



# St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024

## A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

This week we finally leave Epiphany behind and enter a very short (two week) period of Ordinary Time before Lent begins on Feb 14. The sermon series in Lent is called 'From Wilderness to Glory' based on a series of Lenten reflections from writer and cleric, Tom Wright. The program of services through until Easter is available in church at the welcome desk. In the meantime, we will continue our study of James and complete the second half of his letter after Easter.

*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*

## 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*

## 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 4.30.

*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

This week please try to donate something from this list:-

Urgent:- Tinned Meat, Tinned Fish (they have none), Sugar 500g bags (they have none), Shampoo / conditioner, Deodorant both male and female, Washing Powder Non Bio and Bio, single adult toothbrushes and toothpaste, Kids toothbrushes for ages 0-2 and 6-8

Also needed:- Squash, Powdered milk, washing up liquid, Nappies 5+ 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. Thank you to those who have already offered to bake.

### **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**

### **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**

When we kicked off this sermon series at the beginning of the year, I said that the heart of James' letter could be found in chapter 2: 'faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.' This week we look at that passage. Doing good works is a natural outworking of our faith and a key element of God's mission. How can we enact that mission here in Stoneleigh?

### **Readings**

**James 2:14-26**

**Janis Forder**

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? <sup>15</sup>Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. <sup>16</sup>If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? <sup>17</sup>In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. <sup>18</sup>But someone will say, 'You have faith; I have deeds.' Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. <sup>19</sup>You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that – and shudder. <sup>20</sup>You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? <sup>21</sup>Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? <sup>22</sup>You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. <sup>23</sup>And the scripture was fulfilled that says, 'Abraham believed God, and it was

credited to him as righteousness,' and he was called God's friend. <sup>24</sup>You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone. <sup>25</sup>In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? <sup>26</sup>As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

### **Matthew 7:15-20**

<sup>15</sup>'Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. <sup>16</sup>By their fruit you will recognise them. Do people pick grapes from thorn-bushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup>Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup>A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup>Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup>Thus, by their fruit you will recognise them.

### **Collect**

God of our salvation, help us to turn away from those habits which harm our bodies and poison our minds and to choose again your gift of life revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Intercessor**

**Ken Mussell**

### **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. Waymaker
2. Goodness of God
3. Shout to the Lord

### **Book of Remembrance**

Sylvia Milner