

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

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



August 2023 Newsletter

Welcome to the August edition of the Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership Newsletter.

Partnership News

Priest in charge advert

Good news. The advert for a permanent full time Priest in Charge is still live, but we have had 5 enquiries. Bishop Alan of Buckingham is leading this interview process and will be following the legal requirements. At the moment his PA, Catherine, is tracing the patrons of St Andrew's and St Mary Magdalene, to see if they are still wanting to be Patrons, and therefore involved in the appointment. It will be September before this is sorted and shortlisting will take place on 5th September (5.00pm – 6.00pm, to be held via Zoom), with interviews to follow on 6th October, held locally in MK.

Baptist Minister Post

The Trustees have agreed the paperwork needed to advertise the Baptist Minister post, as well as Lisa Kerry, the Regional Baptist Leader. The advert will be on our website and Facebook page very soon, so please spread the word.

Methodist ministry

We said good bye and thank you to Rev Nicola at her last service at St James in New Bradwell. We are having a plaque made to put on a bench she and Carol can sit on in their garden now they have moved to Cornwall.

Edson Dube, will be our Methodist Superintendent and he presented Rev Nicola with her gift at her service last week. He has said he will help whenever we need him and be there as a Mentor to Dave Haseldine when he joins us in September.

Dave and his family have now, hopefully, been able to move into Nicola's house and will find time to settle into the area before he joins us in a month.

He will work 2 days a month for the SEP, which is half a day less than Nicola did. There will be a service to welcome him on 20th August at Newport Pagnell Methodist Church.

Partnership wide service

Rev Sam has very kindly offered to steer this for us to be able to worship together. This will take place at the Tree Cathedral on Sunday 10th September, at 3.00pm. This is the first Sunday of the Heritage Open Days. New Bradwell Brass Band will play before and after the service and also the hymns. The hope is for participation from all 6 congregations if possible. Thank you in advance to all the ordained and lay ministers, readers and intercession prayer leaders who offer to help Sam to organise or take part. Please let your congregation leaders know you want to be involved somehow, or email me or Sam.

Mission, Evangelism And Discipleship Committee

The partnership has not moved forward on this at the moment.

MK Ecumenical Confirmation Service

This will take place on Sunday 5th November 2023 at St Mary's Church, Wavendon and the preacher will be Revd Lisa Kerry, Baptist Regional Minister. Please let your Congregation Leaders know if you would like to take part in Confirmation Classes. These will probably be with other congregations and led by Churches Together. We will need to put your name forward by the end of September in order to arrange the classes.

Ecumenical Training for those with Roles in our Church

There is no further news on this from Tim yet.

First Aid Training

If anyone would like to take part in this training, please let Jackie at St Andrew's know.

Church Meeting

Our next meeting will be, hopefully, led by our Green Champions. Each congregation will have the opportunity to tell us all what steps have been taken so far and what we all need to consider as our next steps. No date has been set yet, but we are hoping for late September / early October at St James' in New Bradwell.

New Trustees

David Preston is now the Chair of Trustees. Congratulations David. David and I will work together to divide the agendas up according to the Operating Procedures agreed within the CIO.

Social Media

Thank you to those who have contributed to our congregations or Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership Facebook and website. The Facebook groups are all public so just post your own comments.

St Mary Magdalene's new website went live on 24th July 2023, thanks to Brad. This site is very new and is trying to avoid black and white to help with accessibility. The address is www.willenchurch.org

Heritage Week

Many of us are providing access to our churches during the period Friday 8th September to Sunday 17th September. Please look, and book, online at www.mkheritageopendays.com or pick up a brochure from supermarkets, MK Museum or Libraries.

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 6th at 10:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by Muriel Moffoot

Sunday 13th at 10:30 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith

Sunday 20th at 10:30 **All Age Worship**

Led by Rev Esther Squire

Sunday 27th at 10:30 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith



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 6th at 10:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by Maggie Prisk

Sunday 13th at 10:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by Helen Rouse LLM

Sunday 20th at 10:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by John and Jenny Boxwell

Sunday 27th at 10:30 **Morning Worship with Communion**

Led by Rev Peter Ballantine



All Sunday services (except 27th) 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 19th 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

Please note: We have finished for our summer break and will restart on 7th September.

Cross and Stable, Downs Barn

Sunday 6th at 11:00 **Signed Holy Communion**

Led by Rev Peter Green

Sunday 13th at 11:00 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 20th at 11:00 **Morning Worship**

Led by Stephen Fletcher LLM

Sunday 27th at 11:00 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Maggie Prisk



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

Wednesday 2nd at 10:00 1st Wednesday Communion

Led by Rev Prof John Beazley

Sunday 6th at 11:00 Open Door

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 13th at 10:00 Holy Communion Service

Led by Maggie Prisk

Sunday 20th at 10:00 Holy Communion Service

Led by Rev Peter Dudeney

Sunday 27th at 10:00 Holy Communion Service

Led by Rev Prof John Beazley

Sunday Sitting Room 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 6th at 10:00 Holy Communion with Baptism

Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith

Sunday 13th at 10:00 Open Door

Led by The Open Door Team

Sunday 20th at 10:00 Holy Communion Service

Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith

Sunday 27th at 10:00 Holy Communion Service

Led by Rev David Nash

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 6th at 09:30 All Age Worship

Led by Margaret Moakes

Sunday 13th at 09:30 Holy Communion Service

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 20th at 09:30 Holy Communion Service

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 27th at 09:30 Holy Communion Service

Led by Fr Jonathan Ewer



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 August 3rd**. 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.

There will be no **TTTT** in August. The next **TTTT** will be on September 19 when *Saxophrenia*, a Sax quartet will be playing classics, pop and more.

Future Events

Wednesday 2nd August

7.00pm Join Christ Church for a church walk and alphabet challenge!

Meet at the Quiet Garden outside St. Andrews church. We will be walking around Great Linford Manor Park, so wheelchairs, mobility scooters, buggies, etc (and not forgetting dogs) are welcome.

There is an alphabet challenge for those who wish to take part, more details will be given at the time...

Hope to see you there!

5 WAYS CAFÉ at St. Andrews' Church

11am to 1pm on Tuesdays 8th & 22nd August

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!).*

Sunday Afternoon Café at St Andrews

August has come around again and we are delighted to have sufficient support from members of our congregation to continue opening our church to visitors on Sunday afternoons from 2.00 to 4.00pm throughout the month.

As always, it will be a very relaxed affair and folk are welcome to stop by briefly for refreshment while on their walk in the Manor Park or spend the whole 2 hours with us - the choice is yours!

We will of course have an array of sweet treats on offer and there'll be a tombola too. This year the proceeds will go to our new Church Path Improvement Project which will provide a more even and level pathway access into the church for visitors and congregation members alike. (See attached flyer)

Saturday 12th August

11.00-16.00 Bradwell Church Summer Fete

In this, it's 800th Anniversary year, Bradwell Church is holding a Summer Fete as part of it's ongoing Lawrence 800 celebrations.

This has been arranged jointly with the Parish Council, so if you have time pop along to help them celebrate this momentous occasion on St Lawrence Day. (See attached poster for details).

External Ecumenical News

News from Diocese of Oxford

General Synod carries Oxford motion on the climate emergency

First published on: 11th July 2023

The Oxford Diocesan Synod motion, Responding to the Climate Emergency, has been overwhelmingly supported by General Synod. The motion calls for the National Investment Bodies of the Church of England to scale up investment in renewable energy and other environmental solutions and asks the Government to review planning regulations to aid the installation of renewable technology on church buildings.

Priest in Charge in the Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership, Milton Keynes

This is still live so details included again.

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

Shortlisting date 5th September, Interview date 6th October (see Page 1 for details). Enhanced DBS Disclosure Required

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

News from the Regional Central Baptist Union

Wednesday 23rd August

International Day for Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition:
www.slaveryremembrance.org

News from the Methodist Circuit

Sunday 20th August, at 2.30pm.

Welcome service for Revd Dave Haseldine and Revd Edson Dube, at Newport Pagnell Methodist Church, MK16 8AQ.

News from The United Reformed Church

URC expresses solidarity with refugees as Illegal Migration Bill passes.
The United Reformed Church has joined nearly 300 civil society groups and charities in expressing solidarity with refugees as the government's controversial Illegal Migration Bill passes into law this week.

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 September's issue is **Friday 25th August** 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'.

So this month's **Last Word** comes from our Partnership Green Champions

Green Champions – Eco Tip

Have you heard about refill shops? A refill shop, or zero waste shop, gives you the option to use less packaging when you buy. These outlets reduce the amount of plastic that ends up in household waste. You take along your empty containers (bottles, boxes etc.), weigh them in store and then fill them from the large containers. Re-weigh and the cashier will calculate the prices of what you have bought. You can expect to find:

- Cupboard staples – pasta, rice, oats, lentils, nuts, seeds, grains, cereals, spices and oils
- Dried fruits – dates, dried apricots, figs, banana chips and coconut chips
- Cleaning products – laundry detergent, washing up liquid and bathroom cleaner
- Toiletries - toothpaste, soap, shower gel and shampoo

In Milton Keynes, you can visit:

- Nothing Wasted, 105 High St, Newport Pagnell, MK16 8EN (next door to Market Hill greengrocer). Open Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat. See nothingwasted.uk
- Mollys' Pantry, 111 Buckingham Rd, Bletchley, MK3 5HZ. Open Tues to Sat. Molly's is also a greengrocer, sourcing produce from local farms, and offers a delivery service to some areas. See mollyspantry.co.uk
- Green Machine, Farmers Market, Market Square, Stony Stratford., MK11 1BE (last Friday of the month, 9 am – 1:30 pm). Green Machine also offer a delivery service to some areas. See greenmachinerefill.co.uk

