



St John's, Stoneleigh

Weekly Newsletter

12th December 2021

A MESSAGE FROM REV. KEN HOBBS

Welcome to our worship today both in the building and at home. Today is the 3rd Sunday in Advent and we are now focusing on the theme of the coming King. Thanks to all those who have distributed Christmas cards and café fliers. Do take the opportunity to invite family, friends and neighbours to our Christmas services this year and you can see our guidelines about staying Covid secure below.

God bless you
Ken

GUIDANCE FOR ATTENDING CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S:

At present there are no restrictions or regulations in place covering church services. However, we are all being asked to take sensible precautions. Numbers attending our main Christmas services are likely to be greater than normal. We are therefore asking all those attending to:

- Take a lateral flow test before coming if you are able to do so. Please do not attend if this is positive or if you are showing any Covid symptoms
- Sanitise your hands on entry to the church
- Wear a face covering throughout the service if you are aged 11 or over, unless you are exempt
- Wear warm clothing as the church will be well ventilated.

This includes the Carol Service, Crib Service, Midnight Communion and Christmas Day. We look forward to welcoming you but also want to ensure that we all stay safe.

*Rev Ken Hobbs, Rev Geoff Andrew,
Janis Forder and Ken Mussell*

HOLY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

We are delighted that we have now been given permission by the Bishop to use individual disposable communion cups, in line with the practice of many of our colleagues in other churches. You will now be able to receive at the rail, either kneeling (or standing if you wish) and after you have consumed please place the small plastic cups in the bin at the front as you return to your seat. We will give further directions in the service. Many of you have been asking about this for some time and there is widespread recognition in the C of E that it will be a long time before there will be a "common chalice". We live in exceptional times and it is appropriate that we can now receive communion in both kinds in this way.

Rev. Ken Hobbs

COLLECTIONS

We have not had a formal offertory in church for over 18 months, in order to avoid more common handling. I would like to thank all who give to St Johns by other means. Can I remind

you that there are baskets at the door as you leave if you wish to still give in this way.

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 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, 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

MINCE PIES FOR CAROL SERVICE:

We will be serving mince pies and mulled wine after the Carol Service on Sunday 19 December - outside if the weather permits. We would be grateful for donations of mince pies and/or bottles of mulled wine for this event. Please bring them either this Sunday (12th) or on the morning of the 19th.

Jean Tutton

CHRISTINGLE

Christingle 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 AND LEAFLET DISTRIBUTION

Christmas cards and leaflets advertising the café will be available to collect from Sunday 5th December. The cards and leaflets 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

CHRISTMAS CARDS

For those who do not live in the Parish, can you let yourself be known to the Churchwarden on Sunday as there is a Christmas card for you.

Rev. Ken Hobbs

FLOWERS

Flower people are desperately needed to go on a rota to put flowers in church. Aylza has told Jane that after many years of helping with church flowers she will no longer be able to go on the rota from the new year. Please let Jane know if you are able to help. Many thanks.

Janis Forder

CHRISTMAS MEAL

King's Church Epsom is to provide a Christmas meal to anyone who is on their own this year. The details are found via the link below where anyone can also book in. The meal is at the church on Christmas Day. Exceptionally, a home delivery can be considered for anyone who has mobility issues.

<http://thekingschurch.org/christmasmeals>

Robin Calcutt

On behalf of King's Church Epsom

PIGEON HOLES

The pigeon holes at back of church are now available to use for Christmas cards. Please use only for people who come to church or live near people who do come. Thanks.

Janis Forder

FOODBANK

My Mum didn't often quote from books when we were small but one character she used very often when teaching us was Mrs Do As You Would Be Done By from Charles Kingsley's The Water Babies. This very Victorian book doesn't sit entirely well with today's thinking but Mrs Do As You Would Be Done By showed that kindness went a long way. Currently we see a great deal of anger, spite, bullying, and downright horridness demonstrated through our journalism and social media. Thankfully though, there is frequently lots of evidence around us that Mrs Do As You Would Be Done By's message is very much alive and well in local communities as shown by the great support given to our Foodbank. This week their email started with a message of gratitude and they reported that every donation makes a difference. Please try to help out with something off this list of items which are urgently needed:-

Custard, Longlife fruit juice, Gravy granules / stock cubes / stock pots, Longlife sponge puddings, Tea bags, UHT milk (full fat and semi skimmed only please), Dried pasta and sauce, Packet soup, Instant mash, Tinned spaghetti in sauce, Nappies and pull ups 4+ & 6+, Christmas Bags for Life.

Thank you

Polly Elder

Order of Service – 9:30am

This 9 30 HC service uses some of the Advent liturgy)

Welcome and Introduction

Lighting of the 3rd Advent Candle

“But you Bethlehem Ephrathah though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times” (Micah 5v2)

The Advent Greeting p 41

Hymn Name of All Majesty (MP 481)

An Advent 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

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Isaiah 40: 1-5 read by Maggie Savill

40 Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.

2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her

that her hard service has been completed,

that her sin has been paid for,

that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice of one calling:

'In the wilderness prepare
the way for the LORD;^[a]
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.^[b]

⁴ Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
'For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

Luke 3: 1-18 read by Maggie Savill

3 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar – when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene – 2 during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 4 As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

'A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
"Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.

5 Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.

6 And all people will see God's salvation."^[a]

7 John said to the crowds coming out to be baptised by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father." For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. 9 The axe has been laid to the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.'

10 'What should we do then?' the crowd asked.

11 John answered, 'Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.'

12 Even tax collectors came to be baptised. 'Teacher,' they asked, 'what should we do?'

13 'Don't collect any more than you are required to,' he told them.

14 Then some soldiers asked him, 'And what should we do?' He replied, 'Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely – be content with your pay.'

15 The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah.

16 John answered them all, 'I baptise you with^[b] water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with^[c] the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.' 18 And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

Sermon Geoff

Hymn The Lords my Shepherd (I will trust in you alone) MP 1008

Creed p14

Prayers p15 Margaret Hobbs

The Peace p 17

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

Communion Prayer p31

Lords Prayer p 18

Distribution of Communion (music may be played)

Prayer after Communion p22

Hymn See amid the Winter's Snow (MP 588)

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

Hillary Jane Runnals, David Henry Roberts,
Sidney Barnard, Brian Leslie Stone,
Winifred Mary Pope, Ian John Pennington