

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

**September - October 2020**



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

# STOWE CHURCH CONTACTS

|                           |   |                     |
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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)*

*Cover photograph by kind permission of Diana Wyatt*



Dear Friends

“All is in a state of flux (change or uncertainty). Nothing is stationary”. Are things any different now than they were 2,500 years ago when the Greek philosopher, Heraclitus, wrote? We scan the daily news of the pandemic, the suffering and unrest -everything seems topsy-turvy. As believers we may ask, firstly, where is God in all this and, secondly, how can we cope?

Firstly, is the current situation a ‘wake up’ call from God not to ignore His Sovereignty and values and not to tamper with or exploit His Creation? If so, there should be calls to repentance, to seek His forgiveness and to action to undo, where possible, the damage already done to the natural order.

Secondly, can we cope? Amidst the unprecedented uncertainty and topsy-turvy changes of the last five months, September, the herald of Autumn and Harvest, may seem like a welcome constant. Autumn is the “season of mists and mellow fruitfulness”, though the turbulent weather of the last fortnight hardly seems “mellow” nor would “fruitfulness” describe this harvest. Farmers know that the uncertainties of the British climate can cause havoc with their crops, when they fail to fulfil their potential. There is talk of a shortfall of 30% on the usual yield - surely the result of this year’s topsy-turvy, volatile weather with its almost record-breaking extremes. Hence, at our Harvest Services, we look, and give thanks, to God for the outcomes He gives.

This approach to Harvest might teach us how to cope with the many topsy-turvy features in our lives. So many aspects of life have been turned upside down and inside out because of Covid-19. So much that was familiar has been replaced by the unfamiliar in our daily living -socially distanced shopping or meeting friends, masks or the reluctance to go anywhere or do anything. There is the unfamiliar with our health, watching out fearfully for Covid-19 symptoms or seeing the doctor by video call or telephone.

More generally, the unfamiliar in the economy means working from home or being furloughed or, worst of all, made redundant. The unfamiliar is seen in the church-family. Zoom has kept us in touch in worship, prayer or Bible Study, but we ache for face-to-face contacts.

The unfamiliar in politics means sparsely attended meetings in Parliament, the reliance on social media for information and the rampant growth of “fake news” and conspiracy theories, so that some wonder if Democracy itself is under assault. Equally, freedom of speech faces the threateningly unfamiliar rise of “no platforming” and the attempted silencing of different points of view. The phrase, the “new normal,” tries to make these uncertain and unfamiliar alterations less alarming. Nonetheless, all of these can and do stimulate fear and apprehension, when we, as individuals, groups or a nation, contemplate a future, denuded of familiar reassuring features.

Like the farmers at Harvest, we should look to the Lord for help to lead us through our present travails. Jesus reminds us “I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have trouble, but take heart I have overcome the world” Jn 16: 33. Encouraged by this promise, each one could ask the Lord to be “my Shepherd...(so that) even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me, your rod and staff comfort me.”Ps 23: 4.

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**AR**

## **FULL DETAILS AND CHURCH UPDATE ON PAGE 9**

**Weekly Stowe Church Coffee** Mornings on Zoom at 11am.

Next meeting **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August**. Everybody welcome. A good way to see your friends and have a catch-up and chat. We’d love to see you!

**Bible Studies** on Zoom - Everyone welcome

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 3 - 4pm** (fortnightly)

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 9.30 - 10.30am** (fortnightly)

*If you’re interested in joining any of the zoom meetings and need a link, or if you would like to know more details, please contact one of the Church Wardens.*

**Please pray for : Rev Val Plum** who continues to struggle with complex health issues. Give thanks for her very positive attitude and trust in God.

**Rev Pat Howard** as she awaits further appointments following her MRI scan and full test results following her diagnosis of cancer cells in her abdomen.

**Julie Bradshaw** who has badly broken her pelvis following a fall from a horse.

**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





## Parish Council Update

We have been busy getting the playground ready for reopening and have taken the opportunity during the closure due to Covid-19 to give the area a makeover.

Thanks to Cllr Chris Atkinson for getting the “task force” together for the painting of the fence surrounding the playground. It is not just the councillors involved with this but many neighbours and allotment holders together, and for this we would like to thank all those involved. It has been lovely weather to do this and there has been real community spirit. The whole area will have had new tarmac by the time of reading this and then it will just be the painting of play equipment left to do.

The allotments are looking fantastic this year with the allotment holders putting in lots of hard work to grow their very own fruit and vegetables. What a rewarding way to spend your time. If you are interested in becoming an allotment holder then please get in touch as there are spaces available. You don't need to live in Dadford to have one and we would love to welcome you!

The delayed traffic calming in Dadford will hopefully begin before the end of the year.

Buckinghamshire Council have agreed that the scheme is to be established and now MEPC are waiting for the paperwork to be completed so that an application can be made to book the road space. As soon as we have any updates on this, we will publish them on the website.

The six Stowe Parish Councillors are Sue Boulet (chair), Jamie Boulet, Chris Atkinson, Hilary Hawkins, Colin Stanbrook and Steve Williamson.

Our clerk is Tony Skeggs and if there is anything you would like to get in touch with him about please email at [clerk@stowepc.uk](mailto:clerk@stowepc.uk)

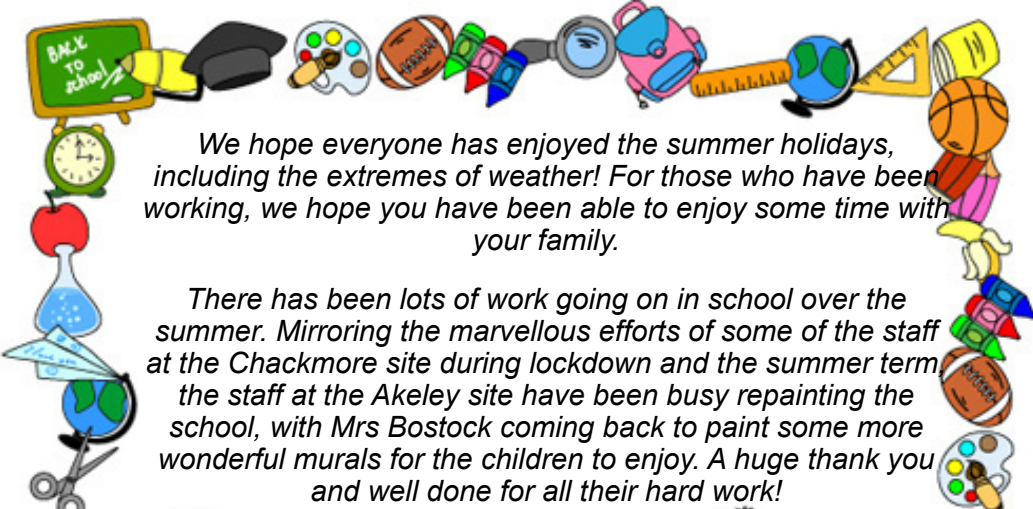
You will find all the latest information on the new Parish Council website [www.stowepc.uk](http://www.stowepc.uk) including future meeting dates, minutes of previous meetings as well as details on how to contact any of your councillors.

**Date of next meeting Wednesday  
7<sup>th</sup> October 19:30**



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

*Hello and welcome back to all our families and friends! An especially big welcome to all our new children, their families and our new members of staff.*



*We hope everyone has enjoyed the summer holidays, including the extremes of weather! For those who have been working, we hope you have been able to enjoy some time with your family.*

*There has been lots of work going on in school over the summer. Mirroring the marvellous efforts of some of the staff at the Chackmore site during lockdown and the summer term, the staff at the Akeley site have been busy repainting the school, with Mrs Bostock coming back to paint some more wonderful murals for the children to enjoy. A huge thank you and well done for all their hard work!*



*The staff have been eagerly awaiting the return of all pupils to school, maintaining our practices to keep us all safe, but in an enjoyable manner.*

*Whilst there have been some changes to what we can and can't do, we have an exciting curriculum planned and can't wait to dive back into our learning!*

**CG**



# STOWE STARS

## Family Services God's promises

20th September

### Jeremiah 29, 4-14 God's promise to the Jewish people

"I chose you before I gave you life, and before you were born I selected you to be a prophet to the nations." "I don't know how to speak. I am too young," protested Jeremiah. God stretched out His hand and touched Jeremiah's lips. "I am giving you the words you must speak," God said. What Jeremiah had to say was rejected and ridiculed by His people.

In 587 BC Nebuchadnezzar swooped down on Jerusalem, burned and plundered the city and deported all but the poorest inhabitants to Babylon. Jeremiah had been warning the people of this fate for a long time but they took no notice. They thought he was a perpetual moaner, a Jeremiah. The people were deep into idolatry, the worship of pagan gods and wilfully disobedient of God's Law, the ten commandments which their ancestors had promised to keep

for ever. He grieved over their stubborn refusal to change their ways and worship God only. Jeremiah was left in Jerusalem but he did not forget the exiles. He wrote them a letter: "The Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those people whom He allowed Nebuchadnezzar to take away as prisoners from Jerusalem to Babylonia, build houses and settle down, plant gardens and eat what you grow in them, marry and have children, pray to Me."

The letter ends with a message of hope and a promise: "When Babylonia's seventy years are over I will keep my promise and bring you back home. I have plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for. Then you will call to me. You will come and pray to me, and I will answer you. You will seek me and you will find me because you will seek me with all your heart."

At the nation's darkest hour God promised His people a future. A new covenant would replace the one made at Sinai.

*"I will put my law within them and write it on their hearts. I will be their God and they will be my people."*

**18th October**

**Luke 1, 26-33**

**God' promise to Mary**

"You will give birth to a son. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king as His ancestor David was. His kingdom will never end." What an extraordinary message for a young girl of no power or status. What a tremendous responsibility, to have a son who would be a king, and that son to have God as the Father. And to be unmarried. How was all that possible?

"Don't be afraid, Mary," said the angel. "God has been gracious to you. There is nothing that God cannot do."

Did Mary see herself in the line of all those whom God had chosen for a special purpose in life? God promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations. God promised Moses that he would be a leader and a law-giver.

God promised Jeremiah that Jerusalem would be filled with returning exiles.

Mary sang a song of praise and thanksgiving: " He has kept the promise He made to our ancestors and has come to the help of His servant Israel. He has remembered to show mercy to Abraham and to all His descendants for ever."

In humble trust Mary prayed that God's purpose through her might be accomplished. She could see beyond the present circumstances something of God's plan for the world. Perhaps she remembered Isaiah's words, "His royal power will continue to grow. His kingdom will always be at peace. He will rule as King David's successor, basing His power on right and justice, from now until the end of time. The Lord Almighty is determined to do all this."



Like Mary we can ponder on God's promises in our hearts.

GM

## **IMPORTANT! Church News**

At a meeting of the PCC held on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September** it was agreed that we would slowly re-start holding services in Stowe Church for those who wish to attend. It was acknowledged that people will have a wide range of opinions on whether this is right or not and it is very important to say that there is no expectation at all that anyone should attend. *When Val is well enough, she will continue to provide her Worship @Westfields service via YouTube and the sermon will continue to be posted on the website every week.*

In line with diocesan recommendations, we will re-introduce services in church slowly and, of course, with all the Covid-19 safety measures in place.

Government advice allowing, in September there will be one service:  
**a Family Service to be held on 20th September at 9.45am**

**in October, there will be 2 services:-**

**Harvest Morning Prayer on 4<sup>th</sup> October and**

**Family Service on 18<sup>th</sup> October** (The situation will be reviewed in mid-October)

Those who **wish to come to a service** will need to **book their place** in advance as there will be greatly reduced seating due to social distancing regulations.

**Bookings can be made in the week before the service by contacting Julia Morten (817601) or Tamara Kimpton (814456)** when details will be taken in line with the test and trace system. *Masks must be worn* at all times in the church and seats will be allocated on arrival. People are asked to *maintain the 2-metre rule* while waiting to enter and to move straight away from the church when they leave. An offering will not be taken during the service, although it can be placed on a plate at the back of church as you enter or leave. People are also asked to *use hand sanitiser on entering and leaving the church.*

As part of the Stowe School safety measures in place, everyone coming to church will have their temperature checked as they come past the security cabin.

For the Harvest service, we would be grateful if harvest gifts could be non-perishable and could be taken straight to the Food Bank in Buckingham – details on page 2. Sadly, neither the Harvest Supper nor the Light Party will take place this year.

Although this all sounds very cold and clinical, let us rejoice that we are finally able to meet together in the church building to worship. And although we are unable to sing out loud, our hearts will ***sing as we praise and honour almighty God!***





# National Trust

As we leave the and look forward to September and October, we look forward to September sunshine, crisp autumn days and glorious autumn colour that we hope is on the way. The summer has been a busy few months for us with visitors enjoying the glorious colour in Sleeping Wood, counting butterflies in our hay meadows and enjoying the new paths now open around Home Park, Queen’s Theatre

and across the South Front to our newly installed statues of the nine muses.



*The nine muses (top), new paths around Home Park (middle), and Queen’s Theatre (bottom). Photo credit, David Humphries.*



We are still open for pre-booked visits only, and it is likely that our booking system will stay in place for the foreseeable future. It is important we can monitor numbers onsite for everyone’s safety. We have increased capacity while considering safety, so we do now have more tickets available daily.

We have also been able to re-open our shop and café over the last few weeks, and are looking to continue this café offer to also provide indoor seating in September, keep an eye on our website for updates.



*Our plant centre open again, Café courtyard with seating (top) and open for pre-booked tickets only. Photo credit, Jennifer Bell.*

We look forward to welcoming people to Stowe in autumn to enjoy the garden, find new paths to be explored

and supporting the National Trust shop and café too. We hope to see you soon. For further details check out the website on

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

**JB**

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## **A FREE phonenumber of hymns, reflections and prayers!**

Since its launch at the beginning of May the **Daily HOPE** line has received more than 215,000 calls. That accounts for over 2.5 million minutes of listening to prayers, hymns and reflections. We have been so glad it has had such a reach and impact. The hope and aim was to offer something for the older generation who don't access things online. The freephone line seems to have been a wonderful help and encouragement to tens of thousands.

We would love to get the word out near and far to all who might benefit from it. So this is simply to encourage you if possible to pass this on.

In addition to the normal offering of hymns, the daily office, reflections and prayers over this summer month there is a new offering of **Holiday at Home**. This offers an opportunity for those who rarely leave their houses a chance to be 'transported' on a holiday – with prayers of thanks for times past, a poem recollecting holidays and even a soundscape to evoke those memories of past holidays.

DailyHOPE tel: 0800 804 8044

Press

- \* for a message from Justin Welby
- 1 for the Bible message/ reflection on hymn (20 minutes long)
- 2 to listen to hymns
- 3 to listen to 'holidays at home'



Well the scrapbooks are now up to date and my job list is only slowly getting shorter. However all WI's are kept informed of any issues by National and Bucks Federations and a recent communication was very sad indeed.

Members learned of the closure and possible sale of Denman College. Denman is a Grade II listed Georgian building set in 17 acres of land at Marcham Park, Abingdon, Oxfordshire. Courses have been run here on a diverse variety of subjects and each year

up to 10,000 members, non-members and even men attend.

Several of our members have attended on open days and taster days. It offers residential accommodation and has been operating since 1948, so for members, a very sad time, but also worrying times for tutors and staff facing redundancy.

Some WI's are having meetings by Zoom but we haven't ventured that far yet. Realistically it is highly unlikely that we will reconvene this year. Sadly some WI's may fold due to the Covid 19 knock-on effect but rest assured we will do everything we can to stay positive, stay safe and continue the WI good name.

Hope to see you soon,  
Loreen.



### Autumn recipe - Spiced apple tart

Grease a 20cm/8in flan tin

Make a rich pastry cake with a basis of 200g/7oz flour. (I have used bought sweet pastry.) Line flan tin with pastry. Heat oven 200C/400f/ gas 6

To make the filling peel and core 2 medium cooking apples, and grate one into a bowl.

**Add** 1 tbsp juice and rind of 1 lemon  
150ml/5fl oz runny honey  
175g/6oz breadcrumbs  
1tsp mixed spice.

Mix well and spoon into pastry shell. Core and slice a second apple and arrange on top. Brush with more lemon juice. Bake in oven for 35 mins until firm.

**GG**





# Nature Notes

We celebrated our 60th Wedding anniversary in mid-July with a socially distanced lunch with 5 friends in our garden and a socially distanced family party in the evening, not what we had planned. We are all aware that not being

able to plan has become the new normal and for many it is causing fear and distress. For others, like ourselves, it is proving to be an opportunity to slow down, reflect on the past and take time to communicate with friends and family.

We are most fortunate to have our family near and during lockdown our three granddaughters 13, 11 and 8 were staying with their parents in our converted barn. We learnt a great deal about modern methods of communication and the latest devices for doing so but there were other things too. They are all keen cooks, baking in particular. When all the flour had been stripped from the supermarket shelves and they could not buy any online they saw that Uncle Mark had tonnes of wheat in the grain store. Having failed to “mill flour” using their juicer they researched online and persuaded their parents to buy a home milling machine.



They learnt from Uncle Mark that you cannot use any wheat to make bread, it has to be bread making wheat, the protein has to be above 13% and the falling Hagberg number just right. This became a serious project, what is Hagberg? And how can you catch a falling number? The Hagberg falling number (HFN) is a term that is used to give an indication of the enzyme activity in flour. It was developed in Sweden and it is used to describe the number of seconds it takes for a plunger to fall through a mix of wheat flour in water, if the plunger falls quickly, it means that the starch has been converted to sugar. If the plunger falls slowly, the mixture is thick with starch. Typically, when it comes to bread making, HFN values below 250 are not accepted. Bakeries will work with an ideal range between 250 and 280 seconds.

We had bread making wheat in the barn. The milling machine and sieves arrived, several sieves, some to clean the wheat before it goes into the hopper of the machine and more to refine the flour, the finer the sieve the whiter the flour.



We received a video of it all set up and happening on their kitchen table, the results were exciting, several kilos of flour milled before baking began. A warm brown loaf arrived on our door step the following morning.

At the time of writing this it is time to begin harvest 2020, a very different harvest time for everyone. Our wheat harvest comprises mostly of spring-planted wheat because the autumn rains prevented us from planting in October. The crops are lighter, the varieties are not familiar but we trust our protein and Hagberg will pass the test.

One of our more successful crops planted in the spring is our bird cover plot. It has grown well and the sunflowers are always a cheerful sight as we walk past. More importantly we can report that we have skylarks in residence, having feared we had lost them all to predators and the weather last year. I cannot help wondering why Natural England encourage farmers to plant habitats for our declining species of birds while at the same time RSPB has brought back the red kite, we are led to believe they feed on carrion but I feel sure they are a danger to our young sky larks in their nests on the ground.

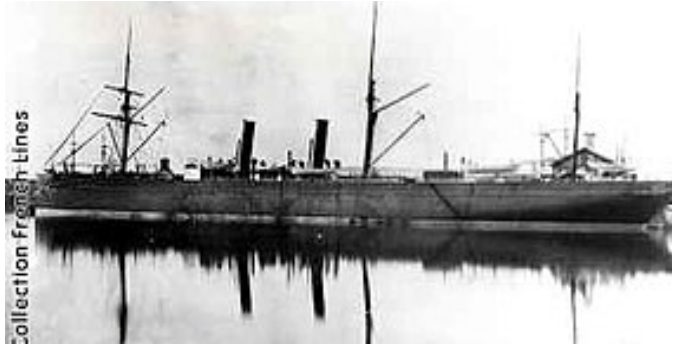
Our garden birds are increasing in species as well as numbers, we have increases in tits and finches as well as wrens, our common great spotted woodpeckers are a joy to watch on the bird feeders and electricity pole and we have a family of shy green woodpeckers who come to eat the ants from the cracks in the paths.

Although there has been much talk and evidence of people enjoying their gardens during the period of lock down, we find that our large garden is becoming increasingly difficult to manage and we are reducing the planted areas. We have, rather sadly disposed of roses which need pruning and a herbaceous border has been turfed. We have cut down conifers which made too much shade, taken out shrubs and increased the areas of gravel. Surprisingly, we are very pleased with the results. We like the appearance of the larger areas of grass and the wider gravel paths and intend to continue with the new garden policy in future..

*DW*

"**It Is Well With My Soul**" is a hymn penned by hymnist **Horatio Spafford** and composed by **Philip Bliss**. It was written after tragic events in Spafford's life. ... Shortly afterwards, as Spafford travelled to meet his grieving wife, he was inspired to write these words as his ship passed near where his four daughters had died. Bliss called his tune Ville du Havre, from the name of the stricken vessel.

When peace like a  
river, attendeth my  
way,  
When sorrows like  
sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot,  
Thou hast taught  
me to know<sup>a</sup>  
It is well, it is well,  
with my soul.



*Refrain*

It is well, (it is well),  
With my soul, (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
Let this blest assurance control,  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!  
My sin, not in part but the whole,  
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:  
If Jordan above me shall roll,  
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life,  
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.

But Lord, 'tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait,  
The sky, not the grave, is our goal;  
Oh, trump of the angel! Oh, voice of the Lord!  
Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul.

And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,  
A song in the night, oh my soul!

| Date 2020        | Time          | Service                  | Theme   | Reading / Gospel                                      | Lead / Preach                   |
|------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|
| <b>Sept 6th</b>  | 8:00          | Said 1662 Communion      |   |   | Pat                             |
|                  | 9:45          | Morning Prayer           | Solomon's Temple - set aside for God's name       | 1 Kings 8:22-30<br>+ 9:1-3<br>Isaiah 56:1-8           | L - Andrew<br>P - Keith Croxton |
| <b>Sept 13th</b> | 9:45          | 1662 Communion           | The Temple - a protecting talisman                | Jeremiah 7:1-15<br>Mark 11:15-19                      | L & P - Val                     |
| <b>Sept 20th</b> | 9:45          | Harvest Family Service   | God's Promises - the Jewish People                | Jeremiah 29:4-14                                      | L - Pat<br>P - Kay              |
| <b>Sept 27th</b> | 9:45          | Common Worship Communion | The Temple replaced by Christ                     | John 2:19-22<br>Hebrews 10:1-7                        | L - Pat<br>P - Andrew           |
| <b>Oct 4th</b>   | 8:00          | Said 1662 Communion      |   |   | Pat                             |
|                  | 9:45          | Morning Prayer           | The Temple of the Holy Spirit - a believer's body | 1 Corinthians 6:18-21<br>John 14:23-27                | L - Andrew<br>P - Ron           |
| <b>Oct 11th</b>  | 9:45          | 1662 Communion           | The Temple of God - the church of believers       | Ephesians 2:19-23 + 1 Peter 2:4-8<br>Matthew 16:13-20 | L & P - Val                     |
| <b>Oct 18th</b>  | 9:45          | Family Service           | God's Promises - Mary                             | Luke 1:26-33  | L - Kay<br>P - Pat              |
| <b>Oct 25th</b>  | 9:45          | Common Worship Communion | No Temple needed in heaven                        | John 4:19-26<br>Revelation 21:22-27                   | L - Pat<br>P - Andrew           |
| <b>Oct 31st</b>  | 16:00 - 18:00 |                          |   |   | Kay                             |