

# Stowe Nine Churches

April 2026  
Spring Newsletter

## Parish Council News

### • School room refurbishment

Following receipt of the CIL payment from West Northants Council, we are pleased to announce that the first phase renovation to the toilet block in the Old School Rooms has now been completed. The first bathroom now has a new toilet, sink and flooring.

The second bathroom, once funding has been raised, will be renovated and turned into a storeroom. Thank you to the contractor Andrew Muggleston for his work.

### • Update on the Ever growing Pot holes.

We seem to have had the odd pot hole repaired recently but most unfortunately are still outstanding with many more appearing.

Please continue to help us to stem the ever growing issue by reporting them to:- [FixMyStreet.com](http://FixMyStreet.com)

How to report a problem

1. Enter a nearby UK postcode, or street name and area
2. Locate the problem on a map of the area
3. Enter details of the problem
4. FixMyStreet will send it to the council on your behalf

Please be aware that the current lead time for reported issues to be fixed, is around 20 weeks. If you feel the matter is more urgent or dangerous, please escalate this through the Parish clerk - Linda carter at :

[clerk@stoweninechurches-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stoweninechurches-pc.gov.uk)

### • Highways & Footpaths

If you have any issues, recommendations regarding the up keep of the footpaths, then please send Sharon Mitchell, Voluntary Footpath Warden, an email titled 'Footpath' @ : [mitchellhallsharon@gmail.com](mailto:mitchellhallsharon@gmail.com)

Sharon works full-time so her response to you may be a little delayed, she will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

### • Dog Mess

There has been an increasing number of complaints received from locals regarding the amount of dog mess found in the Parish. This is on the pavements, grass verges and more frequently the footpaths in the fields.

Following a consultation period where the installation of dog waste bins was voted as NOT required by the Parish, could we PLEASE ask dog owners to be responsible and pick up your dogs poo so that others don't find themselves accidentally treading in it.

### • Crime Prevention Packs

The Office of Police, Fire Crime Commissioner (OPFCC) has agreed to fund crime prevention packs for every household in the parish. The 'Crime Prevention in a box' scheme provides standardised crime prevention materials and practical information on community safety to encourage proactive security habits. The boxes will be delivered to the Parish during April, and hand delivered to each household thereafter

### • Next Parish Council Meeting :

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 8pm

School Rooms, Church Stowe

Please visit the below website for agendas and relevant papers

<https://stoweninechurches-pc.gov.uk>

## Church Services

Details of future Church services are to be found on the village notice boards

Benefice news sheets are posted through letterboxes every month. If you haven't received one and would like to do so, please contact :

Stephen Henley on 07725 705919  
for St Michael's, Church Stowe

John Stanley on 07850 341402  
for St James', Upper Stowe



## Keith Mason - a message from Audrey

It is with much sadness that we announce the passing of Keith Mason. Keith lived in Church Stowe with Audrey, his wife, for many years and was very much part of the community spirit.



Audrey would like to thank all the people who sent cards and condolences containing many kind thoughts and memories of Keith. She would like to thank you for the love and support given to her at this very sad time.

## St. James' Church, Upper Stowe

Hopefully some of you have now had chance to visit St. James' Church and seen the beautifully restored Victorian stencilling in the chancel. The work, paid for from money raised from the sale of secondhand books has transformed the east wall behind the altar.

The original stencilling on the north and south walls is also in desperate need of restoration and the main body of the church requires painting to bring the building to its former glory.

A cost for this work has been obtained and in total it comes to just over £8000; there is approximately £3000 remaining in the fabric fund from books sold - thank you to all who support the Book Shed at the Old Dairy Farm.

If you feel able to donate to this project then please contact John Stanley (on behalf of the PCC) on [07850341402](tel:07850341402) [john.stanley@agrii.co.uk](mailto:john.stanley@agrii.co.uk)

## Village Handyman

Sandy will be out and about the villages carrying out various maintenance jobs.

If you have any tasks you feel need adding to his work schedule, please contact Sharon Henley on 07799 960223

## SAVE THE DATE

STOWE NINE CHURCHES PCC

### QUIZ NIGHT

15<sup>th</sup> May

AT

THE SCHOOL ROOMS CHURCH STOWE  
7 for 7.30pm,

## St Michael's Wildlife Churchyard

A big thank you to everyone who came along to our working party in March to trim, weed, dig, chop, rake.....and, of course, enjoy a bun, a cuppa and a chat! It was a beautiful day and we got so much done - THANK YOU!



We're hoping to have another working party in early summer and will post details on the village website nearer the time.

In the mean time we are also looking for someone to join our mowing team to help keep the small formal area to the front of the church looking neat and tidy and to maintain the grass paths through the meadow and other areas. It's a relatively small time commitment and can be done on an 'as and when' basis in coordination with our other mower(s). If you are able to help out that would be brilliant - please contact me to discuss.

(07957 821578 / [jan.greenjade@gmail.com](mailto:jan.greenjade@gmail.com))



## Save the date! Stowe IX Churches Village Fete

Saturday 18th July,  
2 - 4pm

The fete will be held in St James' Churchyard and all proceeds will go towards the Churches.

For more information, please contact Alice Corbett on 07540 198767

## WI News & Future Program

### • Foraging- April 14th

A talk on what to forage by local expert Lizzy from Woodford Halse.

### • Fancy a dip? May 12th

A discussion of open water swimming by the Blue Tits

### • Arts & Crafts - June 9th

Gelli plate arts and crafts with Lola Hoyes from Make, Create and Capture based at the Dairy Farm

We Meet at the Old School Rooms, Church Stowe 7:30pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month unless we are out and about. Join us for a free taster evening, or just £26.90 for 12 months running yearly from April to March.

To join us, please contact Audrey Mason, our WI President, on 01327 341146.

Watch out for more exciting events planned for Summer in the next newsletter

## SAVE THE DATE

Celebrating 40 Years  
1986 - 2026

### The Old Dairy Farm

Crafts: Shopping: Food

4th July  
AT

Main Street  
Upper Stowe

## Produce Store Church stowe

The produce stall will once again be in position from May half term outside the school rooms in Church Stowe. As the year moves on, if you have surplus fruit or vegetables, cuttings or plants from your garden, please put them on the bench for others to make use of them.

Donations can be made via the pink pot in the porch of the Old School House and will be used for general church funds.

## Gardening Club

### SAVE THE DATES

Rose show - Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June

Flower & Produce show - Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>  
September



## Spotlight on Business in our Parish

### Magnolia Barn

The Old Dairy Farm  
Upper Stowe, Northamptonshire, NN7 4SH  
tel: 07946536187

Natalie and Emma would like to thank everyone who visited Magnolia Barn following the article on their business in the last newsletter.

The winners of the workshop are Wui Lin lee & Hugh Jeremy.  
Well done to both of you !



THE  
OLD DAIRY  
FARM  
CRAFT CENTRE  
EST 1986

### The Old Dairy Farm

In July 1986, the Old Dairy Farm Craft centre in Upper Stowe was opened by Helen Brodie and began to welcome it's first visitors

The Farm changed from dairy to sheep farming in the late 1960's, making most of the farm buildings redundant. except those used for storage, sadly some of them fell into a poor state of repair due to the lack of use. however, with the foresight of Helen and her husband Dennis, one of the buildings was made into a cafe and antiques centre.

Soon, crafters and retailers were enquiring about renting space in the other buildings - as restoration continued. from these early beginnings, the Centre developed over the years into a popular local destination - one of the first of of its type in the country.

As many of the original features as possible have been left to add to the charm and character, which continue to make the centre unique.

Today, The Old Dairy Farm continues to support a variety of small and independent businesses, artists and crafts people, offering a relaxed atmosphere for dining and shopping in the Northamptonshire countryside



### Spring update from the Sykes Family at Stowe Heights

Easter always marks the start of our year - the veg season has started, lambing is nearly underway, and the farm is looking wonderful. We're coming up to five years at Stowe Heights Farm, and it's been incredibly rewarding to see how far things have come. We've planted over 1,500 native trees alongside a significant number of fruit trees and soft fruit bushes, established our Market Garden, and developed our polytunnels to extend our growing season so we can provide seasonal produce all year round. We are also running learning visits for schools, community groups and clubs, supporting the farm to fork education initiative. Our Saturday morning pop up farm shop is now a regular fixture, and we're really proud to be producing nutrient-dense, chemical-free, pesticide-free food here, supplied directly to our local community. Our first Saturday shop of the season is Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April from 9am - 12noon and we are excited that we will be in our refurbished Dutch Barn this year.

We would love to welcome you to the farm and hope to see you on a Saturday morning soon! The Sykes Family  
[www.stoweheightsfarm.co.uk](http://www.stoweheightsfarm.co.uk)

### Food Bank

Donations are still much appreciated and collected weekly from St James' Church porch, Upper Stowe & monthly from St Michael's, Church Stowe

### Future Newsletters

If you have an announcements, events or update that you would like included in the next newsletter, please email at : [clerk@stoweninechurches-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stoweninechurches-pc.gov.uk)

If you would be happy to receive future newsletters by email or wish to contribute any information for the Spring edition. Please email the Parish Clerk - Linda Carter on the following email address. [clerk@stoweninechurches-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stoweninechurches-pc.gov.uk)

