

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

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



September 2023 Newsletter

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

Partnership News

Appointment of new Priest in charge

Still good news. The shortlisting is taking place on 5th September and the two Lay interviewers from our church are David Preston, Chair of CIO Trustees and myself as Chair of SEPC. The Patron for St Mary Magdalene, Sir Paul Bottomley MP, is also interviewing, along with the clergy and 4 members of CPAS. Interviews and social meetings will be following in October.

Baptist Minister Post

Revd Lisa Kerry, the Regional Baptist Leader, is on annual leave at the moment and will be able to give us an update on her return. The advert will be on our website and Facebook page very soon, so please spread the word.

Methodist ministry

Minister's Letter September 2023: Saying Goodbye and Hello!

When Methodist Ministers move, they usually do so all around the same time over the summer. There are lots of good things about this, such as coordinating with students changing classes, schools and colleges etc. But it can also be a bit intense as there are an awful lot of goodbyes all at the same time. There will have been a lot of goodbye's for Nicola Martyn-Beck and for those that have got to know her as a member of the community, as a church leader, and as a disciple / apprentice of Jesus. Every goodbye inevitably involves a lot of sadness, so it is good to be aware of that and to use the summer to take time to pause, to not rush, and to change gear and adjust in your own time, trusting in Jesus' words at the end of the Gospel of Matthew: "I am with you always, to the very end of the age".

Like Sarah's family, you may be facing other changes too, and so are working hard to hold on to those words of Jesus. Some of you may know that Sarah's Dad, Rob, went into Milton Keynes Hospital over the summer. The various health and care team and people have been brilliant, so Rob was able to get back home and spend his last couple of weeks there with his wife, Ann, and their three daughters and family. Thanks for all the prayers and space for us over this time which although it has been sad and difficult, it has also been incredibly special.

After seven years in the Methodist Circuit in and around Hinckley, Sarah and I have also said lots of other more expected and planned for goodbyes over the summer. Without doubt it is the part of church life that we hate the most. So it was really good to see people from Hinckley who had travelled to the recent Milton Keynes Methodist Circuit Joint Welcome Service held at Newport Pagnell Baptist Church. The welcome was for Edson Dube as the new Superintendent Minister (i.e. my boss!) as well as for Sarah and me. Lots of the diversity in the Churches in and around Milton Keynes was boldly and colourfully very much on display! Some of the planning and preparations caused some serious headaches, so: many thanks to everyone who was involved in the Circuit celebration in any way! We were well and truly welcomed!

Many thanks also to everyone involved with preparing the manse in Newport Pagnell, our new home. Ministers all moving in the same few weeks leaves not enough time for redecorating etc.! We really appreciate what has been done! So after unpacking nearly all of the boxes we are beginning to move on from sad goodbyes to the better flip side of the moving coin. It is a growing privilege to start to be meeting and getting to know new neighbours and new leaders and members of the Methodist Churches in Hanslope, Newport Pagnell, and Woburn Sands, as well as those in the Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership, especially Christ Church for the foreseeable future.

Sarah and I are looking forward to journeying with you in all the Churches. We are an ecumenical family: Sarah grew up in Stony Stratford and went to St Mary & St Giles' C of E, and I grew up in a suburb on the west of Birmingham and went to the Methodist Church. I got bored of church, but after studying mechanical engineering and management at Liverpool, I started asking questions and searching for purpose. While studying robot control at Bristol, the amazingly gracious and patient minister and students at "Methsoc" gave me space to ask anything and to, eventually, be found by God. Sarah and I met while volunteering for a year's Christian community work in challenging council estates. We married, I took Sarah's surname (more on that another time!), and have three children, Ben, Lucy, and Emily, and more recently one son-in-law, one daughter-in-law, one son-in-law-to-be, and since January a granddaughter, Eliza!

When we married, I was working in Smethwick at GEC Avery designing laboratory balances. But I sensed that our greatest need is not for more technology, rather it is even more for less selfishness, for more Christ-like selflessness. So I pushed at the door of ministry in the Methodist Church which surprisingly opened wide! I trained at Queen's College in Birmingham and have dragged the family around and ministered in the Notts and Derbyshire border, Peterborough, North Bedfordshire, and Hinckley. Now we are settling in to Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes, we look forward to walking with you as we all keep wrestling with how to grow in receiving, returning, sharing, and living by Jesus' amazing grace and loving gift of himself for "us" and "them", regardless of whoever and wherever "we" and "they" are.

Yours in Christ,



Partnership wide service

Jesus, Light of the World

Tree Cathedral Service

Sunday 10 September 3.00pm-3.45pm

You are invited to this special outdoor family service at the Tree Cathedral, Newlands. Join friends and neighbours, along with vocalists, guitarists and the New Bradwell Brass Band on Sunday 10 September, 3pm, as we explore what it means to be the light of the world.

When: Sunday 10 September 3.00pm-3.45pm

Where: The Tree Cathedral, MK15 (off the V10 H5)

Who: All are welcome

The Tree Cathedral Car Park can be found off Livingstone Drive MK15 0DT
Please note, parking charges apply.



Image courtesy of The Parks Trusts

Contact: Revd Dr Sam Muthuveloe, Minister at Cross & Stables and Willen, sam.muthuveloe@gmail.com
Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

Mission, Evangelism And Discipleship Committee

Rev Chuks will return from Compassionate Leave next week and hopefully he, Sam and others will be looking to include all our LLM's and Retired Ministers in future worship and support for each other and us.

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, with the other Ecumenical Partnerships, please let me know.

Church Meeting

Our next meeting will be 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 David Preston, Chair of CIO Trustees, is hoping for October at St James' in New Bradwell.

CIO Trustees

Their next meeting is on 7th September, and I will attend the beginning of each meeting to give a verbal report on SEPC progress and answer any questions they may have. Many thanks to Ann Slee, who is the CIO Trustee Secretary and Adrian Prisk who is the CIO Trustee Treasurer.

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership Council

We next meet on 21st September at Christ Church and the Partnership Leadership Team also meet on 31st August to prepare for the following two months. If you have anything you wish us to discuss, just tell 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 pages. The Facebook groups are all public so just post your own comments.

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 [Home - Milton Keynes Heritage Association \(mkheritage.org.uk\)](http://Home - Milton Keynes Heritage Association (mkheritage.org.uk)) or pick up a brochure from supermarkets, MK Museum or Libraries. See also under Future Events section.

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 3rd at 10:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by Mike Morris

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

Led by The Rt Rev Bishop Steven of Oxford

Sunday 17th at 10:30 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Canon Chuks Iwuagwu

Sunday 24th at 10:30 **All Age Worship**

Led by tba



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 3rd at 10:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by John and Jenny Boxwell

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

Led by Maggie Prisk

Sunday 17th at 10:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by Colin Taylor LLM

Sunday 24th at 10:30 **Morning Worship with Communion**

Led by Rev Dave Haseldine



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

(Continued overleaf)

Saturday 16th 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.
Restarts on **7th September**.

Cross and Stable, Downs Barn

Sunday 3rd at 11:00 Signed Holy Communion

Led by Rev Peter Green

Sunday 10th at 11:00 Holy Communion Service

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 17th at 11:00 Morning Worship

Led by Stephen Fletcher LLM

Sunday 24th 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

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 3rd at 11:00 Open Door

Led by Rev Canon Chuks Iwuagwu

Wednesday 6th at 10:00 1st Wednesday Communion

Led by Rev Prof John Beazley

Sunday 10th at 10:00 Holy Communion Service

Led by Colin Taylor LLM

Sunday 17th at 10:00 Holy Communion Service

Led by Rev Prof John Beazley

Sunday 24th at 10:00 Holy Communion Service

Led by Rev Canon Chuks Iwuagwu

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 3rd at 10:00 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith

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

Led by Helen Rouse LLM

Sunday 17th at 10:00 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith

Sunday 24th at 10:00 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Margaret Goodall



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 3rd at 09:30 **All Age Worship**

Led by Margaret Moakes LLM

Sunday 10th at 09:30 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 17th at 09:30 **Communion by Extension**

Led by Margaret Moakes LLM

Sunday 24th at 09:30 **Morning Worship Service**

Led by Stephen Fletcher LLM



Please pray for the **Care Homes in Neath Hill & Downs Barn** as we conduct a Church Service and Holy Communion on **Sunday 17th 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 September 7th**. 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.

September 19th when *Saxophrenia*, a Sax quartet will be playing classics, pop and more.

Future Events

Heritage week September 8th - 17th

Willen have a list of the events happening for Heritage week (please see attachment), including on the 8th at 10:30 a Public Meeting to display and consult on the proposed plans for the Hooke Heritage Centre and on the 9th from 10:00 until 5:00 a Ride and Stride Day with Plants and Refreshments.

Saturday 9th

St James is planning to open the church from 10:00 to 16:00 offering refreshments not only to anyone taking part in the Bucks Historic Ride and Stride event but all who care to drop in to have a look around the church and a chat.

Saturday 16th

St Andrew's Heritage Open Day,

Once again, we will open our building to visitors as part of the Great Linford Manor Park Heritage Open Day (theparkstrust.com) and our flyer is attached.

It'll be a day of non-stop activities appealing to all ages but for a more sedate experience (!) St Andrews offers plenty to look at and take part in plus the tea and cake for which we're well-known.

Interestingly, the adjacent MK Arts Centre (miltonkeynesartscentre.org) will also be celebrating the rich cultural history of Afghanistan and its people with music, art and food plus free workshops.

There will be plenty of parking signposted, both near the church and on Marsh Drive.

5 WAYS CAFÉ at St. Andrews' Church

11am to 1pm on Tuesdays 12th & 26th September

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!).*

External Ecumenical News

News from Diocese of Oxford

Appointment of new Sub Dean of Christ Church

The King has approved the appointment of the Revd Canon Peter Moger as Sub Dean of Christ Church, Oxford.

New Head of Discipleship and Social Justice

The Revd Joanna Gallant has been appointed as the new Head of Discipleship and Social Justice for the Diocese of Oxford.

Big Butterfly Count

Could you meet a Lady, glimpse an Admiral or even spot a Peacock? Wildlife charity Butterfly Conservation invites us all to take part in this year's Big Butterfly Count

News from the Regional Central Baptist Union

Peace Sunday is September 24th

Joint Public Issues Team: The Baptist Union of Great Britain, The Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church working together for peace and justice.

News from the Methodist Circuit

Multi-sensory worship for those living with Dementia at 11.00 every first Wednesday in Woolstone. Please follow the link for more information:

<http://mkmethodist.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Dementia-Worship.png>

News from The United Reformed Church

Digital congregation receives its first members

On 21st August 2023 yoURChurch, a United Reformed Church (URC) congregation which meets exclusively online, recently received its first members at a Communion service. At the service led by the Revd Clare Downing, Moderator of the North Western Synod, 11 people were received.

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 Churches

Inspiring Webinars from A Rocha Events

See <https://arocha.org.uk/events/> for full details and to register.

Thursday 14th September 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

Getting Started with Eco Church [online]

This webinar will tell you everything you need to know to get started. Come along if you've heard of Eco Church but haven't started yet, and want to know a little more before you take the plunge. The webinar will answer question like: "What is Eco Church? Why take part? How does the award scheme work?"

Tuesday 19th September 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

Working towards an Eco Church award and maintaining momentum [online]

This webinar is aimed at people in churches who have registered for Eco Church and taken their first steps, but need a little help to get things going and work towards their Bronze or Silver award. The webinar will cover typical barriers, and give you tips on how to get around them and maintain your momentum.

Tuesday 26th September 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Working towards net zero carbon [online]

This webinar looks at the links between Eco Church and Net Zero Carbon; how they are different and how they inter-connect. It will focus mainly on the 'Buildings' section of the Eco Church survey, since it is heating and lighting a church building which creates most of a church's carbon footprint.

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

John

John Porter sepnewsletter9@gmail.com

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

There is no **Last Word** item this month as there is more than enough information already in the newsletter, but 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'.