

Dadford and Stowe Parish **Magazine**

January - February 2021



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,
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Dear Friends

January is generally said to take its name from the Roman deity Janus, who (amongst other things) presided over beginnings, endings, gates, time and transitions. He was supposed to have two faces - one in the usual place and one on the back of his head. He was therefore able to look both ways at once, back to the past and into the future. "Two faced" is not usually taken as a compliment in our culture . . .

The poet Robert Burns was not convinced of the benefits of Janus's two-way vision. He tells the distressed mouse whose nest he has accidentally destroyed:

"still thou art blest, compared wi' me -
the present only toucheth thee
but och! I backward cast my eye
on prospects drear -
and forward, though I canna see
I guess, and fear!"

The difficult year, just ended, certainly had prospects drear enough to recall, and much that we would rather not repeat. The wish to be able to see into the future is of course widespread. Hence the popularity of astrology and the endless articles in the press in which pundits speculate about things which will become clear if we only wait a little while - what will Trump do next? will the vaccine be available before Christmas? before Easter? will it work? the scribblers have to fill their columns (just as I must now!) but most of the time all we can really do is guess, like Burns - but unlike him, we do not have to fear.

King George VI in his Christmas broadcast in 1939 - the first Christmas of the war - quoted from the poem 'The man at the gate of the year' . "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way." Or, as our Lord put it, "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself . . ." Instead of worrying, we can pray, in the words of the hymn, for "strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow."

Happy New Year!

LG



Parish Council Update

It was a very different year for everyone in 2020 and more important than ever that we all looked out for one another. We hope you are all well and managed to find the help that you needed if it was required. Family, friends, and neighbours are all imperative during these unusual times.

All our contact details are on the Parish Council website www.stowepc.uk.

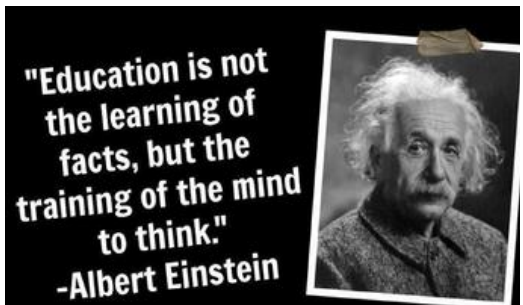
The traffic calming has now been completed within Dadford. We are, however, aware that there are still many concerns over this, and we are in communications over getting amendments made. We are hoping for a revisit to the site in January where the issues that have been highlighted will be assessed.

Have you ever thought about becoming a Parish Councillor? It can be very rewarding; if you feel you would like to get involved and help make decisions within the community you live in, now would be the ideal time to consider it. There are elections coming up in May

and if anybody would like further information please do not hesitate to contact our clerk, Tony Skeggs, by email clerk@stowepc.uk. Alternatively, if you would like to have a chat with one of our councillors then please feel free, we are always happy to discuss things.

As we are sure you have noticed, there is still some clearing up to be done alongside the brook. This will be attended to in the spring when the area will be power harrowed, and the grass reseeded. By early summer it should be looking transformed and will be a pleasure to walk along when you are passing, visiting the play area, or attending to your allotment.

Are you planning an event in 2021? Assuming that the restrictions are lifted and life returns to some kind of normality, maybe you are considering hiring the Village Hall. Rates are extremely reasonable and if this is something that is of interest or maybe you would like a look around before deciding then please contact Councillor Sue Boulet on sueboulet@stowepc.uk.



We hope that you had a lovely Christmas, and we would like to wish you all a **HAPPY NEW YEAR with very best wishes for 2021** from all the Stowe Parish Councillors - Sue Boulet (chair), Chris Atkinson, Jamie Boulet, Hilary Hawkins, Colin Stanbrook, Steve Williamson, and our clerk,



DADVENT 2020



Following all of the restrictions and social distancing guide lines we decided to hold a different version of Dadvent this year

“LETS MAKE DADFORD BRILLIANT “

Everyone was asked to light up a minimum of one window/porch etc. Obviously, as in previous years, residents could do so much more if they wished. The response was excellent, in *true Dadford spirit*, with almost three quarters of houses displaying Christmas lights, giving us a bright and festive feel, despite the ongoing Covid restrictions.

HH

(Editor's Note. Well done Dadford true community spirit! Thanks to Chris Hawkins for the photographs)

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



Happy New Year! Here we are at the start of a brand new year, with all its exciting possibilities. January is usually a time for looking forward and we are certainly looking forward to the opportunities that 2021 will hopefully bring! Before we move on though, a brief look back at all that was achieved last term!

We were immensely proud of how well the children restarted back at school and how they have coped in their bubbles, and continued to enjoy the learning opportunities provided. Many examples of which have been shared on the school website and on our school Facebook site. Staff and parents have also been able to share homework, updates and photos through the 'ClassDojo' communication app. As the seasons changed from autumn through winter, we all enjoyed seeing the remarkable creations of the children who entered our 'Autumn' competition.

After half term the children worked hard on their displays of Remembrance. Although we were unable to hold our usual Remembrance assembly for visitors, we did hold assemblies and observe a two minute silence at both sites, involving all the children. The children created powerful displays around both school sites, both inside and out, with a poignant display in the School's Reflection Garden at the Chackmore site.

Those less fortunate were also remembered in a different way, where in exchange for items for the Buckingham food Bank, children (and staff!) came to school in their spottiest, oddest socks or clothes and messy hair as part of Children in Need.

There were also cheerful and festive displays created by the children around both sites during Advent. Although many things have been different, we have worked hard to ensure that the children were able to celebrate as much as usual. Key Stage 1 and Foundation enjoyed a virtual visit from a Christmas Elf, whilst all the children were able to make and take part in Christingle assemblies.

The children were still able to enjoy a Christmas lunch complete with party hats, as well as a trip to the virtual Panto (oh, yes they did!) with some children taking part in workshops in the classroom after. Those Christmas jumpers were not forgotten, as we raised money for Save the Children in their annual Christmas Jumper day.



As the weather turned colder, we were still required to ventilate the classrooms well, to help keep everyone safe. We were therefore very glad of our new boiler at the Akeley site, which was well worth the disruption over the summer! We continued to monitor and modify our Covid-19 risk assessment as guidelines change and practicalities allow. However, at St James and St John, we missed the valuable interactions between parents and teachers. Whilst we are unable to meet with parents as before, we launched our 'Parents Voice', which provides a space for a Parent Representative from each year group, chosen by the parents of that year, to meet, virtually at the moment, with the Headteacher to discuss ideas and thoughts from other parents.

We are very lucky at St James and St John to have a supportive PTFA. Although they are not actively fundraising or holding events at the moment, the PTFA has continued to support the school and the children, through funding items for the classrooms and providing opportunities for the children that are outside current budget restraints. We look forward to the resuming of the many fantastic family events that the PTFA run.

Finally, we wish you a very safe, peaceful new year. We look forward to welcoming visitors back, as soon as it is safe to do and guidelines allow.

Until then stay safe and keep in contact via email, telephone or our school Facebook page

CG

IMPORTANT! Church News

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.

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 Tamara Kimpton (01280 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.

Please see the very back page of the cover for full details of services for January and December

Weekly Stowe Church Coffee Mornings on Zoom at 11am on Tuesdays
Everybody welcome. A good way to see your friends and have a catch-up and chat. We'd love to see you!

Bible Studies Fortnightly on Zoom - Everyone welcome
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 Plumb who continues to struggle with complex health issues. Give thanks for her very positive attitude and trust in God.
Bev Howard and Family as they grieve for the loss of Pat

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

STOWE STARS

Family Services

17th January

Elizabeth's decision

Malachi 3, 1-4

Luke 1, 11-20 and 57-66

"We suppose you will call him after his father," said Elizabeth's friends and neighbours who had come to share her joy at having a baby at all. She and her husband Zechariah were very old and childless. In those days this was considered a social and religious disgrace. Their lives changed one day when Zechariah was carrying out his priestly duties in the Temple in Jerusalem. It was his turn to offer incense in the sanctuary while the crowd outside prayed.

Suddenly the angel Gabriel appeared beside him and said that his and Elizabeth's prayers had been answered and they would have a son whom they must call John. Zechariah doubted the angel's words and was struck dumb. He could not tell the patient crowd what

had happened and they concluded that he had seen a vision.

Somehow he must have told Elizabeth what had occurred and not long after she found she was to have a baby. Her happiness doubled when her relative Mary visited her and the child within her jumped for joy. Filled with the Holy Spirit she blessed Mary and the Child she carried. "There is nothing that God cannot do," the angel Gabriel had said to Mary when he told her of Elizabeth's baby.

Now on the eighth day after his birth family and friends gathered for the naming of the baby. "We suppose he will have his father's name," they said.

"No," said Elizabeth. "His name is John."

Her decision surprised them. There were no Johns in the family. They looked to Zechariah for confirmation. On a writing tablet he wrote, "His name is John." Immediately his speech returned and he praised God. The child grew in body and spirit,

the messenger that Malachi had foretold would prepare the way for the Lord.



21st February
Faithless Israel, Faithful God
Rebellion by the Red Sea
Psalm 106,1-2 and 6-12
Acts 7, 9-16

"Rescue us from these slave-drivers," cried the Israelites to God. "We have to work on their building projects and in their fields and they have no mercy on us."

The Israelites had grown so numerous in the 430 years since they had followed Joseph to Egypt that the Egyptians began to fear their power and strength and put them to work on their palaces and pyramids. God heard their groaning and appointed Moses to lead them out of Egypt and into the desert. God guided them by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.



When the Egyptians pursued them the Israelites were terrified and said to Moses, "Did you have to bring us out to the desert to die?"

It would have been better to be slaves in Egypt than die here in the desert." God caused the Red Sea to part so that the Israelites could cross over but when the Egyptians went after them with their horses and chariots and drivers the waters rushed back and drowned them. The Israelites were safe to journey on.

They became thirsty and complained to Moses. God told Moses to throw a piece of wood into the bitter water and it became fit to drink. They craved meat. God sent flocks of quail. They longed for bread. God provided manna. They grumbled. "At least in Egypt we could sit down and eat meat and as much other food as we wanted, fish, cucumbers, watermelons, leeks, onions and garlic. Now there is nothing to eat but manna day after day."

God's love and steadfastness is contrasted with their ingratitude and unbelief. God rescued the Israelites from a cruel life, gave them a leader and the promise of a land to call theirs, answered their need for water and food, showed such forbearance and patience that it is breathtaking to read that they rebelled against the Almighty at the Red Sea.

How grateful are we for such love and such gifts?



**National
Trust**

National Trust Stowe

As we leave 2020 behind we reflect on a year like no other; it's been a tough year for the National Trust, like many other organisations, and so we now look ahead to 2021 with hope and optimism. We were so pleased to welcome visitors back to Stowe in June and although we are now opening in a new way, via a pre-booking system, we are so grateful to have so much space here at Stowe to share with everyone. We have gradually increased our capacity to enable more people to access Stowe and our much needed green spaces during this time while also monitoring numbers onsite for everyone's safety.

Despite everything going on around us nature continues to flourish in the gardens. Snowdrops are starting to emerge and blanket the landscape. Enjoy chilly walks to spot signs of them peeping through as they begin to appear throughout the Elysian Fields, Sleeping Wood, Grecian Valley and Lamport Garden. We're excited to bring back our snowdrop walk, with special paths re-opened for this season to see the best of these delicate flowers. The route will re-open on 15 January when a walk map will be available to download to guide you around the best snowdrop spots in the garden.



Snowdrops at Stowe ©National Trust Images

Meanwhile an additional walk – A garden undressed, can be followed to see the wider views across the lakes framed by the architecture of the leafless trees in winter. This walk is available to download from the website now and encourages you to look out for different sights and sounds as you take a moment to pause and reconnect with nature.

The gardens, café and shop at National Trust Stowe are open 7 days a week, 10am-4pm (closing at 5pm from 1 February) for pre-booked visits. Due to the change in tier restrictions the café is currently open for takeaway only. We will continue to follow government advice, please keep an eye on our website for updates. For more information and to book a ticket please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stowe We hope to see you soon.

JB



Winter sunlight shines over the Temple of Friendship
© National Trust Images



Dadford WI

As 2020 draws to a close it's time to look back but also to look forward. Sadly not a lot has happened in Dadford WI, including no Christmas activities this year. In the past we have enjoyed bring-and-share evenings, meals at the local hostelrys and even three-course Christmas dinners in the Village Hall. This Christmas has had to be



different so all members will have received a surprise WI Christmas parcel that we hope has brought a smile or two.

Administration for the WI still carries on behind the scenes, despite there being no meetings, and members have been asked to cast their votes

for the resolutions to go forward to the National Annual Meeting in 2021. Dadford WI AGM was not able to take place, as such, but officers and committee have agreed to stand for the forthcoming year.

Our membership has also been extended to April 2021, so let's look forward to a new WI year with the hope of getting back together possibly around Easter-time now a vaccine is in the pipeline.

We will have a lot of catching up to do and maybe able to fit in some extra events. Wishing you all on behalf of Dadford WI a Very Happy, Healthy and hopefully normal New Year.

Hope to see you soon.
Loreen

Note from editor: Perhaps WI members could let us know how they have kept busy during lockdown.



Nature Notes

I was planting some more lily bulbs this morning. They were a bit dried out as I had had them about a month ago but hadn't got round to putting them in the pot. As I trowelled a hole it made me

think of some people in a book I am reading.

They were planting narcissi and hyacinths which had been delivered. Others had requested seeds for forget me nots, candytuft, pansies, mignonette, cornflowers and more. They transplanted wallflowers, pansies and peonies. Others made Italianate gardens with box borders; others made rock gardens. Seeds for vegetables were requested too. Celery was grown in ready made trenches. Some further afield grew tomatoes. By the end of four years enough food was grown to feed huge numbers of people; in fact they were self sufficient in vegetables.

Sadly the people who planted the bulbs and sowed the seeds didn't all live to see the fruits of their labours. They were soldiers in France in the Great War. They knew this might be the case but they still gardened.



Shortly before war broke out, Sir Edward Grey, it was he who said: *"The lamps are going out all over Europe. We shall not see them lit again in our lifetime"*, perhaps overly pessimistically, took a twelve mile walk in the New Forest with President Roosevelt. They saw forty separate species of birds and heard the song of twenty. After the war he wrote a book called *The Charm of Birds*, 'the core message of which was that watching and listening to birds could bring solace and regeneration to the world-weary'.

World-weariness, isn't that exactly what people all over the world are feeling now? Even though vaccines are being rolled out to protect us against covid its legacy will be felt for years to come. Climate change is an even bigger threat. We have the example of those soldiers before us. We have all that God has given us to make the world a bearable place to live in for all peoples. It's time for the grand gesture, I think. If we donate to Tree Aid we may not see the particular trees planted but others will and we shall know we are benefiting from them.

Perhaps you live in a row of houses or a cul-de-sac and could suggest to each of your neighbours that you each plant a (dwarf form?) a fruiting tree eg crab apple, hawthorn that would feed you or the birds. It would create a corridor of blossom for bees and a larder of fruit for you or birds. Perhaps you know that you have hedgehogs and could make a hedgehog highway with your neighbours.

Perhaps you could have a bird feeding station with as many appendages as possible? A nest box? A bug hotel? Perhaps 2021 could be the year you gave up liquid soap/detergent or buy refills from the van that now comes to Buckingham market on Saturdays. They sell loose foodstuff too.

When you buy soap tablets I will plug a soap made in a workplace where 80 % of the work force is disabled. It is fragrance free and doesn't break up easily. It is called BECO. You will have to bend to find

it on the bottom shelf of the supermarket because big manufacturers pay to have their goods at an instantly noticeable height. As we come out of Europe you could watch for any back-sliding from the EU commitment to be carbon neutral by 2050 and if it seems unlikely for us, lobby our government.

Anything that would make you look back in a few years' time and say 2020 was tough but in 2021 we.....

I feel I have hogged these nature notes for too long and would like to pass them on to a fresh voice now. One less strident, you may say. Please contact Lyn if you feel you could carry on.

Note: *The book I referred to on the previous page is :*

Where Poppies Blow. *The British Soldier, Nature, The Great War* by John Lewis-Stempel, A farmer, naturalist and writer.



After all the decadent Christmas eating this will be a refreshing change!

Our version of **Waldorf Salad**

Roughly equal quantities of *diced apple and celery* with as many halved or quartered *walnuts* as you like . We use the same quantities as the vegetables. Stir in good *quality mayonnaise*, not too thick or it will countermand all the cholesterol-busting qualities of the walnuts.

This is good as a light lunch with some good chunky bread or with a jacket potato and cooked meat if wanted. If salad doesn't appeal on a cold winter's day, precede it with soup.

Services in January and February 2021

DATE	TIME	SERVICE	THEME	READINGS	LEAD / PREACH
Jan 3rd	8:00	Said 1662 Communion			
	9:45	Morning Prayer	Escape to Egypt	Hosea 11:1-4 Matthew 2:13-15	L - Kay P - Andrew
DECISIONS					
Jan 10th	9:45	1662 Communion	Joseph's decision	Ezra 7:1a + 6-10 Matthew 2:19-23	Gillian
Jan 17th	9:45	Family Service	Elizabeth's decision	Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:11-20 + 57-66	L&P - Kay
Jan 24th	9:45	Common Worship Communion	Eve's decision	Genesis 3:1-13 Luke 22:3-6	L&P - Rev. Max Wigley
Jan 31st	9:45	Morning Prayer	Cain's decision	Genesis 4:1-16 1 John 3:11-18	L&P - Val
Feb 7th	8:00	Said 1662 Communion			
	9:45	Morning Prayer	Lot's indecision	Genesis 19:12-26 Luke 18:20-35	L - Gillian P - Keith Croxton
Feb 14th	9:45	1662 Communion	Esau's decision	Genesis 25:27-34 Hebrews 12:14-17 + 22-24	Andrew
Feb 17th	19:30	Ash Wednesday Communion		Joel 2:1-2 + 12-17 Matthew 6:1-6 + 16-21	Gillian
GOD AND FAITHLESS ISRAEL SEEN IN PSALM 106					
Feb 21st	9:45	Family Service	Rebellion by the Red Sea	Psalms 106:1-2 + 6-12	L&P - Kay
Feb 28th	9:45	Common Worship Communion	Their craving puts God to the test	Psalms 106:13-15 Matthew 15:16-20 in	L - Rev. Tom Murray P - Andrew