



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

Sunday 22nd November

Collect

God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory.

Amen

Music

God is working his purpose out (MP 189)
God forgave my sin in Jesus' Name (MP181)
Bind us Together (MP 54)
Be Thou my Vision (MP 51)

Readings

Acts 15 v1-21
John 16 v17-33

A MESSAGE FROM REV. KEN HOBBS

Welcome to our worship today as you join us from home. My continual thanks go to all of you for your support and the work of the tech team to make this service happen. This is the 3rd of what we hope will be just 4 Sundays under the new restrictions and we await further directions on what we can do.

In the meantime we are planning for Advent and Christmas. Next Sunday is Advent Sunday which will be Morning Worship for everyone. On Dec 6th we welcome Geoff Andrew as our guest speaker. We hope by then to be able to meet congregationally in church as well as at home.

Can I reinforce the notices about Christmas Music? If you are able to sing either live in church and/or via the virtual choir, can you please let the office know as soon as possible.

Ken

John Simon

PASTORAL VISITING

I am allowed to visit you in your home if we observe COVID safeguards as part of my "work" which cannot be done remotely. Talk to me about this if you feel you would like a safe visit!

Rev. Ken Hobbs

AUTUMN SERIES AT ST JOHN'S

29th November – ADVENT SUNDAY - **Zoom only**

6th December – Priorities in Church Growth

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

NEXT PCC MEETING

The next PCC meeting will take place on Tuesday 1st December. Please let myself or Rev. Ken know of any agenda items.

Sue Pennington

SUNDAY SERVICES

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.

THURSDAY COFFEE MORNING

Thursday morning coffee via Zoom at 10:30am is still taking please. For the Zoom link, please email the office.

Rev. Ken Hobbs

CHRISTMAS MUSIC

We still hope to put on a Christmas Celebration on Sunday 20th December at 4pm and again at 6 pm. As part of the service we plan on having a choir in church as well as a virtual choir. In order to make this happen, we will need singers. Can you please get in touch with the office, Sarah Tutton or Chris Webb if you're interested in joining in.

You may know singers from other groups in Stoneleigh who might like to join us too, all are welcome.

Rev. Ken Hobbs

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Thank you to those of you who have booked a ticket for the Christmas Celebrations service. There are more spaces available and if you would like to attend one of the services, either at 4pm or 6pm, please let me know. Tickets will be issued on a first come first served basis. Tickets available are for individuals and households. Please email the office (office@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk) or call and leave a message on 020 8786 7048 and let me know type of ticket you would like and for which service. If you are booking a household ticket, please let me know how many will be attending from your household. Any questions, please speak with Rev. Ken.

Kerrie Winter

CHRISTMAS CARD DISTRIBUTION

St John's will be sending a Christmas card and letter to all households in the Parish and your help is needed to deliver them. Thank you to all those who have volunteered to deliver

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cards, this is appreciated. There are a number of roads left so if you can help, please email or call the office. Many thanks.

Kerrie Winter

CHRISTMAS STORY

The Christmas Story from All Souls Langham Place will be presented on line on Saturday December 19th with Sir David Suchet, Sean Fletcher, Jonathan Veira and others. Inspiring words and music from the All Souls Orchestra Details to follow but look at their website <https://www.allsoulsmusic.org/>

Rev. Ken Hobbs

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

I am pleased to say that over the next few months, I have arranged for some guest speakers to join our services. Dates for your diary:

6th December – Geoff Andrew

13th December – Andy Shaw

20th December – Rev. Peter Harwood

7th February – Bishop of Guildford The Right Revd Andrew

Rev. Ken Hobbs

NEW SCREENS – CHURCH CLOSED

Work to install video screens in church started on November 17th and is expected to take three weeks. During that time the church will only be open for private prayer on Mondays. The church will be open on November 23 and 30.

John Simon

MASK PRAYER

Creator,

as I prepare to go into the world,

help me to see the sacrament

in the wearing of this cloth –

let it be "an outward sign

of an inward grace" -

a tangible and visible way of living love

for my neighbours, as I love myself.

Christ,

since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart,

that people would see my smile

in the crinkles around my eyes.

Since my voice may be muffled,

help me to speak clearly,

not only with my words,

but with my actions.

Holy Spirit,

As the elastic touches my ears,

remind me to listen carefully –

and full of care -

to all those I meet.

May this simple piece of cloth

be shield and banner,

and each breath that it holds,

be filled with your love.

In your Name and

in that love,

I pray.

May it be so.

May it be so.

FOODBANK

A short one from me this week!

Christmas Boxes. Each client will receive a box in the lead up to the festivities. The box will contain seasonal food, a voucher for fresh meat, an energy top up voucher, gifts for each member of the family. The gifts will be wrapped for the adults but unwrapped for the children as this will enable the parents to be involved in organising their own Christmas.

To ensure that they are not overwhelmed with too many presents etc etc, the presents for children element has been specifically allocated to various schools in our locality.

Please make sure your donations are sealed, **do not contain alcohol and are still in date at Christmas.** No reverse advent boxes please, as they pack all of clients' boxes individually. Cut off date is 11 December to give the Centre time to sort and pack your donations.

This is the list of items which they are hoping we will be able to donate:-

Boxes of biscuits, Tubs/boxes of chocolates, Small/medium Christmas puddings (*alcohol-free*), Mince pies (*alcohol free*), Yule logs/chocolate swiss rolls, Savoury snacks (twiglets, cheeselets, crisps), Mixed fruit and nuts, Small boxes of shortbread, Sweets/biscuits for our older/single clients, Gravy granules, Hot chocolate, Custard, Schloer/other non-alcoholic fizz, Christmas napkins, Disposable table cloths, New tea towels, Wrapping paper, Gift tags, Sellotape
Thank you all.

Polly Elder

REAL ADVENT CALENDAR

"The Real Advent Calendar is a great idea. Not only does it raise money for good causes and is made from Fairtrade Chocolate but is also tells the Christmas story."

Alan Titchmarsh

The Real Advent Calendar is available to buy

<https://www.eden.co.uk/real-advent-calendar-2020/>

Rev. Ken Hobbs

Worship at Home/Church

Theme Pressures in Church Growth

Greeting p5

Hymn God is working his purpose out (MP 189)

Confession p7

Hymn God forgave my sin in Jesus' Name (MP181)

Collect

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

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Readings read by Ian Hargrave

Acts 15: 1-21

Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, 'Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.' And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the believers. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, 'It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses.'

The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, 'My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.'

The whole assembly kept silence, and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles. After they finished speaking, James replied, 'My brothers, listen to me. Simeon has related how God first looked favourably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name.

This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written, "After this I will return,

and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen; from its ruins I will rebuild it,

and I will set it up, so that all other peoples may seek the Lord—

even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called.

Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things known from long ago."

Therefore I have reached the decision that we should not trouble those Gentiles who are turning to God, but we should write to them to abstain only from things polluted by idols and from fornication and from whatever has been strangled and from blood. For in every city, for generations past, Moses has had those who proclaim him, for he has been read aloud every sabbath in the synagogues.'

John 16: 17-33

Then some of his disciples said to one another, 'What does he mean by saying to us, "A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me"; and "Because I am going to the Father"?' They said, 'What does he mean by this "a little while"? We do not know what he is talking about.' Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them,

'Are you discussing among yourselves what I meant when I said, "A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me"? Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy. When a woman is in labour, she has pain, because her hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being into the world. So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. On that day you will ask nothing of me. Very truly, I tell you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

'I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures, but will tell you plainly of the Father. On that day you will ask in my name. I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world; again, I am leaving the world and am going to the Father.'

His disciples said, 'Yes, now you are speaking plainly, not in any figure of speech! Now we know that you know all things, and do not need to have anyone question you; by this we believe that you came from God.' Jesus answered them, 'Do you now believe? The hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!'

Sermon

Song from Sarah

Creed p14

Prayers p15 Margaret Hobbs

Peace p17

Hymn Bind us Together (MP 54)

Communion Prayer p24

Lords Prayer p 18

Prayer of Humble Access p20

Distribution of Bread (music may be played)

Prayer after Communion p22

Hymn Be Thou my Vision (MP 51)

Blessing p23

Talk Outline

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The early church had 3 battles to fight- spiritual, mental, physical

The council of Jerusalem in Acts 15 was the first of many in the early church and addressed the potentially devastating split between the Jewish and Gentile believers,

The Church is growing

The Church is Under Pressure

The Council- an appeal to experience and an appeal to Scripture

Conclusions

- A convergence of Scripture and Experience
- We must relate our experience to the Bible
- We must avoid extremist positions and listen to one another

Book of Remembrance:

Mavis Audrey Wright, Elizabeth Browning Pavey,
Doris Jeffries, Katherine Theresa Margaret Mary Hamilton

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