



Welcome to the 'virtual' Stoneleigh Methodist Church

Sunday 12th July 2020

10:30am: Morning Worship with the 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.

"Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else." 1 Thessalonians 5:15

Notices

Chris is in Epsom Hospital but she hopes to be home very soon.

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

BT Openreach – you may have noticed the white vans of Kellys and BT Openreach as they change the telephone cables locally to fibre. They are making very good progress with not so much traffic about, and, by arrangement, used the Church car park this week for their vans whilst they were in Stoneleigh Crescent. You may also have seen a couple of our neighbour's cars in our disabled spaces whilst they had their front wall replaced.

Anyway, we had a very nice 'thank you' note from Openreach's James Fair saying how much our offer was appreciated; especially now the Council is enforcing parking restrictions again. Robin

Pssht Bonk – Pssht Bonk – Pssht Bonk – Sounds familiar? It might do if you live near the railway line. We have advance notice that Network Rail will be relaying the track at and around Stoneleigh Station overnight on the weekends of 17/20 July and 25/26 July. There will be other work between 13/31 July, but not as noisy they say. Robin

Chirp, chirp, cheep, cheep – no problem with that one then! Steven and I have been watching the blackbirds at the bottom of our garden who have now hatched 5 chicks; a lot of feeding going on, but we now cannot get into the garage to tidy or move things. Catherine



So, Catherine is breeding blackbirds, now let's have a look at Pat & Colin's Garden



Officially; Colin & Pat went to see their two youngest grandchildren for the first time since early February, social distancing in the garden. Unfortunately, it rained quite heavily so they retreated to the shed with their cups of tea! *Unofficially, At first glance I thought it was their own personal bubble - Robin*

**Next week, if I have room,
some more of Pat & Colin's local travels**



Contact Details

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Minister: 020 8393 2322, 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

Surbiton Hill Methodist Church, usually with the Rev Dr Stan Brown, 10:30am Sunday at 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 by Tuesday for details and a copy of the liturgy too.

All items for future NewsSheets – to news@stoneleighmethodist.church or phone 020 8393 2155.

Sunday, 12th July 2020 – Service by the Rev Emma Cusack

Call to worship

“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;
³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”
(Matthew 13:31-32)

Opening Prayer

Lord, it is so good to read your Word,
and hear the parables you told.
But, Lord, we can't leave it there.
We must take note of the explanation,
and work it out in our own lives.
Help us, O Lord, to listen, to learn and to act. **Amen.**

Hymn Sing the Faith - 18

Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.

I am the Lord who saves and heals.
I am the Lord who saves and heals.
I am the Lord who saves and heals.

In you, O Lord, I put my trust.
In you, O Lord, I put my trust.
In you, O Lord, I put my trust.

Anonymous Based on Psalm 46:10–11

Confession

For the times we don't see what you want us to see
and just take things at face value:
forgive us, good Lord, and make us new.

For the times when we want our seed planted in neat rows,
when our own plans become more important than yours,
rather than letting the Holy Spirit prepare the soil of our lives
and blow where the Spirit wants to:
forgive us, good Lord, and make us new. Amen.

Passage and Reflection – Matthew 13:1-9

“That same day” – The statement takes us back to chapter 11 where:

Jesus had finished instructing the twelve disciples and he went on from there to **teach and preach** in the **towns** of Galilee. He went through **the corn fields**.

He went into the synagogue where there was a man with a shriveled hand. Jesus asked the man to stretch out his hand and as he did what he was told, his hand was completely restored. (Chpt.12:1-14)

A blind and mute man was brought to Jesus and he was healed (chpt.12:22)

Jesus was still teaching when his Mother and brothers came looking for him. When he was informed about this, Jesus replied pointing to his disciples, “here are my mother and brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother” (chpt.12:46-50)

This brings us to the end of chapter 12 and then chapter 13 begins with the statement “**that same day**”.

This give us an idea that Jesus had been doing quite a lot within a day and had not even finished; he goes out of the house; sits by the lake however because a large crowd followed him, he had to get into a boat and within a distance from the shore, he told them **many** parables: The following is the passage for today:

“that same day” Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ² Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³ Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along **the path**, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on **rocky places**, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among **thorns**, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on **good soil**, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear”

Verses 18 – 23

¹⁸ “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰ The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²² The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful.

Matthew creates a strong sense of anticipation. The crowd that had assembled on the shore was so large that Jesus had to go into a boat to teach them. ‘Listen!’ he says. ‘A sower went out to sow...’ The story is simple, it is visual, familiar to his audience and from this parable God is revealed in the everyday events of our lives.

The story compels listeners to ask themselves, ‘What kind of ground am I?’ How receptive, how open am I to growth? And although the parable is not explained at this stage, its

meaning is clear. It is a parable about listening – listening to the teachings of Jesus, without distraction, and allowing them to take root and grow to fullness in their lives. “He who has ears, let them hear” (v.9). This teaching is for everyone, for the committed as well as the uncommitted.

So what do we take away from this parable? It is about God, the sower, who sows the Word, which is Jesus. The Word is sown everywhere, among everyone and God brings forth growth in every instance. May we recognize the seeds of the Word that grow among us and may we be open to the growth which God brings forth from us. Amen

Prayers of Intercession

God of all seeds and all stories,
we pray for the wisdom to apply the truth of Jesus' parables
to our own lives
and to our life together in this place where we worship you
and this community where we serve you.

May we see you, may we hear you, may we know you care.

In the world, we pray especially
for places where climate change has brought drought...
for the places where it has brought floods ...
for those whose crops have been scorched...
for those whose livelihoods have been washed away.

We pray for the people of Japan –
for those caught in the heavy rains there –
and for the people of Australia
and their wildlife endangered by the forest fires.

We pray too for those in our own country
who face continual upheaval and heartache through repeated flooding.

May we see you, may we hear you, may we know you care.

We pray for those whose life's seeds
are being choked by anxiety, poverty and hardship...
for those who have lost their jobs...
for those unable to feed their families
or to pay their mortgages and rent...
for those living without basic facilities.

We pray for those given hope by the emergency budget
and for those who feel hope-less
and for foodbanks and charities that try to help all who are struggling.

May we see you, may we hear you, may we know you care.

We pray for those unable to thrive because of illness...
and those denied the opportunity
to plant the seeds of their dreams in fertile soil...
for those hospitalized with Covid-19...
for those whose journey to recovery is long , slow and painful...
for those who nurse them...

for those who love them...

for those whose treatment has been put on hold...

We pray for those robbed of the opportunity to go to school,

for children in war zones, those in refugee camps,

those who have to work to find their daily food.

May we see you, may we hear you, may we know you care.

And we pray for those whose seeds are watered by their tears...

those grieving the loss of someone close to them...

those who feel forgotten...

those who are neglected...

those who are victims of injustice, abuse, or cruelty...

**May they – and all in any kind of need today – see you, may they hear you,
and may know you care. Amen.**

Hymn - Singing the Faith 531

What a friend we have in Jesus,

all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry

everything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit,

O what needless pain we bear,

all because we do not carry

everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations,

is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged:

take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful

who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our every weakness:

take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,

cumbered with a load of care?

Precious Saviour, still our refuge —

take it to the Lord in prayer!

Do your friends despise, forsake you?

Take it to the Lord in prayer;

in his arms he'll take and shield you,

you will find a solace there.

Joseph Medlicott Scriven (1819–1886)

Closing Prayer

Lord God, the world outside awaits us with all its troubles and uncertainties – but also with its opportunities.

Send us out now, in your name, to look consciously for ways of seeing you in the world around, and to act accordingly.

Amen.

All prayers are from rootsontheweb