

## Christmas message from the Archbishop of Canterbury

In his Christmas message Justin Welby said that right across the Anglican Communion, we are facing the most enormous challenges. Outside the tragedies of war, this is the biggest time of global tension we have faced since the Communion began.

And the challenges that God has called us to face are indeed huge. As Christians we face these challenges because it is God's world that we are seeking to preserve and care for. But we can still find joy, because that's the world that Jesus Christ came into.

The Anglican Church is a fellowship, a Communion. Sisters and brothers in Christ of all ages and cultures. God has brought us together. Let us stay and walk together, to do God's work together and to be together in heaven through the salvation he offers us.

The full message is here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHylvWjImSE>

As we move into a new year let us pray for the mission of our churches here  
in Wychert Vale



*Generous God,  
You look upon us with love and mercy.  
Build up your people in our benefice we pray,  
and make your churches places of  
generosity and welcome,  
that we might nurture disciples of your Son.  
May we seek to work as partners in mission,  
desiring the guidance and strength  
of the Holy Spirit,  
as we live out your Gospel in our parishes.  
This we ask in the name of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.*

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

## St. John the Baptist STONE Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas

**10:30am ALL AGE MORNING WORSHIP**

*Richard Smith*



*'On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh'*

**Matthew 2:11**

On Christmas Eve we placed our nativity figures in the stable during our 4:00pm Crib Service. However, the three wise men were still on their journey and so we left them a short distance away.

By tradition the church marks the arrival of the wise men on January 6<sup>th</sup> which is also known as Epiphany. However, we will move our wise men figures into the stable during our service today.

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### ***Our Rector writes.....***

Our Churchwardens, ministry team and operations groups have been working to review our risk assessments in line with the Plan B government guidance. I am very grateful for their wisdom and hard work in what is a changing situation. We have good Covid mitigations in place, often going beyond the government guidance to try and keep people as safe as we can. Please be assured that we are keeping a watching brief as things develop.

**As the situation is changing rapidly please check email/website/Facebook before coming to a service.** website – [www.stonedintonhartwell.com](http://www.stonedintonhartwell.com)

Each of us will need to make decisions given our own circumstances.

*Cassa*

#### **Keeping everyone safe at our services**

With the rise in Covid numbers we are working together 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 strongly 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.

#### **Choir practices**

Choir practices will be starting again in the Chapel on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 7:30pm and Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 10:30am. There is no audition and you do not need to be able to read music. You just need to enjoy singing! Chris tel no: 01296 748777

#### **Lots of thankyou**

A big thankyou to everyone who cleaned and decorated the church building for our Christmas services, it looked super. Thankyou to Chris and the choir as well. It really lifts the worship when you sing. Thankyou to everyone who walked around the village delivering the Christmas cards to each house inviting people to our services. Thankyou everyone for the parts you play in building our church community.

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### **Services in January**

Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	10:30am	Holy Communion
	4:00pm	Parish Evensong at SPP Dinton
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	9:00am	Matins (Prayer Book Service)
	10:30am	Morning Worship
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	10:30am	Holy Communion
		Morning Worship with our Methodist friends <b>AT THE CHAPEL</b> in Eythrope Road.
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	11:00am	This is the first time we have worshipped together since early 2020. The choir will be singing

#### **Desmond Tutu**

Following the news that Desmond Tutu has passed away aged 90 I was reminded that our parish has a past connection with him. Many years ago when David Cooke was Rector we held a parish Bible Quiz evening in Dinton, and Desmond Tutu was asked to supply questions for the quiz (if you don't ask, you don't get!) It was a bit of a long shot but he DID respond to our request and he DID send a question for the quiz. Beyond that my memory becomes vague but I am sure at least one of you will remember more details. Perhaps someone can even remember what his question was? [pewsheet@stonedintonhartwell.com](mailto:pewsheet@stonedintonhartwell.com)

#### **Café in the Park**

This coming Saturday (8th January) 10:00am-12:00 noon in the Jubilee Pavilion  
A chance to meet up with old friends and to make some new ones over a hearty brunch

Can you help on the day?  
Clive/ Naomi tel 01296 747689



***Happy New Year to you all from your pewsheet team***

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