

# PARISH CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

Stone, Dinton, Ford, Upton, Hartwell & Bishopstone with  
Aston Sandford - Part of the Wychert Vale Benefice  
June 2020 Issue ○ £1.00 (£7.50 annual subscription)



Listen, my people, and I will speak... I am God, your God... for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills.  
Psalm 50 7 and 10

<b>WYCHERT VALE BENEFICE CONTACTS</b>		
<b>Benefice Rector</b>	Currently Vacant	
<b>Associate Rector</b> Revd Canon Dr Phil Groves 	7, Badgers Rise Stone Aylesbury HP17 8RR	Tel: 01296 748 390 Email: drphilgroves@gmail.com
<b>Hon Treasurer</b> Naomi Corbould	6 Eythrope Yard Eythrope, Stone HP18 0HT	Tel: 01296 747689 treasurer@stonedintonhartwell.com
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<b>For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals</b> <b>please contact the Parish Administrator at the</b> <b>Benefice office St Mary's Centre Station Road Haddenham Aylesbury HP17 8AJ</b> <b>or email office@wychertvale.org or office@haddenhamstmarys.org</b>		
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Front Cover: Stone Memorial Gates by David Pickup

# Parish news



**NOTE: Events and services published in the magazine are correct at the time of print though may change in light of the Coronavirus advice. Please check with organisers, local news and social media outlets for updates. Likewise, readers should check with relevant advertisers to establish if their services are currently available.**

Editorial

## Finishing touches

As I write this there are signs that the restrictions are being eased and life is slowly returning to normal. I wonder what the “new normal” will be. I cannot see most of us wanting to return to the frantic crowded polluted life we had. So much has been spent in time and money on new ways of doing things and it would be a waste to forget this. A lot has been achieved very quickly.

The recent 75<sup>th</sup> celebration of VE Day recalled another time when people have wondered “what is next?” this is a prayer by a famous Englishman from many centuries ago demonstrating that it is the completion of things that is most important.

*Sir Francis Drake's prayer: O Lord, when thou givest to thy servants to endeavour in any great matter, Grant us also to know that it is not the beginning but the continuing of the same until it be thoroughly finished that yieldeth the true glory, through him for the finishing of thy work laid down his life, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### News team

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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.*

## **Distribution of your Parish Church & Community News – a message from the News Team**

At short notice, we had to switch the May issue from a printed copy to a digital version. We were acting on advice from the government and the Church of England. This was done in to protect our band of volunteer distributors and avoid any risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus. A very limited number in print were produced which could be collected from various points around the parish. To publicise this further a Facebook page was set up and posts made on the Next-Door platform for Dinton-with-Ford & Upton as well as publicity via church members and the Bucks Herald.

We apologise that, despite our very best efforts, the message did not reach every subscriber and we are therefore eager to hear from those affected to either provide their email address or receive instructions on where to collect one of the small number of printed copies.

This month we have reverted to the full print run and a digital version of the magazine is also available. The priority is the safety and health of readers and distributors so no-one will be under pressure to deliver or receive a printed version if they do not wish it.

Digital versions will be sent to anyone who asked for this format last month. If you hear anyone else who wants a digital copy please contact me at [magazine@stonedintonhartwell.com](mailto:magazine@stonedintonhartwell.com).

The Facebook page address is <https://www.facebook.com/StoneDintonParishNews>

It may be that our plans have to change if the restrictions are tightened. If so please check the church websites and Facebook pages.

Many thanks for your support during this difficult time.

### **Coronavirus advisory websites**

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

## Parish Services and Calendar

<b>June 2020</b>	<b>St John the Baptist Stone</b>	<b>St Peter &amp; Paul Dinton</b>	<b>Stone Methodist Chapel</b>	<b>St Michael &amp; All Angels Aston Sandford</b>
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**COVID-19  
The Church continues to be alive and active,  
but our buildings must close**

We are seeing a huge increase in the number of people falling sick with COVID-19. We must distance ourselves from one another and prevent the spread of infection in order to save lives.

Therefore, as well as public worship being suspended, all church buildings in the Church of England are now closed.

Our worship of God and our care for each other continue but cannot be done in church buildings.

See page 6 for details of services being streamed.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength . . . Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.”

To protect the vulnerable amongst us, please do not leave your home except for essential trips.

***Stay at Home - Help the NHS - Save Lives***

# Stone's Community Response to Coronavirus

A group of volunteers have come together to assist those who are self-isolating in our local community. It seeks to match up local residents with local helpers to provide practical and emotional support. It is called the **Stone, Buckinghamshire Community Support Group** and can be found on Facebook.

Such help may include: collecting prescriptions, food shopping, a friendly phone call, dog walking, visits to the doctor, a daily chat through your window, etc.

## **Are You Self-Isolating?**

If you are and think you may need help either now, or in the weeks to come, please phone Naomi or Clive on 01296 747689 and leave a message with your phone number. We will then allocate a volunteer helper to contact you directly and discuss how they can assist you.

## **Could You Volunteer to Help?**

If you are well, have some spare time and would like to support those who are self-isolating please contact Naomi or Clive on 01296 747689 or via the Facebook Group.

## **Thank you**

The Stone, Buckinghamshire Community Support Group is supported by Stone with Bishopstone and Hartwell Parish Council and St John the Baptist Church, Stone.



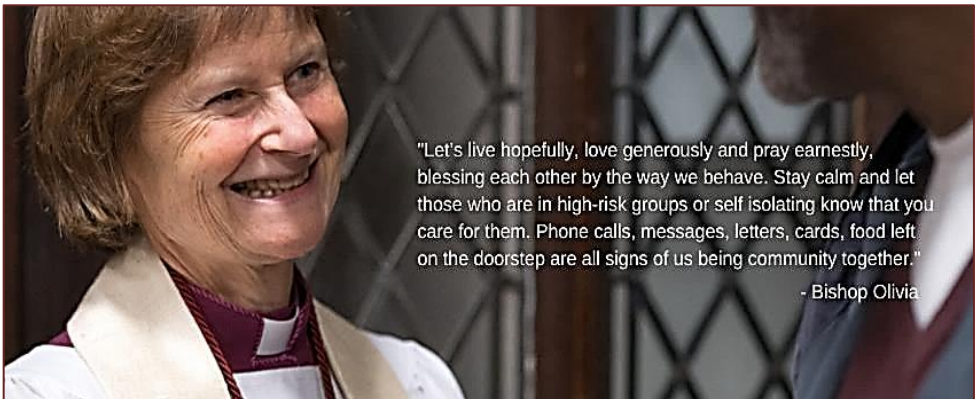
For a selection of streamed services, prayers and reflections available online, try the following websites:

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19/livestream/>

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19/livestream/parish-streams/>

<https://www.wychertvale.org/youtube/>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>



"Let's live hopefully, love generously and pray earnestly, blessing each other by the way we behave. Stay calm and let those who are in high-risk groups or self isolating know that you care for them. Phone calls, messages, letters, cards, food left on the doorstep are all signs of us being community together."

- Bishop Olivia

[Source – Diocese of Oxford]



## Bishopstone war memorial

The 26th June 1920 will be the hundredth anniversary of the unveiling of the war memorial at Bishopstone. The Bucks Herald reported on the ceremony which was performed by Brigadier-General Oxley and attended by local clergy. The Bishopstone Band played including Chopin's funeral march. Rev Williams of Aylesbury made a speech referring to the, "Great debt of gratitude to those men who had left their homes to fight..." He also spoke of the comradeship in trenches, the devastation of Europe and the fact that thousands of men were still serving in the army of occupation in Rhineland. The inhabitants of Bishopstone formed a committee with treasurer and secretary. It was, "...liberally subscribed to by villagers and friends."

Brigadier-General Oxley served in the First World War as Commander of General Headquarters Troops and latterly General Officer Commanding 24th Infantry Brigade, retiring in 1919. The memorial was built by Messrs Newman and Harper (stonemasons) who also constructed a number of other memorials throughout Oxford and Buckinghamshire two of which are listed at Grade II, Long Marston and Aston Clinton.

The names of the First World War fallen (four) and wounded (three) are carved in to the base at the front face of the monument. All four killed were members of the local regiment, the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Names of those from the First World War who served at home (five) or overseas (20) are inscribed on the side faces. Inclusion of veterans others than those killed overseas is unusual on a First World War memorial as they were more usually designed to act as a foci for the commemoration of those that did not return and therefore had no grave in England. The main inscription was updated after the Second World War but no names added.

In the south-west facing front is a carved wreath in relief above the inscription ERECTED/TO/THE GLORY OF GOD/AND/IN HONOUR OF/THE MEN OF BISHOPSTONE/WHO SERVED IN THE/GREAT WARS/1914-19/1939-45. The names of those from the First World War, four killed and three wounded are carved in smaller letters beneath the inscription. The south-east face is inscribed with the words SERVED OVERSEAS and beneath that the names of twenty men. On the north-east face the words HOME SERVICE appears, followed by five names.



Used by kind permission of Buckinghamshire Remembers  
(<http://buckinghamshireremembers.org.uk>)



## Things disappearing or changing

The world is changing. I wrote this well before lockdown.

This a list of things which were fast disappearing.

1. Telephone boxes because everyone has a mobile.
2. Wallets and purses because no-one uses coins.
3. Briefcases because people prefer knapsack bags.
4. Fountain pens because everyone uses a biro.
5. Spelling because with spellcheque you never kneed to cheque yur spelling 😊
6. Landline telephones see above
7. CD and video and players because everyone has a computer or smart phone.

This is all fine but not everyone has these things and many of us will miss some of these things. Changing for better or worse – you decide! Here are some things that have not disappeared .... yet

1. Television
2. Books
3. Working and travel
4. Long playing records
5. Plants
6. Gardens

Now lockdown has been here for two months would I change my lists? Coins have fallen at least temporarily out of use. Travel is restricted but reading books and gardens are in.



## Obituaries:

### Eileen Smith

Eileen Smith, who lived for more than 60 years at The Oaks, Oxford Road, Hartwell – the last house on the right before Aylesbury – died on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 96.

An evacuee from London to Bucks in WWII Eileen returned here and married farmer Arthur Smith in 1950. Their twin daughters Marianne and Wendy were born in 1951. A busy farmer's wife with no transport, Eileen took part in many local activities, bussing or walking the 1 ½ miles into the village or Aylesbury. She was fiercely independent. Arthur died in 1990 but Eileen stayed at The Oaks until 2013, when she moved to Bartlett's Retirement Home by the Bugle. As a founder member of the Stone Local History Group Eileen was a fount of knowledge and the source of much information. Her memories were always clear and entertaining – she was still quoting Shakespeare very recently and sharing her memories of school in Marylebone.



Eileen moved to Winslow a year ago, where she died peacefully from natural causes. There was a private cremation at Berton on May 7

### Anthony 'Ticker' Ludlow 1933-2020



Sadly, Ticker Ludlow passed away on the 4<sup>th</sup> May. He was born at Manor Farm, Ford in 1933 and was the middle son of Alfred William and Margaret Ludlow. With their father and grandfather the three brothers, who never married, worked on the land - at one time the family either owned or leased the three main farms in Ford. Ticker, gained the family nickname as a baby when he would sit looking fascinated at the swinging pendulum of the clock on the wall. He joined the 1st Cuddington Scout Group when he was twelve and was invested a year later. Scouting became an activity that remained his passion for the next forty years and Ticker progressed through the ranks right up to the Rovers. He became Assistant Scoutmaster in 1951, obtained his Wood Badge in 1958 (the most advanced Scouting adult leadership qualification). During his time in the scouts amongst the usual weekly meetings there were the twice-yearly camps, at Whitsun and in the summer holidays. Not only travelling all over England but to Wales, Scotland, Ireland and Europe. Apart from educational sightseeing to churches, museums and visits to many of the

attractions in the vicinity, there was plenty of time for swimming whatever the weather, football and cricket. The Scouts also attempted rigorous challenges. Ben Nevis was climbed on 27th July 1965. And then in the 1980s came Ticker's acquisition of the famous red Bedford bus. No longer were lorries, trailers or extra cars needed to pick up the kit. The boys had the most comfortable of journeys with Ticker in charge at the steering wheel.

After nearly 40 years of devoted service, due to illness he suddenly had to hang up his uniform. He could no longer combine his work on the farm with the energy necessary to keep the Scouts going. He had a terrific send off and an evening full of praise. On a cold and foggy night in December over 70 people turned up at the Bernard Hall in Cuddington to give their thanks and wish him good luck. But Ticker's departure meant that there was a halt in troop meetings as no one came forward to fill the void.

But one thing was for sure, that Ticker would remain a Scout forever. On Good Friday the 10th April 2009 at a Ford Village Society event he led walkers to the secret meadow of fraucups, the wild fritillary that had once belonged to Manor Farm. There he strode ahead of all the villagers complete with stout stick, sturdy boots, long overcoat and green hat. A green hat on his head? What else could it be but the illustrious Green Beret of the 1st Cuddington Baden-Powell Scout Group.



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## **Mystery House** - who can remember this house?

Answer on Page 23



From the registers:

**Gunner Henry William JEFFREY**  
**Royal Buckinghamshire Hussars**  
**Died on 22 Jun 1920 aged 28**

**Burial place not known**

**Commemorated at Dinton War Memorial**

His parents were John and Elizabeth Jeffrey. Father was a carpenter's labourer  
And they lived at the The Sumners, Dinton. He and his brother Walter are both  
remembered on a grave in Dinton Churchyard with the inscription:

In Loving Memory of

Henry William JEFFREY  
Died of sickness contracted on  
Active Service June 22 1920  
Aged 29 years

Also of  
Walter Edward JEFFREY  
Died in France of wounds received  
in action October 21st 1917  
Aged 19 years

Beloved sons of John and Elizabeth Jeffery



At the time of going to press we've been made aware of the following local businesses offering services to assist during the Coronavirus 'lock down'. Please check with the businesses for current availability.

### **The Seven Stars pub in Dinton:**

The new Seven Stars deli and veg shop open from 10 to 12 Tuesday through Saturday, selling a limited selection of salad items and fresh vegetables. Anything exotic that you fancy please give us 24/48 hours' notice and we will do our best to source it. We are happy to develop the product range to include cheese, homemade scotch eggs, pate etc, it will all depend on demand and what our suppliers are able to source. Meat---we will carry a small supply, please give us notice but generally we can supply next day Fish---delivered on a Friday, please pre order by 5pm on a Thursday Please bring your own carrier bags. All payments by card only.

<https://www.sevenstarsdinton.com/>

### **The Bottle & Glass pub, Gibraltar**

The Bottle and Glass are offering takeaway pizza.

<http://www.thebottleandglass.com/>

### **Orchard View Farm Shop, Meadle**

Delivery or click & collect service of fresh meat, vegetable, fruit and other provisions. Takeaway pizzas on certain evenings – check website for details.

<https://www.orchardviewfarm.co.uk/>

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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](#)

## Aunt Em and the Daily Bread

Early on in the lockdown Max was mobilised to help in the community. He was sent a message that a neighbour likes bananas but could not get to the shops. So off he went, bought some and delivered them. The next day he got some more and double on Saturday. Unfortunately, he had been going to the wrong house and Mrs Boggis wondered why she woke up to fresh bananas every day.

It goes to show you cannot please everyone, or anyone in Max's case. It made me think of the story of Moses leading the people out of Egypt into the desert. God provided food for them which at first they said tasted liked honey, but they soon got fed up of it.

*We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost – also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!*

*Numbers 11:5-6*

Bread is something I miss. I get bread but not always the freshly baked bread that is baked especially for you that day. Supermarkets used the smell of fresh bread to bring customers in. Queuing in busy shops is something I don't miss. That's what Max is for. Jesus talked about food and bread in particular. This is what He said.

Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: "He gave them bread from heaven to eat." Jesus said to them, *'Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.'* 'Sir,' they said, 'always give us this bread.' Then Jesus declared, *'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'*

*John 6: 31 to 35*



View from Eythrope towards Berryfields



## **Epidemics are nothing new and every age seems to have them**

Gibraltar is a British Overseas Territory, ceded to Britain in perpetuity under the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713 and also the name for a small settlement within the parish of Dinton on the main Oxford Road. Gibraltar used to be called Littleworth and suggestion about the name is a sailor returned from Gibraltar carrying cholera, causing an outbreak from which many people died. I think that unlikely as why would you name a settlement after a source of illness? It is perhaps more likely it was renamed when Gibraltar was captured as a celebration.

There was definitely an outbreak of cholera in the Nineteen Century. Mrs Daphne Hill nee Welford, an evacuee to her family in Ford in WW2, who has shared her memories with Jon Horn, was told that her great grandfather lived in a tent in the field to escape infection and food was left on people's doorsteps until it was over. His father, however, was one of those who died and was buried in a mass grave. Interestingly a note against the entries in the burial register states, all these persons died of Asiatic cholera. Outbreaks of cholera were frequent in the Nineteenth Century but the troubles at Gibraltar stand out. On 8<sup>th</sup> August 1849 the Bucks Herald reported on a serious outbreak at the hamlet of some sixty or seventy people within a week eleven people had died. It effected the middle aged and children. People fell ill and died within a day. It caused such an impression that help was difficult to get. The newspaper speculated the disease was caused by the unventilated and dirty properties. The Board of Guardians organised medical assistance including a doctor who temporally resided in the hamlet. The Guardians organised a special ward in a house in Church Street Aylesbury and took in orphaned children On 1<sup>st</sup> September the Bucks Herald stated that the cottages had been fumigated and lime washed. The "pestiferous" ditch behind the dwellings had been filled in with lime added. The restrictions were gradually lifted and one or two cottages were preparing to get the occupiers back from tents where had been living. One reports says the Gibraltarians were staying in a marquee a quarter of a mile away.

The outbreak had been devastating. Thomas Holt aged 8 had lost seven of his family including his parents and siblings. Many women were left widowed. The family of six of Richard and Ruth Betts were left orphaned.

Later in the year some of the medical men were honoured by a gift of 60 guineas to doctors Ceely and Lee, medical officers and Mr Bull and Mr Howlett the Relieving Officers. Dr Ceely had practiced in Aylesbury for many years and had experience of an outbreak in 1832. He died in 1880 and was a respected physician who had a good bedside manner and treated poor and rich patients alike.

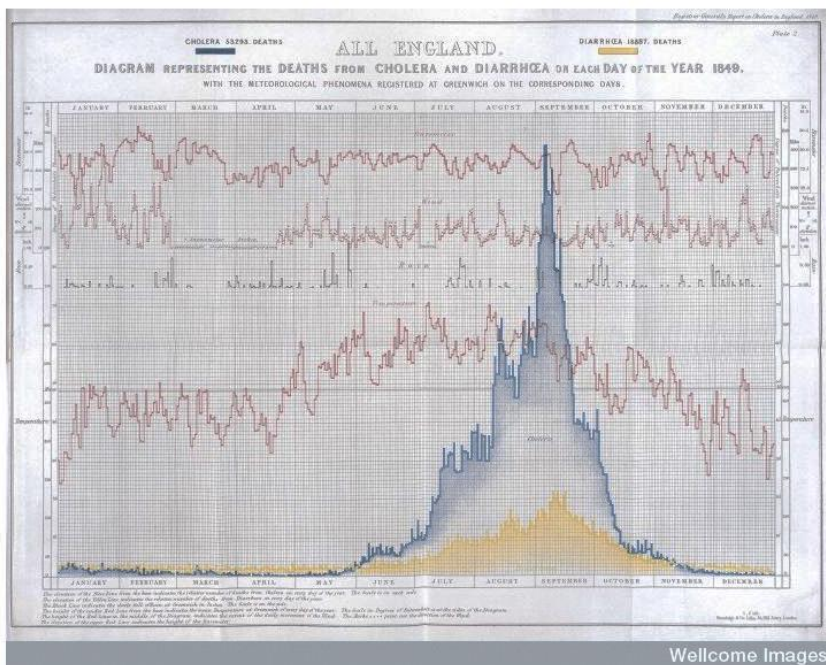
Another person who was honoured was the vicar of Dinton from 1833 to his death in 1865. He was active in public health as a Guardian and had presented Dr Ceely

with a microscope in recognition of his efforts. When he died on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1865 at Dinton the post of vicar was worth £428 a year.

He is remembered in Dinton church where there is a memorial window; a fine triplet of lancets, widely separated, filled with stained glass, partly under the direction of Lady Eastlake, to the memory of the Rev. John Harrison, vicar 1833-65, and other members of his family, 1853-68, and presented by his daughter, Mrs. Acton Tindal, of the Manor house, Aylesbury

A total of seventeen people died and they are remembered by a plaque in Cuddington Churchyard. The inhabitants must have felt cut off but not forgotten as professionals were on hand to help them as best they could.

## Cholera deaths in England 1849



## Letter from Aston Sandford

One of my favourite books in my increasingly large collection of books on Buckinghamshire is one called *Country Like This: A Book of the Vale of Aylesbury*. It was published in 1972 by the Friends of Aylesbury Vale (subsequently I believe subsumed into the Haddenham Village Society) in the wake of their successful campaign to stop the third London Airport being built at Cublington, a battle now largely forgotten but perhaps one with resonance in relation to HS2.

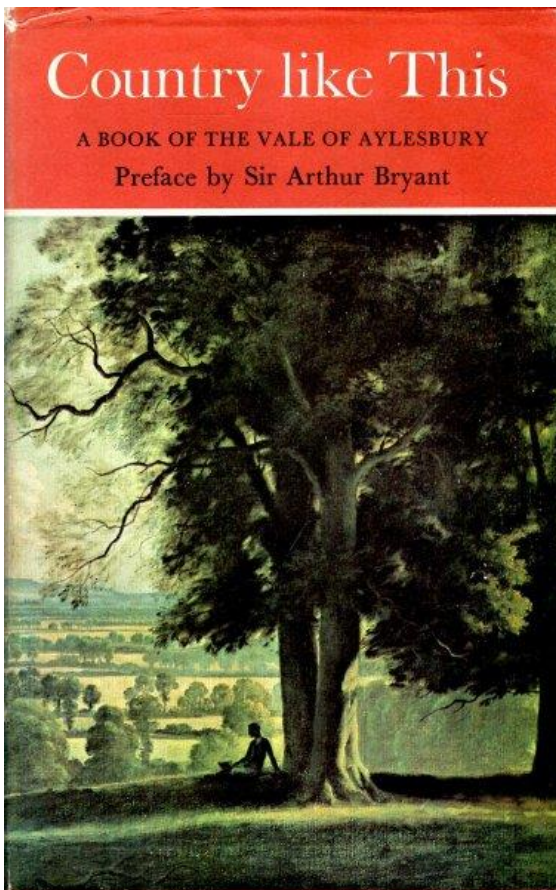
The book is an anthology which explores the way of life in Aylesbury Vale over the years through the writings of generations of Vale people 'who have known and loved this area and have somehow left their mark upon it'. Tempers had run high over the airport proposal – had the airport gone ahead so much of the Vale would have been affected: the flyleaf claims that Wing, Cublington, Whitchurch, Waddesdon, Claydon, Hartwell would have been threatened with extinction.

Sir Arthur Bryant CH, CBE, a well-known historian and author at the time, who was President of the Friends, wrote the Preface of which the opening lines were –

*No comparable area in southern England – certainly none within fifty miles of London – contains a greater extent of unspoilt scenic beauty and rural peace. From Thame in Oxfordshire to Woburn in Bedfordshire lies a galaxy of lovely villages unsurpassed anywhere between the industrial Midlands and the Channel coast.*

His favourite villages included Dinton and Cuddington.

The book was edited by the late Bettie Macpherson of Aston Sandford, who recommended it to me. It is not surprising therefore that Aston Sandford



features in the glossary of villages at the end of the book, and a letter from Sir John Betjeman is quoted –

*It is nice to be writing in the very house where Scott lived, author of the Force of Truth (a great book), friend of Cowper and Newton, grandfather of Sir Gilbert Scott, converter of Newman to Calvinism in his youth.*

No date is given for the letter, but it is a happy thought that Betjeman once visited the village, though no one has any knowledge of when he did.

So what happened to the third London Airport? The Roskill Commission (known originally as The Commission on the Third London Airport) was set up to consider the issue in 1968. Sir Eustace Roskill was at the time a High Court judge; he subsequently became first a Court of Appeal Judge and then, as Lord Roskill, a law lord (I met him in the early 1970s when I was a young trainee barrister and was much in awe). His Commission reported in January 1971 and recommended the Cublington site. The Government rejected the recommendation and went for the Foulness, or Maplin Sands as it became, option supported by a minority report. An Act of Parliament was passed in 1973 to prepare the way for Maplin Sands airport – but the whole thing was shelved because of the oil crisis of 1973. Instead Stansted was developed, a cheaper option not even considered by the Roskill Commission. The rest is history.

**Marilynne A Morgan**  
**Treasurer, Aston Sandford**



Sunset across Hartwell

## Flower Quiz

Solve the flower anagrams below and send your answers to the Editor by Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June to be in with the chance of winning a bouquet of cut flowers delivered to your doorstep (local delivery only).

Send your answers, together with your name and address, to the Editor via email to: [magazine@stonedintonhartwell.com](mailto:magazine@stonedintonhartwell.com) or by post to 12 Roundhill, Stone, HP17 8RD. The first correct answer drawn on 16<sup>th</sup> June will win and your bouquet will be delivered later that week. The answers are all flowers which can be found in the garden.

1. Up List .....
2. Act on rain .....
3. Steam lic .....
4. Its love .....
5. Sore .....
6. A duel bid .....
7. Angry head .....
8. Pond rows .....
9. I age quail .....
10. O mad girl .....
11. Thy chains .....
12. Adorns pang .....
13. Eh heart .....
14. Keys hoe clun .....





# PARISH CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

*You are invited to the*

## Parish Virtual Garden Show

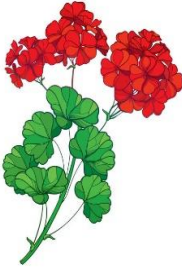
*a chance to show off your horticultural achievements!*

*This year has been a unique opportunity to spend more time in the garden and we are planning a “virtual” Summer flower and produce show. This is a chance to celebrate and share all our local gardens.*

*Full details will be given in the July edition of the Parish Magazine though we will be inviting you to submit photographs, either online or by post, of flowers, fruit/veg, plants grown by children or general views of your garden.*

*There will be a special display of photographs in the October magazine as well as online and, if public gatherings are permitted in the Autumn, we may even stage a display locally for others to visit.*

*The classes for photographs will be:*



*Fruit and/or vegetables  
Specimen flowers  
A view of my garden  
Grown by my child/children  
Container grown vegetables or fruit  
A Window box  
plus a “Best In Show”*



*There will be certificates for winners in each category plus a prize for the overall Best in Show.*

*Full details on how to submit your entry will be published in the July issue – in the meantime get ‘snapping’ around your garden whilst the sun shines and all is blooming!*





## Simply Walk in Stone, Haddenham & Dinton

Due to the **CORONAVIRUS:**

**Simply Walk** has been **Suspended!!!**

For how long? Will have to wait and see

But we'll be back - our walks have not ended!

Because they are friendly, fun and **free**

Lockdown, essential, stay home ... a little moan?

Can't go out where we'd like to be

So we're sending a **Postcard** from **Stone**

To you, at home with another cup of coffee or tea!

### Walking for Health with Simply Walk

For details/dates visit [www.buckscc.gov.uk/simplywalk](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/simplywalk)

Or call Fiona Broadbent on 01494 475367



### POSTCARD from Simply Walk Stone : June 2019



Hi everyone,

21 set out, and 21 returned!

We walked down the lane a short way then across the fields to Lower Hartwell Farm, with the going not too muddy underfoot, despite the recent rain.

Onwards we trooped up the hill and turned left towards Hartwell House gates, then began the return walk down the lane and back across more fields again, encountering some churned up mud by the gate. The cows we met during the morning were far too interested in munching the grass or lying down in anticipation of the forecasted rain.

However, we were lucky - no rain fell on us. Although there was no actual sunshine in the overcast sky it turned out to feel extremely muggy, and the walk certainly had most of us shedding layers and dreaming of a cold shower. No reports of exotic wildlife, but there were some butterflies around, and a sky lark singing happily above us as we passed through a wheat field. We could have used a machete (or hedge trimmer) in one or two places along our route where the vegetation had run riot! Thank you very much to Dick for back marking today. Once back at the hall Sue refreshed us all with coffee, tea and biscuits. We had one new walker, who said she had picked up a Simply Walk leaflet in The Seven Stars.

Best wishes,  
Georgina

**NEWS FROM CHAPEL HILL**

**Methodist Chapel, Eythrope Road, Stone, HP17 8PG**

**Ministerial oversight: Revd. Richard Atkinson**

**Tel: 01296 339899 : email – [revrja@outlook.com](mailto:revrja@outlook.com)**

**Village contact: Mrs. Sue Spinks**

**Tel: 01296 748369 : email – [royandsue1@btinternet.com](mailto:royandsue1@btinternet.com)**

Our Minister, Revd. Keith Edwards, is taking a long planned Sabbatical until 20th July.  
Please contact Revd. Richard Atkinson with any queries or requests for pastoral care during this period.

The Chapel post box is checked weekly and prayer requests left there will be shared with the Minister and Chapel Worship Leaders

There is a book box outside the Chapel – please help yourselves

\* \* \* \* \*

What a strange season this has been – and remains. Although, as I write, the hard lockdown measures appear to be slightly eased, there is still great tension, fear and uncertainty. I believe we have all discovered that some things which we considered important pre-Covid19 have faded into insignificance in the past weeks. We have found that thoughtfulness and care for each other, whether family or needy neighbours, quality time with our children, phone calls and technical link-ups, appreciation of the hard work of previously undervalued ‘key workers’ are the really vital ingredients for daily living. Of course, it is hard not to be able to worship together, but our clergy and pastoral workers have been increasingly innovative in bringing worship and ‘togetherness’ into our homes, for which we can all be grateful. Much as we miss gathering in our churches, perhaps we need to be reminded that, lovely, meaningful and symbolic though they are, buildings are not the Church. Our Local Preacher and poet, Ken Harris, sums this up:

The Church is not a building, the Church is not a steeple,  
the Church is not a resting place – the Church is the people.

We are many kinds of people, with many kinds of faces,  
all colours and all ages too, from all kinds of places.

At Pentecost some people received the Holy Spirit –  
and told the Good News through the world, to all who would hear it.

*I am the Church – you are the Church!*

*We are the Church together.*

*All who follow Jesus all around the world –*

*Yes, we are the Church together.*



(Left) Last signs of Spring in Hartwell Churchyard



(Right) Wall on the approach to Hartwell House



(Left) The A418 Oxford Road in Stone, taken at 6pm on a Friday evening, late April. Not a car in sight!



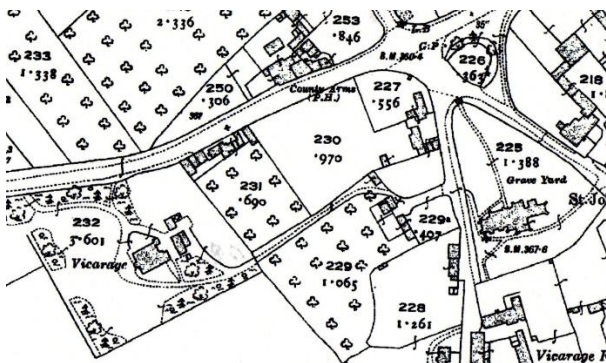
(Right) Stone pond

## Mystery House answer (from Page 11) The Old Vicarage (accessed from Churchway)

Some of you will remember looking down on this Old Vicarage over the wall opposite and just west of the County Arms. It has now been replaced by the houses in The Glebe, but part of the wall is still there. The Glebe grounds around the Vicarage were used for fetes, sports, and shows. Five days before WWI broke out everyone danced the night away on the Vicarage lawn after the annual Poultry and Horticultural show.

After the war, a new Rectory was built near the Bishopstone crossroads and in January 1934 the Vicarage and its surrounding Glebe land were bought by the Hospital and the house used for staff accommodation. In 1952 new Medical Director David Watt moved in with his family until 1964 when they bought land from the Hospital to build 7 Churchway, renting (later buying) the access and the Reading Room. By the late 1970s the Vicarage had been demolished and in 1983 the site of the old house and the remaining pasture below were sold and six houses were built (The Glebe) in 1984.

We think that the man in the photograph must be the Revd James Law Challis, Rector of Stone -with-Hartwell 1879-1916. He died in November 1919 and was buried in Stone churchyard after a very well attended funeral service.



**The Vicarage** was accessed from Churchway by a long winding drive. If you follow it on this map from the Church, opposite, (the entrance to 7, Churchway now), the drive curves round a little building – that was the **Reading Room**, converted by mid C19 vicar the Rev James Booth as a village lecture room for the encouragement of learning and self-improvement, with shelves

of books, newspapers and journals. It became an important part of the religious, educational, and social life of the village.

Boys and girls, men and women met, learned, played, and worked, warmed by a stove and with oil lamps to see by. Mabel Waine of Lower Hartwell Farm recorded in her diary her attendance at the Young Helpers' League in the Reading Room, run by Lady Smyth of St John's Lodge in aid of Dr Barnardo's. Winifred Beechey, living as a very small child at the Bishopstone crossroads during WWI, describes the sewing sessions in her book "The Rich Mrs Robinson": *"The room was quiet, the firelight flickered and as we sewed one of the girls read us a story ... the stiff calico was heavy work and my garment was soon speckled with little spots of blood"*. The children walked or cycled there, often in the dark. Cubs and Brownies were still meeting there until the 1960s and in the 70s and 80s it was used for collecting wastepaper sold in aid of the church and chapel. There is still a little building on the site.

**Stone Local History Group**



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Oxford Diocese (The Church of England serving the people of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire)	<a href="https://www.oxford.anglican.org/">https://www.oxford.anglican.org/</a>
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