

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

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



September 2026 Newsletter

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

Pastoral reflection – ‘Open days and open hearts’

‘Ask, and it will be given to you; search and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.’

Matthew 7 v 7

As we return from our warm summer break, we welcome in the season of creation in our churches, as well as our historic open days. It is a big tradition within our SEP churches.



We get involved particularly to open our doors on Saturday September 12th - coupling with the Buckinghamshire Historic Churches Trust ‘Ride & Stride’ event, and as we do so I hope all friends feel the hope and joy of allowing everyone to see, feel and experience the various elements of worship in our buildings that have inspired generations before us, and still bring us closer to God today. I wanted particularly to mark the moment when you greet visitors who perhaps will hold a particular yearning to know more about our life together, and the God we worship in Jesus Christ. I wonder whether you will feel the particular move of the spirit within to ensure you have the time and the encouragement to bring to them. We are certainly not all natural evangelists; but a simple greeting, a listening ear - and presumably the offer of a cup of tea as well - will bring many to talk about why they visit the church today. September also marks the start of our ‘Being With’ course programme, which will offer the chance for everyone to be open about their own faith journey, and what a belief in God means for them. Let’s pray for those who will be involved in our first course - beginning on Thursday September 17th, and that our open door there too leads to hearts being changed.

I hope that these extras we undertake in the SEP, and each month, provide the essential creative tools we need to ensure a warm welcome to everyone. The leadership is always open to consider fresh voices and new ideas in terms of demonstrating our faith and allowing the love of God to shine out through us practically, as well as spiritually.

With every blessing

Rev Phil Dunning
SEP Baptist Minister and Vision Enabler

Partnership wide events

Partnership-wide services

The annual SEP Tree Cathedral Service will be held at 3pm on the 20th September, at the end of Heritage Week.

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 18th May.

These included...

- ‘Partnership Pilgrimage’ - Summer 2026
- Bishop Tony Porter, and evangelism
- ‘Being with’ - new discipleship course
- Summer initiatives

Next meeting - Monday 14th September – St James Church, New Bradwell. LIVE and online.

Setting up a new Homeless Soup Run – Volunteers needed

We had to stop this during Covid and have recently been given the go ahead from MK Council to begin again.

I am suggesting, if we have enough volunteers, that we begin on 1 October, to run on Monday and Tuesday evenings only, from 5 to 8pm. We would need at least 4 volunteers each evening and last time this ran, the rota ran over a three-week period because we had so many volunteers, meaning I did it once every 3 weeks.

The tasks involved are; maintaining a WhatsApp group, planning rotas, stocking food cupboards, meeting at Christ Church to prepare soup, hot chocolate, hot water for tea

and coffee, preparing thermos flasks, picking up food from Pret, Greggs, and anywhere that will give us their spare food, using their car to transport 2 tables and the food and drink to a spot outside Argos and Marks and Spencer's (or anywhere else in central MK seen as a place where the homeless congregate but not the train station) and returning items to Christ Church.

If you could find at least 3 hours once every 3 weeks, please get in touch with me or Helen. I need to know as early as you can please, so that I know this is possible.

The soup run is very rewarding and the people who come for food and drink are, mostly, extremely appreciative of the support. Others are very quiet, pick-up food and drink and simply walk off.

Sharron Marland,
Lay Co-Chair of SEP Leadership Team
Email: sepltlaychair@gmail.com

‘Being With’ Course (Save the Dates)

We now have dates confirmed for the beginning of the new SEP Discipleship course, using the resources provided by friends from St Martin in the Fields Church.



It is very much designed to meet and greet enquirers and new converts to Christ, offering a chance to think and ponder the presence of God in the world, and call of Christ upon their lives.

Initially the course will be offered 'online' only - with evening meetings on zoom at 7.30pm. Led by Peterson and Phil.

Thursday 17th September

Thursday 24th September

Thursday 1st October

Thursday 8th October

If you are interested in joining the course please contact our Administrator: phone 01908 382458, email sburyepadm@gmail.com.

NEW...! SEP ‘Saturday Prayer Breakfast’

This will be held at Wolverton House from 9 to 10.30am on the **2nd Saturday of each month - beginning October 10th**. £12 for 'all you can eat and hot drink'.

We had a good time (and good food!) when we used the Wolverton House Carvery for our Sports Breakfast in May; so we had the idea to trial a return to this venue again each month for a set time of fellowship and prayer together. Mark the date, and join us if you can...

MK Heritage Open Days Week and Bucks 'Ride and Stride'

St Mary Magdalene, Willen is hosting an extensive programme of events for MK Heritage Open Days Week (11th to 20th September). Details are provided in an appendix to this newsletter and can also be found on the SEP website. Details of the broader MK wide programme of events can be accessed by downloading this QR code:



Our other historic churches (Bradwell, St Lawrence, St James' and St Andrew's) are also participating in the Heritage Week and all four historic churches will be open to all comers on 12th September.

On the same day they will also be welcoming participants of the annual Buckinghamshire Historic Churches Trust 'Ride and Stride' event. The Ride and Stride website provides suggested routes. [Ride + Stride – Buckinghamshire Historic Churches Trust](#)

Partnership News

New Partnership Leadership Team (PLT)

The second meeting of the new Partnership Leadership Team will be held on Thursday 3rd September. Meetings are held at 7.30pm on the first Thursday every other month (September, November, January etc.).

Administrative Support to the SEP

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 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 best to Minister any service or office.

Drawing the Partnership Together & Partnership Events

Please support our drive to bring the six congregations closer together through social events over the year. 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.

Sharron,
Lay Chair of SEP CIO Council
Secchair22@gmail.com

Website EVENTS Diary

An Events Diary is now live on the Website. However, it's looking fairly sparse at the moment, so **please let Helen know of any events you wish to publicise.** For example, it would help our congregation members who maybe can't make the Bible Study group closest to them but would like to go to one on a day or time better suited to them, if they could check on the website to see when and where other groups are being held.

Our Church Services and Events in September

Bradwell Church, St Lawrence

Sunday 6th at 10.30am **Holy Communion**

Leadership by Revd Phil Dunning

Sunday 13th at 10.30am **Holy Communion**

Led by Revd Margaret Goodall

Sunday 20th at 10.30am **Morning Worship**

An Eco service with a guest speaker

Sunday 27th at 10.30am **Holy Communion**

Led by Revd Chris Bull



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 is now active and meets on Wednesdays 10am to 12pm.

Bell Ringing practice every Wednesday at 19:45.

There is a **coffee morning** the first Saturday each month from 10am to 12pm.

Heritage Week Open Day - the Church will be open on the 12th September as part of the MK wide Heritage Days Week in partnership with other local organisations such as Bradwell Abbey, Bradwell Mill and Bancroft Roman Villa.

Christ Church, Stantonbury

Sunday 6th at 10.30am **All Age Worship**

Led by Maggie Prisk, Baptist Lay Minister

Sunday 13th at 10.30am **All Age Worship**

Led by Revd Phil Dunning

Sunday 20th at 10.30am **All Age Worship**

Led by Mike Morris

Sunday 27th at 10.30am **Holy Communion**

Led by Revd Phil Dunning



All our 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/>

We also have a Christ Church website at www.christchurchmk.org.uk which has the service details on it, and which is updated each week

Wednesday Morning Drop-In every week 10.00 – 11.30am. Meets at Church, refreshments and a quiz are available. All welcome.

Under 5's meet every Thursday in **Term time only** from 10:00 to 11:30 in the Hall. For more details, please contact Susan Gander on 01908 312162

Coffee and cake morning – 19th September 2026

On the 3rd Saturday of each month we hold a coffee and cake morning, this runs from 9.30 to 11.30. All donations received go to our coffee money charity. All are welcome to join us for a coffee and a chat.

Christ Church House-Groups

We hold two house-groups, one in person and the other on Zoom, both in the evenings. Details below:

Wednesday Group at 7.30pm – 9pm contact Roger Gander (01908 312162)
(In person meeting)

Thursday Group at 6.00 pm - 7.30pm Contact Richard Solly (01908 317392)
(On zoom meeting)

Cross and Stable, Downs Barn

Sunday 6th at 11am **Signed Holy Communion**

Led by Revd Peter Green

Sunday 13th at 11am **Holy Communion**

Led by Revd Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 20th at 11am **Holy Communion**

Led by Revd Phil Dunning

Sunday 27th at 10am **Family Breakfast Club**

(followed by a short Service of the Word for adults at 11am)

Led by Revd Dr Sam Muthuveloe



Bell Ringing practice every Friday at 19:30.

Fridays 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 Stephen Fletcher for the Link on Zoom sjf158@gmail.com.

Chatterbox MK every Wednesday from 10:30 to 12:30. All Welcome (free entry) - 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 the fourth Sunday of each month. This month being held **Sunday 27th 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 10am

Led by Rev Prof John Beazley

Sunday 6th at 10am

Lay led service

Sunday 13th at 10am

Led by Revd Peterson Feital

Sunday 20th at 10am

Led by Rev Prof John Beazley

Sunday 27th at 10am

Led by Revd Peterson Feital

Holy Communion

Open Door

Holy Communion

Holy Communion

Holy Communion



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.

5WAYS CAFÉ at St. Andrew's 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 the Great Linford Manor Park is available on request. We also have free participation in the 'Coffee & Craft' sessions, with local artist Jane Charles, held on the 4th Tuesday of the month. All are welcome to 5Ways - we aim to be dementia friendly.

Heritage Week Open Day - the Church will be open from 12 to 5pm on the 12th

September as part of the MK wide Heritage Days Week, working in partnership with the Friends of Great Linford Manor Park as part of a programme of events.

St. James', New Bradwell

Sunday 6th at 9.30am

Led by Revd Peterson Feital

Holy Communion

Sunday 13th at 9.30am

Led by Helen Rouse, LLM

Morning Worship

Sunday 20th at 9.30am

Led by Revd Peterson Feital

Holy Communion

Sunday 27th at 9.30am

Led by Revd Stephanie Hibberd

Holy Communion



Services are not currently being live-streamed. The Church Leadership Team are hoping to start this up again once volunteers have completed training.

Coffee morning: held every Saturday from 10:00 to 12:00 and Wednesday from 09:30 to 11:30.

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

Heritage Week Open Day - the Church will be open on the 12th September as part of the MK wide Heritage Days Week.

St. Mary Magdalene, Willen

Sunday 6th at 9:30am

Led by Margaret Moakes, LLM

All Age Morning Worship

Sunday 13th at 9:30am

Led by Revd Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Holy Communion

Sunday 20th at 9:30am

Led by Revd Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Holy Communion

Sunday 27th at 9:30am

Holy Communion (Harvest Festival)

Led by Revd Dr Kofi Tekyi-Ansah



The monthly Holy Communion by Extension service at **Oaktree Court**, Portland Drive will be at **2.15 pm on 3rd September**. Anyone who would like to join us, would be welcome. Please contact Margaret Moakes.

Bible study meetings will be on **7th and 21st September** from **7.00 to 9.00pm** at. We will be following a new course 'God in Three Persons', an SEP course. All are welcome. The venue will normally be 91A Aldrich Drive, Willen, but please check with Margaret Moakes in advance.

T.T.T.T Concert (Third Tuesday at Twelve Thirty)

Come along to St Mary Magdalene Church Willen and be entertained by Saxophrenia on Tuesday Sept 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.

Volunteer Gardening

The volunteer gardening group has started their weekly Saturday morning 10am-12pm work in the Garden of Remembrance. Please come along. No special skills needed. Please contact Sharron if you would like to join the Gardening Group WhatsApp.

Private prayer. St Mary Magdalene church is open for private prayer or quiet reflection on Sundays and Mondays from 9.30am until evening.

MK Heritage Week Open Days. See further details for Willen's extensive programme of events on page 4 and in the appendix to this newsletter.

Unfortunately, the annual Willen Church **Harvest Supper** has been cancelled this year, as the majority of volunteers who normally help with this are away.

The impact of Fair Trade

I've been asked to include this piece about the impact that Fair Trade can make into our September newsletter.

The Fairtrade Mark is an ethical mark of social, economic and environmental standards, recognised globally. Most people are aware of the Mark, most often seen in supermarkets on products like bananas, tea, coffee and chocolate. It certifies that these imported products have been grown, picked or made to a certified standard which gives growers a fairer deal.

The Fairtrade Foundation was started in 1992 by a coalition of charities including Oxfam, Christian Aid, CAFOD and Traidcraft, with the aim of bringing fairer trading practices to everyday products. People who grow, pick and stitch the things we buy often face challenges of unfair pay, unsafe working conditions and the climate crisis. Fair trade exists to change this, and to demand business that is fair to people and the planet.

We have the opportunity, as consumers, to create change. Each purchase of a Fair Trade marked product is a vote for fairness for all who produce our staple foods. There are fairly traded products available in most supermarkets, including Aldi and Lidl, and there are also online suppliers like Liberation Foods and True Origin, who specialise in fairly traded foodstuffs.

We also have the opportunity to sign petitions to make fairness the rule rather than the exception. The Fairtrade Foundation currently has a petition urging the government to make laws holding companies accountable for social and environmental standards in their dealings abroad. **You can sign the petition by visiting the Fairtrade website here: [Do it Fair](#).**

Fair trade has an impact at many levels. It enables us, as consumers, to buy products of certified provenance, and this provides overseas producers with a better deal in terms of price and living and working conditions. One measure of success is that two million producers have become part of the Fair Trade global network.

Alison Peace.

Eco tip for September 2026 - People's Emergency Briefing

On 27 November 2025, ten of the UK's leading experts briefed an invited audience of more than 1,200 politicians and leaders from business, culture, faith, sport and the media in Westminster.

The briefing set out the implications of climate and nature breakdown for health, food systems, national security and the economy, and did so on the public record.

Its purpose was to demonstrate what a clear, evidence-led National Emergency Briefing could look like and why it is needed.

The People's Emergency Briefing brings together people in local communities to hear the evidence and discuss how to respond. In Milton Keynes, the faith communities are invited to a screening at the Church of Christ the Cornerstone, co-hosted by Churches Together in MK and the MK Eco Church Network.

Date for the Diary: 13th September, 2.00-4.30pm,

Screening of the People's Emergency Briefing film, for the faith community at Christ the Cornerstone, followed by discussion.



This and future Newsletters

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 **October's** issue is **Friday 18th September**.

Please note that Helen will be on leave from 11th to the 18th September and will not be available to answer queries during that period.

Helen

Helen Eaton
SEP Administrator
sburyepadm@gmail.com

Appendix 1

St Mary Magdalene, Willen – Programme of Events for MK Heritage Open Days Week

Daily Events

The church will be open daily from 10am to 5pm. There will be a home-grown Plant Sale daily, but only when other events are taking place.



Saturday 12th September

- Ride and Stride Day – Buckinghamshire Historic Churches Trust.
- 10am to 3pm. Heritage Cake and Cuppa Morning (part 1) and Plant Sale.
- 11am to 3pm. Arts and Crafts with a little bit of Science for accompanied children of all ages with Val Dixon (Local Councillor).

Sunday 13th September

- 12.30 to 1.15pm. MK Classical Guitar Society concert (and plant sale).

Monday 14th September

- 10am to 3pm. Plant Sale.
- 10.30 to 11.30am. Circular Walk and talk about buildings around Willen, led by Tim Skelton (retired MKDC Surveyor) Meet at church doors.
- 1.30 to 2.30pm. Willen Hospice Choir.
- 8 to 9pm Quorum Open Choir Rehearsal.

Tuesday 15th September

- 12.30 to 1.15pm. Concert by Saxophrenia. Refreshments available and plant sale.

Wed 16th September

- 11am to 12pm. Robert Hooke and his Willen Church – didn't he have enough to do? Led by Jacky Scott. Refreshments and plants available.
- 3.30 to 4.30pm. Learn Shanty Songs 'Wear your stripey shirt, whether 5 or 75, and join the crew for an hour', Rolling Home. Refreshments and plants available.

Thursday 17th September

- 11am to 12pm. Meet at the church for guided walk round Hospice Garden, including Silver prize winning garden display at The Well. Led by Tom Burchmore, Hospice Groundsman. Refreshments and plants available at the end.

Friday 18th

- 11am to 12pm. What/Who is Living Archive. Led by Roger Kitchen. Refreshments and plants available.
- 7.30pm. Film: Double Bill; Milton Keynes; Energy Capital UK and, Moulsoe; The Last Harvest £5 for drink and popcorn.

Saturday 19th September

- 10am to 3pm. Heritage Cake and Cuppa (part 2), Gardening and plant sale.
- 11am to 3pm. Arts and Crafts with a little bit of Science for accompanied children of all ages with Val Dixon (Local Councillor).
- 2.30 to 3.30pm. The Cryers Madrigals concert.

Sunday 20th September

- 3- to 4pm. Tree Cathedral Service led by Stantonbury Ecumenical Ministry Team and music performed by The Woburn Sands 'B' Band.

Contact Sharron on smarland8@gmail.com, or check out heritageopendays.org.uk or stmarymagdalene Facebook page for more information on all these events.

Appendix 2 - Great Linford Heritage Open Days



FRIENDS OF GREAT LINFORD MANOR PARK

heritage open days

St Andrew's Church Great Linford

The Parks Trust MILTON KEYNES

Join the Friends of Great Linford Manor Park for their Heritage Open Days

Friday September 11th, 10.30am - 12pm



A history walk around the Manor Park grounds with a British Sign Language interpreter.

Saturday September 12th

11am - 12.30pm History walk.
2pm - 3.30pm History walk.

In St. Andrew's Church 12pm - 5pm

Children's colouring.
Meet the Lacemaker.
Tea and cake served.

1pm - 1.45pm Talk: Centuries of Care, Great Linford's Almshouses & their people.

3.45 - 4.45pm - Talk: A Brief History of Great Linford.