



CHRISTMAS SERVICES




- 17th Dec** **9:00am** **MATINS** (said service)
10:30am **FAMILY COMMUNION SERVICE**
4:00pm **SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS**
with the choir
- 24th Dec** **10:30am** **SERVICE OF QUIET PRAYER & REFLECTION**
4:00pm **CHRISTMAS EVE CRIB SERVICE**
for all the family
11:30pm **MIDNIGHT COMMUNION**
- 25th Dec** **10:00am** **CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY COMMUNION**
at St Peter & St Paul DINTON

Open House invitation

You are invited by our rector -Revd Cassa - and her husband Myles to their Christmas Open House at the Rectory (12 Cricketers Way, Haddenham) on 21st December from 3 pm to 9.30 pm.

Café News

There will be no Café in the Park on Tuesdays 26th December and 2nd January. Thankyou to all the helpers, bakers, and organisers for the tremendous job you have done this year. Have a break and a wonderful Christmas! We start again on SATURDAY 6th January and TUESDAY 9th January.




Network Name:
SJB Congregation

Password:
StJohnBaptist

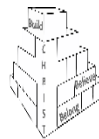
We now accept online donations. You can donate at:

www.stonedintonhartwell.com/donate



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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 10th December

Second Sunday in Advent



10:30 CHRISTINGLE FAMILY SERVICE

led by Revd Phil Groves

4:00 DINTON CAROL SERVICE

led by Revd Nigel Featherston and Revd Phil Groves with the Benefice Evensong choir

		THIS WEEK	
Tues	12 th	11:00am	Café in the Park - in the Jubilee Pavilion
		7:30pm	Choir practice – Methodist chapel
Sat	16 th	10:30am	Choir practice – in the church
Sun	17 th	9:00am	MATINS led by David Pickup
		10:30am	FAMILY COMMUNION SERVICE <i>Led by Revd Sue Smith and Richard Smith</i>
		4:00pm	SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS <i>Led by Revd Phil Groves</i>

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Mark 1:1-8

John the Baptist prepares the way

1 The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah the Son of God² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

*'I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way' –*

*³ 'a voice of one calling in the wilderness,
"Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him."'*

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the River Jordan. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt round his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: 'After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

What was it that drew people to this mysterious man living a simple lifestyle in the Judean desert, wearing unfashionable clothes? We are told that 'all the people of Jerusalem went out to him' so they must have been desperately seeking something.

John was preaching a message of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. So he was telling them what in their heart of hearts they knew they needed. He offered them something that in the depths of their souls they were waiting for.

His message was direct and they responded to that. It was also effective because John himself was humble. He sought no fame or glory for himself. Instead he viewed himself as a servant of the one who was to come after him. The people saw a man who was not interested in money or material comforts, but who was passionate about God. They recognised his holiness, and his sincerity.

Our church here in Stone is dedicated to John the Baptist, so what can we learn from him about sharing the Good News in our own community?

BSL Carol Service this morning

You can rediscover the wonders of faith, hope and boundless love in Christ in a special online ecumenical carol service led in British Sign Language (BSL), at 9:00am today.

Five Christian denominations -- The Church of England, The Church of Scotland, The Church in Wales, The Methodist Church of Great Britain, and The Baptist Union of Great Britain (Baptists Together) – will show it.

You can see it on the Church of England's Facebook and YouTube channels

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Thank you to Aaron from Village Tree Surgeons who delivered this lovely tree into the church ready for decorating.

Thankyou to Steve Birrell for putting the lights up and thankyou to the ladies who decorated it to make a special Christmas tree look so good.

Thankyou to you all on behalf of our entire Church Community.

Coffee Cup news.

Our Coffee Cup Collections in SJB this month will be sent to the **Community Christmas Lunch** in St Mary's church in Aylesbury. It offers a free Christmas Day meal and entertainment to those who are in need.

Further details can be seen here

<https://www.freechristmasdinner.com>



Father

Thank you for coming into my life and journeying with me.

*I acknowledge the many times when I have got lost by going it alone,
or by failing to follow the map that you have given me,
or simply by becoming content to stay where I am.*

I pray this Advent you will stir me up with the passion that John the Baptist showed.

May I seek to be more transformed into your image.

*Lord, help me to be honest with myself,
and also to have the faith to step forward into the unknown
trusting that you are with me
and that you will be there to meet me at the end of my journey.*

Amen

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