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# LINK



## STONELEIGH METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Revd. Emma Aikins Fd.A; DipHE

February 2019 – March 2019



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

Prayers submitted by Hazel Eagle

God of challenge and change,  
God of comfort and consistency:  
Reshape our worship from focus on self  
to a true celebration of your love;  
Re-awaken our commitment to learn and care  
from easy complacency to sacrificial support;  
Revitalise our service  
from loving ourselves to loving our neighbours;  
Revive our evangelism  
from simply following Jesus to making more followers of Jesus.  
God of challenge and change,  
God of comfort and consistency,  
as you have called us  
so we pray you will commission us.  
In the name of Jesus and in the power of the Spirit.

*Amen.*

*©Paul Martin Bolton & Rochdale District Chair.*



Lord, I don't realise I am doing it.  
I am walking through life with my head down,  
shoulders bowed.  
I can't see what is going on around me.  
I can only see the ground.  
Help me to lift my head, my eyes, and my thoughts to you,  
the source of my many blessings,  
my comforter when life is tough,  
my Saviour and my friend.  
And as I lift my heart to you, I may just notice  
Someone is walking beside me.

*©Hilary Jefferies, worship leader,  
Stockland Green Methodist Church.*

## From the Minister

Dear Friends,

My New Year greetings to you all in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Reading the London District's weekly update emailed this week the 15<sup>th</sup> January, I was amazed by the heading "from birth to burial – Susanna Wesley Pilgrimage".

This publicity draws attention to mark the 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the birth of Susanna Wesley on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January and an invitation to join the pilgrimage reflecting on her life and legacy at Wesley's Chapel.

In a book entitled "John Wesley – Founder of Methodism", Susanna Wesley is described as a firm but devoted mother; she did not believe it was kind to spoil a child but she knew that encouragement is worth far more than penalties and if any of the ten children had done wrong, they were never punished provided they owned up and showed that they were really sorry.

Another book from my shelf entitled "Susanna Wesley – Mother of Methodism" is written by Mary Greetham and I quote from the very first page. "If the Methodist Church canonised saints then surely Susanna would have been thus honoured, but since this is not our custom, let us remember her with gratitude, and be mindful of the fact that she gave to the world two sons who changed the face of these islands in the eighteenth century". In this book the biographer of Susanna Wesley – The Revd Dr John A. Newton commends the writer's book as "very readable, attractive and enables us to see what a remarkable person Susanna was – as wife, mother, educator, pastor and theologian".

I am sure all local preachers will warm to the knowledge that "it was Susanna who first saw the value of lay preachers" and in reading about the numerous works and ministry she started and engaged herself with, Mary Greetham is right to remark that "Susanna was a woman greater than she knew, for she stamped on Methodism its

unique characteristics as an organised and disciplined movement. She can truly be called 'the Mother of Methodism'.

Upon reflection on her as a person and all that she was able to offer by the grace of God it begs the question 'how many Susanna Wesleys do we have in our world, community, church, etc. The marking of her 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary will happen all year round with celebrations and events so let us watch out and be part of it.

This prayer below has been written by Jenny Carpenter: Vice-Chair of Trustees at Epworth Old Rectory and their representative on the Methodist Heritage Committee.

*Living, loving God, Trinity in Unity,  
We praise and thank you for the life of Susanna Wesley, Mother of  
Methodism.  
Inspired by her regime of private prayer and meditation, may we  
grow in our devotion to you.  
Following our conscience as she did, may we think for ourselves and  
dare to act on Kingdom values.  
Aware of her programme of teaching her children, girls and boys  
alike, may we value and nurture all in our care, sensitive to individual  
needs.  
Encouraged by her determination to build up the faith of her family  
and the parish of Epworth, may we lead others to follow Christ more  
closely.  
Discerning the Holy Spirit moving powerfully in the life of the nation  
as she did, may we be open to new challenges and expect great  
things from you.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ and in the power of the  
Spirit.  
  
Amen.*

Every blessing, Emma

## John Ruskin: A man ahead of his time

While on a short break to the Lake District in June 2018 I joined a group visit to Brantwood House, an imposing property on the hillside above Coniston with stunning views across the lake to the fells beyond. Brantwood was the home of John Ruskin for the last 28 years of his very full and active life but my knowledge of him and of his work was very limited until this year.

Ruskin was born in London in 1819, the same year as Queen Victoria and his early years were spent with his parents in central



London and subsequently at Herne Hill. I have counted some twenty streets in Greater London named after him, along with several schools and colleges that bear his name, such was the fame he achieved during his lifetime, finally dying at Brantwood in 1900, a year before Queen Victoria.

In his time, he was a prolific author, poet, artist and teacher, and his writings and ideas influenced many contemporaries, including George Bernard Shaw, William Morris and J M W Turner. Gandhi and Tolstoy also admitted that their lives and teachings had been affected by his writings. His ideas have reached well beyond his lifetime and became the basis of green



belts, town planning, the National Trust and social reform. He travelled widely throughout Europe, studying and drawing landscapes and geological features, and gained a lasting love of the English Lake District so that when Brantwood House became available he bought it without hesitation, living and writing there until his death.



The House has been a privately owned Museum ever since, containing many personal items from his life, and the surrounding gardens contain his carriage and also his rowing boat which he designed himself. Open all year round the House is well worth a visit if you are in the area.

Ruskin declined the offer of a grave in Westminster Abbey. He died at Brantwood and is buried in Coniston Churchyard among his local friends and neighbours. His grave is marked by a tall cross, and there is also a more recent memorial to him overlooking Friar's Crag, Derwentwater, in a plot that became the National Trust's first Lake District property. He deserves to be better known among those who, like me, had not previously had the benefit of learning of his far-reaching life. *Geoff*



It is with sadness we learned of the death of Joan Thomas who passed away shortly after Christmas. We send our prayers and condolences to Phil Carole Robin, Paul and family during this time of sadness



With sadness we report that Beryl Price died on 30<sup>th</sup> December  
We send our prayers and condolences to Pam, Colin and Roger.  
Her funeral was held on 30<sup>th</sup> January.  
at Randall's Park Crematorium



## Learning to Love God's Way

*Taken from "A Word in Time" Bible study 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2018  
The Methodist Church Website  
Colossians 3:1-17 (see also the [Contacts Page](#))*

"Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful." (3:14-15)

The Methodist Church Website offers thoughts on the daily passage and invites comments from readers. The following was one helpful comment:

"As a new Christian I thought I had failed the first test when I was told I had to love everyone. How can I possibly love everyone, I thought, when there are some people I can't bear to be in the same room with? (I have since learned that some people are easier to love from a distance).

A wise minister suggested I read "The Four Loves" by C.S. Lewis and this helped enormously. In a nutshell, it explains how there are four different types of love:

- Friendship - showing respect and kindness for everyone we meet, neighbours, strangers and especially our enemies.
- Affection - developing a fondness for someone by spending time with them and building a relationship.
- Emotional Love - deep, loving closeness that we share with our nearest and dearest.
- Charity - the greatest love of all because with all the other loves we hope to be paid in kind, but in charity we just give without expecting anything in return."

*Submitted by Helen*

# CONTACTS

Bookings

Denise Gould  
020 8393 2155

Church Pay Phone

020 8393 9743

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[Colossians 3:14-15](#)

**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  
March 10<sup>th</sup>**

*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

3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Holy Communion	Rev. Emma Aikins
10 <sup>th</sup> February	MorningWorship	Richard Graham
17 <sup>th</sup> February	Morning Worship	Rev. Emma Aikins
24 <sup>th</sup> February	Morning Worship	Brenda Cannon
3 <sup>rd</sup> March		
10 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>March services will be</b>	
17 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>advised in the news sheets</b>	
24 <sup>th</sup> March		
31 <sup>st</sup> March		

## Rotas

	<u>Stewards</u>	<u>Welcome</u>	<u>Sound/Proj</u>
3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Jeananne/Sally	Catherine/Geoff	Norma J
10 <sup>th</sup> February	Marion/Ernie	Doris/Jeff	Pat /Colin
17 <sup>th</sup> February	Lesley/Barbara/Jim	Pat S/Norma A	Norma J
24 <sup>th</sup> February	Jeananne/Debbie	Ruth/Christine	Catherine
3 <sup>rd</sup> March			
10 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>The March rota will be notified</b>		
17 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>in due course</b>		
24 <sup>th</sup> March			
31 <sup>st</sup> March			

## Tuesday Fellowship

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

5 <sup>th</sup> February	Tony Loft
12 <sup>th</sup> February	Pictures on a walk with Tom
19 <sup>th</sup> February	Nightingale Singers
26 <sup>th</sup> February	The British Legion
5 <sup>th</sup> March	Rev. Stuart Veitch
12 <sup>th</sup> March	Movie Afternoon – <b>START 2.00 p.m.</b> Film t.b.a.
19 <sup>th</sup> March	FELLOWSHIP ANNIVERSARY with musical entertainment
26 <sup>th</sup> March	The Lady Gardener

## Epsom Book Fair

21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> February 2019 - Epsom  
Methodist Church.



Bring books: Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> to Saturday  
February

(No books accepted after Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>)

Buy books Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February 10am-8pm

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 10am-8pm

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 10am-4pm.

16<sup>th</sup>

Last year Epsom Methodist Church raised an amazing £37,500 for five charities. They had over 80,000 books for sale as well as CDs, DVDs and records, and over 3,000 people visited the Fair.

### From the church family:

Our Christmas collection for Action for Children raised £170 in total. A goodly sum to send to them. Many thanks to all who contributed to such a great charity.  
*Jeananne*

**Congratulations** to Maurice and Chichi Mynett on the birth of a healthy baby boy, Aaron, born on New Year's Day; weighed in at 8lb 9oz, brother to Luke. Mother and son are doing well. They hope to bring Aaron and Luke to church when possible. *Catherine*

It was announced in Church at our Covenant Service that Louisa Jun-Tai and her fiancé Alistair will be getting married in our Church later in the year (July 25<sup>th</sup>) They were presented in Church today as part of the formality of the announcement of intent to marry.

The SMC Congregation are all invited to a Buffet and Dance in celebration of the marriage of Bill and Emma – to be held at Ruxley Church Hall on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2019 from 4:30-9:30pm. Please make a note in your diaries now!

### From around the Circuit:

Wimbledon Churches are running their winter night shelter from the beginning of January to the end of February. The Methodist church play host on Monday evenings. Please include volunteers and visitors in your prayers.

## **From the NewsSheets**

### **November 18<sup>th</sup>**

Remembrance Parade Service last Sunday was the best attended Parade Service since 2006, and the third best attended of all services since that date. Thanks are due especially to the excellent Service prepared and delivered by Stuart and David, and to Jack and other Uniformed Organisation Leaders for their encouragement of the young people to attend and contribute to the Service. And we had just 5 poppies unsold

### **December 16<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas Greetings have been received:-

from Jill Chessum and her family who wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

from Martine, who says “no mad dashes anywhere this year, as I had foot surgery in October and am doing very well but not walking very quickly. All of the decorations are hung and it's lovely. I got a handsome white polar bear to sit under the tree with my Santa from Bruges. Love to everyone at Stoneleigh, *Martine*

and from Stuart V, a note that he enjoyed our Remembrance Parade service – both he and Brenda send their love at this time.

### **December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Jill and Lesley have also been asked to pass on best wishes from Bunny Warren to the Church family, and from Stan and Mary there is news of weddings etc – the full story is on the board in the vestibule.

Emma, Bill and Nana express their gratitude for your cards and prayers –“we value them very much and ask God’s blessing on you as we wish you all a Happy Christmas and a blessed New Year “

### **December 30<sup>th</sup>**

Please pray for Richard’s aunt Maria; for peace at this time, and the feeling of God's loving embrace, and His strength in the weeks to come.

Publicity. It was suggested by the leadership team that we should have a publicity team to co-ordinate news and publicity for the Church. The team we have put together consists of Robin, Catherine and Lesley, who will work together to make sure that what goes on at SMC is advertised within the Church and to the community effectively. The team will be officially appointed at the next Church Council

## **Covenant Service**

We were all blessed today at the covenant service. Emma was a lot better after suffering from a really bad cold. She was talking about God putting His word in our hearts (Jeremiah 31; 33 – I will put my instructions deep within them and I will write them on their hearts(NLT)

Emma challenged us to say which Bible verses we remembered and could quote. An amazing variety came from every quarter of the congregation. So here is a quiz for you – how many of these Bible verses can you complete?

God so loved \_\_\_\_\_(John 3:16)

And suddenly, there was with the  
angel \_\_\_\_\_(Luke 2:13)

I am the \_\_\_\_\_(John 14:6)

Peace I I \_\_\_\_\_(John 14:27)

The Lord is my S \_\_\_\_\_(Psalm 23:1)

To Him who is able to do immeasurably \_\_\_\_\_(Eph 3:20)

For it is by grace \_\_\_\_\_(Eph 2:8)

And God said “Let \_\_\_\_\_(Gen 1:2)

He was pierced \_\_\_\_\_(Isaiah 53:5)

Love the Lord thy God with \_\_\_\_\_(Mark12:30 and elsewhere)

Heaven and earth will pass \_\_\_\_\_(Mark 13:32)

Of course, we know that God writing His law in our hearts is more than learning scripture, but it is so encouraging when we can remember particular messages from His Word. The word I remember from today is actually a line from our first hymn (O Jesus I have promised). The line that spoke to me was ‘To hasten or control’ indicating to me that sometimes I need to get on with things for Jesus, and sometimes I need to hold back, and wait for the right time.

*Vivienne*

## **Our Christmas Gift of Children**

I am writing this on New Year's Eve reflecting on the joy of having so many children in our church during the Christmas Period. It was so wonderful to be part of it all, watching the children having fun, being completely at ease, happy to be there,

starting with...

### Toddlers Nativity

We had had our party the previous week which was chaotic fun, with much laughter and the delight of lots of yummy food. Thirty-odd children plus the adults filled the Link Room to bursting point!

So, the following week, our Nativity, was quieter but very special. Rev Emma brought her puppets to tell the story and with walk-on parts happening at any time from our "little actors", it was a spontaneous celebration of the manger story, rounded off with a chocolate hunt around the church, resulting in many chocolate smiles.

### Crib Service

So many visitors and so many children. The atmosphere was wonderful, full of expectation. Smiling faces, chatting and fellowship, a real buzz about the place. The children just loved being part of it all, and it was a huge success. The A B C Nativity filled our church with such love, a wonderful warm up for our Christmas Day Celebration of Christ's birth.

To Louise and her team who masterminded it all, I say Well Done and a huge thank you for all your hard work, over the last two years! We as a church are blessed to have you.

### Christmas Day

This was a service which was planned by Lesley and myself with lots of contributions.

I was to do The Children's section, based on The Grinch, a Dr Seuss story of a character who hated Christmas. Lesley and I could almost be members of his club, along with a few others if they were honest! Well the Christmas morning dawned, and I had done

prep in the hopes of quite a few children. Things to make, things to glue and stick!

We did not have many in the congregation, and as far as I could see no children so, when I started, I had to improvise and hoped they would all join in. When to my great delight, I was given (like in a pantomime) the nod that we had one little girl cuddling up to her Mum.

Her name was Grace and she came happily up to the front with me, and delighted in showing us her Christmas Bear called Lily, and being part of telling the story of The Grinch.

The Grinch tells the story of a cynical grump who goes on a mission to steal Christmas, only to have his heart changed by a young girl's holiday spirit, and we certainly had our hearts warmed by Grace's lovely smiles and her chatting.

Christmas Church with children happened at SMC with the help of so many people who are not part of our regular congregation, and they brought a very special blessing to us all. So please book it all for next year, and let's have more visitors from our own congregation to swell the numbers and share in the joy.

*Jeananne*



### **Film Showing**

After a long drought, you are invited to the next meeting, on 20<sup>th</sup> February (Wednesday) 7pm for 7.15 start.

We are going to watch 'Finding your Feet', a lovely film about living life to the full, with Celia Imrie, Imelda Staunton, Joanna Lumley and Timothy Spall.

Do join us.

I'm looking forward to it.

*Vivienne*



Some of the toddlers playing their parts

Photos from the Toddler Nativity:



Emma's nativity puppets

And from our Christmas Day Service,

Led by Lesley and Jeananne, the 'lightness' of the service resulted in a most welcoming service for Christmas Day. We were each asked to add our wishes to labels which were added to branches of a tree placed at the foot of our cross as part of our offering. We are blessed to have such gifted people as part of our congregation

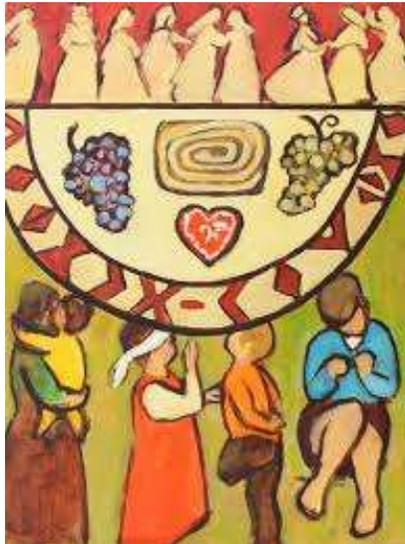


Jeananne and Grace during story-time.



## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

*Come – Everything is Ready!*



The service in this area will be at  
**Ruxley Church, Ewell on Friday 1/3/19 at 2pm,**  
followed by refreshments.

The interdenominational movement of the World Day of Prayer invites everyone to attend one of over 5,000 services being held on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March with the title 'Come – Everything is Ready.'

We will join an estimated 3 million people around the world that day in a service which has been written this year by the women of Slovenia.