



St John's, Stoneleigh

Weekly Newsletter

19th December 2021

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL!

Welcome to all our services at St John's over this Christmas including those of you joining in from home. Thank you to all of you for your support and participation as we celebrate "The Greatest Story Ever Told". Our thanks go to the Wardens, the Tech Team, the musicians and singers and all who have worked behind the scenes to make all this possible. The full schedule of services is given below and on your Christmas Cards. Do invite friends and family to join us. We ask for God's blessing on you and your family and may you find fresh hope and reassurance for the road ahead.

God bless you

Ken

A MESSAGE FROM REV. KEN HOBBS AND REV. GEOFF ANDREW

Thank you for all the encouragement you have given us this year and thank you for your good wishes and cards. We wish you a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Ken and Margaret

Geoff and Anne

GUIDANCE FOR ATTENDING SERVICES OVER CHRISTMAS AT ST JOHN'S:

With the new government 'Plan B' restrictions now in place, and in line with diocesan advice, we would kindly ask that you observe the following:

- 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, including during singing
- Wear warm clothing as the church will be well ventilated

SEATING

We have adjusted the seating in St John's to accommodate larger congregations allowing for some social distancing. If you would like to strictly observe social distancing the gallery is one place to go. Come early if this is your preference. There is extra pew seating at the back of the church and the blue chairs remain more or less as they have always been. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served outside (weather permitting!) after the Carol Service.

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*

SPRING PROGRAMME CARDS

These are available at both doors "Good News Down the Street-Meeting Jesus in Luke's Gospel"

Rev. Ken Hobbs

MIDWEEK SERVICES

There will be no Morning Prayer (Monday) and BCP Holy Communion (Wednesday) for the next two weeks and because 3rd January is a Bank Holiday the next service of Morning Prayer will be on January 10th. There will be a Wednesday Holy Communion on January 5th.

Rev. Ken Hobbs

ALL NATIONS CHURCH

We are delighted to partner with All Nations Church at the 11am service and our thanks go to Grace and the music team for providing live worship for us each week.

Rev. Ken Hobbs

CRIB/CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

There will be retiring collection in aid of the Children's Society.

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

Final rehearsals are as follows:

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

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

CRAFT CLUB

The next Craft Club will be held on Monday, 20th December, 10am - 12noon in the Parish Room. Bring your crafting, wear something festive and see you there. Masks will be worn, windows will be open and tables spaced.

Veronica Gittins

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

ST JOHN'S CAFÉ

St John's café will be open on Thursday 23rd December but will be closed on Thursday 30th December.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

OFFICE

Please note that the office will be closed from Friday 17th December. I will be back in on Wednesday 29th December. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas.

Kerrie Winter

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM NEPAL

May God give you a lovely, relaxing, and joyful Christmas season and bless the start of a hopeful New Year for 2022! If you would like to receive live updates, exclusive photos, and immediate prayer concerns, please join our WhatsApp prayer group. Send Sally a message on her Nepal number: +9779845045306 and ask to be added!

Sally, Yagya and Vera



FOODBANK

At one of my previous churches we tried a Faith Supper. Everyone was welcome, church goers or not. Everyone was invited but not coerced to bring a little something towards the supper - nothing like our Harvest Suppers when certain ladies brought the apple pies, others always did a salad, the local butcher donated slices of cold meat etc - no, this was just an invitation to share. I suppose, those of us of little faith got a real shock when the food just kept on arriving there was plenty for everyone and we distributed all that we could afterwards to the local youth clubs, old people's homes and to the housebound we knew who would appreciate a little treat. The event was so much enjoyed that it was repeated. I wonder if that happened at the feeding of the 5,000 - our Lord was seen to share out and so the crowd joined inmaybe. Anyway it's only one small step from Faith Suppers to sharing something with others via the Foodbank - and this year we have really witnessed a miracle.

The demand for their services has increased so much just recently that they have had to create extra opening times to enable everyone who needs help with food to have access to

supplies over the Christmas fortnight. Details are on the website. The reception centre for donations will be closed from for a short period to enable volunteers to man the extra opening times so we'd be grateful if you could give yourselves a little break over Christmas itself.

There is a list of urgently needed items though if you could let us have something before 23rd December or after January 4th. They need: Toilet rolls, UHT milk (full fat and semi skimmed only please), Longlife fruit juice, Gravy granules / stock cubes / stock pots, Longlife sponge puddings, Tea bags, Instant mash, Custard, Household cleaning products, Adult toothpaste, Hair conditioner, Sanitary pads, Dried pasta and sauce, Packet soup, Nappies and pull ups 4+ & 6+, Bags for Life

Thank you everyone for helping us contribute to the miracle of sharing that has supported the Foodbank this year. Have a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Thank you

Polly Elder

Order of Service – 9:30am

(This 9:30am Holy Communion service has some Advent modifications).

Lighting of the 4th Advent candle

“My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour” (Luke 1. 46-47)

Advent Greeting p 41

Hymn Meekness and Majesty (MP465)

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 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

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

1st Reading 1 Samuel 17: 45-50 read by Janis Forder

David said to the Philistine, 'You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. 47 All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands.'

48 As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly towards the battle line to meet him. 49 Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

50 So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.

Gospel Reading Luke 2: 1-20 read by Janis Forder

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.'

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Sermon Rev. Geoff Andrew

Praise

Prayers p15 Ian Hargrave

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 O Little Town of Bethlehem (MP 503)

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

Frederick William Clements, Maud Catherine Fenton,
Victor William Denyer, Frederick John William Jordan
Charles Stansfield