

Café in the Park

Dates for the next few Saturday Cafes as there is NO CAFÉ on 7th September but there are two in August **3rd August - 31st August - 5th October**

Also for your diary - our **outdoor Evensong service in Hartwell** this year is on Sunday 1st September. There will be more details nearer the time.



Barry Tomkins

Liz Tomkins would like to say a big thank you for all the cards and messages she has received following the death of her husband Barry.

His funeral will be

Thurs 25th July at 12.30 at Aylesbury Vale Crematorium, Watermead followed by the Wake at The Harrow from 2.00pm.

Liz invites anyone who wants to come to celebrate Barry's life.

Colourful clothes to be worn rather than black.

Socially Crafty

Monday 15th July

10:30am – 12:30pm in the church



Everyone is welcome to join in the craft project, no special skills are needed, or you can bring something else to do, or just sit and chat if you prefer.

Make friends ~ Drink Coffee ~ Eat Cake ~ Do Crafts

Churchyard Gardening Party

Saturday 20th July

10:00am – 1:00 pm

(and every third Saturday until November)





WiFi

Network Name:
SJB Congregation

Password:
StJohnBaptist

We now accept
online donations.
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BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE



SJB

Sunday 14th July



SJB

Notices for the week

Our church is a member of the Wychert Vale family of churches

Services TODAY

10:30am

FAMILY COMMUNION

led by Revd Nigel Featherston



EXPLORERS will meet during the service

6:00pm

EVENSONG with choir at SPP DINTON

led by David Pickup

*This is the **PATRONAL SERVICE** for Ss Peter and Paul so there will be nibbles and Prosecco after the service*



*Lord of all power and might,
the author and giver of all good things:
graft in our hearts the love of your name,
increase in us true religion,
nourish us with all goodness,
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen*

Services next week

9:00am

MATINS in the chancel *led by David Pickup*

10:30am

FAMILY WORSHIP

led by Richard Smith and David Pickup

The week ahead

Mon 15 th July	10:30am	SOCIALLY CRAFTY in the church
Tue 16 th July	11:00am	CAFÉ IN THE PARK in the Jubilee Pavilion
Thur 18 th July	9:00am	LITTLE WRIGGLERS in the Jubilee Pavilion
Sat 20 th July	10:00am	CHURCHYARD GARDENING

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE

Mark 6:14-29

John the Baptist Beheaded

¹⁴ King Herod heard about this, for Jesus' name had become well known. Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him."

¹⁵ Others said, "He is Elijah."

And still others claimed, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago."

¹⁶ But when Herod heard this, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised from the dead!"

¹⁷ For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married. ¹⁸ For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹ So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to, ²⁰ because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him.

²¹ Finally the opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee.

²² When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests.

The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you." ²³ And he promised her with an oath, "Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom."

²⁴ She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?"

"The head of John the Baptist," she answered.

²⁵ At once the girl hurried in to the king with the request: "I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

²⁶ The king was greatly distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷ So he immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, ²⁸ and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to her mother.

²⁹ On hearing of this, John's disciples came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.



The reading tells us that John was imprisoned by Herod because he had spoken out about Herod's relationship with Herodias, and she bore a grudge against John. According to the Jewish historian Josephus, Herod was also alarmed at John's popularity and feared a rebellion if he was not stopped. Even so Herod liked to listen to John, believing him to be a righteous and holy man.

Then we are told the gruesome story of the final hours of John the Baptist, beheaded for a frivolous promise Herod had made. Herod's vain promise caused him grief. He was afraid of being seen to back down.

How many hundreds or thousands of people are in prisons around the world today because they speak out against corrupt or unjust regimes? How many are imprisoned either without trial or having faced unfair trials?

'Remember those who are in prison as though you were in prison with them', says the letter to the Hebrews.



Lord, you spent your last night before your crucifixion in prison. Bring comfort to the thousands of good people who are languishing behind bars. We pray for your truth and justice to always prevail. Amen

Coffee Cup collection Prison Fellowship (episode two)



This is a Christian charity that believes nobody is beyond hope. Its mission is 'to show Christ's love to people in prison by coming alongside them and supporting them'.

The crisis in our prison system has really hit the headlines this week. Even though there are no easy short-term solutions to the overcrowding it feels right that we focus on some of the longer-term work that is being done by Prison Fellowship.

One of the programmes run by PF is the Sycamore Tree course. This is a volunteer-led programme that teaches the principles of restorative justice. It is taught in groups of up to 20 prisoners, over a 6-week period. Learners explore the effects of crime on victims, offenders, and the wider community, and discuss what it would mean to take responsibility for their personal actions.

Sycamore Tree is an accredited course and is proven to change attitudes that contribute to reoffending. The content is consistent with the pathways determined by the His Majesty's Prison and Probation service (HMPPS) to reduce reoffending.

Between April 2023 to March 2024, Prison Fellowship ran 144 Sycamore Tree courses in 58 prisons across England and Wales, allowing over 2,000 learners to explore the impact of their crime.

episode three next week.....