



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 24th September 2023

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

As I write this, we are caught between Lee and Nigel, very friendly names for a pair of hurricanes! It's starting to feel a bit more autumnal, isn't it? However, there's lots going on at church to keep you warm and dry. The first of our Season of Music events, the Mamma Mia (Abba) sing-along is on Saturday 30th and we still have some tickets available. We are also about to purchase some outdoor shelters so we can hold events even if the weather is not great (though maybe not in a hurricane!). Thanks to a grant we applied for from Surrey Council, we will be acquiring two large parasols and two event shelters so that we can have a more visible impact on the green areas outside church. We have three events lined up already – details later! This week we will also receive 20 new stackable chairs for the back of church. These have been funded by the sale of the pews and also a generous one-off donation. Again, more details to follow as we look to fund 20 more!

Rev. Geoff Andrew

MIDWEEK SERVICES CANCELLED NEXT WEEK

Please note that there will be no Morning Prayer on Monday Sep 25 or service of Holy Communion on Wednesday Sep 27 as I will be away on Retreat for a few days.

Rev Geoff Andrew

CHURCH MAGAZINES

The latest edition of 'What's On at St John's' will be ready for distribution this Sunday, Sep 24. Please do come along prepared to take magazines for a street or two. We would love to see them all delivered by the end of the month! Thank you.

Rev Geoff Andrew

THE START COURSE: FROM 3RD OCTOBER FOR SIX WEEKS

I will be running another Start Course from Tuesday, October 3rd (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

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)

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.

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 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**

UKRAINE REFUGEES

There is a renewed need to find accommodation for Ukrainian refugees. There are some who are already based here that need to find alternative homes. And there are also people still leaving Ukraine as the war continues to drag on. I have been made aware of one lady in particular who is in her late 50s and is a professional musician who speaks good English. She wants to be in this area because she has friends here. If you can help, please let me know.

Rev Geoff Andrew

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 3RD 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 can attend. Thank you.

FOODBANK

This week the Foodbank need please: Baked Beans, Spaghetti Hoops, Pulses, Soup, Vegetables, Fruit, Custard, Rice Pudding. Toiletries: Toilet rolls, Deodorant, Shampoo, Shaving Gel/Foam, Shower Gel and Toothpaste. Thank you.

The Foodbank Team

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 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

Our journey through the Epic Tales of the Old Testament continues with 'Exodus', though the focus is not on the most famous part of that story (i.e. the parting of the Red Sea). Instead, we will be looking at what happened when the Israelites finally reached the Promised Land, and how a potential two week journey turned into one of 40 years. It's a story of God's faithfulness in the face of disobedience and rebellion. We'll be talking about the importance of being obedient in the small things and learning how to deal with regret.

Readings

Deuteronomy 2:1-9; 13-15

Maggie Savill

Then we turned back and set out towards the wilderness along the route to the Red Sea, as the Lord had directed me. For a long time we made our way around the hill country of Seir. ² Then the Lord said to me, ³ 'You have made your way around this hill country long enough; now turn north. ⁴ Give the people these orders: "You are about to pass through the territory of your relatives the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir. They will be afraid of you, but be very careful. ⁵ Do not provoke them to war, for I will not give you any of their land, not even enough to put your foot on. I have given Esau the hill country of Seir as his own. ⁶ You are to pay them in silver for the food you eat and the water you drink." ⁷ The Lord your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands. He has watched over your journey through this vast wilderness. These forty years the Lord your God has been with you, and you have not lacked anything. ⁸ So we went on past our relatives the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir. We turned from the Arabah road, which comes up from Elath and Ezion Geber, and travelled along the desert road of Moab. ⁹ Then the Lord said to me, 'Do not harass the Moabites or provoke them to war, for I will not give you any part of their land. I have given Ar to the descendants of Lot as a possession.'

And the Lord said, 'Now get up and cross the Zered Valley.' So we crossed the valley.

¹⁴ Thirty-eight years passed from the time we left Kadesh Barnea until we crossed the Zered Valley. By then, that entire generation of fighting men had perished from the camp, as the Lord had sworn to them. ¹⁵ The Lord's hand was against them until he had completely eliminated them from the camp.

Matthew 11: 25-30

Rev. Geoff Andrew

⁵ At that time Jesus said, 'I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. ²⁶ Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do. ²⁷ 'All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸ 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.'

Collect

Rev. Geoff Andrew

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Intercessor

Ian Hargrave (Zoom)

Music 9.30am

1. Blessed assurance (MP 59)
2. What a friend we have in Jesus (MP 746)
3. There is a Redeemer (MP 673)
4. *During communion:* Spirit of the Living God
5. Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah (MP 201)

Music 11am

1. How great Thou art
2. The Lord's my Shepherd (I will trust in you alone)
3. No longer slaves
4. The Blessing