



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter Palm Sunday 24th March 2024

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

Palm Sunday signals the final week of Lent as we enter Holy Week. I do hope those of you who are taking part in the 24-hour prayer vigil (starting 9am on Saturday and ending at 9am on Sunday) will be both challenged and rewarded by spending time at the Stations of the Cross that are positioned around the church. This is also a good time to remind your friends and neighbours that they too can share in the Easter experience at one or more of our services during Holy Week and Easter. Of course, if they don't know, they can't come...so thanks to all those who have helped distribute the parish magazine! I pray that the coming week will be a great blessing to you as we follow in Jesus' footsteps to the cross. *Rev. Geoff Andrew*

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.

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*

REV. GEOFF'S 60TH BIRTHDAY

Rev. Geoff would love you to join him for a celebratory glass of Prosecco and cake to mark his big birthday after the 9.30 service today. You are all welcome. *Anne Andrew*

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. Thank you. *Rev. Geoff Andrew*

ELECTORAL ROLE AND APCM

As required by the Diocese there is a copy of the Electoral Role at the back of the Church. If anyone not on the Register would like to join please see either Sue Pennington or Chris McInnes and fill out a form before the APCM on 28th April 2024 at 11.40am. *Sue Pennington*

UKRAINE CRISIS APPEAL

Please help the people of Ukraine as the war goes into a third year.

The White Eagle Club Ukraine Appeal thanks St Johns church for your unwavering support and solidarity in our mission to support the people of Ukraine affected by this cruel war. St John's church has been collecting many items from our urgent list eg - food, first aid, clothes and monetary donations to purchase specific life saving medical equipment. Please

continue to bring your items to the church and we will promise to continue to deliver them to the people in need.

The church community has been nothing short of amazing and we thank you once again for your ongoing kindness.

You can also donate on line at whiteeagleappeal.org or bring cheques payable to Shelly Wieczorek. If you want to give cash, please mark your envelope "Ukraine".

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 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 we can conquer space, we can conquer childhood hunger.

Buzz Aldrin

This week the Foodbank needs: *Desperately urgent items are in italics*

Pasta, Noodles, Rice, Cooking sauces, Tinned beans and spaghetti, *Tinned vegetables, Tinned fruit*, Tinned Fish, Tinned and packet soup, Tinned meat (hot dogs, stew, meatballs etc), *Tinned rice pudding, Custard, Longlife sponge puddings, Ketchup, brown sauce and mayo*, Longlife milk (full fat and semi skimmed), *Jam, honey, peanut butter and chocolate spread, Jars of instant coffee*, Tea bags, Small bags of sugar, *Long Life Juice & Squash, Tinned potatoes, Instant mash*, Biscuits, *Chocolate biscuit bars (penguins etc), Crisps*, Crackers & savoury snacks, Female & male deodorant, Shaving foam, *Shampoo & Conditioner*, Toothbrushes & toothpaste (all ages), *Washing up liquid*, Washing powder / capsules, Tampons & sanitary towels. Thank you for your continued support.

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

Book of Remembrance

Peter Roland Miles
Emma Victoria Frances Redrup

Today's Services

The cheering crowds greet Jesus as he makes his way into Jerusalem, waving palm branches and laying their cloaks on the ground before him. They sing praises to God from the great Psalm of victory (Psalm 118). Jesus is riding a donkey, a messianic statement drawn from the prophet Zechariah. Hail the King! But the Pharisees are already grumbling about how this band of joyful pilgrims will be received by the authorities in Jerusalem. Over the next few days, Jesus' enemies will turn the crowds against him. Today, we share the joy of that triumphal entry into the city. But are we ready to stay loyal to Jesus when he appears not to fulfil our expectations and the storm clouds gather?

Readings

Zechariah 9:9-10

Janis Forder

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the warhorse from Jerusalem; and the battle-bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Luke 19:28-40

²⁸ After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" just say this: "The Lord needs it."' ³² So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' ³⁴ They said, 'The Lord needs it.' ³⁵ Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸ saying, 'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!' ³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, order your disciples to stop.' ⁴⁰ He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.'

Collect

Lord Jesus Christ, you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father.

Intercessor

Ian Hargrave

Music at 9.30am

1. Christ Triumphant (MP 77)
2. All glory laud and honour (MP 9)
3. Ride on, ride on in majesty! (MP 580) vs 1,2,4,5
4. *During communion*: As the Deer (MP 37)
5. Make way, make way (MP 457)

Music at 11.00am

1. Hosanna (Praise is Rising)
2. Shout to the Lord
3. No Longer Slaves
4. This is Amazing Grace