

November strikes me as a transitional, rather two-faced month.

It looks two ways, a bit like March which can “come in like a lion and go out like a lamb”, looking backwards to winter and forwards to spring. Early November is all about looking backwards. We have to admit now that summer is well and truly in the realms of memory, and all too many outdoor jobs will have to wait till next year. On All Saints day we think of loved ones no longer with us (“We bless thy holy name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear”); then on 11th we honour those who died in war, fighting for the freedoms we now take too much for granted. By the end of the month we are looking the other way, forward to Christmas as we enter the Advent season.

When I was in my teens, I was taken aback one November when an aged and devout aunt asked me what I was giving up for Advent. She explained that she was brought up (in the 1890s) to treat Advent much like Lent, and not to begin the feasting and jollification until Christmas day itself. In the years since then I have gradually come to recognise the value of treating Advent and Christmas in this way – much as was done in mediaeval times. Nowadays, Christmas displays in shops seem to start earlier each year, even before the ghastly Hallowe’en tat appears during October. Restaurants and pubs start offering Christmas menus before the start of Advent, and we are assailed with Christmas jingles in the shops. Ever more elaborate Christmas advertisements on television urge us to spend spend spend. As a consequence there is a risk of becoming thoroughly sick of the whole business before Christmas day, which becomes the culmination of festivities rather than their beginning. Then we pause and take breath ready for a further binge a week later for the new year. After more than a month’s overindulgence, it is no wonder that “dry January” and “veganuary” are becoming increasingly fashionable.

Failure to participate in the premature celebrations risks being branded a killjoy. It is difficult in this secular age to stand apart from it all and focus our attention on the wonderful mystery of the Incarnation – “The Maker of the stars and sea / Become a Child on earth for me”. In the run-up to Christmas we sometimes get asked “Are you ready yet?”, probably expecting the answer “no”: a year’s warning sometimes seems not enough to prepare for an annual event. Jesus himself said “You do not know on what day your Lord is to come”. How much harder, then, to be prepared to meet Him when he does.

LG

HARVEST FESTIVAL



The Church was beautifully decorated for the Harvest service. It looked lovely with so many beautiful flower arrangements and bunches of wheat.

People gave generously - gifts of vegetables and fruit and non-perishable gifts.

It was a joyous and happy occasion and we sang the well-known harvest hymns. In her talk, Kay reminded us that we must not forget that *‘all good gifts around us are sent from heaven above’* and to thank God for them.

After the service we enjoyed a time of fellowship and the tasty ‘bring and share’ finger buffet. Both Food Bank and Stowe Church benefited from the Harvest gifts.

For the gifts of His creation, thanks be to God.

See page 4 for details of Christmas Services

Remembrance Sunday

There will be a short act of Remembrance at Dadford Cemetery on **Sunday 12th November at 10.50am** when a wreath will be laid to remember those from Dadford who gave their lives in the war.

This service follows the Remembrance Family Service at Stowe Church @ 9.45am



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



This September the children have enjoyed some exciting opportunities. Foundation stage children have been enjoying Forest School sessions in the Akeley forest school site once a week. We have enjoyed seeing them exploring and learning about the natural world whilst developing lots of different skills. We look forward to seeing what they will do with the forest school area over the year.

The children in Year 4 and 5 have started their school swimming sessions at the Swan Pool, which will continue every week until the end of this term. At the end of September the Year 4s and 5s also undertook 'Bikeability' training, where after a session on the playground practising their turning and stopping skills, they undertook several sessions on the road in Chackmore learning how to ride safely on the road, turning and reacting to traffic. Some important life skills were learnt- well done to all of them!

Harvest festivals are on the horizon for both sites. We will reflect on what we have and where our food comes from, thanking God and the farmers who carry out the work. We also remember those who have less and will be having collections for the local food bank at both school sites.

The children are also looking forward to a disco in mid-October. We are thankful to the PTFA for organising this and for helping to raise funds for the school. The PTFA are also in the middle of planning our Christmas event on November 25th with a slightly different format this year- more details to follow!

November also sees the opening of the application portal for new pupils in the September 2024 intake. If you have a child due to start school, prospective pupil visits are available by calling the Akeley office on 01280 860272.

As we head towards winter and Christmas there are lots of events that will be upon us in no time and that we look forward to the nativity play at Akeley, the carol concert, Christingle service at Chackmore, the whole school panto trip (oh yes we do!) and lots more besides! To all the friends and families of our school, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and the warmest of wishes for 2024!

CG

News from Nepal - Jennnifer Metcalfe



Many of you are aware I travel to Nepal every year, working and connecting with several organisations/people to help improve the lives of women and orphans in Nepal.

In 2019 we started training a small group of women in Kathmandu to learn how to tailor clothes. This project has been successfully running for the last few years and a new group of women will start in November. The women meet up 5 days a week for 2 hours and are taught how to use a sewing machine and to measure and cut cloth to fit. It takes them 6-12 months to learn the trade. Some women now have completed the course and have been given a sewing machine so they can work from home, and others have managed to find work in local industry.

All these women are extremely grateful for the opportunity to learn, and I would like to thank all those who have contributed to make this happen. (St Mary's church at Stowe is pleased to be able to support this project).

I shall be going out to Nepal at the end of October and will meet the women to see how they are doing and plan to start a new training group in November.

On my travels I stay in Kathmandu at an orphanage with Pastor David and his wife Maria. This year I shall also be visiting other community projects and attending the Deluge women's conference in Dharding run by the New Acts Fellowship churches from Kathmandu and Dharding. The purpose of this is to help women in the remote villages. These women virtually never leave their homes, they have lack of access to education, get caught up in child marriages and early motherhood and no employment is available. The women will be bused down the mountains and have three days together learning health and hygiene, joining in prayer and worship, and much more.

Annual Clean and Churchyard Tidy up

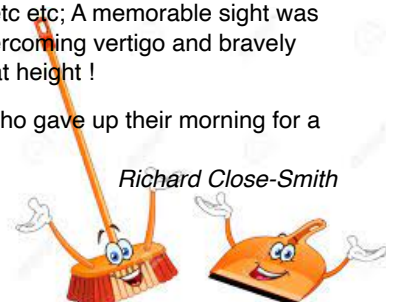
Friday 29th September was a sunny morning which was ideal for the task ahead, and just as well as fifteen "stoic" members of Stowe Parish Church gathered to give that lovely old building and the surrounding churchyard a good tidy up.

The gallant team divided into insiders and outsiders who, without any specific direction, simply got stuck in to the task of their choice and much was achieved.

The gullies were cleared, grave stones tidied, nettles strimmed, brasses polished etc etc; A memorable sight was our heroic Hon Treasurer overcoming vertigo and bravely replacing light bulbs at a great height!

A big thank you to all those who gave up their morning for a worthy cause.

Richard Close-Smith



DADFORD PARISH COUNCIL



Hilary Hawkins, Lyn Stanbrook, Steve Williamson and Kim Wood (Vice Chair). You can find all the contact details for our councillors on our website www.stowepec.uk. You can

contact all of the councillors and the clerk on the same email address which is info@stowepec.uk or you can call our Clerk, Tony Skeggs, on 01296 428392.

Dates of meetings, agendas, minutes of past meetings, council policies and relevant documents can be accessed at www.stowepec.uk. In addition to the website, we occasionally post on the Dadford Village Facebook page for notices that we receive.

If there any issues you wish for us to discuss at meetings, please do let us know.



Coffee Morning

At

Dadford Village Hall

SATURDAY 25th NOVEMBER

10.00 TO 12.30

Tea, Coffee and Cakes

Christmas Gifts – Preserves – etc

Stowe Parish Church and Macmillan

Cancer Support

ALL ARE WELCOME



DADFORD WI

What a relaxed and fun meeting we had in September, when we welcomed Helen Dutch and her friend Sally to come along and give us a delightful flower arranging demonstration.

Helen produced three lovely displays, two of which she kindly donated to our raffle and we were also shown how to make a wedding buttonhole. Now we just want the wedding to go to. We learned how both Helen and Sally had journeyed through their flower careers and we also picked up many tips along the way. My favourite being that we all need a cup of tea a day, so don't forget that your flowers also need a drink a day. We all enjoyed the meeting and two lucky members went home with arrangements.

In October we welcomed Mark Randall from the Winslow Branch of the Royal British Legion. A volunteer and ex-military man, Mark took us on a behind the

scenes look at the preparation work which goes on before and after Remembrance Day. From its inception in 1921 the Legion has raised a vast amount of money for the welfare of ex-servicemen and women. A volunteer for 12 years we were told how the poppies and wreaths are ordered in July and how the boxes are made and distributed to over 350 sites around the Winslow area. How the scouts and guides are involved and of course the enormous task of counting the money after the event. Being an organized person Mark has fine tuned some parts, to run more smoothly and we all marvelled at the enormous amount of work which goes on to organize this very important event. Because 'We will remember them'.

We will meet on 9th November for our Annual Meeting and on 14th December we will be kindly hosted again at one of our members' home for a festive lunch.

Looking forward to seeing you all, Loreen



The Bishop of Buckingham is pleased to announce that the Revd Maurice Stanton-Saringer has been appointed to the role of Area Dean with effect from 1 September 2023 for a period of 18 months, and will be supported during this time of transition by the Revd Canon Val Plumb.

If there is a vacancy the Area Dean handles the day to day running of the vacant benefice (though usually the church wardens do most of the work).

We are responsible for initial pastoral care of our colleagues, and one or two statutory duties such as Rural Dean's inspections, which are a curious function involving some archaic features and some more relevant to today's church.

The Area Dean is normally an *incumbent in the deanery, sometimes with reduced other duties to allow for deanery administration. He/she is appointed by the Bishop, with a specific licence for the post, after consultation with the clergy and lay chair. The normal term of office in this diocese is 5 years, but I do not intend to do more than 18 months; my licence may (or may not!) reflect this.

I have been an Area Dean before, in the Newport Deanery, during the 1990s and early 2000s.

Maurice Stanton-Saringer

**an incumbent is a specific legal term in the Church of England referring to the minister holding "care of souls" for a specific church or benefice (group of churches)*

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 2023	Sidesmen	Prayers	Refreshments
5th Nov	Loreen Williams & Hilary Hawkins	Liturgy	Nancy Pullin
12th Nov	Richard & Essex Close-Smith		
19th Nov	Tamara & John Kimpton	Gillian Macdonald	Lyn East
26th Nov	Laurence Gibson & Chris Close-Smith	Tamara Kimpton	Elspeth Mullineux
3rd Dec	Gill Smith, Ray & Lyn East	Liturgy	Tamara Kimpton
10th Dec	Nancy Pullin & Patricia Forbes		Elspeth Mullineux
17th Dec	Andrew Rudolf Robin & Nancy Shepherd	Gill Smith	Kay Murray
20th Dec	Loreen Williams & Hilary Hawkins		
24th Dec	Richard & Essex Close-Smith	Kay Murray	Gillian Macdonald
25th Dec	Tamara & John Kimpton		
31st Dec	Gill Smith & Ray & Lyn East	Andrew Rudolf	Lyn East

Date	Flowers	Cleaning	Prayer-board
5th Nov			Nancy Pullin
12th Nov	Loreen Williams	Chris and Phillipa Atkinson	Remembrance Sunday
19th Nov			Lyn East
26th Nov	Rosie Cowdy	Chris Close-Smith and Venice	Elspeth Mullineux
3rd Dec			Tamara Kimpton
10th Dec	Pat Walton	John and Tamara Kimpton	Elspeth Mullineux
17th Dec			Kay Murray
24th Dec	Diana Wyatt	Lyn and Ray East	Gillian Macdonald
31st Dec			Lyn East

Date	Time	Service	Lead/Preach
5th Nov	9.45am	1662 Communion	Rev Ron Bundock
12th Nov	9.45am	Remembrance Day Family Service	Cathy Pearce
	10.50am	Act of Remembrance at Dadford Cemetery	Andrew Rudolf
19th Nov	9.45am	Common Worship Communion	Rev Hans Taling
26th Nov	9.45am	Morning Prayer	Andrew Rudolf Paul Mileham
3rd Dec	9.45am	1662 Communion	Rev Val Plumb
10th Dec	9.45am	Christmas Family Service	Kay Murray
17th Dec	9.45am	Common Worship Communion	Rev Hans Taling
20th Dec	7.00pm	Carol Service followed by mulled wine and mince pies	Rev Cathy Pearce
24th Dec	9.45am	Morning Prayer	Gillian Macdonald Andrew Rudolf
25th Dec	9.45am	Christmas Family Communion	Rev Cathy Pearce
31st Dec	9.45am	Morning Prayer	Gillian Macdonald Andrew Rudolf