



# St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 22nd September 2024

## A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

It has been very rewarding for me over the past three years to see so many new faces at St John's and such a great response to the initiatives we have launched to enhance our position as a community hub in Stoneleigh and to bring the light of the gospel into people's lives. So many people in our church family have been incredibly generous with their time, their talents and their treasure, all of which are important to healthy church growth. And there is so much more we can do - and so much more we can be - for the people we serve in Jesus' name. This weekend our Stewardship Sunday service will focus on how we think about 'treasure' and how we can use it to secure the future ministry of St John's.

**Rev. Geoff Andrew**

## ST PAUL'S HOWELL HILL – TALK FOLLOWED BY LUNCH

On Wed Oct 2. Lyndon and Celia Bowring the founding directors of CARE are speaking on "Faith in the Market Square". Members of SJ are welcome. Coffee 11.30 talk at 12. Lunch can be booked on the website etc but no need to book for the talk

## TEMPLE VISIT – CHANGE OF DATE AND TIME

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 24th at 10.45am (11.00am 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**

## WEBINAR ON PREVENTING DOORSTEP CRIME

Uninvited doorstep callers sometimes try to pressure us into getting work done on our house, like fixing the roof, driveway, gutters, or trees. Since 1 January this year Surrey Police have received over 100 reports of doorstep crime which equated to an average loss of nearly £10,000 per person. 64% of victims lived on their own and their average age was 80. If you would like to know how to be protected from this kind of crime for yourself, a neighbour or a friend, Surrey Police and Trading Standards are hosting a free webinar on Tuesday, 24 September between 1pm and 2pm. Anyone is welcome to attend. Sign up for the event is via Eventbrite here: [How to safe from doorstep crime Tickets, Tue 24 Sep 2024 at 13:00 | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/how-to-safe-from-doorstep-crime-tickets-tue-24-sep-2024-at-13:00-eventbrite)

## 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**

## 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 Wiczorek. If you want to give cash, please mark your envelope "Ukraine".

**Shelly, Ukrainian Refugee**

## CHURCH MAGAZINE

The Autumn/Winter edition of What's On at St John's is now ready for distribution.. I would much appreciate people coming during the week to take magazines for one or two roads each

to deliver so that all residents of the parish have the information about upcoming events and the Christmas services.

**Rev. Geoff Andrew**

### **FOODBANK**

This week the umbrella organisation, The Good Company, which includes the Foodbank, is searching for some helpful people.

### **CHAIR OF TRUSTEES**

They need a New Chair of Trustees. This is a fantastic opportunity for someone who is passionate about helping people locally and being part of our vision to see a community free from poverty. To find out more please visit their website:

<https://goodcompany.org.uk/news>

### **FUNDRAISING MANAGER ROLE**

They are also looking for an experienced, creative and proactive Fundraising Manager who is passionate about their vision to create a poverty-free future for the community. Advertised on Charity Job:

- <https://www.charityjob.co.uk> BUT please note that the closing date is the 22nd September.

This week the Foodbank urgently needs: Tinned Soup, Tinned Fish, Tinned Meat, Long-life Sponge Puddings(they have none), Savoury Biscuits, Squash, Male & 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+

**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:

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**

Our main Bible reading this week is a Stewardship Sunday classic. St Paul reminds us that God loves a cheerful giver, that giving produces its own abundant rewards, and that giving offers us an opportunity to bless others as well as acknowledge our debt to God. Paul wants us to cultivate a mindset of abundance, knowing that God ensures we never lack when our hands are open to share.

### **Readings**

#### **2 Corinthians 9: 6-15**

**Maggie Savill**

<sup>6</sup>Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup>Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup>And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. <sup>9</sup>As it is written: 'They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures for ever. <sup>10</sup>Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup>You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. <sup>12</sup>This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. <sup>13</sup>Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. <sup>14</sup>And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. <sup>15</sup>Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

#### **Mark 12:41-44**

<sup>41</sup>Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. <sup>42</sup>But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few pence. <sup>43</sup>Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. <sup>44</sup>They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything – all she had to live on.'

### **Collect**

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Intercessor**

**Ian Hargrave**

### **Music 9.30am**

1. Amazing Grace
2. God is our Strength and Refuge
3. Lord Jesus Christ
4. *During Communion*: O Lord hear my prayer
5. To God be the Glory

### **Music 11am**

1. How Great is Our God
2. King of Kings
3. I Exalt Thee
4. This is Amazing Grace