

Our rector writes



Congratulations!

It was wonderful to be with Nigel (Rev Nigel Featherston) at Bishop Alan's office for his licensing to our benefice as associate minister to serve our churches after completion of his curacy.

May God richly bless his ministry.

Holiday

I will be on annual leave from the 24th of July to 7th August. Any queries please speak to Julie in the Benefice Office 01844 291108 and she can direct you to a member of the ministry team or churchwardens who will hopefully be able to help.

I hope you will all have time for rest and 're-creation' over the summer ☺ CM

Today is the feast day of St James the Apostle

James the Great, also known as James, son of Zebedee was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus according to the New Testament.

He is described as one of the first disciples to join Jesus.

He was the brother of John the Apostle.

James was one of only three apostles whom Jesus selected to bear witness to his Transfiguration.

James and John (or their mother) asked Jesus to grant them seats on his right and left in his glory (Matt 20:21)

James was the first of the apostles to die as a martyr (Acts 12:2)

Saint James is the patron saint of Spain



Café in the Park

Saturday 7th 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



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 July

10:30am HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

(this will be given in one kind only)

Leader: Revd Phil Groves

Preacher: Richard Smith



As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever. Amen

Dear Friends,
In [this week's service](#) I look at how, after Jesus fed the 5,000, the crowds planned to make Jesus King, but he withdrew. I ask why and think about what that means for us today
(and there is also some FANTASTIC singing of a new Graham Kendrick song definitely not to be missed)

Phil Groves

Associate Rector in the Wychert Vale Benefice

Phone 01296 748 390

Next week.....

Sun. 1st August - 10:30am ALL AGE SERVICE led by David Pickup

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE

‘Everything is permissible’ – but not everything is beneficial. ‘Everything is permissible’ – but not everything is constructive. Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.

These words were written not by the Prime Minister, nor by Professor Chris Whitty, the Chief Medical Officer, but by the Apostle Paul, somewhere around 54AD (I Corinthians 10:23-24).

As we take responsibility for more decisions about how we act in the remaining phase of the pandemic, this is a very good principle to follow. Just because I am allowed to do something, it does not necessarily mean I should do it. I need to think about whether what I do puts me or someone else at unnecessary risk of getting sick. I also need to be sensitive to the fears and concerns of others. For some people, the relaxation in restrictions will feel threatening and make them even more reluctant to go out and meet others.

Today, in the service at 10.30, we will be reading these passages: **Matthew 20:20-28** and **Acts 11:27-12:2** and thinking about the ways in which Jesus’ followers thought and made decisions changed following his death and resurrection. If you can, you might like to look at these readings beforehand, and think about how the pandemic has changed our thinking.

Having looked at our facilities and taken account of the case rates for Covid 19 in this area, we feel that a responsible approach to church services at the moment is as follows:

- **The wearing of face coverings will be optional whilst sitting in the pews**
- **Singing is allowed, but we will ask you to use a face covering for singing for now**
- **We will ask that you still wear a face covering when you are close to other people (eg entering and exiting the church)**
- **We will keep alternate pews cordoned off to allow 1m social distancing for now**
- **We will keep doors open during services to improve ventilation**
- **We recommend that worshippers still add their name and phone number to a “track and trace” form, or log into the NHS Track and Trace app. This information will be kept for 3 weeks after each service**

Once case rates have come down to a lower level, we will review these principles further

RS

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE

Matthew 20:20-28 - A Mother’s Request

²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favour of him.

²¹ “What is it you want?” he asked.

She said, “Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.”

²² “You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said to them. “Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?”

“We can,” they answered.

²³ Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.”

²⁴ When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers.

²⁵ Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Acts 11:27-12:2

²⁷ During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸ One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) ²⁹ The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea. ³⁰ This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

12 It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. ² He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword



Loving Heavenly Father, you have given us the freedom to make decisions for ourselves. Help us always to make wise and compassionate choices. We have chosen to follow you in all things. Give us strength to keep going when the path is hard. Help us to be sensitive to the fears and concerns of others, and teach us how to support and encourage each other along the way. We ask these things in the name of your dear son Jesus Christ. Amen

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE



