

# **Dadford and Stowe Parish** **Magazine**

**May - June 2021**



© National Trust Images/Peter Adams

**This magazine is produced every two months for everyone in Dadford Village and Stowe Parish.**

# STOWE CHURCH CONTACTS

<b>PRIEST IN CHARGE</b>	<b>Rev Val Plum</b> Oxford Diocese Area Dean for Rural Mission and Development (Her usual day off is Friday)	<b>01844 239347</b>
<b>CHURCH WARDENS</b>	<b>Kay Murray</b> The Moors Chackmore Buckingham MK18 5JN murray520@btinternet.com	<b>01280 814742</b>
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## DEADLINE FOR THE MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please let Lyn East (lmeast@btinternet.com) have submissions (articles, photographs, ads or news items) by the **15th of the month prior to publication** (February, April, June, August, October & December)

## ADVERTISING

If you would like to advertise future events in this magazine then please e-mail  
Lyn East

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*To see a colour copy of the magazine, or to find out where we are,*  
*visit our website at [www.stowechurch.org.uk](http://www.stowechurch.org.uk)*



Dear Friends

I hope you are keeping safe and well.

I have just come back to a busy working week after an extended Easter break only to discover so much had happened.

Many of our churches have now been opened or are about to be opened, Boris's roadmap really is continuing to be followed and sadly HRH Prince Phillip Duke of Edinburgh passed away! That's quite enough for a fortnight. Whether we are in lock down or not the majority of us do like things to tick over steadily.

This has been such a difficult time for so many, mental health problems in folks have soared as people learn to live with the ongoing uneasiness of not knowing how and when this pandemic will ever end.

I suppose the only thing that we can hold on to is that there are some things that remain steadfastly unchangeable and right now that is the break of spring. I must admit it has been a joy to see some tentative early summer days in amongst some of the grey wet and windy ones. To me it feels like a kind of promise that brighter days really are on their way.

As the church year continues to roll around, with Mothering Sunday and Easter already under our belts, we briefly turn to some scattered saints' days, in particular St. George on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

So, what of St. George, what do we know?

Well history tells us he was born in Palestine and became a soldier in the Imperial Guard, but actually left the army to fight for Christians being persecuted by the Roman Emperor Diocletian. It is said that he sold everything, gave away his money and set off to face the emperor.



On the way to Beirut, it was believed that he met a crocodile and killed it, the dragon by popular imagination. There is a belief that the dragon of course represented paganism and slaying it meant the conversion of a heathen country to Christian.

When George finally got to meet the Emperor he did not listen to George and accused him of allegiance to Christ, and then as I said before there is generally an unhappy ending for most saints he was tortured and beheaded in 303AD. He was then buried in Lydda in Palestine and later a church was built above his tomb by Constantine.

It was said that he visited Britain during an Imperial Expedition and his reputation was enhanced by English Crusaders, and he was canonised by the church. In 1098 he is recorded as appearing to the English and Norman soldiers and leading them to victory again in the Crusades.

George made such an impression that in 1222 Edward 3<sup>rd</sup> founded the Order of the Garter in his name, the noblest knightly orders of Europe, and they have their own chapel... which is where? That's right St. George's at Windsor.

So, what message can we take from St, George today?  
Whatever story form we choose to receive, the message overall is that good always overcomes evil but achieving that good so often means sacrifice.

As Christians we are called to live a similar life, not off fighting crusades, or slaying legendary dragons, but still one that can often involve us fighting for what we believe.

It's a hard life being called to God, but as the saying goes:

“There are never any shortcuts to any place worth going. “

*But as you so make your way there,  
I will wave you on your way with **prayer**,  
**prayer** to find strength for your journey  
and the **courage** to always slay your dragons. Amen*

**Rev Val Plumb**

## 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. The school minibus is frequently seen on the road linking the two villages as it ferries children between the sites!*

Spring has truly sprung now and we are looking forward to sunnier, and hopefully more relaxed, times ahead. The children have all returned to school after a well-earned break for Easter. They have come back, fresh and eager to learn. Although it is a relatively short half term, there is a lot of exciting learning to do, from invertebrates to pirates, plants to explorers! We look forward to sharing our learning with you.

As the weather warms up, the children have started to enjoy the opportunity to make use of the school fields at lunch, during PE and for other lessons, where the weather has allowed us. We anticipate many more open-air lessons during this term!

Whilst some things are still uncertain, as a school we have continued to celebrate and enjoy the events that are important to the school community, although we look forward to being allowed parents and other visitors in the future. Recent examples include our Mother's Day celebrations, as well as the Easter celebrations, including making Easter gardens and an Easter egg hunt. Photographs are available to view on the school website and school facebook page.





## Parish Council Update

It's hard to believe we are at the beginning of May already, time flies. Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May is election day, there's the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley and Buckingham East, as well as the Stowe Parish Council Elections. We hope you will all be going to vote if you haven't already sent back your postal votes.

Of the current six councillors there are five of us that will be standing again and we would love to continue making the Parish a great place to live. We, **Jamie Boulet, Sue Boulet, Hilary Hawkins, Colin Stanbrook** and **Steve Williamson** would like to thank everyone who has supported us over the last few years. It makes such a difference knowing that decisions you make and the work you do gets noticed and is appreciated especially as there have been some big improvements to the village of Dadford in recent times.

There are also three other candidates that have put themselves forward to become parish councillors, these are **Ken Edwards, Lyn Stanbrook** and **Kim Wood**, all of whom would make great councillors should they be elected. So the

decision on who will become your next seven parish representatives is down to you, please do go along and vote if you can.

The one person who has decided to stand down from the parish council is Cllr **Chris Atkinson**. We are very sorry to see him leave, he has always done a fantastic job and gets stuck in with all sorts of tasks that have been carried out over his time while being a councillor. He has been the friendly point of contact for all new allotment holders and is always very welcoming. It is here where you will often find him tending to his own plot. Our grateful thanks go to Chris and he will be missed.

There are allotments still available, if you would would like to know more don't hesitate to get it touch.

As restrictions begin to lift maybe you are thinking of organising a function. Don't forget Dadford Village Hall is available for hire: a central hall with WiFi, black-out blinds, hearing loop, large equipped kitchen, accessible toilet and disabled access. Full central heating and bags of character. The cost is £4.00 per hour and £20.00 deposit for non-commercial events booked by residents of Stowe Parish. For non-residents and commercial use £8.00 per hour and £50.00 deposit.

Go to [www.stowepc.uk](http://www.stowepc.uk) to find out all the latest news and all contact details or you can email our clerk Tony Skeggs at [clerk@stowepc.uk](mailto:clerk@stowepc.uk) with any questions you may have.

**SB**

## Church News

### Services:

Special services in May include **Rogation (May 9th)**, **Ascension Day (May 13th)**, **Pentecost (May 23rd)** and **Trinity Sunday (May 30th)**.

Everyone is welcome to all services and further details are on the back cover. Please check the venue as **some are still held through Zoom**.

**Evensongs** resume in Dadford Cemetery Chapel 6.00pm on **Sunday 27th June** (all being well!) *Please see back page for full details of services.*



Ena sadly passed away on the 8th April 2021. She was born in Mellor, Derbyshire on the 4th of February 1935 into a large growing family and was one of seven children.

Her childhood was interrupted by the war, she was evacuated twice, the first time at only four and a half. Nevertheless she and her siblings returned home to Manchester long before the bombing ceased.

In 1949 the family moved to Quinton in Northants. It was here that she met Robert Close-Smith who was working on a nearby farm. They married in 1960 and for awhile they moved around the country, following his career in farming.

The family moved to Ashmore farm in 1966 which became the family home with sons Charles, Chris and Henry. Ena and Robert quickly became involved in local life, in particular Stowe Church.

She helped with church cleaning and flowers and looked after the church linen for the best part of 50 years. She always found ways to help others which included helping out with The Red Cross Day Centre in Buckingham and The Citizens Advice Bureau. Sadly Robert died in 1992, he was churchwarden at that time and Ena took on that role.

A real highlight in her life was receiving Maundy Money from The Queen in 2013 at a service in Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford, in recognition of her voluntary work.

Without doubt, Ena's greatest joy was in her children and in particular her grandchildren. The arrival of twins, James and Isobel and later, Sarah, made Ena so happy.

**C C-S**

# STOWE STARS

## FAMILY SERVICES

### 9th May - Rogation Sunday

We hope to meet outside the church for this annual Service asking God's blessing on all that He has provided.

"As long as the world exists there will be a time for planting and a time for harvest. There will always be cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night," Genesis 8, 20-22

### 20th June

**Genesis 37, 12-28**

**Acts 7, 9-16**

### Joseph's brothers' decision

Joseph was the favourite son of his father Jacob. His ten older half-brothers were jealous of their father's especial affection for him and their anger only increased when Joseph told them of his dream. How tactless of him to recount in his dream that he was the central important figure of the family with his father and brothers bowing to him.

*Was Jacob wise to give him a finely woven, beautifully embroidered robe?*

*Was Jacob sensible to send him on a fifty-mile journey to find his brothers taking care of the flock?*

For them, when they saw him approaching, long-term resentment gave rise to impulsive, cruel action and a decision with catastrophic consequences.

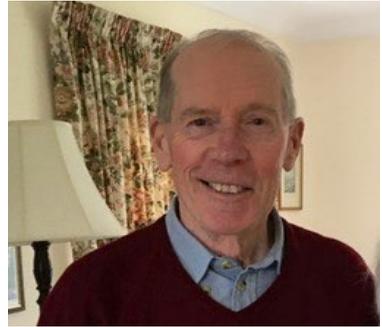
Joseph was abandoned, sold, betrayed, falsely accused and imprisoned. "But," said Stephen to the Sanhedrin at his trial, "God was with him and brought him safely through his troubles."

Can we see God at work behind the scenes in our family, job, community, church?



## An appreciation of John Kimpton

The Stowe Church family is so thankful that four years ago John agreed to be Church Warden and help Kay Murray with the affairs of the church. It was a difficult time of transition with the Rev Sue Sampson moving to St Mary's Hitcham and the responsibility, while still a new Warden, of welcoming the Rev Val Plumb as Area Dean of Rural Mission and Development.



A further complication was the murder trial that followed a parishioner's death and the uncertainty and questioning that brought with it. Through it all John's strong faith and Christian character gave him the anchor to hold fast while guiding the church family through these challenges.

With a smile and a gentle manner John has carried out his duties willingly and meticulously: the preparations for the services, the Communion table ready, the hymn books and microphones set out, the unlocking of various doors, the provision of heating and the welcoming of visiting preachers have all been undertaken unobtrusively and courteously.

John has also shared responsibility for the maintenance of the church building, the graveyard and the cemetery chapel and the oversight of church land in Dadford. A great joy was the opening of the servery which increased opportunities to offer hospitality and John was happy to share his love of the Lord with friends and visitors. During the lockdowns he visited the church regularly to make sure all was well and, to show that worship continued despite the closed doors, he arranged for a Christmas table and an Easter scene to fill the porch.

We echo Kay's words at the 2020 AGM, "John always knows what needs doing and just does it." We wish John and Tamara many happy years of continuing friendship and fellowship and thank him for being a good and faithful servant to us all.

**GM**



National  
Trust

It's been a rather chilly start to spring (definitely didn't expect snow over the Easter holidays!) but nature continues to flourish in the gardens. Flowers have been blooming with a great display of snake's head fritillaries along Gurnet's Walk, the crown imperials in the Elysian Fields and wood anemones in the Grecian Valley and the edge of Sleeping Wood all being particular highlights. We've been tracking the emergence of spring through our 'Spring through the

lens' season and updating our website with snapshots of Stowe to share current highlights.

We'll continue to do this until the end of May so do take a look to see what's currently blooming:

[nationaltrust.org.uk/  
stowe/features/  
spring-at-stowe](https://nationaltrust.org.uk/stowe/features/spring-at-stowe)



Wood anemones in the Grecian Valley at Stowe ©National Trust  
Images/Cathy Harwood

Elsewhere in the gardens work continues to restore Home Park, Queen's Theatre and Sleeping Wood and improve the drainage through Sleeping Wood to hopefully stop it getting too waterlogged in the wet seasons. Work also continues around the Doric Arch; the statues of the Nine Muses, which were restored to the garden last February, have also recently been lime washed by the team at Cliveden Conservation and a new path is being laid in front of the statues to restore the historic setting.

We're looking ahead to more spring flowers coming into bloom and the orchard blossom arriving in early May. Then on to summer when our hay meadows come to life; home to a wide variety of spectacular wildflowers which sway gently in the summer breeze and buzz with wildlife.

The gardens, café and shop at National Trust Stowe are open 7 days a week, 10am-5pm Monday-Friday and 9am-5pm Saturdays and Sundays (shop 10am-5pm) for pre-booked visits. The café is currently open for takeaway and outdoor seating only, we hope to be able to re-open our indoor seating when restrictions ease in May. We will continue to follow government guidance, please keep an eye on our website for updates. For more information and to book a ticket please visit

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stowe](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stowe)



We've also recently re-opened one of the smaller properties within our portfolio, Boarstall Duck Decoy, which has been closed for the last year. The rare survival of a seventeenth-century duck decoy is nestled in quiet woodland, perfect for bird spotting and taking a moment to reconnect with nature. Look out for the bluebells appearing there too. The Duck Decoy will be open on Sundays and Bank Holidays, as with Stowe please do book your visit in advance. We hope to see you at Stowe and Boarstall soon.

Please note that the lovely cover photograph of a bee about to visit one of our snake's head fritillaries was captured by one of our volunteer photographers recently.



Stowe | New Inn Farm | Buckingham |  
Buckinghamshire | MK18 5EQ |  
Office: 01280 825011 [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stow](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stow)

**KL**



has given all WI's an option of setting their own amount of subscription payable to individual WI's. This depends on the WI's own financial circumstances, so our WI has set our membership for the forthcoming year of £30, part of which goes to Bucks Federation and National and the remainder to our WI. Membership fees are now due and we are planning to resume meetings in September, why not come along and see what your local WI gets up to, all are very welcome. Call Ivy or myself for further information.

Whilst I continue doing my sorting out and re-organising I have unearthed some interesting items. My husband's grandmother was a member of The Lillingstones and Akeley WI from around 1948 and remained a loyal member until into the 1980's. She had kept all her WI programmes right through her membership and looking at the competitions they had 'back in the day' are really quite fascinating. One competition was a paper fan (when closed 12") and another was one dozen sweets but in May 1966 was a four line verse on 'May' and this was her entry winning her first place.

*May is the month of merriment,  
When happy hours in the woods  
are spent,  
The wild flowers bloom, the  
songbirds call,  
Life's greatest gifts are free to  
all.*

Another thing that came to light was a photograph of a Church, which at first I couldn't think where it was. Eventually the penny dropped and I realised it was St. James's Church in Akeley (attached photo). I attended the last service in this majestic looking church before it was sadly demolished due to unsafe masonry. How things change some for the better and some for worse.

Stay safe and well,

Loreen.





## Notes of Interest from Ivy....

### Who knew that badgers are very partial to bulbs?

During the lockdown I have had quite a few visits from a badger in my front garden. He/she has dug deep holes and made a mess of a lot of my daffodil bulbs including a little display I did with the words NHS.

After looking into this a bit further, apparently they are very fond of bulbs and in particular tulips. As a result of all this I find I have not even ONE tulip in my front garden this year..

Whilst the badger/s were decimating my bulbs our dear little tortoise had gone into permanent hibernation!



Over 60 years ago we bought a tortoise from Buckingham market for two shillings and sixpence (*about 12 pence in new money*) not knowing the age.

He was called Thomas but then decided to lay some eggs - renamed, then, to Thomasina. She had a good life in Dadford over the years and survived all the winters in hibernation indoors from October to April.

Sadly this winter she decided enough was enough and passed away peacefully.. Her real age we will never know.

*Thank you, Ivy, for sharing your trials, tribulations and loss. If anyone else in the village or the congregation has something to share for this slot of Nature Notes I would love to hear from you.*  
Editor Lyn

# Renew 182

A quiet shared space  
where it's ok not to be ok

**A Wellbeing café where all are welcome and valued**

**Saturdays 10.00am -12 noon  
at Well Street United Church**

**Please book a place to attend**

- A place to share in a cuppa and conversation
- A place to bring a hobby or try one of the activities provided
- A place to learn inner habits of wellbeing
- A place to be supported in good mental health
- A place open to those of any faith or none
- A place, simply, to be.

**Well Street United Church, Well St, Buckingham, MK181ET**

**For more information contact by  
email [wellstreetoffice@gmail.com](mailto:wellstreetoffice@gmail.com) telephone 07359 043157**

**To book your place visit our website  
[www.wellstreetoffice.org.uk](http://www.wellstreetoffice.org.uk)**

## **Dadford and Stowe Magazine**

If you enjoy reading the magazine and finding out what has been going on in and around the village of Dadford and would like to make a contribution, it is not too late. The annual cost per copy per year is £5, but £10 will enable us to continue the current distribution. Please pass your contribution to one of the church wardens, Kay Murray, or to the

## Stowe Parish Church Rotas

Date 2021	Sidesmen	Prayers	Refreshments
	<p><b>Dear All volunteers.</b></p>		
	<p>After a very long absence of regular worship in Stowe Parish Church life is beginning to blossom again.</p>		
	<p>Therefore, I now ask the kind folk who have served the church in one of the roles on this page if they are able to continue, as I and others will be preparing rotas for the year ahead.</p>		
	<p>Laurence has already asked if those previously on his list of sidespeople were happy to continue. I will be preparing the rotas for Flowers and Cleaning due to start after the end of June. If anyone would like to join any of these teams please contact one of us, Laurence, Kay, Elspeth (refreshments)</p>		
Date 2021	Flowers	Cleaning	Prayer-board
	<p><b>Activities:</b></p>		
	<p><b>Monday</b> Ladies' Bible Study 2.00p.m.</p>		
	<p><b>Tuesday</b> Weekly Stowe Church Coffee Morning 11.00a.m.</p>		
	<p><b>Thursday</b> Bible Study 2.00p.m.</p>		
	<p><b>Friday</b> Bible study 5.00.p.m.</p>		
	<p>The above activities are currently undertaken through Zoom. If you would like the link, please contact our church warden, Kay Murray.</p>		
	<p><b>The church website</b> is now operational and details of services and a colour version of the magazine can be found on <a href="http://www.stowechurch.org.uk">www.stowechurch.org.uk</a></p>		

**Services in May/June 2021**

DATE	TIME	SERVICE	THEME	READINGS	LEAD / PREACH
May 2nd	9:45	Morning Prayer <b>via Zoom</b>	Discern good leadership	3 John 1 Timothy 3:1-10	Andrew Rudolf Pauline Stanton-Saringer
May 9th	9:45	Rogation Family Service	Rogation Meet in the churchyard		Kay Murray
May 13th		Ascension Day			
May 16th	9:45	1662 Communion OR Morning Prayer	Ascension	Acts 1:1-11 Luke 24:44-53	Rev Val Plumb OR Andrew Rudolf / Gillian Macdonald
May 23rd	9:45	Common Worship Communion	Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21 John 15:26-27 +16:5-15	Rev Max Wigley
May 30th	9:45	Morning Prayer <b>via Zoom</b>	Mission	Isaiah 6:1-8 John 3:1-17	Gillian Macdonald Rev Tom Murray
		<b>PAUL'S</b>	<b>SECOND</b>	<b>MISSIONARY</b>	<b>JOURNEY</b>
June 6th	9:45	Morning Prayer <b>via Zoom</b>	Origins of this journey	Acts 15:36-16:7 2 Timothy 1:3-7 + 13-14	Andrew Rudolf Keith Croxton
June 13th	9:45	1662 Communion	Lydia and the jailer in Philippi	Acts 16:8-38 Luke 10:1-14	Rev Tom Murray
June 20th	9:45	Family Service <b>(? Via Zoom)</b>	Joseph's brothers' decision	Genesis 37:12-28 Acts 7:9-16	Kay Murray
June 27th	9:45	Common Worship Communion	Thessalonica - Jewish opposition	Acts 17:1-9 Mark 11:27-33	Rev Val Plumb Paul Mileham
	18:00	Evensong in Dadford Cemetery Chapel		Psalm 49 Jeremiah 10:1-16 Romans 11:25-36	Gillian Macdonald