



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

Welcome to Stoneleigh Methodist Church

Sunday 14 February 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 preaching 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. And also for Emma as she continues her sabbatical.

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, help me to listen to your promptings, so that I may respond rightly.”

Taken from New Daylight 11th February 2021



Notices



Ruxley Church Anniversary Ruxley Church celebrated its Nineteenth Anniversary as an Ecumenical Partnership on 31st January 2021, and the Rev Canon Stuart Thomas (an old friend to Stoneleigh) was invited to take the Morning Service. At the time, this service was only on Zoom and not YouTube, but it can now be viewed at [youtube.com/watch?v=iYrT-HyJE9A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iYrT-HyJE9A). Not only do we see the Service itself, but Stuart and Heather take us on a brief tour of his current Church, [St Peter's](#) in Frimley.

Ash Wednesday Service from Ruxley Church. We are invited to join the Rev Fiona Ellingham and the Ruxley congregation at 7:30pm on the 17th February – the Service will be found at their YouTube channel at [youtube.com/channel/UCjHfY5QLamq7dr8AdVZlq5g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjHfY5QLamq7dr8AdVZlq5g).

“Our service on Ash Wednesday will provide an invitation to make a sign of the cross on your forehead. You may wish to make a sign of the cross with or without using ash.

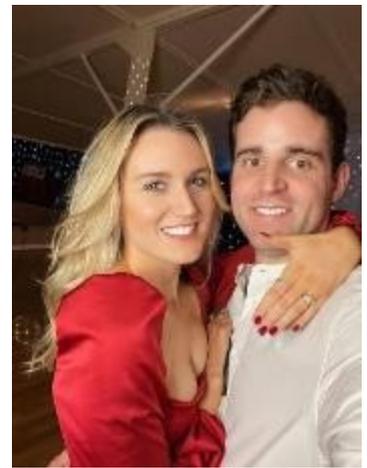
To prepare ashes for use in the service: burn either a palm cross to provide ash, or use anything else that could be burnt to create some ash. Mix these ashes into a paste. It is strongly recommended that you mix the ash with olive oil not water - as mixing with water can cause skin burns.” *Jenny*

Church Centre Electrical Test is this coming Wednesday, 17th February, so the whole premises will be even more closed that day than they are the moment! *Robin*

Around the Trolley

Last Sunday **Elliot and Amy** announced their engagement, a very happy looking couple. We are all very pleased.

It is great to have something happy to report in lockdown. Elliot managed to keep it a secret from Amy, but had help from her parents in setting up a place with balloons and a takeaway Chinese to celebrate with! From proud parents, *Catherine & Steven*



The Mum Show – as previewed in the 'Link' magazine.

This time of pandemic is difficult for many people, not least of which are families. **Care for the Family** is giving us a new resource - **The Mum Show - Parenting in a Pandemic**.

It is a set of 12 online episodes, exploring the challenges of parenting at the moment.

If you know of anyone this might be helpful for, please draw it to their attention. Either contact me directly or see the website careforthefamily.org.uk/events/events-online-2/the-mum-show. *Vivienne*

Who knows their Ewell history? Pat took this picture >>>>>> during one of their walks around Ewell village recently. It's pretty obvious how it's being used now, but the age of the bricks points to a different use many years ago. If you think you know what it was built for, Pat would love to hear from you.



Around the Hogsmill. Here are some photos from our latest 'walk on the wild side'. We walked along the Hogsmill River over the fields to the Worcester Park Road bends and across the Kingston Road to the Hogsmill pub. These photos are looking back towards the A240 bridge from the footpath, the old iron footbridge across to Worcester Park Road, the Surbiton Raceway and the Riverhill Bridge near the Hogsmill.



Road, the Surbiton Raceway and the Riverhill Bridge near the Hogsmill.

Pat & Colin



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.

Lent. This year our Church will be running 'Woven', a Lent Course written by the Rev Michaela Youngson, London District Chair. The course is open to everyone via Zoom, including telephone. The 6-week course starts on Monday 15th February at 8:00pm; repeated on Wednesday 17th February at 3:00pm. We will follow the booklet, available from Jeananne (07729 028850.)

'Woven' indicates how 'our story and God's story are woven together, not because we wish it to be so, but because God is interested in the smallest detail of our lives'.

More information can be found at methodistlondon.org.uk/lentcourse2021.

Zoom details for the weekly Lent online courses.

Zoom info for the two meetings below. It should be noted that the Monday evening credentials are different to the usual one we use on a Monday evening.

MONDAY EVENING 8:00pm:

Topic: Monday Evening Lent Course

Time: Feb 15, 2021 08:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88294968024?pwd=VUtJdkovT3A5enNrOWZrYnZWT1hsQT09>

Meeting ID: 882 9496 8024

Passcode: 256883

By phone : 020 3481 5240

Meeting ID: 882 9496 8024

Passcode: 256883

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON 3:00pm:

Topic: Wednesday Afternoon Lent Course

Time: Feb 17, 2021 03:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81892550864?pwd=MUx5TXMrb0tvWkl1aDV5THFja3JPZz09>

Meeting ID: 818 9255 0864

Passcode: 962035

By phone : 020 3481 5240

Meeting ID: 818 9255 0864

Passcode: 962035

See news of Lent Readings overleaf > > > >

LENT READINGS 2021

Having eaten all the pancakes we could manage - the beginning of Lent does not necessarily mean giving up or going without, you could do something you wouldn't normally do – go that “extra step”, whether it be practically or spiritually. Sometimes it is difficult to keep to the promise of giving something up – how many of us keep to our New Year Resolutions? – it may be that doing something extra would be more useful to others. If you do give up something, e.g. chocolate, maybe the money you save can be used to help someone else, somehow. Christ went through so much for us on his way to the Cross, but it wasn't giving something up, more often than not it was doing something extra on His journey.

Leadership Team

Look out for the first Reading in next week's NewsSheet

Morning Worship – Sunday 14 February, 10:30am

led by Richard Graham

Watch live on YouTube: youtu.be/m-ytcP5LE14 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

Psalm 50: 1-6

(NRSV)

The mighty one, God the Lord,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.
Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God shines forth.

Our God comes and does not keep silence,
before him is a devouring fire,
and a mighty tempest all around him.

He calls to the heavens above
and to the earth,
that he may judge his people:
'Gather to me my faithful ones,
who made a covenant with me
by sacrifice!'

The heavens declare his righteousness,
for God himself is judge.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 89

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,
we will wait upon the Lord,
we will wait upon the Lord.
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,
we will wait upon the Lord,
we will wait upon the Lord.

Our God, you reign forever.
Our hope, our strong deliverer.

*You are the everlasting God,
the everlasting God.
You do not faint, you won't grow weary.*

*You're the defender of the weak,
you comfort those in need;
you lift us up on wings like eagles.*

Prayer of Praise

(STF+)

Lord our God, majestic and awesome, humble and meek, powerful and vulnerable, we offer our worship to you. You meet us in the predictable, day to day experiences of life. You inspire us with awe and wonder in the special moments of our lives with you. You turn the ordinary into the extraordinary and call us to witness to your actions. Thank you Lord for the creative love you have for us, the saving grace you lavish on us and the insight you give us. Help us to continue to see your glory around us, to receive your grace given to us and to use the power you offer us. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

(Roots)

Lord, whereas it's part of our faith walk to seek
and be open to life-changing moments,
forgive us when we just plod through life
and get despondent with the mundane.
We are sorry, Lord.

Shine on us, we pray.

On the other hand,
we can at times get fixated on the spiritual mountain-tops
and so miss out on what's happening below in the everyday.
When things are going well for us,
we can get wrapped up in the moment and be forgetful of others.
We're sorry, Lord.

Shine on us, we pray.

There are many voices tuned into today's world
telling us how to live and what's best.
But you, Lord, are our authority in life.
Forgive us when we fail to test things against your word.
We're sorry, Lord.

Shine on us, we pray.

Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness

(Roots)

Jesus' divine nature was confirmed on the mountain
– he is God's beloved Son.
He went on to suffer;
he died and rose again for us, conquering sin and death.
Now he sits at God's right hand, glorified in heaven
– and thanks to him, we are completely forgiven.

Amen.

Readings

2 Kings 2: 1-12

(NRSV)

Elijah Ascends to Heaven

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he said, 'Yes, I know; keep silent.'

Elijah said to him, 'Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he answered, 'Yes, I know; be silent.'

Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.' As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Mark 9:2-9

(NRSV)

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 260

Swiftly pass the clouds of glory,
heaven's voice, the dazzling light;
Moses and Elijah vanish;
Christ alone commands the height!
Peter, James, and John fall silent,
turning from the summit's rise
downward toward the shadowed valley
where their Lord has fixed his eyes.

Glimpsed and gone the revelation,
they shall gain and keep its truth,
not by building on the mountain
any shrine or sacred booth,
but by following the Saviour
through the valley to the cross
and by testing faith's resilience
through betrayal, pain, and loss.

Message

Prayers of Intercession

God of glory,
open our eyes and open our hearts.

Help us to see Jesus.

God of glory,
change us and renew us by your Spirit.

Make us more like Jesus

God of glory,
we see you in the beauty of the universe,
we meet you in the love
of our friends and families,
we find you in our joys and in our pain –
faithful and true.

We see you revealed to us in Scripture,
we hear you speaking to us in the silence,
we know you in our hearts,
and we find you in the person of Jesus.

As we look at the events in our world,
help us to see where you are at work.
In our homes and in our daily lives,
help us to notice the glimpses of your glory
shining through
the ordinary fabric of our lives.

Lord, transfigure our perception
with the purest light that shines
and recast our life's intentions
to the shape of your designs
till we seek no other glory
than what lies past Calvary's hill
and our living and our dying
and our rising by your will.

Thomas H. Troeger

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(Roots)

You are the God who comes close to us:
though we are far apart from each other

Surround us

with the light of your presence.

God of glory,
we live with so many uncertainties.
Today we pray for people
whose lives are always uncertain:
for people in war torn parts of the world;
for all who wonder where
their next meal will come from;
for people who are jobless or homeless;
for all who are fleeing
from domestic violence.

Help us to make our churches
sanctuaries of peace and safety.

May we be ready

to respond to the need of others
and to do what we can to tell the story
of the love that will never let us go,
the love that can change us and the world.

Help us to love one another
as you have loved us.

You are the God who comes close to us:
though we are far apart from each other

**Surround us
with the light of your presence.**

God of glory,
we pray for situations in the world
that need hope and healing.
And in particular for Yemen,
for Russia, and for Myanmar.
We ask for words and actions
that are full of hope and not hate,
of forgiveness and unity and not division.

May we all be mindful
of the power of our words,
and use our speaking to build others up,
not to tear them down.
When conflict comes
may our words be controlled and kind,
and may we always shine a light of truth
in the darkness of discord and lies.

As a second impeachment trial continues
in the United States,
we ask that the truth
would be told and honoured.

We pray for all who work
in communications and the media,
that they would report
with honesty and integrity,
and that they would use their roles
to speak truth to power.

This week, may we seek
to respond to the needs of others
with messages, words and actions
of hope and comfort.
You are the God who comes close to us:
though we are far apart from each other

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 forever. Amen.

**Surround us
with the light of your presence.**

God of glory,
we thank you for the tireless effort
of nurses, doctors and consultants,
caring for patients, especially those
who are suffering from Covid-19.
We ask that you would give all medical staff
peace as they care for the sick,
and peace as many of them wait at the
bedside of those who are at the end of
life.

We thank you that the ordinary tasks
of routine, order and gentleness
can bless the boundary
between life and death.

We pray for all who have been kept apart
from those they love;
for those who have not been able to mourn
for friends and family who have died,
and we pray especially for
relatives of people in care homes –
surround them all with your healing
presence.

We remember people in our own communities
who are suffering
asking that you would lighten the pain
and distress of daily life.

You are the God who comes close to us:
though we are far apart from each other

**Surround us
with the light of your presence.**

God of glory,
open our eyes and open our hearts.
Help us to see Jesus.

God of glory,
change us and renew us by your Spirit.
Make us more like Jesus. Amen.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 55

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might —
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Walter Chalmers Smith (1824–1908)

Blessing & Dismissal

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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