



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

Welcome to Stoneleigh Methodist Church

Sunday 7 February 2021

10:30am: Morning Worship led by Brenda Cannon

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

Prayers

Please pray for Brenda here today, 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.

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

“One must wait until the evening to see how splendid the day has been.” Sophocles

Notices

Church Offertory – because many of our members have set up a regular standing order to the Church, our finances are reasonably well funded and our income stable. However, if you normally contribute at Services you are welcome to send a cheque to me whenever you wish or feel able to, either for regular giving or for special thanksgiving. *Denise*

The Link magazine should be received by every member of our Church every two months. A year ago some were hand delivered to neighbours, some were posted, and many were collected in Church on Sundays. These days almost every member should have a copy delivered every two months, either in the post or by hand, or you can pick up a copy from our porch at 198. If **you** aren't getting your copy (which means you're not up to date with news and happenings), please let someone know (Pat, Jeananne, Denise etc) – a copy has been printed for you, and will simply be thrown away if you don't claim it. *Robin*

Whitechapel Mission have sent us a lovely letter thanking us for the £200 donation recently sent by Church Council, and also mentioned the donations sent direct to them in memory of Christine Williams. They send their condolences to family and friends of Christine. *Denise*

Jeananne has delivered a parcel of hats & scarves to Epsom Hospital – thanks to our knitters!

We continue to collect on behalf of the Whitechapel Mission for the Homeless (outdoor clothing, toiletries etc) and Foodbank - Long life sponge puddings, Powdered milk, Breakfast cereal (not porridge), Pasta/beans with meat, Tinned vegetables (not pulses), Instant mash, Tinned potatoes, Meat pies, Tampons and Loo roll – see the latest 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*

Around the Trolley

Repairs in the Church Centre. By the time you read this both the Church and Hall systems will be fully working again. And to clarify, the Church Centre has three 'wet' systems, and five rooms individually heated. I case you wanted to know!

Meanwhile, emergency repairs to the Hall flat roof have been done, and a 'plan' for a complete refurbishment of this roof (the only one that has not be done in recent times) and the adjacent wall will be considered by the Finance & Property Committee at their next meeting.

Streaming – the Committee will also be considering the next stages to bring the enhanced fibre broadband into the Church for service streaming. *Robin*

Conquest Art. This is Jean's "almost finished" painting by numbers picture. Actually, she has used coloured pencils, but has created a beautiful picture and thoroughly enjoyed the process. *Lesley*



Look who I came across when I was out giving vaccinations! *Jo*

Contact Details

Website: stoneleighmethodist.church

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 7 February, 10:30am

led by Brenda Cannon

Watch live on YouTube: youtu.be/daNbsV2IE8g 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

Those who grow weary, come!
Those who feel faint, come!
Those who feel exhausted, come!
You shall soar as on eagles' wings.
Have you not known?
Have you not heard?
The creator waits on you
To lift you, love, and renew you in strength.

Opening Prayer

Lord God, still our hearts and minds
from their busyness.
In the quiet let our thoughts and our love
be directed to you.
Make us alert to your presence and your power in our lives
and aware that you love us.
Amen.

Hymn StF 20 – Be still for the presence of the Lord

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here;
come bow before him now with reverence and fear;
in Him no sin is found – we stand on holy ground,
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
he burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned;
how awesome is the sight - our radiant King of light !
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;
he comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace;
no work too hard for him – in faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

David J Evans (1957-) ©Thankyou Music CCLi 19650

Prayer of Praise & Thanksgiving

Our eyes feast on the beauty of the sky and the scenery around us. Words are not enough to express our heartfelt wonder of the beauty of creation. But, thankfully, you know our hearts and our motives. We don't always understand your motives, Lord, but then you are God and who are we to question you when you see the bigger picture?

We thank you, Lord, for the bit we do see and understand. That we can come to you in order to recharge our batteries. And that we can come alongside others in your strength and serve our community in areas we've been healed in and can relate to. Thank you, Lord.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

People, People, Everywhere! Day in, Day out, seeking you, Lord. Hunting you. Following you. Hungry for your presence. Wanting your attention. Yet not once did you complain. We're sorry, Lord, that the weight of life's demands causes us to stumble, to lose our temper and at times to buckle under the pressure. Help us to be more like you, Lord. We're sorry for not getting our priorities right. Help us to know as you did, the importance of spending time with and drawing refreshment from the Father. We're sorry for allowing other people and things to take over and squeeze our time with you. Help us to draw daily on your refreshing strength in order to cope with whatever our day holds. **Lord hear our prayer. Amen.**

Assurance of forgiveness

The Son of God loves us. And because of his love, healing us and setting us free from sin's guilt and power, we are forgiven in His name. **Amen.**

'Being fully charged!'

O.T. Reading – Isaiah 40:21-31

(Isaiah speaks the word of the Lord to an oppressed and exiled people. The Israelites have seen Jerusalem and the Temple destroyed by the Babylonians, and they feel that the Lord has forgotten about them. Isaiah paints them a picture of the all-embracing power and majesty of God.)

Do you know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded?

He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and his people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in.

He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.

No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground, than he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.

To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal? Says the Holy One.

Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord; my cause is disregarded by my God"?

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God. The Creator of the ends of the earth.

He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no-one can fathom.

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall.

but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Hymn StF 471 - Lord, I come to you.

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.

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

Geoff Bullock (1956-) ©Marantha! Music – CCLi 19650

Gospel Reading – Mark 1:29-39

(Jesus heals many)

As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her. So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. The whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

(Jesus Prays in a Solitary Place)

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" Jesus replied "Let us go somewhere else – to the nearby villages – so that I can preach there also. That is why I have come." So he travelled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

'You Raise me up' by Johnathan Keira -

Prayers of Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Lord of love,

we lift up the world in our prayers and ask your blessing on all who are suffering today.

We particularly remember those who are suffering in our Hospitals with Covid19 at this time and pray for all those who are caring for them. We remember all those in poorer parts of the world who have, perhaps not as yet, received the vaccines or the specialist care that they need. We pray those poorer countries will be supported and helped by many of the wealthier countries in the world.

Lord, lift up those who are bowed down by debt and poverty, those who have lost their livelihoods due to the Virus and those who have found themselves now homeless.

Lord, lift up those bearing the burden of other illnesses and those whose hearts are heavy with grief. Comfort those who mourn the loss of a loved one.

Lift us up, Lord, and use us in your service, today and every day. We ask this in Jesus name.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us

and lead us not into temptation

But deliver us from evil

For thine is the kingdom

The power and the glory

Forever and ever

Amen.

Hymn StF 531 – What a friend we have in Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations,
is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness
take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
precious Saviour, still our refuge –
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
take it to the Lord in prayer;
in his arms he'll take and shield you,
you will find a solace there.

Joseph Scriven (1819-1886) Public domain

Closing Prayer & Blessing

Lord Jesus,
go with us this week,
be with us as we continue
to face life through this pandemic.
Help us to remain focused on You
and may our priorities be in tune
with what you have planned for
each one of us.
And so, may God of the Trinity bless you
and remain with you and be by
your side today and always.
Amen.