

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

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



July 2025 Newsletter

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

Partnership News

Pastoral News - July 2025

Dear friends in Christ

*'I cry out to God Most High,
to God who fulfills his purpose for me' Psalm 57*

We are in July, with long days and hot conditions which although welcome always cause concerns about nourishment and sustainability. I've been reminded of my need to be sustained in the strength of God and seek to do what he requires of me, rather than my own preferences. This is a key thought in our churches right now as we continue to face concerns with ongoing ministry cover. We need to seek God's guidance on our priorities and where he is leading us to focus.

There are a number of events and church leadership meetings in July that both round off our summer activities and prepare us for the Autumn term. One of the exciting opportunities right now is the beginnings of a work with young people particularly in Cross & Stable with the success of their Family Breakfast Club service and St James who are launching a new meeting with a group of high school age youth who enjoy attending services. Christchurch is also planning to welcome young people from the adjacent Stantonbury School in the Autumn; partnering with the School's Ethos Team particularly for a weekly after school club starting in September. Let us pray for these initiatives and God's inspiration about how together we relate particularly to this age group.

Ministry Changes

This month we will mark Rev Dave Hasledine's retirement from full time Methodist circuit ministry; a significant part of which for the last 3 years has been within SEP. We have been profoundly blessed by Dave's ministry and encouragement to us, and we will miss his thoughtful and often creative leadership. Our prayers will be with Dave, and his wife Sarah, as together they plan for a future calmer role with continuing health uncertainties. In September we will welcome his full-time replacement in the Circuit, Rev Kofi Tekyi-Ansah.

A much needed boost to the team has also just been announced, as following a successful interview process for the vacant 'House for duty' post, based at Great Linford, Rev Peterson Feital will be joining the team part time in September. Full details of Peterson's welcome and induction will follow and our prayers are with him, and wife Helen and their family, as they plan their move into the Vicarage.

Our prayers also continue over the absent Team Leader post and how matters will be resolved, with continuing thanks for all of our Licensed Ministers and lay leaders for covering services and tasks at the present time.

Joint SEP Partnership Services

We are planning for our next Joint 5th Sunday Partnership service together which will be at St James, New Bradwell, on Sunday 31st August at the usual time of 11.00am. This will be followed by - the SEP led - 'Annual Tree Cathedral Service' for Milton Keynes, which will be held in that very special place on Sunday September 21st at 4.00pm, with live band and creative prayer.

We will also worship together again to mark Advent Sunday 2025 on Sunday 30th November, which will likely be held at Cross & Stable, Downs Barn.

...all friends should mark their diaries for these special services and will be very welcome to participate with us - marking our Partnership together.

Mission, Evangelism, Discipleship (MED) Group

The next strategic meeting of the MED group is scheduled for 14th July both Live at St James' and online via zoom. All are very welcome to join in with the group.

Baptism and Confirmation classes

If you are interested in either believers baptism or confirmation of your infant baptism, please contact me. I'm hosting classes in the partnership at present. This is also in preparation for our local Ecumenical Confirmation service to be held on 16th November.

With every blessing

Rev Phil Dunning

SEP Baptist Minister and Vision Enabler

Letter from Rev Dave Haseldine

Loving the Fab 4 (John, Paul, Peter & Judas)

Dear Friends, *[Monthly Church Newsletter Article – DH Final]*

Big family celebrations don't happen very often, but recently I have had the delight and privilege of two: a Naming Ceremony and a Wedding. Such occasions can be the best chance to "waste time" with family, friends, others, long-standing and new ones. In the midst of these celebrations have been my ongoing health difficulties, needing to retire early, and Sarah and I no longer being able to share with you all the joys and challenges of trying to be like Christ and live by Grace. So those celebrations with the family and the recent times of worship with you have been incredibly precious oases, spaces to slow down, pause and to simply be in, and be thankful of, the presence of others, and of God.

The celebrations have also helped me to pause and think about how we mark the best moments that we share, what words to use, and what does it mean to be the best

human beings that we, and others, can be? Usually some of the key people in baptisms, weddings, and funerals, etc., will not be able to say with meaning and integrity all the words and theology used in most traditional Church services. So, I am growing in these convictions:

(1) That letting God's Spirit shape us to become and live like Jesus more and more *truly is* what it means for anyone to be the best human being living the best way possible (1 John 4:17).

(2) Some of the short-term consequences and costs of growing in becoming like Jesus and living by his grace, should evoke challenge, humility, fear, hope, passion, and change, in both Jesus' apprentices and others. If not, that probably means that those of us who say we are his followers are getting it very wrong about the character and ways of the Spirit and Kingdom of God.

(3) That those character and ways are best expressed, first by the way Jesus called his followers to love one another as he did, which was to love not only the best but also the worst of his followers, e.g. "the Fab 4": John (to whom he was closest), Paul (who initially persecuted Christians), Peter (who spoke first and thought later), and Judas (who betrayed Jesus).

(4) That those character and ways are best expressed, second by Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13 NIV extracts & paraphrased a bit:

Can you speak the most profound and truthful words? Can you fathom all mysteries? Can you know everything about everything? Can you do things that no-one else ever has or will? Even supposing that you can, but you do not have love: What are you? Actually, nothing! And what do you achieve? Actually, nothing!

Do you really want to be the greatest human being that God has given you the gifts to be? Then here is the most excellent way: authentic, extreme, precarious: Love.

Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and even if when it is, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not relish what's wrong but rejoices, delights, even dances with whatever turns out to be true.

It protects whenever it must, trusts whenever it can, hopes always, perseveres always. Love never fails...

Out of everything, what really is essential? What is foundational to, and connects with inseparable continuity, everything that there is now, and all that there is to come, and beyond? Ultimately, it is only three things, these three and nothing else: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is? Authentic, extreme, precarious: Love.

So thank you so much for keeping on sharing your love with Sarah and me. And I pray for you, Kofi, and everyone across the MK Circuit and Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership, that Jesus will keep on filling you afresh with God's love, so that you can keep on emptying yourselves of it, in order to love one another and others, regardless of whether they seem like John, Paul, Peter, or Judas. Amen!

[:]ave Haseldine.

I am very pleased to tell you that the Diocese of Oxford and Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership of six congregations have appointed Revd. Peterson Feital to join us. Peterson will continue to run his own business and serve with us two days a week.

He and his family will live at St Andrew's Vicarage in Great Linford. The current tenants will leave on 24th August and the house will then be checked before the Feital family move in some time during September. Peterson's licensing will be held at St James, New Bradwell, in mid September. Our thanks to Mary Kennedy and Graham Crisp, the Church Wardens there, for offering to host this service.

Thank you to everyone who helped in the interview process, especially Helen for the organising and Mary for the driving.

Please read Peterson's personal letter below to you along with a recent photograph of his family.

Sharron

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ in Milton Keynes,

As Archbishop Desmond Tutu reminded us, "*We are made for goodness. We are made for love. We are made for togetherness.*" These words beautifully capture the spirit we felt when Helen and I visited Stantonbury for my interview. We were deeply touched by your warmth, your openness, and the clear sense of shared mission in your community.

It is with great joy and anticipation that I look forward to joining the Ecumenical Partnership and walking alongside you in life, love, prayer and service. I am excited to serve the people of Milton Keynes together with you, bearing witness to the gospel in both word and action, and building bridges across traditions with grace and mutual respect.

My family and I are very much looking forward to becoming part of the community. Helen and I, along with our niece Julia and our daughter Beatriz, are preparing for this new chapter with gratitude and hope. We will also be bringing with us our rather expressive French Bulldog, Bijou, who brings a distinctively Brazilian temperament to our household, and our calm and composed cat, Biscuit, who has a thoroughly English temperament and keeps everything in balance.

In the coming weeks, as we prepare to move and settle in, please know that you are already in our hearts and prayers. I look forward to the opportunities we will have to get to know one another, to grow in faith together and to serve God's kingdom with joy and courage.

With every blessing
Rev'd Peterson Feital
Helen, Julia, Beatriz, Bijou
and Biscuit



Partnership wide services 2025 for your diaries

Please put these dates in your diary. The 2025 SEP wide services are 31st August, Heritage Week at the Tree Cathedral on 21st September at 3.00pm, and 30th November

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership Council

The next meeting will be on Thursday 17th July at 7.30. the venue is still to be decided as the first meeting of the new year hasn't taken place yet. It would be lovely to meet in each church over the coming year.

We welcome Helen Eaton, our new Administrative Assistant to this first meeting, as she will now be the SEPC Secretary; taking up the role covered so well by Irene Farr, from St James'. Helen will only work a couple of hours a week, but last week she worked like a trojan, sorting out the interview details so it all went smoothly. Revd. Phil is Helen's line manager, so please ask him if you are unsure whether to ask Helen to do something for you. Her SEP admin. phone number is 01908382458 and her email is sburyepadm@gmail.com. Our hope is that Helen will remove the burden of administrative tasks from the shoulders of our ministers and officers.

St Mary Magdalene is hosting a talk on 'Black Redcoats' on Saturday 5th July at 2.00pm. Please come along and listen to Matthew Taylor's extremely interesting presentation on this little known piece of American history.

Milton Keynes Internation Festival runs from 18th -27th July. The brochure is out so don't forget to book an event or two.

God Bless
Sharron, Lay Chair of SEPC

Our Church Services and Events

Bradwell Church, St Lawrence

Sunday 6th at 10:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by Rev Phil Dunning

Sunday 13th at 10:30 **Holy Communion**

Led by Rev Lisa Kerry

Sunday 20th at 10:30 **Holy Communion**

Led by Rev Phil Dunning

Sunday 27th at 10:30 **Holy Communion**

Led by tba



Most services are live streamed to You Tube. 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 on Wednesday's at 10:00. 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 6th at 10:30

Led by Maggie Prisk

Morning Worship

Sunday 13th at 10:30

Led by Rev Phil Dunning

Morning Worship

Sunday 20th at 10:30

Led by Rev David Nash

Morning Worship

Sunday 27th at 10:30

**Morning Worship with Communion +
Virtual Communion**

Led by Rev Phil Dunning



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 19th 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.

Please Note Christ Church's 50-year anniversary celebration has been postponed from July to September 27th. More details nearer the time.

Cross and Stable, Downs Barn

Sunday 6th at 11:00

Led by Rev Peter Green

Signed Holy Communion

Sunday 13th at 11:00

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Holy Communion

Sunday 20th at 11:00

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Holy Communion

Sunday 27th at 10:00

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Family Breakfast Club



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 25th 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 2nd at 10:00 Wednesday Communion

Led by Rev Prof John Beazley

Sunday 6th at 11:00 Morning Worship

Lay led

Sunday 13th at 11:00 Holy Communion

Led by tba

Sunday 20th at 11:00 Holy Communion

Led by Rev Prof John Beazley

Sunday 27th at 11:00 Holy Communion

Led by Rev Prof John Beazley



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 1st 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 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 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. Coffee & Craft with local artist Jane Charles will be back again on 2nd Tuesdays from April to September and we are hopeful of further dates – you can email greatlinford@googlemail.com for the latest information. All are welcome to 5Ways - we aim to be dementia friendly.

St. James', New Bradwell

Sunday 6th at 09:30 Holy Communion

Led by Rev Steve Barnes

Sunday 13th at 09:30 Morning Worship

Led by Helen Rouse LLM

Sunday 20th at 09:30 Patronal Morning Worship

Led by Helen Rouse LLM and The Open Door Team

Sunday 27th at 09:30 Baptist Communion

Led by Maggie Prisk



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 and Wednesday from 09:30 to 11:30, St James' hosts a Coffee Morning.

Visit St James' website at www.stjamesnewbradwell.org.uk for more information.

St. Mary Magdalene, Willen

Sunday 6th at 09:30 All Age Morning Worship

Led by Margaret Moakes LLM

Sunday 13th at 09:30 Holy Communion

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 20th at 09:30 Holy Communion

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

and at 18:00 Patronal Evensong with Quorum

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 27th at 09:30 Holy Communion

Led by Rev Paul Oxley



The monthly communion service at **Oaktree Court, Portland Drive** will be at **2.30 pm on July 3rd**. Anyone who would like to join us, would be welcome. Please speak to Margaret Moakes.

T.T.T.T (Third Tuesday at Twelve Thirty) Pop along to St Mary Magdalene Church Willen and be entertained by **Webster & Fergusson** on **Tuesday June 15th**, 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.

Other items of interest

Rev David Moore

It is with great sadness that we share the news that Revd David Moore died on Thursday 19th June. David was a Supernumerary Methodist Minister within our Circuit, and a very long-time member and leader of the Christ the Cornerstone community. As City Centre Chaplain to Milton Keynes, David was a key member of the Ministerial Team at the Church of Christ the Cornerstone. During a long and distinguished career as a Methodist minister David served in many communities from Bristol to the East End of London. He was also an accomplished artist and sculptor.

Please hold David's wife Dorothy in your prayers at this time.

David's Memorial Service will take place at **The Church of Christ the Cornerstone, Milton Keynes on Tuesday 22nd July at 1.00pm.**

Farewell service

A Farewell service for Revs Dave Haseldine and Barry Lotz will take place on **Sunday 20th July at The Church of the Servant King, Furzton at 4.00pm.**

Rev Duncan Barnes

Since leaving St James' Duncan had a successful heart operation on Friday 21st June and he returned home on Tuesday 24th where he is now recuperating for about six weeks with Mary, of course, looking after him. Mary tells us he is smiling and sleeping a lot. Mary herself is understandably pretty exhausted, but enjoying not having to drive miles back and forth to hospital, and very happy to have Duncan home.

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

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 Phil or drop me a line.

News from Diocese of Oxford

Welcome to YouShape *A Year of Discovery and Deepening Faith*

YouShape is a formational year for young adults (18 to early 30s), designed to deepen your relationship with Jesus and nurture discipleship within an intentional community. Rooted in local churches and shaped by peers, it offers a structured yet flexible rhythm for those discerning God's leading. YouShape includes monthly hub meetings with meals and reflection, a shared rule of life, a weekend retreat, a spring pilgrimage, and a commissioning service.

YouShape complements your existing commitments while offering depth, direction and support in your walk with Christ.

[!\[\]\(95b425611cbd2b8716a140cf67c81822_img.jpg\) **Register Now**](#)

You-Shaped+

Community-Shaped+

Adventure-Shaped



Weekend Retreat (31 October – 2 November 2025)+

Pilgrimage (27 – 31 May 2026)+

Commissioning Service (Summer 2026)+

YouShape Hubs

Across Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, and Oxfordshire, YouShape Hubs bring together young adults (18–30s) who want to grow in faith, share life together, and find their people. Each Hub is anchored in a trusted local church and led by a trained Convenor — someone from your region who'll make sure you always feel informed, invited, and included.

News from the Regional Central Baptist Union



CBA Home Mission stories

Examples of how Home Mission funds are being used in the Central Baptist Association

[Read more](#)

News from The United Reformed Church

Churches Together in England welcomes Tessa Henry-Robinson as President for 2025 – 2028



As her term in office as Moderator of the Free Churches Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson, also acts as one of the Presidents of Churches Together in England,

My ecumenical journey began long before I understood the word. As a child in Trinidad and Tobago, I lived the beauty and complexity of the Christian tradition through my family. My father was born in Tobago and raised in the Methodist tradition. My mother was born in Trinidad and raised in a Roman Catholic and Pentecostal

household. I was baptised in the Methodist Church, educated in Roman Catholic and Anglican schools, and worshipped in Pentecostal settings during holidays with my maternal grandparents. My journey continues to unfold as one committed to the hard work of shared mission, mutual respect, and spiritual integrity across denominational lines.

My earliest (formal) ecumenical experience came in the early 2000s while I was a member of Christ Church Bellingham. I was part of a small team tasked with building relationships across five local churches. That experience was not only informative. It was deeply formative. It taught me that unity across Christian traditions is not just an abstract hope. It is a relational task that demands presence, humility, and trust. As I

worshipped, dialogued, and shared life with colleagues from a range of denominational backgrounds, I began to sense the Spirit moving in ways I had not seen before. I witnessed how God works through different liturgies, languages, and leadership models. Some tensions surfaced, of course. But they were not held as obstacles, they were used as invitations and opportunities to grow deeper in grace. Ecumenical work has never been about erasing difference, it is about honouring difference, engaging it with love, and letting it stretch us toward fuller faithfulness.

The [United Reformed Church](#) is itself a living sign of ecumenical commitment. Its very formation brought together multiple denominations in pursuit of a more faithful expression of the Church. To be a URC minister is to have been shaped in the context of being reformed and always reforming in a denomination that not only values being reformed and building unity, but was born from “Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda secundum verbum Dei”, “The church reformed, always being reformed according to the Word of God.” My ministerial formation has been rooted in the conviction that Christian unity matters—that we can be deeply faithful to our own traditions while also working generously across them.

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 website: [Churches Together in Milton Keynes \(ctmk.church\)](http://ctmk.church)

News from the Partnership Green Champions

Eco Tip for July 2025

Why ORGANIC DAIRY deserves a spot in your fridge

When milk comes from an organic farm it's a whole system of care for animals, people and the planet.

So what makes organic different:

Organic farm dairy cows are free range with space to roam leading to lower stress for cows and fewer antibiotics needed.

Cows are fed an organic diet with 60% grass rich forage producing high levels of Omega-3 fatty acids in the milk

No fossil-fuel based pesticides and fertilisers leading to 30% more wild plants and animals on organic farms.

Soil on organic farms stores more carbon compared to non-organic.

So next time you shop consider going organic with your dairy.

<https://www.soilassociation.org/take-action/organic-living/what-is-organic/organic-milk-dairy/>



STOP PRESS: the Daily Bread Cooperative in Northampton selling organic produce and offering refillable containers is struggling financially and asking for more support. It does deliveries. See link below for further information

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1211319701008950&id=100063927946400&rdid=tauGypc1GVsxaLPv

I hope that you have found this and previous newsletters 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 August's issue is **Friday 25th July** to allow me to get it to you in time to send out before the beginning of August.*

John

John Porter sepnewsletter9@gmail.com