

## CHURCHYARD GARDENING

On 29th June our church will be undergoing a visitation by the Associate Dean as part of the Archdeacon's inspection. All of the fabric, grounds and church items such as records and linen are checked to make sure we are compliant with regulations.

With this in mind the gardening session next Saturday – 15<sup>th</sup> June - is really important as we need to make sure everything is clear and tidy so **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

If you can only come and do half an hour it will be really helpful, and also someone to make coffee would be great.

The type of jobs are clearing the weeds from the gullies, brushing the steps, tidying the paths and generally making things look even better than they do.

**PLEASE COME ALONG** we will be here **FROM 10AM** and usually finish around 12.30 so anytime you are free we will welcome you with open arms and gardening equipment.

**THANK YOU.** Sue

Further details: Sue Birrell on 01296 338163 or [s.birrell@stonedintonhartwell.com](mailto:s.birrell@stonedintonhartwell.com)

## Coffee Cup news

Our coffee cup collection until the end of June will support **St Luke's charity for clergy wellbeing**. The aim of St Luke's is simple – it is to help clergy to flourish in their ministry. They do this by:

- Offering clergy and their families one to one confidential psychological services to address exhaustion and stress
- Delivering innovative evidence-based programmes that improve the mental health and wellbeing of clergy

See more here:

<https://www.stlukesforclergy.org.uk/dioceses/why-is-st-lukes-work-needed/>

There are some leaflets about this charity in the church porch.



**WiFi**

Network Name:  
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We now accept  
online donations.  
You can donate at:



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



# Sunday 9th June

## 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*

6:00pm **EVENSONG at DINTON CHURCH**

*Led by David Pickup*

*We give You thanks, O Lord,  
for the many ways in which You provide for us.  
The material blessings we enjoy, and which we too often  
take for granted.*



*For the company and fellowship we enjoy, and for the  
people who bless and enrich our lives beyond measure.  
Lord, we are conscious that for many in our community,  
and in our world, these blessings are not available to  
them.*

*Give to all, we pray, the material resources they need to  
live healthy lives with real hope for the future. Amen*

### Services next week

9:00am **MATINS** (Prayer Book Service in the Chancel)

*Led by David Pickup*

10:30am **FAMILY WORSHIP** *Led by David Pickup*

**A Special celebration of Fathers' Day**

### The week ahead

Tue	11 <sup>th</sup> June	11:00am	<b>CAFÉ IN THE PARK</b> in the Jubilee Pavilion
Tues	11 <sup>th</sup> June	7:30pm	<b>CHOIR PRACTICE</b> at 29(b) Eythrope Road
Thur	13 <sup>th</sup> June	9:00am	<b>LITTLE WRIGGLERS</b> in the Jubilee Pavilion
Sat	15 <sup>th</sup> June	10:00am	<b>CHURCHYARD GARDENING</b> (see notice)

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## Mark 3:20-35

### Jesus Accused by His Family and by Teachers of the Law

<sup>20</sup> Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. <sup>21</sup> When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."

<sup>22</sup> And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons."

<sup>23</sup> So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan? <sup>24</sup> If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup> If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. <sup>26</sup> And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. <sup>27</sup> In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man's house. <sup>28</sup> Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, <sup>29</sup> but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin."

<sup>30</sup> He said this because they were saying, "He has an impure spirit."

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. <sup>32</sup> A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you."

<sup>33</sup> "Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked.

<sup>34</sup> Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>35</sup> Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

As the crowds following Jesus became ever larger and more intrusive his family became concerned. This was all getting out of hand – there was no time or space for Jesus and his disciples to rest and eat – and the religious authorities were starting to notice. In this passage there are three possible explanations for Jesus behaviour.

- Was he mad?
- was he possessed?
- was he the Son of God?

Even Jesus' family were struggling to understand him. They were concerned about him. He had left the security and safety of a carpentry business and was on course to clash with the orthodox authorities. He had gathered a group of followers who would add nothing to his career prospects. In choosing to live by the gospel we too run the risk of being misunderstood and ridiculed.



*Lord Jesus, you faced opposition with determination and courage. Grant us the grace to follow you resolutely, even if the strongest opposition comes from those who are nearest and dearest to us.*

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## The General Election

The Church of England is launching a campaign known as [#PrayYourPart](#) – to promote prayer and participation in the life of our nation and communities, both as voters and as citizens. They also issue a plea to everyone to put "good grace and a commitment to truth and integrity" at the heart of the campaign. Sadly, this week has not shown much of that.

A series of daily reflections written by bishops, drawn from the Bible and exploring major themes has just been published. It covers the final three weeks up to polling day starting on 14<sup>th</sup> June. You can sign up here to receive the daily reflections by email: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/topics/pray-your-part-general-election-2024>

### Election Prayer gathering

Prior to election day we will be gathering in the church to pray for the candidates, for the voters, for the election day itself, for the new government (whoever that is) and for our country. Everyone is welcome to gather with us. We will begin with a reflection from the Bible and then anyone is welcome to pray or share thoughts in an informal way. Others may prefer to sit in quiet contemplation throughout.

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 7:00pm** lasting 30-45 minutes.

### Post Patronal Pizza Picnic

On Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June (only two weeks away) we will be celebrating St. John the Baptist, the patron saint of our church here in Stone. In order to continue the celebration after our patronal festival service, Canon Phil, Clare and I would like to invite you to a Post Patronal Pizza Picnic (see what I did there?) in the garden here at Vicarage Farmhouse.



We will start after our usual tea, coffee and biscuits at about 12:45. We are planning an Italian theme and will be cooking authentic Neapolitan pizza on our wood fired oven. All authentic pizzas are vegetarian and will include the mighty Margherita, the mouthwatering marinara and the beautiful Bianca. Please feel free to bring your own picnic and some cakes or puddings for sharing.

We will ensure there is plenty of shade if we are blessed with sunny weather. and provide some games for children to keep them happy and occupied. All members of the congregation as well as their families and friends are welcome.

If possible, please RSVP to Terry to get some idea of numbers by text on 07968 368524 or email to [terrycooper@gmail.com](mailto:terrycooper@gmail.com). Ci vediamo lì! **Terry**

**Editor's note** - Thankyou Terry and Clare – this will be much tastier than locusts and wild honey!

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