



# St John's, Stoneleigh Weekly Newsletter

## 6<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – Third Sunday after Trinity

### A MESSAGE FROM REV. GEOFF ANDREW

As I write this, the weather has turned from extreme heat one day to clouds and rain the next. So now as I pray for the Summer Fair on Saturday, I find myself asking God to provide something that's not as hot as before but not as wet as today...do I sound a bit fussy? The annual Summer Fair is such a wonderful opportunity to engage with our neighbours and reinforce our place at the heart of Stoneleigh. I do hope as many St John's folk as possible will come along, if not to volunteer, then simply to support the event and, of course, to have fun. This week marks the four-year anniversary of my arrival as Curate at St John's. Where did the time go? As I look back over the past four years, I am so grateful for all that God has done through our wonderful church family. I have no doubt that He will continue to bless us in the years to come and I am encouraged by the green shoots appearing in many areas of church life. Let's keep reminding ourselves that at the heart of the gospel is a call to serve others. The Summer Fair and our other community events give us an opportunity to exercise that ministry! Have a wonderful week.

**Rev. Geoff Andrew**

### ZOOM

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

**Tim Rogers**

### INTER CHURCH PRAYER GROUP

The inter church prayer group meets again at 7.30pm on Monday 14th July in the prayer room at Worcester Park Baptist Church. All are welcome - whether you have been before or not! We spend time in prayer, both out loud as one or another leads us, or in quietness. We seek to listen to God & one another, trusting He will lead us - as we pray for our local community.

**Paula Smith**

### 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**

### 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**

### FOODBANK

This is the weekend of our church fair. Just say the words out loud and one immediately thinks of baking... why IS a cake stall and maybe preserves too so necessary to a good fair? Our Thursday cafes have a reputation for a good homemade cake too. Cake is, however, an indulgence, a treat. A "proper" cake is designed to be shared. Let's hope our fair is a great community event and a good fundraiser for the church. Maybe though, as we have our cake AND eat it, we can also try to share by popping an item from the list below into the Foodbank donations box.

This week they **urgently** need; - Sweetcorn, Cooking Sauces, Pasta Sauce, Dried Pasta in Sauce, Noodles, Instant Coffee, Tea, Custard, Chocolate, Chocolate biscuit bars, Biscuits, Tampons, Sanitary Towels, Toilet Rolls.

They also need please: Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Meat, Tinned Fish, Microwave Rice, Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Squash, Porridge, Jam, Honey/Marmalade, Chocolate Spread, Sugar (500gr), Long life Sponge puddings, Savoury Biscuits, Deodorant (Male/Female), Adult toothpaste, Washing powder/ tablets. Thank you.

**The Foodbank Team**

### 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**

### 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 Mass Lobby** at Westminster on the 9th July. We are hoping to participate in this and currently have two, maybe three, people 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 and magazines from A Rocha UK and Green Christian. One of my favourites is the A Rocha UK Prayer Walk Guide from which the following short reflection is taken:

### **SIT**

Find a spot to sit down.

As you look around at God's creation, what can you see? What can you hear? Use this space to pray for our leaders, both locally and nationally, as they make decisions that affect the natural world. Pray for wisdom and discernment. Pray that they will recognise the urgent need to protect and restore nature and to put policies in place that will safeguard and renew nature in the UK.

**Roger Blake**

### **Sunday's Services**

I said last week that we had concluded our Saints and Celebrations sermon series. But there has been a change of plan! We have one more Sunday, and this week we are celebrating St Thomas whose feast day was July 3. Thomas has the misfortune to have his name forever linked with the word 'doubting' following his questioning of Jesus' resurrection. But he is also the first and only figure in the gospels to proclaim that Jesus is God. He must have been convinced of this truth because church history tells us that he later established churches in the south of India and was eventually martyred. Thomas does not make many appearances in the gospels, but his role in John's resurrection account is a wonderful portrait of faith and conviction which can teach us much today.

### **Reading**

**1 Peter 1:3-9**

**Maggie Savill**

<sup>3</sup>Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup>These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not

see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

### **John 20:24-29**

<sup>24</sup>Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord!' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.' <sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.' <sup>28</sup>Thomas said to him, 'My Lord and my God!' <sup>29</sup>Then Jesus told him, 'Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'

### **Collect**

God our Saviour, look on this wounded world in pity and in power; hold us fast to your promises of peace won for us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

### **Music 9.30am**

1. All Creatures of our God and King (MP 7)
2. Amazing Grace (MP 31)
3. Father we love you (MP 142)
4. *During communion:* O Lord, hear my prayer (MP 908)
5. Great is thy faithfulness (MP 200)

### **Music 11.00am**

1. Goodness of God
2. The Creed
3. Oceans
4. The Blessing