



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

19^h March 2023

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

This Sunday is Mothering Sunday, traditionally celebrated in the UK on the 4th Sunday of Lent. The origins of the occasion lie in the Middle Ages, when children who had left their families to work in domestic service were allowed to go to their home – or “mother” – church. We often refer to the day as Mother's Day, though this celebration of motherhood is a 20th century US invention which many countries mark later in the Spring. Mothering Sunday can be a bittersweet day depending on our own circumstances, but it is a day when we celebrate the best of motherhood and give thanks to God for his constant and unending love for us. Join us at 9.30am or 11am.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

PASSOVER REMEMBERED

On Maundy Thursday we will commemorate the Last Supper with a Passover-style meal in church at 7pm. This will be like last year's event. The meal element is symbolic so please don't expect to replace your usual dinner! Please let us know you're coming by signing the sheet at the front of church. Friends and neighbours are welcome.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

HOT CROSS BUNS

On Maundy Thursday, 6th April, we shall as usual be giving Hot Cross Buns to commuters between about 6.15am and 8.30am. We do this together with the Baptist Church. I need people to help cut and butter the buns and put them in a bag together with a serviette telling them the times of the Easter services at our Church and the Baptist Church. I also need someone to open up the church at 6.15 and turn the oven on. Please let me know if you can help with this.

Sue Pennington

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

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

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

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

FOODBANK

The bad news is - there is still a heavy demand for the Foodbank's assistance but the good news is - that the list is shorter this week so more supporters must be trying to help. Many hands make light work so please try to add one or more of the following to the box at the front of church.

The items on the urgently required list are:- UHT Milk, Long life fruit juice, Cooking sauces, Long life sponge puddings, Men's deodorant, Shaving gel/foam, Adult toothbrushes, Adult toothpaste Bags for Life / Very strong bags are always welcome

Please, no more of these items as they have sufficient at the moment: Dog Food, Cat Food, Tea Bags, Tinned Fish, Coffee
Thank you everyone

Polly Elder

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: Going for Glory? (Matthew 20: 20-23)

For this week's gospel reading, we're switching from Mark to Matthew. Both gospel writers tell the same story of how the disciples James and John petitioned Jesus to be in places of honour in his kingdom. The difference between the two accounts is that in Matthew's version, it is James and John's mother who makes the first approach to Jesus. On this Mothering Sunday, it's fitting that we should consider the actions of a mother who wanted only the best for her children.

Readings

1 Kings 1: 11-15, 28-31

Graham Waller

¹¹ Then Nathan asked Bathsheba, Solomon's mother, 'Have you not heard that Adonijah, the son of Haggith, has become king, and our lord David knows nothing about it?' ¹² Now then, let me advise you how you can save your own life and the life of your son Solomon. ¹³ Go in to King David and say to him, "My lord the king, did you not swear to me your servant: 'Surely Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne'? Why then has Adonijah become king?" ¹⁴ While you are still there talking to the king, I will come in and add m¹⁵ So Bathsheba went to see the aged king in his room, where Abishag the Shunammite was attending him.

²⁸ Then King David said, 'Call in Bathsheba.' So she came into the king's presence and stood before him. ²⁹ The king then took an oath: 'As surely as the LORD lives, who has delivered me out of every trouble, ³⁰ I will surely carry out this very day what I swore to you by the LORD, the God of Israel: Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne in my place. ³¹ Then Bathsheba bowed down with her face to the ground, prostrating herself before the king, and said, 'May my lord King David live for ever!'

Matthew 20:20-23

Rev. Geoff Andrew

²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favour of him. ²¹ 'What is it you want?' he asked. She said, 'Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.' ²² 'You don't know what you are asking,' Jesus said to them. 'Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?' 'We can,' they answered. ²³ Jesus said to them, 'You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.'

Collect

God our Father, your son Jesus Christ lived in a family in Nazareth:

Grant that in our families on earth we may so learn to love and live together that we may rejoice as one family in your heavenly home.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

Intercessor

Ken Mussell

Music at 9.30am

1. At the name of Jesus (MP 41) vs 1,2,5,6
2. Love divine, all loves excelling (MP 449) vs 1,3,4
3. Father, we love you (MP 142)
4. Communion: *Sarah sings*
5. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven (MP 560)

Music at 11am

1. The Blessing
2. This is Amazing Grace
3. Hosanna (Praise is Rising)

Book of Remembrance

Jean Mary Lingwood