



# St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

## 25<sup>th</sup> June 2023 – St John's Patronal Festival

### A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

I do hope you are enjoying the seasonably good weather! This weekend sees the culmination of our Spring Celebrations series with a closer look at our patron saint, St John the Baptist. Yes, June 25 is our patronal festival and we are celebrating at both services with a visit from St John himself (wait and see!). We are holding a bring and share lunch in the parish centre after the second service at 12 noon. Apologies for the short notice, but I hope you can come along. Bring a sweet or savoury dish – or even just a big bag of crisps – so we can have a time of fellowship together. **Rev. Geoff Andrew**

### ST JOHN'S: THE WAY FORWARD

After a series of meetings and discussions earlier this year, the time has come for us to actively progress our Church Development Plan, 'St John's: The Way Forward'. You can find a copy of the plan here:

[https://church.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/St\\_Johns\\_Development\\_Plan\\_Landscape.pdf](https://church.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/St_Johns_Development_Plan_Landscape.pdf). For those of you without printing capability we will have hard copies available in church (choose your favourite colour!). Please do familiarise yourself with the plan, and as it says in the document, let me know if you're keen to take a role in any of the four areas of focus. And either way, please pray for our church, that the Holy Spirit will inspire us to fulfil God's mission here in Stoneleigh. **Rev Geoff Andrew**

### GARDENING PARTY

Anyone who likes Gardening please come and give a hand for a couple of hours on Saturday 15th July from 9.00am to 11.00am. We'd like to tidy up around the memorial Cross and down the church driveway plus take off the ivy that's growing up the church walls. Sign up sheet for volunteers at the front of the Church.

Many thanks.

**Churchwardens**

### 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.

If you wish to give money to Ukraine, please either write a cheque made payable to Shelly Weiczorek or put cash in an

envelope marked Ukraine. We can then buy chest drains and other medical equipment that is not easy to buy in shops.

Thanks for all 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**

### PLEASE DO NOT FEED OUR WORKING DOGS IN CHURCH

Freeman and Nugget are our working dogs, it has come to notice that the dogs have recently been fed 'treats'. Even the odd half of a biscuit can have a very detrimental effect on these wonderful dogs. The refreshment team always have an approved doggie treat available.

### PEOPLE PICTURED IN POETRY

Gill Sathyamoorthy's third poetry book 'People Pictured in Poetry' is now available and has sections on the Queen, Topical Issues, Biblical Figures, Family Matters, Grandchildren's Poems, Depression and Faith, Aylesford and Gill's Life and Faith. The cost is £9. Gill will have copies of her book in Church this Sunday to be viewed/purchased.

### 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**

### DONATED BOOKS

I have made some space on one of the pews at the back of church for people to browse the books that have been donated to us over the past year, including those from Rene Grace's collection. There is some very good reading contained therein so please feel free to take whatever appeals to you. We don't have much room so those not claimed will be donated or disposed of. **Rev. Geoff Andrew**

### FOODBANK

One could be forgiven for feeling overwhelmed by all the areas in the world which need our help just now - the news can be quite depressing. We can quite understand that everyone cannot afford to support every appeal. If you are able to contribute to the Foodbank this week these are the items **they**

**most desperately need:-** Tinned vegetables, Coffee, Dried noodles, Longlife sponge puddings, Longlife juice, Powdered milk, Mayonnaise, Savoury biscuits, Small chocolate bars / crisps, Deodorant, Shower gel, Shampoo/Conditioner, Sanitary pads, Washing up Liquid, Washing powder.

Thank you everyone.

**Polly Elder**

### **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.

**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](http://saintpauls.co.uk/foodforthought) to book your place.

### **Today's Services**

#### **St John's Sunday**

John was a remarkable character. He made the wilderness his home and lived a simple life, probably as part of the Essene community that rejected what they perceived to be the corrupt temple worship of the day. His message to the people was equally simple – repent! Israel had grown complacent, behaving in unjust ways. John told them in no uncertain terms that the Messiah was coming and God would act if they did not turn to him and start producing good fruit. There is much we can learn from John's courage and total commitment to God's truth.

### **Readings**

#### **Isaiah 40:3-8**

**Maggie Savill**

A voice of one calling: 'In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. <sup>5</sup> And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.' <sup>6</sup> A voice says, 'Cry out.' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' 'All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. <sup>7</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures for ever.'

#### **Luke 3:7-20**

**Rev. Geoff Andrew**

<sup>7</sup> 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? <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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.' <sup>10</sup> 'What should we do then?' the crowd asked. <sup>11</sup> John answered, 'Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.' <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptised. 'Teacher,' they asked, 'what should we do?' <sup>13</sup> 'Don't collect any more than you are required to,' he told them. <sup>14</sup> 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.' <sup>15</sup> The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, 'I baptise you

with<sup>12</sup> water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with<sup>13</sup> the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.' <sup>18</sup> And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them. <sup>19</sup> But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of his marriage to Herodias, his brother's wife, and all the other evil things he had done, <sup>20</sup> Herod added this to them all: he locked John up in prison.

### **Collect**

**Rev. Geoff Andrew**

God our saviour, look on this wounded world in pity and in power; hold us fast to your promises of peace won for us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

### **Music 9.30am**

1. To God be the glory (MP 708)
2. We have a gospel to proclaim (MP 728)
3. Seek ye first (MP 590)
4. *During Communion:* Abba Father (MP 3)
5. For all the Saints (MP 148)

### **Music 11am**

1. How great is our God
2. King of Kings
3. I exalt thee
4. In Christ alone