

**Thankyou from Revd Cassa Messervy
to all the churches in the Benefice**

Dear All,

Thank you so much for the wonderful farewell you gave me on Sunday. I was so touched by the beautiful stole, flowers, running shoes and very generous financial gift. I will be using this gift to buy a tree, some plants and garden furniture for our little house in Somerset.

The farewell party was such fun with a delicious selection of food and drinks, and lovely decorations. I really enjoyed seeing so many people from across the benefice over the afternoon. The 'pièce de résistance' was the hilarious and heartwarming song performed so well by the singing team. I will really miss seeing you all regularly, but I will very much look forward to seeing you in my new role from time to time.

All good wishes,
Cassa

Cassa will be collated as Archdeacon of Buckingham on **Sunday 1st March at 6 pm** in St. Mary's Church, Aylesbury and then installed at Christ Church Cathedral on **Saturday 14th March at 6 pm**.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

The APCM is fast approaching. Anybody who is on the Electoral Roll is welcome to attend. The meeting will be held on **Wednesday 22nd April**. This year we have spaces for nominations for Deanery Synod Members as well as for PCC Members. Application forms and APCM booklets will be available on the website shortly. The Electoral Roll is now open until 30th March for new additions. If you would like to join the Electoral Roll, please see Dee James, or email ElectoralRoll@stonedintonhartwell.com Application Forms can be found online at: www.stonedintonhartwell.com/apcm/

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BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE



Sunday 22nd February 2026

Notices for the week



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

**10:30 FAMILY COMMUNION
with Joyfull Juniors**
led by Revd Nigel Featherston



*Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:
create and make in us new and contrite hearts
that we, worthily lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
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 24th - 11:00am **Cafe in the Park** – in the Jubilee Pavilion
7:30pm **Choir practice** – 29(b) Eythrope Road
Weds 25th - 3:00pm **Lent course** on the parables in Luke
– at Applegarth in Gibraltar
7:30pm **SJB meeting**
Thurs 26th - 9:00am **Little Wrigglers** – in the Jubilee Pavilion
7:30pm **Lent course** – Any Questions? The basics of our
Faith – at 2 Stonecroft in Stone
Sun 1st - 9:00am **MATINS** (Prayer Book Service)
10:30am **FAMILY WORSHIP**
followed by **Soup – a - Sunday**

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Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness

4 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 9 "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

The Desert Fathers

Our gospel reading today tells us about Jesus in the wilderness. Those of you who use the **Lectio 365 app** for your daily devotions will have been learning this week about those radical followers of Jesus who left the cities 300 years after Jesus seeking silence, solitude, and spiritual breakthroughs in the battle against sin. They made their home in the deserts of Egypt, Syria, and Arabia. They became great prayer warriors and many travelled to seek their advice and wisdom which is still relevant today.

This week on **Lectio 365** the daily devotions and presentations about the Desert Fathers have been by Pete Greig who is the founder of the modern day 24-7 prayer movement. It is a helpful addition to your Lent devotions.

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Lent courses

We are running two Lent courses in the parish this year and anyone is welcome to attend either – or both!

Any Questions?

This course considers the fundamentals of our faith and we are asking for your questions. We begin with - **How do we know God?**

We are meeting on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm starting this week by kind invitation of the Rysdale family at 2 Stonecroft (off Oxford Road in Stone) Please email any further questions for discussion in the following sessions to Richard or Phil richard.smith@doctors.org.uk drphilgroves@gmail.com

Unique to Luke - A fresh look at parables in Luke

Wednesday afternoons at 3.00pm starting this week by kind invitation of Mary and Barry at Applegarth in Gibraltar. If anyone wants to be collected Rosemary will be happy to do that. Contact Rosemary Jackson for details 07872 316553.

Coffee cup collection

Coffee cup donations this month are for the charity associated with The World Day of Prayer service on March 6th in our Methodist Chapel. Next week we will move on to another good cause, and there will be a short talk about it in the main morning service.



World Day of Prayer

A service for everyone!
I will give you rest, come

Friday 6th March at 2:00pm
Stone Methodist Church

Come and join us as we pray and sing with others from all around the world in a service written by the Nigerians especially for the World Day of Prayer 2026. Refreshments will be available after the service **EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

Dates to remember

Sunday 15th March – Mothering Sunday
Sunday 29th March – Palm Sunday
Friday 3rd April – Good Friday
Sunday 5th April – Easter Sunday

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