



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

1st January 2023

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

Happy New Year everyone! At the turn of this new year, my prayer for all of us in 2023 is that we would experience more of the love and peace of Jesus in our lives, more of the riches of his grace and more of the comfort and power of the Holy Spirit. A little more peace and goodwill on earth would not go amiss either. On this first Sunday - first day - of the year, it is a great encouragement that one of our own, Ian Hargrave, will be preaching today. Unfortunately, we have no technical support available to us this weekend so we are unable to Zoom the service. Apologies to all those who are unable to attend church in person.

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

WEEKDAY SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S

The normal pattern of services will resume from Wednesday January 4th with a service of Holy Communion at 9.30am.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

UKRAINE CRISIS APPEAL



Shower gel, shampoo, soap, sanitary items, nappies, warm socks, protein bars, packet soups, First aid kits, toothbrushes, tooth paste, torches, Bandages and gloves.

Thank you so much for your support.

Shelly, Ukrainian Refugee Contact

UKRAINIAN 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

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

JOHN NEALE CELEBRATING HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

John Neale will be celebrating his 90th birthday on 19th January. He would like to invite all at St John's to celebrate with him on **Sunday 15th January** after the 9.30am service with cake and refreshments. All very welcome.

CRAFT CLUB

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

Veronica Gittins

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

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

Today's Service

New Year's Resolutions

A New Year and a chance for a new start. Many of us go into a new year unsure of whether to make New Year's resolutions...or if we do make them, we often question whether we'll keep them longer than the end of the month let alone a full year. But St Paul, in his wonderful letter to the Colossians, talks about a completely new way to live, a way that may take a lifetime to achieve but one which is lived out of gratitude to God and where we 'let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.'

Readings

Colossians 3:1-17

Janis Forder

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.⁸ But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.¹¹ Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5: 43-48

Rev. Geoff Andrew

⁴³ 'You have heard that it was said, "Love your neighbour and hate your enemy."⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?⁴⁷ And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than

others? Do not even pagans do that?⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Collect

Rev. Geoff Andrew

God our Father, in love you sent your Son that the world may have life: lead us to seek him among the outcast and to find him in those in need, for Jesus Christ's sake.

Intercessor

Chris Redrup

Music at 10.00am

1. The holly and the ivy
2. See amid the winter's snow
3. In the bleak midwinter
4. Angels from the realms of glory

From Our Book of Remembrance

Jamie Humphreys

Derek George Patman