



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

Sunday 20th and 27th December

Collect

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Music

Angels from the realms of Glory (MP 35)
Dear Lord and Father of mankind (MP 111)
Emmanuel Emanuel (MP121)
Joy to the World (MP393)

Readings

Philippians 2. 5-11
Luke 2 1-7

A MESSAGE FROM REV. KEN HOBBS

Welcome to St Johns today and to this double edition of the newsletter.

Firstly, thank you to all of you for the support given to Margaret and myself in this difficult and challenging year. Thank you for your Christmas cards and messages and we wish all of you a very happy and peaceful Christmas. God bless you all!

Secondly thank you to our Wardens Ken and Janis who have worked tirelessly to keep the building open and safe; to Jean for her management of the St John's Centre and the pastoral team; to Kerrie for all the work done behind the scenes; to the tech team of John, Tim, Sarah, Margaret and Den who have made it possible for everyone to be included at home and in the church building; to Chris Webb and the singers for their input and finally to everyone else. You have all played your part in making this year exceptional in every way.

I hope you will be able to join us in the church building or at home this afternoon at 4pm or 6 pm We welcome Rev Peter Harwood Diocesan Director of Mission as our guest speaker at these celebrations. More detail about how we are managing today and Christmas Morning and Sunday Dec 27th are given later in this newsletter.

Ken

HOLY COMMUNION

Last Sunday we followed Diocesan guidance on "intinction"- (my dipping your wafer in wine before handing it to you). This worked smoothly and although far from ideal it does fulfil the need to receive the sacrament in both kinds. The service is on the website and you can see it in operation.

Rev. Ken Hobbs

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

MIDNIGHT COMMUNION

There is no Midnight Communion at St John's this year, however, St Paul's Howell Hill have invited us to join their service online. Details are available at

<https://saintpauls.churchsuite.co.uk/events/4hrhpkml>

Rev. Ken Hobbs

UPCOMING SERVICES

Christmas Morning - There will be a Family celebration for Christmas Day at 10am of about 40 mins followed by a short celebration of Holy Communion for those who wish to stay (20 mins). No tickets are needed for this service. Come as a family and bring presents!

Sunday 27th December - At 10am we will be hosting a prepared service for everyone from the Diocese. We will stream this online at Stoneleigh.tv. If you would like to join me in the Church you can see the service on the big screens.

Sunday 3rd January - There will be a service for everyone at 10 am. The story of the Wise Men (Epiphany). We will welcome Sally and Yagya Singh (with daughter Vera) with us as guests. They work with families and villages in deprived areas of Nepal. Sally was brought up in Cheam. They will be genuine "Visitors from the East"!!

Spring Programme Card - These are available in church but will also be emailed to you. We will be looking at two extraordinary Old Testament Characters under the general title of "Light in the Darkness" The stories of Joseph and Joshua.

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 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

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

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Items to be included in the next notice sheet should be emailed by 12pm on Wednesday to Kerrie Winter, the Minister's Administrator, at office@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk

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

TRAIDCRAFT

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

THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone for their good wishes and cards and wish you all A very Happy Christmas.

Rene Grace

FOODBANK

First and foremost I would like to send you all greetings and my thanks for all your support for the Foodbank.

This is what the Team there has asked us to relay to you:

May we take this opportunity, on behalf of the whole Foodbank Team, to thank you for your continued help and support this year. It has been a difficult year for us all but by working together we have helped to support those most in need in our communities. We wish you all a very safe Happy Christmas and a brighter 2021.

I shall not be emptying the box now until the New Year but the Foodbank volunteers are already noting which items they need to prepare the deliveries in the first weeks of 2021.

Washing up liquid, Tinned meat -curry, chilli, stew, hotdogs and meatballs. Tinned meat pies, Beans with sausages, Spaghetti with sausages UHT milk - semi skimmed and full fat only, Longlife fruit juice, Longlife sponge puddings - not from chilled counter, Pasta sauce, Tinned vegetables, Packets of dried pasta in sauce, Coffee, Ketchup/brown sauce, Toilet rolls, Washing powder/tablets/capsules, Shampoo, Baby wipes, Conditioner, Bars of soap.

Thank you.

Polly Elder

OFFICE

The office will be closed from 18th December and I will be back in the office on the 30th December. Also, thank you for all the Christmas wishes.

Kerrie Winter

Worship at Home/Church

Lighting of the 4th 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

Using the worship Booklet

Greeting p 5

Hymn Angels from the realms of Glory (MP 35)

Confession p8

Hymn Dear Lord and Father of mankind(MP 111)

Collect

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him then he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

1st Reading Philippians 2. 5-11 read by Tim Rogers

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Luke 2: 1-7 read by Tim Rogers

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Sermon "Thorns in the Straw"

Creed p13

Prayers p15 Margaret Hobbs

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Peace p17

Hymn Emmanuel Emanuel (MP121)

Communion Prayer p33

Lords Prayer p 18

Prayer of Humble Access p20

Distribution of Communion (music may be played)

Prayer after Communion p22

Hymn Joy to the World (MP393)

Blessing p23

Talk Outline

Travel

History

Overcrowding

Rejection

News

Saviour

Book of Remembrance:

Frederick John William Jordan, Charles Stansfield,
Harry Blackbourn, Margery Eveline Farrow,
Julia Daphne Mazzola, Derek George Patman,
Eric William Orford

Video Reflection Christmas 2020

Welcome to another video reflection from St Johns Stoneleigh and the second of two for this Advent and Christmas season. I ended last time with the comment "How easily we miss Him" Life in Bethlehem was going on as normal. The hospitality industry was at full stretch. The traders and sellers were dispensing their wares. The civil servants were organising the census. Any yet something momentous was happening under their noses and most people missed it.

Some years ago a social experiment was organised by the Washington Post. On a cold January morning at a Metro station in Washington DC a young violinist played several classical compositions as people rushed past, Some stopped briefly. Others hardly appeared to notice the young busker. He played for 45 mins and by that time 7 people had stopped and listened for a while and 20 gave money as they walked past. He collected around \$32. When he stopped playing nobody noticed and nobody applauded.

His name was Joshua Bell, an internationally renowned musician. His violin was worth \$3.5M Two days earlier he had played those same classical pieces to a sold out Boston theatre where people had paid \$100 for a ticket! Only 1 person recognised him on that cold bleak midwinter morning I reflected on that true story. If we have no time to listen to one of the world's best musicians playing the world's finest music on one of the most beautiful instruments ever made, what else could we be missing as we barrel through life.

As that lovely carol puts it

Our God heaven cannot hold him. Nor the earth sustain
Heaven and earth shall flee away, when he comes to reign
In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

May you know in this bleak pandemic winter, the unseen presence of the Prince of Peace in your hearts and homes. I wish you a very happy Christmas

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