



# St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

## 9th February 2025 – Fourth Sunday Before Lent

### A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

Love is in the air this weekend! Whilst the romantic modern-day traditions associated with Valentine's Day have very little (actually, nothing) to do with the real 3<sup>rd</sup> century Roman saint and martyr whose feast we celebrate on February 14, the occasion does provide an opportunity to speak about God's love that touches the parts of our lives that hearts and roses just cannot reach. I'm delighted that the 11am service this weekend will be jointly hosted by representatives of Stoneleigh Guides, Brownies and Rainbows. The Guides have already been to church during the week to put some decorations up. I don't want anyone to miss out on their usual Communion service at 9.30 on Sunday, but if you can make it, it would be wonderful to show strong support for the girls at the second service.

**Rev. Geoff Andrew**

### NO ZOOM ON SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2025

Please note that, unfortunately, we are unable to Zoom the service on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

**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**

### MONTHLY EVENING PRAYER MEETING

A new monthly evening prayer meeting will be held on the second Thursday of the month in the Parish Room. Our first meeting is planned for Thursday 13th February. We would meet at 7:30pm for an hour. All very welcome.

**Will Porter**

### 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](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**

### ESSENTIAL WORKS – SES WATER – WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> and THURSDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2025

Partial road closure on Stoneleigh Park Road. This means vehicles can access Stoneleigh Park Road from Kingston Road but not exit onto Kingston Road.

### 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 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**

**JULIAN OF NORWICH TALK, ST MARTIN'S EPSOM ON March 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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 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**

### **FOODBANK .**

A daft moment has led to a few weeks of drawing attention to the Foodbank's lists with some crazy suggestions about how to select your donations. Seat belts on..... here's the first crazy idea....Think of a food quality - protein, fat, carbohydrate, vitamins, etc. - try selecting items from the lists which will provide this quality to donate to the Foodbank.

This week they **urgently** need:- Cooking Sauces, Instant Mash, Long life Juice, Powdered Milk, Tinned Fruit.

They also need: - Tinned Vegetables, Rice, Noodles, Squash, Long life Milk, Instant Coffee, Rice, Noodles, Ketchup/Mayonnaise, Savoury Biscuits, Jam, Marmalade, Chocolate Spread/Peanut Butter, Sugar (500gr), Custard, Long Life Sponge Puddings, Deodorant (Male/Female), Children's Toothpaste (0-2 years old), Shaving Foam, Shampoo, Nappies size 6+, Washing Up Liquid, Washing Powder.

Of course, playing this game is not compulsory - ALL donations are most gratefully received! Thank you.

**The Foodbank Team**

### **Sunday's Services**

The parable of the Good Samaritan teaches us the importance of love, compassion, and mercy regardless of social, ethnic, or religious boundaries. Jesus tells of a man beaten by robbers and ignored by a priest and a Levite, but helped by a Samaritan—an outsider despised by Jews. The Samaritan's kindness illustrates true neighbourly love, emphasizing that genuine faith is demonstrated through actions. Who do you find it difficult to love? How could you take steps to start seeing that person – or group of people – through Jesus' eyes?

### **Readings**

#### **1 John 4:7-12**

**Pearl Mayhew**

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> This is how God showed his love among us: he sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

#### **Luke 10:25-37**

<sup>25</sup> On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he asked, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' <sup>26</sup> 'What is written in the Law?' he replied. 'How do you read it?' <sup>27</sup> He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself!'" <sup>28</sup> 'You have answered correctly,' Jesus replied. 'Do this and you will live.' <sup>29</sup> But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' <sup>30</sup> In reply Jesus said: 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half-dead. <sup>31</sup> A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. "Look after him," he said, "and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have." <sup>36</sup> 'Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?' <sup>37</sup> The expert in the law replied, 'The one who had mercy on him.' Jesus told him, 'Go and do likewise.'

### **Collect**

Lord of the hosts of heaven, our salvation and our strength, without you we are lost: guard us from all that harms or hurts and raise us when we fall; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Intercessor**

**Chris Redrup**

### **Music 9.30am**

1. Amazing Grace (MP 31)
2. Love divine, all loves excelling (MP 449)
3. When I survey the wondrous cross (MP 755)
4. *During Communion:* Be Still (MP 50)
5. The King of Love my Shepherd is (MP 649)

### **Music 11am**

1. The Lord's my Shepherd (I will trust)
2. O Praise the name
3. Goodness of God
4. Amazing Grace