ the Cornerstone
300 Saxon Gate West, MK9 2ES

Note: there will be a retiring collection in support of the Coat of Hopes onward journey
Facebook Coat of Hopes for more pictures and news of the journey of the coat

I hope that you find this newsletter interesting and useful, even if a bit long. 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.

The deadline for information to go into November's issue is Tuesday 25th October.

John Porter notices@stjamesnewbradwell.org.uk