

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

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



October 2023 Newsletter

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

Partnership News

Appointment of new Priest in charge

Bad news, which I am sure you know by now. The Anglican Minister vacancy will need to be advertised again, with an extended Closing Date, as the person we were going to interview has accepted a post elsewhere in the Diocese. The Trustees will take on the role of employing Ministers as it is within their remit, though of course all members of Stantonbury Partnership will be included in any information and decisions as they occur. David Preston, Chair of SEP Trustees, has already been in contact with Asa Humphreys, who the Diocese of Oxford have appointed from Chelmsford Diocese, as Parish Development Advisor for Buckingham. He started a week ago, so needs time to settle in and get an office. He is an Anglican Priest with knowledge and experience of ecumenical activity in Chelmsford Diocese. Asa will be meeting with Archdeacon Guy this week to discuss our despair over this protracted and defeated employment process and the impact of the heavy burden this is placing on all our ministers.

Baptist Minister Post

One potential applicant from another country has been sent our Partnership Profile by our Trustees. The Closing Date has been extended to 31st October and the advert is on our website and Facebook page, so please spread the word.

Partnership wide service

Thank you so much, Sam, for offering to lead and also organising the Tree Cathedral Service. Please thank your daughter for designing such a good poster for us. I did go to the Tree Cathedral, where a Park Ranger was waiting to see if it was cancelled. The stone flags were wet and slippery and the water was still pouring off the trees, so though it was a late call it was the right call. Thank you to everyone who helped with the planning.

Same time, same place, same service, in 2024.

Mission, Evangelism And Discipleship Committee

The Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership Review revealed the need for all 24 Lay and Retired Ministers to be included in spiritual leadership over our 6 congregations. To this end the Partnership Leadership Team and SEPC will help drive this towards a

more inclusive, diverse group of spiritual leaders. We want our ministry to have time together to focus on these three areas to sustain and procure disciples of God. Not just for us, but for our grandchildren growing up in Stantonbury. I'm sure we all pray for the continuous gifts from our ministers in our future worship and their spiritual support for each other and us.

MK Ecumenical Confirmation Service

This will take place on Sunday 5 November 2023 at St Mary's Church Wavendon and the preacher will be Revd Lisa Kerry, Baptist Regional Minister.

Ecumenical Training for those with Roles in our Church

There is no further news on this from Tim yet.

First Aid Training

Peter Cope from Christ the Cornerstone is able to arrange this. SEC have requested further information on qualifications of the course provider and the course attendees. I'll let you know if/when they have approved this training.

Church Meeting

Thanks to Mary Kennedy and Irene Farr, from St James New Bradwell for organising our next Church/Partnership meeting. This will be led by our Green Champions huddle from each of the 6 congregations. St James and Christ Church have gained an Eco church Bronze award so we will talk about the process and challenges of doing this. 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. This will take place on **Thursday 2nd November at 7.00pm at St James' in New Bradwell.**

CIO Trustees

Their next meeting is on **Tuesday 31st October** and I will attend the beginning of each meeting to give a verbal report on SEPC progress and answer any questions they may have.

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership Council

We next meet on **Thursday 23rd November** (zoom) and the Partnership Leadership Team meet on **Thursday 2nd November** (zoom) to prepare for the following two months. If you have anything you wish us to discuss, just tell me or your congregation representative to bring it up with us.

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. Please check daily as there are so many activities going on.

Heritage Week

A huge thank you to all the congregations who put so much effort into opening our doors and welcoming many visitors inside our buildings. Maybe that first step inside will help more make a further journey with us in the future. Evidence shows it is the first step into an unknown building that prevents many coming inside.

Citizens MK!

A new person has now been appointed. Nudrat Hopper is meeting me on 9th October to see how she can help SEP liaise more closely with other community groups within MK. If any of you want to join us or have any ideas, please let me know before then. Thanks

Harvest

I wish you all a good Harvest celebration, service of thanksgiving, service of All Saints and All Souls, a good contribution of gifts to hand out to those less fortunate than us, and a happy half term.

British Summer Time ends on Sunday 29th October this year.

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
07846346809

Our Church Services and Events

Bradwell Church, St Lawrence

Sunday 1st at 10:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by Chris Linford

Sunday 8th at 10:30 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Lisa Kerry, Regional Minister, Baptist Central Association

Sunday 15th at 10:30 **Harvest All Age Worship**

Led by Rev Esther Squire

Sunday 22nd at 10:30 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev David Byrne Former vicar of Bradwell Church

Sunday 29th at 10:30 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev David Haseldine



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 1st at 10:30

Led by Maggie Prisk

Harvest Morning Worship

(Donations will go to the Food Cupboard)

Sunday 8th at 10:30

Led by Helen Rouse LLM

Morning Worship

Sunday 15th at 10:30

Led by Rev Canon Peter Ballantine

Morning Worship

Sunday 22nd at 10:30

Led by Rev Dave Haseldine

Morning Worship with Communion

Sunday 29th at 10:30

Led by Colin Taylor LLM

Morning Worship



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 21st 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 1st at 11:00

Led by Rev Peter Green

Signed Holy Communion

Sunday 8th at 11:00

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Holy Communion Service

Sunday 15th at 11:00

Led by Stephen Fletcher LLM

Morning Worship

Sunday 22nd at 11:00

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Holy Communion Service

Sunday 29th at 10:30

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Songs of Praise



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 1st at 11:00 **Open Door**

Led by Rev Canon Peter Ballantine

Wednesday 4th at 10:00 **1st Wednesday Communion**

Led by Rev Prof John Beazley

Sunday 8th at 10:00 **Harvest Festival
Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Canon Chuks Iwuagwu

Sunday 15th at 10:00 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Prof John Beazley

Sunday 22nd at 10:00 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Stephanie Hibberd

Sunday 29th at 10:30

Led by Rev Canon Chuks Iwuagwu

and at 18.00 **All Souls Service**

Led by Rev Canon Chuks Iwuagwu

Sunday Sitting Room at 17:00 on Zoom every week

Contact greatlinford@googlemail.com for joining details

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.

5 WAYS CAFÉ at St. Andrews' Church

11.00am to 1.00pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month

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.



St. James', New Bradwell

Sunday 1st at 10:00 **Harvest Thanksgiving
Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Duncan Barnes

Sunday 8th at 10:00 **Open Door Service**

Led by The Open Door Team

Sunday 15th at 10:00 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Dave Talks

Sunday 22nd at 10:00 **Morning Worship**

Led by Helen Rouse LLM

Sunday 29th at 10:30 **Holy Communion Service with Healing**

Led by Rev Duncan Barnes

and at 15.00 **All Souls Service**

Led by Helen Rouse LLM

Most services will be live-streamed to St James' Facebook page at:

[St James Church, NB | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/StJamesChurchNB)

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 1st at 09:30 All Age Worship

Led by Margaret Moakes LLM

Sunday 8th at 09:30 Holy Communion Service

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 15th at 09:30 Holy Communion Service

Led by Fr Jonathan Ewer SSM

Sunday 22nd at 09:30 Holy Communion Service

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 29th at 10:30 Holy Communion Service

Led by Rev Hannah Akibo-Betts

and at 15.00 All Souls Service

Led by Rev Prof John Beazley

There is a form in the church porch each Sunday, so that those who would like names of departed loved ones read out at that service can put those names on the form.

Please pray for the **Care Homes in Neath Hill & Downs Barn** as we conduct a Church Service and Holy Communion on **Sunday 22nd at 3.00pm and 4.00pm** respectively. 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 October 5th**. 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. Come along on **Tuesday 17th October** and be entertained by **U3lele**, a ukelele band. (See attached poster for further details)

Thank you to all who have viewed and commented on the options for improving the church's facilities during Heritage Week. The response to the 10-day public consultation has been extremely positive and encouraging. In addition to feedback, offers of help, advice, contacts and even unsolicited donations have resulted. Also, the Oxford Diocese, Heritage England, Milton Keynes City Council Conservation, and the Heritage Fund have all expressed approval of the care with which the project is being explored and have positioned it to move forward should the church so wish.

The Congregation Leadership Team is now considering the consultation findings and will decide if and how the project should proceed to complete the feasibility stage. If you any further thoughts, please email HHC@willenchurch.org by 16th October so that they can ensure their forward planning is considered and well informed.

Future Events

Saturday 14th 19:30

Details on attachment

Autumn Band Concert at St. James'



Monday 16th 08:30 – 17:00 **MK Can**

Details on page 8

Tuesday 31st 5.00-7.00pm **Glow in the Dark Party**

At St James' Church, New Bradwell. (See attached poster for full details).

External Ecumenical News

News from Diocese of Oxford

New Director of People

Mrs Charnelle Stylianides is the new Oxford Diocese Director of People.



This senior leadership role prioritises well-being, safeguarding, racial justice, diversity and inclusion, not just for Church House but across the diocese. “The opportunity to work with the diocese and Bishop Steven is what drew me to apply,” says Charnelle, a practicing Roman Catholic. The role has a “really wide remit”.

“HR functions tend to be regarded as being internally facing, providing a service to the staff,” she says. “But the team at the diocese has an external focus as well. They support parishes, clergy and communities that exist and live outside of the head office. There’s the opportunity to influence and bring about change on key portfolios such as diversity, equality and inclusion, so that the expert knowledge held within Church House is able to filter through the wider church community.” Charnelle comes to the diocese having recently held the role of Interim Chief People Officer at the global children’s charity World Vision. Previously she was Chief People Officer for Picker Institute, a healthcare charity, and is currently doing consultancy work for Oriel College.

She will undoubtedly help us to deliver the diocesan strategy and find creative solutions for the ongoing organisational challenges that we face. Charnelle worships in Witney and at the Carmelite Community based at Boars Hill. “A contemplative and prayerful dialogue with God is a golden thread that runs through every aspect of my life,” says Charnelle. “God is my ultimate CEO.”

New Head of Discipleship and Social Justice

The Revd Joanna Gallant is the new Head of Discipleship and Social Justice. She joins the Department of Mission and Ministry with over 20 years’ experience in a range of urban and rural parish ministry in the Diocese of Oxford. Most recently, Joanna has been the Team Vicar at St Francis of Assisi Terriers since 2019.



Joanna has a keen interest in Spiritual Direction and Christian Spirituality having founded a spirituality and retreat centre and designed and taught spiritual direction courses. During her various parish ministry, Joanna has used her spiritual direction and prayer ministry to develop and deliver discipleship groups and study for different age groups. “I am passionate about enabling others to grow as disciples of Jesus, and to confidently live out their faith in ways that bring real, Kingdom-shaped, change to every aspect of life; personally, locally, and globally. I’m looking forward to working together to build on the excellent foundations seen in the [Personal Discipleship Plans](#) and [Come and See](#) as we seek to serve parishes and

churches across the diocese in becoming more Christ-like church for the sake of God’s world.” Prior to ordination in 2002, Joanna was a professional dancer, teacher and Special Needs Support worker. She has also been a Prison Chaplain, Vocations Adviser, Tutor at Trinity College and Ripon College and Spiritual Director. Joanna is the Co-Founder of [Ancient](#)

[Pathways for New Perspectives](#), a spiritual direction course she designed and teaches, and Founder of Pelagos Spirituality and Retreat Centre in Buckinghamshire. Joanna is also a volunteer with [On Fire for Mission](#), where she teaches and leads creative services, and delivers workshops and prayer walks. Joanna is part of the [Wycombe Homeless Connection](#) where she facilitates pastoral and prayer ministry training for volunteers.

News from the Methodist Circuit



Supported by:

mkfm MK Arts Theatre MKCC FOOD BANK

Disability FIRST AVENUE SUPPLIES MILTON KEYNES ROSE The Parks Trust M College JOHN LEWIS M & M

Do you want to help break the World Record for the longest line of food cans?

MK Food Bank are mobilising the Milton Keynes community to gather 132,000 cans around Campbell Park, if your business, group or charity want to join, head to our website!

Entry forms here: mkfoodbank.org.uk/mk-can

Date for diary - October 16th 2023!

News from the Regional Central Baptist Union

Statement in response to the Prime Minister's announcement on net zero policies



JOINT PUBLIC ISSUES TEAM
CHURCHES WORKING FOR PEACE & JUSTICE

The Baptist Union of Great Britain
 The Methodist Church
 The United Reformed Church

We are dismayed that the Prime Minister is delaying the implementation of policies to achieve net zero. As Christian leaders we are deeply committed to encouraging all within our sphere of influence to be ambitious in reaching net zero as we seek to care for God's creation. This transition must be rapid, equitable and just.

At a time when so many people are struggling financially, the government has a crucial role to play in ensuring the cost of transition to net zero does not fall most heavily on those least able to afford it. Delaying measures to insulate homes will have the opposite effect, and slowing efforts to reduce fossil fuel use will increase climate impacts on vulnerable communities around the globe.

Extreme weather events this year have demonstrated the urgency of the situation. The independent Climate Change Committee have assessed that even current policy measures are insufficient to meet the UK's climate targets. The government needs to urgently demonstrate how it will get the UK back on track to reach net zero before 2050.

The commitments made at COP26 were instrumental in providing confidence to industry, investors and civil society that the UK was serious about rising to the climate challenge. It is a source of extreme disappointment that the Prime Minister's announcement will damage that confidence and undermine our collective efforts. As a country, we have moral and legal responsibilities to show leadership in tackling the climate emergency together.

Revd Lynn Green, General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain

Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson, Moderator of General Assembly, United Reformed Church

Revd Gill Newton, President of the Methodist Conference

Deacon Kerry Scarlett, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

22nd September 2023

News from The United Reformed Church



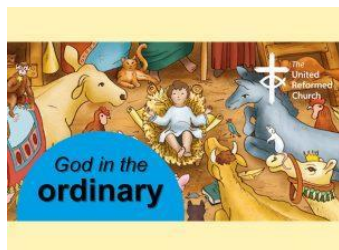
Full To The Brim, The 2024 United Reformed Church (URC) Prayer Handbook is now available to order.

The book is edited by the Revd Stephen Ansa-Addo and the Revd Sue McCoan, and its themes of fullness and emptiness run throughout the Bible. The prayers gathered in this book speak of different kinds of fullness – fullness of blessing, fullness of being too busy – and of the need, sometimes, to empty ourselves in order to be filled afresh.

The first section follows the lectionary, with a prayer based on one or more of the set readings for each week. For the second section, people were invited to interpret the idea of 'full to the brim' in whatever way resonated with them.

Full To The Brim is available in two sizes:

A5 standard and A4 lectern, £5.99 and £11.99 +p&p respectively.



The United Reformed Church's 2023 Advent resource for families, God in the Ordinary, is available for pre-ordering.

The focus this year is on helping people find God in their daily lives as well as in the Christmas story.

The Children's and Youth Work Team will produce suggestions for how churches can use the pack for outreach and with their congregations. For more information on this, please email the

team at childrens.youth@urc.org.uk

The slightly subsidised packs are priced as affordable as possible at:

£3 for a single pack +p&p

£28 for a pack of 10 (£2.80 each) +p&p

£65 for a pack of 25 (£2.60 each) +p&p

The Children's and Youth Work Team, which will be preparing the packs for distribution, would like to receive pre-orders by mid-October. The packs should be available for despatch from 1st November. The team will also be offering grants to cover the cost of the pack for churches needing help, meaning just the cost of postage and packaging will need to be paid.

Churches can apply via a simple application form. Please email the team at children.youth@urc.org.uk to submit your pre-order or to apply for the grant.

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)

News from the Partnership Green Champions

Eco Laundry Detergent Sheets

I have been using detergent sheets for quite a while now and was convinced I was doing my bit for the environment. They were recommended by my 'vegan' daughter-in-law. They arrive in the post in a cardboard envelope. The sheets are 14cm x 11cm (5.5" x 4.25") and look like paper and feel slightly damp. They are fragrance free, so good for sensitive skin, no fabric softener is required and there are no plastic bottles to discard. I smugly asked myself "what is there to dislike?"

When The Green Champions suggested I write a review of these detergent sheets for the newsletter, I thought I'd better find out more about them. I asked Google and found conflicting reviews. Some list detergents that they claim are 'plastic free', including the one I use, while other reviews warn that these detergents can contain micro plastics but what is the truth? Imagine my dismay when I discovered that the ones I use contain Polyvinyl Alcohol which, I am informed, is a micro plastic. Please can anyone help me find a truly plastic free detergent?

Jane Jeavons

*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 November's issue is **Wednesday 25th October** to allow me to get it to you in time to send it out for November 1st.*

John

John Porter sepnewsletter9@gmail.com

*If anyone would like an item included as the **Last Word** (max one and a half pages please) 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** is extremely short and is from me:*

Rev Dr Paul Smith

I am sure that most, if not all, of you know that Paul is recovering from a major operation. If you would like to send him a personal email please put his name in the subject line and send it via me at notices@stjamesnewbradwell.org.uk and I will ensure it gets forwarded to him through Jeanette as arranged.

Jeanette has also agreed to send regular updates on Paul's progress to me which I will pass on to your congregational Newsheet editor.