

### Subscriptions Co-ordinator needed

The Parish News editorial group are looking for someone to assist with increasing the total subscriptions collected and to identify areas where we might increase readership (The Parish News is a source of income to church funds).

The editorial team meets once a month for about an hour, and sometimes between meetings data needs to be collated.

The magazine currently has a print run of over 500 copies.

Contact David Pickup on <tel:748170> or email [david@pickupandscott.co.uk](mailto:david@pickupandscott.co.uk) if you would like to join the team.

### Happy Birthday NHS!

A few days ago the NHS celebrated its 73<sup>rd</sup> birthday and the Queen awarded it the George Cross in recognition of its achievements. Never has it been under such strain as it is at the moment so let us remember it in our prayers.



*God of healing and compassion,  
we thank you for the establishment of the National Health Service,  
and for the dedication of all who work in it:  
give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who care for the sick,  
and your wisdom to those engaged in medical research.  
Strengthen all in their vocation through your Spirit,  
that through their work many will be restored to health and strength;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### Prom Praise Together 2021

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July at 6:00pm

The annual Prom Praise concert would normally take place at the Royal Albert Hall but this year will be streamed live from All Souls Church in London. Your living room might not be as grand as the RAH but the same excitement and spirit of worship will be present at Prom Praise Together

<https://www.allsoulsmusic.org/2021/03/prom-praise-together-2021/>

Alongside the All Souls orchestra and choir the evening will also feature Noel Robinson, soprano Joanne McGahon, Geraldine Latty, Rend Collective, and Matt Redman.

***BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE***



Wychert Vale Benefice  
[www.wychertvale.org](http://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 11th July

**10:30am MORNING WORSHIP**

*led by Revd Nigel Featherston*

**6:00pm PARISH EVENSONG at SPP DINTON**



Creator God,  
you made us all in your image:  
may we discern you in all that we see,  
and serve you in all that we do;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### ***This week.....***

**Mon 12th July** - 7:30pm SJB Fabric meeting online

**Wed. 14th July** - 7:30pm PCC meeting online

**Sun. 18th July** - 9:00am **MATINS** led by David Pickup

10:30am **MORNING WORSHIP** led by David Pickup

***BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE***

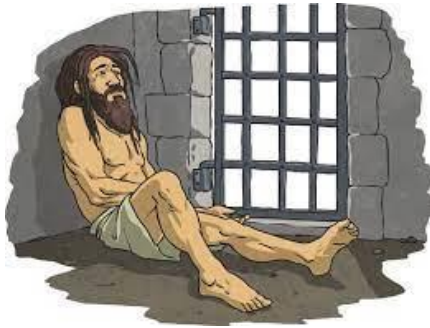
### Mark 6:14-29

<sup>14</sup> King Herod heard about this, for Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him."

<sup>15</sup> Others said, "He is Elijah."

And still others claimed, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago."

<sup>16</sup> But when Herod heard this, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!"



<sup>17</sup> For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married.

<sup>18</sup> For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."

<sup>19</sup> So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to,

<sup>20</sup> because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him.

<sup>21</sup> Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. <sup>22</sup> When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests.

The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you." <sup>23</sup> And he promised her with an oath, "Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom."

<sup>24</sup> She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?"

"The head of John the Baptist," she answered.

<sup>25</sup> At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: "I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

<sup>26</sup> The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. <sup>27</sup> So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, <sup>28</sup> and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother. <sup>29</sup> On hearing of this, John's disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

**BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE**

I can't help thinking how lonely John must have felt awaiting his fate in prison, and it is especially poignant as the verses preceding this passage are about Jesus sending out the twelve disciples **two by two**. The gospel was being sent out with great power but at the same time the herald who had 'prepared the way' for Jesus was now alone.

One of the effects of the last sixteen months has been to highlight and even exacerbate loneliness in our community. This we are told is another epidemic and yet it can be difficult to spot. We know that the elderly can feel lonely when they are living alone but many of the recent reports are highlighting the younger generations too. It is hidden in plain sight as they say.

John's offence was effectively speaking truth to power. Even so we know from verse 20 that '.....**Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him**'. Despite this, the one thing that Herod was not prepared to do was to give up Herodias, and this stood in the way of him enjoying a relationship with God for himself.

Perhaps we all need to take some time and reflect on this. Is there something in our own lives that we are not prepared to give up even though it stands between us and a fuller and closer relationship with our Heavenly Father? Sometimes it can be something so habitually ingrained in our daily lives that we need others (preferably a trusted friend) to point it out to us. JP



*Dear Lord, you know everything about us including our innermost thoughts and desires. We long to be righteous and holy just like John and yet we know we often fall short. Help us to recognise when we are holding on to things in our lives that do not honour you and give us the humility and courage to let go of them and turn fully to you. Amen*

Dear Friends,

Rev Cassa leads and preaches at [our online service](#). This week it comes from St Nicholas Aston Sandford.

Phil Groves

Associate Rector in the Wychert Vale Benefice

Phone 01296 748 390

**Café in the Park**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> August 10:00am – 12:00 noon**

no charge for refreshments but donations are welcome  
offers of help to Clive and Naomi please: 01296 747689



**BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE**