

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

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



October 2026 Newsletter

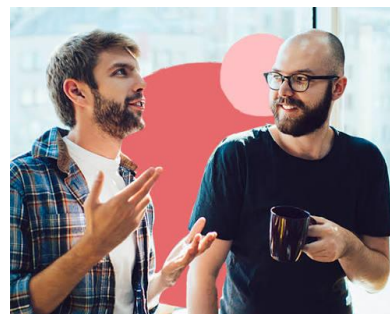
Welcome to the latest edition of the Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership Newsletter, (also see website at www.stantonbury.net).

Pastoral reflection: 'A harvest where we live'

*'Jesus said to them,
'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will
never be hungry, and whoever believes in
me will never be thirsty' John 6 v 35*



At harvest time once again we celebrate God's goodness and mark the crops and produce that support the production of the food we eat - giving thanks to all of those in that food chain; from the growers to the shops. Often though we struggle to find our own place in that process and worse, we always presume that what we want will always be available on our supermarket shelves. Is there any sense at all that I could have my own harvest to play my small part?



It is without doubt that our Lord speaks frequently about his own ability to impact our lives and expand our knowledge of God, which leads to the harvest of faith and hope within - able to bring us peace even in the most difficult circumstances. The verse here is but one example of Jesus' teaching about his authority and purpose. For me it is that faith that I have found in him that brings me to that sense of harvest contribution.

As part of my harvest teaching this year, I'm going to be quoting from resources I have found from the Church Mission Society, who are supporting church partners in DR Congo - aiming to nourish both body and soul through their local work and church planting. It struck me that the work is so relational, and with people who they know and who are suffering similar experiences to them, particularly through the civil war that has been raging in that nation for decades. People in their same village and living the same lives. They are able to have a profound harvest simply because they know and understand one another.

With most Mission Agencies now embracing this ministry in context - with what is often called 'indigenous workers', there are lessons for us too about seeking a harvest where we live, with those we know and - more importantly - who know us. What is the point of trying to impact unfamiliar people, when we could have an effective ministry to friends in our neighbourhood? Its why initiatives like Chatterbox are so very powerful; in drawing friends and neighbours with similar experiences into the church, and toward the love of God for them. The Lord bless you as you seek your own harvest where you live..

With every blessing

Rev Phil Dunning
SEP Baptist Minister and Vision Enabler

Partnership wide events

Partnership-wide services

The next Partnership-wide service will be held at 11am on 29th November at St Andrew's Church, Great Linford. This will be a Holy Communion service on Advent Sunday.

The first Partnership-wide service of 2027 will be held at 11am on 31st January at Cross and Stable, Down's Barn. Bishop Dave Bull will be preaching at this service.

SEP MED Group – 'Mission, Evangelism, Discipleship'

The MED Group met last month at St James, New Bradwell. We talked about advertising, role descriptions for the churches and our prayer and bible study meetings. If you would like copy of the full minutes, please contact Phil.

Our next meeting - Monday 8th February 2027 - Venue TBC

Setting up a new Homeless Soup Run

Please help if you can.

Volunteers will help out from 5-8pm once every three weeks, unless you volunteer to do it more often. At the moment I have 18 volunteers so this will be just on a Tuesday, on a three-week rota. If we reach 24 volunteers we could provide care on Mondays too. You'll work with three others.

All need to be at Christ Church, Stantonbury Campus by 5pm to heat up tomato soup and water. These are put in thermos flasks. Tables and drinks and paper cups etc. will need transporting, so volunteers need two cars to drive them to centre of MK, probably near Argos.

Food is picked up on the way, from Pret, Sainsburys and Greggs. I have also joined Olio for unsold food near us. Food and drinks handed out until 7.30'ish when the team heads back to Christ Church to wash flasks out.

We safely keep in touch via a WhatsApp group, so it would be helpful if you could share your mobile telephone number.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

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

‘Being With’ Course (Save the Dates)

We now have **revised dates** confirmed for the beginning of the 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.

- Wednesday 21st October
- Wednesday 28th October
- Wednesday 4th November
- Wednesday 11th November

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...

Partnership News

New Partnership Leadership Team (PLT)

The second meeting of the new Partnership Leadership Team was held on Thursday 3rd September. Meetings are held at 7.30pm on the first Thursday every other month (next meeting November, then January etc.). A suggestion was made at our last meeting that a brief note on the current financial position should be included in each of our church newsletters on a quarterly basis.

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

Trustee Vacancy - could you be our new Trustee?

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership has a vacancy for an elected trustee to join our Trustee Group. Trustees need to be nominated by 2 members of the Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership. The vacancy is to be filled up until the 2027 AGM, when the Trustee could stand for re-election.

The Trustees are responsible for the governance, compliance and overseeing of strategic direction towards meeting the vision of the SEP, specifically:

- i. To oversee the governance and operation of the Partnership
- ii. To ensure compliance with legal and denominational requirements including safeguarding
- iii. To ensure financial probity for the SEP.

It is expected that the Trustees will have six to eight meetings per year.

It would be valuable to have a URC or Methodist member as a Trustee and to include other congregations.

The current Trustees are:

Elected: Dr Adrian Prisk (Treasurer), Anne Slee (Secretary), Diana Stammers, David Parsons, Jackie Williamson.

Ex officio: Revd. Dr Sam Muthuveloe, Revd. Phil Dunning, Revd. Peterson Feital, Revd. Kofi Tekyi-Ansah

PCC nominee: Penny Miller

Nomination forms can be requested from Anne Slee sep.trustee.secretary@gmail.com and returned by 31 October 2026. If more than one nomination is received, an election will take place at the next Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership all members Church Meeting.

Any questions about the post of Trustee should be directed to any of the elected Trustees (contact details available from Anne Slee). Copies of the Governing Document and Operating Procedures for the Partnership are available on the website <https://stantonbury.net/wp/sep-agreement-governance-procedures>.

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 October

Bradwell Church, St Lawrence

Sunday 4th at 10.30am

**Morning Worship
and Harvest Festival**

Led by Revd Phil Dunning

Sunday 11th at 10.30am

Morning Worship

Led by Revd Jenny Boxwell

Sunday 18th at 10.30am

Holy Communion

Led by Revd Steve Barnes

Sunday 25th at 10.30am

Morning Worship

Local arrangement for leading this service



The majority of 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 remains active during October and meets on Wednesdays 10am to 12pm. It will resume in the Spring.

Bell Ringing practice every Wednesday at 19:45.

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

Christ Church, Stantonbury

Sunday 4th at 10.30am

Morning Worship

Led by Revd David Nash

Sunday 11th at 10.30am

**Morning Worship and
Harvest Festival**

Led by Revd Phil Dunning

Sunday 18th at 10.30am

Morning Worship

Led by Helen Rouse LLM

Sunday 25th at 10.30am

Holy Communion

Led by Revd Dr Kofi Tekyi-Ansah



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 – 17th October

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 4th at 11am

Signed Holy Communion

Led by Revd Peter Green

Sunday 11th at 11am

Morning Worship

Led by Helen Rouse LLM

Sunday 18th at 11am

Holy Communion

Led by Revd Phil Dunning

Sunday 25th 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 8:30pm.

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 3pm and 4pm** respectively. Remember the frail, elderly, the caring staff & the concerned families as we minister God's love and grace.

St. Andrews', Great Linford

Sunday 4th at 10am

Lay led service

Wednesday 7th 10am

Led by Rev Prof John Beazley

Sunday 11th at 10am

Led by Revd Peterson Feital

Sunday 18th at 10am

Led by Rev Prof John Beazley

Sunday 25th at 10am

Led by Revd Peterson Feital

Open Door

Holy Communion

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.

St. James', New Bradwell

Sunday 4th at 9.30am

Led by Revd Peterson Feital

Sunday 11th at 9.30am

Lay led service

Sunday 18th at 9.30am

Led by Revd Peterson Feital

Sunday 25th at 9.30am

Led by Revd's Jenny and John Boxwell

Holy Communion

Open Door

Holy Communion

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.

St. Mary Magdalene, Willen

Sunday 4th at 9:30am **All Age Morning Worship**

Led by Margaret Moakes, LLM

Sunday 11th at 9:30am **Morning Worship**

Led by Helen Rouse LLM

Sunday 11th at 6pm **Evensong with Quorum**

Led by Revd Phil Dunning

Sunday 18th at 9:30am **Holy Communion**

Led by Revd Phil Dunning

Sunday 25th at 9:30am **Holy Communion**

Led by Revd Hannah Akibo-Betts



The monthly Holy Communion by Extension service at **Oaktree Court**, Portland Drive will be at **2.15 pm on 1st October**. Anyone who would like to join us, would be welcome. Please contact Margaret Moakes for further information.

A chaplaincy Service is held at Lovat Fields Retirement Village on every third Wednesday each month. This month being held on the **14th at 2pm** in the Redwig Room. Remember the frail, elderly, the caring staff & the concerned families as we minister God's love and grace.

Bible study meetings will be on 5th and 19th of October 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 'Breakaways'. 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. The Gardening group will cease for the winter at the end of this month.

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

Eco tip for October 2026 -

Greening your home this Autumn



Tackle climate change and reduce your heating bills by finding and reducing the draughts in your home.

Find the gaps that let cold air in and warm air out - keyholes, letterboxes, gaps around windows, doors, loft hatches and floorboards for example.

Do what you can to fix these gaps - there are lots of tutorials on how to do this online.

It's also a good time to prepare for winter by putting radiator reflector foil or baking foil behind the radiator. This will reflect heat back into your room.

For more eco-tips, sign up to A Rocha UK's Wild Christian email: arochoa.org.uk/wild-christian

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 **November's** issue is **Friday 23rd October**.

Helen

Helen Eaton
SEP Administrator
sburyepadm@gmail.com