



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

23rd March 2025 – Third Sunday of Lent

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

My thanks go to Rev Ken who covered last week whilst Anne and I were visiting old friends in Manchester. (Actually, Cheshire...my Mum would have corrected me). I hope everyone who came to the services received their 'nourishment' in the form of a granola bar...and I hope you resisted the temptation to eat it! As I write this message I am away again, this time in wonderful Woking on a course for first-time vicars. It's helpful to have an opportunity to share experiences with other incumbents in early stages of ministry and to support each other in prayer. My prayer for all of us is that we are managing to devote some time this Lent to drawing closer to Jesus. For those of you following the Lentwise course, I hope you are finding it fruitful. I shall be leading the services this weekend and Ian will be preaching. **Rev. Geoff Andrew**

COVID-19 REFLECTION

It's hard to believe, but this Sunday it will be 5 years to the day since the Prime Minister announced the first lockdown at the beginning of the Covid pandemic. It is a good time to remember all those who were lost, all who mourn them, and those who continue to suffer from the aftereffects, both physical and mental.

"God of love, as we think about all that has changed, help us to trust that you are always with us. As we remember those who have died, help us to trust they are at peace with you. As we reach out to others with kindness and care, may hope shine out in every heart and home. Amen."

Rev. Geoff Andrew

NEW VICAR AT ST MARY'S, CUDDINGTON

The following announcement was made last Sunday: "The Bishop of Guildford is delighted to announce that Rev Canon Dr Joshva John Christopher has been appointed as Vicar at Cuddington. He is currently Head of International Bible Advocacy Centre at the British and Foreign Bible Society in Swindon. We are hoping that Joshva and his family might potentially be able to move in during June, but details are yet to be confirmed" Please pray for Joshva and his family and for the church family at St Mary's during this time of transition.

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

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. Thank you.

Social Committee

ELECTORAL ROLL

Please could those who want to be on the Electoral Roll fill in and return their forms by 6th April. This is because the names have to be available for everyone to see, if they wish, at least 14 days before the APCM. The rules are that after this no new names can be added until after the APCM. The rules also say that only those on the Electoral Roll can attend the APCM.

Sue Pennington

HOT CROSS BUNS

We shall as usual be giving out Hot Cross Buns to commuters on Maundy Thursday, April 17th from 6.15 am until about 8.30am. I know that lots of people find it hard to get up so early but we would be grateful for help with buttering and giving out the buns. If you are able to help please sign the list which is on the table.

Sue Pennington

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 last month, 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

How appropriate that this week's Lentwise course has led us to thinking about what spiritual nourishment we need. Then, today the St John's Reflections What's App page (have you thought about joining this as a way of seeing to your own nourishment) has taken the text from Hebrews 13:16 to urge us to 'Do good and share with those in need.'

Supporting the Foodbank in its Lent campaign is very much a part of our own church Lent journey. There are still a lot of leaflets on the Welcome Desk - please help yourself to one and join us in our prayers. The boxes were overflowing this week so many thanks to everyone who is so generously donating food too.

This week the Foodbank needs:- Cooking Sauces, Tinned Fish, Powdered Milk, Long-life Milk, Tea bags, Instant Coffee, Squash, Ketchup/Mayonnaise/Brown Sauce, Chocolate Spread/Honey/Jam, Crisps, Sugar(500gr), Custard, Tinned Fruit, Long life Sponge puddings, Savoury Biscuits, Biscuits, Chocolate Biscuit Bars, Deodorant (Male/Female), Shower Gel, Shampoo & Conditioner, Sanitary Towels/Tampons, Shaving Foam, Washing Up Liquid, Washing Powder. Thank you for all your help.

The Foodbank Team

Sunday's Services

This week we add the third item into our Spiritual Essentials box that will help us find the right path to follow. What can it be? The clue lies in the link between the first chapter of Genesis and the first chapter of John's Gospel. Jesus is the Light of the World. There are times when our lives are in the midst of darkness and gloom. Only the true light of Jesus can bring us life and hope.

Readings

Genesis 1:1-19

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. 3 And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light 'day', and the darkness he called 'night'. And there was evening, and there was morning – the first day. 6 And God said, 'Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.' 7 So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. 8 God called the vault 'sky'. And there was evening, and there was morning – the second day. 9 And God said, 'Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.' And it was so. 10 God called the dry ground 'land', and the

gathered waters he called 'seas'. And God saw that it was good. 11 Then God said, 'Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.' And it was so. 12 The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. 13 And there was evening, and there was morning – the third day. 14 And God said, 'Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, 15 and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.' And it was so. 16 God made two great lights – the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. 17 God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, 18 to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 And there was evening, and there was morning – the fourth day.

John 1:1-14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. 9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. 14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Collect

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Intercessor

Chris Redrup

Music 9.30am

1. Thine be the Glory (MP 689)
2. Praise My Soul the King of Heaven (MP 560)
3. Abba Father (MP 3)
4. *During communion*: O Lord, hear my prayer (MP 908)
5. In Christ Alone (MP 1072)

Music 11am

1. Light of the World (Here I am to Worship)
2. What a Beautiful Name
3. Worthy of it All
4. Goodness of God

From our Book of Remembrance
Jean Mary Lingwood