

# Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

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



## April 2023 Newsletter

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

## Partnership News

### Easter Message from the Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership Ministry

#### Easter message to SEP 2023

Alleluia, Christ is risen. **He is risen indeed, Alleluia.**

This statement of greeting and response will be heard throughout our churches here in the SEP and worldwide this Easter Sunday. The basis of our Christian hope & faith is stated in these few words as we join with millions of Christians across the globe. On this our faith stands, "because He lives, I can face tomorrow", the song writer so simply mentioned.

In this world there is endless trouble and strife, yet to us as Christians we have a song to sing, a creed to recite and hope in a God who never fails, who promised us, "Lo, I am with you even unto the end of this world". In sickness we have healing and in death we have comfort. Hence through all the storms of life, even as our little boat is buffeted by numerous challenges, hardships and doubts we hear the words of comfort, "I will never leave you nor forsake you".

This Easter we are reminded again to be the resurrection people of Jesus of Christ to spread the good news of the Gospel in word and deed, that our Lord in Jesus Christ has overcome the world with all its failings to be a holy priesthood, called to declare the glories of our God. So, we set out to fulfil the command "to love God and to love our neighbour as ourselves".

As we reflect on our journey through this Lent, Holy Week and now at Easter we recognise that we have been "greatly blessed, highly favoured, imperfect yet we are forgiven children of God", to be God's instruments of the good news of the Gospel to the world around us.

Wishing you a God centred, rejoicing Easter!

Sam -on behalf of the SEP Ministers

Revd Dr Sam Muthueloe - Minister – Cross & Stable, Downs Barn & St Mary Magdalene, Willen

The coming AGM on 20<sup>th</sup> April will also be a Church Meeting, as well as the first of the Partnership as a CIO, this means the CIO constitution supersedes the old one. This meeting will take place at Christ Church, Stantonbury, beginning at 7.30p.m.

The Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership was registered as a Charitable Incorporate Organisation (CIO) in October 2022 with a new constitution and a Partnership

Agreement setting out arrangements between the four denominations in the Partnership. Operating Procedures setting out governance and management structures for the CIO have now been approved by SEC, the Ecumenical Oversight Group for Milton Keynes and the initial Trustees.

From the date of the AGM, the Partnership will transfer to the new governance and management structures. There is greater emphasis on governance and leadership of the Partnership as a whole and a reduced expectation of formal governance in local congregations, while maintaining effective local management. The main changes will be:

- Four whole Church (i.e. Partnership) meetings each year including the AGM.
- Stantonbury Ecumenical Council becomes the Partnership Council, still involving reps from each "Congregation" (i.e. local church).
- At local level, each Congregation (local church) will have a Congregational Leadership Team, replacing the Church Council where those currently exist, potentially with a reduction in size depending on current arrangements. Membership and function are set out in the Operating Procedures.
- The holders of two Church Officer/Warden positions in each congregation will now be recognised as also fulfilling the Methodist, Baptist and URC denominations' equivalent requirements.
- A group of Trustees will oversee the operation of the Partnership and its governance. The Trustees will include six nominated Trustees to be elected at the AGM.

There is an indicative annual schedule of meetings in the Operating Procedures along with details of each group.

Every member of Stantonbury Partnership can nominate a person for the following roles and elections will take place at the AGM/Church Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> April

Nominations are required for the role of; Chair, Secretary and Treasurer:

currently these roles are filled by Sharron Marland, Irene Farr and Adrian Prisk, respectively. All three are willing to be put forward for re-election to these roles.

Please send your nominations to Irene Farr [irene@tfarr.plus.com](mailto:irene@tfarr.plus.com) by 6<sup>th</sup> April.

John Porter has agreed to carry on as SEP Newsletter Editor.

## **Ministry Appointments**

Bishop Alan is leading the appointment process for an Anglican Minister. Thank you to the committed and hardworking team on Stantonbury Ecumenical Council for all their work in getting to this point. I hope we have more success this time around. The advert for a full time permanent Minister will go live, after Easter, on 14<sup>th</sup> April for one month. It will be on our website and the Diocese and on Pathways website.

David Thom, the Lay Chair of all the Ecumenical Partnerships in MK is beginning developing a profile in readiness for the appointment of a new Area Dean.

## **Social Media**

Thanks to Ann, James and Roger from Christ Church, Paul Brookman from Bradwell and Jo Roberts from St James for helping me to set up a Facebook group for SEP. Please search for the name of your church or Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership and you will find the Facebook and website. The Facebook groups are all public so

please post your own comments. I will post Sam's Easter message on Easter Sunday. If you would like to, please copy it for your noticeboards for passers-by to read about the Good News. Please like, join and post to Facebook groups to keep them popular and easy to find.

**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.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30**      **Morning Worship**

*Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith*

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:00**      **Good Friday Service**

*Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith*

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**      **Holy Communion Service**

*Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith*

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**      **All Age Worship**

*Led by Rev Esther Squire*

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30**      **Holy Communion Service**

*Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith with Rev Canon Chris Hollingshurst*

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

*Led by Rev Canon Chuks Iwuagwu*



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 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30**      **Morning Worship**

*Led by Maggie Prisk*

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> at 09:00**      **Easter Communion Service**

*Led by Rev Nicola Martyn-Beck*

**And at 10:30**      **Easter Morning Worship**

*Led by John and Jenny Boxwell*

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**      **Morning Worship**

*Led by Rev Lisa Kerry*

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30**      **Morning Worship with Communion**

*Led by Rev Nicola Martyn-Beck*

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

*Led by Maggie and Deborah Prisk*



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 15<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 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00 Signed Holy Communion**

*Led by Rev Peter Green*

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> at 15:00 Meditations & Reflections around the Cross**

*Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe and Margaret Moakes*

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 Easter Communion Service**

*Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe*

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 Morning Worship**

*Led by Stephen Fletcher*

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00 Holy Communion Service**

*Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe*

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> 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](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**

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> at 09:30 Quiet time in Lent**

(See St Andrew's attachment for details)

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> at 09:15 Palm Sunday Procession**

**Followed at 10:00 by Open Door Service**

*Led by Rev Canon Chuks Iwuagwu*

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Communion**

*Led by Rev Prof John Beazley*

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> at 18:00 Commemoration of the Last Supper**

*with stripping of the church from 6pm to 7pm*

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> at 14:00 Last Hour at the Cross & 7 Words on the Cross Service**

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> at 05:45 Easter Dawn Service**

*Led by Rev Canon Chuks Iwuagwu*

**And at 10:00 Festal Easter Celebration with Baptism**

*Led by Rev Canon Chuks Iwuagwu*



**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00**      **Holy Communion Service**

*Led by Rev Peter Dudeney*

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00**      **Holy Communion Service**

*Led by Rev Prof John Beazley*

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00**      **Holy Communion Service**

*Led by Rev Prof John Beazley*

**Sunday Evening Prayer at 17:00** on Zoom every week (except 2<sup>nd</sup> )

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

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

See St Andrew's attachment for details of Procession, 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Communion and other events happening in and around St Andrew's. Alternatively see St Andrew's page on [www.stantonbury.net](http://www.stantonbury.net)

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 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00**      **Palm Sunday Open Door**

*Led by Rev Duncan Barnes and the Open Door Team*

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> at 20:00**      **Eucharist and Vigil**

*Including stripping the Altar Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith*

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> at 13:30**      **Stations of the Cross**

*Led by Helen Rouse LLM and Mary Borrett*

**Followed at 14:30 by**      **Good Friday Liturgy**

*Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith*

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> at 09:00**      **Said Morning Prayer**

*Led by Helen Rouse LLM*

**Followed at 10:00 by**      **Easter Saturday Workshop**

*For details see St James website, details below.*

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> at 06:30**      **Easter Dawn Service**

*Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith*

**Followed at 10:00 by**      **Easter Communion Service**

*Led by Rev Duncan Barnes*

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00**      **Holy Communion**

*Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith*

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00**      **Holy Communion**

*Led by Rev Dr Mary Cotes*

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00**      **Holy Communion with Healing**

*Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith*



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 2<sup>nd</sup> at 09:30 All Age Worship for Palm Sunday**

*Led by Margaret Moakes*

**And at 18:00 Reflections for Holy Week**

*With Quorum Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe*

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> at 15:00 Joint Meditative service**

*At Cross and Stable*

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> at 09:30 Easter Holy Communion Service**

*Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe*

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> at 09:30 Eucharist**

*Led by tba*

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> at 09:30 Holy Communion Service**

*Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe*

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

*Led by Rev Hannah Akibo-Betts*



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

Volunteer Gardening at St Mary Magdalene Church has not yet started recruiting volunteers for the 2023 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 **The Backstops**. See poster for details.

## **Future Events**

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

**11am to 1pm on Tuesdays 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> April**

Come along to enjoy good company, refreshments and, for those wanting a bit of exercise, an accompanied walk in the Great Linford Manor Park to see the new layout, information boards etc. Everyone is welcome and the café is dementia friendly.

*\*Please note the 'Textilers' now meet in the church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday and not the 4<sup>th</sup> and work with textile artist Jane Charles who is always happy to see new 'joiners' (no previous experience required!).*

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

Christian Climate Action (CCA) and other Christian Groups are inviting us to take part in a 4 day weekend event called The Big One to protest about Government action on Climate Change. Churches, small groups, families, friendship groups, knitting circles and so on are all taking part. There will be Prayer, Worship, Talks and Pilgrimage each day and you can attend as much or as little as you want.

For further information and a programme of events please follow the link to CCA website:

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

If you are interested in attending on any of the days and would like to be in contact with others who are attending please contact Margaret Broadhurst

[mebroadhurst@yahoo.com](mailto:mebroadhurst@yahoo.com) Mobile: 07769975846

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

**19:30 Silver Band Spring Concert**

This is at St James' and will be the first Concert performed by Bradwell Silver Band at St James' this year. Further details will be on St James' website at:

[www.stjamesnewbradwell.org.uk](http://www.stjamesnewbradwell.org.uk) and also on Bradwell Band's website at:  
[Milton Keynes Brass Band | Bradwell Silver Band \(bradwellband.co.uk\)](http://Milton Keynes Brass Band | Bradwell Silver Band (bradwellband.co.uk))

## **External Ecumenical News**

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



The Coronation is a wonderful occasion for parishes, dioceses and chaplaincy teams to reach out to communities through providing services of celebration, community events and opportunities for volunteering.

[This information pack](#) shares resources, ideas and information on how your church or parish might choose to mark the Coronation weekend.

### **St Frideswides Church, Water Eaton, is the first Resource Hub for Community Organising and Church Growth in the diocese.**

Through a strategic partnership with [Citizens:MK](#) and working with stakeholders across the city of Milton Keynes, St Frideswides has been effective in creating tangible and positive change in their community. It is also using community organising to explore how new worshipping communities might emerge in nearby housing estates, such as Eaton Leys.

Community Organising offers a framework for listening, taking action, negotiating with those in power and holding decision-makers to account. It provides a way for local people to play an active role in democratic processes, build collective power and overcome social injustice.

Community organising, and particularly its focus on listening and building relational power, has enabled St Frideswide to pay attention to issues of social justice. It also supports their vision to 'have fun, make friends, and grow disciples of Jesus'. One of the positive changes has been the launch of a SOFEA community larder at the church centre in Water Eaton. Local people struggling with the cost of living can purchase their weekly food shop for as little as £3.50. The community larder is resourced with excess food from supermarkets that would otherwise go to landfill.

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

No news here for April.

The Central Baptist Association covers the historic counties of Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Northamptonshire and has 155 churches with a combined membership of ca 12,000 (including Local Ecumenical Partnerships). Its aim is best summed up by its strapline, 'walking together in ministry and mission', which reflects an aim to 'walk alongside' the churches by providing such things as pastoral care for ministers, encouragement in their mission, advice to churches, guidance of the settlement process, offering small grants to this end, etc.

## **News from the Methodist Circuit**

### **Hope & Anchor**

Calling all volunteers.... Are you an energetic person who loves meeting new people? Recruitment is now open for volunteers for Hope & Anchor – our venue at events and festivals this Spring and Summer. Do you love having conversations that go beyond small talk? Do you love experimenting with being church in places way beyond our church buildings? Do you have time to attend an event, offering around six hours of volunteering during each day of the event? If so, we are looking for you! Please click [here](#) for further details and how to apply.

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

### **Lundie Memorial Award**

If you know a child or young person who is playing their part in the mission of God in their church or Synod, their local community or the wider world, please nominate them for a Lundie Memorial Award and help shine a light on their achievements. Each month, a medal and certificate will be awarded to one of the nominated children and young people, along with a financial gift of £100 to be spent to benefit children and/or young people in the church, synod or local community, however the award winner chooses.

### **Making a nomination**

Anyone under the age of 25 can be nominated and anybody can make a nomination at any time of the year. To make a nomination, download and complete a nomination form and send it by post or email to your CYDO or Synod equivalent.



You will also need to get the nominee (and their parents if they are under 18) to sign the form to show they agree to you sending us their details.

[Download a nomination form](#) (Word)

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

## Churches Together

Our strapline is:

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

We have two upcoming events;

**'Thy Kingdome come'** – This is a global event during the period between Ascension day and Pentecost. It is planned to hold 5 events in Milton Keynes during that period. More details to follow.

**'Civic Prayer breakfast'** - Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July at Cornerstone. This brings together members of the clergy, those with office in local government and members of local businesses.

It is hoped to have an event in the summer looking at the 'Cost of Living Crisis'.

*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 May's issue is **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April** to allow me to get it to you in time to send it out for May 1<sup>st</sup>.*

John Porter [sepnewsletter9@gmail.com](mailto:sepnewsletter9@gmail.com)

**Please note my new email address for all things newsletter related.** This is active now, but I will still pick up from the old address for the next month or two.

*There is no Last Word this month as although this newsletter is a little shorter than usual I feel that there is more than enough information in it already. JP*