



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

19th February 2023

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

I hope those of you who took a half term break are feeling suitably refreshed...or maybe you are still away refreshing! This Sunday marks the last of our sermon series, Fit for the Future, and the final Sunday in our short period of Ordinary Time before we turn our attention to Lent. I encourage you to follow the Church's recommended Lenten course this year, 'Dust and Glory', which offers 40 short daily reflections as we accompany Jesus on his journey to the cross. Next Wednesday, do join us at the 9.30am Holy Communion which will be a special Ash Wednesday service. Blessings to you all!

ASH WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 22ND

February 22 is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. There will be a special service of Holy Communion on this day which will include the traditional (though optional) Imposition of Ashes. This is when a cross of ashes is marked upon one's forehead as a visible sign of penitence and mortality. **Rev. Geoff Andrew**

LENT BOOKS

The Lenten Course booklets, 'Dust & Glory' (including some children's versions) are available at the welcome desk for a suggested £2 donation. Please feel free to take one and pay later. The course is based on a new book by Bishop Dr Emma Ineson called 'Failure: What Jesus said about sin, mistakes and messing stuff up'. This is available for approx £10. Please speak to Rev Geoff if you would like one. **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. The main need 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/>. If anyone would like to donate but is not able to do so online, we would be happy to accept cash and to ensure your donation reaches the DEC appeal. And please continue to pray for all those affected and the people and organisations committed to providing relief. **Rev Geoff Andrew**

UPDATE ON UKRAINIAN REFUGEE SITUATION

Towards the end of last year, many of you generously assisted with our Ukrainian Open day and the clothing & financial appeal for the asylum seekers living in the Orchid Hotel. In both these cases, we have worked closely with the Epsom & Ewell Refugee Network (EERN) which continues to do an amazing job in supporting refugees and asylum seekers in this area. I will be meeting with them again next week to see what more we can do to assist. In the meantime, if you are interested in

the refugee situation – especially Ukraine – we have printed off a few copies of the latest EERN update and these are available at the welcome desk. Please feel free to take one or request an email copy. **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**

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

The next Craft Club meeting will take place on Monday, 20th February from 10am - 12 noon. We meet in the Parish Room and welcome anyone who would like to join us. So bring your crafting and see you there!

March Craft Club will be on Monday, 20th March.

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

FOODBANK

It's half term and I suspect that the shelves have been under even more strain to help families with feed children who are not getting school meals. We've had no new list this week so here is a reminder of what the Foodbank asked for last 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 rolls.

Please remember that you do not have to shop to support the Foodbank. Cash donations are always most welcome. Just put your donation in an envelope marked Foodbank and hand it to a welcomer or church warden.

Thank you all for your continued support.

.Polly Elder

****Quiz Night!****

Saturday 11th March at St John's Church at 7pm

Come along with your team of no more than 6 and bring your own food and drink.

£5 per person

and if you don't have a team, come along anyway!

Prepare to be challenged on many subjects from animals to atoms, kings to Kardashians,

Root numbers to route 66.

It will all be Quite Interesting and a lot of fun

Raffle and prizes

Sunday's Services

Today's Service

Fit for the Future: Community & Unity (1 Thess 5:12-28)

In our final week with 1 Thessalonians, we learn about the significance of church as family, where everyone is welcomed as an essential part of the whole – rich, poor, old, young, single, divorced, gay, straight – with every single member of the church involved in its life and worship.

Readings

1 Thessalonians 5: 12-28

¹² Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. ¹³ Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. ¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. ¹⁵ Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹ but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²² reject every kind of evil. ²³ May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it. ²⁵ Brothers and sisters, pray for us. ²⁶ Greet all God's people with a holy kiss. ²⁷ I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers and sisters. ²⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

John 17: 20-26

Rev. Geoff Andrew

²⁰ 'My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one – ²³ I in them and you in me – so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴ 'Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. ²⁵ 'Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I have made you^[a] known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.'

Collect

Rev. Geoff Andrew

Holy God, you know the disorder of our single lives: set straight our crooked hearts, and bend our wills to love your goodness and the glory in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Intercessor

Ken Mussell

Music at 9.30am

1. Hallelujah, sing to Jesus (MP 207)
2. He who would valiant be (MP 224)
3. Father, we love you (MP 142)
4. During Communion: Lord Jesus Christ (MP 435)
5. O worship the King (MP 528) vs 1,2,5,6

Music at 11am

1. Living Hope
2. Reckless Love
3. Psalm 23 (Surely goodness)
4. 10,000 Reasons

Book of Remembrance

Grace Florence Schofield