



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

25th May 2025 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

Last weekend was a real blessing. On Saturday, twenty of us gathered for the church retreat at the Wychcroft centre and enjoyed a lovely day of teaching, sharing and fellowship in the most beautiful setting and glorious sunshine. (The FA Cup final followed, of which the least said the better). On Sunday, we held our annual Pet Service which attracted the usual number of dogs, with once again Brian the snail being the only non-canine pet! Every creature was well-behaved and it was great to celebrate all that is good in God's creation. This Sunday is Rogation Sunday and we will be holding our 'beating the bounds' sponsored walk around the boundaries of Stoneleigh Parish. It's not too late to join us (don't worry if you can't find sponsorship...come and do the walk). We're meeting outside The Station pub at 12.30pm and the whole event should last about three hours. It will be a chance to bless our community and thank God for his abundant provision. **Rev. Geoff Andrew**

ASCENSION DAY, THURSDAY MAY 29TH

On Ascension Day, there will be two opportunities to worship. Firstly, I will be taking a group of people to Box Hill for the 6.30am service led by the churches of the Hilltop Benefice. There will be refreshments served afterwards (bacon butties) at St Andrew's, Box Hill. Then at 10am, we will hold Morning Prayer (without Communion) at St John's. Please let me know if you would like to join the group heading to Box Hill.

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

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

John has reported that he's been delivering more donations from St John's up to the Foodbank Hub. Thank you for being so generous. We seem to be kicking the general trend as Hub has reported a drastic reduction in donations this year. All help is very gratefully received while they are under growing pressure.

This week they **Urgently** need: - Cooking /Pasta Sauces, Tinned Meat, Long Life Juice, Sugar 500gr, Long Life Sponge Puddings, Deodorant (male & female), Shower Gel, Shampoo & Conditioner.

They also need please: - Breakfast Cereal, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Spaghetti, Noodles, Rice, Tea bags, Instant Coffee, Squash, Long Life Milk, Ketchup/Mayonnaise, Chocolate Spread, Tinned Fruit, Custard, Savoury Biscuits, Biscuits, Chocolate Biscuit Bars, Kids Toothbrush age 0-2, 6+, Sanitary Towels/Tampons, Toilet Rolls, Washing Up Liquid. 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. The walk will raise money for works required on the church and donations will be allocated to this purpose.

Rev Geoff Andrew

ECO CHURCH

Thank you to all those who took part in our monthly Litter Picking exercise yesterday.

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:

NOTICE RUBBISH

Look on the ground, in hedges or on verges, or peer into a litter bin. If you can't see any rubbish, give thanks for the people who have taken it away! If you do see any, dispose of it if you can do that safely. Pray for those you know who champion recycling or are trying to live with less plastic and less waste. Consider what you could do to create less waste in and around God's creation.

Roger Blake

Sunday's Services

We are in the season of Rogation, traditionally celebrated in the 6th week of Easter and the three weekdays following prior to Ascension Day on Thursday. Rogation is linked to agriculture, a time when we give thanks for God's provision. It is a time when, historically, prayers were said to protect the crops, with processions around the fields (hence the linked tradition of 'beating the bounds' of the parish, as we will do on Sunday afternoon). In both the Isaiah reading, and in Jesus' seed parables, we are presented with the mystery of how seeds grow into plants, whether we are watching them or not! The analogy is made with God's word which may appear to be small or dormant yet has the potential to flourish and grow, transforming lives and communities. We will consider what this may mean for us at St John's.

Readings

Isaiah 55:8-11

Janis Forder

⁸ 'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,' declares the LORD. ⁹ 'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰ As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹ so is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Mark 4:26-32

²⁶ He also said, 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷ Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸ All by itself the soil produces corn – first the stalk, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹ As soon as the corn is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.' ³⁰ Again he said, 'What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. ³² Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.'

Collect

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father.

Music 9.30am

1. We Plough the Fields and Scatter (MP 732)
2. O worship the King (MP 528) vs 1,2,5,6
3. Morning has broken (MP 467)
4. *During communion:* O Lord, hear my prayer (MP 908)
5. Great is thy faithfulness (MP 200)

Music 11.00am

1. 10,000 Reasons
2. This is Amazing Grace
3. Be Still for the Presence of the Lord
4. Shout to the Lord

Book of Remembrance

William Blake