

MAR 27 – APR 2

CHILDREN'S WELLBEING



- SUN 27 } MOTHERING SUNDAY**
God of compassion, grant grace to mothers in their own families, those who look after other children and women caring for others within the Church. Comfort those who find this day painful because they never had a longed-for child, or have lost a son or daughter. In Jesus' name. Amen.
- MON 28 }** Lord, we pray for solutions to address the dramatic rise in child poverty, by a third since 2016, where families live on 60 per cent of median income after housing costs, especially in Northeast England, London, Birmingham and areas of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. In Your mercy. Amen.
- TUES 29 }** Jesus, Friend of children, we pray for healthy relationships within families, with peers, at school and the wider community and online; to bring stability, security and companionship into young lives. In Your love, please rescue any who are experiencing isolation and abuse. Amen.
- WED 30 }** Father God, true goodness, peace and purpose come from You alone, yet so many children have never heard the gospel. Please bless every endeavour to reveal Your love, share the good news and teach them Your ways in schools, churches and other settings. In Jesus' name. Amen.

'Jesus called the children to Him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.'" LUKE 18:16 (NIV)

- THURS 31 }** O God, we pray for young people who are susceptible to serious mental health challenges: anxiety, depression, 'conduct disorders' leading to behaviour problems, eating disorders, self-harm and suicidal thoughts. Please bring relief, healing and hope by Your Spirit's power. Amen.
- FRI 1 }** Lord, thank You for the life-enhancing gifts of music, art, dance, drama, sport and other activities that build character and bring enjoyment to children. Please enable more young people from every background to benefit from these opportunities. For Christ's sake. Amen.
- SAT 2 }** **WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY - Inclusion in the Workplace**
Loving Shepherd, please bring help and hope to the 700,000 autistic adults and children in the UK and 75 million on the spectrum worldwide who have varying support needs, so they can find their right place in the world and know Your peace in their lives. Through Your mercy and grace. Amen.

Approximately 306,000 10-15-year-old children, seven per cent, are not happy with their lives. In 2011, it was 173,000. One in eight boys are unhappy with how they look and one in seven girls feel the pressure of looking good. In 2011, one in eleven children were unhappy with their school lives but now it is one in eight. But 70 per cent of 10-17-year-olds are optimistic about the future. (The Children's Society's UK Good Childhood Report 2021)

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE



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

Mothering Sunday



St. John the Baptist STONE
Sunday 27th March

10:30am Family Service
Canon Phil Groves

This week

Tuesday 29 th March	10:00am – 12:00 Noon	Café In The Park
Thursday 31 st March	7:30pm	Living In Love And Faith Course At The Chapel
Friday 1 st April	1:30pm	Living In Love And Faith Course Online
Saturday 2 nd April	10:00am – 12:00 Noon	Café In The Park
Sunday 3 rd April	10:30am	Holy Communion

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Update To Covid Arrangements In Church

Now that the Government has removed all remaining legal restrictions to prevent the spread of Covid 19, we will no longer be asking people to wear face coverings during church services, including when singing. However, when attending church services, please continue to be respectful of each other's personal space, particularly that of worshippers who wish to continue wearing face coverings in church at present.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2022

This year's APCM is on **17th May at 8:00pm**.

The APCM is the Annual Parochial Church Meeting where we review what has happened in the past year and we look to the next year with the election of Churchwardens and PCC members.

If you want to attend the APCM, or vote at the APCM, you will need to be on the electoral roll. You can enrol on the electoral roll online at:

www.stonedintonhartwell.com/apcm/

If you are already on the roll but want to come off, please let us know.

All reports will be available shortly. Watch this space and save the date.

Ukraine Refugee Support Network Update

Huge thanks to those who have been in touch and who have offered support in various ways. You will be glad to hear that there have been contacts with Ukraine's known by people locally and we are hoping this will lead to providing accommodation. Please continue to pray for the process as there are many hinderances, not least our government's lack of clarity on the process!

If you think you would like to be part of this network and/or you can provide accommodation, please contact Cassa - cassameservy@gmail.com.

Prayer from the National Day of Reflection

Lord Jesus Christ,
when fear and anxiety besiege us
and hope is veiled in grief,
hold us in your wounded hands
and make your face shine on us again,
for you are our Lord and God.
Amen.

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE

Worship at St Peter and St Paul, Dinton

We have been praying for our beautiful church of St Peter and St Paul to be used more as a place of prayer and worship and God has answered our prayers in a most unexpected fashion. The Romanian Orthodox community have been praying for a place to worship for their congregation gathered from Aylesbury, and Wycombe. Fr Julian was driving on the Lower Road, saw our church and called in. He was welcomed by Rosemary and from there we have discovered that God is working among us.

The Romanian congregation wishes to worship on the Sunday mornings when we are not currently using the church, on Tuesday Evenings and for the major festivals – some of which (Christmas and Easter) they mark with overnight vigils. Our worship patterns seem to fit together like a jigsaw.

The community is overseen by an experienced priest in Oxford and they have a contract with an Anglican Church there so we can replicate written agreements.

They will bring in icons (holy pictures) and candle holders, but the space for our worship will be respected. They are eager to assist with the care of the church and churchyard. They are keen to join in fundraising for a sound system. They are also keen to pay their way as guests and pay a service and usage charge to cover additional costs we will encounter.

The PCC met with Fr Julian and four other members of his congregation and we shared a time of prayer together for Ukraine and especially the plight of refugees, many of whom are in Romania. Fr Julian shared about how his mother is welcoming refugees.

Following a discussion, we enthusiastically agreed to move to a formal relationship. Rev Nigel, Rosemary Jackson and Steven Kennell are following up with the Diocese of Oxford. They are doing due diligence and will draw up agreements for signing.

We have invited the congregation to worship as visitors on March 27 and they will worship in our church over their Holy Week and Easter – a week after ours. This will enable us to ensure that the partnership will be good for both of us before we sign formal agreements.

Please pray for this exciting development. It reminds us that the church must be diverse because humanity is diverse; it must be one because Christ is one.

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