



LINK



Minister: Revd. Emma Aikins Fd.A; DipHE
October - November 2018



The shore beneath Dunstanburgh Castle

Picture by Lesley Lee

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



Presentation of educational materials this summer to Sudbury School in Ghana

Picture by Emma



The Welcome of Deacon Dawn Canham to the Wimbledon Circuit and the Welcome of the Revd Paul Timmis as Superintendent. Photo of the main participants in the service on 9th September, at Lantern Church Wimbledon,



The lady on the left is (I believe), the main tutor for Deacons then Revd Dr Jongikaya Zihle, Chair of District, Deacon Dawn Canham, Superintendent Revd Paul Timmis, Revd Emma Aikins.

Photo by Catherine Draper

From Our Minister

Dear Friends,

We were excited and looked forward to our summer break in Ghana to be with families, friends and of course a visit to the Sudbury School to present the educational materials that members had generously given as well as the monies which had been donated.

It was a very humbling experience for me when I arrived at the school on Wednesday 8th August to discover that the PTA (Parents, Teachers Association) have come to an agreement to name one of the school blocks after me in recognition of the contributions and impact I have had on the school through my vocation and ministry as a minister.

It has actually been an emotional journey for the pupils, staff, parents and residents of that small village; how change has become a reality and incredible for them; especially during last year's rainy season when three of the classrooms collapsed as a result of torrential rain and now to witness the new image of the school as a result of the support that Stoneleigh and Ruxley churches have given them.



Stoneleigh Methodist Church had raised funds last year September to rebuild the collapsed classrooms and this year gave a donation of £250 as part of their annual grant to support the school's building project.

At the time of setting off to Ghana this summer, fund-raising and individual donations from Ruxley Church apart from the educational materials was over £864. Out of this amount, £300 paid for the cost of shipment and £564 was transferred to Sudbury School to support the building project.

So in total £784 was transferred respectively to the school which in the local currency amounted to 4,799.57 Ghana Cedis (SMC = 1,467.77; Ruxley 3,331.80). Out of the 4,799.57Ghc, the following were paid for:

There were eight (8) windows to be made and fitted each at the cost of 350 Ghc; a total of 2,800 Ghc Drawings of the Plan and Processing for approval by the council and planning permission for the new site to construct a Library and IT Centre cost 900 Ghc. (I brought a copy of the plan to view). The above items came to a total of 3,700 Ghc leaving a balance of 1,099.57 which went towards the cost of plastering the classrooms. (Materials and labour cost 1,550 Ghc for each classroom).

On behalf of Sudbury School, I would like to extend a sincere gratitude to each and every one for the part you've played in bringing joy and hope to the village of Apremdo and most importantly, a chance for the pupils to be educated. May God bless you all.

Emma



Wonderful Northumberland.

In June, Steve and I paid a return visit to this beautiful part of England. We stayed in a log cabin in the village of Longframlington, near Alnwick and were delighted by the quiet surroundings, NO wifi and poor mobile coverage. We were blessed with the weather, with beautiful sunny afternoons and evenings and reasonable temperatures that allowed us to get out and about in comfort. One day we walked out to Dunstanburgh castle and saw the Razorbills and Kittiwakes nesting on the cliffs, then on down to the beach, so beautiful and empty, round the golf course (very breezy) and back up through fields of sheep to smoky Craster (kippers) and a half of Cider at the dog-friendly pub. This rather set the pattern for our days, visiting the National Park and Kielder water where we caught a brief glimpse of an Osprey and imposing Bamburgh Castle, high on the crag making it impregnable to attack. We walked out to an isolated spot called Lady's Well, originally on the Roman road and associated with Anglo-Saxon St Ninian who, it is rumoured, baptised early Christians in the spring that still feeds the nearby village of Holystone. Hadrian's Wall has plenty of interesting sites to visit and this time we went to Housesteads, a large fort back in Roman times, high on the hill giving good views over the countryside to keep watch for those barbarians from further north. It made you realise how isolated and exposed life had been, and all abandoned when the Romans quit Britain. We had hoped to visit the Farne Islands and see the Puffins but even though it was warm and sunny the waters were too rough to run the boats so instead we paid another visit to Lindisfarne. Driving across the causeway you come to the village which inevitably has become a little more commercialised since we last visited about 6 years ago, but it is well worth paying to see the digital reproductions of the Lindisfarne Gospels and learn about the monks who produced them. The walls of the lovely Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin are inhabited by hundreds of sparrows nesting in the

cracks, and in the church yard you can see a beautiful sculpture of the Celtic monk St Aidan who founded the first monastery here in AD 35. Inside the church there is an evocative sculpture depicting six monks carrying the remains of St Cuthbert. The monks saved them when the monastery was sacked by the Vikings in AD 875; tradition says that they intended to return his body to the island when the raids had stopped but as they travelled they were 'told' where the body should be laid to rest, at Dunholme, now Durham, where they built the first Cathedral of branches and straw over his body. The ruins of the Benedictine monastery we now see next to the church are 12c. Walking out to the castle, past the harbour and the fishermen's huts, shaped like upturned boats, we found that the castle had been undergoing restoration as still covered on one side by enormous amounts of scaffolding. We discovered that this should have been dismantled but they had found nesting Barn Owls and had decided that the scaffolding had to stay until the chicks had fledged. Steve was working out the cost!!



Whilst there I noticed a Kestrel sitting quite unperturbed not 12ft from me on the scaffolding and was able to get a reasonable photograph. Later, as we sat overlooking the harbour we looked across to Bamburgh Castle in the distance and thought again what a magical place The Holy Island is. We managed to visit two National Trust properties, Cragside and Wallington, again both undergoing restoration, but we were more interested in the gardens which were very beautiful in different ways. There is so much more I could say, so much history and beauty, it is a long journey but Northumberland is truly stunning, with big skies, huge empty beaches and wide open spaces, plenty of places to visit, wildlife to see and EMPTY roads (once you get past Newcastle!) If you have the opportunity I would urge you to make the trip.

Lesley.



Transform us, we pray, O Lord,
from wagers of war,
 to people of peace,
from seekers of self,
 to servants of all,
from sinners trapped,
 to saints triumphant,
from lovers of possessions
 to possessors of your love .Amen.

©Steven Bales, *Equality & Diversity Officer*
Cornwall District.

Prayers submitted by Hazel Eagle

Loving God, in Christ you offer us
a vision of a world transformed,
where all are valued,
where your justice reigns,
where hearts are strangely warmed by your grace.
Open our hearts and minds
that we may catch your vision,
and be empowered by your Holy Spirit
to work with you,
that your work may be done on earth
as it is in heaven. Amen.

© Ian Howarth**, Birmingham District Chair.

** See page 11 for news of Ian. *Editor.*

Roland Leyster Bryan

The service for thanksgiving and celebration for our dearly loved Roland was held on 7th September at Ruxley Methodist Church. Revd Emma gave a short address:

“The writer of Ephesians inspires us as we reflect and celebrate Roland’s life today.

The opening of this passage reflects so much of the image that most of us know of Roland and to some of us, the few years of knowing him too.

To sum up all the obituaries, memories and tributes, we can almost understand how Roland was who he was and perhaps his words of convict would be the reflection of the scripture reading “*I have become a prisoner for the Lord because I serve the Lord; and because I serve the Lord I live a life that measures up to the standard God set when he called me*”.
Amen “



Some of the Personal Memories read at his funeral

One of the world's perfect gentlemen. I first met Roland on an Alpha course many years ago at the old Ruxley Church and have since got to know him and Margaret really well.

I first met Roland and Margaret when they were worshipping at Stoneleigh Methodist Church but it wasn't until they started coming to R.M.C that I really got to know them. Roland was always keen to discuss matters which were either church or political and I always enjoyed listening to him but not always agreeing with him! When we moved house in the year 2000 I found it even easier to pop in to Bradford Drive to catch up with family news and have a good chat. I appreciated those times and will always remember as it was a pleasure and privilege to have known him. Rest in peace dear Roland.

I had had a Unicycle for my 50th birthday present – a one-wheel bike – and I had some difficulty in balancing and Roland came to the rescue – he worked for Rob Frost’s ‘Share Jesus International’ based in the Raynes Park Methodist Church and by coincidence at the time, they had a circus training on Saturday mornings, mainly for jugglers – Roland signed me up. I really tried hard but lacked confidence and never mastered the balance but it was great fun at the time – thanks to Roland



After Thoughts

“Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal.”

From an Irish headstone

Weddings and christenings seem always to gather together friends old and new. This now also happens at funerals. At the service of thanksgiving and celebration for Roland it was such a great pleasure to see and hear from so many past friends, who, while they have spread far and wide, remain very encouraged by their time spent at Stoneleigh. It took no time at all for the “Thanks”* singing group to re-form and perform for the occasion as they all remain closely in contact with each other and with Michael, their pianist.

While it was so sad that Roland could not be there, he will be long remembered! *Jo Barker*

**We understand the “Thanks” group was first formed at Roland and Margaret’s Youth Group. Ed.*

Teach us, O God, to trust your providence, ordered and sure; to accept your wisdom, unerring and true; and to rejoice in your love, unbounded and eternal; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Charles Simeon (1759-1836)

Taken from A Word in Time Bible Study Prayer for the day

**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
Nov 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*



Services

7 th October	Morning Worship	David Eagle
14 th October	Harvest Parade Service	Revd. Emma Aikins
21 st October	Morning Worship	Brenda Cannon
28 th October	Holy Communion	Revd. Emma Aikins
4 th November	Holy Communion	Revd. Emma Aikins
11 th November	Remembrance Parade	Revd. Stuart Veitch/David Eagle
18 th November	Morning Worship	Viv Newitt
25 th November	Morning Worship	Revd. Emma Aikins

Rota Duties

	<u>Stewards</u>	<u>Welcome</u>	<u>Sound/Proj</u>
7 th October	Jeananne/Denise	Catherine/Geoff	Robin
14 th October	Marion/Ernie	Doris/Jeff	Norma J
21 st October	Denise/Val	Brenda/Ken	Pat P
28 th October	Lesley/Norma A	Ruth/Christine	Ken
4 th November	Val/Catherine	Denise/Geoff	Tom
11 th November	Lesley/Norma A	Ruth/Christine	Pat P
18 th November	Denise/Tom	Doris/Jeff	Norma J
25 th November	Marion/Ernie	Brenda/Ken	Pat P

Tuesday Fellowship

2 nd October	Brenda Cannon
9 th October	"A Banquet of Music" - Maureen & Friends
16 th October	Revd. Emma Aikins
23 rd October	"Stories from a Career in Flying" – Lorimer Burn
30 th October	Chase Shooting Stars Charity
6 th November	Quiz - Denise
13 th November	Movie Afternoon - NOTE 2.00 p.m. START
20 th November	Revd Emma Aikins
27 th November	"The Grange" – Gill Caldwell

From the News Sheet

August 5th

Action for Children. Our Church raised £62.10 in the Action for Children collection recently, after an excellent service led by Valerie Ashcroft based on the work that they do thanks to all the generous contributions the charity receives. Many thanks to you all. *Jeananne*

August 12th

Roland Bryan. Following his recent passing, there will be a service of thanksgiving and celebration for Roland at noon on September 7th at Ruxley Church.

Tuesday Fellowship We all enjoyed a delicious tea outside in the courtyard last Tuesday (7th), under the shade of the blind and a gazebo, with only a little bit of rain! Grateful thanks go to all those who worked so hard to make it such a lovely afternoon. We raised £125 which has been passed to the Shooting Star Trust. Your new programmes are available from Catherine. See you all again on 4th September.

Methodist Prayer Handbook. I have ordered 20 copies of the new Methodist Prayer Handbook, entitled *A World Transformed* and will have them available as from today (12th). The cost is £3.75 each.

It is a wonderful resource and the front cover is lovely, showing a beautiful photograph from the foyer of the British Museum. There are readings and prayers for each day of the week, plus contributions from everyday people, as well as the clergy. I have purchased these in faith that they will be used! *Jeananne*

Drain repairs. Between 22nd and 24th there will be extensive repair works to the drains on the south-east side of the Church Centre, between the garages and the main building from the Link Room fire exit to the car park. We anticipate this will be noisy work at times, and involve equipment and plant at the end of the car park. And afterwards there will be nothing to see!

Robin

August 26th

Paul Timmis –please note that Paul's new official email is now paul.timmis@methodist.org.uk for all Church matters.



Revd Ian Howarth - update

Regular Facebook viewers may know about Ian's recent operation and treatment, but for those of you who haven't heard yet, here is an update.

Earlier in July, Ian (previous Methodist Minister of Ruxley and Stoneleigh Methodist Churches and current Chair of the Birmingham District) and wife, Barbara, returned from an amazing working trip to Zimbabwe and found out that Ian had been diagnosed with bowel cancer.

On 9 July he had the tumour removed and in mid-August had his first chemo therapy treatment. He is making a good recovery and even managed to go to the recent Greenbelt Festival. Via Facebook messages we have sent good wishes from all at Ruxley.

Please add Ian and family to your regular prayer times, praying for continued good recovery and knowledge that God's love is surrounding them and will uphold them.

A bit of added info, Barbara is now a beekeeper and daughter Rosie has been conducting choirs in Cardiff, as well as singing and teaching as a professional musician. *Jenny Meineck*

Welcome

The photograph (*inside the front cover of this magazine*) is of the main participants in the service on 9th September, at Lantern Church Wimbledon, The Welcome of Deacon Dawn Canham to the Wimbledon Circuit and the Welcome of the Revd Paul Timmis as Superintendent.

The Service was a 'fun' occasion with a serious message put across with great sincerity and joy. Dawn was present with her family of husband, son and mother, (her daughter was unable to make it) and Paul's family were there to support him. Dawn was greeted by members from each of the churches in the circuit, Jeananne represented SMC.

Revd Jongi, a larger than life character, gave his sermon in a humorous vein, ensuring that you didn't lose concentration, about God giving you a feeling within you leading you to do things you wouldn't otherwise think of doing. A long, enjoyable time was spent greeting others in the name of Christ.

The afternoon closed with tea and cakes. *Catherine Draper*



Just a gentle reminder –
October 14th will be our Harvest Festival Service
where all we donate will be passed on to designated
charities.



And then we have the Remembrance Day Service (this year it is falling on the actual date). This of course will incorporate Church Parade for the Uniformed Organisations.



Beaver Scout Leader Urgently Needed

3rd Stoneleigh Scout Group is in urgent need of a new Beaver Scout Leader to join our team.

Beavers are a critical section in the overall health and sustainability of the Group as a whole as it is the way most children enter Scouting and then move on to the Cub and Scout sections.

Beaver Scouts are aged between six and eight and a half years old. The Beaver Colony meeting is held on Tuesday evenings at Stoneleigh Methodist Church from 5.30pm to 6.45pm during school term time. We have up to 24 boys and girls in the Colony and the evenings consist of a mixture of games, crafts and a bit of cooking; all with the emphasis on FUN.

The current Leader, Ali Poulton, is having to stand down from the role because of family commitments, but is staying in the Group and will be helping in the Scout section which meets later in the evening at a more convenient time for her. This means that there will be continuity and extra support for anyone taking up the role, together with some established programmes. We have a number of helpers who would also provide support at the meetings.

Ali has said that she has really enjoyed her time with Beavers, found it very rewarding and regrets that she must move on.

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in becoming involved either as the Leader or as an Assistant Leader we would love to hear from you; so please do give me a ring and Ali or I can talk through the role..... without pressure!

Steve Lee (Cub Scout Leader and Scouter-in-Charge)
020 8393 4116

News from Ireland

from Pat and Colin Petley

As many of you know we have a bungalow in southern Ireland, which we visit regularly and we are often asked where we worship in West Cork. We are delighted to give a brief outline of Skibbereen Methodist Church.

When we first arrived in 2001, Skibbereen Methodist Church was a lovely, typical Methodist church building in the centre of town, dating from 1833. Unfortunately, due to a dwindling congregation and the cost of upkeep, the main part of the church was no longer in use, and services were held in the vestibule which was easier to heat, but was still freezing! It was decided that, regrettably, the building should be sold, and in 2003 a bungalow was purchased on the outskirts of the town and converted into a worship centre with a small flat at the rear. It has a large worship area, a meeting room and a fully functioning kitchen. Music is provided by an electronic organ, usually played with gusto by Gillian, sometimes with the accompaniment of drums, but occasionally we just have one of the members playing guitar. The church does not have its own Minister, but there are, as in Stoneleigh, lay preachers weekly and the Circuit Minister comes monthly to hold Holy Communion.

When Pat first attended the original Church in the old building there were only about 9 regular attendees but, following the move to the worship centre, attendances increased and since the arrival of our new Circuit Minister, Greg Alexander and his wife Shirley, two years ago there has been a further increase in numbers and there are 30 plus in the regular congregation, and many visitors over the summer. A variety of nationalities make up the congregation, although the majority are Irish. A number of ministers have been from Northern Ireland (including Greg and Shirley). There is a very strong Christian outreach encouraging people from many denominations and, like Stoneleigh, an extremely caring congregation who are our good



friends. Services tend to be quite informal, always friendly and lively with a strong feeling of the presence of God. There is Bible Study every Tuesday night and a Women's Group every Thursday over the winter months and a prayer meeting on Friday mornings. We usually hold an Open House around Christmas for the whole church.

There is a story attached to the original Skibbereen Church, which may be of interest. Methodism was introduced to West Cork in 1779 and for the first few years services were held in the Courthouse. In 1783 other places were used, but in 1802 the first Methodist Chapel was built, possibly on the quay in the centre of town, but in 1833 the church as we



knew it was built on the site where it still stands today. It is used now as the Church Restaurant. In 2005 a complete restoration took place which brought the building back to a beautiful condition, with the stained-glass windows and other original features being refurbished. The Church Restaurant had been open for about a year when it was set alight in an arson attack and completely gutted. Everything was destroyed apart from the four walls, the original marble dedication plaque and some pieces of the original cast ironwork. Obviously, this was devastating for the owner, who had put so much into restoring the church building. Originally, she could not face the thought of starting again, but, the town's community spirit came to the fore to help and support, which encouraged her to re-establish and



rebuild the restaurant. As none of the original features had survived it was necessary to obtain replacements and some came from extraordinary buildings in France. The Church Restaurant was re-opened in 2009 and continues to thrive today, as does Skibbereen Methodist Church.

Pat and Colin Petley

And from Catherine Draper

“At the end of July I headed off to Ireland with my niece Emma, to visit my sister Rosamunde in Donegal, in her house with a view over the Atlantic and surrounding hills. Rosamunde met us at Knock Airport on the West Coast of Ireland. The two hour drive home gave us time to relax and enjoy the green countryside. Over the week we visited different venues, without too much rain. It was so much cooler, I really didn't need my shorts. Rosamunde is President of the local ICA, similar to our WI, one of the differences is they meet weekly. I found this out when we visited a refurbished hall in Kilcar. Many of the ICA members were there advertising the Group and showing some of the crafts they promote.

Nearby is Slieve Leig, towering cliffs. We visited a folk village with old cottages, a school house and pub-cum-grocers, with an amazing map of Ireland showing the counties each made from their own stone/granite. One day was spent tracing our roots in Co Cavan. We visited various graveyards finding relatives - grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins, also towns we had known or heard about from our parents. We found a late great-aunt's dilapidated house being renovated. The new owner was interested to hear our memories of the house and its previous occupants. One of the last days saw us visiting a country fair, admiring all the fruit and vegetables grown locally, many crafts and baking which had been judged and left for us to admire. There were cows with calves and sheep and goats being judged, it was fascinating. I was sorry to leave. My sister and niece put me on the bus from Donegal Town to Dublin Airport, I should have listened to her and realised that the idea of arriving an hour early for the flight didn't work, despite the timetable. I had to run for the plane and only got on because a nice man was willing to go to the plane and get one of the stewardesses to check me on to the plane! This time we left on time!

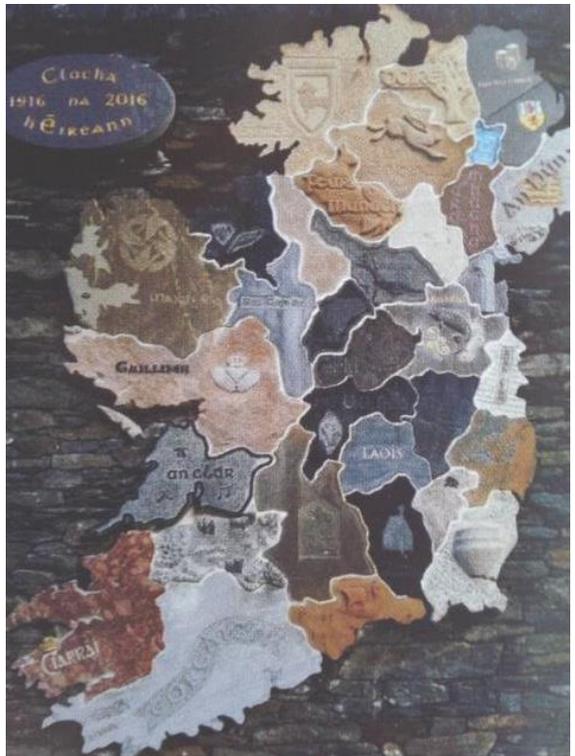
Catherine Draper”



Slieve Leig,



This amazing map of Ireland shows the counties each made from their own stone/granite



Pictures by Catherine Draper

The new Skibbereen Methodist Church



Holy Communion September 2018



Pictures from Pat Petley who tells us she does have permission from all those present at church that morning to publish the photo in The Link, including the baby! "Pat thinks the price of publication would only be a few copies of The Link!!"

