



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

Fourth Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday 10th March 2024

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

Is Spring finally here? It's certainly been uplifting this week to have the sun shining and the blossom in full glory. As we reach the middle of Lent, the signs of new life around us offer the first promise of the new life of Easter. At a conference I attended last week, one speaker declared that Easter is great preparation for Lent. It sounds like the wrong way round, but what he meant was that we are Easter people, people of new life, and our faith in the risen Christ sustains us in the wilderness of Lent. Amen to that! This Sunday is also Mothering Sunday, an opportunity to celebrate and remember mothers and motherhood. I am delighted that this week Ian Hargrave will be preaching at both services as we continue our sermon series, From Wilderness to Glory.

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

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

In last week's sermon, I talked about how we should strive for intimacy in our prayer with Jesus, the one who loves us deeply. This Sunday the 9.30am service is one of our monthly Prayers for Healing services and it's an opportunity to 'draw up close' to Jesus and pray with someone else for the things that are troubling us or a loved one. After taking communion, do consider going into the chapel and pray with the prayer team. Praying together is a powerful and beneficial sacramental act.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

COMMUNITY GROUP

I mentioned in last week's newsletter the Growing Disciples team that is helping progress our Church Development Plan. The other active committee right now is our Community group which focuses on events and activities that build our relationships with our neighbours. This group includes Claire Cornell, Amanda Reed, Chris Webb, Peter Webb, John Dicey and Nick Hamilton. My thanks go to them for their work on all our outreach activities. I am now looking to form the third of the three committees that will focus on Children & Families. Please talk to me if this is of interest to you.

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

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

"If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one."
Mother Teresa.

This week's urgent requests are for:- Rice Pudding (they have none), Custard (tinned and packet please), Honey, Sponge Puddings, Peanut Butter, Ketchup, Mayo, Powdered Milk, Adult Toothbrushes - (singles please), Chocolate Spread, Vegetarian Tinned Food. Thank you for your support.
The Foodbank Team

Today's Services

We continue our Journey with Jesus 'from Wilderness to Glory' today looking at his Teaching on how to deal with our enemies. 'But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.' How can we manage to do that? And what would the consequences be, if we could?

Readings

Leviticus 19:15-18

¹⁵ You shall not render an unjust judgement; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbour. ¹⁶ You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbour: I am the LORD. ¹⁷ You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbour, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself: I am the LORD.

Luke 6:27-36

²⁷ 'But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you. ³² 'If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Collect

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful: watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Intercessor

Chris Redrup

Music at 9.30am

1. The Lord's my shepherd (MP 660)
2. Lord, for the years (MP 428)
3. Father, hear the prayer we offer (MP 132) vs 1,2,3,4
4. *During communion:* Spirit of the Living God (MP 613)
5. O worship the King (MP 528) vs 1,2,5,6

Music at 11.00am

1. 10,000 Reasons
2. I Exalt Thee
3. King of Kings
4. The Blessing

Book of Remembrance

Francis John Redrup
Harold Frederick Wiltshire