

Book Review “The God I Don’t Understand”

There are few advantages of lockdown. One of them is to catch up on some reading. I rarely ever recommend a book but in these strange times I would like to encourage you to read “The God I Don’t Understand” by Chris Wright. Dr Wright is International Director of the Langham Partnership International and one of the country’s leading theologians.

In the book he explores four of the most difficult subjects Christians generally face: the problem of evil, the genocide of Joshua, how people in the 21st century can make sense of the cross, and prophecies about the end of the world. The author is thoroughly committed to the supreme authority of Scripture. At the same time he faces with integrity the problems of biblical interpretation. There are many things we don’t understand about God. We do not have final answers to the deep problems of life. There are areas of mystery in our Christian faith. In this book we are encouraged to face up to the limitations of our understanding. Chris Wright is a gift to the church and this book is a gift to all of us who care enough about our faith to question it. I commend this book. *David Robinson*



Heavenly Father we pray for your blessing and encouragement on all who minister to us in our parish. These are challenging times for the ministry team and for us all while we cannot meet together in our churches. There are many in our community who are sick, bereaved, or in isolation and they all need the comfort, healing, and hope for the future that your loving presence can bring. We pray that you will show us how we can share your love in practical ways with our neighbours and friends so that nobody is left feeling alone, unloved, or afraid. Amen

Struggling with prayer?

We all struggle with prayer from time to time, and we probably think everyone else has got it sorted. This 12 minute podcast on UCB Media features an interview with the daughter of Billy Graham in which she talks about her own prayer struggles and how she overcomes them. <https://player.lightcast.com/zMTMOYjM>

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE



Wyche Vale Benefice
www.wychevale.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 24th January

Our church building is now closed for in person worship until there is a significant change in the circumstances.

However, you are welcome to join us online for a zoom service every Sunday at 10:30. This week our service will be led by Revd Nigel Featherston.

Login by using this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88617212701?pwd=UHpnS1hXRIAvRHFLS0RTaTg1ZXpGdz09>

You can also phone in on these numbers: 020 3901 7895 or 0131 460 1196 (You do not need to set a participant ID)

Meeting ID: 886 1721 2701

Passcode: Service

The service sheet is on the website www.stonedintonhartwell.com where you can also read about last week’s service.

Meetings coming up - all meetings are online

Weds 27th - 7:30pm

SJB committee

Weds 10th Feb - 8:00pm

PCC meeting

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Seeing clearly



John 3:16-21

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. ¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

It feels as though none of us can see clearly at the moment. We do not know how long the pandemic will last or when the vaccines will start working. It is difficult to plan for the future. We are stumbling in the dark. This passage contains an important phrase about Jesus being sent to save us and goes on to say that Jesus is like light coming into a dark place.

A Christian is not a perfect person but someone who sees clearly that Jesus is the light and we need that light in our lives. Despite the darkness around us, that Light has come into the world, and we can step into it and live by it.

We need to switch on that light in our own lives and then take another look around.

David Pickup

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Benefice service online

Dear friends,

This [Sunday's Morning Worship](#) picks up on the theme of Baptism in Rowan Williams book *Being Christian*.

We are to be prophets, priests and kings - *Living Stones* - and Phil reflects on what it is to be church while in exile from our buildings.

Phil Groves

Associate Rector in the Wychert Vale Benefice

Phone 01296 748 390

This service has been pre-recorded so it can be viewed at any time. The service this week was recorded in SJB and is led by Phil Groves.

Tony Lisk

Forty or so years ago, Shirley and Tony Lisk moved into Stone for the first time and swiftly became stalwart members of the Parish - always friendly and helpful to so many of us. They became great friends of David and Cynthia Cooke and many other couples in the Parish, picking up their friendships and church activities again after a short sojourn back in South Wales.

Tony has done so much in the Parish, not just at SJB - Churchwarden, longstanding PCC member, sideman, reading the lessons, leading the prayers, member of the choir - and always correctly and reverently.

He and Shirley were part of the group organising cross-Parish social activities and would always support church events; he was the Parish representative for the BRF; he was in charge of the grass cutting in SJB churchyard and the mowers -people and machines! He was the Parish News Advertising Manager and the Parish photographer.

Even after Shirley's death, Tony has been a great church member and continued with so many duties. Now he is moving to be near his son in Cheltenham. We are so very grateful for all your input into our Parish, Tony, and will hold you in our prayers. We wish you Godspeed, good health and a happy time near your family.

Eryl Morgan

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