

Parish News

Apologies - there were problems with the printing and service details in the January edition of Parish News. The front and back covers should have been printed in colour.

There are Matins and Morning Worship services on 4th and 18th January at 9.00 am and 10.30 as usual.

If you have articles, adverts, community events, or ideas for the magazine please note the deadline for receipt of copy for the February issue is **Saturday 10th January**.

Editor: David Pickup david@pickupandscott.co.uk

Soup a Sundays



As it is the first Sunday of the month we will be serving hot soup after the morning service today. Our thanks to Terry and Alice who have prepared the soups this month. Thankyou to all our volunteers who have prepared soup for us so far this season. We have enjoyed them all!

New Year message (a summary)

THE Archbishop of Canterbury-elect, the Rt Revd Sarah Mullally, has paid tribute to overworked NHS staff in a New Year message which celebrates the connections between the NHS and Christian faith.

“As a former nurse, good healthcare is incredibly important to me,” she said. “It goes hand in hand with my Christian faith, inspired by Jesus’ call for us to love and care deeply for one another.”

Throughout her ordained life, Bishop Mullally has drawn parallels between her vocation as a nurse, and her priestly ministry. In her first address after being nominated as the next Archbishop of Canterbury, she said that “washing feet has shaped my Christian vocation: as a nurse, then a priest, then a bishop.”

In her message for 2026, she spoke of striving “to carry the care and compassion that shaped my vocation as a nurse into everything that I do. As I look to the New Year, and my new role as Archbishop of Canterbury, I do so in this same spirit of service, promising to uphold and support those in need, from all walks of life.

Editor – as a whole church community let us move into the new year with the same spirit of service, upholding and supporting one another as well as those in need.

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BELONG - BELIEVE - BUILD - WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNERSTONE



Sunday 4th January 2026

Notices for the week



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

CHRISTMAS TWO

9:00 **MATINS** led by David Pickup

10:30 **FAMILY WORSHIP**

led by Revd Nigel Featherston



*Almighty God,
in the birth of your Son
you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word,
and shown us the fullness of your love:
help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love
that we may know the fullness of his joy;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen*

This week

Tues 6th - Cafe in the Park – in the Jubilee Pavilion

Tues 6th - Choir practice - at 29b Eythrope Road

Thurs 8th - Little Wrigglers – in the Jubilee Pavilion

Sun 11th - 10:30am – **FAMILY COMMUNION** with **JOYFULL JUNIORS**

4:00pm – **LEGO CHURCH** in the Pavilion

6:00pm – **CHORAL EVENSONG** in SPP Dinton

Our twice monthly online prayer gatherings will resume on **Thursday 15th at 8:00pm**. We begin the half hour with a short reading from scripture and then pray as we feel led for the life and activities of our church, and those who are in special need of prayer. Everyone is welcome, in silence if you prefer. There is no pressure to pray aloud.

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Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi Visit the Messiah

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

*⁶ "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."*

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.



Our Wise Men have been waiting in the wings and will arrive at the Crib scene today

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Guiding Star



Lord the sight of the guiding star brought hope, courage and joy to those who had journeyed to find you.

When our journey seems long,
when hope seems far away,
when our courage is failing
fill us with faith and trust;
and lift our hearts with your joy.

Help us to recognise you
in our brothers and sisters;
show us how we can work together
so that we may all come to
share in the life
promised to us by Jesus,
the Saviour of us all. Amen

A thankyou message from Revd Sue Smith

A Big Thank you for the abundance of Yorkie Bars and socks for the residents in the prison who attended the services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. They were moved that people outside were thinking about them this Christmas. They were very grateful and wanted me to pass on their thanks for your generosity towards them.'

Choral Evening Service in Dinton Church for Plough Sunday at Epiphany Sunday 11th January 2026 at 6 pm

A traditional service with a choir leading hymns and music
An opportunity to reflect quietly and worship at our wonderful medieval church.
Enquiries: richard.smith@doctors.org.uk david@pickupandscott.co.uk

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.

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