



St John's, Stoneleigh

Weekly Newsletter

4th May 2025 - Third Sunday of Easter

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

Last Sunday we had the last of a run of 10am services with our celebration of St George's Day. It was wonderful to have Stoneleigh Scouts participate in the service, and lovely once again to have a full church. Whilst we continue to cater for different worship styles at the 9.30am and 11am services, it is good to remind ourselves on a regular basis that we are one church family and celebrating together is important for our unity and our development as a church fellowship. I was delighted last week to be invited to join a civic ribbon-cutting ceremony for the opening of the new railway bridge, and to bless the new structure. Various dignitaries were present including the Mayor of Epsom, our MP and local councilors. The manager of the main works contractor said it was the first time he had witnessed one of his bridges being blessed! Community relationships are so important for a parish church. On that note, I hope that as many of our church family as possible will join the Beating the Bounds sponsored walk on May 25 which is another great opportunity to solidify those relationships with friends and neighbours. Please also consider joining us for the church retreat on May 17 and inviting others to the Pet Service on May 18. Great weather is guaranteed throughout!

Rev. Geoff Andrew

FOOD FOR THOUGHT AT ST PAUL'S, HOWELL HILL

The new program of talks begins with David Walker, former Sports Editor of the Daily Mirror. May 7. Charge £10. Welcome at 11.30am, Talk at 12, Lunch at 1pm, Finish 2.30pm. To book, please go to: www.saintpauls.co.uk/food

Rev. Geoff Andrew

ZOOM

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

Tim Rogers

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

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

A taxi driver in another town told me that their Foodbank was struggling because they have so many now needing their support. People there are working but on minimum wages and with casual contracts so sickness of themselves or their children often results in no income. A friend in social work (again in a different area) told me yesterday that she'd had to lay off 14 of her team! Admittedly these are accounts from elsewhere but they are reflected in all regions and are examples of why we still need Foodbanks.

This week the Epsom & Ewell Foodbank is desperate for:- Tinned meat, Long Life Juice, Tinned Fruit, Male & Female Deodorant, Shower Gel, Shampoo & Conditioner.

They also need:- Breakfast Cereal, Cooking Sauces, Pasta Sauce, Tinned Fish, Tinned Spaghetti, Noodles, Tea bags, Instant Coffee, Squash, Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Brown Sauce, Jam, Chocolate Spread, Crisps, Sugar (500gr), Custard, Long life Sponge puddings, Savoury Biscuits, Biscuits, Chocolate Biscuit Bars, Sanitary Towels, Toilet Rolls, Washing Powder.

Thank you for your continued support. **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.

[Church Retreat Booking Form](#)



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

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**

the life of St Athanasius. St Athanasius was one of the most influential of the early Church Fathers and was Bishop of Alexandria in the 4th century. He lived during a time when the Christian church was working through its position on many core issues of the faith, such as the reality of the Holy Trinity and the divinity of Christ. What we declare today as essential to our Christian belief (as embodied in the Creeds) owes much to Athanasius. His story is about courage and perseverance in standing up for the truth in the face of great opposition. It was costly then, as it can be for us today.

Readings

Isaiah 9:6-7

Maggie Savill

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and for ever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

John 1:1-5

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Collect

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father.

Music 9.30am

1. Jesus is Lord (MP 367)
2. To God be the Glory (MP 708)
3. When I survey the wondrous cross (MP 755)
4. *During Communion*: Spirit of the Living God (MP 613)
5. Thine be the Glory (MP 689)

Music 11.00am

1. He's Got the Whole World in His Hands
2. Goodness of God
3. Oceans

Book of Remembrance

William Ramsay

Sunday's Service

This week, we celebrate the baptism of George Mason at the 11am service. Our sermon series for the next couple of months is called Saints & Celebrations, and this Sunday we celebrate