



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

Welcome to Stoneleigh Methodist Church

Sunday, 25th April 2021, 10:30am

Morning Worship led by Tony Loft

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

Prayers

Please pray for Tony, 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 this is her final Sunday of 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.

"When life seems hard, the courageous do not lie down and accept defeat; instead, they are all the more determined to struggle for a better future." Queen Elizabeth II – 2008

Notices

Reopening. Our Church will re-open for public worship from next Sunday, 2nd May, led by Emma.

Hosanna!

We must still take Covid precautions inside – hand gel on entry and exit, sitting socially distanced with masks, and no singing or 'chatting in groups'. We look forward to seeing those who would like to attend when they can. The Service will also continue to be streamed on YouTube and Zoom, and a Service sheet will accompany the NewsSheet every week too. *Leadership Team.*

Around the Trolley

Fifty Years ago, on Saturday 24th April 1971, we were married in St John's Church in Gourrock, Scotland. The 'Golden Wedding' celebrations yesterday were not quite as planned, but we did manage a low key Champagne celebration, with very close family, at our daughter Allison's house. *Marion and Ernie'*



HOPE – This event, which usually takes place in Bourne Hall Park at the end of June, is not planned to take place this year. Hopefully, back in 2022. *Churches Together in Ewell.*

Foodbank. A big thank you to the wonderful supporters, big and small, every donation makes a difference !

Can you please help us this week, with any of the following?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tinned tuna• Tinned soup• Biscuits• Tomato ketchup• Powdered Milk (semi or full fat only, thanks) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Custard• Long life sponge puddings• Baby wipes• Adult and children’s toothbrushes, age 6+ only please |
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You can donate at the usual supermarket points, or bring donations to our car park (please wear a mask); Epsom & Ewell Foodbank, Generation Resource Centre, (behind West Ewell Primary School) Ruxley Lane, Ewell, KT19 0JG

Normal donation drop off times at the Centre are Monday to Friday 9:00am–2:00pm.

* PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL DONATIONS ARE SEALED, IN DATE AND DO NOT CONTAIN ALCOHOL*

Can’t get to the shops? You could text to make a small donation, send us a supermarket delivery to the address above, or contact us about sponsoring some fruit & veg!

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 25 April, 10:30am

led by Tony Loft

Watch live on YouTube: youtu.be/aSujK5xiUw0 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

As sheep who know the voice of their shepherd,
let us gather now to worship God.

A gathering prayer

As a shepherd gathers the flock,
so the love of God has gathered us here today.
Let us celebrate the fullness of life Jesus has won for us,
and place all that we are, and all that we long to be,
into his hands and give thanks.

Amen.

Prayer of Adoration

Lord, we adore you, our Good Shepherd;
always there, always watchful.
Your fold is the space you hold for us,
where we know we are loved.
Although dangers surround us,
and in foolishness we may stray,
you have our back.
So many sheep, yet you know us all by name.
Lord, we adore you, our Good Shepherd.

Amen.

Hymn: Singing the Faith 322

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
and drives away our fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole,
and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary, rest.

Dear name — the rock on which I build,
my shield and hiding-place,
my never-failing treasury, filled
with boundless stores of grace!

Jesus! My Shepherd, Brother, Friend,
my Prophet, Priest, and King,
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
accept the praise I bring.

Weak is the effort of my heart,
and cold my warmest thought;
but when I see thee as thou art,
I'll praise thee as I ought.

Till then I would thy love proclaim
with every fleeting breath;
and may the music of thy name
refresh my soul in death.

John Newton (1725–1807)

A prayer of praise and thanksgiving

Lord, a year ago your house was not a fold in which we could meet.
Confined to our homes,
we prayed as a silent wolf prowled the world,
a pandemic that threatened us all.

We thank you for watching over us,
and for those of us who were safely delivered.
It was a testing time, Lord, but yet there was community.
We thank you for the proof that your Church has no walls,
as we learned to reach out to one another
and still to worship – but in different ways.

We thank you for those in our communities who had been taken for granted,
overlooked, not considered of great importance,
but on whom we came to rely to save lives.
We thank you that our values were tested, and that we saw what really matters.
Good Shepherd, who knows suffering and sacrifice beyond our imagining,
we thank you that we are here today, enfolded in your love.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession and an Assurance of Forgiveness

Lord, are we sheep or are we wolves?
For sometimes it seems that a killer instinct
is more valued in this world,
and we become one who preys on communities
rather than living in community.
We may not be aware of it,
for the ways of the world are seductive
and we slip into wolves' clothing without thinking.
We make bad choices – how and where we spend our money –
not thinking of the exploitation that may have taken place.
Lord, Good Shepherd, forgive us these times –
when the wolf lurks beneath.
Remind us that, as Christians, we are creatures of the fold.
Bring us back to the community of love and life
as it should be lived. **Amen.**

Lord, who lays down your life for your sheep,
how can we doubt your forgiveness?
Arms once stretched out upon a cross
now close in embrace as we return;
enfolded, may we know the fullness of love
that lives to forgive,
and forgives that we might live. **Amen.**

Readings

Acts 4: 5-12

(NIVUK)

The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: 'By what power or what name did you do this?'

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: 'Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: it is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. Jesus is

“the stone you builders rejected,
which has become the cornerstone.”

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.'

'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

'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. I have other sheep that are not of this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life – only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.'

Reflection

Prayers of Intercession

We pray for the lost sheep of this world:
for politicians striving to hang onto power and influence,
for leaders of the nations who have forgotten to serve the common good.

We pray for the lost sheep of this world:
for those who follow the fashions and frivolities of today
at the expense of tomorrow,
for those who get swept along by the crowd on tides of prejudice
and easy judgements.

We pray for the lost sheep of this world:
for those who wander off on their own, to escape from reality,
for those who are led astray, away from safety and well-being.

We pray for the lost sheep of this world:
for those who take what they have for granted,
for those who are unable to give thanks for the things they have.

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 615

Let love be real, in giving and receiving,
without the need to manage and to own;
a haven free from posing and pretending,
where every weakness may be safely known.
Give me your hand, along the desert pathway,
give me your love wherever we may go.

*As God loves us, so let us love each other:
with no demands, just open hands and space to grow.*

Let love be real, not grasping or confining,
that strange embrace that holds yet sets us free;
that helps us face the risk of truly living,
and makes us brave to be what we might be.
Give me your strength when all my words are weakness;
give me your love in spite of all you know.

*As God loves us, so let us love each other:
with no demands, just open hands and space to grow.*

Let love be real, with no manipulation,
no secret wish to harness or control;
let us accept each other's incompleteness,
and share the joy of learning to be whole.
Give me your hope through dreams and disappointments;
give me your trust when all my failings show.

*As God loves us, so let us love each other:
with no demands, just open hands and space to grow.*

A sending out prayer

Lord, send us out like sheep who know their shepherd well,
with wisdom to follow in Christ's footsteps and obey his commands,
and the power of his Spirit to guide and bless us.

Amen.

The grace

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all now and forever more.**

Amen.