

Parish Church & Community News



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



USEFUL PARISH CONTACTS

WYCHERT VALE BENEFICE	
<p>Benefice Rector (There is currently a vacancy in the Benefice for a new Rector)</p>	 <p>Associate Rector Revd Canon Dr Phil Groves 01296 748390 drphilgroves@gmail.com</p>
<p>Associate Minister Revd Nigel Featherston Tel: 01296 747454 nfeatherston@btinternet.com</p>	
<p>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</p>	
<p>St John the Baptist, Stone Licensed Lay Minister – Richard Smith richard.smith@stonedintonhartwell.com Churchwarden – Raymond Medhurst raymond.medhurst@stonedintonhartwell.com Churchwarden – Sue Birrell s.birrell@stonedintonhartwell.com</p>	
<p>St Peter and St Paul, Dinton Churchwarden – Ian Cairns 07816 315361 ian.cairns@tiscali.co.uk</p>	
<p>Treasurer (Stone & Dinton) treasurer@stonedintonhartwell.com</p>	
<p>St Michael & All Angels, Aston Sandford Churchwarden - Nick Morgan 01844 291217 4nick.morgan@gmail.com Churchwarden - Laura Macpherson lauramacpherson52@gmail.com</p>	

Front Cover Image: Swans at Eythrope by Ruth Jeffery

Editorial

Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.

Proverbs 21:5

The “In-between” Matters

Winter can still have its grip on the countryside. Fields lie bare or waterlogged, daylight is short, and work continues quietly but relentlessly behind the scenes. On farms, preparations are well underway for lambing, sheds are checked and re checked, and attention turns towards the season ahead, even while the land itself appears dormant.

This in between space matters. Much of rural life is shaped not only by moments of activity and celebration, but by these quieter stretches where resilience is tested and hope is held in trust rather than certainty. It is often here, in the darker months, that rural churches and chapels play their most faithful role, steady, present, and rooted.

Text used by kind permission of The Arthur Rank Centre. A Christian organisation serving the rural church.



Parish & Community News : 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

Church Services in the Parishes

March 2026	St John the Baptist Stone	St Peter & St Paul Dinton	Stone Methodist Chapel	St Michael & All Angels Aston Sandford
Sunday 1 March	9.00am Matins 10.30am Morning Worship	9.00am Holy Communion	11.00am Worship	
Sunday 8 March	10.30am Family Communion with Joyfull Juniors 4.00pm Lego Church in the Pavilion	6.00pm Evensong sung	11.00am Worship	
Sunday 15 March Mothering Sunday	9.00am Matins 10.30am Mothering Sunday Service		11.00am Holy Communion	11.00am Communion Service
Sunday 22 March	10.30am Family Communion with Joyfull Juniors	9.00am Holy Communion	11.00am Worship	
Sunday 29 March Palm Sunday	10.30am Palm Sunday Service		11.00am Worship	
Friday 3 April Good Friday	10.00am All Age Service for Good Friday	2.00pm Hymns, Readings and Prayers for Good Friday		
Easter Sunday 5 April	9.00am Matins 10.30am Holy Communion	10.00am Easter Holy Communion	11.0am Holy Communion	

Changes/more details can be found on the churches' noticeboards and the website.



EXPLORE FAITH TOGETHER AT

All Age

LEGO CHURCH

SING SONGS LISTEN TO A BIBLE STORY

BE CREATIVE WITH LEGO/DUPLO SAY PRAYERS EAT FOOD

8th March 12th April 3rd May

4pm-5pm

At The Jubilee Pavilion, Stone, HP17 8PD



SJB Run by St. John the Baptist Church, Stone ****Children must be accompanied by an adult**

Church Electoral Roll for Stone and Dinton

It is once again the time of the year for the revision of the Church Electoral Roll. If you are already on the Roll then you are not required to do anything if you wish to stay on the list. If you are not on the Roll and would like to be included you can visit the church website for further details and to see if you meet the criteria, and complete the application form. Alternately you can speak to one of the church wardens or telephone Dee on 01296 747671 for more information.

The deadline for receiving your application form is the 31st March 2026.

We are always happy to receive new applications so go to the website for more information.

<https://stonedintonhartwell.com/>

Letter from Aston Sandford

St Michael and All Angels is the proud possessor of three bells which are regularly rung at monthly services and other important services and occasions. They are hidden away in the belfry but have an interesting history.



Our chime of three consists of:

- Tenor bell - pitched in B - weighing 6 cwt - Early 15th century Wokingham Foundry
- A bell - pitched in C sharp - 5cwt - 1675 - Knight Foundry Ellis Knight II and Henry Knight III
- A bell - pitched in D - 4 1/2 cwt Early 15th century Wokingham Foundry

Inscriptions:

Each Wokingham bell has an inscription. Sancte Toma Or, or Sancte Cleme Or "Saint Thomas, pray (for us)" or "O clement" (or "O merciful").

WOKINGHAM FOUNDRY

The Lander family were farming in the Wokingham area and also had a well-established foundry producing bells from 1350-1495 and after a break 1565-1622 for churches in the south of England. The name Roger Lander appears from 1448 and could have been the maker of our bells.

KNIGHT FOUNDRY

The Knight family foundry started during the 14/15th centuries. They were based in Reading and provided bells throughout Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. The later family members Ellis Knight II and Henry Knight III made our bell dated 1675 and others are found in Little Missenden, Medmenham and Buckland churches. The foundry moved to London in 1710 and was to provide bells for Canterbury Cathedral, Southwark Cathedral and St Margaret's, Westminster.

The 15th century bells are most interesting: were these gifted as new by a wealthy patron to the existing 13th century church? This would be very exciting as they would be remarkable survivors of the destruction of the Reformation. Or did they survive elsewhere in sacked monasteries and churches and were eventually recycled to here. This was a common practice apparently.

At some point the church gained a belfry and perhaps these bells arrived then. English Heritage states there was restoration work in the 18th century, but by the 1870s the church had fallen into serious disrepair and Sir George Gilbert Scott was tasked with planning a comprehensive renovation. Very little was left unchanged by the architect who carried through these plans. In the end were all three bells recycled to here in the 1870s ?

Some of this last paragraph has been fiction not fact but it has been fun to speculate. The last major restoration was in 1983.

Laura Macpherson
Church Warden



In Memory of the late Sylvia Eaton

Dinton with Ford & Upton Parish Council have installed a Memorial Bench on Dinton Parish Field for the late Sylvia Eaton. Sylvia did so much for the village involved with Women's Institute, Dinton Village Fete and Dinton Church. She had lived in Westlington for over 40 years.



Mothering Sunday, 15th March 2026

A day off to visit Mum

Each year on the fourth Sunday of Lent, the church celebrates Mothering Sunday. This typically involves lavishing Mums with gifts and attention and celebrating the women who have nurtured us throughout our lives.

The Journey to the Mother Church

In the 16th century, Mothering Sunday was less about mothers and more about church. Back then, people would make a journey to their 'mother' church once a year. This might have been their home church, their nearest cathedral or a major parish church in a bigger town. The service which took place at the 'mother' church symbolised the coming together of families. This would represent a significant journey for many.

Another tradition was to allow those working in the fields on wealthy farms and estates in England to have the day off on the fourth Sunday of Lent to visit their mothers and possibly go to church too. This was a variation on the theme of visiting the 'mother' church. In some ways this tradition is still alive today as grown up children often visit their parents on mothering Sunday.

Some prayers

Loving God, you have given us the right to be called children of God. Help us to show your love in our homes that they may be places of love, security and truth. Loving God, Jesus, your Son, was born into the family of Mary and Joseph; bless all parents and all who care for children; strengthen those families living under stress and may your love be known where no human love is found.

Loving God, we thank you for the family of the Church. We pray that all may find in her their true home; that the lonely, the marginalised, the rejected may be welcomed and loved in the name of Jesus.

Loving God, as we see the brokenness of our world we pray for healing among the nations; for food where there is hunger; for freedom where there is oppression; for joy where there is pain; that your love may bring peace to all your children.



(Image credit: Pixabay Prawny)

Plough Sunday

Plough Sunday was marked in many churches across the country. From services of prayer and thanksgiving to the blessing of ploughs, seeds and soil, churches have gathered to hold together faith, farming and the land itself. These moments, often simple and local, speak quietly of hope, stewardship and the deep connection between rural worship and the working countryside.

We are planning further evensong services that have a farming theme such as Rogation Sunday in May and Lammastide in August. These mark the sprouting crops and then the wheat harvest.

Foot and Mouth - 25 years on

Some will remember twenty five years ago, the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak, it is a reminder of how deeply policy decisions, animal health, and rural well-being are entwined. The scars of that season remain vivid for many, and its lessons continue to shape how we think about resilience, community, and care.

There were 2,000 cases of the disease on farms across most of the British countryside. Over six million cows and sheep were slaughtered on farms in an eventually successful attempt to halt the disease.

Public rights of way across land were closed. This damaged the popularity of rural areas such as Wales, Cornwall and the Lake District as tourist destinations and led to the cancellation of that year's Cheltenham Festival, as well as the British Rally Championship for the 2001 season along with the Isle of Man TT, and also delayed that year's general election by a month. Crufts, the international dog show, had to be postponed by 2 months from March to May 2001. By the time that the disease was halted in October 2001, the crisis was estimated to have cost the United Kingdom £8 billion.



u3a General Meeting at Haddenham Village Hall

Tuesday 10th March @ 2.30pm

The Saxophone and My Life as an Army Musician

Speaker: Jon Woodhouse

Jon started playing the clarinet at the age of fourteen and joined the Army as a musician at the age of sixteen, serving in Her Majesty's Lifeguards Band for 25 years. He has played the clarinet (even on the back of a horse!), bass clarinet and saxophone at many high-profile events.

Jon, now retired from the Army, will include a little background information about the saxophone and he will also bring various instruments to demonstrate.

Visitors who may like to find out more about the local u3a are welcome to have a taster visit, before joining, at no cost.

Members are able to join any of the 30 interest groups, ranging from book clubs to walking groups, details of which can be found on the website.

To find out more about the u3a and join, please contact Elaine Parkes, Membership Secretary, membership@haddenhamu3a.co.uk, or visit our website www.haddenhamu3a.co.uk



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

Images ideally need to be square (or able to be cropped for a square) and must be of high resolution.

HADDENHAM COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP

Fashion Show & Afternoon Tea

Thursday
19th March 2026
@ 2.30pm

Bradmoor Farm Function Suite
Stanbridge Road
Haddenham
HP17 8JX

Tickets £25

Fashions from
Beautifully Different Boutique
Winslow



Tickets available from 26th January. Order tickets by 11th March 2026
By email: fhcsag@gmail.com or Jacqui on 07786 385807.



Care for those you know and love

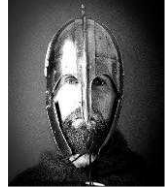
fncsag.org.uk
fhcsag@gmail.com
Tel: 07786 311600

**B Discover Bucks
Museum**
& Roald Dahl Children's Gallery



The SAXONS
Three lives. Three burials. Three extraordinary stories.
28 March – 1 November 2026

The SAXONS is a major new exhibition opening on Saturday 28 March at Discover Bucks Museum exploring Buckinghamshire's Saxon past through extraordinary archaeological discoveries.



Step into early medieval life as you encounter the **Princely Burial at Taplow**, the **Warlord of Marlow**, and artefacts from **graves uncovered at the Wendover Saxon Cemetery** — many on display for the first time.

With immersive displays, life-like Saxon characters, and hands-on experiences for families, this exhibition brings Saxon history vividly to life.

Discover Bucks Museum, Aylesbury
For opening times and to book visit discoverbucksmuseum.org

Discover Bucks Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury HP20 2QP | 01296 331 441
The Museum is a registered charity with charity number 1153345

Moonrakers

www.moonrakers.net

Celtic traditional and contemporary songs and tunes.
Music from the UK & Ireland.



**Fri 17th April
7.30pm
Parish Church
Dinton, HP17 8UG**

£15.00 (cash or card). Book online via Eventbrite (search Moonrakers) or pay on the door (subject to availability).

This special concert is a joint fundraising event. By attending, you'll be supporting both the Church and the Village Hall — two historic buildings at the heart of village life.

Enquires: 07872 316553 rosemaryjackson43@gmail.com

Dinton Parish Church (Ss Peter and Paul)

&
Empty Room Promotions
Present: An evening of Fabulous Music with

The
Savannah Gardner
Band

(Savannah Gardner is a British-American country and Americana artist whose unique blend of storytelling, soulful vocals, and magnetic stage presence has made her a standout figure in the genre.)

With Support from Susannah Clegg

Friday 24th April 2026 (Dinton Parish Church – Upton Road, Dinton)
Doors 7pm (music from 7:45 pm)

Tickets £17 (ADV) / £20 (OTD)



Tickets Available From:

<https://www.empty-room.com/> or
<https://wegotickets.com/emptyroom-promotions> or
<https://savannahgardner.com/> or

Paul Bispham (Dinton) 07738896650 (No Fees)

Magazine subscriptions for 2026

A reminder that magazine subscriptions are due for 2026

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

We hope that you enjoy the magazine and will wish to continue in 2026. The annual subscription to receive a copy of the magazine at the beginning of each month, delivered to your door, is just £10 per annum (that's for 12 copies!).

(The cost to non-subscribers for individual monthly copies is £1 per month.)

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.)

If you've received this magazine and are not a current subscriber though would like to receive the magazine each month, please contact David Pickup, the editor (contact details on page 3).

Thank you,
David Pickup. Editor



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**

**Cakes, cheesy crumpets,
jacket potatoes with toppings
and side-salad, homemade
soup**

**SATURDAY
7th MARCH**

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.**



CHILDRENS CHURCH IN THE CHURCH

We meet every 2nd & 4th Sunday in the month 10.30



DATE	THEME
8 TH March	WOMAN AT THE WELL
22 nd March	RAISING OF LAZARUS
12 th April	DOUBTING THOMAS
26 th April	THE GOOD SHEPHERD
10 th May	WHO IS GOD
24 th May	TONGUES OF FIRE
14 th June	SENDING OUT THE DISCIPLES
28 th June	WORK AND REST



Children age 4 and over are very welcome
and the older ones can help or do things relevant to their age.



Please come and join us

****PRINT DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE OF THE PARISH MAGAZINE****

If you have articles, adverts, community events,
ideas for the magazine, please note print deadline
date as follows:



April issue : deadline for receipt of copy is
Wednesday 11th March.



COME AND JOIN US



Would you like to come and join the group that talks, drinks coffee, eats cake and shares craft ideas?

YOU ARE VERY WELCOME

Just come along when you can no obligation - just fun!



WE MEET ON THE 3RD MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH

(except Bank Holidays)

10.30am to 12.30pm in the church.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

Parish Church

<https://stonedintonhartwell.com/>

Stone with Bishopstone and Hartwell
Parish Council
Jubilee Pavilion

<http://www.sbhpc.org/>

<http://www.jubileepavilion.co.uk>

Dinton with Ford and Upton Parish
Council
Dinton News

<https://www.dinton.org/>

<https://www.dinton.info/>

Wychert Vale Benefice Website

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

Oxford Diocese (The Church of England
serving the people of Oxfordshire,
Berkshire and Buckinghamshire)
Church of England

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/>

World Day of Prayer

Friday 6th March 2026 at 2.00pm

Stone Methodist Chapel, Eythrope Road, Stone



"I Will Give You Rest: Come"

Matthew 11:28-30

The World Day of Prayer is an international Christian laywomen's initiative run under the motto "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action" and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. The movement aims to bring together women of various races, cultures and traditions in a yearly common Day of Prayer, as well as in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year.

This year's event has been written by the women of Nigeria. The 2026 World Day of Prayer materials from Nigeria bring us a powerful invitation drawn from St Matthew at a time when people worldwide are carrying heavy burdens, Nigerian sisters offer profound insights into finding rest in God. Through their exploration of different kinds of burdens - shame, systemic oppression, religious persecution, poverty and despair - the writers help us understand both the weight of human suffering and the depths of divine rest. Their work shows us that true rest is not just about physical relief, but about transformation through God's grace and community support.

The Nigerian committee has woven together their cultural wisdom with the universal need for rest. Through symbols like the calabash bowl, which represents both daily sustenance and divine provision, they remind us how God meets us in our weariness.



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

Our Minister: Revd. Hee Gon Moon
Email: heegon5@gmail.com



Village contact: Mrs. Sue Spinks
The Harbour, 17 Belle Vue,
Eythrope Road, Stone HP17 8PJ
Email: royandsue1@btinternet.com

The Chapel with heart, at the heart of the village

WELCOME TO WORSHIP EACH SUNDAY at 11 am

Village friends and amenities continue to be prayed for week by week,
and on the four Sundays of March we will remember :
Badger's Rise, Beacon Close, Belle Vue, Bishopstone Road and Bittenham Close

* * * * *

During the Season of LENT, which covers the whole of the month of March, the Chapel fellowship and friends are pledging to support the Charity

WATERAID

Rather than 'giving up something for Lent' we are looking at all the blessings we enjoy because of our ready access to clean water for all our needs (this despite the undoubted shortcomings of the Water Authorities!) and in thankfulness we add a contribution to our **LENT WATERAID JAR**, to support the work of **WATERAID**, helping to provide access to clean water for needy communities.



Make a cup of tea/coffee

Wash my hair

Use the loo

Cook my veg

and so on.....

ADD YOUR OWN USES!

WILL YOU TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE AND JOIN US?

**See April's Parish Magazine for details of when/where to bring your jar
after EASTER DAY**

STONE THURSDAY CLUB

Meeting in the Methodist Chapel on the Second Thursday each month

*For the over-60s – especially those who live alone
or find it difficult to get about – if this is YOU do come along*

*Contact Dee James 01296 747671 for transport
Subscriptions £3 per session*

With **EASTER** in our minds, at our meeting on
THURSDAY 12th MARCH
it's time to be *CREATIVE!*
Let your imagination run wild as you make your own

Easter Card

(all materials provided)

and to add to the fun you're invited to bring along
a **DECORATED EGG** (*HARD BOILED, PLEASE!*)



Local 'Cinema'

Cuddington Screen (at The Bernard Hall, upper Church Street,
Cuddington HP18 0AP)

Thursday 5th March – Materialists Cert 15 8.00pm

Thursday 12th March – The Choral Cert 12A 8.00pm

Haddenham Screen (<https://www.haddenhamscreen.org.uk>)

Tuesday 3rd March – Mission Impossible the Final Reckoning Cert 12A 8.00pm



**WELCOME TO
FOURTH TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP
(non-denominational)**

MEETING monthly at METHODIST CHAPEL
each fourth Tuesday at 2.30 pm

**MARCH MEETING : TUESDAY 24TH MARCH
*BEWARE: there are 5 Tuesdays in March!***

You are invited to come along and share a
favourite reading, poem, story or prayer
and sing some well-loved hymns
before enjoying tea and cakes

Come along to

Meet Friends



Make Friends



EASY GOING EXERCISES FOR ALL

Have fun while you exercise – gently!

**EVERY MONDAY at 11 am – 12 Noon
at the Methodist Chapel, Eythrope Road**

£3.00 PER SESSION
INCLUDES COFFEE & BISCUITS

Ring Josie : 748031 (after 4pm) for further information

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: 4th and 18th March

Bradmoor Farm (rear) car park, Stanbridge Road – **HADDENHAM**

Wednesday: 25th March

Seven Stars PH, New Road – **DINTON**

Wednesday: 11th March

We meet in the morning for **10.30**

It's friendly, fun and **free**

Don't need posh gear only comfy, sturdy
Footwear to walk in.....till 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 2026			
MONTH	STONE	HADDENHAM	DINTON
March	4 th and 18 th	25 th	11 th
April	1 st , 15 th and 29 th	22 nd	8 th
May	13 th and 27 th	20 th	6 th
June	10 th and 24 th	17 th	3 rd
July	8 th and 22 nd	15 th	1 st and 29 th
August	5 th and 19 th	12 th	26 th
September	2 nd , 16 th and 30 th	9 th	23 rd
October	14 th and 28 th	7 th	21 st
November	11 th and 25 th	4 th	18 th
December	9 th and 23 rd	2 nd and 30 th	16 th



Parish Council Meeting Dates



MEETING DATES OF THE DINTON, FORD AND UPTON PARISH COUNCIL IN 2026

Notice is hereby given that the parish council will meet on the following dates, and time specified, in the Village Hall, Dinton.

Any committee meeting are notified separately by agenda notices.
Agendas will be placed on the notice boards & website

Meetings are scheduled to start at 7.30pm unless otherwise notified differently on the agenda

Keith Gray (Keith Gray, JP)
CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

10th March

14th April Annual Meeting of the Parish (Council's Annual Report)

12th May Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (Election of Chairman)

9th June

14th July

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

8th September

13th October

10th November

8th December



MEETING DATES OF THE STONE WITH BISHOPSTONE AND HARTWELL PARISH COUNCIL IN 2026

Tuesday 17th March at 7.30pm in Bishopstone Village Hall

Tuesday 21st April at 7.30pm in the Jubilee Pavilion, Stone

Tuesday 28th April at 7.30pm – Annual Parish Meeting in the Jubilee Pavilion, Stone

Cuddington's School

These days the School is a place in which the village can take pride. However, things certainly were not always so! The curate Henry Meares wrote, "I regret to say there is no school in the village of 626 residents, the consequence of which is that a spirit of insubordination, ignorance and licentious manners prevails to a great extent". He made this lament in 1844 to the National Society which sponsored education on behalf of the Church of England.

Owing largely to the curate's initiative a village school was established a year later, but it was short lived. The single small classroom was situated off Spicketts Lane. Parents had to pay a penny a week, hence its name 'The Penny School'. Her Majesty's Inspectors reported that the room was far too full and the master in charge had to teach all ages single-handedly. In addition, the wretched construction was not sound. The single privy shared by both boys and girls was frequently filthy. This appears to have deterred some parents from sending their girls or younger children to school.

Attendance fluctuated owing to frequent epidemics like measles and whooping cough and to the cost when most family finances were severely limited.

In 1855 Cuddington's first resident vicar, Rev James Mansel Price was appointed. He and his wife frequently visited the school, soon realised that it was failing and wrote to the National Society outlining the miserable conditions and requesting funding. A Board of Trustees was established to raise funds locally which amounted to nearly £400 to add to a grant from the National Society.

Mr Walter Rose of Dadbrook House provided a half-acre site in Upper Church Street. The total cost of the construction of the school together with a headteacher's three bedroomed house next door, both solidly built with brick, was £650. The school was designed to provide for 70 children – the larger classroom for the older pupils and the smaller one for the infants. There were two separate entrances for boys and girls as well as a high brick wall to divide the two sexes in the playground. Separate toilet spaces in small huts for girls and boys with buckets were provided which were emptied weekly into the 'stink wagon'. Parents paid two pence per week.



The Headmaster lived rent free and was paid £25 a year plus the pence the children brought. In November 1863 the new school was opened by the Bishop of Oxford and by the end of the month a total of 80 was on the roll. Most came from Cuddington, but some walked from Chearsley and Nether Winchendon where schools had yet to be built.

The school's success or failure was, of course, determined by the master's teaching skills, the pupils' attendance and their ability to master a curriculum almost entirely based on the 3 Rs, Reading, Writing and Arithmetic, with the addition of some Religious Instruction.

A typical morning's timetable in the 1870s ran: 9.00am - 9.15am Assembly with prayers and hymns.

9.15am - 9.45am Scripture

9.45am - 10.00am Mark the registers

10.00am - 10.30am Copy writing or dictation

10.30am - 10.45am Recreation in the playground

10.45am - 11.20am Reading

11.20am - 11.55am Arithmetic

11.55am – 12.00pm Tidying tables, grace and dismissal.

It was a very limited and monotonous curriculum. Not until 1879 were History and Geography added. There was no Physical Education in most primary schools at this time.

The intention was to instil morality, humility and an acceptance of one's station in life. The Headteachers' logbooks and Inspectors' reports give an insight into the difficult first 25 years when the school experienced many problems and shortcomings. From 1863 to 1887 under the payment by results system there were no fewer than six headteachers with their wives taking charge of the infants. In each case resignation followed critical HMI reports. Arithmetic presented persistent problems. At one stage the annual grant was reduced by 10% owing to 'defective instruction'. English fared no better. An exasperated inspector reported, "of English nothing is known. I cannot understand why I was asked to examine it". Later another report concluded, "No success attends the teaching of English". Reports stated that there was severe overcrowding which was slightly alleviated when schools were built in Nether Winchendon (1875) and Chearsley (1880).

Irregular attendance was very common in spite of compulsory education becoming law in 1870. Some parents found 2 pence a week beyond their means. However, it became free in 1880. Comments in Headteachers' logbooks tell of how girls would return with excuses like, "Mam was awful bad, so I had to do the washing", "minding the baby", and "poor shoes". Boys' excuses include, "awooding", "elderblooming", "helping with the harvest" and "potato picking". Ventilation in the classrooms was poor – it was often too cold. In November 1889 the Headmaster reported that the first lesson involved no writing as "the pupils' hands are too cold to hold pens", whereas in May in the same year, 15 minutes playtime in the afternoon were granted to air the fetid room. Some of the older girls left school early to go into lacemaking. Diseases were rife with outbreaks of measles, 'flu, mumps, chicken pox and diphtheria. For example, in March 1885 the school was closed for a month owing to whooping cough. Lesson time was also lost owing to frequent holidays. On the many feast days pupils were given a half holiday. At times, especially in winter, the flooding of the Thame prevented children from Chearsley and Winchendon reaching school.

However, one school activity has stood the test of time from this period – the tradition of 'garlanding'. Around May Day pupils still tour the village distributing posies to villagers.

By Peter Wenham of Cuddington

Cuddington School News



Spring term 2026 got off to a cracking start with frozen windscreens for staff, ice and snowballs to play with at break and warm hats, coats and gloves all round. The children had been completing a Christmas reading challenge over the holidays encouraging them to read a diverse range of material from recipes to poems. 2026 is the National Year for Reading and it is never too young to start reading for pleasure to enrich lives, bring joy, knowledge and have a chance to escape into many different worlds.

Foundation class have been enjoying their 'Superheroes' topic as they received visits from local firefighters and a visit from Dr Parker who brought an ambulance for the class to see. Across the school, classes took part in the RSPB Big Bird Watch enjoying spotting different species and contributing to this nationwide project. Even on damp days the children have been outside engaging in creative and imaginative play using some of the new equipment as part of the Opal play initiative.

The way some topics are taught now are very different from when some of us were at school. This is particularly true with Maths. It is good to see that the school runs parent workshops for both infant and junior children's parents so that parents can have a clear idea of how to support and encourage them. Safeguarding has been in the news again. Our new 'Spotlight on Safeguarding' monthly newsletter is available on our website safeguarding information page. Our aim is to work in partnership with parents to help keep all children and young people safe.

SAVE THE DATE – STONE VILLAGE FETE





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 at Tyringham Hall and a Christmas party in the Bernard Hall.

Next events:

Monday 2nd March : 2.00pm Tea in the Cuddington Playing Fields Clubhouse

Monday 16th March : 1.30pm Cuddington Matinee Cinema in the Bernard Hall, 'Downton Abbey – The Grand Finale'

For more information telephone Angela 01844 291932
or email apdwenham@gmail.com



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Would you like to help put the parish magazine together?

We are looking for one or two volunteers to join our editorial team and help with preparing the magazine for print on a monthly basis. You'll need a PC/Laptop.

Our local and friendly team meet once a month over Zoom.

Please Contact Us For More Information

 david@pickupandscott.co.uk



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

Real coins

Many thanks to the kind person who donated a bag of old coins, mainly half crowns.

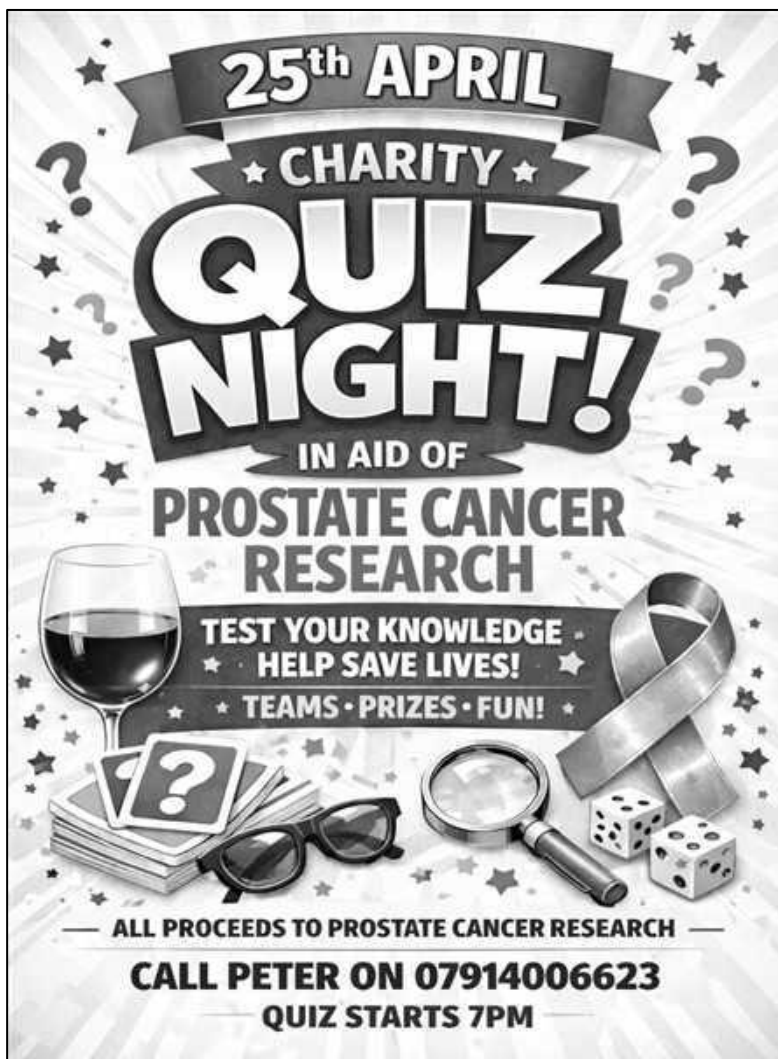
These old coins bring back memories. If you had a half crown (two shillings and six pennies) it was a sizeable sum. The half crown had a long history and was demonetised which meant they could not be used on 1 January 1970, the year before the United Kingdom adopted decimal currency on Decimal Day.

A half crown would go quite a long way purchasing food in 1969. You could get any of these food items for 2/6 in 1969.

- Sainsbury's Australian pears 29oz tin
- Del Monte tinned peaches 29oz
- Galaxy chocolate 8oz bar (Sainsbury's)
- Mazola corn oil 16 fl oz (Tesco)
- Sainsbury's beef and vegetable casserole 15½oz

If you have old coins or broken jewellery you do not want we can use that to raise funds for the church. The value of gold and silver is very high at the moment.



A promotional poster for a charity quiz night. At the top, a banner reads '25th APRIL'. Below it, the word 'CHARITY' is flanked by stars. The main title 'QUIZ NIGHT!' is in large, bold, white letters with a black outline. Underneath, it says 'IN AID OF PROSTATE CANCER RESEARCH'. A dark horizontal band contains the text 'TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE · HELP SAVE LIVES!' and 'TEAMS · PRIZES · FUN!'. The bottom section features illustrations of a wine glass, a stack of cards with a question mark, a pair of glasses, a magnifying glass, a silver awareness ribbon, and two dice. The background is white with a radial starburst pattern and scattered stars and question marks.

25th APRIL

CHARITY

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HELP SAVE LIVES!

TEAMS · PRIZES · FUN!

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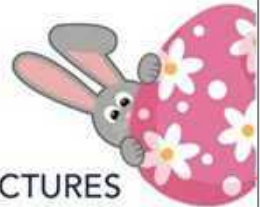
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1	Sunday Church Services
2	11am Easy-going Exercises at The Methodist Chapel Cuddington Sunshine Club: Tea in the Playing Fields Clubhouse 2.00pm
3	Tuesday Café In The Park, Stone 11am-1pm Haddenham Screen: Mission Impossible the Final Reckoning, Cert 12A, 8.00pm
4	Simply Walk
5	Cuddington Village Picture House: ‘Materialists’, Cert 15 8.00pm
6	World Day of Prayer – service in The Chapel, Stone 2.00pm Pippa’s Community Café, Stone, 10.30-1.00pm **NEW TIME**
7	Saturday Café in the Park, Stone 10am-12 Noon
8	Sunday Church Services 4pm Lego Church in the Jubilee Pavilion, Stone
9	11am Easy-going Exercises at The Methodist Chapel
10	Tuesday Café In The Park, Stone 11am-1pm u3a Meeting, Haddenham Village Hall, 2.15 for 2.30pm Stone, Bishopstone & Hartwell Parish Council Meeting : 7.30pm in the Jubilee Pavilion, Stone
11	Simply Walk
12	Little Wrigglers in Stone 9.00am Thursday Club 2.00pm Cuddington Village Picture House: ‘The Choral’, Cert 12A, 8.00pm
13	Pippa’s Community Café, Stone, 10.30-1.00pm **NEW TIME**
14	
15	Sunday Church Services
16	11am Easy-going Exercises at The Methodist Chapel Socially Crafty, St John the Baptist, Stone, 10.30am-12.30pm Cuddington Sunshine Club : 1.30pm Matinee Cinema
17	Tuesday Café In The Park, Stone 11am-1pm Dinton with Ford and Upton Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm
18	Simply Walk
19	Little Wrigglers in Stone 9.00am Florence Nightingale Hosprice Fashion Show, Bradmoor Farm 2.30pm
20	Pippa’s Community Café, Stone, 10.30-1.00pm **NEW TIME**
21	
22	Sunday Church Services
23	11am Easy-going Exercises at The Methodist Chapel
24	Tuesday Café In The Park, Stone 11am-1pm Fourth Tuesday Fellowship 2.30pm
25	Simply Walk
26	Little Wrigglers in Stone 9.00am
27	Pippa’s Community Café, Stone, 10.30-1.00pm **NEW TIME**
28	
29	Sunday Church Services
30	11am Easy-going Exercises at The Methodist Chapel
31	Tuesday Café In The Park, Stone 11am-1pm



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