



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 12th January 2025

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

So the Christmas season gives way to Epiphany and most of us now will be back into our normal routines. January can be a tricky time of year with the short days and cold weather, especially the days immediately following the festive season. It's a time when we might be feeling a bit low. As I remarked at Wednesday communion, the journey away from the manger in Epiphany is in many ways more challenging than the journey to the manger in Advent. Let's remember that we carry the light of Jesus with us and the warmth and fellowship of the Holy Spirit. As we navigate 2025 together, one of the themes we will focus on at St John's is how we can develop deeper roots as disciples and closer ties as a church family. You will see a note below about our Church Planning morning on February 15. It would be wonderful to see as many people there as possible to participate in our plans for the coming months.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

ZOOM

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

Tim Rogers

CHURCH PLANNING DAY

Many of you will have participated in our church planning day two years ago which resulted in 'The Way Forward' document that has guided our development in the intervening period. We plan to hold another session in church on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15 from 9.15am to 12.30pm. This will be an informal and hopefully enjoyable event that will help set our direction for the next couple of years. Please do mark this on your calendar and make it a priority to attend if you possibly can.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

CALLING ALL LITTER PICKERS

On Saturday January 25th at 10.30am, a group of us under the expert direction of Julian Morris, will spend an hour picking up litter in our local neighborhood. This is a community service and hopefully a bit of fun too! Litter pickers and high viz jackets will be provided, along with bags. Anyone interested please speak to Rev. Geoff.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

FIRST AIDERS

Every church would like to have at least two trained first aiders in the congregation. If you are a trained first aider and you are happy to be listed as such in our records, please could you let Claire Cornell or Chris McInnes know.

Many thanks.

Church Wardens

UKRAINE CRISIS APPEAL

The White Eagle Club are continuing to support the people of Ukraine and the refugees in Poland who are affected by the Russian invasion.

Thank you to everyone at St John's Church who are supporting us. We are still collecting the following:

Plasters, bandages, Pasta, rice, baby food, nappies and wipes, batteries, detergent, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, shower gel, hand wash and soaps, deodorant, sanitary pads, hand wipes, hand sanitizer, hand cream. Please put them in the box marked Ukraine at the front of the 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*

TONY ABBOTTS' FUNERAL - STEVE ABBOTTS' FATHER

Tony Abbotts who died on 18th December's funeral will take place on January 22nd at 2.45pm at Randall's Park crem with a wake afterwards at the Star Pub on Kingston Road, Malden Rushett. If you wish to attend, please sign the sheet at the front of the church for catering purposes.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

FOODBANK

The Bible Reading Fellowship notes this month have been on the subject of resolutions - an apt topic for the beginning of the year. They have made me think about how I manage old routines as well as considering new paths. Please remember the Foodbank as we get into the swing of the new year - if you have been a regular donor, thank you and please try to pick up donating again, if you haven't been able to help us in the past, please will you consider adding it to your new year resolutions. Thank you. The Foodbank Team

This week they need: Cooking Sauces, Tinned meat, Tinned vegetables, Tinned potatoes, Beans/Pasta with Meat, Noodles, Instant Mash, Powdered Milk, Squash, Long life Juice, Long life Milk, Ketchup/Brown Sauce/Mayonnaise, Jam/Marmalade/Honey/Chocolate Spread/Peanut Butter, Sugar (500gr), Rice Pudding, Custard, Tinned Fruit, Long life Sponge puddings, Deodorant (Male/Female), Adult Toothpaste, Loo Rolls, Shaving Foam, Sanitary Towels, Tampons, Washing Up Liquid, Washing Powder
Thank you.

The Foodbank Team

Today's Services

Does anyone remember our sermon series, The God Story?? We had to leave the series unfinished in November as we switched to seasonal subjects for Advent and Christmas. But this week we return to The God Story for the first of the final three instalments. The last episode focused on Jesus' death and resurrection and this week we turn to the Church, God's chosen vehicle for continuing Jesus' mission of establishing His kingdom on earth. What does it mean to be church, especially at a time when the Church of England, as an institution, is attracting so much criticism? We will look at the model of the early church presented in the New Testament to give us some answers. Today's 9.30 Communion is also a Prayers for Healing service and the 11am service includes Communion.

Readings

Ephesians 3:1-13

Janis Forder

3 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles – ² Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³ that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴ In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶ This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. ⁷ I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰ His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹ according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. ¹³ I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'

Collect

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son; may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Intercessor

Chris Redrup

Music 9.30am

1. The Church's One Foundation (MP 640) vs 1,2,3,5
2. Love divine, all loves excelling (MP 449)
3. Father, we love you (MP 142)
4. *During communion*: What a friend we have in Jesus (MP 746)
5. Great is thy faithfulness (MP 200)

Music 11am

1. Goodness of God
2. Oceans
3. The Creed
4. The Lord's my Shepherd (I Will Trust)