



# St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November

## Collect

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Amen**

## Music

O Come O Come Emmanuel (MP 493)

Lift up your heads to the coming King (MP 418)

Emmanuel (MP 121)

## Readings

Isaiah 9v 2-7

John 8 v12

## A MESSAGE FROM REV. KEN HOBBS

Welcome to all of you at home for our service today- the 4<sup>th</sup> and final service of this current lock down. Next Sunday our service will be available both in church and at home at 10am with Geoff Andrew, our prospective associate minister/curate as our guest speaker. I hope that many of you will feel able to come and meet him in person if you feel comfortable and safe being in the building

The work on the Screens should have been completed this week and thank you to all of you who have given us your support. Please pray for the tech team as they get to grips with the new technology.

Details about the Christmas Celebrations are included below and we are appealing for as many as possible to join the virtual choir to sing "O Little Town" and also a group to lead the carols from the front of the church

These are challenging and exciting days for us all and please pray that St John's collective witness to the truth and meaning of Christmas may reverberate through the Community of Stoneleigh.

Ken

## 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**

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**John Simon**

## 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 CHOIR

As you are aware Covid-19 has brought immense challenge this year for any carol concert. Sarah Tutton is working on a virtual choir to sing O Little Town so that can we include as many people as possible, especially those members of the congregation that normally join us at this time of year. We are still looking to establish a physical choir to sing in church on Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> December at the two carol services. There will be no choir anthems as we don't have enough time to practice and due to social distancing, we must try and limit the number of gatherings. However, Silent Night and In the Bleak Mid-Winter will be choir carols only. We are also going to reduce the number of verses on each carol to three. We will be having physical rehearsals in church on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December for an hour from 7pm. We will ensure that social distancing is maintained for each rehearsal. Could you please email me at [chris@webbcommunication.co.uk](mailto:chris@webbcommunication.co.uk) if you are prepared to sing at this year's carol concert. Many thanks.

**Chris Webb**

## 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](mailto:office@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk)) or call and leave a message on 020 8786 7048 and let me know type of ticket you would like

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

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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.

**Керrie Winter**

### **CHRISTMAS CARD DISTRIBUTION**

Thanks to all those who have volunteered to deliver cards. These will be available for collection from the office on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December between 12pm and 2:30pm and again on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December in the morning between 9:30am and 11:30am. There are a few roads left so please contact me if you'd like to help with the distribution.

**Керrie Winter**

### **CHRISTMAS STORY**

The Christmas Story from All Souls Langham Place will be presented online on Saturday December 19<sup>th</sup> 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:

6<sup>th</sup> December – Geoff Andrew

13<sup>th</sup> December – Andy Shaw

20<sup>th</sup> December – Rev. Peter Harwood

7<sup>th</sup> February – Bishop of Guildford The Right Revd Andrew

**Rev. Ken Hobbs**

### **CTE Update – Christmas Together**

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, we cannot host this year's Churches Together Christmas lunch. Instead, we have decided to deliver a Christmas Gift Box to our guests who will be alone this Christmas. We are not asking for Church donations this year but will cover the costs using existing funds plus donations from Waitrose.

We are also investigating another option in respect of delivering a meal to those who have no other provision and should this be feasible, we will keep you informed.

**Churches Together Ewell**

### **PAST CASE REVIEW**

The Diocese of Guildford is currently reviewing all its records, across all 162 parishes, to ensure that all safeguarding concerns and allegations have been identified, reported, and appropriately actioned. For more information please go to [www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk).

**Rev. Ken Hobbs**

### **FOODBANK**

The big drive over the next couple of weeks is to provide the Foodbank with enough items for their planned Christmas Appeal.

They cannot take anything other than items on the list below at the moment because they are still coping with all the Harvest Festival donations of general foodstuffs..

Please make sure your donations are sealed, in date and do not contain alcohol. No reverse advent boxes please, as they pack all of the clients' boxes individually. Cut off date is 11 December to give them time to sort and pack your donations. Please remember the request that nothing should contain alcohol.

Items they currently need are as follows -

Tin Foil, Stuffing mix ,Yule logs - dated 25th December onwards, Kids treats - chocolate coins, tubes of sweets. We have a good stock of selection boxes, Adult treats - chocolate orange, matchmakers, truffles etc. Christmas wrapping paper, Christmas gift tags, Sellotape Disposable festive table cloths Gift vouchers for Wilkinsons, Poundland, Superdrug, Boots - specific to this wish list . The reason for choosing these stores is they sell both essentials and food items.

Items, such as small toys are all being collected through the schools.

Thank you for so many donations already supplied - the volunteer on reception duty said "what you again!" when I delivered this week. Christmas isn't cancelled this year - it just needs to be celebrated differently and sharing is one way of doing that.

**Polly Elder**

### **Worship at Home/Church**

#### **Welcome and Introduction**

Lighting of the 1<sup>st</sup> Advent candle

Jesus said "**I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life**

**Hymn** O Come O Come Emmanuel (MP 493)

#### **Confession**

Advent is the church's "New Year". We begin to prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus at Christmas and we think too of the promise of his second coming, This is an opportunity to make a "resolution" to put things right between us and God.

Lord of grace and truth, we have often forgotten you, crowded you out of our busy lives, and not bothered to look for you

**Lord forgive and heal us.**

The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus. Forgive our disobedience to your will.

**Lord forgive us and heal us.**

Your Son, our Saviour was born in poverty in a manger.

Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

**Lord forgive and heal us.**

The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem. Forgive our self interest and lack of vision.

**Lord forgive and heal us.**

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus the King.

Forgive our reluctance to seek you.

**Lord forgive and heal us.**

**Dear Lord**

**Renew our vision; restore our watchfulness; make us faithful as you are faithful, that when you come in glory we may hear you say "enter into the joy of your Lord" Amen**

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## Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

## What is Advent?

### Praise

Lift up your heads to the coming King (MP 418)  
Emmanuel (MP 121)

### Scripture Readings read by Margaret Hobbs Isaiah 9v 2-7

\*The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onwards and for evermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

### John 8 v12

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.'

### Address "From Darkness to Light"

## Creed

**We believe and trust in God the Father who made the world**  
**We believe and trust in his son Jesus Christ who redeemed mankind**  
**We believe and trust in his Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God**  
**We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

## Song from Sarah

**Prayers** Richard Denyer

We 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.**  
**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.**

**May God the Father who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son to come among us in great humility, open our eyes to look for his coming again.**

**May God the Son give us grace to live in the light of his coming as our Saviour, Redeemer and Judge.**

**May God the Holy Spirit strengthen and empower our lives to share the good news of Jesus with those around us through our words and through our acts of service.**

**An Advent Poem** by Gill Sathymoorthy

### A Prayer of Commitment

**Heavenly Father; on this Advent Sunday we give you thanks for all your blessings to us. We thank you for homes, families, friends and provision for all our needs. Thank you for the gift of your Son to be our Saviour and Lord and we thank you for the promise of his coming. We offer our lives that we may honour and serve you all our days. Help us to walk in the Light. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### The Blessing

### Talk Outline "From Darkness to Light"

Physical blindness  
Intellectual blindness  
Moral blindness  
Spiritual blindness

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The searchlight!  
The warning light!  
The landing light!

Jesus brings direction for a lost world; reality to a confused world and light to a dark world

**Book of Remembrance:**

Kathleen Margery Duthie, Elsie Dorothy Corben  
Anne Parker Neale, Elizabeth Margaret Jones (Bette)  
Raymond Frank Soundy

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