



St John's, Stoneleigh

Weekly Newsletter

25th December 2022

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

May I wish you all a very Happy Christmas! The period of waiting is over and at last we can celebrate Jesus Immanuel, God with us. I hope you will be able to join us for at least one of our services this weekend. The Crib & Christingle service is at 4pm on Christmas Eve followed by an 11.30pm Midnight Communion. Then on Christmas Day there will be one service at 10am followed by a short communion. Many of us have been battling against colds and flu this past few days so my prayer is for health and recovery to enjoy Christmas with friends and family. God bless!

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

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 10.00am service is streamed via <https://stoneleigh.tv>. Any problems, please let us know.

Tim Rogers

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

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



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

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

Christmas Services

Midnight Service 11.30pm

Readings

1st Reading - Genesis 1 vs 1 – 5

Chris Redrup

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. 3 And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light 'day', and the darkness he called 'night'. And there was evening, and there was morning – the first day.

Gospel Reading John 1 vs 1 – 14

Rev. Geoff Andrew

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome^[a] it.

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.

9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Intercessor

Ken Mussell

Music at 11.30pm

1. Joy to the world
2. Silent night
3. O little town of Bethlehem
4. O come all ye faithful

Christmas Day - Service 10.00am

The Refugee King

Mission Update and Song

Sally & Vera Singh

Bible Reading – Matthew 2 vs 7 – 15

Video

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, 'Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.' 9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. 13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. 'Get up,' he said, 'take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.' 14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, 15 where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'Out of Egypt I called my son.'

Intercessor

Chris Redrup

Music at 10.00am

1. Hark the Herald Angels
2. O little town of Bethlehem
3. Ding dong, merrily on high

From Our Book of Remembrance

Harry Blackburn

Margery Eveline Farrow

Edwin Mowforth

Julia Daphne Mazzola