

Dear Friends,

In our last Newsletter, Andrew Rudolf contrasted the beauty and certainties of spring with the total uncertainty of the Trump-inspired suffering and destruction in the Middle East. Alas, here we are in mid-summer with a world still full of appalling wars. We still need to turn, as Andrew did, to a famous psalm for uplift: 'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way.'

Christians at a time of war have always had that special source of uplift. I'm reminded of much helpful research I once did for a paperback, now out of print, *The Pilot and the Commando*. It was about two strongly-committed Christians, both with Stowe connections, in action in the Second World War. The commando was Jos Nicholl, Heather's uncle, who was vicar here in the late Seventies. The pilot was Heather's father, David Carter of the Fleet Air Arm, who was a lifelong friend of a regular worshipper at Stowe Church in the Sixties and Seventies, the headmaster Bob Drayson.

Soon after Heather and I were married, I had spent some time reading through a whole host of her father's papers that had come down to her. David Carter had died young, and so it was a way of getting to know him. Reading all his letters and private journals proved deeply moving. Indeed, they made me realise that my own adherence to the Christian faith was a pretty superficial one in comparison. The faith-led life of David Carter, in both wartime and subsequent peace, was such an inspiration, indeed, that I felt I should try to share it with others. Though I struggled for a publisher at the time, some years later, when Jos Nicholl, in retirement, wrote a detailed account of his experiences as a wartime commando, I was led to the idea of fusing the stories of the two brothers-in-law.

The Pilot and the Commando proved much more than just a commemoration of bravery. The central theme was the testing and strengthening of two young men's faith through times of deep adversity. David's witness to his Lord was vividly set against going down with the *Ark Royal*; a crash landing in the sea, when shot down while defending Sri Lanka (Ceylon); and a miraculous happening when lost in cloud amid the Scottish mountain tops. Jos, similarly often faced with situations where survival was in the balance, later humbly concluded: 'I have found that Jesus Christ provides the inspiration for every possible occasion or need. He can act as guide and helper and comforter, but primarily He can be the driving force in a life that is devoted to Him. It becomes true in practice that "the people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits".' Both lives were clearly all the more fruitful in peacetime, strengthened by the way they had been upheld amid all their wartime challenges.

Stirring memories! What gratitude we all share towards those who went before us with such fortitude, as we face our own much-challenged attempts to live fruitful lives. And this troubled summer, what help it is that we can turn in our anxieties to the words of Jesus, 'Come unto me, all you who travail and are heavy-laden, and I will refresh you.' How wonderful, indeed, that each and every Sunday we have Stowe Church calling out to us, inviting us to share its restorative atmosphere of joy and peace.

It is still, I believe, available on Kindle!

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PSALM 100

(A lyric from the NIV version, with thanks to the Dadford Bible Studies)

Tune: 'Crown Him With Many Crowns'

Remembering the Revd. Christopher Turner with gratitude and affection

Starting-point:

Trying not to lose sight of the structure of the whole series of imperatives in verses 1-4 (Shout! Worship! Come! Know! Enter! Give! Praise!) culminating in verse 5's kind of coda, giving three big aspects of God's greatness.

Shout, all the earth! Cry out hosannas to the Lord!
Sing worship-songs! Let them fly out in joy and glad accord!
Know that God is our rock! He made us and we're His.
We are the people of His flock. Our pastures lead to bliss.

Enter His gates with thanks! Enter His courts with praise!
Salute His Name! What can outflank His steadfast, holy ways?
GOODNESS, divine and vast! Enduring LOVE sublime!
And FAITHFULNESS so strong it lasts beyond the course of time!



Christopher with Mary Connor, February 2015

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Pentecost Service 24th May 2026

As we celebrated Pentecost we were visited by Jennifer Metcalfe who came to speak to us about her work in Nepal, a country she had visited and been involved with since 2019. Her illustrated talk was most enlightening.

Summary of Jennifer's talk

Pentecost the birth of the church. – a day of celebration

How Christianity came to Nepal

In 1932 an Irish woman named Lily O'Hanlon answered the call to the mission field. On a day when she was travelling by train she was looking out of the window and saw a vision of mountains calling her. The mountains were in Nepal, she said, "as I looked and looked, it seemed as if the carriage was filled with the glory of the Lord and that he was saying who will go for us. With an all but breaking heart I said Lord 'send Me.'"

The opening of the land and early church development in Nepal happened circa 1950.

It was in the year of 1952 before they entered Nepal and were also joined by the Nepali evangelist band. They settled in Pokara where the year before a doctor had arrived hoping to establish a hospital. The group received permission from the government to perform the first surgeries in 1953. The majority of the patients were suffering from leprosy. They named the hospital The Shining Hospital which shone in the sun through the beautiful mountains. Many people were cured of leprosy as people of God prayed with them. Miracles happened and in 1957 a leprosarium was built and named Green Pastures based on Psalm 23, 'he makes me lie down in green pastures he leads me beside quiet waters'. The name signified this building as a place of quietness, refreshment and a place of restoration of body and soul for leprosy patients.

Today, Christianity is growing, just like we have read in our bibles in the book of Acts. Nepal is much like the days of the early Christians. Small churches of 10 - 20 people were formed and meet together in basic makeshift spaces.

Jennifer continued by sharing some of the things she had seen and was involved with. (For more about her visits to Nepal visit Stowe Parish Church website and see sermons)

She completed her talk with this challenge:- *God has a plan for each of us, just as He poured out his spirit of love for us 2000 years ago, he still does today. So what does he want us to do?*

To love God, love others and make disciples.



*On behalf of the trustees and staff at **Bridgebuilder Trust** I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous donation in support of the Trust's work with children and young people. Through our programmes, we help them consider their beliefs, explore Christianity, and make positive life choices.*

We are deeply grateful for your support. Without the generosity of supporters such as Stowe Church, we would not be able to continue our mission and reach so many young people with this important work.

Thank you once again for your kindness and partnership.



Stowe Church has been awash with beautiful flowers and confetti this year as two weddings have taken place and two more are forthcoming.

18th April - Harriet Agnew and Richard Apthorp
29th May - Karolina Jablonska and Stephen Crack

11th July - Imogen Wallersteiner and Thomas Trower
15th August - Isobel Close-Smith and Harry Ewert



Karolina and Stephen Crack 29th May 2026

DADFORD WI
July - August 2026

On the 9th of July we will be taking a look back over eighty years of Dadford WI. Looking through the scrap books and memorabilia, rekindling memories of times gone by and hopefully taking a new picture to update the scrapbooks.



Then on the 13th August we have been kindly invited to have our birthday tea in one of our members' beautiful garden. We are hoping for good weather to help us celebrate in style.

Enjoy the holiday season, *Loreen*

DADFORD BIBLE STUDY

Everyone is welcome to this informal and friendly group as we get together to look at the Bible and what it means for us today.

We will be meeting for approximately one hour at Dadford Village Hall at 10.00am Friday 10th July.

Any questions please ring: Rev Cathy Pearce 01280 821976

I'm available in the Parish Wednesdays and Thursdays, and at Sunday services .

Thank you
Cathy

Jesus said "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" John 10:10



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

This term has been another exciting one, with lots of opportunities for outdoor learning and play, whilst appreciating the warmer weather, when it hasn't been raining! The Year 1 class have enjoyed a trip out from Akeley to explore the local area and discover more about the Old Gaol and Buckingham, as well as some of the history behind Stowe by visiting the gardens there too.

Our Year 5 class enjoyed an exciting chance to take part in a Science Festival at the Royal Latin School in May. Last half term, they were also fortunate to have had some thrilling PE sessions with Northampton Saints Rugby club, who additionally provided the opportunity for our older children to enjoy some after-school training sessions too.

We proudly took part in the Buckingham 500 project, at the end of May, collecting cans to help cover 500m in a collective community food-bank project. At school the children have also helped to fill baskets with items in a class colour, to support the PTFAs colour raffle this term. As a thank you, the children were allowed to wear their own clothes for the day.

In June we enjoyed Sports Day, where we came together again as a school, and our Marvellous Men assemblies where we celebrated the magnificent male figures in our lives ahead of Father's Day.

Our Year 4 class had a thrilling time on their three day residential at Everdon Outdoor Learning Centre at the start of June. The Foundation stage class also experienced a wonderful time on a class trip to Gulliver's World; along with a joint trip with the Key Stage 1 classes to see a performance of The Tiger Who Came to Tea.

As we head to the end of the academic year, we will begin our transition sessions for our Year 2 pupils before the move up to the Chackmore site in September, as well as Stay and Play sessions for our incoming Foundation children, helping all the children to find out more about their new classroom and get to know some friendly faces there. We also are excited to welcome all the new children and their families to our school, as they join the Foundation or Year 3 classes for September.

We end the year with the traditional Leavers Assembly for our Year 6s and a Moving Up celebration for our Year 2s. This is as well as a Leavers disco and the Year 5 and 6 play at the end of term too.

We wish all our Year 6 children the very best in their new schools. We additionally wish all our families a relaxing and peaceful Summer Holidays. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September!

Date 2026	Warden/Sidespeople	Prayers	Refreshments	
Jul 5th	Andrew Rudolf/Lyn and Ray East	Liturgy	Kay Murray	
Jul 12th	Gill Smith/Patricia Forbes		Elspeth Mullineux	
Evensong at Dadford Chapel				
Jul 19th	Nancy Pullin/Kay Murray	Andrew Rudolf	Lyn East	
Healing Service at Stowe				
Jul 26th	Andrew Rudolf/Chris Close-Smith	Gill Smith	Gill Smith	
Aug 2nd	Andrew Rudolf/Lyn and Ray East	Liturgy	Nancy Pullin	
Aug 9th	Tamara and John Kimpton		Nancy Shepherd	
Evensong at Dadford Chapel				
Aug 16th	Andrew Rudolf/Lyn and Ray East	Kay Murray	Tamara Kimpton	
Aug 23rd	Gill Smith/Chris Close-Smith	Tamara Kimpton	Elspeth Mullineux	
Aug 30th	Richard and Essex Close Smithj	Gill Smith	Kay Murray	
Date 2026	Flowers	Cleaning	Prayer-board	
Jul 5th	Kay Murray		John Kimpton	
Jul 12th	Loreen Williams		Gill Smith	
Evensong at Dadford Chapel				
Jul 19th	Val Rickwood (Cathy's mum)	John and Tamara Kimpton	Kay Murray	
Healing Service at Stowe				
Jul 26th	Heather Meredith		Lyn East	
Aug 2nd	Kay Murray		Tamara Kimpton	
Aug 9th		Chris Close Smith	John Kimpton	
Evensong at Dadford Chapel				
Aug 16th	Isobel Close Smith's Wedding on 15th		Gill Smith	
Aug 23rd	Lyn East		Kay Murray	
Aug 30th	Heather Meredith	Lyn and Ray East	Lyn East	
Date 2026	Time	Service	Lead/Preach	Chalice
Jul 5th	9:45	1662 Communion	Rev Cathy Pearce	Lyn East
Jul 12th	9:45	Family Service	Kay Murray	
	18:00	Evensong in Dadford Cemetery Chapel	Andrew Rudolf	
Jul 19th	9:45	Common Worship Communion	Rev Hans Taling	Andrew Rudolf
	18:00	Healing Service	Rev Chris Murray	
Jul 26th	9:45	Morning Prayer	Rev Cathy Pearce	
Aug 2nd	9:45	1662 Communion	Rev Cathy Pearce	John Kimpton
Aug 9th	9:45	Family Service	Rev Cathy Pearce	
	18:00	Evensong in Dadford Cemetery Chapel	Rev Cathy Pearce	
Aug 16th	9:45	Common Worship Communion	Rev Hans Taling	Lyn East
Aug 23rd	9:45	Morning Prayer	L - Andrew Rudolf P - Paul Mileham	
Aug 30th	9:45	Mission Morning Prayer	Rev Val Plumb	