

Dadford with Stowe Parish Newsletter

September - October 2025

STOWE PARISH CHURCH
LOVING GOD + LOVING OUR NEIGHBOURS
MATT 22:37-39

Dear Friends,

Here we are in September again. Autumn's on the way, and no doubt we'll soon be hearing again that moody Kurt Weill number, 'September Song', reminding us that 'the days grow short when you reach September'. It may also be the moment for dusting down that famous Nat King Cole song of thwarted love (with its long, rather than short, autumn days):

*The falling leaves drift by the window, the autumn leaves of red and gold.
I see your lips, the summer kisses, the sun-burned hands I used to hold.
Since you went away, the days grow long, and soon I'll hear old winter's song.
But I miss you most of all, my darling, when autumn leaves start to fall.*



Our parish churches, then, will soon be seeing once again those famous autumn leaves, as they flutter down looking for their resting places around the churchyards. There's a special poignancy, perhaps, about autumn leaves in a churchyard, where the many memorial stones, old and new, cannot but remind us of our own mortality.

But our churchyards also remind us, via their stone-carved expressions of faith, of the Saviour who came to earth, in humble guise, to bring to everyone the word of God and, with it, the joy, hope and peace that can transform old winter's song. A faith that has lived on through the centuries, and will continue to do so, however challenging and negative the times:

*The falling leaves gleam in the churchyard, in autumn hues of gold and red,
They have their days of dazzling beauty, days that, alas, will soon have fled.
When they've blown away, each church goes on, its vibrant faith in constant flow,
Telling how a Saviour might receive us, though autumn leaves come and go.*

TM

Family Services

September 14th - Luke 15,1-17 Reasons to rejoice

In Jesus' time there seems to have been two sorts of people - the good who observed the Law like the scribes and the Pharisees, and the sinners, the outcasts and underprivileged, who did not follow the petty requirements of the Law. The worst of the sinners were the tax-collectors who secured the taxes imposed by the Roman rulers and who then extorted further money from their fellow Jews. Despite the animosity of "the good", Jesus often attracted an audience of sinners and even accepted invitations to dine with them. Jesus told this story of the lost sheep to illustrate how wide is God's love and how precious is God's forgiveness to all who want to change their way of life.



HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE

Our Harvest Festival Service will be on

**Sunday 28th September at 9.45
in St Mary's Church, Stowe.**

Everyone is welcome and donations of fresh produce and gifts for the food bank would be gratefully received.

Followed the next evening with a BBQ →

When God looks for you, you are not lost.

October 12th - Luke 17, 11-19 The rarity of gratitude

A group of lepers met Jesus as He walked towards Jerusalem on the border between Samaria and Galilee. What they had in common was their dreaded skin disease. The Jews had strict laws about separating lepers from healthy people. Lepers had to wear torn clothes, leave their hair uncombed, cover the lower part of their faces, call out "Unclean", and distance themselves from healthy people. Their only comfort was to band together with other lepers and rely on donations left at a safe distance. Such were the people whom Jesus met, desperate to be cured, who called out, "Master, have pity on us". Jesus' response was simple, their response was immediate. On their way to report to the priest they were cured. Only one of them noticed his clean skin and immediately turned back to thank Jesus. He was a Samaritan, despised by the Jews.

When something good unexpectedly happens to you is your first thought to thank God?



**HARVEST BBQ &
AUCTION in Dadford
Village Hall.
Monday 29th
September at 6pm**

Tickets are £5 each or £10 per family, which will include a delicious BBQ and pudding. The evening will conclude with an auction of fresh produce to raise money for the church.

Tickets can be bought on the day or in advance by ringing the **church office on 01280 814430, Rev Cathy 01280**

PETER'S FIRST EPISTLE & POSSIBLE BITHYNIAN RESPONSES

A summer heat-wave is perhaps a good time for something slightly whimsical! Peter's First Epistle, for example, stirs up thoughts in the summer heat of the people who received it. Was it similarly hot on the shores of the Black Sea when it arrived? Or freezingly cold in the town of Nicaea, when later generations, under pressure from their Roman overlords, were being reminded of what it had said? And what was the reaction of the recipients?

Peter's powerful introduction surely caused huge excitement, gaining immediate attention: 'Peter, an apostle of Christ, to God's elect, strangers in the world. . . chosen for obedience to Jesus Christ...'.

Perhaps different parts of the letter elicited different responses, as they addressed the strong call for them to respond not in silence but vocally: 'You are a chosen people... a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness...'

Maybe one of two of them might even have responded in verse, homing in on sections in the letter that they thought particularly helpful or challenging? Here, then, are three little attempts at expressing what they might have expressed all those years ago:



Dear Friends

As I sit down to write this letter, I am, yet again, in awe of God's goodness and faithfulness. I have been very aware of his protection and his unchangeable nature in the past few months, which have been characterised by change and disruption.

Based in Juba, the capital of South Sudan, I divide my time between supporting the establishment of a neonatal service and training future paediatricians at the Al Sabah Children's Hospital, and working in basic health care at Gorom Refugee Settlement. South Sudan has the highest rates of maternal and infant mortality in the world and fourth highest rates of both infant and child deaths, so good paediatric care is desperately needed.

I trained as a doctor in South Africa before moving to the UK where, after almost 20 years in the NHS (including nearly 10 years as a consultant neonatologist) I returned to Africa on a short term placement with CMS in Kisoro, Uganda. That short term placement extended to almost seven years before leaving the work in the hands of an exceptional local team and moving on to a new adventure in South Sudan.

I've been encouraged to hear recent mission stories from around my wider area of work. In Ukraine, families are being assured they are not alone amid the hardship of war, and my colleagues in Paraguay have seen a young man overcome challenges to learn academically and spiritually.

LIVING STONES

From the first half of Chapter Two.

Though we are *strangers* in a land
Where emperors as gods are known,
We're *stones* to build a house
that's planned
With Jesus Christ the
Cornerstone.

We're *living stones* - a sturdy band
Called out of darkness as
God's own
Into a wondrous, special light,
A light His Mercy's kindly shown.

So let us praise, both day and night,
Our Chosen One, our Cornerstone.

Others might have been particularly struck by the two verses in Chapter 3 (verses 8 & 9). They offer so much. Someone, for example, might have thought up a short jingly ditty to stress two adjectives, 'compassionate' and 'humble', that he or she felt could be particularly important in effecting the special new life they were trying to lead.



TM



**CHURCH
MISSION
SOCIETY**

If you would like to read more about my work (Nicci Maxwell) or to support me in any way please click on the link below.

<https://churchmissionsociety.org/>

We were very privileged to welcome Richard Watkins, a First Responder from Chackmore to our July meeting. With the National Women's Institute resolution for 2025 being 'Bystanders can be Lifesavers', this was so appropriate. We were shown how to do CPR and access a defibrillator. Skills that hopefully we would never have to use but reassuring to know we now have the knowledge if needed. Our thanks for such an informative talk.

August saw 14 of us gathered in WI Member Hilary Hawkin's, and husband Chris's, beautiful garden. Surrounded by so much floral colour and so much to look at, along with Pimms and a superb afternoon tea we certainly all enjoyed ourselves. To round off the afternoon Chris had compiled a Summer themed quiz which was a great hit. Our grateful thanks to Hilary and Chris for a splendid 'Summer' Tea Party.

11th September members will bring an interesting item to talk about and on 9th October the Reverend Cathy Pearce will talk to us on being called to the ministry in her 50's.

See you all soon. *Loreen*



DADFORD COFFEE MORNINGS & BIBLE STUDIES

Everyone is welcome to join us in Dadford Village Hall for an informal Bible study from 9.30 - 10.30, followed by a Coffee Morning from 10.30 - 12.00 noon

The dates are:

Friday 26 September 2025
Friday 17 October 2025
Friday 14 November 2025
Friday 12 December 2025



Please come along to either or both.

For more info please ring Rev Cathy 01280 821976

Pop-up afternoon teas at St Mary's, Stowe

On one not so sunny and one very sunny Sunday afternoon in July and August members of the Church family joined together to serve tea and cake along with ice creams and other goodies in the Church. Raising funds for much needed repairs it was fun providing welcome refreshments for those exploring the beautiful National Trust gardens.

We were kept busy and extend our thanks to all those who supported and helped in so many different ways, and feel sure our final figure will have made all our efforts worthwhile. Thank you once again. *Hilary and Loreen*

9.45am 28th September



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our Harvest Festival Service will be on **Sunday 28th September at 9.45 in St Mary's Church, Stowe**. Everyone is welcome and donations of fresh produce and gifts for the food bank would be gratefully received.

Followed by a

HARVEST BBQ & AUCTION in Dadford Village Hall.

On **Monday 29th September at 6pm** Tickets the church office on **01280 814430**, Rev Cathy on 01280 821976 or Nancy Pullin on 07801105986.

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

Autumn, and as the summer ends, the new academic year has started. Hopefully the weather may stay pleasant for a little while longer!

Firstly, a big 'Hello' and 'Welcome back' to all our pupils and their families! 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. 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 Miss Dykes to our teaching team at the Akeley site, teaching our Foundation Stage class. We are sure they will all settle in very quickly!

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. '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.

Forest school sessions will start again soon for the children at the Akeley site and children in Years 4 and 5 will soon start their weekly swimming lessons too. We also look forward to Bikeability sessions for the older children, who will learn valuable cycling and road safety skills. The Year 6s will soon be putting themselves forward for our various top roles, including House Captains, Play Leaders, Eco Warriors, Charity Reps, Prefects and Head Boy/Girl. Good luck to them all!

The PTFA have already organised a school disco for the start of the school year; who will have the best dance moves this time? Looking ahead to October we have Harvest Festivals at both sites to enjoy, as well as the annual tradition of school photos.

Date 2025	Warden/Sidespeople		Prayers	Refreshments
Sep 7th	Laurence Gibson & Patricia Forbes		Liturgy	Nancy Pullin
Sep 14th	Nancy Pullin		Family Service	Gill Smith
Sep 21st	Lyn and Ray		Andrew Rudolf	Germaine Radcliffe
Sep 28th	Richard & Essex Close-Smith		Harvest Festival	Gillian Macdonald
Oct 5th	Andrew Rudolf & Hilary and Loreen		Liturgy	Lyn East
Oct 12th	Gill Smith		Kay Murray	Tamara Kimpton
Oct 19th	Tamara & John Kimpton		Tamara Kimpton	Elsbeth Mullineux
Oct 26th	Richard & Essex Close-Smith		Tony Meredith	Kay Murray
Date 2025	Flowers		Cleaning	Prayer-board
Sep 7th				Kay Murray
Sep 14th	Lyn East			Gillian Macdonald
Sep 21st	Lyn East		Alice, Josh and Family	Gill Smith
Sep 28th	Harvest			Lyn East
Oct 5th	Gillian Macdonald			John Kimpton
Oct 12th	Type to enter text		Nancy Pullin & Hazlewoods	Tamara Kimpton
Oct 19th	Heather Meredith			John Kimpton
Oct 26th				Gillian Macdonald
Date 2025	Time	Service	Lead/Preach	Chalice
Sep 7th	09:45	1662 Communion	L - Rev Max Wigley P - Andrew Rudolf	Andfew Rudolf
Sep 14th	09:45	Family Service	Kay Murray	
Sep 21st	09:45	Common Worship Communion	TBC	Lyn East
Sep 28th	09:45	Harvest Family Service	Rev Cathy Pearce	
Oct 5th	09:45	1662 Communion	Rev Cathy Pearce	John Kimpton
Oct 12th	09:45	Morning Prayer	Rev Cathy Pearce	
Oct 19th	09:45	Common Worship Communion	TBC	Andrew Rudolf
Oct 26th	09:45	Morning Prayer	L - Andrew Rudolf P - Paul Mileham	

We continue to uphold with prayer Hans, Trudi and family as he recovers from his recent stroke.