



# St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024

## A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

Anne, Lily and I had a wonderful weekend over the Bank Holiday at the Greenbelt Festival. We experienced every kind of weather imaginable but it was a joyful and inspiring event nonetheless. Thanks again to Ken Hobbs for stepping in to cover. As the Summer draws to a close (sorry!), we return to our regular service schedule of 9.30am and 11am. And we begin a new sermon series called The God Story, a 12-part series that ties together the main themes of the Bible. I hope and pray that God will teach and inspire us through this series as we learn more about His loving purposes for all creation, including each one of us.

**Rev. Geoff Andrew**

## TEMPLE VISIT

The Sri Raja Rajeswary Amman Temple is one of only two Hindu temples in Surrey, and it happens to be in Stoneleigh (Dell Lane). I have arranged for us to go as a group for a 30 minute tour on Tuesday September 17th at 9.15am 9.30am at the temple). If you are interested in joining us, please sign the sheet in the welcome area. This is a wonderful opportunity to reach out in friendship to another faith group and strengthen our community relationships.

**Rev. Geoff Andrew**

## MESSAGES FOR CHURCH WARDENS

We are resurrecting the message book for the church wardens. It is a green file on the table by the glass doors. If you notice a bulb gone, a fault with any equipment or any other fabric problem, please note it in the file with your name and date so that we can deal with it promptly. Many thanks.

**Adrian and Claire**

## MECHANICS FOR AFRICA

In August, Ken and Margaret Hobbs cycled 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: [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com) and search for Mechanics for Africa and you will see Ken's fundraiser. **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**

## FOODBANK

How many different ways are there to choose which item(s) you select to donate to the foodbank each week? What you can afford is an obvious answer - and rightly so because we understand that money is tight for all of us at some time or another and no one should feel obliged to donate. It's also appreciated that weight can be a large factor to consider - hurrah for the ever present and needed long life sponge puddings! Maybe it is easier to see what you need for yourselves and then double up when shopping. Maybe it is helpful to think about which item on the list you would really struggle to be without - imagine having active children and no laundry powder! Try asking another member of the family to make the selection or maybe choose what you'd love to eat but no longer can. Make your selection seriously but maybe have a little fun at the same time - every little effort is much appreciated and contributes to the very necessary role of the Foodbank - and thank you.

This week they need:-

Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Meat, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Fruit, Tinned, Spaghetti, Cooking Sauces, Pulses, Instant Mash, Instant Coffee, Tea (bags), Jam, Honey, Peanut Butter, Sugar, Chocolate, Biscuits, Savoury Biscuits, Long life Sponge puddings, Adult Toothpaste, Nappies 5, 6+ & 7, Deodorant (Male & Female), Sanitary Towels, Shampoo & Conditioner, Washing up Liquid, Washing Powder  
Thank you.

**The Foodbank Team**

## SEASON OF MUSIC & COMEDY 2024

It's that time of year when our thoughts turn to the Autumn and our 2024 St John's Season of Music, this year with Comedy! More details to follow, but please put the following dates in your diary:

September 21, 7.30pm: Movie Night: Mamma Mia 2 – Here We Go Again, Sing-Along (£5/ticket)

October 26, 7.30pm: Jonathan Veira in concert (£10/ticket)

November 23, 7.30pm: Quiz Night, hosted by comedian Tim Vine (Teams of 6, £10/ticket)

December 13, 6.30pm: Rock Choir (preceded by carols on the lawn) (£5/ticket)

December 21, 5.30pm: Movie Night: It's a Wonderful Life (£5/ticket)

A sign up sheet for each show can be found in the welcome area.

**Rev. Geoff Andrew**

## ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Gideon is a young man who has just joined the St John's congregation. He is currently staying in rather unsuitable accommodation and is looking for a room in a house, for

reasonable rent, with access to a kitchen and bathroom. This would likely be for a period of a few months. We would like to help him move quite soon so if you are in a position to assist (or have further questions), could you please contact Chris in the church office.

**Rev. Geoff Andrew**

### **THE GOD STORY - NEW SERMON SERIES**

Today we will embark on a new sermon series for the Autumn term. 'The God Story' is a compelling and creative retelling of the biblical story recently published by 24-7 Prayer International. The series will not only help us understand the great narrative arc of Scripture, but will help each of us to discover the significance of our own story within it. If you are interested in reading along with the series, the book (by Emerson & Cox) can be found online at all good retailers.

**Rev. Geoff Andrew**

### **Today's Service**

We start at the very beginning! Our first instalment of the new sermon series is called 'The Origin'. How God was before all things. How he created from nothing. How the Eternal Family of Father, Son and Holy Spirit existed in perfect love and then gave birth to history to share that love with all creation. The crowning glory of creation is human beings, made in God's own image. He loves us, and his only desire is that we love Him in return. How does it make you feel to know you have been invited into the love of the Eternal Family?

### **Readings**

**Genesis 1:1-5; 26-27; 31-2:3**

**Maggie Savill**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. <sup>3</sup>And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. <sup>4</sup>God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light 'day', and the darkness he called 'night'. And there was evening, and there was morning – the first day.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals and over all the creatures that move along the ground.' <sup>27</sup> So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

<sup>31</sup> God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning – the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

<sup>2</sup> By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. <sup>3</sup> Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

### **John 1:1-5**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

### **Collect**

Merciful God, your Son came to save us and bore our sins on the cross: may we trust in your mercy and know your love, rejoicing in the righteousness that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Intercessor**

**Chris Redrup**

### **Music 9.30am**

1. All Creatures of our God and King
2. Praise My Soul the King of Heaven
3. I, the Lord of sea and sky
4. *During Communion:* O Lord hear my prayer
5. Thine be the Glory

### **Music 11am**

1. Goodness of God
2. The Lord's My Shepherd (I Will Trust)
3. As the Deer
4. What a Beautiful Name