



Welcome to the 'virtual' Stoneleigh Methodist Church

Sunday 19th 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.

"One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple." Psalms 27:4

Notices

Chris is still in hospital but hopes to be home early next week. She is grateful for all the care, attention and good wishes she has received.

Manse Maintenance: Building works at the manse will begin on the 1st August - roof repair, re-wiring of the whole building, and bathroom. So, we will be moving out plus, I am due my last two weeks annual leave before the end of August. *Emma*



Re-opening Questionnaire. Thanks to all who have completed their Re-opening Questionnaire. Last day is Monday 20th July. If anyone is having problems completing the questionnaire, please send your response on a plain email page in response to the questions and email back to me. *Emma*

Online Circuit Service on Sunday 6th September at 3:00pm there will be an online circuit service to begin the New Church Year. Further information will be given nearer the time.

Around the Trolley

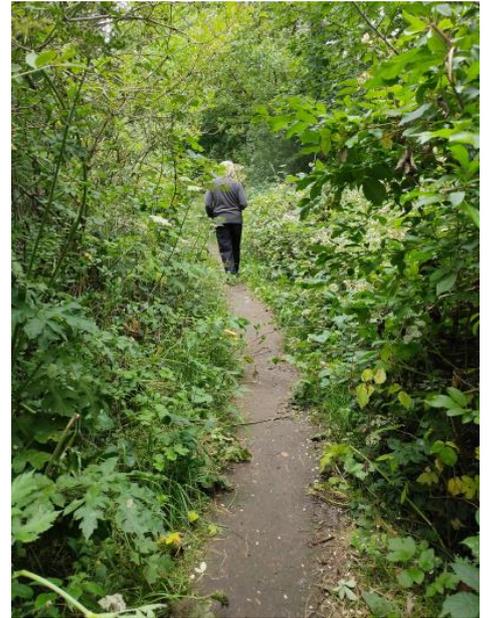
A section of the NewsSheet for less formal news and information exchanges - all contributions gratefully received – it's your NewsSheet after all! Robin

Remember. 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*



**Hide and Seek with Pat & Colin
around the Hogsmill Open Space.**

Colin– where are you?



Contact Details

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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. 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, 19th July 2020 – Service by the Rev Emma Cusack

Call to Worship

We are the people of the kingdom.
Come now to worship the Son of Man.
Come seeking new understanding
of all that he has done for us,
and of all that we are called to do
for the building of the kingdom.
Amen.

Opening Prayer

Lord, sometimes we are just so impatient,
wanting to get on with our lives,
wanting everything better.
But we know, our ways are not your ways.
We come to you [this morning]
rejoicing in the knowledge that
you can transform our lives
and the lives of those around us –
starting exactly where we are.
Thank you, Lord.
Amen.

A moment of silence

Hymn StF 156

- 1 From the breaking of the dawn
to the setting of the sun,
I will stand on every promise of your word.
Words of power, strong to save,
that will never pass away;
I will stand on every promise of your word.
For your covenant is sure,
and on this I am secure:
I can stand on every promise of your word.
- 2 When I stumble and I sin,
condemnation pressing in,
I will stand on every promise of your word.
You are faithful to forgive,

that in freedom I might live,
so I stand on every promise of your word.
Guilt to innocence restored;
you remember sins no more.
So I'll stand on every promise of your word.

3 When I'm faced with anguished choice
I will listen for your voice,
and I'll stand on every promise of your word.
Through this dark and troubled land,
you will guide me with your hand
as I stand on every promise of your word.
And you've promised to complete
every work begun in me,
so I'll stand on every promise of your word.

4 Hope that lifts me from despair;
love that casts out every fear
as I stand on every promise of your word.
Not forsaken, not alone,
for the Comforter has come,
and I stand on every promise of your word.
Grace sufficient, grace for me,
grace for all who will believe.
We will stand on every promise of your word.

Keith Getty (b. 1974) and Stuart Townend (b. 1963) ©Thankyou Music CCLI 19650

Reading: Matthew 13:24-30 and 36-43

Prayer of Confession

Lord, I confess to you this morning
that I'm not very patient with the weeds in my life.
I try to pull them out, without thinking of any harm that may cause,
to me or others.
Sometimes, I'm so frightened that those tangles will overcome me,
that I try to ignore them, pretending they're not there.
Please forgive me, Lord and help me to trust you to show me your way.
Amen.

Reflection

Let us pray: Lord speak to us through your Word and teach us through this reflection. Challenge and inspire us, so that we might draw closer to you. In Jesus' name.

Amen

Matthew chapter 11 set the scene for last Sunday's reading and reflection and it showed how much the Lord Jesus did "on that same day".

It must have been important for the writer of Matthew's gospel to begin chapter 13 with such opening "That same day". It communicates the energy, the flow of the spirit in teaching, healing and ministering deliverance to set free those who were weary and bound by worries and spiritual attacks.

Jesus continues with his use of parables to teach. He had just finished teaching the large crowd about the parable of the sower and from today's reading, Jesus continues and tell them another parable to reflect the Kingdom of heaven. This time it's the parable of the Weeds and the interpretation of it.

Matthew separates the parable and the interpretation, with another parable – the mustard seed

Matthew, links Jesus' use of the parables to his messianic revelation of God's kingdom. "the Son of Man"; a title he used for himself when he began to speak about his suffering, death and resurrection.

We discover that although Jesus shares in both the parable of the sower and the weeds with the crowd, he explains the meaning to just his disciples.

What are some of the key points we can learn?

There are several parables in relation to the kingdom of God and there is a hope that you would discover that you are part of the kingdom.

The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man – Jesus and he intends always to offer what is good.

The good soil is an assurance that despite the hostility, frustrations and disappointments we face, there would be a harvest. To recap, we have the reading below and I have highlighted those parts of the passage that jumps out and speaks to me and I hope you will take a moment to reflect and allow the Holy Spirit to minister to you from this passage. Amen

Matthew 13:24-30 and 36-43

²⁴ Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

²⁷ "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?'

²⁸ “‘An enemy did this,’ he replied.

“The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’

²⁹ “‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them.

³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; **then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.**”

³⁶ Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.”

³⁷ He answered, “**The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man.** ³⁸ **The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one,** ³⁹ **and the enemy who sows them is the devil.**

The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

⁴⁰ “As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age.

⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

Prayer of Intercession

Lord God, we pray for our world and its people.

So many different cultures, colours, languages

– but we are all your children, all special in our own right.

Whatever our gender, race, colour or creed, we all belong to you.

We all need your love.

We pray that we might learn to live in harmony with each other, to recognise that even someone halfway around the world is still our neighbour in your sight. Far or near, we all belong to you.

We all need your love.

With today’s technology we have access to news from afar, almost before it happens. Help us not to become unconcerned about the situations we see, but to pray and care faithfully for all concerned.

In war or peace, we all belong to you.

We all need your love.

We pray for those near and dear to us: protect them, wrap them in your loving arms, and in sorrow and in joy, be with them.

Near or far, we all belong to you.

We all need your love.

Amen.

Hymn StF 526

- 1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could
destroy,
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the
day.
- 2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane
and the lathe,
be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon
of the day.
- 3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
- 4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Joyce Placzek (1901–1953) ©Oxford University Press – CCLI 19650

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank you that we have been able
to spend time with you today.
We have felt ourselves grow stronger
as we have been blessed with your presence.
Send us out to spread your love,
in your precious name.
Amen.

Blessing

May the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and the Holy Spirit
be with you now and for ever.
Amen