#### **Prayer ministry**

Prayer requests can be sent in to the website. These will go to a prayer team within the church community who are committed to praying to God for situations and for others. You may wonder what you can do to help others - praying is the BEST AND MOST IMPORTANT THING WE CAN DO. If you have a prayer request or would like to be part of the prayer team please contact Raymond who is one of our churchwardens <a href="mailto:raymond.medhurst@stonedintonhartwell.com">raymond.medhurst@stonedintonhartwell.com</a>

#### **Parish Church & Community News**



We are organising a **Parish Virtual Garden Show**. A chance to show off your horticultural achievements! This year has been a unique opportunity to spend more time in the garden and we are planning a virtual summer flower and produce show. This is a chance to celebrate and share all our local gardens.

Full details will be given in the July edition of the Parish magazine. We will be inviting you to submit photographs, either on line or by post, of flowers, fruit/vegetables, plants grown by children, or general views of your garden.

There will be a display of photographs in the October magazine. There will be certificates for winners.

Enquiries can be sent to magazine@stonedintonhartwell.com.

#### **Stone Community Volunteers**

The volunteers have been amazing throughout the period of lockdown, serving others in so many practical ways. Although restrictions are easing it is still **not too late to volunteer** as others may have to go back to work. It is hoped that the group will be able to continue in some form even beyond the pandemic so watch this space. Thankyou to EVERYONE who got involved. You know who you are! To volunteer please contact Naomi and Clive on 01296 747689

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details: Pewsheet pewsheet@stonedintonhartwell.com

Parish News david@pickupandscott.co.uk

Website webmaster@stonedintonhartwell.com

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### Wychert Vale Benefice

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## 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 5<sup>th</sup> JULY

A very special service for this Sunday.

We continue with our series on the basics of the Christian Life with a talk from Rev Trish Mander.

We have an interview with Richard Fisher following the announcement of his <u>Lambeth Palace award</u> from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Our prayers are led by children from Cuddington.



Music includes To God Be the Glory, Great is Thy Faithfulness, and I Will Praise You (No Matter What) - a favourite of children at Cuddington and Dinton School.

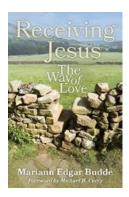
Phil Groves

Associate Rector in the Wychert Vale Benefice Phone 01296 748 390

#### **Thursday Chat**

We are <u>meeting on Zoom</u> on Thursday evenings - glass of something in hand - to discuss our faith and the theme of the week.

This week it is prayer - the third chapter in Mariann Budde's book <u>Receiving Jesus</u>. Not all of us have read the book but you can get the gist of the subject from the Sunday Service. It would be great if you could join us. It is very relaxed.



Here is the link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89668529350?pwd=NTI0TE0rbFVJYWdKM0xSQkdMVHRmQT09

Meeting ID: 896 6852 9350 Password: 792250

#### Private prayer in church

The church porch is now open daily for private prayer and meditation. Users will need to bring their own Bible and Prayer Book if required as (following guidelines) all printed material has been withdrawn at this time.

The main church building will be open 9.30 – 11.30am today (Sunday) for private prayer. Social distancing measures are in place so please make sure you adhere to these when you are in the church. This includes certain pews being marked as out of use and the back of the church being cordoned off. It will feel strange at first but let us rejoice that we are at last able to access our place of worship again!

There is plenty of antibacterial hand sanitiser available as you come in to church so please use it when you come in and also when you leave.

#### **Opening SJB for Worship**

We are planning to have a very simple said service of Morning Prayer using our familiar liturgy on **Sunday 19**<sup>th</sup> **July at 10.30**. We know people want to meet with one another so we can worship and pray together. There will not be any singing.

We have limited numbers and will have social spacing. Please spread the word to those who do not receive the pewsheet.

#### Verse of the week

In last week's service we heard how Bishop Dinis Sengulane read the scriptures in his meetings with both sides in the civil war in Mozambique, and a ceasefire was achieved because of that. This was part of Phil's talk about learning. Reading and studying the scriptures each day is a good habit to get into. 'For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double edged sword' (Hebrews 4:12)

Learning the scriptures by heart is also a good habit to get into but we have to make a conscious decision to that. In previous generations Bible verses were taught and memorised at Sunday School and could then be recalled at appropriate times for years to come. Timothy has already told us this:

'All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness' (2 Timothy 3:16)

This is a good scripture to learn by heart so why not put it up on your kitchen wall or wherever you see it regularly and set the goal of memorising it? And look out for a new verse to memorise next week.

#### **Church Finances**

Without any services in the church there was some concern about how we would manage financially. However, the Finance committee has recently met and are pleased to report the following:

'Thank you to everyone who has been so generous in supporting the work of the parish during these difficult times. Parishioners have been very generous and thankfully the overall financial position of the parish is very positive with committed giving and some reduced expenses'.

Let us also remember it is our Heavenly father who provides for all our needs.



Heavenly Father, for the times we have forgotten to say thankyou, and the times we have expressed gratitude but not really meant it, forgive us. Receive now our grateful and heartfelt thanks for the countless good things you have showered upon us. Amen