



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

1st December 2024 – 1st Sunday of Advent

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

What an amazing night last Saturday! The church was packed and buzzing for the Quiz Night hosted by Tim Vine. It was wonderful to welcome so many friends and neighbours into the church. My thanks go to all those who helped run the event and my congratulations to the Scrambled Eggheads (including one of our Churchwardens, Claire) who won the quiz. This coming weekend will also be very special for very different reasons. At the 11am service we will be baptizing Glory Rahman-Turner, an adult baptism that will involve full immersion in a large pool we have acquired. Glory is engaged to David Coppin and we'll also be reading their banns for the third time prior to David and Glory's wedding at St John's on December 14th. And to cap it all off, this Sunday is Advent Sunday, a time when we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus Emmanuel...God With Us. Exciting times!

Rev. Geoff Andrew

ZOOM

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

Tim Rogers

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Please see below service times for the Christmas period:

- 15th December – Carole Service at 6.30pm
- 24th December – Christingle Services at 3pm and 5pm
- 24th December – Midnight Communion – 11.30pm
- 25th December – Family Worship with Holy Communion – 10am.

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**



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.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

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. The dates for choir practice are as follows:

- 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 UPDATE

I would like to thank all those who filled out a stewardship pledge form to increase/start a regular financial donation to St John's. The initial results suggest we have seen an uplift of around 5% in our planned giving which is encouraging but still leaves us with some work to do to close the gap against our committed expenses. If you have not considered your giving to St John's yet, can I please ask you to do so. Please ask me, one of the church wardens or our Treasurer if you are unsure on how to do this. And if you have not yet done so, can I ask you to watch this video which will give you an insight on our current situation:

www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk/stewardship.

Thanks.

Rev Geoff Andrew

CHRISTINGLE SERVICES –TUESDAY 24TH DECEMBER AT 3.00pm AND 5.00pm

We will be holding our Christingle Services in aid of the Children's Society. We will be making the candles on Monday 23rd December at 2.00pm in the Parish Centre and would be

grateful for volunteers to help make the candles, you will be welcomed with coffee/tea and cake! We have 150 candles to put together so any help would be gratefully received.

Social Committee

THURSDAY AFTERNOON PRAYER MEETING

There will be no Thursday afternoon Prayer Meeting during the month of December.

Steve Simper

SEASON OF MUSIC & COMEDY 2024

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

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

FOODBANK

This time of year could well be described as a time of lists - things to get done before Christmas, things to buy, people to send cards to.....you name it there are lists all over our house!! Needless to say the Foodbank is no different. Please pick up a Christmas wishlist flier at the Welcome Desk for the items they need for the Christmas parcels - please note there is a date to deliver by.

Meanwhile 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.

Thank you for all your support.

The Foodbank Team

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 Services

This Advent we will be 'Journeying With Luke' based on a series of reflections written by theologian Tom Wright. On this first Sunday of Advent our theme will be 'A Time for Encouragement'. Appropriately for a day that will include a baptism in the 11am service, the Bible passage looks at Jesus' baptism which Luke embellishes with Jesus' extensive family tree. What emerges from this passage are answers to questions about where Jesus came from, who he is, and where's he's going. As we think about our own Christian journey, it's a good time to reflect on those questions for ourselves.

Readings

Isaiah 42:1-4

Jane Mathews

'Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations. ² He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. ³ A bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; ⁴ he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope.'

Luke 3:21-22

²¹ When all the people were being baptised, Jesus was baptised too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'

Collect

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Chris.

Intercessor

Ken Mussell

Music 9.30am

1. O Come, O Come Immanuel (MP 493)
2. Love divine, all loves excelling (MP 449)
3. There is a Redeemer (MP 673)
4. *During Communion:* Be Still (MP 50)
5. Hallelujah sing to Jesus (MP 207)

Music 11am

1. 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)
2. What a Beautiful Name
3. King of Kings

Book of Remembrance

Anne Parker Neale