



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter Fifth Sunday of Lent – Passion Sunday 17th March 2024

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

This Sunday, the 5th of Lent is known as Passion Sunday and it marks the beginning of Passiontide, the two weeks leading up to Easter Sunday. In the Catholic tradition, this is a time when artwork, statues and crucifixes in churches are covered to symbolize the impending darkness and people are encouraged to imagine a world without Christ's sacrifice and triumph. While that tradition is not typically observed in the Church of England, it is a good discipline for all of us to heighten our awareness of the significance of the cross and the depth of Christ's love for us. This Sunday also happens to be St Patrick's Day this year, so a special greeting goes to any of our family with Irish ancestry. (Oh, and Anne and I will also celebrate our wedding anniversary!). *Rev. Geoff Andrew*

ZOOM ON SUNDAY 17TH MARCH 2024

Please note that **there will be no capability to ZOOM** the service this coming Sunday, apologies.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN EPSOM (CTiE) – GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE, EPSOM – 29th March 2024

This Good Friday at 10.30am there will be an ecumenical Service of Worship and Praise in Epsom marketplace, organized by CTiE. This will be followed by family crafts and outreach activities. All are invited. If you can help in this event, such as in stewarding, crafts, manning the stall, prayer ministry, distributing hot cross buns etc. please email Jane Williams: jane@ctie.org.uk. If you can sing in the choir, brought together to lead the singing in this one event, please email David Williams: admin@ctie.org.uk. Rehearsal information is on the CTiE 'Upcoming Events' webpage.

CHURCH MAGAZINE

The Spring/Summer edition of What's On at St John's should be ready for distribution early next week. I would much appreciate people coming during the week to take magazines for one or two roads each to deliver so that all residents of the parish have the information about the Easter services, starting with Palm Sunday on March 24th. 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

ZOOM

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

Tim Rogers

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

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.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

CRAFT CLUB

The next meeting of Craft Club will be on Monday, 18th March. We meet in the Parish Room from 10 am to 12 noon. Please bring your

crafting and come and join us for craft, chat and coffee. See you there!

Veronica Gittins

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

The full man does not understand the wants of the hungry.

Irish proverb

The shopping items required this week make a varied and interesting list, please help, if you can to replenish stocks of:-
Cooking sauces (curry, hunters, sweet n sour and so on), Tinned vegetables, Rice pudding, Instant mash, Longlife sponge puddings, Packet soup, Ketchup / Brown sauce / Mayo, Powdered milk, Squash, Longlife juice, Chocolate spread, Crisps, Washing up liquid, Washing powder/pods/tablets. **The Foodbank Team**

KEY FOR DOOR CONNECTING THE CHURCH AND THE PARISH CENTRE

If you require a key for the door leading from Church to the Parish Centre would you please let Janis Forder, Adrian Coppin or Chris McInnes in the office know. The key that was in the flower cupboard by this door has gone missing and we need to get a new barrel put in and new keys cut.

Church Wardens

Today's Services

The story of Lazarus being raised from the dead by Jesus only appears in John's gospel. In our services on Sunday, we will focus on the beginning of the story and the mysterious delay before Jesus responds to Martha and Mary's cry for help. We learn something here about God's timing in answering prayer and about Jesus' views on death. But perhaps above all, this is a story of how Jesus' love for a friend led him to place his

own life in danger, a foreshadowing of the great sacrifice he was soon to make for us all on the cross.

Readings

1 Kings 19:9b-13

⁹ At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' ¹⁰ He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.' ¹¹ He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?'

John 11:1-16

¹¹ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' ⁸ The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' ⁹ Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' ¹² The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

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. Dear Lord and Father of Mankind
2. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation
3. Seek ye first
4. *During Communion:* There is a Redeemer
5. Be thou my vision

Music at 11.00am

1. Come, Now is the Time For Worship
2. God I look to You
3. The Heart of Worship

4. Great in Power

Book of Remembrance