



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter Third Sunday of Lent 3rd March 2024

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

In my sermon last week, I acknowledged those who have stepped in to assist me with the different areas of our Church Development Plan. As I said, there has been no 'secret ballot' and everyone is welcome to get involved wherever they feel called. The team that is supporting the Growing Disciples part of the plan includes Polly Elder, Lizanne Matthew, Suzanne Lyse, Will Porter with Steve Simper as overall coordinator. This team is focused on our prayer groups, home groups, prayer vigils, our Reflections WhatsApp group and church family retreats...plus anything else that seems right and relevant in the months to come. I will say more about the other teams next week. But let me say on record that I am grateful to everyone in the St John's family who invests time in any aspect of supporting and building our fellowship. Thank you!

Rev. Geoff Andrew

HOT CROSS BUNS

We shall, as usual and together with the Baptist Church, be giving out hot cross buns to commuters on Maundy Thursday 28th March. We need help with buttering the buns and giving them to commuters from about 6.15am until about 8.00am. I should be very grateful if anyone who could help would sign up on the sheet in church.

Sue Pennington

FLOWERS FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY

It would be wonderful if we could have volunteers on Saturday 9th March from 10am to 11am to put together the flower posies to give out on Sunday 10th for Mother's Day. Coffee/Tea and biscuits will be provided. Please sign up at the front of the Church. Thanking you in anticipation.

Suzanne Lyse

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

Sharing food is one of the most basic and universal ways that we show care for each other.

Melinda Gate

The Foodbank urgently needs: - Rice (not micro rice please), Male and female deodorant, Tea, Instant Coffee, Long life milk, Sponge puddings puddings, Kids toothbrushes and toothpaste all ages, Adult toothbrushes - (singles please), Shampoo

They also need: Honey, Custard, Chocolate Spread, Peanut Butter, Crisps, Vegetarian Tinned Food.

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

This Sunday, the third in our sermon series, 'From Wilderness to Glory', focuses on Jesus in prayer. The 17th chapter of John's gospel concludes what is known as 'the farewell discourses' as Jesus, following his last meal with his disciples, prepares to complete his earthly mission at Calvary. The beautiful prayer that Jesus offers up to his Father invites us into the heart of the intimate relationship of the Godhead. How could we cultivate that sense of closeness and communion with God in our prayer life?

Readings

Daniel 7: 13-14

Lynne Coppin

¹³As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. ¹⁴To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

John 17:1-8 & 20-21

¹⁷After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. ⁶'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.

²⁰'I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

Collect

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Intercessor

9.30am

Chris Redrup

11.00am

Will Porter

Music at 9.30am

1. Love divine, all loves excelling
2. Praise My Soul the King of Heaven
3. Father, we love you
4. *During communion:* Majesty
5. In Christ alone

Music at 11.00am

1. How great is our God
2. Jesus paid it all
3. Worthy of it all
4. In Christ alone

Book of Remembrance

Diana Joy Adele Price