

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

St James, New Bradwell
an open, growing presence for Christ

14th April 2024

The Open Door Service

'There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.' Galatians 3 v 28



Inclusive Church Review

WELCOME, NOTICES AND BIRTHDAYS

Duncan

THE OPEN DOOR SONG

The love of God comes close where stands an open door
to let the stranger in, to mingle rich and poor.
The love of God is here to stay,
embracing those who walk his way.

The peace of God comes close to those caught in the storm,
forgoing lives of ease, to ease the lives forlorn.
The peace of God is here to stay,
embracing those who walk his way.

The joy of God comes close where faith encounters fears,
where heights and depths of life, are found through smiles and tears.
The joy of God is here to stay,
embracing those who walk his way.

The grace of God comes close to those whose grace is spent,
when hearts are tired or sore and hope is bruised or bent.
The grace of God is here to stay,
embracing those who walk his way.

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OPENING PRAYER

John

Leader: O Lord our God,

**All: Too many times we have avoided your call;
Our love for you is like morning dew,
So quick to melt away.**

Leader: Weary and worn,
In want and woe,

**All: We wish for you,
We watch for you,
We wait for you.**

A short time for silent prayer and reflection

Leader: God of mercy,
All: **Hear us, forgive us,
Heal us, free us;
Bind up our wounds
And revive us.
Give us space and silence
To hear your Word to set us free. Amen.**

BIG BALLOONS

Jo

A fun way to remember the highlights of the Lent Course together

HYMN 383

Let us build a house

BIBLE READING:

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 **John**

13 If I speak in the tongues of people and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. **3** If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant **5** or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; **6** it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. **7** Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. **9** For we know in part and we prophesy in part, **10** but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. **11** When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I grew up, I gave up childish ways. **12** For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

WHERE WE'VE GOT TO

Duncan

Highlights of the Lent Course – feedback and main themes

TABLE DISCUSSION – What next?

Jo

3 groups (of 2 tables) – with possible next steps in the following areas:

Building: e.g., permanent screen; sound system revamp; displays;

People: e.g., Monday group; next series; socials; welcomers;

Outreach: e.g., banners; social media; fetes.

Write your group ideas on the paper on the table.

CREED

John

Leader: Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
Who made the world?

All: We believe and trust in him.

Leader: Do you believe and trust in his Son, Jesus Christ,
Who redeemed the world?

All: We believe and trust in him.

Leader: Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit,
Who gives life to the world?

All: We believe and trust in him.

Leader: This is the faith of the church.

All: This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

HYMN 401

Longing for light

PRAYERS AND LORD'S PRAYER

Duncan

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.



THE PEACE

John

Leader: Blessed are the peacemakers:
they shall be called children of God.
We meet in the name of Christ and share his peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

We share the peace with those close by.

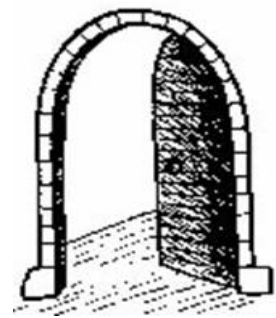
HYMN 700

We have a Dream

THE BLESSING OF THE OPEN DOOR

The congregation turns to face the door as it is opened.

Leader: Bless to us, O Lord,
All: **The doors we open,
The thresholds we cross,
The roads that lie before us;
Go with us as we go
And welcome us home.**



Leader: For new ways to welcome all who are seeking:

All: **We thank you, God.**

Leader: For opportunities to delve deeper:

All: **We thank you, God.**

Leader: For your hand on our lives and our church:

All: **We thank you, God.**

We join hands with those close by to sing our blessing:

**May God's blessing surround you each day,
As you trust him and walk in his way;
May God's presence within guard and keep you from sin,
Go in peace, go in joy, go in love.**

CCLI # 313899

Thank you for joining in our worship today.

Please join us for refreshments and take this leaflet home to use through this week.

*After a short break, we will hold a **Church meeting** to discuss the following two proposals:*

Proposal 1: **'Following a period of exploration and discernment, St. James' Church, New Bradwell, wishes to affiliate to the *Inclusive Church network*'.**

Proposal 2: **'St. James' Church New Bradwell seeks the agreement of the Trustees of Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership to affiliate to the *Inclusive Church network*'.**

Use the orange and blue cards on the tables at this point.

Worship and events for today and beyond

08.10 **Sunday Worship on Radio 4**

10.00 **Open Door**

Led by Duncan and The Open Door Team

This morning's service will **not** be livestreamed.

13.15 **Songs of Praise on BBC 1**

Other services in the Partnership can be found at www.stantonbury.net

Saturday 20th April

10.00 **Church open for coffee.**

Sunday 21st April

10.00 **Holy Communion**

Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith

Bradwell Silver Band Spring Concert at St. James.

The band will be holding their spring concert and awards evening in St. James on Saturday 20th April at 7.30.

Tickets are £8 on the door with family tickets at £20 (2 adults + 2 children or 1 adult +3 children).

Please do come along for an enjoyable evening and to support both the band and St. James.

The SEP AGM

This will be held on Thursday April 25th at 7:30pm at Christ Church, Stantonbury. This will include the Annual Meeting for the election of Churchwardens and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

All members of our six congregations are welcome. Please come along and find out what has been happening in the Partnership and prepare for the coming year. Nominations are requested for Trustees (2), SEP Council Chair, SEP Council Secretary and SEP Safeguarding Lead. Nomination forms are available from Anne Slee, anne.e.slee@gmail.com

For more information about what is happening in and around Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership see the current SEP Newsletter.

If you haven't seen a copy, it is available to view on our website at

www.stjamesnewbradwell.org.uk or alternatively the SEP website at www.stantonbury.net

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership also has a Facebook Group. This is for sharing news on events between the 6 congregations in the partnership, to help bring us closer together and invite others in.

The group can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/208567765189229>

where you can join the group if you wish to.

Just a reminder that there are Quick Links on the Home page of St James' website (see link below) to Churches Together MK, The Diocese of Oxford, The Methodist Circuit, The Central Baptist Association and The United Reform Church, as well as an Event calendar for St James that also lists services for the next 3 - 6 months.

If you have any notices to be included on the leaflet, please contact John direct either by email or phone before Thursday evening.

Contact details below.

Contact Details are:	
Rev. Dr. Paul Smith revpaul@stjamesnewbradwell.org.uk	01908 606689
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