

Dadford and Stowe Parish Magazine

March – April 2019

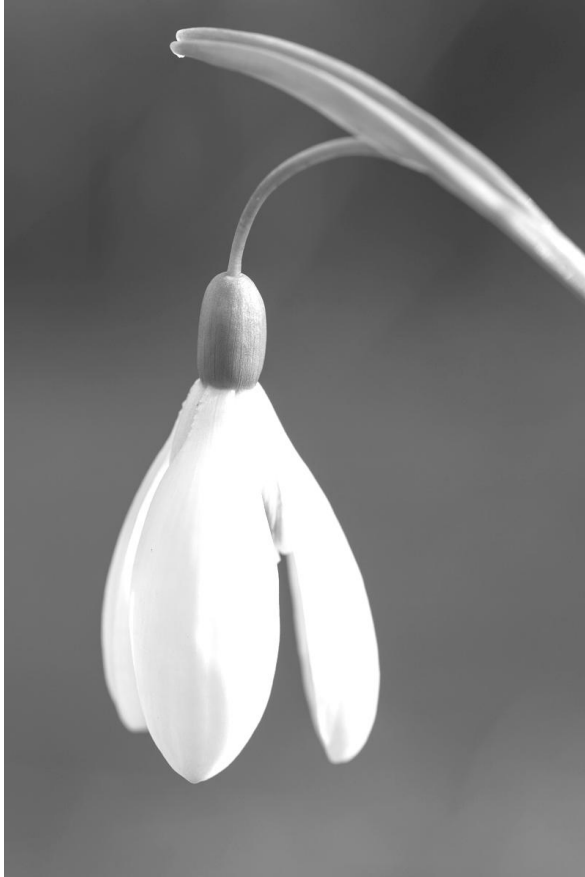


Photo: David Smith

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 please e-mail
Lyn East (lmeast@btinternet.com)

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visit our website at www.stowechurch.org.uk.*



Dear Friends,

The days lengthen, "the winter is past, the rain is over and gone, the flowers appear on the earth, the time of the singing of birds is come and the voice of the turtle dove is heard in our land." March and April are the months of Spring, of quickening and flourishing, hoping and planning and of taking stock.

There is no better time for this than during Lent, Ash Wednesday March 6th - Maundy Thursday 19th April. We remember Jesus' forty days in the wilderness as alone He prepared Himself for the task God had given Him, "to be a light to the Gentiles (us) and a glory to His people Israel."

It is fashionable now to follow Well-being and Mindfulness programmes to improve our bodies and minds. They can cost a lot and to get full value we have to be committed to following a regime of stillness and calm, of getting into the right position to expel all extraneous thought and just concentrate on Self. It is not easy. Jesus' seclusion was interrupted by the devil tempting Him to prove that He had the power and authority for self-preservation and world domination. Jacob wrestled all night with a strong adversary before he met his vengeful brother Esau. Coming face to face with ourselves can be painful but rewarding and Lent is a good time, following Jesus' example, for introspection, for analysing our thoughts, emotions and actions.

Aristotle said that knowing yourself is the beginning of wisdom. The Psalmist said, *"Examine me O God, know my mind, test me, and discover my thoughts. Find out if there is any evil in me and guide me in the everlasting way."*

Introspection might so engulf us that we exclude examining our souls. We need help, we need to lean on God, to turn to Him Who has infinite wisdom and patience. St Augustine wrote, *"God loves each one of us as if there were only one of us."* Like Daniel we should withdraw from the busy world and find a quiet place to talk with God Who has promised to be with us always. We have total access to Him and talking soothes and clarifies and energises.

We should not be passive. Thought should give rise to action. Think of doing something positive each day. Here are some words of the Quaker Etienne de Grellet which were written in my childhood autograph book:

I shall pass this way but once. Any good thing, therefore, that I can do or any kindness I can show to any one, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it for I shall not pass this way again."

After Lent comes the joyfulness of Easter when we can praise and pray in thankfulness to Jesus Whose preparation gave way to action, to healing the mind, body and soul and to dying for us sinful, penitent people.

With love,

Gillian

GM



Parish Council Update

Just saying ... Support your parish council.
There's a lot to be thankful for.

We found ourselves having two vacancies in the new year due to the loss of John Windley in November – we thank John for his hard work throughout the parish in previous years. We then had the resignation of our Chair, Christine Considine in January. We thank Christine for her tireless dedication and conscientious efforts during some very challenging times.

Looking forward we now have two new councillors that were co-opted on 30th January. We welcome Hilary Hawkins and Colin Stanbrook to join our team of existing councillors: Chris Atkinson, Jamie Boulet, Sue Boulet (Chair), Ian Watkins and Steve Williamson. You can find all the contact details for our councillors on www.dadfordvillage.com. Alternatively should you have any questions you can contact our Clerk, Tony Skeggs on 01296 428392/parishclerkstowe@outlook.com On the above website you will also find dates of meetings, agendas, minutes of past meetings as well as any relevant documents. All current information will be advertised here as well as on the official Parish Council Notice Board which sits outside the Village Hall.

Dadford Speedwatch Update

The Parish Council continues with speedwatch in the village and to insure the equipment and the villagers who volunteer to carry out these sessions. So far they have been out on four occasions, between October and December. There were a total of 130 drivers exceeding 35 MPH in 215 minutes over the course of the four sessions. Top speed recorded was 56 MPH. Should there be anyone who wishes to become involved and trained in speedwatch then please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Village Hall Hire

We are very fortunate to have an inviting central hall with black-out blinds, hearing loop, equipped kitchen, accessible toilet and disabled access. With full central heating and bags of character. Perfect for community and private events, children's parties and much more. To enquire about hiring please email sueboulet@btinternet.com.

£4.00 per hour and £20.00 deposit for non-commercial events booked by residents of Stowe Parish.

For non residents and commercial use £8.00 per hour and £50.00 deposit.

Donation

We have received an extremely generous donation from Silverstone Circuit and MEPC Silverstone Park. A decision on how to spend these funds will be taken once we are in receipt of all relevant information on the different types of traffic management systems. Our sincere thanks to both organisations.

Allotments

Most Stowe Parish residents have from time to time considered taking an allotment, at least for a trial season. Well, as the new season approaches, now is the time to give it a go! Don't be put off by a commitment to cultivate a whole allotment strip – you can take on as little or as much as you wish. There's even an offer of free horse manure for allotment holders. Councillor Chris Atkinson, who oversees the allocation of allotments, will be pleased to discuss your requirements. Call Chris on 01280 814523 or e-mail at chrisatkinson565@btinternet.com

Future Meetings – Dadford Village Hall

Wednesday 13th March 19.30

Wednesday 24th April 19.30

Saturday 18th May – Annual Parish Meeting more details to follow

Wednesday 29th May – 19.30 Annual Parish Council Meeting SB

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



It's been a busy half term! Children from both Key Stage 1 and 2 have taken part in a number of tournaments with the Primary Sports Partnership. Well done to the Year 5 and 6 girls who represented the school enthusiastically in dodgeball and the Year 1 children who had lots of fun trying out a range of different athletic disciplines. As always, we were so proud of the enthusiasm and team work you demonstrated.

The PTFA organised a very successful KS1 Cinenight at our Akeley site with the children enjoying a screening of 'Peter Rabbit', a hot dog and some popcorn after school. The last PTFA meeting was very well attended and generated lots of great ideas for exciting events for the remainder of the year in order to fund raise for the school. We are all looking forward to the Infants' and Juniors' Discos which are always a great fund-raising event and hugely enjoyed by the pupils.

The children have been out and about on lots of exciting trips. Year 6 enjoyed a day learning about future technology in the car industry at an event hosted by Beachborough School. They got to see Volvo and Audi driverless cars and design and make their own model vehicles. Year 5 have been involved in a tree planting project with the National Trust at Stowe and had a great morning planting fruit trees around the overflow car park area. We look forward to seeing the fruits of their labours in the years to come! Years 3 and 4 visited the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford to look at and learn about Stone Age artefacts in support of their work in history and, also within a historical vein, Year 1 have been to Banbury Museum to compare and contrast toys from the present and past.

Representatives from the NSPCC have visited the children at both sites to lead assemblies on 'Speak out, stay safe' about how pupils can keep themselves safe from harm and what they should do if they have any worries. Both sites are raising money for the NSPCC by doing a sponsored Jumping Jacks Challenge and Obstacle Course Challenge. Good luck to everyone taking part in this fundraiser.

It has been bitterly cold out at Forest School so moving around a lot and getting a campfire going during sessions has been invaluable. Groups at Forest School have had lots of fun creating rope swings, using fire steels to light the storm kettle and toasting marshmallows. We can't wait for some evidence of spring being on its way...!

VM

Church News

Services

Many thanks to Rev Pat Howard and all who helped at **Carols and Cakes on Christmas Eve** at Dadford Village Hall. It was enjoyed by many and included the lighting of the 24th Advent Window - the star shining over the Nativity scene.

Services in March and April include:
March 6th - Ash Wednesday
Communion at 7.30pm.

March 31st - Mothering Sunday
Family Service at 9.45am

April 14th - Palm Sunday
Communion at 9.45am

April 18th - Maundy Thursday
Communion at 7.30pm

April 19th – Good Friday Meditation
at 2.00pm

April 21st - Easter Day Family
Communion at 9.45am

A new sermon theme, 'The importance of rebuilding the Temple' begins on March 10th. Details of all services are on the back cover.

The World Day of Prayer has been prepared by the women of Slovenia with the theme "Come, all is ready". The Service will be in the Salvation Army Hall on Friday 1st March at 11am. All are welcome, men, women and children.

Lent Studies

Weekly Bible Studies during Lent are open to all. Lantern and Delta will not meet during this time. The Lent study group will meet on a Thursday at 7.30 for a 7.45 start at 4 Bostock Court beginning on March 7th. We will be using the Embrace the Middle East Lent Study 2019 booklet which is a study on the fruits of the Spirit.

Please pray for Monty Wheeler, who was baptised recently, and his parents Lucy and Mark,

We will soon be launching **an appeal to raise funds** to help pay for the partial re-roofing of our church and sorting out the damp problems. A fund-raising team has been set up by Richard Close-Smith.

The Big Evenley Wood 'Ascot' Event on Sunday 16th June will be one of the first fund-raising events. Details will be available soon.

Theodore Connor passed away peacefully on Sunday 23rd December, aged 90years. He was fondly remembered at his funeral in January in Stowe Church. Our prayers and thoughts are with Mary, her family and close friends.

Buckingham Food Bank: There is a box for donations and a list of items required at the back of Stowe Church.

The Church Website: There are details of all services and a colour version of this magazine on the Church website

www.stowechurch.org.uk



STOWE STARS

FAMILY SERVICES

Hilltops and Rooftops

31st March

Mothering Sunday

Mary visits Elizabeth

Luke 1, 39-45

When the angel Gabriel came to Mary in her home he had two items of astonishing news to give her. One was that she had been chosen by God to give birth to His Son Jesus and the other was that her elderly cousin Elizabeth was expecting a baby - "For there is nothing that God cannot do."

Mary set out almost immediately for a town in the hill country of Judea where Elizabeth and her husband, the priest Zechariah, lived. She had a lot to tell her and they both had a lot to rejoice over; both were expecting special babies whose lives were to be dedicated to God's service - what a privilege and what a task. Elizabeth greeted Mary with a shout of joy and excitement as she felt her baby move within her and welcomed the woman who would be the mother of the

promised Messiah. She was filled with the Holy Spirit and humbly acknowledged Mary as having the greater blessing.

The paradox of blessedness is that it brings the greatest joy but it also demands the greatest task. Mary was to feel a sword piercing her heart, the crown of joy and the cross of sorrow. So overwhelmed was Mary to share her happiness with Elizabeth that she sang a song of praise: "My heart praises the Lord, my soul is glad because of God my Saviour."

21st April

Easter - He is risen!

Acts 10, 34-43 John 20, 1-18

"Mary." Just one word marked the beginning of Easter Day when a time of weeping turned to joy. Mary Magdalene was one of Jesus' friends, had seen Him crucified on Calvary hill, and noted the tomb in which His friends had placed Him.

"Good Friday" was a day of sorrow and despair.



The following day, the Sabbath, was a time of staying at home and the next day was when everyone could go about their business. Mary knew what her business was, to cover His body with the spices and perfumes that she and her friends had prepared.



In the stillness of the early morning she went to the tomb. Imagine her surprise when she found it empty. Her first thought was that grave robbers had got there first.

In great distress she asked the gardener, "Where have they taken Him?"

The answer came in that one word, "Mary".

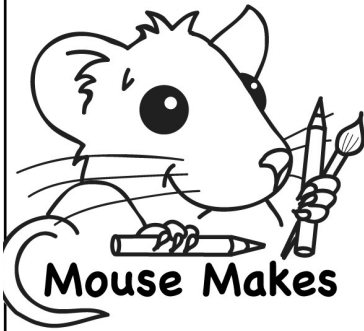
Weekly Bible Studies during Lent, open to all.

Lantern and Delta will not meet during this time.

The Lent study group will meet on a Thursday at 7.30 for 7.45
at
4 Bostock Court. (Many thanks to Andrew!)

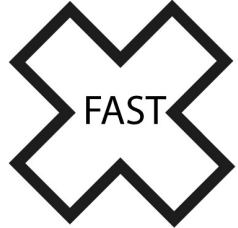
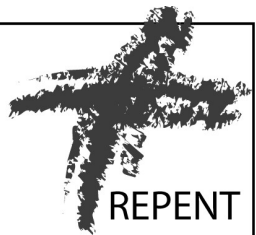
The dates are 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th March and 4th, 11th April.

We will be using the Embrace the Middle East Lent Study 2019 booklet which is a study on the fruits of the Spirit and will be available in church shortly.



During Lent read through the Gospel of Luke and each day pray for God to help you become more like Jesus

Lent is the name given to the **40 days** before Easter and is a time to *pray*, to *read* the bible and to *turn* to God. The first day of Lent is **Ash Wednesday**, a day to *repent* and say *sorry* to God for the wrong things we have *said* or *thought* or *done*.



P W R P W O R D O R G F
 I S C R I P T U R E O O
 T O O A L R E A D F D R
 E R K Y D I T H E L P T
 M R E M E M B E R E R Y
 P Y F O R G I V E C E D
 T S L E N T N R J T P A
 A S H W E D N E S D A Y
 T W O R S H I P U E R S
 I E J E S U S E S N E D
 O F A S T H I N K Y E Y
 N I B I B L E T G I V E

Can you find these words in the word search above?

- LENT • ASH WEDNESDAY • FORTY DAYS
- JESUS • WILDERNESS • TEMPTATION • PRAY • FAST
- DENY • REPENT • SORRY • FORGIVE • GIVE • HELP
- PREPARE • REFLECT • THINK • READ • SCRIPTURE
- BIBLE • WORD • REMEMBER • WORSHIP • GOD

A BRIEF HISTORY OF STOWE PARISH RED TELEPHONE BOX



It was nice to see the Red Telephone Box on the front cover of the last Parish Magazine, here is a brief history of the box and how we managed to acquire one.

The K6 kiosk was designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the coronation of King George V in 1935. It was produced by Carron Ironworks in Falkirk and features a Tudor crown. Some 60,000 examples were installed across Britain, which is why the K6 has come to represent the Red Telephone Box and a British icon.

Our telephone box was made in 1949, Batch number CC/49/2 which can be found on the back of the box.

When Dadford Residents Association (DRA) first started in 2016, one of the first projects put forward was to acquire a red telephone phone box for the village.

There was an initial fundraising campaign and Christine Considine set up a 'Just Giving' fundraising page on the internet. This kick-started the project and received generous donations from individuals and corporate donors. The Dadford Residents Association also contributed funds raised from their social events. The funds generated by the DRA were handed over to Stowe Parish Council who contributed further funding to allow the purchase of a derelict telephone box.

Roy Saunders undertook the research to find a suitable K6 box locally and on Friday 2 June 2017 Lee Mold and John Windley collected the box from Croughton Reclamation Yard.

The box was lovingly restored by John Windley, who also enlisted the help of other villagers to make the tired phone box into the magnificent landmark that it is today.

When the more modern BT box in Dadford became redundant in 2017, it was removed, and the opportunity was taken to put the restored K6 red box on the redundant site. The K6 box is now in the same location as the red telephone box that was originally placed in the village.

The restored K6 red telephone box is now the main feature of the village and was an outstanding aspect of the recent Advent Window Lights display, with even Santa making a special call there! It also has pride of place on the Dadford Resident Associations website page www.dadfordresidents.co.uk as well as the DRA Facebook page.



January and February 2019

It was good to get together again after the Christmas break and start our new programme for 2019. Sadly we didn't get off to a very good start as our speaker for January had flu and was unable to attend. Maybe we will be able to fit her in later in the year.

However we soon got our 'official' business out of the way and caught up with our Christmas tales. We were pleased to report that Rachel Biggs had won our competitions cup and would receive this on her return from Australia.



Well our February meeting, held on the 14th, certainly had a Valentines theme. Two members put together an evening with everything connected with St. Valentine. We had facts and figures along with poems and funny stories, a Valentine quiz that resulted in much laughter and brain power with prizes of chocolates and flowers. We enjoyed Valentine themed refreshments and concluded with members tales of their Valentines loved and lost. This all made for an enjoyable evening and I never did find out if any members had received a card that day?

Please ask if you would like a new programme for 2019 and come and join us. On 14th March Sylvia Nutt will be giving us a talk about Prison Chaplaincy at Grendon Prison and on the 11th April we will learn more about the Morris Dancing Group from Brackley.

Look forward to seeing you soon.
Loren.



Nature Notes

The main change in the garden this year will be not doing something - not cutting the lawn, apart from a margin round the beds. We'll take out the thistles which would

welcome this and might be good for wildlife and put in red clover seed or corn flowers and then wait and see what happens....whether we see more small mammals or find that blackbirds listening for worms don't think it is a good idea. We have had a new blackbird this Winter - he has large patches of white. We shall wait and see what his offspring are like. Cold as it is on the 5th February birds other than robins are singing, staking territory. There are 12 different flowers in bloom.



Did you take part in Veganuary? We did on odd days by chance. When our sons were young and we needed help in the house pan casseroles with meat were the easiest things to ask someone else to do though there were

monster minestrone, cheese and potato pies and spicy chickpeas. After Harry and Tom left home we found ourselves eating a lot less meat; not because of any principle but because there were so many other meals to cook which happened not to include meat. As time passed we found that if we had meat for more than two days running we felt 'over meated'. Now we eat meat every 10 days on average and enjoy it when we do. Vegetables being cheaper than meat and for other reasons we are happy to pay a premium for organic/free range/locally produced meat. What we don't cook is food trying to look or behave like meat. During Veganuary the food supplements in the papers seemed to be full of recipes trying to do this - putting beetroot into a burger to make it 'bleed' seems potty. Mushrooms and aubergines can give that satisfying feeling and that sense of umami that meat can provide if needed.

Various grains can provide a sense of fullness and can be added to meat dishes - lamb stew is traditionally associated with barley and a bit of extra can reduce the amount of the lamb. We find ourselves coming under the heading of 'flexitarians' I think this is a way of eating that is environmentally sustainable and better for us. We may have been given dominion over animals but it seems difficult to imagine cows kept indoors all year in vast farms of 2000+ is good stewardship.

As I have said before I think there must be a debate on future land use: what we want it for; what we want it to look like and who will pay. If one [or more] of the farmers in our parish would like to give their point of view, please let me know.

Meanwhile for this year we can have vegetarian recipes.

GG

Mulligatawny Soup



Peel and chop 1 medium size each of carrot, onion, potato and apple.

Heat 2 tbsp oil and saute veg and apple until the onion is transparent.

Add 2tsp curry powder to taste and 1 or 2 cloves garlic and cook while stirring for a minute or two.

Add 300ml tomato juice or half tin tomatoes, 750 ml vegetable stock or water plus veg stock cube.

Cover and simmer for approx 30 mins or until veg are soft. Blend and add salt and pepper to taste.