



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 23rd April 2023

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

This week we begin a new sermon series called Spring Celebrations. The series begins today, St George's Day, with a celebration of our great patron saint of England. Expect some flags and a couple of patriotic hymns! Please remember that there is only one service on Sunday at 10am (which will include Communion) because of the APCM straight afterwards. If you are a church member on the electoral roll, I do hope we will see you at the APCM which will be held in the parish centre at 11.30am.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

SPRING SERVICES

Services over the next couple of months are what we're calling 'Spring Celebrations'. Starting with a commemoration of St George's Day today, April 23rd, we will be looking at biblical views on Kingship (Coronation Sunday), Creation (Pet Sunday) and Work (Vocations Sunday), as well as celebrating those highlights of the church calendar; Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity. We will also be acknowledging two faithful followers of Jesus: John the Baptist and Barnabas...and did I mention Mission Sunday when Sally and Yagya will be joining us? Lots to look forward to and some great opportunities to invite a friend! Please take a service card from the front of church.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

RITA RAMSAY

Rita Ramsay, a long-standing and much loved member of our church family died last week after a short illness. We thank God for her life and example in the confident knowledge that she is now at peace with her Lord and Saviour. Please pray for Rita's children, Alison and Mark and their families. We will let everyone know when we have more details about the funeral.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

CORONATION STREET PARTY

On Saturday May 6th from 2pm-6pm, the Stoneleigh Park Road Coronation Street Party will be taking place in and around the church. For those of you who experienced the Jubilee party last Summer, it will be a similar format. We would really appreciate volunteers throughout the day to help set up (from around 10.30am), greet visitors and take stuff down later (from 6pm to 7pm). We also need cake makers! We will show the Coronation on the TVs in church so no one misses out. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with the wider community so thanks for your support. There is a signup sheet at the front of the Church, please indicate the time/times you would be able to help. Additionally there is a signup sheet for all you wonderful bakers who feel able to bake/donate cakes for this wonderful occasion.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

CRAFT CLUB

ZOOM

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

Tim Rogers

UKRAINE CRISIS APPEAL

The Ukraine Crisis Appeal still need: Shower gel, shampoo, soap, sanitary items, nappies, warm socks, protein bars, packet soups First aid kits, toothbrushes, toothpaste, 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.

NEWS FROM EPSOM & EWELL REFUGEE NETWORK (EERN)

UKRAINIAN CONCERT: The Rotary Club of Ashted are hosting With One Voice, a concert of Hope and Peace in support of Ukraine and Ukrainians in our area. It takes place on Saturday 22nd April at 7pm at St George's Church, Ashted KT21 2DA. Tickets can be purchased online (<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/with-one-voice-songs-of-hope-and-freedom-tickets-574916399427>) or at the door on the night. **HELP NEEDED :** **Sponsors:** We are desperate to find new sponsors for Ukrainian families or individuals who need to move on from their current host. **Landlords:** Many Ukrainian families are now working and looking to rent - EERN can support them and ensure everything runs smoothly. Please email us if you have a property to rent – you will receive your rent and help a family start a new life. **Event organisers:** We want to hold some fundraising events later in the year. If you feel you have skills to offer to help pull these together then please get in touch by emailing us here. Speak to Rev Geoff if you can help with any of these things.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

STONELEIGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENT: SATURDAY 13th MAY

Peter Webb, a member of our church family, is organising an event to encourage local people to get more involved with local charities and voluntary groups. Please take a copy of the flyer at the welcome desk. Various groups, including St John's will be represented. It will be held in St John's Parish Centre on Saturday May 13th from 2pm-5pm. Peter would very much appreciate assistance with setting up/taking down, serving teas and coffees, etc. A sign up list for volunteers is in the welcome area at church.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

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 latest figures are out - in March the Foodbank fed 1,054 people via 356 vouchers - that's a big increase from 880 in February and a 65% increase on last year. I'd like to hope that the rumours in the media are right in believing that the financial situation is heading towards improvement but, for now, food prices are the most serious problem for too many households.

Our contributions are so gratefully received, thank you everyone.

This week they urgently need:- Tinned Meat, Tinned vegetables, Tinned sweetcorn, Squash, Longlife fruit juice, Pulses (lentils, chick peas, kidney beans etc - tinned or dried), Chocolate spread, Mayo/Brown Sauce/Ketchup, Sugar, Male/Female deodorant, Shower gel, Shampoo / Conditioner, Shaving foam, Washing up liquid, Washing powder, Adult toothbrushes.

Polly Elder

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Bring your friends to St Pauls Howell Hill to hear a message with a Christian edge from a speaker of note and enjoy conversation over a tasty lunch:

11:30 Arrival and Coffee and ends by 2.30pm.

3rd May What is the world coming to?

Rev Ken Hobbs

7th June What's love got to do with it?

Mark Tomlinson (Sutton Community Works)

5th July Doing time as a politician, prisoner & priest.

Rev Jonathan Aitken

Please see the flyer at the front of the church or visit: saintpauls.co.uk/foodforthought to book your place.

Today's Service

St George's Day: Put on the armour of God (Ephesians 6:10-20)

The classic image of St George is of the saint on his horse in full armour, with a lance in his hand, slaying the dragon. In our bible passage today, St Paul urges his readers to 'put on the full armour of God' to equip ourselves for the battle we fight daily against evil and sin in this world. We will put on the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness and the helmet of salvation, take up the shield of faith and the sword of truth and fit our feet with the gospel of peace. It's an old-fashioned illustration, but a powerful reminder of who we represent and what we are up against.

Reading

Ephesians 6: 10-20

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¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled round your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Collect

Rev. Geoff Andrew

God of hosts, who so kindled the flame of love in the heart of your servant George that he bore witness to the risen Lord by his life and by his death: give us the same faith and power of love that we who rejoice in his triumphs may come to share with him the fullness of the resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Intercessor

Chris Redrup

Music

- 1 I vow to thee, my country
- 2 In Christ alone
- 3 The Creed
- 4 When a knight won his spurs
- 5 Jerusalem

Book of Remembrance

Tiger Walden