



LINK



STONELEIGH METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Revd. Emma Aikins Fd.A; DipHE

August 2019 – September 2019



Stoneleigh Crescent, Stoneleigh,
Epsom, Surrey KT19 0RT

www.stoneleighmethodist.church



From our 75th Anniversary Lunch in 2012

I was looking through archived material for a picture for this month's Front Cover and found this picture of our friends whose passing we commemorated on July 9th and July 12th

I felt it would be pleasing to recall just one of the many happy intervals we shared during their long associations with SMC *Helen*

Minister's letter

Dear friends,

I want to wish you all a good summer break; safe journey to those travelling; please keep safe and ensure your windows and doors are locked when going out as we enjoy the warm weather. We give thanks to God as we approach the end of the church year and the words of the hymn written by Joseph Hart (1712-1767) are my prayers:

"This, this is the God we adore; our faithful, unchangeable friend; whose love is as great as his power, and neither knows measure nor end.

'Tis Jesus the first and the last; whose Spirit shall guide us safe home; we'll praise him for all that is past and trust him for all that's to come"

Every blessing, *Emma*

Pastoral News

Lesley and Steve are delighted to announce the arrival of their new granddaughter, Jasmine Lily Alice Krunler-Lee, who was born on Wednesday 19th June to Richard and Margit. Everyone is doing well and of course she is very beautiful. *Lesley*



John and Valerie Farley are pleased to announce the birth of their great-grandson Beau, a brother for Aubrey.

Congratulations to the proud parents, Shanice and Jack,

And Sally and Barrie Barnes also celebrate the birth of their first granddaughter, Evie Jane Zeng Barnes to Jeff and Jamie on 18th May.



Brian has moved to a new home, and is really happy. Emma popped into see him, and relayed the good news.

On Wednesday 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.

He sends his good wishes to you all.

Jeananne

Pastoral Team changes. Jeananne has kindly agreed to become the Pastoral Secretary for SMC, and Church Council agreed this at the last meeting. Therefore, if you have any pastoral concerns, would you please now speak to Jeananne. I would like to say that it has been a privilege to have shared in the lives of the people of this church over the past fifteen years and I am grateful for the trust and friendship you have shown me.

Lesley.

Celebration of the Life of Geoff Lawrence -

What a celebration it was; the church was full and there was such a lovely atmosphere of memories which made you smile. We all felt touched to be sharing in such a moving and joyful service with Geoff's family and friends. The gathering in the Link Room afterwards was a joy to behold! Geoff would have been so happy with it all. Food everywhere, people chatting, and there he was at the centre of it all, with great photographs, a beautiful cake with a steam train as its centre piece, and a wonderful drawing showing a medley of all his interests!

We send our love to all his family and friends, and we were so glad to be to be a part of it all.

Jeananne

Memories of Geoff Lawrence. *from friends and Revd Emma*

Geoff Lawrence was initially a member of Christ Church with St. Philips in Worcester Park where he was very active in many areas. He was a member of Young People's Fellowship and MAYC at Christ Church in the early fifties and was the Youth Representative on the Action for Children fundraising committee. He maintained his interest in the work of Action for Children over the years and was always happy to help with house-to-house collections with Sunny Smiles, and anything else to do for this charity.

Geoff was a Sunday school teacher in the days when Sunday school met in the afternoon, and on the social side was a keen member of the Christ Church Dramatic Society, taking part in several productions.

He joined the Church cricket club. Geoff had great success as a bowler, using a very strange technique. His delivery was a high and so slow that the batsman in frustration reacted too early and missed the ball which was always straight. He subsequently took over as a

very competent umpire. He acted as their secretary encouraged several members to play for the church team.

Geoff was a good organiser and leader of club rambles, carefully avoiding the country pubs. Geoff served his National Service with the RAF.

Geoff moved to Stoneleigh Methodist Church and served them faithfully in many ways, as well as continuing to support Circuit Events - particularly if there was food involved. He was easy to talk to and was more than willing to listen. He had a warm smile, a twinkle in his eyes and a generous heart, and was always ready to offer lifts.

The underlining factor of Geoff's life is that he was a man who lived in hope and his faith sustained him till the day of his last breath.

He chose two readings from scripture, which were mirrored by his life:

Revelation 21:4&7 "God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. 7 Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

(Romans 8:38&39) "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord"

Thanks to those of the Church family who played numerous roles in preparing the Church for Geoff's Service and the gathering afterwards –far too many to mention individually but, as usual, the result is always memorable.

And thanks from Paul—during the 'setting up' on Thursday Paul mentioned to Robin that he and the family were very grateful for all the help shown by the Church in preparing for Friday, and that he would like those thanks passed on.

We hold prayerfully in our thoughts his children: Josephine, Diana, Vivienne, Janet, Karen, Louise and Paul; his grandchildren and great grandchildren. May he rest in peace.

A Trip to Detroit, Michigan, USA 2019

In December 2017 Elliot decided he had had enough of London and Brexit and would try his luck in USA as he had a US passport through his father, Steven. Elliot was lucky enough to be working in a firm that also had an American branch in Detroit, so in June 2018 he moved. He had to find a car, apartment and furniture quickly and settle in. Before he left London he met Amy and they didn't want to be separated, so Amy started visiting Elliot for 3 months at a time on a visitors' visa.

I arranged to visit Elliot in late May this year and booked my flights some time in advance. On 29th May Elliot rang and said I wasn't at the airport - he was a day early! When I did arrive in the US33, I had forgotten to eat a banana and this was picked up by a special sniffer dog and I signed over my banana.

It was great seeing Elliot and Amy after so many months. They had been very efficient and planned outings, some to places they had been to and others unseen.

The weather was in the mid 70's most of the time and very humid, some days it poured and we had thunderstorms.

Elliot lives in a leafy suburb called Royal Oak within walking distance of the town centre. Amy and I walked there a number of times. There were many dog owners but I didn't see one cat! The dawn chorus was very noisy. One weekend there was a Street Fair with many stalls of handmade pottery, glassware, metalware, jewellery and a very tall, metal, fire-breathing dragon.

The first Saturday we went to a very large flower market, with potted plants, trees and hanging baskets, also bees and honey. The surrounding buildings are cafés, diners and some antique shops – containing several items I remembered. Many of the older buildings are covered with 'Street Art' (better than graffiti).

Every outing involved driving on the freeways which are all so fast, with slowness restricted.

Twice while I was there Elliot was run into, not at speed - luckily no human damage and if you think we have problems with potholes you should see their freeways! How Elliot finds his way around I don't know.

I had forgotten to eat the banana in my bag and this was picked up by a special sniffer dog

We visited 'Henry Ford', a museum about motor cars, but all makes not just the Model T. On display was the Presidential car in which John F Kennedy was shot (no blood seen); the chair Abraham Lincoln was shot in (some blood there). You can sit in the bus in which Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat. Displays about slavery, its abolishment and the fight against segregation, women's suffrage, flight from its beginnings to space travel, various huge train engines (Geoff would have liked those) and stage coaches. We spent a few hours there, and there were still more areas to see. The museum is in Dearborn where Ford has its headquarters and near where Elliot works. His firm does advertising for Ford.

There are a lot of free open spaces to wander in but you have to get there by car. We walked by Lake St Clair and could see Canada on the other side. Downtown Detroit leads directly to a tunnel through to Canada. On Sunday we visited this up-and-coming area with many fine buildings, some still being upgraded. how Elliot knew his way around, I don't know. We had an afternoon sitting, with our feet in the sand, watching children playing in a huge sandpit, surrounded by cafés and bars. In the winter the same area is turned into an ice rink.

One evening Amy and I joined Elliot at a firms' 'do', in a bar 'The Factory at Corktown'. We were on the roof with a jazz band. The building was not very tall but it had a view of Detroit with many car manufacturers' signs visible. I met a number of his colleagues and bosses.

Another day we stopped outside the Motown Museum and then went for more refined culture to the Detroit Institute of Art.

Everywhere the names of Ford, Pontiac, Chrysler and Cadillac are evident, also Dearborn -as road names, towns, suburbs, on hospitals and in general advertising.

I was sad to leave Elliot but by then I knew he was coming home for good at the end of July, he has already requested a birthday BBQ in August!

My return journey was slightly marred by a 4 hour wait on the tarmac at Charlotte, North Carolina, this followed a jog to catch the plane in the first place, due to a delayed first stage of the journey. But I made it home and Steven and the dog met me.

Catherine Draper

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Gloria Davis



Church Council Secretary

Denise Gould

Pastoral Concerns

Jeananne Holtorp

JMA Secretary

Catherine Draper

Bookings

Denise Gould
020 8393 2155

Church Pay Phone

020 8393 9743

Lord, forgive us when we listen, but do not hear; when we look, but do not see; and when we feel, but do not act; and by your mercy and grace draw us into the righteous deeds of your kingdom of justice and peace; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Maria Hare (1798-1870)

from Word in Time Bible Study 15/7/19

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 September 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

4 th August	Holy Communion	Revd. Chris Morley
11 th August	Morning Worship	Viv Newitt
18 th August	Morning Worship	Local Arrangement
25 th August	Morning Worship	Viv Newitt
1 st September	SEPTEMBER DETAILS WILL BE ADVISED IN THE WEEKLY NEWS SHEETS	
8 th September		
15 th September		
22 nd September		
29 th September		

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	<u>Stewards</u>	<u>Welcome</u>	<u>Sound/Proj</u>
4 th August	Denise/Norma A	Ruth/Christine	Catherine
11 th August	Marion/Ernie	Pat S	Norma J
18 th August	Lesley/Tom	Denise	Robin
25 th August	Jeanne/Barbara/Jim	Jeff/Doris	Pat P
1 st September	SEPTEMBER DETAILS WILL BE ADVISED IN THE WEEKLY NEWS SHEETS		
8 th September			
15 th September			
22 nd September			
29 th September			

Tuesday Fellowship – 2.30 p.m.

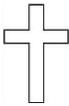
Please feel free to come along to Fellowship at any time, there will always be a warm welcome.

NO MEETINGS IN AUGUST

3 rd September	Revd. Stuart Thomas
10 th September	Keep Fit for Seniors
17 th September	Cream Tea at Chessington Garden Centre - 3.00 p.m..
24 th September	My Life as a Film Extra

Transforming God, Lord of reversals,
As you called the paralysed man, call us.
As you challenged the woman at the well, challenge us.
As you healed Jairus' daughter, heal us.
As you comforted Mary of Bethany, comfort us.
Help us to remember that you can turn all things over,
Under and around.
Transform us outside and within,
To be reflectors of your light in the world. *Amen.*

Judith Holliman, Minister, Conwy & Prestatyn Circuit.



Prayers submitted by Hazel Eagle



Gracious God, grant to us we pray:
Courage to speak out, that the voiceless may be heard;
Willingness of heart and mind
to be agents of change in this world;
Strength to be channels
through which your transforming love will flow. *Amen.*

Sandra Goodwin, President. Methodist Women in Britain

The CTE Prayer Walk on 16th June went well - the opening of our church for quiet prayer time was a very 'spiritual' shared experience with several walkers from other churches and, although there were only six of us, everyone got a lot out of the evening. We had various prayer sheets to guide our thoughts, and Sally and I 'held the fort' until the walkers returned. They were amazed at how lovely our church is, and the many rooms we have! A time of fellowship, with lovely refreshments provided by Sally was a blessing, and we went home really uplifted by shared conversations and by praying together. *Jeananne and Sally*



A Visit to the New Room – the world's oldest Methodist Building

John and I were visiting Bristol in June. We've never been there before, and we saw a sign between the shops saying 'John Wesley's First Chapel'.

When we went in, a very nice lady told us the history of the chapel. She told us the box seating wasn't there originally, and many people came to services at 5.30am on their way to work. We were then guided to the coffee shop and museum. After having some refreshment, we went upstairs to the museum. This is in a new building behind the Chapel. You pay to go in the museum, but the ticket lasts a year. We spent about an hour and a half looking round everything and listening to the audio guide. I didn't realise Methodists were called Methodists, because people said they were methodical. I would recommend anyone visiting Bristol visit. It's near Marks and Spencer, and Primark. *Val Farley*

From the leaflet about the 'New Room':



John Wesley started preaching in the open air in Bristol and was asked to create a 'new room' where people who wanted to become better Christians could meet. The New Room operated a food bank, (there's nothing new under the sun!) ran a school, visited the prison, and operated a free dispensary. The methodical Methodists organised their time so they could regularly study the Bible, worship and help people.

Our Memorial Service was a celebration of the lives of people known to Church Members and supporters, some recently departed and others ever remembered. The Service combined the lighting of candles and placing remembrance roses into one of three vases on the Communion rail. The Service was respectful, but never sombre, and the three randomly filled vases looked as if they had been *carefully* arranged. Many members of the congregation were pleased to see the excellent display of photographs, which were a further reminder of our late friends. *Ernie & Marion*



Louisa Jun-Tai is marrying Alistair on 25th July at SMC at 4pm, followed by refreshments in the Link Room.

The main reception will take place later in a 'field in Dorking'. To help the celebrations, the Knit and Natter team knitted some hearts and turned them into a "Love Bunting". We had fun doing it and know that they reflect the heartfelt feelings of the happy couple. We are sure the bunting will look good and will make the celebrations as enjoyable as the young couple's life will be together.

The picture on the back cover shows the bunting knitted and put together by Val, some more hearts to be added, knitted by Gloria and Catherine, whilst Denise, Daphne, Joan, Rita and Pat look on admiringly.



Christian Aid 2019

Collection this year continued the pattern over past years – fewer collectors and fewer households willing to donate.

Christian Aid is aware of this trend and are reviewing house-to-house collections.

The number of SMC collectors has declined since I became collection organiser in 2000, from 25 then to 7 this year. The amount collected has fallen from £1214.42 in 2000 to £773.35 this year.

I wish to make a special thankyou to all my collectors but especially the six this year, who have assisted every year since 2000 (and probably some years before).

Christian Aid is a hard-working partnership of people, churches and local organisations committed to ending poverty worldwide. I have been glad to serve them, but after 20 years, I have decided to step down.

Jim Dunstone SMC Collections Organiser

Donations for Whitechapel and the Food Bank

Thank you for your continuing support of these two charities.

I thought a quick update on donating might be useful.

The Whitechapel trailer is only changed about once a year, so we need to be careful about the dates of our food donations. They should have a use-by date of at least 2020-21 and it is suggested that no cereals, biscuits, chocolates are bought until later in the year. When buying for Whitechapel please remember that their main focus is breakfast with just one lunch meal a week being prepared and that larger sizes are more useful to them.



In contrast, small or standard sizes are better for the food bank where we do have a lot of single people coming in. The Food Bank donations get used much more quickly but we do still need to check for a date of at least 2-3 months ahead. Any queries ask me. . _

Lesley Lee

Memorial Service for Edward Warren

I was blessed to attend Edward's Memorial Service this week (9th June), along with several other old friends from Stoneleigh. It was led by two of his sons, Michael (the Anglican Vicar) and David (the Pentecostal Minister), and three of his grandchildren sang 'I will Rise' by Chris Tomlin, a beautiful contribution. David gave such a tribute, talking about his loyalty and his integrity, and hoping that these attributes would be the ones that would pass down through the family to the next generations – Edward was very proud of all his descendants. Michael had been leafing through all Edward's old sermons, and found that the message much of the time was about love. He also passed on a comment from Ian Howarth, who will remember Edward as a man of faith and action. Edward did so much; working hard for scouts, and for the Care Scheme. Michael also told us of Edward's deep faith that Jesus died to forgive his failures, and rose again to give him eternal life. Edward was ready to meet his Saviour. Praise the Lord.

Vivienne Ridgway

And from Jeananne:

Bunny's Funeral was a wonderful celebration of his life, with people smiling, reminiscing, and also trying to recognise each other! He was so much part of our life here at Stoneleigh, but it was interesting to hear about his early life and working life. His sons, in their address, spoke movingly of his loyalty and his integrity-and the legacy of family he had left behind who would carry on those qualities. There were quite a few of us from SMC, and it was perfect to sit in the cool of Leatherhead Methodist Church remembering a lovely man.

From the News Sheets

May 19th

Wedding. Norma's daughter Louisa will be marrying Alistair on Thursday 25th July at 4:00pm. We hope you can join us in Church, and afterwards, for refreshments, in the Link Room *Norma*

May 26th

Christian Aid 2019. The sum of £773.35 was collected by the small SMC team this year. The total for 2018 was £1,022.59. *Jim*

June 16th

For our Local Arrangement Service on 23rd June Lesley will be joined by Jo Sherring from the Epsom & Ewell Refugee Network.

People - we were delighted when our friend Brian P asked to transfer his membership to SMC; Emma welcomed him officially at our Communion service on 12th May.

At Church Council on 3rd June we were pleased to welcome Gloria onto the Leadership Team; Tom has agreed to take over from Denise as Circuit Steward; Sally will replace Norma J as SMC's Churches Together in Ewell rep, and Brenda has come onto Church Council. We are grateful to all those standing down for their work over the years and to those who have offered to take on a new role in the Church.

Janet White. Ruxley Church said good-bye to Janet last Sunday as she is going to live near her daughter, in Nottingham. A big adventure for her and we all wish her well. This move caught us on the hop here at SMC as we were not really 'in the loop', but I am sure many of you would like to send Jan a card with your good wishes. Jan was a delight to be around and she contributed so much to church life, and was a wonderful pastoral friend to so many people. If you would like her address please ask me. *Jeananne*

What's on at Stoneleigh Methodist Church: unless otherwise specified, contact 020 8393 2155, or use our website contact form (stoneleighmethodist.church/contact)

Badminton - Monday morning 11am-12.30pm

Conquest Art - Monday afternoon contact 020 8393 4116.

Slimming - Monday evening contact 020 8224 1626 or
<https://www.slimwiththepinks.com>.

Keep Fit - Tuesday morning contact 020 8224 1626 or
<https://www.slimwiththepinks.com>.

Tuesday Fellowship –Term-time Tuesday pm 2:30-4:00pm.

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts - Tuesday evening

Knit & Natter - 2nd & 4th Wednesday 10 -12 noon

Ewell Court WI - 1st Wednesday afternoon of the month
. Contact 020 8393 3031.

Badminton - Wednesday afternoon 1.30-3.00pm
contact 020 8393 3725

Film Club - occasional Wednesdays evenings,
see posters]for more detail

Badminton - Wednesday evening 7:45-9:15pm
contact 020 8393 9779

Carers and Toddlers - Thursday morning 10am-11.30am.

Brownies & Guides - Thursday evening

Pilates - Thursday evening contact 07921 706597
or www.just-pilates.uk.com.

Table Tennis - Friday afternoon.

Rainbows - Friday afternoon

Age Concern Afternoon Tea - monthly 2nd Sunday 2.30 – 4.45pm
contact 01372 732456 <https://ageconcernepsom.org.uk>.

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



“Love Bunting” being created by our Knit and Natter Group for the celebrations at Louisa’s and Alastair’s wedding celebrations.

See story on page 10

Photo by Catherine

Photos from Detroit *See Catherine’s holiday story on p.4*



Catherine and Elliot

Elliot and Amy



The “New Room” in Bristol

See Val’s Story on Page 9

Picture from the ‘New Room’ website

