



**CHRISTMAS COFFEE & CRAFT MORNING**  
**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 10.30am - 12.30pm**

Come and make Christmas decorations for the church.  
 Coffee and chatting are provided.



**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

\* Bring and Buy Stall \* Jigsaw Puzzle Sale \* Home Produce Stall \*

**Crib Service**

Our Crib Service will again be at 4.00pm on Christmas Eve. It is suitable for **ALL AGES** so please bring as many relatives, friends and neighbours as you can. We will follow the familiar format with readings, carols, and dressing up. The children will put together the Crib Scene under the altar and Mary and Joseph will arrive with the final host family on our Advent Posada.



Although the service starts at 4.00pm you will need to come before then to be sure of a seat, and if you would like to take part please get here at 3.30pm so we have time to sort out costumes. If you already have your own angel or shepherd costume please come ready dressed!

**Christmas card deliveries**

**Help needed** - do you have a couple of hours free in the next couple of days?

We need more volunteers to help deliver the church Christmas card to every home in the village. As well as having a snazzy seasonal design on the front it lists all our Christmas services on the back. If you can help please contact Naomi 01296 747689

*Thank you*

Once again we are supporting the work of the prison chaplaincy at HMP Grendon and Springhill as they give a pair of socks to each resident who attends the Christmas Day service. If you can contribute a **new pair of men's socks** please speak to Richard or

Sue Smith (it is better if they are patterned and not plain black).

*Thank you*

*Thank you* to everyone who has hosted Mary and Joseph so far. If you are on the list but haven't received them yet don't worry – they are on their way to you.



**BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE**



**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](http://www.stonedintonhartwell.com)

**St. John the Baptist STONE**  
**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December**  
**The Third Sunday of Advent**

10:30am

**FAMILY COMMUNION**

*Led by: Revd Phil Groves*



Our Explorers Group will meet during the service today and is suitable for children aged 3 – 11

\*\*\* Hurry -Today is the last day of the Christmas Tree Festival in Haddenham! \*\*\*

\*\* Have you been to see our tree? *Thank you* Sue Birrell – it looks wonderful! \*\*

<b>Mon. 12<sup>th</sup></b>	10:30am-12:30pm 7:30pm	<b>COFFEE &amp; CRAFTS</b> in the Church <b>SJB FABRIC COMMITTEE</b> online
<b>Tues. 13<sup>th</sup></b>	11:00am – 1:00pm 7:30pm 3:00pm – 9:30pm	<b>CAFÉ IN THE PARK</b> @ the Jubilee Pavilion <b>CHOIR PRACTICE</b> @ the Chapel <b>CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE</b> @ The Rectory 12 Cricketers Way, Haddenham
<b>Thurs. 15<sup>th</sup></b>	2:30pm - 3:30pm 8:00pm - 9:00pm	<b>ADVENT COURSE</b> @ St. Mary's Centre <b>ADVENT COURSE</b> online
<b>Sat. 17<sup>th</sup></b>	10:30am	<b>CHOIR PRACTICE in the CHURCH</b>
<b>Sun. 18<sup>th</sup></b>	9:00am 10:30am	<b>SAID MATINS</b> (PRAYER BOOK SERVICE) <b>CAROL SERVICE</b>

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tel no: 01296 748390

**BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE**

## Matthew 11:2-11

2 When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples 3 to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?'

4 Jesus replied, 'Go back and report to John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. 6 Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.'

7 As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? 8 If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. 9 Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written:

*"I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you."*

11 Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The season of Advent brought us from the early patriarchs, to the Old Testament prophets, and now to the New Testament and John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus.

John was the first to recognise Jesus as the long-expected Messiah. Yet when he was alone in prison he had moments of needing to be sure. Jesus did not really fit the expected mould. He came on the scene as one who proclaimed the kingdom of God, calling upon people to trust in God, healing the sick, and befriending tax collectors. The people were expecting a King.

It is little wonder then that John, now sitting in prison with time to think, questions whether Jesus is the one. John's question in 11:3 is therefore totally understandable: "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"

We all have moments of uncertainty. At times like that we need to take note of Jesus' response in 11:5. Then think back through all the good things God has been doing in our own lives and in the world around us. There will be a lot more than you expected!



*Dear God for whom we watch and wait,  
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:  
Give us the same courage to proclaim the name of Jesus  
and to hold to your truth whatever the cost.  
Help us to recognise how you are at work in our lives each day  
and to spot the glimmers of your glory in the world around us.  
In Jesus' name. Amen*

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## CHRISTMAS SERVICES



- 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 9:00am **MATINS** (said service)  
10:30am **FAMILY CAROL SERVICE with choir**  
(note this is a morning service due to the World Cup)
- 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 4:00pm **CHRISTMAS EVE CRIB SERVICE**  
11:30pm **MIDNIGHT COMMUNION**
- 25<sup>th</sup> Dec 10:00am **CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY COMMUNION**  
at St Peter & St Paul DINTON

### COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LUNCH @ St Mary's in Aylesbury

Our **Advent/December coffee cup collection** is for the Community Christmas Lunch, as is the **collection from our Carol Service** on 18<sup>th</sup> December. For more information about the Community lunch please see: <https://www.freechristmasdinner.com/>

### Pray for Ukraine

Reflecting on his recent visit to Ukraine Justin Welby said "It has been a profound privilege to visit Ukraine. This visit has made me even more determined to stand in solidarity with the heroic people of this country. I have been so struck by the bravery, resilience and faith of the people I have met....."

I appeal to the Church of England, the Anglican Communion, and Christians around the world to pray for Ukraine this Advent – and for all people around the globe living through conflicts and injustices."



*God of peace and justice, we pray for people around the globe who are living through conflicts and injustices.  
During this period of Advent we are waiting for your return, but they are also waiting for peace and the laying down of weapons. Hasten that day Lord.  
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them, and let them feel your loving presence.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.*

### Dinton notices

The Dinton Carol service starts at 4:00pm this afternoon.  
The service next week (18<sup>th</sup>) has been cancelled.  
In January and February the second Sunday Evensongs will be at 3:00pm

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