



# St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 15th October 2023

## A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

The terrible events unfolding in Israel and Gaza have dominated the news for the past week. We pray for a swift end to the conflict, the safe return of the hostages, comfort for all those whose who mourn, healing for those injured and – please Lord – a long-lasting peace in those holy lands. The link to today's service is remarkable and sad (see below). I would like to extend a big 'thank you' to all those who helped deliver our latest magazine (all done now!) and for those who have already contributed to the chair appeal. Please keep those donations coming! (Oh, and don't forget to book for Jonathan Veira's concert on October 28, and bring friends!). **Rev. Geoff Andrew**

## CHURCH 'WHO'S WHO'

With us having two well-established congregations now, it is not always easy to match a face with a name. So we plan to produce a church 'Who's Who' booklet with names and photographs so we can get to know each other better. This is only for the use of church members and will not go further afield. John Martin has kindly agreed to lead the project and he will be approaching you sometime in the next few weeks to ask if he can take your photograph and a few details. I encourage everyone to participate. Thank you. **Rev. Geoff Andrew**

## HOME GROUPS

Home Groups (or House Groups) are a wonderful way for us to enjoy fellowship with each other during the week. We currently have two groups hosted by Rosalie Jackson and Jean Tutton which meet once or twice per month. We are planning to add one or two new groups (depending on demand) in the new year, with at least one being held in the evening. If you are interested in joining a Home Group, please let me know.

**Rev. Geoff Andrew**

## CHAIR APPEAL

We have started an appeal to raise the additional £1,980 required to purchase another 20 stackable chairs and a trolley for the back of church. This type of seating offers the flexibility we need for different kinds of events. The chairs cost £84 each and the trolley £300 (inc VAT). If you would like to contribute, please consider whether you can offer the full value of a single chair (or multiples of one chair). Donations can be made by cheque or cash in an envelope (please indicate 'chair appeal') or via bank transfer. Please ask the Treasurer, one of the church wardens or myself for bank details. Alternatively, you can go to the St John's website and click on 'donate'. If you choose this latter method, please follow up with an email to the Treasurer ([treasurer@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk)) to clarify the purpose of your donation. Please note that we will close the appeal when we have reached the target amount. Any donations received after that time may be used for other purposes. Just to encourage you, the first £300 has already

been donated! Thanks for your support for the mission of St John's, and God bless you. **Rev. Geoff Andrew**

## CRAFT CLUB

The next meeting of the Craft Club will take place on Monday, 16th October. We meet in the Parish Room from 10am to 12 noon. Bring your crafting and see you there!!

**Veronica Gittins**

## REFRESHMENTS FOR SUNDAY SERVICES

We are desperately in need of volunteers to help with refreshments on a Sunday morning. This entails either arriving at 9am to set up coffee etc. then leaving at 11am or alternatively arriving at 10.30am and leaving after clearing up after the 11am service, if you would be able to stay for both services that would be wonderful. Please contact Janis Forder or Chris McInnes if you can help. If we don't get more volunteers this may mean we may be unable to serve refreshments on some occasions.

**Janis Forder**

## PARISH SONGS OF PRAISE, ST MARY'S CHURCH BURGH HEATH – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30pm

Please do join us. Bring a friend, family member or neighbour. Any queries please contact:

[vicar@norkwithburghheath.com](mailto:vicar@norkwithburghheath.com)

## PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting of the prayer group will be on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> October at 3.30pm following Coffee Café. All gatherings are in the Lady Chapel.

Future dates are below but times are to be confirmed.

Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> December; and,

Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

All are welcome to this informal group, but if you can't attend in person, you are welcome to pray with us wherever you find yourself at this time. If these dates are not ideal for you, please speak with Rev. Geoff Andrew or Steve Simper as we welcome your suggestions.

**Steve Simper**

## FOODBANK

How do you do your shopping? Organised with a list? Wander up and down grabbing what you fancy or think you might need? The foodbank list hasn't arrived yet so we *could* challenge you to remember what they had on the urgent list recently but in case that would result in a drop in donations here is last week's list.

Sugar 1kg and 500g (they have none), Long-life Sponge Puddings (they have none), UHT Milk full fat and semi skimmed, Powdered Milk, Long Life Juice, Packet

Soup, Jars of Pasta Sauce, Jars of Cooking Sauce, Squash, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Pulses, Tinned Sweetcorn, Noodles, Cereal, Ketchup, Brown Sauce, Mayonnaise, Jam / Chocolate Spread, Crisps, Chocolate treats for adults and children, Savoury Biscuits (Crackers etc), Nappies 6+, Deodorant, Shampoo / Conditioner, Shaving Gel/Foam, Shower Gel

If you are on What's App please look out for any updated lists. Thank you everyone.  
**The Foodbank Team**

### REMEMBERING LOVED ONES: SUNDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 3.00PM

You are all invited to join us to remember those we have loved who have passed away. We will be reading out the names of those we want to remember during the service. If there is a name(s) you would like to be included please add them to the list on the table at the front of church or email me, if possible, by **Sunday 22nd October**.

We would like to provide refreshments in the hall after the service. If you could help with this please speak to me. Jean Tutton [jean.tutton@ntlworld.com](mailto:jean.tutton@ntlworld.com)/020 8393 3687.

### PRAYER VIGIL

Following the wonderful success of our last 24-hour prayer vigil, we are planning to repeat this on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December starting at 9am and finishing at 9am on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>.

Please put the date in your diary and speak with Lizanne Matthews or Steve Simper to sign-up to one or more of the one-hour time slots. Alternatively, add your name to the sheet at the front of the church. More details to follow. **Steve Simper**

### 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 visit from 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 weekend our Epic Tales sermon series relates the story of Samson and Delilah. It is profoundly sobering and tragic to realise that the central theme of this 3,000 year old story is a continuous cycle of violence and revenge between Israel's leader ('Judge'), Samson, and the Philistine people. Philistia - the land of the Philistines - in the Greek language became Palestine. And the location of Samson's final act of revenge? Gaza. Samson and Delilah is a story of betrayal, weakness and the sad consequences of revenge. Yet throughout it all, God continues to work out his purposes through the most flawed of characters.

### Readings

#### Judges 16: 4-6;17-30

<sup>4</sup> Some time later, (Samson) fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah. <sup>5</sup> The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, 'See if you can lure him into showing you the secret of his great strength and how we can overpower him so that we may tie him up and subdue him. Each one of us will give you eleven hundred shekels<sup>[a]</sup> of silver.' <sup>6</sup> So Delilah said to Samson, 'Tell me the secret of your great strength and how you can be tied up and subdued.' <sup>17</sup> So he told her everything. 'No razor has ever been used on my head,' he said, 'because I have been a Nazirite dedicated to God from my mother's womb. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man.' <sup>18</sup> When Delilah saw that he had told her everything, she sent word to the rulers of the Philistines, 'Come back once more; he has told me everything.' So the rulers of the Philistines returned with the silver in their hands. <sup>19</sup> After putting him to sleep on her lap, she called for someone to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him.<sup>[a]</sup> And his strength left him. <sup>20</sup> Then she called, 'Samson, the Philistines are upon you!' He awoke from his sleep and thought, 'I'll go out as before and shake myself free.' But he did not know that the LORD had left him. <sup>21</sup> Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding corn in the prison. <sup>22</sup> But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved. <sup>23</sup> Now the rulers of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to celebrate, saying, 'Our god has delivered Samson, our enemy, into our hands.' <sup>24</sup> When the people saw him, they praised their god, saying, 'Our god has delivered our enemy into our hands, the one who laid waste our land and multiplied our slain.'<sup>25</sup> While they were in high spirits, they shouted, 'Bring out Samson to entertain us.' So they called Samson out of the prison, and he performed for them. When they stood him among the pillars, <sup>26</sup> Samson said to the servant who held his hand, 'Put me where I can feel the pillars that support the temple, so that I may lean against them.'<sup>27</sup> Now the temple was crowded with men and women; all the rulers of the Philistines were there, and on the roof were about three thousand men and women watching Samson perform. <sup>28</sup> Then Samson prayed to the LORD, 'Sovereign LORD, remember me. Please, God, strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes.'<sup>29</sup> Then Samson reached towards the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other, <sup>30</sup> Samson said, 'Let me die with the Philistines!' Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.

#### Matthew 18:21-22

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?' <sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.'

#### Intercessor

**Ian Hargrave**

#### Music at 9.30am

1. God is working his purpose out (MP 189)
2. When I survey the wondrous cross (MP 755)
3. Breathe on me, breath of God
4. *During Communion*: Be still (MP 50)
5. O worship the King (MP 528) vs 1,2,5,6

#### Music at 11.00am

1. This is Amazing Grace
2. Hosanna (Praise is Rising)
3. Waymaker
4. Good Good Father

**Book of Remembrance**  
Charles Bracewell Senior