

1 John3:16-24

We know love by this that he laid down his life for us--and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

The gospel reading today is about Jesus the Good Shepherd, but I want to take a look at the letter set for today instead. It is taken from one of those short books tacked on at the end of the Bible. This one was written possibly 50 years or more after the first Easter and it is a reminder to go back to the basics of our faith. The churches John was writing to had taken a wrong turn and were missing the point that Jesus is the Son of God.

John wanted to remind the church of what real Christianity was. It means understanding who Jesus is and what he did for us and the difference that should make in our lives. It means love in action. DP

"In truth it is impossible to love one another in the right way if we do not have faith in Christ, just as it is impossible to believe in the name of Christ if we do not love one another"
The Venerable Bede c672-735

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 25th April

10:30am Morning Worship

led by: David Pickup

preacher: Revd Nigel Featherston

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

Readings: Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18



THIS WEEK

Wednesday 28th - 8:00pm SJB committee meeting online

NEXT WEEK

Sunday 2nd May - 10:30am Family Service led by Revd Phil Groves

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE

The licensing of our new rector Revd Cassa Messervy

A lovely April evening and inside many homes in the Benefice and beyond, people sat gazing at screens to witness yet another event taking place under pandemic regulations. It was to be the long - awaited service of instituting the Rev. Cassa Messervy as Rector of the Wychert Vale Benefice but....in Haddenham in an empty St. Mary's Church (except for Cassa and her husband and daughters and the Bishop's Commissary) and the Bishop of Buckingham in front of three screens in Great Missenden! As he started the service, Bishop Alan said that more than one hundred people were watching with more joining as he spoke. Even for him, it was rather daunting and quite a feat to co-ordinate all the elements of the service by screen! Some were just listening on their phones, too.

Cassa was presented by the Chancellor of Rochester Cathedral and the Bishop asked first the Benefice ministry team, then those of us watching, for our support of Cassa in her ministry.

Most appropriately for World Earth Day, Cassa had chosen a passage from Isaiah 43 as the reading and the Bishop preached on this (with accompanying images), providing much food for thought.

Cassa's eldest daughter accompanied herself on the piano as she sang one of her own compositions.

After the declaration and oaths came the licensing, and the installation by the Archdeacon.

Cassa was welcomed by the people and the Area Dean and Lay Chair, then led the intercessions. We were invited to unmute and join in with a recording of "And can it be" - a great hymn which we all seemed to enjoy!

After the service we were invited to speak to Cassa and a (virtual) queue duly formed with email greetings also being posted onscreen.

As well as being an important occasion for Cassa and our Benefice, it was a great achievement by various tech - savvy Benefice members providing us with an unusual and probably more memorable service.

As we all said in the service: We welcome you! May the Lord richly bless you and make you a blessing among us.

EM

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE

Dear Friends,

This [Sunday's Service](#) is led by our new Rector, Rev Cassa Messervy. The theme is 'Jesus the Good Shepherd' the one who is prepared to lay down his life for the sheep.

If you missed Cassa's licensing you can watch it [here](#).

Phil Groves

Associate Rector in the Wychert Vale

Benefice

Phone 01296 748 390



God of love and hope

you made the world and care for all its people.

We pray especially for the people of India right now as they struggle with a rapid surge in covid cases and a shortage of oxygen to help the sick.

Many are anxious for their family and friends.

Be with them and help them to find peace.

We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists,

and all who are working to discover and deliver the right medicines to help those who are ill.

Thank you that you are with them in these anxious times.

Amen.



*Have you seen anything new and shiny and blue around the church this week? The new noticeboards look great, we now need to **use them** to reach our community with the message of hope that the gospel brings.*

Church of England news

Report from the Archbishops anti-racism task force - published 22.04.21 - [here](#)
Statement on net zero carbon target date - issued 23.04.21 - [here](#)

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