



# St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 17th September 2023

## A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

As we move into this busier time of year, I am reminded more than ever of just how much we rely on our church family of volunteers – this 'body of Christ' – to enable us to carry out God's mission here in Stoneleigh. Thank you so much for your generosity of spirit, not to mention time and energy. There are two people I want to mention that will not be so familiar to the wider church. One is Amanda Reed who earlier this year took over from Jean Tutton as the manager of the Parish Centre, and the other is Andy Lupton, a local resident who has offered his professional design expertise to help us with our promotional material (e.g. Season of Music posters). A big 'thank you' to these two for their voluntary support. I've always believed that God will raise up the right people at the right time!

*Rev. Geoff Andrew*

## HARVEST

This year's Harvest Festival service is on October 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be one service at 10am, including Communion. As in previous years, our food offerings will be donated to the Epsom & Ewell Foodbank. Details of their requirements will be provided nearer the time.

## 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*

## 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*

## 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**



## **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 Murton, followed by refreshments. Please sign up on the form at the front of the church if you are able to attend. Thank you.

## **FOODBANK**

We've still got two halves to the list of items needed by the Foodbank. Please can you try to help if at all possible - Thank you.

They **Urgently** need:- Tinned Soup, Coffee, Custard, Honey, Chocolate treats both adult and children, Tinned Meat (ham, meatballs, curry, hotdogs etc) Tinned Fruit, UHT and Powdered Milk (no skimmed please), Sugar 500g and 1kg, Sponge Puddings, Noodles (not Pot noodles), Ketchup, Washing Up Liquid, Female deodorant.

Stocks are also **low** of: Baked Beans, Tinned Vegetables, Long Life Juice, Chocolate Spread, Peanut Butter, Sweetcorn. Thank you.

**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**

This Sunday we turn our attention to Joseph, son of Jacob (Israel). His story occupies a full 13 chapters of the book of Genesis and it is quite a tale! Thanks to the 70's musical, Joseph's 'coat of many colours' has become his most famous trademark in popular culture. Yet the story of Joseph is a wonderful depiction of an arrogant youth who learns through adversity how to be humble and gracious. He trusts in God, and God is always with him. Oh, and there's more than one coat involved in this story.

## **Readings**

**Genesis 37:1-8; 39:1-2, 11-20; 41:41-43**

**Janis Forder**

Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan. This is the account of Jacob's family line. Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them. Now Israel loved Joseph more

than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him. Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. He said to them, 'Listen to this dream I had: we were binding sheaves of corn out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered round mine and bowed down to it.' His brothers said to him, 'Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?' And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.

Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.

The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master....One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. (Potiphar's wife) caught him by his cloak and said, 'Come to bed with me!' But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house. When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, she called her household servants. 'Look,' she said to them, 'this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed. When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house.' She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home. Then she told him this story: 'That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me. But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house.' When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, 'This is how your slave treated me,' he burned with anger. Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined.

So Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt.' Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain round his neck. He made him ride in a chariot as his second-in-command, and people shouted before him, 'Make way!' Thus he put him in charge of the whole land of Egypt.

## **Luke 15:20-24**

**Rev. Geoff Andrew**

So he got up and went to his father.

'But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms round him and kissed him. 'The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." 'But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." So they began to celebrate.

## **Collect**

**Rev. Geoff Andrew**

Lord God, defend your Church from all false teaching and give to your people knowledge of your truth, that we may enjoy eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **Intercessor**

**Ian Hargrave**

## **Music 9.30am**

1. All my hope on God is founded (MP 16)
2. Dear Lord and Father of Mankind (MP 111) vs 1,2,5,6
3. Faithful one so unchanging (MP 825) x2
4. *During communion:* Breathe on me, breath of God (MP 67)
5. Lord for the years (MP 428) vs 1, 2, 4, 5

## **Music 11am**

1. You're beautiful
2. Psalm 23 (Surely goodness)
3. O praise the name