

Hope for 2021

We all need something to look forward to in these difficult times. HOPE is one of the things that brings us through to the other side and so we want to share this with others.

What have you been doing during the long days of lockdown? Do you have things that you have done that could be shared with others to show the brighter side of the situation we are in at present? I have been crocheting and sewing things for my granddaughters and I know lots of others have been creative too.

Our beautiful collage of HOPE was done recently by one of our mother and daughter crafters. Please send us a photo of your work to brighten up our website and bring [HOPE FOR 2021](#)



Send your photos to webmaster@stonedintonhartwell.com

Have you [checked out the website](#) since last week? We already have a splendid gallery of your handicrafts on display. Keep sending in your pictures. There really is a lot of talent in our village.

Have you seen the snowdrops?



When you have been out for your daily exercise recently have you noticed the snowdrops that are coming through?

There are plenty outside the churchyard on Bishopstone Road. They are always a delight to see when they first appear as they lift our spirits with the promise of Spring and new life.

As the snowdrop is the first flower to bloom at the end of winter and the beginning of spring, it is also a traditional **symbol of hope**.

The new vaccines have brought us hope that Covid can be defeated, but the Holy Spirit can bring us a longer lasting hope.

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit'

Romans 15:13

Weds. 10th Feb - 8:00pm PCC meeting online

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 7th February

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.

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

#PrayerfortheNation



COVID-19 has caused much suffering and sadness, with more than two million lives lost worldwide. In response to this the Archbishops of Canterbury and York invite all of us to call on God in Prayer. They are asking us to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day.

More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love. Follow [Thy Kingdom Come](#) on social media for daily prayers, and you can find an easy to use, [printable prayer booklet here](#), to help you as you pray. You can also see the [Church of England's](#) website for further resources.

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Our lectionary reading - Mark 1:29-39

29 As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. 30 Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. 31 He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.



32 That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. 33 And the whole city was gathered around the door. 34 And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

35 In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. 36 And Simon and his companions hunted for him. 37 When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." 38 He answered, "Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do."

39 And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Jesus didn't come into the world to be a celebrity, although he could have been one. He attracted large crowds because of his words and action, his teaching, his power over evil spirits, his healing and miracles.

He went to Simon and Andrew's house, which he probably used as a base for his ministry around Galilee. Here Jesus healed Simon's mother-in-law who was unwell with a fever.

Notice how gentle Jesus was. "He took her hand and helped her up". After being healed she served them. Being served by Jesus changes lives and makes us willing to serve others.

People had enthusiasm for Jesus but that doesn't equate to faith in Jesus. Jesus hadn't come to dispense gifts to a needy crowd, but to give himself to needy souls.

Even though Jesus is the Son of God, He still needed time alone to pray, as we all do. He started the day with prayer. He then went to the nearby villages even though there were still sick people coming to him. He hadn't come to earth only to heal the sick.

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He came because there is another pandemic, more universal than COVID-19, more infectious, more lethal, because everyone who gets this disease dies. It is a disease the Bible calls sin. That's why Jesus came. To pay the penalty for our sin and to defeat the consequences of sin, namely death. His primary message is "The time has come," he said "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" That is why I have come.

David Robinson

Dear Friends

This week's [online service](#) focuses on the significance of Eucharist in our lives as Christians. It is led by Rev Nigel Featherston.

Phil Groves

Associate Rector in the Wychert Vale Benefice

Phone 01296 748 390

Our brothers and sisters in Myanmar

Christians are being urged to pray for Myanmar's population, especially for the religious and ethnic minorities, after the military took control of the country on Monday and arrested senior politicians including President Aung San Suu Kyi.

There are currently around 4.4 million Christians residing in Myanmar, which has been gripped by civil war for several decades. The military has been "systematically persecuting Christians" for the past 50 years and so the plight of believers may become even more severe now that total vested power is back in their hands.

<https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/myanmar-military-coup-terrible-news-for-country-s-for-gotten-christians-charity-warns>

Father God,

We lift up in prayer to you the people of Myanmar. May you protect and guide them in these uncertain times. We ask that you might grant wisdom to its politicians to always look for what is best for its citizens. We pray, too, that you would grant wisdom to church leaders that they might be able to speak truth, forgiveness and bring reconciliation.

In Jesus' name **Amen**



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