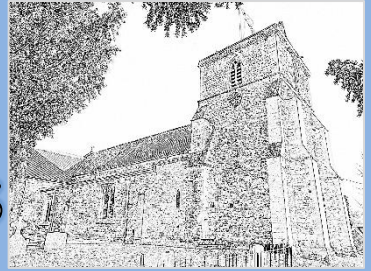


Parish Church & Community News



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



In this month's issue

- Aston Sandford's woodpecker
- Dinton from 'The Little Guide'
- Local events and meetings



USEFUL PARISH CONTACTS

WYCHERT VALE BENEFICE



Benefice Rector
Revd Cassa Messervy



Associate Rector
Revd Canon Dr Phil Groves
01296 748390
drphilgroves@gmail.com

Associate Minister

Revd Nigel Featherston
Tel: 01296 747454
nfeatherston@btinternet.com

Curate

Revd Clare Joyce
07507 706668
revclarejoyce@gmail.com

Benefice Administrator

For all baptisms, weddings and funerals:
Benefice Office, St Mary's Centre, Station Road, Haddenham, Aylesbury, HP17 8AJ.
office@wychertvale.org | office@haddenhamstmarys.org

St John the Baptist, Stone

Trainee Licensed Lay Minister – Richard Smith | richard.smith@stonedintonhartwell.com
Churchwarden – Raymond Medhurst | raymond.medurst@stonedintonhartwell.com
Churchwarden – Sue Birrell | s.birrell@stonedintonhartwell.com

St Peter and St Paul, Dinton

Churchwarden - Rosemary Jackson | 01296 748655 | 07751 393377 |
jacksonrj@btinternet.com

Treasurer (Stone & Dinton)

treasurer@stonedintonhartwell.com

St Michael & All Angels, Aston Sandford

Hon Treasurer - Marilynne Morgan | 4mam.morgan@gmail.com
Churchwarden - Nick Morgan | 01844 291217 | 4nick.morgan@gmail.com
Churchwarden - Laura Macpherson | lauramacpherson52@gmail.com

Front Cover image: Stone Pond by Heather Harris

Editorial

*May he be like rain falling on a mown field,
like showers watering the earth.
In his days may the righteous flourish
and prosperity abound till the moon is no more.*

Psalm 72:6-7

February can be, let us face it, a trying month. Wet, cold and sometimes icy and snowy. At least it is short, although this year there is an extra day. To find out why, see inside!

We can look forward to longer days and signs of Spring. I also used to look out for the snowdrops in our neighbour's garden when I was small. Our gardens have had a battering this Winter but we hope for something warmer. Lent starts this month, and it is about hope for better and brighter days as much as about giving up sweets or alcohol.



So, happy February!

Parish & Community News : News team

Editor:	David Pickup	01296 748170	david@pickupandscott.co.uk
Editorial:	Carole Fryer	01844 885168	carole.e.fryer@outlook.com
Advertising:	Sue Unwin	07760 177599	sunwin1958@hotmail.com
IT Producer:	Heather Harris	07766 086280	hevsharris@aol.com
Distributor:	Fiona Rysdale	01296 747663	therysdales@live.co.uk
Readership:	Ruth Jeffery	07792 734116	ruth@computing4u.net

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

February 2024	St John the Baptist Stone	St Peter & St Paul Dinton	Stone Methodist Chapel	St Michael & All Angels Aston Sandford
Sunday 4 February 2 Lent	9.00am Matins 10.30am Family Worship	** 9.00am Holy Communion	11.00 Worship	
Sunday 11 February 1 Lent	10.30am Family Communion	**4.00pm Parish Evensong	11.00 Worship	
Wednesday 14 February (Ash Wednesday)	**7.00pm Holy Communion			
Sunday 18 February Lent 1	9.00am Matins 10.30am Family Worship	10.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Holy Communion	11.00am Holy Communion Service
Sunday 25 February Lent 2	10.30am Family Communion		11.00 Workshop	
Sunday 3 March Lent 3	9.00am Mattins 10.30am Family Worship	**9.00am Holy Communion	11.00 Worship	

**Changes/more details can be found in the churches' noticeboards and the website

News from Aston Sandford

Last October eagle eyed readers may have noticed correspondence in *The Daily Telegraph* and in *Country Life* relating to Aston Sandford. So what was it about?

Those members of the Aston Sandford congregation who were present at our service on 17th September and at Harvest Festival on 15th October were somewhat surprised by the repeated tapping sounds coming from the bell tower of our church. The bell tower is clad with wood panelling which had last been replaced when the church was re-roofed in the mid-1990s. The wood had been re-stained during the 2020-21 redecoration project, and looked rather good. Until that is Woody Woodpecker decided to start attacking it. The culprit was not, as one might have expected, a Greater Spotted Woodpecker, but a Green Woodpecker - a Yaffle - and we think it was a loner. By the end of September he/she had pecked 13 holes of about 75mm diameter, visible with the naked eye from the churchyard below, so repairs were required to prevent the ingress of various unwanted wildlife. At a cost of £492 new wooden boards were screwed on inside the tower behind all the holes. However, all this did was to annoy and encourage Woody Woodpecker to drill through the new wood as well.

Local enquiries and searches on the net revealed no simple answers to the problem of How to Discourage the Bird, so drastic action was taken. On 20th October the *Daily Telegraph* published a letter from Churchwarden Nick Morgan asking for ideas; a letter from him in similar terms was published in *Country Life* shortly after as well. A small flurry of published replies followed, mostly suggesting the use of highly perfumed oil like lavender or disinfectant to put the birdie off. One went a little further and somewhat tongue in cheek suggested cladding the bell tower in Perspex or netting.



And then Nick received a helpful email from *Country Life*, enclosing all the letters they had received, but had not published. Such good service, because one letter proved really helpful – it was from the British Pest Control Association. They have proposed that an imitation hawk dangling off the tower will frighten the woodpecker away as it moves in the wind. No bird likes another bird moving above it.

Even a “hawk” made from a tennis ball stuck with a few pheasant feathers as wings and tail will be effective they assure us.

At the moment the woodpecker has ceased its attacks but at least we know what to do to if it returns!!

Marilynne A Morgan
Treasurer, Aston Sandford

DINTON RAFFLE: Christmas Turkey Hamper Raffle 2023

It was a bumper year for the Luxury Turkey Raffle with £1130.00 raised to be divided between the Florence Nightingale House and the Dinton Church Fabric Fund. The money for the church will go towards making the current very muddy path safer and less slippery especially for people with buggies. We are very fortunate to have got a craftsman who will lay a solid path for us when the planning permission has been granted.



The Turkey Raffle is a great tradition in our Parish and I especially want to thank the donors who are very generous giving the prizes – Starveall turkeys, vintage port, Dinton Folly, special Crackers, chocolates, Christmas Cake, Pudding etc, etc. Without these very generous donations we would be unable to run the raffle.

We would not have got very far with the Raffle if we had not had the amazing support of a few people who have sold tickets. Individuals living in Westlington, Ford, Upton, Gibraltar and Dinton who have gone to their neighbours and friends selling tickets. Well done to every single one of you – you deserve medals!!

The draw of the winners was made after the lovely music and singing at the Christmas Carol Service on 10th December. The first prize went to a couple in Westlington Lane, second prize to a family who live in Gibraltar and the third prize to a family in Westlington Green. All winners were thrilled and thanked everyone.

David and I have organised and managed the Raffle for many years now. It's a long and tricky job from applying for the licence from BCC to printing tickets and distributing them, and then making sure everything is checked and kept to a very high standard of administration, and money deposited safely. We have decided it is time to stand down and let younger people take over from us. So, if you feel this very village event could benefit from your input please contact me.

With thanks for your support,
Rosemary Jackson

Wildlife Spotlight

Our monthly wildlife spotlight is hibernating this month and will be back soon.



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.
- Details of gardening in 2024 will be published nearer the Spring.

☀️ 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 5th February 2.00pm, Tea

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



EYAI Community Café



EYAI
Enhancing Young
Adults Independence

At Stone Village hall

Fridays 1pm to 4pm
Term time only



Refreshments, snacks
and family table activities



ALL WELCOME

CHARITY NO: 1195406

A reminder that magazine subscriptions are due for 2024

*******Please note revised instructions for BACS Payments*******

We hope that you enjoy the magazine and will wish to continue this year.

The annual subscription, which covers 12 issues January to December, costs £7.50

You can make your payment via the following methods:

1. Pay by bank transfer to:

Stone Dinton & Hartwell PCC
Sort code: 20 03 18
Acc: 60823872

If paying by bank transfer please include a reference to your address only when making payment eg 12HighStDinton' as this will enable us to reconcile the payment with a delivery address. No other details are required in the reference.

Or

2. By cheque payable to :
'Stone, Dinton & Hartwell PCC'

If paying by cheque please return payment to your distributor or send to David Pickup at 12 Roundhill Stone HP17 8RD
(Please include a note of your name and address with cheques so we can reconcile payments made.)

Please let me know of anyone else who would like to take the magazine:

Name.....

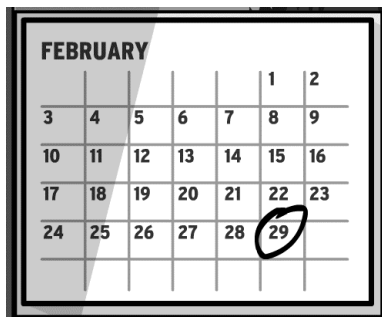
Address.....

Email/telephone (optional).....

**Thank you
David Pickup
Editor**

Leap Years and Odd Days

*“Show me, LORD, my life’s end
and the number of my days;
let me know how fleeting my life is.
You have made my days a mere handbreadth;
the span of my years is as nothing before
you.
Psalm 39:4-5*



FEBRUARY								
					1	2		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
24	25	26	27	28	29			

I have never understood the how and why of leap years but this year is one of them. The more I look into them, the more complicated it gets!

The earth takes a little over 365 days to orbit the Sun. This is the Solar year which is 365.2422 days long. As the calendar year is exactly 365 days adjustments are required or the seasons will gradually get out of sync with the diary. We do this every four years by making leap years, when we add a day to the calendar, however not every year which can be divided by four is a leap year. If the year date is divisible evenly by 100, then it is a normal year with 365 days unless

if divisible evenly by 400, a Gregorian year is a leap year; so the year 2000 is a leap year but not 1900.

Centuries ago they added an extra day to the second month by simply repeating 24th February. This must have made diaries complicated.

The need to adjust some years has been known for centuries. Julius Caesar even tried a 'year of confusion' in 46 B.C. The year was 455 days long in the hope that it would sort out the divergence in seasons and months that had occurred. The first official leap year in Britain was 1752, when 11 days were 'lost' from the month of September with the adoption of the Gregorian calendar by Britain and the empire.

A leap second was added on 31 December 2005, the first since 1998, to help keep clock-time aligned with time measured by the Sun. Another was added in 2008, 2012 and 30 June 2015.

The passage of time can now be measured with such accuracy that the rotation rate of the Earth can be seen to be variable. This can depend on the seasons (for example as trees grow, this affects the distribution of the mass of the Earth) and can even be dependent on weather conditions such as El Niño. (I do not understand that. How can bigger trees slow the earth's orbit?)

Leap years are so called because you leap a day in a leap year. In 2023 Christmas Day was a Monday but in 2024 it will be on a Wednesday.

ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH SERVICES – St Peter & St Paul, Dinton

Thursday 1st of February Meeting of our Lord's Eve

- 17:00- Confessions
- 19:00- Divine Liturgy

Saturday 3rd of February

- 07:00- Matins
- 08:00- Divine Liturgy
- 12:00- Parish School for Children
- 17:00- Confessions
- 19:00- Vespers

Sunday 4th of February

- 10:30- Divine Liturgy
- 12:30- ROC AGM
- 13:30- Social Hour

Tuesday 6th of February

- 17:00- Confessions
- 19:00- Supplication Canon of the Mother of God

Saturday 10th of February

- 07:00- Matins
- 08:00- Divine Liturgy
- 12:00- Parish School for Children
- 17:00- Confessions
- 19:00- Vespers

Sunday 11th of February

- 08:00- Matins
- 09:15- Divine Liturgy
- 11:30- Social Hour

Tuesday 13th of February

- 17:00- Confessions
- 19:00- Supplication Canon of the Mother of God

Saturday 17th of February

- 07:00- Matins
- 08:00- Divine Liturgy
- 12:00- Parish School for Children
- 17:00- Confessions
- 19:00- Vespers

Sunday 18th of February

- No Service

Tuesday 20th of February

- 17:00- Confessions
- 19:00- Supplication Canon of the Mother of God

Saturday 24th of February

- 07:00- Matins
- 08:00- Divine Liturgy
- 12:00- Parish School for Children
- No evening service

Sunday 25th of February

- No Service-
St John Cassian- Oxford- Parish Feast

Tuesday 27th of February

- No Service- Fr Iulian away for a week



Starveall Farm Butchers

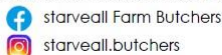
Our butchery shop sells quality fresh products, the majority is locally sourced (some of which is reared here at the farm!) Callum, our butcher, is always keen to help and advise about our products with his superb knowledge and experience.

We have more details on our website www.starveallbutchers.co.uk showing the meat selection and other produce that we are selling, along with our competitive prices. Please check for opening days and times.

You can order online for local delivery or collection from:

Starveall Butchers, Starveall Farm, Oxford Road, Upton, Aylesbury, Bucks HP17 8PZ.

Follow us on social media for updates:



Tel: 01296 747549

Email: info@starveall.co.uk



DINTON CHEESE & WINE EVENT Saturday 24th February from 6.30pm



Doors open 6.30pm ❖ Cash/Credit Bar available
7.00pm ❖ Presentation by Dick O'Driscoll (Parish Council Chairman)
with an update on the Village Hall survey

7.45pm ❖ Second Prize Draw for the Village Hall 100 Club
1st Prize £150 ❖ 2nd Prize £100 ❖ 3rd Prize £75

8.00pm ❖ Wine & Cheese Evening
Cost: £10 per person to cover the cost of cheese/nibbles.
Entry fee payable on the door | Bottles of wine available to purchase.
Any profits will go to the Village Hall funds

More details from:
Dick O'Driscoll (odriscoll110@btinternet.com)
Nick Cottman (nick.cottman1@btopenworld.com)



How many of us went to Baby/Toddler Groups when we were very little? Or went to one with our children and remember it being a lifesaver on bad days?

A chance to get out of the house with a screaming baby and have a cuppa with other parents.

A chance for little ones to play and socialise together before they go to pre-school.

Did you know that there is no such group in Stone?

In Spring 2024 that is going to change.....the church in Stone is wanting to set one up.

The weekly session on Thursdays will run from 9.00am – 10.30am and be held in the warm Jubilee Pavilion and will have time for free play, Bible story, snacks, singing and dancing, etc.

Refreshments for parents, grandparents and carers – and maybe even cake!

But we need YOU

- **Could you help on Thursday mornings from 8.30am – 11.30am?**

From setting up, serving drinks and snacks, welcoming, playing with little ones to talking to tall ones – either weekly, fortnightly or monthly during term time.

It would be great to have some men on the team as well as women.

- **Do you have any good quality play mats, baby and toddler toys, toy animals, cars, dinosaurs, etc** which you could donate? Time for a clear out after new toys arrived at Christmas or to pass on toys your children have grown out of.
- **Can you come up with a good name for the group?** Haddenham has 'Pitter Patter', Brill has 'Little Saints' (after their church), Cuddington has 'Toddler Singing'. There'll be a **prize** for the one we take up.

Please get in touch with **Naomi Corbould** on **01296 747689** or **naominz@hotmail.co.uk** as soon as possible so planning can get underway!!

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



Wyichert Vale Benefice

Search Facebook with: @WyichertValeBenefice



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

Winter Waggle at Waddesdon Manor

16th February

3k & 5k routes

Join us for our inaugural, fun-filled 'Winter Waggle' dog walk and help babies, children & young people with a neurodisability like cerebral palsy

Scan the QR code to book your tickets!



Sign up now

thepacecentre.org/event/winter-waggle

EARLY BIRD
TICKET
£10 Adult
£5 Child



Registered Charity 1011133

thepacecentre.org

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE THE LITTLE GUIDES BOOK

First published in 1903 revised 1950

DINTON

Dinton lies S. of the main road from Aylesbury to Thame, it is reached through a picturesque avenue of chestnuts. A charming village shaded by elms through which the distant Chilterns can be seen to the S. across the meadows. The church adjoins the gabled manor house (16th century) which touches the graveyard on the W. The church as a building shows important signs of each of the periods of English mediaeval architecture. The S. doorway is the most remarkable piece of Norman work in the country. It has three orders, billet, zigzag and guilloche, and a tympanum showing grotesque monsters eating the fruit off a tree. Below the main face is an inscription in large capital letters, bearing two rhymed hexameters in Latin:

**PREMIA PRO MERITIS
SI QUIS DESP'ET
HABENDA
AUDIAT HIC PRE'EPTA
SIBI QUESIT
RETINENDA**

(He who despairs of
guerdon for his pain:
Should listen here what
precepts to retain)



On the lintel is the combat between St Michael and Satan. An immense dragon with terrible jaws and large extended tongue is advancing from the W. towards a small-winged figure in the E. corner who holds a cross which is about to thrust down the throat of the serpent. The chancel is EE., the E. window with its three lights widely separated, or, more strictly speaking, the three E. windows, being the most remarkable. There is a good early Dec. S. arcade but no N. aisle: the roof braces rest upon stone pilasters.

The brasses, formerly at W. end of S. aisle, have been rearranged and reset. These are to John Compton (1424) his wife, four sons and seven daughters; another is to William Lee (1486). The brass commemorating Francis Lee (1558) in a gown, is a palimpsest and on the reverse is a fine fragment of a Flemish brass (c. 1370). Other palimpsests are those to Thomas Greneway (1538) in armour, with his wife (headless) and Richard Greneway (1551) and his wife Joan.

On the reverses of the Greneway brasses are parts of a figure of a priest c. 1490, as well as portions of a lady's dress (c.1400) and a small armed figure (c. 1460). A late brass commemorates Simon Mayne (1617), his wife, and two children.

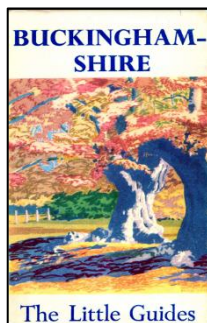
In the W. end, S. aisle a cupboard dated 1612 and a late 16th century chest. The fluted and cup shaped font shaped with geometrical ornament round the top, showing influence, of the Aylesbury type. Very fine Jacobean altar table dated 1606, 18th century altar rails in S. aisle. Outside note very good W. doorway (EE) to tower and turret at SE. angle, mass-dial on S. side, and in the churchyard an old cross.

The Manor House, Dinton Hall, adjoining the church, has an impressive row of gables and chimneys and is mainly of the 16th century with later additions.

To NE. of the village, on the Aylesbury road is a ruin called the Castle. It consisted of a tower and two side towers built in 1769 and was erected by Sir John Vanhatten of Dinton Hall as an "eye-catcher".

In the 17th century Dinton belonged to the Mayne family, one of whom, Simon, was one of the regicides; he died in the Tower, but his body is buried in Dinton Church. Members of this family held the manor and resided at the Hall, till 1727, when it was sold to John Vanhatten.

*Produced from 'Buckinghamshire The Little Guides Book'
first published 1903, revised 1950*



Dinton with Ford & Upton Parish Council Meetings

The next Dinton with Ford and Upton Parish Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday, 13th February** in Dinton Village Hall. Meetings are scheduled to start at 7.30pm unless otherwise notified differently on the agenda.

2024 meeting dates

12 th March	10 th September
9 th April	8 th October
14 th May	12 th November
11 th June	10 th December
9 th July	
No meeting in August	



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: 7th and 21st February

Bradmoor Farm (rear) car park, Stanbridge Road
– **HADDENHAM**
Wednesday: 28th February

Seven Stars PH, New Road – **DINTON**
Wednesday: 14th February

We meet in the morning for 10.30
It's friendly, fun and **free**
Feb-brrrr-ary! – cold, wet and mud dirty
Boots, best cleaned after a coffee or tea!

Walking for Health with Simply Walk

Visit www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/simply-walk
Telephone 01494 475367 Mobile 07802 260812.



----- Cut Out & Keep -----

STONE, HADDENHAM & DINTON SIMPLY WALK DATES 2024			
MONTH	STONE	HADDENHAM	DINTON
February	7 th -21 st	28 th	14 th
March	6 th -20 th	27 th	13 th
April	3 rd -17 th	24 th	10 th
May	1 st -15 th -29 th	22 nd	8 th
June	12 th -26 th	19 th	5 th
July	10 th -24 th	17 th	3 rd -31 st
August	7 th -21 st	14 th	28 th
September	4 th -18 th	11 th	25 th
October	2 nd -16 th -30 th	9 th	23 rd
November	13 th -27 th	6 th	20 th
December	11 th -25 th	4 th	18 th



**SOCIALLY CRAFTY MEETS
EVERY 3RD MONDAY OF THE
MONTH**

(excepting Bank Holidays)

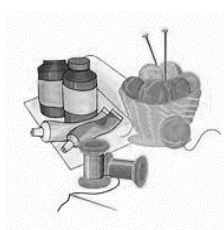
10.30am - 12.30

in St John the Baptist Church, Stone

COME ALONG AND:



- **Make friends**
- **Drink Coffee**
- **Eat Cake**
- **Do Crafts if you want**
- **Learn something new**
- **Share your talents**



EVERYONE IS WELCOME

**There is no commitment to come every month
just come when you can and join in.**

Parish and other websites

Church	https://stonedintonhartwell.com/
Stone with Bishopstone and Hartwell Parish Council	http://www.sbhpc.org/
Jubilee Pavilion	http://www.sbhpc.org/Jubilee-Pavilion/Jubilee-Pavilion-Home
Dinton with Ford and Upton Parish Council	https://www.dinton.org/
Dinton News	https://www.dinton.info/
Benefice Website	https://www.wychertvale.org/
Oxford Diocese (The Church of England serving the people of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire)	https://www.oxford.anglican.org/
Church of England	https://www.churchofengland.org/



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Freephone: 0800 7837194

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

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 2nd January)

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

SATURDAY

3rd February

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.**



SJB

Stone Methodist Chapel

Eythrope Road, Stone HP17 8PH

Minister: Revd. Hee Gon Moon
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, and following an alphabetical list of village streets – Bittenham Close, Chesterfield Close, Chiltern Avenue and Chiltern Close, will be remembered on the four Sundays of February.

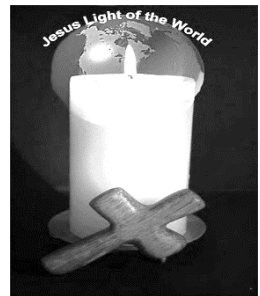
REMEMBER: there is a postbox in the Chapel porch for any special prayer requests
[anonymous if you prefer]



2nd February is **CANDLEMAS DAY**, a traditional Christian festival which commemorates the Presentation of the infant Jesus in the Temple, according to Jewish Law. It was the Emperor Justinian in 542 who fixed the date for this Christian celebration, which in pre-Christian times was known as the Feast of Lights and celebrated the increased strength of the life-giving sun as winter gave way to spring, half-way between the shortest day and the spring equinox.

Traditionally, on this day, the candles which would be used in church during the coming year were brought into Church to be blessed, so it was a Festival or 'Mass' Day, of the candles. Candles were important in those pre-electricity days not only because there was no other source of light, but also because many people believed they gave protection against plague, illness and famine.

For Christians, of course, they are a reminder of something even more important. Before Jesus was born, it was as though everyone was 'in the dark'. People often felt lost and lonely. Afraid. As though they were on their own, with no-one to help in time of trouble. Then came Jesus with his message that he is with his followers always, ready to help and comfort. He is a guiding light to those in dark places. The candles we light in our places of worship today are a reminder that Jesus said he is the **Light of the World**



A SPECIAL NOTICE ABOUT FOURTH TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP FOR FEBRUARY



Just for this month there will be
no meeting on the 4th tuesday
as we will be joining in the
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

on

FRIDAY 1st MARCH @ 2 pm

(Please see separate notice below)

[WOMENS'] WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



I am always astonished at the relevance of this annual Service to the world situation when it comes to be used, given that preparation for it begins at least three years in advance and it is completed almost a year before it is to be used. This year, however, that relevance is doubly poignant, since the Service has been prepared by the Christian women of Palestine on the theme :

'I beg you, bear with one another in love'

As we watch and read of the dreadful situation in the Holy Land, these Christian women are calling us to connect with the land from where Jesus came, where he was born, ministered and died, and from where our faith began and is rooted. They live in an area of the world currently engulfed in horrific conflict, the future uncertain, but they are sharing with love a reminder that they **are** there, and want to give hope to everyone. **'Bear with one another in love'** seems very appropriate for these women who will not give up witnessing the love of Jesus Christ; women who as we join in the Service, are suffering and possibly dying in their war-torn land.

**PLEASE COME TO THEIR SERVICE
FRIDAY MARCH 1st @ 2 p.m.
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to join our prayers with those of thousands around the globe

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

February 2024

1	Cuddington Screen, 7.30pm Typist Artist Pirate King (12A)
2	EYAI Community Café, Stone, 1-4pm, see page 8
3	Café In The Park, Stone 10am-12.00 noon – see page 20
4	Church Services – see page 4
5	Sunshine Club, Cuddington – see page 7
6	Café in The Park, Stone, 11am-1pm – see page 20 Haddenham Screen, A Haunting in Venice (12A)
7	Simply Walk – see page 17
8	Stone Thursday Club, see page 23 Cuddington Screen, 7.30pm Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny (12A)
9	EYAI Community Café, Stone, 1-4pm, see page 8
10	
11	Church Services – see page 4
12	
13	Café In The Park, Stone 11am-1pm – see page 20 Dinton with Ford & Upton Parish Council Meeting, Dinton, 7.30pm – see page 16
14	Simply Walk – see page 17
15	Cuddington Screen, 8pm And the Nightjars (12A)
16	Winter Waggle at Waddesdon – see page 14
17	
18	Church Services – see page 4
19	Socially Crafty, St John The Baptist, Stone, 10.30am-12.30pm – see page 18
20	Café In The Park, Stone 11am-1pm – see page 20 Haddenham Screen, The Great Escaper (12A)
21	Simply Walk – see page 17
22	Cuddington Screen, National Theatre Live Vanya (15)
23	EYAI Community Café, Stone, 1-4pm, see page 8
24	Spring Book Sale at The Chapel, Eythrope Road, Stone – see page 23 Cheese and Wine event in Dinton Village Hall – see page 12
25	Church Services – see page 4
26	
27	Café In The Park, Stone 11am-1pm – see page 20
28	Simply Walk – see page 17
29	Cuddington Screen, 8pm The Miracle Club (12A)
30	
31	



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