

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

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



June 2024 Newsletter

Welcome to the June edition of the Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership Newsletter, (also see website at www.stantonbury.net).

Partnership News

Partnership wide services on the fifth Sunday

The next one will be at Christ Church on June 30th and will be a 6.00pm Evensong with a Methodist lead.

The following one will be at St James on September 29th at 3.00pm. This will be Revd. Paul Smith's farewell service.

The final one this year will be on December 29th and has yet to be planned.

The Tree Cathedral Service is open to all and will be an Ecumenical service on Sunday 15th September at 3.00pm.; the last day of the National Heritage Week. Bradwell Silver Band will play from 2.30pm.

Appointment of new Anglican and Baptist Ministers

It is my very great pleasure to announce the ministerial vacancies have been able to filled with excellent applicants. Revd. Phil Dunning will be our new Baptist Minister from September 2024. Phil, his wife and son will move from South Wales into the Bradwell Vicarage. Revd. Chibuzor Okpala (Chi), will be our new Anglican Team Rector from September 2024. We are not sure which house he, his wife and two daughters will live in when he moves here from Wolverton. I will write more next month but please ask your Church Wardens for more information as they have met the two new Ministers.

Revd. Canon Chuks Iwuagwu

Please hold Chuks and his family in your prayers as he moves to his new abode, just outside Glasgow.

Church (six congregations) Meeting

The last meeting was feedback and reflection on the marvellous work on the six-week theme of Inclusivity by Duncan and his team at St James. He will help put together this planning again next year, but start it earlier and include more Bible Study.

Mission, Evangelism, Discipleship and Worship Committee

I have now created an email group for 21 working, retired and Lay Ministers. I hope to include them all in the next round of availability so that our dedicated team of three will be able to share the load of Sunday Worship, leaving more time for Pastoral support. I am still liaising with Dave Haseldine on this.

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership Council

Thank you for your service as a Church Officer, in whatever voluntary role you undertook, and welcome if this is new to you. If you are new, please remember to complete a DBS; Gill Wood at St James or Gill Grant at Cross and Stable, will verify your DBS form for you.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: The next SEP Council Meeting is at **7.30pm on Thursday 18th July** and will be held at St Andrew's.

Social Media

Thank you to Paul Brookman and 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.

If anyone can start an Instagram or X account for the SEP please get in touch with me.

SEP CIO Website

We would like to start a small working group to look at our website becoming more Partnership focussed to support Paul in the information that is put on. He has been supporting our website for a long time and we need to look at ways of making it accessible to many who will then not need to ring or email our ministers. This is not a teccy working group, but a group of people who want to share how they would be more able to use our website.

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 to all.
Sharron, Chair of SEP
secchair22@gmail.com
07846346809

News from the Trustees

The SEP website (stantonbury.net) now contains several pages of information from the Trustees. From the side menu, you can access:

- SEP Trustee Meeting Minutes - these are password protected and available to members of the Partnership by emailing sep.trustee.secretary@gmail.com, stating which congregation you belong to.

- SEP Agreement, Governance and Procedures - this contains the AGM papers, CIO Constitution, Partnership Agreement, Governance (Operating Procedures) and the Policies approved by the Trustees so far.

Our Church Services and Events

Bradwell Church, St Lawrence

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

Led by Rev Esther Squire

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

Led by Rev Dr Paul, Smith

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

Led by Maggie Prisk

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

Led by Rev Canon Chuks Iwuagwu

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

Led by Rev Dave Haseldine



Services are frequently live-streamed on Facebook using the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/BradwellChurchMK>

Gardening Club on Wednesdays 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 Rev Canon Peter Ballantine

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

Led by Rev David Nash

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

Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith

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

Led by Rev Stephanie Hibberd

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

Led by John and Jenny Boxwell



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 Morning Worship**

Led by Helen Rouse LLM

Sunday 9th at 11:00 **Morning Worship**

Led by Stephen Fletcher LLM

Sunday 16th at 11:00 **Holy Communion**

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 23rd at 11:00 **Holy Communion**

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 30th at 11:00 **Songs of Praise**

Led by Rev Prof John Beazley



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

Please pray for the **Care Homes in Neath Hill & Downs Barn** as we conduct a Church Service and Holy Communion on **Sunday 23rd 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.

St. Andrews', Great Linford

Sunday 2nd at 10:00 **Open Door**

Led by Churchwarden Stephen Hutchings

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

Led by Rev Prof John Beazley

Sunday 9th at 10:00 **Holy Communion by extension**

Led by Helen Rouse LLM

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

Led by Rev Prof John Beazley

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

Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith

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

Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith

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

Join us to enjoy good company, refreshments, a selection of board games, Pete on the piano and, for those wanting a bit of exercise, an accompanied walk in Great Linford Manor Park.

In addition on the 2nd Tuesday of each month local artist Jane Charles will be leading 'Coffee & Craft - accessible art for everyone', this is a joint venture between 5Ways, Friends of Great Linford Manor Park and the Parks Trust, so come along and see what you can do! All are welcome to 5Ways - we aim to be dementia friendly.

St. James', New Bradwell

Sunday 2nd at 10:00 **Holy Communion**

Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith

Sunday 9th at 10:00 **Open Door**

Led by The Open Door Team

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

Led by Rev Duncan Barnes

Sunday 23rd at 10:00 **Morning Worship**

Led by David Sawyer

Sunday 30th at 10:00 **Holy Communion with healing**

Led by Rev Duncan Barnes

Services are live-streamed most weeks to St James' Facebook page.

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 Morning Worship**

Led by Margaret Moakes LLM

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

Led by Rev Hannah Akibo-Betts

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

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 23rd at 09:30 **Holy Communion**

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

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

Led by Helen Rouse LLM



The monthly communion service at **Oaktree Court, Portland Drive** will be at **2.45 pm on June 6th**. Anyone who would like to join us, and stay for a cup of tea afterwards, would be welcome. Please speak to Margaret Moakes.

Volunteer Gardening at St Mary Magdalene Church. Join volunteers as they continue in 2024 with the upkeep of the churchyard. New faces welcome! **Saturdays 10am – 12pm**. Even if you only come sometimes speak to Sharron about joining the WhatsApp group.

The next of the **Second Saturday at Three** presentations organised by Willen Village Heritage Association at St Mary Magdalene Church Willen will be on Saturday **June 8th at 3.00pm**. David Muston, Chair Milton Keynes Heritage Association shares research by the Calverton Records Project in his talk "If only walls could talk" -

- Murder of Lady Grace Bennet;
- A terrible accident whilst duck hunting;
- The real meaning of Witch circles.

Please join for complimentary cake and coffee, and chat about our local history. Donations welcome.

T.T.T.T (Third Tuesday at Twelve Thirty) Pop along to St Mary Magdalene Church Willen and be entertained by **Fadin' Shoes** on **Tuesday June 18th, 12.30 - 1.15**. Pop in during your lunch break. Walking the dog or just passing by, stay for a while or the whole 45 minutes. Complimentary cake and coffee. Donations to Church Restoration & Hooke Heritage Project

External Ecumenical News

We want to plan for our future in faith and church and ministry. If anyone reading this is thinking their future may lie in any level of ministry, please speak to your minister or drop me a line.

News from Diocese of Oxford

Growing congregations

Evidence gathered through the Statistics for Mission study shows recovery from the pandemic lockdowns has continued, and attendance has reached 84% of the 2019 level, up from 81% in 2022. This represents an average of an extra three people attending each church each week.

Encouraging and inspiring youth faith



A youth worker in a Reading parish is having a significant impact in the lives of young people attending church and is reaching into the wider community, supporting knife crime prevention projects.

The Caversham Thameside and Mapledurham parish received a Development Fund grant from the diocese to help provide a youth worker for the next five years, covering the three churches in the parish.

Associate Vicar, the Revd Penny Cuthbert, explains: "When I arrived in 2016, my brief was to change the demographic of St John's as we had a mainly older congregation. In 2018 several new families joined the church, and we employed a part-time Children and Families Outreach Worker

which led to further growth of our children's ministry. As some of these children reached secondary school age, we realised we needed a youth worker.

"Then, following the tragic stabbing of Olly Stephens in January 2021, we set out more mindfully to create a role which would disciple our own youth, and reach into the community too – tackling knife crime.

News from the Regional Central Baptist Union

Love, Pray, Vote **THE GENERAL ELECTION WILL BE ON THURSDAY 4 JULY**

JPIT has recently launched (rather timely it turns out) three major resources for churches to consider.

1. A Hustings Resource - a comprehensive guide to arranging a local hustings event. With lots of varieties of election meetings to consider, the time is here to reach out to your local ecumenical networks and start planning.
2. A General Election issues briefing - covering the six issues that frame JPIT's work, this resource explains why we as Christians should give serious consideration to these issues and explores how the issues are relevant at this time in the UK. It also offers a list of three adaptable questions you might like to ask parliamentary candidates.
3. Voter Registration Champions. The Electoral Commission estimates that 8 million eligible voters will miss out because they are not properly registered. 4 million eligible voters will miss out because they don't have Photo ID. And 14 million eligible voters won't see the point of turning out to vote. Let's do what we can to ensure all those our churches have contact with have the ability and motivation to take part in the election.

News from the Methodist Circuit

For the second month, I cannot find any spiritual message on the Methodist Circuit MK but maybe one of our Methodist members could take on the role of providing news for us here.

Note from Peter Galsworthy SEP representative to Milton Keynes Methodist Circuit Meeting

The Milton Keynes Methodist Circuit currently has vacancies for Circuit Stewards. I learnt at the last Circuit meeting, that members in Local Ecumenical Partnerships (LEPs) can take on the Circuit Steward role & also in that role attend and contribute to Circuit leadership team meetings. This is an interesting opportunity and there is a clear benefit to the Circuit & LEPs in the arrangement.

If you are interested in taking on this role, or want more information about it, please contact me (peter.galsworthy@gmail.com).

Thanks,
Peter

News from The United Reformed Church



Does the Church have a problem with class? That's the big question *Reform* magazine is asking in June. Four experienced contributors from across the Church spectrum offer thought-provoking responses and challenge us to think about our own.

Angela Rigby asks another difficult question when she explores the world of autism and asks if Jesus' disciple Thomas was autistic. Jesus himself is the subject of John Proctor's incisive account of Christ's journey towards crucifixion.

Choppy sea crossings feature in both Paul Dean's Bible study and in David Gleed's evocative account of pilgrimages to islands around the British coast. Also making repeat appearances in this issue is the artist Caravaggio – the subject of Art in Focus but also turning up in the news pages.

Elsewhere, URC Head of Communications Andy Jackson and iChurch support team member Reuben Watt explain why churches need to make good use of their websites – and how to go about getting one if they haven't got one already.

TV's *Taskmaster* gets the critical eye of *Reform's* TV reviewer, and Editor Steve Tomkins finds there's more to the big screen comedy *The Book of Clarence* than he had expected.

Thank you for reading this,
Sharron Chair of SEP CIO Council 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 June

Guppy Bags

Plastic pollution is a global problem . Microplastics are minute pieces of plastic, invisible to the naked eye, that are present in our oceans.

Have you heard about Guppy bags? They are laundry bags that filter out the microplastic fibres which are shed from synthetic clothing every time it is washed. One ecologist estimates that one single piece of clothing can shed about 1,900 pieces of microfibrils in one wash.

Although not a perfect solution Guppy bags can reduce the amount of microplastics entering our water system and are easily available from online retailers. It is worth doing some research to help you decide whether it's one thing you could do towards reducing plastic pollution in our oceans.

[Guppyfriend washing bag review: The laundry bag that filters microplastics | CNN Underscored](#)

[Does Guppyfriend work?? Guppyfriend bag review - ZERO WASTE THINGS](#)

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 July's issue is **Tuesday 25th June** to allow me to get it to you in time to send out before the beginning of July.*

John

John Porter sepnewsletter9@gmail.com