



St John's, Stoneleigh

Weekly Newsletter

3rd November 2024

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

Last week was an eventful one in the life of St John's. On Saturday we hosted a wonderfully entertaining evening starring renowned singer and raconteur, Jonathan Veira. His personal story is a great testimony of faith in the face of adversity. And on Sunday afternoon, we held our annual Remembering Loved Ones service with 70 people in attendance. In very different ways, both events were uplifting and it was good to see the participation of so many neighbours and friends. Thanks to all who came and especially those who helped out. On Thursday, we set up a hot chocolate stand outside church to offer refreshments for the young families out for Halloween, which was well-received. In terms of upcoming Sunday services, please note further on in the newsletter the 'one service' arrangements for November 10 and November 17.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

UPCOMING SERVICE TIMES

There will be just one Sunday service on November 10 and 17: November 10: Remembrance Sunday at 10.15am (timed to have the Last Post played at 11am outside)

November 17: Safeguarding Sunday at 10am. This is an important area of church life and will include all ages.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

ZOOM

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

Tim Rogers

FRED RENNO

I am sorry to say that Fred Renno died at the beginning of this week. As many of you will know, Fred moved into a home in Banstead after the death of his wife, Jean, earlier this year. A member of St John's for many years, Fred has been a regular worshipper with us via Zoom most Sundays. Despite his physical frailties in the last few years, Fred was always great company and loved a good chat. We will miss him. His faith sustained him to the end and we give thanks to God for his life. I have no details yet of any funeral arrangements.

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*

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

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

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:

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

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**

FOODBANK

Ah, it must be Autumn - soup has appeared on the wish list this week. There will be many juggling the need to pay for fuel versus food. Please think of nourishing food which will help to keep folk warm as the temperatures drop.

This week the Foodbank need; - Cooking Sauces, Packet Soup, Tinned Meat, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Potatoes, Beans/Pasta with Meat, Instant Coffee, Powdered Milk, Long life Juice, Chocolate/Sweet treats, Long life Sponge puddings, Honey/Jam/Chocolate Spread, Crisps, Sugar (500gr), Deodorant (Male & Female), Shaving Foam, Adult Toothbrushes, Loo Roll, Washing Powder, Washing Up Liquid. Thank you. **The Foodbank Team**

Today's Services

After celebrating Christmas rather early last week, The God Story now turns to Jesus' three years of public ministry. Jesus emerged on the public stage, and picked up on the theme that his cousin, John the Baptist had initiated: 'Repent, for the kingdom of God is near!' The kingdom was embodied in Jesus the King. As a teacher, preacher, healer and miracle-worker, Jesus demonstrated the values of the kingdom and taught his disciples to do the same. What it would look like if God's will and God's ways became a reality in our families, communities, and the world at large? This Sunday also happens to be the first in Kingdom season, the final season in the church year that celebrates Christ the King. Red is the liturgical colour for the next month.

Readings

Isaiah 9:6-7

Maggie Savill

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and for ever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Matthew 4:1-20

4 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be by the devil. ²After fasting for forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³The tempter came to him and said, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.' ⁴Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."' ⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the highest point of the temple. ⁶'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone." ⁷Jesus answered him, 'It is also written: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. ⁹'All this I will give you,' he said, 'if you will bow down and worship me.' ¹⁰Jesus said to him, 'Away from me, Satan! For it is written: "Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only"' ¹¹Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. ¹²When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali - ¹⁴to fulfil what was said through the prophet Isaiah: ¹⁵'Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles - ¹⁶the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.' ¹⁷From that time on Jesus began to preach, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' ¹⁸As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for people.' ²⁰At once they left their nets and followed him.

Collect

God of glory, touch our lips with the fire of your spirit, that we with all creation may rejoice to sing your praise: through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Intercessor

Ken Mussell

Music 9.30am

1. Jesus Shall Reign
2. Immortal, Invisible
3. The King of Love my Shepherd is
4. *During Communion*: O Lord, hear my prayer
5. Jesus is Lord

Music 11am

1. Cornerstone
2. Oceans
3. I Exalt Thee
4. Living Hope

Book of Remembrance

Gillian Francis Marshall
Iris E Mussell
Janet Mary Webb