



# St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

15<sup>th</sup> December 2019

The Third 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. We will be welcoming many visitors to St John's over the next few weeks and we ask you to pray that they will feel God's presence whilst here and that they may join us in the New Year.

Thank you to Chris Webb who is playing at our service today and at all four of our Christmas services.

## Collect

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for injustice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## Bible Readings

Exodus 16: 1-5

John 6: 1-15

## Hymns

102 Come thou long expected Jesus

590 Seek Ye First

418 Lift up your heads to the coming King

64 Break thou the bread of life

393 Joy to the world

## MIDWEEK FOCUS – ST PAUL'S

This weeks Midweek Focus on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December is coffee and Christmas carols (no lunch). All welcome.

**Rev. Ken Hobbs**

## CHOIR – CAROL SERVICE

The next rehearsal is Monday 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm until 8:30pm. The rehearsal on 22<sup>nd</sup> December will start promptly at 4pm so I would be grateful if you could arrive by 3:45pm to help set up. There will be a break of about 30/40 minutes between the rehearsal and the Carol Service.

## UPCOMING SUNDAYS

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – "A Blind Man"

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December – "Looking Back and Looking Forward"

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January – "We saw His Star" – All Age Service

## MORNING PRAYER

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec Morning Prayer will start at 9.00am (not 9.15). There will be no Morning Prayer on 24<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Jean Tutton**

## PLANNING FOR CHRISTMAS

**Christmas cards** -Thank you to all who have volunteered to deliver St John's Christmas cards and magazines. There are spare copies if you would like to take one home or pass on to other friends.

**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**

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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**

## NESCOT CAFE

NESCOT Café has now finished for this term. We have now said goodbye to the current group of students, and wished them good luck in their new placements.

The Cafe will restart on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January with a new group of students. Initially there will only be a basic menu, but within a couple of weeks they will be preparing the full choice of delicious food.

**Chris Redrup**

## ADVANCE NOTICES

On the evening of March 19<sup>th</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> 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

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> – Choir Practice – 7pm

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> – Baby and Toddler Christmas party – 10am

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> – Midweek Focus coffee and carols – 11am

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> – Carols and The Rock Choir – 6pm, then 7pm

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.acornchristian.org). Refreshments are provided although please bring a packed lunch. Plenty of free, onsite parking.

## TODAYS GOSPEL READING – John 6: 1-15

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?' He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, 'Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?' Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.' Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, 'This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.'

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

## Christmas at St John's

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

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:office@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk)