



St John's, Stoneleigh

Weekly Newsletter

Sunday 22nd March

Collect

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

A MESSAGE FROM REV. KEN HOBBS

Welcome to this special edition of St John's newsletter. In these challenging days we hope that you will enjoy this weekly communication from us. I am hoping to produce a weekly video message through the What's App group. The script will be available too.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

This Sunday March 22nd has been designated a National Day of Prayer for our nation and the world. To signify that you are joining in, and if you are able and it is practicable, we have been asked to light a candle in our front window as our declaration of intent at 7pm.

Rev. Ken Hobbs

RELIGIOUS BROADCASTS

BBC Radio 3 - Choral Evensong Wednesdays at 3.30.p.m

and Sundays at 3.00.p.m.

BBC Radio 4 – Sunday morning services at 8:10am

BBC One – Sunday Worship at 11:45am

BBC One – Songs of Praise at 1:15pm

CALL KEN!

If you would like to schedule some time with me, please email the office and we can make arrangements.

Rev. Ken Hobbs

WHAT'S APP GROUP

St John's now has a What's App group. To join, please go to

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/EhOW3GIH4027UnkycN4Eo6>

Rev. Ken Hobbs

REVISION OF ELECTORAL ROLL

The annual revision of the Electoral Roll will take place at the end of this month. If your name is already on the Roll you need do nothing further unless there are any changes to your details such as telephone numbers or email addresses. The Roll is a register of members of the congregation and others who live in the parish if they so wish. It entitles you to attend and vote at the Annual Parish Council Meeting. You must be over 16 and baptised to qualify. For more information on other good

reasons to be on the Roll please speak to me, Ken or a churchwarden.

Lynda White (0208 393 2743)

CANCELLATIONS

Following on from Government advice, it has been decided that the following will be cancelled until further notice: Baby & Toddler Group, NESCOL Café, Maundy Thursday Hot Cross Buns, Hearing Clinic, Children's Easter Workshop, Tunes 'n' Tea and the Spring Craft Fair.

Please note the legal business of the APCM has been postponed until October 2020 for all parishes.

FOODBANK

This is the latest report from the Foodbank. 'At the moment the Foodbank is open and still managing to feed people. We have tweaked how we operate to keep contact to a minimum and have suspended furniture collections and deliveries. We do have a good stock of food but suspect that regular donations may reduce as people begin to stay in doors more.

We know that we are going to busy, already this afternoon we fed over 50 people in about 90 minutes. As you can imagine it was a 'lively' afternoon. Anything you can donate will be gratefully received but we do need the following –

Tinned meat, tinned meat pies, tinned fish, pasta sauce, instant mash, jam/honey/marmalade, cooking sauces, noodles - NOT POT NOODLES, sugar - 500g, longlife milk - blue full fat, powdered milk, pump hand soap, baby wash, nappies - size 4 & 5 only, hair conditioner, adult toothbrushes and toothpaste, ladies deodorant, shaving foam, BAGS FOR LIFE.

The church will be open in the day so donations may be placed in the box at the back of church. We appreciate that many folk are unable to get out and shop, don't feel guilty about this, stay safe and look after yourselves for now. The knock on effect of this current problem will continue to stretch the Foodbank for a long time after we can meet together again and we will be able to redouble our efforts to support it. Thank you everyone.

Polly Elder

Cont....

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

Office@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk 020 8786 7048

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WORSHIP AT HOME

This is the day that the Lord has made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it

Prayer

Lord direct our thoughts, teach us to pray; lift our hearts to worship you in Spirit and in truth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God our Father, we ask your forgiveness for the times when we have failed you:

When we have not cared enough for your world: in your great mercy. **Forgive us and help us.**

When we have not cared enough for you: in your great mercy. **Forgive us and help us.**

When we have been content with ourselves as we are: in your great mercy. **Forgive us and help us**

Let us return to the Lord our God and say to Him
Father we have sinned against heaven and against you.
We are not worthy to be called your children.

We turn to you again. Have mercy on us and bring us back to yourself. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

THANKSGIVING

We thank God for giving us other people to be part of our lives

For parents and the love which brought us to birth we praise you O Lord; and bring you thanks today

For mothers who have cherished and nurtured us we praise you O Lord; and bring you thanks today

For fathers who have loved and supported us we praise you O Lord; and bring you thanks today

For brothers and sisters with whom we have shared our home we praise you O Lord; and bring you thanks today

For children entrusted to our care as parents we praise you O Lord; and bring you thanks today

For relatives and friends who have been part of our lives we praise you O Lord; and bring you thanks today

For all who first spoke to us about Jesus and have drawn us into the family of our Father in heaven we praise you O Lord; and bring you thanks today

Help is to live as those who belong to one another and to you now and always Amen

Prayers

We pray for the world, our community and ourselves

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name

Your kingdom come, your will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us our sins

As we forgive those who sin against us.

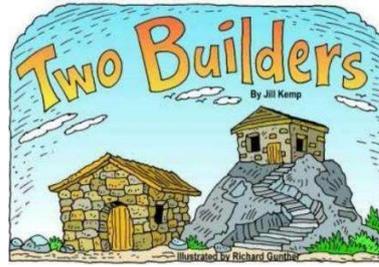
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,

Now and for ever. Amen.

Matthew 7: 24-29

'Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act



on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!

Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

Reflection "A foundation for the family"

Jesus is a master teacher and used everyday illustrations to make his point. The parable of the Two Housebuilders (one of whom he might have called "Bob the Builder"!) reminds us about the importance of the foundations on which we build our lives- shifting sands or solid rock. Can you imagine retelling it today?

Here are some questions to think about!

- What about a world of new housing quotas for every local authority?
- What would happen if the rock happened to be in Green belt or an AONB?
- Were they constructed on brown field sites or some form of urban in fill?
- How would the capital be raised in a world of financial uncertainties?
- Did the man on the sand have insurance?
- Were the sites bought for redevelopment in the face of rising land values?
- Did the neighbours object?
- How secure in the end were these investments?
- Jesus uses this simple story to make profound statements - not about residential or financial security but about spiritual security.
- In fact the lesson is about what, in the end, we really build our lives on - what foundations do we actually have for faith and for family?

We can look for security in property; investments; careers, relationships and even a good set of Christian values and church attendance. Valuable and right as all this is, in the end they can prove to be temporary and not eternal. – shifting sands as circumstances change.

We are invited to build our lives on Jesus Christ He is the foundation stone. He is the foundation stone, the corner stone and the key stone of our faith. Paul writes "For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid which is Jesus Christ" (Cor. 3.11).

In these days of fear and uncertainty may you find hope and security as we build our lives on Jesus- SOLID ROCK!

God bless you

Ken

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PRAYERS

Prayer during a pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors remember those who are vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when the schools close remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel out trips remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country let us choose love. During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbours.

Amen.

From our Prayer Board: An end to the COVID-19 crisis, for all who are sick, for the medical staff and scientists.

Enid Stone RIP

From our Continuing Prayer List: Vera Mills, Margaret, Derek Pavey, Fred Renno

From our Remembrance Book: Graham Harold Manley, Jean Mary Lingwood, Christine Rebecca Roberts, Dorothy Mignon Senior.

In this week following Mothering Sunday, we pray for parents all over the world:

- caring for children and aging dependents under difficult conditions arising from the Covid 19 pandemic
- in situations of oppressive rule, social unrest and poverty
- re-building lives after disasters due to the climate; including wild fires, wind damage, flooding and drought

And we pray about global warming:

- that governments and individuals may turn from indifference or despair about global warming
- that research be diligent and respected
- that we may be prepared to make changes to our lifestyle where this is needed to help curb further damage to God's world

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