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

Welcome to Stoneleigh Methodist Church
Mothering Sunday 14th March 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 especially 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.

"Loving God, we thank you for mothers –for all they mean or have meant, for the love they have shown and the care they have given. We thank you for the qualities of mothers –their patience, their kindness, concern and understanding. We thank you for the part they play in our lives, and we thank you for this day of saying 'thank you' this opportunity to say what we so often mean to say but so rarely do. For mothers and motherhood, for children and families we bring you this day our grateful praise." Campsea Ashe Church, Suffolk

Pastoral News

On Tuesday morning I was having my quiet time and thinking of Helen. I was worried about her as she had not seemed her usual self at our Monday night group Zoom meeting. I had what I would say was a prompt from God to phone her right away. Imagine my surprise when her son answered and said the paramedics were there and she was going into hospital!

I had a lovely chat with her on Thursday night and she will be in hospital for a little longer whilst they investigate things. She felt much better and thankfully she is COVID free. She sends her love to everyone. *Jeananne (see also 'around the trolley' from Helen)*

Notices

Looking forward. As the Church seems ever closer to awakening from its enforced 'slumber', Denise and I will be talking with the groups that use the Church Centre to agree their return to meeting. There is also still some maintenance work to be done to complete the permanent 'streaming' facilities, so please give us a ring if you need to come into the Centre so we can co-ordinate access. Thanks. *Robin & Denise*

Easter Sunday. A reopening date for Sunday Services has not yet been decided by the Leadership Team but, as a 'one-off', the Church will be open on Easter Sunday for a Communion Service for those who would like to attend in person. This Service will be led by the Rev Chris Morley. For those members who prefer not to come to Church at present, arrangements will be made so you can still take part in the Communion Service via Zoom. Further details will follow as soon as they are confirmed.

Lenten Thoughts - Sunday 14th March - Fourth Sunday in Lent

Bible Reading: John 10: 11-17 "I am the Good Shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep."

Hymn: StF 480 and 481 The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want

Prayer: Heavenly Father, as a shepherd cares for his sheep you care for us. Lord, our Shepherd, thank you for leading us on the path of love, on the path of the heart that perceives what is needed: when to offer, when to bring clarity, when to set a limit, when to embrace. Thank you for inviting us to develop into people who accept your call and follow you. On this Mothering Sunday, we pray for all those who care for others – for mothers, fathers, foster parents, guardians, those who care for the elderly and those with special needs. Also at this time of pandemic, we pray for doctors, nurses, paramedics, teachers, police and fire service and all keyworkers. Lord, we thank you that there are those who are prepared to "lay down their lives" for others and we pray that you will protect them and bring healing to those who need it. **Amen**

Action: Is there anything I can do to help care for someone or maybe pray for someone who needs care and protection.

Foodbank latest – The latest list of 'needs' from Foodbank is: -

– Packet Soup
– Hot Chocolate
– Coffee
– Long Life Fruit Juice
– Spaghetti in sauce
– Custard
– Rice
– Pasta Sauce
– UHT Milk (Semi and Full fat only please)
– Easter treats and small Easter eggs
– Pump soap
– Household cleaning products
– Nappies (sizes 4, 6 nappies & pants, 6+ nappies & pants)

Would you like to sponsor one of our weekly deliveries? For more information, please email Naomi on foodbank@generation.org.uk or phone us on 020 8786 8221 – Thanks, *Foodbank*

Around the Trolley

Conquest Art. This week's Conquest Art lockdown paint by numbers picture is from Lesley. All these pictures are on the outside Church notice board week by week, and will be on display in Church as soon as we are able to return. *Lesley*

Market Parade Ducks again. On my morning walk to collect a prescription these lovely ducks made me smile. It's as if they have escaped from Bourne Hall and deciding where to go next!

Where do they get their ideas from, these wonderful craft people. They have created a new tradition and brought happiness to us all. *Jeananne*

From Helen: "I was admitted to Epsom Hospital on Tuesday because my oxygen levels were low, and I was increasingly breathless. I am being kept in whilst they are treating me and was concerned that I did not have my iPad or phone charger so I could remain in touch with 'the outside world'. This morning (Wednesday), I received a visit from the hospital Chaplain (Father Philip) and had a chat. Later in the day my son, Steven, brought my iPad etc. to leave at reception but could not locate where I was. Fortunately, a passing stranger offered help. It turned out he remembered me and was able to bring Steve straight here. Of course, it was Fr. Philip, and he knew exactly where to find me!

I cannot believe this was just a coincidence BUT a God incident!

Update – Friday 12th - I may be discharged soon (?for Out patient investigation).

LATEST – 4:10pm Friday - waiting for transport home!

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.

Zoom/YouTube details for on-line meetings – Zoom telephone number **020 3481 5240**

Group/Event	Day/Time	Meeting ID	Password	One Click
Lent Group (M)	Monday 8:00pm	882 9496 8024		
Lent Group (W)	Wednesday 3:00pm	818 9255 0864		
Fellowship	Tuesday 3:00pm	880 8308 5350		
Sunday Service (YT)	Sunday 10:30am			
Sunday Service (Zoom)	Sunday 10:30am	874 6773 6490		
Maundy Thursday	Thursday April 1, 4:00pm	874 6773 6490		

Morning Worship – Sunday 14 March, 10:30am

Mothering Sunday, led by Richard Graham

Watch live on YouTube: youtu.be/u4VeCtpxQ8A 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 127: 1-3 (NRSV)

Unless the LORD builds the house,
those who build it labour in vain.
Unless the LORD guards the city,
the guard keeps watch in vain.

It is in vain that you rise up early
and go late to rest,
eating the bread of anxious toil;
or he gives sleep to his beloved.

Hymn:

O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!

Jesus - the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of cancelled sin,
he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean,
his blood availed for me.

He speaks; and, listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice;
the humble poor believe.

Hear him you deaf, his praise you dumb
your loosened tongues employ;
you blind now see your Saviour come,
and leap you lame for joy

My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
and spread through all the earth abroad
the honours of your name.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
Public Domain

Prayer of Praise, Adoration, Confession (500)

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we praise you that in Christ you have entered into our world.
In him you have shared all the pressure, pain and temptation
that being truly human brings.

We praise you that we can have assurance
that he fully understands
all that it means to live in our world.
He has lived our life, shared our emptiness
and experienced our limitations;
he has walked where we walk but he did not stumble;
he has stood where we stand but did not fall;
he entered our wilderness but did not give way;
he faced our temptations but did not give in.

We praise you that in the wilderness,
in Gethsemane and on the cross
Christ has opened the way to victory and hope.

We praise you that in his life, death and resurrection
you are offering us a whole new way of life
and a deeper, larger hope
and an assurance of your presence for ever. **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession (Roots)

Nurturing God,
we praise you for the way in which you care for each one of us.
Like a good parent,
you love us whoever we are, whatever we do.
Even though we frequently disappoint you,
you are always there, concerned for our welfare, forgiving us.

Nurturing God, we praise and thank you.
Forgive us for the times that we take you for granted,
when we do things to hurt others,
particularly members of our family and friends.

Nurturing God, forgive us.
Forgive us for running away, for getting so involved in the activities,
pleasures and concerns of our lives
that we forget that you are there.

In silence, we remember those times in the past week
where we have fallen short of God's glory,
and not been mindful of the Nurturing God who cares for each one of us.

Nurturing God, forgive us. Bring us home again to you.
Nurturing God, we praise you. **Amen.**

We know that the Nurturing God is quick to forgive. (StF+)
As Jesus said to many he met, 'Your sins are forgiven',
and it is on this promise that we too rely;
that our sins have indeed been forgiven.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

Readings

Luke 15: 11-32 (NIV)
The parable of the lost son

Jesus told them this parable: 'There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, "Father, give me my share of the estate." So he divided his property between them.

'Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no-one gave him anything.

'When he came to his senses, he said, "How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants." So he got up and went to his father.

'But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms round him and kissed him.

'The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son."

'But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it.

Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." So they began to celebrate.

'Meanwhile, the elder son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. "Your brother has come," he replied, "and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound."

'The elder brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, "Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!"

'"My son," the father said, "you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."'

Romans 12: 4-18 (NIV)

For just as each of us has one body with many [parts], and these [parts] do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practise hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 547

Beyond these walls of worship
in the stress and joy of life,
can we offer you our bodies
as a living sacrifice?
Will we keep you at the centre
far beyond the Sunday call?
Will we turn to you,
be transformed by you;
still declare you God of all?

Beyond these walls of worship,
in the times of work and rest,
will we display your love for all
when our faith's put to the test?
When the people that surround us
deny that you are there,
will we display our faith in you —
in life, in praise, in prayer?

Beyond these walls of worship
may your Spirit strengthen us
to make the whole of life our worship
as we witness to your love.
From this hour in your presence
send us out now to proclaim
that we'll live our life as a sacrifice
to the glory of your name.

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Message

Hymn/Reading: Singing the Faith 618

Sacred the body God has created,
temple of Spirit that dwells deep inside.
Cherish each person; nurture creation.
Treat flesh as holy, that love may abide.

Bodies are varied, made in all sizes,
pale, full of colour, both fragile and strong.
Holy the difference, gift of the Maker,
so let us honour each story and song.

Love respects persons, bodies and boundaries.
Love does not batter, neglect, or abuse.
Love touches gently, never coercing.
Love leaves the other with power to choose.

Holy of holies, God ever loving,
make us your temples; indwell all we do.
May we be careful, tender and caring,
so may our bodies give honour to you.

Ruth C. Duck,
© 1997 The Pilgrim Press *

Prayers of Intercession (500)

Father, we pray for our homes and for all our relationships there.
We ask that they will be surrounded by walls of love, care and understanding.
We think of all those we know as brother or sister, father or mother, aunt or uncle and those who have that title, for that is what they mean to us.
We pray, help us to show our gratitude to them for all they say and do that is good.

We pray too for families and relationships that are under pressure,
even to the point of breaking.
Help them to build walls of love and security.

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

Father, we pray, teach us and all families,
including the family of the church,
to know and love your will and your word.
We thank you that you have shown us
how you intended us to live, speak and behave;
that in Jesus Christ, and through the Scriptures,
we can have no excuse for not knowing how you meant us to live.
We pray, help all families to be ready to read your word and obey it
and to seek to live for you in a world that has turned its back on its Maker.
We pray for families
where there is worry, fear, bitterness, disobedience or unfaithfulness.

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

Father, we pray that you will teach our family and all families
to begin to think less about themselves,
and more about the world for which Christ died.
We pray for our own family,
the family of the church
and the family of the human race.
May we seek opportunities of love and service,
of caring and concern for others,
that we may be open to every opportunity you provide
to serve, care for, help and love those in need.
May we fill our days seeking to respond
to those who are hungry and those who are lonely,
those who are poor and those who are deprived,
those who are unemployed and those who are unemployable.
We ask that you will teach us
that charity does not begin at home, but from home.

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

Father, we thank you for Jesus.
We know that you are not our Father
until we become members of your family
by putting our trust in you through him.
We thank you that, through Christ,
you have made it possible for each of us to begin again in our relationship with you.
We pray that he, and he alone, will be the foundation of our life together
in our families and in the family of the church.
We ask that he will be Lord of our lives and our homes and our families.
May he control all that is said or done or thought,
all that is planned,
all that is chosen,
all that is wanted.
May everything be for his praise and glory.

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

In silence, we think about those situations that may be known only to us
that are on our own hearts and minds at this time,
and we bring them to the Lord in prayer.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear the prayers we pray in the name of Christ. 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 forever. **Amen**.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 409

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end
divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets
speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:

All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us a build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Marty Haugen
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Blessing & Dismissal

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

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