



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter Fourth Sunday of Easter 21st April 2024

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

Last Sunday's service, held jointly with our friends from All Nations Korean church, was a truly joyful celebration of praise and worship as 'one body in Christ'. I know many of you felt the same way and I am grateful to Pastor JB and his church family for his commitment to good relations between our churches. I hope we can make this an annual event (including the amazing lunch!). This week, our attention switches back to our study of the Book of James that we only half completed before Lent. As I said to the Wednesday congregation, let's not forget that this is still Easter. We live in the reality of Christ's resurrection and our Eastertide liturgy reflects that aspect of joy and hope. Alleluia!
Rev. Geoff Andrew

ASCENSION DAY SERVICES, MAY 9

Ascension Day (the commemoration of Jesus' return to heaven after his resurrection) this year falls on Thursday May 9th. There is a service being held on Box Hill at 6.30am. I will be going, so if anyone would like to join me, please let me know. There will also be a service of Morning Prayer at St John's in the chapel at 10.00am.
Rev. Geoff Andrew

IMPORTANT **CHANGE TO SERVICE ON APRIL 28**

April 28, there will be one service at 10am, celebrating St George's Day and including the participation of the young members of 2nd Stoneleigh Scout group. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will take place in the Parish Centre after the service at 11.45am. All members of St John's church family are encouraged to attend this review of the year with updates from different areas of church life.
Rev. Geoff Andrew

ZOOM

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

NEW START DATE FOR START COURSE – WEDS MAY 1

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 six informal discussions sessions on a Wednesday evening, commencing May 1st, 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

CONFIRMATION SERVICE ON APRIL 28

I am delighted to say that a member of St John's church family – John Dicey – will be confirmed on April 28, 6.30pm at All Saints Church, West Ewell. This is a deanery-wide event and Bishop Andrew will be presiding. Please do pray for John as

he prepares for this event and do come along on the evening if you can to support him.
Rev. Geoff Andrew

CHURCH RETREAT – SATURDAY 13TH JULY 2024

We've told you WHEN, now we can tell you WHERE.

Wychcroft
Southwark Diocesan
Resource & Retreat Venue
Wychcroft South Park Lane
Redhill, RH1 4NE



WHY, WHAT and WHO is coming soon...

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 11.45am.
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 John's 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 lifesaving 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 online 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

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

It seems the price of crumpets has come down - and it could be taken that this signals that food prices as a whole are beginning to drop! Thankfully no foodbank was asked to comment on this news! Please do not be too complacent about this announcement - there are still many people in our area who need the support of a Foodbank and consequently our contributions will be required for a while yet.

In March they supported **710 people** who visited the Epsom & Ewell foodbank centers. Of these, **295 were children**

This week they have asked for items they have run out of:- Squash, Long-life juice, Any deodorant

Stocks are also low in:- Shaving foam/gel, Powdered milk, Tinned spaghetti (in tomato sauce), Ketchup / Brown sauce, Shaving foam/gel, Conditioner, Sugar (500g bags), Biscuit bars (penguins and so on)

Thank you everyone.

The Foodbank Team

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

You will recall that James is our very practical guide to what the Christian faith looks like in real life. This week, we address the question, 'what does true wisdom look like'? And James suggests that the answer can be found in establishing and maintaining peace. How do we respond when provoked or challenged? James instructs us to examine our motives and seek to be those who sow the seeds of peace.

Collect

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father.

Intercessor

Chris Redrup

Readings

James 3: 13-18

Jane Mathews

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Matthew 5:38-48

³⁸'You have heard that it was said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." ³⁹But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; ⁴⁰and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; ⁴¹and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. ⁴²Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you. ⁴³'You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy." ⁴⁴But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Music at 9.30am

1. Crown him with many crowns (MP109)
2. Great is Thy faithfulness (MP 200)
3. Seek ye first (MP 590)
4. *During communion:* Breathe on me, breath of God (MP 67)
5. Guide me O Thou great Jehovah (MP 201)

Music at 11am

1. Come Now is the Time for Worship
2. Hosanna (Praise is Rising)
3. Make Me a Channel of Your Peace
4. Open the Eyes of my Heart

Book of Remembrance

Rita Ramsay
Joan Beryl Richards