



Children's Group Update

The children's group will be starting up again on **9th October** - the week after our family Harvest Service. It will give the children the opportunity to meet together for their own teaching while their parents participate in the main service. All of the helpers will have been properly safety checked.

Further details: Naomi Corbould 01296 747689 or email naominz@hotmail.co.uk

Ride + Stride sponsorship money

Now that Steve Birrell has kindly cycled round 11 churches to raise funds for the Historic Churches Trust it is time to collect in the sponsor money that was pledged. **Please remember to bring your money with you to church today as it now needs to be sent off.** THANKYOU to Steve from all of us for such a tremendous effort

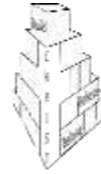
Prayer Walk

Yesterday morning a group of us met in the church porch for prayer and then went out into the village to pray for many aspects of our village and community life. We stopped for prayers by the busy Oxford Road, outside the chapel, the shop, and the school, we sat in the recreation ground and prayed for Café in the Park, users of the pavilion, and the Parish Council. We also prayed at the war memorial. Our prayers went much further than our locations though. It was a beautiful early autumn morning and so we also thanked God for the world around us. Thankyou to those who came, and to those who joined us in prayer from home.



*Father, as we celebrate this season of thanksgiving
We give thanks for the blessings of food, provision and nourishment.
Please grow in us a harvest for the world.
Come sow a seed of hope within our souls Lord, that we might yield goodness,
patience and kindness in abundance.
Sow a seed of peace in our lives Lord, that we might bear the fruits of
forgiveness, compassion and righteousness.
Come sow a seed of love in our hearts Lord, that others would reap the
blessings of family, friendship and community.
May each seed of hope, peace and love grow within us into a harvest that can
be feasted on by all.
Amen*

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 25th September

10:30am FAMILY COMMUNION

*Leader: Revd Cassa Messervy
Revd Clare Joyce*

Today we are welcoming **Revd Clare Joyce** for the first time. She is the new curate in our benefice.

Tuesday 27 th	10:00am – 12:00noon	CAFÉ IN THE PARK
Wednesday 28 th	8:00pm	SJB committee in the church
Saturday 1 st	10:00am – 12:00noon	CAFÉ IN THE PARK
Sunday 2nd	10:30am 	HARVEST FESTIVAL <i>with choir</i> <i>led by Revd Phil Groves</i> donations of non-perishable foods will be given to Aylesbury Vineyard Foodbank

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE

Luke 16:19-31
The Rich Man and Lazarus

19 "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. 20 At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores 21 and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. 24 So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

25 "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. 26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

27 "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, 28 for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

29 "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'

30 "No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'

31 "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

This parable is a challenge to all of us living in one of the wealthiest parts of the world. Amidst all the analysis of the 'mini budget' this week and concerns about the rising cost of living, it is easy to overlook the struggle for day to day existence in other parts of the world, and sometimes even on our own doorsteps.

The story of the rich man and Lazarus is a warning. The rich man had always been aware of Lazarus because he had been laying at his gate. The rich man is not criticised for being rich. After all, Abraham was very wealthy and yet is pictured here in heaven. Rather, he is criticised for his love of money and lack of compassion towards others.

It is interesting to note that the rich man is not even given a name in this story. He represents everyone who lives their lives in the way he did. In contrast the only thing Lazarus had that the rich man did not have was a name. In this story Jesus personalises his concern for the poor man.

In recording this parable Luke is pointing out that we have even less of an excuse than the rich man did for adhering to wrong attitudes. We already have the good news of Jesus rising from the dead (*read verses 30 and 31 again*). This passage is not meant to be a complete teaching about life after death. It is a parable to illustrate there is no place in God's kingdom for those who ignore the needs of others.



Lord, have mercy. Forgive my sin and increase my faith in you. Open my eyes to see the needs of those around me and to act now. Amen

Open church

During the period of national mourning we were able to keep the church open to visitors each day 8:00am – 7:00pm.

This seems to have been well received by those who took the opportunity to sit quietly for prayer or reflection and to sign the books of condolence.

As we return to our normal routine we must remember to continue in our prayers for our new King and for the Royal Family.



A SPECIAL SERVICE OF LOVING REMEMBRANCE

Sunday 30th October at 6.00pm

St. John the Baptist Church, Stone

A special evening service to remember before God those who are dear to us who have passed away.

The service will include words of hope from the Scriptures, quiet prayer and well-known hymns. On request we will read the names of those to be remembered as we light a candle for them.

If you would like to know more about the service ring Canon Phil Groves on 01296 748390

To have a person included for remembrance please email Chloe at

office@haddenhamstmarys.org