



LINK



STONELEIGH METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Revd. Emma Cusack Fd.A; DipHE

December 2020



Photo by Tom, 2012

Stoneleigh Crescent, Stoneleigh,
Epsom, Surrey KT19 0RT
www.stoneleighmethodist.church

Photos from Sudbury School in Ghana



Fillings for the new foundations



Years 10 and 11 at school under Covid19.



The Headteacher Mr Giles Hector Sekyi who completed a master's degree in Education earlier in the year –
Congratulations –



Sundhar, very proud of his cheese straws –
(I didn't get a taste of these, but his biscuits were very nice – *Vivienne*)

Dear Friends,

I have been wondering how much this year's Christmas season might mean to us. At the time of writing, it feels unimaginable that we will be celebrating Christmas and yet most traditional events may not happen.

Unless things change, this pandemic has robbed us of many things especially the ability to sing together in worship which makes us all feel sad and people have remarked that, what is the point in coming to church if we cannot sing?

From the 1933 copy of the Methodist Hymn Book, the first line of the preface states that "Methodism was born in song and this statement has been referred to by writers as they pay tribute to the hymns written by the Wesleys.



A season without carol singing and sharing mince pies and mulled wine, without a crib or nativity service and having the children all dressed up in their favourite character costume; a



season without the publicity to invite guests to come into the church and celebrate in a usual style with us.

We are, however, consoled by the fact that the main reason for the season will never changes. For it is a season to celebrate the first coming of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Saviour. He is born for us and His kingdom will have no end.

As we gradually face the close of the year, we want to thank God for all his love, grace and mercy. By His Spirit, He's empowering all to demonstrate his love for the world.

We leave all that we have encountered this year at the cross and we trust and hope for a New Year filled with healing, reconciliation, and the knowledge that we are set free by grace.

In this coming New Year, I pray that we will continue to be nurtured and grow in faith, that our relationship with the Lord and with one another will be strengthened to promote positivity and to enjoy God's favour by striving to be the people he wants us to be. Let us spread the good news of Jesus when opportunities come our way and as we ponder on the difference that Jesus Christ makes in our lives, may we extend that joy and goodwill to all. Happy Christmas and a blessed New Year.



With good wishes
Emma



Update on Sudbury School, Ghana HRS Library and ICT Centre

See pictures on inside front cover

Last year in August 2019, the work on the Library and ICT Centre was commissioned during my holiday in Ghana and I shared with the church in September how our donation of £250 contributed towards the work on the profiling of the foundation.

This year August 2020, as a church, our annual donation of £250 was transferred to the school on 1/8/2020 and paid into the school account.

I am pleased to share that the money was used to buy some trips of filling for the foundation as well as paying for labour.

In July this year I have once again shipped some clothing and bras which were given to me as it helps to raise some additional funds when the villagers pick and make cash donation. I am yet to know how much has been raised although I am told that the BRAS are very much welcomed by the ladies and women who can't even afford to make a donation.

Since the Covid restrictions from March, thankfully none of the staff or pupils have been affected and the government has allowed only years 10 & 11 students back in school across the country to continue with their tutorial towards their exams. And we meet the Headteacher who completed a master's degree in Education earlier in the year – Congratulations – Mr Giles Hector Sekyi !

Rev Emma Cusack
(on behalf of the Sudbury School 16.11.2020)



How is your PESS?

If I met you and asked how your PESS is would you know what I meant? Until Monday (9/11) I didn't, but as part of our Monday evening study I watched Gateway Church Video and discovered that the question is asking how my **Physical**, **Emotional**, **Spiritual** and **Social** wellbeing is on a scale from 0 to 5 with 0 being at the lowest point.

I really consider this could well be a very simple tool to use to open some real conversations with people for whom we care. The standard response to "How are you?" is typically "Fine" but "How is your PESS" could bring some interesting responses. A way of opening a deeper more meaningful conversation, but not to be used lightly or carelessly.

Helen





Kathryn's Mercy Home Trust
Joan's Grace Home
Devakottai - 630 302.Tamilnadu,S.India.
website:-www.kathrynsmercyhome.org
e.mail :- jjeyapaul2000@yahoo.co.uk

Summary of the Monthly Report Sep to Nov-2020

" I can do all things through Christ which strengthen me" Phil: 4 : 13

Greetings from KMH Trust- Devakottai. Our hearty thanks to all our supporters for their prayers and continuous support towards our project. It is a great privilege to me to submit this report of our work at KMH. *With love and best wishes, Rev.J.Jeyapaul & Charles.*

Covid-19 Relief works:- KMH have received generous donations from U.K. friends and trustees and were able to distribute food materials to 408 badly affected families.

They have donated

- medical aids, masks, gloves and food materials to a hospital for disabled people.
- masks, sanitizers and gloves to the Municipal street cleaning workers.
- food materials to 2 villages who are Dalit and most deserving daily wagers.

Joan's Grace Home for Elderly ladies:

At present there are 20 ladies in JGH. All are very well and safe, and regular check-ups are carried out, both medical and safety. In August the District Sanitary Inspector visited both JGH and

Kathryn's School and gave a wonderful talk to our staff about awareness of Dengue fever and corona virus.

JGH Hostel Girls:

From 3rd March when the lockdown was announced all our JGH hostel and college girls returned to reside with their parents at their native places. Due to the lockdown all the poor workers lost their jobs. Now all our families come once a month to JGH to receive relief money, mask, rice and sanitation things.

All the JGH wardens, cooks, watchman and other staff are receiving their regular salaries from our KMH.

Kathryn's Nursery & Primary School:

The teachers are coming to school every day. They prepare and send the daily lessons and homework to the children. Sadly, the lockdown means that some school parents haven't paid their school fees. The school is making every effort to pay half of the salary during this lock down period.

Our Vision for next 10 years:

To continue the existing programs – namely education of the girls, care for the Elderly ladies, Village Child Development programs, Medical camps and Nursery and Primary School education.

In addition they are going to start few more vocational trainings like Soap, Phenyl making, mushroom cultivation training tailoring training - a 3 month course for the benefit of unemployed young ladies from the surrounding village.

Rev. W. Allbury, Jeyapaul and Charles

Peter's mother-in-law

Matthew 8: 14-22

It probably wasn't often that the disciples heard what happened after Jesus healed someone, but Peter's mother-in-law 'might' have said to him (in her best north- country accent):

"Eeh lad, I do like that friend of yours. He's lovely."

"I'd nearly had it, you know – tossing and turning and burning up with fever. I was on my death-bed. I could feel myself going. Folk all around me were crying and moaning, so I knew it was near the end. And you get some funny thoughts when that's happening. I kept wondering whether there'd be enough to feed all the folks at the funeral and if they'd all be happy with fish.

"But I was getting weaker. I had this floaty feeling, as if I wasn't in the room, or even on the bed, Voices kept fading in and out and I seemed to be letting go of something or other.



"Then suddenly, there he was, leaning over me, looking at me – and it was like he was holding on to me, so I wouldn't go anywhere without him. Then a great cool, calm feeling started in my hand and seemed to creep into the rest of my body. I stopped shaking and came down off the ceiling – if that's where I'd

been – and I could feel life coming back to me. I knew he was holding my hand and it was as if he was saying, 'Come on now, old lass. Let's be having you up on your feet again.' He was very gently pulling me up towards him and it was as if his strength was making me feel strong again.

“So I stood up. Very carefully! But once I was on my feet I knew I had no need to worry. In fact, I felt so well that the next thing I knew I was asking who wanted a drink and tottering off to make a meal. That’s my way!. Always on the move! As long as I have the strength!

“Your new friend was very grateful for the food. Healing me did seem to have taken something out of him.

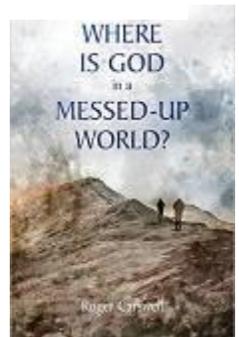
“He’ll always be welcome in this house. I’ll never be able to repay him and I’ll always remember him. He certainly had some power in those hands of his

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Extract taken from www.methodist.org.uk-our-faith/the-bible/a-word-in-time/2019/3-10-march2019//friday Compiled by Marjorie Dobson (Local Preacher).



Where is God in a messed-up world? In our Monday evening Bible study sessions, we’ve recently been looking at the book of Ephesians through a series of sermons from Gateway Church, Leeds. In the first session of these, the book ‘Where is God in a messed-up world?’ by Roger Carswell was recommended. We have been reading this book individually (at our own pace!) for the past couple of weeks and have found it simple to read but going into a lot of depth using various case studies and his own experience. I have a number of copies of this book available if you would like a copy – just drop me an email with your address (richie.g@googlemail.com) and I can deliver. *Richard*





Advent Prayer Calendar

Prayers for our community over the advent season



Day	Praise	Pray
1	Praise God for Celebrations	Pray for the lonely
2	Praise God for your strength and health	Pray for the sick
3	Praise God for all His people in Stoneleigh	Pray that God's Kingdom will spread
4	Praise God for the generosity in our community	Pray for those who are out of work
5	Praise God for our ministers	Pray for Emma
6	Praise God for our gifts	Pray for our preachers
7	Praise God for the joy of new birth	Pray for all who have been baptised in our church
8	Praise God for love and friendship	Pray for all who have been married in our church
9	Praise God for our church community	Pray for all who love our church
10	Praise God for His guiding hand	Pray for the leadership team
11	Praise God for colour, shape and creativity	Pray for the work of ConquestArt
12	Praise God for each new generation	Pray for the toddler group
13	Praise God for the energy of youth	Pray for the Guiding and Scouting groups
14	Praise God for friendship	Pray for all we meet today.
15	Praise God for spiritual fellowship	Pray for class meetings and for Tuesday Fellowship
16	Praise God that He works among us	Pray for church council
17	Praise God for our plenty	Pray for Whitechapel Mission
18	Praise God for teachers	Pray for our schools and teachers
19	Praise God for His wide world	Pray for the school in Uganda
20	Praise God for sharing our humanity	Remember Jesus as a baby
21	Praise God for His teaching	Remember Jesus as a teacher
22	Praise God for our own new life	Remember Jesus as our Saviour
23	Praise God for His Spirit within us	Remember Jesus as our King
24	Praise God for everything	Join voices with the angels in heaven to praise His Holy Name



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Stewards

Vivienne Ridgway
Richard Graham



Leadership Team

The Minister.

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Pastoral Concerns

Jeananne
07729 028850

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Catherine
020 8224 7966

Bookings

Denise
020 8393 2155

Church Pay Phone

020 8393 9743

*Many are the plans
in the mind of a man,*

*But it is the purpose
of the Lord that will stand.*

Proverbs 19:21 ESV

If you would like an item to be in
"The Link" please send it to

Vivienne Ridgway
vivienne@ridgworld.com

Articles for inclusion in the next LINK should
be with Vivienne by January 10th

*The right to edit or omit articles is reserved to
SMC, The Minister and Stewards*

*The views expressed in this magazine are not
necessarily those of SMC as a whole*

Our Worshipping Community



As lockdown continues, I know we're all missing the opportunity to worship as a body.

Meanwhile many continue to worship, joining in online.

November has seen us venture into live Zoom and Youtube services for SMC – though with a few teething problems. Do remember that you can join zoom services on the phone – sounds weird, but better than no contact! Calls will be charged at your normal network rate.

This is the process:

1. On your home phone, dial the number you're given
2. listen to the announcement and enter the meeting ID, then # (hash);
3. after the next announcement, press # again.

And that's it. You should be connected and just need to listen. Hang up when the service finishes, or when you want to leave. If you wish to unmute yourself to join in the chat afterwards, press #6.

Please let me know of other churches and the links to their services so we can share.

Still Waters –

Every 1st Sunday of the month @ 6:00pm via Zoom.

You're invited to spend some time discovering the world through Art and Spirituality, led by Deacon Dawn. If you are interested the Zoom link is below.

To join 'Still Waters' go to

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6641594384?> and use Meeting ID: 664 159 4384, passcode 123123.



Gracious God,
guide of all who put their trust in you: grant us in all
our doubts and uncertainties the grace to seek your
will, that your Holy Spirit may save us from all false
choices and that in your light we may see light;
through Christ our Lord. Amen

William Bright (1824-1901).

'The Lord has grace on a hair-trigger – the first flicker
of repentance sets it off.'

*David Griffith-Jones in
'Explore', Daily Bible Notes on Haggai*

For it is a season to celebrate the first coming of
Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Saviour. He is born
for us and His kingdom will have no end.

Emma

Churches Together at Christmas

Because of Covid restrictions, the Together at Christmas team are having to make different arrangements this year and are planning to distribute goody bags to those who normally come to their Christmas Dinner. Arrangements have yet to be finally confirmed, but the team are also hoping that, with the support of the catering team at the Wellness Centre, they will be able to provide a hot Christmas dinner to those 'guests' who will be on their own on the day delivered by a cohort of volunteer drivers. Please pray that all the arrangements fall into place, and that the guests will know they are thought of.

Editor

.What about Christmas this year?

What differences there will be! But maybe for us it's going to be a special time. Monday Evening group has been discussing how our extra time has given us opportunity to practice those 5 or 10 (or more) minutes with God in solitude.

Maybe we can remember more of the real celebration in our pared back plans. We can still celebrate what God did – He loved us so much that His son Jesus became human – born as a baby. I love the Wesley hymn – even though the words are difficult –



*Let earth and heaven combine,
Angels and men agree,
To praise in songs divine
The incarnate Deity,
Our God contracted to a span,
Incomprehensibly made man.*



Charles Wesley

What is our church doing for the Christmas Services? Our plans have to be flexible – depending on lockdown measures.

However, we are planning to have our normal opportunities to worship, even if they have to be shared online. The schedule is on the back cover, but all up to date information will be on the website – check before making your own firm plans. *Vivienne*

Livestreaming Services.

Church Council has agreed that we need to build a team to press the buttons to enable the services to be recorded. This will relieve the burden on Richard. Once he has ironed out the problems, he will be able to train a new team. Pat and Catherine expressed their willingness to start with, and there will be others over time – they can't all be trained at once. Pat will attend on 8th November, and Catherine on the 15th.

From the notices

Maintenance – following on from the Legionella Risk Assessment, we changed the plumbing to the back and accessible toilets so that it was no longer ‘tank fed’, but instead came straight from the mains. This is now the same system as in the Hall side of the Church Centre and removes the risk of Legionella developing. At the same time, we fitted ‘flow restrictors’ to the taps in both sets of toilets to create an even flow, regardless of how many taps were turned on, or toilets flushed, at the same time. I am happy to report that all works as planned.



Robin



VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

Conquest Art's annual Lady Shepperd award exhibition will go online from 7th - 31st December, so please take a look at their website www.conquestart.org and vote for your favourite picture. Winner to be announced in the New Year. Thank you. *Lesley*



The Friends of Horton Cemetery.

Some you will know that one of my hobbies is Genealogy, and that I have been researching my extensive family history now for over 35years.

These past few months has given me lots of time to indulge myself and during this time I have made contact with two family members, one in Canada, where many of my family went in the hope of a better life, and another in Cornwall. We are all great-granddaughters of different brothers and sisters in one family. It has been an exciting time as we have shared our knowledge and together filled in many of the gaps.

About a month ago I saw an advert in our local Epsom and Ewell free paper 'Once Upon a Town' asking for help researching the people buried in Horton Cemetery who came from the hospitals in the Epsom cluster. I'm sure we all know something of the history of the 'Epsom Hospital Cluster' and the part it has played in this area since 1898 when the first, 'Manor Hospital' was built. In the end only five of the six intended hospitals were built with West Park being the last in 1924 making it the largest cluster of psychiatric hospitals in the world.

You may remember the campaign to erect the memorial which now stands in Horton Lane, but did you know that between 1899-



1955 approximately 8,500-9,000 men, women, children and babies were buried as paupers in the overgrown graveyard that lies just behind the fence, unclaimed by their families? There were very few stones erected and the grave markers carry no personal information, the cemetery map is missing and so at the moment there is no way of knowing who is buried where.

To commemorate the patients who died and were buried in

Horton Cemetery from 1899-1955

The land was purchased by a developer in 1983 and now a charity, 'Friends

of Horton Cemetery' is working to preserve and restore the cemetery and prevent any future development. They hope that by finding out about the people buried there and bringing their stories to life they can draw attention to the need to preserve the cemetery which is one of the few remaining intact asylum cemeteries in the UK.

I am now one of 30 researchers and have been allotted 40 patients to investigate, all inmates of the "Epsom Colony" opened in 1903, to care for the "Epileptic insane of the Metropolis" and children. The Colony later became St Ebba's Hospital.

I am enjoying my research, but it has brought to light some sad stories, these stories will eventually be available on the Friends of Horton Cemetery website hortoncemetery.org . In the meantime, we will continue to try and bring to life the stories of those who have been long forgotten.

If anybody is interested in finding out more about the charity please look at the website or email hortoncemetery@gmail.com or give me a call.

Lesley



Joan P was glad to see the Petty letter in the last issue. She has sent in this response:

Dear Linda,

Many congratulations to your mother on her 100th Birthday! I am probably one of only a few members of S.M.C. who will remember Beryl and, as one of the founder members of the



Young Wives' Club, I well remember her producing plays for our concerts and of going to your house in Cuddington Avenue (no.15?) for rehearsals and other social occasions.

I am still in touch with Alison Lock, daughter of Barbara Lock another founder member of Young Wives'. Barbara sadly died about 5 years ago but she spent her last few years near her daughter Alison in Bishop Sutton which is close to Bristol.

I followed in Beryl's footsteps and later was Brown Owl of 2nd Stoneleigh Brownies for 8 years.

I have often thought of Beryl, while walking down Cuddington Avenue, and am sure, from now on, I will have her very much in mind!

Best wishes from Joan Price.

Support during Lockdown

Life under lockdown for our son Sundhar, who has learning difficulties, has been very different from normal. He greatly misses the Monday afternoon Conquest Art sessions which have brought to light a hidden artistic talent of which we were hitherto unaware. He started going to these without our knowledge; he was taken by Phyl, one of the other class members. We thank Lesley and Jeananne, and are very grateful to them, for patiently encouraging Sundhar to develop his painting skills and providing him with ideas. But he won't paint at home because we, his parents, "don't know anything about painting"! His paintings are proudly displayed in relations' homes across the world from America to India. This is a wonderful example of SMC's outreach into the community.



The café in the Banstead Civic Centre, where Sundhar helps as a volunteer to prepare lunches on Wednesdays, has been closed for several months. This is an "employability" placement made through Council-owned **Surrey Choices** who provide a range of support services to improve the independence, confidence and life skills of people like Sundhar and to enable them to integrate within the local community.

The Surrey Choices minibus has come regularly to the house to give painting and other activities to keep Sundhar occupied. More recently they have given thrice-weekly support via Zoom. On Mondays, Sundhar takes part in practical cooking classes following the onscreen instructions. His long list of culinary achievements includes the following: Cheese Twists (proudly shown in the picture), Chewy Granola Cookies, Raspberry Buns, Flapjacks, Peanut Butter Cookies and many other tasty goodies. He does a Zoom quiz every Wednesday and there are life-skill talks on Fridays. Again, we greatly appreciate the commitment of the friendly and involved team of support workers. *Gopal*



For photo of Sundhar with his cheese straws, see inside back cover



Remembrance Day:
Vivienne visited Bridlington
Model Village in
September and was able
to photograph this scene

Richard has taken this photo of the Brunel Tunnel under the Thames - built between 1825 and 1843, designed for horse-drawn carriages but used by pedestrians, and became a tourist attraction. In 1869 it was converted into a railway tunnel.



There still seems to be a lot of interest in railways in our church family

To the right are the long-abandoned rails of the Hay-Inclined Plane at Blists Hill near Telford, used to transfer canalboats from canal to the Severn River, *photo by Vivienne*



And this seemingly abandoned local station is actually a platform at Chessington South



This year, our Christmas Worship and family times will be slightly different. Services in our church are being live-streamed, Plans may change at short notice. The following is the plan at time of going to print.

Please see our website for the most up-to-date information.

Our Annual Carol Service:

20th December 2020

A service with contributions from around the church family
Carols, readings, prayers and thought-provoking words.
Available from 6.30pm on YouTube



Gift Service:

13th December 2020

Please see the website for the latest arrangements.

Remember the work of Whitechapel Mission, and the local food bank. Gifts can be left at any time at 198, Stoneleigh Park Road, and leave in the porch.

Christmas Day

Time to remember the contrasts- Jesus King of Heaven born in a stable, Jesus omnipotent born helpless.

Emma will lead a joint service with our Ruxley friends on Zoom at 10am

Please note the earlier time.



Crib View:

24th December 4pm

As we may not be able to gather for our normal relaxed service on Christmas Eve, the church will be open between 4pm and 4.45pm for you to drop in, sit in peace (or not) with your family in the church to remember Jesus' birth, and pray.

Masks needed inside, please, and social distancing will be observed. Subject to changing guidelines

Covenant Service:

10th January

This is an important service for us. Firm plans for how and where have not yet been made, but it will happen.

