



SORRY – We are closed again due to Covid - *but we are always open on-line*

Welcome to Stoneleigh Methodist Church

Sunday 17 January 2021

10:30am: Morning Worship led by **Richard Graham**

You can join our Service today online or by telephone – details in the Service header

Prayers

Please pray for Richard here today and Emma at the Lantern, for our Stewards, for others within the Church and beyond who continue to work tirelessly for the benefit of all, and for the continued health of the National Health Service staff and all our other key workers.

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.

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Hebrews 10:24-25

Notices

Christine Williams. On behalf of Martin and Ian Williams, I confirm that Christine's funeral service will be at the Randall's Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, on Wednesday, 27th January, at 3:30pm.

Please remember Martin and Ian in your prayers for healing and strength.

If anyone wants to share their memories of Christine, please email directly to me by Monday, 18th January. *Emma*

*The Churchwardens, Parochial and Ecumenical Church Council of Ruxley Church (Ewell St Francis)
request the pleasure of your (virtual) company at*

**The Licensing
of The Reverend Fiona Ellingham
by The Right Reverend Jo Bailey Wells - Bishop of Dorking
Wednesday 20th January 2021 at 7.30pm**

Due to prevailing Covid restrictions the service will now
be livestreamed from Ruxley Church via YouTube at https://youtu.be/Y7Y_Fvgjbn4

The collection at this service is being taken for the Bishop of Guildford's Communities Fund, which exists to reach out and help fund support for disadvantaged and vulnerable people across the Diocese. Donate online now via their Virgin Money Giving page at:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?charityId=1002569>

Sally has received this from Paula (Churches Together in Ewell). May God bless you and be close as we begin 2021, with so much 'darkness', concern and uncertainty around us.

Many of us will be familiar with the words of 2 Chronicles 7:14 - *"if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face, then will I hear from heaven, forgive their sin and heal their land"*.

I found myself yesterday reading the previous chapter – Solomon's prayer. as he dedicates the temple. From v29 onwards struck me particularly.... *"when a prayer or plea is made by one of your people (he addresses God here) each aware of his own afflictions and pains, they spread out their hands towards the temple, deal with each one according to all they do, since you O God know their hearts – do this they that they may fear You and walk in Your ways"*.

I remembered too the verse in 2 Corinthians 6:16, that tells us that we have the Holy Spirit within us and are each a *'temple of His Spirit'*.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is 18-25 January this year – might we 'come together' in some way, even though we cannot meet as such, by uniting in prayer, especially at that time to pray as the Chronicles verses above challenge us to? God knows each of us and our situations, personally, and in our churches and communities. Let us pray (together) for His intervention at this time perhaps in a more concerted way . . . just a thought. I am going to try to pray the prayer below morning and evening and I invite you to join me, knowing others will be praying it too.

Almighty God our Heavenly Father we come to you thankful you hear us, grateful for access to you through Jesus Christ, knowing your Holy Spirit will help us as we pray.

We look to you and want to trust you in these difficult times.

We ask for healing for our land, our world and that all people may turn to you, knowing human efforts and wisdom alone cannot solve the great needs and distresses we are facing.

HAVE MERCY LORD.

We pray for all those affected by Covid-19. For the sick and grieving. For the NHS and all care workers. For medical researchers and those running the vaccination programmes. For our government.

Thank you for all who work to provide essential services, risking their own safety – for shop workers, business services, those in education, for our clergy, church leaders and those who serve our community. We pray for all who feel in despair and who feel alone. Comfort those in deep sorrow and help us care for one another and those around us.

Thank you that you are the all-knowing, all-seeing and all-powerful God. Amen

Let us place our hands into God's – His light will overcome the darkness and He has promised to never leave us. God be with you all. *Paula S*

Gift Aid I am sure that most of you are familiar with the concept of Gift Aid, and how the Church, for instance, can claim back the tax you will have paid when earning your money, from the Government, increasing your contributions to the Church by 25%. As well as the formal Gift Aid claim on regular payments, we can also claim for 'cash' donations – the weekly collection.

But did you know there is a third way we can claim for gifts to the Church? Known as 'Gifts in Kind', this relates to physical gifts to the Church, so long as the donor does not gain any benefit in return (apart from a warm feeling of being able to help!) There are limits and conditions to this process, but we have been able to claim Gift Aid in the past from donors of material items to the Church in this way. If this might apply to you in future, get in touch with Denise and she will be able to make the appropriate adjustment in our accounts. *Robin*

Around the Trolley

Thanks to all those who mentioned they missed the Trolley last week. I have added some pictures below about Harry, our grandson, this week – feel free to submit your own news if you wish!

Ways of coping with Lockdown. My quilting group run a monthly competition. November was to make a cushion to be given to a poorly child so I made one - Brian liked it so much he kept trying to think up ways we could keep it! Definitely a No! But I made a replica in secret - not easy in lockdown - he is always around! I became adept at hearing doors opening, lights switching on, creaks on the stairs; but managed to keep the secret 'til Christmas morning. Result- one satisfied child and one delighted husband! *Rita*

Calling all you knitters! I have had a request through Geetha from The Frailty Unit at Epsom Hospital asking for hats, cowls, neck tubes, or scarves as patients are getting cold, or arrive without enough warm clothing.

I know we have a Knit & Natter group, but I felt we should open it up to everyone as we are all housebound now! When we have a bundle of them, I can take them to the hospital, or they could be posted.

I looked on the internet for patterns for the neck tubes, but they all seemed to be on circular needles, which if you are like me then that is a no no. Geetha has sent me a couple of patterns and you could see if they are okay for you - but they need to be nice and loose to go over the head and sit nicely around the neck and shoulders. Copies of the patterns are with me and in Denise's porch at 198, or could be emailed to you from news@stoneleighmethodist.church.

I am sure all the great knitters out there will be able to help, and a call to Pat or Denise will probably be your first port of call.

Margaret and her sister are knitting hats so perhaps we could concentrate on scarves etc. But, no problem if hats are your thing, Whitechapel always need them.

So let's see what we can do for such a worthy cause. *Jeananne*



Harry aged 18 months



and now, at 8 years.



We continue to collect on behalf of the Whitechapel Mission for the Homeless (outdoor clothing, toiletries etc) and Foodbank (500g bags of sugar, rice puddings and long life sponge puddings are URGENT) – see the full list at epsomewell.foodbank.org.uk/.

While there is little activity at the Church Centre, we are asking you to drop donations off in the porch of 198 Stoneleigh Park Road please; we will relocate them appropriately in a day or so. And we are still collecting plastic milk bottle tops too! Thanks – *Robin*

Contact Details

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

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

Our weekly News/Service sheet is delivered to every member, and also a YouTube or Zoom Sunday Service is available to those able to receive it, including by telephone. A DVD copy is also available – contact Jeananne.

The Ruxley/Stoneleigh Thursday Morning prayer (10:00am) by Zoom is open to all. It is followed by Chat Time and virtual tea/coffee from 10:45-11:15. Email to publicity@ruxley-church.org.uk by Tuesday for details and a copy of the liturgy too.

JOB VACANCY FOR THE POST OF CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Location: Ruxley Church

Job Type: Part Time

Closing Date: Monday 15th February 2021

Ruxley Church has a vacancy for a Church Administrator to provide effective administration of church activities and secretarial support to the Ministry Team.

The applicant must have excellent interpersonal skills and all-round administrative and IT skills.

The job holder must be ‘in sympathy with the aims and ethos of the Church of England and the Methodist Church’.

The post will be 10 hours per week at £12 an hour with six weeks annual holiday pro rata.

For an application form please e-mail
church.warden@ruxley-church.org.uk

Closing date: 15th February 2021
Interviews will be on 24th February 2021

Morning Worship – Sunday 17 January, 10:30am

Led by Richard Graham.

Watch live on YouTube: youtu.be/Huiwy2CSkvo or join on Zoom: bit.ly/2J5jvY8

To join the Morning Service through Zoom go to bit.ly/2J5jvY8
and if prompted, use Meeting ID: **874 6773 6490**, and Passcode **702336**.

On your home phone, dial **020 3481 5240**, listen to the announcement and enter the meeting ID **874 6773 6490** followed by # (hash) when prompted; just # on its own when asked for your Participant ID; and when prompted, the passcode **702336** followed by #.

And that's it: you should be connected and are able to listen into the service.
Simply hang up when the service finishes, or whenever you want to leave.

To unmute yourself during the post-service chat time, press *6

Call to Worship

(Roots)

Come, let us worship the Lord who made us,
who knows our every thought before it is formed.
See the one from whom nothing is hidden – hear him speak.
Come, let us worship and listen.

Prayer of Praise & Adoration

(Roots)

Thank you, Lord, that you know us and can see our potential – for you know who we are created to be.
We thank you for all the people you have placed in our lives – our parents, our friends, or others – the people who have made a real difference in our lives and our walk with you. We thank you for the blessings of relationships, but most of all for our relationship with you.

Help us to bless others in your name. Thank you, Lord, that when we are hurt, confused or unsure about something or someone, we can come to you – thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit's wisdom and guidance.

**Lord, our hearts are lifted by your presence in our lives.
All glory to you with thanks and praise. Amen.**

Hymn: Singing the Faith 471

Lord, I come to you,
let my heart be changed, renewed,
flowing from the grace that I found in you.
And Lord, I've come to know
the weaknesses I see in me
will be stripped away by the power of your love.

Lord, unveil my eyes,
let me see you face to face,
the knowledge of your love as you live in me.
Lord, renew my mind,
as your will unfolds in my life
in living every day by the power of your love.

*Hold me close,
let your love surround me;
bring me near, draw me to your side.
And as I wait,
I'll rise up like the eagle,
and I will soar with you,
your Spirit leads me on
in the power of your love.*

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3: 1-20
The LORD calls Samuel

(NIV)

The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions.

One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called Samuel.

Samuel answered, 'Here I am.' And he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am; you called me.'

But Eli said, 'I did not call; go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down.

Again the LORD called, 'Samuel!' And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am; you called me.'

'My son,' Eli said, 'I did not call; go back and lie down.'

Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. A third time the Lord called, 'Samuel!' And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am; you called me.'

Then Eli realised that the LORD was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, 'Samuel! Samuel!'

Then Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

And the LORD said to Samuel: 'See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle. At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family – from beginning to end. For I told him that I would judge his family for ever because of the sin he knew about; his sons uttered blasphemies against God, and he failed to restrain them. Therefore I swore to the house of Eli, "The guilt of Eli's house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering."'

Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of the Lord. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision, but Eli called him and said, 'Samuel, my son.'

Samuel answered, 'Here I am.'

'What was it he said to you?' Eli asked. 'Do not hide it from me. May God deal with you, be it ever so severely, if you hide from me anything he told you.' So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him. Then Eli said, 'He is the LORD; let him do what is good in his eyes.'

The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognised that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the LORD.

Prayer of Confession

(Roots)

Lord, we come before you to say sorry. Sorry for all the times we've let you, ourselves and others down. Sometimes, Lord, we're so busy talking and doing that we fail to hear you. We miss the still small voice saying, 'Stop. Listen.'

Lord, we're sorry for being too busy to hear you. You speak in so many different ways, Lord, one being through other people – but very often we take no notice and continue in our own way. Help us to tune in to your voice.

Lord, as you use others to speak to us, so you use us to draw people to you. But speaking does not always require words. People see our lives, our attitudes and character. Lord, we're sorry for the times we've let you down in these areas – when we pressurise others to conform to our ideas, or fail to listen and give others the space to draw closer to you.

Lord, as we spend these few moments in personal reflection, we ask you to speak to us. Show us anything for which we need to say sorry – and change our ways.

Lord, we lift our confessions to you, in your precious name.

Silence

Father God, we thank you that we don't have to earn your forgiveness.

It is not based on how worthy we are.

We are forgiven through Christ Jesus.

It is by grace that our sins are forgiven.

Amen.

Second Reading: John 1: 43-51
Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael

(NIV)

The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, 'Follow me.'

Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, 'We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.'

'Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?' Nathanael asked.

'Come and see,' said Philip.

When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, 'Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.'

'How do you know me?' Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, 'I saw you while you were still under the fig-tree before Philip called you.'

Then Nathanael declared, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.'

Jesus said, 'You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig-tree. You will see greater things than that.' He then added, 'Very truly I tell you, you will see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.'

Hymn:

Here I am, O Lord,
Knowing I can't hide away from You,
I've been here so many times before,
kneeling before You.
How precious are Your thoughts, O God,
countless beyond comprehension,
yet You care to watch over me,
You know who I am.

*For You've known me
and You've loved me
since before I was born.
I praise You that I am
fearfully and wonderfully made;
You know my name.*

Where can I hide from You?
Wherever I go You're by my side,
Your right hand will lead me on
holding me close to You.
Before I make a sound
You know the words that are on my tongue,
and You love me all the same;
You know who I am.

*For You've known me
and You've loved me
since before I was born.
I praise You that I am
fearfully and wonderfully made;
You know my name.*

Every day of my life
has been written by Your hand;
You've set the road before me.
How amazing it is
to be loved by the King
who created me, who died for me,
who set me free.

For You've known me . . .

Search my heart, O God;
try me and know my thoughts,
and when I fall,
lead me to Your everlasting light.

Based on Psalm 139, © 2017 Richard Graham
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Message

Hymn: Singing the Faith 61

Our God is a great big God,
our God is a great big God,
our God is a great big God,
and he holds us in his hands.

He's higher than a skyscraper,
and he's deeper than a submarine.
He's wider than the universe,
and beyond my wildest dreams.
And he's known me and he's loved me
since before the world began.
How wonderful to be a part
of God's amazing plan!

Jo Hemming and Nigel Hemming
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Prayers of Intercession

(500)

Think of someone who is ill or bereaved.
Ask God to be with them and their family.

Think of someone you know – a friend, a member of your family
or someone who lives down your road –
who is unhappy or always on their own.
Ask that God will help them to know that he is there.

Think of someone who thinks they don't matter any more
or who feels that everything has gone wrong.
Ask God to show them how much they matter to him.

Think of someone who is really, really happy;
someone who is very excited;
someone who has been given some good news.
Ask God to share their joy.

Think of someone you know – someone at school,
a friend, a member of your family –
who doesn't come to church;
someone who doesn't know how much God loves them.
Ask God to fill them with his love.

Think of someone who is very frightened;
someone who does not know what to do, what to say
or how to cope with what is making them afraid.
Ask God to give them courage.

Think of yourself and all the things you have to do:
things you are looking forward to
and things that you aren't,
things that make you unhappy or afraid
and things that make you excited.
Ask God to share everything, every day with you.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.

Amen.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 563

O Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
Lord, be for ever near me,
my master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle
if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if you will be my guide.

O let me feel you near me;
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me, and within;
but, Jesus, now draw nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear you speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
Lord, speak, and make me listen,
O guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, you have promised
to all who follow you,
that where you are in glory
your servant shall be too;
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
O give me grace to follow
my master and my friend.

Blessing & Dismissal

(500)

The Lord who called us is the Lord who sends us.
The Lord who gave us faith is the Lord who sends us to declare it.
The Lord who knows us loves us still.
The Lord who loves us still
calls us and sends us to love one another. Amen.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

(MWB)

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