

**Sunday 21st December 2025**

**Notices for the week**

*Our church is a member of the Wychert Vale family of churches*

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



- 9:00 **MATINS** led by David Pickup
- 10:30 **FAMILY WORSHIP** led by David Pickup
- 18:00 **SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS WITH THE CHOIR** led by Revd Canon Phil Groves



*God our redeemer,  
 who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary  
 to be the mother of your Son:  
 grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,  
 so we may be ready to greet him  
 when he comes again as our judge;  
 who is alive and reigns with you,  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever. Amen*

**Posada 2025**



Our Mary and Joseph have been travelling around the village staying with a different host household each night. They will eventually return to church for the Crib Service on Christmas Eve. Here are two more comfortable lodgings that welcomed them this week



*Photo used with permission*



**Carols in the Courtyard**



Thank you Terry and Clare for hosting what was a wonderful evening of laughter, carols and good food which all went down well. It is so kind of you to share your home in so many ways as you do and support the church and local charity too. Thank you to everyone who cooked, provided deserts and came along to create such a lovely atmosphere. **Sue**

**Yorkie bars and socks**

Thankyou to everyone who has already brought in socks and Yorkie bars for the men in HMP Grendon and Springhill. Today is the last day to bring them in so they can be collected in time for Christmas Day.



Revd Canon Dr Phil Groves: [drphilgroves@gmail.com](mailto:drphilgroves@gmail.com) 01296 748390  
 Website: [www.stonedintonhartwell.com](http://www.stonedintonhartwell.com)  
 Weekly pewsheets: [pewsheets@stonedintonhartwell.com](mailto:pewsheets@stonedintonhartwell.com)  
 Benefice office: [office@wychertvale.org](mailto:office@wychertvale.org) 01844 291108

**BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE**

**Christmas Services**

- 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 4:00pm **CHRISTMAS EVE CRIB SERVICE**  
 Children and adults are welcome to come dressed for participation !
- 11:30pm **MIDNIGHT COMMUNION**
- 25<sup>th</sup> Dec 10:00am **CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY COMMUNION**  
 at St Peter & St Paul DINTON - there is no Christmas morning service in St John the Baptist church in Stone
- 28<sup>th</sup> Dec 10:30am **MORNING WORSHIP**

**BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE**

## Matthew 1:18-end

### Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son

*<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.*

*<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."*

*<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").*

*<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.*

---

### Coffee Cup Collection

Our Coffee Cup Collections this month will be sent to the **Community Christmas Lunch** project that offers a free Christmas Day meal in St Mary's Church in Aylesbury on Christmas Day from noon until 3pm. This event has been taking place for more than twenty years.

The free dinner is available to anyone who might be alone at Christmas, or homeless, or whose home circumstances might be difficult in some way. There is also entertainment, games, presents .....and no washing up!

---

**THANKYOU** choir for making our Carol service really special every year. We look forward to hearing you again this afternoon.

---

### ***HAPPY CHRISTMAS from everyone at St John the Baptist Church***

*We invite everyone to join us at one of our services of celebration.*

*No previous church experience is required – just come as you are!*

---

### New Year dates

**3<sup>rd</sup> Jan** - Saturday Café in the Park      **8<sup>th</sup> Jan** - Little Wrighglers resumes  
**6<sup>th</sup> Jan** - Tuesday Cafes in the Park resume      **10<sup>th</sup> Jan** - Joyfull Juniors  
**6<sup>th</sup> Jan** - choir practice at 29b Eythrope Road      **19<sup>th</sup> Jan** - Socially Crafty

***BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE***

## Bishop Dave's Advent message

My sister has cancer. She was diagnosed quite recently, and it's turned her world upside down. Her husband, her young daughter and the rest of our family are trying to come to terms with the fact that this Christmas and the future suddenly looks very different to how it did just a few weeks ago.

It's made me realise how often I take for granted what the future is gonna hold - how often I assume the future is going to be just like the past. And then it's so painful and disorientating when the future suddenly looks dark, uncertain, and we don't know what to do.

The whole world feels like that at the moment in some ways, doesn't it? With a climate crisis, war, economic uncertainty, difficulties of all kinds pressing in on us. And at times like that, we look to the future, and we think how can we make the future better than the darkened, threatened place that it seems likely to become. And there are all kinds of things that are good and right to do - we find the best medical treatment we can, we raise money, we make meals, we plan nice things to look forward to. But none of them can change what the future holds.

And in fact, as Christians, we need to look backwards, not forwards, to find the source of our hope.

We can look backwards to all the blessings that God has given us, to answered prayer, to times of lightness and hope when we saw the faith so clearly and then we can practice in the dark what we learned to be true in the light. But most of all, we need to look all the way back 2,000 years to the birth of Jesus.

A tiny, fragile baby born unnoticed by almost the whole world, but a birth that changed everything forever. A light - the light, as John's Gospel says, that brings life to all people came into the world, and the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.

So as we face a dark and uncertain world, a future full of difficulties, as the days grow shorter and the night seems darker and longer, we look all the way back to Jesus, the light of the world, who entered into this darkness and overcame it with his light; a light that floods us when we trust in him, and that promises us a future that is entirely secure, kept for us, shielded in heaven, and a place where there will be no more cancer, no more suffering, no more pain, no more death, but only light.

---

### Licensing of Revd Tracy 'TJ' Jones

You are invited to welcome Revd Tracy 'TJ' Jones to our clergy team. Bishop Dave will be leading the Licensing Service on Wednesday January 14th 7.30pm in Cuddington Church. We expect TJ to lead our worship here once a month.

***BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE***