



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 30th April 2023

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

The Church of England has designated this Sunday as Vocations Sunday. A vocation is a calling, and God calls every one of us to use our gifts, talents and experiences to serve Him in some capacity. Our vocation is by no means limited to church roles or activities; God's claim on us extends to every area of our lives. So wherever He has placed us – at work, at home, in our social circle – He has a role for us and we should prayerfully consider best we might serve him in our own unique circumstances.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

SPRING SERVICES

Services over the next couple of months are what we're calling 'Spring Celebrations'. During this time 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

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

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.

Shelly, Ukrainian Refugee Contact

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

I have not heard from the Foodbank this week so please would you all be good enough to continue to add the following to your shopping lists.

Adult toothbrushes, Washing power, Washing up liquid, Shaving foam, Shampoo/Conditioner, Shower gel, Male/Female deodorant, Sugar, Mayo/Brown Sauce/ketchup, Chocolate spread, Pulses (lentils, chickpeas, kidney beans etc - tinned or dried), Long-life fruit juice Squash, Tinned sweetcorn, Tinned vegetables, Tinned meat.

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

Vocations Sunday: Making a difference, wherever you are (2 Kings 5:1-5;10-15 and Luke 3:7-14) Rev Geoff Andrew

In our Old Testament reading today, a young girl is abducted, trafficked, and forced to work in a foreign land. Yet she uses her circumstances to do amazing things for God's kingdom. In our Gospel reading, John the Baptist explains to those coming for baptism what it means to serve God 'where they are'. Have you thought about how God may want to use you in your daily life? And what else he may be calling you to? Vocation is about understanding the direction God is leading us and how we can serve him in our everyday lives.

Readings

2 Kings 5: 1-5;10-15

John Rogers

5 Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the LORD had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy. **2** Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. **3** She said to her mistress, 'If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.' **4** Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. **5** 'By all means, go,' the king of Aram replied. 'I will send a letter to the king of Israel.' So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing.

10 Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, 'Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed.' **11** But Naaman went away angry and said, 'I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. **12** Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?' So he turned and went off in a rage. **13** Naaman's servants went to him and said, 'My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, "Wash and be cleansed"!' **14** So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy. **15** Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, 'Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. So please accept a gift from your servant.'

Luke 3: 7-14

Rev. Geoff Andrew

7 John said to the crowds coming out to be baptised by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? **8** Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father." For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. **9** The axe has been laid to the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.' **10** 'What should we do then?' the crowd asked. **11** John answered, 'Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.' **12** Even tax collectors came to be baptised. 'Teacher,' they asked, 'what should we do?' **13** 'Don't collect any more than you are required to,' he told them. **14** Then some soldiers asked him, 'And what should we do?' He replied, 'Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely – be content with your pay.'

Collect

Rev. Geoff Andrew

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Intercessor

Ken Mussell

Music 9.30am

1. Be Thou my vision (MP 51)
2. Take my life, and let it be (MP 624)
3. Make me a channel of your peace (MP 456)
4. *During Communion:* O Lord, hear my prayer (MP 908)
5. Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah (MP 201)

Music 11am

- 1 Oceans
- 2 Goodness of God
- 3 I Exalt Thee
- 4 Amazing Grace (my chains are gone)

Book of Remembrance

William Ramsay
Geoffrey Barry Rhodes
Sylma Jeanne Sorensen