



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter First Sunday of Lent 18th February 2024

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

And so Lent begins. This 40 day period is a time for reflection and repentance; a time when many of us 'give up' something, not for its own sake (or to lose weight!), but in order to focus on the importance of the season and its meaning. We remind ourselves that history is divided in two. There was the time before Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection and there is the time since. As Tom Wright puts it, 'the new creation has been launched in the midst of the old'. Our sermon series, 'From Wilderness to Glory' follows Jesus' story but also speaks to our own discipleship. I would encourage you to use this season to spend some time each day in prayer and reflection. Together, we will lament as we recognise the suffering that continues in the world around us. Then we will celebrate with joy the victory that Jesus has won on the cross. May you truly know God's presence this Lent.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

CHRIS LONG'S FUNERAL

This will take place on Tuesday 27th February at 2.45pm at Randalls Park Crematorium. There will be a wake in the Star pub on Kingston Road, Leatherhead after the service at Randall's Park. If you are going to attend please put your name on the sign-up sheet at the front of Church so numbers can be catered for.

Jean Tutton

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

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

CRAFT CLUB

The next meeting of Craft Club will be on Monday, 19th February. Meeting in the Parish Room from 10am to 12 noon. Bring your crafting and join us for coffee and a chat.

Veronica Gittins

ZOOM

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

Tim Rogers

PRAYER VIGIL

We all know the benefits of a SatNav, but it is worthless unless we tell it where we want to go and then listen to its directions. Christian life can be like this. We have the Bible as our building block, but it only becomes a Living Bible when we converse with God.

Our next 24-hour prayer vigil will be on Saturday 23rd 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

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

Through Lent we'll give you something to ponder on. This week it is a fact. ' Foodbank use is now 85% higher than before the pandemic. '

The Foodbank really needs: -

Tinned Fish (very urgent), Sponge Puddings (also desperately needed), Deodorant both male and female (urgent), Kids toothbrushes and Toothpaste (urgently needed for for all ages.)

Tea, Custard, Squash, Powdered milk, Mayonnaise, Chocolate Spread, Peanut Butter, Vegetarian Tinned Food, Shampoo, Shaving Foam. Thank you. **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 2nd 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 Mathew

Today's Services

This Sunday we consider the temptations that Jesus faced during his 40 days in the wilderness. In his humanity, he was as vulnerable to temptation as you and me, yet he came through without giving in to it. As we consider how temptation might manifest itself in our own lives, it's worth remembering that its impact is not just to draw us into sin, but also to distract us from our walk with Jesus. Lent is a good time to reset and refocus.

Readings

Genesis 3:1-6

Jane Mathews

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' 2 The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; 3 but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" 4 But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; 5 for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God,^[a] knowing good and evil.' 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.

Luke 4:1-13

4 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, 2 where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. 3 The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' 4 Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone.'" 5 Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6 And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. 7 If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' 8 Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" 9 Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, 10 for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", 11 and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" 12 Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" 13 When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Collect

Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Intercessor

Chris Redrup

Music at 9.30am

1. To God be the glory (MP 708)
2. Great is Thy faithfulness (MP 200)
3. Take my life, and let it be (MP 624)
4. *During communion:* Breathe on me, breath of God (MP 67)
5. O praise ye the Lord (MP 518)

Music at 11.00am

1. Great in Power
2. Good Good Father
3. Be Still for the Presence of the Lord
4. Open the Eyes of my Heart

Book of Remembrance
Grace Scofield`