

Patronal Festival

On **Sunday 28th June** we will be celebrating the birth of our patron, St. John the Baptist here in church. Traditionally the service is followed by a community event where parishioners share a meal together so this year we would like to invite all of our church family, their relatives, friends and pets to a picnic in our garden at Vicarage Farmhouse. In keeping with tradition, this year we will also be inviting our neighbours and friends in Church way and Stone to join us.



Please bring your own picnic and drinks but we will also lay on some food and drinks on a first come, first serve basis. As a special offering, we will have on tap the traditional British picnic libation, Pimms Special Cup and serve a sweet and spicy sausage specially developed for the occasion as well as a farmhouse sausage. We will provide some salads, vegetarian and gluten-free offerings.

In case of in-clement weather (too hot, cold or raining), we have covered a large part of the courtyard with a number of gazebos so please do not let the weather put you off. There will also be a no-obligation retiring collection in aid of the church fabric fund.



We look forward to seeing you all there, the garden is looking amazing.

Terry, Clare, Pumpkin and Treacle

Phil Shurvell

Phil was a long term resident of Stone who contributed generously to community life. His funeral will take place at SJB **THIS FRIDAY (12th JUNE) at 2pm.**

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	Network Name: SJB Congregation	
	Password: StJohnBaptist	
We now accept online donations. You can donate at:		www.stonedintonhartwell.com/donate

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE



Sunday 7th June 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 **FAMILY WORSHIP** led by Revd Phil Groves
Followed by Soup-a-Sunday !

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



*O God,
the strength of all those who put their trust in you,
mercifully accept our prayers
and, because through the weakness of our
mortal nature
we can do no good thing without you,
grant us the help of your grace,
that in the keeping of your commandments
we may please you both in will and deed;
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 9th - 11:00am **Cafe in the Park** – in the Jubilee Pavilion
Thurs 11th - 9:00am **Little Wrigglers** – in the Jubilee Pavilion
Sun 14th - 10:30am **FAMILY COMMUNION**
with **JOYFULL JUNIORS**

6:00pm **EVENSONG at DINTON**
with the choir
celebrating the Trinity
led by David Pickup



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Matthew 9:9-13 & 18-26

The calling of Matthew

⁹ As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. 'Follow me,' he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

¹⁰ While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?'

¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but those who are ill. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.'

Jesus raises a dead girl and heals a sick woman

¹⁸ While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him and said, 'My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live.' ¹⁹ Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples.

²⁰ Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. ²¹ She said to herself, 'If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed.'

²² Jesus turned and saw her. 'Take heart, daughter,' he said, 'your faith has healed you.' And the woman was healed at that moment.

²³ When Jesus entered the synagogue leader's house and saw the noisy crowd and the people playing pipes, ²⁴ he said, 'Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep.' But they laughed at him. ²⁵ After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. ²⁶ News of this spread through all that region.

We have a limited number of large print service sheets available in church. If you would like one, please talk to a sidesperson.

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Some thoughts from a lay person

In the first part of this gospel reading we learn about the calling of Matthew, a tax collector, who went on to become a disciple when Jesus gave him the invitation to follow him. It was a simple call and a simple response. We don't know what motivated Matthew to follow Jesus. Perhaps he had heard his preaching and witnessed some of his miracles and his heart had been prepared in advance. Or perhaps there was something so profoundly charismatic about Jesus in that moment that Matthew felt compelled to get up and follow him. We don't know. However, we go on to read that many tax collectors and sinners then came to dinner with Jesus and his disciples. A central point of this story is that Jesus always welcomes sinners and outcasts and offers them hospitality without judgement.

This is an important spiritual message for us today. Jesus shares hospitality with us, regardless of who we are, regardless of what a mess we may have made in the past, or how confused and chaotic our present circumstances may seem. Jesus does not judge us or condemn us: instead he shares himself with us and invites us to share ourselves with him.

God, in Christ, invited those on the margins into his home without judgement and, in the same way, we are to invite people into the home of our church also without judgement, so that we can share hospitality with them and encourage them to share themselves with us. Hospitality is a crucial gift for any church to offer to its local community and the Café team does this wonderfully well on Tuesday mornings, and once a month on Saturdays.

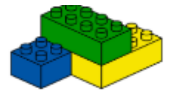
At a time when the TV news is showing us increasing tensions between different community groups, often based on quick judgements or assumptions, the church has a lot offer, and needs to be bold in showing the way.

Lego Church update

Lego Church has now moved from the second Sunday of the month to the first. So please note the next three dates:

7th June (today!) 5th July 2nd August

All sessions are in the Jubilee Pavilion at 4:00pm



Café news



Café in the Park is run by volunteers who have a habit of going on holiday before the school holidays start. When putting together the summer rota Naomi found the majority of volunteers and some of the bakers are all on their separate holidays the same week. So it has been decided to **cancel Tuesday 16th June**. Please don't turn up that day as they won't be there!

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