



SORRY – We are closed for in-person Worship just now - *but we are always open on-line!*

Welcome to Stoneleigh Methodist Church

Morning Worship, 18th April 2021

10:30am: Morning Worship led by Valerie Ashcroft

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

Prayers

Please pray for the Valerie, 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 ever closer towards the end 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.

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." James 1:2-3

Notices

Reopening. After our lovely Easter service in our own church building, our next few services will back online. However, the Leadership Team have now decided that we can re-open the Church again - soon. So, watch for an update in next week's NewsSheet.

An early request for articles for the Link magazine. Perhaps you had an interesting time at Easter, or heard from some old friends, or just a lovely get together with family; these or reports on a book or article you have read, plans you are making, comments on our Zoom/YouTube services would all be good to put into our magazine.

Vivienne has been working hard to fill the pages and print the Link, and I am sure she would be grateful for articles - or just a couple of lines!! You have plenty of time to sort something out - 10th May is the deadline. *Catherine*

Elections. It will possibly not have escaped your notice that there will be Elections on Thursday 6th May – this time for the County Council, and for the Police & Crime Commissioner. As usual we will be hosting our local Polling Station at the Church Centre but, to help comply with the current social distancing regulations which will still be in effect, we will be using both the Hall and the Church itself. I will be in the Hall and Denise in the Church, using a common entrance through the Courtyard, and direct exits to the Car Park. As usual the Election will be the only activity in the Church Centre. *Robin*

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](#).

Ruxley Church have also announced a special service, primarily via Zoom, on Sunday 23rd May 2021, to dedicate their Garden of Reflection. The Garden is now complete and is full of small trees and plants and is somewhere beautiful in which to sit. Ruxley are now considering the memorial plaques to go on the three pillars in the garden; the plaques will be stainless steel measuring 90mm x 64mm (3½in x 2½in) and will be engraved with a name, dates, and a short inscription.

The cost of each plaque is £100 and, if you so wish, this includes an entry into the Remembrance Book in the Chapel at Ruxley. If you are interested, please call Anne with any questions on 020 8397 5809 Further details are in the current issue of the 'Star', and on their website at ruxley-church.org.uk/otherdates.htm.

Around the Trolley

Brian P was really grateful to be able to join in the Easter service and to have the opportunity to share again. His daughter was able to arrange a visit on Easter morning, and help him dial in to the Zoom service. Sadly, he was in too much pain to stay for the whole service.

Brian, we're glad you were able to join in, even for a short period. We pray that you will be able to join in again soon. Isn't Zoom wonderful!

NB Brian also appreciates the news on the NewsSheet every week (though sometimes it's a bit late), so perhaps we could use this medium to send messages to those we've missed in the last twelve months. *Vivienne*

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. We used the Conference message and prayer on last week's NewsSheet, our website, and in the poster board on the front of the Church. The poster has brought forth a couple of complimentary comments from our neighbours on the lines of "good to see, that's just what we expect from our local Church . . ". *Robin*

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

Morning Worship - Sunday 18 April, 10:30am

led by Valerie Ashcroft

Watch live on YouTube: youtu.be/hvxYk-egNjs 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

Jesus says, 'Come to me,
all you who are weary and burdened
and I will give you rest.'

In worship, let us come to the one who offers peace and rest.

A gathering prayer

Against the noise of the world we cover our ears;
at distressing sights we close our eyes;
to confusing thoughts we close our minds;
amid the clamour of distress we close our hearts.
Loving God, your ears and eyes are ever open to our needs;
help us to worship with open hearts and minds,
that we may have open ears and eyes
to see the work that you call us to do,
and open hands to do it. **Amen.**

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

A prayer of approach

Lord God, whose arms are always open to us,
we come before you today
with hearts and minds open to receive your teaching.
Lead us to understand who you are and what you have done,
and what you require of us as witnesses.
In Jesus' name.
Amen.

A prayer of adoration

Lord, who understands our every need,
we adore you for stilling our turmoil,
for being the calm in the storm,
our anchor in the deep,
and the safe port awaiting us always.

Prayers of confession

God, we confess that when distress comes knocking at our door,
all that we have learned and should know
goes flying out of the window.

Our minds in disarray,
we fail to turn to trusted sources of help.

Forgive us for forgetting how to seek you.
We forget your sustaining Word in Scripture,
your presence when we turn to you in prayer,
the calm that is to be found when we seek you in community.

We are sorry for turning in on ourselves,
our minds going round in circles.
Come, risen Lord, break the cycle of our despair.

Assurance of forgiveness

Our understanding is dark, clouded by dismay,
fearful and lacking in faith,
yet we know that you will understand, Lord.
Shine your light on us
and banish the dark thoughts that overwhelm us;
forgive us the deeds committed
while fearful and bewildered,
and lead us forward in the light of your love.
Amen

A prayer of praise and thanksgiving

Lord, you have always been our host.
When you first came from heaven to the world we call ours,
shepherds and kings were your guests.
When you accepted hospitality in the homes of others,
you turned the tables and became the host,
feeding hearts and souls through your teaching.
When you came to the disciples, newly risen,
you took charge and saw to their needs of mind and body.
We praise you, Jesus, ground of our being,
ground of our believing,
for standing among us in your risen power,
host to the world that is yours – not ours.
Amen

Readings

Acts 3: 12-19

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, 'You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

'And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.'

Luke 24: 36b-48

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. '

Hymn: Singing the Faith 661

Give me the faith which can remove
and sink the mountain to a plain;
give me the childlike praying love,
which longs to build thy house again;
thy love, let it my heart o'erpower,
and all my simple soul devour.

I would the precious time redeem,
and longer live for this alone:
to spend, and to be spent, for them
who have not yet my Saviour known;
fully on these my mission prove,
and only breathe, to breathe thy love.

My talents, gifts, and graces, Lord,
into thy blessèd hands receive;
and let me live to preach thy word,
and let me to thy glory live;
my every sacred moment spend
in publishing the sinners' friend.

Enlarge, inflame, and fill my heart
with boundless charity divine:
so shall I all my strength exert,
and love them with a zeal like thine;
and lead them to thy open side,
the sheep for whom their Shepherd died.

Reflection

Prayers of Intercession

Lord God who has called us to faith,
in faith we pray for the needs of others.

For the world and its people,
Lord, we pray.

Today, we pray for our Queen, who has ruled for as long as many of us can remember, and longer than many of us have lived. In her loss and her grief may she find comfort in the companionship of others, support from family and friends, and strength in her faith in God and life eternal. For all of the Royal family in their grief and change of circumstance, some taking up new responsibilities in new ways and with new purpose, and in their support and upholding of each other.

For the world and its people,
Lord, we pray.

For all who grieve for the loss of loved ones, family or friends, near or far away. Especially those who are bereaved a long way from family who can't travel to be with them to offer comfort and support. In their loss, in their grief, in their solitude may they find a calm centre and be upheld by their faith, their friendship and their neighbours.

For the world and its people,
Lord, we pray.

For those whose bodies are ravaged by pain and illness, by disfigurement and disability. For those fearful of treatment and those waiting for treatment.

For the world and its people,
Lord, we pray.

We pray for those of faith and those of no faith, for those with purpose and those with no purpose in life. For those who have a clear direction and those who flounder uncertain for life in all its complexities. For those whose mental health causes them pain, anguish, confusion and loneliness, for those who feel abandoned, unwanted, unloved and un-helped.

For the world and its people,
Lord, we pray.

For countries at war with other countries and within themselves, for their people who fear for their lives and stability, for those made homeless and jobless and offered nothing but an uncertain future. For those countries where violence comes all too easily to the fore and where it is hard to grasp the real reason behind it.

Remembering countries at war where their people are damaged, isolated, abused, for Myanmar, Ethiopia, Mozambique and closer to home for the people of Ireland and Northland Ireland, for Catholics and Protestants, those of faith and those of none.

For the world and its people,
Lord, we pray.

For Christians trying to work out the best way to live out their lives, true to their faith, to the Gospel, to their calling. Trying in these days to do the best they can, pulled this way and that. Trying to look beyond the present to the future, beyond their immediate neighbourhood to the world wide family, for we are all God's children. Help us to catch a wider more inclusive vision of the needs of the world and its people for unless we are all fed no one is satisfied, unless we are all inoculated no one is safe.

For the world and its people,
Lord, we pray.

For countries with surging Covid cases, for those with poor infrastructure and resources, for countries with little PPE and no vaccines and no realistic prospect of national immunisation any time soon. For those engaged in trying to resolve such issues no matter what faith, colour, creed, it is their need that needs to be met along with providing sufficient food and housing, safety and stability.

For the world and its people,
Lord, we pray.

For ourselves we pray that our ears may be used to hear the cries of the needy, that our eyes be used to see the needs around us, that our voices be used to speak up for the marginalised and the poor, that our hands be used to reach out in comfort and that our lives be used to improve the lives of others.

For the world and its people,
Lord, we pray.

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,
for ever and ever.**

Amen.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 313

Thine be the glory,
risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory
thou o'er death has won:
angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory,
risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory
thou o'er death has won!*

Edmond Budry (1854-1932)
tr. Richard Birch Hoyle (1875-1939)

Lo, Jesus meets us,
risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us,
scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now lives,
and death has lost its sting:

No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of Life;
life is naught without thee:
aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors
through thy deathless love;
lead us in thy triumph
to thy home above.

A sending out prayer

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Peace be with you' –
they responded with turmoil.
Jesus said, 'Have you anything to eat?' –
they served him fish.
Jesus opened their minds –
they became his witnesses.
So, Lord, may we too find peace in your service,
with opened minds and hearts on fire.
Amen.