



St John's, Stoneleigh

Weekly Newsletter

12th November 2023

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

Anne and I had a lovely break last week visiting friends and relations in Manchester. My thanks go to Rev David Packham for covering my absence. This week we commemorate that very special annual event, Remembrance Sunday. On this day 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 then. And 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. For those who will be joining us in church, I would remind you that we have one service at 10.15am starting in church and finishing with the Act of Remembrance outside (weather permitting).

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

Our chair appeal has so far raised £1,760! That means we need another £220 to reach our target. If you have contributed already, thank you so much. If you have not done so, please consider contributing the cost of one chair (£84). We are so close to achieving our goal.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

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.

With Christmas quickly approaching please can we add a few extra seasonal food items:

Chocolate tubs - celebration, heroes etc. Biscuit Selection boxes - Victoria, Fox's etc. Marshmallow Assorted roasted nuts, seeds etc. Hot chocolate/Coffee/Tea Sugar Rice Pasta Soup packets and tins Custard Long life baked foods.

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 VIGIL

When you hit a light switch, you expect the bulb to illuminate. If we are the light switch and God's light is the bulb, then we need the **power** of praying together to shine His light on the world, the UK and our community of Stoneleigh.

Please sign up to our 24-hour prayer vigil starting at 9am on Saturday 9th December. By praying together, we can ask for the power of the Holy Spirit to wash over:

- Our Planet
- World Conflicts & Tyranny
- St John's Church- our members and community
- People with Health Needs & Addiction

Please see the paper schedule at the front of the church or speak with Lizanne Matthew or Steve Simper. A Prayer Vigil Booklet will be available in two weeks.

Steve Simper

PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting of the Prayer Group will be on Thursday, 23rd November starting at 3.30pm – just after the Coffee Café. All are warmly welcome to join us in the Chapel. Indeed, why not join us for a latte at 1.30 and quench both your thirst and spirit.

Steve Simper

FOODBANK

Followers of our Whats App will have noted that there is a chance that we may try a Foodbank Reverse Advent Calendar this year. The first request for Christmas items is already on this list. We'll post news as and when we get it. Meanwhile there is still a request for many urgent items please.

Very urgently required are:- Chocolate Spread, Toilet Rolls, Washing Powder (Bio and Non Bio), Children's toothbrushes - ages 0-2 and 6+, Children's Toothpaste - ages 6-12.

Also required please are:- Crisps, Nappies 6+, Male Deodorant, Christmas items- Please note that anything with alcohol in it cannot be accepted. ***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). 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

In his letter to the Roman church, St Paul declares: "bless those who persecute you"; "do not repay anyone evil for evil"; "as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone"; "do not take revenge". How do we make sense of these words of peace and reconciliation in a world that seems ever more determined to descend into armed conflict? Yet there are lessons we can learn from history if we are willing to be courageous and apply Christian ideals to conflict resolution.

Reading

Romans 12:9-21

Janis Forder

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practise hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. ¹⁷ Do not be conceited. ¹⁸ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁹ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ²⁰ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. ²¹ On the contrary: 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.' ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Intercessor

Ian Hargrave

Music

1. Praise my Soul, the King of Heaven
2. Dear Lord and Father of Mankind
3. In Christ Alone