



St John's, Stoneleigh

Weekly Newsletter

8th October 2023

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

I never cease to be amazed by the way that God provides. We finally had approval a few weeks ago to take 10 pews from the back of church. Our intention had always been to replace them with 40 stackable chairs, but of course this requires funding and our normal budget would have been stretched to find the additional £4,000 for the chairs and two trolleys. We decided therefore to wait for the right time to purchase the first 20 chairs. However, you may have noticed that we have already taken delivery of 20 chairs and one trolley. These were funded partially by the sale of the pews and partially by a one-off donation specifically given to us to put toward the chairs. The total we received was exactly what we needed to fund the first half of the project. Now, we want to give the church family an opportunity to contribute to the fund for the other 50%. You can find details of how to do this further on in the newsletter. But let's start with grateful thanks for the blessings we have already received.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

JANE MUSSELL'S BIRTHDAY

Jane Mussell would love you to join her for a celebratory glass of Prosecco and a piece of cake to mark her birthday after the 9.30 service today. All very welcome. *Jane and Ken Mussell*

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) 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

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

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

PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting of the prayer group will be on Thursday, 19th 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, 23rd November.

Thursday, 21st December; and,

Thursday, 18th 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.

FOODBANK

Well done St Johns you did us proud - we took TWO loads to the Foodbank this week as our Harvest Offering. Here is what they had to say in response 'Thank you to all our wonderful, faithful supporters. Your kindness and generosity is always so

appreciated by us, and those we meet in our centers. 'This week though this list is as long as ever -and everything is marked as urgent:

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.

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 visit from 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

After last week's Harvest celebration, we are back to our Epic Tales sermon series again this week. Last time we looked at the Exodus and Israel's 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. This week we find the Israelites poised to finally enter the Promised Land. Their first challenge is how to overcome the fortified city of Jericho. The story of how Joshua and his army brought down the walls of the city are a lesson in faith, obedience and persistence in the face of adversity.

Readings

Joshua 6:1-20

Janis Forder

6 Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in. ²Then the LORD said to Joshua, 'See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. ³March round the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. ⁴Make seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march round the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. ⁵When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, make the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in.' ⁶So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, 'Take up the ark of the covenant of the LORD and make seven priests carry trumpets in front of it.' ⁷And he ordered the army, 'Advance! March round the city, with an armed guard going ahead of the ark of the LORD.' ⁸When Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets before the LORD went forwards, blowing their trumpets, and the ark of the LORD's covenant followed them. ⁹The armed guard marched ahead of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard followed the ark. All this time the trumpets were sounding. ¹⁰But Joshua had commanded the army, 'Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!' ¹¹So he had the ark of the LORD carried round the city, circling it once. Then the army returned to camp and spent

the night there. ¹²Joshua got up early the next morning and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. ¹³The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forwards, marching before the ark of the LORD and blowing the trumpets. The armed men went ahead of them and the rear guard followed the ark of the LORD, while the trumpets kept sounding. ¹⁴So on the second day they marched round the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days. ¹⁵On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched round the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. ¹⁶The seventh time round, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, 'Shout! For the LORD has given you the city!' ¹⁷The city and all that is in it are to be devoted^[a] to the LORD. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent. ¹⁸But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. ¹⁹All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the LORD and must go into his treasury.' ²⁰When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city.

Luke 5:1-7

Rev. Geoff Andrew

5 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding round him and listening to the word of God. ²He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. ⁴When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.' ⁵Simon answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.' ⁶When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

Collect

Rev. Geoff Andrew

God, our judge and saviour, teach us to be open to your truth and to trust in your love, that we may live each day with confidence in the salvation which is given through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Intercessor

Ken Mussell

Music at 9.30am

1. Christ is made the sure foundation (MP 73)
2. Fight the good fight (MP 143)
3. Hallelujah, sing to Jesus (MP 207)
4. *During Communion:* O Lord hear my prayer (MP 908)
5. O praise ye the Lord (MP 518)

Music at 11.00am

1. Reckless love
2. Here I am to worship
3. The Creed
4. Cornerstone

Book of Remembrance
Pamela Gladys Scarlett