

Dadford and Stowe Parish Magazine

March - April 2018



Photo: Two Oaks at Ditchley Park by David Smith

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

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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 please e-mail
Lyn East (lmeast@btinternet.com)

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*To see a colour copy of the magazine, read a past sermon, or find out where we are,
visit our website at www.stowechurch.org.uk.*



Dear Friends

Have you noticed how the Bible concentrates on certain numbers? 1, 3, 7, and 40 recur most often.

We are in one of those forties, the season of Lent. Lent began on Ash Wednesday, 14th February, and continues till Holy Saturday 31st March. This marks the time when Jesus fasted for forty days in the wilderness. There he was tempted by the devil and sent him packing.

As His followers we try to copy that time of fasting, meditation and resolve as best we can. We might give up rich food and parties, we might be more helpful and kind, we might offer more to good causes, and we might spend more time in prayer and contemplation.

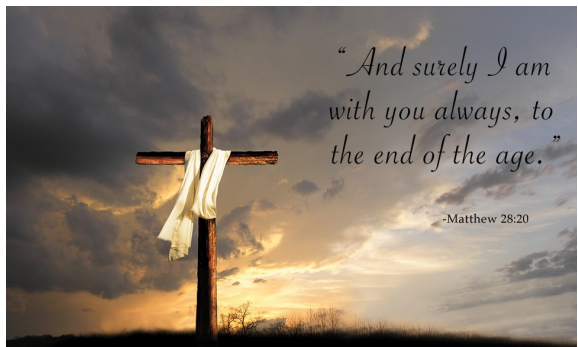
To help us deepen our understanding of the Bible and the springs of our faith we hope that you will join us on Thursday evenings in following the Lent course "Exploring the Beatitudes" written by the Bishop of Oxford and, at home, reading "The Glory of the Cross" by Tim Chester.

When you look at some of the other 40 days, such as the great flood in Noah's story, Moses on Mount Sinai receiving the ten commandments, the Israelites wandering in the desert between Egypt and Canaan, you notice that God was making great changes, transforming people's lives and revealing Himself as the God Who can be trusted and obeyed because He loves us.

At the end of Lent we celebrate our faith transformed by Jesus overcoming death and inviting us to be with Him forever. Easter is the greatest celebration in the world. Come and join us in singing Hallelujah. We have good news to share.

God bless us

Gillian Macdonald



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!



It's been an exciting start to 2018 at St. James and St. John Primary.

We were thrilled to find ourselves at the top of the Primary School League tables for 2017 Key Stage 2 results in our local area. A great achievement, particularly the above average progress score achieved in reading. Well done to everyone involved in such a great result!

The Key Stage 2 children have been involved in a number of tournaments with the Primary Sports Partnership. Those representing the school have played basketball, hockey and badminton with huge enthusiasm and commitment and have done us proud! Years 5 and 6 have been taking part in a 'Go Ride' scheme, a British Cycling development programme for young people. Through it, young riders are introduced to the world of cycle sport and have the chance to practise their bike handling skills.

The PTFA organised a very successful KS2 Cinenight at our Chackmore site with the children enjoying a screening of 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid', a hot dog and some popcorn after school. The last PTFA meeting was very well attended and generated lots of great ideas for exciting events for the remainder of the year in order to fund raise for the school. We are all looking forward to the Infants' and Juniors' Discos which are always a great fund-raising event and hugely enjoyed by the pupils. Recently, the Akeley site benefited from a new shed provided for by PTFA funds and which a parent very kindly constructed for us.

It has been bitterly cold out at Forest School so moving around a lot and getting a campfire going during sessions has been invaluable. Groups at Forest School have had lots of fun creating obstacle courses around the site and toasting marshmallows. We can't wait for some evidence of spring being on its way...!

VM



Now 2018 is in full swing we're looking ahead to a year of exciting restoration projects and welcoming visitors to enjoy the spring flowers and new-born lambs bouncing across the gardens.

National Trust

With the continuing evolution of Stowe and our growing number of supporters our team has significantly increased since we moved to the New Inn. At the heart of our cause is to care for Stowe

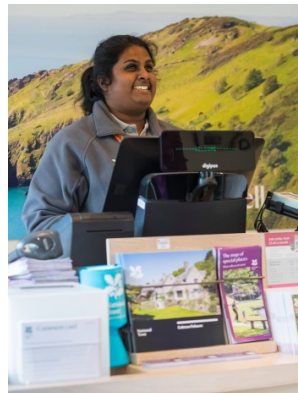
and share it with people for ever, for everyone. Whether you're coming for a quick walk and a cup of tea or you bring the family for a day out, there's a lot that goes on behind the scenes to help make your day possible.

Weekend chatters needed - Join the team

If you have time to spare at the weekends and love to chat, we could really do with your help.

Jennifer Bell, Volunteer Development Manager, explains -

“Weekends are our busiest days, visitors want to escape to the countryside, feel revitalised and let the kids burn off some energy in a beautiful environment. Becoming part of our team will open up a world of adventures, making new friends, learning new skills whilst giving back to our local community. So if it's the thrill of a busy day and putting a smile on a face that calls to you or you're a renowned people person, give us a call or drop in to chat to our welcome team and find out more.”



Easter

Meanwhile our team are preparing for Easter, where we're hosting our annual Cadbury Easter egg hunt. Always wanting to share the special stories that inspired the gardens at Stowe, this year's theme is on women as part of the celebrations of Vote 100. Children can follow the clues along the hunt to discover stories of the Goddess Venus and legends of mythical women before winning a

chocolatey prize. The event, which runs 30 March-2 April 10am-4.30pm, is kindly supported by Cadbury's and all of the proceeds go towards the restoration of the gardens. All of the activities and hunt cost £3 per child with normal admission applying.



Restoring Stowe

We'd like to say thank you, our restoration programme is making pace and we couldn't have done it without your generous donations. We're returning missing statues, opening up



monuments and conserving habitats across the gardens and parkland in 54 tasks to return Stowe to its former glory. Over the year we'll share five of the highlights you'll see taking place throughout 2018, visit us again to see their return and take a chance on our raffle and help us welcome Apollo and his Muses back to Stowe.

Relocated several times within the gardens, there once were ten statues which formed the group of Apollo and the nine muses. Lost for more than two centuries, our curators, archaeologists and gardens historian have been putting together the pieces of the puzzle. Help us as we hunt worldwide for similar statues that we can faithfully replicate and return to the Elysian Fields.

National Trust Events Listings

NAA=Normal admission applies

B = Booking essential 0344 249 1895

Mar 10am-5pm

'Stowedrops' and spring flowers

Take a crisp winter walk to see carpets of 'Stowedrops' and as spring develops find pockets of flowers blooming throughout the gardens..

Free NAA

Sat 3, Sun 4 Mar 10am-5pm

World Book Day weekend

A weekend of fun to celebrate books and Stowe's literary links. Enjoy storytelling in the parlour rooms and redeem your World Book Day £1 book token in our shop.

Available daily -Family explorer activities

Mar: Spot the signs of spring

Apr: Beautiful birds

Free NAA

Tue 6 Mar, 3 Apr 10.30am-12.00noon

Toddler Tuesdays

Play, sing songs, hear stories and make toddler crafts in a child-friendly environment.

Free

Wed 21 Mar, 18 Apr 10.30am-12.30pm

Man's best friend monthly dog walks

Join the dogs of Stowe on a paw patrol with a different theme and leader each month.

Free NAA

Fri 30 Mar-Mon2 Apr 10am-4.30pm

Cadbury Easter egg hunt

Follow the quest to discover stories of the Goddess Venus and mythical legends of women. Conquer the challenge and claim your chocolatey prize.

£3 per hunt NAA

Wed 4 & 11 Apr 10.30am-12noon

Wild Wednesdays - school holiday fun

Get the kids closer to nature. Activities vary from tracking animals to making mud pies.

£2 NAA B

Sat 28, Sun 29 Apr 5-7.30am

Dawn chorus walk

Join a member of the team to experience early morning bird song on a private tour of the gardens and parkland. Warm up following your morning walk with breakfast, included in the price of your ticket.

£15 B

Melanie Whitrow

Marketing & Communications Officer

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Congratulations to Theodore Connor on his 90th birthday and Mary on her 89th.

Church News

Services.

Services in March and April will include a special **Mothering Sunday Family Service**
Sunday 11th March 9.45am

Palm Sunday Communion
25th March 9.45am

Maundy Thursday Communion
29th March 7.30pm

Good Friday meditation
30th March 2.00pm - 3.00pm

Easter Day Family Communion
1st April 9.45am

Please join us for this very special season in the Church calendar. Lent Evensongs in various churches in the Buckingham Deanery continue every Sunday evening at 6.00 until March 18th. On Sunday March 25th there will be a Confirmation Service held in Lillingstone Lovell Church at 6pm. Details are on the back cover.

Christmas Collections.

Our Christmas collections came to £556.39. This will be doubled by Gift aid matching our donation. It will go to the Christian Aid Rohingya Crisis Appeal for the families in Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Lunch at Boycott Farm.

‘Thank you’ to Margaret and John for arranging the Church Lunch and to Rosie and her team for the delicious meal. It was a very enjoyable occasion for all who came.



Lent Appeal 2018.

This year’s Lent appeal will go to the **Church Missionary Society** to support **Dr Nicci Maxwell** who will be using her medical skills to provide paediatric and neonatal medical care to the local community in Kisoro, Uganda.

Activities: Lent Meetings

During Lent there will be an opportunity for people to meet to study the Bible and its relevance to us today. Meetings will be on Thursday evenings for five consecutive weeks until 22nd March in various homes. It will be based on Exploring the Beatitudes by Rt Revd Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford. Details from Kay Murray 01280 814742. All will be welcome.

STOWE STARS

Family Service ***Mothering Sunday***

11th March

Psalm 34, 11-20

John 19, 25-27

One brilliant moment lights the scene of horror and grief on Calvary hill - Jesus' love and concern for His mother at His darkest moment. From the Cross He can see His mother Mary, His aunt and Mary Magdalene with other women. They are determined to stay with Him to the end.



We can only imagine His mother's grief but Jesus makes a practical arrangement:

He tells John to look after her. He arranges His mother's future and entrusts her to His friend John. How can He in the midst of His pain and suffering think of anyone else?

Mary must have been comforted by His love and He must have been strengthened by her presence and commitment. Today we thank all mothers for their love and lifelong commitment to us and to our families.



Family Service ***Easter Day***

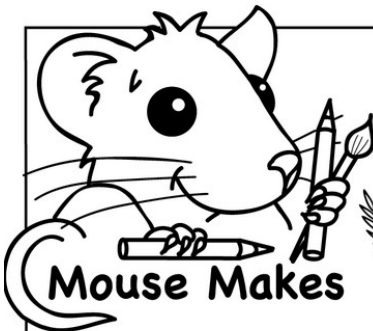
1st April

Acts 10,34-43

John 20,1-18

Mary Magdalene was present when Jesus died. How blessed she was to be the first person Jesus spoke to after His resurrection.

What an astonishing story she had to tell His followers. That same story astonishes us His followers today. So come and sing praises and thanks to God for His love for us, to Jesus who has died for us and to the Holy Spirit who lives within us. *GM*



Journey to the Cross

Read the Bible - find the answers

READ Matthew 21:1-11

Where did Jesus stop on his journey? vs 1

What did Jesus send his disciples to get? vs 2

What did the crowd spread on the road in front of Jesus? vs 8

What did the people shout? vs 9

What city was Jesus going to? vs 10

READ Matthew 26:17-75

What festival did the disciples celebrate? vs 17

Which disciple denied Jesus? vs 34

Which disciple betrayed Jesus? vs 47

READ Matthew 27

When Jesus was taken to be crucified, what did the soldiers put on him? vs 28-29

What time did Jesus die? vs 45

Whose tomb was Jesus buried in? vs 57

READ Matthew 28

On the third day who rolled away the stone covering the tomb? vs 2

What had happened to Jesus? vs 6,7





DADFORD W.I.

January and February

It was good to meet up for our first meeting of 2018 and welcome Barry Smith, who had come to tell us about his journey to Stowe Gardens.



By kind permission of the National Trust

Barry has traced his ancestors back and has found that he has connections with Buckingham going back several generations. His parents still live in the house that Barry and his brother grew up in and we were shown some lovely old photos of Wharf House and the family home.

Barry's love of the area developed and he remembered Stowe Avenue as part of his play area from a very young age. In 1980 Barry joined the gardening team at Stowe School and in 1989 moved over to the National

Trust when they took over the landscape gardens, working his way up until in 2000 he became Head Gardener. His love for the gardens became even stronger and the passion and knowledge of his work is quite obvious to see.

Thank you Barry for a most interesting and humorous talk and long may your good work restoring the gardens continue.



In February we gave a warm welcome to Ruth Hawkins and her brother-in-law Phil Kimberly. Ruth has taken on an amazing challenge to run 13 marathons and 13 half marathons in 13 weeks to raise as much money as she can for the Multiple Sclerosis society. Phil is a sufferer of MS and despite being wheelchair bound and suffering many debilitating symptoms remains incredibly cheerful and enlightened the meeting into the background of his condition. MS affects 107,000 people in the UK. In our small village we also have a fellow sufferer and we were pleased to welcome Nick and his wife Stella to the meeting.

Phil and his wife Natalie live in Northants where the facilities for therapy and treatment are very good. One therapy to increase the muscles in your hands is to use Lego, which Phil quite enjoys, but admits his three dogs find they are quite nice to chew.

Another treatment is to go into a compression chamber, similar to being in a submarine and this is equivalent to descending to 24,000 feet.

Ruth starts with a half marathon on 21st February and will be travelling far and wide, to Seville, the Jurassic coast, London, and will be finishing in Buckingham on 20th May. For many of these, including Seville, Phil will be there to cheer on Ruth.

We thank them both for coming to talk to us and we wish Ruth well and really hope she reaches her target.

To follow Ruth's progress and find a full list of her runs visit www.510miles4ms.co.uk. To donate, visit www.justgiving.com/510miles4ms. To help Ruth reach her target other fund-raising activities are planned by Hilary, Lacey, family and friends so watch out for them.

Do join us on 8th March when we will be 'Getting crafty with Claire Humphries and on 12th April we will be looking at 'Life on the Inside' with Emma Bradley. Do try and join us, we would love to see you.

Loren.



*Women's World Day of Prayer Friday March 2nd
in Stowe Church at 11am - all welcome*

This Service has been prepared by the Christian women of **Suriname. Suriname** is on the Atlantic coast of South America between Guyana to the west, French Guiana to the east and Brazil to the south. The population is 540,000 and reflects the many phases of colonialism from 1499, besides the original Surinen tribe. The many ethnic groups have brought their own languages, traditions and religions so there are different laws for different groups. The official language is Dutch and Creole. Sranan is also spoken. Women got the vote in 1938. **Paramaribo** is the capital city but, like all the settlements on the coastal strip, it floods as the ground is only 2m above sea level. The interior has a lush tropical forest where 715 species of birds, many orchids, over 60 species of heliconia (lobster claw flower), the blue frog and giant sea turtle flourish. It is the 17th richest country with exports of sugar, coffee, cocoa, cotton, bauxite, gold, oil, and fresh water. The Christian women want to emphasise that "All God's creation is Very Good" and their responsibility to treasure it.



Nature Notes

If voles, moles and shrews have been struggling underground this winter, how did plants fare there - specifically trees? Deciduous trees started their preparation in autumn

when the longer nights triggered leaf fall. This is even more important than falling temperatures. Light and dark are sensed by two pigments and as the ratio alters they initiate changes in the plant hormones. Trees will need considerable energy to start into growth in spring so before the leaf fall they will have withdrawn nutrients including chlorophyll from the leaves into the main structure of the tree and its roots. The actions of billions of microscopic creatures present in the soil convert detritus fallen around the roots into accessible food for the tree throughout the year.

Evergreens keep their foliage and their finer leaves, usually in the form of needles, are better adapted to withstand this season. That said, they do shed the oldest of needles. Those remaining can be dried and damaged by windy Winter weather. 10% of salt put down on roads ends up as spray which falls on trees and causes yellow and brown patches on needles which reduce the trees' ability to photosynthesize next Summer.

Tree roots extend more than twice the spread of their crowns, usually in the top metre of soil. Dog urine can burn bark and kill roots in any tree. Weakened trees mean pests. Think about that when walking your dog especially in areas of popular dog walks. All trees need their roots to survive the Winter and what the roots can do at any time of year is truly remarkable.

Scientists in Germany have discovered that when soil has been washed away from roots on embankments that individual trees of the same species are interconnected through their roots and nutrient exchange takes place through them enabling any one tree under stress to be supported. The ability to communicate is further enhanced by the thin filaments of fungi - one teaspoon of the soil round the roots can supply many miles of network operating like fibre-optic internet. Indeed, a term has been adopted - 'wood wide web!' They are interconnected.

It is the roots of the trees that look after the survival of the whole and withstand severe changes and will regrow new trunks. It is the roots that are in charge of all the chemical activity of the tree, absorbing substances and delivering the products of photosynthesis to the fungi. Since the nineteenth century scientists have known that there are also electrical impulses at work that respond to toxicities in the soil for example and the root tip will change direction of growth. It is in the roots where memories of behaviour are stored. Perhaps I should mention only very briefly that it is posited that roots have brain-like substances at their tips. New work is being done to assess the implications of this. It is now in spring that new growth is underway for which a large tree needs to absorb 450 litres a day. The evergreens often begin to use water before the competition of deciduous trees and so begin to photosynthesize sooner.

It is the patient work and inspiration of scientists that reveal the ever increasing knowledge and wonder of God's creation and we should thank Him for the work of their brains.

Much of the content of this column has come from *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben, a very readable book. Small bits of information were found in *How Do Worms Work* by Guy Barter.

GG

Marinade for Easter Lamb [or any other time!]



Grind up about a dessertspoonful of fresh rosemary in a pestle and mortar (dried rosemary will do, or some herbs de provence). Mix into a few tablespoons of natural yogurt, add salt and pepper, and a few crushed cloves of garlic. Spread the mixture over the surface of your lamb joint, chops or steaks and leave to marinate for a while - overnight if possible - before roasting.