



# St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter 20<sup>th</sup> April 2025 – Easter Sunday

## A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

Our journey to the cross and the empty tomb comes to a climax this weekend. One day which is often overlooked is Holy Saturday. With Jesus in the grave, everything is eerily silent. In some respects, this is the hardest day of all. The shock of Jesus' crucifixion and burial gives way to numbness and despair as his absence becomes a hopeless reality. I have been made aware recently of a number of tragic or unexpected deaths. Such events leave us reeling, prompting us to hold more tightly those we love. When we're in the midst of it, we have no idea when or if Saturday will end. But as Christ followers, we are Easter people. We always carry the hope that our long dark Saturdays will finally give way to the light of a new dawn. The tomb is empty! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

**Rev. Geoff Andrew**

## ZOOM

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

**Tim Rogers**

## 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 are available to rent would they please let me know. Many thanks and blessings.

**Chris Webb**

## 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**



As our normal week is Easter Monday, we will be meeting for Craft Group on Monday 28th April instead. We look forward to seeing you then.

**Chris Redrup** 020 8330 3646

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 have you been doing with the Foodbank's Lent Challenge? The final quote for reflection in Lent is "Don't treat me as a problem. Treat me, as a person with feelings. Treat me as someone who has hope for the future, who wants to enjoy life." Thank you for all your Lenten contributions which help towards giving people their dignity back.

This week they **urgently** need: - long life sponge puddings, washing up liquid and washing powder.

They also need: Breakfast Cereal, Cooking Sauces, Tinned Fish, Tinned Meat, Tinned Vegetables, Microwave Rice, Noodles, Instant Coffee, Squash, Long Life Juice, Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Brown Sauce, Jam, Honey, /Marmalade, Crisps, Sugar (500gr), Custard, Rice Pudding, Tinned Fruit, Savoury Biscuits, Biscuits, Chocolate Biscuit Bars, Deodorant (Male/Female), Shower Gel, Adult Toothpaste, Shampoo & Conditioner, Toilet Rolls. 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 Wierzorek, Coordinator, White Eagle Ukraine Appeal**

## JOIN US FOR A CHURCH RETREAT!

 **Escape. Reflect. Recharge.** 

 **Date:** Saturday, 17th May 2025

 **Location:** Wychcroft House, Bletchingley

Step away from the everyday and join us for a day of faith, friendship, and fresh countryside air at Wychcroft House! Whether you're seeking spiritual renewal, meaningful conversations, or just an excuse to eat cake in a peaceful setting—this retreat is for you. To book your place, complete the booking form by clicking the link below or scanning the QR code.

[Church Retreat Booking Form](#)



There will be paper copies in the church but completing it electronically will help immensely.

### Sunday's Services

It should come as no surprise that all four gospel writers record the events of the Resurrection. In John's gospel, Peter and John, summoned by Mary Magdalene, hurry down to the tomb, only to find it empty. They then return home. John then relates the beautiful account of Mary's encounter with Jesus in the garden, where she mistakes him for the gardener. The men check the tomb but don't find Jesus. Mary finds Jesus but, at first, doesn't 'see' him. Our service on Sunday will look at how we find Jesus today, and how to make sure we truly see him!

### Reading

#### **John 20:1-18**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. <sup>2</sup> So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' <sup>3</sup> So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. <sup>4</sup> Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, <sup>7</sup> as well as the cloth that had been wrapped round Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. <sup>8</sup> Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. <sup>9</sup> (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples went back to where they were staying. <sup>11</sup> Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb <sup>12</sup> and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. <sup>13</sup> They asked her, 'Woman, why are you crying?' 'They have taken my Lord away,' she said, 'and I don't know where they have put him.' <sup>14</sup> At this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realise that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> He asked her, 'Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?' Thinking he was the gardener, she said, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.' <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, 'Mary.' She turned towards him and cried out in Aramaic, 'Rabboni!' (which means 'Teacher'). <sup>17</sup> Jesus said, 'Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead

to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: 'I have seen the Lord!' And she told them that he had said these things to her.

### Music

1. Jesus Christ is Risen Today (MP 357)
2. Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)
3. In Christ Alone (MP 1072)
4. *During communion:* How Deep the Father's Love (MP 988)
5. Thine be the Glory (MP 689)

### **Book of Remembrance**

Joan Beryl Richards  
Tiger Walden