

Café in the Park is this **SATURDAY 3rd JULY 10:00am – 12:00noon** due to covid restrictions we have limited inside seating but the forecast for outside is good – so come and join us!

++ there is no charge for refreshments but donations are always welcome ++

Offers of help to Clive and Naomi please: 01296 747689

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2021

The Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Annual Vestry Meeting will be held on Thursday 1st July at St Peter and St Paul Dinton at 19:30.

Please send all nomination forms to PCC-Secretary@stonedintonhartwell.com by **17:00 on Wednesday 30th June**

Nomination Forms are available from www.stonedintonhartwell.com/apcm

The APCM is actually two meetings but they are held one straight after the other.

1. The meeting of parishioners at which the churchwardens are elected.
2. The APCM at which lay members of the PCC are elected, the annual report is approved, and parish activities generally are discussed. To vote at this meeting you must be on the church electoral roll.

For more information and to **view all the relevant files** please visit our website.

Please print your own booklet to bring to the meeting.

www.stonedintonhartwell.com/apcm/



Dear Lord

As we come together this week to review the past year and make plans for the next we pray for your wisdom and guidance. Thankyou for everyone who has served our parish in so many different ways, each with the skills and talents you have given them. We pray that you will bring forward those you have chosen to serve on the PCC and as churchwardens in the coming year. May they do so with integrity and humility, and with a spirit of unity.

Amen

Notices for the weekly pewsheets should be submitted by 7pm on Fridays.

Please email them to pewsheets@stonedintonhartwell.com

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 27th June

10:30am PATRONAL FESTIVAL SERVICE

Outdoors (weather permitting)

Holy Communion service

led by Revd Cassa Messervy and David Pickup

(you are welcome to bring your own seat)

Download the service sheet [HERE](#).

As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet 'A voice of one calling in the wilderness "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God....." Luke 3 v4

This week.....

- Mon. 28th June** - 11:00am + 8:00pm Benefice study course online led by Revd Cassa Messervy (Rector) for details ring her on 01844 292416 or email cassa.messervy@wychertvale.org
- Thurs. 1st July** - 7:30pm APCM at SPP Dinton (see separate notice)
- Sat. 3rd July** - 10:00am – 12:00 noon Café in the Park (see separate notice)
- Sun. 4th July** - 10:30am All Age Service with baptism led by Revd Phil Groves

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Luke 3:1-17 John the Baptist prepares the way

3 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar – when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Tracoonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene –² during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

*‘A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
“Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.*

*⁵ Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low.
The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.*

⁶ And all people will see God’s salvation.”’

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptised by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?’⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our father.” For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ The axe has been laid to the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.’

10 ‘What should we do then?’ the crowd asked.

11 John answered, ‘Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.’

12 Even tax collectors came to be baptised. ‘Teacher,’ they asked, ‘what should we do?’

13 ‘Don’t collect any more than you are required to,’ he told them.

14 Then some soldiers asked him, ‘And what should we do?’ He replied, ‘Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely – be content with your pay.’

15 The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. 16 John answered them all, ‘I baptise you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.’

Today we are celebrating our church here in Stone and its dedication to John the Baptist. But what can we learn from the history of the former and the message of the latter? Here are a few thoughts in no particular order

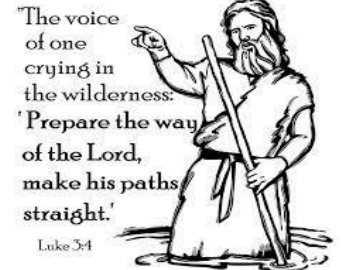
- The church has been here since 1st June 1273. That is a LONG time and society has seen many changes over the centuries since then. Not just society in general but the church too. For example in 1273 the Church of England did not even exist. I wonder what the first worshippers in SJB would make of our worship today? One thing has not changed though – our God and Father – and together with Christians throughout the ages we are his children.
- The passage in our reading about John the Baptist refers back to Isaiah. God has, and has always had, a plan for the salvation of his people. He is in charge yet sometimes we still need to be reminded of his faithfulness.
- We cannot be complacent about our own faith. John is calling people to action. Look at the answers he gave to those who questioned him:
 - Be generous to others (*anyone who has two shirts.....*)
 - Be honest (*we might not work for HMRC but this still applies to us all as does the requirement to not accuse people falsely*)
 - Be content (*be thankful for what you have*)

If we are to prepare the way for the Lord here in Stone for the next generation(s) we must demonstrate in our own lives today the generosity, honesty, and contentment that is required of us.

John Wesley said ‘*Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.*’ JP



Loving Heavenly father we thank you for the faithful witness of those who have worshipped you here in SJB throughout the ages. Thank you that you never change and that your love for us surpasses any other love we have known. Help us to be generous, honest and content in all that we think and say and do, so that our lives will bear good fruit in your service. Amen



Dear Friends - this Sunday's [You tube service](#) is led by Cassa and she looks at two healing miracles performed by Jesus.

Phil Groves

Associate Rector in the Wychert Vale Benefice

Phone 01296 748 390

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