



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter Easter Sunday 31st March 2024

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

The long wait is over. The Lenten season has passed. Mourning turns to joy as we proclaim: 'Alleluia, Christ is Risen!' May I wish all of you a happy, healthy and blessed Easter. This has been an eventful week with our Hot Cross Bun Giveaway for commuters on Thursday morning (thanks to everyone that helped), the foot washing and Communion on Thursday evening and the Reflections at the Cross on Friday. I hope that you have been able to find some space in these past few weeks to reflect on the sacrificial love of Jesus. Please remember that we have one service on Sunday at 10am which is a Family Service with Communion. **And also remember that the clocks go forward on Saturday night/Sunday morning.** But if you do forget, we look forward to having you join us in time for coffee after the service! **Rev. Geoff 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 ROLL AND APCM

As required by the Diocese there is a copy of the Electoral Roll 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 Wiczorek. 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

'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? '**Matthew 25:44**

Can you help with these items this week? - Tinned vegetables, Tinned fruit, Rice pudding, Tinned potatoes, Instant mash, Long life sponge puddings, Custard, Jam/honey/peanut butter/chocolate spread, Instant coffee, Squash, Long life fruit juice, Mayonnaise/ketchup/brown sauce, washing up liquid, Washing powder/tablets/liquid all types, Shampoo & conditioner, Sanitary items. Thank you. **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

THE ARK

"THE ARK welcomes you to our informal fellowship gathering "Shabbat "n" That" at 13 The Stanfords, East Street, Epsom, KT17 1JE (Jane's flat) on **Saturday 27 April**. 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. Please let us know if you are interested in coming along as we have limited space!
Graham and Jane

Today's Services

After the events of Good Friday, the distraught disciples have scattered. We can only guess at the depths of despair they must have been experiencing on Saturday. And then Sunday morning arrives with astonishing news. The tomb is empty and Jesus has risen. Hope is suddenly rekindled and the despairing disciples are transformed at the sight of Jesus. Transformation of lives lies at the heart of the Christian gospel and we can be transformed too if we continue to place our trust in the resurrected Son of God.

Reading

Matthew 28:1-10

28 After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

Intercessor

Chris Redrup

Music

1. Jesus Christ is Risen Today (MP 357)
2. What a Beautiful Name
3. In Christ Alone (MP 1072)
4. *During Communion*: The Wonder of the Cross (sung by Lily & Anne)
5. Thine be the Glory (MP 689)