

Hope for 2021

Do you have things you have done that could be shared with others to show the brighter side of lockdown?

Keep sending us photos of your craft work to brighten up our website and bring **HOPE FOR 2021** and remember to log in to see what others have been busy doing.

Send your photos to webmaster@stonedintonhartwell.com



Water Aid



For several years our Methodist friends have collected for Water Aid during Lent and they invite us to join them in doing so this year as well.

One of the many things we have been urged to do during the pandemic is to **WASH OUR HANDS** and for us this is an easy thing to do. This is not so for the many millions in the world who, like us are facing Covid, but without the blessing of clean water.

Please help by saving your loose change in a jar. We will collect it in when we come out of lockdown. Thankyou

News from Cheltenham (no, not the horse racing!)

We have received a lovely letter from Tony Lisk who has written about his happy times in Stone. I did not want to edit it down just to fit this pewsheet so Tony agreed it could be put on the church website with a link to it from here.

<https://stonedintonhartwell.com/a-letter-from-tony-lisk/>

Tony also wishes to assure us all that he is settling into his new home but he misses us very much. We all miss you too Tony! God Bless you.

Facilities update

Good news! – we are another step closer to our facilities. The architect has been in touch and is setting up a meeting with the builders and Fabric Committee representatives to discuss dates and practicalities for starting the work.



Please give thanks for what has been achieved so far and pray that this time we **will** be able to start and that God will be alongside us in all that we do.



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 7th March

Our church building is now closed for in person worship until there is a significant change in the circumstances.

You are welcome to join us for a zoom service every Sunday at 10:30.

Login by using this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88617212701?pwd=UHpnS1hXRIAvRHFLS0RTaTg1ZXpGdz09>

You can also phone in on these numbers: **020 3901 7895** or **0131 460 1196** (You do not need to set a participant ID)

Meeting ID: 886 1721 2701

Passcode: Service

Our service today will be led by Revd Sue and Richard Smith

THIS WEEK

Monday	7:30pm	SJB Fabric committee
Wednesday	8:00pm	PCC meeting
Thursday	9:00pm	A fresh look at Philippians - Bible study
Friday	3:00pm	A fresh look at Philippians - Bible study

NEXT WEEK

Sunday	10:30am	Mothering Sunday service (Zoom)
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BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE

John 2: 13-22

¹³ When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. ¹⁵ So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸ The Jews then responded to him, "What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?" ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." ²⁰ They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" ²¹ But the temple he had spoken of was his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

Do you recognize these signs?



The first usually comes with a brown parcel on your doorstep. If you ignore the second whilst driving, your car will rapidly fill up with water. If you disobey the third, you can expect an invitation to a speed awareness course. We immediately recognize these signs and the authority which lies behind them. We have come to trust the brand.

In most places in the four gospels, the word translated as "miracle" means a sign, a token, a mark – in other words, something which is evidence that God is at work. Earlier in this chapter of John's gospel, Jesus changes water into wine at a wedding feast in Cana, which is described as the first of his miracles. In this passage, which probably took place quite some time later, Jesus puts right an injustice. The temple court was the nearest place to the holiest part of the temple in Jerusalem that non-Jews were allowed to go to worship God. This area had been taken over by traders

selling animals for sacrifice and those who sold the special coins used for temple offerings. This excluded people from worship and Jesus responded by throwing out the traders. The temple authorities confronted Jesus and demanded a sign (miracle) to prove that he had the right to do this. Jesus gives an answer which seems puzzling, but, as John points out, was the most powerful sign of all – his death and resurrection.

As followers of Jesus, we carry his mark, his logo. Some of us may do that externally by wearing a cross for instance. But how else may others recognize from our character, our actions and our words the signs that "God is at work here"? We may not change water into wine, but is God calling us to respond to injustice or be an advocate for those who are excluded.

RS

Dear Friends,

This [Sunday's Online service](#) continues our look at the Lord's Prayer and in particular 'give us our daily bread'.

The service is also broadcast on Red Kite Radio on Sunday at 12 noon.
107.2fm Red Kite Radio

You are also welcome to join me on Zoom for a look at Philippians either [Thursday at 9pm](#) or [Friday at 3pm](#).

Phil Groves

Associate Rector in the Wychert Vale Benefice

Phone 01296 748 390



Loving Heavenly Father

As our children return to school this week we ask that you will be with all teachers and support staff as they prepare.

We pray that you will bring peace and calm into every classroom and that the children will feel safe and able to have fun with their friends again.

We thank you for the care and dedication that school staff have shown during these challenging times.

Amen

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