



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL
December 9th - 11th



Thankyou to everyone who has contributed decorations for our church tree at the Haddenham Christmas Tree Festival. Do come and see it next weekend in Haddenham Church. There are posters in our church noticeboards giving details of events during the weekend including.....

Christmas Praise Service

There will be a special Christmas Praise service at St. Mary's Haddenham at 3pm on Sunday 11th December. Come and enjoy some contemporary carols and jazzed up originals.

CHRISTMAS CRIB EXHIBITION

SATURDAY 10th DECEMBER
11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

@ *Methodist Chapel, Eythrope Road, Stone*

FREE ADMISSION- Donations welcome for ACTION FOR CHILDREN
*** RAFFLE ***

SOUP LUNCHES in aid of ACTION FOR CHILDREN are available 12 noon to 2 p.m.

If you have a NATIVITY CRIB you would be willing to loan for this Exhibition

please contact Sue Spinks tel: 01296 748369

email: royandsue1@btinternet.com



The Mary and Joseph figures from the Posada will be visiting the Chapel on this day



CHRISTMAS COFFEE & CRAFT MORNING
Monday 12th December 10.30am - 12.30pm

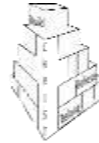


While you have a coffee and chat you could help to make Christmas decorations for the church, to make it feel like a real community place. Things will be provided so come along and make this a great social morning.

* Bring and Buy Stall * Jigsaw Puzzle Sale * Home Produce Stall *

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

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 4th December

The Second Sunday of Advent

10:30am **FAMILY WORSHIP**

with **CHRISTINGLE**

Led by: *Revd Phil Groves*



Lord Jesus, bringer of light to this world, we pray that your light would shine in us and that as a community we may reflect your light to those around us. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen

Our service collection today will go towards the work of The Children's Society

Tues. 6th	11:00am – 1:00pm 7:30pm	CAFÉ IN THE PARK @ the Jubilee Pavilion CHOIR PRACTICE @ the Chapel
Thurs. 8th	2:30pm - 3:30pm 8:00pm - 9:00pm	ADVENT COURSE @ St. Mary's Centre ADVENT COURSE online
Sun. 11th	10:30am	FAMILY COMMUNION Leader: Revd Phil Groves

Pewsheets: pewsheets@stonedintonhartwell.com

Website: www.stonedintonhartwell.com

Revd Phil Groves: drphilgroves@gmail.com

tel no: 01296 748390

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE

Matthew 3:1-12

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

3 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." 3 This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

*"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"*

4 John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. 5 People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. 6 Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the Jordan River.

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptising, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. 9 And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. 10 The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 "I baptise you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Isaiah prophesied that a messenger would prepare the way for the coming of the long awaited Messiah. Then after hundreds of years of waiting John the Baptist emerged with his urgent message of repentance, and he did not mince his words!

The Pharisees were religious leaders and teachers who set the tone for everyday religious life. They held themselves—and others—to very strict standards when it came to following the law. The Sadducees were more like religious aristocrats who co-operated with the Roman occupation, and so they were resented by the people.

John did not admire or fear either group. He called them vipers, a term which links them to the deceiving serpent in the Garden of Eden. He also warned that the coming Messiah would bring the wrath of God against the unrepentant, but he would baptise the truly repentant with the Holy Spirit and fire. Trees that do not bear fruit, spiritually speaking, would be cut down and burned. This is a clear warning to prepare ourselves for His coming.



Dear Lord, during the Advent period of waiting, help us to prepare ourselves for your coming. Give us the courage and perception to see ourselves as we really are, and to seek forgiveness where we have gone astray. Amen

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LUNCH @ St Mary's in Aylesbury

This year the team will again be offering a free Christmas Day lunch to anyone who is on their own or in need. It is anticipated that the uptake will be even greater this time and so a lot of support will be needed. In recent years SJB has contributed to this event either through our Coffee Cup collections or by giving the collection from one of our December services. So, we have decided to give our **Advent/December coffee cup collection** to this worthy cause (please be generous if you can) and we will **also** give the **collection from our Carol Service** on 18th December. For more information about the Community lunch please see: <https://www.freechristmasdinner.com/>



CHRISTMAS SERVICES



- 18th Dec** **9:00am** **MATINS** (*said service*)
10:30am **FAMILY CAROL SERVICE** (*note this is a morning service due to the World Cup*)
- 24th Dec** **4:00pm** **CHRISTMAS EVE CRIB SERVICE**
11:30pm **MIDNIGHT COMMUNION**
- 25th Dec** **10:00am** **CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY COMMUNION at St Peter & St Paul DINTON**

Updates to SPP Dinton services

- Morning Worship on 18th December has been cancelled
- Carol Service at Dinton on 11th December starts at 4pm.
- In Jan / Feb the Evensong on the second Sunday starts at 3pm.



Once again we will be supporting the work of the prison chaplaincy at HMP Grendon and Springhill as they give a pair of socks to each resident who attends the Christmas Day service.

If you want to contribute a new pair of socks please speak to Richard or Sue Smith. The socks do not have to be yellow! and it is better if they are patterned and not plain black.

Thank you

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE