



Coffee cup news

Space aims to promote and protect good physical and mental health of the people of Bucks who are experiencing relationship breakdowns, loneliness, bereavement, homelessness, unemployment, ill health, isolation or other mental or emotional stress as **'Everyone Experiences Difficult Times'**.

Space runs group drop-ins, a confidential listening service, affordable one to one counselling, social groups including a weekly walking group and weekly art and mindful colouring sessions, ad-hoc seminars, support calls, distributes surplus food and signposts to other help and support services.

The **Space** office is at St Marys church in Aylesbury but holds sessions in other locations too. Please see the notices on the Coffee Cup Collection noticeboard or visit spaceaylesbury.org

The Coffee Cup Collection at SJB during **January and February** 2025 for the Chilterns Neuro Centre totalled £217.75. Please see the lovely 'thankyou' certificate on the Coffee Cup noticeboard.

Bible Studies for Lent

Every Wednesday @7:30pm at 40 Beacon Close

'UNIQUE TO LUKE'

Jesus was a great storyteller and Luke recorded some of his best stories like *The Good Samaritan – The Pharisee and the Tax Collector – the Prodigal Son*

We know these parables so well, but in our studies we will draw on the experience of Palestinian shepherds and farmers to try to understand them as Jesus intended.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Contact: Revd Phil – tel. no: 01296 748390

	Network Name:	
	SJB Congregation	
	Password:	
	StJohnBaptist	
		www.stonedintonhartwell.com/donate

We now accept online donations. You can donate at:

- Website: www.stonedintonhartwell.com
- Pewsheets: pewsheets@stonedintonhartwell.com
- Revd Canon Dr Phil Groves: drphilgroves@gmail.com 01296 748390
- Benefice office: office@wychertvale.org 01844 291108

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE



Sunday 16th March 2025

Notices for the week



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

9:00am

MATINS led by David Pickup

10:30am

FAMILY WORSHIP led by David Pickup



Explorers will meet during the service



*Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,
that they may return to the way of righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of
Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that
are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things
as are agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with
you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever **Amen.***

This week

- Mon 10:00 - 12:00 **Socially Crafty** – in the church – making a **PEACE** banner to hang in the church
- Tues 11:00 - 13:00 **Café in the Park** – in the Jubilee Pavilion
19:30 **Choir practice** – 29b Eythrope Road
- Weds 19:30 **Lent course (week 1)** – 40 Beacon Close
- Thurs 09:00 - 10:30 **Little Wrigglers** – in the Jubilee Pavilion
20:00 **Praying together** for 30 minutes - online

Service next week

10:30am

FAMILY COMMUNION led by Revd Phil Groves
This is an all age service about the Prodigal Son

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE

Luke 13:31-35

Jesus' sorrow for Jerusalem

³¹ At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, 'Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you.'

³² He replied, 'Go and tell that fox, "I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal."³³ In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day – for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

³⁴ 'Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. ³⁵ Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

There are powerfully competing desires in Luke 13:31-35. Herod wants to kill Jesus, and Jesus wants to rescue Jerusalem and her people, but Jerusalem does not want Jesus. Jesus knows he will be like many prophets before him who were sent to the holy city in that he will die there. At this point in the gospel Jesus is already intentionally making his way to Jerusalem knowing he will suffer, be rejected, will be killed and on the third day will be raised to life.



Despite knowing all this Jesus wants to gather the people in Jerusalem 'under his wing' of love and protection, but it is they who refuse. When God's children turn away from Him it is how parents feel when their children somehow get lost in their way through the world. But God never gives up on us - God will return and be praised.

Jesus' heart goes out today in every town and city, for he lives among us everywhere. So we pray that our hearts will become like his and we look on the needs of people around us and hear their cries just like he does.

Praying together (online)

This Thursday evening at 8pm on Zoom we have another opportunity to pray together for ourselves, our church, and for our community around us. Please join us if you can, using the link below, even if you just want to listen in quietly. The session lasts for 30 minutes <https://stonedintonhartwell.com/zoom-prayers>

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Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The APCM meeting was held in SJB on Wednesday evening and a new PCC is as follows:

Clergy: *Revd Phil Groves and Revd Nigel Featherston*

Treasurer: **VACANT**

Secretary: *Stephan Medhurst*

Deanery synod: *Jenny Pickup*

Church wardens: *Sue Birrell, Raymond Medhurst and Ian Cairns*

Elected members: *Richard Smith, Rosemary Jackson, Clare Davey, Terry Cooper, Enid Robinson, Roger Withers*

Having served for several years as churchwarden Rosemary Jackson received our thanks and a round of applause for her service to the parish based at SPP Dinton. We are pleased to report that Ian Cairns has now stepped forward and taken on this role.

Richard Smith also received a round of applause for becoming a fully fledged LLM in November. His ministry among us is greatly appreciated.

As chair of the Finance Committee Richard gave an overview of our financial position:

- There was an increase in income during 2024 but overall there was an actual loss.
- The level of regular giving has declined. Most of the increase in income has come from one-off donations or legacies.
- Expenditure in 2024 was substantially higher than usual due to necessary maintenance and repair bills and increased utility costs.
- Although most of the increased expenditure was anticipated we would not be able to maintain that level of expenditure without an increase in regular giving.
- There are two significant capital projects that we need to raise funds for – improvements to the paths at SJB and a new heating system at SPP.
- **WE NEED A TREASURER!** though the Finance Committee does a splendid job.

The clergy report from Revd Phil highlighted the following:

- The Explorers group is now so popular that we need to recruit more leaders to ensure we do not exceed our safeguarding ratios.
- Café in the Park continues to thrive and gives pastoral opportunities through building relationships with those who come week by week.
- Socially Crafty has had a significant impact – especially with the poppies at Remembrance and the Christmas Craft Fair.
- Little Wrighglers was launched last year, and Naomi and her team have made a positive impact in our community.
- Thank you to those who dedicate their time and effort to maintaining the churchyard.
- **The church is not the buildings: it is us, God's people, and he takes delight in each one of us.**

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