



# St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 10th September 2023

## A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

I mentioned in our services last week that the first weekend of September is a slightly odd time when Summer is ending but the new season hasn't quite kicked in. To draw a spiritual analogy, it's a liminal space...a threshold between two stages. This Summer marked two years since we arrived in Stoneleigh and it was a real joy last week to look out on such a wonderful mix of people who are long-time members of St John's and others who have joined us in the last two years. That sense of liminality, of transition, is an exciting environment to operate from because it means God is at work and has great things in store for us. Let's pray for many opportunities to serve him in the coming weeks and months. *Rev. Geoff Andrew*

## THE START COURSE: FROM 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER FOR SIX WEEKS

I will be running another Start Course from Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> (7.30pm to 9.00pm). The course lasts for six weeks and looks at the basics of life and the Christian faith. No assumptions are made about participants' background or experience or knowledge of Christianity or the church. It really does start from scratch. If you or anyone you know is interested in joining, please let me know. *Rev. Geoff Andrew*

## GROWING DISCIPLES: PRAYER MEETING

A key part of our Church Development Plan is to strengthen our discipleship as a church. And an important building block to that end is prayer. We held our 24 hour prayer vigil last month, and this month we want to kick off a monthly prayer meeting. The first of these will be on Thursday September 21 at 12.30pm in the chapel. The meeting will last for an hour, allowing people to go on to St John's Café if they wish. Everyone is invited to join this time of open prayer, even if you are not inclined to pray out loud. We will pray for our church, our nation and the world. If you can't be there in person, please take a note of the time and try to pray with us from wherever you are. Over the next few months we will experiment with different days and times before we settle on the best option. *Rev. Geoff Andrew*

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT: ST PAUL'S HOWELL HILL TALKS

Arrive at 11:30am for coffee, 12pm Talk / 1pm Lunch

Finish at 2:30pm - Charge £10

**Book your place at [saintpauls.co.uk/foodforthought](http://saintpauls.co.uk/foodforthought)**

**Autumn 2023 programme:**

**4 Oct, A World to Win - challenges for the global church**

Rev Dr Chris Wright (Former Principal of All Nations College and Global Ambassador for the Langham Partnership)

**1 Nov, Wonderfully Made - God and genetics**

Dr Alison Male (Consultant in Clinical Genetics)

## UKRAINE CRISIS APPEAL

Thank you so much to St John's church who are still helping the people of Ukraine 18 months after the start of the war. According to the UN Refugee Council, there are 5.1 million internally displaced people in Ukraine as of May 2023 and more than 6.2 million people have crossed into neighbouring countries including Poland. Poland has welcomed 60 per cent of all refugees from Ukraine. The Polish White Eagle club in Balham will continue to send lorries to Poland and Ukraine for as long as people donate supplies. Many Ukrainians are living in damaged homes and buildings ill-prepared for another winter. As the war continues, humanitarian needs are growing and we estimate that 17.6 million people in Ukraine will need help to survive the forthcoming winter and the freezing temperatures.

If you can donate: shower gel, shampoo, soap, sanitary items, nappies, warm socks, protein bars, packet soups, first aid kits, toothbrushes, toothpaste, torches, bandages and warm gloves, or anything else listed on the donation box in the church, you will be helping people survive in Ukraine. If you wish to donate money, please either write a cheque made payable to Shelly Weiczorek, go to the [whiteeagleappeal.org](http://whiteeagleappeal.org) page 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*

## COMMUNITY SURVEY

As part of our ongoing commitment to better serve and understand the needs of the wider community in Stoneleigh, we are keen to hear your thoughts about St John's and what we do. We want to learn more about how you currently use the church, your opinions about services and events, and the ways in which we can enhance our offerings to benefit everyone in the local area.

The survey is an opportunity for you to share your thoughts openly and honestly. We assure you that your responses will remain completely anonymous and will be used solely for the purpose of improving what we provide in church and to the local community. It will take only a few minutes of your time, and your input will help us to make decisions about future initiatives. Thank you. *Chris Webb*



## CHURCH TIMES GROUP

For a number of years a small group of us has been meeting about every six weeks to discuss articles of interest in the Church Times. We wondered if there was anyone else who was interested in joining the group. People would not have to buy the Church Times each week if they did not see wish to. It would be possible to join in the discussion without having read the article or people could borrow a copy from those of us who take it. If you are interested in having more information and the date and place of the next meeting get in touch with Sue Pennington on 02083934356 or [suepennington@uwclub.net](mailto:suepennington@uwclub.net).

**Sue Pennington**

## MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR PETER MURTON ON TUESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2023 AT 2PM

There will be a service in church in memory of Peter Merton, followed by refreshments. Please sign up on the form at the front of the church if you are able to attend. Thank you.

## FOODBANK

Last week's long list had a lot of urgent items on it so we are repeating it for you. Please could you help the Foodbank restock with these items.

On the **urgent** list are:- Weetabix, Peanut Butter, Coffee, Tinned Meat (ham, meatballs, hotdogs etc), Squash, Cooking Sauces, Noodles (not Pot Noodles please), Children's Toothbrushes 0-2 and 6 plus, (they have none), Children's Toothpaste 0-2 and 6 plus (they have none).

They are also short of: Baked Beans, Rice Pudding, Custard, Honey, Adult Toothbrushes, Adult Toothpaste, Powdered Milk, Ketchup, Mayo and Brown Sauce, Female deodorant, Men's deodorant, Shaving Foam and Toilet Rolls.

**The Foodbank Team**

## CRAFT CLUB

The next meeting of Craft Club will be on Monday, 18th September. Bring along your current craft project and join us in the Parish Room from 10am to 12noon. All are welcome.

**Veronica Gittins**

## ZOOM

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

**Tim Rogers**

## 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 story of Noah's Ark is so familiar to us that it's become part of the cultural landscape. Even people who don't have any knowledge of God or the Bible have at least a passing knowledge of the man who built a huge boat and rescued all the earth's animals 'two by two' to protect them from the terrible flood. Ah yes, the flood that wiped out all the life on earth that wasn't on the ark. What are we to make of this devastating act of God? The story of Noah's Ark tells us a great deal about the God of love who is also a God of justice. Sometimes we forget that he is both, but the coming of Jesus Christ only makes sense if we understand this aspect of God's character.

## Readings

**Genesis 6: 9-17; 9: 8-15)**

**Chris Redrup**

<sup>9</sup>This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God. <sup>10</sup>Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. <sup>11</sup>Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. <sup>12</sup>God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. <sup>13</sup>So God said to Noah, 'I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. <sup>14</sup>So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. <sup>15</sup>This is how you are to build it: the ark is to be three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high. <sup>16</sup>Make a roof for it, leaving below the roof an opening one cubit high all around. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. <sup>17</sup>I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish.

<sup>8</sup>Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: <sup>9</sup>'I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that was with you – the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you – every living creature on earth. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you: never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.' <sup>12</sup>And God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: <sup>13</sup>I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life.

**Matthew 24: 36-42**

**Rev. Geoff Andrew**

<sup>36</sup>'But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. <sup>42</sup>'Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

**Collect**

**Rev. Geoff Andrew**

Merciful God, your Son came to save us and bore our sins on the cross: may we trust in your mercy and know your love, rejoicing in the righteousness that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Intercessor**

**Ken Mussell**

**Music 9.30am**

1. All Creatures of our God and King (MP 7) v1,2,3,5
2. God is working his purpose out (MP 189)
3. Just as I am (MP 396) v1,4,5,6
4. *During communion*: Father hear the prayer we offer (MP 132)
5. Amazing Grace (MP 31)

**Music 11am**

1. Hosanna (Praise is Rising)
2. Jesus Paid it All
3. As the Deer
4. Amazing Grace (my chains are gone)

**Book of Remembrance**  
Margaret Cutcliffe