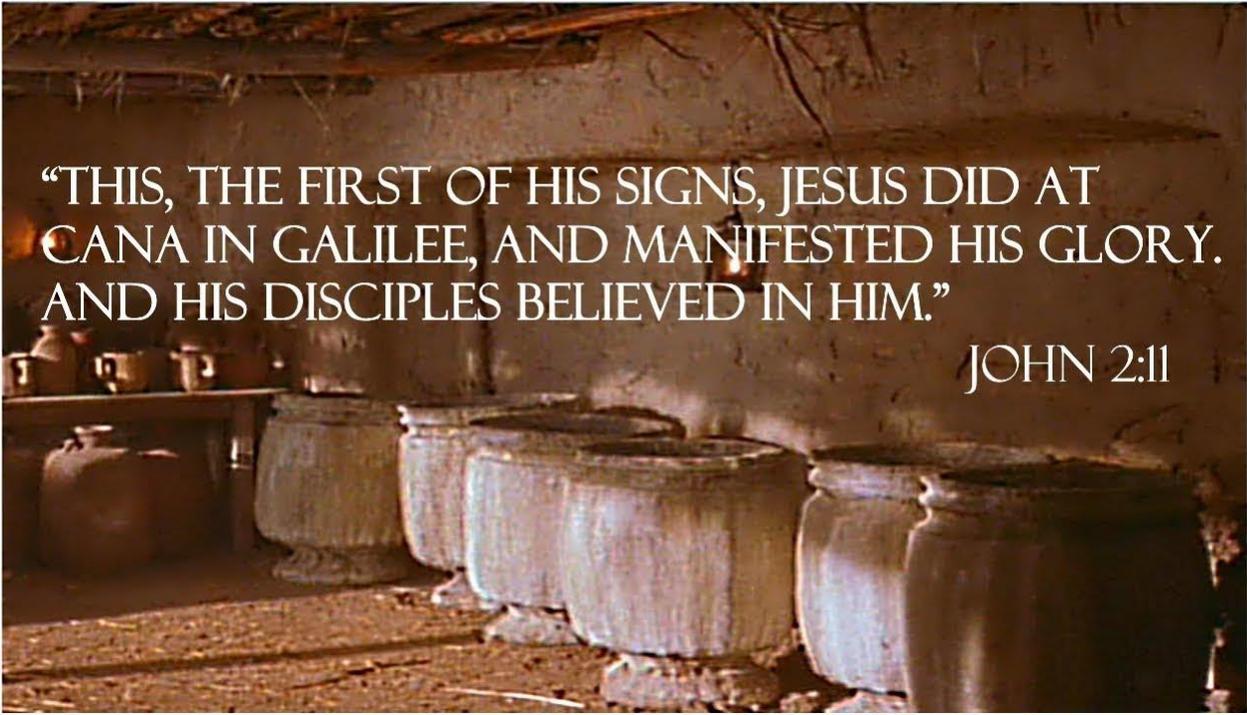


St. Mary's, Stoke D'Abernon

The Third Sunday of Epiphany



“THIS, THE FIRST OF HIS SIGNS, JESUS DID AT CANA IN GALILEE, AND MANIFESTED HIS GLORY. AND HIS DISCIPLES BELIEVED IN HIM.”

JOHN 2:11

January 24th 2021

A Message from our Rector

Here at the start of the second chapter of John's Gospel, we are at a wedding feast. It looks like Mary may have been a relative or friend of the family, so Jesus would have been invited as well and because Jesus went, so did his disciples. An event like this one would be a huge event with many days of celebration for family and friends. People would come together and enjoy food and drink as they partied with the new bride and groom. Accordingly, the host would prepare with a good supply of wine. Throughout the scriptures, wine serves as a symbol of blessing, abundance, and joy. Running out of wine at a wedding feast would bring shame upon a family.

Mary comes to Jesus with the news that the wine had run out! Why does she tell him? It is more likely that Mary is letting her son know the situation because he and his disciples are at least partly responsible for depleting the wine! Imagine thirteen or more men showing up at even the most well-planned banquet and how that might strain your supplies. But Mary trusts that Jesus will do something about it, instructing the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Jesus has the servants fill these six large stone jars with water, jars that would normally be used for ceremonial washing and purification. Each would have held around 20-30 gallons, and the servants filled them up to the point of overflowing. They might have been wondering just why he told them to do it, but they did it anyway. And then Jesus tells them to draw some out and take it to the head steward for him to taste. It was a strange request but they

they did it anyway. The rest, as they say is history. The head steward drank wine where there had once been water – and it was good! The servants followed Jesus’ direction and he provided in abundance. To give you an idea of just how much he provided, the volume would have been between 600-900 bottles.

To whom was this great changing of water into wine made known? To the servants, the ordinary people going about their business. To the disciples, those whom Jesus had called to follow him as he shaped them for service. This evidence of God’s extravagant grace was revealed without angel choirs singing or a voice speaking from the heavens. The servants did what Jesus told them, and the Lord did an amazing thing, manifesting his glory. John reports, “And his disciples believed in him.” Might Jesus be doing something similar for us today?

The transformation of the water into wine is a powerful piece of symbolism because it reflects the way in which we are transformed as Christians when we come to realise the importance of faith in our lives.

Thoughts and prayers

Godfrey



Bible References 24 – 30th January 2021

Year B	Psalm	First reading	Second reading
3rd Sunday of Epiphany January 24th	Psalm 128	Revelations 19 : 6-10	John 2 : 1-11
Monday January 25 th	Psalm 67	Acts 9 : 1-22	Matt 19 : 27 - end
Tuesday January 26 th	Psalm 40 : 1-4, 7-10	Hebrews 10 : 1-10	Mark 3 : 31 - end
Wednesday January 27th	Psalm 110 : 1-4	Hebrews 10 : 11- 18	Mark 4 : 1-20
Thursday January 28th	Psalm 24 : 1-6	Hebrews 10 : 19 - 25	Mark 4 : 21-25
Friday January 29th	Psalm 37 : 3-6, 40 - end	Hebrews 10 : 32 - end	Mark 4 : 26 - 34
Saturday January 30th	Canticle : Luke 1 : 69 - 73	Hebrews 11 : 1-2, 8 - 19	Mark 4 : 35 - end

Hyperlinks to Guildford Cathedral Services :

<https://www.guildford-cathedral.org/worship/services>

St Mary's, Thorpe website :

<https://www.stmaryschurchthorpe.co.uk/>

Collect 24th January 2021

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen



Parish Notices

Sunday Services at St. Mary's

We have decided to close St Mary's for services for the foreseeable future. The Church will remain open for funerals and private prayer on Thursdays and Sundays until we advise otherwise.

Hall Opening

Sadly the hall has had to shut.

Post, emails and telephone calls to the Parish office will be monitored and responded to. Please address any general enquiries, in the first instance, to: admin@stmarysstokedabernon.org.uk or Tel. 01932 866005

The weekly Parish leaflet will continue and be sent out on regular email distribution to those on the electoral role and others who have specifically requested it. Similarly, the St Mary's website will be updated to advise of any changes from the current situation.

The St Mary's Chat WhatsApp Group will continue to allow people to share their prayers and thoughts. Godfrey will continue to post his personal messages, including his Sunday message.

For those unable to access WhatsApp, my video messages are also available on this Website Home page and my Sunday messages also appear under **Sermons** on the **Quick Links** on this page.

We will continue with our regular postings of my video clips on Twitter and Instagram, so do follow us on **@StMarysstokedab**



If you are struggling with loneliness and need someone to talk to, or would like help with groceries or anything else, please don't hesitate to call Polly in the Parish Office on 01932 866005 in the first instance.

Chair Yoga will continue on zoom

Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckcO-trzljEtGrmiE7 - BsHlGkmVpnJCXR](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckcO-trzljEtGrmiE7-BsHlGkmVpnJCXR)

(If you cut and paste this into your browser it will automatically link you)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

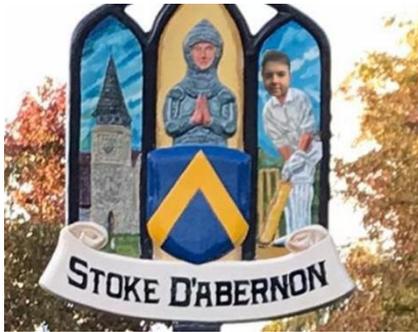
Meeting ID; 858 5729 6019 Passcode: 35 44 47

Stoke D'Abernon war memorial

It has recently come to light that the children's playground opposite the Old Plough is a registered war memorial. We have learned that a number of cherry trees were planted in 1946 by the WI to commemorate the 16 service men who died in WW2. There are plans to restore the area with the planting of new trees and a stone memorial. This is being organised by Cobham Heritage, Stoke D'Abernon residents' association and Elmbridge council. If anyone has any knowledge or memories of the planting, please contact Ian Nelson on 01932 863073 or ian.s.nelson@btinternet.com

History of Blundel Lane

Stephen Spark, who takes a keen interest in local history, is compiling an article about the history of Blundel Lane. If you have any photos or interesting information, please contact Ian.



Stoke D'Abernon Residents Association

Dear Residents,

Proposal to build a new pedestrian bridge on Blundel Lane

We are all aware of the narrow road bridge over the railway line on Blundel Lane. I am seeking your help in demonstrating community support for a new pedestrian bridge to be constructed alongside the existing road bridge. The current bridge poses a hazard to pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. A new bridge would allow safer access between Stoke D'Abernon & Cobham, and Oxshott.

Surrey County Council has announced a new "Your Fund Surrey" scheme with £100m to be spent over the next five years on capital projects. All we need to do at this stage is to demonstrate "community support". Please do this by visiting the Stoke D'Abernon Residents' Association website and clicking on the Blundel Lane Bridge photo, then "register your support" by clicking on the link. Click the "Agree" button and you will then be asked to insert your email address so that Surrey CC know your vote is genuine. If you have friends or family who might support this, please ask them too.

The website is: <https://www.stokedabernon-residents.org.uk/>

Your Fund Surrey will review this first round of applications in March. If this proposal gets through the first round, the second round will involve a more lengthy and detailed list of questions.

Thank you,

Ian Nelson

Stoke D'Abernon Residents' Association

Hey! Don't forget the ...

Here is the list of items most needed for our Foodbank. Please can you help us by buying an item and putting it in one of our collecting bins? Thank you for your help.

- **Toilet rolls**
- **UHT Milk whole/full fat and semi skimmed**
- **Drinking chocolate**
- **Fruit squash**
- **Custard**
- **Tomato ketchup**
- **Peanut butter**
- **Shampoo**



Collecting bins are listed below. Please check Church websites for their opening hours.

- Waitrose, Cobham
- Sainsbury's High St, Cobham
- Oxshott Village Store
- Cobham Rugby Club open 9am - 4pm
- The Bakery, Effingham & Hollyhedge Road, Cobham
- St Andrew's Church Cobham
- St Mary's Church Stoke d'Abernon
- St Martin's Church, East Horsley

Our Christmas Appeal



So far we have raised nearly £5,000 from your generous donations. We are keeping the appeal open until the end of January just in case anyone still wishes to give.

A reminder :

50% will go to St Mary's

25% will go to Oasis

Providing vital support to children and their families in Elmbridge.

25% will go to Water Aid

"When a community gets clean drinking water for the first time, it's the start of something life-changing"