



St John's, Stoneleigh

Weekly Newsletter

20th October 2024

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

Waiting for renewal and restoration. There's quite a lot of that happening on our doorstep (literally!) at the moment. Waiting for the new bridge to open and offer lift access across the railway. Waiting to get those parking spaces back outside the church. The Station pub is waiting to shut down for a month for a complete remodelling. That theme is reflected in our God Story episode this weekend as we look at exiled Israel hoping and praying to return home and waiting for God to restore their fortunes. Maybe you're in a time of waiting or wilderness. Remember the thread that runs through our sermon series: God loves us and pursues us relentlessly, whatever our circumstances. Even as these Autumnal nights close in, we wait in faith for those green shoots to appear.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

MIDWEEK SERVICES

We don't often mention them, but a worship service takes place in the chapel every Monday and Wednesday morning at 9.30am. On Monday we hold Morning Prayer, a short service (20 mins or so) that follows the Church of England's cycle of daily prayer. This service is Zoomed so you can join in from home – just let me know and I can send you the link. On Wednesdays we celebrate Holy Communion with the 'old language' of the Book of Common Prayer. This lasts about 40 minutes. Please feel free to come even if only on an occasional basis. It's a wonderful way to start the day.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

REMEMBERING LOVED ONES: SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER, 3.00pm

You are all invited to join us at our special service to remember those we have loved who have passed away. There will be the opportunity to light a candle in memoriam. In addition we will be reading out the names of those we want to remember during the service. If there is a name(s) you would like to be included please add them to the list on the table at the front of church or email me, if possible by **Sunday 20th October**.

We will be providing refreshments in the hall after the service. If you could help with this please speak to me.

Jean Tutton

jean.tutton@ntlworld.com/020 8393 3687

ZOOM

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

Tim Rogers

BRING YOUR OWN COFFEE CUP

As part of our drive to be more environmentally friendly, we want to encourage members of the church family to bring their own coffee mug to church so we can cut down on disposable cups. See if you can remember to do so this Sunday!

Rev. Geoff Andrew

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, 7th November 7.30pm – 9pm
- Thursday, 14th November 7.30pm – 9pm
- Wednesday, 20th November 7.30pm – 9pm
- Thursday, 28th November 7.30pm – 9pm
- Wednesday, 4th December 7.30pm – 9pm
- Thursday, 12th December 7.30pm – 9pm
- Sunday, 15th 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

Chris Webb

STEWARDSHIP

It is not too late to consider your financial giving to St John's. Please watch this video for full details of our current situation:

www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk/stewardship .

You will have all received a letter and response form last week so thank you for your careful and prayerful approach to this subject. If you have any questions, contact Tim Rogers, our Treasurer at

treasurer@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk. Thank you.

Rev Geoff Andrew

UKRAINE CRISIS APPEAL

Hello to our friends at St John's Church

The people of Ukraine are now going into their third winter under bombardment. We are so grateful to everyone who has been donating items for them since February 2022. We have now received a list of items needed for Christmas. Anything donated before the end of November will be delivered to the people of Ukraine who cannot leave the country or to the refugees in Poland. We know there are many calls on your time and money and we are so grateful for everything received. If you can please donate:

Chocolate tubs: e.g. Celebration, Heroes, Quality Street, Biscuit selection boxes, Assorted roast nuts, seeds etc., Hot Chocolate, instant coffee, tea bags, Sugar, Soup packets, Tins of fruit and vegetables, Custard, Long life baked goods, Childrens' Toys (new only).

Please put them in the box marked Ukraine at the front of church.

I also take cheques made payable to Shelly Wieczorek or you can donate money on line at the "White Eagle Club Ukraine Appeal" on Facebook, Instagram or X.

Thank you again. **Shelly Wierzorek, Coordinator, White Eagle Ukraine Appeal**

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**

FOODBANK

Unfortunately, Facebook has shut down the Epsom and Ewell Foodbank Page and also the Instagram account. They have asked for our help to build up their followers again to continue creating awareness.

Please follow **Good Company Surrey on Facebook** and **@good_company_surrey on Instagram**. Thank you.

This week they have completely run out of:- Chocolate/Sweet treats, Long life Sponge Puddings, Sugar (500gr).

They also need:- Rice (Microwave), Cooking Sauces, Pasta Sauces, Noodles, Ketchup/Brown Sauce/Mayonnaise, Long Life Milk, Instant Coffee, Powdered Milk, Squash, Tinned Fruit, Custard, Jam/Honey/Peanut Butter/Chocolate Spread, Crisps, Cereal bars, Deodorant (Male & Female), Shampoo & Conditioner, Adult Toothbrushes, Shower Gel, Sanitary Towels, Nappies 6+, Washing powder, Washing up liquid. Thank you.

The Foodbank Team

Today's Services

Last week we charted the rise and fall of the Kingdom of Israel. As the nation split in two, and a line of unimpressive kings followed David and Solomon, God raised up prophets to speak

truth on God's behalf. These people were courageous in standing up to the evil around them and warning of the catastrophe to come: defeat and exile. Exile did indeed come and the people lamented in Babylon for all they had lost. Though eventually many returned, the former glory of Israel as a nation was never quite restored. Their hope rested instead on the one the prophets had promised would deliver them. They awaited their Messiah...

Readings

Isaiah 2:1-5

Lynne Coppin

2 This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: ² In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. ³ Many peoples will come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.' The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war any more. ⁵ Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

Matthew 9:14-17

¹⁴ Then John's disciples came and asked him, 'How is it that we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?'

¹⁵ Jesus answered, 'How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast. ¹⁶ 'No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. ¹⁷ Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out, and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.'

Collect

Almighty God, in whose service lies perfect freedom: teach us to obey you with loving hearts and steadfast wills; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Intercessor

Chris Redrup

Music 9.30am

1. At the name of Jesus
2. The Lord's my Shepherd (I Will Trust in You)
3. Seek ye First
4. *During Communion:* As the Deer
5. O Praise ye the Lord

Music 11am

1. Here I am to Worship
2. Good Good Father
3. Heart of Worship
4. Waymaker

Book of Remembrance

Roy Carbin Constable