

# Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

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



## March 2023 Newsletter

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

### Partnership News

I start this issue with a personal message from Tim Norwood:

Dear friends and colleagues,

I am both sad and excited to announce that that I will be stepping down as Area Dean after 16 years in the role. It has been a huge privilege to serve the people and churches of Milton Keynes, but the time has come for me to move on.

I will begin a new role as National Officer for Local Ecumenism, starting on May 1<sup>st</sup>. This will be based in London, and I hope to stay in Milton Keynes.

My final service as Area Dean will be on the evening of March 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm with Evensong at the Church of Christ the Cornerstone.

This might seem quick, but we have had to delay an announcement while the paperwork was processed.

Discussions have already begun about any handovers.

In the meantime, please pray for me, and my new colleagues, as I will continue to pray for you.

All the best,

Tim

Revd Tim Norwood  
Area Dean of Milton Keynes City

I am sure we will all pray for Tim in his new role and as soon as I hear any news of Tim's replacement, I will pass it on.

### **Ministry Appointments**

The Deanery agreed to support SEP's motion for appointment of ministers and it has now gone forward to the Archdeaconry meeting. The motion is still as below:

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. No one came forward to help with these appointment documents last month, so please let me know if you can help this month. Sharron

**SEP event for Coronation Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023** is to be held at St Andrew's. This will be a bring your own lunch and be ready to share and chat.

Trustees of the new CIO will be appointed at **SEP AGM on 20<sup>th</sup> April**. Please would all Congregation Council Secretaries have their nominations for Trustees, Church Wardens and other Officers sent back to Irene Farr, SEP Secretary, by **6<sup>th</sup> April**, following your own AGMs. There are changes to the nominations proformas, so Irene will send you the new blank form to complete.

I hope we all have a peaceful time during Lent, so we are able to reflect on the carefully chosen words spoken to us by our Church Ministers.

As always, many thanks to John for pulling these newsletters together in the hope that better communication leads to closer friendships.

Warm blessings,  
Sharron, Chair of SEP [secchair22@gmail.com](mailto:secchair22@gmail.com)

## Our Church Services and Events

### **Bradwell Church, St Lawrence**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**      **Morning Worship**

*Led by Mike Morris*

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**      **Holy Communion Service**

*Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith*

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**      **All Age Worship**

*Led by Rev Esther Squire*

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**      **Holy Communion Service**

*Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith with Geoffrey Clarke, URC Moderator, 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 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**      **Morning Worship**

*Led by Colin Taylor*

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**      **Morning Worship**

*Led by Maggie Prisk*

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**      **Morning Worship**

*Led by Rev Peter Ballantine*

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**      **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](http://www.christchurchmk.org.uk) which has the service details on it and which is updated each week

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00**      **Signed Holy Communion**

*Led by Rev Peter Green*

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00**      **Holy Communion Service**

*Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe*

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:00**      **Morning Worship**

*Led by Stephen Fletcher*

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.stantonbury.net) on Saturday

**Friday at 2:00 pm -**      **Prayer time & Bible reflection on Zoom**

This lasts around 45 mins - do join us from wherever you are on Zoom!

Please contact Sue Baines for the Link on [suejbaines@gmail.com](mailto:suejbaines@gmail.com)

**Chatterbox MK** 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 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00**      **1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Communion**

*Led by Rev Prof John Beazley*

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00**      **Open Door Service**

*Led by Rev Canon Chuks Iwuagwu*

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00**      **Holy Communion Service**

*Led by Rev Peter Dudeney*

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00**      **Extended Communion Service**

*Led by Colin Taylor*



## **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> at 18:00      Holy Communion by Extension**

*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>

Following Holy Communion on 1<sup>st</sup> March, there will be a short break for fellowship and coffee prior to our group discussion – Worship (Session 3) – ‘How Worship Expresses Belief’

On this occasion we look at the basic ingredients of two main patterns which have emerged from formalising corporate worship. These include the use of significant words, actions, and deeds, making worship manifest, and worship as part of prayer.

You would be most welcome to join us and participate in the discussion.

*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 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00      Holy Communion**

*Led by Rev Duncan Barnes*

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00      Morning Worship**

*Led by Helen Rouse*

Followed by the ACM

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00      Holy Communion**

*Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith*

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00      Holy Communion**

*Led by Rev Steve Barnes*



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](http://www.stjamesnewbradwell.org.uk) for more information.

## **St. Mary Magdalene, Willen**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> at 09:30      All Age Worship**

*Led by Margaret Moakes*

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> at 09:30      Holy Communion Service**

*Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe*

Followed by the AGM at the Well from 10:45

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> at 09:30      Holy Communion Service**

*Led by Margaret Moakes*

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

**TTTT (Third Tuesday Twelve Thirty)** A free monthly lunch-time concert at St Mary Magdalene Church.

This month be entertained by **Rolling Home**. See poster for details.

## **Future Events**

### **5 WAYS CAFÉ at St. Andrews' Church**

St Andrews welcomes visitors for refreshments (and a guided walk in the park with a member of the Friends of Great Linford Manor Park if they wish) at our regular 5Ways Café. The dates for March are the 14th and the 28th and the opening times 11.00am to 1.00pm. Textile artist Jane Charles will be there on the 14th and runs ongoing textile projects that visitors can take part in.

### **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> at 19:00                      Barn Dance**

At St James Church, see attached poster for details.

### **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30                      Anne's Coffee Morning**

At St Andrew's Church in aid of Willen Hospice

See attached poster for details

### Also on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> at 19:30      Prog Rock 2 gig**

At St James Church, see attached poster for details.

### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> at 15:00                      Tunes for toilets**

At St James Church. A classical concert in aid of Toilet Twinning performed by some of Rev Dr Mary Cotes' pupils.

### **The Big One April 21 to April 24**

Christian Climate Action (CCA) is inviting us to take part in a weekend event called the Big One to protest about Climate Change. The event is to ask the government to do more to address the threat of increasing temperatures on the environment, the escalating cost of living Crisis and the disproportionate impact on the poorest communities. CCA and other organisations are working hard to make this event as inclusive as possible directing the action at the government rather than causing public disruption. Churches, small groups, families, friendship groups, knitting circles and so on are all taking part and the hope is 100,000 people will attend. CCA is arranging Prayer, Worship and pilgrimage through the weekend with a quiet area for reflection.

For further information follow the link to the CCA

website <https://christianclimateaction.org/2022/10/22/the-big-one>

If you are interested in attending you can also contact Margaret Broadhurst

[mebroadhurst@yahoo.com](mailto:mebroadhurst@yahoo.com)

## **External Ecumenical News**

### **News from Diocese of Oxford**

Last week we marked the one-year anniversary of war in Ukraine with a renewed call for people across the diocese to offer accommodation.

Can you help?

Whether you've offered accommodation before or it's your first time considering it, if you think you can help, please register here. There's no commitment at this stage -

we'll invite you to a webinar on 15<sup>th</sup> March to explain more about hosting, and after that you can choose whether or not it's right for you.

The Bishop of Buckingham and his wife have been hosting six Ukrainian guests since last year. Alan reflects on the experience of hosting a Ukrainian family, from the joy of young children in the house to the incredible support from the community.

### **Come and See**

We're off to a great start with Come and See. Over 2,000 people each day are receiving the daily emails and many more are involved in local church groups. Each year the number of people involved with Come and See grows during the first ten days of Lent. So do encourage your congregation, family and friends to register. Discover the guide for living a Christian life [Diocese of Oxford \(anglican.org\)](https://www.anglican.org)

### **Climate Change to Care for Creation**

The transition to low-carbon heat is fundamental in the path to net zero, given that 17% of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions come from our homes. That's why our £10 million expenditure on environmental works to improve the carbon footprint of vicarages goes well beyond helping to reach our Net Zero target... our actions to install heat pumps and undertake other energy reduction measures will influence other households in the parish.

Everyone in the diocese can make an impact. Did you know that at least three of the top five things you can do to reduce your individual carbon footprint are low or no cost?

1. Reduce your car usage and use public transport more
2. Stop or reduce air travel
3. Register to switch to renewable electricity as soon as the current energy crisis is over.

### **Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022**

The Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act 2022 received Royal Assent in April 2022. The Government has announced that it is planned to come into effect on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

At present, a person aged 16 or 17 may be married with parental consent. The new Act, once in force, amends the Marriage Act 1949 and other relevant legislation to increase the legal minimum age to 18, and makes it a criminal offence for a person to carry out "any conduct for the purpose of causing a child to enter into marriage before the child's eighteenth birthday".

It will, therefore, no longer be legal for a clergyperson to conduct the marriage of any person under the age of 18 from 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023, even if preliminaries for that marriage (such as the calling of banns) have been started or completed before the Act comes into force.

### **2024 study tour to the Holy Land for clergy and spouses/partners**

29<sup>th</sup> January – 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024, based in Jerusalem and Galilee

With McCabe Pilgrimages. A study tour to help you bring the Bible alive. Fr Chris Ferris, Tour Leader, can be contacted if you have any questions. Bishop Gavin will be the speaker.

**3<sup>rd</sup> March World Day of Prayer**  
Wesley Memorial Church, Oxford, 12–1pm

## **News from the Regional Central Baptist Union**

**3<sup>rd</sup> March World Day of Prayer**

**8<sup>th</sup> March International Women's Day**

### **Sexism in school and online - How can Baptists respond?**

**Thursday 9 March**

**19:00 - 20:00 on Zoom** The next event to be led by Project Violet will be led by speakers Rachel Gardner from Youthscape and Clare Hooper, Children, Young People and Families Roundtable. Once we have heard from our speakers, we will continue the conversation in small groups before finally hearing about the progress of Project Violet.

If you would like to attend please [register through this link](#).

## **News from the Methodist Circuit**

### **Candidating for Ministry**

If you know anyone who wishes to Candidate in 2023 they must do so by 30th April 2023.

Details can be found here: [Candidating for ministry \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://methodist.org.uk)

This Connexional year the Methodist Church is hosting events for those exploring ordained ministry: Exploring Ordained Ministry – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 free place](#)

**Homes for Ukraine.** Methodists for Ukraine is a project to enable Methodists to support Ukrainians through refugee sponsorship. The need for hosts to come forward remains high, but the supply is running low. If you have a spare room or property available, you could be supported to host through Methodists for Ukraine. We'll match you with a suitable guest, and support you along the way to make sure hosting is safe and successful. Visit the Methodist Church website or email Homes for Ukraine Support Officer, Matt Ceaser.

### **Bible Month Training Day – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

We are pleased to be offering Newport Pagnell Methodist Church as a hub for this year's Bible Month training day on Saturday 11th March. Bookings can be made via Eventbrite using the link <http://bm23-training.eventbrite.co.uk/>

## **News from The United Reformed Church**

### **[Prayer initiative for young people to launch for Lent](#)**

The Children's and Youth Work team is launching a new prayer initiative for young people. Everyone is invited to 'Pray Like Paul' with and for United Reformed Church (URC) Youth throughout Lent, from Ash Wednesday on 22 February, through to Easter Sunday on 9 April. Dr Sam Richards, Head of Children's and Youth Work explains this on their web site

## Churches Together

Our strapline is:

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

The Churches Together in Milton Keynes (CTMK) is now well established and Ann Harris has started work as the administrator based in the Deanery Office at Christ the Cornerstone. The week of prayer for Christian Unity had eight memorable events in as many days and celebrated our unity and diversity in worship and Christian life. Other events will happen during the year.

We have already had requests to join us from churches outside the LEPs and the main denominations, so we anticipate further growth through the year.

*Adrian Prisk*

*I hope that you find this newsletter interesting and useful. I have also attached the 3 posters referred to in various places.*

*If there is anything you think would make this Newsletter better or find any glaring omissions, please let your local newsletter editor, Sharron or myself know.*

*The deadline for information to go into April's issue is **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March** to allow me to get it to you in time to send it out for April 1<sup>st</sup>.*

John Porter [notices@stjamesnewbradwell.org.uk](mailto:notices@stjamesnewbradwell.org.uk)

*And finally this month's **Last Word** is from the SEP*

*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*





## **Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership**

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

### **EARTHQUAKE DISASTER IN TURKEY AND SYRIA**

**What can our six congregations do to help the ones in the middle of this crisis.**

As Christians, we begin Lent on Ash Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. During Lent we reflect on what must have been going through Christ's mind during the 40 days in the desert, as he decided what he must do with his life, and how we can be repentant for the things we have not done. Lent ends on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April.

During Lent our 6 congregations would like to help those in our communities who are feeling as helpless as we do, in the face of this crisis, by welcoming anyone to drop off their donation at any of the churches below. The times they are open are listed here too. There is always someone at the door to accept your gift, or you can drop it off in an envelope and often there is a contactless point too.

Our Treasurer has volunteered to then send any money collected to the Disasters Emergency Committee fund and the Government have said they will match fund any amounts raised.

Our Church Services and Events, where you are most welcome to drop off your donation during Lent, are listed here:

#### **Bradwell Church, Bradwell Village**

Sunday 10:30 Morning Worship.

Bell Ringing practice every Wednesday at 19:45.

#### **Christ Church, Stantonbury Campus**

Sunday 10:30 Morning Worship.

Morning Drop-In every Wednesday 10.00 – 11.30.

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 11:00 Morning Worship

Chatterbox every Wednesday from 10:30 to 12:30.

#### **St. Andrews', Great Linford**

Sunday 10:00 Morning Worship

Wednesday 08:30

#### **St. James', New Bradwell**

Sunday 10:00 Morning Worship.

Saturday 10:00 to 12:00 Coffee Morning

#### **St. Mary Magdalene, Willen**

Sunday 09:30 Morning Worship

Monday 8.00 to 9.00 Quorum rehearse.

Chair of Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

[secchair22@gmail.com](mailto:secchair22@gmail.com)

## Citizens:MK Delegates Assembly SEP turnout

If you are interested in supporting Citizens MK on behalf of SEP please can you sign up to the eventbrite link included in the e mail below. Can you also let me know at [kennedmd@aol.com](mailto:kennedmd@aol.com).

Regards

Mary Kennedy

Begin forwarded message:

On Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 14:52, Stephanie Laing <[Stephanie.Laing@citizensuk.org](mailto:Stephanie.Laing@citizensuk.org)> wrote:

Hey Mary!

I hope you're well. As you know we're holding a Delegates Assembly on 29<sup>th</sup> March, 6-8pm at the Trinity Centre in Fishermead. To make sure that we're able to get turnout for the event I'm assigning turnout captains for each member institution whose role it will be to make sure there are at least 3 people there from their organisation (but preferably more!)

Would you be able to do this for the SEP? You'd just need to find at least 2 other people to attend from the churches (assuming you can come yourself), let me know who they are and get them to sign up on the Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/541000776887>

Let me know if you'd be up for this! It will also be a good opportunity for others to learn about campaigns they can get involved with. Perhaps a good thing to invite people to who might be interested in the housing campaign?

Thanks

Steph

Stephanie Laing (she/her)

Community Organiser, Citizens:MK

Tel: 07793018369

*I have a flexible working pattern - 3 weeks working part-time remotely, followed by 1 week in person in Milton Keynes.*

*My working weeks to the end of 2022 are: w/c 10<sup>th</sup> October, w/c 7<sup>th</sup> November and w/c 5<sup>th</sup> December*

*I am available for zoom meetings during my remote working weeks.*