

SOCIALLY CRAFTY

We meet every 3rd Monday of the month, except Bank Holidays.

10.30am - 12.30

in St John the Baptist Church, Stone

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

There is no commitment to come every month

our next session is on Monday 15th January



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!


Can you come up with a good name for the group?

Haddenham has 'Pitter Patter', Brill has 'Little Saints' There'll be a **prize** for the winner.

Please get in touch if you can help:

naominz@hotmail.co.uk or ring 01296 747689.


Thanks *Naomi*



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

DIOCESE OF
OXFORD

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 7th January

The Baptism of Jesus First Sunday of Epiphany

9:00am **MATINS** *led by David Pickup*

10:30am **HOLY COMMUNION & EXPLORERS**
led by Revd Nigel Featherston



Epiphany

Yesterday on 6th January we celebrated Epiphany, which commemorates the arrival of the Magi after their long journey following the star. It was when the promised Messiah was revealed to the gentile world for the first time.

Modern custom encourages us to take down our Christmas decorations by the twelfth day of Christmas which is Epiphany – did you remember yours? - so the Christmas story is over for another year for many people. How many of our friends pack Jesus away with the tinsel and the tree only to get him out again next December? Let us resolve to make 2024 the year when we share Jesus with others throughout the year.

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE



*Lord, the sight of the guiding star
brought hope, courage and joy
to those who had journeyed to find you.*

*When our journey seems long,
when hope seems far away,
when our courage is failing,
fill us with faith and trust,
and lift our hearts with your joy.*

*Help us to recognise you
in our brothers and sisters.
Show us how we can work together
so that we may all come to
share in the life
promised to us by Jesus,
the Saviour of us all.
Amen*

The gospel reading for today moves us on to the Baptism of Jesus as a grown man, about to start his ministry. He is no longer the baby in the manger. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus is affirmed at his Baptism as God's beloved Son, the one who has come to redeem the world and to save his people. Those who are wise still seek him.

Mark 1:7-11

⁴And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the River Jordan. ⁶John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt round his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And this was his message: 'After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

The baptism and testing of Jesus

⁹At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'

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January services

We are changing our pattern of services so please make a note of the schedule for this month. You will also see that Explorers will only be meeting twice a month – today and on 21st January. Our service next week is for all ages together.

14 th	10:30am 4:00pm	FAMILY WORSHIP EVENSONG at DINTON	<i>led by Richard Smith led by David Pickup</i>
21 st	9:00am 10:30am	MATINS HOLY COMMUNION & EXPLORERS with baptism	<i>led by David Pickup led by Revd Phil Groves</i>
28 th	11:00am	COVENANT SERVICE at THE CHAPEL	<i>(there is no service in SJB)</i>

Coffee Cup collection

Since 1993 the Archdeacon of Buckingham's Clergy Charity has supported local clergy and their families who are in financial need, hardship or distress. The emotional and other demands on our clergy continue to increase and the effect of the Covid pandemic and continuing economic challenges has meant more clergy families are in need of practical support.

Over the past five years the Trust has been able to give over £75,000 worth of grants to over 90 beneficiaries. Grants have been provided for unexpected medical and dental charges, urgent house repairs, kitchen equipment etc. The Trust employs a member of staff who visits clergy widows and also co-ordinates the work of the volunteer visitors. The Trust usually raises its income from the collections at the annual Archdeaconry Visitation Services, as well as from donations throughout the year from parishes within the Archdeaconry.

Posada report



A big THANKYOU to everyone who hosted Mary and Joseph on their journey around the village during Advent. There were fewer nights in Advent this year so apologies to anyone who may not have been included. Special thanks though to those who stepped in at short notice due to last minute changes. It was a bit of a bumpy ride in some ways this year but that would have been the case 2000 years ago! We were particularly pleased that one of the residents in Stone House residential home looked after Mary and Joseph for a night, and also that they visited the residents at Bartletts for their communion service just a few days before Christmas. They certainly prompted interest and discussion from the residents as they were taken around the room to see everyone.

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