

Dadford and Stowe Parish Magazine

May - June 2020



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This magazine is produced every two months for everyone in Dadford Village and Stowe Parish.

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DEADLINE FOR THE MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please let Lyn East (lmeast@btinternet.com) have submissions (articles, photographs, ads or news items) by the **15th of the month prior to publication** (February, April, June, August, October & December)

ADVERTISING

If you would like to advertise future events in this magazine then please e-mail Lyn East

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Dear Friends,

What strange times we live in. "No man is an island entire of itself," wrote John Donne, Dean of St Paul's, as he lay ill in 1624. But that is just what we are told to be now, living only to ourselves, apart from family, friends and neighbours, unable to touch, hug and kiss.

We are asked to be self-isolating and how un-natural that feels. John Donne knew how interdependent we are, designed to meet and share experiences: "Every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main." The church family used to meet on Sunday mornings for a service of worship, praise, petition and thanksgiving. Now we cannot, not even in small groups for Bible study and prayer. We miss the faces and voices of our friends, exchanging news, making plans, sympathising and encouraging.

However, the constant in our lives is Jesus whose glorious resurrection from death we have just celebrated. We could not meet in person but used all the devices of modern technology and in so doing have discovered other worlds of theatre, opera, dance, and art. We have listened to the Rev Val's sermons, read Bible commentaries and participated in services from around the country. This has been a strangely enriching opportunity to hear other speakers and "meet" other congregations.

Our life in Christ makes us strong in the fellowship of the Spirit. His love comforts us as we travel through the valley of the shadow of death. Rejoice! The Lord is King! His promise is sure: "I will be with you always, to the end of the age."

With best wishes,
Gillian

*Editor's note. Although **all services, meetings and gathering of groups of people are no longer allowed** I have completed the magazine as usual to enable interested readers to retain some form of 'normality' and have included details of services as was planned, which lists the Bible readings for each Sunday. It is my intention to add a sermon from the preacher of that day to our website on **www.stowechurch.org.uk***

I would like to thank all the contributors of this digital version as there are many positives to report, not least the way in which neighbours and friends are coming together to help each other.

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



I am writing this article at the end of perhaps the most unusual and challenging Easter holiday I can remember. Hopefully, by the time of reading this, things may be looking more positive and normal.

Firstly, all staff at St. James and St. John School sincerely hope everyone's families are safe and well. After the early closure of school, two weeks prior to the Easter holiday, we have remained opened to facilitate care for a small number of children of key workers who have continued to provide essential services that are much needed at this difficult time.

Before leaving school on that last Friday, all the children were given home learning kits including links on the school website for online learning opportunities. As the weeks have progressed, this has been updated regularly with ideas for the children, messages from Mrs Pedder and the other staff and photos of what we have all been up to. Our school secretary at the Akeley site has been a very busy lady, making the children an Easter activity pack, which certainly kept our household busy for the two weeks, as well as writing a daily diary about her activities during lockdown.

The school has also been using YouTube, posting videos of stories and other ideas, including some yummy recipes, for the children. Our Forest School leader has been very busy keeping a video diary called Frog Blog- watching the progress of frogspawn to frogs- something we don't always appreciate and have time for in our busy lives.

Everyone at St. James and St. John misses the children and we can't wait to get back to the classroom once it is safe enough to do so. However, we hope that in the meantime, the children are enjoying the slower pace of life and are busy watching the natural world change around them as spring has well and truly arrived. We are certainly very lucky that in our small part of the world, we have many opportunities to make such observations.

Although the school building may be closed, the office email is being monitored, should you want to contact us. All that remains to say is we wish all our families and friends of the school the very best at this difficult time.

CG

Note from the Editor: My granddaughter has been so encouraged with all the YouTube links and especially the recent 'conference call'. It has been such a difficult time for all children as their routine has been totally disturbed and for some staying with other members of the family whilst parents work in key jobs both in and out of hospitals. The contact from school has been invaluable for the children in adjusting to a new routine for the time being.

P.S. I particularly enjoy the Frog Blog.



Parish Council Update

We hope everyone is staying safe and keeping well. This is a frightening and unsettling time and we all need to support each other. It is really important that we are looking out for our neighbours and thinking about the community we live in. We know that many of you are already making sure that those who may be vulnerable or self-isolating have enough food and medication at home. **The Parish Council are here to help** and if there's anything that is needed for those that are struggling please don't hesitate to get in touch and we will do our best to assist.

Your Stowe Parish Councillors are *Sue Boulet (Chair), Chris Atkinson, Jamie Boulet, Hilary Hawkins, Colin Stanbrook and Steve Williamson.* Should you have any questions or need to get in touch to discuss anything, then in the first instance you can contact our extremely competent Clerk, Tony Skeggs, on 01296 428392 or email parishclerkstowe@outlook.com and he will be very happy to help.

Alternatively more contact details can be found on www.dadfordvillage.com. The official notice board is outside the village hall and all up to date information will be found here as well as the website.

VE Day Celebrations – CANCELLED

Unfortunately due to Covid-19 and the latest government advice we have made the decision to cancel the event planned for the 8th May.

The improvements that were planned on the allotment/playing field are still going ahead but again we are waiting for the current restrictions to be lifted.

Allotments: now could be the perfect time to grow your own produce. If you are interested in becoming an allotment holder we would love to welcome you. Contact: Councillor Chris Atkinson, 01280 814523 or chrisatkinson565@btinternet.com

The playground in Dadford has been temporarily closed due to Covid-19 and will only be opened once restrictions have been removed.

Broadband is now available within most areas in the parish. For anyone who hasn't yet signed up and wants to, please contact Voneus on 0800 007 3377 to discuss. They are still working and are following all the latest guidelines on social distancing as set out by the government.

We have a new website that will be going live very soon. Please take a look as here you will find information on all the Councillors and the Clerk as well as up to date parish information www.stowepec.uk

The elections planned for 7th May 2020 have been delayed until 6th May 2021.

Parish Council Meetings have been cancelled until the "Social Distancing" rules have been relaxed. SB



Dear Stowe Church,

Thanks so much for your prayers. Lots has been going on since I last saw you at the summer concert! Elanor Mary Lynda Catallo was born on Christmas day. Her due date was the 17th December and God decided to give her an interesting birthday!

We felt very much God's presence and blessing with us during and after the birth. Her middle name of Mary seemed fitting. We originally chose it because we wanted her to have one of Mummy's names but with her Christmas birth it seemed to fit. Lynda is Leon's Mum's name and Elanor means 'God is my light' in Hebrew. It also makes an appearance in Lord of the Rings!

The initial few weeks were hard because I had lost quite a lot of blood so having Mummy to help in the first 2 weeks was invaluable. Leon took to being a father amazingly well and looked after Elanor around the clock while I recovered. She was very small to begin with on the 2nd percentile but as you can see now is feeding well and is wonderfully chubby!

Just as I came out of the new-born fog and was about to attend baby groups, everyone's lives were changed by Coronavirus. I've missed not being able to show Elanor off at Church and she still has family still to meet. Other than that, it has been nice being in the garden, speaking to people on Skype and having more time to pray with Leon. One of my favourite days of lockdown was Elanor giggling at Hobbit who was jumping into a bush to collect a ball! Our church family at St Ebbes Headington are thankfully all well and we have been enjoying the live streaming services. It has been strange Leon being live on Youtube and making sure Elanor doesn't cry while he is 'on the telly'! But we are thankful for the technology.

None of our congregation is ill but we have a lot of medics amongst us. Some of them have faced some tough, stressful and challenging situations. On the whole though, it has been good to have more time to reflect, pray and be creative! I wrote a story for Leon's birthday and Mummy did the illustrations. If you would like to read it, please do email me on charlottechristine@live.co.uk

We are so thankful for God's' grace towards us, your prayers, and his daily blessings.

Yours in Christ and love,

Charlotte and Leon.

On the 16th December we went to Leon's work party as Mary and Joseph. We asked the slightly confused bus driver for a return ticket to Bethlehem! We never thought we would have a baby on Christmas day. Poor Mummy had to spend Christmas day by herself until she came to see Elanor who was born at 10pm.



Food for thought!



On Maundy Thursday, Rev Will Pearson-Gee spoke about Peter's shock & amazement that the Son of God should stoop to do the menial task of washing his feet.

That spoke very forcefully to me - we can take so much of what the Lord Jesus has done for us somewhat for granted.

Yesterday, I heard the Prime Minister of Jamaica lead a great public prayer of repentance and request for deliverance - he made no bones about where, how often and how far we fall short of God's ways and standards.

Some time later, he announced the total island-wide lockdown. That seems a good combination of the spiritual and the practical.



It reminded me of Cromwell's call to his troopers before the battle of Naseby, "*Trust God and keep your powder dry!*"

We could do with such a call in the UK!

It is incredible that He should have done so much for us.

AR

Church News

Sadly, there are no services being held in Stowe Church or Dadford Chapel during this Covid-19 crisis. Past and present sermons can be found on our website.

However, there are many alternatives to be found on the computer. For example,

The Rev Val Plumb's weekly message can be found on

https://youtu.be/yIWZ3kVX_Us

On 19th April she focussed her message on 'Doubting' Thomas.

Rev Val is the Area Dean for Rural Mission and Development. The rural ministry within North Bucks includes working with the churches and clergy of the Mursley, Buckingham (and Dadford and Stowe), Claydon and the western part of Aylesbury Deaneries, to encourage creativity, offer support, advice and encouragement and develop strategies to serve and enliven the rural church for the future.



BBC 1 TV

Sunday Worship: 11am

Songs of Praise: 1.15pm

BBC Radio 4

Sunday Worship (live): 8.10am

(Radio LW & DAB)

Morning Service (Live daily): 9.45am

Food Bank - Food donations of non-perishable goods can be dropped off at the side of **The Centre in Verney Close, Buckingham on Tuesdays from 10.30 - 11.30. All contributions welcome.** If you wish to make a monetary donation please contact Keith Croxton on: 01280 815100 or email: postmaster@keithcroxton.plus.com

The church website is now operational again. A colour version of the magazine can be found on www.stowechurch.org.uk



June 21st
The rich young man
Mark 10, 17-22

May 17th - Rogation Sunday

On this day we would usually leave the church and, stopping at various points in the grounds, give thanks and praise to God for His provision for us. Now, we have to be careful where we walk and how closely to someone.

Our thanks and praise are all the more heartfelt for being set about by uncertainty. God remains constant and we can use these verses from previous Rogation Sunday walks to remember His generosity and kindness:

- Blessed are You, Lord God, king of the universe
- Your word calls forth the dusk in the evening
- Your wisdom creates both night and day
- You determine the cycles of time
- You arrange the succession of seasons
- And establish the stars in their courses.
- How many are your works, O Lord,
- In wisdom You made them all
- The earth is full of your creatures.
- O let the earth bless the Lord,
- Bless the Lord you mountains and hills,
- Bless the Lord all that grows on the ground.
- Sing His praise and exalt Him forever.

A young man ran to Jesus and knelt before him. He was wealthy and confident. He had obeyed the ten commandments since a boy but he had a further ambition - he wanted eternal life.

Whom better to ask than the Good Teacher who was passing his way? Jesus looked straight at him with love. " Give away all you have in exchange for riches in heaven and follow Me."

The young man was sad: he preferred his riches to following Jesus. His wealth was an impediment, it did not give him the right to eternal life and he was not willing to receive it by faith in God's grace. This was the only time someone left Jesus sadder than they came.

What do you think of the young man's decision?

Psalm 96.

10 Say to all the nations, "The Lord is king! The earth is set firmly in place and cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with justice."

11 Be glad, earth and sky! Roar, sea, and every creature in you;

12 be glad, fields, and everything in you! The trees in the woods will shout for joy

13 when the Lord comes to rule the earth. He will rule the peoples of the world with justice and fairness.

GM



National Trust at Stowe

National Trust

To help stop the spread of coronavirus, Stowe closed to the public on Sunday 22 March until further notice. We will be sure to let people know when we are open again, but for now the message is stay at home, stay safe and enjoy the nature around you when you can. It is certainly very strange not being open to the public, we hope that people can enjoy spring at Stowe next year. For now, here are some photos of this year's Spring at Stowe for you to enjoy.



Our meadow of Snakehead Fritillaries develops in its second year along Gurnet's walk.



Viburnum tinus blooms near the Temple of Ancient Virtue

Restoring Stowe – return of the muses

Whilst we aren't currently working as we normally would at Stowe right now, our programme to restore Stowe continued earlier in the year, with the return of the Nine Muses, part of a project to return a group of statues called Apollo and the Nine Muses. Over the statues' 100 years at Stowe, they have been in several locations in the garden. The third and final location was the Doric Arch in the Elysian Fields and this is where the statues have been returned to. As there was no appropriate set of Muses to copy, we commissioned Clivedon Conservation Workshop to create a set of Nine Muses based on evidence of the statues at Stowe.





March W.I. Meeting

Well, our speaker for March, **William French**, certainly was dressed the part. Ex Royal-Navy and butler extraordinaire, he arrived immaculate in full butler uniform with the shiniest shoes I have ever seen.

Born and bred in Swanbourne he joined the Royal Navy at 15 1/2, doing his training at HMS Raleigh in Cornwall and going on to do chef training at HMS Chattam and finally qualifying as a first class steward at Watford.

His first act of duty was at the age of 17, being one of the youngest to go to the Falklands on HMS Battleaxe. Here he was soon helping the



wounded as a first aider on the Sir Galahad where he assisted in the evacuation of many troops with horrific burns including Simon Weston. For this he was awarded the South Atlantic medal which he justly wore with pride, and attends the remembrance parade each year as a reminder of those who did not return.

His career has taken him worldwide spending 5 years on the Royal Yacht, serving many of our royals and endless dignitaries. We heard many interesting facts regarding Britannia and was surprised to learn that on-board was a double garage but not always used for cars, more often to store barrels of beer.

Serving in Buckingham Palace, he explained the precision in laying a banquet table and this would not take a few hours but actually many days to complete.

After working for Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman for over 4 years he decided it was time to hang up his tray and white gloves after 40 amazing years of butlering. He is now giving talks far and wide and raising money for the medical detection dogs. Many thanks for a very interesting and informative talk.

Sadly all WI meetings are postponed until further notice, but meanwhile do stay well and safe and look forward to meeting up again sometime in the future.

Take care,

Loreen

We thought you might like to share this poem/prayer which was written in 1945 just after the 2nd World War. Pete Williams' cousin Mavis wrote many journals, poems and snippets of her life and wrote this one at the age of 17.

Earlier this year, when she sadly passed peacefully away at the grand age of 92, we decided it would be most appropriate to read at her funeral on 27th March, 2020. Due to severe restrictions, just ourselves, Hans and the undertaker could be present at the graveside. Her faith was her life and we think this shines through.

L & PW

Oh it is, by God's good will,
That I climb his Holy hill,
Climb by day and climb by night,
Often weary of the fight.
At the top one day I'll see,
Then in heav'n, my Lord I'll see,
Glorious, the welcome door,
Where peace be for evermore.

Mavis Olive Methven. 1928 -2020.

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"For the Beauty of the Earth" is a Christian hymn by **Folliott S Pierpoint** (1835-1917). **Pierpoint** was 29 at the time he wrote this hymn; he was mesmerized by the beauty of the countryside that surrounded him.

*Having just returned from a beautiful walk I was moved, too, to think of these lovely words. Even in difficult times we recognise our need of God's peace in our hearts.*

**1** For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies.

*Refrain:*

*Christ, our Lord, to you we raise  
this, our hymn of grateful praise.*

**2** For the wonder of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flower,  
sun and moon and stars of light,  
[Refrain ]

**3** For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild,  
[Refrain]

**4** For yourself, best gift divine,  
to the world so freely given,  
agent of God's grand design:  
peace on earth and joy in heaven.  
[Refrain]



# Nature Notes

*For lo, the winter is past, the rain has gone; The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come. And the voice of the turtle dove is heard in our land.*

Familiar words from The Song of Solomon.

As I sit in the garden typing this it seems I am living in that place. The urge to create is strong in spring, in us, too. It is good to have a new project for the garden in later life; to create a different kind of beauty.

How would it be if we could all manage to create something that will live on beyond the difficult time we live in now. It doesn't have to be big. Maybe it's just moving a plant that has outgrown its space or was not thriving. What a joy it will be to see it rejoicing in its rightful place. Perhaps a cutting can now be planted out. It may be getting a bed free of a weed that wants to take over. It may be planning a new bed or reviving one that has lost its way. A local nursery which advertises in the local paper is taking orders on-line and will deliver safely. It would be good to give them some business and help them survive.

*'Praised be you my Lord through our sister Mother Earth who sustains us, producing varied fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.'*

From a prayer of St Francis of Assisi

Thank you if you had sown seeds for Gardeners' Question Time. Find a corner in your garden for them, maybe as part of the above? The event will take place at some safe point in the future.



GG

Whilst many of us have benefited from the wonderful produce from, and service at, Boycott Farm you may be interested to know that the greengrocer on Buckingham market is willing to deliver fruit and vegetables to you. His contact details are as follows:

**Geoff Geen, email him on [MKVEG2020@gmail.com](mailto:MKVEG2020@gmail.com) or telephone 01908 315255 or 07765263075. He does not charge for this service, and will ring you before delivering to you. If you ring him before 5pm on Tuesday he will deliver at the end of the week.**

## And Finally - 18 suggestions for this season of isolation

1. Call a few people each day just to say “Hello” and offer a word of encouragement. Be diligent to share words of hope and refrain from talking about negative things—there’s enough of that in the news already.
2. Make a list of people that come to your mind and start praying for them. Pray for each person by name.
3. Pick up that book you’ve been meaning to read. Read a few books at a time. I do this all the time. Read one for half an hour, then switch over to another book and read that. In this way, you are reading many different subjects at the same time. It feels like a good meal that has several items on the plate all at once. Maybe recommend a good book to a friend.
4. Read God’s word and memorize verses of hope and promise.
5. Read poems about hope, love, and faith.
6. Read a good book about using time wisely.
7. Think about others, especially those who are in a much more dangerous environment than we are, and pray for them.
8. Write an email to the Government authorities, both local and higher levels, and encourage them. Appreciate all that they do for the society. They don’t hear positive encouragement very often.
9. Although you cannot go to public places like the gym for exercises, discipline yourself for at least half hour each day to do some kind of physical exercise in your home.
10. Look around and see the accumulation of material stuff that has cluttered your life. Simplify your living conditions by throwing things away that can’t be used and giving away what can be.
11. Don’t consume foods that your body cannot use, especially during these days with limited inability to burn the calories.
12. Listen to music that calms your mind and emotions.
13. Watch good movies on life. Don’t watch scary movies.
14. Guard your ears from listening to people talking about negative things.
15. If you have resources to give, look for ways to help others in dire need, especially those in communities and nations that are greatly suffering due to this coronavirus crisis.
16. Learn something new! Practise a new language, develop speed reading, learn an instrument - you can get started by looking at what is offered for free online.
17. Try to help the needy and suffering abroad and at home through your prayers and assistance.
18. Being isolated with your family members is a gift from God. Be kind and loving to those who are close to you. This convergence culture and online world of social media has caused so much loneliness and isolation. Re-learn how to be a real human being during this time you have together.

## Stowe Parish Church Rotas

| <b>Date<br/>2020</b> | <b>Sidesmen</b>                     | <b>Prayers</b>                          | <b>Refreshments</b> |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|
| May 3rd              | Patricia and Julia                  | Andrew Rudolf                           | Lyn East            |
| May 10th             | Sally and Robert<br>Drummond-Hay    | Liturgy                                 | Elsbeth Mullineux   |
| May 17th             | Nancy Pullin                        | Rogation Sunday                         | Margaret Rley       |
| May 24th             | Ray and Lyn East                    | Sally                                   | Julia Morten        |
| May 31st             | Richard and Essex<br>Close-Smith    | Gillian                                 | Kay Murray          |
| June 7th             | Andrew Rudolf and<br>Tamara Kimpton | Pat                                     | Nancy Pullin        |
| June 14th            | Laurence Gibson and<br>?Tim         | Liturgy                                 | Gill Smith          |
| June 21st            | Julie                               | Children                                | Bernadette Matthews |
| June 28th            | Robin and Nancy<br>Shepherd         | TBC                                     | Tamara Kimpton      |
| <b>Date<br/>2020</b> | <b>Flowers</b>                      | <b>Cleaning</b>                         | <b>Prayer-board</b> |
| May 3rd              | Pat Walton                          |                                         | John Kimpton        |
| May 10th             | Rosie Cowdy                         | Lyn and Ray East                        | Pat Howard          |
| May 17th             | Hilary Hawkins                      |                                         | Lyn East            |
| May 24th             | Heather Meredith                    | Brian and Frances Orger                 | Gill Smith          |
| May 31st             | Margaret Rley                       |                                         | Margaret Rley       |
| June 7th             | Ivy Cakebread                       | Gillian Macdonald and<br>Tamara Kimpton | Tamara Kimpton      |
| June 14th            | Gillian Macdonald                   |                                         | Gillian Macdonald   |
| June 21st            | Loreen Williams                     | Pat Walton and Rosie<br>Cowdy           | Kay Murray          |
| June 28th            | Diana Wyatt                         |                                         | John Kimpton        |

| Date 2020 | Time  | Service                             | Theme                                         | Reading / Gospel                        | Lead / Preach             |
|-----------|-------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| May 3rd   | 8:00  | Said 1662 Communion                 |                                               |                                         | Pat                       |
|           | 9:45  | Morning Prayer                      | Mary Slessor + Jeremiah and Timothy           | Jeremiah 1:1-10<br>1 Tim 1:1-2 + 4:9-16 | L - Gillian<br>P - Val    |
| May 10th  | 9:45  | 1662 Communion                      | St Augustine of Canterbury + Samuel and Jesus | 1 Samuel 3:1-21<br>Luke 2:22-35         | L - Pat<br>P - Simeons    |
| May 17th  | 9:45  | Family Rogation Service             |                                               |                                         | Kay                       |
| May 21st  | 19:30 | Deanery Service                     | Ascension Day                                 |                                         |                           |
| May 24th  | 9:45  | Common Worship Communion            | Jesus ascends                                 | Acts 1:6-14<br>John 17:1-11             | L - Pat<br>P - Paul       |
|           | 18:00 | Evensong in Dadford Cemetery Chapel |                                               | Psalm 96:10-13                          | L - Gillian<br>P - Andrew |
| May 31st  | 9:45  | Mission Morning Prayer              | Pentecost                                     | Acts 2:1-21<br>John 7:37-39             | L - Andrew<br>P - Max     |
| Jun 7th   | 8:00  | Said 1662 Communion                 |                                               |                                         | Pat                       |
|           | 9:45  | Morning Prayer                      | God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit           | 2 Cor 13:11-14<br>Matt 28:16-20         | L - Andrew<br>P - Keith   |
| Jun 14th  | 9:45  | 1662 Communion                      | Eric Lidell + Isaiah                          | Isaiah 6:1-8<br>Matthew 13:10-16        | L - Pat<br>P - Andrew     |
| Jun 21st  | 9:45  | Family Service                      | The Rich Young Man                            | Mark 10:17-22                           | L - Pat<br>P - Kay        |
| June 28th |       |                                     |                                               |                                         |                           |