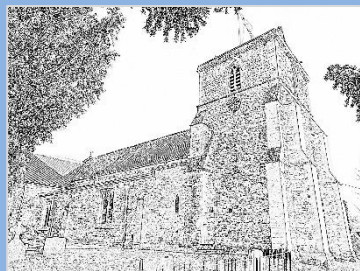


DECEMBER 2023

£1.00

Parish Church & Community News



Stone | Dinton | Ford | Upton | Hartwell | Bishopstone | Aston Sandford
Parishes within the Benefice of Wychert Vale



With Seasons Greetings to all our Readers

USEFUL PARISH CONTACTS

WYCHERT VALE BENEFICE



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Front Cover image: Dinton Church

Editorial

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a Baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

Luke 2:8-14

When does Christmas start?

Christmas seems to come earlier each year, although I seem to say that annually. The shops have Christmas goods from September and October and the seasonal decorations went up in town in October. Advertisements for food and drink appear on television weeks, if not months, before. I got my first card this year in early November.



It is good to be ready in time and be prepared. I know Aunt Em has been boiling her Christmas greens all December. We should however remember the first Christmas was unexpected and sudden, the angel of the Lord appeared out of the blue to working people. Shepherds were not highly regarded, they were thought of as unreliable and dishonest and rather like (you can fill in the gap). The message of the angels is "Fear not...good news of great joy that will be for all..."

Whatever you are doing have a safe and happy Christmas.

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Parish News is a community magazine for the residents of Stone, Dinton, Ford, Upton, Bishopstone, Hartwell and Aston Sandford. We welcome news, announcements by societies and clubs, and articles on local and other issues. We do not charge for charities or personal notices such as weddings, baptisms or acknowledgments and welcome advertising by local businesses

Parish Services and Calendar

December 2023	St John the Baptist Stone	St Peter & St Paul Dinton	Stone Methodist Chapel	St Michael & All Angels Aston Sandford
Sunday 3 December Advent Sunday (Common Worship Year B begins)	9.00am Mattins (BCP) 10.30am Family Communion with Choir	9am Holy Communion 4pm Messy Christingle	11.00am Holy Communion	
Sunday 10 December Advent 1	10.30am Christingle service for all ages	4.00pm Carol Service and 5.00pm Luxury Hamper Draw	11.00am Worship	
Sunday 17 December Advent 2	9.00am Mattins (BCP) 10.30am Holy Communion 4.00pm Carol Service with Choir	10.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Carol Service	11.00am Holy Communion Service
Sunday 24 December	10.30am Morning Worship 4.00pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Communion		11.00am Cafe Church for Christmas	6.30pm Lessons & Carols Service with Holy Communion
Monday 25 December Christmas Day		10.00am Christmas Family Communion		
Sunday 31 December	10.30am Morning worship with the Methodists		10.30am Morning worship at St John the Baptist	
Sunday 7 January	9.00am Mattins (BCP) 10.30am Family Worship	9.00am Holy Communion	11.00am Worship	

News from Aston Sandford

Coronation kneeler



At this year's APCM we agreed to commemorate the Coronation by seeking contributions from our congregation for a tapestry Coronation kneeler kit. We easily raised the money, and our own expert needleperson Alan Paterson very kindly stitched it for us (see above). It was much admired at our August service when it was blessed by the Rev Cassa Messervy. Huge thanks to Alan – it really is beautifully done.

Parish boundary

In my Letter in the July edition of this magazine, under the title of *Living in Aston Sandford*, I described the outlying areas of the parish as extending from the junction of what the Council calls the Risborough Road and the A4129, and thence towards Longwick, ending on the east side of Green Lane, ie not including Penns. I continued 'Curiously the bungalow on the opposite side of the A4129 diagonally opposite Penns is included within the parish.' Sue Belgrove of Pasture Farm has pointed out that there is nothing curious about the bungalow being included in the parish – because the parish boundary is not the A4129 but the small brook, one field back towards Ilmer, which is a tributary of the river Thames. The A4129 was built after the parish boundary was settled, and she thinks that the original entrance to Pasture Farm itself may have been from Green Lane.

Ride and Stride

Our rider was again Neil McIntyre and, in over 25C heat, he visited 11 churches and rode 18.5 miles. I am delighted to say we collected sponsorship money of £690. Huge congratulations to Neil and thanks to all our sponsors.

Confirmation service

On the afternoon of 8th October Nick and I, Laura Macpherson, the Ven Dr Gordon Kuhrt and Olive Kuhrt attended the Confirmation Service held at Dinton Church to witness Louise Hosking's confirmation. Her husband Tom and children Eleri and Griff were also there. It was a lovely service on another lovely day.

Harvest Festival Weekend

Our Open Day on Saturday 14th October, organised by Sue Peck, was another success: bright sunshine brought over 50 visitors to the church to see our Harvest Decorations. Their kind donations raised (with gift aid) about £120. Harvest Festival the following day, taken by the Rev Mike Bisset, was well attended, and we sang lustily. On the following day Sue and David Peck took 11 bags and boxes of donated goods to Aylesbury Food Bank. Again, thanks to all flower arrangers, helpers and donors.

Christmas services

There will be our usual monthly Communion Service with hymns on Sunday 17th December at 11 00am, when the church will be partly decorated. It will be fully decorated for our candlelit Christmas Eve Service at 6 30pm; that will be a traditional Lessons and Carols Service, followed by a shortened communion service for those who wish to stay. At the time of writing these services are due to be taken by the Ven Dr Gordon Kuhrt.

And finally...

Thank you for reading my contributions during the past year; have a Happy Christmas and above all a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Marilynne A Morgan
Treasurer, Aston Sandford



Brussels Sprouts -Love Them or Loath Them? - Our Cookery Correspondent Writes

Brussels Sprouts are a seasonal favourite and traditional accompaniment to Christmas Dinner. They are not everyone's favourite as I well know.

They were originally a Mediterranean plant but became popular in the Low Countries – hence their name. In Continental Europe, the largest producers are the Netherlands, at 82,000 metric tons, and Germany, at 10,000 tons. The United Kingdom has production comparable to that of the Netherlands, but its crop is not usually exported. Surprisingly second to the Netherlands in exports is Mexico where the sunny climate allows nearly year-round production. I had always thought the flavour was improved after the first frost.

Brussels are good for you as they contain high levels of vitamin C and vitamin K (169% DV), with more moderate amounts of B vitamins, such as vitamin B₆, as well as folate; essential minerals and dietary fibre.

I have seen lots of different suggestions of what to do with this vegetable including stir fry, raw as a coleslaw, baked in the oven and even spicy Indian versions. My advice is just boil them quickly and **DON'T OVERCOOK** as that is when the bitter taste comes out. There is no need to cross cut the base. Halve them if they are big. Enjoy with marg or butter or even chestnuts.

Aunt Em



Last minute reminder :
HADDENHAM SANTA DASH
Sun, 3 December 2023 – from 10.00am
IN AID OF FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE HOSPICE

The Haddenham Community Support Group (HCSG) are organising their next fundraising event for the Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity, which will be the Santa Dash.

Dust off your Christmas jumper, collect your Santa hat and take part in the Haddenham Community Support Group (HCSG) Santa Dash on 3rd December.



More information and tickets are available at www.fnhospice.org.uk/santadash23had -

Whether you choose to run, walk or jog, kick off this festive period in style while earning yourself a medal and a mince pie. Don't forget to encourage your family, friends and colleagues to sponsor you, it's easy to do, we have a collective JustGiving page <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/fnhcsantadashes23>.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, STONE

COULD YOU VOLUNTEER TO HELP US?

If so you will be able to:

- Work on a specified area of the churchyard in your own time
- Use your own equipment or ours depending on how you feel
- Be part of a team who care and are appreciated
- Help with conservation and encouragement of wildlife
- Enjoy doing something your church and community need.



With the onset of winter and unsettled weather, there will be no session in December. Details of gardening in 2024 will be shown nearer the spring.

A Christmas message from the Rector, the Revd Cassa Messervy

Advent: Watching and Waiting in Faith

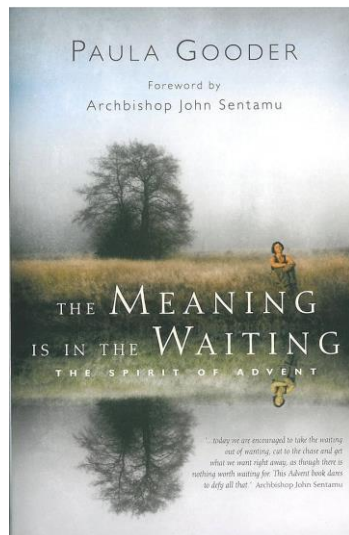
'How many sleeps now Mummy?' was the urgent question asked by my children when they were younger in the weeks before Christmas, it seemed so long for them even with the daily joy of opening the little windows on their Nativity Advent calendars and consuming the chocolates inside! However for us as adults the mad rush of this season can be in complete juxtaposition with the idea of 'waiting', this season reminds us that we are watching and waiting in faith throughout our lives even in the struggles and difficulties of our lives.

'The Meaning is in the Waiting' is the title of a wonderful Advent book by Paula Gooder, in it she explores the season of Advent's main theme of waiting through the four the candles of the Advent wreath which remind us of: the Patriarchs, the Prophets, John the Baptist and Mary. Paula says that Advent calls us to a state of active waiting: a state that recognizes and embraces the glimmers of God's presence in the world, that recalls and celebrates God's historic yet ever-present actions in our world, and that speak to us about the challenging almost-but-not-quite nature of our Christian living, which yearns for but cannot quite achieve divine perfection.

Anna the prophetess described by Luke in chapter two of his Gospel is a wonderful example of this waiting in faith, she 'never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day', she had lost her husband young and had no children but even in the difficulties of her life she found meaning and comfort in waiting in faith in the temple in the presence of God for the child who would come and save us all.

Advent reminds us that waiting is not just postponement, not even just preparation, but something that is valuable in its own right. It reminds us that waiting in faith takes time; our whole lives in fact. Waiting time is also redeeming time. Advent summons us to the present moment, to a still yet active, a tranquil yet steadfast commitment to live the life we live now in faith.

'The meaning is in the waiting', may you be blessed in your waiting in faith and a very happy Christmas to you all.



Christmas church services 99 years ago.

The services at Stone in 1924 were “exceptionally well attended”. There was a choral service of Holy Communion at 8am on Christmas Day, matins and another service at 11am and then evensong with carols at 6pm. At Hartwell church there was a communion service at 9.45am and evensong at 3pm. There were two services at Bishopstone in the morning on Christmas Day.

Christmas Dinner and all the Trimmings

... Another cooking correspondent writes.....

Pigs in Blankets

These are small sausages wrapped in bacon. When my vegetarian cousin comes round – well I do veggie sausages wrapped in a slither of aubergine. He likes them.

Bread Sauce - Homemade bread sauce is really nice. Boil an onion dotted with cloves in milk and then add bread and butter.

Gravy – of course. Make it using water you have used to boil the veg.

Roast potatoes - Need to be crispy and well done.

Cranberry sauce - Try to make your own. It tastes much better than shop bought. Just gently boil the fresh berries in a little water and add the rind of oranges and a bit of sugar.

Parsnips - Another traditional treat. Don't take as long as spuds.

Stuffing - I make mine using breadcrumbs, onion and celery. Mix it up and add sage and pop on oven.

Christmas is a time for going the extra mile in the kitchen. These are all the trimmings I can think of. Must dash, the memsahib is calling. She wants a hand with the turkey. A tough old bird, but I like her.

Love and Happy Christmas from Max



Quiz 2023

A prize of some chocolate will be available for the best answer sent to 12 Roundhill HP17 8RD or david@pickupandscott.co.uk by 6th January 2024

1. In 2022 which member of the England Football squad was neutered and put in quarantine after the end of the tournament in Qatar?
2. Which world leader resigned as “there was nothing left in the tank”?
3. Which politician resigned because it was “the right time”?
4. On the same day as number 3 above, who celebrated 12 years at 10 Downing Street and is one of the most successful occupants of that residence?
5. Why, why, why couldn't the song *Delilah* be sung this year?
6. When does a meteor become a meteorite?
7. What political event was described as “700 days of failure and one day of success”? It was the 25th anniversary this year.
8. Barry Humphreys passed away this year. What was the name of his alter ego?
9. In June theatre goes to a new production of what musical were warned that certain themes might be distressing as it referred to Nazi Germany?
10. Who was the writer of the book which became a film called *Akenfield* who died this year aged 100
11. What was Barbenheimer?
12. Which singer songwriter, who sadly passed away this year, wrote the following lines
“went to the doctor, guess what he told me, guess what he told me
He said, "Girl you better try to have fun, no matter what you do"
But he's a fool. 'Cause nothing compares, nothing compares to you”

13. Who was “unbanked” this year?
14. What does saying the word “mate” as “maaate” imply?
15. Who was the only person mentioned by name in the bible who visited Colchester?
16. What is a garage apostrophe?
17. Who is Tian Tian and why did she return to China this year after twelve years in Scotland.
18. With a fine disregard for rules someone picked up a ball and invented what new game in 1823
19. Mike Yarwood, the impersonator famous in the 1970s, gave his name to Yarwoodism. What is it?
20. What is 42 the answer to ?

A selection of local Facebook pages to follow for local news and events.



Parish and Community News

Search Facebook with @stonedintonparishnews



Stone, Bishopstone and Hartwell Parish Council

Search Facebook with: @sbhpc



Stone, Buckinghamshire – a local community page

Search Facebook with: @StoneBuckinghamshire



Wychert Vale Benefice

Search Facebook with: @WychertValeBenefice



Stone, Dinton & Hartwell – church news

Search Facebook with: @stonedintonhartwell



Diocese of Oxford

Search Facebook with: @dioceseofoxford



Dinton/Ford/Upton/Westlington/Gibraltar

Search Facebook with: Dinton/Ford/Upton/Westlington/Gibraltar

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young people with a
neurodisability like
cerebral palsy

Scan the QR code



Weekly
cash prizes
from
£25 to £25,000!



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thepacecentre.org

Old Coins

Keep sending in any foreign or old coins or unwanted gold jewellery. We can convert this into funding for the church. We've raised much needed funds recently from a few obsolete foreign banknotes and jewellery.

You can send to the Editor at :
12 Roundhill, Stone HP17 8RD
Tel: 01296 748170 or email david@pickupandscott.co.uk





Cuddington Sunshine Club



Open to Senior Citizens in Cuddington and surrounding villages. Activities include monthly Tea and Card Games in Cuddington Playing Fields Clubhouse, bi-monthly Matinee Cinema in the Bernard Hall, Coach outings, a Summer Garden Party and a Christmas party.

Next event:

Monday 11th December ❖ Christmas Party Lunch ❖ 1.00pm

For more information phone Angela Wenham 01844 291932
or email: apdwenham@gmail.com



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EXCEPTIONAL CHRISTMAS TURKEYS

Our free range, multi award winning turkeys and geese are slowly reared to the highest welfare standards. The finest you ever tasted.



To order your Christmas turkey or goose, please call us on 01296 747 549 or visit our website.

Starveall Farm, Oxford Road, Upton, Aylesbury HP17 8PZ
(opposite the Upton turning) For directions, see our website:

www.starveallturkeys.co.uk

Simply Walk in Stone, Haddenham & Dinton

Come suited & booted for whatever the weather
To **Simply Walk** for an hour or so in the countryside
Just come to our walks throughout the year from:

Methodist Chapel, Eythrope Road – **STONE**
Wednesday: 13th and 27th December

Bradmoor Farm (rear) car park, Stanbridge Road –
HADDENHAM
Wednesday: 6th December

Seven Stars PH, New Road – **DINTON**
Wednesday: 20th December

We meet in the morning for 10.30
It's friendly, fun and **free**
It's on the horizon, all things Christmassy
Take time for a walk and a coffee or tea!

MERRY CHRISTMAS 

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Freephone: 0800 7837194

Email: windmill2@btinternet.com
Website: www.windmill-services.co.uk

**HOORAY !
SOUP SATURDAYS
ARE HERE AGAIN !**



**COME ALONG TO THE METHODIST CHAPEL
SATURDAYS**

2nd and 9th DECEMBER

12 noon – 2 p.m.

**Enjoy a wide choice of SOUP,
with CAKE, TEA/COFFEE to follow**

DONATIONS FOR ACTION FOR CHILDREN

***COULD YOU PLEASE HELP BY OFFERING TO MAKE
SOUP, HELP SERVE or CLEAR & WASH UP***

**Please contact SUE SPINKS, Clowesbourne, Upton 748369
Email: royandsue1@btinternet.com**

THANK YOU !

Wildlife Spotlight



Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)

Founded in 1959, BBOWT aims to create more nature everywhere, for everyone. With 150 staff, we inspire and empower local people to help bring nature back, including our 1,700 volunteers and hundreds more individuals, community groups and partners. By working together, we can create bigger, wilder, more connected landscapes so nature and people can thrive.

With more than 80 nature reserves across our three counties covering almost 2,700 hectares, we now manage more land for wildlife than ever before. In Buckinghamshire our flagship site is College Lake, a huge reserve with a thriving wildlife lake, visitor centre, café and shop. We also work with communities in cities, towns and villages as well as farmers and landowners.

Climate Crisis

We are currently facing a nature and climate crisis. Because of intensive agricultural practices such as widespread pesticide use and fertiliser run-off, inappropriate development and pollution, the UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world compared to the pre-industrial era. Now, we face the additional threat of climate change which is already impacting wildlife such as dormice, birds, insects and beech trees right here on our doorstep.

Water Voles

Our Water Vole Recovery Project has helped increase the range of this threatened species in our area by nearly 80%; our Badger Vaccination Project has inoculated hundreds of badgers against bovine TB, and our Save Our Chalk Streams campaign recently saw us join a Parliamentary summit to discuss new legislation to protect these precious waterways. Our Reconnecting Bernwood, Otmoor and The Ray project is working with farmers and landowners in Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire to explore ways to make the entire landscape more wildlife-friendly, and we are continuing to push HS2 Ltd to halt the unnecessary destruction of nature on our patch.

How to get involved with BBOWT

With so many threats to wildlife still increasing, last month we launched our biggest-ever appeal, the Nature Recovery Fund. To tackle the nature and climate crisis in our area, we are aiming to raise £3 million in the next three years to help bring wildlife back and benefit climate and people. The fund will target three critical areas of **BBOWT's** work – nature, climate and people. The fund will help protect more land to bring nature back, restore more woodland and floodplain to guard against climate change, and inspire communities and young people to care for wildlife. Find out more at bbowt.org.uk/nature-recovery-fund. You could also help nature on your doorstep by joining #teamWILDER. If we all do a little bit, it adds up to a lot. Add your jigsaw piece to our #teamWILDER map and be part of the solution to the nature and climate crisis. Together we can create a wilder picture for our three counties: bbowt.org.uk/team-wilder



Creating a wilder future

In the last 64 years, our organisation, our work and the amount we achieve each year has only grown bigger and bigger. We now have more members than we have ever had so we are able to do more to help nature's recovery. Now we just need your help and support. Together, we can make a difference and create a wilder future for nature and people.



BBOWT All Team Meeting



Ecology Team at Hartslock by Colin Williams

Café

IN THE PARK



**HOT & COLD DRINKS, HOME BAKED
CAKES, LITE BITES AND MUCH MORE
NO CHARGE FOR REFRESHMENTS
DONATIONS ARE WELCOME**

EVERY TUESDAY

11.00AM – 1.00PM

(Closed Tuesday 26th Dec & 2nd January)

**Cakes, crumpets, filled
jacket potatoes and
homemade soup**

SATURDAY

2nd December

10.00AM – 12 NOON

including Breakfast Rolls

JUBILEE PAVILION STONE RECREATION GROUND

**RUN BY ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, STONE
THE LOCAL CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY,
SERVING THE COMMUNITY**

**For the whole community to meet friends, make new friends or just
come and enjoy the Park while having a cuppa.**

Christmas Services in the villages

<p>Sunday 3 December Advent Sunday</p>	<p><u>St John the Baptist Church, Stone</u> 9.00am - Mattins (Book of Common Prayer) 10.30am - Family Communion with Choir</p> <p><u>St Peter & St Paul Church, Dinton</u> 9.00am - Holy Communion 4.00pm - Christingle Service</p> <p><u>Stone Methodist Chapel</u> 11.00am - Holy Communion</p>
<p>Sunday 10 December</p>	<p><u>St John the Baptist Church, Stone</u> 10.30am Christingle for all ages</p> <p><u>St Peter & St Paul Church, Dinton</u> 4.00pm - Carol Service followed by Luxury Hamper Draw after the service.</p> <p><u>Stone Methodist Chapel</u> 11.00am - Worship</p>

Carol Singing : There will be Carol singing at The Seven Stars, Dinton on Christmas Eve at 6pm.



Sunday 17 December	<u>St John the Baptist Church, Stone</u> 9.00am Mattins (Book of Common Prayer) 10.30am Holy Communion 4.00pm Carol Service with Choir
	<u>St Peter & St Paul Church, Dinton</u> 10.00am Morning Worship
	<u>Stone Methodist Chapel</u> 11.00am - Carol Service
	<u>St Michael & All Angels Church, Aston Sandford</u> 11.00am Holy Communion
Sunday 24 December Christmas Eve	<u>St John the Baptist Church, Stone</u> 10.30am Morning Worship 4.00pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Communion
	<u>Stone Methodist Chapel</u> 11.00am - Café Church for Christmas
	<u>St Michael & All Angels Church, Aston Sandford</u> 6.30pm Candle-lit Lessons & Carols Service with Holy Communion at
Sunday 25 December Christmas Day	<u>St Peter & St Paul Church, Dinton</u> 10.00am Christmas Day service with Family Communion at



At Christmas be Merry, and Thank God [Most] of All:

This is an occasional series featuring Thomas Tusser (c. 1524 – 3 May 1580) who was a poet and farmer, best known for his instructional poem *Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry*, first published in 1557. It was among the bestselling poetry books of the Elizabethan age. It was he that came up with the saying, “Christmas comes but once a year”

Christmas.

42 Get ivy and holly, woman deck up thy house:
and take this same brawne, for to seeth and to souse.[?]
Provide as good cheer, for thou knowst the old guise:
old customs, that good be, let no man despise.

43 At Christmas be merry, and thank God of all:
and feast thy poor neighbours, the great with the small.
yea all the year long, have an eye to the poor:
and God shall send luck, to keep open thy door.

44 Good fruit and good plenty, doth well in thy loft:
then lay for an orchard, and cherish it oft.
The profit is mickell [great], the pleasure is much:
at pleasure with profit, few wise men will grutch.

45 For plants and for stocks, lay afore hand to cast:
but set or remove them, while twelve tide doe last.
Set one from another, full twenty foot square:
the better and greater, they yearly will bear.





Wychert Vale Benefice
www.wychertvale.org



Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell

Churches of: St. John Baptist, STONE; Ss Peter & Paul, DINTON; Assumption of St. Mary the Virgin, HARTWELL
www.stonedintonhartwell.com

SOMETHING NEW IS COMING TO STONE!

Do you want to:

- Be in at the start
- One of the first
- A trendsetter
- Just interested
- Enjoy a Coffee and a Chat
- Sit and Knit and Natter or do something different?



IF SO THEN COME TO SOCIALLY CRAFTY

MONDAY, 18TH DECEMBER, 10.30am - 12.30pm

in St John the Baptist Church, Stone

We hope to run this on the 3rd Monday of each month (excepting Bank Holidays) and can evolve as the need arises.

Everyone is welcome

- Make friends
- Drink Coffee
- Eat Cake
- Do Crafts if you wish

Don't be shy come along and try

PHOTO CALL!!!

If you have any photographs of local scenes that may be suitable for inclusion in a future issue of the Parish Magazine or for the front cover, please send a copy to the editor, David Pickup, email david@pickupandscott.co.uk



Stone Methodist Chapel

Eythrope Road, Stone HP17 8PH

Minister: Revd. Hee Gon Moon
Tel: tba
heegon5@gmail.com



Village contact: Mrs. Sue Spinks
Clowesbourne, Upton, HP17 8UA
royandsue1@btinternet.com
01296 748369

The Chapel with heart, at the heart of the village **WELCOME TO WORSHIP EACH SUNDAY @ 11 a.m.**

Village friends and amenities continue to be prayed for week by week. In December we will be praying for all the events in our community which are being organized to raise funds for good causes, that hearts and hands may be open and generous in this Season of Goodwill

* * * * *



It would be naïve to think the scene of the birth of Jesus was so calm and serene! In reality it was in a dirty, smelly barn where a woman had gone through the pains of labour, far from home and family, with only a bewildered husband to support her.

It would have been noisy, chaotic and messy. Both Joseph and Mary are likely to have felt frightened and insecure.

Yet, into this fear and confusion came baby Jesus, bringing the gifts of God's peace and hope.

The Incarnation is a constant reminder that Jesus, who is Emmanuel [God is with us], offers inner serenity and calm even in the most traumatic of our human experiences. To know that we are loved and accepted unconditionally – that we don't always have to be in control – is God's gift to each of us.

The weary world Christ entered into that first Christmas – was a world [in the words of the carol] 'in sin and error pining' - much like our world today. But Christ's coming changes everything: his presence brings hope and light where there is darkness and despair.

This is the wonder of the Incarnation. God becomes human. God bursts into our darkness with a light dazzling in its hopefulness. Whatever we – and our world – might be facing we know that God walks with us – this is the beauty of the Incarnation.

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[careful – NOT the fourth Tuesday!]

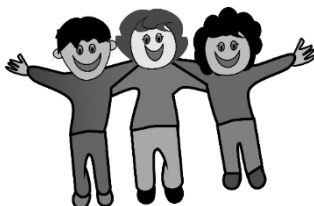


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Dinton with Ford & Upton Parish Council Meetings

The next Dinton with Ford and Upton Parish Council meeting will be held on 12th December. Meeting scheduled to start at 7.30pm unless otherwise notified differently on the agenda.

The 'switch on' of the Christmas Tree Lights at the Seven Stars in Dinton will take place on 3rd December at 4.00pm.



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COMMUNITY DIARY – A guide to what’s on around you!

DECEMBER 2023

1	
2	Café In The Park, Stone 10am-12 noon- see page 19 Soup lunch at the Methodist Chapel, 12-2pm - see page 16
3	Church Services - see page 4 Switch on of the Christmas Tree Lights at the Seven Stars, Dinton
4	
5	Café In The Park, Stone 11am-1pm- see page 19
6	Simply Walk - see page 15
7	Cuddington Picture House, 7.30pm ‘Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny’ (Certificate 12A)
8	
9	Thame & Haddenham Choral Society ‘Gloria’ 7.30pm at St Mary’s Church, Thame Soup lunch at the Methodist Chapel, 12-2pm - see page 16
10	Church Services - see page 4
11	Cuddington Sunshine Club Christmas Party 1pm- see page 14
12	Café In The Park, Stone 11am-1pm - see page 19 Parish Council meeting 7.30pm - see page 29 Haddenham Screen Cinema ‘Barbie’ 7.30pm (Certificate 12)
13	Simply Walk - see page 15
14	Cuddington Picture House, 8.00pm ‘The Old Oak’ (Certificate 15) Thursday Club Christmas Celebration 2pm - see page 28
15	
16	
17	Church Services - see page 4
18	Socially Crafty, Stone - see page 23
19	Café In The Park, Stone 11am-1pm - see page 19 Fourth Tuesday Fellowship, 2.30pm - see page 25
20	Simply Walk - see page 15
21	
22	
23	
24	Christmas Eve Church Services - see pages 4 and 20/21 Carol Singing at The Seven Stars, Dinton at 6pm
25	Christmas Day Church Services - see pages 4 and 20/21
26	
27	Simply Walk - see page 15
28	
29	
30	
31	Church services - see page 4



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