



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

5th December 2021

A MESSAGE FROM REV. KEN HOBBS

Welcome to our worship at St John's and at home. Today we finish our Autumn series on the story of Nehemiah with a summary of the way in which Nehemiah and Ezra's reforms would affect the lives of the returning exiles. As we return in stages from our "Covid exile", let us pray that St John's will be a beacon of hope in Stoneleigh. Today is the second Sunday of Advent and there is lots of detail in the newsletter about our Christmas services and how you can be involved.

God bless you

Ken

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 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 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

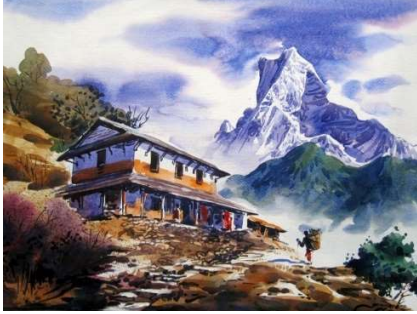
RUSH ACADEMY

For anyone who missed RUSH Academy last week and would like more information, there are details at the front of church.

Rev. Ken Hobbs

AN UPDATE FROM NEPAL

Wow! The time has really flown by and it's amazing how quickly Christmas is looming! We are doing well here in Nepal after returning in Sept. We took a few weeks to settle back in and get our bearings again and now we've been busy this past month with various jobs! It feels good to be back, and we're ready to see some of those big projects started soon!



How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Isaiah 52:7

Here are some prayer points.

1. Pray for this Christmas season, pray for joy and no fear for the believers here, pray for them to be full of faith during this pandemic. Pray for them to have wisdom and more love for their fellow Nepalis.
2. Pray for the work of Bridges Nepal, for the water tank as we break ground in the coming months.
3. Pray for each of our sponsored families and the children, for them to study well and to grow in their intelligence. May they become great assets to their parents.
4. Pray for our family to be a Godly example to those around us and for us to be closer to God everyday.
5. Pray for more regular donors who want to be part of our journey. For God to continue to provide for our financial needs and finish this year without deficit.

Sally, Yagya and Vera Singh

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

This is the time of year when Christmas jingles are broadcast in the shops and many public places. Whenever I've shopped I've found myself feeling lighter and full of expectation. The first line of one song, which has been around for since 1948, gets under my skin though. 'All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth' just sticks annoyingly in my brain. Thankfully the

Foodbank's weekly list of requirements does not include teeth! Please try to help them out as demand on the Foodbank's resources keeps growing.

They need; Custard, Longlife fruit juice, Longlife sponge puddings, UHT milk (full fat and semi skimmed only please); Dried pasta and sauce, Instant mash, Tinned spaghetti in sauce, Nappies and pull ups 4+ & 6+, Christmas Bags for Life I don't get up to church very often now but when I did call in recently it was a joy to see the box quite full, thank you all.

Polly Elder

Order of Service – 9:30am

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

Lighting of the 2nd Advent Candle

“And you child shall be called the prophet of the most high, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way”

The Advent Greeting p 41

Hymn Lo he comes with clouds descending (MP 424)

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, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.

Amen

Nehemiah 9: 1-3 and 12. 27-30 read by Chris Redrup

On the twenty-fourth day of the same month, the Israelites gathered together, fasting and wearing sackcloth and putting dust on their heads. 2 Those of Israelite descent had separated themselves from all foreigners. They stood in their places and confessed their sins and the sins of their ancestors. 3 They stood where they were and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for a quarter of the day, and spent another quarter in confession and in worshipping the LORD their God.

Nehemiah 12: 27-30 read by Chris Redrup

At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, the Levites were sought out from where they lived and were brought to Jerusalem to celebrate joyfully the dedication with songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps and lyres. 28 The musicians also were brought together from the region around Jerusalem – from the villages of the Netophathites, 29 from Beth Gilgal, and from the area of Geba and Azmaveth, for the musicians had built villages for themselves around Jerusalem. 30 When the priests and Levites had purified themselves ceremonially, they purified the people, the gates and the wall.

Luke 3 1-6 read by Chris Redrup

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.”

Sermon Ken

Hymn Take my Life and let it be (MP624)

Creed p14

Prayers p15 Ken Mussell

The Peace p 17

Song Emmanuel Emmanuel (MP 121)

Communion Prayer p24

Lords Prayer p 18

Distribution of Communion (music may be played)

Prayer after Communion p22

Hymn Make me a channel of your peace (MP 456)

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

Elizabeth Margaret Jones (Bette), Raymond Frank Soundy
David Alan Taylor, Joanne Louise Goodman