

A Thankyou letter to us all

Last Sunday morning Richard read to us the following thankyou letter for the socks we gave as Christmas presents to the men in prison. Here it is:

Dear Congregation at St John the Baptist Church

I am so grateful for the kindness you have shown the residents this Christmas. The socks you have provided mean so much and in most cases are the only present they receive.

We gave out the gifts at the end of their Christmas service and their response was full of thankfulness. Some of the residents specifically asked that we would send to you their thanks. It was clear from their faces that they were genuinely appreciative.

May our Lord Jesus bless you all and your families this Christmas as we celebrate His coming to us.

With the love of God and on behalf of the Chaplaincy Team,

Revd. Robert Lightowler- Acting Managing Chaplain

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 18th January at 7:30pm and Saturday 22nd 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

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 9th January

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

10:30am HOLY COMMUNION

Revd Harriet Orridge/ Revd Nigel Featherston

4:00pm PARISH EVENSONG

at SPP DINTON

Adrian Collier



This week

Monday 10 th	7:30pm	SJB Fabric Committee meeting online
Wednesday 12 th	8:00pm	PCC meeting online
Sunday 16 th	9:00am	Matins (Prayer Book Service)
	10:30am	Morning Worship

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

3:15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,

3:16 John answered all of them by saying, "I baptise you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

3:17 His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

3:21 Now when all the people were baptised, and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the heaven was opened,

3:22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Having celebrated the Epiphany of the Lord, we now mark and honour his Baptism. The word 'Epiphany' means to show or reveal. Jesus was shown and revealed as the Saviour and light for the whole world and all peoples for all time. Tradition suggests to us that after his baptism in the River Jordan by John the Baptist, Jesus began his public ministry of healing, teaching and proclaiming the Good News of Gods Kingdom especially to the poor. The Baptism of Jesus then is another epiphany or revelation of God's power and presence in and through the person of Jesus.



*Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen*

Update on the building work

We remain very thankful to God that the building works on the new church facilities continue to progress well and that no major obstacles have been encountered. We are in regular contact with Wards', the builders and the architect. The contractors have been working this week to install the plumbing and wiring for the new appliances and we are hopeful that we are on track for completion of the works in February.

There may be a short period of further disruption to the path from Churchway in the next few weeks because the earth has settled unevenly around the previous excavations and the path in this area will need to be levelled to improve access through the churchyard.

We are also expecting some work to take place on some of the tall trees in the churchyard to remove dead branches during this month, though we do not anticipate any significant disruption to access to the church from this.

Richard



We thank you Father that after many years of planning and fundraising the building work is finally going ahead.

We pray that your guiding hand will be upon the rest of the project so that it will soon come to successful completion.

We long to put the new facilities to good use so that we, your people, may be truly welcoming to our local community.

Amen

Looking ahead

Sunday 23 rd January	10:30am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 26 th January	8:00pm	SJB committee meeting online
Sunday 30 th January	11:00am	Morning Worship with our Methodist friends AT THE CHAPEL in Eythrope Road. This is the first time we have worshipped together since early 2020. The choir will be singing.