



St John's, Stoneleigh

Weekly Newsletter

2nd July 2023

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

It was good to celebrate our Patronal Festival together last week, including our special guest John the Baptist (thanks Adrian!). Sharing a meal together afterwards was also lovely and I hope that everyone can make at least one of the two upcoming social events – BBQ at the Vicarage on Sunday August 6th and Picnic in the Park (Nonsuch) on Sunday August 20th. Mark them on your calendar now! Our Spring Celebrations series has now finished and we're going to spend some time in July studying Paul's first letter to Timothy. Called 'Blueprint', this mini-series is all about the best way of doing church 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'. This can be found on the website. 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. Thank you.

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

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.

NEW GIVING STATION

We have installed a new giving station for financial donations at the welcome table inside the double glass doors. This is for contactless payment. If you are a church member, please consider setting up a standing order or direct debit.

Treasurer

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

Just a short list for Foodbank requests this week which is surprising as we are not too far away from the summer holidays. In previous years the Foodbank centres have received many extra appeals for help in the holidays. Stand by for longer lists in the future!

This week they particularly need:- Washing up liquid, Shampoo / Conditioner, Shower gel, Sanitary pads, Nappies sizes 5+, 6 and 6+, Deodorant, Small chocolate bars and treats, Chocolate biscuit bars.

Bags for life or very strong bags are always in demand.

If you'd prefer to give a cash donation, please put it in an envelope marked 'For Foodbank' and hand it to a welcomer or church warden.

Finally, as I do not do half the work involved in getting our donations to the Foodbank these days I shall no longer put my name to these items. I've been so grateful to Maggie and John Saville for helping me for a long time now and so I think we should be known as the Foodbank Team. – our thanks to you all for your support as always.
The Foodbank Team

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 to book your place.

Today's Services

In the opening chapter of 1 Timothy, Paul encourages his young protégé to teach sound doctrine, explaining that the law is aimed at those who are 'ungodly and sinful'. He then lists examples of those he deems to be lawbreakers. Included in the list is 'those practicing homosexuality'. At a time when the Church of England is divided on the issue of sexuality and same-sex marriage, we will take an initial look at what the Bible says about homosexuality and how interpretations differ. This is the beginning of a process that I hope will continue as an open and generous discussion in the Autumn.

Readings

Timothy 1:1-11

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Saviour and of Christ Jesus our hope, ²To Timothy my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. ³As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer ⁴or to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God's work – which is by faith. ⁵The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶Some have departed from these and have turned to meaningless talk. ⁷They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm. ⁸We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. ⁹We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰for the sexually immoral, for those practising homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers – and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine ¹¹that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me life.

Matthew 19:1-9

19 When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went into the region of Judea to the other side of the Jordan. ²Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there. ³Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?' ⁴'Haven't you read,' he replied, 'that at the beginning the Creator "made them male and female,"^[a] ⁵and said, "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be

united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh"^[a]? ⁶So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.' ⁷'Why then,' they asked, 'did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?' ⁸Jesus replied, 'Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. ⁹I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.'

Collect

Eternal God, comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken, you have fed us at the table of life and hope: teach us the ways of gentleness and peace, that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Music 9.30am

1. Amazing grace
2. Just as I am, without one plea
3. *During communion:* Let us break bread together
4. Thy hand, O God, has guided

Music 11am

1. Amazing grace (trad)
2. Hosanna (praise is rising)
3. As the deer
4. How great Thou art