



Explorers Group

The children's group will be starting up again next week on **9th October**. It is suitable for children aged 3 to 11 and takes place during the main morning service at 10:30am. The children will be busy with craft and activities and Bible stories will while the adults participate in the main service. All of the leaders are DBS checked and have safeguarding training.

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

'Coffee cup collections'

Now we have our splendid new kitchen facilities we hope people will stay after the services to chat and have refreshments together. This month we are starting up our 'Coffee Cup collections' again in support of local causes. So, throughout October and November any donations of loose change in the 'coffee cup' will be given to the **Aylesbury Vineyard Foodbank**.



*Creator God, for daily bread,
and all who work
to bring your harvest home,
we bring our thanks today.*

*Forgive our ingratitude,
we who have so much,
yet waste what you have given.*

*For those whose harvest is poor,
whose crops have withered,
water tainted, children starve,
help those who bring relief
and bestow on us
an unaccustomed generosity,
that all might share from your garden
and all might sing your praise.*

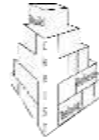
*Creator God, provider of all
we bring our thanks today. Amen*

BREAKING NEWS.....fantastic Café in the Park yesterday.....thankyou team!

Pewsheets: pewsheets@stonedintonhartwell.com (content by 9am Fridays please)

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 2nd October

10:30am HARVEST FESTIVAL with choir

Leader: Revd Phil Groves


This year Harvest comes on the back of so many issues - from drought here to war in Ukraine and floods in Pakistan.

As a result we are looking at a different reading for this Sunday - Ezekiel 37:1-14 - the vision of the valley of dry bones.

Our other reading will be Philippians 4:4-9 in which we are encouraged to rejoice in the Lord always.



Donations of non-perishable foods will be given to Aylesbury Vineyard Foodbank

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| Tuesday 4th | 10:00am – 12:00noon | CAFÉ IN THE PARK |
| Sunday 9th | 10:30am  6:00pm | FAMILY COMMUNION <i>led by Revd Sue Smith</i> The children's group will meet during the service It is also Prisons Week so we will be remembering this in our prayers HARVEST EVENSONG <i>at SPP Dinton</i> |

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Ezekiel 37:1-14

The valley of dry bones

37 The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me to and fro among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³ He asked me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?'

I said, 'Sovereign LORD, you alone know.'

⁴ Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones and say to them, "Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! ⁵ This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶ I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.'"

⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸ I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

⁹ Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet – a vast army.

¹¹ Then he said to me: 'Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off." ¹² Therefore prophecy and say to them: "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. ¹⁴ I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.'"

Ezekiel lived around 2,600 years ago at a time of tragedy for his people. Their nation had been invaded by an enemy and the people were in exile in the enemy's land. They felt not just fear and apprehension but also despair. The message of the vision though was clear. God was bringing hope to people who thought that, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost...".

This year we are celebrating Harvest when so many people are feeling despair and apprehension about so many issues – personal, national, and global. The message of the passage in Ezekiel is timeless. God is always the God of hope - as much now as then.



God of hope, in these times of change and uncertainty, unite our nation and guide our leaders with your wisdom. Give us courage and generosity as we overcome our fears. Help us to look to a future in which all may prosper and share, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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The origins of Harvest Thanksgiving

(From the Church of England website)

The origins of Harvest Thanksgiving are usually traced to the adaptation in 1843 of Lammas Day (*see below*) by the Revd R. S. Hawker, a parish priest in Cornwall. He chose the first Sunday in October as a Christian response to coincide with the traditional but largely secular 'harvest home' celebration, but there is some evidence to suggest that a thanksgiving for the harvest was already a relatively widespread practice. An annual church celebration of the harvest certainly established itself rapidly with great popularity and was first recognized officially in the Church of England in 1862. Since then, many local traditions for the celebration have developed.

Lammas or 'Loaf-mass' is an English feast in origin, held on 1 August as a thanksgiving for the first-fruits of the wheat harvest. Traditionally, a newly baked loaf from the wheat harvest was presented before God within the mass of that day. While the ceremony ceased at the Reformation, reference to Lammas Day continued in the Prayer Book calendar, and the practice has been revived in some places in more recent years.



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

Link to Hope shoe box appeal

As you can imagine, *Link to Hope* are hoping for an extra generous response to the SHOEBOX APPEAL this year. Please help by contributing in cash or kind to bring Christmas joy to those in desperate circumstances in Ukraine, Romania, Moldova, and Bulgaria. The closing date for donations is 28th October. For details of items needed in the boxes please see the Parish News magazine for October or contact Sue Spinks on 01296 748369 or email royandsue1@btinternet.com. Thankyou.

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