



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

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

Anne and I had a wonderful vacation in Italy but it's good to be back! (NB I was shocked to see that the hotel we stayed in last year on Rhodes is one of those that has seen its guests fleeing for safety from the wild fires this week. Our prayers go out to all those residents and tourists caught up in the frightening situation unfolding in Greece). This week sees the final instalment of Blueprint, our tour through 1 Timothy. It is also another baptism weekend. We will be welcoming Charlie and Jessie May, and Ronnie Samain into the church family at the 11am service. We're expecting a large number of guests so do come early.
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

BRING AND SHARE AT THE VICARAGE AND PICNIC IN THE PARK

Save the dates: Sunday 6th August for a Bring and Share lunch at the Vicarage.

Sunday 20th August – Picnic in Nonsuch Park



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

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

FOODBANK

A lady asked me this week if we could ever use sponge puddings - I told her that I've never known them to be off the wishlist (as long as they're in date). Have you ever wondered why? Hungry children can be filled up with sponge puddings, they do not take much power to cook and they come in different flavours so do not become boring, this week (it being the holidays) there is an Urgent note against them on the list. Thank you to the WI for adding their contributions to ours last week - I took a full car boot full.

This week they need:-UHT Milks (full fat and semi skimmed), Sponge puddings - URGENT, Cooking sauce, Pulses - tinned and dry, Instant Mash, Long-life juice, Honey, Small chocolate bars / treats, Sugar (small bags), Shampoo / Conditioner, Men's deodorant, Nappies sizes 5+ and 6+, long life bags

Thank you for all your support.

The Foodbank Team

ZOOM

Our Sunday service is streamed via <https://stoneleigh.tv>. Any problems, please let us know.
Tim Rogers

24 HOUR PRAYER VIGIL – AUGUST 19th/20th

Everything we do as a church must rest on a firm foundation of prayer. Most of you by now will have a copy of 'The Way Forward', our Church Development Plan. It's vital that we pray for each element of the plan, that God will direct and bless us in our endeavour to serve him and to see His kingdom grow. We want to kick off this prayerful focus with a special 24 hour prayer vigil in church that will commence on Saturday August 19 at 9am and finish on Sunday August 20 at 9am. We will be asking people to sign up for one hour sessions. This will

continue through the night and we plan to have additional 'guardians' on duty from 8pm to 6am to ensure we have a safe environment. The Lady Chapel and the church will have prayer stations set up with areas of specific focus and we will be catering for children too so that families can take part. For those that cannot attend in person, we will be distributing prayer points so you can join in from home. I do encourage you to sign up and take part. Sign up sheets will be in church from next week.

AUTUMN SERMON SERIES

Many people will know something about the great stories of the Old Testament – Noah's Ark, David & Goliath, Daniel in the Lion's Den – but how much do you really know? What was really going on in those stories? And what do they tell us about God and ourselves? Starting in September, we will be launching a new sermon series called '**Epic Tales from the Good Book**', covering 11 Old Testament classics from 'In the Beginning' in Genesis 1 to Ezekiel and the Valley of Dem Bones, Dem Bones, Dem Dry Bones (if you don't know it, Google it!). And for those of you with children or grandchildren, this series will be a great way to get them reading about these adventures in a Bible!

SEASON OF MUSIC 2023

Following last year's successful Season of Music, we're doing it all over again! The programme this year sees the return of Blues musician Bryn Haworth (Nov 25th) and Rock Choir (Dec 15th, in aid of RUSH founder, Andrew Amukowa). New to St John's for 2023 is a Mamma Mia (Abba) sing-along (Sep 30th) and Jonathan Veira, a multi-talented singer, musician and raconteur (Oct 28th). Full details are on the fliers at the welcome desk. Tickets can be purchased from the St John's website and there are also sign-up sheets at the front of church.

Today's Services

The final chapter of 1 Timothy includes Paul's famous warning about the danger of allowing money, wealth and possessions to take us off course. It is not that they are wrong in themselves, but a misplaced 'love' of those things can only lead to trouble and self destruction. Instead we are to 'fight a good fight for the faith and claim eternal life'. As we once again hear the words of the baptismal promises being made at the 11am service, it is a good and timely reminder of what is truly important in life – to reject the way of evil and turn to Christ, pursuing godliness, faith and love.

Readings

1 Timothy 6:2b-12a

John Rogers

These are the things you must teach and tell the people to do. Anyone who teaches something different disagrees with the correct and godly teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ. Those people who disagree are proud of themselves, but they don't really know a thing. Their minds are sick, and they like to argue over words. They cause jealousy, disagreements, unkind words, evil suspicions, and nasty quarrels. They have wicked minds and have missed out on the truth.

These people think religion is supposed to make you rich. And religion does make your life rich, by making you content with what you have. We didn't bring anything into this world, and we won't take anything with us when we leave. So we should be satisfied just to have food and clothes. People who want to be rich fall into all sorts of temptations and traps. They are caught by foolish and harmful desires that drag them down and destroy them. The love of money causes all kinds of trouble. Some people want money so much they have given up their faith and caused themselves a lot of pain.

Timothy, you belong to God, so keep away from all these evil things. Try your best to please God and to be like him. Be faithful, loving, dependable, and gentle. Fight a good fight for the faith and claim eternal life.

Matthew 6:19-21

Rev. Geoff Andrew

Don't store up treasures on earth! Moths and rust can destroy them, and thieves can break in and steal them. Instead, store up your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy them, and thieves cannot break in and steal them. Your heart will always be where your treasure is.

Collect

Rev. Geoff Andrew

Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake: when we prosper save us from pride, when we are needy save us from despair, that we may trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Music 9.30am

1. All my hope on God is founded (MP 16)
2. Take my life, and let it be (MP 624)
3. Seek ye first (MP 590)
4. *During communion:* Father we love you (MP 142)
5. Be thou my vision (MP 51) vs 1,2,4,5

Music 11am

1. This is amazing grace
2. O Praise the Name
3. The Blessing

Intercessor

Chris Redrup

Book of Remembrance

Alice May Denyer
John Adrian Froud