

# Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

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



## November 2023 Newsletter

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

### Partnership News

#### **Appointment of new Priest in charge**

David Preston and I have both been in contact with the Diocese of Oxford to try and push this forward, but we have been informed that the staff who control these issues will not be discussing a new advert until November. We have explained the burden of this vacancy and illness on all our other ministers, so they are aware of our dire situation. I am as frustrated as you are.

#### **Appointment of new Baptist Minister**

We are no further along with this appointment at the moment. So frustrating, but I will let you know as soon as I know of any movement to fill this vacancy.

#### **Partnership wide service**

Thank you to all our ministers and the volunteers who work so hard in the service of our Lord for our church.

The MK Remembrance Day ceremony will be at the Rose on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November. Please arrive by 10:30 as it will begin at 10:45. Ann Harris will also put details on Churches Together website and the various Facebook groups that she contributes to, including Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership website. Thanks to Paul Brookman, of Bradwell Church, for keeping this updated for us.

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

I have left the paragraph below from last month as this is an area of development for us. Thanks to Ann Fountaine who has offered to help with the administration of this plan. Ann Harris, from Churches Together, has developed a blank plan for all LEPs in MK to use. This is a sheet where all our ministers will state when they are available, and at which church, and from that information our Worship Plan will be developed by those in the small team, who have conscientiously helped to provide us with services for some time.

*'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 at 18:00 on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> 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 will arrange this for January 2024. He has provided the qualifications of the course provider and the course attendees. I'll let you know the exact date when Peter feels better.

### **Citizens MK!**

Nudrat Hopper has met with me and with the Trustees and David Preston, as Chair of the Trustees, has joined her in meeting other leaders of community groups. This is so we can work more closely with other groups in MK.

### **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 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 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 7.00pm at St James' in New Bradwell.**

### **CIO Trustees**

Their next meeting is on **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> November** (zoom) and the Partnership Leadership Team meet on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## **Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday**

Thank you to all our ministers for their extra effort during this sombre time.

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](mailto:secchair22@gmail.com)  
07846346809

## **Our Church Services and Events**

### **Bradwell Church, St Lawrence**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**      **Morning Worship**

*Led by Mike Morris*

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**      **Holy Communion Service**

*Led by tba*

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**      **All Age Worship**

*Led by Rev Esther Squire*

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**      **Holy Communion Service**

*Led by Rev Andy Jowitt Former vicar of Bradwell Church*



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

*Led by Colin Taylor LLM*

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**      **Remembrance Morning Worship**

*Led by Maggie Prisk*

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**      **Morning Worship**

*Led by John and Jennie Boxwell*

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.christchurchmk.org.uk) which has the service details on it and which is updated each week

**Saturday 18<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 5<sup>th</sup> 11:00 Signed Holy Communion**

*Led by Rev Peter Green*

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> at 14:00 God's Heroes**

*See attached poster for details*

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 Holy Communion Service**

*Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe*

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 Morning Worship**

*Led by Stephen Fletcher LLM*

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 Holy Communion Service**

*Led by Rev Canon Chuks Iwuagwu*



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 [suebaines@gmail.com](mailto:suebaines@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 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Communion**

*Led by Rev Prof John Beazley*

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 Open Door Service**

*Led by Rev Canon Chuks Iwuagwu*

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 Holy Communion Service**

*Led by Rev Canon Chuks Iwuagwu*

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 Holy Communion Service**

*Led by Rev Prof John Beazley*

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 Holy Communion Service**

*Led by Rev Canon Chuks Iwuagwu*

**Sunday Sitting Room at 17:00** on Zoom every week

Contact [greatlinford@googlemail.com](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00                      Holy Communion Service**

*Led by Rev Duncan Barnes*

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00                      Remembrance Service**

*Led by Helen Rouse LLM*

**and at 15:00                      Remembrance Parade**

*Led by Rev Duncan Barnes*

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00                      Holy Communion Service**

*Led by Rev Duncan Barnes*

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00                      Morning Worship**

*Led by Rev Stephanie Hibberd*



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

*Led by Margaret Moakes LLM*

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> at 09:30                      Holy Communion Service**

*Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe*

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> at 09:30                      Holy Communion Service**

*Led by Fr Jonathan Ewer SSM*

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> at 09:30                      Holy Communion Service**

*Led by Rev Steve Barnes*



Please pray for the **Care Homes in Neath Hill & Downs Barn** as we conduct a Church Service and Holy Communion on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month – next service is **2.45 pm on November 2<sup>nd</sup>**. 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 21<sup>st</sup> November** and be entertained by **Webster & Ferguson** (See attached poster for further details)

## **Future Events**

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November**

**10:00 – 15:00**

**St James Christmas Fayre**

Stalls - Refreshments including Homemade cake.

Raffle for a Christmas Hamper. (See attached poster).

## **External Ecumenical News**

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

#### **This is the Prayer for Peace from the Archbishop of Canterbury**

God of compassion and justice.

We cry out to you for all who suffer in the Holy Land today.

For your precious children, Israeli and Palestinian.

Traumatized and in fear for their lives;

Lord, have mercy.

For the families of the bereaved, for those who have seen images they will never forget,

For those anxiously waiting for news, despairing with each passing day.

Lord, have mercy

For young men and women, heading into combat

Bearing the burden of what others have done and what they will be asked to do

Lord, have mercy.

For civilians in Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank, that they would be protected

And that every life would count and be cherished and remembered;

Lord, have mercy.

For the wounded, and those facing a lifetime of scars,

For those desperately seeking medical treatment where there is none;

Lord, have mercy

For medical and emergency personnel, risking their own lives to save those of others,

Lord, have mercy.

For those who cannot see anything but rage and violence,

that you would surprise them with mercy, and turn their hearts towards

kindness for their fellow human beings;

Lord, have mercy.

For people of peace, whose imagination is large enough

To conceive of a different way. That they may speak and act, and be heard;

Lord, have mercy.

Mighty and caring God, you promised that one day

Swords will be beaten into plough shares, meet us in our distress,

And bring peace upon this troubled land.

**Amen**

### **News from the Regional Central Baptist Union**

#### **A message from Lynn Green, General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain**

We come to you as the source of all comfort

Asking that you send your spirit to surround and uphold

All those who are grieving, all those who are suffering  
All those in fear and all those in captivity.  
May the arms of comfort and compassion overwhelm the arms of war.  
We come to you as the source of all peace  
Asking that you send your spirit to strengthen and uphold those pursuing  
An end to violence,  
Embolden those with a heart for truth and justice  
And amplify voices of wisdom and restraint.  
May the light of peace and reconciliation overwhelm the darkness of destruction.  
We come to you as the source of all hope  
Asking that you send your spirit to bring about a future,  
Where neighbours embrace despite their differences,  
Where love conquers hate  
Humility surpasses pride,  
And where forgiveness is treasured as a fundamental strength.  
May the hope of a day when weapons of conflict will be transformed  
Into tools of reconciliation be realised soon.  
So there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain,  
For the old order of things will have passed away.  
**Amen**

## **News from the Methodist Circuit**

Presidential designates have been elected for 2024/2025.

Rev. Helen Cameron will serve as President and Mrs Carolyn Godfrey to serve as Vice President, starting their year of office with the Representative Session of the Methodist Conference in Leeds June 2024.

The Rev. Gill Newton has been elected and inducted as President of the Methodist Conference, alongside Vice President, Deacon Kerry Scarlett.

The induction took place on Saturday 24 June at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole, during the Methodist Conference.

If you missed their addresses, you can find them on the Methodist website. They both talk about what treasure looks like in our personal lives and how we can find it in our communities and churches.

## **News from The United Reformed Church**

In the November issue of Reform, Stephen Tomkins speaks to Anthony Reddie, recently appointed Oxford University's first ever Professor of Black Theology. They talk whiteness, the church role in empire-building and the decision to roll out anti-racist training across the united Reformed Church – a process that Anthony will lead.

In the face of the Israeli-Hamas war, Stephen also makes space for reflection and there is a full report on the initial response of faith communities to the situation.

Viv Henderson learns from 'Jesus' role as a healer, and Barbara Bennett wonders about the difference between worship and performance.



There is also a warning about 'pressing record' from preacher and comedian, Paul Kerensa, and four writers make their case for a book of the Bible we should spend more time with.

The magazine is out on 30<sup>th</sup> October.

Sharron, Chair of SEP [secchair22@gmail.com](mailto: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 Tip for November



It might seem to be a strange time to be thinking about bird boxes, but Autumn is the season in which many of our resident birds slowly begin the process of looking for nest sites for next year. Therefore, it is a really good idea to get as many new boxes up as you can, before the end of the autumn season, as it will make it more likely for boxes to be used next spring.

– For most species, place a box so that it is facing east, southeast or possibly even south, to keep it out of the prevailing wind and rain. This will ensure that the box stays reasonably warm which will help with the hatching rates.



- Avoid placing boxes immediately next to busy footpaths or roads and if you have family pets (cats or dogs) hide boxes away from areas that they frequently use.
- Sightlines are important too; make sure that there are branches nearby that the bird can land on before going into the box. This will save energy when feeding young birds and when teaching the young to fly.
- Boxes should be put up just above head height (5'10" to 6'5"). This will reduce the risk of predators attempting to access the boxes.
- Consider buying a metal plate around the entrance hole which will also prevent predation from species like great spotted woodpeckers.

**Swift boxes** – there are groups in Wolverton

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/274116550450328> and New Bradwell

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/560478745730017> who can advise on installing artificial nestboxes for swifts and martins. They are particularly keen on advising how to install these in church belfries

<https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/guidelines-for-installing-swift-nest-boxes-in-church-belfries/>

*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 December's issue is **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November** to allow me to get it to you in time to send it out for December 1<sup>st</sup>.*

*John*

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

*I'm not including a **Last Word** item this month as there is probably more than enough information to take in already.*

*However 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'. JP*