



# St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 22nd October 2023

## A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

Our Epic Tale this week is David & Goliath, another example (like Samson) of the original conflict between ancient Israel and ancient Philistia/Palestine. In a recent statement, Archbishop Justin has asked us to "pray for the people of Israel, Gaza and the West Bank. Pray for the future of the Holy Land. Pray for those who will weep, and fear, and die tonight." In the midst of this terrible crisis, please do pray. And please also consider whether you are able to offer financial support for humanitarian aid in Gaza (Red Cross, Oxfam, UNICEF and all major aid agencies have appeals).

On a lighter note, this is your last chance to buy tickets for the Jonathan Veira concert next Saturday (Oct 28). We are expecting a full house so if you or anyone else is interested in going, act now!  
**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**

## CHAIR APPEAL

As mentioned in my introduction, we are starting 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**

## 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:**

**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 who are still helping the people of Ukraine. 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**

## FOODBANK

We have been reminded that we need to tell you that if its easier to give us cash for the Foodbank that is just as welcome as a food donation. To give you just a couple of examples of the ways the Foodbank uses cash - it needs to keep its vehicles on the road and supplements food in really, really desperate situations. All we ask is that you put your donations into an envelope marked FOODBANK and hand it to a Welcomer or Churchwarden.

This week's food list is:-

**Urgently needed:-** Long Life Sponge Puddings, UHT Milk full fat and semi skimmed, Powdered Milk, Long Life Juice, Squash, Packet Soup, Instant Mash, Tinned Vegetables, Instant Mash, Marmalade, Chocolate Spread and Toilet Rolls.

**Getting low on stock items:-** Sugar - All sizes, Brown Sauce, Mayonnaise, Mayonnaise, Crisps, Nappies 6+, Washing up Liquid, Female and Male Deodorant, Shaving Gel/Foam, They also need bags for life/strong shopping bags.

Thank you as always for your generosity.

**The Foodbank Team**

## 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.

## 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

Following last week's tale of Samson and his ongoing battle with the Philistines, that same enemy of the Israelites features again this week as we look at David & Goliath. This most famous of all the Old Testament stories describes how the mighty Philistine warrior Goliath was brought down by David, the young shepherd. It is a story of faith that teaches us about facing our own 'giants' with courage, trusting that God will help us overcome our fear and defy the odds. (Though perhaps the odds were not as stacked against David as we may first think...!).

## Readings

**1 Samuel 17:1-11**

**Maggie Savill**

17 Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Sokoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Sokoh and Azekah. 2 Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. 3 The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them. 4 A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span.<sup>[a]</sup> 5 He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armour of bronze weighing five thousand shekels;<sup>[b]</sup> 6 on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. 7 His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels.<sup>[c]</sup> His shield-bearer went ahead of him. 8 Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, 'Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and let him come down to me. 9 If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us.' 10 Then the Philistine said, 'This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other.' 11 On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

**1 Samuel 17: 32-50**

32 David said to Saul, 'Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.' 33 Saul replied, 'You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth.' 34 But David said to Saul, 'Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When

a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, 35 I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. 36 Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. 37 The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.' Saul said to David, 'Go, and the LORD be with you.' 38 Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armour on him and a bronze helmet on his head. 39 David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. 'I cannot go in these,' he said to Saul, 'because I am not used to them.' So he took them off. 40 Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine. 41 Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield-bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David. 42 He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. 43 He said to David, 'Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?' And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 'Come here,' he said, 'and I'll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!' 45 David said to the Philistine, 'You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. 47 All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands.' 48 As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly towards the battle line to meet him. 49 Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground. 50 So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.

**Mark 4:35-41**

**Rev. Geoff Andrew**

35 That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, 'Let us go over to the other side.' 36 Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. 37 A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. 38 Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, 'Teacher, don't you care if we drown?' 39 He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, 'Quiet! Be still!' Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. 40 He said to his disciples, 'Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?' 41 They were terrified and asked each other, 'Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!'

## Collect

God, our light and our salvation: illuminate our lives, that we may see your goodness in the land of the living, and look on your beauty may be changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Intercessor

**Chris Redrup**

## Music at 9.30am

1. To God be the glory (MP 708)
2. He who would valiant be (MP 224)
3. Take my life, and let it be (MP 624)
4. *During Communion:* As the Deer (MP 37)
5. At the name of Jesus (MP 41) vs 1,2,5,6

## Music at 11.00am

1. This Little Light of Mine
2. How Great is Our God
3. Goodness of God