



# St John's, Stoneleigh

## Weekly Newsletter

### 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

#### A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

The head of the church is Jesus, but it is an old truth that we, his disciples, are his hands and feet. With the exception of me and a couple of part-time positions, everything that gets done at St John's, gets done by a willing army of volunteers. We are blessed to have so many people involved in many roles across the fellowship, but the reality is that we need more! For example, we are currently looking for someone to oversee the management of the Parish Centre (approx. 2 hours per week) and we also need someone to take on the bookings and enquiries from hirers (approx. 1 hour per week). This latter role has been done by Kerri Hawkins for the past 11 years, but she now needs to step down. I want to extend my thanks to Kerri for all she has done. In addition, we are always looking to add to the ranks of coffee makers on a Sunday and on a Thursday afternoon at the café, cleaners for the main church building, kitchen helpers for Toddler Group on a Tuesday morning and folk for the flower rota. And then there are opportunities in worship to do Bible readings, lead prayers or help at the tech desk. Can I ask you to reflect and pray about whether there is something you might be able to contribute? If you're not sure, speak to someone and find out more. If you have not been part of the St John's family for very long, getting involved is a great way to get to know more people. And remember that even the smallest act of service is a service to God and a blessing to others.

*Rev. Geoff Andrew*

#### ZOOM

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

*Tim Rogers*

#### CALLING LITTER PICKERS!

Our next litter picking outing is on **Saturday, May 24**, meeting at church at 10.30am. Do join us. There is a sign-up sheet in church or send an email to the office. Equipment provided.

*Rev. Geoff Andrew*



The next meeting of Craft Club will be on Monday 19th May. Please bring your crafting and join us in the Parish Room from 2pm to 4pm. Spend the afternoon crafting, chatting and having a cuppa. See you there!

*Veronica Gittins*

#### 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*

#### EXPERTISE ON PROPERTY/BOUNDARY LAW

If anyone has any legal expertise in Property/Boundary Law could they please contact Richard Denyer or Chris in the office.

*Rev. Geoff Andrew*

#### FOODBANK

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*

#### 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](http://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*

#### ECO CHURCH

Last Monday we seeded the new wildflower area next to the church drive and hopefully we should see lots of wonderful flowers appearing in about 60 to 90 days. These will be greatly appreciated by the bees and butterflies, and by those in the local community as they walk past.

A reminder: There is a *lot* of good and interesting information about Eco Church themes at the back of church so please do take another look. This includes introductory leaflets, magazines from A Rocha UK

and Green Christian, and our own church environmental policy document amongst much else! One of my favourites is the A Rocha UK Prayer Walk Guide from which the following short reflection is taken:

### **WATCH AN INSECT**

*Find an insect or another animal  
and watch it move with purpose  
and direction. Pray for the Eco  
Churches in England and Wales. Pray  
that they will have energy, purpose  
and direction as they care for  
God's earth as part of their  
everyday mission.*

**Roger Blake**

### **Sunday's Services**

This week at 11am we are holding our annual Pet Sunday service. As ever, I'm hoping for a diverse range of animal life, but expecting a lot of canine friends! That's fine – the more the merrier! Even if you do not usually attend the 11am service, do tell your friends and neighbours to come along and have their pets blessed. The theme of the service is God's provision, an antidote to anxiety and a reminder that God's abundance is available right across the created order, including us! The 9.30am Communion service will also focus on animals in creation and naturally in the Old Testament that means starting with Noah's Ark! How should we treat Animals in God's World? What does the Bible teach us? Ian Hargrave will be preaching at this service.

### **Readings**

**Genesis 7:1- 5, 10, 13-24**

**Janis Forder**

7 The LORD then said to Noah, 'Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. <sup>2</sup> Take with you seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and one pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, <sup>3</sup> and also seven pairs of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth. <sup>4</sup> Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made.' <sup>5</sup> And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him.

<sup>10</sup> And after the seven days the floodwaters came on the earth.

<sup>13</sup> On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark. <sup>14</sup> They had with them every wild animal according to its kind, all livestock according to their kinds, every creature that moves along the ground according to its kind and every bird according to its kind, everything with wings. <sup>15</sup> Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark. <sup>16</sup> The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the LORD shut him in. <sup>17</sup> For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. <sup>18</sup> The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. <sup>19</sup> They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. <sup>20</sup> The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than fifteen cubits. <sup>21</sup> Every living thing that moved on land perished – birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. <sup>22</sup> Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. <sup>23</sup> Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; people and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.

<sup>24</sup> The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days.

### **Luke 19: 28-40 (9.30am)**

<sup>28</sup> After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. <sup>29</sup> As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, <sup>30</sup> 'Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup> If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" say, "The Lord needs it."' <sup>32</sup> Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. <sup>33</sup> As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' <sup>34</sup> They replied, 'The Lord needs it.' <sup>35</sup> They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup> As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. <sup>37</sup> When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: <sup>38</sup> 'Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!' 'Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!' <sup>39</sup> Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Teacher, rebuke your disciples!' <sup>40</sup> 'I tell you,' he replied, 'if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.'

### **Matthew 6:25-34 (11am)**

<sup>25</sup> 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? <sup>27</sup> Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? <sup>28</sup> 'And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. <sup>29</sup> Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> So do not worry, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" <sup>32</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

### **Collect**

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, 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. How Great is Our God
2. Good Good Father
3. Hosanna (Praise is Rising)
4. Living Hope

### **Book of Remembrance**

Doreen Emily Abbotts  
Derek Reginald Clive Pavey