



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

16th March 2025 – Second Sunday of Lent

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

So here we are a week into Lent. How is it going so far? Have you given anything up? Or taken up something new for your Lent journey? I've given up my daily word games (Wordle etc). It might sound trivial but I always enjoy those puzzles over breakfast, so now I'm using that free time to do a bit more reading and reflecting. Those of you who were in church last Sunday will have received a box labelled 'spiritual essentials' that contained a compass, representing our need for Jesus to find direction in life. By the end of Lent, four more items will have been added. Make sure you come along on Sunday to catch the next instalment ('nourishment'...and yes, it's edible). And if you didn't make it, it's not too late to start collecting as we have a few boxes spare. Finally, last Sunday included another celebration, this time at St Mary's Cuddington. Our own Graham Derbyshire was Confirmed by Bishop Andrew along with 20 or so others from all over Epsom Deanery. Congratulations and blessings to Graham! If anyone is interested in Confirmation (this is a way of publicly declaring your faith if you were baptised as a baby), please speak to me. I will be away this weekend and I'm delighted that Rev Ken Hobbs will be returning to lead and preach at both services.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

NO HOLY COMMUNION ON WEDNESDAY 19TH MARCH

Please note that there will be **NO** Holy Communion on Wednesday 19th March as Rev. Geoff is away at a conference.

LENT COURSE

Lent began on 5th March with Ash Wednesday and our Sermon Series, Lentwise, commenced last Sunday, 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.

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

PRAYER VIGIL ON SATURDAY 5TH APRIL FROM 9AM

Have you ever asked a friend to stay for a quick coffee, only to find the conversation so captivating that hours fly by? Imagine the joy when that friend is Jesus. We invite you to join our 24-hour church prayer vigil, where you can spend uninterrupted time in His presence. Come for an hour or stay for a few hours, and let's share in the profound peace and inspiration that flows

from His companionship. Mark your calendars and experience the grace of a divine dialogue.

Please sign up using the sheet in the church. *Steve Simper*

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Adrian Duthie, son of Aylza, sadly died last week. Please hold Aylza and her family in your prayers as they grieve their loss. Further details regarding the funeral will be provided in due course.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

COFFEE ROTA ON SUNDAYS AND CAFÉ ON THURSDAYS

This is a plea for help on the Sunday Coffee Rota and help with the Café on a Thursday. We are very short of volunteers and so the duties are falling on the very few. If you could see your way clear to volunteer for either of these duties it would be wonderful. Please see Chris McInnes or Janis Forder either in Church or contact Chris in the office. It would be such a shame if we could not continue to provide these fellowship occasions due to lack of help.

Social Committee

ELECTORAL ROLL

As most of you probably know, the Electoral Roll has to be renewed every six years, so even if you are already on the Electoral Roll please fill in a new form. Your envelope can be found at the back of Church. If you don't have an envelope with your name on, please take a blank form. There is a black box at front of Church for your completed forms.

Sue Pennington

CRAFT CLUB

The next meeting of Craft Club will be on Monday, 17th March. We meet in the Parish Room from 2pm to 4pm. So bring your crafting be it knitting, sewing, card making or any other craft, and join us for an afternoon of chat, tea and biscuits. All are welcome.

Hope you are enjoying the sunshine. It's so uplifting to see a blue sky and the Spring flowers. Hope to see you next Monday.

Veronica Gittins

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

SUPPORT LUCY'S FUNDRAISING

Lucy Barnard is a member of our church family who is completing some amazing challenges this year for three worthwhile charities. Her giving page offers some of her own background where she describes overcoming her own health challenges. Please follow the link and support if you are able.

<https://www.givewheel.com/fundraising/5973/20-in-2025-challenge/>. Or go to Givewheel.com and search for '20 in 2025 challenge.'

Rev. Geoff Andrew

GREEN CHRISTIAN

The Eco 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 GROUPS – DAYTIME & EVENING

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

Or every 2nd Thursday in the month between 7.30pm and 8.30pm in the church office (downstairs in the parish centre)

Steve Simper, Will Porter

FOODBANK

Please help us to pray our way through Lent for the Foodbank by taking one of their fliers from the Welcome Desk. Prayer suggestions are on the left-hand side and there is no obligation to donate as suggested on the right hand side.

This week they are sort of: Cooking Sauces, Tinned Fish, Powdered Milk, Long-life Milk, Tea bags, Instant Coffee, Squash, Long life milk, Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Chocolate Spread, Honey, Crisps, Sugar (500gr), Custard, Tinned Fruit, Long Life Sponge Puddings, Savoury Biscuits, Chocolate Biscuit Bars, Deodorant (Male and Female), Shower Gel, Shampoo & Conditioner, Children's Toothpaste, Washing Up Liquid, Washing Powder, Strong shopping bags and bags for life. Thank you.

The Foodbank Team

Sunday's Services

The second part of our Lenten series, Lentwise.

Readings

Exodus 16:2-8

²In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. ³The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There we sat round pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.' ⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, 'I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. ⁵On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days.' ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, 'In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?' ⁸Moses also said, 'You will know that it was

the LORD when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD.'

John 6:25-40

²⁵When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, 'Rabbi, when did you get here?' ²⁶Jesus answered, 'Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. ²⁷Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.' ²⁸Then they asked him, 'What must we do to do the works God requires?' ²⁹Jesus answered, 'The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.' ³⁰So they asked him, 'What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?' ³¹Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: "He gave them bread from heaven to eat" ³²Jesus said to them, 'Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' ³⁴'Sir,' they said, 'always give us this bread.' ³⁵Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. ³⁷All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. ³⁸For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.'

Collect

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Intercessor

Chris Redrup

Music 9.30am

1. Guide me oh Thou great Redeemer (MP 201)
2. The Lord's my shepherd (MP 660)
3. Majesty, worship His Majesty (MP 454)
4. *During communion:* Broken for me, broken for you (MP 66)
5. To God be the Glory (MP 708)

Music 11am

1. Open the Eyes of my Heart, Lord
2. Consuming Fire
3. The Heart of Worship
4. In Christ Alone

From our Book of Remembrance

Christopher Michael Pow
Harold Frederick Wiltshire