



# St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 29th September 2024

## A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

Last week we took a break from our God Story sermon series to talk about Stewardship. For those who were unable to attend (and my apologies to our Zoomers – we had no one available last weekend to run the Zoom connection), I explained how the phased increase of our financial commitment to the diocese ('parish share') has, over the past three years, created a monthly deficit that we need to resolve. For those who were in church, I hope my explanation was illuminating without being alarming! We have time to 'steady the ship', but I would encourage you to prayerfully consider your current level of support and to increase that level if you are able to do so. I also asked you to consider leaving a gift to St John's in your Will. There will be an offering box in church from this weekend to collect the completed Giving forms you received last week. It is wonderful to see how God is working through us at St John's and there is no greater legacy we can leave future generations than a thriving worshipping community. **Rev. Geoff Andrew**

## HARVEST SUNDAY

We will be celebrating Harvest on October 6<sup>th</sup> with **ONE SERVICE** at 11am. As usual, we will be supporting the Foodbank for our Harvest offerings so please check on the newsletter for the latest Foodbank needs. After the service we will gather in the Parish Hall for a 'bring & share' Harvest lunch. Please sign up at the front of church (or let the church office know by phone/email) if you would like to come and indicate what dish you will be bringing. **Rev. Geoff Andrew**

## STEWARDSHIP

Last Sunday was Stewardship Sunday and I took the opportunity to provide some information about the financial situation at St John's. Unfortunately, we were unable to Zoom or record the service and so I have recorded a separate video on the subject which can be found on the website on the following link:

[www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk/stewardship](http://www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk/stewardship). At the bottom of this newsletter you will also find the letters about regular giving and legacy giving that we handed out last week. Please give some careful and prayerful thought to this subject and if you have any questions, contact Tim Rogers, our Treasurer, at [treasurer@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk). Thank you.

**Rev Geoff Andrew**

## ZOOM

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

**Tim Rogers**

## Christmas Carol Service

Forgive me for talking about Christmas when we are only just into October and the schools have just returned after their

summer holidays. However, I am keen that I get ahead of myself as we go into the autumn term.

This year's Carol Service will take place on Sunday, 15th December at 6.30pm and as in previous years we look forward to putting together a Christmas Choir. We welcome people of all ages and abilities.

We will need to start rehearsing for the service from the first week in November. The dates for choir practice are as follows:

- Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm – 9pm
- Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm – 9pm
- Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm – 9pm
- Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm – 9pm
- Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm – 9pm
- Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm – 9pm
- Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> December 4pm – 6pm

I really do hope that as many of you can join us again this year as part of our Christmas festivities here at St. John's and please share this with your family and friends too. If you are planning to be part of our Christmas Choir and haven't already contacted me, could you please email me at [chris.webb@epicc.org.uk](mailto:chris.webb@epicc.org.uk) **Chris Webb**

## 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.

## THANKS FROM IAN AND ELIZABETH

Ian and Elizabeth would like to thank everyone for their kind good wishes and many lovely cards to celebrate our Silver Wedding anniversary last weekend. Also for the beautiful bouquet of flowers which was very generous. Thank you all again. **Elizabeth and Ian Hargrave**

## 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**

## 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 is written with thanks to Stephen Rand and his excellent contributions to a fortnight of readings considering Harvest in the Bible Reading Fellowship notes this month. One day he quoted Deuteronomy 24:19-22 and leaving a sheaf for the 'foreigner, the fatherless and the widow.' He remarked that "there should be no need for Foodbanks in 2024, but it is no accident that churches are at the heart of this network of care for the needy." St Johns has been so very generous in supporting the Epsom and Ewell Foodbank over a good number of years that we give thanks for this whilst still asking you to be kind enough to collect the colourful leaflet listing the Foodbank's Harvest Requests available at the door and then please completely overwhelm us with donations next week at our Harvest festival. Thank you everyone,

**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

Ian Hargrave is preaching this week as we continue with Part 4 of the God Story. We pick the story up again in Egypt, where last time Joseph had relocated his family to escape the famine in Canaan. Now 400 Years later, the Hebrews have become slaves to the Egyptians and will be rescued and led into the Wilderness and towards the Promised Land under the leadership of Moses. Who was Moses and what qualified him for this momentous task?

## Readings

**Exodus 3:1-15, 4:1-5, 4:10-13**

**Suzanne Lyse**

**3** Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. **2** There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. **3** So Moses thought, 'I will go over and see this strange sight – why the bush does not burn up.' **4** When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, 'Moses! Moses!' And Moses said, 'Here I am.' **5** 'Do not come any closer,' God said. 'Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.' **6** Then he said, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. **7** The LORD said, 'I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. **8** So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey – the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. **9** And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. **10** So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.' **11** But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' **12** And God said, 'I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.' **13** Moses said to God, 'Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you," and they ask me, "What is his name?" Then what shall I tell them?' **14** God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: "I AM has sent me to you."' **15** God also said to Moses, 'Say to the Israelites, "The LORD, the God of your fathers – the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob – has sent me to you." 'This is my name for ever, the name you shall call me

## 4:1-5

**4** Moses answered, 'What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, "The LORD did not appear to you"?' **2** Then the LORD said to him, 'What is that in your hand?' 'A staff,' he replied. **3** The LORD said, 'Throw it on the ground.' Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. **4** Then the LORD said to him, 'Reach out your hand and take it by the tail.' So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand. **5** 'This,' said the LORD, 'is so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers – the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob – has appeared to you.'

#### 4:10-13

<sup>10</sup> Moses said to the LORD, 'Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.'

<sup>11</sup> The LORD said to him, 'Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the LORD?' <sup>12</sup> Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.' <sup>13</sup> But Moses said, 'Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else.'

#### Matthew 2:13-23

<sup>13</sup> When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. 'Get up,' he said, 'take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.' <sup>14</sup> So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, <sup>15</sup> where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'Out of Egypt I called my son.' <sup>16</sup> When Herod realised that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. <sup>17</sup> Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: <sup>18</sup> 'A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.'<sup>19</sup> After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt <sup>20</sup> and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead.' <sup>21</sup> So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, <sup>23</sup> and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

#### Collect

God, our judge and saviour, teach us to be open to your truth and to trust in your love, that we may live each day with confidence in the salvation which is given through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### Intercessor

*Chris Redrup*

#### Music 9.30am

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky
2. Take my life, and let it be
3. Make me a channel of your peace
4. *During Communion:* O Lord, hear my prayer
5. Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah

#### Music 11am

1. O Praise the Name
2. No Longer Slaves
3. Be Still for the Presence of the Lord
4. Cornerstone