



Welcome to the 'virtual' Stoneleigh Methodist Church

Sunday 31st May 2020

10:30am: Morning Worship – with Miss Diana Pinchin

Prayers

Please pray for Emma and Diana, 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.

“No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.” Hebrews 12:11

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. On behalf of my family and myself I would like to thank the Church Family for all the prayers, the lovely cards, messages, kind words and beautiful flowers I received over the last few weeks. I have felt comforted and supported -thank you so much. *Debbie*

Action for Children. I have had a phone call from the charity asking how we were doing at SMC, asking if we needed anything, and urging us not to go out to collect the Lantern Boxes, which I thought was very caring. I have since had a nice bundle delivered with lots of interesting material for Action for Children Sunday, which is the second Sunday in July, and the theme is 'Choose Childhood. It's highly unlikely that we will be back in Church for that day, so I would ask you to think about donating on-line so that all the great projects and initiatives they undertake to support families and children can still be funded.

In line with the Government's advice, the charity's 'Step Out For Children' has been postponed, but they are hoping to organise a virtual 'Step Out Challenge', to raise money for vulnerable children in the UK, by asking you to walk 15 miles in a month! Can be done at home, in the garden it's completely up to you. Done in stages it's achievable and fun. The challenge is launching soon so I will keep an eye out on their website actionforchildren.org.uk/step-out for more details. If you would like to know any more about donating just go onto their website actionforchildren.org.uk or give me a call if you would prefer to give cash, and I can send it on for you. *Jeananne*

The Link is available from this weekend. As before the 'neighbourhood' copies will be delivered to our local volunteers shortly, and the 'away' copies posted early next week. If you normally pick your copy up from Church, then both Jeananne and I have a few spares - contact either of us and we'll sort you out. The website version will be available next week sometime. *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



We have all heard that "creativity is good for your well-being" but, I can hear you all saying "I can't draw or paint." Well I bet you can! The only person you're trying to please is yourself, and I do mean please, not impress. If you spend time creating something you are pleased with and it has taken your mind off to a quiet place, then that's all that counts. Try recreating a photograph you have taken if, like me you have very little original thought, or take a painting you like and try to imagine it in another way.



These are my two cats, one sadly gone now. The black one that looks rather like an owl is Rosie with her baleful look, and the black and white one was Fluer, who always seemed surprised to find you when she entered a room. They're not great art but they gave me great pleasure to create. Why not have a go? Lesley.



And just look what appeared opposite my house overnight! 😊

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.

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 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
- **All Souls in Langham Place** who are producing very polished mid-week and Sunday Services at 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 – to news@stoneleighmethodist.church or phone 020 8393 2155.

Sunday, 31st May 2020 - Pentecost Sunday

Service prepared by Miss Diana Pinchin from Ruxley Church

Coming of the Holy Spirit

Call to worship

We come to you called by the Holy Spirit. Although we are physically apart, we are joined as one body through your son who come to show the way to the kingdom.

©Diana Pinchin May 2020

Hymn: SoF 510

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Break me, melt me, mould me, fill me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Daniel Iverson ©Birdwing Music CCL 19650

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. And kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you will renew the face of the earth. Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit, you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The English translation of the Prayer to the Holy Spirit from A Book of Prayers © 1982, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.

Confession and God's forgiveness

The spirit of the Lord knows us through and through and invites us to come before him. We come before him knowing that there are times when we could have done better. We take a moment in silence, to open ourselves before our living God asking for his forgiving healing touch. May our heavenly father give us his healing and love; that we are all welcomed back with love when we say sorry. Amen

©Diana Pinchin May 2020

Reading Acts 2:1-21 (NIV)

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.

The sun will be turned to darkness and glorious day of the Lord.

Lord will be saved.

But everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Hymn: SoF 51

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew:
That I may love what Thou dost love
and do what Thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, breath of God,
until my heart is pure:
Until my will is one with Thine,
To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Till I am wholly Thine:
Until this earthly part of me
Glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
So shall I never die,
But live with Thee the perfect life,
Of Thine eternity.

Reflection

I wonder what the disciples must have been feeling on that first Pentecost morning. Let us try and imagine the scene. They are all together in one place when all of a sudden; there was a noise and what looked like tongues of fire appeared. What a few weeks they had experienced.

1. Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey on Palm Sunday.
2. Jesus turns over the money tables in the temple.
3. Seeing Jesus arrested falsely, tired, tortured & crucified.
4. They had run away in fear.
5. They had met him post resurrection.
6. Jesus had physically left them and ascended into heaven, which was celebrated last week.
7. They had been told to stay in Jerusalem to receive the Holy Spirit, whatever what looked like to them.

Is it any wonder they were afraid, confused and perplexed? Jesus did try and tell them what would happen more than once. Being that he would need to go to be with his heavenly Father and that he would send the Holy Spirit to be with them.

A little background may help to explain why God chose the feast of Pentecost to send his comforter and guide, the Holy Spirit. Pentecost was one of three major religious Jewish feasts - the others being The Passover in the Spring and Tabernacles in the Autumn. The feast of the Tabernacles is a reminder of when the Israelites lived in tents, when in the wilderness and that God had provided for their every need.

Pentecost, also known as the Feast of weeks, occurred 50 days after Easter. The purpose of his feast was to offer to the Lord the first fruits of the new grain and was first recorded in Deuteronomy 16. This is why there were many people in town at the time.

It was at this time God chose to speak and send the Holy Spirit to fulfil his promise and on this occasion he decided to make a big statement, through a noise and tongues of fires, to gain attention to spread the news of the kingdom across the world through Peter.

My questions to you this morning are

1. what can the Holy Spirit look like?
2. how can we use the Holy Spirit in our lives?

I will offer a few thoughts which may assist us.

The Holy Spirit is seen and described in the scriptures in a variety of ways and thoughts which come to me include the following which you may wish to look up.

As a wind

- a cool, refreshing Breeze, (Genesis 3;8)
- a strong wind, (Exodus 10;13,19)
- the wind breathing into the valley of dry bones, (Ezekiel 37)

As flames

- As a burning bush which Moses saw, (Exodus 3: 1-7)
- a pillar of Fire which protected the Israelites whilst in the wilderness

As a Dove

- appearing at Jesus' Baptism, (Matthew 3:16)

As a Person

- The Holy Spirit is also described as the third person of the Trinity, (Father, Son and Holy Spirit)

As Fruits

- which we can read about in, (Galatians 5: 22-23)

We can see that since God created the world the Holy Spirit has been at work.

Secondly, how can the Holy spirit be used in our lives as disciples today?

Like the first disciples, who were called on a mission, we too are called on a journey which is unique to us. We need to be open to where we are being guided by the prompting of the Holy Spirit to spread the good news.

We are all part of God's story today and like the first disciples, we need to listen to where the Holy Spirit is leading us. Each of us will have our own unique ministry and we need to remember this.

Ways to discover what this may be are through studying the bible, talking to others, worshiping together and importantly praying and listen to him speaking to us. We need to invite him into our lives and be open to having a deepening relationship with him and we may need to leave some of our past behind.

I don't know about you, but ways, I have felt the Holy Spirit are through a gentle breeze and the birds singing. I sense this is God reminding me about his wonderful creation and our need to care for it. Also, I often find myself smiling at others who seem down, offering a friendly word and at times helping others to find items in a shop. I find it very important to pray regularly in silence to feel and sense the Holy Spirit in my life as a guide and helper.

The key to hearing God speaking is to be open to him speaking to us in the small still voice of calm. We do not need to have any dramatic experience, just be open to where you sense you are being led by The Holy Spirit.

We can all offer a smile and pray for a deepening loving relationship with our Saviour. I wonder where the Holy Spirit will lead us next?

Song: To the tune of the Skye Boat Song

Chorus:

*Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,
gentle as is the dove:
Teach us the truth and help us believe,
Show us the Saviour's love.*

You spoke to us, long, long ago,
gave us the written word:
We read it still, needing its truth,
through it God's voice is heard.

Chorus

Without your help we fail our Lord,
we cannot live his way:
We need your power, we need your strength
following Christ each day.

Chorus

Prayers, (please make these prayers your own)

The response to the prayers is As we come before you, we ask that you will breathe your Holy Spirit into us.

Holy God, we pray for the church throughout the world and for all who serve in the church in whatever capacity. We also remember those who suffer for their faith.

Response As we come before you, we ask that you will breathe your Holy Spirit into us.

Holy God, we pray that our government leaders may show wisdom at this difficult time and work together to limit the spread of the covid-19 virus. We also give thanks that the infection rate seems to be dropping.

Response As we come before you, etc

Holy God, we ask that you will continue to give strength and your healing touch to those working on the front line. We also ask that you will keep their families safe and comfort families who are apart currently as a result of the virus.

Response As we come before you, etc

Holy God, we ask that you will be with those who need your healing touch, naming them out loud or in our hearts.... May they and their carers know your healing loving touch.

Response As we come before you, etc

Holy God, we bring before you our most personal prayers in a time of peace and stillness before we say

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Song: SoF 44, (Blessed Assurance)

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine,
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God:
Born of his spirit, washed in his blood.

*Chorus: This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all, the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all, the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight!
Visions of rapture burst on my sight:
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Chorus*

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and Blessed:
Watching and waiting, looking above.
Filled with his goodness, lost in his love
Chorus

Fanny Crosby (1820-1915)

Blessing, *Although physically apart, we are joined by the Holy Spirit.*

God of love, send us out into the world.

God of love, show us how to care.

God of love, teach us how to serve.

God of love, be with us every day Amen

©Diana Pinchin June 2016