



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 29th October 2023

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

Last weekend we were delighted to celebrate the baptism of Margot Horne, daughter of Simon and Joss (and granddaughter of our own Sally Horne). It's always a joyous occasion to welcome a new member of the church family and it was great to have a full church to witness the event. This week the mood turns a little more reflective. On Sunday afternoon at 3pm we will hold our annual service for Remembering Loved Ones. This is a lovely service for anyone who is recently bereaved or indeed for anyone who wants to remember someone who has been loved and lost. Perhaps you could invite a friend or neighbour to attend with you.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

REMEMBERING LOVED ONES

Our Remembering Loved Ones Service is at 3.00pm this Sunday, 29th October 2023. All are very welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served after the service in the Parish Center.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

There will be one service at 10.15am on November 12 for Remembrance Sunday.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

NO HOLY COMMUNION ON WEDNESDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

Rev. Geoff is away on Wednesday 1st November so there will be no Holy Communion.

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

BOOK WISE

One great way to encourage each other to grow in our faith and understanding is by reading Christian books. If you have read something that has really spoken to you, why not share your recommendation with others? We would like to start by including a book recommendation in this newsletter on a regular basis. So if you have one in mind, please send an email with the name of the book and the author to the church office, together with no more than one or two lines on what it's all about.

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) to clarify the purpose of your donation. 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
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 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

This week we have taken the Foodbank's wish list off their website. Do take a look at it the site yourselves if you can, <https://epsomewell.foodbank.org.uk> - it is full of information about how the system works and how people can access their support. Who knows, you may find yourself next to someone at the bus stop or doctor's waiting room or maybe even at the shops who might not know about the services offered. Please continue to pray for their work, their clients and their many volunteers - we know they appreciate it.

Please help the Foodbank stock by donating: Long life sponge puddings, Instant mash, Long life juice, Squash, Marmalade/Chocolate spread, Brown sauce/mayonnaise, Toilet rolls, Size 6+ nappies, Washing powder

Thank you as always for your generosity.

The Foodbank Team

PRAYER VIGIL

I imagine every one of you have experienced the frustration of losing communication when your internet goes down. This is probably how God feels when we stop praying. Help St John's beat all of the internet providers by staying 'online' for 24 hours without any interruption.

Please sign up to join us for our 24hr prayer vigil starting at 9am on Saturday 9th December. Please see the schedule at the front of the church or speak with Lizanne Matthew or Steve Simper.

Steve Simper

ZOOM

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

Tim Rogers

Today's Services

Our morning services this Sunday continue our journey of Epic Tales with the story of Elijah and the Prophets of Baal. This is a story of bravery and faith in the face of serious opposition. Elijah challenges the 450 prophets of the pagan god Baal to a contest to prove who is truly God. He prays: 'Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God.' And God comes through. Standing up for what is right can be a lonely venture, especially if there is a powerful adversary. But God calls for us to have faith and courage and trust in his power and presence.

Readings

1 Kings 18:21-39

Lynne Coppin

²¹ Elijah went before the people and said, 'How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.' But the people said nothing. ²² Then Elijah said to them, 'I am the only one of the LORD's prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. ²³ Get two bulls for us. Let Baal's prophets choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. ²⁴ Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by fire – he is God.' Then all the people said, 'What you say is good.' ²⁵ Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, 'Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire.' ²⁶ So they took the bull that was given to them and prepared it. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. 'Baal, answer us!' they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made. ²⁷ At noon Elijah began to taunt them. 'Shout

louder!' he said. 'Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or travelling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened.' ²⁸ So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. ²⁹ Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention. ³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, 'Come here to me.' They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the LORD, which had been torn down. ³¹ Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, 'Your name shall be Israel.' ³² With the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he dug a trench round it large enough to hold two seahs^[a] of seed. ³³ He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces and laid it on the wood. Then he said to them, 'Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood.' ³⁴ 'Do it again,' he said, and they did it again. 'Do it a third time,' he ordered, and they did it the third time. ³⁵ The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench. ³⁶ At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: 'LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. ³⁷ Answer me, LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.' ³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. ³⁹ When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, 'The LORD – he is God! The LORD – he is God!'

Mark 3:1-6

Rev. Geoff Andrew

³ Another time Jesus went into the synagogue, and a man with a shrivelled hand was there. ² Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. ³ Jesus said to the man with the shrivelled hand, 'Stand up in front of everyone.' ⁴ Then Jesus asked them, 'Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?' But they remained silent. ⁵ He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored. ⁶ Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.

Collect

Merciful God, teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty, that trusting in your word and obeying your will we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Intercessor

Chris Redrup

Music at 9.30am

1. Great is Thy faithfulness (MP 200)
2. I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (MP 857)
3. The Lords My Shepherd (MP 660)
4. *During Communion:* Majesty (MP 454)
5. Praise My Soul the King of Heaven (MP 560)

Music at 11.00am

1. O Praise the Name (vid)
2. Yet not I but through Christ in me
3. Faithful One
4. The Blessing

Book of Remembrance

Kath Jones
Marjorie Elsie Orford
Mavis Redrup