



Welcome to the 'virtual' Stoneleigh Methodist Church

Sunday 5th April 2020

10:30am: Palm Sunday with the Rev 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.

"Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become 'fools' so that you may become wise." 1 Corinthians 3:18

Notices

Peter Poole Peter's funeral will be at the North East Surrey Crematorium (Morden), 11:20am on Friday 24th April. Family only, and the planned lunch afterwards has been cancelled. *Lesley*

Joan Tolley Emma received this from Maureen, Joan's daughter.

Dear Emma, I just wanted to thank you again for taking Mum's Cremation Service on Tuesday. Firstly, thank you for leading the Service with dignity and sensitivity. Thank you also for your guidance and input before the service, and especially for providing the template for the Order of Service. Finally thank you for your reassurances throughout the whole of this process which, because of the current circumstances, was so trying.

Although I found it difficult to hold back my emotions during the service, when the curtains finally closed I felt a real sense of a weight being lifted and a rush of wellbeing.

So, many thanks Emma, and I look forward to meeting up again later in the year to plan a service of thanksgiving. Keep safe and well, best - Maureen

The Link will be out this 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.) *Vivienne*

If you normally deliver a few Links to others in your local streets, Jeananne will probably already have delivered them to you – thanks for passing them on. Jim has posted those Links usually sent direct that way.

If you usually pick up your copy from Church, contact Robin/Denise (020 8393 2155) to collect from their porch at 198 Stoneleigh Park Road, or to arrange delivery next week if you have this NewsSheet hand delivered.

Weekly News/Service sheet. During the present Coronavirus pandemic we cannot worship at Church, but we will continue to issue a weekly NewsSheet each Sunday, and Emma will prepare the weekly service for us.

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. Jeananne and I will do our very best to ensure all members are kept 'in the loop' - *Robin*

Christ Church & St Philip Church in Worcester Park are continuing their live streaming of a service each Sunday at 10:00am, with Paul and Steph taking turns in broadcasting from their own homes. This is only on [facebook.com/christchurchsaintphilip](https://www.facebook.com/christchurchsaintphilip), so you will need to be signed up to Facebook; it is not on their own Church website.

HOPE 2020 has been cancelled (28th June 2020).

Around the Trolley

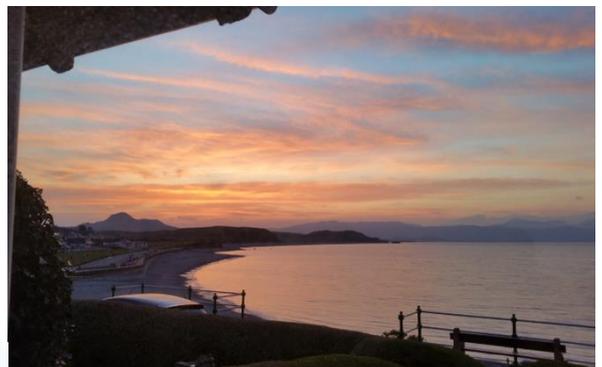
A new section of the NewsSheet for less formal news and information exchanges.

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. All contributions gratefully received. *Robin*

The Monday Group had a successful (considering it was a new venture for us all) 'on-line' fellowship meeting on Monday (23rd March.) 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*

Give thanks with a grateful heart. We returned last week from Criccieth, North Wales; earlier than expected, but the few days we had were worth the trip. You will see the sunrise from our conservatory and the amazing views of Cardigan Bay that we had, (I didn't take the picture, I don't do sunrise!) We met my brother and his partner there with their dog Harry, and we were just happy sitting reading



in the sunny conservatory, walking Harry and relaxing. Harry loved the beach and swimming in the freezing water; rather him than me!

Steve and I did take a drive around the area; to look over at Bardsey Island where, for the birdwatchers



amongst you, we saw 'Choughs', and a drive into the National Park (no walking) - the scenery is hard to beat anywhere in the world.

The weather was wonderful, sunny and warm and it was so peaceful. We were self-contained and self-catering, and everyone we saw out was keeping their 2metres apart but, by Wednesday, we were all feeling that we should head home as restrictions were getting tighter. I'm very grateful for the break and the sunshine.

Last time we were in that area it rained...and rained...and rained. *Lesley*

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*

Live Streaming I understand that Pat & Colin joined a Service in Ireland last weekend over the Internet – if only I could get a Tesco delivery as easily! *Robin*

LATEST – *managed to get a slot in 3 week's time with Tesco by phoning just after midnight. Oddly I had the choice of any slot on that day!*

Another different way of looking at things – *“this was my church at 10.30 on Sunday, strange times indeed!” Jo B*



From the Estate - in these days of self-isolation I've ventured a few times a week to put out rubbish and recycling. Each time I have seen 'Surface' people walking and talking to each other. They look, dress and talk like us and, but for the fact that they always wave and smile at everyone, (and, of course, the exclusion zone around them) they could easily be mistaken for earthlings. Has this been your experience? *Ernie*

Amanda, our daughter, told me this morning that she had put a note on her bin thanking the refuse collectors for their work at a difficult time. As she watched from her window, she saw the bin collected and the note taken off. Thinking it had been thrown, she was surprised to see that it had now appeared on the window of the bin lorry – she has the picture to prove it! Times they are a'changing -*Robin (with acknowledgement to Bob Dylan)*

And lastly, submitted by Pat P

In Times of Pandemic

And the people stayed HOME. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been HEALED. Kitty O'Meara, 2020

In case you missed it . . .

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.

Hopefully the opportunity will come for us to celebrate Joan's life when the pandemic is over. God bless, *Emma*



Joan Tolley

5th July 1922 - 5th January 2020

COMMITTAL
at Kingston Crematorium
Tuesday 24th March 2020
at 11.40 am

Church Centre Closure Just to let you know that Methodist HQ have announced that all use of the Church Centre must cease until further notice. 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 the Methodist Church and 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*

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.*

Help – do you have any unwanted CDs? I’d love to have them – leave them in my porch at 198 if you’re passing, or let me know and I can exercise past your house. *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. The Minister’s Rest Day is Friday.

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.

Today's Service

5th April 2020



Dear friends, we continue to be isolated at home, but united in the spirit, so let us join in to hail Jesus as our King. In spirit we walk with him; we enter Jerusalem with him, shouting and waving Hosanna to the Son of David.

Call to Worship

Rejoice greatly, Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your King comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of donkey". (*Zechariah 9:9*)

Use your palm cross from a previous year if you have it, a branch from your garden, handkerchief etc as a reflective symbol for this special Sunday, and sing or read the opening hymn.



Hymn StF - 263

- 1 Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!
Lord, we lift up your name, with hearts full of praise;
be exalted, O Lord, my God!
Hosanna in the highest!

- 2 Glory, glory, glory to the King of kings!
Glory, glory, glory to the King of kings!
Lord, we lift up your name, with hearts full of praise;
be exalted, O Lord, my God!
Glory to the King of kings!

Carl Tuttle (b. 1953) ©1985 Shadow Spring Music CCL 19650

Prayer

Lord God, let us approach with shouts of praise:
hosanna in the highest!
Let us draw close to you
on this day that caused disturbance and disruption.
Let us approach the throne
of the one who came as a humble servant,
who came to set us free, to change things for ever.
Hosanna to the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Amen.

Reading – Matthew 21:1-11 - Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

⁴ This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet:

⁵ “Say to Daughter Zion,
‘See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰ When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?” ¹¹ The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.” (NIV)

Reflection – “The Lord needs them”! (verse 3)

The passage takes us back once again to historic event in Jesus time where people from far and near were coming into Jerusalem for the Passover which was the great feast to remember and celebrate the nation’s deliverance from Egypt.

The beginning of the passage sets the scene – before they got to Jerusalem, Jesus and his disciples came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives and at this point we encounter Jesus as the omniscient – the all knowing who sends two disciples to the village with explicit instruction of what to expect.

We also from the passage encounter Jesus as the mediator – “if anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them...”

Not only are we reminded of this statement from scripture, we have heard this from the chief medical officer when appealing to retired and former medical staff for their help in support of the NHS as we battle the Covid-19 pandemic. “The NHS needs you; we need you and Jesus says above their tone – The Lord needs you.

This is also a statement of invitation to all who may be spiritually lost and in search of the saviour; a statement of welcome to all – The Lord needs you. I believe the reality of this statement has become evident within our neighbourhood, as friends and family, offering ourselves to be of help to those who are in need; for example the grocery and medical shopping, phoning and availing ourselves where there is a need.

We are surrounded by many and lovely acts of kindness, these generous deeds reflect life of the Kingdom and we are challenged to do so always.

We, like the crowd that went ahead and those who followed Jesus are crying out hosanna which means Lord save us. Jesus, Hosanna, Saviour, save us. Amen.

Time of Prayer - *Take a time to sit quietly*

We stand with Christ in his suffering.

For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus, let us pray to the Lord,
Lord, have mercy

For Christian people, that through suffering of disunity there may grow a rich union in Christ, Let us pray to the Lord,
Lord, have mercy

For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them, that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord,
Lord, have mercy

For those who still make Jerusalem a battleground, let us pray to the Lord,
Lord, have mercy

For those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord,
Lord, have mercy

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation, that they may find support and encouragement,
let us pray to the Lord,
Lord, have mercy

For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow, feel that God is far from them, let us pray to the Lord,
Lord, have mercy

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross, let us pray to the Lord,
Lord, have mercy

Holy God, holy and strong
Holy and immortal, have mercy upon us. In Jesus 'name. AMEN

From Singing the faith plus

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 265

- 1 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark, all the tribes 'Hosanna!' cry;
your humble beast pursues its road
with palms and scattered garments strowed.
- 2 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die:
O Christ, your triumphs now begin
o'er captive death and conquered sin.
- 3 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
The wingèd squadrons of the sky
look down with sad and wondering eyes
to see the approaching sacrifice.
- 4 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Your last and fiercest strife is nigh;
the Father, on his sapphire throne,
expects his own anointed Son.
- 5 Ride on, ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
bow your meek head to mortal pain,
then take, O God, your power, and reign.

Henry Hart Milman (1791–1868)

Closing Prayer

Eternal God, in your tender love towards the human race you sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take our flesh and to suffer death upon a cross. Grant that we may follow the example of his great humility and share in the glory of his resurrection, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

(MWB)