

Bishop of Oxford vacancy

Bishop Steven Croft has announced his retirement this summer and so consultations are taking place regarding his replacement.

A process is currently in place to discern who might be our new Diocesan Bishop for Oxford. Anyone living, working or worshipping in the diocese can contribute their views via the form online.

A document called a Statement of Needs must be put together. It will set out information about the Diocese, including its hopes and challenges, and what people have said is important to them in a new Bishop.

To this end the Diocese has created a short, anonymous survey that will be the main way of seeking views and opinions to be included in the Statement of Needs. The survey features four questions and will take less than ten minutes to complete.

The link to the survey is: www.stonedintonhartwell.com/news/new-bishop/

The survey will close on Wednesday 4th February at 17:00

An invitation and information from Revd Cassa Messervy

As we turn to the New Year and a time of change as a benefice, I thought it would be good to give you all some information about the path ahead.

First to say that my last Sunday in the benefice will be Sunday, 15th February, and I would like to extend an invitation to everyone in the benefice to a 'Leaving Social' on **Sunday, 15th February**, come anytime 12 - 3 pm to St. Mary's School, Haddenham.

Secondly, I will be collated as Archdeacon of Buckingham on **Sunday, 1st March, 6 pm** at St. Mary's Church, Aylesbury and installed at Christ Church Cathedral on **Saturday, 14th March, 6 pm**. You are warmly invited to attend these services if you would like. It would be great to see you!

Thirdly, we will be moving to the new archdeacon's house on the Maltings estate in Haddenham sometime in February. We are so pleased that we will be able to remain as part of the community in this area.

Finally, the preparation for the vacancy has begun, and I am working with our lay officers and ministry team to cover my various roles and responsibilities. The Area Dean takes on the role of incumbent of the benefice during a vacancy, so Jonathan Hawkins will be taking care of the legal responsibilities of the rector during this period. Our Church Wardens and PCCs will then start the process of preparing a parish profile and advertising for a new rector for the Benefice. We are so fortunate to have amazing lay officers and a large, gifted ministry team to see us through this period. Please pray for this process, our teams as they step up into roles during this period and for me as I move to my new role. I am and will continue to pray for you all as well.

BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE



Sunday 11th January 2026

Notices for the week



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

EPIPHANY ONE

10:30 FAMILY COMMUNION with **JOYFULL JUNIORS**

led by Revd Canon Phil Groves

Today we also welcome **Axton Garrett Taylor** for baptism



*Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted
children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen*

16:00 LEGO CHURCH in the Jubilee Pavilion

18:00 CHORAL EVENSONG in **SPP DINTON**

celebrating PLOUGH SUNDAY led by David Pickup

This week

Tues 13th - 11:00am Cafe in the Park – in the Jubilee Pavilion

7:30pm Choir practice - at 29b Eythrope Road

7:30pm PCC meeting

Thur 15th - 9:00am Little Wrigglers – in the Jubilee Pavilion

8:00pm Praying together online for 30 minutes

<http://www.stonedintonhartwell.com/zoom-prayers>

Sun 18th - 9:00am **MATINS**

10:30am **FAMILY WORSHIP**

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Matthew 3:13-17

The Baptism of Jesus

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?"

¹⁵ Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness." Then John consented.

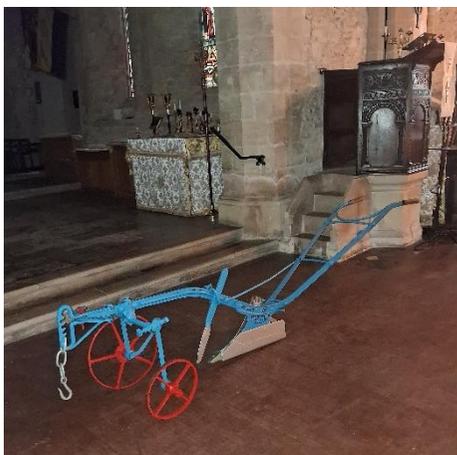
¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.

¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."



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 in Stone once a month. So do come along to the service on 14th to welcome her to the team.



A Plough Sunday Blessing

All the earth is yours Lord. We bring before you this rich and living soil that you may bless us and our land with abundance.

Thank you to Haddenham Museum for the loan of their plough and Stephan for moving it to Dinton church in time for Plough Sunday. This is an opportunity to celebrate the links between our faith and the rural community. At the beginning of the year, we thank God for the changing seasons and ask for blessing on the seeds and soil.

Come and celebrate a special evening service at Dinton church at 6pm this evening

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The Community Christmas Day Lunch in St Marys Church Aylesbury

Thank you so much for the amazing donation for the Christmas lunch event. I am pleased to say it all went very well and we entertained and fed just over 140 guests so a similar number to last year and we had 65 excited and willing volunteers helping us pull it off. Like every year there were a couple of panics and hiccups but with everyone pulling together we all had a great time both guests and volunteers.

I can't believe how generous your congregation are and thank you for supporting us each year it really helps.

Paul Walter

The donations were as follows:

Coffee Cup Collection Nov and Dec	£144.31
Carols in the Courtyard	£230.50
Bishopstone Carol Service	£62.00
Christmas Service Collections	£ 426.43
Grand Total	£863.24



There are other perks on offer on the day as well as the lunch!



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