



# St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 6<sup>th</sup> October 2024 Harvest Festival

## A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

I write this on a very soggy afternoon and it definitely feels very autumnal. So it's appropriate that this week we celebrate Harvest. As usual we will be supporting the Epsom and Ewell Foodbank so please see further on in this newsletter for their particular needs this week. Harvest is a time when we reflect upon God's good gifts in creation and this year we will be thinking more broadly about creation care and our responsibility to the planet and the environment. You may have noticed at the back of church an Eco Church display has been set up by Roger Blake. Eco Church is a national programme run by the charity A Rocha, which encourages churches to become greener, and in doing so achieve Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. We want to take our first steps down the road to the bronze award, so as we start to put our plans together I really want to encourage everyone to join the conversation...and join the project team too.

*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*

## 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](http://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](mailto:treasurer@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk). Thank you.

*Rev Geoff Andrew*

## 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*

## 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*

## 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 cup down on disposable cups. See if you can remember to do so this Sunday!

*Rev. Geoff Andrew*

## CHURCH MAGAZINE

Thank you to all of you who took a road/roads for the distribution of the Magazine

*Rev. Geoff Andrew*

## FOODBANK

Did you know:-

That in August the Foodbank fed **609** people, **271 of those were children**.

That they have a total of **198** crates of food in the warehouse, which means they have more **empty** crates than filled crates.

All of the items they need this week are **urgent** and **essential** to the food projects.

Can you help please with donations of:- Tinned vegetables/fruit/fish/meat, Tinned tomatoes/spaghetti, Pasta, Cooking Sauces, Pasta Sauces, Pulses, Ketchup/Brown Sauce/Mayonnaise, Breakfast Cereal, Long Life Milk, Tea (bags), Instant Coffee, Chocolate/Sweet treats, Sugar (500g), Long Life Sponge Puddings, Squash, Honey, Peanut Butter, Deodorant, (Male and Female), Shampoo and Conditioner, Adult Toothbrushes, Children's Toothpaste, Loo Roll, Nappies 6+. Thank you.

**The Foodbank Team**

## **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.
- (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

There are introductory leaflets on the Eco Church scheme at the back of church and plenty of other information on various aspects of the scheme. We also have a range of WildAboutGardens booklets produced by the Wildlife Trusts and RHS. These aim to promote helping wildlife and increasing biodiversity in your own garden should you have one. The booklets are really interesting and contain many practical ideas with activities such as building a bug-hotel. Please do take a look and feel free to take home as many of the leaflets as you wish. I will replenish the supply as required. Topics include: bees, beetles, birds, butterflies, hedgehogs, lawns, molluscs, ponds, and worms!

Also recommended is the prayer walk leaflet designed to encourage us to pause in quiet contemplation and prayer whilst taking a closer look at the nature around us.

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. We have a few people who have already expressed interest in aspects of the scheme. Anyone interested in joining the group please do ask me for further information. In particular we would like to start making our outside space more attractive and wildlife

friendly. The idea of having a prayer garden has also been suggested.

Please do ask me if you have any questions about the Eco Church Scheme

## **Today's Services**

Scripture is clear that we have been assigned as stewards of God's creation and that we will be held accountable for how we manage it. How are we doing so far? Very badly! The scale of the problems related to climate change, pollution and other forms of environmental damage can be overwhelming. But what can we do in our own backyards – and our church – to at least make a difference to our own community?

This week we have one service at 11am. We will then go directly into a Bring & Share lunch in the Parish centre.

## **Reading**

Colossians 1:15-20 (from The Message)

**Maggie Savill**

We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God's original purpose in everything created. For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels—*everything* got started in him and finds its purpose in him. He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment. And when it comes to the church, he organizes and holds it together, like a head does a body.

He was supreme in the beginning and—leading the resurrection parade—he is supreme in the end. From beginning to end he's there, towering far above everything, everyone. So spacious is he, so expansive, that everything of God finds its proper place in him without crowding. Not only that, but all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe—people and things, animals and atoms—get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of his death, his blood that poured down from the cross.

## **Intercessor**

**Ken Mussell**

## **Music**

1. We Plough the Fields
2. Shout to the Lord
3. Good Good Father
4. All Creatures of our God and King

## **Book of Remembrance**

Sydney William Ramshaw

Joan Ane Martin

Pamela Gladys Scarlett