



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 17th November 2024

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

In a week that saw the Archbishop of Canterbury resign over the findings of the Makin Review (the report on the abuses committed by John Smyth), it is sadly rather appropriate that this Sunday has been designated, church-wide, as Safeguarding Sunday. Our prayers should be first and foremost with the victims of Smyth's brutality (including our own Bishop Andrew) and it is right that we should lament the failings that allowed a perpetrator to continue their evil actions and evade justice. At the same time, we should acknowledge that Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults has over the past few years become a major focus of church practice. It is vital that we persist in establishing a safe environment for all those who are members of, or who engage with, St John's. I am grateful for the work that has been done in the past year by Jean Tutton, our Parish Safeguarding Officer, but it is incumbent upon all of us to look out for one another. For Safeguarding to be truly effective, it must be much more than a checklist of do's and don'ts, it has to be a culture of care based on the love of Jesus Christ for all his children. Please do come along to our (single) service on Sunday at 10am so that we can demonstrate a united commitment to this cause.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

UPCOMING SERVICE TIME

There will be just one Sunday service this Sunday, November 17th: 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:

- 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

PRAYER INITIATIVE FROM EWELL CHURCHES TOGETHER

Do you feel a call to pray blessing on your local area? Would you like to pray with local Christians from other churches? If you would like to explore the possibility of gathering with others for inter-church prayer - either in person or over zoom, please feel free to contact me.

I would love to hear from you! *Paula Smith*
paula.smith@mybroadbandmail.com

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



CHURCHES TOGETHER AT CHRISTMAS



Are you alone at Christmas this year? Come and join us for a traditional festive dinner. 'Churches Together in Ewell' is pleased to offer a Christmas dinner plus festive activities to all who would otherwise be on their own.

Christmas Day 12:30 – 4.15 at a local church. This offer is open to all Ewell residents. Transport can be arranged. **No charge.** To join us call: 07999 80475 or email:

Christmas.dinner@dsl.pipex.com. Please pick up a flyer at the Welcome Desk at the front of Church.

SEASON OF MUSIC & COMEDY 2024

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

CRAFT CLUB

The next meeting of Craft Club will be on Monday 18th November. We meet in the Parish Room from 10am to 12noon. So bring your crafting and join us for a morning of chat, coffee and crafting. All are welcome, so please come along.

Veronica Gittins

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 online at the "White Eagle Club Ukraine Appeal" on Facebook, Instagram or X.

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

FOODBANK

During October our Foodbank supported 570 people, 242 of those were children. We are now entering a period of split lists as the Foodbank prepares to help their clients through the difficult Christmas period. We hope to have the Christmas list available at the Welcomers' desks as soon as possible. Please help yourself to one and try to let us have your donations by the date on the flier. This will enable the Hub to pack and deliver the Christmas deliveries in good time.

Meanwhile the weekly wishlist will continue so the regular stocks are maintained.

Finally, a discussion with the Foodbank this week impressed us with their need for cash. They mentioned that they needed to replace their delivery vans and have been able to do so with eco friendly vehicles thanks to your donations. They also use cash donations for gift cards to enable parents to buy a few presents for their children and to provide fresh meat and vegetable vouchers for the Christmas period. Cash donations should be put in an envelope marked Foodbank and left with a welcomer, Thank you Janis for making sure that it is paid into the Foodbank on our behalf.

St Johns has been very supportive of the cash and food collections and we have been asked to pass on their thanks.

This week they desperately need:- Powdered Milk, Long life Juice

They also need:- Cooking Sauces, Beans/Pasta with Meat, Packet Soup, Tinned Potatoes, Ketchup/Brown Sauce/Mayonnaise, Squash, Sugar (500g bags), Rice Pudding, Chocolate Biscuit Bars, Long life Sponge puddings, Crisps, Deodorant (Male/Female), Hair Conditioner, Shaving Foam, Adult Toothbrushes, Children's Toothpaste (0-2yrs old), Tampons, Loo Roll, Washing Powder and Strong shopper bags and bags for life.

NOTHING LIKE A GOOD SING

The Good Company wishes to celebrate their community by holding their first ever Carol Service and we are invited to attend. It will be on The 4th December, 6 - 7pm followed by mince pies and drinks at St Barnabas, Temple Road, Epsom, KT 19 8 HA. If you'd like to come along to this free entry event please book your tickets using the link below. There will be a collection in support of the Good Company's food provision projects (Epsom and Ewell Foodbank and the Pantries in Epsom and Banstead.)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/good-company-community-carols-tickets-1072995822389?aff=oddtcreator> **The Foodbank Team**

Today's Service

It is self-evident that safeguarding is at the heart of the Christian gospel. Scripture may not use that word, but Mosaic Law and The Prophets in the Old Testament make numerous references to God's concern for widows and orphans and clear instructions that such vulnerable people should be protected and defended from abuse and injustice. Jesus is equally explicit in requiring his followers to love and care for one's neighbours and one another. In the early church, caring for the vulnerable in practical, selfless ways was seen as a direct reflection of Jesus' own love and sacrifice. As a church family, we need to reflect on those things that might be preventing us from creating a culture where all can safely flourish without fear.

Readings

John 13:34-35

I am giving you a new command. You must love each other, just as I have loved you. If you love each other, everyone will know that you are my disciples.

James 1:27

Religion that pleases God the Father must be pure and spotless. You must help needy orphans and widows and not let this world make you evil.

Ephesians 5:8-14a

You used to be like people living in the dark, but now you are people of the light because you belong to the Lord. So act like people of the light and make your light shine. Be good and honest and truthful, as you try to please the Lord. Don't take part in doing those worthless things that are done in the dark. Instead, show how wrong they are. It is disgusting even to talk about what is done in the dark. But the light will show what these things are really like. Light shows up everything.

Intercessor

Rev. Geoff Andrew

Music

1. Great Big God
2. Amazing Grace (my chains are gone)
3. The Lord's my Shepherd (I will trust)

Book of Remembrance

Elizabeth Browning Pavey