



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

2nd March 2025 – Sunday Before Lent

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

One of the joys of visiting new places is wandering around previously unknown churches. Anne and I had a lovely stay in Ludlow, Shropshire last week and had the pleasure of visiting St Laurence's, a huge parish church that is known as the Cathedral of the Marches. Dating back to Norman times, it has a notable history including being a temporary resting place for Henry VIII's older brother, Arthur. (Part of him anyway!). Ludlow is a lovely market town and well worth a visit. My thanks again to Rev David for stepping in last week. If you're reading this on or before Saturday night, it's once again Quiz Night at St John's. We still have space for more teams of six, so come on down. Even if you're not a six, I'm sure we can link you with a team. There will be a raffle and drinks available for a donation. All funds raised will go to St John's. Finally, as we move into the fourth year of the conflict in Ukraine, please pray for an equitable peace; for restoration of lives, livelihoods and infrastructure; and for all those displaced, an opportunity to return home.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

ZOOM

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

Tim Rogers

ASH WEDNESDAY – MARCH 5

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. We will be holding a special service of Holy Communion at 7.30pm in church with imposition of ashes (optional...but ask me if you're not sure!). Home group participants are encouraged to come to this service so we can all worship together. Please note that this does not affect the normal 9.30am Communion service in the chapel which will take place as usual.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

CHRIS MCINNES HAD AN '0' BIRTHDAY

Chris warmly invites you to celebrate with a glass of fizz and cake between the services this coming Sunday.

Chris McInnes

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

ECO CHURCH

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

GREEN CHRISTIAN

The Echo Church Team has signed up St John's to be a Church Member of Green Christian. Since 1982 Green Christian has been helping members to understand and relate our responsibilities to our Faith. They offer insights into ecology and the environment to Christian people and churches. There are magazines and leaflets on the Eco table at the back of church.

Roger Blake

PRAYER GROUP

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 out 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.

The book we are using for the course is Lentwise by Paula Gooder. You can order this online or ask me and we can source a copy for you. The price on Amazon is £9 (or £6 for Kindle).

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@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

We're about to start Lent and here is an interesting proposition for you. May we encourage you to 'take the pledge'. Contrary to many Lent activities we are not asking you to give something up but to collect a Good Company Lent Flier. It invites us to pray on a quotation each week and to add to the Foodbank's stocks with just one item a day. The Foodbank is very aware of the prayerful support here at St John's and it is something we can all take part in so please collect a flier and take the pledge.

This week they need:- Cooking Sauces, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Spaghetti, Instant Mash, Noodles, Powdered Milk, Long-life Milk, Squash, Long-life Juice, Ketchup/Mayonnaise, Jam, Marmalade, Chocolate Spread, Peanut Butter, Honey, Sugar (500gr), Custard, Tinned Fruit, Long life Sponge Puddings, Savoury Biscuits, Chocolate Biscuit Bars, Deodorant (Male and Female), Shaving Foam, Shampoo and Conditioner, Nappies size 6+, Washing Up Liquid, Washing Powder. Thank you. **The Foodbank Team**

Sunday's Services

On this final Sunday before Lent, the proscribed readings of the Church of England serve up the astonishing events of the Transfiguration, the revealing of Jesus' divinity on the mountain as he is seen by Peter, James and John conversing with Moses and Elijah, and affirmed by God the Father. Jesus was and is both fully God and fully human, yet we don't always truly see him for who he is. Learning to see Jesus more fully can also help us to see and appreciate each other.

Readings

Exodus 19:16-22

¹⁶On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled. ¹⁷Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the LORD descended on it in fire. The

smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, and the whole mountain trembled violently. ¹⁹As the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him. ²⁰The LORD descended to the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So Moses went up ²¹and the LORD said to him, 'Go down and warn the people so they do not force their way through to see the LORD and many of them perish. ²²Even the priests, who approach the LORD, must consecrate themselves, or the LORD will break out against them.'

Luke 9:28-36

²⁸About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. ²⁹As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. ³⁰Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendour, talking with Jesus. ³¹They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfilment at Jerusalem. ³²Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. ³³As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, 'Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters – one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' (He did not know what he was saying.) ³⁴While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵A voice came from the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.' ³⁶When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

Collect

Holy God, you know the disorder of our sinful lives: set straight our crooked hearts, and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Intercessor

Chris Redrup

Music 9.30am

1. Jesus is Lord (MP 367)
2. Tell out my soul (MP 631)
3. Be Still for the Presence of the Lord (MP 50)
4. *During communion:* Abba Father (MP 3)
5. Shine Jesus, Shine (MP 445)

Music 11am

1. Light of the World (Here I am to Worship)
2. Be Still for the Presence of the Lord
3. I Exalt Thee
4. In Christ Alone

From our Book of Remembrance

Diana Joy Adele Price
Rodney Webber