



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 4th August 2024

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

I hope everyone is enjoying the Summer! For those of us who are sports fans, it's always a treat to engage with the Olympic Games and watch some obscure form of rowing or cycling that you won't see again for another four years! This year's Paris Olympics is being held on the 100th anniversary of the 'Chariots of Fire' Olympics, also held in Paris in 1924. We will be commemorating this in this weekend's service (see below for more details). I am pleased to say that the faculty we applied for to upgrade and decorate the back of church has been approved. Thanks to Adrian for getting this through and for forming the work team to complete the project. Please remember that for the month of August there will be one service at 10am. For two Sundays, music will be led by the worship group and for two Sundays we will have the organ.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

JANE MATHEWS – BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Jane celebrated a special birthday this week and would like to invite you all for Prosecco and cake after the 10am service today, this will be held in the hall.

AUGUST SERVICES AND REFRESHMENTS

With much hard work by Adrian Coppin, St John's has received the Faculty to go ahead with the refurbishment of the back of Church. To facilitate this, we will be holding refreshments after the 10am service in the hall, rather than at the back of Church, for the month of August.

Social Committee

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

SIMON MORRISON, ORGANIST

Simon Morrison has been playing the organ for us every third Sunday for the past couple of years. He has decided it is now time to step down in order to reduce his personal commitments. We would like to thank Simon for his contribution to our Sunday worship and also wish him and his wife, Jane, all the best for the future. We will be looking into the possibility of replacing Simon but in the meantime we will use the on-screen hymns as we do on first Sundays.

Rev Geoff Andrew

SUMMER SERVICE SCHEDULE

All Sundays in August; one service at 10am. Theme: Summer Psalms. Rev Geoff (Aug 25th Rev Ken Hobbs)

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:

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

Shelly, Ukrainian Refugee

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024

Stoneleigh Methodist Church is having a service using the World Day of Prayer 2024 service as organised by the Christian women of Palestine and used with permission. There was no World Day of Prayer service in Ewell this year in March, so if anyone missed a service and would like to attend, they would be very welcome. The service is at Stoneleigh Methodist Church, Stoneleigh Crescent KT19 0RT at 10.30am on 11th August 2024.

MATILDA THE MUSICAL (sing-along version)

Join Matilda on her magical journey in a spellbinding show brimming with heart, humour, and unforgettable songs. Perfect for all ages, it's a celebration of courage and imagination that will inspire and entertain the entire family. Tickets £5 each. Soft drinks, tea and coffee are available for a donation. For more information and to purchase tickets please go to www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk/music or call **07468 096350** or add your name to the list at the front of church.

FIRE DRILL

There will be a fire drill after the service on 11th August.

Church Wardens

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, CHESSINGTON

St Mary's Chessington will be celebrating 850 years at the heart of the Chessington Community. You are invited to visit the Church on Saturday 14th September from 10.00am – 4.00pm to view historical artefacts. This is a gift day for the church.

There will be a celebratory thanksgiving service to mark the 850th anniversary on Sunday 15th September at 5.00pm. All welcome to both events.

FOODBANK

Psalm 146:7

'He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.' The Psalmist is declaring God's intent toward his children in this Psalm, particularly those on the margins—the oppressed, the prisoner, the blind and the hungry.

In July the Epsom and Ewell Foodbank fed 664 people, 310 of those were children.

This week they need: Cooking Sauces, Dried Noodles (not pot or instant), Long Life Juice, Tinned Potatoes, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Meat, Pulses, Sugar, Honey, Biscuits, Long life Sponge puddings, Ketchup/Brown Sauce/Mayonnaise, Washing up Liquid, Nappies 5, 6+ & 7 .

They urgently need: Male Deodorant, Shower gel, and Washing Powder

Strong shopper bags and bags for life are always useful.

The Foodbank Team

ZOOM

Our Sunday service is streamed via . Any problems, please let us know.

Tim Rogers

BIBLE READING RESOURCES

It has been a joy in the run up to our exhibition on August 18th (make a note in your diaries that you want to linger a little longer over coffee this week) to discover the Bible Reading Resources used by so many people in our congregation. This week Claire Cornell has lent me a copy of her quarterly magazine Word for Today which is produced by United Christian Broadcasters. She was introduced to it by Ken Hobbs and she likes these notes because you get "not just a quote from The Bible but also a reflection that is very relevant to life".

You can access Word For Today by getting it (free of charge in the UK) by post four times a year or by email each morning. Furthermore United Christian Broadcasters have a web site, UCB.co.uk and a radio station - download the UCB Player app.

Will Porter and Polly Elder

Today's Services

Many of you will remember the 1981 movie, Chariots of Fire. It tells the story of Eric Liddell, a sprinter from Scotland who was a favourite to win the 1924 Olympic 100m race. When he learned that the heats would be held on a Sunday, he refused to run. He switched to the 200m and 400m and won two medals. After the games he eschewed fame and celebrity to become a missionary in China. His life is testimony to his singular focus on serving God despite the pressure to compromise. Psalm 27 declares '*One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life*'. Eric Liddell clearly knew first place belonged to God. What comes first for us?

Collect

Lord of heaven and earth, as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer, give us patience and courage never to lose hope, but always to bring our prayers before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

First Reading

Psalm 27:1-6

Maggie Savill

The LORD is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?

²When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.

³Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

⁴One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.

⁵For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.

⁶Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the LORD.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 16:24-27

²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ²⁷For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

Intercessor

Ken Mussell

Music

1. How Great Thou Art
2. Cornerstone
3. Jesus Paid it All
4. 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)