



Christmas Tree Festival
St Mary's Church Haddenham
Friday 8th December to Sunday 10th December



Come and see an amazing display of trees decorated by local organisations including SJB Stone. Free entry but donations to Thame Foodbank and Friends of St Mary's.

Friday 11:00 – 5:00 ~ Saturday 11:00 – 5:30 ~ Sunday 12:00 – 5:00

Movember update from Steve Birrell

With a month of beard growth for Movember I have raised nearly £200 for Prostate Cancer, but any more donations in sponsorship will still be very much appreciated. You can go online <http://mobro.co/13723654> or there is a sponsorship form in the church porch which you can use if you want to. Thank you *Steve*

THANKYOU EVERYONE for the tremendous Café in the Park yesterday
 Clive even had to rush out to the shop halfway through for more bacon and eggs!

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. It offers a free Christmas Day meal and entertainment to those who are in need. Further details can be seen here <https://www.freechristmasdinner.com>



Soup Saturdays are here again!
9th December 12:00 noon – 2:00pm


at the Methodist chapel in Eythrope Road
 Soups / cake / tea & coffee - donations to Action for Children



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 3rd December

ADVENT SUNDAY



- 9:00 MATINS** led by David Pickup
- 10:30 FAMILY COMMUNION with the Choir**
led by Revd Nigel Featherston



EXPLORERS will meet during the service

Mary and Joseph will be setting out on their Advent journey at the end of the service today, when the first hosts will be taking them home. Thankyou everyone, we now have sufficient hosts for this year.



			THIS WEEK
Tues	5 th	11:00am	Café in the Park - in the Jubilee Pavilion
		7:30pm	Choir practice – Methodist chapel
Sat	9 th	10:30am	Choir practice – in the church
Sun	10 th	10:30am	CHRISTINGLE FAMILY SERVICE Led by Revd Phil Groves
		4:00pm	DINTON CAROL SERVICE



BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE

Mark 13:24-37

²⁴ 'But in those days, following that distress,
"the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light;
²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky,
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken."

²⁶ 'At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

²⁸ 'Now learn this lesson from the fig-tree: as soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³² 'But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴ It's like a man going away: he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

³⁵ 'Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back – whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or at dawn. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you, I say to everyone: "Watch!"



Dear Heavenly Father,
This Advent season we are in desperate need of peace in our world.
Wars rage on in many places that do not reach the headlines in our news.
They impact the daily lives of millions in different ways.
Guide the thinking and motivation of those who work for peace.
Give them determination to keep striving against entrenched hostilities.
This year, more than ever, we need Jesus, Prince of Peace, in our world and in our hearts.
This year, more than ever, we need to learn how to forgive, and how to reach out with hands of friendship to those who are different from ourselves.
Keep us alert and ever faithful to you dear Lord.
During this Advent season, we pray that Jesus transforms our world as we await His coming again.
Amen

Come thou long expected Jesus!

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE

Advent thoughts

Advent marks the beginning of the church year. The Church of England describes it as a time for reflection in darkness, for renewal of hope and for a movement towards a beginning.

The season of Advent, as it first emerged in the Church in the fourth and fifth centuries, lasted, like Lent, for 40 days. Later tradition developed the Advent we know today, of four Sundays before Christmas Day.

It is a season of expectation as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming of Christ. Church decorations are simple and sparse, and purple is the traditional colour used. Advent falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas.

Many of us will be thinking about Advent as being the time for frenzied Christmas preparations, so it can be puzzling to understand why the gospel reading for Advent Sunday refers not to Jesus as a baby, but to his expected return at an unknown time. We are in effect celebrating the former at the same time as anticipating the latter.

In his book 'Advent for Everyone' the author Tom Wright describes the church year as like a bicycle wheel. Each year we go around – Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter.....and so on. Then round we go again. But his point is that we are not simply going round and round and not getting anywhere. A bicycle wheel goes round and round but at the same time it moves us forward. It moves us on towards the eventual goal – the return of Jesus when He will put all things right.

That is the Advent hope.



CHRISTMAS COFFEE AND CRAFTS

The Coffee and Crafts morning held at St John The Baptist was a great success with lots of visitors enjoying the space in the church, chatting, drinking coffee and buying lots of handmade cakes, preserves and gifts that had been made by Socially Crafty.

Lots of things were sold to many happy people. On the day we had cash and card payments and after church on Sunday we sold a few more bits. In total **£681.92** was raised and that will go to SJB Fabric Fund to continue improvements in the church and churchyard.

Thank you to everyone who helped or attended and if you didn't manage to come along then put in your diary that Socially Craft meets on the 3rd Monday of each month and everyone is welcome.

Sue

Note - The Socially Crafty group will be meeting for a coffee and chat to plan what they want to do in 2024 on **Monday 18th December**

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