



# Welcome to the 'virtual' Stoneleigh Methodist Church

## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2020

**10:30am: Morning Worship – with the Rev Emma Cusack**

### Prayers

Please pray for Emma, and for others within the Church and beyond; for the continued health of our key workers and all of 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 Corrinne Payne who died recently.

*"You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you." Isaiah 26:3*

### Notices

**Weekly News/Service sheet.** *During the present restrictions we cannot meet or worship at Church, but we will continue to produce a weekly News/Service sheet each Sunday which will be emailed or delivered to every member. Thanks to all those who make this possible.*

**Corrinne Payne's** committal service was on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May and the Order of Service is included below. Please remember Debra, her sister Claire and brother Martin with their families in prayer.  
*Emma*

**Churches Together in Ewell Prayer Week.** The CTEwell annual Prayer Week is from 25<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> May this year. Guidance for prayers can be found on the CTEwell website at [ctewell.org.uk/prayerweek](http://ctewell.org.uk/prayerweek). Clearly we won't be able to meet up for prayers this year, but the guidance should provide suitable inspiration. If you know of anyone who would like a paper copy of the prayer guidance, please let me know (07793 751455) and I will deliver it to them. Thank you –  
*Sally*

**Kathryn's Mercy Home Trust.** The latest Annual Report from Jeyapaul and Charles has just been received. For those of you receiving this News/Service sheet by email it is in a separate attachment to this email; if you receive a printed copy from Jeananne then it is part of this set of pages, but only in black & white due to printing constraints. The hope is that we may be able to include some of the pictures in a future edition of the Link, or on the vestry notice board if we able to worship again by then. *Denise*

**On-line meetings.** If you know of any local online meetings that would be relevant to SMC members and are available to them, please let me know in time to mention them in our NewsSheet notices (so by 6:00pm Fridays) together with details. Thanks. *Robin*

## Around the Trolley

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

**Church Notice Board.** A number of members have commented on the current displays in the Church Notice board, and I've been asked to pop a picture in here in case your travels don't take you past the Church Centre.

The focus is on supporting the efforts of our key workers, as well as including essential information about the status of the Church and a message of reassurance.

Sadly these posters fade rather rapidly in the heat that the sun generates in the enclosed poster panel, and have to be replaced every month, but the fact that the display has been commented on is testament to its value. As mentioned before, the aim is to emphasise the Church is still there for the people, despite the doors being closed. Robin



**Celebrating V E Day 2020 in Manor Drive.** Thanks to Pat for this (that's Colin centre right) – at first I thought it was a trial of social distancing for Church!

**VE Day Anniversary Celebrations in Ravensfield Gardens** Like Amberley Gardens and Manor Drive, we in Ravensfield Gardens thoroughly enjoyed the VE Anniversary Celebrations. As a road, we have had a WhatsApp Group since the beginning of 'Lockdown', with over 50 of the 60 residents participating and providing wonderful caring support for everyone, every day. For the celebration, all our houses were decorated and we enjoyed sharing picnic lunches, music, dancing and general drinking and socialising, at a distance, all day.

Churchill's Speech was relayed for all to hear, and an ice cream van paid a visit late afternoon. One of our residents arranged the sale and delivery of lunch boxes and £1000 was raised for Alzheimer's Society. Joan P

**Is there a Pattern?** Can anybody help. I am searching for a very simple sundress/pinafore style pattern to fit a child of 12-18months. Lesley

**Offertories** – thanks to those who have passed on their Offertory money in the past few weeks – very much appreciated. If you're not sure how to contribute, but would like to, just give me a ring (020 8393 2155) and I'm sure we can sort something out. *Denise*

**Cheques** – keeping the Church's accounts up to date is important at any time, but even more so just now. It seems that a number of cheques issued by SMC have yet to be cashed; if you think you might have one tucked away, please bank it as soon as possible to help us balance the accounts. *Thanks*

**Apologies** for the poor quality of the pictures in some of the printed NewsSheets last week – the blue ink had got blocked but the printer carried on regardless! *Robin*

**Bank Holiday** – and in case you felt it was time for a break, this coming Monday (25<sup>th</sup>) is a Bank Holiday. It's also School half-term!

## 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', we at SMC 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 are doing our very best to ensure all members are kept 'in the loop' – *Robin*

*Other Services etc through the Internet are:*

- *The Ruxley/Stoneleigh Thursday Morning prayer happens via Zoom and it's open to all. Please send an email to [publicity@ruxley-church.org.uk](mailto:publicity@ruxley-church.org.uk) by Tuesday for an ID and password to join in, and a copy of the liturgy too.*
- **Christ Church with St Philip** in Worcester Park. Paul and Steph alternate Sunday mornings at 10:00am on Facebook at [facebook.com/christchurchsaintphilip](https://www.facebook.com/christchurchsaintphilip)
- **All Souls in Langham Place** who are producing very polished mid-week and Sunday Services at [allsouls.org](http://allsouls.org) – these are complete with music, singing and subtitles.
- **The Methodist Church** is offering 'Dial-a Prayer' free of charge, updated every Thursday afternoon, on 0808 281 2514. There's also weekly news, again free, on 0808 281 2478.

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



# Corrinne Patricia Payne

11<sup>th</sup> August 1931 - 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020

North East Surrey Crematorium,  
Morden

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020

3.00pm

## Order of Service



### ENTRY MUSIC

Hello again – by Neil Diamond

### WELCOME & PRAYERS

Revd. Emma Cusack

### POEM

#### GOD'S GARDEN

Read by Claire Ransom

God looked around His garden  
and he found an empty place.  
He then looked down upon this Earth,  
and saw your tired face.  
He put His arms around you and  
Lifted you to rest  
God's garden must be beautiful,  
He always takes the best.

He knew that you were suffering,  
He knew you were in pain,  
He knew that you would never  
get well on earth again.  
He saw the road was getting rough,

and the hills were hard to climb,  
So He closed your weary eyelids,  
and whispered, "Peace be thine".

It broke our hearts to lose you  
but you didn't go alone,  
For part of us went with you  
The day God called you home

*Author: D.W. McConway*

### **EULOGY**

Written by Martin Payne  
Read by Emma Woolford

### **MUSIC**

Amazing Grace – Judy Collins

### **SCRIPTURE READING John 14:1-6, 27 (NIV)**

Read by Debra Woolford

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. <sup>4</sup>You know the way to the place where I am going." <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup>Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>27</sup>Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. **Amen**

### **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**

#### **EXIT MUSIC**

Autumn Leaves – Nat King Cole

**Donations** in memory of Corrinne can be made online directly to [Myaware](#)

Myaware is the only charity in the country for Myasthenia Gravis research



# Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> 2020 – Aldersgate Sunday

**Introduction - Aldersgate - what changed for the Wesleys?** *(from Singing the Faith plus website)*

In the Methodist Church calendar, Aldersgate Sunday is the Sunday nearest to 24<sup>th</sup> May (traditionally known as 'Wesley Day',) or the Sunday before it.

It commemorates a life-changing moment in the Christian journey of John Wesley, the most prominent of the founders of Methodism.

Aldersgate Sunday is a great opportunity to celebrate the work of God in our lives, and to reflect on how we should respond to everything that God has given us.

In May 1738, John unwillingly attended worship at a Moravian 'Religious Society' meeting on Aldersgate Street in London. It was during this service that he felt his "heart strangely warmed", as he experienced God's love in a most personal and life-giving way. Until then he had known God in his mind, but not in his heart. Now he understood the value of a personal experience of God that would bring assurance of salvation to the believer.

## Call to worship

"We love because God first loved us" (1 John 4:19)

We are called to be generous in our love and care because God is generous towards us. Our generosity is our response to the love of God.

Generous God, your love embraces and welcomes all people.

**In our lives and our worship: help us to share your hospitality.**

Generous God, your salvation is a gift, not a reward for labour.

**In our lives and our worship: help us to show your generosity.**

Generous God, your Son taught that your kingdom is open to all.

**In our lives and our worship: help us to teach your message.**

Generous God, your Spirit is at work in the world today.

**In our lives and our worship: help us to live as your disciples. Amen.**

## Hymn: Hymns and Psalms 278

1. YE: servants of God, your Master  
proclaim;

And publish abroad his wonderful name

His name all-victorious of Jesus extol

His Kingdom is glorious and rules over all.

2. God ruleth on high, almighty to save

And still he is nigh, his presence we have

The great congregation his triumph shall  
sing

Ascribing salvation to Jesus our king.

**3.** Salvation to God who sits on the throne  
Let all cry aloud and honour the Son  
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim  
Fall down on their faces and worship the  
Lamb

**4.** Then let us adore and give him his right  
All glory and power, all wisdom and might  
All honour and blessing with angels above  
And thanks never-ceasing and infinite love

*Charles Wesley (1707-88)*

**Reading:** Isaiah 58: 1-9a

### **Prayer of Confession**

Great God we rejoice that you are a great-hearted generous God: - generous in love - generous in giving - generous without measure and generous towards each one of us ... whether it is in the extravagant beauty of creation; whether it is the offering of Jesus - his life, his love, what he said, what he did, who he spent his time with and the life that was given up on the Cross - whether it is in the gift of the Holy Spirit. We praise you that your love knows no bounds, and reaches out to each of us, this day and every day. We respond to your love and seek to love and worship you through our words, our actions and service. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Reading:** 2 Corinthians 9: 6-15

### **Reflection**

**Isaiah 58: 1-9a** - The last chapters of Isaiah were written after the exile, when some had chosen to return home to Jerusalem and rebuild their lives and worship.

These verses reflect a struggle to identify the purpose of an inherited tradition. During the exile, the Jews had developed the practice of fasting in the fifth month (Zechariah 7.5), in lamenting the fall of Jerusalem (2 Kings 25.8).

But now that they are back in their own land, some were beginning to question the relevance of this practice (Zechariah 7.3).

So where are the links between this questioning and Isaiah's explanation of the real purpose of fasting?

Isaiah says; to look downcast (v.5) brings no one closer to God, especially when fasting and being bad-tempered (v.4), selfish and unpleasant to employees etc (v.3).

Isaiah explains that self-denial will indeed bring people closer to God and it must be not from lack of food, but to ensure that everyone is treated justly and gets their fair share (v.6).

Isaiah offers a reminder that we cannot claim to be generous until we have paid others what they deserve. Then, when all are treated justly, there is room for generosity.

Isaiah links open-handed giving to the image of salvation: light, healing, vindication. The just and generous are put right with God.

**2 Corinthians 9: 6-15** Charitable giving was a way of life for many in Paul's world. For the Jews, giving to God and others was a joy, not a duty.

Among the Gentiles, the better-off; gained honour and respect for their generosity towards the needy, who were expected to give in return by being publicly grateful. Paul is well aware of these and rejects them.

“God's grace-filled generosity to us is so overwhelming that we cannot claim any honour when we share with each other” – (*Roots*).

Alongside this background, Paul writes to the church based in the big Gentile city of Corinth. He is clearly anxious about whether they are really prepared to make the offering they promised (v.4), but his encouragement to generosity moves very quickly from practice to theology.

He says; their gift matters because it will benefit them by enriching their relationship with God, not primarily because it will benefit the impoverished Christians of Jerusalem (Romans 15.25-27). Money is part of the everyday stuff of life which is caught up into the new creation (2 Corinthians 5.17). Our use of money is one symbol of God's transforming power in our lives, reflecting our central understanding that life depends on God's gracious self-giving in Christ

So Methodist theology centres on the love of God offered generously to all. Charles Wesley's hymn 'Let earth and heaven agree' (Singing the Faith 358) ends with the words 'For all my Lord was crucified, for all, for all my Saviour died'. This universal, inclusive, generous love echoes through today's readings, a recurring pattern of hope.

On this basis, we can also live generously, reflecting the 'social holiness' which was John Wesley's vision for his societies: groups open to each other's needs, spiritually and practically.

God's generous blessing becomes the foundation for a lifestyle through which we can confidently seek to express that blessing to other.

- So does it make sense to speak of Christians being generous towards God?
- And where, in your context, do you recognise people acting out of generosity?

Isaiah 58 was written after the Jews had returned from exile. Many of the people would have known real poverty and suffering but now they were quite comfortable and Isaiah explains that generosity is about offering more than is deserved.

- I John 3:1-7 reflects what a wonderful example of God's love is, that we can be called God's children
- To be blessed by God is to receive the grace and love that transforms lives

So, what is generosity? Is it being generous to give lavishly in the expectation of something in return? Generosity is more than financial giving. It is about our use of time and ways in which we serve God and others.

God is always there for us and that is an example of God's generosity. Amen

### **A Prayer for Aldersgate Sunday 2020 - by the Revd Dr Martyn Atkins**

Resourceful Holy Spirit of God, we thank you for your servants, John and Charles Wesley. That you fuelled their zeal and tempered it with divine grace; brought them through dark times, enlightened and renewed.

That you warmed their needy hearts, assured and shaped them by your active holiness.

That through their willingness, you worked out Your purposes of hope, mercy, and justice.

Somewhat daunted, we stand today in their deep footsteps.

In a world of new challenges and old needs in a time like no other.

But undaunted, we humbly ask you to do in us, what you did in and through them.

May we know both your infilling and outpouring, that whatever our situation or condition, we will serve and honour Christ, and in these, our days, know and believe that the best of all is, "God is with us." Amen.

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

#### **Hymn:**

**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 inquire 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 (1707-88)*

### **A prayer of Blessing**

Holy God, be with me as I leave this time of worship,

May I know your presence in my everyday life and live your message of love and hope.

Amen

*(Original material by Alison Seren)*