Hope for 2021

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



Fairtrade Easter Eggs

This year Fairtrade Easter Eggs complete with attractive booklets telling the Easter story are available ONLY through Fairtrade suppliers - supermarkets have 'chickened out' of selling them. [No pun intended!]

The milk choc and white choc ones are £4.50, dark chock £5.50, a Fun Pack which is 6 hollow milk choc eggs in a traditional style egg carton is £5



Please contact Sue Spinks if you would like to place an order.

Tel No: 01296 748369 email: royandsue1@btinternet.com

Orders should be with Sue before **5th March** please.

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.

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Weds 24th 8:00pm SJB committee online

LENT STUDY GROUPS with Phil

Thurs 25th 8:00pm Being Christian

9:00pm A fresh look at Philippians

Fri 26th 2:00pm Being Christian

3:00pm A fresh look at Philippians

Each sessions lasts no more than 45 minutes. See Phil's 'Living Lent in Lockdown' notice for the link.



Wychert Vale Benefice www.rychertvale.org

DIOCESE OF OXFORD

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 21st February

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:

 $\frac{https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88617212701?pwd=UHpnS1hXRlAvRHFLS0}{RTaTg1ZXpGdz09}$

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 Sunday the Zoom service will be a Family Service with a couple of activities for children. Please look at the outline here and be prepared.

All you need to do is get children to have a picture or model of the scariest animal they can think of and have it ready to show. Adults can do that too.

We are going to use the very simple form of the Lord's Prayer on the <u>document</u> so it is good to have it printed out ready.

See you Sunday at 10.30am.

Phil Groves

Mark 1:9-15

1:9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

1:10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.

1:11 And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

1:12 And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.

1:13 He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.



1:14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God,

1:15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Saint Mark does not hang around or waste words does he! This paragraph covers a long period of time from Our Lord's baptism to the temptation and after. It ends by saying "the time is fulfilled..." meaning that now is the time or 'no time like the present'.

We do not always live in the here and now. We think a lot about the past and we look forward to the future. This is understandable while society is still stuck in a lockdown, but one of the themes of the gospel is **now**, God calls us **now**, not tomorrow or yesterday but **today**.

The passage reminds us that Jesus had a period of testing on His own with the wild beasts. It is clear that being alone, testing, and devoting Himself to God was all part of developing His life's ministry. So when is the right time to be right with God and to spend more time with Him? There is no time like **now!**

Dear Friends

This week's <u>YouTube Service</u> introduces Lent and I talk about the commitments I have made to exercise, prayer, study, living in harmony with creation, and living in harmony with others.

You can join me and <u>specifically join me for Study</u> either on Thursday evenings or Friday afternoons. Details are on <u>this document</u> 'Living Lent in Lockdown'.

Phil Groves

Associate Rector in the Wychert Vale Benefice

Phone 01296 748 390

The (Modern Day) Good Samaritan Luke 10: 25-37

I should imagine everyone knows this story but have you ever come across a Good Samaritan? I did on Valentines weekend, an outpouring of love, kindness and hope in these difficult times. My Mum is buried in St Peters churchyard, Buxton, Derbyshire and in normal times we as a family often visit and tend to the grave; these are not normal times and haven't been for a year now so needless to say the visits have been few and far between, as none of us live in Buxton anymore. My daughter sent a message to the Vicar at the church, who posted it on his Facebook page and so it all began.

Many people offered to help but one lady, Hannah said she would buy a plant as flowers wouldn't last in the snow and she took it and placed it for my Mum and then sent us a photo. What a wonderful thing to do for someone who you haven't met and never knew. I wondered how many more people would appreciate having a Good Samaritan and if I could pay it forward by doing something like this for a stranger in need?

I wanted to share this with you in the hope that we can all be like Hannah and the original Good Samaritan and show our kindness in a way that will be treasured for a very long time.

GOD BLESS xx

Sue Birrell



Living God, teach us to give as gladly, as lovingly, and as unreservedly to you as you have given to us, and that in serving others we are also serving you. Amen