



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

11th December 2022

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

This week, the third Sunday of Advent, our sermon series The Waiting Room focuses on John the Baptist, the one who came to 'prepare the way' for Jesus. We are delighted to welcome Archdeacon Martin who will be preaching at both our services on Sunday. The 9.30am service includes Prayers for Healing and the 11am Holy Communion. I would like to say a big 'thank you' to all those who pushed Christmas Service cards through letterboxes in the past couple of weeks. What a wonderful opportunity to host our friends and neighbours over Christmas and share the good news of Jesus, Immanuel, the light of the world!

Rev. Geoff Andrew

WORSHIP BOOKLETS

The new 'Worship at St John's' booklets are available in church and on the website at:

<https://church.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Advent-Season-Service-Book-2022-11-29.pdf>

Rev. Geoff Andrew

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

We will be holding our Christmas Carol Service on **Sunday December 18th at 6.30pm.**

Chris Webb

SERVICES BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

There will be no midweek Morning Prayer or Holy Communion between Christmas Day and New Year's Day. On New Year's Day, there will be one service at 10am. Monday morning prayer will also not take place on January 2nd. The normal pattern of services will resume from January 4th with a service of Holy Communion at 9.30am

Rev. Geoff Andrew

SUNDAY SERVICES

Our 9.30am service is streamed via <https://stoneleigh.tv>. Any problems, please let us know.

Tim Rogers

UKRAINE CRISIS APPEAL

With Christmas quickly approaching please can we add a few extra seasonal items to our list as follows:

Chocolate tubs – Celebrations, Heroes etc. Biscuit Selection boxes, Victoria, Foxe's etc, Marshmallows, Assorted Roasted Nuts. Hot Chocolate. Soup packets and tins.

Thank you so much for your support.

Shelly, Ukrainian Refugee Contact

UKRANIAN REFUGEE NETWORK

Epsom & Ewell Refugee Network urgently needs to find more sponsors and landlords for Ukrainian refugees. If you or anyone you know could consider taking in a refugee, please speak to Rev. Geoff.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

CRAFT CLUB

December Craft Club will be on Monday, 19th December 2022.

Veronica Gittins

FLOWERS FOR THE CHURCH

Please speak to Anne Andrew if you would like to donate flowers to be displayed in the church, perhaps in memory of a loved one or for a special occasion. We would be delighted to hear from you and write a dedication to go in the newsletter and be displayed in the church.

Anne Andrew

TOGETHER AT CHRISTMAS

Are you alone at Christmas this year? Come and join us for a traditional festive dinner!

Churches Together in Ewell is pleased to offer a Christmas dinner plus festive activities to all who would otherwise be on their own. Christmas Day 12.30 – 4.15pm at a local church. This offer is open to all Ewell residents. Transport can be arranged. There is no charge. To join us please call: 07999 805 475 or email: christmas.dinner@dsl.pipex.com

Sue Pennington

DONATING TO ST JOHN'S



If you would like to contribute financially to the work of St John's, you can donate using this QR code. Using your smartphone's camera will take you straight to a page where you can make a donation using a credit card. Thank you.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

FOODBANK

Figures for the first two months of term have just been issued. In September the Foodbank fed 783 people (468 adults and 315 children) and in October they fed 795 people (451 adults and 344 children.)

This week stocks of the following are very low – can you help please? - Tomato Ketchup, Shaving Foam, Anti-Bacterial Wipes, Squash, Non-Bio Washing Pods/Powder, Non plastic Baby Wipes, Bags for Life.

No more: Washing up Liquid, Pasta, Pulses, Non-Dairy Milk, Peanut Butter, Baby Wash. Bless you all.

Polly Elder

ROOFBREAKER

A member of our church family, Suzanne Lyse, works for a disability charity called Through the Roof. The name derives from the story of the paralysed man being lowered through the roof to be healed by Jesus. The charity is encouraging

churches to appoint a disability champion or 'Roofbreaker', someone who listens to disabled people and responds to their issues to enable full inclusion and belonging in church life. Suzanne will be our designated Roofbreaker. We pray that her experience and knowledge will help us to become a more inclusive church. Congratulations to Suzanne!

Rev. Geoff Andrew

Growth Groups

In the New Year, I will be launching and hosting a new discipleship program based on a housegroup format. The aim of the group is to help us grow in our faith and learn how to apply what we learn in the real world. To that end, the group will meet every week for 4 weeks, then have a month's break, then meet again for 4 weeks. Between January and July, the group will meet for 4 x 4 weekly sessions (16 sessions in all). The format will consist of worship, prayer and bible study with an added element of practical application. There will be two groups, one daytime and one evening, but run on the same day (Wednesdays). The dates are Jan 11 – Feb 2; Mar 8 – Mar 30; May 3 – May 24; Jun 21 – Jul 13. To take part, you must commit for the January sessions and attend as many times as possible thereafter. A sign-up sheet is available at the front of the church. Please speak to me if you are interested.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

Church Planning Morning

On Saturday January 14, from 9.30 – 12.30, we will be holding an open meeting for all members of the church family to attend a Planning Day at which we will present a framework for our Parish Development Plan (something required of us by the diocese) for discussion and feedback. We would love as many people as possible to attend so please put it in your calendar now. I promise there'll be coffee and cakes!

Rev. Geoff Andrew

Sunday's Services

Today's Service

The Waiting Room: John the Baptist - Waiting with expectation

Rev. Geoff Andrew

John appears as a prophet, wearing garments reminiscent of Elijah (hairy and a leather belt). John has two proclamations: a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins and a message that a greater one is coming after him. The primary intention of John was not to draw attention to himself, but to the one of whom he is the forerunner: "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me, I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals" (1:7).

Readings

Isaiah 61.1-3

John Rogers

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion – to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendour.

John 1.6-8,19-28

Rev. Geoff Andrew

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ¹⁹ Now this was John's

testimony when the Jewish leaders[□] in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰ He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, 'I am not the Messiah. ²¹ They asked him, 'Then who are you? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' ²² Finally they said, 'Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' ²³ John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, 'I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, "Make straight the way for the Lord." ²⁴ Now the Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵ questioned him, 'Why then do you baptise if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?' ²⁶ 'I baptise with water,' John replied, 'but among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷ He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.' ²⁸ This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

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.

Intercessor

Janis Forder

Music at 9.30am

1. O Come O Come Emmanuel (MP 493)
2. God is working his purpose out (MP 189)
3. Be Still for the Presence of the Lord (MP 50)
4. Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord (MP 631)

Music at 11am

1. O Come O Come Emmanuel
2. Waymaker
3. What a Beautiful Name
4. O Praise the Name

From Our Book of Remembrance

Hillary Jane Runnals

Ian John Pennington