

### Hope for 2021

Do you have things you have made that could be shared with others to show the brighter side of lockdown?

Keep sending us photos of your craft work to brighten up our website and bring **HOPE FOR 2021** and remember to log in to see what others have been busy doing.

Send your photos to [webmaster@stonedintonhartwell.com](mailto:webmaster@stonedintonhartwell.com)



### Water Aid

For several years our Methodist friends have collected for Water Aid during Lent and they invite us to join them in doing so this year as well.

One of the many things we have been urged to do during the pandemic is to **WASH OUR HANDS** and for us this is an easy thing to do. This is not so for the many millions in the world who, like us are facing Covid, but without the blessing of clean water.

**Please help by saving your loose change in a jar. We will collect it in when we come out of lockdown. Thankyou.**

### Easter services

We hope to have a worship service on Easter Day at 10:30am, with strict safety measures in place. Dinton SPP may also have a service at 10.00am.

We are also planning to have both churches open just for prayer on Good Friday. Stone at 10.30am and Dinton at 2.00 pm, both for an hour.

These are subject to confirmation nearer the time when a decision will be taken on national and other advice.

**Please look out for notices at the churches in Holy Week and on the church website** [www.stonedintonhartwell.com](http://www.stonedintonhartwell.com)



*Dear Lord and Heavenly Father*

*We ask your blessing on Her Majesty the Queen and all the Royal Family. We thank you for her steadfast service to all her people, and for her witness to her Christian faith. Give her wisdom and good health in abundance and encourage us by her example to serve one another and to always seek the common good.*

*Amen*

**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 14<sup>th</sup> March



## MOTHERING SUNDAY



**Our church building is now closed for in person worship until there is a significant change in the circumstances.**

You are welcome to join us for a zoom service every Sunday at 10:30.

Login by using this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88617212701?pwd=UHpnS1hXRIAvRHFLS0RTaTg1ZXPgdz09>

You can also phone in on these numbers: **020 3901 7895** or **0131 460 1196** (You do not need to set a participant ID)

Meeting ID: 886 1721 2701

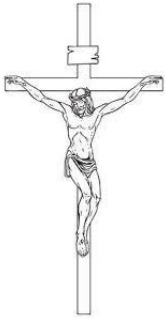
Passcode: Service

### **THIS WEEK**

Thursday	9:00pm	A fresh look at Philippians - Bible study <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88235669326">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88235669326</a>
Friday	3:00pm	A fresh look at Philippians - Bible study <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88978010315">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88978010315</a>

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

### John 3: 14-18



<sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

*Verse 16 is a very popular memory verse and it is frequently quoted and seen on posters because it is a good summary of the gospel message.*

*Jesus was speaking to Nicodemus who visited him at night. As a Pharisee and member of the Jewish ruling council he would have been very devout and well acquainted with the scriptures. He believed God was with Jesus but had questions of understanding.*

*Jesus reminded Nicodemus that after the people of Israel were led out of Egypt they were attacked by a plague of venomous snakes as a result of their own disobedience. So God told Moses to make an image of a snake and mount it on a pole. Anyone who looked at the snake was cured from their bite, and lived. The idea of being healed simply by looking at the bronze snake left no doubt that it was God's power alone that brought healing, they could not heal themselves.*

*Jesus was predicting that in the same way he would be lifted up on the cross. As all people suffer from their sins, and the end result of sin is death, our only hope is trusting in the Son of God. We need to look to the cross of Jesus. Our salvation comes entirely by faith in Him, we cannot earn it for ourselves.*

*Although God has already done all the work for us (by giving his one and only Son) we do need to respond to him by making a choice – to believe in his son or not – just as the Jews in the wilderness could look upon the snake, or not.*

*Looking to Jesus as the Jews looked to the snake seems too simple at first - until we fully consider these two questions:*

- 1. Do we really believe (and trust) in our hearts and minds that Jesus is all we need?*
- 2. Have we been trusting in or holding on to anything else that we need to let go of?*

*Let us reflect on these questions so that we can truly celebrate Christ this Easter.*

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Dear Friends,

Our [YouTube service](#) this week continues our theme on the Lord's Prayer. Phil will ask us to think about being forgiven and forgiving others as we look at the story of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15. The story is not just about the one son - it is also about his brother.

The service is also on Red Kite Radio at 12 noon on Sundays and we are hearing that people who do not come to church are listening. If you are talking to anyone who has listened to the service can you feed back to us why they listen, what they like about it and what we can do better. **107.2fm Red Kite Radio**

*Phil Groves*

Associate Rector in the Wychert Vale Benefice

Phone 01296 748 390



#### Extracts from the Church of England website



We celebrate Mothering Sunday each year on the fourth Sunday of Lent. But with the day becoming increasingly commercialised, are you aware of its origins?

In the 16th century, Mothering Sunday was less about mothers and more about church. Back then, people would make a journey to their 'mother' church once a year. This might have been their home church, their nearest cathedral or a major parish church in a bigger town. The service which took place at the 'mother' church symbolised the coming together of families. This would have been a significant journey for many.

Another tradition was to allow those working in the fields on wealthy farms and estates in England to have the day off on the fourth Sunday of Lent to visit their mothers and go to church too. This was a variation on the theme of visiting the 'mother' church and was a move towards a more family focussed occasion. Before the days of cars and roads, family get-togethers were far rarer, and there was no Zoom. This tradition is still alive today as grown up children often visit their parents on Mothering Sunday.

The church today recognises that the day may be difficult for some people and so it is commonplace for services to include prayers for those who find the day difficult. Families take many forms and the nurturing role is sometimes taken by other people in our lives. So we should give thanks for all who love and care for others.

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