

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

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



October 2025 Newsletter

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

Partnership News

The Worship Rota, which will be agreed initially with the Team Leader, will look very different now we have Revd Dr Kofi and Revd Peterson with us.

A zoom meeting with Bishop Dave of Buckingham and the Area Dean, Paul Oxley, has been arranged for 7th October and any news will be shared with the Chairs of each Congregation Leadership Team, so that they can feedback to each congregation.

Pastoral News

October 2025

Harvest time!

*'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore
ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest field'*
Matthew 9 vs. 37-38

I'm not much of a farmer so I always come to harvest time with great admiration for those who consistently work the land, and thanksgiving to God for his goodness in the food we eat. It begs the question though, how can I participate? What harvest can I produce? I find inspiration in our Lord's message about the spiritual harvest we can have of lives given to Christ.

My harvest focus this year is going to be around the small boy who gives up his meagre lunch when Jesus asks for bread, and because of that gift our Lord is able to transform that small offering into feeding 5000 men (John 6 v 9). Personally and in that scenario, I sure I would have been more inclined to keep what I had for fear of losing it all. Many Christians today would face similar fears in our personal witness; thinking 'what difference can I make?', but the reality is that our often meagre efforts in speaking truthfully about Jesus can produce a rich harvest in hearts and lives who we encounter.

Friends, let's make sure then that we consistently brim over with thanksgiving for what God has done, and is doing, with our food, in our lives and in the lives of those we minister to. Let us also remember those who lack the basic provisions we enjoy, and

once again - both physically 'and' spiritually - all around the world. We pray that the Lord of the harvest will provide for all their needs.

With every blessing

Rev Phil Dunning
SEP Baptist Minister and Vision Enabler
...Acting Ministry team leader

Partnership wide services 2025 for your diaries

Please put this date in your diary. There is one more in 2025; November 30th, and details will be in our next newsletter.

'MED Group' - Mission, Evangelism, Discipleship

...meeting next on Monday 6th October
7.30pm @ 'Cross & Stable', or via zoom.

I wanted to encourage 'new engagement' with the SEP mission, evangelism and discipleship meeting this month. We are yet to settle on a fixed number of people involved and certainly don't get all churches represented. Please consider whether you are able to get involved and bring the thoughts of your church into this strategic gathering. You can do it 'either' live, or via the online open zoom link.

Exact details and the agenda for the meeting is available now from me, or at each church. Let's keep strategising and praying together.

Rev Phil Dunning

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership Council

The next SEP Council meeting will be 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 27th November. More details will be in the next newsletter. We will welcome Revd Dr. Kofi and Revd Peterson to this meeting., also see Future Events on page .

Helen's SEP admin. phone number is 01908 382458 and her email is sburyepadm@gmail.com.

Our hope is that Helen will remove some of the burden of administrative tasks from the shoulders of our ministers and officers. We can all help with that by contacting Helen, in the first instance, instead of our ministers and officers.

My continued thanks to our six volunteers who still answer this phone every day.

EVENTS on website

Helen is devising a way forward, with Paul Brookman of Bradwell Church, to make it easier to check for events at each church. This will help our congregation members, who maybe can't make the Bible Study group closest, but would like to go to one on a day or time better suited to them.

I hope all our Harvest Thanksgiving Services are bountiful and that we can not only thank God for his creation, but raise awareness of hunger that still exists.

Don't forget to put your clocks back when British Summer Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday 26th October.

God Bless
Sharron, Lay Chair of SEPC

Our Church Services and Events

Bradwell Church, St Lawrence

Sunday 5th at 10:30 **Harvest & Thanksgiving**

Led by Rev Phil Dunning

Sunday 12th at 10:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by Maggie Prisk

Sunday 19th at 10:30 **Holy Communion**

Led by Rev Stephanie Hibberd

Sunday 26th at 10:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by Rev Kofi Tekyi-Ansah

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.

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

Christ Church, Stantonbury

Sunday 5th at 10:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by Rev David Nash

Sunday 12th at 10:30 **Morning Worship for Harvest**

Led by Rev Phil Dunning

Sunday 19th at 10:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by Rev Hannah Akibo-Betts

Sunday 26th 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 18th 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 5th at 11:00 Signed Holy Communion

Led by Rev Peter Green

Sunday 12th at 11:00 Holy Communion

Led by Stephen Fletcher LLM

Sunday 19th at 11:00 Holy Communion

Led by Rev Phil Dunning

Sunday 26th at 10:00 Family Breakfast Club

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Bell Ringing practice every Friday at 19:30.

Services are live-streamed on Zoom at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85922248518?pwd=Tm4vd00wancwVk52cCtgNm5tMWRZdz09>

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 26th 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 1st at 10:00 Wednesday Communion

Led by Rev Prof John Beazley

Sunday 5th at 10:00 Open Door

Led by the Open Door Group with Rev Peterson Feital

Sunday 12th at 10:00 Holy Communion

Led by Rev Stephanie Hibberd

Sunday 19th at 10:00 Holy Communion

Led by Rev Prof John Beazley

Sunday 26th at 10:00 Holy Communion

Led by Rev Peterson Feital

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.

Bell Ringing practice every Tuesday at 19:30.

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 5th at 09:30 **Holy Communion**

Led by Rev Steve Barnes

Sunday 12th at 09:30 **Open Door for Harvest**

Led by The Open Door Team

Sunday 19th at 09:30 **Baptist Communion**

Led by Rev David Nash

Sunday 26th at 09:30 **Holy Communion**

Led by tba

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 5th at 09:30 **All Age Morning Worship**

Led by Margaret Moakes LLM

Sunday 12th at 09:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by Stephen Fletcher LLM

and at 18:00 **Choral Evensong with Quorum**

Led by Rev Phil Dunning

Sunday 19th at 09:30 **Holy Communion**

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 26th at 09:30 **Holy Communion**

Led by Rev Hannah Akibo-Betts

The monthly communion service at **Oaktree Court, Portland Drive** will be at **2.30 pm on September 2nd**. 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 **Breakaways** on **Tuesday October 21st**, 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.

St Mary Magdalene Willen: Hooke Heritage Project

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership is grateful to Milton Keynes Community Foundation and Campbell Park Community Council for grants awarded towards the cost of delivering design drawings, net zero plan, and construction cost estimate for St Mary Magdalene Church Willen's new amenity building. Further grant applications

continue to be made, so if you have contacts at grant giving bodies which may be able to help, please get in touch.

To advocate for the project, a Robert Hooke associated scientific experiment was presented in St Mary Magdalene Willen on 19th September by members of the Worshipful Company of Scientific Instrument Makers. The event introduced Sir Francis Hapgood, Vice Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, Pippa Kirkbride, High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire, Emily Darlington MP, Dame Ann Limb DBE DL, Cllr Paul Trendall Deputy Mayor of Milton Keynes and other distinguished guests to St Mary Magdalene's unique significance, and also its needs.

Rev Phil Dunning, Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe and Adrian Prisk represented Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership Trustees at the event which was delivered by St Mary Magdalen and Hooke Heritage Project volunteers, Dr Julie Mills OBE DL and event organiser Marian Livingstone, and in collaboration with Willen Hospice where lunch and the facilities St Mary's currently lacks were provided.

Jacky Scott, Chair The Hooke Heritage Project, jacky@thescotts.uk.com

Future events

From Stephen at St Andrew's

Saturday 11th October

6.00pm Festival of Church Music at Coventry Cathedral

Some of our choir and probably some of yours too have been practising hard to join choirs from across the country to sing in this event, organised by the Free Church Choirs. Visit www.freechurchchoirs.org.uk for details.

Coventry is easy to get to, and not too far, and it's free!

Friday 31st October

17.00-19.00 Glow in the Dark

St James Church alternative to Halloween. Wear something warm and bright, some activities are outside.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Arts and crafts and more. Refreshments served to 18:30.

Closing with a lantern parade, praise and a story.

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

Table-top monuments part of conservation project



[St James the Great Fulbrook](#) was chosen by the Diocese of Oxford to be included in a wider scheme taking place in Gloucestershire looking at table top monuments. There are five which are Grade II listed. The project is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Church of England Cathedral and Church Buildings Team. "The church is our village meeting place, people come in to the church who are not practising Christians. They want to use it for their family events, so we have

tried to appeal to the whole community to support us. "We're here to make sure the church building is here for generations to come." The tombs date back to the 17th to 19th Century and are recognisable for their flat slab table top, and upright supports. "We are pleased to be working with the Diocese of Oxford on this important conservation initiative which has already sparked national interest." The diocese [church buildings team](#) can offer advice and support if your church or churchyard needs works done.

News from the Regional Central Baptist Union

The Sam Sharpe Lecture 2025

'Free Indeed: From Theological Mis-Education to Teaching for Liberation'

The Sam Sharpe Partners warmly invite you to this year's Sam Sharpe lecture, in partnership with the University of East London, taking place on Monday 27 October at 7:00pm at Docklands Campus, University Way, London, E16 2RD

Hosted in partnership with the [University of East London](#).



The Sam Sharpe lectures seek to broaden and advance the legacy of Sam Sharpe by exploring subjects in mission, race, class, and injustice.

This year's Sam Sharpe Lecture will be delivered by [Dr Selina Stone](#), a leading voice in contemporary theology. Her lecture

will explore how theology can either bind or break us - and how we might reclaim theological education as a tool of spiritual and social transformation.

Booking your place

Space at the venue is limited, so please register to attend. The ticket costs are as follows: Lecture only: £5.00 Lecture with refreshments: £10.00

[Book Now](#)

News from the Methodist Church and United Reformed Church

A statement from: The Revd Richard Andrew and Matthew Forsyth, the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

The Revd Dr John Bradbury, the General Secretary of the United Reformed Church

The UK Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, has formally announced the UK's recognition of the State of Palestine.

This marks a significant and welcome shift in British foreign policy, moving away from using recognition as leverage in negotiations, and instead affirming the Palestinians' inherent right to self-determination and equal participation in peace talks. This decision, in line with similar moves by other nations, increases international pressure on Israel over its occupation policies and the ongoing crisis in Gaza, which many experts, including most recently, the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, have described as genocide.

Critics, including the Israeli government, argue that this recognition rewards terrorism and undermines peace. However, the Prime Minister made it clear that Hamas must have no role in any future government. Importantly, millions of Palestinians have resisted occupation through non-violent means for generations - this recognition is a long-overdue acknowledgment of their peaceful struggle.

We welcome this new stance by the British Government and urge it not only to recognise Palestinian statehood but also to use every diplomatic channel to secure an immediate ceasefire, humanitarian access, and a renewed commitment to a just peace.

Thank you for reading this. If anyone would like to take over any of the above research information, please get in touch. I would be most appreciative of the help.

May we all share our Harvest gifts with others this month with gratitude for the creation of a bountiful creation.

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 \(ctmk.church\)](https://ctmk.church)

News from the Partnership Green Champions

Eco Tip for October 2025

Autumn Leaves Many people rake up leaves and throw them away, but leaf litter provides shelter for over-wintering invertebrates and nesting material for hedgehogs etc. Dead leaves are also an important part of the natural cycle of plants and soil. As they decay they put back carbon that contributes to the soil ecology and encourages healthy microbial activity.

One option is to use leaf litter as mulch around the bases of trees or on vegetables and flower beds. This will help to insulate the soil over winter, protecting the soil's microbial life. Alternatively the leaves can be composted.

Keep Halloween Green! Remember to compost pumpkins or put them in your green bin. They are poisonous for hedgehogs so don't leave them in the garden.

Bring children to events like **Glow in the Dark at St James** so avoiding the plastic Halloween paraphernalia that appears in the shops!

I hope that you have found this and previous newsletters interesting and useful. If there is anything else you think would make it better or find any glaring omissions, please let your congregation's newsletter editor, Sharron or me know.

*The deadline for information to go into **November's** issue is **Saturday 25th October** to allow me to get it to you in time to send out before the beginning of **November**.*

John

John Porter sepnewsletter9@gmail.com