



# St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December

## Collect

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

## Music

From Heaven you came ("The servant king") MP 1  
The Lords my Shepherd ("I will trust in you alone") MP 1008  
Christ be with me (Stuart Townend)

## Readings

1 Thessalonians 4.13-18  
Matthew 1. 18-25

## A MESSAGE FROM REV. KEN HOBBS

Welcome to our service this morning here in St John's and at home. The new screens and projection system are being used for the first time today. Do bear with us as we get to grips with all the communication possibilities this will offer us. Thank you for supporting this project.

A special welcome this morning to Andy Shaw who is our guest preacher.

All the details for Christmas are in this week's news and next Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> there will be a bumper 2 week edition to include Dec 27<sup>th</sup> as well.. Thank you to all those who are distributing the Christmas Cards and letter to the parish and I encourage everyone to sign up for the Celebrations on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> if you are planning to be in church. Christmas Morning is not ticketed and open to all. The access codes for joining our services have now been simplified to [stoneleigh.tv](http://stoneleigh.tv) Just type this into your browser to connect with us at home.

I am pleased to say that the Diocese has now given instructions that Holy Communion can now be received in both kinds (bread and wine) using the method known as "intinction"

I will give details on Sunday morning. People are still free to receive only bread if they wish.

Whilst there will be no Midnight Communion at St John's this year, we have been invited to join the Zoom service that is being hosted by St Paul's, Howell Hill. More information next week.

God bless you

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**

## SUNDAY SERVICES

All lives services in church are now being streamed via [www.stoneleigh.tv](http://www.stoneleigh.tv) rather than Zoom. Any problems, please let us know.

**Tim Rogers**

## 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 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 and for which service. If you are booking a household ticket,

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please let me know how many will be attending from your household. Any questions, please speak with Rev. Ken.

**Kerrie 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.

**Rev. Ken Hobbs**

### NEW SCREENS

The new video system is up and running and already enhancing our services. It's not too late if you would still like to make a donation towards the cost of the new system. Please contact the Treasurer, Tim Rogers, for details of how to make such a gift.

**Tim Rogers**

### 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**

### TRADCRAFT

We are sorry to say that we have decided to cease the Traidcraft Stall because the Covid situation has meant that we have been unable to hold our regular monthly stall after the Sunday service.

We would like to thank you all for your custom. In the years we have been selling Traidcraft items, the sales of over £3,700 have yielded a profit of £422, of which £100 was donated to the RUSH Christmas cow. The PCC have decided that the balance of £322 should go to the Epsom and Ewell Foodbank.

Thank you also for those who made donations via our stall to Traidcraft Exchange – whose mission is to use the power of trade to create lasting solutions to poverty.

**Veronica Gittins**

### FOODBANK

Last week I promised that I would leave you in peace until the New Year but then I received an email giving details of how the work to pack all the boxes that will go out over Christmas is proceeding. *Thank you all so much for helping with so many thoughtful items for the boxes.* Over the last two weeks they have also given clients vouchers that can be used at local butchers. They will also deliver fresh vegetables in time for Christmas lunch.

The need is great now but have you noticed how many temporary jobs have been created to cope with the Christmas demand? I looked up the job vacancy websites and saw that Argos, Primark, Poundland, Royal Mail, Amazon, Superdrug as well as all the supermarkets and many other smaller firms have taken on temporary labour. This means that in the new year the Foodbanks will be under even more pressure which makes me wonder just how they will cope.

Our local Foodbank has now issued a list of items they will need to ensure that stocks are available once the New Year demand gets started. I apologise for not giving you a break

after all but I know that some people like to maintain their weekly offerings. I've left off any Christmassy items so these are just the requests for regular stocks.

Washing up liquid, Tinned meat - not spam, Beans with sausages, Spaghetti with sausages, Nappies only sizes 4+, 5+, 6+, Baby shampoo, Baby wash, Baby wipes, UHT milk - semi skimmed and full fat only.

Thank you.

**Polly Elder**

### THE CHILDRENS SOCIETY

I will be collecting The Children's Society boxes and will be in touch with you in January.

**Rosalie Jackson**

### CHRISTMAS CARDS

There will be no central point for Christmas cards this year in the church as we can't use the pigeon holes. Please make your own arrangements to deliver your cards i.e. ask friends or neighbours to drop them in for you.

**Janis Forder**

### OFFICE

The office will be closed from 18<sup>th</sup> December and I will be back in the office on the 30<sup>th</sup> December.

**Kerrie Winter**

### Worship at Home/Church

#### Lighting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent Candle

**O Lord open our lips and our mouth shall proclaim your praise. Reveal among us the light of your presence that we may behold your power and glory.**

Greeting p5

**Hymn From Heaven you came ("The servant king") MP 1**

Confession p8

**The Lords my Shepherd ("I will trust in you alone") MP 1008**

#### Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Reading 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18 Chris Redrup

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who

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have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

### **Gospel Reading Matthew 1. 18-25 Chris Redrup**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Sermon

Creed p14

Prayers p15 Ian Hargrave

Peace p17

Song – Andy Shaw

Communion Prayer p27

Lords Prayer p 18

Prayer of Humble Access p20

Distribution of Bread (music may be played)

Prayer after Communion p22

**Hymn Christ be with me (Stuart Townend)**

Blessing p23

### **Talk outline**

- Who is Jesus and why did he come?
- Joseph: 'best supporting actor.'
- Jesus is coming again. How then should we live?

### **Book of Remembrance:**

David Henry Roberts, Sidney Barnard, Brian Leslie Stone, Winifred Mary Pope, Ian John Pennington, Frederick William Clements, Maud Catherine Fenton, Victor William Denyer.

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