



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 21st January 2024 The Third Sunday of Epiphany

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

So Winter has finally arrived! I do hope that you are managing to stay warm and avoiding the worst of the seasonal viruses. This Sunday, we are on week three of 'Walk the Talk', our sermon series on the Book of James, and I am delighted to say that Bishop Lucy Amukowa will be preaching for us. Lucy and her husband Andrew are the founders of RUSH Academy, our mission partners in Kenya. And speaking of RUSH, those of you who joined the services last weekend will have heard me extend a huge 'thank you' to everyone who has sponsored a child through RUSH. The nine student profiles we were offered have all been taken which is a wonderful result.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

CHRIS LONG

Chris Long, a long-standing and much-loved member of our church family died last week. We thank God for her life and example in the confident knowledge that she is now at peace with her Lord and Saviour. Please pray for Chris's family and friends. We will let everyone know when we have more details about the funeral.

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

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.

Shelly, Ukrainian Refugee Contact

FOODBANK

What better way to try to keep warm than a good meal. The Foodbank is working flat out to make sure that they get food to the people that really need their help at this time. Please could you help us with one of these items from the Foodbank's urgent list. Thank you.

Jars of cooking sauce, Tinned veg, Tinned pasta/beans with meat, Jam, Instant mash, Sponge puddings (long-life), Long-life juice, Powdered milk, Sugar (500g bags), Cereal bars, Loo rolls - EXTRA URGENT, Shampoo / conditioner, Deodorant, Toothpaste / toothbrushes adult, Washing up liquid, Nappies 5+, 6, Bags for life/ strong shopper bags.

The Foodbank Team

Book of Remembrance

Thomas Arthur Aldridge
Betty Marjorie Phyllis Hooper
Marjorie Kathleen Rhind-Tutt

Today's Services

Last week we looked at the thorny issue of temptation and how to avoid falling into it. This week, our practically-minded teacher, James, advocates that 'everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.' Moreover, 'those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves.' Sound advice! And a challenge for us all to genuinely 'walk the talk.'

Readings

James 1:19-27

Janis Forder

¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. ²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent, and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. ²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom and continues in it – not forgetting what they have heard but doing it – they will be blessed in what they do. ²⁶ Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Matthew 7:21-27

²¹ 'Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?" ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, "I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!" ²⁴ 'Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.'

Collect

God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.

Intercessor

Chris Redrup

Music at 9.30am

1. He who would valiant be (MP 224)
2. I, the Lord of sea and sky (MP 857)
3. Be thou my vision (MP 51) vs 1,2,4,5
4. *During communion:* As the Deer (MP 37)
5. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation (MP 564)

Music at 11.00am

1. Come, now is the time to worship
2. Open the eyes of my heart
3. Here I am to worship
4. 10,000 reasons