

# Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

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



## June 2023 Newsletter

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

### Partnership News

#### **Advert for new Priest in Charge**

The advert for a permanent full time Priest in Charge is on the SEP website and Facebook group, Oxford Diocese website, Pathways and CPAS. If you can spread the word anywhere around the world, please do. There is no closing date this time and Bishop Alan has said it should stay live for about 6 weeks this time. The interviewers remain the same and are; Mike Duff CPAS, David Thom Chair MKLEPs, Sharron Chair SEP, Derek Atkinson St Andrew's and SEC, Sam Muthuveloe Ministry, Penny Miller Christ Church and SEC, David Preston Trustee and St. MM, Peter Green C & S Treasurer, Stephen Fletcher Deanery Synod, Rose Hunt C&S and SEC, Chuks Iwuagwu Ministry.

We are now looking at the paperwork needed to advertise the Baptist Minister post, which hopefully will be agreed quickly with Lisa Kerry, the Regional Baptist Leader. If anyone is interested in the interview process for this post, please email me at [secchair22@gmail.com](mailto:secchair22@gmail.com) or ring me on 07846346809.

#### **Bradwell House**

Thank Goodness this house has now been repaired and can be available to an incoming minister. When we find one! Thanks to everyone at Bradwell for helping to sort this out. We all pray that your 800<sup>th</sup> year of congregations praying in your building is being celebrated to the hilt this year.

#### **SEP AGM 2023**

The minutes of this meeting were sent out to the attendees for amendments and though they will remain in draft form till the AGM in 2024, they will be sent to external bodies if requested, i.e., to denomination bodies.

#### **Partnership wide Coronation Weekend**

Thank you to Mary, Jackie, Jodie, Michael, Stewart, and everyone else I haven't mentioned, for helping to organise and serve everyone on such a beautiful, sunny afternoon at St Andrews. Good to see so many faces from other congregations and many dancing to the music provided. Passers-by couldn't help but hear the music and then called in to enjoy the atmosphere. I enjoyed it tremendously and I know the

others from St Mary Magdalene did too. I have a couple of good photographs if anyone wants them.

### **SEP wide service**

Some of the partnership events suggested so far are the Tree Cathedral Service in September, the Parish Pilgrimage during Heritage Week, also in September, a service of blessing for those commissioned with roles in our church this year, and an Evensong. I would like to do something during Pentecost next year; coming from a Whit Walks and Brass Band background. There was an overwhelming feeling that we must preserve our congregational Sunday morning services. Any ideas please just let me know.

### **Mission, Evangelism and Discipleship Committee**

This hasn't met yet, but Chuks Iwuagwu would like to be part of it when it does and so would Jo Roberts. If anyone reading this would also like to join when it is begun, please let me know.

### **Ecumenical Training**

For those with roles in our church, Tim Norwood is offering training to Church Wardens and others and has asked what kinds of training people feel they need in the first instance. This is within his new role at Lambeth Palace. Please let me know and I will make a list of training and get back to Tim.

### **New Trustees**

Please say a prayer for our new team of Trustees for their inaugural meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> June.

### **AGM minutes**

I wrote in last month's newsletter: Please would each congregation send me a digital copy of their AGM minutes for archiving, and when I see you next, a paper copy if possible. Thanks to St Andrews, St Mary Magdalene, St James' and Christ Church for theirs. The purpose of this is to preserve and archive the history of SEP. I know it began in 1982, but have no real detail other than that kept by individual secretaries. The Methodist Chapel in Bradwell Village is being checked to see if any archive material is there.

### **Social Media**

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 just post your own comments. The advert for a new Anglican Minister should be there by now. Please like, join and post to Facebook groups to keep them popular and easy to find. Thank you to those who keep posting from each congregation and from Ann at Churches Together.

Please also keep checking into the Facebook group of SEP, as more news crops up daily.

### **Christian Aid Week 14 – 20 May 2023**

One of the themes this year was Give Peas A Chance.

This Christian Aid Week, we celebrated how our partners in Malawi are helping farmers transform their livelihoods using the humble but mighty pigeon pea: a drought-

resistant, soil-revitalising, high-protein, low-cost, delicious crop. Inspired by the transformational pigeon pea, whether you're a gardener, a cook, or just up for a bit of fun, plant or buy a can and say a prayer for the people of Malawi in their self-supporting challenge.

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

*Led by Mike Morris*

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**      **Holy Communion Service**

*Led by Rev Steve Barnes*

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**      **All Age Worship**

*Led by Rev Esther Squire*

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**      **Holy Communion Service**

*Led by The Ven Guy Elsmore, Archdeacon of Buckingham*



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

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

Gardening Club every Wednesday at 10:00

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

### **Christ Church, Stantonbury**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**      **Morning Worship**

*Led by Maggie Prisk*

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**      **Morning Worship**

*Led by Maggie Prisk*

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**      **Morning Worship**

*Led by John and Jenny Boxwell*

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**      **Morning Worship with Communion**

*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 17<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 Hall.

## **Cross and Stable, Downs Barn**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00**      **Signed Holy Communion**

*Led by Rev Peter Green*

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

*Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe*

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:00**      **Morning Worship**

*Led by Stephen Fletcher LLM*

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:00**      **Holy Communion Service**

*Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe*



Services are live-streamed on Zoom at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85922248518?pwd=Tm4vd00wancwVk52cCtqNm5tMWRZdz09>

**Meeting ID: 859 2224 8518**    **Passcode: 830413**

**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**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00**      **Open Door**

*Led by Rev Canon Chuks Iwuagwu*

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00**      **1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Communion**

*Led by Rev Prof John Beazley*

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00**      **Holy Communion Service**

*Led by Rev Canon Chuks Iwuagwu*

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00**      **Holy Communion Service**

*Led by Rev Canon Chuks Iwuagwu*

**Sunday 25<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

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

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

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

*Led by Rev Duncan Barnes*

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00**      **Open Door Service**

*Led by The Open Door Team*

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00**      **Holy Communion**

*Led by Rev Duncan Barnes*

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00**      **Baptist Communion**

*Led by Rev Dr Mary Cotes*



Most 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 4<sup>th</sup> at 09:30 All Age Worship**

*Led by Margaret Moakes*

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> at 09:30 Holy Communion Service**

*Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe*

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> at 09:30 Eucharist**

*Led by Fr. Jonathan Ewer*

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> at 09:30 Holy Communion Service**

*Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe*



Please pray for the Care Homes in Neath Hill & Downs Barn as we conduct a Church Service and Holy Communion on 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday afternoons. Remember the frail, elderly, the caring staff & the concerned families as we minister God's love and grace.

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

Volunteer Gardening at St Mary Magdalene Church. Join volunteers as they continue with the upkeep. New faces welcome! **Saturdays 10am – 12pm**

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

This month be entertained by **Playpals**. See attached poster for details.

## **Future Events**

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

**11am to 1pm on Tuesdays 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> June**

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!).*

### **Service of Swearing in of our Church Wardens**

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30om**

This is at St Mary's in Bletchley and led by Archdeacon Guy Elsmore.

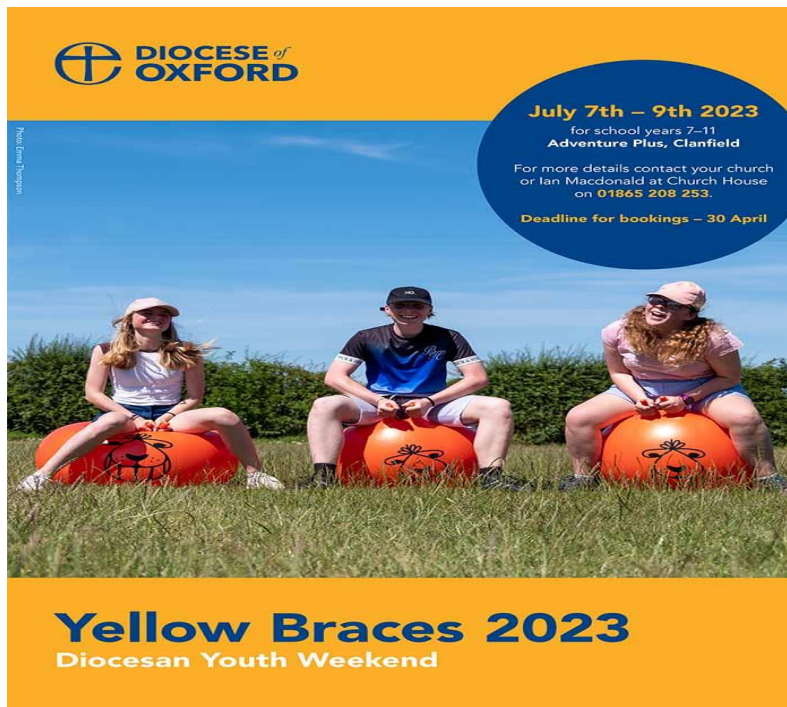
### **Eco Churches Workshop in Milton Keynes**

See the item and poster in the '**Last Word**' of this Newsletter

## **External Ecumenical News**

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

#### **Yellow Braces 2023**



The poster features the Diocese of Oxford logo at the top left. A central photograph shows three young people sitting on large orange inflatable balls in a grassy field under a blue sky. A blue circular callout box contains the following text: "July 7th – 9th 2023 for school years 7–11 Adventure Plus, Clanfield. For more details contact your church or Ian Macdonald at Church House on 01865 208 253. Deadline for bookings – 30 April". At the bottom, a yellow banner reads "Yellow Braces 2023 Diocesan Youth Weekend".

What is it?

Yellow Braces is the long-running diocesan youth festival. It is a weekend of fun, malarkey, activities, food and engaging with Christianity, faith and life.

When and where is it?

Yellow Braces runs from 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> July.

This year we return to the cosy wooden 'yurts' at the Adventure Base at Clanfield, the home of Adventure Plus.

Diocese Vacancy

**Priest in Charge in the Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership, Milton Keynes**

Our Ecumenical Partnership seeks to appoint a full-time Anglican colleague as Priest-in-Charge of the benefice of Stantonbury and Willen in the fast growing and dynamic new city of Milton Keynes.

The new incumbent will help the Partnership realise its vision to be:

**"Six Thriving and growing congregations, making Christ known in our area of Milton Keynes"**

The successful candidate will have the added responsibility of *either* leading the team *or* enabling the vision of the Partnership. The other responsibility will be held by the full-time Baptist minister we will recruit in Spring 2024.

We are praying for a new Anglican priest who has:

- a strong faith rooted in worship and prayer
- a pastoral heart
- good organisational and communication skills
- a passion for mission
- a real gift for preaching and teaching in a way that relates the Bible intelligently to contemporary life

**For further information, including an introductory letter and application pack, please email Catherine Green, PA to the Bishop of Buckingham – [catherine.green@oxford.anglican.org](mailto:catherine.green@oxford.anglican.org)**

For an informal conversation about the role, please contact The Bishop of Buckingham - 07525 655756

Interview date to be agreed. Enhanced DBS Disclosure Required

To Apply: Please follow the [link here](#) to the Pathways website.

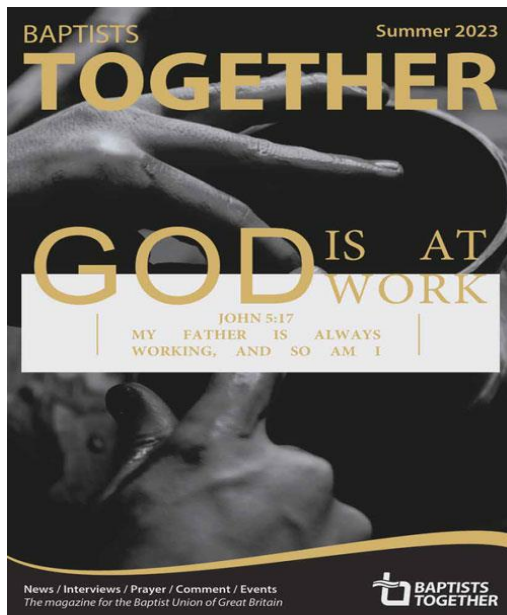
## News from the Regional Central Baptist Union

### The Baptist Assembly

#### Join us this year in Telford – 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> June

For this year's Baptist Assembly we will be returning to Telford and look forward to joining together with you and others from your church for worship and to hear from this year's speaker, Bishop Mike Royal.

**Book your weekend, Saturday evening and Sunday tickets now!**



It's easy to be pessimistic about the state of the Christian faith in the UK. The latest Census results point to fewer people describing themselves as Christian. As Baptists Together overall, our numbers are lower, our financial resources squeezed, and we are closing churches faster than we are planting them. Our situation is replicated in many denominations. It can seem many simply aren't interested in or receptive to the life-changing message of Jesus. And yet...that's not the whole story. As General Secretary Lynn Green writes, 'Death, struggle and suffering are present, but the life of Jesus is present too.' People are coming to faith in our churches, seeing their lives turned around when they encounter Jesus.

God is shaping and inspiring us to do new and creative things, and we are seeing his kingdom come.

There is hope. God is at work!

## News from the Methodist Circuit

### Show Hospitality not Hostility this Refugee Week

This June, faith groups across the UK are coming together to be communities of hospitality for people seeking sanctuary. As the government's Migration Bill proposes a ban on claiming asylum in the UK, could you host a meal or tea during Refugee Week to stand in solidarity with refugees and asylum seekers? If you think you can, then click [here](#) for more information.

### Pastoral Support Volunteers for Milton Keynes University Hospital

The Chaplaincy Team at MKUH are looking to recruit some more pastoral support volunteers. These volunteers will need to be comfortable to provide listening support to people of all faith and belief groups, including those from a non-religious worldview, as part of the chaplaincy team. Before the formal recruitment process a number of weeks training is required to make sure that the role is a good fit for the person. The chaplaincy team are passionate about providing pastoral, spiritual and religious care which values each individual and enables them to be met as a whole person rather than an illness or a machine to be fixed.

More details can be found [here](#) and in the leaflet [here](#).

## News from The United Reformed Church

I was reading the Reform magazine and came across this extract and thought about our evangelism.

**A series about what we have to learn from Jesus on a range of subjects. This month, Matt Stone looks at Jesus' attitude to mission.**

Jesus began his ministry with the famous words, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near'. The first disciples heeded Jesus' call, dropping their nets, and following him as he led them into a new life full of the topsy-turvy blessings of God. As we carry on reading through the Gospels, we soon learn, however, that to follow Jesus is not just to be the recipient of God's blessings. To follow Jesus means to be participants, not spectators, of God's growing mission. We come to Jesus so that we might be sent by Jesus.

The kingdom of God is not something we can grow in our own strength. It's God's initiative, God's work, God's rule and reign – not ours. Similarly, mission doesn't start with us. It's not about what we want to do for our community. It starts with God; it's rooted and driven by God's deep love and compassion for people. Jesus demonstrated this beautifully, as Matthew says: 'When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.'

*Matt Stone is a United Reformed Church minister in Rotherham and Doncaster, and Chair of GEAR – the Group for Evangelism and Renewal in the URC*

*This is an extract from an article published in the May 2023 edition of Reform*

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.*

**'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.

*Adrian Prisk*



*I hope that you find this newsletter interesting and useful. I am happy to say that we have reached the 12<sup>th</sup> edition. I hope that we can go on from here to improve our communication and friendship throughout the Partnership.*

*Meanwhile thanks for supporting this Newsletter, that has occasionally been a struggle to compile and get to you on time, through its first year. If there is anything you think would make it better or find any glaring omissions, please let your congregation's newsletter editor, Sharron or myself know.*

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

*John*

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

**Please note my new email address for all things SEP newsletter related.** *This will be the only address that I check for SEP Newsletter items after 30<sup>th</sup> June*

*Finally if anyone would like an item included as the **Last Word** (max one and a half pages) either next month or in future send it to me at the above email address before the deadline with the reference 'Last Word'.*

*So I leave the Last Word this month to the Eco Churches Initiative in MK:*

### **Eco Churches Workshop in Milton Keynes**

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June, Christ the Cornerstone from 10.00am - 1.00pm**

People can continue discussions informally over their packed lunches.

Stuart Kean who is organising this workshop writes: I'm convenor of the Eco Church Initiative at the Church of Christ the Cornerstone in Milton Keynes. Our Eco Church activities have been going for just over a year and one of the activities we're organising this year is a workshop involving local Eco Churches from the Milton Keynes area and a bit beyond, to learn more about implementing Eco Church actions and importantly to share and learn from each other's experiences.

The workshop will include presentations from Simon Brown, the A Rocha Coordinator for speakers and representative of an Eco Church with a Silver Award followed by questions and answers, breakout groups discussing each of the 5 key areas of church life for Eco Churches with plenary feedback and Next Steps.

For further information please contact Stuart Kean [stuart.kean@gmail.com](mailto:stuart.kean@gmail.com) or Margaret Broadhurst [mebroadhurst@yahoo.com](mailto:mebroadhurst@yahoo.com)

(See poster overleaf)



CHURCH OF CHRIST THE CORNERSTONE  
*Milton Keynes*

# ECO CHURCH WORKSHOP

Saturday 10 June 2023 • 10.00 am – 1.00 pm



Join us to learn together from the experiences of other local Eco-churches

## MAIN SPEAKER

**Simon Brown**

*A Rocha's Coordinator for Speakers.*

[www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk](http://www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk)

For more information please contact:

**Stuart Kean**

[stuart.kean@gmail.com](mailto:stuart.kean@gmail.com)

**Bring your own packed lunch**

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300 Saxon Gate West, Milton Keynes MK9 2ES