

St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

Sunday 26th January 2020

Welcome

We welcome and thank Rev. Michael Dunk from St Paul's, Howell Hill who will be taking our services today. We also welcome Ian Holiday as our guest musician. We are pleased that you are joining us for worship today and we pray that each of us will meet with God.

Collect

God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.

Amen

Bible Readings

Ephesians 3: 1-21 Luke 23: 44-49

Hymns

MP 189 God is working his purpose out Celtic hymnbook 213 You are the centre MP 51 Be thou my vision MP 600 Sing to God new songs of worship (Tune Ode to Joy)

MUSIC WORKSHOP

Andy Shaw has kindly offered to hold a music workshop at St John's on Saturday 7th March at 10am until 12pm. This is a great opportunity for musicians and/or singers to explore ways forward for enhancing our music ministry at St John's. If you're interested, please put your name on the list at the front of church. All welcome.

MIDWEEK FOCUS - ST PAUL'S

This weeks Midweek Focus on Wednesday 29th January is Holy Communion.

Rev. Ken Hobbs

UPCOMING SUNDAYS

Sunday 2nd February – "What is wrong with the world?" All Age Family Worship

Sunday 9th February – "Dial M for Ministry!" Sunday 16th February – "A New Wardrobe"

Rev. Ken Hobbs

SPRING FAIR

St John's will be holding a Spring Fair on Saturday 16^{th} May, for more information please speak to me.

Claire Cornell

MORNING PRAYER

There will be no morning prayer on Tuesdays 28th January, 4th and 11th February.

Roger Blake

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council have been in touch to let St John's know that memorials will be held to recognise Holocaust Memorial Day. There are located at Bourne Hall and the Town Hall on Monday 27 January 2020. It will be a place where people can come and reflect, place a tribute, as well as read some historical interpretation. If you would like to know more about what is taking place in the Borough and arrange a visit, then please contact Jeremy Harte at JHarte@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

WELCOMERS

We are looking for more people to be "Welcomers" for the 10am services. We would like there to be 3 welcomers each week instead of 2 so that new people are not overlooked and also that our regular members are greeted warmly. We used to have 3 each week but this has dropped to 2 over the last couple of years. If you are interested, please see me on my return from Australia next month or let any of the usual welcomers know and ask them to make a note for me. You would need to be in church by 9.30am. If you could go on a rota once a month that would be great.

Janis Forder

FOODBANK

Sunday 2^{nd} February is a Focus on Foodbank Sunday. Please take a list which details the food that the Foodback are most in need of. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Polly Elder

CULTURE OF INVITATION

Training on the Culture of Invitation with Michael Harvey will be taking place at St Peter's Church, Wrecclesham on 24th March 2020. There are daytime and evening sessions. If you are interested, please contact the office for further information.

Rev. Ken Hobbs

ON THIS WEEK

Tuesday 28th – Baby and Toddler Group Wednesday 22nd – Midweek Focus Friday 24th – NESCOT Café

Ephesians 3: 1-21

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see[±] what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in[±] God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. I pray therefore that you[±] may not lose heart over my sufferings for you; they are your glory.

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,* from whom every family* in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.