

Introducing 'Little Wrigglers'

In last month's Parish News we announced that a new 'Baby/Toddler and Their Adults' group was being planned and we asked you all three questions. Here are the answers:

1) Can you help us on a Thursday morning?

We now have **3 leaders** and **6 helpers** who have offered to help – some weekly, others fortnightly or monthly.

Thank you to all of them – it isn't too late to sign up if you would like to join us.

2) Could you donate some toys?

Wow – what a response we had – thank you. Lots of people contacted us and we are in the process of collecting them. Bishopstone Village Hall have offered toys and mats from their Toddler Group – a big thanks to them.

Again – it's not too late – do get in touch if you have any toys to donate.

3) Can you think of a name?

We had lots of names suggested – many along the lines of Little Stones or Pebbles. When we tried to find a bold, colourful, fun, exciting logo of a stone – it was all a bit grey, dull and boring! We discussed other ideas with some families at Café in the Park (the right demographic!) – including Little Smilers, Little Hands and Tiny Feet, Little Fish.





The clear favourite name and logo was 'Little Wrigglers' and here is the logo we'll be using on posters, etc.

Each segment has a different colour and pattern making it a jolly, fun, exciting, happy logo – which is exactly what we want the 'Little Wrigglers' group to be.

We are planning to start on **Thursday 18th April 2024 at 9.00am!**

It isn't too late to get involved. Please still get in touch naominz@hotmail.co.uk

Thanks again **Leaders - Naomi, Jo and Anne**

	Network Name: SJB Congregation	We now accept online donations. You can donate at: 
	Password: StJohnBaptist	

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



Sunday 4th February

Notices for the week

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



Services today

9:00am **MATINS** *led by Raymond Medhurst*

10:30am **FAMILY WORSHIP** *led by Revd Canon Phil Groves*

The theme of this service is 'Struggling with God'

Readings: Genesis 32:22-31 and Luke 18:1-8

Collect prayer for the 2nd Sunday before Lent

Almighty God,

you have created the heavens and the earth

and made us in your own image:

teach us to discern your hand in all your works

and your likeness in all your children;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme

over all things,

now and for ever. Amen



Services next week

10:30am **FAMILY COMMUNION** with **EXPLORERS**

led by Revd Nigel Featherston

4:00pm **PARISH EVENSONG** at **SPP DINTON**

Dates for your diary

Wed 14th Feb 7:00pm **ASH WEDNESDAY COMMUNION SERVICE**

Mon 19th Feb 10:30am **SOCIALLY CRAFTY** in the church

Tue 20th Feb 7:30pm **CHOIR PRACTICE** resumes at the Chapel

Sat 24th Feb **SPRING BOOK SALE** and **CAFÉ** at the Chapel

Fri 1st Mar 2:00pm **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE** at the Chapel

Sat 2nd Mar 10:00am **CAFÉ IN THE PARK** in the Jubilee Pavilion

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Luke 18:1-8

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

18 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ² He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. ³ And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

⁴ "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'"

⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

Most people pray at least sometimes, but when we keep on praying and nothing seems to happen we are tempted to give up. Is God listening? Is he even there? This parable reminds us to keep on praying and that all prayers **are** heard but they are not necessarily answered when, or how we want. We still need to pray and not give up.

The God centred life is a life of consistent prayer. You can talk to God not just in church or at set times, but anywhere and at any time. A popular phrase for this is to 'talk as you walk'.

"...When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

Church attendance has fallen from pre pandemic times and not yet fully recovered. Even if we do not feel able to commit to going to church regularly we can all still pray. Some of you have said you like to read the pewsheet in bed on a Sunday morning before you get up. So, before you read the other pages just pause for two minutes and say 'Good morning' to God and ask for his blessing and guidance throughout the day ahead.

Lent study course

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



I will pray without ceasing

I will pray without ceasing

For it keeps me ever focused on you.

I will pray without ceasing

For I know your promises are true.

I will pray without ceasing

*For everything, all my burdens, fears and concerns
have I given to you.*

I will pray without ceasing

For protection, guidance, strength, all that I need of you.

I will pray without ceasing

All my love, my heart, I give to you.

I will pray without ceasing

For all the things you have seen me through.

Finally, I will pray without ceasing

For I know I can always depend on you.

I love you Lord (and I know you love me too)

Amen

Based on a prayer by Bahrain Sue (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

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.

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. You can also now access the survey online at

www.stonedintonhartwell.com/news/

Carole Fryer

We were very sorry to learn of the passing of our friend Carole. She was such a hardworking and kindly natured neighbour and known to many through her work with the History Group, church, drama, and of course as a valued member of the Parish News editorial group.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends.