



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

26th January 2025 – Third Sunday of Epiphany

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

Last Saturday, a small team from St John's took part in a deanery-wide planning session in Epsom, the purpose of which was to prepare us for the next stage of our Church Development Plan. The main theme we are being encouraged to focus on for 2025 by the diocese is discipleship. It's all about church growth, but church growth based on personal growth and measured by the depth of our relationship with Jesus. We want to make sure that what we do over the next couple of years at St John's helps us to '*grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ*' (2 Peter 3:18). How we do that in a way that is relevant to our church family will be one of the main areas we explore at our Church Planning Day on Saturday, Feb 15 (9.15am to 12.30pm). It would be great to have as many people attend as possible. We'll make sure there is plenty of coffee and cake, as well as activities for the children. A sign-up sheet is at the front of church or please email the office to confirm your attendance.

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

ST JOHN'S QUIZ NIGHT – Saturday, March 1 (Doors at 7pm for a 7.30pm start)

Time to gather into teams once more and strive to assume the mantle of St John's Quiz champions. As usual, we need teams of six. Sign-up sheet is on the Welcome Desk, or send your team to office@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk. If you don't have a team, sign up anyway and we'll endeavour to team you up with others. Entry is £5/person and we will take payment on the night. Bring your own food and drink. (We'll also have wine and soft drinks available for a donation). Raffle prizes too!

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

PRAYER GROUP – FRIDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2025

Prayer helps us grow closer to God, becoming more aware of His constant presence with us. Experiencing God right here and right now leads to awe, which strengthens our faith and encourages us to trust God in deeper ways. Ultimately, prayer leads us to worship.

Please join us every 4th Thursday between 3.30 and 4.30 in the chapel for a time of worshipful prayer.

Steve Simper

JULIAN OF NORWICH TALK, ST MARTIN'S EPSOM ON March 9th at 6.30pm: a special "2nd Thoughts" session with

Dr. Clare Gilbert, who will speak on Julian of Norwich. Julian, a medieval mystic, offers radical insights that remain relevant today. Dr. Gilbert, who wrote 'I Julian' as a fictional autobiography of Julian, will discuss her life, writings, and how they continue to resonate, especially in the context of ecological and spiritual challenges. Dr. Gilbert's extensive work in medical and environmental ethics adds depth to her reflections. Some copies of her book will be available, and the event will be livestreamed and recorded.

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 Wiczorek, Coordinator, White Eagle Ukraine Appeal**

FOODBANK

Look at your shopping lists this week, if you need one of these items, please consider buying an additional one for the Foodbank.

This week they urgently need: Cooking sauces, Beans/pasta with meat, Squash, Long Life Juice, Powdered milk, Instant Coffee, 500g bags Sugar, Tinned fruit, Long Life Sponge Puddings, Shampoo, Hair Conditioner.

They also need: Noodles, Instant Mash, Long life Milk, Ketchup/Mayonnaise, Jam/Honey/Chocolate Spread, Peanut Butter, Custard, Deodorant (Male & Female)> Children's Toothpaste, Loo Rolls, Shaving Foam, Tampons, Nappies size 6&7, Washing Up Liquid, Washing Powder. Thank you.

The Foodbank Team

Sunday's Services

Our God Story journey that began last September reaches its final instalment this Sunday by asking us to reflect on what we've learned along the way. Entitled 'Stepping into the Story', we will use the account of Jesus' encounter with the disciples on the road to Emmaus to ask ourselves three questions. Are we growing in our love of God through a greater understanding of the Bible? Can we begin to find our own story within the context of God's Big Story? How can we better proclaim and embody God's story to those around us?

Readings

Colossians 3:12-17

Maggie Savill

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Luke 24:13-35

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognising him. ¹⁷ He asked them, 'What are you discussing together as you walk along?' They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, 'Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?' ¹⁹ 'What things?' he asked. 'About Jesus of Nazareth,' they replied. 'He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was

alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.' ²⁵ He said to them, 'How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?' ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. ²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going further. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, 'Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?' ³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, 'It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognised by them when he broke the bread.

Collect

God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.

Intercessor

Chris Redrup

Music 9.30am

1. How Great Thou Art (MP 506)
2. Dear Lord and Father of Mankind (MP 111) vs 1,2,3,5,6
3. Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God (MP 590)
4. *During communion:* Father we love you (MP 142)
5. Praise My Soul the King of Heaven (MP 560)

Music 11am

1. How Great is Our God
2. Jesus Paid it All
3. No Longer Slaves
4. How Great Thou Art

Sunday's Services

From our Book of Remembrance
Sheelagh Pauline Wiltshire