

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

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



April 2026 Newsletter

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

Partnership News

We need a newsletter editor, could it be you? Let me or any Minister know if you are interested.

Sadly, John Porter, who has been collating and editing our SEP wide newsletter for the last four years, needs to step down from this role. Personally, I am most grateful for John for his tremendous effort within our Partnership and being such a good role model in serving Jesus in this way, for all of us to benefit from the feeling he creates for belonging to a larger family than our congregations. John will remain and hopefully train another person, to produce the May and June issues, but will then stop.

Pastoral News

April 2026

Easter - Life in Abundance

*A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.
I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.
John 10 v 10 (CSB)*

I've been into Schools this past week to present Easter assemblies, and as always been challenged to make the Passion story relevant to younger lives. This year I came up with three headings about what 'Easter is', introducing Easter as a journey, a story and - of course - as chocolate. I used the gospel story of the walk to Emmaus - where the Risen Christ joined his disciples to explain the events of the weekend, as foundational.

With a journey I mentioned Lent and Holy Week, as well as the journey of our Lord from cross and grave, to resurrection and ascension; an inspiration for our journeys at Easter, to both experience and believe upon all that Jesus achieved for us. The story understanding brought in the Emmaus account, as well as the opportunity to see stories - whether true, made up or dramatised, as inspiration for our own unfolding stories, and then - with chocolate - the thought that eggs bring new life, just as animals are born and Christ offers profound newness of life to us.

All of this got me thinking about this one verse - from Jesus - and within the wider narrative of the Good Shepherd in John's gospel. He deliberately contrasts thoughts about those who would manipulate and ruin our lives, compared to his own ministry



and witness; that he comes to bring 'life in abundance' to us. This is not just eternal life later, but a fulfilled life now. Our journey, our story and the new life Jesus brings can be that place where this abundant life flourishes

I pray - as Good Friday journey's on again into Easter Sunday this year - in our churches, that we see the joy of this abundant life again dawning upon us.

With every blessing

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

Partnership wide services

Thank you to our Team Minister, Revd. Phil, for sending out to all six congregations the worship available to us all over Holy Week. These are displayed on all external notice boards. Let's pray for more worshippers to come and join us.

Our next joint service is 31st May as the March date falls on Palm Sunday. Any Church Officers wanting to offer their church as a venue should let Helen Eaton know on sburyepadm@gmail.com

'SEP MED Group' - Mission, Evangelism, Discipleship

The latest notes for the last MED group meeting are available in all our churches and from Phil (please contact directly), and reflect the themes we discussed and prayed for on 19th January.

These included...

- 'Partnership Pilgrimage' - Summer 2026
- Christmas Youth Gospel Choir
- Lent Course - 'World Church Lent Reflections'
- Enhancing Social media input and use
- Bishop's visit in January
- 'Being with' - new discipleship course
- Holy Week meditations

Next meeting - Monday 20th April - **POSTPONED** - to be rearranged.

Rev Phil Dunning

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership Council

The last SEP Council meeting was held on 26th March 2026. Can all the CLT Chairs ensure the names of Offices voted on at their AGMs are sent to Anne Slee, Secretary to the Trustees. All current offices remain in place till the SEP CIO AGM. Newly elected officers won't take up their roles until the SEP CIO AGM.

As soon as you have elected Deanery Synod representatives, please let David Thom, Lay Chair of MKLEPs, know their contact details.

Partnership AGM

The AGM of Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership will take place on Thursday, 21st May at 7:30 pm in Christ Church, Stantonbury. This will include the annual Meeting of Parishioners (to elect Church Wardens) and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (to elect PCC lay members and Deanery Synod members).

This meeting is open to every member of our six churches – please come along to hear what has been happening in the Partnership this year and prepare for the coming year. It's important that we have as many people there as possible, and we need around 60 people there to be quorate, so please **SAVE THE DATE**.

Nominations will be required for Trustees (3), Partnership Leadership Team Lay Chair and SEP Safeguarding Lead. Nomination forms are available from Anne Slee, sep.trustee.secretary@gmail.com.

Partnership Leadership Team

Following the AGM, the leadership cyclical structure will be; Trustees, Partnership Leadership Team, Congregation Leadership Team, Congregation Meetings. This much simpler format, with less repetitive meetings, will hopefully encourage more members of our partnership to join in the fun.

Helen's SEP admin. phone number is 01908382458 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 with any admin or bookings, in the first instance, instead of our ministers and officers**. Helen will then feedback any bookings to our Team Leader, Revd. Phil Dunning, who will be able to decide who the best Minister is to take any service or office forward.

Thank you to Revd. Phil, who is determining what support we can obtain for our June to August 2026 worship rota for the whole partnership with wider support from the Anglican, Baptist and Methodist denominations, so he can ensure a fair coverage of worship and pastoral care across our six congregations. Phil is our Team Minister and determines worship in our Partnership. Please discuss worship needs at your regular Congregation meetings and feedback to Helen Eaton. Phil and Helen, our Admin Assistant, will contact our ecumenical leaders to help where needed. Only ministers on our list of licenced and safeguard trained ministers are able to lead our six congregations. Thank you to those many ministers who have sent me their details and would the few who have still to send them please help by doing so asap.

Please support our drive to bring the six congregations closer together through social events over the year. A darts championship will be organised by Jonathan at Cross and Stable and we hope lots of Luke Littlers come forward and enjoy the companionship of other Christians.

Please keep a check on your congregation news and visit the SEP website or Facebook page to keep up to date. Maybe start a WhatsApp group for your congregation members.

I am planning for us to take part in World Baking Day on 17th May, so keep a look out for more news on that. World Baking Day focusses on connecting people through a love of baking and fostering community through the act of giving.

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'll try and update the events page on the SEP website for you to save the dates.

Diocesan and Deanery Synod

The objective of a Church of England Secondary School in Milton Keynes is now on both of their Strategic Plans

Rejoice in the miracle of Easter

Sharron, Lay Chair of SEP CIO Council

Our Church Services and Events

Bradwell Church, St Lawrence

Friday 3rd at 12:00 **Morning Worship**

Led by Rev Phil Dunning

Sunday 5th at 10:30 **Holy Communion**

Led by Rev Phil Dunning

Sunday 12th at 10:30 **Holy Communion**

Led by Rev Lisa Kerry

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

Led by Mike Morris

Sunday 26th at 10:30 **Holy Communion**

Led by Rev Jenny Boxwell



Most services are live streamed to You Tube. The You Tube link is: @BradwellChurchMiltonKeynes. Simply go to You Tube, search for this and click the red live button just before the service begins.

Gardening Club is on its winter break.

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

Christ Church, Stantonbury

Sunday 5th at 09:00 **Easter Day Communion**

Led by Rev Phil Dunning

and at 10:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by Maggie Prisk

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

Led by Rev Canon Peter Ballantine

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

Led by Rev Lisa Kerry

Sunday 26th at 10:30 **Holy Communion with 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.

Re-starts on 15th January.

Cross and Stable, Downs Barn

Sunday 5th at 11:00 Holy Communion

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 12th at 11:00 Holy Communion

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

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=Vm4vd00wancwVk52cCtqNm5tMWRZdz09>

Meeting ID: 859 2224 8518 Passcode: 830413

Friday at 2:00 pm - Prayer time & Bible reflection on Zoom

This lasts around 45 mins - do join us from wherever you are on Zoom!

Please contact Sue Baines for the Link on suebaines@gmail.com

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

Thursday 2nd at 15:00 Maundy Thursday Service

A Service of Reflection including the Stripping of the Altar

Friday 3rd at 14:00 The Way of the Cross

A Service of Readings, Hymns, Prayers & Quiet Time

Sunday 5th at 10:00 Holy Communion

Led by Rev Canon Peter Ballantine

Sunday 12th at 10:00 Holy Communion

Led by Rev Peterson Feital



Sunday 19th at 10:00 Holy Communion

Led by Rev Prof John Beazley

Sunday 26th at 10:00 Morning Worship

Led by Rev Charles Dixon

Morning Services are live-streamed on Facebook using this link:

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

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. And every 4th Tuesday of the month there is accessible art for free at the "Coffee & Craft" session with local artist Jane Charles. Just come along and join in. All are welcome to 5Ways - we aim to be dementia friendly.

St. James', New Bradwell

Thursday 2nd at 20:00 Maundy Thursday Holy Communion

Led by Rev Peterson Feital

Friday 3rd at 13:30 Stations of the Cross

Led by Mary Borrett and Helen Rouse LLM

and at 14:30 Good Friday Liturgy

Led by Helen Rouse LLM

Saturday 4th at 09:00 Morning Prayer for Holy Saturday

Led by Helen Rouse LLM

Sunday 5th at 06:30 Dawn Vigil with Holy Communion

Led by Rev Peterson Feital

and at 09:30 Easter Day Holy Communion

Led by Rev Peterson Feital

Sunday 12th at 09:30 Open Door Service

Led by The Open Door Team

Sunday 19th at 09:30 Baptist Holy Communion

Led by Rev David Nash

Sunday 26th at 09:30 Methodist Holy Communion

Led by Rev Stephanie Hibberd



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



Friday 3rd at 14:00 **Good Friday Meditative Service**

Led by Margaret Moakes LLM

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

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 12th at 09:30 **Holy Communion**

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 19th at 09:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by Margaret Moakes LLM

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

Led by Rev Peterson Feital

The monthly communion service at **Oaktree Court, Portland Drive** will be at **2.45 pm on April 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) is back again for 2026 Pop along to St Mary Magdalene Church Willen and be entertained by **Backstops** on **Tuesday March 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.

Saturday April 25th at 4.00pm in St. Mary Magdalene Church **The Cryers** present "**Then the music was banished**". A concert of madrigals and sacred music written by English composers before 1630 including music by Byrd, Gibbons, Dowland, Weelkes, Benet, Campion. Admission free. Collection for improving church amenities.

St Mary Magdalene Willen: Hooke Heritage Project

On 13th March 72 visitors were warmly welcome by Revd Phil Dunning to St Mary Magdralen Willen to hear stories from Sir Dermot Turing, nephew of codebreaker Alan Turing taken from his book *Misread Signals: How History Overlooked Women Codebreakers*. His talk was presented in collaboration with the National Women Leaders group and the Open University, to an audience from the congregation, community, descendants of Bletchley women codebreakers and His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire. As many of those present were previously unaware of Robert Hooke's St Mary Magdalene Church, it proved to be a valuable opportunity to share its significance and needs.

On 25th March Sharron Marland hosted technical students from Milton Keynes College who visited St Mary Magdalene Church for a "College in the Community" day. With their tutors and commercial partner Leica Geosystems they conducted a laser scan of the externals of the Church as part of their course work, generating a detailed model, and a ground penetration radar survey of the churchyard, providing the St Mary Magdalene Leadership Team with useful technical insight to inform its future planning.

Future events

Saturday 11th April

10.00 -12.30 MK Eco Church Network meeting

at Christ Church, Stantonbury. In the first part of the meeting the Christ Church Eco Group will talk about their experiences of achieving a Bronze Eco Church award. Jane Grindley, Director of MK Community Energy will be coming to give a talk about: 'MK Community Energy and Home Energy Advice' and she will include a discussion about a programme for churches. With the UK Government recently announcing £1 billion of new funding for local energy projects, the time appears to have arrived for Community Energy! Please register for the meeting, using the Eventbrite link in the item below, so that the organisers have an idea of how many people to expect.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/milton-keynes-eco-church-network-meeting-tickets-1983158475385?aff=oddtcreator>

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

Note from the Cross and Stable Charities

Do you fancy giving away money to the churches in the Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership? Intrigued as to how you can do this? Well, read on.

Cross and Stable Church at Downs Barn was built in 1986. To fund the building several small workshops were built next to the church - the rental income from these paying for the bank loan necessary for the construction of the church.

To administer the running of the workshops the Cross and Stable Charities was created. The bank loan was paid back many years ago and since then income from the units has played an increasingly important role in financing projects in all six of our churches.

Hundreds of thousands of pounds have been given in grants for roof repairs, tree felling, new sound equipment and many more projects – without funds from the Charities many of these would not have been able to go ahead.

But while the Charities is not short of funds it is short of trustees to continue this valuable work. Some trustees are nearing the age when they would like to take life easier and replacements are urgently needed.

Younger blood – not necessarily young – is sought. Could this be you? It is not a particularly onerous task – we only meet four times a year. Grant applications received between meetings are usually swiftly dealt with by email consultations of the trustees. People with business knowledge are particularly welcome.

If you're interested in finding out more drop trustee, Paul Brookman, an email at: paul_brookman@icloud.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. *Sharron*

News from Diocese of Oxford

Diocesan Synod blessed by youth presence

Diocesan Synod was blessed by the presence and contributions of young people from across the diocese in its first meeting of 2026, held at Didcot Civic Hall.

A panel of teenagers from Aylesbury, Reading and Abingdon shared openly about faith, church and the challenges of living as Christians.

One offered a candid challenge to Synod members: "We are followers of Jesus, not simply churchgoers. If we can challenge people's perceptions [of church], we can show that Jesus is the best thing ever. I would challenge you to show young people that you are not just creaky old people – you are followers of Jesus."

The meeting also saw Bishop Steven's final presidential address before his retirement this summer.

Reflecting on his time at the diocese, Bishop Steven said: "Ten years ago, as a diocese, we addressed the question of our common vision. We asked first what kind of church we are called to be. Our second question followed from the first: what are we called to do together at this time?"

News from the Regional Central Baptist Union

[Baptist Assembly Group bookings – 5 for the price of 4.](#)

Baptist Assembly is in Harrogate 15-17 May and we will be there. It's a rare chance to gather from across the country, be equipped, share stories of what God is doing, worship together, and be encouraged in our shared mission.

An ongoing offer of 5 tickets for the price of four, allows friends to organise a reunion or a group from church to take advantage.

Use the discount code BA26ChurchGroup when booking. We would love to meet your whole church! If you can't make the whole weekend, then [there are a variety of ticket options.](#)

Visit the [Baptist Assembly website](#) to book your tickets, find out more, and stay up to date with plans for 2026.

News from the Methodist Church

Easter Revival 2026

Queensway Methodist Church present an Easter Revival with the Theme: The Cross, Our Faith and Salvation. This runs from Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th April.

For more details see the poster at:

<https://mkmethodist.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Easter-Revival-2026.jpg>

Rejoice in the miracle of Easter
Sharron, Lay 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: www.ctmk.uk (please note the new web address)

Susan Armstrong, of St Mary Magdalene, is the link to CTMK.

*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 the **May** issue is **Saturday 25th April**. to allow me to get it to you in time to send out before the beginning of **April***

John

John Porter
sepnewsletter9@gmail.com