



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

December 9th - 11th

We have been invited to take part in the Haddenham Christmas tree Festival. Will YOU make a small tree decoration? It can be made by anyone in any craft form. If you can help please bring your creations and put them in the box at church or contact: s.birrell@stonedintonhartwell.com if you want further information.

Any help you can offer will be very much appreciated.

Thank you

CHRISTMAS COFFEE & CRAFT MORNING

Monday 12th December 10.30am - 12.30pm



While you have a coffee and chat you could help to make Christmas decorations for the church, to make it feel like a real community place. Things will be provided so come along and make this a great social morning.

- Bring and Buy Stall
- Jigsaw Puzzle Sale
- Home Produce Stall



EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Stir up Sunday

Stir up Sunday is also the day when people traditionally 'stirred up' their Christmas puddings. That was in the days before they were available to buy (with much less effort) in the shops. So, today is the best day to dig out Grandma's old recipe for Christmas pudding if you want to impress the family with it on Christmas Day. To do it properly though you should follow these rules:

1. Every member of the family should have a turn at stirring the pudding.
2. There should be 13 ingredients to represent Jesus and each of his disciples.
3. You must stir from East to West because the Wise Men Came from the East. Whether this means clockwise or anticlockwise is for your family to debate. Do not go straight across the middle though as this would not qualify as 'stirring'.

Pewsheets: pewsheets@stonedintonhartwell.com

Website: www.stonedintonhartwell.com

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

St. John the Baptist STONE Sunday 20th November

Christ the King Sunday

9:00am

MATINS (Prayer Book Service)

Led by: Raymond Medhurst

10:30am

FAMILY WORSHIP

Led by: Richard Smith



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

The Collect for today



STIR up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

From this special prayer for today, the last Sunday before Advent has become known as 'Stir up Sunday'.

Tues. 22nd	11:00am – 1:00pm 7:30pm 8:00pm	CAFÉ IN THE PARK @ the Jubilee Pavilion CHOIR PRACTICE @ the Chapel PCC MEETING @SPP Dinton
Weds. 23rd	8:00pm	SJB MEETING online
Thurs. 24th	2:30pm - 3:30pm 8:00pm - 9:00pm	ADVENT COURSE @ St. Mary's Centre ADVENT COURSE online
Sun. 27th	10:30am	ADVENT SUNDAY COMMUNION With choir and the start of the Posada Leader: Revd Phil Groves

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE

Luke 23:33-43

³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals – one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.’ And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

³⁵ The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, ‘He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.’

³⁶ The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷ and said, ‘If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.’

³⁸ There was a written notice above him, which read: *this is the king of the Jews.*

³⁹ One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: ‘Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!’

⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. ‘Don’t you fear God,’ he said, ‘since you are under the same sentence?’ ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.’

⁴² Then he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’

⁴³ Jesus answered him, ‘Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.’

All the onlookers were mocking Jesus – the rulers in v35, the soldiers in v36, the authorities in v38, and even one of the criminals in v39. Once a crowd gets going they egg each other on. Ironically, Jesus could have saved himself (v35) but he chose not to. He knew he was dying in order to save others and to save us. The righteous was dying for the unrighteous.

Notice though the contrasting reactions of the two criminals to Jesus as this highlights the decision we all need to make for ourselves. We can remain part of the crowd and reject Jesus, or we can put our faith in Him despite the mockery around us. The passage does however give us hope. We can see that from the moment we truly recognise our sin and turn to Jesus we can receive total forgiveness. This criminal did nothing to earn his forgiveness. He had no opportunity to be baptised or even to go to church. He simply put his faith in Jesus, and Jesus recognised this by responding ‘Truly I tell you, **today** you will be with me in paradise’. So if we truly turn to Jesus at any time, or anywhere, it is never too late to receive forgiveness.

Posada 2022

Our annual Posada begins next week on Advent Sunday, and it helps us as a church community to reflect and prepare for Jesus together. If you would like to take part or would like more information before deciding, please contact Jenny Pickup - but be quick! The schedule is being drawn up this week jennifer_1_pickup@hotmail.com tel no: 748170



Benefice notice about Safeguarding Sunday

This Sunday is Safeguarding Sunday which is an opportunity to highlight all the good work being done behind the scenes by our safeguarding, ministry teams and everyone in our churches in protecting vulnerable people.

As Church, God calls us to: protect the weak (James 1:27), speak up for those whose voices are not heard (Proverbs 31:8), follow Jesus’ example of servant leadership (Luke 22:26), and pursue God’s heart for justice for all (Micah 6:8).

It’s our joy and privilege to join in with God’s mission to bring healing to the broken hearted, restore justice, and offer freedom and light where there is pain and darkness. There is simply no place for abuse in our churches.

Please use these prayers today and throughout this week:



Dear God, help us to be a church that: Loves, welcomes, protects, listens, learns, serves, repents, restores, transforms, values, cares, and believes.

God of Justice and compassion, hear our prayer.

Help us, heal us, and guide us, we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.



God of Love, we pray for all those who serve in a safeguarding role within our Church. We especially pray for our Parish Safeguarding Officers Clare (Stone and Dinton), Jason (Cuddington), Louise (Aston Sandford), Val (Haddenham) and Anne (Kingsey).

Thank you for their willingness and time they give to fulfil this important task.

Give them your wisdom, discernment, and strength. Help us support them in their role, remember them in our prayers, and respond to their requests and advice so that we might be a safer place for everyone.

In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Advent Books

We have three Advent books on sale or return from St. Andrew’s bookshop available through the benefice office or in St. Mary’s Church Haddenham. They are:

- ‘Sleepers Awake: Getting Serious About Climate Change’ by Nicholas Holtman, this is the Archbishop of York’s Advent book for 2022 with daily reflections for Advent.
- ‘The Meaning is in the Waiting’ by Paula Gooder our Advent course book which explores the Advent theme of waiting through biblical characters, a chapter for each week of Advent.
- ‘One True Light’ by Tim Chester - an in-depth look at the John 1 reading ‘In the beginning was the Word.’ in short insightful reflections for each day of Advent.

Online Advent resources

Krish Kandiah, Season of Sanctuary a daily email for the Advent season:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcNJsKKRrG0>

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