



# Welcome to the 'virtual' Stoneleigh Methodist Church

## Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020

### 10:30am: Morning Worship with Rev Emma Cusack

## Prayers

Please pray for Emma, 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.

## Notices

**Link Magazine** Deadline for articles etc for the new issue is next Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> July. Email to [link@stoneleighmethodist.church](mailto:link@stoneleighmethodist.church), or to Helen or Vivienne direct.

**Whitechapel** – a well filled trailer of donations was collected by Whitechapel last weekend, so we now have plenty of room for the very welcome continuing bags of clothes etc in our porch at 198, which are then transported (after 3 days) to the trailer at Church for onward travel. *Robin*

**Parking** – now that parking restrictions are back in place on Stoneleigh Crescent, we are happy to accommodate usage of the Church car park by prior arrangement. Just a phone call to 020 8393 2155 in advance so we can let you know the best place to leave your car – thanks. *Robin*

## 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://facebook.com/christchurchsaintphilip)

**Surbiton Hill Methodist Church**, usually 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.

## 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 last 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*

**Hiking along the Hogsmill & Around** Every time we go for a walk, we see something different and are so very grateful that the area in which we live has such varied opportunities to enjoy nature. During lockdown these walks have brought us so much pleasure. *Pat & Colin*



One for the train fans – Sunday morning and not a car in the Ewell West station car park. Good shot of the maintenance access point.



The beekeepers hard at work at Upper Mill



I'm told this is a field vole – so lucky to get this shot I think!

# **Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020** – Service by our very own Rev Emma Cusack

## **Call to worship**

Rejoice! Shout out loud!  
It is great to worship God!  
God has shown us a loving, faithful way.  
Look at everything God has done!  
It is great to worship God! Amen.

## **Hymn SoF 183**

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning  
Our song shall rise to Thee:  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns  
Around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Who were, and are, and ever more shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man  
Thy glory may not see;  
Only Thou art holy, there is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name  
In earth, and sky, and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

*Reginald Heber (1783-1826)*

## **Opening prayer**

Father God, we are here today,  
to praise you, to learn from you.  
Your wisdom, shown to us through Jesus,  
your most precious Son,  
is far greater than that of the world.  
It has the power to confound all our expectations.

We approach you now as children,  
sitting at your feet,  
bathed in your love,  
hanging on your every word.  
Speak to us, Lord. **Amen.**

### **Readings**

Zechariah 9:9-12

Matthew 11:25-30

### **Sermon**

“To all who are weary with carrying heavy burdens in life, Jesus offers rest and relief for our souls” (Matthew 11:28ff)

The background to the Old Testament reading is to do with the Babylonian exile. Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem and forced the Jewish people into exile in Babylon. At the point of the passage Cyrus had issued a decree and it had become possible for the exiles to return to Jerusalem and to rebuild the temple. This was under the leadership of Zerubbabel and Jeshua.

The exile had lasted seventy painful years for the Israelites because their city had been destroyed and they were captives in a foreign land.

The word of God came to Zechariah the prophet and the opening verses of Chapter 9 speaks of God coming as a divine warrior to proclaim judgement on Israel’s enemies whilst protecting Israel from harm. There is a call for the Israelites to be joyful because the righteous saviour is with them.

Zechariah give us a clear image of peace and humility as we hear of a king’s triumphal entry but on a donkey.

An image which Jesus make it his own and it speaks totally in touch with ordinary people and their needs.

When we meet Jesus in the Gospel however, what we find is completely in keeping with the discernment of those Old Testament writers who had waited on God and trusted him.

Jesus’ heart goes out to all who are weighed down in their lives and his welcoming offer is not to do with control or strict rules which terrifies, instead, Jesus shows himself open and unarmed, offering relief and rest for our souls through becoming joined or yoked with our life in the living God. A yoke is a metaphorical image of how to share a burden or weight. We struggle a lot to handle situations when we are not at peace with God. Our hearts become so heavy. Jesus sees the religious leaders of his own people not behaving themselves.

Jesus’ invitation is to everyone – “come, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest”.

Weary and burdened of what? --- Worries; Guilt, Duties, Wants, uncertainties etc. and needless to mention how weary we all are and in the face of this pandemic and yet Jesus says there is hope in me and with me – walk with me; stay with me; trust in me.

Imagine how hard it is to struggle along, carrying heavy shopping bags - arms ache, slowing down as you walk because of the weight and hoping or wishing someone would meet you on the road and give a lending hand but there is no one except the voice of Jesus who wants to share our load – yoke. The narrative is reassuring and directs us all to Jesus.  
Amen

### **Intercessions**

*Response:*

Lord God, we lift your children before you.

**May they find rest for their souls.**

We pray for all in authority, that they will be respectfully conscious of the weight on their shoulders, and that they will act responsibly for the people they serve. We pray for them in their personal lives, with the worries and cares that only they see.

Lord God...

We pray for our friends, family, colleagues. We pray that as we walk alongside them, you will use us to bring them close to you, and they will learn of your love.

Lord God...

We pray that we might be sensitive to the needs of those around us – the people we see every day, perhaps as fleetingly as at the shops, or in the bus queue. We have no idea what burdens they are carrying, or if they need a kind word from you that only we can give.

Lord God...

We pray that we will see the positive in people, even when it's hard, and reach out to encourage them.

Lord God...

**Amen.**

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

You may wish to say the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples in a different language:

#### **Hymn SoF 248**

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 N. Bonar (1808 – 1889)*

### **Benediction**

Lord of us all, help us to be always mindful of those who struggle, to be willing to help others whenever we can.

May we realise that following you is enjoyable,  
so give us the courage we need to stand up and be counted as one of your disciples.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Heavenly Father, may our lives be sustained through your love; Lord Jesus, may we feel your presence walking beside us and Holy Spirit may you guide us and work through us in all that we say and do. Amen

*Opening & Intercession Prayers from rootsontheweb*