

An update on the church Facilities



We are all keen to know where we are now with the scheme to put a toilet and kitchen facilities into our church building. We were getting so close before the world seemed to grind to a halt last March. Sue Birrell who chairs our Fabric Committee explains where the project is now.....

'In September we received the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) from the archaeologists and this was sent to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC). As a lot of the Diocesan staff had been furloughed, despite chasing up the request for an answer to this report it wasn't until 5th Jan we received an email from the DAC who advised that we needed to get an updated WSI due to the cesspit (*the plans had changed from linking into the main drainage pipes in Church Way to putting a cesspit underground in the churchyard instead*).

The updated WSI needs to explain what we would do if any articulated remains (*complete skeletons*) are dug up as if this happened, work would have to stop whilst a variation was obtained.

Our architects have therefore asked the archaeologists to revise the WSI. As soon as the DAC receives the variation it will be put before their archaeological advisor and then it will be up to the Chancellor to agree it. We may need to request an extension to the faculty (*permission from the Diocese to carry out the work*) due to the delays caused by changing the drainage, and the pandemic, but we do have until November this year to complete the works on the current faculty.

Please continue to pray for this project, all those involved and in the hope that we will have our facilities this year'.



Dear Lord, we pray for the Facilities project and the issues that still need to be overcome. We long to have the toilet and kitchen facilities as they will provide new opportunities to serve our community. We pray that you would guide the Fabric Committee to make the right decisions at the right time. Amen

REMINDER

please submit notices for the pewsheets by 7pm on Fridays
pewsheets@stonedintonhartwell.com

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE



Wyherch Vale Benefice
www.wyherchvale.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 17th January

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

However, you are welcome to join us online 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

The service sheet is on the website www.stonedintonhartwell.com

Revd Phil Groves can be contacted on tel no: 01296 748390

Meetings coming up this month - all meetings are online

Weds 20th - 7:30pm Finance committee

Weds 27th - 7:30pm SJB committee

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE

Can you hear me?

Anyone who uses technology of any kind knows the frustrations when it does not work. We speak and no-one answers or you are on video and you can see the other persons' lips moving but you cannot hear anything.

This Old Testament story is about God calling someone but the message did not at first get through. Samuel was a servant in the temple and trying to get a good night's sleep. It is quite a funny story. The boy hears a voice and thinks it is the priest's. It is only later he realises it is God on the line.

1 Samuel 3:1-14

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down.

The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." Then the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle.

It is a lovely phrase about tingling ears. God could have chosen anyone but He selected a servant who probably was more used to cleaning than doing anything spiritual. If a human resources advisor was working for God Samuel would not have been on a shortlist. However God does not see things as we do. What do we learn from this?

- God does not always choose the person we would expect.
- God is looking for good listeners.
- Despite all the evidence to the contrary God wants to do something that will make our ears tingle!



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Benefice service online

This week's recorded service comes from Dinton church and is led by Revd Phil Groves. He refers us to the book by former Archbishop Rowan Williams called 'Being Christian' and the theme for the service is Baptism.

The service can be accessed from [this link](#)

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Our friends at the chapel have chosen this as their prayer for the week, so let us join with them:



*Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort,
knowing that nothing can separate us from Your love
in Jesus Christ our Lord Amen*

(from the Church of England booklet 'Prayers for use during the pandemic')