

### Coffee Cup news

Our coffee cup collection today is for the Aylesbury Town Centre Chaplaincy. It is run by the local Christian community to help serve the needs of the town. It is an independent charitable trust and has volunteer day time chaplains and night time Street Angels drawn from churches across the town and surrounding area. All chaplains and Street Angels are motivated by Christian principles of love and service and are fully committed to serving people of all backgrounds, and of all faiths or none.

<https://www.aylesburytownchaplancy.co.uk>

### Choir practice

After today the choir will be taking a well-deserved break for a few weeks. The next Choir Practice will be on Tuesday 22nd AUGUST 7.30pm @SJB when they will be preparing for Harvest Thanksgiving.



THANKYOU to the choir and to Chris Ashbridge and Richard Smith for enhancing our worship in so many of our services this year. We look forward to hearing you all again in the autumn.

### Coins and old gold and silver broken jewellery.



In recent years we have been able to raise funds for the church from donations of foreign and obsolete coins and broken jewellery. The jewellery is mainly broken chains and the coins are left over from foreign holidays.

If you have any broken jewellery or obsolete foreign or English coins and banknotes please send them in. Every little helps! David Pickup tel: 748170

A message from Rosemary Jackson (churchwarden at SPP Dinton) who recently celebrated a significant birthday:

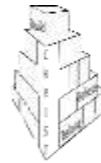
*Thank you so much for the birthday card from SJB. I was chuffed to be remembered like that.*

*With love, Rosemary x*

Pewsheets: [pewsheets@stonedintonhartwell.com](mailto:pewsheets@stonedintonhartwell.com)

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

Revd Canon Dr Phil Groves: [drphilgroves@gmail.com](mailto:drphilgroves@gmail.com) 01296 748390



## 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 25<sup>th</sup> June

10:30am

### FAMILY COMMUNION for the festival of St John the Baptist

*Led by: Revd Phil Groves*

*Preacher: Richard Smith*



**EXPLORERS** will meet during the main service



*Heavenly Father,  
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the  
way of your Son:  
give us courage to speak the truth,  
to hunger for justice,  
and to suffer for the cause of right,  
with Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen*

### THIS WEEK

Tues 27 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am	Café in the Park - in the Jubilee Pavilion
Weds 28 <sup>th</sup>	8:00pm	SJB committee meeting - in the church
Sat 1 <sup>st</sup>	10:00am	Café in the Park - in the Jubilee Pavilion
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9:00am	MATINS (Prayer Book Service)
	10:30am	FAMILY WORSHIP

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

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**Luke 1:57-66, 80**

### **The Birth of John the Baptist**

*<sup>57</sup> When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. <sup>58</sup> Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.*

*<sup>59</sup> On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, <sup>60</sup> but his mother spoke up and said, "No! He is to be called John."*

*<sup>61</sup> They said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who has that name."*

*<sup>62</sup> Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. <sup>63</sup> He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, "His name is John." <sup>64</sup> Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. <sup>65</sup> All the neighbours were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. <sup>66</sup> Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, "What then is this child going to be?" For the Lord's hand was with him.*

*<sup>80</sup> And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the desert until he appeared publicly to Israel.*

Elizabeth is one of several women in the Bible who conceived and bore a child after years of barrenness - along with Sarah, Rebekkah, Hannah, and the unnamed mother of Samson. All of these women had, for many years, been unable to conceive and produce new life – a new beginning. Here though Elizabeth delivers a baby who will become the forerunner of the greatest new beginning of all.

The birth of a long-awaited child is a time of great joy. The unexpected has happened! To highlight this, the child was to be given a new name, not that of his father, to show that God had a special mission for him. It had been revealed to Zechariah and Elizabeth that they should call the child John, and they did so, despite criticism from their relatives and neighbours. The name 'John' in Hebrew means 'The Lord is gracious.' God had indeed shown them his kindness by fulfilling their desire to have a child.

As a grown man John boldly announced the presence of the Word and pointed him out to others. He spoke out courageously in his prophetic way, eventually losing his life for speaking truth to power. Our own church is dedicated to him. We should therefore follow his example and proclaim the good news of Jesus and speak out for truth wherever it is needed.



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### **John the Baptist Quiz**

**How many of these do you know the answers to?**

1. In which year was our church built?
2. Which angel told Zechariah he would have a son?
3. What sort of garment did John wear in the desert?
4. In which river did John baptise Jesus?
5. Which village did our font originally come from?
6. Who put John in prison?
7. Which country is our church toilet twinned with?

Send your answers to [pewsheet@stonedintonhartwell.com](mailto:pewsheet@stonedintonhartwell.com) by 7pm on Friday. There is no prize for getting them all right but you will see your name in print next week!

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## **Festival of St John the Baptist 2023** **Sunday June 25**

Festival Holy Communion 10.30am  
With Choir and Explorers Group for kids



Then:  
**Join us for a Picnic**  
**Vicarage Farmhouse**  
Bring your own picnic and  
bring drinks to share.

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### **A prayerful response to Windrush Day (last Thursday)**

*Heavenly Father*

*We confess that we have not always welcomed the stranger and recognised them as being made in your image and likeness. We have sometimes been suspicious, judgmental, selfish and unkind. We have sometimes failed to be good hosts and neighbours to those that have become part of our communities and society.*

*Father, we ask you for the grace to live together as your people and as part of the human family. We do so humbly in Jesus name. Amen.*

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