



CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR SERVICES



- 24th Dec 10:30am **SERVICE OF QUIET PRAYER & REFLECTION**
 4:00pm **CHRISTMAS EVE CRIB SERVICE**
 for all the family
 11:30pm **MIDNIGHT COMMUNION**
- 25th Dec 10:00am **CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY COMMUNION**
at St Peter & St Paul DINTON
- 31st Dec 10:30am **SERVICE OF QUIET PRAYER & REFLECTION**



Posada update

Many thanks to everyone who has already hosted Mary and Joseph on their Advent journey. Apologies to those of you who are still waiting. There have been a few last minute changes so they might not manage to reach everyone on the list. Here they are though looking comfortable on a windowsill this week.

Café News

There will be **no Café** in the Park on Tuesdays 26th December and 2nd January. Thankyou to all the helpers, bakers, and organisers for the tremendous job you have done this year. Have a break and a wonderful Christmas! We start again on **SATURDAY 6th January** and **TUESDAY 9th January**.



Network Name:
SJB Congregation

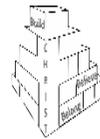
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We now accept online donations. You can donate at: www.stonedintonhartwell.com/donate



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BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE



Parish of Stone, Dinton and Hartwell



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

St. John the Baptist STONE

Sunday 17th December

Third Sunday in Advent

GAUDETE SUNDAY



- 9:00** **MATINS** led by David Pickup
- 10:30** **FAMILY COMMUNION**
led by Revd Sue Smith & Richard Smith
- 4:00** **SERVICE of NINE LESSONS & CAROLS**
with the choir
led by Revd Phil Groves

THIS WEEK

- | | | | |
|-------|------------------|---------------------|---|
| Mon | 18 th | 10:30am | Socially Crafty – in the church |
| Tues | 19 th | 11:00am | Café in the Park - in the Jubilee Pavilion |
| Thurs | 21 st | 3:00pm
to 9:30pm | Christmas Open House with Revd Cassa and her husband Myles - 12 Cricketers Way, Haddenham |

CHRISTMAS SERVICES ARE SHOWN SEPARATELY

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE

John 1:6-8

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

John 1:19-28

John the Baptist Denies Being the Messiah

¹⁹ Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰ He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

²¹ They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

²² Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³ John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

²⁴ Now the Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵ questioned him, "Why then do you baptise if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

²⁶ "I baptise with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know.

²⁷ He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

²⁸ This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

John the Baptist was a witness to the light who understood the truth about himself and his role. He was a prophet and was in continuity with the prophets, but he was not the Messiah. His mission was to introduce Jesus and help people be ready for Jesus and to recognise him when he came.

John knew that his role was to bring people to Christ, and that is our role too. We must try to live our lives right so that people will be able to know through us that faith in Christ makes all the difference.

We need to ask the Lord to strengthen that sense of mission in our lives and to give us the grace to shine his light into the world around us – not just at Christmas, but all year round.

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE



*Lord Jesus, Light of light,
you have come among us.
Help us who live by your light
to shine as lights in your world.
Glory to God in the highest.
Amen.*

Gaudete Sunday

Those of us from a certain generation will remember Steeleye Span hitting the pop charts in 1973 with their rendition of 'Gaudete, Gaudete Christos est natus'. It still comes out with the Christmas collection for many today. Recently it seems to be played in Sainsbury's whenever I pop in for milk or bread, or yet more mince pies. It is surprising really that they still hit the PLAY button when they see me coming as I cannot help singing along while wandering the aisles looking for someone to sing the harmonies with me. But what is Gaudete Sunday itself all about?

It falls on the third Sunday of Advent in Catholic and mainline protestant churches. Whereas the spirit of the liturgy throughout Advent is one of expectation and preparation for the feast of Christmas - as well as for the second coming of Christ - Gaudete Sunday offers a break from this by focussing on the joy and the gladness of the good news of Christ.

'Gaudete' means 'rejoice'! so do join in with the celebration – maybe with some hearty singing at the carol service this afternoon.

Choir practice



A hearty big thankyou goes to our choir who will be singing at the carol service this afternoon. Last week they sang at Dinton carol service and they also sang for us on Advent Sunday. It has been a busy season for them and what a joy it has been to hear them. Particular thanks go to Chris Ashbridge our choir mistress and organist.

The choir will now be taking a break until **Tuesday 20th February** when they resume practices at the Methodist chapel.

Coffee Cup news.

Our Coffee Cup Collections in SJB this month will be sent to the **Community Christmas Lunch** in St Mary's church in Aylesbury. It offers a free Christmas Day meal and entertainment to those who are in need.

Further details can be seen here <https://www.freechristmasdinner.com> or on the noticeboard by the kitchen inside the church.

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