

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

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



January 2024 Newsletter

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

Partnership News

A New Year Begins.

January 6th Feast of Epiphany

The feast of Epiphany is the occasion on which we remember the search and the arrival of the Magi. This is a day to renew our resolve in bringing good gifts—especially our own selves—to the King of kings and Lord of lords. An appropriate message as we seek new ministers.

January 7th

The baptism of the Lord

Appointment of new Priest in charge

David Preston, Chair of Trustees, and I have again spoken with Archdeacon Guy and the newly appointed Pastoral Support Officer, Asa Humphries. They have now developed a new strategy for encouraging someone to come forward to be our new Anglican Minister and therefore they needed to cancel the advertisement on 15th December. Asa has amended our Parish Profile to show this strategy, but they are not ready to go ahead with anything until the middle of January 2024. The lack of any sense of emergency is a continuing frustration for us all.

Appointment of new Baptist Minister

Adrian Prisk is making arrangements for a group of Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership Council members to hold an informal Zoom chat with a possible applicant. This will probably take place between Christmas and the New Year or in early January

Partnership wide service

We are still hoping to hold our next Church (six congregations) Service on the evening of Shrove Tuesday, 13 February 2024. Do any Church Wardens want to offer their building for this service?

Mission, Evangelism, Discipleship and Worship Committee

This has still to come to fruition, as the Review expected, but I pray we get this off the ground with our ministry soon. This does not mean our Sunday Worship is

compromised in any way, as the Worship Plan is still being organised without a meeting, as has been the case for a while.

Bookings with Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

Irene Farr, Mary Kennedy and I volunteered to develop a poster for all six congregations to display, to help our communities arrange for their family needs, such as weddings and other events with the right person.

Church (six congregations) Meeting

Our next meeting will hopefully be to consider Quiet and Prayer Days and how we can find out about being a more Inclusive Church.

CIO Trustees

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership Council

We next meet on Thurs. 25th January 7.30m, Thurs.14th March 7.30pm, AGM 2024 changed to 25th April, venue Christ Church, Stantonbury and the Partnership Leadership Team meet on Thurs 4th January and Thurs. 22nd February to prepare for the following two months. If you have anything you wish us to discuss, just tell me or your congregation representative to bring it up with us.

Social Media

Thank you to those who have contributed to our congregations or Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership Facebook and website. The Facebook groups are all public so just post your own comments. Please check daily as there are so many activities going on.

UNITYMK (originally known as Winter Night Shelter MK)

They are looking for volunteers to help from now until March 2024. If you want to learn more, please contact:

Andrea Eklund, Operations Manager on andrea.eklund@unitymk.org or via their website, <https://www.unitymk.org/>

As always, many thanks to John for pulling these newsletters together in the hope that better communication leads to closer friendships as our LEP Review showed was needed.

Warm blessings, and a Happy New Year to you.

Sharron, Chair of SEP

secchair22@gmail.com

07846346809

Our Church Services and Events

Bradwell Church, St Lawrence

Sunday 7th at 10:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by Rev Dave Talks

Sunday 14th at 10:30 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Tim Norwood

Sunday 21st at 10:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by Helen Rouse LLM

Sunday 28th at 10:30 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Steve Barnes



Services are frequently live-streamed on Facebook using the link:

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

Gardening Club have decided to go into hibernation until Wednesday 6th March 2024 and thank you for all your help in 2023

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

Christ Church, Stantonbury

Sunday 7th at 10:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by Colin Taylor LLM

Sunday 14th at 10:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by Maggie Prisk

Sunday 21st at 10:30 **Morning Worship**

Led by Rev Peter Ballantine

Sunday 28th at 10:30 **Morning Worship with Communion**

Led by Rev Lisa Kerry



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 20th 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.
(The Christmas break will start after 21st Dec meeting and will restart on 11th January 2024).

Cross and Stable, Downs Barn

Sunday 7th at 11:00 **Signed Holy Communion**

Led by Rev Peter Green

Saturday 9th at 14:00 **God's Heroes, A Baby is Born**

See C&S Notices on www.stantonbury.net

Sunday 14th at 11:00 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 21st at 11:00 **Morning Worship**

Led by Stephen Fletcher LLM

Sunday 28th at 11:00 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe



Services are live-streamed on Zoom at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85922248518?pwd=Tm4vd00wancwVk52cCtqNm5tMWRZdz09>

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 (Party on the morning of 20th)

St. Andrews', Great Linford

Wednesday 3rd at 10:00 **1st Wednesday Communion**

By extension led by Colin Taylor LLM

Sunday 7th at 10:00 **Open Door Service**

Led by Rev Canon Chuks Iwuagwu

Sunday 14th at 10:00 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Canon Chuks Iwuagwu

Sunday 21st at 10:00 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Canon Chuks Iwuagwu

Sunday 28th at 10:00 **Extended Holy Communion Service**

Led by Colin Taylor LLM



Sunday Sitting Room at 17:00 on Zoom every week

Contact greatlinford@googlemail.com for joining details

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.

5 WAYS CAFÉ at St. Andrews' Church

11.00am to 1.00pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month

Come along to enjoy good company, refreshments and, for those wanting a bit of exercise, an accompanied walk in the Great Linford Manor Park to see the new layout, information boards etc. Everyone is welcome and the café is dementia friendly.

St. James', New Bradwell

Sunday 7th at 10:00 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Duncan Barnes

Sunday 14th at 10:00 **Morning Worship Service**

Led by Helen Rouse LLM

Sunday 21st at 10:00 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Duncan Barnes

Sunday 28th at 10:00 **Holy Communion plus Covenant**

Led by Rev David Nash



Most services will be live-streamed to St James' Facebook page at:

[St James Church, NB | Facebook](#)

Every Saturday from 10:00 to 12:00 St James' hosts a Coffee Morning

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

St. Mary Magdalene, Willen

Sunday 7th at 09:30 **All Age Worship**

Led by Margaret Moakes LLM

Sunday 14th at 09:30 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe

Sunday 21st at 09:30 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Fr Jonathan Ewer SSM

Sunday 28th at 09:30 **Holy Communion Service**

Led by Rev Dr Sam Muthuveloe



Please pray for the **Care Homes in Neath Hill & Downs Barn** as we conduct a Church Service and Holy Communion on **Sunday 28th 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.

Gardening has stopped for the winter now, but will be back in Spring. Thank you to Lesley Rolfe, Dave Clarke, Harold Redwood, Phil Marland, Tony Billings, Richard Wilson, Jane Quinn, Jude Rix and Frances Fletcher for their contribution this year. Not everyone can make every Saturday but the whole group have made a huge contribution to the peace and tranquillity of the Garden of Remembrance

A monthly communion service takes place at **Oaktree Court, Portland Drive** on the 1st Thursday of each month – next service is **2.45 pm on January 4th**. Anyone who would like to join us, and stay for a cup of tea afterwards, would be welcome. Please speak to Margaret Moakes

T.T.T.T (Third Tuesday at Twelve Thirty) are now taking a break until March 2024. Over £1000 was raised by T.T.T.T in 2023 and the concerts were thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended. A big **THANK YOU** to all who helped organise and run the T.T.T.T. concerts.

Future Events

External Ecumenical News

I thought I would start 2024 by looking at our four faith denominations and what they mean to us. If I have not served any denominations properly, I apologise and would be happy for anyone to take on their own faith denomination news section each month. We must think of 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 your minister or drop me a line.

News from Diocese of Oxford

A more Christ-like Church

Contemplative, compassionate and courageous for the sake of God's world

Our world is changing in unprecedented ways; we must think afresh about inequality, our communities and human identity. We need to be the best Church we can be in this time: a more Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world.

We are not the society for the preservation of old buildings (important though our heritage assets are); a church is the community of God's people, not the building. We believe that [becoming more Christ-like](#) is about who we are called to be, not what we're called to do.

This is our common vision for every Christian in every church and school across this diocese. We want to discern what God is doing in our communities and figure out how best we can join in.

The call to become more Christ-like is not the work we need to do before a new corporate strategy and a five-year plan. It is the response we are called to make. We are continually adapting and reshaping our common vision as, together, we discern God's will.

And we are just beginning...

News from the Regional Central Baptist Union

Our vision and values

Our vision as a movement is:

'Growing healthy Churches in relationship for God's mission'

To find out more about our vision and who we are, download this [PowerPoint](#) or [PDF](#). As we focus on making vision reality, Baptists Together are committed to *intentionally* developing a culture where we...

SEEK TO BE A MOVEMENT OF SPIRIT LED COMMUNITIES:

As those who have encountered the living Christ, to intentionally seek his will and purpose for our local churches and every expression of our shared life ([Gal. 5:22-25](#))

FEEL LIKE ONE TEAM:

Celebrating diversity; valuing, respecting and trusting each other as we work together in partnerships – making sure everyone feels included and listened to

([1 Cor. 12:24b-27](#))

EMBRACE ADVENTURE:

Being serious about discipleship, willing to take risks, pioneer and move out of the comfort zone of familiar ways of doing things ([Matt. 28:18-20](#))

INSPIRE OTHERS:

With a generosity of spirit, energise and motivate people to be all that God created them to be ([Eph. 5:1-2](#))

SHARE A HUNGER FOR GOD'S COMING KINGDOM:

Nurturing a 'holy discontent' that arises from our desire to give practical expression to our vision of God's purpose for creation – confronting evil, injustice and hypocrisy and challenging worldly attitudes to power, wealth, status and security both within and beyond our Union. ([Matt. 6:9-10](#))

News from the Methodist Circuit**Milton Keynes Methodist Circuit Mission Development Plan 2022 – 2027**

Methodists understand that mission is recognising and taking part in God's work within our churches and communities; this includes praying and worshipping together, sharing our faith, caring for those in need, and acting in loving and just ways.

The Circuit seeks to become a community that:

- Grows and flourishes
- Tells others of the love and grace of God
- Notices and challenges unfair and unjust situations
- Offers hospitality and generosity in ways that are open to all

The Circuit Mission Development Plan informs the Church Mission Plan for each church in the Milton Keynes Circuit that describes the vision for God's mission in a local area and is instrumental in identifying priorities and decision making. Local churches work with ecumenical partners and other partners of faith and no faith within their communities in acts of mission. The church mission plan is the work of the minister and members of the Church Council to agree and then review in discussion with the congregation.

News from The United Reformed Church

What we believe; everyone should have a place to share in God's joy, happiness and make a positive impact on the world.

What do we believe; God in Christ and creation, the Bible, in the Church.

What do we believe; Jesus is The Son of God, Born of a woman, An Opening of Eyes

What do we believe; the Holy Spirit is personal, is holy, is alive

What do we believe; Creation is how things come to exist, the glory, the Bible

What do we believe; human nature, Fullness of life, Humanity and the gospel

What do we believe; Experiencing Church, beyond experience, the Church made visible

What do we believe; Baptism, its essence, Baptism and Jesus, Baptism in the Church

What do we believe; Holy Communion, Sharing the meal, The meal and the future

What do we believe; Salvation, the problem, Solving the problem, Made whole

Each denomination has a website with all these items and much more. You can subscribe to receive updates.

Warm blessings and a Happy, Healthy New Year to you and your family.

Sharron, Chair of SEP secchair22@gmail.com

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: [Churches Together in Milton Keynes \(ctmk.church\)](http://ctmk.church)

News from the Partnership Green Champions

ECO CHURCH TIP FOR JANUARY

Eating less meat in 2024

During Cop28 more attention has been given to green house gas emissions from meat production and the effect of meat eating on land, water use and biodiversity.

One of the quickest ways we can lower our collective greenhouse gas emissions is to eat less meat.

Meat production accounts for 57 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions of the entire food production industry. It also results in widespread deforestation and loss of biodiversity, and each of these means that it significantly contributes to climate change.

Health benefits of eating less meat and more plant based foods include reduced risk of heart disease and stroke, obesity and cancer.

Social Justice issues: Freeing more land for production of plant based foods for human consumption rather than to feed livestock means more people can be fed a nutritious diet.

One way to begin is to have a Meat-Free Day a Week.

There are lots of recipes online for 'meat free days'. Going for Vegan recipes also means you are dairy free. Supermarkets are also a good source of recipe ideas. e.g. <https://realfood.tesco.com/vegan-recipes.html>

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

*The deadline for information to go into February's issue is **Thursday 25th January** to allow me to get it to you in time to send out before the beginning of February*

*As this is the first issue of the year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a **Very Happy and Peaceful 2024** and thank you for reading this newsletter.*

John

John Porter sepnewsletter9@gmail.com

*No **Last Word** item this month, however if anyone would like an item included as the **Last Word** (max one and a half pages please) either next month or in future, send it to me at the above email address before the deadline with the reference 'Last Word'.
JP*