



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

1st December 2019

The First Sunday of Advent

Welcome

We are pleased that you are joining us for worship today and we pray that each of us will meet with God. Today we welcome Andy Shaw of St Mary's, Burgh Heath.

Collect

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen

Bible Readings

Luke 2.26-38

Hymns

493 O come Emmanuel

225 He's got the whole world in his hands

418 lift up your heads to the coming King

121 Emmanuel

424 Lo! He comes, with clouds descending

EMAIL AND CONTACT – IMPORTANT

Do you receive emails from St John's? We would like to keep in contact with you but we need you to give your consent for St John's to email you. At the front of church is a form to complete with your email address. Please fill in and return to myself or one of the Church Wardens.

Rev. Ken Hobbs

MIDWEEK FOCUS – ST PAUL'S

This weeks Midweek Focus on Wednesday 4th December is part 3 of Rev. Ken Hobbs' "Who do you think you are?".

Rev. Ken Hobbs

CHOIR – CAROL SERVICE

Thanks to all those who have put their names down to be part of the choir for the carol service on 22nd December. Rehearsals will be held at St John's on the 5th and 12th December at 7pm for an hour. There will also be a rehearsal on the afternoon of 22nd December.

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

Sunday 8th December – 'Living Water'

Sunday 15th December "A Hungry Crowd"

Sunday 22nd December – "A Blind Man"

LAUNDRY

We are looking for volunteers to take on doing the church laundry. We are very grateful to Mavis Redrup who has been doing this for the past 35 years.

Rev. Ken Hobbs

ON THIS WEEK

Wednesday 4th – Midweek Focus

Thursday 5th – Choir Practice

Friday 6th – NESCOL Café

PLANNING FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas cards -Thank you to all who have volunteered to deliver St John's Christmas card and magazine. There are a few roads that are still on the distribution list. Christmas cards and magazines will be available to collect for delivery on Thursday afternoon. The original intention was to have deliveries made by 7th December, however, we appreciate that doesn't give much time. We would be grateful if they were delivered at your earliest convenience.

Christmas presents – Help will also be needed with wrapping Christmas gifts for children who attend the Toddler Christmas party and the Crib service. *Rev. Ken Hobbs*

Help is needed with the following services:

Sunday December 22nd

Welcomers needed for carols by candlelight service starting at 6pm, arrive by 5.40pm

Monday December 23rd

Help needed at 10am in parish room to make Christingles for crib service next day.

Tuesday December 24th

Welcomers needed for crib service combined with Christingle service starting at 4pm arrive by 3.40pm

Wednesday December 25th

Welcomers needed for 10am family service followed by 11am short communion service. Arrive by 9.40

Janis Forder

TRADCRAFT.

Today there is the usual Traidcraft stall in the hall after the service and we encourage you to come and look at what is on offer. This is the last opportunity of the year to make your Christmas purchases, stock up on biscuits or small, last minute gifts. If you have seen something you want in the catalogue, we will be submitting our last order on Monday 2nd December, so please let us know without delay. Thank you for your support.

Veronica Gittins

BLESSINGS JAR

The Blessings Jar is back and will be at the front of church. Over the next four weeks, funds are being raised for the Sutton Night Shelter.

Janis Forder

STONELEIGH CHORAL SOCIETY

Stoneleigh Choral Society will be at St John's on Saturday 14th December at 7:30pm performing The Christmas Story in words and music. Tickets available on the door or in advance. Please see leaflet at the front of church for more information.

David Wiltshire

TOGETHER AT CHRISTMAS

Churches Together in Ewell is again offering a Christmas dinner and festive activities to all those who would otherwise be on their own on Christmas Day from 12.30 to 4.15 at St Paul's Howell Hill. The offer is open to all Ewell residents and there is no charge. Transport can be arranged. Names should be given to Sally Barnes by calling 020 83933011 or send an email to

Christmas.dinner@dsl.pipex.com

Practical help is also needed on the day: drivers, table hosts, washing up, table clearing serving, musical entertainers. If you can help with this please give your name to Janet Hattam 02083977307 or email janet.hattam3@gmail.com Raffle prizes are also needed.

Sue Pennington

Churches Together General Election Hustings - Thursday 5 December 7pm at St Paul's Howell Hill

We would be delighted to welcome you, your congregation and guests to quiz the Parliamentary Candidates for Epsom and Ewell at the *Churches Together General Election Hustings*, which will be hosted by St Paul's Howell Hill, 15 Northey Avenue, Cheam SM2 7HS on Thursday 5th December from 7pm to 8.30pm (doors open 6.30pm) and followed by tea and coffee. The meeting will be chaired by Nick Spencer, Senior Fellow of Theos.

Sue Pennington

ADVANCE NOTICES

On the evening of March 19th, Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury will be visiting the Diocese and St John's are welcome to hear him at Lakeside, Frimley. Plans can be made nearer the time for those who are interested in attending.

I will be co-leading a visit to the Holy Land from 1st to 10th March 2021 (seriously advanced notice!). This is in conjunction with other churches from Cheam and Ottershaw. More details will follow in the new year.

Rev. Ken Hobbs

TODAY'S GOSPEL READING - Luke 2.26-38

It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Christmas at St John's

Thursday 19th – Carols around the Christmas tree at 6pm followed by a performance by The Rock Choir at 7pm with refreshments

Sunday 22nd December - Carol Service - 6pm

Christmas Eve - Crib Service with Christingle – 4pm

Christmas Eve - Midnight Communion – 11:30pm

Christmas Day - Family Service – 10am followed by a short Holy Communion Service at 11am

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Items to be included in the next notice sheet should be emailed by 8am next Friday to Kerrie Winter, the Minister's Administrator, at office@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk