

### Appointment of our new Rector

The churchwardens are pleased to announce that the **Revd Cassa Messervy** has been formally offered the position of rector of our benefice by the Bishop of Buckingham and has accepted.

Cassa is presently vicar of Holy Trinity Church, Seer Green and Jordans, and Assistant Area Dean, Amersham Deanery. The date when she will join us is dependent on the availability of the new rectory in Haddenham, hopefully early March. We will keep you updated.



Please remember Cassa and her family in your prayers and also the other candidates who put in much time and commitment in applying but were unsuccessful.

A new phase in the life of our Benefice is beginning which no doubt will be exciting and challenging as God leads us forward.



*Heavenly Father we thank you for this appointment and for the benefice team who represented us all in the process. We pray for the new rector and her family as they prepare for the move and for all the churches in the benefice as we look forward to her coming. Make us ready and eager to serve you together in Wychert Vale. Amen*

### Current arrangements at SJB

We are delighted to be able to meet together again for worship, starting today. Sadly we still cannot sing in church but you are welcome to bring your own Bible if you wish.

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

There is now a special page on the website for services and events which could change over Christmas. This will be the most up to date information.

[www.stonedintonhartwell.com/christmas](http://www.stonedintonhartwell.com/christmas)

**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](http://www.stonedintonhartwell.com)

## St. John the Baptist STONE Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:30am MORNING WORSHIP  
led by David Robinson

Readings: Isaiah 40. 1-11  
2 Peter 3. 8-15

“In the desert prepare the way for the Lord, make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God”

*Isaiah 40 verse 3*

Today we will light our second candle of Advent which reminds us of John the Baptist, the ‘voice crying in the wilderness’ who prepared the way for the coming of our Lord Jesus



**Next week at 10.30am** – Morning worship led by Revd Sue Smith

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Dear Friends,

[This Sunday's Service](#) comes from St Mary's Haddenham and is led by Olive with Gordon preaching. It features a song recorded in Dinton - the first of others being recorded over the Christmas period by singers across our Benefice.

**Exciting News** - our services are now being broadcast by Red Kite Radio at 12 noon on Sundays. You can listen to Red Kite Radio on 107.2 FM - please get the word out to those who cannot access our services online - obviously they cannot access this email either so give them a ring, or knock on their door (while maintaining social distancing).

Red Kite Radio will also be broadcasting the St Mary's Haddenham Carol Service at 6pm on December 20th. (This will be pre-recorded and also available as a video). A Benefice Carol service will also be available online for the 20th December.

Phil

### **Follow the Star on Christmas Eve**

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 Community event please give Naomi a call tel no: 747689

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### **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. This Christmas we have decided to support the work Sue does as part of the prison chaplaincy team. 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.

You can make a donation to the sock appeal when you come to any of our December services or by contacting Naomi 747689 or Jenny 748170. Sue will be leading our Morning Worship service **next week** so we hope you will come to hear more about the sock project and other ways in which the Chaplaincy are supporting the spiritual lives of the prison residents at this time.



It is equally important that we continue to remember the men and the chaplaincy team in our prayers.



*Dear Lord Jesus, in coming into this world you brought light into the darkness. As these gifts go out to the residents in the prison we pray that each man will know he is remembered and valued, and may the gift bring him hope for the future. Strengthen the faith of those who already know you as Lord even though they cannot meet together for their usual worship. Shine your light of love into the hearts and minds of all the residents through the work of the chaplaincy team. Give them the understanding and wisdom that they need in their work at this challenging time. Amen*

### **SJB Facilities Fund**

When ordering your last minute online purchases this year don't forget you can also raise donations for the SJB Facilities Fund! Simply visit the intended retailer via the Giving Machine and we will receive a donation from the shop without costing you a penny. Full details at [www.stonedintonhartwell.com/stone/facilities](http://www.stonedintonhartwell.com/stone/facilities)

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