



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

19th January 2025 – Second Sunday of Epiphany

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

January is always a good time for planning ahead, so I want to share with you some of the highlights of what will be happening at St John's over the next few weeks. After our God Story sermon series ends next week, we'll largely be following the Church of England lectionary (prescribed readings) until Lent, which begins on March 5. The exception will be February 9th when the 11am service will be themed on Valentine and planned in collaboration with the Guides and Brownies. After last year's joint service for St George's Day with the boy's groups it will be good to welcome the girls. Our Lenten series will follow a study called Lentwise by author Paula Gooder. I hope I can encourage anyone who is not in a home group to join one for the 5 weeks of the course to get the most from it. The book is available online so do think about having your own copy. On a lighter note, we're planning another Church Quiz on Saturday March 1. No Tim Vine this time, just me. Ticket prices will be slightly lower!

Rev. Geoff Andrew

WEDNESDAY COMMUNION ON 22ND JANUARY

Please note that Holy Communion next Wednesday is cancelled. I will be away on retreat with fellow clergy from the deanery.

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

FINANCIAL GIVING

If you filled out a stewardship form last year pledging to start giving, or increase your giving, to St John's, may I offer you a gentle reminder that if you opted to donate by standing order you will need to make those arrangements directly with your bank. If you didn't fill out a form but you would like to start regular planned giving, just speak to me or contact Tim Rogers our Treasurer (treasurer@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk). It's exciting to see what God is doing among us and what he has in store, but please remember that our only income to support

our mission comes solely from our church family. Thank you for your generosity!

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 Wiczorek 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**

CRAFT CLUB

Craft Club's first meeting of the year will be on Monday, 20th January. We meet in the Parish Room at the new time of 2pm - 4pm. So bring your crafting and join us for an afternoon of chat, tea, biscuits a of course craft!

We look forward to seeing you.

Veronica Gittins

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

Unfortunately Facebook has shut down the Epsom and Ewell Foodbank Page and also their Instagram account. They need your help to build up followers again to continue creating awareness. Please follow Good Company Surrey on Facebook and @good_company_surrey on Instagram. Thank you!

Now here is a challenge - try to notice every time you see a picture of food, an advert for food, a recipe, or hear your tummy rumble in a day. What might it feel like when you are struggling to feed the family?

This week they urgently need:- Cooking Sauces, Beans/Pasta with Meat, Squash, Long Life Juice, Powdered milk, Instant Coffee, Sugar in 500g bags, Long Life Sponge Puddings.

The also need:- Noodles, Instant Mash, Porridge, Long life Milk, Ketchup/Brown Sauce/Mayonnaise Spread/Peanut Butter, Jam/Marmalade/Honey/Chocolate Spread, Rice Pudding, Custard, Tinned Fruit, Deodorant (Male/Female), Children's Toothpaste, Loo Rolls, Shaving Foam, Shampoo, Hair Conditioner, Nappies size 4, Washing Up Liquid, Washing Powder, Dog Food, Strong shopper bags and bags for life. Thank you for all your support. **The Foodbank Team**

Sunday's Services

Our penultimate visit to The God Story sees us dip into the final book of the Bible: Revelation. This is a part of Scripture that many people avoid because the imagery and language is so unfamiliar and relates to 'the end times'. But Revelation is not given to us as a secret code to crack so we can work out when the world will end. It is rather a 'revealing' of how God's great plan for the universe will culminate in the triumphant return of Jesus, the defeat of all evil and the transformation of heaven and earth. This vision was given to John by God so that he could encourage the persecuted churches to endure their suffering with patience, knowing that ultimately, all would be well and that God's people would live in his loving presence for all eternity. Whatever we face in life right now, it's important for us to look up and gain some perspective of the big picture. Have faith, persevere...God is in control.

Readings

Revelation 1:4-20

⁴ John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father – to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. ⁷ 'Look, he is coming with the clouds,' and 'every eye will see him, even those who pierced him'; and all peoples on earth 'will mourn because of him' So shall it be! Amen. ⁸ 'I am the Alpha and the Omega,' says the Lord God, 'who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.' ⁹ I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰ On the Lord's Day I was

in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, ¹¹ which said: 'Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.' ¹² I turned round to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash round his chest. ¹⁴ The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. ¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: 'Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. ¹⁹ 'Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. ²⁰ The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Matthew 17:1-7

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ² There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. ³ Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. ⁴ Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters – one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' ⁵ While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!' ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell face down to the ground, terrified. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them. 'Get up,' he said. 'Don't be afraid.'

Collect

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Intercessor

Chris Redrup

Music 9.30am

1. God is Working His Purpose Out
2. At the Name of Jesus
3. There is a Redeemer
4. *During Communion:* Let us Break Bread Together
5. Jesus is Lord

Music 11am

1. Our God
2. Good Good Father
3. The Heart of Worship
4. 10,000 Reasons

From our Book of Remembrance

Thomas Arthur Aldridge
Betty Marjorie Phyllis Hooper
Marjorie Kathleen Rhind-Tutt