



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

Welcome to Stoneleigh Methodist Church

Circuit Service 11th April 2021

10:30am: Morning Worship led by the Circuit Leadership Team and pre-recorded at Martin Way Methodist Church

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

Prayers

Please pray for the Circuit Leadership Team, for our Stewards, for others within the Church and beyond who continue to work 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 moves through the final month of 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.

"Lord God, We give thanks for the long life of Prince Philip, for all that he has contributed to our nation and beyond, and for his support of our Queen. We pray that he will be at rest trusting in the grace of God.

We remember before you Her Majesty the Queen and her family praying that they will know your comfort and strength in the days to come.

In Jesus' name, Amen."

The President and Vice-President of the Conference

On the news of the passing of His Royal Highness the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, we wish to offer these prayers on behalf of the Circuit.

Almighty God, creator of all things, we give you thanks for the life of Prince Philip. For his duty to his country, for his love for our Queen, for the father, grandfather, and great-grandfather that he was. Becoming all things, becoming the person that he needed to be in each situation. We give thanks for him and remember his service and his life, from the Royal Navy during the war, to being the Queen's Consort for over 75 years. We also now bring before you our Queen, Elizabeth, for her as she begins to mourn the loss of her dear husband, and for Charles, Anne, Andrew, and Edward, their children, and their children's children. Lord, be with them at this time, hold them in the arms of your mercy and peace. Let your peace descend, Lord, the peace that passes all understanding. Grace and mercy be upon them. Lord, let them also receive the privacy at this time, as any family deserves to have when they are mourning the passing of a loved one.

We offer these prayers in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Deacon Dawn Canham

youtu.be/99tHuHmYLF0

Notices

Reopening. After our lovely Easter service in our own church building, the next few services are back online. The Leadership Team will decide, in the next couple of weeks, when to open the church again. I know we are all looking forward to it. *Vivienne*

Ruxley Church have announced that, from Sunday 25th April, their church building will once again be open for worship. Their services will also continue to be available to watch on their [YouTube channel](#).

Around the Trolley

Jill Chessum's 4th great grandchild, Ruben Samuel was born on 31st March 2021. Son of Matthew & Denise, brother to Poppy, and grandson of Kevin Chessum, ex Stoneleigh Scouts.

Rev Chris Morley, who had been a contributor to BBC Radio's 'Thought for the Day', is now doing his own daily thought, 'Take Five'. Each daily thought is a suggestion for how each of us might grow spiritually and come closer to God by reflecting that day on a particular theme. Maybe you would like to subscribe to [Chris's YouTube channel](#), or just take a look?



Spring has Sprung – and here's our Ginkgo tree in bud yesterday to prove it!



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 video DVD or audio CD 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
Prayer Group	Monday 8:00pm	882 9496 8024		
Fellowship	Tuesday 3:00pm	880 8308 5350		
Sunday Service (YouTube)	Sunday 10:30am			Click
Sunday Service (Zoom)	Sunday 10:30am	874 6773 6490		

Circuit Service – Sunday 11 April, 10:30am

Watch on YouTube: youtu.be/SB0KNRxtv-E 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**

Opening Sentences

Rev Paul Timmis

Gathering Prayer

Tony Loft

God, whose light shines in the darkness,
shine on us today.
God, made known to those who met Jesus,
touch us through the experiences of our lives.
God, who gave Thomas what he asked,
give us what we need – that we too may come to believe.
Amen.

Prayer of approach

Tony Loft

We come in more sombre mood today;
the excitement of Easter past, we return to normal life.
But for Jesus' followers, after that first Easter,
life would never be the same again.
Their new life with the risen Lord was just beginning.
Let us stir ourselves to remember that we are children of the
resurrection, and we approach our Lord with senses alert
to the new life and lessons he has to share with us today.
Amen.

Prayer of Adoration and Thanksgiving

Richard Graham

Lord, we praise you because you have shown us
that you are not a dead hero
to be honoured and respected
but who cannot share our lives today.

We praise you not only because you died to be our Saviour
but also because you rose again to be our Lord;
that you were not only raised from the dead
but also you are alive and present with us
and you are our living Lord.

We praise you for the sense of peace, hope, joy and meaning
with which your presence fills our lives.
Lord, without you we should be lost, alone and without hope.
Without your presence in our midst, our worship would be empty,
our Christian lives a meaningless experience
and our witness and service a pointless sham.

We praise you for your appearances to your disciples
in their ordinary moments of life
and in their everyday lives.

We praise you too for the way you have come
to men and women down the centuries
and that you have come into our lives too.
Lord, because you are alive
and in the midst of all we say and do and are,
you enable us to declare the good news with joy and hope
and to do it for your glory. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Brenda Cannon

Father we confess that we are so often judgemental of others.
In particular, we berate those who do not share our beliefs.
What need have they of proof? Why can't they just believe?
Yet, we live in a world where little is taken at face value.

Fake news surrounds us, and the camera definitely does lie.
Therefore, Lord, forgive us when we look down upon
the unbelievers, the doubters, the ones who demand proof;
for this is the world in which we live,
and the world to which we must proclaim your truth.

There is no proof we can offer in these times,
except to show our belief in the ways in which we reach out,
by accepting and loving unconditionally,
by showing patience and forbearance to those who differ from us –
or is it we who differ from them?

Therefore, Lord, forgive us when we fail to reflect your truths in
our daily lives, and let us become testaments to your risen Power.
May Christ be evident in us and in all that we do. **Amen.**

Assurance of forgiveness

Brenda Cannon

Lord, we thank you for your patience with us,
Your acceptance of our doubting and questioning,
And your assurance of forgiveness.
How many times do we grieve your heart with our lack of belief
and exasperate you with our lack of faith?

But like a good parent, you gather us to you,
and answer our misgivings.
With you, Lord, there is infinite forgiveness. **Amen.**

Readings

John 20:19-31

Tony Loft

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas

answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Acts 4:32-35

Deacon Dawn Canham

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 316

When Easter to the dark world came,
fair flowers glowed like scarlet flame:

*at Eastertide, at Eastertide,
O glad was the world at Eastertide.*

When Mary in the garden walked,
and with her risen Master talked:

When John and Peter in their gloom
met angels at the empty tomb:

When ten disciples met in fear,
then 'Peace,' said Jesus, 'I am here.'

When Thomas' heart was hurt and grieved,
then Jesus' wounds his doubt relieved:

And friend to friend in wonder said:
'The Lord is risen from the dead!'

This Eastertide with joyful voice
we'll sing: 'The Lord is King! Rejoice!'

*At Eastertide, at Eastertide,
O sing, all the world, for Eastertide.*

W. H. Hamilton (1886–1958)

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Reflection

Rev Paul Timmis

Poem: *doubt bunnies*

they lie just
under the bed,
doubt bunnies
waiting patiently
for me to get
dressed for
faith,
so they can
cling to my
pants and socks,
traveling
with me
through each day,
giggling as they
stain my pristine
piety;

on summer evenings,
as i sit
on the deck
trying to centre
myself in
you, they
flit about
in the shadows,
their tails flickering
sceptically
as they seek to
distract me
from such
moments,
until
you gather them
up in an old
olive jar,
so you can
see your way
to me,

Deacon Dawn Canham

where,
holding my
life-scarred hands
in yours, and
rubbing grace's gritty
balm over the
world's sharp wounds,
you whisper,
'my friend and my beloved!'
and
continue
to believe in
me,
despite
everything
you have
seen.

Thom M. Shuman, 2014

Prayer: *Holiness of doubt*

Deacon Dawn Canham

Lord, forgive.

Forgive when I think I have you all figured out;
when I mistake certainty for faith;
doubt for sin.

Mystery is the very fragrance of life with you —
enfolding
surrounding
evading.

Wonderful are the days
when belief takes the form of proof.
Wonderful, too, are the days when
form is fleeting,
chaos,
and faith is all we have to cling to.

Life is found in the in-between:
proof and mystery
form and chaos
belief and doubt.

O God,
Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe...
Blessed, too, are those who still doubt...
and yet long for more.

Amen.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 348

He is Lord, he is Lord;
he is risen from the dead,
and he is Lord;
every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord.

He is King, he is King;
he will draw all nations to him,
he is King;
and the time shall be
when the world shall sing
that Jesus Christ is King.

He is love, he is love;
he has shown us by his life
that he is love;
all his people sing
with one voice of joy
that Jesus Christ is love.

He is life, he is life;
he has died to set us free
and he is life;
and he calls us all
to live evermore,
for Jesus Christ is life.

Anonymous

Prayers of Intercession

Valerie Ashcroft

Let us pray:

for those who know it is Easter, but do not join in the celebration;
for those who walk in the sunshine, but cannot feel the warmth;
for those who see the flowers but fail to appreciate their beauty.
We pray for all those in need of joy this day.

The Lord hears our prayer.

Thanks be to God.

We pray:

for those who see the joy in others, but look away;
for those who mourn what might have been;
for those who spoil the good things in life.
We pray for all those in need of love this day.

The Lord hears our prayer.

Thanks be to God.

We pray:

for those who long to step out into the daylight;
for those who want to dance in the rain;
for those who want release from their captivity.
We pray for all those in need of hope this day.

The Lord hears our prayer.

Thanks be to God.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Valerie Ashcroft

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 297

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift and war,
where colour, scorn or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

Blessing

Deacon Dawn Canham

Let the majesty of the Father
be the light by which you walk,
the compassion of the Son
be the love by which you walk,
the presence of the Spirit
be the power by which you walk

Amen.

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