

# **Dadford and Stowe Parish** **Magazine**

**January - February 2020**



*Photograph by kind permission of Laurence Gibson*

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

# STOWE CHURCH CONTACTS

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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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## **When the world says give up, it is hope that says, 'Try one more time'.**



As every new year goes by for some reason we find ourselves being quite reminiscent about the past 12 months. Why we do this we don't really know, it could be because we have all been caught up with the rush of Christmas where we have seen more of our family and friends, it could even be that the dark nights have meant that we have stayed in more and had more time to think and reflect about things.

When we get to this point of reminiscing and look back there are always moments that make us smile and often moments that make us cry too and every so often there are life changing moments too.

For Stowe Church it's been a year just like that, it's interesting that we don't often think of our local church as being so connected to real life, and yet authenticity is the hallmark of the Christian life! Without doubt the local church really is the place that holds the stories of life and death and all that is in between and has done for hundreds of years, you only have to look at some of the gravestones to see how far back it really goes.

Over time the church has significantly changed, things can't quite be the same as they were because life has significantly changed too.

But there is one powerful thing that the church has that has never changed and that is the message of hope.

When things are not going so well, sometimes all we have left is hope, hope for ourselves, for others and even hope for a better world. We pray especially for a world where no one is hungry, where peace on earth dwells, where unnecessary suffering doesn't exist and of course the hope and promise that death is never the end.

Rising on those short and cold days of January and February seem infinitely better in the knowledge that spring is just around the corner offering its new life and energy.

You see I believe this business of hope is an absolute necessity to making life more bearable, to encouraging us to take risks, to offering a sense of comfort when we feel lost and to living life in abundance. Because, hope is good for us it anchors the soul. Hebrews 6:19

So, I say to you as you celebrate your new year instead of just being reflective about the old one, make a conscious effort to be positive about the new one perhaps in a way you haven't done it before.

Take action to furnish it with love, be more mindful about seeking out the good in the world and whatever happens make sure you look forward to everything with hope.

Blessings Revd Val

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### **A short tribute to Peter Farquhar**

*in the metre of a poem he must have often taught,  
Dylan Thomas' 'Do not go gentle into that good  
night'.*

In school crusadingly he stood for right,  
Gaining his points a dry, effective way,  
Mighty in word power, though in stature slight.

Swift to reject the tawdry and the trite,  
He aimed for higher things to win the day -  
A school where po-etry and plays excite.

A swift detention was a slacker's plight.  
A beta minus could cause much dismay!  
So pupils learnt to work, then soared in flight.

The Bible was his solace and delight.  
He trod a thoughtful path, the Word his stay,  
The Lord in constancy met day and night.

His depth of knowledge sometimes could affright!  
Those Bible quizzes might turn vicars grey.  
Begowned, he dazzled from the pulpit's height:

All modern foibles with a smile he'd smite,  
All modern vices with a sigh he'd flay -  
Yet 'chivalrous' and 'meeke', like Chaucer's Knight.

His prayers, like sparks, would all his plans ignite.  
To share his prayers, wherever, was his way,  
The Bull & Butcher's garden once the site!





## Parish Council Update

The six Stowe Parish Councillors (from left to right) Sue Boulet (chair), Jamie Boulet, Chris Atkinson, Hilary Hawkins, Steve Williamson and Colin Stanbrook would like to wish you all a **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

For a second year, we have sponsored **Dadvent Light Festival**. Each night from the 1<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> December there was one house/garden/area in Dadford that had been lit up. There were usually between 30/50 people turning up each evening to support each display and the community spirit was fantastic. All six of the councillors attended almost all light-ups. Big thanks go to Hilary Hawkins and Maddie Coxhill for organising such a great event that was enjoyed by everyone.

We have recently made improvements to the village hall kitchen. Anyone now wishing to hire the hall has the use of a bright spacious kitchen area with an abundance of worktop space, the use of an oven, microwave, fridge, kettle as well as crockery and utensils. We've had excellent feedback on the work carried out by Councillor Jamie Boulet and we thank him for his time and effort. The rates are just £4 per hour for residents within the parish with a £20.00 deposit. For non-residents the charge is £8.00 per hour with a £50.00 refundable deposit. If you are holding an event in the future and would like to hire the hall, please don't hesitate to get in touch. To book please contact Councillor Sue Boulet at [sueboulet@btinternet.com](mailto:sueboulet@btinternet.com)

We are excited to announce that we are in the process of having our own website built. This should be up and running early in the New Year and will have all the Parish Council information, contact details and documents. The new website address is [www.stowepc.uk](http://www.stowepc.uk) but in the meantime everything can be found, as usual, at [www.dadfordvillage.com](http://www.dadfordvillage.com).

We have been busy starting ground maintenance work on the playing area with Councillor Atkinson's appointed task force. In the New Year we will be renewing fencing, clearing the brook as well as repairing the tarmac surface in the playground. We are also going to be clearing the pond in due course but due to unavoidable delays this is taking longer than we anticipated but will begin in the near future.

If you are interested in becoming an allotment holder, we would love to welcome you. Contact: Councillor Chris Atkinson using his email address [chrisatkinson565@btinternet.com](mailto:chrisatkinson565@btinternet.com)

See bottom of page 14 for details of future meetings and Parish Clerk contact.

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



As we reach the beginning of a new year as well as a new term, it is a great opportunity to look back at all the wonderful things that we have done and learnt over the last month or so, as well as the exciting things that happened at school as we prepared for Christmas!

Year 6 had a fantastic week away at the start of November, enjoying lots of activities and making life-long memories. All the children in school enjoyed dressing up in odd socks, spotty tops and messy hair to raise money for Children in Need - we had some fantastically creative combinations. At the end of November, Year 1 worked hard to create some beautiful decorations that they then used to decorate the tree at the church in Lillingstone Dayrell.

The PTFA's Christmas Fayre was, as always, a tremendous start to our festive shopping and was immensely fun, as well as raising lots of money (over £2600!) which can be put straight back into the school to support the children's learning. A huge thank you to everyone who came to the Fayre, especially all those who helped to pull off such a wonderful event.

December included lots of preparations for Christmas, one of the busiest but most exciting times of year in a school. There were also many festive events for the children to participate in and enjoy: a whole school trip to the panto, Christmas lunches, Christmas jumper day, not to mention the whole school carol concert. To help remind us of the meaning of Christmas, Key Stage 2 participated in a Christingle service, whilst Foundation and Key Stage 1 endured all sorts of winter bugs before pulling off a fantastic Christmas performance; those tissues were put to good use!

Looking forward in excitement to some of the trips and activities planned for 2020, everyone at St. James and St. John's would like to wish you a peaceful New Year and all the very best for 2020.

CG

## “Call My Wine Bluff”

The wine tasting fund-raising event held on the 25th October was a most enjoyable and blessed occasion and ‘a good time was had by all.’



It was held in the very grand setting of Stowe School, originally planned for the Music Room but moved to the Marble Hall at the last minute due to the large number of tickets sold (a sell out-120 tickets)!

Guests were welcomed with a glass of sparkling wine (the first of 6 wines to be tasted).

The panel of 3 ‘experts’ was led by **Charles Eaton** of *Nethergate Wines* and one of whom was our very own Hon Treasurer; each expert convincingly gave us their own description of the wine, but only one of the three descriptions was true while the others were bluffing. Each table was asked to reach a consensus of opinion as to which description they thought was true. This gave rise to much light-hearted discussion before the often surprising truth was revealed.

The auction that followed was conducted most professionally by **Jonathan Humbert**, and included tickets for Silverstone Grand Prix and for Northampton Saints, champagne, wine and port, plus much more and all generously donated.

The auctioneer himself kindly donated a surprise item, that even Richard knew nothing about: an original copy of the complete list of items in the Grand Sale of 1848 - that too, went for a goodly sum.

The delicious supper, served during a break in proceedings, was organised by *Essex with help from Gillian, Kay, Pat, Susan, Tamara and Andrew.*

Thanks to Stowe School, Richard Close-Smith and all who helped. Our thanks, especially, go to those who so generously donated lots for the auction and prizes for the raffle.

In every way, it was a great success and over £5,500 was raised towards our Roof and Repair Appeal.

TK

## DADVENT - Advent comes alive in Dadford



From 1st to 24th of December, one window, garden or community space in Dadford was lit up each night culminating in a very bright and festive village by Christmas Day.

It all kicked off on the 1st December with the village Christmas tree light switch-on at the village hall followed by Buckingham Ukulele Band with their repertoire of popular sing-along Christmassy songs. Mulled wine and mince pies were then served as we sang Christmas carols accompanied by Gill Smith on the keyboard. The Ukulele band then performed some sing-along favourites for the many people in attendance. Inside the hall was another tree beautifully decorated with all hand-made items by the ladies of Dadford W I.

Six o'clock each evening then saw lots of people turn up to 'count down' and watch the light switch-ons around the village, followed by refreshments served by the hosts.

The 20th was a light-up on the communal area at the junction of High Street, where Santa himself put in an appearance with sweets for the children, and yet more mulled wine and mince pies for the adults. The final window was lit up on the 24th back at the village hall with the Christmas message of joy and peace; this was followed by cake and carols led by Rev Pat Howard.

Once again this has been a really enjoyable village social event, with even more villagers turning up on a daily basis to support DADVENT 2019.

This event could not have taken place without the support of Stowe Parish Council and help from Stowe Parish Church.

HH



## Church News

### Services

Services in January and February follow the normal pattern, although there are no services at Dadford Chapel during these months due to the lack of electricity.

Please see the back page for times and type of the various services. Everyone is very welcome to any of these.

### Activities

The weekly Bible studies will restart in January as follows:

#### **Ladies Bible Study**

Monday 13th January 1.45pm

#### **Young Mums**

Monday 13th January 7.00pm

As above, all are welcome but if you would like to know more before you attend please contact the church wardens, details on the inside front cover.

### Remembrance Day

**Service** was held at Dadford cemetery at 10.45am on Sunday 10th November. Although it was a very cold day it was well attended as more and more world conflicts and those who have lost their lives are remembered.

### Thanks

Our sincere thanks go to all those who worked so hard during Advent to prepare the church for the busy-ness of the season, who made mince pies and other refreshments, who decorated the beautiful tree and the church, who ensured a lovely portrayal of the first Christmas was seen by a full church at the Family Service on 15th December.

As we continue our thanks we must not forget those people who have so kindly donated a great deal of their time to raise funds for the church restoration fund in such innovative ways that are enjoyed by many.

**Buckingham Food Bank** continues to be much needed. A list of items required and a box for donations can be found at the back of Stowe Church.

**The Church Website** is now operational again and details of all services and a colour version of the magazine can be found at [www.stowechurch.org.uk](http://www.stowechurch.org.uk)



# STOWE STARS

## FAMILY SERVICES

**January 19th**  
**Call of the disciples**  
**Luke 5, 1-11**

What is the best time to catch fish?

If you are on the Sea of Galilee (or Gennesaret) night time would be best. Brothers Simon and Andrew had fished all night without luck. Their friends, James and John, in the other boat had also caught nothing. In the morning they came ashore and washed their nets.

Along came a great crowd of people following Jesus, eager to hear what He had to say. He spoke with authority, told thoughtful stories and healed people. Jesus saw Simon's empty boat and climbed in. His voice carried well over the water as He spoke to the crowd. The fishermen listened. When Jesus had finished He told Simon and his partners to take their boats further out into the



lake to catch fish. Simon's first response was to point out that from experience he did not expect to catch anything. But "Master, if You say so, I will let down the nets".

Obedience brought results. The catch was so abnormally large that Simon realised God's unimaginable grace was on him. He knelt before Jesus and said, "Go away from me, Lord, I am a sinful man." Jesus does not send people away. Instead, He calls them to follow Him. "From now on you will be catching people." Simon and Andrew, James and John abandoned the catch of fish and began a new life with Jesus.

**February 16th**  
**Call of Matthew**  
**Matthew 9, 9-13**

Jesus had "no fixed abode". He walked from place to place happy to accept hospitality from anyone, rich or poor. One day He came across a tax-collector named Matthew sitting in his office. In those days tax-collectors were bitterly hated: they worked for the Roman conquerors and exacted their taxes. They also took advantage of their authority to add impositions on anything they chose and they pocketed the money. They could tax travel, crossing bridges, goods purchased and sold, wheels and axles, anything. They were despised as Roman officials, distrusted by their countrymen and classed as sinners because, like many others, they did not observe the intricacies of the Jewish Law.





"Follow Me," said Jesus to Matthew

and, to the horrified amazement of the Pharisees, He sat down to a meal with other tax-collectors and sinners. "I go where the need is greatest," said Jesus, "to those who are most conscious of their sin and need God. People who are well do not need a doctor, only those who are sick."

Matthew left his comfortable job and good income but gained a spiritual fortune and our lasting thanks for using his skill with a pen to record the teaching of Jesus.

GM

## Mighty oaks from little acorns grow!



When the Church Restoration appeal was launched earlier in the year, *Loreen and Hilary* set themselves a target and decided to have various small events through the year and see how they got on. 'On hot sunny days ice creams proved popular. National Trust Entry-free days and holidays, teas, cakes, preserves and a gift stall provided visitors with much needed refreshment. It was also very enjoyable to chat with the visitors.

After this final event they were delighted to say that their target had been 'smashed' and for the restoration fund they had made an amazing £2574. *Loreen and Hilary* would like to thank all those who helped them reach the target and let's hope we can keep this up for next year.

LW

In July Winslow Mothers Union were entertained to tea and a tour of the Church and Churchyard and finally at the end of November a very successful Festive Fayre was held in the Village Hall.





## Don't call me a wise man! (From their point of view!)

People generally refer to us as "wise men" but we don't call ourselves that. Those of us in the profession are happy to be "astrologers". I'm pretty good at working out what the stars are doing, but I've been wrong often enough about what they mean to make me hesitate before claiming any wisdom.



That Bethlehem thing some years back was a turning point. My two colleagues and I were in unusual agreement in our reading: everything pointed to Judea, somewhere not far from Jerusalem, and the conventional interpretation

of the signs suggested a great leader was about to be born. King Herod's dynasty looked secure, and was approved by Rome, so we assumed one of Herod's wives was about to give him an heir. It was only natural to go and visit Herod's court: natural, but perhaps not very wise in retrospect! It turned out that our interpretation of the stars was news to Herod, and he was understandably a bit surprised to learn of a potential ruler born nearby who was not part of his family.

Herod called all his "wise men" - in other words, his priests and prophets. They told us to go and look in Bethlehem, because their holy writings said something obscure about a leader coming from there. Herod said if the scriptures were being fulfilled he ought to go and pay his respects, so if we found this infant we should let him know. Again in retrospect I can see his motive - but at the time it seemed quite reasonable, and so we agreed. I suppose the fact that he didn't send anyone with us showed he didn't take us very seriously.

We took some more readings from Jerusalem, checked our charts, went over all our calculations, and agreed that the stars were pointing now quite clearly to Bethlehem. It's only a little place, so we didn't expect any difficulty in finding a baby recently born to someone important. Wrong again! Just about everyone we asked turned out to be a stranger. We'd forgotten about the emperor's census, and the place was over-run. At last it occurred to us to ask at various tradesmen's premises, because they were likely to know the local gossip - we probably should have thought of that earlier. No-one even knew of any locals with any status. Finally we struck lucky at the inn - innkeepers always know what's going on.

He said he didn't know of any recent births among the resident population, but a carpenter and his young wife were visiting for the census and she had just had a baby in the shippoon downstairs. He'd let them stay there because he had no other room, and it was obvious that she was due.

We went down into the shippon (*cow barn or cattle shed*), and found this young girl with an older husband. They'd put the baby into the manger to sleep: unconventional, but the child looked perfectly comfortable and snug. It wasn't at all what we'd expected: they were clearly poor, but we were astonished by the air of tranquillity in the place. You'd think that after travelling goodness knows how far, being housed with the livestock and giving birth among them the parents would be at the end of their tether. Instead they looked almost beatific. They didn't seem at all surprised or overawed to see us. Perhaps they were simply numb, but it didn't seem like it: they spoke to us courteously and naturally, but without any deference. They spoke to us as if we were equals, but somehow it didn't occur to us to feel insulted. The baby was wide awake, and I'd have sworn he was looking right into our souls, each in turn - but of course, babies of that age can't really see much, can they?



We were actually quite embarrassed at first. We'd brought presents suitable for a young prince: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh - not the usual thing to give to a family of their sort. But quite quickly the peace of the place and the serenity of the family seeped right into us. It suddenly didn't seem at all inappropriate to give them. So what if they did just sell them soon afterwards? They would raise enough

to set up quite a useful carpenter's shop. But somehow, I don't think they did sell them. The young woman thanked us sweetly, smiled almost sadly, held our presents on her lap, and just carried on looking at the baby.

We took our leave then. Would you believe it, the young woman looked from the baby to us and gave us a blessing! Again we felt completely wrong-footed, and as we left we were convinced the baby was looking approvingly at us - but that's impossible, of course.

Once outside, we had a discussion as to what to do. We all knew before we said a word that we couldn't go back to Herod, but we all had different reasons. He wouldn't be interested in a peasant child - he'd be insulted if we suggested he visit a cowshed - if he believed his prophets he'd want to kill the child. We simply set off homewards, and spent the night in our tents, as we had during the whole journey.

So for all our astrological learning, we didn't display much in the way of common sense, let alone wisdom. Since then, I don't try to interpret the stars. I just draw up factual star charts for others to use as they see fit. I live quite simply now. I've given away most of my wealth: that young woman had very little, but she radiated a contentment that money doesn't bring. The peace I felt in that shippon has never left me for long, and in my mind's eye I can still see that knowing little baby staring into my soul.



**National  
Trust**

## **New Year into Spring - A garden: Awakening**

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year. As the garden slumbers through winter, snowdrops are starting to emerge and blanket the landscape. Enjoy chilly walks to spot signs of them peeping through as they begin to appear throughout the Elysian Fields, Sleeping Wood, Grecian Valley and Lamport Garden. We're excited to bring you a brand-new map and route to see the best of these delicate flowers. The gardeners have opened new paths from the Lamport Garden to the top of the Gothic Temple, giving views down to the lakes from above not normally accessed by visitors until now.



Meanwhile an additional walk – A garden undressed, can be followed to see the wider views across the lakes framed by the architecture of the leafless trees in winter.

Both maps can be picked up from the New Inn visitor centre when you arrive free of charge with normal admission applying.

## **Celebrating 125 years of the National Trust**

2020 allows us to reflect and celebrate 125 years of the National Trust. When you visit, support, donate and join our charity, you help us look after special places for ever for everyone. Thank you for your continued support, we're only able to care for wildlife habitats, restore monuments and welcome more community groups with accessibility needs with your help. With so much more work on the horizon, New Year's resolutions are a great opportunity to make a difference to somewhere you care about. If you're looking to challenge yourself or want to get together more with your friends, fundraise in aid of Stowe as part of yours. From running marathons to hosting a coffee morning, we'd love as many people to get involved in the Stowe £125 challenge to raise vital funds and celebrate this special anniversary year. Visit our website for all the info and to follow the stories of the Trust team at Stowe undertaking their £125 challenges.

The gardens and New Inn welcome centre at National Trust Stowe are open 7 days a week, 10am-4pm (closing at 5pm from 3 February). For more information about Stowe visit [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stowe](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stowe)

## Events Listings

NAA = Normal admission applies

B = Booking essential 0344 249 1895

## Events Listings

Tue 7 Jan, 4 Feb 10.30am-12.00noon

### **Toddler Tuesdays**

Play, sing songs, hear stories and make toddler crafts in a child-friendly environment.

Free entry to New Inn

Sat 11 Jan – Sun 22 Mar, 10am-4/5pm

### **'Stowedrops' and spring flowers**

Explore a new route through Lampport garden to surround yourself with swathes of delicate flowers.

NAA

Sat 11 Jan – Sun 22 Mar, 10am-4/5pm

### **A garden undressed walk**

Take in the views across the lakes on this self-led walk as winter reveals the architecture of the trees, how they frame monuments and the open scenes of the water running through the garden to make an illusion of a river flowing.

NAA

Wed 15 Jan, 19 Feb 10.30am-12.30pm

### **Man's best friend monthly dog walks**

Join the dogs of Stowe on a paw patrol with a different theme and leader each month.

Free NAA

Tue 21 Jan, Tue 17 Mar 11am-12noon

### **New parents walk and talk**

A monthly walk and talk session aimed at new parents who want to enjoy the great outdoors with their little one and meet others experiencing their first months of parenthood.

NAA

Sat 25 – Mon 27 Jan 10am-4pm

### **Big Garden Bird Watch**

Record what species you see on a brisk walk and get involved in the world's largest garden survey.

NAA

### **Ranger walk: Winter**

Sat 1 Feb 10.30am-12noon

Join the rangers on a vigorous walk through the parkland as they'll talk you through the conservation, wildlife surveying and restoration work that goes into caring for this special place.

Free

Sat 8 – Sun 9 Feb 10am-4pm

### **Valentine moments**

Meet the makers L'Auberge du Chocolat for tasters in the shop and browse romantic novels in the second-hand bookshop.

Free entry to New Inn

Sat 15 – Sun 23 Feb, 10am-4pm

### **Half-term trail: Nature ninjas**

Give the kids a well-earned break from term-time pressures as we unlock young imaginations. Pass the tricky challenges to earn the title of Nature Ninja.

NAA £2.50 per trail inc prize.

Sat 15 Feb – Sun 28 Jun, 10-4

### **Teens: Exam stress buster**

Tune out from tech with your teens and help them relax and de-stress from exams with a simple walk and follow our mindful guide. Step through the garden gate and give your teens some much deserved mind space in a haven away from the exam halls and distractions of fast-paced living. Follow this new mindful guide to relax and make time for the family's well-being.

NAA

Sun 16 Feb – 10am-4pm

### **Love birds: Men in sheds**

Local community group Men in Sheds will be in the New Inn courtyard selling their handcrafted wildlife habitat and nesting boxes.

Free entry to New Inn

Wed 19 Feb, 10.30am-12noon

### **Wild Wednesday: Walk on the wild side**

Join our nature expert for a '50 things to do before 11 ¾' nature walk through the garden.

£3 B NAA



## November and December

It was annual meeting time again and business soon got under way in November. We reflected on a busy year full of laughs and lots of fun. With the official side of the meeting dealt and with no changes to the officers, the meeting moved on to the entertainment.

It was shopping savvy as two members gave us an insight into food costs. We had fun tasting various items to determine the high end supermarket brands from the discount supermarkets.

The results were quite surprising. The taste tests were complemented with funny shopping stories, anecdotes and poems and we all had a really good evening.

The tree in the Village Hall has been sponsored and decorated by the WI and really looks splendid with all the items being

hand-made by many of our members.

For our December meeting it was a Christmas get-together and lunch at Silverstone Golf Club. Twelve members, minus their drums!, attended and all thoroughly enjoyed their meal and company. As all members were not present it was decided to present the WI competition cup at our first meeting in the New Year.

To kick off our programme for 2020, on the 9<sup>th</sup> January we will welcome Ann Fletcher whose talk is entitled 'The Last Best West' and on 13<sup>th</sup> February Brett Lowe will tell us all about Djurgarden Candles.

Do try and join us in 2020.  
Loreen.



### *Parish Council contact details:*

If you ever have anything that you would like the Parish Councillors to discuss at a meeting you can always put this in writing to our Clerk, Tony Skeggs, who will bring this to the meeting. Tony's email address is [parishclerkstowe@outlook.com](mailto:parishclerkstowe@outlook.com) or telephone him on 01296 428392.

Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 7.30pm at Dadford Village Hall



The biggest change in our garden this year [even more than not cutting the lawn] was the arrival of the summer house. We had been wanting one for some time but hadn't been able to agree where it would go!

Finally we asked a garden designer to come and give us her opinion and to give us some ideas about making the garden less labour intensive as we get older. We only had one piece of advice answering the latter: "Get rid of your pots." Well, we do have rather a lot but they contain lilies and choice spring bulbs. We had repeated what we tried the previous year and put pelargoniums in the pots in which they had overwintered on top of the bulbs' pots rather than transplanting into them which always had the disadvantage of potentially damaging the precious spring bulbs. First though we tipped away the top inch of compost and renewed it including some feed. As for the summerhouse, we were told we shouldn't have one. We should have a conservatory and make it a big one, even a wrap around one. When pressed about the summerhouse the recommended site was impractical since it would have made cutting the hedge behind impossible; similarly doing any maintenance at the back.

Well, I don't know about you but when I am given advice it often does make me decide the opposite. So, we now have a summer house at the back of the corner bed with room to get behind. The ailing quince tree came out. For the past two years it had suffered from quince leaf blight and all attempts to save it had failed. We are having a complete rethink of the corner bed which we first made forty years ago - the first we made and it was very carefully planned.

The colours were to be purple fading to mauve and silver and white. I made a list of suitable plants; their height and spread and when they would be in flower. It looked good for years but two problems developed. Couch grass invaded it and because the bed was quite big it was difficult to get in among the plants to tackle it especially in the bistort which was similarly invasive. Laurence did improve that somewhat by putting stepping stones in. The second problem was greed. We would go to plant fairs or visit gardens that also sold plants. If we go to local garden centres to buy something very different from actual plants we usually 'just have a quick look' at the plant displays.

"Where could we find room for it?" we would ask ourselves when we saw a 'must have' and the answer would generally be 'in the corner bed'. As a result the whole bed rather lost its way.

The summer house does extend into this bed and I have been writing new lists. The emphasis is on plants that insects will like, not that there weren't some already; mostly perennials and small shrubs that will look after themselves. Elsewhere in the garden self-sown dark purple poppies have been a mecca for bees. I have seen two bees at a time inside the flowers and a third and fourth chivvying them to get out so I have saved seed of those. We have no room elsewhere for four shrub roses. I have saved seed from an unnamed little purple jewel which we think is *Gomphrena globosa*. An annual, but it looked after itself beautifully.

Elsewhere in the garden wasps ate all our Autumn raspberries [don't waste money on a so-called look-alike nest - it doesn't fool them] and 80% of our apples. How do professional growers protect theirs, I wonder? A late sowing of French beans and late lettuces provided unintended sustenance for small rodents. So pleased were they that they found their way into the car and nibbled bits of a passenger seat over one night. They won't do that again! A final insult was the discovery that the leeks were badly damaged by a pest new to us; allium leaf miner. RHS advice is to plant them in a different place next year and cover with fleece.

In January and February gardeners will be looking at catalogues and even sowing seeds. We are hoping to have a fund-raising event which will include a plant fair so do sow a few extra strips for this. If you are planning to divide plants think similarly.

GG

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## **Braised hispi [sweetheart] cabbage and chick peas**

Serves 4 but adaptable

4 tbs olive or other oil  
150 g sliced chorizo or the equivalent of jar of smoked peppers for a vegetarian version  
2 cloves garlic lightly crushed  
1 hispi cabbage cut into quarter wedges  
2 tins chick peas  
1 tin chopped tomatoes  
1 tsp smoked paprika or less if using smoked peppers  
100 ml full bodied red wine or well flavoured stock  
dried thyme, salt and pepper: handful of chopped parsley to garnish [optional]



Heat the oven to 200 or 180 fan, gas 6. In a large frying pan gently fry the chorizo if using and garlic until the chorizo releases some oil. Remove both from pan into separate bowls. Add the cabbage wedges cut side down and fry until the wedges begin to colour. Add the drained chickpeas, tomatoes, reserved garlic, smoked peppers if using, wine, thyme, salt and pepper and simmer for 5 minutes to reduce a little bit - you are aiming for a thickish sauce when serving. Put the cabbage into a roasting tin [for quantities for two I used a tin measuring 8 x 12 inches] Cover tightly and bake for 30 minutes until the cabbage is almost tender and then add the chorizo if using. Cook for 5 minutes more. Serve with chopped parsley to garnish. Chunky bread eaten with this gives a complete protein.



## Stowe Parish Church Rotas

<b>Date 2020</b>	<b>Sidesmen</b>	<b>Prayers</b>	<b>Refreshments</b>
<b>Jan 5th</b>	Ivy Cakebread Loreen Williams	Tamara Kimpton	Julia Morten
<b>Jan 12th</b>	Robin and Nancy Shepherd	Liturgy	Kay Murray
<b>Jan 19th</b>	Julie and Family	Children	Nancy Pullin
<b>Jan 26th</b>	Lyn and Ray East	Andrew Rudolf	Bernadette Matthews
<b>Feb 2nd</b>	Bernadette Matthews Pat Walton	Julia Morten	Tamara Kimpton
<b>Feb 9th</b>	Patricia Forbes Julia Morten	Liturgy	Gill Smith
<b>Feb 16th</b>	Nancy Pullin	Children	Elsbeth Mullineux
<b>Feb 23rd</b>	Sally and Robert Drummond-Hay	Sally Drummond-Hay	Lyn East
<b>Mar 1st</b>	Richard and Essex Close-Smith	Pat Howard	Frances Orger
<b>2020</b>	<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Cleaning</b>	<b>Prayer Board</b>
<b>Jan 5th</b>		Nancy Pullin and Hazlewoods	Kay Murray
<b>Jan 12th</b>	Rosie Cowdy		John Kimpton
<b>Jan 19th</b>		Lyn and Ray East	Pat Howard
<b>Jan 26th</b>	Hilary Hawkins		Lyn East
<b>Feb 2nd</b>		Brian and Frances Orger	Gill Smith
<b>Feb 9th</b>	Heather Meredith		Margaret Ryley
<b>Feb 16th</b>		Gillian Macdonald Tamara Kimpton	Tamara Kimpton
<b>Feb 23rd</b>	Margaret Ryley		Gillian Macdonald
<b>Mar 1st</b>		Rosie Cowdy Pat Walton	Kay Murray

Date 2020	Time	Service	Theme	Reading / Gospel	Lead / Preach
Jan 5th	8:00	Said 1662 Communion			Pat
	9:45	Morning Prayer	Three Wise Men	Isaiah 60:1-6 Matthew 2:1-12	L - Andrew P - Gillian
DESERT ISLAND BIBLE VERSES					
Jan 12th	9:45	1662 Communion	Desert Island .... ????		L - Pat P - Val
Jan 19th	9:45	Family Service	Call of the disciples	Luke 5:1-11	L - Val P - Kay
Jan 26th	9:45	Common Worship Communion	Desert Island .... John 14	John 14	L - Pat P - Tony
Feb 2nd	8:00	Said 1662 Communion			Pat
	9:45	Morning Prayer	Desert Island .... ????		L - Gillian P - Ron
Feb 9th	9:45	1662 Communion	Desert Island .... Psalm 27	Psalm 27 Matthew 14:22-32	L - Val P - Andrew
Feb 16th	9:45	Family Service	Call of Matthew	Matthew 9:9-13	L - Kay P - Pat
Feb 23rd	9:45	Common Worship Communion	Desert Island .... Philippians 4	Philippians 4	L - Pat P - Chris Haslam
Feb 26th	19:30	Communion		Isaiah 58:1-12 John 8:1-11	Pat
EPISODES IN JESUS JOURNEY					
Mar 1st	8:00	Said 1662 Communion			Pat
	9:45	Morning Prayer	Jesus call to follow Him	Luke 9:51-62 2 Cor 5:14-21	L - Gillian P - Andrew