



Welcome to the 'virtual' Stoneleigh Methodist Church

Sunday 6 September 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.

"Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom." James 3:13

Notices

'Zoom' Circuit Service. Emma will be leading this Circuit Service at 3:00pm this Sunday, when two favourite hymns will be sung. The link to join online is <https://bit.ly/3lKNa7l>, passcode 715922, or by phone 0131 460 1196, ID 824 0392 1710, passcode 715922.

The 1st of September marked the beginning of the Methodist Church New Year, and on this note I would like to first of all thank Lesley, Denise, Jeananne and Gloria for working with me in the past two years as the Leadership Team. I have valued their support and partnership in leadership. I also want to share that the New Leadership Team - Vivienne, Richard, Marion, Catherine, Debbie, Gloria, Pat (sent apologies) and myself met on Wednesday 2nd for the first time in the courtyard. May God's spirit continue to guide us all in this New Year. *Emma*

Church Centre reopening. Enquiries for access to the Centre are increasing, so I'd like to update everyone on the current position. The NHS Test & Trace system requires the Church to record all people on the premises throughout the day/week. So, until this restriction is lifted, access into the Centre is 'pre-booked' only – **no exceptions**. Booking is through Denise or me, and compliance with Test & Trace is a condition (in our Risk Assessment) of being able to have even part of our building open. And, just now, we're working on only one group in the building at a time – that will be extended when we have agreed with groups who will clean after their use. More news as soon as we have it – Catherine and I are working on it! *Robin*

Church Cleaning – many thanks to our gallant cleaning crew who bravely donned gloves and masks to tackle the accumulations of dust, cobwebs and general dirt that has settled over the past five months or so. I did my best to clean up after my maintenance work – honest! *Robin*

The Link – the deadline for contributions for the next issue of the Link magazine is Thursday 10th September. Please send direct to Vivienne, or to link@stoneleighmethodist.church.

St Mary's Ewell online 'Day for All' This year the event at St Mary's Ewell, entitled 'Day for All' with the theme 'Handle with Care', will be on Saturday 26th September from 10:00am with content for adults and children. There is lots happening, and I'd recommend going online to their on-line

calendar at stmarysewell.com/calendar where there are more details, and application forms for the various competitions.

St Mary's Ewell – Organ concerts. The popular monthly recitals on the Father Willis pipe organ at St Mary's will restart on Tuesday 22nd September, 1:05-1:35pm - entry is free but donations welcome. More details of these and the Saturday concerts due to restart soon, are on their website.

Monday Night Group

We have been meeting on Zoom which has been a success. We have been following a series on Revelation from Gateway Church in Leeds, which I found it quite challenging. Vivienne lead those and posed some tricky questions which sparked some great debates.

Following on from that Richard introduced us to a series on Nehemiah from New Wine (an Anglican version of Spring Harvest), and The Bishop of Lancaster, Jill Duff, had produced three videos on how Nehemiah returned from exile to mastermind rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. She was inspiring and talked to us about dealing with opposition, and not wasting our time focusing on the negativity which comes in all churches. Nehemiah had seven different strategies to counteract all the doom mongers, and the downright hostile people.

At the end of one of the sessions Richard posed the question to us "What are you weary of?" in and around our church life. I was worried about how churches could go on with few members and limited resources. He turned it back to me and said I should take it to God.

Later that evening whilst pondering and praying, an idea came to me; to be like Nehemiah and pray boldly, asking boldly, and do it twice a day up in the church carpark.

So, I have done it for three weeks, up to now, and it has made me really focus on praying for the new team, the Stewards and Emma, plus all our congregation. To be expectant for an answer for us going forward and for unity of purpose and direction. So, I am asking for you all to pray Nehemiah's prayer every day and really get behind our new team, so they know we are behind them and supporting them.

The Prayer from Chapter 1 adapted by me for us as a church and a community.

Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you night and day for you, for your servants, the people of this church, and community.

Verse 7/8 I adapted. This next section I used for asking for wisdom, unity and direction and blessing to be on our new team, and to ask for forgiveness if we have let negativity stop us from being hopeful and expectant that we can find a way to be a blessing for our community here in Stoneleigh. What I prayed for changed some days, so you can make it really personal.

I prayed that:

our doors would open and people would return, and remembered that God said to Moses that he would gather people from the farthest horizon, remember ever hopeful, to the place he had chosen as a dwelling place for His Name, Stoneleigh Methodist Church!

These are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. Lord let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayers of your servants who delight in revering your name, here in this church, and in this community.

Give us success by hearing our prayers and may we always trust and follow your purposes, your direction, in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Jeananne

Around the Trolley

Now is the season when male house spiders come out of hiding and seek out a mate (which you can see at any time of the year.) I've found a few around the Church Centre, and all have been carefully removed to outside the building (no spiders or humans were harmed in the process.) The house spider isn't as annoying as the Harvest spider though; this is the time of year when they spin almost invisible strands across doorways and corridors, as I often find when walking around!



Foodbank – the list of 'wants' from [Foodbank](#) now has more 'Urgent' items than non-urgent on it. If you can help with Sponge puddings, treats/chocolate for children, instant mash, powdered milk, sugar (500g bags) jam, tea bags, coffee, custard, washing up liquid or tinned meat, the depot behind West Ewell Primary School is open weekdays, 9:00am to 2:00pm.

Courses at St Pauls, Howell Hill – these courses are using Zoom - those who have been previously speak well of them. *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. (re-opening 6th September as well.)

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

Living God, we thank you for the gift of being able to speak directly to you through prayer. In the midst of this pandemic, when life feels more and more like an uphill battle, we pray for perseverance and that we would not grow weary of doing good. When the world tells us we are not good enough, you make us more than enough. When we don't feel strong enough, you provide the strength we need. Though we may stumble, you have promised not to let us fall. With Jesus as our ultimate example, we ask for endurance and refreshment so that we may continue to press on and do your work. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Written by Sydney McMichael Administrator Ministries: Vocations and Worship

Hymn: StF 654

Sing/read/pray/proclaim the words, or [listen to it here](#) (if you're reading this on a computer)

- 1 The love of God comes close
where stands an open door
to let the stranger in,
to mingle rich and poor.
The love of God is here to stay,
embracing those who walk his way.

- 2 The peace of God comes close
to those caught in the storm,
foregoing lives of ease
to ease the lives forlorn.
The peace of God is here to stay,
embracing those who walk his way.

- 3 The joy of God comes close

where faith encounters fears,
where heights and depths of life
are found through smiles and tears.

The joy of God is here to stay,
embracing those who walk his way.

4 The grace of God comes close
to those whose grace is spent,
when hearts are tired or sore
and hope is bruised and bent.
The grace of God is here to stay,
embracing those who walk his way.

5 The Son of God comes close
where people praise his name,
where bread and wine are blest
and shared as when he came.
The Son of God is here to stay,
embracing those who walk his way.

John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (b. 1958)

Words: From Enemy of Apathy (c) 1988, WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow G2 3DH Scotland. <www.wgrg.co.uk>

Let us pray together

Loving and generous God, on this the first Sunday of a new Connexional year we are aware that so many people are still unable to gather in a church or chapel to worship you. We know you hear our prayers from wherever we are, but for many our desire is to gather together for mutual support and to praise your name.

Hear the prayers of our hearts as we long for a better world.

Hear the prayers of our minds as we try to find new ways to worship you.

Hear the prayer of our souls as we long to draw closer to you.

On this day, we thank you once again for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. How he modelled a way for us to live, and how he showed us that there is nothing in earth or heaven that can separate us from your love.

Forgive us Lord in the times when we doubt you. Give us strength when we feel weak. Hold us close, until the day finally comes when we might all gather as one to praise your name.
Amen.

Today's Gospel Reading: Matthew 18: 15-20

Dealing with Sin in the Church

“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

“Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

“Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

Time to Reflect

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic – when as a ministries team we began producing these worship at home sheets, I thought they might be needed for a few weeks. Now, 5 months in, I realise how naïve I was!

I want to thank all those people who volunteered to draft one of these acts of worship. An offering made, each week, by leaders of worship both lay and ordained, from across the connexion in good faith and often written under pressure.

To begin people were grateful for the acts of worship. Then, quite quickly, a few people began to write in to offer us advice or to blatantly tell us what we were doing wrong! Can, I wonder, the worship of God be wrong? Of course, liturgically we can all do things that might not suit everyone, but if your heart and my heart are in the right place, surely God will accept what we offer. My general response was they are offered in good faith, by a brother or sister in Christ – adapt them as you will.

In the trauma of dealing with the pandemic we have moved the phase when we declared, “we are all in this together” to a more destructive phase. A time of disillusionment, where nothing anyone does seems to be quite good enough for anyone else.

Jesus (our God on earth) knew people all too well. The emotional roller coasters we travel in life. Which is why, I suggest, he recommended that if you have a problem with someone you should go to him or her directly, before dragging in the wider community (which today would include the online communities many of us belong to).

We all make mistakes. (For the mistakes we've made on these sheets I apologise). We will all need at some point to point a mistake out to another person, or to apologise for something we have done wrong. Let us do this graciously with love and care for another. As we move into this new Connexional year, let us all commit to reviewing not what might we do to please humankind but what we might do to the glory of God.

I pray may all our mistakes be made in good faith, and may our reprimands be smothered in the love of God. Amen

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

Loving God we hold before you today:

Those who began their period as a Probationary Minister today. Those ministers who have moved home this summer. Those preachers, who have not led worship for many months. For churches who are struggling to know when to re-open.

We pray for those we love:

For those who mourn...

For those who have been ill...

For frontline workers.

For those struggling to find work.

For those who have started or who are about to start school.

We pray for your world:

For those parts of the world devastated by COVID19.

For refuges and those living in fear.

We pray for ourselves – in a moment of quiet hold before God what is on your heart today.

Binding all our prayers together we say:

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: StF 476 vs 1,2,4,5 or listen to <https://www.youtube.com/printerwatch?v=k7bT4qfeZRY>

1. 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 traveling along with you:

2. Round the corner 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:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me traveling along with you.

4. 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 traveling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me traveling along with you.

5. You are older than the world can be,
you are younger than the life in me;
ever old and ever new,
keep me traveling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me traveling along with you.
keep me traveling along with you.
keep me traveling along with you.

A prayer of blessing

May the Grace of the Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God our Father and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, for evermore, Amen

*Original Materials by Revd Paul Wood
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