



# Welcome to the 'virtual' Stoneleigh Methodist Church

## Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2020

### 10:30am: Morning Worship with Diana Pinchin

## Prayers

Please pray for Emma, Diana and our Stewards; for others within the Church and beyond, and 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.

*"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge." Psalms 19:1-2*

## Notices

**Link Magazine** It's nearly time to produce the next Link! Any articles, information, news, reports or greetings will be welcome. Email [vivienne@ridgworld.com](mailto:vivienne@ridgworld.com) or post to Vivienne at 46, The Green, Ewell, Epsom KT17 3JJ.

**An Update from Whitechapel Mission.** The Mission has continued to operate throughout the Covid-19 crisis and greatly appreciates the support and prayers it receives from friends across the District. These difficult times have brought some significant challenges but also provided blessings and opportunities we couldn't have imagined.

The pandemic has required substantial changes to the way the Mission operates. Volunteer groups who routinely worked in the kitchen and in clothing exchange have not been available since before the national lockdown – and social distancing requirements have meant we have had to adapt the way we work. But Tony, Sue and a small team of Centre staff – Michelle, Ramesh, Charley, Gary and Lukasz, supported by a few individual volunteers – particularly Tony and Sue's daughter, Jess, and Deacon Terry, have worked with immense dedication and commitment, keeping the Mission open to serve the needs of guests throughout the lockdown. A takeaway service (full English breakfast and a lunch pack) has been provided for up to 400 guests each morning. The Government initiative to provide hotel rooms for the homeless during lockdown has made an impact on the numbers sleeping rough on the streets, but the Mission has seen an increase in guests (both men and women) struggling to cope with the economic impact of lockdown and in need of food. We have not been able to provide showers and life skills support during the last 2 months, but staying open to provide a basic food service has been vitally important and is making a real difference supporting many desperate and hungry folk in our community.

The Whitechapel team have worked together with an amazing camaraderie and selfless devotion to serving the needs of our guests which reflects the Methodist commitment to practical Christianity and is truly humbling. Although the crisis initially created concerns about income for the Mission, we have been blessed to continue to receive donations from individuals and corporate organisations which allow our work to continue. We hope and pray that the initiative to

provide shelter for rough sleepers will continue beyond the Covid crisis and have a lasting impact on homelessness – but it is clear that, even if this happens, there will continue to be a need for our work to support those destitute, hungry, lonely and in need in East London. As more of our staff team come back to work over the coming weeks we will be thinking about how best to develop the services we offer to fulfil our mission to serve Christ in the world – reaching out to those in need in our neighbourhood. Thank you again for all your prayers and support. *Michael Spurr – Whitechapel SMC continues to collect for Whitechapel – donations of clothing etc can be left in our porch at 198 and will then be transported (after 3 days) to the trailer at Church for collection. Robin*

**Epsom Vineyard Church is running a CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Money Course** which is starting online (you will need a computer or smartphone) on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June. It is open to anyone living in the Borough who feels they'd like some support on their finances, both within other church communities and people not connected with them. It is likely that a lot of people are struggling financially, more than usual, due to Covid-19/furlough/job losses situations, and this will be a great resource to help them.

Signup and a little more info (including a video from the Most Revd Justin Welby) can be found on Epsom Vineyard's website - [epsomvineyard.org/cap](http://epsomvineyard.org/cap). *Churches Together in Ewell*

## Around the Trolley

*A section of the NewsSheet for less formal news and information exchanges - all contributions gratefully received – it's your NewsSheet after all! Robin*

**Stan S** Our good friend Stan S, now living in Cambridgeshire, turned 100 during the week. Stan gets a copy of the Link every month, and likes to stay in touch with events and folks at Stoneleigh. Jeananne has sent a card on behalf of the Church; if you'd like to send your own good wishes contact either me or Jeananne for his address. *Robin*

**What was the best concert you have been to?** On Monday evenings recently we have been considering worship, and John's Revelation of all those angels praising God. One question came up in our discussions - what was the best concert you have been to - the most memorable, most enjoyable? What was it that made it so good?

I would love to hear your replies. One or two sentences either by email ([vivienne@ridgworld.com](mailto:vivienne@ridgworld.com)) or by post (46, The Green, KT17 3JJ). I might write something for the Link. *Vivienne*

### Pat & Colin's travels along the Hogsmill



**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June** Well, I'm sitting in the garden eating breakfast whilst the Boiler man is working inside. He expects to be 2-3 hours. At least I have WiFi back and a landline again, so now I just need to find where everything is (and remember it) and I shall be settled! I am beginning to feel at home - it's a good feeling. *Helen*

# **Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – with Diana Pinchin from Ruxley Church**

The theme of the Service is Faithfulness

***We begin our service by singing***

## **Hymn: SoF 28 - As we are gathered**

As we are gathered, Jesus is here;  
One with each other, Jesus is here.  
Joined by the Spirit, washed in the blood,  
Part of the body, the church of God.  
As we are gathered, Jesus is here,  
One with each other, Jesus is here.

*John Daniels. Copyright © 1979 Word's Spirit of Praise Music/CCL 19650*

## **Opening Prayer**

Lord open my ears to see your presence in others  
Open my heart to receive them in me.  
Open my ears to hear your word in the  
scripture, in the teaching of the church and in  
the daily encounters when casual talk may  
suddenly speak of you. Amen

*Adapted from a unknown source, Diana Pinchin June 2020*

## **Sof 215 - I heard the voice of Jesus say (Ideas taken from Psalm 26)**

I heard the voice of Jesus say:  
'Come unto Me and rest;  
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down  
Thy head upon My breast.'  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
Weary and worn and sad;  
I found in Him a resting place,  
And He has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say:  
'Behold, I freely give  
The living water, thirsty one,  
Stoop down and drink and live.'  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
Of that life-giving stream;  
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
And now I live in Him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say:  
'I am this dark world's light;  
Look unto Me, thy morn shall rise,  
And all thy day be bright.'  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
In Him my Star, my Sun;  
And in that light of life I'll walk,  
Till travelling days are done.

*Horatius Bonar (1808-1889)*

### **Confession and God's forgiveness**

God, our Father, we come before you, knowing we are in need of your forgiveness for the things we have wrong. We take a moment of stillness to name them before you now... Father may we know your healing touch in our lives today and forever. We ask this in your name, Amen

*Diana Pinchin © June 2020*

### **Old Testament Reading - Psalm 89**

#### **Hymn: SoF 147 - Great is thy faithfulness (*Ideas taken from Psalm 98*)**

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

#### **Chorus**

*Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided,  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

#### **Chorus**

*Thomas O. Chisholm (1866–1960), ©1951 Hope Publishing Co/ CCL 19650.*

## **Gospel reading - Matthew 10:40-41 (NIV)**

“Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.

## **Reflection**

What does the word faithfulness mean to us? Does it mean God loves for us, God support for us, or something else for us? You may like to ponder that question for a while.

In the hymn ‘Great is thy faithfulness,’ we sing of God’s faithfulness to us at all times, showing us what a wonderful, loving heavenly Father we have, a theme running throughout the scriptures. One place we read of his faithfulness is in our Old Testament reading part of psalm 89.

The collection of psalms, also known as the psalter, has been used by Christians in various ways since early times. Most of the psalms were composed around the time of David, (around 1,000 BC) and the time of Ezra, (450 BC).

At that time, many people were unable to read so the psalms played an important role in the worship at the temple. They were often sung by a soloist with the worshippers joining in with a refrain. This allowed all present to hear God’s words being proclaimed, showing his faithfulness towards us. Also the events of biblical history being taught in an accessible way. In some churches today this practice still happens either sung or spoken.

Charles Wesley knew he was onto a good thing when he took ideas from the psalms and turned them into hymns which have stood the test of time, as they are still widely sung today. Other hymn writers also used the psalms as a base for their hymns, some of which are in today’s service, whereby proclaiming what a faithful heavenly Father we have.

I believe the key to this is the way psalms speak to us. They are a wonderful rich collection of poetry and prayers which speak of all human emotions in ways which can be hard to express.

They speak of comfort, deliverance, confession, forgiveness, trouble, worry, anxiety and anguish. All of this shows just what a Faithful Father we have.

They are also a great way to explore the bible, both in public worship and in private prayer. By using them, we can connect with the history of our ancestors in ways which can speak to us in our hearts, as our Heavenly Father is always with us.

The fourth-century theologian Athanasius wrote 'most of scriptures speaks to us; the Psalms speaks for us'. How true that statement is. The psalms are here for us to use and my question to you this morning is how do you use them?

Answering that question for myself may give you some ideas; I aim to pray through all the psalms in turn from one to 150 over a couple of months, not just my favourites. They are

not to be rushed though, but reflected and prayed on and, if a word or phrase leaps out at you, stay with it as long as it is helpful.

It may be useful to keep a reflective journal, to record our thoughts in writing, or to focus on some object, or a picture may come to mind. It does not matter what you use, just let yourselves be guided by God on this; the important thing is to hear God or Jesus speaking to you. This is us being faithful in return to our heavenly father.

Let's return now to the first section of Psalm 89. The background to this psalm is that this is the end of book three (the psalms are divided up into five books,) and this psalm is the ending of the section which talks about the Israelites being in exile.

God is reminding his chosen people in this psalm that all is not lost, and that his love and faithfulness will remain for ever. There is some use of the imagination or pictures, as light is mentioned, together with a shield, both of which will give us protection if we are in a growing and deepening relationship with his Son Jesus.

As his followers, another way to show our faithfulness can be found in our Gospel reading. It comes at the end of the section where Jesus prepares to send out the disciples.

This passage may seem a little confusing at first with the use of the word prophet. The use of the term prophet was used as a spokesperson for God and applies to any of us who are called to speak God's message.

The righteous people are those who obey God; maybe a better term today is to use a 'good Christian'. In Jesus's time it was taken for granted a drink of water would be offered with no reward expected to those who called.

Jesus, as he often did, turned the usual customs upside down and is saying that as result of giving a cup of water the person who gave that cup will be rewarded.

This is encouraging for us as we are still able to receive and know Jesus in our lives. We do not need to consider ourselves prophets to receive a reward, only to have welcomed someone. All of us are engaged in spreading the good news of Christ in ways open to us. For example, when we carry out a simple act of kindness, such as offering a drink to someone who calls on, someone who does shopping for us, or phoning someone for a chat.

I suggest we take some time to thank God for his faithfulness towards us.

**Prayers, (please make these prayers your own)**

**The response to the prayers is**

**Father, may we know your faithfulness in our lives.**

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.

**Father, may we know your faithfulness in our lives.**

We pray for our government leaders to have wisdom at this difficult time and work together as the country begins to open up after Lockdown. We also give thanks that the infection rate seems to be dropping.

**Father, may we know your faithfulness in our lives.**

We ask that you will continue to give strength and your healing touch to those who are working hard to keep the country moving and those returning to work. We also ask for safety for the country as things begin to open up, and those whose livelihoods are threatened.

**Father, may we know your faithfulness in our lives.**

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.

**Father, may we know your faithfulness in our lives.**

We bring before you our most personal prayers in a time of peace and stillness before we say:

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### **The Lord's prayer**

#### **Song: SoF 42 - Be thou my vision**

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
Be all else but naught to me, save that Thou art;  
Be Thou my best thought in the day and the night,  
Both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, be Thou my true word,  
Be Thou ever with me, and I with Thee, Lord;  
Be Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;  
Be Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright Sun,  
O grant me its joys after victory is won;  
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be Thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

*Eleanor Henrietta Hull, Mary Elizabeth Byrne - PD*

## Closing prayer

God our faithful father,	we thank you
God our loving Father,	we thank you
God our comforting Father,	we thank you
God our creative Father,	we thank you Amen

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**The Blessing** - although physically apart we are one in the Spirit and bless each other through the grace of the Holy Spirit. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

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## 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.** 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*

**Christ Church with St Philip in Worcester Park.** *Paul and Steph alternate Sunday mornings live at 10:00am on Facebook at [facebook.com/christchurchsaintphilip](https://www.facebook.com/christchurchsaintphilip)*

**Surbiton Hill Methodist Church** with the Rev Dr Stan Brown, 10:30am Sunday at [shmc.online.church](http://shmc.online.church).

**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.

**The Ruxley/Stoneleigh Thursday Morning prayer** by Zoom and it's open to all. Email to [publicity@ruxley-church.org.uk](mailto:publicity@ruxley-church.org.uk) by Tuesday for details and a copy of the liturgy too.

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