

Dadford and Stowe Parish Magazine

March - April 2020



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

Dear Friends,



As I write this letter, Valentine's Day is fast approaching and, for florists, one of the busiest days of the year. They certainly take the phrase, '*Say it with flowers*', very seriously.

I looked up the meanings of flowers and some are fascinating. I think most of us know that the red rose means love. (After 58 years, I'm still waiting for my husband to learn this but, on this topic, he's a slow learner!)

Other meanings include, Carnation - pride and beauty, Bird of Paradise - joyfulness (and they are fun), Asters - patience, Blue Hyacinth - constancy, Antirrhinum (sometimes called Snapdragon) - graciousness and strength. These are just a few. However, one of the real joys of this time of the year are the swathes of Snowdrops, everywhere. They're full of the promise of Spring, aren't they? I've always known the Snowdrop as Mary's flower, because of its swordlike appearance, when it first comes through.

It isn't many weeks since we celebrated the birth of Jesus, at Christmas-time, and heard all the wonderful accounts of people, from the lowest to the highest, in human terms, coming to worship this newborn King. The story we don't always hear is the one when Mary and Joseph take Jesus to the Temple to present him to God, as Jewish Law expected of them. There they are greeted enthusiastically by two very elderly people. Firstly, by Simeon who, on seeing Jesus, declared his willingness to die now that he'd seen the long awaited Messiah and, secondly, by Anna, who had lived in the Temple since she was widowed many years before. Simeon spoke to Mary of Jesus' destiny, as the Saviour of the World and declared to her, 'And a sword will pierce your own soul'.

Soon, we'll be entering Lent, a time to prepare ourselves for Easter. A chance to follow Jesus' journey, on the way to Jerusalem. Greeted enthusiastically by the crowds as he entered the Holy City on Palm Sunday, only to be rejected by them at his trial a few days later. His crucifixion, watched by just one disciple, John, Jesus' mother Mary and other women. I wonder if Mary remembered Simeon's prophecy, as she watched her son die a criminal's death, on a cross, and saw a Roman soldier pierce Jesus' side with a sword. No wonder the Snowdrop is often known as Mary's flower.



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 we celebrate Jesus' glorious resurrection, after three days, we may still have daffodils in flower and their meaning, appropriately, is chivalry and indicative of re-birth and new beginnings. Exactly what's on offer, for all who believe and trust in Jesus Christ.

I pray that you will all have a truly joyful Easter.

Blessings,

Rev Pat



Lent studies

During Lent this year all the regular Bible Study groups will stop and there will be one meeting **every Monday** to which **everyone (including those who don't usually attend a Bible Study group) is very welcome**. It will be a daytime meeting in Kay's home (The Moors, Chackmore) starting at 2pm and it will last approximately 1½ hours. It will cover the final five sessions in the Messiah study that was started in Advent.

2nd March – Messiah's death

9th March – Messiah's sacrifice

16th March - Messiah's resurrection

23rd March – Messiah's exaltation

30th March – Bring and Share lunch for Nicci Maxwell

6th April – Messiah's return

There will also be a recommended **Lent book**, 'To Seek and to Save' by Sinclair Ferguson. This is available in church.

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



With January and February behind us, it seems like the Spring term is almost over already. With the dreary wintry weather it can sometimes be hard to live up to the colour and excitement of the previous half term, but we didn't let that stop us! We have been hard at work, exploring new topics and learning lots of new things!

January started off well, with a *trip to Stowe for our Year 1 children*. They had an exciting, fun-filled day exploring topics relating to geography and science, as well as work on the season of Winter. They look forward to returning later in the Spring term and in the Summer.

Forest school is back in full flow, with all year groups heading outdoors in most weathers, to experience the natural world and all the opportunities that brings; no mean feat at this time of year!

At the end of February the *Year 1 children enjoyed a trip* to Milton Keynes Museum to help them with their history topic of 'Toys: Then and Now'- a topic most of us will have our own fond memories of.

We are delighted that Sports4All have been running our after-school clubs since the beginning of term. With a packed timetable of activities, from sporting to cooking to science and craft related, as well as various pick up and dining options, there really does seem to be an option for everyone (well, under 12s anyway!).

The children had a great time at the end of February, at the PTFA's Disco. Some excellent dance moves were observed and a great time was had by all!

Coming up in March are lots more exciting opportunities for the children, including: Sports Relief, World Book Day (with a reading challenge for every child, plus some exciting costumes by both children and teachers) and the Mothers' Day assembly at the Akeley site is always a highlight of the term.

Parents and children alike are looking forward to the Family Bingo Night at the end of March. This is always a fantastic event, with food and games as well as the Bingo and a great way for families to have a great time together, all whilst raising money to support the school.

Another way to raise money, is the PTFA's blue clothing recycling box outside the Akeley site. Your unwanted clothing, paired shoes and linen can all be donated there. For those of you having a clear-out/spring clean, an ideal opportunity to clear some space and help the PTFA and the school!

CG



Parish Council Update

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.

We have a busy few months ahead and some exciting things have been happening within the parish.

Firstly, the long awaited fast broadband has arrived. It has been a long process to get to where we are and we thank Cllr Chris Atkinson for keeping the lines of communication open with Stowe School, who are hosting the equipment for which we are extremely grateful. A big thank you to Colin Stanbrook for his endless talks with Voneus and never giving up. Without these two it's doubtful we would ever have got to this point. If you haven't already signed up with Voneus and would like to please email Bruno at bruno.dinis@voneus.com or call 0800 007 3377.

There are many improvements happening within the parish over the coming months/year. In early spring we are having lots of work carried out on the brook, pond, fencing and trees in the allotment and playing fields area. There's maintenance and repairs being carried out on the Dadford phone box and lovely daffodils have been planted by a very kind parishioner which will be brightening the area up. The Dadford traffic calming is also coming this year, no set date at the moment but as soon as we find out we'll let you know.

Bank holiday Friday 8th May VE DAY 75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Stowe Parish Council are hosting celebrations on the Dadford Playing Fields from 2.30pm. The invitation is open to all within the parish and their families. Adults, children, well behaved dogs on leads all welcome! We will be providing a hog roast for all, there'll be plenty of family fun & games, music plus fancy dress 40's style is optional for those who would like to with a prize for the best outfit.



We will be prepared in the event of rain as there'll be lots of cover which will be put in place in case it's wet so come rain or shine this will be going ahead. We would love you to come and join us and flyers and letter will be sent out shortly so watch out for them. For those that would like to come along can you please email your interest to sueboulet@btinternet.com or hilary.hawkins@sky.com so we can keep a check on numbers for the catering.

The Village Hall is soon to have free WiFi, thanks to Voneus (may have already been installed by time of publication), so even more reason to hire it. Village Hall Hire: a central hall with black-out blinds, hearing loop, large equipped kitchen, accessible toilet and disabled

access. Full central heating and bags of character. Contact: 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.

Allotments: 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

Future Parish Council meetings – Dadford Village Hall
Wednesday 4th March – 19.30 &
Wednesday 15th April – 19.00 Annual Parish Meeting .

SB

CHLOE AND THE COLOUR CATCHER
Free the colours of the rainbow

★ ★ ★ ★
"This show glitters"
The Stage

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
"Can't recommend enough"
Bristol Post

arts Stowe
Thursday 16 April, 2pm, Stowe, MK18 5EH
Booking: www.artsatstowe.co.uk | Box Office: 01280 825710

'Potter's Village' is a child crisis and medical centre in Kisoro, supported by CMS (The Christian Missionary Society).

Church News

Services

Details of all the services can be found on the back page. Please note that 5th April is Palm Sunday and several services are held during Holy Week in Stowe Church culminating in a celebratory service of Family Communion on Easter Sunday 12th April at 9.45.

Activities

Lent Studies

The studies will meet on **Mondays March 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and April 6th** at The Moors, Chackmore. They will focus on the Old Testament Prophecies about the Messiah & their fulfilment in Jesus as Redeemer, Saviour & King. We shall listen to the appropriate sections from Handel's Messiah.

They will start promptly at 2.00pm and last for about 1½ hours.

Everyone is welcome

All other weekly Bible studies will be suspended during this period to enable participants to come together on Mondays.

30th March 12.00noon

**Bring and share lunch
@ The Moors, Chackmore**

All are welcome to this event and to hear Dr Nicci Maxwell talk about her work as a paediatrician in South West Uganda.

The Potter's Village exists to rescue babies who have no other chance of survival.

Congratulations to Craig & Louise Greene on the arrival of a baby girl, **Madeleine Sarah**, born on 21st December 2019. (Craig is the Director of Music at Stowe School and lives in this Parish).

Rev Leon and Charlotte Catallo:

Give thanks for the safe arrival of a baby girl - Elanor Mary Lynda born on Christmas Day. Please pray that they would settle into a family of three and learn lessons about God's love from becoming parents.

This year's **World Day of Prayer** is to be held on Friday 6th March at St Peter and St Paul, Buckingham. 11.00am. All are welcome. This year's service will be prepared by the Christian women of Zimbabwe.

Buckingham Food Bank

We are grateful for all donations to the food bank. At the moment we are short of custard, sugar and instant coffee. Contributions can be left at the church or passed to church members. Thank you. Anne Mercer

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

STOWE STARS

FAMILY SERVICES

Jesus calls

March 22nd Mothering Sunday

Luke 18, 15-17 Let the children come

Jesus set out on the long road to Jerusalem with His disciples knowing that at the end He would die. On the way He was frequently stopped by people anxious to hear His teaching, see His miracles and ask for healing.

At one such resting place people brought their babies for Him to place His hands on them. The disciples protested. Were they anxious that He might be too tired or too busy or would regard the children as insignificant?

But Jesus CALLED the children to Him. He said the Kingdom of God BELONGED to them and people like them, with the dependence, unworldliness, open-ness and trust of a child. Like a child we need the help and guidance of our Heavenly Father. We come to Him in obedience, trusting His love and promise of welcome into the Heavenly Kingdom. The door is always open.

He has been raised.

— *Mark 16:6*

April 12th Easter He is risen!

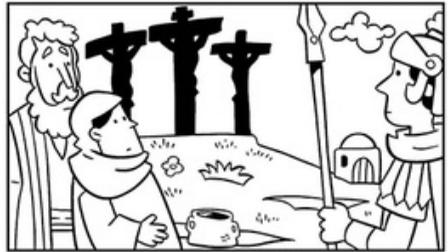
Acts 10, 34-43 Matthew 28, 1-10

Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary" had been at Golgotha, "the place of the skull," when Jesus was crucified. They saw the tomb where Joseph of Arimathea laid the body of Jesus and the big stone with which the Roman guards had blocked the tomb's entrance. They went home to pass the next day which was the Sabbath.

At dawn the following day they set off for the tomb with spices to anoint the body. A violent earthquake rolled away the stone and they saw a radiant, dazzling angel on it. The guards fainted from fright. The angel invited the two women to look into the tomb, empty just as Jesus had promised. The angel told them to take the good news to the disciples.

On their way they met Jesus and took hold of His feet acknowledging Him as Sovereign Lord. Jesus sent them on their way. They had three things to do, three things which we are asked to do -

to believe that Jesus died and lives now,
to share the Good News (the Gospel),
and to **REJOICE!**



Young children might like to colour these pictures which tell the Easter story.



January and February

It was good to meet up again in the Village Hall for the first meeting of 2020 and wish all members a Happy New Year. We gave a warm welcome to *Ann Fletcher* who came to give us an insight into the history of early Canadian immigration which she unearthed while researching her family history.

The Royal Union Flag 1763-1801



After the arrival of the British in the early 1760s, The two-crossed jack or the Royal Union flag (known more commonly as the Union Jack) was used in Canada.

From 1867 to 1914 the Canadian West opened for mass settlement and an extensive advertising campaign throughout Western Europe and Scandinavia brought in a huge wave of immigrants to The Last, Best West. The Prairie Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta grew rapidly in these years with the offer of a free 160 acre homestead.

Ann's distant female relation had a lot to thank the WI for, as they were her salvation in a very alien world, complete with some intriguing photos of her ancestors taking the plunge for 'a better life' who emigrated to Canada in the 1880's. Little did they know that the reality from the fancy poster adverts would be so stark. With a relatively cheap passage on Canadian Railway-owned liners and the promise of 160 acres of free land we learnt of the truth behind the glamour.

Some had to trek 2000 miles to reach their land taking anything up to a year only to find no water, shelter or food. Depression, illness and fatigue hit hard and life was far more difficult from that which they had left 'back home'.

However, with the help of the WI to encourage and help with all aspects of home-life things progressed and the emigrants made lives and livelihoods for themselves and family in Canada.

Anne made the journey to Canada last year and sought out her relatives and learnt even more of this amazing story.



Unfortunately our speaker for February was unable to be with us due to ill health, but thankfully fellow member *Philippa Atkinson* stood in at the last minute and gave a lovely talk on her visit to Bhutan in 1986.

Bhutan, land of the thunder dragon, is around the size of Switzerland and at that time quite unspoiled. This trip was a 'thank you' to Philippa's dear friend, from the ruler of the country, for looking after and teaching his children for over five years.

She was invited to take a two week holiday with a friend, so Philippa was able to enjoy the trip of a lifetime. We were shown some very colourful slides and learnt some of the culture, the national language is Dzongkha and the sport is archery. Life there is quite primitive and a diet of fatty and dried meat not to everyone's taste, self-sufficiency is paramount and housing comprises of animals at the bottom, then family and at the

top of the dwelling an open area for drying meat, hay etc. Weaving was popular and extremely fine and colourful cloth was produced.

The castle fortresses, known as Dzongs, were quite stunning, and have served as the religious and secular administration centres for their respective districts since ancient times. Much has changed since and entry to the Dzongs is no longer possible.

Thank you Philippa for a fascinating talk and of course for helping us out.

On the 12th March we will welcome William French with a talk entitled 'Welcome to my World' and on 9th April we will have an introduction to Calligraphy with Nina Erikson-Grey.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.
Loreen.

Bhutan, a Buddhist kingdom on the Himalayas' eastern edge, is known for its monasteries, fortresses (or dzongs) and dramatic landscapes that range from subtropical plains to steep mountains and valleys.

In the High Himalayas, peaks such as 7,326m Jomolhari are popular trekking destinations. Paro Taktsang monastery (also known as Tiger's Nest) clings to cliffs above the forested Paro Valley.





Imagine after days of torrential rain you are sitting on a lounge on the lawn enjoying the sun. Suddenly you think you've had a Pimms too many because the lounge seems to be moving, sliding. This is what has actually happened in some

parts of the world due to a phenomenon called soil liquefaction. We are probably safe here because into the soil saturation you usually have to factor in an earthquake. The effect is so strong that not only do people start sliding but whole buildings too.

I wrote in May 2015 that I had read that it has been estimated that we have 100 harvests if we don't look after our soil here. So it's an estimated 95 years now. You probably know the beneficial effects of worms in the soil. They keep soil healthy by recycling dead organic matter, fallen leaves, the bodies of small animals and fungal material. This material is digested and excreted in the form of a fine highly nutritious paste which you may sometimes see in the form of worm casts. On top of this they do a huge amount of good by aerating the soil, allowing oxygen to pass down to the roots of plants; and helping water to penetrate the soil which in turn prevents run-off in heavy rain and so helping to prevent flooding further downstream. The worm's body, having no rigid skeleton is basically a tube of liquid encased in both circular and longitudinal muscles moves by a simple hydraulic system. Amazingly it can exert more than a hundred times its own body weight in pressure to force open crevices to enable this, moving very slowly.

Worms are arguably as important or more important to the health of eco systems and humans than bees. What then are the dangers to worms? You may remember several years ago that there was a fear that the New Zealand flat worm imported probably in plants was thought to be a real threat to earth worms which it feeds on. Happily this threat does not seem to have been realised. We don't know if the effect of pesticides and fungicides sprayed on crops is harmful to worms but we do know that multiple sprays of both on seeds are not good. Copper in particular is toxic to worms. It's thought that both ploughing and no-till seed drilling are both beneficial to worms. It's only now that studies are being done. What about the worms we gardeners inadvertently chop up in the garden? Can they really regenerate? It depends where it is cut. The head may be better than the tail.

The information for this has come from a book by Dave Goulson: *The Garden Jungle* or *Gardening to Save The Planet*, and is very readable.

Don't forget to save those plants for 17 May!

GG

I wonder if it is the above that makes me think of the following recipe?!

This will give you 4 veg but any similar veg can be substituted eg peas, beans. The quantities are for 4 - 5 but can be adjusted.

Courgette-Spaghetti Casserole



110g broken spaghetti Cooked until barely tender and drain. Add a spoon of oil to prevent it sticking while waiting.

In a frying pan cook:

1 large chopped onion

1 green pepper in butter or oil for about 4 minutes.

Add 4 medium courgettes sliced.

Cover and cook for another 5-6 mins.

Stir in 4 medium tomatoes cut into wedges

3-4 tablespoons chopped parsley

Salt and pepper to taste

Cover and cook until heated through

Put mix into a large casserole and gently mix in the spaghetti. Top with 175g grated cheese. Bake in a pre-heated oven 180 degrees for 30 -40 minutes.

Dadford and Stowe Magazine

If you enjoy reading the magazine and finding out what has been going on in and around the village of Dadford and would like to make a contribution, it is not too late. The annual cost per copy per year is £5, but £10 will enable us to continue the current distribution. Please pass your contribution to one of the church wardens, Kay Murray or John Kimpton, or to the person who distributes the magazine to you.

Stowe Parish Church Rotas

Date 2020	Sidesmen	Prayers	Refreshments
Mar 8th	Laurence Gibson	Liturgy	Margaret Ryley
Mar 15th	Ray and Lyn	Kay	Julia Morten
Mar 22nd	Julie and Family	Children	Nancy Pullen
Mar 29th	Andrew Rudolf and Tamara Kimpton	Gillian Macdonald	Kay Murray
Apr 5th	Ivy Cakebread and Loreen Williams	Tamara Kimpton	Bernadette Matthews
Apr 12th	Robin and Nancy Shepherd	Kay Murray	Gill Smith
Apr 19th	Tony and Heather Meredith	Liturgy	Tamara Kimpton
Apr 26th	Bernadette Mathews and Pat Walton	Julia Morten	Frances Orger
Date 2020	Flowers	Cleaning	Prayer-board
Mar 8th			John Kimpton
Mar 15th		Chris Close-Smith and Venice	Pat Howard
Mar 22nd			Lyn East
Mar 29th		Neil and Susan Fraser-Smith	Gill Smith
Apr 5th			Margaret Ryley
Apr 12th	All Flower arrangers and helpers EASTER	Chris and Philippa Atkinson	Tamara Kimpton
Apr 19th			Gillian Macdonald
Apr 26th	Diana Wyatt	Nancy Pullin and Hazlewoods	Kay Murray

Date 2020	Time	Service	Theme	Reading / Gospel	Lead / Preach
Mar 8th	9:45	1662 Communion	Jesus' compassion	Isaiah 49:13-18 Luke 13:31-35	L - Pat P - Alvin Tan
	18:00	Deanery Evensong	Adstock		
Mar 15th	9:45	Morning Prayer	Jesus' Courage	Mark 10:32-34 Psalm 22:1-18	L - Val P - Maurice
	18:00	Deanery Evensong	Thornborough		
Mar 22nd	9:45	Family Service	Let the children come	Luke 18:15-17	L - Pat P - Kay
	18:00	Deanery Evensong	Water Stratford		
Mar 29th	09:45 BST	Common Worship Communion	Jesus' commission to serve	Philippians 2:1-11 Mark 10:35-52	L - Pat P - Ron
	18:00	Deanery Evensong	Lillingston Lovell		
Mar 30th	12 noon	Bring and Share Lunch and talk	Nicci Maxwell is coming to talk about her work in Uganda. To be held at The Moors		
Apr 5th	8:00	Said 1662 Communion			Pat
	9:45	Palm Sunday Morning Prayer	Jesus enters Jerusalem	Ps 118:1-2 + 19-29 Matt 21:1-11	L - Gillian P - Val
	18:00	Deanery Evensong	Padbury + Confirmation service		
Apr 9th	19:30	Maundy Thursday Communion	The Last Supper	1 Cor 11:23-26 John 13:1-17 + 31b-35	Pat
Apr 10th	14:00 - 15:00	Good Friday Meditation			Andrew
Apr 12th	9:45	Easter Day Family Communion	He is risen!	Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 28:1-10	L - Val P - Val
READY TO RESPOND					
Apr 19th	9:45	1662 Communion	Gladys Aylward + Abram and Joseph	Genesis 12:1-5 Matthew 1:18-24	L - Pat P - Andrew
Apr 26th	9:45	Common Worship Communion	Hudson Taylor + Moses and Jesus	Exodus 3:1-17 John 18:25-38	L - Pat P - Ron