



# St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 8th September 2024

## A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

Those of you in church last week will have seen the results of the splendid work done by Adrian Coppin and team that has transformed the back of church into a light, bright and more spacious area for hospitality. Thanks to everyone that helped. And a further thanks to Graham Derbyshire for his two wonderful paintings that now adorn either side of the church. I'm sure we will find many creative ways to use the new space in the coming months for the benefit of the wider community as well as worshippers. All we need now is a small sofa, so if anyone has a spare...?! A reminder that we're back to normal with service times now at 9.30am and 11am.

*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*

## 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*

## 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*

## 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*

## 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.

*Jean Tutton*

## FOODBANK

In August the foodbank fed 609 people, 271 were children. They have a total of 226 crates of food in the warehouse which is 92 less than this time last year. I think that indicates that they still need our help please.

This week they urgently need :- need:- Tinned Soup, Tinned Fish, Tinned Meat, 500g bags Sugar, Biscuits, Savoury Biscuits, Long life Sponge Puddings, Squash, Deodorant (Male & Female), Washing Up liquid, Washing Powder.

They also need: Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Spaghetti, Cooking Sauces, Pulses, Tea (bags), Peanut Butter, Sanitary Towels, Shampoo, Nappies 5, 6+ & 7, Strong shopper bags and bags for life. 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**

## ECO CHURCH

Eco Church is a scheme run by A Rocha UK equipping churches to care for God's creation through their worship, buildings, land, community engagement, and individual lifestyles. By completing an online survey, churches can be considered for an Eco Church Award at either Bronze, Silver, or Gold level. The scheme is designed to encourage churches to embody the Anglican Church's fifth mark of mission which is "To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth".

We are establishing an Eco Group to progress the Eco Church initiative at St John's. The group will have several complementary aims:

- (1) Promoting the Eco Church initiative at St John's and taking actions to enable us to achieve initially the bronze level award.
- (2) Ensuring the church buildings meet appropriate Church of England Net Zero targets – this will be the responsibility of a newly reformed Fabric Committee - see below.
- (3) Improving the outside space to be more ecologically friendly
- (4) Start an occasional Eco Church discussion group
- (5) Create a library of resources at the back of church.
- (6) Promote creation care in our worship and church life including use of outside speakers

Although Geoff has asked me to drive the group forward it is clear that I will need the help and forbearance of many other people in the church in order to achieve our goals. Ken Mussell has already provided significant expert input in the assessing of an external report on energy usage for which I offer many grateful thanks. We have a few people who have already expressed interest in other aspects of the scheme. Anyone interested in joining the group please do ask me for further information. In particular we would like to make our outside space more attractive and wildlife friendly. The idea of having a prayer garden has also been suggested.

There will be some introductory information on the Eco Church scheme at the back of church during coffee this Sunday.

## Today's Services

This weekend is part two of our new sermon series, The God Story. Last week, we looked at God's goodness in creation and how human beings were created in His image to be in loving relationship within the eternal family of God; Father, Son and Spirit. This week evil enters the story in the form of a serpent and the seeds of destruction are sown as Adam and Eve succumb to temptation and rebel against God. The root of sin infects the human heart to this day, yet God continues to love us and pursue us.

*This week is a Prayers for Healing service at 9.30am and Communion at 11am.*

## Readings

### **Genesis 3**

**Janis Forder**

3 Now the snake was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God really say, "You must not eat from any tree in the garden"?' 2 The woman said to the snake, 'We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, "You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die."' 4 'You will not certainly die,' the snake said to the woman. 5 'For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' 6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realised that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. 8 Then

the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man, 'Where are you?' 10 He answered, 'I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.' 11 And he said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?' 12 The man said, 'The woman you put here with me – she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.' 13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this you have done?' The woman said, 'The snake deceived me, and I ate.' 14 So the LORD God said to the snake, 'Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. 15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.'" 16 To the woman he said, "I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labour you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." 17 To Adam he said, 'Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, "You must not eat from it," "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. 18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. 19 By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.'" 20 Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

21 The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. 22 And the LORD God said, 'The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat and live forever.' 23 So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. 24 After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

## **Mark 2:15-17**

15 While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. 16 When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: 'Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?' 17 On hearing this, Jesus said to them, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but those who are ill. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.'

## **Collect**

Lord God, defend your Church from all false teaching and give to your people knowledge of your truth, that we may enjoy eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **Intercessor**

**Ken Mussell**

## **Music 9.30am**

1. At the name of Jesus
2. Dear Lord and Father of Mankind
3. Be thou my vision
4. *During Communion:* There is a Redeemer
5. O praise ye the Lord

## **Music 11am**

1. Oceans
2. Worthy of it All
3. The Creed
4. The Blessing

## **Book of Remembrance**

Margaret Cutcliffe  
Joan Angela Davey

the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from