

Dadford with Stowe Parish Newsletter

November - December 2024

We are already, at the beginning of November, being subjected to Christmas advertising and images of Father Christmas (often, these days, simply called “Santa” – i.e. “Saint” – as if there were no other saints in the canon). Last Christmas, there was a series of letters in the Guardian about when children became aware that Father Christmas was a myth, and their response to the discovery. One said that their child assumed instead that workers from the council brought the presents; one that God or Jesus brought them. There was no discussion of the possibility that when seeing through the Father Christmas deception, children might learn to distrust other things their parents told them, laying the seeds for their rejection of the Christian message (that is, if they ever received it).

There are plenty of other myths surrounding Christmas. One of the most charming is that at midnight on Christmas eve, cattle kneel in echo of their witness of the Nativity. Thomas Hardy refers to this idea in his lovely poem “The oxen”. He dismisses it as a myth, yet says that if invited to go to the byre at midnight on December 24th, he would go – “hoping it might be so”. In this secular age, I suspect that many non-believers have a similar attitude to the whole Christmas story – they regard the gospel accounts as charming myths which they don’t believe, repeat for nostalgia’s sake, but at Christmas sometimes hope they might be true.



The gospels of Mark and John of course make no mention of the birth of Jesus, while Matthew and Luke have very different versions of it. Much ingenuity has been spent over the centuries in trying to reconcile them. How would we feel if any elements of our hybrid story were conclusively shown to be false, like Father Christmas? For instance, there is good reason to suppose that the manger was not in a stable at all, but at the livestock-end of a standard traditional peasant house. In these, livestock were housed at one end, at a lower level from the living quarters – not unlike the traditional west country

longhouses. Furthermore, I am told that the Greek word traditionally translated as the “inn” in which there was no room is the same word later translated in the passion narrative as the “upper room” – the “best” room at the other end of the same sort of house. So “no room in the inn” might also be translated from the Greek as “no space in the best room”.

How much does it matter? The gospel stories were written down some years after the event. Have we misunderstood the cultural background of honest accounts, or are they simply myths crafted by early Christians to support their convictions? I don’t think it matters at all. The familiar story helps focus our attention on what really matters: the miracle of the incarnation, for which our validation is the Resurrection at Easter.

As John Betjeman put it, “God was Man in Palestine – and lives today in bread and wine”.

LG

Family Services

November 10th - Remembrance Day

December 8th - What happened long ago?

Luke 2, 1 - 20

What happened more than 2000 years ago in a distant Roman province?

Who can tell us? Luke gathered his account based on what eye-witnesses told him or wrote down. He researched and recorded what he found: how a couple in Nazareth travelled 90 miles to Bethlehem and there Mary gave birth to a son while Joseph remembered what an angel had entrusted him to do.

Who noticed this birth? Firstly, shepherds came urged on by a paradoxical army of angels. Then, sometime later, exotic travellers from the east, laden with costly gifts which they gave to the baby.

Who remembered all these incidents? Mary treasured all these things in her heart. Who asked for her memories?

GM

In 2022, to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, it was suggested a tree could be planted as part of the *Queen's Green Canopy*.

The PCC agreed to participate in this. Now, thanks to an anonymous donor & the hard work of Richard Close-Smith, a variegated holly tree has been planted by the corner of the path to the Church with a plaque to signify this event.



AR



The baptism of Edward John Hazlewood, Son of Charlie and Hayley Hazlewood married at Stowe 17.6.2023. Godparents are Emily Hazlewood, Reece Sellers and Tom Downham.



A grandson for Sam and James Hazelwood and G. Grandson to Linda. A very lovely relaxed family service which everyone enjoyed. Followed by lunch back at the family farm.



GIVING HOPE TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN NEPAL

SUMMER 2024 - NEWS FROM NEPAL

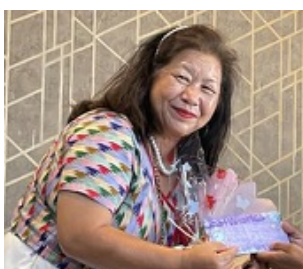
Greetings to you all from Nepal. This summer has seen many of our project's progress despite the really bad monsoon. Nepal's monsoon season sees 80% of its annual rainfall in the space of 3 months between June and September. While rain at this time of year is vital for growing crops, the monsoon is becoming increasingly dangerous and unpredictable, especially with the impacts of climate change. This year the monsoon impacted over 1.5 million Nepalis.

NEW CHILDREN ARRIVE IN ORPHANAGE

Three new children Sermon 11 years, Sofia 8 years and Alina 8 have recently arrived at Pastor David's and Mariya's children's home. They are currently settling in well and have started school. In the school holidays in May two of the older children Rubin and Rubina went on a bible training course. This is offered to all the children when they leave school or higher education.

TAILORING CLASS FINISHES AND A NEW ONE BEGINS

The fourth Tailoring Training has just finished. All 6 women have done well and can now make a range of garments. Three of the women Puja, Sushma, and Pulkummari have chosen to have a machine. The machines cost £120, and they will pay 50% of this back over two years. Any money collected then goes towards buying new machines. Many more women are keen to learn so a new class with six more women started in August. They were all very grateful to get the opportunity and excited to start.



In the last week Nepal had torrential rain and landslides and flooding in Kathmandu.

Sushila, one of the tailoring tutors, had just completed training one group. She was alone in her house when the landslide washed away her house along with her inside. Sadly she died.

She was a pastor's wife, so not only trained the women in tailoring skills but also gave them great encouragement through the word of God. She spent extra hours teaching them and did not charge for all her time.

Please pray for them all at this time.

Rev Cathy Pearce was licensed as an Associate Minister in the Benefice of North Buckingham with Stowe by Reverend Canon Christopher Bull in a joyous service in a packed Stowe Church on Sunday 15th September.



Our Harvest Festival was on Sunday 29th September.

The church was rich in sight and smell with displays of the colours of late summer flowers from people's gardens and autumnal berries and sedums, also an abundance of home grown vegetables and fruit as well as tins and packets of food. On the altar in the south aisle were placed two little sacks full of grain from one of the farms nearby and a freshly baked loaf.

The church was well attended and in our worship it was joyful to sing well known harvest hymns with Trudi Taling playing the organ. Reverend Cathy Pearce led the service and preached on Luke chapter 12: 13 - 21 "The Parable of the Rich Fool" - it is a powerful story! In the whole chapter Jesus warns and encourages a large crowd to trust and put their hope in God and to prioritise Him.



After the service, along with a welcome cup of coffee, a 'bring and share' finger buffet encouraged a warm and relaxed atmosphere of enjoyable chatter. The homegrown produce was taken by members of the congregation with donations to our church and the non perishable gifts have been gratefully received by the Buckingham food bank.



The 14th November is our WI AGM when we take time to reflect over the last year. Reports are given and plans for 2025 programme are made. Then on 12th December it's

time to celebrate with our Christmas dinner again very kindly being hosted by our President.

If you fancy joining in, we meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 2.30pm in the Village Hall. We would love to see you but for now on behalf of all Dadford WI we wish you the Very Best of the Season's Greetings, and see you in 2025.

See you soon

Loreen



STOWE PARISH COUNCIL

If you wish to contact the parish council please email info@stowepc.uk or contact one of the seven councillors in the village, whose details can be found under the [Councillors](#) page.



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.

This September the children have enjoyed some exciting opportunities. Foundation stage and Year 1 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 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, the year 5s also 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!

In mid-October we were very lucky to have an orchestra visit the Chackmore site. The kids were enthralled by the live music and enjoyed joining in with the words to 'Friend Like Me' from the film Toy Story. 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 break the rules day just before half term. The PTFA are also in the middle of planning their Christmas events, including a wreath making workshop and a Christmas craftnoon.

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 or email office@stjamesjohn.bucks.sch.uk.

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!



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 2024	Warden/Sidespeople	Prayers	Refreshments	
3rd Nov	Richard & Essex Close-Smith	Liturgy	Germaine Radcliffe	
10th Nov	Gill Smith/Hilary Hawkins	Remembrance	Remembrance	
17th Nov	Tamara & John Kimpton	Gillian Macdonald	Lyn East	
24th Nov	Laurence Gibson/Lyn & Ray East	Kay Murray	Tamara Kimpton	
1st Dec	Andrew Rudolf/Loreen Williams	Liturgy	Gillian Macdonald	
8th Dec	Nancy Pullin/Patricia Forbes		Elsbeth Mullineux	
15th Dec	Tamara & John Kimpton	Andrew Rudolf	Nancy Pullin	
22nd Dec	Laurence Gibson/Chris Close-Smith	Tamara Kimpton	Kay Murray	
25th Dec	Richard & Essex Close-Smith			
29th Dec	Warden TBA/Lyn & Ray East	Tony Meredith	Germaine Radcliffe	
Date 2024	Flowers	Cleaning	Prayer-board	
3rd Nov			Kay Murray	
10th Nov	Hilary Hawkins	Lyn and Ray East	Tamara Kimpton	
17th Nov			John Kimpton	
24th Nov	Loreen Williams		Gill Smith	
1st Dec		Nancy Pullin and Hazlewoods	Gillian Macdonald	
8th Dec	Rosie Cowdy		Kay Murray	
15th Dec			Lyn East	
22nd Dec	Hilary, Loreen and others	Neil and Susan Fraser-Smith	Tamara Kimpton	
25th Dec	Christmas Day			
29th Dec			John Kimpton	
Date 2024	Time	Service	Lead/Preach	Chalice
3rd Nov	9.45	1662 Communion	Rev Cathy Pearce	John Kimpton
10th Nov	9.45	Remembrance Family Service	Dave Pearce	
	10.50	Act of Remembrance in Dadford Cemetery	Andrew Rudolf	
17th Nov	9.45	Common Worship Communion	Rev Hans Taling	Andrew Rudolf
24th Nov	9.45	Morning Prayer	L - Andrew Rudolf P - Charlie Reader	
1st Dec	9.45	1662 Communion	Rev Cathy Pearce	Lyn East
8th Dec	9.45	Family Nativity Service	Kay Murray	
15th Dec	9.45	Common Worship Communion	Rev Hans Taling	Andrew Rudolf
18th Dec	19.00	Carol Service	Rev Cathy Pearce	
22nd Dec	9.45	Morning Prayer	L - Gillian Macdonald P - Rev Max Wigley	
25th Dec	9.45	Christmas Family Communion	Rev Cathy Pearce	John Kimpton
29th Dec	9.45	Morning Prayer	Gillian Macdonald	