



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

Sunday 9th August

Collect

Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake: when we prosper save us from pride, when we are needy save us from despair, that we may trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Music

Tell out my Soul the Greatness of the Lord
King of Kings Majesty
Be still for the presence of the Lord
Be thou my vision

Readings

Isaiah 5 v1-7
Luke 19 v11-27

A MESSAGE FROM REV. KEN HOBBS

You may have seen my email message that was sent out in the middle of last week. In case you didn't see it here it is again
Dear Friends

It was a joy to be back in St Johns on Sunday for our first attempt at a hybrid service embracing both a congregation in the church building and those worshipping at home via Zoom. It is not easy, particularly being unable to sing in the building(!), but I want to express my thanks to the whole St John's church family for your support and your patience.

My particular thanks go to Ken and Janis our Church Wardens and their team for all the efforts made to make the building as safe as possible and to the technical back up in the service provided by John Simon and Sarah Tutton. We had a combined congregation of 50 roughly split 50/50 between church and home. We enjoyed coffee together on the outside lawn!

We will have our first Communion Service next Sunday (*Today!*) and you will have received your personal worship booklet during this week or when you arrive in church this Sunday. Please retain for your own use and use it each week. If you wish to bring your own Bible to church I encourage you do so. The Communion services will be using that booklet so no actual order of service will be printed in the newsletter except the hymns and readings we are using. We will give you directions on how we receive the bread at that service, following the current national guidance from the C of E.

I will resume occasional video reflections starting next week.

God bless you all

Ken

SUMMER SERIES AT ST JOHN'S

"New Things from Old Stories" - A look at some well known parables of Jesus

Aug 9th Giving for Life- the talents

Aug 16th Lost and Found- the lost sheep

Aug 23rd Who is my Neighbour?- the good Samaritan

Aug 30th Getting Lost and losing out – the prodigal son

Sept 6th Foundations- the two housebuilders

Rev. Ken Hobbs

KEEPING IN TOUCH AND PRAYERS

The WhatsApp group, Facebook and website will continue to be updated so please keep in touch. Any prayer requests for the prayer board can still be submitted to Jean Tutton.

Rev. Ken Hobbs

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).

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

Sunday 10.00am Service resuming in the Church Building.

You are all very welcome to come and join Rev Ken and others at the Church if you feel you are able, either on your own or with members of your immediate household. OR carry on joining in via your computer or phone on Zoom as we have been doing.

To ensure we follow all guide lines and protocols for managing the risk of COVID-19 in places of worship, we have:-

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- carried out full COVID-19 risk assessments.
- have cleaning, hand cleaning/sanitisation and hygiene procedures in place.
- Have taken all reasonable steps to help everyone maintain a 2m distance between different users of the Church.

We are asking those of you that do attend St John's to :-

- Refrain from entering if you are feeling unwell or have experienced any COVID-19 symptoms in the past seven days
- Take responsibility for your own safety and that of your household and other people by maintaining social distancing.
- Wear a mask/face covering, if you are able to do so.
- Observe all hygiene measures.
- Ensure children are supervised at all time.

We believe it to be a good thing that our Church Building is being reopened for Services, and with your help we hope many more people will be able to enjoy Services again, and that we all stay safe.

If anyone should have any queries or indeed feel unsure and would like more information, then please do get in touch with either of us or Rev Ken.

Ken & Janis, Church Wardens

The King's Storeroom

The King's Storeroom is a small Christian Bookshop in the URC church in Kingston. It is open normal hours 10-4 Monday to Fridays and 10-2 Saturdays.

INTERNATIONAL NEEDS

An update from International Needs.

For us at IN, it has been a challenging time adjusting to the pandemic, both in reorganising all our fundraising and UK operational plans, but more so in helping our global partners adapt their ministries to help vulnerable families in this time of crisis. We have been focussing on food distributions, healthcare and improved sanitation. We are very grateful for your church's support of RUSH Kenya which has helped families be more resilient to this crisis. IN have a video they would like share with their updates.

<https://youtu.be/OMuj3iGEzoE>

Rev. Ken Hobbs

FOODBANK

I am in awe of the organisation in the Foodbank system. They have volunteers who continue to work hard, packing boxes and delivering food. However there is another band of willing helpers behind the scenes moving stock, counting stock and ensuring that they have enough food, in the right place, for when they need it. Thanks to their continued hard work they have a very concise wish list.

This means that they do have a very good stock of many of the basic items so, if possible, please donate only the items on the following list which they are very short of -

Cleaning products - bleach, anti bac sprays etc., Toilet rolls
Washing up liquid - small bottles, Nappies - size 5+ and above

only please, Sugar - small bags if possible, Custard, Long life sponge puddings, Long life fruit juice, Ketchup/brown sauce Peanut butter, Savoury snacks - crisps etc., Savoury biscuits Children's treats - chocolate etc.

Thank you to the team at Stoneleigh Baptist Church who are open to receive your donations on Wednesdays between 10am and 12 noon. They are doing all the carrying that we usually do for ourselves.

Thank you to the faithful folk who have been donating cash via my letterbox - to date we have donated over £552 this way. I know that many are sending in their donations individually and some have been dropping food off at the supermarkets who have Foodbank drop off bins. It's been heartening to know that St John's has been able to maintain it's support even though we have not been able to use our own drop off point.

Polly Elder

Worship at Home/Church

Please follow and join in with the service booklet (page numbers will be given).

"You are mine; when you pass through the waters I will be with you and the floods they will not overwhelm you"
(Isaiah 43 1-2)

Collect

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Readings read by Joan Simon

Isaiah 5 v1-7

Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watch-tower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.
What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,

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and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
he expected justice,
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness,
but heard a cry!

Luke 19 v11-27

As they were listening to this, he went on to tell a parable, because he was near Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. So he said, 'A nobleman went to a distant country to get royal power for himself and then return. He summoned ten of his slaves, and gave them ten pounds, and said to them, "Do business with these until I come back." But the citizens of his country hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, "We do not want this man to rule over us." When he returned, having received royal power, he ordered these slaves, to whom he had given the money, to be summoned so that he might find out what they had gained by trading. The first came forward and said, "Lord, your pound has made ten more pounds." He said to him, "Well done, good slave! Because you have been trustworthy in a very small thing, take charge of ten cities." Then the second came, saying, "Lord, your pound has made five pounds." He said to him, "And you, rule over five cities." Then the other came, saying, "Lord, here is your pound. I wrapped it up in a piece of cloth, for I was afraid of you, because you are a harsh man; you take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow." He said to him, "I will judge you by your own words, you wicked slave! You knew, did you, that I was a harsh man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? Why then did you not put my money into the bank? Then when I returned, I could have collected it with interest." He said to the bystanders, "Take the pound from him and give it to the one who has ten pounds." (And they said to him, "Lord, he has ten pounds!") "I tell you, to all those who have, more will be given; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. But as for these enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them—bring them here and slaughter them in my presence." '

Prayers led by Lynda White

Lord Jesus, you came among us as homeless and as a refugee . Shake our complacency, rekindle our passion and help us to challenge our leaders to forge a common strategy that is both truly just and fair for all. Amen

Talk "All you can't leave behind" The parable of the talents

A literary context

A historical context

A future context

3 dimensions to the story

(a) Responsibilities

(b) Reckoning

(c) Rewards

Book of Remembrance: Wendy Perry, Geroge Tripcony and Jean Blackburn.

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