

Current arrangements at SJB

We are delighted to report that from next week we are able to start our 10.30am services again in the church and we looking forward to worshipping together again.

Our online services will continue for those who are not able to join us in the church.

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

We are doing our best to keep you informed about church services and activities but they may have to change at the last minute. . These are the main channels of communication we are using so please check them regularly:

- The church noticeboards on Bishopstone Road and Church Way
- The parish website www.stonedintonhartwell.com
- This pewsheets. It is put together on a Friday night/Saturday morning so it is reasonably up to date. If you know anyone who would benefit from receiving it each Sunday morning please encourage them to contact us. We are not allowed to send it out to anyone who has not requested it pewsheets@stonedintonhartwell.com
- The Parish News magazine, although this may be out of date on some matters by the time you receive it. There are still articles worth reading though magazine@stonedintonhartwell.com
- By telephone – this is where we can ALL play our part. Now is the time to ring each other and check everyone is ok ESPECIALLY those who do not have access to the internet or who live alone



Wychert Vale Benefice

www.wychertvale.org

DIOCESE OF
OXFORD

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 29th November ADVENT SUNDAY

Dear friends

Advent is when we place the first coming of Jesus in the context of a long period of waiting and remember that we are energised by hope for the second coming.

In our Advent Sunday Service Phil Groves helps us see how frail the line that led from the Patriarchs to Jesus was and the part played by the heroic woman Tamar. He shows how dark the darkness was before the light came and gives hope that, in our darkness now, light is coming.

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



The first candle on our Advent wreath represents the patriarchs – Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

In the reading from Matthew 1:1-4 we hear the first ten generations in the genealogy of Jesus and it mentions Tamar even though she is a woman.

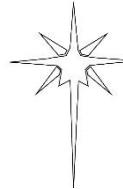
Next week at 10.30am – Morning worship in church
led by David Robinson

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE

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Christmas plans for the family

Sadly we will not be able to pass Mary and Joseph around the village this year for our annual posada, and we cannot hold our Christmas Eve Crib service as the church is always packed for this popular event. **However** we have been working on exciting plans for **something new** so that we still celebrate the nativity together in a family friendly way.



- A few days before Christmas stars will start to appear all around the village and we will be invited to follow them to the church on Christmas Eve.
- We also need lots more decorated stars to hang on our Christmas tree in the church. The whole village will be invited to contribute those.
- 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!

We need **lots of volunteers** both before and on the day, and we would like the **whole village** to take part in some way. We are looking for people to:



1. Deliver Christmas cards from 13th December onwards
2. Make big stars and help put them up around the village
3. Dress up as shepherds, Wise Men, Angels etc on the day
4. Clear up afterwards!

To be part of this please give Naomi a call tel no: 747689

Dinton Church
Luxury Christmas Hamper
Proceeds to the Aylesbury Vineyard Food Bank
Tickets £5

Luxury Christmas Hamper contents include:

Starveall Farm Turkey, Champagne, Christmas pudding & Christmas cake, and MUCH more

Draw to take place on 12th December 2020

Full details are on the parish website: www.stonedintonhartwell.com/

Contacts: - Rosemary Jackson 07751 393377 Nicky Bancroft 07957 431775
 Valma Thompson 01296 748561



BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE

Speak out against cuts to overseas aid

How to write to your MP

Following the Chancellor's announcement in his Spending Review this week of a 'temporary' reduction in the international development budget, [Bishop Steven has written to all MPs](#) representing the three counties of Oxfordshire, Berkshire, and Buckinghamshire to express his disappointment at the decision and to urge them to reject the cuts. You can add your voice too. [Here's a sample letter](#), be sure to adjust the text so that it is clearly from you, and [here's how to contact your MP](#).



Dear Lord Jesus

As we prepare ourselves for the time when you come again in glory we pray for the grace and honesty to recognise what needs transforming in our lives. Increase our faith and our love for you so that we may also bring your light into the darkness.

Amen

Socks for prisoners

This year we have all had to adapt to not being able to visit friends and family members as freely as we would like. Those in prison have been affected by this even more than usual without receiving visitors and having to stay isolated even within the prison.

'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

Our church has a connection with HMP Grendon and Springhill through Revd Sue Smith who lives in Stone and worships with us when she can. She will also be leading our service on 13th December. This Christmas we have decided to support the work Sue does as part of the prison chaplaincy team. So we are asking for donations towards the cost of **500 pairs of socks** that will be given out to the men as a Christmas present from the chaplaincy, so they know they are not forgotten. For some this will be the first Christmas present they have received for many years. There will be opportunities to make a donation to the sock appeal when you come to any of our December services or by contacting Naomi 747689 or Jenny 748170

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