



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

Sunday 5th July

Collect

Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will, that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen

A MESSAGE FROM REV. KEN HOBBS

This week saw the opportunity to use the side chapel for private prayer and I encourage you to join in.

We continue with our main service via Zoom on Sundays at 10am. This morning's service of morning prayer is led by Joan. Last Saturday we trialed technology, for the first time, to test the possibility of combining a service in the church building which will also be available at the same time at home on Zoom. Initial tests look very promising but we will need a stronger wifi connection in the church itself and this is being worked on.

More details to follow as we carefully and prayerfully proceed. In the mean time do continue to pray for and support one another as we work towards the time when we can all gather together physically as the church family.

God bless you all

Ken

Israel 2021

Thank you to those who registered an interest. We have been advised by McCabe Travel to postpone until March 2022. This is a sensible decision in these uncertain times.

Rev. Ken Hobbs

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Don't forget you can keep in touch by joining the WhatsApp group, visiting our website and following us on Facebook. All your contributions to these groups during this time provide great encouragement to us all. For details of the website and where to find us on Facebook, please see the bottom of this page. To join the WhatsApp group, you will need a smartphone and to have installed WhatsApp. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

Rev. Ken Hobbs

KEEPING IN TOUCH AND PRAYERS

Please don't forget to call if you need some help during this time or if you would like to add something to the prayer board.

Jean Tutton 020 8393 3687

SUNDAY SERVICES

Don't forget you can join us live on Sunday at 10am using this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86852818063>

For those of you who do not have access to the internet you can now join our Sunday Worship by phone.

Dial this phone number: 0203 051 2874

You will be asked to enter the meeting ID followed by # (hash).

Key in: 868 5281 8063#

You will be asked for a personal ID, just press # again and you will be connected to the Service.

If you want help with this speak to John Simon (phone 0775 187 4807).

From this Sunday, for security reasons we need to start using a "Waiting Room". This means that you may have to wait a short while for me to let you join the service".

John Simon

THURSDAY COFFEE MORNING

Each Thursday, St John's will be hosting a coffee morning via Zoom. Please join us at 10:30am using this link.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83134817320>

The link will be the same each week.

Rev. Ken Hobbs

DAILY HOPE

There is a free phone line 0800 804 8044, for hymns, reflections and prayers, provided by Guildford diocese, especially for people without access to the internet. It is called Daily Hope.

Janis Forder

OPENING OF CHURCH

The Side Chapel has been open since Wednesday this week for private prayer. We hope some of you have been able to use the Side Chapel. If you haven't already done so, please do pop in. We hope the Side Chapel will remain open but this will only be possible if we all adhere to the guidance below.

- Do not go into the main church area.
- Use the hand sanitiser on the wall when entering by the glass doors.
- Ensure no more than 6 people are in the chapel at any one time and observe the 1 metre social distancing rule at all times.
- Bibles and all papers have been removed to prevent the spread of Covid-19.
- Bring and use your own bibles if you wish.
- When leaving please use the provided wipes provided on the table at the entrance to clean anything you may have touched, including your seat and the door handles on the glass front doors.

Please do not enter the Parish Centre, this will remain closed for the foreseeable future.

Janis Forder and Ken Mussell

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KEYS

We are missing a key for the Book of Remembrance cabinet. If you have used the key, can you please return it to the key cupboard in the vestry. Many thanks.

Janis Forder

FOODBANK

I've had quite a few conversations with readers of this newsletter this week and am really grateful that so many readers of this newsletter are keeping the needs of the Foodbank very much in mind. It's interesting that the One Show has also made an effort to flag up both the stalwart services of the many volunteers and the constant need to replenish stocks. Personally I've been heartened by the way the different faiths, denominations and cultures have pulled together to serve those who need just now. It's a good time to thank our friends at the Baptist Church for including an invitation to St John's to hand in our donations there on Wednesdays while we cannot manage them ourselves.

The extra pressures on the Foodbank now mean that they need to request that we only donate items which are on these lists please.

They **URGENTLY NEED**

Biscuits, Shampoo, Toilet rolls

They are **LOW IN STOCK** of

Female deodorant, Adult toothpaste, Shaving foam, Pump soap, Baby shampoo Cleaning products - bleach, anti bac sprays etc, Custard, Sugar - small bags if possible, Breakfast cereal - not porridge thank you Cooking sauces, Long life fruit juice, Tinned vegetables, Tinned rice pudding, Long life sponge puddings Children's treats – chocolate.

Polly Elder

Worship at Home

Introductory Prayer

(Attributed to Saint Teresa of Calcutta, adapted)

Lord our God, as we strive for success, for wealth, for stability, for status, turn our eyes down from the top of the mountain, that we may see to wash the feet of the world.

For if we pray, we will believe;

if we believe, we will love;

if we love, we will serve.

Amen

Hymn: 'Lord of All Hopefulness'

Confession

Lord, give us true repentance; forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance and our deliberate sins; and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your holy word. Amen.

May God our Creator and Sustainer, present among us with the wealth of his love, cleanse us from sin and give us the faith to offer to him our lives and to grow in his grace. **Amen**

Praise and Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you God, Father of all peoples of the earth, for your creation and our place within it.

We bring our thanks, good Lord: your mercy endures for ever.

We praise you for our daily food, and for those whose work and skill bring your good gifts to us.

We bring our thanks, good Lord: your mercy endures for ever.

For the gifts and graces inspired in human minds and hearts; for insight and imagination, for the skills of research, which bring healing and fulfilment to the lives of many;

we bring our thanks, good Lord: your mercy endures for ever.

We praise you for all in whose lives we see goodness, kindness, gentleness, patience and humility, and all the fruits of the Spirit.

We bring our thanks, good Lord: your mercy endures for ever.

For the life we have been given, and for all those whom you have given us to share it,

we bring our thanks, good Lord: your mercy endures for ever.

Hymn: 'In my life, Lord, be glorified'

A Psalm of Work

laborare est orare: 'to work is to pray'

A psalm inspired by St Bernard, who is credited with the view that a monk's work is his prayer too.

I enjoy my work, for you've given it to me:

you are a God who works, and I work with your blessing.

You are there when I go to work in the morning: I meet you in my friends as we greet one another;

as we prepare for the day, you speak to us through others: you are in new ideas and the training we share;

my concentration reflects your loving care: your creative power inspires my thoughts and actions.

When I help another it's you that I meet:

as I serve a customer, I am serving you;

when I am called to give account to my superiors: it's your judgement I face, and you will judge in fairness.

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If others treat me harshly, I am only your servant: Jesus was also the servant of others;

**his work was to make your love visible:
in my successes I, too, am completing your work of
creation.**

Long ago monks were taught that to work is to pray: help me see my task today as part of your purpose.

**My achievements I offer to you:
exhausted I give you my life.**

From: 'Psalms of Life'
by John Hammersley. www.psalmsoflife.com

Reading Genesis 2.1-3 and v15 read by Sarah Tutton
Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

Hymn: 'I bind unto myself today the strong name of the Trinity'

Reading Mark 6: 1-6 read by Sarah Tutton
He left that place and came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offence at him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honour, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house.' And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.
Then he went about among the villages teaching.

Reflection

Review and Introduction

We have been looking at Creation and the whole issue of how we approach Genesis and how we understand our origins
Last time we touched on the Gender agenda! "Male and Female he created them" We explored the complex world of human relationships and how Genesis sets a benchmark for human behaviour
Two weeks ago we had 6 "lighthouses" Majesty, Mystery, Method, Mind, Mankind and finally MANAGEMENT which catapults us into our theme today- the origins and values of work in the Divine order of things. We will cover this over the next few Sundays.

I noted in my video reflection this week that historically the church has not been good at connecting faith and work. Our Sunday activities and our corporate worship bear little relationship to what goes on Monday to Friday.

One teacher wrote "**I spend an hour a week teaching Sunday School and they haul me up at the front of the church to pray for me. The rest of the week I am a full time teacher and the church has never prayed for me. That says it all.**"

The apostle Paul was a tentmaker for a time! In my mind he is the patron saint of Non Stipendary Ministers! He worked for his own living and was ,also, at times, a paid servant of the Gospel Both models of ministry are equally important. As an NSM it has always been a door opener with people to say that I did what everybody else did- go to work and pay the mortgage! Our purpose today and on following Sundays is to affirm the value and significance of a work- our 3rd lesson from the Dawn of Time and to avoid an artificial compartmentalization of the sacred and the secular.

When we define **work** in this context we need to note the following:

(a)we are not talking merely about "good works" as a necessary outcome of Christian faith. We are of course instructed to work out our salvation with fear and trembling and we trust also that people will see our good works and glorify our Father who is in heaven.

(b)we are not talking about "Christian work" either although the parameters that the Bible sets down apply equally to those who in different ways earn their living by the Gospel.

(c) We are referring to the everyday tasks that we all do; paid, unpaid, domestic, voluntary, studying, serving and the rest
We will look at three perspectives on the world of work over the next few Sundays which have their origins in the book of Genesis and the dawn of time. The Divine Example; the Divine economy and the Divine Environment.

The Divine Example

Our Christian revelation of God is Trinitarian Genesis says "Let **US** make man in our own image.

(a) God the Father

In Gen 2.3 we read "God rested on the 7th day from all his **WORK** The Psalmist writes "When I consider the heavens the **work** of your fingers..... (Ps 8.3) and "The heavens declare the glory of God and the skies proclaim the **work** of his hands"(Ps 19.1)

There is an extraordinary compressed cosmology in Genesis "He also made the stars" The cosmos as we saw in our first week is one of God's designer labels.

Consider The symmetry of a snowflake - God is a draughtsman
The balance of the skeleton- God is an engineer
The circuits of the brain- God is a computer designer
A tropical sunset- God is an artist
In Gen 2.8 God is a Gardener!

God's activity in creation is not the clock winder who lets the machine run- he is actively involved in his creation and this is one reason why miracles happen

This is a separate subject but remember The **law maker** can when it suits his sovereign purpose be the **law breaker**.

But another way that God is involved in creation is via the world of work.

In Genesis we find the following
God is a God who **CREATES** (ex nihilo)

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God is a God who CLASSIFIES (Adam is given the task of classifying and naming the created order)
He is a God who CO ORDINATES- his work is carried out in sequence and in a clearly planned order
He is a God who CONTROLS- he sustains the cosmos and he evaluates the quality of his work- at the end of each period it is assessed as being "very good"
He is a God who is COMMITTED to his creation and provides us with all the resources we need- time, energy, intellect, air, water, soil. minerals etc...

(b) God the Son

Jesus was there at the dawn of space and time He was an agent in creation

Eg John 1 "The Word" the Logos - He was with God... and through him all things were made and without him nothing was made that has been made."

Eg Col 1. 16 speaking of Jesus "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created..all things were created by him and for him"

We understand that the Divine Son was a **Creator**. From the Gospels we understand that the Incarnate Son was a **Carpenter!** The sceptics in our Gospel reading comment **"Isn't this the Carpenter!"**

Jesus spent more of his adult life as a carpenter than he did as a preacher, healer and Saviour of Mankind If anything elevates the worth of work it is that!

Bishop David Shepherd said **"A true sense of the work ethic has something transcendent about it"**

(Zambian camp fire story- "the carpenter of wood is the carpenter of lives!")

(c) God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit was present at creation- hovering over the face of the waters. The ministry of the Spirit is a working ministry- Counsellor Teacher and Helper

He is the source of Divine energy. You will receive power (dunamis- dynamite) and be my witnesses..... (Acts 1 8)

Conclusion

Every aspect of the Godhead is linked to work! God is a working God and we are made in his image as working models! There is a curious paradox here because people are defined in God's eyes by **who they are** rather than what they do (yet we always ask people socially what do you do?!) And yet God has invested work with worth- it is built into the Divine economy God is concerned and interested in his creation and how we manage it! He is not just interested in what goes on inside a church building!

There is such a thing as HOPE! – from the dawn of time history has a destiny, a purpose and a focal point. One day "there will be a new heavens and a new earth" We perhaps need to see our work through new eyes. Our work can follow the Divine example and transform our everyday! Work is part of our **worship** and part of our **witness**

Prayers – by Chris

The Lord's Prayer

**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.
And 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.**

Song: 'I give my work to you, Lord'

A prayerful song with Sarah:

I give my work to you, Lord,
I give my work to you;
when the journey's hard, Lord,
I turn my thoughts to you;
I give my mind to you, Lord,
I give my mind to you;
I give my will to you, Lord;
I give my will to you.

(repeat)

I give to you, Lord, I give to you,
my work, my mind, my will,
I give to you.

(repeat)

I give my joy to you, Lord,
I give my joy to you.
I give my pain to you, Lord,
my pain and sorrow too;
I give my heart to you, Lord,
I give my heart to you;
I give my life to you, Lord,
I give my life to you.

(repeat)

I give to you, Lord, I give to you,
my joy, my heart, my life,
I give to you.
I give my work to you, Lord,
I give my work to you.
I give my mind to you, Lord,
I give my mind to you;
I give my heart to you, Lord,
I give my heart to you,
I give my life to you, Lord,
I give my life to you.

Margarita Rizza

A prayer for God's Kingdom on Earth

In the quiet of the morning,
In each new day that is dawning
Thy Kingdom come

In our waking and our dressing,
In our lives and their progressing
Thy Kingdom come

In this moment for the taking,
In the things that we are making,
Thy Kingdom come

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In the people we'll be meeting,
In every one we shall be greeting,
Thy Kingdom come

In our tasks and our employment,
In our leisure and enjoyment,
Thy Kingdom come

All day, until its very ending,
Praise to you may we be sending,
Thy Kingdom come

Final hymn: 'O praise ye the Lord'

Blessing

May we go with confidence into the days ahead,
trusting in God's unfailing love and faithfulness.
God will not abandon us,
for we are the work of his hands –
his own creation –
and his love endures forever.

So, let us go in joy to love and serve the Lord!
In the name of Christ, Amen.

Book of Remembrance: Dorothy Ellen Wiltshire

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