



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

11th May 2025 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

As I write this, the radiators at the Vicarage are full on and it feels like we've stepped backwards into Winter! Let's hope it bucks up again soon, especially as we have a whole raft of activities lined up this month for which a little sunshine would be most welcome. The church retreat at Wychcroft is scheduled for Saturday, May 17. I really want to encourage you to join in with this event. Last year was a very special time of fellowship, with time for reflection in lovely setting. The theme of the day is discipleship. Please email the office (office@stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk) to register or for more details. The following day (May 18) is Pet Sunday at 11am. This is a great invitational opportunity and a fun way to celebrate the diversity of God's creation (as long as it's not just dogs!). The fully outdoor event this month is the sponsored walk around the parish ('Beating the Bounds'). This is on Sunday May 25, starting at 12.30. We would love to have as many of the church family participating as possible and to invite friends and neighbours. For more details, check out the website:

www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk/bounds/. Please pray for all these events, whether you can come or not. We want as many as possible in our community to experience Christ's love through his church.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

ZOOM

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

Tim Rogers

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

INTER-CHURCH PRAYER ON MONDAY 12TH MAY (7.20 FOR 7.30PM START AT WORCESTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you Cleanse your hands, purify your hearts" James 4 v 7. **All** welcome to join at Worcester Park Baptist Church, The Avenue, Worcester Park, KT4 7EW.

FOODBANK

The final report of the East Surrey Poverty Truth Commission is to and makes interesting reading. One paragraph in a report by Jak Martin, Head of Foundation at GLF Schools explaining

why their organisation has taken the End Poverty Pledge makes some points to ponder on: -

'Every day, I see the impact of hardship on our pupils and their families. Whether it's a lack of food, uniform, digital access, or simply the stress that comes from financial insecurity, poverty affects children's confidence, attendance, wellbeing, and ability to thrive. It's not enough to simply acknowledge that—it's on us to act.'

This week they urgently need: - Tinned Meat, Instant Coffee, Squash, Long Life Juice, Sugar (500gr), Deodorant (Male & Female), Shower Gel, Shampoo & Conditioner, Tinned Fruit.

They also need: - Breakfast Cereal, Cooking Sauces, Pasta Sauce, Tinned Fish, Tinned Spaghetti, Noodles, Tea bags, Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Chocolate Spread, Long life Sponge puddings, Savoury Biscuits, Biscuits, Chocolate Biscuit Bars, Adult Toothpaste, Sanitary Towels, Tampons, Toilet Rolls, Washing Powder. 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 Wierczorek or you can donate money online at the "White Eagle Club Ukraine Appeal" on Facebook, Instagram or X.

Thank you again. **Shelly Wierczorek, 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.



There will be paper copies in the church but completing it electronically will help immensely. **Rev. Geoff Andrew**

BEATING THE BOUNDS, SPONSORED WALK

On Sunday May 25 at 12.30pm, we will be reviving an ancient church tradition of walking around the perimeter of Stoneleigh Parish. It is a total of 9km but can be walked in stages. For more details, and to register, visit the church website www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk/bounds. The walk will raise money for works required on the church and donations will be allocated to this purpose. **Rev Geoff Andrew**

FLOWERS IN CHURCH – HELP WANTED

We urgently need another member or two to go onto the Rota to provide flowers for our lovely Church. If anyone feels able to help it would be greatly appreciated. Funds are available to purchase the flowers. Please see Chris McInnes if you are able to help. Thank you. **Chris McInnes**

Sunday's Service

This week we celebrate the life and works of Mother Julian of Norwich, the 14th century mystic and anchoress (someone who withdraws from society to lead an intensely prayer-oriented life). Her most famous written work is Revelations of Divine Love which is an account of 16 'shewings' or visions which appeared to Julian during a life-threatening illness. The visions reassured her of the certainty God's love and providence. Revelations is also notable for describing God as our Mother, and for being the earliest surviving English-language works attributed to a woman. The message of her life and her writings is to trust fully in the deep and unchanging love of God: '*All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.*'

The 9.30am service includes Prayers for Healing and Communion will be offered at 11am.

Readings

Romans 8:31-39

Janis Forder

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: 'For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered. ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 15:9-17

⁹ 'As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and

that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷ This is my command: love each other.

Collect

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock to the glory of God the Father.

Music 9.30am

1. Blessed assurance (MP 59)
2. Love divine, all loves excelling (MP 449)
3. Father, we love you (MP 142)
4. *During communion:* Abba Father (MP 3)
5. How Great Thou Art (MP 506)

Music 11.00am

1. Cornerstone
2. King of Kings
3. Worthy of it All
4. The Creed