



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 10th November 2024

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

As we move deeper into November, there's a real sense now of the impending 'busy season' which starts this weekend with Remembrance Sunday. This is always a moving occasion, made all the more so by the terrible scenes of war we see every day in our media. It just so happens that I have been in Malta this past week to visit our eldest son. Malta is not much more than a speck on a map of the Mediterranean, yet during World War 2 it was of huge strategic significance to the Allies. The population endured constant bombardment but bravely defended their island home, earning Malta the distinction of being the only country to be awarded the George Cross. It is a story of perseverance against overwhelming odds, a story of hope that resonates with our own fervent desire to see God bring peace in these turbulent times. **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

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, 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

This week the social media seems to be full of overwhelming concern about situations often out of our control. A quick google search on the matter revealed some useful tips ... deal with the task in front of you, just take one thing at a time, be patient and kind to yourself, look after others. We may not be able to assist with any of the great concerns, but we have a Foodbank on our doorstep, people in our community who need support and the ability to pray as individuals and a church. Does this seem a good place to start?

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

We take a break this week and next from our sermon series, The God Story. As we reflect and give thanks this Remembrance Sunday for all those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom in times of war, we also remember the persecuted Saints of our Christian faith whom St Paul encouraged with these wonderful words from 2 Corinthians 4: *We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.* In the midst of troubles, it is not always easy to remain hopeful, but Paul wants us to see beyond the temporary and fix our eyes on the eternal.

Reading

2 Corinthians 4:8-12, 16-18

Anne Andrew

⁸We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. ¹⁰We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. ¹¹For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. ¹²So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Intercessor

Ian Hargrave

Music

1. How Great Thou Art
2. Dear Lord and Father of Mankind
3. In Christ Alone

Book of Remembrance
Marie Florence White