

STONELEIGH METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Revd. Emma Cusack Fd.A; DipHE



LINK

April – May 2020



Stoneleigh Crescent, Stoneleigh,
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www.stoneleighmethodist.church



World Day of Prayer

See Catherine's piece



The Mayor was there!



Minister's Pastoral letter

Dear friends,

You would agree with me that the last couple of weeks have been so intense with communications about the coronavirus. My heart sincerely goes out to those who have tested positive and their families and I sincerely pray for all who live in fear of the unknown. Our great comfort from scripture which I would like to quote (Deuteronomy 31:8)

“The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you;

He will never leave you nor forsake you.

Do not be discouraged”.

My plea also is that we all do our very best to follow the guidelines given and trust that all will be well.

This season of Lent most of us have been following the prayer course and have found it very edifying; some have taken on the challenge of reading a gospel throughout Lent and again find that discipline very good. I pray that it may continue and become a “relational and not transitional practise as we keep it simple, real and keep it up”. May the re-visitation of the stories from scripture this Easter become a means of grace to us and an encounter that reveals the unique gift of salvation to us all.



This is my last quarter before I go off on sabbatical and I must say that I am looking forward to it because I do not know what to expect, except to envisage that it would be a wonderful experience and I can't wait to share my experiences with everyone on my return.

On a final note, let us continue to make space to listen, hear and respect each other even if we have a different point of view and appreciate each other's contribution to God's work.

Every blessing,

Emma

Change of name

Bill, Emma and Nana are pleased to share that Nana's Deed Poll has come through and his new legal name with immediate effect is MILES CUSACK.

'Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk' John 5:2-9a

World Day of Prayer, hosted by SMC, was put together by the women of Zimbabwe, it was a truly lovely service, based on Christ's words. Dorothy



Baxter our local organiser again produced an enjoyable and memorable afternoon. Judy Quaife was an excellent leader, with every word clear and distinct. The Mayor and Mayoress of Epsom and Ewell attended and stayed on to enjoy the refreshments and social side. The lovely cakes, scones and biscuits were provided by members of SMC.

The service included many individuals, not just from SMC but from other churches in Ewell. Emmaus provided the music. Grace, from St Johns, sang a special song from Zimbabwe, accompanying herself on the piano. It was a lovely and accomplished performance.

SMC helped make 'sisal' plaits as a symbol of the service and commitments of prayer and action made in the worship. They were handed out as people left, as were invitations to a follow-up meeting on 20th March at Ruxley.

The Bring and Buy sale at Ruxley Church and also after the WDP service brought in funds of £132.30, though the offering amount is still to be announced. The money will go to the 'Project Grants' and others listed in the back of the service booklet.

Catherine

Joan Tolley

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

A great hole has been left in our church family with the passing of Joan. She was always so supportive and whatever was happening, we knew that a staunch prayer warrior was at our backs. We will miss her *Vivienne*

The memorial service for Joan has had to be postponed.

Ruxley Church Anniversary with Jongikaya Khasa

Stoneleigh Methodist Church were invited to join Ruxley for their church anniversary in January, and we were truly blessed by the ministry of Jongikaya. He was a such a thoughtful gentle man, and we could tell he was a mighty man of God. Of course, there were a lot of inspiring things in his sermon and it would be far too long to tell them all. The article following is his summary of ways to cultivate joy. But as I'm writing this, I can share one of the things I took home with me, which is that we should attend church expecting to be changed. We cannot enter God's presence to worship Him without laying ourselves open to the working of His Spirit. *Vivienne*



Jongikaya (London District Chair) ended his talk at Ruxley with these remarks:

Our knowledge of God, worship of God and service that honours God; though challenging at the best of times, must be from a joyful place and not just a sense of duty. We must want to have more joy in our day. We Can Cultivate it! True Joy springs from viewing our day's events from 'eternity's perspective'. We have to work intentionally and focus in proactive ways so as the joy we have within us can be shared consistently with gentleness and respect (c.f. 1 Peter 3:15-16).



1. **Rehearse with God the reasons you trust Him.**

Tell Him which of His attributes is your favourite right now. Read the praises of Scripture back to Him — begin with Psalms 103:1. Join with another believer in prayers of thanksgiving and delight yourself in God's character.

2. **Keep a "joy journal"**. Record the reasons you have to rejoice and the reminders of God's faithfulness that you encounter in your everyday life. In addition, why not press a leaf from your prayer walks into its pages or include a photo of a person that brings you joy each time you remember him or her? *You may want to expand your journal into a "joy box" or a "joy drawer" that brings a smile to your face each time you open it.*

3. Surround yourself with joyful people. Joy is contagious — so build relationships with friends whose lives exhibit their joy, contentment and confidence in God. Pray for each other that your joy in Christ would continue to increase.

4. Approach life's challenges and trials in hope redemptively. God doesn't waste the difficult circumstances of your life but uses them to develop His character in you. Review Romans 5:1 and James 1:1 for help in processing pressure productively. Joy will sneak up on you when you view your hardest lessons as gifts from God.

5. Make praising God [& self-praise and gratitude] a habit. Has God met a need? Praise Him! Have your challenges given you greater opportunities to see God at work? Thank Him! Joy flows from a grateful and responsive heart. Before you sleep at night, write down three to five blessings in your "*joy journal*." Make it a habit, and watch your joyful attitude grow.

6. Fill your mind [& life] with music. Listen to, sing, and meditate on music that draws your heart nearer to God and His Word. Learn a new song or start listening to new genres of music whilst avoiding music that returns you to thoughts of people you'd rather move on from.



7. Take the long view. Investors advise their clients not to worry about the daily ups and downs of the stock market — what matters is the long view. Does life present incredible challenges today? Are your reserves at a low, or are you enjoying a content plateau? Regardless of today's events, take the long view. Remember that God remains in charge of your days and will faithfully develop His character in you. Don't forget that joy springs from viewing the day's events from eternity's perspective. Trust that God controls your life's details (Romans 8:28), that He hears your every request (Psalms 116:1), and that His joy will be your strength (Nehemiah 8:10).

Jongikaya Khasa

Lord your church wants to follow your calling
but we don't always hear your voice
Or understand what you want us to do.
Help us to respond to your call
and bless us with unity, energy and resources
to implement your vision for the community.
Give us the faith and courage
to step out and follow your call in Jesus' name. *Amen*

Melissa Kane, worship leader, Kilsyth Methodist Church, Strathclyde Circuit

Adapted by Jeananne as a Lectern Prayer

Lord I have heard the good news that you accept and love all people,
including me. Grant that whatever I do this day I will be responding to this
love with a humble and thankful heart.

Amen

*Gwenllian Knighton, supernumerary minister. Gwent Hills and Vales Circuit (the wife of one of our
previous ministers!)*



God of mercy and love let us serve you in our world

We pray for desert people, who live in a dry, parched land
who lack water who travel constantly so that they might live.

Give them living water.

Let the deserts bloom into flower.

We pray that those who work on climate change
may find solutions so that the erosion of soil may be halted or reversed.

We pray that water and other vital supplies might not be used as a weapon
of war in countries where resources are scarce

Amen

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/lent-and-easter/prayers-for-lent-and-easter/>

CONTACTS



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Grant us, O Lord, the will to
accomplish all that pleases you; the
strength to do all that you command
and the reverence to respect all that
you have made; for your own name's
sake. *Amen.*

Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

Word in time 20/2/2020

**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 May 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 (planned in case we can worship together)

5 th April	Palm Sunday	Brenda Cannon
10 th April	Good Friday	Revd. Emma Cusack
12 th April	Easter Sunday/ Communion	Revd. Emma Cusack
19 th April	Morning Worship	Deacon Dawn Canham
26 th April	Morning Worship	Richard Graham
3 rd May	Morning Worship followed by ACM	Revd. Emma Cusack
10 th May	Morning Worship	Revd. Paul Timmis
17 th May	Morning Worship	Valerie Ashcroft
24 th May	Morning Worship	Tony Loft
31 st May	MHA Sunday/ Communion	Revd. Emma Cusack

Rotas

	<u>Stewards</u>	<u>Welcome</u>	<u>Sound/Proj</u>	<u>Music</u>
5 th April	Jeananne/Jim	Pat S	Robin	Vivienne
10 th April	Marion/Ernie	Catherine	Denise	Emma (CD)
12 th April	Lesley/Debbie	Denise	Tom	Vivienne
19 th April	Jeananne/Sally	Ruth/Christine	Robin	Vivienne
26 th April	Lesley/Val	Doris/Jeff	Norma J	Vivienne
3 rd May	Marion/Ernie	Brenda/Ken	Tom	Marion (H)
10 th May	Denise/Jim/Barbara	Ruth/Christine	Colin	Pat P (H)
17 th May	Jeananne/Norma A	Doris/Jeff	Catherine	Vivienne
24 th May	Lesley/Debbie	Pat S	Denise	Vivienne
31 st May	Jeananne/Jim/Barbara	Brenda/Ken	Norma J	Marion (H)

Tuesday Fellowship

Visitors are always welcome to Fellowship. Do come along – there's always time for a cup of tea and a chat after the formal part of the meeting!

Please check our website, or ask your contacts to find out when meetings restart after the coronavirus shut-down

7 th April	Revd. Paul Timmis
14 th April	NO MEETING
21 st April	Ruxley Fellowship Anniversary – NO MEETING AT S.M.C.
28 th April	Sally Nilsen – About Titanic
5 th May	A.G.M.
12 th May	Armchair Travelling with Colin
19 th May	Revd. Emma Cusack
26 th May	Judy Hill – Victorian Pharmacy

Introduction to the 3rd Order of St Francis; TSSF

Gopal attended a recent Tuesday Fellowship meeting and introduced those present to St. Julian, an anchoress from the Middle Ages who, for much of her life, lived a life of prayer and contemplation in permanent seclusion in a cell attached to a Church in Norwich. Jeananne and I often attend the monthly Julian meetings held at St Mary's Church in Ewell during which we engage in contemplative prayer and meditation.

St Francis of Assisi is renowned for his love, simplicity, and practice of poverty. He lived in the 13th Century and was the son of a very wealthy Cloth Merchant. When he was young, he was an ambitious man whose aim was to succeed in his army career! However, he was wounded and when ill he went to church and saw Christ on the San Damiano Cross speak to him saying



‘Build my Church’. At first, he took it to mean that he should physically re-build the churches but soon realised he was meant bring others to Christ by living a life as Christ did.

He sacrificed a comfortable life-style and lived his life as a hermit. Others joined him and as time passed, more and more wanted to join his way of life. So with the Pope's permission he started the Franciscan order. Today there is a “First Order of St. Francis” which consists of men and women who live in a community under a Franciscan Rule based on the traditional vows of

poverty, chastity and obedience. The second order was started for nuns, and they became known as the Poor Clares. Later, when St Francis visited Cannara, - a small village near Assisi - his words and work charmed many and the response was overwhelming – both by people and even birds and animals. Many wanted to join him and his community but he saw it was not practical for them to abandon their families and join an order which was celibate.

St. Francis therefore founded a third way, the 3rd Order of St Francis** – TSSF.

Geetha

The 3rd Order of St Francis – (TSSF).



Members of TSSF “profess”, i.e. promise, to live out the Gospel according to the example of Francis.

The Aims of the Order are:

To make our Lord Jesus Christ known and loved everywhere

To spread the spirit of love and harmony

To live simply

I belong to TSSF. I have made a commitment to follow a God-centred Rule of Life whilst living in my own home and serving within the community (and interacting with my five grandchildren!).

I have been asked to share with my friends at SMC my thoughts on how TSSF impacts on my daily life and my spiritual engagement.

The three ways of Service we promise are:–

***Prayer** - Aim to live in an atmosphere of praise and prayer, aiming to be constantly aware of God’s presence.

***Study** - priority is given to studying the scriptures and applying Christian principles in our daily living.

***Work** - by understanding what God wants us to do and finding ways of fulfilling the three aims of the Order in our work and lives.

We, the members of TSSF, are known as Tertiaries and we desire to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ whom we serve through prayer, study and work after the example of St Francis and St Clare. We live by the Personal Rule of Life which we decide ourselves in association with our mentor. We review this annually before we remake our promise every year. In summary we need to practice love, humility and joy. Needless to say, I don’t always succeed! - But I am trying.

I have no doubt that becoming a Tertiary has been a wonderful life-changing experience and a major burst forward in my spiritual journey; and moreover, I have found much peace in my previously stress-filled life.

Geetha

A New Experience - Gloria Davis

It was not until the middle of January this year I learned that our son's partner was the wardrobe mistress of Churt Amateur Dramatic Society in her spare time. Each year they put on a pantomime from January 6th to February 8th. This year the pantomime was Rapunzel.

Anneliese phoned me with a request, could I possibly make a dress for the leading actor, who was playing Hetty Hairspray the panto dame. He had purchased a new red wig and wanted a vivid coloured dress to match it. Needless to say, I said I would help. I made a calico pattern for the bodice, which Anneliese fitted on him, I worked out the yardage and then made the dress.

On February 8th I was invited, together with Scarlet, our granddaughter, to see the last performance, which was great fun. After the show we were introduced to the cast.

Gloria

See the photo of the finished product on the back cover!



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- we

Discussing with a friend the other day (2ND September 2018) about her number illiteracy wondered if there was a name for it!

Guess what! There is! Dyscalculia.

ˈdɪskæl'kju:lɪə/ is “**difficulty** in **learning** or comprehending arithmetic, such as **difficulty** in understanding numbers, **learning** how to manipulate

numbers, and **learning** facts in **mathematics**. It is generally seen as the **mathematical** equivalent to dyslexia.



Calling all Keen Gardeners

News

The Bible Society is working with garden designer Sarah Eberle to exhibit a garden at Chelsea Flower Show this year, inspired by Psalm 23. There is a website at psalm23garden.co.uk.

Latest News from Ntunungwe

We still get occasional news from Ntunungwe school. Gill Dudman visited the UK last year and met with many of the school's supporters, giving presentations and raising funds. As a result, the school now has a new water tank. (*see photo on the back cover*) They are praying for plentiful rain to fill it. The area had very little rain last summer, and many crops are in short supply. Gill is very grateful for the support of Benfleet in providing their ePap porridge.

The school is also hoping to be able to erect a solar panel to supply some light in the evenings, so that the teachers can prepare lessons and charge their telephones to communicate with their families.

Very sadly, one of the school's best teachers, Mr Moyo, died in a tragic accident whilst refereeing a soccer match. He leaves a wife and two young children. Please pray for his family, and for the children he taught, and the community he served, that they will be comforted and come to terms with this tragedy in their midst.

Salt and Light.

Matthew 5:13a, You are the salt of the earth.

Brenda Cannon preached on the subject of salt and light one Sunday in February. She reminded us that two of the uses of salt were to keep things good, and to assist in healing.

Salt is used in preserving food – to keep out corruption. So, too, in our daily lives, we can work to stop the spread of evil.

Salt is also used in cleansing wounds – do we remember the sting of salt water on grazed knees. Through us, Jesus can bring healing in damaged friendships.

Brenda also talked about solar powered lights – they only give out light at night if they have been in light during the day. We too need to stay in the presence of Jesus to reflect His light in our world.

Peter Poole We were sad to hear the news that Peter died on 8th March following a long illness, I'm sure we will all remember Peter with fondness. There are no details yet about the date of the funeral. *Lesley*

From the News Sheets

February:

From Stan Shepherd – I am very grateful for my copy of 'The Link' each month; it is the best way for me to keep in touch with SMC and all the people I used to meet every Sunday. That is why it is sad to read – every issue – at least one sad obituary – and this month there were two – David and Joan T. I shall have my 100th birthday in June (hopefully), but my long life means that I read the obituaries of my 'younger' old friends which I find very sad. So, I am taking this opportunity to let you all know that I would seriously miss receiving The Link, and not having news of my 'old' friends at SMC. Thanks again – *Stan*

Charities' Nominations 2020 for our giving as a church:

Members are invited to propose a local charity to the Annual Church Meeting. Let duty stewards know – in writing - your name, the name of the charity, the charity's registration number and a brief description of what the charity does, and how the grant donation will enhance the work of the charity. Alternatively, you can email the information to Emma – not more than 200 words please. Nominations by Sunday 19th April at the latest. The Leadership Team will shortlist to a maximum of 6 charities and have them ready to be voted on to choose two (2) charities at the Annual Church Meeting which is scheduled for Sunday 3rd May. Please note that new suggestions made at the Annual Church Meeting will not be included for voting. The total amount available is £350. *Emma*

March:

World Day of Prayer. "Thank you so much to everyone for a lovely afternoon, everyone worked so hard, and it seemed to go well. There were 61 attendees and the takings for the Bring and Buy were increased from about £76 to £92.30, which will be added to £40 from the tea and coffee. Do have a lovely weekend everyone, and thanks again. God bless" *Judy Q*

In light of the current shut-down, all regular activities have stopped.

Monday evening Bible Study is continuing to meet on-line, and other similar groups may start up. All you will need is a tablet, iPad or computer with camera and microphone.

Email Jeananne jeanne.holtorp@btinternet.com
or Vivienne vivienne@ridgworld.com if you would like to join such a group.

Our experience on Monday showed that the first meeting may be a bit confused, but we soon learnt how to use the time, and we all look forward to our next meeting.

Please let us know of any other initiatives that are going on.

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





Let's not forget the flooding over the winter, affecting so many. This was Ernie and Marion's daughter Jackie's road to work in the middle of the flooding in February, the river Avon near Bradford-on-Avon



Good news from the school Martine supports in Zimbabwe! The new water tank has arrived. The grade seven boys helped unload it under the supervision of the Deputy Head, Mr.Ndlovu

Gloria has been making panto costumes:
see her piece
inside

