



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

12th March 2023

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

I'm grateful to everyone who has participated in the Church Development Plan process. The plan will be finalised this month and then submitted to the diocese prior to the visit of Archdeacon Martin towards the end of April. After that... we just have to implement it! Please continue to pray for our church as we work out how to grow in numbers and in faithfulness to God over these coming years. Last week, we celebrated the baptism of Ayda Greenwood. This weekend we're delighted to welcome Emily McCulloch into the family at the 11am Worship for Everyone service.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

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 of 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

HELP URGENTLY NEEDED AT OUR TODDLER GROUP

At St John's we have a thriving Toddler Group which meets in the Centre on Tuesday mornings during term-time. This is a much-valued community event which is attended by about 40 children plus their grown-ups. An important part of the morning is providing the children with drinks and snacks and the Mums etc with a well-earned cup of tea or coffee. These refreshments are prepared by a rota of volunteers. We urgently need one more volunteer to start after Easter - two or three times a term. **Can you help?** If you think you might be able to help, please talk to Chris McInnes, Jean Tutton, Sue Pennington or Julian Morris to find out more.

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>

Rev. Geoff Andrew

HELP NEEDED FOR POSY MAKING FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY

On Saturday March 18th at 10am in the parish room Janis would appreciate as much help as possible to make 120 posies for our two Mothering Day Sunday services. 'Many hands make light work'. Thank you.

.Janis Forder

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

Tim Rogers

UKRAINE CRISIS APPEAL

Thanks to everyone at St John's who has supported the Ukraine appeal for the last year. Your generosity had been amazing. The Polish White Eagle club has sent one hundred lorries to Poland and Western Ukraine since the war started and they are full of donations for the refugees. Over six million people are displaced in Ukraine and Poland needs help with the ten million who have arrived in their country. Your donations are very gratefully received and please see me if you want to give cash or cheques. Thank you.

Claire Cornell

They still need: 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

MANSOOR AND SIMIN

Those of you who remember Mansoor and Simin will be pleased to hear that their daughter, Atra, who lives in Austria, gave birth to a little girl in January. Simin was able to go to Austria, be there for the birth and stay on for another few weeks to help Atra.

SUE PENNINGTON

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

BRING YOUR OWN COFFEE MUGS TO HELP SAVE THE PLANET

It has been suggested that people, where possible, bring their own mugs/cups for coffee/tea on a Sunday. There will be paper cups available for those who are unable to do so – we won't deprive you of your refreshments! Thank you to those of you who already do this.

Church Wardens

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

Please add something from this appeal to your shopping list this week: UHT Milk - they have none, Long life fruit juice, Noodles, Long life sponge puddings, Squash, Mayonnaise, Sugar (500g bags only please), Hot chocolate, Washing powder/pods, Shampoo / conditioner, Toilet rolls, plus Bags for Life / Very strong bags

If you would prefer to send cash please put your donation into an envelope marked "Foodbank" and hand it to a Welcomer or Church Warden.

All contributions most gratefully received.

Polly Elder

BRING YOUR OWN COFFEE MUGS TO HELP SAVE THE PLANET

It has been suggested that people, where possible, bring their own mugs/cups for coffee/tea on a Sunday. There will be paper cups available for those who are unable to do so – we won't deprive you of your refreshments! Thank you to those of you who already do this.

Church Wardens

Sunday's Services

Today's Service

Resurrection Road: What is True Greatness? (Mark 9:30-37)

It's strangely comforting to draw alongside Jesus' first disciples as they continually fail to grasp what Jesus is teaching them - there's hope for us all! In today's story, as they travel back to Capernaum, an argument arises about who among them is the greatest. Jesus uses the example of a small child to teach them about humility and service. Sunday's baptism of young Emily at the 11am service gives us a perfect opportunity to learn from this episode as we also 'welcome one of these little children in my name.'

Readings

Micah 6:6-8

With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your god.

Mark 9:30-37

Rev. Geoff Andrew
³⁰ They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, ³¹ because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, 'The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise.' ³² But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it. ³³ They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' ³⁴ But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. ³⁵ Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, 'Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.' ³⁶ He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ 'Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.'

Collect

Rev. Geoff Andrew

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Intercessor

Chris Redrup

Music at 9.30am

1. The King of Love my Shepherd is
2. O praise ye the Lord
3. Spirit of the living God
4. Now thank we all our God

Music at 11am

1. O praise the name
2. How great Thou art

Book of Remembrance

Christopher Michael Pow

Emma Victoria Francis Redrup

Harold Francis Wiltshire