



Coffee Cup Collection

Our coffee cup collection after the morning services in January and February is for the Chilterns Neuro Centre. This is a local charity based in Wendover. It has provided support to people with MS, as well as their family and carers, for almost four decades. More recently it opened up its services to people affected by Parkinsons and strokes.

APCM and Electoral Roll 2025

This year we are required to prepare a new electoral roll. Everyone must sign up to it if they wish to be included, even if they are currently on it. The roll is open until 16th February. Do please sign up to the electoral roll and also consider standing for the PCC if you would like a say in the running of the church. To join the PCC you must be on the electoral roll. There are paper forms at the back of both Churches, or you can fill the form in online.

If you have any questions, please speak to one of the Church Wardens, or Dee James, our Electoral Roll Officer. www.stonedintonhartwell.com/apcm

Thought for the week

Revd Phil Groves has posted a Thought for the Week with the Haddenham based Red Kite Radio station. It can be heard today at 12:10 (107.2 FM radio). It refers to the sermon by the Bishop of Washington Bishop Mariann Budde (pronounced Buddy) and her sermon is now published in full on the Guardian website.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/jan/24/bishop-mariann-edgar-budde-sermon-that-enraged-donald-trump>

Methodist Covenant Service

Our Chapel friends will be holding their annual Covenant service this morning. It is at the heart of Methodists' devotion and discipleship, and their dedication in working for social justice. In the service the Church joyfully celebrates God's gracious offer to Israel that "I will be their God, and they shall be my people". This offer is then extended beyond Israel to all, in Jesus Christ, who also provides the supreme example of what it is to live in such a relationship with God. What God offers is a loving relationship and the covenant service is the renewal of the Methodist commitment to that. We are very pleased that our church and the chapel often seek to join together in serving our God.

Website: www.stonedintonhartwell.com
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BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE



Sunday 26th January 2025



Notices for the week

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

10:30am

FAMILY COMMUNION

led by Revd Nigel Featherston



EXPLORERS *will meet during the service*



Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
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.

This week

Tues 11:00 - 13:00 **Café in the Park** – in the Jubilee Pavilion
Weds 20:00 **SJB committee meeting**
Thurs 09:00 - 10:30 **Little Wrigglers** – in the Jubilee Pavilion
Sat 10:00 - 12:00 **Café in the Park** – in the Jubilee Pavilion

Services next week

9:00am **MATINS**
10:30am **FAMILY WORSHIP**

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE

Luke 4:14-21

Jesus Rejected at Nazareth

¹⁴ Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

This passage is the opening scene in the ministry of Jesus. He was reading words from the prophet Isaiah that were written 600 to 800 years before he was born. That had been a time when the people were returning from many years of exile, and it was a prophecy of better things to come. It was a big promise spoken at a time of deep despair. The people then knew that re-building their homes and lives would be hard work, but Isaiah was offering hope for the future.

Notice that Jesus had returned to Galilee 'in the power of the Spirit' and he read a quotation that referred to the Spirit of God, the same Spirit who brought him to Nazareth. Clearly he was now prepared and empowered to begin his ministry, and this reading from Isaiah is the declaration of his manifesto – but how will the people of his hometown react to a local boy making such a bold statement about himself?

Praying together

On Thursday 6th February we will again be gathering together on Zoom to give thanks for all the good things God is doing and to seek His guidance and wisdom in our future plans. Please join us if you can at 8pm even if you just want to listen in quietly. The session will last for 30 minutes.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81163764469?pwd=JzmJJy8BKj5s79dbXqJbVBcSjBvHCV.1>

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Chill-in

Chill-in is our regular group for young people in secondary school. We meet 6.00pm to 7.30pm at the Bernard Hall in Cuddington. Years 7 and 8 - Games and snacks with time to think. Years 9+ Youth Alpha - 'Exploring life's real questions'. This is led by Rev Richard Philips and can lead to confirmation. The dates for this term are Jan 26 (**TODAY**), Feb 9, March 9 and 23. Talk to me if you are interested.

Phil Groves Phone 01296 748 390

Nicene Creed on Radio 4

Last Sunday morning at 08:10, in celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, there was an interesting programme on Radio 4 celebrating 1700 years of the Nicene Creed. Here are two short extracts from the script of the programme:

'..... It is worth pausing for a moment to consider how astonishing this anniversary is. The Nicene Creed has summarised, expressed, and opened out the heart of our shared Christian faith for seventeen centuries! Almost nothing else in our culture and heritage has lasted that long. This creed has persisted through wars and revolutions, through changes of dynasty, the birth and development of languages, the rise and fall of empires. It has even survived the tragic divisions of Christendom. For even as Churches and nations battled each other over different understandings of church order, of scripture and of sacrament, they still held this creed in common.....'

'.....Of course, the Nicene Creed doesn't really begin with Nicaea, it begins with Jesus. What happened at the Council of Nicaea was the culmination of three hundred years of Christian thinking and praying, responding to the astonishing Christ Event, the dramatic revelation of who God really is, that was given to the very first Christians in the life death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It was Jesus, opening his arms wide for us on the cross that showed us what God is like, Jesus who called him Father – the key word in the first part of the Nicene creed, Jesus who said 'if you have seen me you have seen the father,' Jesus on whom The Holy Spirit descended and Jesus who breathed that Spirit into us.....'

It is well worth listening to the whole programme and the lovely music included in it. You can still find it on BBC Sounds on the internet.

JP

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