



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

23rd February 2025 – Second Sunday Before Lent

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

I want to thank everyone that came last Saturday morning to participate in our Church Development morning. It was a great turnout and, importantly, a very positive session that both celebrated what has been good in our church life in the past couple of years, and also looked ahead to generate ideas about what 'stepping stones' would be helpful in leading people towards a closer relationship with Jesus. I have now typed up all the notes from flip charts and Post-It notes and the next stage will be for the Ministry Team to prayerfully craft those ideas into an actionable plan, sometime in the next month or so. Anne and I are taking a break for a few days this week and so we will not be in church this Sunday. I'm delighted that Rev David Packham from Burgh Heath & Nork will be returning to cover for me. I'm sure he will receive a warm St John's welcome. Don't forget to sign up for those Lent groups if you haven't already!

Rev. Geoff Andrew

ZOOM

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

Tim Rogers

LITTER PICKING CREW

Following our trial session a couple of weeks ago, we plan to set up a regular monthly schedule for litter picking around the parish on a Saturday morning. These sessions will begin at 10.30am and last for an hour or so. The upcoming dates are: March 22, April 26, May 24, June 28. Please sign up for the dates you can manage on the sheet in the welcome area. This is also a great opportunity to invite a friend or neighbour to join us...but if you do this, please let me know so that we have sufficient equipment.

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

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 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.

Roger Blake

PRAYER GROUP – THURSDAY 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

LENT COURSE

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5th, and our Sermon Series, Lentwise, commences on Sunday March 9th for five weeks up to Easter. Please consider joining our mid-week Lent Course which will follow the themes of the Sermon Series. Each session will last for approximately 60 to 90 minutes and you can join either the day session on a Tuesday or the evening session on a Wednesday. Sign-up sheets on the Welcome Desk or email the office.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

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@goodcompy.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 Wierzchok or you can donate money online at the "White Eagle Club Ukraine Appeal" on Facebook, Instagram or X.

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

FOODBANK .

So Eastenders has survived 40 years of crisis after crisis. The celebrations included a reshewing of Barbara Windsor in Who Do You Think You Are? On her father's side the family were costermongers, fruit and vegetable sellers. The Eastender costermongers formed groups to support local people in need. The pearly kings and queens have become famous for their charitable efforts. This week we can celebrate the fact that we have a very interesting museum describing this history on our doorstep behind the Broadway. If you haven't seen it a visit is recommended - and copy their example by supporting the Foodbank please.

This week the Foodbank **urgently** needs (they have none of most of these): - Tinned Vegetables, Powered Milk, Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Jam, Marmalade, Chocolate Spread, Peanut Butter, Honey, Sugar (500gr), Custard, Long Life Sponge Puddings.

They also need the following to boost low stocks: - Cooking Sauces, Tinned Spaghetti, Instant Mash, Tinned Fruit, Savoury Biscuits, Chocolate Biscuit Bars, Deodorant (Male & Female), Shaving Foam, Shampoo and Conditioner, Nappies Size6+ and Washing Up Liquid. Thank you. **The Foodbank Team**

Sunday's Services

The theme for Sunday is the well-known story from Luke's gospel of Jesus calming the storm. In the midst of the storm, the panicked disciples wake the sleeping Jesus fearful of being drowned. After rebuking the wind and waves, Jesus challenges his followers with that sobering question, 'where is your faith?' When life's storms overwhelm you, do you panic or trust Jesus?

Readings

Genesis 2: 4-9, 15-25

Maggie Savill

⁴This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the LORD God made the earth and the heavens. ⁵Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, ⁶but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. ⁷Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. ⁸Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. ⁹The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground – trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.' ¹⁸ The LORD God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.' ¹⁹ Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. ²¹ So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. ²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib^l he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. ²³ The man said, 'This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called "woman", for she was taken out of man.' ²⁴ That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.²⁵ Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Luke 8: 22-25

²² One day Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let us go over to the other side of the lake.' So they got into a boat and set out. ²³ As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger.²⁴ The disciples went and woke him, saying, 'Master, Master, we're going to drown!' He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. ²⁵ 'Where is your faith?' he asked his disciples. In fear and amazement they asked one another, 'Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him.'

Collect

Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Intercessor

Chris Redrup

Music 9.30am

1. Eternal Father (MP 122)
2. Dear Lord and Father of Mankind (MP 111) vs 1,2,3,5,6
3. What a friend we have in Jesus (MP 746)
4. *During communion:* O Lord, hear my prayer (MP 908)
5. Great is thy faithfulness (MP 200)

Music 11am

1. The Lord's my Shepherd (I will trust)
2. Waymaker
3. Oceans
4. Shout to the Lord