

Dadford with Stowe Parish Newsletter

September - October 2024

Dear Friends,

August, when I'm writing this, is tinged, for me, with a sense of foreboding. I watch the swallows and swifts circling round and gearing up to escape to warmer climes! It's a reminder that though, in theory, warm calm weather may persist, September, October and autumn will lead on relentlessly to gloomy winter.

Likewise, there is a sense of foreboding in our society. Both it and the times seem out of joint. As one writer said, 'civil appears to have been knocked out of civilisation'! The new government is grappling with financial issues, street disorders and grave threats to international peace. Some Christian commentators wonder if our nation is under God's judgement for no longer, as in the past, following His ways. Are our society and the church being squeezed into the world's mould? Are, to name a few, identity politics, the redefinition of marriage, use of puberty blockers or 'cancel culture' signs of rebellion against God in favour of the worship of Self? Some aspects of the 'woke' agenda seek to avoid hurting others using external pressure-the law. The Christian answer is internal-repentance and return to God, who says:

"I will cleanse you from all your impurities...and will give you a new heart.."Ezekiel 36: 25-26.



On a personal level, the Olympic Games gave a picture of the Christian life as a race-not a sprint but a marathon, where the onlookers' applause spurs on the athletes. In Hebrews 12: 1-3 believers, "surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses" (Christian heroes and mentors), are urged to "throw off" hindering weights or distractions (today's racing kit is minimalist!) and "the sin that so easily entangles." Remember when 3 or 4 runners suffered trips and falls in one race? Believers should run with that "perseverance" or 'stickability' which Jesus showed "the race marked out for" them.

Lastly, they should, for inspiration and strength, "fix their eyes upon Jesus", who endured opposition and the trauma of the Cross to reach Heaven. As Paul wrote:

"forgetting what is behind and straining to what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3: 13-14.

May this encourage all of us.

AR

Family Services - The Water of Life

September 8th

Family tensions Genesis 37, 12 - 35

Caring for your flocks and herds in the desert meant a constant search for water. Sometimes you had to dig deep to find a source of water; sometimes there was no water and your dry well became a cistern for storing the spring rains.

Joseph was sent by his father Jacob to find his ten brothers grazing their animals in the desert. All their resentment, jealousy and hatred of their father's favourite son prompted them to plot to kill him. The presence of a cistern nearby made them alter their plans. They lowered Joseph into the cistern meaning to leave him there. All the tensions and emotions of a dysfunctional family blinded them to their responsibilities.

But God had not abandoned Joseph. Human unfaithfulness only magnifies God's faithfulness. He is present in our darkest moments. Talk to Him.

October 13th

Ingratitude Exodus 15, 22 - 27

How happy the Israelites must have been to escape from Egypt. Moses led them away from the Red Sea into the desert of Shur where there was no water. They came to Marah but the water was too bitter to drink. They complained to Moses, the first of many grumbles, moans and complaints. Moses took the problem to God. God told him to throw a piece of wood into the water. It immediately became drinkable. At their next halt they found twelve springs and 70 palm trees.

They reached the desert of Sin. They complained to Moses, "We wish that the Lord had killed us in Egypt. There at least we could sit down and eat meat and as much other food as we wanted. But you have brought us out into the desert to starve us all to death."

God's answer was to provide them with a daily supply of manna in the morning and quails in the evening.

In our world how can we answer the needs of some people who are overfed and others who suffer hunger and famine?

GM



Cathy's Licensing Service, 15th September @ 9.45am

"See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut" Rev 3:8

Please join me at the 9.45am morning service at Stowe Parish Church on **Sunday 15th September**, when Assistant Archdeacon Chris Bull will license me as an Associate Priest for the North Buckingham Parish with Stowe Benefice.

I believe I have been called to help serve all six churches in our Benefice, but will now have a particular emphasis on:

- * Stowe Church and Pastoral care for the Parish of Stowe and Dadford
- * Messy Church
- * School Assemblies
- * Weddings

I will usually be available on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, and can be reached by email: cathy.pearce25@icloud.com; the Church office: 01280 814430 or at home: 01280 821976.

Please pray for me as I start this new role in my ministry.

Thank you, Cathy

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have, But do this with gentleness and respect." 1 Peter 3:15

Come ye thankful people come, raise the song of harvest home!

Saturday 28th September – decorating the Church – all contributions of flowers etc. and harvest gifts are welcome – please bring them to the Church during the morning.

Sunday 29th September 9.45am - Harvest Festival Morning Prayer Service led by Rev Cathy Pearce with coffee/tea and special refreshments after the service.

Non perishable gifts will be donated to Food Bank and any donations for perishable gifts will go towards general Church Funds.



Buckingham Churches Holiday Club 2024 – Champions (5th to 9th August)

During the months prior to this event a group of individuals met to pray and to plan for this year's Holiday Club to be held in the Buckingham Parish Church (BPC). The theme this year was Olympics.

Throughout the week a large team of Christian volunteers from all the local churches came together to help.

Over 100 children attended every day for this wonderful, fun packed and enjoyable four-day event. They learnt about Jesus, sang songs, played games, did craft activities and much more. They even had 'a real Olympian medallist' who joined them for the day!

A lunchtime picnic was held in the church on the Thursday, as rain prevented it being outside, and the week finished with a short celebration service followed by a BBQ for parents and families.

'it was clear that every activity was thoughtfully designed to engage and inspire the children. The children had an absolutely wonderful time, and parents were grateful for the effort and love that went into planning and running the programme.' (a parent's comment.)

Young people (13-18 years) came as helpers in the mornings and on each evening there were Youth nights at Well Street Church. 'It was great.' (comment from a young person).

Watch out for next year's Holiday Club for your children and grandchildren!

**"Don't be afraid
Yesterday is past
Tomorrow is unknown
And today is a gift- that is why it is
called the present.
Live in the moment."**

*A message left by a recent visitor to
Stowe Parish Church*



In July we welcomed Alison Cameron from the University Book Shop, a very interesting talk and well worth a visit to the shop, not only books galore, but excellent coffee and cake

available as well. **In August** we were warmly welcomed for afternoon tea to the lovely gardens of Hilary and Chris Hawkins, our grateful thanks to them for a wonderful afternoon.

On 12th September Julian Lovelock will be telling us about his 40 years in education and on the **10th October** we will be Christmas crafting with myself.

We meet at 2.30pm in Dadford Village Hall usually with a speaker and always with tea and refreshments so why not come along and join in the fun.

See you soon,
Loreen



STOWE PARISH COUNCIL

If you wish to contact the parish council please email info@stowepc.uk or contact one of the seven councillors in the village, whose details can be found under the [Councillors](#) page.



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

St. James and St. John School is a one-form entry school located in two villages. Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2 children are taught at the infant site in Akeley and Year 3 up to Year 6 are taught at the junior site in Chackmore.

Autumn, and the new academic year has started...although the weather may not always be in agreement!

Firstly, a big 'Hello' and 'Welcome back' to all our pupils and their families! An especially big welcome to all the new children and their families who have joined the school, including our new Foundation Stage intake. We'd also like to welcome Mrs Rebecca Bailey to our teaching team at the Akeley site, teaching Foundation stage and to Mrs Veronica Duncley to both sites, teaching Year 2 on Thursdays and Fridays and Year 4 on Mondays. Miss Jasmin Davis started in June and remains at our Chackmore site, in Year 5. Welcome all! We are sure they will all settle in very quickly!

We hope everyone has enjoyed the summer holidays. For those who have been working, we hope you have been able to enjoy some time with your family and friends.

'Meet and greet' sessions will take place close to the start of September so that children can share their new learning spaces with their parents, and parents get the opportunity to meet the teachers.

The staff have been busy planning an exciting curriculum for the upcoming academic year and curriculum overviews should be available to parents and on the school website shortly.

We are all looking forward to another exciting school year, bursting with fun and interesting learning opportunities both in and outside the classroom.

CG



On the 10th August 2024 The Deanery Quiet Day was held at All Saints Church, Hillesden, known as 'The Cathedral in the Fields'.

The Reverend Canon Val Plumb presented 3 meditations on 'The importance of being still' interspersed with a time to reflect (with music on which to meditate). There was a break halfway through and a lovely lunch was provided.

Many thanks to Georgie Christopher for organizing this worthwhile event.

'It was an opportunity to sit quietly and listen to what God has to say to us. A time when we could focus our thoughts away from the busyness that usually surrounds us and bring to God those inner things that need off-loading as well as listening to God, something we do all too infrequently.'

Pastoral Visits

If anyone requires a pastoral visit from Rev Hans Taling or Rev Cathy Pearce please contact North Bucks Parish Office – email: office@nbpchurches.org.uk or phone: 01280 814430

Date	Warden/Sidespeople	Prayers	Refreshments
Sep 1st	Nancy Pullin/ Lyn and Ray East	Liturgy	Nancy Pullin
Sep 8th	Loreen Williams and Hilary Hawkins	Family Service	Gillian Macdonald
Sep 15th	Tamara and John Kimpton	Andrew Rudolf	Germaine Radcliffe
Sep 22nd	Richard and Essex Close-Smith	Kay Murray	Lyn East
Sep 29th	Laurence Gibson/Lyn and Ray East	Tamara Kimpton	Elsbeth Mullineux
Oct 6th	Laurence Gibson/Chris Close-Smith	Liturgy	Tamara Kimpton
Oct 13th	Nancy Pullin/Patricia Forbes	Family Service	Nancy Pullin
Oct 20th	Tamara and John Kimpton	Tony Meredith	Gillian Macdonald
Oct 27th	Richard and Essex Close-Smith	Gill Smith	Kay Murray

Date	Flowers	Cleaning	Prayer-board
Sep 1st	Rosie Cowdy		Gillian Macdonald
Sep 8th		Chris and Philippa Atkinson	Gill Smith
Sep 15th	Richard Close-Smith		Lyn East
Sep 22nd			Kay Murray
Sep 29th	Hilary Hawkins	Chris Close-Smith and Venice Gordon-Colebrook	Tamara Kimpton
Oct 6th			John Kimpton
Oct 13th	Gillian Macdonald		Gillian Macdonald
Oct 20th		John and Tamara Kimpton	Gill Smith
Oct 27th	Heather Meredith		Lyn East

Date	Time	Service	Lead/Preach	Chalice
Sep 1st	09:45	1662 Communion	Rev Chris Murray	Lyn East
Sep 8th	09:45	Family Service	Rev Cathy Pearce	
Sep 15th	09:45	Common Worship Communion	Rev Hans Taling	John Kimpton
Sep 22nd	09:45	Morning Prayer	L - Andrew Rudolf P - Paul Woods	
Sep 29th	08:00	Said 1662 Communion	***	
	09:45	Mission Morning Prayer	L - Andrew Rudolf Harvest P - TBA	
Oct 6th	09:45	1662 Communion	Rev Cathy Pearce	Andrew Rudolf
Oct 13th	09:45	Family Service	Kay Murray	
Oct 20th	09:45	Common Worship Communion	Rev Hans Taling	Lyn East
Oct 27th	09:45	Morning Prayer	L - Gillian Macdonald P - Paul Mileham	