



# St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025 – Candlemas

## A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

A new year brings with it a flurry of new activities. Last weekend, a team of 7 of us ventured out into the roads around the church equipped with litter-picking equipment and St John's Hi-Viz jackets. Not only did we collect many bags of rubbish, but we had some interesting conversations with passers-by. We plan to do this monthly and invite neighbours to join us. Why not come along? We also gained some valuable points towards our Eco Church bronze award too! Speaking of which, this weekend we are launching the Creation Care scheme. This is a complementary programme to Eco Church, but rather than being focused on church activity, the scheme encourages households to engage in eco-friendly habits. Please pick up one of the leaflets at the back of church or email the office for a soft copy. Another new thing we have to do this year is re-do the Electoral Roll. Every six years, every parish church has to rebuild its list of members from scratch. Being on the roll is not onerous and does not require any specific commitment, but it does allow you to vote at the Annual Meeting. So please look out for the forms over the next few weeks.

*Rev. Geoff Andrew*

## ZOOM

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

*Tim Rogers*

## CHURCH DEVELOPMENT MORNING

Many of you will have participated in our planning morning 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](mailto: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*

## ECO CHURCH

The church Land Management Plan and Environmental Policy were recently finalised by the Eco Church Group. Please do review these important documents. They are available to look at on the Eco Church display at the back of church. Please also take a **FREE** Wild About Garden Booklet Boxed Set.

The Creation Care Household Award scheme (see Geoff's intro message) aims to encourage households to make changes to care for God's earth. It covers seven areas of household life such as home, garden, travel and food. You can enter the scheme by completing an online questionnaire that will tell you how well your household is doing in each category and hopefully give you ideas for ways in which your household might improve. You can link your household to St John's church, so we can support and provide ideas for next steps. Once you reach an award level, you can receive a certificate that you may, if you so wish, have presented to you by Geoff during one of our services. Please take an introductory leaflet about the scheme for further information and for instructions on how you participate.

*Roeger Blake*

## PRAYER GROUP – FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday between 3.30 and 4.30 in the chapel for a time of worshipful prayer.

*Steve Simper*

## CALLING ALL LANDLORDS

Epsom & Ewell Refugee Network are desperate to find landlords in the area to talk to about renting to a Ukrainian family. EERN have a number of families in Epsom & Ewell looking to rent, the families are working and can afford market rent and EERN will offer full support to landlords and tenants. Please get in touch to receive the list of families currently looking or to get an answer to any questions you may have. [jo@goodcompny.org.uk](mailto:jo@goodcompny.org.uk). Tel : 07775 798 047.

## 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**

## **FOODBANK**

In December the Foodbank supported 1033 people, 451 of those were children.

This week they **urgently** need: Rice, Noodles, Instant mash, Squash, Long Life Juice, Powdered milk, and Tinned Fruit.

They also need:-Cooking Sauces, Beans/Pasta with Meat, Tinned Vegetables, Long life Milk, Instant Coffee, Ketchup/Mayonnaise, Jam/Honey/Chocolate Spread, Peanut Butter, Sugar (500gr), Custard, Long life Sponge Puddings, Deodorant (Male/Female), Children's Toothpaste (0-2 years old), loo Rolls, Shampoo, Tampons, Nappies size 6 & 7, Washing Up Liquid, Washing Powder.

Donations are always welcome. (please put your contribution in an envelope marked 'Foodbank' and give to a Welcomer or Churchwarden.) The Foodbank ensures that donations are shared across Epsom & Ewell Foodbank and The Pantries in Epsom and Banstead. Thank you. **The Foodbank Team**

## **Sunday's Services**

This Sunday marks the final day of the Epiphany season with a celebration of the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple...or Candlemas for short. The feast reflects the events recorded in chapter two of Luke's gospel when Mary and Joseph go to the temple with baby Jesus and meet Simeon and Anna. These two old saints have been waiting for the coming of the Messiah and they speak prophetically over Jesus, recognising who he is. The festival is called Candlemas because this was the day that all the Church's candles for the year were blessed. We may not be blessing all the candles at St John's, but we will explore the underlying theme of the light, hope and renewal.

## **Readings**

### **Malachi 3:1-4**

**3** 'I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,' says the LORD Almighty. **2** But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. **3** He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, **4** and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

### **Luke 2: 22-40**

**22** When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord **23** (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the'), **24** and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: 'a pair of doves or two young pigeons' **25** Now there was

a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. **26** It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. **27** Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, **28** Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: **29** 'Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. **30** For my eyes have seen your salvation, **31** which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: **32** a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.' **33** The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. **34** Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: 'This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, **35** so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.' **36** There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, **37** and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. **38** Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. **39** When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. **40** And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

## **Collect**

God of heaven, you send the gospel to the ends of the earth and your messengers to every nation: send your Holy Spirit to transform us by the good news of everlasting life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **Intercessor**

**Ken Mussell**

## **Music 9.30am**

1. Immortal, invisible (MP 327)
2. The Church's One Foundation (MP 640)
3. As the Deer (MP 37)
4. *During communion:* O Lord, hear my prayer (MP 908)
5. Shine Jesus, Shine (MP 445)

## **Music 11am**

1. Amazing Grace (my chains are gone)
2. Hosanna (Praise is Rising)
3. Worthy of it All
4. The Blessing

## **From our Book of Remembrance**

Gerald Alfred Cater  
Sylvia Milner