



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 14th May 2023

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

What a brilliant event last weekend! Yes, the Westminster Abbey service was good too, but I mean the Stoneleigh Park Road Street Party celebration at St John's and across the road on the green. Though the weather was awful, we had hundreds of people come into the church, listening to the band, visiting the stalls, doing crafts with their kids and frequenting the café. Thanks so much to all of you who helped out in any way – it was a joyful occasion and a wonderful opportunity to engage with our neighbours. Talking of which...another opportunity presents itself this Sunday with the re-introduction of the St John's Pet Sunday. This will be at 11am so do come along and support and bring a friend (furry or otherwise). And if the idea of worshipping alongside animals is not your thing, the 9.30am Holy Communion service will be pet free! **Rev. Geoff Andrew**

REMEMBERING RITA

A thanksgiving service for Rita Ramsay's life will be held at St John's on Friday, June 2 at 12 noon. A reception will follow in the parish centre. If you would like to attend the reception, would you please sign the sheet at the front of the church so that the family can plan for the catering. **Rev. Geoff Andrew**

ASCENSION DAY

Ascension Day this year falls on Thursday May 18. There will be a short service of morning prayer in the chapel at 10am to commemorate the day that Jesus ascended into heaven to sit at God's right hand. **Rev. Geoff Andrew**

UKRAINIAN REFUGEE HELP NEEDED – ACCOMMODATION

A Ukrainian mother and her 13-year-old daughter, who arrived in the UK last May 2022, need to move from their current host at the beginning of June and find a new home. The mother is a confident person, keen to build a future for herself and her daughter in the UK. Her daughter is not coping well. Sponsors/hosts are paid £500 per month by the government to provide accommodation only. There is no need to provide food as the family is in receipt of government benefits. If you can help, please speak to me. **Rev Geoff Andrew**

REFUGEE HELP NEEDED

One of the refugee families staying at the Orchid Hotel includes a young man with autism. The family are desperate to spend more time outside the hotel but are not confident on their own. We are looking for someone with, perhaps, SEN teaching experience to accompany them on occasional outings to local areas of interest. Please let me know if you can help.

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**

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



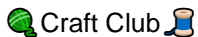
If you would like to contribute financially to the work of St John's, you can donate using this QR code. Using your smartphone's camera will take you straight to a page where you can make a donation using a credit card. Thank you. **Rev. Geoff Andrew**

FOODBANK

The words '*unprecedented demand for emergency food provision*' on the Foodbank's latest email deserve a few minutes of quiet reflection. It's that word 'emergency' in connection with people from our own neighbourhood that is so shocking. If you are struggling just now, please don't feel under any obligation to contribute to our donations to the Foodbank from church. Furthermore if you need the Foodbank's help but are unsure of whether you can use it please look on their website <https://epsomewell.foodbank.org.uk> or ask me how the first step can be made. However if you *can* afford to add an extra package, jar or tin to the collection box at the Welcome table we would be most grateful.

This week they need: Cereal (not Weetabix or porridge, they have lots), Cooking sauce, Tinned meat (meatballs, hot dogs and so on), UHT Milk, Tinned vegetables, Tinned sweetcorn, Tinned fruit, Custard, Rice pudding, Foffee, Pulses (tinned and dry), Longlife Sponge puddings, Jam/Honey, Sugar, Washing up liquid, Deodorant, Shampoo/Conditioner, Washing powder, Nappies size 5+, 6 and 6+

Not needed at the moment: dog food, cat food, tea bags, tinned fish, tinned soup. **Polly Elder**



The next meeting of Craft Club will be held on Monday, 15th May, 10am- 12 noon in the Parish Room. Bring your crafting and join us. All are welcome, see you there! **Veronica Gittins**

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Bring your friends to St Paul's 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.

- 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 Services

9.30am: Creation and Justice

When we talk about the environment and the state of the created world, we often focus on climate change. But environmental challenges go much deeper and they adversely impact billions of people, especially the poorest on this planet. We live in a world of injustice on a global scale. God's call for us to be good stewards of his creation go hand in hand with his insistence that the most vulnerable in our world should be treated fairly and protected from greed and exploitation. The first step is to understand the size of the problem and then to ask ourselves, 'what can I do?'

11.00am: Pet Sunday

It is often said that we are a nation of pet lovers. Today we reflect on our relationships with our animal friends and make connections between our love for our pets and God's love for us. The service will include a 'parade of pets' as we ask people to come forward to have their pets blessed and give thanks for God's goodness in creation.

Readings

9.30am

Leviticus 25: 1-17

The LORD said to Moses at Mount Sinai, ²'Speak to the Israelites and say to them: "When you enter the land I am going to give you, the land itself must observe a sabbath to the LORD. ³For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your vineyards and gather their crops. ⁴But in the seventh year the land is to have a year of sabbath rest, a sabbath to the LORD. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards. ⁵Do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the grapes of your untended vines. The land is to have a year of rest. ⁶Whatever the land yields during the sabbath year will be food for you – for yourself, your male and female servants, and the hired worker and temporary resident who live among you, ⁷as well as for your livestock and the wild animals in your land. Whatever the land produces may be eaten.

Matthew 25: 31-46

'At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. ⁶'At midnight the cry rang out: "Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!" ⁷'Then all the virgins

woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish ones said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out." ⁹"No," they replied, "there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves." ¹⁰'But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. ¹¹'Later the others also came. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us!" ¹²'But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I don't know you." ¹³'Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. ¹⁴'Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag,^[a] each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more.

11.00am

Matthew 6: 25-34

²⁵'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life^[a]? ²⁸'And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. ²⁹Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. ³⁰If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith? ³¹So do not worry, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" ³²For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Collect

Rev. Geoff Andrew

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

Intercessor

Chris Redrup

Music 9.30am

1. For the beauty of the earth (MP 152)
2. All creatures of our God and King (MP 7) v1,2,3,5
3. Jesus is Lord (MP 367)
4. *During communion:* Father, we love you (MP 142)
5. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation (MP 564)

Music 11am

1. O Praise the Name
2. How Great is our God
3. How Great Thou Art

From Our Book of Remembrance

Doreen Emily Abbotts
Edmund Heddle