



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

30th March 2025 – Fourth Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

Last Monday, the Ministry Team met for a planning day to develop the work that was done at the church strategy morning in February. We have so much to thank God for as we reflect on the good things that have happened in the past couple of years. Our goal in planning for the next two years is not to start again, but to build on the foundations already established. One particular area of focus will be discipleship. What are the steps of faith we need to take that will lead to a deepening of our relationship with Jesus? And what do we need to do as a church to facilitate that process? Growth can occur in all kinds of ways – up towards God, down to develop deeper roots of faith and out to serve others. We want to get the balance right. Our goal is to ensure that everyone at St John's (both current, and those who will join us) has the opportunity to flourish and grow in God's family.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

SPRING FORWARD – CLOCKS GO FORWARD MIDNIGHT SATURDAY 29TH MARCH

EASTER SERVICE TIMES

PALM SUNDAY – Sunday 13th April at 10am

MAUNDY THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP MEAL – Thursday 17th April at 7.30pm – Sign up Sheet at front of Church

GOOD FRIDAY - - Friday 18th April at 2.00pm

EASTER SUNDAY – Sunday 20th April at 10am

Please note that on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday it will be one service at 10am

ZOOM

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

Tim Rogers

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

ZOOM

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

Tim Rogers

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 welcome the table at the front of Church.

Sue Pennington

CAN YOU HELP PLEASE?

After 10 years of living in a beautiful house in Stoneleigh Park Road my landlady has sadly decided to sell the house. I currently rent from a wonderful Christian family, but due to a change in their personal circumstances they have no option but to sell the property. So, I need to move and I'm currently looking for a 2/3 bed property to rent in the Stoneleigh, Worcester Park, Ewell or Epsom area. I have a little West Highland terrier dog called Poppy who would also be joining me. So, if my St. John's family hear of, or know of, any places that is available to rent would they please let me know. Many thanks and blessings.

Chris Webb

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**

ECO CHURCH NEEDS YOUR HELP!

This week we have started creating the new wildflower areas and planting beds in the church grounds. However, it is hard work digging through the existing turf and slow going! Only part of the first wildflower area has been dug up so far, hence we are looking for a few more volunteers to help us:-) If you think you might be able to offer some help please have a word with myself or with any of the Eco Church team during coffee on Sunday. Any offers of help will be **very** much appreciated. Many Thanks. **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

First of all, thank you everyone for your generosity and support. There was so much to deliver to the Foodbank this week that one of the church's neighbours got her car out and took us down to the Foodbank with it. A special thank you to this kind lady who will know who she is.

The good news from the Foodbank is that they have now launched their 'Choose Your Food' model at the Ewell Foodbank. Instead of volunteers packing for the clients, they invite people to select their food, with volunteers on hand to offer help if needed.

This week they **Urgently** need (because they have none or stocks are dangerously low) : Instant Coffee, Chocolate Spread/Peanut Butter, Crisps, Custard, Long Life Sponge Puddings, Biscuits Deodorant (male and female), Shower Gel, Shampoo and Conditioner, Washing up Liquid, Washing Powder

They also need the following to maintain stocks please: Cooking Sauces, Tea bags, Squash, Ketchup/Mayonnaise/Brown Sauce, Sugar (500gr), Tinned Fruit, Savoury Biscuits, Chocolate Biscuit Bars, Adult Toothpaste, Kids Toothpaste, Sanitary Towels/Tampons, Shaving Foam. Thank you.

The Foodbank Team

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 Wiczorek, Coordinator, White Eagle Ukraine Appeal**

Sunday's Services

This week we celebrate Mother's Day (or more accurately, Mothering Sunday). In a happy and - I'd like to think divinely inspired - confluence of themes, Mother's Day coincides with the fourth instalment of our Lentwise series which this Sunday is based on Jesus the Gate and the Good Shepherd, metaphors that speak to shelter and protection. Although we usually use male pronouns for God, the Bible frequently uses female imagery to describe the nurturing and protective love of God (see the Old Testament readings, for example). Whatever our personal experience, mothers are known for being fiercely protective of their offspring. Jesus shows us that this is even more so true of God toward all those who look to him (her) for refuge.

Readings

Psalm 131

Janis Forder

My heart is not proud, LORD, MY eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me. ² But I have calmed and quietened myself, I am like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child I am content. ³ Israel, put your hope in the LORD BOTH now and for evermore.

Deuteronomy 32:9-11

Janis Forder

⁹ For the LORD's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted inheritance. ¹⁰ In a desert land he found him, in a barren and howling waste. He shielded him and cared for him; he guarded him as the apple of his eye, ¹¹ like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, that spreads its wings to catch them and carries them on its pinions.

Isaiah 66:12-13

Janis Forder

¹² For this is what the LORD says: 'I will extend peace to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream; you will feed and be carried on her arm and dandled on her knees. ¹³ As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem.'

John 10:7-17

⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, 'Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. ¹¹ 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ 'I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life – only to take it up again.

Collect

Merciful Lord, you know our struggle to serve you: when sin spoils our lives and overshadows our hearts, come to our aid and turn us back to you again; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Intercessor

Chris Redrup

Music 9.30am

1. The Lord's my shepherd (MP 660)
2. God is our Strength and Refuge (MP 188)
3. Rock of Ages (MP 582)
4. *During Communion:* There is a Redeemer (MP 673)
5. How Great Thou Art (MP 506)

Music 11am

1. How Great Thou Art
2. The Lord's My Shepherd (I Will Trust)
3. Oceans
4. 10,000 Reasons

From our Book of Remembrance
Peter Rowland Miles