

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

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



February 2023 Newsletter

Welcome to February's edition of the Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership Newsletter.

Partnership News

Ash Wednesday is 22nd February this year and marks the beginning of the penitential Lenten season. There are training events and maybe take a look at Psalm 51.

Ministry Appointments

Following agreement by attendees at the January 22nd Church Meeting, the decision that will go forward to SEC, then Deanery Synod in February and then the Diocese and Baptist Region is as follows:

2023: advertise for a full-time Anglican post available from August/September 2023, the expectation being that they would be appointed to take on the role of team leader, with a focus on mission and could be Team Rector following Paul's retirement.

2024: early in this year appoint a full-time Baptist Minister with a focus on Vision Enabling. (these roles could be swapped round).

It would be hoped that by 2025 there would be 1 full-time ordained Anglican minister, 1 full-time ordained Baptist minister, 1 or 2 house for duty and 1 non-Stipendiary Anglican ministers and 0.2 Methodist minister. The Methodist Circuit has agreed to our request to reduce support from .25 to .2 on the new appointment to replace Nicola when she retires in late 2023.

When we can get external agreement to go ahead with this plan we need volunteers to help amend the current Profile, Role and Person Specifications with Adrian and Paul Brookman to help. Please let me know if you are interested in helping write this up.

Discerning Assembly 3rd December at Christ the Cornerstone

Please see attached notes from the Church Meeting

Trustees of the new CIO

Current Interim Trustees can stand down and new Trustees can be appointed at the SEP AGM. Trustees met after the Church Meeting on 22nd January. Mary Kennedy took the Chair and we agreed the new Auditor, and noted that the Trustees will only be the employers of the new Baptist Minister, the Diocese are the employers of the new Anglican Minister. The Trustees will work with all ministers as they lead our Christian worship and pastoral care.

Coronation Week-end 6th and 7th May 2023

Please see attached notes from Church Meeting for SEP event.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Churches Together week of Christian Unity.

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

Our Church Services and Events

Bradwell Church, St Lawrence

Sunday 5th at 10:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by Mike Morris

Sunday 12th at 10:30 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith

Sunday 19th at 10:30 **All Age Worship**

Led by Rev Esther Squire

Wednesday 22nd at 12:00 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith with imposition of ashes.

Sunday 26th at 10:30 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith with Bishop Alan preaching



Services are frequently live-streamed on Facebook using the link:

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

Bell Ringing practice every Wednesday at 19:45. Beginners welcome.

Christ Church, Stantonbury

Sunday 5th at 10:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by Colin Taylor

Sunday 12th at 10:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by Helen Rouse

Sunday 19th at 10:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by John and Jenny Boxwell

Sunday 26th at 10:30 **Covenant Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Nicola Martyn-Beck



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 18th 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.

Meets at Church, refreshments and a quiz are available.

Under 5's meet every Thursday in **Term time only** from 10:00 to 11:30 in the Church Hall.

Cross and Stable, Downs Barn

Sunday 5th at 11:00 **Signed Holy Communion**

Led by Rev Peter Green

Sunday 12th at 11:00 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 19th at 11:00 **Morning Worship**

Led by Stephen Fletcher

Sunday 26th at 11:00 **Morning Worship**

Led by Helen Rouse



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

Wednesday 1st at 10:00 **1st Wednesday Communion**

Led by Rev Prof John Beazley

Sunday 5th at 10:00 **Open Door Service**

Led by Rev Canon Chuks Iwuagwu

Sunday 12th at 10:00 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Canon Chuks Iwuagwu

Sunday 19th at 10:00 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Prof John Beazley

Sunday 26th at 18:00 **Holy Communion by Extension**

Led by Rev Peter Dudeney

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. This month begins a new series of Seminars for 2023. The group selected to explore the concept of worship, its language, and its relationship to the Christian religion and the C of E. We shall begin by examining the term 'worship', exploring the origin of worship (via 'encounter, response, and reflection'), and considering the principle, 'worship expresses belief'.

Over the year the intention is to examine the ingredients of worship, symbolism in worship, the 'coo' and the 'cry' of worship, ceremonial and ritual expressions of worship, and a review of liturgical movement and its future.

Should you care to join the group and participate in the discussion you would be most welcome.

John Beazley

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 5th at 10:00 **Holy Communion**

Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith

Sunday 12th at 10:00 **Open Door Service**

Led by The Open Door Team

Sunday 19th at 10:00 **Holy Communion**

Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith

Wednesday 22nd at 19:00 **Ash Wednesday Communion**

Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith

Sunday 26th at 10:00 **Holy Communion**

Led by Rev Dr Mary Cotes



Some services will be live-streamed to St James' Facebook page at:
St James Church, NB | Facebook.

Every Saturday from 10:00 to 12:00 St James' hosts a Coffee Morning

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

St. Mary Magdalene, Willen

Sunday 5th at 09:30 **All Age Worship**

Led by Margaret Moakes

Sunday 12th at 09:30 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 19th at 09:30 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Hannah Akibo-Betts

Sunday 26th at 09:30 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe



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

Volunteer Gardening at St Mary Magdalene Church has finished recruiting volunteers for the season. Many thanks to all the volunteers for the wonderful work which has been done in the church garden in 2022.

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.

Saturday 11th at 19:00

St James is hosting a Social Evening see attached poster for details.

External Ecumenical News

News from Diocese of Oxford

Taize: Pilgrimage for young adults

Travel to Taizé in France with young adults (16 -30) from across the Diocese of Oxford and join thousands in community, worship and prayer. The cost is £375 and takes place 13th – 20th August 2023.

Further information can be found at taize.fr and at oxford.anglican.org/2023-pilgrimage-to-taize.php

Bishops propose prayers for God's blessing for same-sex couples

Church of England bishops are proposing the offering of prayers for God's blessing for same-sex couples to celebrate their civil marriage or partnership.

Announced on Wednesday 18th January, the move marks a significant milestone for the Church of England as for the first time same-sex couples will receive "prayers of thanksgiving, dedication and for God's blessing" on their union.

The statement also includes a promise to apologise to the LGBTQIA+ community for the "rejection, exclusion and hostility" they have faced from churches, set to be issued later this week.

The proposal follows a six-year discernment period, known as [Living in Love and Faith](#), and will be reported to the Church of England's General Synod for discussion next month, with the main debate taking place on 8th February 2023.

The proposals mean there will be a range of draft prayers will be available for clergy to use voluntarily to best reflect the diversity of theology across the national Church. A new group would also be set up to update pastoral guidance in light of the proposal's practical implications.

The bishops are urging all congregations to "unreservedly and joyfully" welcome same-sex couples in their care.

News from the Methodist Circuit

Vocations events

This Connexional year the Methodist Church is hosting two different events for those exploring ordained ministry:

Find out more about Diaconal ministry – Saturday 11th February 2023 – *Why might you attend this event?* If you are wondering if you are called to be a Deacon, or if you will be candidating as a Presbyter and want to know more about the ministry of a Deacon. **Click [here](#) to book your place**

Exploring Ordained Ministry – Saturday 18th March 2023 – *Why might you attend this event?* To find out more about: Being an Ordained person How to Candidate for Ordained Ministry What is included in the Training Pathways.

Click [here](#) to book your place

All these events are free, however, booking is required. You are welcome to bring a friend or significant other with you. All events are interactive and prayerful, with

space for you to ask questions. For more information please contact mvw@methodistchurch.org.uk

Support for Cost of Living Crisis

If your church is working to help those affected by the cost of living crisis, it may be eligible for a grant.

Click [here](#) to view a list of grants available.

<https://www.winternightsheltermk.org/volunteer/>

News from The United Reformed Church

The first edition of [Reform](#) magazine for 2023 will be out on 29th January.

In this month's issue: What do we learn from Jesus' life and teaching about. . . all sorts of things? A new *Reform* series begins by focusing on Jesus and the Spirit. The February issue also launches a new series featuring United Reformed Church mission partners worldwide. This month, the team interviews poet and new Christian Jay Hulme and asks, "What's good about growth?". URC Youth Moderator Philippa Osei is inspired by a trip to South Korea, and we hear how a visit to Israel/Palestine affected three individuals from different faith traditions.

Churches Together

Our strapline is:

One in Christ Jesus, engaged in God's mission, empowered by the Spirit.

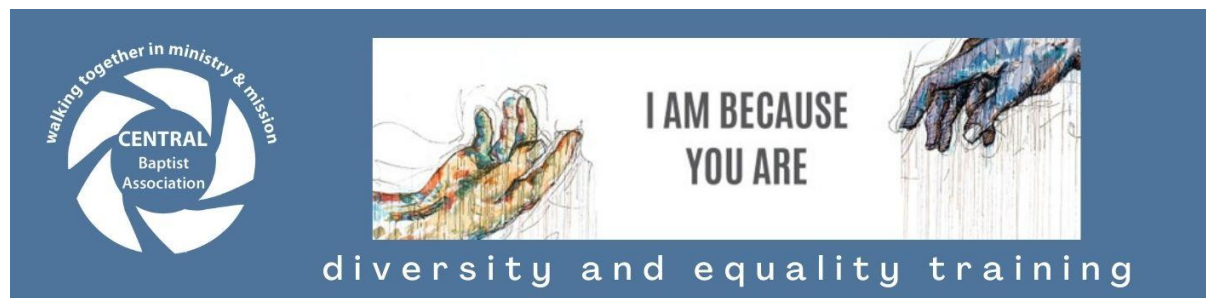
The week of Prayer for Christian Unity was a great success. It brought together churches from across the City and involved the leaders of the major denominations and some of the independent churches as well. It started with an evening of prayer, praise and Pentecostal worship led by one of the black churches. In contrast the following evening was a choral evensong with magnificent music and even incense! There were other meetings dealing with current issues such as the cost of living crisis, the environment and the future of ecumenical mission and working. A particular highlight was a Sunday evening performance at Cornerstone which included Michael Tippett's 'A Child or Our Time'.

Ann Harris has now started work as the part-time administrator and is available on email at admin@ctmk.church and the website <https://ctmk.church>

More events and activities are expected.

Adrian Prisk

News from the Regional Central Baptist Union



“ Dear Friends,

As you are probably aware there is a new and vital requirement for Accredited Baptist Ministers and Nationally Recognised Pastors to engage with Equality and Diversity training in 2023 as part of their CMD. 'I am because you are' is a series of four videos, to be watched and discussed together with others (some of whom are likely to hold differing views and perspectives).

To underline our commitment to this, and to help you respond, we are hosting several sessions around the Central Baptist Association where you will be able to watch the videos with colleagues and discuss them afterwards. You will need to attend two sessions to complete the course. We will be providing refreshments and a warm, safe space to consider the questions raised and learn together, hosted by two of the Regional Ministry team.

The dates are as follows:-

Fridays 3rd and 10th February

10am -1pm Christ The King
MK7 6HG
Hosted by Lisa and Nathan

Mondays 20th and 27th March

10am -1pm Biggleswade BC
SG18 8EB
Hosted by Lisa and Nathan

Tuesdays 21st and 28th March

10am -1pm Belmont Road BC
HP3 9NU
Hosted by Mary and Andrew

Thursdays 20th and 27th April

10am -1pm Princes Risborough BC
(HP27 ODB for SatNav)
Hosted by Mary and Andrew

We have offered dates and venues around the Association to make life as easy as possible. Please feel free to attend any of these – but once you've chosen a venue please attend both sessions there. To help us with refreshments and seating, please contact one of the Regional Ministers hosting, to let them know of your intention to attend. We look forward to seeing you!

Lisa Kerry & the Regional Team

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www.centralba.org.uk



I hope that you find this newsletter interesting and useful. If there is anything you think would make it better or find any glaring omissions, please let your local newsletter editor, Sharron or myself know.

*The deadline for information to go into March's issue is **Friday 24th February** to allow me to get it to you in time to send it out for March 1st.*

John Porter notices@stjamesnewbradwell.org.uk

*And finally this month's **Last Word** is from your Newsletter Editor:*

I have been producing this Newsletter for 8 months now with the help of Sharron, Adrian and the news-sheet editors and every month I ask you to let me know if it's useful or interesting and what can be done to make it better. With the exception of a couple of comments the first month my feedback has been exactly zero.

The idea was to help the Partnership grow and become closer, and provide a more centralised information channel, but I have no indication of whether it is achieving these goals.

Please let me have your thoughts on this so I know if it is worth carrying on with the Newsletter in its current form or at all.

I am more than happy to carry on compiling these and I enjoy doing them, but it would be nice to know if it is beginning to have the effect we hoped for.

I can be contacted at the above email. JP

*If you would like an item (no more than 1½ pages please) included for the **Last Word** either next month, or sometime in the future, just send it to me at the above email before the deadline. JP*