

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

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



July 2023 Newsletter

Welcome to July's edition of the Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership Newsletter on this, the first Birthday of publishing the Newsletter.

Partnership News

Priest in charge advert

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.

The suggested closing date is **10th July**. There have been two enquiries for the application information, but none have been returned as yet.

Baptist Minister Post

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

Rev Nicola Martyn-Beck's retirement service

This will be held at **St James Church, New Bradwell, at 15:00 on Sunday 23rd July** before Nicola retires to her next phase of life in Devon. We wish her well and I hope she can write us a farewell message for our August newsletter. I am sure we are all pleased to have met her and prayed with her during her time with us. I will miss her help and leadership.

SEP-wide Service

The Tree Cathedral is now booked for a service on 10th September. More details to follow.

Mission, Evangelism And Discipleship Committee

Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe has offered 2 brief sessions exploring **Learning to Pray & Leading Prayers**. If you feel called to this, please contact him for details.

Email: sam.muthuveloe@gmail.com or text him on 07854 745669.

Ecumenical Training for those with Roles in our Church

I have met with Tim Norwood and asked him to lead training for Lay Church Leaders after the last service to Swear in the Church Wardens. As requested, he is initially going to talk about the 'do-ability' of the role and help experienced lay leaders talk to new lay leaders, Thanks for suggesting this, Mary.

As requested, I have spoken to Peter Cole, at Christ the Cornerstone, and he is arranging First Aid training to take place in September. If you would like to attend, please let the SEC Rep at your church know and they will tell me. Thanks for suggesting it, Jacky.

New Trustees

The Trustees did not manage to appoint a Chair for the year, but Adrian stepped in to chair the meeting, thank you, Adrian. This group will take over some of the SEP agenda.

Social Media

Please search for the name of your church or Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership and you will find the pages Facebook and websites. The Facebook groups are all public so just post your own comments. Please like, join and post to Facebook groups to keep them popular and easy to find.

As always, many thanks to John for pulling these newsletters together in the hope that better communication leads to closer friendships as our LEP Review showed was needed.

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

Our Church Services and Events

Bradwell Church, St Lawrence

Sunday 2nd at 10:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by Katy Gillam

Sunday 9th at 10:30 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Susan Jackson

Sunday 16th at 10:30 **All Age Worship**

Led by Rev Esther Squire

Sunday 23rd at 10:30 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Dr Quentin Chandler, Director of Ordinands, Buckingham Archdeaconry

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

Led by Maggie Prisk



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 2nd at 10:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by Colin Taylor

Sunday 9th at 10:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by Maggie Prisk

Sunday 16th at 10:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by John and Jenny Boxwell

Sunday 23rd at 10:30 **Morning Worship with Communion**

Led by Rev Nicola Martyn-Beck

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

Led by Rev David Nash



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.

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 2nd at 11:00 **Signed Holy Communion**

Led by Rev Peter Green

Sunday 9th at 11:00 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 16th at 11:00 **Morning Worship**

Led by Stephen Fletcher LLM

Sunday 23rd at 11:00 **Holy 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 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

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 2nd at 11:00 **Open Door**

Led by tba

Wednesday 5th at 10:00 **1st Wednesday Communion**

Led by Rev Prof John Beazley

Sunday 9th at 10:00 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Canon Chuks Iwuagwu

Sunday 16th at 10:00 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Canon Chuks Iwuagwu

Sunday 23rd at 10:00 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Peter Dudeney

Sunday 30th at 10:00 **Extended Holy Communion Service**

Led by Colin Taylor

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 2nd at 10:00 **Holy Communion with Baptism**

Led by Rev Duncan Barnes

Sunday 9th at 10:00 **Morning Worship Service**

Led by Helen Rouse LLM

Sunday 16th at 10:00 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by The Ven Guy Elsmore, Archdeacon of Buckingham

Sunday 23rd at 10:00 **Patronal Communion with Baptism**

Led by Rev Duncan Barnes and Helen Rouse LLM

Sunday 23rd at 15:00 **Nicola Martyn-Beck's Leaving Service**

Led by the Methodist Circuit Ministers

Sunday 30th at 10:00 **Extended Communion with Healing**

Led by Helen Rouse LLM

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 for more information.



St. Mary Magdalene, Willen

Sunday 2nd at 09:30 **All Age Worship**

Led by Margaret Moakes

Sunday 9th at 09:30 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 16th at 09:30 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 16th at 18:00 **Choral Evensong with Quorum**

Led by Helen Rouse LLM



Sunday 23rd at 09:30 Holy Communion Service

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 30th at 09:30 Holy Communion Service

Led by Rev Hannah Akibo-Betts

Please pray for the Care Homes in Neath Hill & Downs Barn as we conduct a Church Service and Holy Communion on 4th 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**

A monthly communion service takes place at **Oaktree Court, Portland Drive** on the 1st Thursday of each month – next service is **2.45 pm on July 6th**. Anyone who would like to join us, and stay for a cup of tea afterwards, would be welcome. Please speak to Margaret Moakes

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

This month be entertained by **Motif on Tuesday 18th at 12:30.**

Future Events

5 WAYS CAFÉ at St. Andrews' Church

11am to 1pm on Tuesdays 10th & 24th July

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 2nd Tuesday and not the 4th and work with textile artist Jane Charles who is always happy to see new 'joiners' (no previous experience required!).*

Saturday 8th July

14:00-16:00 St James' Church Summer Fete.

Stall and Cream teas, Free entry.

St Mary Magdalene Feast Day

Saturday 22nd July 2023 is St Mary Magdalene Feast Day. Please pray at your Sunday service for the congregation at St Mary Magdalene as we celebrate her mission, on Sunday 23rd July. She was also called Mary of Magdala, one of Jesus' most celebrated disciples and the first person to see the resurrected Christ. Mark 16:9 ⁹ Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

Sunday 23rd July

St James' celebrates their Patronal service as the nearest Sunday to St James' Day on 25th July.

Also at St James' The retirement service for Rev Nicola Martyn-Beck (see full item under Partnership News)

Saturday 12th August

Advanced notice of Bradwell Church's Summer Fete (Full details in next month's newsletter. Watch this space)

External Ecumenical News

News from Diocese of Oxford

New ordinands

20 people are to be ordained deacon in the Diocese of Oxford on Saturday 1st July by the Bishop of Oxford.

Test your boiler day

On Tuesday 4th July, the Environment Team and the Church Buildings Team are calling on all churches in the Diocese to turn on and test their boiler, ahead of the autumn heating season.

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/news/#:~:text=Test%20your%20boiler,autumn%20heating%20season>.

Priest in Charge in the Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership, Milton Keynes

Vacancy closing date **10th July**

For further information, including an introductory letter and application pack, please email Catherine Green, PA to the Bishop of Buckingham at:

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

'While remaining aware of the reality of decline, I believe we really need to radically change our thinking and firmly focus on the treasure we hold. As individuals, churches and movement we need to keep our focus on this question: 'What is God doing and how can we get behind that with our prayer, action, people, resources and structures?'

Lynn Green, General Secretary of the Baptist Union.

News from the Methodist Circuit

Looking for Volunteers

Are you a Methodist Presbyter or a Methodist lay person keen to use your experiences and skills to support the ministry of the Methodist Diaconal Order and Methodist Deacons? The Methodist Diaconal Support and Advisory Committee is looking to recruit two new members: a presbyter and a lay person. If you're interested in volunteering, then you can find out more by clicking [here](#).

Methodist Youth President for 2024/2025

We're looking for the next Methodist Youth President for 2024/2025. If you're interested, then you need to be between the ages of 18-23 and a member of the Methodist Church. This is a great role and opportunity to travel around the UK and overseas, to learn new skills and leadership, and be the face of the younger generation of the Methodist Church

Apply to become the next President [here](#)

Leadership Year – 12 fully funded places available

Would you like to see the young Christians in your community developed into humble, discerning, authentic, courageous leaders? The Leadership Year is an exciting opportunity for 18-30 year olds across the Connexion, who want to invest time in developing their leadership abilities. It is aimed at those who may just be starting out in a leadership role, or who are wanting to be involved in leadership, which may be within a church setting, or outside the Church.

Centred around 3 residential weekends, with evening online gatherings and the opportunity to meet with a coach, it is a chance for your young leaders to be in community with other young adults, to reflect on what it means to be a Christian leader (in church, secular workplaces, and local community) and to develop characteristics needed for self-aware, visionary, resilient leadership. One former participant reflected that it had *“Given me new ideas on how I can be a faithful leader and equipped me to work better with others, especially those who are different to me.”*

There are 12 fully funded places available. If you know someone who might be interested, please encourage them to apply. All details and link to the application form is [here](#). Applications close on **Friday 22nd September 2023**.

News from The United Reformed Church

Preparing for the school summer holidays? The United Reformed Church (URC) Children's and Youth Work (CYW) committee offers grants of £50 or £100 to churches needing support to run holiday clubs.

The CYW Team also offers free resources that contain suggestions for a holiday club for children aged five-11-year-olds, and materials for intergenerational, toddlers, young people aged 11-14 and vintage holiday clubs.

Sharron, Chair of SEP secchair22@gmail.com

News from Churches Together in Milton Keynes

Our strapline is:

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

There are far too many items on the website to list, so please take a look for yourself at: [Churches Together in Milton Keynes \(ctmk.church\)](http://ctmk.church)

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 congregation's newsletter editor, Sharron or myself know.

The deadline for information to go into August's issue is **Tuesday 25th July** to allow me to get it to you in time to send it out for August 1st.

John

John Porter sepnewsletter9@gmail.com

Please note my email address for all things SEP newsletter related. This will be the only address that I check for SEP Newsletter items from now on.

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'.

A rather short **Last Word** this month taken from both the CTMK and Methodist websites, but very relevant and welcome with the still rising cost and declining quality of food today. (Editorial comment and not necessarily the opinion of the SEP).



Seasonal fruit and vegetables at affordable prices, grown at our market garden in the heart of Wolverton.

- Over 50 types of fresh produce available throughout the year
- Environmentally sensitive growing techniques
- Zero food miles from field to market
- Veg Bags available for flexible collection hours on other days



Follow us on Instagram or Facebook @GrowingPeople. Subscribe to our mailing list via growing.people@mkchristianfoundation.co.uk for weekly updates and seasonal opening hours. For more info visit mkchristianfoundation.co.uk/growing-people