



**BOOK A PLOUGHMAN'S FOR COLLECTION
FROM THE METHODIST CHAPEL Eythrope Road**

SATURDAY 15th MAY 10 am - 2 pm

Your lunch bag will contain roll and butter with cheese plus coleslaw, fruit and cake/biscuit. We ask a minimum donation of £2.50 but please feel free to pay more!

Please ring Sue Spinks on 748369 or email royandsue1@btinternet.com on or before THURSDAY 13th MAY to book your bag.



Sue Spinks from the Methodist Chapel has sent her heartfelt thanks for the wonderful and generous response from SJB to the Water Aid Lent appeal. Together with the chapel we collected £216.50 from our loose change – and that is a lot of clean water!

Update on the Facilities project

Unfortunately the builders were not able to start work this Spring as had originally been planned. They are now planning to start in November when they will do the groundworks, and then return in January to do the inside work. There will be an increase in costs due to material cost increases and we are waiting for this updated figure. To meet this we want to start fundraising again and we need ideas!

With summer coming up and restrictions beginning to ease we have the opportunity to do something special. Please contact either David or Sue if you have any fundraising ideas or just a willing pair of hands.

David Pickup tel. 748170 email david@pickupandscott.co.uk

Sue Birrell tel. 338163 email s.birrell@stonedintonhartwell.com

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

Please email them to pewsheets@stonedintonhartwell.com

You can also find information about what is going on by checking out our website www.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 2nd May**

**10:30am Family Worship in the church
led by: Revd. Phil Groves**

Dear Friends,

This [Sunday's Service](#) is led by our new Rector, Rev Cassa Messervy from St. Mary's Church in Haddenham.

Phil Groves

Associate Rector in the Wychert Vale Benefice

Phone 01296 748 390

Looking ahead

Sun. 9th May - 10:30am **MORNING WORSHIP** led by David Pickup

Mon.10th May - 11:00am Benefice study course begins online

7:30pm SJB Fabric committee online

8:00pm Benefice study course begins online

Christian Aid week begins

Thur. 13th May - **ASCENSION DAY** and start of 'Thy Kingdom Come'

Sun. 16th May - 10:30am **MORNING WORSHIP**

led by Revd Sue Smith and Richard Smith

Christian Aid week finishes

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John 15:1-8 The Vine and the Branches



15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

The image of a vine was commonly used in the Hebrew Bible to speak of Israel as God's people. In John's gospel though this is developed in a new way. Jesus reminds us that it is God who tends to the vine and removes every fruitless branch. There is no place for unfruitful branches in the community of Jesus who is the true vine. This passage is not so much about judgment though as it is about growth. Even the fruitful branches are pruned so they can produce yet more fruit. Pruning is not always a pleasant experience for us but we can trust God that he knows what he is doing. After all, the purpose of the vine is to be fruitful.

Have you noticed that the branches of a vine are almost indistinguishable from each other? Where does one branch stop and another begin? They are not really as neat and tidy as in the illustration above! All branches feed from the same central vine and are tended by the same vine grower. Each one is equal and all are responsible for bearing fruit. So it is with us as a church community.

The secret to a productive branch is its attachment to the central vine. In other words it is only by staying true to Jesus that the church as a whole can be fruitful. We can easily become engaged with 'church things' but unless we are collectively and individually listening to Jesus we become ineffective in our mission to share the gospel. Jesus tells us many times in this passage that we must remain in Him. Apart from Him we can do nothing. We are to follow his commandments and love each other as Jesus loves us. Then we will be recognised as His disciples by the fruit that we bear. JP

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Study Group on Zoom



I am offering for everyone in the benefice an invitation to join a Zoom study group to reflect on Bishop Steven's book 'Comfortable Words: A Call to Restoration', based on Isaiah 40-55. See:

<https://www.brffonline.org.uk/products/comfortable-words-a-call-to-restoration-reflections-on-isaiah-40-55>

The sessions will be on Mondays, daytime 11-12pm or 8-9pm starting 10th May and ending 12th July with no session on 31st May. The sessions will include time to 'Dwell in the Word' on the passages from Isaiah together then discussion of the weekly chapter from the book. If you would like to join either the daytime or evening session or you would like more information please let Cassa know on cassa.messervy@wychertvale.org or ring 01844 292416.

Thy Kingdom Come

Each year we are encouraged by our Archbishops to pray with millions of other Christians from around the world 'thy kingdom come' for ten days of prayer from Ascension (13th May) to Pentecost (23rd May). This year we will be focussing on praying for aspects of the pandemic and looking to God's promised future for our world.



There are prayer resources available for you to use at home in the form of prayer journals or a digital family prayer map. You will be able to collect these from Church from 9th May or speak to Cassa if you would like one delivered. Further details on plans for this time of prayer will be available next week.



*Loving Heavenly Father,
We ask that you will nurture us as branches of the true vine, willing to be pruned and changed by you.
Help us to let go of everything that stunts our spiritual growth. We want to produce good fruit in abundance and to be true disciples of Jesus.
We thank you too for the beauty and diversity of creation that is coming to life around us in the blossom and the sounds of the birds.
Give us the wisdom and understanding of how to care for it now and in years to come.*

Amen

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