



Welcome to the 'virtual' Stoneleigh Methodist Church

Sunday 29th March 2020

10:30am: Morning Worship with Emma Cusack

Prayers

Please pray for Emma, our Local Preachers, and others within the Church and beyond.

Please pray also for those of our Church family who are unwell or finding their mobility limited, and consider whether they might welcome a call from friends. And pray for the family and friends of Joan Tolley as they come to terms with her loss.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

Notices

Joan Tolley. Our dear friend Joan Tolley's committal was on Tuesday (24th March). It was an extraordinary experience with only seven people present, and this number included myself and the organist. To think that this unprecedented circumstance could take over the celebration of the life of a woman who had spent most of her life in church and done so much, is unbelievable, yet I did my very best to officiate the service in an acceptable and comforting way. Let us continue to pray for all.

The order of service is reproduced later in this NewsSheet - hopefully the opportunity will come for us to celebrate Joan's life when the pandemic is over. God bless, *Emma*

Peter Poole Peter's funeral will be at the North East Surrey Crematorium (Morden), 11:20am on Friday 24th April. Details of any Thanksgiving Service will follow as they become available. *Lesley*

Christ Church with St Philip broadcast a live Service last Sunday on Facebook with Paul and Steph, attracting over 100 viewers. The video is still on their Facebook page if you want to see it, and we believe there will be another this Sunday at 10:00am.



Foodbank have announced: *we are here, we are open, but we are operating slightly differently. All food parcels are being pre-packed as much as possible, so do please let us know in advance which centre you are coming to, and how many people your voucher is for. You can call us on 07380 667995 or 07599 781128. We are unable to offer a cuppa/chat or one-to-one service at this time. Please be patient with us and our volunteers at this time.*

Church Centre Closure: Just to let you know that Methodist HQ have announced that all use of the Church Centre must cease as and from midday on Monday March 23rd. The message is clear - *"there should be no-one on the premises who doesn't need to be there"* (and as we are not offering essential social outreach on site, that's just me doing the weekly inspection required by our Insurers). So, please, do not enter the premises for the time being, even if you have a key - the gates have been locked to secure the Centre. *Robin*

Church Cleaning, due next Saturday, 4th April, is cancelled, and for the foreseeable future.
Robin

The Link will be out soon (probably next weekend), popping through your letterbox with an exciting clunk - or maybe left in your porch for discovery. The current issue is available on our website *stoneleighmethodist.church* now (click 'about' in the top menu on the home page.) The Link is not always displaying immediately or fully when it's selected, so you may have to click the issue date lower down on the left of the page.

If you normally deliver a few to others in your local streets Jeananne will have these copies; so please contact her to collect them or discuss alternatives. If you usually pick up your copy from Church, contact Jeananne and she will let you know where to collect from. *Vivienne*

Around the Trolley

A new section of the NewsSheet for less formal news and information exchanges.

I have received a number of positive comments about the revised News/Service sheet and the arrangements for distributing it. I am glad that it is appreciated, but of course I am only the 'mechanic' – the content and willingness to contribute and distribute comes from you, so please do contact Church friends directly, or through the NewsSheet, whilst we are forcibly isolated from each other. *Robin*

The Monday Group had a successful (considering it was a new venture for us all) 'on-line' fellowship meeting on Monday. If you have an iPad or computer tablet of any kind, and would like to meet with others for 40 minutes to discuss the prayer course, let Jeananne or myself (*vivienne@ridgworld.com*) know. It's very easy, and quite fun.

And it's a really inspiring course. *Vivienne*

Do you need/can you offer practical help? I've heard of a few people offering to collect shopping/prescriptions etc, and I know Jeananne has used our Pastoral groups to contact many within the Church Family. I'm also aware that Pat is keeping in touch with those in Tuesday Fellowship directly too. Feel free to contact either if you need anything, or are able to collect on behalf of others. Age Concern Epsom & Ewell are also coordinating help across the Borough if you have no-one close to you. *Robin*

In case you missed it . . .

During the present Coronavirus situation we will not be worshipping at Church, but we will continue to issue a weekly NewsSheet each Sunday, and we will encourage the planned preacher to create the weekly service. The combined sheet will be circulated to members either by email (to those who currently receive the NewsSheet by email), or through your letter box if we possibly can. It will also be posted onto the SMC website in the normal way. If you'd like to be added to our email circulation list, or know someone who might appreciate this, just let me know. We will do our best to ensure all members are kept 'in the loop' - *Robin*

Christian Bookshop. With the closure of CLC in Tolworth and the Dovecote at Epsom Methodist Church, our closest Christian Bookshop is the newly opened 'The King's Storeroom', part of Kingston URC on Eden Street, behind Eden Walk. Why not pop in and browse if you are out that way. Poster on our board. *Robin*

Jobbing Gardener – are you looking for a reliable, mature person to do odd jobs, tidying up etc, in your garden at a reasonable price. Contact me and I can put you in touch with someone I have known for years. *Denise*

Help – do you have any unwanted CDs? I'd love to have them. *Denise*

Contact Details

Postal Address: 1 Stoneleigh Crescent, Stoneleigh, Epsom KT19 0RT

Contact: Jeananne (07729 028850) - contact@stoneleighmethodist.church

Minister: 020 8393 2322, emmacusack121019@yahoo.com, or Skype is available by arrangement

All items for future NewsSheets –please email to news@stoneleighmethodist.church if you can, from where they will be automatically redirected to those compiling the next edition; alternatively, pass to Denise or Robin, or drop into the Church letter box under the arches by room 1. We will make every effort to get late entries published.



Joan Tolley

5th July 1922 - 5th January 2020

COMMITTAL

at Kingston Crematorium

Tuesday 24th March 2020

at 11.40 am

their course in faith and now rest from their labour. We praise you for those dear to us whom we name in our hearts before you. We especially praise you for Joan, whom you have graciously received into your presence.

Amen

SCRIPTURE READING - Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not want. ²He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. ³He restores my soul;

He leads me in the paths of righteousness

For His name's sake. ⁴Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

CREMATORIUM

Order of Service

PROCESSIONAL MUSIC

Air on the G-String - J. S. Bach

WELCOME & PRAYERS

Revd. Emma Cusack

Our loving and eternal God, the One who knows our heart and from whom no secrets are hidden. We come before you with all the sorrow and pain that is in our hearts today. For we have loved Joan and we will miss her. We bring our grief, our sense of loss before you. We also come before you with a sense of hope and expectation.

“Eternal God, we praise you for the great company of all those who have finished

I will fear no evil; For You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint
my head with oil; My cup runs over. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall
follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD
Forever.

TRIBUTE

Read by Revd Emma Cusack

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

MUSIC - Pie Jesu - Faure

COMMENDATION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;
thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass
against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For
thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

COMMITTAL

PRAYER and BLESSING

Compassionate God, we entrust into your care Joan.

We pray that your knowledge of your love and mercy would bring comfort
to those who grieve for her as we think of the family - Maureen and Bryan,
grandchildren, great grandchild, the extended families and friends

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered; accept our prayers on behalf of
your servant Joan; grant her an entrance into the land of light and joy;
into the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
Amen

God, grant to the living, grace;

To the departed, rest,

To the world, peace

And to us and all the faithful life everlasting.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the son and the Holy Spirit,
be with us now and for ever. Amen

RECESSIONAL MUSIC

“Moon River” sung by Andy Williams

Today's Service

Call to Worship

Come and worship the resurrection God,
the Lord of all creation,
who is always present, no matter what.
Worship him today in spirit and in truth.

Hymn StF 338

1 There is a Redeemer,
Jesus, God's own Son,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Holy One.

*Thank you, O my Father,
for giving us your Son,
and leaving your Spirit
till the work on earth is done.*

2 Jesus my Redeemer,
name above all names,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
O for sinners slain.

3 When I stand in glory
I will see his face,
and there I'll serve my King for ever
in that holy place.

vv. 1–2 Melody Green (b. 1946), v. 3 Keith Green (1953–1982) ©Ears to Hear Music CCL 19650

A Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for your constant presence.
Thank you for holding us and comforting us.
Thank you for crying with us when we are hurting.
Thank you for weeping with us when we are broken-hearted.
Thank you, Lord, that you never let us down,
that you always give us hope.
God of new life,
we give you thanks and praise today. Amen.

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Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

The Valley of Dry Bones

The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?”

I said, “Sovereign Lord, you alone know.”

Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.’”

So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ Therefore prophecy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.’”

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for each of our brothers and sisters, we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. Amen.

Reflection - Can these dry bones live again?

The description of the dry bones in the valley shows that they were very dry bones. Ezekiel was challenged with the question can these bones live again and his response was you alone know. His faith was challenged and it brought out action. “Prophecy words of life into them – then you will know that I am the Lord” Ezekiel obeyed and

did exactly as the Lord wanted him to do. Verse 14 says, “then you my people will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them, I will put my spirit in you and you will live and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken and I have done it.

Somehow the words of these scripture may bring us comfort and strength as it seems as though we are in the valley or our current situation reflects the dry bones of hopelessness. The power of the spoken words and action can bring new life to us all.

Personal Prayers of intercession

The Lord’s Prayer

As our Saviour taught his disciples, we pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;
thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn StF 345

- 1 And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Saviour’s blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain?
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
- 2 ‘Tis mystery all: the Immortal dies!
Who can explore his strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
to sound the depths of love divine.
‘Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
let angel minds enquire no more.
- 3 He left his Father’s throne above —
so free, so infinite his grace —

emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
for, O my God, it found out me!

4 Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in sin and nature's night;
thine eye diffused a quickening ray —
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light,
my chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

5 No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

Dismissal

We go now to live as followers of Christ,
as people of compassion,
as those who seek to serve and heal the world.
And now may God's presence,
God's love, and God's favour go with us, and remain with us always. Amen.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you. And also with you.