



# St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 21st July 2024

## A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

It was such a shame that the England football team couldn't produce a victory last Sunday night. So near yet so far! I've often found that sport is a great metaphor for life in general. In this case, the lesson is something about perseverance and continued hope! After a very busy season in our church's life, Summer is (kind of) with us and many of us will be looking forward to a well-earned break. Anne and I are away this week for a holiday in the sun. I'm pleased to say that Rev Rosemary will be covering for me again as she did a couple of weeks ago. From now until the end of August, we will be returning to the Psalms, those ancient and glorious songs and poems that have provided a source of solace, inspiration and encouragement for so many generations of Jews and Christians through the ages. *Services are at the 'normal' times – 9.30am and 11am.*

**Rev. Geoff Andrew**

## MECHANICS FOR AFRICA

In August, Ken and Margaret Hobbs are cycling coast to coast on behalf of Zambia Christian charity Mechanics for Africa and are inviting sponsorship.

If anyone is interested in supporting them, go to <https://www.justgiving.com> and search for Mechanics for Africa and you will see Ken's fundraiser.

## 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:

- *Rev Geoff away from July 18<sup>th</sup> until July 25<sup>th</sup>: no Monday Prayer on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and no Communion on Wednesday July 24<sup>th</sup>*
- Sunday July 21<sup>st</sup>: services at 9.30am and 11am. Theme: Summer Psalms. Rev Rosemary Donovan
- Sunday July 28<sup>th</sup>: 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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](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**

## FOODBANK

"The foodbank was there when we really needed it, it was an absolute lifeline."

In June they fed 603 people, 250 were children. This is 110 less than June 2023. They have a total of 258 crates of food in the warehouse, which is 24 less than last week and nearly 175 less than this time last year.

This week they urgently need: Sweetcorn, Cooking Sauces (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, Shampoo & Conditioner (they have none), Washing Powder, Nappies 6 & 6+

They also need: Weetabix, Biscuits, Sugar (500g bags please), Custard, Rice Pudding, Ketchup & Mayonnaise, Strong shopping 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**

## BIBLE READING RESOURCES

Philip asked the Ethiopian, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He said he did not ("How can I understand unless I have a teacher to teach me?") and asked Philip to explain the text to him. Acts 8: 30-31, 34

Time is moving smartly towards August 18th, the Sunday we plan to have a small exhibition of materials available to help us to grow in our Discipleship.

This week we should mention and remind folk about the little library we have at the back of the church. This is full of interesting gems. You do not have to stay and read the books in church as there is a sign out book nearby in which you can record that you've borrowed a volume for a while. I recently picked up the Tynedale commentary on the Letters of John by John R.W. Stott as I was sorely missing my collection of Tom Wright's New Testament for Everyone series. The Tynedale commentary is perhaps heavier going but, nevertheless, I did find it useful to explain a few passages which had got me wondering.

No one has mentioned Scripture Union or SPCK materials that are available, so we've written to them to request some examples for you to see in the exhibition. There is still time to mention to us anything which you feel should be included. Write a note to yourself that you will allow extra time after the service on 18th August to browse the materials we have in the exhibition.

**Will Porter and Polly Elder**

### Today's Services

Rev Rosemary will kick off our Summer Psalms with a look at Psalm 139, a beautiful depiction of God's intimate knowledge of each of us and his deep love. The psalm asks rhetorically, 'Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?' The answer, of course, is nowhere. But who would want to flee from the God who has loved us unconditionally from the womb?

### Collect

Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake: when we prosper save us from pride, when we are needy save us from despair, that we may trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### First Reading

**Jane Mathews**

#### **Psalm 139**

- <sup>1</sup> You have searched me, LORD,  
and you know me.
- <sup>2</sup> You know when I sit and when I rise;  
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
- <sup>3</sup> You discern my going out and my lying down;  
you are familiar with all my ways.
- <sup>4</sup> Before a word is on my tongue  
you, LORD, know it completely.
- <sup>5</sup> You hem me in behind and before,  
and you lay your hand upon me.
- <sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
too lofty for me to attain.
- <sup>7</sup> Where can I go from your Spirit?  
Where can I flee from your presence?
- <sup>8</sup> If I go up to the heavens, you are there;  
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
- <sup>9</sup> If I rise on the wings of the dawn,  
if I settle on the far side of the sea,  
<sup>10</sup> even there your hand will guide me,  
your right hand will hold me fast.
- <sup>11</sup> If I say, 'Surely the darkness will hide me  
and the light become night around me,'  
<sup>12</sup> even the darkness will not be dark to you;  
the night will shine like the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.
- <sup>13</sup> For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- <sup>14</sup> I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful,  
I know that full well.
- <sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you  
when I was made in the secret place,  
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
- <sup>16</sup> Your eyes saw my unformed body;  
all the days ordained for me were written in your book  
before one of them came to be.
- <sup>17</sup> How precious to me are your thoughts! God!  
How vast is the sum of them!
- <sup>18</sup> Were I to count them,  
they would outnumber the grains of sand –  
when I awake, I am still with you.

- <sup>19</sup> If only you, God, would slay the wicked!  
Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty!
- <sup>20</sup> They speak of you with evil intent;  
your adversaries misuse your name.
- <sup>21</sup> Do I not hate those who hate you, LORD,  
and abhor those who are in rebellion against you?
- <sup>22</sup> I have nothing but hatred for them;  
I count them my enemies.
- <sup>23</sup> Search me, God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
- <sup>24</sup> See if there is any offensive way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.

### Gospel Reading

#### **Matthew 10:24-31**

<sup>24</sup> 'The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. <sup>25</sup> It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household! <sup>26</sup> 'So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. <sup>27</sup> What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. <sup>28</sup> Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. <sup>30</sup> And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup> So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.'

### Intercessor

**Chris Redrup**

#### Music at 9.30am

1. Great is Thy faithfulness (MP 200)
2. O Praise ye the Lord (MP 518)
3. Be Still for the Presence of the Lord (MP 50)
4. *During Communion:* There is a Redeemer (MP 673)
5. Tell out my soul (MP 631)

#### Music at 11am

1. Come, Now is the Time to Worship
2. Open the Eyes of My Heart
3. The Heart of Worship
4. Hosanna (Praise is Rising)