



# St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter Fifth Sunday of Easter 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024

## A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

A reminder that this weekend there is only one service at 10am. There will be no Communion. The service will be a celebration of St George's Day and I am delighted that we will be joined by the boys and girls of 2<sup>nd</sup> Stoneleigh Scouts. They will not only be parading their flags but also involved throughout the service and hosting our refreshments afterwards. And a further reminder that after the service at around 11.45am we will be holding our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) which is an opportunity to celebrate what God is doing at St John's and vote for those who wish to stand for church office, such as members of the PCC (the church council). Please do come along to the meeting. Only those on the electoral roll may vote but everyone is welcome to attend. **Rev. Geoff Andrew**

## CASH ON SUNDAY

The Scouts will be hosting our refreshments on Sunday and hope to raise some funds for their group. They have asked that people bring cash if possible as they are not certain their card reader will be working. Thanks! **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 9<sup>th</sup>. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 discussion sessions on a Wednesday evening, commencing May 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 question about faith or just life in general. **Rev. Geoff Andrew**

## CONFIRMATION SERVICE ON APRIL 28

Please do pray for John Dicey as he prepares to be confirmed by Bishop Andrew at All Saints, Ewell on Sunday evening. **Rev. Geoff Andrew**

## CHURCH RETREAT – SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2024

You know **WHERE** and **WHEN** and we are now delighted to let you know **WHO!**



The day will be led by Sharon Seal, a spiritual director and head of the pastoral team based at St Giles' & St George's Church in Ashted.

**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**

## 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](http://whiteeagleappeal.org) or bring cheques payable to Shelly Wiczorek. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday between 3.30 and 4.30 in the chapel for a time of worshipful prayer. **Steve Simper**

## **FOODBANK**

'We don't just give them food and toiletries. We listen to understand their situation and to ask if they need any further support, advice or information - and then we seek to meet these other needs or signpost them to other local support services.

We offer holistic support to ensure that people who need to access the foodbank are given the respect and dignity they deserve, and that we are helping to meet their underlying needs so that hopefully they won't need to keep coming back to the foodbank.' **Epsom & Ewell Foodbank**

This week they need: Nappies 5 and 6 plus, Tinned Fruit, Sugar (500g bags), Noodles (not super or pot), Male Deodorant, Kids toothbrushes and toothpaste 0-2 and 6 plus, Ketchup, Shaving foam/gel, Conditioner, Washing up Liquid, Biscuit bars (penguins and so on), Crisps

Thank you for your support. **The Foodbank Team**

## **Today's Services**

Last week we looked at how wisdom shows itself in our lives as 'good works' and specifically, lives that seek peace with God and our neighbours. In this week's passage, James makes it clear that it's our selfishness and greed that lead us away from peace and away from God. 'Resist the devil', he says 'and he will flee from you.' And the most effective way to resist? Submit to God!

## **Readings**

James 4:1-10 (from The Message version)

**Scouts**

Where do you think all these appalling wars and quarrels come from? Do you think they just happen? Think again. They come about because you want your own way, and fight for it deep inside yourselves. You lust for what you don't have and are willing to kill to get it. You want what isn't yours and will risk violence to get your hands on it. You wouldn't think of just asking God for it, would you? And why not? Because you know you'd be asking for what you have no right to. You're spoiled children, each wanting your own way. You're cheating on God. If all you want is your own way, flirting with the world every chance you get, you end up enemies of God and his way. And do you suppose God doesn't care? The proverb has it that "he's a fiercely jealous lover." And what he gives in love is far better than anything else you'll find. It's common knowledge that "God goes against the wilful proud; God gives grace to the willing humble." So let God work his will in you. Yell a loud *no* to the Devil and watch him make himself scarce. Say a quiet *yes* to God and he'll be there in no time. Quit dabbling in sin. Purify your inner life. Quit playing the field. Hit bottom, and cry your eyes out. The fun and games are over. Get serious,

really serious. Get down on your knees before the Master; it's the only way you'll get on your feet.

## **Intercessor**

**Chris Redrup**

## **Music**

1. I Vow to Thee My Country
2. In Christ Alone
3. 10,000 Reasons
4. When a Knight Won His Spurs
5. Jerusalem
6. National Anthem

## **Book of Remembrance**

Geoffrey Barry Rhodes