



STONE VILLAGE FETE Monday 25th May



We will be running a **TOMBOLA STALL** at Stone Fete to raise funds for the church. Please bring any good quality items such as unwanted gifts to church by **17th May**. We will also need volunteers on the day to help set up and man the stall. Please let Sue Birrell know if you can help. s.birrell@stonedintonhartwell.com

News in brief

We now have Faculty Permission for the path so any help with grant requests would be appreciated as this is a major project. The purpose is to make the church more accessible from Bishopstone Road. s.birrell@stonedintonhartwell.com

Coffee Cup News



Throughout May and June we will be supporting **Christian Aid**. This will be launched at our service next week by our guest speaker David Blackmore who is a local Christian Aid representative.

Do come along to hear how Christian Aid is providing humanitarian relief and long-term development support for poor communities worldwide.



News from the Diocese

Bishop Richard Harries

We have received the sad news of the death of Bishop Richard Harries, who was Bishop of Oxford from 1987 to 2006. Bishop Richard died after a short illness and a few weeks before his 90th birthday.

Bishop Richard will be remembered by very many people across the Diocese for his intelligence and kindness, his good humour and his deep pastoral wisdom. He made a very significant impact beyond the life of the Church in the life of the nation through his ministry in the House of Lords and his writing and broadcasting, particularly on Thought for the Day. He made key contributions to Christian ethics and to interfaith relationships, particularly the relationship between Christianity and Judaism, both in Oxford and more widely.

Revd Canon Dr Phil Groves: drphilgroves@gmail.com 01296 748390
Website: www.stonedintonhartwell.com
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BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE



Sunday 3rd May 2026 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 **MORNING WORSHIP**

led by Richard Smith with guest speaker Richard Blackmore from **CHRISTIAN AID**

And this will be followed by **Soup-a-Sunday!**

THANKYOU to **Terry** and **Alice** for making the soup

4:00pm **LEGO CHURCH** – in the Jubilee Pavilion



Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the gate
of everlasting life:

grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen 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 5th - 11:00am **Cafe in the Park** – in the Jubilee Pavilion

7:30pm **Choir practice** - 29b Eythrope Road

Thurs 7th - 9:00am **Little Wrigglers** – in the Jubilee Pavilion

8:00pm **Praying together online**

<http://www.stonedintonhartwell.com/zoom-prayers>

Sun 10th - 10:30am **FAMILY COMMUNION**

with **JOYFULL JUNIORS**

6:00pm **CHORAL EVENSONG** at SPP DINTON

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE

Luke 13

verses 6-8

⁶Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. ⁷ So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?'

⁸'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it.'

verses 18-19

18 Then Jesus asked, 'What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? 19 It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches.'

We see a comparison between orderly, managed (but ultimately unfruitful) growth in the fig tree and disorderly but spectacular growth in the mustard shrubs, but it is the latter that Jesus compares to the Kingdom of God.

Interestingly the Christian faith is often strong in countries which struggle, but may be slow to bear fruit in countries which have many resources put into them.

Today we will be welcoming Richard Blackmore from Christian Aid to speak to us.

Evening concert

This evening (3rd May), the Wychert Chorale will be joined by the Golgotha Kantorei from Berlin in a concert in St Mary's, Haddenham. The programme includes choral music by Bach, Brahms and Stainer, as well as piano and organ pieces and a catchy arrangement of "Here comes the sun" by George Harrison.

ASCENSION DAY HOLY COMMUNION

Thursday 14th May at 7:00pm

St Peter and St Paul DINTON

This is a service for all the churches in the Wychert Vale Benefice, and it also marks the beginning of 'Thy Kingdom Come'

Thy Kingdom Come Thursday 14th May – Sunday 24th May

Since the very beginning of the Church the nine days between Ascension and Pentecost have been a special time of prayer. Not just prayer as individuals, but **as a community**, like those first members of the Church. And that is the purpose behind 'Thy Kingdom Come' as it unites us together in prayer – over one million Christians across 172 countries and more than 85 denominations and traditions – AMAZING!



This year is the tenth anniversary of the first global 'Thy Kingdom Come' prayer event, and here at St John the Baptist we have taken part in our own small way from the very beginning. And we will be doing so again this year.

We will be launching this special time of prayer at the **Ascension Day service at SPP Dinton** at 7:00pm (14th May). This is a benefice service bringing together people from other churches in Wychert Vale.

Then SJB Stone will be open each evening at 7:00pm from Friday 15th May to Saturday 23rd May for people to gather together for informal prayer. This is just for half an hour and everyone is welcome to come along. We pray for a wide range of issues – local, national, and global. You may prefer to sit in quiet reflection as others pray – that is fine, you are welcome to do so. Many of us have found this to be a time of blessing in previous years.

We are also putting together another **little book of daily prayers** written by members of our church family. They will be available in church on 10th May. Then we can all join in the same prayers each day from wherever we are.

If you would like to know more about 'Thy Kingdom Come' there is plenty to read here: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>
Or for local arrangements speak to Richard Smith, Sue Birrell, or Jenny Pickup.

Did you know?.....

New research suggests that The Lord's Prayer is still more easily and instantly recognised by the British public than some of the most famous lines from Shakespeare, Dickens or Churchill. People in the UK are more likely to identify correctly a short extract from the Lord's Prayer than one from the National Anthem and other sources chosen for their deep cultural resonance, a new poll has found. The polling, carried out for the Church of England ahead of 'Thy Kingdom Come', also found the reference in the prayer to being forgiven and forgiving others was the element people found most meaningful to them.