



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

Welcome to Stoneleigh Methodist Church

Sunday 31 January 2021

10:30am: Morning Worship led by the **Rev Emma Cusack**

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

Prayers

Please pray for Emma here today and Richard at Martin Way, 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 remember Martin and Ian in your prayers for healing and strength.

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.

Heavenly Father, We ask your blessing on Emma particularly during her sabbatical. As she is released from her normal responsibilities, guide her in using her time wisely. May she find peace and rest, space, and time to follow where you lead. Refresh her, re-energise her, re-ignite her, that on her return you will use her to advance your kingdom with power in Stoneleigh and Ruxley. Amen

Notices

Christine Williams. Christine's funeral service was Wednesday last. Christine's sons, Martin and Ian, would like to extend their sincere thanks to everyone for your thoughts, prayers and cards. They did their mum proud yesterday at the funeral service and they are hoping that, when life goes back to some normality, they would want to join in the church's annual memorial service.

Donations in memory of Christine may be made to the Whitechapel Mission at memorygiving.com/christinewilliams1, or by cheque payable to 'Whitechapel Mission' and sent to 212 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1BJ. Charity Registered Number 227905. Please make a note at the back of the cheque that it is in memory of Christine Williams.



Around the Trolley

Something that caught my eye in the paper during the week, and I'd like to share with you all: -

"We're not stuck inside, we're safe at home," Robin

Spotted during my early morning walk on Monday – not as big as I recall making in my youth, but then I was a bit smaller too! *Robin*



Repairs in the Church Centre. Replacement of the weeping valves in the Church has been successfully completed, and the Church itself can now be heated on Sundays. Unfortunately, there now seems to be a stubborn air lock in the Hall heating system (Church and Hall share a single header tank). We are investigating a solution which will improve the reliability of the Hall system, as well as getting it working again, but this will take a few days to agree and implement.

Meanwhile, as the snow melted on Tuesday, we had a mini waterfall in the Hall. There has been no leak previously during past rainfall, so this would seem to be from blown snow melting. The roof has been inspected by a contractor and urgent (minimal) repairs will be undertaken as soon as possible, with Finance & Property Committee being kept informed. *Robin*

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/news/.

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! Glad to report that barely a day passes by without yet another donation silently appearing in the porch! Thanks – *Robin*

Foodbank. their needed items this week are (**all URGENT**): -

Long life sponge puddings

Powdered milk

Instant mash

Sugar (500g bags)

Pasta/beans with meat

Tinned vegetables (not pulses)

Rice Pudding

Washing powder & pods

Coffee

Shampoo & conditioner

Long life fruit juice

Pasta sauce

Breakfast Cereal (not porridge we have lots)

Loo roll

Nappies - size 5+, 6 and 6+ (not training pants / pull-ups etc)

“Please only donate items from this list, we are at full capacity of all other items. Please either donate at the usual supermarket points, or bring donations to our car park (please wear a mask).

As we are in lockdown please limit your trips to us, and ensure you wear a mask and gloves when you drop off your donations to Generation Resource Centre, (Behind West Ewell Primary School), Ruxley Lane, Ewell KT19 0JG. Monday-Friday 9-2pm. Please note earlier close on all days. Please make sure your donations are sealed, in date and do not contain alcohol. *Many thanks” Foodbank.*

Action for Children boxes are due for emptying again soon. I will be happy to come round to collect yours if you get in touch. *Jeananne*.



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.

Morning Worship – Sunday 31 January, 10:30am

led by Rev Emma Cusack

Watch live on YouTube: youtu.be/TiaZjtL3-kM 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)

We are called to recognise God's authority
and to submit to it in every area of our lives.
Let us invite God to direct our thinking and our prayers.
Let us give God the highest place in our lives.
Let us worship the living God. Amen

Hymn: Singing the Faith 351

In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! — who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain:
then bursting forth in glorious Day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine —
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

Opening Prayers

(Roots)

Almighty God,
we recognise that all authority
in heaven and on earth belongs to you.
We pray that you draw near to us today,
to impart your truth and show us your way. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

O God, when Jesus spoke in the synagogue, everyone was astonished by the absolute authority of his words and presence. In today's world, it is so easy to be taken in by someone's words or their favourable, commanding presence. We think, perhaps, of people in the media, the music scene, and social networks. But, unfortunately, not everyone's words have integrity or match their actions. O God help us to discern who to give credence to.

Forgive us when our own words or actions don't marry with our calling. Help us to speak and act with integrity at all times. Help us also, O God, not to jump to conclusions by first impressions, preconceptions, or prejudices – anything that turns us against people who don't quite fit our expectations of them. Yet you may wish to speak through them. Forgive us when we jump to wrong conclusions. Forgive us for judging. Help us to seek your wisdom, to see and hear you in all people regardless of age, appearance, or background. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18: 15-20

(NIV)

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. For this is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, 'Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die.'

The LORD said to me: 'What they say is good. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name. But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death.'

Short Reflection

Hymn: Singing the Faith 18

'Be still and know that I am God,
be still and know that I am God,
be still and know that I am God'.

In you, O Lord, I put my trust,
in you, O Lord, I put my trust,
in you, O Lord, I put my trust.

'I am the Lord that healeth thee,
I am the Lord that healeth thee,
I am the Lord that healeth thee.'

Anonymous
based on Psalm 46: 10-11

Second Reading: Mark 1: 21-28

(NIV)

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God!'

'Be quiet!' said Jesus sternly. 'Come out of him!' The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, 'What is this? A new teaching – and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him.' News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

Short Reflection

Prayers of Intercession

Hymn: Singing the Faith 251

Jesus Christ is waiting,
waiting in the streets;
no one is his neighbour,
all alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am lonely too:
make me, friend or stranger,
fit to wait on you.

Jesus Christ is raging,
raging in the streets,
where injustice spirals
and real hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am angry too:
in the Kingdom's causes
let me rage with you.

Jesus Christ is healing,
healing in the streets,
curing those who suffer,
touching those he greets.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I have pity too:
let my care be active,
healing, just like you.

Jesus Christ is dancing,
dancing in the streets,
where each sign of hatred
he, with love, defeats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I should triumph too:
where good conquers evil
let me dance with you.

Jesus Christ is calling,
calling in the streets,
'Who will join my journey?
I will guide their feet.'
Listen, Lord Jesus,
let my fears be few:
walk one step before me;
I will follow you.

John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (1958–2019)
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Closing Prayer

(Roots)

Almighty God, be with us this week.
Meet with us each morning,
and in every situation throughout the day,
whoever we are with,
help us to draw on your strength and wisdom,
that we may be faithful and true
in following the example and pattern
given to us by Jesus. Amen.

Blessing

May the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be with us all, ever more. **Amen**

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