



# St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter Seventh Sunday of Easter 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024

## A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

This Sunday will be the second year of our newly re-established Pet Sunday. Although some people dismiss Pet Services as a bit 'Vicar of Dibley', my experience with them over the years is that they attract more visitors than any other church service outside Christmas. Celebrating the gift of our pets is a joyous (and sometimes chaotic!) way to engage with God's incredible work of creation and an affirmation of his love for all He has made. But for those who prefer two legged to four legged worship companions, we will still be holding our regular Communion at 9.30am, which is also a Prayers for Healing service. I would also like to mention that this period between Ascension (May 9) and Pentecost (May 19) is traditionally a time of prayer as we gather symbolically with the disciples in the Upper Room awaiting the Holy Spirit. May I direct you to the website Thy Kingdom Come:

(<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>)

where you will find helpful prayer resources for this season.

*Rev. Geoff Andrew*

## PAT TANNER

The interment of Pat Tanner's ashes in our Garden of Remembrance will take place at 2pm on Tuesday May 14. Pat's sister, Kristien, will be in attendance and she has extended the invitation to the short interment service to any members of St John's who would like to join. Please sign up on the list at the welcome desk so we have some idea of numbers.

*Rev. Geoff Andrew*

## PET SUNDAY – MAY 12

Our annual Pet Service will be today, May 12 at 11am (there will also be a regular non-pet 9.30am communion!). This is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends and neighbours to church. Leaflets are available at the front of church and I would particularly encourage dog owners to take 4 or 5 fliers to hand out on their regular dog-walking routes. We will have a dog-free area in church for those who are not comfortable around dogs.

*Rev. Geoff Andrew*

## JEAN RENNO

I announced in church a couple of weeks ago the sad death of Jean Renno. Jean was known to many people at St John's and in the past had been very active in the church, especially with her passion for organising events and social activities. She will be missed. I have been asked by the family to let you know that although the funeral next month will be a quiet ceremony for the family, there will be a Memorial Service at St John's. The date for this has not yet been set so I will provide details as soon as I have them. In the meantime, please pray for Fred, Jean's husband (who is currently in hospital) and for Jean's children.

*Rev. Geoff Andrew*

## ZOOM

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

## CHURCH RETREAT



You are warmly invited to our Church Retreat on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> July at the serene location of Wychcroft. This is an opportunity for us to come together to deepen our prayer life and to discern God's will for each of us, our church family and our community.

Please take a leaflet from the front of the church and book your place today.

## UKRAINE CRISIS APPEAL

The people of Ukraine urgently need : baby formula (all ages), wet wipes, nappies (all sizes), long life baby food, baby toiletries, adult toiletries (shaving gel, soap, shower gel) sanitary items, long life food, bandages, plasters and painkillers.

You can also donate online at [whiteeagleappeal.org](http://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 is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one's weakness. It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart." - *Mahatma Gandhi*

Our next meeting of the monthly prayer group will be on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> May @ 3.30 in the Lady Chapel. This follows Coffee Café. Please join us there.

*Steve Simper*

## FOODBANK

Here comes the sun...

I had one line of the Beatles lyrics in mind today so looked up the full - correct - version. Apart from more doo-doo's than I remembered I noticed another link to the meaning of the lyrics:- Here Comes the Sun is a song about Hope. We all go through difficult times, difficult moments in our life. And some of these moments feel like they last a long time -- just like the long, cold, lonely winter. But eventually it does change, the winter does end.

This week we have the opportunity to send a bit of sunshine to people struggling through difficult times and worry about giving their families enough to eat.

To bring urgent sunshine please try to add these to our collection box:- Instant Coffee, Jars of cooking sauce, Jam, Longlife sponge puddings, Mayonnaise, Powdered milk, Suar (in 500g bags please), Washing up liquid, Male Deodorant, Toilet rolls, Biscuits. **The Foodbank Team**

### **60 YEARS AS A SERVER**

Thank you to all those who help me mark the occasion of 60 Years as a Server. The kind gift has meant I can purchase a new camp bed which I can use when visiting 2nd Stoneleigh (St. Johns) Scouts at camp. **Richard Denyer**

### **TOOLS WITH A MISSION**

As you know we collect tools for charity once every 3 years and this year our tool collection will be on Saturday, 8th June from 10 - 4 p.m. If you are able to come along and bring donations or help on the day for as much or as little time as you can, your help will be greatly appreciated.

Also, we need many helpers at 10 a.m. on 10th June to load all the tools on to the TWAM lorry when it arrives as the hall is booked later in the day on Monday and we need to get it clear, swept and clean. Many thanks. **Claire Cornell**

### **RESOURCES TO ASSIST WITH BIBLE STUDY**

Watch this space for notice of a special Sunday in August when we will have an exhibition of the different resources available to all of us to assist us with our Bible Study. If you have a particular suggestion of a printed or online resource which it would be a good idea to include please mention it to Geoff, Will Porter or Polly Elder.

Meanwhile we are delighted to give you one suggestion today.

### **BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP NOTES**

May we encourage you to join our daily BRF reading group. There are Notes which may include a text, commentary and prayer to use each day. They are issued three times a year, January, May and September and you can order individual copies or subscribe once a year. There are Notes to suit everyone. You can see a few examples on the bookcase at the back of the Church and take a copy home with you. Please speak to me if you'd like further information. **Rosalie Jackson**

### **Today's Services**

This week we're taking a break from our series on the Book of James as we host the Pet Service. We're expecting lots of visitors, especially (If it's anything like last year), plenty of dogs! Focusing on the love we have for our animal friends can help us to more fully appreciate God's unconditional love for us.

The 9.30 Communion is a Prayers for Healing service and so we will use this opportunity to look at the subject of healing and its biblical importance. I'm sure we have all experienced challenges with healing prayer and so we'll also think about some of the reasons where our prayers seem to go unanswered.

### **Collect**

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father.

### **Intercessor**

**Ken Mussell**

### **Readings at 9.30**

#### **1 Corinthians 12:1-11**

12 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. <sup>2</sup>You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. <sup>3</sup>Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit. <sup>4</sup>Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

#### **Matthew 9:35-38**

<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. <sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; <sup>38</sup> therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

### **Readings at 11am**

#### **Matthew 18:1-5, 10-14**

**18** At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' <sup>2</sup> He called a child, whom he put among them, <sup>3</sup> and said, 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>5</sup> Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

<sup>10</sup> 'Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. <sup>12</sup> What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? <sup>13</sup> And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. <sup>14</sup> So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.

### **Music for 9.30am**

1. Amazing Grace
2. Blessed Assurance
3. To God be the Glory
4. During Communion: Spirit of the Living God
5. Thine be the Glory

### **Music for 11am**

1. Amazing Grace
2. Goodness of God
3. The Lord's My Shepherd (I Will Trust in You Alone)
4. How Great Thou Art