

Dadford and Stowe Parish Magazine

March - April 2021



The sky is aglow by the Corinthian Arch © National Trust Images

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).

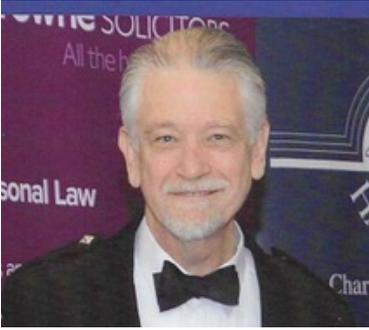
ADVERTISING

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

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To see a colour copy of the magazine, or to find out where we are,
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Dear Friends



On Easter Sunday we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, *the most important festival of the Christian year.* Yet do we give much thought to the last miracle he performed? Lazarus was raised from the dead after being entombed for four days. Apart from the Passion of Jesus, this is the longest coherent passage in the Gospel according to Saint John.

Ever since, this remarkable episode has led to much scholarly contemplation, consideration and doubtful expression. It describes an event witnessed by many more people than those who witnessed Jesus' resurrection a few weeks later.

Lazarus and his sisters Martha and Mary were well-known to Jesus. Lazarus had become seriously ill. He was on death's door. In desperation, Martha sent a message to Jesus, *'Lord, behold, he whom thou loves is sick.'* When he heard this he continued his work observing that, *'This sickness is not unto death.'* Two nights later he was ready and able to set off for Judea, despite the concern raised by his disciples that he risked being stoned; *'...yet goest thou thither again?'*

It took some time for his followers to understand what Jesus was to do. *'Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him from his sleep.'* He had to explain what he meant, namely that *'...Lazarus is dead....nevertheless let us go unto him.'* He must therefore have known that his visit would be to find Lazarus' body already entombed.

As Jesus approached Bethany, Martha came forth and fell at his feet. Weeping, she called out, *'Lord hadst thou been here, my brother would not have died.'* The Jews wept with her. Then Jesus wept.

Coming to the cave guarded by a stone in which Lazarus' body was laid, Jesus called out, *'Take ye away the stone.'* After having spoken to the Father, *'...he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.'*

It is not at all surprising that much has subsequently been written about this remarkable incident. As John's Gospel was written down perhaps 60 years afterwards, many have doubted its historicity. In its favour, it would certainly explain the size of the crowds that gathered just days later to welcome Jesus' arrival on a donkey into Jerusalem on what became known as Palm Sunday.



Lazarus' story does not end with his resurrection. He, Lazarus, lived for a further 30 years. Forced to flee Judea, he was in due course appointed Bishop of the newly founded Church of Larnaca in Cyprus by Barnabas and the Apostle Paul. It was there that he was ultimately laid to rest. In 898, following the discovery of a tomb there bearing the inscription in Hebrew, 'Lazarus the friend of Christ' his remains were transferred to Constantinople. When that city was sacked in 1204 during the fourth crusade, they were transferred to Marseille. Their present whereabouts are unknown.

RS

Acknowledgements: All quotations derived from the KJV - John 11: 1-44
Lazarus of Bethany: Raising Lazarus, Wikipedia
Michaelides MG "Saint Lazarus, The Friend of Christ and First Bishop of Kition"

**Please see the very back page of the cover for
full details of services for March and April**

Weekly Stowe Church Coffee Mornings on Zoom at 11am on Tuesdays
Everybody welcome. A good way to see your friends and have a catch-up and chat. We'd love to see you!

Bible Studies Fortnightly on Zoom - Everyone welcome

If you're interested in joining any of the **Zoom** meetings and need a link, or if you would **like to know more details, please contact one of the Church Wardens.**

Please pray for : Rev Val Plumb who continues to struggle with complex health issues. Give thanks for her very positive attitude and trust in God.

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

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



Hello Spring! With signs of blossom, bulbs and green shoots starting to emerge all around us, we are hoping that we have seen the last of the wintry weather. With warmer weather around the corner, there are more possibilities for outdoor learning, as well as the practicalities of keeping warm in the ventilated classrooms!

At the time of writing, the government had not yet announced when or how schools would reopen fully to all pupils. Whatever these announcements bring, we are ready to welcome them back safely and all the staff are eager to see all our pupils again. We have certainly missed their smiling faces on site every day.

Whilst the two sites have been open for Key Worker children, teachers have continued to provide a range of home-learning opportunities. Teams meetings have continued daily, along with teacher videos, to keep all the children connected to their teacher, as well as other children in their class. We have also continued to enjoy the enthusiasm and dedication of our pupils, with the fantastic learning they have been doing both at home or school, thanks in no small part to our fabulous parents!



February saw the opportunity to learn about Chinese New Year, as well as Shrove Tuesday and Valentine's Day. As part of this, the Key Worker children made Valentine's cards for residents in local Residential Homes to 'Share the Love' and to show them the pupils'

care. Looking forward, Easter and Spring bring a wealth of learning opportunities, with Mother's Day, World Book Day and Red Nose Day featuring prominently. Photos of the children's learning- both from school and home- are available on the school's website and Facebook page.

With Easter fast approaching, signs of spring to enjoy and promises of warmer weather we look forward to more optimistic times ahead.

CG



Parish Council Update

With the local elections coming up **on the 6th** May maybe some of you have thought about becoming a parish councillor and getting involved within the community you live in. We thought we would give you an insight of what to expect.

What is a Parish Council?

A parish council is a local authority that makes decisions on behalf of people in the parish. It is the level of government closest to the community. As the authority closest to the people we are invariably the first port of call that people go to with their concerns or ideas.

What decisions do Parish Councils make?

The most common topics that parish councils get involved with are managing open spaces and campaigning for and delivering better services and facilities as well as getting involved with planning matters (as statutory consultees). On their own, parish councils have limited powers to make decisions. However, they do have the ability to negotiate with, and the power to influence, other organisations that do make the final decisions. Organisations that make these final

decisions know that a parish council gives the best reflection on how a community feels and views are taken seriously.

Why become a Parish Councillor?

As a parish councillor, you become someone that people in your parish will look to for guidance or support. It is a completely voluntary role (unpaid) but when you see your community change for the better as a result of changes you have helped make, you will get a sense of achievement and pride.

The best way to find out what it is like to be a parish councillor is to talk to someone who is doing it now and find out what they think. The current Stowe Parish Councillors are **Sue Boulet** (Chair), **Chris Atkinson**, **Jamie Boulet**, **Hilary Hawkins**, **Colin Stanbrook** and **Steve Williamson**. Visit our website www.stowepc.uk where you will find all their details.

Some of the projects that have happened over the last couple of years that the current councillors have either had sole responsibility for or had a hand in liaising with the organisations on the way to get these projects started are: Faster Broadband, new tarmac in the playground, revamp of all the play equipment in the playground, new fencing, major clearing of the brook to assist with the flooding in Dadford, WiFi in the village hall, decoration and new layout with

extra cupboards and workspace in the village hall kitchen, dredging the pond, improved grass cutting around the whole village and the traffic calming in Dadford (which is still being reviewed as the PC have gone back to the developers as there are some areas we are not happy about, mainly North Hill end and the raised surface at High Street Junction). We have supported Dadvent in previous years which has turned out to be extremely popular and displayed a Christmas tree outside the village hall.

Going forward, we will be installing LED lights to all areas that haven't been done as part of the traffic calming. All in all we hope we have helped make the community a better place to live over the last couple of years.

As well as the councillors, every parish council needs a clerk, and we at Stowe Parish Council believe we have an extremely competent and knowledgeable one in our fantastic clerk, Tony Skeggs. If you need to get in touch over any matter please contact Tony at clerk@stowepec.uk.

As spring is approaching maybe you have been thinking about about having an allotment? It can be very rewarding to grow your own produce, if you would like further information Councillor Chris Atkinson will always be glad to hear from you. You can contact Chris at chrisatkinson@stowepec.uk

SB

Dadford flies the flag



Flying proudly over the allotments is the new Village flag, designed by popular resident and talented artist Guy Scott, which incorporates many local iconic views that immediately say DADFORD. This has already generated many wonderful comments on the Village Facebook group.

Long may it fly.

CH

STOWE STARS

14th March Family Service

Mothering Sunday

Jochabed's decision
Exodus 2, 1 - 10

Slavery, oppression, genocide, terror are not new. We read or hear of these horrors in the news every day. So it was in thirteenth century BC.

The Israelites in Egypt had grown from one family of 70 to 600,000 men (add women and children) 430 years later (Exodus 12, 37- 41). They were so numerous that their hosts felt threatened and regarded them as a security risk.

To manage the risk the Egyptians enslaved them to build their palaces and pyramids. Then the Pharaoh ordered that all the baby boys be killed.

One family awaited the coming birth of a third child with dread. When her son was born, Jochabed made the desperate decision to hide her baby where no-one would think of looking for him - in the River Nile.

Jochabed made a reed basket, waterproofed it with tar, put her son in it and set it among the plants at the river's edge.

Her decision must have broken her heart. Now she had to trust to God.



4th April Easter Day

He is risen!

Acts 10, 34 - 43 Mark 16, 1 - 8

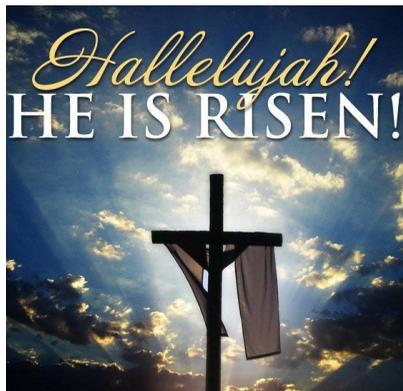
It is baffling to read Peter's summary of Jesus' life and to think of what happened: "He went everywhere doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil for God was with Him. Then they put Him to death by nailing Him to a cross."

What a tremendous shock for Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome to find that the tomb where they had seen Jesus' dead body lay **empty**. Three days earlier they had witnessed their loving friend Jesus crucified on the cross. They had seen Him brought down from the cross, laid in a tomb dug out of solid rock and a large stone rolled across the entrance.

All they could do was to prepare spices to anoint His body at the first possible moment when the Sabbath was over.

They reached the tomb but the stone had been rolled away. Inside was a young man in a white robe. "He is not here. He has been raised", he told them.

So began the first Easter Day; distress and terror turned to **joy** and **praise**.



GM



'Food for thought'



A Common Grace

We thank thee, Lord, for vulgar food,
For trotters, tripe, pig's cheek,
For steak and onions, with their crude
But appetising reek.

Potatoes in their jackets make
Us plain folks honour Thee; And
Thou art with us when we bake
fresh shrimps for Sunday tea.

Thy people's praise is overdue,
but see, dear Lord, we kneel,
To offer thanks for Irish stew
And tasty, cheap cowheel.

Now wait a minute, Lord! Don't
miss the last word on our lips:
We thank Thee most of all for
this,
Thy gift of fish-and-chips.

Allen M Lang
1943

IMPORTANT! Church News

Dear Friends

We want to let you know that the Stowe Ministry Team has met, as planned, and after much prayer and discussion has recommended to the PCC that church services at Stowe should continue to be held via Zoom for the months of March and April. The rates of infection remain extremely high in Buckinghamshire and we have been asked by the council to continue to be extremely cautious and only to meet in person if it is essential. It is, of course, impossible to predict what the situation will be in a few weeks' time and if there is a change that allows us to do things differently then we will review the plan.

The **PCC** has agreed to this recommendation and so the plan will be as follows:

***Zoom services** will continue to be held fortnightly and **Worship@Westfield** (on YouTube) and a sermon (on the website) will both be available weekly..... In addition **all the Eastertide services** (from Palm Sunday to Easter Day, including Maundy Thursday and Good Friday) **will be via Zoom**..... The Covid-19 service rota can be found on the back cover of the magazine..... **The Lent Bible Study**, to which all are welcome, will happen via **Zoom every Friday at 9.30am** and the **Monday Ladies' Bible Study will continue on Monday at 2pm**..... Stowe Church **Coffee Morning** will also continue every **Tuesday at 11am via Zoom**.*

It is a continuing sadness that we cannot meet together to worship God in our church building at Stowe but we must remember that it is the people who are the church and it is a joy to see more and more people join together via **Zoom** in worship and fellowship.

Do contact us if there is any way in which we can help you.

We pray that you know God's strength and peace in these challenging times and we look forward to that moment when we can all meet together again in Stowe Church.

With love from
John and Kay

Simnel Cake

250g mixed dried fruit (a mixture of sultanas, currants, raisins and candied mixed peel)

1 **orange** , zested and juiced

500g pack **marzipan**

250g pack **butter** , softened

200g **light brown soft sugar**

4 **eggs** , plus 1 beaten to glaze

175g **plain flour**

100g **ground almonds**

1 tsp **baking powder**

1 **lemon** , zested

2 tsp mixed spice

1 tsp **vanilla extract**

100g glacé cherries , halved

3 tbsp apricot jam



STEP 1. Put the mixed dried fruit in a **bow**l with the orange juice and zest and 2 tbs water. Cover and **microw**ave for 2 mins, then leave to cool completely.

STEP 2. Heat oven to 150C/130C fan/gas 2. Roll out a third of the marzipan and cut circle to fit a 20cm tin.

Line and butter the cake tin with greaseproof paper. **Beat the butter and sugar together until creamy.** Add the eggs, flour, almonds, baking powder, lemon zest, mixed spice and vanilla (*all in one go*) and mix until well combined. **Mix** in the cooled soaked dried fruit and fold in the cherries.

STEP 3. Scrape half the cake mixture into the tin. Top with the disc of marzipan, then the remaining cake mixture, and level the top with a spatula. Bake for 2 hrs. Check it's cooked by inserting a skewer to the centre of the cake, if any wet mixture clings to the skewer, return to the oven for another 10 mins, then check again. Cool in the tin for 15 mins, then turn out onto a wire rack and leave to cool completely.

STEP 4. Brush the top of the cake with apricot jam. Roll out half of the remaining marzipan and use the base of the cake as a template to cut out another disc. Place it on top of the cake and crimp the edges, if you like. Roll the remaining marzipan into 11 equal-sized balls for the apostles. Brush the marzipan with beaten egg and arrange the apostles in a circle on top around the outside, and brush them with a little egg too. Put under a hot grill for a minute or two until just starting to caramelize – be very careful as the marzipan will burn easily. Leave to cool and wrap a ribbon around the cake, if you like. *Will keep for up to a week in a sealed tin.*



Dadford WI

It hardly seems possible that a year has gone by since we had our last WI meeting. Some WI's have reverted to Zoom meetings but we haven't gone down that route as our WI feels that whatever we do should be accessible to all our members.

It is still questionable when we will meet again, some local clubs have already made the decision not to meet again until at least September. At least we have the warmer weather coming and as many of our members are keen gardeners I know that they are eager to get going outside. 'Lockdown' has given us

time for a bit of spring-cleaning and now we need the charity shops open so we can pass on our unwanted items so they can benefit.

Our subscription renewal date is usually January but this has been changed to April to help overcome extra expenses over the Christmas period. The National Federation of WI's is working on a proposal regarding the flexibility of membership costs, which will be rolled out shortly.

Well let's hope it won't be too long before we can meet up, even if it is just for a cup of tea and a good chat.

Meanwhile keep safe and well.

Loreen



National Trust

2021 didn't start quite as we'd hoped;

Re-entering lockdown in January and travel restrictions tightening for our visitors, however we continue to welcome local visitors for that much needed access to the outdoors while also monitoring numbers onsite for everyone's safety.

We did also have to close for a few days in January due to heavy snowfall and icy

conditions. Fortunately,

the wintery conditions did not deter the hardy snowdrops which have been putting on a magnificent display along our snowdrop walk.



Elsewhere in the gardens the team have been working hard to look after our veteran trees by giving them a good blanket of mulch around the trunk base and roots. All our mulch is produced onsite using our garden waste, it takes 6 weeks to produce and reaches temperatures of 70 degrees! Work also continues in the area of the old golf course to restore Home Park, Queen's Theatre and Sleeping Wood and in the last few months 60 lime and 12 elm trees have been planted as part of this work.

The team are carrying out the restoration in the spirit of the late eighteenth-century garden and hope to have this completed in 2022.

Over the last year we have all seen the increased need of people wanting to get outside and enjoy the great outdoors, especially during these more restrictive times of our third lockdown. We too notice the increase in use of the garden and parkland at Stowe since re-opening in June. While we really welcome this, we are also aware and frustrated by the challenges this may bring, such as irresponsible parking, not maintaining social distancing and increased litter.

The National Trust is communicating with all its members frequently about how best to enjoy our places, and we are also echoing this message on our own website and social media channels. We are really clear that we ask people to take their rubbish home, give people space and use the designated car parks around the site.

Please do pass on the message that whenever we do have capacity our team will welcome people to Stowe and encourage them to park at the New Inn, even if they haven't booked.

We're looking ahead to spring with all the optimism that the season brings as the gardens reawaken, choruses of different birds can be heard, and bursts of colour appear with flowers and blossom. Through our 'Spring through the



lens' season we will be encouraging staff, volunteers and visitors to share their photos of spring appearing at Stowe so we can chart the seasonal highlights and share snapshots of Stowe online for those who are currently unable to visit.

To finish, here is a beautiful photo of a colourful sunset at Stowe, captured by one of the team last month.

The gardens at National Trust Stowe are open 7 days a week, 10am-5pm Monday-Friday and 9am-5pm Saturdays and Sundays for pre-booked visits. The shop and café are currently closed, as is New Inn, however we do have temporary toilets at the entrance to the garden and our kiosk is open selling hot and cold drinks and light refreshments. We will continue to follow government advice, please keep an eye on our website for updates. For more information and to book a ticket please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stowe



Nature Notes March 2021

The month so many of us have been looking forward to after the long dark winter. What better month to begin to lift the lock down than when the whole of nature is beginning to awake from its winter sleep, there is so much evidence of this all around with the arrival of early daffodils and primroses and for those whose only connection with the outside world has been through a window these must be a very welcome sight.

Throughout the bitter cold of January and early February we have also spent a great deal of time looking through our windows and when the snow arrived early on Sunday 24th January we thought back to 2018 when, with the snow, came a flock of Fieldfares and we could not help hoping they may come again.

The Fieldfares were attracted by our crab apple trees, *malus x robusta* Red Sentinel, which bear a prolific crop of small, plump, round, cherry red fruits. The fruits remain on the trees until early the following spring when the leaf buds begin to appear.

We were lucky again this year, during the morning we watched the snow fall, there were just two or three blackbirds squabbling over the fruit on the ground below our Red Sentinel trees and then as the snow settled we saw the first of the fieldfares arrive. They came in two's and three's to begin with but by midday there were as many as fifty or more but almost impossible to photograph as with the slightest movement inside our windows they were gone in a flash. They gorged on our crab apples until the trees were almost bare and then left as suddenly as they had arrived as soon as the snow melted.

The Fieldfare *Tardis pilaris* is a winter visitor to the British Isles from its native Scandinavia and from as far north as Siberia. The RSPB tell us that "Fieldfares are large colourful thrushes. They are very social birds, spending the winter in flocks of anything from a dozen or two to several hundred strong. These straggling chuckling flocks which roam the UK's countryside are a delightful and attractive part of the winter scene".

We often walk across our fields of over winter stubble which has been left to give cover and feed for our native birds and winter visitors and from time to time we encounter a small flock of Fieldfares or hear them in our overgrown hedgerows as they move on ahead of us, but the fascination for us is how, as soon as the snow covered the ground, were so many instinctively drawn to the crop of crab apples in our garden.



Because much of our farmland has been under surface water since November and at the time of writing it is still far too wet to begin our Spring cultivations and planting we are looking forward to March and April.

However we cannot help but notice that our wildlife population may have benefited from our silent fields and untrimmed hedges. The number of native English partridges has increased, sky larks too can be seen and heard above the arable fields and fallow deer have joined the Roe deer which have been here for some time.

DW

It is with sadness that we say goodbye and thanks to Gill Gibson for her regular contribution to the magazine. We have been very grateful and found the articles so interesting. If anyone reading this would like to take this on as a regular contributor, or even as a one-off, I would love to hear from you.

I would like to thank Diana Wyatt for writing this month's Nature Notes. She was in such a lovely position to see these winter visitors and to share her experience with us.

Editor Lyn

Services in March and April 2021

DATE	TIME	SERVICE	THEME	READINGS	LEAD / PREACH
Mar 7th		No service in church	Envy	Psalms 106:16-18 Numbers 16:1-7, 15, 23-35	Pauline Stanton-Saringer
Mar 14th	16:00	All @ Stowe via Zoom	Jochabed's decision	Exodus 2:1-10	Kay Murray Rev Val Plumb
Mar 21st		No service in church	Golden Calf	Psalms 106:19-23 Exodus 32:1-4 + 30-35 2 Corinthians 6:16-18	Andrew Rudolf
Mar 28th	9:45	Morning Prayer via Zoom	Hosanna in the highest	Psalms 118:1-2 + 19-29 Mark 11:1-11	Andrew Rudolf Ron Bundock
Apr 1st	19:30	Maundy Thursday Communion via Zoom	The Last Supper	1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17 + 31b-35	Rev Val Plumb
Apr 2nd	14:00	Meditation via Zoom			Andrew Rudolf
Apr 4th	9:45	Family Communion via Zoom	He is risen!	Acts 10:34-43 Mark 16:1-8	Rev Val Plumb
FOUR SHORT EPISTLES					
Apr 11th		No service in church	Hospitality	2 John Matthew 25:31-40	Gillian Macdonald
Apr 18th	9:45	Morning Prayer via Zoom	Onesimus - the converted slave	Philemon 1 Timothy 6:1-2	Gillian Macdonald Andrew Rudolf
Apr 25th		No service in church	God guards against destructive leadership	Jude John 16:5-16 + 33	Rev Maurice Stanton-Saringer
May 2nd	9:45	Morning Prayer via Zoom	Discern good leadership	3 John 1 Timothy 3:1-10	Andrew Rudolf Pauline Stanton-Saringer