



# St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 15th September 2024

## A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

There's a definite Autumnal feeling in the air now. I'm not just alluding to the weather – Autumn also means we're looking ahead to a full programme of social events as Season of Music & Comedy kicks off on September 21 with an Abba singalong movie night. Please do think about coming and bringing a friend (or two). Remember that these events are not only a splendid evening of entertainment, but an opportunity to experience St John's great hospitality perhaps for the first time. This Sunday at 11am we will be welcoming two young brothers into the church family in baptism: Albie and Finley Skinner will take their first steps along their journey with Jesus. Please come along and support the boys and their parents, Hannah and James.

**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**

## ZOOM

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

**Tim Rogers**

## HELP FOR REFUGEES, ESPECIALLY UKRAINIAN

The Epsom & Ewell Refugee Network (EERN) is urgently looking for properties to rent to families, supported by a new rent guarantee scheme. Families will pay a market rent, and EERN will help with supplying furniture and completing all the paperwork. Also, new sponsors/hosts are urgently needed for Ukrainians as the situation in Ukraine continues to deteriorate. Your spare room could really change a life and you will get lots of support from EERN together with monthly thank you payments from the local council.

**Rev. Geoff Andrew**

## UKRAINIAN MUSIC EVENING

Several very talented Ukrainian musicians live in our area. The next Ukrainian Music Evening will be on Saturday 28th September 2024 at Epsom Methodist Church at 5pm. No need to book and Entry is FREE. Attendees are asked to bring a small plate of finger food that can be shared. There is an exit collection at the end and all monies donated go to the musicians.

**Rev. Geoff Andrew**

## 25<sup>th</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September, we invite everyone to help us celebrate our special Anniversary with Cake and Fizz between the 9.30 am Service and the 11 am Service that morning. Ian and I were married at St. John's in September 1999 by the Reverend Rene Grace. So we shall be very pleased to share this Anniversary at St. John's and some might even remember our Service all those years ago! **Ian and Elizaeth Hargrave**

## GROUP LEADER – BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

St John's is looking to recruit a Group Leader for our Baby and Toddler Group. This is a part-time position on a Tuesday from 9.15am to 12pm, during term-time only, with additional planning time. Please speak to Chris McInnes in the office for further information.

**Church Wardens**

## MONTHLY PRAY GROUP

The Next Prayer Group will be held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 3.30 in the Lady Chapel.

**Steve Simper**

## 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**

## CRAFT CLUB

The next meeting of Craft Club will be on 16th September. We meet in the Parish Room from 10am to 12noon. So bring your crafting and join us for a morning of chat, coffee and crafting. All are welcome, so please come along.

**Veronica Gittins**

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

we are planning to update our Church Directory which includes the name, address, phone numbers and email address of church members. **The Directory will only be distributed to the Ministry and Pastoral Teams.** Please let me know if you would prefer not to be included in the Directory or if there are any details which you would not want to be included. Thank you for your cooperation.

[jeantutton@ntlworld.com](mailto:jeantutton@ntlworld.com)

**Jean Tutton**

## FOODBANK

It was sad to hear this week that a Foodbank had been burgled. One wonders at the desperation - or greed - of the perpetrators. What a joy it was to learn that the local community had

redoubled its efforts to restock the Foodbank's shelves. Thank you to everyone at St John's for continuing to support the work of the Epsom & Ewell Foodbank with donations and in prayer. This week they need: This week they urgently need: Tinned Soup, Tinned Fish, Tinned Meat, Long-life Sponge Puddings (they have none), Savoury Biscuits, Squash, Male and Female Deodorant, Shampoo, Washing up liquid, Washing powder.

They also need: Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Spaghetti, Cooking Sauces, Pulses, Instant Mash, Rice, Breakfast Cereal, Tea (bags), Peanut butter, Custard, Ketchup/Mayo/Brown Sauce, Nappies 6+. 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**

### Today's Services

Last week we heard the account of God's good creation being attacked by the craft serpent, Satan. Adam and Eve's resulting disobedience led successive generations to move further and further from God, 'East of Eden', in sinful rebellion. What would God do now? This week's instalment, 'The Seed of Promise', focuses in on Abraham, through whom God will begin the process of leading humanity back to himself. God's plan for redemption will rest on a very old man and his very old wife. Once again, we learn that God works through unlikely people...the only qualification required is faith and a willingness to obey.

### Readings

**Genesis 12:1-3; 15:1-6**

**Suzanne Lyse**

12 The LORD had said to Abram, 'Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

<sup>2</sup>'I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

reward.'<sup>2</sup> But Abram said, 'Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?' <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, 'You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.'<sup>4</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to him: 'This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.'<sup>5</sup> He took him outside and said, 'Look up at the sky and count the stars – if indeed you can count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your offspring be. <sup>6</sup>Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

### John 8:31-38

<sup>31</sup>To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup>Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'<sup>33</sup> They answered him, 'We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?' <sup>34</sup>Jesus replied, 'Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it for ever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. <sup>37</sup>I know you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are looking for a way to kill me, because you have no room for my word. <sup>38</sup>I am telling you what I have seen in the Father's presence, and you are doing what you have heard from your father.

### Collect

Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us: open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence and know your peace at our lives' end through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Intercessor

**Chris Redrup**

### Music 9.30am

1. Great is Thy faithfulness
2. Lead Us, Heavenly Father, Lead Us
3. Majesty, worship His Majesty
4. Let us Break Bread Together
5. Holy, Holy, Holy

### Music 11am

1. You are My Vision (vid)
2. Come, Now is the Time to Worship
3. Hosanna (Praise is Rising)

### Book of Remembrance

Nigel Pavey  
Lynda Lavinia White

**15** After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: 'Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great