



# St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 27<sup>th</sup> August 2023

## A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

What a wonderful weekend we had last week. Thanks to everyone who contributed to, or participated in, the Prayer Vigil (especially Polly). Many people have commented on what a profound and moving experience it was and how the time went so quickly. God hears and He answers prayer. We will continue to build on these foundations. It was also good to share lunch in Nonsuch Park last Sunday afternoon. The weather was perfect and the company exceptional! This weekend, Anne and I are attending the Greenbelt Festival in the grounds of Boughton House near Kettering. This Christian Arts and Music event is celebrating its 50 year anniversary and is a great blend of music, drama, art, talks and discussions. We shall leave you in the very capable hands of our friend Rev. Maggie Marsh who will be leading and preaching at both services on Psalm 139. Thank you Maggie.

**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**

## 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**

## 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

We're continuously hearing how grateful people are for their foodbank supplies. Of course, we don't donate for gratitude, just to give a helping hand to someone who needs it. Some of those who were in a dreadful state earlier on in the year are beginning to come forward, now they are starting to find their feet, to see what they can do to help. Of course, the demand is still there as new people find themselves in dire straits. So can we carry on filling the box please?

This week they URGENTLY need: -

Weetabix, Dog Food (last week I was told that they particularly need complete dried food), Peanut Butter, Squash (they have none), Cooking Sauce (Not pasta sauce please), Nappies Size 4, 5+ and 6+ , Adult Toothbrushes , Children's Toothbrushes aged 0-2 and 6 plus- Urgent (they have none), Children's Toothpaste all ages.

They also need: - Adult Toothpaste, Powdered Milk, Ketchup, Mayo and Brown sauce, Female deodorant, Men's deodorant, Shaving Foam, Toilet Rolls.

**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! Please take a flyer from the front of the Church.

**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

For the fourth and final Sunday in our series Summer in the Psalms, we return to Psalm 139. Here we celebrate God's all-knowing and ever-present nature, acknowledging that He intimately understands every aspect of our lives, our thoughts, and actions. The psalmist marvels at being wonderfully created and seeks God's guidance while rejecting wicked ways. It's a reflection on the profound relationship between humanity and the divine.

### Readings

#### Psalm 139

*Janis Forder*

<sup>1</sup>You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. <sup>2</sup>You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. <sup>3</sup>You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. <sup>4</sup>Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely. <sup>5</sup>You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. <sup>6</sup>Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. <sup>7</sup>Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? <sup>8</sup>If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. <sup>9</sup>If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, <sup>10</sup>even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. <sup>11</sup>If I say, 'Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,' <sup>12</sup>even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. <sup>13</sup>For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup>I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. <sup>15</sup>My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. <sup>16</sup>Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. <sup>17</sup>How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! <sup>18</sup>Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand – when I awake, I am still with you. <sup>19</sup>If only you, God, would slay the wicked! Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty! <sup>20</sup>They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name. <sup>21</sup>Do I not hate those who hate you, LORD, and abhor those who are in rebellion against you? <sup>22</sup>I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies. <sup>23</sup>Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. <sup>24</sup>See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

#### Luke 24.13-35

*Rev. Maggie Marsh*

<sup>13</sup>Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles<sup>[a]</sup> from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup>As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with

them; <sup>16</sup>but they were kept from recognising him. <sup>17</sup>He asked them, 'What are you discussing together as you walk along?' They stood still, their faces downcast. <sup>18</sup>One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, 'Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?' <sup>19</sup>'What things?' he asked. 'About Jesus of Nazareth,' they replied. 'He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. <sup>20</sup>The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; <sup>21</sup>but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. <sup>22</sup>In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning <sup>23</sup>but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.' <sup>25</sup>He said to them, 'How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup>Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?' <sup>27</sup>And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. <sup>28</sup>As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going further. <sup>29</sup>But they urged him strongly, 'Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him, and he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They asked each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?' <sup>33</sup>They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together <sup>34</sup>and saying, 'It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' <sup>35</sup>Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognised by them when he broke the bread.

### Collect

*Rev. Maggie Marsh*

God of constant mercy, who sent your Son to save us: remind us of your goodness, increase your grace within us, that our thankfulness may grow, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Intercessor

*Ian Hargrave*

### Music 9.30am

1. Great is Thy faithfulness (MP 200)
2. Angel voices ever singing (MP 34)
3. As the deer (MP 37)
4. *During communion:* Abba Father (MP 3)
5. Now thank we all our God (MP486)

### Music 11am

1. Good good father
2. I exalt Thee
3. The Creed
4. Shout to the Lord