



SOCIALLY CRAFTY MEETS

EVERY 3RD MONDAY OF THE MONTH

(except Bank Holidays)

10.30am - 12.30

in St John the Baptist Church, Stone



EVERYONE IS WELCOME

There is no commitment to come every month
just come when you can and join in.


our next session is on Monday 15th January

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. Watch this space for a report on the lunch that took place this year. Thankyou to everyone who has contributed to this good cause so far. Today is your last opportunity to give through the coffee cup collection in church.

Café News


There will be **no Café** in the Park on Tuesday 2nd January. Thankyou to all the helpers, bakers, and organisers for the tremendous job you have done this year. 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

Revd Canon Dr Phil Groves: drphilgroves@gmail.com 01296 748390
Benefice office: office@wychertvale.org 01844 291108
Pewsheets: pewsheets@stonedintonhartwell.com
Website: www.stonedintonhartwell.com

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 31st December

10:30am **SERVICE OF QUIET PRAYER & REFLECTION**
led by Raymond Medhurst



HAPPY NEW YEAR!



January Services

7 th	9:00am	MATINS	<i>led by David Pickup</i>
	10:30am	HOLY COMMUNION & EXPLORERS	<i>led by Revd Nigel Featherston</i>
14 th	10:30am	FAMILY WORSHIP	<i>led by Richard Smith & Revd Sue Smith</i>
	4:00pm	EVENSONG at SPP DINTON	<i>led by David Pickup</i>
21 st	9:00am	MATINS	<i>led by David Pickup</i>
	10:30am	HOLY COMMUNION & EXPLORERS with baptism	<i>led by Revd Phil Groves</i>
28 th	11:00am	COVENANT SERVICE at THE CHAPEL (there is no service in SJB)	

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE

Luke 2:15-21

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

21 On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

"The Nativity" by Gustave Doré



When we receive some good news, especially if it is unexpected, we just naturally want to share it with others – don't we? The shepherds certainly did. First of all the angel told the shepherds the good news. Then, because the news was so good the shepherds just could not keep it to themselves. They went out and told others all about it too. They did not have any formal evangelism training (as far as we know!), they just repeated what they had heard and seen. That is all that witnessing is really. We might not know the answers to deep theological questions, but we know what we have seen and heard. So, if we have just celebrated the good news of our saviour Jesus Christ we need to rejoice and share it with others. Perhaps that could be a New Year resolution?

This is a shortened version of a prayer from Billy Graham written in 2008 but it is just as relevant as we look toward 2024.



Our Father and our God, as we stand at the beginning of this new year we confess our need of your presence and Your guidance as we face the future.

We each have our hopes and expectations for the year that is ahead of us—but you alone know what it holds for us, and only You can give us the strength and the wisdom we will need to meet its challenges. So help us to humbly put our hands into your hand, and to trust You and to seek Your will for our lives during this coming year.

In the midst of life's uncertainties in the days ahead, assure us of the certainty of your unchanging love.

In the midst of life's inevitable disappointments and heartaches, help us to turn to you for the stability and comfort we will need.

In the midst of life's temptations and the pull of our stubborn self-will, help us not to lose our way but to have the courage to do what is right in your sight, regardless of the cost.

And so, Father, we thank you for the promise and hope of this new year, and we look forward to it with expectancy and faith. This we ask in the name of our Lord and Saviour, who by His death and resurrection has given us hope both for this world and the world to come.

Amen