

This Christmas

Christmas may be different for us this year but its central message remains the same. God's love is not defeated by the pandemic.



For those who will be apart from their families

we ask your blessings Lord

For those who will be alone because they always are

we ask your blessings Lord

For those who are grieving the loss of a loved one

we ask your blessings Lord

For those who will be caring for the sick in hospital or at home

we ask your blessings Lord

For those who are serving the hungry and the homeless

we ask your blessings Lord

For those in prison and feeling forgotten

we ask your blessings Lord

For those who have lost hope for the future

we ask your blessings Lord

For those who will be working to keep our vital services functioning

we ask your blessings Lord

For each and every one of us

we ask your blessings Lord

Pastor Mick

Did you see 'Pastor Mick' from Burnley on the BBC News? he has a powerful story to tell about how God redeemed him from a life of violence and drugs to one of serving the hungry and homeless following a modern day Damascus Road experience.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/stories-55273677>

Current arrangements at SJB

We are delighted to be able to meet together again for worship. 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.

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 20th December

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00am MATINS

10:30am MORNING WORSHIP
led by David Pickup



Readings: Psalm 144

Isaiah 7:10-16

Romans 1:1-7

Christmas Eve 11:30pm Midnight service (no communion)

Christmas Day 9:00am Christmas Thanksgiving service at DINTON

Next Sunday 10:30am Morning Worship

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Dear Friends,

Rev Trish Mander preaches at [Our Service](#) this week. It closes our Advent series and she asks us to look closely at Mary.

Christmas is upon us and we have an internet sensation. Nearly 2,000 people have watched Fran Flaxton explain [the meaning of the Christingle](#). You could join them - you may want to have a Christingle service at home and the link to our service is [here](#).

We do have a Benefice Carols Service on the way featuring the Witchert Chorale and a solo rendition of O Come All Ye Faithful by Tony Hadley. We hope it will be with you for Sunday Evening.

Phil Groves

Associate Rector in the Wychert Vale Benefice

Phone 01296 748 390

Follow the Star on Christmas Eve



Following Buckinghamshire going into Tier 4,

We have had to cancel Follow the Star

However, Amidst all the bad news we have an online Carol Service for you. We hope it warms your hearts.

The readers are Farmers (Shepherds) and Inn Keepers (and an amateur carpenter).

One of the Inn Keepers (retired) is our own Enid Robinson.

It features music played by Richard Smith and a wonderful Choir - the Witchert Chorale - filmed in St Mary's Haddenham. It also has Tony Hadley singing O Come all ye Faithful (with Richard accompanying him).

You can find this Carol Service on our website at

www.stonedintonhartwell.com/christmas



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Parliamentary Carol Service

For the first time this year the carol service in the Houses of Parliament was streamed online, and it was viewed on Tuesday evening from around the world. The good news is that the service has now been made available for anyone to watch on You Tube. Here it is <https://youtu.be/VpyoJkAqLnw> enjoy!

Socks for prisoners



During Advent we have been raising funds for the prison chaplaincy team in HMP Grendon and Springhill 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. The socks have now been bagged up ready to go out to the men and Revd Sue Smith has sent her thanks to us all.

***'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 still donate to the sock appeal by contacting Naomi 747689 or Jenny 748170.

The chaplains have been preparing 17 reflections which the men can sign up to attend in very small groups. We pray that they will be able to experience God's love through his word.

Loving Heavenly Father we thank you for the work the prison chaplains are doing at such a difficult time. We pray that you will sustain them through this busy week and keep them safe. We ask that the reflections they have shared with the men will have brought them comfort and hope for the future. We pray too that the gift of socks will show that the outside church holds them in their prayers. In the name of your son Jesus we pray. Amen



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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