

### Coffee cup news

During December the Coffee Cup Collection raised £196.84 for Aylesbury's Community Christmas Lunch held at St Mary's Church. The service collection at our Carol Service totalled £152.40 for the same charity. So a grand total of £349.24 - thanks to all who donated generously. It made a big difference to a lot of peoples' Christmas Days.

*Thankyou*



Our coffee cup collection at the end of our services this month will be for PACE in Aylesbury. PACE helps children with neurodisabilities to achieve their fullest potential. For more information about their work <https://thepacecentre.org/about-pace/>

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### The Work of Christmas Begins

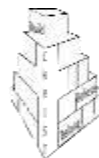
When the carols have been stilled,  
When the star-topped tree is taken down,  
When family and friends are gone home,  
When we are back to our schedules  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To welcome the refugee,  
To heal a broken planet,  
To feed the hungry,  
To build bridges of trust, not walls of fear.  
To share our gifts,  
To seek justice and peace for all people,  
To bring Christ's light to the world.

- by Michael Dougherty, a variation on [Howard Thurman](#)'s 'When the Song of the Angels is Stilled'

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

## St. John the Baptist STONE Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January



### NEW YEAR'S DAY



10:30am **WELCOME IN THE NEW YEAR**  
*Christmas carols and prayers in an informal setting*



*Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new and so we thank you for this New Year and for all the potential it holds.*

*Inspire us every morning to look to the future with hope, and to give you thanks for the wonders of your creation and the wonderful gifts you have given us.*

*Reassure us that whatever we might experience in the year ahead you will always be beside us. Amen*

### January services

- 8<sup>th</sup> 10:30am **We Three Kings** – Canon Phil takes us on a journey with the three mysterious wise men
- 15<sup>th</sup> 9:00am **Matins** (Prayer Book service) - David Pickup  
10:30am **Morning Worship** - Rector Cassa Messervy and David Pickup and our **EXPLORERS** group for Bible stories, craft and games
- 22<sup>nd</sup> 10:30am **Holy Communion** - Canon Phil and our **EXPLORERS** group.
- 29<sup>th</sup> 11:00am **Special Service** of unity in the chapel with our Methodist friends  
There is no service in SJB Stone

**CAFÉ IN THE PARK - THIS SATURDAY - 7<sup>th</sup> JANUARY - 10:00 - 12:00**

**BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE**

## Matthew 2:13-23

### The escape to Egypt

13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. 'Get up,' he said, 'take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.'

14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, 15 where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'Out of Egypt I called my son.'

16 When Herod realised that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. 17 Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

18 'A voice is heard in Ramah,  
weeping and great mourning,  
Rachel weeping for her children  
and refusing to be comforted,  
because they are no more.'

### The return to Nazareth

19 After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt 20 and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead.'

21 So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, 23 and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

From the time Jesus was born, God's steady protection and Joseph's faithful obedience together ensure His safety in a world filled with danger. According to this narrative, Jesus, Mary and Joseph went through a period of being – like tens of millions today – 'displaced persons' or refugees. We see that on a number of occasions, angels direct Joseph in his dreams, but we also find that he uses his own common sense! He is cautious that the son of Herod will be as bad as the father and so takes precautions.

Like any newly-married couple, Mary and Joseph had their dreams and hopes. He was a skilled carpenter, so their future seems secure. Suddenly everything falls apart – the birth in a stable, the flight into Egypt, the long wait till they could return to Galilee. But in all the mess they stay faithful to one another, and they rear the Son of God.



*Almighty and merciful God, whose Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own; look with mercy on those who today are fleeing from danger, homeless and hungry.*

*Bless those who work to bring them relief; inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts; and guide the nations of the world towards that day when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen*



*Thankyou to everyone who received Mary and Joseph into their home for a night on their Posada journey around the parish during Advent..*

### Pathways magazine

Pathways is the magazine for people in the Oxford diocese featuring articles to help equip Christians on their walk with God, while informing enquirers as they learn more about faith. From deepening your spiritual life to practical tips on living out your faith, Pathways will provide something for everyone and be enjoyed by many.

The latest edition is now available online and there are a few printed copies in the church porch that are free to take.

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/pathways>

