



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 21st May 2023

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

The church has gone to the dogs! Yes, indeed. Last week's Pet Service brought many of our four-legged friends to St John's and we enjoyed a wonderful celebration of God's blessing on our animals as well as a chance to bless them and their humans. It was lovely to see so many visitors in church. This week, our attention turns to the Ascension, officially celebrated on May 18, 40 days after Easter Sunday. I am delighted that Ian Hargrave is preaching at both services as we focus on the significance of Jesus' return to the Father and his promise to send the Holy Spirit.

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

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

BABY AND TODDLER GROUP – JOB

Mel Brock, our assistant children's worker at the Toddler group, has resigned. Mel has been a valued member of the team over these past few years and we thank her for all she has done. Mel's departure leaves a vacancy which we need to fill. This is a paid position. The role involves supporting Gin Yershon for four hours on a Tuesday morning during term time, plus some

preparation work, and occasional additional planning meetings. In particular, we are looking for someone who can create and manage fun craft activities for the children. A full job description and details of benefits are available from the church office. Please speak to me or Janis Forder, our churchwarden, if you are interested.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

CHARITY EVENT AT POLTSA BOTIQUE, STONELEIGH BROADWAY

Approximately 6,000 children are born in the UK each year with a genetic condition likely to remain undiagnosed. SWAN stands for 'syndromes without a name'. It is not a diagnosis, but a term used when a child or young adult is believed to have a genetic condition and testing has failed to identify its genetic cause. The team at Poltsa will be holding a fundraising event for SWAN at the shop on Friday 26th of May. There will be a glass of fizz, and a chance to win a £50 voucher 10% of all sales during the event will be donated. If you can't make it but would like to help with the fundraising please visit the Just Giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/clare-robertson-1683483873707>

Rev. Geoff Andrew

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

What will you be able to contribute this week?

They need: Nappies, sizes 5+, 6 and 6+, Washing powder, Shampoo/Conditioner, Deodorant, Washing up liquid, Sugar, Jam / Honey, Longlife sponge puddings, Pulses (tinned and

dry), Coffee, Rice pudding, Custard, Tinned fruit, Tinned sweetcorn, Tinned vegetables, UHT milk, Tinned meat (meatballs, hotdogs and so on, Cooking sauce, Cereal (not Weetabix or porridge - they have lots)

Not needed at the moment please: - tinned soup, tinned fish, tea bags, dog/cat food. Thank you everybody. **Polly Elder**

CRAFT CLUB

The next meeting of Craft Club will be on Monday, 19th June. We meet in the Parish Room from 10am - 12noon. All are welcome, so bring your crafting and 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

Sunday after Ascension

Our two Readings Today look at Ascensions: that of Elijah in the Old Testament and that of Jesus in the New Testament. What is the significance of the way these two departed their lives on Earth and how are they inter-related? Are these just historical Biblical Stories, or are they relevant to us today?

Readings

2 Kings 2: 1-15

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; the LORD has sent me to Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, 'Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?' 'Yes, I know,' Elisha replied, 'so be quiet.' ⁴Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here, Elisha; the LORD has sent me to Jericho.' And he replied, 'As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.' So they went to Jericho. ⁵The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, 'Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?' 'Yes, I know,' he replied, 'so be quiet.' ⁶Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.' And he replied, 'As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them walked on. ⁷Fifty men from the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. ⁸Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground. ⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?' 'Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,' Elisha replied. ¹⁰'You

have asked a difficult thing,' Elijah said, 'yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours – otherwise, it will not.' ¹¹As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. ¹²Elisha saw this and cried out, 'My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!' And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two. ¹³Elisha then picked up Elijah's cloak that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴He took the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and struck the water with it. 'Where now is the LORD, the God of Elijah?' he asked. When he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over. ¹⁵The company of the prophets from Jericho, who were watching, said, 'The spirit of Elijah is resting on Elisha.' And they went to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.

Luke 24: 44-53

⁴⁴He said to them, 'This is what I told you while I was still with you: everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.' ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶He told them, 'This is what is written: the Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.' ⁵⁰When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵²Then they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

Collect

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord

Intercessor

Anne Andrew

Music 9.30am

1. Hallelujah sing to Jesus (MP 207)
2. Crown him with many crowns (MP 109)
3. Lord Jesus Christ (MP 435)
4. During communion: Breathe on me, breath of God (MP 67)
5. Thine be the Glory (MP 689)

Music 11am

1. Waymaker
2. God I Look to You
3. Psalm 23
4. Everything

From Our Book of Remembrance

William Blake
Joyce Alice Frost
Derek Reginald Clive Pavey