

Dear Friends,

For so I call anyone who has goodwill towards me. Recently I sat alone in the interval of a concert. Everyone had left to get a drink and fresh air outdoors. I could not fight the crowds. Then three acquaintances in succession came to sit and talk with me. How I appreciated their kindness and company! It reminded me of Job, isolated, overwhelmed by troubles, stripped of his wealth, his family, and his health. Four friends came to console him in his misery but their helpful explanations for the calamity that had befallen him only accentuated his misery and bewilderment. Despite Job's obvious irritation at their lack of understanding they sat with him for seven days and seven nights.

Friends share the good times and the bad. Jesus gathered a group of friends who walked and talked with Him over three years. With awe they saw Him heal the blind, the lame, the sick and despairing. They saw the enthusiastic crowds surrounding Him, they heard lawyers question Him, they felt His rebukes when they presumed too much. They saw one friend deviate and join a plot to kill Jesus. They vanished when danger threatened. "Even my best friend, the one I trusted most, the one who shared my bread, has turned against me," said David (Psalm 41,9.) Jesus knew the bitterness of betrayal yet continued to love them.

The Bible tells us of other friendships. James wrote, ' "Abraham believed God, and because of his faith God accepted him as righteous." And so Abraham was called God's friend.' Another friend was Moses. "The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, just as someone speaks with a friend, (Exodus 33,11). David and Jonathan were great friends despite Jonathan's father's murderous hatred of David. Jonathan's loyalty made David's escape possible. We remember the love and respect of Ruth for Naomi and the joy shared by Mary and Elizabeth.

What affinity was there between a Jewish tentmaker and a non-Jewish doctor? Perhaps an eagerness to teach a new approach to life and a Greek curiosity to learn a new philosophy. Paul and Luke travelled many miles together seeing new places, meeting new people, facing challenges to their safety and they became great friends who trusted, encouraged and admired each other's qualities. Luke shared a prison cell for two years with Paul in Caesarea and was a faithful companion when Paul was in prison in Rome. Paul called him "our dear doctor," "the beloved physician." Such friends are rare and to be cherished. God has given us friends to sweeten our lives. We have one faithful, loyal, forgiving, wise Friend whom we can talk to at any time in total confidence. "I am with you always, to the end of time," He promised.

Why not start the conversation now?

GM

Family Services

July 13th - Luke 10, 25-37
Cruelty and kindness

Luke was a doctor; Paul a tent-maker. Together they journeyed along what is now the southern coast of Turkey. **Paul** had a purpose for his journey. Together they visited many places and **Paul** took every opportunity to tell the people the good news of Jesus' love and forgiveness. **Luke** probably listened, observed and made notes of what **Paul** said and of the people who came to listen. **Luke** noticed God's love shining through in parables, sayings and stories of Jesus.

He heard of a day when a lawyer asked Jesus a question to see what kind of answer He would give - "Who is my neighbour?" Jesus' reply left it to the lawyer to answer his own question. He told the story of four men setting off separately from Jerusalem to travel to Jericho about 17 miles away down a deep descent through desolate country. The first man was attacked, stripped and left for dead. Later a second man came by, a priest, who feared to make himself ceremonially unclean by touching the bloodied man so walked away on the other side. A second man, learned in the Law, also saw the abandoned man, went over to have a good look and distanced himself from contamination.



Along came a third man, a Samaritan, despised by the Jews, who took immediate action, brought oil and wine to disinfect his wounds, put him on his donkey, carried him to the nearest inn, paid for his care and promised to settle the full cost on his return.

What would our answer be if we turned the lawyer's question round - "To whom am I a neighbour?"

August 10th - Luke 12, 32-40
Travel light

From **Paul**, **Luke** learned of another approach to life - Don't be anxious about food and drink and clothes. Don't be dominated by possessions. Jesus said, "Take no bag for your journey, or extra tunic or sandals or staff but rely on what you earn as you go." Instead, seek the real riches that do not fail, found in purses that do not grow old. Wealth is temporary but the treasures of the Kingdom of God are permanently available and you do not leave them behind when you die.

GM

REMEMBERING MARY RUTH CONNOR - 20th February 1929 - 18th May 2025

There have been many very moving services of commemoration in St Mary's over the years, but the one on 9 June 'celebrating the life of Mary Ruth Connor' was surely one that will stay with everyone who was there for the rest of their lives. The absolutely packed church that Monday afternoon and the magnificent gathering at the National Trust restaurant afterwards were tokens of how very special the joyful and humble Mary had been, not just to our lucky selves, but to so very many others over the best part of a hundred years. Though, most sadly, she is no longer with us, she will surely live on vividly in so many grateful memories. As Clare Jensen and Sam Silk expressed it in their heartfelt talk: 'Mary has and will continue to be an inspiration. Her kind, gentle nature, but equal strength and stoicism, along with her pragmatic approach, could only be looked up to. And her wholesome morals and honest values held on to. We are here today not only to say goodbye to our darling friend but to remember the world is a better place for her being.' The Riding School, of course, was central to the happy life she shared with her dear brother: 'Throughout Mary and Theodore's lives, they gave countless opportunities to those who wanted to ride. . . Life at the Kennels was like stepping back in time. Nothing ever changed, the one constant in an ever-busy world. The joy given to so many is immeasurable, and we can only be thankful that Mary was there to enrich our lives.'



Six ponies met the hearse at the bottom of the drive and followed Mary all the way to the stables, through the grounds to Bellgate and past the lakes up to the church.

Everything about her Service felt right. The choice of hymns – 'Morning has Broken', 'Amazing Grace' and 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' – was perfect. The short poetic tributes written and read by Julie Bradshaw and Rhiannon Witney touched the heart of things. So, too, Caroline Conquest's reading of 'Love Lives On'. From Clare and Sam's devoted magnum opus we had many new insights, not least the two proposals of marriage that Mary once had; one, tragically, from a young man who did not return from service in the Second World War. We were reminded, too, of the devoted regularity of Mary's swift walks on Sundays from The Kennels to and from St Mary's. Our church meant much to her, just as it had meant much to her parents, who both served as churchwardens and members of the PCC.

Underpinning the whole service was the heartening message from the Revd. Cathy (who had visited Mary only days before she died and whose own

children had enjoyed rides with her), reminding us with great clarity that a loving God gifted the world His Son, and that whoever believes in Him will not, in fact, perish but have eternal life.

We rejoice in an earthly life lived so to the full. We rejoice that even when disability and suffering overtook her, Mary was blessed with a whole band of wonderful helpers and carers, led by the devoted Sally Wells. Though understandably weighed down with a strong sense of loss, we rejoice that Mary is now, so deservedly, in glorious peace.

HM & TM

Love Lives On - Read at Mary's funeral by Caroline Conquest

Those we love remain with us for love itself lives on,
and cherished memories never fade because a loved one's gone.

Those we love can never be more than a thought apart,
Far as long as there is memory, they'll live on in the heart.

News from Nepal - Tailoring 2025

Once, a wise man said, you are an answer to somebody's prayer! This year, we have ladies who are ready to embark on a new journey full of hope and enthusiasm. They had been praying and waiting for God to open doors.

The last group of tailoring women were amazing, so keen to learn, all finished the course and were given machines so can now start earning extra money. Please pray for them, that they will have



the skills and confidence to ask friends and family for money to make their clothes.

We are now just starting a new tailoring group in Dhapsi, Kathmandu, with six women so grateful to get the opportunity and in addition to this, pastor David and Maria have helped set up running a tailoring class in Tikatali, centre of Katmandu. This is taking place in a pastor's house, and his wife is helping supervise the course. These women have now been learning for two months and doing well making women's and baby clothes.



*We send sincere congratulations to **James Close-Smith** of Welsh Lane, Stowe and **Xenia Gravell** of Great Somerford, Wilts who will be getting married on Saturday 30th August 2025 at St Peter and Paul, Great Somerford.*





Friday 11th July Dadford Coffee morning and Bible Study

Everyone is welcome to the.....

9.30 Bible study as we continue our informal look at Peter's 1st letter, followed by

10.30 a FREE coffee morning. Please join us for chat, tea, coffee and delicious cakes in Dadford Village Hall.

You can come along to either or both

Any questions please ring Rev Cathy 821976



'Members thoroughly enjoyed having a go at chair yoga in May under the watchful eye of Joyce Jeffs and in June had fun listening to Ibby Marshall telling her tales of living in

Switzerland, Canada and the USA.

Our **meeting on 10th July** is yet to be confirmed and on 14th August we will have our Garden Party in Dadford. Enjoy the lovely weather and see you soon.

Loreen'.



Tea And Cake

Will be served at

Stowe Parish Church

In the Beautiful Grounds of

Stowe Landscaped Gardens

Sunday 20th July 2025 from 1pm

And

Sunday 17th August 2025 from 1pm

Ice Creams

Preserves

Books

All very welcome

If you can help for an hour or so and/or make a cake please let Rev Cathy know 821976



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

As we head towards the end of the school year and the long, (hopefully hot) days of the summer holidays, we look back and reflect on the vast learning opportunities at both sites that we have enjoyed over the last term. Firstly, for those of you who use Instagram, we now have a page - just search for us at St James and

St John Primary School.

Children across the school have enjoyed class visits in the local area. Years 5 and 6 visited the Gawcott Solar Farm to learn more about the solar panels there and how they generate electricity. They also explored the site to see how many minibeasts they could find and the variety of other wildlife there. Year 2 explored Evenley Wood Gardens and Year 1 and Foundation stage visited Hogshaw Farm. Year 3 also took a trip to the Roald Dahl Museum to explore more about the author and his books.

Year 4 ended the half term with surprise visitors from STEM X (an educational programme from Oracle Red Bull racing) - an engineering and DT based STEM day building their own racing cars, culminating with a speed test. They also enjoyed learning about all things racing and trying their hand at changing a F1 tyre. It was amazing to see how speedily the children could do it - some future F1 engineers perhaps!

Years 3 and 4 had a team in the recent dodgeball tournament. There has also been a Years 3 and 4 team in the cricket festival, followed shortly after by a team in the Year 5 and 6 cricket festival. Years 1 and 2 have recently participated in an athletics sports festival too. We congratulate all our teams on being great teammates to each other and really demonstrating so many of our school values. We would also like to thank all our parents and staff who give up their time to enable us to participate at these events. They are a great opportunity for the children to enjoy competitive sport in a supportive and non-judgemental environment.

With the warmer weather starting, the children have been enjoying the PTFA selling ice poles on Friday afternoons. The money raised goes towards supporting school activities and the children enjoy a refreshing end to the week! The PTFA have also organised a talent show, as well as a Colour Run at the end of June- a fun and colourful way to raise money! We would like to thank them for all their hard work supporting our pupils and the schools.

In these last few weeks at school, we still have so much to look forward to including sports day, transition day for all pupils, the final of the cooking competition, the Year 6 sports games with other local schools, the Years 5 and 6 trip to Blenheim Palace, Year 6 mini enterprise, Year 2 moving up assembly, the Year 5 and 6 production and finishing off the year with the Year 6 Leavers assembly.

With the end of the school year in sight, we would like to wish all our Year 6 children the very best as they make the big move up to secondary school! We look forward to hearing about your adventures in the future! We would also like to wish all the pupils, families and friends of our school a very happy, safe and enjoyable summer holiday. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September, alongside our new intake into Foundation stage and Year 3.

Date 2025	Warden/Sidespeople	Prayers	Refreshments
Jul 6th	John and Tamara Kimpton	Liturgy	Kay Murray
Jul 13th	Gill Smith/Lyn & Ray East	Family Service	Nancy Pullin
Jul 20th	Andrew Rudolph/Loreen & Hilary	Kay Murray	Germaine Radcliffe
Jul 27th	Laurence Gibson/Chris Close-Smith	Tamara Kimpton	Gill Smith
Aug 3rd	Richard & Essex Close-Smith	Liturgy	Tamara Kimpton
Aug 10th	Nancy Pullin/Patricia Forbes	Family Service	Gillian Macdonald
Aug 17th	Laurence Gibson/Lyn & Ray East	Tony Meredith	Lyn East
Aug 24th	Gill Smith/Chris Close-Smith	Gillian Macdonald	Elsbeth Mullineux
Aug 31st	Andrew Rudolf/Hilary & Loreen	Gill Smith	Kay Murray

Date 2025	Flowers	Cleaning	Prayer-board
Jul 6th	Lyn East		Tamara Kimpton
Jul 13th	Volunteer ?		Lyn East
Jul 20th	Gillian Macdonald	John and Tamara Kimpton	Tamara Kimpton
Jul 27th	Lyn East		John Kimpton
Aug 3rd	Heather Meredith		Gillian Macdonald
Aug 10th	Kay Murray	Chris Close-Smith and Venice Colebrook-Gordon	Gill Smith
Aug 17th	Hilary Hawkins		Kay Murray
Aug 24th	Loreen Willilams		Lyn East
Aug 31st	Lyn East	Lyn and Ray East	Kay Murray

Date 2025	Time	Service	Lead/Preach	Chalice
Jul 6th	9.45	1662 Communion	Rev Cathy Pearce	Lyn East
Jul 13th	9.45	Family Service	Kay Murray	
	18.00	Evensong Dadford Cemetery Chapel	L - Gillian Macdonald P - Rev Cathy Pearce	
Jul 20th	9.45	Common Worship Communion	Rev Hans Taling	Andrew Rudolf
Jul 27th	9.45	Morning Prayer	Rev Cathy Pearce	
Aug 3rd		1662 Communion	Rev Cathy Pearce	John Kimpton
Aug 10th	9.45	Family Service	Rev Cathy Pearce	
	18.00	Evensong Dadford Cemetery Chapel	L - Andrew Rudolf P - Rev Cathy Pearce	
Aug 17th	9.45	Common Worship Communion	Rev Hans Taling	Lyn East
Aug 24th	9.45	Morning Prayer	L - Andrew Rudolf P - Tom Harrison	
Aug 31st	8.00	Said 1662 Communion	Rev Cathy Pearce	
	9.45	Morning Prayer-Mission	L - Gillian Macdonald P - Rev Hans Taling	

The North Buckingham Parish is part of the Diocese of Oxford in the Buckingham Archdeaconry. www.nbpchurches.org.uk for viewing the different villages and places of interest and details of services.

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