



St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

22nd June 2025 – First Sunday after Trinity

A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

What a beautiful week we've had! The sun is out; the sky is blue. It must have been pretty nice weather this time last year too since I remember us setting up the parasols on the grass outside the Parish Centre for St John's 85th birthday party. This Sunday we once again celebrate our Patronal Festival, the feast day of John the Baptist. I was thinking there was no significant anniversary to mark this year, but as I left the centre earlier this week, I noticed the plaque on the wall from the opening ceremony: June 24, 1995. So, it's Happy 30th to the Parish Centre! It may not be as old as the church, but it's worth reflecting and giving thanks for all the work – not to mention fundraising – that our church family at that time undertook to provide not just the church, but the community, with such a valuable asset. Unfortunately, the building is showing signs of age and later this year we have plans to fix the roof and upgrade the Parish Room. That is in addition to the work we need to do to rebuild the outside wall of the main church behind the organ chamber and replace the old window frames. The time is approaching when we'll be asking the new saints of St John's to step up and maintain the legacy of our worship and community spaces for future generations to enjoy. More details of all this will follow later in the Summer. **Rev. Geoff Andrew**

ZOOM

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

CHURCH WORKING DAY – SATURDAY JULY 26

From time to time, the church needs a good tidy up – cleaning, polishing, patching and painting. We have a list of jobs that need doing inside and outside the building, we just need some people to do them! So we're planning to gather a working party on Saturday July 26 from 10am until 4pm. You can attend for some or all of that time. A full list of work that needs doing will be made available in the next couple of weeks, but in the meantime, please sign up and let us know you can come, and what hours you are available. You will of course have some choice in the tasks you do, especially if you have physical limitations. Thank you! **Fabric Committee**

SUMMER FAIR – JULY 5th – 12 – 4PM

Our annual fair is fast approaching, and we are looking for volunteers to help set up, man the stalls, provide cakes and prizes for the raffle and Tombola. Please sign up to assist in whatever way you can. The sign-up sheet is at the front of church. **Social Committee**

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

Some of us are following the You Version Bible Plan to read the New Testament in a year (do contact Will Porter if you'd like more information.) This week we have read about the early church after Pentecost, it seems that the growth in numbers was accompanied by a recognition that the community needed support and sharing of possessions and food. How wonderful that we can do likewise.

This week the Foodbank **urgently** needs: - Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Fruit, Sweetcorn, Cooking Sauces, Pasta Sauce, Dried Pasta in Sauce, Microwave Rice, Non-Dairy Milk, Powdered milk, Long Life Juice, Long Life Sponge Puddings, Custard, Deodorant (male and female).

They also need: - Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Spaghetti, Tinned Meat, Instant Coffee/Tea, Squash, Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Porridge, Jam/Honey/Marmalade/Peanut Butter, Chocolate Spread, Sugar (500gr), Rice Pudding, Savoury Biscuits, Biscuits, Cereal Bars, Adult Toothbrushes, Kids toothpaste age 0-2 & 6+, Shampoo & Conditioner, Tampons, Sanitary Towels. Thank you. **The Foodbank Team**

HONEY AND BAMBOO ZERO WASTE SHOP EWELL

If you have any plastics that can be topped up with hand soap, shower gel, washing up liquid, hand sanitizer, detergent, fabric conditioner. Toilet cleaner etc, please take them to Honey and Bamboo in Ewell Village. They also do olive oil top ups, flour, all curry ingredients, fresh eggs, dried pastas. It is a treasure trove of items which are environmentally friendly! Please support them if you can! **Claire Cornell**

PARISH CENTRE BOOKINGS ADMINISTRATOR

A huge thank you to Kerri Hawkins, who has been our Hall Booking Administrator for the past 11 years, Kerri now feels the time has come for her to step down. We are looking for someone to take over her role, this is a voluntary position which takes between 30 minutes and two hours over the period of a week. In the meantime, we are planning a suitable farewell for Kerri. If this role is of any interest to you please speak to me, one of the Church Wardens or Chris in the office.

Rev. Geoff Andrew

UKRAINE CRISIS APPEAL

Thanks for your support for Ukraine over the years While the world is looking the other way, Russia has increased its bombing of the Ukrainian people. Please could you support us by donating: Bandages, plasters, pain killers, sanitising products, sanitary pads, nappies, batteries, baby food, toothpaste and toothbrushes, shower gel, handwash and soaps, deodorant and hand cream. Please put any items in the box by the glass doors or hand any cheques made payable to Shelly Wierzorek to Claire Cornell Thanks you everyone.
Shelly Wierzorek, Coordinator, White Eagle Ukraine Appeal

'WE BELIEVE' CREED BOOKLETS

This year marks the 1700-year anniversary of the Council of Nicaea which met in the year 325AD to discuss matters of Christian doctrine. The most significant outcome of this meeting was the formulation of one of the foundational statements of Christian belief, the Nicene Creed, which we still use in our churches today. To commemorate this anniversary, the Church has produced a booklet of 24 daily reflections covering each line of the Creed. We have purchased a limited supply of these booklets for St John's and they are available at the welcome desk for a suggested donation of £3.

Rev Geoff Andrew

ECO CHURCH NEWS

St John's has a small but active Eco Church group but could do with more people to join us! We could do so much more with more helpers! I am so grateful to all those who helped with the bulb planting and creation of the wildflower area but we do have much more planned. In particular we need to increase our contacts with the local community and increase our campaigning (at all of local, national, and global levels) on issues of environmental concern.

One thing coming up is the **Climate Coalition Rally** at Westminster on the 9th July. We are hoping to participate this but so far only have one person attending from St. John's. The plan is for anyone attending to link up with others from the Diocese and at some point speak to our MP. Anyone else who might be interested please speak to me during coffee on Sunday.

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!

Roger Blake

Sunday's Services

According to one Bible commentary, "*apart from Jesus Christ, John the Baptist is probably the most theologically significant figure in the Gospels.*" That's quite a claim, but John does represent the bridge between the Old and New Testaments, the one who brought to an end 400 years of prophetic silence. We're used to thinking of John standing by the River Jordan, berating the crowds that have gathered to hear his call for repentance and warning of the judgement to come when the Messiah arrives. But in today's reading, John is in prison and the reports of Jesus' ministry have given rise to doubts about whether Jesus is the Messiah after all. What was John expecting? Why was he disappointed? And what does that teach us about our response when God does not act in the way we hope or expect?

Readings

Malachi 4:1-6

Maggie Saville

4 Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire,' says the LORD Almighty. 'Not a root or a branch will be left to them. ² But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves. ³ Then you will trample on the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I act,' says the LORD Almighty. ⁴ 'Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel. ⁵ 'See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. ⁶ He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.'

Matthew 11:1-6

After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. ² When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³ to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?' ⁴ Jesus replied, 'Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ⁶ Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.'

Collect

God of truth, help us to keep your law of love and to walk in the ways of wisdom, that we may find true life in Jesus Christ your Son.

Music 9.30am

1. At the name of Jesus (MP 41)
2. O praise ye the Lord (MP 518)
3. From heaven you came (servant King) (MP 162)
4. *During Communion:* There is a Redeemer (MP 673)
5. Be thou my vision (MP 51)

Music 11.00am

1. 10,000 reasons
2. What a beautiful name
3. King of Kings