

Dadford with Stowe Parish Newsletter

January- February 2024

STOWE PARISH CHURCH
LOVING GOD + LOVING OUR NEIGHBOURS
MATT 22:37-39

This letter, written in Advent, will be read by you after Christmas, while you recover from all the tinsel covered festivities and as you look into the New Year. Do Advent & Christmas say anything to us at this time of year?

Advent has been called 'one of the most majestic and mysterious seasons in the church's year.' Mysterious in the sense of our getting merely a glimpse of something we find hard to grasp fully. It's a time to prepare to celebrate the First Coming, when God the Creator makes Himself known to His wayward creatures, with whom He wants a real personal relationship like that of a friend. Majestic in that Advent is, also, about the Second Coming, for God came into our world to fill it with His glory or character of love-NOW and in the FUTURE. NOW, His followers reflect, however feebly, something of His character, while they are in the process of a transformation by Him, to be completed in Heaven. In the FUTURE, He will come as judge to put right all the wrongs that plague us & creation-thus filling the world with His glory. So, there is HOPE.

Christmas complements Advent. It reminds us that God came in human form as Jesus to be with us. He was born to "a nobody girl, in a nowhere town,...when Jewish history appears to be going nowhere." (Canon J. John). With such an obscure start He is relatable to, though all powerful. As we watch a violent, troubled world, whether in the Middle East, the Ukraine or conflicts nearer to home, we can recall Jesus' words to His disciples, caught in that terrifying storm in the Sea of Galilee, 'Take courage. It is I. Don't be afraid.' Then He climbed into the boat with them and the wind died down. Mark 6: 50. Whatever storms we are facing or find ourselves in, we could ask him in faith to climb into our boat to help us.

With every blessing for Christmas & the New Year

AR

THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

A hymn for Juliet

Tune: We Plough the Fields and Scatter

The reason for the season of Christmas is Our Lord.
The Son of God, who came to earth, for centuries adored.
No Christmas lights can rival
His radiance divine.
His message in the darkness
Still resonates through time:

*'Come to me, my children,
Your guide from worldly care!
For be assured, your loving Lord
And Saviour, Christ, is here!'*

The reason for the season of Christmas is quite clear:
It's purely incidental that there's reindeers everywhere.
One gift is all-important,
The gift of God's own Son,
Who brings for our redemption
These words to everyone:

*Come to me, my children,
Your guide from worldly care!
For be assured, your loving Lord,
And Saviour, Christ, is here!'*

The reason for the season of
Christmas must be told!
These are the days to voice God's
praise and gen'rally be bold!
The centrepiece of Christmas
Is not dear Santa Claus,
But Jesus' invitation
To join His precious cause:

*'Come to me, my children,
Your guide from worldly care!
For be assured, your loving Lord,
And Saviour, Christ, is here!'*



AM

Thanks to the team who erected the tree and beautifully decorated it as well as the church, ready for all our Christmas services and for the many visitors expected to pass through during this time.

Family Services in 2024

January 14th - Sitting with Jesus

The two housebuilders

Luke 6, 46 -49

Jesus came to a level field where many people were waiting to hear him and to be healed in their bodies and their minds. Jesus told them that listening to His words and doing them would give them the best foundation in life.

It would be like working hard and digging deep to build a house with such strong foundations that flood and tempest would not shake it.

Following Jesus, the way the truth and the life, is our surest foundation when experiencing the storms of life and preparing for the final judgment.



February 11th - Standing with Jesus

Storing up riches

Luke 12, 13-21

A crowd of thousands had gathered to hear Jesus, packed so close that they were treading on each other. One man came with a grievance about the division of an inheritance against his brother. He wanted Jesus to settle the dispute.

Jesus, however, told him, and us, to guard against greed and covetousness of every kind. We may amass great wealth but remain a pauper in the sight of God.

"Set your mind upon His kingdom and all the rest will come to you as well. For where your treasure is there will your heart be also."



What's been happening at St. James and St. John Church of England Primary School...

St. James and St. John School is a one-form entry school located in two villages. Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2 children are taught at the infant site in Akeley and Year 3 up to Year 6 are taught at the junior site in Chackmore.

With the start of both this new month and year, we welcome all our children back for the start of another exciting and busy half term!

We have also welcomed some new members of staff, including our new SENDCO, Mrs Goby, after wishing some of our staff good luck in their new adventures at the end of last term.

The start of the New Year is always a good time to reflect on not just our achievements of the last year, but also on what we want to aspire to achieve in this year. January is the perfect time for encouraging our pupils to try something and to build their resilience and perseverance when some things take longer to consolidate than others.

Any parents with children turning 4 before September are reminded that the closing date for primary school applications is fast approaching. Both our Akeley and Chackmore sites are always happy to show prospective parents around. Individual tours can be booked by calling the Akeley site on 01280 860272. **CG**

Hi Everyone.

I am still in Nepal and will be back in December and will then update you all on the news of the tailoring women. Now I would like to share with you the story of a young woman who completed her tailoring course last year, her name is Mathikala Saud.



Mathikala Saud was born into a Hindu family and lived in far western Nepal in a very rural area with her brother and sister.

When she was a child, she was very ill with a heart problem and so struggled to do many jobs and was very weak. When she was in her late teens her family told her to go to Kathmandu to the hospital. She made her way, a journey that took several days, and arrived at her friend's house Susika in Dhapsi (Sustika is another woman who has done the sewing training). She was so very ill and all she wanted to do was go to the Hindu temple and commit suicide. Pastor David heard about her and gave her some food, clothing and a small room in Dhapsai to help her.

Sustika introduced her to the gospel, and she came a few times to church. They all prayed for her healing. Overtime she gradually came more to church and became a Christian.

She then attended a health screening camp, and the doctor reported that her blood sugars were good, but she had very high blood pressure and must go immediately to the hospital. She went and was tested for everything, but to her amazement and the doctors' was completely clear. She has not been ill since.

Last month she visited her family's village, she was the only Christian there. Her father was a strong Hindu and involved in witchcraft. They were all amazed at how well she was, and she told them about Jesus, how he loves everyone, how he will forgive whatever they have done bad in the past, whoever they are, Hindu, Brahim, Dalit (rich or poor), they just need to ask for forgiveness, be humble and pray to Him. Her sister and her husband are now eager to find out more about this Jesus. Please pray for this family.

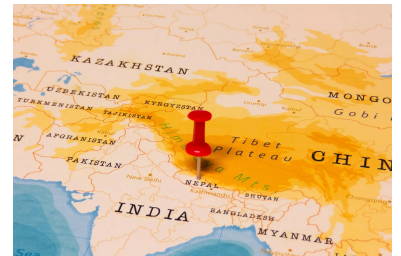
She still lives in a tiny room 12ft X 15ft. (This looks like a shed with a metal roof). It has two beds, a cooking stove, some shelves, and her sewing machine.

It is very cold in Winter. Mathikala however is full of joy and doing very well repairing and making clothes. She would like to thank everyone for her tailoring training and sends you all her love.

Jennifer (Metcalf)

If you would like to know more about these women and life in Nepal, please contact me anytime.

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DADFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Happy new year from your Parish Council let's hope 2024 is a good one for us all.

Just a reminder that if there are any local issues such as potholes etc they should be reported on the fix my street website where they can they be addressed by the appropriate authority.

The village is well supported by our county councillors and they regularly attend our parish council meetings. If there is anything that you wish us to raise at the next parish council meeting please feel free to contact us. You are also, of course, more than welcome to attend !

We hope to see some of you there in the new year.

Our contact details are info@stowepc.uk and all meeting dates can be found on our website www.stowepc.uk



DADFORD WI

In November we had our Annual Meeting with President Liz Riseborough in the chair. It was good to look back over the last 12 months reflecting on our speakers and the fun we had had. We were pleased to hear from our October speaker Mark Randall, that with donations received on the night and the WI payment the total given to the Winslow branch of the British Legion Poppy amounted to £77.20. As our secretary has decided to step down after 30 plus years we are unsure of our way forward, but will have a discussion in the new year and decide at the end of the WI year which is the end of March.



Thank you to all who supported the coffee morning in the Village Hall at the end of November. The Hall was a hive of activity with neighbours and old friends chatting over coffee and cakes. The Christmas stall was kept extremely busy with presents and festive fayre being snapped up and helping to make this a very successful event. Macmillan Cancer Support and Stowe Parish Church will share the considerable sum raised.

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In December we were delighted to be reinvited to the home of our president Liz Riseborough for a delicious Christmas dinner. We ate, drank, laughed and chatted, along with crackers, jokes and a quiz, a thoroughly good time was had by all. We thanked Liz for her hospitality and what a lovely way to end our 2023 WI year.

On 11<sup>th</sup> January we will welcome Steve Wheeler who will be telling us all about 'The Honda and Hounds, and on 8<sup>th</sup> February we will welcome Gillian Mason from the National Trust who will gives us an update on the latest restoration work.

Why not come along and join us in 2024.

*Loreen*



A short Remembrance Service was held in the Dadford cemetery on 12th November. Hilary Hawkins laid the wreath on behalf of the village.



### Pastoral Visits

If anyone requires a pastoral visit from Rev Hans Taling or Rev Cathy Pearce please contact North Bucks Parish Office – email: [office@nbpchurches.org.uk](mailto:office@nbpchurches.org.uk) or phone: 01280 814430

| Date     | Warden/Sidespeople                  | Prayers           | Refreshments      |
|----------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 7th Jan  | Loreen Williams & Hilary Hawkins    | Liturgy           | Tamara Kimpton    |
| 14th Jan | Nancy Pullin                        |                   | Elsbeth Mullineux |
| 21st Jan | Andrew Rudolph/Lyn and Ray East     | Gillian Macdonald | Kay Murray        |
| 28th Jan | Laurence Gibson & Chris Close-Smith | Andrew Rudolf     | Nancy Pullin      |
| 4th Feb  | Richard and Essex Close-Smith       | Liturgy           | Gillian Macdonald |
| 11th Feb | Nancy Pullin                        |                   | Lyn East          |
| 14th Feb | Ash Wednesday                       |                   |                   |
| 18th Feb | Tamara and John Kimpton             | Tamara Kimpton    | Elsbeth Mullineux |
| 25th Feb | Loreen Williams & Hilary Hawkins    | Gill Smith        | Tamara Kimpton    |

| Date     | Flowers           | Cleaning                     | Prayer-board      |
|----------|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 7th Jan  | Gillian Macdonald | Chris and Phillipa Atkinson  | Tamara Kimpton    |
| 14th Jan |                   |                              | John Kimpton      |
| 21st Jan | Heather Meredith  |                              | Gillian Macdonald |
| 28th Jan |                   | Chris Close-Smith and Venice | Kay Murray        |
| 4th Feb  | Kay Murray        |                              | Gill Smith        |
| 11th Feb |                   |                              | Lyn East          |
| 14th Feb | Ash Wednesday     |                              |                   |
| 18th Feb | Lent              | John and Tamara Kimpton      | Tamara Kimpton    |
| 25th Feb | Lent              |                              | Gillian Macdonald |

| Date     | Time  | Service                  | Lead/Preach                            | Chalice       |
|----------|-------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------|
| 7th Jan  | 09:45 | 1662 Communion           | Rev Cathy Pearce                       | John Kimpton  |
| 14th Jan | 09:45 | Family Service           | Kay Murray                             |               |
| 21st Jan | 09:45 | Common Worship Communion | Rev Hans Taling                        | Andrew Rudolf |
| 28th Jan | 09:45 | Morning Prayer           | L - Andrew Rudolf P - Paul Woods       |               |
| 4th Feb  | 09:45 | 1662 Communion           | Rev Cathy Pearce                       | Lyn East      |
| 11th Feb | 09:45 | Family Service           | Kay Murray                             |               |
| 14th Feb |       | Ash Wednesday            |                                        |               |
| 18th Feb | 09:45 | Common Worship Communion | Rev Hans Taling                        | John Kimpton  |
| 25th Feb | 09:45 | Morning Prayer           | L - Gillian Macdonald P - Tom Harrison |               |