



# St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 28th January 2024 The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

## A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

Everyone I spoke to after last week's services said how touched they had been by Bishop Lucy's sermon/testimony. Her personal experience of 'don't just listen to God, obey Him' was so powerful. Those of you who bought the book will come to realise how much that faith-filled approach has been the hallmark of her whole life. We continue 'walking the talk' with James this week by focusing on 'equality in the church', and I'm delighted that Ian Hargrave will be preaching.

*Rev. Geoff Andrew*

## COMMUNION SERVICE ON WEDS JAN 31

Please note there will be no service of Holy Communion next Wednesday (31<sup>st</sup>) as I will be away on a Deanery retreat.

*Rev. Geoff Andrew*

## FLOWERS IN MEMORY OF GERALD CATOR

The beautiful flowers in Church are given in memory of Gerald Cator by his wife Penny.

## 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 have now reached our maximum of 15 teams and we're looking forward to a great evening of fun and fundraising supporting Sally and Yagya in Nepal.

*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](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

Last week we were grateful to be able to include donations from the Stoneleigh WI with our collection. It's always good to feel that we can provide a link between local organisations and the Foodbank in this way. Thank you, WI members.

This week the Foodbank have requested: Tinned meat, Long-life Juice (have none), Squash (have none), Sugar 500g bags (have none), Dog Food (have none), Tinned veg, Tinned Fruit, Powdered milk, Chocolate biscuit bars such as Penguins etc. Shampoo/conditioner, Deodorant, both male and female, Washing Powder – Non Bio, Single Toothbrushes – adult, Washing up liquid, and Nappies 5+. Bags for life/ strong shopper bags. Thank you.

*The Foodbank Team*

## CALLING ALL BAKERS

We love providing coffee, teas and cakes at our Café on a Thursday. We are looking for volunteers, even if you are not able attend the café, to go onto a rota to, say, bake a cake or provide a 'shop bought' cake once a month. At present this task falls on one or two bakers every week and it would be great to be able to spread the load. If you feel you would be willing to make a cake once a month, on a rota basis, that would be brilliant. Please see Janis or Chris McInnes if you feel able to help.

*Cafe*

## CALLING ALL POTENTIAL BARISTAS FOR OUR THURSDAY CAFE

If you feel you would like to be more involved in this great outreach programme and would be willing to be trained on how to use the coffee machine and go onto a rota to help out, again, once a month, please see Janis or Chris McInnes.

*Cafe*

Holy Spirit to transform us by the good news of everlasting life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **Today's Services**

In week four of our sermon series "Walk the Talk" we consider the start of the second chapter of James' letter. Do we show favouritism in our church towards our visitors? How can we avoid being judgmental?

## **Readings**

**James 2:1-13**

***Lynne Coppin***

2 My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favouritism. 2 Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. 3 If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, 'Here's a good seat for you,' but say to the poor man, 'You stand there' or 'Sit on the floor by my feet,' 4 have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? 5 Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? 6 But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? 7 Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong? 8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, 'Love your neighbour as yourself,' you are doing right. 9 But if you show favouritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as law-breakers. 10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. 11 For he who said, 'You shall not commit adultery,' also said, 'You shall not murder. 'If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a law-breaker. 12 Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, 13 because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

**Matthew 9:9-13**

9 As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. 'Follow me,' he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. 10 While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?' 12 On hearing this, Jesus said, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but those who are ill. 13 But go and learn what this means: "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.'

## **Collect**

God of heaven, you send the gospel to the ends of the earth and your messengers to every nation: send your

## **Intercessor**

***Chris Redrup***

## **Music at 9.30am**

1. How Great Thou Art (MP 506)
2. Dear Lord and Father of Mankind (MP 111) vs 1,2,3,5,6
3. Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God (MP 590)
4. During communion: Father we love you (MP 142)
5. Praise My Soul the King of Heaven (MP 560)

## **Music at 11.00am**

1. Hosanna (Praise is Rising)
2. What a Beautiful Name
3. Oceans
4. How Great Thou Art

## **Book of Remembrance**

Gerald Alfred Cator  
Sheelagh Pauline Wiltshire