



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 20th August 2023

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

Greetings to all! I do hope your Summer is going well and those who have been away on holiday have enjoyed the break. August is generally a quiet time in church life but there's still some dates to put in your diaries. This weekend we're holding our 24 hour prayer vigil (9am Saturday 19th until 9am Sunday 20th). If you haven't signed up for it yet, we still have a few slots available for early birds on Sunday morning. Do message me or Polly if you can come. If you can't be there physically, I do encourage you to carve out some time and pray for our church and community during the hours of the vigil from wherever you are. We're also holding our church picnic in Nonsuch Park at 1pm. The forecast looks good, so do come along. Finally, this Sunday morning our Summer in the Psalms continues with Ian Hargrave reflecting on Psalm 150. Have a great weekend!

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

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*

PICNIC IN THE PARK

Today, Sunday 20th 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*



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

CRAFT CLUB

The next meeting of Craft Club will be on Monday, 21st August from 10 to 12 noon. So bring your crafting and see you in the Parish Room for craft, coffee, biscuits and a good chat. All are welcome.

Veronica Gittins

CLEANING THE CHURCH

We all appreciate having a lovely church to worship in, but it doesn't clean itself! Would you be able to offer one to two hours a month to help keep it clean and fresh? If you can, please see the sign-up sheet by the glass doors and let us know which area of the church you would be able to look after. This can be done whenever suits you each month. Thank you.

Janis Forder. Church Warden

FOODBANK

This evening we watched a programme about shopping and eating in the 1970's. I remember them well - I had a little book in which I noted every item I bought so as to keep a tight hold of the housekeeping. The programme emphasised that so much of the food was sold in tins. We did not have a freezer until the 1980's so we couldn't store a whole week's fresh food. Here we are in 2023 and there are families who cannot afford to run fridges and freezers - and look what is on this week's wish list. How little the times have changed!!

This week the Foodbank **urgently needs**:- Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Fruit, Sugar - (small bags), Nappies Size 5+ and 6+, Adult Toothbrushes, Adult Toothpaste,

They also need: Tinned Meat (Corned beef, Meatballs, Hotdogs etc), Cooking sauce (not pasta sauce, as they have lots), Custard, Ketchup and Brown sauce, Shaving gel/foam, Men's deodorant, Washing up liquid, Household cleaning products

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 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.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

Today's Services

The third in our series Summer in the Psalms is Psalm 150, the last song in the Psalter. It is the both the climax of the Psalms and perhaps the loudest chapter in the Bible! We will also consider how this rich source of material in our Bibles can help inspire our lives today.

Readings

Psalm 150

Janis Forder

¹ Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. ² Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. ³ Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, ⁴ praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe, ⁵ praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. ⁶ Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD.

Luke 20:1-8, 41-47

Rev. Geoff Andrew

20 One day as Jesus was teaching the people in the temple courts and proclaiming the good news, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, together with the elders, came up to him. ² 'Tell us by what authority you are doing these things,' they said. 'Who gave you this authority?' ³ He replied, 'I will also ask you a question. Tell me: ⁴ John's baptism – was it from heaven, or of human origin?' ⁵ They discussed it among themselves and said, 'If we say, "From heaven," he will ask, "Why didn't you believe him?"' ⁶ But if we say, "Of human origin," all the people will stone us, because they are persuaded that John was a prophet.' ⁷ So they answered, 'We don't know where it was from.' ⁸ Jesus said, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.'

⁴¹ Then Jesus said to them, 'Why is it said that the Messiah is the son of David? ⁴² David himself declares in the Book of Psalms: "The Lord said to my Lord: 'Sit at my right hand ⁴³ until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.'" ⁴⁴ David calls him "Lord." How then can he be his son?' ⁴⁵ While all the people were listening, Jesus said to his disciples, ⁴⁶ 'Beware of the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and love to be greeted with respect in the market-places and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets. ⁴⁷ They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely.'

Collect

Rev. Geoff Andrew

God of glory, the end of our searching, help us to lay aside all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom, and to give all that we have to gain the pearl beyond all price, through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Intercessor

Anne Andrew

Music 9.30am

1. O Praise Ye the Lord
2. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation
3. Father hear the prayer we offer
4. *During communion*: Make me a channel of your peace
5. Praise my Soul, the King of Heaven

Music 11am

1. How Great is Our God
2. Waymaker
3. The Lord's my Shepherd (I will trust in you alone)
4. How Great Thou Art

Book of Remembrance

Rene Grace