



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter Second Sunday of Lent 25th February 2024

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

I would like to use this week's newsletter to clarify some questions around my future at St John's. As you may know, my position as Curate comes to an end this Summer. Although I have been the only minister at St John's since Rev Ken left, technically the parish is in vacancy as we have no Vicar or Priest-in-Charge. I am very happy in my current role and I feel that my calling is to remain at St John's. However, in order to become the 'Incumbent', I still have to go through the process of applying for, and being interviewed for, the position. That process is currently underway and will conclude around Easter. Assuming all goes well, I will be appointed at the end of my Curacy this Summer. I know that God is doing great things in our parish and I remain excited and committed to working with our church family to further His mission in Stoneleigh. Thank you for your prayerful support.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

CHRIS LONG'S FUNERAL

Chris Long's funeral will take place on February 27 at 2.45pm at Randall's Park crem with a wake afterwards at the Star Pub on Kingston Road, Malden Rushett. If you wish to attend, please sign the sheet at the front of the church. For those who cannot come to the crematorium, the service will be broadcast online. It can be accessed using this link: <https://www.wesleymedia.co.uk/webcast-view> (PIN code 310-3703).

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

MUSICIANS WANTED

We are looking to add to our worship team for the 11am service. No experience of public worship is necessary. If you play an instrument and would like to get involved, please let me know. We especially need a drummer!

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

ZOOM

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

Tim Rogers

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

CHURCH RETREAT

Did you miss out on a date during valentine? Don't worry, we have a special date for you!

Saturday, 13th July 2024 is the date we have set aside for our Church Retreat. We will let you know more over the coming weeks but for now, please block out your diary for this wonderful event. **Steve Simper**

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**

PRAYER GROUP

Prayer helps us grow closer to God, becoming more aware of His constant presence with us. Experiencing God right here and right now leads to awe, which strengthens our faith and encourages us to trust God in deeper ways. Ultimately, prayer leads us to worship.

Please join us every 3rd Thursday between 3.30 and 4.30 in the chapel for a time of worshipful prayer. **Steve Simper**

FOODBANK

"Hunger is not a problem. It is an obscenity. How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." **Anne Frank**

This week the Foodbank urgently needs: - Cooking sauces, Sponge puddings, Tea, Instant coffee, Instant mash, Powdered milk, Long life milk, Children's toothbrushes and toothpaste for ages 0-2 & 6-8, Shampoo and conditioner, Male and female deodorant,

That also need:- Custard, Mayonnaise, Chocolate Spread, Peanut Butter, Crisps, Tinned Food, Shaving Foam

Thank you for your support.

The Foodbank Team

THE ARK - CHANGE OF DATE

For personal reasons we have had to postpone our open house "Shabbat 'n' That" gathering, which will now be on Saturday 9 March at 13 The Stanfords, East Street, Epsom KT17 1JE. For further information please contact Jane Mathews (01372 741966) or Graham Waller (01372 741569).

Graham Waller & Jane Mathew

Today's Services

We continue this week with part 2 of our sermon series, 'From Wilderness to Glory', with the theme 'Jesus among the crowds.' In my introduction to this newsletter, I mentioned my 'calling' to serve in the parish of Stoneleigh. Today's gospel story focuses on the calling of the fishermen, Simon and Andrew, James and John, as Jesus begins to build a team of disciples around him. Going from sea fishermen to fishers of

people was a huge step for those men. What new adventure might God be calling you to as you journey with Jesus this Lent?

Readings

Genesis 12: 1 – 7

12 Now the LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. ⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵ Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, ⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak^[b] of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ Then the LORD appeared to Abram, and said, 'To your offspring I will give this land.' So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

Matthew 4:18-25

¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. ²³ Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. ²⁴ So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he cured them. ²⁵ And great crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

Collect

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Intercessor

Ian Hargrave

Music at 9.30am

1. Guide me O Thou great Jehovah (MP 201)
2. Blessed assurance (MP 59)
3. I have decided to follow Jesus (MP 272)
4. *During communion:* As the deer (MP 37)
5. Thine be the glory (MP 689)

Music at 11.00am

1. Light of the World (Here I am to worship)
2. Waymaker
3. Worthy of it all
4. Amazing Grace (my chains are gone)

Book of Remembrance

Ronald James Mussell