

A NATIONAL CALL TO PRAYER
on 22nd March 7pm (GMT)
Light a Candle of Hope

A National Day of Prayer and Action has been announced by the presidents of **Churches Together in England** re the Coronavirus epidemic, for this Sunday 22nd March. In an excerpt from a joint letter they wrote:

'At such a time as this, when so many are fearful and there is great uncertainty, we are reminded of our dependence on our loving Heavenly Father and the future that he holds.

Therefore at 7pm this Sunday, light a candle in the windows of your homes as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer'.

Wherever you are in the world, we invite you to join with us in prayer to see an end to the Coronavirus pandemic.



Loving God,
Bless us all, particularly now.
Particularly when we are comforting others
Particularly when we are offering hope
Particularly when people are isolated
Particularly when we feel overwhelmed ourselves
Particularly when we are afraid.
Help us to remember that you are right here, now, in the
midst of us
Calling us by name. Amen.

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Please send anything for inclusion in the pewsheets by 7pm on a Friday

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 22nd March

Mothering Sunday

Following guidance from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, the Diocese of Oxford and the Government St John the Baptist Church will be closed for public worship until further notice

The church will be open for private prayer today 9am – 11.30am
The porch will remain open daily as a space for rest and prayer
SPP, Dinton is open daily for private prayer. (9am – 5pm)

When visiting the porch please respect the need for social distancing if someone else is already there. You are invited to pin your prayer requests to the noticeboard so that we can support each other in our prayers

Rev'd Canon Dr Phil Groves has prepared a short video message to us all. Please visit the church website to view this message and support material.

www.stonedintonhartwell.com

All files are available under the Coronavirus Update page and on Facebook / Twitter.

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Things seem to change from day to day at the moment. I was planning to spend this morning leading the Mothering Sunday service which I admit was a bit daunting as I am not everyone's idea of a mum. I am sorry it did not go ahead and thank you to everyone who worked on it. **Next Sunday, SJB, Stone will be open for prayers and bible reading here at 10 30**

However the readings and prayers for Mothering Sunday are just right for us. This is what God says

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is the Father who is full of mercy. And he is the God of all comfort. He comforts us every time we have trouble, so that we can comfort others when they have trouble. We can comfort them with the same comfort that God gives us.

Read it a couple of times. The message is simple. God cares for us. He comforts us so we can comfort others. That is a word for today.

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The second reading reminds us of God's love and the love of a mother

About this time, a man and woman from the tribe of Levi got married. The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw that he was a special baby and kept him hidden for three months. But when she could no longer hide him, she got a basket made of papyrus reeds and waterproofed it with tar and pitch. She put the baby in the basket and laid it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile River. The baby's sister then stood at a distance, watching to see what would happen to him.

Soon Pharaoh's daughter came down to bathe in the river, and her attendants walked along the riverbank. When the princess saw the basket among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it for her. When the princess opened it, she saw the baby. The little boy was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This must be one of the Hebrew children," she said.

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Then the baby's sister approached the princess. "Should I go and find one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" she asked.

"Yes, do!" the princess replied. So the girl went and called the baby's mother.

"Take this baby and nurse him for me," the princess told the baby's mother. "I will pay you for your help." So the woman took her baby home and nursed him.

Later, when the boy was older, his mother brought him back to Pharaoh's daughter, who adopted him as her own son. The princess named him Moses, for she explained, "I lifted him out of the water."

It is a well-known story and it shows the lengths a mother would go to, to look after a child. She even gave him away. As Christians we believe that God gave His Son for us. The greatest love is His and in Easter we find the depths of His love.

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Another of the prayers for today is appropriate as well.

Dear Jesus,

We thank you for mothers and carers everywhere, and for the special love they have for their children. We thank you, Jesus, for your special care and comfort and the perfect love you have for us all. Help us all to show your love to those who care for us, and to the people that we meet in our lives. Amen

I expect things will change in the next few days or weeks. It is an opportunity for the church to show that what we believe is real.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is the Father who is full of mercy. And he is the God of all comfort. ⁴ He comforts us every time we have trouble, so that we can comfort others when they have trouble. We can comfort them with the same comfort that God gives us.

Pass it on!

DRP

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