

# Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

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



## April 2025 Newsletter

Welcome to the April edition of the Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership Newsletter, (also see website at [www.stantonbury.net](http://www.stantonbury.net)).

### Partnership News

#### Pastoral Letter – April 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

**Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!**

As we enter April, we find ourselves in the most sacred time of the Christian year. **Holy Week** leads us into the deep mystery of Christ's suffering, death, and glorious resurrection. This is the very heart of our faith—**Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29), has triumphed over death and opened the way to eternal life.**

#### **Walking with Christ Through Holy Week**

I invite you all to journey together through **Holy Week**, from the **joyful procession of Palm Sunday** to the intimacy of the **Last Supper on Maundy Thursday**, the solemn reflection of **Good Friday**, and the silence of **Holy Saturday**, before the **light of Easter morning breaks forth**. Each of these moments draw us deeper into the love of Christ, who humbled Himself for our sake and calls us to follow Him.

On **Maundy Thursday**, we remember Jesus' command to love and serve one another, as we commemorate the washing of feet and the institution of the Lord's Supper (*John 13:14-15*). **Good Friday** leads us to the cross, where we witness Christ's ultimate act of love and sacrifice (*Isaiah 53:5*). But beyond the sorrow, we know the joy of Easter awaits—the **empty tomb, the risen Christ, and the victory of life over death** (*Matthew 28:6*).

I encourage you all to take part in these services, to **come and be renewed by the power of the resurrection**. And as we celebrate Easter, let us be reminded that the **hope of Christ is not just for one day, but for all of life**—transforming our sorrows into joy and our doubts into faith.

#### **Mothering Sunday – A Time of Thanksgiving**

I extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended the **SEP-wide Mothering Sunday service at St Andrew's Church, Great Linford**. It was a wonderful occasion to give thanks for the love and care we receive, not just from our earthly families but

from our spiritual family in Christ. May we continue to nurture and support one another, bearing witness to God's love in our churches and beyond.

### **A Sad Loss – Remembering Revd Peter Dudeney**

It is with deep sorrow that I share the news of the passing of **Revd Peter Dudeney**, a faithful Methodist minister who served tirelessly until his retirement. Peter was a beloved member of our church community, known for his wisdom, kindness, and unwavering dedication to the Gospel. We **hold in our prayers his wife, Glynis, who serves as one of our SEP organists**, and their family as they grieve his loss. May God's peace and comfort surround them in this difficult time (*Psalms 34:18*).

### **A Call to Serve – Volunteers Needed**

As we continue in our mission as a church, we need more people to step forward and serve in various capacities. We are looking for volunteers to take on roles such as:

Churchwardens, Safeguarding Officers, Vergers, Readers and Worship Leaders, Welcoming and Hospitality Teams (tea, coffee, and greeting newcomers), Members of the SEP Board of Trustees, Church Congregational Leadership Team

The church is not built on the work of a few, but on the gifts and service of many. As 1 Peter 4:10 reminds us: ***"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."***

Please prayerfully consider offering yourself for nomination and election. Your service, no matter how small it may seem, makes a huge difference in the life of our churches and in the Kingdom of God.

### **Living as Easter People**

Easter is not just a celebration—it is a calling. We are called to **live as Easter people, filled with the hope and joy of the risen Christ**. Just as Jesus transformed His disciples' despair into faith, He calls us to be bearers of His light in a world that desperately needs it.

In the coming weeks, may we seek to deepen our relationship with Christ, to serve our communities with love, and to proclaim boldly: **"The Lord is Risen Indeed!"**

### **A Prayer for Easter**

*Risen Lord, we praise You for Your victory over sin and death. Fill our hearts with the joy of Your resurrection. Strengthen us to be Your witnesses, sharing Your love and truth with the world. May we live as people of hope, reflecting Your light wherever we go. Amen.*

Wishing you all a blessed and joyful Easter!

**Yours in Christ,  
Revd. Chibuzor Okpala  
Team Rector**

## **Update from SEP Mission/Vision Enabler - Rev Phil Dunning**

*Greetings to you all - for April; the month when together we mark the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ - remembering all that he did and achieved for our salvation.*

*...may the Lord truly bless our witness to Christ this Easter*

The SEP MED Group - 'Mission, Evangelism, Discipleship' - held its first meeting last month, which was a productive time for a first meeting. Copies of the notes we have made are freely available from me, and I've got paper copies now into most of our Churches. We are looking for representation from every church.

**...please interact with us on ideas and initiatives you think will help us 'together as churches'.**

Our next meeting will be Monday 19th May at 7.30pm - LIVE at Christchurch, or online via our open zoom link...

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82602980531?pwd=QXF1NFFEZndveUR6K1pwazZ3cit3dz09>

*I'm currently looking at three particular areas - arising from our discussions...*

**House Group/Bible Study meetings** - We are currently enjoying a joint study for Lent, and beyond that I'm intending now to coordinate all the various group meetings already happening within our churches, and advertise them *so that any friends can attend any of our groups*. Having exact knowledge of when and where group meetings occur will enable as many members as possible to share with us.

...I recognise some of the groups are long established, with trusted friends, however we should always be open to receive new members and insight.

...there is a possibility of a new group beginning after Easter - this will be advertised too.

**Sunday Evening Service** - There is now no evening worship offered by any of the partnership churches. There is an opportunity therefore to organise at least a once monthly evening service together, and rotating that around the churches - so that none are overburdened.

...I will be talking to the Ministers together on this, and organising a new evening service rota soon. One thought we've had is that these services should be in a different format to our established morning worship services.

**Different Worshipping Communities** - I've become aware of 'so many different' Church services with different groups operating within our geographical area. Some are even using our SEP buildings. I'm keen that we don't see these groups as 'competition', but to encourage, enable and link with them - to promote the Gospel and love of Christ where we are.

...I'm currently working with particular friends to provide space for their new church plant within one of our churches. When you see them happening 'encourage them' and even attend their services - particularly when its at a time or place that really suits you!. This should not detract at all from our links to the SEP established congregations.

The Lord bless you

**Rev Phil Dunning**

[philipdunning21@gmail.com](mailto:philipdunning21@gmail.com)

## **Message from Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe**

### **LIVING TODAY WITH THE END IN MIND**

As we enter the Passion week, during this time of Lent and meditate on the events of Good Friday, we are reminded of our own mortality, but thanks be to God we have the resurrection Sunday Easter to come.

As Christians we are a people of hope, for in grief we have joy and in death we have life because Jesus who died for us rose again, so shall we live for ever more in the presence of the Lord. This is our creed, our hope and the unexplainable joy we have, because of what Jesus Christ did for our sakes on the Cross of Calvary. He took our sins away therefore we are made perfect and justified – just as if we did not sin – made holy before God.

I write this today [on 01/03/25] with the permission of a dear church member Frances Jeffries, who is now running the last lap of her life. She is four score and ten, 90+ and has lived a full and successful life. Her physical body is failing her, but her mind is clear, and her faith is holding her, as she invited me to attend to her as a Priest as opposed to a Medical Doctor. She reaffirmed her faith in God in Jesus Christ and said she was ready for passing away, having full mental capacity and understanding. In the days of her health, she had put her house in order, for this season of her life. She chose her hymns to sing and together with her attending Carer and another Church member – we sang, celebrated Holy Communion and I anointed her with oil. Her family and friends are with her, with the expert care and support of the health care services, going through the process of “end of life care”, or Hospice at home, which is now a recognised Speciality in the NHS, bringing care into one’s own home. In life we are in death, yet as Christians in death we are in Christ.

As Christians this Lent Season we have a hope, that the world can not give, nor can it take it away. The hope of Life eternal in the presence of our God, both in life and in death. “I will never leave you, nor forsake you.” Heb 13:5.

### **Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe**

*Minister – Cross & Stable Church Downs Barn and St Mary Magdalene Willen.*

#### **P.S.**

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April my wife Ayesha & I visited Frances who was declining in health. Together with Magdalena a neighbour, a close friend of Frances for decades and the attending Carers, we sang, prayed & blessed her.

I was called in around 5am on the 11<sup>th</sup> when I medically concluded that her earthly journey here on earth had ended and Frances had entered the nearer presence of our Lord in heaven. I knelt by her bedside and said the prayers of committal with her neighbour & the Carers who were of the Christian faith.

She lived her life with the end in mind, in the fear and favour of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Her final & important service will be on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 11am at Cross & Stable Church followed by burial at Crown Hill.

### **Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe**

## **Note from Rev Dave Haseldine**

### **Funeral and thanksgiving services for Rev. Peter Dudeney**

Funeral and thanksgiving service to be at St Andrew's Church, Parklands, Great Linford, Milton Keynes, MK14 5DZ on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 9:30am followed by refreshments at St Andrew's for all, while the family attend a committal service at Crownhill Crematorium at 10:45am, before returning to St Andrew's to join everyone else.

## **Trustees**

Diana Stammers, one of our Trustees attended the last Council meeting to gather our views on the CIO so far and take away any of our thoughts on how to improve. If anyone reading this has any thoughts on what can be changed to improve our CIO please let David Preston, Chair of Trustees know.

## **Partnership wide services 2025 for your diaries**

The 2025 SEP services are June 29<sup>th</sup> , Heritage Week at the Tree Cathedral, November 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **House for duty Anglican minister**

Dave, Bishop of Buckingham, will be helping us to appoint this person, who we hope will start in September and live in the vicarage at St Andrews, Great Linford.

Advertising (Church Times, Pathways and Diocesan Website): 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 9<sup>th</sup> May, 16<sup>th</sup> May and 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

Closing Date: 29<sup>th</sup> May

Shortlisting: 10<sup>th</sup> June (in person in the evening at Stantonbury)

Interview: 19<sup>th</sup> June.

## **Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership Council**

The next meeting will be at St James' New Bradwell on Thursday before the SEPCIO AGM (where new members will be elected), is Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30.

## **Administrative Assistant**

The Closing date for this appointment was 31<sup>st</sup> March. I'll let you know the results of the interview as soon as possible.

## **Lent**

On a recent visit to St Mary Magdalene by a group of GCSE pupils from Walton High, at least one of them had given up sweets for Lent.

A Blessed Lent and a Happy Easter to you and your loved ones.  
Sharron, Lay Chair of SEPC.

## Our Church Services and Events

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

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**      **Morning Worship**

*Led by Maggie Prisk*

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**      **Holy Communion**

*Led by Rev Phil Dunning*

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> at 12.00**      **Good Friday Service**

*Led by Rev Phil Dunning*

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**      **Holy Communion for Easter Day**

*Led by Rev Canon Peter Ballantine*

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**      **Morning Worship**

*Led by Rev Canon Chi Okpala*



This month's dates for live streaming services to You Tube are March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. The You Tube link is @BradwellChurch MiltonKeynes. Simply go to You Tube, search for this and click the red live button just before the service begins.

Gardening Club comes back out of dormancy on 5<sup>th</sup> March. There is a lot to do and we really need more members see Andrew and Angela.

Bell Ringing practice every Wednesday at 19:45. Beginners welcome.

### **Christ Church, Stantonbury**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**      **Morning Worship**

*Led by Rev Phil Dunning*

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**      **Morning Worship**

*Led by John and Jenny Boxwell*

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> at 09:00**      **Easter Sunday Worship + Communion**

*Led by Rev Phil Dunning*

**and at 10.30**      **Easter Celebration**

*Led by Rev Phil Dunning*

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**      **Morning Worship with Communion + Virtual Communion**

*Led by Maggie Prisk*



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 12<sup>th</sup> at 09:30**      **Coffee and cake morning**

This a week early due to Easter.

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 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:00**      **Signed Holy Communion**

*Led by Rev Peter Green*

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:00**      **Holy Communion**

*Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe*

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:00**      **Holy Communion**

*Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe*

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00**      **Family Breakfast Club**

*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](mailto: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 27<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.

## **St. Andrews', Great Linford**

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00**      **Wednesday Communion**

*Led by Rev Prof John Beazley*

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:00**      **Open Door**

*Led by Steven Hutchings*

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:00**      **Holy Communion**

*Led by Rev Canon Chi Okpala*

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:00**      **Holy Communion**

*Led by Rev Canon Chi Okpala*

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00**      **Holy Communion**

*Led by Rev Dave Haseldine*



**Silent Reflection in the Chancel**

**9.30 to 10am prior to 11am Sunday Services** (coffee available from 10am)

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 Andrews 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Seminar Group**

You would be most welcome to join us on the first Wednesday of each month and participate in the discussion, which usually starts at about 11am. Please email [greatlinford@gmail.com](mailto:greatlinford@gmail.com) if you would like information on the current study topic. **John Beazley.**

**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**



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. Coffee & Craft with local artist Jane Charles will be back again on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays from April to September and we are hopeful of further dates – you can email [greatlinford@googlemail.com](mailto:greatlinford@googlemail.com) for the latest information. All are welcome to 5Ways - we aim to be dementia friendly

## **St. James', New Bradwell**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> at 09:30**      **Holy Communion**

*Led by Rev Duncan Barnes*

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> at 09:30**      **Open Door**

*Led by The Open Door Team*

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> at 20:00**      **Holy Communion and Vigil**

*Led by Rev Duncan Barnes*

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> at 13:30**      **Stations of the Cross**

**and at 14:30**      **Good Friday Liturgy**

*Led by Helen Rouse LLM and Mary Borrett*

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> at 09:00**      **Said Morning Prayer**

*Led by Helen Rouse LLM*

**and at 10:00**      **Easter Workshop**

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> at 06:30**      **Dawn Vigil and Holy Communion**

*Led by Rev Duncan Barnes*

**and at 09:30**      **Holy Communion for Easter Day**

*Led by Rev Canon Chi Okpala*

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> at 09:30**      **Holy Communion**

*Led by Rev Dave Haseldine*

Services are live-streamed most weeks 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 6<sup>th</sup> at 09:30**      **All Age Morning Worship**

*Led by Margaret Moakes LLM*

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> at 09:30**      **Holy Communion**

*Led by Rev Canon Chi Okpala*

**and at 16:00**      **Reflections for Holy Week with Quorum**

*Led by Rev Canon Chi Okpala*

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> at 09:30**      **Easter Sunday Holy Communion**

*Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe*

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> 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 April 3<sup>rd</sup>**. 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** is currently on a well-deserved winter break and will start again in the spring.





**T.T.T.T** (Third Tuesday at Twelve Thirty) starts again in March for the 2025 season of events. Pop along to St Mary Magdalene Church Willen and be entertained by **Rolling Home** on **Tuesday April 16<sup>th</sup>**, 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.

**LENTEN BIBLE STUDY** - a Lent Study group will be meeting weekly on Thursday evenings. during Lent at 7.00 pm in the Quaker Centre, Downs Barn. The dates of the study group meetings for this month are: 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> April.

## **Role Huddles**

Across the Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership there are groups of people with shared interests, abilities, knowledge or talents, building links between our six congregations.

These role huddles include those with an interest in:

- ❖ Eco-church
- ❖ IT, sound systems, live streaming
- ❖ Providing music for services
- ❖ Communication, social media
- ❖ Pastoral Care
- ❖ Care of our church buildings

These are very informal groups, only meeting if needed, but able to offer support.

If you are interested in finding out more, if you feel your congregation needs help with any of these, or if you could offer help, please contact me and I will put you in touch with the group.

Many thanks,

Irene [irene@tfarr.plus.com](mailto:irene@tfarr.plus.com)

## **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 Rev Chi or drop me a line.

## **News from Diocese of Oxford**

### **The Revd Andrew Blyth appointed as Director of Mission and Ministry**

Andrew said: 'It will be a huge privilege to join in with and support colleagues, parishes and communities in all God is already doing through the wonderful breadth and diversity of ministry and mission across the diocese. I am also excited to share in the challenges and the adventure, as the Holy Spirit leads in the vision to grow every form of ministry and to share and be the good news of Jesus in fresh ways'



### **Speaking up on international aid cuts**

Bishop Steven speaks about the Government's plans to cut the international aid budget. He describes his regret for the decision which will mean programmes cut in many of the poorest countries in the world.

### **Everyday Discipleship**

Explore your faith journey, reflect on discipleship, and discern where Jesus may be calling you to grow. This course offers weekly online tutorials, an on-site study day at Bletchington Village Hall on 7<sup>th</sup> June, and starts with a welcome evening on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Perfect for anyone seeking deeper discipleship or exploring a call to ministry [Register now on Eventbrite](#)

### **Register your Easter services on A Church Near You**

Now is the perfect time to freshen up your A Church Near You profile and update it with details of your upcoming Easter services. Easter is one of the busiest times for the site where visitors can search for their nearest services. Ensure you're reaching as many people as you can this year, by using the tags for easy searching.

[Visit A Church Near You](#)

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

Dear Friends

We live in challenging times, and yet... And yet together through Christ, we hold the most precious gift to the world – HOPE.

As we are busy preparing for Assembly and the mission conference we are holding in conjunction with BMS World Mission, we are reminded of Jesus' Gospel words expressing his intentions to establish his rule. In this Jesus sets the mandate for the Church - as Dietrich Bonhoeffer reminds us, 'all things are under the Lordship of Christ'.

Partaking in Christ we stand at the same time in the reality of God and in the reality of the world. The whole reality of the world has already been drawn into, and is held together in, Christ. History moves only from this centre and toward this centre. Christianity offers up a story which is of the entire world, not a small section of it. In this story God advocates from the beginning, through the Trinity, for his world. Or as Moltmann says: 'The divine Trinity is so inviting and so strong that the divine reflects itself in true human community and takes human community up into itself, 'that they also may be in us.' (John 17:21).'

Do join us for the Baptist Assembly on 16-17 May where we will gather as a Baptist community to learn more about Christ and our part in his world. And in these challenging times, may you continue to be beacons (or bearers) of Christ's hope in the places and among the people you find yourselves.

## News from the Methodist Circuit

### Our first Quarterly Circuit United Service!

We celebrated St David's Day as we came together for our first Quarterly Circuit United Service on Sunday 2nd March at Freeman Memorial Methodist Church in Bletchley.

The sun shone, the circuit choir sang and we heard stories related to Wales, St David and Mary Jones and her bible.

Thank you to everyone who took part and those who travelled from around our circuit. Our next Circuit United Service will be held on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June, 10.30am at West End United Church in Wolverton. All welcome.



### District News: New District Diary – Competition!

Revd Sonia Hicks, Chair of the Northampton District, is delighted to officially launch a competition for the upcoming **New District Website Diary**. The Diary will serve as a central online hub for key events, meetings, training and activities across our District. In celebration of this exciting new resource she is thrilled to introduce a creative competition, for children 11 and under across the District, to help name the diary and to design its logo!

In the process of looking for a creative and inspiring title, along with a simple but eye-catching logo to represent this new shared resource. The winner will receive a special prize of £50 to be presented at May's Representative Synod.

All the details can be found [here](#) and the closing date for entries is 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025.

Good Luck!

pdf copy of the poster for you to print for your church – [District Competition 2025](#)

## News from The United Reformed Church

**The United Reformed Church (URC) is holding a hymn-filled service on 3<sup>rd</sup> May to celebrate 35 years of its hymn book, *Rejoice and Sing*.**

Following on from the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary service in April 2023, where 1,200 people gathered to celebrate the first 50 years of the URC, hundreds of people will gather at the Methodist Central Hall, Coventry, on May 3<sup>rd</sup> to sing lots of hymns and to listen to those who helped create the hymn book in the late 1980s and early 1990s, sing a new hymn by Dominic Grant, with contributions from David Thompson, Stephen Orchard, Anne Sardeson, Roo Stewart, David Williams, David Jenkins, Brenda Stephenson and more.

There will also be a special contribution from one of the URC's best known hymn writers, Brian Wren. A panel discussion, chaired by the Editor of the URC's magazine, *Reform*, Stephen Tomkins, will also be part of the service.

A scratch choir, headed up by Roo Stewart, will also be created on the day, which includes an exhibition and the chance for lunch or a tea or coffee from the café at the venue.

The hymns will be accompanied the hall's organ, piano and the event worship band, led by David Williams. To reserve your **free** tickets, visit [bit.ly/reform-live](http://bit.ly/reform-live), or call 020 7691 9865. This is also the website to get directions to Methodist Central Hall, Coventry. Tell us what your favourite hymn is and why by emailing [reform@urc.org.uk](mailto:reform@urc.org.uk) or by commenting on the posts about the event on the URC's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/TheUnitedReformedChurch>.

Thank you for reading this.

Sharron, Chair of SEP CIO Council

## 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 the attachment and: [Churches Together in Milton Keynes \(ctmk.church\)](http://ctmk.church)

## News from the Partnership Green Champions

### Eco- tip April 2025

### REPAIR IT AT THE REPAIR CAFÉ

On every second Saturday of the month (except August) 9.30-12.30 a welcoming, enthusiastic and skilled group of fixers and repairers - textiles, clothing, woodworking, electrical, mechanical, computer, clocks, watches, ceramics, jewellery, bikes and more - are ready to repair broken items you bring.

Coffee, tea and cakes. Come for a cuppa and a chat.

**Address:** The Old Bath House, 205 Stratford Rd, Wolverton, Milton Keynes MK12 5RL, **Website:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/repaircafemiltonkeynes>

There's also a **Repair Cafe** in Newport Pagnell on 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month at the Mead Centre.

**MK Eco Church Network Meeting**, 5<sup>th</sup> April 10 - 12.30, Queensway Methodist Church includes a talk on **Opportunities to Reduce, Reuse, Repair and Recycle in Milton Keynes by leaders of the Repair Café Movement in MK**

*I hope that you have found this and previous newsletters over the years 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 May's issue is **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April** to allow me to get it to you in time to send out before the beginning of May.*

*John*

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