



LINK



STONELEIGH METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Revd. Emma Aikins Fd.A; DipHE

October/November 2019



1 Stoneleigh Crescent, Stoneleigh,
Epsom, Surrey KT19 0RT
www.stoneleighmethodist.church

Two Weddings 60 years apart

25th July 2019

The marriage of Louisa and Alastair, witnessed by family and friends



The wedding of Alistair and Louisa, who has grown up in our church, was on Thursday 25th July. It was a lovely ceremony, and very moving.



29th August 1959

The marriage of Brian and Rita, with a Brownie Guard of Honour



Brian and Rita were only the second couple to be married in the new church building.

See Rita and Brian's story on Page 10...

Dear Friends,

The beginning of September is an open door to the start of a new Methodist Church year. We are encouraged right from the Connexion and District to have conversations on one of the many reports from conference. "God in Love unites us" is the title of the report from the task group on marriage and relationships. In due course we will be directed by the Circuit as to how we go about it.

My own thought is, how do we flourish in ministry within this community and beyond and could there be consideration to make changes in order to make the reality of God's kingdom expand and conceded? I want us to be assured that change can reflect life and sustainability. I would want to encourage all of us to prayerfully seek God's wisdom in all that we do.

It has been one of the many good summers we've had and continue to enjoy a bit more warmth. As usual I had a four-week summer break in Ghana; catching up with family and friends. I was also eager to get to the school and see to the start of work on the ICT and Library centre which we had given our annual donation of £250 in support of.



These photographs are a testament to it. Staff, parents and most importantly the school children were all very excited about it and as you can see, to mark the beginning of the work

I had to strike the ground three times. My trust in the Lord is that "He who has begun a good work will bring it to completion" through our efforts of fundraising and look forward to that day when it will become a complete and furnished building. We may hire a plane to attend the official opening – watch the space!



I pray that we will continue to be in tune with the Holy Spirit; pray as individuals and as a church. May that prayerful fruit become evident in the life of the church and as we continue to support one another too.

May the sick be healed; the lonely find comfort and strength in Jesus and through their friendships; may all who are seeking be given.

Every blessing,

Emma

St. Ignatius Loyola

received from Vivienne

As it was the start of the new Methodist year, Jeananne started a service recently with a prayer from the Methodist Handbook (copies available from Jeananne), which reminded me of a favourite prayer of mine, a prayer of St Ignatius Loyola. We used it a lot at school, and I still remember it :-

Teach us Good Lord,

to serve You as You deserve;
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labour and not to ask for any reward
save that of knowing that I do Your Will.

Ignatius Loyola was born in northern Spain in 1491. At the age of 13 he was sent away to be a page. He became enthused by chivalry and courtly love. He was vain, with dreams of personal honour and fame. He gambled and indulged in sword fighting and he had a police record for taking part in a night-time brawl.



In 1521, he was injured by a cannonball in battle, and went home to recuperate. In his boredom he asked for chivalry books to read, but all anyone could find was the Life of Christ, and of various saints, which he found unexpectedly gripping.

He and a small group of friends formed 'the Society of Jesus' and they went out to various metropolises throughout Europe, seeking to glorify God, and to work for the good of humanity. They devoted themselves to the care of souls and to helping people discern God's presence in their lives. Ignatius preferred his workers to spend more time in secular spaces rather than pulpits and churches, teaching people about Jesus in indirect ways. Most of all, Ignatius Loyola wanted his Jesuits and everyone to go out and "find God in all things." He died in 1556 and was canonised in 1622. His spiritual ideas have greatly influenced the faith of many

From the Ntunungwe School to Martine

A very grateful thanks.

Dear Martine and Your Amazing Friends,

This morning I delivered a lovely consignment of ePap to the School. School opens for the Third and Final Term on 11th September but our Grade 7 class is already hard at work preparing for the National Grade 7 Examinations in early October.

You would all be heartened to see this lovely bunch of 42 Children hard at work. They started on their ePap programme this week and already there are the signs of happiness and well-being on each and every face. Mr Moyo, their wonderful teacher, says they are hungry and they all look forward to their share of ePap at lunch time each day. One of the boys he mentioned comes from a very poor home. The Boy said he would not have any ePap as it made him throw up. Mr Moyo suggested he try half the usual amount which he did for 2 days and then he asked for his full ration. We think because he is so hungry, he may have been eating his porridge too quickly. The first thing one notices with the ePap regime is the improvement in the pupil's skin. This was already evident this morning and Mr Moyo says they all have a lot more energy and enthusiasm.

Thank you so much to you all for your help and generosity. As I always say you may never know quite how much your help means to these Children but I can assure you they are all more than grateful.

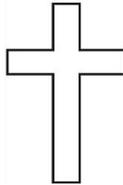
Thank you for the money raised at your coffee morning earlier this month and for your very generous donation to our School. Things are very tough at this time but when things improve and we are not faced with the madness of prices generally we would like to build another classroom with the money you have donated over time. The School has almost half its intake in the lower grades and additional classrooms are going to be needed as time progresses.

Great Saint Mary's Church in Cambridge is going to donate the contributions from their Harvest Festival celebrations to our School.

My English Family who live in Oundle near Peterborough are going to the celebrations and my dear daughter-in-law, Lenore, who has good marketing skills is going to do a presentation about our School at the event. The School would like to use this donation to start implanting a solar lighting project. The School has been without power this year. Mind you, we all have a power crisis. Our lights failed nearly 3 weeks ago when a sub-station in Bulawayo caught alight and destroyed our switch board panel. The poor electrical staff have a very difficult task as they have to work with few spares and due to our serious economic situation, the thieves steal as much of the electrical line as they can get away with. The latter have had a field day with no power on the line for a huge swathe of Matabeleland South.

You seem to have your own Brexit problems. Here's hoping UK will prosper once you leave the EU!

Our love and gratitude to you all, *Gill*



Prayer submitted by Hazel Eagle

Loving God,

You show yourself to us in so many different ways:

in times of joy and of sorrow,

in experiences of beauty and of challenge,

in periods of rest and of activity.

in whatever state we find ourselves in,

help us to be open to experience your presence as good news and

help us to respond by sharing that good news in word and action,

that others may know the wonder of your love. Amen.

©Ian Howarth, Birmingham District Chair



News from previous members:

The editorial team received a note this summer from Mary Grant née Argent, who receives The Link. She writes:

'I grew up in Stoneleigh Methodist when it was just a hall and two rooms.

I started in Beginners with my name Mary Argent on a chair and ended up teaching in Beginners.

Cedric, my husband, and I were the first to be married in the new church in 1956.

I saw dear Joan Price last Friday, when she came to visit me (in Hailsham). We first met in 'Young Wives'.

Good wishes to you all,

Mary Grant



Milk Bottle Tops - Hello, just a quick note to thank the Church Family and Group Users for their continued support by donating milk bottle tops. The bottle tops are either posted or taken to Albufeira in Portugal where they are given to the local (voluntary) Fire Service. They are then sorted into their different colours and, when a sufficient number have been collected, they are sold on for recycling into usable products. The funds raised help to provide the fire service with much needed kit. Other use of the funds has provided a wheelchair for a disabled resident and a prosthetic limb to another and many other medical needs that may not be possible for individuals to purchase for themselves. Your donations are greatly appreciated by the fire service and others that have benefited. With thanks for your help. Kind regards to all,

Dulcie & Sue



CONTACTS

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Bookings

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*There is more joy in heaven over
one lost sinner who repents and
returns to God than over ninety-
nine others who are righteous and
have not strayed away*

(Luke 15: 7) (NLT)

**If you would like an item to be in
'The Link' please send it to**

Vivienne Ridgway
vivienne@ridgworld.com

**Articles for inclusion in the next
LINK should be with Vivienne by
November 10th**

*The right to edit or omit articles is reserved to
SMC, The Minister and Stewards*

*The views expressed in this magazine are not
necessarily those of SMC as a whole*

Date	Service	Preacher	Steward
6 th October	Communion	Rev. Emma	Jeananne
13 th October	Harvest Parade	Viv Newitt	
20 th October	Morning Worship	Valerie Ashcroft	
27 th October	Morning Worship	Richard Graham	
3 rd November	Morning Worship	Valerie Ashcroft	
10 th November	Remembrance Parade	Rev. Emma	
17 th November	Morning Worship	Brenda Cannon	
24 th November	Communion	Rev. Emma	Ernie

Rota Duties

	<u>Stewards</u>	<u>Welcome</u>	<u>Sound/ Proj.</u>	<u>Music</u>
6 th October	Marion/Ernie	Denise	Norma J	Hilda
13 th October	Lesley/Debbie	Doris/Jeff	Pat P	Vivienne
20 th October	Jeananne/Sally	Ruth/Christine	Tom	Hilda
27 th October	Lesley/Norma A	Pat S	Robin	Vivienne
3 rd November	Denise/Barbara/Jim	Norma A	Pat P	Hilda
10 th November	Jeananne/Debbie	Pat P	Robin	Vivienne
17 th November	Denise/Catherine	Ruth/Christine	Norma J	Hilda
24 th November	Lesley/Norma A	Pat S	Tom	Marion (Hymnal)

Tuesday Fellowship – 2.30 p.m.

Please feel free to come along to Fellowship at any time; there will always be a warm welcome.

1 st October	World Day of Prayer Organisation
8 th October	Hope for Change through Psychology
15 th October	Rev. Barbara McIntivey
22 nd October	Crop Circle Mysteries
29 th October	Movie Afternoon – NOTE: 2.00 p.m. Start
5 th November	Rev. Paul Timmis
12 th November	NT – Clendon Park, The Fire and the Future
19 th November	How to Look After Yourself
26 th November	Quiz



Our congratulations to Brian and Rita Russell who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary this year. Sixty years ago, on 29th August 1959, we were married in the then (New) Church building by the lovely Rev. Austin Rees. We both grew up around SMC in Sunday School, Scouting & Guiding, Youth Group & YPF. Brian can still quote the words he uttered ...dressed for Sunday School concert as a scientist, kneeling on stage before this thirteen-year-old May Queen, "Laying his love and loyalty" at her feet! Little did we know! Much later our three girls were all christened and married in our church and we were involved in many different groups. Brown Owl of 2nd Stoneleigh, Brian helping David Eagle run the Youth Club, the inauguration of Young Wives and of course members of the very long, still running, Link Group.

So we would like to offer our grateful thanks to all, past and present, friends at SMC for playing such a warm and caring part in these sixty – no, almost 80 years, amongst you all.
and Brian



Rita



A Surprise Visit:

On 8th September we had an upbeat service led by our Superintendent, Paul Timmis. Shortly after he started the Service he smiled at some people who had just arrived and it turned out we had a surprise visit from Angela and Neville's son, Maurice Mynett with his wife Chichi, two-year-old Luke and Aaron, nearly 9 months. It was lovely to see them and all looking well. We all enjoyed the service, which included mention of the card game 'Happy Families' and the stereotypical idea of families it engendered, and how this is changing rapidly in our modern culture. After the service we enjoyed coffee and cakes and time to talk to Maurice, Chichi and family and of course with Paul, who assured us he would race us all to get a chocolate muffin.

Catherine Draper

Ruxley Church

Harvest Barn Dance



featuring Ruxley's own
live Ceilidh Band 'Ouch'
with caller Brian Cockram



Saturday

5th October 2019

7.00pm - 10.30pm

Includes Ploughman's Supper,
tea, coffee and soft drinks.

You are welcome to bring other drinks.

During the evening there will be a RAFFLE.

Adults - £8.00

Children at school - £4

Family ticket £20.00

Proceeds to Sudbury School, Ghana

Tickets available in advance - get yours NOW!

For further information & tickets please see
Anne or Brian Cockram or ring 020 8397 5809

Bernard Meltzer

Chris Morley spoke at Ruxley recently and used some quotes that intrigued me. I asked him about the source and he gave me this. Helen :-

Bernard Meltzer was an American radio personality who worked as a famous radio host for more than 20 years. Before starting work as a radio show host, he worked as a real-estate contractor and property evaluator. He is best known as the host of his advice call-in show 'What's Your Problem' which lasted for more than 20 years. He was a man of words and his quotes and thoughts on happiness, love, business and money are very relevant.

"A friend is someone who understands your past, believes in your future, and accepts you just the way you are. Truly great friends are hard to find, difficult to leave, and impossible to forget. A true friend is someone who thinks that you are a good egg even though he knows that you are slightly cracked."

"You can make more friends in two months by becoming really interested in other people, than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you."

"Success is getting and achieving what you want. Happiness is wanting and being content with what you get. "

"Before you speak, THINK. T – is it True, H – Is it Helpful, I – will it Inspire, N – is it Necessary, and K – is it Kind."

Peace Memorial Stone

Ruxley Church recently held a ceremony to dedicate the Memorial Peace Stone. (*see back cover*). The purpose of the Stone is to encourage passers-by to stop for a moment to read the inscription, and to use the Stone as a public place for laying flowers in times of national sadness, personal situations and specific times of the year such as Remembrance. From here, passers-by will also be able to see signs to direct them to the Chapel and the Garden of Reflection (which is the next part of the project to be completed.) The church community is likely to use it in the same way, and as part of various worship times throughout the year.

Thanks – the singing group:

In the late 70's. many of the then teenagers in the church got together to form a singing group, 'Thanks'

'Thanks' are having a get together in the Link Room on the 5th October from 5:00-7:00pm and everyone at SMC and Ruxley is invited.

The group propose singing a couple of sets with a break in the middle with tea, coffee etc, and an opportunity to chat. Do come along.

Updates on items from the News Sheets

28th July 2019

The wedding of Louisa and Alistair on Thursday 25th July was an all smiles event; especially the Bride, Groom and (Emma) our Minister. Norma J thanked everybody for attending, those involved in the Service and those who prepared the refreshments, which were much enjoyed in fellowship afterwards.

28th July 2019

Brian P has moved to a new home in Banstead and is really happy. Emma popped in to see him, and relayed the good news to the Leadership Team. I went to visit him and was really impressed with the hospitality and the welcome from the staff. Brian and I had a lovely chat and he was delighted to show me all the photographs of his family and his lovely grandchildren. His room overlooks the garden growing area, with lots of vegetables and some beautiful roses. He is not far from Banstead Methodist Church, which he will visit shortly, so he will report back on that.
Jeananne

4th August 2019

Milk Bottle Top Collection Many thanks to all those who regularly add a few plastic bottle tops to the collection box in the Link room. Another two large bin bags have just been filled and will be on their way soon via Dulcie

18th August 2019

Meet the Neighbours II. Following the success of the event in February we are holding another, on September 21st, 2:00 - 4:00pm. This will be a targeted event and we have increased the number of roads we will be covering; in all we will be delivering nearly 500 personal invitations. We hope that all of you have 'saved the date' as suggested in a previous notice, and will be joining us that afternoon - *SMC Leadership Team.*

SMC Website Update.

You may have heard that the SMC website needs a technical update to catch up with the latest internet standards. Together with an augmented Publicity Team I'll be doing this over the next year or so, probably starting after the summer break. There are many changes we could also make to the content, layout and general look of the website - things that are much easier to incorporate into the new structure as we rebuild than afterwards. What I would like to hear from members now is what you think should be included, and perhaps also what we have currently that we do not really need. Let me know over the summer and I can try it in our existing website, which will give us a flying start with the new version - *webmaster@stoneleighmethodist.church* - I am constantly 'tweaking' the site based on comments received.

Robin

Opportunities for Fellowship:

As the new Methodist year begins, I would like to remind you of opportunities for Fellowship within the life of the church:

- Auriol and DIY classes are now combined and meet on the last Monday lunchtime of every month, in various houses. Contact Helen for details of where and when the next meeting is if you'd like to join them.
- Quite Reflective Evening Service in the New Room, on the last Wednesday of the month, as per the NewsSheet. Contact Denise.
- Monday Evening fellowship at courtesy of Helen. Every 'Monday Night at 8.00' in term-time. Feel free to attend any evening. Finishing about 9.30 with prayers.



(Monday Night at Eight – Do you remember that programme on the Radio during the war? I do. Helen)

What's on at Stoneleigh Methodist Church:

We welcome and invite you and your family to share in any of our services and activities.

Sunday	Morning Worship	10:30-11:45am
Monday	Conquest Art	2:00-4:00pm
	Slimming	6:30-8:00pm
Tuesday	Keep Fit	9:45-11:30pm
	Tuesday Fellowship	2:00-4:00pm
	Beavers (T)	5:30-6:45pm
	Cubs (T)	6:30-8:00pm
	Scouts (T)	7:30-9:00pm
Wednesday	Knit & Natter (2nd & 4th in the month)	10:00-noon
	Badminton	1:30-3:00pm
	Badminton	7:45-9:45pm
Thursday	Carers & Toddlers (T)	10:00-11:30am
	Brownies (T)	5:00-6:45pm
	Pilates (2 classes)	6:00-9:00pm
	Guides (T)	7:15-9:00pm
Friday	Fitness class (T) (from 6/9/19)	9:15-10:15am
	Table Tennis	2:15-4:15pm
	Rainbows (T)	4:30-5:30pm

Activities marked (T) are term time only

There also Fellowship groups meeting at homes in the area.

Note that some of these activities are run by our church, and some by outside organisations, but all will welcome new attenders.

For further information email info@stoneleighmethodist.church or contact 020 8393 2155.



Times are so hard in Zimbabwe but our students are eating enriched porridge thanks to all of you! I am so very grateful for all of the generous gifts that make our support of Ntunungwe Primary School possible. Lots of love, *Martine xx*

See latest update on page 5

The Memorial Peace Stone which was dedicated at Ruxley on Sep 22nd
The purpose of the Stone is to encourage passers-by to stop for a moment to read the inscription, and to the Stone as a public place for laying flowers in times of sadness

More details on page 12



use



Maurice Mynett with his wife Chichi, two-year old Luke and 9-month old Aaron paid a surprise visit on to our Church on Sunday 8th September. See *Catherine's story on page 10*

Picture by *Catherine D.* used with permission