



Welcome to the 'virtual' Stoneleigh Methodist Church

Sunday 30 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.

"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love."

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Notices

Thanks. As the Church Year draws to a close it is only right that we remember the efforts that have been made by many of the Church Family, especially those who have decided it is time to call time on some of their roles. So, thank you to our most excellent Stewards, Lesley and Jeananne, and our Church Council Secretary, Denise – your kind and thoughtful counsel will be sadly missed. *Robin*

Hi everyone. I am going to order some copies of the new Prayer handbook entitled *The Earth is the Lord's*. The new book recognises how human activities are having a major impact on the life systems of our world. Use these prayers of thanksgiving, penitence, and intercession to resolve that, with God's help, we may take responsibility for our actions and, as stewards of God's gift to us, participate in the healing of creation. With God's help, may we take responsibility for our actions and, as stewards of God's gift to us, participate in the healing of creation.

A copy costs £4:15 if I order 10 or more, or £4:50 with a lesser order. It would be helpful to let me know if you would like me to order one for you. I am loathe to order too many, so do please contact me on 07729 028850.

This handbook is full of amazing prayers, written by people from all differing backgrounds, and countries. I use it every day and the prayers are used in 'A Word In Time' on the Methodist Church Bible study website methodist.org.uk *Jeananne*

Ruxley's Garden of Reflexion. If you have walked past Ruxley Church, or stood by the bus stop recently, you will have noticed a change. During August we have been planting, and now there is a beautiful space for you to sit in and enjoy.

We are grateful to all of you who helped with our fund raising which all started in 2018 with our Ruxley Challenge Walk. The garden is now a reality, with just a few more plants to come. If you've been wondering what the patterned area of paving in the other patio is all about – it's a labyrinth. More information will be available in the garden fairly soon to explain how to use it.



The plants will provide all year-round interest; some are scented, some are lovely to touch, there are evergreens for structure and climbers to cloak the fences. We hope you will enjoy using this space.

The three pillars are ready for commemorative plaques to be installed. This will complete our aim of having a special place to come and reflect on the loss of our loved ones, but also to remember all the happiness they have brought in our lives, knowing they will never be forgotten.

The garden was the main stage of our Memorial Project – we started in November 2017 and, 2½ years later, the Planting of the Garden of Reflection is completed.

Yes, it may have taken a while but “all good things come to he/she who waits!”.

If you would like to know more, contact us on office@ruxley-church.org.uk

Around the Trolley

Bank Holiday – yes, to help you keep track of time, this coming Monday is a **Bank Holiday!** Is it me, or have we had more Bank Holidays this year than ever before?

Gardening. The recent weather has proved very conducive to the growth of weeds and Colin E, our local gardener, spent some time clearing the weeds from the front and sides of the church building last week. I wish I were fit enough to do as much as he could in the time, but the results improved the vision of our building to passers-by considerably. Denise has his number if you'd like him to give you a quote for a one-off clearance or regular maintenance. *Robin*

Tree of Life & Open Heaven. Thanks to Vivienne telling me about Jacqui Parkinson's new exhibition at Guildford Cathedral - I had the most lovely time there, and would urge you to go and see it.

Some of you will have seen her Threads Through Revelation, this one is smaller with three stitched panels that take you on a journey and each have a tree at their centre.



The first panel is from The Garden of Eden and is the journey away from the tree of life. The second one tells the Easter Story with the tree of life at its centre - the tree on which Jesus died. The final panel depicts the journey towards the eternal tree of life that has fruit all year round and will bring healing to the nations.

Open Heaven is a visual piece, an installation which I won't say much about as it is so moving, I would love you just to experience it! The exhibition runs until September 26th and masks must be worn. The cafe is open with cakes etc. *Jeananne*

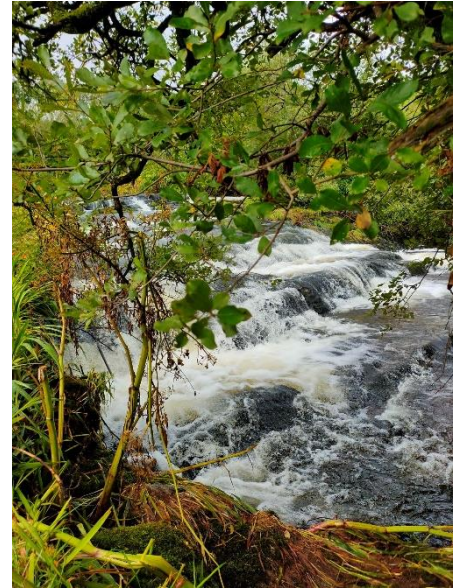
From County Cork. Our friends from Skibbereen Methodist Church invited us to join them on a



gentle walk last Sunday. Gentle walk!? It was more than 5 miles at a brisk pace, up and down hills on bumpy paths.

However, the scenery was beautiful and the company enjoyable.

The river was



still in heavy flood after the recent rains. *Colin*

Courses at St Pauls, Howell Hill – these courses are using Zoom - *Robin*.

New Beginnings Online

New Beginnings is for anyone suffering a divorce, separation, or broken relationship. Its aim is to help people to come to terms with the past and make a fresh start in a friendly and supportive atmosphere.

The group begins on Thursday, 17th September at 7:30 pm. It lasts 10 weeks and is open to everyone. For more information, please call Colin on 07855 245 619 or new.beginnings@blueyonder.co.uk or register at <http://www.saintpauls.co.uk/newbeginnings>

Exploring Anxiety and Depression Online

This self-help group seeks to provide helpful perspectives in a friendly and supportive atmosphere but does not provide counselling or therapy. Professional and experienced speakers help us to look at various ways of combating anxiety and depression. There is also ample time for discussion.

The 10-week course starts on Monday, 21st September at 7:00 pm. For further information please email Judith on exploringanxietydepression@gmail.com or register at www.saintpauls.co.uk/EAD.

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, 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.

NEW - Methodist Church Year of Prayer on Tuesdays at 12:45pm – a 15 minute Service on Zoom and Facebook Live – full details on <https://www.methodist.org.uk/yearofprayer/>

Sunday 30 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

Lord, I draw near with faith. Open my eyes to see and ears to hear what you have for me, today and every day. **Amen**

Hymn: StF 608 All Praise to Our Redeeming Lord

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bhE-Moyghul>

All praise to our redeeming Lord,
who joins us by his grace,
and bids us, each to each restored,
together seek his face.

E'en now we think and speak the same,
and cordially agree;
concentred all, through Jesu's name,
in perfect harmony.

He bids us build each other up;
and, gathered into one,
to our high calling's glorious hope
we hand in hand go on.

We all partake the joy of one,
the common peace we feel,
a peace to sensual minds unknown,
a joy unspeakable.

The gift which he on one bestows,
we all delight to prove;
the grace through every vessel flows,
in purest streams of love.

And if our fellowship below
in Jesus be so sweet,
what heights of rapture shall we know
when round his throne we meet!

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

A Time of Prayer

Lord God, we pray to you, as Father Son and Holy Spirit, to praise you, For You are our God. We pray to thank you for all that You have done for us, for you are always there. We pray to You as our God, who made the world, died for us, rose again to show us the way to heaven, and lives in us all. We bring before you the burden of all the sins we have committed, and we say Lord God, we are sorry for them. We know that such is your Love, we are forgiven our sins. Thanks be to you, Our God, **Amen**

Today's Reading from the Old Testament: Exodus 3:1-15

Moses and the Burning Bush

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

And Moses said, "Here I am."

"Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.'"

God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.'

"This is my name forever,

the name you shall call me

from generation to generation.

Today's New Testament Reading:

Romans 12:9-21

Love in Action

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Time to Reflect

How often have we heard the story of the burning bush? Perhaps you first heard it at school or in Sunday School. Many of us certainly knew the basic plot as soon as we saw the heading. Yet, when we read it now, in these difficult times, perhaps it is the assurance God hears our sufferings that is what we need most from this reading, rather than a familiar story. If on our next walk outside we saw what Moses did, and heard a similar promise, would we rejoice? Yet, God is telling us to do that, without flames amidst our shrubbery.

The reading from Romans tells us, Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. In difficult moments, that is enough, to ask of someone that get through these times. What is astonishing is, it can be sufficient if we will let it be. Not that we are ever alone.

Listening to what God tells us in our despair is often the hardest thing. Why did God have to burn a bush so that it would keep burning until Moses noticed it? Moses was in the depths of despair. We don't like to listen in our despair to anything of hope. Much of the duty of a Christian is to help one another out of the wallowing. To share our own grief's lessons with those who are in the midst of learning them. We should weep with those who weep, yes, and yet, more than this, we should pass the tissues and try and help them through.

At present, we are much minded to think of all that is wrong in our lives, of those dear to us being taken from us, or at risk of so being. Take thought though of all that is not awful even in our present miseries. For there is more goodness on show than at that burning bush each and every day, if we would but see it. It may be hard to see, yet that is why God gives us such lights. If we light a candle in a dark room, an experiment I recommend, you will marvel at how much such a small light can reveal. So how much more can a burning bush light up? Yet more than this, the light of God is alive in every Christian this very day, and it burns even brighter than the sun itself.

If you doubt this, take the Romans passage, and think of examples you have seen of each verse, one or two a day this week. You will soon see much light, more than comes in at your windows in the bright summer days.

Do not let the evil that sits in the world overpower you. Leave such to the Lord, He will deal with the evil people, turning them to good. Focus instead on the good you can do. For if we all do what good we can, that is quite enough to make the world a very different place. If we dwell on evil, we will be overwhelmed. Yet instead of decrying all that is wrong, let us concentrate on doing good. If we spend our time doing our bit of Good, we do far more than all the handwringing in history ever accomplished. Do not let yourself think yourself weak, you have prayer, you have the good you can do for others with your God-given abilities. That is quite enough to overcome a lot of evil for other folk, if you would but set to it with a will. Thus, the True Christian does not just hold to what is good in theory. We do good. For are we not True Christians, all of us?

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Gracious God, we bring before you our prayers for the world

We pray for all those who lack physical things, food, shelter, water, and all of life's necessities.

We pray for those who mourn, and those who ail. Lord, for those we may help, may our hands work quickly, and for those we personally cannot help, we pray for the hands that will.

We pray for all those who work to provide care and help to others. Lord bless them and keep them from tiredness and error, and those they care for, keep them from despair. We bring the names of those known to us before you...

We pray for all in spiritual distress, who struggle to hear your message, or to come to you in prayer. Lord, help them to heed.

We pray for ourselves. Strengthen us to come through renewed in faith in certainty.

We pray for our land and nation. Lord, help us all to endure, to do our duty and to serve you faithfully. May our land be brightened by the Light of Lord as we leave these times behind.

Lord, we ask these things, knowing that when we pray, wherever we pray, you hear our prayers. Thanks be unto you, Father Son and Holy Spirit, Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: Listen to May the Mind of Christ my Saviour(StF 504)

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/hymns/may-the-mind-of-christ-my-saviour-stf-504/>

or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

May the mind of Christ my Saviour
live in me from day to day,
by his love and power controlling
all I do or say.

May the word of God dwell richly
in my heart from hour to hour,
so that all may see I triumph
only through his power.

May the peace of God my Father
rule my life in everything,
that I may be calm to comfort
sick and sorrowing.

May the love of Jesus fill me,
as the waters fill the sea;
him exalting, self forgetting --
this is victory.

May I run the race before me,
strong and brave to face the foe,
looking only unto Jesus
as I onward go.

Katie Barclay Wilkinson (1859-1928)

A prayer of blessing

Lord, as we go forth, may we see all the things you long for us to notice. May we be your people in all we do and say. Amen

*Original Materials by Thomas Smith
All Hymns reproduced under CCL 19650*