



St John's, Stoneleigh

Weekly Newsletter

Sunday 6th December

Collect

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.

Amen

Music

Lo He comes with clouds descending (MP 424)

Seek Ye first the Kingdom of God (MP 590)

There is a Redeemer (MP673)

Make me a channel of your peace (MP456)

Readings

Acts 17: 1-15

1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10

A MESSAGE FROM REV. KEN HOBBS

Welcome back to St Johns after our 4 week exile and also of course to everyone at home. Today we welcome Geoff Andrew as our guest speaker and we are looking forward to Geoff and Anne joining us next summer after his ordination as our associate minister (curate).

The new projection system has now been installed and hopefully from next Sunday we shall be using it. Please bear with us as we get used to using it and thank you to everyone who has supported this project.

With the relaxation of the restrictions we are now able to plan for the Christmas services here at St Johns. Full details are in this and subsequent newsletters and I encourage everyone who would like to be part of the Christmas Celebrations on Dec 20th (4pm and 6pm) to book their place(s) by contacting the parish office. Thank you to those who have volunteered to sing in both the "virtual" and the "live" choir. We will be joined by members of All Nations Church, our Korean friends.

These identical celebrations and the one on Christmas morning will be both live in church and on zoom. There is no need to book for Christmas Day. You can now access the services on zoom directly by typing in stoneleigh.tv on your screen

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 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, 20th 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, 10th and Thursday 17th 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 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) 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

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

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CHRISTMAS STORY

The Christmas Story from All Souls Langham Place will be presented online 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

SUNDAY 13TH DECEMBER

We welcome Andy Shaw who is both a musician and a Licensed Lay Minister at St Mary's Burgh Heath as our guest preacher. He will be speaking on the general theme of "Advent"

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.

Rev. Ken Hobbs

FOODBANK

Thank you everybody for supporting the Christmas Appeal. You are doing a brilliant job of dropping items off despite the fact that the church has had to be closed. I'm hoping that it will be open more next week. The list has been amended a bit. We used to have a young family to stay and when the youngest was asked what he would buy when he was older he replied 'a tablecloth and shiny cutlery' - it was a lesson to me in what was really important to children -so I'm delighted to see tablecloths on the list. Which item will make you smile? I just had to grin at the inevitable washing up liquid. Please remember that donations should be sealed, in date and contain no alcohol. I'm sorry -the poor volunteers cannot cope with items which are not on this list at the moment. The cut off date is 11 December so I'm afraid we haven't got long now one last big push please St Johns and I'll leave you in peace until next year.

Please donate

Trifle mix; Tin foil; Stuffing mix; Adult treats such as chocolate orange, matchmakers, truffles etc; Christmas wrapping paper; Selotape; Disposable festive table cloths; Washing up liquid.

It's also time for Yule logs/Stollen/Christmas cake/Pannetone - watch the dates and no alcohol.

Gift vouchers for Wilkinson's, Poundland, Superdrug, Boots - specific to this wish list . The reason for choosing these stores is they only sell essential items.

The Foodbank will always welcome cash donations - please put them in an envelope for me thank you.

Bless you all for your kindness everyone

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

Worship at Home/Church

Lighting of the 2nd Advent Candle

Let the Heavens Rejoice and let the earth be glad before the Lord: for He comes! (1 Chron 16 31,33)

Greeting p5

Hymn Lo He comes with clouds descending (MP 424)

Confession p8

Collect for the Day

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

Amen

Hymn Seek Ye first the Kingdom of God (MP 590)

1st Reading Acts 17 v 1-15 read by Maggie Savill

After Paul and Silas² had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three sabbath days argued with them from the scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah³ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, 'This is the Messiah,⁴ Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you.' Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. But the Jews became jealous, and with the help of some ruffians in the market-places they formed a mob and set the city in an uproar. While they were searching for Paul and Silas to bring them out to the assembly, they attacked Jason's house. When they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some believers⁵ before the city authorities,⁶ shouting, 'These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also, and Jason has entertained them as guests. They are all acting contrary to the decrees of the emperor, saying that there is another king named Jesus.' The people and the city officials were disturbed when they heard this, and after they had taken bail from Jason and the others, they let them go.

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That very night the believers⁺ sent Paul and Silas off to Berea; and when they arrived, they went to the Jewish synagogue. These Jews were more receptive than those in Thessalonica, for they welcomed the message very eagerly and examined the scriptures every day to see whether these things were so. Many of them therefore believed, including not a few Greek women and men of high standing. But when the Jews of Thessalonica learned that the word of God had been proclaimed by Paul in Berea as well, they came there too, to stir up and incite the crowds. Then the believers⁺ immediately sent Paul away to the coast, but Silas and Timothy remained behind. Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens; and after receiving instructions to have Silas and Timothy join him as soon as possible, they left him.

1 Thessalonians 1 v1-10 read by Maggie Savill

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters⁺ beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of people we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place where your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions⁺ report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Sermon

A song from Sarah

Creed p14

Prayers p15 Joan Simon

Peace p17

Hymn There is a Redeemer (MP673)

Communion Prayer p31

Lords Prayer p 18

Prayer of Humble Access p20

Distribution of Bread (music may be played)

Prayer after Communion p22

Hymn Make me a channel of your peace (MP456)

Blessing p23

Talk Outline

This morning we'll be looking at three **Priorities** for church growth, and within that three sub-Ps:

- Believing in the **Power** of the Gospel
- Living with **Purpose**
- **Perseverance** and Hope

Book of Remembrance:

David Alan Taylor, Joanne Louise Goodman,
Hilary Jane Runnals

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