



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 14th July 2024

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

I am delighted to write this newsletter introduction for the first time as your Vicar! Thank you to everyone that supported us on Thursday evening for a very special service. It was wonderful to see so many friendly faces. And for those that couldn't make it, thank you for your prayers. In some ways of course, nothing has changed; we will continue what we have started in enabling God's Kingdom to flourish in Stoneleigh. But in other ways, my appointment is significant in being both an endorsement from the diocese that affirms the good work we have been doing together, and an enormous spiritual blessing in bestowing on me the 'cure (care) of souls' for all those who live in the parish. I will certainly need your continuing prayer and active participation in discharging this responsibility.

As I write, I am looking forward to our church retreat at Wychcroft on Saturday. Please pray that it will be a time of blessing and renewal for those who are coming. (And in view of the M25 closure, pray that we will all get there in good time!). Also hold in your prayers Sharon Seal who is leading us on the day.

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 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

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

FOODBANK

"We know only too well that what we are doing is nothing more than a drop in the ocean. But if the drop were not there, the ocean would be missing something." Mother Teresa

You are invited to join us in donating one (or more) of the following "drops" to help the Foodbank this week.

Urgently needed please: - Sweetcorn, Cooking Sauce (tomato, curry etc), Rice, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Fruit, Long life Milk (full fat or semi skimmed), Dried Noodles (not pot or instant), Long Life Juice, Squash, Long life Sponge puddings, Ketchup, Mayonnaise

Also needed please: Adult and Children's chocolate, Biscuits, Savoury biscuits /crackers, Crisps, Custard, Rice Pudding, Nappies 6+ , 4 and 7, Strong shopper bags and bags for life.
Thank you.
The Foodbank Team

ZOOM

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

WHO'S WHO

There are still copies of 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

CRAFT CLUB

The next meeting of Craft Club will be on Monday 15th July. We meet in the Parish room from 10am to 12 noon. Come along with your crafting and join us for a coffee and chat.

Veronica Gittins

BIBLE READING RESOURCES

Hebrews 10:24 says, "Let us consider how we may spur one another on to love and good deeds." In that spirit we are looking forward to our exhibition on 18th August. It's time to tell you about online resources.

There are a number of people now who are appreciating Will's contributions to our St Johns Reflections Whats App. Will uses:

- 1) The Bible App (Youversion)

- 2) The Chosen (modern accurate tv series of the gospels)
- 3) The Bible Project (short animations that help unlock the Bible)
- 4) Wild at Heart. Originally a great book encouraging people to live life to the full, but now also a regular podcast/you tube channel doing the same.

I suspect that, like many who have grown up with modern technology and who also live very busy lives, it is helpful to have your Bible resources right beside you and available on your phone. (Judging by the time he posts I often wonder if Will uses the time of his commute in study and prayer - what a good idea and it helps me to think of him on his journey with a full working day ahead of him.). Don't forget that you can ask Will for more information on Resources Sunday - we hope to have some examples of these to watch or listen to. Don't be put off by thinking that you do not have the confidence to use online material in this way - there are people in our church family who can help you get started. There are so many advantages to having online Bible study help.

Make time on August 18th to stay after the service and look around our exhibition. Can we also encourage you to encourage others? What resource do you use that might help others? Do tell us if you would like us to include anything which we have not mentioned yet. **Polly Elder and Will Porter**

Today's Service

This Sunday we are back to normal with two services at 9.30am and 11am. The 9.30 service is also Prayers for Healing and the 11am includes Communion.

The Church of England has officially designated July 14 as Disability Awareness Sunday. We know from the gospels that Jesus loved, valued and healed those with disabilities. And to this day he continues to transform lives. As Christians, we need to ensure that we love as Jesus loved, respecting the dignity of all people and enabling them to play a full part in God's Kingdom and mission. During the service, we will hear from Steve Simper, who is blind, and Suzanne Lyse who is our parish 'Disability Champion' and works for 'Through the Roof', a charity that equips churches to fully involve disabled people.

Collect

Generous God, you give us gifts and make them grow: though our faith is small as mustard seed, make it grow to your glory and the flourishing of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-6

Janis Forder

35 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, THE majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.

Gospel Reading

John 9:1-12

9 As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' ³Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me 'while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' ⁹Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' ¹⁰But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' ¹¹He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' ¹²They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

Intercessor

Ian Hargrave

Music at 9.30am

1. Amazing Grace
2. Praise My Soul the King of Heaven
3. To God be the Glory
4. *During Communion:* Spirit of the Living God
5. Thine be the Glory

Music at 11am

1. Waymaker
2. Be Still for the Presence of the Lord
3. Worthy of it All
4. This is Amazing Grace

Book of Remembrance

Daphne Iris Ramshaw