

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)
Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 20:00
St Peter and St Paul, Dinton**

Please join us on the PCC

The PCC is the Council that has oversight of our churches in Stone and Dinton. While decisions on worship and fabric are made by our church committees, the PCC enables us to keep on the right track. We meet six times a year and the meetings are streamlined to be effective.

We need someone to oversee our finances.

Sadly, Steve Kennel has to step down due to work pressure and we are investigating innovative software systems to make the job easy, but we need someone to brief us so everyone on the PCC understands the financial situation.

We have vacancies for our representatives on Deanery Synod.

We would like another couple of people to join us to ensure we listen to our congregations and take our churches forward.

We also have vacancies for Churchwardens. Raymond and Rosemary would love help.

You could give it a go as an Assistant Churchwarden like Sue Birrell.

The APCM is on May 10. Do join us.

Phil Groves

Associate Rector in the Wychert Vale Benefice

Phone 01296 748 390

The nomination forms for the APCM are in the church porch and also online

www.stonedintonhartwell.com/apcm



**Saturday 6th May
10:00am- 12:00 noon
Café in the Park**

YES WE ARE GOING AHEAD - even though it overlaps a bit with the Coronation



Living God, you bring us together in community and teach us to love one another as you have loved us. May we be beacons of your light in the communities in which we are set, that through truth, justice and action we may see your kingdom come upon earth, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

(from the Church of England book of daily prayers for the coronation)

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 30th April



Dear Lord, we are grieved to hear news of violence and suffering in Sudan. We know that people are hurting deeply, and in Khartoum many are running short of basic supplies. Our thoughts are with them. You know the hearts of all involved, and we pray that you will heal their hurts - bringing about peace and reconciliation. May you comfort them in their grief, keep the flames of hope alive, and restore the nation. Amen.

11:00am **JOINT SERVICE AT THE CHAPEL**

Led by: Revd Keith Edwards

There is no service in the church today but there is a warm welcome at the chapel

THIS WEEK

Tues 2nd	11:00am	Café in the Park - in the Jubilee Pavilion
Tues 2nd	7:30pm	Choir practice – in the church
Weds 3rd	8:00pm	SJB committee – in the church
Sat 6th	10:00am	Café in the Park – in the Jubilee Pavilion
Sun 7th	10:30am	FAMILY WORSHIP

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BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE

The Good Shepherd and His Sheep

John 10:1-10

10 "Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognise a stranger's voice."⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

⁷Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Jesus uses rich images of daily life to illustrate the depth of his desired relationship with us. It was common practice at that time for the sheep of more than one shepherd to be enclosed overnight in the same pen. Each shepherd could identify his own though - and the term 'know his voice' does not mean simply to recognise; it implies a deep bond, attachment and connection. The shepherd would then lead the way. He knows where to go. He knows the dangers to avoid. He keeps his own safe because they trust him completely.

Sometimes the only way to keep sheep safe at night was to make a pen by cutting thorn branches. Leaving a gap in the circle the shepherd then called them into the enclosure and slept across the gap. Here the shepherd is also literally the gate. Nobody can steal or harm those who are his own.

These are all comforting words that remind us of Psalm 23.

How do we learn to know the voice of Jesus in our own lives? It takes practice! There are so many other voices calling us, demanding our attention we can easily be led astray if we have not learned to 'know his voice'. Through daily prayer and reading of the scriptures we will get to discern for ourselves when other 'voices' are not right and will lead us into a blind alley. Yes sometimes we will get it wrong, but Jesus does not give up on us. We are his.

The good news is that Jesus came to give us life, and have it to the full. We have here a picture of total freedom together with total security.



*Thankyou Jesus that you know us each by name and you lead us and keep us safe. Help us to always know your voice and to not be led astray by others.
Amen*

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Well done Josh!

Congratulations to Josh Rysdale who completed the London Marathon on Sunday in 4 hours and 2 minutes. He was running on behalf of 'Children With Cancer' because his sister had suffered from cancer when she was a young child. Josh enjoyed the running but was also glad when he finished! He said the atmosphere and the crowds were amazing, and he is keen to do it again (and he might try to rope in his sister the next time he does it!!)

If you have sponsored Josh please get your donations in now, and if you did not but would still like to donate please let his Mum Fiona know asap. Thankyou everyone.

Well done Josh we are all proud of your wonderful achievement.

Thy Kingdom Come



Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) is the global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.

Here in Stone we will be encouraging every person and household to pray during the 11 days from 18th May to 28th May either in their own home, or in church. This is how we plan to do it:

1. A **booklet of daily prayers** for our friends, families, and community will be available to everyone from Sunday 14th May.
2. We will ask people to pray the prayer for the day between 7pm and 7.30pm (or as close to that as they can) **wherever** they are.
3. The **church will be open** 7pm – 7.30pm for anyone to come and pray there. Each day there will be a group of **at least three people** praying in church at that time. You can pray silently on your own or join the group in their prayers. The exception is Ascension Day (18th May) when we begin TKC with a service at SPP Dinton at 7.30pm.

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