



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter Sixth Sunday of Easter 5th May 2024

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

Last Sunday was a busy day and full of blessings. The St George's Day service with 2nd Stoneleigh Scouts was a wonderful flag-waving celebration, a day of renewed promises and a day of great hospitality. The Scout group is very grateful for our support for their fundraising (see note below). Following the service, many of you stayed for the APCM where we heard reports from all aspects of church life, which overall paints a very positive picture. Of particular note was the thanks we offered to Janis Forder who is stepping down after seven years as church warden. I am grateful to Janis and to her replacement Claire Cornell for taking on a one year term. On Sunday evening, our church member John Dicey was confirmed by Bishop Andrew at a deanery-wide service held at All Saints, Ewell. It is so encouraging to see people step forward to make a public proclamation of faith.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

NO MORNING PRAYER ON MONDAY 6TH MAY 2024

Please note that there will be NO Morning Prayer this coming Monday.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

THANK YOU FROM JANIS

Thank you everyone for my lovely card, flowers, Prosecco and John Lewis gift card given to me last Sunday at the APCM. It has been a pleasure (usually) to have been your church warden for the last 7 years.

Janis Forder

PET SUNDAY – MAY 12

Our annual Pet Service will be on 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

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 fill out the sign-up sheet at the front of Church. There will also be a service of Morning Prayer at St John's in the chapel at 10.00am.

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, 13th 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 or bring cheques payable to Shelly Wieczorek. If you want to give cash, please mark your envelope "Ukraine".

Shelly, Ukrainian Refugee Contact

THANKS FROM THE SCOUTS

On behalf of the whole Scout Group, please can you pass on our thanks to the congregation regarding their generosity at our tea and cake fundraiser. The amount we raised was well beyond our expectations and sets us well on the way to buying a new Troop Tent. Thanks also to you and the team for the service - I thought it went really well and the young people enjoyed it.

Steph Howard & the 2nd Stoneleigh team

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, 16th May @ 3.30 in the Lady Chapel. This follows Coffee Café. Please join us there. **Steve Simper**

FOODBANK

What are the six P's? They are the distinctive values of the support work undertaken by the Good Company which is the overall group of which the Foodbank is one part. The aim is to provide Food in a crisis but also advice and support which will enable the clients of the Foodbank to cope with the complex issues which they face at the same time as struggling to afford food and other essentials. We contribute to the beginning of this work by supporting the foodbank but there is much more to discover about the support that goes alongside it. The six P's? -Take a look at the newsletter from the Good Company at the back of church to find the answer.

This week the Foodbank urgently needs:- Sugar in 500g bags, Noodles (not super or pot), Male deodorant, Powdered milk.

They also need:- Nappies 5, 6 and 6 plus, Instant Coffee, Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Spaghetti in tomato sauce, Crisps, Ketchup, Brown Sauce, Mayo, Shaving foam/gel, Washing up Liquid.

Thank you - and don't forget to look at the newsletter at the back of church **The Foodbank Team**

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

Sunday's theme from James' letter is 'Speaking Well of Others'. We've all heard the expression, 'if you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all.' It's great advice, but hard to do in practice! Why do we judge others? James tells us that the root cause is our innate pride and desire to make ourselves superior. That same pride also leads to arrogance in the boastful way we plan our lives without involving God. Let's learn some humility!

Readings

James 4:11-17

Lynne Coppin

¹¹Do not speak evil against one another, brothers and sisters. Whoever speaks evil against another or judges another, speaks evil against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. ¹²There is one lawgiver and judge who is able to save and to destroy. So who, then, are you to judge your neighbour? ¹³Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a town and spend a year there, doing business and making money.' ¹⁴Yet you do not even know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. ¹⁵Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wishes, we will live and do this or that.' ¹⁶As it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. ¹⁷Anyone, then, who knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, commits sin.

Matthew 12:33-37

³³'Either make the tree good, and its fruit good; or make the tree bad, and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit. ³⁴You brood of vipers! How can you speak good things, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. ³⁵The good person brings good things out of a good treasure, and the evil person brings evil things out of an evil treasure. ³⁶I tell you, on the day of judgement you will have to give an account for every careless word you utter; ³⁷for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.'

Collect

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father.

Intercessor

Chris Redrup

Music for 9.30am

1. Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
2. Praise My Soul the King of Heaven
3. Father, We Love You
4. *During communion:* Majesty
5. Jesus is Lord

Music for 11am

1. Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)
2. Jesus Paid it All
3. No Longer Slaves
4. How Great is Our God