



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

29th January 2023

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

I hope you are enjoying the new sermon series, 'Fit for the Future', as much as I am! Some of Paul's writings contain quite complicated theology, but 1 Thessalonians is full of practical, though challenging, advice. Thanks to those of you who have signed up for the Church Planning Morning on Feb 4th. I'm sorry I couldn't come up with a more exciting name for it, but I promise it won't be dull, and it is your chance to contribute to the future direction of St John's. This weekend marks the last Sunday of Epiphany, then follows a short interlude before we begin our journey into Lent.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

THE FUTURE OF ST JOHN'S

On Saturday February 4th from 9.30 – 12.30, we will be holding an open meeting for the whole church family to contribute to the future direction and priorities of our church. The session will be facilitated by Emma Coy from the diocese and it will be an opportunity to celebrate and share together how we can accomplish what God has in store for us in Stoneleigh. 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

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

CHANGES IN THE PARISH CENTRE MANAGEMENT

David Wiltshire has been involved in managing our Parish Centre Hall (and previously Dell Lane) for over 66 years. He was very involved in making the Centre, which is such an asset for St John's, a reality. His most recent role has been invoicing regular hirers. He has now decided that the time has come to retire. We have to say a very big thank you for so many years of faithful service and wish him a happy retirement! Claire Cornell is taking over responsibility for invoicing.

Jean Tutton has also decided that after 10 years in the role the time is right to stand down as Chair of the group that manages the Centre. We are very grateful for her many years in this role. I am delighted that Amanda Reed has agreed to take on this role. Many of you will know her from her work on the committee which organised the Jubilee Street party last year. She also helped promote our Season of Music last autumn.

Kerri Hawkins will continue to look after casual bookings. She can be contacted on hire@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk

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

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 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

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

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 3rd February at 2.00pm at Morden Crematorium, Garth Road.

17:00 Choral Evensong 29th January at Epsom College -

This Sunday, 29th January, local church choirs are combining for a special Candlemas Deanery Service, kindly hosted by Canon Andrew Haviland at Epsom College. This should be a lovely occasion with uplifting music and an opportunity to meet members of other local congregations. Evensong will begin at 5pm, and the music will include the beautiful setting of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in B flat by Stanford, and the Evening Hymn by Balfour-Gardiner. The service will last for approximately 45 minutes. Parking is very easy, just outside of the Chapel.

Sunday's Services

Today's Service

Fit for the Future: Living is Loving.

This section of the letter is marked by deep emotions on Paul's part, an expression of feelings for his friends that is almost intense. It allows us to plot something of what Christian friendship looks like as Paul describes his relationship with the Thessalonians. We are challenged to think about how friendship can equip us for whole-life discipleship – in the questions we ask of one another, the support we offer one another, and the determination that we grow together as disciples.

Readings

1 Thessalonians 3: 6-13

John Rogers

⁶But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you. ⁷Therefore, brothers and sisters, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. ⁸For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord. ⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. ¹²May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. ¹³May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

John 15:9-17

Rev. Geoff Andrew

⁹'As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: love each other as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷This is my command: love each other.

Collect

Rev. Geoff Andrew

God of heaven, you send the gospel to the ends of the earth and your messengers to every nation: send your Holy Spirit to transform us by the good news of everlasting life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Intercessor

Chris Redrup

Music at 9.30am

1. Guide me O thou great Jehovah
2. Love divine, all loves excelling
3. There is a Redeemer
4. All creatures of our God and King

Music at 11am

1. Shout to the Lord
2. No Longer Slaves
3. Good Good Father
4. Amazing Grace (my chains are gone)

From Our Book of Remembrance

Gerald Alfred Cater