



# St John's, Stoneleigh

## Weekly Newsletter

### 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023

#### A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

The poignancy of last week's Remembrance service gives way this week to a joyful celebration of baptism as we welcome Theo Jayasinghe into the church family at the 11am service. It will not be long now until our attention is focused on Advent and Christmas, so I am very grateful to all those people who donated so generously to our Chair Appeal. I am delighted to say that the required amount for the second set of 20 chairs has been received and we have placed an order that 'should' arrive in time for the Christmas services. Thank you!

*Rev. Geoff Andrew*

#### PAT TANNER

Pat Tanner, a long-standing and much loved member of our church family died on Thursday after a short illness. We thank God for her life and example in the confident knowledge that she is now at peace with her Lord and Saviour. We will let everyone know when we have more details about the funeral. Please pray for Pat's sister, family and friends as they, and we, mourn her loss.

*Rev. Geoff Andrew*

#### NO HOLY COMMUNION ON WEDNESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2023

There will be no Holy Communion next Wednesday November 22 because a group of us will be attending a conference at St Paul's Howell Hill.

*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*

#### PRAYER VIGIL

During the second World War MI5 used many thousands of carrier pigeons to deliver and bring back information from overseas. To ensure this line of communication worked well, the handlers needed to feed and nurture the birds. In the same way, if we are to nurture our relationship with God, we need to have a good line of communication.

Please sign up to our 24-hour prayer vigil starting at 9am on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December. By praying together we can ask for God's voice to fill our church with His Word.

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 next week.

*Steve Simper*

#### PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting of the Prayer Group will be on Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

#### 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*

#### NEW HOME GROUP(S)

As previously communicated, we plan to start one or two new home groups (or house groups) in January. The dates and times that the groups meet will set once we know the availability of those who are interested in joining. If you would like to know more, Suzanne Lyse and Steve Simper will be hosting a social event on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 7pm at 43 Bradstock Rd, Stoneleigh, KT17 2LD (Suzanne's house). Please speak to Suzanne, Steve or me if you would like to come.

*Rev. Geoff Andrew*

#### FOODBANK

We are aware that there are many demands on our generosity at this time of year so we very much appreciate that many are still supporting the Foodbank.

This week they have started to ask on a regular basis for items to fill the goodie bags which go out to every client in time for Christmas.

They have asked for:- Christmas cakes, Selection boxes, savoury Christmas snacks, Yule logs, Chocolate treats in tubs, Christmas biscuits, Mince pies, Custard, Tinned Ham, Packet stuffing, Christmas sweets, Yorkshire pudding mix

Plus they need to keep the shelves stocked:- Washing up liquid, Male deodorant, Hair conditioner, Tampons, Baby shampoo / wash

Please remember that all items should be in date, sealed and do not contain alcohol Thank you. **The Foodbank Team**

## ZOOM

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

## CRAFT CLUB

The next Craft Club meeting will be held in the Parish Room on Monday 20th November. Please join us from 10 am to 12 noon for chat, tea, coffee and biscuits. Oh, and bring your crafting, because we do get some work done sometimes!!

All are welcome, so see you there! **Veronica Gittins**

## 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). 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

Our penultimate venture into the great stories of the Old Testament is the Epic Tale of Daniel in the Lions' Den. Daniel has been exiled in Babylon along with many of his Jewish compatriots after the fall of the kingdom of Judah. Rather like Joseph in Egypt many centuries before him, he finds that his faithfulness to God is both a key to success and a dangerous threat to his life. How he ended up with the lions - and how he escaped unharmed - is a wonderful story of prayerful integrity. Would you stand up for Jesus if your very life depended on it?

## Readings

### **Daniel 6: 1-23**

**Janis Forder**

6 It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, <sup>2</sup>with three chief ministers over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss. <sup>3</sup>Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the chief ministers and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. <sup>4</sup>At this, the chief ministers and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. <sup>5</sup>Finally these men said, 'We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God.' <sup>6</sup>So these chief ministers and satraps went as a group to the king and said: 'May King Darius live for ever! <sup>7</sup>The royal ministers, prefects, satraps, advisors and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions' den. <sup>8</sup>Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered – in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.' <sup>9</sup>So King Darius put the decree in writing. <sup>10</sup>Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened towards Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. <sup>11</sup>Then these men went as a group and found Daniel

praying and asking God for help. <sup>12</sup>So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: 'Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions' den?' The king answered, 'The decree stands – in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.' <sup>13</sup>Then they said to the king, 'Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day.' <sup>14</sup>When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sunset to save him. <sup>15</sup>Then the men went as a group to King Darius and said to him, 'Remember, Your Majesty, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed.' <sup>16</sup>So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, 'May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!' <sup>17</sup>A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed. <sup>18</sup>Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep. <sup>19</sup>At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. <sup>20</sup>When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, 'Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?' <sup>21</sup>Daniel answered, 'May the king live for ever! <sup>22</sup>My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.' <sup>23</sup>The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

## **Matthew 14:3-12**

<sup>3</sup>Now Herod had arrested John and bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, <sup>4</sup>for John had been saying to him: 'It is not lawful for you to have her.' <sup>5</sup>Herod wanted to kill John, but he was afraid of the people, because they considered John a prophet. <sup>6</sup>On Herod's birthday the daughter of Herodias danced for the guests and pleased Herod so much <sup>7</sup>that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. <sup>8</sup>Prompted by her mother, she said, 'Give me here on a dish the head of John the Baptist.' <sup>9</sup>The king was distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he ordered that her request be granted <sup>10</sup>and had John beheaded in the prison. <sup>11</sup>His head was brought in on a dish and given to the girl, who carried it to her mother. <sup>12</sup>John's disciples came and took his body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus.

## Collect

Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation: stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope that all creation will one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Intercessor

**Chris Redrup**

## Music at 9.30am

1. Thine be the Glory
2. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation
3. Jesus is Lord
4. *During communion*: Spirit of the Living God

## Music at 11.00am

1. Come, Now is the Time for Worship
2. How Great is our God

## **Book of Remembrance**

Katherine Theresa Hamilton  
Elizabeth Browning Pavey