

## SOCIALLY CRAFTY

We meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, except Bank Holidays.  
in St John the Baptist Church, Stone 10.30am - 12.30

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

There is no commitment to come every month

### Did you know that there is no Baby/Toddler group in Stone?

We are planning a weekly term-time session on **Thursdays 9.00am – 10.30am** in the Jubilee Pavilion for children to play and socialise with a Bible story, snacks, singing and dancing, etc – and a place for parents, grandparents and carers to get out the house for a cuppa and chat.

### Could you help on Thursday mornings from 8.30am – 11.30am?

Setting up, serving drinks/snacks, welcoming, playing/talking to little/big ones – either weekly, fortnightly or monthly. It would be great to have some men on the team as well as women.


### Do you have any good quality play mats, baby and toddler toys, toy animals, cars, dinosaurs, etc which you could donate?

Time for a clear out!

Please get in touch if you can help:

[naominz@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:naominz@hotmail.co.uk) or ring 01296 747689.

Thanks *Naomi*




**WiFi**

Network Name:  
**SJB Congregation**

Password:  
**StJohnBaptist**

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**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](http://www.stonedintonhartwell.com)

## St. John the Baptist STONE Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January

### Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

#### 11:00am **JOINT COVENANT SERVICE**

*at the Methodist Chapel  
in Eythrope Road*

**There is no service in our church today** but there is always a warm welcome for us from our Methodist friends at the chapel.



*Father we thank you for the many years of faithful witness of our friends in the Methodist chapel. We pray that by your Spirit we might always be united in loving and serving you, and shining your light together into our community.  
In Jesus' name. Amen*

#### This week

<b>Tues</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup></b>	11:00am	<b>CAFÉ in the PARK</b>	<i>Jubilee Pavilion</i>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	10:00am	<b>CAFÉ in the PARK</b>	<i>Jubilee Pavilion</i>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	9:00am	<b>MATINS</b>	<i>led by David Pickup</i>
		10:30am	<b>FAMILY WORSHIP</b>	<i>led by Revd Phil Groves</i>

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John 15:1-9

### The Vine and the Branches

<sup>1</sup> "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup> "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

<sup>9</sup> "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love."

Jesus speaks of himself as the main trunk of a vine that has many branches. Some of these are laden down with fruit while others have produced nothing. Yet even the branches that bear fruit must be pruned in order to produce more. Even the most committed Christians will go through times of trial as part of the pruning process. On the other hand, no branch can bear any fruit at all unless it is part of the vine.

This all clearly applies to our relationship with Christ. Separated from him we are not able to bear fruit. He is the source of all our life and of every good thing we do. **"Apart from me, you can do nothing"**. A branch that becomes separated from the trunk will wither and die.

So we must take care to remain in the vine. How can we do this? Above all by the practice of regular prayer and raising our hearts and minds to God each morning. As the saying goes – "If you are too busy to pray, you are too busy".

On this Holocaust Memorial weekend we remember not only the atrocities of the past but all those who are suffering today from acts of violence and war.



*O God of all hope and peace, we bring to you the needs of our broken and hurting world.*

*Our hearts are breaking with images of lives lost and torn apart by grief in Israel and Palestine.*

*We pray for an end to violence and warfare so that the challenging work of rebuilding may begin.*

*Help us, O Lord, to affirm our common humanity so that in our differences we may build together for justice and peace.*

*In Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

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### What will you give up this Lent?

We are not asking you to give up chocolate, coffee or wine, this year we are asking you to give up something far more precious: **Time**

Please consider joining a Lent Group.

The groups meet once a week during the 5 weeks of Lent (which starts on Ash Wednesday on 14<sup>th</sup> February). The aim is to deepen our spiritual life and commitment to Jesus.

We are looking for hosts, leaders and people who would like to attend.

More information will come out soon, but please think if you can give up a couple of hours for something that could be inspiring for you and others.

Phil Groves

Associate Rector in the Wychert Vale Benefice

Phone 01296 748 390

### Survey on the Bishopstone Road path through the churchyard

We are hoping to improve the path from Bishopstone Road to the church porch, but it is very steep and we have to be careful as there are tombstones and monuments along the route as well as trees and roots to take into account.

The architect has measured the area and unfortunately, we can't make a fully disabled compliant slope, but they have given us 2 options which we could do and we would like your views.

- **Option 1** is a series of gravel filled ground reinforcement grids (approx. 30mm thick- EcoGrid E30 in brown to blend in with the gravel, or similar) separated by 'gently sloping' landings of the self-binding gravel and using the self-binding gravel where the slope allows higher up and running up almost to the South-east corner of the South transept at which point it reverts to grass grids to the South Porch similar to at the West doors.
- **Option 2** is a stepped alternative with a series of self binding gravel sloping landings between railway style sleepers which act as steps. Clearly not as desirable in terms of wheeled access, but perhaps better in terms of surface material overall.

Both options utilise Everedge path edging to give clear mowing edge and have some in-ground lighting strips just to provide a low level of lighting for safer access after dark.

**There are plans in the church porch if you would like to look at them.**

**PLEASE HELP US BY COMPLETING A SURVEY WHICH CAN BE FOUND BY EACH ENTRANCE PATH AND IN THE CHURCH PORCH, OR SPEAK TO SUE BIRRELL**

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