

Dadford with Stowe Parish Newsletter

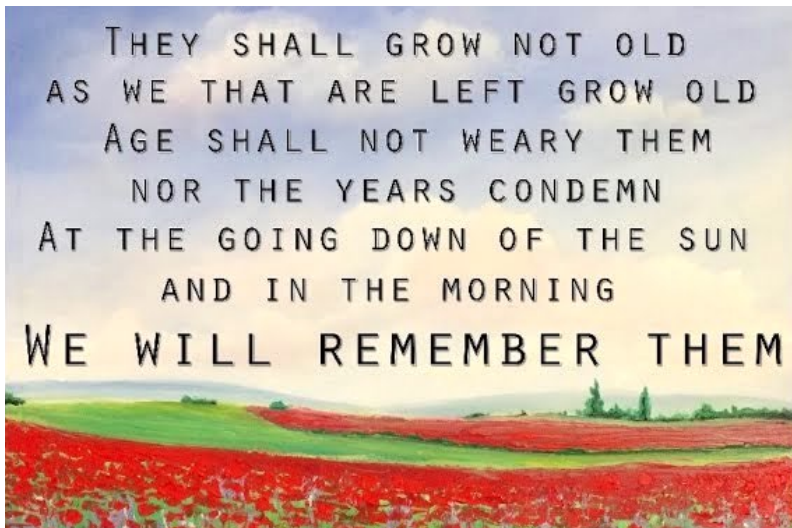
November - December 2025

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

Late August and September, when the swifts start circling about preparing to fly to overwinter in Africa, seems a melancholy time to me. If Autumn is almost here, can winter be far behind? Nonetheless, there are pluses. I should be grateful for the changing seasons; a reminder of God's order and provision, even if we are messing about with the climate. In the Tropics there is little variation in the seasons. The TV weatherman in 1970's Jamaica, usually, only had two mantras (to choose from) in the forecast-"fair to fine" or "fine to fair"!

Another plus is that Autumn not only brings a change from Summer, but, also, brings such wonderful colours, as the leaves fall, besides the fruits for which we thank God in Harvest services. A third plus is that, now, in the Christian calendar, we can anticipate Advent and the coming of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We can relish, reflect on and chew over the wonder of the depth of His love for us - such flawed and rebellious creatures. There's the wonder of His humble entry into the world (no razzamatazz or exalted status) and the wonder of his birth to a simple believing Jewish girl, soon to be a refugee, in a stable in Bethlehem in Judaea - a remote and insignificant part of the Roman Empire. He came to bring forgiveness, His presence and His power to believers. This is an event to be celebrated not with excess of food, drink & presents, but with grateful rejoicing hearts.

"The Word was made flesh & dwelt among us. We have seen His Glory...full of grace & truth" John 1: 14. AR



Dear Friends

Remembrance Sunday 9th November

We will remember them!

Everyone is welcome to a slightly shorter service in church at 9.45 followed by an act of **Remembrance in Dadford Cemetary Chapel at 10.45.**

Advent is the time of preparation in the church as we anticipate the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ. It is His birth that we celebrate at Christmas, when God sent His only son into the world to show us the way, to offer us forgiveness and to bring us an eternal future with God. This is why we celebrate!

Everyone is welcome to join the celebrations at our **Christmas Services.....**

Sunday 30th November - Advent service at 9.45am

Sunday 7th December - Nativity Family Service 9.45 am*

Thursday 18th December - Traditional Carol service 7pm

Thursday 25th December - Christmas Day service with Communion 9.45 am

** if any children would like to be included in this nativity please ring Rev Cathy on 01280 821976*

Dadford Carol Singing - we will be singing round the village on Wednesday 10th December, followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Village Hall. Please let Cathy know if you'd like to take part, or can help with refreshments. Thank you.

We realise that Christmas is not always an easy time for everyone, if you would like to talk please contact me and I'd be happy to chat and listen over a cuppa. Cathy.

Rev Cathy Pearce
01280 821976

Jesus said "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" John 10:10



As we come to the end of another year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the contributors to the newsletter both regular and occasional. It is at this time that several of us prepare rotas for the coming year for the varied and numerous roles that enable us to continue to worship in such beautiful surroundings. Without your commitment the church would be a very different place.

Sadly, however, in recent years we have lost several of our congregation and others are no longer able to fulfil the tasks that they have undertaken so faithfully for many years. Please let me know if you would like to be added to any of the rotas mentioned on the back page.

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year. Lyn (the editor!)

Nepal News. September 2025

Uprising in Nepal

The Government initially shut down all media platforms which resulted in mass demonstrations by the youth. Tragically 21 young people were shot dead and the situation escalated, with many protests across the country against government corruption. Major national government buildings have been burnt including the Parliament, Ministries, the Presidential residence and numerous District Administration offices; the Prime minister resigned, and a curfew was put in place in Kathmandu.

Things now have quietened down (72 people died), and a new interim Prime minister has been installed. The first woman Prime Minister, former chief justice. She will lead the transitional government until elections take place on 6th March 2026.

Please pray for all the youth, that the new government supports them and creates new jobs.

Pray for peace and no violence in the run up to the elections; pray that Christians will be still allowed freedom and not be persecuted.

Pastor David and Mariya

Pastor David is currently on a pastor leadership training course in Chitwan, please pray for all the pastors attending that the spirit guides them to help teach in the rural communities.

The second Tailoring course in central Kathmandu has just started and the 6th Tailoring course is doing well in Dhapsi.

Dawa's Ministry

A youth conference, "Deluge", was due to take place at the end of September, with 150 delegates from Kathmandu and the rural areas. This had to be cancelled due to the uprising and frightened church leaders at the venue.

Please pray that the church leaders will review the situation and that the conference can go ahead at another date.

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



Pop-up Teas

Yet again, the Pop-up teas on two weekend afternoons during the summer were a great success offering drinks (hot and cold) and refreshments as visitors to the gardens were encouraged to 'rest awhile' in the church and church yard.

Thank you, as always to all the helpers, waiters, washer-uppers, servers and cooks and all those who set up tables etc as well as welcoming guests.



Food for thought!

A woman named Martha welcomed Jesus into her house. And she had a sister called **Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching**. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.' **Luke 10:39-42**

One of the great gifts we can give each other is the gift of our attention. We tend to be very aware when people are paying attention to us and when they are not. We can get rather annoyed when we find ourselves saying something to someone and then to get a response which indicates that the person has not really been listening to us. We are often guilty of not really listening well to others. On the other hand, we value very much those who listen to us and give us their ear and time. As we know, paying real attention goes beyond mere listening. Paying attention to the other person involves ears, mind and heart.

Presence and attention do not always coincide. How well do you listen to others?



In **September** members brought along items, photos and stories to amuse and entertain us.

In **October** we warmly welcomed Rev Cathy Pearce and husband Dave to tell us more of their life within the Church and also of their amazing family.

As the year starts to draw to a close we get ready for our **Annual Meeting on 13th November**. This is a time to reflect on the past and plan for the future. On the whole a good WI year with many interesting speakers and lots of fun, friendship and laughter. We will conclude 2025 with our Christmas meeting on 11th December. Our programme for 2026 is in the planning stages with some 'special' celebrations mid year.

Why not come along and join in the fun.

Wishing you the best of the season from all members of Dadford WI.



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

The dates are:

Friday 14 November 2025

Friday 12 December 2025

Please come along to either or both.

For more info please ring Rev Cathy 01280 821976



The National Trust reports that they have had a difficult few months with drought and the trees have really suffered. One of the first indications that a tree is stressed is through the

leaves, they can become yellow very early on and can even drop well before Autumn begins. The Beech trees are more susceptible to this as they are shallow rooted trees unlike Oak trees which have large tap roots and so can easily access water lower down in the soil. Most of the trees should recover and as long as when they drop their leaves, even early, they have buds ready for Spring they should survive.

In other news, the first weekend in October we celebrated our Harvest Weekend at New Inn. It is a community engagement event to celebrate the Harvest we have had across the portfolio. I also included flowers and other fruits and nuts from the portfolio such as Crab Apples, sweet chestnuts, conkers and pumpkins and a home-made bread wheatsheaf in our display. We have had an incredible harvest of fruit and it was lovely to share this with visitors, who could purchase a bag of apples, pears, damsons and sloes for a donation. Along the same theme we will be having fun with blessing the orchards with our annual Wassail on Sunday 25th January too, to make sure we have a good crop again next year!

AT

Harvest Festival Service was held on Sunday 28th September

and a large congregation came together to worship in Stowe Church so beautifully decorated and filled with flowers and autumn produce.

The Harvest BBQ was held in Dadford Village Hall on 29th September. As ever, the barbecue, followed by lovely apple crumble, was delicious and enjoyed by all. The auction of the produce was hosted by Neil, the auctioneer for the evening, which he conducted with great humour.



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

As the weather turns colder and winter approaches, we have been looking at the changing seasons, especially the beauty and wonder of the natural world at this autumnal time of year.

The children in Years 5 and 4 have been busy taking part in Bikeability sessions where they have learnt how to ride their bikes safely, and for the older children this included several sessions on the road. What an amazing life skill they have learnt!

In October we enjoyed the school disco. Organised by the PTFA, this was a popular event for the children and much enjoyed by all. We are looking forward to their next event of a wreath-making workshop in November for parents.

The Year 1s have been busy planting bulbs in the new flower beds in the outline of the old church in Akeley. We hope to revisit them in the spring to see how they have grown! The children enjoyed learning about the old church and what the churchyard has to offer in terms of nature and reflective space now.

At the end of October, we had a Harvest Festival at both sites. As well as celebrating the importance of farming and food, especially in this rural area, we also gave thanks to God and to the farmers for their hard work providing for us. An important aspect of our Harvest Festivals though, was thinking of others less fortunate than ourselves and we are very thankful to all those who brought food to donate to the local food bank. We finished the half term with a 'Break the Rules' day. A popular event, where the children could pay to break various rules including crazy hair, funky socks and trainers for the day.

As we move towards December and Christmas we look forward to another half term, bursting with fun and exciting learning opportunities, including school trips to the National Space Centre in Leicester for Year 5 and to the Story Museum in Oxford for Year 4. We also have annual events of our Remembrance Service at the Chackmore site in November, as well as Christmas events at both sites, including the annual whole-school trip to the panto at the end of the term- oh yes we do!

Finally, if you have a child who is due to start Foundation Stage in September 2026, we are excited to welcome prospective families to our school. Come and see our school in action, meet our caring team and discover how we aim to support every child to flourish in ALL aspects of their life! School tours need to be booked in advanced. at: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/stiamesandstiohn>. **CG**

Date 2025	Warden/Sidespeople	Prayers	Refreshments
Nov 2nd	Richard Close-Smith	Liturgy	Germaine Radcliffe
Nov 9th	Gill Smith/Patricia Forbes	Andrew Rudolf	No refreshments
Nov 16th	Andrew Rudolf/Kay Murray	Gillian Macdonald	Gillian Macdonald
Nov 23rd	Laurence Gibson/Chris Close-Smith	Gill Smith	Lyn & Ray East
Nov 30th	Tamara and John Kimpton		Gill Smith
Dec 7th	Loreen Williams & Hilary Hawkins		Kay Murray
Dec 14th	Andrew Rudolf/Chris Close-Smith	Andrew Rudolf	Tamara Kimpton
Dec 17th	Young Farmers Carol Service		
Dec 18th	Nancy Pullin/Lyn & Ray East		
Dec 21st	Kay Murray/Lyn & Ray East	Kay Murray	Elspeth Mullineux
Dec 25th	Tamara and John Kimpton	Rev Cathy Pearce	
Dec 28th	Laurence Gibson/Kay Murray	Tamara Kimpton	

Date 2025	Flowers	Cleaning	Prayer-board
Nov 2nd	Kay Murray	John and Tamara Kimpton	Gill Smith
Nov 9th			Kay Murray
Nov 16th	Hilary Hawkins		Lyn East
Nov 23rd		Lyn and Ray East	Tamara Kimpton
Nov 30th	Loreen Williams		John Kimpton
Dec 7th			Gillian Macdonald
Dec 14th	Lyn East	Chris Close-Smith	Gill Smith
Dec 17th	Young Farmers Carol Service		
Dec 18th	Parish Carol Service		
Dec 21st	Hilary, Loreen and Others		Kay Murray
Dec 25th			
Dec 28th			Lyn East

Date 2025	Time	Service	Lead/Preach	Chalice
Nov 2nd	09:45	1662 Communion	Rev Cathy Pearce	John Kimpton
Nov 9th	09:45	Remembrance Morning Prayer	Dave Pearce	
	10.45	Act of Remembrance in Dadford Cemetery	Andrew Rudolf	
Nov 16th	09:45	Common Worship Communion	Rev Hans Taling	Lyn East
Nov 23rd	09:45	Mission Morning Prayer	L - Gillian Macdonald P - Greg Norman Christians in Sport	
Nov 30th	08:00	Said 1662 Communion	Rev Cathy Pearce	
	09:45	Family Service	Rev Cathy Pearce	
Dec 7th	09:45	Nativity Family Service	Rev Cathy Pearce	
Dec 14th	09:45	Common Worship Communion	Rev Hans Taling	Andrew Rudolf
Dec 17th	Tbc	Young Farmers Carol Service	Rev Cathy Pearce	
Dec 18th	19:00	Parish Carol Service	Rev Cathy Pearce	
Dec 21st	09:45	1662 Communion	Rev Cathy Pearce	John Kimpton
Dec 25th	09:45	Christmas Family Communion	Rev Cathy Pearce	
Dec 28th	09:45	Morning Prayer	Gillian Macdonald	