



**Coffee Cup collection**  
**Prison Fellowship (episode four)**

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'.

**Angel Tree** is a national PF project that gives parents in prison the opportunity to send a Christmas present to their children. In 2023, PF sent out 5,172 gifts in England and Wales! This year PF is aiming to top that.

The **Angel Tree** project will be running in HMP Aylesbury and the local PF prayer group has already started planning for it. Even though it is still July there is a lot to do between now and December. Aylesbury also faces an extra challenge as this is the first year it will be running **Angel Tree** since changing from a Young Offenders prison (not many children) to an adult category prison with many, many more children. The take up rate is not yet known so the Aylesbury PF group are stepping out in faith here!

Prison Fellowship volunteers work with prison chaplains and local churches to buy, wrap and deliver the presents. As long as prisoners are allowed access to their children, they are given the opportunity to apply for a gift to be sent to them.


Each gift is dispatched as though it is from the parent in prison and is accompanied by a personal message written by the parent for their child to make the gift extra special. The parent is also given the option of including an age-appropriate Christian story book in their child's gift.

There are around 312,000 children in England and Wales with a parent in prison. That means more than double the number of children are affected by parental imprisonment than divorce in the family. When a parent is taken away to prison a child can feel abandoned, unloved, and wondering if they did something wrong themselves.

**Angel Tree** is a very simple and incredibly rewarding way to help parents in prison stay in contact with their families during imprisonment, which can contribute to reducing re-offending rates. People in prison being visited by a partner or family member have a 52% re-offending rate as compared to 70% for those who do not.\*

*[\* Ministry of Justice (2008), [Factors linked to reoffending](#), London: Ministry of Justice]*


*episode five next week.....*



Network Name:  
**SJB Congregation**

Password:  
**StJohnBaptist**

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**BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE**



# Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July



## 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 Phil Groves*

*EXPLORERS is now taking a break until September  
So all ages are worshipping together as one family  
Today.*



*Almighty God,  
who sent your Holy Spirit  
to be the life and light of your Church:  
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,  
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit  
in love and joy and peace;  
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** *led by David Pickup*

**10:30am FAMILY SERVICE**  
*led by Richard Smith*

### The week ahead

Tue 30 <sup>th</sup> July	11:00am	<b>CAFÉ IN THE PARK</b> in the Jubilee Pavilion
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> Aug	10:00am	<b>CAFÉ IN THE PARK</b> in the Jubilee Pavilion

**BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE**

## John 6:1-21

### Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

*6 Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias),<sup>2</sup> and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick.<sup>3</sup> Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples.<sup>4</sup> The Jewish Passover Festival was near.*

*<sup>5</sup> When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?"<sup>6</sup> He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.*



*<sup>7</sup> Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"*

*<sup>8</sup> Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up,<sup>9</sup> "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"*

*<sup>10</sup> Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there).<sup>11</sup> Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.*

*<sup>12</sup> When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted."<sup>13</sup> So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.*

*<sup>14</sup> After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."<sup>15</sup> Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.*

### Jesus Walks on the Water

*<sup>16</sup> When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake,<sup>17</sup> where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them.<sup>18</sup> A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough.*

*<sup>19</sup> When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were frightened.*

*<sup>20</sup> But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid."*

*<sup>21</sup> Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.*

## Here comes summer?

The school holidays are now open us and many of us pause from usual activities for a while. We pray for safe journeys as well as rest, relaxation, and re-charging of batteries ready for September. There are still some events to enjoy during August though:



- The **Olympics** has just started. You can watch this on TV even if you didn't manage to qualify for team GB this time
- **Café in the Park** will continue to meet each Tuesday morning
- **Café in the Park** will be open on TWO Saturdays – 3<sup>rd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> August
- **Churchyard gardening** at 10:00am on 17<sup>th</sup> August
- **Socially Crafty** meets in the church at 10:30am on 19<sup>th</sup> August
- **The A418 into Aylesbury will be closed** from 8:30pm Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August to 5:30am Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September (a full two weeks). Okay, so some of you will be asking why this is in the enjoyment column for August. A resident of Stone recently commented how wonderful it will be to have a quiet road again. So I am adopting the principle here of listening to everyone's point of view - even if some of us still have to get to work in the mornings.
- **Outdoor Evensong at Hartwell** on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September. I have sneaked this in even though it is September so you can make sure it is in your diary now.

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### The Enigma of Edward Elgar Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July at 7:30pm (doors open 7:00pm) Stone Methodist Chapel

A one man show with music written and performed by Michael Lunts who has entertained us many times over the years. The show will be in memory of Carole Fryer who passed away earlier this year. She was an active member of our community, stalwart of the History Society, and valued member of the Parish News editorial team.

Tickets £10 on the door

further details: [david@pickupandscott.co.uk](mailto:david@pickupandscott.co.uk) or 01296 748170 (evenings)

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