



WYCHERT VALE BENEFICE

You are invited to A Service of Licensing by Video Conference Call by the Bishop of Buckingham of **The Revd Cassa Messervy** as Rector for the Wychert Vale Benefice on **Thursday 22nd April 2021 at 7.30 pm**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85848476303?pwd=MCtwaU9pOFdFUfo3cjhRQVVxVVkxQT09>

Meeting ID: 858 4847 6303

Passcode: 868422

We look forward to welcoming Cassa as our new Rector and ask you to pray for her and her family as they prepare for their move.

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh

Please see a [statement by the Archbishop of Canterbury](#) on the death of HRH, Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh.

With deep sorrow, we offer our prayers for Her Majesty The Queen and The Royal Family at this time.



*Most merciful God,
whose wisdom is beyond our understanding,
surround the Queen and the Royal Family with your love,
that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss,
but have confidence in your goodness,
and strength to meet the days to come.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen*

The Church of England has opened an online condolence book. The [book is open to any individual or church communities who wish to sign and record a message.](#)

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 11th April

Second Sunday of Easter

10:30am Morning Worship

led by Richard Smith with Revd Sue Smith

This is an **outdoor service** in the north churchyard.

We can sing together outdoors so we hope you are all in good voice!

If you prefer to sit down please bring your own chair if you can.

The service and hymn sheet are available to download from the website www.stonedintonhartwell.com

NEXT WEEK – 10:30am Morning Worship in the church

We will be keeping to all the Covid requirements for meeting indoors.

Please also follow the instructions that will be explained on the day.

If you have been saving your loose change for Water Aid during Lent please bring it to church on 18th April where there will be a bucket for you to drop it in. Thankyou.

Mon 12th April - 7:30pm SJB Fabric committee meeting (online)

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John 20:19-31

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.



21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."

28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.

31 But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

I think many of us have a soft spot for St Thomas, the first so called "doubting Thomas". He wanted to touch Jesus' wounds and not just believe the evidence of his own eyes or what his friends told him. Was it more than doubt? Was it a refusal to believe? It is not unreasonable to ask for reassurance and experience what others say. When Jesus meets Thomas he does not rebuke him, but gently encourages. The important point here is that Thomas was honest with Jesus about his doubts.

We all need to be honest with God about our doubts because we all have them at times. When we turn to God for answers, instead of giving up, our faith will grow stronger. Thomas found his answer and recognised Jesus as his Lord and his God. According to traditional accounts he later went on to preach the gospel as far afield as India.

I think many of us also have a soft spot for HRH Prince Philip. Like Thomas he said what he thought and did not always do what was expected. Many of the tributes to Prince Philip say he always asked a lot of questions because he wanted to understand so many things. He was also a man of deep faith. Thomas and Philip are both true saints. When you have doubts, do you give up or do you try to find answers? DRP

Extract from The Church Times

Baptised in the Greek Orthodox Church, Prince Philip was received into the Church of England before his wedding on 20 November 1947, in a private service conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Geoffrey Fisher, at Lambeth Palace.

With the Dean of Windsor, Robin Woods, later to become Bishop of Worcester, he explored theology and the impact of faith on the world and was keenly interested in the relationship between scientists and theologians.

A statement from the United Reformed Church says: "Many who have known the Duke of Edinburgh bear witness to the depth of his faith and his theological knowledge. A regular visitor to *Mount Athos, and a keen questioner of preachers, his faith was much more than nominal."

(Note *Mount Athos is home to several monasteries that welcome male pilgrims)

Our online service this week comes from Dinton and can be found [here](#)
Most of us remember Thomas as the doubter but Revd. Phil tells us the story of Thomas the believer.

Phil Groves

Associate Rector in the Wychert Vale Benefice

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