



Welcome to St John's Church Stoneleigh

NOTICE SHEET FOR EARLY DECEMBER 2018

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www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk

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The next notice sheet may be issued on 16th December. Notices for the next issue should be sent to Alison Edwards, please, by 9.30am on Thursday 13th December. If you have an urgent notice before then please contact Rev Mark Borley (vicar@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk) or leave a note in the red box in the church.

Church Office Contact Details:

Email: office@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk Phone: 020 8786 7048

The office is open on Thursday & Friday mornings from approx 8.45 - 11.45am.

WELCOME TO OUR SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S THIS MONTH

ADVENT SUNDAY: Today is the first Sunday in Advent, the start of the time of preparation for celebrating the coming of Jesus at Christmas. It is a time of waiting, characterised by quiet reflection, in contrast to the often manic secular preparations for Christmas. Although we at St John's will be busy with our Christmas Festival, which offers a range of opportunities for the community to engage with the church, let's not forget the Christian purpose of Advent - to be an opportunity to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus into our lives. Please do come along to the various Christmas Festival Events and encourage family, friends and neighbours to come; you may be pleasantly surprised at the positive effects they can have for you and all those who experience these symbols of faith and hope. There are also a number of ways to help in this major outreach initiative - full details inside. Please do get involved wherever you can.

9 DECEMBER: As in previous years, please bring along Christmas presents for distribution via Sunnybank to local learning disabled people some of whom may receive very few Christmas gifts. Please see the flyer on the table for more details

BOTTLE TOMBOLA - REQUEST FOR DONATIONS:

We are planning to hold a bottle tombola at the Christmas Fair on December 8th. Please could you bring any bottles of any description so that we can have plenty of prizes on the stall. We will keep them in the choir vestry so that they are completely separate from the Food Bank donation. Many thanks for your help with this. Claire

DIARY: The new diary for 2019 is on the table by the glass door. Could everyone please make sure that all church activities are recorded. This includes but is not limited to house groups, meetings of committees, social events. They can then be included in the notice sheet and also publicised.

TRAIDCRAFT: The Traidcraft stall will be in the hall after the 10am service on 2nd December. The stall will also be at the Christmas Fair on Saturday 8th. These will be the last chances before Christmas to choose from the fantastic range of Christmas cards, decorations and gifts. We will also have our normal stock of biscuits, mints and fudge. *Veronica and Mike*

TUNES'N'TEA: The final session of Tunes'n'Tea for this year will be on Thursday December 13th Live music plus tea, biscuits and cake. £3.00 entrance. Dates are now available for next year including January

PHOTOS: There have been several great events this year including the Harvest weekend, Teddy Bears' picnic and Remembrance Sunday but we have no photographs from any of them. It is important to have permission but if anyone has any photos that could be used to update our website or display in the parish centre please let Alison know.

FOODBANK: Many thanks to everyone for the generous contribution to our monthly Focus on Foodbank -when I delivered it all the volunteers were surprised that we had so much from a small congregation's Sunday collection. Whether you can manage only a small item or more it all contributes to a great gift and reaches a hand out to those who are struggling.

The Foodbank has produced a Reverse Advent Calendar - you give something rather than find a treat behind a door each day. It's a new one on me and we are late in starting but I have put a notice about it at the back of church..... please ask me if you'd like a copy. The covering letter says " we do not expect people to contribute all the items on the list but maybe select one or two", and of course you can add in anything on the weekly wishlist. Money donations will go towards helping people struggling with their fuel bills and also towards vouchers for fresh meat and vegetables for anyone finding it hard to buy their Christmas lunch.

Our next Focus on Foodbank Sunday will be on Sunday 2nd December, Lists will be available the week before. Meanwhile the box is always in church if you wish to pop an item in. It's hard work remembering and then delivering but this is much appreciated care of the community by our church..... please keep on giving.

CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY: The Christmas cards are now ready for delivering. Each year we deliver a Christmas card to every home in the parish inviting people to join us for our Christmas services. It is quite an undertaking to deliver to every home so we really need your help. Please sign up on the sheet by the glass doors for the roads you are able to deliver to. The cards are available in 'road bundles' at the back of church and ideally need to be delivered before 9th December. Many thanks.

STONELEIGH CHORAL SOCIETY: The Winter choral concert is on Saturday 8th December at 7.30pm in the church. The programme includes Haydn's Little Organ Mass and Handel's Zadok the Priest. Tickets costing £10 for adults and £5 for children are available on the door.

OUR REGULAR SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S

- **Every Sunday at 8.30am:** *Holy Communion - quiet "said" worship, using a Common Worship service. In the side chapel.*
- **Every Sunday at 10am:** *usually a Common Worship service with Holy Communion. Children's group most weeks (during term time). Otherwise family worship together in church, with dedicated family area.*
- **Tuesdays at 9.15am:** *Morning Prayer using Celtic liturgy, including prayer together and times of silence. In the side chapel.*
- **Wednesday at 10am:** *Holy Communion - a reflective service using the Book of Common Prayer. In the side chapel.*
- **Thursdays at 6pm** *Celtic Evening Prayer in the side chapel*

In addition to these church services St John's offers in the Parish Centre:

- a weekly Toddlers Group on Tuesdays from 10-11.30 am during school term time. The charge is £2.00 per adult and all are welcome with their under school age children.
- Seasons Café in partnership with NESCOL, every Friday in term time from 12 noon to 1.30pm.

Every Sunday afternoon, 2pm: All Nations (Korean speaking) church meets.

Every Friday evening, 8pm: All Nations meets for prayer in the side chapel.

- *Consecrated gluten free wafers and non-alcoholic wine are available. Please speak to those administering communion if you would like to receive either.*
- *At any of our Communion services, if you would like to receive Communion but find walking difficult, please speak to a welcomer at the door and they will arrange for Communion to be brought to you in your seat.*
- *This Church has a loop system. Hearing aid wearers should turn their aids to "T".*
- *Instructions in case of fire can₄ be found at various points in the Parish Centre and by both main doors in the church*