

Keeping everyone safe at our services

Covid numbers may be past their peak but we still need to make coming to church as safe as possible.

- Every one aged 12 and over will be asked to wear a mask in church
- Doors may be left open - so please wrap up to keep warm
- Please keep your masks on for singing (yes it is difficult but safer)
- We advise that everyone takes a LFT test before attending any of our services, and we ask that you stay away if you have a +ve result.

If you are in doubt as to whether you should attend, please keep yourself safe. We have services on our [YouTube](#) channel.

Pathways magazine

The January-March edition of Pathways magazine is now available and there are some free copies in the church porch for you to take. There are many interesting articles on topics such as slowing down and spending time with God; how the Bible helps us to be ourselves; loneliness; addressing poverty; and much more. It also includes the following prayer:



A prayer for being me

*Loving God, Creator of all,
I praise you that you create all things good,
and that this includes me.*

*Forgive me when I lose sight of the truth that I am made in your image,
and allow the lies of the world to push me into having a low view of myself,
and lose sight of the potential of all that I am and all I can be in you.*

*Forgive me as well when I have too high a view of myself
and forget the truth that I am most fulfilled when I am looking to you.*

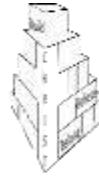
*Through the power of your loving Holy Spirit,
set me free to live in the abundance of life you give.*

*Guide me, guard me, equip me,
that I may worship you, serve those around me,
and faithfully steward your good creation
to the glory of your name.*

Amen

(prayer by Bishop Gavin)

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 23rd January

10:30am HOLY COMMUNION

Rev'd Phil Groves

Luke 4:14-21



Looking ahead

Tuesday 25th	7:30pm	Choir practice at the Chapel
Wednesday 26th	8:00pm	SJB committee meeting online
Saturday 29th		NO CHOIR PRACTICE
Sunday 30th	11:00am	Morning Worship with our Methodist friends AT THE CHAPEL in Eythrope Road. This is the first time we have worshipped together since early 2020. The choir will be singing.

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Luke 4:14-21

¹⁴ Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Our gospel reading comes straight after Jesus has been tempted in the wilderness. He has completed the 'training' and is prepared for the mission ahead! News about him had already spread through the whole countryside. So when he came to his home synagogue that day no doubt it was packed with people and their expectations.

It was common practice in a synagogue service to allow a guest of honour or visiting rabbi to read part of the Scripture reading. Teaching would follow the reading, and the teacher would sit up front in the seat of Moses.

However, having set out his 'manifesto' by reading from Isaiah Jesus simply said 'Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing'. So what they received was the shortest sermon on record!

Jesus knew his purpose, and he had received power from the Holy Spirit to fulfil it. This same Holy Spirit can help us to fulfil our purpose too.

Living in Love and Faith

During Lent this year as a Benefice we will be engaging with the national Living in Love and Faith (LLF) material and exploring issues of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage.

Details regarding when and where courses are running can be found on the website. There will be a group in Stone at the Methodist Chapel led by Cassa, Richard Smith, and David Pickup. It will run for five weeks starting the first full week of Lent – exact date to be confirmed.

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Churchyard work update

In the interests of public safety work has and is continuing to be done in the churchyard to fell dead and dying trees and branches.

As custodians of an historic building and churchyard, the Diocese expects us to choose contractors with proven experience of working in this setting. Bicester Tree Services have undertaken this type of work in other churchyards and were therefore recommended by the Diocese.

As the work is ongoing we are also discussing the graves and surrounding area with them and assure you that everything will be left in a safe and tidy condition including any remedial work that may be required.



Cafe in the Park



Our next Saturday Café will be on 5th February and extra pairs of helping hands are always welcome – tel no. 01296 747689 (Clive and Naomi).

A proposal to run a weekly cafe on a Tuesday morning will come to our church committee this week. To find out more please talk to Naomi or Phil.

Aylesbury Community Christmas Hampers 2021

A report on this has now been received from the organisers together with thanks for our support. In summary it says:

- 354 hampers / 50 personal hygiene bags / 50 bags of love were made and distributed.
- The hampers were given out to people in real need: homeless and street people, those recently housed, people on their own over Christmas, families in poverty/crisis, those who could not go shopping due to covid. Most were nominated by local agencies.
- Aylesbury Foodbank gave donations to the hampers
- Aylesbury College Catering students made some special treats for the hampers
- The hampers were made up and distributed by 34 volunteers
- Grants and donations were received from Aylesbury Town Council, Heart of Bucks, Bucks Council Household Support Grants (provided by the DWP), Waitrose, Hypnos Beds, and many small businesses and individuals (that includes us). Thankyou to everyone for your generosity and support.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with the Christmas lunch in 2022 please see the website www.freechristmasdinner.com

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