



# St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024

## A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

This Sunday is the final weekend before Lent which begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb 14. I would encourage you to take a copy of the new Church of England booklet, 'Watch and Pray' (details below), to be your companion through the Lenten season. On Wednesday we will hold a Communion service at 9.30am (in church rather than the chapel), to include the imposition of ashes. Do come along if you can. As I write this, we are anticipating a full house for the St John's Quiz Night on Saturday. Please pray that all those in attendance would not only have a great evening, but would also be generous in their financial support for Sally and Yagya in Nepal and come back for other events and services in future. Finally, a reminder that the 9.30 service on Sunday includes Prayers for Healing and the 11am service includes Communion. **Rev. Geoff Andrew**

## CHRIS LONG'S FUNERAL

This will take place on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 2.45pm at Randalls Park Crematorium. **Jean Tutton**

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 14 is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. There will be a special service of Holy Communion in church at 9.30am on this day which will include the traditional (though optional) Imposition of Ashes. This is when a cross of ashes is marked upon one's forehead as a visible sign of penitence and mortality. **Rev. Geoff Andrew**

## START COURSE – APRIL 16

The Start Course is for anyone who wants to explore Christianity, or Christians who would value a refresher on the basics of our faith. It takes place over 6 informal discussion sessions on a Tuesday evening, commencing April 16, from 7.30-9pm. Many of the St John's church family have participated already so do ask around (or me directly) if you would like to know more. This is also a great opportunity to invite someone you know who is curious or asking questions about faith or just life in general. **Rev. Geoff Andrew**

## LENT PROGRAM BOOKLETS

The Church of England has produced a small booklet for the Lenten season called 'Watch and Pray'. It includes Bible readings, prayer and reflections for every day of Lent (from Feb 14 to Easter). These are available on the welcome desk. I do encourage you to take one. There are also about 10 copies for children. A suggested donation of £2 would be appreciated. **Rev. Geoff Andrew**

## CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is a special church service in which a person confirms the promises to follow Jesus that were made when

they were baptized. If you were baptized when you were a baby or toddler, your parents and godparents made these promises on your behalf. As a young person or adult, you may be ready to affirm these promises for yourself. On Sunday April 28 at 6.30pm, there will be a service of Confirmation led by the bishop which is open to all in the Epsom & Ewell deanery (inc St John's). If you are interested either for yourself or for your children (those who are old enough to answer for themselves, typically 10 yrs +), please speak to me.

**Rev. Geoff Andrew**

## TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR THE OFFICE

Due to technical difficulties with BT we have had to change the office telephone number. The new number is a mobile: 07468 096350. Chris McInnes is in the office on a Monday from 9.00am to 5pm and on a Thursday from 9.30am to 4.30pm. Please feel free to ring the number at any time leaving a message if out of office hours. **Rev. Geoff Andrew**

## PRAYER VIGIL

It's frustrating when you call a company and you are given a lot of information and then put on hold, regularly reminded that your call is important to them. It can be like this when we pray. We lift up our prayers to God and then put God on hold, acknowledging his importance but not waiting for his reply.

Our next 24-hour prayer vigil will be on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. If you would like to sign-up to one or more of the 60 minute slots, please add your name to the schedule at the front of the church. **Steve Simper**

## PRAYER GROUP

Not sure you can do a marathon prayer vigil, then come and join us for a more leisurely 'walk' with God during our monthly prayer group meeting. We will meet on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 3.30, immediately after the Cafe. Please join us in the chapel any time between 3.30 and 4.30pm. **Steve Simper**

## 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

It is really heartening to read of many different types of Foodbanks around the country - all tackling the need to help sustain others in their own way. Our local scheme comes under the umbrella of the Trussell Trust which has developed a format for Foodbanks that collect donations of ingredients which are distributed through small centres scattered over our area. Other Foodbanks provide cooked meals or run community fridges. Whatever the scheme though, they each rely on the generosity of people who try to spare a little to help others. We may sometimes despair of humankind and what they can do to one another but that must always be balanced by the knowledge that many are prepared to help others when and where they can.

This week the Foodbank needs:- Tinned meat, Tinned fish, Tinned vegetables, Teabags, UHT milk ( FF and SS only please), Powdered milk, Custard, Sugar (500g bags), Long Life sponge puddings, Peanut butter / Chocolate spread, Deodorant, Washing powder, Deodorant, Shaving gel/foam,

Thank you for your continued support. **The Foodbank Team**

## BECOME AN ARKIST

"THE ARK Introducing and welcoming you to an informal fellowship gathering "Shabbat "n" That" at 13 The Stanfords, East Street, Epsom, KT17 1JE (Jane's flat). Saturdays once a month beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Open House/Drop-in from 10.30 am until around 6pm for sharing, learning discussion and creativity. Refreshments available. For further information contact Jane Mathews (01372) 741966, Graham M. Waller (01372) 741569". **Graham Waller & Jane Mathews**

## Today's Services

This will be our last look at the Book of James before we head off into the Gospels for Lent and Easter (though we will return to complete James' letter in the Spring). This Sunday we consider James' teaching on the potential damage that can be

inflicted on others by what we say: "*The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body.*" In a world where social media gives free rein to all manner of deceitful and hate-filled speech, and where nuanced disagreement has been replaced by intolerant and polarised polemic, how should we as Christians respond and remain faithful to our calling?

## Readings

**James 3:1-12**

**Janis Forder**

**3** Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. **2** We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check. **3** When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. **4** Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. **5** Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. **6** The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. **7** All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, **8** but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. **9** With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. **10** Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. **11** Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? **12** My brothers and sisters, can a fig-tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

**Matthew 12:33-37**

**33** 'Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognised by its fruit. **34** You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. **35** A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. **36** But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. **37** For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.'

## Collect

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Intercessor

**Chris Redrup**

## Music at 9.30am

1. Crown him with many crowns (MP109)
2. O Jesus I have promised (MP 501) vs 1,2,3,5
3. Seek ye first (MP 590)
4. *During Communion:* O Lord hear my prayer (MP 908)
5. Tell out my soul (MP 631)

## Music at 11.00am

1. Living Hope
2. The Lord's my Shepherd (I will trust)
3. The Creed
4. O Praise the Name