



Parish News

Stone, Dinton & Hartwell

December 2011

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Stone Dinton & Hartwell Parish News



Stone



Dinton



Hartwell

Editorial -

A big thank you to all contributors, sorters, deliverers and others who have helped over the last year especially to Chris Ashbridge who has done the vital job of distributing the magazines.

A Happy Christmas from all here at the Parish Magazine team.

drp.

Stone Dinton & Hartwell Parish News Team

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Parish News is a community magazine for the residents of Stone Dinton and Hartwell 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.

The views expressed in articles are not necessarily the views of the editorial board or the PCC.

The deadline for editorial copy is 7^h of the previous month and the deadline for advertising is 14th.

Local information:

For Parish Parochial Council see page 5.

Parish Council Contacts:

Stone, Bishopstone & Hartwell

Parish Clerk Christine Jensen 01296 626073 clerk@sbhpc.org.uk

Dinton Ford & Upton

Parish Clerk Keith Gray 01296 422800 keithgray@dinton.org

Local Websites

Church	www.stonedintonhartwell.com	Dinton PC	www.dinton.org
Stone PC	www.stonevillage.org.uk	Dinton News	www.dinton.info
Bishopstone	www.bishopstone.info		



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Parish Services and Calendar

December	SJB	SPP	SMC
4 Advent 2	10.00 am All Age Holy Communion	6.00 pm Confirmation Service	11 am Worship
11 Advent 3		8.30 am Holy Communion BCP 10.00am Family Service	11 am Worship
18 Advent 4	10.00 am Mattins BCP 4.00 pm Carol Service		11 am Worship
24 Christmas Eve	4.00 pm Crib Service	11.30 pm The First Communion of Christmas	
25 Christmas Day	10.00 am Holy Communion		

Priest in Charge	Revd.Peter G.Rich , The Vicarage, 10 Badgers Rise, Stone HP17 8RR 01296 748068
Licensed Ministers:	Avril Clark, 7 Furlong Crescent, Bishopstone, HP17 8SG 01296 747755 Angela Rich, The Vicarage, 10 Badgers Rise, Stone HP17 8RR 01296 748068
Church Wardens:	David John, 84 Oxford Road, Stone HP17 8PL 01296 747932
	Eryl Morgan, 101 Baker Street Waddesdon., HP18 0LQ 01296 655692
	Valma Thompson, Meadway, Greenend, Dinton HP17 8UR 01296 748561
	Jean Moore, 'Larkrise', 4 Templecroft Terrace, Upton. HP17 8UD. 01296 748063
Secretary to the P.C.C:	Sue Birrell, 7 Jakeman Way, Aylesbury. HP21 8FT 01296 338163
Hon. Treasurer:	Andrew Wild, Stonemead, High Street, Dinton HP 17 8UW 01296 748679

Cover Photo provided by Tony Lisk

Chris Robinson

It is with great sadness that we have to report the sudden death of Chris Robinson, aged 56, who lived in Dinton.

Chris was a kind and generous man who was always willing to help out at village events. He was the organiser of many memorable evenings.

He was a true pillar of the community.

On behalf of the parish, the magazine team would like to express our deepest sympathy to Viv, Kieran and Joanna

The Seven Stars pub in Dinton

On Friday 8th April, a For Sale notice was erected outside the Seven Stars pub in Dinton. This was the starting point for a roller coaster journey taken by a group of locals. Terry Heath, Dick O'Driscoll, Jon Taylor, Chris Robinson and Steve Merry, all regulars in the Stars, came together and decided to try to buy the pub to safeguard this asset for the community.

Initial response from the community was encouraging and through a combination of emails, leaflet drops, telephone calls and face to face meetings, sufficient funds were available to enable a final bid in competition with others in early July. The bid was successful and during the next three months a bank loan was arranged, a grant was applied for, surveys were carried out, prospective tenants were interviewed to take on the lease and for the last eight weeks the team actually ran the pub.

On Wednesday 16th November the purchase was completed and the Seven Stars now belongs to 64 local investors. The communal joy on securing the pub was overshadowed by the tragic and untimely death, three days before completion, of Chris Robinson.

The Seven Stars is now in the capable hands of Dave Berry and Stephanie Guiraute (ex The Crown in Cuddington) offering excellent value food and drink. It is hoped that the 'Stars' will become again the focal point for the community that it once was.

Bishopstone's Janet Cope wins Pride of Bucks Award



On November 10th Janet Cope, who has lived in Bishopstone all her life, received the Love Where You Live Pride of Bucks Award for 2011 for her sterling work in keeping Bishopstone immaculate for many years.

Janet does love where she lives and is immensely proud of Bishopstone and the surrounding countryside. We all congratulate her on the award – and hope that others will follow her example in all parts of the parish to keep our roads and paths litter-free

STONE THURSDAY CLUB

The next meeting will have a Christmas 'flavour' and will be on

THURSDAY 8TH DECEMBER from 2.00 – 3.30pm.

Over 60's are warmly invited to join us. We will be sharing Christmas poems and readings, interspersed with Christmas Carols of your choice. Mince pies and sausage rolls are likely to be on the menu! If you need transport, please contact Angela Rich on 748068 for a lift!



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Let Waterperry help take the strain out of entertaining this Christmas with our wonderful range of festive food available to order. Enjoy traditional Christmas cakes and puddings, mince pies, festive chutney's, Florentines, gingerbread and brandy snaps along with other seasonal treats.

Our Christmas lunch menu is available in December (see website for details of dates and times) or if you're planning a work lunch, give us a call on 01844 338087 for more information about our special four course Christmas meal.

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Dinton Scarecrow Festival

There were 20 scarecrows, some in gardens, some at the Church, and visitors appeared to find the variety of styles good fun. The winners of the Haddenham Garden Centre voucher were Mr and Mrs Hopwood with their cigar smoking Mexican. The Epcott family's straw horse carried off the prize for children's work donated by the Co-operative Stores in Stone, but the judge said it was a very difficult choice.

Many thanks to all who participated and to the makers of teas and cakes.

How about a repeat Festival in 2012

Carol Singers Wanted

Wednesday December 21st

About 2 hours round the streets of Stone. Enthusiasm is the only qualification and everyone, of any age, is welcome.

Meet at 7.00pm at the churchyard steps in STONE

Wrap up warm and bring a torch.

Refreshments afterwards.

Wanted

*

Companion / Helper for 98 year old lady

*

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*

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*

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*

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Area Stone

*

If interested please phone Gail Merry 07738415785

Aunt Em's Guide to Surviving Christmas 2011



Keep the receipt: If it doesn't fit you, it may fit someone else in the family.

Make sure on Christmas morning you have: Church service times, screwdriver, fuses for lights, batteries.

The kitchen is your space. No-one comes in without your permission, preferably in writing

Go to Tesco's, church, where you work, and say in a loud voice "I did all my shopping in the January sales you know"

Leave a little space for yourself: Give yourself a present. Don't tell yourself what it is. Buy it and hide it.

Do something unChristmassy.

Men don't always like to carve, make the gravy, peel the potatoes.

Don't try to tie tinsel on the cat. It is not funny. Cats have a refined sense of humour.

You don't have to eat or drink too much. There is always the fridge and Em has lots of recipes for leftovers.

Remember it is only once a year and does not, no it doesn't go on for ever

Christmas is a celebration of God being with us; in the rush and excitement, the socks that don't fit, the aftershave no-one wants, the nice surprises, the cosy feeling, and in the peace and quiet.

Theft of Lead from Dinton Church

Overnight during late October, thieves stole two sections of lead drainpipe from the south side of the church. The lower half of each piece of drainpipe was stolen and the upper half remains in place. Plastic piping is to be installed (by the time you read this article the installation should be in place) as a temporary measure and the PCC will consider how to best to replace the loss for the longer term. It would not appear to be sensible to replace with lead, since that would be at further risk of theft. Dinton Church is Grade 1 listed and English Heritage have, at least until recently, insisted on a "like for like" replacement policy. Recent reports in the press suggest that this policy may now have been relaxed. The pipes were marked with Smartwater which can assist with tracing the metal. The police have been informed, and their general advice (not just for the church) is for residents to look out for any suspicious persons or vehicles and to report these (0845 8 505 505). This might help to prevent, or detect, a crime.

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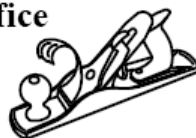
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ALPHA COURSE AT THE VICARAGE

Over 20 people have been attending a weekly course based on the life of Jesus and Christian values. This has been running on Mondays and Wednesday evenings and most have first enjoyed fellowship over a meal each session.



PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS:

Chiltern Crematorium

Phyllis Rubena Watson

9th November

Phyllis was a much loved mother, sister and grandmother.

BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION:

St Peter & St Paul, Dinton

4th December, 6pm

by Bishop James Johnson

The following will be received into the Church through Baptism:

Miriam and Zaina Abbas, Edward Cahill, Florence Harvey,
Karen and Lawrence Snookes.

*We welcome the following as full members of the Church
through Confirmation:*

Adults: Miriam Abbas, Edward Cahill, Tom Claridge,
Eleanor Mathews, Bethany Medhurst, Karen Snookes, and
Fiona Tayler,

Young People:

Zaina Abbas, Millie Bale, Lauren Comben, Adam Draper,
Jack Draper, Florence Harvey, Lawrence Snookes,
Jacob Tayler and Ella West.

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Some words only used at Christmas



Wassail- mid-12c., from Old Norse. *ves heill* "be healthy," *Wassailing* "custom of going caroling house to house at Christmas time" is recorded from 1742.

Swaddling - c.1300, probably a frequentative form of O.E. *swathe* *The phrase swaddling clothes* is from Coverdale (1535) translation of Luke ii:7.

Tinsel - mid-15c., "a kind of cloth made with interwoven gold or silver thread," from Mediavel French. *estincelle* "spark, spangle" (see *stencil*). Meaning "very thin sheets or strips of shiny metal" is recorded from 1590s.

Deck - as in deck the halls presumably like decorate.

Magi - c.1200, from L. *magi*, pl. of *magus*, from Gk. *magos*, word used for the Persian learned and priestly class as portrayed in the Bible (said by ancient historians to have been originally the name of a Median tribe), from O.Pers. *magush* "magician"

Can you think of others?




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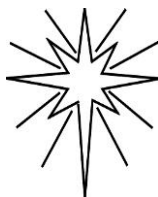
JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON COME AND CELEBRATE WITH US !

CAROL SERVICE
18th December 4.00pm
SJB Stone



CRIB SERVICE
(for all ages)
24th December 4.00pm
SJB Stone

MIDNIGHT COMMUNION
24th December 11.30pm
SPP Dinton



HOLY COMMUNION
25th December 10.00am
SJB Stone

A BIG 'THANK YOU'

to everyone who generously supported the

FAMILY SHOEBOX APPEAL

We were able to send 46 boxes in all

from the Parish, thanks to generous donations of goodies and money
£92.00 to cover transport costs was also sent

Do log into linkromania.co.uk to learn more
about where your shoeboxes go

Bible Reading Notes

The Bible reading Fellowship was founded in 1922 by an Anglican vicar who printed a monthly leaflet of daily Bible readings with a brief comment along with a mid week meeting to discuss the reading. Today from its headquarters in Abingdon the BRF distributes millions of Christian publications throughout the world.

The notes appear three times a year in booklet form and assist the reader to look at the Bible in a simpler way. There is a page for each day of every month with a verse a short article examining its meaning in layman terms and a prayer or reflection, The writers come from across the Christian spectrum -the clergy and lay people from many trades, professions and churchgoers each bringing their unique interpretation to characters and stories in the Bible. There is a choice of four booklets each costing £4 per copy:

1. NEW DAYLIGHT -Helps you explore the Bible deepening faith and understanding. It also notes some of the special festivals that make up the church calendar to help the reader understand the riches of the Christian year.

2. GUIDELINES-Offers a broader depth of applied theology and is intended for anyone who wishes their daily reading into a wider appreciation of biblical reflection. The readings are arranged in weekly units broken into six sections plus an introduction.

3. THE UPPER ROOM -Written exclusively by the readers themselves who seek to share the insights of their faith with others. The readings contain a reflection on the passage and prayer followed by a thought for the day.

4. DAY BY DAY WITH GOD- Provides a short Bible passage explained and applied especially for women by women. A suggested daily prayer or meditation is included which helps the reader connect the passage with their own lives. To view sample pages of the above publications and read further information visit the website: www.biblereadingnotes.org.uk or contact the local secretary Tony Lisk (01296 748076)



Coffee cup collection for October for 'The Angel Tree Project (Prisoner Fellowship) amounted to £119.00



Grand Quiz 2011

One mark per question no matter how clever you are.

This year we are joined by our friends at St. Mary's for a combined quiz.

Entries to 6 Bourbon St., HP20 2RR or 12 Roundhill HP17 8RD by 6th January or

Send to david@pickupandscott.co.uk

Best entry wins some chocolate.

1. Name a bird or mammal, native to Britain, that turns white in winter
2. Bit bob and buck are all names of what?
3. The title Far from the Madding Crowd comes from which poem?
4. What does the phrase "To shake the pagoda tree" mean?
5. What is a Slam door?
6. What is a bowdlerised book?
7. 2011 was the anniversary of decimalisation. When was it?
8. Where did Alph the sacred river run?
9. The following are questions about foreign words that are used in English. (1 mark each part)
 - a. An Indian word for something to wear
 - b. An Italian wood for food
 - c. A French word for a road
 - d. An Arabic word for a drink
 - e. A Swedish word for an official who deals with complaints
10. What radio soap celebrated its 60th anniversary this year?
11. Which country joined the euro on 1st January 2011?
12. What book in translation celebrated its 400th anniversary this year?
13. Who is the first English language Nobel literature prize winner and is still the youngest recipient?
14. Where would you find the phrase Decus et Tutamen ? You have probably got one in your pocket.
15. Can you name a film that is set on or features a train or trains?
16. An Englishman's home is his...?
17. What important role was Larry appointed to in Downing Street in February?
18. Which is only British seaside town mentioned in a hymn?
19. What is Dead Cat Bounce?
20. Only two English monarchs have become saints. They have the same name. What is it?

21. Leicester Forest East Watford Gap and Newport Pagnell all have what?
22. Where was the world's worst nuclear accident?
23. What is a fascinator?
24. Why did H.M. the Queen give money away on her birthday?
25. What form of transport did the Duke of Cambridge use to leave Buckingham palace with his bride on his wedding day?
26. What relationship was special and became essential this year?
27. Which country this year voted on whether to legalise divorce?
28. What colour is The Flying Scotsman?
29. Where was the Titanic built?
30. Henry Ford said if he asked his customers what they wanted they would say a faster horse. What is Henry Ford famous for?
31. What is the currency of Finland?
32. The word Ghetto originally came from which city?
33. Can you name a play set in Denmark
34. Who had a humble day in July?
35. In which city are the streets called gates, the gates called bars, and the bars called pubs?
36. What is the only country in the Middle East where Arab women have the vote?
37. A bust of a British statesman was given to the White House after 9/11. It was returned by President Obama. Who is featured in the bust?
38. What song by Thomas Arne is traditionally played at the last night of the Proms?
39. What links an island in the Pacific where mutineers went, a place for an orchestra, an inventor of shorthand, and a mine, and why?
40. Aylesbury Mandarin and Muscovy are all types of what?
41. A book by Joseph Heller published in 1961 gave the world a phrase that has entered everyday life. What is it?
42. Joanna Lumley, the actress, is associated with campaigning for which group?
43. The film Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy was released this year. Who played George Smiley in the 1980s television version?
44. Which is the only country in West Europe not to have electrified railways?
45. Which music contains reference to Jaeger and Nimrod?
46. Which book has a character called Nimrod?
47. What is the only island ever to have been awarded the George Cross?

Dear Friends,

We've reached that time of year again when parents, grandparents and friends will attend various Nativity presentations by young children, and we all love them, even when there's stage fright by the one you're supporting, and they stand still like soldiers throughout. Apart from enjoying these children's 'innocence' and the event bringing some light relief from the pressures of daily life, we may ask what has all this got to do with the true message of Christmas?

Jesus, born to poor parents in a lowly stable, was destined to become the founder of the greatest movement this world has ever known. Surely, that alone has something to say to our nation which has become embroiled in a tussle between making money and caring for the poor – hence the campers outside St Paul's Cathedral.



Of course simplistic answers are not good enough. Shareholders expect maximum profits which require the best managers and therefore highly paid directors etc.

A tax on financial services in England alone would make us uncompetitive with other countries and more unemployment is not what we are looking for!

What is required is a change of attitude and values. Money in itself is not evil, but as St Paul said:

“The LOVE of money is the root of all evil” (! Timothy 6:10)

As an ex-bank employee myself, I felt like a small cog working in a large machine, and my contribution didn't seem to count for very much. Surely it is people who matter more than money, and how their lives are affected must be taken into consideration.





I am very pleased to hear that the Bishop of London has appointed Ken Costa, a Church Warden of a large London Church and former Director of Lazard Bros., to try and bring together the financial and ethical demands of 'the City'. If he is successful, those encamped outside St Paul's and elsewhere, will have achieved something of lasting value.

Hopefully, Ken will draw us back to the spiritual values of life which are epitomised by the baby in a stable. (Of course the coming of Christ into our world meant much more than that, but to find out more of the relevance for today's living, I invite you to come and join us at one of our Christmas Services.) A joyful Christmas to you all.

Yours in Him,

PETER RICH (Rev) *Priest in Charge*





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STONE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

The Stone Local History Group has been meeting in the Methodist Chapel for over 11 years and we have really appreciated and enjoyed this lovely building. It is, however, restricted as to capacity and for the last two years we have had to close our membership, With nearly 100 members we have been fortunate that we don't very often go over the limit of 50 people, but it has been tight at times! So we are moving to the Village Hall for three trial meetings from January 2012. There is much more room for talks, exhibitions, etc, in the Hall and we are being given a very warm welcome and much help from the Deaneys. There is some parking at the Hall – otherwise in Eythrope Road or Churchway opposite.

So – we can now welcome new members, and if you are interested do contact Joan Shurvell for details. The subscription is £10 per annum (£15 family membership)

Our January meeting – in Stone Village Hall at 7.30pm – will be

A VICTORIAN MAGIC LANTERN SHOW

There will also be a repeat exhibition of the photographs submitted in our competition last year – they were so good we thought you would like to see them again. We shall have our “lending library” available and scrapbooks from previous years to browse through.

Ring Joan Shurvell on 748530 for further information

WEA West Bucks Villages Branch
Carry on Learning

PUCCINI IN ITALY

With Dawn Cumming

At Bartlett's, Portway Road, Stone

Thursday December 1st

At 2.30 pm

Entry £1 per lecture

Ring 748538 for further information or if you need a lift.

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WITCHERT CHORALE CONCERT

Saturday Dec 3rd

The popular Haddenham-based mixed voice choir, known to many Dinton supporters, is giving a concert, entitled 'Jubilate', in St Mary's Church, Haddenham, on Sat. December 3rd at 7.30pm. They will be accompanied by the Witchert Ensemble on the Advent of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and Christmas and will perform Handel's glorious Coronation Anthems alongside Festive Favourites.



Conductor David Quinn, accompanist Heather Woods and two **very special** Royal guests will be making an appearance!
An evening not to be missed!

Tickets are £10 (conc £8 child £3) from Bloomin' Fruity in Haddenham.
For more information and tickets please Jenny Hardy (291173)

DINTON CAROL SINGING

Join us for Carol Singing around the village at 6.00pm for approximately one hour on Christmas Eve.

Wrap up warm and bring a torch with you.

Meet outside the Seven Stars pub at 6pm

(all children must be accompanied)

Mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.

All proceeds go to the Florence Nightingale Hospice

Further information from Carol Lynch on 748392

FOURTH TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP (non denominational)

Meeting in the Methodist Chapel,
Eythrope Road

***Fellowship will be meeting early this month –
on 20th December***

Come along at 2.30 p.m.

to enjoy a

CHRISTMAS MISCELLANY

of carols, poems, Bible readings and prayers

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for an enjoyable afternoon leading up to Christmas

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“The old words came to me by the riches of time”

Some readings for December

And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.

For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”Isaiah 40 v5

“This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake all nations, and what is desired by all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,’ says the LORD Almighty Haggai 2 6-7

“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty. **Malachi 3 1**

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9



Noël: Christmas Eve 1913

Robert Bridges, Poet Laureate, United Kingdom (1913)

A frosty Christmas Eve when the stars were shining
Fared I forth alone where westward falls the hill,
And from many a village in the water'd valley
Distant music reach'd me peals of bells aringing:
The constellated sounds ran sprinkling on earth's floor
As the dark vault above with stars was spangled o'er.
Then sped my thoughts to keep that first Christmas of all
When the shepherds watching by their folds ere the dawn
Heard music in the fields and marveling could not tell
Whether it were angels or the bright stars singing.
Now blessed be the towers that crown England so fair
That stand up strong in prayer unto God for our souls
Blessed be their founders (said I) an' our country folk
Who are ringing for Christ in the belfries tonight
With arms lifted to clutch the rattling ropes that race
Into the dark above and the mad romping din.
But to me heard afar it was starry music
Angels' song, comforting as the comfort of Christ
When he spake tenderly to his sorrowful flock:
The old words came to me by the riches of time
Mellow'd and transfigured as I stood on the hill
Heark'ning in the aspect of the ' eternal silence





The Harrow, 27 Bishopstone, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire,
HP17 8SF.
01296 748652

The Harrow is a traditional English pub serving fine cask ales, lagers, wines spirits, soft drinks including tea and coffee. We have a new chef and menu, with large garden it is the perfect place to while away those summer evenings. Children are welcome under parental supervision and up to 8pm in the bar areas and dogs on leads are also welcome.

We are open from:

Monday 5pm until 11pm

Tues to Fri 12 – 3pm and 5 – 11pm

Sat 12 – 11pm

Sun 12 – 10.30pm



Food service times:

Tuesday – Thursday 12 – 3pm and 6pm – 8.45pm

Friday 12 – 3pm and 6pm – 9pm

Saturday 12 – 3pm and 6 – 9pm

Sunday 12 – 3pm.

New PCC Treasurer Required

Our current PCC treasurer, Andrew Wild, will soon have completed his sixth year in the job and he has advised us that he will be stepping down at the end of 2011, once the 2011 annual accounts have been completed.

We are therefore looking for a new treasurer as from January 2012. Much of the work is simple book-keeping and Andrew will be very happy to explain the work content to anyone interested in this position. If you are interested, or you know someone who might be interested, please contact Andrew (748679) or the PCC secretary Sue Birrell (338163) for further information.

West Bucks Villages WEA

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Stone Methodist Chapel, Eythrope Road, Stone

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Fee £47.40 Ring 01296 748538 for more information and booking

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Having a party? A night out? Want a musician who will play the songs you like at the times you need? Well look no further as your very own personal pianist is waiting for you. Will Farmer (13) is a young talented pianist who is willing to play at parties and events for money to help fundraise for his exchange trip to Malawi. There he will teach school children how to play instruments and how to write music. He can play many different genres of music and will play any style you like. Voluntary donations to the project are invited in exchange for special song requests being played.

To book, please call or send an e-mail (details below). Please try to make bookings at least two weeks in advance and indicate the genre you like.

All money will be going to the Malawi Exchange fund.

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Prices 1 hour - £30.00

1 ½ hours - £47.00

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**1st Stone Brownies
meet every Thursday,
4p.m. - 5.30.m
at Stone School**

**If you are aged 7 - 10
you can join!**

**Phone (01296) 655692
for more details.**

When responding to an advertisement please mention the Parish Magazine



SOUP SATURDAYS ARE HERE AGAIN !

10th and 17th December

12 noon – 2 p.m.

@ Methodist Chapel, Eythrope Road

PLEASE will you: make some soup
help to serve
help to tidy up

Raising money for the LOCAL *Action for Children* Respite Home

Help us to do even better than last year's £300

Contact me, Sue Spinks, as soon as you can on 748369

or royandsue1@btinternet.com



DECEMBER GARDENING

Not a month to be very active in the garden, especially if the weather is as bad as last December.

Looking back over 2011, despite the climate playing all sorts of tricks, hot temperatures in April and May and some very dry periods, in general the best year for a long time for fruit and vegetables, although some of my dahlia growing friends had to wait a long time for some of their plants to flower.

So far 2011 has been very dry in this part of the country, and unless there is some very wet weather in the next two months 2011 will be the driest year for a long time. I do write this a month in advance, just in case it rains all through November. Protect tender plants from frosts with fleece, so much better than having to cover with straw.

Look back and consider what went wrong and try to put things right next year, order or buy seeds and plants in good time, check over any plants, fruit or vegetables that may be in store and the only planting that some people may do, is to sow seeds of special onions in order to grow very large bulbs, this is traditionally done on Boxing Day.

Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and good gardening in 2012.

PJS

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NEWS FROM CHAPEL HILL

Methodist Chapel, Eythrope Road, Stone, HP17 8PH

During this month's services

the following will be remembered in prayer:

4th – Eythrope Road; 11th – Faithfull Close;

18th – Ford Road and Griffiths Acre;

Your prayer requests are welcome – anonymous if you wish – please leave a note in the Chapel post box

You will see from the Service Schedule that there is no Service at the Chapel on Christmas Day but there will be a **Carol Service on 18th December** to which as always everyone is welcome: especially children who can look forward to a present from the tree.



Coffee and mince pies for everyone after the Service

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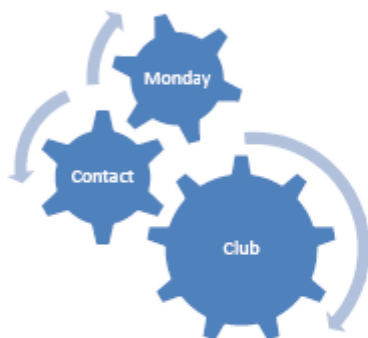


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Valerie Young, Club Organiser - 01296 580710



The Dinton Hermit In the middle of Ford



Join us at The Dinton Hermit for your Christmas celebration.
Open lunch and dinner from 28th November to 24th December.

Book your place now.

Santa Sunday: Every Sunday during December, a special guest will be joining us for lunch with a gift for each child. Reservations essential.

A warm welcome and a roaring fire await.

Festive Lunch Menu

£13.95 2 Course £16.95 3 Course

Winter vegetable broth

Terrine of smoked salmon, sole and
spinach,

Red pepper puree and toasted
pumpnickel

Chargrilled mini lamb kebabs,
salad leaves,

Cucumber and yoghurt dressing

Roast local turkey, chestnut stuffing
And all the trimmings

Grilled sea bream, basil
And peas bonne femme

Grilled lamb cutlets, redcurrant jus
With bubble and squeak

Butternut squash and sage risotto with
White truffle oil (parmesan optional)

Traditional Christmas pudding
With brandy butter or rum sauce

Dark chocolate and hazelnut cheesecake
White chocolate sauce and vanilla tuille

Selection of local cheeses
With biscuits and chutney

www.dintonhermit.co.uk

Festive Dinner Menu

£15.95 2 Course £19.95 3 Course

Winter vegetable broth with soda bread

Hazelnut coated goats cheese
With lemon and beetroot salad
Pan fried red mullet with fennel,
Cucumber and dill salad,

shallot vinaigrette

Confit duck hash, poached duck egg yolk
With rocket and horseradish

Roast local turkey and chestnut stuffing
With all the trimmings

Slow roasted lamb shank, celeriac puree,
And red wine and rosemary sauce

Pan fried swordfish with
Tomato, tarragon and chervil dressing
Wild mushroom and pumpkin ravioli

with

Wilted rocket and hazelnut oil
(parmesan optional)

8oz Ribeye steak with cherry tomatoes,
Mushrooms, triple cooked chips and
peppercorn sauce

Traditional Christmas pudding
With brandy butter or rum sauce

Lemon sherbet crème brulee, pistachio
shortbread

And winter berry compote

Dark chocolate torte, Grand Marnier ice
cream

And white chocolate shavings

Selection of local cheeses
With biscuits and chutney



HARTWELL HOUSE HOTEL RESTAURANT AND SPA

Festive Dining

Start the festivities early with our superb December set 3 course lunch or dinner.

This delicious menu is only **£34.00 per person** with a **glass of Prosecco** or **£27.00** without **Prosecco**.

Available daily except **Saturday dinner** or **Sunday lunch**

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The Spa Café

Perfect for morning coffee, light lunches including special dishes for December, and snacks the Spa Café is ideal to meet for a leisurely informal dining experience.

Lunch served daily from **12.00 noon to 3.00pm**. Open to the Public

Open for dinner every Friday and Saturday with a last serving of 8.30pm

Call the Spa Café direct on 01296 746526 to make a reservation

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Take the strain out of Christmas shopping and give Hartwell Gift Cheques.

These are ideal for those of you looking for that last minute present, and can be used for treatments and products, dining, accommodation and a range of Hartwell memorabilia.

Gift cheques can be purchased on line, by telephone or in person at the main house or Spa reception, and are available all year round

**For further information, menus or to make a reservation,
please telephone 01296 747444 or visit the website**

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