



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

5th September 2021

READINGS

Ezra 1

MUSIC

I Will Worship (MP 991)
I Will Offer Up My Life (MP 990)
Be Thou my Vision (MP 51)

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

We wish Ken and Margaret a restful and happy holiday as they head off for the next couple of weeks to Cornwall. Today we begin a three-Sunday series on Stewardship, reflecting on God's gifts to each of us of Time, Talents and Treasure. Starting today with 'Time', we will be looking at these themes through the lens of the Old Testament book of Ezra which describes the rebuilding of the temple after 70 years of exile. Please take note of the items in today's newsletter concerning distribution of the new church magazine and also collection of your Stewardship letter.
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

The production of the magazine is well underway and we are grateful to all those who have contributed to the magazine and to Mike Gittins for putting it all together.

Distribution – There is distribution list at the front of the church with a list of road names in the Parish. Please put your name down if you're able to help with distribution. Kerrie will be in touch with the those who are delivering magazines when they are ready for collection. We hope for the magazines to be available for collection the week of 13th September.

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 starts this Tuesday 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

FOODBANK

First of all I want to thank everyone for the donations I took to the Foodbank today. The items requested by the Furniture Project were a special surprise and were welcomed by an extremely grateful team.

I'm handing over the rest of this item to Chris, one of the volunteers at the Foodbank I see each week. He has kindly written a little about his work each week.

"I volunteer at the foodbank every Wednesday. My main role is to receive the very kind donations of food and sort them, by date and type into crates ready for the team that prepares packages of food for issue to those in need, who we call our clients. I was also doing deliveries to clients' homes during lockdown but this has reverted to our system of clients coming into our collection centres where they can also have a chat and receive some advice. I feel really blessed to meet the very kind and generous people who bring their goods, many on a regular basis. They range from church groups, street groups, individuals as well as the supermarket collections. Every donation no matter what size can make a big difference to those in need and also shows them that others care. When I was delivering during lockdown I was also fortunate to receive directly very deep felt thanks, but I took that not for me but to those who give."



This week's list of needed items all fall into the Urgently Required category

Long life sponge puddings, Powdered Milk, Meat pies, Sugar (500g bags), Tinned vegetables, Rice, Tomato ketchup, Mayonnaise, Peanut butter, Jam, Rice pudding, Shaving foam, Baby wash, Pump soap, Kids toothbrushes, Washing up liquid, Shampoo, Washing powder & pods (bio & non-bio), Bags for Life

Please, no more donations of the following items at this time: pasta, baked beans, porridge, baby shampoo, tampons, sanitary towels, marmalade, cat/dog food, adult toothbrushes.

Thank you.

Polly Elder

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

Order of Service

Theme: Transforming Generosity: Time

"Everyone whose heart God had moved prepared to go up and build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem" (Ezra 1: 5b)

Greeting

One thing I have asked of the Lord, this is what I seek:

**that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life;
to behold the beauty of the Lord
and to seek Him in His temple.**

Who is it that you seek?

We seek the Lord our God

Do you seek him with all your heart?

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Do you seek him with all your soul?

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Do you seek him with all your mind?

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Do you seek him with all your strength?

Amen. Christ, have mercy.

Hymn/ Song I Will Worship (MP 991)

Confession

God our Father,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins.
For turning away from you,
and ignoring your will for our lives;

Father, forgive us:

save us and help us.

For behaving just as we wish,

without thinking of you;

Father, forgive us:

save us and help us.

For failing you by what we do,

and think and say;

Father, forgive us:

save us and help us.

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you
by temptations in the world about us;

Father, forgive us:

save us and help us.

For living as if we were ashamed
to belong to your Son;

Father, forgive us:

save us and help us.

God who is both power and love
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Interview With Sally and Yagya

Songs Sally & Yagya

Sermon P1

Video The Captives Come Home

Reading Ezra 1 read by Maggie Savill

1 In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfil the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah, the Lord moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing:

2 'This is what Cyrus king of Persia says:

“The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. 3 Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the Lord, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them. 4 And in any locality where survivors may now be living, the people are to provide them with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with freewill offerings for the temple of God in Jerusalem.”

5 Then the family heads of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and Levites – everyone whose heart God had moved – prepared to go up and build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem.

6 All their neighbours assisted them with articles of silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with valuable gifts, in addition to all the freewill offerings.

7 Moreover, King Cyrus brought out the articles belonging to the temple of the Lord, which Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and had placed in the temple of his god.[a] 8 Cyrus king of Persia had them brought by Mithredath the treasurer, who counted them out to Sheshbazzar the prince of Judah.

9 This was the inventory:

gold dishes 30
silver dishes 1,000
silver pans[b]

29

10 gold bowls 30
matching silver bowls 410
other articles 1,000

11 In all, there were 5,400 articles of gold and of silver. Sheshbazzar brought all these along with the exiles when they came up from Babylon to Jerusalem.

Sermon P2

Song I Will Offer Up My Life (MP 990)

Prayers Inc. Lord's Prayer

Peace

God will speak peace to his people,
to those who turn to him in their hearts.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you

Hymn Be Thou my Vision (MP 51)

Blessing & Dismissal

Book of Remembrance

Barbara Peters

Sermon Notes:

- Time is a great equaliser – we all have the same number of hours in the day
- How we spend and prioritise our time is important as Christians
- The book of Ezra focuses on the return of the Jewish people to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem after 70 years of exile
- Today, in relation to 'Time', we learn that:
 - o God continues to work out his purpose, even if to us it seems to be taking too long!
 - o God needs us, as his followers, to give time to partner with him; for 'our hearts to be moved'
 - o The returning exiles prioritised worship
- As we begin to rebuild and reach out once more to the people of Stoneleigh, it will be demanding on our time
- Pray that God will help us to use our time wisely