

The background of the entire page is a soft-focus photograph of autumn foliage. In the foreground, there is a dense layer of fallen leaves in shades of yellow, orange, and brown. A few leaves are also shown in mid-air, as if caught in a breeze. The background is a blurred mix of similar colors, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere. The entire image is framed by a thin white border.

WHAT'S ON AT ST JOHN'S?

The magazine for the residents of Stoneleigh Parish

– AUTUMN 2023 –

St John's Church, Station Approach, Stoneleigh KT19 0QZ.

www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk

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– CONTACT US –

Please feel free to contact the office at any time. Whilst it is not open every day emails are monitored and telephone messages can be left on the answerphone.

To join our mailing list or for personal enquiries about baptism, confirmation, individual spiritual support, or any other matter, please contact us:

Email: office@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk or telephone **020 8786 7048**

Rev. Geoff Andrew: geoff.andrew@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk

More information about the work of St John's, can also be seen on our website and Facebook page:

www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk www.facebook.com/stjohnschurchstoneleigh



St John's is a Hybrid Church Charter member. We strive to provide ways to digitally access church services in real time, allowing those digitally present to contribute, lead and serve as equals. This digital access extends to church meetings and events where possible. For more information about the Hybrid Church Charter, please see our website.

St John's takes SAFEGUARDING very seriously and we strive to ensure that at all times, St John's is a safe place for all children, young people, victims of domestic abuse and vulnerable adults.

On our website you will find copies of our Safeguarding Policy and also our Data Privacy Policy, together with much other information about events and activities.

Welcome

by Rev Geoff Andrew

I hope you enjoy this latest edition of **What's On at St John's**, the parish magazine of St John's Church, Stoneleigh.

Between now and the end of the year there's a lot going on. In these pages you will find details of our Season of Music that kicks off at the end of September with a Mamma Mia sing-along (September 28th) and ends with a Rock Choir concert and carols just before Christmas (December 15th).

I also warmly invite you to join our Harvest Festival celebrations (October 1st), Remembrance Sunday (November 12th), Remembering Loved Ones (October 29th) and of course, our traditional Christmas Services starting with the Carol Service on December 17th.

If you are interested in you or your child being baptised (christened), do contact us. Anyone who lives in the parish can be baptised in their parish church and be welcomed into the family of Christ.

Finally, as part of our commitment to better understand and serve the needs of Stoneleigh, we are conducting a short survey. We want to learn more about how you currently use the church, your opinions about services and events, and your thoughts about what would benefit our community. It will take only a few minutes of your time and your responses will remain completely anonymous.

To participate in the survey, please scan this QR code and follow any instruction online.



Thank you and may God bless you!

Rev Geoff Andrew
Associate Minister



ST JOHN'S SEASON OF MUSIC



MAMMA MIA SING-ALONG

Saturday 30th September 7.30pm

Adult £10 inc. a glass of fizz, **under 18's £5** inc. a soft drink. (Raffle 1st prize: 2 tickets for Abba Voyage)

Mamma Mia! It's sing-a-long night at St John's! Time to channel your inner Dancing Queen and enjoy the music of Abba. Imagine yourself on a Greek island where a local girl is about to be married. Imagine she discovers that any one of three men could be her father so and so invites them all to the wedding without telling her Mum. Imagine the chaos!

Bring friends, bring a drink and snacks...70's outfits, disco dancing and loud singing highly encouraged. Our main raffle prize is 2 tickets for Abba Voyage, an astounding show of technical wizardry that will convince you you're watching Abba play live.

SEPTEMBER



JONATHAN VEIRA

Saturday 28th October 7.30pm – £10

(wine and soft drinks available for a donation)

The amazingly talented and versatile international singer Jonathan Veira is coming to Stoneleigh as part of his Unlockdown Sessions Live Tour. You can expect a stunning evening of music and laughter. With a voice like melted chocolate, Jonathan sings songs from Billy Joel to gospel and everything in between: ballads, blues, rock 'n' roll, jazz and even opera – everything sounds completely authentic and exhilarating. Accompanying himself on the piano, his glorious singing frequently moves people to tears and then they later find themselves weeping with laughter!

OCTOBER



BRYN HAWORTH

Saturday 25th November 7.30pm – £5

(wine and soft drinks available for a donation)

Back by popular demand! Following last year's fabulous concert at St John's, legendary slide guitarist and singer songwriter Bryn Haworth returns with his inimitable brand of gospel, country rock and blues music which makes for an inspirational and entertaining evening. Bryn has made numerous radio and TV appearances, especially in the 70's when he recorded sessions for John Peel and appeared on the BBC's Old Grey Whistle Test.

NOVEMBER



ROCK CHOIR

Friday 15th December 6.30pm – £5

(plus charitable appeal to support Andrew Amukowa, founder of RUSH Academy Kenya)

Rock Choir at Christmas has become a tradition at St John's, and this year is no exception. Join us outside for carols and mulled wine around the Christmas tree, then head into the church at 7.15pm for a fun-filled, infectious and awe-inspiring vocal performance by the massed ranks of the Rock Choir. The evening includes a collection for Andrew Amukowa, the founder of RUSH Academy in Kenya which educates orphaned children.

DECEMBER

St John's Season of Music

September 28th – December 15th

This year's Season of Music line-up promises to be better than ever. It starts on Saturday, September 30th with the joyous, uplifting music of Abba as showcased by the immensely successful movie, **Mamma Mia** in sing-along version. St John's Church is equipped with two giant TV screens and a great sound system so do come along with your friends, join in the fun and enter the raffle with a chance to win gift vouchers for two tickets to the amazing Abba Voyage show in London.

Next up on Saturday, October 28th is **Jonathan Veira**. Jonathan is an incredible singer, musician and raconteur. His shows are hugely entertaining and will have you in tears of laughter one moment and tugging on your heart strings the next. His lockdown sessions, JV Live from the Steinway Room, kept many people sane during the lockdown period and won him a BBC award. Do check him out on YouTube.

Saturday, November 25th sees the return of Blues, Gospel and Rock 'n Roll singer songwriter, **Bryn Haworth**. Last year's concert at St John's was a genuine highlight as Bryn's beautiful guitar playing and soulful voice resounded around the church building. The 2022 show was a sellout so do book early for this one!

Completing the Season this year on Friday, December 15th we are delighted to welcome back the **Rock Choir**. What better way to mark the countdown to Christmas than singing carols around the tree and then enjoying the massed ranks of Rock Choir singing their unique arrangements to your favourite tunes? This year's concert includes a fundraiser for Andrew Amukowa, the founder of RUSH Academy in Kenya who is currently undergoing medical treatment.

Tickets for all shows can be booked through the St John's website at
www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk/music
or by signing the list in the welcome area inside the glass doors entrance to the church on Station Approach.



Harvest Festival Church Service

October 1st – 10:00am



Harvest is a time when traditionally we thank God for his provision of the crops that we bring in from the fields. Such rural imagery doesn't resonate quite the same way in suburban Stoneleigh. However, at a time when many people in our wider community are struggling to put food on the table, it is right to give thanks for our own daily food and support those who are not so fortunate.



The Trussell Trust, which is the biggest provider of foodbanks in this country, says that close to 3 million emergency food parcels were distributed by their network in the year to March 2023 — the most parcels ever distributed by them in a year. The number of people that used a foodbank for the first time in that same period was 760,000.

St John's is proud to support the Epsom & Ewell Foodbank. There is a collection box just inside the church doors which is always available for donations. The Harvest Festival church service on October 1st is a day when we make a special effort to bring gifts which we will distribute on your behalf.*



*(All items should be sealed, non-perishable, contain no alcohol and be in-date. Check the St John's website closer to the date for urgently needed items)

The Start! course

October 3rd – 7:30pm (weekly for six weeks)

Have you ever wondered what the Christian faith is all about?

Start! introduces Christianity through six interactive, small-group sessions. The Start! course makes no assumptions about participants' background or experience or knowledge of Christianity or the church. It really does start from scratch.

Each session lasts about 90 minutes and is based around short, lively video clips, down-to-earth 'vox pop' interviews and settings which include Blackpool beach, a fun fair, shopping centre and a junk yard, all designed to prompt lively discussion. There's time to chat and space for reflection - all in a style that aims to be honest and enjoyable.

To participate or for further information, please email office@stjohnstoneleigh.org.uk



Remembering Loved Ones Church Service

October 29th – 3:00pm

This is a special church service of thanksgiving to remember those we have loved and lost. It is quiet and reflective, allowing space to grieve and an opportunity to light a candle in memoriam.

The tradition of such a service is tied to the November 1st and November 2nd commemorations of All Saints Day (or All Hallows Day, hence the day prior being All Hallows Eve or Hallow'een) and All Souls Day respectively.

This is a time in the church calendar set aside to honour the saints and remember all who have recently died. The word 'hallow' means saintly or holy.

The Remembering Loved Ones service is open to everyone, whether or not your loved one (or you) professed a Christian faith.

If you are planning to attend, you may choose to have the name of your loved one read out during the service if the information is received by the church office at least one week prior to the service.

Contact details can be found on the back cover.

Worship for Everyone

Every Sunday at 11:00am

Worship for Everyone is a relaxed and informal style of church service. Come and join us for a coffee and chat beforehand. If you have children, don't worry about them making some noise or moving around. The service consists of a short talk or sermon relevant to our lives today. We sing contemporary worship songs and make use of the large screens to show videos and slides. We provide space to reflect and pray to the God who loves us.

We also have provision for children who leave the main service to do age-appropriate supervised activities with our children's workers.



ST JOHN'S CHURCH, STONELEIGH

Family Worship Sunday

WORSHIP FOR EVERYONE, 11:00am EVERY SUNDAY

Come and worship the God who loves us in a relaxed setting with live music, great teaching and where kids learn Bible stories and do crafts in a fun, safe place.

Remembrance Sunday Church Service

November 12th – 10:15am



On Remembrance Sunday, we acknowledge and honour the courage and sacrifice of those who served this country in two world wars and in various theatres of war since. We also hold in our thoughts and prayers those in our armed forces and emergency services who continue to protect us against acts of war or terror that threaten the freedom and the values we cherish.

Remembrance Sunday is an annual opportunity to reflect and take stock. If we are to truly honour the fallen, then we have to continually revisit the lessons that these terrible conflicts have taught us and acknowledge our responsibility to maintain and build on the peace and freedom that others fought so hard to achieve.

Our service begins in the church and then moves outside to the Garden of Remembrance where the bugler will play the Last Post and we observe the two minute silence. Wreaths will be laid by church officials, members of the uniformed organisations and veterans.

Carols in The Station Pub

December 8th – 6:30pm



The Station Pub will also hold the following events over the Christmas period:

CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING

November 30th, December 2nd
(ticketed event)

CHRISTMAS JUMPER COMPETITION WITH PRIZES

December 7th

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

December 9th, 10th, 17th

PRE-HOLIDAY FRIEND'S GET-TOGETHER

December 14th from 7:00pm

BOTTOMLESS BRUNCH

December 16th, 23rd

COCKTAILS & CHRISTMAS CALLIGRAPHY WORKSHOP

December 17th from 7:00pm

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

December 21st from 8:00pm

CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 22nd 8:00pm to midnight

(For details of all these events please contact The Station Pub, Stoneleigh)

Join us for a festive Christmas celebration of carol singing in The Station Pub on Stoneleigh Broadway, hosted by the pub and Stoneleigh churches. Children are welcome. Mulled wine will also be served.

The Station Pub will also host a Christmas-themed disco after the carol singing and children are welcome to stay until 9pm.



Christmas Services at St John's

Dates for your diary

Christmas marks the arrival of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. His birth symbolises hope and redemption for humanity. It signifies God's love and His willingness to enter the world in human form to offer salvation and forgiveness. One of the names we use to describe Jesus is Immanuel, which means 'God with us'.

The familiar Nativity story underscores themes of humility, as Jesus was born in a stable, and the importance of faith and devotion, as exemplified by the shepherds and the Wise Men. Millions of people around the world will gather to worship the Christ-child.

Carol Service

December 17th at 6:30pm

Join us for an evening of music, carol singing and festive readings at our traditional service of lessons and carols with a choir.

Crib and Christingle Service

Christmas Eve at 4:00pm

Come and discover the true story of Christmas as our live nativity is created before your very eyes. This is a family-friendly service and children have the chance to participate.

Tip: come in good time as we expect a full house!

Midnight Communion

Christmas Eve at 11:30pm

A reflective service celebrating that holy night when heaven touched earth at the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Christmas Day

at 10:00am

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Come and celebrate Jesus' birth with a family worship service followed by Holy Communion.



Hope at Christmas

by Gill Sathyamoorthy

I am one of those people who is not always filled with hope. There are times in my life when I have lurched from one crisis to another, despairing of myself as a person. Yet God has brought me through these times of darkness to see better days and to have hope in my heart again.



My faith has always been a mixture of despair and hope. However, hope is always the winner.

A few years ago, a relation of mine collapsed outside his gym. He was 35 years old. The doctors found a blood clot on his brain. He was given six weeks to live. The family gave up all hope, but within six weeks Ernie was more or less healed. As far as the family was concerned, it was a miracle.

That's OK you say, but what about all those who don't get healed? There is no real answer to that is there? There are many parents who after the death of a child work for these tragedies to be reduced in some way.

My hope springs from the Lord Jesus. Even when I am low, I know He is with me, by my side, with me in the pain and sorrow, gently nudging me towards the light.

Waiting is hard, especially when we are in distress. God will come to our aid, but it may be in a different way to what we expect.

The thing about Jesus is that He has never given up on me. He stays by my side through thick and thin, till eventually His light shines in my heart and hope is rekindled.

May the light of Christmas bring hope into your lives.

KidZone at St John's

Every Sunday at 11:00am

"Children, you belong to the Lord" Ephesians 6:1

KidZone is our provision for children at St John's.

We welcome all children! We learn about what it means to have a relationship with God. We hear Bible stories, ask questions, have discussions and enjoy craft activities to take home.

This term we will be hearing the Epic Tales of the Bible:

- Noah's Ark
- Joseph and his Colourful Coat
- Samson and Delilah
- David and Goliath
- Jonah and the Big Fish
- Daniel and the Lions' Den and more...

Do you know any of these stories?

Come and hear them again or for the first time!! We have some great activities planned.



WHO IS THIS JESUS THAT YOU SPEAK ABOUT?

Do you know?

Have you just gone back to school or even started a new school? Maybe you feel anxious or worried or just a bit nervous. The Bible is full of words that might help us during worrying times.

"Be strong and brave. Do not be frightened and do not be dismayed. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1 v9

Remember these words when you feel worried and don't forget to talk to your grown up about your worries too. God bless you as you start your new term.

Why not colour in this picture.



St. John's Church Baby and Toddler Group

Every Tuesday (during term time) 10:00am to 11:30am

Where:

St John's Parish Centre

Cost:

£3.00 for the first child and
£1.00 for each additional child

Email:

babyandtoddlergoup@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk

Facebook:

St John's Church Baby and
Toddler Group Stoneleigh



This is a popular drop-in group for babies, toddlers and their carers. Everyone is welcome whether you are a mum, dad, aunt, uncle, grandparent or carer.

There is a large range of toys including a home corner, see-saw, slide, ride-ons, books, puzzles, transport, farm and animal toys and a good selection of baby toys in the baby area.

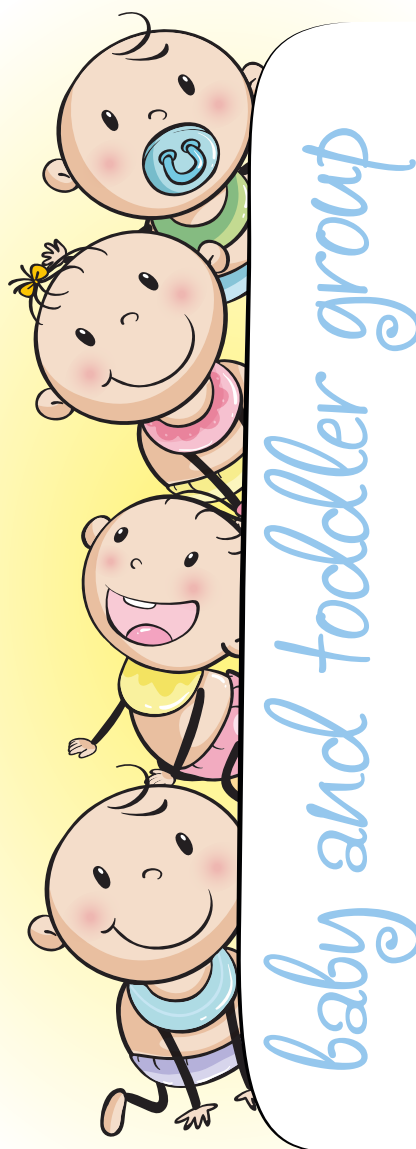
Materials are provided on Jan's craft table for brilliant craft activities each week.

The fabulous volunteers from church provide the children with a drink and fruit at snack time and the adults enjoy freshly brewed coffee, tea and plenty of biscuits!

The children enjoy the routine of helping to tidy-up during the 'tidy-up' song, occasional bible stories with the vicar and joining in with singing at the end of the session.

The group has recently been very busy so please try to arrive as close to 10:00am as possible. Sadly, the doors will be closed when the maximum capacity of 45 children is reached.

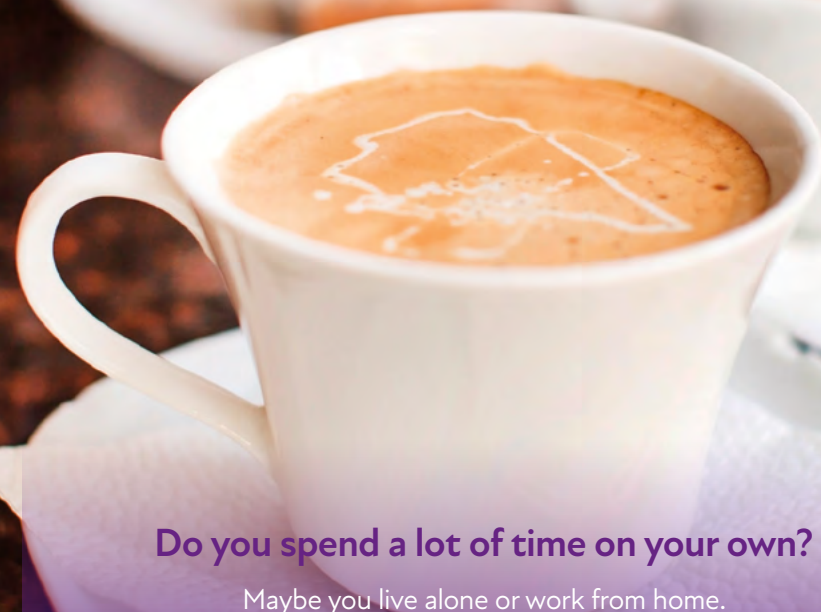
Gin Yershon and Jan Davey



ST JOHN'S

café

Tea, Coffee, Cold Drinks,
Cakes and more...



Do you spend a lot of time on your own?

Maybe you live alone or work from home.
Or maybe you care for someone else and could use a break.

St John's Café is a place to come and meet others where you're guaranteed a warm welcome and a friendly chat.

And a decent cup of tea or coffee at a very reasonable price!

Every Thursday, 1:30–3:30pm

St John's Church, Station Approach, Stoneleigh KT19 0QZ.

020 8786 7048 office@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk

St. John's Craft Group

Third Monday of the Month 10:00am to 12 noon

We meet in the Parish Room in the Parish Centre. Everyone brings their own craft, be it knitting, card making, crochet, sewing, mindful colouring to name a few. With lots of chat and tea and coffee we craft the morning away.

All are welcome, so bring your crafting and join us.

Veronica Gittins

Tunes 'n' Tea

Second Thursday of the Month 1:30pm to 3:30pm

Come for an afternoon of live music, tea, coffee, cakes and conversation. House band Zephyr6 and guest musicians perform for your delight!

Relax and listen to a mix of songs and tunes, old, new, and everything in between!

Enquiries to: **020 8224 1351**.
Leave a message and your number and we will call you back.

Entrance: **£5:00**

Alan Munday



Ewell Dance

Every Monday and Wednesday Evening

At Ewell Dance we offer classes in RAD Ballet, ISTD Modern, ISTD Tap, Contemporary Dance, Street Dance, Acro and Musical Theatre for ages 2+. We offer adult tap class too.

We provide a supportive, nurturing, and fun environment for your child. We are focused on encouraging each child to develop dance skills and technique appropriate to their level of development. Ewell Dance has been teaching students for over 20 years with a 100% success rate in examinations.

Our classes run in St John's Church Hall in Stoneleigh on Mondays and Wednesday evenings. We love the light, bright space for dancing. We have Ballet, Street Dance and Contemporary Dance classes on those evenings.

MONDAY

4:00–4:30pm Nursery Ballet
4:30–5:00pm Junior Contemporary
5:00–5:30pm Junior Street Dance
5:30–6:15pm Senior Street Dance
6:15–7:00pm Senior Contemporary

WEDNESDAY

3:45–4:15pm Nursery/Reception Ballet
4:15–4:45pm Mini Street Dance
4:45–5:15pm Primary Ballet
5:15–6:00pm Grade 1 Ballet
6:00–7:00pm Grade 6 Ballet

We have other dance styles of classes available in Ewell on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

We offer a FREE TRIAL LESSON and NO REGISTRATION FEES.

Contact Claire today for your free trial lesson.

www.ewelldance.com claire@ewelldance.com 07821 414342

EWELL DANCE

Spotlight on... Volunteering

by Amanda Reed

Research has shown that people who volunteer are happier, healthier and can even live longer. As a volunteer for a number of organisations I feel that I am making a difference, albeit in a small way and whilst it is a commitment, I do not find that volunteering is onerous or takes up too much of my time. I really enjoy it.

For example, one morning a week I visit an elderly lady as a befriender for Age Concern Epsom & Ewell. This entails sitting in her lounge and having a good old gossip over a cup of tea. I usually stay for 90 minutes to 2 hours as we find such a lot to chat about. I recently signed up as a telephone befriender for Age UK where, once a week I telephone a 92 year old gentleman and chat to him for 30 minutes. This is done in the comfort of my own home and again, I get great pleasure having a good old chat and hearing about his life.

The reason I volunteer for ACEE and Age UK is that approximately 1.2 million older people across the UK often feel lonely and isolated. There are many people in our neighbourhood who go unnoticed behind closed doors, yearning for someone to speak to. Half a million older people go at least 5 or 6 days a week without seeing or speaking to anyone. In the last year I have got involved with helping St John's Church with events and other activities, I've been able to put my skills and expertise to good use and I've made some new friends.



There are many organisations in the local area that depend on the help from volunteers. The list is long, but for example Stoneleigh and Auriol Residents Association, local churches, Age Concern Epsom & Ewell, charity shops, libraries, Stoneleigh Job Club, and Epsom & Ewell Food Bank. I do urge you, if you have a few hours to spare a week please sign up as a volunteer, you will make a difference and hopefully you will enjoy it.

The Community Meets at St John's Parish Centre...

Take the plunge and explore a new way to have fun or to keep fit – or both! There are some great activities available in the St John's Parish Centre, from exercise and dance classes for children and adults to the monthly Rock 'n Roll concert, Tunes & Tea.

SUPER SENIORS

Low impact exercise to music class
Mondays 10:15–11:15am.

Improve strength, flexibility, balance and coordination.

For more information, contact Jane on

Tel: 07879 407 933

SURREY HOGSMILL SQUARES ENGLAND

SQUARE DANCE CLUB

We dance at 7:00pm on Tuesday evenings, new dancers always welcome.

Good music and gentle exercise...

Tel: 0203 556 7449

yOGA with Julia

KEEP YOUNG, HAVE FUN

Attain poise and stillness and let go of stress. Join our friendly group on Mondays at 7:15pm. The class is suitable for all abilities.

Juliapatron@hotmail.co.uk
 www.yogajulia.co.uk

Tel: 07913 647 719

Let's Party ZUMBA

"FITNESS HAS NEVER BEEN SO MUCH FUN UNTIL NOW"

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH HALL, STONELEIGH

CLASSES

WEDNESDAYS 7:45 PM
 THURSDAYS 7:45 PM

EVERYBODY WELCOME

+IN FO

077 5821 6988
 @latinpartyfitness
 zumbalatin23@yahoo.co.uk

SURREY DANCE ADDICTS

Ballroom and Latin American Dance for all ages and abilities.

surreydanceaddicts@gmail.com
 www.surreydanceaddicts.co.uk

Tel: 07795 082 932

Core Values Pilates

Pilates develops the body uniformly, corrects wrong postures, restores physical vitality, invigorates the mind, and elevates the spirit.

Wednesday mornings (prior booking essential)

Please contact Paul
 www.corevaluespilates.co.uk

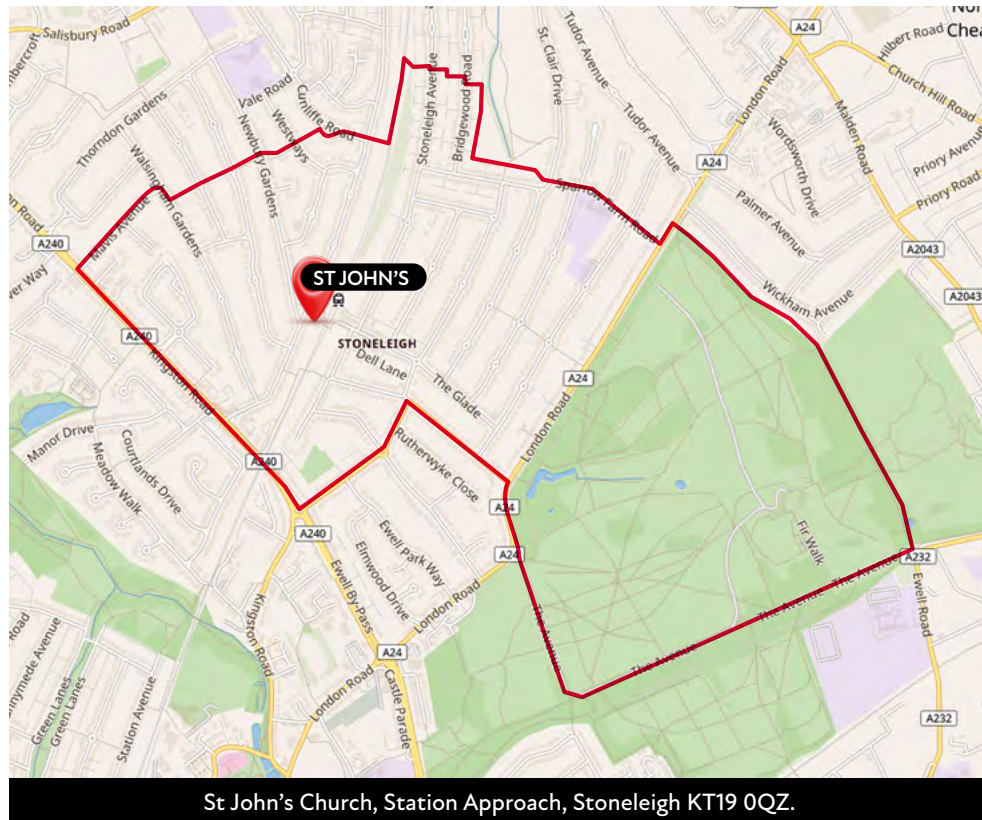
Why not hire St John's Parish Centre?

How to find us

The Centre is available for hire for children's parties, family gatherings and other events.

For further information and details of pricing go to our website page:
<https://church.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk/hall-for-hire/>

We're in a great location, close to Stoneleigh Railway Station on the other side from the Broadway.



This publication is designed by Panther Creative Limited,
22 Stoneleigh Park Road, KT19 0QT. Tel: 07500 345 495.



3 rd September	In The Beginning
10 th September	Noah's Ark and The Flood
17 th September	Joseph's Coat
24 th September	Exodus!
1 st October	HARVEST
8 th October	The Walls of Jericho
15 th October	Samson & Delilah
22 nd October	David & Goliath
29 th October	Elijah & The Prophets of Baal
5 th November	Jonah and The Big Fish
12 th November	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
19 th November	Daniel in the Lion's Den
26 th November	Ezekiel and the Valley of Bones

CELEBRATE WITH — ST JOHN'S —

St John's Church Regular Services

SUNDAY SERVICES

9:30am Holy Communion

11:00am Worship for Everyone

Sunday services include sung hymns and songs,
the 9:30am service is streamed live on
<https://stoneleigh.tv>
and a recorded version is available on the website.

MIDWEEK SERVICES

Monday – 9:30am Morning Prayer

Wednesday – 9:30am Holy Communion

Midweek services are said services (*without music*)
and the Monday service is available on zoom.

020 8786 7048

office@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk
www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk