



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

15th January 2023

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

This week we start a new sermon series called Fit for the Future based on Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians. It's a fairly short book so I encourage you to read it in one sitting to get a sense of the overall situation in the young church of Thessalonica. You can also check out The Bible Project overview on YouTube. 1 Thessalonians asks and answers some significant questions that are still very relevant today: is it possible for Christian faith to survive and thrive in an indifferent or even hostile world? What does such a faith look like – at home, at work, wherever we find ourselves? And what kind of church does it take to sustain that vision? I hope you will find much to savour as we explore one of Paul's most endearing letters.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

SERVICE BOOKS

The Christmas and Epiphany Service book is 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

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 today, **Sunday 15th January** after the 9.30am service with cake and refreshments. All welcome.

Our Sunday 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

CRAFT CLUB

The first Craft Club of 2023 will take place on Monday, 16th January, from 10am -12 noon in the Parish Room. All are welcome, so bring your crafting and see you there!

February's meeting will be on Monday, 20th February.

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

START COURSE

On Tuesday, February 7th at 7.30pm, we will be embarking on another edition of the Start Course. This is a six-week course exploring the basics of Christianity. The format is an informal discussion group with video clips, music, prayer and lots of opportunities to share stories and ask questions. Please speak to me if you – or someone you know – is interested in joining.

Rev. Geoff 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

CHURCH PLANNING MEETING – CHANGE OF DATE

On Saturday February 4th 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

FOODBANK

Foodbank shelves must be emptying as fast as we can fill them as this week we have quite a sizeable list: Everything is classed as 'urgent please': Toilet Rolls, Female Deodorant, Shower Gel, Shampoo, Conditioner, Shaving Gel/Foam, Adult Toothbrushes, Adult Toothpaste, Household Cleaner, Washing up Liquid, Washing Powder, Nappies in the following sizes: 5, 5+ and 6+, Long Life Sponge Puddings.

They would also appreciate any bags for life/very strong bags/Christmas Bags for Life

Please, no more of these items: non-dairy milk, peanut butter, baby wash.

Thank you.

Polly Elder

RECYCLED SPECTACLES

If anyone has any old or unused spectacles they no longer need please bring them to church where they will go for recycling to a local charity.

Claire Cornell

Sunday's Services

Today's Service

Fit for the Future: What Truly Matters. (1 Thessalonians 1:1-10)

In this opening sermon, we will spend a little time talking about the background to the letter and the situation in Thessalonica (based on Acts 17). We then focus on Paul's opening words which are full of thanksgiving and encouragement. He enthuses about how well the church is doing in faithfully following Jesus to such an extent that their reputation is spoken of in glowing terms throughout the region. Now there's a challenge for us!

Readings

1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10

Graham Waller

1 Paul, Silas and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. ²We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. ³We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters[□] loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. ⁶You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. ⁷And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. ⁸The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia – your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, ⁹for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead – Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

Matthew 5: 13-16

Rev. Geoff Andrew

¹³ 'You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. ¹⁴ 'You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Collect

Rev. Geoff Andrew

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the Whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and Made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Intercessor

Ian Hargrave

Music at 9.30am

1. Tell out my soul (MP 631)
2. Great is Thy faithfulness (MP 200)
3. Breathe on me, breath of God (MP 67)
4. Now thank we all our God (MP486)

Music at 11am

1. O praise the name
2. Oceans
3. Waymaker
4. Everything

From Our Book of Remembrance

Thomas Arthur Aldridge

Beatrice Marie Ernstzen