



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

24th November 2019

Sunday next before Advent

Welcome

We are pleased that you are joining us for worship today and we pray that each of us will meet with God.

Collect

God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory.

Amen

Bible Readings

Ephesians 2: 14-22

John 3: 1-21

Hymns

89 Come down O Love divine

420 Like a candle flame

640 The Church's one foundation

857 The Lord of sea and sky

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 27th November is a Holy Communion.

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 28th November, 5th and 12th December at 7pm for an hour. There will also be a rehearsal on the afternoon of 22nd December.

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

Sunday 1st December – All Age 'Being Ready'

Sunday 8th December – 'Living Water'

Sunday 15th December "A Hungry Crowd"

VICARAGE

Please note that with immediate effect the Vicarage has been let so we are no longer able to use the driveway for parking.

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

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, so please take a look at the front of church and if you're able to help to make deliveries, please add your name to the list.

Christingle – This year, Christingle will be held as part of the Crib Service on Christmas Eve. Help will be required to prepare the oranges. Please let the office know if you can help.

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

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

SUNNYBANK CHRISTMAS GIFTS

As Christmas approaches its time to start thinking about those extra gifts for residents of The Sunnybank Trust to be distributed by Father Christmas at their Christmas party. Some residents have little or no relatives to buy for them so our gifts are very important. For those who haven't contributed before, gifts such as hats, gloves, scarves, toiletries, cheap jewellery, colouring books, pencils, jig saws, or games are an excellent idea, bearing in mind that some residents have severe special needs. Please wrap your gifts in Christmas paper and label them clearly MALE, FEMALE, or EITHER.

Please bring them to church on or before Sunday 1st December and mark the bag SUNNYBANK TRUST.

ON THIS WEEK

Wednesday 27th – Midweek Focus

Friday 29th – NESLOT Café 12pm

I understand that this is much earlier than usual this is because of the General Election and the dates of the party needing to be changed.

I am always astounded by the generosity of St Johns please please if you are able, contribute to this worthwhile cause. Thank you.

Maggie Savill

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

FOODBANK

The next Focus on Foodbank will be on Sunday 1st December. Obviously our wishlist from the Foodbank Office has Christmas needs in mind. This includes monetary donations or specific new items which they know that clients are short of. As usual donations may be delivered to church at any time if you cannot bring them on the 1st December. The space at the back of church is limited though so it would be appreciated if you could give Polly a quick call on 07778267187 to tell her that non-food items have been left in church. It would be helpful if monetary donations could be put into an envelope and handed to Polly, Rev'd Ken, Janis Forder, Ken Mussell, John Simon or Claire Cornell. It's appreciated that Christmas can be an expensive time for all of us all but it would be wonderful if you can help us to enable those who are struggling a little to have a good Christmas too - thank you in anticipation.

Churches Together General Election Hastings - 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 Hastings*, 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

SCC Epsom and Ewell Parking Review

A proposal has been made for double yellow 'no waiting any time' lines on the corners of Stoneleigh Park Rd and Station Approach. Please see the council website.

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/parking/local-news-and-updates/epsom-and-ewell/epsom-and-ewell-2019-parking-review>

MUSIC EVENING

There will be an evening of music on Saturday 30th November at Ruxley Church. For more information please see the leaflets at front of church.

Sue Pennington

TODAY'S GOSPEL READING - John 3: 1-21

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus² by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.'³ Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.'⁴ Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You⁵ must be born from above."⁵ The wind⁶ blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you⁷ do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.'⁸ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.'⁹

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

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