



St John's, Stoneleigh

Weekly Newsletter

12th September 2021

READINGS

Ezra 3: 6-13
Matthew 25:14-30

MUSIC

God is working his purpose out (MP 189)
Be Still for the presence of the Lord (MP 50)
O Jesus I have promised (MP 501)

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

Today is the second in our series of three sermons on Stewardship based on the book of Ezra. Last week we talked about Time, this week it's all about Talents, our gifts and abilities. We're very pleased to welcome back Rev Michael Dunk who will lead the service and preside at Communion. In the coming week we plan to launch our publicity for the new service format and Harvest Festival in October which includes fliers, posters, Facebook promotions and a new website. Exciting times! I do hope that the new church magazine will also be ready for you to collect and deliver to your adopted roads. As I write this, we're not completely sure whether we will have them in time so I'll have to confirm on the day.
Geoff

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

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 live services in church are now being streamed via <https://stoneleigh.tv>. Any problems, please let us know. 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.

Tim Rogers

PARISH MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTION

All being well we are hoping to have the magazines, leaflets and stewardship letters available on Sunday for collection. If this isn't the case, Kerrie will contact you to let you know when they are ready. There are some roads that haven't been assigned to anyone so please take a look and put your name down if you can help.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

A letter is being sent regarding our stewardship campaign. Please keep any eye out for this in your email inbox or post box during the week of the 13th September.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

BABY & TODDLER GROUP



The Baby & Toddler Group started back this week and it was lovely to see so many new faces in attendance. The group will run every Tuesday during term time in the Parish Centre, 10am until 11:30am. There is no booking required so please do just turn up. Thank you to all the volunteers that help with running this group, it couldn't be done without you all. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Gin Yershon

New Beginnings and Exploring Anxiety and Depression

As you will be aware, mental health issues are seriously affecting people during the pandemic and there are two courses (in person) are being run that may be of interest.

New Beginnings

New Beginnings is for anyone suffering a divorce, separation or broken relationship. Its aim is to help people to come to terms with the past and make a fresh start in a friendly and supportive atmosphere.

The group begins in person on Thursday, 23rd September at 7.30 pm. It lasts 10 weeks and is free and open to everyone. For more information, please call Colin on 07855 245 619 or new.beginnings@blueyonder.co.uk

www.saintpauls.co.uk/newbeginnings

Exploring Anxiety and Depression Online

This self-help group seeks to provide helpful perspectives in a friendly and supportive atmosphere, but does not provide counselling or therapy. Professional and experienced speakers help us to look at various ways of combating anxiety and depression. There is also ample time for discussion.

The 10 week course starts in person on Wednesday, 22nd September at 7.45 pm. For further information please email Judith on exploringanxietydepression@gmail.com

www.saintpauls.co.uk/EAD

Colin and Judith Atty

MIDWEEK FOCUS

I am delighted to tell you that Midweek Focus resumes at St Paul's Howell Hill on Wednesday 22nd September. This won't be a lunch event but will start at 2:30pm. Please contact me for more information.

Rev. Ken Hobbs

A DAY FOR ALL

St Mary's Ewell are having a 'Day for All' on Saturday 2nd October, 12pm until 4:30pm. Please the leaflet at the front of church for more information.

Rev. Ken Hobbs

FOODBANK

When we moved from the North I had never got round to going through my filing cabinet so it got thrown in the van and made the journey down here in the hopes that I would get a chance to 'weed it' before we moved on again. This week I finally explored a few folders and was immediately dispatched down Memory Lane. My old school speech day programmes were fascinating; the choir always sung a couple of songs - to break up the evening I suspect. I was surprised at how many I remembered - and there suddenly, was my favourite - Count your blessings. Anyone else sing that at school? It gave me a happy little boost so the Foodbank List is passed on to you this week with a tiny encouragement to Count your Blessings by popping something into the box for someone who might be finding it hard to identify their blessings just now.

Every item on this list falls into the Urgently required category:-

Long life sponge puddings, Meat pies, Sugar (500g bags), Tinned vegetables, Rice, Tomato ketchup, Mayonnaise, Peanut butter, Jam, Rice pudding, Shaving foam, Baby wash, Washing up liquid, Shampoo, Washing powder & pods (bio & non-bio).

Bags for Life - very urgently needed

Thank you all.

Polly Elder

PRESENTATION OF SILVER WOLF

At our Harvest Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 3rd October, Viv Frisby is to receive the Award of The Silver Wolf (Presentation was to have been made on Mothering Sunday 2020). We shall be welcoming Joe Rogerson, County Scout Commissioner and Phil Currie, Deputy County Commissioner to the service.

It is hoped that many will be coming to join us on this special occasion.

Richard Denyer

Deputy District Commissioner

Order of Service

Theme: Transforming Generosity: Talents

'With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord: 'He is good; his love towards Israel endures forever.'" (Ezra 3: 11a)

Hymn God is working his purpose out (MP 189)

Confession p7 (Most merciful God...)

Collect (15th after Trinity)

Lord God, defend your Church from all false teaching and give to your people knowledge of your truth, that we may enjoy eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Reading 1 Ezra 3: 6-13 read by Nicholas Hamilton

6 On the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the Lord, though the foundation of the Lord's temple had not yet been laid.

7 Then they gave money to the masons and carpenters, and gave food and drink and olive oil to the people of Sidon and Tyre, so that they would bring cedar logs by sea from Lebanon to Joppa, as authorised by Cyrus king of Persia.

8 In the second month of the second year after their arrival at the house of God in Jerusalem, Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jozadak and the rest of the people (the priests and the Levites and all who had returned from the captivity to Jerusalem) began the work. They appointed Levites twenty

years old and older to supervise the building of the house of the Lord. 9 Joshua and his sons and brothers and Kadmiel and his sons (descendants of Hodaviah[a]) and the sons of Henadad and their sons and brothers – all Levites – joined together in supervising those working on the house of God.

10 When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments and with trumpets, and the Levites (the sons of Asaph) with cymbals, took their places to praise the Lord, as prescribed by David king of Israel. 11 With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord:

'He is good;

his love towards Israel endures for ever.'

And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. 12 But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy. 13 No one could distinguish the sound of the shouts of joy from the sound of weeping, because the people made so much noise. And the sound was heard far away.

Reading 2 Matthew 25:14-30 read by Nicholas Hamilton

14 'Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. 15 To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag,[a] each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. 16 The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. 17 So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. 18 But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

19 'After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more."

21 'His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

22 'The man with two bags of gold also came. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with two bags of gold: see, I have gained two more."

23 'His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

24 'Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. "Master," he said, "I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you."

26 'His master replied, "You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? 27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

28 "'So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. 29 For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. 30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Sermon Rev Geoff

Hymn/ Song Simplicity (listen to Lily & Anne)

Creed p14 (Though he was divine...)

Prayers p15

Peace p17

Hymn/ Song Be Still for the presence of the Lord (MP 50)

Communion Prayer Prayer H, p33

Lord's Prayer p18

Prayer of Humble Access p20 (We do not presume...)

Distribution of Communion

Prayer after Communion p22 (Father of all...)

Hymn/ Song O Jesus I have promised (MP 501)

Blessing & Dismissal p23

Book of Remembrance

Joan Angela Davey, Dorothy Margaret Cutcliffe,
Leslie Edward Mason, Reginald William Pinn
Enid Brenda Webber

Sermon Notes

- Rebuilding the temple was a team effort – everyone had a role to play
- Ezra pays as much attention to the apparently 'minor' roles as he does to the leadership roles
- We need to reflect carefully and prayerfully about our own contributions
- Age is definitely no barrier!
- Change is hard...it's natural to feel nostalgic for the past as we build for the future
- The Israelites celebrated as they went along...let's do the same!