

**9th AUGUST 2026
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**



St Andrew's Church
Great Linford

WELCOME TO ST ANDREW'S GREAT LINFORD

Welcome to St Andrew's, Great Linford. We're so glad you're here, and we hope you enjoy reading our newsletter. We are part of the Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership, and our Church has been a place of worship at the heart of this community since the 12th century — complete with a beautiful ring of mid-18th-century bells.

For centuries we have worshipped together, served our community together, and shared our faith in Jesus Christ. Here, ***all are welcome in this place.***

Our services are mainly traditional, with Holy Communion offered most Sundays at 10am. The first Sunday of each month is our Open Door Service, and throughout the week you'll also find other moments of prayer and gathering.

We would love to welcome you to our services and events, and to get to know you. For more information, please visit our website

<https://stantonbury.net/wp/st-andrews-great-linford>

St Andrew's Team

**SUNDAY 9th AUGUST 2026
10am – HOLY COMMUNION
CONDUCTED BY THE REV'D DR PAUL SMITH
THEME: "IS IT YOU, LORD?"**

READINGS: I Kings 19: 9-18
Matthew 14: 22-33

HYMNS: 183 Fill your hearts with Joy and Gladness
160 Eternal Father strong to Save
152 Dear Lord and Father of Mankind
63 Be still my Soul, the Lord is at your Side

ST ANDREW'S SERVICES FOR AUGUST 2026

16/08/26. 10am Trinity 11 led by The Rev'd Professor John Beazley
23/08/26. 10am. Trinity 12 led by The Rev'd Charles Dixon
30/08/26. 11am **JOINT S E P SERVICE AT CHRISTCHURCH (Note Time)**

DON'T FORGET



Our Summer Fayre will be held on SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST between 2pm and 4pm.

We are looking for volunteers to help on stalls and to serve refreshments. There is a sign-up sheet in church for volunteering. Also, we are looking for donations of prizes for the raffle, tombola, books, unwanted gifts, homemade stall, e.g. jams, preserves, cakes etc and of course cakes for our refreshments. All funds raised will go towards the cost of repairing and upgrading our entry paths to Church. **Please bring any donations into church over the next few weeks, there is a table set up. Please bring cakes etc on the day of the Fayre or the Saturday morning before, when we will be setting up.**



5WAYS CAFÉ

5Ways Café – Tuesday 11th August 11am to 1pm

WATERCOLOUR WORKSHOP

Watercolour workshop – Tuesday 18th August 10am

SUMMER FAYRE. DON'T FORGET

The date of the Summer Fayre has been changed from Saturday 29th August to Sunday 30th August.

FROM THE REVD'S DESK

Dear Church Family,

By the time you read this, Helen and I will almost have survived the great vicarage move!

Thank you so much to everyone who's welcomed us so warmly and helped us settle in. A special thank you to Jackie Williamson, the Kennedys and Revd Phil Dunning, who have fed us, put up curtains and shelves, and generally rescued us more than once.

I've discovered that your vicar has many gifts... but DIY definitely isn't one of them.

Our daughter eventually looked at me, sighed, and decided she'd better learn to do it herself. She now puts up shelves and cupboards far better than I ever could. Naturally, I prefer to think I've simply encouraged her to develop useful life skills! She disagrees. Her exact words were, *"Daddy, let's play to our strengths. You make the house clean, tidy and pretty, and leave the DIY to me!"* I have to admit, she probably has a point.

By the time you come to visit, I'm hoping the house will feel a little more like home. My autumn project is simply to add a few finishing touches: some indoor plants, fairy lights for the garden and a couple of coffee tables. Little by little, it's getting there.

I'm hoping to invite you all to the vicarage for afternoon tea later in the autumn, once we've unpacked the last few boxes. It will be lovely to welcome you properly.

Before then, though, our neighbours are organising a welcome tea party in September so that we can get to know the community. Your Brazilian vicar has never been very good at turning down an invitation to a party, so we're really looking forward to it! Helen and I have been genuinely touched by the kindness we've received since moving here.

Next week I'll be travelling to Brazil to spend some time with my family. We haven't all been together for almost ten years, so it will be a very special few weeks. I'd really value your prayers for safe travel and for a happy time together.

Finally, do have a read of the attached newsletter. There are a few important updates about church life, particularly regarding our children and safeguarding.

See you all very soon.

With every blessing,

Peterson.

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE REV'D'S DESK

Dear St Andrew's Congregation, Peace be with you all.

I hope you find this newsletter helpful. Printed copies will also be available in church for anyone who doesn't receive it by email.

It's hard to believe that it's nearly a year since I arrived at St Andrew's. I have genuinely loved every minute of it. Thank you for the warmth, kindness and faithfulness you have shown me. One of the things I treasure most is our culture of hospitality and prayer. These are at the heart of the Gospel, and I see them lived out week by week. It is a privilege to serve alongside you.

Over the past year we have begun to see green shoots of renewal. More people are reconnecting with church life, we've welcomed enquiries about baptisms and weddings, and our Five Ways Café and Arts & Fellowship Group continue to bring people from the community through our doors. Christmas, Remembrance and Easter were particularly

encouraging. I am also deeply grateful for the faithful ministry of Revd Professor John Beazley, Revd Charles Dixon and Revd Judy Rose. Their friendship and support have been a real blessing, and it is always encouraging when newcomers tell me how much they have enjoyed our worship and learned more about the Christian faith.

Next week I shall be travelling to Brazil to spend time with my family. We have not all been together for nearly ten years, so it will be a very special visit. I would be grateful for your prayers for safe travel and a joyful time together.

Before I go, I wanted to share two important updates.

First, our children. We are incredibly blessed to have young families worshipping with us. At a time when many churches are seeing fewer children, we should never take this gift for granted. Our calling is not simply to welcome children, but to help them grow as disciples of Jesus.

During the autumn we will refresh our Junior Church by turning the clergy vestry into a welcoming children's space with suitable resources and a speaker so that parents can still hear the sermon. We are also introducing a children's service sheet to help families engage more fully in worship. In the meantime, may I kindly ask parents to remain with their children and, if they become unsettled, to use the bell tower, where they should be supervised at all times.

Finally, a word about safeguarding. Safeguarding is not simply another task; it is an essential part of our Christian ministry and our commitment to creating a safe church for everyone. I am delighted that a few people, including some parents, have expressed an interest in helping with our children's work. Before they begin serving, they will complete the appropriate DBS checks and safeguarding training.

If you volunteer, or intend to volunteer, with children, young people or vulnerable adults, both the appropriate DBS check and safeguarding training are mandatory before you begin serving. This is a requirement of the Church of England and the Diocese of Oxford. To make this easier, we will be holding an in-person safeguarding training session on Saturday 5 September. If you have any questions, please speak to Stephen Jolly or Ann Amos. (Please see the notice board). **(SEE DETAILS BELOW)**

For those who were unable to be with us last Sunday, I have asked Ann Fountaine to include Bishop Dave's statement regarding our Team Rector, Revd Chi Okpala, with this newsletter. **(SEE DETAILS BELOW)**

Thank you for your prayers, friendship and faithful service. May God continue to bless St Andrew's as we grow together in faith, hope and love.

With every blessing,
Revd Peterson Feital - 09/08/2026

Revd. Peterson Feital

Associate Minister, Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership
CEO | Consultant | Creative Industry Specialist
Mental Health & Faith Advisor (Film & TV); Award-Winning Theologian

www.stantonbury.net

Working Days: Sunday to Thursday

CofE Oxford Diocese Safeguarding Training courses

in person/ Group participation

Saturday September 5th 2026
Delivered by The Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

At St Lawrence , Bradwell church, Vicarage Rd, Bradwell Village, MK13 9AG

Morning: Basic awareness course will be delivered 10am – Midday

Afternoon. Foundation safeguarding course will be delivered 1pm - 3.30pm

To book a place please contact Ann Amos directly at amosann799@gmail.com or let your local church safe Guarding officer/church warden know to book you on through Ann, as it will be helpful to know how many people will be attending for arranging the number of handouts needed and also for your named attendance certificate to be issued from the Oxford Diocese safeguarding team. If you are booking through a church officer, please ensure they include your email address so you can be sent confirmation of a place and pre course information.

Statement from the Bishop of Buckingham to the Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

2nd August 2026

Dear Church Family,

I am writing to update you about your Team Rector, Rev'd Chi Okpala. Chi was suspended on 16th May 2025 pending a police investigation. As was made clear at the time (and reinforced at the public meeting when I visited Great Linford on 6th January), suspension does not mean any view was formed as to whether the allegations were true or likely to be true. Last Friday (24th July) we learned that Thames Valley Police have decided there is no further action to be taken, and the investigation has been closed.

On Monday I met with Chi and - as you may imagine – this news comes as a great relief to him. The low levels of resourcing available to the police have meant that this investigation took over 14 months. The wait has been painful for all involved - the six churches, the clergy team, the trustees and volunteers – and of course for Chi himself and others involved in the investigation. Please can I ask you to keep this uppermost in your thoughts as we turn to consider what happens next?

Despite this news, these matters remain difficult for Chi. Following the conclusion of the police investigation, Chi has requested a period away from active ministry to recover from the impact of the past fifteen months. He will continue to be away from ministry while the Diocese supports him through necessary processes in preparing for his return to ministry. At this stage, we do not know how long this will take, but I will continue to update you when I am able to do so.

The Lord has given you a wonderful team of leaders, including Sam, Phil, Peterson, Sharron and Adrian, along with the other trustees. Please continue to offer them your full support and to seek God's future together for Stantonbury and Willen and the wider city of Milton Keynes. As we continue to put our trust in Jesus the Good Shepherd, he will lead us forward into green pastures and beside still waters.

With my love and prayers, +Dave

SAFEGUARDING

St Andrews Safeguarding Officer is Stephen Jolly whose email address is sjolly59@yahoo.co.uk

" Our church is committed to keeping everyone safe. We have a dedicated Safeguarding Officer, Stephen Jolly, who you can contact at sjolly59@yahoo.co.uk If you have any safeguarding concerns or need advice, please contact him directly. Safeguarding information and policies are also available on the church board for you to read. We are committed to making St. Andrews a safe and welcoming space for all."

Many thanks, Peterson Feital

CHURCH GIVING:

Please continue to support generously by bank transfer to:
St Andrew's Church, Sort Code: 20-57-40, account 00789925
Please remember to put your name as a sender's reference)
or by cheque payable to 'St Andrews Congregational Council' and sent to
Jackie Williamson, 2 Lodge Gate, Great Linford, MK14 5EW

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We are able to claim tax back on donations, so if you are a tax payer, please email your full name, house number and postcode to aafountaine@gmail.com, or email to greatlinford@googlemail.com

Any queries about any of the above should be sent to greatlinford@googlemail.com

If you would like information about our **ecumenical partnership and ministerial visits** please contact the SEP using the contact form on www.stantonbury.net.

if you would like further information about **services, weddings, funerals, baptisms** at St. Andrew's, please email greatlinford@googlemail.com

MINISTER Rev Peterson Feital

Associate Minister, Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

Working days: Sunday, Monday and Thursday

All pastoral enquiries to Rev'd Peterson Feital at revpfeital@gmail.com