

Here we are again, with Easter fast approaching! And, oh dear, approaching even faster than the year before! On the gloomy side, that means, for some of us, another year has passed without our favourite football team getting any silverware. But it also means the arrival of a Festival that arouses much enjoyment - as well as awe, mystery, comfort and gratitude.

We each of us will have our own Easter memories, things that connect up in some way with the great Easter Festivals. I only have space to offer one. It's a little tenuous, perhaps, but still, after many years, strangely vivid.

It goes back all the way to a Primary School and a dreamy seven-year-old in a very orderly class of thirty or forty. It's the first lesson of the day, and our form mistress, with whom we spend most of our days - though, alas, her name now eludes me - always starts each one with a hymn, which she accompanies, concentrating hard, on a piano at the front. Alas, it's the same hymn every day. Month after month, it never alters. As predictably as night precedes day, our communal rendition of 'Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven' precedes the daily school register. Rather a large number of decades later, though one's memory is generally gamma minus rather than alpha plus, all the verses of that hymn lyric (played so thumpingly on what was probably a tired old piano) still come back without any effort at all.

Not least, its beginning:

*Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven.  
At His feet thy tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Who, like thee, His praise should sing?*

I would like to think I was not the only pupil that sang it mechanically, day after day, month after month, without any thought at all as to what the words actually meant. Certainly, it was a startling moment, perhaps at the age of ten, when I realised that the commas in the first line were, in fact, highly significant, and that I had definitely not been asking the King of Heaven to praise my soul at all. I guess many minds turned off because of the repetition. And the baffling nature of some of the words. That third line, in particular.

It was very well-intentioned of Mrs X to start off our days with a hymn. In retrospect, however, it would have been helpful if she could at least have given us some insights into that first verse. It would have been boring to introduce the hymn as an 1830s Christian version of a much older Jewish psalm. But perhaps she could have said that we're talking to our inner selves, reminding our inner selves to praise God, because Jesus came to earth and opened up to us the possibility of salvation? And then, perhaps, if she was feeling brave, she could have gently explored those four wonderful words: *ransomed, healed, restored and forgiven* and their relationship with the very first Easter? Alternatively, she might just have said, 'When you get to line 3, you're allowed a great big smile, because, believe me, it's good news!'

Easter, then, is an evocative time for memories. A time, too, when there won't just be chocolate bunnies to munch, and Fred Astaire and Judy Garland to admire, but also churches, their doors still wide, wide open in friendly welcome to all, their bells ringing cheerfully with great big smiles on their hidden faces as they cry out the amazing Easter message: *Ransomed! Healed! Restored! Forgiven!* The very message that doughty Mrs X, with at least one tune in her pianistic repertoire, wanted to ensure would not be quickly forgotten. **AM**

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## Family Services in 2024

### *Mothering Sunday Blessings*



### **March 10th Mothering Sunday**

Mark 10 v 13 - 16  
Who can enter God's kingdom?  
Does age matter?

To Jesus attitude mattered: an open and welcoming heart, a willingness to accept anyone who wants to reach Jesus and who has a child-like trust, curiosity and humility.

The Kingdom of God belongs to people like this, like us, who

sincerely seek Jesus and find in His loving embrace peace and rest. Nobody is turned away. Come to Jesus.

### **April 14th The end of times**

Mark 13 v 3 - 13

Jesus astonished His disciples by saying nothing was permanent, not one building would be left standing some time in the future. The world would be in turmoil with a worsening political situation and everyone would have to discern true spiritual leaders from false.

Christians would face hostility and experience persecution but must hold fast right to the end because God will hold us fast. "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life," Revelation 2, 10.



## 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.*

With the lengthening of the days, spring feels just around the corner. At both sites the children have been expanding their learning and are looking forward to the opportunities the spring will bring! As we approach the end of the Spring term, it is a good time to reflect, not just on our achievements from the last term, but also on what we want to aspire to achieve over the rest of the academic year.

January is the perfect time for encouraging our pupils to try something new, and to build their resilience and perseverance when some things take longer to learn than others. Since the start of the academic year we have been developing our range of extracurricular clubs. From recorders to Lego, choir to chess, it has been fabulous seeing the children engaging in so many different activities and growing multiple skills. Our close connection to S4A, who run our wrap around care, means that this is extended throughout the whole day with their range of activities before and after school.

The Foundation children have been continuing with Forest school throughout January and February (the idea of there being no such thing as bad weather, just the wrong clothing is certainly playing true here!). The children have been fantastic at adapting to the differences in the weather and really enjoying the opportunity to experience the changes in the natural world every week.

At the end of January the Chackmore children enjoyed a 'Comfy Day' where in return for a small donation, they were allowed to wear pyjamas, athletic clothing or onesies, along with slippers in school! Hot chocolate was also served at breaktime with the help of the PTFA. It was certainly a different way to end the month!

The start of February was the NSPCC's Numbers Day, which featured a day of maths related activities, along with an inter class, and school, TTRockstars (a times table practising website and app) competition. The children came dressed with numbers on or as a rockstar, with donations being made to the NSPCC. The start of February also heralded the PTFA run school disco. With separate events for the Akeley and Chackmore children, the song suggestions came flooding in and we enjoyed seeing the children take to the dance floor!

After half term we look forward to World Book Day, the annual event celebrating reading, books and love of stories. We enjoy seeing all the costumes the children come in and finding out about their favourite books. It is always fabulous to be recommended a new book or two by the children too!

The start of March is also Mothering Sunday, with the children at both sites creating something special for their mothers and working towards something equally special for our Mother's Day assemblies. Following on from this is Comic relief, which we are always pleased to support as a school, and the second round of the Key Stage 2 cooking competition, where our semi-finalists have to design and make an interesting, healthy packed lunch. We wish them all luck!

Not long after this preparations for Easter will be underway. At the Akeley site, the Easter garden making activity remains an important tradition and we hope to have more Easter bonnets on show again too. Our term will end with our whole school day of celebration - our Easter extravaganza, involving crafts, activities and of course the message of the Easter story.

CG

## Silverstone Residents' Pass 2024



Dadford residents are invited to apply for a 2024 Residents' Pass. Please allow at least 10 working days for applications to be received and processed, so please apply early to ensure event tickets can be accessed

for selected events. Please note that it is one Residents' Pass per household, which allows 2 adults and 2 children tickets for each event included in the Residents' Programme.

To apply for a Residents' Pass please complete the form on the **Local Community page of our website**. You'll need to set up a Silverstone ticket account via the website too - *one account per household*.



Highlights of the calendar are Silverstone Festival - free for Residents' Pass holders on Sunday 25 August, including live music from Olly Murs, British GT Championship on 27-28 April with the popular Supercar Sunday displays and Kwik Fit

British Touring Car Championship on 21 and 22 September.

*Please see the website for Provisional Silverstone Residents' Pass Calendar 2024 (correct at time of going to press):*



## Dadford Coffee Morning

At the Village Hall

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

10.30am to 12noon

All Welcome

Email contact details for the Parish Council are [info@stowepc.uk](mailto:info@stowepc.uk) and all meeting dates can be found on our website [www.stowepc.uk](http://www.stowepc.uk)

## Dadford WI



*Honda and Hounds, Bucks Herald 1985*

We started off 2024 in style when we welcomed Steve Wheeler to our first meeting of the New Year.

Steve came to tell us all about the Honda and

Hounds, an idea that was first conceived in 1985 and ran until 1990. We enjoyed many slides taken at these events with Steve, good friend and co-conspirator, Richard Smith along with many local faces, all dressed up to go hunting on Honda Quad bikes.

TV celebrity Charlie Ross was in charge of fining any improperly dressed riders. The chase crossing fields, ditches and streams after some very fit and agile pantomime foxes. What a popular event, attracting many local dignitaries and raising an enormous amount of money for various charities.

We were also shown the film of the notorious *Buckingham Duck Race*. This idea was inspired by Chubb Wheeler, Steve's grandfather, and Michael Jarman to raise money for local charities. The combined use of real and decoy ducks along with an enthusiastic crowd was good enough to fool the national newspapers. Thank you Steve for a fun afternoon and hope you will come back with some more of the same.

In February we welcomed Gillian Mason from the National Trust. Gillian gave a talk, along with slides, about the ongoing restoration and renovation work of the thirty plus monuments and countless statues in the two hundred and fifty acres at Stowe. A very informative talk which made us all appreciate how lucky we are to have Stowe Landscape Gardens and parkland on our doorstep.

As we go forward into another WI year why not come and join us. **For more information ring 01280 817943.** We meet on the second Thursday of the month at 2.30pm in the Village Hall.

14<sup>th</sup> March is Baby Basics and 11<sup>th</sup> April will be a members' meeting.

Look forward to seeing you.

*Loreen*



### *Forthcoming events for your diary*

**Holiday Club is making a comeback!** From 5<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> August Buckingham Parish Church will be hosting a traditional Holiday Club with some other local Churches. This will not be possible without your help, please add the date to your diary and if you can support them in volunteering email Abi on [kids@bpcholidayclub.org.uk](mailto:kids@bpcholidayclub.org.uk)

**Buckingham Choral Society** – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

Bach St John's Passion – 7.30pm

Tickets: Adults £18 Students: £ 5

Available from Old Gaol, Buckingham or online at [www.wegotickets.com](http://www.wegotickets.com)

**Annual Parish Church Meeting APCM** – This will be held in April (date to be arranged) at Dadford Parish Hall. We hope as many as possible will attend this important meeting.

**Confirmation:** If anyone would like to be confirmed in 2024 please contact the parish office asap.

Email: [office@nbpchurches.org.uk](mailto:office@nbpchurches.org.uk) or phone: 01280 814430

The Buckingham Deanery Sunday Lent Evensongs at 6pm

3<sup>rd</sup> March at Whaddon

10<sup>th</sup> March at Gawcott

17<sup>th</sup> March at Leckampstead

24<sup>th</sup> March at Radclive

### **Buckingham Service of Prayer for Peace in our Fractured World**



**Friday 1st March 2024**

**11.00am**

**Stowe Church**

**Buckingham**

**All are Welcome**

THE Area Bishop of Buckingham, Dr Alan Wilson, has died unexpectedly, aged 68, the Bishop of Oxford, Dr Steven Croft, has announced.

In a letter to the diocese on Saturday night, Dr Croft wrote that his "dear friend and colleague" Dr Wilson had "suffered a suspected serious heart attack this morning at home and, very sadly, has died." He is survived by his wife, Lucy, and their five adult children.

*The Bishop is seen here at Stowe Parish Church in 2023 handing confirmation certificates to two young members of the congregation*



#### **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](mailto:office@nbpchurches.org.uk) or phone: 01280 814430

Date	Warden/Sidespeople	Prayers	Refreshments	
Mar 3rd	Laurence Gibson/Chris Close-Smith	Liturgy	Kay Murray	
Mar 10th	Andrew Rudolf		Nancy Pullin	
Mar 17th	Tamara and John Kimpton	Tony Meredith	Gillian Macdonald	
Mar 24th	Richard and Essex Close-Smith	Kay Murray	Lyn East	
Mar 28th		<b>Maundy Thursday</b>		
Mar 29th		<b>Good Friday</b>		
Mar 31st	Andrew Rudolf/Patricia Forbes	Liturgy	Tamara Kimpton	
Apr 7th	Gill Smith/Tony and Heather Meredith	Tamara Kimpton	Kay Murray	
Apr 14th	Nancy Pullin		Elsbeth Mullineux	
Apr 21st	Loreen Williams and Hilary Hawkins	Andrew Rudolf	Nancy Pullin	
Apr 28th	Laurence Gibson/Chris Close-Smith	Tamara Kimpton	Gillian Macdonald	
Date	Flowers	Cleaning	Prayer-board	
Mar 3rd	Lent	John and Tamara Kimpton	Kay Murray	
Mar 10th	Lent		John Kimpton	
Mar 17th	Lent		Tamara Kimpton	
Mar 24th	Lent	Nancy Pullin & Hazlewoods	Lyn East	
Mar 28th		<b>Maundy Thursday</b>		
Mar 29th		<b>Good Friday</b>		
Mar 31st	Loreen, Hilary & Others	<b>Easter</b>	Gill Smith	
Apr 7th			Tamara Kimpton	
Apr 14th	Lyn East	Neil and Susan Fraser Smith	Gillian Macdonald	
Apr 21st	Rosie Cowdy		Kay Murray	
Apr 28th	Richard Close-Smith		John Kimpton	
Date	Time	Service	Lead/Preach	Chalice
Mar 3rd	09:45	1662 Communion	Rev Cathy Pearce	Andrew Rudolf
Mar 10th	09:45	Family Service	Dave Pearce	
Mar 17th	09:45	Common Worship Communion	Rev Hans Taling	Lyn East
Mar 24th	09:45	Morning Prayer	L - Andrew Rudolf P - Paul Mileham	
Mar 28th		<b>Maundy Thursday - Benefice Service</b>		
Mar 29th	14:00 - 15:00	Good Friday - Meditation	Andrew Rudolf	
Mar 31st	09:45	Easter Family Communion	Rev Cathy Pearce	John Kimpton
Apr 7th	09:45	Mission Morning Prayer	L - Andrew Rudolf P - Jennifer Metcalfe	
Apr 14th	09:45	Family Service	Rev Cathy Pearce	
Apr 21st	09:45	Common Worship Communion	Rev Hans Taling	Lyn East
Apr 28th	09:45	Morning Prayer	L - Gillian Macdonald P - Keith Croxton	