



St John's, Stoneleigh

Weekly Newsletter

28th November 2021

A MESSAGE FROM REV. KEN HOBBS

Welcome to St John's and at home for our Advent Services. Advent is the church's New Year as we begin the journey to Christmas. Advent is also a season for reflecting on the promise of Jesus' return. As we prepare spiritually for Christmas, you will see below details of our planning meeting for the many practical aspects of our services over Christmas. This morning we welcome Ali Mbuga who is the Operations Director for International Needs and we will be hearing from her this morning with news on the RUSH Academy in Kenya who are one of our mission partners. God bless you
Ken

MY LICENCE

The Diocese of Guildford has just renewed my licence as Priest In Charge of St John's for a further year. I have discussed this with the Bishop of Guildford and Archdeacon Martin and in consultation with Geoff and our Church Wardens have agreed that after this current year (2022) I will step down as your minister. By the end of next year I will be pushing 76! Transitional arrangements will be put in place to enable Geoff to continue as Curate/Associate Minister and effectively "Priest in Charge Designate." I will endeavour over these months to continue to further establish and develop our collective ministry at St Johns.
Rev. Ken Hobbs

THURSDAY COFFEE MORNING

Thursday morning coffee via Zoom at 10:30am is still taking place. For the Zoom link, please email the office.
Rev. Ken Hobbs

SUNDAY SERVICES

Our 9:30am service is 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

CHRISTMAS PLANNING MEETING

As you will see in this newsletter we have a full schedule of Christmas services this year. In order to make sure everything gets done, we will be holding a planning meeting on December 6th at 11am in the Parish Centre. This is an open invitation to anyone who would like to get involved to come and join us.
Rev. Geoff Andrew

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

I have spoken to various people about this year's Carol Concert on Sunday, 19th December and have had a very encouraging response. I am planning to hold five rehearsals in advance.

Because there is not one particular day of the week that suits everyone and because I have a number of Council meetings during November and December on a Thursday evening, rehearsals will take place on the following dates:

- Friday, 3rd December 7.00pm until 8.30pm
- Wednesday, 8th December 7.00pm until 8.30pm
- Friday, 17th December 7.00pm until 8.30pm
- Sunday, 19th December 3pm until 5pm (the Carol Concert will start at 6pm)

If you haven't already signed up and you wish to participate, would you please add your name to the list in church.

Chris Webb

CHRISTINGLE

Christingles preparation is on Thursday 23rd December at 10am in parish room not Christmas Eve as previously mentioned. It usually takes about an hour to an hour and a half depending on how many people help. Please let me know if you are available to help. Many thanks.

Janis Forder

CHRISTMAS CARD DISTRIBUTION

Christmas cards will be available to collect from Sunday 5th December. The cards will be in boxes in the family area, the envelopes have road names on. There are still plenty of opportunities to help with distribution.

Kerrie Winter

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday December 19th

9:30am Holy Communion

11:00am Worship for Everyone (both on a Christmas theme)

6:00pm Carol Service

Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib and Christingle Service

11.30pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day

10 am Family Worship followed by a short Holy Communion

Sunday December 26th Boxing Day

10:00am - Diocesan Service livestreamed in church (or at home)

Please note there will be no midweek services on Monday and Wednesday during the week before and after Christmas.

Rev. Ken Hobbs

CAFÉ

Our opening on Thursday was a great success. Ken Mussell, our barista mastered the art of cappuccinos and lattes, we had lovely homemade cakes from Jean Renno, Jane Mussell organised us all and decorated the atrium, Hilary flitted between learning how to use the coffee machine, waitressing and chatting to people. I eventually learned how to use the new payment machine after the first hiccup and took orders. Please join us next Thursday between 1.30pm and 3.30pm and spread the word we are open.
Janis Forder

FOODBANK

'Tis the season of lists! One year I was beautifully organised with my lists, I had them for cards, presents, church activities and responsibilities, food, who to ring and when, sleeping arrangements for the visitors, cooking times - you name it - I had a list. Of course they didn't all work and I almost drowned under sheets of paper! One list that I hope and pray you will continue to take note of as we come up to the most pressurised time of year is that for the Foodbank.

Here are this week's requests:-

Custard, UHT milk - Full fat and semi skimmed, Longlife fruit juice; Instant mash, Spaghetti in sauce, nappies and pull ups for 4+ and 6+, Bags for life, Selection boxes, Christmas puddings (with no alcohol), Savoury snack such as crisps, twiglets, cheeselets etc., mince pies, packet stuffing, Christmas napkins, Christmas tea towels, Gifts cards of £10 for Argos, Boots, Superdrug or Wilkos.

Polly Elder

Order of Service – 9:30am

Lighting of the 1st Advent candle

Jesus said “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life.”

Advent Greeting p 41

Hymn O Come O Come Emmanuel (MP 493)

An alternative Confession

Advent is the church's "New Year". We begin to prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus at Christmas and we think too of the promise of his second coming, This is an opportunity to make a "resolution" to put things right between us and God.

Lord of grace and truth, we have often forgotten you, crowded you out of our busy lives, and not bothered to look for you
Lord forgive and heal us.

The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.
Forgive our disobedience to your will.
Lord forgive us and heal us.

Your Son, our Saviour was born in poverty in a manger.
Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
Lord forgive and heal us.

The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem. Forgive our self interest and lack of vision.
Lord forgive and heal us.

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus the King.
Forgive our reluctance to seek you.
Lord forgive and heal us.

Dear Lord

Renew our vision; restore our watchfulness; make us faithful as you are faithful, that when you come in glory we may hear you say “enter into the joy of your Lord” Amen

Collect

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Luke 21: 25-36 read by Tim Rogers

'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

Sermon Rev. Geoff Andrew

Praise

Lift up your heads to the coming King (MP 418)

News from RUSH

Prayers p15

The Peace p 17

Song Emmanuel Emmanuel (MP 121)

Communion Prayer p33

Lords Prayer p 18

Distribution of Communion (music may be played)

Prayer after Communion p22

Hymn Joy to the World The Lord has come (MP 393)

May God the Father who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son to come among us in great humility, open our eyes to look for his coming again.

May God the Son give us grace to live in the light of his coming as our Saviour, Redeemer and Judge.

May God the Holy Spirit strengthen and empower our lives to share the good news of Jesus with those around us through our words and through our acts of service.

The Blessing

Book of Remembrance

Kathleen Margery Duthie, Elsie Dorothy Corben
Anne Parker Neale