

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2021

Our annual meeting took place on Zoom and was chaired by our Rector, Cassa. The annual review was of 2020 – a strange year with most activities cancelled.

The most significant part of the meeting was to thank Eryl and Clive for their service as Church Wardens. Clive took on the role last year and we are very grateful for his help. Eryl has been church warden for many years – seeing us through so many changes.

Eryl has done so much for us and with us, from Guiding to Music – but especially holding the reigns through transitions of clergy and the formation of the Wychert Vale Benefice. We are delighted to say that Eryl was elected to the PCC. She is not with us in person because she needs a hip replacement and physically can't get up the steps into church, but when she does, we will mark her years of service.

We clapped vigorously for both Clive and Eryl – and we did so again for Naomi, who has stepped down from being treasurer. Naomi has transformed our finances. We now know what money we have, which account it is in, and – also due to your generosity – that we can pay our basics. Naomi has spent hours applying for grants and we have around £35,000 for the facilities from those grants we would not have had without her. Thank you, Naomi.

Neil Chudley has also stepped down as a churchwarden in SPP, but is to continue on PCC as the Safeguarding Officer for the Parish.

We welcomed Richard Smith as Church Warden. Richard is going to take on the role for a transition year and we are looking for new leadership. He will be supported by our PCC.

Thank you for all your support over 2020 and we look to a full reopening later this year.

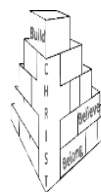
Phil Groves



Dear Lord we thank you for all those who serve us and you in our church. We especially thank you for Eryl, Clive, Naomi, and Neil. We pray that you will give wisdom to Richard in Stone and Rosemary in Dinton as they guide our parish forward in their role as churchwardens over the coming year. 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 4th July

10:30am ALL AGE SERVICE

led by Revd Phil Groves



*Almighty God,
send down upon your Church
the riches of your Spirit,
and kindle in those who minister the gospel
your countless gifts of grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen*

This week.....

- Mon. 5th July** - 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
- Sun. 11th July** - 10:30am MORNING WORSHIP
led by Revd Nigel Featherston

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Our rector writes

Tom Wright's talk at the Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast

The National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast was last Friday on YouTube live. It was a good event, and it has been lovely to hear that some of you were able to join me in attending virtually. Tom Wright was the speaker, and you can listen to his excellent ten-minute talk here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dpyB-yal6cg>

Tom spoke about three markers for life after Covid that as Christians who want to help our whole society replace despair with hope we should be thinking about: 'lament, forgiveness and rebuilding.'

Our lamenting with society for all the pain of suffering of the last year, he says, grows out of the belief that the world is not as God created it to be and therefore our lamenting comes out of a place of fresh and creative hope. Tom pointed out that our society has forgotten the need for forgiveness and we cast ourselves as victims. This means that instead of finger pointing we enter our reviews of the last year looking to forgive and make amendment. Finally he said that the kind of rebuilding found in the Bible calls us to prioritise the needs of the poor and the marginalised. Now he was speaking about policy in the nation but we can equally apply this to our own rebuilding in our lives, church and communities. In our own spheres of influence, how can we bring kingdom values into our rebuilding?

Cup of tea and a chat?



I have had some invites from people to meet up which has been so lovely. Please do invite me over to your house for a cup of tea and a chat at some point over the next couple of months so that I can get to know you all and be able to hear your stories and those of our churches. My phone number is 01844 292416 or email cassa.messervy@wychertvale.org. CM

Dear Friends,

This [Sunday's YouTube service](#) looks at the authority to preach. Jesus was not respected in his home synagogue, but the disciples had authority in villages where they were strangers. Phil remembers being asked to preach in the Cathedral in Johannesburg and asking the same question - where does authority come from?

Phil Groves

Associate Rector in the Wychert Vale Benefice

Phone 01296 748 390

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE

Mark 6:1-6 A prophet without honour

1 Jesus left there and went to his home town, accompanied by his disciples.

2 When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed.

'Where did this man get these things?' they asked. 'What's this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing? 3 Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?' And they took offence at him.

4 Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is not without honour except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.' 5 He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few people who were ill and heal them. 6 He was amazed at their lack of faith.

It is often the case that the hometown of any celebrity will be proud and even boastful of the connection with its famous sons (*remember the gold letterboxes after the 2012 London Olympics?*) However, this is not so when Jesus returns to his home town - **even though it is clear the people are amazed by his wisdom and miracles.** Sometimes we are more willing to listen to a charismatic stranger than to a hometown boy (*who does he think he is?*) That seems to be the case here - the people of Nazareth could not see Jesus as anyone more than Mary's son the carpenter.

Whatever their reasons it is clear that the people in this passage have no faith in Jesus, **despite being amazed by his wisdom and the miracles they have heard about.** And their lack of faith means he is not able to do any miracles there. There is a difference between having just a little faith in Jesus (*the size of a mustard seed*), and choosing to have no faith at all. Jesus can work with mustard seed faith, and he can work miracles in our lives **if** we believe that he can and **if** we choose to put our trust in Him. It is our choice. JP



Loving God, kindle the spark of faith within us until the fire of your love burns brightly in our hearts, blazing for your glory. May we awake each day with hope in our heart and live each moment rejoicing in your love. Amen

Café in the Park – thankyou everyone who helped yesterday. We welcomed more new visitors and were able to enjoy sitting outdoors as the weather held out well for us. Our next Café is **Saturday 7th August 10:00am – 12:00 noon**
++ there is no charge for refreshments but donations are always welcome ++

Offers of help to Clive and Naomi please: 01296 747689

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