



# LINK



## STONELEIGH METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Revd. Emma Aikins Fd.A; DipHE

December 2018 – January 2019



Stoneleigh Crescent, Stoneleigh,  
Epsom, Surrey KT19 0RT  
[www.stoneleighmethodist.church](http://www.stoneleighmethodist.church)





*Baden Powell  
Awards – story p. 5*



Conquest Art  
Remembrance –  
story page 7



Poppies at Imperial War Museum  
as 'Weeping Window'.  
*Picture from Cathleen Draper- story  
page 11*

JMA Certificate Awarded  
*Full Story on page 11...*



Dear Friends,

During the October half term, we went to High Wycombe for a couple of days to visit a friend who is also a Methodist Minister. I was amazed the first evening and subsequent days as we stayed; the strong smell of damp grass and dung from the field across to the manse. This brought to mind an image of the stable where our Saviour was born. Not only was there the smell but they were surrounded by the bleating noise of the animals, their feed and dung. Nevertheless, our Saviour's birth place was the perfect place in God's eyes.



Watching the leaves change colour and fall off, the clocks going back, the numerous commercials and lined up events are all pointers to the celebration of our Saviour's birth once again.

My prayer is that during the days leading up to Christmas – advent - each person will find a way of creating a God space within their busy and eventful schedules of the season, to take a moment to reflect on the words of their favourite carol such as when we sing “O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord”; that this line of the verse can be thought of as a prayer of invitation; perhaps for those who are not ‘under the shadow of the Almighty’ and to trust that all who sing, whether Christians or not – will adore Jesus Christ as the Lord.

Once again we are reminded that Christmas is a season of Love and the fountain of Love is Jesus Christ; He who is full of Grace; a listener who comes into our world bringing liberation, hope and healing; God of miracles.

May we all have a wonderful time of Advent, a good Christmas, as we look ahead in renewing our covenant with the Lord in the New Year.

Trust in his leadership and enjoy a prosperous New Year  
Good wishes, *Emma*

Winchester University, 11 a.m, 28 October 2018.

It's a Sunday morning, but the lecture theatre is filling up. The 370 students in the room come from Christian Unions in different Universities across the South East region, from Bournemouth to Canterbury, Portsmouth to Reading, and all points in between. This is the final session in the weekend which started on Friday evening down the road at Christ Church, Winchester. It is a weekend of worship and teaching, prayer, fellowship, and fun. The four main sessions across the weekend are looking at passages from Romans, and there are a number of seminars on subjects relevant to the students in the room, including going on nights out as Christian students and challenges regarding mental health. It is the launch of the missions for many of the CUs in attendance, as well as the region's launch of 'Uncover Mark' - a guided look through Mark's Gospel that students (and anybody) can use to help friends explore who Jesus is. This is the UCCF South East Big Weekend Away 2018.

So, let's go back to the start.

Standing at the back of the church during the first session, I am once again inspired by the number of students in the room, praising God together, keen to learn



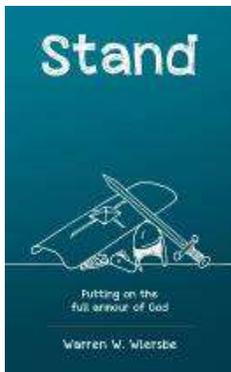
more about God and how they can spread the gospel when they get back to their own University campuses. Back in 2011, I was one of those students, attending the first Big Weekend Away.

It was the first time I heard about UCCF, and found out who they are and what they do - the Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship work with CUs across the country to help with their mission statement: to give every student a chance to hear and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ - and since then I have been back most years to help out, as well as the 'Forum South East'

event, a similar event held usually in February/March time (although this year the weather had other ideas!), but for the new CU committee members.

Back in September, I urged our church here in Stoneleigh to remember the Christian Unions as they approached Freshers' Weeks. Kingston University, as our closest, and Bournemouth University as my own former university and CU. I spoke to some of the people at Bournemouth during the weekend, who were encouraged during Freshers' Week that we were praying for the events, and I myself was encouraged to hear how they had got on at the start of the year, and their plans for the year to come. Please keep these CUs in your prayers - not just Bournemouth and Kingston, but all the other CUs around the country and their members, as they simply 'be' Christians in their University environment, that they will be courageous enough to use Uncover Mark with their friends in their halls, courses, and other societies they may be part of. At these events, I have often heard that while at University, many people are open to more ideas, and so won't be closed off to the idea of the gospel. Pray for the churches that these students go to, that they may be an encouraging and supporting place.

Pray for the events that the CUs hold throughout the year - they may not be 'evangelistic' events, but instead be 'serving' events – that they may be a place where students can know and feel God's love shared through their Christian friends. Pray for the UCCF staff workers who support the CUs, that they may be encouraged and not worn out in their work.



Stand: Putting on the full armour of God. This is the book which I spoke about in Church a few weeks ago: If people ask me for the book, I can get a better price for them.

<https://www.10ofthose.com/uk/products/21432/stand>

*Richard Graham*

Prayers submitted by Hazel Eagle

Lord, in the silence, we hear your love:  
in the stillness, we feel your love:  
In the chaos of life, we sense your love,  
and when stumbling on the pathway, we are enveloped in your love.  
In this busy and complex world, we are humbled to know  
that your love will never change, never fail and never end.  
Help us, Lord, to be true witnesses to your love. Amen.

© *Susan Robinson, Organist,  
St. Andrew's Methodist Church, Pudsey.*



Jesus, when I am full of pride or envious of others,  
show me again your humble birth in Bethlehem  
and transform my loving.  
Jesus, when I am full of grievance or dismissive of others,  
show me again your self-emptying death at Calvary  
and transform my thinking.  
Jesus, when I am full of anger or critical of others,  
show me again your death-defeating resurrection  
in the garden and transform my speaking.  
Jesus, transform me, heartbeat by heartbeat,  
thought by thought, word by word,  
that my love, my compassion, my speech  
may reveal your glory and transform the world by your grace.

*Amen.*

©*Jill Baker, Local Preacher, Strathclyde Circuit.*

## Baden Powell Award earned by two SMC Guides

*Picture inside front cover*

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018, Abigail and Joanna were presented with the Baden Powell Awards – the highest accolade a Guide can gain. The ceremony was attended and celebrated by both girls' families, including Grandparents.

Eighteen months ago, they embarked on their journey to earn the Award. At the time neither of them realised how much work would be involved, but this uncertainty was soon dispelled.

The award included ten challenges, two from each of five specified zones; (Healthy Lifestyles, Global Awareness, Discovery, Skills and Relationships, and Celebrating Diversity). It also included facing additional challenges at a Baden Powell weekend held at Blackland Farm, a Girlguiding activity centre.

Abigail and Joanna were delighted to be presented with their award by Denise Gould, their District Commissioner. Denise had been their Rainbow Leader and was therefore the Guider who they met on their first day of 'guiding'. This made the event even more special for them.

Abigail and Joanna's names have now been added to those on the Baden Powell awards board at the back of the church. They are the first two SMC guides to complete this challenge since 1999.

None of this would have been possible without the support and encouragement of Michelle Hall, their Guide leader.

Abigail and Joanna may add more detail about their journey, including their Blackland Farm weekend, in the next issue of the Link.

*Allison*

*(Abigail's proud mum)*



## Playtime conference: Planting Seeds

At the end of September, Jeananne and I went to a one-day conference, run by 'Care for the Family' for toddler group helpers. It's amazing how many toddler groups there are, run by churches, and all different. It was inspiring and affirming.

The main speaker was Rob Parsons, who runs the charity. The focus of the day was planting seed, and he drew many lessons from the parable of the sower.

Jeananne and I came away ready to spread seeds among the families that come to toddlers, praying that God will feed and water the seeds, till they grow into strong plants.



*Vivienne Ridgway*

## Remembrance Parade Service.

Last Sunday was the best attended Parade Service since 2006, and the third highest congregation at any SMC Sunday Service since that date. It was enjoyed by all, both young and 'young of heart', thanks *especially* to the excellent preparation and delivery by Stuart Veitch and David Eagle. Thanks also to Jack and the other Uniformed Organisation Leaders for encouraging so many of the young people, and their accompanying family members and friends, to attend and contribute to the Service. As a bonus from the wonderful turnout, only five poppies remained unsold – another excellent outcome from a wonderful event.

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*It was pleasing to see so many of the Uniformed Organisations attending. I would hazard a guess that it was nearly their full complement. The displays of works in the Link room were really interesting, as too was the fact that some of the smaller boys and girls spent the night in the "Morrison shelter" what an adventure! – ed.*

## Operation Christmas Child

Many thanks to those who have donated to the cause this year.

I have covered 20 boxes and their lids with Christmas paper and then filled them. Each box has a flannel, toothbrush, toothpaste (although after this year toothpaste can no longer be sent), soap, and a small brush or comb. Then an assortment of other items are put in, e.g. a small soft toy, a soft ball, pencils, crayons, small toys, hair accessories, hats etc. Finally, the boxes are then labelled for a boy or girl and the appropriate age range, and passed on to our local collection point. *Denise*

## Poppy Sculpture

*Picture inside front cover*

In 2014 the Tower of London moat was filled with ceramic scarlet poppies to commemorate the beginning of World War I and to help us remember the fallen in a display called 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red'. Four years later, as part of the UK wide tour of the poppy sculptures, 8,000 of the poppies are displayed at the Imperial War Museum as 'Weeping Window'. The IWM North is presenting 'Wave'. Each poppy represents a British or Colonial life lost at the Front during the war.

At the end of the tour the sculptures will come into the care of Imperial War Museums.

I visited the IWM this week and viewed the amazing sculpture.

*Catherine Draper*

## Conquest Art Remembrance Commemoration.

Members of Conquest Art have commemorated the centenary of the armistice by creating pictures of Poppies, the symbol of remembrance, including the white peace poppy and the purple poppy for the animals that died in war. The display was in church on the Remembrance Parade service on 11<sup>th</sup> November which was taken by our friends the Rev. Stuart Veitch and David Eagle.

## CONTACTS

Bookings

Denise Gould  
020 8393 2155

Church Pay Phone

020 8393 9743

<sup>4</sup> *He determines the number of the stars  
and calls them each by name.*

<sup>5</sup> *Great is our Lord and mighty in power;  
his understanding has no limit.*

*Psalm 147:4-5  
(NIV)*

**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  
Jan 10<sup>th</sup> 2019**

*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

2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Morning Worship	Valerie Ashcroft
9 <sup>th</sup> December	Parade/Toy Service	Revd. Emma Aikins
16 <sup>th</sup> December <b>10.30am</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	Morning Worship Carols by Candlelight	David Eagle Revd. Emma Aikins
23 <sup>rd</sup> December	Holy Communion	Revd. Emma Aikins
24 <sup>th</sup> December <b>4.00pm</b>	CRIB SERVICE	
25 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Morning Worship	
30 <sup>th</sup> December	Morning Worship	David Eagle
6 <sup>th</sup> January	Morning Worship	Tony Loft
13 <sup>th</sup> January	Covenant Service/Communion	Revd. Emma Aikins
20 <sup>th</sup> January	Morning Worship	Barbara McIntivey
27 <sup>th</sup> January	Morning Worship	Revd. Paul Timmis

## Rotas

	<u>Stewards</u>	<u>Welcome</u>	<u>Sound/Proj</u>
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Val/Sally	Doris/Jeff	Norma J
9 <sup>th</sup> December	Lesley/Debbie	Brenda/Ken	Tom
16 <sup>th</sup> December <b>10.30am</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	Jeananne/Barbara/Jim Lesley/Sally	Ruth/Christine Catherine/Val	Robin Pat/Colin
23 <sup>rd</sup> December	Denise/Tom	Geoff/Norma A	Ken
24 <sup>th</sup> December <b>4.00pm</b>	Marion/Ernie	Val/John	Pat/Colin
25 <sup>th</sup> December	Lesley/Val	Denise	Robin
30 <sup>th</sup> December	Denise/Sally	Ruth/Christine	Robin
6 <sup>th</sup> January	Jeananne/Val	Brenda/Ken	Catherine
13 <sup>th</sup> January	Lesley/Barbara/Jim	Geoff/Norma A	Norma J
20 <sup>th</sup> January	Jeananne/Debbie	Ruth/Christine	Tom
27 <sup>th</sup> January	Lesley/Norma A	Brenda/Ken	Denise

## Tuesday Fellowship

4 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch (booking needed for catering purposes)
11 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Festivities
	<b>CHRISTMAS BREAK UNTIL 8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2019</b>
8 <sup>th</sup> January	Deacon Dawn Canham
15 <sup>th</sup> January	Catherine – Talk and Pictures
22 <sup>nd</sup> January	An Afternoon with Denise
29 <sup>th</sup> January	Peter Thompson - Barrister - "Miscarriage of Justice"

Open the Book is a Scripture Union initiative, taking Bible Stories into Primary Schools. A team from St Mary's Ewell, Christchurch Ewell, and Stoneleigh Methodist Church (me) do Assembly every Tuesday afternoon at Ewell Grove.

Hezekiah was King of Judah, about the 13<sup>th</sup> in line after David. He did what was right in the eyes of The Lord. One day he fell ill. Isaiah visited him, and told him to put his affairs in order as he was going to die. Hezekiah prayed in anguish, asking the Lord to remember his faithfulness. Isaiah received a message from the Lord, just as he was leaving the palace, to tell Hezekiah that the Lord had heard his prayer, he would be healed and would have another fifteen years of life. The sign would be that the shadow on the sundial would move backwards ten steps.



Here we see Isaiah (Russell, rector of St. Mary's Ewell), pastorally visiting King Hezekiah (Vivienne) in their amazing production for 'Open the Book' at Ewell Grove at the beginning of November.

## JMA Awards

*Picture inside front cover*

At our Harvest Festival the Rev'd Emma Aikin told everyone about the work of JMA (Junior Mission for All) and then presented the JMA certificates and badges. One of our most active collectors is Susan Goff, who regularly attends SMC, this year she reached her 33<sup>rd</sup> year of collecting and she is pictured receiving her Long Service Certificate.

There are at present 11 active collectors for JMA, some from the uniformed organisations and others from the congregation. The money collected for JMA goes to educate children about Jesus Christ and to support underprivileged people in many areas of the world - Haiti, Brazil, Ghana, Nepal and others, including the United Kingdom. Thank you for all your efforts; the total amount collected for JMA this year was £317.76

*Catherine*



Book review... *from Lesley*  
**'The Luberon Garden' by**  
**Alex Dingwall-Main.**



This delightful book will transport you to the warmth and sunshine of Provence in the coming winter months. In the early nineties Alex moved to the Luberon and started a new business and a new family, he learnt to deal with the formidable French authorities, local workmen and traders. Those serious gardeners among you may know Alex Dingwall-Main as a garden designer, broadcaster and writer for the BBC, Sunday Times and House and Garden Magazine but don't for a minute think that this book will be dry or academic, far from it. It is evocative, warm and funny but still packed with horticultural detail. I would recommend this to everyone but especially to those with a love of gardens. Perhaps this is one for the Christmas present list. *Lesley*

Tom Turner writes: On Being a Good Neighbour

One Sunday during the summer, I felt decidedly unwell, but just about got to church. During one hymn I felt so poorly that I stopped singing and sat down. Within one verse another member of the congregation came to me to see if I was all right. I lied and said that I was.

Once home I gradually felt worse and worse. What to do? One of my former pupils, with whom I am still in contact is a G.P. so I phoned him. He did not answer the phone, so I had to think what else to do and dialled 111, the N.H.S. helpline. To cut a long story short they asked if I could get to hospital within the hour, and I did, and was eventually kept in Epsom Hospital for three days. Unbeknown to me other events were happening:

Read on:

My former pupil phoned me back and, of course, got no reply. Being concerned about my welfare, he phoned his parents who I have also got to know, and who live in Ewell, asking that they check that I was well. They came round and got no answer to their ring, but saw my car in the driveway. Fearing that, perhaps, I was really ill, they alerted my neighbours, who have the key, and all went in to check that I was not at home and unable to respond. Later, when they heard that I was in hospital, they called back on my neighbours to let them know that I was 'safely' in hospital. We can smile about it now, but it must have been very worrying to go into a house to check that no one is lying unconscious, or worse!

For the record, the two parents who went the extra mile to check on my welfare came to this country as political refugees. I am reminded of both the story of the Good Samaritan, (Luke 10: 25-29) and also of the hymn *Thou God of truth and love* by Charles Wesley, the second and third verses of which are:

*Why hast thou cast our lot  
In the same age and place,  
And why together brought  
To see each other's face,  
To join with loving sympathy  
And mix our friendly souls in Thee?*

*Didst Thou not make us one,  
That we might one remain,  
Together travel on,  
And share our joy and pain,  
Till all Thy utmost goodness prove,  
And rise renewed in perfect love?*

620 in *Singing the faith*, and 374 in *Hymns and Psalms*.

*Lesley has sent us this update on the Syrian family for whom we prayed in Church recently.*

### **Update on the Syrian Family :**

Thank you to all of you who supported us with funds, items and time to help welcome the Syrian family to Epsom. They have now been living in Epsom for 2 months and are settling in well. The two youngest boys are in school and the eldest boy is at College four days a week. The parents are both attending College in Kingston and English classes in Epsom. The eldest boy is also volunteering at one of the charity shops in Epsom. We continue to offer them support particularly with dentist and doctors' appointments and other assistance as they need it. Thanks in particular to our team of Arabic speakers and to the ESOL teachers who are giving so much of their time.

**Can You Help:** We will have to provide some support towards travel costs to college for the eldest boy so are asking people if they will consider giving a monthly amount towards this. We need to top up his bursary by £25 a week to cover his travel costs. If you would like to contribute you can set up monthly giving via

**[mydonate.bt.com/charities/epsomewellrefugeenetwork](https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/epsomewellrefugeenetwork)**



*Incidentally.....*

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Many thanks to those who have returned their GDPR slips (sent with the last Link) and for the kind comments regarding the magazine. Please could I ask that those who have not yet returned their slips do so as soon as you can? Many thanks, *Lesley Lee*

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**Paul Timmis** –our new Superintendent: please note that Paul's new official email is now [paul.timmis@methodist.org.uk](mailto:paul.timmis@methodist.org.uk) for all Church matters.

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There has been no response to 3<sup>rd</sup> Stoneleigh Scout's search for a new Beaver Leader. Our quest continues and we are being aided in our search by the District team. If you or anyone you know could help please contact Steve on 020 8393 4116.

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News from Barbara and Ian H.

Ian has been undergoing chemo treatment over the past while which has left him feeling very tired and poorly and has recently meant a short spell in hospital. Because of Ian's health they have not managed a holiday this summer but say the fine weather has made staying at home more bearable. All the family are well and Ian and Barbara send their good wishes and thanks for all the cards they have received and for all the continued prayers for Ian.

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Stuart Veitch told us last Sunday (11<sup>th</sup>) that Brenda is now home after her 'op' and is recovering well, though she has been told that recovery will take at least three months.

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## A visit to the Toddler Group

On Thursday morning last week (mid-October) I popped in to see how the toddler group were functioning and to my great surprise there were many more children than I expected. There were little girls running around with dolls in either prams or push-chairs, and others sitting at tables with educational toys, some crawling through plastic tunnels and all having a lovely playtime together. After a while all the tables were cleared and wiped over with antiseptic cloths and it was snack time.

The mums helped with all this and bowls were given to each child.



Bowls of sliced bananas and bowls of chopped tangerines were placed on each table and each child was given a drink. While the kiddies were enjoying the snacks, the mums enjoyed tea or coffee, but they all kept an eye on the tables. I was amazed how well everything was run. The children were extremely well-behaved and certainly were enjoying things. Next the tables were cleared once again, and cleaned, and out came all the toys again.

The morning ended with the children singing their songs. What a lot of clearing up for the helpers followed. Toys to be put away, tables and chairs also, not to mention the washing up. I congratulate Jeananne and Vivienne on the smooth running of the very large group and I am so pleased that I shared the time with them. *Joan Tolley*

*Thanks, Joan for taking the time to let us know of your visit... ed  
There is another photo inside the back cover of this Link!*

## From the News Sheets

### **October 21<sup>st</sup>**

Please remember Brenda V in your prayers as she is scheduled for a heart operation to help with her breathing on Tuesday.

### **November 4<sup>th</sup>**

Remembrance Parade Service – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November

We invite everyone to join with members of our Youth Organisations in our Remembrance Service, led by the Rev Stuart Veitch and David Eagle. We will observe the 2 minutes silence at 11:00am, with refreshments served after the service

On the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the armistice our service will explain why it is so important to remember, and then consider, using a narrated visual presentation, what has happened since 1918 in matters of war and peace involving the UK.

Breathing Space – after almost three years of running Breathing Space, we have decided that it is time to bring it to a close. It was a wonderful idea that Arthur had. He felt that a quiet space within the church, with no interruptions or approaches, would be welcomed by people walking by, or those waiting to collect children from the uniformed groups.

We did have some visitors but overall very few so we, as a team, after much prayer and thought, decided we should stop. We are very grateful for those who prayed for Breathing Space and the support we had from you all. *Jeananne, Lesley, Vivienne and Joanne*

### **November 11<sup>th</sup>**

A couple of weeks ago Rev Martine Stemerick had minor surgery to her foot, at Epsom Hospital. She has been at home since then progressing well. Please pray for her continued recovery. Martine sends everyone her regards.





## Christmas Parade Service

9<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am

Followed by coffee and mince pies

Come and worship, and in thankfulness give to those less fortunate than ourselves. ***(Gifts of toiletries and warm clothing received and finance to be given to the Whitechapel Mission)***



## Carols by Candlelight

You are invited to come and sing your favourite carols,  
and hear the Christmas Readings

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December 6.30pm

Followed by Coffee and Mince pies



Our annual

**Crib Service** will be at 4pm on Christmas Eve

A retelling of the Christmas Story, particularly suitable for families with young children.

Come and worship with your family, and join us for refreshments in the Link Room afterwards.



## Christmas Morning Family worship

10.30am

A short and simple celebration of Christmas

## Covenant Service

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January 10.30am

This is an important service for SMC, where we renew our commitment to God.

