



St John's, Stoneleigh

Weekly Newsletter

12th February 2023

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

It was wonderful to see such a good turnout for the planning morning last Saturday. Thanks to all who came for your enthusiastic participation and for your commitment to the future of our church. The main areas of focus for us, identified during the session, were Community Engagement, Children & Families and Prayer & Discipleship. Many great ideas were generated to help us grow in these areas and we shall be following up as soon as possible to circulate the output from the meeting and outline next steps.

Anne and I are away this weekend, so Rev'd Theresa Ricketts from St Mary's, Cuddington, has kindly agreed to step in to preach and lead the services. The 9.30 is a Prayers for Healing service and there is Communion at both services this week.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

LENT BOOKS

Dust and Glory - 40 daily reflections for Lent on faith, failure and forgiveness.

The above books are available for members of the congregation to take who wish to follow them through Lent. This is the Church of England's recommended course. We are requesting, if possible, a £2 donation to be left in the basket by the books. There are also five copies suitable for children's use.

Rev Geoff Andrew

DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKES IN TURKEY AND SYRIA

Many of us will have been shocked by the scale of the devastation and death caused by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. Some of you will be wondering about the best way to help. I am not aware at this stage of any appeals for clothing, etc. The main call is for financial support. You may wish to consider making a donation via the Disasters Emergency Committee which represents 15 major charities (e.g. Oxfam). The website is <https://www.dec.org.uk/>. And please continue to pray for all those affected and the people and organisations committed to providing relief.

Rev Geoff Andrew

COURSES RUNNING AT ST PAUL'S, HOWELL HILL

New Beginnings

New Beginnings is for anyone suffering a divorce, separation or broken relationship. Its aim is to help people to come to terms with the past and make a fresh start in a friendly and supportive atmosphere.

The group begins on **Thursday, 23rd February at 7.45 pm**. It is free, lasts 10 weeks, and is open to everyone. For more information, or if you wish to come, please call Colin on 07855 245 619 or new.beginnings@blueyonder.co.uk

www.saintpauls.co.uk/NB

Exploring Anxiety and Depression

This self-help group seeks to provide helpful perspectives in a friendly and supportive atmosphere, but does not provide counselling or therapy. Professional and experienced speakers help us to look at various ways of combating anxiety and depression. There is also ample time for discussion. The 10 week course starts on **Wednesday, 22nd February at 7.45 pm** and is free of charge. If you would like to come along, or wish to discuss whether it would be right for you, please contact Judith exploringanxietydepression@gmail.com www.saintpauls.co.uk/EAD

SERVICE BOOKS

Ordinary Time 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

SHEELAGH WILTSHIRE

Sheelagh's funeral will take place at Randalls Park on Tuesday 7th March at 12.30pm. More details to follow.

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.

This is a selection from the appeal, a full list of items needed is taped to the donation box marked UKRAINE at the front of the Church.

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

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

In their latest statistics the Foodbank reported that in January they fulfilled 360 vouchers to feed 1013 people - it was their busiest ever January.

This week they urgently need:- Weetabix, Cooking sauce, Tinned potatoes, Tinned vegetables, Tinned fruit, Instant mash, Squash, Longlife sponge puddings, Rice pudding, Peanut butter, Female deodorant, Washing up liquid, Washing powder / tabs / pods, Toilet roll

Please ensure donations are sealed, in date and do not contain alcohol.

No more of these items please: Tinned soup, non-dairy milk, dog and cat food, crisps, chocolate spread.

Polly Elder

Sunday's Services

Today's Service

Fit for the Future: A Hope that Sustains. (1 Thess 4:13-18)

This week, we look at Paul's response to questions that have been raised about the coming of Christ, assuring the Thessalonians that Christ's resurrection guarantees the resurrection of believers who have died before his return, and calling them to live as children of the light in anticipation of the day when Christ will come again. Paul's reiteration of the Christian hope would give them a sense of resilience and purpose. As Christians, holding on to the end of the story is hugely significant if we are to keep running the race.

Readings

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

Graham Waller

¹³ Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. ¹⁴ For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵ According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord for ever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Matthew 6:25-34

Rev. Theresa Ricketts

²⁵ 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? ²⁸ 'And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you - you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Collect

Rev. Theresa Ricketts

God of our salvation, help us to turn away from those habits which arm our bodies and poison our minds and to choose again your gift of life, revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Intercessor

Ian Hargrave

Music at 9.30am

1. Crown him with many crowns (MP109)
2. O Jesus I have promised (MP501) vs 1,2,3,5
3. Seek ye first (MP 590)
4. During Communion: O Lord hear my prayer (MP 908)
5. Tell out my soul (MP 631)

Music at 11am

1. How Great is Our God
2. What a Beautiful Name
3. The Creed
4. The Blessing