



# LINK



## STONELEIGH METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Revd. Emma Cusack Fd.A; DipHE

June – July 2020



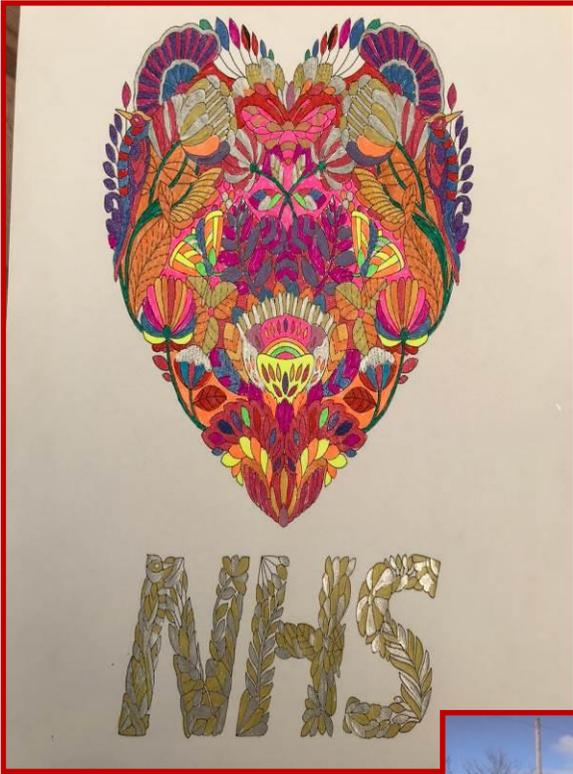
*Jacqui Parkinson*

Stoneleigh Crescent, Stoneleigh,

Epsom, Surrey KT19 0RT

[www.stoneleighmethodist.church](http://www.stoneleighmethodist.church)

Our Scouts and  
Guides; virtually



*This is Oliver's winning picture.  
See Steve's report on Virtual  
Scouting inside*



*The Rainbow's Rainbow in  
Denise's front room window*



*This caught Jo's eye while she was out and about!*

## From the Minister

Dear friends,

I trust the Lord that you are all keeping well and finding things to do to occupy you. “Be brave. Be strong. Don’t give up. Expect GOD to get here soon. (Psalm 31:24 The Message Bible)

As we remain in lockdown with the uncertainty of when we might start normal church life, worshipping and in fellowship with one another, we continue to do the best we can and a massive thanks to volunteers ensuring that we receive the weekly newsletter and service sheets.

With regards to update on my sabbatical leave and in consultation with the circuit, it is certain that the London District chairs of the Methodist Church are happy with the postponement of my sabbatical leave to early next year. The district chair has asked me to resend an updated version of the sabbatical application and am pleased to hear also from Age Concern that they are ok for me to go along with my original plan to volunteer when the new date has been approved.

*Be brave.  
Be strong.  
Don't give up.*

Sadly, the trip to Oberammergau in July has been postponed to 2022. However the good news is that there is a trip to the Holy Land early next year which falls within the new proposed date and I believe it’s a blessing to have that in place of Oberammergau.

I hope that as soon as the lockdown is lifted, we will be able to have the Annual Church Meeting and our suggestions during the open church review conversation on 23<sup>rd</sup> February – looking to the future will very much be at the heart of the ACM. I have allocated the following Sundays on a draft preaching plan for the ACM and would like you to make a note of them as well – 7<sup>th</sup> June 5<sup>th</sup> July and 9<sup>th</sup> August. I hope and pray things will get better before the end of the Church year which is 31<sup>st</sup> August.

I invite you to ponder prayerfully on the words of the hymn written by John L. Bell (b.1949) and Graham Maule (b.1958) bearing in mind the current situations in our world:

*“Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets,  
curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.*

*Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too:  
let my care be active, healing, just like you.”*

May the peace of the Lord be always with you, Revd. Emma

*This was also printed in the virtual church news sheet in May.*

### **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 . submitted by *Jor*

### **Epsom and Ewell Foodbank update**

May 9<sup>th</sup>

As always I hope that you are continuing to stay safe and healthy. This week has been another one of ups and downs, highs and lows. The low point being that we have fed three times more people in April 2020 than we did April 2109. Whilst it's worrying that so many people need our help we should be grateful that we are in a position to provide that help.

Thanks to the support and generosity of local people and businesses we do have food to feed people, we have amazing volunteers to pack food boxes and deliver them to clients. This week we have made 105 home deliveries and fed about 237 people.

This week we found some paintings tucked in with a donation of food. A small gesture but definitely an 'up' 😊

Thank you all for another week of hard work, commitment and support. For those of you not able to help at this time please know that you are all missed. Stay safe *Jackie - Admin Team*

*Epsom & Ewell Foodbank*

Foodbank have launched a special funding appeal to help them cope with the increased demand on their services– it's at <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/epsom-and-ewellfoodbank-covid19-crisis-appeal> and they are already well on their way to their target of £10,000. Can you help? *Lesley*

**The Lord's Prayer Used in Ruxley's service April 26<sup>th</sup>**

Our Father in heaven,  
may your name be honoured.  
May your kingdom come soon.  
may your will be done here on earth  
just as it is in Heaven.  
Give us our food for today,  
and forgive us our sins,  
just as we have forgiven those who  
have sinned against us.  
And don't let us yield to temptation;  
but deliver us from the evil one.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Matthew 6, vs. 9 New Living Translation*

**Corrinne Payne**

Sadly, at Easter, we as a Church said goodbye to Corrinne. Before her illness, she was a quiet, willing and constant helper and support in our church activities, particularly in any catering events, when she could always be found in the kitchen. She loved flowers and always contributed to decorating the church windowsills at Christmas and Harvest and bunching the posies of daffodils for Mothering Sunday.

A great family and home lover, Corrinne's main interest was her garden and she was much saddened when she could no longer tend it. She said, too, that moving to her bungalow was like having Christmas every day! Apart from family occasions, nothing gave her more pleasure than visiting 'Open Gardens' and Garden Centres, and we enjoyed many of those together. She always said that Barbara's 'Open Garden Day' was one of the best days in the year, when she had good company and could combine catering and see a beautiful garden!



Corrinne was a much-loved member of Tuesday Fellowship for many years and we will all miss her very much. *Joan Price*

*At the time we went to press we knew that Corrinne's Funeral was to be at North East Surrey Crematorium on 21<sup>st</sup> May. Full information was in the Church News Sheet. Ed.*

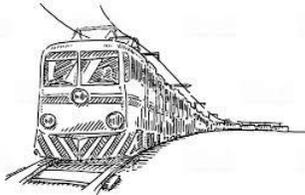
### **Tribute to Peter Poole**

'It's a Wonderful World' was chosen by Peter to begin his funeral service and sums up his outlook on life, he marvelled at everything from the recurring appearance of the daffodils in spring to the workings of the internal combustion engine, from the birth of a child to a ploughman's and a pint of beer, I believe that this simple enjoyment of life came from his early upbringing in Somerset. He was born in South Wimbledon but with the arrival of a younger brother, Peter was sent to live with his Grandparents and Aunts in Somerset. Pillars of the local Methodist chapel, they lived quietly in a village where many of the traditional ways were still practiced, including church three times on Sunday.



Peter was proud to have attended Crewkerne Grammar school founded in 1499, he remained a member of the old boys association and attended their reunions including the celebration of their 500th anniversary in 1999.

When he left school he returned to his parent's home in Morden and began work and it was during this period that he met Pearl. During his National service, spent mainly in Plymouth, he would catch a ride up to London on the train to spend a few hours with



her and return on the mail train early the next morning. Peter and Pearl were married in 1956 and had 58 happy years together although it is only recently that we have seen photographs of these early days

together; some things were private.

Sadly they were not blessed with children but they had each other and they cared for family and particularly John, Pearl's unmarried brother until his death not long ago. Over the years they nurtured many, many young people including my three boys, endlessly generous with their time and their love they gave so much to these youngsters and saved the sanity of their parents. They had a great care for them all and followed their progress as they grew, keeping in contact by letter or phone. They delighted in their development.

Together Peter and Pearl were involved in many local voluntary organisations such as Abbeyfield and The Princess Alice Hospice. Later Peter co-ordinated the Heart Group and the Urostomy group at Epsom Hospital and became part of the welcome team at the Butterfly unit there.

Peter cared for Pearl throughout her long illness with great love and after her death in 2014 we wondered how he would cope but, with his usual positivity he was determined to enjoy life, joining various groups at SMC especially enjoying those that included a meal and a pint of beer! He loved his holidays at the Warner's Hotel on Hayling Island where he always asked to be put on a table with "lots of ladies"! He cruised the Norwegian Fjords to

see the Flåm Railway, and took his much loved steam train journeys.

As his health deteriorated he became unable to go out but made the best of life, with his “lovely bowl of cornflakes” for breakfast and a pint of beer at lunch time, that attitude of quiet acceptance stayed with him until the end.

To close his service Peter chose “Bring Me Sunshine” and I think he could claim to have done that for so many people. *Lesley*



## Update on Sudbury School, Ghana

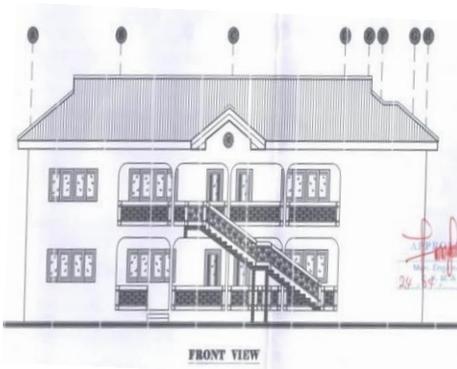
**HRS Library and ICT Centre from Sept 2019** is now our focus for

the next phase of the project.

The proposed estimate from the building contractor for the foundation came up to a total cost of Gh¢20,091 (about £2,800)

By August, Gh¢ 9187 had been raised to commence work on the foundation of the building

The amount left to pay is Gh¢ 10,903.29 (about £266)



When I gave a report after my return from Ghana in September 2019 on the above, members of both congregations (Ruxley & SMC) were very generous and made donations of Gh¢ 13,974.77, which paid off the above debt, leaving a credit balance of Gh¢ 3,071.48 which has been deposited in the school account for the next phase of the building works

I would also want to take this opportunity to share that I have been in contact with the Headteacher of the school, they are also in lockdown but the teachers are sending work to the pupils to keep up with their learning.

We praise God that no one – pupils, staff or parents have contracted Covid-19, and I am told that builders can still go to work.

May God continue to bless this project and us as a supporting church and I am deeply moved by the support in gradually making the building a reality which I am trusting the Lord to be completed by the end of next year – with God’s help, we will! Thank you for all donations and fundraisings.

Submitted on behalf of Sudbury School, Ghana  
Rev. Emma (Minister)



## LIFE UNDER LOCKDOWN

### Lockdown Observations.

In the early days of self-isolation I ventured a few times a week to put out rubbish and recycling. On rare occasions I saw 'Surface' people walking and talking to each other; they appeared quite affable and friendly.

They looked, dressed and talked like us and, but for the fact that they constantly waved, smiled and chatted to everybody they encountered - including me-(and, of course, apart from the invisible exclusion zone around them) they could easily have been mistaken for earthlings.

Things have now settled but thankfully some of the new friendliness seems to have survived. Has this been your experience? *Ernie*

### Virtual Services:

The Ridgways have been visiting several churches around the country, joining with various close and not-so-close family members. Last week we dropped in on Philippa’s church in Leeds. Her minister is Rob Frost’s son Chris, and he is a really good speaker, though he doesn’t bounce up and down on his toes like Rob always did.



We happened on the first of a series of sermons on Revelation, a good summary of the symbolism of Revelation 1. As part of the service, Chris interviewed his mother, Jacqui, who has done a

massive series of textile artworks on Revelation – leading to an exhibition in the cathedrals of Britain, including a visit to Guildford, which I know several of you visited.

They were wonderful works; if you want to see them again, they're on her website [revelation-threads.co.uk](http://revelation-threads.co.uk).

### **Textile Exhibition - August**

Jacqui has now completed a smaller textile exhibition, 'Tree of Life', which consists of three huge panels, inspired by the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, in Genesis, the tree of life which is found in the Genesis and Revelation, and the tree of the Cross on which Jesus died. The exhibition also includes a sculpture, which consists of a huge rope ladder that reaches from the cathedral floor to the heights, representing the connection between us and God. Low down on the ladder is a full-size cast of a young man in his thirties, Jesus, hanging on the ladder, reaching out to everyone, connecting heaven and earth, and the Father to men and women.

Virus permitting, the exhibition will be in Guildford for six weeks from 12<sup>th</sup> August. I'm planning on visiting it. *Vivienne*

*Photo of one of Jacqui Parkinson's Revelation tapestries is used on the front cover of this magazine (with permission)*

### **The Petleys under lockdown**

We are now many weeks into 'lockdown', so we hope you are all keeping well and staying safe.

We have tried to keep in regular contact with all Fellowship members to make sure that everyone is ok and not in need of anything. We must say that everyone still seems to be remarkably upbeat and managing well with family or neighbourhood support and staying in contact with each other.

Our daughter Julie has been doing our shopping, together with one of our younger neighbours, for which we are very grateful. Julie and family had the Covid virus at the beginning and recovered well. Thank goodness.



Thanks to modern technology we have been able to continue with worship and Bible study. There are some excellent services on radio and, of course, Songs of Praise. Paul Timmis and Steph have been sharing their Sunday services via

Christchurch with St Philip's Facebook page. We

have had Sunday services included with our weekly newsheet which has been brilliant - thanks to Robin for coordinating this.

Last week it was lovely to have Stoneleigh's service live via Zoom technology. Grateful thanks to Richard Graham for his preaching, readings and music. Thanks also to Richard for setting up the Monday evening group on Zoom.

Our church in Skibbereen, Ireland, holds its weekly service using Zoom technology, so we have been able to see people and share in hymn singing, readings and praise. About 50 people share in this service. So our spiritual lives are continuing to be enhanced by sharing in various ways in worship, Bible study and prayer.

On a practical front, we have been busy catching up with all those tasks we do not usually have time to do, because of our split existence. First, Pat cleared out the shed so she could find things and store the compost, bark etc. that she had ordered from Chessington Garden Centre. Mind you trying to work out how infected the plants and bags might be was worrying so they were all sprayed with Dettol and left outside for a while. Please note at no time was Colin or anyone else injected with the stuff!

Then.....for some inexplicable reason, we decided to redecorate the hall, stairs and landing. Oh, how we wish we hadn't. After nearly two weeks of up and down ladders, up and down stairs and patching up the bits of wallpaper we miscut, we are almost there, thank goodness. And have managed to lose weight. The garden needs minding too and our fruit and veg are putting on good growth.



Don't forget as long as you self-distance, preferably by more than the recommended 2 metres you can go out and how about doing some gardening in the front garden, someone is bound to stop for a chat. We can use this time to reflect on our lives and spiritual journey and thank God that we have so much that we do not always appreciate.

*Pat & Colin*

## Visiting other churches during lockdown.

It has been interesting to drop in on other congregations for worship over the past few weeks (virtually of course) I have visited several; All Souls Langham Place, St Johns Stoneleigh, Surbiton Methodist (a quick visit with Stan) and on Easter day, Communion with the Archbishop of Canterbury. The one I have enjoyed most is our very own Richard Graham's service, led from his flat. It was gentle, thoughtful and very much on point for the current times. He used readings



read by David Suchet and a variety of music including a wonderful version of Abide with Me which can sometimes be a real dirge. It was put together seamlessly and I want to thank him very much.  
*Lesley.*

Having more time on my hands I decided to sort out my book-cases (I have six.)

But then, what to do with the books? I put them all in a box with a note saying "Need a new book? Please help yourself" and put them on my front wall.



People walk up and down all day going to Nonsuch Park at the bottom of the road and so my books are now helping someone else pass the time.  
*Lesley*

## Alternative Church

On the first Sunday of lockdown for COVID-19 I found myself standing outside Marks and Spencer at just about the time I had been planning to be sitting in church. Standing 2 metres apart we were all strong and resilient to the cold wind whipping around the base of Tolworth Tower and, to encourage myself I realised that I had never appreciated the architecture of the Tower so I took a picture. This led me to recording my alternative Sunday church. Robin kindly decided to publish and the next week on a much more pleasant Palm Sunday I walked a circuit around the churches in Ewell. Another I worked in the garden and had the pleasure of sharing over my garden wall with Jeananne (sorry no camera!) and on others I have donned my PPE at work. My

alternative church gives me opportunity to think and pray for all those at Stoneleigh who are unable to enjoy the great outdoors at this time, be assured, I am thinking of you!  
Jo

## Virtual Scouting

As 3<sup>rd</sup> Stoneleigh (Methodist) Scout Group is unable to meet during the lockdown the Leaders in each of the sections have been working hard to provide virtual meetings and activities to help keep the young people engaged.

With no face-to-face meetings possible, they decided to hold online meetings via Zoom instead. Initially over half of the children signed up and actively participated but this number steadily increased until most of the children were taking part.

A number of activities were devised such as taking part in a Scavenger Hunt within their home, looking for various items and the first Cub back won a point, the one with the most points at the end of the meeting won a prize. Some were really quick at finding items but most importantly, great fun was had by all, (including a number of parents who provided encouragement and a great deal of competitive spirit !).

Other evenings have involved assembling and eating Knickerbocker



Glory Ice creams as part of the Cubs' Chef Badge and a selection of craft items where key materials for activities are dropped off on the doorstep by Leaders. Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have all held Bingo evenings and Beavers developed their communication skills with online charades. Meanwhile the Scouts were building their science experiments-hovercrafts.



The Badge work continued in all sections with a science evening, and completing work towards a few other badges such as the Creative, Gardening, Reader, Photographer and My Personal badges.

They have also held competitions with Cubs colouring NHS hearts to display in their windows and one for the VE Day Celebrations. The photograph on the inside front cover shows a winning entry from Oliver.

Scouts have designed their own campsites and presented their designs, whilst Beavers have held a 'non-away' sleepover. Towards the end of term the Cubs hope to be able to hold a "staycation online Camp".

Just a taster of what's going on, but most importantly there are a lot of enthusiastic children engaged in a great programme. I congratulate and thank my Leaders for their excellent programmes and all their hard work in delivering them. *Steve Lee, G.S.L.*

### **Last Minute Holiday**

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*

*See Lesley's photos on back cover*

### **Jim's travels –**

Prior to lock-down, each week I played squash and badminton, and walked with a small group of friends. Fortunately, in recent times, I have been able to continue walking (solo), normally starting at 8:15am and being out just under 3 hours, covering between 7 & 11 miles. I've walked in Nonsuch Park, round Epsom Racecourse, to Walton-on-the-Hill, Ashted, Cheam and around Epsom & Ewell. Weather great and most enjoyable.

*Jim*

## Walking with care in Lockdown

We are very fortunate where we live as we have so many green spaces, but at the moment it is difficult to ensure you don't encounter too many people.

Our daily walk varies between 3 and 4½ miles. Walking down to the Hogsmill Open Space and along the river is a lovely walk and as we use the "back" paths on the side of the river without a hard path, and avoid Ewell Court Park, we rarely see or have to pass anyone.

It is also possible to walk from Ewell Village to Kingston Road opposite Worcester Park Road and from there right across to Chessington at the Bonesgate and right through to Horton Park also without seeing many people.

However we do not walk at weekends.

We encountered a white egret down there a couple of weeks ago but weren't quick enough to get a photo. As you will see from the photos (*see cover pages*) the river is running clear and free. Oh, that we were too, but we are making the best of it and everyone can take a walk, if you choose your time of day carefully and avoid weekends.

*Pat and Colin*

**Thank you** to all of you who have stood outside your

**H**omes to clap for Staff

**A**nd

**NHS** and

**K**eyworkers.

**Y**our kindness and generosity has been

**O**verwhelming, and has been a great encouragement while we try to manage, control and support those enduring

**U**nimaginable sadness

**THANKYOU**

## **Extras from the News Sheets**

### **March**

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 Robin know.

Joan Tolley's daughter writes: "I have decided to go ahead with the Crematorium Service and to postpone the Thanksgiving Service until we can all meet together freely and safely. It is not what I would have liked for Mum but I think the sense of disappointment is more bearable than the worry about possible risks to people's health"

Peter Poole's funeral will be at the North East Surrey Crematorium (Morden), 11:20am on Friday 24th April.

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, let Jeananne or myself (vivienne@ridgworld.com) know. It's very easy, and quite fun.

*Vivienne*

### **April**

Corrinne Payne passed away in the early hours of last Sunday (12<sup>th</sup> April); please remember in your prayers Corrinne's daughter Debbie, Debbie's sister and brother, and their families.

Ruxley Thursday Prayer Meeting via Zoom. Ruxley have invited our members to join their regular Thursday morning meeting at 10:00am. This is led by Emma and Judy and, if you would like to try this out, please email Jenny on publicity@ruxley-church.org.uk so that she

can send you the link. Zoom works on many sorts of computers and Smartphones - it is nice to see people's faces, but you can switch off video if you wish. If you want to stay on at the end for a little chat, you can, until the meeting times out (40 mins max.)

## May

Rainbows – after 5 weeks of isolation Denise suddenly said “why don't we put the wooden Rainbow that we use at our weekly Rainbow meetings at Church, in our window at home?” Well, of course I didn't know the answer, so on my latest inspection meeting I was tasked with bringing it home, and here it is. Not quite created by children, but there is a link! *Robin*

Annual Church Meeting. As Emma would like a postponed ACM as soon as possible after we return to the Church Centre, would all groups that do reports let me have them by the end of May please. Thank you - *Denise*

FREE phone lines for prayers and news from the Methodist Church  
Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514 Listen to news: 0808 281 2478  
Content is updated weekly on Thursday afternoon

Help Richard.. “As part of my Local Preacher training, I have been asked to find out about people's consideration of being part of the Methodist Church. I would appreciate it if you could complete the survey at [forms.gle/qzMS5UfF3buVXp6Q6](https://forms.gle/qzMS5UfF3buVXp6Q6) to help with this. The survey will close at midnight at the end of Sunday, 31st May. All responses will be anonymous, and kept as such - I may use quotes from answers in this and other work towards my LP training but only in that. If you are interested in the final piece, please let me know and I'll try to remember to send it to you once it's done! Many thanks,”

*Richard*

The London District are planning a radio series for Premier Radio later in the year and as part of the 'Woven' project which will feature powerful Christian stories. If anyone wants to take part in this storytelling of salvation, healing, moments of epiphany or how their Christian faith has informed their life choices, including friendships, career, calling or how their faith has helped them cope with the struggles of the current crises, please contact me to point you to the direction of the person in charge at the district office. *Emma*

# CONTACTS



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## Stewards

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Contact Steward  
Jeananne  
07729 028850



## Leadership Team

The Minister.

Lesley  
(Steward)

Jeananne  
(Pastoral Sec.)

Denise  
(Property Rep)

Gloria



Church Council Secretary  
Denise

## Pastoral Concerns

Jeananne  
07729 028850

JMA Secretary  
Catherine

## Bookings

020 8393 2155

Church Pay Phone  
020 8393 9743

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

*Melody Green (b. 1946)*  
*Singing the Faith 338*

**If you would like an item to be in  
'The Link' please send it to**

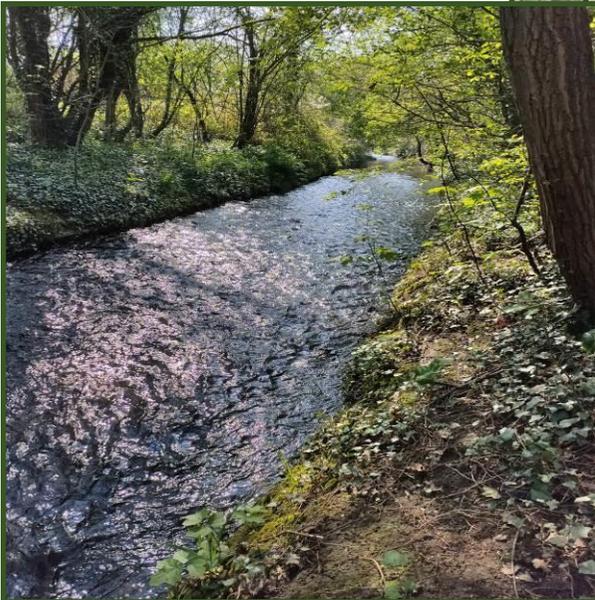
**Vivienne Ridgway**  
vivienne@ridgworld.com

**Articles for inclusion in the next  
LINK should be with Vivienne  
by July 10<sup>th</sup>**

*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*

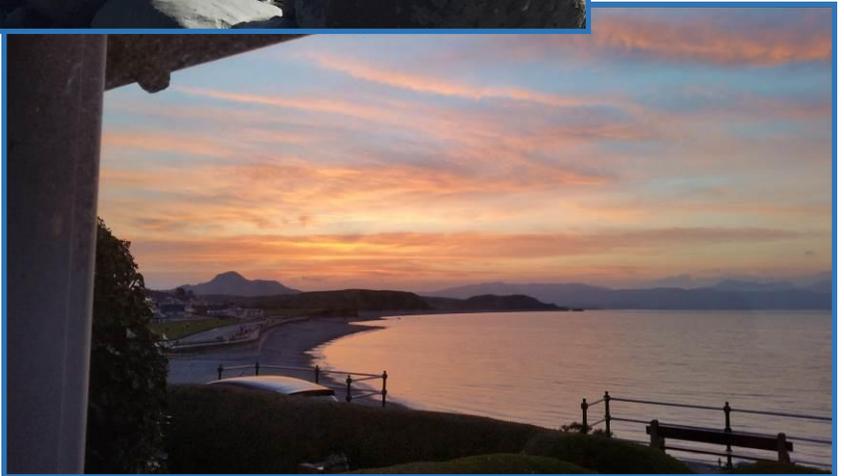
*Fruits of Pat and Colin's Labour*



The Hogsmill,  
photographed by  
Pat on one of  
their walks

## Photos from Criccieth

*Bardsey Island,  
N.Wales  
Photographs from  
Lesley – her story  
inside*



*Lesley says she didn't take this sunrise over Cardigan Bay*