




Have you remembered to turn your clock back an hour? You can stay in bed a bit longer this morning, but it will be dark earlier this evening.

Dates for your diary

- Sat 4th November Café in the Park
- Sun 12th November Remembrance Sunday
- Sat 25th November Christmas Coffee and Gift Fair run by 'Socially Crafty'
- Sat 2nd December Café in the Park
- Sun 3rd December Advent Sunday with choir - Posada begins
- Sun 10th December Christingle Service
- Sun 17th December Carol Service
- Sun 24th December Crib Service
- Sun 24th December Midnight Holy Communion

Some sad news


Jackie Hawkins, the wife of Revd Jonathan Hawkins passed away a few days ago after a long illness. Jackie and Jonathan were closely associated with Cuddington church for a number of years, though Jonathan has had particular responsibility for Kingsey Church more recently. Jonathan has also taken services at this church on occasions. Jonathan's father has also passed away very recently, so please remember him in your prayers at this very difficult time of loss



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Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell



Churches of: St. John Baptist, STONE; Ss Peter & Paul, DINTON; Assumption of St. Mary the Virgin, HARTWELL
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St. John the Baptist STONE

Sunday 29th October

11:00am **JOINT SERVICE at the Methodist Chapel**
led by David Pickup

David will be speaking on 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 in which Paul talks about the suffering he had endured for daring to share the gospel in the face of strong opposition. It is now our responsibility to share the word of God and pass it on to future generations.

6:00pm **SERVICE OF LOVING REMEMBRANCE**
led by Canon Phil Groves

An evening service to remember before God those who are dear to us who have passed away. The service will include words of hope from the Scriptures, quiet prayer and well-known hymns. On request we will read the names of those to be remembered as we light a candle for them.

Please speak to the welcomer on the door if you would like a name added to the list of those we will be remembering.



THIS WEEK

Tues	31st	11:00am	Café in the Park - in the Jubilee Pavilion
		7:30pm	Choir practice – Methodist chapel
Sat	4th	10:00am	Café in the Park – in the Jubilee Pavilion
Sun	5th	9:00am	MATINS led by David Pickup
		10:30am	FAMILY WORSHIP led by Canon Phil Groves

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Today is also known as **BIBLE SUNDAY** when we celebrate the gift of God's word. The article below is a summary from resources supplied by the Bible Society. You can read the passage from Nehemiah by clicking this link

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Nehemiah+8%3A1-11&version=NIVUK>

Nehemiah 8.1–11 is the story of the reading of the law to the people of Israel after their return from exile in Babylon. The reading of the Law was a key moment for them as they realised and reaffirmed their identity as God's people. The Law was written in Hebrew, but during their exile their everyday language had changed to Aramaic. Most of the people wouldn't have understood what they were hearing, so it was translated and explained for them.

Nehemiah and the priests had prepared carefully for this event. They had arranged for the Levites to explain the meaning of what was being read. These Levites would have had to study and discuss the text beforehand so they knew what to say. The whole event had been planned as a centrepiece for the foundation of this renewed community. It was built around God's word, and 'they all listened attentively' – for about six hours! *(don't worry –David won't preach for that long today!)*

The Levites 'gave an oral translation of God's Law and explained it so that the people could understand it' (verse 8). Verse 9 tells us that 'when the people heard what the Law required, they were so moved that they began to cry'. They were struck by the gap between what they ought to have been and what they were, and grieved at how they'd fallen short. But Nehemiah and Ezra tell them not to become obsessed with their sin but rather to enjoy and celebrate what the Lord had done for them. God's word convicts us of sin, but much more, it brings grace and the knowledge of love and forgiveness.

It was as the people gathered around God's word that they were bound together as a community. For us too, coming together around the Scriptures and sharing stories, hopes and fears can prove to be a restart moment. The Bible transforms lives because it is the written word that leads us to the living Word: 'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us' as John says in the prologue to his Gospel (John 1.14, NIV). As in Ezra and Nehemiah's day, the word of God is central to understanding our place in the world and how to live. It shows us that it is the truth and grace of Jesus Christ that is the hope of our lives and the hope of the world.

Question: in which UK public building can these words be found? (in Latin)

'Unless the Lord builds the house the builders labour in vain' (Psalm 127.1)

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Answer: These words are inlaid in the floor of the Central Lobby in the Houses of Parliament in Westminster. They are a reminder that Scripture has informed, shaped and provided the foundations for our country. God's word is a strong foundation not just for a nation, but particularly for God's people as we know it and learn to live by it.



*Lord You have called us to be your people,
to follow where you lead,
be obedient to your word
and bring your Good News wherever we might go.
Forgive the impatience and lack of faith
which causes us to stumble,
preferring our way to yours,
relying on human wisdom rather than the truth
which comes from you.
Draw us back into your arms, as prodigals to our Father
and grant us patience, perseverance,
and a child-like faith in our journeying with you.
Amen*

(prayer by John Birch)

**Remembrance Sunday Open Air Service
Sunday 12th November**

The service will again be held in conjunction with the Parish Council and it starts in the War Memorial Recreation Ground at 10:45

The national silence will be observed at 11:00

The service will be led by Richard Smith who is training to be a lay minister.

There will also be a gathering at the war memorial in Bishopstone at 10:30. This will be led by Revd Sue Smith.

There will not be a service in the church on that day



**Saturday 4th November
10:00am – 12:00 noon
Jubilee Pavilion – Stone Recreation Ground**

Cooked breakfasts – real coffee – homemade cakes – gluten free options available
(there is no charge for refreshments but donations are welcome)



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