

Dadford and Stowe Parish **Magazine**

November - December 2020



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

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DEADLINE FOR THE MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

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

ADVERTISING

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

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Dear Friends

Yesterday's weather forecast for the week October 14-31 was gloomy. A deep depression would bring much rain and strong winds, followed by the relics of hurricane Epsilon and more threats of fleeting sunshine and very changeable weather. It seemed to reflect the character of life in the church family and in society in general.

There have been moments of brightness in Stowe Parish Church life: the coffee morning, the Bible studies, the Prayer Cells, Val's helpful Westfield talks, thanks to Zoom and the three or four services in a Covid secure

Church! Yet there is the looming threat of changes: the curtailment of Christmas celebrations, a long hard winter of rising infections, deaths, tightening restrictions and, lastly, economic hardships. More immediately, we have suffered the loss of Pat, Val's ill health and the independent report about Peter's death, which, though suggesting ways to avoid a repetition, raked over old hurts and sadnesses.

How are we to respond? Firstly, as Paul wrote in Ephesians 2: 20, we should be "always giving thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." EVERYTHING-surely not! This may seem incredibly hard and even impossible. It's not even my second or third reaction, if trouble hits. A grumble or a moan or a bleat about life being so difficult usually comes first. On the other hand, if God is our Father, who loves us, He will surely in His mighty power see us through the tribulation. Indeed, thanksgiving can lighten the burden, as our gaze is turned away from ourselves to the grace and generous nature of our Lord. As the song goes, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace."

Secondly, in the moment of crisis, we can recall Psalm 94: 18-19, "When I said 'my foot is slipping', your love, O Lord, supported me. When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought joy to my heart." The Psalmist is quite open and honest with the Lord and does not hide his anxiety, in case it reflects badly on his spiritual state. He comes clean about his foot slipping and all his concerns. As someone said, the Lord can handle these things with love and joy.

Thirdly, there is the encouragement from Jude v. 1 when he reminds us of the promise that as believers we "have been called...loved by the Father and KEPT by Jesus Christ." In a way, he sums up the previous two points.

As the Archdeacon of Oxford stressed, when he spoke at the communion service on October 25th, part of this keeping process involves the Lord's words "*Peace I leave with you: My peace I GIVE to you.*" *Jn. 14: 27.*

AR

It is with the heaviest of hearts that I find myself writing this week in the knowledge that our dear Pat has returned home to our heavenly Father so soon. The loss of her from this world will leave a huge gap for so many people both family, friends and those to whom she has ministered.



When I think of Pat it's hard to pin down all the wonderful gifts she had, because there were so many!

So a good place to start for me is the special way she had of telling the Gospel to children. I have one of those little diamonds (plastics beads) on my study windowsill from one such story and as I looked at it today glinting in the sunlight I realised that the best way to remember her is just like this, full of light, showing the beauty of God from every angle! You will each have your own thoughts and memories to ponder over in the days to come, but for me I will always remain mindful of the utter privilege of working together, being alongside her and receiving her ministry as a priestly colleague, a wise counsellor and good friend.

This week I have chosen to dedicate my service and sermon to her, especially as she was a great fan of telling me and others not to worry when things got too tough, but instead to put it in the hands God!

As we prepare to settle into the new normal across the country and our normal now at Stowe, we must do so in the knowledge that we will overcome.... because this is our song of faith!

Worrying is the way of the world;
Freedom is the way of the Father! <https://youtu.be/ePBnRv5vDxQ>

Stay safe

Love and Blessings, Rev Val

“Bev, Lindsey and Andrew Howard would like to say “Thank you” for all the wonderful cards and flowers they received after Pat’s death. “The messages of support and fond memories shared were very heartening. A private cremation took place last week (8th October) but we intend to celebrate her life with extended family and friends sometime next year. Many thanks once again for all the love and best wishes from Pat’s church family to ours.”

Harvest service on 4th October- at Stowe Church

(I was glad when they said to me, Let us go into the house of the Lord - Psalm 122:1)

We were very blessed to be able to celebrate Harvest in Church, albeit low key. Everybody who came had a place allocated for them with their service books ready for them.

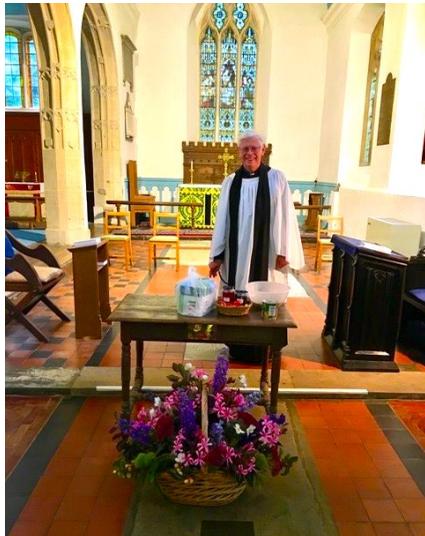
There were no harvest gifts decorating the Church but it was freshly cleaned and welcoming even if bare, but we had a beautiful basket of flowers and two offerings of grain.

The Harvest service was taken by Rev Ron Bundock and he invited us to bring up tokens of our harvest gifts to put on the table.

Ron told the congregation that it had been 6 years to the day since he retired from Stowe Church and said how pleased he and Judith were to be able to be with us. It brought back memories for us too.

A congregation of 19 came and, although we could not raise our voices in praise to God, we had wonderful choirs singing out the joyful traditional harvest hymns (on CD's) and we could follow the words in our hymn books.

A special thank you to Rev Ron for taking the service and to John, Kay and Andrew for making preparations for the service, to Lyn and Ray for cleaning the Church, to Diana for the flowers and to John Wyatt and Chris Close-Smith for the grain offerings.



TK



Otter sighting in Dadford

I received the email below with a beautiful short video of an otter swimming and calling out at the same time. I, too, saw one last year as we drove in through the Stowe School entrance in the lake on the left. If you would like to see this video then please email me (Lyn East) and I will send it to you.

*I spotted an otter in the lake by the equestrian centre at Dadford/ Stowe Sunday 20th September around 7 pm. I thought you may want to write about this in the village magazine.
No photos available, just video.*



Parish Council Update

DADFORD TRAFFIC CALMING – Every household in Dadford should have received a letter by now, informing you that MEPC Silverstone GP Ltd will be beginning the traffic calming works within the village from Monday 9th November. These works were part of the section 106 obligations and are expected to take 6 weeks. We are very relieved and grateful that this is now happening, thank you MEPC. If you didn't receive your letter then you can find a copy on www.stowepc.uk. On the subject of traffic, our thanks also go to the police for sending out the speed camera on many occasions recently and hopefully once the traffic calming is completed the speed will slow down through the village.

We are extremely happy with the way all the improvements made to the allotment/playing field area over the last few months are looking. The playground area is now finished with newly painted, bright coloured equipment and new tarmac. It is nice to see it being well used since the reopening and we are glad it is being enjoyed. It is complemented by the renewed fencing that was

replaced earlier in the year and the high standard of grass cutting that we have had this season, along with the allotments that have been looking fantastic this year. Well done to all the allotment holders. It makes such a difference to the Village and we are immensely touched by all the positive comments and feedback that we have received.

The main thing that has happened since the last edition, which we are sure has not gone unnoticed, is the vast amount of work carried out by dredging the brook and clearing the pond. There have been some self-set trees removed that were blocking parts of the brook as well as intermingling with Dadford's notorious Weeping Ash trees. The hope is that this will assist with the flooding if the brook can run freely. This was put to the test just a few days after finishing the works when we had a huge downpour of rain and we are happy to report that the water did not burst the banks despite other local areas being severely affected. This work was carried out due to the immense generosity of Paul Wheeler arranging for this to be done for us, for which we are hugely grateful. Massive thanks go to Paul for doing this for the village, and our thanks to Steve (the digger driver) for doing such a fantastic job.

Some clearing up has started with a group of councillors and helpful parishioners getting together clearing the dead wood. In the Spring the area will be power harrowed and then re seeded, so that by early summer it should be looking lovely, with the brook being both a functional and visual asset for the village.

Your Stowe Parish Councillors are Sue Boulet (chair), Chris Atkinson, Jamie Boulet, Hilary Hawkins, Colin Stanbrook and Steve Williamson.

Our clerk is Tony Skeggs and if you would like to get in touch with him regarding anything please email at clerk@stowepec.uk

Don't forget our new website www.stowepec.uk where you can keep up to date with the latest news in the parish and find the contact details of all the councillors. Dates of future meetings and any other council documents can be found here.

SB



Since lockdown Ivy has been taking a daily walk. She passed a comment one day that what she really needed was a seat at the top of Gorrell Lane, so she could have a sit and a rest before returning home.

Cllr. Chris Atkinson, ever up for a challenge, expertly repaired and restored an unwanted broken

seat from the play area. After discussion with Charlie and Jenny Fife a suitable position was decided upon and the seat was installed complete with an engraved plaque "Ivy's Seat August 2020"

Ivy's seat is now situated on the bend at the top of Gorrell Lane in a sheltered position, where anyone can now sit and take in the wonderful view towards the obelisk.



HH



LET'S MAKE DADFORD BRILLIANT!

DADVENT, DADFORD'S LIGHT TRAIL, IS RUNNING IN 2020

DADVENT has gone from strength to strength and, in its third year, we are excited to announce that we will be hosting it again - with some changes to take into account the uncertainty of Covid-19 restrictions.

We would love every household in the village to light up a minimum of one window. This can be just lights, a Christmas tree, a snowman etc. Obviously you can do much more if you so wish. Previously we have seen whole houses, gardens, porches etc. festooned with Christmas lights and decorations. Please see the 2018 and 2019 galleries on the **DADVENT** website for inspiration: dadfordlightfestival.weebly.com.

Ideally the displays will be in place by Friday 18th December so that we have a fantastically bright, fun and colourful village for residents to wander around (socially distanced, of course) and enjoy until 31 December*.

This year, almost more than any other, we feel that lighting up the village will help boost morale, cheer everyone up and continue to make Dadford a fun and community-spirited place to live.

SO, LET'S MAKE DADFORD BRILLIANT!

Hilary and Maddie *

Please note that, unlike previous years, there will be no large gatherings for the actual switch-ons.

On your bike..?!

..or not, as it seems to be between Towcester, Brackley and Banbury. As far as we can see, it is tricky to get from town to town on your bike around here without taking your life in your own hands.

Even though cyclists can use major A or B roads, mingling with fast-moving traffic and heavy trucks is not the safest way to get between these towns and villages, so, sadly, it's the car or bus (If there is one) for us.

How much better would it be for everyone if there were dedicated, safe active travel routes that joined up across South Northamptonshire? Routes that take cyclists, pedestrians and mobility users away from the busy main roads, allowing us to travel locally, safely, and leave the car at home.

To this end we are looking to raise awareness and increase support in a Government initiative to get this type of active travel route in our local area, and everyone can 'get in the saddle' to help!

Nowadays we are far more conscious of our impact on the environment, and a big part of this scheme would be to get everyone using their **cars less** and their **legs more!**



Our aim:

**To build a safe active travel route from
Towcester to Brackley
alongside the A43, and to Banbury alongside
the B4525.**

Formally known as the 'South Northants Active
Travel Route A43 & B4525'

We are seeking your support in this initiative

To support our ambition, simply email me, David Cranwell, at
snatra43@gmail.com

Please join our Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2390653717909802>

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

Autumnal November has certainly arrived! It is hard to believe that we are already two whole months into the school year. Everyone at St. James and St. John's has been working incredibly hard and the staff are very proud of them all. Hopefully everyone enjoyed a well-earned rest over half-term!

This half-term promises to be just as busy and exciting as is usual at this time of year, although with some changes to help keep everyone at our school safe. We look forward to lots of exciting learning across the school as the different year groups follow their own curricula, which this half term include Everyday Materials, Rocks, Volcanoes and Forces in Science and the Stone Age, Anglo-Saxons and Toys, in History, to mention a few areas.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 restrictions, we were unable to celebrate Harvest as we usually would in school. However, we have been able to share assemblies from our Church links, directly to the children in school as part of our class assemblies. It was also with great sadness that the annual PTFA Christmas Market had to be cancelled. However, with the help of the staff, the PTFA organised Christmas cards featuring the children's own art work, which parents had the option to purchase should they wish. There are also plans developing to ensure that the children have an exciting end to this unusual term!

Whilst current restrictions mean that we won't be able to do all the activities we normally would do, the staff at St. James and St. John have been busy finding new activities and new ways to do things this year. We have set up a new virtual learning platform for the school, whereby teachers, parents and students can communicate remotely, as well as share learning and achievements.

There is also the *new virtual tour* of the school for prospective parents, which can be viewed on the school website: www.stjamesjohn.com. A reminder for any prospective parents, including those with children already at the school, that you are very welcome to phone the Akeley site of the school on **01280 860272** and book a telephone appointment to talk through what the school can offer your child, especially in light of these uncertain times.





What is Alpha?

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions to discuss life and the Christian faith in an informal, fun and friendly way. It helps answer life's biggest questions that we all ask at some point in our lives.

Why are we here? What is the meaning of life? What is my purpose?

Who is it for?

Alpha is for anyone, it is for non-Christians who wish to explore further life, faith, and meaning, but it is also for Christians who want to reignite their faith, and find out more how they can change their lives for the better.

Now over the world millions of people have tried Alpha and it has been translated into 112 languages. Alpha is designed to meet everyone where they are and invite them to grow even closer to Jesus.

Alpha has changed lives.

Janice: I have always been curious as my best friend has been a Christian for a long time and I have always admired her attitude and how lovely she was to be around. It's the best thing we have ever done and has answered lots of questions.

Siobhan-

The second time an Alpha leaflet came through my door, I knew I couldn't continue to ignore it. After experiencing two emotional life changing events, I had hit an all-time low and was searching for answers and friendship which is exactly what I found on the Alpha course. 5 years on, I am a changed woman.

Alpha is now Online

Alpha is now online which means you can do it easily in the comfort of your home. You will watch a video, then have discussions in small groups where you engage in life's important questions. It is not a lecture, but a chance for you to talk, express what you think and debate with others.

The course runs for 10 weeks for around an hour each week. (30mins of this is watching the video) and will be starting in January 2021

We would love you to think about joining in. Alpha is far from boring. It is fun and engaging and has really changed people's lives.

If you think it might be for you, or you just want to chat about it, please contact Jennifer or Clare or Tamara

Jennifer at metcalfej@me.com or 07989 504705

Clare at clarevkrajnyk@gmail.com or 07775 434200

Tamara at tamarajeankimpton@gmail.com or 01280 81445

STOWE STARS

Family Services

God's promises

15th November

Matthew 28: 18 - 20

God's promise to the world

"I will be with you always, to the end of the age."

What a tremendous promise, to last us a lifetime and beyond. These were the last words Jesus spoke to His friends as they gathered on a hill in Galilee. They had been with Him from the moment He called them to leave their jobs and follow Him. They had seen His miracles, heard His sermons, questioned the meaning of the parables, been sent into the villages and towns round about to spread His message, and shared His meals. To them had come the first joy of discovering that their Master, whom they had seen crucified, was alive, truly the Son of God.

Now they waited for Him on the hill and when He came they worshipped Him. At this last meeting He assured them of His God-given authority and gave them a purpose in life - to go to all peoples, everywhere, and make them His disciples. If that seemed a daunting task He made them this promise, "I will be with you always, to the end of the age."

What a comforting promise this is as we try to discern the future. What an energising promise this is as we try to use our lives in His Name.



During these past months we have studied God's promises to Abraham, Moses, Jeremiah and Mary and seen that they were fulfilled. Like

them we can trust God's promises. "I will be with you always, to the end of the age."

25th December

Isaiah 9, 2 - 7 Luke 2, 1 - 14

News of great joy for all people

One night, out in the fields near Bethlehem, were shepherds keeping watch over their flocks. Shepherds were despised and regarded as unclean because their job and its hours prevented them from following the rules and regulations of religious observance. Suddenly they were dazzled by a supernatural light and fearful of what it might mean. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I have come with good news which will bring great joy to all people."

Being devout men they hurried to follow the angel's directions to find a new-born baby, Christ the Lord, lying in a manger in King David's town of Bethlehem. The shepherds amazed everyone with their story of the angels' visit and their song glorifying God and proclaiming peace on earth.

The shepherds returned to their flocks full of praise to God for the good news they had heard and the sight that confirmed it. They were ordinary men doing their ordinary job when suddenly they found themselves in the presence of God. Did they remember Micah's words from the 8th century - "Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are one of the smallest towns in Judah, but out of you I will bring a ruler for Israel,

whose family line goes back to ancient times."

What a privilege for these simple men of the fields, a privilege we can all share as we rejoice today in celebration of that birth long ago and the promise that is with us still.

Happy, joyful, peaceful Christmas to everyone.

GM



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### **Christmas Crumble Recipe** (from Ivy)

- 2 large cooking apples
- 175g mincemeat (approx)
- 115g plain flour
- 50g wholemeal flour
- 80g butter
- 81g caster sugar



Sift flours and rub in the butter, then add sugar. Peel core and slice apples and mix with the mincemeat, adding a little sugar if apples are very tart. Place apple mixture into an ovenproof dish and immediately cover with crumble mix, pressing down lightly. Cook at Gas Mark 5 190' C for approximately 45 minutes until lightly browned.

## **IMPORTANT! Church News**

In line with diocesan recommendations, we will re-introduce services in church slowly and, of course, with all the Covid-19 safety measures in place.

Those who **wish to come to a service** will need to **book their place** in advance as there will be greatly reduced seating due to social distancing regulations.

**Bookings can be made in the week before the service by contacting Tamara Kimpton (01280 814456)** when details will be taken in line with the test and trace system. *Masks must be worn* at all times in the church and seats will be allocated on arrival. People are asked to *maintain the 2-metre* rule while waiting to enter and to move straight away from the church when they leave. An offering will not be taken during the service, although it can be placed on a plate at the back of church as you enter or leave. People are also asked to *use hand sanitiser on entering and leaving the church*.

As part of the Stowe School safety measures in place, everyone coming to church will have their temperature checked as they come past the security cabin.

**Please see the very back page of the cover for full details of services for November and December**

**Weekly Stowe Church Coffee** Mornings on Zoom at 11am.

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 Plum** who continues to struggle with complex health issues. Give thanks for her very positive attitude and trust in God.

**Julie Bradshaw** who has badly broken her pelvis following a fall from a horse.

**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](mailto:postmaster@keithcroxton.plus.com)

## Journey to Nepal!

I am delighted to be able to share with you some of the highlights when I travelled to Nepal as a volunteer with Christians Abroad. My journey really started in Lillingstone Lovell in 2008 when I went on an Alpha course. The penny dropped and I realised God has a purpose and plan for all of us.

I began volunteering 10 years ago and went to Albania helping in a kids' camp and then when I got the opportunity again, I went to Cambodia helping very poor women start a small business to generate an income. Volunteering makes a real difference to your life; you experience poverty and need which makes you so grateful for what you have. It made me energised to take on another project but where? I prayed and let God guide me and found myself en route to Nepal in Jan 2019.



Nepal is a landlocked country in South Asia, lying between China and India. The streets of Kathmandu are clogged with traffic and studded with ancient temples. Exquisite woodcarvings dating back centuries adorn buildings that are falling down. It is third world; in 1998 - 2006 an internal revolution killed thousands of people and in 2015 the country was badly hit by an earthquake. The government is secular but aspires to the Hindu stronghold. 80%+ are Hindu, 10% Buddhist and 2% Christian. Many Christians are persecuted.

I stayed in Kathmandu with a Hindu family and I started work with a small NGO called RUWON, which focused on women's rights helping poor women and children in rural Nepal. They also had a children's orphanage. I helped them in the office with grant proposals, their website and anything else that came my way. I soon realised everything was not at all what it seemed. The company was barely functioning, with lack of staff and expertise and I discovered the main funding for the orphanage had ceased and it was reaching a crisis. Where to house the children?, how to pay school fees? and pay off the credit for food and supplies. Each day faced new problems but I would not have missed it for anything. I immersed myself in the culture of Nepal, was challenged both mentally and physically but enjoyed every minute, just accepting things as they happened. Each day I felt God guiding me, and each time a problem arrived I just waited and listened and knew a solution would follow.

When I was in Nepal, I connected with another project that 'Christians Abroad, (the company I had volunteered with) was supporting. I met Pastor David and his wife Mariya who ran a Christian orphanage, had started the local Christian church and helped in the local community. On walking into the children's home, I had a strong sense that this was where I should be working and it was what God had called me to do. I kept in contact with them through the summer of 2019 and went back to Nepal in October 2019 to stay with them and learn more about the work they did. This time, unlike before, doors started to open. I soon got to know all the children, we studied together, ate together shared Bible study and went to the local church on Saturdays and met local families. David and I then started to put plans together for my stay. We had plans to start a sewing centre and visits to the Chitwan jungle area and a Christian community in the lower Himalayas. I shall briefly tell you about the sewing project. A small charity in Scotland had promised some money to start a sewing training centre in Kathmandu. This was so very poor women could learn to sew and tailor clothes and then hopefully start a small business making clothes for other people.

During my stay, we were able to find a place for the training, buy the machines, find a teacher and get the project up and running. The women are all doing really well and made lots of progress and hopefully soon will be able to have their own sewing machines. This is just a start for the many plans we have to help widows and orphans in Nepal. Lock down has curtailed me getting out this year, but we continue to have regular contact via Zoom to keep things going. The big problem now in Nepal is a shortage of food, as lockdown has prevented working and the families have no savings to fall back on, and no government support.

Jennifer Metcalfe

*This year the Giving Group agreed to help purchase a sewing machine for the sewing training centre in Kathmandu. This is a project started by Jennifer Metcalfe and is linked to Christians Abroad. Jennifer is coming to speak to us at the 22nd November Service in Stowe Church.*





It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Pat Howard. Pat was not only a loyal and dedicated member of our WI but a pillar of strength in the local community who will be greatly missed. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to her husband Bev and family.

So as we near the end of our WI year we reflect on the last 12 months and prepare for our Annual Meeting, although this will be totally different to previous years. All reports will be issued by post and a skeleton programme for 2021 has been produced. As and when our meetings can resume, speakers will be booked. Let's not get too despondent, let's look forward to better times and in Sir Captain Tom's words, everything WILL be all right tomorrow. On behalf of all Dadford WI members we wish you all a Very Happy and Safe Christmas and let's all hope for a better and healthier New Year. If you have ever wondered about joining us, why not give it a try as outlined in this poem by kind permission of Valerie Hughes, Sutton WI.

*I've never worn pearls or owned a twin suit  
I'm not good at cooking cake made with fruit  
I have no idea what to do with flowers  
And to do a crossword would take me hours  
My house is slightly tatty round the edges  
And there are several dead flies on the window ledges  
I wouldn't know what to do with a lump of dough  
And I am very limited to what I can sew  
However I do like making new friends  
And my ideas for recycling never ends  
I have heard interesting talks  
And been on sponsored walks  
I've become far more socially aware  
And had too much tea and cake but I don't care  
After 100 years plus it is still going strong  
So they've obviously not done anything wrong  
I'm so glad I joined the WI  
Why don't you give it a try?*

Stay Safe,  
Loreen



When I first read of tree migration, into my mind came the Huorns in the Lord of the Rings who were somewhere between trees and Ents and could and did move to defeat the Orcs in a battle.

Macbeth thought he was safe since Birnam Wood could not possibly move till he saw the 'trees' moving towards his fortress. Tree migration, as I read, was neither of these and refers to what happens in woods and forests where many trees have been growing perhaps for hundreds and even thousands of years and what happens when the area is affected by climate change. Changes in temperature and humidity may result in trees being unable to cope and new saplings will not grow. This means that the value of trees in carbon sequestering is negatively affected as is soil health, water quality and nutrients. It may be that new areas become hospitable to them when they can be said to migrate but there has to be space for them too. These new areas may be too far away for natural seed dispersal. For trees that grow and reproduce very slowly migration is a huge challenge. A shifting forest composition could have a drastic impact on the region's carbon storage capacity. Additionally, when large populations of trees are lost the complex forest ecosystem can break down. Meanwhile invasive trees may replace them in their original forests and woods which may not be as effective and it's likely that a monoculture will develop and diversity lost.

Many people are concerned about human migration, seeing it only as a threat. When huge areas of countries become uninhabitable for people as well as trees there will be huge numbers of people forced to migrate though their responsibilities for climate change are way behind ours. There are migrants in Asian countries from Indonesia, Bangladesh, Nepal, living under tarpaulins with no rights and working to produce palm oil in the quantities demanded by Western lifestyles. Migration has always been part of the human condition ever since we left the Rift Valley and spread out into the plains of Africa and beyond. We know that God has concern for aliens. 'Do not ill-treat an alien or oppress him, for you were aliens in Egypt.' [Exodus 22 v 21]. Jesus reminds us that what we do or do not do to the stranger we do or do not do to Him. If we fail to help the stranger we are cursed. [Matthew 25 v 35 and 43.] The writer of the letter to the Hebrews reminds us not to forget to entertain strangers and Peter underlines the fact that we are all strangers on this earth; that our true home is in heaven. We must take steps to prevent climate change destroying forests and we must take steps to welcome the stranger who comes with His message in this season of Advent and Christmas.

**GG**

## SOME WONDERFUL THINGS

Tune: My Favourite Things (*Sound of Music*)

Dedicated to dear Pat, always such a loving encouragement to everyone.

*Only a few weeks ago I sent around some attempts at marrying Christmas texts with lyrics set to Sound of Music tunes. Pat, as ever, responded with kind encouragement. There was one famous tune not yet addressed, so I've tried to give it the kind of things Pat might say to us about Christmas.*

Birth of a Saviour who came down from Heaven!  
Birth of new Hope that all troubles can leaven!  
Birth of new Love via our own King of Kings!  
Bethlehem's witnessed some wonderful things.

Birth of a Way that exhorts, 'Never wander!'  
Birth of a Truth that's inspiring to ponder!  
Birth of a Life putting paid to death's sting!  
Bethlehem's witnessed some wonderful things.

Ever after,  
His disciples,  
Full of joy, would sing  
Of Heaven awaiting the faithfully true. That's what this birth  
Would bring!



Birth of a Saviour of bold Resolution  
Who'd cry, 'Repentance meets sin's Absolution!  
Birth of a movement that gives Joy a fling!  
Bethlehem's witnessed some wonderful things

Birth of new Courage for new kinds of living!  
Birth of new Guidance for hearts all-forgiving!  
Birth of a Faith that such fellowship brings!  
Bethlehem's witnessed some wonderful things

Ev'ry Christmas  
We're reminded  
How He came alone  
To bring to our poor world a Saviour and King  
For millions to make  
Their own!

Birth of a Way that exhorts, 'Never wander!'  
Birth of a Truth that's inspiring to ponder!  
Birth of a Life putting paid to death's sting!  
Bethlehem's witnessed some wonderful things.

**Services in November and December 2020**

| DATE     | TIME  | SERVICE                                | THEME                       | READINGS                                   | LEAD / PREACH                   |
|----------|-------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Nov 1st  |       | No service in church                   |                             | Isaiah 25:6-9<br>Revelation 21:1-6a        | Keith Croxton                   |
| Nov 8th  | 10:45 | Act of remembrance in Dadford Cemetery |                             | Micah 4:1-5<br>John 15:9-17                | Andrew Rudolf                   |
| Nov 15th |       | No service in church                   | God's promises - Christians | Matthew 28:16-20                           | Kay Murray                      |
| Nov 22nd | 9:45  | Family Mission Service                 | Mission                     |                                            | Kay Murray<br>Jennifer Metcalfe |
| Nov 29th |       | No service in church                   |                             | Isaiah 64:1-9<br>Mark 13:24-37             | Paul Mileham                    |
|          | 16:00 | Advent Bible Study for all by Zoom     | The Messiah                 |                                            |                                 |
| Dec 6th  | 9:45  | Morning Prayer                         |                             | Isaiah 40:1-11<br>Mark 1:1-8               | Andrew Rudolf<br>Peter Williams |
| Dec 13th |       | No service in church                   |                             | Isaiah 61:1-4 + 8-11<br>John 1:6-8 + 19-28 | Andrew Rudolf                   |
|          | 16:00 | Advent Bible Study for all by Zoom     | The Messiah                 |                                            |                                 |
| Dec 16th | 19:00 | Carol Service Zoom                     |                             |                                            | Rev Val Plumb                   |
| Dec 20th | 16:00 | All at Stowe presents The Nativity     | <b>On-line</b>              |                                            | Kay Murray plus All             |
| Dec 25th | 9:45  | Family                                 |                             | Isaiah 9:2-7<br>Luke 2:1-14                |                                 |
| Dec 27th |       | No service in church                   |                             | Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3<br>Luke 2:15-21        | Gillian Macdonald               |