



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

23rd June 2024 – 85th Birthday Celebration

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

Happy Birthday! This weekend we celebrate the 85th birthday of St John's Church (it was actually in May but this Sunday is the closest to St John the Baptist patronal festival). We may not have as long a history as some churches, but we have grown up alongside the community of Stoneleigh and continue to serve its people in Jesus' name. Please remember we have one service at 10am followed by lunch. Lunch is 'bring and share' but if you forget to bring something, come anyway and let's make it a big family party. Those of you in church last Sunday will have heard me preach on God's love for all people and I announced that we as a church (decided unanimously by the PCC) are supporting the Church of England's 'Prayers of Love and Faith' which may be offered to bless same-sex relationships. Please see the note below. Finally, this is my last message to you until the weekend of July 13/14 as I will be taking a break prior to my service of induction on July 11th. All members and regular attenders of St John's are invited, but please let us know you are coming! Thanks & blessings.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

CHURCH RETREAT – **UPDATE**

Would you please complete a booking form, found at the front of Church, even if you have signed up on the list. If you have not yet signed up...you are warmly invited to our Church Retreat on Saturday, 13th July at the serene location of Wychcroft.

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 Wiczorek. If you want to give cash, please mark your envelope "Ukraine".

Shelly, Ukrainian Refugee Contact

ZOOM

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

Tim Rogers

PRAYERS OF LOVE AND FAITH

If you were in church on June 16, you will have heard me announce that St John's PCC, with my support, has made a unanimous decision to endorse the Prayers of Love and Faith (PLF) that were issued late last year by the Church of England. The PLF are essentially blessings that may be used within a regular church service to bless same-sex relationships. They recognise the diversity within the church family and affirm the love, commitment and fidelity present in those relationships.

The PLF do not constitute a form of marriage. The Church of England continues to uphold the doctrine that Holy Matrimony may only exist between one man and one woman. The blessings do not change that. An FAQ is available in church or we can email it to you on request. If you have any questions or concerns please contact me or a member of the PCC.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

WHO'S WHO

This weekend we are publishing our St John's Who's Who booklet with photos and names of our church members and regular attenders that I hope will help us to get to know each other a little better. This will only be distributed to the church family. I am indebted to John Martin who has now met just about everybody in order to take photos and put this booklet together! Please be sure to collect one next time you are in church (or we can bring one to you!).

Rev. Geoff Andrew

SUMMER SERVICE SCHEDULE

Service arrangements for the next few weeks will be a little 'changeable'. This is partly due to my absence prior to my induction as vicar and partly due to holidays. Apologies in advance for the potential confusion, but please mark your calendars and keep an eye on this newsletter for updates:

- Sunday June 23rd: one service at 10am. Theme: St John's 85th Birthday. Rev Geoff
- *Rev Geoff away from June 24th until July 11th: no Monday Prayer on June 24th, July 1st, 8th and no Communion on Wednesday June 26th, July 3rd, 10th*
- Sunday June 30th: one service at 10am. Theme: Mission Sunday. Rev Rosemary Donovan
- Sunday July 7th: one service at 10am. Theme: TBD. Rev David Packham
- Thursday July 11th: one service at 7.30pm. Theme: Rev Geoff service of Induction. Bishop Andrew
- Sunday July 14th: services at 9.30am and 11am. Theme: Disability Sunday. Rev Geoff
- *Rev Geoff away from July 18th until July 25th: no Monday Prayer on July 22nd and no Communion on Wednesday July 24th*
- Sunday July 21st: services at 9.30am and 11am. Theme: Summer Psalms. Rev Rosemary Donovan
- Sunday July 28th: services at 9.30am and 11am (inc baptism). Theme: Summer Psalms. Rev Geoff
- All Sundays in August; one service at 10am. Theme: Summer Psalms. Rev Geoff (Aug 25th Rev Ken Hobbs)

Rev. Geoff Andrew

FOODBANK

A little desperate for an introduction to the list we need for the foodbank this week so here is an anagram of an item that is probably most frequently needed. PULIDMSGNNAOEETDGFSL

Urgent Required please: - Jars of cooking sauce (not pasta sauce), Tea, Instant Mash, Powdered Milk, Crisps, Adult and Children's chocolate bars and sweet, Conditioner, Toilet Rolls, Female Deodorant, Shower Gel, our anagram item.

Also needed: -Packet Soup, Ketchup, Noodles (not instant), Nappies 6+, Hand wash (pump), Washing powder or pods, Baby toiletries (shampoo, body wash etc). Thank you.
The Foodbank Team

SUMMER FAIR – JULY 6th 2024

Our annual fair is fast approaching, and we are looking for volunteers to help set up, man the stalls, provide cakes and prizes for the raffle. Please sign up to assist in whatever way you can. The sign-up sheet is at the front of church.

REV. GEOFF'S INSTALLATION AS VICAR – THURSDAY 11TH JULY AT 7.30pm

There is a sign-up sheet at the front of Church for the names and numbers of our Congregation who are wishing to attend Rev. Geoff's Installation Ceremony for catering purposes.

Social Committee

BIBLE READING RESOURCES

As part of our preparations for Resources Sunday on 18th August it was helpful to have a chat with Gill Sathyamoorthy about her choice of helpful resources.

Gill reads both New Daylight and also Bible Reflections for Older People. She particularly appreciates the latter because she feels that she can connect with the thinking behind the commentaries. Each reflection features just one sentence from the Bible and there is the added bonus of clear print. Reflections are not dated so there is no pressure to read one every day to keep up with the theme. Gill has been particularly taken by a section in the current edition which is entitled Within the waves by Clare O'Driscoll as she identified with the writer's love of the sea.

Do make a note of the date to see the many and varied suggestions of resources available to us. If you would be prepared to tell us in a few words about the materials you find helpful to keep everyone's appetite whetted please contact one of us.
Will Porter and Polly Elder

Today's Services

This Sunday, we're in celebration mode. And what better way to celebrate than with the account of Jesus' first recorded miracle – the changing of water into wine at the wedding in Cana. How fitting that Jesus should launch into his public ministry with an act of grace, generosity and joy. As we reflect back on 85 years of worship at St John's, we give thanks for all God has done among us. And as we look forward to the next 85 years (that will be the year 2109!), we pray that he will continue to bless this parish through the presence and love of his saints at St John's.

Reading

John 2:1-11

2 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. **2** Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. **3** When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' **4** And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' **5** His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' **6** Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. **7** Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. **8** He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. **9** When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom **10** and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' **11** Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Intercessor

Chris Redrup

Music

1. Now thank we all our God (MP486)
2. How Great is Our God
3. The Lord's My Shepherd (I Will Trust)
4. *During communion:* As the Deer (MP 37)
5. How Great Thou Art (MP 506)