



# St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2023

## A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

Greetings to all! I hope you have had a good week and have managed to practice that 'attitude of gratitude' we talked about last Sunday. In these winter months when the weather's bad and the days are short it is very tempting to retreat under the duvet! May I encourage you to keep supporting the Foodbank and the Ukraine Appeal (love is a doing word), remembering that there are many people who are facing really tough times at the moment. And if that's you, may God fill you with love, faith, and especially hope, giving thanks to Jesus who walks with us every step of the way.

*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*

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

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 7<sup>th</sup> 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*

## 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*

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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

Each week now our list from the store at the Foodbank starts with thanks for your help and requesting continued support as they seek to respond to those who are most affected by the cost of living crisis.

This week they urgently need: Tinned meat, Beans with meat, UHT Milk (FF and SS only), Long life juice, Instant mash, Dog / Cat food, Ketchup / Brown sauce, Chocolate spread, Adult Toothpaste, Sugar (500g bags only please), Cleaning products, Long life sponge puddings, Crisps, Nappies size 5/6/6+

We appreciate that lugging shopping to church may be difficult for some who still wish to support our appeal. Please remember that you can make a cash donation. Just put it in an envelope marked **FOODBANK** and hand it to a churchwarden or Welcomer. Many thanks.

*Polly Elder*

## IAN WEBB'S FUNERAL

We have now heard that Ian's funeral will be held on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 2.00pm at Morden Crematorium, Garth Road.

## Sunday's Services

### Today's Service

#### **Fit for the Future: What Truly Matters. (1 Thess 2:1-12)**

After Paul's glowing endorsement of the Thessalonian church in chapter 1, his comments in chapter 2 suggest that all was not sweetness and light behind the scenes. It seems that a faction within the church was bad-mouthing Paul, which provokes him into offering a robust and deeply-felt defence of

how he and his fellow missionaries conducted themselves during their time in Thessalonica. There are lessons for us here about commitment, authenticity and living by example.

### Readings

#### **1 Thessalonians 2: 1-12**

*Maggie Savill*

**2** You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. **2** We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. **3** For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. **4** On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. **5** You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed – God is our witness. **6** We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. **7** Instead, we were like young children<sup>[a]</sup> among you. Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, **8** so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. **9** Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. **10** You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. **11** For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, **12** encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

#### **Matthew 6: 1-4**

*Rev. Geoff Andrew*

**6** 'Be careful not to practise your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. **2**' So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honoured by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. **3** But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, **4** so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

### Collect

*Rev. Geoff Andrew*

God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all of your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.

### Intercessor

*Chris Redrup*

### Music at 9.30am

1. Be thou my vision (MP 51) vs 1,2,4,5
2. The Lord's my shepherd (MP 660)
3. Father we love you (MP 142)
4. Christ triumphant (MP 77)

### Music at 11am

1. 10,000 Reasons
2. Goodness of God
3. I Exalt Thee
4. How Great Thou Art

## **From Our Book of Remembrance**

Norman Robert Johnson

Marjorie Kathleen Rhind-Tutt

Betty Marjorie Hooper

William Francis Farrow