



# Welcome to the 'virtual' Stoneleigh Methodist Church

## Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020

### 10:30am: Easter Sunday with the Rev Emma Cusack

#### Prayers

Please pray for Emma, and for others within the Church and beyond. And for the continued health of our Prime Minister, key workers, and all the National Health Service on whom we depend so much now, and at all times.

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; and the family and friends of Peter Tolley whose cremation is planned for Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April.

*"Always end the day with a positive thought. No matter how hard things were, tomorrow's a fresh opportunity to make it better." Unknown*

#### Notices

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

**Minister's Letter.** There is no doubt that this Holy Week feels different, as we have not had the opportunity to follow some of our traditions as Christians, such as meeting together on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and joyfully worshipping together on Easter Sunday with the risen Christ.

Most people have expressed how quiet and different it's been to observe Holy week however, let us take great comfort in reminding ourselves how often Jesus was by himself, praying.

At the beginning of Lent we encountered the story about The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus, and the picture from that passage reminds us that *"At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, and he was in the desert for forty days, being tempted by Satan"* Mark 1:12-13

During Jesus' ministry we recall an attribute of Jesus' spiritual pattern of life *"very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed"*. Mark 1:35

*"Yet, the news about him spread all the more so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed"* Luke 5:15-16

Jesus' final words on the cross is *"it is finished"* (John 19:30). His physical mission on earth comes to an end, yet he continues in the spirit, and that is what we celebrate each new day of our lives.

Jesus' life in solitude and silence was a source of strength to him, and through it all he triumphed over suffering, death and HE IS RISEN INDEED – ALLELUIA!

**In reflection let us meditate on the words of this hymn:**

*Low in the grave he lay;  
Jesus, my Saviour,  
waiting the coming day,  
Jesus, my Lord;  
Up from the grave he arose  
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes  
He arose a victor from the dark domain  
and he lives for ever with his saints to reign  
He arose! He arose!  
Alleluia! Christ arose!*

*Robert Lowry (1826-99)*

Happy Easter! *Emma*

**Easter Sunday from Christ Church with St Philip** – a Sunday morning Service from Worcester Park will be on Facebook at 10:15am this week – see details in the Contacts section at the end of this NewsSheet. *Robin*

**Charities' Nominations 2020** A final reminder that, as last year, members are invited to propose a local charity with the following information (200 words): - the name of the charity, the charity's registration number and a brief introduction of what the charity does, and how the grant donation will enhance the work of the charity. Sign off with your name as the proposer.

A handwritten appeal can be passed on to any Steward; equally a typed-out description about your nominated charity can be emailed to myself by Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April at the latest. The Leadership Team will shortlist to a maximum of six charities and have them ready to be voted on to choose two (2) charities at the Annual Church Meeting which is scheduled for Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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*

## **Around the Trolley**

*A new section of the NewsSheet for less formal news and information exchanges. All contributions gratefully received – it's your NewsSheet! Robin*

**My alternative Churches Together Palm Sunday walk**, with Nonsuch Park thrown in to check no crowds gathering! Stay safe! **Jo**



**Front Window displays** – there seem to have been a number of 'initiatives' for front window displays recently, following on from the children's Rainbow pictures for the NHS. We have a teddy bear and an Easter Egg, and I've seen a full-size Palm 'lookalike'. Have you seen anything else? *Robin*

**Thanks** – a lot of wheelie bins had 'Thank You' drawings (from children, and Notes (from adults) this week – very impressive. And I hear that the Council will be restarting brown bin collections from this week – don't know which fortnightly cycle though. *Robin*

**These Boots are made for walking** - Well really my feet, delivering the news sheets etc. I really enjoy it and I have found alleyways and cut throughs that I was not aware of before!

It's a great time for reflection; practising singing the hymns I am trying to be word perfect in; keeping a check on my step count and mileage, and looking forward to a coffee on my return home. I have even roped in Simon, my husband, to deliver to Daphne and Miriam, so that cuts out a big chunk. Robin is doing a great job assembling it all; we have had many a phone call sorting things out. We have heard you are enjoying getting your deliveries; you are all in our thoughts, keep well and have a Blessed but different Easter. *Jeananne*

**Green Shoots** have started to appear on the Ginkgo tree in the car park – I have given it and the bedding plants some water when I did the rest of the plants last weekend – hope that's OK? *Robin*



## Updates . . .

**Did you miss the News/Service last week?** Now that every member of the Church should be getting a News/Service sheet every week, items will not be repeated as a matter of course – usually only if there has been an update since the previous entry. I hope this makes the sheet easier to read, with less 'déjà vu'. *Robin*

**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*



**Joan Tolley**

5th July 1922 - 5th January 2020

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

**Church Centre Closure** To confirm, the Church Centre is now closed to all, for all purposes, with just me doing the weekly inspection required by the Methodist Church and our Insurers, and checking the letter box. *Robin*

**Epsom & Ewell Foodbank** With all our distribution centres closed to the public from 14<sup>th</sup> April, we have moved to a delivery only service which, as you can imagine, has been a huge logistical task.

In the first week we supplied food for 230 people and now, as time goes on and more people are unable to leave their homes or have lost their income, and have their children home from school, the numbers are growing fast.

Small teams of volunteers are working hard in shifts, putting together bags of basic foods, and then delivery teams are taking the bags out to people. Deliveries require two people from the same household who leave the food on the doorstep, ring the bell and step well back, a friendly wave or a quick "hi, stay safe" and then off to the next address.

The supermarkets have been amazing - donating fresh, chilled and frozen items, but this will not last forever as things settle down and they reassess their ordering practices and, of course, the dried goods are flying off their shelves so they have little left for us. Collection bins at the bigger supermarkets are still being emptied and people are still giving, but the footfall has gone down considerably.

**You can still help:** if you are able to donate any of the items below please do so at the supermarket, or gather a bag or box of goods and drop them at the Generation Resource Centre KT19 0JG (behind West Ewell Primary School, near Ruxley Church.). Open for donations Monday-Friday, 9:00am-3:00pm. If you want to check we are there please call us on 020 8786 8221. Thank you, *Lesley*

**Very urgent:** Hand gel sanitiser, Men's deodorant, Adult toothbrushes, Tinned rice Pudding, Instant Mash, Shampoo, Jam, Powdered milk, Tinned vegetables (not sweetcorn or pulses), Biscuits.

**Urgent:** Tinned fish, Tinned Meat, Cooking sauces, Custard, Long life Juice, Noodles (not pot noodles), Coffee, UHT milk

## Contact Details

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

**Contact:** Jeananne (07729 028850) - [contact@stoneleighmethodist.church](mailto:contact@stoneleighmethodist.church)

**Minister:** 020 8393 2322, [emmacusack121019@yahoo.com](mailto:emmacusack121019@yahoo.com), or Skype is available by arrangement. The Minister's Rest Day is Friday.

**News/Service sheet.** During this time of forced 'social distancing', here at SMC we are focussed on maintaining weekly contact with every one of our membership, plus others who may be interested such as specific friends at Ruxley and Tuesday Fellowship.

The combined sheet is circulated to all members, either by email, or through your letter box if we possibly can; it will also be posted onto the Church 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*

*Other Churches offer Services etc through the Internet, which may be of interest to those with the necessary equipment – for instance:-*

**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. There is a downloadable version of the Service on the Facebook page if you'd like to follow or refer to it later.

**All Souls in Langham Place** (by the BBC Centre) are producing very polished mid-week and Sunday Services at [allsouls.org](https://www.allsouls.org) – these are complete with music, singing and subtitles so you can follow along. Good Friday was really lively!



**All items for future NewsSheets** –please email to [news@stoneleighmethodist.church](mailto:news@stoneleighmethodist.church) or phone 020 8393 2155.

# Easter Sunday – April 12<sup>th</sup> 2020

## He is risen! Hallelujah!

*This liturgy is based on that published on the Methodist Website, Singing the Faith Plus*

### GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

*If you would find it helpful, light a candle during our call to worship as a symbol of Jesus' resurrection.*

#### Call to worship

The risen Christ came and stood among them and said:  
'Peace be with you.'

Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed. Hallelujah! *(based on John 20: 19-20)*

#### Hymn StF 309: See, what a morning

- 1 See, what a morning, gloriously bright,  
with the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;  
folded the graveclothes, tomb filled with light,  
as the angels announce Christ is risen!  
See God's salvation plan,  
wrought in love, borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,  
fulfilled in Christ, the Man,  
for he lives: Christ is risen from the dead!
- 2 See Mary weeping, 'Where is he laid?'  
as in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb;  
hears a voice speaking, calling her name;  
it's the Master, the Lord raised to life again!  
The voice that spans the years,  
speaking life, stirring hope, bringing peace to us,  
will sound till he appears,  
for he lives: Christ is risen from the dead!
- 3 One with the Father, Ancient of Days,  
through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty;  
honour and blessing, glory and praise  
to the King crowned with power and authority!  
And we are raised with him,  
death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered;  
and we shall reign with him,  
for he lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

*Stuart Townend (b. 1963) and Keith Getty (b. 1974) ©Thank you music CCL19650*

## **Opening Prayer**

Jesus Christ, we greet you!  
Your hands still have holes in them,  
your feet are wet from the dew;  
and with the memory of our names  
undimmed by three days of death  
you meet us,  
risen from the grave.

We fail to understand how;  
we puzzle at the reason why.

But you have come:  
not to answer our questions,  
but to show us your face.

You are alive  
and the world can rejoice again.  
Hallelujah!

## **WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

### **John 20: 1-18**

#### **The Empty Tomb**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally, the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

#### **Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene**

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means ‘Teacher’).

Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

### **A Time of Reflection**

What surprises you about the reaction of Mary and the other disciples?

How do you imagine Mary felt to be the first to see the risen Jesus?

What does Jesus’ resurrection mean for you this Easter?

If you feel creative, why not draw a picture to reflect your thoughts today.

*As you reflect on these words you might like to listen to a piece of music:*

### **A Time of Prayer**

We greet you, risen Christ – our hope in times of despair.

We pray for those in despair today:

worried about future employment;

worried about where the next meal is coming from;

worried about a relative in isolation.

Turn their despair into resurrection hope.

We greet you, risen Christ – our peace in times of conflict.

We pray for those in conflict today:

for those in war zones in Yemen, Syria,

and other unknown places that never make the news;

for those fleeing war, seeking refuge in Greece

and throughout the world;

for those feeling unsafe in their own homes.

Turn their conflict into resurrection peace.

We greet you, risen Christ – our healing in times of trouble.

We pray for those in any kind of trouble today:

for those who are physically unwell;

for those struggling with their mental health;

for those facing their own mortality and those who care for them;

for those who grieve.

Turn their trouble into your resurrection healing.

We thank you, Lord, that through your sacrifice,  
you have triumphed over death,  
opening the way to new life for all.

And so we thank you

for all those who bring glimmers of new life:

for all care workers;  
for our emergency services;  
for those willing to work to keep us fed;  
for those whose creativity is bringing life  
to vulnerable people and in remote places;  
for those, such as our educators, willing to go the extra mile.

Your resurrection hope is all around us – even now.

Thanks be to you,  
Risen, Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
Now and forever. Amen.

### **Hymn StF 313: Thine be the glory**

1 Thine be the glory,  
risen, conquering Son,  
endless is the victory  
thou o'er death hast won;  
angels in bright raiment  
rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes  
where thy body lay:

*Thine be the glory,  
risen, conquering Son,  
endless is the victory  
thou o'er death hast won.*

*Edmond Budry (1854-1932) translated by Richard  
Birch Hoyle (1875-1939)*

2 Lo, Jesus meets us,  
risen from the tomb;  
lovingly he greets us,  
scatters fear and gloom;  
let the Church with gladness  
hymns of triumph sing,  
for her Lord now liveth,  
death hath lost its sting:

3 No more we doubt thee,  
glorious Prince of Life;  
life is naught without thee:  
aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conquerors  
through thy deathless love;  
bring us safe through Jordan  
to thy home above:

### **SENDING OUT**

Hallelujah, God our Creator – all life stems from you!

Hallelujah, God our Saviour – new life springs from your death!

Hallelujah, God our Sustainer – life is continually renewed in you!

Hallelujah, Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

Bless us today and always, may your new life flow through us  
into your world. Amen.