



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

8th December 2019

The Second 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.

Collect

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.

Amen

Bible Readings

Exodus 17: 1-7

John 4: 1-26

Hymns

37 As the deer

1076 Jesus be the centre

660 The Lord's My Shepherd

275 I heard the voice

MIDWEEK FOCUS – ST PAUL'S

This weeks Midweek Focus on Wednesday 11th December is a Christmas Lunch at Heathside.

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

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

Sunday 15th December "A Hungry Crowd"

Sunday 22nd December – "A Blind Man"

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 are now available to collect for delivery on Thursday afternoon. We would be grateful if they were delivered at your earliest convenience.

Christmas presents – Thank you to FOCUS who did a great job of wrapping the Christmas gifts for the children who attend the Toddler Christmas party and the Crib service.

Rev. Ken Hobbs

BLESSINGS JAR

This is the last week that we will be collecting for the Sutton Night Shelter.

Janis Forder

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

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

FOODBANK

Thank you for all your support on our last Focus on Foodbank Sunday; it was a big ask as there were so many charities to support all at the same time but, as usual, you were magnificent. The Foodbank HQ is unlikely to issue many more wish lists this year so the same list will remain in church for anyone who wishes to continue their weekly donations.

Our next Focus Sunday will be on Sunday 5th January (the All Age Service is entitled 'We saw His Star ', please note that I shall *not* produce a list to go out with the service books on the Sunday before but we will endeavour to make sure that there is a reminder on the newsheet or in the notices.

St Johns has been a stalwart supporter of the Foodbank all the way through 2019, thank you so much. Happy Christmas everyone.

Polly Elder

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

ON THIS WEEK

Wednesday 11th – Midweek Focus Christmas Lunch

Thursday 12th – Tunes 'n' Tea and Choir Practice

Friday 13th – NESCOL Café

Saturday 14th – Stoneleigh Choral Society at St John's.

GIFT ENVELOPES

Numbered weekly gift envelopes for 2020 are ready for collection from the table by the entrance to the Lady Chapel. If you would like to start giving regularly using your own set of personalised envelopes, please contact the Treasurer, Tim Rogers, on 07801 651 082.

'Healing in the Steps of Jesus' Guildford Diocesan Healing Conference 1st February 2020, 10am – 4pm at Guildford Cathedral.

Join Guildford Diocese and Acorn Christian Healing Foundation for what promises to be an excellent day of teaching, sharing, worship and healing prayer. Sharing with us over the day will be keynote speakers Bishop James Newcome (Bishop of Carlisle), and Rev Paul Harcourt (National Leader of New Wine), plus professionals speaking on Emotional Wellbeing, Nurturing the Mental Health of Children and Young People, and Disability. The day concludes with a service of healing and prayer led by Bishop Andrew Watson.

Open to all wanting to explore the Christian healing ministry. Information and tickets can be found at www.acornchristian.org. Refreshments are provided although please bring a packed lunch. Plenty of free, onsite parking.

TODAYS GOSPEL READING – John 4: 1-26

Now when Jesus[∴] learned that the Pharisees had heard, 'Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John'— although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized— he left Judea and started back to Galilee. But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)[∴] Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors

worshipped on this mountain, but you[∴] say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he,[∴] the one who is speaking to you.'

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

St John's, Station Approach, Stoneleigh, Surrey, KT19 0QZ

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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