



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 6th August 2023

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

It was wonderful to see the church full of people last weekend for the baptisms of Charlie, Jessie and Ronnie. Thanks to everyone who helped to make it such a special occasion – God is good! We have now concluded our sermon series, Blueprint on 1 Timothy and for the month of August we will be focused on the Psalms. I am delighted to say we have three guest preachers this month, starting this week with Ms Yea In Park who will preach on Psalm 139. The service times will remain the same (9.30am and 11am) throughout the month. There are three events I would really encourage you to sign up for: the BBQ at the Vicarage (today, August 6), the Picnic in Nonsuch Park (August 20) and the 24-hour Prayer Vigil. Have a wonderful week!
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: Today, Sunday 6th August for a Bring and Share lunch at the Vicarage.

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. A map will be circulated for ease.

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

The Foodbank is part of a larger organisation The Good Company. The mission of this wider organisation is to see a community free from poverty, where everyone can afford life's essentials. During July the setting up of the next phase of the Poverty Truth Commission was announced. The Commission brings together two groups, half of the Commissioners are people with lived experience of poverty, the other half is drawn from senior representatives of local councils, housing associations, health care and education providers, businesses and charities. Their investment of time to listen to each other, build relationships and growing trust enables some solutions to poverty to be introduced in the long term.

Meanwhile the Foodbank section of the Good Company tackles the more immediate need for emergency food provision - and that is where we can help.

This week they need: Cooking sauce (but not pasta sauce as they have lots), Non-dairy milks (oat, soya, almond etc.), Instant mash, Chocolate, Small bags of sugar, Shaving gel/foam, Men's deodorant, Shampoo, Washing up liquid, Household cleaning items, Nappies sizes 5+ and 6+, and Sponge puddings are still URGENTLY required.

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!

PEWS UPDATE

We have, after much blood, sweat and tears, received the Faculty from the Diocese to enable us to remove ten of the existing pews from the Church, this will give us much needed space at the back of the Church for tables and chairs for refreshments and fellowship between the two services. The decision to remove the pews was taken some months ago. There will remain two pews at either side of the church. Today will be the last day when all the pews will be present.

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

During the month of August, I and my fellow guest preachers will be looking at our favourite Psalms. Today, Yea In Park will talk about 'Living out His plan' based on Psalm 139. This Psalm, perhaps more than any other, describes the intimate personal relationship between ourselves and God. This will be part talk, part personal testimony about how God has a plan for our lives and how Yea In has seen and experienced this in her own life.

Readings

Psalm 139

You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. ²You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. ³You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. ⁴Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely. ⁵You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. ⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. ⁷Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? ⁸If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. ⁹If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, ¹⁰even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. ¹¹If I say, 'Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,' ¹²even the darkness will not be dark to you, the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. ¹³For you created my

inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. ¹⁵My 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. ¹⁶Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. ¹⁷How precious to me are your thoughts, ^[a]God! How vast is the sum of them! ¹⁸Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand – when I awake, I am still with you. ¹⁹If only you, God, would slay the wicked! Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty! ²⁰They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name. ²¹Do I not hate those who hate you, LORD, and abhor those who are in rebellion against you? ²²I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies. ²³Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Matthew 6:25-34

²⁵'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? ²⁸'And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. ²⁹Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. ³⁰If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith? ³¹So do not worry, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" ³²For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Collect

Rev. Geoff Andrew

Gracious Father, revive your Church in our day, and make her holy, strong and faithful, for your glory's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Intercessor

Ken Mussell

Music 9.30am

1. Love divine, all loves excelling
2. God is love: let heaven adore him
3. Be still for the presence of the Lord
4. *During communion:* Sarah sings
5. How Great Thou Art

Music 11am

1. Happy day
2. What a beautiful name
3. No longer slaves
4. 10,000 reasons