



Welcome to the 'virtual' Stoneleigh Methodist Church

Sunday 23 August 2020

10:30am: Morning Worship

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 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.

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." James 1:2-3

Notices

Our Services during August will be taken from the Methodist Church website.

GDPR changes. From 1st September Sally will be taking over my role as SMC Data Officer; I would like to thank Sally very much for taking on the role.

The Methodist Church has recently reviewed their GDPR procedures and have decided to change the forms that we have previously completed, therefore one of Sally's first tasks will be to ask you all to complete these new 'simpler' forms. With the situation as it is, we are not yet sure when this will be, but Emma and Sally will be working on this from September. *Lesley.*

Other Changes. As the new Church Year starts there will be significant changes to the structure of the Church with a new leadership team (CPD 633), Marion as Church Council Secretary, and Vivienne and Richard as Stewards. How this will all work in practice will be discussed with Emma at a meeting early in September, including arrangements for reopening the Church for Worship. Full details of the changes can be given after that meeting. *Robin*

Contact Details

Postal Address: 1 Stoneleigh Crescent, Stoneleigh, Epsom KT19 0RT

Contact: Jeananne (07729 028850) - contact@stoneleighmethodist.church

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

Christ Church with St Philip returns today at 10:00am - facebook.com/christchurchsaintphilip.

Surbiton Hill Methodist Church, 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 is open to all. Email to publicity@ruxley-church.org.uk by Tuesday for details and a copy of the liturgy too.

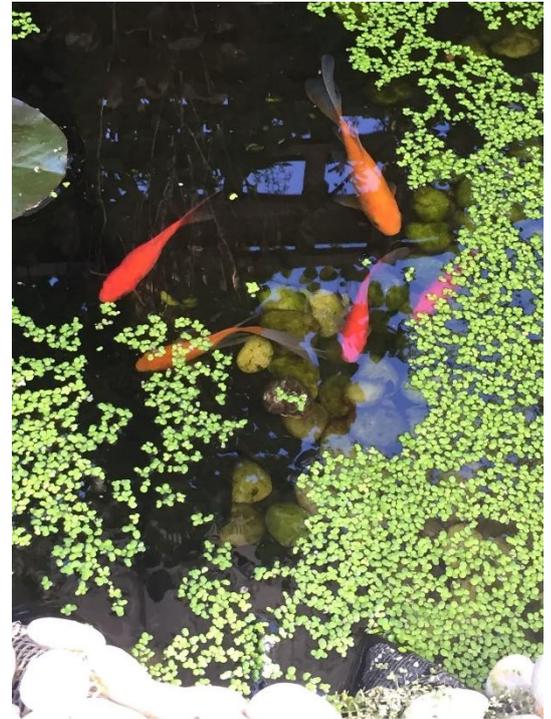
Around the Trolley

From Jean – “thank you to everyone – I have been overwhelmed and much appreciate the cakes, beautiful cards and flowers I received on my birthday. I’d like to wish everyone well, and keep dry and cool.” *Jean*

Our ‘theme’ this week seems to be ‘water’, so let’s start with Catherine, before we cross over to County Cork with Colin & Pat.

During VE celebrations I was discussing ponds with my neighbour and she said that their pond, which was an old Belfast sink, had one fish in it and she was surprised to learn that we didn't have any in our pond. Steven had dug the pond a few years ago; it had a waterlily and a lot of very green pond weed in it. I put some frogspawn in one year but had not seen any frogs from it. Once we were allowed out I headed for a Goldfish Centre and ended up buying five of various colours and sizes, thinking that some might die. I was very excited, not having been out very much. I followed all the instructions and once the fish had acclimatized to the water temperature and to the pond water, they were let to swim free.

Taking more interest in the pond and its inmates I realised we had tadpoles, frogs, loads of water snails and I even saw a newt. Over the last few months, I had spotted at least three of the goldfish, but now I have seen all five still swimming around quite happily. One good happening during lockdown! *Catherine*



Here are a few pictures from locally around our West Cork home. The weather has been fabulous – not quite so ‘powerful’ as the UK so nice to be out. The ‘our beach’ is one very little known, even locally, so very quiet. No-one here has ever seen the sea so flat!



The beach at Warren Strand is busy during the day, but by early evening is deserted and makes a lovely walk. As you can see, we have had some lovely sunsets too. *Colin*

On the route to the house from the ferry port is the new Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge, an ‘extradosed’ bridge over the River Barrow. It was built as part of the N25 New Ross Bypass, and was officially opened in January 2020, becoming Ireland's longest bridge. Extradosed means it is both a cable and girder bridge – rather pretty too (if you like bridges!) - *Robin*



Sunday 23 August 2020

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use whilst we are unable to use Methodist Church premises. If you are well enough why not spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Prayer

When we see only trouble Jesus, be our vision
When we feel only uncertainty Jesus, be our rock
When we hear only bad news Jesus, be our hope
In all the circumstances of our lives
Jesus, our Companion, be a light to our path

Hymn: One more step along the world I go (StF 476)

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/hymns/one-more-step-along-the-world-i-go-stf-476/>

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words:

One more step along the world I go,
one more step along the world I go;
from the old things to the new
keep me travelling along with you:
and it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.

Round the corners of the world I turn,
more and more about the world I learn;
all the new things that I see
you'll be looking at along with me:

As I travel through the bad and good,
keep me travelling the way I should;
where I see no way to go
you'll be telling me the way, I know:

Give me courage when the world is rough,
keep me loving though the world is tough;
leap and sing in all I do,
keep me travelling along with you:

You are older than the world can be,
you are younger than the life in me;
ever old and ever new,
keep me travelling along with you:

Sydney Carter (1915-2004)

Let us pray together

Gracious God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, mindful, compassionate, constant, thank you for loving us through every season of our lives. May we believe that you call us into a new day, that you call each of us by our name, that we belong to you. And gathered or scattered, you hold us together in love.

Generous and merciful God, the only way to come to you each day is in truth, for you know us completely and love us as we are. Shine your gentle light on us so that we can know ourselves to be real, honest and forgiven. Thank you in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Today's Reading from the Old Testament

Isaiah 51 1-3

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, and who seek the Lord:

Look to the rock from which you were cut, and to the quarry from which you were hewn; look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth.

When I called him he was only one man, and I blessed him and made him many.

The Lord will surely comfort Zion, and will look with compassion on all her ruins;

he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the Lord.

Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing.

Today's Gospel Reading:

John 4 1-14

Jesus Talks With a Samaritan Woman

Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John— although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

Now he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

“Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?”

Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

Time to Reflect

In November, we moved house. It set me thinking how old and new need to exist together. A different house, same old furniture; meeting new people, keeping old friends. Old and new together enrich our lives. And it happens all around us in different ways.

Grandparents and grandchildren bridge the generation gap. In nature in autumn and winter, already buds are on the seemingly bare branches, nurturing life for another spring. In our north east culture, ancient Celtic sites co-exist with new developments. St Peter’s Church by the River Wear bears witness to many centuries of Christian life, now surrounded by a modern university. But I suspect the Venerable Bede would have welcomed new ways of learning, exploring, discovering.

What does Jesus say about this? Many are tempted to think Jesus discarded all that was old giving us licence to do the same. Yes, we have his words about new wine and old wineskins that destroy one another when they are put together. But in the wilderness, whenever Jesus was tempted away from love and vulnerability, he found his resistance in words from the scriptures with their timeless wisdom and relevance.

Jesus held within himself the wisdom of the ages, God the Ancient of Days, ‘the rock from which we were hewn’ with the effortless ease he had of living with his contemporaries in fresh and creatively new ways.

During lockdown, we have learned of necessity to hold familiar songs and prayers with new ways of experiencing and expressing them. To be able to hold old and new is something we need to take into an uncertain future, as we abide in the timelessness of God, ‘ever old and ever new’ but allowing Jesus continuously to bring new life to birth in us, bubbling up with laughter, love and possibility.

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Holy and gracious God, we pray for others, prayers that bring to mind the world’s realities. Please teach us not to be afraid, because it is here we find you, sharing this deeply troubled world with us.

Please bless all who are continuing to make a difference: scientists working faster than ever before to find cure or vaccine for covid-19; chefs, volunteers, entertainers, neighbours and countless more. May they know your laughter and love.

We ask you to bless all who are there to care for those who are at their lowest, especially in health and care services. May they know your persevering strength.

We pray for the hundreds of thousands who are grieving here and across the world: for the loss of loved ones, loss of livelihood, loss of confidence and hope, loss of any sense of wellbeing. May they know your comfort, strong and everlasting.

We pray for people who need the world to be a more just and equal place, and for those who have power to make changes. May it happen quickly and peacefully. May they know your righteousness.

We pray for all who need the world to remember them: refugees and asylum seekers, all living in poverty and suffering from climate change. May we remember; may they know your provision through us.

Thank you for all, profoundly known and loved, who enrich our lives every day.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: God to enfold you (StF 648)

Can be sung to 'Morning has broken'

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/hymns/god-to-enfold-you-stf-648/>

God to enfold you,
Christ to uphold you,
Spirit to keep you in heaven's sight;
so may God grace you,
heal and embrace you,
lead you through darkness
into the light.

John L. Bell (b. 1949)

A prayer of blessing

Generous God, please fill your holy gift of life with grace; please bless your fragile gift of life with joy; please help us always to cherish your precious gift of life. **Amen.**

Original Materials by Jean Hudson

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