



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 26th November 2023

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

Greetings to all! This weekend is the final one of the church year and is celebrated as the Feast of Christ the King. According to Patriarch Cyril of Alexandria, 'Christ's kingdom is founded upon the hypostatic union.' There's a free biscuit on Sunday for anyone who can tell me what hypostatic union means! If anyone is reading this on Saturday, it's not too late to join us tonight for the Bryn Haworth concert at 7.30pm. Or if you are coming, invite a friend. It's always a great blessing to see the church full of people from the local community, enjoying the music and hearing the gospel story.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

PAT TANNER

The funeral for Pat Tanner will take place at St John's on Saturday December 16 at 10.30am. There will be a reception to follow in the parish centre. We are expecting Pat's sister, Kristien and Pat's nephew and niece, Jeremy and Diana, to be in attendance. We also plan to make the service available on Zoom. Please continue to pray for the family.

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 9th 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

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

UKRAINIAN REFUGEE CHRISTMAS APPEAL

This Christmas, Epsom & Ewell Refugee Network (EERN) is supporting refugee families in our area to buy Christmas gifts for their children, and to host a Christmas celebration so that the community has a space to come together. A donation of £20 will support one child to attend this Christmas party and a £15 voucher for each child so that their parents can choose a meaningful Christmas gift for them. The party will be organised by the Ukrainian community, with support from the EERN team. Please follow this link to donate: <https://epsomandewellfoodbank.enthouse.com/cf/4a8d>

Rev. Geoff Andrew

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 28th 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

CHRISTMAS CHOIR

It is that time of year when we start to think about Christmas and the Christmas carol service. This year's service takes place at 6.30pm on Sunday, 17th December. We are again putting together a St. John's choir to sing at this event. The first choir practice was held on Thursday, 23rd November from 7.30pm until 9pm in church and will be every Thursday thereafter at the same time. There will also be a choir practice on the afternoon of the carol service at 4pm. Do come along

and join us and please encourage other family and friends to join our merry band of singers. Many thanks. **Chris Webb**

FOODBANK

A suggestion that we try a Reverse Advent Calendar this year has been given some thought. The idea would be to donate an item for the Foodbank instead of collecting a gift from behind the Calendar doors. We have adapted this suggestion a bit and will be providing a flier asking for certain items marking the weeks of Advent. Please try to put an item from the list into the Foodbank Box each week. The first week is the list of items needed to help the Centre fill their Christmas Goodie bags for each family that depends on the Foodbank. The donation deadline for these items is 8th December so our request list this week starts with Christmas favourites. It may be a good idea to make a choice as a family about what might be donated.

The Foodbank needs:- Christmas cake, Christmas Selection boxes, Savoury Christmas Snacks, Yule Logs, Chocolate tubs, Christmas Biscuits, Mince Pies, Custard, Tinned Ham, Packet Stuffing, Christmas Sweets, Yorkshire Pudding Mix - *please remember that items should not contain alcohol*. Also required please:- Washing up liquid, Household cleaning products, Hair conditioner, Tampons, Sanitary Towels, Crisps, Long Life Juice, Squash.

Thank you everyone - we know that it is a demanding time on everyone's purses so your contributions are especially appreciated. **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! 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

This week is the final one in our series of Epic Tales from the Old Testament and it's the story of Ezekiel and his vision of the Valley of Dry Bones. It's a tale that has been popularized by the African American Spiritual song from the 1920s, 'Dry Bones'. The vision itself tells of Ezekiel, under God's instruction, prophesying to the bones and seeing them come back to life. It's a striking illustration of restoration and renewal even in the most desolate circumstances. No situation and no person is beyond God's redemption.

Readings

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me to and fro among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³He asked me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?' I said, 'Sovereign LORD, you alone know.' ⁴Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to these bones and say to them, "Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!" ⁵This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath^[a] enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶I will attach tendons to you and

make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.'" ⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet – a vast army. ¹¹Then he said to me: 'Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.'" ¹²Therefore prophesy and say to them: "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. ¹⁴I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD."

John 14:23-27

²³Jesus replied, 'Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. ²⁵'All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Collect

God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory.

Intercessor

Chris Redrup

Music at 9.30am

1. Come down O Love Divine (MP 89)
2. Love divine, all loves excelling (MP 449)
3. Father, we love you (MP 142)
4. *During communion:* Spirit of the Living God (MP 613)
5. Great is thy faithfulness (MP 200)

Music at 11.00am

1. Shout to the Lord
2. Jesus Paid it All
3. Be Still for the Presence of the Lord
4. King of Kings