



# St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 13<sup>th</sup> August 2023

## A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

Anne and I thoroughly enjoyed hosting everyone for the BBQ in the Vicarage garden last Sunday. Even the sun made an appearance! It was lovely to gather and socialise as a church family. And your next opportunity is the picnic on August 20 in Nonsuch Park. Please sign up at the welcome desk or send an email to the church office to let us know you're coming. Change is always challenging, so I recognise that some people will feel nostalgic for the 10 pews that have been removed from the church this week. However, we now have much more flexibility to create space for different occasions, both worship and social. As the budget permits, we will, over time, replace the missing seating with lighter, stackable chairs. We also have the opportunity now to tidy up the back of church.

This week's 9.30am service is also Prayers for Healing. May I encourage you to go forward and ask for your prayer for yourself or anyone you know who needs help.

*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*

## 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.

*Rev. Geoff Andrew*

## PICNIC IN THE PARK

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August – Picnic in Nonsuch Park at 1pm**

This will be held in the garden area of the house in Nonsuch Park, there is a car park nearby and easy access to the toilets. This is a 'dog free' zone.

*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.

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*

## 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

Well there is only one word to describe St John's congregation and that is WOW! The donations box was full of sponge puddings this week. Thank you all so much. I do just need to point out a few restrictions. Please remember that the Foodbank cannot accept refrigerated or frozen items (they don't have the facilities), food should not contain alcohol and should be in date and still in the original packaging.

While I was at the HQ this week they received a delivery which may interest you. They have a partnership agreement with a children's charity and can order school uniforms etc. A van load was delivered full of white shirts, grey trousers, school bags and jumpers. Just another example of how the very few regular staff and volunteers work hard with other schemes to support those who are struggling at this time. This is far less wasteful than asking for donations as only specific items and sizes which are particularly ordered from the Centres are passed through the Foodbank.

This week they would appreciate: Cooking sauce (not pasta sauce, they have lots) Non-dairy milks (oat, soya, almond and so on), Powdered Milk, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Fruit, Custard, Sugar (small bags), Ketchup and Brown sauce, Long Life Juice, Shaving gel/foam, Men's deodorant, Washing up liquid, Toilet Rolls, Sponge puddings - URGENT (not refrigerated please), Nappies sizes 5+ and 6+. Thank you everyone.  
**The Foodbank Team**

## ZOOM

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

## 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!  
**Rev. Geoff Andrew**

## 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 25<sup>th</sup>) and Rock Choir (Dec 15<sup>th</sup>, in aid of RUSH founder, Andrew Amukowa). New to St John's for 2023 is a Mamma Mia (Abba) sing-along (Sep 30<sup>th</sup>) and Jonathan Veira, a multi-talented singer, musician and raconteur (Oct 28<sup>th</sup>). 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.  
**Rev. Geoff Andrew**

## Today's Services

The second in our series, Summer in the Psalms, is one of my favourites – Psalm 121. I remember my mum reading this psalm to me at the kitchen table when I was a boy. 'I lift up mine eyes to the hills...'. It is one of the 15 'Songs of ascent', psalms sung by pilgrims as they travelled up into the mountains to reach Jerusalem. The psalmist writes of his assurance of God's presence and protection, day and night. In a Summer that has been characterised by extreme heat and record temperatures in many parts of the world, the words 'the sun shall not harm you by day' have particular resonance. How can we continue to develop a simple trust in our loving God?

## Readings

### Psalm 121

**Jane Mathews**

I lift up my eyes to the hills — from where will my help come?  
<sup>2</sup> My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.  
<sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.  
<sup>4</sup> He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.  
<sup>5</sup> The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.  
<sup>6</sup> The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.  
<sup>7</sup> The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.  
<sup>8</sup> The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and for evermore.

### John 6:35-40

**Rev. Geoff Andrew**

<sup>35</sup> Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.  
<sup>36</sup> But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe.  
<sup>37</sup> Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away;  
<sup>38</sup> for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me.  
<sup>39</sup> And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.  
<sup>40</sup> This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

### Collect

**Rev. Geoff Andrew**

Lord of heaven and earth, as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer, give us patience and courage never to lose hope, but always to bring our prayers before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Intercessor

**Ian Hargrave**

### Music 9.30am

1. All my hope on God is founded
2. Immortal, invisible
3. Majesty, worship His Majesty
4. *During communion*: O Lord, hear my prayer
5. The Lord's my shepherd (and I will trust in you alone)

### Music 11am

1. The Lord's my shepherd (and I will trust in you alone)
2. Goodness of God
3. King of Kings
4. Living Hope

## Book of Remembrance

Yvonne Tripcony  
Freda Lumley  
Jean Margaret Washington