



# St John's, Stoneleigh

## Weekly Newsletter

18<sup>th</sup> December 2022

### A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

My prayers have been going out this week to all those struggling with the freezing temperatures and snow. If you are going away this weekend, do travel safely. Of course, I hope that you will be around to join in with our celebrations now that Christmas is firmly in our sights. Our morning services, journeying through Advent in 'The Waiting Room,' focus this week on Mary. At 6.30pm on Sunday, we will be holding our Carol Service and I hope as many as possible can attend (especially now that England will not be featuring in the World Cup final!). Blessings to you all!  
**Rev. Geoff Andrew**

### RUSH AND ROCK CHOIR

Thank you so much for a wonderful evening with the Rock Choir on Friday 9th December. We raised £570 for the children's Christmas at RUSH school and the widows feeding programme. We are so pleased and grateful for your continued support. Happy Christmas to all.

**Danny Morris Director International Needs**

### 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 today, December 18<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup>. The normal pattern of services will resume from January 4th with a service of Holy Communion at 9.30am  
**Rev. Geoff Andrew**

### CHRISTINGLE SERVICE – SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT 4.00pm

We will be holding our Christingle Service in aid of the Children's Society. We will be making the candles on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 2.00pm in the Parish Centre and would be grateful for volunteers to help make the candles, you will be welcomed with coffee/tea and cake! We have 100 candles to put together so any help would be gratefully received.

**Social Committee**

### 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.

January's meeting will be on Monday 16th January 2023.

**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](mailto: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**

Here is a little Christmas game for you all - spot the one item we have been constantly asked not to provide in this week's please 'help us with' list. We'll know how many got the answer right when we empty the donation boxes!

There will be no Foodbank list on Christmas Day's notice sheet so this is my last chance to thank everyone for your loyal and generous support all through the year. I'd also like to acknowledge and thank Maggie and John Saville for all the work they quietly get on with in ensuring that our donations get to the depot. Thank you too to Janis Forder for making sure that our monetary donations are properly banked. And finally, you have no idea how many times I've received a text to remind me that the list is needed for the notice sheet... many thanks to Kerrie and Chris for all their efficiency, patience and support. It would have been a tough year for me without this team.

So here is your list of items which the Foodbank is requesting help with please:- Tomato Ketchup, Shaving foam, Anti Bacterial Wipes, Washing up liquid, Squash, Non Bio washing pods/powder, Non plastic baby wipes, bags for life. Bless you. **Polly Elder**

## **CHANGE OF DAYS FOR CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR**

Chris McInnes, our Church Administrator, has changed her working pattern, she will now be working on a Monday from 9.00am to 5.00pm and on a Thursday from 9.00am to 1.00pm, no longer working on a Wednesday and Friday.

**Rev. Geoff Andrew**

## **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: Mary - waiting with wonder**

**Rev. Geoff Andrew**

In this fourth week of Advent, our attention turns to Mary, mother of our Lord Jesus Christ. After recovering from the initial shock of her encounter with the angel Gabriel, Mary rushes off to visit her cousin Elizabeth, the soon-to-be-mother of John the Baptist. Our gospel reading today is Mary's remarkable prayer which we know as the Magnificat. It is a beautiful, joyful, exclamation of grateful thanks to God combined with a powerful statement of the Father's will to restore justice to the earth through the Son. Joy and Justice...we will look today at the nature of joy and how justice may flow as a result.

### **Readings**

#### **Galatians 5:19-26**

**Janis Forder**

<sup>19</sup>The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup>idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup>and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup>Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup>Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. <sup>26</sup>Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

#### **Luke 1: 39-56**

**Rev. Geoff Andrew**

<sup>39</sup>At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, <sup>40</sup>where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup>In a loud voice she exclaimed: 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! <sup>43</sup>But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfil his promises to her! <sup>46</sup>And Mary said: 'My soul glorifies the Lord <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, <sup>48</sup>for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, <sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me – holy is his name. <sup>50</sup>His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup>He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. <sup>52</sup>He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. <sup>53</sup>He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful <sup>55</sup>to Abraham and his descendants for ever, just as he promised our ancestors.' <sup>56</sup>Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

### **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.

### **Music at 9.30am**

1. O little town of Bethlehem
2. See amid the winter's snow
3. There is a Redeemer
4. Angels from the realms of glory

### **Music at 11am**

1. Angels from the realms of glory/Emmanuel
2. While shepherds watch
3. Calypso Carol

**From Our Book of Remembrance**

**Terry Allen**

**Victor William Denyer**