



LINK



STONELEIGH METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Revd. Emma Cusack Fd.A; DipHE

February – March 2020



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

What's on at Stoneleigh Methodist Church:

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

Sunday	Morning Worship	10:30-11:45
Monday	Zumba Gold	9:30-10:30
	Badminton	11:00-12:30
	Conquest Art	14:00-16:00
	Slimming	19:00-20:00
Tuesday	Keep Fit	10:00-11:00
	Tuesday Fellowship	14:30-16:00
	Beavers (T)	17:30-18:45
	Cubs (T)	18:30-20:00
	Scouts (T)	19:15-20:45
Wednesday	Knit & Natter (2nd & 4th in the month)	10:00-12:00
	Badminton	13:30-15:00
	Badminton	19:45-21:30
Thursday	Carers & Toddlers (T)	10:00-11:30
	Brownies (T)	17:00-18:45
	Pilates (2 classes)	18:00-20:30
	Guides (T)	19:15-21:00
Friday	Fitness class (T)	9:15-10:15
	Pilates	10:30-11:30
	Table Tennis	14:15-16:15
	Rainbows (T)	16:30-17:30

There are also fellowship groups meeting at homes in the area.

For further information contact 020 8393 2155, or use our website contact form
(stoneleighmethodist.church/contact)

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

Just inside our front door there is an information leaflet; please take a copy.

Minister's Pastoral letter

Dear friends,

The Christmas season has come to an end and our attention now is on the New Year – the beginning of a new decade – Praise the Lord!

Acknowledging the uncertainties and divisions which are increasingly prevalent within our world, the state and our communities; not the least to mention Brexit and what will happen from the 31st of January, we can only pray and believe that all will be well in Jesus our Saviour.

Often in the face of crises, the Church becomes a place of hope to many and the services of the church become vital within the community so my prayer is that we may be the kind of a Church that models unity and demonstrates love even in the face of disagreement, dwindling membership, incompatibility and in any way that we might express “fear” – Jesus said, “I am with you always to the end of the world”.

Once again we have recommitted our lives during our Covenant service to God's purposes and promise to serve Him. Paul's letter to the Romans encourages us to be transformed by the renewing of our mind, as our spiritual act of worship.

May the love of God fill our hearts; may his love flourish in all that we do this year, to the glory of his name!

With love and blessing,

Emma

Open church conversations during Service on 23rd February

This year, prior to our Annual Church Meeting, there is an opportunity for us as a church to have an open conversation on such subjects as; How can we continue to fulfil ministry in our church? and Do we have all the resources? Please save this date and make your voice heard.

Tributes to David Eagle

The celebration of David's life was on Monday 13th January following his cremation at North East Surrey crematorium.

Stoneleigh Methodist Church was packed. The family had asked Rev. Stuart Veitch to read the biography they had composed. Rev. Paul Timmis (Circuit Superintendent) was unable to be present so Rev. Stan Brown read his address.

Both readings were interspersed with interesting, entertaining recalled incidents of the readers' interactions with David. Both Sheila and Richard (his children) also spoke lovingly and entertainingly of his love of art, music, hymn writing, photography and the quality of his life in the church. Members of the congregation also gave thanks for the warmth of his welcome, his guidance and of his love for Hazel and of the ways in which she supported him in his many years as a Lay Reader, Liberal Party member and throughout their long journey through their marriage. He will be very much missed. *Helen*

Paul Burstow, Liberal MP for Sutton until 2015 when he left the political life, also spoke, recalling how both David and Hazel supported him and of how their religious convictions were carried through into their Liberal ideas. *ed*

Geetha and Gopal write

Though these days we are infrequent members of Stoneleigh Methodist's congregation we have very happy memories of the many years that we worshipped with you. David welcomed us warmly when we first joined SMC way back in the last century and he then helped us to grow in our Christian faith. His patient teaching and guidance pointed us in the right direction on our spiritual journeys.

We shall remember David as a knowledgeable and passionate preacher, a very committed and enthusiastic House Group and Alpha Course Leader, and as a loyal and personal friend.

We know that David has touched the lives of many other SMC members and he will be remembered as someone who has "made a difference". He will be sadly missed. *Geetha and Gopal*

Tom says

When I moved into the Stoneleigh area a few decades ago, I started going to Epsom Methodist, but one snowy winter evening, decided to walk round to Stoneleigh Methodist instead. After the service, David and Hazel made me feel so welcome that I thought,

“This where I should be” and I have been coming ever since. And so I have David and Hazel to thank for making feel so at home here, and am grateful for all the warmth and fellowship that I have enjoyed

Tom



Extracted from Paul Timmis' address

I am sorry that I am unable to be with you today. I wish I could be.....

I liked David very much and admired him greatly. I didn't know him as well as some of you, I know, but, over the past decade or so, I shared countless conversations with David via e-mail, over the phone, on car journeys to and from Local Preachers' Meetings and, of course, at church doors. David was never short of something to say.....

Here was a man who never ceased to be engaged with theology, with politics, with the world around us - a man constantly seeking to draw lines of connection between these things; a man whose enthusiasm and passion for life – and indeed for the gospel of Jesus Christ - remained undimmed. And that is a credit to him.....

David was recognised by the Wimbledon Circuit as a Fully Accredited Local Preacher in 1956 and duly served as such for 63 years.

As I've mentioned, I was never fortunate enough to be present in worship led by David, but other members of the Timmis Tribe

were. Amélie (14) and Matilda (12) speak of David with fondness recalling his enthusiasm and his desire to see others participate fully and, when singing ‘Sing Hosanna’, to do so with joy. They recall his tendency to pick this hymn regularly and suggest that if the line ‘Give me oil in my lamp’ is a prayer that is ever answered...they’re in line for a lifetime’s supply!

As I draw my own tribute to a close, I want to make reference to another special person. David would be the first to acknowledge the role that Hazel played in his life. His admiration of her was obvious to everyone. The only time I can remember David appearing “lost” was when Hazel was seriously ill some years ago.

Hazel, you were David’s inspiration and rock. As a Circuit, we are grateful to you for all that you are, of course, but also for enabling David to be the gift that he was to the life of the Methodist Church in this part of the world. We know that sometimes you took a backseat and sometimes David’s desire to lead engaging worship contributed to this. Rebecca and the girls will never forget one particular Sunday morning drive to Martin Way. Sitting at the lights at Stonecot Hill waiting to turn left, a car pulled up in the middle lane. Rebecca glanced to her right and did a doubletake at the adjacent vehicle. There at the wheel was David. Hazel had been relegated to the back. Sitting, strapped into the passenger seat was an enormous teddy bear – ready for an integral role in that morning’s service! Finally, Hazel, thank you for all the many hours that you have spent at church doors patiently waiting for David to draw a conversation to a close. And thank you for those times when, after a while you pulled David away recognising that the rest of us also had homes to go to!

My prayer today is that you, David and all your family and friends continue to know the holding. And the hand that holds. Amen.



From Word in Time Bible study - January 9th

Loving God, you call us to respond, to receive, and to let go, and invite us to trust your gospel call, your gospel way and your gospel life. Wherever life is full, joy is deep and grace abundant, or where these gifts are yet glimpsed and yearned for, help us to let go and to take up, to give and to receive and, in all our ventures and deliberations, to be inspired and guided by the dying and rising of your Son, our shepherd, Saviour and companion. Thus, may we come to rest in your eternal self-giving love, glimpsed in beauty, received in kindness, made known in fellowship with you and one another, enduring forever in our hills, valleys and dwelling places.

Amen.

James Tebbutt, Cumbria District Chair

We are sad to announce that our dear friend Joan Tolley passed away on Sunday 5th January.

Joan

Was one of the best mates anyone could possibly have. We had a lot of good times together over the years.

We both had the same sense of humour. We would catch each other's eye and start to laugh - VERY NAUGHTY of us.

We go back a very long time especially during our concert party times. (We belonged to two different ones) We did many years doing shows for charity, in care homes and hospital wards. She will be missed by everybody Everyone loved Joan.

Daphne



CONTACTS



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Leadership Team

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Jeananne

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Catherine

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020 8393 2155

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Help me to trust, Lord, that you
are always with me, no matter
how hard it is to believe.
Strengthen my faith and give
me hope.

*Amanda Bloor, p.25, New Daylight
- January - April 2020.*

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

Vivienne
vivienne@ridgworld.com

**Articles for inclusion in the next
LINK should be with Vivienne by
March 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

2 nd February	Holy Communion	Rev. Emma Cusack
9 th February	Morning Worship	Brenda Cannon
16 th February	Morning Worship	Viv Newitt
23 rd February	Morning Worship	Rev. Emma Cusack
1 st March	Details	of
8 th March	March	Services
15 th March	will be	Advised
22 nd March	(Mothering Sunday) in the	Weekly
29 th March	News	sheets

Rota Duties

	<u>Stewards</u>	<u>Welcome</u>	<u>Sound</u>	<u>Music</u>
2 nd February	Denise/Catherine	Brenda/Ken	Norma J	Vivienne
9 th February	Jeananne/Sally	Ruth/Christine	Colin	Pat P (H)
16 th February	Ernie/Norma A	Pat S	Colin	Pat P (H)
23 rd February	Lesley/Val	Doris/Jeff	Tom	Marion (H)
1 st March	Please	look	for	
8 th March	details	of	the	
15 th March	March	rota	in	
22 nd March	the	Weekly	News sheets	
29 th March				

Tuesday Fellowship

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

4 th February	Devotional
11 th February	Favourite Music – Denise
18 th February	Armchair Travelling with Colin
25 th February	Riding for the Disabled
3 rd March	Devotional
10 th March	Informal – t.b.a.
17 th March	FELLOWSHIP ANNIVERSARY
24 th March	Rev. Emma Cusack
31 st March	Wildlife Aid Foundation – Dr. Mike Berwick

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(A Women-Led, Global, Ecumenical Movement)

Rise, take your mat and walk

Women, men and children of all ages are called to 'Rise, take your mat and walk' to join this day of prayer. Women of Zimbabwe have prepared this year's service and they encourage us all to reflect on the difficulties and unrest that have plagued their country over many years.

They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future. They encourage us to 'Rise, take your mat and walk' with them as they continue their often turbulent journey towards full reconciliation.

World Day of Prayer is an international inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers.

The preparation for the day is vast. An international committee is based in New York and there are national committees in each participating country.

Regional conferences meet to consider the service and then local groups make their plans. Finally, at a church near you on Friday 6 March 2020, people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of Zimbabwe.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 170 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world --- through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas - before finishing in American Samoa more than 36 hours later.



For further information and resources, together with details of services in your area see the WDP website: wwdp.org.uk

There will be a fundraising Bring and Buy coffee morning for the World Day of Prayer, which will take place on Thursday 27th February between 9.00 and 12.00 noon at Ruxley Church. All are welcome and any contributions for the stall can be left in SMC vestibule over the next few weeks.

The World Day of Prayer service will be held on Friday 6th March at 2.00 pm at Stoneleigh Methodist Church, to which everyone is invited. Any donations of cakes or scones for the refreshments after the service would be much appreciated and can be left on the Link Room servery just prior to the service. With grateful thanks for any contributions of items for the stall or cakes



Pat P

Crib Service.

It was lovely to see so many families at the Crib Service. The format was very similar to last year, and was even more successful. The Service was introduced by Rev. Emma with a Welcome and Opening Prayers, and closed by her with a Blessing. The Nativity play was directed by Louise and the *rehearsed* parts were played by her own daughters and children who had volunteered - although, as usual, parts were found for any child (or adult) who expressed a wish to be involved on the day. The fun of all participating (and the pleasure of those watching the performance) once again shone through. So here is a huge thank you to Louise, and all those involved in the Nativity Play and of course, to the Rev. Emma.

Ernie Baker

Together at Christmas 2019

The Churches Together Christmas Day was very much enjoyed by those who would otherwise have been alone. A professionally-cooked Christmas dinner was provided and well received by all. Thereafter entertainment comprised a raffle (where every guest got a gift), a Christmas quiz and live music including a sing-along. Guests also received a welcome drink and a visit from the Mayor. On departure, everyone was full of praise for the event.

There is a lot of work needed in organizing this event and preparations were ongoing from October. We would like to say a big "Thank you" to all those who assisted at the event, provided transport or donated contributions/raffle prizes. This help is very much appreciated.

Sally

Tuesday Fellowship was fortunate to receive a visit from John and Dorothy Baxter early in January to tell us all about the school in Brusubi that they have sponsored since its beginning. The progress of the school is amazing and the account and the photos on the back cover tell the story:

AFRICAN CHILDREN'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL,
BRUSUBI, THE GAMBIA

Run by Revd. Richard Jackson and sponsored by Revd. John and Dorothy Baxter

We first met Revd. Richard Jackson during a holiday to The Gambia in 2001. He was renting property in Banjul, the capital. From there he ran a small, two-room nursery school and used a third room for his bedroom. Cooking was done in a lean-to in the yard. During the rainy season the water came up into the building bringing with it mosquitoes and malaria.

After his marriage to Mina and the birth of their second child, it became imperative that he should find somewhere more healthy and spacious to live. With our help, Richard purchased land away from Banjul and its mangrove swamps. In 2007 the foundations began in Brusubi for a two-storey building consisting of four rooms on each floor for classrooms and living accommodation, plus a kitchen and toilets. At that time, water was pumped up from a borehole within the compound, but is now piped in from the mains.

In 2008, on the completion of the ground floor, the family were able to move into one of the rooms in the new building and the first nursery classroom was opened. Soon more classes for children aged 6-7 years were opened.

The upper storey was completed in 2009 and the family moved upstairs. Electricity reached the property and is now connected to it by a meter, but power cuts are a daily occurrence.

To make the school viable and attractive for parents, more classrooms were necessary so that the children up to the age of 11 could be accommodated. In 2010, we started the final phase of the building, adding six more classrooms and now all are in use

We still need to pay the teachers' salaries every term. After that, exercise books, pens and pencils etc., are needed and can be bought locally. As a predominantly Muslim country, there is no government aid in The Gambia for Christian-run schools. The Schools Inspector visits regularly and always gives a good report.

Richard's vision, and ours, is for the school to be the best in Gambia."
Revd. John & Dorothy Baxter

God is working through these schools in Africa - what with Martine's Ntunungwe in Zambia and Emma's in Ghana and also Margaret's school in Uganda. And we are still supporting the Revd. Jeyapaul in India. Remember them all in your prayers



From the News Sheets

December:

Access to Room 1. You may notice a keypad has appeared next to the door under the arches nearest to Room 1. Following the November 2019 Church Council and in accordance with the advice of our insurers, the keypad was installed so that external groups could get to Room 1 without have to use the main Link Room door. The new system allows external group leaders to use a key fob to open the door from the outside without the risk of leaving the door unlocked. Once the group leader has arrived subsequent members can be let in by the leader – the door buzzer has been extended into Room 1 to allow any late arrival to announce their presence. This system is designed to meet the additional needs of external groups rather than Church members; the door still operates as a fire exit and certain members still hold keys to unlock the door for the duration of meetings such as Knit & Natter. There is also a feature which allows a 'one use' code to be issued to members in exceptional circumstances – just phone for advice. *Robin*

January

God in Love Unites Us –

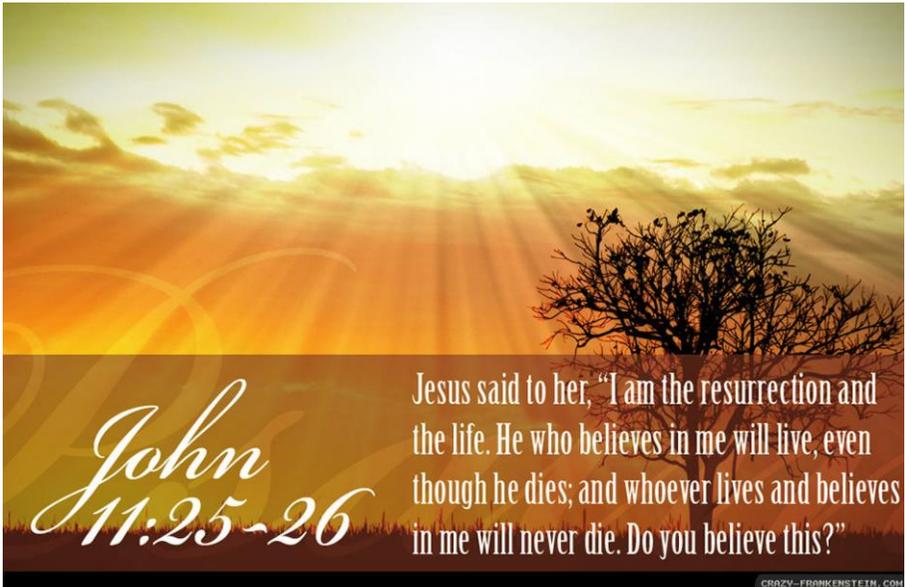
The Methodist Church “Marriage and Relationships Task Group 2019” has recently issued their report. Circuits are being asked to consider their findings in a prayerful and sensitive way.

At 1:00pm on Sunday 19th January 2020 our Circuit will gather at Stoneleigh Methodist to have lunch together and to consider the Report prayerfully. As we converse sensitively and respectfully with one another we will cover such subjects as ways of relating, relationships and sexuality. We will not be voting on anything. Please join us if you possibly can. To help with catering, please let the Rev. Emma know by Sunday 12th January if you are hoping to attend. Thank you.

Rev Paul Timmis

Christmas ‘Special’ Services. Using the familiar formats, our Carols by Candlelight and Crib Services were much appreciated by those present. We were once again grateful to those who prepared and deployed the candles, and to Louise who directed and co-ordinated the children on Christmas Eve. May these reminders of Christmas continue for the enjoyment of us all.

Action for Children. The total amount raised from the Christmas Collections was £127. My thanks to all who gave.; the money will help all the projects they support to help families cope when difficulties arise.
Jeananne



What a busy time we are heading into.....

VALENTINES DAY does anyone need to be informed of the date?

Then there is our Church Conversation on 23rd February

Following which, we all Leap About on the 29th!!!

Pancakes to look forward to on Shrove Tuesday 25th February

Followed immediately by Ash Wednesday and Lent

The World Day of Prayer are holding their Bring-and-Buy sale

at Ruxley Church 9am to 12 noon, on Thurs 27th February

World Day of Prayer event at SMC on March 6th 2.00 pm

Mothers' Day March 22nd

British Summer Time starts on March 29th

And Glorious EASTER - April 12th

AFRICAN CHILDREN'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, BRUSUBI, THE GAMBIA

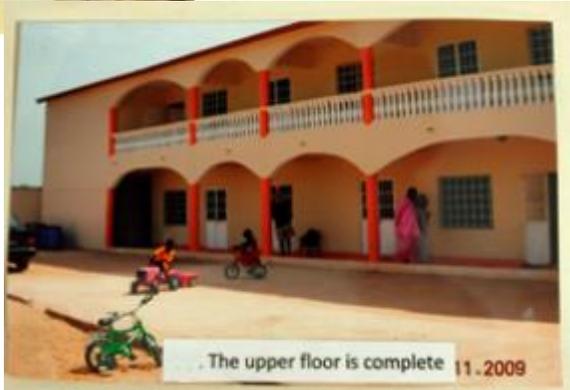
*See inside for information about
Brusubi School and its
development in the last 15*



Wooden props used as scaffolding



A gang of men are hired to mix concrete for the roof



The upper floor is complete 11. 2009