



Appointment of our new Rector

The churchwardens are pleased to announce that the **Revd Cassa Messervy** has been formally offered the position of rector of our benefice by the Bishop of Buckingham and has accepted.

Cassa is presently vicar of Holy Trinity Church, Seer Green and Jordans, and Assistant Area Dean, Amersham Deanery. The date when she will join us is dependent on the availability of the new rectory in Haddenham, hopefully early March. We will keep you updated.

Please remember Cassa and her family in your prayers and also the other candidates who put in much time and commitment in applying but were unsuccessful.

A new phase in the life of our Benefice is beginning which no doubt will be exciting and challenging as God leads us forward.



*Heavenly Father we pray for the new rector and her family as they prepare for their move to our benefice next year. We thank you for her calling and appointment and ask that your Holy Spirit will instil in all of us across the benefice a clear vision for your churches and its people.
Amen*

Current arrangements at SJB

We are delighted to be able to meet together again for worship, starting today. Sadly we still cannot sing in church but you are welcome to bring your own Bible if you wish. The church has been properly prepared and places are socially distanced. Hand sanitiser and anti- bacterial spray are readily available. Face coverings must be worn in church except by those under 11 years old.

The porch will continue to be open for private prayer every day during daylight hours.

Keeping up to date

There is now a special page on the website for services and events which could change over Christmas. This will be the most up to date information.

<http://stonedintonhartwell.com/christmas>

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE



Wychert Vale Benefice

www.wychertvale.org



Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

Churches of: St. John Baptist, STONE; Ss Peter & Paul, DINTON; Assumption of St. Mary the Virgin, HARTWELL

www.stonedintonhartwell.com

St. John the Baptist STONE

Sunday 13th December

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:30am MORNING WORSHIP

led by Revd Sue Smith

Readings: Isaiah 64.1-4, 8-end

John 1.6-8, 19-28

The third Sunday of Advent in the church calendar is also known as Gaudete Sunday.

Gaudete means 'rejoice' so let us all do that not only today, but throughout the Christmas season!



'Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus'
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Next week both services will be led by David Pickup

9.00am - Matins

10.30am - Morning Worship

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Dear Friends,

This week we have two videos for you.

The first is a [Christingle at Home](#) service that is based on the DIY Christingle at St Mary's Haddenham last year and is in preparation for the Christingle crafts at St Nicks Cuddington on Sunday. It follows the same pattern we have used in Stone - both with the School and in Church.

Our [Service for Advent 3](#) features Olive preaching on John the Baptist and Gordon is leading.

Next week we are looking forward to our own music for a Benefice Carol Service with singers from across the benefice in the Witchert Chorale and a celebrity singer - more news to come. Our Advent service will focus on Mary and will feature a sermon by Trish Mander.

Phil Groves Associate Rector in the Wychert Vale Benefice Phone 01296 748 390



Follow the Star on Christmas Eve

Even though we cannot hold our usual Crib Service this year we can still celebrate the nativity together in a family friendly way.

A few days before Christmas stars will appear all around the village and we will be invited to follow them to the church on Christmas Eve.

The church will be open on Christmas Eve 2 – 5pm and everyone is invited to come and visit the Crib under the altar. You may even meet some of the familiar characters from the Christmas story outside the church as you arrive!

You can also see the Christmas tree that will have been decorated with all the stars returned to us from the Church Christmas cards.



We need **lots of volunteers** both before and on the day, and we would like the **whole village** to take part in some way. If you want to visit the crib in your own angel, shepherd, or wise man costume we will be delighted!

For further details please give Naomi a call tel no: 747689

SJB Facilities Fund

When ordering your last minute online purchases this year don't forget you can also raise donations for the SJB Facilities Fund! Simply visit the intended retailer via the Giving Machine and we will receive a donation from the shop without costing you a penny. Full details at www.stonedintonhartwell.com/stone/facilities

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Socks for prisoners



Today we look forward to hearing from Revd Sue Smith about her work as a prison chaplain in HMP Grendon and Springhill. Here at SJB we are raising the funds for Sue and the prison chaplaincy to give each man a new pair of socks for Christmas. That is **500 pairs of socks!** For some this will be the first Christmas present they have received for many years. Another church is providing bars of chocolate to go with the socks. At the end of this difficult year when prison visits have been restricted we pray that these gifts will help each man to know he has not been forgotten.

***'Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering'.
Hebrews 13:3***

You can make a donation to the sock appeal when you come to any of our December services or by contacting Naomi 747689 or Jenny 748170.

Although the usual prison services are not taking place the chaplains are preparing and presenting 17 reflections over the next two weeks so that the men can still experience God's love for them. This will be a very busy time for the chaplains!

Loving Heavenly Father we pray for the chaplaincy team in the prisons as they prepare the series of reflections. We ask that through those words and thoughts you will speak into the hearts of the men and bring them comfort at such a hard time. We thank you for the work of the chaplaincy and pray that you will sustain them through this busy time and keep them safe. Enable them to deliver the socks and chocolate in an organised way so that nobody is left out. In the name of your son Jesus we pray. Amen



Dinton Church - Luxury Christmas Hamper draw

The Revd Nigel Featherstone pulled the tickets out of the tombola drum and the winners were:-

1st prize Carl Thompson – 2nd prize Audrey Manners - 3rd prize Cecily Luther

The proceeds of just over £1,200 will be donated the Aylesbury Vineyard Foodstore. Thankyou to the very generous donors of the luxury goods prizes and thanks also to every single one of the very generous villagers who purchased the tickets. There is a video which will be on the Wychert Vale and Stone, Dinton and Hartwell websites within the next few days. Well Done Everyone.

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