



# St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024 The Second Sunday of Epiphany

## A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

It was encouraging to see so many back in church last week, including a number of new faces. With another 'full house' at the Baby & Toddler group on Tuesday, it does feel like the new year is definitely well under way. This season of Epiphany carries that sense of unveiling of the truth about Jesus to the whole world (represented by the Magi). As we journey together in 2024, may the Holy Spirit reveal to each of us more and more of Jesus the Christ and may we grow in love and understanding of Him. And can I also encourage you to keep showing love for others by supporting the Foodbank and the Ukraine Appeal where the needs are as great as ever (details of what is needed are in this newsletter).

*Rev. Geoff Andrew*

## RUSH ACADEMY CHILD SPONSORSHIP

RUSH is one of our primary mission partners. Based in Kakamega, Kenya, RUSH was set up by Andrew and Lucy Amukowa to provide education to local children and give them the tools to break out of the cycle of poverty. One of the ways we can support the work of RUSH is to sponsor a child. We have a number of children's profiles available at St John's and sponsorships cost £20 per month. Please speak to Claire Cornell or Rev. Geoff if you are interested. *Rev. Geoff Andrew*

## ST JOHN'S QUIZ NIGHT – FEB 10

The first social event of 2024 is Quiz Night which will take place in church on Feb 10 at 7pm. We are looking for teams of 6 people. The cost is £5 per person and there will be prizes for the winning teams (and a booby prize for the lowest scorers!). Bring your own food and drink. The event will be raising funds for Sally & Yagya Singh our mission partners in Nepal, so there will also be a raffle and a craft stall. To take part, please use the sign up sheet at the front of church or email the church office. Ideally we would like people to form their own teams, but if you're stuck put your name down anyway and we'll do our best to form teams nearer the time. *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*

## ZOOM

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

## ST JOHN'S REFLECTIONS

We have set up a new WhatsApp group dedicated to sharing Christian reflections, meditations and bible verses. Called St John's Reflections, its purpose is to build one another in the faith. That doesn't mean that such things can't be shared on the main St John's WhatsApp group, but it makes sense to have a place set apart from the general admin and chat. The new group is open to all. Just let myself or Will Porter know if you would like to join. And I should add that joining does not mean you have to contribute...it's perfectly fine to just receive!

*Rev. Geoff Andrew*

## CRAFT CLUB

The next meeting of Craft Club will be on Monday, 15th January. We meet in the Parish room from 10am to 12 noon. Bring your Crafting and enjoy a morning of chat and craft.

*Veronica Gittins*

## 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](http://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*

## FOODBANK

The Foodbank doesn't seem to have got into a new year routine yet so the emails on an updated request list have not arrived yet. Here is last week's list again just to give you some idea of the sort of items they are most desperate for.

Jars of pasta sauce, Jars of cooking sauce, Tinned fruit, Tinned fish, Tinned meat, Tinned spaghetti, Tea bags, Honey, Long life sponge puddings, Custard, Long-life juice, Ketchup, Loo rolls, Deodorant, Shampoo & Conditioner, Shaving gel / foam, Toothpaste adult, Nappies sizes 5+ and 6.

*The Foodbank Team*

## **PRAYER GROUP**

They say that the grass is greener where you water it! Why not come along to the prayer group after coffee club on Thursday 18 January 2023 starting at 3:30 in the chapel. This will be a perfect opportunity to water the grass and see your faith grow.

**Steve Simper**

## **Today's Services**

This is week two of our sermon series 'Walk the Talk' based on the book of James. After last week's focus on building perseverance in the face of trials and testing, we turn this week to the challenge of temptation and a stark warning against the perils of being 'dragged away' from the straight paths when we should be choosing the 'good and perfect gifts' of God. The 9.30am service this morning includes Prayers for Healing and the 11am service includes Communion.

## **Readings**

### **James 1:13-18**

<sup>13</sup>When tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; <sup>14</sup>but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. <sup>15</sup>Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. <sup>16</sup>Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup>Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. <sup>18</sup>He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created.

### **Matthew 4:1-11**

<sup>4</sup>Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>After fasting for forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came to him and said, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.' <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God"' <sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the highest point of the temple. <sup>6</sup>'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."' <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered him, 'It is also written: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' <sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. <sup>9</sup>'All this I will give you,' he said, 'if you will bow down and worship me.' <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, 'Away from me, Satan! For it is written: "Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only."' <sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

### **Collect**

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Music at 9.30am**

1. Tell out my soul (MP 631)
2. Great is Thy faithfulness (MP 200)
3. Breathe on me, breath of God (MP 67)
4. During Communion: There is a Redeemer (MP 673)
5. Now thank we all our God (MP486)

### **Music at 11.00am**

1. How great is our God
2. Good good father
3. As the deer
4. The Lord's my shepherd (I will trust in you alone)