

Dadford and Stowe Parish **Magazine**

July - August 2020



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 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

Cover photograph by kind permission of Laurence Gibson



Dear Friends

Some years ago we were on holiday in the Haute Savoie region of France - in the foothills of the Alps - in the middle of August. We noted the shops were to be closed for bank holidays on two successive days - 15th and 16th. We asked a shopkeeper why. Monday is for the Virgin, she said, and Tuesday is for the cheese - *la fête du Reblochon* - a celebration of the local delicacy of which I happen to be very fond. I

don't think the British have ever had a bank holiday in honour of cheese, but until the Reformation Stowe church would certainly have celebrated 15th August - the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Assumption remains the official dedication of our church. Most Anglicans no longer believe in the doctrine of the physical assumption of Mary into heaven, and the dedication is now uncommon in the Church of England. Nevertheless, several churches in this deanery retain the same dedication - I wonder why?

These days, the usual meaning of "assumption" is "supposition" - the act of taking something as true without evidence, or taking something for granted. The last three months have seen many of our common assumptions undermined by the Covid19 epidemic. We can no longer assume we can visit friends or family, or join leisure activities whenever we like, or that the shops will be open and fully stocked if we need anything. We cannot assume that we will safely recapture our former freedom of action any time soon.

The reality of shortages in the shops certainly gives renewed relevance to our petition - "give us this day our daily bread". I cannot help feeling hypocritical every time I pray this, when I know I am planning not just the next supermarket delivery slot but the one after that. Underlying this petition is Jesus' admonition to "give no thought for the morrow". If we truly trusted God to provide what we need, we would be freed from fretting whether Tesco has run out of flour or no longer stocks Reblochon. When Jesus taught the prayer, many of his followers could certainly not assume their next meal was assured - and in much of the world this of course remains true.

The current locust swarms devastating parts of Africa and the Middle East have been overshadowed in our media by our own concerns, but will surely lead to much hunger. How much more anguished in those circumstances is the prayer for daily bread.

Perhaps this 15th August we should take time to question our own assumptions of what we need or what we do, and seek the grace to trust God more confidently.

LG

Editor's note.

*Although all **'normal' services and church meetings are not allowed at the moment** I have completed the magazine as usual to enable interested readers to retain some form of 'normality' and have included details of services as **were planned**, which lists the Bible readings for each Sunday.*

*It is my intention to add a sermon from the preacher of that day to our website on **www.stowechurch.org.uk***

Please note that the inside of the back page does not include any rotas as it not certain when and how normal service will be resumed. Thank you to all of these people who kindly agree to share the responsibility of caring for the church and the church family and we really look forward to seeing you all again 'SOON'.





Parish Council Update

During lockdown we have continued our work with improvements and repairs in Dadford Village. The red phone box has recently been repaired, repainted and new Dadford signage added and now looks as good as new!



*Photographs by kind permission
of Chris Hawkins*

We had a new contractor lined up to mow and strim the grass areas of the playing field/allotments however, due to the current government guidelines and Covid restrictions they were unable to commence with the work. Fortunately we were able to make alternative arrangements. This has resulted in the whole playing field/allotment area looking tidier and nicer than it has done for many many years, with lots of complimentary remarks from around the village and beyond.

THANK YOU JAMIE AND JAMES. The trees adjacent to the brook and areas around the pond have been cleared and trimmed by a tree surgeon, who will be returning at a later date to complete the work. We are still consulting with the relevant authorities in order to dig out the wildlife pond and brook and will get this completed as soon as possible. The fencing around the play and wildlife areas is being repaired and renewed as required. We have three new allotment holders this year who are very welcome. If you fancy an allotment contact Chris Atkinson (details on the web site) Many more villagers have been using this area during lockdown. It is good to see them making use of and enjoying this wonderful village amenity.



Your current parish councillors are Sue Boulet (Chair), Chris Atkinson, Jamie Boulet, Hilary Hawkins, Colin Stanbrook and Steve Williamson. You can find their full details on the new Stowe Parish Council website which is now live at www.stowepc.uk. All Parish Council information is available on this website including details of village hall hire and prices.

HH

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



As July begins, the end of another, but very different school year looms closer.

In June we welcomed back to school, years 6, 1 and Foundation, as well as more children of key worker parents. These children came back from Monday to Friday, into 'bubbles'- small groups which remained apart from the other adults and children in the school.

Staff worked hard to prepare for the pupils return, following DfE guidance to keep children and staff safe, but also to make the school feel welcoming. This involved removing furniture and other items, including a lot of resources and familiar objects that are normally in the classroom, to allow space for each child to have an individual desk. Each child also had a tray of items that only they could use, as well as their learning. Staff have been redeployed to ensure each bubble had adequate staffing, but with familiar faces.

Home learning opportunities via the school website have continued, including for those children who have chosen not to return at the moment. Staff have continued to add stories, diary entries and other items to keep in touch with the children and them with us. As part of this we have been really encouraged to see so many pictures, photos and pieces of work. As a staff, we have been astounded by how well the children have adapted to a different style of learning and some of the amazing pieces they have sent us. There are some very creative and talented children throughout the school! I would encourage you to take a look at some of the photos on the website.

Facilitating the transition of children to their new classes, as well as our new September 2020 intake, has been an obvious challenge, but one which the benefits of modern technology has been able to help with. Virtual transition arrangements are being put in place to enable children to 'meet' their new teacher, 'see' their new classroom and, for some, their new school! Parents of these new children have been able to meet online using a private social messaging group and discuss all those questions and worries new starters (and parents) often have. Staff have also taken advantage of 'Zoom' to facilitate some parent meetings, updating parents on current and future arrangements.

In other news, the school now has its own Facebook page and we welcome all our families and friends to find and support us - 'St James and St John Church of England School'.

Whilst we don't know what September will bring, we look forward to seeing more of our children and finding out what they have been up to! In the meantime we wish all our families and friends of St James and St John a very peaceful, safe and healthy summer!

CG

Church News

Sadly, there are no services being held in Stowe Church or Dadford Chapel during this Covid-19 crisis. Past and present sermons can be found on our website.

However, there are many alternatives to be found on the computer. For example,

The Rev Val Plumb's weekly message can be found on YouTube

This week's offering: The feast of The birth of John the Baptist
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JdhFnSzVV58&t=7s>

Rev Val is the Area Dean for Rural Mission and Development. The rural ministry within North Bucks includes working with the churches and clergy of the Mursley, Buckingham (and Dadford and Stowe), Claydon and the western part of Aylesbury Deaneries, to encourage creativity, offer support, advice and encouragement and develop strategies to serve and enliven the rural church for the future.



BBC 1 TV

Sunday Worship: 11am

Songs of Praise: 1.15pm

BBC Radio 4

Sunday Worship (live): 8.10am

(Radio LW & DAB)

Morning Service (Live daily): 9.45am

Food Bank - Food donations of non-perishable goods can be dropped off at the side of **The Centre in Verney Close, Buckingham on Tuesdays from 10.30 - 11.30. All contributions welcome.** If you wish to make a monetary donation please contact Keith Croxton on: 01280 815100 or email: postmaster@keithcroxton.plus.com

The church website is now operational again. A colour version of the magazine can be found on www.stowechurch.org.uk

STOWE STARS

Family Services - God's promises

19th July

Genesis 12, 1-3 and 18, 1-10 God's promise to Abraham

"Leave your country and your family and go to a land that I will show you. I will give you many descendants who will become a great nation. I will make your name famous and you will be a blessing."

What would you do if you received a message like that? What Abram did was to follow that commission. Aged 75 years he left Haran in Mesopotamia (Turkey) and moved his flocks and herds on a journey of hundreds of miles and over many years to the land of Canaan. All this while Abram trusted God. He and his wife Sarai and their four-footed possessions wandered from grazing ground to watering place. Still Abram had faith in God's promise.

Then one day three strangers stopped at their tent. Immediately Abram offered them hospitality, to wash their dusty feet, to give them a meal and to rest.

Sarai stayed inside the tent and listened to them.

She heard one of them say that in nine months' time she would have a baby. She laughed silently. She was 90 years old and had long given up hope of a child. One of the men asked, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?"

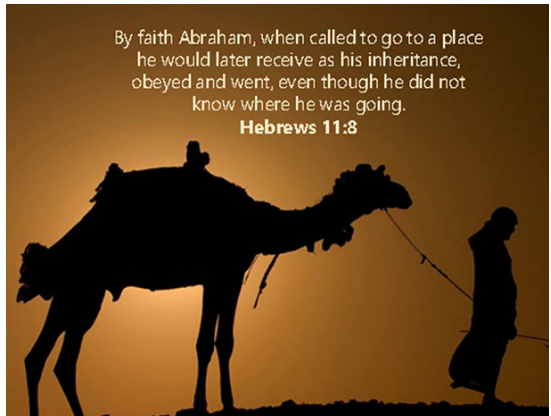
The answer came when a son was born. They called him Isaac which means "he laughs". Now Abram could see God's promise coming true. God changed his name to Abraham which means "father of a multitude of nations".

Messages from God come to us in many different ways. We have to be alert and listen. As the writer to the Hebrews says, you never know when you might be entertaining angels unawares.

Do we confine God within the limits of our own mind? Do we expect nothing unusual or surprising to happen? Is anything too hard for the

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

Hebrews 11:8



16th August

Exodus 3, 1-20

God's promise to Moses

"I am sending you to the king of Egypt so that you can lead my people out of his country. I will be with you, and when you bring the people out of Egypt you will worship Me on this mountain." So spoke the angel/flame from the midst of a burning bush that did not shrivel up.

Moses was intrigued and went closer but the voice forbade him to approach as he was standing on holy ground. Thus did God meet Moses. Moses was a fugitive from Egypt where he had killed a man for attacking a Hebrew.

Although he was the adopted son of an Egyptian princess (Exodus 2) he knew his background and his people and his sense of injustice overcame him. He fled to the faraway land of Midian, got a job looking after Jethro's sheep and goats and married one of his daughters and had two sons.

Thus did he live for 40 years in exile until one day he received God's commission. He was reluctant, he made excuses. Would the king of Egypt let his slave workforce go free? Would his fellow Hebrews accept Moses as leader and follow him?

"Tell them, The One Who is called I AM has sent me to you. I the Lord, the God of their ancestors, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, have sent you to them."

God gave Moses courage and strength, wisdom and perseverance to overcome all the setbacks, obstacles, arguments, objections, until finally he led the captives to freedom. The Hebrews did not escape by their own efforts, nor even because they were a particularly deserving cause, but because God chose to deliver them.



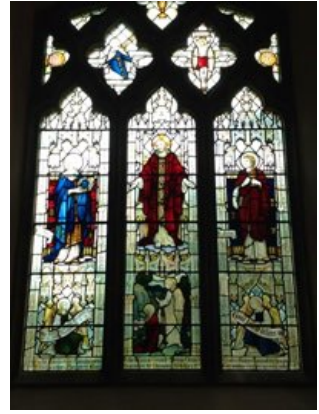
Moses trusted God's promise to be with him then and throughout his long life he gained a fresher and deeper understanding of God's nature.

Do we expect nothing unusual or surprising to happen? Is anything too hard for the Lord?

GM

THE THIRD DUKE'S WINDOW

For a hundred and thirty years, worship at Stowe Church has been embellished by the stained glass window given by Mary, Baroness Kinloss, in memory of her parents, the hard-working third Duke of Buckingham and his first wife, her mother Caroline, who had died several years before him. The gift was all the more impressive in that it was given at a time of difficulty. The Baroness had just put Stowe up for sale, and, there being no takers, subsequently leased it out to the Comte de Paris. In another twenty years or so, she would finally give up the unequal struggle.



WHEN THE GOOD TIMES PASSED

A sonnet in tribute to Lady Kinloss

How strange that when the good times came to Stowe,
Expressed by palace (built at cost sky-high!)
And artful gardens (dazzling to the eye!),
The Church lost out on all the pomp and show.
How strange, indeed, however hard you search,
You'll find no signs of that great wealth displayed,
No eighteenth-cent'ry artistry essayed
Inside the good-time lords' own little church.
It was bereavement brought fine art at last
And stained-glass glory, setting all aglow –
A loss mourned by a daughter, though proud Stowe
Knew times of need, its days of pageants past.
How sweet that gesture! And what joy above
That daughters can show parents so much love!

AGM



National Trust at Stowe

National Trust

Stowe gardens re-opened on Wednesday 3 June, and it was so lovely to welcome people back to enjoy the gardens once again. These are new times for all of us, and the National Trust has opened its doors in a completely new way, and via a pre-booking system for everyone, so we can closely monitor visitor numbers and ensure social distancing. The first few weeks have gone really well, and we are slowly increasing the number of tickets on sale each week. With such a large path network and 250 acres of garden to enjoy, there should be enough room for everyone to enjoy Stowe safely.



Common spotted orchid



Tulip Tree Flower



If you haven't been able to visit yet, here are some of our summer highlights. You can always follow Stowe on Facebook or Twitter, where we share what is looking great in the garden.

Captured recently, with all the stormy weather, by David Humphries

Looking forwards:

Currently our focus is about opening safely and protecting the National Trust's finances, this year we are set to lose £200 million. We currently don't have plans for any future events, but hope people can enjoy us opening again and the beauty that Stowe provides. As we look forward in the season we have wonderful hay meadows developing at Stowe, and we are looking forward to people enjoying summer days and picnics at Stowe over the next few months.

WALKING ON WATER

By Roger Wagner

To dabble on the edge of that great sea
Constrained by fears of all that might be lost
Half-longing to step out and thus be free
Yet wholly unprepared for freedom's cost.
To hear the distant rumour of a love
Which overwhelms all prudent self-concern
Exulting in a freedom like the sun
Which gives and yet demands no like return;
Which rises on our darkness as a dawn
That breathes into the loveless hearts of men
A love which was before the world was born
That we in being loved might love again
That overwhelming love which sets us free
To step out of ourselves onto that sea.



'Lord, if it's you,' Peter replied, 'tell me to come to you on the water.'
'Come,' he said.

Matthew 14: 28-29

To step out of ourselves into that sea
Forsaking all the safeties that we know
Becoming for one moment wholly free
That in that moment endless trust might grow.
To step into a love that calls us out
From all evasions of one central choice
Besieged by winds of fear and waves of doubt
Yet summoned by that everlasting voice.
To walk on water in astonished joy
Towards those outstretched arms which draw us near,
Then caught by winds which threaten to destroy
We sink into the waters of our fear.
Yet underneath all fears and false alarms
Are sinking, held, by everlasting arms.

Roger Wagner: *The Nearer You Stand* (Canterbury Press, 2019)
Roger Wagner read English at Oxford University before studying at the Royal Academy of Art. He is a leading contemporary artist, widely exhibited. He is also a poet.

It seems very strange not getting together in the Village Hall for our monthly meetings. Our WI was formed in 1946 and this is probably the first time in our history that this has ever happened.



Left to Door Mrs Elsie Jones Gladys Jackman Eileen Grant Mrs Hunt Ray Fricker Mrs Fricker Marjorie Dams Jessie Johnson
 Door to Right Mrs Reynolds Daisy Stokes Mrs Thomas Doll Maryon Madelaine Rowell Mrs Rowell Mabel Warden Sadie Earney
 Rose Clarke Mrs Leftley Marion Robinson Flo Hawkins Ivy Cakebread Jessie Jones - Picture taken 10th June 1954
 See Book 2 for Advertiser Article August 2006 on this photo.

We miss our speakers and catching up with all the news, but have kept in touch with members by phone and some by Email and of course hope it won't be long before we can resume.

I'm sure I'm not the only one, but can quite easily always find something to do in 'lockdown'. Along with making scrubs bags for the NHS plus face masks for family and friends, I thought it was time to get out the WI scrapbooks for an update.

Conversing with Ivy across the garden fence and of course at the required safe distance I have managed to put names to faces of a lot of the old WI photos. Perhaps if and when we can get back together we can have the books out and have a good reminiscence. Meanwhile stay safe and well, enjoy the good weather and hope to see you all again soon. *Loreen*





Nature Notes

Have you ever seen these little bee look-alikes hovering like humming-birds over flowers in your garden? I had seen but never really noticed them until I was sent a picture and asked if I knew what it was. At first glance it looks rather like a bee,

but on close inspection clearly isn't. One of the small species of bumble bee, *Bombus agrorum*, is quite similar, but this is in fact a fly, called a bee-fly, *Bombylius major*. Although it doesn't withstand close scrutiny, the resemblance to a bee is convincing at first sight. You may have seen on a recent Gardeners' World programme a close-up shot of a hovering bee-fly included in a shot that was supposed to be about bees.



This phenomenon of one species looking like another is for obvious reasons known as mimicry. In most instances it seems that this is a defence strategy - if you are harmless but look like something dangerous you are less likely to be attacked or eaten. There are many more instances in nature: the appearance of wasps is very widely copied by other insects such as hoverflies, and some harmless snakes in the tropics mimic the appearance of venomous ones. The dangerous species itself often has a vivid or striking appearance, which is again thought of as a defence: the distinctive markings act as a warning to potential predators.

Most examples of mimicry occur among insects, but plants may use the trick as well. There is a good example in the weedy bits of our garden (or perhaps I should say in the wildlife areas . . .). Deadnettles are quite hard to tell apart from stinging nettles just by looking at the leaves, although the difference is quite clear when they are in flower and even more obvious if you touch them. Some plants look very like thistles, even though their "prickles" are soft and harmless.

Mimicry is sometimes very similar to camouflage. Some caterpillars have strange markings at their tail end which look very like eyes, and may have antenna-like spikes which make their tail look even more like an alarming and aggressive head. Stick insects camouflage themselves very effectively by mimicking the twigs among which they live, making it difficult for their predators to spot them. Praying mantids are similarly camouflaged, but this is for attack as much as defence - they are hiding from their prey as well as predators.

Pretending to be other than we are is also of course a common human defence mechanism. "I whistle a happy tune / and no-one ever knows I'm afraid", as Anna sang in "The King and I".

Mimicry can also be an effective means of amusing each other when used with affection, but can also be a very cruel weapon. Good actors can convince us of the reality of the role they are playing, and help us understand the viewpoint and emotions of others.

I suspect we all act a part on occasions and perhaps sometimes hide our true nature even from ourselves. But we cannot dissemble before the face of Him from whom no secrets are hid.

LG

Mediterranean tomato salad for a light lunch.

If you can't go there for a holiday this year you can eat this salad using summer tomatoes bursting with flavour together with Mediterranean staples that we need for a healthy dietoily fish, olive oil, veg. If you really don't like the little salty anchovies I think you could substitute tuna for anchovies. Serves 4-6 but quantities can be cut down.

8 slices of good bread
2 tbsp olive oil
8 tinned anchovies
1 1/2 tbsp olive oil,
1 clove garlic
2 tbsp red wine vinegar
75 ml extra olive oil
8 medium tomatoes cut into eighths
1/2 large red onion slice finely
large handful mint leaves roughly torn - if you have it don't be shy of the quantity of mint which will also cut through any oiliness.



Break the bread into bite size pieces and fry in olive oil until golden and crisp, drain on kitchen paper. Mash together, ideally in a pestle and mortar, the anchovies, garlic and capers and put in a bowl with the vinegar and extra olive oil. Add the tomatoes, onion and bread if about to serve and the mint and toss.

Date 2020	Time	Service	Theme	Reading / Gospel	Lead / Preach
July 5th	8:00	Said 1662 Communion			Pat
	9:45	Morning Prayer	Reluctant Moses	Exodus 3:1-14 + 4:1-5 + 10-17 Luke 12:24-27	L - Andrew P - Gillian
July 12th	9:45	1662 Communion	The chosen race	Exodus 19:1-8 1 Peter 2:9-10	L - Pat P - Andrew
July 19th	9:45	Family Service	God's Promises - Abraham	Genesis 12:1-3 + 18:1-10	L - Kay P - Pat
July 26th	9:45	Common Worship Communion	David spares Saul	1 Samuel 24:1-22 Luke 6:27-36	L - Pat P - Paul Mileham
	18:00	Evensong in Dadford Cemetry Chapel		Psalms 74 Job 19:1-27a Luke 11:1-13	L - Andrew P - Gillian
August 2nd	8:00	Said 1662 Communion			Pat
	9:45	Morning Prayer	Elijah flees to the desert	1 Kings 19:1-16 Matthew 17:1-13	L - Andrew P - Pat
August 9th	9:45	1662 Communion	John in the desert	Mark 1:1-8 1 Samuel 8:6-9	L - Pat P - Pauline
August 16th	9:45	Family Service	God's Promises - Moses	Exodus 3:1-20	L - Pat P - Val
August 23rd	9:45	Common Worship Communion	Jesus in the desert	Matthew 4:1-11 Psalm 91	L and P - Peter Goodwin-Hudson
	18:00	Evensong in Dadford Cemetry Chapel		Psalms 116 Exodus 4:27-5:1 Luke 13:10-17	L - Gillian P - Andrew
August 30th	9:45	Mission Morning Prayer	Paul in the desert	Galatians 1:11-20 Matthew 5:43-48	L - Val P - Nicci Maxwell