



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

Sunday 4th October

Collect

Gracious God, you call us to fullness of life: deliver us from unbelief and banish our anxieties with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Music

We plough The fields and scatter (MP 732)
All things bright and beautiful (MP23)
Come you thankful people come (sung by our music group)
Great is Thy Faithfulness (MP 200)
How great thou art (MP506)

Reading

Genesis 4: 1-16
Hebrews 11: 1-4

A MESSAGE FROM REV. KEN HOBBS

Welcome to our Harvest Festival celebration this morning. Our gifts today will support the great work done by Epsom Food Bank and our thanks go to Polly who co ordinates our support. As we move into the autumn and winter we are understandably feeling anxious about the future. My prayer is that here at St Johns we may be a beacon of hope for our community and a place where we all find strength, encouragement and mutual support.

The APCM will be held after the service next Sunday October 11th (also available via zoom) My thanks go to all those who have served the church over this difficult 18 months. As we transact our legal business and give thanks for the past, let us prayerfully look to the future.

God bless you

Ken

Our service today is printed in full in this newsletter, Worship booklets are not needed today

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AUTUMN SERIES AT ST JOHN'S

11th October – People in Church Growth

18th October – Places in Church Growth

25th October – Preaching in Church Growth

Autumn programme cards are available in Church, please ask for one.

Rev. Ken Hobbs

APCM – 11th OCTOBER 2020

A reminder to everyone that our annual APCM will be held at 11am on Sunday October 11th after the 10am service. It will be held in the large hall, with appropriate distancing, plus on Zoom. Please ensure that the office has all the necessary reports in by **4th October** and that **all documents are sent in Word format**. Printed versions of the agenda and reports will be available on the day as well as there being an electronic version for those joining via Zoom.

There are vacancies for an assistant church warden plus members of the PCC. Please let Rev. Ken or one of the church wardens know if you are interested. Coffee will be served in the hall.

Janis Forder and Ken Mussell

LYNDA WHITE'S FUNERAL

Lynda's funeral will take place at St John's at 11.00am on Friday 9 October. Sadly, numbers attending in church have to be limited because of the current Covid restrictions and will therefore be by invitation. However, Barry warmly invites all the St John's family to join the service on zoom. The link is <https://zoom.us/j/96558696378> Meeting ID: 965 5869 6378

Jean Tutton

"I heard God speak"

This is the title of a book of reflections, prayers and poems written by our own Gill Sathymoorthy. I heartily commend this to you and do speak to Gill if you would like a copy. We will be using some of the content of her book in our Sunday worship from time to time.

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 - NEW ZOOM LINK

From today, to join the Sunday 10am service via Zoom, you will need to follow this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/96558696378>

For those joining manually the code you need is 9655 8696378.

To join using the telephone, please dial 020 3051 2874

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

Key in: 96558696378#. You will be asked for a personal ID, just press # again and you will be connected to the Service.

John Simon

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

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THURSDAY COFFEE MORNING – NEW ZOOM LINK

To join our Thursday morning coffee via Zoom at 10:30am, please use this new link.

<https://zoom.us/j/95156339166?pwd=ROVuTHcvK1VtMXFFM3k3MVR2OWpDUT09>

Rev. Ken Hobbs

SUNDAY SERVICES

For those attending church, please be reminded of the following:

- 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.

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

COFFEE AFTER SERVICES

Due to the new rules starting today we will not be serving coffee outside the church. However, after reading all the rules, it is possible to have coffee /tea etc in the hall, if the following rules are observed.

Four or possibly five tables will be positioned around the hall with 4 chairs positioned 2 meters apart around the table. Everyone can sit down, **BUT PEOPLE MUST NOT WANDER AROUND.**

Coffee etc will be brought to your table.

With the virus continuing to spread we must do everything in our power to keep everyone safe.

If people do not follow these rules then unfortunately we will not be able to have refreshments after the service.

Janis Forder and Ken Mussell

End of Epsom & Ewell?

Surrey County Council have proposed to abolish the 11 Borough and District Councils, including Epsom & Ewell Borough Council, replacing it with a single council for all of Surrey's 1.2 million residents. You can find out more and sign the petition at www.RASSU.org.uk.

Councillor Hannah Dalton

A NEW CURATE FOR ST JOHN'S

Following extensive discussions with the diocese and much prayer I am pleased to announce that St John's has been allocated a curate with effect from July 1st. He is Geoff Andrew. With his wife Anne (a teacher) he has been active in leadership at St Paul's Camberley where he is already a Lay Reader (Licensed Lay Minister). He is 57 and has had a career in the hotel industry. He and Anne have three grown up children.

He is studying at St Millitus College in London and will be ordained next Summer. He has a wealth of experience of Christian ministry and will play a lead role in the future of St John's. Technically he will be a curate as far as the diocese is concerned but we will regard him as our "Associate Minister" There are only 9 training posts in the diocese and we are so fortunate to get him. Please pray regularly for Geoff and Anne

as they prepare to move here next year. I am asking him to send us a brief bio plus a photograph for inclusion in a future newsletter.

Rev. Ken Hobbs

FOODBANK

We support a nationwide network of food banks and together we provide emergency food and support to people locked in poverty, and campaign for change to end the need for food banks in the UK.

The Epsom and Ewell Foodbank comes under the auspices of The Trussell Trust. The statement above heads the 'what we do' section on the Trust's website and makes it clear that the mission is twofold. First and foremost to provide a minimum of three days emergency food to people in crisis but it takes more than food handouts to end hunger and the second part of their mission is bring together the experiences of all their foodbank members to challenge the economic issues that lock people in poverty. Today, I know that the St John's congregation will respond magnificently to a harvest collection in aid of the Foodbank. Thank you all. The work continues after Harvest as the need for foodbanks continues to grow greater each month *and* the need to ensure that an organised and knowledgeable voice is available to advise those making economic decisions in the country so the people in need are not forgotten. I am therefore delighted that our weekly drop off box is available again - just on Sundays for now. This gives you a choice of two drop off points in Stoneleigh, the Baptist church opens on Wednesdays from 10-12am and our own box on Sundays. Please try to keep up the good work. Thank you.

Polly Elder

The Foodbank is having to pay to store stock so it is essential that they receive only the items on these lists please.

Very Urgently Needed:

Tinned Fruit, Tinned Spaghetti, Tinned Pasta/Beans with Meat, Squash, Coffee, Custard, Tomato Ketchup, Sweetcorn, Sponge Puddings, Shower Gel, Shampoo, Conditioner, Shaving Gel, Pump Soap, Washing Up Liquid

Also very low:

Tinned Vegetables, Microwave Rice, Breakfast Cereal, Long Life Fruit Juice, Tinned Meat, Hot Chocolate, Sanitary Towels, Adult Toothbrushes, Adult Toothpaste, Male Deodorant

EPSOM MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING FESTIVAL

The Epsom Mental Health and Wellbeing Festival will be taking place online from 3rd to 11th October. The festival is online this year with Festival at Home Packs for people without access to the internet. Please ask for more a pack or visit www.epsommentalhealthweek.org.uk.

Rev. Ken Hobbs

Worship at Home/Church

Welcome and Introduction

"You are familiar with the generosity of our Master, Jesus Christ. Rich as he was, he gave it all away for us!" (2 Corinthians 8.9 Message Version))

Hymn We plough The fields and scatter (MP 732)

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Confession

O God our Father, we confess that we have often used your gifts carelessly and acted as if we were not grateful.

Hear our prayer and in your mercy, **forgive us and help us.**

When we enjoy the fruits of the harvest but forget they come from you then Father, in your mercy, **forgive us and help us.**

When we are full and satisfied, but ignore the cry of the hungry and those in need, then Father, in your mercy, **forgive us and help us.**

When we are thoughtless and do not treat with respect or care the wonderful world you have made, then, Father in your mercy, **forgive us and help us.**

When we store up goods for ourselves alone, as if there were no God and no heaven, then Father, in your mercy, **forgive us and help us.**

Grant us thankful hearts and a loving concern for all people through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Focus on The Food Bank

Hymn All things bright and beautiful (MP23)

Visual What a wonderful world!

Genesis 4:1 – 16 read by Chris Redrup

Now the man knew his wife Eve, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, 'I have produced² a man with the help of the Lord.' Next she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a tiller of the ground. In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel for his part brought of the firstlings of his flock, their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. The Lord said to Cain, 'Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it.'

Cain said to his brother Abel, 'Let us go out to the field.'³ And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. Then the Lord said to Cain, 'Where is your brother Abel?' He said, 'I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?' And the Lord said, 'What have you done? Listen; your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground! And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it will no longer yield to you its strength; you will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.' Cain said to the Lord, 'My punishment is greater than I can bear! Today you have driven me away from the soil, and I shall be hidden from your face; I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and anyone who meets me may kill me.' Then the Lord said to him, 'Not so!⁴ Whoever kills Cain will suffer a sevenfold vengeance.' And the Lord put a mark on Cain, so that no one who came

upon him would kill him. Then Cain went away from the presence of the Lord, and settled in the land of Nod,⁵ east of Eden.

Hebrews 11: 1-4 read by Chris Redrup

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain's. Through this he received approval as righteous, God himself giving approval to his gifts; he died, but through his faith he still speaks.

Hymn Come you thankful people come (sung by our music group)

Address
Harvest- Festival or Failure?!

Hymn Great is Thy Faithfulness (MP 200)

A Harvest Poem by Gill Sathymoorthy Read by Margaret Hobbs

Prayers Margaret Hobbs

For the rich soil of the countryside; for good seed and the corn springing out of the earth we thank you Lord **and praise your holy name.**

For the life giving rain and the ripening sun and for the harvest they bring we thank you Lord **and praise your holy name.**

For the yield of the forests, the earth and the sea we thank you Lord **and praise your holy name.**

For all who work on the land, in the mines or on the sea and for their courage in the face of disappointments we thank you Lord **and praise your holy name.**

For all those who work in our shops, offices, industry and transport to meet our needs we thank you Lord **and praise your holy name.**

We continue to pray for the needs of the world

**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**

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Hymn How great thou art (MP506)

Be with us Lord as we go out into the world. Help us to care for the world you have made and for those who share it with us. We pray that the seed of your word will grow in our lives to produce a rich harvest. May the lips that have sung your praises always speak the truth; may the ears that have heard your word listen only to what is good and may our lives as well as our worship be always pleasing in your sight, for the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Blessing

Talk Outline

A Tale of two men

A Tale of two offerings

A Tale of two responses

A Tale of two results

Book of Remembrance:

Evelyn Dorothy Boxall, Jean Martin,
Sydney William Ramshaw

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