



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

26th February 2023

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

Last Wednesday was Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of the Lenten season and so beginning our journey towards the cross, and resurrection of Jesus. During Wednesday's service I talked about the importance of using this traditional 40 day period of reflection to remember our own mortality, repent with humility and relate to broken humanity. This weekend sees the start of a new sermon series, Resurrection Road, which will pick up on some of these themes. Those attending the 9.30 service will also note that we once again move to a new service booklet reflecting the Lenten liturgy. Have a blessed week!

ALL NATIONS SERVICE AND LUNCH

Sunday 2nd April at 2pm

All Nations warmly invite the St John's family to join their Sunday afternoon service (including English translation) on the 2nd April at 2pm. They will be joined by the worship team, Isaiah6tyOne from Korea. After the service food and coffee will be served at the back of the church. There is a sign up sheet at the front of the Church so numbers can be catered for. This is a wonderful opportunity for our two congregations to strengthen our fellowship.

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

Thanksgiving service for the life of Rev Sue Bull at St. Barnabas (Temple Road, Epsom, KT19 8HA) on Saturday 4th March at 1.30pm. The dress code is informal/celebratory. As an alternative you may wish to join the service online via Zoom, and if you do please use the Zoom Meeting ID: 876 2076 7698, and passcode: jesus. Donations can be made to St Barnabas Church.

(<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/epsom-st-barnabas-london/>).

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. 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

SERVICE BOOKS

Lent 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>

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Our Sunday service is streamed via <https://stoneleigh.tv>. Any problems, please let us know.

Tim Rogers

SHEELAGH WILTSHIRE

The family would like to thank you for all the cards and messages of condolence. Sheelagh's funeral will take place at Randalls Park on Tuesday 7th March at 12.30pm. Please join the family afterwards at The Star pub, Kingston Road, Leatherhead, KT22 0DP. Sign up sheet at the front of the church for catering purposes. Family flowers only please. In lieu of flowers, donations please to the Childrens' Society: <https://sheelaghwiltshire.muchloved.com>

The service will be available as a webcast on <https://wesleymedia.co.uk>. Pin number 107-8684.

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

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

****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. Root numbers to route 66.

It will all be Quite Interesting and a lot of fun

Raffle and prizes

Quiz Night Raffle Prizes

The raffle will be in aid of The Sunnybank Trust. If anyone is able to donate a prize it would be much appreciated. Please let any of the Social Committee know. Anne Andrew, Chris McInnes, Carol James, Chris Redrup, Jean Tutton.

Social Committee

FOODBANK

I try to imagine what my life would be like without some of the items on the Foodbank's list each week. This week there are 3 items that would fall into that category for me - what would you struggle to be without?

This week they urgently need: Tinned vegetables, Tinned potatoes, Tinned fruit, Cooking sauces, Long Life sponge pudding, Long Life fruit juice, Washing up Liquid, Washing powder/pods, Nappies 6+ ONLY, Toilet rolls, Bags for Life / Very strong bags

At the moment they are well stocked with: Dog Food, Cat Food, Tea Bags, Tinned Fish so please do not donate these items this week.

Thank you everybody.

Polly Elder

Sunday's Services

Today's Service

Resurrection Road: Jesus in the Driving Seat (Mark 8:27-38)

Mark's gospel has sometimes been described as a Passion narrative with a long introduction! For the first few chapters, we read a fast-paced account of Jesus' ministry involving great teaching, healings, miracles and wonders. The crowds following him have been asking increasingly, 'who is this man?' Now as Jesus reaches his furthest distance away from Jerusalem, Caesarea Philippi in the North, Peter declares

Jesus to be the Messiah and Jesus reveals the suffering and death that must soon follow. The way of the cross leads to Jerusalem. As we consider our own journeys, how should we think about Jesus' demand that we deny ourselves, take up our own crosses and follow him? How do we put Jesus in the driving seat?

Readings

Isaiah 53: 1-6

Maggie Savill

Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. ⁴ Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Mark 8: 27-38

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²⁴ He looked up and said, 'I see people; they look like trees walking around.' ²⁵ Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. ²⁶ Jesus sent him home, saying, 'Don't even go into the village.' ²⁷ Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, 'Who do people say I am?' ²⁸ They replied, 'Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.'

Collect

Rev. Geoff Andrew

Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Intercessor

Chris Redrup

Music at 9.30am

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation (MP 564)
2. Dear Lord and Father of mankind (MP 111)
3. Take my life and let it be (MP 624)
4. During Communion: O Lord, hear my prayer (MP 908)
5. Jesus shall reign (MP 379)

Music at 11am

1. Oceans
2. Goodness of God
3. As the deer
4. In Christ alone

Book of Remembrance

Ronald James Mussell
Rex Norton Milner